

The
Beachhead:
a decade
of free
Venice
see story -
centerspread

DECEMBER, 1968 TO DECEMBER, 1978



DECEMBER 1978 ISSUE #108

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

SEEN BUT NOT HEARD: VENICE PROTEST AT CITY COUNCIL



by Kate Keeling

L.A. City Council has taken another step to make Venice a developer's paradise. With scarcely a sideways glance at the opposition of many Venice residents, on November 21 the City Council voted to seek exclusion of Venice from the established Coastal development law.

The City Council has already taken over the administration of the Coastal development Permit Process for Venice (from the Coastal Commission). They are trying to remove the area of Venice from Coastal development permit requirements through a "categorical exclusion" of all Venice from the development requirements of the 1976 California Coastal Act. What they are craftily trying to swing on us is a scheme whereby the Venice Preliminary Plan should be substituted to provide future planning guidelines. There are many problems inherent in this: one, the plan has not yet been adopted and is still in the process of discussion and change; two, the City Council's new version of the plan has only just become available to the public, creating a time shortage in which to study it; three, the currently available preliminary plan includes no zoning ordinances, so it

seems the City Council could continue using present zoning schemes. As well, the City's intention to exclude Venice, a varied, diverse community, from the Coastal Act development requirements by claiming Venice constitutes a single category of development (thus being eligible for a "categorical exclusion") is of questionable legality.

November 21st's meeting of the L.A. City Council was a token sop to the supposedly democratic process of local government. After a cursory introduction of the issue by Art Snyder, a member of the Planning Committee proposing the exclusion, (our Pat Russell and Bob Ronka are the other members) the floor was given to public comment.

No one spoke in favor of the motion. In opposition were some 24 Venice residents, including representatives from the Venice Town Council, Dudley Avenue Association, and the Free Venice Beachhead. Amongst this Venice group renters and homeowners were present, as both groups are now threatened. The nine speakers were given only fifteen minutes to argue this important complex issue. During their impassioned and articulate speeches it seemed that few City Council members were even listening; several members were walking around the hall talk-

ing with their lackeys, others were flipping through notes or chatting amongst themselves.

After the paltry time allowed for public participation, the ball was back in the City Council's court. Councilman Art Snyder kicked off, commenting that he understood that the protests from the citizens accused him and the City Council members of incompetence in dealing with the City's administration of coastal development. (An accusation well taken!)

Pat Russell claimed that the Council had the best interests of Venice at heart in this plan, using as evidence the claim that the City Council had already "saved Venice from the bulldozer" (in reality local Venice opposition forced the City Council to reverse its plans to develop a freeway through our neighborhood). Finally, Councilman Lindsay ad-

(continued on page 16)

RESIST CITY INTERVENTION

Remember Rose and Main? The community came together and won. We must do it again.

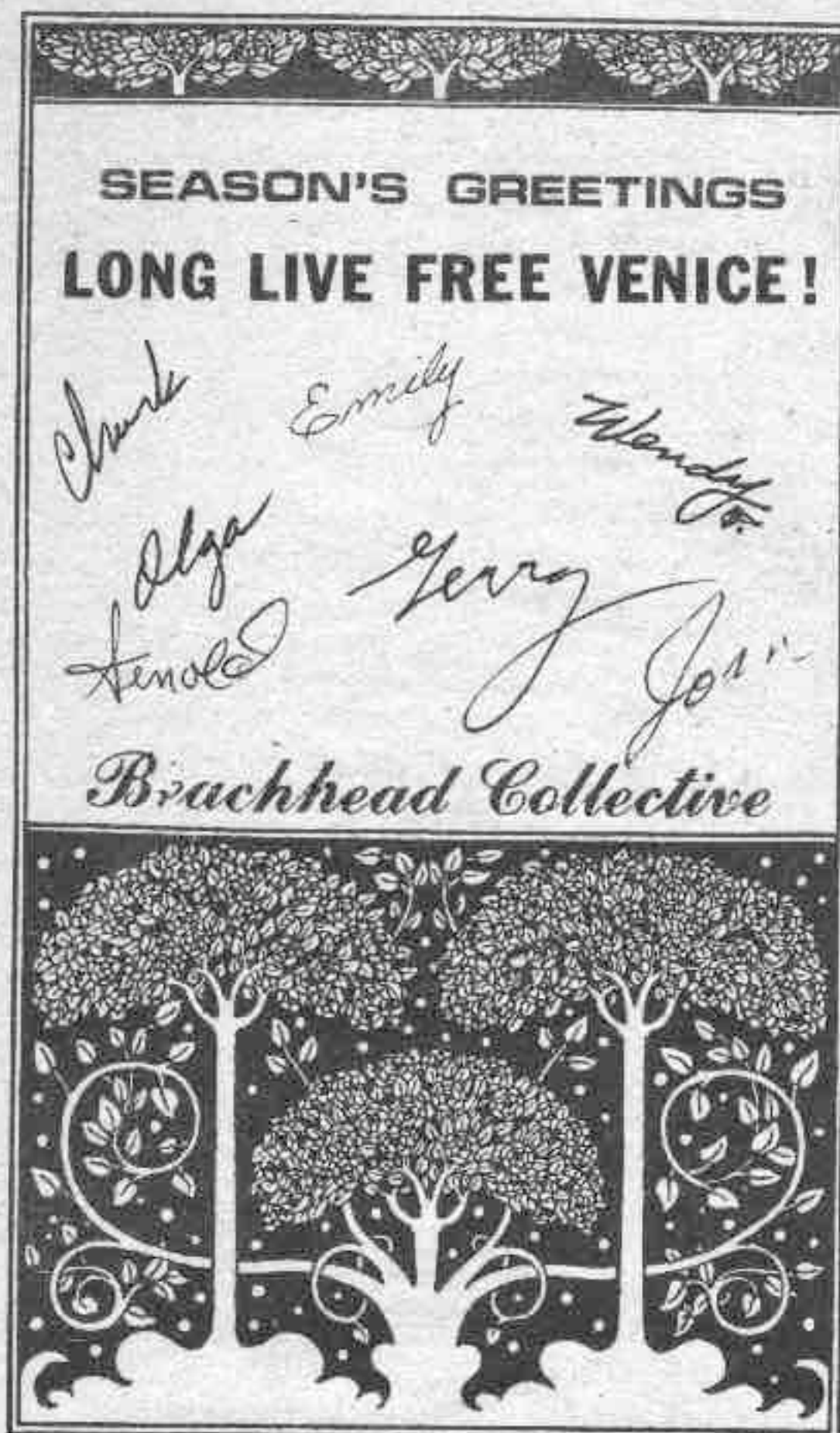
Venice may be flagrantly developed if the City is allowed to exclude it from the California Coastal Law. The only way to prevent this action is for our community to fight back. We can do this as we have done it before by being informed and making our presence felt.. That translates into the following actions:

- 1) Attend the meeting of the Venice Town Council to help organize our resistance.
- 2) Plan to attend both the Regional and State Coastal Commission hearings (dates will be forthcoming). BRING YOUR FRIENDS!! NUMBERS COUNT.
- 3) Write letters to Regional and State Coastal Commissions. Tell them you oppose having Venice removed from the State Coastal development laws.

Write to:

Mel Carpenter
Executive Director
South Coast Regional Comm.
666 E. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, 90801

Michael Fischer
California State Coastal Com.
631 Howard Street
San Francisco, 94105



→ (More Letters
on pages 7 & 16)



LETTERS



13 Nov. 1978

Beachhead Staff Collective:

Rick Davidsor in his article "Violence: Whose Violence" hit the nail on the head when he stated the primary cause of violence "is that it is part and parcel of our political/economic system - capitalism."

The reason why our society is plagued by inflation, unemployment, alienation, crime and violence is that our system of monopoly capitalism is rotten to the core and our so-called leaders cannot resolve the profound, basic contradictions existing within the system itself. We can obtain proof of this when we see politicians in Washington pass legislation that offers crumbs to the working people and the needy while opening up opportunities for tremendous profits to the multi-national corporations. How ridiculous it is for President Carter to ask the corporate rip-off artists to use voluntary restraint in raising prices when we know one of the most effective ways to stop inflation is mandatory price controls!

In my estimation, the only viable and historically inevitable alternative system to bourgeois or capitalist democracy is scientific socialist democracy, which in essence is replacing the rule of the minority by the rule of the majority. Socialist or economic democracy where the people own the means of

production and exchange and appropriate what is produced is much more democratic than bourgeois or capitalist democracy which is in its essence nothing but the exploitation of man by man.

SAMUEL HOFBERG
Venice, CA.

STAFF NOTE: Thanks for sharing your reaction, Samuel. With regard to your last sentence, though, we feel it would be more congruent with your beliefs to delete from your writing, speech, and thinking, the sexist subsuming noun "man" and replace it with one of the more egalitarian and socially democratic terms such as "people," "human beings," or "persons."

People:

Sharon Bas Hannah makes a good point in the November BEACHHEAD. No one, female or male, fat or thin, should be subjected to indignities and insults on the street. But she makes another, very dangerous point when she says that "fat is beautiful".

It's unfortunate that many people now associating weight with Madison Avenue ruling-class notions like sexist "standards of beauty" and forced consumption of trash products. Too often the common person's reaction to this mind rape is to turn away from a goal that is desirable for other reasons.

With the exception of those whose glandular imbalances keep them fat -- I realize this may be the case with Sharon Bas Hannah -- it is the duty of all aware people to struggle for the healthiest life possible. This includes achieving an appropriate weight. We are surrounded by corporations whose quest for higher profits has led them to program the American people to crave trash food, abhor exercise, and otherwise debilitate their bodies. That even the government's "subsistence food" is usually worthless, and healthful food usually so expensive that only the rich can afford it, shows how important it is to the power structure to keep the common person overweight and undernourished.

There are many unhealthy influences about us that the individual can't control directly, like the smog. But our body is totally within the control of each of us. Part of breaking free is to hone the body to the precision it was meant to have -- not because corporate advertising says so, not because it is "chic", but because our bodies are both our home and our best weapon in the fight to be free.

Avoiding insults is one thing. Ennobling a changeable unhealthy condition by calling it "beautiful" is another. Beauty resides in the struggle for freedom, not in surrender to the system.

Joli Mezieres

Dear BEACHHEAD People:

I take your paper because I love Venice. But please print the enclosed because Santa Monica needs help too!! We don't want to be a Marina either. And we are not to blame for the plasticization of your community! We are not your absentee property owners!! We are just

a nice little city that contains all types of people -- both "us" and "them" -- and the same people who own your homes own ours. In fact, we are sick and tired of being accused of threatening Venice!! We simply are good people who NEED HELP TOO!!!

ADSLA

TINA FORMED TENANTS ASSOCIATION AND CHALLENGED HER LANDLORD IN COURT. WILL SHE WIN? IF YOU HELP HER BY TALKING TO THE TENANTS, SHE WILL WIN!!!

A TYPICAL SAGA IN SANTA MONICA!
"WE DON'T WANT TO BE A MARINA EITHER"
(CONTRIBUTED BY ADSLA)

TINA, WHEN SHE FIRST MOVED TO SANTA MONICA FOUND WHAT LOOKED LIKE A NICE APARTMENT IN THE DIVERSE FREEWAY CORRIDOR.

AFTER ABOUT 3 MONTHS TINA FOUND THAT HER NICELY PAINTED WALLS WERE COLLAPSING BECAUSE OF CRUMBLING PLASTER. HER PLUMBING STOPPED UP, HER CAT RAN AWAY AND THE FIRE-DEPARTMENT TURNED OFF HER WALL HEATER IN TIME FOR THE WINTER RAINS THAT



City of Venice

VENICE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
15 November - 7:30 p.m.
Venice City Hall, 681 N. Venice Bl.

This month - election of new officers
EVERYONE FROM THE COMMUNITY IS ALWAYS INVITED!

The Venice Town Council Coordinating Committee meets the 1st Wednesday of every month at the Venice City Hall.

At the November meeting of the Venice Town Council, elections were held concerning committees and officers. There are committees working on coastal commission affairs, housing issues, and communications. The Town Council is also planning a series of community Forums -- special meetings where several experts from different groups/backgrounds will discuss a particular issue such as rent control, or housing. We hope these sessions will be interesting and informative.

The Venice Town Council has a coordinating committee which organizes the monthly Town Council meetings; the four coordinators are now Brett Bogeaus, Steve Kelley, Lynn Washington, and Dorothy Weisser. Coordinating committee meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at Venice City Hall, 7:30 p.m.

VENICE FESTIVAL NIGHT COMING TO FOX

(RECENTLY THE BEACHHEAD STAFF RECEIVED WORD THAT THE FOX VENICE THEATER HAS A SPECIAL VENICE NIGHT PROGRAM IN THE WORKS. IN HOPES THAT WE MIGHT BRING OUR READERS THE LATEST NEWS ABOUT THIS EVENT WE LOCATED OUR CORRESPONDENT-AT-RANDOM PHILO T. FARNSWORTH AND SENT HIM OFF TO INTERVIEW VENICE NIGHT PROJECT COORDINATOR LANCE DISKAN AND HIS ASSISTANT DELANDA OZ. MR. FARNSWORTH'S DISPATCH FOLLOWS - - -

Dawn secretly slipped through the early morning mist on Ocean Front Walk, and as the light came up I could make out the two figures inside the loft. Four days and nights of searching the alleys of Venice had at last come to a successful end. The elusive cultural duo was eating a bleary-eyed breakfast of granola and Red Mountain Cream Sherry. I grabbed a last toke off my cigarillo and burst through the window.

FARNSWORTH: Diskan, is it true that the Fox Venice is going to present an evening of film, video, slides, dance, food, and music devoted entirely to the Venice community?

DISKAN: Well I'd like to say this about that. I could try to deny it, but I guess that would be a foolish thing to do at this point in time. It could be done, but it would be wrong.

FARNSWORTH: So Venice Night is actually going to happen?

DISKAN: Yes.

FARNSWORTH: When?

DISKAN: The show begins at 6:00 P.M. on Sunday December 17th, and will probably end on the same night, but no one really knows.

FARNSWORTH: How much are tickets, and what is the money going to be used for? Is this yet another rip-off of the Venice community?

DISKAN: Tickets are \$3.00 for adults, \$1.50 for children and elderly persons, and will be available at the Fox Venice box office after 7:00 P.M. beginning December 10th. To answer the second part of that question: no, the community is not being ripped-off again. The people who are being ripped-off are the filmmakers, videomakers, dancers, musicians, and other artists who are donating their time and talent so that all the profits can benefit community groups. So there!

FARNSWORTH: Mz. Oz, why have you and Diskan bothered to do all this?

OZ: Well, Philo, it's well known that the people of the Venice community have been busting their asses -er, working their hearts out- for years and years just trying to survive. So we thought it would be nice to give the people of Venice a special night to just play with themselves.

FARNSWORTH: Yes, well...alright. We understand there will be a world premiere of a new film about the Venice community's struggle to exist. Is this correct?

DISKAN: I don't know how these wild rumors got started. Fortunately this rumor is true. Filmmaker Moritz Bormann (no relation to Martin) has just this week completed editing his 90 minute color film prepared for German television, and it will be shown as the feature presentation of the evening.

FARNSWORTH: What other items will be on the program on Venice Night?

OZ: In addition to a classic collection of short films about Venice that we have gathered from all parts of the western hemisphere, there will be a special long intermission when people can visit with their friends, view a selection of Venice videotapes, check out booths offering books on Venice and Venice t-shirts, purchase homemade foods prepared just for the occasion, and listen to some live musical presentations. And of course there will be some surprises too.

FARNSWORTH: What else is likely to happen?

DISKAN: God only knows!

FARNSWORTH: You folks seem to have put alot of effort into this festival of Venice.

DISKAN: Well, to tell you the truth, we're really only in it for the money - money for the groups that will benefit from everyone in Venice showing up and having a great time. The international fame, recording contract, and television series are of much less importance.

FARNSWORTH: Thank you Mr. Diskan and Mz. Oz.

DISKAN & OZ: You're welcome very much..... Is the recorder off? Hey Farnsworth, do you know where we can score any (end of tape)

PLETHORA OF PLANS POMMELS VENICE

On Monday night, November 27, the Los Angeles Planning Commission held a public hearing on a document entitled "Local Coastal Work Program." The program outlines various studies the City of L.A. will undertake in order to satisfy provisions of the California Coastal Act. The Work Program was tentatively approved by the Commission pending another hearing. The following is a list of projects for the Venice area and estimated cost.

a) Venice Plan Amendment Coordination	\$1,054
b) Specific Plan Canals & Marina Penin.	\$17,567
c) Venice and San Pedro Low Cost Housing Study	\$8,234
d) Specific Plan for Oakwood, Millwood, and So. East Venice	\$15,700
Total Ven Plan	\$42,555

Several Venice residents and developers spoke at the hearing. Among the issues certain to arose controversy in Venice are:

A study of the advisability of opening up the walk streets in North Beach to the automobile. This proposal has been rejected time and again by residents of the area because it will not solve parking or traffic circulation problems but instead cause a marked deterioration in the quality of life, destroy one of the unique aspects of the area and thereby degrade the Coastal zone. Arguing in favor of this study Mr. Frank Eberhardt told the Commissioners that the Fire Department had recommended that the streets be opened. This statement was a complete misrepresentation of the facts. The Fire Department's recommendations applied only to the Peninsula, where high density and tall buildings may require use of large hook and ladder trucks and consequently, wider streets. In 1970 North Beach property owners and renters initiated a zoning rollback which inhibited escalating densities, and the Coastal Commission has imposed a 30 ft. height limit on new buildings in the area. Nevertheless the Planning Commission agreed to fund the above study, so Venetians should steel themselves and expect the usual, that is, the worst.

