

THE FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

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SEPTEMBER, 1969

the Plan

Jane Gordon

The Master Plan for Venice, L.A.'s plan for zoning, density and traffic circulation which will end up by transforming Venice into an upper income/resort area, is still in the process (sometimes called democratic) of being considered for approval. It passed the first hurdle last May when the L.A. City Planning Commission recommended adoption. It is now at the second stage, a sub-committee of the L.A. City Council responsible for all aspects of planning. This Planning Committee will eventually make a recommendation on the Plan to the full City Council. On Tuesday, August 26 a "public hearing" was held before this Committee. Both sides gave evidence and reasons supporting their own point of view.

The members of the Planning Committee, Councilmen Bernardi, Braude and Nowell, were mostly quite patient throughout the hearing, if a bit wooden and bored-looking at times.

First Calvin Hamilton, the head of the Planning Department, made a very vague and unsatisfactory "presentation" of what the Master Plan is—whitewashing the issues and half-answering questions. Braude then reminded the "gentlemen" that all these nice people had come down here to speak and should be heard before it got too late.

The opposition (that's us) got first crack. Our speakers represented virtually all aspects of Venice, including Black people, Mexicans, "long-hairs," elderly retired people, even several home owners. There were also "experts" speaking on our behalf: lawyers, architects, city planners, etc. Briefly, we all said that we were low to middle income people of quite varied cultures and colors united in our opposition to a plan which is designed to raise property values at the expense of our chosen community. We asked specifically for a delay of at least 10 months in order to find private funds for our community to make its own plan in the interest of people, not property.

Speakers in favor of the Master Plan included members of the Venice Civic Union, the Marina Women's Chamber of Commerce, Venice Area Realtors, a canal property owners' group and several individual property owners, many of whom do not live in Venice. They had relatively little to say other than the Master Plan is important, good for "progress," "better than no plan at all." Several had disparaging remarks about the opposition, alluding to "hippies" and their "sex orgies on the beach," their unwillingness to "get up off their you-know-what" and work, their living off the hard-earned tax money of upstanding property owners—all of which gave a good picture of their reasoning ability and depth of analysis. After speaking, their whole group filed out together.

After everyone who wanted to speak had been heard, Bernardi thanked us all for behaving ourselves so nicely and explained that no recommendations would be made at that time. He assured us that further discussion between Hamilton's planners and the Committee would be held at future Planning Committee meetings, which are open to the public.

We still don't know what the three Councilmen will recommend to their colleagues, although experience indicates that they will go along with the pressure from those who pay their (campaign) bills—speculators, real estate and building interests—and call for adoption of the Plan.



(photo by Bill Edelen)

Venice Peace and Freedom Party members took some time off from their community work to support the anti-Vietnam war demonstrations at Century City on August 13 (see photo) and at San Clemente on August 17. Hundreds of notices of the two demonstrations were posted and passed out in the beachfront community and among the 7,000 signatures on anti-war petitions to warmaker Nixon were more than 400 collected by Venice PFP members.

People's Choice!

by John Haag

Rick Davidson announced on August 27th his intention to run for the 6th District Councilmanic seat vacated by the resignation of L.E. Timberlake. Rick is a long-time resident of Venice, an architect and active in community affairs.

He is a member of the boards of directors of Neighborhood Legal Services and the Venice Health Council. He helped start the Venice Survival Committee and the BEACHHEAD community newspaper. He is an active member of the FREE VENICE Organizing Committee and the Venice Peace and Freedom Party, both of which have already endorsed his candidacy.

Rick's campaign will raise the urgent issue of community control of community affairs. He will attack present procedures of the City Planning Department and will advocate that plans for Venice, including canal-renovation, should be developed and implemented by Venice residents.

Rick, who has been a victim of false arrest and police violence, will propose that the police be controlled by boards of community representatives, that police accused of crimes stand trial like other citizens and that more limitations be imposed on police action in the absence of citizen complaints.

