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FEBRUARY 1979 ISSUE #110 P.O. BOX 504 VENICE, CA, 90291 823-5092

# PICK A PLAN:

## pair of plans proposed at public hearing

### High Spirits Precipitous Planning



Community Plan Analysis text written by Jim Bickhart, Mo Stawnezer, Arnold Springer for the North Beach Planning Task Force



City Council of the City of Los Angeles



BY ARNOLD SPRINGER

On Tuesday night, February 6, at 7:30 pm. the Los Angeles Planning Commission will hold its final hearing on the Venice Community Plan and on two versions of the North Beach Specific Plan. It will decide which of the two Specific Plans it will recommend and forward to the City Council and ultimately to the Coastal Commission. The meeting will be held at the Venice High School Auditorium. When finally approved these documents will guide the development of Venice for the next 15 years. Anyone wishing to read and compare these plans prior to the Feb. 6 meeting can find them at the Venice Public Library on California Ave. This meeting will probably be the last one on these planning documents held in Venice, so it is a good opportunity to speak to a very important issue which will dramatically effect each and every one of us in the years to come.

The All-Venice Community Plan still contains a number of dangerous provisions, one of which is the widening of Ocean Avenue between Washington St. and Venice Blvd. City officials have insisted on this provision so they can direct heavy traffic off Lincoln Blvd. through Venice. This provision is threatening not only to the people who live on Ocean Ave (most of their front yards would be cut away), but to everyone in Venice because it would open the floodgates of traffic into our community.

#### TWO NORTH BEACH SPECIFIC PLANS

Two plans will be before the Planning Commission for the North Beach - Ocean Front Walk area. One was prepared by the North Beach Planning Task Force, a community based group (accepted by the CAC or Community Advisory Committee which prepared the All Venice Plan), the other by the Los Angeles Planning Department.

#### IMPORTANT SIMILARITIES BETWEEN PLANS

- 1) No residential construction in commercial zones, except in CA (i.e. arts/crafts) designated overlays. The CA is overlayed on and in the vicinity of Windward Ave.
- 2) New low and moderate income housing to be permitted 60 ft height, and such housing to be defined as per HUD eligibility requirements. Can be built anywhere in the Plan area along Ocean Front.
- 3) New senior citizen housing to be permitted 60 ft. height, anywhere in the Plan area. 80% of such housing must be occupied by people 62 years of age or over.
- 4) "Continued viability of pedestrian circulation system." This provision, which was meant to insure the preservation of the walk streets east of Speedway. It is a weak statement and needs to be re-enforced by people who want to save the alk streets which the City is currently threatening to open up to cars.

#### IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PLANS

Task Force Plan	City Plan
1) Requires 15% of new or rehabilitated dwelling units in residential structures over 5 units to serve elderly or low income citizens	1) omitted
2) Restrict lot consolidation to a maximum 70 ft. or 3 lots	2) Restrict lot consolidation to 4 lots or 120 feet.
3) Restrict building height from centerline of Windward or OFW to 30 feet.	3) Restrict building height from centerline of Windward or OFW to 25 feet on front 1/2 of lot and 35 feet on rear half.
4) Two stories or 30 feet on commercial and residential structures. Three stories or 35 feet on CA structures (other than senior or low income housing).	4) Three stories or 35 feet in height is permitted on all structures (other than senior citizen or low income housing).
5) Condominium conversions not permitted within Specific Plan area.	5) omitted

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## STRAND STEAL STALLED

by Brenda Harney

On January 15, 16, and 17, the State Coastal Commission met at the local Airport-Marina Hotel. Appeals of Regional Commission decisions were heard on Tuesday the 16th; the agenda for that day alone filled three pages. A number of permits in Venice were appealed (some more successfully than others) by locals who had spoken at the Regional meetings.

#### THE PLUS

Substantial issue was declared on two appeals by the Venice Town Council from the decision of the South Coast Commission granting permits to develop two of the Silver Strand lots which front on Via Dolce. These were the only two lots in a group of 11 being appealed to which existing improvements (i.e. paved streets, power and water) are immediately adjacent. These appeals then received a full public hearing, on which the Commissioners will vote at the next State meeting.

#### THE QUESTION MARK

There were no less than 9 other appeals scheduled on permits granted in the Silver Strand, from Outrigger to Reef, with 5 on Privateer alone. Staff recommended that substantial issue be declared in these appeals as well as the first 2, and at that point it became known that the applicants -- all 9 of them -- chose to withdraw from the public hearing. This series of 9 appeals will now be rescheduled, and the fate of the Silver Strand remains in limbo a little bit longer.

The Strand's history of proposed development and many appeals is long and convoluted. There is a great deal at stake. The Silver Strand is that strip of land between Via Dolce and the Ballona Lagoon, south of Washington St. It is the only vacant space left in that part of Venice, being hemmed in by the Peninsula's high

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Dear Beachhead:

The Beachhead that I receive is widely read here, and eventually finds its way to the library or to some other public place where it is available to all. I enclose \$5 to cover costs as long as it will, and would appreciate your letting me know when more is needed.

I don't have some of the issues from April until now, and would like to have them, especially because of Moe's (Stavnezer) apparent exit from the Coastal Commission beat, very important to us here too.

Best regards,

Ron Guenther  
Fort Bragg, Calif.

While purporting to represent the entire Venice community, and even pretending to itself that it does so, the Venice Town Council does in fact represent only one narrow point of view, and thus loses both its own credibility and much of its impact on City Hall and City Council!

Although the VTC appears to encourage others in the community to attend and participate, those who run the meetings are selective about who they call on to speak, and for how long. Friends, such as Rick Davidson, are called on frequently, speak at length, and sometimes make what sound very much like political speeches! Others, less favored, are often shouted down even before they complete one sentence. If they are called on at all. And if they wish to speak again are told, "You already had your turn."

Even those in agreement with the Town Council whodare to suggest new or better ways to achieve their stated goals are ignored or ridiculed... Or told, "We're not interested in that," or words to that effect.

A town council... or a city council... that ignores alternative and dissident points of view does not, and cannot, represent the entire community, and loses both credibility and respect each time it refuses to hear and consider new and different ideas.

So start paying attention to others in this community before everyone else stops paying any attention at all to you.

Gerry Goldstein

Ms. Carol Fondiller  
c/o Free Venice Beachhead

Dear Ms. Fondiller:

I was fascinated by your review of Venice Night at the Fox Venice, yet couldn't help wondering if we'd both been at the same event. Personally, I was delighted by the Harbinger Dance Theatre's amusing Roller Skate Dance, with its soft-sculptured props. I hope that the slap in your face did not leave too deep a scar.

I also hope that Vaughn Obern's incisive HEY, MAMA did not leave Adidas prints in your gut, either. My concern is prompted, not so much by your reaction, which is yours to enjoy or not, but rather that you require the film to be something other than what it was. To my mind this is asking apples to be bananas; it is opinion masquerading as criticism.

The single point your "review" makes with which I agree, is the absence of women in many of the works. You could have written an interesting, and maybe even valid, argument analyzing all the works presented that evening, in the light of this fact. You glossed rather quickly over both of the films which were made by women, Penelope Spheeris' I DON'T KNOW, and Jeanne Rosenberg's L.A. BACKWATER. This latter film you dismissed as "mawkish wistfulness" without even mentioning the name of the work; the former film you mistook for "greasy spaghetti." Your taste is clearly not in your mouth. Where it has slid I can't venture to say, but of course we were all thrill-l-l-led to read of your confrontation with "media people." Despite the fact that this event occurred years ago, it still seems fresher to you than last December 17, 1978, and still colors all your perceptions.

By the way, do you consider yourself separate from the audience when you are viewing an event? You seem a little smug in your prose, too, my dear. Does your elephant sleep in your bed?

Very truly yours,  
Thomas Ruch

January 22, 1979

The Beachhead,

We are writing you in response to your editorial in the January '79 issue "HOW TO ORGANIZE A NEIGHBORHOOD??? NEWS FROM COMMUNITAS".

There are a few points we feel are necessary to bring out:

- 1) If the abandoned house was rehabilitated to a livable condition, the likelihood of the unit being a low-income unit would be next to nil;
- 2) We did not "decide" the house was used as a lay over for burglars and other vagrants... it really did happen on a number of occasions. Did you call the Santa Monica Police and try to verify the information?
- 3) And finally, we are a neighborhood group, residents of Ocean Park, and your neighbors. We are trying to make our neighborhood a better, safer, more secure place to live. The next time you have concerns about what we are doing, contact us and let us know before making rash statements in the Beachhead.

Sincerely,

Members of the Navy Street Block Organization:

Margarita Gomez	Bob Jessup
Charles Aronovich	Iris Waskow
Steve Waskow	Joyce Fox
Isabel Lozano	Maria Cervantes

Collective response:

That there was little likelihood of the unit would remain low-income if rehabilitated still seems a flimsy reason to opt for destruction. The Communitas Newsletter, from which our article was written, contained no mention of any effort on your part either to save the house or to negotiate with its owner as to its rent structure if rehabed. Several years ago when owners wanted to tear down old, wasted houses in our Canals, they often used much the same justification, i.e. that criminal or anti-social elements were using or living in them. We seem to remember that the Venice Town Council, the Canal Area Council, and other neighborhood groups intervened, as you did. But they offered to help bring the house up to code in exchange for the owner renting it at low cost to the community for community purposes. In Venice, to the best of our knowledge, the community has always resisted any and all demolitions even if the chance that the refurbished units would remain low income was small. It seems to use that that is an elemental difference between the thrust of the Navy St. Neighborhood organization and its Venice counterparts.

We agree that "decide" was the wrong word to use in this instance. We accept as fact that the house was being used by burglars and other vagrants, as you say. The same thing was true about canal houses. But we maintain that such a fact in no way justifies your decision, and suggest that the upshot of your decision will be the exchange of one problem for another, even more dangerous one; that of creeping homogeneity, higher rents, and eventually, your own elimination from your neighborhood.

Finally, the fact that you are a neighborhood group does not automatically make you a friend or an ally in the struggle to preserve our communities. It is not who you say you are, but what you do, that determines the nature of your community politics.

## VENICE TOWN COUNCIL

City of Venice



### TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:

Wednesday, February 21 - 7:30 PM  
Venice City Hall, 681 No. Venice Blvd.

THE NEW L.A. CITY RENT CONTROL ORDINANCE - DOES IT CONTROL RENTS?

Speaker from the Tenant Action Center.

● EVERYONE FROM THE COMMUNITY IS ALWAYS INVITED! ●

COFFEE & ?

Other items on the agenda include: planning for a Forum on housing, and Coastal Commission Committee.

The Venice Town Council Coordinating Committee, which sets the agenda for the monthly Council meetings, meets the fourth Wednesday of every month at the Venice City Hall at 7:30 PM.

## FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

COLLECTIVE STAFF: Chuck Bloomquist, Emily Winters, Olga Palo, Gerry Goldstein, Brenda Harney, Arnold Springer, Wendy Reeves, Joan Friedberg. Special thanks to Dave Tappan.

THE FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published monthly 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 ad donations. The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry, art work, short fiction, or other contributions of interest to the Venice community. Please sign your name or a pseudonym. Anonymous material will not be printed but your name will be withheld on request. If return of material is desired, a stamped, self-addressed envelope must accompany it. No payment is made for material used. The Beachhead subscribes to Liberation News Service (LNS) and is a member of the Alternative Press Syndicate.

## venice night Benefits BEACHHEAD

Benefit proceeds from the December 17 Venice Night event at the Fox Venice theater were distributed to three active Venice recipients recently, including an award of \$350 to The Free Venice Beachhead. Other groups receiving money were the Venice Community Playgroup, a parent-run day-care facility, and the Venice Town Council. The announcement of the distribution of the benefit proceeds was made by Lance Diskan, Venice Night Coordinator and Manager of the Fox Venice Theater.

While the other two groups, at press time, had not yet announced how they would spend the proceeds, The Beachhead Collective has determined that it will use the benefit money to purchase long-needed supplies, in particular: storage cabinets for transfer lettering, which is used in making headlines; file cabinets for storing graphics, photographs and other printed materials; and a fund which we hope will eventually enable us to purchase a typewriter which can be used for reproduction purposes.

We hope to improve the appearance of future issues of The Beachhead and to make the production process flow more smoothly with these additions.

