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# FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968

# BEACHHEAD

WE SURVIVE ON YOUR DONATIONS

Issue No. 85 JAN. 77 P.O. BOX 504, VENICE, CALIFORNIA. 90291

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# GOODBYE CANALS?

By DAVID KASPER

Developers eager to gain a foothold in the Venice canals cleared a major hurdle on November 30 when the state Coastal Commission refused to hear appeals against major construction proposed for 21 canal lots.

This assures routine approval for future buildings that conform to the commission's now-established guidelines. Many more permit applications are sure to follow this landmark decision.

Several lawsuits challenging the commission's action are being prepared by people angry over perhaps the most blatant sellout of a coastal area in the commission's four-year history.

For those who hoped for a reversal of the South Coast Regional Commission's decision in October, last month's "hearing" was a major disappointment. The appellants presented persuasive arguments based on economic factors, problems of congestion and access, and procedural errors made by the regional Commission, but it soon became obvious that the proceeding was only a necessary formality to legitimize a decision that had already been arranged.

Only two of the ten commissioners-- Ruth Anderson and Rimmon Fay--voted against the majority. Even they chose to ignore the economic effect on the soon to be replaced lower-income residents now living in the canals.

Although the Commission would characterize the limits imposed as a compromise between competing interests (a number of builders filed their own appeals because they wanted still bigger structures), it was rather clear whose pressure they yielded to.

The restrictions allow for single family houses of up to 25 feet in height (enough for 3 stories) and over 2,000 square feet of floor space. This is roughly four times the size of the average small cottage which makes up the present canal neighborhood. It doesn't take much figuring to realize that builders have been given a green light to begin transforming the canals into an exclusive Lido Island-type neighborhood of \$50,000 to \$100,000-plus homes. Escalating rents and taxes will force the less affluent from the area to make room for this new class of residents.

Why did a commission which was created for the express purpose of preserving and protecting the coastal zone choose to act in this manner? Perhaps the answer can be found in the fact that it is a lame-duck body in its final public meeting before being replaced by a new commission. These are, after all people who must consider their prospects for future jobs in government and industry. Better to appear acceptable to those in a position to offer future appointments.

Does this mean an end to the years of struggle to save the Venice Canals from redevelopment?

Not for the Canal Resident Homeowners Association, the Venice Town Council and canal resident Terry Timmons, all of whom are preparing legal action. The Town Council plans to report on the legal situation at its next meeting on January 5th.

# DOPE NEWS

EYEWITNESS REPORT FROM THE FIFTH ANNUAL N.O.R.M.L. CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

By Linda Lucks  
California NORML State Coordinator

Recently, I was one of more than 300 people to attend the 5th Annual NORML (National Organization for Reform of Marijuana laws) Conference held in Washington D.C. at the posh Hyatt Regency Hotel. I learned so much in so short a time (3 days) that I haven't yet assimilated it all. Never have I been among so many "high power people at once and it was quite an experience on many levels. I realized quickly that we in Los Angeles, even with our new dope law are much more paranoid about smoking grass openly than are people from San Francisco for instance or Washington D.C. I attended a party at



a Washington D.C. residence located directly across the street from the Supreme Court Building. Yes, there was open smoking and actually the variety sampled was quite impressive. Some people from Iowa brought, of course, Iowa, there was Arkansas Sinsemilla, Louisiana Red, and so on. Unfortunately I had no Venice Mellow to amaze and delight.

Several major themes prevailed during the the information packed conference. The first theme was initiated by keynote speaker Hunter S. Thompson, aka "Uncle Duke", author of several books (Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas), feature writer for Rolling Stone, friend of Jimmy Carter, who welcomed us all to this fancy "victory" party, but admonished that it may well be a false victory after all, because as he said it, "I ain't got no weed!" It was funny as he said it in his gruff way, but it was meant as a warning to us, I feel, about all the massive dope busts (by the Drug Enforcement Agency which have curtailed the flow of marijuana across borders. Warnings about the behavior of the DEA were voiced by several other speakers during the conference. Specifically, the DEA was accused by a delegate of spraying defoliant on fields of marijuana growing in Mexico and South America. The defoliant kills the plants which are then harvested and sold to U.S. markets! This accusation was presented in the form of a question to Dr. Peter Bourne, top carter aide who spoke to the conference at lunch one day. "What is Carter going to do about the DEA spraying defoliant on marijuana?" asked the delegate. Bourne became visibly uncomfortable and promised that Governor Carter would look into the matter.

(continued on page 4)

# TAXPAYERS ON STRIKE

By Dorothy Weisser

In a spirited demonstration on the steps of Venice City Hall on December 4, over 100 homeowners and renters told Governor Brown they were on strike. "No tax reform - no tax payment on Decemoer 10" was the theme of the meeting sponsored by Homeowners and Renters Against Unfair Taxes, a committee of the Venice Town Council, together with Mar Vista - Del Rey Homeowners Association.

In single file and in twos and threes, homeowners came forward, stapled a tea bag to their tax bills and dropped them in a large cardboard carton, which was soon filled to the top. Some carried two and three tax bills for friends and neighbors who were unable to attend. Renters, who according to government statistics pay 17% of their rent towards property taxes, were there in large numbers, some of them reporting rent increases that went above and beyond the tax increase of their landlords.

Led by Phil Bell on the guitar, Chans Bell, Sue Baker and Terry Ward, the audience sang an original song composed by the group for the rally. On the refrain demonstrators shouted "Venice, America is our Home," or Mar Vista, America is our Home."

Shirley Mann of Mar Vista made a plea for unity. "If we don't stick together, we aren't going to get anywhere. We're not paying till we get tax reform," she said.

Louise Fitch of Venice, exposing the fraud of highest and best use, reminded the Governor and the legislature that our homes are not a business; that we like our homes; we want to live in them; we don't want to sell. "Besides," she asked, "where would we go?" Then answered, "We're staying. We want the law changed."

Guest speaker Dave Lewis said, "It is not illegal to withhold tax payment. You can't go to jail. You won't lose your home." He explained that there would be a 6% interest on the first installment but the money could be put in the bank at 5%. The cost he told his listeners will be nominal compared to what we will be paying if we don't get tax reform. He also reported that it was anticipated that Savings and Loan Associations would be cooperative. Any action before August, 1977 would be extremely unlikely by which time property tax relief should be forthcoming.

Homeowners and Renters Against Unfair Taxes distributed a fact sheet answering questions for homeowners. It is the position of the group that property tax relief is possible without endangering our schools or public assistance programs. The committee calls for closing tax loopholes for the wealthy; taxing stocks and bonds which are not presently taxed in California; taxing the removal of all natural resources in the state; and increasing income taxes on the wealthy.

If tax reform is not forthcoming by April 10, the strike which already has involved homeowner groups throughout the state, may grow from the present wildcat proportions of 25,000 to 50,000 to many times that number.

Dear Postal Boxholder,

During the past three months we have experienced nine break-ins in our Post Office box section, along with unsanitary lobby conditions created by transients sleeping in the lobby.

In the interest of protecting our box customers mail, it has become necessary to close the lobby area during the hours of 7:30 P.M. to 6:00 A.M., commencing January 6, 1977.

We regret this inconvenience to our customers; however, we must take whatever protective measures are necessary to insure adequate security for the U.S. Mails.

We trust that in the month between now and the change, you will be able to make adjustments in your schedule, without too much inconvenience, to allow for picking up your mail between 6:00 A.M. and 7:30 P.M.

Sincerely,

T. A. O'Gilvie  
Officer in Charge  
Venice, CA 90291



They made us many promises, more than I can remember. But they never kept but one, they promised to take our land, and they took it.

--Red Cloud

**MAINE CHANCE FOR INDIANS**

The members of two Indian tribes may soon be the legal owners of most of Maine. A four-year-old lawsuit filed on behalf of the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Indian tribes has resulted in the blocking of the sale of municipal bonds in Maine, has jeopardized the ownership of private lands and entire towns into legal confusion. The lawsuit charges that the tribal lands were illegally bargained away to local authorities without the needed consent of Congress and in violation of federal law in 1790.

The case came to public attention last December when a federal court judge gave the Justice Department until November 15 to file suit against Maine, in efforts to regain the Indians' land rights.

According to Thomas Tureen, an attorney for the two tribes, the land rights in question involve more than two thirds of of the state, including 100 municipalities and towns, and hundreds of acres of forest owned by international conglomerates.

Attorneys for the state have now asked for an extension of the deadline to prepare a response.

Says the leader of one of the tribes involved, "They used to laugh about this case and every thing else. Now they're getting a few grey hairs."

(ZNS-BUGLE AMERICAN)

**BUGGED**

Spencer Metcalf of Prineville, Oregon, doesn't like bugs.

So when Spencer saw an insect crawling up his leg, he drew his pistol and shot it, wounding himself in the foot. Spencer was treated at a hospital and released. There was no report on the condition of the bug.



Dear Readers,

To all the people who attended the Beachhead benefit last November 27, thank you for coming and we hope you had a good time. And a special thank you to all the musicians who played their asses off- Richard Aldorasi, Donnie Beck, Harold "Stemsey" Hunter, Roberta Miranda, Herbie Rich, Barry Saperstein, Tom Tedesco and Kenny Wright - Thank you, thank you!

We cleared \$75, which will get us supplies to last until spring. Thanks y'all.

The Beachhead Staff

Dear Beachhead contributors,

We work as a collective and we gather together at least two, sometimes three Saturdays a month to read manuscripts.

It isn't fair to turn in manuscripts after the deadline (unless of course its news that happens after the deadline i.e., Coastal Commission decisions, police harrassment, Camel sellouts).

