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FREE VENICE SINCE 1968 BEACHHEAD

CHEE WAK-WAH
FREE

APRIL 1979 ISSUE #112

P.O. BOX 504 VENICE, CA. 90291 823-5092

NEWS FLASH!

RODEO DRIVE STILL IN BEVERLY HILLS RITUAL PROTEST PAYS OFF

by Carol Berman

Oh 'fess up. I know you read it. I know you hide it between In These Times. You look at Charming Canal Cottages for \$185,000, Luxurious Condos \$121,500, Charming Old House steps to beach \$165,000 -- just like you never watch television. But you recognize Robin Williams when he socks it to Swami X on the Ocean Front Walk.

You've gleaned from Crime Watch that the average burglary garners around \$300, and the in car to steal is a '64 V.W. Bug and purse snatchings average \$60. And I know you read which West Washington Blvd. merchant returned from a vacation with a gorgeous tan to prove that she'd really gone to Puerto Vallarta. And maybe just maybe amidst the burlings of new shops and which merchant put in a new sign and how Windward was being cleaned up for new skating sales shops, your glance wandered through the cleverly placed news that breaks up the ads and you saw:

Real Estate Auction

EMERGENCY SALE

Prime M-1 Parcel on Main Street, Venice

"The Little Rodeo" at the beach

Tuesday, March 13th at 2:00 p.m. (at the site)

Located at 600 Main St., Venice. 41,900 Sq. Ft. 150' Frontage. Formerly Hammond Lumber Co. 7800 sq. ft. building, storage, areas and parking. Ideal for shopping center, retail, office, design center or restaurant development. This exceptional property is the center of growth and is the new restaurant row of So. Calif. Deposit at time of sale, \$100,000 cash, cashiers check, or irrevocable letter of credit. Escrow must close on or before March 30th. Inspection by appointment only. Call for brochure.

Little Rodeo at the beach, huh? Beverly Hills West. The new Restaurant Row. Yet

MORE tiny fern-filled stained-glass ambience oozing eateries with teensy tables, nice little portions of food sold at prices that should buy a herd of angus served by waiters who were Russian Grand Dukes in former lives.

I rolled the paper in my hand, balled it up and missed a Moped that was towing two skaters as it zoomed down the Ocean Front Walk. But I'd gotten rid of that paper that is in reality nothing but a house organ for the Real Estate Speculators and merchants who want only people to live here who can afford \$50 Juliette nails.

Little Rodeo Drive smack dab in the middle of the border of one of the only black/brown communities near the beach.

Well, there goes the neighborhood. There goes Venice, that urban planners dream of mixed income, mixed ethnic, mixed lifestyle, mixed bag community by the sea.

There go my neighbors, the ones that society calls losers. The old men who read the newspapers you left on the bench, the spare changers, the young people who dream of being a star, or those who dream of warmth. There go the single parents who could afford to barely scrape through, but they were near the beach. There go those burnt out poets, preachers, teachers, politicians. There go all those people who are recipients of the Jarvis Gann amendment known and loved as Prop 13, known by the people who took the consequence of the mandate of the people to kill the poor.

There we go, all of us whose fingers have become gnarled from clutching on to Venice.

Though the future inhabitants need us more than they know if only to keep things

... continued on page 10 ...

COMMUNITY CALLS THE SHOTS

by Brenda Harney

On March 19, 20, and 21, the State Coastal Commission met at the local Airport-Marina Hotel. Three important appeals from Venice were up for voting -- and, for a change -- two were real victories for the community; voting on the third was continued at the applicant's request.

Resolution of the deadlock on the Silver Strand has been a long time coming. Previous issues of the Beachhead have delineated the complex set of problems there: 360 single lots surrounding the Ballona Lagoon, property owners who want to develop their property, persons from the community who are concerned about protection of the Lagoon, and the Coastal Commission caught in the middle -- attempting to allow reasonable development while preventing destruction of the Lagoon.

The last State meeting saw the beginnings of a new approach to the Strand, and the March meeting saw this approach taken a step further. State staff had identified the "external" lots as being qualitatively different than the "internal" lots -- external being those fronting on Via Dolce and having water and power available, and internal being those without improvements, not adjacent to a paved road, and closer to the Lagoon.

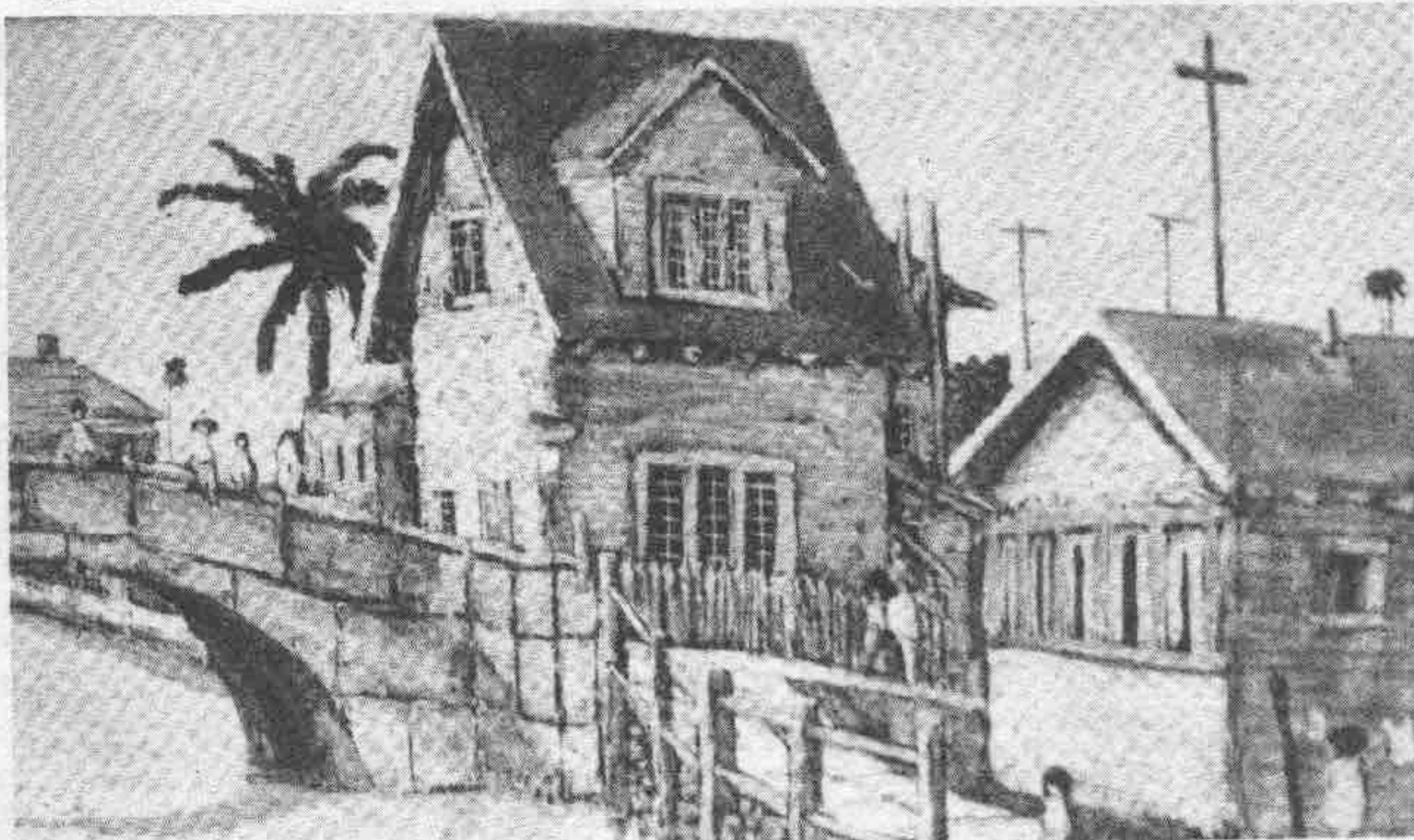
In February two of the external lots were granted permits to erect single family homes. In March, the owner of an internal lot was denied a permit to build a single family home. In so doing, the State Commission set an enormous precedent not only for protection of the Ballona Lagoon, but for other similarly threatened wetlands elsewhere.

At the same time Hoffman's permit was denied, the Commission provided a methodology for designing non-threatening development on the lots surrounding the Lagoon. Staff recommended to the applicant that a block-by-block development design be presented to the Commission for consideration in the future. This approach would require that landowners within a single block get together and present a plan to include not only homes but also -- very importantly -- setbacks and landscaping aimed at protecting the Lagoon from excess runoff and at allowing public access to the Lagoon.

While this approach does attempt to broach the gap between developers and environmentalists, and thus was well-received by both the Commission and the appellant (PACE), the landowner and his architect were not only not pleased, they were enraged.

The decision to deny Hoffman's permit was met with a violent verbal attack on the Commis-

... continued on page 10 ...



Photograph/Painting by Robert Farrington

FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

BEACHHEAD STAFF COLLECTIVE:
Emily Winters, Olga Palo, Gerry Goldstein, Brenda Harney, Arnold Springer, Wendy Reeves, Dave Tappan, & Chuck Bloomquist. Special thanks to Joan Friedberg.

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MIRAMAR MUSCLES OUT WOMEN

By Cabala Bach

On the evening of March 22, the spring equinox, and the Holly Near concert, with the showing of the film Banners and Babies at the Fox Venice Theater, three women went dancing in the bar of the Miramar Sheraton Hotel in Santa Monica. Although the bar had live music, the dance floor was deserted. Loving to dance, Cabala Bach, Miriam Greene and Maria Scaffidi took advantage of the space and danced.

After one song, upon the request of the bartender Eddy, a barmaid asked the three women to stop dancing. She stated that the businessmen who frequented the bar would be "upset" if women danced alone, and that the bar had to be patronized. Cabala and Miriam had danced there without men partners on a previous occasion. Miriam had returned to dance alone several times after that. Each time the bar had been patronized, Miriam enjoyed the bar and the music so much that she encouraged all of her friends to go the Miramar Hotel for dancing. The inference was that the women were less important customers than the businessmen.

Maria asked to speak to the person who made the rule. The bartender told her that Keith, the Hotel manager had office hours during the day, and although he lived in the Hotel, he was unavailable. It was the bartender's job to enforce the rule. The three women said that they wished to speak to Keith, that the request to stop dancing was unreasonable and that they would continue dancing until they could speak to the person who had made the rule.

Support for the women was shown in various ways. Two men offered to pay for their drinks and told the women to ignore "them" (the Management). Over the microphone, the women singer of the group playing the music, commented on the fine dancing done by the women, and some people in the bar applauded.

Although male bar patrons started dancing with the three women, a woman bouncer, who had been called by the bartender Eddy, stopped the music, and this time the women were asked to leave the bar. Some reasonable discussion was attempted with the bouncer. She was asked for the basis of her order. She said, "it was her job". When asked how she, a woman, would feel if she had come to the bar to dance and this had happened to her? Her reply was, "I am married and be quiet. I'm not into your women stuff."

* It was later learned the Keith Hedrick is the assistant manager and Roy Meyer is the Hotel manager.

The two men who offered drinks earlier, were asked by the dancers if they would witness further discussion outside the bar in the corridor. They only reiterated the drink offer, and loaned a pen to write down phone numbers of people who could give further help.

It was a few minutes later, after some discussion between the dancers and the woman bouncer, that Maria returned to the bar and asked for a drink of water. Eddy, said he would not serve her and she said alright. He said she would have to leave, and Maria asked what would be the consequences if she did not leave. Without a word, the woman bouncer, picked Maria up off the bar stool and threw her to the ground at which time Maria's foot banged against the metal of a

Dear Beachhead:

I am writing to you again, to tell you what I think about the Ace Gallery and a few other little goodies Venice is getting.

Doug Christmas' art gallery is about as welcome as a deep fryer is to a chicken. I remember my grandfather, or even us kids, helping him chase the chickens with a ax, to kill it to eat. They would run like hell, even spread their wings to get away from us. And that's what Doug Christmas did, when the process server chased him across the street to serve him. He ruffled his feathers; only thing the process server had was a piece of paper. The ax is over our heads hanging, by a thin string that is getting thinner each time someone like Doug Christmas builds, to chop us further away from our Venice roots.

My neighbor and friend gave me a ride home two weeks ago from the grocery store, because I had a big bag of groceries, and it was raining, besides I have to take two buses to the store. Why didn't Christmas put in a supermarket, it would help the ones, like the elderly, low income, to get groceries. Without struggling to have to go so far to get to do things we have to do.

Doug Christmas has more than one place to go when he wants to change his atmosphere. I ask him where do we go to change ours? To your art gallery? I see art every day in Venice. People like him running us Venice residents out, so he can reap the good, and we get run out. We could also use a decent laundramat. He's got a car, probably a Cadillac, to get him where he wants to go. Maybe more than one.

I hardly see any of my friends anymore that I used to know, they have been shoved either to L.A. or Culver City. And they are afraid down there. There is a lot more crime and things happening down there. People feel safe in Venice, the ones that had to leave their friends behind. When you live in a community, like Venice, for a long time, you feel safe, and you have friends and family here, it gives you an incentive when you have no where to go you can see your friends, and talk about what was and ---should be.

I hear they sold the lumber yard, why don't they take it and make it into a little shopping mall? Venice is a work of art, it has so many nice things here to see and do, if nothing else the sunset is beautiful every day.

About that open air market they want to build on 17th St; For what? The restaurants that are coming - in here are so expensive, and like Main St., it is getting out of hand. People don't have that kind of money, if it wasn't for Nupar's or the Lafayette, we wouldn't

have a place to eat. And the food is as good for two dollars as it is for seven. The \$7 pays for the atmosphere. People like Doug Christmas is putting a bigger blight on Venice. We will just have to keep on fighting for our little city.

You know how the chicken got on the other side of the road? He walked across. So why don't Doug Christmas take his art gallery and go around the corner with it, he'll maybe wake up to the fact that people aren't going to sit back and watch him enjoying the chicken while we get the feathers. Thank you.

name withheld on request.

VENICE TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, April 18th -- 7:30 P. M.
Venice City Hall -- 681 North Venice Blvd.

FUTURE USE OF SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY
A presentation by Southern California Institute of Architecture
Also: Committee Reports

EVERYONE FROM THE COMMUNITY IS ALWAYS INVITED

The VTC Coordinating Committee, which sets the agenda for the monthly meetings, meets the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Venice City Hall at 7:30 P. M.

table stand breaking her ankle. She was then picked up and thrown against the mirrored wall, handcuffed and told she was under arrest. Although Maria was in pain, no paramedic was called and her friends were told not to touch her.

Miriam and Cabala called an ambulance and tried in vain to get in touch with any helpful woman's group. While the four ambulance crew members were standing around, the police finally arrived. At the same time Maria was talking to a Sacramento lawyer friend obtaining some relief both emotional and physical. The act of speaking to someone who knew the law and who also was a friend, was comforting. While talking on the phone to the lawyer, the handcuffs were quietly removed, and the charges were dropped.

Maria was taken to the hospital by the police and her friends. Maria was treated for a fracture in the emergency section of the Santa Monica Hospital.

Letters

To the Last Vestige of Hope & Sanity in Venice
FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

March 23, 1979

I am the official non-candidate this year-not running for any public office. Because of my recent clashes with the L. A. P. D. (who I'd like to see removed from Venice and have Santa Monica police-who have lived in Venice-instated instead) And because of my fear of continued retaliation by General telephone (the most inefficient phone company in the world-serving none but themselves who incidentally are promoted in their campaign to suppress Venice small businesses by Beverly Hills & Las Vegas) I WISH ONLY to be remembered as DR. GURU RA-BE.

IF NOT ELECTED I will eliminate all parking fees & meters & meter maids. I will create a rapid transit system in two years which will be federally funded. Free rides for children under 15 and elderly folk 50 or older. Rents will be rolled back 25% and pay increases 25% will be required. Venice will succeed from L. A. And form her own city-write & vote on her own laws. 1984 will be avoided. And the extraordinary outlet Venice is will continue. Alcoholics will be rehabilitated. GRASS LEGAL TO GROW IN QUANTITIES FOR PERSONAL USE. PRISONS DONE AWAY WITH AND GIANT MENTAL HOSPITALS CREATED. NUDE BATHING allowed but not publicized nor promoted.