Another controversial element is the proposal to establish two specific planning areas in Venice. Canal resident and developer Reed Monroe argued for this idea. He said the CAC produced Venice Preliminary Plan was a farce and not

representative of the wishes of many Venetians. He said that only Canal people should plan for the Canals; Peninsular people for the Peninsula, etc. Other speakers questioned the wisdom of this approach, mainly because developments in one area can effect other areas in an adverse way. For instance in pressure for street widenings to handle increased traffic generated in neighboring areas or, through allowing increases in density, generating intensive speculative activity in neighboring areas.

It is possible that the City proposal to create specific plans for each of the Venice sub-communities marks an opening shot in a campaign to dismantle the Venice Preliminary Plan which, for all its deficiencies, developers may find too restrictive.

The Local Coastal Work Program has yet to be approved officially by the Planning Commission. Subsequently it must be approved by the City Council and by the Coastal Commission before it can be implemented. Persons wishing to comment on this work program can write either to the Planning Commission, Mrs. Russell-Councilperson, the Calif. Coastal Commission, or all three.

where's the « » community plan ??

Los Angeles vs Coastal Commission

Community Plan Ready! That was the bold headline which greeted Venetians who opened a 6th District News-letter sent to everyone in our community during the middle of November. That headline was misleading in several ways and indicates how closely politics is inter-connected with urban planning.

First of all, in a literal sense the plan was not ready. It was still at the city printing plant. It will be completed and ready for circulation about mid December. Anyone in the community wishing a copy should call Richard Gervais at Los Angeles Community Planning (485-5386) or Pat Russell's office (641-4717) and request a copy to be mailed to you.

Second, in actual fact the Venice Community Plan is not ready. It is a Preliminary Plan, not an officially adopted plan. Thus it is open to revision of any kind, revisions which can be made by the Planning Commission, City of Los Angeles, and by the Los Angeles City Council.

Public Hearings

Although the Newsletter says that public hearings on the Preliminary Plan will be held, such a statement is misleading. In fact all official discussions of the plan within the community itself have already been held. Only the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), the body appointed by the Councilwoman which drew up the Preliminary Plan, will meet to receive copies of the Plan and officially put an end to its existence. Officially hearings before the Planning Commission and the City Council will take place early in 1979, but these hearings will be held in Los Angeles, not in the community.

Three Documents Produced

Three separate planning documents plus an environmental impact report make up the Community Plan package. The first is an All-Venice plan, basically a conventional land use or zoning plan. It also includes important provisions dealing with street and highway designations through Venice. The second and third documents are both North Beach Specific Plans, one drawn by the North Beach Planning Task Force, the other drawn up by the Planning Department. The merits of these two documents will be argued within the community and finally before the Planning Commission and the City Council.

Currently the City of Los Angeles is engaged in an effort to wrest control of all permit issuing and planning decisions in Venice from the State Coastal Commission. Los Angeles has asked that Venice be "categorically excluded" from Coastal Commission jurisdiction. One ploy the City is using is to claim that the soon to be circulated Venice Preliminary Plan will substitute for a local coastal planning program for the Venice area. If it accepts this claim, the Coastal Commission will feel less guilt about giving up its authority over Venice.

What is disturbing about the City's plans is that the Venice Preliminary Plan is just that, a preliminary, not a final draft plan. It is subject to substantial amendment by the City. It will be interesting to see how the Coastal Commission responds to this ploy. The Beachhead will inform the community as to the date of hearing for L.A.'s request for a categorical exlusing for Venice so that everyone who wants to can go down and speak. But everyone should remember that contrary to the Councilwoman's Newsletter the Venice Community Plan is not finished or adopted. We in Venice are coming to the end of a planning process but we cannot afford to assume anything until the Venice Plan is officially adopted. • •

MALIK CARTER'S NEW ORLEANS FISH & GUMBO HUT

AT
MISTY'S FISH MARKET
606 LINCOLN BOULEVARD
(Near the Fox Venice)
VENICE, CA. 90291
399-6119

ENTREES

All dinners include approximately 1 1/2 lbs. fish, french fries and salad

TROUT	3.10	OYSTERS	3.99	SWORDFISH	5.50
BASS	4.50	SHARK		FROG LEGS	6.99
SAND DABS	3.10	FILLET	3.00	SHRIMP	
PACIFIC		MONK	3.50	BAYOU	3.99
SNAPPER	3.00	MUSSELS	3.50	SHRIMP BOAT	6.99
BUFFALO	3.50	SQUID	3.50	20-PC. BUCKET	
HALIBUT	4.35	LOUISIANA		OF FISH	9.99
SOLE	4.50	CATFISH	3.50	SCALLOPS	3.99

SPECIALS

	8 oz.	16 oz.	32 oz.
NEW ORLEANS GUMBO	2.00	4.00	8.00
RED BEANS & RICE	1.25	2.50	5.00
PEACOCK	1.50	3.00	6.00

Vegetarian New Orleans Style served over a bed of rice.

SIDES

TATER BREAD	.50
CORN BREAD	.50
FRIES	.50
POUND CAKE	
WITH COCONUT	.50

HICKORY-SMOKED BAR-B-QUE

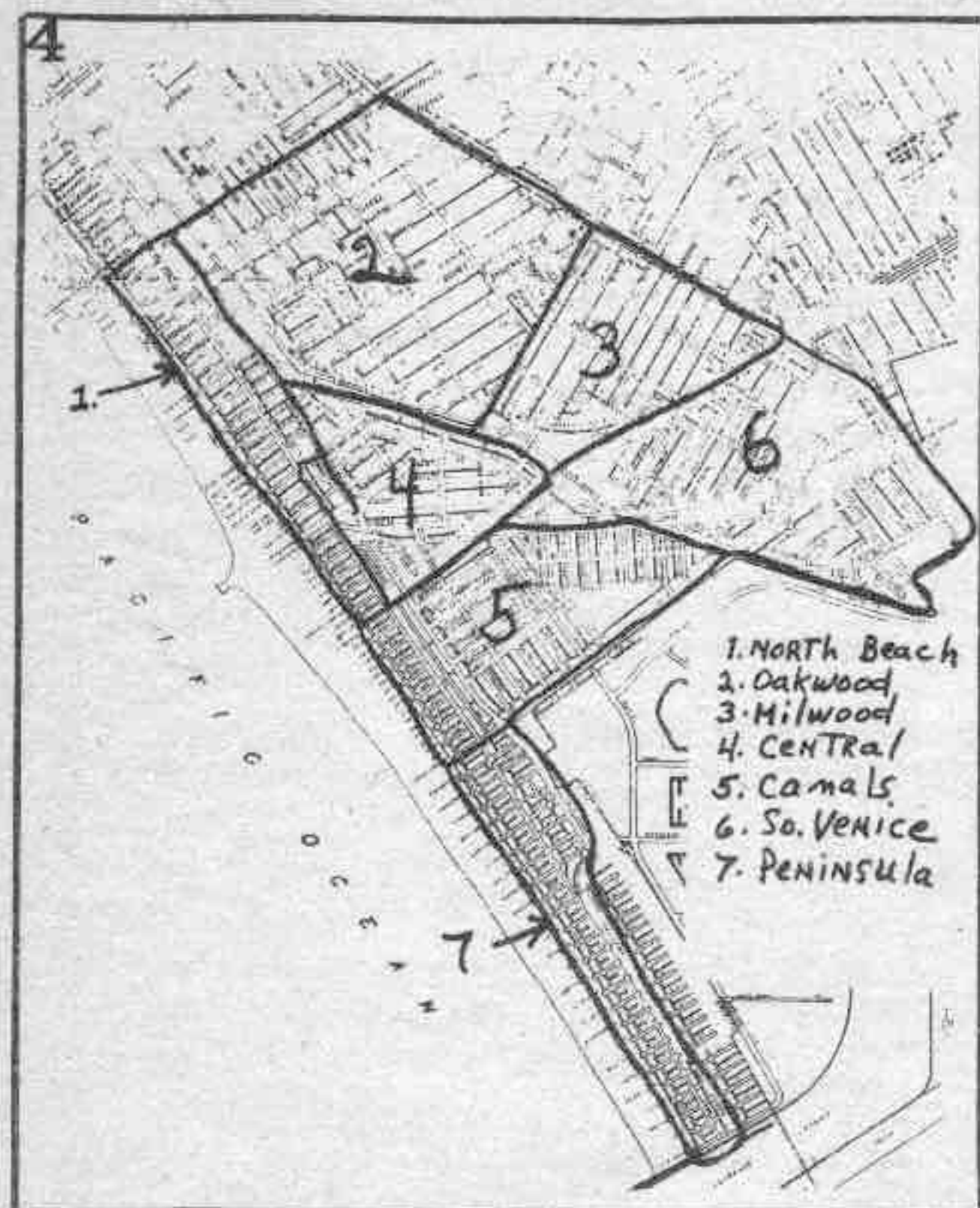
RIBS	4.00
CHICKEN	3.50
FISH	3.50
HOT LINKS	3.50

BEVERAGES

SOFT DRINKS	.35
PERRIER WATER	1.00
MILK	.50
NEW ORLEANS	
COFFEE	.50

HOW VENICE VOTED

BY ARNOLD SPRINGER



The results of the November election show that Venice voters as a whole continue to vote "to the left" when compared to their counterparts in Los Angeles County and California. Within the 8 sub communities there are however some basic differences. The most "progressive" sub-communities continue to be North Beach, Oakwood, and Central Venice, the most conservative - South and East Venice, while the Canals, Milwood, and the Peninsula remain moderate to liberal.

For the purposes of analysis The Beachhead choose what it considered to be those propositions and races which would best indicate the socio-political inclinations of Venetians: Prop 5 (anti smoking in public places); Prop 6 (anti gay teachers); and Prop 7 (enlarged application of death Penalty). We have also covered the race between Dornan and Peck and the referendum on the acceptability of Rose Bird as Chief Justice. This race was important because behind the superficial issue of her judicial qualifications lay the basic liberal-left vs. conservative-right confrontation. We calculated the Peace and Freedom vote for the 4th District Board of Equalization seat (McCammon)

as a way to compare the PF vote for district as opposed to state-wide candidates. In the races for Governor, Secretary of State, and Controller, we wanted to see how well the three PF candidates (Seals-G., Wald- Sec. St., and Barron-Cont.) did against the Democratic incumbents.

Venice bucked the state-wide trend on Prop 5, voting to pass the measure 51% to 49%. The Peninsula and North Beach voted for the measure, Oakwood and East Venice voting against. On Prop 6-the anti gay civil rights measure, Venice voted overwhelmingly NO 89% to 21%. This vote was 31% higher than the state vote against the measure. North Beach voted a phenomenal 91% no on Prop 6.

Venetians voted to support increased application of the death penalty (Prop 7) 52%-48%, but that pro vote was a full 20% less than the in-favor state vote on the issue. North Beach and Central Venice voted strongly against the measure, trailed slightly by Oakwood. South and East Venice voted heavily in favor of Prop. 7.

All eight Venice sub-communities voted Democratic in the Dornan-Peck race, with South and

continued on p. 12

	Prop 5		Prop 6		Prop 7		27th Cong		Sup. Ct.		4th Dist.		Governor				S.State		Contr.	
	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	Dornan	Peck	yes	no	yes	no	Brn.	Yngr.	Clark	Seals	Bu	Wald	Cory	Barron (PF)
North Beach	55%	45%	9%	91%	37%	63%	15%	85%	82%	18%	17%		68%	8%	5%	6%	58%	12%	53%	14%
Oakwood	47%	53%	23%	77%	45%	55%	17%	83%	79%	21%	11%		78%	10%	4%	4%	69%	8%	65%	9%
Milwood	52%	48%	21%	79%	53%	47%	27%	73%	70%	30%	17%		64%	21%	6%	5%	60%	9%	55%	14%
Central	51%	49%	15%	85%	40%	60%	21%	79%	77%	23%	20%		72%	12%	7%	5%	61%	14%	57%	17%
Canals	52%	48%	15%	85%	53%	47%	26%	74%	71%	29%	18%		69%	18%	8%	3%	65%	8%	58%	11%
So. Venice	50%	50%	33%	67%	63%	37%	38%	62%	59%	41%	14%		68%	25%	7%	3%	63%	6%	60%	9%
E. Venice	48%	52%	36%	64%	68%	32%	43%	57%	50%	50%	11%		54%	33%	7%	2%	58%	5%	58%	6%
Peninsula	56%	44%	15%	85%	56%	44%	32%	68%	65%	35%	10%		61%	27%	8%	2%	66%	5%	59%	6%
All Venice	51%	49%	21%	89%	52%	48%	27%	73%	69%	31%	15%		67%	19%	7%	4%	63%	10%	58%	11%
27th Dist.	--	--	--	--	--	--	51%	49%	--	--	12%		43%	37%	5%	1%	45%	3%	48%	4%
L.A. County	45%	55%	39%	61%	71%	29%	--	--	52%	48%	12%		57%	36%	5%	1%	63%	4%	62%	4%
State	46%	54%	42%	58%	72%	28%	--	--	52%	48%	12%		56%	36%	5%	1%	63%	4%	61%	5%

CALIFORNIA ELECTIONS: some victories, some losses

NEW YORK (LNS)—If the wind that swept over California this past election is an indicator of the political direction for the entire country, as political observers have often suggested in the past, then U.S. citizens are in for some confusing and lean years. At the same time that California voters defeated one of the most repressive anti-gay initiatives ever introduced in the U.S., they passed the most repressive death penalty law in recent memory and defeated several local proposals designed to off-set the austere repercussions of their now-infamous "tax-payers revolt," Proposition 13.

John Briggs, the author of both Proposition 6 (the anti-gay initiative) and 7 (the death penalty initiative) made his political debut working with Anita Bryant in her attack on Miami gays. He then helped manage Howard Jarvis' scheme for granting tax cuts to big business, and later ran for the California Republican gubernatorial nomination. Both 6 and 7 were designed to rally support for his nomination.

Briggs dropped out of that race in May, when it became clear that he had little support. But he did not abandon his propositions. Instead, he spent almost \$1 million to gather signatures so that Proposition 6 would appear on the ballot. But the money, as it turned out, did not buy the vote and proposition 6 was defeated by an overwhelming one million votes.

Gay Victory

Spirits were high at both 'Bay Area Committee Against the Briggs Initiative' and 'No On 6' headquarters. "We're extremely excited, I can't tell you how happy we are," one gay activist told LNS. Said another, "We're just recovering from an incredible, incredible party. We're all relieved."

Public sentiment turned against Briggs' Initiative 6 about six weeks prior to the election. Before then, it was expected to pass by almost 70 percent. But, with the exception of San Bernardino County in Southern California, it was defeated in every county in the state—even Briggs' home county of Fullerton.

Gay activists attributed the proposition's defeat to their hard work, a media campaign educating the public about gay and lesbian life styles, and

individual conservatives' opposition to the measure.

"The media campaign stressed that it was an unnecessary law, violated people's human rights, and would be incredibly costly to enforce," a woman at 'No On 6' told LNS. "People who couldn't handle the sexuality issue could at least relate to the expense."

"Also, a few weeks ago Ronald Reagan came out with a strong statement against the Initiative [based on considerations of privacy and individual rights]. A lot of people respect him, and besides influencing a lot of people, after he spoke out, other conservatives also did. Even Carter came out against it."

Many other groups were vocal in their disapproval of Proposition 6 including all California labor unions, many Black, Chicano, Asian and Filipino groups, and most religious groups.

Death Penalty Strengthened

But where Proposition 6 died at the polls, 7 flourished. The initiative, which repeals the current California death penalty law and substitutes a statute far broader in categories of capital crime, far more vague in language and far more prejudicial to the rights of the defendant, was approved by a large majority of those who voted in the election.

Where the old law at least attempted to include some safeguards (such as narrowly defined circumstances and relatively impartial procedures), 7 makes it possible for the courts to impose the death penalty on anyone they want to eliminate. In the words of the initiative sponsor, Briggs, the passage of 7 will "fire up the gas chambers." As well as enlarging the number of crimes punishable by death (from three to 15), Proposition 7 more than doubles the minimum sentences for first and second degree murder. Even a person not directly connected to a killing (for example the owner of an object used in a murder) could be executed. The present law excludes the death penalty (although not a murder charge) in such cases.

Proposition 7 also adds an unprecedented requirement: that the judge instruct a jury that a sentence of life without parole, rather than death, "may in the future...be commuted or

modified to a sentence that includes the possibility of parole by the Governor of California."

And along with police officers killed in the line of duty, the new law now stipulates that the death penalty should be given for killing welfare fraud investigators, Department of Motor Vehicles employees, Investigators of the Department of Consumer Affairs, food and drug inspectors, as well as airport guards in San Francisco (but not San Jose) and Housing patrol people in Los Angeles (but not San Francisco).

While many who voted against Proposition 7 were also strong opponents of 6, the reverse was not always the case, as the election returns demonstrated. In an interview with *Gay Community News* shortly before the election, Amy Barron of the Lesbian School Workers (a group that, like Seattle's Women Against 13, sought to link the oppression of Third World People), talked about the troubles they were having informing the electorate of the dangers inherent in 7.

After calling 7 "nothing more than legalized lynching," Barron went on to emphasize that the death penalty was "a danger to gays and Third World People." But "unfortunately," she said, a lot of conservative gays will vote against Proposition 6 and for Proposition 7. She then warned that the desire for "safe streets" on the part of some conservative supporters of Proposition 6, might well lead to the overwhelming passage of the initiative.