Members of the collective would like to thank Lance Diskan and the Venice community for their efforts on behalf of The Beachhead. As the only community newspaper which provides an open forum for the exchange of ideas, we invite all of our readers to submit press releases about your group for our Community Events page and articles on any issue you feel is important to the community.

Would you please send me your newspaper - I love it - It reminds me of the Village Voice and the Village itself - I miss it sometimes - I have enclosed \$5.00 -

Thank you,

Kim Basinger  
Woodland Hills, CA

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# Candidates' Statements for CITY COUNCIL

3

by Annette F. Robinson

Pick RONN S. PICKARD

PAT RUSSELL

I decided to run for Councilperson in this District to make good on my commitments for a new library at the Westminster Site, acoustics in the Venice Pavilion, a jogger's lane along the old Electric Avenue railroad tracks, a park on Venice Boulevard instead of a widened roadway, a senior citizens complex on Main and Rose replacing the idea of commercial buildings. In a few days I will know if I qualify. All candidates must have 500 valid signatures.

I want to share with you what I learned about the 6th District, obtaining signatures door-to-door and at the markets.

However I believe in the projects I had started, the enormous paperwork involved, I came away with a much larger opinion echoed throughout the areas: a lack of civic growth, a debilitation, a shabbiness. I learned inflation is not limited to the marketplace. Like a creeping panther, it invades the streets knocking down every inalienable pleasure in sight. When recreational facilities, cultural facilities, clean and well-lit streets, police and fire protection, health centers operate ineffectively or not at all, a further devaluation of the dollar results. Many voters spoke of cuts in facilities because of Prop. 13; as a hoax. Bunker Hill and huge corporate structures go up into the sky with no trouble at all - and, with constituent funds: taxes sliced from salaries, overpriced and inferior goods and services, alarmingly high medical and insurance rates.

Not one person mentioned street crime as if it was hopeless to complain or there were more important things to talk over. In Westchester and Playa del Rey, the airport was the issue: "bombed-out Westchester" was lamented. In Crenshaw, there were no comments or complaints. In Venice, the attitude was: Let's enjoy the sun and sand while we may, the big land developers are on the way.

I searched the faces of the voters, answered questions eye-to-eye. I met with hurry and worry, trusting smiles, laughter from every walk of life. I finished my initial bid for political office with a singular view about officials: their position is to assimilate and project the will of the majority - this world, meant for the wise, will stand or fall on decision of social justice beyond wealth or power.☆

City Council elections are being held on March 27th. This is the single greatest opportunity for the people of Venice to decide their future for the next four years. The City Council person of the sixth district must promote real and living control by the people of Venice over their own political lives.

Ronn Pickard is running for the sixth district seat and is the community's best assurance among the candidates for a future of public participation rather than a future of narrow special interest planning.

Ronn was born in Crenshaw and has been a resident of Venice for the last seven years. He attended the University of California at Berkeley between 1963 and 1969 and continues his education at Santa Monica College. He has been a painter and carpenter and is now a small businessman.

As a community activist his main interest has been the establishment of a 20th and 21st century rapid transit system that will economically, conveniently, and effectively serve the people of all Los Angeles.

Ronn has authored legislation that was introduced into the Los Angeles City Council which calls for a study to determine the amounts and forms of energy that will be available to the City through 2015.

Ronn has been a staunch opponent of the Downtown People Mover Project (DPMP) and has helped to organize the opposition to it that has consistently been heard at planning meetings and at the Environmental Impact Report hearing. The DPMP will use up \$175 million in a small downtown area and do nothing to alleviate traffic congestion, save energy, or clean our air in Los Angeles. These resources are needed for transportation developments for the City as a whole.

Public participation is the foundation of the city's future. The elected official has the responsibility to maximize the availability of information to the public so that the public can have an informed input into the decisions of the Los Angeles City Council.

In Venice the need for a fully active council district branch office is overwhelming. A close relationship between the neighborhood and city government must be reestablished to solve the problems of crime, city planning, and public services that beset this district.

Local control within the Coastal Commission guidelines must be retained here in this bastion of creativity. Frugal government is essential. Honest, open and lawful government must be an example to the community.

Ronn Pickard has the attitudes, vision and ideas derived from his roots and life in the sixth district to lead the community toward these goals and others the people determine.

He has a deep respect and appreciation for the district and the greater metropolitan area. RONN PICKARD's experience as a committed urban activist gives him the strength to pursue the best possible course into the eighties for the communities of Crenshaw, Westchester, Playa del Rey, Mar Vista and Venice.☆

Venice is a vibrant community. We can stand by and watch as forces beyond our control change it beyond recognition, or we can realistically assess the state of things and contain those forces within acceptable boundaries.

Though we often like to think of Venice as a truly unique community, set apart from the rest of Los Angeles, the truth is that our Venice has finally been discovered by the rest of California as a great place to live, something we have known for a long time. The desire of others to live in Venice and share in all it has to offer is something we cannot and should not stop.

Be we can insure that Venice's growth and development does not mean the end of its diversity and vitality; we can insure that an influx of new people does not mean a displacement of those who live here today. Venice is changing, the world is changing, and we have the capability to harness that change to our advantage.

As your representative on the Los Angeles City Council, I have a limited role in determining migration patterns, national trends in property values, or Federal housing policy. But there are some areas in which I can make a difference, with your support. They involve planning and zoning, local housing programs, local social services, and the protection of Venice's resources.

The Venice Community Plan and the North Beach Specific Plan, recently released, are examples of community-based planning efforts that can insure the retention of Venice's character and go some way in protecting the interests of its residents. That set of plans is a result of months of community involvement in the planning process. Earlier community involvement in planning and zoning led to a successful effort that rolled back the zoning on Ocean Front Walk. Without that rollback, Venice may well have become a string of high-rise hotels.

I have long fought for senior citizen and low- and moderate-income housing for families, and have met with success in that area. We have a senior citizen complex at Sixth and California and a good number of Federally-subsidized units scattered throughout Venice. My office is working hard to get adequate funding for more.

Child care has been another area of concern, and I'm happy to see that the Venice Community Playgroup is on the verge of renovating its new facilities in Oakwood, so that it will be able to provide child care for the many working parents of Venice. Now Venice's elderly and handicapped people can have the mobility many of us take for granted using the City's new Dial-a-Ride service, which provides door-to-door transportation on a demand/responsive basis.

Venice is a gold mine of historic resources. I am currently working to obtain the funding needed to preserve and rejuvenate our Canals, and I'm happy to see the City working with the Beyond Baroque Foundation to preserve our City Hall.

There is a lot to be done for Venice, and we can do it by recognizing our ability to preserve our community in this rapidly changing society.☆

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# 4 SANTA MONICA TRIES AGAIN

By the Santa Monica Fair Housing Alliance

A rent control initiative, Prop. C, will be back on the ballot in Santa Monica for the April municipal election. But the situation now is far different than it was last June when Jarvis was also on the ballot and rent control lost by about 4,000 votes.

Many renters were convinced to vote against rent control because, they were told, the Jarvis initiative would, when passed, result in lower or at least stabilized rents. Not a month after Jarvis passed people all over L.A. got slapped with rent increases. And instead of mere frustration, renters got angry. Some cities, L.A., Beverly Hills, El Monte, passed some kind of rent control law but the reactionaries who control the Santa Monica City Council staunchly resisted renters demands. In doing so they set the stage for another election. To give some idea of the mood in Santa Monica: it took 6 months to gather 13,000 signatures last year, this time it took only 6 weeks to get 9,000 signatures.

And right now we're far better organized. Last time the election was a "trial by fire" for most of us who were far more used to working on election campaigns than to organizing and running one. We're far more experienced now and this time we're going to win. Instead of only

## STRAND STALL

continued from pg 1

rise on the West and rows of 2 and 3 story apartments on the East. The knockout statistic is that the Strand is composed of some 360 individual lots.

While it may be difficult to follow what's already happened there in terms of permits and litigation, it is easy to understand the problem: the landowners want to develop their lots, the Venice Town Council and PACE want to preserve the wetlands and maintain the integrity of the land, and the Coastal Commission is mandated to preserve estuaries such as the Ballona Lagoon while allowing orderly development to proceed at the same time. These three elements -- the landowners, the appellants (VTC and PACE), and the Coastal Commission are still going round and round on this one.

### NOW FOR THE MINUS

The Commission declared that there was no substantial issue raised by the appeal of the Venice Town Council and B. Harney from the Regional decision granting permission to demolish a 1440 sq. ft. triplex at 22 Avenue 25 and construct a 2560 sq. ft. single family dwelling with detached garage, studio, and swimming pool. The appellants claimed that a report from the Department of Housing and Community Development (by which the necessity for demolition was justified) was incomplete and inaccurate.

Since only one unit had been seen by the inspector (the one unit in need of major repair) the appellants believed the report was inadequate. Further, the appellants felt the building was capable of rehabilitation. Nonetheless, the Staff recommended no substantial issue, and that's the way the Commissioners voted.

So it looks like Avenue 25 is going to change a little bit more.

### POSTSCRIPT

Well, that's what this community struggle is about, I guess. You win some and you lose some. I haven't yet begun to wonder why I play the game, but I have wondered where the other people are when only two or three Venetians show up to speak. To the Commission.

In speaking to us, the Coastal Act of 1976 says: "...the coastal zone is a distinct and valuable natural resource belonging to ALL people...it exists as a delicately balanced ecosystem and...the permanent protection of remaining natural and scenic resources...is of paramount concern to present and future residents..."

The Commission does in fact depend on hearing from present residents about what is happening in coastal communities. And the more people who participate, the better. There are rules to follow, of course, but they are not complex. And your voice CAN make a difference.

If you're interested in keeping up with what's happening at the Commission while it's happening, rather than reading about it after it's already occurred, call 590-5071 and get on the mailing list for agendas. Or call the Coastal Committee of the Venice Town Council at 399-3591 or 399-5983 to see how you can get involved.

It would be nice to see you there, and who knows -- you might even enjoy it! \*\*\*

2 groups running the show we now have a coalition Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, made up of 5 organizations; the S.M. Fair Housing Alliance, Westside CED, Democratic Club, S.M. Tenants Union and the Committee for Fair Rents. We're hoping that more will join before election day.

But regardless of being better prepared, this will not be an easy election. Last time the opposition spent over a 1/4 million dollars to flood Santa Monica with mail and defeat rent control and we expect more of the lies and distortions that this kind of money can buy in this campaign. Last year tenants were threatened by evictions and condo conversions and were intimidated by landlords from publicly working for rent control. Fear is the big stick the landlords continue to hold over renters heads.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT. A victory in Santa Monica will be a big boost to rent control and housing organizers in Venice and all over L.A. More importantly it can have a direct influence on rents everywhere in the area benefitting all renters. To volunteer call Santa Monicans for Renters Rights at 392-2715 or 392-8305 or come to the office at 205 Hill St. (near the corner of Main St.). If you can't work please send money( any amount will help) to the above. \*\*



## Tenant Writes:

Happy New Year Beachhead.

Thank you for printing my letter last month. I don't know how to start this letter, except to say, who says you can't win in Venice. They usually say, three strikes and your out, I am still in. But I am not holding my breath, could there be another strike? Four strikes and out, who knows.

Well, I won my battle with my eviction. But I am still going to move, who needs all that static, but I sure needed it to do what I did. But maybe what I did will help some one else. When you're told to move, don't back off, stick to your guns, fight with all you got. I know there are good and bad landlords. I know some of them on my street, they keep their buildings up, and you never see them bothering their tenants, only if they need something. But when you have a slum landlord, who don't care how his tenants live, who never comes around only when he wants to throw you out over his own mistakes. That's the time to stand up and show them that you have rights also. If you're poor theres help, such as tenant's rights, which helped me all the way, thanks to Sam Trasow. I also noticed they swept the streets on Windward Ave. and cleaned up some of the vacant lots around Horizon, and some of the alleys around here, since my last letter. I heard a noise at my door, I opened my door and there was one of the friendly cockroaches coming like a bat out of hell I stepped on him, I hope I stepped on the right one. (Thats a joke son.) Coming for to see if I was gone. One lady I talked to at New Pars told me they put her out, and kept all of her things. Some people are really scared. I won't say I wasn't because I was, fear of where to go, how to pay the high rents. But not to repeat myself, just remember the word is fight. It takes a lot of spunk, I always thought I was a lover, but since my ordeal, I'm a fighter. When a leopard loses his spots, hes bare, and when you lose your will to fight for whats right, you feel like you are bare, you lose all your respect for yourself, when you let someone wipe their feet on you. These landlords keep their feet clean by walking all over the tenants, anything to get an excuse to get you out. Well, all you renters keep your chins up. The sun always sets the brightest in Venice. Thank you again. Stand up and be counted....

name withheld



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# DON'T MESS WITH RUTH CLARK!

