

BRINGING THE WAR ON HOME

THE

FREE VENICE

BEACHHEAD

NUMBER 24, JULY

1971

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FLAGS

And we went down
To the place
Where Bill was buried
And there were flags all over the place
I mean flags like a sea
And flags like a crowd
Flags like I never seen before
Millions of them
All standing so tall
And blowing free and proud
All in neat rows
For as far as you could see
So we walked among them
Past Iwo Jima
And all the other strange names
And the flags snapped against our legs
Cracking in the wind
And just up a ways
Just past the bridge
Was where Bill was
Just past the bridge
That is what they told us
And soon we got up to the place
And we were sure it was the place
The flags were new and clean
The graves fresh
The tin markers all in place
With death and
When the men put them into the ground
And we looked a long time
Before we found Bill
So we just sat there
Where they put him in the ground
Just past the bridge
In a sea of flags
Millions of them
And then we got up
And Pop brushed the tire tracks
That still held yesterday's rain
He brushed them off the grave
And we walked slowly back over the bridge
Through the flags
That snapped against our legs...

ron kovic, Memorial Day, 1971

WHO IS RON KOVIC?

Ron Kovic is a twice-wounded Vietnam veteran. This ex-Marine Sgt. (retired on disability) volunteered for two tours of duty in Vietnam. He won the Bronze Star, Navy Commendation Medal and New York State Conspicuous Service Cross. On January 20, 1968, he was wounded seriously enough to be confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life, thus ending his participation in this senseless war. Through this ordeal he came to realize how wrong it would be for any more men to duplicate this horrendous experience—not only of Vietnam, but of the Veterans Administration hospital.



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We are coming
In the early morning
We are all coming down your
Marble lane
We are your Johnny
Coming marching
Limping
Crawling back
Bringing the war on home
We know who you are
We have seen the truth
Along a thousand rice paddies
At the barrels of a million guns
We have felt the truth
We have felt it cracking through our shoulders
Cracking in its hot truth
And we have watched it flow from
Our brothers' bodies
Red and thick
Like your lies
And we know who you are
You cannot fool us
With your plastic smiles
You cannot trick us by your slogans
You are the leaders
You are the well fed
You are the wise men
With all the answers
You are the untouched
The celebrities of our nation
Who played with our lives
You are the ones who sent us to die
And we are the ones who never asked why
You are the ones who taught us to kill
And jailed us for killing
You are the ones who have disgraced us
You have dishonored us
By the thousands we have died for your greed
And filthy ambition
We have lost legs
And arms
Faces and minds
For your greed
For your filthy ambition
Your slogans
Your countless lies
You have betrayed us
And all our people
We cannot be fooled by your lies
And we have given all that men can give
All of their bodies
And all of their minds
We have given them all
And we sit lonely
Licking our wounds
Lost in your pool rooms
Stoned in your forgotten allies
Of filth and despair
Swept along in Sunday sidewalk rains
Past dreams made dark by your war
And thoughts that slip the clouds
Lonely down the lane
We know who you are
We have tasted your bittersweet betrayal
And puke on lonely mornings
Puke your deceitful lies
On your lovely plush green rugs
On your war
On your White House steps
We spit

OFF THE COCKROACH

Showing people how to eliminate our disease-carrying cockroaches is important in our community. But it is also important to show the relationship between the cockroach and its human brother, the slum landlord.

As you know, it is easier to get rid of the six-legged insect than its two-legged fellow traveler. Of course, we must eventually rid ourselves of both varieties.

Our slum landlords, usually living elsewhere, have only one objective: to make as much money as possible in the shortest time. And to do this, their tenant/victims must pay, pay, pay.

We pay with our money. We pay with our misery. We pay with our health. And at times we have paid with the lives of our children. If we don't pay fast enough to the bloodsucking landlord masters, there are always the police, our "protectors," to put a little frosting on the bitter profit cake.

How can a sensible slum landlord exterminate the rats, cockroaches and other vermin, clean and light the halls, repair and maintain the plumbing, clean the premises, etc., without reducing his profit? He CANNOT. He is dedicated to the proposition that his profit rights are superior to our human rights. Profits first, last and inbetween.

If we want to get rid of a slum landlord, we must look to ourselves. If we want to get rid of cockroaches, get a one-pound can of POWDERED BORIC ACID (about 66cents). Sprinkle it on the cockroach trails. (I used a salt shaker, and labeled it.) In about one week they will start to go and in three weeks you will have a hard time finding any.

Identify their trails by the little balls of cockroach shit, about the size of a sugar grain. One pound of powdered boric acid is sufficient for the average home.

As they travel through the powder, it sticks to them; when they return to their nests, they lick it off... then it kills them. I have tried it and it really works.

Keep the powdered boric acid labeled well and away from children. Don't eat it; it may make you sick just like any other insecticide. Happy hunting!

Ed. note: As for the two-legged cockroaches, the next time one comes around, sprinkle some boric acid on him. If he doesn't go away contact the *Beachhead* and we'll tell you some other methods....

VETS

The California Veterans Movement is a group which was formed by veterans for veterans. We came about through a coalition of veterans groups throughout the Southern California area. We of the California Veterans Movement feel it our collective and individual responsibility to inform the American people how our military policy in Indochina and around the world affects everyone that comes into contact with it.

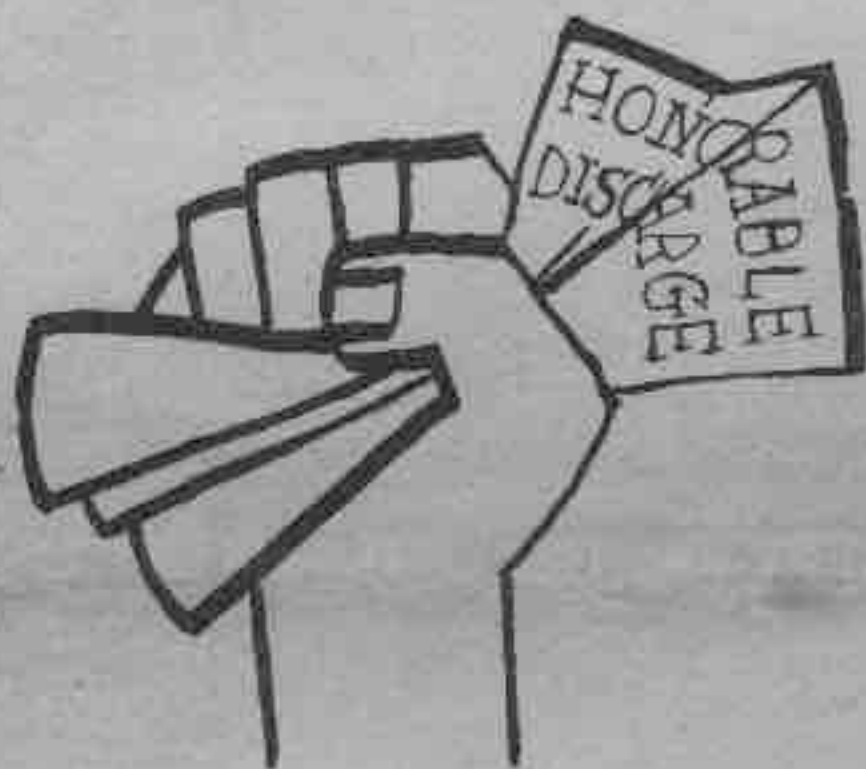
It is our purpose to organize as a lobbying, informational body representing veterans and active-duty servicemen, to help other vets overcome the difficulties in dealing with the Veterans Administration and to offer them a viable alternative to the American Legion and VFW. We feel it necessary to reveal the deficient treatment that returned wounded veterans receive in the VA hospitals, as well as the high unemployment rate among veterans, the high incidence of drug abuse and its cause, the general feeling of alienation which a veteran feels when he returns to civilian life and the still very real existence of racism and sexism within the military. We as veterans want to make it known that we are completely against the use of the P.O.W. issue as a political football which the present administration is using as a rationalization to continue our military engagement in Indochina.