"The sponsors are playing on people's fears," she charged, "and unfortunately voters are just not being made aware of what this initiative really means."

Organizers against Proposition 7 were also facing an electorate which has historically supported funding for law enforcement projects (the most infamous being the creation of the first SWAT teams) as well as law enforcement candidates. For example, in this election George Deukmejian defeated Yvonne Braithwaite Burke, a well-known former Black congresswoman, in the race for attorney general, on his platform of increased law enforcement.

Local Rent Initiatives

On a local level, many California cities were voting on rent-freeze, rent roll-back and rent control initiatives—all responses to people's anger at not getting any of the tax savings from Proposition 13.

San Franciscans voted on Proposition U, a one-year emergency measure which would have required landlords to pass on tax savings resulting from Proposition 13. "We lost—53 percent to 47 percent," Dave Brigode of the San Francisco Renters' Rebate Committee informed LNS. "But in terms of what we faced, we did surprisingly well."

The campaign against Proposition U, funded by big business and large real estate interests, was managed by a slick political consulting firm, Solem and Associates, which has a history of running successful campaigns against rent roll-back initiatives.

"It was the most expensive campaign for a ballot initiative in the history of San Francisco," Brigode continued. "They outspent us 25 to one. People received five to six mailings from 'No On U' forces, saying that rent control would cause rats, housing deterioration, etc. We didn't have the resources to counter the lies."

The San Francisco measure did not even call for rent control, although that's how it was billed by opponents and described in the Voter's handbook. The Board of Supervisors was supposed to fund a mailing correcting the summary of Proposition U, according to a court order, but never did. Thus, San Franciscans were voting on a mislabeled measure.

"We're deeply disappointed we lost," Brigode concluded. "But because all the major money and attention was focused on Proposition U, some liberal candidates and measures managed to slip through and win."

In Berkeley, a rent control initiative passed—57 percent to 43 percent. Now, 1979 rents can be no more than the rents June 6, 1978 (the day that Proposition 13 passed) minus 80 percent of the tax savings landlords won with that measure. After 1980, according to the new Berkeley law, landlords will have to provide their tenants with a detailed financial statement to justify any increases above five percent annually.

Berkeley activists have been trying to get rent control in their city for many years, and attribute much of their success this time, to people's anger at not receiving any benefits from Proposition 13.

The student-populated town of Davis, near the California capital of Sacramento, also passed a rent roll-back measure.

Palo Alto and Santa Cruz, south of San Francisco, were not as lucky, however.

Measure B in Santa Cruz, calling for rent stabilization and a board that would set fair rent levels, was defeated by a mere 98 votes. "There is still a chance that we might win," Barbara Blinick, a tenant activist with the Santa Cruz Housing Action Committee (SCHAC) reported the day after the election. "The write-in ballots haven't all been counted, and many people were going to be writing in a liberal educator for superintendent. There's a possibility that those who write him in would also be voting for Measure B."

Out-of-town interests spent \$100,000 to defeat the measure; the local tenant group spent only \$7,000.

Measure A, also supported by SCHAC, passed by 800 votes. It is designed to put a damper on housing speculation (common in that student, beach and retirement community) by heavily taxing people who sell their houses within four years of purchase.

"However," Blinick noted, "it was written into Proposition 13 [the spring tax measure] that a 2/3 majority would be needed before passing this kind of legislation. So it's not certain that winning A is a victory—we might have to take it to court."

Other activists echoed this sentiment when commenting on the election results. "I'm glad the election is over," said a member of the gay BACABI organization. "But after the election results came in, Briggs said he'll introduce the measure at the next election. We're going to have to continue our organizing efforts."

At the 'No On 7' office, staff members too say the fight is "by no means through. There'll be a lot of waiting until someone is sentenced under the new law, but when they are, we'll challenge it in the courts." □

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Tenants Unite! Enforce The Ordinance

By The Westside Tenant Action Council

By now, most BEACHHEAD readers should know that the Los Angeles Rent Rollback and Moratorium Ordinance has been about as effective as the rhythm method when it comes to tenant protection.

It is supposed to be a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of \$500 or by imprisonment in the County Jail for a period of not more than six months, or both, for a landlord "to demand, accept, receive or retain any payment of rent in excess of the maximum lawful rents set forth in the ordinance." The number of violations is virtually incalculable since many, perhaps most tenants who are being cheated by their landlords either do not know it or, if they do, are unwilling to refuse to pay the unlawful rent and report the violation for fear of eviction. And with good reason!!

Although the ordinance is supposed to protect tenants against such retaliation, the fact is that the burden is on the tenant to prove that the landlord is evicting for this reason. To a layperson, not versed in the subtle nuances of legal hocus pocus, the connection between a refusal to pay an illegal rent one day and an eviction notice the next day may appear obvious. Not so, however, for what appears obvious to the uninitiated is, for the legal practitioner and a judicial system designed to protect the interests of property, only another Gordian knot to further entangle. For such a connection, if it is a connection at all and not some coincidence of timing, may not be enough for some judges. It may be further required that the only motive for the tenant's eviction is retaliation; i.e., that no lawful motive lurked anywhere in the mind of the landlord.

At least one judge in Van Nuys, Judge Harold Sinclair, has dispensed with these legal gyrations altogether. He told the Herald Examiner (Nov. 1st) that "the local ordinance has nothing to do with state eviction laws." So, even if a tenant can prove that the sole reason for his eviction was his refusal to pay unlawful rent, Judge Sinclair, and we can only presume he is not alone, would say T. S.

The fact that the courts are not protecting tenants from eviction has not intimidated everyone however. Many tenants are standing up for their rights, fighting back, refusing to pay illegal rents and reporting the violating landlords to the City. In the first week of the "moratorium" alone, the phone company estimated that over 20,000 calls were made to the mayor's rent "hotline." Since this "hotline" has only four lines, only one tenth of these calls, 2,340, were actually answered. Of those answered, over 300 were reports of eviction or threatened eviction. Kathleen Connell, Director of the City's Housing Department estimated that that number would increase to at least 500 per week. So now, seven weeks into the moratorium we can conservatively estimate that the City has received some 3,500 complaints, not including the number of violations reported where eviction was not threatened.

What has the City done about these complaints? First of all, the City has not put in more phone lines. What the City has done is to set up a special office, located in the Housing Division of the Community Development Department, to process all ordinance complaints and refer them to the City Attorney's Office for prosecution. Every complaint received by any City or County agency—even those received directly by the City Attorney's Office—are referred there to be processed and investigated before being forwarded or backwarded, whichever the case may be, to the City Attorney. To date, almost one third of the way through the moratorium period, the City has filed a grand total of 36 complaints with the City Attorney's Office.

You can guess how many landlords have been prosecuted. Not a single one. Furthermore, the City Attorney's Office has stated that it is their policy not to prosecute. In an interview which appeared in the "Daily Journal" (October 9), a local newspaper written for lawyers, Paul Schrad-

er, Deputy City Attorney in charge of prosecuting ordinance violators, stated that landlords who promise to comply with the ordinance after being contacted by the City Attorney's Office probably won't be prosecuted. And even those who refuse to comply may not be charged with a violation. So much for the deterrent effect of the fear of a fine for illegal rent gouging.

That the promise of the rent rollback and moratorium is not being realized is probably a surprise to no one. Its purpose was not to stabilize rents but to stave off and defuse a growing tenants movement for real rent control in Los Angeles. This tactic has not worked. What could have been a major victory for landlords has turned into its opposite, a bad defeat. The mayor's "hotline", designed to drain off anger and frustration, has increased it. Nine tenths of the people who call are getting a busy signal. The Landlord-Tenant Mediation Board created by the ordinance with any power at all could have channeled a lot of angry tenants into endless, exhausting and useless negotiations, hearings and bureaucratic red tape. As it is, the Board has no power so tenants ignore it. Even a token effort by the City Attorney's Office to prosecute the most glaring offenders would have given the illusion that the City government was on the side of tenants. But the role of the Mayor and the City Attorney is blatant.

So what do we do about it? Turn anger into energy, and force the City to enforce the ordinance. There are tenant groups all over Los Angeles that are beginning to organize around this issue. So is the Tenant Action Center. Since the City won't help tenants file complaints against their landlords, we are going to. Both the Echo Park and Venice offices have complaint forms. Any tenant can get help by coming into the centers during our open hours. Since May 31st, the date fixing lawful rents for most tenants in L.A., over 16,000 unlawful detainer actions (eviction lawsuits) have been filed in municipal court. We estimate that perhaps as many as 50 of the landlords who were successful in getting their old tenants out are now charging unlawfully high rents to their new tenants. The task of looking up these court records and contacting the present tenants is painstaking but could uncover thousands of violations. The City, of course, won't do this so the Tenant Action Center, along with other tenant organizations has begun this work as well.

As violations are documented and complaints submitted to the City, the fight for enforcement of the ordinance will focus on the City Attorney's Office. We have to change its policy of no enforcement. And we can only do that with massive public pressure, militant organization and demonstrations.

And as we fight to enforce this ordinance, we must build for the struggle to extend and strengthen it. April 1st, the end of the moratorium, is All Fool's Day and it remains to be seen who will be laughing when the present ordinance expires. A Tenant Action Center ordinance enforcement committee has begun meeting to plan strategy and organize work. We need help. Join us, for information call 822-0517 (evenings). If you live closer to Echo Park, call the Echo Park center, 413-4399. ●

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BY MOE STAVNEZER

Real Estate Junk Mail

I get letters. All the time I get letters, fliers phone calls from all the friendly, helpful real estate brokers in the area. They want me to sell, they want me to buy or they want to know if I know anybody who wants to do either. Portnoy Properties sent me a list of everything for sale and that has been sold in a 3-4 block area (I'm told that brokers refer to such an area as a "farm", how quaint). Hettig & Co., with Rita "Rusty" Rust's name signed at the bottom (I swear!) sends me a letter which includes the following paragraph:

"There is a right time to sell investment real estate - when purchasers are actively seeking properties that will provide them with stable income, tax shelter, equity growth, and a hedge against inflation, and when vacancy factors are quite low."

Now that's my home they're talking about or maybe its the apartment you live in. But no matter, to them its just a commodity, a piece of the action, money (pant, pant).

Sick, Sick, Sick

A little blurb in the Sunday Times announces quite matter-of-factly that the L. A. City Housing Authority is looking for land on which to build low income housing for families. I call up and, to my amazement, am told that they've got lots of bucks from HUD not only to build the housing but to buy the land as well. The main program they're pushing is called "scattered site" townhouses with no more than 5 family units in any one building (of course there can be fewer). It sounds perfect for some of the City owned lots in Venice so I ask about them. He knows about the lots and is also very interested but also knows that the City wants to sell them to make lots of money and yes, the Housing Authority can bid on them. So, we have the absurd situation of one City agency possibly selling lots to another City agency which will mean less housing because of land costs. Talk about waste in government. And of course its the people who need the housing who suffer most from this petty stupidity.

More Sick

The County of L. A. is looking for landlords to accept Section 8 subsidies for rental housing. Seems like the County has the money but can't find enough takers. This is money that can help relieve the critical housing needs of poor people but the apartment house owners (who have been publicly calling for more of this kind of money) don't appear to be interested.

A not-S0-Funning Thing...

On Nov. 27 there was a public hearing before the City Planning Commission dealing with the initial phase of coastal planning for the City of L. A. This blurb is not about what happened but rather what I discovered was done to me while the hearing was in progress. After the meeting I went to my car and discovered that one of my rear tires was flat. Well, that happens and I discovered that one front tire was almost flat and leaking air quite badly and the other front tire was also leaking air--now that doesn't happen. The guy at the gas station who fixed the 2 front tires verified my suspicion that they had been quite purposefully punctured (he couldn't tell about the rear tire for sure). Why my heap of junk with other, fancier cars on the street?

Back to the hearing. Only two people spoke for the pro-development group in Venice. Reid Monroe and Fred Hoffman. Monroe had berated me personally and the Venice Town Council in general and also characterized the Canals as being a place where houses sell for \$250,000 rather than as a diverse social community. Hoffman wants to develop in the Silver Strand and to "Keep planning options open" so that the Canals can "realize their full potential". Both left the hearing before me. I have reported the entire incident to the police and to Pat Russell's office and I'm making it public mainly for my own protection. The more people who know about it, the less chances of a re-occurrence. I hope.

FRAUD

by The Oakwood Tattler

"Fraud!" a poet-friend hurled at me as he passed in the street. I was in the garden of the Comeback Inn discussing politics. Because he was a poet, or perhaps because he was a friend, I stopped him and asked what he meant by calling me a Fraud, or anyway, why he'd chosen just that word. But he only shrugged and passed on into the night, leaving me with the word ringing in my head.

So I returned to my political-friends and our discussion about how CED, its power base located right in Santa Monica, had ignored its big chance to make political hay by getting involved in rent control and housing in Santa Monica, pre Prop 13. After all, Campaign for Economic Democracy is almost synonymous in this city with rent control.

But CED didn't, was labeled a Fraud as a result and just at the moment it could have, you know, really led the housing thing.

Then I got to thinking about Moe's letter in the November Beachhead and how he was quitting the Coastal Commission beat because "they no longer want to hear about poor people," and just how hopeless that sounded, especially right after the Commission had recently actually stopped a real estate-exploitative project at Rose and Main streets because poor people near the beach were "a man-made resource deserving protection," a clause, by the way, that is written into the law that set the Commission up in the first place. For its trouble, Los Angeles decided to strip it of its powers all together, at least along this coast.

Closer to home, I realized that the Artists Forum, that so nobly reared its creative heads here in Venice and galloped, at first, to the defense of poor people (among whom they counted themselves, for a change) actually fell apart at the very moment real political action became possible, and abandoned the Southern Pacific Right-of-Way (Right-to-Stay) to the Pols. Well.

CLASS IN HISTORY OF VENICE

The history of the community of Venice California from its inception to the present day will be the subject of a class offered in the Venice Public Library, 6th and California.

The class is sponsored by California State University, Long Beach, and will be taught by Venice resident Arnold Springer. It is open to all full-time enrolled students at any Cal State University campus without cost and carries 3 units of upper division credit (thru the concurrent enrollment program). Senior citizens can enroll for a minimum \$3 and other Venetians can enroll at a small charge. For further information contact the Venice Public Library or the History Department, Cal. State Univ., Long Beach. The class starts Jan 22 and will be held on Saturday mornings.

And what about me? I remembered how, reading Freud's Analysis of Dreams while on a Freedom Ride thru the South in the 60's, I arrived in Washington, D.C. (alive, and) excited about "Fraud," as I mispronounced his name in my Texas accent, and ever since have gotten the two mixed up. And how, more recently, a black woman in describing me said I "dressed" like a hippie.

I mean, I see Save Venice everywhere: on t-shirts, posters, car bumpers, in store windows, on beer mugs, even in Marina del Rey for chrissakes. Just about everybody wants to Save Venice, yet here they are talking about putting the freeway thru again and -- like the death penalty administered by the State -- this time nobody's gonna stop it.

And so, back to Oakwood. Have you seen the old neighborhood lately? Its no longer the only place in Venice where it's just, you know, too funky to live. Now it's alright, right among the chic and so on. Well.

The night was full of Frauds, big and small, obvious and subtle, and if in fact I was fraudulent then I was just in tune with the times.

But still, you know, I wish sometimes it were different.



LETTERS

continued

Beachhead:

I'm really getting burned-out on the intellectual, heady bullshit being tossed around in the continuing saga on WOMEN, MEN, & EQUALITY in the last issues of the Beachhead.

I think its time to get down to some gut-level stuff now.

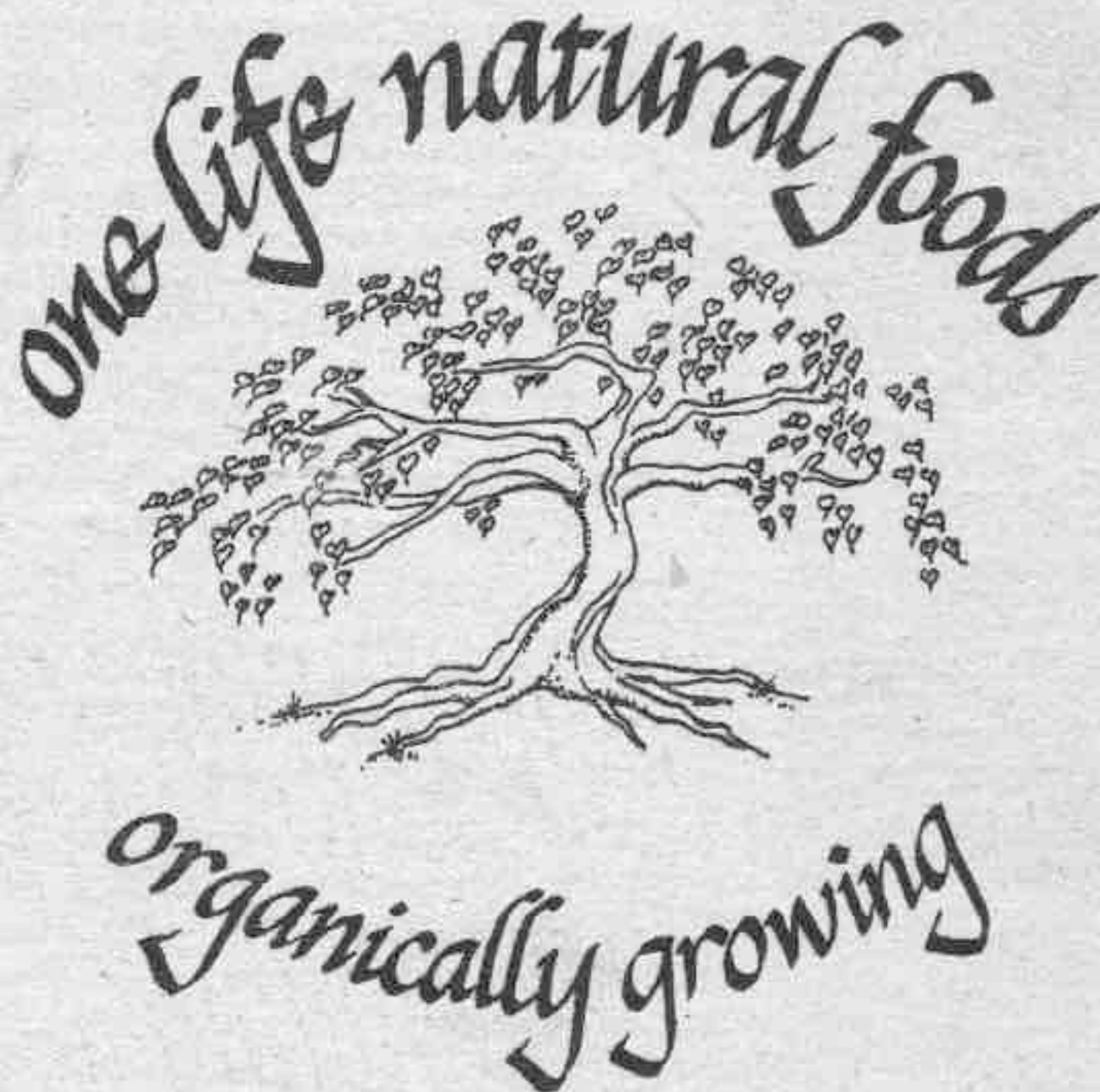
Fellas, if you want superficiality you can buy it on the corner. I don't have to give myself up in exchange for nothing. If there's no love in it stick it up your ass.