## Harassment Costs L.A. \$60,000

BY ARNOLD SPRINGER

Ruth Clark and Chuck Runker, two of the oldest vendors in Venice, have won a \$60,000 judgement against the City of Los Angeles. They sued in Federal District Court charging violation of their civil rights under the 1st, 4th, 8th, 9th, and 14th amendments, charging the City with harassment and selective enforcement of zoning, police, and health regulations. The judgement is a big victory of Venice vendors and a stinging rebuke to City officials.



Ruth and Chuck began selling used merchandise along Ocean Front Walk in the summer of 1974. They wanted to provide inexpensive, useful merchandise to the poor and elderly of Venice. Their project was successful and attracted other vendors, many from outside the community. The influx of vendors was viewed with alarm by City authorities, some residents, and even the vendors themselves, who feared that their project would be co-opted and debased.

Nearly one year later the LAPD issued a notice titled "Restrictions on Vending" which informed vendors that they had to have all City permits, including permits issued by the police, and that their vending had to be conducted "in an established business location". The open air vendors, selling from empty lots, objected because an accepted business establishment was a euphemism for a store, with four walls, doors, windows.

Organizing support in the community the vendors held a rally on March 23, 1975. Following that rally Charles Bunker, according to a brief filed in the Federal Court, was hassled by the police. He was stopped leaving a friends home, beaten, jailed, denied medical attention. False charges, later dropped, were filed against him, and bail was set at \$1,000, an amount which he could not raise. He had to remain in Venice jail for two nights. Bunker charged that his "retaliatory and unlawful beating, arrest, detention, and maltreatment violated his constitutional rights."

At the end of March Councilwoman Russell and the LAPD told the vendors that if they stayed off the sidewalks and sold on private property (with the owners permission) they would not be hassled, pending final resolution of the legality of open air vending of used merchandise.

Clark and Bunker then rented the lot at Park Ave. and Ocean Front Walk, obtained all necessary licenses, except for a Police Commission permit, which the Police refused to issue. Negotiations about this permit and discussions about whether or not open air vending was legal in Los Angeles under any conditions, dragged on for 18 months. The vendors felt they were in limbo, and being kept there willfully by the LAPD and various City agencies.

Meanwhile pressure was building to 'clean up the beach'. One Venice cop, John D'Amicus, is alleged to have boasted to a vendor that he had "cleaned up" the Canals in Venice, "cleaned up" the nude beach, and that it was his intent to "clean up" Ocean Front Walk by putting the vendors out of business.

Clark and Bunker charged in their suit that only they were being harassed by the police while other vendors were permitted to sell undisturbed. The "selective enforcement" of the law, they charged, was a violation of their civil rights. Ironically, Clark and Bunker were almost alone among vendors in actually attempting to comply with the police issued "Regulations". Continuing harassment met with continuing persistence on

## Fights Eviction In Ocean Park

BY ARNOLD SPRINGER

The Maryland apartments on Hollister Ave. in Ocean Park were built circa 1910. The structure contains 18 smallish units, 6 one-bedrooms and 12 singles. Ruth Clark has lived in The Maryland for the past seven years but is now on the verge of being evicted.

Last year Ruth went to court against the then owner Mark Frank, charging that he had not kept his building in proper repair and had not corrected serious building code violations. She was so incensed that she had withheld her rent payments for two years. Mr. Frank had tried to evict her but Ruth went to court. The outcome was unexpected - Ruth won. The court ruled that Ruth could not be evicted, that she did not have to pay rent until the building was brought up to code.

Then, in September of 1978, Frank sold The Maryland to his attorney, the infamous Rosario Perry of Santa Monica. Mr. Perry is celebrated in Santa Monica and Ocean Park as the object of a rent strike against a building he owns on 2nd and Arizona. He had informed the tenants there that he planned to evict them so he could change the building use from residential to commercial. The outraged tenants fought back. They created MATA (Moss Apartment Tenants Association) and went into court. They won an injunction against eviction and they are in the process of fighting Perry at every step; in the courts, at the Coastal Commission, and before the Santa Monica authorities. So far they have been very successful and have halted Perry's project dead in its tracks.

In June of 1978 our sister paper the Santa Monica Evening Outlook ran an article devoted to Mr. Perry and his activities. It was meant to be a tribute. It contained the following interesting bits of information: Perry combined "a sense of profit with a sense of community". He was a real estate speculator who had concluded that Santa Monica and Ocean Park were great "places to live, but out of the price range of younger people". (He did not mention the poor). "This city" (Santa Monica) said Perry, "offers the perfect compromise of a small town with the opportunity to do something worthwhile (sic!) says bachelor Perry, as he concocts an elaborate, old-world Italian omelette as rich as his taste



the part of the vendors, who were determined not to be run off the beach.

Then, in October 1976, Ruth Clark was arrested, handcuffed, and taken to jail for selling a 25¢ magnifying glass to an elderly woman. She was selling from a private lot with the owners permission. Clark subsequently charged the police with violation of her civil rights on the grounds that she alone of all the vendors was being continuously singled out for such treatment.

After her arrest, Clark and Bunker charged that the police mounted a campaign to discredit them among fellow vendors, spreading the rumor that if the police came down on other vendors, it was because Clark and Bunker had turned them in. They charged that the police purpose was to "turn the vendors and residents" of Venice against them, to isolate them within their own community, thus weakening their ability to continue their struggle.

As a consequence of these events Clark and Bunker went to Federal Court asking that the LAPD and other City agencies be enjoined from further harassment and interference, asked the court to find that their civil rights had been violated, and that they be financially compensated for these violations. However even though a temporary injunction was issued, the harassment continued.

The court test began in April 1978 and was concluded last month. The court ruled in favor of Clark and Bunker, awarding them damages of \$60,000. The City was also required to pay all legal fees. It has appealed the decision.

Ruth has not been selling on her lot recently but she invites all people who want to sell new or used merchandise at a 'garage sale' on the lot to contact her. The number is 392-6703.

"I never wanted to be an entrepreneur" says Ruth. My idea was and still is to have a recycling center here in Venice for Venice people; to clothe those who cannot afford new clothes, to put used things to good use, not to waste them. "The two years I spent selling used merchandise on the Park Ave. lot were the happiest years of my life." Ruth would like to be able to pick up where she left off and to contribute to the solidarity of the community which she loves.



for such exotica as the 1967 Ferrari GTB he enjoys tooling around the city in looking for things that look pretty, as he describes his operating procedure in real estate."

"Santa Monica property values have gone crazy, he says with a sense of pride. It's easy to make money here. That's satisfying. You have to make a great mistake to lose money."

This is the self-professed community spirited man who took The Maryland off the tired hands of his client, old Mr. Frank, in September of 1978. Residents of the building report that he paid \$330,000 for it.

In pursuit of profits and glory Perry began to make changes in the building. For starters-rent increases. Prices for the singles went up from \$120 to \$185-200. One Bedrooms went up from \$160 to \$325. They were asking \$450 for the apartment with a third story ocean view.

There were other changes. Mr. Frank had done some re-wiring but the tenants insist that the job was half-baked, with new wiring outside being connected to old wiring inside. Still, it passed City inspection. According to tenant reports nothing was done to the plumbing, one tenant having to forgo a functioning toilet for one month until the repair crew got around to it.

Put Perry had other plans for cleaning up the building. All tenants with pets got eviction notices. Some tenants moved, others agreed to pay the higher rents. Ruth Clark charges that those tenants who agreed to the higher rents were permitted to stay in the building - with their pets. On December 8, new tenants rented a one bedroom, and moved in with a dog and a cat.

For her part Ruth refused to pay her rent, claiming that the building still had not been brought up to code, that it had been cited for continuing violations, and that the original court order was therefore still in effect. Four other tenants in the building stood together with her. They received eviction notices. They went back to court.

A different Santa Monica judge heard the case this time, and he ruled against the tenants. The judgement against Frank did not apply to the new owner Perry, he said. All tenants would have to pay rent according to the new schedules, get rid of their pets, or get out of the building.

Ruth and the others were stunned by the decision. But they plan to appeal, with the aid of the Westside Tenants Action Center of Venice.

Ruth is still full of fight and hopes that she will manage to win her case and stay on in the Maryland. But she has a gripe with many of her fellow tenants. When asked if the tenants had united and planned any collective action, she replied: "The tenants here are not together. They are all afraid they will get eviction notices if they stand with the five of us against Perry. They try to make secret deals, hide their animals, pay the rent increases, buy time."

"A lot of people just don't want to get involved" said Bill Alsop, one of the tenants who is fighting Perry. "They'll tell you 'I hope you guys win. I'll join you if it looks like you're going to win.'" Why the lack of spunk from the majority of the Maryland apartment tenants? "They have no backbones" says Ruth.

Ruth Clark however is not about to give up. She is depressed by the passivity and defeatism of her fellow tenants, but swears that she will continue to struggle. If more Venice tenants had Ruths courage and determination, perhaps the wave of evictions in this community could be stopped. In the meantime tenants report a rumor that the building is again on the market, this time for \$600,000. ■ ■ ■

## CONFRONTING U.S. IMPERIALISM:

## IRANIAN STUDENT SPEAKS

by ED PEARL

American imperialism, not a faraway thing after all, came very close to home last month with the Iranian demonstrations in Beverly Hills, and with an American demonstration in Beverly Hills in support of the Iranian students which I and a number of others from Venice took part in.

So many people are asking why the Iranians are bringing their quarrels to the United States that I decided to put these questions, in an interview for the BEACHHEAD, to Mina Azad, a friend of mine and a spokesperson for the Iranian Students Association.

There is so much to know about Iran, so many questions to ask. But for reasons of space I concentrated on questions about America's relationship with Iran and the effects of this relationship on the Iranian people.

ED -- Mina, why did the Iranian students decide to demonstrate in Beverly Hills?

MINA -- We demonstrated because the Shah and his family are very much hated by the Iranian people and because they are here. But also we feel it is right to demonstrate in this country because basically Iran is an American colony. For all these years the U.S. government and news media all covered up what was happening in Iran. We feel that once the American people know what is going on, how it affects us and how it may affect them, they will not want it to continue, would not support it.



ED -- In what way is Iran a colony of the United States?

MINA -- To answer that we have to answer why there are 50,000 American advisers in Iran, why there was a CIA coup in 1953, why the U.S. created SAVAK in 1956.

Nineteen fifty-three was about the time Britain was being moved out as the main imperialist power in the Middle East and the U.S. was moving in to replace it. To control Iranian oil production the U.S. had to overthrow the popularly elected democratic government of Mohammed Mossadegh, which had nationalized the oil industry. Mossadegh was in power for two years. After Mossadegh nationalized the oil Shah asked him to abdicate -- and Mossadegh agreed! But masses of people mobilized in support of him, he changed his mind, and the Shah fled to Rome.

Three top level Americans then came to Iran to head up a CIA operation -- Kermit Roosevelt, Roy Henderson, and Gen. Schwartzkopf. They spread millions of U.S. dollars around the lumpen elements -- basically thugs -- who would attack the demonstrations in support of Mossadegh. Henderson visited the Shah's sister Ashraf in Rome. Princess Ashraf has a reputation of being a very shrewd, very ruthless businesswoman; she is the brains in the family, she is the tough one. Two days later the coup overthrew the government and Mossadegh was arrested.



In that same year, 1953, the CIA also overthrew the democratic government in Guatemala. The former Director of the CIA, Helms, admitted both these operations in public testimony. When he gave that testimony Helms had already left the CIA and was U.S. Ambassador to Iran.

Now, even though the Iranian oil industry is "nationalized" on the surface, it is really controlled by foreign corporations -- the international oil consortium known as "The Seven Sisters" [the seven largest oil companies in the world, five American, one British, one Dutch].

ED -- You say "the U.S. created SAVAK," Mina. What is SAVAK?

