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STATEMENT TO THE COASTAL COMMISSION

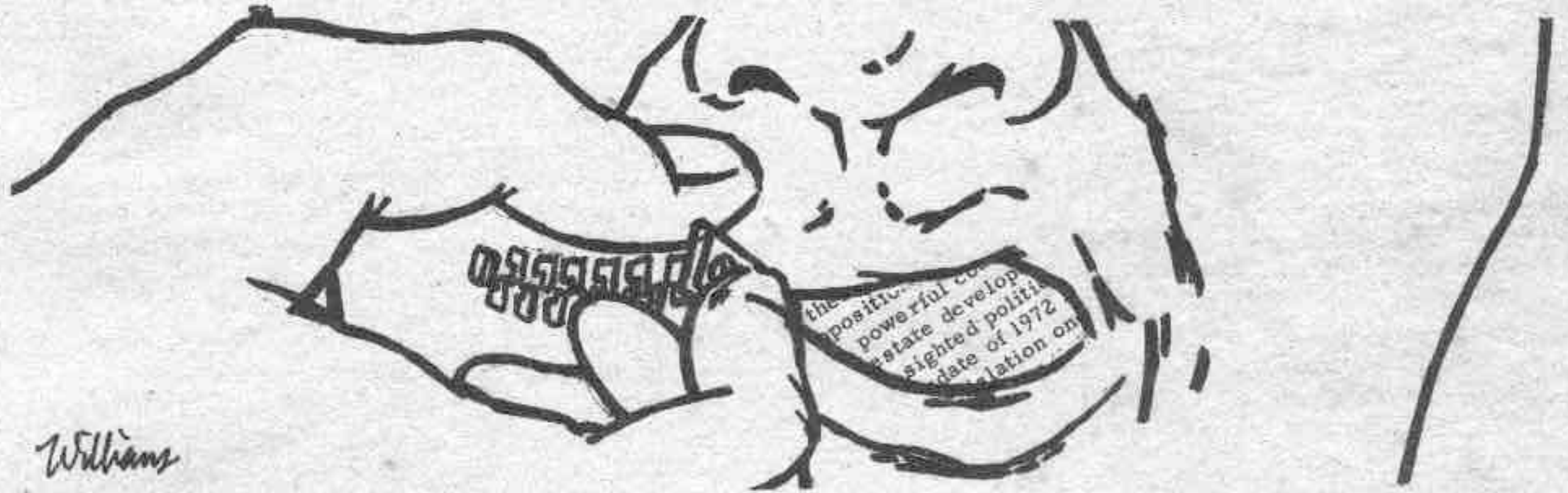
The Regional Coastal Commission recently held hearings on a number of permit applications to build in the Venice Canals. The Commissioners refused to hear testimony relating to the effect of these developments on the people living in the neighborhood, and would only listen to information about the physical characteristics of the proposed structures. Reuben Press was one of the many Venice residents who showed up to oppose these developments. The following is a statement that he prepared, but was not allowed to present.

By RUEBEN PRESS

Commissioners, there is no difference in the end result of large developments such as the twenty one buildings proposed here today and other large developments. The end result is that a few wealthy people get wealthier and those who are unable to pay the new price for this 19th century capitalism are forced to uproot their lives and relocate.

Years ago we had the Infamous Ocean Park Redevelopment Project. There were assurances that the many European immigrants, the low income and the elderly would be rehoused. And it was a Big Lie. The old structures came down and people were left to scramble, and bid up what was left of the old structures around this "oasis of greed." Then there is the bunker hill development project and you get the same stories, and the same pattern as the old neighborhoods fell under the bulldozers of this or that construction company and much of the land still remains fallow. What of the people? The people who resided there and were uprooted. Left to be scattered to the four winds.

Now we have the Venice Canals Redevelopment Project and it doesn't take an economics degree to see that this project will directly lead to a rapid increase in the fortunes of a few and the destruction of a beautiful and historic old neighborhood. Residents of long standing are being forced to relocate elsewhere even now as the panic to "get a piece of the action" takes hold in the canals. And just who pays the price for such



a wonderful gift of development? All must pay who remain. All must pay the new higher tax burden or sell out, to have your small home cleared for another American award-winning dream home of multiple toilets, automatic garage door openers, automatic dishwashers and always more and more, that only the wealthy can afford. All renters who live at the canals now and who are not earning a high income will shortly be replaced by those who do and on and on to the tune of the realtors "getting theirs", and the speculators and builders "getting theirs."

What of the elderly and those on fixed incomes who reside at the canals? Who will look out for their interest? Will the realtor? Will the speculator? Will the tax assessor? Hopefully it will be the California Coastal Zone Conservation Commission. Conservation Commission.

Proposition 20, a mandate from the people and your official policies itself requires you to Conserve, Preserve and Protect this very unique coastal community and I am not only talking about the small beach cottages. Not only about the fish, snails and waterfowl, but also the Humans who just also happen to reside there, and who have a broad diversity of lifestyles and incomes.

You are not supposed to be negotiating with the money interests for what size or height of building will be allowed. You are not supposed to be finding a happy median where the speculators can make

a profit on the size of the building.

I strongly suggest that you part from past practices while there is still the old Venice canals community and do just what you are supposed to do. And that means that you only incorporate into the canals what will preserve and protect the canal community.

Commissioners, the 1.1 figure is a joke, it is the mark of death for the canals, it might as well be 1.5 or 9 and seven eighths. You are officially and morally bound to come to terms with the canals in the form of preserving and protecting only.

I wish to add that besides residing at the canals I am a homeowner and I myself own undeveloped land at the canals, which I wish, if later developed, will preserve and protect the small colorful cottages and lifestyles there.

I charge you as I would a police officer or a fish and game warden. Conservation Commissioners do your duty.

Thank you.

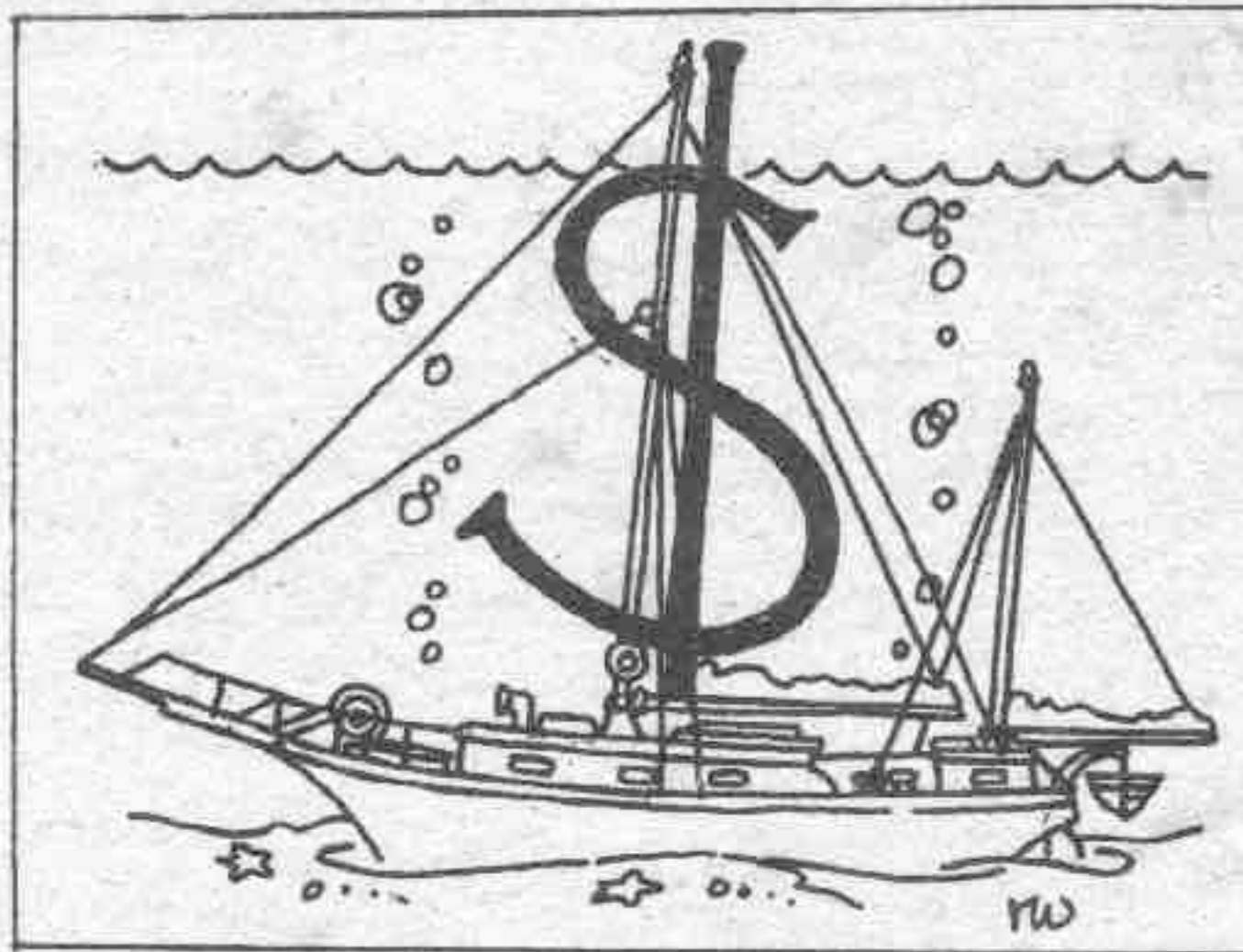
NOTE: The Commission eventually approved 28 permits to build in the canals, attaching some minor conditions which still allow for structures totally out of scale with the surrounding neighborhood. Canal residents have appealed these permits to the State Commission which will hold hearings at the Airport Marina Hotel on November 30th. Concerned individuals are urged to attend.

