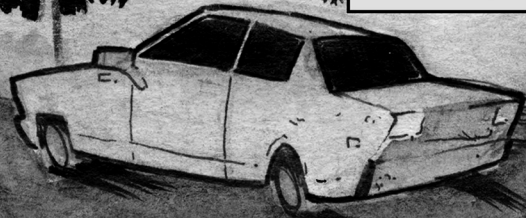


Abbie Hoffman's War of Symbols

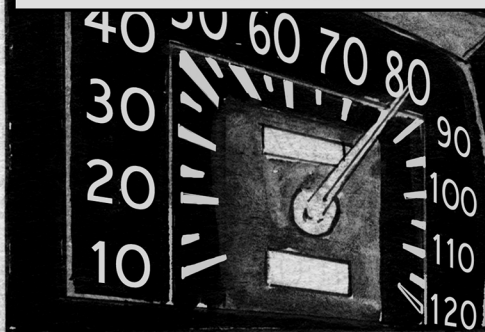
Story: Doug Latino

Art: Chris Gomez

AS USUAL I WAS RUNNING LATE,



MAKING MY WAY TO THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA IN TAMPA TO ATTEND WHAT WAS BEING BILLED AS "THE YIPPIE VS. YUPPIE DEBATE OF 1985."



I WAS COVERING THE EVENT FOR THE ST. LEO COLLEGE (NOW UNIVERSITY) STUDENT NEWSPAPER.



THE SO-CALLED DEBATE, 20-YEARS AFTER THE UPHEAVAL OF THE 1960'S, WAS A FACE-OFF FEATURING ABBIE HOFFMAN ON THE SIDE OF 60'S IDEALISM VS. JERRY RUBIN, RADICAL AND ASSOCIATE OF HOFFMAN, ARGUING ON BEHALF OF THE UNAPOLOGETIC MATERIALISM OF THE '80'S.



HOFFMAN AND RUBIN ARE LARGELY CREDITED WITH FOUNDING THE YOUTH INTERNATIONAL PARTY OR YIPPIES IN 1967, A YOUTH-LED BYPRODUCT OF THE ANTI-VIETNAM WAR MOVEMENT.



I WAS BORN IN THE '60'S, TOO YOUNG TO KNOW FIRST-HAND ABOUT THE STUDENT PROTESTS AND URBAN UNREST. MY PARENTS WATCHED THE NIGHTLY NEWS SO I LEARNED ABOUT HOFFMAN.

ARRIVING LATE TO THE OVERSOLD, STANDING-ROOM-ONLY EVENT, I FOUND MYSELF IN ONE OF THE BEST SEATS IN THE HOUSE.

WE'RE THE RICHEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, YET WE HAVE MILLIONS OF HOMELESS IN THE STREETS!

HOW MUCH DOES THE RULING CLASS NEED TO BE COMFORTABLE?

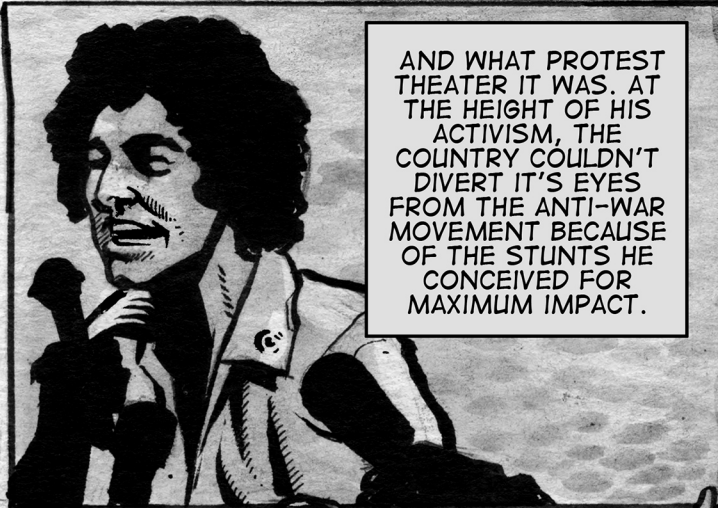
I'M PROUD OF WHAT WE DID IN THE '60'S BUT YOU'RE LIVING IN THE PAST.