Rick is opposed to any freeway through Venice and says that freeway building should be halted in order to develop a viable rapid transit system. He is opposed to further expansion of the L.A. International Airport. He is working on proposals to reduce smog and relieve property taxes and home owners.

As an activist in the FREE VENICE movement, Rick supports the effort to make Venice independent from Los Angeles. Rick will need lots of help in his campaign. Stop by his office at 1727 W. Washington Blvd. between noon and midnight or call 399-7681.

As we go to press, the Plan has been sent back to the Planning Commission for another public hearing, in order to conform to a new City Charter amendment passed last May. The hearing will be September 25, time and place to be announced. We'll let you know!

FREE TO VENICE RESIDENTS

NO CANAL BIDS!

Contractor bids for the infamous Venice Canal Assessment District were scheduled to be opened on August 27. The city fathers looked into their bag of goodies and found...NO BIDS! The largest assessment scheme in California history, which would have used public tax money to help displace about 200 Venice families without compensation, has been stopped—at least until the politicians think up some new tricks.

The City has blamed the bad money market, high interest rates, etc. for the lack of bids. They failed to mention inflation brought on by the war against the people of Vietnam. They also failed to mention the protests of hundreds of Venice residents and the lawsuit filed by the Western Center on Law and Poverty to stop the project.

The FREE VENICE Organizing Committee resolved August 27 to work with other Venice residents to develop a plan for restoration of the Venice canals which would benefit the entire community without forcing present residents to leave Venice.

Canal Festival 9/13

by George Metesky

"Come float around the canals on the 13th," reads the invitation to the Venice Canal Festival—a festival of "art, music, and life." Life in the canals was recently reassured by the failure of the Canal Assessment District to attract any bidders. This auspicious event in the struggle of the canal area residents to keep their homes has transformed the Festival into a celebration of victory over the yacht-set who are trying to move in.

At the Festival, you won't find the yacht-set, but the raft-set. Huge rafts have been constructed to carry people and drifting performers around the canals.

Venice artists and craftsmen will be demonstrating and exhibiting their art—sculpting, painting, throwing pots, square-knotting, and what ever. The poets from Beyond Baroque, dancers, and a theatre group will be there.

The initial list of musical performers includes John Paul, who sings his own material to a 12-string guitar, the Song of Earth Chorale, Brother Nigel's Proxy Party, the Euclid Avenue Express, and Kaleidoscope. There are others who are not yet certain.

The artists and musicians will be located along Grand Canal and 28th Avenue (near Washington Street and Pacific Avenue). The Festival will last for only one day, beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday, September 13, lasting into the evening when there will be films and a light show.

There are reportedly some sky divers who are looking for just the right field and some resident witches who have something special planned for the day.

The price is right—FREE. Food will be a do-it-yourself picnic.

VEST-POCKET PARK NEEDS HELP

Canal area children defended their park on August 29 and 30 by stopping two workmen from tearing down the play equipment. New owner of the property Charles Munstein, had said the playground could continue if liability were covered. Canal residents are now trying to raise about \$300.00 for insurance. Send contributions to "R.F.K. Vest Pocket Park" c/o Wade Allen, 211 Howland Canal, Venice, or call Wade at home 396-3248 or work 772-4421.

THE COURSE OF HUMAN EVENTS

Venice resident Anna Haag was acquitted of three misdemeanor charges on July 31 during a court trial by Judge Philip M. Newman in West L.A. Municipal Court. Anna had been charged on April 18 with interfering with a police officer, battery and disturbing the peace after she asked L.A. police officer William C. Jones the charges against several juveniles already under arrest at Rose Avenue and Ocean Front Walk.

Photographs of the incident introduced by the defense did much to discredit the testimony of the arresting officers. Attorney Michael Hannon defended Anna without charge because her arrest appeared to be a politically motivated reprisal against attempts of the Venice Survival Committee to reduce police harassment in the beachfront community.

Starting September 8 BEACHHEAD meetings will be held every Monday at 8 p.m. at Reredos, 1217 Ocean Front Walk (near Westminster). Besides this community newspaper, discussion will include other media, such as radio, leaflets, films, etc.