MINA -- SAVAK is the Iranian secret police, which was set up by the CIA in 1956, just as they have set up secret police in their other Third World colonies. The famous agent Witrone was killed by the Tupamaros when he was an American adviser to a secret police torture operation in Uruguay.

Because of the way the Shah came to power he had to rule with repression. He did away with the law and the constitution. He became the law and the constitution. For instance, he designed and passed a law overnight in 1974. It said that any opposition to the monarchy consisting of two or more persons would be sentenced to life imprisonment. Another law was the one that said membership in an organization could carry 3 to 10 years in the Shah's dungeons. Later on he also banned the multiparty system and created his own Rastakhiz Party. Membership of every Iranian in this neo-fascist party became mandatory.

The presence of the nightmare was actualized with the help of SAVAK. With the power invested in it by the Shah the SAVAK became not only the law of the land, but the execution and jurisdiction of the law.

SAVAK is estimated to hold 25,000 to 100,000 political prisoners. Extraction of fingernails, insertion of bottles, rape and mutilation, were and are common practices of SAVAK.

A few years ago a massive campaign was started of house to house search. Attacks were made at early hours of dawn and searches carried on for what was called

subversive material. This could be any book containing the name of Marx or Lenin regardless of its political content, if any -- any book of a progressive writer. Even some books of poetry and children's stories could fall under the subversive category and the owners arrested. Some were imprisoned for ten years for possession of these books.

Words cannot describe fully the kind of oppression in Iran. If one has not experienced this kind of repression, it is extremely difficult to understand the feeling. It was precisely this feeling which had led to extreme pessimism, nihilism, frustration, and anger. This is why finally millions of people demonstrated in the streets to get the Shah out.

American police have given SAVAK a free hand to operate in this country. For instance, we have a photograph of a SAVAK agent with his gun out shooting at someone during the demonstration in Beverly Hills.

ED -- You have nothing but bad things to say about the Shah, Mina. But wasn't he responsible for land reform? Didn't he at least try to improve the conditions of the poorest people?

MINA -- That is the impression that the U.S. government and news media try to give, but the truth is otherwise.

In 1963 there were a series of land reforms under the so-called "White Revolution" package handed down by Kennedy's administration to a number of Third World colonies like Iran. One purpose was to defuse peasant unrest. Another purpose was to expand capitalist relations into the countryside. The govern-

ment got land from landowners free and then sold it to the peasants -- but this gave an opportunity for a lot of people with money to get in and buy the best parts of the land.

These wealthy ones with large land holdings went into agribusiness, but the agribusiness was not successful. The country was self-sufficient in terms of foodstuffs up until '63 (the main crop is wheat and other cereals, with tea and rice in the north). But after 1963 Iran became dependent on imports of food; now 75 to 90 percent of foodstuffs have to be imported. The poorest peasants were finally obliged to give up the land and were forced into the cities, where they became workers, or unemployed.

The country was facing a crisis which was only avoided by the increase in oil prices starting in 1970. This presented the prospect of abundance for the country, but this prospect soon proved false, because so much of the money went back to the U.S. to purchase arms. There are charts that show that each year almost exactly half of the oil income is spent on U.S. weapons.

With these arms Iran has become a U.S. policeman in the Middle East. There is a lot of unrest in the repressive countries on the other side of the Persian Gulf, and the Iranian army and air force have been used in putting down popular uprisings in Arab countries like Oman. The Iranians were chosen for this, among other reasons, because we are not an Arab people.

ED -- How has all this affected the everyday lives of Iranian people?

MINA -- Well, as I said, masses of peasants were driven into slums in the cities. The middle class was facing a crisis of inflation, and of distribution of commodities. In Tehran on one day you couldn't find onions, the next day you couldn't find potatoes, and like that. This may seem like just an inconvenience, but it has become so pervasive that it has made life seem very precarious. The repression and corruption were reaching a suffocating degree. In '63 a law was passed giving Americans immunity from the law. There were mass demonstrations against this, which Khomeini led. The reason he is so popular is that he has taken a strong anti-imperialist stand since very early.

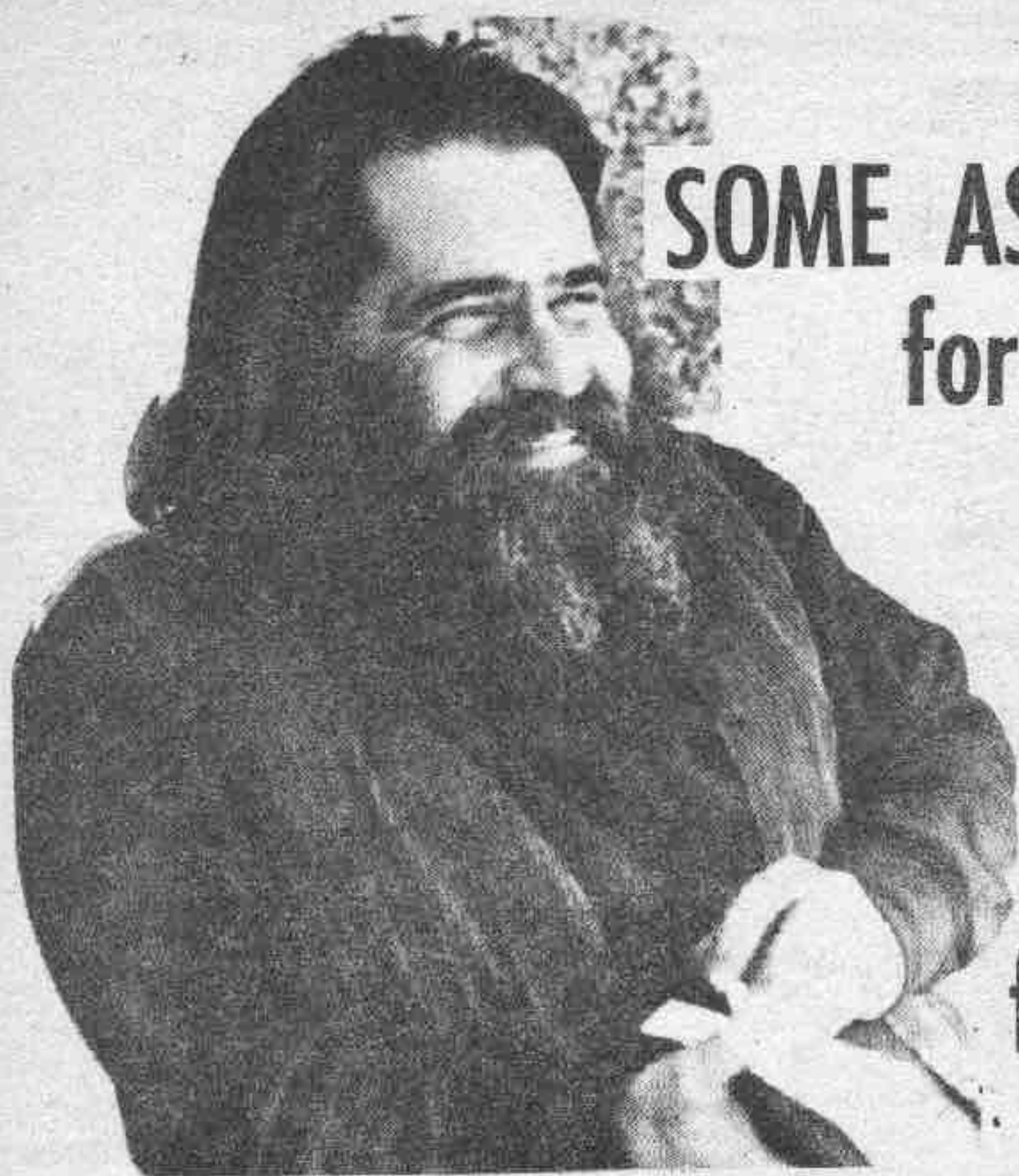
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# SOME ASPECTS OF PRISON for FRANK RIOS

Excerpts  
from a long poem

by STUART PERKOFF

## 5) The Human Flow

the people are here because the machine is hungry/ tho they know no more of this than do their guardians/ not knowing, they must, as tho they knew/ survive. or not survive. it is known some survive/ (perhaps all are not equally appetizing where there are so many the machine need not be gluttonous)

the history of this crowd of food/ is hidden/ as are the histories of the priests, the words, the machine itself/ but the machine has the solidity of its own structure/ the continuity of their functioning contains the guardians/ the humans in their rhythms feed, but do not remember/

there is an immediate recognition of danger/ no man knows, as he walks/ who next will be stricken, blinded, maddened/ minds are withered, bodies broken, souls plucked out/ seemingly at malicious random/

the disputes at this level/ are not over names/ but over theories of effective action/

if seven left leg limpers/ were spared under the half-moon/ while sixty-one others were devoured/ the left leg limpers acquire manna/

there is a great body of such beliefs/ all magical in intension/ they permeate the herd like seasoning/

& none are reliable. some survive./ cd he sing? more song appears. & then/ the singers are taken was he servile? the boots of the guardians/ shine brite under the slobber tongues/ then three out of four footsuckers are taken/

was he repentent? comes forth numerous sinners, loudly wailing/ & all the saved, the safe ones, are taken/

most find they are forced to depend on/ quick footwork, peripheral vision, alertness, an ear for the rhythms/ they find little security. most of them, also the machine eats/

in all its history of unbroken feeding/ no portion of that flow has discovered/ & passed on any awareness/ of what they bring to that machine/ the humans in their rhythms feed, but do not remember/

not knowing they are machine-food/ they blame the priests & guardians/ who, not knowing they are only machine-feeders no matter what they name their rituals/ blame the animals they herd/

the machine knows no concern with definition/ its only interest is that its needs be met/ a constant flow of humans is ingested •



Whenever anyone asks me about Stuart i automatically become filled with so much of him. The Poet, the friend, The Teacher, Venice his home; so filled with the magic of the poem.

"Some Aspects of Prison" was written in Terminal Island, the same time i wrote "A Piece of Flight" & i mean the same time, him in the broomcloset & me on the shitter madly writing our visions thru the nite, & always the keys & footsteps of the Guard interrupting the flow of visions that were dancing in our heads, leaping back & forth into bed. Knowing the flow of the poem was constant we were both locked within the flow of our Muse's vision.

& not so strangely it's the one time Stuart asked me to help him find a way to end the poem, tie it together (he knew it was all there & i'm sure he would have found it) but he came to me & i read it & saw how & he took my advice which makes me feel much closer to this poem than the many others that roam in the heart of my head.

Postscript:  
Stuart left Terminal Island & went to Chino not Soledad. (he was doing five yrs. for the State too, the time was running together) where he stayed about six months before he got out, is the only mistake in Joe Maizlish's article "Stuart Perkoff Remembered" in last month's issue.

Yeah Joe:  
remembered & alive  
as long as  
the poem lives.

respectfully

Frank T. Rios

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## SEEKING SACRAMENTO SUPPORT 7

January 10, 1979

Bill Press  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Bill,

A letter to Governor Brown is circulating in Venice concerning the attempts by the City of Los Angeles to take over the permit process from the Coastal Commission and to categorically exclude Venice, San Pedro, Pacific Palisades and Playa del Rey from even that permit process.

I am writing to you in response to that letter because I feel strongly about those issues and because we are both indirectly named in it. Since I was the "someone among us" to arrange housing for "your people" through my friend and your colleague, Amy Collis, I feel it necessary to answer to my community. Because I helped find housing and babysitting for aides of the Governor, my integrity as a long time community activist is being questioned.

It is rumored in the community that the Governor wants the city to be appeased at all costs, so his future support will be assured. I certainly hope that the City of Los Angeles does not take over the permit process and/or worse, categorically exclude the aforementioned communities from even the permit process! And I certainly hope that Governor Brown, and you as his representative, consider those communities worth fighting the city about. The city wants them.

The Coastal law was written to protect the coast. Venice is "a unique community worthy of preservation" under that law.

The City of Los Angeles is unresponsive to small coastal communities like Venice and has historically been so. Not only is the city unresponsive, it is clumsy.

I am confused about the city's latest "moves". I'm confused because, having finally mastered the existing Coastal Commission procedures, they are much too quickly changing and I am in danger of losing what little controls I have been able to exercise over the destiny of my own community. I mistrust the city's ability to properly apply and enforce the permit process at all, although I've been assured by Tom Moran in Mrs. Russell's office that local coastal guidelines would prevail over the city.

