

FREE VENICE SINCE 1968 BEACHHEAD

April 1974 NO. 52

P.O. BOX 504, FREE VENICE CALIFORNIA 90291

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A USEFUL CRISIS

by Grant Crandall

(reprinted from HOSTILE WITNESS/
UCLA National Lawyers Guild
Newsletter)

Profits are the barometer of the country and the higher the better. There is NO WAY profits can be too high.

--Allen P. Stults, President,
American Bankers Association

(Unless otherwise designated, the ideas and statistics upon which this article is based come from "Energy and Power" by Frank Ackerman and Arthur MacEwan, Harvard economists, in the Jan. 1974 issue of MONTHLY REVIEW.)

There have been a spate of rather interesting TV commercials lately by the major oil companies. A stereotypic sex symbol urges viewers to walk more and take the bus when you can. ARCO cares. A little girl implores us to conserve energy. The message is clear: her future depends on our frugality. Texaco cares too. And on and on. It is the same old story; when there is a problem in this country, it is the people who are at fault. Increasingly, however, many people aren't buying it. The "energy crisis", though real enough in the sense that it presages the fate of the world in coming decades with respect to energy supply and consumption, at present has a bit of a fishy tinge to it. The present "crisis", if not actively created by the actions of the oil companies and the government, was at least anticipated and allowed to develop. But it requires some delving beyond the news releases of the White House and the oil giants and headlines in the daily papers to understand how and why this crisis came into being.

The government and the companies would have us believe that the Arab oil embargo is a basic cause of present shortages. In fact, the US imports most of its oil from Venezuela, Nigeria, Indonesia and other non-Middle Eastern nations. And these sources not only are willing and able to increase their oil exports to the U.S., they have in fact done so. At the same time, it should be remembered that the U.S. is the developed industrial nation in the world least dependent upon Arab oil to keep its economy running. Arab imports account for less than 12% of total U.S. consumption.

In any case, the difficulties facing the U.S. are not a crude oil shortage, but rather a shortage of refining capacity. Oil company and government predictions of the rate of growth of the demand for oil have been extremely accurate, and the comp-

anies and the government are likewise well aware of the fact that it takes between three and four years to build a new refinery. So why didn't they do something about the increasing gap between demand for oil products and refinery capacity?

At first glance, it would seem that the oil conglomerates would have every incentive to keep up their refining capacity so that they could sell more fuel and make more money. The simple logic of supply and demand, however, falls apart in a monopoly (or for purist economists, an oligopoly) industry such as oil.

The monopoly structure of the industry means that if all of the companies act in concert (whether by overt combined decision-making or by each company separately coming to realize their shared interests) to raise prices and hold

strategy not only raised their profits in the short run, it also greatly enhanced their long-run power position.

The first problem was the growing influence of the ecology movement. Not just the oil companies were worried about the environmentalists. So were Big Business and its representatives in Washington. Had the "energy crisis" not fortuitously "developed", oil companies would very probably have had to accept various restrictions aimed at protecting the environment on both their existing production facilities and on any new refineries and other investments. The coastline off Santa Barbara might not be opened for more drilling. The Alaska pipeline might be in serious trouble. This would mean higher costs for them and, more crucially, it would set a dangerous precedent for public interference with the "free enterprise" of the oil monopolies.

ment does not meet the domestic opposition which Vietnam had brought into being for strong actions in the Middle East. In fact, the energy scare is just about as good as the red scare. Whether this atmosphere will be used to excuse future American intervention overseas remains to be seen.

At the same time, what little competition existed in the oil industry could be neatly smothered. During the last year some ten thousand independent gasoline dealers have been forced out of business. And the future appears even bleaker for those who remain. Dr. Fred Allvine, a specialist on gas marketing at Georgia Tech, stated bluntly that "Price competition is dead" for the major gasoline dealers (*Guardian*, Jan. 16, 1974.)

Furthermore, the shortages, like some brands of gasoline, have been blended to suit local conditions. While there was a shortage in this country last summer, American oil companies in Britain, where consumers are the considerably higher prices they pay for petrol, continued to urge more pleasure outings in the family auto. Last Summer Colorado was the state hit hardest by the gas shortage. It was also a state with an extremely strong ecology movement, one which threatened to interfere with future attempts by the oil companies to develop the rich oil shale deposits in the Rocky Mountains.

The two states experiencing the greatest shortages this fall and winter have been Massachusetts, the only state that went for McGovern in 1972, and Oregon, a state with an extremely strong environmental movement and a large number of independent gas stations.

Simultaneously, gas prices jump and profits skyrocket (Exxon up 59.4% from 1972, Gulf up 60.1%). Profits continue upward at a time when unemployment has risen to 5%. It is predicted by most economists to go to 7-8.5% later this year. And as *Business Week* (Jan. 19, 1974) observed: "In bargaining, high unemployment traditionally has meant low militancy by workers." The rise

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back supply, the price increases will more than make up for the losses from selling a smaller quantity. This fact has led to a whopping 45% increase in after-tax profits for the nine largest oil companies during the first three quarters of 1973--compared to the first three quarters of 1972.

Why didn't the government blow the whistle on the companies' shenanigans? One reason might be contained in the information released last week by Rep. Les Aspin (D.Wis). Contributions to Nixon's re-election campaign fund by oil interests totalled more than \$5,700,000--that is more than any other industry in the nation, exceeding the contributions of even the defense contractors.

There were other reasons as well. The oil companies were running in to some very stubborn problems in the late 1960's, discussed below. Their common reaction led them to a strategy of allowing predictable shortages to develop. This

If, on the other hand, they did nothing about expanding refinery capacity, shortages would develop and the environmentalist would be in trouble. And in fact, as it has turned out, the ecology movement is on the ropes.

A second problem was the growing power the Middle Eastern oil-exporting nations which had banded together to form the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Crude oil prices charged by the OPEC rose rapidly (though not nearly enough to justify the prices now being paid by American consumers at their local gas stations). Even more importantly, the Arab exporters made some substantial demands concerning the ownership and operations of the production facilities in their countries. They were becoming a real pain in the neck. The energy scare, however, has created an atmosphere (very much enjoyed by Mr. Kissinger) in which the govern-

THE FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD IS A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER AND IS CONTINUALLY SEEKING ARTICLES, POEMS, PHOTOS, GRAPHICS, ETC., FOR POSSIBLE PUBLICATION. RIGHT NOW WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ACCOUNTS OF WORK EXPERIENCES..... WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE A WAGE SLAVE IN THE U.S. OF A.? SO, IF YOU EVER WANTED TO GIVE IT BACK TO THE BOSS, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE. DEADLINES ARE THE SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH. PLEASE INCLUDE A STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE. AND LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT ANONYMITY. WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW WON'T HURT THEM.

VENICE VVAW FIGHTS BUM RAPS

Over a half million "Vietnam era" veterans have been given bad discharges from the military services. While many of these discharges were given as a result of courts martial, themselves often unjust, a great number were the result of administrative procedures.

Over 28,000 bad discharges were directly related to involvement with "dangerous drugs" and narcotics, including marijuana. Of these 28,000 plus persons not one is legally entitled to treatment by the Veterans Administration for his drug or drug related problems. Since a bad discharge results in the loss of ALL VA benefits only those who were lucky enough or smart enough not to get caught are eligible for treatment if they want it. Truly, in America, nothing succeeds like success. Even if it can be proved that a person got hooked while in the service, thus making a Prima facie case for the service connected origin of his disability, the drug addicted veteran with a bad discharge is out of luck. The government treats only the people it wants to treat--need is secondary and justice often fails to enter the picture at all.

Under administrative procedures, persons believed unfit or unsuitable can be given bad discharges very easily, frequently without receiving any legal advice whatsoever. Service persons have been separated for such things as bed wetting, inability to speak English (after having been taken into the service on the basis of an examination in Spanish), homosexual beliefs and a host of other equally unfair "reasons." to get out of the service that he or she cooperates in order to speed the process. Thus he will often waive the right to counsel and even waive the right to appear before the board of officers who make the decision to grant the

bad discharge. In this latter case a board isn't even appointed and a good adjutant or personnel NCO can complete almost the entire process at his desk. Young, unhappy, confused, and angry of their rights (because nobody tells them anything and they usually don't know where to look) are thus manipulated into helping those arrayed against them. They leave the service branded unfit or unsuitable to enter a corporation dominated America in which business personnel departments know all about military discharges. The rest of the story is too familiar to bear repetition.

Then there is the more subtle case of the veteran who has a "good" discharge but who was separated for a reason that could adversely affect his or her job possibilities, if it became known. It always does thanks to a little device called a Separation Program Number or SPN. This item appears on all "Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge" forms, better known as DD form 214, issued to all discharged vets (and demanded by all prospective employers.)

There are several hundred of these SPN's. Some are good, like SPN 201 (expiration of term of service or "ETS" as it is better known); some are bad like SPN 257 (unfitness, homosexual acts--this one also gets you a bad discharge); some are more unjust and crueler than most like SPN 362 (unsuitability, homosexual tendencies, desires or interests but without overt homosexual acts in service); and some blatantly racist like number 749 (early release of Puerto Rican personnel who fail to qualify for training.)

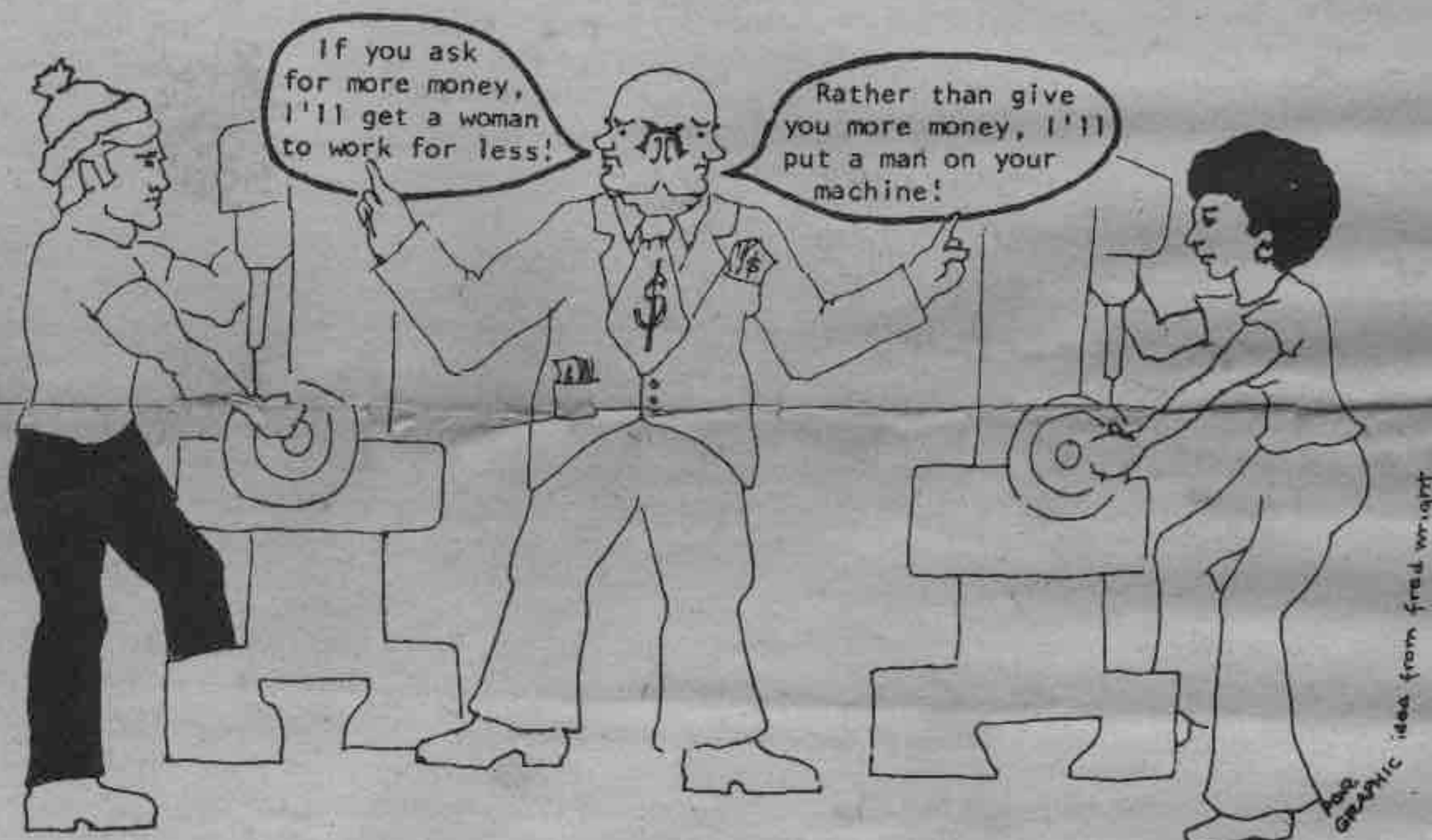
Most small companies and all big ones know all about these numbers and since they all demand to see discharge papers considerably more than the half million vets with bad discharges are cut out of the most lucrative part of the job market.