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THANKS TO
Ann and Peter

ORGANIZE



As active-duty GIs, many of us saw firsthand the horror, inhumanity and devastation produced by a war which is destroying not only nations, but entire peoples, as well.

As veterans, we now speak to America, not only of these experiences, but of lessons taught us by them. We have learned that no smokescreen of talk about "helping the South Vietnamese" or "containing Communism" can cover the fact that instead of aiding the peoples of Indochina, we are systematically annihilating them. That's a far cry from "self-determination."

In trying to solve these problems, we are working directly with veterans with drug abuse problems, with unemployed veterans, with active-duty GIs who feel the immediate repression of the military system. We are going into the Veterans hospitals and working with the doctors and disabled vets. It is our hope that by making the American public aware that these deficiencies in the VA system and our society exist a constructive change will be brought about.

The struggle that the California Veterans Movement is engaged in affects all people, veterans and non-vets alike. In order to accomplish our goals we need your support.

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PFP IN NEW COALITION

by Milton Takei and Peter Van Zant

Between two and three hundred radicals and left-liberals gathered in Albuquerque over the July 4th weekend to begin forming a new national political coalition for the 1972 elections. The city of Albuquerque was clearly expecting trouble from the convention, following the recent riots there. The National Guard was mobilized and the police were much in evidence. The police helicopter frequently circled the convention site. The City had previously made every attempt to force a cancellation of the convention.

People were there from the California Peace and Freedom Party (fourteen from Venice alone), other PFP groups, ex-McCarthyite New Party contingents from a number of states and several other state parties. Called simply "The Coalition," this national group will be a locally based organization containing both electoral and non-electoral organizations. There will be another convention in November to approve a platform, select a shadow cabinet and nominate a Presidential candidate.

Other groups present included the Wisconsin Alliance Party, a group working on such projects as getting into local governments, forming food co-ops, providing help for small farmers who are being pressured by large monopoly corporations and attempting to organize workers in the factories. The Florida New Party is also into heavy non-electoral organizing trips, but it caused much controversy by mounting a heavy verbal campaign to draft Ralph Nader for President. This proposal was voted down by the rest of the conferees, who felt that building an effective national coalition at this time was more important than focusing on a charismatic national figure who hardly qualifies as a radical and probably would refuse the nomination anyway.

Individuals from Venice were able to meet with people from Wisconsin Alliance and International Socialist to share experiences. The Wisconsin Alliance people were surprised by the similarity between the things Free Venice and Wisconsin Alliance were doing. Some people questioned the usefulness of organizing in the community as opposed to the factories. The discussion was very friendly and steps will be taken to improve communication among the various groups.

Two major objectives were achieved at the conference: drafting a preliminary platform and working out strategy for the coming months leading to the nominating convention in November. The platform was truly radical in a number of important respects:

1. It calls for immediate and total withdrawal from Indochina and ending all involvement in Southeast Asia

—military, political and economic.

2. It proposes unilateral initiatives for nuclear disarmament of the world.

3. Specific planks were included on racism and sexism, written by the people affected.

4. Removal of all laws against crimes without victims, including drug, obscenity, sex and gambling laws.

5. Direct actions against the giant corporations which rule America was advocated in several proposed planks, Ecology, Economics and Foreign Policy among them. One proposal in the last-named plank was to support the reclamation by peoples of other countries of the resources now being taken by American corporations.

Regarding strategy, the Coalition will definitely be grass-roots, rather than "top down." The Coalition will make no attempt to control the activities of the independent local groups, which will retain their own names. It views electoral politics as not an end, but a "vehicle to be used in implementing social and cultural change in America." It supports other kinds of actions such as demonstrations. It supports Venice-type community organizing, recognizing the need for counter-institutions like food and clothing co-ops, co-op child care centers and co-op schools. However, the Coalition views electoral politics as necessary, because decisions are made through the electoral process. Also, there are great possibilities for education, organization and mobilization of people.

A wide spectrum of radical political and economic thought was represented at the convention and was included in the platform writing, insuring that a variety of ideas and means for social change were included in the draft platform. Some people were most heavily into ecology, some into economics and other into cultural revolution. Views on organizing techniques ranged from building cooperative communities to worker organizing for class struggle to decentralization of government.

One of the most inspiring aspects of the conference was the free, uninhibited expression of ideas by the delegates. Committee meetings and plenary sessions were marked by contributions from many people, who did not allow themselves to be intimidated into letting all the ideas come from the "leadership."

If you want to be part of the Coalition, call Venice PFP, 396-6535. Or come to our meetings every Wednesday, 8 p.m., at 1621 W. Washington Blvd. We will soon have copies of the draft platform and we welcome your own ideas, changes or additions.

ART O WORK

CREATIVE LEATHER

ORGANIC APPAREL

MASON JAR

LINDA MASON
2917 MAIN STREET
OCEAN PARK, CA. 90405
TELEPHONE 392-5668

Letter to the Editor

The DEVIL will sure laugh when he gets all of you in hell where you belong—if God doesn't punish you enough to get you all on your knees to honor Him and do His teaching from the Bible.

You may escape Court and Punishment here but God does not accept Draft Dodgers and Liars and Trouble Makers. Keep this paper, you should stuff it in your mouth to stop your tongue.

Editor's note—Keep those cards and letters coming, folks. Send all correspondence to the *Beachhead*, P.O. Box 664, Venice, Calif. 90291.

ON PRISONS

On June 5th some way-out things happened in our part of the land. Ex-prisoners attended a conference at East Los Angeles College on the subject of prisons—and who more than they know what the score is? There were many chicanos and blacks participating, understandably, as they make up a disproportionate part of the prison population in this racist society.

Assemblyman Alan Sieroty spoke and introduced a number of important bills on prison reform. AB2701-4 would give prisoners the right to petition the Adult Authority on loss of parole and not permit the prisoner's sentence to run longer than the original sentence.

Many other suggestions toward prison reform were made. One suggestion was for the Adult Authority to be broken up into community units and the community to go into the prison to assist the prisoners. We here in Venice have started assisting prisoners. We have made several visits to a black prisoners group at CRC in Norco and have received a warm response. We know the job of fighting for community representation on the parole boards is a long, tough one and we need dedicated people.

Presently we are helping in the support of the prisoners' fight in any way we can. We are trying to publicize their plight and their needs. The Study of Black History Group at CRC has asked for community people with knowledge of theatre and playwriting to help the group, which is ready to put on plays. They also want to set up a halfway house for those being released. They seem to get on well with each other and feel they can continue to help each other on the outside. They need the donation of a cheap rental of a house or

a group to sponsor same. Anyone who can help in this project, has knowledge of hidden funds or is interested in working on community representation on parole boards, please contact the *Beachhead* at P.O. Box 664, Venice, Calif. 90291. Don't forget to write your Assemblyman and Senator at Sacramento to vote for Bills 2701-4 as well as Bill AB581, permitting prisoners to receive uncensored mail.

Assemblymen:
North of Venice, West of Pacific—Priolo
North of Venice, East of Pacific—Sieroty
South of Venice, East of Pacific—Waxman
South of Venice, West of Pacific—Beverly
State Senator—Stevens
Their address is State Capitol Bldg., Sacramento, Calif. 95814.



WHY?

- Why, if current polls show that 73% of the American people are against the war, does it still continue?
- Why does the cost of living continue to rise while it gets harder and harder for me to find a job?
- Why is it that ten of the largest oil companies pay no taxes while mine go up and up?
- Why is my son sent away to destroy a country and a people who are fighting for their independence?
- Why did the City Council, which is supposed to represent me, vote to plan my community without my participation?
- Why can't I breathe the air, drink the water or eat the food of my country without fear of contamination and sickness?

