

# FREE VENICE

# BEACHHEAD

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CHEE WAH-WAH

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FEBRUARY 1975 NO.62

P.O. BOX 504, VENICE, CALIFORNIA 90291

821-2923, 396-1941, TANK-YUK, 396-9325

## LETTER TO THE ANONYMOUS FOOL

DEAR BEACHHEAD,

I was appalled by the letter in the January Beachhead from Anonymous Fool. I was also saddened because his opinions, I feel, are shared by far too many in our community.

Anonymous Fool says that the economic disaster has not penetrated his world, that his friends are still eating well and smoking good dope in their warm comfortable homes and even eating out once in a while! Apparently none of his friends come from the ghettos and barrios for they could tell him what living in a permanent depression is like. Apparently none of his friends are among the many who have recently lost their jobs and are wondering how to continue eating and warming their homes. Apparently none of his friends are on fixed incomes and are experiencing the steady decline of their already too meager standard of living as Exxon, General Motors, General Electric, General Foods and all the other monopolies keep jacking up their prices and profits and as their government keeps printing up funny money to feed its military-industrial habit. It's really a pity that Anonymous Fool has such a small circle of friends.

Unfortunately, our anonymous friend is not into this "reality". He doesn't have the energy to empathize with those less favored than he. He is concerned only with his "personal, selfish things". In fact, Anonymous Fool has an almost princely disdain of reality. Like Nero, he is a music lover who uses it to blot out all unpleasant sensations--as long as his ready reserve account lasts. He is unwilling to join a bucket brigade to fight back against this fire of economic disaster because his house is not yet ablaze. I doubt that Anonymous Fool will stoop to join any of the developing strug-



gles for rent control, farmworker boycotts, organizing and fighting for jobs and price controls, etc. as long as he has his stereo, dope, tv, ready reserve accounts and restaurants. Such a discreetly charming life! What a pity the end is coming.

You are right, anonymous friend, the end is coming for your comfortable life style. The time is rapidly approaching when you will have a gut understanding of the words, depression, famine, and inflation. You will also gain an almost intuitive understanding of such terms as eviction, utility rate hikes and "Brother, can you spare a dime". The time is coming when smoking that good dope will lose its appeal because it will only serve to remind you of your hunger.

The entire capitalist world is entering one of its periodic depressions--whether you listen to the news or not. If you're into nostalgia, get hip to the thirties cause those days are going to be in vogue once again. Only there's a new twist this time, you won't be able to bum 15 cents and buy a meal with it. Today the name of the game is monopoly, and those players with all the money--the ones who brought us Vietnam, the energy ripoff, watergate, President Edsel and Mr Imperialism himself, Nelson Rockefeller have indeed brought the war home and now that its here we can see it for what it is, a class war. Although the depression itself is beyond control, they are trying to shift its burden onto our backs and some of us, still far too few, are trying to fight back. So yes, the end is coming, either for us or for them. Whose end it is depends upon what we, all of us including the anonymous fools, do in the meantime.

Jim Smith

## HELISTOP ON HOLD

by Terry Donahue

In October of last year, La Casa Linda Properties (LCLP) filed an application with the City Planning Committee (CPC) for a helistop to be constructed on the roof of the building at 330 Washington St. This is the Washington Square building.

LCLP is owned by J. Allen Radford. He owns Washington Square. He was applying for this application so that ONE tenant in his building could have "executive transportation".

When people in the community got wind of this plan at the Area Three Town Council meeting in late November, a petition drive was put in effect. The petition read in substance that the residents in this area did not want any helicopters flying around, disturbing our already noisy environment.

The Environmental Evaluation Committee of the CPC had already given the application a "negative declaration". This means that this committee felt this project would not have a significant effect on the environment. This means that this project was allowed to bypass the Coastal Commission. This is a good example of the selected law enforcement in the Venice area lately.

The reason why the people in the community did not find out about this application until late November is because of the negative declaration (this project did not appear on the Coastal Commission calendar), and the fact that only property owners within a 300 foot area surrounding the proposed construction site were notified. Once again, the tenants in this area were ignored by the city.

Ms. Marge Hanson, principal of the Anchorage Street School, had not been notified of the construction. The school is across the street from the building. Her response was shock and anger over the possibility of added noise and danger in the area.

The one tenant who wanted the executive transportation is the president of Cordon International. This company is listed on the American Stock Exchange as a company which provides logistical systems support in petroleum exploration, and nuclear plant environmental control systems. The stock for Cordon has dropped from \$10.00 per share to \$2.50 per share in recent months.

At the first public meeting on this application, Philip Krakover represented the applicant. Krakover said many things which proves that Cordon is yet another big business completely unsympathetic to this community.

The main argument for the approval of the application was that it was in the "public interest" to have the president of Cordon take his helicopter to his office in Long-Beach without having to get on the San Diego freeway like the rest of the people. This would facilitate his job, and since Cordon employs a lot of people worldwide, it is in public interest to have this person fly over our heads. This argument could be used for offshore drilling.

The question is how can Cordon do anything in the public interest when their business is an aid to the biggest ripoff artists in the world (the oil companies), and also a link in the continual spread of dangerous nuclear waste materials into the environment?

Petroleum exploration in this part of the country means offshore drilling. This community knows the dangers of offshore drilling in our fissure riddled ocean floor, and we have made our feelings known all the way to the White House. Cordon apparently sees profit to be more important than people and people's rights to enjoy and live in an unpolluted environment.

There is no safe way to handle the waste materials from nuclear reactors. A 1,000 megawatt Light Water Reactor (LWR) can produce enough Plutonium-239 (Pu-239) to make 250,000 atomic bombs like the bomb used to destroy the city of Nagasaki. Pu-239 has the dubious distinction of being the most toxic, long-lived environmental poison known to humans. A few millionths of a gram of Pu-239 has been shown to cause virtually certain lung cancer in experimental cases when imbedded in the lung tissue. The half life of Pu-239 is 24,400 years. This means that after 24½ millenia, the radioactivity of Pu-239 has decreased by only 50%.

Cordon is in the business of providing environmental control systems for nuclear reactors. This is an impossibility because time is the only con-

trol on Pu-239, and we don't have 48,800 years to wait.

How Cordon can do anything in the public interest, except to stop their work immediately, is beyond the scope of intelligence of many of the residents in this area who are aware of the inherent dangers of offshore oil drilling and nuclear reactors.

At the second public meeting, it turns out that the hearing examiner at the previous meeting had recommended disapproval of the application. His decision was based on the fact that this proposed helistop was inconsistent with public convenience and public welfare. However, the hearing examiner denied the environmental issues involved. He said the noise increase was on a limited enough basis that the environment would not be marginally affected. This matter was protested heavily by community representatives.

The four commissioners at the second hearing also voted to disapprove the application. However, these commissioners recognized the environmental hazards of helicopters and amended the first decision to include "significant environmental reasons to disallow the application."

It should be noted that now the ONLY way this application can be approved is by a City Council vote. I should also be noted that Councilperson Pat Russell is the head of the CPC. Her decision will be crucial in the final outcome of the application. J. Allen Radford is a MAJOR campaign contributor to Councilperson Russell.

We can only hope that Councilperson Russell will not let this fact effect her judgment in continuing to carry on the unanimous disapproval of this application.

For further information, and for the chance to voice your own opinion in this matter, come to the next Area Three Town Council meeting on 2/4/75 at the Anchorage Street School at 7:30 p.m.

\*Community representatives also asked for a change in the civil law to read "where environmental issues are involved, RESIDENTS within 1,000 foot area of a proposed site be notified."

# LETTERS TO THE BEACHHEAD

DEAR BEACHHEAD,

By this letter I hope to enlighten some people of Venice of the facts and events regarding the building project at 2201 Ocean Ave., Venice.

In July, 1974, the aforementioned building started construction. The building site was encompassed by a 6 foot chain link fence. After many depressing and difficult problems, I finally poured the concrete foundations. Due to the soil conditions the foundation costs exceeded my expectations by half again as much. September 1974, persons unknown tore down part of the fence and bent over approximately 200 anchor bolts 5/8 inches thick. The nuts were removed so that the bolts could bend over further. I estimate that 2 or 3 persons were involved and because of the rugged terrain this destruction could have taken 2 or 3 hours to accomplish. On September 13, 1974, I hired a Guard Dog service. Shortly thereafter a person or persons unknown cut a hole in the chain link fence, on the alley side, and when the dog stuck his head through, they struck him on his head with a blunt instrument and crushed his skull. They then dragged the dog to the heavily weeded area on Venice Blvd. We found him there and rushed this innocent animal to the hospital and desperately tried to save his life, but he died the following day. We then had two more incidents where holes were cut in the fence and 2 dogs escaped. On October 8, 1974 a person or persons unknown cut another hole in the fence and saturated the dog with gasoline. The terrorized dog ran off. They then entered the premises and completely burned a Pettibone, cut all wires of a huge table saw, disassemble and destroyed a compressor and burnt construction lumber to a cost of \$8,000. The adjacent residents were awakened by the fire and explosion of the Pettibone's tires. This then necessitated the Fire Dept. Arson Squad, Investigation Division, Police Dept., City Hall and other tax expenditures. I am not insured for the loss or damage of equipment on the premises (which I did not know until the insurance company refused to pay), and I will probably be sued by the company which owns the equipment. I am the general contractor, building this project for the owners, and must bear all these expenses myself.

At this point I would like it to be known that I am an animal lover and I have a Doberman named "Dobbie". When she was 4 months old her knee cap slipped off of her rear leg and the bone grew over the slot. The Veterinary told me that I had a choice of three things: 1. To put her to sleep 2. Not to operate as she would be capable to maneuver on three legs 3. To gamble a costly operation. I searched the city for the finest surgeon and had her operated on at a cost of \$260.00. I had to carry my dog in and out so that she could do her duties. We went to the Vet for corizone and treatments monthly for ten months. Thanks to the graciousness of our Lord, my pet got well. Then one evening, when my baby was 14 months old, we were crossing Pacific Ave. (in a school safety crossing) and a speeding car narrowly missed me and hit my baby on her bad side. This knocked her approximately 10 feet in the air. I ran into my

house, grabbed the shower curtain, wrapped her and took her to the hospital. The doctor worked feverishly to save her life and by 4 a.m. he stated she would be O.K. The cost was \$138.00 There were many more costly and time-consuming incidents. I am not disclosing my problems, but my love for helpless animals that depend on humans for their safety, care and love. How can anyone destroy or harm something that provide so warm a friendship as a dog.

On October 9, 1974, at extreme additional cost to me, I hired an Armed Patrol Service. After certain incidents, created by that patrol service, I terminated their employment December 5, 1974 and retained another Guard Service on December 6, 1974.

This building consists of 10 one-bedroom units with 27<sup>1/2</sup> street parking places. The three lots that this building encompasses would substantiate 20 or more units. The Coastal Commission was pleased that I chose to build a building with less habitable rooms and less units. Also that I provided more off street parking than any other builder (in this area) for the same size building. I recognize the traffic congestion and density problem of Venice. Therefore, in designing this type of low density building the Coastal Commission readily gave their approval.

Prior to Christmas, many people of Venice asked me for scrap lumber or fire wood. I informed them that on a special day I would put all my lumber (some of it reusable) on the divider strip on Venice Blvd. I did put all the lumber as I promised on the prescribed day on this location. People of Venice, many of them making "bread" by producing painter's easels, carved furniture. Others needed the fire wood. I was warmly rewarded by their appreciation. Most people came to the job site to thank me. I chose to put this lumber on the divider even though it meant double handling and the cost of cleaning up afterwards. I felt I made a lot of people happy prior to the Holidays.

On January 16, 1975 my office received an anonymous phone call threatening material and bodily harm to either my office, me or my project. It is evident to me that there are those who feel that "love and peace" in this world, means obtaining it even if they have to kill people or animals. Their past actions have proven their unconcern for human or animal lives, by their dastardly acts. It is a shame that this Country cannot obtain their goals and ideals through the pen rather than by the sword.

Sincerely yours,  
Robert Weiss  
Marina Construction Co

DEAR BEACHHEAD,

What's SUPERVISOR KENNETH HAHN trying to do to Venice?

Doesn't he know that all that Los Angeles smog blows over the ocean at night then settles over Venice the next day?

We don't want his smog and the 1966 through 1970 retrofit NOx control program was going to remove 80 tons per day from the south coast air basin. We

don't care if it costs \$35 for those who have 1966 to 1970 cars. How about all our children and those of us who don't own cars? Why should we be discriminated against and have to breathe the pollution coming from these cars?

Write Assemblyman Sieroty of our District at the State Capitol, Sacramento 95814 and request that they continue the NOx control program.

Fellow Venice Resident,  
Simon Blyth

Dear Mr. Building Inspector:

Are there two sets of laws existing in the canals, one for the rich and one for the poor? For example, there were two condemned houses here, one belonging to a poor elderly lady, her house was condemned because of a broken porch, the rest of the house is sound. The other house, no longer condemned, the family who lived there were evicted, the owner did not bring the house up to code while the family lived there, but did fix the roof a few months after the eviction took place. This house was recently purchased by one of the "rich", "The canals are so quaint", etc. etc. This house to our knowledge has about fifty years of grease in the roof creating a fire hazard, which we are all afraid of in our area, the rafters are eaten away, the foundation braces are held together with one "two by four." One of the bearing walls is so flimsy that you could put your fist through it and it moves if leaned upon.

Witnessing the decoration of this house in the past months, it now looks "of so quaint and pretty, if you like Valley style", but I have not seen any reconstruction happening to the house as far as the safety factors are concerned -- I have seen painters, termite men, wallpaperers, plumbers etc., and unless the other work was done in the middle of the night in order for it to be brought "up to code" I have not seen it happen. Now I hear the house has been passed for inspection and ready for occupancy.

Some of the work has been done by local friends the Valley Rich are really into the quaint low cost Venice help, who expect to work at a job that ends up paying about 50 cents an hour and still legally get ripped off by the rich and not paid in full because they make on their terms, legal deductions." Yet this is what the nice Valley neighbors who think we are all so quaint and interesting are getting away with in some areas.