A new Youth Clinic will open on September 15 at the County Health Clinic, 905 Venice Blvd. It will operate five days a week from 6 p.m. to 10 for all health-related needs (medical, psychological, etc.). We have been told that information about patients will be kept strictly confidential and will not be available to the police.

Remember the trees that once stood at Venice Library before L.A. big brother cut them down? Venice resident Barry Wood has found full-grown replacements which L.A. big brother will allow to be planted, if there is no loss to the city. The cost is one dollar a tree, several trucks, moving equipment, many people and much sweat. If you can help, call Barry at 399-1547.

The Board of Directors of L. A. Neighborhood Legal Services Society, Inc. (LANLSS) finally revealed their hypocrisy by voting to do away with community coordinators: lay persons responsible for maintaining a close relationship between the legal program and the general public. Billions for slaughter in Vietnam and trips to the moon, but not a few thousand to keep legal services close to the people.

Sand City, August 19: The effort to recall millionaire Mayor Phil Calabrese lost 91 to 41. The challenge to abuse of political power lost at the polls, but legal action is still pending to stop harassment and intimidation of Calabrese's opponents.

Thinking of splitting to Canada? Information about Canada can be obtained from British Columbia Department of Travel Industry, Suite 407, 8833 Sunset Blvd., L. A. 90069 or from Vancouver Committee to Aid American War Objectors, Box 4231, Vancouver 9, B.C., Canada.

On August 10 John Johnson of the FREE VENICE Organizing Committee began distributing an almost daily mimeographed paper whose name changes with each issue. On August 23 John was illegally arrested while passing out that day's "War Street Journal." The paper is passed out late afternoons along the Ocean Front Walk and copies are left at the Magic Theatre, Barb-Patch, Gwyndolin's, Joe's Cafe and Dan's Thing. Items for the street sheet may be phoned in to John at 392-4563 from noon to midnight.

A young man tried to commit suicide August 30, at 30 Dudley Avenue. One of the officers called to the scene (car number 519554) was heard to say, "I hope he dies. He deserves it."

Gwyndolin is being evicted from her dress shop at 427 Ocean Front Walk. The eviction is retaliation by Mrs. Lally, manager of the Simon-Scharff properties in Venice, because the shop has been a distribution point for FREE VENICE literature and petitions.

Youth for Political Integrity will hold a Bake Sale Saturday, September 13, beginning at 11:30 a.m. in front of Penney's, 1202 Santa Monica Mall.

A benefit show for the Venice Community Improvement Union (VCIU) will be held on October 25th at the Mishkon Hall in Santa Monica. For advance tickets (\$1.75) call Emma Viser or Laverne Brunson at 399-2757 or 392-5540.

It's happening! At Beyond Baroque, 1639 W. Washington Blvd. A printing service—one of the most economical in the city. An art gallery. Air Raid Presentations the last Friday of each month—any of all possible creations. Poetry workshop every Wednesday night. Happenstance every Thursday night—any word creation. All this was started by George Smith and will continue if we get into it. For information call 396-6551.

The Venice Peace and Freedom Party office at 1727 W. Washington Blvd. is now state headquarters for the California PFP. Voter registrars report that over 35% of those registering in Venice last month affiliated with the PFP. The Venice PFP meets every Wednesday at 8 p.m. at the office. For information call 392-4563 from noon to midnight.

Police Plot Jails 5

The Community Gathering on August 24 was a success despite efforts by L.A. police to suppress publicity. In the three days before the event, five FREE VENICE workers were arrested while posting or distributing leaflets and about 1,000 of 5,000 leaflets printed were confiscated.

Thursday night John Haag and Cindy Lippman were arrested for stapling a leaflet to a utility pole. A realty sign was nailed to the same pole. The municipal code calls for a citation at most, but Lt. Tackaberry, night watch commander of the Venice Division, ordered the two jailed under a section of the California penal code.