SKATERS & BICYCLISTS shall be allowed to work out their differences in arenas of confrontation and communication without Mommy City Council or Daddy Police department intervening

Anytime bicyclists are not in kordes on the Bike Path (like 7:00 p.m. weekdays) Roller Skates shall be permitted to pound the path of smooth pavement. One doctor & two nurses shall be hired by Tom Sewell to be on duty SATURDAY & Sunny Sundays. For this the Flea Market shall expand to make Sewell & Webster another few million.

Merchants along Ocean Front Walk will not be hasselled.

Cordially yours,

Dr. Guru Ra-be @ 1973, 1978, 1979

Previous owner of a business in Venice
Present resident & big fan of X-Swami-X & Pal of Robin (Mork) Williams.

P. S. IF you PRINT this in its entirety my next letter will include a substantial remunerative reward. Let Go of Pat Russell! Ron Pickard is our Age!

STAFF NOTE: Contributions, not bribes, are always gratefully accepted, even solicited. Guru's political views are his own.

Dear Beachhead,

The "grey panther snarls" controversy aroused my interest. Let's hear more snarls.

Another young militant.

Alexander Scianna

Dear Editor, -

Thanks for your spirited defense of my "Grey Panther Snarls". Am 76 and qualify as a White Panther. What does 'young militant' qualify for?

Only recently started writing poetry seems to be the only medium left for any sort of communication---a shorthand of the human condition.

Have recently completed a series "Grey Panther Strikes Back." Hope to send them soon.

Best Wishes,

G. Ridley.

Dear Beachhead;

Thanks to lovely Sharon Bas Hannna for her kind thoughts about me in your last issue; however, I'd like to put on notice the psychophant, the dream of slumlords, Ms Dee LaBamba, or whatever her name is, that any more scurrilous attacks upon my character will be considered by me to be an open invitation to a slander-libel suit against her. I'm not sure who this embittered being is, but if she should be who I think she could be and is the girl I think she May be (she was too furtive, I notice, to sign her full name), I would suggest to her that she put her autistic enragement into more constructive channels, like, perhaps, cleaning up her blackheads--or washing her stringy hair, which, heaven knows, needs it. This vicious, gossip and untrue diatribe printed by your paper left me wondering if the Beachhead isn't turning into a mini National Enquirer. Shame on you for publishing such a morbid, stinking pile of bullshit.

Dis appointedly yours,
Ruth Clark

PROP. A: Will Money Talk On April 10th?

by Moe Staynezer

Rent Control is coming to Santa Monica but not without your help. This year as last the electoral campaign to win rent control in Santa Monica is a battle between the people and big money. The outcome of the Santa Monica election will have an affect on Venice because the proposed Santa Monica law (Proposition A) is the strongest, most comprehensive renters rights bill under consideration anywhere in the state. If it passes it will give us a model renters rights law that we can push, piece by piece, through in L.A.

Crisis to Disaster

The situation for renters in Santa Monica has gone from crisis to disaster. About 3,000 apartments (10% of the city's total) have been approved for conversion to condominiums. Demolitions have reached flood proportions (over 100 in 3 months) to the point where Mayor Donna Swink evicted her 72 year-old aunt to demolish a building and build condos. And rents continue to soar. And still big money from banks, real estate and business interests is flooding the city with lies frightening and confusing Santa Monicans

in a desperate attempt to defeat Prop. A.

People and Money

The pro-rent control forces are better organized and have more money and people than they did last June. They have collected \$25,000 from over 2,000 contributors but that must be compared to the more than \$100,000 the opposition had collected as of a month ago--a sum that undoubtedly has doubled by this time. The campaign needs money. Raffle tickets for a free month's rent are on sale for \$10.00 and a number of Venice people are selling them. If you want to contribute and be a winner buy a raffle ticket at the office: 205 Hill St #1 (corner of Main in Ocean Park). Make checks payable to Santa Monicans for Renters Rights.

For any of you who would also like to volunteer some time there is plenty of work to do. Volunteers are needed to work in the office, walk precincts, make phone calls and hand out literature. I urge you to call 392-8305 and offer some time in these last crucial days of the campaign.

City Council Race

There is also a City Council race going on in Santa Monica and the rent control slate of Ruth Yannatta and Bill Jennings has a good chance of being elected. They, like rent control, need help and support for they represent a strong challenge to the entrenched, conservative political power of the wealthy north side homeowners and business community. The election is April 10th so throw your body into the fray and help win a big victory for all tenants in Santa Monica. Yes on Prop A.

Bittersweet Victory for Pier Av. Tenants

3

Armed with over 200 signatures on petitions and over a dozen letters of opposition from concerned neighbors, tenants on Pier Street gained a victory before the Coastal Commission as they stopped the demolition of their homes and the construction of new condominiums.

Tenants, Susan Loper and Bill Lawrence, emphasized in their testimonies before the Commission that they hate to have to leave Ocean Park a community they have grown to love, and that they would have great difficulty finding housing anywhere near here at the price they now pay. Lawrence stated, "I've lived in the Ocean Park/Venice area for 8 years and have been kicked out of 3 places due to new owners raising the rents".

Stan Holland, a local businessman and landlord, wrote in his letter opposing the construction of the 8 unit condo, "I have watched the very character of the community slowly evaporate with each speculative purchase and condo conversion that displaced tenants who cannot afford the newer rates...This must cease if we are to have any confidence in the future of our area."

The following day, Susan Loper and Bill Lawrence received a 30 day eviction notice at their door.

Although, because of the eviction notice, their victory was a bittersweet one, Susan Loper believes, "the same kind of community support that made it possible for us to win at the Coastal Commission will also make it possible for us to win in court."

AS THE CONDO TURNS

Susan Baker
for BANA

Donald Haskins, developer of the Breeze Avenue condominium project was not satisfied in having his project affirmed by the "no substantial issue" decision at the State Coastal Commission hearing.

He decided to file an amendment requesting the removal of a condition imposed by the Regional Commission. This condition required public parking to be on the upper level of the structure and the owner/tenant/commercial parking on the lower level. Seems that he wants the public on the lower level and out of the way.

Commissioner Doerfling proposed this condition at the Regional hearing last summer and made some statements explaining his position at the State hearing.

At the Regional hearing on March 26th, on behalf of BANA, I argued that runoff from Breeze and Speedway after a rain would subject the lower level to flooding. The only way to keep Haskins accountable for safe, convenient and flood-free public parking is for it to remain on the upper level. I quoted Commissioner Doerfling's remarks from the state hearing to support my contentions.

Arnold Springer spoke independently and in opposition to the amendment. He stressed that placing the condo parking on the upper level served no purpose other than to improve the marketability of the condos, which in turn, would improve Haskins' profit margin.

Haskins stated (as he has at every hearing so far) how long he has planned this project. He contended that new data showed the water table to be 1 foot below the lower parking structure and therefore flooding would not be a consideration. He did not attempt to address the water runoff problem, but instead emphasized the "inconvenience" to the owners/tenants who would have to walk up three flights of stairs to their condos. (I guess he doesn't consider it "inconvenient" to people who would have to walk up three flights of stairs and then maybe two or three blocks more to their homes!)

Some of the commissioners were ready to vote on the amendment right then, and,

it seemed, ready to deny it. Instead, the commission decided to hold a full public hearing in order that more information could be presented. The hearing is scheduled for April 9, 1979 at Torrance City Hall.

In December, '78, BANA filed a lawsuit (Writ of Mandate) asking the court to order the State Coastal Commission to hold a full public hearing on the entire permit. To date, we are still waiting to obtain the administrative file from the Coastal Commission. Haskins' attorney got itchy and filed a Motion to Dismiss the lawsuit a couple of weeks ago. Judge Pacht heard the motion and denied it.

Thanks to all of you who have supported our bake sales. Your bucks help us to pay our legal expenses.

Tune in next month for the answer to these burning questions: Will BANA finally win one???? Will Haskins appeal to the state level if he loses???? Will BANA file another lawsuit????????????

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CUSTOM T-SHIRTS and TRANSFERS

Venice Loses Old Friend

GOODBYE ERMA

by Wendy Reeves

It happened abruptly, without any warning. During February she got notice that her rent would be doubled on April 1st, from \$625 to \$1,200 a month.

"Do you think I'd of put in for this key machine if I'd had any idea?" She points to a brand-new key copier that now will not be used, witness to the unexpected. "It's the same as an eviction notice. They know there's no way I can pay that much. They know I'm barely gettin' by as it is."

For Erma Armour, who has been running Armour's Liquor Store on Windward Avenue between Pacific and Speedway for 14 years, "they" are David Greenberg (of Environmental Communications upstairs) and un-named other(s). "He keeps saying 'we' but I don't know who else," says Erma.



Photo: W. Reeves

Greenberg and friend(s) apparently made building owner Jean Gayle an offer she couldn't refuse; they are now renting the EC space, Erma's space, and the space now occupied by the new United Skates of America next door for a reputed \$3,600 a month. After firming up the deal with Gayle, they sub-leased to United Skates; the skate rental shop would not give me the actual monthly amount, but street skuttlebutt puts the figure at \$1,800 for that part of the space alone (less than 1/3 of the total space). Greenberg plans to put an art book store and gallery of video and graphic arts where Erma's store is now.

"This has been a liquor store since 1935," says Erma, with the emotion obvious in her voice. She and her husband bought the business in 1965. "Everyone thought we was crazy to buy in here. But I liked the area right from the start, especially the people." Her husband was critically ill and Erma was soon in charge of the store. She came to know all her regular customers by name, and they her -- though many just called her "Mom." Being Windward Avenue, her regular customers included panhandlers, junkies, pillheads,

(cont'd on pg 13)

⁴It Ain't Necessarily So.....

by THE OAKWOOD TATTLER

"There is a Tide in man's affairs which, taken at the floor, leads on to fortune."

Such a tide seems to be developing in the Oakwood community's struggle for self-preservation. Oakwood is the key-stone in the arch of stability of inland communities that make up the "real" Venice where most of us live. For a couple of reasons: first, the Black and Brown community that we are is never going to be chic in the way developers see Venice, and second, the highest percentage of homes in Venice that are owner-occupied are in this community. That these homeowners have been under incredible pressure from various sources, primarily real-estate speculators, to sell and get out is well-known and cynics ave even set a date when "we" would be moved out and "they" could come in.

Ah. But it ain't necessarily so. At a recent meeting in Mel Levine's office, called by a Federal Labor Department consultant to plumb Oakwood support for a small-scale, community-owned industrial training/employment program he'd developed, an altercation between Pearl White, a longtime community organizer, and Ozzie Hunt, of Pat Russell's staff, developed over just how to go about implementing such a program. Ms. White was adamant on "going to the people" to find out if the program was addressing itself to their needs. Mr. Hunt, apparently impatient with the inefficiency of this populist approach said, "We have to get this thing going now. The people! They'll be shipping the people out of Oakwood in wheel barrows soon, and you with them, Pearl, while you're still crying 'The People.'" Ah, but will "they?" That incident is typical of the kind of internecine rivalries between leadership in the community that has always stood as a thorny block to the community pulling together around issues that affect it, making it relatively easy for those who would profit from it to "divide and conquer." Yet, within the last couple of months two important developments have occurred that seem to indicate that this long-lamented state of affairs ain't necessarily so, either.

At a meeting called by the Venice Playgroup at the Oakwood Recreation Center of March 15 (the "Ides of March") the cooperative childcare group, which holds title to a strategically important site in Oakwood where they want to develop their program, attempted to garner support from the community. But at that meeting it became blatantly obvious that such support was not forthcoming, and in fact, a solid front of opposition had developed. A petition signed by some 500 people in the area was presented stating opposition to the use of the site, at Broadway and 7th Avenues, by that particular group.

The wording of the petition indicated that the community did not feel that Playgroup's program was relevant to its needs and since it was being funded by public money, secured through Pat Russell's office, the people felt they had a right to come together to oppose it. There is a tangle of issues involved in this stand-off, not the least of which is that the Playgroup might actually have something valuable to offer the community. But two things stand out very clearly, first and most important is that the community is indeed capable of coming together to express its will, and second, that the heretofore piece-meal and unstructured funding of public programs for the area might hereafter have to recognize the needs of the community as the community itself defines them.

That last concept was reiterated before the State Coastal Commission in a hearing held on March 21 in support of a Venice Town Council appeal to stop development of a private racquetball court at the corner of Sunset and Hampton Streets. Larry Abrams, Bob Castile and the ubiquitous Ms. White argued that, again, such a project was irrelevant to the community's needs and, in terms of protecting the right of the community to maintain itself -- a part of the Coastal Act the Commission enforces -- was actually detrimental to it. The Coastal

Continued on page 14

Venice Playgroup Collides With Oakwood

by ROBT. WELLS

On Tuesday, March 27, the Venice Community Playgroup, the childcare co-operative that operates at the old Venice City Hall, moved one step closer to realizing its five year dream of having a school of its own, when the Board of Zoning Appeals approved a zone variance for their proposed building at 7th and Broadway in Oakwood.

But at the same time the Playgroup deepened even further the division between itself and the Oakwood Black community, which had opposed the project at the original hearing last November and at the appeal on March 27th.

Five years ago the Playgroup was stopped by the Building & Safety Dept. from using an old house on Victoria Avenue for childcare. About that same time a large grant of Federal childcare money came into L.A. and Pat Russell's City Council office arranged for the Playgroup to get \$230,250 to buy their own property and build a permanent facility. Among the sites they looked at were one in the canals, and the old deserted Olivia's Market plus two adjacent lots at 7th & Broadway in Oakwood. They chose Olivia's because it was bigger and because Olivia would hold the property until the money was released.

They bought the property in September '76 for \$40,700 and started through a long march of bureaucratic delays, having to satisfy booklength regulations intended for much larger projects. During the intervening years the parents and children conducted their Playgroup in the old Venice City Hall next to Pat Russell's office (where they still meet). And in the meantime the old buildings at 7th & Broadway became dilapidated and vandalized, a nuisance and eyesore and source of resentment in the surrounding Black community.

OPPOSITION DEVELOPS

Finally, almost three years after acquiring the property, the Playgroup had cleared enough hurdles to the point where it was ready to begin construction. Since the residential zoning at the site limited them to 20 children they went to the zoning office at City Hall downtown to request a variance allowing up to 60 kids. At the zoning hearing last November they were surprised to find themselves opposed by a number of leaders from the Black community, including Velisha Mande of the Venice Drug Coalition (who at the time was thinking of running for City Council against Pat Russell), and Pearl White.

The Oakwood people submitted the following petition with 514 signatures to the zoning officer:

- "We the residents of the Venice, Oakwood community, oppose the establishment of a 'childcare center' at the corner of Seventh and Broadway, Venice. Our opposition stems from the following:
1. The center is being established by outsiders, who did not consult us or request of us what our most pressing needs are at the time.
 2. The Center curriculum cannot, therefore, have our best interest at heart (that is, our cultural, spiritual, economic and social needs, directly related to total family/community concerns will not be addressed). We need more than just babysitters in our community, but a focus on the total problems of family and the members who make up the total family.
 3. Overlap of services -- The community currently has numerous childcare facilities in the immediate area where the new center is to be set up, and they are not filled to capacity. The Headstart programs also are numerous and centrally located near the proposed center.
 4. Recruitment efforts already commenced show 12 children, only one is Black, the rest are White, this is no where near representative.
 5. Fees, curriculum, input from the community, overlapping of services are major issues to be resolved, and until such is resolved to our satisfaction, the lot can remain vacant!"

(At the same time they circulated the petition the Oakwood people distributed a leaflet that raised a lot of issues other than the Playgroup and which seemed to suggest that the Playgroup was into drug use and nudism. On the basis of this leaflet the Playgroup people are saying they feel the people who signed the petition didn't know what they were signing.)

Assoc. Zoning Administrator Chas. V. Cadwallader approved the zone variance, but only for 40 children rather than 60. Both the Oakwood community and the Playgroup filed appeals, the Playgroup because they wanted 60 kids, Oakwood because they wanted nothing at the site until the community itself could decide what it needed there. The appeal hearing was set for March 27.

Realizing the difficulty, if not the impossibility, of moving into a Black community against the stated wishes of the people there, the Playgroup arranged to have a public meeting on March 15 at the Oakwood Recreation Center. Community leaders and agencies were contacted and many leaflets were distributed. An invitation was prepared for the people who had signed the petition, and Pat Russell's office was going to mail it to all 514 signers. According to the Playgroup this was stopped by the City Attorney, who said it would be using City funds for a political purpose (Russell is running for re-election). They did not say why Pat Russell did not take the 75-some-odd dollars for postage out of her campaign treasury, or why the Playgroup did not take the money from its own grant. At any rate, the letters were never sent.