There appears to be a simple solution to this whole problem. The Armed Forces should issue only one type of discharge, if any, and stop using numbers and devices to tag people. Anyone who gives up part of his life to the government for any reason

should not be repaid with a "mark of Cain" regardless of his sins. Let employers do their own snooping, the government needn't do it for them.

Subjecting young people to the stress of military life and then jailing them and cutting them off from benefits they earned because they react to that stress in "unapproved" fashions is unjust and horrible in the extreme.

The Venice Chapter of Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization is fighting this evil. One of the things we can all do is to get people with bad discharges to come together for the purpose of upgrading their own discharges while working towards the goal of a single type discharge for all, to be awarded retroactively. We welcome anyone, vet or non vet, man or woman to join us in this, and especially those with bad discharges. VVAW Discharge Upgrading Project can be contacted at: (213) 399-0073, (213) 472-3597 (213) 396-6876, (213) 391-1598.



A USEFUL CRISIS...

continued from front page

in unemployment hits recently hired women and blacks hardest (having considerably more negative impact in one fell swoop than all of the Title VII litigation since 1964 put together has had in a positive direction).

At the same time, inflation squeezes pocketbooks relentlessly. The wholesale price index leapt a record 18.2% last year. All of which amounts to the working majority of this country footing the bill for the oil companies and their corporate brethren.

Strange how it is a crisis for us and not for them.

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1/4 page ad: \$50; 1/2 page ad: \$90;
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The FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published once a month by the Beachhead Collective as a community information service. It is distributed free, but if you wish to be placed on the mailing list for a year, please make a contribution of \$3.00 or more. The volunteer staff reserves the right as workers to make decisions collectively on material published and is independent of all political and community organizations. The printing is financed by the ad donations. The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry, artwork, short fiction, or other contribution of interest to the Venice community (send them to P.O.Box 504, Free Venice 90291). If return of the material is desired, a stamped, self-addressed envelope must accompany it. No payment is made for material used. The Beachhead Collective subscribes to Liberation News Service (LNS) and is a member of the Alternative Press Syndicate (APS). For information on deadlines, call TANK-YUK, 396-9325, or 392-8969.

CORRECTION AND ADDENDA

In the article "Canine Controversy" last month, I made several mistakes. The Animal Regulations officer who has been acting in an overbearing manner towards dog owners in the North Beach area is named MAX TED. Officer Max ted is very shy and modest and refused to show me his badge. The only way I could get the name was from a very crumpled citation where the name was practically illegible. If there is any Animal Regulations Officer named Waltek, my sincere apologies, unless he too is a wimp. Remember, folks, the Animal Regulations Officer who gets the Finger of the Year award is MAX TED.

Also, Joseph Von Slomski, head of the Westside Shelter, has reacted in an arrogant, cavalier manner towards Venice residents who have complained about the attitudes of several Animal Regulations Officers in Venice. He told one woman that "people in Venice were always looking for an excuse to get angry at something."

(We need to look for excuses!?)

RELIGION: FACIST OR LIBERATING...

3

By Dan Hirsch

Religion includes faith in human brotherhood, and politics is the most effective means of rendering it into visible form. Politics is but applied religion.

—Radhakrishnan

I have followed with interest the debate in these pages regarding the fascist and liberating aspects of religion. I would like to offer some perceptions of my own on the subject, as it seems a critical one for this time.

It seems to me that, just as socialism is not necessarily a bad despite what some countries or people have done in its name, God is also not necessarily a bad (nor an illusion), despite what many have been done in Her name. Political people can easily see the problems with religion—the acceptance of suffering, thereby perpetuating it; the holy wars and pogroms and inquisitions; the strong alliance between most religious establishments and the political-economic establishments; the economic wealth hoarded by many religious institutions—and tend thereby to reject religion outright. Religious people, however, can often easily see the problems with political work and people—the unkindness, the hatred, the projection of personal problems onto political situations, the murders justified in the name of a cause, the self-sacrifice bordering on egoistic martyrdom—and thereby strengthen their belief that the only way to salvation or peace is through individual conversion to the word and way of God.

My argument herein is that each needs the other to correct its vision, to make honest its precepts, to make effective its mission. Religious compassion cannot truly exist without political right action, nor can action be right without great compassion. Caring and curing must not be separated; institutional and personal liberation are but two sides of the same coin. The inner world meets and reflects and is reflected by the other world; both must be liberated for Peace to come (the Peace that passeth all understanding.) Then shall the inner be as the outer, and all persons shall proclaim the glory of

Life and defend it. Then shall the Lion and the Lamb lie down together, and be no more; the meek shall inherit the earth, but only through organizing for their rights and through freeing their oppressors as well as themselves of the illusion of ego and the love of possession and power.

When the Sixties died (or sputtered out) most people's souls and consciousness kicked the bucket as well. Along for a free ride on a moment in history, they refused to get out and push when it became clear that history is nothing by itself—all that exists in Time are the actions (or inactions) of persons being persons. Those few who did push, whose souls remained part on fire, part on ice, were pushing at considerably opposed angles.

Those people who had been involved in what we came to call the Counter-Culture (those people "into" drugs and mysticism and encounter groups and communal living and "liberating through getting your own head together") headed for the hills and other locales to set up their communes, where they could breathe fresh air, get close to the land, and keep on hugging each other and worshipping the Eternal Parent.

Others—those who were involved in radical activism (changing the schools, stopping the war, fighting racism and sexism and imperialism and the assorted evils associated with an insane, exploitative and alienating economy)—these dug in deep in urban ghettos, fighting against grand jury indictments, financial troubles, depression and internal power problems.

Most people, of course, just hung up their soul and consciousness on a back hook in their closet, stored next to other mementos of the sixties (college yearbooks, Dylan albums, Strike! T-shirts). The few that did not forget completely forgot selectively. One group put their conscience on ice; the other their soul. One repressed their dreams, fearing escape; the other repressed their compassion, fearing involvement. Some of us stressed analytic thinking, learning to be tacticians and theoreticians; others stressed emotions and intuitive thought, in order to become more kind. Some learned to love Nature, friends and God more; others learned to hate Nixon, capitalism and exploitation more. Some sat meditating for hours, trying to get beyond suffering through forgetting desire; others stood marching for hours, trying to end suffering through making people aware of their forgotten desire. Some of us tried to help others by forgetting ourselves; some of us tried to find ourselves by forgetting others. But very, very few did both; very few tried to transcend this polarity between inner and outer.

If I am not for myself, who will be for me?
If I am not for others, what am I?
If not now, when?

Hillel

Yes, indeed: if not now, when? How much longer can Hillel's message be ignored? How much longer can our House remain divided against itself? How much longer can those who love God hold back from doing effective works? How much longer can those who labor mightily against hatred and destruction refuse to take time for the reflection necessary to recognize hatred and destruction within themselves?

Pogo says we have met the Enemy, and that they are us. But also, the Enemy is not us. We must fight both antagonists—the Nixon in the White House and the life-fearing entity in our heads. One battle without the other is like animals without plants—each needs the other to truly live, for without the oxygen produced by the plants, animals would die, and without the carbon dioxide furnished by animals, nothing would be green.

It seems to me that love of God with-

out love of people is empty; that a love of people without effective action to help them is hypocritical; that action on behalf of "The People" without kindness to the person next to you is incomplete; and that fighting for peace without a personal experience of what peace is can never quite get us there.

True spirituality must be an energy source and a beacon in the struggle to end the needless suffering of the oppressed. It recharges the soul, cleanses the eye, and purifies the heart. It corrects political errors, too—especially that huge problem daily destroying the Left—the love of power and attachment to ego that leaves movement organizations hierarchical, sexist, and otherwise afflicted with many of the same diseases as the System it claims to negate.

And good politics is what honest religious people need. Otherwise they remain Neros fiddling while Vietnam, Angola, and Chile burn. Otherwise, they help the system perform its robbery and murder by promising salvation after death on the condition that this life's pains are accepted as inconsequential. Otherwise one has no good answer for the questions: If your gurus can do anything why don't they stop the killing in Indochina? If you gurus love humanity so much, why don't they sell their cars and give the money to the poor? Good political action on the part of good religious people avoids the defamation of God's name by not allowing the truly miraculous majesty of life to be reduced to a blissed-out worship of superstitious magic.

The proletariat shall rule only when all people realize they are comrades, truly sisters and brothers, and in great honesty revere and serve the greatest good, the Highest God. When we see God in all life, when we defend and fight for the inner essence from which we have been forcibly alienated, that spontaneous life-loving child killed by a "mature" world called Conformity and Wage-Slavery, then shall the Heavens open and the Masses sing! When we no longer destroy the self-esteem of baby Nixons there will be no more Nixons to destroy babies; when we destroy a system that kills children there will be no more warped personalities to kick around any more. No long term liberation can succeed with-

out these changes, it seems to me, but in the meantime we have work cut out for us just making sure that there is a world left to liberate.

Henri Nouwen suggests that in the person of Christ something of a union between these two poles can be observed. He writes "Mysticism and revolution are two aspects of the same attempt to bring about radical change. No mystic can prevent himself from becoming a social critic, since in self-reflection he will discover the roots of a sick society. Similarly, no revolutionary can avoid facing his own human condition, since in the midst of his struggle for a new world he will find that he is also fighting his own reactionary fears and false ambitions."

It is a pity that religious and political people who share such a large vocabulary ("peace, love, freedom, liberation, consciousness, sisterhood and brotherhood") seem now so far apart. I hope that this writing will contribute a bit to some greater unity or synthesis of the better parts of both.

All of this leaves for some other writing the thorny questions of which religious movements are fascist and which are not; and which political movements are liberating and which not. Is Baba Ram Dass more enlightened than Guru Maharaji? Is the Indochina Peace Campaign more progressive than the United Farm Workers? Such questions are issues of discrimination, some easy and some difficult answered best when the initial question is resolved: is religion, or politics for that matter, oppressive in its very nature? The answer must be, I believe, not necessarily; the search for God and the struggle for the people's liberation are but one struggle. God and humankind, once alienation and mystification are stripped away, are one. I believe any good mystic and any good Marxist, therefore, will have the same goal: peace on earth, goodwill to all. And they therefore need each other's energy and vision, for it cannot be done alone.

Let us move, not as the much-publicized Rennie Davis has, from mixed politics to even more mixed religion, but rather, as the image of the Bodhisattva suggests, let us suspend ourselves midway between Heaven and Earth, one foot grounded firmly in each, bringing peace both to ourselves and to all humankind.

ECO-DISASTER

NEW YORK (Environmental Action/LNS)—It could make a great science fiction film for an enterprising director—a horrifying monster ready to ooze on to the unsuspecting beaches of New York. But, it's not a prop or tricky camera work, it's real: a 20 mile square oily, black muck that kills everything in its path.

The muck is the proud product of New York City and nearby New Jersey municipalities which dump organic and inorganic residues from sewage plants into the ocean 10 miles off the coast. An estimated 500 million cubic yards of sludge is dumped by barges yearly.

The creeping sludge which has resulted from years of this practice could pose a threat to sea life. Experts agree the sludge kills everything it engulfs, but they don't really know what overall effect the goo may be having on sea life or what will happen if it invades the shoreline.

