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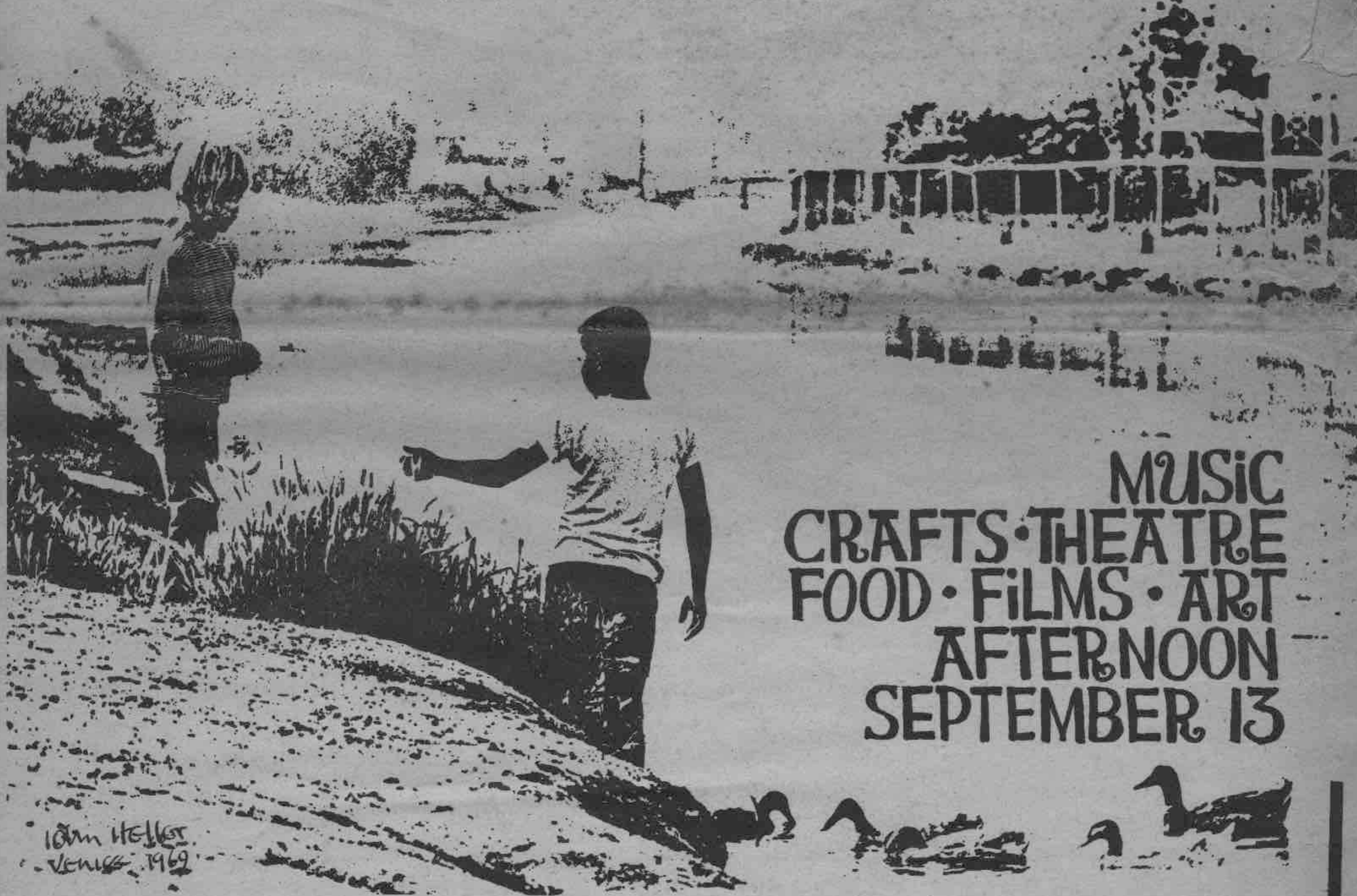
**THE  
FREE VENICE**

# BEACHHEAD

NUMBER 17 AUGUST 1970

10,000 COPIES - FREE TO VENICE RESIDENTS

## SECOND ANNUAL VENICE CANAL FESTIVAL



**MUSIC  
CRAFTS • THEATRE  
FOOD • FILMS • ART  
AFTERNOON  
SEPTEMBER 13**

*John Heller  
Venice 1969*

The Venice canal community invites all those wishing to demonstrate their solidarity with the Venice community's efforts of self determination to participate in the Second Annual Canal Festival.