But to categorically exclude "urban areas" such as San Pedro and Venice, would be the same as letting bulldozers run rampant and inviting condo developers in with open arms. Individuals like myself who have, for years, on our own time and at our own expense, endeavored to preserve both the physical and social ecology of Venice, would have our only due process removed -- the appeal process at the Coastal Commission.

I have personally traveled to San Francisco and San Diego to speak before the State Commission, when as is always expected, our local South Coast Regional Commission votes for virtually every development. So, I think how important the appeal process is, and I shudder to think of losing it.

We want to preserve the racial and economic diversity of our community, so we seek low income housing in order that some of the less affluent members of our community may remain here. We haven't stopped the escalating of property values, so we ask for some low income units. We ask for height, bulk and density limitations and adequate parking spaces. We rarely object to development of single family houses or duplexes, so I can understand categorically excluding those types of development. But certainly, not all private development controls!

City zoning regulations applied to Venice and San Pedro would significantly change the visual character of those communities. A 28'

(Cont. on page 13)

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## REMAINING VENICE

Kneeling in the field  
one last piece of freedom  
remaining Venice I dont go home

HOME IN VENICE SLICED THIN  
I AM A CHARLIE SANDWICH  
ONE ON EACH SIDE ROYAL PALM ON LETTUCE HOLD THE MAYO HOME

backyard peach cemetery  
sticks to my birkenstocks  
flies on fruity corpses  
buzzing up the courts up figs  
and babcocks home

Ophelia would have wished for such another death  
soft afternoon skin sweet stench of light  
delicious death swollen delivered rotten fruit  
no matter  
earth to earth she is received.

I dont go home.  
Instead I go to the laundramat.  
I only think I need to go home

BACK STREET PIPE DREAM  
IVORY BLONDE LONG-LEGGED SUNTAN ROLLER SKATER  
SWEET WHORE VENICE HOME

I buy two extra boxes of All for the sheets and towels.  
I want them really clean.  
I think to take an enema when I get home

HOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP  
I PRAY THE LORD MY SOUL TO KEEP WAKING  
HAIR FALLING LONG ON THE PILLOW

home the vague  
photo browning at the edges  
Atlantic City toast and jam  
my mother's open-toed alligator pumps  
four-no-trump to jitterbug the Boardwalk  
I Do Not Live In Marvin Gardens  
purple toenails lips and sand

behind the laundramat  
hilly illusion of Everest  
two steps and im up. I sit down.

traffic going nowhere but home  
you'd think passing by  
its just another empty topsoil/dumphill/ten foot high lot  
hot steal at four mil  
LA smoothie tight white disco suit gold chain  
white shoes cigar white Lamborghini  
buy it up quick profit home

wild the grasses plantain chicory home grown Venice  
yellow daisies empires of ants  
isnt anyone going to tell them its time to move home  
close that one joe its over fill the hole

rich brown virgin/flat/good for farming soil  
spoons and safety pins are bones of these dead  
caterpillar claws mark the grey soul  
simple as forgotten weeds i weep.

and its not really anything this field  
a certain way the light falls  
a shadow an unexpected turn in the road  
a voice remembered a dream

this is no dream Laertes  
my bones, the bones of these dead  
a place to lay me down home

Im tired.  
I dont want to go anywhere else.  
not now.  
Home's the best place to be Toto.

kneeling in the field  
one last piece of freedom  
remaining Venice I dont go home. home. i am home.

I fold the towels first.

--Morgan Alexander



Photo credits clockwise from right:  
birds & Santa Monica Shores - from  
Beachhead Archives (anon); pier  
pilings - J. Bickhart; Westminster  
pagoda after rain - W. Reeves.



## THE GREY PANTHER SNARLS

Look here you young bastards  
keep your mouth shut  
when you chew bubble gum  
it's all over your face

and don't look at me that way!

if I never knew you  
it's because  
you never made the slightest effort  
to know me.

-- G. Ridley

There is a silent coercion that comes  
from inside, that comes  
from outside,  
that comes from nowhere.

The silent coercion that  
drives you insane,  
that steals your  
life from you.

The silent coercion that you  
find hard to grasp,  
find hard to distinguish  
from yourself.

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1948 is ancient

Now that you're  
and can see the  
knowing your  
and that once

Any day now you  
the skin well  
the sheer well  
three decades  
45 years of ex

Cheer up. You  
You already know  
are only proto  
of what is real  
and nothing is  
created nor de  
nor lost nor i  
the books alwa  
the gain is in  
needed for the  
from this unne



## SIC TRANSIT

Tell me - how do Cities move away  
What magic potion do they quaff  
To be gone  
And how do they  
Suddenly replace themselves  
Suddenly with some new and  
Unfamiliar place and foist  
Themselves as still being  
Who they used to be

Justany Avenue, you who wound  
All swathed in trees and green  
and Cricket calls  
What precept did you flaunt  
To rouse the Sorcerer's Ire  
Surely magic was invoked  
To bring you to your knees

In this strange City I a stranger  
Now - as alien to it as it to me  
Walk sadly as does one whose  
True Love's flown away  
Gone with that younger Love  
And young Love's laughter  
Strange metamorphosis  
I find a Mistress in my arms  
With whitened skin, with painted  
Hollow eyes - I feel no joy in  
What I strive to treasure  
Tell me now how do Cities move away

-- Randy Rexford



## THE CROCODILES LOUNGING IN THE CALIFORNIA SUN

In the lobby lounge or restaurant  
how awful to see a dowagers hump  
looks better on a camels rump  
they sink deep within their seats  
as the indolence of age assails them  
with an ease so precious  
they cannot speak.  
Cosmetically preserved  
with tints and glazes  
imagination no longer in their gazes  
outlived husbands one by one  
these crocodiles  
lounging in the california sun  
grown old with terrors  
they cannot gauge  
there's no more love and no more rage  
for these reptiles  
who live in the moment  
from breath to breath  
dare not slacken  
for fear of death  
embalmed in pensive odds and ends  
aimlessly awaiting their separate ends.

-- G. Ridley

## Commitment From the Heart

She's got me starring in a comedy  
(I qualified so quickly for the role);  
Her play is rich in heavy irony;  
I dig my character, and know his soul;  
He guards the mail at noon, the phone at night;  
Expects commitment from her any hour;  
He doesn't realize she takes delight  
In egotistical displays of power.  
Of course, the audience already sees  
He can't accept inside what's going on;  
She had some laughs, she left, he's on his knees;  
He'll hope and pray until the break of dawn.  
Still waiting for commitment from her heart,  
I sigh, convert my loneliness to art.

-- Daniel Biskar

Well, I'd rather be sailing,  
I'd rather be flying,  
I'd rather they all say they'd be.

But the truth of it is  
That they drive to their work  
With a sticker that says they are free.

And a paper freedom that rides on a bumper  
In front of a truck or a car  
That smells all the fumes  
From the road that they ride  
That's the kind of freedom they are.

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## THE RISING

All things in moderation - hence  
The world shall lose its common sense  
But all but what is left to be  
Has etched upon our memory  
The scars of blighted, trouble time  
And words, but all in pantomime  
Most of those who utter sound  
In awe of all that is around  
Pushforth tales of progress made  
Unheard are all the hopes that fade  
Blown every day like wind and sand  
In wait of what shall save the land  
They ask: In all this moderation  
What have you there to free our nation?

-ADSLA-  
8/24/78



history

over the hill  
drain on the other side,  
st years are behind,  
the apple a pear --

surface will collapse,  
are now drying up.  
of the ages -  
all -  
experiences.

only begun.  
these bodies  
asmic carriers  
y important,  
the universe is  
royed,  
nd.  
balance.  
pirit and intellect  
real task of liberation  
y-go-round.

-- Steven Evans

# WORK PROGRAM DOESN'T.

By Rick Davidson

The following article is a letter sent by the author to the Los Angeles City Council and The South Coast Regional Commission, expressing his ideas which were presented at a public hearing on the Work Program on December 28, 1978.

I want to reiterate the ideas and concerns that I voiced at today's public hearing on the Work Program of the Local Coastal Program.

I. Public Meetings: Even though you, the City Council, have already voted for the program, I am still in agreement with the gentleman from the Pacific Palisades in that there is a need for more public input, i.e., more meetings held in those communities directly affected.

II. Public Input: This has always been a major problem concerning planning "for" Venice. The problem is how to get "input" before the plans are created. I understand that the plans are labeled "preliminary" on the theory that they can be modified based on "input" from the community. As an architect I know too well how difficult it is to change preliminary plans once they've been committed to paper. That's why it is so important to gather the information (input) prior to the beginning of the design process prior to the creation of the "preliminary" plan.

III. Meaningful phrases: The Work Program has many wonderful sounding words and phrases, such as, "There are efforts to maintain the older, diverse housing to insure the availability of senior citizen and low-and moderate-income housing." page 26 and "...use of public owned lands in the area to provide needed moderate-income housing has frequently been proposed and should be investigated." page 26;

and on page 49:

"The study is essential to the identification of needs, desirability, and means for preserving and enhancing low-and moderate-income housing."

The above quotes look good on paper, but our experience in Venice is that such high sounding ideas seldom see the light of reality. In fact, the quote from page 49 is revealing: "the desirability..." as if there's any question. Part and parcel of the question of "desirability" is the emphasis being placed on "moderate-income" rather than "low-income" housing. This translates into white housing over minority housing, in other words, the continuation of institutionalized racism in LA's housing patterns. The Venice Town Council, from its inception, has been on record for supporting minorities' right to remain in Venice (and be part of its future as well as its past.)

IV. Scale: Part of Venice's uniqueness is related to its scale, i.e., most of its buildings are small in size

and details. Given the realities of a poor community, this is one of the facts of life. The forces that are transforming Venice into a high rent district at the expense of its low-income residents relate to this scale. The majority of new residents refuse to live in the existing old houses that are only 800, 1000 or 1200 square feet in area. Their living style requires homes of 2200, 2400, 2600 square feet and up. The obvious result is the demolition of the existing "cottages" and the construction of larger and more expensive houses. How can this process be stopped? It must be if those wonderful phrases in the work program are to have any meaning.

Another aspect of the scale of Venice is the street pattern. The problem is referred to on page 25, "The land use and street design creates problems for parking, traffic circulation and beach access on peak summer weekends." This is a misstatement of the problem, i.e., it's the automobile that is the problem, not the street layout. Since the 1960s we have been suggesting that Venice and similar areas of LA (Westwood, Downtown, South Central, LAX, etc.) should be surrounded by parking structures, closed to the auto, and low-powered means of transportation used to create areas free from automobiles. We have claimed that once such "auto free" centers were developed, they could be connected by the long-awaited rapid transit system voters desire yet refuse to pay for until a logical plan is offered.

V. Local Industry: The work program fails to address the question of local industry. The Beverly Hills of America may not want "industry" in their communities, but the Venices of America realize that they are healthy for working class communities. Along with the mad rush for larger houses is the movement to "upgrade" the industrial areas of Venice to more expensive and acceptable commercial areas. Venice needs local industry and it should be given consideration in the program.

VI. The Challenge: Residents of Venice have always felt that Venice's problems reach far beyond Venice, 90291. They are the same problems found in every urban area of America. Because Venice is small in size with a mixed community (symbolic of the melting pot that US of A is supposed to be) willing to work toward solving the problems that affect them directly and indirectly affect the entire city, state and country, it offers a great opportunity to politicians willing to accept the challenge. At the same time, those same residents refuse to accept their "relocation" as the only solution and will continue to fight such a "final solution" with every means available.

History offers us a chance to reach into the future, to change it, to improve it. We have the chance to create the America we claim to have. If we fail to try, that will be our greatest crime. ●

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## PAIR of PLANS continued from pg 1

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 6) Second hand sales and vending shall be permitted on any vacant lot with consent of owner.   | 6) omitted |
| 7) The Coastal Permit Unit of the L.A. City Planning Dept. shall insure the application of all specific plan provisions to carry out the intent of the Specific Plan.                    | 7) omitted |
| 8) Los consolidation of up to 120 feet is permitted when extra or leased parking spaces are made available to the public equal to 80% of the existing spaces eliminated by construction. | 8) omitted |

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VENICE 396-5559

# IRAN

continued from pg.6

# The Seed Beneath the Snow

Reprinted from Seven Days, 8 December 1978, Vol. 2, No. 18, with permission.

ED -- Were people aware the Americans were making all the money and training the secret police?