Meanwhile, the sludge oozes on. One Brooklyn College marine scientist, Dr. William Harris, says the muck is only a half mile off Long Island's heavily used beaches and seems to be moving closer. Government officials have been noncommittal about the monster's movements, but agree that it is potentially very dangerous.



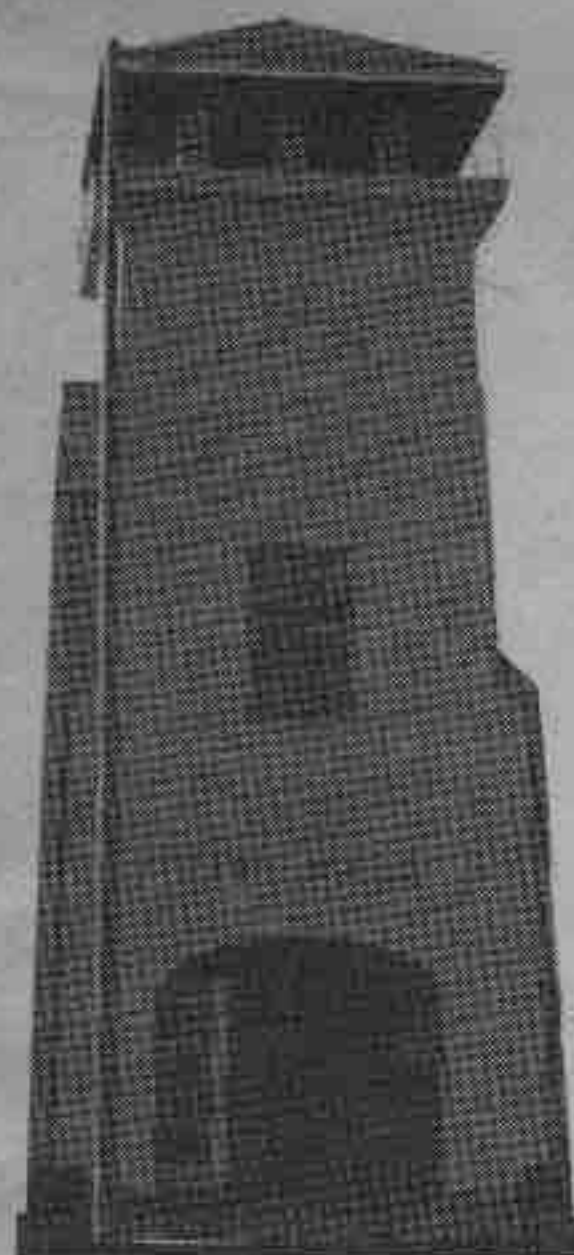
MALCOLM X

MAY 19, 1925 - FEBRUARY 21, 1965

NO, I'M NOT an American—I'm one of the 22 million black people who are the victims of Americanism. One of the 22 million black people who are

the victims of democracy, nothing but disguised hypocrisy... I don't see any American dream; I see an American nightmare.

—Malcolm X, April 3, 1964



"I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves . . ."
Thomas Jefferson

Venice Town Council

1973

1974

VENICE TOWN COUNCIL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

MARCH 1974

ART SEIDENBAUM

Passion to the People

If you are one of those cynical souls who'd like to take government in your own hands, let me tell you about Venice, Calif., as a model of what might be.

You say you know Venice already? A mixed human bag of black, white, brown, old, young, rich, poor, barefeetters, beach bummers, radicals and recluses. Then imagine that crowd coming together once a month to decide its own destiny.

They do. And they work, despite clouds of rhetoric and righteous anger and symptomatic distrust of the very system that made the Venice Town Council possible.

I've watched a couple of recent meetings, including the one KCET covered for more than 3½ hours from gavel to gavel. I've snickered and sneered at the down home de-

bates only to come away with a brand new respect for the democratic process as applied to people—as people applied to it.

Councilwoman Pat Russell, who represents the 60,000-odd residents of Venice, started the Town Council early this year. She knew she was proceeding at her own risk by bringing diverse interests onto one platform where they might tear each other—and their councilperson—to verbal shreds. She knew the council itself might grow up to be a power bloc rather than an advisory body, thereby making her legislative life more difficult.

And the 30 duly elected representatives from six Venice districts have indeed begun to make demands rather than suggestions. They have started to insist that Ms. Russell help them implement

their resolutions.

Curtis Rossiter, the Russell aide in Venice, stood up to an hour's worth of abuse at the September meeting as a variety of Town Council members complained about new building code enforcement, tax rises, rent rises and a proposed road through their community.

Rossiter took it, smiling, admitting the grass rooters had every right to anger.

Rick Gutierrez, chairman for the evening, managed to hold his own smile as the members broke a 10:30 curfew at the Broadway Elementary School and argued their way toward midnight. It was boring and it was beautiful, to watch those 30 people care and see 300 other people come to the hall.

There are other town councils in the country, mostly in mossy parts of New England, where the major differences of color are in hair. I don't know of any such council

established voluntarily by an elected official in a megalopolis. And I haven't seen any of the other 14 Los Angeles councilmen hurrying to copy this act of courage.

What Venice has more than the rest of Los Angeles is a sense of community, even if that further subdivides as six communities. It has been fostered by old conservatives and by the younger Free Venice movement. The council acrobatic circus doesn't fall on its face because under the rhetoric is a real desire among the performers to hold each other up, to honor each person's act.

And Pat Russell sits there applauding, a rare politician who knew when to become an audience.

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Los Angeles Times

reflections

The Venice Advisory Town Council was created in March, 1973. Its first official act was to drop the word "advisory" from its name.

From the beginning the Town Council has worked diligently to bring community input into Los Angeles' plans for Venice. This doesn't mean total agreement but the Venice Town Council enables different people to come up with different solutions to Venice problems.

Different backgrounds, different neighborhoods—the one commonality is an intense feeling to keep Venice for people—all different types of people.

Representatives have kept up the pressure on city officials and continuously pointed out problems that needed attention. There is an overall resistance against paving Venice over with concrete and highrise condominiums.

Five representatives from each area (Venice is divided into six neighborhoods) meet together once a month to talk about problems of Venice. Each neighborhood holds independent meetings in which each resident has a voice and vote. On the first Wednesday evening of each month all areas meet together as the full Venice Town Council, usually at the Broadway School.

Civic awareness brings us to the conclusion, "If we don't do it, it won't get done!"

Submerged in the big cities all across this country are "neighborhoods" that once were independent self-governing communities before they were taken over by empire-building "downtowns." Roxbury, Mass., for example, was an independently self-governed township for 238 years until it was annexed by Boston in 1868; when Philadelphia annexed Germantown in 1864 (without consent of its residents), that community had been politically independent for 171 years.

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THE VENICE TOWN COUNCIL AND THE STATE COASTAL COMMISSION

By Ron Guenther

The people of California, in 1972, were forced to bypass an impotent state legislature so corrupt, and so influenced by developers, big money, and special interests, that it could pass no significant or meaningful coastal protection legislation. The result was Proposition 20—the Coastal Zone Conservation Act, approved by the voters in November, 1972, after one of the hardest fought pure citizen action campaigns against overwhelming odds ever seen in this state. Six regional, and one State Coastal Appeals Commission were set up to control coastal development. They were to enhance and to conserve, to provide for the permanent protection of the remaining natural and scenic resources, Land speculators, developers, and the municipal governments which typically serve them were understandably dismayed.

Los Angeles City Councilman Louis Nowell, appointed by Los Angeles City Government to the local Regional Coastal Commission, has so obviously and blatantly misused his office to prevent coastal protection, to sabotage the intent and spirit of Proposition 20, and to encourage massive coastal development, that he has come to typify the reasons why Proposition 20 became necessary in the first place. The overworked staffs of the Commissions, starved by Governor Reagan who has stated for the public record that coastal protection has "really loused things up," have been widely praised for stopping many destructive projects in their initial stages. Although many concerned members of the general public have been appearing and testifying on an individual basis at Coastal Commission hearings, one of the biggest problems that these Commissions face is a lack of organized, and continuing, public input. This makes it vastly easier for the

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COMMUNITY DESIGN CENTER (VENICE OR OTHERWISE)

By Rick Davidson

The Venice Town Council during its first year of activity has involved itself in many issues, projects and problems of our community. The CDC is but one. Responses to the initials CDC are as varied as are the residents of Venice: CDC! What is that? Great, it'll solve all our problems. Is that the California Democratic Congress? Not another CDC, we tried that road once before. Why not. . . what can we lose? and so on. Since I feel that a CDC is a potentially important project and since the Venice Town Council has created a committee to consider a Venice CDC some background information may be valuable to the community.

CDC stands for COMMUNITY DESIGN CENTER—a concept developed by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in response to the worsening urban problems in America the Beautiful. The basic idea is to help provide professional architectural and planning services without fee to low income communities. There are (independent) CDC's all over the country. In L.A. there are two that I know of: the Los Angeles CDC with Jim Bonar, president and the Urban Workshop in Watts with Eugene Brooks, Director.

In 1972, Ken Norwood and Mike Coffey, who were working in the Venice Planning Office (a UCLA project), became prime movers in establishing a Venice CDC with its office in the back room of NAPP. Last year they failed to get re-funded and since then both have left the community. A great deal of criticism has been directed at Ken and Mike's efforts. To a large degree the criticism is valid, yet too often dis-directed due to personalizing the problems around Ken and Mike. I believe Ken and Mike wanted to do good for Venice, but a combination of factors defeated their goal, i.e., lack of community control, not just input;

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PROPOSED LOCAL RECOVERY ACT

A REASONABLE RENT PLAN

Short term solutions

Renter's aid—to create a tax-break for property owners of one to five units in order to provide low-priced rental units.

Reasonable net profit—to regulate the net profit from rent in accordance to the legal interest rates (10% in California).

Equitable property tax deductible formula—to establish guide lines for income tax deductions of rental property—determining the legal amount deductible by either owner or renter, i.e., whoever pays the tax (rent) should take the deduction.

Collective bargaining—to establish rules for settling disputes between renters and landlords equitably for all parties involved.

Long term solutions

Housing for low and moderate income clients—provide incentives in order to create housing for low and moderate income clients: a) to the builder b) to the community (self-help).

FOOD CRISIS PROGRAM

Immediate action

City owned property—make city owned property, not in use, available for food production.

City owned water areas—turn city owned water areas, such as lakes, ponds, canals, rivers into fish hatcheries.

Long range goals

Urban and rural integration—stimulation of ties between urban and rural communities in order to provide secure markets for the small farmer as incentives for him to maintain production rather than give in the land developers.

for information call 396-6876, 392-7290

NOTE:

The LOCAL RECOVERY ACT is in committee & still in its draft stage.

"The Neighborhood, in origin and existence, remains a political unit of settlement, whether self-ruling or dominated. And neighborhood organization is the natural place for either founding new liberty or liberating local settlement from outside power."

Neighborhood Government
Milton Kotler

AREA 1

PENINSULA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
By Barbara Avedon

My assignment: Write about the problems of area one The progress in solving them and the defeats on this the first anniversary of the Venice Town Council.

My qualifications: None.
I am very new to Venice.

Our family has spent the last two and a half years living on the Ocean front between Venice and Washington in two (the first burned down) cheaply constructed apartments whose sleazy interior finish had and have definite pretensions to a bad taste view of upper middle class grandeur.

We have never liked living anywhere else as well. We love the ocean. We love the sunsets. We love living in Venice where it feels like so many people are in the exciting process of creating themselves rather than accepting the many different assembly lines that hacked them out.

I feel that the problems of Venice as a whole is reflected more in the other five districts where I know people who are already in a desperate battle to save their homes. In area one the divisions are not as visibly drawn and it is therefore harder to write about. But Venice, here too, is threatened. Perhaps the percentage (and I do mean *perhaps*, I sincerely do not know) of residents who could be economically banished from our area is not the only way to lose what we have found here.

