

FREE VENICE

BEACHHEAD

JULY 1973 NO.43

860 MARCO PLACE, VENICE, CALIFORNIA 90291

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VENICE SPEAKS

On the night of June 4th, the North Beach Area Council discussed the issue of police-community relations. That meeting was highlighted by Mr. Abe Osheroff. The following is a transcription of his speech:

"There are two basic conceptions about Venice. Most people outside of Venice, and that includes, unfortunately, too many of the police force, even though it's in Venice, see Venice simply as a vast zoo of freaks who have to be dealt with in a special manner. This is Dopeland. This is Viceland. This is the home of every branch and form of criminality and perversion. And this of course is a basic misconception shared....the problem arises, unfortunately Lt. West, that many policemen share those views. And many of the Venice police told me that. But there's also another conception prevalent in Venice, equally erroneous, that everything in Venice is free and beautiful. And this is the place where you do your thing. And where you exercise your freedom. And I think that many of our difficulties arise out of a clash of these two different conceptions of what this community's about.

"Essentially, this is a community of poor people who happen to live on a valuable piece of real estate. And it's out of that, that our main problems arise. But side by side...what's happening itself doesn't make all Venice beautiful. And I for one, for the first time, want to open up a question which I think we've kept under wraps for too long. There's a lot of ugliness in Venice and I want to talk about it. And not all the ugliness is the over-reaction of police officers. A lot of it resides in Venice and comes through Venice and I want to talk about it.

"It is a fact that older people are molested in this community. It is a fact, I know, that many girls have been raped in this community in the past year. It is a fact that people are molested as they walk up and down this beach here. It is a fact that there are people operating in this community who deteriorate the quality of life in this community. And what's to be done about it?

"Well, until we arrive at that state of happy affairs when not only will this community choose its own police force, for if we had that kind of community, we wouldn't need any police force, and that is obviously somewhat far along in our lives if ever it all is to come about, we're gonna have to deal with practicalities. And those practicalities are, and there's no way in the world you're gonna escape them: there are gonna be police in this community; they will serve their function as they see it; we will do whatever we can to make them see it otherwise; it is also a fact that we have to take more responsibility as citizens for the quality of life in our community. And I want to address myself to that.

"I want to give an example. A few weeks ago a girl was raped in the Venice Pavilion. Neither do the police know about it, nor do most of the community. And why? Because citizens of Venice who came by, doing their thing, and who were in a position to apprehend this rapist, because he was there, they testified to this fact, were caught in a horrible quandary.

If they turn him over to the police, then they were concerned with the fact, and there is some truth in this, that the girl involved might herself be subjected to some maltreatment on the part of some policemen, be questioned, harassed, treated maybe like a prostitute. And so they chose not to take that option.

"And on the other hand, since they are all pacifistically inclined and non-violent, they did not want to take the steps to do so themselves, to apprehend him. The net result is there's a rapist running around in this community. That is a matter of fact of our life. And if the citizens of this community take so bland an attitude to that, can stand by while some son-of-a-bitch comes down the Boardwalk and rips the pocketbook out of the hands of an elderly lady, or some knife-wielder on Westminster threatens a woman and children, and stand by and watch that, then you are gonna see, and you cannot complain about it, increasing police control of this community.

"By the way, for a number of years in the Canals we had mass gatherings of thousands of people, and worked out a package with the police for which some of us were called 'pig lovers' in which control was exercised over thousands of people with a very minimum amount of confrontation and violence and everybody came away happy. As a matter of fact, even the cops came away happy.

"Now if you're gonna deal with brutality, then you gotta lay it where it is. You've all seen some police brutality and perhaps I was not there, but the indications are that some cops lost their cool and there was some excessive reaction here. But that was not the only brutality that took place on Memorial Day. A policeman was on the ground and his brains were being beaten out by somebody. That's brutality. That was not necessary for something we want to achieve in this community. And I have seen many other evidences of brutality by people who live in this community against citizens of this community.

"But the question then arises, how we gonna deal with this? And I say that this conception of freedom which flows so freely around this community has to be seriously challenged. I don't want a situation in which everybody in one camp bears a mantle of freedom and everybody in uniform bears a mantle of responsibility. I would like to see us in exercising our freedom, at the same time, exercise our responsibility. And at the same time, I would like to see the police officers in this community and their leadership, and only time will tell how amenable, subject themselves to some control by the community, which it is their job to exercise some control over. And while I don't believe there are many idealized solutions to this, I believe that some improvements can be made.

".....I want to suggest that we implement some of these suggestions [by other people at that meeting] in the following way. Rather than an ad hoc meeting which took place at the police station, or some improvisation, I would like to see a conference set up between the

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photo by gail williamson

ON SUNDAY, JUNE 3, RESIDENTS OF VENICE MARCHED FROM THE BREEZE AVENUE PAGODA AREA TO THE VENICE DIVISION OF THE L.A.P.D. TO PROTEST INCIDENTS OF POLICE OVER-REACTION. APPROXIMATELY 125 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN THE MARCH.



photo by gail Williamson

PEOPLE MARCH

by Jim Zane

One hundred twenty-five people marched from the Breeze Ave. pagoda area on Ocean Front Walk to the Venice Division Police Station. It was the first Sunday in June, an overcast and muggy day, and these people were upset about the recent incidents of police over-reaction in the Ocean Front area of Venice.

There had been four incidents, one rapidly following upon the heels of the other, of police brutality/over-reaction in the beach area. These involved one with Rob Weiss (as reported in last month's Beachhead), one at the Swami's bench, a bottle throwing incident at Breeze Avenue, and the Memorial Day incident which topped them all off—in this incident, two cops were beaten after one of them had pulled his gun, was allegedly about to shoot someone, and then was disarmed; other police came to their aid and some of them came out of their cars with shotguns levelled at the

large holiday crowd.

At the police station approximately eight people went inside to discuss the situation with the police. While these eight petitioners were having a discussion with Captain Dotson, the rest of the people were marching in front of the station, having their pictures taken by the Beachhead, numerous photography freaks, and various assorted and sundry gumshoes not so well hidden behind venetian blinds in the City Hall and other places.

After speaking with a seemingly cooperative Captain Dotson for over half an hour, the eight petitioners left feeling relatively optimistic that there possibly might be some changes. (They reported that the cop who had pulled his gun had been transferred out to Westchester and that one of the cops who levelled a shotgun at the holiday crowd was being "retrained.")