As the recent *New York Times* Pentagon articles have been revealing, FIVE Washington administrations lied to the people about why and how and when and where they made the war.

WEST SIDE COMMITTEE FOR PEACE is a group of people who have been asking these questions and attempting to find solutions. We must also take the responsibility for helping to make the peace. We are calling a series of community meetings to discuss the war and the ways it affects our everyday lives and how we can bring it to an end.

The next meeting of the West Side Committee for Peace will be held on July 20. Everyone is invited to come and start to build an organization in the community that will work to end the war in Indochina—and the crises at home.

For more information and time and place of meeting, call 821-1369 or 821-3254.

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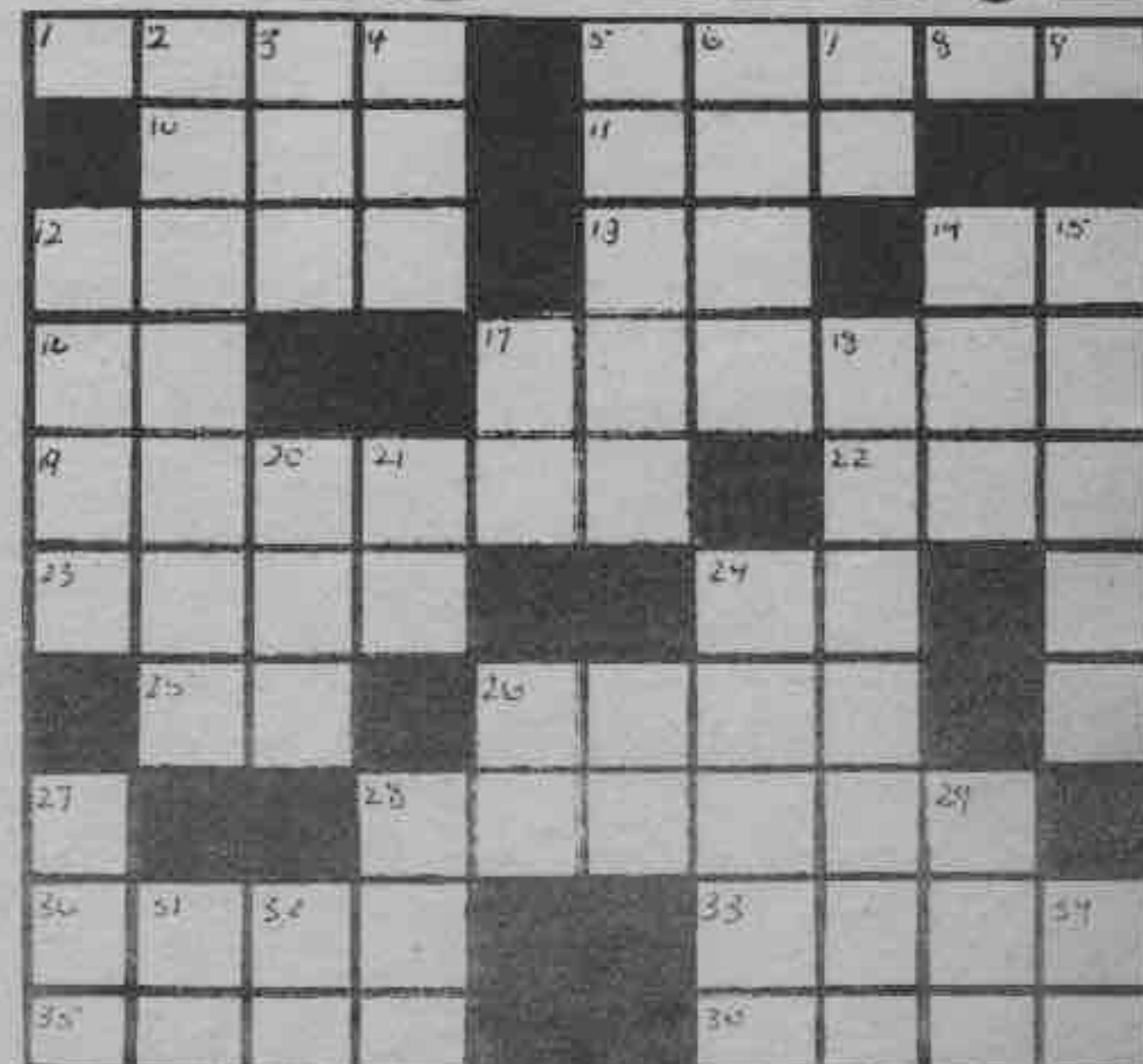
CROSSED CONDITIONS no.1

ACROSS

1. TV "commercial" for CIA starring Bill Cosby; 2 words.
5. 502 "Oriental human beings" "wasted" here, in integrated lynching.
10. —balahap; Philippine revolutionaries.
11. Two eyes and then another (warning: a pun is involved). Or Office Of the Interior. (Init.)
12. Spanish bourgeoisie.
13. "All Right, —, You Win," sang Joe Williams.
14. K—; fate of 50,000 young men from the U.S. in Vietnam... so far.
16. Crossword puzzle fan's caviar.
17. — boots; two boots linked by steel bar. Named after northwest U.S. state that makes its prisoners wear them, supposedly to hamper escape.
19. No news is —. (Another atrocious pun; watch it!)
22. See 10 across. Dispersed, but still active.
23. Something big money is covered with.
24. In other words. (Initials from Latin.)
25. Em —. Originally abbreviation for slavemaster. Since it was the worst thing in the world to be, young black men took to using this epithet on each other so as to be later able to shrug off the curses laid on them by the real mother —. (See DOZENS in the *Revolutionary Encyclopedia*.)
26. Type face, in printing jargon.
28. John Wayne, underneath all the bullshit.
30. Intimate circle.
33. Broken, in Spanish. (Masc. form.)
35. Has plastic band.
36. Mad Russian (in 1917).

DOWN

1. Central concept of capitalism.
2. — Otis, son of Johnny. You'll be buying his records one day.
3. Degenerate form of intellectual humor enjoyed by crossword puzzle addicts.
4. What Chicken Little saw. (Careful.)
5. Early euphemism for black people. (Plural.)
6. — of oppression; you must know it's there before you can throw it off.
7. Chinese measure that is shorter uphill than downhill.
8. Article.
9. Center of the known universe.
10. Dull.
14. Debt. (Abbrev.)
17. Expression of pain.
18. Where Dick 'n' Jane don't play. (Plural.)
20. Political organization of the world's bravest people; formally founded on Dec. 20, 1961.
21. In Spanish it's y, in Latin it's —.
24. People are sluggish; chemicals are —.
26. Initials of revolutionary writer thought by some to have been assassinated by CIA in 1960. (Wrote *Wretched of the Earth*.)
27. Good ol' John Wayne says men aren't supposed to do this; it makes the mascara run into their makeup.
28. The enemy within.
29. Estimated Time of Arrival. (Initials.)
31. Last letter of this three-letter abbreviation being held elsewhere as collateral.



32. U.S. version of initials of one of the most revolutionary lands on earth.
34. To be released from jail on this is the ideal. Legal term. (Abbrev.)



The Free Venice Community House, 468 Howland Canal, Venice, has received a citation from the Department of Building and Safety, charging that the recycling center on the property was in violation of the City zoning or-

dinance. The Free Venice Ecology Community, which operates the center, has decided to challenge the city in the courts and is attempting to engage attorneys for that purpose.

In a hearing before the City Attorney on June 10th, Neighborhood Legal Services attorney Marguerite Buckley argued that the Community House was not "storing" anything, but merely providing trash containers for use by neighbors. She added that the recyclables were removed twice as often as the City picks up garbage.

This particular citation is only part of the harassment that has been faced by Free Venice groups using the Community House. The City has cited the Community House for holding public assemblies on the property, ignoring the First Amendment right of assembly and the fact that similar political assemblies are held in residential zones by Establishment political candidates. The Free Venice Food Co-op has been charged with operating an illegal store, although it merely distributes food purchased collectively. It seems more than a coincidence that these actions were taken at a time when Free Venice was intensifying its struggle to block the Venice Waterways Project. This project would turn the Venice Canals into a private yacht harbor, eliminating the present residents.

