ROCK FOR FREEDOM

Free Concert

The May Day celebration originated in spring festivals of fertility goddesses in India and Egypt. In 1884, a more "political" demonstration took place when 30,000 Chicago workers struck in demand for an end to their 10 hour day and 6 day work week. Among others, the strike was made up of railroad, mill, and factory workers. The protests went on for day, and each one brought some form of violent outburst, continually provoked by the police. In total, 10 were killed, and over 130 were seriously injured. At the last and most bloody of these clashes, over 200 workers were arrested and 31 were indicted on conspiracy charges. All were found guilty and 7 of these 31 were sentenced to death.

The Chicago public was by this time sympathetic with the Anarchist cause and days before the execution, the Governor of Illinois received a 200,000 signature petition demanding that the protestors be spared

One of the charges men committed suicide the day before the execution. Two others were instead sentenced to life imprisonment. On the morning of their last day, the four remaining Anarchists (Spies, Parsons, Engel, and Fischer) approached execution calmly. When the nooses had been tightened around their necks, Spies' voice suddenly boomed out, "There will come a time when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you strangle today?" The three others then followed with shouts of "Hurray for Anarchy." And then the trap door was sprung.

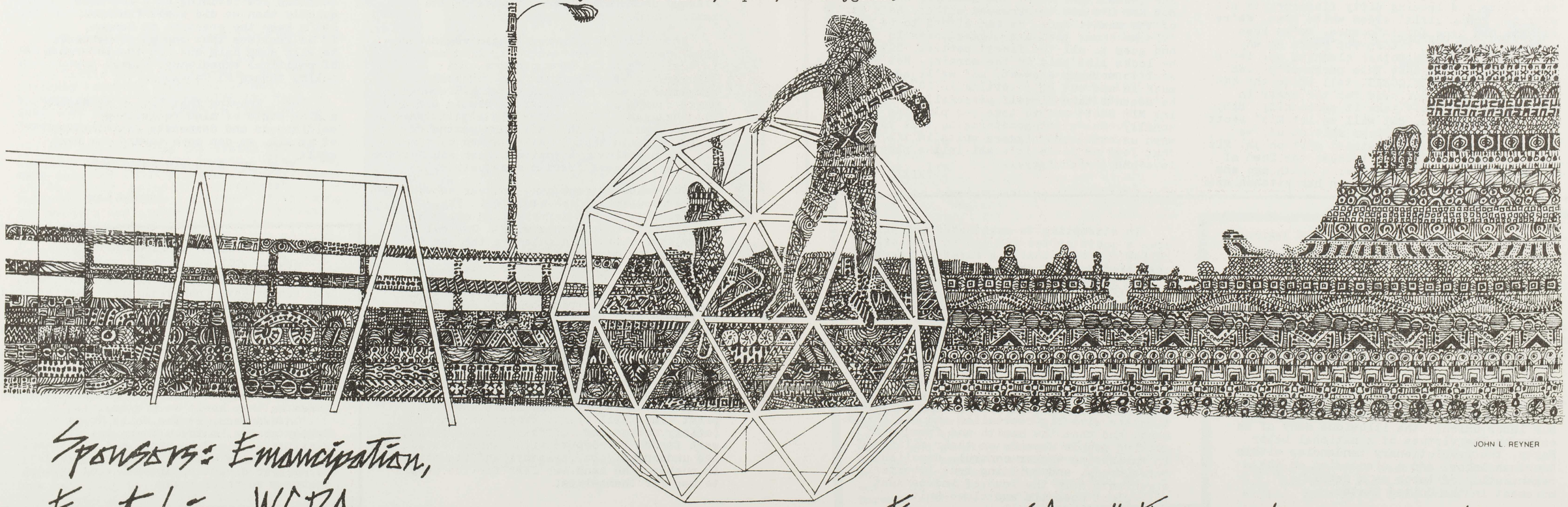
In Washington, D.C., on May 1st, this spreading tradition of worker solidarity and social protest continues. Hundreds of us will gather to honor the memory of those hung and celebrate the workers' movement and all that it stands for. Gather with us peacefully to enjoy music and dance. Bands will include Bad Brains, Action Memos, Mad Monty and the Maniacs, Rupert, and Satygraha.

MAY 1

3thirty-8 PM

FORT RENO PARK

Bad Brains • Action Memos
Mad Monty + The Maniacs • Rupert



JOHN L. REYNER

Sponsors: Emancipation, Front Line, WCDA

For more info, call Thumper at 882-6987 after 6.