The people then regrouped and made their way back to the Breeze Avenue pagoda area.

police of this division and a committee elected by this town council to spend a half a day or a day rapping about this problem until they can walk out of there convinced that there are at least certain areas in which they can mutually work and cooperate to the benefit of all the people in this community. And I think that's possible to achieve without getting too idealistic about it.

"Now I want to address a couple of words to a couple of people. There are very few in here of that stripe, but there are a few, who I, for one, am getting sick and tired of. I want to talk a little bit about police over-reaction. We are most of us fairly intelligent people. Whatever we lack, we don't lack that, most of us. And there are certain things that are predictable. When you squeeze a button, a certain bell rings. It is predictable that if you go out on the beach and smoke pot, you're gonna get busted. I happen to be for the legalization of pot. And if you want to come into my house and smoke pot, I will tell you that you can do or not do that. I won't announce my decision right here. But if you're gonna go out on the beach and smoke pot, then don't you bitch to me about getting busted because you've pressed the button and the bell will ring. And I don't want to listen. I don't know about other people, but I won't lift a finger for anybody who gets busted on that kind of pot rap. On the other hand, if policemen without warrants beat down a door and pull out a bunch of people on what, until a trial takes place, is an alleged pot bust, that's another thing. That's a whole other kettle of fish. You cannot treat these phenomena in the same way.

"Now we need a situation in this community where when somebody picks up a bottle and wants to beat somebody else over the head, the same arresting force which found it possible to grab a policeman's hand when he pulled a gun, should also be available to pull the hand that launches a bottle.

...completely propose a conference between the Venice Division police and official representatives of this town council to sit in consultation and to come out with a mutual plan made available to the whole public as to how the current future of police/community relations can be improved. I think we can do a great deal in this fact.

"And finally in conclusion, not all police busts are illegal or improper. I got busted and it was quite proper that I be busted. I got busted a few weeks ago. I expected to be busted. I knew that the button I was pressing would result in a bust. But it was necessary to do and there were some other people in that same position. And I cannot complain about being busted in that instance no more than I could complain if I were smoking pot on the beach or drinking booze on the Walk. OK?"

Abe Osheroff was one of the six people busted when the City destroyed and demolished the People's Park and Mr. Osheroff's wooden walkway in the Canals earlier this year.



WOUNDED KNEE GARAGE SALE

The Free Venice Food Conspiracy will be sponsoring a garage sale to raise legal defense funds for persons arrested in connection with the Native American occupation of Wounded Knee, South Dakota. The garage sale will be held on Sunday, July 15, from 10 am to 4 pm at 2501 Ocean Front Walk, Venice. For information, call 821-1774.

Contributions may be sent, directly, to Wounded Knee Defense Fund, Box 147, Rapid City, South Dakota, 57701.

WHAT NEXT?

by Joanne Curtis

It is rather interesting what great articles are tucked away in newspapers and magazines and probably would not be read by most people. We can thank Planned Parenthood and Environmental Action for bringing forth these two jewels:

State Senator Gordon Roseleip (R-Darlington, Wisconsin) told a hearing room full of witnesses Wednesday (February 21) that liberalizing Wisconsin's birth control law would endanger the national defense.

Roseleip pointed out to stunned supporters of the bill that the Vietnam War was fought mainly by the sons of the poor.

"Now you want to give contraceptives to poor people," he said, "where are we going to get men for the armed forces if we have another conflict?"

"It's a good way to destroy an Army," the Senator asserted.