Contrary to what men have been led to believe, the truth is out. Women know now that there's things more satisfying than a dick. I'm not talking just about phallic satisfiers, I mean all sorts of things, like friendship and caring and growing gardens and sky diving.

Men, it has become necessary to look beyond your 6 inches or else you're gonna lose contact with the only thing you have left thats keeping you sane: Women

Invest your future, listen to your women better, longer. Try to understand the issues, read feminist books. Don't guess at knowing what a feminist is, find out. Struggle with your sexism. The pay-off is experiencing the depth of a real live woman, instead of a little, sniveling, wishy-washy, kiss-ass snip. Where's your pride? When you find out the difference between a woman and a "chick" you'll gladly do some of the shit-work in order to experience such a prize.

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SANDRA McKEE: THE ARTIST AS WORKER

by WENDY REEVES

Neither tormented, rebellious, melancholic, egotistical, self-destructive, nor personally flamboyant, 32-year-old Venice resident Sandra McKee stands well outside the romantic stereotype of The Artist -- especially painters.

She also stands outside any current trends in the art world. Relatively unknown, Sandra's work can occasionally be seen in Pasadena, Westwood, or downtown, but has never appeared in a major Los Angeles area gallery. And despite the new crop of art galleries here in Venice, her paintings have not been shown locally.

"Ace only handles blue chip artists, Janus and the others I know about all handle a different kind of work," she explains. "The problem has been that people are not very interested in Figurative painting. It'll take some kind of return to that before anyone comes beating on my door." She laughs, without bitterness.

In such circumstances, the confidence and clarity of purpose expressed in her canvases are surprising. Sandra traces some of this back to a New York art teacher with the delightfully improbable name of Rackstraw Downes. "He developed in me a feeling for paint, how it should be laid down. A solidness -- that things have to be there for a reason; that if you put it on and don't know why it's there, you're cheating."

Her paintings speak plainly that Sandra doesn't cheat. They are 'centered,' mature; colors and designs are bold almost to insolence. "I like a sort of flat solid color," she says; "I think it began pretty much with Manet."

For Sandra it all began in New York City, where she was "plunked down in the middle of dancing classes" at the age of three.

"My parents figured I'd be very tall and they wanted me to learn to walk without tripping

term liking. "When I started to get really serious about ballet, their reaction was something like, 'Hey, wait a minute! Don't forget you've got to turn into a typical middle-class housewife and mother!' But by then it was too late. I've been pushing myself ever since."

THE TURNING POINT

Sandra studied dancing for 13 years but says she always felt anxiety ridden over ballet as her 'chosen career.' "I loved dancing but I had this feeling that I wasn't going to be able to handle the world of ballet. I was never very precocious -- you have to be comfortable socially and very pushy at an early age. You're not an old ballet dancer, unless you were a young and successful one. So I got very depressed and gave it up."

She was then 16 and in high school. "I was taking biology and drawing little worms, and I thought: 'Biology is SO boring -- but drawing these worms isn't bad.' So I started drawing more, which led to painting... And I've been very comfortable with that choice."

Sandra went on to Parson's School of Design and studied with many New York artists. In addition to Downes, they included Miriam Shapiro,

Paul Brach, Marvin Israel, Barbara Rose, and Mel Cusow. She also studied photography under Diane Arbus.

"There was this whole group -- mostly Minimalists. They told us a lot of gossip. I became intimidated by the art scene there because it also seemed to be a world in which you really had to move fast."

"Maybe it was the New York ethic of 'succeeding.' You know -- you HAVE to succeed, and when I was growing up, the younger you succeeded the better you were. If you weren't at your peak by 25, there was no hope. The pressure really made me nervous."

The New York atmosphere also raised doubts about her motives. "You get confused about why you're doing something; are you doing it because you think you're going to be rich and famous? Or because you like to do it?"

Leaving Parson's at age 20, Sandra opted to move to California's west coast. She landed in the Haight Ashbury district of San Francisco and for the next three years was caught up in the 'youth movement' wave that was then cresting.

Did she consider herself a Flower Child? "No, but I loved the music and went to a LOT of concerts. In a sense I felt very much a part of the generation."

There was still some success consciousness in San Francisco, says Sandra, "but it was much more relaxed. I felt I could grow up more casually than in New York."

During the last year of her San Francisco sojourn, Sandra met writer Jim Moisan. (Jim's short prose piece "Friends and Other Demons" appears elsewhere in this issue.) They married and moved to Jim's home-town of Eugene, Oregon, where he wanted to go to graduate school.

"Going to Eugene was really plucking myself out of that success thing altogether. In that way living there was good for me," Sandra recalls. "We stayed seven years while Jim got his M.A. and taught philosophy."

Though she has no degrees, Sandra was offered a job teaching art at Lane Community College: "I was showing in a gallery and some people liked my work."

Later she also taught at the University of Oregon, because, as she tells it, "I became interested in Feminism and created quite a stir. I did guest lectures and showed slides of my work, which was very controversial. This finally created enough interest where they invited me to teach." Sandra laughs: "I was screaming about Feminism practically the whole time I was living there." In the presence of her current low-key style, it is hard to imagine that former self; the only ves-



Sandra McKee in front of her portrait of Trina Mitchell, 3'x5' Oil on Linen, 1978 (painting is leaning against another). ~Photo by W. Reeves.

tige of the angry Feminist is an occasional mild irony in her tone or remarks.

Eugene's biggest drawback was the climate. "I HATE dampness. I had horrible allergies and asthma attacks the whole time I lived in Oregon."

When they decided to move, Sandra got to pick the next home-base and chose the Los Angeles area. "In San Francisco I'd known someone who'd moved up from Venice and he told me how great it was. So after we got here and drove around awhile, freaked out by the freeways, traffic, and confusion, we headed for Venice. It seemed much more tolerable; obviously a small community, much quieter, right on the beach -- and good weather."

Jim and Sandra have been living in the same place for three years now. They have the bottom floor of an older apartment building on Westminster Avenue near Ocean Front Walk. Their downstairs area consists of a large basement-like room where Sandra works, a rather crude kitchen and bath, and a small book-lined retreat which Jim uses for writing. Upstairs is a loft/bedroom -- strikingly warm and cozy compared to the cement-floored rooms below.

"Actually we found this place the first afternoon. We just walked around and saw a 'For Rent' sign on this building."

Though lacking in certain amenities of fine living, the rent is low for the amount of space and Sandra says they have no real complaints. They both enjoy living here and would like to stay.

That may not be possible much longer. Their landlord is in the process of modernizing his building, "knocking out walls between apartments upstairs to make them bigger. When he gets around to us, I don't see that we're going to be able to afford anything else in this neighborhood." She includes Ocean Park and Santa Monica as areas that have gotten too expensive for them to afford.

FLEXIBILITY, EQUALITY, & THE PATTERN OF LITTLE PAWS

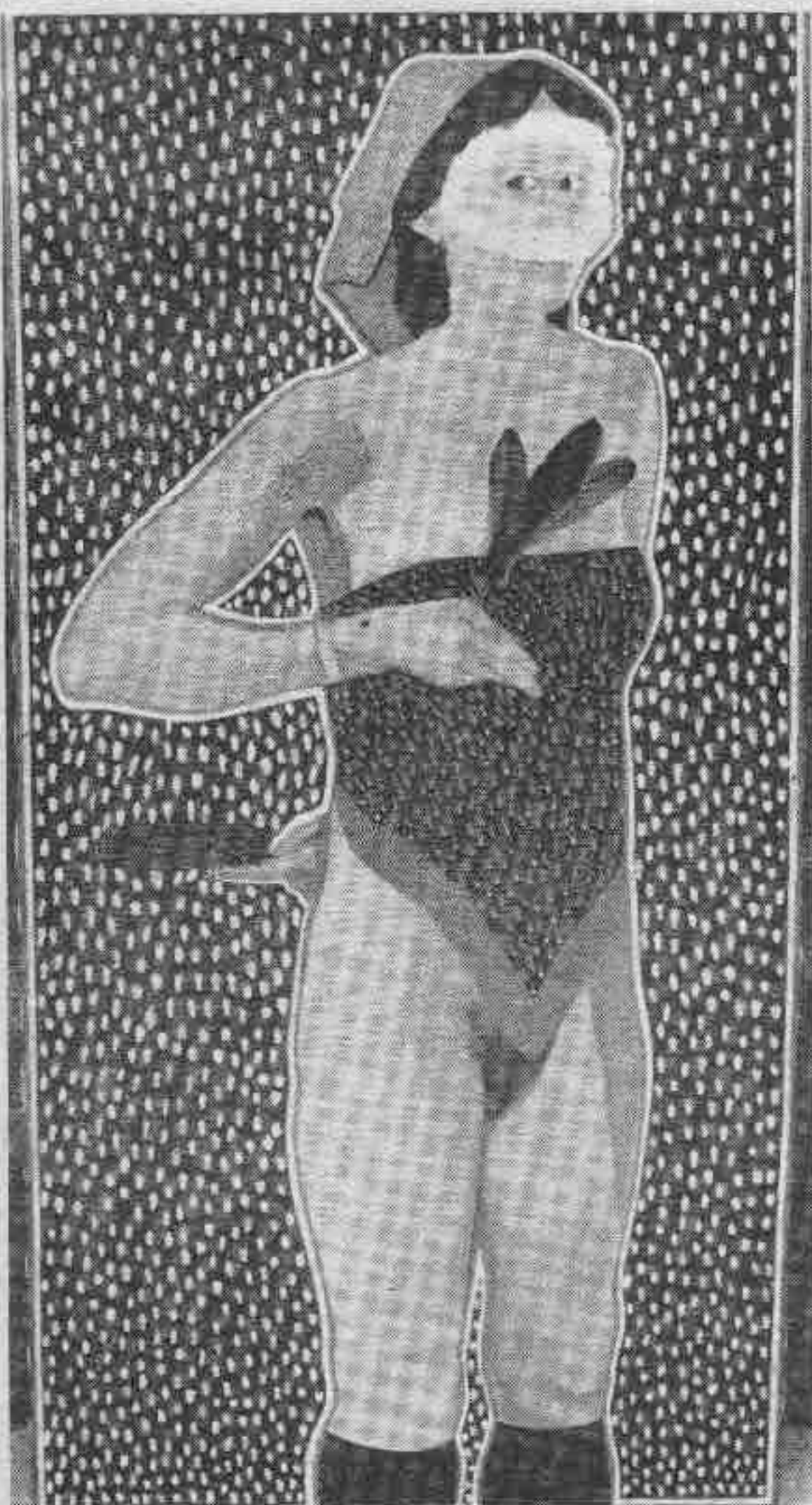
In a society where the 'emotional quickie' is becoming the norm, Jim and Sandra's 10-year relationship is impressive.

I asked Sandra if they ever planned to have or adopt children. "When I was 20 I felt it'd be nice to have a baby," she answered, "but as soon as I actually started thinking about putting that into action, I backed down. I never really changed my mind after that."

Sandra admits she did feel maternal urges once, when she and Jim had been married a few years, "so I went out and got my first dog since I'd left my parents' house." They now have a basset hound and a poodle terrier. "Dogs are just fine, I really like dogs."

How do they handle the practical aspects of living together? Cleaning, cooking, and other chores are divided casually but more or less equally. "Then there are times when we just build up a tremendous amount of garbage," Sandra laughs, "like we may not sweep the floor for four months or something."

Financial responsibilities are shared in similar fashion. "It depends on who's feeling strongest. Like right now I can handle working and Jim can't. He'd been doing typesetting and working on the building here and writing art reviews -- it got to be too much, it stopped his other writing. Now he's trying to get back his feeling for



'Self Portrait As Isabelle Andreini'

1977 3'x5' Oil

~photo by S. McKee

over myself, I really took to it. I spent years in and out of Carnegie Hall where they have the classes. Mostly I studied ballet -- some modern and jazz."

Sandra sees those years as the basis for her present work habits. "Taking dancing for so long built up a kind of stoic approach to work. That was my whole life, just going to those classes, doing things my body wouldn't normally do, pushing it to the limit. I had blisters and aching muscles for years -- and I loved it."

Her parents' ploy to insure a graceful daughter was much too successful for their long-

stories."

"Then last March, when the Free Press closed, I was so exhausted from working there that I took off for two months while Jim worked. There are rough periods where I'm bitching because we don't have enough money or he's bitching because he doesn't have enough time, but basically it has worked out to our mutual satisfaction."

I wondered if Sandra had ever been able to support herself through her art. "I was getting to that point in Eugene. I taught a couple days a week and I was selling more work and doing some commissions. I would think eventually it would work the same way here -- not necessarily teaching, but more and more people are going to want their portraits painted. They're interested."

For her portraits, Sandra works from photographs. "I used to have the subjects sit for me but I got tired of these people parked in my studio... plus in Los Angeles nobody has time to sit."

Since moving to Venice, Sandra has done portraits of such people as Lili Lakich, "a good neon artist," Sharon Shore, who runs the 'In One Era' store in Ocean Park and is a member of the Double X Collective (a Feminist art group); 20th Century Fox director Walter Hill; and actress Michelle Phillips (an uncommissioned work). Her most recently completed portrait is one of writer Trina Mitchum, shown in the photo at top, left.

"I do as much commission work as I can muster up, but it's not enough to keep me from having other jobs." Just now the 'other job' is production work for 'San Fernando Valley,' a monthly magazine. "I do layouts and some illustration. The job has little highs, but it doesn't captivate me completely the way painting or doing installations does."

Many artists resent having to leave their creative pursuits and work at something else to earn money. Sandra takes that part of her life in stride and says she doesn't find it frustrating or anger-producing.

"I'd rather not do it," she admits, "but I'm used to it. I've been doing this a LONG time; I've had a whole string of jobs." In addition to magazine and newspaper layout and paste-up, she has also worked as a waitress, teacher, file clerk, secretary, art-supply salesperson, and printer's assistant.

"A SORT OF STEADINESS..."

As well as commission portraits, Sandra has done a series of 12 extremely interesting self portraits. These combine her own image with visual symbols (garments, gestures, objects, animals, musical notes, etc.) of people who have influenced her. For example, in the 'Self Portrait as Anna Pavlova' shown in the photo on this page, the dancer's famous wing-shaped gesture from Swan Lake suggested the sharply raised elbow behind Sandra's head.

She has also painted herself as Bob Dylan, Martha Graham, Picasso, Frida Kahlo, James Dean, Pigpen, Johnny Winter, and Isabella Andreini, among others. "Doing a lot of self portraits automatically puts you in with the minor artists of all time," (ironic chuckle). "People tend to feel that anybody who spends their time painting self portraits is not that serious."

Her own self portraits were encouraged by the work of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. "I love her paintings. She did all these self portraits that are so intense they break through the stigma. She was married to Diego Rivera and he always said if she cut off her hair, he would leave her. So she did one painting where she's sitting in a chair holding scissors and all her hair is cut off and lying around on the floor."

Regarding other artistic influences, past and present, Sandra says: "In school we had to copy Holbeins and I still like Holbein a lot. My own style relates to Mary Cassat and Manet -- I like the way he applied his paint. Then I jump over the Impressionists and hit on Matisse and the Fauves, that kind of early 20th century painting. And Mexican art."

Sandra's experience with Picasso was significant. "I had this horrible animosity toward Picasso for years. I would spout off against him at peculiar moments and it seemed really neurotic to me. So I started reading a lot of books about Picasso and was surprised to find I really identified with him. He had an attitude about his work -- a sort of steadiness -- where he would just keep going along producing his art, that I found very similar to my own disposition."

"Then I started looking carefully at some originals, back in New York, and could recognize that they were really fantastic paintings. So Picasso became important to me, as a kind of role model."

"I also like Balthus. He does those strangely sexual paintings, and for a long time I was very much involved with ambiguity. I mean, I'd PLANT ambiguity in my paintings. Now I don't think that's quite fair."