CORRUPTION IN ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

By DAVID KASPER

County Tax Assessor Philip Watson's method of determining who pays what share of the county tax burden has become increasingly suspect. Ever since several of his lower-echelon workers revealed some of the cozy relationships that exist between the assessor's office and wealthy business interests in the county, there has been a clamoring for access to assessment records. Combined with the outrage of thousands of residential taxpayers incensed over their latest tax bills, the resulting pressure has caused the County Board of Supervisors, led by Baxter Ward, to initiate a full-scale investigation of assessment practices. The investigation is being conducted by former Watergate investigator Carmine Bellino and a large staff with \$300,000 of county money to spend.

Watson's response to the efforts by investigators to obtain even routine information has been to erect a wall of secrecy around the activities of his office -- claiming that tax records are confidential and not subject to public scrutiny. The wall, however, is beginning to crack. After failing in an attempt to stop the investigation in the courts, Watson continued to stall, but yielded eventually to the subpoena power of the investigators.



The board's recent hearings into the assessment of marine properties gives us a glimpse of what Watson and his men have to hide. It seems that many yacht owners who keep their boats parked in Marina del Rey have been allowed to escape paying taxes on their boats by having them registered out of the state -- Portland, Oregon being the most popular place.

The marine assessment hearings have focused on several such yachts -- most notably the *Saphire Sea II*, reportedly worth over \$1 million. According to the testimony of two assess-

ment employees, they were repeatedly prevented from assessing the boat by Watson's chief deputy Gene Eley. When it was Eley's turn to testify, he tried very hard but could not "remember" interfering with their attempts to assess the boat.

The owner of the *Saphire Sea II* is Arthur Kaplan, a real estate developer who brought us the largest office building complex in the Marina, located on Admiralty Way near the Marina Shopping Center. Kaplan also was a major contributor to Watson's reelection campaigns in 1970 and 1974. Investigators are very interested in seeing how his real estate holdings have been assessed.

Another boat being looked at is the *Mustang X* owned by George Gaudin, an automobile dealer who offered to provide deputy assessor George Palmer with "a loose slot machine in Las Vegas" if he would reduce the assessment on his boat, according to Palmer's testimony. When Palmer failed to respond to this apparent bribe, assessment of the *Mustang X* was assigned to the head of the Marine Assessment Division, Mr. Villasenor. Records of Gaudin's taxes had subsequently disappeared, according to Palmer.

It turns out that Villasenor is now

(Continued on page 4)

CARTER STOPS THEM IN THEIR TRACKS

An 111-page internal manual prepared for the Jimmy Carter campaign instructs Carter workers on how to create crowds by stalling automobiles and how to give the candidate a halo effect when he appears on t.v.

A copy of the Carter handbook, obtained and released by Knight News Service, tells campaign organizers to stall cars on roadways wherever the candidate appears, in order to produce larger crowds: "These techniques will enable you to draw substantial crowds in a relatively invisible manner and will lead the press to believe the candidate drew the crowds."

The manual also instructs organizers to use certain kinds of TV lights from low angles to emphasize Carter's hair. It states that the right kind of lighting will produce a "nimbus effect," described later as (quote)"a radiant circle over Carter's head." .. ZNS

CAR LIBERATED!

Police are searching for a 27-year old Venice man who was apparently so irate over having his car towed away that he stormed into the Marina Towing Company on Glencoe Avenue and drove his car out before anyone could stop him, without paying the \$25 towing fee due the company. According to police reports the Venice resident's car had been illegally parked in a no parking area when it was towed away, Sunday, October 31st. (The Argonaut)

BELL TELEPHONE PLAYS TAPS

Bell Telephone eavesdrops and records thousands of private telephone conversations every day throughout the United States, reports the Charlotte Observer. The paper says that over 430,000 Bell employees have ready access to telephone lines throughout the 48 continental states.

With the aid of a device called Tel Tone 220, Bell supervisors, operators and line repairers have access to lines within a radius of hundreds of miles. All they need is the code to dial into the monitored system.

And all the FBI needs to do to run a "legal listening line" from a customer's phone to an FBI recording station is simply to notify Bell that it is for national security reasons.

Under federal law and in most states, the Bell System's eavesdropping is legal. Officials for the company claim the practice is to safeguard the system from misuse of telephone credit card numbers, fraudulent long distance calling and other fraudulent uses of the phones. LNS



ALASKA NATIVE ENROLLMENT

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act was passed by Congress in 1971. This Act granted the Natives 40 million acres of land and close to a billion dollars.

To date, over 78,000 Alaska Natives have enrolled to share in this Settlement. But the final deadline for enrollment ends on January 2, 1977, and it is estimated that a possible 10,000 eligible Alaska Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts have not yet submitted applications.

In order to share in the cash settlement and to receive stock in the business corporations which are managing the lands and monies, anyone who is at least one-quarter Alaska Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut and a U.S. citizen who was living on December 18, 1971, must submit an application by January 2, 1977. Applications may be requested from Pouch 7-1971, Anchorage, Alaska 99510



OLD FRIENDS: POLITICS AND BIG BUSINESS

If you feel the United States is being "run by big business", you're absolutely right.

A study by a New York sociologist has found that nearly two-thirds of all the members of the presidential cabinet between 1897 and 1973 were influential corporate executives prior to joining the cabinet.

Sociologist Peter Freitag found that the overwhelming majority of 205 cabinet members were also corporate directors or officers in major industries, banks, insurance companies, utilities or transportation companies. The proportion of big businessmen in the cabinet reached its highest figure in history in the Nixon administration when 96% of the cabinet members came from industry. After the cabinet members finished their terms, nearly two-thirds of them returned to big business. ZNS



THE VENICE PEOPLE'S RAINBOW PAGES

-An alternative Venice Community Directory-

If you're expecting to get any rushes off of it, or are looking for a direction how to find salvation in our struggled community or have expectations to encounter with a guide to spiritual enlightenment or political solutions, you've probably put down the book called 'The Venice People's Rainbow pages' with a very Venice remark: "It sucks".

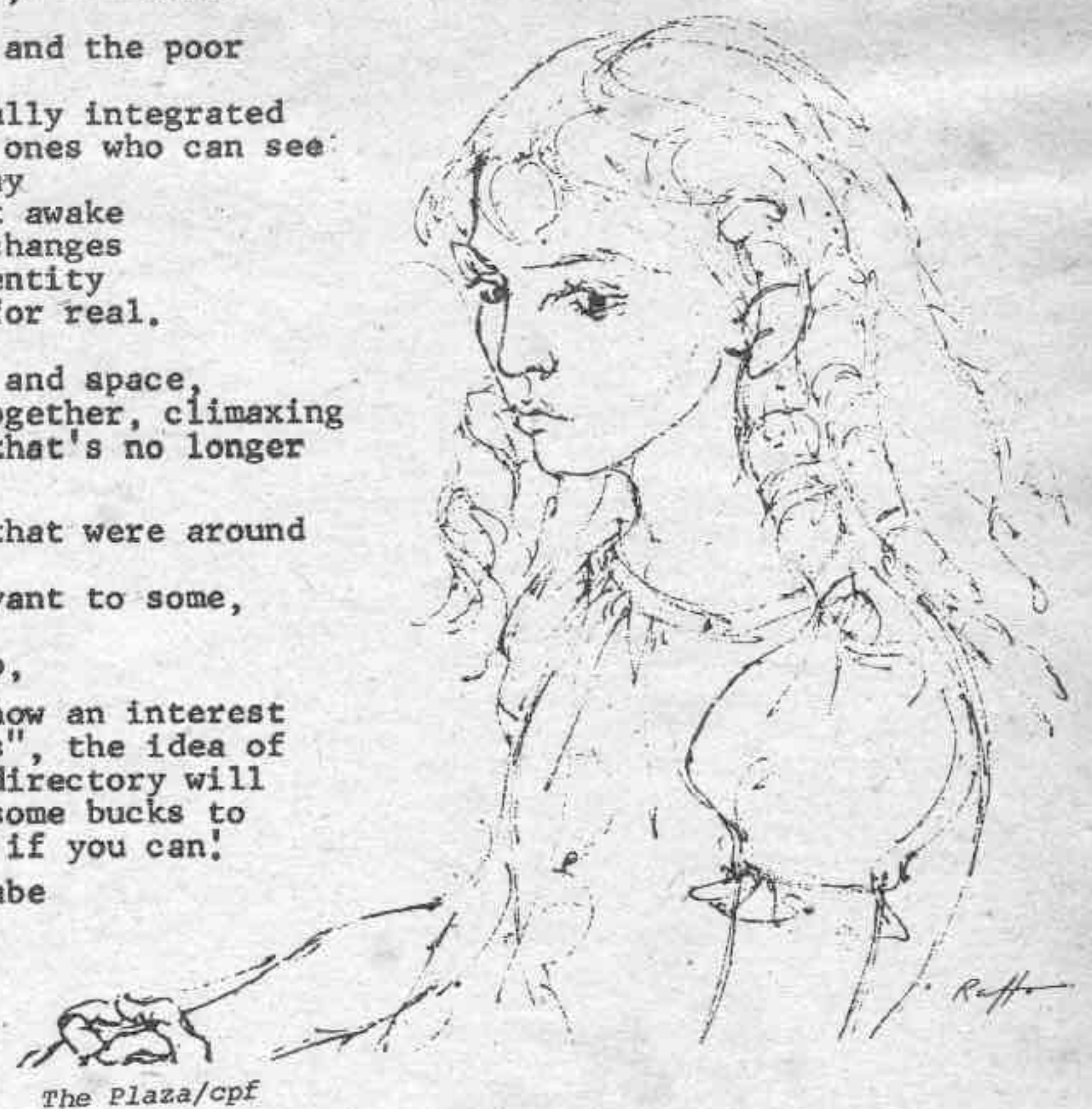
Take the 'pages' for what they are: a communal effort to communicate a very basic idea, that Venice is what it is, a myth, a reality, a dream, a struggle, a drop-in and a drop-out, a playground for the rich and the poor, a paradise, a jungle, it is racist, yet beautifully integrated, a school of truth for the ones who can see, very young, but fading away, an awareness that keeps it awake, always alert to react to changes, a community without an identity weren't the people in it for real.