We who can afford to pay the rent and tax raise will find ourselves victims too of mindless development. . . our streets congested, our air poisoned by the soon to be extinct dinosaurs of the highway. . . our living space constantly diminished and despoiled by the metastases of

continued page

8

AREA 2

NO. BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
By John Haag

The monthly meeting notice of the North Beach Neighborhood Council now appears in the form of a newsletter called "On the Front," which contains two+ pages of information on current issues and upcoming events. Over 2,000 copies of the newsletter along with the Beachhead newspaper are delivered door-to-door each month throughout the North Beach Area.

The North Beach Planning Task Force, which was already working before the Council started last year, has dealt with a variety of planning problems and has helped to mobilize people to appear at the South Coast Regional Commission. This activity has resulted in the denial of several permits to build high rental structures in North Beach. The Task Force meets every Tuesday (except the day after the Area meeting) at the Israel Levin Center at 8 pm.

Weather and volunteers permitting, a neighborhood rap table now appears Sunday afternoons on the Ocean Front Walk. It provides an opportunity for conversations about council activities outside the confines of the monthly area meeting and usually takes in a few dollars in contributions.

The first benefit for the North Beach Council was held February 27. It consisted of Charlie Chaplin movies and attracted about 70 persons of all ages. A 50-cent donation resulted in raising almost \$25 for the expenses of printing our newsletter. We expect to continue these events on the last Wednesday evening of each month at the Israel Levin Center.

The North Beach Neighborhood Council meets the first Monday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Israel Levin Center, 201 Ocean Front Walk. Attendance has varied from about 40 to over 200, depending on the issues involved.

At our February meeting we passed resolutions calling for the restoration of Venice Tram service along Ocean Front Walk, for mass rapid transit in and through Venice, for weekly street cleaning in the North Beach Area, and for Venice Town Council meeting and office space in the Venice City Hall, now vacated by the L.A. Police Department. These resolutions were also passed by the Venice Town Council.

Resolutions passed, but not submitted to the full Council, called for a meeting of the Venice Community Design Center (CDC) Board of Directors within 30 days, for each new private development

to be continued, page 8

AREA 3

CANAL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
By John Heller

Canal Area residents have been involved for years in a struggle over a development scheme which would have transformed the Canals into an extension of the Marina Monster the County has created. We have won that battle thus far and it appears now that there will be no such development, at least as long as we remain together in the area.

The Town Council has provided a dramatic arena for this and other struggles and has given us the opportunity to demonstrate publicly what we before suspected to be true. Even the strictly local problems we've dealt with seem to be overshadowed or directly related to one basic reality. The land on which we live has the highest potential for profitable development, and there is unremitting pressure on many levels to pursue any plan which maximizes real estate and construction profits and provides a greater tax base for the City of Los Angeles. So great is the greed of the speculators and so callous have become our politicians that this is being attempted at the risk of destroying an entire community. The problem of increased through traffic on Dell Ave; the tragic destruction of a 35 year old tree and four historic cottages and the loss of a potentially beautiful residential park on Canal Street; the widening of Venice Blvd and the destruction of 27 homes and the displacement of those families; all these have been directly motivated by pressure to maximize real estate profits, and in each case Ms. Russell has chosen to represent the interests of the investors rather than to respect the clear and undisputed mandate provided by her constituents through the Venice Town Council.

Now although we've stopped the Canal Project we're confronted by another reality which threatens our community. We could all be forced from our homes by rent increases which are beyond our ability to pay. It has been suggested that there is in fact a conspiracy to go away with any opposition to development by simply getting rid of troublesome residents. Even if this is not the case, and if, as it seems, inflation is a natural and inevitable condition in a free enterprise system, it seems a sad fact that Ms. Russell has not been willing or able to offer any assistance to families who may otherwise be forced from their homes, when on the other hand she's willing for the City of Los Angeles to waste more money

to be continued, page 8

AREA 4

OAKWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
By Chuck Bloomquist

Oakwood is a community beset by problems. Employment and housing do not meet even minimum standards of justice and decency. The streets and alleys need to be cleaned and improved. Oakwood needs crossing guards to protect its children. Police harassment assumes a persistence and intensity in Oakwood unparalleled in the surrounding communities. The drug problem is a vicious daily assault on Oakwood, bringing in its wake other crimes and further intervention of the police in the community.

Numerous individuals and organizations have attempted to deal with these Oakwood problems; many are continuing to do so. The debt we all owe to these people will never be fully paid or even known. Still, the problems persist and when Councilwoman Russell suggested a Venice Town Council to provide better access to political power, Oakwood responded.

From the first organizational meeting to the present day, Oakwood has supported the concept and worked for the success of the Venice Town Council. A public meeting, attended by approximately 60 Oakwood people, elected five representatives, and one alternate, to the Venice Town Council. These representatives have attended every monthly meeting of the Venice Town Council to make known the needs and feelings of the Oakwood community as determined by the monthly Oakwood Neighborhood Council conducted by these same elected representatives.

A great deal has been learned and a great deal has been accomplished in the first year of the Venice Town Council. The Oakwood representatives have learned from each other and from the people attending the monthly councils to articulate the issues felt most strongly by the community. They have learned of the most pressing issues in the other five Venice Neighborhoods from their representatives and are learning to work together to more effectively communicate problems to Councilwoman Russell, and others, who can resolve them.

The support of other Neighborhood Councils for resolutions presented by Oakwood to the Venice Town Council has been both understanding and enthusiastic. As a result of this support and through coordinated community involvement several specific accomplishments have been realized in the past year. A few of these are briefly outlined in the following paragraphs.

to be continued, page 8



photos by Rick Sinatra

AREA 5

EAST VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

By Lew Van Herschler

The Wolves!! That's what the politicians call us.

We are the residents of East Venice; hard-hats, craftsmen, some professional people, small businessmen, senior citizens and just plain working and middle class Americans.

Most of us are resident small property owners. Indeed, all five elected delegates of the East Venice Neighborhood Council are resident-homeowners.

The politicians don't like to see people like us organized. Conservative politicians don't like troublemakers. And we sometimes scare the hell out of liberal politicians.

We live in Venice for one reason. We like it here. Its climate— its clean air— its informality— the diversity of its citizens.

Then why should we organize if we think Venice is a neat place to live?

Because we are under attack. First and foremost from a pack of furtive speculators who would turn Venice into a concrete playground, replete with highrise monstrosities, available only to the pseudo-hip wealthy.

(You know THAT type, the guy with the ecology sticker on his Jaguar who sprouts liberal cliches yet resents the average citizen using the city beach in front of his beach pad.)

The speculators are doubly dangerous because they are big political contributors.

A much smaller danger is posed by those citizens who just don't care about Venice or don't respect their neighbors. You know that type too. The people who litter the area— the one who lets his dog run loose— the kids who indulge in petty thievery or deface other people's homes with spray paint. This type makes Venice less liveable for the average citizen. As a result people say "to hell with it" and move, which will ultimately mean a Venice population composed of only the very rich and the very poor.

This has happened in almost every urban area in America. All the John Lindseys, the Sam Yortys, the Richard Daleys, the Tom Bradleys put together don't have the answers. The solutions must originate from the citizens themselves.

And that's one of the reasons we in East Venice have organized. To seek solutions to our problems.

The impetus for East Venice was the so-called Marina By-Pass, a concrete ribbon right through our area. At first we tried to reason with the politicians and bureaucrats. They didn't listen. We then decided to mobilize. We initiated a petition to be continued, page 8

AREA 6

CENTRAL VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

by Marvena Kennedy

With the boundaries of Venice Bl, West Washington Bl and Main Street forming a triangle, the Central Venice neighborhood, area six, lies between the canal community, Oakwood neighborhood, and North Beach, with a distinct feeling of community all its own.

It was with anguish and fear that community people watched the power and destruction from the City over-ride the wishes of the residents, the elderly, the poor, and the middle class. Earth movers ploughed up the dreams for an unpolluted park-like throughfare on Canal Street.

People of Venice are governed by tacit and unseen collusion between politicians and bureaucrats and speculative developers who buy and sell land but, concomitantly, and in ugly reality, buy and sell people.

Community people seek help through avenues of the Courts in accordance with their strong belief in rule by Law, but to no avail in the Canal Street case. We can only feel an unseen collusion between the awesome power of the "Bench" and developers and speculators in partnership with City politicians.

The people in the Canal Street neighborhood aren't even allowed a day in Court. What good is a Court decision when the barriers to through traffic from Venice Bl are already jack-hammered away and a much loved tree was uprooted to make way for a street suitable for expensive apartments.

The developers will have their way on Canal Street. And what will happen to the frail elderly people who will be forced out? Oh, not much. You see, they'll die, and not be much trouble to anyone. Especially the politicians. All social welfare studies have shown that displacement "urban removal" of elderly persons is brutally life shortening.

And what is to happen to the not so poor, the unaware middle income gentry in Venice who only wish to live and let live?

The violence perpetrated on Venice by the City of Los Angeles and power elite developers goes on. What of the proposed widening of Venice Bl between Lincoln and Pacific Street widening, like freeway building is a self perpetuating thing— induced traffic, with all the fumes— then more concrete— to serve more apartments— then more concrete— more fumes, and on and on—

Those new magnificent apartments are expensive. Look how valuable the rest of Venice land has become. Those older but neat duplexes and cottages are val-

to be continued, page 8

dream deferred

What happens to a dream deferred?

does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore—
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over—
like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?

Langston Hughes

reflections continued from page 5

Brooklyn was the fifth largest city in the United States in 1898, when New York State abolished its independent government and gave its territory and people to New York City. In every city of this country, practically every outlying "neighborhood" represents what was once an independent community governed directly by its own people, that at some point was victimized by the commercial, financial, and political interests of "downtown."

Venice, of course, is a perfect example. Under threat of water starvation by the City of Los Angeles, Venice, along with San Pedro and other independent townships, succumbed to annexation in the mid-1920's. Then followed nearly 50 years of deliberate neglect of the needs of Venice, in which time a community took root here and grew. Now Los Angeles wants to sweep this community aside and develop Venice in the interests of outside speculators and the central city tax base. We are not taking this lying down. The Venice Town Council is the most significant and hopeful expression so far of the people's determination to hang on, and to begin taking back to ourselves some of the power of decision over our own lives.

Venice is not alone. Everywhere people are coming to realize that politics is too important to leave to the politicians. Everywhere in the country— in Roxbury and Dorchester, Mass., in Willamette, Ill., Columbus, Ohio, Berkeley, Oakland, Isla Vista and Ocean Beach, in Ann Arbor, Mich., Bedford-Stuyvesant and Ocean Hill-Brownsville in (Brooklyn) everywhere Americans are beginning to move back to direct personal participation in democratic decision-making, and everywhere they are using, in one way or another, the traditional American form of the Town Council.

Written collectively by:

Sandy Clemente
Marvena Kennedy
Lew Van Herschler
Bob Wells

State Coastal Commission continued from page 5

developers and special interests, who are very well organized indeed, to dominate the Regional Commissions with a liberal spreading on of their considerable money and influence. (Passage of Proposition 9 on the June, 1974 ballot would help tremendously to solve this special interest problem.) But not long ago, the South Coast Regional Commission, in the face of strong City Government, real estate and commercial support, denied the initial permit for Venice Blvd. widening in response to a Venice community effort. The Regional Commissions will respond to the will of the people, but only if the people are well organized, articulate, and prepared well enough to counter the intensive pressure exerted by those committed to intensive coastal development. It's an uphill battle, but with the support of the Venice Town Council, community spokespeople have won several important victories now in Venice and Marina Del Rey, and the tide is beginning to turn towards preventing the destruction of Venice which seemed so inevitable a short while back.

The Venice Town Council is now largely representative of the broad Venice community, as opposed to our Councilwoman, who has quite obviously been chosen by the wealthy speculators and developers to supervise the destruction of Venice. Council resolutions, and Town Council members, were directly responsible for stopping the first time the widening of Venice Boulevard at the Regional Coastal Commission, and for persuading Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles to file a court action to prevent the Canal Street development project, the ultimate displacement of many poor people, and the destruction of their homes for real estate development.

