

5th Anniversary Issue

THIS NEWSPAPER IS PRICELESS!

SINCE 1968

FREE VENICE

BEACHHEAD

DECEMBER 1973 NO. 48

P.O. BOX 504, FREE VENICE, CALIFORNIA 90291

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ZONING ROLLBACK

By T. Widener

Zoning, that mysterious bureaucratic tool which governs whether there will be high-rise or playgrounds next door, has been high on the minds of some of your neighbors and landlords lately. For about three years in fact. The City Council of Los Angeles, the final link in a time-gobbling chain of command, recently voted into existence a major zoning rollback in the North Beach area (essentially between Marine St. and Venice Blvd and Ocean Front Walk and Main St. give or take a few square feet). The down-zoning, considered by most an important step in the preservation of Venice as a family neighborhood, brings with it a number of ramifications and a number of challenges the people of Venice must take on if the action is going to be helpful rather than harmful.

The North Beach area was zoned many years ago to allow any kind of residential development a land-owner could afford to build. Ocean Front Walk, in addition, was zoned for unlimited commercial use, barring only industry and heavy manufacturing. Back in those days of non-visionary planning, it was apparently felt that Venice could be exploited as a large-scale resort and that this potential growth should be allowed for in the zones.

But these prophets forgot that Venice, though it had indeed been created as a resort back at the turn of the century, had been constructed with mass transit in mind. Back when canals crisscrossed much of the area, what few auto roads were built were narrow by today's standards, and meant only to be service arteries. There was good rail service between Venice and the rest of LA for many years, and the original developers of the area simply did not anticipate the onslaught of autos which eventually engulfed Southern California and poor little Venice. When oil was discovered here, the area ceased to be a ritzy resort and settled into a hum-drum existence as a place where families and the elderly lived in comfort and relatively low-expence by the sea. Later, Bohemians and minorities also found room.

As far as zoning goes, the upshot of this was that a lot of individual plots of land in the North Beach had houses on them. Different people generally owned each lot, and each lot was, by city standards, smaller than normal. So despite the laissez-faire zoning, there wasn't much chance for anyone to build the high-density housing allowed by the zone (R-5)—there simply wasn't the room, nor probably the money.

As time passed, some old houses were condemned by a building code enforcement in the 1950's and faced owners with rehabilitating them by modern standards or leaving and tearing them down. Many property owners who did the latter could not afford to rebuild on the lots and sold them. It was at this point that wealthier landlords with bigger pretensions got ahold of some contiguous lots and consequently built some of the larger

apartment houses currently found on the North Beach walkway streets. Apart from the venerable old hotels, somewhat the same thing occurred in places along Ocean Front Walk. There used to be more single-family dwellings on OFW, though now there are precious few.

Despite the fact that the higher-density development, which due to the availability of land was generally conforming to "medium-density" multiple residential zoning (R-3) despite the R-5 allowances, was bringing with it a traffic load far in excess of what Pacific Ave. and Speedway could handle, the City went ahead with its vision of a large-scale resort. A drawn-out process of developing a "community plan" (most of which occurred without consulting many of the people who actually lived in the community) led to formalization of ideas for a new Miami Beach, complete with big beachfront parking lots and a causeway—freeway running down the coast from Ventura and cutting into Venice in the North Beach area. This went hand-in-hand with the Canal Redevelopment Project and the Ocean Park Redevelopment Project and several other Get-Rid-o'-the-Po'-Folk schemes.

The first steps included in the Venice Community Plan (adopted in 1970 by the City Council) called for widening of streets and building of the freeway. The ecology freaks and the State Legislature did in the freeway (for awhile at least, though the currently proposed Marina Bypass concept shows that the worst ideas of stubborn capitalists die hard) and a group of North Beach homeowners called the North Beach Resident Property owners campaigned against street-widening and helped the City realize it couldn't afford such a boon-doggle. The next step in the community's counter-offensive was to initiate down-zoning to keep the population and traffic densities from becoming hopelessly high just because antiquated, ill-advised zoning allowed profiteering developers to exercise their lack of good sense.

The Resident Property Owners proposed one rezoning plan which died in 1971 mostly because it was too good. (Yorty's City Planning Commission probably had a "mandate" from their "friends" to make sure that city planning continued to ignore certain profit-cutting realities.) Undaunted, the NBRPA joined in late 1972 by the tenant-dominated L.O.V.E. in Venice group, and supported all along by the Venice Community Design Center tried again with a toned-down roll-back. Public pressure, in the form of letters and big turnouts (both pro-and-con) made it clear to the City that zoning was important to a lot of Venice residents, and it finally wound its way through the maze of red tape and reached the City Council floor in late October.

The newly-created zoning establishes the following restrictions: along both sides of Navy, Rose, Brooks, and Horizon, R-3; along Market and Windward, C-2 (unlimited commercial); between 17th

and North Venice Blvd, R-3; between Speedway and Ocean Front Walk the entire length of North Beach, R-3; and finally, on all walkway streets between Navy and Market, RD-1.5 (single-family and duplex dwellings).

It does not take a whole lot of insight to see what all this indicates. There's a lot of R-3 here, which means fairly large buildings, generally up to three stories. On the other hand, the much-desired RD-1.5 (in terms of density at least) limits development to those relatively wealthy property owners who can afford to build small buildings on the high-cost (up to \$30,000 per unimproved lot!) land.

And how will this affect on-going situations like taxes, speculation, the Coastal Commission, under heavy pressure from the commercial interests to stop impeding "progress," has indicated its willingness to grasp the rollback as an excuse to allow developers to glut the area with buildings basically of the same type with which they were glutting the area prior to the rollback (since most of the buildings were either of the R-3 or RD-1.5 type anyway!) and the passage of Proposition 20 in 1972.

As for property taxes, which seem inevitably increased for the time-being

(which means, realistically, Forever, along with rents) they could be seriously affected in the future. The County Tax Assessors have a clever method of computing property taxes which bases everybody's yearly tax bills on whatever inflated prices land in their areas has recently been selling for. So if some Burmese rubber company decides it simply must own lots of land in Venice to build a tire factory, pays much more than the current market value to insure obtaining the land, then belatedly finds out the Coastal Commission won't allow them to build a factory on the land, the benificent Tax Assessor still revalues all the neighboring land based on the price paid per acre by the rubber company and...and this is important, as if there could be a tire factory on the property. This is far-fetched in reality but theoretically it means that a single homeowner with his little house on a substandard lot down the street from the site of the proposed factory all of a sudden finds his land and structure value inflated four or five times what anyone except a Burmese rubber company would want to pay for it (as far as the Tax Assessor is concerned, anyway). And his exorbitant

continued on page 2

WE HAVE A HISTORY

by John Haag

The first issue of the FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD came out five years ago on December 1, 1968. It had four pages printed on green newsprint (which faded easily and so was not used again.)

The front page contained the familiar masthead, lettered by Bill Olive, a quarter-page photo of Venice in 1924 (the last year that Venice was an independent city) looking down the Canal which is now Main street, the first of a series of articles by Jane Gordon which gave a history of Venice, and an editorial which said in part:

"This paper is a poem for the people. We decided not to sell it to some of you, but to give it to all of you. It is a poem for all the people.

"Our subject this issue is Venice. Our purpose is to create a community."

Inside the first issue were an article by Carol Fondiller on an instance of police harassment, the first of a series of articles by Rick Davidson on L.A.'s disastrous Master plan for Venice, articles by me on the Venice Survival Committee formed to counteract police abuses and on the concept of a self-creating, self-governing Free Venice, a poem by Dora Bayrack printed in Yiddish, and an article by Phil Chamberlain proposing an outdoor art show. 10,000 copies of the first issue were delivered free door-to-door throughout Venice.

The BEACHHEAD was not an accident. It began as a project of the Venice Peace and Freedom party.

In 1968 I was the PFP candidate for state Senate in the 25th District. Realizing that I had little chance of being elected, I wanted to use my campaign to raise issues that could be worked on after the election and I hoped the campaign would produce on-going projects.

One of the issues I raised in the Campaign was the fact that the Venice Community had no control over "our" police, schools, parks, streets and city planning. That issue produced the slogan, "Free Venice!"

After the election the few people who had worked on the campaign continued to meet at the weekly Venice PFP meeting and discussed projects to achieve self-government in Venice.

Our first decision was to start a community newspaper that would give information lacking in the establishment press and to give our side of stories that did appear elsewhere. A newspaper seemed the logical and necessary first step to creating a community that could begin to move in its own interest.

We decided that the paper should support itself by ads so that it could be given away rather than sold. Beginning with the first issue we invited all Venice residents to submit articles and help with the paper so that it could become self-sustaining. Within a year the BEACHHEAD was being produced outside the PFP office.. It had acquired its own identity and became truly a community effort.