The 'Pages' reflect a time and space, scattered energy coming together, climaxing labor pain for something that's no longer wanted or needed?

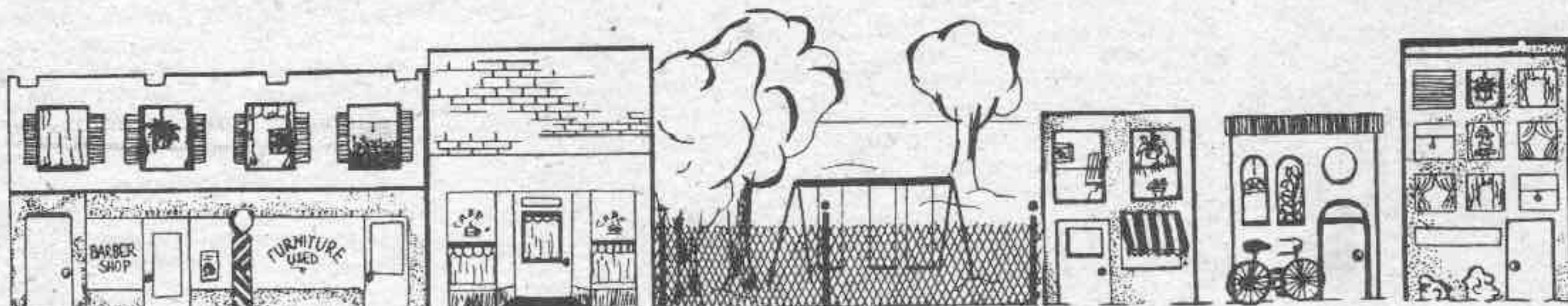
Services, places, people that were around yesterday no longer are, what still exists is relevant to some, others don't care where it's all going to go,

If the People in Venice show an interest and support for the 'Pages', the idea of an alternative community directory will survive. But it'll take some bucks to keep it going. So donate if you can!

Will Raabe



The Plaza/cpf



People's Press/cpf

ROBESON, JR. URGES BOYCOTT

Paul Robeson, Jr. has asked actors to boycott NBC and Universal TV's plans for a three hour special on his father's life. "I intend to oppose," he said, "any attempt at cynical exploitation of my father's death by those who denied him access to the medium during his active career." (CPF)

MEDIA RAPE

Criminal trespass charges have been dropped against two lesbian activists arrested during a protest at TV film distributor Viacom International. The Lesbian Feminist Liberation members oppose unedited distribution of Born Free, a film including the violent rape of a 14 year old girl by lesbians at a juvenile detention home. The film has also fired citizen and women's groups concerned with violence in the media. NBC, KRON-TV (San Francisco) and several advertisers are being sued by the mother of an eight-year old girl raped by young boys who had seen the film. The National Gay Task Force is mailing requests to 1100 gay and lesbian groups encouraging them to ask local stations not to accept Born Free unless it's edited. Meanwhile an unedited version has been sold to Learning Corp. of America for use in the schools. (CPF)

HELLO, HELLO, HELLO

When Hurricane Belle was ready to hit the northeast the Boston Globe have the following advice: If your telephone is out of service report your difficulty to the telephone company's repair service, which is listed in the directory. (CPF)

UCLA ART SALE

Students and faculty in the UCLA Art Department's ceramics program will hold a benefit art sale from 1 to 6 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 5th, in the Dickson Art Center on campus. Proceeds from the sale of more than 1,000 works of ceramic art created by students will provide money to repair and replace worn out equipment, as well as to bring distinguished artist on campus for lectures and workshops. The funds will also make available to students materials that would be otherwise unaffordable under the tight departmental budget.

THE ELDERLY JEWS OF VENICE

PART 2

ELDERLY JEWS: WHAT NOW?

(The following is excerpted from a thesis for Masters degrees in Jewish Communal Studies and Social Work at Hebrew Union College/USC. Second of two parts.)

By JOANNE ALTSCHULER

The elderly Jews of Venice are an articulate, alive group of people who have been living in the Venice area will over a decade. Originally attracted to the area because of the health aspects of a dry climate, the low rentals, the presence of other Eastern European Jews, the resort-like atmosphere, and the beach, they began to identify with their new community. However, Venice has been in transition since the late 1950's and the conditions that originally attracted these Jews to Venice are slowly disappearing, as is the Jewish population. These changes are occurring by force, not by choice.

The elderly Jews in Venice are in double jeopardy. As victims of traditional American stereotypes, they are labeled as dependent, unproductive, inactive, and facing death. As a group in Venice, they have been caught between the development of the Marina and the redevelopment project in Santa Monica. They are considered less valuable than the land on which they live. To quote Ruth B. Weg from her report on aging:

The property is too valuable. They'll have to go. In a pure capitalistic society, what causes value is the ratio of supply to demand. There's only so much land near the water. Anything near it is going to increase in value.

Because the elderly in America have never represented a source of strength and wisdom, or a valuable repository of experience, social planning has reflected their lack of status and importance by disregarding or isolating them. In the Venice area, planning has been minimal. The needs of the residents have not been taken into consideration, forcing those who can least afford it to relocate or live in substandard conditions.

This preliminary study revealed that the elderly Jews included in the sample have been watching their friends forced out of their homes by haphazard rent increases, and that they themselves now live with many fears, problems and unmet needs. They are afraid of the future, ashamed of their present living conditions, and they lack the services for many unmet needs.

Most of the elderly Jewish population in Venice feels disenfranchised and ignored by both the American and the Jewish communities. This raises the issue of responsibility. Should the Jewish community become involved with publicly funded programs for the Jewish aged? If so, to what extent? What responsibilities belong or should belong to the public domain? What should be the responsibility of a private or sectarian social service agency?

Clearly, the most serious problem facing the elderly Jews of Venice is the lack of decent housing at affordable prices. Without considering relocation as a solution, Terry Leveck offers the suggestion of re-zoning areas in Venice for low-income housing for the elderly. Ms. Leveck cites a precedent for this that considers special needs, economic costs and location factors. Again, who is responsible for initiating action?

In providing services for this group of people, the study revealed the importance of tzedakah to the selected sample. This concept is alien to American society and to its stereotypes about the elderly. The concept of a self-sufficient or relatively independent elderly person is inconsistent with stereotypes. Thus, in giving help to the aged, there is a built-in expectation that they are dependent and helpless recipients. Is there a place in today's charitable organizations for elderly people who may want to help in the planning process or for those who don't appear dependent and grateful for every dollar donated in their name? Unless stereotypes are seriously examined, and elderly people are considered a priority of choice and not necessity, planning for the aged will not allow for autonomous or proud elderly people.

The subjects in this study are an exotic and unique group of people with rich cultural and historical perspectives that will disappear as this population dies. They represent a large body of people who helped build the American Jewish community, yet they have been treated without the traditional respect commanded by Jewish law. One example in Venice are second generation Jewish landlords who have increased financial profits by raising the rents of their elderly Jewish tenants. Another example in Venice is the minimal financial support given to the Israel Levin Senior Adult Center that helps its elderly members sustain a sense of dignity, purpose and pleasure. What are the obligations of the Jewish community to its elderly constituents? Do they represent a source of strength, an era of pride, or a period of time that is dying and of no present value?



Basic cultural values and behavior patterns are not easily eradicated and are often sustained without conscious intent. From their expensive studies of American Jewish families, Landes and Zborowski found "a considerable perseverance of traditional European modes in American surroundings, even in the third generation, despite some evidence of important changes or, at least, of shifts of emphasis. If this is true, then findings of this study may have implications for Jews of Eastern European origin who are of the second and third generations. Will similar needs and problems manifest themselves among these groups as they age? The findings from this preliminary study may also provide some insights that may be valuable for comparative purposes with other groups in terms of phenomena such as assimilation.

The intense struggle between land developers and Venice residents focuses on significant issues that remain unsolved in American and Jewish society. For example, if money equals might, should "might make right?" Are poorer, elderly Jews underserving of a "right to life": adequate housing, food and medical care? The second issue in this struggle that is the primary conflict in Venice is the following: do the "monied" deserve to live wherever they choose, whenever they choose? Similarly, do the "unmonied" and less powerful deserve to be displaced and remain "unplanned for" because of their lack of power?

Hopefully, the preliminary findings of this study will be considered seriously by the new Council on Aging, in order to direct additional attention to this ignored group people. In various parts of the country, there are programs that have been specifically designed and implemented for elderly people. These include home health care, friendly visitor services, mini-bus transportation, Federally subsidized nutrition and housing programs, multi-purpose geriatric centers, volunteer and paid job training programs, informations and referral centers, education programs, preventative health services, and low-cost medical care.

This statement has been made by planners, "It's a dying community; in ten years they will all be gone." Are we justified in allowing any body to live even for one day without food, without adequate housing, without the dignity that is his/her due? In terms of planning costs, the question has been raised: "Why be so concerned? It's only two thousand people. There are other areas that need more help." If the lives of twenty Jewish high school students or philanthropists were in danger would the question even be posed?

The Jewish elderly have been "untouchables" for many decades, and the ones in Venice have been completely undescribed. Hopefully, the period of time will soon be done when spokespeople for the elderly have to ask, "How high is up? And how cheap is the life of a senior citizen?" In Venice, California, where these questions are asked perennially, the life of the elderly Jew often seems quite cheap, especially when compared with rent hikes, muggings, and rising costs of medical care, food and clothing. Hopefully, the words "Cast me not out in my old age, but let me live each day as a new life" may become more than just an optimistic sign that hangs inside the Israel Levin Senior Adult Center.



SENIOR OUTREACH SERVICE
SEEKS VOLUNTEER ASSISTANTS

The Senior Outreach Service is starting a training program for volunteers to work with older adults in the Venice, Palms, and Mar Vista communities.

Volunteers will participate in a workshop which will include listening and interviewing skills, practical and psychological needs of older adults, and information on community resources. The first training session will be held Monday, December 13 at 9:30 AM.