We are wondering if the current owners intend to live in it or are they going to rent it out and turn our canals into a HIGH RENT AREA, making it difficult if not impossible for the REAL PEOPLE to live here., are we going to be full of Valley Weekend Pseudo Hippies.

Hey, Mr. Building inspector, there have been a couple of fires already in that house at 220 Linnie Canal. Put our minds at rest. We would like to know if it really has been passed for inspection and is safe to live in.

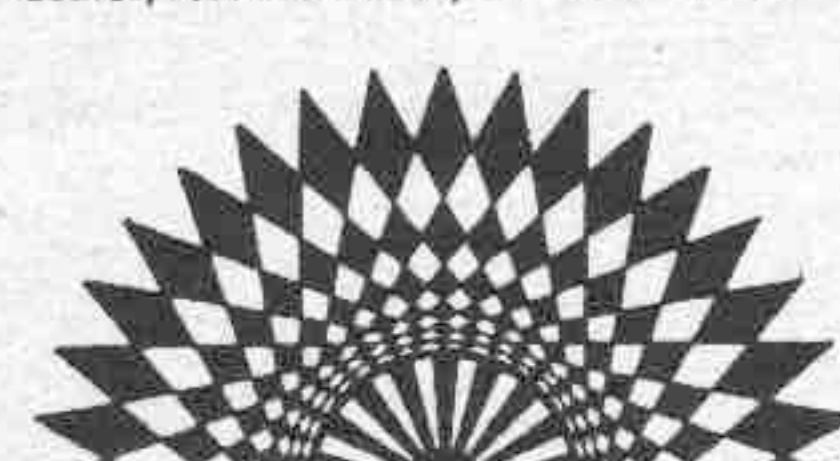
Jim Bird

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**OFFSHORE OIL HEARING**

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HAS SCHEDULED A PUBLIC HEARING ABOUT THE SALE OF OFF SHORE LEASES TO OIL COMPANIES. 1.6 ACRES IN THE SANTA MONICA BAY ARE FOR SALE).

FEBRUARY 6,7,8  
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ET RODEO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
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BEVERLY HILLS  
(across from the Beverly Hilton)

**DIDJA EVER MISS**

GETTING YOUR OWN COPY OF THE BEACHHEAD? DID IT EVER HAPPEN THAT BY THE TIME YOU GOT TO WHEREVER IT IS THAT YOU GO TO GET THE BEACHHEAD THEY WERE ALL TAKEN? DO YOU WANT TO AVOID REPEATING SUCH A FRUSTRATING, INFURIATING EXPERIENCE?

BEACHHEAD, BOX 304, VENICE, CALIFORNIA, 90291  
HERE IS MY CHECK FOR \$5.00 FOR ONE YEAR OF MAIL DELIVERY OF THE BEACHHEAD.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT DID YOU DO IN SCHOOL TODAY, DEAR? ...

(WELL, FIRST WE WERE ALL FINGERPRINTED, THEN OUR PHOTOS WERE TAKEN FOR OUR ID CARDS, THEN WE HAD TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON HOW YOU AND DADDY VOTED... OH, WE SPENT A FEW MINUTES TALKING ON "FREEDOM IN AMERICA" ...)



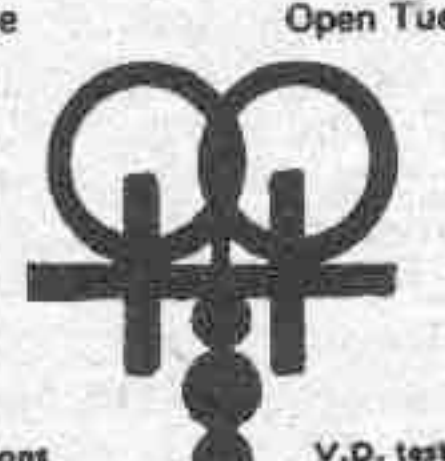
**"FACING REALITY IS A DEFEATIST ATTITUDE"**

CAPTAIN MARSHES

The FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published once a month by the Beachhead Collective as a community information service. It is distributed free, but if you wish to be placed on the mailing list for a year, please make a contribution of \$5.00 or more. The volunteer staff reserves the right to make decisions collectively on material published and is independent of all political and community organizations. The printing is financed by the ad donations. The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry, artwork, short fiction, or other contributions of interest to the Venice community (send them to P.O. Box 504, Free Venice, California 90201). If return of the material is desired, a stamped, self-addressed envelop must accompany it. No payment is made for material used. The Beachhead collective subscribes to Liberation New Service (LNS) and is a member of the Alternative Press Syndicate (APS). For information on deadlines, call TANK-YUK, 396-9325, 396-1941.

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# VENICE TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

by Barbara Avedon

The Venice Town Council passed its most important test on Jan. 8th in its vote on the Master Plan advisory committee (Citizens' Advisory Committee or CAC) set up by Pat Russell. The heated debate over the CAC had dominated almost every meeting of the Venice Town Council since our July meeting where the Councilperson rejected the idea of two democratically elected representatives from each of the six areas to serve...and informed us that she would hear our recommendations but that she would appoint the representatives to the CAC. That told us something...but it took all those months for us to put it all together and inform our Councilperson and the City through our vote on Jan. 8th that, ultimately, we would not flinch at taking a position of real strength. We informed them by our action that despite our very real differences on the Venice Town Council when the crunch comes we will stick together. We will continue to say as a body to the City of Los Angeles "we know what you're after, but the ties that bind us are strong, you'll not get it".

The premise of the Citizens' Advisory Committee as set up by Pat Russell for the City of Los Angeles is that Venice needs a plan for redevelopment. Why does the City want to develop Venice? Because it is in the best interest of any city to obtain the greatest amount of revenue (taxes). How does a city achieve this? It achieves it by developing an area to its highest economic potential. What happens to the people who cannot afford to continue living in an area that the city has decided to develop to its highest economic potential? You know the answer.

After months of debate in the Venice Town Council over an appropriate response to a committee composed of some friends, some developers, much real estate interest and a Chairman from the City Planning Department who had already gone on record stating that our "life style is not worth preserving", I still came to the VTC meeting (as a representative from Area One) prepared to struggle for some compromise ground on which we could all stand. The most important thing was that we not tear the Council apart...and two very opposing points of view were being argued. The Canals Area resolution called for everyone on the CAC to "get off"...a total boycott of the committee. North Beach argued that everyone should "get on"...and push the community point of view. I was prepared at that meeting to make an urgent plea for unity. After all we could not afford to have an Area of the Council walk out as A.D. Williams (speaking for the Oakwood Council) threatened when faced with being asked to resign from the CAC. But when another representative from Area One took the conciliatory words out of my mouth, I knew on a gut level that we must not com-

## C.A.C. DIARY

by Jim Bickhart

(Jim Bickhart is a member of the Venice Community Plan Restudy Citizen's Advisory Committee representing the North Beach area of Venice.)

The January 7, 1975 meeting of the Venice Citizen's Advisory Committee convened shortly after 8 p.m. with twelve voting members present, four city employees and approximately 9 observers. Voting attendance later reached 15.

To begin the meeting, the Planning Department distributed several pieces of literature, including name tags for committee members, current zoning maps of Venice, and some background data on zoning capacities in the community. The North Beach Planning Task Force distributed a report on planning issues to members of the CAC.

Department planner Charles Zeman discussed a proposed long-range agenda he had distributed to members which covered month-to-month topics of discussion which the CAC might use to organize its efforts. For future months, it outlined the following topics: parks, beaches, bikeways, education, police, fire, zoning, land use, low cost housing, elderly, special programs and facilities, transportation and circulation and ultimately, preliminary drafts of the plan elements.

According to Mr. Zeman, the CAC would assist the Planning Dept. in developing a preliminary plan to be presented to the community. Mr. Zeman proposes to write the actual elements. There was some discussion regarding the potential for minority reports, alternative plan elements, types of written formats and what paths they would follow in the city bureaucracy. Zeman promised to supply CAC members with copies of the West Adams and Brentwood community plans, both of which include various forms of alternative plan elements in addition to official elements.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding goals and issues facing the CAC and the community in the planning process. This had been an agenda item at previous meetings but had not been enumerated to the satis-

promise...that we must show them we are not afraid of honest debate and hard decision...that we could not, dare not give our Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval to a committee whose very function is to develop our hometown into a valuable asset for the City Treasury.

When the vote came it was clear that we all knew that. We voted for the Central Venice Resolution: to deny the legitimacy of the CAC and get on with our own planning. By voting as we did we recognized the fact that the CAC is advisory only; the City is obliged to listen to it but it's not obliged to follow anything it says. The City can, and in Venice surely will, come out with whatever plan it wanted in the first place and use the very existence of the CAC itself to legitimize this. This has already happened with CACs in other communities of Los Angeles (now ex-communities).

Now is the time to heal the wounds. It is time to plead with our dear friends who were appointed to the CAC to hang in there and fight the good uphill fight...and to realize that we have always known that they have the interest of the community at heart. We ask them to help us help them in the battle by informing us every inch of the way so that we may keep the full glare of the searchlight on. A city committee must be vigilantly patrolled.

We must call on our friends on the CAC to demand the "training in planning" they were supposed to be getting all these months. We must call on our community people on the CAC to take advantage now of the four month review and elect a new Chairperson. A Citizens' Advisory Committee should not be chaired by a City Planner. We must ask them to draft a statement expressing the primary goal of that committee to coincide with the primary goal of the Venice Town Council: That every person now living in Venice who wants to remain here can afford to do so! And we must immediately activate an elected committee of Venice residents reflecting the percentage breakdown in our population of renters and owners. This committee in developing a plan for Venice must be accountable to their Area Council.

The Venice Town Council was accused by its creator, Ms. Russell, of not representing all the interests in Venice. That's right...we do not represent the Real Estate interests...they are well enough represented here. We represent only one constituency...an endangered species...the people who live in Venice. And by God we represent them whether they take the trouble to come to meetings and work for their own survival or not. So let's get it together here. Because every morning that we get up grumbling about each other rather than remembering that "Venice is the new Land ... and we are the Indians" we take one more step toward the reservation. And every time we fool ourselves into thinking that we can settle with the settlers and make our peace with Custer we move another sister or brother out of the village. And every time they throw us a kind word or a loving glance we get seduced into thinking that the City has our best interests at heart.....

faction of many members of the committee. Some members expressed their feeling that it was important for the CAC to express its own goals while others felt it more important to wait for the Planning staff to present its ideas so that the committee might react to them. It was decided that both routes should be pursued, with individual members submitting their own goals for future consideration and the official goals of prior Venice plans being scrutinized for future analysis and revision.

Committee member Allan Emkin, suggesting that the CAC's one-meeting-per-month schedule would not allow adequate progress to be made, mentioned the possibility that the CAC consider meeting more than once per month. Though this met with scattered approval, no action was taken.

As per the request of several CAC members at a prior meeting, Mr. Zeman listed the capital improvement projects on the fiscal 1975 City Budget and calendar (which expires at the end of June 1975). These projects included Venice Blvd. improvements, the Marina Bypass, sidewalk improvements on Washington Blvd. and the widening of Ocean Avenue. Both the Marina Bypass and Ocean Ave. widening projects are currently on indefinite hold according to Mr. Zeman.

Some discussion ensued with regard to the background data provided by the City and the North Beach Planning Task Force. It was noted that the CAC could use more input, both in terms of data (such as that provided by the city) and more general topics such as philosophies and process (such as that provided by the Task Force).

CAC member A.D. Williams mentioned the possibility of instituting "discussion leaders" to serve at each meeting on a rotating basis to aid in the synthesis and clarification of issues being discussed and to focus debate in such a manner as to accelerate the progress being made by the committee. It was generally agreed, in the light of the continuing need to discuss goals and issues (originally an agenda item for December), that the committee was not making adequate progress, especially in light of Zeman's proposed agenda which called for finished plan elements early in 1976.

The meeting adjourned around 10 p.m. with the stated intention of discussing goals and issues in more detail at the meeting to be held on February 4, 1975.



## VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

Area I: Peninsula - west of Pacific, south of Venice Bl. Meets every 4th Wed. (Feb.26) 392-2113 or 392-1594 (Anchorage school - 7:30)

Area II: North Beach - west of Main, Venice Bl. to Santa Monica border. Meets every 1st Monday (Feb. 3) 396-0267 or 396-6604 at Levin Center, 201 Ocean Front Walk, 7:30 - 10:30

Area III: Canals - south of Venice Bl, east of Pacific, west of Washington Bl. Meets every 1st & 3rd Tues. ( Feb. 4th & 18th), Anchorage School 821-5931 or 823-1753

Area IV: Oakwood - North of California west of Lincoln to Washington Bl. Meets every 3rd Wed. (Feb. 19th) Broadway School Bungalow, 7:00 396-2801

Area V: East Venice - South of California, west of Lincoln to Washington Bl. Meets every 4th Wed. (Feb.26) 7:30, Cover D'alene school, 821-1430

Area VI: Central - north of Venice Bl. east of Main west of Washington Bl. meets Thursday, Feb. 6th, 7:30 at 328 Market St, 821-1774

VENICE TOWN COUNCIL includes all areas and meets February 5th at Venice Town Hall, 681 N. Venice Bl, 7:30 - 10:30

Y'ALL COME



CLARE FOUNDATION INC. is a service in the community to help people with alcohol and drug problems. They will provide 24 hour service - and they want to help... for information or emergency call 396-8001

## Community Showcase

The Music Project of the Church in Ocean Park is an attempt to create a center for the encouragement and discovery of new musical styles and forms; a place where the ferment and energy of musical interaction and growth will be exposed to the public in an atmosphere of respect and camaraderie.

This project will encourage and promote a variety of musical styles and modes with special regard for artists who express the concerns and life styles of the community - ethnic, political and sexual.