During its first year the BEACHHEAD exposed and publicized L.A. City's plans for redeveloping Venice and issue after issue helped to mobilize community opposition to the proposed freeway through Venice, the Canals assessment district, police abuses and other government rip-offs. It was and still is a vital means of expressing our community's problems and achievements.

To continue as a community effort the BEACHHEAD needs your articles and your help with production and distribution.

Happy Birthday, BEACHHEAD, and Many Happy Returns!

ZONING ROLLBACK

continued from page 1

property tax bill for the next year would reflect that speculative inflation.

The fairy tale of woe described above is essentially the kind of thing that happened in the North Beach during the 1973 County Tax Reassessment, except that the speculation involved wasn't for a tire factory but rather for medium and high density apartments and condominiums. So someone with a little lot and house was taxed for a little lot and an R-3 apartment house. (Ya got that? Now do you understand why your rent is going up?) There's one other thing you should know about this tax thing, whether it be related to the zoning roll back or not, and that is the fact that many properties along the proposed right-of-way for the Marina Bypass which cuts across from the end of the Nixon Freeway to Brooks and Main were devalued by the County Assessor, probably so they can more easily be acquired by the Powers-that-be for road building purposes when and if the time comes.

Finally, the zoning roll-back pragmatically erects a barrier to the continued existence of low-income housing in the North Beach unless positive steps are taken quickly to insure its existence. The elderly and the poor nominally supported the roll-back lest they be speculated out of North Beach, but they understood that zoning which only allows duplexes and small apartment buildings doesn't have their best interests at heart. What must be done is to somehow provide subsidized low-income housing in the area wherever possible so that such housing remains available for the foreseeable future. This can be done through a local non-profit housing cooperative (which does not yet exist), though the City Housing Authority, through the Federal Government (if a certain beleaguered President unfreezes HUD housing funds), through Rent Stamps (which might be administered similarly to Food Stamps) or through whatever arrangements a Tenants' Union might be able to make (there is no Tenants' Union yet either). In any case, the presence of low-income housing will have the indirect effect of discouraging luxury development since the wealthy generally abhor the nearby presence of low-lives such as most of Venice's current residents. As Morris Rosen, Director of the Israel Levin Senior Adult Center, put it, wealthy people don't want to look at old people; old people are the white "blacks." Add to the white blacks the black blacks, the brown blacks, the young, long-haired white blacks and the rest, and you've got a deterrent to overdevelopment.

The zoning roll-back, as you can see, provides no easy answers to anybody's problems, but some people in Venice are trying to make some meaningful progress; the North Beach Neighborhood Council, the North Beach Planning Task Force, L.O.V.E. in Venice. The Planning Task Force, c/o P.O. Box 5864, Santa Monica, 90405, will be happy to put you in touch with any of them if you want to help make that progress.

WHO WE ARE

The Free Venice Beachhead is a community information service distributed free. We will mail copies for a year upon receipt of a donation (\$1.00, \$3.00, \$5.00 or more). All work for this paper is volunteer. The printing is financed by the ad donations. We are independent of all political and community organizations. The staff makes decisions collectively; there is no editor. Anyone may submit articles; mail to P.O. Box 504, Venice, 90291. For deadlines call 396-9325, TANK-YUK, 392-8969. We are members of the Alternative Press Syndicate and subscribe to Liberation News Service.

BEACHHEAD STAFF

GAIL WILLIAMSON
MILTON TAKEI
JIM ZANE
CAROL FONDILLER



Bissonette, far right, with other A.I.M. leaders

(from LNS)

"He didn't know he was a leader and didn't act like one. He was really one of the people," said a member of the Wounded Knee Defense/Offense Committee talking about Pedro Bissonette.

Pedro, a 29 year old Oglala Sioux from the Pine Ridge Reservation was shot dead by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) police October 17.

Pedro had been an active participant in the Wounded Knee occupation and had been an officer in the Oglala Sioux Civil Rights Organization (OSCRO), which had been formed months before the occupation in an attempt to try to remove the corrupt tribal government of Richard Wilson. He and six others had been charged with conspiracy to commit arson, civil disorder, burglary, larceny and other charges following the occupation.

The facts around the killing still remain unclear. The BIA police claim that they were pursuing Pedro who was a fugitive from another charge. According to Stanley Lyman, Superintendent of the reservation, the police stopped the car Pedro was driving and he got out "and he attempted to shoot one of the officers and he was shot."

The Defense/Offense Committee called it "cold-blooded murder."

As opposed to what the BIA had said about Pedro's being "underground," he had driven all over the reservation the day he was killed, visiting a number of people. He told several of them that he was planning on going to see his lawyer, Mark Lane, so he could turn himself in on a warrant which had been issued for his arrest for not showing up on a hearing on a charge not coming directly out of Wounded Knee. In fact, he was traveling on a main road when he was stopped. "He knew the reservation. He wouldn't have been on a main road if he was a fugitive," said one woman who knew him.

And he was shot by Joe Clifford, whose half-sister had been married to Pedro. Clifford had told a number of people he was looking for Pedro and was going to get him. This is the man that the BIA police assigned to track down Pedro.

The BIA police claim that Pedro had just gotten out of the car with a gun and had started aiming it (or shooting it, as their later story went) at the two BIA cops when he was cut down. Yet his body was found about 45 feet from the car. "Either he was shot 45 feet from the car or he was carried that distance and left to bleed to death," said a press release from the Defense/Offense Committee.

That last possibility was more than speculation. The emergency room admission records say that his body (dead on

WOUNDED KNEE MILITANT MURDERED

arrival) was brought in at 10:10 pm. It takes only 10 minutes from the scene of his killing to the hospital. Yet witnesses came upon the scene of his murder before 9 pm (which was after six BIA police cars had arrived) and they saw Pedro's body surrounded by a pool of blood.

U.S. Attorney William Clayton had told the Bissonette family that the body would not be removed before it was examined by an independent pathologist. However, when they arrived at the hospital at 3 the next morning, they discovered that the body had indeed been removed—on the orders of Clayton—to have a government autopsy done in Nebraska. However, this was not before attorney Mark Lane had gotten a chance to look at and photograph the body. There were about seven bullet holes in the chest, three of which had passed through the right hand—which makes it unlikely that he was holding a gun while shot.

Furthermore, the original hospital records listed cause of death as "one bullet wound in the chest." After Lane's version of the description of the body came out, those records managed to disappear and new ones appeared which listed cause of death as "shot."

The Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department sent a representative to investigate whether Pedro's civil rights had been violated—whether the killing was "justifiable" homicide or not. However, the representative never talked to any of the family or witnesses and in fact sent BIA police out to test shooting patterns of shot guns (the weapon police finally decided had killed him). "If the investigation which is to delve into the truth about this murder depends upon the murderers themselves for the story, we have no faith at all in the results," said the Defense/Offense Committee.

5th ANNIVERSARY

By Milton Takei

December, 1968, was a long time ago for most of us. Quite a few underground papers have been buried in the last five years. And how many of us were around in that month when issue number one of the **Free Venice Beachhead** was published? When someone says, "I remember when the **Beachhead** first came out," one is moved to bow low, as this person is indeed aged, and indeed venerable.

But what is the **Beachhead**? The different groupings within Venice probably all have different reactions. But I best remember that eventful day of January 29, 1973, when the phone rang in my house on South Venice Bl. It was John Heller on the line, spreading the alarm to every Middlesex village and farm, that "the City is coming" to tear down the park which the people had built in the Venice Canals. I dutifully walked over to the park site at Howland and Dell, where a small group of people was standing around, waiting for the crowd to gather. Someone asked, "Has anyone contacted the **Times**, the **Outlook**, the T.V. stations, the **Beachhead**?" Whereupon Heller looked at me and said, "The **Beachhead** already knows, don't you, Milton?"

I don't know if it was an insult or a compliment to be mentioned in the same breath with the Establishment media, but certainly, "The **Beachhead** already knows," since anyone present that day could have written an article, instead of relying on the **Beachhead** staff. People who write in the paper are no more knowledgeable than you yourself: they live in the Venice area and are aware of events in the community. They write about matters with which they are familiar, without benefit of press releases or news conferences.

But there are many different kinds of people in Venice, with widely differing viewpoints. How do you relate to them all? It used to be that the staff of the **Beachhead** used to ask itself, "Does anyone actually read this paper?" Now, maybe the paper has grown less political, or maybe it's become more political, but it certainly seems that people

are reading the paper at this point in time.

A while ago, we heard two seemingly contradictory tales: 1) The "heavy political people" at the Midnight Special Bookstore really liked the October issue, possible because of the back-page story on Chile 2) The working people on Venice Way and Grand Bl could relate to the self-same issue because of the articles on the planned freeway and the Venice Civic Union. Something must be going on that we don't know about. Maybe its Venice that's changed—maybe its America that's changed.

Certainly, the **Beachhead** tries to appeal to a broad segment of the populace, but one would expect that it would fail to please many. The result is an independent alternative paper—somewhat moderate as underground newspapers go. My father wrote from San Jose, asking if the paper wasn't "a bit tame" for the Venice area. Indeed, Venice is "a sea of red" with many former and present left-wing political activists living in the area. But there are many more "normal" people in the area, and hopefully, they read the paper, also.