Volunteers are needed to assist the staff in locating isolated seniors, maintaining a friendly phone call program and aiding in transportation efforts.

The Service is funded by the L. A. City area agency on aging and administered by Bay Cities Jewish Community Center.

Those interested and who are able to give of their time should contact Sherri Weiner, Project Director, at 396-5964.

FREE VENICE
BEACHHEAD

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The Carter connections

Is Jimmy Carter really an honest, simple, down-to-earth, man of the people? Does the Democratic Party represent the interests of working people and the poor? If you have a few doubts, or even if you don't, here's some information to think about:

•Ever hear of J. Paul Austin?

Austin is president of the huge multi-national Coca Cola Corporation, based in Atlanta, Georgia. Austin, a long time Carter supporter, is the person who introduced Carter to 52 key corporate representatives at New York's exclusive 21 Club early this summer. Austin is a member of the Trilateral Commission.

•How about Zbigniew Brzezinski?

Brzezinski is a rabid anti-socialist foreign affairs expert. He's a member of the board of directors of the Rockefeller foreign policy arm, the Council on Foreign Relations. Carter's foreign policy pronouncements are actually no more than parroting of Brzezinski's view, and not surprisingly, Brzezinski is slated to be Carter's Secretary of State. Until recently, Brzezinski was the director of the Trilateral Commission.

•Leonard Woodcock?

Woodcock is president of the United Auto Workers. He was the first major trade union leader to endorse Carter -- long before the presidential primaries were over. Woodcock is also a member of the Trilateral Commission.

•Walter Mondale?

Mondale, the liberal Minnesota Senator turned vice president-elect, is also a member of the Trilateral Commission.

•And last but not least, David Rockefeller? Rockefeller, head of the Chase Manhattan Bank, is probably the richest and most powerful person in the world. David Rockefeller set up the Trilateral Commission.

OK, so what's the Trilateral Commission? Trilateral stands for Europe, Japan, and the U.S. and what the Commission stands for is an attempt to coordinate the efforts of the capitalist world to maintain control of the resources of the Third World. The Commission formulates strategies for defeating the struggles of Latin Americans, Africans, and Asians for self-determination and economic independence. It is the brainchild of Northeastern financiers and industrialists. Among its U.S. members are the presidents or top management of Exxon (the largest corporation in the world), IBM, Bank of America, Sears and Roebuck, Time, and Coca Cola. Aren't these all anti-union companies?

Jimmy Carter was brought into the Trilateral Commission back in 1973. "David (Rockefeller) and Zbig (Brzez-



inski) had both agreed that Carter was the ideal politician to build on," said Peter Bourne, Carter's deputy campaign manager at the time.

What are Rockefeller and Brzezinski trying to build? The answer lies in a Trilateral Commission Report called The Crisis of Democracy. The report says that "too much democracy -- such as that advocated by American movements of the sixties -- threatens economic stability." It goes on to say that "The effective functioning of the democratic political system requires a certain measure of apathy and non-participation on the part of some groups and individuals."

The report also states that the exclusion of certain groups "is anti-democratic in nature, but it also was one of the factors which permitted democracy (read capitalism) to function effectively. Some marginal social groups, the Blacks, for example, participate entirely now in the political system. And the danger exists of overburdening the political system with demands that interrupt its functioning and saps its authority." The report further suggests government control of the media, the re-structuring of education so that fewer people expect fulfilling jobs, and the creation of a stronger presidency filled by a man (their word) whom people once again "trust."

That "man" is Jimmy Carter. The same Jimmy Carter who back in 1970 called

himself "basically a redneck," who chose Lester Maddox as his running mate, and who opposed union labor by favoring right-to-work laws. The same Jimmy Carter who in 1972 led the stop McGovern drive at the Democratic Convention and who opposed making the Vietnam War an election issue. The same Jimmy Carter who told those 52 top executives in New York that, "I've had a very good relationship with the business leaders of Georgia. I'll depend very heavily on business leaders to help me in government."

No wonder that Carter was the only Candidate to emerge from the Democratic primaries with campaign coffers still full. Carter has been groomed and backed by some of the most powerful business interests in the U.S.

Carter doesn't even support much of the Democratic Party Platform. He disagrees with its goal of three percent unemployment (it's too low), opposes the Humphrey-Hawkins public jobs program, supports forced labor for welfare recipients, supports de-regulation of natural gas rates, opposes the use of federal funds for abortion, does not oppose Senate Bill 1, and does not oppose anti-union right-to-work laws.

As Walter Mondale told a group of Wall Street analysts in August, "The business community has nothing to fear and a lot to gain from the election of a Democratic president."

The presidential election this year was not much different than those in the past. It was basically a contest between two approaches to increasing profits and maintaining economic stability and control for the wealthy. One approach, the Republican, is to take working people's money and give it directly to the corporate investors, guaranteeing profits, so their investments will bring about enough jobs to get a few crumbs to the poor. The other approach, the Democratic, is to take working people's money and use it to try to patch up problems that the profit system creates. The strategy is to channel just enough tax money into health, employment, welfare, housing, and educational programs so that people won't rise up and demand or take what is rightfully theirs.

One approach uses a carrot, the other uses the stick. But both have the same end goals: to amass great wealth for the few at the expense of the many.

Of course, the Democrats still have a liberal image to protect, and have traditionally supported the rights of workers to organize, have selected more progressive supreme court judges, and favored more health and welfare measures. None of us want to see the dyed-in-the-wool reactionaries (like Dole) that Republican administrations put in office. But a lot of us didn't want a Carter in the White House either.

(San Jose Community News)

LOST CAT: orange and white male lost near Speedway and Breeze. He has a collar with a tag that says "Louie with purple bus." Call DEBBIE 399-8946

All of this attention focused on Watson takes some of the heat off of the supervisors who have been under pressure to do something about residential property tax relief.

It is likely that we will see a radical re-structuring of assessments on commercial property in the county, thus shifting some of the burden from homeowners and renters. However, the effect of this is not likely to be felt for some time and certainly will not provide the immediate relief that residential taxpayers are demanding.

Most tax protest groups would agree that a change in assessment practices, although needed, is far from an adequate solution to the problem of tax reform which will require sweeping changes at the state as well as the county level.

PROPERTY TAX STRIKE

Is there something you can do about property taxes now? The answer is YES. We need 50 to 100 people by December 10. You will learn the latest information on a modified tax strike, an action which will be effective and will not endanger your home. VENICE HAS LED THE WAY BEFORE. WE CAN DO IT AGAIN. WE NEED YOU. HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS AGAINST UNFAIR TAXES -- 396-0535

Watson in trouble

(Continued from page 1)

working as consultant-lobbyist or "tax agent" for none other than George Kaplan, through Kaplan's attorney, John Cahill. Cahill also knows his way around county government, having previously worked with the county council's office.

Another central character is Marvin Blatt who was one of Watson's top deputies until it was discovered that he was doing a little "tax agent" work on the side. Stouffer Chemical Company found Mr. Blatt valuable enough to pay him \$10,000 cash while he was still working in the assessor's office.

Blatt is described as being close friends with both Watson and Stouffer Chemical's tax agent, a Mr. Bedrozi. Among Blatt's other clients is the Howard Hughes organization which found its tax assessment reduced from some \$130 million to \$30 million as a result of Blatt's "representation."

When the State Board of Equalization inquired about these "possible" conflicts of interest, Mr. Blatt resigned from the assessor's office, although he continues to serve his clients as a tax consultant.

Watson himself has yet to appear before the board, although he eventually must. His latest maneuver in the continuing feud between him and Bax-

ter Ward had been to file a \$6.5 million lawsuit against Ward accusing him of illegally using public funds to spy on Watson and making "malicious" and "defamatory" statements regarding Watson's character and professional conduct. This tactic appears to be aimed more at tying-up Ward's legal resources and generating anti-investigation publicity than a serious claim of damages.

Two supervisors, Pete Schabarum and James Hayes (representing Venice and the Marina), have been conspicuously absent from the proceedings and have apparently chosen not to participate. It should be noted that Hayes is closely allied with real estate interests. His former campaign treasurer Jerry Epstein is a developer who holds substantial investment in Marina real estate including the Del Rey Shores apartment complexes. Hayes tried unsuccessfully to install him as a County Planning Commissioner earlier this year.

There is every indication that these revelations are only the tip of the iceberg. If the investigation is successful in rooting out corruption in the assessor's office, it may bring about changes in other areas of county and city government as well.

CENTENNIAL OF A SELLOUT

By BOB WELLS

Besides being the bicentennial of 1776, this year is also the hundredth anniversary of the presidential election of 1876 -- one of the most disgraceful sellouts in American history.

That election resulted in a draw that for a time seriously threatened to renew the civil war. In that election, as in this one, a Democratic challenger was going against a Republican establishment thick with scandal and corruption; in that election, as in this one, the Democrat got the most votes. But even though he finished second, the Republican went on to become President by means of the historic "Compromise of 1877," in which the two parties conspired to betray the future of the Black people of North America.

The effects of that betrayal, which abandoned the Black people to three more generations of rape, lynching, and a different arrangement of slavery, affect us today much more than the Betsy Rosses and the three-cornered hats of 1776 -- but we'll never hear about it in the official celebrations. It's worth taking a look at.

In those days, the Republicans were the "good guys" and the Democrats were the "bad guys." The Democrats were the party that before the Civil War had sought to spread slavery through the whole nation. Resistance to the spread of slavery (mostly for economic reasons) had given rise to the Republican Party, the party of Abraham Lincoln. The Republican administration conducted the war in the South, against opposition from Eastern and Western Democrats in Congress.

After the war ended in 1865 the question was how to "reconstruct" the rebel states back into the federal union. Under military government by the U. S. Army, the great task was begun of integrating three million plus former slaves into politics and society. Large numbers of poor and working class Southern whites also seized their opportunity to join in this process. Through the Republican Party people from these classes, both Black and white, replaced the aristocrats in Southern government. There was ludicrous inefficiency and scandal, but the historic thing was that the Blacks for the first time were able to begin organizing themselves as a free people.