COMMUNITY MEETING

The community meeting on the 15th was well attended anyway -- about 60 people were there, evenly divided between the Playgroup and the community. The issue has produced unusual unanimity among the recognized Black leadership of Oakwood, most of whom were there that night or have come to the hearings: Laverne Brunson of Broadway School, Addie Edwards of the Library, Bob Castile and John Fleming of

Project Action, Mabel Lipscomb of the Teen Post, Pearl White and Velisha Mande, Larry Abrams who helped stop the Richlar project at the Coastal Commission, Ken Runnels of the Runnels Child Care Center, and others. About the only major Black agency figure not taking part has been Vera Davis of NAPP. Flora Chavez of CSO circulated petitions and appeared at the November hearing, but otherwise the Latino community has not involved itself in this controversy.

The meeting at the Recreation Center was smoothly and competently facilitated by Roger Trammell and Nancy Kless of the Neighborhood Justice Center. First the Playgroup laid out what they were doing, then the community people spoke their objections.

TWO OPPOSING POSITIONS

The two opposing positions became clear very quickly and remained unchanged throughout the night and into the zoning hearing two weeks later.

Robin Rudnick and Elaine Greyhorse described the advantages of co-operative childcare: that parent involvement made the thing democratic and inexpensive, and provided a loving extended family for both children and adults; they stressed, as did others, that since the co-operative was controlled by its members, it would be controlled by the Oakwood community as more and more Oakwood people joined it.

All the community people speaking that night made the same points: that the Playgroup was a white project being forced on the Black community by outsiders without consulting the needs or wishes of the Black people; that there was already a surplus of childcare in Oakwood and that there were other more pressing uses to which the property could be put. They generally expressed understanding and support for the work of the Playgroup -- but they would not have it imposed on their community.

James Duffy, a former Playgroup teacher, said that when they first got the property 3 years ago he had gone to the heads of all the Black and Brown Oakwood agencies to talk about the program, had put up leaflets, and that the Playgroup had had a community open-house. But all sides agreed that communication had been broken off for at least two years.

Continued on page 14

Playgroup Position

By the Venice Community Playgroup

Since its inception over 8 years ago, the Venice Community Playgroup has kept itself open to community input. Articles in the pages of the Beachhead, Times, Evening Outlook and other publications have monitored the progress of our program, its activities, and specifically the developments with regard to our grant for the renovation of a new facility in Venice. You have undoubtedly read something about us in the past.

We want to make a complete reply to Bob Wells article and the five points of objection made by the community in the next issue of the Beachhead. In the meantime, we feel we must make a brief comment on some of his principal observations.

As to Playgroup's position: the next step for us is not to start renovation. The next step is the Coastal Commission, and we do not want to approach the Coastal Commission without community support. Many of the objections raised before the zoning board and dismissed as inapplicable will be applicable before the Coastal Commission. It goes without saying that these leaders of the community have considerable power to determine the outcome of our project. By virtue of appeal alone they can delay it for two to three years. We know that we must have an integrated program and active and vocal community support before we can proceed.

These objections are also applicable to us. The membership of Playgroup is totally persuaded by much of what has been said. Of course we back the need for low cost housing, a senior citizen center, and more effective planning in Oakwood. We do not have the power to change the fundamental use of the site, as the funds used to purchase it were earmarked for childcare, but we are looking into the possibility of "multiple" use. We hope this might open up an area of compromise.

Most of all we entirely validate the concept of self-determination of the community, and are painfully aware of the irony of the position we have been put into in this regard. If it were not for the many private words of encouragement we have heard from members of the community who have not wanted to take on Oakwood,



Photo by Janice Yudell

leadership publicly, we would certainly have conceded to this argument.

As a postscript - there were several minor inaccuracies in Bob Wells' article, which for the most part was fair and correct. For one thing, he more than doubled the total amount of our grant. He was also incorrect about the basis of our appeal to the zoning board. We did not appeal the number of children to be allowed. We wanted to leave open the option of an infant care program and a program for the handicapped, both of which had been denied by the original decision of the board. We were successful in this appeal. □

SAMPLE CIRCULAR & PETITION CIRCULATED AGAINST PLAYGROUP IN OAKWOOD.

unemployment
spiritual decay
OAKWOOD AREA
poor housing
low morals
drugs
stealing
attacks on our srs.
low self-esteem

VENICE COMMUNITY
divided on important issues
Alternative life-styles?
nudity?
homosexuality?

CITY HALL
POLITICIANS
SEXISM
RACISM
PROPOSITION 13
DELIBERATE SCANDALS WHICH HELPED TO REMOVE KEY, POLITICAL BLACKS FROM OFFICE
THEN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
YOU CAN FIGHT CITY HALL!

ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1978
10 a.m. Room 600 - CITY HALL (Purdue St.)
Office of Zoning Administration
WEST LOS ANGELES

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN. OUR COMMUNITY

THE POLITICIANS (NAMELY OUR CITY COUNCIL PERSON) HAS JOINED OTHER OUTSIDERS IN SUPPORT OF AN "ALTERNATIVE LIFE-STYLE" "PARENT COOPERATIVE" CHILD CARE CENTER BEING BUILT AT THE CORNER OF SEVENTH AND BROADWAY, VENICE, CALIFORNIA. PETITIONS CIRCULATED IN THE COMMUNITY, NOW WITH OVER 500 SIGNATURES, HELPS US TO SHOW THAT PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

1. The center is being established by outsiders who did not ask the community for input;
2. As a community, in a morally decaying society, we are concerned about "alternative lifestyles" and their adverse affect upon our children, family and community's spiritual and cultural lives;
3. We need more than just a child-care center in our community. we need more adequate housing, a facility for our seniors and addressing some of their growing needs, a place where families can begin to get back together, we need a "community center";
4. Another child care center may be an overlap of services already existing in the community, which are not filled to capacity;
5. Fees, curriculum, overlapping of services, and what the area actually needs are being defined by someone outside the area, these issues must be resolved before anything is build.

SAFEWAY, EAT YOUR HEART OUT

After close to three years of fund-raising, member-searching, and policy-making, the Venice-Ocean Park Food Co-operative has located a storefront and will move in April 1. Commonly known as VOP, the cooperative expects to spend 3-4 weeks fixing up the store located at 839 Lincoln Boulevard (next to the laundromat at the corner of Brooks Avenue) before opening its doors to those who wish to shop for their stomach's needs.

Many people in the Venice-Ocean Park community have been asking for a food co-op for a number of years and thanks to the work of 7 or 8 people, VOP is about to get off the ground. Because VOP is operated and supported by its members, it is a cooperative store, and although VOP will service nonmembers (at 20% above marked price) it will be the members who reap the benefits. VOP is their store.

Although the co-op will primarily stock natural foods, it will also carry some personal products, housewares, "conventional" foods, and basically what-

VOP COOP TO OPEN

ever the membership desires. To become a member each adult will be asked to contribute \$50.00 in share capital which can be paid through time in as little as \$5.00 per month and is totally refundable upon withdrawing from the co-op. Each member will also be asked to donate 2 hours a month to working in the store and \$3.00 per month for the operating expenses (rent, utilities, wages, etc.). This not only keeps the price of food low, but also involves the members in creating a pleasant and friendly atmosphere to shop. The store itself will be co-managed by Jim Congdon and Ross Moser and has a position open for a female manager before the store opens. The store will be open Wednesday through Saturday at the beginning and it will be accepting food stamps.

Right now it is the Organizing Committee (of 6-8 people) which has not only located the storefront and worked out the lease, but has also found good reasons to offer special rates to senior citizens. There is, however, carpentry, plumbing and electrical work to be done, equipment to be purchased, literature to be written and typed (for both the monthly newsletter and general information) and people to be informed that the Venice-Ocean Park Food Cooperative will definitely happen. The Organizing Committee meets every Thursday evening, 7:30, at 945 1/2 Lake Street and is open to anyone interested; for further information call Kurt at 399-4304, Peter at 396-2132, or Ross at 399-5736.

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6 WINDWARD'S WONDERFUL WALL

Photos & Commentary by Wendy Reeves



It's done! After almost a year of work, Terry Schoonhoven last month completed the huge mural he has been painting on the east wall of the St. Charles Hotel, on Windward Avenue near Ocean Front Walk.

Called "St. Charles Painting," the 52'x102' mural is a reverse mirror-image of Windward Avenue looking east. It was partly funded -- \$5,000 of the almost \$8,000 cost -- by a California Arts Council grant; Terry paid most of the rest himself by selling drawings.

A well-known L. A. muralist, 33-year-old Terry is the sole remaining member of the L. A. Fine Arts Squad, which also created the "Venice in the Snow" mural at 18th and Ocean Front Walk in 1970. (This mural was obscured after two years by a 4-unit apartment house next door, over loud community protest.)

"Actually, the L. A. Fine Arts Squad was always mostly a myth," Terry told me early in the project. "People always expected to see dozens of us swarming over a building. But there were really only two of us, though four people did work on one mural."

Terry used oil-based enamel over primer for the awesome "St. Charles Picture." He purposely used muted colors, which he says fade more evenly than bright ones. He predicts an optimum life of six years before the mural begins to pale, lasting about ten years in all.

There are no people in the scene because, according to Terry, "Each person can act out his own drama on it... The emptiness encourages more of a universal identification."

Otherwise the scene is a hauntingly

accurate depiction -- right down to litter and a wino's empty bottle-in-bag -- of a Windward that is already disappearing. Armour's Liquor Store (see detail at left) will be gone by the 15th of this month (cf., "Goodbye Erma" on page 3) and the Naturally Venice building, green in the mural, has recently been repainted bright orange.

Terry's mural has been a favorite with locals and tourists from its beginning, causing ceaseless comments and clicking of cameras, and slowing traffic to a crawl on the Avenue. The media loves it too: all the L. A. papers have recently given it prominent write-ups, Channel 28 featured it in a program on street art, Ralph Story talked it up on his L. A. Tonight' show on March 20th, and New West ran a two-page color photo of it with a long article on Terry in its March 26th issue.

The three-quarter-century-old St. Charles hasn't looked so eye-catching since the original elaborate Italianate facade covered all her walls. It's good to see this venerable building in her glory again.



Mural Detail: admiring visitor shows scale.

A Free Gift To Venice

Wade Cornell, a sculptor living in Ventura County, wants to donate a 15-foot high sculpture to Venice (see illustration). He says it's to be a "free gift for a free people."

Some time ago Cornell donated the 3,000 lb. sea-blue and gray concrete piece to the people of Los Angeles by placing it unsolicited in the Court of Flags outside of the County Building in downtown LA. The city rejected the gift and ordered the sculptor to remove it from public property, despite the fact that its grace and color and scale were ideally suited for the drab bureaucratic setting.

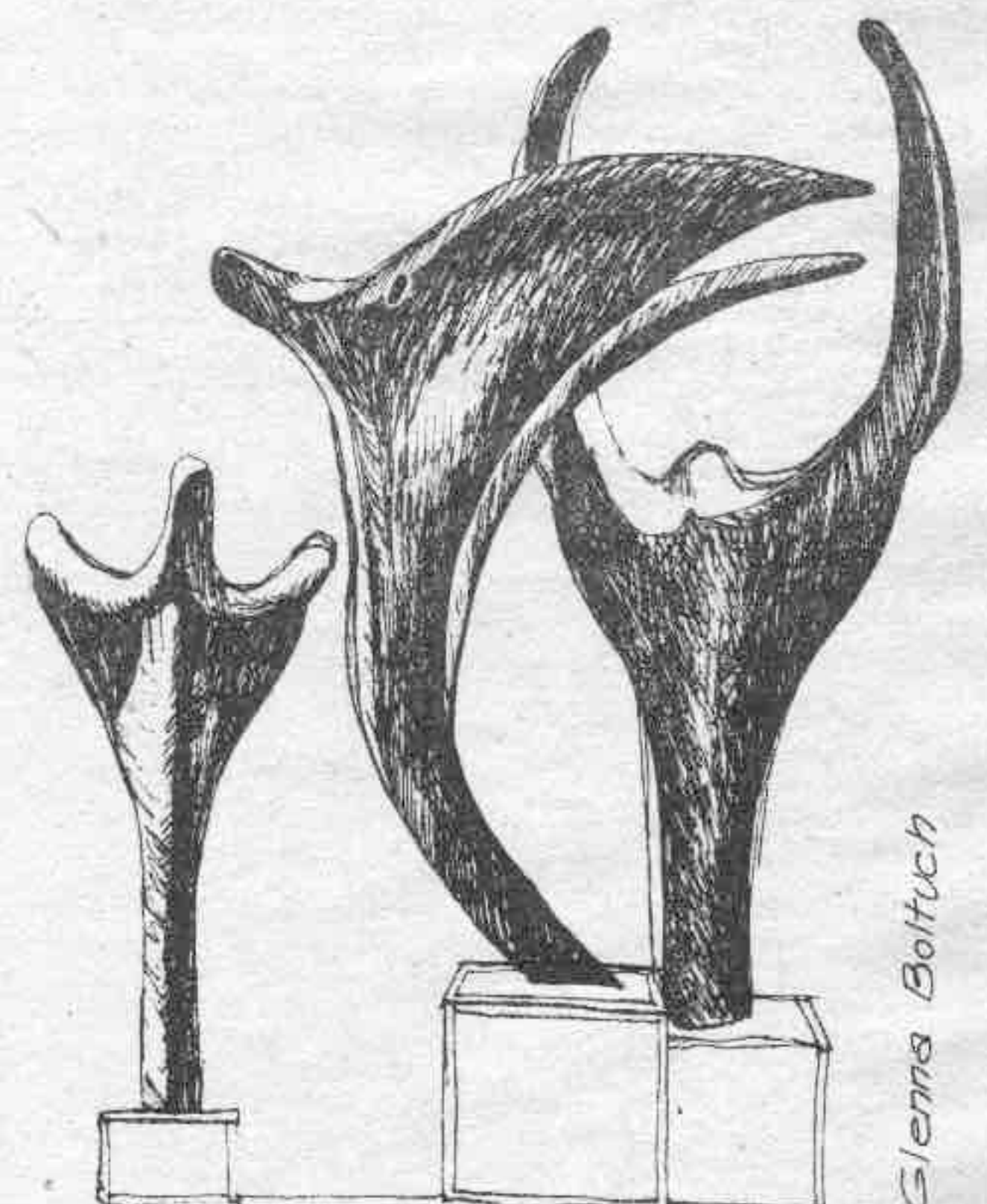
Cornell then decided to give it to Venice. A group of Venetians voyaged downtown to check it out and found it to be an inspiring and totally accessible work of art. A few of us thought it would look best in the Windward Circle, and later discovered that Cornell's first choice was also there. We have all learned since that Tough Christmas of the Ace Gallery has his eye on the Windward Circle as well, to display sculptural pieces associated with his commercial gallery.

A question remains in the sculptor's mind: does Venice want his piece? If yes, does it want it in the Windward Circle? Cornell says he creates only "public" works of art, and feels that the piece would give its greatest public exposure in the Circle. With 360-degree access, his "totally public" sculpture would be totally accessible. He also wants the Venice community to "use" the sculpture in any way it sees fit to support its struggle for self-determination.

But some Venetians feel that the sculpture--which is top notch and very beautiful--could just as easily be "used"

by the affluhip as another drawing card to the roller-skating and real-estate sweepstakes going on from the Ocean Front eastwards. Ironical, isn't it, that a totally public sculpture could boost private development? I guess that's what totally public means. We all are, after all, the public.

Address any comments or criticism you may have to me at 2010 Oakwood Ave., Venice, or call me at 821-8404. I will pass the word to Wade Cornell in Ventura.



3 VIEWS

He says if Venice does not want the sculpture, then he will not put it here.

Jeff Gillenkirk

Glenn Boltch

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Uranium mining:

NATIVE AMERICAN LIVES ON THE LINE

Uranium is crucial to the nuclear fuel cycle. Uranium is the raw material which is processed to produce the energy for nuclear power plants. Over two-thirds of the uranium reserves in this country are on Indian Lands. Indian Lands supplied 100% of the uranium produced in the United States in 1974. Looking at total Native reserves as one nation, they rank sixth in the world. We are the "source" of the nuclear fuel cycle, but not by our choice.