But we have been talking about the **Beachhead** as if has been the exact same entity for five years. The staff has gone through many changes, and the paper has changed each time. (You can see most of the back issues for yourself at the Venice Library.) But perhaps the more the paper has changed, the more it's stayed the same. Perhaps, amidst the different news stories, one message has been broadcast over and over, "Venice is a community in danger of destruction, and this is how we propose to go about saving our community." As the struggle reaches perhaps its most critical stage, hopefully the **Beachhead** will do an even better job of helping the community in its own defense.

Though in the future, as in the past, the **Beachhead** will only come out because community people write articles, advertisers pay for the printing, the staff does the detail work, and our unsung distributors pass the paper out door-to-door.

Five more years!

ADVERTISING RATES

\$5 per column inch (3½" column)
¼ page ad: \$50; ½ page ad: \$90;
Full page ad, a bargain at \$175.

REAGAN VETOES AIR

by Ron Guenther

In an unprecedented move, Governor Reagan reversed himself and vetoed AB 2283, a bill widely supported by environmentalists and other air breathers, to create a basin-wide Air Pollution Control District for the South Coast basin (the one we live in).

It was a new first for the Governor—the first time he vetoed a bill he supported. Spokesmen for Reagan had testified in support of AB 2283 at legislative hearings. He requested—and received—last minute amendments which were regretfully offered in order to assure his support.

There was no explanation for the Governor's veto except that his buddies in the auto, oil, and utility industries are well known to consider our breathing air their private garbage dump.

Reagan's choicest, and most destructive veto, however, was reserved for SB 283, to create a state energy conservation and development commission. The new commission would have had the authority to forecast California's energy needs, adopt energy conservation measures, approve citing of power facilities and conduct independent research programs. Enactment of SB 283 would have made California the first state to seriously address the nation's energy problem. The bill had broad industry, labor and environmental support. It was widely considered to be the most important bill passed by the Legislature in years.

Again, there is no explanation for the Governor's veto. With the wisdom that he has gained in state office, Herr Reagan plans to run for President of the United States in 1976.

VITAMIN CRUNCH

If not stopped, in 1974 these regulations will become final and effective: You will be unable to buy these vitamins and minerals:

Vit. A-- more than 10,000 IU (effective Oct. 1, 1973)
 Vit. C-- more than 90 mg;
 Vit. D-- more than 400 IU (effective Oct. 1, 1973)
 Vit. E-- more than 45 IU
 Vit. B1-- more than 2.25 mg
 Vit. B2-- more than 2.6 mg
 Vit. B6-- more than 3.0mg
 Vit. B12-- more than 9 mcg
 Niacin-- more than 30 mg.
 Folic Acid-- more than 0.4 mg
 Calcium-- more than 1.5 gms
 Phosphorous-- more than 1.5 gms
 Iodine-- more than .225 mg
 Magnesium-- more than 600 mg
 Iron-- more than 27 mg

You will also be unable to buy as a dietary supplement in any amount:

Lecithin
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 Rutin
 Inositol
 Nucleic acids
 Digestive Enzymes
 Hydrochloric Acid
 Choline
 Glutamic acid
 Para-aminobenzoic acid(PABA)
 Amino acid supplements
 all herbs as supplements

The FDA regulations include six prohibitions which would make it unlawful to claim that cooking and other processing of foods causes nutritional losses. Likewise, it will be unlawful to claim that there is a relationship between diet and disease. For example, you could not say, or even imply, that:

Whole grain bread is more nutritious than commercial white bread.
 Honey is more healthful than refined white sugar.
 Unsprayed, naturally grown fruits and vegetables are better for you than commercially grown sprayed varieties.
 Certified raw milk is more nutritious than commercial pasteurized and homogenized milk.
 Fertile eggs are nutritionally superior to ordinary supermarket eggs.

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THESE PROHIBITIONS WILL BE FINES, FEDERAL IMPRISONMENT, SEIZURE OF PROPERTY, INJUNCTIONS OR ALL FOUR!

ments, your livelihood isn't being ripped off; but no matter what you're selling, your freedom is. That is, unless we join the fight against this outrage.

***To stop FDA interference with our free choice, we are supporting Congressional Bill HR 643 (the Hosmer Bill). If the Hosmer Bill is passed these regulations will not go into effect!!

ENERGY RIP-OFF

by John Haag

There is no question that eventually the world's supplies of coal and oil will run out. There is no question that our present ways of using fuel produce wastes that are already an ecological disaster.

Ways to solve those problems must be found, but the present "energy crisis" is mostly a fraud. Phase I of the "crisis" was planned by the oil companies to squeeze independent distributors out of business and raise prices. It is no coincidence that the oil companies are enjoying record profits and have been increasing exports of oil and oil products.

Phase II of the "energy crisis" has featured the same President who starred in Watergate telling you and me that we must "live and work at lower temperatures" (become cold blooded like him) and threatening us with gas rationing. The President's proposals strike at the people by curtailment of our activities and accelerated rape of national resources, leaving oil and coal companies free to produce, export and profit regardless of consequences.

Did you notice that there was no proposal to cut back the tremendous consumption of fuel by the US Air Force, Navy and Army?

This President's policies, domestic and foreign, are aimed at producing war-time conditions in the United States without even a shooting war to rationalize them.

It may seem ironic that most voices in Congress are siding with the President on the energy issue. Notice how quickly Congress authorized the Alaska pipe line and fuel rationing. The sad fact is that most voices in Congress serve the same corporate interests as the President. The only disagreement is over how outrageously those interests should be served.

There should be no mandatory curtailment of civilian fuel use until all military use has stopped, oil export has ceased and crash programs have been instituted to develop alternative sources of power. Environmental controls should not be relaxed, but controls should be invoked to insure that the corporations do not profit from the crisis which they and the government have produced.

The "energy crisis" is a confrontation between the corporations and the people with the government so far on the side of the corporations. (Surprise!) Unless our elected officials begin to side with the people, they should be replaced. All of them.



COKE SUCKERS

There will soon be a new addition to the evergrowing family of plastic containers in our trash. The Monsanto Company has recently announced plans to expand development of its plastic non-returnable soda bottles and according to the *Wall Street Journal*, the Coca-Cola Co. will be the first to make use of them.

In Atlanta, a Coca-Cola spokesman said the company's agreement with Monsanto represented "the next phase of a research and development program announced in 1969." He said the plastic bottle is a "desirable container for soft drinks," mainly because it is light and almost unbreakable. The bottles are cheap as well—about equal in price to nonreturnable glass bottles.

From an ecological standpoint the announcement was just more bad news. The now ubiquitous nonreturnable glass bottles were first introduced to save the soda companies money. The bottles use thinner glass which is cheaper to pro-

duce and the companies don't have to collect, wash and maintain them as they did with the old returnable bottles.

The only drawback—from the companies point of view—is that the thinner glass tends to break more easily. The new plastic bottles will solve that problem. But they will also add to the vast amounts of junk littering the environment because plastic is not biodegradable.

In addition, many scientists fear that the plastic containers are a health hazard. Recent studies at the University of Michigan and elsewhere have thrown up evidence that the plastic bottles give off deadly hydrogen cyanide gas when burned improperly, as in a home fireplace, barbecue grill or campfire.

Extensive research has not been done yet, but manufacturers of the bottles claim they've found, at most, "insignificant trace quantities" of the highly toxic gas in their own laboratory tests.

(from Liberation News Service)

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BEACHHEAD PHOTOGRAPHER

GAIL WILLIAMSON (PHONE: TANK-YUK)

CAROL'S CAROLS

TANNENBAUM

Oh Anarchy, oh Anarchy
Such a pretty sight to see
We think that people have free will
to do good if not taught ill

Oh Anarchy, oh Anarchy
Free choice for you
Free choice for me
For in our hearts we shall be free
It cheers me like a Christmas tree
Oh Anarchy, oh Anarchy,
Such a pretty sight to see

IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

It came upon a midnight clear
That glorious bust of old
Oh I was toking in my pad
The heat was in the cold
When all at once the boys in blue
Came crashing into my pad
So in a flash I flushed my stash
The only hash I had

by Carol Fondiller

JINGLE BELLS

Scoring on the beach
Copping what I can
Don't know what I dropped
But oh wow oh man
My skin feels so damp
and I cannot see
Maybe it's the strychnine
in the L.S.D.

Sniff some glue drop some reds
Shoot some L.S.D.
I don't feel so hot
But at least it changes me

Speeding on the beach
Rushing all the way
Got to get to someplace
Sometime today
Nodding on the bench
Crashing on the sand
I don't know which way is up
Oh see my mind expand

AWAY IN THE MANGER

Merry Xmas Ronnie Reagan
I hope you are well
I'm dying on welfare
Which is living hell
You cut off my MediCal
and my food stamps too
Now I'm too sick to eat
Ronnie Reagan, Fuck you.