Herein lies one of the principle values of our Venice Town Council. Councilwoman Russell may ignore coastal conservation, the needs of the Venice Community, and the Venice Town Council, but the California State Coastal Commission does not. It is beginning to recognize that the Venice Town Council is the voice of the community. Not so much as a rotting old house may be torn down in the coastal zone without Coastal Commission approval. No City Government, or any other, development project may proceed without public hearings, and a favorable decision by the Regional Coastal Commission— a body sympathetic to the public interest. A bad Regional decision is subject to appeal to the much more protection minded State Commission. The Venice Town Council, working together with our Coastal Commissions, may very well prove to be the salvation of our community. Attend and support your Venice Town Council!



AREA ONE continued

of wall to wall ticky tacky... sharing a somehow dimmed sunset with shiny new doomed and despairing robot neighbors who've never found their individual reset buttons.

So we need a plan... all of us together. And that won't be easy. We look at each other as we were taught to across the barriers of artificial societal distinction... and trying to cope with our own human complexity we leap at the chance to reduce one another to a convenient abstraction. But Rich Bitch, Filthy Hippy, Right Wing Redneck, Beautiful Black, and Pugnacious Peacenik we all live here... we've got a Town Council... and in our enlightened self interest... we've got to make it work!

We're having elections in our area next month and we are making an active and intensive effort to get representation from every point of view in our district. "The Man" lives in our part of town... and we want him to have his place at the table... not in any pollyanna plea for fairness... but in a tough pragmatic belief in reeducation... in responsibility emerging from awareness... in examining those divisions of distrust laid on us in a situation where we can one on one.

Whether it's a By-pass of dogshit we have a community of concern... commonalities of cause. Let's look for those and get to work.

Venice, Italy is slowly sinking into the sea... a terrible loss to the World. Our Venice can rise from the ashes of old burned out ideas. We will live together here.

AREA FIVE continued

tion drive which garnered over three thousand signatures. We had help from other Venice groups including the rest of the Town Council, the West Washington Merchants Association, some chamber of commerce members, and citizens who really cared about Venice.

The culmination of this work was a mass meeting held January 23rd where we rallied our supporters with their petitions and presented speakers from almost every element of Venice. In attendance were representatives of our elected officials and our Councilwoman, Pat Russell.

Faced with this overwhelming opposition to the By-Pass, Mrs. Russell got the message and subsequently sent a letter to Venice citizens stating she'd asked city officials to delete the By-Pass from the city plan.

The East Venice Council isn't monolithic. We pass the mantle of leadership to different people in our group. That way we keep up the enthusiasm and the constant flow of different ideas. We are now seeking solutions to the bus transportation problem in the Venice-Marina-Villa Marina area. We are cooperating with other civic groups and elected officials in this aim.

cde — continued

their approach which addressed itself to design and planning before it had community support and involvement; lack of proper establishment of community priorities; mis-use of time and energy. At present there is no Venice CDC. The past is history, yet it is for us to decide if we are to gain from it and thereby make it worth the effort already spent.

One reason that the issue is once more before us is that the Los Angeles CDC is offering to sponsor a Venice CDC for the purpose of funding. It is in that context that a committee of the Town Council has been formed. The Committee has members from each Area Council and has been meeting since last December. Due to confusion and concerns relative to a cdc in Venice the going has been slow. A newsletter covering just the first

AREA TWO continued

in North Beach to contain 33% to 50% low income units, for preservation of Beachfront open space and support of a zoning rollback on the Beachfront from C-2 to C-1 (both commercial zones) as a first step towards an Artcraft District. We also voted for deletion of any widening of Pacific Ave, and for hearty thanks to "the active citizens of the East Venice Area for leading the victorious fight against the Marina By-Pass."

Skyrocketing rents in our area have caused many of our neighbors to move and threaten all who remain. This led to one demonstration last year and to North Beach resolutions to the Town Council to study the possibility of rent control and rent subsidies. Realizing that paper resolutions are worth little without organization to back them up, we are now acting to form a Tenants' Union in North Beach.

Altogether about 35 people are now involved with the North Beach Neighborhood Council as elected representatives, working with the Planning Task Force or on our newsletter production and distribution. We are now discussing how to structure our responsibilities to insure that the tasks we decide upon get done in an organized way.

The first year of the Venice Town Council has brought together diverse elements and areas of Venice and increased our understanding of our community and the powers ranged against it. We feel that the task of the coming year is to build organization in order to back up our resolutions with the only power we can have—the power of the people.

AREA SIX continued

uable. The owners should pay more taxes! and on and on-----

What happens if the comfortable gentry (middle class) begins to find it difficult to pay these new taxes?.....

Well, there's WATER OUT THERE! Land here is too expensive for them. If they lose their homes, their modest duplexes or cottages, the speculators and developers can use the land to a better advantage.

This has to be the view of the Los Angeles politicians. What they do speaks louder than what they say!

It's no secret that one of our big ongoing problems is racism, and I recognize it in me as well as in my neighbors. The problem now seems to be not the blatant

We are happy to be part of the overall Venice Town Council. It gives many of us a chance to know and understand diverse points of view. Perhaps our solutions to Venice problems are a bit different from other areas of the Council. But we get an opportunity to exchange these views. And where we have a common interest we vigorously get behind the Council.

Ain't that what democracy is all about?

AREA THREE continued

on plans for the canals after its been abundantly clear that the process being used will not produce a plan which will be acceptable to area residents.

The truth is that unless some fundamental changes are made there will soon be no place here for residents who have put so much loving energy into their community. Those people who have, for no personal gain except to improve the quality of life for themselves, their brothers and sisters, worked to save the canals for all of Venice—hosted five beautiful Canal Festivals—transformed a condemned house into a community center—built and rebuilt their park five times. These people will be forced to make way for others whose only right to the community is the ability to pay higher prices than we can.

The Town Council has urged Ms. Russell to take some responsibility for the threat faced by all renters in Venice, but again she has turned her back on us.

We in Area Three (Canals) are continuing to work as we always have on solutions to our problems; we have produced plans for a model low cost housing situation which could be built in the canals. We are meeting regularly and exploring ways of solving tenant problems, and we are prepared to undertake comprehensive planning for the entire area when the City and its engineers are ready to try a democratic approach. We'll continue to work through the town council whenever we can, hoping that eventually even Ms. Russell will recognize that it embodies the most fair and representative process we have.

kind of red neck racism, but the even more deadly hidden racism. This attitude is sometimes expressed in Venice in several ways. A Black working woman with the highest of motives will attempt to paint out a difference between Black families on welfare from necessity and Whites on welfare due to lacking a desire to work. Or a white man will respond to vandalism in the Black community with comments about Black people's lack of responsibility.

These attitudes should be recognized for what they really signify: racism that is destructive and devious. Venetians may well have to be a guiding light for all metropolitan Los Angeles. We cannot afford to allow ourselves to be split apart.

The sometimes complacent residents in the Central Neighborhood of Venice seem to feel very insulated from the troubles experienced by other areas of Venice.

If our neighbor in the Canals is pushed out in the morning and the neighbor in the Oakwood area can't pay the increased rent or tax bill in the afternoon our complacent middle of the roader in central Venice will have to go next. Speculative developers, in quiet cooperation with officials, know what's best for Venice. They make no secret about their plans for elegant Miami type development.

perhaps more realistic in amount.

Once the committee reaches agreement on the feasibility of a cdc in Venice it will make its report and recommendation to the Town Council.

The potential I see in a Venice CDC relates more to the possibility of developing unity between the Area Councils (neighborhoods) and the coming to some agreement on priorities for the entire Venice struggle... this possibility is of far more value than a few thousand dollars to be added to the already thousands of dollars spent in Venice to keep us quiet? happy? or what ever. Interested members of the community are encouraged to get involved in their neighborhood council.

UNITY, STRUGGLE, VICTORY!