The core of the project will be showcases each Tuesday night, open to the public on a minimal no-ation basis. The performers will be paid decent honorariums. Each program will attempt to present a diversity of styles and groups with entertaining, meaningful music. In addition, the Project plans to inaugurate occasional community concerts in various sections of Venice. It will also provide workshops for developing musicians, led by people to be learned from. An executive committee has been chosen by the Administrative board of the Church, composed of people with deep musical interest and experience. Selections of artists will be by an audition panel to be named by the board. Aspiring performers are requested to submit tapes to the Church. Tapes will be returned only if accompanied by self addressed, stamped envelope. Inquiries should be made to: Community Showcase, or The Music Project, Church in Ocean Park, 235 Hill Street, Santa Monica Call 396-3151. / 90405

# AND THE WAR GOES ON, AND ON, AND ON...

by Mo Stavnezer

January 27 marked the 2nd anniversary of the signing of the Paris Accords which ended direct American military involvement in and was to have brought peace to Vietnam. But 2 years after the Accords the war goes on and on with many thousands of Vietnamese having been killed or crippled during that time. Though the Accords were a great victory in that they forced the withdrawal of the most powerful military machine in the world, they have failed to bring peace because the imperialist policy of the U.S. supports the continuation of the war. Americans are still paying with military and economic aid, are still providing terrifying antipersonnel weapons and are still present in large numbers to help the Thieu army fight. And Thieu, backed by the U.S., has broken every provision of the Accords.

Very little seems to be known about the Paris Accords except the fact that U.S. troops were forced to leave Vietnam. The Accords also limited the amount of military aid the U.S. could give Vietnam—basically the U.S. could only supply replacements for existing weapons and was strictly forbidden to introduce new weaponry into Vietnam. The U.S. has not abided by either of these provisions—more about that later. The Accords also gave political recognition to the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) and to the Third Force. The PRG is the political aspect of the NLF while the Third Force is neither allied with the U.S./Thieu axis nor with the NLF, but is opposed to foreign intervention and political repression in Vietnam. The Accords also specified the release of some 200,000 political prisoners in Thieu's jails. None of these provisions have been lived up to by the Thieu regime. Instead the Thieu army has stepped up military operations claiming, at one time, to have recaptured some 700 towns in the year after the Accords were signed.

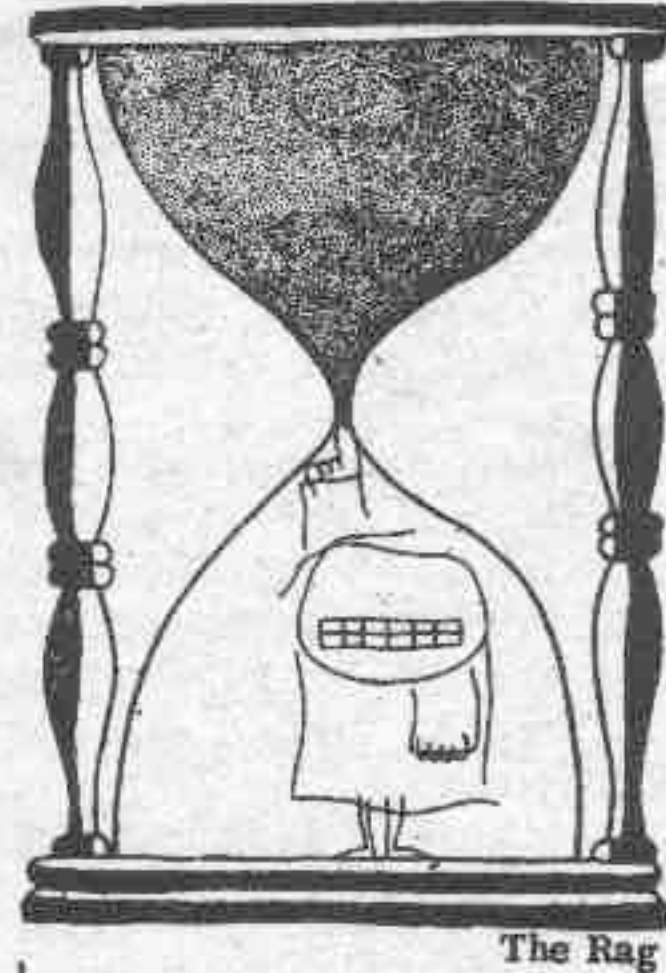
The U.S. backed Thieu government can continue to wage war in Vietnam because it still receives an enormous amount of money and equipment paid for by our taxes. Between the signing of the Accords in Jan. 1973 and June of 1974 the U.S. gave Thieu over 2 billion in military aid. And that figure is based on some pretty tricky accounting methods developed by the Pentagon to conceal the actual cost of supplying Thieu's army. For example: under this depreciated accounting system the Pentagon valued F5A jet fighters at around \$600,000 each when the actual value is 2.2 million. C-130A transports were valued at \$2.75 million each which is about one-half the actual cost of this plane. Another gimmick is to designate military equipment as "excess" even if its brand new which allows it to be valued at 9% of its actual cost. Present law allows the Pentagon to supply "excess" equipment to any country as long as the cost is under \$150 million annually. In the last fiscal year Thieu received some

35 million in "excess" military equipment though its real value was almost 10 times that amount. The U.S. has also supplied Thieu with F-5E jet fighters to replace the F-5A even though the F-5E is more sophisticated than its predecessor which is in blatant violation of the Paris Accords. There are also between 10 and 20 thousand Americans still in Vietnam serving Thieu's army. They are considered civilians yet almost all of them are ex-U.S. military men who fought in Vietnam. Clearly this is a violation of the spirit, if not the letter of the peace treaty.

On the political front the violations are every bit as vicious. Thieu has not only refused to recognize the PRG as an equal political force, but has actively waged open war on it. The Third Force has not been recognized as a political force and most Third Force political prisoners have been reclassified as felons in order to silence them. Saigon has also refused to allow refugees to return to their homes if it meant going to territory controlled by the PRG. This, again, is in clear violation of the Accords. We in Venice who have heard the 7 Vietnamese students who are fighting deportation from this country back to Vietnam because they fear political reprisals must be especially conscious of the political repression taking place under the Thieu's regime. For we in Venice are fighting our own battle for self expression and freedom.

And what of life in Vietnam in the areas controlled by the PRG? Since the Accords most of these areas have become self-sufficient in rice production while the Thieu government feeds its people with rice grown in Texas. The PRG provides schools and free medical care to its people while under Thieu prisons outnumber either schools or hospitals. Until recently the PRG's military position has been defensive in nature which accounts for Thieu's claim of capturing 700 towns. Now the PRG is counter-attacking and showing clearly its military superiority. The PRG seems, however, to want a political victory instead of a military one. Its goal seems to be to win the people's hearts and minds rather than to conquer by force of arms. We who support peace and love freedom must lend our support to the efforts of the PRG. We must oppose any continued military aid to the Thieu government (or a U.S. picked replacement).

So 2 years after the Paris Peace Accords the war in Vietnam goes on. For despite the absence of the U.S. military, our leader's imperialistic policies support a dictatorial regime based on political repression and military aggression. While we should not forget the victory which the Paris Accords symbolize, we must not forget that the struggle for peace and freedom in Vietnam continues still.



The Rag

## Plastics May Be Hazardous To Your Health

Vinyl Chloride (VC) is the basic product used in the plastics industry. It is a gas under normal conditions, but is usually handled in a cool, liquid state. There are about 6,500 workers in 51 plants involved in converting VC to Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC). PVC is used in making many products we come in contact with daily, i.e. upholstery, food-wrappings, and various other plastics, as well as being used as the propellant for most aerosol containers. Its use is so wide-spread that it's estimated that 700,000 U.S. workers are involved in fabricating PVC into various products.

A new on-the-job health hazard was revealed when B.F. Goodrich disclosed that between 1968 and 1973, three people working directly with PVC in a Goodrich plant had died of angiosarcoma of the liver (a rare and fatal form of cancer.) Since the Goodrich case, 19 cases have been reported worldwide from exposure to VC/PVC.

While this may seem like a small amount of deaths, in history only 100 cases of this cancer from any source have been reported, all of them fatal. Most importantly, in the Goodrich cases the tumors appeared 14-27 years after first exposure to VC/PVC. Since it's only been about 25 years that VC has been widely used, we can expect a big increase in the incidence of angiosarcoma in the years to come.

Angiosarcoma is not the only health hazard of VC/PVC. In 1949, Russian scientists made a correlation between VC/PVC production and liver disease. Over the next 17 years, high rates of liver, skin and other organ diseases were reported among Russian, French, and Rumanian PVC/VC workers.

In the mid-1960's another disease state associated with PVC/VC was identified. This disease, Acroosteolysis, causes the skin and bones of the feet and hands to painfully swell, making it difficult to do anything—even to dial a phone.

In 1973, it was shown that a significant number of meat wrappers suffer from a respiratory impairment from toxic smoke produced by hot-wire cutting of PVC meat wrap. Many European doctors think that breathing PVC dust affects the lungs and can result in emphysema. It's also believed that exposure to PVC/VC leads to some types of cancer including lung and brain.

A short-run solution to these problems is to require manufacturers to make sure there are no detectable amounts of vinyl chloride in the air. Merely changing to using different materials would not be a good solution—who knows what effects these materials could have?

What this is really all about is another incident of American Capitalism blindly risking the health of the people for profit in the short run. They're still doing it with artificial food additives, pollution, and doubtless other things yet to be discovered.

O. B. RAG

ALTERNATIVE NIGHT TIME RECREATION. Nine months after a black-out in New York, the birth-rate took a noticeable jump. Greater access to electricity could decrease births.

MASS EDUCATION is perhaps the key. People need to understand the causes of their poverty, and the methods for controlling births. Or, maybe schooling just provides necessary discipline. Ruling classes in many countries hesitate to educate their poor, because that might increase the chances of revolt.

Whatever criticisms Americans might have of Communist countries, the economic system developed in the Soviet Union and practiced in China clearly provides the fastest rate of economic growth with the fairest distribution of wealth. For increasing millions of people in the non-Communist world, "freedom" means very literally, "the freedom to starve."

As the U.S. Farm News said, "...if people are and would be starving it would not be because of surplus people but because of a surplus of greedy profiteers and crooked politicians."

The United States, with 6% of the world's population, uses maybe 50% of the world's resources. If there is to be true progress in the poor countries of the world, there must be a massive change in the way resources are allocated in this world. A solution to world starvation would mean a total change in the American way of life.

## POPULATION

As massive famine spreads in India, Bangladesh, and other places, we can expect to hear more and more about the erroneous and out-dated theories of English political economist Thomas Malthus (1766-1834). Malthus believed that population must increase faster than food production, so that inevitably a point is reached where food becomes scarce, and famine, war and disease result. Malthus was wrong, and one clear indication can be found by simply looking at the difference between India and China today.

Present day followers of Malthus - those advocates of "zero population growth" as the answer to the world's problems - are one of the most dangerous elements of our society. They are helping to promote proposals that the solution to food shortages consists of forced sterilization programs, or withholding food from countries that "have failed to solve their population problems."

It is clear that rising population is one cause of food shortages, but as a solution, voluntary birth control programs have proved a failure in the non-communist world. In an era of global food shortages, the only "population control" programs that can prove effective are genocidal in nature - forced sterilization, or famine induced through failing to ship food where needed. Projection of 20 million deaths by starvation in a year could be low for India alone; if you liked Auschwitz, you'll love Calcutta.



The history of the present day "advanced" nations has shown that in the process of industrialization, death rates decreased through better health care, but at the same time food production and consumption increased and population growth slowed down.

People can control their population growth without the aid of birth control programs; birth control methods merely add effectiveness. It is the social change accompanying industrialization that caused people to cut down on the birth rate. But today modern health methods are practiced in poor countries, but the changes of industrialization are happening slowly, and affect only the relatively small portion of the population needed for American style highly automated (capital-intensive) technology.

The reasons for the decline in population growth in "modern" societies are poorly understood. Many theories have been advanced, each probably with some validity:

CHILDREN BECOME AN ECONOMIC BURDEN - Many hands can be helpful to a family that grows food, but with the coming of child labor laws in the cities, children do not produce income.

SOCIAL SECURITY measures provide at least the illusion that many children are necessary to insure support of parents in their old age.

MORE WOMEN WORKING outside the home means that they do not have household duties as a primary function.

ALTRUISTIC MOTIVATION. In China, people are asked to marry later, in order to help build Socialism.

# SB-95 POLITICOS PONDER POT

Legislation has been introduced in the California State Senate which would reduce penalties for possession of small amounts of marijuana from a felony to an infraction, punishable by a maximum fine of \$100. The bill SB 95 is authored by Senate Democratic Leader George Moscone of San Francisco, former Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on the Control of Marijuana.

SB 95 is modeled after the successful civil fine approach which has been in effect in Oregon since late 1973. Under SB 95, possession and transfer without consideration of up to 3 ounces of marijuana would be infractions, punishable by fines of up to \$100. Other minor marijuana offenses, such as using or being under the influence of marijuana, would also be reduced to infractions. Felony penalties for the sale or cultivation of marijuana would remain unchanged.

While this is not a full decriminalization measure, it removes jail penalties and the possibility of incarceration for marijuana offenses which currently account for 90-95% of all marijuana arrests. Under present California law, possession of any amount of marijuana carries a mandatory felony arrest record and is punishable by up to ten years in state prison for first offense and up to life imprisonment for third-time offenders. SB 95 adopts the principle embodied in the Oregon law that simple possession is not a recidivist offense, and treats first and subsequent offenses as infractions, punishable by fine only.

In 1973, there were over 95,000 marijuana arrests in California, and 25% of all felony arrests in the State were for marijuana offenses. The Senate Select Committee on the Control of Marijuana has estimated that more than \$100 million dollars are spent annually enforcing California's marijuana laws.