Last year the people of the canals, out of frustration with a political system which has excluded them from the planning and development of their community, planned a festival which they thought would be a last gathering of a community soon to be destroyed. Then we learned that our combined efforts had succeeded in blocking the project which threatened our community, the festival became also a celebration of victory. This year the city government is trying once more to turn the canals over to speculators and absentee land owners. So determined are they to serve profit interests that it's proposed that city funds totaling more than \$23,000,000 be committed to another pri-

vate marina which will not be open to the public, the planning of which will never consider community wishes, and which in fact will mean the destruction of the community we love.

We urge everyone concerned to come September 13 to a celebration on the canals. We urge the people of Los Angeles to participate in our festival, and then to ask themselves and their representatives if the city should commit public funds to be used in the destruction of a creative, vital community and the acquisition by private developers of a unique public waterway.

The people of Venice may participate more directly by agreeing to display their art, crafts, photos, anything they make, or anything which contributes to the quality of Venice life. Those wishing more information may call 392-2571.

## COMMUNITY HOUSE



A community house is in the making at 468 Howland Ave. (just east of the Venice Canals). A group of Venice residents, with assistance from the Free Venice Organizing Committee, is bringing the condemned building up to code and transforming the surrounding property into a recreation area. A brick barbecue pit has already been built and an organic garden planted and fenced. Playground equipment from the Vest Pocket Park has been moved to the center and set into place. (Munstein Realty, owner of the Vest Pocket Park property, forced canal residents to remove their park so that Munstein could build a nice stucco apartment building).

Work on the house itself was temporarily stalled until permits were obtained. But we are now going ahead full steam thanks to Archie of Day-n-night Plumbing, Eddie Mann of Titan Enterprises, and Bill Shaw of Shaw Plumbing. Most of the siding has been repaired, and enough glass has been donated to fix all the windows. We have some electrical supplies but need more. We also need plumbing fixtures and fittings, wall board, paint, concrete, and especially labor and tools.

Several "Family Gatherings" to get people together and to help raise money to pay for building materials have already happened at the community house, and we will have more. Anyone who would like to donate money, materials, or labor please contact Rick Davidson at 392-4177 or come over to the house. We are usually working there every weekend, Saturday and Sunday from about 11:00AM on.

FREE VENICE

## EDITORIAL

The BEACHHEAD staff asks the Venice Community to join with us in our demand for the immediate reinstatement of the permit for construction of the "Free Venice Park" in the wide median strip of Venice Blvd. where the old Red Cars once ran.

The LA City Public Works Commission had granted permission for the project on June 20 and construction was well underway when the permit was revoked without a public hearing on July 30. The project, coordinated by Rick Davidson of the Venice Health Council and directed by Erskine Fuller, is funded by a \$6,000 grant from the Economic and Youth Opportunities Agency (EYOA).

Thus far the 18 teenage project workers, mostly from Venice's minority community, had cleared the old eyesore vacant area of rocks, broken bottles, weeds, and other trash. Some of the young workers had been talking to gardeners in Malibu to obtain information on the proper soil fertilization necessary for their plans to plant flowers, grass, and food crops.

Problems developed on Saturday, July 25 when police took down the signs which the young people had placed on the lot to identify the project. The police told a local store owner that they were under "orders" when he questioned why they were impounding the signs. Five days later, however, Sgt. Cox, the Venice Division human relations officer, apologized for the action, saying that the patrolmen were not under orders and that the signs would soon be released.

The Public Works Commission then revoked the permit on July 30, giving "citizens' complaints" as the reason, while refusing to disclose the identity of the complainants or the nature of their complaints.

The Board of Public Works, in response to questions concerning proper procedure, set up a supposedly public hearing. Yet it was more akin to a kangaroo court. The Board even went so far as to refuse to allow Erskine Fuller, the Project Director, to speak. Then by a unanimous vote they reaffirmed their decision to squash the project. For the poverty youth working in the program, ages 14 to 18, it was a good example of City Hall in action as once again City Hall slapped the Venice Community in the face. This time the faces of our youth.