Now, because energy corporations such as Kerr-McGee, Anaconda (a division of Atlantic-Richfield), General Electric, and Exxon to name a few, want that uranium for nuclear power plants Indian people are in the process of being recolonized for energy development. Indian peoples have seen enough of Western economic expansion. We now live in poverty in our homelands (reservations) as the Bureau of Indian Affairs terms them). Our lands encompass less than 1% of our original land base. In 1977, approximately 90% of all Indian people living on "reservations" suffer from one form or another of malnutrition. The life expectancy for Native people is 47 years in comparison to 70 years for the general population.

Indian people do not want to be colonized by the "energy corporations or the U.S. Departments of Energy and Interior. Indian people demand a right of self-determination, but are subjected to severe repression by three stages of the nuclear fuel cycle. The three stages of the nuclear fuel cycle which affect Indian

peoples are: 1)the mining, 2)the milling and processing of uranium, and 3)the disposal of radioactive wastes.

The Navajo and Spokane nations are the major suppliers of Indian uranium. The Navajo Nation is located in the "four corners" area of the United States, and the Spokane Nation is located in the State of Washington. The Bureau of Indian Affairs approves leases for uranium mining on these lands. The people who live in the leased area are frequently not told of the future use of the land. Many people end up working for the uranium producing corporations.

In 1975, 3,400 underground miners and 900 stripminers were employed by the uranium industry in the Navajo Nation. At Laguna Pueblo one out of every five people works in the uranium mines, in the Spokane Nation, one out of every four people in the labor force has worked the uranium mine at sometime in his life. Needless to say, it only takes a few days of low level radiation to kill a uranium miner.

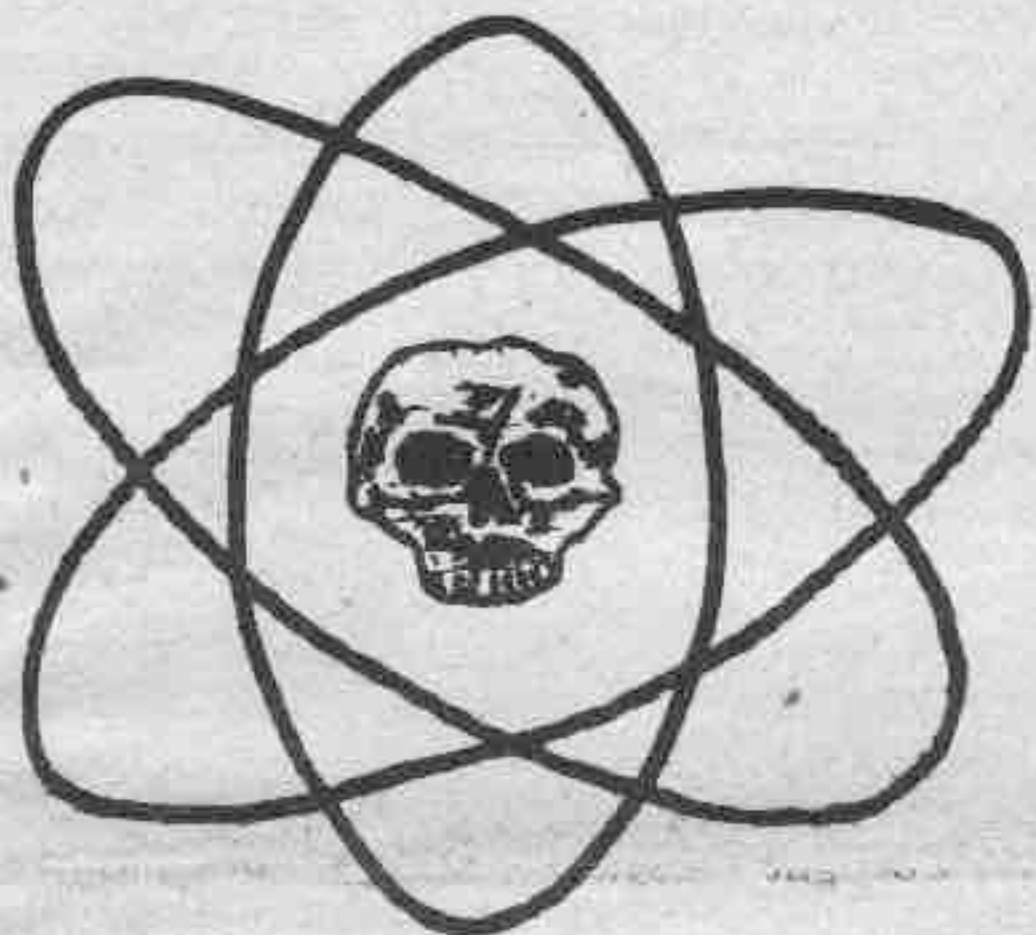
In 1975, it was learned that of the 100 Navajo miners who worked the mesa mine, 18 were already dead of lung cancer and radiation induced illnesses. 21 others were being closely watched, and doctors feared that many more would die. Those Navajo uranium miners were paid about \$1.60 per hour to mine uranium, and most of them will end up with radiation induced lung cancer. That my friends is colonization.

The second stage of the nuclear fuel cycle which affects Native people is the processing of nuclear fuels. In Grants, New Mexico, a predominantly Indian area, there are three uranium milling plants. The plants are operated by Anaconda, United Nuclear Homestake Partners, and Kerr McGee. As a "uranium boom town" much of the labor force is employed by the uranium milling companies. At the uranium plants, workers are subjected to high dosages of radiation, while earning meager wages.

The final stage of the nuclear fuel cycle, or the "back end", is the disposal of radioactive wastes. Exxon (Standard Oil of New Jersey), has a 400,000 acre lease in the Navajo Nation. The lease was approved by the Secretary of the Interior after he waived 13 regulations. Exxon proposes to dispose of radioactive wastes in the leased area. The wastes could easily leak into the water tables and contaminate the drinking, agricultural, and livestock water of the Navajo people.

Indian people do not use or benefit from the nuclear power plants. Indians are only exploited by the nuclear industry. Indian people are paid pennies per pound of uranium, and their homelands are slated for use as nuclear waste disposal sites. Most Native people (there is a very small number of exceptions to this) do not want to be recolonized for the profits of energy companies at the cost of their lives and the lives of the American people as well. Native people demand a right to self-determination, a right to a radiation-free future for their children.

(Reprinted from Akwesasne Notes, Late Winter 1979)



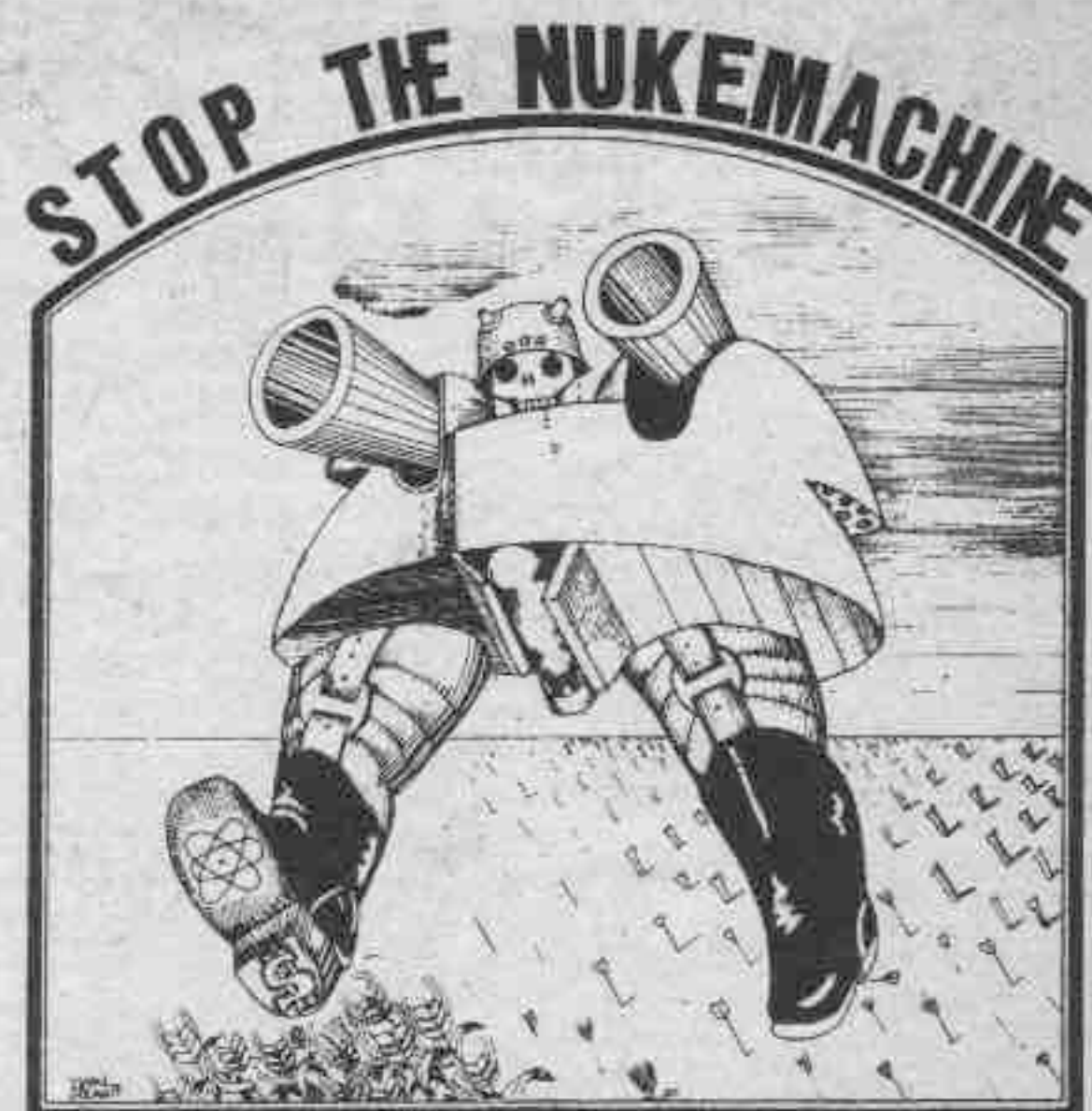
alliance for survival

The first two weeks of April will be a busy period for the Venice-Santa Monica-West L.A. chapter of Alliance for Survival, and will reflect the range of issues on which we work. On April 7th we (and the public is invited) will join a region-wide rally in L.A. at MacArthur Park's bandshell, Wilshire and Park View, (one block West of Alvarado) at 1 PM, where we will rally in opposition to the planned June opening of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. The rally itself will be short, and those attending will be asked to pick up leaflets and distribute them in specific areas of their choice during the rest of the afternoon.

April 11 is the date of our next monthly educational meeting. The general public is invited, no admission charge, to hear environmental health consultant Dr. Irving Lyon speak on "Biological Effects of Low Level Radiation". Even without a China Syndrome nuclear plant meltdown or a thermonuclear war, it seems we are being increasingly "nuked". Meeting is at the Marine Park building, 1406 Marine, 7:30 PM Wednesday, April 11.

Quite possibly the only thing to be said for the proposed MX missile program is that the proposal to put it in the Mojave has inspired our chapter to plan a one-day outing to the edge of the desert. We will hear talks by naturalists on the fragile desert ecology, we'll enjoy the spring wildflower season, and we'll here something about the missile system. The system proposes construction of about 4,000 silos for 200 missiles, with the missiles being moved around constantly in a hide-and-seek type game. The one-day outing will be April 14, Saturday. Meet at the Santa Monica College parking lot, 17th and Pico, from where we will carpool to Devil's Punchbowl County Park. Bring lunch.

Our chapter has taken responsibility for leafletting a couple of evenings a week at two local theaters which are showing "The China Syndrome", a film about a nuclear power plant disaster. We invite you to help us with that or any of the rest of our work, and we'll be glad to hear from you whether you're interested in joining our efforts, or requesting information about the issues or the above events. 399-7377, 473-9732, 392-3172, or 3732 Sawtelle, L.A. 90066.



MEET HUMAN NEEDS

A FESTIVAL OF ART

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In light of the latest nuclear power plant "accident", it seems especially crucial for us to realize that nuclear energy corporations are playing for their profits in exchange for human lives. TIMES headline "Nuclear plant still leaking, but peril seems over" is an example of this mentality. We cannot sit back and feel safe that we are so far from this poisonous disaster. These energy corporations don't know what to do, and they will lie to us with statistics showing how much radiation a person can live with.....for now. And, they will stay rich while they try to explain it all away.

There are actions here at home where we can work against these arrogant corporations. Will it have to be San Onofre or Diablo Canyon for the impact to be felt? What has happened already is enough.

BEACHHEAD collective.

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8 The Chic Shall Inherit The Earth

By Joan Friedberg

While Venice, Italy slowly sinks into the Adriatic Sea, its namesake here is rising up from oblivion. But its recent discovery as a playground and real estate hot spot may ultimately ruin one of California's unique communities.

A mere ten years ago, no one would have much to do with us. The canals looked like a set for a Tennessee Williams play. People from other parts of Los Angeles avoided Venice. After all, they said, you could get mugged or something with all those dangerous junkies around. And if the junkies didn't get you, then the hippies would panhandle you to death. Even when I first moved here five years ago, people would say, "You live in Venice? But aren't you afraid of getting mugged?"

But suddenly Venice was discovered. I doubt if anyone knows for sure how or why it happened. Was she simply sitting nonchalantly sipping a soda one day in Schwab's Drugstore and her raw beauty suddenly taken in by a big producer? Or was it just that Marina Del Rey ran out of space and needed more yacht slips?

Whatever it was, she was almost an overnight success. Soon we had The Sidewalk Cafe with its European atmosphere. A few rollerskaters started a whole new movement. Like Cinderella and her glass slipper, dirty watering holes were, as if by magic, transformed into new restaurants that had what the bourgeoisie call ambiance. But the magic was nothing more than a few mirrored walls. The Venture Inn became Casablanca, appearing ghostlike out of nowhere like Humphrey Bogart reincarnated. And just as mysteriously, it faded away again. Venice's popular St. Charles Place gave way to F. Scott's, a vain attempt to resurrect "dancing cheek to cheek" in the charm of another long gone era, complete with valet parking. But it too has faded, if not altogether gone. And the old Driftwood Saloon became Roberts, a restaurant far too expensive for most local residents but not too funky for Andy Warhol and his entourage of jet setters, who

follow him around as if he were the Pied Piper.

Suddenly, our little community was becoming "chic." In spite of the panhandlers, the junkies, the winos and the dogshit, in spite of a spree of gangstyle murders in Oakwood and a shooting in the Venice Pavilion last summer, in spite of its melting pot of ethnic groups--Venice is suddenly chic. Linda Ronstadt uses a Venice scene for an album cover. Newspapers and magazines send out the troops to find out what's happening in Venice. And the Venice Chamber of Commerce gets on the bandwagon and starts organizing tours. There's a spirit in Venice which those of us who live here know cannot be bought or sold. Venice is a unique place. But "chic" it isn't. Chic is Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills. Chic is wearing Calvin Klein pants and carrying a Gucci bag. Chic is what most Venetians came here to escape.

Venice is the home of a vanishing species: the weirdo. Now, those who remember the sixties well, remember that a decade ago the species flourished. Hippies and freaks could be found everywhere from Reseda to Roanoke. Remember when we ridiculed Tiny Tim because he was the only guy in the world with long hair? Janice Joplin paraded around Haight-Ashbury in her feathered boa giving everyone a piece of her heart, and everybody tried to follow suit. One-upsmanship was looking more outrageous than the next guy, and so everyone just got freakier.

But for most it was just a passing fad. And, like the mod look and the miniskirt, freaks and hippies gradually cut their hair and traded in their beads and bell-bottoms for gold chains and jogging outfits with a stripe down the side.

In 1979, the only place you'll find a "freak" is in New Orleans at Mardi Gras or on the set of Star Wars, if they ever do a sequel. Even at our local Renaissance Faire, the most

outrageous costume you see anymore is some guy wearing bermuda shorts and a T-shirt with "Hussong's Cantina" printed on the back.

There is one place left where the "freak" still survives: in Venice, California. Here live the diehards who look like weirdos because they are. Here are the last holdouts of an endangered species who make the world safe for diversity. But they may not be here much longer.

For years we have fought off developers whose plans would have turned Venice into something resembling Miami Beach. Local activists won some important battles in their fight to preserve the character of Venice. But now a more pervasive enemy is threatening the community and, in fact, has already dismantled some of it: pure economics. In the rush to buy up property at ever-escalating values, it has become a game of the survival of the richest. A walk through the canals gives visible proof of the invasion of the affluhip. The modest summer cottages are overshadowed now by luxury homes three times their size and twice their price on the real estate market.