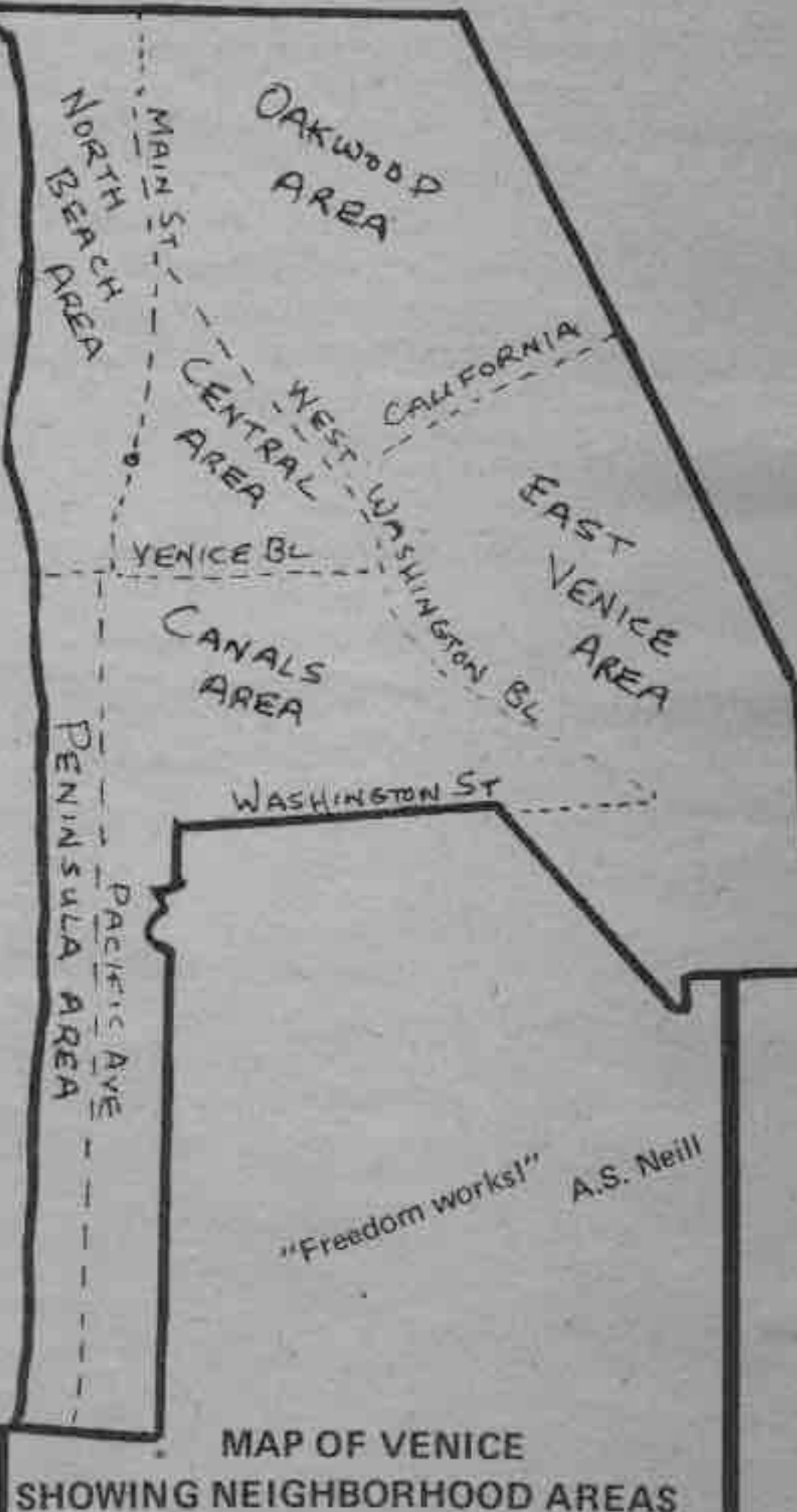
AREA FOUR continued

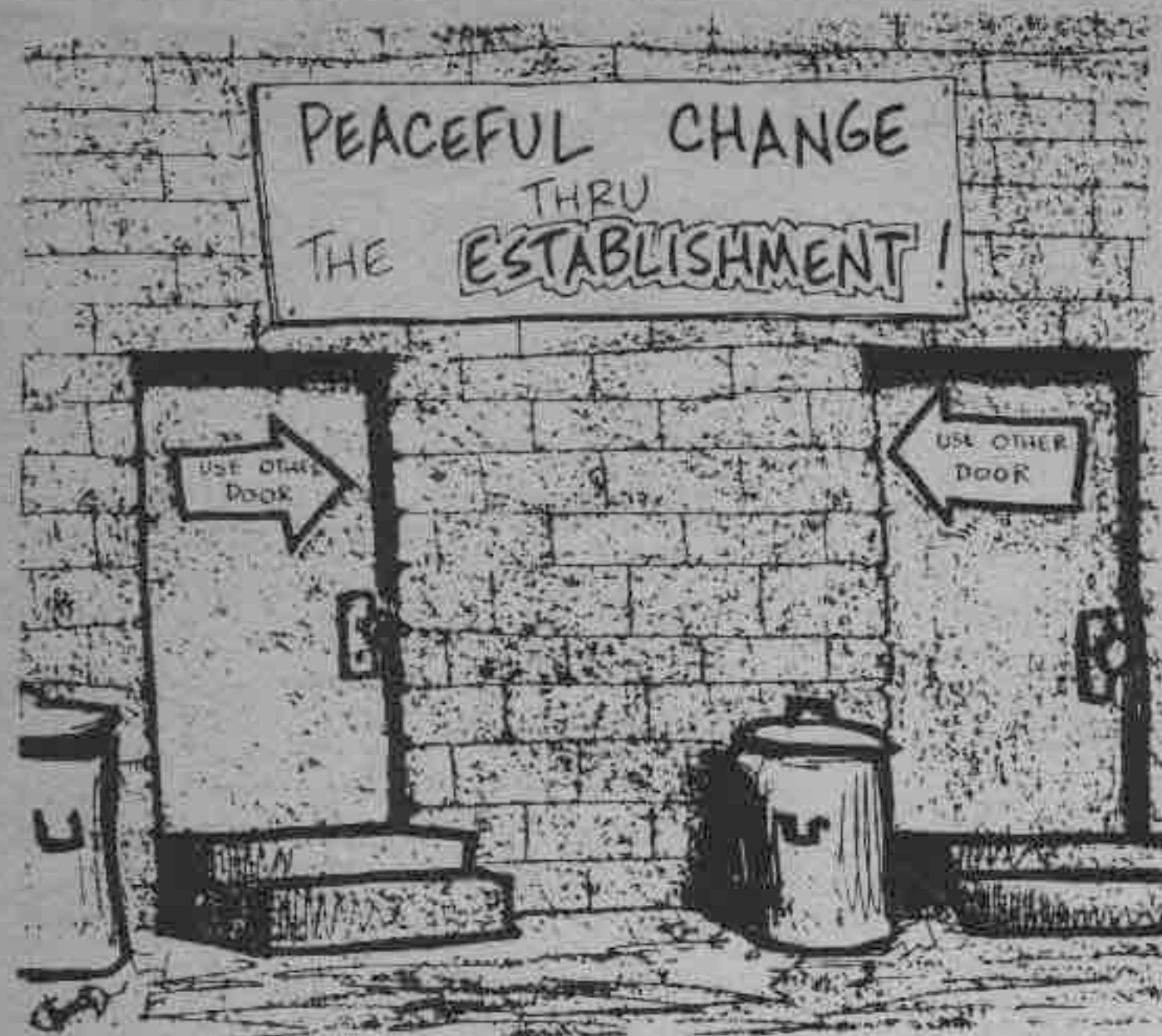
Oakwood Playground An altercation between the Oakwood and Westchester Girl's Softball Teams led to the suspension of the Oakwood Playground from all district, area, and city competition for one year and a "Notice to Correct Deficiency" issued to the Oakwood Playground Director. A committee of Oakwood people investigated and found both actions to be unjust. Meetings were held with the Department of Recreation and Parks and a resolution was adopted at the Oakwood Neighborhood Council to immediately rescind the suspension of the Oakwood Playground and to destroy the letter written up on the Director. This resolution was brought to the Venice Town Council where it was passed amid vocal and enthusiastic support for the Oakwood position. The resolution was subsequently effected in full by the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Crossing guard. The main entrance to Westminster School is on Washington Bl at Broadway. Although hundreds of children cross here every school day there has been no crossing guard, traffic signal or sign to assist the children. Bureaucratically established criteria indicate no guard is needed; Oakwood parents disagree. Repeated entreaties by Oakwood Neighborhood Council, and others, has finally resulted in a vote by the Los Angeles City Council to direct the Chief of Police to assign a crossing guard at this intersection.

St. Clement's School. The boundary between Santa Monica and Venice divides this school which serves both communities. Requests for police assistance from the school were unheeded on several occasions since the respective departments assigned jurisdiction to the other. This problem was brought to the attention of the Oakwood Neighborhood Council and resolved directly with the Venice Police Division.

Police Relations. A persistent problem in Oakwood is the relationship of the citizens and the police. An early resolution presented by the Oakwood Neighborhood Council to the Venice Town Council was that the police stop beating the people. As a result of this resolution and attendant discussions, etc., a number of individual cases of alleged police brutality were mediated by the Councilwoman's office and the Captain of the Venice Division addressed a meeting of the Oakwood Neighborhood Council. Although much remains to be done, the situation has perceptibly improved over the past year.





ALEJANDRO VALENCIA EXHIBIT

Reknowned Mexican artist Alejandro Valencia's work will appear in a one-person show at Beyond Baroque gallery, 1639 W. Washington Bl, 396-6551, March 29-April 20. The Yacatecan is on the faculty of the famous Academia San Carlos in Mexico City, where he has won three first prizes. He has shown in New York, at the Montreal Expo and has done murals for public buildings in Mexico, including one at the Museum of Natural History. This will be a rare opportunity for Californians to view work by this most interesting artist from a neighboring country.

POETRY READING BY JAMES BOYER MAY AND CARL LINDER

James Boyer May and Carl Linder will read from their works Friday, April 5 at 8:30 pm, at the Beyond Baroque Center, 1639 W. Washington Bl, 396-6551. May published the magazine *Trace* for nearly two decades in Los Angeles, and Linder is a poet and cinematographer who has been associated with *Trace* and other publications, and currently teaches classes in poetry.

PAUL MARIAH AND ROBERT PETERS READ THEIR POETRY

Paul Mariah from San Francisco will join Robert Peters from Irvine in an evening of their poetry Friday, April 19, at 8:30 pm, at the Beyond Baroque Center, 1639 W. Washington Bl, 396-6551. Mariah is editor of the fine literary magazine *Manroot* and Peters has had poetry with major publishers and teaches at U.C. Irvine.

FAY SINGER, RECENT OILS

Fay Singer's second solo exhibition at Beyond Baroque Gallery, 1639 W. Washington Bl, 396-6551, is tentatively scheduled for April 26 to May 11. Details to be announced.

VENICE PLACE COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

The Venice Place Community Workshops, (a non-profit corporation) is offering a variety of art classes for children and adults. Dr. Jerome Rowitch, President of the corporation, hopes to bring the community and the local artists together, in a meaningful learning experience. Carla Briggs, who is coordinating the effort, envisions a center where people can be exposed to as many different art forms as possible, at prices they can afford. A limited number of scholarships will be available for talented students who cannot afford to pay the fee.

Classes being offered include oil painting, pottery, sculpture, figure drawing, ceramic sculpture, and Crafts (for kids.) Most of the teachers are local artists, who have their studios in the Venice Place.

The Venice Place is located at 1027 W. Washington Bl in Venice. In addition to the studios, where some of the classes will be held, there are several shops and a French restaurant in a garden-like atmosphere. Also on the premises is the newly renovated Community House, where most of the classes will meet.

AREA TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Peninsula—4th Monday of the month
Anchorage St. School, 7:30 pm
North Beach—1st Monday of the month,
Israel Levin Center, 8 pm
Canals—3rd Tuesday of the month, Anchorage St. School, 7:30 pm
Oakwood—3rd Wednesday of the month, Broadway Elementary School, 7: pm
East Venice—4th Wednesday of the month, Coeur D'Alene School, 8 pm.
Central Venice—3rd Thursday of the month, Westminster School Library, 7:30 pm.

For more information, call Sharon Kaplan at 485-3357.

VENICE FAIR

APRIL 20 and 21

Noon to 6

at the Pavillon

DOCUMENTARY ON SPAIN

"Dreams and Nightmares" a documentary on the Spanish Civil War and the current political situation, will be shown Wednesday, April 24, at the Israel Levin Center, 201 Oceanfront Walk, 7:30 pm. Part of the proceeds will go to the filmmaker, Venice resident Abe Osheroff, and the other part to the North Beach Area Council. A one dollar donation is requested.



LESBIAN FEMINISTS

Westside Lesbian Feminists meet in the Church in Ocean Park, 235 Hill Wednesday nights at 8 Rap group, 396-2715.

SUMMERHILL DAY SCHOOL—NOW IN VENICE

"When are we going to have Spanish?" asked Jenny. She is one of Summerhill Day School's twelve-year-olds. The scene is the morning meeting, where the kids decide what they want to do for the day. Everything from drama, to horseback riding, to English, to kayak building is discussed. The chairman, Shelley, keeps Summerhill order, so everyone can get what they want out of the day.

Everybody calls the meeting to a close and takes off to the respective classes. The Summerhill banana, the kyak, is ready for one more coat of fiberglass, and then a maiden voyage. Andy is asking if she can skate to the library to find a special play to perform. That is vetoed, and off go the bookworms, in a car.

The little kids are making puppets, with about equal amounts of glue on them as paper mache. Some people went to court, and some are off playing volleyball. Terry is interviewing a Venice resident for the school paper, waiting for guitar.

Each student can make a choice whether to go to class or not. When class is a sailboat or a pretend South American village, the choice is easy. Summerhill moved from farm country in Agoura to Venice in the beginning of the year. Now, many students continue to commute all the way from the valley. Ollie Haskell the director of the school says, "We really look forward to many students from this area. Venice has really opened up possibilities for Summerhill to be a part of a community." He has run either a day camp or a school for 23 years. He had a camp called Haskell's Raskells about ten years ago, and one of the teachers from his school now was once under his care as a little rascal. Summerhill is for all ages, and anyone interested should call Ollie at 399-6176.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

WELFARE

1. 11390 W. Olympic Bl, 478-5511
2. Welfare Rights, 731-5095
3. NAPP, 399-7737

FOOD STAMPS ONLY

10961 W. Pico Bl, 479-4421

ABORTION REFERRAL

936-7466

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459-1703

FREE VENICE

226 San Juan, 396-6876

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221-2404

VENICE DRUG COALITION

392-4151

LEGAL AID

1. 1607 Pacific Av (upstairs)
392-4177, call for appointment
2. The Law Center, 392-9011
3. Law School, 10811 Washington Bl, Culver City, Rm 203,
836-3450, Tues 6:30 pm - 9 pm.