NORML, The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, is urging that letters be written now, to the eleven members of the Senate Judiciary Committee who will be hearing testimony and voting on SB 95 on Tuesday, February 11, and to the State Senator and Member of the Assembly from each area, asking their support. Alan Sieroty is the Assemblyman who represents Venice. His address is 449 So. Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, Calif. 90212. Anthony Beilenson is our State Senator and his address is 11,000 Wilshire Blvd Los Angeles, Calif. 90024. The 11 members of the Senate Judiciary Committee are: Alfred H. Song (Chairman), Robert S. Stevens, Alan Robbins, Donald L. Grunsky, Robert B. Presley, Dennis E. Carpenter, Nicholas C. Petris, George R. Moscone, David A. Roberts, Omer L. Rains, George Deukmejian. The legislators address is State Capitol, Sacramento, California 95814

## MARIJUANA? IT'S ALMOST LEGAL.



### ISN'T IT?

No. Nothing is ever "almost legal." Especially marijuana. Last year alone 420,000 people were arrested for marijuana offenses. Of those, 90% were for simple possession.

But now a growing number of Americans are thinking seriously about changing the present marijuana laws. In fact, some laws have already been changed. The state of Oregon has successfully de-criminalized the personal use of marijuana. The American Bar Association, The National Council of Churches, Consumers' Union and The National Education Association have urged other states to do the same. An inevitable chain of events has begun. Become part of that change.

Help us help you.

**NORML** NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE REFORM OF MARIJUANA LAWS  
1384 HILMORE STREET SAN FRANCISCO CALIF 94122

I enclose \$15.00 membership fee. (Students and Military \$10.00)  
 I'm not a joiner but I would still like to help with a contribution.

Send along the following NORML items: All the proceeds from their sale go toward furthering the fight.

STICKERS \$1.00 per sheet  
T-SHIRTS \$4.00 per shirt  
POSTERS \$2.00 per poster  
MAGAZINE \$1.00 per issue  
LAPEL PINS \$1.00 each

two LIVE shows

FEB. 14  
7 & 11pm

**BONNIE RAITT**  
AND  
**TOM WAITS**

AT THE  
**FOX VENICE**

\$3.75 advance \$4.00 door

## SUGAR SURE IS SWEET

The sugar industry, like the oil industry, is reporting record earning increases this year. With sugar prices at an all time high, the profits of Great Western United Corporation - the largest beet-sugar processor in the United States - jumped sharply for the half year ending November 30. Great Western says it earned \$36 million in the period - up a whopping 3367 percent over the same period last year. (ZNS)

## FORGED STERILIZATION SUIT

Los Angeles (LNS) - Three young women who were permanently sterilized without their knowledge while patients at the University of Southern California (USC) Medical Center, have filed suit against county officials for \$6 million.

Melvina Hernandez, Elidia Sylva and Beverly Groves are suing for \$2 million each. All three women say that permission for the sterilization operations, in the form of tubal ligations, was sought while they were in pain and under heavy sedation during Caesarean childbirth.

At least one of the women was not even aware that she had given her permission for the operation at all. In an affidavit submitted as part of the suit, Melvina Hernandez stated she wore an intra-uterine contraceptive device (IUD) for two years after the operation until finally learning that she had been sterilized.

## STREET LIFE IN VENICE

Tina Morehead and her daughter Suzanne, 5, were standing by their house on San Juan Avenue one evening this January when a man walked by wearing a top hat. Suzanne asked the man if that were a magic hat.

"Of course it's a magic hat," he replied. "Does it have a rabbit in it?" asked Suzanne. "Well, I don't know," said the man. "Let's take a look." He took off his hat and looked in it felt around inside, and pulled out a rabbit.

(Staff note: This story is true and the Magic Man in question is none other than Venice's own Billy Superball).

## ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE

The Wilshire Boulevard merchants in Beverly Hills were hurt by a ferocious drop in Christmas sales this year, because of depression and inflation, people out of work, people broke, etc., etc. But there were exceptions - the most expensive of the reported sales up like never before. Tiffany's and Van Cleef & Arpels are reporting one of their best years ever. At Gucci's in Beverly Hills, where a working person could spend a week's pay on a pair of socks, the doors were closed during Christmas because the crowds inside were "too uncomfortable."

Some of the luxury buying - jewelry, diamonds, furs - represent a kind of pre-war money hoarding. But not all of it. Not the \$200 sweaters or the \$900 suits (or the \$17-50 T-shirts); not the \$3800 piano lessons; not the \$100 cheeses.

It might be fun to push through the crowds of wealthy spending \$5000, \$10,000, and \$20,000 for pretty things to eat and wear and drive, and find out if the cheese counter at Gucci's takes food stamps.



**United Farm Workers  
of America (AFL-CIO)**  
P.O. Box 62  
Keene, Ca. 93531

## GUESS WHO DIDN'T PAY ANY FEDERAL TAXES?

New York (LNS) - Ten major U. S. corporations with combined profits of nearly one billion dollars in 1973, paid no federal corporate taxes last year. The ten corporations include United Airlines Trans World Airlines, Consolidated Edison (N. Y.) and American Electric Power Company.

Representative Charles Vanick of the House Ways and Means Committee who made the disclosure, stressed that the corporations were merely taking advantage of existing tax loopholes rather than "cheating" on their tax returns.

One of the most successful corporate tax evaders in 1973 was Con Edison, the nation's largest electric utility company. Con Edison paid no taxes on a 1973 corporate profit of \$203.3 million and had paid no corporate taxes since 1969 despite profits of at least \$100 million each year.

Another very large tax evader in 1973 was Texaco, the nation's fifth highest profit earner during the year. Texaco had a corporate profit of \$1.3 billion for the year but paid only 2.3 percent in taxes on its earnings.

The twelve largest oil companies, with a combined profit of \$8.2 billion in 1973, paid only 3.6 percent corporate taxes on their profits in 1973. A working person earning \$3000 a year has to pay 9.2 percent for federal taxes and social security.



## SQUEEZE ON FOOD STAMPS

The Department of Agriculture has released proposed regulations that will require persons to spend more money in order to purchase food stamps.

Under the new plan, scheduled to go into effect next March 1, families will be required to spend 30 percent of their net income to obtain stamps. Currently, they pay an average of about 23 percent for the food stamps.

The proposals signed by President Ford, are designed to reduce the federal spending deficit, the Agriculture Department states.

At the present annual rate, the nation's 14.7 million food stamps recipients pay about \$2.5 billion annually to acquire nearly \$6.5 billion in food coupons. The proposal is expected to close the gap by more than \$600 million. (ZNS)



# LOBOTOMY

## The

## The

by David Robertson  
Kitchener-Waterloo  
Free Press



Linda was about thirty-five and had been hospitalized for emotional problems three times before in her life. Each time she was incarcerated she was subjected to electroconvulsive therapy and her experiences were recounted with a good deal of confusion and apprehension. There were many blanks that she just could not fill in. But two facts did clearly emerge from our discussion. Linda came from a strict puritanical family and she lived in constant fear of her tyrannical father.

The third time Linda was hospitalized she received a lobotomy. The operation was intended to bring her relief from severe migraine headaches. Since that time Linda says she has trouble remembering things and she has put on a great deal of weight. When asked if her headaches went away as a result of the operation she looked rather sheepish and asked if she could tell a funny. "It's really strange" she said "but my headaches went away as soon as my father died."

Linda is not alone. She is one of the thousands who have had a lobotomy but unlike many she is willing to talk about it. "If talking to you will prevent others from going through what I've gone through," she said, "then it's worth it."

The question of psychosurgery, a technique that was thought to have been abandoned in the fifties, has received a great deal of attention in the last few years. Highly emotional appeals have been made both for and against its use. Scientific studies have been published claiming proof of its therapeutic efficacy and equally credible sources have condemned it as an experimental technique, very unreliable and often fatal.

It is difficult for the laypeople to address themselves to the issue of lobotomy for to do so is to challenge the privileged position of the medical profession. Not an easy task. The healer from time immemorial has been accorded a special status in our society much akin to that of the priesthood. Today the situation is not much different. The psychiatrist, neurosurgeon and general practitioner has years of university training, talks in a language that baffles most and belongs to a powerful organization

that intends to protect and enhance the medical mystique.

To complicate matters, the history of medicine has been written by members of that profession. Although it is not a false record, it has been penned with a style that pays tribute to the glory of the past. But there is an alternative version, the history of errors and atrocities that have been committed in the name of healing. Although this side of the medical record has yet to be fully documented, we can be assured that it will be a work of considerable proportions.

It will include that group of doctors known as the Official Surgeons who as late as 1920 in the United States were surgically removing the clitoris and preputial hood in young girls and women in order to save them from the perils of Masturbatory Insanity. The book may also include the ex-

ploits of that group of doctors known today as the Psychosurgeons.

### BACKGROUND

From the outset, the lobotomy was an experimental procedure involving the mutilation of healthy brain tissue in order to modify some behaviour or emotion that was considered to be undesirable. The technique was first used on mental patients by Egaz Moniz a Portuguese neurologist who in 1935 heard of a case of a neurotic monkey becoming docile and placid after the operation. How it worked was not known but a technique had been found that helped hospital staff control disorderly patients. This fact must be emphasized. Patients were not cured by the operation, they were simply made more manageable.

Moniz received two rewards from his human experimentation, one welcomed and one not. In 1949 he was awarded the Nobel prize in medicine and physiology for his discovery of the therapeutic value of lobotomy. Some years prior he had received a bullet in the spine from one of his lobotomized patients.

Although very little research was initially done and despite the fact that most of it was inadequate, the use of lobotomy rapidly spread throughout the world. In fact, the first wave of lobotomies represents the most massive assault ever mounted against the human nervous system. The psychosurgical campaign claimed 50,000 victims in the U.S. and 2,000 more in Canada. Another 20,000 were mutilated in England, and countless thousands more were operated upon around the world. Many of these first victims still inhabit the back wards of our mental hospitals.

The early literature published on the subject greatly exaggerated the successes and ignored the grossly mutilating effects the operation had on the personality of the patient. Psychosurgeons rationalized their work by pointing to the reduction of anxiety or tension that resulted from the destruction of brain tissue. They constantly neglected, however, to mention the price paid for this improvement—an overall loss in the patient's vitality.

The human brain does not function in such a way that part of it can be destroyed (in order to relieve a specific symptom) without the destruction causing other, often unpredictable, symptoms to develop. The caseloads of the early psychosurgeons are proof of this. Lobotomized patients undergo definite personality and behavioural changes as a result of the operation. The most common of these changes are weight gain, change in moral standards, lack of concentration, loss of memory, lack of consideration, lack of insight, release of hostility, excessive chattering and reduction of emotional responsiveness. More serious side effects such as post-operative epilepsy, death due to surgery and post-lobotomy suicides have also been reported.

The following true case examples of post-operative successes illustrate only too well the above points:

● Susan walked around naked in front of her son and father, drank excessively and attempted to throw her son out of a window on two separate occasions.

● Mary is subject to convulsions, is untidy, very obese, shows poor judgement, has little initiative and spends all day watching television.

● Cathy has had to be kept on medication because of convulsive seizures resulting from her lobotomy. Although she takes care of her home, she shows a markedly flattened affect, little initiative, is disinterested in social life, is excessively demanding sexually and shows a 65 pound increase in weight.

● Maria has gained a great deal of weight but she takes care of her home. She is over-talkative and shows no interest in sexual activity.

In one report two psychosurgeons discussed a depression case which was reported as having gratifying results despite the fact that the woman, prior to her third lobotomy, committed suicide. The authors interpreted her suicide as a sign that she was recovering from her depression and concluded that the case was a success.

No matter how gracious one wishes to be in assessing this early psychosurgical activity, one cannot escape from the fact that the surgical destruction of healthy brain tissue served really only one purpose. That purpose was the control of mental patients. The deleterious side-effects (the loss of creativity, intellectual capacity and emotional range) could be justified because in the cost-benefit accounting system of the medical profession these were expendable qualities, reasonable costs to pay for the benefit of obtaining manageable patients and tranquil mental hospitals.

### LOBOTOMY NOW

The Soviet Union, despite its repressive use of psychiatric classifications, outlawed the use of lobotomy in 1950, and in China human experimentation is not allowed. In Europe and North America however, the controversy surrounding psychosurgery did not reach a resolution stage. At the time that opposition was mounting, the popularity of psychosurgery started to decline. Its decline was not brought about by concern over the negative side-effects associated with the operation but because psychopharmaceutical agents were being produced that were easier to administer, less expensive and accomplished the same goal of making patients more manageable.

Although the use of lobotomy waned in the fifties it did not disappear. On the contrary, more refined and varied surgical techniques have developed over the years. Different brain structures have become the target sites, and a much more diversified group of people have become suitable subjects.

By 1972 the resurgence of the lobotomy has reached such dramatic proportions that

Cornelius Gallagher of the U.S. House of Representatives could suggest that the words "shocking and frightening" were too mild to describe the present situation. Mr. Gallagher has just cause for concern. At present, psychosurgery is being performed in many countries around the world, and it is being recommended as a remedy for almost every conceivable psychiatric, behavioural, personality, political and social problem.

Unfortunately, many of the recent reports on lobotomy read much like television commercials for aspirin. "Modified lobotomy is a safe and effective method of reducing the symptoms of excessive tension, anxiety, fear or depression in patients with a variety of illnesses including anxiety neurosis, phobic psychoneurosis, obsessional neurosis, neurotic or psychotic depressive reaction and schizophrenia."

Nor does the list stop there. It has also been suggested as a cure for depression in the elderly, drug addiction, gambling, alcoholism, agoraphobia and sexual disorders. In addition it has been recommended as a treatment for hyperactivity in children, as a means to curb criminal behaviour and recently as a way to control rioters and political dissidents.

The question could be raised whether we should still consider psychosurgery as a medical technique or whether we should see in it a means of social and political control. Present day psychosurgeons promote the use of lobotomy not to cure disease but to control deviant behaviour. The distinction between these two concepts has unfortunately been lost on the psychiatric profession. As a means of therapy, psychosurgery is recommended to alter and correct behaviour that is seen as inappropriate by those with the power to judge. The diagnosis of deviance is not as objective an evaluation as is, say, the diagnosis of cancer. It is a value judgement conferred upon a person's behaviour by the defining authority.