It does not give us a chance to meet and talk together to make decisions about your articles which we do want! But, quit procrastinating and turn 'em in ON TIME! Our next deadline for the February, 1977 issue is: January 15

Our mailing address is P.O. Box 504, Venice, Ca. 90291.

Thanks - The Free Venice Beachhead

P.S. Always keep a duplicate copy of your material in case it gets lost.



**FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD**

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**Gonna Rise Again!**

Economic Organizing for Hard Times

The working people's movement is on the rise once more. Gonna Rise Again! gives an overview of their fight against the ongoing economic crisis. This 48-page booklet describes groups combatting unemployment and cutbacks, organizing women and Third World workers, supporting strikes and opposing utilities companies. Articles analyze the crisis and evaluate organizing strategies and tactics. Concise reviews describe print and audio-visual organizing resources. \$1.75. Resources for Community Change, PO Box 21066, Washington, DC 20009.

**MYSTERIOUS MUSHROOMS**

Mysterious giant mushrooms that sweat when placed in the sun have been discovered at several locations in Argentina following accounts of UFO landings in the area.

One account from an Argentine newspaper reports that large mushrooms-some nearly three feet across were found amid burned bushes and the tracks of three metallic footpads, immediately after a UFO sighting.

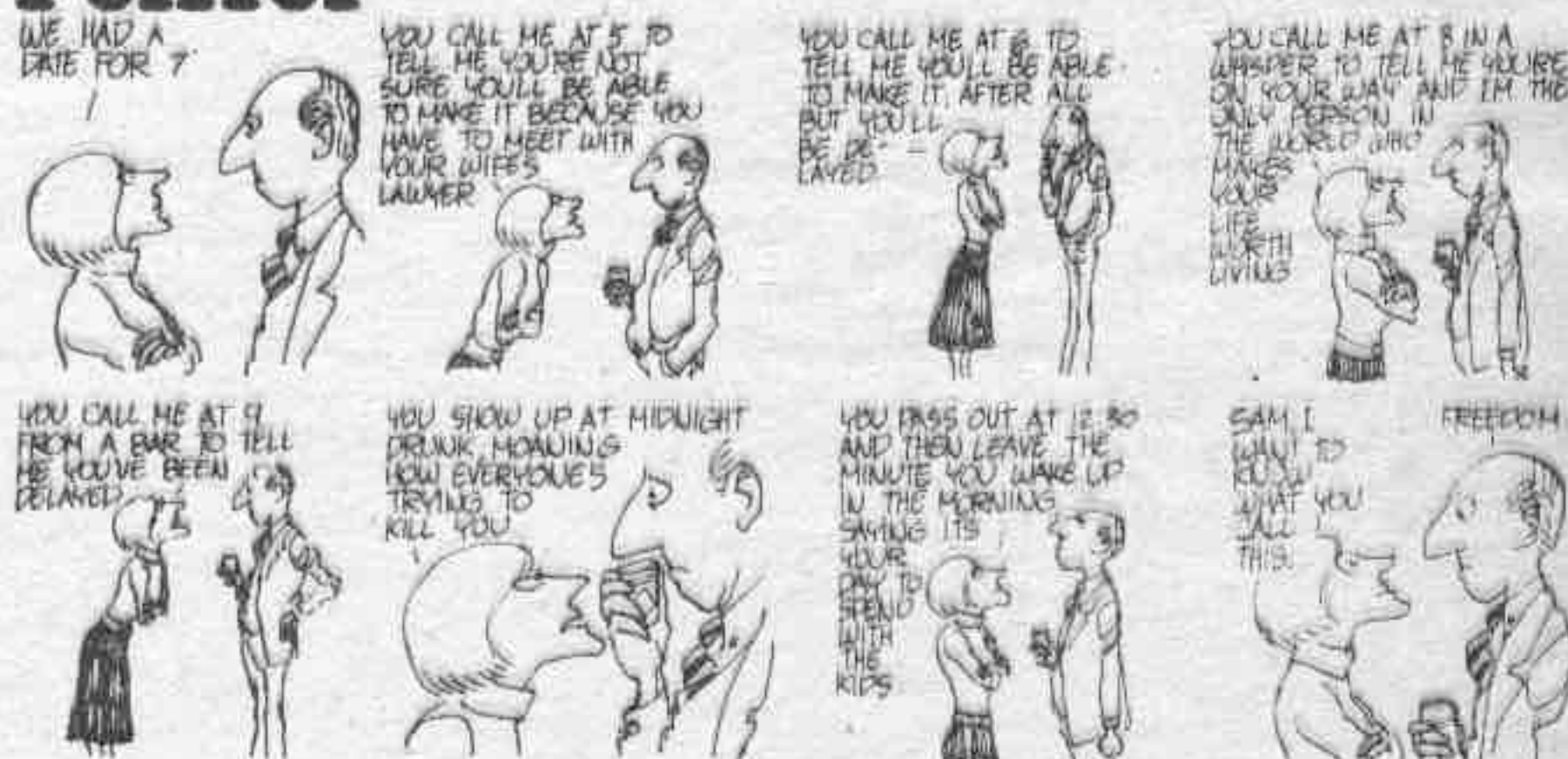
What causes the fungus-like growths is amystery, because the mushrooms are reportedly foreign to the areas in which they are found.

In almost all cases the perspiring mushrooms are found in dry areas offering little fungi food, areas where mushrooms are not ordinarily found. The mushrooms are described as being as big as 32 inches across, six inches high, and with growth being visible to the human eye within an hours time.

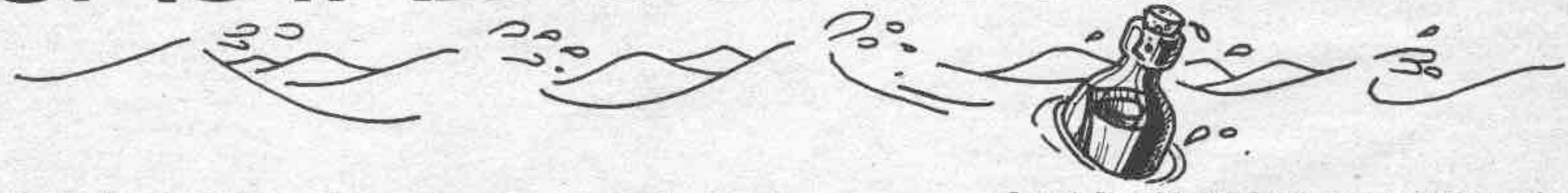
The University of La Plata has analyzed the growths but has not released its findings. It is not known if the growths have any psychedelic properties. (ZNS-BUGLE AMERICAN)

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**Feiffer**



# LETTER TO THE COASTAL COMMISSION



Dear Commissioner

On Tuesday, December 2 I appeared before your body to speak against granting permits for further buildings in the Venice canals.

My experience before official bodies is limited. Perhaps it was because of this that I read from a prepared paper, speaking to you more from my mind than from my heart.

Now, like an attorney who has lost a capital case, I have been wakeful at night and haunted by day with thoughts of the approaching death of my "client" - the community of Venice.

If only I could throw away my papers and appear before you once more, this is what I would say:

Have you ever sat on a bench in North Beach, watching the old Jewish people, so old, so feeble and yet so strong. I sit there sometimes just listening to them speak in Yiddish. I don't know any other community where people speak Yiddish anymore. The median age of these men and women is 80. Most of their surviving friends have been forced out of Venice because of high rents. Where will they go when the developers spill over the canals into the rest of Venice? Should you save Venice because these old people will die if they have to move? Perhaps not. You were not mandated to save the aged.

Have you ever been to Oakwood in Venice? Do you know that in 1000 miles of coast this is the only community where black people live within walking distance of the ocean? Should you save Venice because blacks have a right to live near the ocean? Perhaps not. That is black politics and black politics is not your business.

Have you ever been to the headquarters of the Community Service Organization in Venice where Mexican-American women leave their children while they go to school to learn English? Where will they go when this is all over? To East Los Angeles? Is that your concern? I'm not sure.

Do you know that in Venice there is a community of sick people living on SSI, accepted by their neighbors as they would not be accepted elsewhere? Noone demands that they compete - noone demands that they conform. Were it not for Venice many of them would live out their days in bleak but expensive State institutions. Are the sick your concern? You have already said, no.

Each of these is good cause but none in itself is reason enough for intervention by your committee. But when you find all of these people living together in a three square mile radius within the Coastal Zone, this constitutes a unique community and saving a unique community is your business. Where else can you find a community of the aged and the young; the rich and the poor; the sick and the well; Mexican-Americans, Indians, Blacks, and Whites? Such communities should be the rule in our country and in our State but they are the exception. By approving construction of over 20 houses in the canals that will soon sell in the neighborhood of \$95,000 you are telling the people who make up that community that they must leave to make way for the rich.

I wish I could stand before you again on the issue of the canal houses. I would take a poll and ask: How many of you have ever been to the canals? Or is your vision of the canals limited to slide presentations? How many of you have been there in the past year to see what is happening to this community known around the world? Maybe a walk through the canals - seeing the small cottages dwarfed by the new luxury homes - wouldn't be enough. You need to feel the sense of community - the sharing and the caring that is almost gone from American cities. It took me and my husband several years to get the full sense of our community. How could we expect you to get that feeling in a two minute slide show?

Are you wakeful at night, as I am, knowing that our unique community - which you, yourselves, said should be preserved, is now being turned into a plastic marina with your consent?

If I could talk with you again, if I could leave my papers, my statistics and my arguments at home and speak to you from my heart, as I speak to you now, would you hear my plea?