(The FREE VENICE Organizing Committee has been circulating a petition calling for the removal of Lt. Tackaberry from Venice because of mass curfew raids and other abuses against Venice residents. Tackaberry led the police attack on the Free Press concert on April 20.)

Friday night Carol Berman was arrested while distributing leaflets on the Ocean Front Walk. The law employed is a Recreation and Parks ordinance which has been ruled unconstitutional in other cases. The Ocean Front Walk is not a park.

On Saturday John Johnson and Steve Clare were similarly arrested. Quick action by other FREE VENICE workers and friends got all five out of jail in time to attend the Sunday gathering.

They issued a statement Sunday which said in part:

"The police are the physical arm of a political conspiracy to wipe out the low and medium income residents of Venice (over 90%) for private profit. We are all going to suffer because a few outsiders have a deal going.

"We will not be driven like cattle from our chosen community. We will fight back. We may not win, but there's no chance at all of winning if we don't fight back. The government of Los Angeles is our enemy. The Los Angeles police are enemies of the people of Venice and should be treated as such."

When four of the five arrested were arraigned on August 27, they leafletted the West L.A. courthouse, accusing the police of "a plot to prevent Venice residents from knowing about a community meeting." The leaflet explained: "The same people who are planning to force 90% of the Venice community to move are also using the police to kidnap and hold for ransom the few people working to let the community know what is being done to them."

Charges against Carol Berman, John Johnson and Steve Clare were dropped. Haag pleaded not guilty and asked for a jury trial. He intends to show that the police used the posting law in a discriminatory and vindictive manner. He also intends to argue that the law in this instance violates the rights of free speech, press and assembly. Haag said:

"The laws on the books prohibit posting notices on both public and private property, but all property is either public or private. There is no place you can legally post a notice unless you have the money to buy or rent property for that purpose.

"The leaflet in this case was a notice of a meeting of vital interest to at least 90% of the Venice community. To prohibit posting of such a notice discriminates against the poor and suppresses our equal right to free speech, press and assembly.

"There has been a pattern of illegal arrests of FREE VENICE workers that shows a planned effort by the police to prevent our publicity from reaching the Venice community. I plan to expose the police plot at my trial."

Contributions for legal defense may be sent to FREE VENICE, 1727 W. Washington Blvd., Venice, Ca. 90291.

FREE RENTAL LISTING SERVICE

If you have, know of, or need a room, apt., or house for rent contact **STEVE CLARE** at **392-4563** daily noon to midnight

In and out of Venice

1355 Westwood Blvd.
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& boutique 205 Ocean Front Walk
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"Women's Facility"

by Carol Fondiller

I'm taking it for granted that everyone in Venice knows how to talk to the police, when they are being harassed by them. You don't talk to the police except to give your name, address, and the fact that you want to see an attorney. Ask what the charges are. They'll tell you Suspicion. Of course, do not resist arrest. No matter how nice the police are to you, no matter how inane the questions are, you answer none of them except your name, address, etc. Get it? Good.

What about the ladies? How do you conduct yourself in Durance Vile? What are the procedures for getting out? After you have been grilled at the Venice Police Station, the matron takes you to the bathroom, where she orders you to strip. You then do some setting up exercises.

You are re-handcuffed and transported to the "women's facility" in Van Nuys. You are again ordered to strip and you go through the same poses plastiques you went through at Venice. They check your arms and knees for needle marks, search your purse again, and confiscate everything including eyeglasses, wedding rings and high heel shoes. They hand you a pink booking slip with your charges, your name and the property they have. You are allowed to keep your change and cigarettes. You are fingerprinted. You fill out several cards. This all takes several hours. After booking, you are allowed to make one of your two phone calls. Call collect, even if it's a toll free call. Tell whomever it is you call to get a lawyer and/or bail bondsman, cancel appointments and bring cigarette money. No cigarettes are allowed from the outside. They can be bought in the police machine, however. All hairpins will be removed from your hair. You are allowed no cosmetics or brushes.