Although the attack on the recycling center smacks of harassment, this is not the first center to be threatened by the City. The recycling center at the Woodland Hills Community Congregational Church was previously closed because it was out of zone. This group attempted to work through the mayor's office and the City Council. A blanket zone variance for recycling centers reached the floor of the Council but failed, despite big promises from politicians. The City Council decided that each individual recycling center would have to get its own variance. However, to merely apply for a zone variance costs \$200, far beyond the means of any recycling center.

What conclusions can we draw from the actions by the City? Our so-called representatives are not going to be much help in saving our environment, unless forced into it. For all the speech-making about ecology, politicians are making it clear that the environment takes a back seat to the political harassment of unpopular groups. In spite of pious statements about enforcing the law, the City will make the law flexible enough to satisfy corporate polluters, but not environmentalist groups.

We must fight our battles outside of the political system as it is now constituted. We must fight in the courts, and if that fails, we must fight by other means. And whatever the future has in store, we must have unity. Without unity, how can we defeat the powerful weapons of the small minority who are destroying the world?

For further information call Don Woodland or Jeff Lanzman, 821-2889, or Milton Takei, 396-6535.

THE EARTH BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE!

Bad News for Ecology

Information is a crucial ingredient in the fuel that runs the engine of repression. It is important for us to recognize that not all the information that the cops obtain comes from bugs and agents. Sometimes we sisters and brothers of the movement supply the information.

This is how it happens: Some of us get scared when an FBI agent appears at the door. We answer a few "simple" questions, because we are afraid not to—afraid of committing some crime by not talking. Our fear in this situation distorts our judgment. There is no law requiring us to talk with an FBI agent, no crime against the state when the agent is brushed off and the door is shut immediately. However, a crime against our people is done when we deal with the situation by answering any of the feds' questions. No FBI agent asks idle questions; there is no such thing as small talk with a cop. A long answer, a short answer, a truthful answer, a lying answer, any of these will supply some sort of information which is of use to the state. The FBI visitor may be out to make a case on you, or a sister or a brother, and you have "sung" if you say anything more than "Call my lawyer. Goodbye."

Sometimes when we open the door unafraid and ready to brush the cop off, we get caught by an old interrogation trick. The FBI agent says, "We have

some information which tends to implicate you in (such and such) a bombing. If you could answer a few questions, I'm sure we can straighten things out." Your mouth drops; your mind boggles: "Shit, man, I didn't do that!" Suddenly you have lost your cool and you're only too glad to tell the cop where you were on Thursday night and who you were with. Maybe that's all he wanted to know—where you were and if (x) was with you. And you've given him the information. Even two-bit gangsters in grade B movies don't fall for that one.

Some others of us are not afraid when the FBI comes—in fact, quite the reverse. We are so arrogant about our wits and the feds' stupidity that we invite them in to ask them questions to find out what the enemy is up to. Fat chance. Our very questions give them information which they might never stumble over otherwise. Behind each question is a body of information which may well be revealed in the question itself or in a series of questions. Some of our brothers have reported on an interview: "Man, was that a dumb pig. He didn't know what he was looking for." There are several names for that kind of arrogance.

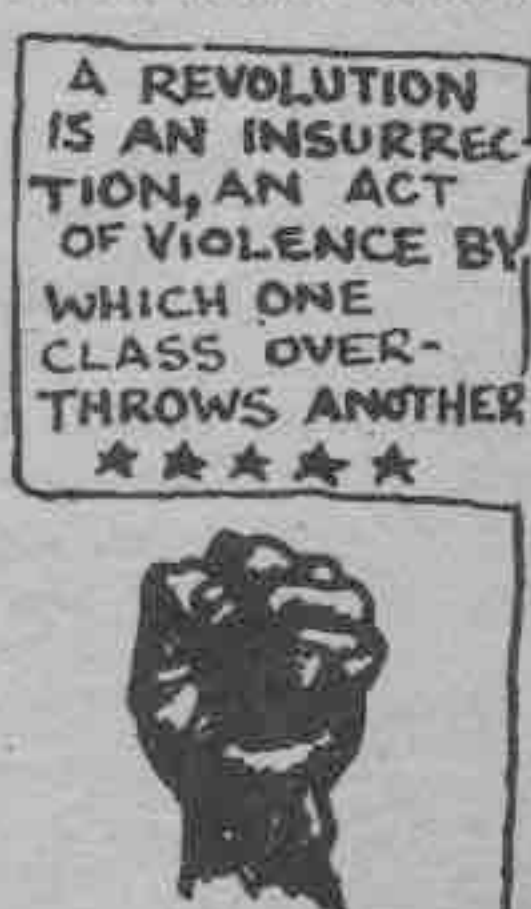
What should we do when the FBI comes to call? It's really pretty simple. Experience has shown that the best response after the caller identifies him-

When the FBI calls on you

self and flashes his badge is to say, "That's nice, and if you have any questions, I'll listen to them in my lawyer's presence. She (or he) is (so and so). So long." Don't let him in. Don't be afraid. Don't be tricked. Don't be arrogant. Any talking you do may sound like singing. The history of struggle is filled with cases of sisters and brothers sent to jail and to death on frameups based on just enough circumstantial information to give a hue of credibility to the state's charges.

Another line of FBI investigating to anticipate is the visit to a third person—a parent, friend or employer. Where possible, it is helpful to talk with someone likely to be contacted and let them know the best way to deal with FBI visitors. Bits and pieces of information from nervous employers and upset parents may make up a mosaic of trouble for one of us. So try to anticipate the problem and handle it ahead of time with enough tact and humor to ease the situation.

Somehow, along with everything else we must do, a balance should be struck between silly paranoia and naive obliviousness. Long before we are ready, the police are moving against us. The state in its seriousness forces us to be ever more sophisticated about defending ourselves. Perhaps the first step in learning about weapons is how to engage the safety on our mouths.



by Rachel Dranow

Our gratitude to all true patriots who liberate secret documents like FBI files and Pentagon Papers in order to expose the conspiracy of the power elite against the people both at home and in Asia. Some of us knew the truth before it went dripping in Vietnamese and American blood. But for some truth only comes now.

Is it news to you that as early as 1954 the plan to intervene in S.E. Asia was already in effect? President Eisenhower, together with Richard Nixon and their brainstormer, Allan Dulles, initiated the domino theory in American foreign policy. That meant that if they didn't stop "communism" in S.E. Asia, all the countries would fall prey to it, one by one. The Eisenhower Administration helped the French in Indochina and tried to disrupt the Geneva Convention. And after that President Kennedy, in 1961, continued working on the same anti-communist hysterical plot. He involved the U.S. in Indochina by sending 13,000 advisers there and urged Diem to accept American troops to fight the "Viet Cong." When Diem refused he was marked lousy and you guessed it, assassinated. The phony strategic hamlet program, another type of concentration camp deal for the South Vietnamese, was the contribution of the Kennedy liberals like Schlesinger and Hillsman, etc.

Is it news to you that after the Kennedy assassination, Lyndon Baines Johnson, elected on a platform of ending the war, widened it? Back in 1948 LBJ was known to say, "No matter what we have of offensive or defensive weapons, without superior air power America is a bound and throttled giant, impotent and easy prey to any yellow dwarf with a pocket knife." LBJ was to get his chance to take the "yellow dwarfs" into battle and attempt to "bomb them back into the Stone Age."