NOEL

I waited in line a doctor to see
At the Venice Clinic that is so free
Oh wow, oh wow, oh what can I do
I have to tell Tom, Dick and Harry and you

I came to Venice to be so free
Now I caught something communally
Is it clap? Is it Hep? Perhaps it's the flu
Now I have to tell Tom, Dick and Harry and you

I waited in line so patiently
To hear what the doctor had to tell me
It is clap. It is Hep. And also the flu
And I caught it from Tom Dick and Harry and you.

POLITIDISCS



by Richard Foos

A RECORD REVIEW COLUMN WITH AN EMPHASIS ON RECORDS THAT HAVE AN ENLIGHTENING SOCIAL OR POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

DAVID CA-ZITTY
"THE MONEY YOU MAKE HAS GOT TO BE YOUR OWN"

As any aware person knows, the lyrics in today's rock songs are for the most part pure meaningless trash, that have no redeeming social or political merit. Therefore, it is really comforting to know that a former Haight-Ashbury drug freak has totally reformed and now is writing and singing songs how he found salvation, and how you too can clean up your life and get back into the mainstream of society.

So here are the lyrics (the way they should actually be) to Davey's latest single, with the melody of the song stolen, or should I say derived, from the hit single by the Jackson 5, "The Love You Gave Has Got To Be Your Own."

When I was still in high school
I thought that I was cool
I smoked in the men's room
And didn't obey the rules.

And then I was in college
I thought I could change society
By givin' way my money
To alleviate poverty

But now that I'm rich and famous
I've learned my lesson well
Why should I give away my fortune
When I need it for myself.

Oh the money you save has got
To be your own
If you try to share it,
You're headed for a danger zone.

And when I lived in Berkeley
I joined the CP
But now I've traded in my social conscience
For an XKE

So let me leave you with this message:
You better get your share
Cuz you can't make this country perfect
You can only make it fair.

Oh the money you make
Has got to be your own
I'll take the meat
You can have the bone.

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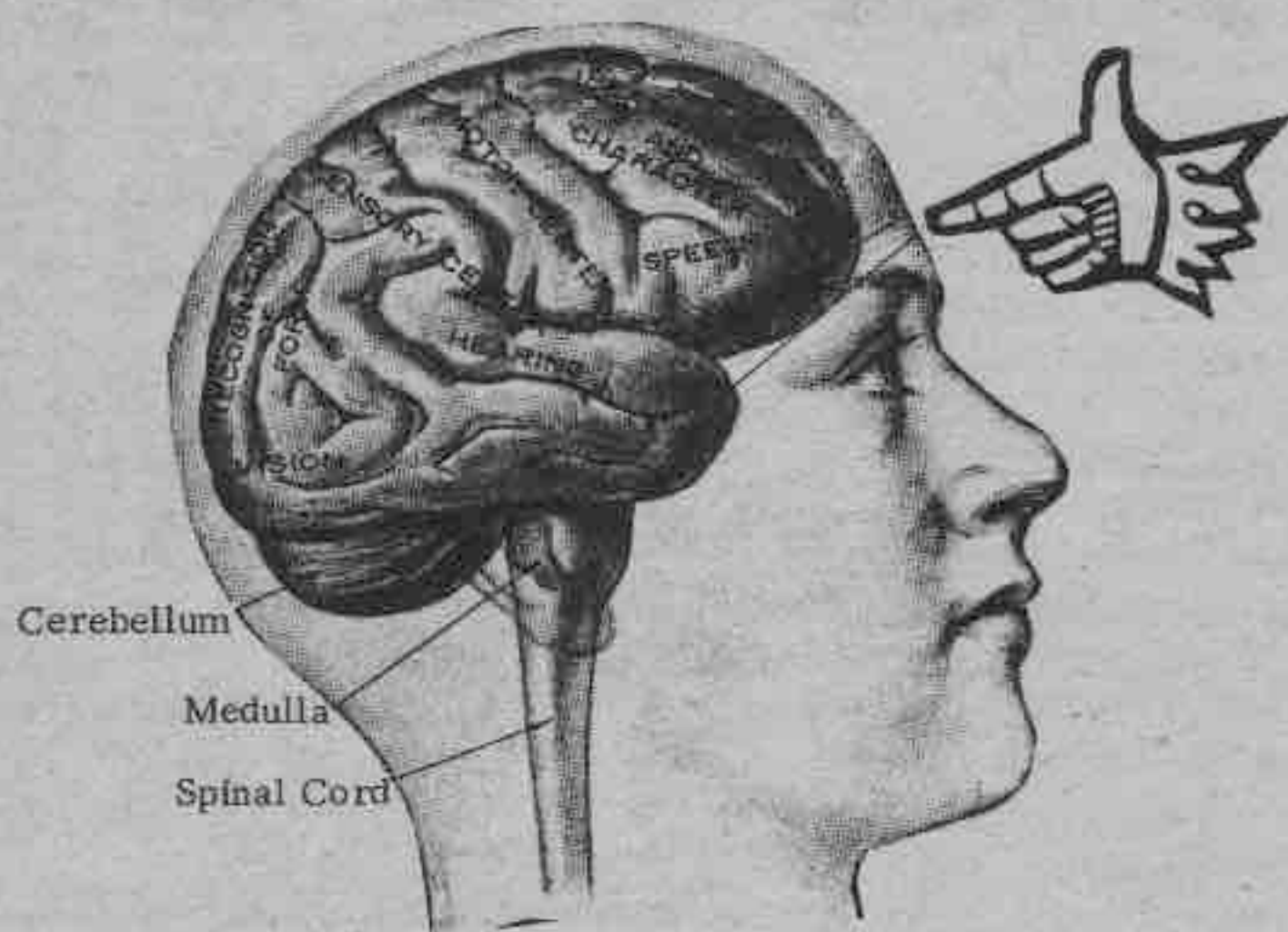
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Canals— 3rd Tuesday of the month, An-
chorage St. School, 7: 30 pm
East Venice— 4th Wednesday of the
month, Coeur D'Alene School, 8 pm.
Central Venice— 3rd Thursday of the
month, Westminster School Library,
7: 30 pm.

DR. ZANE'S LOBOTOMY COLUMN

"BAD TASTE IS TIMELESS"



A Monthly Column of Advice on All Subjects the Doctor Knows Absolutely Nothing About

by Jim Zane

Dear Dr. Zane:

The President says one thing one day and does something totally opposite the next. This results in massive confusion for me. To prevent this from happening to me in the future, could you please show me a way to tell when he's lying?

Carol's Ex

Dear Carol's Ex:

The President is a very honest man and he never lies except when his lips are moving.

Dear Dr. Zane:

I'm writing a book on nutrition and I wonder if you could help me. Is millet with mung beans a healthy combination?

Adelle Davis

Dear Adelle:

Millet with mung beans is very healthy. Twenty out of ten scientific studies have shown that if you eat millet with mung beans three times a day for a period of 100 years, you'll live a long time.

Dear Dr. Zane:

I was watching TV the other night and saw Billy Graham. He said that if I accepted Jesus to my heart, my life would be changed. I find that hard to believe. Just the same, do you know of anyone whose life would have been different without Jesus?

Horace Sense

Dear Mr. Sense:

There are a number of people whose lives would have been different without Jesus. Billy Graham, for instance, is a millionaire.

Dear Dr. Zane:

I went to the library, and while browsing through a book on Einstein's Theory of Relativity, I found three methedrine tablets attached onto the first page. Why do you think those tablets were there?

Sir Prised

Dear Sir Prised:

Those three tablets were attached to the

book because Einstein's Theory of Relativity is obviously a long book and if you're going to finish reading the book during the two week period you can have it, you have to be a speed reader.

Dear Dr. Zane:

My phone is tapped by the government. What should I do?

Alex Bell

Dear Alex:

About the only thing you can do is to request the phone company to lower your monthly service fee from that of a private line to that of a party line.

Dear Dr. Zane:

I've been told that there will never be a representation of President Nixon on Mt. Rushmore. Could you tell me why?

Interested Party

Dear Interested Party:

The reason President Nixon's likeness will never be on Mt. Rushmore is because there isn't room for two more faces.

Dear Dr. Zane:

I'm just new into this astrology stuff and I've been told that you know a lot about astrology, that you'd write an astrology column but you write this advice column instead because you're more knowledgeable in the advice area than in astrology. Just the same, could you tell me about Cancer?

Moon Child

Dear Moon Child:

Your information is absolutely correct. For months and months I've been thinking about writing Dr. Zane's Astrological Prognostications but I've been overwhelmed with solving America's problems and have not had the time. I do know almost as much about astrology as I do about everything else that appears in my column. In regard to your question, the following are basic characteristics of a Cancer: 1) any lump or sore that doesn't heal, 2) a lump

or thickening in the breast or elsewhere, 3) unusual bleeding or discharge, 4) any change in a wart or mole, 5) indigestion or difficulty in swallowing, 6) hoarseness or cough and 7) any change in normal bowel habits.