The invasion of the affluhip has left in its wake a sea of refugees who haven't left yet. They wait, watching as the invaders prop up the value of shabby cottages or bulldoze the offensive eyesores from existence while they wave their Coastal Commission permits in the faces of the dispossessed. They watch as their friends disappear one by one and their new neighbors drive up in Porsches. They watch as a new lifestyle takes over and they wonder how much longer they'll be allowed to stay. One determined canal resident actually posted a sign in front of her modest cottage: "Not for Sale."

The invasion of the affluhip has created a phenomenon which not only threatens the displacement of low-income people, but, like all invasions throughout history, it has brought with it its own culture and will not permit the old culture to thrive...even if it can survive. Some of the new clubs have even set up dress codes to keep out the very people who live next door. The message is clear: be like us or you're not welcome here.

The affluhip see beauty only in that which is pretty, chic or quaint. They come here in search of ambiance and wonder where it is. If they would open up their eyes, they would see beauty all around them...the beauty that those of us who live here have silently appreciated for many years. They would see that there is beauty in the wrinkled faces of the very old. They would see that there is beauty in the congo drum beats of the very black. There is beauty in the freedom of a dog running loose on the beach. Beauty in bodies that come in all shapes and sizes. In people walking down the boardwalk and recognizing each other. In people dressed in hundreds of feathers, or bells, or old political buttons. In people who are oblivious to the way

they're dressed, because they know that there is more to life than dressing for success.

It's the beauty that is Venice, and it's the beauty that is fading, a culture that is dying in the name of chic. ☐

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TOURS DU JOUR: A VENICE NIGHTMARE

9

By David Tappan

During what was intended to be a peaceful Venetian slumber, I was visited by a fiend in the form of a nightmare which transported me to the lobby of The Marriott Hotel in Marina Del Rey (that's the hotel which sits at the end of the Richard M. Nixon Freeway.) While ambling through the lobby, (what my purpose being there was I could not fathom) I spotted a tour operator concession. As I scanned the brochures, my amusement gave way to an "Oh, my God!" shock as I noted that tours of Venice U.S.A. were being featured. An intertwined curiosity and despair led me to look over the brochure. The three tours which were offered read as follows:

SAFETOURS INC.

Tour I: HIGHLIGHTS OF VENICE

Price: \$7.50 Time: 2½ hours
Departs 9:30 A.M.
Returns 11:45 A.M.

Features: A unique chance to experience the pulsating variety of Venice, a community known for its diversity. You'll see historic Windward Circle, the fabulous Ocean Front Walk and its wide, sandy beaches. You'll have time for coffee at a charming sidewalk cafe or perhaps you'll prefer to shop the wares of the promenade's vendors and craftspeople.

You'll see why the Ocean Front Walk is bursting with creative-minded people on the weekends like disco roller skaters, bohemian type artists at work, and die-hard "hippies" in their natural dress and habitat.

Next you'll stroll the once brick paved Market St., which is now known as Gallery Row. If time permits, a visit will be made to the world renowned Ace Gallery.

Back on the bus, you'll travel next to the fashionable Silver Strand area of Venice with its luxurious condominiums and exclusive beach.

Then it's on to the "Canal District" via revived Pacific Ave. The Canals were the inspiration of Venice's creator, Abbot Kinney. You'll sight ducks and mallards who inhabit these waterways and maybe catch a glimpse of a resident joyfully plying the canals on a home made raft. You're sure to note the new construction and cleanup which is underfoot in the area and come to understand why "The Canals" has become one of the "in" places to reside.

Finally, you will return to the hotel by way of Dell Ave., Washington St., and Lincoln Blvd. in time for you to enjoy a superb lunch at The Marriott. Price of lunch is not included.

Tour II: VENICE IN DEPTH

Price: \$12.50 Time: 4 hours
Departs: 9:00 A.M.
Returns: 1:00 P.M.

Includes all of the features of Tour I plus a visit to the yet active Venice Town Hall, a community focal center which is steeped in political tradition. Also, a tour of The Pavilion on Ocean Front Walk for a viewing of local artworks is offered. Finally, you'll visit famous Venice Pier for photographs and a stroll down what was once known as Hamburger Square and which is now lined with interesting curio shops and high fashion boutiques. You'll be permitted time to shop for souvenirs, gifts, etc. Again, you will be returned to The Marriott in ample time for a superb lunch. Price of lunch is not included.

Tour III: SOUTH COAST DELUXE and LUNCH AT THE EXCITING MARINA

Price: \$24.00 Time: 5½ hours
Departs: 9:00 A.M.
Returns: 2:30 P.M.

Includes all of the features of Tours I and II plus the following:

A trip to and a walk down Main Street in Ocean Park (a distinctive area within the city limits of Santa Monica.) It is a lively street known for its quaint antique and trend-setting boutique shops. The once humble Main St. is well on its way to becoming as posh as the internationally famous Rodeo Drive of Beverly Hills due to the foresight of a few daring speculators.

A delicious five-star buffet lunch at one of the bistros in exciting Marina Del Rey Harbor awaits you. You will lunch while overlooking expensive yachts and tamed channel waters. A truly exhilarating experience! Price of lunch included in tour price.

The backside of the brochure read:

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Your Safetours guide will be a local South Bay resident who is steeped in local history. This will add that needed homespun touch to your tour. And remember, courteous service is our hallmark.

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While in the second stage of my nightmare, I felt compelled to plunk down \$7.50 and take Tour I and it was true to the outline in the brochure except for the commentary of the driver-guide. One of his more memorable comments occurred as we approached Windward at Ocean Front Walk.

"Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention. We will be stopping in front of The St. Charles Apartments on historic Windward Ave. in a few moments. We will have a 35 minute stop. The time is yours to enjoy. May I suggest that you walk north toward the Sidewalk Cafe. It is a typical Venetian-Bohemian area. Many vendors sell their wares on the lots adjacent to the cafe. May I caution you, however, that this area can be rough. Because it has yet to be renovated, many street people and panhandlers are about. Stay together as a group. That way, you are not likely to have any trouble. I don't mean to unnecessarily frighten you, but these types of Venetians have been known to "freak out" in the past. Thank you for your attention."

Another notable commentary occurred as we were touring "The Canals."

"Ladies and gentlemen, this is the district known as "The Canals." Now you will note what might seem to be a disparity of the types of homes and apartments which line the canals. Note to your immediate left the modest cottage-bungalow. It is an atypical Venetian home of a previous era. In this modern era, it gives off the appearance of a ramshackle shanty. So what is occurring is that many forward-thinking real estate speculators are buying up these bygone properties and are razing these old bungalows. Now if you will look to the right, you will note a newly built house. Note its elegance. That house would sell for \$200,000 up. Now you know why "The Canals" is the "in" place to reside. As you can see, the cleanup which is taking place will add to the already rare charm of this area."

I woke up sweating and shivering. It just could not happen I thought as I stumbled to my kitchen and groped for the light switch. I poured myself some grape juice and returned to sleep.

Next morning, I was pleasurably strolling the Ocean Front Walk south toward Windward when "Oh, my God!" there they were: two tour buses parked in front of the St. Charles apartments. A group of nattily dressed vacationers in single file were being marched toward the Pavillion. Many had huge telephoto lens laden cameras draped about their necks.

Shaking my head in remorse, I continued on to the basketball courts having to say sorry to panhandlers and look lovingly at seniors who were occupying the pagoda benches and game room. The basketball game was exhausting but good and I returned to my Breeze Ave. bed for a nap. Would my next fiend proclaim via another nightmare, "Read all about it, Venice Dies! L.A. City Council to debate name change. Paper, mister?"

"This society, like decadent Rome, is an amusement society. That is the grim fact."
-Saul Bellow

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-Saul Bellow

picturesque, we are not all that attractive. We don't trust the City, the State, or the Feds. We know (or I should say I know) that no matter how the law is written to keep low income housing and middle income housing, some how we'll be screwed. Our voices have become harsh and shrill, we've become freaky and we say the same boring things over and over again, trying to survive.

Venice is over. There. I was facing reality. I felt dull, tired, and cranky.

A few days later, I ran into Nancy McCulloch, local jewelry maker and festival organizer. "Did you see that awful ad about the auctioning of Hammond Lumber Company? I'm going to try and get a picket line."

"There's nothing that can be done. It's all private property. The block is lost. You can't force people to be responsible to the community no matter how negative the impact." Nancy nodded and walked off.

Some time later I saw Nancy handing out leaflets about the demonstration at Hammond Lumber Company.

"Well," I snapped at Nancy. "What do you think we'll achieve?"

"Well," said Nancy, "Maybe a market, a baseball park for the kids."

"Shee-it! Maybe a McDonalds or a day care center right next to Vidal Sassoons!"

"Maybe." She smiled.

As the days rolled by, more and more people were getting involved. People from Community agencies were going to be there.

An auction. The first, and last time I'd been to an auction, I outbid my husband for a couch we wanted.

An auction. It was an historic event, not to mention that the imagery was certainly stirring.

I guessed I'd go.

The day before I was helping print the picket signs: Venice is not a Rich Man's Toy. Don't Marina-ize Venice. I Did Not Build a City for the Rich -- the Rich can Take Care of Themselves (a quote from Abbot Kinney, founder of Venice.)

The next day March 13, Tuesday I P.M. Nancy McCulloch, Will Raabe and a few others got at the Hammond Lumber Company and were greeted by a young man who'd been evicted from his room and was sleeping in his car.

The lot always had stacks of lumber and cars that filled it up. Now that it was empty, it seemed to go on forever.

People who wanted to inspect the property streamed past us as we stood outside the wire fence. Some brushed by us, some said that we were cracked, some refused the leaflet that were being handed out. A young nun from St. Josephs Center had made up a chant "Venice folks all say no. Speculators got to go! We were holding our picket signs: "Remember Rose and Main." "We shall not be moved for Gucci, Pucci, or Fiorucci."

Some of the people who passed by were young, wearing the Super-Cas uniform jeans and bulky sweaters.

T.V. crews showed up. The crowd inside looked at us and them with hostility.

The leaflets stated that the buyers were going to have an impact on the community and that the people who bought the property would have to deal with the community.

Some of the prospective buyers, a minority group, wore polyester stretch pants. A few jogging suits were in evidence. Very colorful. Very picturesque. A young man in a straw hat and a Sydney Greenstreet ice cream suit told us we made an otherwise boring event very exciting. I could resist the lure of standing next to filthy lucre no longer.

I snuck in and discovered several other residents had also stuck their signs in the wire fence and went in, in spite of a super polite man whose smile dazzled and whose gold chain twinkled amidst the nest of hair that fluffed over his chest around the open neck of his Hawaiian print shirt. He asked me not to make trouble.

I overheard Werner Sharf, beachfront property owner, estimate that it would go for a million and a half.

The auctioneers had arrived. I looked outside the fence -- the people from CYO, CSO, La Causa, Israel Levin Senior Citizens, and the Venice Town Council and the St. Josephs Center were still picketing.

I slid into the Hammond Lumber Company building -- a nun was told to leave because she held up a sign that said "Don't Marina-ize Venice."

The auctioneer gaveled for silence. The

chants from the picketers overrode the auctioneer. Someone shut the glass doors. The auctioneer said, "If there's any disruption we'll have to ask the people who are not buying to leave." A blue suited flair labelled tall broad man fumbled with a walkie-talkie.

I felt as if I were in a Bob Hope movie. Just my luck that the picketers would storm the place and I'd be beaten up along with the Aristos. Why did I wear my Phony Velvet Blazer?

The auctioneer continued, "Now I know there's some feelings here, some of these people are going to lose their homes or whatever they have down here. But this is valuable property. It could be used for a discoteque, a roller rink, you name it."

A roller rink is progress?

"I don't need to tell you how valuable this property is. It has just begun to appreciate. They can't build in Beverly Hills. Beverly Hills has bottomed out. Nearly an acre ... near the beach ... light manufacturing."

Then the bidding began. The auctioneer cajoled, wheedled, coaxed the price up to \$875,000.

"In a few years," he said, "That price will be a down payment for this property."

It was over in less than ten minutes.

The man who bought the property ran to get away from the picketers and reporters. The Reliable Source Rumor Mill states that Cher Bono bought it for a roller rink.

The sellers were disappointed at the price and later voided the sale. Credit should be taken by the people who showed up to drive down inflation.

O.K. The property will be sold again. But speculators were put on notice that Venice residents would not be moved for their profit.

I mean this is how it happened. No hype. Sorry, Evening Outlook. No arcane plots to overthrow anyone. Sorry, Ocean Front Weekly. No well-organized group of malcontents, just 70 people, some of whom have picketed before, some of whom just got involved, all concerned about the negative impact of speculation on our existing community.

I feel much better.

Thanks, Nancy.



L.A. CITY'S FAILURE AT HAMMOND LUMBER

Annette F. Robinson

March 14th, at 2:00 P.M. Hammond Lumber on Sunset and Main in Venice went up for public auction. In ten minutes it was over. I went down there to picket for Senior Citizens who for years have been promised a landsite. No doubt the property was sold for industrial purposes to a predetermined buyer.

The 1970 Venice Community Plan designated that land for medium density housing. But the plan was never implemented. City Hall never appropriated funds for the plan so the old light industry zoning remained in effect. There isn't a prayer in court for this valuable property. Ugly small industry employing very few workers mushrooms on the Rose to Brooks/Main Street site with huge benefits for a few. The City long ago could have arranged to buy this property, trading some of the hundred-plus city owned lots for this purchase. It could have bought Hammond Lumber on this date. Of course it didn't.

And, of course, it is easy to sit on the sidelines and scream. Try to do something about it. "Money talks." This belief has replaced all sensibilities. Yet, repeated a million times, it still would not produce one civilized advance. Every civic building, new hospital, museum, medical discovery, traced to its source, began in the mind of a concerned citizen sitting alone in his room hammering out a cause.

The new Venice Community Proposed Plan of this year with light industry from Rose to Brooks on Main will not be made legal until after the April 3rd election. We cannot allow large important sites to be swept up by

outside speculators while housing for Senior Citizens go begging. It is up to all of us to protest these adventures and bring public pressure for correct usage of available property.

All elections are legal protests against the administration and its seeming neglect and mismanagement. Otherwise officials would be left alone and re-elected to do their job without opposition. Running for public office relates itself in the best way to public protest. At forums, meetings, statements to the newspapers, the candidates get a chance to offer their kind of change and solidify public opinion.

At forums I have repeated one question of the voters that stands out: Why does the district grow shabbier as downtown etches a new skyline? I ask, who pays for this -- Bunker Hill, Jet Propulsion Lab, Century City? The answer is silence. We do, of course.

Traditionally in this country, wealth filters down. Huntington Hartford employed thousands and gave his estate to the public. The texts are filled with these bequests. Something has gone wrong.

There is very little return, only no-funding excuses. Our officials are out of touch with their voters and their industrial counterparts.

We have no intention of supporting an elite class. We contribute one-third of our working effort in taxes in belief some of it will return. For this frugality we expect safe and clean streets, care for the old and infirmed, jobs, training for our children, beauty, pride in our area. To settle for less is unreasonable.

community calls shots

.... Continued from Page 1

sion, with selected insults aimed directly at Commissioners Judy Rosener and Naomi Schwartz. It should be pointed out that Commissioners Rosener and Schwartz have been rather consistently responsive not only to environmental considerations, but also to community concerns. To my mind, these Commissioners work very hard to stick to the Coastal Act and to respond to its mandate in terms of public access, environmental impact, and low- and moderate-income housing. When they speak, I listen -- and the opposite is also true: when Venice speaks to the Commission, Judy Rosener and Naomi Schwartz have listened.

From time to time the passions expressed by concerned Venetians have been uncomfortable for the Commission to deal with. This time it was the other side -- the developers -- who unleashed venom on the Commission, and it was a painful experience for all involved.

To deal with the Coastal Commission requires a certain amount of belief not only the Coastal Act but also in the ability of many different individuals being able to come together and work out something tenable to all parties. Such a sense asks a lot of private property owners, for it asks that they view their land and their constructions as part of the larger whole -- as part of the community, part of the environment, part of the coast.

The applicants didn't view it this way, and their anger came from being prevented from doing with their property just exactly what they wanted.

Although the decision was a significant one in terms of precedent, it came without a sense of community -- and it will be interesting to see where development on the Silver Strand goes from here.