Is it news to you that Johnson's Gulf of Tonkin Resolution was phony from beginning to end and just an excuse to send 400,000 more GIs into S.E. Asia? And as our country went deeper and deeper into killing, destroying and maiming a civilian population in Vietnam through massacres which became a pattern rather than an accident and the Vietnamese lost over 700,000 men, women and children [ed. note—this is a very conservative figure...], the Pentagon expected China to enter the war just as they did in Korea. "We had never anticipated the tenacity of these people," Secretary of State Rusk said. "They had lost what was the equivalent of ten million people and yet they fought on." Sucking Communist China into the war was one of the key motives for the American presence in Vietnam and planning to destroy China with nuclear weapons was being discussed in the State Department and the Pentagon. (Read James M. Gavin's book, *Crisis Now*, 1968, for corroboration of this. He was a top Pentagon general.) Putting a stop to communism at the 17th parallel in Vietnam, in Laos and crimping it in China was the application of their domino theory. But some generals were to come to understand that a neutralist government was not communist and that a nuclear war with China at the time was foolhardy.

Is it news to you that in the name of saving Asia from communism the bloody war went on and still goes on? Yet the South Vietnamese people do not support the corrupt Saigon government and the "Viet Cong" controls 5/8 of the land so that the U.S. has to pay Thailand and South Korea to send troops into South Vietnam and Cambodia? But to hold on to Southeast Asian oil, just as the Rockefellers did back in 1911 in the Dutch East Indies, the war continues.

Rightly does General Maxwell Taylor deplore the release of the Pentagon secrets. "It will poison our country," he said. But what of the killing and destruction of life in Vietnam—hasn't that poisoned the moral fibre of our coun-



"He took the wraps off our secret weapon!"

THE PENTAGON PAPERS

try? And hasn't the lies of denying air incursions over China's air space as well as the wholesale burning of Laotian, Cambodian and Vietnamese villages brought lack of trust of government? Is it news that U.S. corporate interests seek the 15 million or so tons of oil off Tai-yu T'ai Island off Taiwan? Such penetration is known as imperialism. Now maybe we have a better idea of how the very rich corporate interests engineer wars and how they use their instrument of racism to facilitate it. Racism forces inferiority upon a people. Would there have been a Vietnam War in a country white and European? And could the U.S. protect its power elite's financial interests without military conquest when it fears so those "yellow dwarfs" with their knives fashioned by communism?

North Vietnam. The Pentagon Papers reveal that the air strikes then launched against North Vietnam were not the last-minute "protective reaction" strikes they were supposed to be; indeed, the targets had been picked out months in advance. It was all a setup. And so it goes, lie after lie after lie, all exposed in two and a half million words, one for every human being killed by U.S. weaponry and policy in Southeast Asia.

Yes, perhaps we knew it all the time, not only those of us who knew of the My Lai before Walter Cronkite got the word, but everyone who chanced to look up from their dinners at the TV set during the 6 o'clock news, for the smokestacks of modern-day death camps are visible all over the world. Anyway, we finally all got the word; now let's act on it.



"What's so 'top secret,' Dad... I've been telling you that for years!"

by Brent Bryak

Several weeks ago a storm broke out over the "Pentagon Papers," hitherto "secret" documents released to the press by a conscience-stricken think-tanker, "two invasions and 9,000 American lives and hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese lives," as he put, after he first considered releasing the documents back in 1969.

The Pentagon Papers are some 40 volumes of such deathless prose as "Action (3)(d) was specifically approved by consideration of JCSM-426-64..." It is difficult material to get into, you see. It is nothing but 7,000 pages of sloppy mush, a bureaucratic quagmire of buck passing by soulless Doctor Strangelove types, mad scientist/technician/politicians who would probably faint at the sight of a real dead body covered with real blood. Secure in their mental/psychic bomb shelters, their White Houses, Pentagons, Saigon embassies and think-tanks, they would rule the world through pulling paper strings, sending inter-office memorandums that result in death for thousands of people.

"We," we have been told, "have been asked by the South Vietnamese people to aid them in repelling outside aggression" [from the northern half of their own country]. In private, however, Secretary of State Dean Rusk wrote a memorandum complaining of "...South Vietnamese popular attitudes which supported Hanoi's revolutionary aims..." [President Eisenhower admitted that 80% of the people in the southern half of Vietnam would have voted for Ho Chi Minh had Eisenhower's Administration allowed free elections to be held there.]

Dominoes, we were told, it's all a gigantic domino game; the "fall" of Vietnam to the socialist rule that the overwhelming majority of the people yearned for would inevitably lead to the "fall" of the rest of the Asian Mainland, then Japan, the Philippines, Hawaii, then Catalina... we're surrounded!!! The Yellow Hordes of Godless Communism, pant, pant... Now we find out the C.I.A. issued the President a report stating that "With the possible exception of Cambodia, it is likely that no nation in [Southeast Asia] would quickly succumb to communism," shucks! "as a result of the fall of Laos and South Vietnam," to the people living there.

We were told that "we" millionaire capitalists were sending troops to Vietnam "to permit the people of South Vietnam to enjoy a better, freer way of life." Eisenhower, however, told a governor's conference in 1954 that "we" must "hold" South Vietnam because of the "immense tin and rubber deposits there," and in these documents a nameless technician states that U.S. government aims in fighting on in Vietnam were "70 pct. to avoid a humiliating U.S. defeat... to our reputation..." Secretary of Defense McNamara said, in March, 1964, that "...the South Vietnamese conflict is a test case," that potential guerrillas in three continents were awaiting the outcome of the Vietnamese liberation struggle. Perhaps President Johnson said it best when, on a morale-raising (whose?) expedition to a U.S. base in South Vietnam, he told the troops that "It's simple. We are 6% of the world's population and the other 94% want what we have, and we won't let them get it."

In 1939, the German nazis dressed up a few concentration camp prisoners in Polish uniforms, then gunned them down next to the Polish border and showed their bodies to the press, claiming that the invasion of Poland they set off a day later was simple self-defense from a supposed Polish invasion of Germany. The American nazis followed the same "provocation strategy" in securing the Tonkin Gulf Resolution of August, 1964 from Congress, by falsely claiming U.S. ships to have been attacked by PT boats coming out of

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 PAPERBACKS

oppression/repression/repulsion

by Brent Bryak

Repulsion is about what men do to women. It takes you through the feelings of a woman experiencing the general domination by men in all areas of her being.

The movie opens with Carol (Nancy? Pauline? Marilyn? does it matter? She is all women) walking down the street, running the daily gamut of stares and catcalls all women face.

A man in a bar sees her enter a restaurant and soon follows her in. She is in a daze in front of her full plate, unable to eat, discouraged, tired and disgusted. He approaches her and orders her to leave and go with him to the place he chooses to eat in: "You don't have to eat *that*! I know a good place where we can have steak. I'll buy it for you. Come on," and he is genuinely surprised when she doesn't rise and blindly follow him. He is born to command, she to obey. Open rebellion has been beat out of her through the years, as is the case with most women; the best "Fuck off!" she can muster is to give him lame excuses as to why she can't make a date with an obnoxious strange man. Finally she mumbles something he takes for assent and returns to her job

in a beauty shop! Here is where women go to beat nature. They have come to believe what they have been told about their natural selves being ugly, saggy, smelly and oily. If they want a man, or just to get some little concession out of men, they must undergo hours of ordeal by indignity—mudpacks and makeup on their faces like death masks.

After work Carol goes home, where she lives with her sister. Her sister has spent the afternoon getting a fancy rabbit dinner together for her married boyfriend. He struts in, an hour early. "Forget that," he abruptly says, waving at her labor. "I'm taking you out..."

Command and obey, command and obey, and we ain't talkin bout no rabbits, neither.

After Carol's sister and boyfriend leave for a fortnight's vacation the everyday dehumanizations swell up, creating a fear that begins to crack away at her sanity.

Locks. Keys. Fear. We all face this

daily, in this insane society, but how much harder it is on a woman alone. Alone in her apartment, Carol cowers in her bed, in dread of that rapist who has been casing the homes of many of the women reading this review, watching this movie... He strikes, and from there on there is a flow of rapes and blood that had us all crying and gasping and quivering with the unbearable tension that built up.