Try to sleep. One of the birds-in-blue will wake you up. Your face will be puffy from the heat, and you will feel grimy all over. Your hair will be a mess. You are photographed from all the worst angles. You might be allowed to make your second phone call. You are back in your cell. Take off your stockings, wash them in the sink. Hang them up. Don't worry, they'll be dry by the time you get out. Talk to your cell mates. You'll be surprised to find how nice the other criminals are. Remember, the police tend to treat prisoners as guilty before proven innocent. Collect the cigarette butts you'll find on the floor (there are no waste baskets). Extract the tobacco and sprinkle it in a hopscotch pattern. Use matchbooks as tokens. Don't bother to ask the matron for pen, paper or reading materials. They don't have any, they aren't allowed, they're too busy or they won't answer.

Breakfast is brought to the cell in slimy tin TV trays. Don't eat it. The eggs are dry, the potatoes watery and the sausage tastes like old... pork. The dinner is just as dreary, except that the meatloaf tastes like dead...pig. You are not treated inhumanely, you are just not treated. Do setting up exercises. You will be convinced that you are forgotten. That is not true. The wheels of bail bondsmen grind slow. But they grind. Watch the custodian sit down in the room opposite your cell and drink milk and read a magazine. Ask for your second phone call.

If you have to remain in jail until your arraignment, count on looking like Ma Barker. You will not be allowed a shower or a change of clothes. You will learn from some of the more experienced hands that Sybil Brand is a real neat place. You get three meals a day there, and showers.

If your friends scrape up the 10% for a bail bondsman, you will put on your dry stockings and take down the names of the girls and the numbers they want called (in burnt matchstick on your change envelope).

Remember, they can hold you 72 hours before arraignment-and they only count days the courts are open. So be cool on three-day weekends, and always carry a dime. As one of my hooker cellmates said, "It's getting so it ain't even safe for a girl to walk the streets any more."

RENTERS' RIGHTS

by Steve Clare

The housing squeeze is on in Venice. Rents are rising, evictions are occurring and more are threatened; houses are being condemned. The purpose of course is to force out the poor to make more room for the rich. Greedy property owners (mostly absentee), land speculators and developers, and downtown politicians have together planned the future of Venice, a future which does not include the bulk of renters that now live here.

Unfortunately, renters have very little legal protection in California and usually are not acquainted with the few rights which do exist. The BEACHHEAD has reprinted below the text of a leaflet which outlines these rights. For more detailed information, go to the Venice State Service Center at 324 Lincoln Blvd. or to Neighborhood Legal Services at 1711 Pacific Avenue.

We cannot stop evictions but we can slow them down. We cannot stop city inspectors from condemning houses but we can force landlords to make their buildings habitable. We cannot keep our rents from being raised but we can demand that they be instituted in the manner prescribed by law.

(Governor Reagan has stated that property rights are the source of human rights. Who do you own? Who owns you?)

LANDLORD-TENANT RELATIONS

1. Eviction Processes:

A. "3-day notice to quit or pay rent:" If the tenant is behind on his rent and the landlord wants to evict him, he must begin the process by giving him a **written** notice to leave or pay rent within 3 days.

B. "30-day notice to quit:" If the tenant pays rent by the month and he is up to date, the landlord still has the right to evict him. However, the landlord must put his intentions **in writing** and give the tenant 30 days in which to move.

The landlord cannot legally take it upon himself to lock out the tenant. If he does padlock the apartment, the tenant may have a right to sue and recover money damages - even if he is behind in rent!

2. Legal processes:

A. "Summons and Complaint in an Unlawful Detainer Action:" If the tenant has not moved within the 3 or 30 day period, he probably will be served with a **written** notice from the court that a law suit has been brought against him by the landlord and that he has 3 days to file an "Answer" to the charges with the court. **Anyone** over 18, except the landlord, may serve the papers. If the tenant does file an Answer within the 3 day period, the court will set a hearing date. This hearing date will be from 2 to 6 weeks off.