I don't know. But I will be back. I want my community, though maimed, to survive. Some of you will be on the new commission. You will have had time to give thought to what I have said here. You cannot give back what has been taken away, but you will have an opportunity to say, "enough".

Dorothy Weisser  
Max Weisser

## FREE VENICE OR A SOCIALIST AMERICA

by Rick Davidson

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 with a clear agreement to struggle together. 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 Venice activists. This is a major failing which we must overcome if we are to survive. I personally still see the Venice Town Council as the most viable form available.

Our focus the past few years has been to SAVE VENICE and we have allowed it to become too utopian, too narrow, too provincial to ever save Venice much less accomplish the many goals to which most of us 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 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 they must be seen as the same avenue leading to a larger world goal where all oppression is eliminated from the earth.

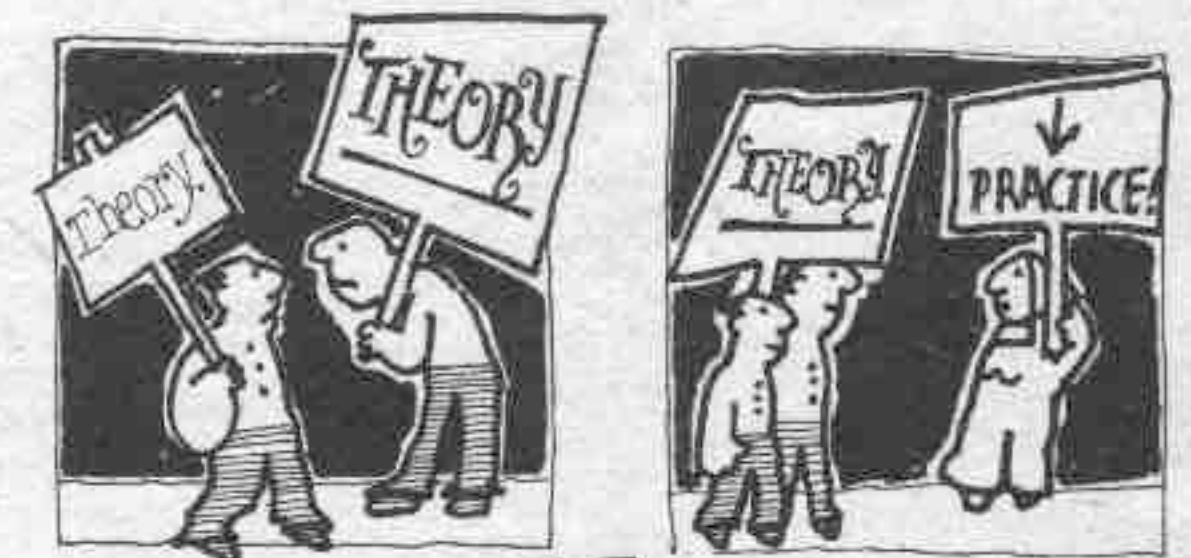
During the past 10 to 15 years there's been a class shift taking place in Venice; class is not used in the strict marxist sense, Venice is still mostly working class, it is used to represent the difference between the high and low wage earners in the same class. This shift started as a mere ripple, but is turning into a wave and a few sandbags at the ocean shore are insufficient to "turn the tide".

This illusionary class difference acts to separate us, even pit us against one another. Feeling different, we identify differently; identifying differently, we act differently. Yet, not one of us in control of the forces that control our life.

This past year community activists have been divided as never before. We all feel for one reason or another, that we have been left holding the bag, or "shit on" to use an old Venice expression - and shit on not by our enemy, but by our sisters and brothers in struggle. Given the nature of our society we shouldn't expect anything less until we create something that can focus our energy so that we can do as the Vietnamese did, "turn hate into energy". We are victims of our own mystic; our successes in the past have had more to do with the establishment's lack of coordination than our organizational abilities. A few hard working people don't make a movement. The fact that we can mobilize many Venetians to react while finding it next to impossible to get people to act is an indication of our lack of political unity. We are defensive, but not offensive. Those of us interested in saving Venice and building a socialist America must figure out how to build a political organization in Venice with the staying power of Methusalem. It is insufficient for "organizers" to state that there is no organization in Venice and let it go at that. We must continue to build some vehicle of unity. When we fail we must try again; experiment when we don't know the answer; debate when we differ, but we must find the proper ingredients - the solution will be synergy and the right combination is the search we are all part of.

If we don't see our first priority as building a viable political organization then the WELLS victory, Coastal Commission gains, taxation publicity, 4th of July parades and all the rest will be nothing more than sand blowing in the winds of change. And in Venice, we, sisters and brothers, are the what that is going to change.

I'd like to suggest that we consider a "Free Venice Day" where we could come together in the spirit of getting to know one another again; evaluate where we've been, where we are and where we can go from here. Perhaps a pot-luck on the beach or in a park with workshop sessions dealing with various topics/problems and some general discussions dealing with "what do we do next". Anyone interested?





ARTISTIC HAIR CUTTING  
by Allan  
JULIETTES & SCULPTED NAILS  
BY DOREE

1326 WEST WASHINGTON BLVD  
VENICE  
392-7886

VENICE'S FINEST AND FINEST HAIR CARE PARLOR

# NETWORK AGAINST PSYCHIATRIC ASSAULT

By Peter M. Calagna  
NAPA Program Coordinator

On Saturday afternoon, February 19, NAPA (the Network Against Psychiatric Assault) will sponsor a march and rally at Metropolitan State Hospital in Norwalk. Many human rights and community organizations are supporting this action (details were not available at press time).

As little as one year ago, California's state hospital system was hailed as the "model for the nation". Now, all eleven institutions are under investigation by federal or state agencies, primarily as a result of the uncovering of massive deaths of psychiatric inmates. Grand jury investigation and coroner's inquests indicate the "deaths at the hands of another, other than accident" have resulted not from the stereotyped "beserk mental patient", but from staff. The causes have centered on gross negligence and assault, ranging from manacles and solitary confinement to the forcible administration of dangerous "tranquilizers" in lethal dosages - with or without medical supervision.

These occurrences are not sudden. What is sudden is their discovery. The pressure to investigate inmate deaths - principally by NAPA and ACLU - uncovered them. Also uncovered was that the institutions' veneer of "excellence" was possible only because no one probed them. Police, coroners, district attorneys, state hospital chiefs, et al. -- none investigated when psychiatric inmates died. Little wonder. "Psychotics" don't matter.

But NAPA believes this real-life "horror story" does matter to those who have experienced it - and to those just becoming aware. One out of every eight Americans will at some point in her/his life spend time in a psychiatric setting, and nearly half of all families will have a member in such a situation. (And everyone else must live with us if and when we "come home", although it is not likely that we will come out because we are outcasts.

Currently, a very well orchestrated effort is being made to convince the public that the "hospital" system is ailing but "basically humanitarian" and will be remedied by an infusion of dollars (say, 4 to procedures. Apparently anachronistically, the cry for more staff is "elevated" from employee demand to adoption as official solution.

Usually, few are fooled by such a bald attempt to shore up support by those who stand to benefit directly (and who in this case are even capitalizing on the misery they themselves produced). But for several reasons many people may be fooled.



Although some do not want to be bothered, apparently choosing to disidentify with the "schizophrenic" victims, most who are concerned have never been exposed to basic considerations and nearly all are at least somewhat immobilized by the system's defensive newspeak. Unless a real effort is made now to address the conditions of public consciousness, the action necessary to change the conditions imposed upon psychiatric inmates will not be forthcoming. The march and rally is NAPA's first major attempt to bring about public awareness and action. The demands are:

1. No forced "treatment or involuntary confinement"
2. Replace institutions with real alternatives - non medical and community based.
3. Provide an independent, adequately funded mechanism to enforce patient rights.
4. Extend the minimum wage to patient workers.

Simultaneously, or San Francisco chapter will sponsor a demonstration at Napa State Hospital. A non-profit educational and social action organization, we are le

by and largely consist of former psychiatric inmates and consumers. While some of the founders had been prisoners at Napa State Hospital in Napa, California (and hence our acronym!), others locally experienced Camarillo and Metro as well as numerous other institutions. Having been on the receiving end of alleged "services", we know that more money and staff will only perpetuate a basically oppressive, Orwellian psychiatric system. The unconscionable events now uncovered occurred during a period of more funding and less patients, not the reverse, despite attempts by vested interests to mislead people by encouraging them to believe otherwise.

Except perhaps to those whose immediate economic interest is threatened, the demands speak for themselves. Because of our whole way of life, all of us have experienced emotional crisis. When we do, we need help from other human beings - help which affirms our human dignity and worth rather than debasing it with stigmatizing and debilitating labels. Our bodies and minds are our own. They are not to be confined for breaking unwritten laws of social conformity and suppression of feeling. If we choose to enter places designed to provide person-to-person caring on an equal basis (the only acceptable basis) our rights as American citizens and human beings must be ensured. We must be informed about what others think we "need". And whether able or unable (again to others) to choose on a knowledgeable basis, if we are not allowed to refuse - on any grounds - we are denied choice itself. And to be paid at least what others receive for work is integral to that worth and choice, affirming us in a period of delicate needs and giving us a start when we feel ready.

NAPA appeals to the Beachhead readership to support this march and rally. We need your help - time, money, and feet! to show those confined now (and those to be confined in the future) that the community is behind them. The more people we can mobilize at Metro will mean the most to them, especially those who have been abandoned by "family and friends". And it will mean a beginning for change. Our efforts will not be lost on those with current power to change either - unless we fail to make our felt concerns and demands known by assuming they will go unheeded.