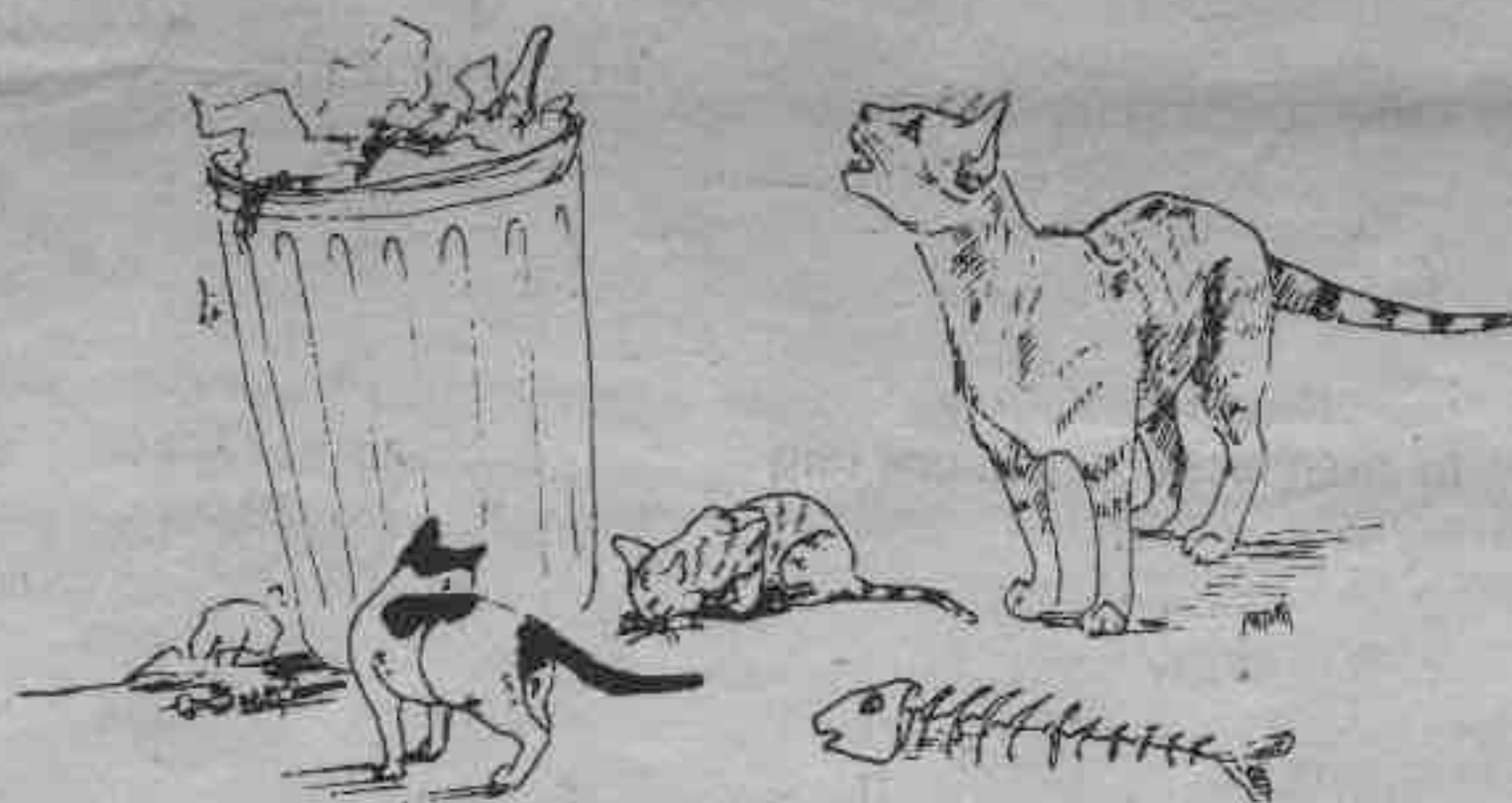
From bigots to bears -----

With increasing awareness of the fact

that Americans do not eat healthy food, it comes as no surprise to learn that the bears of Yellowstone National Park have eaten garbage for so long that they have forgotten how to hunt for themselves. Interior Department biologists have decided that the bears should stop eating garbage and get back to nature; however, they doubt that the bears could adjust to a sudden switch away from the park's garbage dumps.

The park will begin its program by eliminating all the garbage dumps, which have long provided grizzlies with happy hunting grounds. Rangers may also thin out the park's abundant elk herds and leave the carcasses for the grizzlies as a first step in re-introducing them to a "natural diet."

Because the bears are wide-ranging, rangers expect that once their source of food within the park is eliminated, they may head off to greener pastures outside the park boundaries. If this happens, all bear hunting privileges may be suspended in Montana and Wyoming until the survival of the grizzlies can be assured.



HAVE A HEART

by Joanne Curtis

This has got to be the most depressing time of the year for our animal friends. During the summer months, the bulk of the unwanted and unplaceable domestic animals are born with a future that is nothing but hopeless.

The cost of a neuter or spay is the simple answer to this problem but for many, many people a domestic animal is a cheap commodity to be discarded when the entertainment level diminishes. It would be easy to condemn the individual people but looking further into the matter, the people are products of a system where the price tag is the most important thing going. Why make an investment in an animal when that animal can not produce any financial returns? So it appears that the owners of the unaltered housepets are nothing more than extensions of the capitalistic exploitation. The insanity of it all exists in the fact that our wildlife is almost extinct while our domestic animals are breeding themselves silly.

What about the veterinarians? They certainly are not humanitarians if their main interest is to keep animal sterilization prices fixed at hopelessly

high prices. If the veterinarians were humane, there would be low cost neutering and spaying and the overpopulation problem would be reduced considerably.

The private, non-profit groups are doing a tremendous amount of good things for animals and their work is devoted almost entirely to neutering and spaying assistance:

PET PRIDE 459-1703
PET ASSISTANCE 937-5204

Don't get discouraged if the line is busy; they are servicing all of Los Angeles.

The City of Los Angeles passed a good piece of legislation which has allocated funds for a City of Los Angeles Neuter/Spay Clinic. It has been highly successful and the rates are at people's prices....\$17.50 for a female dog or cat and \$11.50 for a male dog or cat and that includes shots. There may be a wait so take precautions to assure your pet of having a spay not an abortion.

NEUTER-SPAY CLINIC 222-2669

Let us make an extra effort to raise our consciousness and awareness to include the welfare of all animals in our struggle for unity and solidarity.

DOG VICE

by Ronald L. Guenther

Venice, and especially the Venice canals, is under attack by our beloved City of Los Angeles. The Animal Regulation (dog-catching) Department is interpreting the laws to mean that dogcatchers can chase a dog ANYWHERE. This means that if a stray dog skinnies through a hole in your backyard fence, or turns up your driveway, you may expect a dogcatcher in 'hot pursuit' to charge into your yard without search warrant or permission, search your yard, circle your house peeping into the windows, and finally drag the dog off if you don't accept a citation. If the dog gets into the house somehow, you may expect the pursuing dogcatcher to pursue him right into the pad. And woe be to you if someone in your house slams the door in his face. The court system, lending a helping hand to the City of course, interprets this as interfering with the duties of a dogcatcher, and the first offense fine is HEAVY.

Dogcatchers used to be rather friendly folk who got the job done mostly through persuasion. No more! These stormtroopers now go to school to learn the fine points of violation civil liberties, and how to be a smooth, professional liar on the witness stand in court. This is known as 'professionalizing the service.'

In one case taken to court so far, a canal area citizen, wishing to test this business of dogcatchers charging into his backyard, ran right into a Los Angeles City blitzkrieg grinder of astounding proportions. Like innocents, this fellow, his attorney, and witnesses walked into the courtroom expecting to argue law in a reasonable, fair atmosphere. The City chewed them up and spit the remains out on the street. The judge had obviously been leaned on pretty heavily by the desperate dogcatchers before the trial even started. The dogcatcher witness was not only a smooth, professional liar on the witness stand, but an absolute master at it. The defense witnesses, who tried to rebut his lies, were paid no attention to. A Los Angeles Police Sergeant was the only prosecution witness who told the truth. The Big Brass from Animal Regulation even came to the trial, and sat there for the whole show, directing the orchestra, and making sure everything went according to plan. The first offense, no prior convictions, fine was set at \$65, but upon a motion for new trial, dropped to \$30. Moral: Innocent until proven guilty beyond reasonable doubt is a MYTH. Don't expect justice before a Judge. NEVER WAIVE A JURY.

On June 8, Amanda Peck, another canal area citizen, was scheduled to stand trial in Division 93, West Los Angeles. She was charged with not having her dog on a rope. This case involved five dogcatchers. The Nazi in charge barged through a closed gate into her yard that didn't even have a dog in it, and proceeded to peek into the windows of her house in the early morning. Poor Mandy was inside half dressed with her dog, and believe it, how would you like to be making coffee in your panties and discover a dogcatcher in the shrubbery peeping through the window at you? In the uproar that followed, Mandy's dog got into the alley, and you guessed it, Herr Oberleutnant's buddies, all four of them out there waiting, grabbed that dog and laid a leash law citation on Mandy. All she had to look to for justice was the courts, and that wasn't very comforting. With five lying dogcatchers, etc., to look forward to Mandy just hung it up, pleaded nolo, and got out of the City's clutches for a mere \$15.

There are some who think that dogcatchers are not dogcatchers. What would explain this uncontrollable urge to barge into one's backyard on the flimsiest of pretexts, search it thoroughly, and then circle the house and garage peeping into the windows? A warrantless search for cultivation? Your guess is as good as mine.