In a later appeal, the sense of community was very definitely evident, and the precedent set was a very positive one which may still allow the community and the developer to work together.

The property on the southeast corner of Rose Avenue and Main Streets has figured prominently in Coastal Commission work for well over a year. In 1978 a 120,000 square foot retail complex, including artist's studios on the third floor, was denied by the Commission on the grounds of bulk, density, and negative impact on the adjacent low- and moderate-income areas of Oakwood and Milwood. That decision came after abundant passionate input from

... continued on page 11 ...

community calls shots

.... Continued from Page 10

residents of Venice, and it was a real victory for the community.

The victory was not a resolution of the problem, however, for nothing was offered the developer other than the inability to put up the desired complex. During the year, applications for warehouse construction in this area were not appealed by the community, since residents felt warehousing was an appropriate use of this land. Last month the Hammond Lumber property was sold, and community folks took the time to protest the sale, expressing the community's concern for housing rather than chic retail shops of the Ocean Park variety.

At this time, one warehouse is under construction, and a building permit has been granted to build another warehouse on the corner of Hampton and Sunset.

Although this structure has not yet been begun, lessees of the space-to-be had applied for a change of use permit to convert 18,000 square feet of warehouse space into a racquetball court.

An appeal of this application by Cooper and Pearlman had been entered by the Venice Town Council, citing among other things the fact that such use would prejudice the ability of local folks to do local planning. Lack of relationship to the community itself was also a strong point raised in the appeal, with the indication that low- and moderate-income housing was a much more basic need than a racquetball court.

The State Coastal Commission was responsive to these issues, but felt that flat-out denial of the application was not possible. Thus a recommendation was put together which would have granted permission for the change of use with the condition that the applicant construct 10 units of housing on top of the racquetball court, 5 of which would be Section 8 (federally funded low-income housing).

In a community meeting held a few days prior to the hearing, the difficult issues involved in this compromise were addressed. While residents of Oakwood and surrounding areas were pleased that the Commission was responding to the need for housing, the negative impact of a racquetball court outweighed the advantages of the housing. Further, people felt that the incipient Oakwood Specific Plan would be prejudiced if such significant change of use were granted prior to the Plan (which, by the way, will come out of an Oakwood Citizens' Advisory Committee -- still in the works).

On the day of the hearing, Larry Abrams spoke for the Venice Town Council and voiced the community's concerns about type of development in this area, reiterating that a racquetball court did not meet community needs and in fact represented a threat to the stability of the low- and moderate-income areas adjacent. He also spoke of the community's desire to keep open local planning options, particularly in regard to developing the Oakwood Specific Plan. Larry yielded time to Bob Castile who spoke of the Oakwood community's disinterest in a racquetball court and sincere interest in maintaining local planning abilities.

Conversion of warehouse space into a racquetball court was denied -- as much because the community spoke out as because the lessee was unable to make the necessary modifications in terms of housing which the Commission had required.

Denial of this change of use was significant, however, since another warehouse in that area is currently being built -- and conversion of some warehouse space into a stylish retail operation could only set a precedent which would wreak havoc at Rose and Main.

So far it was two victories for community interests at the Coastal Commission. That might have been enough, but much more was going on.

An application had been made by Frank Gehry to erect three retail structures on property just south of Rose on Main. These buildings were to be one story each, with a total area of 12,000 square feet. This application had been appealed by the Venice Town Council and by me, and the issues raised were substantially the same as those raised in the 1978 Rose and Main appeal, and the same as those raised in regard to the racquetball court: lack of relationship to community needs, negative impact on a low- and moderate-income community, and avoidance of the need for housing in the Oakwood area.

As with the Cooper-Pearlman application, the Commission did not feel it could deny this particular development, having denied it once already last year. However, as with the racquetball court, the Commission had heard the community's concerns about housing. So the State staff put together a recommendation with the same sort of trade-off as on the racquetball court: the staff recommended approval of the application with the condition that the applicant construct a second story to include

10 units of housing -- 5 Section 8 and 5 "market value."

At the community meeting held shortly before the hearing, the implications of this recommendation were discussed at great length. The community has long been speaking about the need for housing in Venice, and here the Commission was talking about providing some housing -- 5 units of Section 8, to boot. Being able to support a staff recommendation might have felt good to those who are always opposing such recommendations, and who could deny the need for housing, even if only 5 units of Section 8?

Still and all, the housing came with a high price tag: 12,000 square feet of retail shop.

MOST OF US ASSUMED AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THE COASTAL ACT IN 1976 THAT THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT WAS SECURELY PROTECTED. NOT SO. A COALITION OF SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS HAS MOUNTED A CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT THE COASTAL COMMISSION WEAKEN ITS POWERS, AND REPLACE CONSERVATION-MINDED COMMISSIONERS WITH ONES MORE AMENABLE TO DEVELOPMENT.

THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WILL SEE MAJOR ATTEMPTS TO AMEND AND WEAKEN THE COASTAL ACT AND TO REMOVE PORTIONS OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS FROM THE COASTAL ZONE.

THE MOST URGENT MATTER IS THE REAPPOINTMENT OF COASTAL COMMISSIONERS. HALF THE MEMBERS OF BOTH THE REGIONAL AND THE STATE COMMISSIONS ARE TO BE REAPPOINTED OR REPLACED THIS MONTH (TWO BY THE GOVERNOR, ASSEMBLY, AND SENATE). ANY REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF CONSERVATION-MINDED COMMISSIONERS COULD MEAN SERIOUS SETBACKS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT IN FUTURE DECISIONS AND IN THE FINAL LOCAL COASTAL PLAN.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO GET LETTERS IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SUPPORTING THE COASTAL COMMISSION AND STRONG COASTAL RESOURCE PROTECTION AND URGING THE APPOINTMENT OR REAPPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATION-MINDED COMMISSIONERS, BOTH TO THE REGIONAL AND THE STATE COMMISSIONS.

WRITE:

- 1) Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Attn: Carlotta Mellon
 - 2) Leo McCarthy, Speaker of the Assembly
Attn: Lei Anne Keeney
 - 3) Senator James R. Mills, Chairman of the Senate Rules Committee.
Attn: John Williamson
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Anthony Ramos - PD
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and 5 "market value" apartment units. Further, approval of ANY construction on this site at this time would preclude Oakwood residents having input into the Oakwood Specific Plan for the very same location.

It was decided that this staff recommendation would not be supported, on the same grounds that the racquetball recommendation could not be supported: lack of relationship to the community, and prejudicing local planning efforts. The Venice Town Council would speak briefly in this regard, and then yield time to Pearl White who would express the concerns of the Oakwood community.

Two days before this permit came up for voting, the applicant requested a continuance.

A tremendous amount of community energy had gathered behind this application and the one for the racquetball court. In fact, more direct issues regarding the retail shops had been raised. Significant coming together had occurred, in that the original appellants -- the Venice Town Council and myself -- had realized that in appealing these developments and saving the space for local folks, local folks had had little input into the proceedings.

The Sunday meeting had accomplished that at some level, with a variety of community activists coming together and unifying around the need to preserve local planning abilities for this space.

When Gehry requested an extension of the voting, it became important to figure out a way to keep this positive energy going.

There is public time available at State Coastal Commission meetings -- time where members of the public can speak to the Commissioners about issues not scheduled on the agenda. Virtually any topic can be discussed. So the community decided to utilize this opportunity to speak about local planning and local needs for housing and self-determination. Pearl White, Arnold Springer, Bob Castile, and Moe Stavnezer spoke to the Commission on public time, and the Commission had the opportunity to really hear from Venice residents; many spoke to the Commission for the first time in a very long while.

And the timing couldn't have been better, for on Monday March 19, the Commission had the opportunity to tour Venice. Actually, just two Commissioners participated in the tour, but they were shown most of what Venice is about. From the Marina, the Commissioners drove through the Canals, along the Silver Strand, through the condominialized Peninsula up to North Beach, stopping at the Levin Center and Breeze Avenue to talk to local residents, and then continuing past Windward at Ocean Front Walk and the Ace Gallery, travelling up Main Street past the Hammond Lumber Company and the under-construction Richlar warehouse, past the site of the Gehry project, and around the corner of Rose and Main into Oakwood.

In Oakwood, the Commissioners stopped by NAPP, drove a long loop through the neighborhood, and ended at CSO where local residents were waiting to talk over coffee and doughnuts.

All over Venice, local folks had been able to talk to the Commission -- and it was evident when these permits came up for voting that the Commission had listened.

People from Venice have been speaking to the Commission for a long time -- but after awhile it has been a lot of the same folks over and over. This time the difference was significant and very powerful: it wasn't just a few individuals talking about housing in some neighborhood somewhere in Venice, it was folks from their own neighborhood talking about their own housing and about their own desire and need to be able to remain in their own community. It was pretty powerful stuff.

I have been doing Coastal Commission stuff for almost a year, and my concerns in getting involved had to do with me feeling very threatened in my space. I like living in Venice, and I realized that if developers start tearing down old buildings and erecting condominiums all around me, I won't be able to live here any more. It has felt very good to be able to express my concerns about my area to this State Commission.

What felt really good about the things that happened in March was that it wasn't just me, it wasn't just the usual appellants -- what felt so good was that the community actually got together and shared some real energy about some very real problems that do affect us all, regardless of where we live or what we do for a living or what our previous political involvements have been. A lot of people who hadn't been pulling together for a while pulled together, and the strength of that combined energy not only felt good, it accomplished a whole hell of a lot.

Maybe that is the way to work for this community after all: together. We are in the same boat here in Venice, and if the boat goes down, we all lose.

On the other hand, if we can keep that boat together -- @

village by the sea

a fable

Photo:
Pam Munyer

By Roger Thornton

Once upon a time there was a place called Village-by-the-Sea. Most of the villagers lived in little cottages for which they paid a monthly tribute to the rich barons who owned all the land. No one questioned why they had to pay the tribute because they had paid it for as long as anyone could remember. It was the way things were. Besides, the tribute was not too great and the villagers enjoyed living in the Village-by-the-Sea. They could walk on the beach, watch the waves, smell the salt air, feel the refreshing breeze, or merely sit and watch the clouds pass overhead.

The villagers were watched over and protected by THE SEVEN who were called the Village Fathers although some of them were mothers. No one questioned why the Village Fathers did not have to pay any tribute or were friends of the barons and got to go to their parties. That was the way things always had been. Besides, the villagers could walk on the beach, watch the waves, and so on.

Most of the Village Fathers worshiped a god they called Modernity. They believed that whatever was modern was good, what was more modern was better, and what was most modern was best. The barons also worshiped Modernity--which is maybe why the Village Fathers worshiped Modernity--because it made them powerful and that was good too. The barons often traveled to faraway places to find things that were modern and bring them back to the Village-by-the-Sea. Often the Village Fathers helped the barons bring modern things to the village.

If things that were modern were good, this meant that things that were not modern were not good. Little cottages next to one another surrounded by grass and trees were not modern. Little cottages piled on top of one another and surrounded by concrete and asphalt were modern and, therefore, were good. So the Village Fathers helped the barons tear down the little cottages and build the piles of cottages. They were happy because the village was more modern. Some of the villagers were unhappy to see the little cottages disappear, but they did not say too much because it was the Village Father's decision and the Village Fathers had always made the decisions. Besides, the villagers could walk on the beach, watch the waves, and so on.

One day the barons learned of a machine which could squeeze blood out of a turnip. Now, they thought, this is really modern. So they brought the machine to the Village-by-the-Sea. But alas, there were no turnips in the village. This machine is worthless, some cried. But it can't be worthless if it is modern, came the answer. The machine must be used. Maybe it could be converted to squeeze blood out of something else. The barons thought and thought. Then it came to them. They might not have any turnips, but they did have a lot of villagers. If the machine could squeeze blood out of turnips, surely it could be modified so that it could squeeze higher tribute from the villagers. With the help of the Village Fathers, they made the necessary adjustments and began to squeeze more tribute from the villagers.

For a while the villagers paid the higher tribute because they had always paid tribute--although not as much as they were paying now. Besides, they could always walk on the beach--though not as much as before because they had to spend more time gathering tribute to give to the barons.

The barons, aided by the Village Fathers, continued to make improvements on their machine. They talked to barons in other villages in the realm and got more ideas on how to perfect their machine. They reasoned that if one member of a family living in a cottage could gather "X" amount of tribute, two members of that family could gather even more. Therefore, the limit on the amount of tribute the barons could demand could be increased.

There was a snag though. Some of the families had children who were not old enough to gather tribute. Even worse, often one of the adult members of the family had to take some time away from gathering tribute to take care of the children. Clearly this was a problem for the barons. Again they thought and thought. If only there was some way to get rid of those damned children. Then it came to them. They could make some of the cottage piles into adult-only piles. This would allow all of those living in these cottages to gather tribute full-time. Some of the villagers did not like this too much, but there was always the beach. Besides, if they did not like it, they could always move to another village. Moving from village to village was quite modern. The barons did not care because there were many people from other villages who wanted to move to the Village-by-the-Sea.




As time went on, a funny thing happened to the barons. They began to think of the villagers not as people, but as tribute gatherers. This made it easier. People had names; tribute gatherers did not. People had needs, tribute gatherers did not. People were measured in many ways; tribute gatherers only by how efficient they were in gathering tribute. What this village needs, thought the barons, is more efficient tribute gatherers. Older tribute gatherers were less efficient, so they were pushed out to make room for more efficient, younger tribute gatherers. The very young were also not very efficient, so they were banned from more and more cottage piles. Besides, tribute gatherers could be raised in other villages and imported into the Village-by-the-Sea as they became more efficient--division of labor was also very modern. The barons had finally perfected their machine. They were happy. The Village Fathers were happy because the barons were happy.

This would have gone on for a long time, maybe forever, but strange things began to happen. Some of the villagers began to think. They began to question the wisdom of the Village Fathers. The villagers began to talk to one another. Just because the Village Fathers and the barons thought of the villagers as tribute gatherers

did not mean that they had to think of themselves in that way. Heresy! There must be more to life than gathering tribute. More heresy! Maybe the Village Fathers don't really know what is best for us. The new ultra-modern hermetically-sealed shopping center began to quiver! More and more villagers began to talking to one another. They began talking to people from other villages in the realm.

Some of the villagers began to read books about the history of the realm and discovered an astonishing thing. A long time ago the entire realm had belonged to a Super-Baron who lived on the other side of the Eastern Sea. He, too, received tribute from the people who lived in the realm. He, too, had demanded more and more tribute. Finally the people had had enough. They organized against the Super-Baron and threw him out of the realm. Not unlike our own situation, the villagers thought. They began to organize and plan how they could throw the barons out of the village. The ultra-modern hermetically-sealed shopping center began to shake violently and the cork popped off the top of Champagne Towers, one of the tallest cottage piles in the city.

Some of the villagers went to the meetings of the Village Fathers and demanded that they be treated like people and not tribute gatherers. They demanded that older people not be thrown out of the village and that children be again allowed to live there. An accordion leaped to its death from the top of Champagne Towers. The Village Fathers were sore afraid and ran to the barons for advice. The barons did the modern thing and hired a bunch of mercenaries to try to convince the villagers that they were much better off being tribute gatherers and that if they insisted on acting like people, the village would decay. The Village Fathers made a rule which said that the amount of tribute could be increased only once a year, but it was too late. The villagers had become accustomed to thinking for themselves. They had found that they enjoyed talking and working together. They found that they did not have to rely on the so-called wisdom of the Village Fathers; that they, the villagers, had better ideas than the Village Fathers, and that it was they, the people, who made the village what it was, not the barons. They found that instead of letting the barons pick the Village Fathers, they could choose the village rule-makers from among themselves. Finally, they found that while this did not guarantee that they would all live happily ever after, it did allow them to live as human beings, and that was quite an accomplishment in itself.



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Our Bodies Our Will

by Nelson J. Schwartz

The military draft is the most unconstitutional idea ever devised. The 13th Amendment outlawed involuntary servitude even though many southern states had a compelling state interest in the continuance of slavery.

To force an individual to fight and possibly kill or die as a result because there is a compelling state interest in defending the country is at least as bad as forcing a woman to become pregnant against her will to continue the human species if someday, no woman wants to have children voluntarily. Those who support forced military service because of national interest would logically support forced pregnancies if such became necessary for the national interest of the survival of the American species. Just as substantial justice requires that no person be forced to testify against himself in a criminal trial, it is even more fundamental that no person's body be used against his or her will.