But the former slavemasters planned to get the federal troops out by building political strength in Washington with their fellow Democrats. To break the Black-white alliance in the South they gave relative economic advantages to Southern whites over Southern Blacks, and inflamed the ideology of white supremacy. Those whites who didn't get the message suffered along with the Blacks from the growing Ku Klux terror.

By 1876 this process was well advanced. General U. S. Grant was finishing his second term as Republican President and was not running for re-election. He was tired, and his administration had been totally corrupted by Northern money and the railroad robber barons -- bought and paid for, in cash.

The Republican candidate that year was former Union general Rutherford B. Hayes of Ohio. The Democrat was a New Yorker, Samuel J. Tilden. The campaign went forward, and the people (men only) went to the polls in October. On election night it looked like Tilden had won -- with 185 Electoral votes needed to win, he had 184. Three states -- Florida, South Carolina, and Louisiana -- had not yet reported. If Tilden took only one of them he'd win.

As a matter of fact Tilden got the most popular votes in all three (as well as in the nation as a whole -- 4,300,000 to 4,036,000 for Hayes). But it's not the popular vote that elects a President -- it's the Electoral College.

It was common knowledge that Tilden had won the South only because widespread terrorism had nullified the large Negro vote. In South Carolina the Democratic candidate for Governor, plantation owner and former Confederate general Wade Hampton, had written an aide during the campaign, "Every Democrat must feel honor bound to control the vote of at least one Negro, by intimidation, purchase, keeping away, or as each individual may determine how he may best accomplish it. . . . Never threaten a man individually. If he deserves to be threatened, the necessities of the times require that he should die."

Congressman John Sherman of Ohio reported the findings of his investigations in Louisiana directly to Hayes: "We are now collecting the testimony as to the bulldozed parishes (counties). It seems more like the history of hell than of civilized and Christian communities. The means adopted are almost incredible, but were fearfully effective upon an ignorant and superstitious people. . . . Organized clubs of masked men, formed as recommended by the central Democratic committee, rode through the country at night, marking their course by the whipping, shooting, wounding, maiming, mutilation and murder of women, children, and defenseless men whose hoses were forcibly entered. . . . Crimes like these, testified to by scores of witnesses, were the means employed in Louisiana to elect a President of the United States."

Special Republican commissions in these three states decertified Tilden's ballot counts and awarded their Electoral votes to Hayes. That seemed to sew it up for the Republicans. But the Democrats were not through.

Out in Oregon, where Hayes had won, the Democrats disqualified one of the three Republican Electors on a technicality and replaced him with a Democrat who voted for Tilden. So, even without the three Southern states, that seemed to give Tilden the one more Electoral vote he needed to win.

Congress, which had the final decision as to who got these votes, was deadlocked along straight party lines -- and if either side forced the issue, everyone was fearful of another Civil War. The Southern Democrats claimed they had 100,000 armed men who would march on Washington if their man lost.



Meanwhile, President Grant's term was up on Monday, March 4th. If the deadlock were not resolved by then -- if the country were left without a chief executive -- there was fear that war would break out anyway.

In January of 1877 a special commission was set up of five Senators, five Representatives, and five Justices of the Supreme Court. The deadlock prevailed. The Southern aristocracy, led mainly by Wade Hampton, told Hayes their terms for a compromise: "home rule" for the South -- withdraw the federal troops and leave the Blacks to the mercy of the resurgent whites.

Hayes was interested. He told a New Orleans newspaper that if he were President he would "require absolute justice and fair play to the negro, but. . . he was convinced that this could be got best and almost surely by trusting the honorable and influential southern whites."

A Unitarian minister from New Orleans wrote to Hayes telling him what this would mean: "Under Democratic rule it is not probable that the spirit of the Fifteenth Amendment will be kept (in Louisiana), and scarcely the letter of it, for some years to come. Things will settle down to about the same level as in Mississippi and Alabama: and where the blacks are

in the majority, or approximating it, they will be "discouraged" from voting, with whatever degree of moral or physical force may be requisite to secure that end. They will be entirely free to vote the Democratic ticket, and beyond that will have freedom with penalty."

The Fifteenth Amendment guaranteed former slaves the right to vote. In the election the Democrat Tilden had called for its repeal.

Hayes hesitated, but on the Wednesday before the March 4th deadline he surrendered in writing to the Southern demand that he sacrifice the Blacks to the "honorable and influential whites." Democratic Attorney-General J. S. Black immediately went before the Electoral Commission and announced that the Republicans "offer us everything now. They denounce negro supremacy and carpet-bag thieves. Their pet policy for the South (i.e., Reconstruction) is to be abandoned."

On Friday, March 1st, the Commission ruled for Hayes (185 Electoral votes to Tilden's 184), and on Monday -- just in time -- he was inaugurated.

Later that month Hayes withdrew the federal troops from Columbia, S. C. The Republican governor resigned, and Wade Hampton became the Ku Klux Governor of South Carolina. In April Hayes withdrew the federal troops from New Orleans -- the last federal garrison in the South -- and the Republican Governor of Louisiana resigned and was replaced by a Democrat. (The Mississippi government had gone to the Democrats two years earlier when white "rifle clubs" had surrounded the polling places on election day.)

Hayes had told the Blacks "I believe that your rights and interests would be safer if this great mass of intelligent white men were let alone by the general government." He knew very well he had abandoned them to decades of terror, deprivation, and slavery-by-other-means. While the events of 1776 have faded into costumed history, this shameful betrayal of the Black people, sealed in the Compromise of 1877, is still the primary unresolved contradiction in American history a hundred years later. The Civil War will not have ended until that contradiction is resolved, finally, and on terms completely beneficial and satisfactory to the Black people as a whole.





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CROW DOG

Terre Haute, Indiana — Leonard Crow Dog remains confined in the federal penitentiary here after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to allow him to remain free pending a hearing on his appeal. He had brief freedom earlier this summer, but he was ordered to surrender himself into custody.

The National Council of Churches Division of Church and Society has taken up the cause of Crow Dog, an active spiritual leader for the Lakota and other peoples.

Dean M. Kelley, executive for Religious and Civil Liberty in the National Council of Churches, has urged moral and financial support for the legal defense of Crow Dog.

The first time Crow Dog was brought to court was on charges stemming from the historic occupation of Wounded Knee. The charge was "interfering with federal officers." Four postal inspectors entered the besieged hamlet during the confrontation, and were arrested by occupation security forces, who took them to a building where Crow Dog was. Crow Dog lectured them on Indian rights, and had them safely escorted out of the occupied zone. All four testified that Crow Dog had not harmed them, but had, in fact, protected them. The jury did not take much time in reaching a guilty verdict, however, and Crow Dog was sentenced to 11 years in federal prison.

Crow Dog had two other co-defendants for that trial. Stan Holder failed to show up for sentencing and is still a fugitive from U.S. authorities, and Carter Camp recently had his sentence reversed by the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals.

At first Crow Dog was placed on probation by the court. The U.S. wasn't happy with that, and so another "crime" was staged, causing Crow Dog to have his probation revoked, and another sentence added. In that situation, Crow Dog and his family were awakened one night by two trespassers — one a suspect in the brutal slaying of Crow Dog's nephew, and both suspect in the savage beating of another nephew earlier that night. Both men, drunk and belligerent, drove through two log barriers to reach the Crow Dog house. Luckily,

friends and relatives camping on the land protected Crow Dog and ejected the trespassers. Crow Dog was charged with assault, although he had only watched the action, and he was convicted by an all-white jury in a matter of minutes. He was sentenced to two concurrent five-year terms.

In January, Crow Dog was once again dragged into court on another "assault charge". This trial was even more ludicrous, as Crow Dog was charged with attacking a provocateur who was in Crow Dog's home as an unwelcome guest, and who refused to leave. The instrument of attack was said to be a toy tomahawk. Again, a five year sentence from a white judge and a white jury.



The National Council of Churches Governing Board passed a resolution saying it was "particularly appalled at the severity with which Leonard Crow Dog has been pursued, prosecuted, imprisoned and victimized for what were, at most, minor offenses, suggesting that his real offense has been to lend spiritual force and dignity to the struggle for Indian rights. This religious leader has been persecuted and harassed by the U.S. Government beyond any deserving — in fact, he should be honored and respected, rather than imprisoned."

THE DANGER WHICH CROW DOG REPRESENTS IS HIS MORAL AND SPIRITUAL MESSAGE — HIS CRY TO DEFEND THE LAND

by Richard Erdoes

It was sad to read the headline on page 14 in the last issue of AKWESASNE NOTES:

"CROW DOG RELEASED FROM PRISON"

because at the time the paper was being printed, Crow Dog had been locked up again behind the walls of a maximum security prison. He had been released on bond after he lodged an appeal against his sentence. Usually, it takes months before an appeal is answered — in this case it took but a few days after the appeal was in the hands of the U.S. Supreme Court before Crow Dog got a notice that it was denied.

Together with the notice was an order to surrender himself within 24 hours. He chose to surrender himself at Deadwood, South Dakota. There was great meaning in this gesture — Deadwood had been the place in which the first Crow Dog, Leonard's great-grandfather, had surrendered himself, driving 150 miles in his horse and buggy, with only his wife beside him, to a trial which could have cost him his life. Courage has never been lacking in the Crow Dog Family.

Crow Dog also chose to surrender himself in Deadwood because it lies in the heart of the Black Hills, sacred to the native nations, the home of Thunderbirds. Once this land had been guaranteed them by treaty — "as long as the sun shall shine", which turned out to be exactly until the moment one George Armstrong Custer reported having found gold there "in the grass roots". Deadwood owes its existence to this gold — it sprang up almost overnight. The tiny settlement had 70 saloons, as many gambling dens and places of prostitution, but no school or church. Thus civilization arrived in the Black Hills.