MINA -- Oh sure. People know what's going on. For instance, in '72 my brother-in-law graduated with an M.A. in aeronautical engineering, and was making the equivalent of \$1,000 a month. In Iran at the time that was not bad, but it was not enough for him to have his own apartment, only enough to eat and have a car. He had to live with his parents. Meanwhile his boss, an English guy, was making ten times, no, twelve times as much -- \$12,000 a month, with the same qualifications.

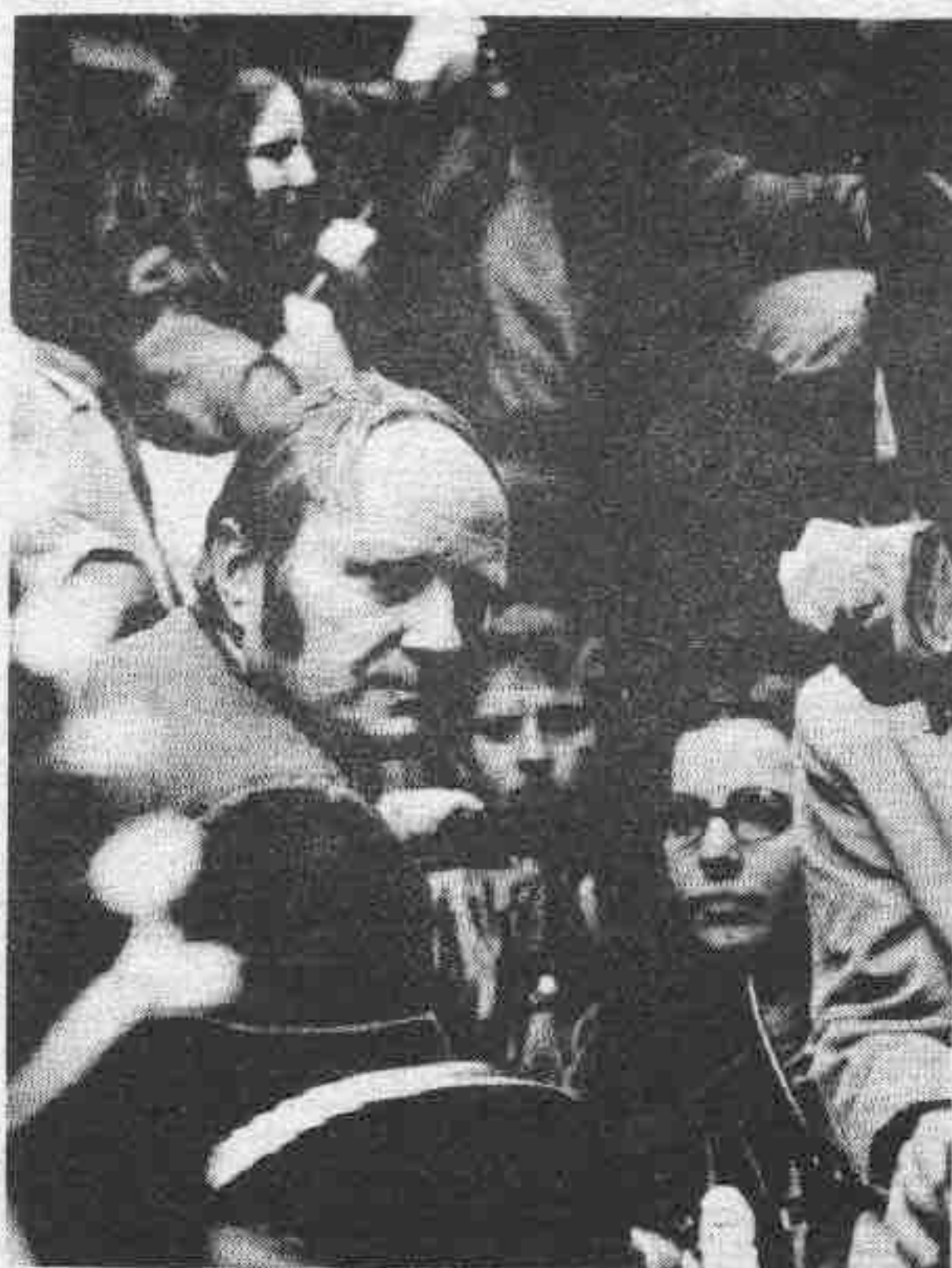
If you were in business you had to pay tribute. Whatever company was doing good had to pay 10 percent to the Shah or to the Pahlavi Foundation, or give them a share in the business. [The Pahlavis are the Shah's family.]

ED -- Why do people hate the Shah so much? Why blame it all on one individual man?

MINA -- Well, to begin with, let me say that if the Shah's out of power I think it would be stupid to go on demonstrating against him if he comes here. I am against any demonstration in Palm Springs for instance.

But every family in Iran has had somebody killed or tortured or imprisoned by this government, and this Pahlavi family is responsible for that. Even in his last days he was like a wounded beast. In the south, near Ahwaz, the troops arrested truckloads of demonstrators, took them out to the desert, made them dig their own graves, and buried them alive. Didn't even shoot them first. In Qazvin people were lined up in a long line to buy kerosene, and the troops drove past and machinegunned them all, children and women and men.

We have a tape from a nurse in a hospital in Qazvin who is crying, she is asking the interviewers not to leave, because she knows that when it gets dark the soldiers will come in the night to take people out of the hospital and kill them. ~~\*\*\*~~



MICHAEL ABRAMSON

BY DAVE DELLINGER

*"O wind, if winter comes can spring be far behind?"*  
—Percy Bysshe Shelley

As a New Englander by birth and addiction, I am acutely aware that hot summers are followed by crisp autumns, snow-filled winters and the annual miracle of spring. And as one committed since the Great Depression of the thirties to the proposition that Americans deserve a better society than the one we have, I have learned that the struggle for change is not won or lost every time it enters a new season.

In the sixties, as in the thirties, masses were in motion and it was natural to hope for imminent, healing Revolution. Today, as in the fifties, many of the most vital activities are neither outwardly dramatic, massive nor unified. It may well be, however, that changes going on in the people's heads, hearts and lives are preparing them for new struggles that will be better rooted and more successful than those of the sixties. But if we listen to the experts who live high off the hog by telling us who we are and why we act as we do, we are apt to overlook that possibility and succumb to unjustified feelings of permanent defeat and powerlessness.

In the early, lonely years of last decade's struggles for civil rights, civil liberties (against McCarthyism and its remnants) and against the war in Vietnam, the experts favored by the media said that the activists were a hopeless minority of dupes and misfits, wittingly or unwittingly serving The International Communist Conspiracy. Later, when the anti-war movement began to grow, people of every age who conscientiously opposed military aggression and genocide found themselves described as a generation of Spock-spoiled brats who were really in revolt against their parents. But by then people in danger of being intimidated by such learned opinion were able to gain reassurance from the massive demonstrations that showed that hundreds of thousands, if not millions, shared their dissatisfactions and hopes.

Now we are in a quieter period of readjustment, reorientation and regeneration. The struggle has proliferated into dozens of critical areas that were neglected during the crisis years, with no one or two of them having primary claim on everyone's energies. It is likely that more people are involved today than in the sixties in one form of activity or another that is in revolt against the values and relationships of capitalist society, but the dynamics are centrifugal rather than centripetal. Once again the experts are telling us that only a handful of people share our dissatisfactions and aspirations, or at least are willing to do anything about them, and that the present system, for all its faults, is the best there has ever been or can be.

In opposition to these views I would like to list a few facts beyond the obvious ones of the country's persistent, apparently worsening economic woes and the growing militancy in a number of Third World ethnic communities. Viewed separately, some of them support the current counsels of despair. But put together like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, in a framework that compares the present not only with the sixties but, more significantly, with the fifties, and even the twenties, they provide us with a far more hopeful picture.

1. *None of the problems that led to the rebellions of the sixties has been solved.* Some gains have been made as a result of the militancy, and the basic institutions have been discredited, but they remain in place.

Trying to persuade us to vote in the 1976 Presidential elections, Anthony Lewis wrote in October 28's *New York Times* that "We came through a terrible war and a political conspiracy with institutions intact, indeed triumphant." It didn't occur to him that the institutions that are intact (though hardly triumphant) might have caused the war and the conspiracy, and if left intact will cause spectacular new crises—and revolts.

2. *More Americans are disillusioned with the existing society and its institutions than ever before.* Polls vary slightly from month to month and year to year, but there has been no major or lasting upswing in confidence since the Harris Survey reported a couple years ago that "Public confidence in major U.S. institutions is at its lowest point since the Harris Survey began making such measurements 10 years ago."

The poll showed only 9 percent having great confidence in

Congress, only 11 percent in the executive branch, 16 percent in "the people running major companies" and 20 percent in the press.

The headline that accompanies this story reveals, in particularly crude form the frame of mind with which the established media approach and present the news. It reads: "WE'VE LOST FAITH IN OURSELVES." My guess is that losing faith in Congress, the Presidency, the giant corporations and the media goes hand in hand with gaining faith in ourselves—and is a necessary prelude to taking effective action.

3. *Every war (whether relatively popular or unpopular) generates and consumes great quantities of energy and is followed by a period of reduced energy available for public purposes, a period of catching up with the imperatives of private life and private growth that have been neglected during the war.*

The Right always tries to take advantage of such a period, and it succeeded after both World Wars and the Korean war far more than it has been able to do today. One has only to mention the Palmer Raids after World War I, in which thousands were rounded up and confined without trial, and the more recent McCarthy Period to realize that, for all the negative signs today, the movement for social justice is in far better shape than it was after either of these wars.

Even those who are completely inactive politically would be mobilized if the United States attempted open military intervention abroad, as it did in Korea after World War II and, for that matter, in the Dominican Republic in 1965. So the government has had to work behind the scenes in Africa, Iran and Nicaragua using money and the CIA (as it has always done) and having to rely on mercenaries and other surrogates, rather than its own troops.

The governmental leopard has not changed its spots, but it knows that it is sitting on a volcano of discontent that would erupt if a flagrant foreign invasion were added to a multitude of domestic dissatisfactions. It knows how unstable its position is, despite all the attempts to persuade us that we have become a permanently quiescent, apathetic population. Last year a government study reported that:

"The present tranquility is deceptive. It is urged that it not be taken as a sign that disorder in the United States is a thing of the past. Many of the traditional indicators for disorders are clearly present and need but little stimulus to activate them." (Task Force on Disorders and Terrorism, headed by former Washington, D.C. police chief, Jerry V. Wilson; *The New York Times*, March 3, 1977.)

4. *The seventies have been a period not only of catching up with personal concerns but also for eliminating certain flagrant abuses of practice and spirit that had crept into the anti-war and social justice movements in the late sixties.*

Without going into detail, nor forgetting the role of the FBI's COINTELPRO program, let me mention a few which suggest unhealthy developments that justifiably turned off many people: "dogmatism"; "rhetoric"; "macho," as in oppressing women (and also as in "more anti-imperialist than thou"); "pig," a term initially applied to those wallowing in the crassest aspects of the system but rapidly extended to those entrapped in it, and finally to those resisting the system but differing slightly from the "single correct line" of "the revolutionary vanguard"; "one dimensional," as describing the politics that flowed from the above.

Faced with denials within the movement of the very values that had made them radicals in the first place, many people saw no solution but to drop out—at least for a time.

5. *The seventies have also been a period of vital new initiatives without which the movement would have been condemned to hypocrisy and failure even if it had apparently triumphed.*

Prominent among these initiatives are a resurgent feminism, gay liberation and a mixed bag of activities included under such rubrics as Spiritual Enlightenment and the Human Potential Movement.

It is common today to lump all these initiatives together and to speak insultingly of The Me Generation. The term is used by many who cherish the status quo to gloat that former radicals and today's youth have finally learned the truths at the heart of capitalism, namely, that everyone should be concerned only for oneself and forget about idealistic notions of mutual aid and communal solidarity. The term is also used, derogatorily, by opponents of the status quo, who in some cases, exempt feminism and gay liberation from the category but come down hard on the other "me" activities as a betrayal of classical radicalism.