## the course of HUMAN EVENTS

● Captain Vernon was ushered in as the new Imperial Wizard of the Venice Police Dept. at a reception held last week at the Mar Vista Recreation Center. Engraved invitations were sent to Venice "notables" and care was taken to make sure the riff-raff (that's us) were excluded. The attempt, we are happy to report, was unsuccessful, and the streets of Mar Vista are still echoing our demands for "community control" of the police.

● Last week our dear representatives, Pat Russell and Marvin Braude, decided that Venice needed some cleaning up. So, at the tax-payers' expense, thousands of letters were sent out asking us to participate in this program by cleaning up our front yards and back alleys. The collected trash was to be hauled away by "special trucks" made available for this campaign. It all sounded very "civic-minded" and besides we had a pile of trash at the Community House which had been waiting for weeks to be picked up. So with renewed hope for a clean environment, Rick Davidson called the Sanitation Department to have a truck sent by. Strangely, their response was one of surprise and irritation, for they had not been informed of the "all out effort" they were supposed to make. Rick then called Pat Russell's office to see if she could straighten out the mix-up. But it wasn't until an alternative plan was suggested, i.e. dumping our trash on Pat Russell's front lawn, that a truck was finally sent.

● Rumor has it that there will be a West Washington Bazaar on Sept. 5. To reserve a booth contact Syll Lockart at 392-2774 or 1325 West Washington Blvd.

● Oh the halls are made of marble...and the bathrooms have peep-holes in them, and the waiting rooms are shoved into cubby holes. Two floors of this monstrosity are devoted to administrative offices and half of the second floor is devoted to research on exotic diseases.

Two million for a building on 25th and Pico (two buses away from Venice), a county health facility that is not devoted to health facilities - can you wonder why members of the Venice Health Council picketed at the opening ceremonies on July 8th? The community had been misled into believing that this edifice was to make them healthy. When they found out otherwise twenty community people carried signs demanding community control. After Burton Chase (our County Supervisor) was presented with a wooden key, the microphone was turned off. The crew, undaunted, and chanting "Power to the Poor People", accompanied the supervisors, doctors, P'nai Brith ladies, medical health directors, etc., for an informal coffee klatch. A nice lady from Beverly Hills was heard to say as she looked at the group, "Do we have to let them in?", missing the point entirely that it was for "them" that the federal government gave money to the county -

**FOOD  
&  
FLICKS**

**FAMILY GATHERING No 7**

**468 HOWLAND  
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proceeds to COMMUNITY HOUSE and CHICANO MORATORIUM

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This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it. Abraham Lincoln, 1861



So, I'm voting for  
**JANE GORDON  
for CONGRESS**

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## PUKE THE LITTLE DUKE by PUBLIUS

When last we left the Little Duke, our hero of the continuing saga of life and death, joy and sorrow, laughter and tears, and for those whose tastes are so inclined, the class struggle, revolution (types and forms), and whatever else might happenstance, in the truthful recitation of the actual event, slightly belabored and additionally colored for your entertainment and ultimate edification by the author who is named above, using a pseudonym: when last we left our own dear Puke (the Little Duke) he was messing around down at the beach, wearing a false mustache, and somebody handed him a free newspaper, on which it was written: "KNOWLEDGE IS POWER. POWER TO THE PEOPLE".

He was handed this paper by a wierdo, far-out self-consciously slobbering speed-freak, who was burning himself alive, consuming his interior resources in a continual, unrelenting rap, about the system and himself, and the truth of it, what had to be spoken, the truth of what it is that is really going down, with forbodings of the ultimate destruction of the world, and he himself, Plotzville-By-The-Sea, insignificant and irrelevant speed-freak, the archa-type, a proto-type, for the cataclysm that would--should--envelop it all: all of it, the whole sick mess that is man and man-created.

And Puke, who was not really ready, either for the paper or the speed-freak, but nonetheless was a well presented chap, and exceedingly polite, listened to the rap, and read the paper. He was intrigued by what he read. "KNOWLEDGE IS POWER. POWER TO THE PEOPLE". What, he thought (he thought this to himself) what does it mean?