ENTREPRENEURISM IS WHERE IT'S AT. I'M CHOOSING TO EFFECT CHANGE FROM INSIDE THE ESTABLISHMENT.

COLLEGE CAMPUSES TODAY HAVE BECOME HOTBEDS OF SOCIAL REST...

...ABOUT AS EXCITING AS HOSPITAL FOOD OR WATCHING TV BOWLING!

I WAS BAPTIZED! IT WAS GROSS, BUT IT WAS ABBIE HOFFMAN'S SPUTUM! I WAS PHYSICALLY CONNECTED TO THE EPOCHAL '60'S POLITICAL STREET THEATER VIRTUOSO WHO HELPED BRING AN END TO THE VIETNAM WAR.



AND WHAT PROTEST
THEATER IT WAS. AT
THE HEIGHT OF HIS
ACTIVISM, THE
COUNTRY COULDN'T
DIVERT IT'S EYES
FROM THE ANTI-WAR
MOVEMENT BECAUSE
OF THE STUNTS HE
CONCEIVED FOR
MAXIMUM IMPACT.

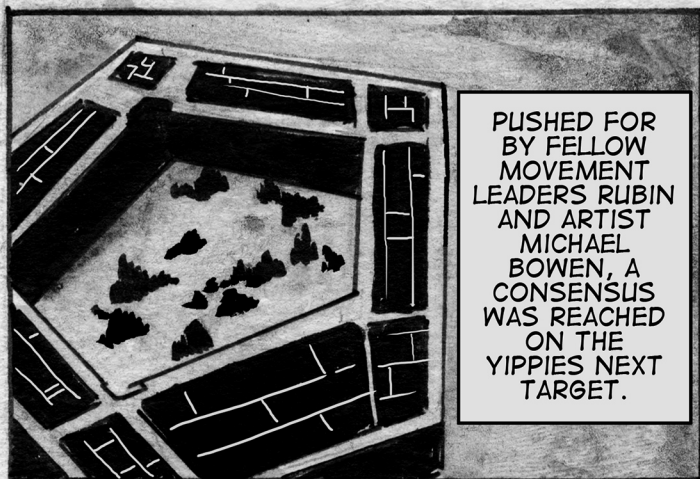


AUG. 24,
1967



ABBIE AND FELLOW
PROTESTERS THREW
MONEY ONTO THE FLOOR
OF THE NY STOCK
EXCHANGE.

SOME TRADERS
DOVE FOR THE BILLS AND
OTHERS SHOT BIRDS TO
THE GALLERY ABOVE. IT
MADE THE EVENING NEWS.



PUSHED FOR
BY FELLOW
MOVEMENT
LEADERS RUBIN
AND ARTIST
MICHAEL
BOWEN, A
CONSENSUS
WAS REACHED
ON THE
YIPPIES NEXT
TARGET.



WE'RE GOING
TO LEVITATE
THE PENTAGON
300 FEET IN
THE AIR!



WE'LL DYE
THE POTOMAC RED, BURN
THE CHERRY TREES, ATTACK
WITH WATER PISTOLS,
MARBLES, BUBBLE GUM
WRAPPERS, BAZOOKAS, GIRLS
WILL RUN NAKED AND PISS ON
THE PENTAGON WALLS...