The Homestake Mine which rises behind Deadwood is still in full operation, but not for the benefit of its rightful owners. More than a billion dollars in gold and other metals have been taken out of the Black Hills since Custer's time. It was a good place for Crow Dog to surrender.

Crow Dog is now in Terre Haute, Indiana, in a maximum security prison. It is worse in one respect from Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, where he was imprisoned before — there, his many friends in the East could still visit him. But at Terre Haute, he is exactly halfway from either New York or his home in Rosebud. For his old mother to visit him, she had to fly from Sioux Falls to Denver, then to Chicago, stay overnight, and continue to Terre Haute. The cost for his mother and his wife for the trip: \$600

But travelling to Terre Haute does not necessarily insure seeing Crow Dog. Two representatives of Amnesty International traveled from Europe to visit

Crow Dog but they were refused admittance throughout their two-day wait. Dr. Lucius Walker, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, got inside the prison where he was allowed to speak to the prison chaplain, but he was not permitted to see Crow Dog. Other old friends of Crow Dog have also been turned away.

At Sun Dance time, Crow Dog's lawyers and supporters asked that he be given a furlough so that he could conduct this most sacred of ceremonies. There was obviously no danger of his running away — he had, after all, surrendered himself voluntarily on 24 hours notice. The appeal to let Crow Dog out for the ceremony was supported by a U.S. Senator, the head of the National Council of Churches and World Council of Churches, the head of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, the National Indian

To underscore the assertion that Crow Dog is a "dangerous person", they had him escorted from one prison to another by no less than 40 armed men.

Why is the U.S. Government spending all this time, money, energy and slander just to keep one non-violent Sioux Medicine Man behind bars?

The answer, of course, is that Crow Dog is indeed dangerous.

There is gold in the Black Hills — and oil and coal and natural gas and uranium and water and desirable real estate all neatly spread out on or beneath the surface of native nation lands. The danger which Crow Dog represents is his moral and spiritual message which he brings to his people, his cry to defend the land.

If people listen to Crow Dog's message and act with the strength of his

medicine, the exploiters will be unable to exploit.

On September 30, 1976, Crow Dog's case will again be heard under rule 35 before Judge Robert Merhige in Richmond, Virginia. Perhaps by now the court will be more aware of what is going on and what is being done to native people than it was a year ago, now that government prosecutors have been exposed in similar cases as proponents of hollow, paranoid and untrue cases.

If eyes and ears and hearts have been opened to the truth, then Crow Dog, at last, may receive some measure of justice.

But that's only a hope, not a certainty.

The struggle goes on.

MEDICINE MAN

You used to walk on Grandmother Earth
Roaming in search of herbs.

Now

You are pacing your cell,
Twelve feet of concrete.
Can you feel the buffalo grass beneath it?

When they Sun-danced,
As they pierced
Thinking of you,
Could you feel their pain?
Pain because you were not there.
In the clicking of metal bars
Did you hear the eagle-bone whistle?

In the stink of prison,
Among the odor of a thousand men caged like rats
And the odor of stale food,
Do you smell the sage,
The sweetgrass?

Among the shouts of the guards,
The drone of TV sets,
The screech of loudspeakers,
Do you hear the drum?
The sound of the gourd?
And the eagle's cry?

As you eat your prison food
Mixed with strange chemicals to dull your senses,
As you are forced to swallow your daily Thorazine
Which, they hope, will gentle you,
Can you taste the Sacred Medicine?

Lying on your cot,
Feeling prison walls smothering you,
Feeling handcuffs crushing your wrists,
Can you feel the wind on your face?

MEDICINE MAN,
BROTHER,
Grandmother Earth
The Grass
The Wind
And the Drum
Are waiting,
Waiting for your return.

THEY WILL STILL BE THERE

Long after
The walls of your prison
Have crumbled to dust.

I am waiting too.

Your Brother Richard.

—Richard Erdoes



— AKWESASNE NOTES photo by Richard Erdoes
Crow Dog as a free man with Grandfather Fire

Youth Council, Native American Rights Fund, and many other organizations, but the answer was a flat "no".



AKWESASNE NOTES

Early Autumn, 1976

Mohawk Nation
via Roosevelttown, N.Y. 13683
telephone (518) 483-2540

Ancient Cherokee man
sits on a sagging slum porch
and stares out to a littered street.

He sucks the end
of a battered cigarette
and tosses it aimlessly
into the gutter.

Next door
the neighbor's slum is all boarded up
(except the roof)
and its small yard is overgrown
with a jungle of brushes and weeds.

That's OK -
neighbor's been dead 8 year anyway.

Ancient Cherokee man
sits on a sagging slum porch
dreaming of Qualla'a mountains

But he knows that before his body
will leave this slum,
his spirit will leave his body.
Inali Bill Clark

\$1000 POETRY PRIZE

A grand prize of \$1000 is being offered in a new poetry competition sponsored by the World of Poetry, a monthly newsletter for poets. In addition, there are 49 cash and merchandise awards. Says Poetry editor Eddie-Lou Cole, "We hope to encourage new poets--even poets who have written only one poem." For rules and official entry forms write to: World of Poetry, 801 Portola Drive, Dept. 211, San Francisco, Calif. 94127



GANIENKEH

It is two years today,
two times the turning
of the great wheel

cold rain falls,
thunder beings
speak in distant hills

From aerial photos
(a state senator says)
you can see cut trees
and the bodies
of old cars

how can these people say
(he says)
that they love nature
when they do this

to a place that once was
a girl scouts' camp

It is two years,
two times the snows
have fallen softly
the way the new Earth
came into being
falling softly

two times the small frogs
have awakened and sung
new life into the marshes
two times the new corn
has lifted green hands
from soil state experts
still swear can never
sustain a crop

and while debates
in the state capitol rage

at the place of the flint
the people are living
their feet sharing the Earth
their hands sharing the work
their eyes sharing the pain
and sharing the laughter
which changes even
the hardness of flint into a song.
Joseph Bruchac

POETRY

excerpted from

Akwesasne Notes



LIFE

life
one thing i really have
the eternity of
this moment
this space
a quiet noise
comes from these sacred hills
forests
seas
telling
a sacred way of life
the path of
peace
a light
raising on
our mother earth
bringing freedom
for all creations to see
that life
will rest forever

come with me
and dance
be you
and try to see it
life

now
this is the
beginning

armin 18.1.76



RISING STRANGER

she died the night after
explaining to me, that poetry
is a source of power, is the
province of every being that chooses it.
fish, star, human.
she sang a Navaho poem but was
out of breath too soon, said
this is power departing, said she
would be leaving soon, behind it,
later that evening she spoke of
friendships with coyotes, the
philosophies of large birds, a
prehistoric sky-woman that created Night,
fires without ends & walking into their smokes.
she chanted over an hour before reaching
for my arm to say that in certain sacred stones
is found water & clouds & dreams carved out,
that she's read my eyes & can tell me the truth,
that her name in my language is Rising Stranger.

i watch the brown hill of her body under the shroud,
she's left me a star-beggar, warped & wind-
ridden, sun-ripped.
her bloodsong ascends in the sky's
face, singing the stories & visions
& carnival death chants, leaving me
the veteran of legs & songs, a fresh stone
for water & clouds & dreams.
i move just outside the door & stand
my arm up
into the dark dawn clouds, ready
for the entire imaginations of Earth
& Air to rain,
to rain into my body.

Richard Currey
Albuquerque
September 1974



IS THAT ALL THERE IS? (Continued from p.9)

eles Free Press. Oh my, I should have known then. I remember a picture of him. Wild Hebro hair, granny glasses. And what did he write of in his column? He wrote of his hostility to women's liberation and implied that anyone who espoused that cause was either a Lesbian, ugly, or in need of a severe fucking. He spoke of his admiration for the open thigh policy, i.e., "free love." His detestation of dark, short, fat plain girls who wore glasses. He was an alternative life style Portnoy. I stopped reading you Jack, and restrained my self from making snide remarks using your first name. I, a short, fat, Jewish girl, did not say Jackoff Margolis. I thought no one but no one who was around all those hip, sharp people could really be like that. Ah, said my friend.....

And I in 1976 was sitting thigh to thigh with Dr. Hip, and I within arms reach of Jack Margolis's nose. These men mapped the way for alternative life styles for the masses! I drank another glass of wine and unashamedly leered at Jack Margolis's chest. It was shiny. His chest hair had grey on it. He was wearing one of those thin cotton shirts that were made to be open above the navel. Around his neck was a gold medallion. Zodiac? Ank? I'd taken off my glasses to be even more attractive and couldn't see. The violent wooliness of his hair had been tamed to a well cut coiffure, with silver threads among the light brown. I looked at his eyes glinting behind his aviator style glasses. Green, gray, brown? I'll be wild. I remember, hazel. He looked straight through me. I was glad to be invisible. He had an entourage of blonde women. Their eyes were haunted by visions of premature or long overdue cellulite. They spoke in subdued voices. They smiled carefully. A laugh line is a character line is a wrinkle is a wrinkle. A woman hits the skids after 25. What's the status of bringing someone ten years over the age of consent along? A woman over 25 knows too much. And a frizzy haired Jewish kid with thick glasses has got to show 'em.

That's cool, Jack, I know. Margolis introduced the women. "This is my staff." He smiled. Migod! Agent 007. In like Flint! Man from Uncle! That's heavy! He continued talking to an English couple at the next table. Both lean as Cassius. Both wore French cut jeans. Their tiny buttocks left room on the small Cafe chairs. She had star fish shaped eye-lashes that stood out fuliginously against her lead white make up. Her white incisors gleamed as Margolis talked to her male counterpart (he wore no make up).

"My wienie's smaller than yours", said Margolis. "Oh how fucking delicious!" Giggled the English woman. The man chortled back. "Oh my God no, mine's much smaller." "Oh, too fucking much", tittered his companion.

I turned to Dr. Hip, dark hair slicked over his broad forehead as he sat smooth sleek and silent as a stone. "Migod", I muttered "this is like the 60's, early 60's."