At this writing (June 15), the American Civil Liberties Union is considering petitioning the higher courts for injunctive relief to get dogcatchers out of our yards and houses.



Venice Town Council

In the last issue of the Beachhead, Free Venice published interviews with most of the members of the Venice Town Council. The following are interviews which did not make it in last month. Ellis Gelman remained unavailable for comments.

BETTY JOLLEY

Betty Jolley is a regular delegate on the Area Five (East Venice) Council. Ms. Jolley, who works part-time as a domestic, and her husband Jack, a mechanic at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, have owned their own home in Venice for seven years. They have two children, Gloria, 9, and Eric, 7, and one of the reasons they came to Venice was for the children's health. Back in the 50's Jack used to frequent the old Venice Gashouse. Betty likes Venice because it's a beach town where people like her can afford to live— "I come from Yorkshire, an industrial part of England," she says, "and going to the beach was always the thing."

She sees one of our most important problems as keeping from turning the community into a place for only the rich ("We have to make Proposition 20 stick!") and in East Venice, she proposes to resist developers seeking R-3 zone changes, and to try to use the vacant lots for playground rather than apartments. Betty played "Mrs. No. 2" in the Venice Free Theatre production of "The Adding Machine," and she has taken part in successfully resisting several assessment projects in East Venice. She favors amnesty for draft resisters and feels the United States has "no right at all sticking our nose into Indochina."

MELVIN WHITE

Melvin White of the North Beach Area Council is a program director at Tuum Est. This is in no way a nine-to-five job—it is a life. Tuum Est is a community that exists for the purpose of helping drug addicts recover themselves. Tuum Est is a non-profit organization depending upon the efforts of its members and upon contributions.

Melvin considers himself both a tenant and a property owner. He is a moderate who supported Bradley. He is not married and has no children. He has lived in Venice two years and moved here because Tuum Est was here. Prior to his joining the Town Council, Melvin's community involvement has centered on Tuum Est and has included speaking engagements and coordinating with courts and probation departments.

In the neighborhood councils Melvin sees people getting together and speaking up for what they want in Venice. This seems to him to be a beautiful way for us to get to know who our neighbors are—a very constructive form of unity. He sees the Town Council as a vehicle for articulating and stressing the people's needs, values and desires.

He likes Venice because it is a place where people can do their own individual thing. Venice offers freedom. Melvin considers the major problems Venice faces to be zoning (zoning should meet the needs of the people), high rents, drugs (he says that anyone who doesn't think that drugs are a peoblem in Venice doesn't know Venice.) He would favor rent and price controls, but not wage controls, as people aren't getting paid enough for what they do.



PHOTO BY ELI ZLOTNIK

MARVENA KENNEDY

Marvena Kennedy is a new member of the Central Venice Council. She is an apartment house manager. She is a tenant and as to what label best describes her, "it's whatever the solution calls for; if it means being moderate, then I'm moderate, if it means to be a radical, then I'm a radical." She supported Bradley in the Mayor's race.

Marvena has lived in Venice for about a year, but she grew up in Santa Monica and has been a friend to Venice most of her life. She is divorced with four children and one grandchild. Previous community involvement has been: Republican Women's Club, President of the PTA, VFW auxiliary and most recently

the Free Venice Food Co-op. She feels that the role of the Town Council is to represent the "best" interests of Venice to all bodies when and where it's needed, i.e. the L.A. City Council, Coastal Commission, etc. By the "best" interests, she means those interests that are trying to save the community from destruction.

Marvena likes the feeling of community one finds in Venice; she likes the people; the freedom to smile and be friendly to everyone, even someone you have never been introduced to. Venice's most important problems deal with the lack of community input—the people who are trying to overrun Venice never listen to the people—these people are the developers and their political partners on the L.A. City Council.

Letter

from Bob Wells, Free Venice

Rick Davidson and I of Free Venice were criticized recently by a number of community people for the way we brought up a question of racism. (We suggested some latent racism may have been involved when the predominantly white North Beach considered going ahead with its own police-community relations committee without waiting for other Areas). Quite a few people disagreed that any racism was involved; they pointed out that predominantly black Oakwood has had its own police committee for several months, and they criticized Rich and me for trying to guilt-trip people and for ignoring some recent instances of black racism.

I think Rick and I were led to raise the question because of racism we recognized in ourselves. From the very first meeting of the Venice Town Council the Oakwood delegates were complaining of police mistreatment and were asking for Council support. The support was voted all right, but none of us gave the thing much thought. It wasn't until some white heads got clubbed on the beach Memorial Day that we suddenly decided the police problem was a Venice-wide emergency that needed an immediate special committee of the whole Town Council. (By unanimous vote at its May meeting the Town Council created a community-wide Ombudsman Committee). Rick and I recognized our own personal racist assumptions in not arguing for this committee much sooner.

The parallel with the different reactions to the Jackson State and Kent State massacres is very close.

We know very well that the problem of racism is not exclusively white

just in this community we have personally been race-baited at one time or another by Levertice Lewis, Pearl White and Stan Armstead, so we are aware that the racism we see in ourselves can also be seen in others. But if we in Free Venice were guilt-tripping anyone for the racism we all have, that was our error: nothing can be improved by flogging ourselves with guilt for a condition we had no control over being born into, and it is impossible for anyone to be born into a society as racist as this and not be a racist themselves. The fault is not in being racist, but in not doing anything to correct it.

This cannibalistic capitalist society is a genius at finding every possible way of splitting people up and getting them to rip at each others throats for their own personal gain. The students have just felt this in their final exams: the cut-throat competition imposed by the teachers had them scrambling over their brothers and sisters for those few good marks, and this makes it so easy for the teachers to control the students and to get their pay with the least amount of effort. In the community whenever Blacks and Chicanos and Whites scramble over each other it makes it so much easier for the cops and the real-estate ripoffs and the corporations we work for to keep us under control and to skim their profits with the least amount of effort.

We will never create a people who are free of this life-destroying racism until we get rid of the system that thrives on setting people against each other. To think we can wait

until we're free of racism before we can change the system is to wait for history to work backwards. We just have to take it from where we are and help each other with love, or at least without hatred, criticize ourselves and each other for that racism whenever it sticks its head up, deal with it, and move on together.