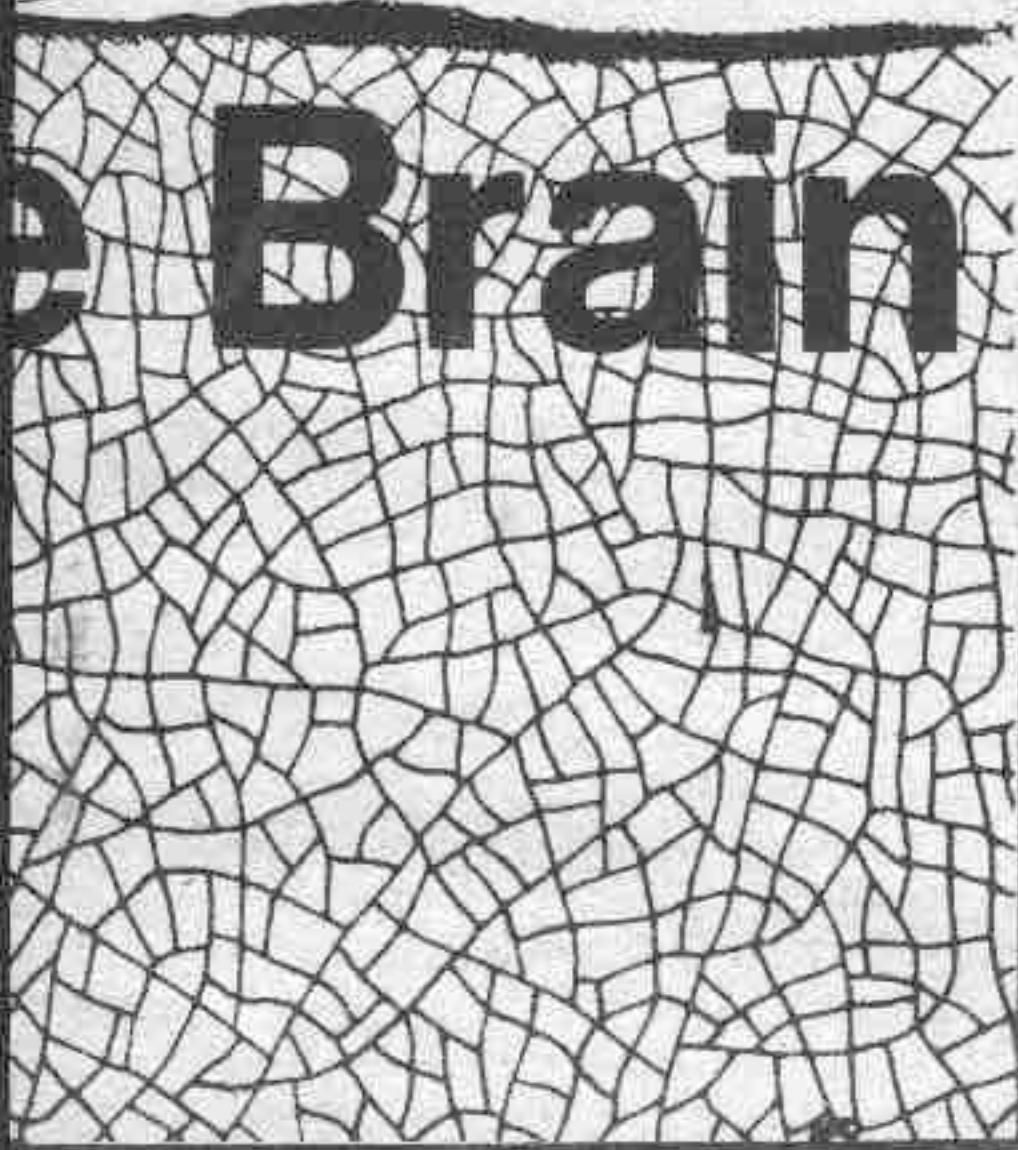
Certain members of our society by virtue of their medical degree are given the power to judge other people's behaviour. We must not lose sight of the fact that what is being diagnosed is often not a condition of organic pathology but an attitude, behaviour or value system that is different from or stands in opposition to that held by the group that has the power to judge.

For instance, the psychiatric profession will not define those persons who are reaping exorbitant profits from the food industry as deviant, let alone sick. On the other hand they will diagnose as deviant the individual who steals in order to obtain the food he cannot afford. In fact, a current trend within psychiatric circles is to define more and more criminal behaviour as mental illness.

Not all attempts to invalidate personal or social dissent by concocting a label of mental illness are easily recognized as political acts of oppression. But if we keep in mind the fact that the new target populations for psychosurgery are those groups presently without power (children, the

# LOM'Y

## Battle Of The Brain



elderly, women, minority groups, the poor and political dissidents), then we can see in psychosurgery an effective weapon for the purposes of social control.

Dr. Balasubramian, the foremost psychosurgeon in India, has developed a new technique called Sedative Neurosurgery. This procedure, writes Balasubramian "is the term applied to that aspect of neurosurgery where a patient is made quiet and manageable by an operation". More recently he has reported that patients develop a sense of fear after the operation. "In cases that are still mildly troublesome", he writes, "the threat of punishment quiets them."

### GOOD HOUSEKEEPERS AND QUIET KIDS

It is easy to understand why the technique is growing in popularity. Psychosurgery can be an effective weapon in the hands of any state hospital superintendent or prison warden. As previously mentioned the target population is no longer restricted to those individuals incarcerated in state institutions. One of the more recent developments in the field is experimentation on hyperactive children.

Two prominent researchers in Japan operate on children characterized by unsteadiness and hyperactivity. Their best results indicate that improvements "consisting of calming and taming effects" were achieved in over half of the cases.

Closer to home we have Dr. O.J. Andy and a psychologist M. Jurko of the University of Mississippi who are performing at times multiple operations on children in order "to reduce the hyperactivity to levels manageable by parents". Andy recognizes these children as behavioural problems but believes that there is a neurological basis to the disorder. He admits, however, that he can find nothing neurologically wrong.

One of his patients, a boy of nine, was operated on twice in a nine month period. After a year Andy wrote that "symptoms of hyperirritability, aggressiveness, negativism and combativeness" slowly reappeared. The child was returned for a more extensive third operation. This time the child showed signs of brain damage and was operated on for a fourth time. In 1970, Andy reported that the patient was easy to manage but was deteriorating intellectually. In other words in an attempt to control aggressive behaviour, children are being emotionally and intellectually crippled for life.

Women of all ages make up the great majority of the caseloads and the successes of psychosurgeons. From the available clinical evidence it would appear that it is difficult for a man to support a family after a lobotomy but it is easy for a woman to do housework. On this basis Walter Freeman, known as the Dean of Lobotomy, has reported that lobotomized women make good housekeepers. If a previously distraught woman is able to return to housekeeping chores after the operation,

7  
psychosurgeons would consider it a success. One writer, Barbara Roberts, responding to this prevalent attitude has referred to psychosurgery as "the ultimate solution to the woman problem".

Not too long ago, Dr. Heatherington of the Kingston Psychiatric Hospital admitted that bad publicity prevented the hospital from performing lobotomies on male patients. The bad publicity did not stop the hospital from providing seventeen female patients for psychosurgical research.

In addition to children and women, elderly people are now attracting the lobotomists' attention. Dr. Knight (England) tells us that he was inspired to action after discovering the increased rate of referral of old people to mental hospitals, a situation also prevalent in Canada.

Our society is oriented to the production and consumption of commodities. Old people who are no longer productive in the market place and who can no longer afford to consume are banished to state institutions. Knight's solution to the problem, that of psychosurgery, as opposed to better housing, an active life and other alternatives is no less than a criminal action.

### DOCTOR OR COP

Curbing undesirable behaviour in children, pacifying housewives and getting rid of the aged inevitably leads to more blatant forms of social and political control. Recently, psychosurgeons have begun promoting psychosurgery as a treatment for those individuals committing criminal offences. Speaking directly to the problem, Walter Freeman wrote that "lobotomized patients seldom come into conflict with the law precisely because they lack the imagination to think up new deviltries and the energy to perpetuate them." No doubt an astute analysis of the situation.

In response to the Detroit riots of 1967, W. Sweet, V. Mark and F. Ervin, all members of the Neuro-Research Foundation of Boston which deals primarily with black and lower-class people, attempted to build a case for the politicization of psychosurgery. They write: "It is important to realize that only a small number of the millions of slum dwellers have taken part in the riots, and that only a small fraction of these rioters have indulged in arson, sniping and assault." They go on to ask, "Is there something peculiar about the violent slum dweller that differentiates him from his peaceful neighbour?"

The authors answer in the affirmative and support their hypothesis of brain dysfunction with allegedly scientific evidence. The evidence cited, however, comes from individuals with long histories of severe epilepsy and not ghetto rioters. Nonetheless, the authors conclude that the real lesson to be learned from urban rioting is that we "need intensive research and clinical studies of the individuals committing the violence. The goal of such studies would be to diagnose and treat those people with low violence thresholds before they contribute to further tragedies."

According to these psychosurgeons the urgent social and economic needs of the ghetto are decisively unimportant in the occurrence of violence. What is important is the political need of those who have the power to isolate troublemakers in order that they might maintain their power. The Sweet, Mark and Ervin's proposal is a clear example of the use of mental health theory and technology for political pacification.

In 1970 Mark and Ervin published a book entitled *Violence and the Brain* in which they develop the theme of the political need for a technology of violence control. The book is also an account of their methods of identifying and treating persons with a low

violence threshold. It is difficult, however, to see *Violence and the Brain* as something other than a promotional work. The authors claim to have discovered a cure for violence and seek to justify as therapeutic the destruction of healthy brain tissue. The surgical methods that they propose are the injection of various drugs, psychosurgery, and electrical stimulation of the brain through implanted electrodes.

The four cases presented in the book as successful operations have been widely publicized as proof of the therapeutic efficacy of psychosurgery. All the patients were reported to be cured of aggressiveness without any disabling side-effects. Contrary information, however, was published by Dr. Peter Breggin, director of the Project to Examine Psychiatric Technology based in Washington D.C.

In a discussion of the researchers' best patient, Julia, Breggin reports that after the operation she was an emotional cripple. As a result of the operation she had lost her ability to play the guitar, to carry on intellectual conversations and to relate to people on the ward. Dr. Breggin states that he has a signed written description of how the nurses cried together over Julia's condition after surgery.

Neurologist Ernest Rodin lends support to Breggin's accusations. After Rodin visited the Boston project he wrote that "none of the four patients in *Violence and the Brain* had been substantially helped by surgery. Two were in state hospitals, one in a nursing home and one in a Veteran Administration Hospital." The conclusion is inescapable that the author's medico-technological approach to social problems is a political action and not a therapeutic one.

In 1971 the Federal Justice Department's Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (the agency that funds local police departments in the U.S. and helps equip them with riot control equipment) provided the Neuro-Research Foundation with 109,000 dollars for the development of routine medical screening procedures for the potentially violent offender and for the development of treatment techniques including psychosurgery. Congress later awarded them another \$50,000 for the same work.

### BRAIN CONTROL IN PRISONS

At about the same time, Leroy Aarons, published a page-one story in the *Washington Post* describing three psychosurgical operations that had been performed in 1968 in the California prison system. As a result of public outrage the California Bureau of Prisons denied that there were any plans for future operations, but contrary information was leaked to the press. The information in question was correspondence between R. Procunier, Director of Corrections of the State of California, and the California Council of Criminal Justice. The correspondence outlined a program for the "neurosurgical

evaluation and treatment for the violent inmate". According to this proposal inmates would go through a two to three week diagnostic evaluation at Vacaville prison after which some would be picked for psychosurgery.

The following is part of an official affidavit describing one inmate who was being transferred to Vacaville.

"Donald was 25, older and more mature than the bulk of the inmates. He was aggressively outspoken, always seeking recruits for his views that the institution and its staff were oppressing all the inmates and particularly the black inmates...He had been one of a half dozen men who led a work stoppage and an attempted general strike which lasted several days...friends and attorneys on the outside encouraged his activities and provided him with books attacking society."

After public and professional pressure mounted, the plans for the use of lobotomy were publicly tabled (not dropped). The Deputy Chief of the Department of Corrections added, however, that "the rest of the program will go forward". This included the use of sodium pentathol; anectine, a death simulating drug; antitestosterone injections to neutralize sex hormones; and a programme of aversive therapy taken right out of *A Clockwork Orange*.

The following year in Boston, Ervin, Mark and Sweet again approached the Department of Justice, this time for a 1.3 million dollar grant to continue their work. Public pressure was mounting and their request was turned down. Later, however, it was revealed that they were awarded one million dollars to continue their work through the National Institute of Neurological Disease and Stroke.

Early in 1973 Ronald Reagan decided to fund a similar project in excess of a million dollars a year at the Department of Psychiatry of U.C.L.A. The organization was called the Center for the Reduction of Life Threatening Behaviour. Again the Justice Department was involved, supporting the project through a state agency, the California Council on Criminal Justice. Needless to say, psychosurgeons and psychiatrists are participating in a highly repressive system by categorizing as mental illness those behaviour patterns associated with oppressed minority groups and political activities.

Certain advances have been made to limit psychosurgery in the United States. All direct funding of lobotomy and psychosurgery has been stopped or delayed and the National Institute of Mental Health has publicly announced its disinclination to fund any other such projects in the immediate future.

In the Congress, the Black Caucus and others have shown an interest in legislation to outlaw or limit psychosurgery, and Senator Edward Kennedy has conducted hearings on the subject. In addition, a number of law suits are pending against psychosurgeons.

