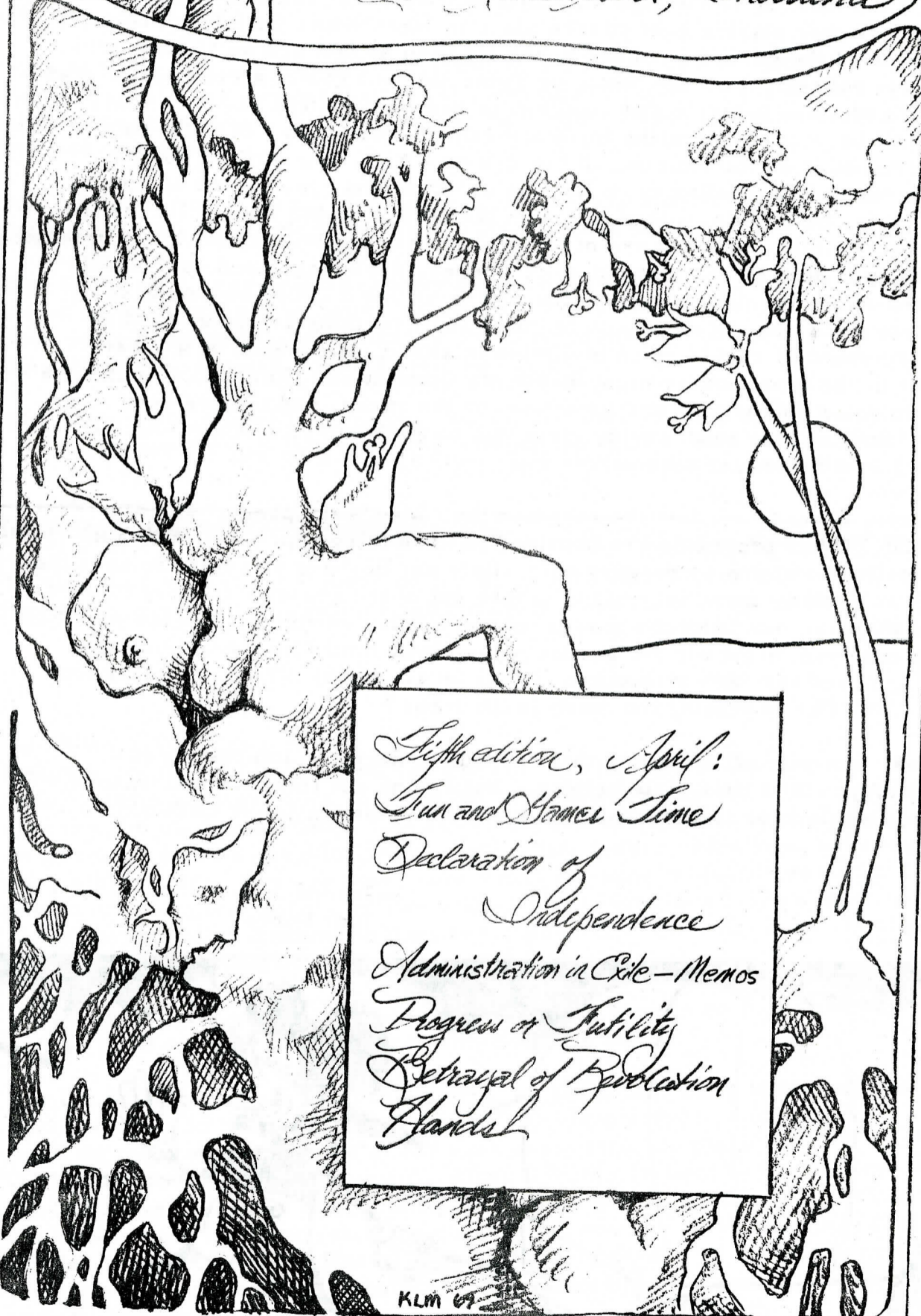


# The Fire People

North Manchester, Indiana



Fifth edition, April:  
Fun and Games Time  
Declaration of  
Independence  
Administration in Code - Memos  
Progress or Futility  
Betrayal of Evolution  
Hands

## DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE...

When in the course of human relationships, it becomes apparent that such relationships are basically dominant ↔ submissive or in more pronounced forms sadistic ↔ masochistic, it then becomes necessary for the person cast in the submissive role to dissolve the personal bonds which have connected these persons and to initiate a relationship based on a separate and equal status. Recognizing that dominant ↔ submissive relationships often appear desirable to both members involved, the first because it satisfies his passion for power, for control over another being; the second because he is afraid of freedom, afraid of facing the uncertainty and responsibility involved, and finds security in submission to the decisions and wishes of another; recognizing that to a certain degree, this phenomenon is present in nearly all relationships, we nevertheless maintain that the most healthy and productive type of human relationship rises out of equality rather than dominance ↔ submission regardless of the age or social position of individuals involved. We believe this to be a position given much lip service in our society, but one which is rarely encouraged and commonly discouraged in practice.

There exist within every society certain types of individuals who seem to have a psychological need which can be filled only by the controlling of other lives. (We call them leaders and if they are spectacular they become heroes.) In their struggle for power and a sense of importance, they invariably exploit and use other individuals. The tragedy is that they wield sufficient persuasive power to convince the victims of their guidance that it is in these individuals' interest to support a continuance of the dominant ↔ submissive relationship, in fact that they cannot function without such relationships, and that society itself would collapse if such relationships were dissolved. The dominant figures have the power (which they often disguise as paternalistic guidance or advice) to shape the lives of the submissive and program into their thought the belief that they are inferior and incapable of making their own decisions. Consequently the weak relinquish their personal sovereignty to the wishes and whims of a strong and wise authority who can decide what is best for them. Instead of being strengthened by having to stand on their own, they are led into a role of dependence on the authority, further weakening them as individuals which is exactly what the authority desires, for without this dependence he finds it very difficult to exercise effective control over them. It is a very subtle means of control, much cheaper and easier to manage than control based upon coercive force. Invariably, the authority makes use of his control over these persons to further the cause he considers worthy. The dominant ↔ submissive relationship is the basis for the authoritarian system.

In an authoritarian system, decisions are made by the man at the top of the social pyramid and those who find themselves situated on lower levels of this pyramid must abide by his rulings (often these decisions are immortalized and raised above situational convenience or above the level of simple human whim or desire by incorporating them into a legal system). The weight of decision- (CONTINUED)

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# PROGRESS - FUTILITY ?

The question of whether a society based on violence can change peacefully is a very real dilemma that faces America today. Our country was founded by violence, expanded by violence, and perpetuated by violence. With violence as American as apple pie, is there a viable option for change in America today?

In the early sixties the civil rights movement was totally non-violent, almost pacifistic. Why did it gradually change to assume the militant and aggressive nature it does today? Simply; people understand violence, and only violence. Without the threat of violence, nothing ever changed. Violence arose out of frustration of ineffective non-violence. I am convinced that if changes had occurred in the early sixties with the non-violent approach, the violent approach would not have been tried.

I hoped that America would learn a lesson from the civil rights movement, because at this moment a similar non-violent method is being employed by Americans who are against the war in Vietnam. People can no longer say that these are only a handful of weird, communist-inspired hippies, who are against the war. The anti-war movement is now quite extensive and at present, non-violent in action.

Can non-violence bring change in America? Government officials throughout the land praised the orderliness of recent peace marches in cities throughout the country. I was in Chicago, where 25,000 people peacefully expressed their concerns. It is now up to the government to hear the will of the people and to work to achieve peace. If nothing happens, don't think that the anti-war movement is going to remain peaceful.

Has America learned a lesson, or will it still remain unyielding until seriously threatened? I myself, have serious doubts whether the peace march in Chicago was a sign of progress rather than an exercise in futility.

--Jerry Eller