"And Alice Neel's work; she did a portrait of Andy Warhol with his scar, about a year after he was shot, that's very strong."

Sandra has always painted people. "They used to be in various situations interacting,

like I once did a series of people dancing on highways. Now I'm starting a series of people floating on their backs in swimming pools."

For the last few years she has concentrated on portraits, mainly of women. "I started off doing men and women, but I wasn't happy with the way I was painting the men. There's a male presence I wasn't able to get, particularly at the peak of my Feminism. So I just stopped painting them. But I'm getting back to doing men now and I'm getting them, I think. I'm more receptive; I don't see them as The Enemy the way I used to."

Though she accepts it now, Sandra feels a certain amount of discrimination against women does exist in the art world. Her transition from dancing to painting emphasized this. "It was quite a contrast: in ballet, women are fawned over and treated like queens. In painting, men are considered the potential geniuses; women are not really ever regarded as candidates for the Hall of Fame in this field."

"And collectors don't usually buy work by women; they think they're not as serious and won't be painting as long." Happily, Sandra feels this attitude is fading away. "I think younger collectors don't care -- they buy more what they like. And the dealers will follow the collectors."

CARE & FEEDING OF PAINTINGS

Sandra has never felt blocked as a painter. She has been working away continuously since she first took up a brush. "I haven't had a dry period," she says, "but then I do a lot of other things to keep the painting going."

"For instance, I worked with Olga Broumas [a Eugene poet] on a couple of things: first a series of drawings for poems she'd already written, then she did poems while I did paintings with a common theme."

"I also worked on a film with a dancer. And I do installations -- sculptural pieces which use a total environment or gallery space -- and performances."

"If I get an idea that just can't possibly work as a painting, then I try working it out some other way, and that feeds my painting. I try to develop myself as an artist in as many different ways as possible."

Through her performances, Sandra is "beginning to feel a part of some kind of artistic community in Venice. It's one I think is just setting itself up now -- people I've met through 'Some Serious Business' over on Wavecrest -- Susan Martin, Nancy Drew, Linda Hoffman."

SSB, she explains, sets up engagements for




'Self Portrait As Anna Pavlova' 3'x3' Oil

performance artists and acts as "a kind of telephone agent service" for them.

Periodically Sandra also does performances in other cities, recently in Eugene and San Francisco, for example. But painting is her first love, and she is confident about her artistic direction -- if less so about viewer reaction. "I'm always afraid people will think, 'But it looks so simple!' when it took me 12 years to get to this point."

"It would have been so much easier just to stop and live up to what my parents wanted for me, which was to settle down in a suburb, have children, be a nice mother, go shopping with my mother; you know, do this sort of typical American life. And I think in a way that's still my ideal; sometimes I'll say to myself, -- she gestures towards the stacks of propped-up paintings steadily eating up the floor space in her studio -- "What am I DOING, living in a place with cement floors and making dozens of pictures which I have growing around me?" It's very fulfilling but it's so much work. I didn't have to work this hard to get through my life and I find it odd that I've chosen to be a work-horse."

"I have gone through periods where I've gotten very depressed. I don't stop painting but I get terribly resentful of the amount of work involved. The last one was when I was 27. Sooner or later I'll probably go through another period of extreme resentment against all this."

"But basically I've just kind of settled down to the fact that I'm a worker." 

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Building Violations on West Washington

In October The Beachhead reported that a building at 919 W. Washington Blvd., the former Hughes Supply Co. building next to the Texaco Gas Station, was undergoing substantial renovations and that this project did not have Coastal Commission approval. Shortly after the issue appeared, the leasee of the property, Nareesh Mehra, called the Beachhead and asked for further information. He said he was not aware that he needed Coastal Commission approval. But he did. Mr. Mehra is not one of your hard-nosed speculators who get off on confrontation with the community. He has now applied to the Commission for a permit. Mr. Mehra also owns the old Venice Firehouse building at Rose Ave. and Main and is applying for a permit to transform it into a restaurant, bar, and patio.



Photo by Lance Diskan

How it got started

As we go to press on this December 1978 issue, we think back on this last decade...a decade encompassing the entire existence of *The Beachhead*. This time, ten years ago, was a time of great political unrest. For those whose memories may be dim, 1968 was the year both Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy were assassinated. It was the year of the bloody riots at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. It was the year the people of this country voted, by an overwhelming majority, for Richard Nixon to be our next president.

1968 was also a year of strength for a third political party: The Peace and Freedom Party, a party whose origins were in Venice. It was probably no accident that Venice spawned some of the activists of that time because, in addition to the turmoil that was taking place across the nation, a local war was brewing in Venice.

Veteran *Beachhead* staffer and writer Carol Fondiller remembers it well. "They (the police) wanted to clean out the hippies," she recalls, "and they were absolutely brutal." During a metro squad sweep of the area, which was witnessed by Fondiller, one officer told her, "If you wanna stay outa jail, stay outa Venice."

One reason the police may have been trying to "clean up" the area was the City of Los Angeles' plan to turn Venice back into the playground for the rich that it once was in the 20's. They called their effort the "Master Plan." The Master Plan was a euphemism for a dream of developers to turn Venice into a profitable paradise for the few. It included a plan to extend the Marina Freeway through Venice and Ocean Park. And, as if to add insult to injury, they planned on calling it the Richard M. Nixon Freeway. The Master Plan (or "Final Solution" as some local voices called it with a bite of sarcasm) also included a plan to turn the canals into a private yacht harbor. The city even had the nerve to post a large sign calling it: "Venice Canal Improvement Project."

When several hundred Venice residents appeared at a city hearing on the Master Plan and were refused entrance because they were not property owners, an undercurrent of outrage gave way to community organizing. Soon there was the Venice Survival Committee and the Venice Defense Committee. And finally, "Free Venice," a philosophy based on a common cause.

During the police purge and the community protests, the major media, including the network news, aimed their cameras at close-ups of people's sandals, and their coverage, recalls Fondiller, had a "gee, look at all the funny hippies" tone. "We were being swindled," says Fondiller. "But people tend to believe the media." The *Evening Outlook* and *The Los Angeles Times* tended to ignore or misrepresent the Venice community.

One way to get the truth out was to publish a newspaper. The idea to start a newspaper was conceived by John Haag. After being booted out of a local coffee house, of which he was the proprietor, by the Venice Chamber of Commerce pressure on his landlord, Haag, along with a core of other Peace and Freedom Party activists, printed the first issue of *The Free Venice Beachhead* in December, 1968. Haag had some previous experience in layout and production as did another of *The Beachhead's* founders, Rick Davidson. Bill Olive

contributed a logo drawn in the psychedelic style popular then, and Anna Haag was active in fund-raising for the effort.

"Everyone went out to get ads from local head shops and donations from anyone behind the cause," remembers Fondiller. "We'd get a dollar here and a dollar there. We'd make \$60 and that would be enough to carry the paper for one more issue."

Born of necessity, the fledgling new underground newspaper won some of the battles and lost others. On police brutality, "the police would lie," claims Fondiller. "But we never resorted to calling them pigs." Instead, staff writers would simply write the truth. "I was here at such and such a time, and here's what I saw." Such accounts were bylined by people who were known in the community and accompanied by photographs of local residents with blood dripping down their faces. The effect was felt. The police backed off.

But no such luck with the city's Master Plan. It was approved in May of 1969. If the Master Plan had become a reality, Venice today would be unrecognizable. What would it be like?

It would be easy to reach the area, as the Richard Nixon Freeway would bring you right into downtown Venice. You could then perhaps visit some rich friends in the canals who might take you for an afternoon of yachting. If you didn't know anyone who lived there, never fear. You could simply rent a suite at one of the many luxury high rise hotels along Ocean Front Walk. Or perhaps you would want to rent a condominium for the summer? If this sort of thing bored you, why you could always go to Acapulco or Miami Beach instead.

There are some people for whom this kind of Venice is still a dream in their greedy little hearts. Fortunately for the rest of us, local activists have fought battle after battle to protect our little community. *The Beachhead* played no small part in the struggle.

You guys are biased

From the beginning *The Beachhead* was not a solid front. "Even in 1968, *The Beachhead* was really unique," says Fondiller. Though created by a handful of Peace and Freedom Party politicians, the paper soon became the voice of the community, not a party paper. Beyond Baroque's founder George Drury Smith offered the use of his composing equipment, but other elements in the community felt threatened by the paper and made attempts to discourage its success. "None of the stores would let us distribute it," remembers Fondiller. They have been pressured by the Venice Chamber of Commerce. So staffers took



John Haag, 1969, at City Council

it door-to-door and stood on the Ocean Front Walk passing it out. The paper was prey to all kinds of name-calling, from Councilman Art Snyder's accusation that it was a "commie rag," to outside observers who would say, "You guys are really biased."

"Of course we're biased," Fondiller would respond. "If we don't speak up for our cause, nobody else will."

Not all of the discord came from outside. As with any group effort, there were always some internal problems. "From the first, we agreed there would be no editors," recalls Fondiller. "As a collective, everything was decided by consensus. I remember arguing one time for three hours over whether

THE BE A DECADE O FREE

Jan. 1969:	Master Plan presented to freeway through Venice
March 1969:	Venice residents refuse
May 1969:	Master Plan approved
Sept. 1969:	First Canal Festival
Oct. 1970:	Venice Master Plan adopted
Dec. 1971:	Canal street names renamed
Nov. 1972:	Proposition 20, Coastal Judge's ruling saves canals
Jan. 1973:	Canal playground/park due to public pressure
March 1973:	First Town Council meeting
May 1973:	Thornton Ave. development
Jan. 1974:	3,000-signature petition Plan to widen Venice Blvd
Dec. 1975:	Silver Strand saved, development denied
June 1976:	Silver Strand denied permit
July 1976:	Silver Strand saved, state action
August 1976:	L.A. City Council approves to canal streets
Sept. 1976:	Canal Funeral
Nov. 1976:	21 canal lots receive permits major construction begins
	New Coastal Act creates Venice
Jan. 1978:	Marina Bypass plan exhausted
March 1978:	Major shopping center approved by Coastal Commission
April 1978:	Rose-Main project overthrown
	<i>Beachhead</i> celebrates its 10th birthday
June 1978:	L.A. City Council plans Venice
Sept. 1978:	L.A. City "categorical" protection

or not to publish some letters that had racist remarks in them. I was for printing them, but after three hours of listening to Gail Williamson's arguments against publishing, I found I changed my mind. We didn't print them."

Carol Fondiller, as one of the original *Beachhead* founders, has watched people come and go on the newspaper until finally, in July of 1977, she and some of the rest of the staff resigned to do other things. Over the past ten years, more than 150 people have come and gone, donating their time along the way. In spite of the revolving door type of staffing, *The Beachhead's* philosophy and collective policies have remained fairly stable over the years, with only a few exceptions.

An alternative press

The original underground paper was, of course, *The Village Voice*, which was started by Ed Fancher and Dan Wolf in 1955. After being a shoestring

BEACHHEAD: VENICE

By Joan Friedberg

LA City Planning Commission proposing
canal yacht harbor
hearing on canal project

ed by L.A. City Council

ed by city; residents paint in old names

one Conservation Act passes

ls from Master Plan

stroyed by city; city rebuilds it after

g

permit denied

stops Marina Bypass through Venice

. denied permit by Coastal Commission

lopment denied permit

it again

e appeal denied

s motion to restore original names

mits from State Coastal Commission,
s in canals

ermanent Coastal Commission

d; new freeway proposal through Venice

roved at Rose & Main by Regional

ned by State Commission

100th issue

ake-over of coastal permit process

emption" threatens Coastal Commission

operation for years, The Village Voice was sold in 1970 for the not-too-modest sum of \$3 million. In May, 1964, Art Kunkin started publishing the Los Angeles Free Press. Eventually the L.A. Free Press turned into a sex-ploitation rag and then ran into financial trouble when it was sued for libel after printing the names and addresses of several narcotics agents. But even in 1965, you could still probably count the number of underground newspapers on one hand. By 1969, there were some 450 papers across the country printing material that was being ignored by the major media. Many of the original underground papers, after a refreshing burst of psychedelic glory, faded into oblivion only months later. Others, like the Voice and the Berkeley Barb, became so successful that they can no longer be considered underground papers. The Barb sold out in 1969 for an estimated \$200,000.

In 1966, five underground newspapers, lead by East Village Other staffers Walter Bowart and John Wilcox, established the Underground Press Syndicate. Today the organization, now known as

the Alternative Press Syndicate, has a membership of over 225 newspapers, of which The Beachhead is one, and an estimated combined readership of over 20 million people worldwide. The Beachhead also subscribes to a press service, Liberation News Service, which is sort of an underground Associated Press. LNS was founded in Washington D.C. in 1967 by Ray Mungo and Marshall Bloom, both radical editors of their college papers. (Bloom later committed suicide after becoming depressed over a pending jail sentence for draft evasion.) Many of the national issues covered by The Beachhead are written by LNS correspondents. LNS also supplies the paper with cartoons and graphics. But by far the greatest input in the paper's content comes from local activists and writers whose dedication to rallying community support is never-ending.

We ain't pretty, but

Any beginning journalism student knows the basic rules of running a newspaper. Who, what, when, where and why are the questions you have to answer in the first paragraph. Use the basic pyramid style. (Telling the latest developments first rather than relating events in their chronological order.) Keep news and editorial separate. Headline should tell the whole story, etc.

We break all the rules. Most newspapers would lose all their credibility if they broke those rules. We would lose ours if we followed them. Why? Because The Beachhead is written by people in the community...not by journalists. Our style is homespun, our eyeballs are our T-squares and the floor is our drawing board. But if we ever tried to clean up our act, people might think we'd sold out.

People who look at The Beachhead's style and see chaos instead of professionalism should bear in mind that the paper's purpose has not changed in the 10 years of its existence. That purpose was, and still is, to preserve the quality of life in one of the few communities in the country where it's o.k. to be whoever and whatever you are; a community where there is no norm.

Nobody leaves Venice

"So long, it's been good to know ya," might be our swan song ten years from now, but then who knows? Carol Fondiller remembers that in the early days, each issue was a surprise. "I never took that damn rag for granted," she says fondly. Will it last another ten years? "It's gotta be a necessity for the community," she says.

The Beachhead is probably more of a necessity to the community today than it ever has been. A recent newsletter issued by Councilwoman Pat Russell is carefully worded to give the impression that the city's plan to take over the permit process from the Coastal Commission is in the community's best interest, when in fact many residents who have followed the permit process closely believe the take-over would be "the beginning of the end" of the Venice lifestyle. "Good planning is important to the Venice community," reads the newsletter, quoting Russell in an article headlined, "Community Plan Ready." Is the Community Plan another euphemism like the Master Plan of 1968?

The community's only other newspaper, The Ocean Front Weekly, who, disguised as a mild-mannered reporter, fights for truth, justice and the American way in its own inimitable style, brags about being the "best read weekly" in the area, when in fact it is the only weekly...The Beachhead comes out monthly. If The Ocean Front Weekly were content to be just the advertising throwaway that it is, we could all sit back and watch it make money. But for all its objectivity, and an occasional good piece of journalism, it has its own unconscious bias in reporting that is much more insidious than is apparent. At least The Beachhead is blatantly and admittedly biased. In one recent front page story of The Ocean Front Weekly, the article kept referring to a destructive and divisive plan to build an enormous transit center in conjunction with a Venice Blvd. street widening plan as an "improvement." (Sounds

THANKS TO:

Collective Staff, 1968 - 1978

Founders:

Dora Bayrack
Virginia Bohannon
Phil Chamberlin
Rick Davidson
Carol Fondiller
Jane Gordon
Jay Jamieson
Anna Haag
John Haag
Mary Kerbret
Phil Melnick
Bill Olive
Jerry Wells

Lee Balan
George Broatch
Kandy Broatch
Fred Burkhart
Steve Clare
America Dunnivant
Eve Millar
Colman Mullin
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Leonard Spear
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Shlomo Bachrach
Nancy Laceyfield
Jean Levitan
Ken Havens
Cindi Lee
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Gray Tyler
Debra Kaufman
Tom Paris
Mike Wells
Nancy Kless
Dave Tappan
Brenda Harney
Emily Winters

familiar somehow.)

Developers and city officials who are waiting for the dissident element of the Venice community to be forced out economically may have a long wait. As long as there remains a threat to this community and as long as there are people here who are willing to fight it, there will be a Beachhead. Of the original founders of the paper, John Haag, Anna Haag, Carol Fondiller and Rick Davidson are still living in Venice. Other people who were involved with the paper early on are still here too: Bob Wells, Steve Clare, Prudy Passman. Haag once left Venice in a blaze of glory, claiming to have died, planning his own funeral, and even writing a farewell address that appeared in The Beachhead. He came back. A Venice Division policeman summed it up pretty well in a talk last month: "Nobody ever leaves Venice, except to go to jail."

12 A WAKE? AWAKE!

by Rick Davidson

They say if you place a frog in a pan of water put the pan on a stove and heat the water slowly that the frog will not jump out, but remain sitting there till it boils to death. I see a similar process taking place in American, especially in L.A. and Venice. We Americans continue to sit still while everything around us is boiling away. I could run down the list of evaporating values from fresh air to adequate housing, but we all know the list. Simply stated, we are losing - have lost - our sense of community. By community I don't mean some idealistic concept where there are no conflicts or problems because everyone loves one another. What I do mean is a time and place where we, as human beings, can identify with one another as belonging to the same species and come together as sisters and brothers to identify and solve those problems that are common to us all, such as the need for fresh air, clean water, shelter, medical care, employment, education, support in our old age.... the list grows with the complexity of our urban life; urban decay might be a better phrase.