Dear Dr. Zane:

I want you and your readers to know that I never did anything illegal while I was Mayor. I knew there would be trouble if this Bradley was elected. And now there is. Some people are trying to say that I was a crook while I was the Mayor, that I made an illegal land swap with the Occidental Oil Company. Well, that is a total lie. I never stayed long enough in this city while I was Mayor to find the time to do such a thing.

Sam Yorty

Dear Dr. Zane:

I just love being a prince. And who would ever have thought that I, a commoner, would some day marry into royal blood? Not I, nor my parents, nor anyone else. I'm surprised even now that I asked her in the first place. You know how nervous I can get.

The Queen really likes me too. She said she liked my reserved manner, that I wasn't talkative like those Nixon girls. (She was quite distressed a few years back when that Nixon bouncer tried to interest Golly Prince Cholly in his two daughters.)

I'd like to tell you more, but the Queen, I mean mother, would like to see me right now. Do drop by the Palace when you're in neighborhood.

Mark Phillips

Dear Dr. Zaneykins:

Watched that wedding on the tubeykins. It was almost as nice as my own. I wonder if I acted too rashly in marrying Eddiekins.

Tricia

Dear Dr. Zane:

I want you to know that your column has been the sole comfort to my husband during this time of crisis for him. Ever since he started reading your column, he has stopped peeing in bed at night. You don't know what a relief that is to me as I don't know how to swim.

Pat Nixon

Dear Dr. Zane:

The President is not guilty of anything, believe you me. He's one of the most honest men I've ever had the pleasure to deal with. He's no more guilty than I was.

Spiro T. Agnew

Dear Dr. Zane:

As one of my closest friends, I am sending you the April 15 tape of my conversations that day with John Dean so you can make them public. Originally that tape was lost, but I found it the other day while going through the files of one of our most loyal public servants, HR Haldeman.

R. Nixon

Nix: Come in John.

Dean: Thank you Mr. President.

Nix: How's the investigation coming along?

Dean: Fine Mr. President. It's going along quite fine.

Nix: That's good John. You know that I'm a loyal American and because I am a loyal American I want to get to the bottom of this...

Dean: But you've always been at the bottom of this.

Nix: Now don't make jokes John. If I wanted a comedian for a lawyer, I could have gotten Bob Hope. What if someone heard you say that about me, the President? What would people think? They might get suspicious. And we don't want them to get suspicious.

Dean: They won't get suspicious. We've done a good job of covering this whole matter up.

Nix: You're not including me when you say "we," are you John? Ha ha ha. You've got a great sense of humor. [Tape becomes inaudible.]

Dean: Could you speak a little louder Mr. President? Did you mention something about it being unwise to offer executive clemency? I didn't hear you so well because of your mumbling.

Nix: No. Why would I do that? I've been a law abiding man my entire life. I have nothing to hide. I even brought our POW's home standing on their feet. They didn't have to crawl home on their knees because I gave them a peace with honor.

Dean: He's going to crack. And even Stans has me worried.

Nix: And during my Presidency we landed the first man on the moon. Buzz Aldren was the first man, an American too, to pee in his pants on the moon. And I'm proud to say that it happened during the Nixon Administration.

Dean: But on the other hand, I think we can get them with the Chappaquiddick thing. That'll shut Kennedy up.

Nix: Unlike Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, this President can walk the streets without fear because his people love him...and I know that they love me because Sammy Davis Jr. hugged me.

Dean: I don't have the answers to those questions yet. It's getting more and more difficult to cover it up every day. I'm beginning to feel the pressure.

Nix: It was during the Nixon Administration that we finally had a President courageous enough to appoint a new director of the FBI other than J. Edgar Hoover. What other President has had the courage to appoint someone other than J. Edgar Hoover to head the FBI? And I've done that on three separate occasions already. And not once on any of those occasions did I so much as think about appointing Mr. Hoover. Not that he wasn't a loyal American and patriot.

Dean: I don't want to be a scapegoat Mr. President. Haldeman and Ehrlichman are just as involved as anyone else.

Nix: Unlike some other politicians, I have nothing to hide. I have never done anything wrong. I have never accepted any campaign contributions with any strings attached like some other politicians I could name. In fact my wife Pat, and I want to make myself particularly clear on this, my wife Pat wears a respectable Republican cloth coat. The only gift I've ever accepted is a cute cocker spaniel, whom we affectionately call Checkers. And I'm not going to give him up.

Dean: Thank you Mr. President.

Nix: Goodbye John. And you don't have to worry. I'll make sure that our conversation will be kept strictly confidential.

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(continued from back page)

might be in reforming the world is very easy to determine. Less than 100 years ago, within the lifetimes of people now alive, both India and China were prostrate under imperialistic capitalism. The names of Shanghai and Calcutta were synonymous with degradation, filth, disease, and starvation. Shanghai in particular was notorious as a sinkhole of opium dens. Since that time China has experienced a profound revolutionary movement of all its people, dealing practically and dialectically with the realities of the material world. India continues to benefit from more than 2,000 years of the mysticism, religionism, and metaphysical other-worldism that we're now getting from the Guru Maharaj Ji. We are all familiar with the cheerful healthiness of the Chinese people, with the leanliness of their cities, with their freedom from disease and famine and crime, with their fat happy babies. It is a fact that since the Revolution drug addiction has become non-existent in China. India, of course, is even worse off than she was before. Calcutta is the most overcrowded and disease-ridden city in the world. India's poor are worse off than the poor of any other part of the world. And the wealthy classes of India, the classes that have sent us the Guru Maharaj Ji and his spoiled brothers are possibly the sleekest, the most lavishly over-privileged, the most arrogant and unpleasant wealthy classes in the world today.

Our domestic food shortage, our energy shortage, the wars, and the crippling of our money, are only the early shocks of what will be an historic and perhaps the final crisis of American international capitalism. It is only natural that in a time of frightful change people will look for permanence, and try to stop the world. If the Guru Maharaj Ji, Billy Graham and the Rev. Moon, the Hare Krishnas, the Jesus Freaks, and the Scientologists were not reaping people in, other religious opportunists would be. The Movement can only watch its lost brothers and sisters with regret, and hope that when we have something better to offer, some of them many come back. But we are not looking for shortcuts to bliss, one person at a time, as they do in India; we are seeking as they did in China, to acquire an understanding of the dialectical operation of oppression in the material world, and to build the organizations that can turn the dynamic of change to work for us instead of against us. That way takes longer, but it works it longer, but when it works it works for everybody. Then it will no longer be necessary to mess up our veins with needles or our minds with priests and gurus.

ARE HIGH RENTS FORCING YOU OUT OF VENICE?

We can work together to save our homes! If you have had a rent raise within the past year or anticipate one, soon, please contact: Venice Residents for Rent Relief 226 San Juan Venice 90291 Together we can find a way.

RAINBOW PAGES NOW AVAILABLE

The Venice Peoples' Rainbow Pages, a people's directory of Venice is here. It may be obtained free at any of the following locations: 1) Venice Bookstore and Culture Palace, 1510 Pacific 2) The Midnight Special Bookstore, 1335 1/2 W. Washington Bl 3) Bayrock Press, 1639 W. Washington Bl 4) Neighborhood Adult Participation Project, 538 Westminster 5) Venice Branch Library, 610 California 6) WLA Community Service Organization, 714 California 7) Israel Levin Senior Adult Center, 201 Ocean Front Walk 8) Westside Women's Center, 218 S. Venice Bl 9) Canal People's Park Committee, 441 Sherman Canal 10) Venice Miracle Teen Post, 1100 W. Washington Bl In addition to these locations, copies of the Rainbow Pages will be available through the December Venice and area town council meetings. Check elsewhere is this newspaper for the times and places of these meetings.

Since we produced the "Pages" on few monies we were only able to print up 3,000 copies for the 30,000 residents of Venice — so please, one copy per family and share it with a friend.

Satgorillas

Detroit (from the Door) — Last August the Divine Light Mission's Satguru Maharaj Ji received national media coverage when a staff member of Detroit's alternative newspaper "The Fifth Estate" shoved a shaving cream pie in the Satguru's face. Pat Halley stated that he did it because he always wanted to hit god in the face with a pie.

However, two of the followers of the Divine Light Mission evidently didn't get the gist of what the Guru said — or perhaps they did. Several days later, Pat Halley was attacked by two hammer-wielding disciples. (The Satguru playfully calls his bodyguards "Satguerillas.") Their intent, apparently, was murder, and they almost succeeded. Halley was seriously injured in the attack and had to undergo brain surgery in order to save his life.