CORRECTIONS

There were a few errors in the Free Venice section on the Town Council in the last edition: Bill Evenson of North Beach was listed as "divorced"—he is divorced, but living with his ex-wife Thea and their two children. Betsy Schulman of the Peninsula was put down as opposing amnesty for draft resisters—than was wrong, she favors amnesty.

Tina Hale of the Peninsula states that she did not answer the yes and no questions because they couldn't be answered (unanswered questions were listed as "no comment"). She is especially upset over the last two which she says were wrong: She is against the Vietnam War and is in favor of amnesty for draft resisters.

Free Venice wishes to state that any mistakes in the interviews are accidental and we will gladly run any corrections— just call 396-6876 or drop a note to 226 San Juan, Free Venice, Ca 90291

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GLORIA MOSELEY

Gloria Moseley, a delegate on the Oakwood Area Council, is a caseworker for the County Bureau of Protective Services, which is concerned with problems of neglected, abused, or battered children. She is studying for a bachelor's in Sociology at Cal State Northridge. She and her husband, the Rev. Richard J. Moseley, have owned their home in Venice for 23 years (Ms. Moseley is originally from Mississippi); they have seven children and five grandchildren. In the community she was mainly involved in church work before being elected to the Town Council, though she has belonged to the Venice NAPP and to the Broadway School, Mark Twain, and Venice High PTA's.

As to whether there will be conflict or cooperation on the Town Council, she quotes Matt. 7:12— "And Christ says, 'Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.'" She sees Venice's problems, especially Oakwood's as *crime and the police* ("I know we have crime, particularly drugs, and the law has to be enforced, but I don't like to go out of my door because I hear screams in the street and find it's the police beating a person on the corner— this has happened more than once"); *education* ("The schools don't seem to be able to motivate the poor of any race."); and *housing* ("If the Republican Party can carry millions of dollars around in suitcases we should be able to get private money to help people buy and fix up their own homes.").

She favors amnesty for draft resisters: "I fought to keep my second son from going— he was a conscientious objector but he was drafted. My oldest son was on the front lines for 22 months. Congress made a great mistake allowing the President to control an undeclared war. I see this government as being very harmful both to Vietnam and to the young men and women of this country."

SUMMER SPECIES

by Carol Fondiller

Ah, Nature Lovers, summer has come to Venice and, with it, many species of wild-life. Here is a partial guide to some of the flora and fauna that migrate to, or are an endemic part of, the Venice habitat you see from May to September.

1. THE THROTTLE-TWATTED GROOVY CHICK. This bird is the offspring of *Up-tightus Americanus*. It is female, and the lower half of its body is covered with tight blue denims adorned with strategically placed patches. Her cry is: "Far-out-far-out-groovy!" She lives on Coca Cola, french fries and exotic pills. She comes down here to see where it's at and is found congregating in restaurants or on the Ocean Front Walk. She has an imposing and unrestrained frontage usually covered in something far out and far eastern. The head fur is usually yellow and straight, but this bird comes in all colors.

2. THE GREAT, FUZZY BEARDED SPARE CHANGE OAF. This is the male counterpart of the Throttle-Twatted Groovy Chick. Its body is also covered with tight blue denim in varying degrees of wear. It is found in its characteristic pose, leaning against buildings with right or left hand outstretched. Not very bright, it seems to think people in Venice have something called "spare changeman". That is its characteristic cry as people pass it. Its eating habits are the same as those of the Throttle-Twatted Groovy Chick. Sometimes it mates with the Throttle-Twat, after which one can see both of them in the Venice Youth Clinic. Both the Throttle-Twatted Groovy Chick and the Fuzzy Bearded Spare Change Oaf are usually indigenous to the coastal areas of California. In fall, Winter and Spring, they hibernate in the San San Fernando Valley, Woodland Hills or Bel Air. They will keep their adolescent plumage until their mummies stop sending them money from home.

3. THE BACKPACKING LOPER SNAIL is indeed a distinctive sight along the Ocean Front Walk, especially in the Spring and Summer months. Its cry is: "You know where I can find a place to crash man?" It usually has an outer covering of fringed leather with an underbelly of blue work shirt. Its bottom half is usually covered with the ubiquitous blue denim or khaki twill. Its feet are encased in work boots. One can tell this species at a distance by the canvas appendage on its back, where along with its nesting materials can usually be found a tattered paperback of the Boy Scout Manual, Lawrence Lipton, and a notepad for writing down great thoughts. Some also carry guitars or other musical instruments attached to their shell. They often play the two chords they have learned from a Bob Dylan record, who learned it from a Woody Guthrie

record. They raise their flat, young voices in song about the plight of the working man and the good earth. They eat anything that comes to hand.

4. THE HARDNOSED GYPSY REVOLUTIONARY MOTH. This is one of the few species that does not about on the Ocean Front Walk. It comes out at night to go to meetings and talk and yell about how much more together Berkeley, Oakland, and the East Village, etc., are than Venice. They take it for granted that these places are more together because there have been byps revolutionary all gathering at the same places. Although these moths talk a lot about the people's needs, they are very seldom seen where people gather unless there is a demonstration that the Revolutionary Gypsy Moths have themselves organized. Their covering is usually olive drab or denim blue with Mao caps that sit as oddly on their heads as Maoist philosophy fits the problems of Venice. They also, like their related species, the Flighty Hearted Movement Muskrats, have a proclivity for decorating themselves with buttons. One of the Hardnosed Gypsy Revolutionary Moths cries is: "That's counter-revolutionary. In Berkeley, we..." They usually stay in one place for three months and then migrate to the next People's Park, Wounded Knee, Kent State, etc. At demonstrations they are usually the ones way in the back, yelling "Off the Pigs" while their brothers and sisters whom they say they are freeing are getting their heads beat in by the Blue Bodied Club-Swinging Law and Order Stompers.

5. THE HONEY-COATED ROSE-COLORED LET-IT-ALL-HANG-OUT COMMUNE SPARROW. This bird is one of the most endearing, yet infuri-

ating, of all the myriad species that come to Venice. They are convinced that people are basically good, if only they'd stop eating meat and meditate on how basically good people are, or something. Their soft, cooing cry is: "Karma, good Karma!". This is not a chewing candy, it's a gooey feeling.