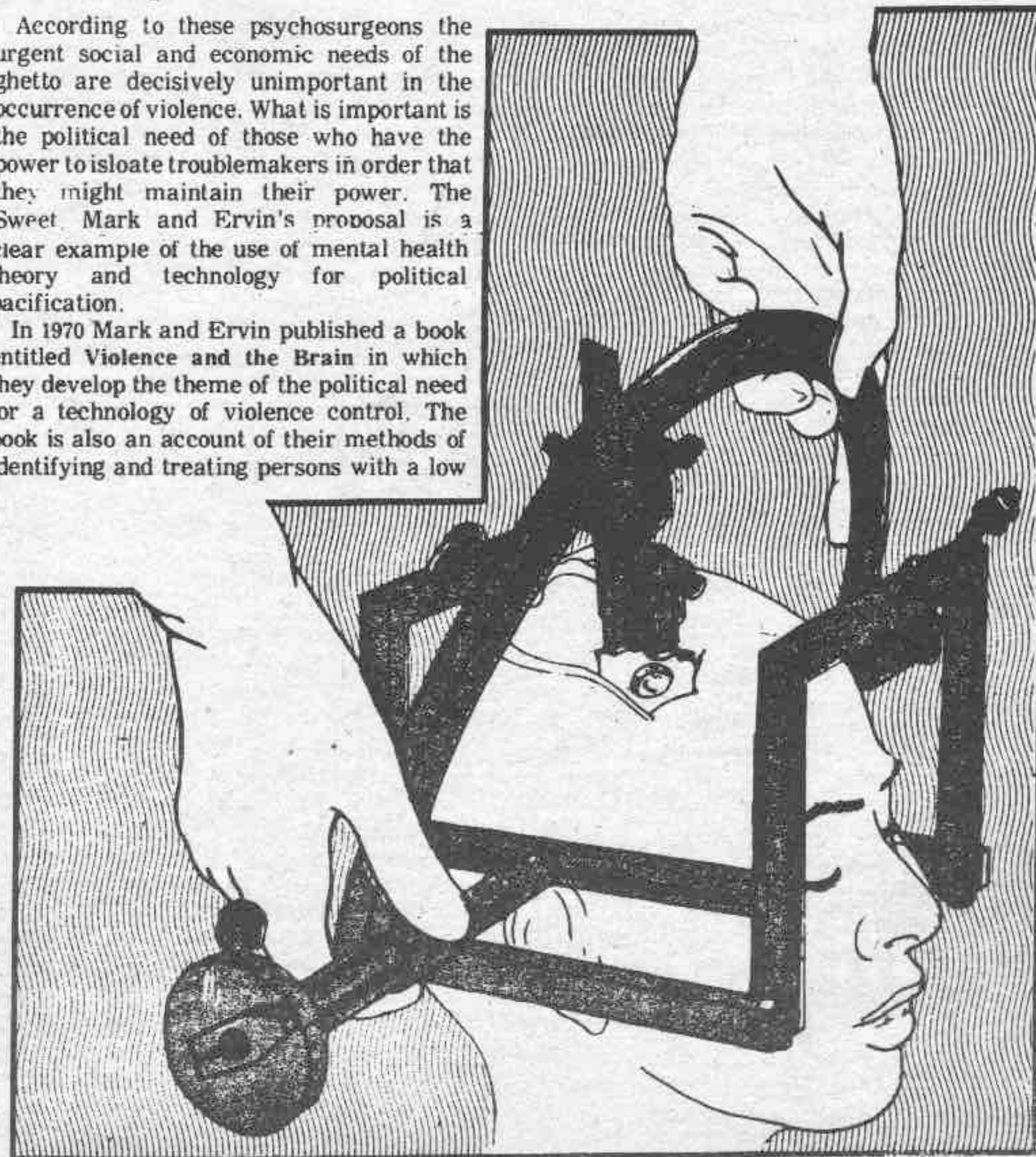
Recently, the focus of attention has shifted to Canada. In June of 1973, at a conference held in Montreal, American researchers complained about the reduction of grants for psychosurgical research. Dr. Alexander and Dr. J. Gottlieb, president of the International Society of Biological Psychiatry, urged their colleagues to fight those who would outlaw involuntary brain operations on mental patients and prisoners. They asked their members to lobby the government with research papers and to give press interviews to promote experimental psychosurgery.

It is difficult to assess just how many of these operations are conducted in Canada. Statistics in Canada reported that 473 lobotomies were performed in 1968. But since that time the classification system has been changed which makes it virtually impossible to isolate the relevant figures. Hospital and government spokespersons deny that lobotomies are being done. Yet a number of investigators have reported that the Toronto General Hospital had performed 150 lobotomies in 1973 and another 60 had been performed in British Columbia. Other operations have been performed on patients from the Orillia Hospital School, and the new university hospital in London was reported to be setting up to do quite a number of lobotomies.

Then there are those proponents of psychosurgery such as Dr. Heinz Lehman of Douglas Hospital in Montreal who although admitting that there is a substantial failure rate can write: "I would hope this surgery would acquire a better public image... I would hope people could look at it less emotionally, that they could simply view it as a procedure indicated in certain conditions that resist all other therapy."

Hyperactive children, depressed women, the elderly and political dissidents do not suffer from some incurable condition, some complex mental illness. Furthermore there is no justification, scientific or whatever, for blunting or destroying the higher intellectual and emotional abilities, the humanness, of those individuals incarcerated in our mental hospitals.

-- From The Chevron/APS  
S. BERKELEY BARB



# CANAL PRESENTATION

South Coast Regional Commission

by Ron Guenther

Of the entire Ballona Creek estuary, one of the richest of the coastal marine resources since obliterated by Marina Del Rey, the Venice canals remain today as one of the most significant remnants of this marine resource that once was.

On January 20 the South Coast Regional Commission played host to the Venice Town Council - Venice Canals presentation. Spearheaded by Canals and Central Venice representatives, the basic elements of a community plan for the preservation, the restoration, enhancement, and maintenance of the canals as a diverse coastal salt marsh ecosystem were presented to the Commission. This total community ecosystem would be characterized by an urban marine habitat in which the human members of the community would interact with and become part of the total fabric of life.

Rick Davidson, Central Venice representative, presented a history of Venice and the canals from the earliest days of the Indians and settlers through the Abbot Kinney era to the fateful day of annexation by the City of Los Angeles. He talked of the broken promises of maintenance made by the City, and of the Ocean Park urban development project which removed 4,000 elderly poor from their homes. He talked of the deep water Canal Assessment project and of the closed and guarded doors of City Hall presented to over 300 canals area residents who wished to speak at the public hearings. He talked of the City's "code enforcement program" which had the effect of destroying one quarter of the Venice housing. Finally Rick spoke of the advent of the elected Venice Town Council, of the Coastal Commission itself, and of the canals area Renewal Area Agency which is now the best hope for decent, environmentally and socially oriented planning, and for self-determination by canals area residents working through the Venice Town Council.

Canalswoman Mary Jane Kwan spoke of the culture and are of the canals community, of the social turmoil leading to a cultural revolution, and of the canals people whose art has become a part of their every day lives. She spoke of the women's artist collective, JAYA, and of the women's movement, of the canal festivals, and of the parks created by the community, destroyed by the City, and created again by the people. Mary Jane emphasized the present interaction between people and their natural environment in the canals, and made it clear that the present environmentally and socially oriented culture of the canals people would be by far the best, or perhaps the only, type of culture which could conserve and care for our beloved canals. This unique culture should be preserved, and encouraged to grow organically in directions known and unknown.

Ron Guenther, Canals Area representative, presented the basic elements of a plan which would preserve historical objects such as the two splendid wooden suspension foot bridges from the Kinney era and other concrete and wooden bridges.

The canals would remain shallow to provide a marshland habitat for birds, and a spawning grounds and habitat for marine life of all kinds.

The Canals banks would be gradually sloping to sandy beaches to encourage a diversity of life forms, and planted in marshland plants for stabilization.

Islands would be constructed in the canals from the broken concrete sidewalk material. These islands would provide secure wildlife habitat and nesting areas.

The canals would be flushed regularly by natural tidal action and in the ancient time patterns of the tides. This would encourage marine life, stabilize the eco-system, and remove silt buildup.

Canal side walkways would be constructed of diverse materials, other than concrete, such as boardwalks on pilings, gravel, wood chips, dirt, brick or flagstone.

Open space along the canals would be purchased by community action and huge amounts permanently dedicated as wildlife habitat, nesting areas, and picnic grounds. Existing trees would be protected and a massive tree planting program begun.

Rainwater, which should not be allowed to run off into the canals, would be stored in cisterns for community gardens and for watering trees and plants.

Canal birds of all kinds, especially the ducks, would be protected, as they are an essential part of the urban marine ecosystem, and keep the canals cleaned of algae bloom in the summer.

The City could supply equipment and materials for cleaning the canals of trash and toxic materials at low water periods, building walkways, maintaining the wooden bridges, and planting trees and plants of all kinds. The State Fish & Game Department could provide fish stock.

But all of these concepts depend on an educated and concerned community of residents and visitors which would develop and maintain the ecosystem.

Sterling Robbins, anthropologist and canals area resident, spoke of the need for increased public recreational access and usage of the canals, and of the interaction of residents with and within the ecosystem and with the visiting public.

Parks, playgrounds, and picnic areas would be constructed with grass pathways winding through wild vegetation, fruit bearing trees, shrubs, succulents, seed grasses, cactus, and a variety of other plants for humans and wildlife alike. Organic community gardens would be planted as a food source and educational exhibit for school classes. Inlets could be dug along the canals and planted with reeds and water plants. Open space along the canals south of Washington St. could, and should, be used as wildlife habitat and an aquatic park for visitors featuring facilities for canoeing and other non-power boating. A Washington St. portage crosswalk would be constructed for boat access to the canals. Small swimming beaches would be constructed at various places in the canals.

Sterling spoke of the problems due to the automobile population in the canals, of the increasingly heavy traffic on Dell Av, and of the critical need for a mass transit solution. None of the precious open space in the canals would be paved for parking. There would be no new streets or street widenings. Through traffic on Dell Av would be discouraged by blocking of the street at certain hours, redesigning the street, or installing speed bumps. Walking and bicycling would be encouraged. Sterling emphasized that the polluting, life-destroying nature of the automobile would make it a highly objectionable part of any natural ecosystem, and that its use in the urban-marine habitat must be drastically curtailed. (The Commissioners and visitors listened to this obvious truth with tears in their bloodshot eyes. It was very smoggy in Long Beach.)

Along with the need for diversity in natural life forms, Sterling spoke also of the diverse racial and cultural nature of the Venice community which should be preserved, and encouraged. He emphasized that the respect which diverse peoples have for one another extends also to other life forms. There would be low cost housing constructed and a balance maintained between housing needs and open space. There would be special crafts zones created to provide employment opportunities within the community. Facilities would be provided for the many bus and van shelters in the canals. A community house would be constructed as a place for Area Council meetings, recycling, disseminating information, providing services, and for displaying the works of local artists. Day care centers would be established. The architecture of the community center would be decided by a community vote.

Judy Weiner, a canals area resident, presented a slide show and dialogue featuring the diversity of canals houses, canals people and their lifestyle, flowers, trees and gardens, historical structures, open spaces, public recreation, and the canal festivals. Judy ended by emphasizing that the canals community is a unique and precious thing within the nation which must be preserved.

Bob Wells, Canals Area representative, spoke of the canals area Renewal Area Agency which would provide self-determination and local participation in the planning process. He spoke of the critical need for local planning control because of the City's historical bias towards the deep water project, luxury housing in the canals, and extra profits for the already wealthy. He spoke of the City's use of the planning process to remove the poor and working people who make up Venice, the aged and the multi-racial who stand in the way of real estate profit.

He emphasized that the City's intention is to disallow the people of the canals community any real impact at all in the planning process, and that the RAA could very well be the answer to initiating, planning, financing, and carrying out the rebuilding and rehabilitation of the canals.

Bob spoke of financing the acquisition of open spaces, historic sites and existing housing, of financing low cost housing, beautification efforts, community centers, malls, walkways, recycling centers, and other needs including planning expenses through a variety of federal assistance programs and grants-in-aid, tideland oil monies, Quimby funds, community corporations, private donors, and many other sources.

Finally, the Coastal Commission was asked to do the following:

- 1) Recognize the Venice canals community of life as a unique remnant of a once flourishing coastal resource, and within the mandate of the Commission to preserve, restore, and enhance as an urban-marine habitat within a total community ecosystem.
- 2) Recognize canals area residents and their directly elected Venice Town Council representatives as a valid planning, self-help, and caretaking group to work in cooperation with the Commission and its staff.
- 3) Work with the community in finding a means to reduce the intense pressures for immediate development within the canals during the study and planning period.
- 4) Provide assistance and endorsement in obtaining funding for open space acquisitions and other needs
- 5) Cooperate in a height limit and zoning study as an alternative to the present RW-1 zoning which is inappropriate, leading to large, luxurious structures out of keeping with the community and with the plan presented.
- 6) Work with the community to preserve the trees.
- 7) Cooperate in obtaining the consideration and approval of the full Venice Town Council for any plan before steps are taken towards its implementation.

At this point, petitions supporting the presentation and its basic planning elements were formally presented to the Commission. The petitions contained the signatures of 208 canals area residents.

The presentation ended with this statement: The people of the canals, through sheer organization, tenacity and working together through the years have succeeded in preventing any major development in the canals, including and especially the deep water extension of Marina Del Rey. We have developed plans similar in concept to the one presented here today which have been ferociously resisted by the City of Los Angeles. A huge amount of community energy has been diverted and wasted by having to fight the City's socially and environmentally disastrous deep water planning in the past. We ask the help of this Commission in having the way cleared for us to do the kind of planning which the earth and the people here deserve.