If we would stop and consider the heat (force) that is boiling our life support system away we could break down the complexity of our urban decay and re-direct the energy towards creating a community of values where a fuller, more meaningful life for everyone would be our national goal.

In my last two articles concerning violence and fascism I stated that I believed this process of decay is not something inherent in "progress" but a product of the competitive economic/political system we are living under: capitalism. Often when people disagree with me, as we argue the pros and cons of capitalism and socialism, it turns out that they don't have a clear idea of the workings of the two systems. It's interesting that most of us have been taught to equate capitalism with democracy. Yet if we consult our Standard College Dictionary we find the following:

capitalism - an economic system in which the means of production and distribution are for the most part privately owned and operated for private profit.

and,

democracy - a form of government in which political power resides in all the people and is exercised by them directly (pure democracy) or is given to elected representatives (representative democracy), with each citizen sharing equally in political privilege and duty.

Nothing equatable about those two concepts that I can see. In fact, they are contradictory. When one does reach beyond the high school myth of "capitalism" they are usually told that, "since there's no connection between our economic and political systems, there's no problem. Something similar to the separation of church and state. That's how Nelson Rockefeller, when being considered for Vice President, could tell the Senate Committee that he had no political power - he was just a businessman.

Continuing with our college standard we find:

socialism - public collective ownership of control of the basic means of production, distribution, and exchange with the avowed aim of operating for use rather than



for profit, and of assuring to each member of society an equitable share of goods, services and welfare benefits.

The question of equatable concepts is obvious to me. While I realize that words are only symbols, ideals, and practice often falls short of the ideal, I still want to begin with a concept that is at least symbolically closer to what I believe in rather than live with a misconception that is diametrically opposite to what I hope to obtain.

Another definition worth considering is: **totalitarianism** - characteristic of a government controlled exclusively by one party or faction, and maintained by political suppression usually accomplished by cultural and economic regimentation.

If you consider the costs of running for public office in order to become an "elected representative" and where most of those millions of dollars come from it is easy to see who is being represented by those "elected representatives". It certainly appears that those elected reps are "controlled exclusively by a party of faction". Add to that our education via TV and what we are not taught in our schools and it's not too far off to speak of "cultural and economic regimentation" in this country.

It would serve us well to review and learn from the early tribes that enjoyed this land long before Columbus set sail for India. The American Indians, like so called primitive tribes everywhere, tried to provide for every member of the tribe. The chief and warriors didn't eat their fill of buffalo while the rest of the tribe starved; the council of elders didn't sleep sheltered from the cold while others froze to death; medicines of the day were not given to some while denied to others. Today it would be hard for us to imagine a father and mother eating their full at one end of a table while their children and relatives starved on left-overs at the other end. Yet, if you consider America as one country, one nation of united states, that's where we're at. Who are those strangers that are in such need of nourishment that they will live on alcohol and drugs in order to deaden the pain? And who are those poor souls who sleep in doorways, on park benches and under our bridges? Aren't they more akin to us than the dogs and cats our humane society worries so much about? No wonder the whales and redwoods are in such danger: we kill humans, don't we!

Octavio Paz, a noted Mexican poet, expressed our problem when he said, "What unites us is not a bridge but an abyss."

Community is our bridge - our hope. We must create a 20th century form of tribalism where we all belong to the same tribe and have equal rights to the necessities of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." What a different country America would become if we all felt that our health and welfare were number one on the list of our elected representatives rather than the profits of those that bought and paid for the winners.

I see socialism as the logical sequence in the evolution of society's political development our bridge from the past to the future.... without such a transformation we are doomed, as societies before us, to the decaying process that is destroying our nation; to stand still is to fall behind.

VOTING, from page 4

East Venice again voting most conservatively. Louis McCammon, Peace & Freedom candidate for Board of Equalization, did much better in Venice than he did in other areas of the district, garnering a full 20% of the vote in Central Venice. He polled significantly less votes percentage-wise in East Venice and the Peninsula than he did in L.A. County as a whole.

In the state-wide races Venice voters again exceeded the pro-Democratic state and county-wide vote. In the combined North Beach precincts Republican candidate Younger outpolled Peace & Freedom candidate Seals by only 2%. Overall however, Seals proved to be the weakest candidate of all state-wide P&F people on the ballot. Venice gave PF'er Wald 10% of the vote (against 4% statewide) in the race for Secretary of State. In the race for Controller PF'er Barron got a whopping 17% vote in Central Venice, and 14% in North Beach and Milwood. Oakwood voting for these statewide offices was interesting. The voters there continue to retain a strong and traditional prejudice in favor of the Democratic Party and so did not turn in an exceptionally high Peace and Freedom vote. When Democratic-Republican races are eliminated as a factor, Oakwood usually can be counted on to vote progressively, witness its 79% endorsement of Rose Bird. On the other hand 23% of Oakwood votes approved of Prop 6, compared to only 9% in North Beach and 15% in the Peninsula, Canals, and Central Venice. Still, Oakwoods pro 6 vote was a full 19% under the pro 6 state-wide vote. Even conservative South and East Venice were consistently more 'liberal' than Los Angeles County and state-wide voters on virtually every issue in this November's election. ● ●

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A DIALOGUE ON WOMEN'S SEPARATISM ¹³

by ROBT. WELLS

Articles in recent BEACHHEADS have taken issue with one that I wrote several months ago, dealing with certain aspects of the women's movement.

In BEACHHEAD No. 100 Karen Manov, a figure in the Venice and Ocean Park movements for a number of years, wrote a defense of those who in the late sixties pulled out of the anti-war, community, and other movements to form a separatist women's movement. Karen's point basically was that these other movements were so irredeemably male chauvinist that all women were justified in pulling out of them and grouping themselves around women's issues only.

I responded several issues later saying this position was anti-revolutionary rather than pro-woman, that it was a dangerous trashing of the movements that represented the basic interests of the communities, the nations and the class these women came from, and that in an ironic way it was male supremacist, since it would leave it to men to make history and decide the shape of society while women cloistered themselves around purely women's issues.

There have been a number of responses to my response.

In last month's BEACHHEAD Moe Stavnezer of the Venice Town Council aligned me with some opinions that I don't agree with, and which in some cases are the opposite of what I said. I would like to ask people who want to form an opinion about my point of view to go back and read my original article instead of basing their opinions on what Moe said I said.

WOMEN AND THE COMMUNITY MOVEMENT

Rather than going over Moe's article point by point in the space available, I would like to touch on just a couple of things. Throughout his article he talks about "white male oppression" dominating the Venice movement and driving people out of it. He gives no specifics, so all I can do is generally contradict him: it just ain't so. From the beginning (or almost from the beginning) more than ten years ago, there has been a constant struggle for democratization at all levels of the Venice movement. The democratic process has worked to safeguard even the most hesitant against the ego-tripping anarchists, the power-tripping authoritarians, and the heedless rush of the mass -- and it's been a powerful guarantee of women's participation. There is not now, nor has there been for a long time, a resistance or hesitancy in the Venice movement toward following women's leadership -- and when there was resistance it was struggled against. Certainly these days leadership and responsibility are urged on women, by men as well as by other women, and some women accept it. I think that in the past women who have pulled out of the Venice or other movements for their own reasons and then sought to cover that with unspecified general charges of "sexism" have been unfair to their community, to their class movement, and to the women and men they left behind. This was my disagreement with Karen Manov.

ANALYZING OPPRESSION

The basic flaw in Moe's article is that he seems to have no standard of political priority other than moralizing and individualism. One would gather from his approach that nothing larger is going on in the world of political activism than individuals one by one working off their guilt. If one is a white male, then one oppresses women as a male as much as one oppresses Blacks and others as a white, and since the only goal is correct individual conduct and attitude one must deal

with both coequally. He criticizes "the failure of white men" (by which he means the Left movement) "to elevate women's oppression to a high level of analysis and struggle" -- by which he means analyzing "as being the same as the oppression of Blacks and other Third World peoples of empire, and dealing with it accordingly."

As a matter of fact the Left (not by any means all male or all white) has been agonizing over this analysis for years, and is slowly coming around (at least the part of the Left that I identify with) to the opinion that the two kinds of oppression are not at all the same, but are categorically different.

To explain why that is, let me briefly trace my own progression. In the sixties I threw myself into the movement: civil rights, Algeria, the Vietnam War, Black liberation, Ireland, defending the community I lived in against destruction. . . then, just when I started to wear out, there was a blizzard of new issues to get involved in. How should I decide where to put my energy? Into what was closest to me? Into what made me angriest? Into what I felt the most personal guilt about?

"SOMETHING IS GOING ON"

I had the inkling that "something was going on": something bigger than any one



of these issues, something that underlay them and constantly gave rise to them. If I could find what that was, I could figure how to deal with it. I could direct my energy with others in a strategic way, so that what we did would add up, and begin to make some real, permanent change.

Study and experience led me to believe that the Marxists were making the most sense, with their proposition that capitalism was the underlying "something" giving rise to all these problems -- and I was particularly drawn to the minority of Marxists who held that the present phase of capitalism (also its highest and final phase) was worldwide imperialism, in which the main contradiction was no longer the exploitation of the workers of one country by the employing class of one country, but rather the oppression and exploitation of whole nations, peoples, and continents by a small handful of imperialist oppressor nations, first and foremost the U.S.A.

If this is so, and almost everything confirms it, then it offers an overall purpose to movement activity: if we're not to be wasting time and constantly starting over again, everything we do must build in the direction of decisively ending U.S. imperialism and replacing it with the democratic rule of working people. "Anti-imperialism defines our struggle and direction, helps us correctly identify our enemy and our friends, and is the necessary basis for advancing our movement. The strategic weak point of empire today is its hold of its external and internal colonies, and it is there that imperialism receives the heaviest blows." (From the book PRAIRIE FIRE: The Politics of Revolutionary Anti-Imperialism, Political Statement of the Weather Underground, May, 1974.)

Moe gets into his article without this or any other strategic overview -- his largest question to be answered is "What is the individual to do?" -- his only

standard for answering that is personal moralizing -- and in the end he's unable to see any difference between revolution, political reform, and social welfare work.

"IS THERE ANY DIFFERENCE?"

This leads him, and Lane Valentine in the previous BEACHHEAD, and Joan Friedberg in the BEACHHEAD before that, and many others, to ask, "If it's OK for Blacks and Chicanos and other oppressed groups to separate from the white Left and organize around their own concerns, why isn't it OK when women do the same thing? They're an oppressed group too. Is there any difference?"

It's true there are similarities. But I would have to answer yes, there is a difference, and more than just a difference of degree -- they're different

kinds of things. (Though please note I have never said I didn't think it was "OK" for Left women to organize separately, even permanently, among themselves.) Rather than running on about this myself, let me repeat a statement that I think says it well and clearly, by Beth Henson of the Sojourner Truth Organization (STO) in Chicago, from her article "Socialist Feminism and Revolution" in the STO journal URGENT TASKS No. 3, Spring 1978:

"It is to white supremacy and not male supremacy that the bourgeoisie has turned to defeat the working class in every revolutionary crisis in U.S. history. It is white supremacy which is responsible for the white working class's general acquiescence in and support for ruling class policies, and it is the lack of a tradition of consistent class struggle that has led to the corruption and virtual disappearance of an independent proletarian culture among white workers. In contrast, the Black movement, with its four-hundred-year history of resistance and opposition to the white ruling class, and the Puerto Rican and Mexican/Chicano movements that directly threaten U.S. hegemony over Latin America, and the ties of both to insurgent anti-imperialist movements around the world, are uniquely capable of initiating the destruction of capitalist rule in the U.S. Therefore . . ." she says, "I am convinced that it is the Black movement, and the movements of other oppressed nationalities within the current U.S. borders, that are not only the most progressive force, but pose the most direct challenge. The women's movement, while it is an indispensable aid to those struggles, has no such potential." (Copies of the journal with her complete article can be obtained through the Midnight Special Bookstore and the Book Shop in Ocean Park.)

I agree with this, but I would take it deeper than a question of simply which movement gives us the best shot at imperialism (and so, I'm sure, would Beth Henson). The oppressed nations of empire, and the exploited working class of the oppressor imperialist nation, are total societies, which not only have the need but the capability to exist completely independent of U.S. imperialism. And this means the overall thrust of our total movement can be, and must be, the complete and final elimination of imperialism from history. This is not only necessary, but possible: we are actually capable of doing it. This was the revolutionary implication of the Black movement of the sixties choosing to organize itself autonomously within the Left.

(continued on page 16)

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CONSUMER ALERT!

PCP or phencyclidine is being passed off as angel dust, cannabinal and synthetic marijuana.

PCP is not a product of the marijuana plant at all, but in reality is a powerful animal tranquilizer with psychedelic properties. This drug does not provide effects similar to marijuana hashish, or hash oil.

Unfortunately, the fact that PCP has been alleged to be a marijuana product may have helped contribute to its use by people who thought that they were selecting a drug with non-toxic properties. With PCP however, there seems to be a rather thin line between the stimula like psychedelic properties and the possible toxic conditions due to the drug's depressant effect on one's respiration.

As with most drugs, the effects of PCP will vary depending on how it is used and how much is consumed. PCP frequently has a prolonged effect which appears to be dose-related. If PCP is smoked on marijuana, its acute effects would be less than if it were snorted.

The main point of caution is that in the illicit drug market there will inevitable be misrepresentations as to the content or origin of many substances, and people who choose marijuana products for their non-toxic properties should be forewarned that there is no synthetic marijuana or THC available on the streets. What is there is PCP, a drug with very different characteristics and effects that are not the same as Cannabis products and which are potentially much more hazardous to the consumer's health.

pot push plan for 1980

California NORML is exploring the possibility of placing a marijuana initiative on the statewide ballot in 1990. Previous attempts were made in 1972 and 1974, organized under the banner of the California Marijuana Initiative (CMI). The 1972 measure qualified for the ballot as Proposition 19 and received 34% of the vote.

Since then, much progress has been made in terms of public education. Attitudes have liberalized, use has increased considerably and changes have been made in the law itself. Still cultivation remains a felony and simple possession remains technically a misdemeanor. Efforts to bring about further changes in the legislature and courts will continue, but use of the initiative process remains a serious option.

Leo Paoli, a Tulare County public defender and founder of the 1972 CMI effort, is chairing a 1980 Initiative Committee for NORML. Paoli believes that with a long lead-start and careful planning, a successful initiative campaign is possible. The key, according to Paoli, is people.

"People are the heart of the initiative process", Paoli states. "If you are to be successful, there must be a broad participation by lots of individuals."

In an effort to determine the degree of current support for a new initiative, a membership questionnaire is being circulated with the recent issue of CALIFORNIA NORML REPORTS. More information can be gotten by writing NORML: 2964 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, 94123



LOCAL ARTIST PUBLISHES BOOK

Venice artist and muralist, Emily Winters, has recently co-authored "The Colorful History of Venice, Calif. Coloring Book," with commentary by s.e. mendelson, a delightful look at Venice history. Ms. Winters designed the mural on Johns Market at Venice Blvd. and Dell Ave. and is a member of The Beachhead collective.

The 35-page coloring book includes line drawings of well-known Venice happenings which trace the history of the local community struggle, including lively canal scenes, each drawn in a style that would be both easy and interesting for children of all ages to color with crayons or watercolor pencils.

The book would make a special gift for any Venice history aficionado and is available at the following locations for \$4.98: Small World Books, Venice Supply Depot, The Milk Co., Grand Illusions, Discount Library. The Book Shop in Ocean Park, Midnight Special, Chattertons and Papa Bachs. ●

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FRIENDS & OTHER DEMONS

A friend in need is a friend indeed. I used to think this meant that people are friendly because they need something.

She phoned me one night and asked what I was doing. Not much of anything. Earlier I thought about going to a movie, then decided to stay home. So why didn't I come over? "The demons are bothering me tonight," she said.

I'd had a headache all day and hoped the cool air might clear it up. It was a long walk, from Venice to the other end of the marina. A big baby afghan greet me at the gate, which I played with for a while before going in. After she opened the champagne that was ready, sitting on the table, we toasted each other. "To success in fighting the enemy," she said. I was also depressed that day, and gulped--didn't sip--my champagne. "Can we fight the enemy if we are the enemy?" I asked.

"How's your writing?" she asked, ignoring my question.

"Not well," I said, refusing to elaborate on a painful subject. I kept trying to draw her out: "Don't we have to trick ourselves to get out of depression? That's a miracle when it works."

"I don't know about miracles," she answered. "But champagne and friends take off the edge." After we smoked some grass and drank some more champagne I felt sicker than ever.

The phone rang loudly. She didn't pick it up because we were talking, or I should say she was talking--I was mostly trying to listen through my headache and over my bad stomach. The phone kept ringing, and I thought she must want the evening to be something special, with no obstacles between herself and me, one of her friends. When the phone finally stopped, the silence was a relief.

After a few minutes it rang again: after five or six times she picked it up. It was a woman she tried to call earlier--probably the very person whose place I had taken because I was reachable. She was asked to buy a bottle of champagne on the way over. On arrival she proved to be an energetic talker. She was a med student, and I asked her a few questions about that. But I was getting slow on the uptake.

They sat on the sofa. As they talked my friend put her legs next to, then over the legs of her friend. Soon the demon fighter's bare foot was snuggled right in the med student's crotch, and they were talking as though they were not physically intimate. How do they keep their minds on the conversation, I wondered. By a sort of mental gymnastics, swinging between verbal topics and physical feelings.

It was time for me to leave. As I walked home, my head cleared and I lost my earlier nausea. My spirits had improved.