I thought I muttered. But Margolis noticed me at last. "Have our words offended you ladies?" He asked hopefully. "No, no man, the words are cool, it's what you're doing to 'em." In vino veritas. I crawled back into my tea pot. Margolis resumed talking to the English couple. "Hey, you gotta come over to my pad and hang out. I know you'll dig my friends. Everyone hangs out at my pad by the swimming pool." "Oh how fucking marvelous!" Giggled the mistress of the Anglo Saxon mot juste. She snickered until I thought her tiny waist would break in half.

My friend and I looked at each other meaningfully. Dr. Hip introduced me and my friend.

"I'd really like to buy property here," said Margolis, as he stretched and faced the ocean. The sun was teasing the tips of the palm trees. He turned to my friend. "Do you know of any good buys?" Her eyes got large. "Ug, no, no. You wouldn't want to move down here. You wouldn't like it." He smiled at her. "Oh, not to live here, to buy property here. I'm into real estate." "It's really expensive to buy property here," she said. "Taxes, assessments...." Margolis waved his big hand. "It's that way all over but if I could get a nice little duplex and sell it..". He turned to my friend. "Do you own property?" "Yes." "Listen, I have this real estate agent...he could tell you how to refinance your house, use the money for a down payment..." And he was off in a passionate discussion of selling, buying, amortising...One of the blondes spoke up. "Look at that! Oh my, I can't believe it!" She clasped her thin hands with their burnt sienna juliet nails to her fragile breast bone. Her companion pointed her juliet nailed forefinger in the direction of an imposing person in a flowing caftan. "Too fucking much!" chirped the English sparrow. Margolis went on discussing in an ever increasing intensity about the joys of interest loans. Margolis stopped getting off on real estate to see what the blonde was squealing about. He stared at someone who didn't look like him. "Isn't that a bohemoth?" one of his blonde staff squealed. Margolis smiled. Dr. Hip stared straight ahead. Margolis was busy writing down phone numbers on matchbook covers. Making contacts. Making hay.

I stood up. I brushed away the shards of broken clay feet as I walked on. I wonder what the title of Margolis's next book will be? "I'm alright Jack"? Too much, too bloody fucking much.

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Small World Books....Ocean Front Walk
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CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES OFFERED THROUGH CHILD CARE INFORMATION SERVICE

Child care subsidies for eligible families are now available from the Child Care Information Service of Family Service of Santa Monica. Through funds provided by the State of California, the service is able to pay a portion of child care costs on a sliding scale basis for eligible single parents who are working full time or in a training program and have a low to moderate income. Two-parent families with moderate incomes may be eligible in some cases also.

Under the program, parents may choose their own licensed child care facilities within the service's guidelines or the service will assist families in locating child care facilities.

Laurie Rozet, who directs the Child Care Information Service, says the service is primarily interested in using the state funds to support children under 5 in family day care homes or centers.

The original purpose of the service, she says, was to support and to make this form of child care known to the community.

The service is also seeking women to provide full time or afterschool child care in their own homes. The service supports day care mothers through workshops and provides consultation and assistance in setting up day care programs.

The Child Care Information Service provides information about available child care and related services for these areas: Culver City, W. L. A., Mar Vista, Santa Monica, Venice and Marina Del Rey.

Women interested in providing home day care or parents who want to determine their eligibility for the service's child care subsidies, should contact Laurie Rozet or Mary Kay Blackmon at 451-9747 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

LOCAL NEWS

FOLK DANCE CLASSES AT PENMAR PARK
A class in International Folk Dancing is being given at Penmar Park, 1341 Lake St. Venice, (off Walgrove, near Rose Ave.) The class meets on Wednesdays with Beginners at 11:45 a.m., followed by intermediates at 1 p.m. Registration is not necessary. An evening class is being held at Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 4117 Overland Ave. in Culver City -- Tues. evenings with beginners at 7:30 p.m. and intermediates at 8:45-10:15 p.m. Call 391-8970

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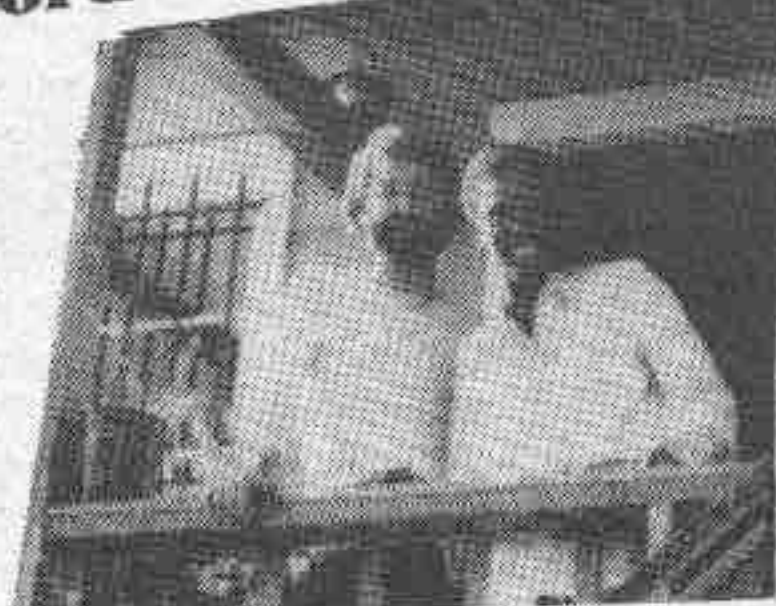
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REVIEW WOMON'S PASSION PLAY

Carol Fondiller

I bet Brooks Atkinson never had the opportunity to review a passion play about the overthrow of the patriarchal religion, written by a high priestess who has been arrested for practising her religion; divination by Tarot card readings.

"Womon's Passion Play" was written by Z. Budapest, High Priestess of the Susan B. Anthony Coven. The play is an invocation to the Mother and an introduction to dogma of Her religion.

There is a theory that drama started out as religious instruction in pre classic times. Traditional drama in India bears out this theory as do the morality plays of Medieval times.

Z. Budapest is a charismatic priestess and like Jesus (though it's rumored he did have editors) an expert story teller and show person, who can put on a good show for the folks.

According to Z. the veil between the dead and the living grows thinnest between Sept. 21 and Dec. 21, and what one does between those dates will have influences for the next year. October 30, when the play was performed is according to Z. the high point of the new year according to the old religion calendar.

Like the medieval passion plays, this one is written for the instruction of the lay persons. It takes place in a time warp. The three fates, Alecto, Tisiphone and Maegra are doing some stereotypical witch Halloween hootin' and hollerin'.

Maegra, the dark crone, she who destroys, declares she's tired of the Halloween set. Soothed by the other two fates, they check the mail to the Queen.

Instead of the usual spells - "what happened to the spells for a handsome young man?" They get requests for overthrowing the patriarchy. Maegra receives mail - "Dear Dark Crone, you who can cut the threads of life, please rise and walk

among the Senators in Washington, D. C.... Let all the prostitutes sing the names of the offenders."

They then conjure up the Nymph of the New Year '77, and invoke famous women of the past. Amelia Earhart, Emmiline Parkhurst, Collette, Sojourner Truth, etc. To instruct the nymph in overthrowing the patriarchy and freeing the Chained Virgin who does nothing but breed new year babies for the oppressive male religions. The play was performed in the Women's Building on North Spring Street. It's a beautiful building and had some exciting art on display.

For a piece that was mostly theory and instruction, the play was pretty peppy. The setting was simple, low budget and imaginative. It was designed by Helen Beardwomen. It had that set it up in the market place but give 'em a little flash feel that this groundbreaking appreciates.

The play had the earthy humor of a good morality play complete with stupid devils, the male religions, Hare Krishna, Judeo-Christian and Mohammedanism who try to copulate with one another to prove they don't need filthy women for anything. They also try masturbating, after which one of them says "I need a cigarette."

The acting for the most part was competent. Some of it was superb. Maegra, The Dark Crone played by Live Oak-woman could soar from sublime invective to matter of fact, let's get down to business and she can deliver a punch line. Collette (Cheryl Diehm) was ingeniously sexy. The Nymph of '77 was your basic facile cast Hollywood Nymph type. Blond and lithe and androgynous. From the response of the all female audience, I could see that objectification is not limited to one sex. However, Sassy Wind who played the Nymph of '77 is a good actress and did the part well. I wonder, however, if there will ever be a director male or female who will surprise the hell out of me and cast a woman who has

thighs, hips and breasts, as a woman who A. can die of a broken heart, B. organize the oppressed, or C. count to ten without dropping her beaded bag. Some of the historical personages seemed to have been re-written to that they seemed to love women exclusively.