The Detroit Police took two weeks to get around to swearing out a warrant against the disciples, and by that time the "Divine thugs" had disappeared. Wanted in connection with the assault on Pat Halley are: Richard

Fletcher, a 25-year-old white male, and Juteswar Misra, a 55-year-old Indian disciple.

(Since this story came out in the underground press, there has been a widespread rumor that Pat Halley died as a result of the hammer attack. To find the truth, the Beachhead telephoned long-distance to the "Fifth Estate" editorial office in Detroit. Pat Halley's skull was crushed in the attack and he suffered a severe concussion, but he did not die; he is now recovered, with scars, and is suing the Divine Light Mission and the Guru Maharaj Ji, who he insists is 37 years old.

(A top Movement organizer who recently visited his organization's chapter in Detroit has told the Beachhead that the 55-year-old Indian, Juteswar Mishra, was one of the Guru Maharaj Ji's "mahatmas"; he said the Divine United Organization (DUO) transferred Mishra to Germany immediately after the attack on Halley.

(In another article in the alternative press earlier this year, an ex-devotee of the Guru Maharaj Ji said the mahatmas transmitted the "Perfect Knowledge" to the disciples through direct physical manipulation of the skull [pressure on the eyeballs, on the ears, etc]. Perhaps the Mahatma Juteswar has forgotten any other means of communication.)

Farmworkers

Due to recent newspaper headlines, proclaiming a Teamster-United Farm Worker agreement, many people have been led to believe that the UFW grape-lettuce boycott is over. While the Teamster-UFW pact had been agreed upon verbally, as yet it has not yet been signed by the Teamsters Union. So far there has been nothing to indicate that it will be signed in the near future. Thus, the UFW is assuring the public that the boycott is not over and is asking for continued public support.

The result of the agreement, should the Teamsters sign it, would be the gradual withdrawal of the Teamsters from farm labor organizing. All of the Teamster-grower grape contracts would be immediately dissolved and Teamster lettuce contracts, expiring in 1975, would not be renewed by the Teamsters. For its part, UFW would agree not to boycott lettuce picked under the Teamster-grower contracts. With the Teamsters out of the picture, UFW would continue to boycott all table grapes and non-union wines in order to keep economic pressure on grape growers to sign UFW contracts.

Over the last six months, the direction of the UFW activities has shifted from the strike to the boycott. Because of the violence against UFW pickets this summer, all strike activity was halted in mid-August and over 500 striking families left their homes for cities all over the US, from Los Angeles to Boston. Their mission is to begin, once again, the massive consumer boycott of all table grapes, iceberg lettuce and non-union wines (Gallo, Franzia and Guild). As before, the purpose of the boycott is to put non-violent, economic pressure on the growers to recognize the right of farm workers to have their own union and to be covered by a UFW contract.

In Los Angeles, there are over 50 strikers that have come from the San Joaquin Valley to work on the grape-lettuce-wine boycott. These workers and their families are living on room and board, and \$5 per week and are in need of every kind of assistance. For those interested in finding out how you can help these workers, please contact the United Farm Worker Office, 1411 W. Olympic Blvd, LA, 90015 or call 381-1136. Please make all checks payable to the United Farm Workers.

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ANTI-MARINA BYPASS PETITION DRIVE

On Saturday, November 17, the Traffic Advisory Council of the Venice Town Council conducted a petition drive against the proposed Marina Freeway bypass in the East Venice area. Despite rainy weather 22 volunteers carried petitions door-to-door throughout the area and gathered many signatures. They report hardly any opposition to the petition — everyone in East Venice is fearful of the destruction of their neighborhood and massive traffic jamming of Venice streets that would be caused by the proposed highway.

In coming weeks the petition drive will be carried into all areas of Venice. For information call 821-5645 or 821-1430.

ALTERNATIVE PRESS REVUE

April 10, 1972, Normandy, France — A small girl saw a copy of the *Alternative Press Revue* in the sky. Her vision changed the world! Now you can subscribe to her vision and send for other earthshaking phenomena published by the Alternative Press Syndicate...

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PEACE ON EARTH GOOD WILL TO PEOPLE

VENICE MARIJUANA OFFICE

A new community political office has opened in Free Venice. It is the Freedom '74 Committee, a completely open group, whose purpose is to promote and organize action projects which promote freedom. The main projects which we will be working on are the 1974 Marijuana Decriminalization Initiative and impeachment of President Nixon. Other projects will include: finding and supporting freedom-oriented candidates for the 1974 elections; other initiative campaigns for 1974; and non-electoral activities for amnesty for war objectors, civil liberties, anti-imperialism, and economic freedom. The office will be open to anyone to work on a current project or to organize a new one.

The new 1974 Marijuana Initiative is similar to last year's California Marijuana Initiative (CMI). It removes criminal penalties for adults (18 and over) for possession, transporting, cultivation, and private use of marijuana. The only significant change from CMI is a section allowing a local governing body (i.e. city council) to pass an ordinance against public smoking of marijuana, punishable by fine (citation only) up to \$100. Last year, CMI volunteers in Venice handled over 30,000 signatures to put it on the ballot out of the Venice Peace and Freedom Party office. This year our goal is 50,000 signatures toward the 500,000 that will be needed statewide. The deadline for the initiative to be placed on the November, 1974 ballot is Feb 20. (Note: there is only a single filing period this year). We need to get volunteers for office work, petitioners, supplies printing, cheap or free printing, and money. We also have positions for fund-raisers, paid on a commission basis. We have about 2 1/2 months to go to get it on the ballot. It can win this time with your help. If you can help, or just want to sign the initiative, come to our office at:

Freedom '74 Committee
54 Navy St—Apt 1
Free Venice
Phone: 399-8249
Tentative Hours: Mon-Sat (May-
be Sunday) 11am-7pm

[We also have petitions for impeachment, amnesty for war objectors, and against the proposed Marina Bypass (freeway in disguise) through Venice.]

MIDNIGHT SPECIAL

The Midnight Special, the collectively-run community radical bookstore, needs people to help staff the store. The bookstore is open Tu—Th 12—9, Fri—Sun 12—6, and is closed Mondays. It is located at 1335 1/2 W. Washington Bl, phone 392-7412.

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Should Venice Secede?

IS FREE VENICE A COP-OUT?

by Rick Davidson

Over the past few years people have asked if Free Venice symbolized secession from Los Angeles, and if so, when is it going to happen? If anyone has an old copy of the July 4, 1969 issue of the **Beachhead** they will see the **Declaration of Free Venice** as the centerfold. A few quotes will give you feelings and ideas at that time: "We, who have worked with our friends and neighbors to make our community a better place to live for all the people, have concluded that the City of Los Angeles has intentions and plans hostile to the interests of a majority of Venice residents." Also, "When the actions of a government add up to tyranny, it is the duty of responsible persons to take action against that government. We, therefore, declare ourselves dedicated to separation from Los Angeles and to self-government in Venice." (Anyone interested in seeing the entire Declaration call Free Venice) It was a good Fourth of July; we had a wonderful family reunion and picnic; talked about freedom; talked about community; about friendships; and went home. Since then Free Venice activists have been vague about separating from LA because the concept has never been fully explored either for its reasonableness or its possibility of success. I feel it is time to consider the pros and cons of freeing ourselves from the colonial clutches of LA. Just a note to Venice newcomers about our relation to LA. Venice of America was created by Abbott Kinney at the turn of the century and was originally a city unto itself. It became part of LA in 1925 under cries of "Annexation means slavery" from the people and lies about all the wonderful things LA would do for Venice from the politicians. So today, we are part of LA which means that the Los Angeles City Council, stealing, excuse me, sitting 22 miles away in downtown LA rule our lives. Their police watch over us, their planners plan over us, their department of public works work over us . . . and on and on and on. Our newly formed Venice Town Council is showing those of us that our participating that people who live in communities are better qualified to decide their fate than politicians who sit in seats of power 22 miles away. It would be hard for me to claim objectivity in the matter of LA vs. Venice, therefore, I would like to suggest that the **Beachhead** seek the other point of view, i.e., LA is good to Venice and we should not secede.

Continuing, I would like to consider not just a Free Venice, but begin to look at the political structure of our cities, states and nation in order to find a way to lessen the Watergate and Pentagon Papers reality. After listening to the

fund raising activities of CREEP it is obvious that economics and politics are synonymous in our nation's capitol— I think that is so from top to bottom among our elected officials, so that, we need an economic overhaul of this country. But even when that is accomplished I believe that in a society such as ours, we must have a political overhaul as well. What do I have in mind? Decentralization of power! This is a difficult question in this time of regional and world crises. Chancing being called a professional chauvinist I look to the practice of architecture for an answer, for an answer. If we conceive of power vested in local communities and these communities as the client on one hand with our councils, assemblies and congresses acting as design bodies (architect/planners) on the other the relationship might run as follows: the public articulates its felt needs; the design bodies create design solutions; solutions are presented to the client (the public) for revision, modification, and approval; the design bodies implement the approved solutions. The important difference between the concept above and the way government works today is that decision making power is exercised by the public rather than by representatives. Representatives, we are finding, are too easily located, contacted and directed by self-interested big-business to be holders of public trust and power. In order for the people to exercise their power a minimum of three needs must be satisfied: 1. education—the public must have the objective (truthful)—presentation of problems and solutions; 2. a decentralization plan based on an organic reality; and 3. transfer of power. An important pre-requisite to 1 and 2 is total communication. In 1969, Free Venice described the use of two-way TV, (an idea mentioned in 1961 by R. Buckminster Fuller— see **Education Automation**). Today Theta-Com Corporation is installing 1000 two-way units as a pilot program (Subscriber response system) in El Segundo. It is conceived for big business, but once you have the two-way street the business of politics, rather, business of government can travel that same street. We are fast approaching the physical reality when the decision making powers can be exercised by all the people.

