

# Chicago Seven defendant Davis is converted

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Of the Georgian

"The human race is on a collision course with its own arrogance."

These were the words of Rennie Davis, speaking to his audience on Monday at Sir George — an audience composed of many diverse and seemingly very loving groups from all over the city. Most of them were in the pleasant process of converting, if not already devoted (body and soul) to the faith of the 15-year-old guru, Maharaj Ji.

Davis, former Chicago Seven defendant is currently on tour in Canada and the United States, telling people about his recent conversion and an event soon to

take place in the Houston Astrodome that will without a doubt change the world. This momentous occasion is called Millenium '73.

It was difficult to see in the Rennie Davis of today the activist of the past. True, he was insisting on action and personal experience as he had before, yet the vibrant ring of his voice was not there. In the Democratic Convention of 1968, he had defiantly faced the Chicago police. His voice was heard at the Cambodia demonstration of 1970 as a defendant in the Chicago Seven case.

The smoke-ins, rallies, and demonstrations saw him appear again and again as he tediously and painfully made his points against the war policies of the U.S.

government.

In 1971, Davis displayed his best talent as a radical organizer. As early as the 1967 demonstration at the Pentagon, Davis was suggesting action that would interfere with the day to day functioning of the government in Washington. Some of his ideas were quite original and humorous at the time. A young medical student implemented one of these and prepared his Volkswagen to break down on the 14th Street Bridge. As it happened, the VW expired exactly on the boundary line between the District of Columbia and Virginia. With half the car in Washington and half in Virginia, the traffic was slowed down not only by the cars, but by the policemen who couldn't decide under whose jurisdiction the

accident had occurred.

From February to May, Davis and the Mayday Collective and other anti-war groups worked to produce the most original and best organized action of civil disobedience in the movement. The tactic was to block the main traffic route to the government building area in Washington, the group motto being: "If the government won't stop the war, then the people will stop the government."

Nixon overreacted and 40,000 marines plus the local National Guard and the D.C. police were mobilized in the streets. Twelve thousand arrests ensued, and the American Civil Liberties Union charged the Nixon administration with vietnamizing America. The militarization frightened the public, but the point had been made. The arrests were thrown out of court as unconstitutional.

Davis was charged with conspiracy by federal authorities, but the charge never held because he was a resident of Washington at the time. He left jail with the warning: "I'll be back, Germans." His last act of significance was the demonstration against Nixon's inauguration in 1973. The humorous and charismatic Davis of that era was to be seen no more.

The man who spoke of the Guru Maharaj Ji was not the same. The energy and resonance of one of the leading figures to storm the modern day American Bastille was gone. He talked as if in a trance — he had reached the ultimate happiness and there was no point trying to go any further. His eyes, however, were tired-looking, and those who had heard him before and noticed the incredible change that had taken place in the man were tired, too. A soporific spell had come over him. One girl in the

audience, obviously a devotee of Maharaj Ji wept in apparent ecstasy at Davis' every word, while other faithfuls smiled long and giggled softly.

Davis' lecture was a conglomerate of idealistic proclamations and profound quotes, from the mouth of the all-knowing and all-seeing "lord of lords". According to Davis, anyone who is not seated excitedly in the Astrodome on the day the Maharaj Ji arrives there is not only crazy, but pitifully ignorant of the joys that await him upon his conversion. There will supposedly be an incredibly drastic series of earthquakes, floods and the like all over the world within the next few years, and, Davis advised, if you are not by that time living in raptured contentment in one of the guru's "Divine Cities", you will just have to suffer.

The most tragic aspect of the entire meeting on Monday was the fact that when Davis spoke of Maharaj Ji's millenium of peace, the old "Peace Now" seemed fainter and fainter.

To Rennie Davis, peace has come, and all the fragrances of hope and energy have been sadly left behind.

## Judge jails maintenance men

(CUP-CPS) — A Santa Monica municipal judge jailed two maintenance men for contempt of court because they refused to lower the thermostat for the air conditioning in the courtroom.