6. THE BODACIOUS BAD-MOUTHED BOTTLE-BREAKING, RIPPLE-SWILLING BULLY. This biped is usually found sitting in an Ocean Front Walk pagoda assembly ostensibly listening to music but on the prowl to satisfy its voracious thirst. It has a stomach of iron, the sensitivities of a mollusk, no heart, no soul, unending appetite, the scruples of a snail and a will of mush. It is indeed a peculiar biped, for when it is ambulatory, it is easily distinguished by its unique gait, known as a lurch, as it scuttles between its hunting ground, the liquor store, and Ocean Front Walk. It is also easily identified by its unique brown paper bag, held in its right hand and containing liquid of a sweet, nay cloying odor and a viscous, cheap candy taste. Their method of ingesting nourishment into their systems is indeed unusual in the animal kingdom. They empty the liquid into their maws after which some of them go into a semi-comatose state from which they are roused by the sight of a female, which excites them into mumbling and mispronouncing that most Anglo Saxon Word. When repeated, the B. O. Q. R. B. (BOORBB forshort)

frustration mumbling that the female is not a "Woman"-that is, willingly submitting to drunken, clumsy pawing that usually ends up in being beaten up. In most of these cases the spirit (no pun intended) is willing but the flesh is weak. Besides, if they can't pronounce that one syllable show-stopper, how in the world can they perform that most complicated of Mammalian acts requiring cooperation, coordination and concentration between willing partners? Ah, yes, most earnestly and lovingly performed. But, I digress. The Bodacious Bottle-Breaking Bully sometimes attacks the Dufferus Retirus, a small gray bird usually wearing a sweater and hat in all seasons. This bird is timorous and frail. And the B.B.B.R.S.B. takes advantage of this and swoops down upon this frail and helpless being. After having yelled, lurched and cursed at anyone smaller and/or more female than they (for even in this most advanced and civilized colony of Southern California, females are taught that aggression, self-protection, and insistence upon being treated a sentient being makes them less desirable on the market), smash the aforementioned bottles (now empty) on the pavement. The noise settles the digestion of this liquid diet, and, again, they relapse into their comatose state, ignoring the broken shards or perhaps, proud of them, to ensure pain and suffering to the offspring of Genus Venice, known as Toddlers.

Thus the B.B.B.R.S.B. has the talent of alienating everyone, including the Flute Voice Cannabis Smoking Love Dove, that soft, retiring and most restful of all species including its close cousin, the Honey-Coated Rose-Colored Commune Sparrow. Some people think the B. O. Q. R. B. is in league with the Hard Hatted Souless Speculator Shrike, whose main interest is money and cement. Greenery and people who earn less than \$10,000 a year are anathema to him. The theory is that the B. O. Q. R. B. is hired by the Land Grabbing Shrike to drive out the Genus Venice so they can be replaced by the Plastic Coated Saran-Wrapped, High Living Lowlife Robotomus. There is no evidence to prove this theory yet, but the Beachhead staff is working on it.

7. THE TEN-SPEED TERRORCYCLE TERADACTYL. This is a predacious, dangerous species. Its eyes covered with scales of ignorance and illiteracy, its heart covered with the cement of selfishness and arrogance, it zooms down the Ocean Front Walk on its machine. Both the male and the female of this species ignores or can't read signs that instruct them to use the Bike Path. They zoom down the Ocean Front Walk, ignoring the piteous cries of the injured Pedestrianus Americanus that it usually leaves in the path of its uncaring wake. They are supposed to be stopped by the Blue Coated Law and Order Watchbirds, but most of them look the other way.

In future issues of the Beachhead (God Willing), I shall continue our nature walk along Venice, with the Puff Chested Culture Vulture, the Slim Hipped Sidewinder, the Red Thatched Quaalude Queen, The Night

Crawling Needle Freak, and the Camera-Carrying Photo Phreak--and many other delightful studies.

Goodbye till next time, fellow nature lovers.

HOPÍ INDIAN LETTER

The Peabody Coal Company, a subsidiary of Kennecott Copper Company strips coal from 65,000 acres it has leased from the Navajo and Hopi Indian tribes. Company officials declared that this mining would not damage Indian lands and in fact would improve the lives of many Navajos and Hopis. In disagreement with this action a group of Hopi wrote the following letter to President Nixon:

Dear Mr. President:

We, the true and traditional religious leaders, recognized as such by the Hopi People, maintain full authority over all land and life contained within the Western Hemisphere. We are granted our stewardship by virtue of our instruction as to the meaning of Nature, Peace, and Harmony as spoken to our People by him, known to us as Massau'u, The Great Spirit, who long ago provided for us the sacred stone tablets which we preserve to this day. For many generations before the coming of the white man, for many generations before the coming of the Navajo, the Hopi People have lived in the sacred place known to you as the Southwest and known to us to be the spiritual center of our continent. Those of us of the Hopi Nation who have followed the path of the Great Spirit without compromise have a message which we are committed, through our prophecy, to convey to you.

The white man, through his insensitivity to the way of Nature, has desecrated the face of Mother Earth. The white man's advanced technological capacity has occurred as a result of his lack of regard for the spiritual path and for the way of all living things. The white man's desire for material possessions and power has blinded him to the pain he has caused Mother Earth by his quest

for what he calls natural resources. And the path of the Great Spirit has become difficult to see by almost all men, even by many Indians who have chosen instead to follow the path of the white man . . .

Today the sacred lands where the Hopi live are being desecrated by men who seek coal and water from our soil that they may create more power for the white man's cities. This must not be allowed to continue for it does, Mother Nature will react in such a way that almost all men will suffer the end of life as they now know it. The Great Spirit said not to allow this to happen even as it was prophesied to our ancestors. The Great Spirit said not to take from the Earth - not to destroy living things. The Great Spirit, Massau'u, said that man was to live in Harmony and maintain a good clean land for all children to come. All Hopi People and other Indian Brothers are standing on this religious principle and the Traditional Spiritual Unity Movement today is endeavoring to reawaken the spiritual nature in Indian People throughout this land. Your government has almost destroyed our basic religion which actually is a way of life for all our people in this land of the Great Spirit. We feel that to survive the coming Purification Day, we must return to the basic religious principles and to meet together on this basis as leaders of our people.

Today almost all the prophecies have come to pass. Great roads like rivers pass across the landscape; man talks to man through cobwebs of telephone lines; man travels along the roads in the sky in his airplanes; two great wars have been waged by those bearing the swastika or the rising sun; man is tampering with the Moon and the stars. Most men have strayed from the path shown us by the Great Spirit. For Massau'u alone is great enough to

portray the way back to Him.

It is said by the Great Spirit that if a gourd of ashes is dropped upon the Earth than many men will die and that the end of this way of life is near at hand. We interpret this as the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We do not want to see this happen to any place or any nation again, but instead we should turn all this energy for peaceful uses, not for war.