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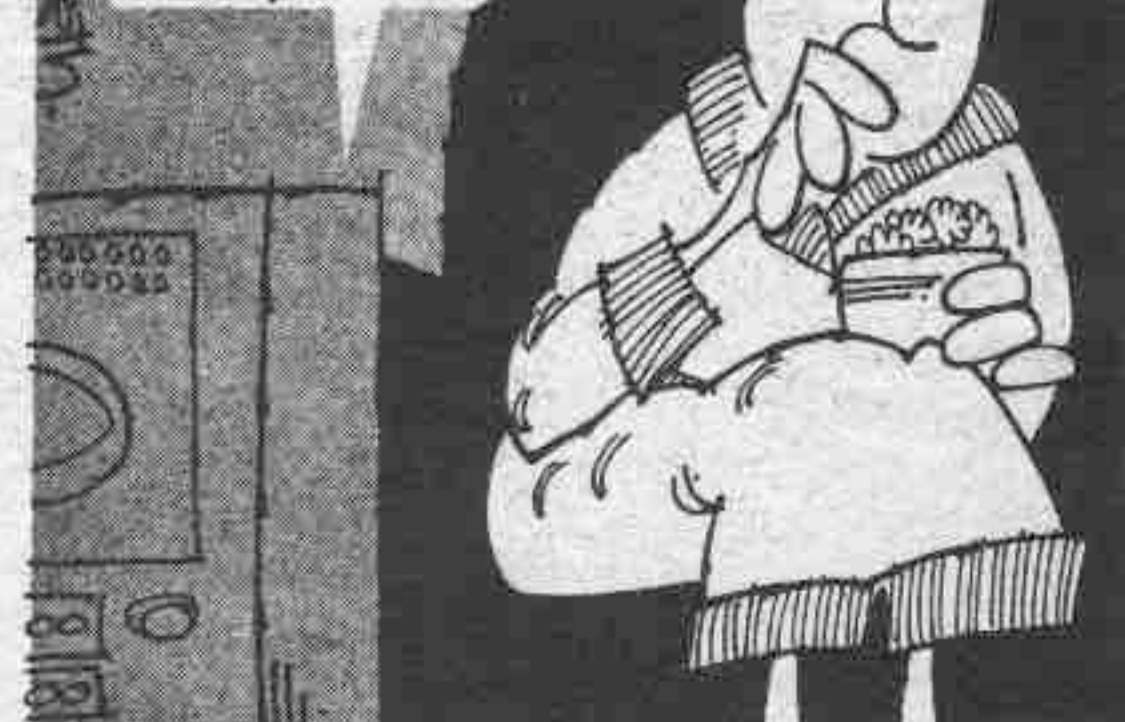
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Located at 1614 Wilshire Blvd. (5 blocks east of Alvarado), HERSELF HEALTH CLINIC uniquely maintains an all female staff of nurses, doctors, and para-professionals. The clinic is open every Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

HERSELF HEALTH CLINIC is funded by the Los Angeles Regional Family Planning Council and The Calif. Regional Medical Program, and is sponsored by The Gay Community Services Center. For further information, call: (213) 482-3062



... The following program is suggested for mature audiences. Those easily disturbed or offended are urged to tune to another station. And now, we present the President of the United States speaking on the economy...





## VENICE TRILOGY

by Ken Nisbet

### LONG NIGHTS

In the Old, White beachfront building  
sometimes called "Wino Junction"  
People live and die  
and now, anyday now,  
they will tear it down  
and build  
another condominium.  
No more will the firemen  
have to rush up the creaking Iron stairwells  
with fake "duty concerned" faces  
to use their precious oxygen  
late at night;  
the new people, in the new, slick condos,  
will listen from their wood balconies  
to the howling, late night sirens,  
shrieking elsewhere.

## The Canals, Venice California, 1974

Sharyn Abramhoff

They come with those looks  
driving the streets slowly  
parking and locking  
and walking to the bridges  
where they stand  
looking and talking  
and gesturing to each other.

I follow their eyes with my eyes  
I see what they see;  
Peeling paint on aging houses  
lots full of trash  
and squatters.

We can hear the ocean sigh.  
We can feel the warm sun.  
And the water runs  
under the bridges  
in front of the small homes  
of my lovers  
and my friends.

I can hear them talking of  
"my property"  
which may be Ellen's house  
or mine,  
and of the buildings  
they will make  
the fine environment  
they will make  
when we have been evicted  
and place  
cleaned up.

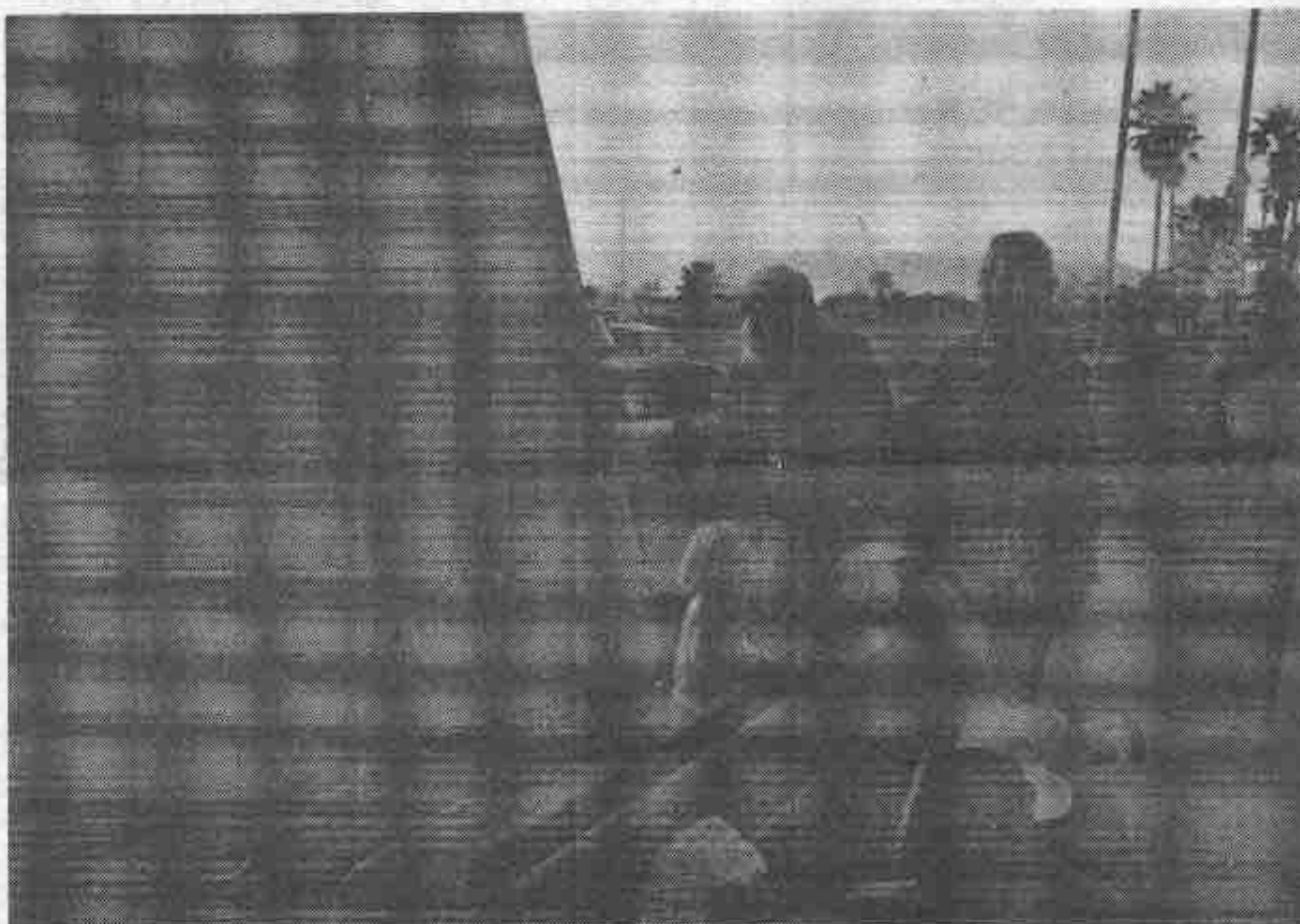
### SO CRUEL

A big Black Dog  
Murdered a neighborhood cat  
in the alley behind my house  
this morning, and although  
I didn't know the cat well,  
I've grieved all day, because,  
I've grieved all day, because,  
the real killer,  
The man that owned the dog,  
stood by and watched, and even laughed.  
The senselessness of the execution  
leaves me sad.  
And extremely pissed off!!

### SANTA MONICA COURT: AN OBSERVATION

He seemed so helpless  
A young black man who said he was sorry  
tears running down his face  
on to his new, stiff, courtroom suit  
He didn't know his father  
His mother on welfare  
three brothers three more sisters  
He'd tried, really tried  
He played little league baseball,  
and sang in the choir at church,  
and carried the ball for SAMC high  
If he had one more chance?  
Probation? Rehab Program? Lexington, Kentucky?  
As they led him away, in handcuffs,  
He must have heard the Judge say  
that he was sorry too.

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# RENT RUMBLES

by Carol Fondiller

Seems with a lot of 30's nostalgia, i.e. clothes  
and movies, something else from the thirties might  
be coming back also.

Tenants unions or associations.

Along with the prices of food, gas, clothing  
and taxes, rents are going up also. It seems that  
some landlords are exploiting the taxes, which ev-  
ery tenant in the world knows about, and using the  
tax issue as an excuse to double the rent.

Take for example, the Casa de Roma on the Ocean  
Front Walk. Rent was raised from \$150 to \$250 in  
some cases over the last year. When it was bought  
by the present owner, Shawn Steele, one of the  
organizers of the Casa de Roma's Tenant's Organiza-  
tion, figured out that the tax increase and main-  
tenance cost averaged out to approximately an  
eleven dollar increase per tenant. "We're quite  
willing to go along with that," smiled Mr. Steele,  
"but certainly we won't go along with the 50%  
to 100% rent raise that the new owner is trying to  
make us pay." Mr. Steele added that needed repairs  
are still needed.

However, they did organize a tenant's union and  
are now trying to deal with the owner collectively.  
The owner came to one meeting with the tenants,  
and then sent them a letter stating that henceforth he  
would deal with each tenant individually, rather  
than as a group "since individuals can't be heard  
in a group."

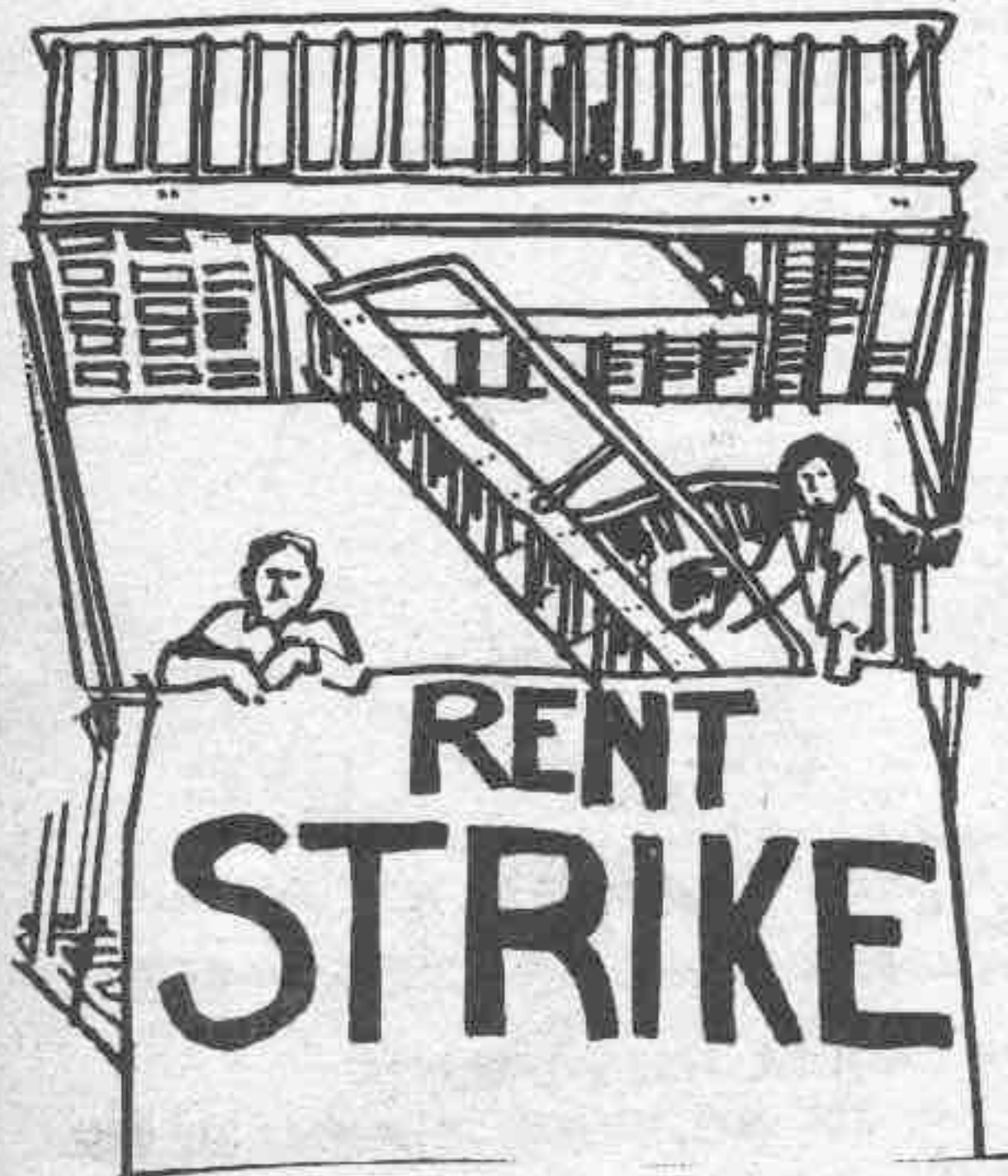
The tenant's group answered the landlord, stat-  
ing that he was to deal with the Tenant's Union.  
The tenants seem adamant about sticking together.

They would like help and moral support. Contact  
Shawn Steele at the Casa de Roma apartments or  
Sarah Bull.

The city seems to be getting into the act of  
evicting people also. In the wondrous ways that the  
bureaucracy has, the the tenant is being penalized  
for the negligence of some landlords.

Because 33 1/2 Clubhouse had no firedoors and the  
owners, a conglomerate of doctors and social work-  
ers, didn't redress this oversight, the tenants in  
that building received a mimeographed notice from  
the Building and Safety Department telling the  
tenants to move out by February 27. The tenants  
received this notice sometime after Christmas. Per-  
haps these kindly healers of the sick and tenders  
to the poor and unfortunate thought this was a slick  
play to save themselves some legal fees. Move  
the present tenants out, renovate the apartment  
house, and get in some afflu-hips who would be de-  
lighted to pay twice the present rent just to live  
in quaint ol' Venice. Some of the tenants are stay-  
ing and fighting this new form of urban removal.