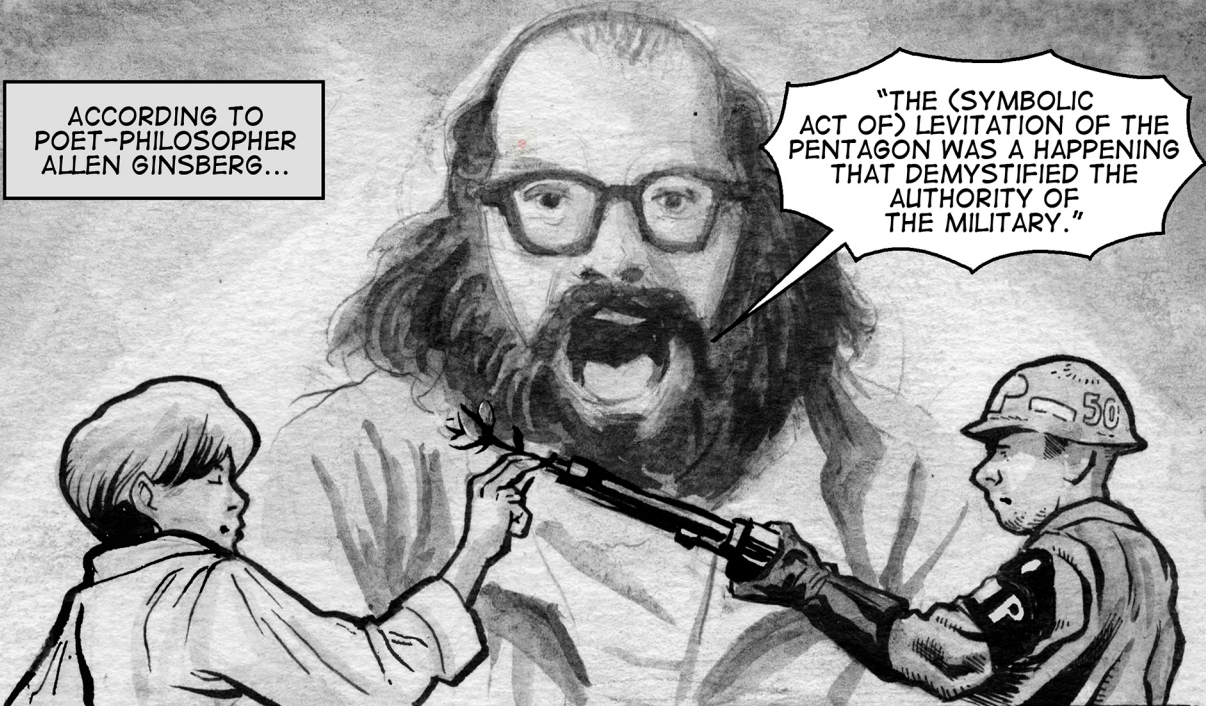


THERE WERE
ALL FORMS
OF PROTEST.



NEARLY 600 WERE
ARRESTED ACROSS TWO
DAYS OF THE PENTAGON
PROTEST. IT WAS
FRONT-PAGE NEWS
ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

ACCORDING TO
POET-PHILOSOPHER
ALLEN GINSBERG...

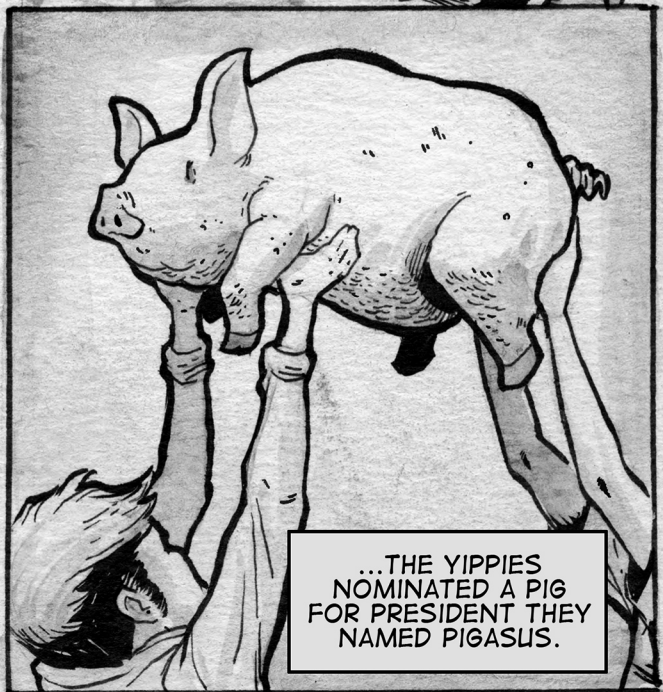


"THE (SYMBOLIC
ACT OF) LEVITATION OF THE
PENTAGON WAS A HAPPENING
THAT DEMYSTIFIED THE
AUTHORITY OF
THE MILITARY."