We, the religious leaders and rightful spokesmen for the Hopi Independent Nation, have been instructed by the Great Spirit to express the invitation to the President of the United States and all spiritual leaders everywhere to meet with us and discuss the welfare of mankind so that Peace, Unity, and Brotherhood will become part of all men everywhere.

CONGAS OF VENICE

by Goldie Glitters

It's Sunday, a beautiful day. The sun is shining and everyone is out-even the old people.

I was at the beach until the fog came in and the wind started to blow. As I was leaving the beach, there was the familiar sound of the Congas that swiftly swept through my ears and down into my soul. It said "Come to me", so I had to go over to see what was going on. The sound was so beautiful that it made people dance to its African beat.

I have been told that the police department is trying to make it against the law to play the Congas on the beach. Do you realize what would happen if this were done? The people who take out their anxieties on the drums might start taking them out in other ways-robberies, fights, etc., etc.

One old Jewish woman in about her 70's told me that "If there were more music and dancing there would be less trouble". I believe that the tourists keep people together and show the tourists that we don't just sit around and do nothing or bother the police, that there is also music and rhythm in Venice.

It's enough that Venice isn't even on the map. Now they want to take away our congas. Berkeley has congas at the University every Sunday. Everyone looks forward to the weekend because that's when the drums start. Even in Washington Square in New York City they have Congas. Everywhere there are Congas.

Today there were Black, white, Mexican, Jewish, gay and straight people all gathered with no hostility toward each other at all. What was really great about it was the children who were dancing. There were quotes from different people: One girl said, "How strange, the police aren't here to ruin our day." Another said, "Isn't it nice to see a gathering like this, young and old together, all enjoying." Also, there were very few people drinking, which I'm sure cut down on a lot of the violence that usually goes on under that particulare pagoda.

I also believe that taking the congas away from Venice would have the same effect as the idea of taking away the Santa Monica pier did on the people there. It is a ritual that I can remember going on since I was a child. I would always think, "Wow, when I grow up I'll be able to sit and listen for as long as I want." I am now 26 years old, so they have been bplaying for a long time.

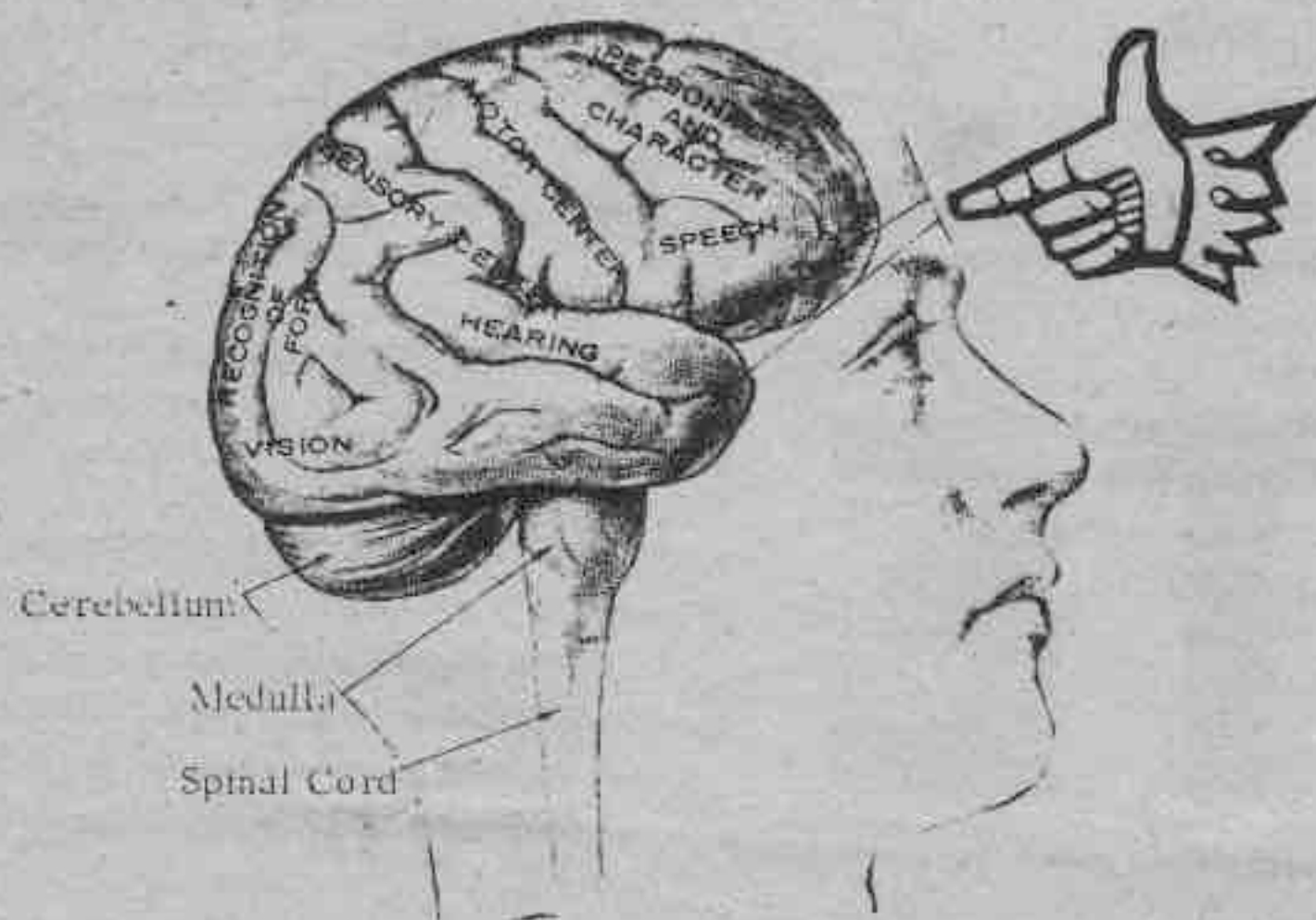
So in short, I am saying please don't take the congas away from Venice. The police are trying to say that the drums cause an unlawful assembly. This is not true. All it does is cause a lot of people to enjoy themselves at the beach on Sunday. If this is unlawful, then we are all in the wrong and should be dealt with accordingly.

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DISCOVERING THE OCCULT by Maurice LeCroy will not be seen this month due to lack of space.