It is tempting to go along with such a diagnosis, since so many "self-help" and "personal growth" projects are manifestly manipulated by shallow opportunists out for a quick buck or on a power trip. But political radicalism has also always been subject to victimization by zealots and power seekers, let alone "cults of personality" similar to those that surround supposedly egoless gurus. And many of us have not concluded that therefore we should abandon the struggle for basic economic and political justice. Personally, I think that feminism, gay liberation and the search for inner harmony (whatever terms one chooses to use or methods to explore) are all indispensable to a necessary deepening and enriching of the movement for social change as it prepares for a new season of hope and vitality.

When did it become reactionary to fight against one's own oppression, as women and gays are now doing after years of second-class citizenship, not only in the general society but also in the radical movement? A strong and healthy "me" is an indispensable part of a strong and healthy "we." It is also a necessary antidote to years of political philanthropy in which women, gays and anyone who could not easily conform to the one-dimensional materialist politics of the time were expected to fight to liberate someone else without at the same time fighting to liberate themselves from the oppression of their comrades. In the end political philanthropy turns out to be as unhealthy for both donor and recipient as other forms of philanthropy, and must give way to equality.

Finally, when did it become inconsistent with the struggle for a classless society to struggle against personal alienation from our own deepest satisfactions—in work, in personal relations, in art and nature, in the search for understanding of the mysteries of life, death and the processes of the universe?

If the movement for social change in the sixties subordinated the personal to the political, and the seventies have emphasized the personal over the overtly political, perhaps the eighties will bring the two together in a higher synthesis. If so, this is only one of many syntheses that are needed as we enter a period when it has become crucial to look for linkages between a host of struggles and searches that have been compartmentalized in recent years but need one another. The movement that for a brief period in the sixties was united against the war in Indochina is now fragmented. Each of the separate struggles is important in its own right. It is also important to remember that united, the fragments strengthen one another and form a whole.

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# 1978: The Year of the individual

by Moe Stavnezer

The beginning of new years are traditionally times to take stock of what's happened in the past, what's expected in the future and how we have or may deal with both. Seems reasonable that we, as a community, should take stock the same way that we as individuals do. So I'd like to begin a dialogue which I hope others will join both in the Beachhead and in personal contacts.

## A Very Busy Year

1978 saw some peculiar twists and turns in Venice. We won an enormous victory at Main & Rose and then failed to translate that into a more permanent community cohesiveness. The Beachhead (long may it live) celebrated its 10th year of publication in spite of a new business/ad/hip oriented Ocean Front Weekly coming on the scene. The Venice Town Council maintained its active presence and other, more area specific groups (Breeze Ave. Neighborhood Assoc., Dudley Ave. Neighborhood Assoc.) sprung up and became active. We saw the hopeful emergence of the Artists Forum and its sad, swift dissolution. SPARC came to Venice, Pat Russell left (no connection). Development rent increases, soaring property values all forced many to leave the community or move to parts of Venice not as expensive as the Canals or Beachfront. It was a year of no community festivals or parades but it was the year of Venice Night at the Fox. The Israel Levin Center was spruced up inside and out but there is no relief from inflation and high rents for the seniors. We have 3 new murals and lots of new businesses--mostly restaurants that most of us can't afford. Roller skating became a total craze. We have CRASH, a spiffy new police unit which came into Oakwood in response to summer violence from outside that community. And we have a terrible mess concerning the present and future of Project Action housing in that same community. We have the Street Musicians Assoc. but the vendors face threats on a number of fronts, economic & legal. Beyond Baroque took over Venice City Hall but may lose its bid to save the Westminster Auditorium. L.A. took over the coastal permit process and began action to exclude Venice from all coastal permits. Two identified but unpunished people ripped off 1,000 copies of the Beachhead. Two new books and a new movie about Venice came out. The city demolished one historic bridge over Ballona Lagoon and got permission to destroy 2 more in the canals. One Bank of America closed, another one opened. The City began to sell some of the 105 lots it owns and the railroad right-of-way came up for grabs. The "Green Machine" made the news but still hasn't grown. GLAACA was forced to close its doors, the Neighborhood Justice Center opened its. The Marina bypass raised and lowered its ugly head. The Venice community plan remained a secret. School desegregation, violence, housing, traffic & parking were the major issues around which folks organized and vocalized.

1978 was a busy, mixed bag of a year. I look at it as the year of "The Individual." In terms of the community it was a year when lots of people were "doing there own thing" sometimes in order to survive, sometimes because they got "burned out", often because events seemed to pile up and create a hopelessness in one's souls & guts. Sometimes new

directions were explored and often, too often, because many just didn't care any more. In all, and for whatever reasons, this community of people became more fragmented than at any time since I've been here. Obviously that's my perception and if you have a different one I hope you'll make it known in whatever way you think appropriate.

At the beginning of this new year I'd like to say why the year of The Individual was a downer for me, and why I hope that 1979 will find us moving towards that nebulous feeling of community again. Venice as a unique place to live IS the people who live here. While the walk streets, canals & beach provide a friendly atmosphere they can be found in various combinations in other places that are not the same kind of community we are. And while there is nothing approaching perfect harmony here, there is something special, something unique about this place that's shared by almost every person I've met who lives here. And every damn time I try to pin down

what that thing is it always, always boils down to the people who quite emphatically call Venice their home. When I first arrived on the Venice scene, a mere five years ago, I was amazed by, in awe of, & completely smitten by every thing and every one. Imagine, I had lived in a few other places in L.A. and found almost total alienation, and then came to this place where people KNEW their neighbors. Not only that, they actually liked each other, worked with each other (notwithstanding the fact that were differences among people) respected each other and had good times together. Very little of that exists today in this now fragmented community. I, for one, sorely miss the togetherness, not in some abstract way but in my day-to-day life. Being in touch produced an easy spontaneity and an exciting exchange of ideas that produced innovative and imaginative work. The mixing of "social" and "political" allowed new people to get to know those already involved and vice versa and fostered and nurtured the sense of community that Venice is all about. The separation of those 2 aspects of life is frustrating and alienating and leads to early burn outs and a sense of martyrdom and resentment. I'm sure that I'm not alone on the occasions when I ask myself "Why am I doing this?" "Who cares?" Well its because I like it most of the time & because I know that lots of people do care, but its still hard.

Now I think that lots of people might say, "so what's wrong with The Individual?" so I'd like to explain what I mean. Individual growth, work, thought etc. is just fine. In fact I believe that it's necessary and indispensable for one's health and sanity. But humans are also a very social and dependent species who enjoy the company of other humans. And that company, that being, thinking, working and playing together is just as necessary and indispensable to all of our lives. It is especially so in a culture like ours which drums the myth of the "rugged individual" and competitiveness into our heads virtually from the day we're born. The individual must, I think, always be placed in the context of society as a whole, all and each of whom aspire to something bigger and better than any one person can achieve alone. We are more powerful when we, as individuals, stand together with others. And I think that we are also more human and humane. Lest anyone misunderstand, I am not espousing any sort of bland homogeneity--exactly the opposite is what I'm after.

1979 will not be an easy year for Venice. None of the forces present in '78 will disappear, they can't because they are intrinsic to the economic


system of which we are a part. Ah you say, here it comes, here's The Line. But I say look at your pocketbook, look at inflation, the fact that corporate profits continue to rise far faster than wages, that the cost of housing has risen over 100% in the past 7 years, and on and on. We are not an island, not separate from the economic forces whose drive for profit is made at our expense. And we here in Venice will certainly not defeat those forces. That's not defeatism, that's reality. But we just as certainly don't have to roll over and play dead. We need to continue to raise issues of importance to this community in every public forum available to us. We need to continue to challenge the reasons that many of us are being forced to leave or take another job in order to stay. We need to learn about our individual and collective racism and sexism and try to change those feelings. And while we do these we must, with a great deal of gentleness and caring, become more of a community of people again.



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## NEIGHBORHOOD JUSTICE CENTER SEEKS COMMUNITY MEDIATORS

The Neighborhood Justice Center of Venice/Mar Vista is again looking for people to train as community mediators. After training, each mediator will be helping people who are having disputes find solutions which are satisfactory to both of them.

The Neighborhood Justice Center is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice and opened in April 1978 as an experimental program designed as an alternative to the court system in handling disputes such as landlord-tenant, merchant-customer, between neighbors and among family members.

All Center services are free of charge and there are no financial eligibility requirements. Mediation sessions are arranged by full-time staff within a few days after both parties say they are willing to sit down with a mediator. The mediations are held at times which are convenient for disputants, including daytime, evenings and week-ends. Mediations are completely confidential and can be conducted in Spanish as well as several other languages.

Joel Edelman, Director of the Center, states, "We are experiencing an increased demand for resolving disputes through mediation and we need to replace mediators lost through attrition. We believe the Center can handle a number of situations now going to the Small Claims Court, Consumer Affairs Agencies, Landlord/Tenant Courts and minor government regulatory disputes such as barking dogs," Edelman continued, "thus underlying the need for additional mediators."

Trish Bohanan, Deputy Director of the Center stated, "We prefer to mediate disputes of an interpersonal nature where there is an ongoing relationship concerned. We have many 'success' stories to date and we feel we have just reached the tip of the iceberg!"

The full-time staff and the present mediators of the Center are comprised of people who live and/or work in the Venice/Mar Vista area. They are a composite of the overall population of the area, representing all ethnic backgrounds, ages, living styles and income levels.

Recent statements from eminent members of the legal profession, U.S. Supreme Court Judges, Senators and lawmakers have stressed the need of mediation and arbitration as a method of settling disputes in an effort to reduce the overloaded courts.

The Justice Center is a public service project of the Los Angeles County Bar Association. Two other experimental Centers are located in Atlanta, Ga. and Kansas City, Mo.

Persons interested in becoming mediators will be expected to devote about 50 hours for training. Although mediators are basically volunteers, they are compensated at the rate of \$6.00 per hour for the time they are actually mediating.

Persons interested in becoming mediators should send a resume or information about themselves to the Neighborhood Justice Center, 1527 Venice Blvd., Venice, California 90291. Further details may be obtained by calling the Center at 390-7666.

## ARE YOU NOW or have you EVER BEEN..?

by Brenda Harney

Last month's Beachhead had just hit the streets and I was still reading it through when my telephone rang.

"Do you work on the Beachhead?" my caller inquired.

"Well yes I do," I replied, not hedging my bets. "Can I help you?"

"I just wanted to know," the polite voice went on, "which Communist organizations the Beachhead takes money from."

"Well, sir," said I matter-of-factly, "the Beachhead does not take money from any organizations -- and certainly from no Communist or any other political groups." Thinking of all the time I spend getting ads, I went on, "The cost of publication is covered by the ads we run in each issue." That sounded pretty good, so I kept going. "Nobody works FOR the Beachhead, you know -- we work ON the Beachhead. Members of the collective consider the paper to be a labor of love."

My caller had listened politely to my calm explanation. Then he asked, "Well, which Communist organizations do YOU receive money from?"

"Well, sir," I began, aware that so many 'wells' in my conversation meant that I really was trying to deal with this very rationally, "I do not take money from any organizations."

My reply interrupted something that sounded like, "Well why do you do it then?"

"I write what I do for the Beachhead because that's the way I feel. I write about what I think. Anyone in the community can submit an article to the Beachhead for consideration by the collective." I said that rather proudly, because I think that is a policy that makes the Beachhead what it is. "You could write an article about what you think," I suggested, but my caller was back to the first question.

"I was just wondering if you could tell me which Communist organizations the Beachhead is accepting money from --"

Well I couldn't, because the Beachhead isn't, and I don't -- so I finally thanked my caller for calling and indicated that I didn't have any more time for this circuitous discussion. Then I broke the circuit and hung up.

I was incredulous. I tried laughing for a few minutes, but it really didn't seem very funny. When I later heard that at least one other community group had received a similar call, I thought it was even less funny.

My caller was nothing if not polite, and I had no feelings of being threatened or intimidated in any way. But it was a serious matter

for me to reflect on, for I think what my anonymous contact wanted to know was this -- if not for money or the Communists, then WHY? Why work on the Beachhead, why become visible by appearing in print, why become involved -- why do anything?

It's not too difficult for me to answer that. The best things in life are free, so the saying goes, and some of the things I consider best in my life I do freely. Nobody can pay me to speak my mind, or pay me off to keep me from it. And that's true for a lot of folks in Venice. That's a lot of what the Beachhead is about. That's why a lot of people are doing all the things they are in this community and for this community, and that's why I have a great deal of respect for the activism and community advocacy that go on here.