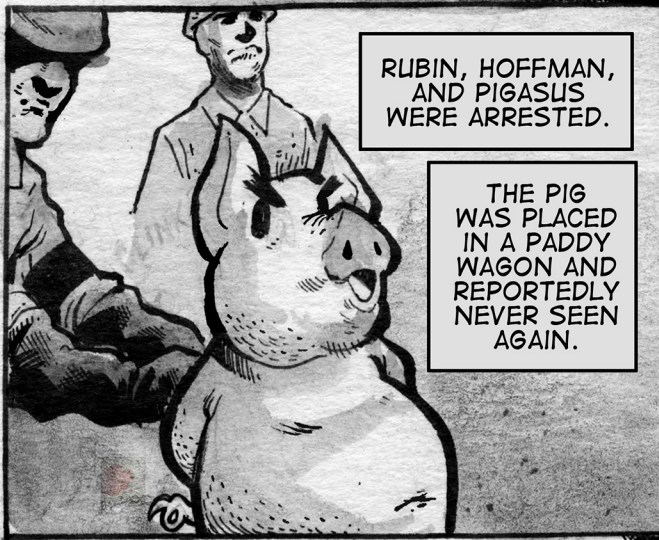


RATCHETING
UP PRESSURE
ON THE EVE
OF THE
DEMOCRATIC
CONVENTION
IN CHICAGO...

AUG. 23-29,
1968



...THE YIPPIES
NOMINATED A PIG
FOR PRESIDENT THEY
NAMED PIGASUS.



RUBIN, HOFFMAN,
AND PIGASUS
WERE ARRESTED.

THE PIG
WAS PLACED
IN A PADDY
WAGON AND
REPORTEDLY
NEVER SEEN
AGAIN.



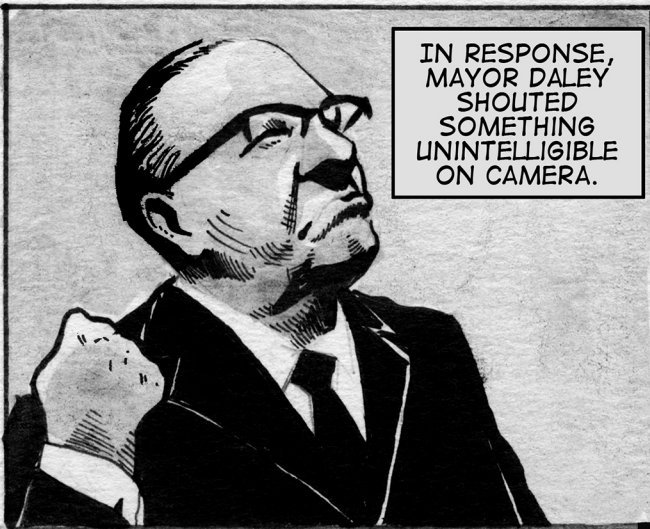
CHICAGO UNDER
MAYOR DALEY TOOK
A HARDER LINE WITH
THE PROTESTERS.



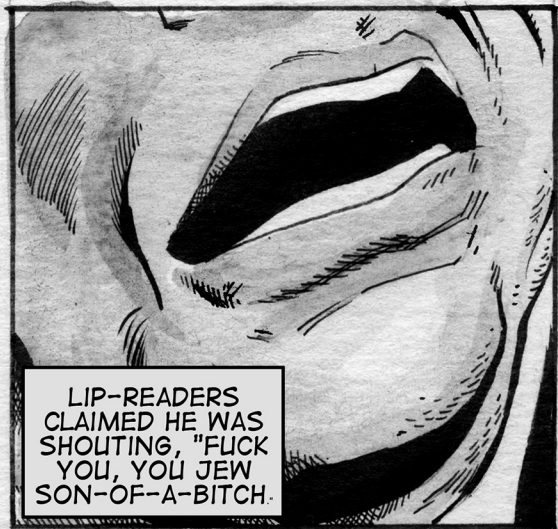
PENTAGON TROOPS
HAD SHOWN RESTRAINT
COMPARED WITH THE
CHICAGO POLICE
DEPARTMENT.

WHEN CONNECTICUT
SEN. ABRAHAM
RIBICOFF SPOKE IN
SUPPORT OF GEORGE
MCGOVERN, HE CALLED
OUT THE GESTAPO POLICE
TACTICS BEING USED
OUTSIDE THE
CONVENTION HALL...