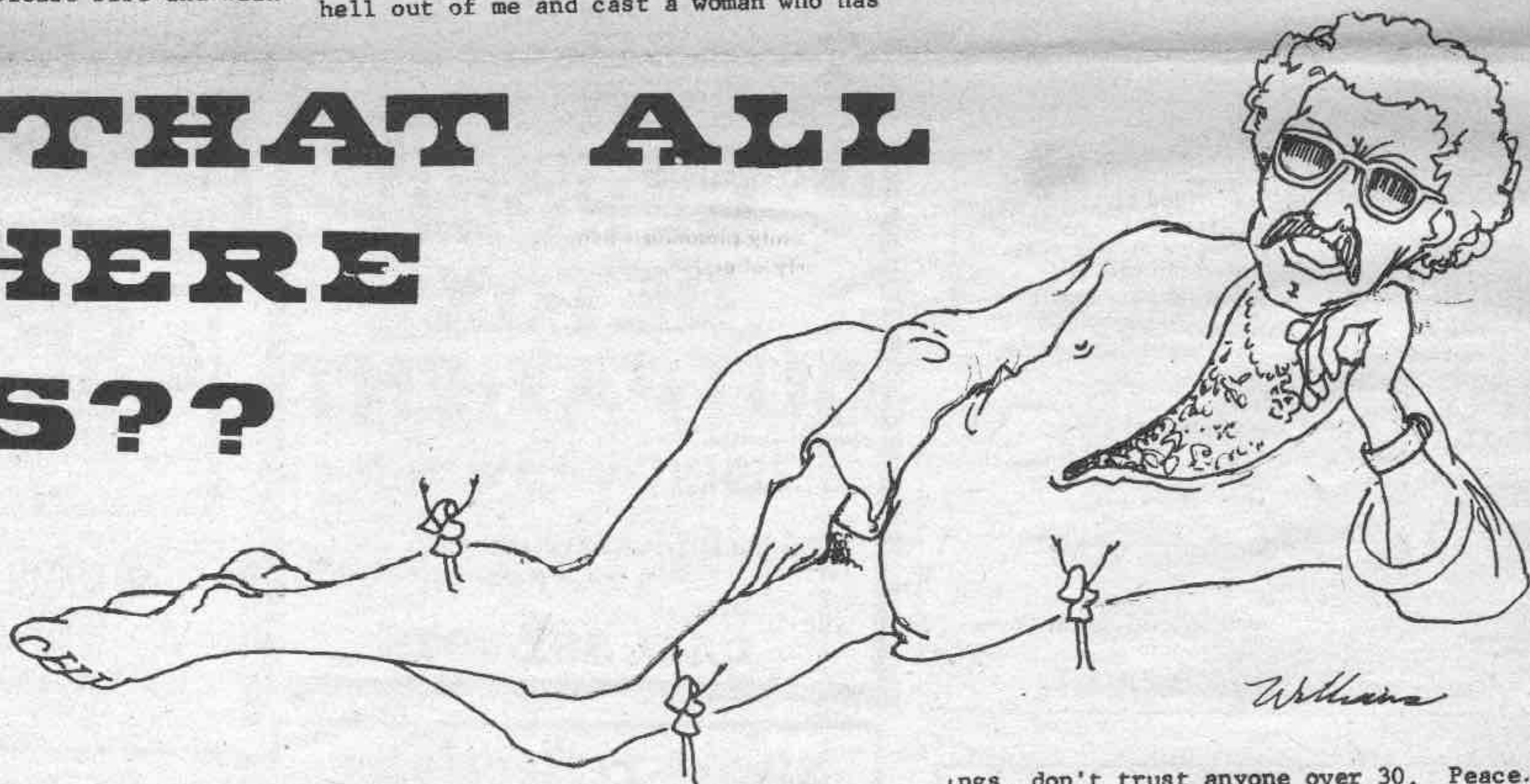
I had the feeling at times that the Matriarchal religion wasn't throwing out oppression, so much as turning it upside down, making the oppressed women the oppressors.

While doing away with "MALE" attitudes i.e. aggressiveness, nullifying ones emotions in favor of logic is alright in my book, I think that one should be aware that there are some women on whom those terms can be pinned, and because they too are products of a male dominated society, they are complimented by being told they think like men, or have balls.

Womon's Passion Play did exhibit hostility to men, in the same way that the male religions have degraded women for centuries. Turn about is not fair play (or fore play, for that matter. Sorry.) Dictatorship of the proletariat, the intellectual or one gender over the other is not the end of the rainbow I'm looking for.

However, if the play or if you wish, religious instructional piece is ever shown again, I'd like to see it again. It has a lot of valid points. It's interesting and very funny. If some men out there are into the 60's nostalgia of heavy masochistic bleeding heart liberal guilt tripping, I recommend it to them. It's almost as much fun as being called honky bitch or being accused of being responsible for four, four thousand or four million years of oppression.

IS THAT ALL THERE IS??



By Carol Fondiller

Some of us in the over thirty group might admit to sending in cereal box tops for decoder rings, Bosco mugs. Remember the waiting for the letter carrier? And finally THAT PACKAGE. Usually, it was some trumpery made of breakable plastic, guaranteed to melt in your hand. And some of us swore never to be fooled again.

My heroes. My culture heroes. My alternative hip life style heroes. And I was sitting not this far away from them at an open air cafe soaking up the sun of a Pacific Indian summer afternoon. So must it have been in August 1914 in Paris, in Vienna, I thought, when a way of life was melting into the horizon like that yellow wax hot sun dripping gold on the Venice rollerskaters. Ah, thus does the decline and fall of Western civilization as we it make world weary fin de siecle boulevardiers of us all, I thought as I finished off my second glass of white wine on an empty stomach.

There we were in Venice, California. The end products of Judeo-Christian neurosis, and a soupçon of alternate life style pop psycho-religion filtered through our new York hip Jewish tsuris.

My thigh was actually touching his thigh! Dr. Hip's thigh! Oh my, you were only ten when Dr. Hip was in his hey-day? I wasn't supposed to know it was Dr. Hip my friend said, because he wanted to be liked for himself alone. But he's Dr. Hip, I said. He made it alright to discuss drugs pro and con with an M.D. People took him seriously when he talked about the dangers of some of the more dangerous drugs i.e. Hawaiian Woodrose and dangerous sex - sticking vacuum cleaners into vaginas. Because he was non-judgemental, one listened. My gracious, the 1960's! Vietnam, Kennedy assassinations, military advisors, hula hoops, mellow yellow, Acapulco Gold, communes, global village, you won't have Dick Nixon to kick around anymore, mini-skirts, free love, acid rock. Jazz is dead says a rock star. Love-ins, happen-

ings, don't trust anyone over 30. Peace. Head shops. Day-Glo. What sign are you? Eldridge Cleaver and Timothy Leary, both in Algeria. Not acknowledge Dr. Hip? He of my young hopes? And, more frosting on my cake! Jack Margolis! You know, Jack Margolis. Oh, that's right, you were in Nebraska being ten years old watching our Vietnam Pacification program on the 6 o'clock. You heard Mom and Dad cluck cluck to one another about those awful children with long hair, beards and crab lice rolling around in the Woodstock mud. The Police Chief lectured you on the evils of smoking narcotics. Your sister freaked out Haight Ashbury after leaving her mind in San Francisco. She sent you flowers for your hair. They were wilted by the time you got them.

Jack Margolis wrote a book called "A Child's Garden of Grass." It was and is a handy dandy book on how to roll smoke, eat grass and buy grass. Despite changes in attitudes and laws, it still holds true, and it's still funny.


He also wrote a column for the Los Ang-

(Continued on page 7)



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Pano Davros, Diane Humphreys, Lee Mc-
Guire, Sheldon Tarrant
Friday, Dec. 3, 8 p.m. sharp - William Mohr
and Harry Northup read their poetry
Saturday, Dec. 4, 8-10 p.m. - Annual gala
free St. Andrews Day Reception, re-
freshments, everyone invited
Friday, Dec. 17, 8:30 p.m. sharp - Michael
C. Ford and Robert Mezey read their
poetry
Venice Poetry Workshop, free open to public,
every Wed. 8 p.m.
Experimental Writing Workshop, led by George
Drury Smith; 6 Tuesdays, starting
Jan. 4; deadline for applications,
Dec. 20

Saturday, December 18, 7:30 p.m. sharp, Beyond
Baroque presents NEW WORLD BAROQUE
PLAYERS 1639 W. Washington Blvd. Venice
(213) 392-5763

BOOK SWAP GOING STRONG
The book swap now has close to 1000 titles.
About one fourth are fiction. The rest are
mostly on politics, art and religion. The presump-
tion is that the users will donate books equivalent
to what they take. The book swap is in the shed
in front of 22 Wavecrest.

community services

NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Venice Legal Aid.....392-4177
Services Referral.....399-9228
Helpline for food, clothing
counseling, etc. M-F 10 a.m.-
5 p.m., Sat. 10-3 p.m.

Food Stamps only.....479-4421

NAM (New American Movement).....392-7698
478-1514

Food stamp/unemployment coun-
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6-8 p.m.

St. Joseph's Center.....392-5101
533 Rose Ave. Venice, CA.
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Stamps. Counseling 9:30-4:30

Job Information Center.....451-9811

Welfare

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

Free Venice...226 San Juan.....396-6876

Pet Assistance.....937-5204

Air Pollution Count.....629-4711

CITY SERVICES

Street Cleaning.....393-9931

Garbage Pick-up272-6376
large parcels, call 1 day ext. 392
in advance

Lot Cleaning.....485-3465
fire hazard, health or building
& safety, call for inspection.
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Emergency Clearance of Street...485-3702

Street Lights.....485-5922

Bureau of Consumer affairs.....485-4682
State office.....620-4360
County office.....974-1452

Better Business Bureau.....627-6305

BIZARRE BAZAAR - DEC. 11th - FREE

The Non-Profit Venice Community
Childcare Center, 681 North Venice
Blvd. is sponsoring a Bazaar on Saturday
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There will be public entertainment, chil-
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The Episcopal City Society.....483-7002

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VENICE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA FOR DECEMBER:

- I. Announcements
- II. Discussion on school integration by the
INTEGRATION PROJECT (teachers in L. A.
school system)
- III. Reports: Coastal Commission Committee
Homeowners & Renters Against
Unfair Taxes
- IV. Communications: A request from State Senator
Roberti for help in developing new state
legislation on tenants-rights & other housing
related matters.
A request for help to save the Tule Elk from
the Committee for the Preservation of the
Tule Elk

venice town council...
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Mon/7:30 (call 457-7251 for info)
TAI CHI CHIH with Ted Wood
Tues/Thurs 6-7:30 \$2/session
Introduction to Avatar Meher Baba
Tues/8-10 with films/readings
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Schaffer: Tues/10:30-noon
Yoga by Integral Yoga Institute
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M-F 6 p.m.-10 p.m.

Family Planning Center.....392-4147
1501 Pacific Ave.(at MarketSt)

Westside Women's Health Care ...450-2191
1711 Ocean Park Blvd.

Women's Center.....826-0818

Women's Building.....225-1724

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Venice Drug Coalition.....392-4151

Narcotics Anonymous.....372-9666

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Alcoholism Service Center.....396-5940

Gay Alcoholic's Anonymous.....396-6551

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