For Puke was hip to slogans, as much as anybody--more, since he was a Duke and all. But as he listened to the speed-freak put it all down, and--after a bit--as he sort of listened, tuned him in and tuned him out, but picking up on a lot of what he was saying, a sort of death-bed ambulatory testament, the Little Duke decided, first you had to figure out, what was power, anyway. Ane Puke thought about this, and decided, he wasn't really sure. He knew what power did. Power, mused the Little Duke, is power-ful; no denying that. But what it did or does-ain't a definition. It says here, mused the Little Duke a little more, that "knowledge" is power. It follows then, thought the Duke, musing away, that power is knowledge. Which made it all a whole lot clearer, because Puke the Little Duke, who never knew when to leave well enough alone, then asked himself (he would have liked to have asked the speed-freak, but the speed-freak couldn't stop rapping, if that's what power is, KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, what is knowledge then? Some knowledge, that is obvious, some specific knowledge, not knowledge generally, or abstractly. What is that knowledge then, of which the slogan speaks? And also, and anon, to add to the obvious, this knowledge that the people need, they haven't got. Well then, in that case, who does? Yes, Puke decided, that's the key. Who's got it, and how do you get it? But just then the author's running out of column space, so he writes: TO BE CONTINUED.



TYPICAL CANAL  
LOOKING WEST TOWARD GRAND CANAL

This is what the Los Angeles Planning Dept., speculators, developers and absentee landlords have in mind for the Venice Waterways. Where are the public sidewalks? The ducks? The kids? Where are YOU in this picture?

## CHICANO MORATORIUM - AUGUST 29

Members of the Chicano and Latin Community have united under the name NATIONAL CHICANO MORATORIUM COMMITTEE, in order to express their disgust at this country's participation in the immoral and unjust Southeast Asian war. Specifically the great number of youth with a Spanish surname (Chicanos and Latinos) that die 10,000 miles away from their homeland. The official statistics show that for every Anglo that dies proportionately three Latinos die.

We are of the opinion that the millions upon millions of dollars spent and destroyed in a war that benefits no one, should be spent in solving the unemploy-

ment problem, smog, drugs, housing, hospitalization, etc., etc.

A national parade and rally has therefore been organized for the 29th of August, 1970, in order to legally express the sentiments of Chicanos and Latinos against this unjust war.

This will be the biggest event in the Chicano and Latino communities. It's just around the corner and a lot of help is needed. We need cars for car pools, houses for people from out of town, and money. For information contact the National Chicano Moratorium Committee 4629 E. Brooklyn Ave., L.A., Cal. 90022 (213) 264-7725 or Ed Ferrer 392-8925.



## ON WOMEN'S LIBERATION by jane gordon

Women's liberation is part of the movement of all people to liberate themselves. Many women feel that the mass media version of our movement is distorted, or only presents one side of what women are organizing for.

The establishment presents women's liberationists as a bunch of men'hating amazons, who want to take over the men's roles in society. A few women rein-

force this image by insisting that men are the "oppressor" and that if women "took power" there would be no more trouble.

This position seems inadequate in several respects. Of course, women are oppressed, but they have no 'corner on the market'-so are men! If women are oppressed by men, it is because men have been conditioned to expect certain behavior patterns of women, just as women have been conditioned to respond to men in certain ways. From the earliest age, little girls are told that they should be dependent and passive while boys are taught to assert themselves. Boys don't cry. Boys are tough and strong. Girls play with dolls. Girls wear frills. Girls play nurse. Boys play doctor. This is not a "plot" set up by men, the "enemy". It is a whole set of social, political and economic traditions and institutions which encourage people to go on behaving the same way and which will have to be changed before we'll see a change in the way men and women relate.

So institutions oppress women. That doesn't mean that institutions don't oppress men. "Channelling" by draft departments into jobs that men wouldn't otherwise have chosen for themselves is one institution which oppresses men. But in addition to that sort of thing, men are oppressed by being taught that it's bad form to be seen with an "unattractive" woman. To choose a wife on the basis of her appearance, housekeeping ability and social acceptability is definitely oppressive and stultifying.

If women lash out at Hugh Hefner, it is because his magazine typifies the practice of men defining what is desirable in women: part of the women-as-property tradition we are trying to change. But the emphasis on physical (sexual) attractiveness and the need for women to spend large amounts of time and money on artificial aids and sexifiers is pushed not only in Playboy but also in Ladies Home Journal and in 2 out of every 3 TV commercials.