IN RESPONSE,
MAYOR DALEY
SHOUTED
SOMETHING
UNINTELLIGIBLE
ON CAMERA.



LIP-READERS
CLAIMED HE WAS
SHOUTING, "FUCK
YOU, YOU JEW
SON-OF-A-BITCH."



WHEN THE
DUST SETTLED
CHICAGO POLICE
REPORTED 589
ARRESTS, AND
119 POLICE
AND 100
PROTESTERS
INJURED. IT
WAS A WEEK
THAT SHOOK
AMERICA.



AS A RESULT OF THE UNREST IN
CHICAGO, ABBIE AND SEVEN
FELLOW ORGANIZERS WERE
ARRESTED ON CHARGES
OF CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY AND
INCITEMENT TO RIOT.



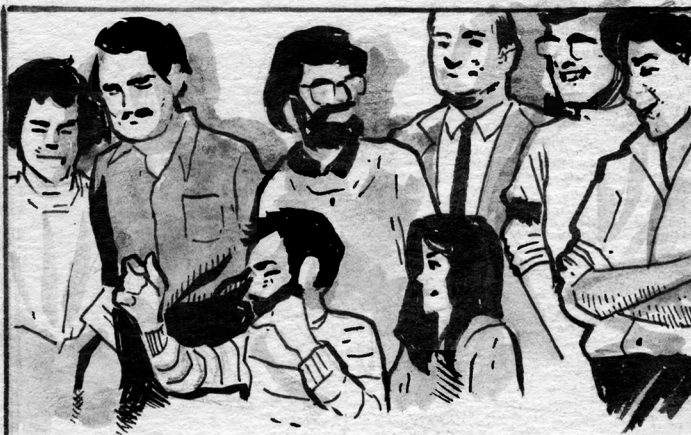
THE CHICAGO 8 INCLUDED HOFFMAN, RUBIN, TOM
HAYDEN, BLACK PANTHER CHAIRMAN BOBBY SEALE, (THE
ONLY AFRICAN AMERICAN IN THE GROUP) DAVID DEL-
LINGER, RENNIE DAVIS, JOHN FROINES AND LEE WEINER.



THE CHICAGO 8 FOREVER
BECAME THE CHICAGO 7, AS IF
SEALE DIDN'T EXIST.



SEALE, AFTER REPEATEDLY DISRUPTING THE TRIAL, WAS LITERALLY BOUND AND GAGGED WHILE IN THE COURTROOM AND ULTIMATELY SEPARATED FROM THE GROUP AND TRIED ON HIS OWN.

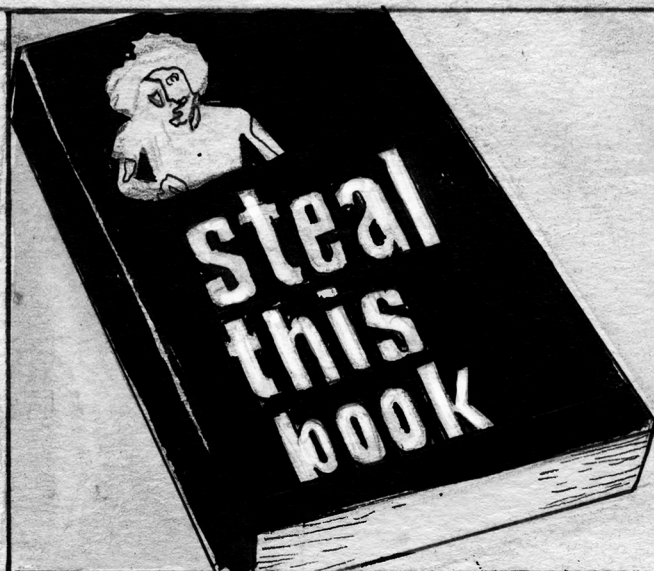


ACQUITTED OF THE CONSPIRACY CHARGES, HOFFMAN, RUBIN, DELLINGER, DAVIS, AND HAYDEN WERE RULED GUILTY OF CROSSING STATE BOUNDARIES WITH THE INTENT TO INCITE A RIOT AND SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON AND FINED \$5,000.