Carol loses touch with reality somewhere in here, for who needs such reality? One or two rapes occur only in her fantasy (no, Charlie, no woman *wants* to be raped. Honest.) but you don't get hung up on the physical reality of how many times she was actually raped—if at all—for Carol's whole life has been a rape. That is the point of the whole film: some way, somehow, the life of all women in this society is one big rape.

Rape is perhaps the ultimate crime, because it takes the elements of the best part of life, two human beings joyously coming/Coming 2gether, and turns it all around so that the best becomes the worst. If they can take away the best, they can have the rest.

We know, from observing other societies in action, that things don't have to be the way they are in this country, and we think that something like Repulsion is right on time. Every man should see this film and dig himself. A recently returned visitor to North Korea told us that women can safely walk down the streets of Pyongyang, the capital of the north, at 2 a.m., unmolested, while the streets of U.S.-occupied Seoul, capital of the south, are unsafe for a woman even in daylight.

Repulsion is directly about the oppression of women by men, but oppression is oppression is oppression, and we are all oppressed, every single person who lives in this society, even some who think they are "above" it. The men who raped Carol were oppressed, too, can you dig it? They were born beautiful, simple babies, as she was, and this sexist society divided people into victims and victimizers—victims all—and we must roll over all the other isms as well as sexism that divide us from one another.

THE BUST BUSINESS

by Rachel Dranow

The bust business is a major industry in these times and getting busted is no joyride. But getting busted does not have to be the end of your life, and with a bit of know how, you can survive the experience.

California Law allows for "stop and frisk." This means that a cop can call you to a halt, ask your name and address and pat down the outside of your clothing in search of dope, weapons, etc. In theory he needs "probable cause" to do this but he could easily make one up. In practice, the police think nothing of putting their hands through your wallet. Because of this you should not be carrying around info or stuff, nor your friends' names and addresses.

Washington, D.C. (LNS)—A police trial board recommended April 7 that Washington, D.C. police sergeant John Latin Jr. be fined \$900 and stripped of his rank because he had tried to solicit policewoman Marilyn Hershey while she was posing as a prostitute.

In an arrest situation, be very cool unless you and those with you have the situation in hand. Cops are armed and should be considered dangerous. Keep in mind that resisting arrest is a separate offense, and that you can go down for it even if you beat the original charge.

You do not have to answer any questions except those about your name and address. False names have less of a chance of getting by if your fingerprints are on an arrest record somewhere, but using the address of a "responsible" person who you know will cover for you can keep your true residence a secret.

At a demonstration, submit to arrest if you cannot get away. Trying to split opens you up to physical damage and a second offense. Hopefully you should have been armed with phone numbers for bail and legal aid. And in all but the most hostile situations, the cops will allow you to use them.

The law says that your car cannot be searched without either a search warrant or "probable cause." About the best thing you can do is to say loudly and clearly and in the presence of witnesses

that you are being searched without your permission. The lawyers will have to handle the rest.

Unless it's for a noise complaint, the police need a search warrant to enter your house. However, lest you rest easy in the confidence that the law is on your side, you should know the reality of how the system works.

In order to get a search warrant, a police officer has to go before a magistrate with a statement that a "reliable" informant has attested to illegal activity in your house. It is next to impossible to check who ratted on you.

Once at the station house, you will be asked all kinds of questions by the cop filling out the arrest report. You can refuse to answer all of them except for your name and address and that should give you no hassle. You do not have to give any statement or sign any statement you have made. Some people have gotten away with an alias.

You may be stripped and searched and your possessions taken from you. Get a receipt. And remember that anything you say in the interrogation will be held against you. When refusing to give information, do so politely and let it slide if you are called a jagoff or asshole. Remember, your goal is to get back out on the streets as soon as possible. Don't be fooled by the soft or tough manner of the interrogation. Let's learn how to insure the safety of our mouths and say nothing.

After the arrest report is completed, you will be given a chance to make from one to three phone calls. Make the first one count by picking someone you can trust. Ask the desk officer where and when your hearing will be and make sure whomever you call gets the information. Call Legal Switchboard at 666-8437, a free 24-hour service for bailbonding and other emergency service connected with busts, or Venice Neighborhood Legal Services, at 392-4177 (which has had its funds restored for another six months), or the Free Venice Switchboard, 821-6101. Also there is the National Lawyers Guild, 380-3515; ACLU, 626-5156; UCLA Law Students Guild, 825-1707 and the L.A. Committee for the Defense of the Bill of Rights, MA5-2169.

Next issue we discuss the surveillance business.

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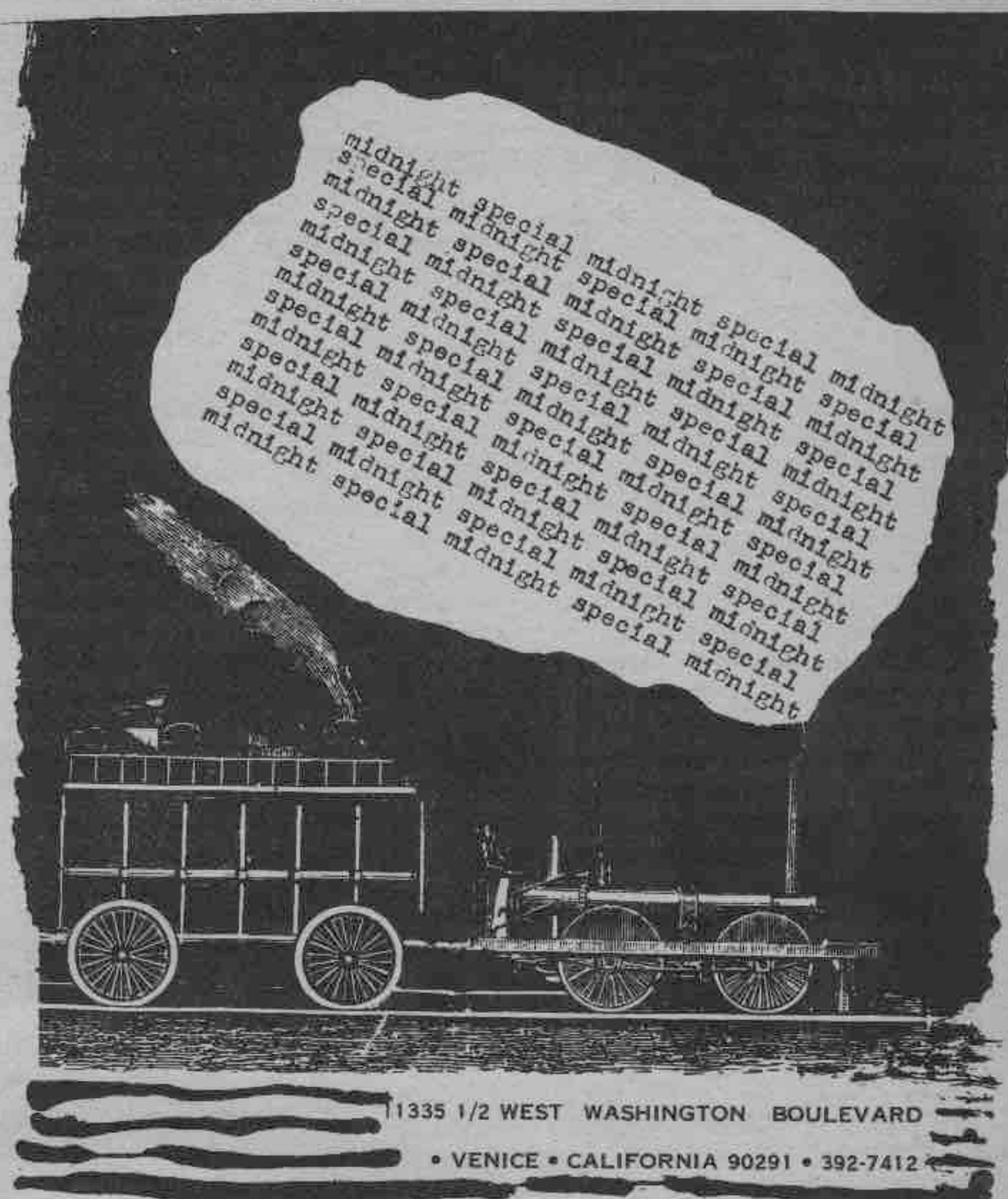
For all other matters, the switchboard has compiled into two large notebooks data on thousands of organizations throughout the entire L.A. area so we can refer people to the organization that could best help them. Within our research we have tried to cover all areas that might be of assistance to people: medical draft, abortion, entertainment,

We have created the switchboard as an alternative, an alternative way of relating with and helping each other, an alternative part of a new nation, made necessary by a government whose interest lies in serving the rich, not the majority of the people.