The only reason forced military service may sound less repulsive to the average American than forced pregnancies is because the former, having been "necessary" and therefore practiced in the past, has lost most of its repulsiveness due to its past practice. Somehow, people do not mind injustice that they are accustomed to as much as unfamiliar forms of justice.

Erma (cont. from pg. 3)

crazies, winos, and other assorted street people, who were often discouraged elsewhere. Erma would chat with them -- sometimes try to argue them out of their addiction -- would often offer them free food if they came in drunk trying to wheedle her into a gift or loan of more booze.

"You can have something to eat, but nothing more to drink," I'd tell them. The winos, sure they act up sometimes. But they're all good guys, they're good people."

The area near Erma's doorway was the real sidewalk cafe of Venice for years, until Windward began its gradual transmogrification ("a transformation into something absurd and grotesque"). The premature demise of Erma's store, and what that means to street people, is probably the most significant of all the recent changes on Windward Avenue.

I discovered Erma's when I moved into the St. Charles Hotel 3 1/2 years ago. I am always drawn to the dark, cluttered, homey mom-&-pop type businesses over their sleek impersonal counterparts. I soon found that Erma's prices on everything from aspirin and cough drops to cigarettes and brandy were significantly cheaper than at the drugstore or other Windward liquor store. And she had two surprisingly eclectic used book racks with everything from Perry Mason to Shakespeare for 15 - 30 cents. Plus she'd let me trade in my unwanted paperbacks at 3-for-one, so I needed no money at all to get books. Then when I joined the Beachhead collective and took over our distribution in North Beach, I began stopping in about every other day to put papers in the huge old wooden magazine rack just inside the door. Erma always had a smile, a hello, a joke, a bit of gossip. A year ago, wanting to have different age groups represented in my "Venice Inner Views" piece (Beachhead 100th issue, April '78), Erma agreed to talk for publication about her life and the changes she'd seen in Venice. After that we were very special friends.

Erma must be out of the building by April 15th. Meanwhile the back of the store is already being prepared for its new incarnation. Erma will retire to her home down south (near Abalone Cove), though not from choice: as she said in her interview, "At my age I suppose I should retire, but I'd miss the people and I'd miss the business... I've always worked, all my life."

So Venice is losing another good friend, and the speculation-inflated Venice landrush claims another victim. Erma herself has written the closing words to her Venice story:

Hi & a sorta goodbye to Venice -- all my nice customers & the many friends I have in the 14 yrs in Armour's Liquor. I'll miss each & every one of you, but no one can pay that much rent. They leased me out. Money talks & sure talks loud in Venice. I'm losing my shirt, 14 years of hard work & nothing. But I still have my self-respect and my friends. I love you all.

Erma

HEADS of STATE APPROVE POT POISON

Paraquat spraying of marijuana fields will continue as usual in Mexico, according to a report by High Times correspondent A. Craig Copetas, who accompanied President Carter on his recent trip to Mexico.

White House press secretary Jody Powell was quoted as saying that Carter and Mexican president Jose Lopez Portillo did not discuss the environmental and health aspects of the controversial herbicide paraquat during their meetings. Powell did say that Carter and Portillo discussed finding acceptable markers that will give color and odor to paraquat-treated marijuana that might later be harvested and shipped to the United States.

Said one American cultural attache: "The paraquat program may have become a bargaining point for Carter." Another official said that the Mexicans were shocked to discover that the most successful of the Mexican-American bilateral programs was under intense public pressure in the United States to be discontinued.

Mexican attorney general Oscar Flores Sanchez, in charge of the Mexican end of the eradication program, was said to be outraged that the bilateral program might have to take into account the health of American marijuana smokers. U.S. Embassy officials involved in the program, and Cesar Bernal, who is in charge of the American side of the project, refused to comment on the paraquat issue.

"Let them spray all the herbicides they want," said an American who farms pot in Mexico. "We have turned our production to smaller, more potent plots of marijuana that no government will ever discover."

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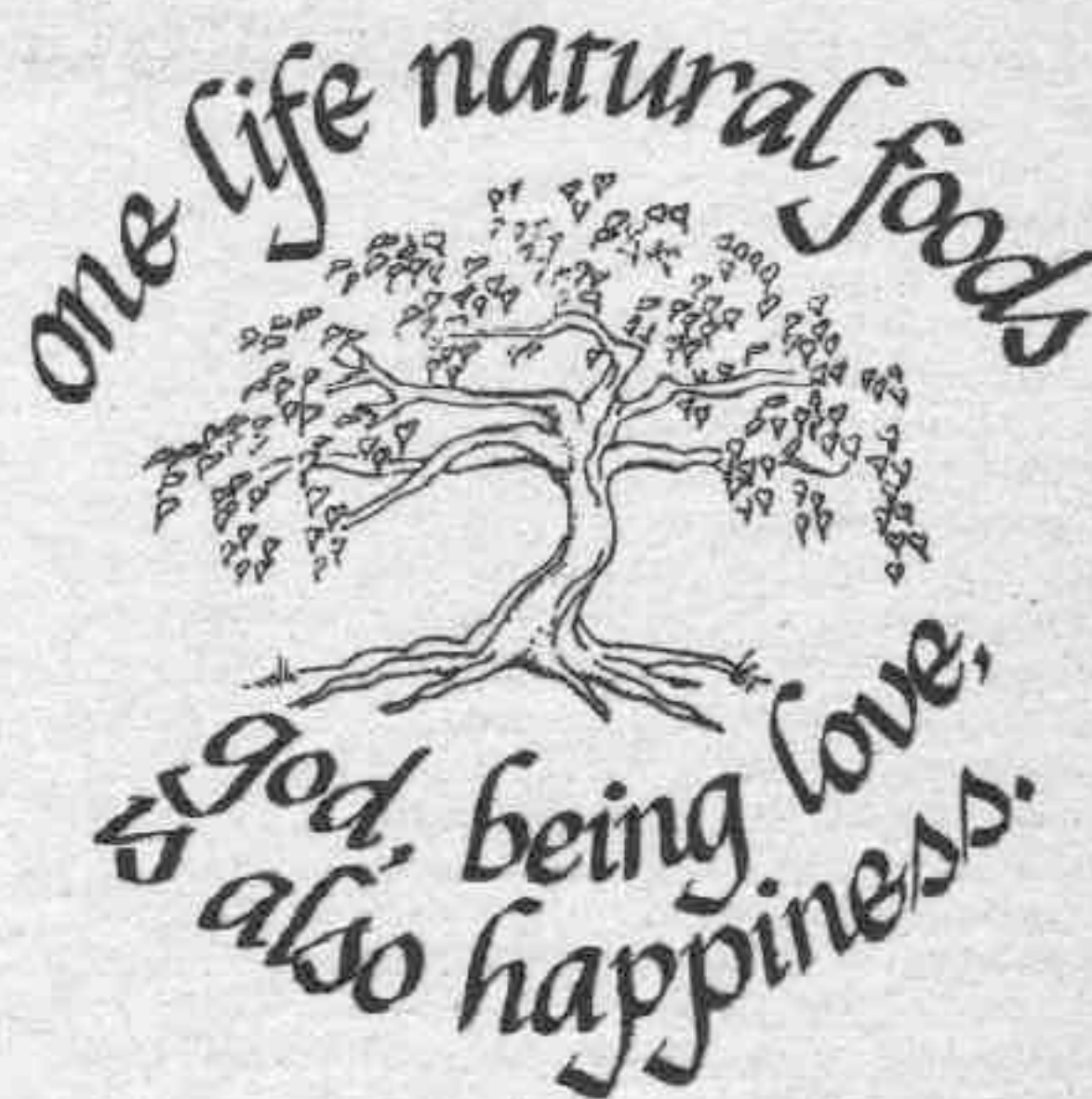
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AUTO INSURANCE

pincer tactic Paul Dileski

The California auto insurance industry is maneuvering into a position to claim monstrous profits. Following the example of conquerors before them, the industry, by taking advantage of well intended insurance laws, is catching drivers in a pincer tactic.

In one direction drivers are compelled by the Financial Responsibility law of 1975 to have insurance if they have an accident. However this law is not all that strong, so legislation is presently being proposed in both the Assembly and State Senate to make it compulsory to carry an insurance identification card and to present it when registering a car. This will make an iron clad pincer in one direction.

At the same time pinching in from the other direction is the fact that the insurance industry controls who it'll take. All else are assigned to them by the State and forced to render a staggering premium for just the minimum coverage demanded by state law.

What this means is that ultimately people now considered safe drivers could, by law, wind up on assigned risk paying an unfair rate. Too obvious a gambit? This is being done right now. The cases of good drivers on assigned risk, are numerous.

If the insurance industry can succeed in legislating compulsory insurance, and at the same time continue regulating who will pay standard prices, while extracting from all others the exorbitant assigned risk rates, there will be no way to escape their monstrous jaws. The time to start maneuvering for escape is now.

The insurance commissioner is Wesley Kinder, Dept. 600, So. Commonwealth, Los Angeles, CA. 90005. The Registrar of Voters (974-6711) will give you the name and address of your State Sen. and Assemblyman.

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14 Continued from Page 4

Another teacher, Bill Rogers, summed up the Playgroup attitude in a most clear, if embarrassing way. Taking the microphone with exasperated annoyance he gave the community a little lecture, saying, quote, "You Oakwood people don't understand that that facility is going to be yours. It was put there for your advantage."

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Several City Council candidates were there. Annette Robinson of the Venice Civic Union urged the Oakwood people to make some compromise. Ronn Pickard opposed the project because, he said, Oakwood could get its way by violence and so the project could not succeed anyway. Arnold Butler of Crenshaw, the only Black candidate, inquired carefully into the situation and then joined the community in explaining to the Playgroup why it was that they were unwelcome. Curtis Rossiter of Pat Russell's office pointed out that the Playgroup could always go ahead with 20 children without any clearance from the zoning board.

The evening ended with the positions of the two sides clearly stated and clearly apart. The facilitators mentioned the possibility of compromising around the use of the site, but there was no time left to discuss it, and on the part of the community people, no interest.

Since the meeting the Playgroup people, particularly Tim Rudnick and Carolyn Rios, have taken the position that they are going to get the childcare center onto that site regardless of the opposition. They're saying that the Oakwood Black leadership are only self-serving politicians who don't represent the community, and that they, the Playgroup, are going to go door-to-door in Oakwood to generate their own support. They say that some Black leaders have either threatened them or offered to take bribes.

Larry Abrams, for one, has gone out of his way to try to help the Playgroup understand the Black position. He, and others with long experience in the community, have told them that while the Oakwood leadership may seem to them to be



flawed, compromised, or imperfect, they ARE the community leaders, and they do represent the wishes of the people in regard to the Playgroup. Larry pointed out that the Oakwood Black community is just now beginning to pull itself together in opposition to outside pressure, especially from developers, and he asked the Playgroup to try to understand the overriding importance of this. He expressed his grave concern about the possibility of "tragedy" if the Playgroup imposes itself on the community, in a way that was clearly a sincere warning and not a threat. (This writer has heard the same warning from other Oakwood Blacks and would not interpret any of them as threats.)

VENICE TOWN COUNCIL DEBATE

At the March 21 meeting of the Venice Town Council the question was raised of the Town Council's 1978 letter to the zoning board supporting the Playgroup. The position was put forward, mainly by myself, Rick Davidson, and Ethel Bertolini, that the Town Council should not continue to support the Playgroup in the face of opposition from the Black community. We said that in spite of all good intentions, this was another example of the privileged imposing their will on the oppressed. We stressed again the necessity of the different Venice communities uniting in opposition to outside pressures to drive us all out of here, and said that this kind of unity could be established only on the basis of the principled support of the Anglo community for the right of Black people to self-determination, a principle being violated by the Playgroup in a classically white-supremist and imperialistic way.

It was suggested that maybe the Town Council should call for a compromise around the use of the site. This was argued against on the grounds that the privileged and powerful cannot sincerely talk of compromise as long as they have the oppressed jacked up against a wall. Only if the Playgroup were to say to the Black community, "If you are still opposed to this project on the 27th we will tell the zoning board that as far as Oakwood is concerned we're dropping the center completely: not even 20 kids. This is a commitment -- if this is what you want,

we will do it. But in the meantime we would ask you to try to think of some compromise you can offer us." A difficult demand to make on the Playgroup, but in this situation in a white-supremist society, the only principled grounds from which Anglos can talk to Blacks about compromise.

The Town Council voted to withdraw its previous letter of support and replace it with this statement, which Rick Davidson presented to the zoning board at the March 27th meeting:

"The members of the Venice Town Council support the concept of community child-care as a co-operative venture.

"We give even greater support to the concept of self-determination by the Black community of Venice.

"If these two concepts cannot be reconciled, then we would give help and support to the Venice Community Playgroup to find an alternative site for their facility outside of Oakwood."

THE MARCH 27 HEARING

The zoning hearing on the 27th was well attended by both sides. The positions remained unchanged. The commissioners asked people to limit their remarks to the childcare center and its physical effects on adjacent properties, and not to talk about other possible uses, or about socio-economic or racial or political questions. They were immediately challenged by Pearl White: "People who want to move us around use Boards like this to put words in our mouth to make us say what they want us to say. You CANNOT discuss only the childcare group." To her the issue clearly was the continued existence of the Black community and the right to self-determination: "You had to buy property to live there after World War II -- we were not welcome anywhere else. The City was wrong in the way they brought this to us. We WILL be consulted. We will not have the childcare center in Oakwood." Velisha Mande, Mabel Lipscomb, and others from the Black community made the same points.

City Council candidate Ronn Pickard spoke of "riots" in the area and repeated his opposition to the project on safety grounds. Black candidate Arnold Butler said that if the commissioners approved

the variance they would be pitting one part of the community against another. When asked about the Venice Plan he responded, "Gentlemen, there is no general plan for the Oakwood community except for its demise."

Carolyn Rios, speaking for the Playgroup, dismissed the Black speakers as self-serving politicians -- "We're parents, our concern is children." She brushed off the petition as "virtually worthless -- 300 names out of 50,000 in Oakwood," and denied the Playgroup was racist. She reviewed what the Playgroup sees as the advantages of its project, including the fact that there is no other childcare facility in the neighborhood for children under 4 years of age. Robin Rudnick of the Playgroup added that membership in the Playgroup is now closed to all except Oakwood parents, and that the Playgroup is still trying to form an Advisory Board that would involve people from the community.

The zoning board voted to approve the variance for 40 children. As of this issue of the BEACHHEAD the next steps seem to be for the Playgroup to proceed to apply for building permits from the L.A. Dept. of Building and Safety and the Coastal Commission (which permits are now issued through the City as well).★



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Continued from Page 4

Commission in passing the permit process over to local, Los Angeles, control is trying to develop a Community Advisory Council approach to planning in this area, an approach which calls for just the kind of community voice that was expressed on this appeal. In fact, Ms. White had already become involved in pulling together a coalition of agencies in Oakwood to meet with State and local planners and architects to develop community-relevant plans for use of the Southern Pacific right-of-way land due to pass soon into public hands.

The Commission denied a permit to the developer of the racquet-ball court and another victory for community self-determination was struck.

In that spirit, the Oakwood Tattler and the Beachhead encourage articles, letters, opinions, etc. from people in the Oakwood community as a forum to express themselves on issues that affect them, as they see it. We would like to help that voice grow stonger by making the Beachhead a welcome haven for the Tide.★

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an april spoof New Gallery Opening

by Gloria Jean-Leader

When Artists Only changed hands at the turn of the year, Salvatore Orlando, the new owner, said it was his intention to establish a small gallery for local artists and to eventually publish a paper announcing the news and shows of its membership. He has now decided to turn his remodelling efforts to an advantage toward this end and is announcing his first show, a performance sculpture on his West Wall called "Burlap Over Pegboard". He informed me that he has invested \$124.96 and eighty-four hours in this piece, and it was his feeling that a work of this magnitude deserved some recognition. He intends to continue his work on this creation, and this week he is announcing the next phase of the show, which he calls "Ironing the Wall". He pointed out the versatility of the piece, which can also be enjoyed as conceptual art between performances. He says he believes that increases its aesthetic, as well as real, value. "This is a study in evolution," Orlando says, "where in a matter of weeks you have the opportunity to observe a process that sometimes takes centuries in nature." He compared that to a religious experience. Orlando also claims he uses "all biodegradable materials, and in a period of time, the work will disintegrate naturally." Another step in the fight for ecological awareness on this planet.