"Hey man, you're a long way from Venice splitting from LA!" That's true. But again I would like to suggest that the **Beachhead** create a dialogue addressing itself to the pros and cons of secession— independence! Next issue I will speak for the idea of secession and hope that another voice will investigate the other side presenting the arguments against secession.

to be continued



"VIOLENCE CENTER"

The UCLA Center for the Reduction of Violence would do research in psycho-surgery— "the destruction or removal of brain tissue for the purpose of altering behavior" It is believed to be directed against radicals, with attention to minority groups. It is being marketed as a "sophisticated" method for controlling gang wars, future Watts riots, prison riots and general discontent. The following is new developments in the Violence Center.

By Daniel O'Hearn, Steering Committee, Fanshen

Refusal of funding, state-wide criticism, and internal divisions have forced the UCLA Violence Center underground. Dr. Litman, Director Designate of the Center, has resigned, along with Professor Richard Wasserstrom, who headed an internal ethics board. These resignations followed Chancellor Young's refusal to permit a review board which could prevent abuse of experimental subjects and provide prisoner subjects with the right to counsel. More resignations are expected soon.

As a result, the Center projects are now in the hands of Louis J. West, head of UCLA's Neuropsychiatric Institute. West is presently spending most of his time travelling to Washington and Sacramento in search of Center funds. However, the projects are being transferred to the custody of the "Lab for the Study of Life-Threatening Behavior," which previously handled only non-controversial work such as suicide prevention. West's office admits that the name change is a "device" to get funding approval. Under the old name, funding was refused by the State Legislature because of the potential for abuse of human

experimentation, misapplication of center research by the Justice Department and other police agencies sponsoring the projects, and poorly-defined projects to investigate drugs and surgery as ways of "treating" violence.

Because of the name change and underground status of the Center (West likes to claim that the Violence Center no longer exists, which is technically true since it no longer exists under that name) West apparently feels free to revive many projects which were dropped as a result of criticism from within the original center staff. Version 7, the last published statement of project proposals listed only 5 comparatively innocuous projects. West is now going back to version 6, with 24 projects, including experiments with anti-violence drugs to involve prisoners, and proposals to find a way to identify "prevalent" or "violence prone" people so they can be treated before committing any crime. Opponents believe that the participation of prisoners in such projects could not really be voluntary, and that the screening program could only be applied by police agencies to extend advanced methods of prison control to people who have committed no crime.

On November 7, Dr. Peter Breggin, best-known national opponent of psychosurgery, spoke out against the Violence Center to several hundred students as part of an anti-racist teach-in. A Black unity group has been formed with at least 50 members to deal, among other things, with the Violence Center. Various liberal and radical groups (SDS, Grassroots, Fanshen) are working on a petition to have a student referendum on the subject. In general, the effort to sweep this controversy under the rug appears to be failing.

THE CHURCH IN OCEAN PARK

235 Hill St. SM. 399-1631. Jim Conn, Minister. It has a child care center (399-6405), a Community Legal Services Center (392-9011), a Black cultural program for kids, and a

quietly traditional Christian liturgy, Sundays, at 11am. Also, Wednesdays at 7pm there is Kundalini Yoga and Thursdays at 7:30pm, Lamaze Classes in Natural Childbirth.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

WOMEN'S CENTER
218 S. Venice Bl, 823-4774

ABORTION REFERRAL
936-7466, 823-4774

PET PRIDE (FOR CATS)
459-1703

FREE VENICE
226 San Juan, 396-6876

PEACE & FREEDOM PARTY
221-2404

VENICE DRUG COALITION
392-4151

IMPEACHMENT CAMPAIGN CTR
732-2445

VENICE PEOPLE'S RAINBOW PAGES
17 Ozone dail DYM-N-ERG

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

HEALTH RIGHTS
399-7737 (Vera Davis)
392-4117 (Al Emkin)

DRUG HELP
1. Venice Drug Clinic
1806 Lincoln Bl, 392-4114
2. Drug Hotline, 394-3577
3. Drug Emergency (24-hr),
392-5744

CRISIS REFERRAL SERVICE
Hotline for food, clothes, counseling, etc. 399-1248
M-F 10 am— 5 pm

YOUTH CLINIC
905 Venice Bl, VD, pregnancy tests, infections, abortion counseling, birth control: 4 pm—4: 45 pm; for other medical help, call first, 821-3484

JOB INFO CENTER
316 Lincoln Bl— 392-4811

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

FAMILY PLANNING CENTER
1501 Pacific Av (at Market)
EX2-4147

BENJAMIN RUSH CENTER
Help for your head— 392-4905

UCLA DENTAL CLINIC
392-4125

LEGAL AID
1. NAPP, 528 Westminster, 399-7737
2. 1607 Pacific Av (upstairs)
392-4117, call for appointment
3. The Law Center, 392-9011

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

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

VENICE COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER
826 Hampton Dr, 392-7722

RECYCLING
Westside Environmental Center
Behind the Co-op Market
2021 Barrington Ave, West LA
478-3429 open 7 days/wk, 24 hrs

VENICE HEALTH COUNCIL
1306 W. Washington Bl
392-5752

CHILD COUNSELING CENTER
392-7995

FOOD CO-OP
Admits new members on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 Venice Recreation Center Card Room, between the weight lifting area and the children's playground. For info— 396-7040

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

NATIVE AMERICANS
391-6067

COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP
Cooperative child care
Sharon Shapiro 391-7939

ASIANS
Involve Together Asians, 477-0357

BLACKS
NAPP, 528 Westminster, 399-7737

DRUGS AND RELIGION: THE "ONE WAY OUT"

By Bob Wells

Some of my friends have become devotees of the Guru Maharaj ji, a 15-year-old religious missionary from India who presently enjoys a following in this country. One of these friends, a drop-out with an advanced degree in engineering, said he'd heard I disapproved of these religious movements, and he asked me why.

When I first moved to Venice Beach some eight years ago and began to take the directions that have led me into the Movement, my views both on religion and drugs were liberal. If people wanted to get into these things that was cool with me; they knew what they were doing, and they hurt no one but themselves. My own family background is Irish, and I knew and resented that the history of the Irish people's 800-year struggle against enslavement by the ruling classes of England was a history of 800 years of betrayal by the Irish church. But I chalked this up to the greed and opportunism of Irish bishops. I knew Marx had said religion was the "opium of the people," but I felt he was reacting to the debased populace and the degraded church of his time.

Through my experience in Venice I have come to see that drugs and religion are one and the same, and that by their very nature they operate always to destroy people's movements to be free.

In our own time we have seen a person, Timothy Leary, try to start a movement based in all seriousness on the notion that "drugs are the religion of the people"—the dialectical other side of Marx's proposition. And following Leary have come the gurus, the Hare Krishnas, the Jesus Freaks, turning it back around again, crying "Get high on Jesus," or "Bliss out on Perfect Knowledge." All these religious movements have great appeal among former dopers, and I think it's more that just coincidence that each of the exotic drugs that has swept through our community seems to have its equivalent in one of the exotic new religions.

This registered on me when I visited the chanters at the Nichiren Shoshu temple. These were mostly middle-class housewives, middle-class salesmen and petty supervisors, middle-class students—people who as a class burn up each year tons of benzedrine and amphetamines—speed. And here they were getting the perfect mimick of a speed rush from their chanting and their Nichiren activities.

The privileged sons and daughters of the middle class, dropping out in desperation from the boredom, paralysis, and despair of middle-class life, turned to the psychedelic drugs for incomparable new experience. And here they are they are again, flocking with the gurus and the Hare Krishnas who promise them the same ecstasy and literally the same experiences without drugs.

The Chicanos, the Blacks, the shit-kicking whites, the Indians—the wretched of the earth whose world is one of deprivation and oppression—turn for relief as a class towards the pain-killers—heroin, codeine, methadone, alcohol, barbiturates. The Irish were in this class not 100 years ago. Typically the religious of this class, the Catholic church and off-brand Protestantism, serve to disconnect people's brains from the pain of the world around them—they are "the opium of the people."