So where is the enemy? Women have identified a real problem but if they say that men are the enemy, they have not searched far enough for the problem's solution. I believe they will find the enemy and oppressor of women in the same place that they find the enemy when they consider the problems of pollution, the commercialization and alienation of every aspect of our society, the outrageous war in South-East Asia, racism, and poverty. We live in a society which values profit and property above people, above human rights, above moral and aesthetic values, even above basic human survival.

The problem of "discovering the enemy" is compounded by the fact that women have never been taught to look at the system in which they live as a) blameable and b) replaceable. Even more than men, we have been taught not to question the concepts and fundamental values of our society. Women's participation in the recent enormous movement against the war was perhaps a large step toward learning how to question.

Women's liberation is potentially another step toward this sort of questioning. And this questioning is the first step toward realizing that change is good and NECESSARY to save this society from destroying itself and the world with it. When enough people realize the need for change, revolutionary change (i.e., a change in the OBJECTIVES, PRIORITIES and POWER RELATIONSHIPS in this country), then the change will occur. Will it be violent? That will depend on the willingness of the now-powerful to give up their power.

I feel that the liberation of women is an aspect of the liberation of all people. To organize around the issue of their own oppression is not to neglect any other aspect but to call on all women to participate in the movement to liberate all people.

One final point: If you agree with the points I have made, it is logical to start working with others toward resolving the problem. When we start making strides toward liberation, when our movement picks up members and momentum, when we become a threat to the status quo, we might one day hit up against a brick wall--built up for centuries by the powerful to protect their system, their privileges and their power. And when we encounter that brick wall, we will have to decide what to do about it: we can go back the way we came, we can be satisfied with the ground covered before reaching the wall, or we can bring the wall down. I guess that's a decision we can only make when we get there, but we will get there and we will have to decide, so we should not refuse to think about it now.

And don't think this is not directly related to women's liberation! Because no one segment of the movement can fight this fight alone. Not just the Blacks or just the whites, not just the men or just the women. Women can and will make strides toward liberation and contribute vitally to liberation, if we are free to do so. But we can't and won't do that and all the menial-work too. We reject working for the liberation of everybody if we think we'll just end up doing the menial-work "after the revolution". That is what we are now trying to communicate to the men in the movement.

All women interested in joining a Women's Liberation group contact Jane Gordon 382 4177.

## CHARTER REVISION

For weeks the L.A. City Council has been reviewing proposed city charter revisions. Los Angeles is indeed in need of charter changes. We have 15 councilmen ruling the city...the same number we had in 1925. Obviously the present population is sadly lacking in terms of representation. This must be corrected. Unfortunately the proposed charter fails in this respect. In fact it concentrates more power in the hands of the mayor.

The BEACHHEAD staff is against the proposed charter for the following reasons:

1. It fails to provide fuller representation.
2. It concentrates too much power with the mayor.
3. It fails to reform or bring under control the "proprietary" departments, i.e., Airport, Harbor, Water & Power.
4. It fails to provide community control of community affairs.

The BEACHHEAD staff believes in order to gain control over our lives, our environments, our futures, we must see power placed in the community. To accomplish this, community elected congresses should be established to direct the councilmen. These would not be "advisory councils" as suggested by the L.A. Proposed Charter, but controlling bodies. Each congress would have full control over its own affairs. While working with monthly reports of past voting records and future agenda items, each congress would direct the councilman as to the community's desires. The number of councilmen then, would have to be increased to correspond to the number of identifiable communities within the City of Los Angeles. Such a program could begin immediately.

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Ready for everyone. Because George and his staff believe in Venice, in the poets of the Venice poetry workshop, believe in an "imminent literary flowering." That's what Bayrock Publishers and Beyond Baroque Magazine are all about. That's what New Venice Poets is all about.

If this literary flowering is important to you, then stop by Beyond Baroque (1639 W. Washington Blvd.). Stop by the Venice poetry workshop (at Beyond Baroque, every Wednesday night at 8:30). Stop by and pick up a copy of BB691, BB692, or New Venice Poets.

### STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE:

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