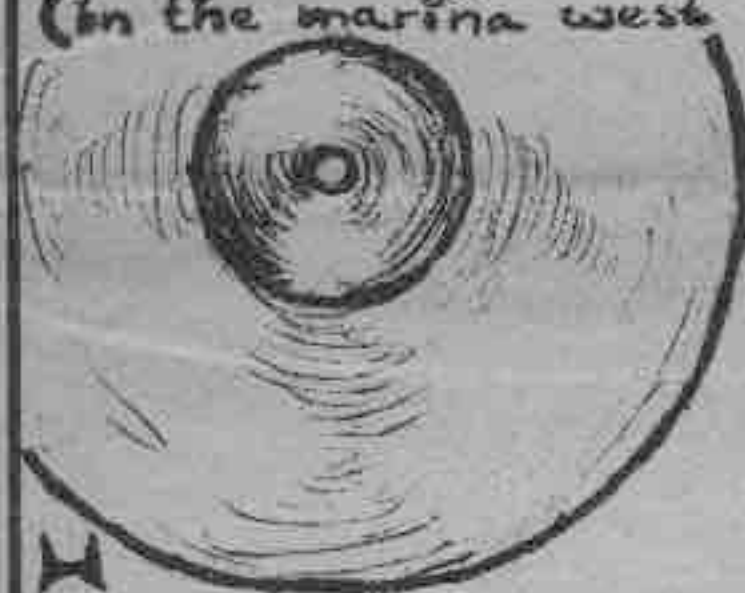
FREE CONCERT

Venice musicians Pat Veitlin and Bonnie White will sing their own songs on Saturday, July 17, at 8 p.m. at the Earth Child Designs, 1514 Pacific Ave. (near Windward). This is a rare treat. It's free!

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READER'S GUIDE TO ANTI-RACIST LITERATURE

The Black Woman, an anthology edited by Toni Cade, 1970.

This book exposes "honky horse-shit" like masculine/feminine roles in our society as no other book we know does. It also gets down to the basics of black man/black woman relationships in our sick contemporary society and their acid tensions. Written by black women with a sense of history and liberation, this compilation of poems, essays and short stories is unique. The best essay is by Toni Cade, examining the roles of women/men in pre-christian, European societies and the absence of the obsession of private property then.

At that time the hysterical separation of women from men as social inferiors did not exist. The author points to the way the Vietnamese women fight alongside their men and sing songs of praise for each other. This is proof that a cooperative society based on property held in common is revolutionary and necessary to change our pathological man/woman relationships. Today we measure women as women and men as men in their relation to the struggle for this change. But as the author correctly

points out, the revolution must begin with Self, the purging of Self of the poisons, lies and ego trips programmed by a sick society. And when sisters work together trying to shed these, it is a new face to an old struggle.

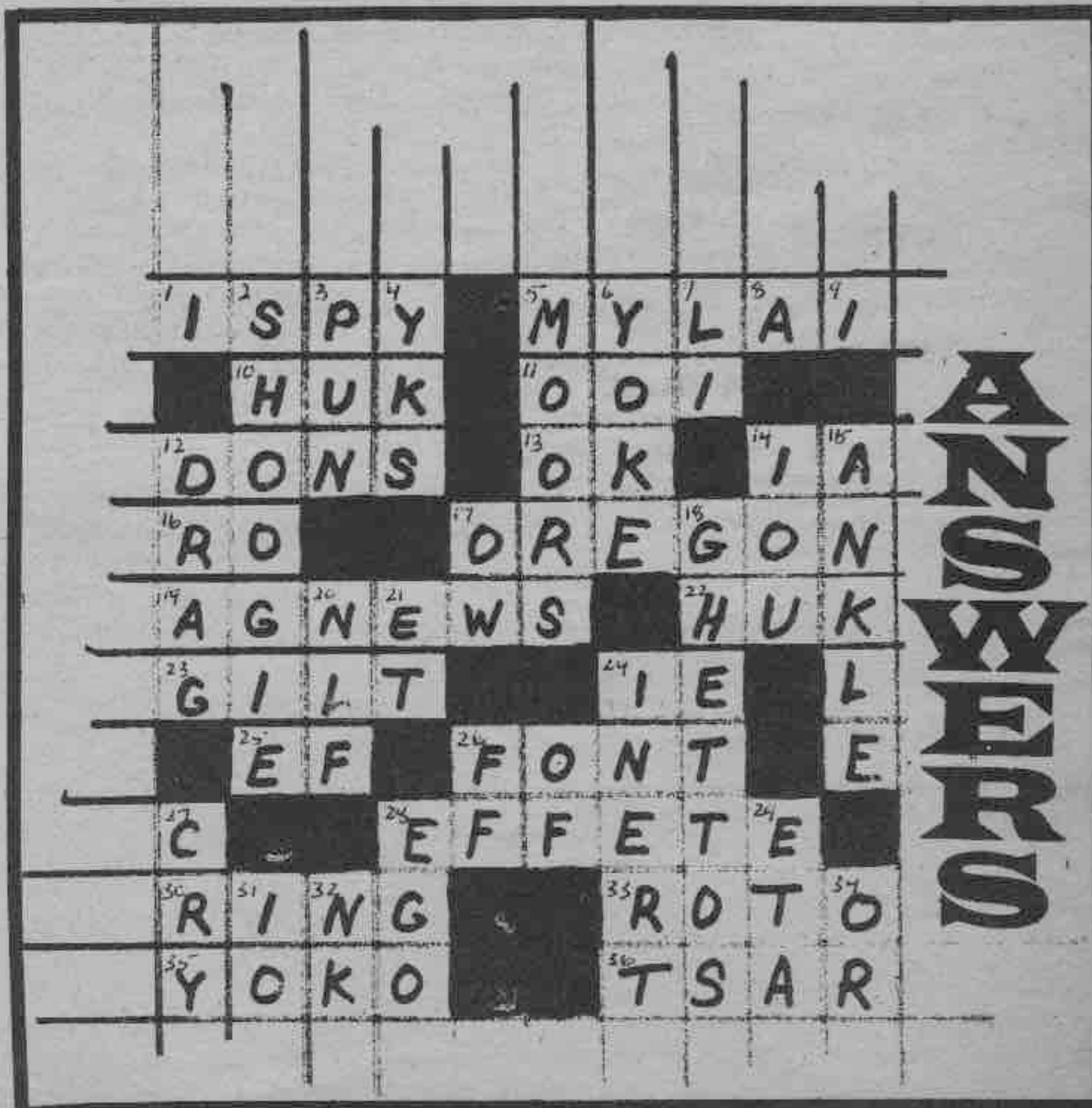
A Panther Is a Black Cat, by Reginald Major, 1971.

The origins and birth of the Black Panther Party in Oakland, California is described here in detail. The author points out the racist nature of that city's police department, where 44% of the population is black. But the Black Panthers not only were born to eradicate the suffering of black people but also in response to the social injustices some whites suffer.