Network Against Psychiatric Assault (NAPA), L.A. County Chapter  
P. O. Box 5728, Santa Monica, 90405  
399-8135, 479-7318, 322-0421, 652-5224  
826-5724

*Dope News*  
*continued*  
*from page 1*



He also said that Carter would be studying all aspects of the marijuana question before acting. It is hoped that he will support the bill introduced to Congress that will decriminalize possession of marijuana Federally. The audience held quite a few Carter supporters and campaign workers and the general feeling seemed to me to be expectantly hopeful about his actions in regard to drug laws.

Dale Chenowith, escapee from the Piedras Negras jail, spoke to us about the torture of Americans in Mexican jails who get no help from our Government. He claimed that the Federales use cattle prods on prisoners and that often the DEA points out "suspicious" looking Americans for the Federales to bust. Since the conference I have spoken to a man whose brother has been in a Mexican jail on marijuana charges, has been tortured with a cattle prod while his feet were in water, and is in a 60 foot long cell with 200 other people. He doesn't have enough money to buy his way out.

Michael Stepanian, San Francisco defense attorney spoke of a "killer" DEA agent who landed by helicopter on someone's field of growing marijuana and proceeded to shoot the farmer in the back as he ran away!

What is the power of the DEA? It is frightening to hear these things and to think that this agency may have the power to negotiate with foreign powers and plot harassment, torture, imprisonment and death of American citizens.

The second major theme of the conference was the debate over decriminalization vs. legalization. What is the difference? Decriminalization means the removal of all criminal penalties, i.e. the removal of marijuana from the court system. Legalization means commercialization and licensing by the government. The consensus at this point in time is that: 1. No one wants government control, i.e. legalization until the government develops a model for distribution unlike the alcohol and tobacco systems now in use. 2. Decriminalization is the intelligent way to go now. It is analogous to a "transition" period. 3. Cultivation for personal use will lead to legalization but it will very importantly keep marijuana from being commercialized, or at least allow us some choice in the matter.

The 14 member California coalition was very vocal in singing the praises of cultivation all during the conference. Assemblyman Willie Brown (Dem. - S.F.) will this month be introducing a cultivation bill to the California Legislature. The bill will reduce the present penalties for cultivation from a possible felony to a misdemeanor. Anyone caught growing one square yard or less (3 ft. X 3 ft., or 9 flower pots 12 inches each in diameter, or 36 flower pots each 6 inches in diameter) would lose their plants and have to pay a fine not to exceed \$100. There would be no jail, no matter how many times caught.

It has been estimated that a person who knew what s/he was doing could get from 1-2 pounds of grass per average fully mature plant. Assemblyman Brown is not sure his bill will become law. I feel that if there was enough popular support for it from all levels of society, we could affect the outcome of the vote in the Senate and Assembly.

There were many experts at the conference speaking of the medical and therapeutic uses of marijuana. A highlight was the appearance of Bob Randall, a victim of glaucoma who has the only legally prescribed government marijuana for his condition. He told about his legal struggles and he flashed his prescription, but wouldn't pass it around. When asked however, he did say it was "pretty good." Our government grows its marijuana in Mississippi.

Marijuana is one of the oldest known plants to humankind. Medically, marijuana has traditionally been used by different cultures throughout the world for a myriad of purposes such as: aiding hemorrhoids, as an aphrodisiac, anti-biotic, hypnotic, simple intoxicant. It has been used to help relieve menstrual cramps, as a sedative, an anti-depressant and for nerves. Recently, marijuana has been used successfully in relieving nausea caused by cancer patients who are undergoing chemotherapy treatments. The list of uses is endless. What is sure is that the "set and setting" of its use are remarkable determinants of the effect of the drug on the user.

The panel of experts speaking on Marijuana and Minorites brought home some

*(continued on next page)*

# ARCOSANTI FESTIVAL '77

By Gretchen Henkel

For those of us who feel the threat of land developers gobbling up land, as we have witnessed here in Venice, and mega-corporations' continuing reckless consumption of the earth's resources, but who feel enlightened architectural planning can be applied to our problems, Arcosanti offers real hope for the future. We can see that there is a place for warmth and humanity in the creation of our new environments. To dream, then to build the dream: Paolo Soleri's experimental Arcosanti is this process.

To visit Arcosanti is to experience an elation that a dream, a vision of a humane future for human beings can come to reality. Located 70 miles north of Phoenix Arizona, Arcosanti is the building site of a new type of city conceptualized by Italian born architect Paolo Soleri and constructed by him and others who come to live at the site for six week workshop sessions. Built on the slopes of a river canyon, the city is at present in the first stage of what is planned to be a 25 story city, housing three thousand.

The city, designed to blend and work with its physical environment, rather than detract from it, will be concentrated on 14 acres out of 860. Each year since 1970 during the months of April through October, workshop crews of men and women have been coming to the site to participate in the building of Arcosanti. There is a tuition fee of \$500 per person which goes towards the materials with which each person will be working, such as concrete and metal. The fees paid by the workers are the main source of capital for construction materials.

Arcosanti is owned by the non-profit Cosanti Foundation, which co-ordinates the project. The Foundation sells books pamphlets, posters, and sponsors the Arcosanti Arts Festival which this year took place October 29 - 31.

As it now stands, Arcosanti includes four main structures, two of them half domes positioned to catch the rays of



the winter sun, one rectangular building five stories high and a pair of adjacent arches. All are built of concrete. Inside the structures living spaces are undefined; people living in them give them definition to suit their needs. The structures, using clean geometric forms, are far from cold.

They are brightly decorated with colors and motifs which seem almost pagan, and are quite open to the air so that nowhere does one feel entrapped or overwhelmed by being in a solid concrete structure. Arcosanti merges the futuristic and the primal--it answers a need for conserving land space while celebrating man's creativity.

Arcosanti is an experimental lab for the concept of arcology as envisioned by Soleri. Arcology, the word a combination of architecture and ecology, is defined by Soleri as "the methodology that recognizes the necessity of the radical reorganization of the sprawling urban landscape into dense, integrated three-dimensional cities. The city structure must contract, or miniaturize, in order to support the complex activities that support cultural man and give him new perception and renewed trust in society and its future."

Each visitor who sees Arcosanti might interpret differently what is going on there. But Soleri has a comprehensive definition of the process which is Arcosanti: 5

"Throughout the years we have been tagged as utopian, which we are not, as a commune, which we are not, as dreamers, which we are not, as escapist, which we are not, as a school, which we are not. We are a capital starved undertaking whose main, if not only, effort, is the construction of something which can have the most far reaching impact on society environmentally, socially, politically, pedagogically, technologically, culturally, and esthetically."

Arcosanti (Cosanti="before things" in Italian) is not yet an arcology: it is the first step in the development of Soleri's methodology and a working model for the cities of the future. Although it is not as advanced technologically as the future will require, Arcosanti is an exciting, valid experiment in developing prototypes for our future environments.



"I shouldn't be here. I should be out trying to get funded."

## PETROPROTEIN (continued from page 9)

the fluctuating costs of agricultural ingredients." Torutein "binds fats to water to extend poultry, seafoods and meats," and--in tribute to the meaninglessness of the term--it is "the natural food material with combined advantages no other ingredient can match."

Standard says that about 40 food processors are now using Torutein petroprotein in their products, but won't say which ones. "I can't give you their names for competitive reasons," George Miga explained, but he said that all users were playing fair by including the term "torula yeast" in their list of ingredients.

The term is imprecise, at best, and there is no guarantee that this practice will continue, since the inclusion of the term was not ordered by the FDA but merely suggested by Torutein's manufacturer.

Standard Oil of Indiana was giving out no specific information about cost benefits to food manufacturers who use Torutein. But as a food extender and substitute for more traditional ingredients, the product plainly makes economic sense. Yielding nearly 50 percent pure protein, Torutein retails to food processors for 42 cents per pound.

Currently Torutein is used in foods at the rate of only 1 to 5 percent, but there are strong indications that this is just the beginning. The UN's Protein Advisory Group talks in terms of "the impact that 'single cell protein' will have as a world source of protein." Food Technology magazine points to petroproteins as one way "to feed the increasing world population," and Standard Oil of Indiana's R&D vice president, Robert Flannery, has said petroproteins are "needed in the fight against world hunger."

The Standard Oil of Indiana spokesman admitted that during the last ten years "some other, very promising products that would have been more pro-

fitable for the company were sidetracked to make room for this one," and that "there is a vigorous effort underway to win acceptance of this product in the marketplace. Once this item is a marketing success, new applications will be found."

There are few things the world more dearly needs right now than new sources of protein food. But one of those things is safe protein food. Perhaps the most distressing aspect of petroleum protein development is that the questions about safety and health have not even been asked--let alone answered--by the Food and Drug Administration. Even in the thalidomide and birth control pill cases, the FDA's abdication of its responsibilities was not so blatant. We are being used as a nation of guinea pigs for corporate food laboratories. And to hearten us in the face of the Japanese findings, we have only one 13-week study of 40 petroleum-protein fed rats.

As a consumer protection agency, the FDA's record is dismal. Hexochlorophene, implicated in skin cancer, was removed from the market only after millions of people had used it nearly ten years. Cyclamates, which cause cancer in test animals, were banned only after they flavored millions of gallons of soft drinks during the last decade. It was in 1969 that Ramparts magazine published an article detailing the long-established worldwide evidence against the food coloring Red #2 from the American market place as a carcinogen. Why weren't those substances, and the thousands of other "cosmetic" but functionally useless chemicals that now lace the food supply, thoroughly tested before their release into the supermarkets?