B. "Writ of Possession:" If an Answer is not filed by the tenant within three days, he will lose the case by default. On the fourth day the court may pass judgment and may issue a "Writ of Possession." It must be served by a marshal who **usually** gives the tenant 48 hours to vacate the premises. If the tenant does not move, the marshal will move his furniture out and store it. The tenant cannot recover his furniture without paying **all** moving, storing and court costs and back rent owed.

C. "Landlord's Lien:" The landlord has a right to claim a lien on the furniture held by the marshal. He may sell it at a public sale to pay the judgment.

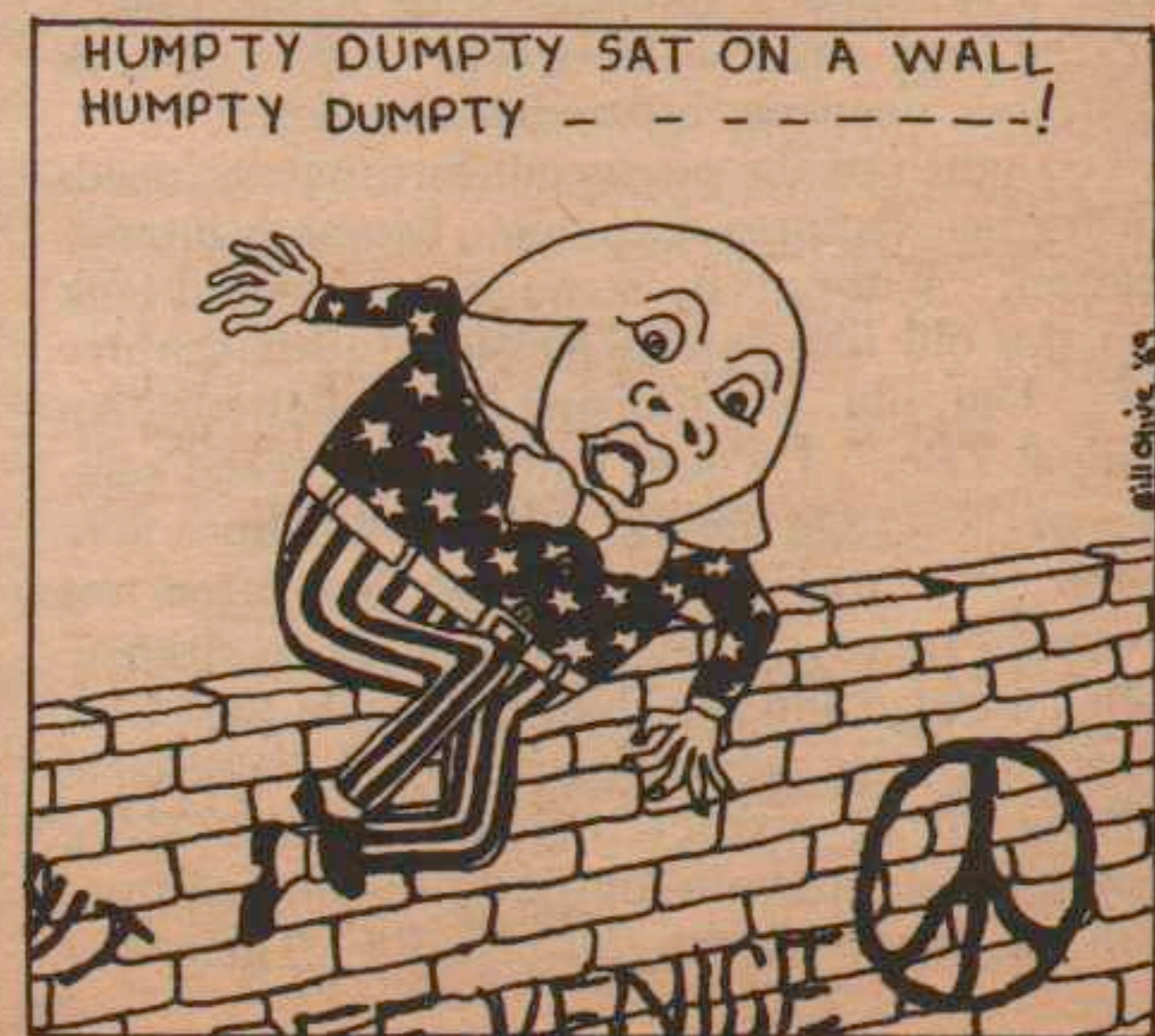
3. Rent Raises:

If the tenant has no lease the landlord can raise the rent at any time. He must give the tenant **written** notice of his intentions. If the tenant pays by the month, he must be given a month's notice; by the week, a week's notice, etc.

4. Repairs:

Unless the lease states otherwise, the landlord is required to keep his property in a habitable condition. If he refuses to make repairs, the tenant has the right to have the repairs made and can deduct the bills from his rent payment.

The tenant must first submit a **written** notice to the landlord which includes: a) a request that the repairs be made; b) that it be done in a reasonable amount of time **specified by the tenant**; c) a statement of the tenant's intention to deduct the cost of the repairs from the rent if the landlord does not comply with the request.



In case anyone still wonders why Venice residents and particularly longhairs often have a negative attitude towards the police, consider the following:

On Saturday, August 2, Officer Anderson entered the Magic Theatre at 1322 Pacific. He opened a conversation with Jack Armstrong, the Magic Theatre's owner, by demanding in substance, "Who gave you permission to grow those flowers out there (between the sidewalk and the curb)? Don't you know there's a city ordinance against growing flowers on city property without permission?" He concluded the conversation by saying that if the flowers were not "ripped out" when he returned the next day, he would bring charges against Armstrong.

A quick check of the city ordinances revealed no law against growing flowers on city property without permission. So why would a member of the LAPD object to the flowers? Some possible explanations: 1) Anderson is ignorant of the city ordinances and/or hates flowers; 2) Anderson wished to give Armstrong & Co. a hard time for personal reasons, and the flowers were as good an excuse for a hassling session as any; 3) Anderson saw in the flowers

the image of the mad dogs of anarchy as represented by the People's Park thing in Berkeley, and wanted to quash this obvious threat to the sanctity of private property, money, and the American Way.

Which brings up an idea: What do people see first when driving through Venice? A lot of rubbish-littered empty lots, peeling buildings, et al, i.e., a slum. There is little which visibly expresses our community. There should be. Why not plant green things, flowers, sculpture on unused and ugly plots of ground throughout Venice?

This idea would probably not meet with a cheerful reception at City Hall. For one thing, there would be a fear that such projects in Venice would lead to a People's Park-type confrontation over beautified property when the owners wanted it. At least in my own head, there is no intention to involve the private property issue in this question of cleaning and planting on barren, junk-bestrewn property. When and if the owners have any plans for it, it is theirs.

City administrators, however, can still stew over the idea, for other reasons: Now, there are plenty of empty lots. Later, if the glittering stucco alienation dreamt of by the Master Planners encrusts Venice, there won't be. And then, having become used to lots of flower beds

and parks, the residents might start pressuring the city to provide substitutes. Heaven forbid! Who wants people out milling about and interacting? Everyone knows that the sidewalks and streets are for getting from box A to box B, and that parks are for family picnics, not for social contact with other people!

Besides, this kind of gooney project is the sort of thing that the present residents of Venice are prone to. It is hardly consistent for the city to encourage something that would make Venice a more friendly environment for us undesirables. Getting together to work on our environment would generate a concern for and knowledge of our neighbors that is a "dangerous" and, in the true sense, revolutionary departure from the tradition of alienation and apathy that is the social norm in Los Angeles.

There is another possible reason that any community efforts at improvement would be opposed by the city authorities. I call it "keeping down appearances." As long as Venice looks like a typical "economically depressed area," a good case for "upgrading" and "progress" can be made. But what if Venice was a sea of flowers, statuary, and enterprises? Somebody might get the idea that Venice was a unique and creative community, irreplaceable and worth saving.