IMPEACHMENT CAMPAIGN CTR

732-2445

GAY LIBERATION

Gay Community Services Center
1614 Wilshire Bl, 482-3062

COMMUNITY BOOKSTORE

Midnight Special Bookstore
1335 1/2 W. Washington Bl
Tu-Th 12-9, F-Sun 12-6
Closed Mon, 392-7412

NATIVE AMERICANS

391-6067

COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

Cooperative child care
Sharon Shapiro 391-7939

ASIANS

Involve Together Asians, 477-0357

BLACKS

NAPP, 528 Westminster, 399-7737

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UNITED FARM WORKERS

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VENICE PEOPLE'S RAINBOW PAGES

17 Ozone: dail DYM-N-ERG

SENIOR CITIZENS

1. Israel Levin Senior Adult Center
201 Ocean Front Wk, 399-9584
2. Ocean Park Community Center
399-1248

HEALTH RIGHTS

399-7737 (Vera Davis)
392-4177 (Al Emkin)

DRUG HELP

1. Venice Drug Clinic
392-4114
2. Drug Hotline, 394-3577
3. Drug Emergency (24-hr),
392-5744

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LITERARY WORKSHOPS

Beyond Baroque, 396-6551

YOUTH CLINIC

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JOB INFO CENTER

316 Lincoln Bl—392-4811

VENICE LIBRARY

610 California Ave, 821-1769
M-F 1-9 pm, Sat 9:30 am-1 pm

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EX2-4147

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Help for your head—392-4905

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392-4125

VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR/WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

Meets Mondays at 7:30 pm, 226 San Juan Ave, 396-6876, 399-0073

WOMEN'S LIBERATION

Sisterhood Bookstore
1351 Westwood Bl, 477-7300

CARPENTRY COLLECTIVE

Venice Builders & Carpentry Collective, Karen (397-7142), Steve (821-0216), Eleanor & Bob (392-8136)

ALCOHOLISM SERVICE CENTER

Clare Foundation, 844 Pico Bl, SM 8 pm-10pm, 7 days/wk, 392-6498

VENICE COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER

826 Hampton Dr, 392-7722

RECYCLING

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1306 W. Washington Bl
392-5752

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392-7995

COMMUNITY FAMILY HEALTH CENTER

320 Lincoln Bl, 392-4125
Mon-Fri: 6 pm-10 pm

FOX VENICE

620 Lincoln 99
396-4215

APRIL CALENDAR

Mon 1: Paper Moon*Save the Tiger. Tue 2: 1984*Animal Farm*The Trial. Thu 4: Juliet of the Spirits*The Milky Way. Fri 5: Alphaville*to be announced. Sat 6: Slaughterhouse 5*Unman, Wittering and Zigo. Mon 8: 1000 Clowns*Taking Off*Little Murders. Tue 9: Sorrow and the Pity. Thu 11: Don't Look Now*The Fearless Vampire Killers. Fri 12: Battle of Algiers*First Circle. Sat 13: Cocaine Fiends*Sex Madness*Reefer Madness. Mon 15: Savage Messiah*Marat/Sade*The End of the Road. Tue 16: Bringing Up Baby*His Girl Friday. Thu 18: The Queen*Coming Out*to be announced. Fri 19: Deliverance*McCabe & Mrs. Miller. Sat 20: Deliverance*Portnoy's Complaint. Mon 22: Joanna*Rosemary's Baby*Blow-Up. Tue 23: The Godfather*The Ballad of Cable Hogue. Thu 25: Little Cigars*Sisters. Fri 26: Sympathy for the Devil*to be announced. Sat 27: Son Of TV Orgy*Mystic Knights of the Oingo Boingo. Mon 29: The Naked Ape*Chariot of the Gods. Tue 30: 10 from Your Show of Shows*Vintage Cartoons.

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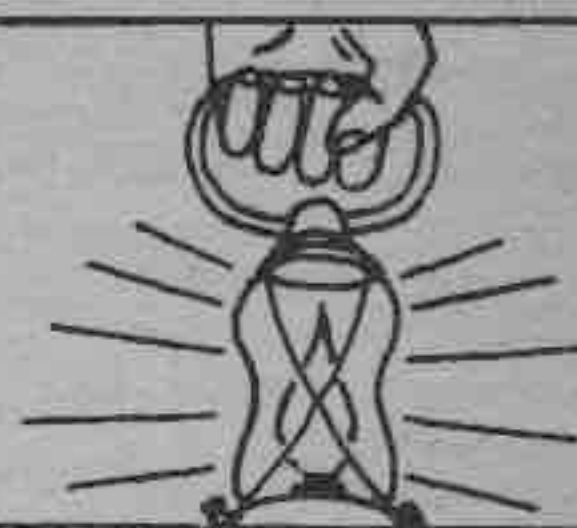
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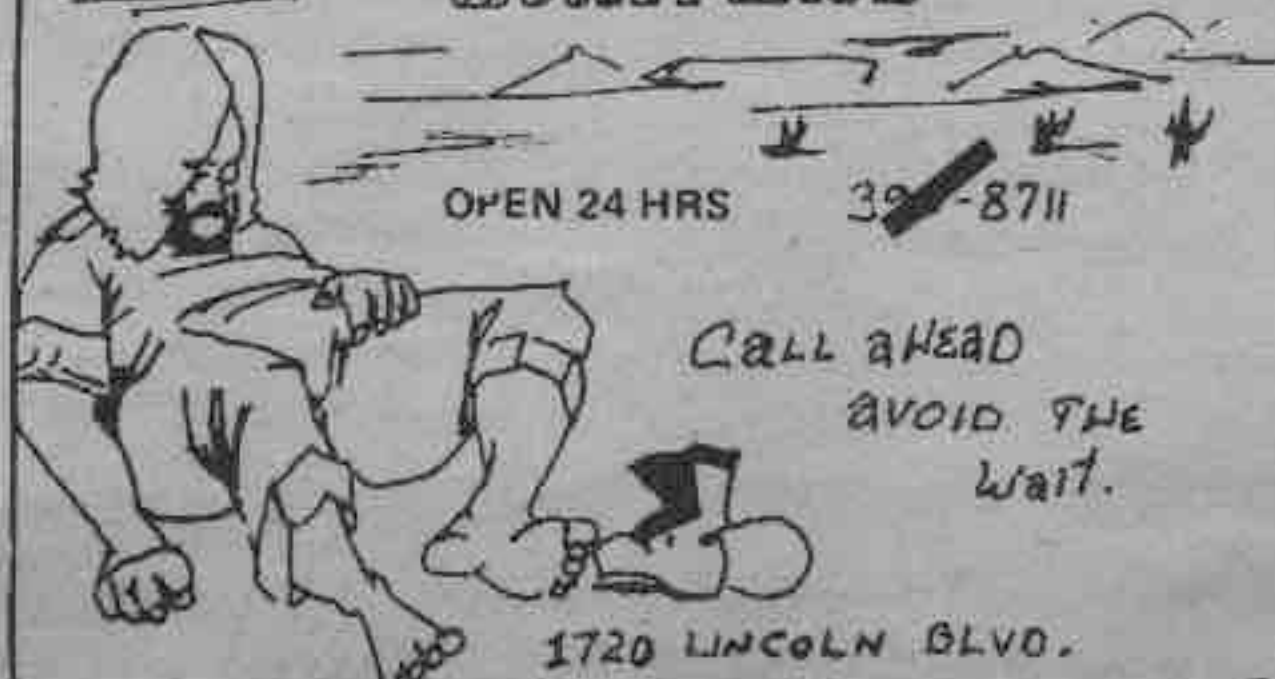
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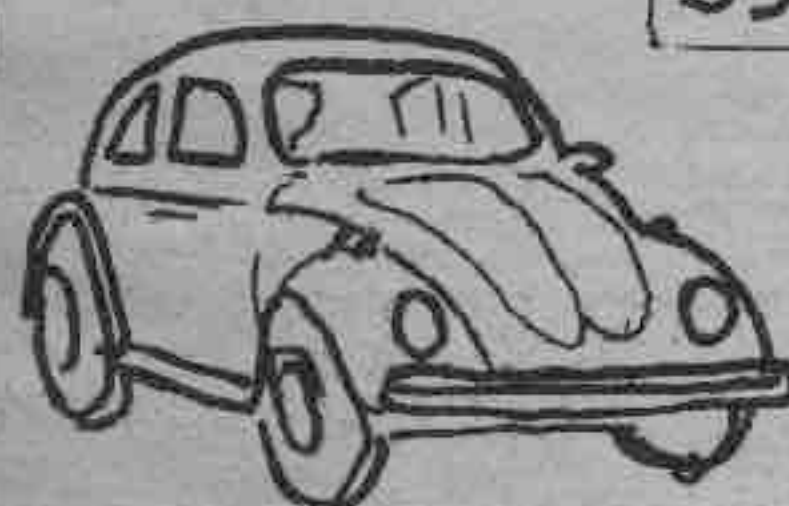
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LETTERS TO THE BEACHHEAD

Dear Beachhead,

On February 27 at 2:00 P.M. amid coffee and home made carrot cake, a meeting took place that may be the first of a series between the people who live in the area of Howland Canal and the local police team known as the Venice Team 1. A common interest, i.e. the improvement of the quality of life in Venice, was shared between the people and the officers who attended.

Several events necessitated this meeting, all having to do with the recent violence which was reported in the area. The five officers were very congenial and willing to cooperate. They informed us that a new concept in law enforcement known as Team Policing is being implemented. This new concept is to fully utilize all segments of the canal community in a united police/community effort.

One of the events was the heightened activity of the local rapist who had frequently terrorized the area. Several women in the canals were victimized by this man and were all anxious for his capture. A recent successful assault by the rapist brought several of the local women together in anger. One of the women who had been harassed drew up a composite of the man and also revealed his license plate number. With this and other pertinent information, Sargent Calistad of the Venice force was contacted. Following the leads, he was able to apprehend the man who is now scheduled to appear in court in six different charges of rape and assault.

Sargent Franklin and Lt. Parks expressed the desire of having more meetings such as this on an informal level. He confirmed his feelings that working together we can accomplish more to clear up the misunderstandings that have created conflict and have kept us away from effective communication with one another. We all agreed it was a positive idea for the future.

Lupe Lopez

Dear Beachhead,

Evening Outlook carriers work for Mr. Gary Tuchman in the Venice-Marina area have related to us several first and second-hand accounts of being underpaid for their work. We do not know the names of many of these present and former newspaper carriers. We are of the opinion, however, that a substantial problem exists and that the youngsters who are most victimized are those in greatest need of jobs. These are often the same ones whose backgrounds have provided the fewest defenses against this kind of rip-off and the ones who most urgently require the confidence which comes from earning their own money.

My husband and I are guardians for my youngest brother, an orphan. I am certain that an attempt was made by Mr. Tuchman to underpay him because we specifically asked what the job would consist of and what the pay would be. After one month the entire picture changed. When my brother demanded his full pay he was fired. In his case the job was no great loss.

I discussed the incident with Mr. Robert D. Funk, Editor of the Evening Outlook. He expressed

regret over it, and the circulation department subsequently contacted us and my brother was paid the balance owed. We were assured that the incident was an isolated "misunderstanding" but our information would seem to indicate otherwise. We know that there was no misunderstanding in our case, but on the contrary a simple instance of out and out, bald-faced lying by a very peculiar man who by all reports makes a career out of "fast-talking" and victimizing youngsters in the Venice community.

We would appreciate knowing of similar cases for the purpose of bringing a full report to the management of the Evening Outlook or to whatever other agency will assist us in putting a prompt halt to this unfortunate situation. Please send us your information, or send us your name and phone number or address where we can reach you. We won't use your name without your permission.

Mrs. Frank J. Glover
2000 Dell Avenue
Venice, California, 90291

Just a lot of
bullshit.
Throw the bum out

I have no intention
whatsoever
to give in...to
give in...to...



C.T. 74

UFW IN VENICE

BEACHHEAD PHOTOGRAPHY

If you see something you think should be photographed, please call: GAIL at TANK-YUK LINDA at 396-1941, or CAROL at 396-9324.

PRISON FINGER WAVE

This article is an excerpt from a newsletter published by the Leavenworth Brothers Offense/Defense Committee. Anyone interested in receiving the newsletter or in giving support (letters, money) to these prisoners can write to P.O. Box 5818, Kansas City, Missouri 64111.

Have you ever had a rectal examination for possible prostrate trouble? Well, picture that rectal examination forcibly administered by hostile prison guards, ripping your pants down, forcing you to the ground doubled up, forcing your buttocks apart and forcing a finger up your rectum. That is a forcible rectal search or "finger wave" as it is called by those who must willingly or unwillingly submit to it.

In the case of many of the "Leavenworth Brothers", the finger wave is the last straw, a point at which they draw the line. To submit to this degrading and dehumanizing policy of the the Bureau of Prisons and Leavenworth, is to submit to rape.

Odell Bennett has continuously refused the finger wave. In August of 1973, Odell refused the finger wave and was forcibly administered one by prison guards. He later had to wait for several hours at the court for new clothes, as his had been ripped from his body.

On October 30, 1973, when 16 prisoners were taken to a hearing in Kansas City on their Habeas Corpus suit, several refused the finger wave. Jesse Lopez, Armondo Miramon, Richard Van Dusen and Ernest Norman were all wrestled to the ground and forcibly administered the finger wave.

One prisoner, Donald Orand, stated, "I was never as disgusted in my life, I don't think, as I was on that day. I had been raped, subdued physically and mentally pushed to the point that I had almost forgotten my principals."