There is no pressing need today for petroprotein. Possibly the substance could be used on a large scale in the future to alleviate mass famine. If so, now is the time to begin exhaustive testing of the substance in the laboratory, not in the diets of millions of consumers.

very interesting and consciousness raising issues to the conferees. Third World people are carrying a disproportionate burden of the marijuana situation, although marijuana use crosses all class, color and sex lines. However, due to the irrationality of the court system, laws are inconsistently applied. Those with less money for defense usually go to jail. We were told of a 1975 Urban League study which showed that 100% of white students arrested for possession with no previous charges went free. Whereas less than 50% of black students arrested for possession with no previous charges went free.

Historically, the marijuana laws coincided with the influx of non-whites to this country. It became a political, economic, racist issue. As non-whites moved north, laws were enacted prohibiting marijuana use. Prior to the civil war, marijuana was the second most important cash crop of the south, and it was cultivated by Blacks. The experts, William Harvey, Ph.D., Saint Louis, Canon Walter Dennis, M.A., S.T.B., The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, New York, Ms. Malaka Rutlin, Multi-Cultural Resources Center, St. Louis, Mo. and Willie Vasquez, Drug Abuse Council, Wash. D.C. agreed that generally, they felt anger, resentment and disinterest in the marijuana fight up until now because it wasn't until white, middle class people got busted that anything was done about the old laws.

It was certainly a stimulating experience attending the 5th Annual NORML conference, but it was also difficult for me, being a Venice woman thrown into a predominately middle class male atmosphere. I've become accustomed to a different vibe. So it was gratifying when those of us who attended the "Women's Caucus" met and gave each other support and asked each other where the other women were.

The female plant is the one that gives the most fierce smoke. Historically, males have been the smokers, the lobbyists and legislators. I came back from the conference "highly" motivated to change all this. "Let it Grow."

# NORTH IRELAND:

## 800 Years of Colonialism

"You are at the total mercy of the police state, in the fullest sense of the word," said Father Jack Isaacs of Sacred Heart Church in San Jose, after returning from visiting friends in Belfast and Derry in Northern Ireland. Father Isaacs described a situation in the North where the civilian population is constantly harassed by the occupying British Army and the Northern Irish police, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC)

The center sections of the cities are cordoned off with barbed wire fence to protect the businesses and wealthy residential areas inside. People are stopped and frisked going in or out of the central city. They are routinely frisked going into any store, bank, post office, or any other place of business. And it is also common for the Army or the RUC to enter peoples' homes at any hour with no warning or provocation to search, to seize property, and to destroy the furnishings of the house in the process.

On the streets the British Army is a constant presence. The soldiers do not sit passively observing the scene, but have their guns trained constantly on the passers-by in an effort to unnerve and terrorize the population. In Father Isaacs' stay in Belfast, four people were killed in four days by the British Army. "What happened to Danny Trevino here, happens every day over there," he said. "You can't understand the depth of feeling the Irish have for the British, unless you understand what it is like to live in a state of siege."

### HISTORICAL ROOTS

The roots of this conflict go back eight hundred years to the time when England first felt the desire for colonial expansion. The story of the conquest of Ireland closely resembles that of the conquest of America. The Irish were thrown off their land and massacred in the name of Protestantism. The last area of Irish resistance was in the North, where the power of the Irish tribal chiefs was the strongest. The English waged an all-out campaign to dominate that last hold-out. They confiscated over one million acres and imported Scotch and English settlers, who are the ancestors of today's Northern Irish Protestants. The Irish were forced to be serfs on the land their tribes used to own. The Irish culture, traditions, and language were almost totally destroyed.

The English consolidated their holdings in Ireland by putting all political and economic power in the hands of the Protestant Loyalists. Through the late 1800's Catholics were forbidden to carry arms or own a horse, to own land, to obtain higher education, or to belong to Parliament. The Catholic religion was outlawed, and religious persecution was carried on by the Protestant secret society, the Orange Order.

The Irish never stopped struggling against the invaders. The present conflict is only the most recent in a long series of uprisings. However, in the past, the Irish, economically deprived and without weapons, have never been a match for the might of colonial Britain.

In 1922, to stem a rising revolutionary tide, Britain made a deal with the Irish politicians, who represented the landowners and wealthy merchants, and signed a treaty which granted Home Rule to Southern Ireland. Britain didn't lose anything by granting independence to the South, because it kept Ulster, the northern 6 counties, for itself. Ulster is the most industrialized area of Ireland, and partitioning off Ulster amounted to cutting the head off the body. The mostly Catholic Republic of Ireland in the South is agricultural, and is now totally dependent on England economically. The partition of Ireland also created a state in the North which has one million Protestants and five hundred thousand Catholics. Obviously, a minority of Catholics in the North is easier to control than a large majority of Catholics in the country as a whole.

Following the division of Ireland, Ulster was ruled by a succession of corrupt Protestant-led colonial governments, which have ensured that religious bigotry, economic and political



discrimination became the law of the land, thereby creating the potential for violence in a religiously divided community. In the mid-60's the Catholics organized a Civil Rights Movement to demand the repeal of repressive legislation and an end to discrimination in housing and employment. The Protestant Orange Order and Unionist Party reacted to the civil rights marches with threats of violence, and the British used this excuse to intervene by sending troops to "restore order." More than 1600 deaths and 18,000 injuries later, 20,000 British troops are still in the North, and order seems further away than ever.

In 1970 internment camps were built at Long Kesh and Magilligan. People suspected of being Irish Republican Army members were imprisoned without charge or trial. Over two thousand people are presently incarcerated in these concentration camps. Eventually the whole apparatus of government in Ulster was suspended and direct rule was imposed from London.

England is expending great energies to keep Ireland in its rapidly dwindling fold. Besides the regular troops in the urban centers, rural guerrilla warfare is being waged in South Armagh, a nationalist (or Catholic) stronghold near the border with the Republic. The British call the area "bandit country" and patrol it with helicopters. Britain's elite counter-insurgency force, the Special Air Services (SAS), has devoted its full attention to South Armagh, with little success.

### BRITAIN'S ECONOMIC INTERESTS

Why are the British so intent on keeping North Ireland a colony? To answer this we must look at the extent of foreign investment in Ireland as a whole.

The incredibly rich, recently discovered, mineral and oil wealth of Ireland is being sold to the highest bidder. The Irish people are not even getting a glimpse of the natural wealth of their country. The lead and zinc mines in the South have been taken over by the Anglo-American Mining Company, the largest mining company in the world. Rockefeller's Marathon Oil owns the rights to all the oil and gas under 30% of Ireland's continental shelf.

In the north, almost all businesses of any size are owned by British and other foreign monopolies. Foreign firms are given tax breaks and financial assistance, and there are no regulations on the export of profits. As a result, 60-80% of the labor force is employed by firms owned by foreign interests.

In terms of economic exploitation, England sees both parts of Ireland as one. England is well aware that if the lid blows off in the North, the whole of Ireland would be consumed by civil war--a climate that is not very healthy for business-as-usual.

The most successful tactic that Britain uses in Northern Ireland has been that of "divide and conquer." Centuries of British rule have fomented divisions between the people of the North that undercut any common ground they have.

There is, among the English-backed Protestant Unionists, almost universal hatred and fear of Ireland's Catholic majority, and intense hatred of the Catholics who live within Ulster itself. This has led to appalling atrocities, torture, and sectarian mur-

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CAN YOU FIND ANY THING OBSCENE IN THIS PICTURE?  
This poster has been censored from the streets of Venice. Within 2 hours after they were put up, someone tore them down.

ders on a large scale. There are now over 200,000 armed Unionists, all determined, whatever the consequences, never to be absorbed into an all-Ireland state.

The British-dominated government of Southern Ireland offers no support to the Catholics of the North. The Constitution of the South was suspended recently to pass the harsh anti-IRA "emergency powers" act. The act gives the government police state powers against IRA members and sympathizers.

The Irish Republican movement itself is divided on the question of strategy. The Official wing feels a period of peace is necessary in order to use political means to try to unify Protestant and Catholic working class. The Provisional wing believes that English withdrawal from Ireland is the essential first step in dealing with Ireland's problems.

The Women's Peace Movement, which many people have seen as the only hope on the horizon, reflects the fact that the Irish people are exhausted by seven years of warfare. However, the movement seems not to be addressing the realities of Irish life. "They say they want peace and tell 700 Irish people to lay down their guns, while 20,000 British troops keep theirs," said Bernadette Devlin, Irish activist.

The last hundred years have seen the crumbling of the once-powerful British empire. Ireland is one of the last nations that still suffer under direct British rule.

Although the problems seem to be almost insurmountable, 800 years of Irish resistance proves that the Irish people will not stop struggling until they have won self-determination.

By Terry Morgan  
San Jose Community News  
December 1976



There's nothing more humiliating than having to ask permission to lay an egg. Ask any duck.

# From Carolina to Venice— blues on the beach

Essay: Dave Lindorff  
Photo: Lory Robbin

This article is a reprint from THE LOS ANGELES VANGUARD

His music is mellow, and so are the Venice folks who gather around him at his favorite bench on the boardwalk in Venice every day.

Bill Crawford, a self-proclaimed 65, came to Venice a quarter of a century ago from North Carolina. He brought with him a rural black blues tradition that was popularized in the last decade by people like Mississippi John Hurt and Big Bill Broonzie.

Crawford is proof that that tradition is alive and well today.

Crawford lives in a beach-front apartment building near Windward Avenue, where he has the job of parking lot attendant. He took the position because it lets him sit within view of the lot and play and sing his songs—songs that range from a truly raunchy "Dirty Song" to his own "Venice Blues."