-- J. Moisan

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ARTS

15



There's dust rising off the beach
Someone asked me why -
Construction, I said
(Squeezing bulldozer tracks between my toes)
With all the styrofoam shells and
Coke of cola pebbles,
It's getting harder to find a safe path
To the sea.

-- Linda Hammond

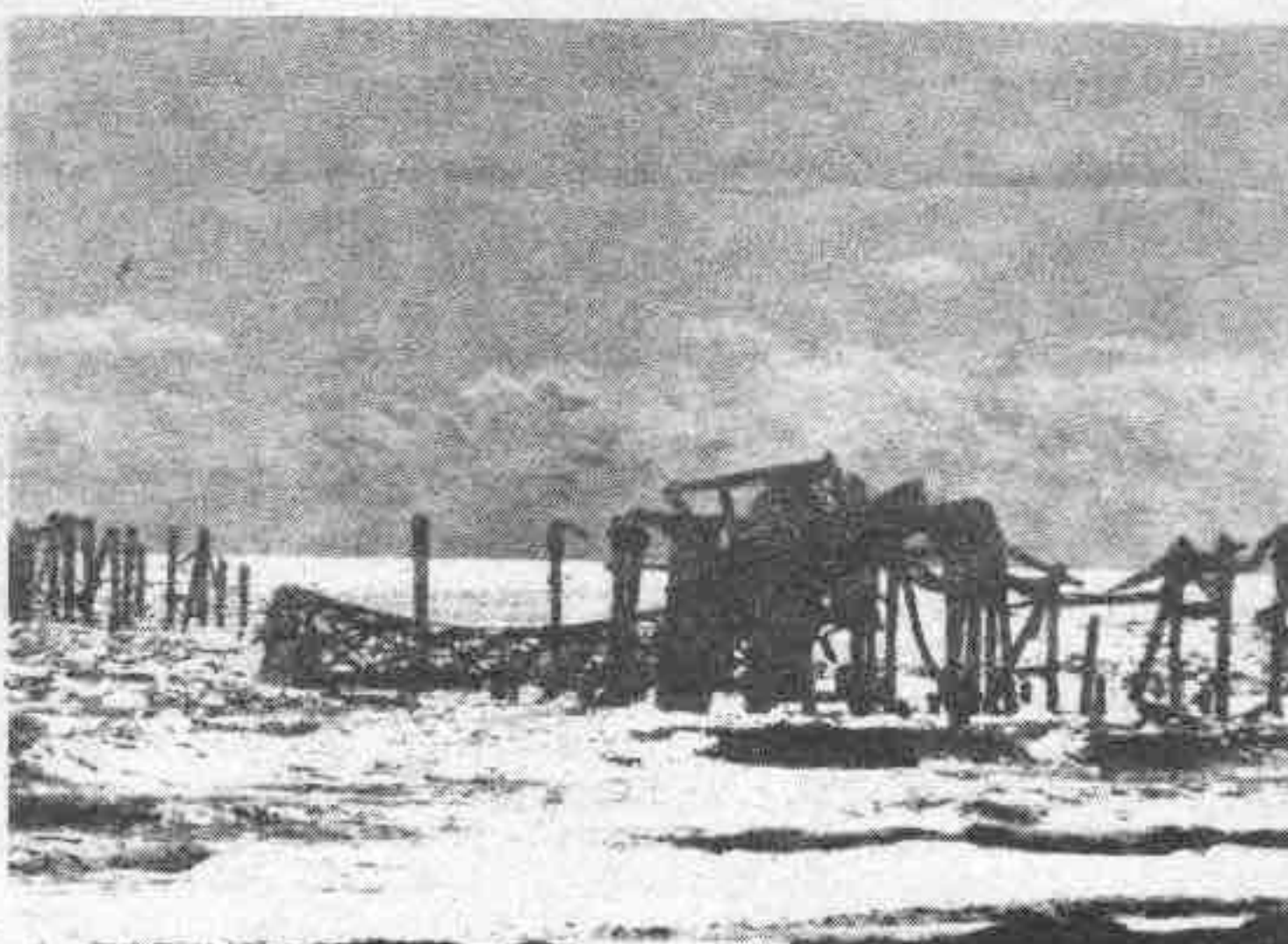
THE TEACHING

the ego trembles
when inner eye gains access
to new knowledge
there's a crackling
of memory mirrors
underfoot
all foundation's swept away
by the winds of change.
You might well ask
who am I to
create a hurricane
in the vortex of the mind
a psychic surgeon
or a warped messiah
proclaiming
false nirvana
the ego trembles
when inner eye
gains access
to new knowledge

-- G. Ridley



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pier after fire - lance diskan; wino - ed sievers.



Starbuck, you dreamer,
you charlatan,
conjurer of many pleasures,
one who lights up my life,
where are you going?
Is your journey long and far?
When I see your noble face and bod
I want to jump out of my skin
and leap into your arms
in a never-ending embrace

You are a true original -
to experience you is to know
and celebrate life

I want to run with this new freedom
and fly to the center of your radiant universe
your craziness
and your supreme energy
release me from my fear of madness
and I can laugh at the stars

Lady Rainbow

Sierra Vista

Looking down into a valley
from the mountain heights above,
a fair and gentle landscape,
peaceful as a dream
and gloomy as a Sunday,
unrolled before my eyes.
Then down from those Sierra Heights
and frozen minarets,
to city choked with smog and tears!
Down from dazzling solitude,
to worldly cares and fears!

Now this mountain wilderness
is ever calling me
to once again ascend
those barren granite bluffs
and treacherous ice-flecked crags,
where splendor reigns supreme
and one's soul is ever renewed
in an elemental struggle
with forbidding mountain peaks,
and with that personal daemon,
--- self.

--Donald Johns

A SHORT ASIDE TO YOGI BAJON

With your white turban
and flowing robes covered
with flowery cliches
even with your
ascetically arrogant kisser
I might have trusted you
if only your fingernails
weren't manicured

-- G. Ridley

VENICE my farewell

The mud and the crud
The crap and the blood
All come flowing down
And I am tired and
Uninspired to Hell with
Venice Town

Dam the Canals to rot
In Hell the scurvy
And the blighted
The love I bore in days
Of yore I know now
Unrequited

I'll take my pack
Upon my back and
Find some Sylvan shade
And lie upon my back and
Rest to mourn the price
I paid

Oh, there is weeping in
The Pine trees But there
Is crying in the Sea
And I may chance upon
My Xanadu - the place
I long to be,

-- Randy Rexford



To the Beachhead -

I am writing to you because I am disgusted and sick about what is happening to the poor people of Venice. I am so mad I can hardly see, the way the bureaucrats are doing to the ones that have lived here so long. Anymore it's a shame to be poor, or even try to keep going, the way things are happening. It takes a lot of courage to fight the higherups.

I have been a resident of Venice for many years, and I want to stay here, but I can feel the prodding behind my back, get out, make room for the rich and the bureaucrats.

It was beautiful when we had Ocean Park and all the other little places we could go. Take a ride on a tram just to feel the breeze in your hair. All the homes they tore down so many years ago from under the Jewish people. The old people would sit on the beach till the wee hours, not all, but some would sit till twelve. The beach was really bright with street lights. Now you can hardly see your way home at night, if you are out, which I am afraid to do. All of the vacant lots are still not being rebuilt. They started tearing down seventeen years ago. I was walking on Horizon Ave last week, and stopped at one of the old buildings that are still standing, I went inside to see the man that is managing it. Looked the same way it did when I first went in there. The lot beside it is still empty, littered with cans and garbage. The man told me they were evicting the people out of there, and remodeling it. The rents are going to be \$259.00 a mo. and \$500.00 besides to move in.

The building behind is only one room, little closet, and kitchen - \$175 a mo., you share the bath and shower in the halls. I walk past the building where I lived when I first came here, the same old dirty apts, I asked about the rents over two hundred dollars. I paid \$65.00 then and the roaches had taken over then. They must really be living high on the hog, the roaches. They are also two rooms and bath. At the time I lived there, the roaches were so bad you had to put your babies crib legs in cans of water to keep the roaches off the kids. I asked the landlord at the time if his grandchildren slept with roaches, he could not ans. me.

I can't see where prop. 13 did any thing for the poor. It only helped the rich. It has put more people out of jobs, cut the old peoples pensions and welfare. There was a nice home on the corner of Breeze and the speedway, it has been split up into one and two room apts, and share the bath. What do people do when they are old and disabled? It's a good question. Is there any answer for help for the poor and old? You ask about apts to live now day's and you can't get in if you have a dog, they want \$50 to \$100.00 for the dog, and who's your best friend? the dog.

The landlords are getting rid of a lot of their old tenants so they can fix them up, and raise the rents to the new tenants. It is pushing more and more of the poor into the streets. That is exactly what is happening here in Venice. When the rents were low the homes even looked better, now that we have the inflation, the rents have gone up on the same places and they are going to pot, and the poor people with them. The landlord don't have to worry about being thrown out, he don't have to live in his filthy cockroach apts.

All they gripe about is they have to raise the rents to fix them up. They gained more from prop. 13 than the renters. You can't get the health dept. to come in and you walk around and see the dirty streets, and vacant lots. The city workers sit in their trucks for hours, or ride around. Windward was never so dirty on the streets. It's a great toll on the body and the nerves living in these circumstances. We are all a victim of circumstances, but we sure don't need a push to help us along. Especially the old, and the disabled.

You can't even afford to go out to eat, it's hard enough to eat at home. I know that Venice beach is getting bad. But we all know why, people have no where to go. I hope you understand how I feel about this, I love Venice, its my home, but I get up every day wondering where I am going to go. Because I am a victim of the landlord. One who has been told to move. I am not the only one to be evicted around here, some are living on the beach, but I am going to stand my ground, because I am tired of being pushed around, and seeing what is happening to my friends and neighbors. What do you use for money for food, and personal needs after you give the landlord all your money for rent, you can't eat the rent receipt. I think we should call it Landlord rights, not tenants rights.

Thank you --

A Venice resident

(name withheld by request)

I sure enjoy your paper, keep up the good work.

But if the enemy of all women is held to be all men, it can be seen immediately that all women as a social entity could never separate from all men; it would be unnecessary and impossible for women to finally eliminate men from history (even to succeed would mean extinction), and women would never actually be capable of doing it, any more than men could ever actually eliminate all women. Men and women make up between us one totality. It seems to me the need is not for separation, but for equality.

NO EQUALITY BETWEEN CLASSES

However, I don't think all women will ever see "equality" as meaning the same thing under imperialism. Women executives do not want equality with machine operators, clerk/typists, or salad girls -- they want equality with men executives. Equality for them means attaining the same privilege, position, and power over underlings as their peers, not less -- while equality for working class women means suffering the same oppression as working class men, not more. I think in the end these differences between women will always be stronger than the commonality as women.

Lane Valentine, who identifies herself as a Black woman active in the Black student movement of the sixties, says she felt the same need as a woman to withdraw from the men in the Left as she felt as a Black to withdraw from the whites in the Left, and she calls on me to try to understand that.

While I won't be so foolish as to claim understanding, I will say that I support those women of the Left who have found it necessary to separate from the men, even organizationally, even permanently (and not "just till they get their heads together"). One example would be the women who pulled out of the Indochina Peace Campaign in Los Angeles in the early seventies because men in the IPC leadership would not deal with criticism of their male supremacy. These women engaged in feminist consciousness-raising among themselves, and they joined in with the women's movement -- and they also continued their work in support of Vietnam, and most of them that I know of are still engaged in anti-imperialist work.

Or there is the recently-formed group called Women of All Red Nations, an association of American Indian women organized to work especially with the United Nations and the International Indian Treaty Council in support of the national sovereignty of the Native American peoples, and also on "all the issues, such as the 25 percent of our women who are forcibly sterilized; the one-third of our children who are taken from us and sent to white homes; the killings and jailings of Indians who fight for our rights; the destruction of our families, our culture, and our way of life; stealing of our land and resources; the denial of our hunting and fishing rights."

"We do not believe in the separation of men and women who are working for the same objective," said one of the leaders of this organization. Yet these strong and confident Indian women have no problem working on those common objectives independently and autonomously as women.

Or there is the organization of Anglo lesbians in L.A. that is providing vigorous and principled support for various Third World movements along with vigorous and principled criticism of the male supremacy within those movements.


Sharon Bas Hannah:

People aren't looking at you with eyes full of hate - its disgust.

Eating properly is also a skill if you applied your practice, discipline, and effort to proper nutrition you wouldn't be able to cop out with the 'Fat is Beautiful' crutch.

The attention you get from being harassed is what you ask for with your gross slob body.

Thin One

Write To Us... 
we'd like to hear from you!

My dispute with the women separatists that Karen Manov defended was not that they left the men, but that they left the Left -- and then turned and smeared the peoples' movements to cover their retreat and to try to draw still other women out.

Ms. Valentine criticized me for showing the same condescension toward the women's movement that white liberals of the sixties showed toward the Black movement: "Look at all I've done for you people -- how can you turn around now and call me a sexist!" I hope Ms. Valentine misread me and that I was not really condescending; actually I personally have probably done very little for the women's movement. What I said in my response to Karen, and still maintain, is that as inadequate as the results may yet be there is no other institution in American life that has done more than the Left revolutionary movement to combat and eliminate from itself the ideology and practice of male supremacy. It is still fashionable to knock the Left for "white male sexism," and from the volume of this talk one could get the impression that male supremacy was worse in the movement than in a corporate boardroom or a Marine Corps boot camp.

Besides being plain wrong, this amounts at times to a kind of anti-communism. It damages the peoples' revolutionary movements, and it needs to be corrected occasionally, even if by a man: ●

PROTEST (continued from page 1)

monished the public to listen to Pat Russell because "she listens to her community"! Who were these speakers, if not members of her community? And they were telling her to vote against the motion.. With no member of the Council having addressed the issues raised by the public hearing, they voted unanimously in favor of the exclusion of Venice.

All is not lost, despite this setback. The City Council now has to approach the California Coastal Commission to seek its approval of the proposal. There is growing opposition in Venice to the City Council's attack as people become aware of the threat hanging over us. The Venice Town Council has been alerting people to the danger, and is organizing local action.

The Town Council is composed of any Venice resident who attends its meetings-- held at Venice City Hall on Venice Blvd. at 7:30 p.m. every third Wednesday of the month. The Town Council is concerned with any issue that affects Venice -- its present and/or future. So, naturally, the fight to preserve the planning protection provided by the Coastal Act is one of its main areas of action at the moment.

At the next Venice Town Council meeting, on December 20, one of the major issues will be organizing further action to fight the City Council's plans of exclusion. It is vital that people get involved in this action. We need people to write letters to the Regional and State Coastal Commission voicing their fears and opposition. (See addresses on page) We must organize ourselves to attend the meeting of the State Coastal Commission when this issue is raised. We must alert as many people as possible to this action that could change the face of Venice as we know it. We can only survive if we act. For more information call Tish Reid-396-3733, Kate Keeling-399-3591, members of the Venice Town Council Coastal Commission Committee. More importantly, come to the December 20th Town Council Meeting. Get involved! ●

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EX EQUALS WHAT?

BY RICK DAVIDSON



I want to thank Moe for sharing his MEMORIES of an Ex Coastal Groupie with the community. Since I can talk directly with Moe, I'm really addressing myself to other BEACHHEAD readers

I want to enlarge upon the concept that individual friends at the Coastal Commission can't help or won't help Venice. It appears to me that Moe became disappointed when "Commission friends who helped me get an award", "invite me to parties", "tell me about the importance of public participation", didn't come through when Venice really needed them. The reality is that they can't. These friends can't counter the forces at play in Venice. They are not functioning under their own control. The Coastal Commission, City Council, Board of Supervisors, state officials, including our re-elected governor, do not act as individuals. They are representatives for "other" interests. Electoral politics in America is a representative form of governing. Unfortunately for the majority of us, those "represented" are a very small and special class: the monied class that pays the bills for those individuals who get elected. Given our system of funding candidates it is natural that those individuals would be obligated to represent the interests of the bill-payers.

The staff members of the various commissions and councils do not function as individuals either. Their work represents those people who pay their salaries. That makes sense: you wouldn't pay someone to do work for you that you didn't want done.... would you? Even though the Coastal Commission was created by the initiative process, the underlying force in this country is business and the essential element of business in a capitalistic system is profit; it is going to take a greater initiative process to change that system.

So it is the system as a whole that we must keep our eyes on, try to understand and begin to change. Once we begin to view the system as one whole process then we will see how unreasonable - even unfair - it is to place our hopes, desires, and needs on individuals working within a sub-division of the system. In fact it is never individuals that we should rely on, but the collection of individuals we call "the people". This requires some form of organization in order to be actualized.

In the 1960's when we first began to recognize that the new plans for Venice were, in reality, old blueprints for Miami Beach, we had no illusions about who those plans were for, or to what lengths our elected officials would go to implement them. There was no way those elected representatives were going to listen to a wild bunch of minorities from Venice - be they black, brown, old, radical or what. In those days they even locked us out of "their public meetings. Understanding that reality we didn't address ourselves to the various councils or commissions - we talked with the people. When politicians do listen it is in direct relation to the mass of people talking. And even then they call it a disturbance.

Even though the "system" is not interested in listening to the "people", that doesn't mean that doesn't mean that we should give up - the people's cause, our cause, is the right one; it'll just take a little longer to implement, that's all.

One of the problems with the Venice Town Council (and I'm more at fault for this than most) is that we tend to talk to ourselves too much. We forget to go "to the people". I hope we'll see this change in 1979.

