

December 21, 1978

We have learned the astonishing news of John Wayne Gacy's arrest by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on December 21st, upon arrival in St. Cloud (Minnesota) while on his way to the Great Lakes Regional Kooky Klown Konfabulation where he was due to receive an award for his career as a birthday clown.

His arrest follows an Illinois arrest warrant dating from 1975 against the clown, in a highly disputable case of morals. (In *your* state, the rape and murder of 33 boys may be a so-called "crime", but as sophisticated "artistes" we take a more cosmopolitan view of the matter. It's definitely a gray zone.)

Clowns in Wisconsin, in Indiana, in Illinois and around the world are dismayed by this decision. It seems inadmissible to them that an interstate cultural event, paying homage to one of the greatest contemporary birthday clowns (indeed, party clown of any type), is used by the police to apprehend him.

By their regional nature, Klown Konventions, Klatches and Konfabs (kooky or otherwise) throughout the upper Midwest have always permitted stunts to be displayed, gags to be pulled, and hilarious antics to be performed freely and safely, even when certain States opposed this.

The arrest of John Wayne Gacy in a neutral state with a well-known sense of light-hearted humor, where he assumed he could travel without hindrance, undermines this tradition: it opens the way for actions of which no clown can know the effects.

John Wayne Gacy is an Illinois resident, a renown performer, party-thrower, and face-painter *non pareil* now facing indictment. This trial, if it takes place, will be heavy in consequences and will take away his freedom.

Hobo clowns, sad clowns, happy clowns, men clowns, lady clowns, police clowns, doctor clowns, and even those diamond-covered harlequin clowns -- everyone involved in regional clownery -- want him to know that despite his inhuman and barbaric crimes he has their support and friendship.

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1978, Mr. Charlie Ripken, the deputy mayor of St. Cloud (Minnesota) for tourism and cultural events, received clown delegates and confabulators at the city hall office. He presented to them the new honorary "Clown Councilor", Mayor McSilly. McSilly executed a perfect pie gag on Mr. Ripken and declared himself the new "High Emperor of St. Clown (Minnesota)". We thought it was awesome.

If only in the name of Mayor McSilly and the true spirit of clownery, we demand the immediate release of John Wayne Gacy.

Signed,

Loopy  
Sad-sack Sam  
Jolly Jake  
Mrs. Jolly Jake (AKA "Jolly Molly")  
Red Skelton  
Greasy  
Lefty  
The Phunny Phire Squawd (except Little Dave)  
Bumbo  
Chumby

Grumbo  
Clappy  
Doctor McSilly (no relation)  
Chip-chop  
Righty  
Fraidy  
Kickin' Pete  
Zingo  
Mrs. Zingo  
The Loveable Little Hobo  
Dippy-doo  
Zaney  
Woody Allen  
Drunksy McTipple  
Frosty  
Chokesy  
Clippy  
Dingy  
Pogo  
Quirko the Grand  
Grabby  
Slappo  
Mrs. Slappo  
Slappo II ("Little Slappy")  
Plumby  
Chalky Charlie  
Emmett Kelly  
Middley  
Rimsy  
Dingo  
Dingy Dingo  
Ding-a-Lingo  
Dingy-dang-Dongo  
Chester W. Thudstick  
The Big Drunk Hobo  
Upsy-Downo  
Drabby  
Clobbers  
Puncho  
Twinkles  
Blinko  
Homey  
Ms. Dandy Lion  
Gooby  
Mr. Flunkiez  
OkiDoki  
Pickles  
Stinky, the Hobo Baby  
Petunia

Flopsie  
Officer Bobo  
Lulu Belle  
Sprinkles  
Uncle Slippy  
Poodles  
Chuckles  
Commander Grogan  
SpaceHobo