Gardening, anyone?



Westminster Park belonged to the people for an afternoon. Sunday, August 24 the FREE VENICE Organizing Committee, along with Bay Area Latin Americans (BALA), the Venice Community Improvement Union (VCIU), and Senior Citizens of Venice, called a Community Gathering to get people and things together, and to talk about the Master Plan (see article on the Master Plan's progress thru bureaucracy-land).

More than 500 Venetians came and enjoyed the sun,

the music and the vibes. Music was provided by Brother Nigel's Proxy Party and Both AR, Inc., with the extra added frosting of the bongo-conga-tin-can-artists of Venice.

Even the four speakers fit in with the day's vibes. They were expressing the feelings of the crowd that Venice would stay close together and would fight the people and the institutions that want to change the community for their own ends. They were Robert Castile

for VCIU, Morris Rosen for the Senior Citizens, Fred Manzanares for BALA and John Haag for FVOC.

The highlight of the day was the launching of Venice's own discount moon shot. A huge red balloon armed with a Free Venice button, an induction notice, and various other indescribable trinkets and messages, was sent hurtling through space to show the folks at NASA how to shoot (and save) the moon.

(photo by Sam Greenberger)

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A REVIEW

by Lynn
Shoemaker

only music? A few poems make it, combining both "re-new" and literary merit. Parts of "Mornings in Venice." The polished but unambitious work of John Tagliabue. The powerful imagination at work in "The Miracle Man." And the sheer gusto and play of Arthur Phillip Boze's "Put Down." One poet flashes out, his work possessing all of these forces and more. Be sure to read Michael Dalberg's "Wolf Trap" and "Manchurians Select God in a Yurt."

The prose lives beyond my expectations. Frustratingly good. Having a poet's bias, I kept looking for one piece that I could criticize and put down. I prodded myself. They can't all be good. But they are. Some aren't big like David Zack's fanciful "Woofy Tale Number Nine" or Henry Sheck's prose poem "My Machine She." But all have life. Life because they are well-rendered. Every word in place as in the surrealistic parable by Florence Epstein called "The Family." And Mr. Porter, it's a marvel how you sustain your long "Senehem's Pyramid." The old is transformed and lives as the new. "Death is a Jewish Dancer." "Jacob." And I can go even further. A re-conception, a re-evaluation, a new sensibility does happen. You can sense a re-conception in Roth's "Growing Up" or Davis' "Queen of a Very Strange Country." You can feel a re-evaluation emerging in Metzger's "What Rough Beast." And you can see the apparitions (frightening and beautiful to old-infected egos) in "The Grotesque Agonies of Illumination." Beyond sociological studies and psychological probings, a new warm red vision emerging on a golden field.

Read it. Especially the prose. Words are not dead. They can move us into the "beyond baroque."

Venice Free School

A new free school is being formed in Venice. The school will be largely based on the book *Summerhill: A Radical Approach to Child Rearing* by A.S. Neill (must reading for everyone-in paperback for \$1.95). In this kind of school the child is free to choose what he wants to learn. The school exists for the children rather than trying to make the children conform to some impersonal structure that was designed for the administrative convenience of a machine that feeds facts to your child like a computer. The staff's main responsibility is just to love and help create an atmosphere where a child can grow without society's hang-ups being passed on to him.

There will be regular school meetings where problems can be discussed and everyone from the youngest child to the most mature staff person has an equal voice. Besides the usual academic classes, we can have any other classes we desire such as arts and crafts, sensitivity, meditation, or nature. For more information call Zeke at 392-1464, or the Wesley House at 392-5540. And come to the first planning meeting at the Wesley House, 617 Broadway, Venice, on Thursday, September 11 at 8:00 pm.

from **ROACHES** Bill Edelen

it is now
by the rose: in the beginning
before the fall; from the seed of that tree

(that tree): hallowed gut cry to freedom
shaping soul
being resistance becoming

revolution
(and Adam called his wife's name Eve;
because she was the mother of all living)