So after I thought about it all, I smiled rather quietly to myself. And I got out something I had written very late one night after a very long community meeting:

You're more than just another nice canal  
I say to Venice:

Your issues turn me on.

Let's have a serious relationship.

So we make politics all night.

Now I am up all hours

With very strange bedfellows

And this will be no one-night stand.

I mean, politics will still be here

The morning after.

It's Venice that concerns me --

That's why I keep it up.

"There's your answer, sir," I said, but of course my caller was long gone. "That's why I do it."

For just a moment I wondered why he did what he did in calling me. I'm sure he has his reasons too -- we all have reasons, after all. Then I switched off the light. And I slept well, as usual.



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### Sacramento... CONT. FROM 7

height restriction would jump to a minimum of 45' not including lofts and then only measured to the top of the ceiling.

I realize the City of L.A. and certain development interests want our communities for the revenue they'll generate (particularly the Ballona Wetlands and Lagoon areas, which happen to fall right between Playa del Rey and Venice). However, it is not worth giving up the struggle. Surely Bill as a former resident, although a short-term resident, you must have felt the specialness of Venice.

I am encouraging you to think seriously about the reason the Coastal Commission was mandated by the people and to do your best to protect an endangered species, unique seaside towns.

I encourage you to research this subject further and hope that some urban coastal areas must not be traded at any price.

Most sincerely,  
Linda Lucks

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# A FREE VENICE OR A SOCIALIST AMERICA?

by Rick Davidson

It was good to see John Haag's by-line in the last Beachhead. I hope that means we'll be reading (and seeing) more of John. I take it from his article that, like Hesse's Siddhartha, John is leaving the contemplative life and returning to the world of action. If so, welcome back John to the absurd world of reality.

I would like to see a dialogue begin on John's Forecast #2, i.e. renewal of Venice's secessionist movement. In order for any movement to take hold and succeed it must build a base within the population. There are many contradictory reasons why other Venetians might reject such a movement. In order to get a full and clear understanding of the potentials (on both sides of the question) there needs to be some community discussion. Coming out of such discussions could be a basis for unity. Unity should be our main goal at this time for no matter what the goal of a people's movement, unity is a prerequisite.

As a community, one of Venice of America's greatest advantages also acts as its greatest barrier for building positive programs, i.e. our diversity. Venice has always been a mixed community of people; people with different backgrounds, interests, goals, needs and priorities. As far as I know there is only one thing that can unite diversity: unity of purpose and a clear commitment to struggle together (which doesn't mean everyone doing the same thing). Such unity usually results in an organization form. Those of us identifying with the label "organizer" have failed to create or find an organization that can unify all of Venice's activists. This is a major failing which we must overcome if Venice is to survive. It is important that we realize that the Venice Town Council is not an organization, nor should it be. It is a council where all our differences can be struggled with and we are all free to participate -- win, lose, or draw: agreement is not a requirement. Organizations have different requirements than councils.

Our focus the past few years has been to SAVE VENICE and we have often become too

utopian, too narrow, too provincial to ever "save Venice" much less accomplish the many goals we all profess. Free Venice was created by anti-war activists as an extension of our efforts to stop the War in Indochina. Saving Venice was an avenue to changing America which we slowly began to realize was the minimum that was required in order to put an end to oppression of which the war was but the most horrendous example. I am convinced that the Venices of America will only be saved, will only be free, when we have a socialist America; anything less is a selfish individualistic view of the world. Still, "save Venice," "save our Coast," or "save our ass" are good and valid avenues of struggle, but must be seen as the same avenue leading to a larger national goal of changing America.

During the past 10 to 15 years there's been a class shift taking place in Venice! class is not used in the strict Marxist sense, Venice is still mostly working class, it's used more to represent the difference between the high and low wage earners within the same class (few of us in Venice have any control over our lives). This shift started as a mere ripple, but is turning into a tidal wave where a few sandbags at the ocean shore are too little and too late to "turn the tide." This illusory class difference acts to separate us, even pit us against one another. Feeling different, we identify differently; identifying differently, we act differently. This difference stands in our way of creating unity.

Speaking to the activists, one reason we have been unable to build an on-going organization is our individualist style of work. By this I don't mean that we should all become automatons and give up our "unique" views of the world. No, but we must place our "self" in perspective with our purported goals. Nor is the answer simply the coming together in the spirit of "good feelings;" without political understanding and agreement we are playing with windmills. Unfortunately, the windmills are heavily armed and definitely not playing.

I would like to suggest that one political form

we might consider creating is a bill of rights, or a constitution, or a charter -- we find all these forms throughout human history; a past Beachhead carried an early Free Venice Bill of Rights. Such a commitment is especially important to Venice's minorities... it's the old question, Which side are you on? But more importantly, How are you on that side?

Therefore, FREE SAN JUAN, FREE VENICE, FREE OCEAN PARK, FREE AMERICA! But don't forget to ask, Free from what?

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# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## FILM

FREE FILMS AT SANTA MONICA  
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Feb. 8, 3 and 7:30 pm. "The Patchwork Girl of Oz" (1914)  
Feb. 15, 3 and 7:30 pm. "The Sunspot Mystery (Sun-weather connection) and "The Starry Messenger (Bronowski explains mapping the heavens and identify's the forces moving the planets.

### MURAL FILMS

Fri, Feb 23. Sparc will present three films; Murals of East Los Angeles, Orozco's Murals, and El Teatro Campesino. 8 pm. 822-9560  
SPARC 685 Venice Blvd. Venice, Ca.

## DANCE

### I.D.E.A. COMPANY

Dance Series: \$4 8 pm.  
Feb. 18 Claudia Chapline and Rudy Perez. Theatre pieces in memory of Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman.  
Feb. 25. Anjani Ambegaokar. Kathak dancer, classical dance of North India.  
Performances for Children: \$1.50 1 pm.  
Feb. 11 Chicken Little, by Make Believe Unlimited  
Exhibitions: Free  
Feb 18. Sculptures and photographic documentation  
Art Performance Series: \$3 8 pm.  
Feb. 11 Rachel Rosenthal - "The Arousing"  
info: 395-0456  
at the IDEA Company 522 Santa Monica Blvd.

## THEATER

THE PLAY'S THE THING  
Seaside Shakespeare Festival presents  
The Dark Lady of the Sonnets and The Man of Destiny by George Bernard Shaw.  
Fridays & Saturdays through February 10.  
8 pm. Venice Pavilion, 1530 Ocean Front Walk  
Information: 399-4253.

## POETRY

### BEYOND BAROQUE EVENTS

Fri, Feb 2, 8 pm. Poetry of Eloise K. Healy  
Sat. Feb 3, 1-4 pm. Opening reception: Painting and mixed media by Karl Michel.  
Fri., Feb. 9 8 pm. Poetry of Siv. C. Fox.  
Fri Feb 16, 8 pm. Seven Young Writers: Laura Vasquez, Danilo Alfaro, Lily Yan, Dylan di Franco, Laura Mitchell, Megan Freeman, Janet Wilson.  
Fri., Feb 23, 8 pm. Poems and Dance of Daniela Gioseffi: Great American Belly Dance.  
Fri., Mar. 2 8 pm. Leland Hickman.

### GEORGE SAND POETRY

Feb. 8, 8 pm Poetry of Stephan Kessler  
Feb 15, 8 pm. Voices from Asian America: Poetry/ Prose readings by Nellie Wong Merle Woo, and Mitsuye Yamada.  
Feb 22. 8 pm. Poetry/Prose of Barbara Kraft and Daniela Gioseffi.  
Mar 1 8 pm. Poetry of Sandra Sharp and Robert Price.  
George Sand 2076 Westwood Blvd 474-4685

### NON-PROFIT WRITER'S ORG. FORMING

Tired of reading your finest work to the walls? Non-profit group forming for poets, playwrights, short story writers, novelists to share, develop projects and workshops; introduce ourselves to each other and our work to the world. Info. Writer's Cramp West c/o Morris, 920 Venice Blvd. Stamped, self address env.

## COMMUNITY

### CONFERENCE OF CALIFORNIA NEIGHBORHOODS

Feb 8, 9, 10. in Mission Beach, San Diego. 3852 Mission Bl., San Diego. For info call Mary Seaton at 714-236-3234.

### FREE VEGETABLE AND FLOWER SEEDS

Available through the Los Angeles Neighborhood Gardens and Farms program. Call Councilwoman Russell's office at 641-4717.

### VENICE HISTORY CLASS

Sat. Feb 3. 9:30 am. Railroads, Santa Monica and Ocean Part at turn of century.  
Sat. Feb. 10, 9:30. Slides of Early Venice, 1900-1904.  
Sat., Feb 17, 9:30. Slides of Venice, 1905-circa 1920.  
Sat., Feb 24 9:30. Abbot Kinney, his biography. Views on Indians, Monopoly, Race, and Money.  
Sat. Mar. 3 Abbot Kinney cont.  
Venice Public Library Electric and California

### LIVING WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS

Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center will present a free program: Living With Chronic or Serious Illness: Coping for the Patient and Family", on Thursday, Feb. 8, from 7:30-10 pm. 4760 S. Sepulved Blvd. Info. 390-6618

## MUSIC

Sun. Feb. 4. Santa Monica Symphony. 8 pm., Santa Monica Civic Aud. 4th & Pico  
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## WOMEN

### WOMEN'S BODY LANGUAGE

Course will focus on women's individual everyday movements in order to open channels for self-expression and exploration into female body language. Taught by Ms. Melya Kaplan, a performer/director/writer. Offered in Venice and at the Women's Building. Info call 399-8928.

### WOMONCRAFT STREET FAIR

Meetings for Womonspace's third annual womoncraft street Fair will be held Feb 5 and 12 from 6:30-7:30 at Womonspace. We need your energy, ideas and crafts. All Womins welcome. The Fair is April 1, 10am to 4 pm in front of Womonspace. 237 Hill St. Santa Monica info 399-9813

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<b>9</b> <b>THE FIRST WIVES</b> THE FIRST WIVES THE FIRST WIVES THE FIRST WIVES	<b>10</b> <b>MARTIN SCORSESE'S</b> <b>TAXI DRIVER</b> BOX CAR BERTHA ALICE COSMETIC ARE ATHORE	<b>11</b> <b>DAVID BOWIE</b> THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH ZAP 23	<b>12</b> <b>SWASTIKA</b> <b>CALIFORNIA</b> <b>RECH</b>	<b>13</b> <b>THE CAGED HEAT</b> "DUTCHMAN"	<b>14</b> <b>THE WEDDING</b> THE WEDDING THE WEDDING THE WEDDING	<b>15</b> <b>A WOMAN AT HER WINDOW</b> VITTORIO DE SICA <b>A Bitter Vacation</b>
<b>16</b> <b>MARTIN SCORSESE'S</b> <b>girl friends</b> ADAM COHEN ANITA SKINNER JACK NICHOLSON CANICE BEGEN CANNEL ARTHUR GARTNER	<b>17</b> <b>MELANIE MAYRON</b> <b>girl friends</b> ADAM COHEN ANITA SKINNER JACK NICHOLSON CANICE BEGEN CANNEL ARTHUR GARTNER	<b>18</b> <b>MONTY PYTHON</b> THE HAY CARTEL THE HAY CARTEL THE HAY CARTEL	<b>19</b> <b>CABARET</b> DUSTIN HOFFMAN VALERIE PERRINE <b>LENNY</b>	<b>20</b> <b>SILENCE AND DARKNESS</b> The Enigma of Kaspar Hauser WERNER HERZOG	<b>21</b> <b>EXHIBITION</b> A LABOR OF LOVE	<b>22</b> <b>SEVEN SAMURAI</b> Kurosawa
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<b>9</b> <b>BAHIA</b> CANDICE BEGEN <b>BLACK ORPHEUS</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Midnight Express</b> <b>SORCERER</b>	<b>11</b> <b>FORBIDDEN</b> IN THE YEAR 2035 PLANET WAR OF THE WORLDS HARDWARE	<b>12</b> <b>GUERNICA</b> VIVA LA MURTE LIVING WITH MARY	<b>13</b> <b>Even Dwarfs Started Small</b> Fala Morgana	<b>14</b> <b>DUELLISTS</b> MILNER KENNEDY	<b>15</b> <b>Jung</b> The story of C. G. Jung IN SEARCH OF THE SOUL THE 67,000 DREAMS THE MYSTERY THAT HEALS
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