One of the U.S. marshalls present stated that the rectal searches are a matter of policy when moving prisoners.

Judge Wesley Brown responded to the pleading of the Defense Attorneys to stop the dehumanizing act, by explaining he had recently had a rectal exam performed by a doctor, and while it was not enjoyable, it was not so unpleasant.

If only Judge Brown had had the opportunity to have his examination performed by the expertly medically trained Leavenworth guards.

The finger wave is but another policy of the prison instituted to harass and degrade the men whom they have life and death control over.

By Ricardo Garcia

A picket line supporting the United Farm Workers has been active in Venice in front of the Safeway stores and Sav-On for the past six months.

Some 30 activists take part, ranging in age from Rosa, a 12 year old Chicana who has worked in the fields as a picker to Many, an 89 year old woman who took part in the 1905 Russian Revolution.

The pickets urge shoppers to boycott Savon until the chain agrees to discontinue selling Gallo wines. Sav-On is the only major drug chain that still carries this brand of wine. Clark and Thrifty have taken Gallo off of their shelves as a result of negotiations with representatives of the Farm Workers Union.

Rosa tells the pickets of how she worked in the fields with her parents when she was five years old. "My momma had no place to leave me when she went to work. So I was taken along and I picked string beans, and lettuce and anything else that I could help them with. I am living with my aunt here in Venice and I know what it means to be without water and toilets when you work in the fields."

In addition, Venice pickets have had a chance to walk the line with some of the striking Gallo workers from Rippon, California. They come down and join the picket lines on week-ends. Friendly churches have allowed the strikers to

sleep in the recreation halls and the people of Venice have furnished food, clothing and mattresses.

Every week, about \$150 worth of used clothing and cans of food come into the CSO office at 714 California Ave, Venice for the United Farm Workers. Under the able leadership of Mrs. Flora Chavez, director of the organization, the Farm Workers organizers pick up the donations and distribute them to the militant Chicano, Arab, Filipino and Black strikers.

The picket line is manned by concerned people of Venice and the response is another excellent indication of the fact that if you get the facts to the people, they will respond.

Baldwin, currently in charge of the picket lines, invites all who wish to join the line, to come down to Sav-On, Rose and Lincoln, Venice, between 12 and 4 every Saturday and Sunday, to take part in picketing activity. If you wish to donate used clothing or food, just take it down to the CSO office, 714 California Av, Venice and any office person will be glad to accept it for the Farm Workers.

Any wine which says Modesto, California, on the label is Gallo Wine. Also the Farm Workers call for boycotting any wine that says, "made and bottled in Rippon, California."

Boycotts have been an essential part of past farmworker victories. To help protect farmworkers rights, don't buy these wines until Gallo settles with the United Farmworkers Union.

DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES: a Review

by Carol Fondiller

I love backstairs gossip. I lap up the rich and spicy cream of intrigue. I purr with satisfaction when I read of dark and dastardly doings behind the arras. I love to hear that Richard the Third might not have killed the little princes in the tower. It intrigues me that Versailles didn't have enough toilets and ladies and gentlemen of the court had to do it in the passageway, so to speak. That puts me in touch with History when I go into Santa Monica Mall and have the urge to purge, and I too, like the Duc D'Orleans have no relief in sight. (But worry not, I have the control of an Empress and wait till I go home.) But I know exactly what the Duke felt. Nobleman or commoner, we all do have bodily demands. Therefore, my bladder makes me one with the universe. Catherine De Medici brought ice cream to France. She was a bit intolerant of protestants, but if it hadn't been for her I wouldn't have cavities now. My narrow little mind loves to ferret through the mould of history to find out what your typical medieval serf ate. If he ate at all. Give me history with descriptions of clothes and weapons and conversations! I love historical fiction because it usually tells how awesome happenings affect particular people. I giggle with Gibbon as he purses his lips when he writes of Caligula or Heliogabalus and the sort of society and mysterious religions and occultism and unisexism in dress and behaviour and the refined wit and pointless brutality he is shuddering about parades past my window in Venice. Is this a symptom of decay or a sign of some new civilization?

Objective history pores the Hell out of me.

Give me an historian who lets his bias show, and yes, who tries to be objective but who realizes that in order to be honest, he must tell the reader or the viewer of his work where he's coming from. For if an historian pretends to be objective, that would be manipulative and deleterious and might lead the person who is looking to that historian for information to draw false conclusions and make idols out of mortal people. And if the historian is truly objective, chances are he is not interested

enough in the material to take sides, and is probably dull, dull, dull.

Happily, Abe Osheroff's film, *Dreams and Nightmares*, is what I would call an intimate documentary of the Spanish Civil War, a man's personal view of an event that prophesied future events and changed them and him forever. Abe tells you where he's coming from and how he got there. Osheroff was one of six people who got arrested for refusing to move for the city bulldozers, who were going to tear down the park and boardwalk that Abe and many others had worked on to improve their community. This film shows the history of the man and in doing so, sums up the history that made our present. It is a beautiful film, and it is going to be shown at the Israel Levin Center on April 24, Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. The admission is one dollar. The proceeds will go to the North Beach Neighborhood Council and to Abe Osheroff to defray the expenses of the film. I plead, I urge anyone who can, to go see it. The film goes back to Abe's roots. Here the use of old newsreel film is beautifully used capturing the vitality, the diversity and the poverty of New York in the early 1900's -- immigrants, Irish, Italian and Russian, crammed into tenements, organizing on the streets and over the film, Osheroff saying "In our neighborhood we talked more about unions than about synagogues". Parades of people who, despite their differences and inbred prejudices, united together for decent wages and collective bargaining. The police, "lackeys for war, never servants of peace" as an old Irish Republican Army song put it, came in and clubbed the "wild-eyed radicals" of their day. The Depression years. And Abe grew up as Roosevelt was elected for the first time. And newsreels of Hitler who Abe said represented everything he hated: "Super-boss, Supercop, Super-antisemite". And Abe growing up, watching people getting evicted. "And when the marshalls came and put their stuff on the streets, we carried it back in, again and again, until we cost the landlord more than the rent that was owed."

Abe's world enlarges as we are shown the newsreels he saw, newsreels of Spain skillfully edited by Larry Kingman. Beautiful newsreels of the Spanish King and Queen being drawn in a gilded coach, the Queen holding a delicate fan beneath

her rouged 1930's lips; the Penitentes in their white robes looking like the Ku Klux Klan as they held their candles walking barefoot for forgiveness by the Mother Church; the abject poverty of the people; large-eyed hopeless children held by mothers hardly larger than they, seeing nothing but years of hopeless drudging existence. Then at last, the monarchy deposed and a democratic government PEACEFULLY voted in. Franco leads an army to get back the monarchy. His army gets help from Hitler and Mussolini. Roosevelt declares an embargo on arms to help the Spanish Republican army.

Young men from all over the world strain to go to help the Republican Army of Spain. Passports are stamped that Spain is forbidden to citizens of practically all of Europe and the United States. The young men, full of idealism like young knights after the Holy Grail, become fugitives and by a long tortuous detour smuggle themselves into Spain. A picture of a girl Abe loved flashes on the screen. Mussolini and Franco shaking hands and smiling. Though Roosevelt forbids any help to the Republican army and the U.S. is supposedly neutral, the Nazis are flying over Spain fueled by Texaco oil. They ride over Spanish people on wheels supplied by General Motors.

Abe leaves his girl and sneaks into Spain. He is a member of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, Americans who will be known as "premature anti-fascists". And the war drags on, and nearly half the men in the Lincoln brigade never come back. Franco with the help of Texaco, General Motors, Dupont, Hitler and Mussolini, captures Spain, and Franco is now ruler of a ravaged country.

And then W.W.II, and the survivors of Spain enlist to fight one more war against fascism. Again the use of the newsreels is most effective. Then World War II has ended and fascism, especially in Spain,

And Abe went back to Spain to see how his country is doing. At first, we (along with Abe) see the "new" Spain, the skyscrapers of glass and steel, the cars, the restaurants, the cafes (here the filmer, Larry Kingman, shows us shots of some of the most succulent looking food -- all brown and good in red sauce) and the people looking affluent. "We never had it so good" they say to the ex-Lincoln Brigader, their eyes furtively darting

looking over their shoulders. But Franco is still in power. Can it be? And again we are shown the poverty that still exists and the repression of any opposing thoughts. The underground, made up of Loyalists, shoots film, and Abe gets it out of the country somehow. The all too familiar sights of cops clubbing students and strikers, interspersed with the fact that since America has no bases in Africa anymore, she is more and more dependent on Spain -- and the fact that in 1968 we gave 4 billion to Spain. We have the largest atomic arsenal in Spain outside the United States.

And Franco is getting old and Juan Carlos, the royal pretender, is being groomed by Franco to ascend the throne. Shots of Hitler and Franco in 1939 cut with shots of Nixon and Franco in 1970. In the 1960's, an executive agreement was signed with Franco's Spain that we would supply military and economic aid to Spain in return for naval bases, and in that agreement was included that an attack upon one country would be considered as an attack against the other. And here we are shown repression upon repression, the faces of refugees fleeing Spain into France, eyes tired of looking at dead and battered people, eyes full of grief for their country that they can't go back to. And a quote from Fullbright on the Foreign Relations Committee claiming that the agreement with Spain is illegal because Congress didn't vote on it.

And another quote from Fullbright: "We should have learned from Vietnam that stationing troops on foreign soil means spending American lives on foreign soil." And here's where it comes down -- will Spain be another Vietnam? And will the U.S. be fighting against the wrong people as usual? And one of the songs of the Lincoln Brigade is heard: "There's a valley in Spain called Jarama". And you realize that Abe Osheroff and a few thousand other young Americans broke the law and went to war 40 years ago, for the same reason that thousands of young men broke the law and didn't go to war in the sixties.

This is a highly personal view of history backed up with irrefutable, disquieting facts. It is a truthful film, and raises some interesting and chilling speculations.

And like the boardwalk on the canals, it is a nicely constructed, solid piece of work.

THE HOUSE OF FLOWERS

You will ask: But where are the lilacs?
And the metaphysics woven with poppies?
And the rain that so frequently beat down
on your words, filling them with needle-holes and birds?

Well, I'm going to tell you the truth about my life.

I lived in a barrio
of Madrid with church bells
and with clocks and with trees.

From there, you could see
the dry face of Castile
spread out like an ocean of leather. My home was called

the house of flowers, because there were geraniums
everywhere; it was
a beautiful house
with many little children and dogs.

Raul, do you remember?

Do you remember, Rafael?

Federico, do you still remember

in your grave,
do you remember my house with its balconies where
the June sunlight soaked the flowers of your mouth?

Brother, brother!

It was all
shouting voices, the unloading of trucks,
mountains of warm crackling bread,
all the markets of my barrio, Arguelles, with their statue
like a white inkwell surrounded by codfish,
the olive oil poured out into spoons,
a deep throbbing
of footsteps and hands filled the streets,
pounds, quarts, the sharp
essence of life,

fish stacked high,
interwoven like roofs under winter sunlight
that an arrow could not penetrate,
the delirious delicate marble of potatoes,
and tomatoes stretching down to the sea.

And then one morning, everything was on fire.
And then one morning, flames
climbed out of the earth
and began swallowing people.
And ever since then, fire.
Gunpowder, ever since.
And ever since then, blood.

Bandits with airplanes and Morrocanos,
bandits with rings and duchesses,
bandits with dark priests making the sign of the cross
came through the sky to kill children.
And through the streets, the blood of children
ran--simply--like the blood of children.

Jackals that a jackal would reject,
stones that the dry thistle would chew and spit out,
vipers that vipers would hate.
Generals,
traitors,
look at my dead house,
look at broken Spain.
From every dead house, burning metal grows
instead of flowers.
From every wound of Spain,
Spain itself appears.
From every one of your crimes, bullets are born
that one day will seek out
your heart.

Do you want to know why my poetry
no longer speaks of dreams, or green leaves,
or the giant volcanos of my native land?

Come see the blood in the streets.
Come see
the blood in the streets.
Come see the blood
in the streets!

by Pablo Neruda