Orlando invites artists and the public alike to turn out for this week's event, and he welcomes comments and criticisms by all. A comment box will be available at the cite, and the most eloquent suggestion of the week will be rewarded with the free framing of a print of the commentator's choice. Hours of viewing will be between 11:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. on Monday through Saturday.

The show will be in four phases, the third being "Stapling the Burlap", and the fourth, "Hanging", which will feature the work of a yet unannounced artist brave enough to follow Orlando's act. The show is expected to run through April.

Elsewhere in Venice, artist Adrienne Prober is applying for a grant to do a group mural on roller skates. The project will involve twelve artists on skates, twelve colors, twelve buckets of paint, and twelve rollers with which to apply the paint. "That adds up to forty-eight pieces of equipment, including the artists," Prober advised, "and numerologically forty-eight breaks down to twelve. That is significant because the number twelve has been symbolic in many religions and solar mysteries. Working this formula out has been like a miracle itself." She confided that her first choice of cites is the facade of co-artist Susan Weinberg's studio on Ocean Front Walk and did not seem deterred by the fact that Susan had painted her own mural at the cite.

Prober is looking to get the project rolling by the end of summer and pointed out that her piece could technically serve two categories of art. "It is principally a performance piece," she said, "creating a lasting impression."

Weinberg, in the meantime, has not acted upon Adrienne's request for her cite. She is heavily involved in a current project with saxophonist Frank Morgan to create a small, intimate jazz club with art shows in her studio. They will be open to the public by invitation and will cater to a clientele of serious art and music lovers. Additionally, she has been busy filling out forms as Project Director for five CETA artists selected through AFEA. The forms essentially account for time in categories: in the studio, out of the studio, at the project cite, going to meetings, finding cites, requesting donations, buying supplies, going to galleries, putting up shows. When asked, she said there was no form for time spent filling out forms. As far as meeting with Adrienne Prober to discuss the project, she said she would handle it as soon as she could find the time.

Meanwhile, Adrienne is in a group show

entitled "Venice About Venice" at the Helen Drue Gallery on Washington Blvd. The theme is "Impressions of Venice as seen through the eyes of" ten featured artists. The exhibition opens April Fool's Day.☆

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2920 Lincoln Blvd.
Santa Monica

Jim Gillio
President
Michael Horbund
Manager

music

Baron Stewart live in concert with The Load & spec. guest Angelle Trosclair, April 6, 7:30 PM, at the FOX VENICE, 620 Lincoln Blvd., \$5.50-7.50, reserved seating only; Ticketron/FV box-office.

FIGTREE'S COFFEE HOUSE, 429 Ocean Front Walk just so. of Rose, presents local musicians regularly & for free, w/auditions Thursdays 5-8 PM. April: --Chas. Hammer, classical & renaissance guitar, Fri 6, 13, 20th, 6 to 8 PM

--Sat. 7th, Adie Gray (noon-4) & Janice Mann (4PM)

--2 Sundays, 8th & 15, Beverly Spaulding plays jazz-blues, 1-5 PM; Joel Curtis from 5-9 PM.

--4 Fridays, 3:30-7:30, Ann Hughes "variety of songs"; also Sat 14 & 28 1-4 PM followed by music & humor of Colin Sphincter at 4 PM.

--Alfred Johnson does original music Tues. 17th 6:30-8:30 & Sat 21st 2-4 PM

--Pamela Graham plays 4-9 PM Sat 21 & Fri 27th.

--Jingles & Frank featured Sun. 22nd at 1 PM.

--Fred Gerlach plays 12-string guitar on Sun. 29th at 4 PM, lots of blues.

2nd & 4th Tues - call for details: 396-5559.

At the CHURCH IN OCEAN PARK, 235 Hill St., corner 2nd & Hill, S.M., 399-1631:

--Sat. 7th, 8 PM, Ocean Park Baroque Chamber Ensemble, benefit for the Church, don. \$3

--Apr 28 & 29 at 8 PM, Ric Masten, humanist poet & musician, \$3.50 at the door.

Also Baroque music as part of the Easter Sunday service, 4/15 at 10 AM.

At McCABE'S, Pico at 31st St., S.M., 828-4497:

--Easter Sun., 4/15, 11 AM & Noon, children's Concert w/Marcia Berman & JP Nightengale, also Mallory Pearce, puppeteer - \$1.50

--Sun. 22nd, 8 PM: BENEFIT CONCERT FOR AMNESTY INT'L w/Michele Browman, Marcy Dieterow, & Dale Gonyea, \$4.

For other concerts, see their flyer or call.

The GEORGE SAND is at a new location, 9011 Melrose Ave (across from Cafe Figaro) & have a new phone: 858-1648. They have musical events every Wednesday at 8 PM, including this month a special evening of Shakespearean Song by Sharon Gilbert in celebration of WS's birthday, on the 25th -- call for other programs or write for flyer.

Beyond Baroque presents FREE concerts on Saturdays at 8 PM at OLD VENICE CITY HALL, 681 Ven Blvd., info: 392-5763. This month:

--Great Dicheili orig. music for guitar, voice, piano, violin & flute, April 7th

--L.A. Free Music Society, orig. music, 14th.

--Apr 21st, Amici Musicae, medieval & renaissance in costume on authentic instruments

--Pat Russ plays classical guitar on 28th.

The TAURUS TAVERN at 1616 W. Wash Blvd, 399-9787, features jazz, blues, & rock, incl. some local talent. Watch for flyers.

The new BANJO CAFE at 2906 Lincoln (next to the Brandywine) has bluegrass music nightly starting at 8; Open Mike Night Mondays beginning about 7:30, no sign-ups req'd, bluegrass & other. Beer, wine, food, no cover. 392-5716.

The COMEBACK INN, 1633 W Wash Blvd, 396-7255, has music nightly except Mons, w/Beverly Spaulding & friends doing jazz/blues most weekends.

THE BLUE LUGUNE SALOON, 4080 Lincoln, MDR, 822-9121, variety of musicians; watch for posted flyers.

POETRY

Venice Poets present their work every Tuesday evening, 7:30-9:30 at the Old Venice Jail (now the SPARC bldg), 685 Ven Blvd. THESE ARE THE READINGS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY HELD IN THE VENICE PAVILION. Info, Steve Goldman, 823-1158.

FIGTREE'S COFFEE HOUSE, 429 OFW, 396-5559, has open poetry readings every Wed night from 6:30 PM.

BEYOND BAROQUE, 1639 W Wash., 392-5763, has open poetry readings most Fri, sign-ups 8 PM, starts 8:15 sharp, followed by featured poets:

--Fri, Apr 6 - Deena Metzger

--Fri, Apr 13 - Easter weekend, no reading

--Apr 20 - Jean Samuel & Olivia Sanchez

--Apr 27 - Randy Blasing

--May 4 - David Meltzer

The GEORGE SAND BOOK & ART STORE has poetry readings by published scheduled poets every Thursday evening at 8 PM. They have recently moved across town so we will no longer carry individual listings. Write or call for program. Now at 9011 Melrose Ave.; phone 858-1648.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

~ APRIL 1979 ~

CLASSES

International Folk Dancing Classes w/Karla Choate, 2nd & 4th Suns at 2 PM, UNIVERSAL LIFE ALLIANCE, 1301 W Wash, 399-3221; comfortable clds.

COMMUNITAS offers free self-defense classes for women, seniors, children, Mon nites at CHURCH IN O.P., 235 Hill St, SM, beg. Mon Apr 9 at 7:30 & next 3 Mons. Instructor, Cathy Barber, of Self-Defense Task Force. Adv. reg. call 392-8376.

New Age Classes: Chart Construction I, Chart Interpreting I, Intermed & Adv Chart Interp., Alchemical Workshop: at FANTASY MEETS REALITY, 132 Broadway, S.M., tel. 451-3461, on Sats/Suns.

The YWCA is giving a Jogging & Fitness class, incl. cardio-vascular monitoring, meeting at at VENICE BEACH for a run along the sand Thurs at 5:30 PM starting Apr 19 & May 24. 5-\$10. Also beg Apr 16, rollerskating classes by VENICE PAVILION, OF Walk & Windward, (also jog above); --Skating Basics, Thurs's, 10 AM, 5 wks/\$10.

--Roller Disco Combo, children/adults, 10:30 to noon beg. Sat 21st; 5 sessions=\$15.

Skates & pads avail. at 50% off to class members from CheapSkates & Ven Precision Rollerworks. Y fitness instr. Maren Talbot & guest skaters.

** PHONE ON ABOVE: 478-1228, 270-4117

Use these #'s also if you want to trade, sell, or buy skates from the "Skate Swap." ALSO -

--Apr 28, 10 AM, a supervised Skating Tour for all ages from Ven to Playa del Rey & back (by 3 PM). Meet at Pavilion; \$4 adults, \$3 children; skating, exercise, & disco instruction on tour.

--Roller Disco Party for youths/adults on big wooden floor of SM YWCA gym, Fri, May 4. Lessons 7:30-8:30 PM, party 8:30-12:30; adults \$2, teens & children, \$1.50. Skates for rent; bring ID. CONTACT YWCA, 10936 SM Blvd., 478-1228.

The CHURCH IN OCEAN PARK, 235 Hill St., SM, 399-1631, has many ongoing classes such as ballet, yoga, exercise, creative dance, art experience, growth in relationships. Call or write for flyer.

THE UNIVERSAL LIFE ALLIANCE, 1031 W Wash., also offers ongoing classes in such subjects as spiritual psych., arts of perception, meditation & psychic develop, etc. Phone 399-3221 or write.

I.D.E.A. (Institute for Dance & Experimental Art) 522 SM Blvd, 395-0456, has reg classes in ballet, disco, modern, jazz, basic movement, creative dance for children, etc. Call or write for flyer.

NEW AGE CENTE R LIFE, 1515 Palisades Dr, Ste N, Pac. Pal, 90272. Tel 459-5861. Growth groups, workshops, talks, on such subjects as dream process, creative synthesis, Egyptian Tarot, gestalt therapy, Jungian/Dream Process, etc. Ave. \$5

OTHER

Writer's Cramp West will meet Tuesday nights 7:30 to approx 11 PM for writers to share work and ideas, & they badly need a place to meet, preferably a cafe or restaurant w/no loud music. About 35 people, naturally paying for their own refreshments. Send postcard to WCW, 920 Venice Blvd #220, Ven 90291. Potential members: more info, send card w/local phone # to above address or stamped addressed envelope (SASE).

Public meeting on rollerskater congestion in No. Beach, at VENICE PAVILION, Wed Apr 4, 7:30 PM, by LA City Dept of Rec & Parks. Pat Russell's proposal for re-routing bike path w/be discussed

At the UNIVERSAL LIFE ALLIANCE, a non-profit psychic/spiritual study center, 1031 W Wash., 399-3221, "Celebration of Life" Sundays at 11AM. Inspirational message, healing meditation, live music, grp singing, psychic readings, refreshments & social gathering. Public invited.

THE FRONT PORCH TEA HOUSE/GALLERY
April 5 - Thurs. 6:30 pm - Dinner served
"Temples in India" slide show
April 21 - Sat. 1:00pm - 1st Annual Spring Flute Festival - Donation \$2 - Refreshments
April 26 - Thurs. 6:30pm - "Venice Cart Festival" slide show of "Ratha-Yatra Day" Dinner served.

DANCE

Apr 8, Sun morn at 10AM, Rodeo Ex Machina, the resident dance co at the CHURCH IN OCEAN PARK, 235 Hill St, SM, "turns the traditional Palm Sunday into a lilting aesthetic event." That evening at 8 PM, "Dances of Universal Peace," with Tasnim of the LA Sufi Order. More Sufi dancing at 7:30 PM on Sun the 22nd.

WOMEN

YARD/GARAGE SALE benefit for Lesbian News, Sat & Sun, May 5-6, 11801 Wagner St, Culver City (1 blk so of Culver, 2 blks ea of Inglewood, 10AM -5 PM. DONATE, call for pickup: 837-6874; 839-6426

COMMUNITAS is offering a free self-defense class for women, seniors, children. See more info under "Classes" heading.

Free women only health classes at WESTSIDE WOMENS CLINIC, 1711 Ocean Park Blvd, S.M., 450-2191, on Monday eves, 7-9 PM (no class Apr 16):

--"Menopause, Sexuality & Ageism" - Lynn Laredo, April 9th

--"Wild Edibles=Herbs" Gail McDonald, Apr 23

--"Polarity Therapy" Shannon Sobel, Apr 30

Radical Therapy Action Rap at 1946 14th St., SM, just no of Pico, 2nd & 4th Fris ea month, 7:15 to 10 PM on time, \$5 donation. A place to come for pers. problem solving, making contact w/other women, learning about RT. 829-4165 (Bond Wright, answering service).

ART

"Artists for Survival: A Festival of Arts" w/ works by Bob Althouse, Judy Baca, Peter Carr, Anthony Fiorillo, Yuval Golan, & Barbara Pelochino at THE OLD VENICE JAIL GALLERY, Social & Public Arts Resource Center (SPARC), 685 Ven Blvd, thru the 21st, co-sponsored by Alliance for Survival. Gallery hrs: M & F: 10 AM - 6 PM; Tues, W, Thurs: 10 AM - 9 PM. Info: 822-9560.

At the GALERIE CLAUDE SENOUP, 35 Market St., 392-6324, the pastels of Calif. artist Fredo Sutton can be seen beg. Apr 5. Hrs 11 AM - 5 PM Tues-Sat.

Drawings & paintings of Venice by local artists Gil Borgos, Kenneth Bracken, William Cole, Patti Flynn, Jane Golden, Chris Paine, Adrienne Prober, Sheldon Tarrant, Ruth San Pietro, & B.J. Wilson in an exhibit "Venice about Venice" at HELEN DRUE GALLERY, 1023 W Wash. Blvd., 392-6078.

I.D.E.A. GALLERY, 522 Santa Monica Blvd., 395-0456, is open to the public Mons thru Thurs, 10-noon & 1-5 PM; featuring Claudia Chapline's glass installation thru the 12th; then call.

THEATER

A Traveling Jewish Theatre's first offering, "Coming From A Great Distance"---a movement thru images and voices into the legend of the Ball Shem Tov ---will play at the following locations before moving on to New York: (all at 8 PM):

--Sat, Apr 7, LEO BECK TEMPLE, 1300 Sepulveda, WLA

--Apr 14 & 15, CHURCH IN O.P., 235 Hill St., S.M.

--Apr 28, UCLA HILLEL, 900 Hilgard, Westwood

Reservations - call 650-7063

Also at the CHURCH IN OCEAN PARK, Rocky Solomon's

theater piece "The Human Being," on Sat eve, 4/21

Political

Venice Town Council meets 3rd Wed every month at VENICE CITY HALL, 681 N. Ven Blvd, 7:30 PM. See page 2 for agenda.

the NEW AGE CAUCUS ("simple living & high thinking") has speakers/meetings on Thursdays, 7:30 PM 11771 S.M. Blvd, 1 1/2 blks w of Barrington (free):

--Apr 5 "Pers Transformation/Social Trans.", pol. & soc. implications of holistic health training w/Charlotte Colorado.

--Apr 12, "AB-23: The Non-Violence Bill," a non-vi. approach for preventing violence, discussed by Dan Maziarz.

--Apr 19, "The Love Network," Dr. James Gould on how the power of love can affect world politics

--Apr 26, "The Tax Revolt & Alternatives to Government," Derek Brownlee talks about exploiting the rift betw. business & government.

-- INFO: 820-8182 weekdays --

A Crop Walk will be held May 6th in the Ven-OP-SM area, proceeds to St. Joseph Ctr, Ven; Los Ninos, Tijuana; Interfaith Hunger Coalition; St. Augustine-by-the-Sea Social Outreach Project, SM; Calif Food Policy Advocate in Sacramento. Local CROP leaders will contact schools, churches, & service orgs to enlist participants. To help, contact Marice Ashe, coordinator, at 395-0977.

A week of anti-apartheid activism will take place Apr 4-11 to protest US involvement in So Africa & support liberation movements in so African countries. Films, talks, pickets. You can help in many ways. More info: 870-3021.

LISTINGS ON THIS PAGE ARE FREE. PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO EVENTS IN OR NEAR VENICE. INFO MUST BE RECEIVED IN WRITTEN FORM (WE MAY CONDENSE IF LONG) BY LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH. MAIL TO: Beachhead Community Events P.O. Box 504, Venice 90291