The Carmichel-Black Panther feud is explored in detail and the differences with the Muslims given expansive treatment. Though the most recent cleavage between Cleaver and Newton is not dealt with, this book is still a good source of information on the BPP.

Both books are in the Venice public library.

by Rachel Goodnow



CASTILE CASHES IN

The canal redevelopment plan, which is driving ordinary people out of a unique and cherished community to make way for a millionaires' yacht club, is only the first part of the destruction and redevelopment of the whole of Venice. It isn't hard to understand why the *Evening Outlook* slanders anyone opposed to this project as a "trouble-maker": through CFF Properties, Inc. (Castile-Fleming-Funk), the family that owns the *Outlook* is heavily involved in land speculation in the Venice ghetto and oceanfront. Bob Castile and John Fleming are young men of the ghetto who have worked themselves up to becoming so-called "community leaders." They are fronts for the money of the Funk family which, as anyone can see, occupies the masthead on the editorial page of the *Outlook*.

Castile and Fleming now have a direct financial interest in the destruction of the black community they are supposedly working to save; the *Outlook*, while representing itself as being objective in its editorials and news columns, is actually working for financial interests that directly conflict with the wellbeing of the people of Venice who support the newspaper and its advertisers.

Meanwhile, Bob Castile's fortunes seem to have taken a recent turn for the worse. His Venice Community Improvement Union (VCIU) just had its OEO funding cut off. Federal poverty coordinator Joe Maldonado said the reason was that the VCIU represented too narrow a spectrum of the Venice community—only the black—and that before any more OEO money went into Venice the black, brown and white communities would have to resolve their differences. While this merely accentuates the poverty program's effect of turning natural allies against each other, fighting over federal money, it leaves Castile for the present at the short end of the stick.

Part of the reason for the fund cutoff was complaints from chicano groups that the Venice brown community was not getting its fair share. But another element could well be that the powers are having second thoughts about Castile as their front man in the Venice ghetto. On August 8th Castile goes on trial in West L.A. Municipal Court on charges of battery on 24-year-old Hazel Madlock of Santa Clara Ave., who claimed that Castile struck and choked her last June 4th, and that she suffered a cut lip and facial bruises.



McKINNEY PRAISES COPS

Roberts News informs us that Vermont McKinney, head of Venice CAA, had a most unusual press conference the other day. The occasion was the granting of about 30 thousand smackers to that agency for straightening out Venice heads. And since Vermont McKinney's surveillance by the police has come to a happy end, he and his fellow CAA workers took this occasion to toast the Venice police. Sgt. James Bradshaw, a black policeman whom McKinney referred to as a "model" policeman, was lauded for his integrity and fairness. McKinney said that he spoke for "black, brown and young adults" [he probably

meant to say "young whites"—ed.] and called for more chicano and black policemen.

Maybe this is old, stale information to some—that 200 black, brown and white kids were picked up in a juvenile truancy sweep in Venice this Spring, that harassment by cops is a daily occurrence on the oceanfront as well as in Oakwood the the barrio, that 50 people at the rock concert on Sunday, July 4th at Venice beach were busted, some with excessive force, that two black men at the concert were beaten in the presence of onlookers held at bay by the cops with drawn guns.

DEFEND VENICE

The Free Venice Organizing Committee is a separate organization from the Peace and Freedom Party—it does not speak for the Peace and Freedom Party nor necessarily for any other group using the name "Free Venice."

After a bulldozer was burned in Trailer City, in the Venice canal assessment district, a statement was issued which said "The Free Venice Organizing Committee hails and supports this act of community self-defense. We support the trashing of any bulldozers that go into Trailer City, or into the canals, or anywhere in Venice." It is not a threat, but a prediction, when we say that more of this kind of direct action is coming. Another part of the statement went on to say that "When people's homes are being smashed flat, when they are being forced away from their friends, their neighborhoods, and their community is at the point—literally—of a marshal's gun, it is a distortion of words and a deliberate refusal to acknowledge reality for anyone to condemn this trashing as 'violence.'"

We have been taught to believe that the proposition of the American democracy was that the government belonged to the people—that the government was an apparatus gotten together by the people, which the people controlled, and put to whatever ends they found useful or necessary. What we are finding in Venice, once again, is that the people's government has been subverted, usurped, however you want to say it—"purchased" is probably the best word—bought and paid for by the already wealthy and the already powerful. What we are seeing in Venice is the Los Angeles city government, with immense power over the lives of its people, acting against the people as an agent of a small minority of outsiders. Through malicious neglect, property taxation, police harassment, unfair code enforcement, City Hall "master planning," and the betrayal of the people by elected of-

ficials, the city is moving 24 hours a day to scatter everyone who now lives in Venice and to demolish practically every building now standing in Venice.

Before the fat cats and their hired politicians began moving to destroy Venice they made sure that every legitimate means of defense was nullified in advance. When they did that, the kind of direct action taken against the Trailer City bulldozer became inevitable. The Free Venice Organizing Committee says this kind of action is not only inevitable, it is justified. The only difference between us and thousands of others is that we say so publicly. If such explosions of indignation did not take place in the world, one would despair of the human race.

The bulldozer burning has probably already had a good effect in that any rip-off contractor who figures to make a profit demolishing our community will now have to include in his expenses the cost of insurance for all his equipment—and if the insurance companies have any sense they'll require 24-hour-a-day rent-a-cops. To anything that jacks up the price of destroying Venice we say "Right on!" Our homes will not go cheap.

Basically, though, we feel the type of direct action taken against the Trailer City bulldozer, while justified, is essentially protest, and therefore futile. The time is past when protest accomplished anything. The destruction of Venice, like the destruction of Vietnam, is part of a nationwide process, and it can only be dealt with nationwide. As the control of money and resources, control over government, and control of the land, is rapidly concentrated in fewer and fewer hands, the time draws closer when we American people will step forward, assert our rights, and subject the money, the land and the technology, as well as the government for the first time, to truly democratic control.

Power to the people!

BATTLE ESCALATES

by Steve Clare

On June 22 the Los Angeles City Council finally passed the Canal Waterways Project. The vote was 13-1, Councilman Ernani Bernardi being the lone opponent to the City's 26-million-dollar plan to transform the Venice canals into a private yacht harbor.

The vote followed a two-day "public protest hearing." And protest there was. Over 200 Venice residents, including canal property owners and renters, members of the Save the Canals Committee, Free Venice, Bay Area Latin Americans (BALA), Venice Peace and Freedom Party, Westminster school children, preachers, architects, lawyers, financial analysts, ecology freaks and duck lovers made the 40-mile trek to City Hall.

The saga of the Venice canals was pieced together once again as we spoke in turn before the Council. It was a grand mosaic, each piece shaped by the knowledge and sentiment of its maker, each piece vital. As always it was beautiful—and futile.

The Council displayed its usual quantum of contempt for the people it is supposed to serve. Councilman Lindsay caught up on some sorely needed sleep; most of the others either left the chambers or talked among themselves to escape the mounting boredom. With the saccharine smile of a prostitute about to run the Murphy Game on some would-be client, Pat Russell waited patiently through it all.

It's one thing to pass the project; it's another to build it. The first line of defense is in the courts. A legal committee has been formed to fight evictions and unreasonable rent raises. A number of law suits are also being prepared, any one of which could stop the project. The second line of defense, if these measures fail, is in the streets.

Last September the canal community hosted the second annual Venice Canal Festival. The sentiments of some of us were expressed in a statement painted on the north side of the Community House that day.

This festival is a celebration of life—life in Venice—life on the Canals—a celebration of the continuing life of a community threatened with extermination. This festival is an expression of our vitality, our creativity, our life-style, our culture. It is a statement of our determination to remain here, a demonstration of our solidarity and fellowship, and a warning to those who would destroy these bonds and scatter us that WE WILL NOT BE MOVED.

We are planning another canal festival. Our resolve has strengthened. The battle lines are drawn.