Moe's statement concerning his Commission friends: "None of us can depend on them for almost anything," seems to lack understanding. It would do us all good to remember the way the Vietnamese treated the American flyers when they were captured, most of whom had just flown missions that had wiped out entire villages. They were not shot, in fact, if they were hurt they were given medical attention then taken to a prison to sit out the rest of the war. When asked about the good treatment of men who were responsible for so much death and destruction the Vietnamese explained that individuals were not the enemy, it was the imperialistic system America had become. Venice is being attacked by that very system, it's just a local branch doing the fighting. This is what we must understand. Then maybe we can come together as "the people" and create strong enough organizations to change our imperialistic ways.

Bob Goldman

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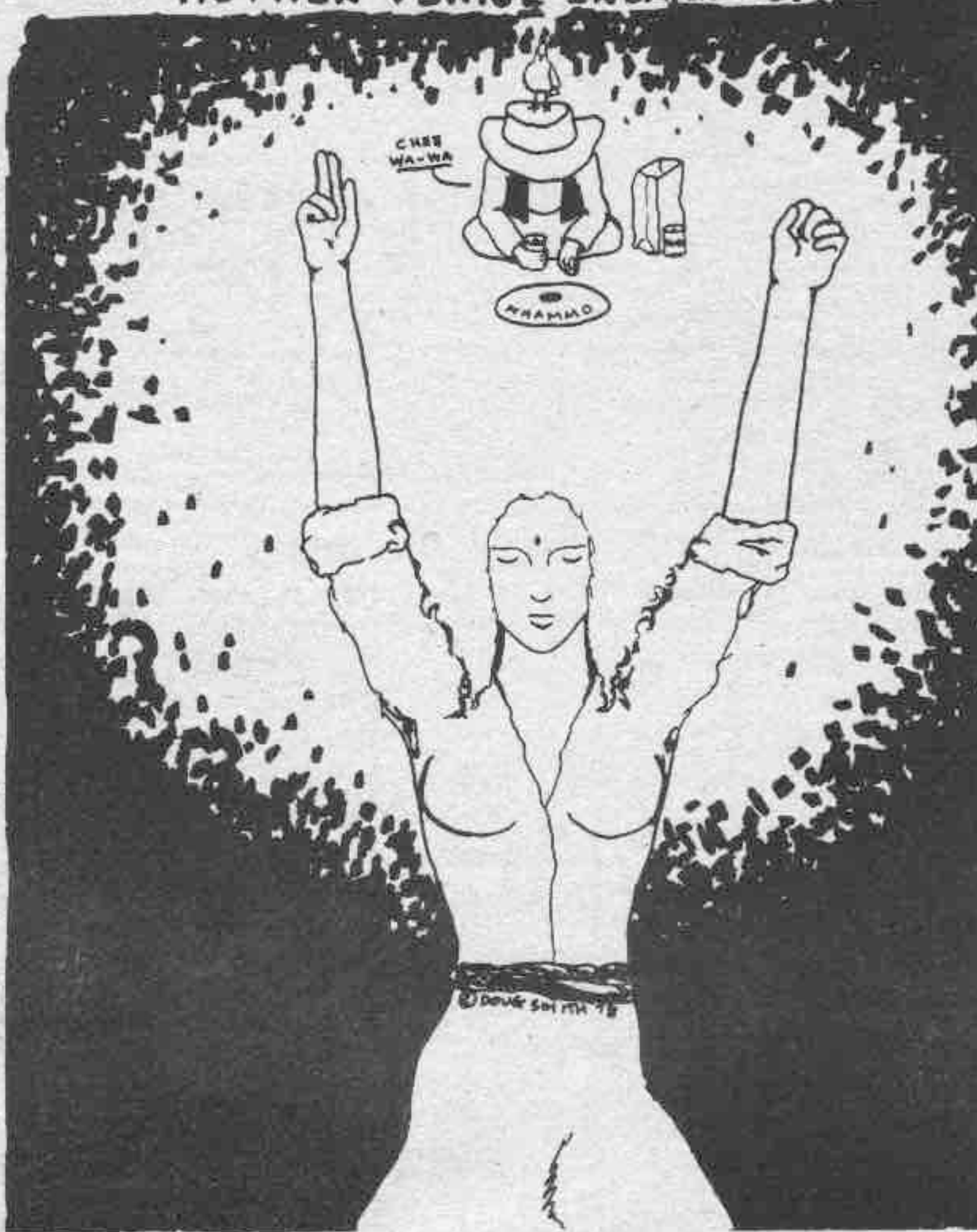


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Stones Lyrics Spark Protest and Boycott

NEW YORK (LNS)—Heard any good tunes at your favorite disco lately? Try this one on for size:

*White girls are pretty funny,
Sometimes they drive me mad,
Black girls just want to get fucked all night,*

I just don't have that much jam."
These lyrics from the Rolling Stones' latest hit "Some Girls" have been tried and found guilty by a group which is currently mobilizing a drive to have the record pulled off the market.

This is not the first time that the Stones have been targeted by feminist organizations. For over a year now, Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW), who organized in California in response to a billboard advertising the Stones' last gem "Black and Blue," have been organizing a boycott against the Stones and their record company, Atlantic Records. The billboard featured a partially clad, bound and gagged woman, with bruises, beneath the words "I'm Black and Blue over the Rolling Stones and I love it."

The fact that popular songs of the "orgasmic" rock and roll genre are often sexist and racist is nothing new. But it seems that for some, this latest attack on Black women is the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back. Mick Jagger and his nouveau glib racism have not gone undetected under his rock. And an intense letter writing campaign directed at the President of Atlantic Records, Ahmet Ertegun has been initiated by a group of enraged Black women. The reason for their actions, according to a source inside the group, is "the underscored racist innuendo slung by the song's lyrics and also the subliminal indoctrination of our youth, especially our young women."

In protesting the record's message, the group said, "not having a formal name for the group is unimportant. All we want to do is show these creeps that we can not be insulted, and that Black people will not roll over and play dead so that a few creeps at the top of some corporate ladder can rake in their ill gotten profits."

The group is adamant, making it emphatic that they would see this issue through to resolution or they would initiate a boycott of Atlantic Records also.

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Parental Pitfalls -- Wondering

BY SWEET WILLIAM

Some parents are lucky. The husband goes to work and sees his kids at dinner, weekends and vacation. The wife has the split-shift with the kids - pre and post school.

I, however, got stuck doing both. Even though I'm a traveling man by occupation my two charges travel with me; and I sometimes wonder if I'm here just to be their chauffeur. One is a perfect Earth boy, an Adam-to-atom type, a skateboarder, an athlete, conscientious, clean, reverent and funny, an artist with credits at age 9. The other one is out of this world - an angel, a cupid, a Christ child, a barrel of laughs, a touch of grace. I wonder though if all children are like that and that their parents are too busy to notice it. Then, after awhile, the child gives up his high station for the sake of "getting along" and becomes a miniature of his work-a-day parents.

But then, my biggest fault is wondering.

Halloween TRICKS

On Halloween night I went up to a door and knocked. Now, I don't go trick-or-treating a lot but I wanted to try it once. The person that answered it was as high as a kite and there were people strewn around the room inside. I couldn't turn around so hopefully I said, "Trick or treat?" The man leaning against the door had a joint hanging out of his mouth. Reacting to my feeble-voiced request he took out the joint, dropped it into my bag and closed the door. This to me was not treat but one hell of a trick.

Dido - Age 13

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NEW \$1 COIN GETS A WOMAN'S FACE

The Senate Banking Committee has finally settled on authorizing the minting of a new \$1 coin that will be slightly larger than a quarter in size, and will bear the likeness of woman's rights crusader Susan B. Anthony.

Anthony's great-niece, however, is complaining that mint engravers have "smoothed out" her aunt's normally sharp features and aquiline nose.

The reverse side of the coin will depict an eagle symbolically landing on the moon. The coin has been approved by Congress and will require about 12 months to be put into circulation.

(Reprinted from THE LESBIAN NEWS, #40)

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FILM

GAY LOS ANGELES

Sund. Dec. 10 7 pm & 9:30 pm. Vito Russo's "The Celluloid Closet": Homosexuality in the Cinema. Jan Osenberg's "A Comedy in Six Unnatural Acts" According to Russo "gay men and women have been architects of the American dream right along with the straights....Through the 1920's and 30's gays in the film industry worked to create the ideal America on screen while remaining invisible." The Celluloid Closet is Russo's documentation of Hollywood's reduction of gays to stereotype. AT THE FOX VENICE

SENSOR SENSOR

Women's Media Resource Center

Dec. 3 & 10 at 2 pm. Seminars on women and film. Seminar on Dec. 3 led by feature cinematographer Karen Grossman, who will talk about difficulties of becoming a successful filmmaker in a predominantly male industry. Early works by Grossman will be presented.

Dec 8 8 pm. Short films of Barbara Holden. She will discuss her recent works, including "Baby Teeth", "Pianissimo", "A New Flow", and "Billy".

Dec. 10 film scholar and author Janey Place will speak on contradictions of visual styles and images of women in film. Using a 1950's Douglas Sirk melodrama There's Always Tomorrow, Place will explain how an audience can acritically evaluate rather than merely absorb a film's content and style. \$5 donation

Frid., Dec. 15 at 8 pm. Three silent vintage films directed by women. Anthony Slide, info director of Acad. of Mot. Picture Arts and Sci., will host the evening. Special guest will be silent film director-actor Margery Wilson, who appeared in D.W. Griffith's "Intolerance." "The Blot" (1921) by Lois Weber and two films by Grace Elliott (1931) will be shown. Info 836-7307. Sensor is located at 9040 Washington Blvd. C.C.

COMMUNITY

KPFK WINTERFAIR '78

Dec. 16-24, Santa Monica Civic, Pico & Main St. Adults \$3.50, Kids 50¢. Look for discount coupon Daily & Sunday 2-11 pm; Fri. & Sat.: Noon-11pm Christmas Eve 10am-5pm. Mon.-Thurs. 2-5pm: Adults \$1.00, Kids 50¢

Employment Opportunities

Need a job? or an employee, full or part-time? Call Boys' and Girls' Club of Venice. Project A.W.A.R.E. Job Bank. Mary 396-3158. Ask for Mary. Se Habla Espanol.

CHURCH IN OCEAN PARK NEWS

The Church is looking for someone to develop a program for children on Sunday Mornings to correspond to the experience it now provides for adults. Someone with a background in children's education and with a political consciousness to create an experience for children that will draw from both humanistic and Judeo-Christian traditions. Stipend \$50 a month. Call church for info.

Families with children are invited to join a nonprofit, cooperative housing venture. Initial loans and grants are needed to buy a Santa Monica apartment building with moderately priced units. Members of the co-op will collectively own the property and share operating expenses. Call Sheryl Abelson at 393-2038

Rumor Control Center

Communitas in Ocean Park has established a rumor control center and newsbureau. If you have any concerns about what you hear about crime in your neighborhood, call 392-8376 to get correct information.

DIAL-A-RIDE

Senior and handicapped citizens who live in Venice now have someone to call when they need a ride. Dial-a-ride offers door to door transportation service for 15¢ each way, Monday-Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. For info call: 934-DIAL ask for Andy Silverman.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

West Los Angeles - Beverly Hills YWCA
Tune-Up Center meets MWF 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. at YWCA, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd., West LA
Jogging and fitness classes meet Tue and Thur 8:00 a.m. Venice Pavilion soccer field
For more info 478-1228 or 270-4117

High Blood Pressure Control Program
Blood pressure screening is now available on Fridays 4-6 p.m. at the Venice Family Clinic, 322 S. Lincoln Blvd. 392-2488, 392-5653

The Venice Drug Coalition is announcing a new referral service for Westside residents.

We, of the Venice-West Information and Referral Service are eager to establish resources and provide this vital service for Oakwood, Mar Vista, Culver City and Santa Monica.

Our goal is to assist those with problems related to social welfare, child-care, youth drugs and senior citizen status.

Our project is a new one and we can use your help to reach others who might be able to use our services.

Don't hesitate to call us at the Venice Drug Coalition at: 399-9374

Ask for: Bertha Burns or David Salmeron
Information and Resource Specialists.

CONFERENCE ON MEN AND MASCULINITY

Dec. 27-31. UCLA. Men will discuss their experiences as fathers, sons, workers, lovers and friends in a round of nearly one hundred workshops. Sponsored by the Los Angeles Men's Collective. Participants will explore the changing male role in the areas of sexuality, the psychology of masculinity, and societal sex discrimination that results from the "sexual politics" of traditional male and female roles. For info call: 635-6766, or 478-8917 evenings or weekends. The L.A. Men's Collective is committed to the elimination of sexism in our own lives and in society at large.

THEATER

DOMINGOS FAMILIARES AT THE FOX VENICE

If it becomes difficult for Westside Hispanics to travel to downtown or East Los Angeles for Spanish-language entertainment, the next best thing would be to bring Spanish-language entertainment to the Westside.

That is precisely what the Fox-Venice Theatre will be doing on a weekly basis with a family-oriented, live, variety show called "Domingos Familiares".

"When reference is made to the needs of the Hispanic community of metropolitan Los Angeles, Central and East Los Angeles are immediately mentioned," says Pete Moraga Jr., co-producer of the event. "Many people ignore other sizeable pockets of Hispanic residents on the Westside, the Harbor area, the San Fernando Valley and even Santa Ana and Anaheim," added Moraga.

"Domingos Familiares", which translates to "Family Sundays", is expected to showcase local Southland talent from the Latino community. This means not only the typical Mexican mariachi and ballet folklorico groups, but also entertainment representative of other Latin nationalities such as Caribbean, Central and South American, who make up the Westside's Hispanic community.

Each program will feature a variety of artists--musicians, singers, dancers, comics and magicians--and will be aimed at entertaining the entire family. A special children's program, featuring a puppet show, will highlight Domingos Familiares on Sunday, December 24th. In order to make the programs more attractive to Latino families, there will be two performances each Sunday, at 12 noon and at 3:00 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 for adults and \$1.50 for children under 12.

ART

Exhibit

Drawings and Paintings by Noa Bornstein. Nov. 19-thru Dec. 15. 5-8 pm. At Idea Studio 522 Santa Monica Blvd. info 395-0456. Donation

POETRY

George Sand Events

Thurs. Dec. 6 8:30. Improvisational Jazz group.
Thurs. Dec. 7 8 pm. Poetry of Kate Braverman.
Wed. Dec 13. 8:30 Concert Vinny Golia - Solo-Woodwinds and percussion.
Thurs. Dec. 14 8 pm. Poetry of Jacqueline De Algelis and Aleida Rodrigues, co-editors of Rara Avis. Peter Cashorali.
Thurs., Dec. 21, 8 pm. Poetry of Jay Jenkins.
Thurs. Dec. 28 8 pm. Poetry of Bayla Winters.
Thurs. Jan 4 8 pm. Reading and Discussion. Screen writer Colin Higgins (Harold & Maude, etc will read from and discuss above as a screenplay, as a novel, as a play.
George Sand 2076 Westwood Blvd. info. 474-4685

Beyond Baroque Center 392-5763

Fri. Dec. 8, 8 pm. Poetry of Ronald Koertge and Dennis Cooper.
Fri. Dec. 22 Christmas Vacation.
Fri., Dec. 29 New Years Vacation.
Fri., Dec. 15 8 pm. Poetry of Michael C. Ford.
Fri., Jan. 5 8 pm. Poetry of Harry Northup.
Fri., Jan 12 8 pm. Poetry of Ameen Alwan.
Dec. 2-Dec. 29. Exhibit of paintings by Fay Singer. Beyond Baroque. 1639 W. Washington Blvd. Venice

WOMEN

FILM GROUP HOLDS OPEN HOUSE

Sensor, a Women's Media Resource Center, will hold a monthly open house for all women interested in knowing more about its activities. The open house will be held at the center on the third Fri. of each month, at 7:30 pm. Donation of \$2 but no-one turned away.
9040 Washington Blvd., C.C. info 836-7307

Health Classes for Women

Mon., Dec. 4, 7 pm. W.A.V.A.W. (Women Against Violence Against Women). Julia London of WAVAW will present a program on "the promotion of violence against women" by the media and advertisers. A slide show will give examples of those graphics that promote violence against women, and show you how to see its subtle forms. Discussion of how to oppose this tendency, how to stop such myths as: women enjoy being beaten, we ask for it etc. Learn about WAVAW Action Program.

Mon. Dec. 11, 7 pm. Acupressure - Jin Shin Do Class presented by Acupressure Workshop. A health way revolving around a simple but effective acupressure technique through which physical, emotional and energetic aspects of one's being can be released, re-balanced and revitalized.

at: Westside Women's Clinic 1711 Ocean Pk Blvd. info 450-2191. Clinic closed Dec. 22-Jan 2.

MUSIC

McCabe's

Concerts

Dec. 1 Kate Wolf. Cache Valley Drillers
Dec. 2 Peter Rowan. Circle of Fourths
Dec. 3 Children's concert with Marcia Berman.
Dec. 8 Any Old Time. Bob Webb & Jill King
Dec. 9 Peter Alsop. Peter Spelman.
Dec. 10 Jim Post and Jim Kveskin
Dec. 15-16 The L.A. Fiddle Band. Vince Gill
Dec. 17 Children's Concert. 11 am & noon.
all concerts for fee. Children's concert \$1½
Pico at 31st. St. S.M. info 828-4497

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See Lance Diskan's report on this Venice film, on page 3, and the film ad on page 5.



Season greetings

Christmas gift suggestions. The Fox would love to suggest that your opening to every holiday gift collection begins with one of our discountronic products. It's possible, even if the sales of our cut & paste books on film, science fiction, the arts, or related subjects worldwide at the small but fine bookstore will not be in the millions. People, keep up the good work at www.foxbooks.com, and you'll do this year's best.