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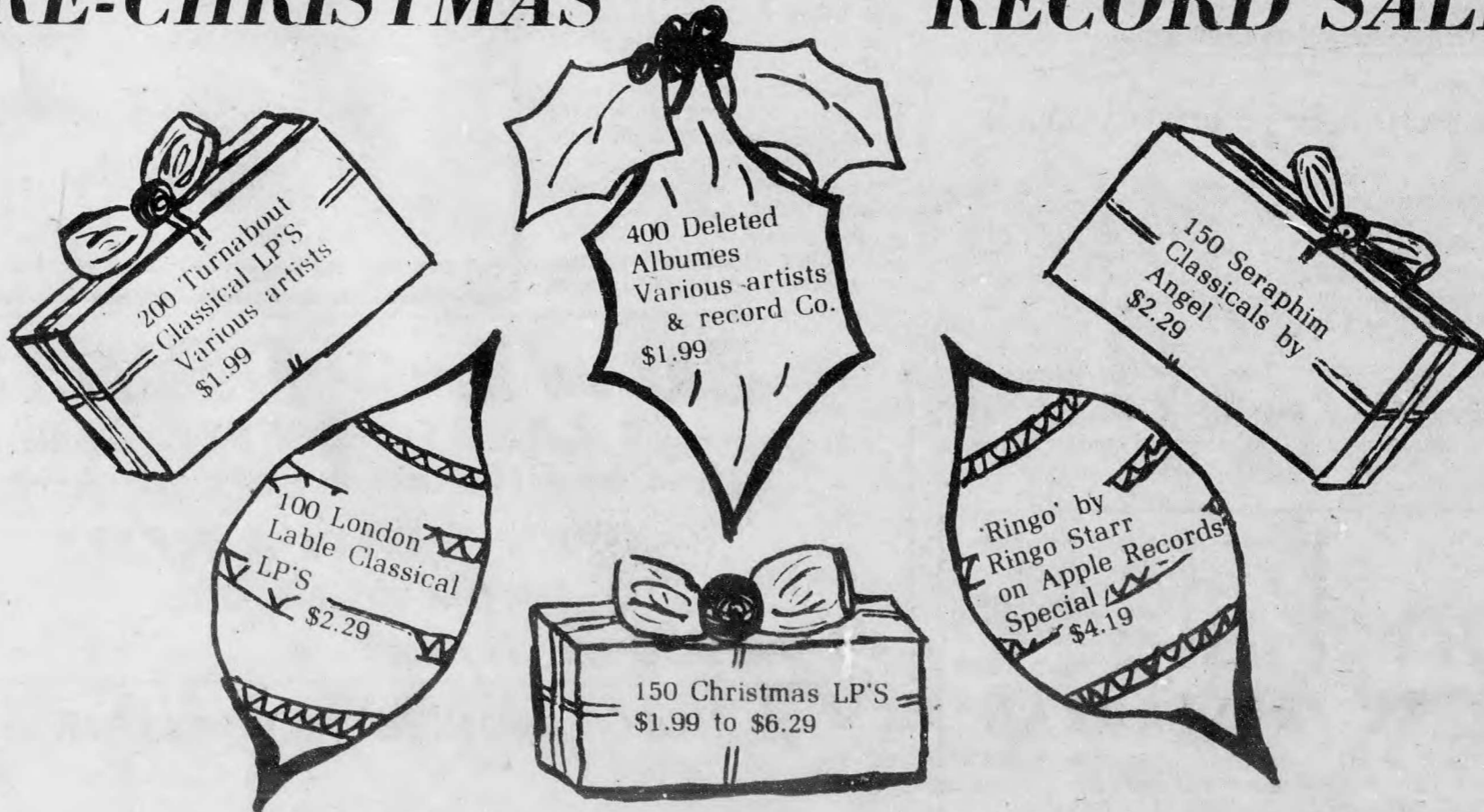
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