Less reckless and more intellectual circles ease their quiet desperation with semi-booze and semi-drugs—wine or beer or mild tranquilizers. And we find them getting tranked out behind semi-religious Transcendental Meditation or yoga.

The classes at the top of the tree are not not that well known to me; I understand there's a lot of hard drinking up there, but obviously they can maintain. The religion in their colorless churches seems to be without content; I would guess they go to services with the same display and purpose that they drink Cali-

dustry. Of all the classes, this is the only one that has religion working for it in its economic competition with the other classes. This is the class that pays for the bishop's Cadillac and the guru's private airplane.

My criticism of drugs and religion is that the appeal of both is by nature completely selfish. The salvation that is offered, the relief, is purely individual. There are large forces in the world which cause us pain and unhappiness. This pain registers on our consciousness through chemical changes in our brains, so that while we all hurt simultaneously, each of us hurts alone. These large forces can be understood and they can be dealt with; that which makes us hurt can be changed, so that we all experience together those changes in our brains that make us feel better. But drugs reach directly into the brain and make those chemical changes artificially, so that we get that feelgood experience without making the necessary changes in the outside world. Religion makes those same artificial chemical changes in our brains, but (usually) without the use of drugs. Drugs and religion are each a kind of mental masturbation, giving us the sensation without the reality. Each is a subjective, individual "solution" to an objective, collective problem. Each is worse than useless to the brothers and sisters hurting on either side of us, since it causes us to lose interest in seeking with them in seeking with them a collective solution to the real source of our hurt. And if people want to spread their good thing around, to get everybody to accept Christ (or to drop acid in the water supply), it makes no difference—they're selling the same useless commodity, individual salvation, in quantity lots.

Religion and drugs not only make us lose interest in finding objective solutions, they make us incapable of looking for them even if we want to. They have the effect of pinning our consciousness to the everlasting present, of making our world stand still. In a world where the only permanent thing is change itself (and maybe death), religion puts us in orbit around the notion of a "permanent" godhead, or a "permanent" source of energy, so that we lose our capacity to understand how the world changes and how we can participate in that process to make it work for people's benefit instead of for their oppression. We are "in this world but not of it" as the Christians say, or we "escape from the great wheel of karma" as the Hindus and Buddhists say. This, of course, puts us at the mercy of those who are not only still in the world but who control it for their own advantage and our disadvantage. Those who are riding high at the moment are always great patrons of religion, since it is very much in their interest to have the people believe that the present state of affairs is unchangeable.

Drugs have the same effect. We found this in our four-year battle to save the Venice Canals. Speculators and the government proposed to destroy the existing community for profit and drive us all out. Although we thought we'd lose we decided to fight anyway (and as it turned out we won, at least for now). The only strength we had to resist the power of big money and City Hall was the united strength of all the people. We felt we needed to rally everyone, and in the course of our drives we knocked on literally every door in the canals, several times. Because of its tranquillity and privacy this community is especially attractive to dopers (people whose lifestyle and identity is defined by drugs, not people who just turn on). We talked to lots of them. The response was always the same: "C'mon in man! Have a joint! Yeah, it's a great thing you're doing. We all go to stick together to save the canals. Right on!" Yet with a few exceptions, the drug community never came through with support, either volunteer or financial. They were able to look back and take

a hit, and the problem that might have motivated them to act was solved in the privacy of their own skulls. Of course, the real world was still out there, and if we had lost their fight for them the eviction marshal would have been at the door and the bulldozer would have been in the front yard.

It is not surprising, considering the irresponsible individualism of the drug style, that so many dopers find it easy to become drug dealers, displaying the grasping distrust and materialistic selfishness typical of the petty trading class. It is not surprising that Gov. Reagan's Proposition 1, a measure that would have given tax relief to the wealthy at the expense of essential services to poor and working people, was endorsed by supporters of the California Marijuana Initiative because it would have limited "government interference with the individual." Considering that the classes in power will always support whatever keeps the people asleep, it was a shock but not a surprise to learn that the U.S. Agency for International Development, the CIA, the wealthy classes that we fought to put in power in Indochina, and large corporate and individual contributors to the Nixon Administration, are the principal suppliers of heroin from Southeast Asia.

"But what about Service," asks my friend the devotee. "Whenever a premise receives Knowledge he has to promise to dedicate service to the Guru Maharaj ji. This could release more human energy for service that the Movement ever has." Even if all of this were social service it would be a static kind of service, performed in a world that is standing still. Actually, any kind of "service" will do, provided only it is dedicated to the guru. We as people do not serve ourselves only by putting bandages on each other's wounds; we serve our own interests as a class by working in ways that constantly refine our knowledge of the source of our problems, and by building the organizations that can operate on that knowledge and eliminate the cause of our hurt. If one performs service dedicated to the interests of suffering people as a class, and if any kind of service will do, then one has no way of looking for the dynamic of change in the world, for cause and effect, for the dialectic of transforming things into their opposites (like transforming oppression into liberation). We get the same sort of religious service the world has seen so much of, like the missions on skid row that minister to the drunks rather than identifying and combatting the forces that profit by creating ever more alcoholics. Again, this sort of dead-ending of peo-

ple's altruism works directly in the interests of the classes in power.

Religion works in still another institutional way to strengthen the ruling class and disarm the people's struggle to be free. The source of permanence, that is, the static principle, the defier of change, is characterized as a godhead, or as a source or kind of energy, that is somehow separate from and above (or deeper than) the individual. Then there is one person—the Prophet Mohammed, Jesus the Christ, Buddha, the Dalai Lama, the Guru Maharaj ji, but invariably a male—who is the direct link between god and humanity. Then below him are the Caliphs, the Popes and Cardinals, the Mahatmas, and below them are the priests and bonzes, and below them the people. In other words the universe, the whole cosmology, automatically aligns itself into a hierarchy (the word "hierarchy" itself means "a ranking of angels"). It is structurally impossible in that context to talk about a levelling process, about combatting hierarchies or changing or ending authorities. Somehow, that hierarchy always works out with men on top and women and children underneath, with the wealthy and the rulers on top, with the exploited classes below them, and with those whom the current economic system to-

tally enslaves either at the bottom or outside (like Blacks in the Mormon church or Untouchables in Hinduism). Religion by its intrinsic nature fixes the acceptance of hierarchy into people's minds, and that hierarchy is always either a more or less subtle or a more or less brutal reflection of the hierarchical relationships of the economic elite reeling at the time the religion is formed. To the exploitation and oppression imposed by the ruling class with force or arms, religion adds the sanction of eternal god.

All of this may sound like a blanket condemnation of all drug use and all religious people. Like anything else it needs to be somewhat relative. No reformer or revolutionary could complain if one used coffee to get oneself started, or took a little alcohol or grass to uncurl one's toes. Even getting stoned or drunk may be worthwhile sometimes. It's only when chemical sensations become an institution in a person's life that the person becomes useless for making institutional changes in the world.

I'm not so sure one can simply joy pop with "a little" religion—to accept religion at all one has to accept its bad premises. But religion attracts good people, and throughout history good people have worked to subvert the institution, especially through the medium of religious ethics. One thinks of the proud tradition of resistance of the Black church in North America, crowned by Martin Luther King, of the mujahid "holy warriors" of the Algerian FLN, of the Buddhists who made the ultimate witness by fire against the tyranny in South Vietnam, or of the Quakers. But over time the institution nullifies the reformers and the saints. The Catholic church has produced many beautiful rebel priests, but I cannot recall any rebel Popes.

One of the things I resent most about the Guru Maharaj ji is his opportunist manipulation of people's social consciousness. When he arrived here from India seeking to expand his religious movement among young white middle class Americans, more than ten years of intense Civil Rights Movement, Anti-War Movement, Black, Third World, and Women's Liberation Movement had planted an awareness of burning social issues in people's minds. One method young Americans use to test a person's genuineness—and it's a good method—is to test their consciousness of these issues. I read the guru's newspaper "Divine Times" and his magazine "And It Is Divine"; something on these social crises is in every issue, often illustrated with lavish four-color treatment. The impression is that the guru's movement is aware of all these problems, and in fact it is frankly claimed that they have the solution for all of them—to war, poverty, ignorance, the oppression of race by race, women by men, children by adults, oldtimers by the young. Yet a reading of the lengthy articles shows there is no substance. No solutions are even suggested, except that if everyone "Receives Knowledge" from the guru, all problems will end. This is the same of solution we used to hear—"If everybody dropped acid there'd be no more war," etc. Of course everybody did not drop acid and "everybody" will not Receive Knowledge, nor would it matter if we did. But the appearance without the substance has been enough to divert many people from serious social change, and to draw such valued brothers and sisters as Rennie Davis, Katherine Berkley, and others out of the Movement. It seems clear now that these people were seeking personal spiritual relief through the Movement rather than looking for dialectical ways of ending all oppression, but this problem can't be overcome as long as they are committed to another movement dealing only in personalistic individual salvation.

How effective the guru's "Knowledge"