He uses a pulsing strum, alternating with a two-finger picking style. A crowd of admirers and fellow musicians gathers whenever Crawford appears at the bench with his Ventura guitar. (It was given to him by four friends and an inscription on the back reads: "To Bill, from Vic, Joanne, Steve and Carol.")

Crawford is a man who's found what he likes. Though

friends have tried to get record companies interested in him, he seems disinterested in gaining fame and glory. "What I want to do is play," he asserts.

"This parking lot job is not my living, it's my *passtime*. Singing is my *living*," he said.

If life looks fine for Crawford today, it wasn't always that way. He views the world through one eye, ever since a junkie knifed him, taking out the other one and leaving a long scar down the right side of his face. The incident occurred during a robbery of a Standard Oil station on Rose and Lincoln, where Crawford used to work.

The gentle music he plays belies a fierce will to survive. Crawford, recounts how he had sympathetically offered that same robber \$40 from his pocket, only to be stabbed afterwards. "He started runnin' when I grabbed my Mauser from the drawer," Crawford recalled, "but I got him."

He still has a bullet to show that was returned to him by police after it was removed from another man he wounded during a robbery attempt at the gas station.

"I'm not a bad man," Crawford explains, "but if you mess with me, I mess back!"

## VENICE BLUES\*

Well I'm goin' honey, to that ol' West Coast,  
Well I'm goin' honey, to that ol' West Coast.

Well I'm goin' honey where you don't have to wear no clothes.

Well I'm goin' to Venice, honey where you don't have to wear no clothes.

Well I'm goin' to Venice where you don't have to wear no clothes. They go nude there honey, don't even wear no shoes.

Well I love it, you know Venice is my home,  
Well I love it, you know Venice is my home.

Says come on, come on and go down with me.

News is comin', comin' from all over town,  
News is comin', comin' from all over town.

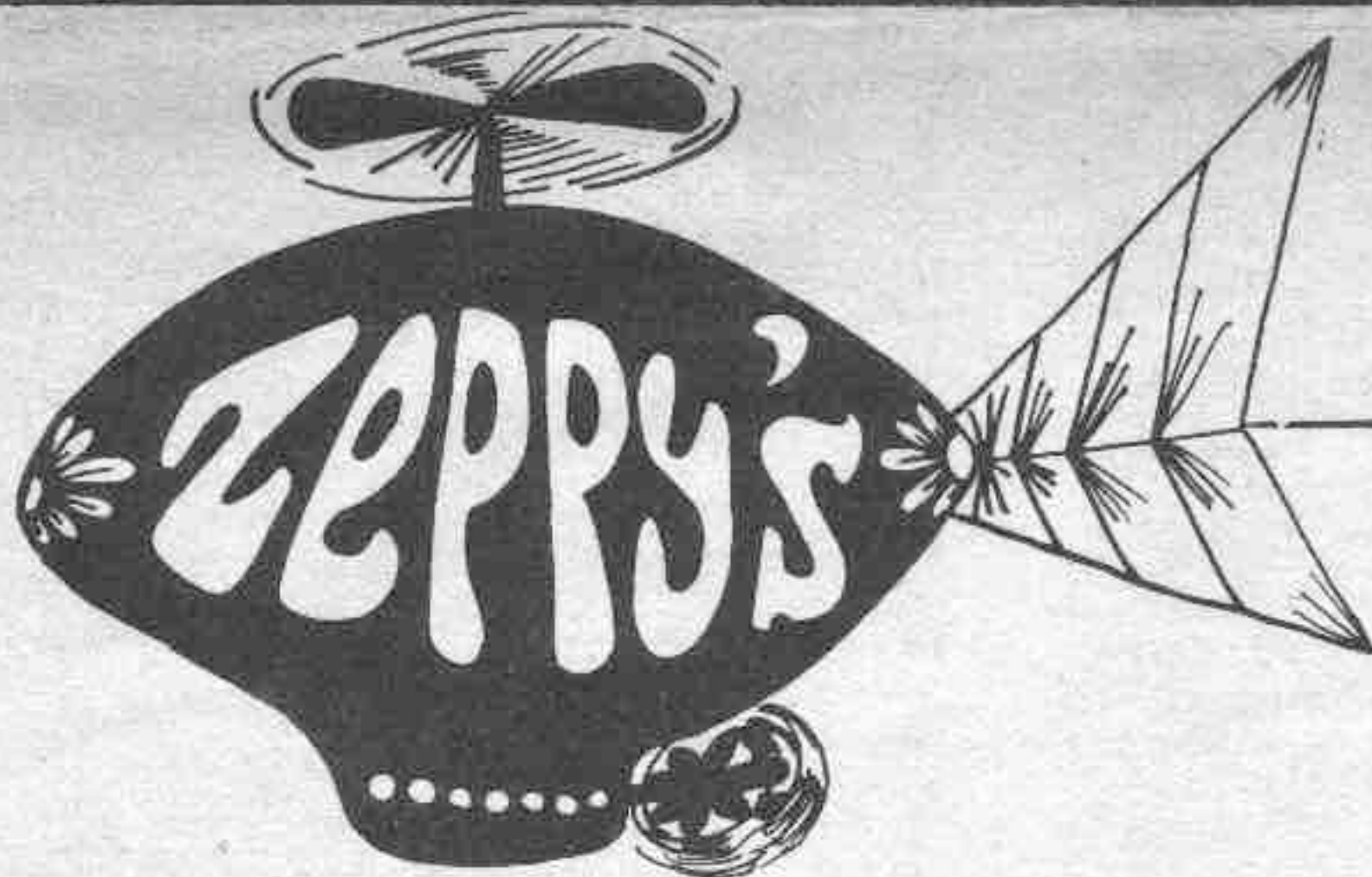
Just to see, comin' to see 'bout you and me.

\*To be sung in standard 12-bar blues form.

They goin' to put you and me on TV,  
They goin' to put you and me on TV.  
Just to see everything 'bout you and me.

Oh in Venice, oh right down by the sea,  
Oh in Venice, right down by the sea.  
You know I love it, honey you'll love it just like me.

Take a sunbath, and you'll feel just like a man,  
Take a sunbath, honey you'll feel just like a man.  
Lay out, oh lay out in the sand.



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Small World Books...Ocean Front Walk next to Sidewalk Cafe  
Ocean Front Market...825 Ocean Front Walk  
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# Guess who's coming to dinner?

Reprinted from the Real Paper

What do you get when you mix ethanol, phosphoric acid, potassium hydroxide, magnesium sulfate, calcium chloride, ferric sulfate, zinc sulfate, manganese sulfate, citric acid, potassium iodide, sodium molybdate, cupric sulfate, anhydrous ammonia, air, *Candida utilis* and water?

The answer, according to the Standard Oil Company of Indiana, is "natural food," and you might be surprised to learn that some of the stuff may be in your lunch box today. The end product of this chemical conglomeration—petroleum protein—is now being marketed to food processors in the United States for use in meat products, baked goods, frozen foods, infant dinners and other prepared foods on grocery-store shelves.

If you haven't heard of petroleum protein before, you've got company. Until recently most people, including a key administrator at the US Food and Drug Administration, knew nothing about it either.

Torutein the marketing label for Standard Oil of Indiana's petroprotein product, is a yeast culture that is grown on hydrocarbons distilled from crude oil. It is the first product of its type ever developed for human consumption. In May 1975, Standard Oil of Indiana's first petroleum protein processing plant in Hutchins, Minnesota, began churning out the stuff at the rate of 15 million pounds per year. (Standard is one of seven major multinational oil corporations that do business under the more familiar "Amoco" trade name.)

In appearance, Torutein looks as much like food as the process of its creation resembles agriculture. It is a uniform, light brown powder with the faint odor and bland taste of yeast. Torutein begins at the Standard Oil refinery, where ethylene and the other petrochemicals left in the oil barrel after the extraction of gasoline and jet fuels are removed from the residue. The ethylene is then converted to ethanol, at which point it makes its appearance in the Amoco food kitchens.

In a large, stainless steel vat ethanol and other "nutrient chemicals" are introduced to a teeming culture of living yeast cells. These single-cell microbes are *Candida utilis*, or, as they are commonly known, p-10 torula. They satisfy their all-consuming craving for petroleum distillates by ingesting the ethanol constantly, even as they breathe the ammonia and sterilized air piped into the tank. All the while, they reproduce millions of mirror-image microbes that themselves eat, aspirate and reproduce in the darkness of the fermenting tank.

After 24 hours of this bacchanalia, the yeast solution is removed from the tank and centrifuged to remove excess water. The resulting "yeast cream" is put in a pasteurizer, which George Miga, the Amoco executive whose job is to explain Torutein to the news media, call the "slaughter-house" of the bacterial world. Here the yeast is deactivated, and then spray-dried, producing the powdery end product.

If less than 2 percent of all the oil produced in this country in a year were converted into petroprotein, Miga says, it would produce enough food to feed the entire population for a year. The process is the result of ten years of high-priority Standard Oil of Indiana research, and nearly \$10 million. But Torutein is by no means the first petroprotein food product developed; it is simply the first to find its way into the American food supply.

### A History of Petroproteins

Interest in petroproteins developed after the Sixth World Petroleum Conference in 1963, where executives of the British Petroleum Company first announced that they had discovered the concept of hydrocarbon yeast cultures. At first, petroproteins were intended for use as livestock feed. French and Italian industrial interests began developing petroprotein manufacturing plants for this purpose, the Kyowa Hakko Company of Japan joined with British Petroleum in a cooperative

venture, and soon no fewer than ten corporations announced that they were producing petroleum protein animal food.