Their lawyer seems to feel the city's "evict-  
ion notice" is not legal--perhaps the social work-  
ers and the doctors might be made to see that one  
is entitled to live in a safe building without  
danger of fire if one is paying rent. Other tenants  
are in the middle of forming unions also. It seems  
that people can't pay the rent increases and won't  
take anymore gaff. The buck seems to have stopped.



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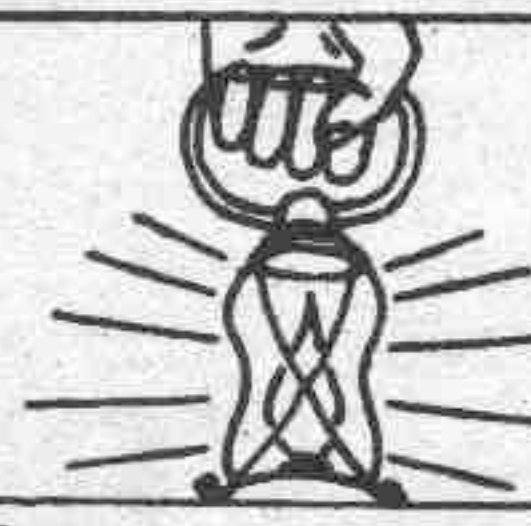
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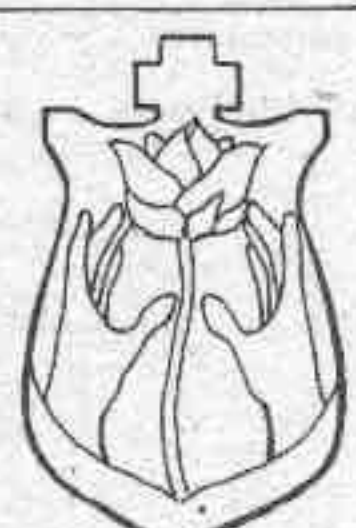


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**396-0960**  
open 7 days 8am-3pm

ORDER YOUR  
PUT YOUR POLITICS  
WHERE YOUR PECS ARE!  
**BEACHHEAD T-SHIRT**  
NEW  
FREE VENICE  
BEACHHEAD  
CHEE WAH-WAH  
UNIQUE  
\$3.50  
(INCLUDES HANDLING) BLUE ON WHITE  
SIZES S-M-L  
SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:  
P.O. BOX 504, VENICE, CALIFORNIA 90291  
NAME:  
ADDRESS:



# Mind and Body

...AN...COGITO ERGO SUM...  
...I THINK...

**HEALTH RIGHTS**  
399-7737 (Vera Davis)  
392-4177 (Alan Emkin)

**YOUTH CLINIC AND MEDICAL HELP**  
905 Venice Bl. VD, pregnancy tests, infections, abortion counseling, birth control: 4 pm - 4:45pm - for other medical help call first 821-3484

**COMMUNITY FAMILY HEALTH CENTER**  
320 Lincoln Bl, 392-4125  
M-F 6 pm - 10 pm

**FAMILY PLANNING CENTER**  
1501 Pacific Av. (at Market St)  
392-4147

**UCLA DENTAL CLINIC**  
392-4125

**VENICE DRUG COALITION**  
392-4151

**DRUG HELP**  
1. Venice Drug Clinic 392-4114  
2. Drug Hotline 392-2873  
3. Drug Emergency 393-0636

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

**BENJAMIN RUSH CENTER**  
Help for your head - 392-4905

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

**RAPE CRISIS HOT LINE**  
677-8116

**ABORTION REFERRAL**  
936-6293



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

**SERVICES REFERRAL**  
Helpline for food, clothes, counseling, etc. 399-1248  
M-F 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**FOOD STAMPS ONLY**  
10961 W. Pico Bl. 479-4421

**FOOD CONSPIRACY**  
Venice Food Coop meets every Tuesday at the Short Walk Community Center 1102 W. Washington Blvd., 8:00 p.m.

**JOB INFORMATION CENTER**  
316 Lincoln Blvd. 392-4811

## KULTCHURE

**VENICE LIBRARY**  
610 California Av. 821-1769  
M-F, 1-9 pm, Sat. 9:30 am-1 pm

**LITERARY WORKSHOPS**  
Beyond Baroque - 396-6551

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

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

**minisculous...**  
**PEACE & FREEDOM PARTY**  
396 3885

**FREE VENICE**  
226 San Juan, 396-6876

**HELICOPTER COMPLAINTS, F.A.A.**  
391-6701

**YOUR POLITICIANS**  
Councilwoman Russell  
822-2582  
Assemblyman Sieroty  
277-5955

Venice Legal Aid 392-4177



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

**CHILDCARE INFORMATION**  
Westminster Childrens Center - 396-6846

**CHILD COUNSELING CENTER**  
392-7995

**BLACKS**  
NAPP, 528 Westminster  
399-7737

**ASIANS**  
Involve Together Asians  
477-0357

**GAY LIBERATION**  
Gay Community Services Center  
1614 Wilshire Bl. 482-3062

**WOMENS SWITCHBOARD**  
388-3491  
**NATIVE AMERICANS**  
391-6067

## ...other Life

**PET PRIDE (for Cats)**  
459-1703

GAIL WILLIAMSON, CAROL RONDELLER, LINDA LUCKS, MAILING, JEAN FRIES, BARBARA TREES, BRUCE WOOD

**STAFF!**

### BEYOND BAROQUE PRESENTS:

Opening reception for drawings by John Zimmer  
Friday, Feb. 7th, 8 to 10 p.m. (open thru Mar.1)

David James and William Mohr read their poetry  
Friday, Feb. 14, 8:30 p.m.

Recital: Lenora Warkentin, Kathryn Derksen,  
Vivian Warkentin, Mark Bird, on flute, viola da  
gamba, guitar: Friday Feb. 21, 8:30 p.m.

Lee Hickman and Robert Peters read their poetry  
Friday, Feb. 28, 8:30 p.m.

Opening reception for paintings by Sarita Seid  
Friday, Mar. 7, 8-10 p.m. (thru Mar. 29)

Robert Brown and Eloise Healy read their poetry  
Friday, March 21, 8:30 p.m.

at BEYOND BAROQUE FOUNDATION  
1639 W. Washington Blvd.  
Venice, Calif.  
396-6551

ADMISSION ALWAYS FREE  
\*\*\*\*\*

## NEW VENICE MURAL

Senior citizens from Venice have joined with local artists and members of the Los Angeles Citywide Mural Project to create a large mural in the Westminster Senior Citizen Center, 1234 Pacific Avenue, Venice. The 15' x 50' panel will show scenes of the senior lifestyle in Venice and contain portraits of members of the center. Judy Baca, Director of the mural project, also worked on the murals at the Venice Pavilion and hopes this new painting will be a source of pride and beauty for the elderly. Anyone interested in helping with painting the mural, especially Venice Senior Citizens, should contact the Westminster Center at 392-5566.

By Lance Diskan, Recreation Assistant Westminster Senior Center

FREE VENICE COLLECTIVE CHANGES NAME TO "FREE VENICE SOCIALIST COLLECTIVE"

The Free Venice Collective, which began in the late sixties as the Free Venice Organizing Committee, and then was known for a time as just "Free Venice," has changed its name to the Free Venice Socialist Collective. The name change is meant to make clearer the political character of the group, and to avoid the possibility that the group might be taken to represent the whole Free Venice movement. The Free Venice Socialist Collective has no connection with other Free Venice groups, like the Free Venice Food Co-op and the Free Venice BEACH-HEAD, except that we are all products of the Free Venice movement of the late sixties.

The Free Venice Socialist Collective seems to be the only group in Los Angeles distributing reprint copies of *Prairie Fire*, the political statement of the Weather Underground that was distributed to movement groups across the country last August. Copies may be obtained for \$1.50 from the Free Venice Socialist Collective, 226 San Juan Ave., Free Venice, Calif. 90291 (396-6876).

3 bedroom house For Rent on Cabrillo Ave  
call 399-8842

Short Walk Community Center  
1102 W. Washington Blvd.  
is AVAILABLE for Community functions  
392-3750

RAINBOW PAGES  
BOX 363  
VENICE 90291  
or call  
392-2574 or  
392-9716

**ATTENTION TENANTS**  
Non-refundable cleaning deposits are illegal! for info send a post card to:  
TENANTS REFUND  
BOX 31042  
SAN FRANCISCO CA.  
94131

## The Church in Ocean Park

235 Hill Street  
Santa Monica, California

The Church is a gathering of persons of common spirit celebrating life through art, liturgy and laughter, sharing with one another, and acting on behalf of life in the political arena. We seek to build a community of concern and trust among people who are willing to risk themselves creating a country where peace and justice are priorities, where people are far more important than property, where we can share our gifts in a spirit of love and exploration.

The best time to get to know us is through the Celebration of Life on Sunday nights. Beginning around sundown with a concert, poetry reading, film or political workshop, we end by dancing to the music of Songs, the Church band. It's free, of course.

Saturday nights the Church is open to be used for benefits by community groups. There's usually something going on, and it always changes. Week-nights there are classes and workshops in everything from theater to yoga, dance to parent education.

Sunday mornings we share a contemporary worship style that may include folk music, silence, discussion along with the symbols of our tradition.

You can contact the Church with inquiries, needs for space or energy to share. Phone 399-1631.

If you would like to receive our regular notices of special events and classes, call us or come by.

### THE OCEAN PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

The Community Center is the blue and yellow building at the corner of 3rd and Hill Streets. There is a mothers' day our (free child care), tutoring, Big and Little Buddy programs, a summer day camp for kids, a crisis referral service which handles a variety of emergencies, a free food and clothes closet, and family counseling. Meeting space is available to the community.

Existing programs are being expanded into a 24 hour community service center. People are in training as counselors in crisis intervention and for the hotline. Call 399-9228 if we can assist you in meeting your needs or if you wish to join in our efforts.

### WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

The Westside Women's Center with programs working towards women's liberation is currently located at 237 Hill St. (between the Church and the Community Center). Among the groups using the Center are: Teh Rape Crisis Hotline (653-6333) which offers help and support for rape victims; Radical Therapy, an open therapy workshop which meets Monday and Thursday evenings; and a Friday night coffee house and rap session.

It is a good time to discover what's happening among women and make new friends. Consciousness raising groups begin frequently. For more information on the Women's Movement call the Switchboard: 388-3491.

INTEGRATED CAT COUPLE NEED GOOD HOME. HE IS A HANDSOME BLACK SHORTHAIRED NEUTERED MALE APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR OLD. SHE IS A DAINTY LONGHAIRED TORTOISE SHELL SPAYED FEMALE. THEY ARE MADLY IN LOVE WITH ONE ANOTHER AND CANNOT BE SEPARATED. BOTH HAVE THEIR SHOTS. THEY ARE HOUSEBROKEN AND HAVE EXCELLENT MANNERS. CALL BEA AT 821-5177.

### THE LAW OFFICE AND COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE CENTER

The Law Office is designed to handle practical law problems such as divorce, eviction and debt collection as well as community cases of political importance. The Law Office is not funded and survives on fees collected for services. Rates are low and welfare counseling is free. Phone 392-9011 Call for appointment.

### THE CHILDREN'S PLACE

The Children's Place, a day care center for children age two to eight, is open from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. weekdays. At the Children's Place each child is given full opportunity for growth of his or her own personality in an atmosphere of encouragement and approval. Activities include painting, swings, water play, story time, music participation, creative paste-up, puzzles, games, table toys and field trips. The school is non-sectarian. Phone 399-6405.

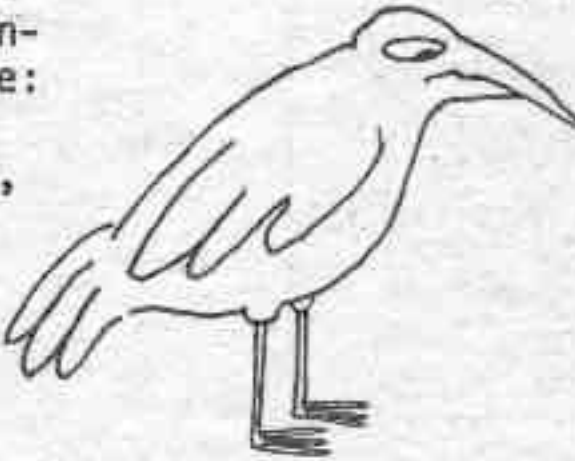
### THE OCEAN PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Civic Association is an organization of residents working to preserve a neighborhood feeling that includes all the people of this community: young adults, single mothers, elderly, and a diversity of ethnic cultures and economic levels. The Civic Association is active in Santa Monica governmental reform and planning for the beach area.

### THE PUBLIC WORKS IMPROVISATIONAL THEATER

Public Works, a professional improvisational theater troupe, consists of nine members, whose Friday night performances continue every week at the Church. The \$2.50 admission is by donation - no one is turned away. The troupe invites audience suggestions and the Monday evening improvisational workshops are open to all.

Crisis Intervention Unit  
24 hour hot line - 399-9228  
Counseling for every age, every problem. Weeknights 6- 12:00 p.m.  
Sat-Sun 6-12:00 p.m.  
Ocean Park Community Center  
245 Hill, Santa Monica



"I can't fly, but I can finger-fuck."

"THIS VENICE" an insightful exhibition of the works of Carol Quint and Carol Neiman-Margolin is on display at the California Museum of Science and Industry, February 27 through March 19, 1975 700 State Drive, Exposition Park, Los Angeles Opening reception Wednesday, February 26 at 8 p.m.

Viet Nam Veterans Against The War  
Winter Soldier Organization  
1102 W. Washington Blvd.  
396-5180



HAPPY VALENTINES DAY

# WHIZZY LUMPY

by BEDARD