ON NOVEMBER 5, 1969, JUDGE HOFFMAN (NO RELATION) SENTENCED SEALE TO FOUR YEARS IN PRISON ON 16 COUNTS OF CONTEMPT BECAUSE OF HIS DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR DURING THE TRIAL.



ON NOV. 21, 1972 IN A COURT OF APPEALS, ALL CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS EXCEPT SEALE'S WERE OVERTURNED.



HIS MAJOR LEGAL ISSUES BEHIND HIM, ABBIE WROTE & APPROPRIATED STEAL THIS BOOK. HE BELIEVED IT WAS A MORAL IMPERATIVE TO UNDERMINE THE SYSTEM IF YOU BELIEVED IT TO BE BIASED AND CORRUPT. REJECTED BY 30 PUBLISHERS HE WAS FORCED TO SELF-PUBLISH. THANKS TO WORD OF MOUTH THE BOOK SOLD 250,000 COPIES. THE NUMBER STOLEN IS NOT KNOWN.

A YEAR LATER, HOFFMAN WAS ARRESTED FOR SELLING COCAINE TO TWO PLAINCLOTHES POLICE OFFICERS.

IT WAS AN ACT OF STUPIDITY AND IT WAS AN ACT OF INSANITY.

THE MOVEMENT WAS FALLING APART, AND I WAS VERY DEPRESSED.



RATHER THAN FACE THE CHARGES, ABBIE WENT UNDERGROUND. HE SUCCEEDED IN OUTRUNNING THE LAW FOR NEARLY SIX YEARS WHILE HOLDING NUMEROUS JOBS.



HE BECAME AN ACCOMPLISHED ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST TAKING THE NAME BARRY FREED. ACCORDING TO THE WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES, "HIS NORTH COUNTRY (ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM) LEGACY LIVES ON; (HE TURNED) SAVE THE RIVER INTO A LONG-TERM, EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION, LARGELY BECAUSE OF HIS UNIQUE SKILLS, AND SELFLESS DEDICATION."



HOFFMAN SURRENDERED TO AUTHORITIES IN 1980. HE EVENTUALLY PLEADED GUILTY TO SELLING \$36,000 WORTH OF COCAINE TO UNDERCOVER OFFICERS AND WAS SENTENCED TO SERVE ONE YEAR IN PRISON BEFORE BEING ELIGIBLE FOR PAROL.





UPON RELEASE,
HE CONTINUED HIS
ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTIVISM AND ALONG
WITH WRITING AND
SPEAKING, STARTED
TRAVELING THE COUNTRY
WITH RUBIN FOR THE
YIPPIE VS. YUPPIE
DEBATES.



Abbie Hoffman Debates

Abbie suffered
from prolonged
clinical depression
and periods of
manic activity, tell-
tale signs of
manic-depressive
disorder, AKA
bipolar
disorder.



In 1989 he
was found dead.
According to the
coroners report
he took 150
phenobarbital
pills mixed with
alcohol, surely
an intentional
act.

ALONG WITH HIS FELLOW
GROUCHO MARXISTS,
HOFFMAN ABOVE ALL
OTHERS UNDERSTOOD
THE POWER OF THE
MASS MEDIA. HE WAS A
SELF-PROMOTER BUT
MADE INCALCULABLE
SACRIFICES, NEVER
WAVERING FROM HIS
BELIEFS. HE WAS AN
AUTHENTIC FIGURE
WHOSE PASSION WAS
DIMMED ONLY BY
MENTAL ILLNESS.

30 YEARS AFTER HIS
DEATH HE REMAINS AN
INSPIRATION ON HOW TO
LIVE A PRINCIPLED LIFE.



WE WOULD HURL
OURSELVES ACROSS THE
CANVAS OF SOCIETY LIKE
STREAKS OF SPLATTERED
PAINT. ONCE WE
ACKNOWLEDGED THE
UNIVERSE AS THEATER
AND ACCEPTED THE WAR
OF SYMBOLS, THE REST
WAS EASY. ALL IT TOOK
WAS A LITTLE ELBOW
GREASE, A LITTLE HUSTLE.

— ABBIE HOFFMAN

END