At the same time American-based oil companies were quietly concentrating on developing petroleum protein for human consumption. The Standard Oil Company (now Exxon), Gulf Oil and the Nestle Company collaborated on development of "beef steak" made of this artificial protein, but soon halted experimentation when "doubts about safety appeared," according to one researcher. The Gulf-Exxon protein was grown on methanol—a substance that is highly toxic in small doses—and minute quantities of it persistently found their way into the final product.

Amoco spokesman Miga said that some ethanol "gets into the finished product, and some becomes part of the cellular structure" of the yeast; but its impact on the finished product has not been clearly determined. At any rate, while questions were being raised in other parts of the world about the safety of introducing synthetic proteins into the food supply, Amoco's research proceeded smoothly.

In Japan, the controversy peaked in 1972 after an investigation of petroproteins used as animal feed and passed on through the food chain. The Ministry of Welfare expressed apprehension about the effects of petroleum protein on humans; a "Liason Committee to Demand Prohibition of Petroleum Protein" sprang up in Tokyo; and by 1973 all Japanese companies involved in petroleum protein development had announced a halt to their efforts without confirming or denying the charges made against their products.

That same year development of petroprotein for human consumption in the United States came a giant step closer to reality. G. Carl Holsing, Director of Toxicology of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana, addressed a letter to the US Food

and Drug Administration, announcing that his company had developed a pilot program for producing petroproteins as human food. He asked that the product be approved under existing food additive regulations on the grounds that the organism the company was raising on oil derivatives was no different from the torula yeast that has been used in food for years. This back-door petition provided an avenue for FDA approval with the least possible amount of public attention.

member was a representative of a southern hemisphere nation, nor was one a member of the third world. In an eight-line letter to the manufacturer—a remarkably low-key manner considering the significance of the decision—the FDA soon approved manufacture and distribution of petroleum protein "on the basis of existing FDA regulations." Food and Drug, beleaguered by product manufacturers for being slow to approve new substances and by consumer

and Color Additives, concurred. "The Food and Drug Administration has no current research projects regarding the production of protein from petroleum-derived sources," he said. "We are unable to locate any reports indicating that this subject has been the focal point of any FDA research."

Brown noted that "To the best of our knowledge, the Standard Oil Company of Indiana is the only domestic producer of a protein-containing food from a petroleum-derived food source." The FDA does not maintain a list of petroprotein users, and other than the one experiment sponsored by the oil company, there are no other known studies in the United States on the effects of petroleum protein.

### In Japan, It's Dangerous

In Japan, however, the Ministry of Welfare has performed chronic poisoning experiments on animals with petroleum protein substances, employing a technique similar to that used by the FDA in the testing of cyclamates and other food additives. In

some animals, the Welfare Ministry's experiments resulted in "a decrease in body weight, kidney, liver and spleen congestion and hypertrophy when compared to animals in a control group."

A study of petroproteins manufactured in Japan and intended as feed for domestic animals by Tokyo University professor Takahashi Akimasa showed the carcinogenic (cancer causing) substance 34-benzopyrene and similar compounds in the yeast culture. Petroleum protein yeast cultures were also found to contain trace amounts of the poisonous heavy metals lead, mercury and arsenic, and both the benzopyrenes and the heavy metals increase in concentration.

Noted Japanese chemist and anti-pollution activist Watanuki Reiko has studied petroleum proteins for some time. Based on her investigations she recently stated that in test animals "when regular doses of petroleum protein were continued over time, loss of body weight, inferior development, pneumonia, calcium deposits in the urinary tract, hypertrophy of the thyroid gland and breast tumors were all observed."

Petroprotein substances have also been found to contain fatty acids with curiously abnormal molecular structures, and free nucleic acids. How these substances might affect human health is anybody's guess.

The United Nations Protein Advisory Group suggests that all petroprotein substances be subjected to rigorous toxicological testing before entering the food supply. In a statement released after their second meeting in Moscow in 1971, the group observed: "While the use of torula yeast in human diets for more than fifty years provides evidence that some forms of 'single cell protein' [SCP] can make a safe contribution to human feeding, there is little evidence on the effects of this material when fed for long periods of time at levels which would make a significant contribution to meeting protein needs.

"In addition," the statement continues, "some of the substrates employed [in growing petroproteins] might offer an opportunity for SCP to acquire toxicity not inherent in the cells themselves. It is clear, therefore, that any proposed use of SCP for human consumption must be preceded by extensive and properly designed toxicological testing in several species of experimental animals for sufficiently long periods of time to detect cumulative toxicity and the presence of carcinogens."

### Standard Oil's PR Effort

Meanwhile, Standard Oil of Indiana has been putting its promotional literature in the hands of mass food producers of everything from pasta to prepared meat loafs. "Stop shelling out for egg yolks," exhorts one promo packet, advising manufacturers to use petroprotein instead in cookies, cakes, doughnuts and other bakery products. "A price-stable, high protein material that beats



and Drug Administration, announcing that his company had developed a pilot program for producing petroproteins as human food. He asked that the product be approved under existing food additive regulations on the grounds that the organism the company was raising on oil derivatives was no different from the torula yeast that has been used in food for years. This back-door petition provided an avenue for FDA approval with the least possible amount of public attention.

Shortly, the United Nations Protein Advisory Group, an assembly of scientists, government officials and "industry observers" from several countries, announced its unqualified support for petroleum protein development, and suggested that the term "single cell protein" be adopted "to avoid unfavorable food connotations of names such as bacterial protein and petroprotein." Characteristically, the advisory group touted petroprotein development as "significant in

advocates for the introduction of new items into the marketplace without adequate testing, neatly sidestepped the issues and allowed the use of petrochemical food in the American food supply.

### FDA: 'Never Heard Of It'

The file of technical information submitted to the FDA by Standard Oil of Indiana—the sum total of FDA's information on the subject—stands only half an inch high. A mere memo by government standards, the folder contains the results of one 13-week study in which the company's petroprotein yeast was added to the food of test animals. No adverse effects were noted.

Prior to my inquiry, the assistant to the director of the FDA's Division of Regulatory Guidance, Curtis E. Coker, Jr., said he had "never even heard of petroleum protein" and stated that the FDA has not conducted any research of its own on petroleum protein substances. Thomas C. Brown, assistant to the Director of Food

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# COMMUNITY

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BEYOND BAROQUE

Friday, January 7, 1977, at 8:00 p.m.  
Poetry reading by Elliot Fried, poet and English professor at Cal. State Long Beach, plus open readings.

Saturday, January 8, 1977, noon - 5 p.m.  
Exhibition of acrylic paintings on canvas and gouache paintings by Jim Housley. Exhibition continues through January 29th.

Venice Poetry Workshop, free open to public, every Wed. 8 p.m.  
Experimental Writing Workshop, led by George Drury Smith; 6 Tuesdays, starting Jan. 4; deadline for applications, Dec. 20

## CONCERTS FROM VENICE

A continuing series of Saturday Night performances of contemporary music features Richard Aldorasi, tabla and percussion and Tom Tedesco, guitar. The performances begin at 9 p.m. at the Chelsea Galleries, 1338 West Washington Blvd., For more information call: 392-2419, 392-5322, 399-1771.

## community services

### NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Venice Legal Aid.....392-4177
- Services Referral.....399-9228  
Helpline for food, clothing counseling, etc. M-F 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 10-3 p.m.
- Food Stamps only.....479-4421
- NAM (New American Movement).....392-7698  
478-1514  
Food stamp/unemployment counseling, Mon. 10-noon, 6-8 p.m., Tues. 4-8 p.m., Weds. 10-4 p.m., 6-8 p.m.
- St. Joseph's Center.....392-5101  
533 Rose Ave, Venice, CA, Community alternative. Bi-lingual education, 16 & over. Food Stamps, Counseling 9:30-4:30
- Job Information Center.....451-9811
- Welfare  
1. 11390 W. Olympic Blvd.....478-5511  
2. Welfare Rights.....731-5095  
3. NAPP.....399-7737
- Free Venice...226 San Juan.....396-6876
- Pet Assistance.....937-5204
- Air Pollution Count.....629-4711

### CITY SERVICES

- Street Cleaning.....393-9931
- Garbage Pick-up .....272-6376  
large parcels, call 1 day ext. 392 in advance
- Lot Cleaning.....485-3465  
fire hazard, health or building & safety, call for inspection. Owner gets billed for clearance.
- Emergency Clearance of Street...485-3702
- Street Lights.....485-5922
- Bureau of Consumer affairs.....485-4682  
State office.....620-4360  
County office.....974-1452
- Better Business Bureau.....627-6305

### WOMENSPACE

Womospace, a new Women's Westside Center is holding open planning meetings on Saturdays at 11 a.m. at 237 Hill St., Santa Monica. For more information call: 399-9220. Sisters, join in creating Womospace.

Mens Gay Rap Group meets every Wednesday at Unitarian Society - L.A. West, 3744 South Barrington Ave., (near Venice Blvd.) Mar Vista at 7:30 p.m.

The Episcopal City Society.....483-7002

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City of Venice

## VENICE TOWN COUNCIL

Venice Town Council meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Venice City Hall, 681 North Venice Blvd.

### AGENDA FOR JANUARY 5

- I. TAX STRIKE - What's happening with our taxes, rents & wages; a report on the HUMAN SERVICES COALITION.
- II. INTEGRATION PROJECT - what's in store for Venice schools?
- III. COASTAL COMMISSION EVALUATION - it's a new ball game, or is it?
- IV. LEGAL ACTION IN THE CANALS.
- V. MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Steering committee of the Venice Town Council urges all Venice residents to come to the next regular meeting of The Venice Town Council on Wednesday, January 5, 7:30 p.m. at the old Venice City Hall, 681 Venice Blvd. Every resident of Venice who attends has voice and vote. The December meeting heard reports on integration plans for L.A. City schools; Moe Stavnezer reported on Coastal Commission and Dorothy Weisser urged everyone to attend the demonstration for a tax strike.

## THE CHURCH IN OCEAN PARK 235 Hill

### CONTINUING CLASSES

- Improvisational Theater Workshops Mondays/8 \$3 with directors and players of PUBLIC WORKS
- BALLET with Robert VanSanten Six days a week, morning, afternoon and evening (call 396-0760)
- TAI CHI CHIH with Ted Wood Tues/Thurs 6-7:30 \$2/session
- CREATIVE DANCE CLASS with Heidi Schaffer: Tues 10:30 AM and 8:30 PM; call 396-6763 for info
- YOGA by Integral Yoga Institute (Stephen Fiske teaching) Wed/6 PM
- GAY RAP GROUP: Sat/1-3 PM
- DISCUSSION: American Book of the Dead with Rod Newmarch M/7:30
- TAI CHI CH'UAN with Fred Siciliano Thurs/Sat 8:30 AM \$2.50/class (or by appointment, 822-7889)
- POST ABORTION RAP GROUP by Westside Women's Clinic: 2nd Thurs of month at 8 pm Call 450-2191 for info

A FOOD CO-OP GROUP MEETS IN THE CHURCH 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 8-10:30. Join them to talk about alternatives for food.

### PUBLIC WORKS PERFORMANCES FRI/SAT

The improvisational resident company of the Church works from the ideas, questions, and suggestions of the audience, doing something nobody else does in theater. Friday and Saturday nights at 9 p.m. \$2.50.

### SENIOR CITIZENS SERVICES

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201 Ocean Front Walk
- Retired Senior Program.....394-0251
- Westminster Senior Citizen Center.....392-5566
- Jewish Home for the Aged.....881-4411
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We need your participation because we believe the people of our neighborhood should have a major say in re-establishing a community marketplace. Our tentative guidelines for this store (subject to member consensus) include: 1) reliable provision of the community's food needs, emphasizing nutrition and quality food 2) member own-

# SERVICES

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- Youth Clinic & Medical Help.....821-3484  
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- Community Family Health Center.,392-4125  
320 Lincoln Blvd, M-F 6 p.m.-10 p.m.
- Family Planning Center.....392-4147  
1501 Pacific Ave.(at MarketSt)
- Westside Women's Health Care ...450-2191  
1711 Ocean Park Blvd,
- Women's Center.....826-0818
- Women's Building.....225-1724
- Drug Treatment Center.....274-5387  
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- Methadone Treatment.....477-4085
- Venice Drug Coalition.....392-4151
- Narcotics Anonymous.....372-9666
- Drug Hotline.....392-2873
- Drug Emergency.....393-2873
- Alcoholism Service Center.....396-5940
- Gay Alcoholic's Anonymous.....396-6551
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- Fire.....473-1155
- Ambulance.....473-1155
- Medical Emergency Hospital.....451-1511
- Poison Center.....451-1511
- Highway Patrol (dial 0 ask for...ZE 12000
- Suicide Prevention Center.....381-5111
- Rape Crisis Hotline.....677-8116
- FBI.....272-6161
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# Review PAGE

## A REVIEW AND OPEN LETTER TO THE FEMINIST VENICE COMMUNITY:

"Garage Sale" at the Fox Venice on the 13th of December should have been a truly revolutionary cultural event, but instead it almost made me throw up. Goldie Glitters is developing into an excellent actress. The film may be a true vehicle for a number of the Venice Community who have a right to it, on any budget. Many of the two young Japanese producer-directors techniques were astounding (especially the mix of video work, good color and rough black and white sequences--effects I had never seen before). But the choice of 'trash' to go with it and the Roudy often anti-human responses of much of the audience to appalling scenes in "Trash" and even Goldie's movie make one wonder if even the poor cultural revolutionaries of Venice have been replaced by crass idiots. I want the people of Venice to know I have been twice violently attacked by essentially se 1st ticket takers at the Fox at many of their community events, even from the Renters' League "Hearts of the West" last year. They are half pseudo, especially when they charge people for whom they are "giving" the benefit up to four hundred dollars to use the Fox, often at a time when their regular shows wouldn't clear that much. The Fox is an important cultural asset but it has also supported some very sexist events unworthy of the full creativity of Venice. Goldie, please go to a real persons consciousness raising soon.

Love Always,  
Ms. Lilly Sabina Fairweather, A.M.  
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GLITTERS PURE GOLD IN GARAGE SALE  
By Carol Fondiller

"Garage Sale" starring Goldie Glitters as Goldie Glitters and Tom White as her husband Hero, is a marvelous mish-mash of unrelated scenes strung together by a mixture of the worlds corniest plots. Queen leaves boy, searches for something more than love and finds that love is all-alas too late.

Goldie tells Hero, "you've got a lot of potential, besides being quite a hunk." But she can't stand his naivete any more. "This is a vacuum pump, stupid! This is a double dildo and this is a dildo." She leaves. Hero deserted seeks ways to win her back. As he forlornly watches T.V. a disembodied head tells him to seek Ruth the Dancing Waitress for his answer. "I want to watch I Love Lucy," Hero Whines. On the road to find Goldie we are treated to some fine parodies of Southern California sub-culture. Real footage of Goldie Glitters as Santa Monica's most controversial Homecoming Queen.

A bondage scene where one gets a lecture in U.S. Army documentary film style on the virtues of cinch knots. "They do not cut off circulation." Gore Vidal could take lessons from the Yonemoto brothers in satirizing the Southern California sub-cul-

## VENICE U.S.A., AN AMERICAN DREAM COME TRUE by SWEET WILLIAM

By Carol Fondiller

If anyone writes a book about Venice, some Venetian's bound to pop up and say "How can this be about Venice? My house isn't in it." In "Venice of America", no one is in it.

The book consists of several essays that were printed in the Los Angeles Times. If anyone suffers from Hypoglycemia this book is not for them. Sweet William manages to trivialize every thing he writes about. He even manages to pick out the most insipid photographs to go with his dated "where it's at" prose. Sweet has the obligatory shot of tots of different ethnic backgrounds playing with one another, so dear to liberal hearts. The photos are poorly reproduced and badly laid out. For Eight dollars it's a stingy book.

One gets the impression that Sweet doesn't live in Venice, he floats above it, the omniscient guru, watching us all as we struggle in our petty lives.

Sweet William doesn't hate anyone. He feels sorry for them when they can't see the truth. HIS TRUTH. He is not romantic in the Turner-Bronte-Shelley style. None of the visciditudes of living ruffle the bland pages of his text.

He is a sentimentalist of the Erich Segal-Richard Bach school of cloy, trivializing even the terrible beauty of the ocean into mere prettiness.

He makes Hanna-Barbera Cartoons of us all. According to Sweet Will, the aged just sit and smile, no worries about rent cross their sweet doddering minds.

No drug addicts live in Venice, only quaint natives and wise surfers inhabit Sweet's Venice.

He quit his job at the University, but the air of pedantic patronization hovers about him like the smell of embalming fluid on an undertaker's clothes.

V. of A., an American Dream does not even make a satisfying thud when one throws it across the room in disgust. Puerilities, vacuities and fatuities are tightly packed into its skimpy 96 pages. Definitely Soft Core Corn. If one had the misfortune of receiving this book as a Christmas Gift, perhaps you could talk your favorite Bookseller into exchanging it for "Santa Monica Bay the First 100 Years", a handsome book with black and white photos and readable text of the history and development of Santa Monica, Ocean Park and Venice, or "Summer is Forever: Southern California Beach Towns" by Jeffery Stanton. It covers the beaches from San Diego to Santa Barbara. It appreciates each town's different qualities. By its very nature it is just a glossing over, but Mr. Stanton's color pictures are lovely, making even the ocean unique for each town. He also gives photography techniques for getting some of his beautiful photos.



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ONE LIFE FAMILY 202 Pier Ave.  
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GOOD STUFF BAKERY 215 Rose Ave.

ture scenes.

A lecture by Steven McCrew on Southern California Mission ware, "the only mass produced hand-craft to remind us of the golden days of the 20's and 30's is a collectable item in itself. A woman becomes sexually obsessed by a single eye peering at her. This is one of the most sensual erotic moments I've ever seen on film.

Ruth Hagopian - The dancing waitress was just right as the tired hash slinger and she who talks in symbols.

Goldie was Goldie with a vengeance from the shot of her announcing to Hero "If I have to eat one more plate of brown rice with soya sauce, I'm going to turn into a macrobiotic geisha", to where she dies in a delicious parody of all of those great movie queens, Ida Lupino, Olivia De Havilland, with a dash of Gale Sondergaard. She held me in the palm of her mandarin-nailed hand.

This drag queen, star of the San Francisco Cockettes, featured in "Elevator Girls in Bondage", and the first "Real Homecoming Queen" Santa Monica City College ever had, is atrocious, audacious and fun to watch.

And a note to all you cineasts out there. The Yonemoto Bros. exploited Goldie's talents without exploitig Goldie.

The film could do with some judicious editing and cutting to pick up the pace. Bruce Yonemoto was co-producer of the film. Nikolai Ursin, cinematographer got some nice moments. Midnight showings at the Nu-Art and repeated showings at the Fox Venice and other assorted watering holes and meeting places for the sub-culture, cult freaks should get the audience for this X rated film. The Yonemoto Brothers show a lot of promise. More! More!