DR. ZANE'S LOBOTOMY COLUMN



A Monthly Column of Advice on All Subjects the Doctor Knows Absolutely Nothing About

by Jim Zane

Dear Dr. Zane:
I hate taxes. I work hard for my money and I don't see why I should have to give the government any money. What do they do for me anyways? But what I hate even worse than paying taxes is having to pay more taxes than someone else. In a country where we're all supposed to be equal, I don't see any reason why I should have to pay more than someone else. What do you think?

J. Paul Gettymoremoney

Dear Mr. Gettymoremoney:
I don't see why you're complaining. The graduated income tax is more than equitable. I don't think you'd be complaining if you actually understood the graduated income tax. The way the graduated income tax is set up, the more money you earn, the less money you have to pay. Thus the graduated income tax helps support the American dream: becoming rich. It encourages you to make money so you

will be able to pay less in income taxes and therefore make more money so you'll be able to pay even less in taxes. So stop complaining and get back to work.

Dear Dr. Zane:
I heard a rumor that it was almost impossible for you to make a decision for whom you were going to vote in the Mayor's race between Tom Bradley and Sam Yorty, and that you almost didn't vote. I also heard that your indecisiveness was mainly due to the fact that you felt you were related to both men. Tell me what's happening. OK? I am a poll maker, and I never heard of such a thing.

Watts D. Trend

Dear Mr. Trend:
Those unfounded rumors you heard were absolutely correct. And that's because I've always taken that great American axiom to my heart, "He's your Uncle, not your Father." That's how I feel about

politicians. I feel that all politicians are my uncles. I considered Bradley my uncle and Yorty my uncle. And that was my problem: I felt there was no candidate I could vote for when one was Uncle Sam and the other was Uncle Tom.

Dear Dr. Zane:
President Nixon says the economy is going to the dogs because of widespread inflation. He has said that a controlled economy would be no good because it would result in the flourishing of black markets. Why does that get him so upset?

May Fair

Dear May Fair:
The reason the President is opposed to black markets is because he's a racist. If they were white markets, you know he'd have a different attitude.

Dear Dr. Zane:
Presently the United States is in the midst of an energy crisis; we are very short of gasoline. I desperately need gas for my business (as I own a service station) yet I'm also ecologically-minded. What am I to do as ecology and economy seem to be diametrically opposed to each other at this time in history?

Gaston Gassman

Dear Gaston:
We are in the midst of an energy shortage because the gas and oil companies are arbitrarily rationing their fuel so they can get higher prices. Besides, I think you're being too negative. Good ecology and good economy are not opposed to each other. At the moment, the Cuyahoga River (in Cleveland), the River Rouge (in Detroit), and the Buffalo River (you have to guess where this river is) are considered fire hazards as all three have caught on fire in the past. Now this is a situation where ecology and economy can work hand in hand. The reason those rivers are fire hazards is because they are filled with chemical and oil waste. Thus, if someone would remove the oil from the rivers, we'd have both clean rivers and more fuel.

Dear Dr. Zane:
I'm a newcomer in town. Could you please tell me where I can go to score some good

dope?
I.M.A. Newcomer

Dear I.M.A. Newcomer:
Remember that old saying, "If you hate cops, the next time you need help ask for a hippie," well there's another saying like that. This one goes: "If you hate hippies, the next time you need dope ask for a cop." The best place in town to score good dope is from the Vice Squad at your nearest police station.

The following statements have been received by Dr. Zane in the mail this month:

Dear Dr. Zane:
We have never been and we never will be associated in any way with the Bobsey Twins. In fact, until yesterday, we had no knowledge that there was such a pair of people. Furthermore, we are not the Bobsey Twins.
H.R. Haldeman
John Ehrlichman

Dear Dr. Zane:
I want your readers to know what an outrageous man the City Treasurer is. He refused to give me my severance pay in travellers' checks.
Sam Yorty

Dear Dr. Zane:
Quit making fun of the President. This Watergate business is a bunch of malarky that the Eastern Liberal Establishment press and people of your ilk are pushing. The President's a good man and he doesn't need any more aggravation than he already has. He's a great American. So stop making fun of him. Why he's as honest as our eyesight is good.
Mr. Magoo
Sammy Davis, Jr.
Helen Keller

As Dr. Zane was not on vacation again this month, his column is here again. Dr. Zane is promising to go on vacation next month, but for his faithless readers, he is threatening them with another column just the same. Dr. Zane would like to thank all his readers for encouraging him in his egomania. Keep those cards and letters.

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MY FELLOW AMERICANS— I WANT TO SPEAK TO YOU NOW FROM MY HEART ON WHAT HAS COME TO BE KNOWN AS THE UH-CAMBODIA AFFAIR...

AS YOU KNOW, LAST MARCH I RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION OF THE INDOCHINA CONFLICT— ONE OF THE FINEST WAR'S IT HAS BEEN MY PRIVILEGE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH....

BUT SINCE THAT TIME THERE HAVE APPEARED REPORTS IN THE PRESS ALLEGING THAT THE UH- CONFLICT CONTINUES...

AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WAR'S CONTINUATION— BUT UH- NOT THE UH- BLAME!

NOW, AS YOU KNOW, THE HOUSE RECENTLY CUT OFF FUNDS FOR OUR ALLEGED BOMBING OF CAMBODIA...

FOR THERE ARE THOSE— AND THEY ARE SINCERE IN THEIR CRITICISM— WHO CONSIDER THE BOMBING UNCONSTITUTIONAL...

NOW THE EASY COURSE FOR ME TO TAKE WOULD BE TO ACT CONSTITUTIONALLY— HOWEVER, AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE NEVER BEEN ONE TO TAKE THE EASY COURSE...

THEREFORE, TODAY, IN ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT DECISIONS OF MY PRESIDENCY, I ORDERED THE MINING OF THE POTOMAC AND BOMBING OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES!



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WATERGATE

THE REASON FOR WATERGATE

By Ira Sohn

Why has the straight media suddenly launched such an all-out attack on the Nixon Administration through its reporting of the Watergate Affair? The media has always served at least part of the Establishment. Moreover, Watergate seems like a rather drastic step, since it could undermine people's faith in the Presidency and the electoral process— it is a threat to Americans' belief in the extent that Democracy exists in this country. In this article, Ira Sohn presents one analysis of the reason for Watergate.

Every day from the last two months or so the media have been feeding us heavy doses of Watergate. Editorial writers are concerned about the inner "moral meaning" of the affair and television shows us the moral outrage of members of the Ervin committee, who are determined to get to the bottom of it all. From time to time, as a treat, we get to listen to the remarks of some politicians who tell us how the Watergate affair marks a new low in national politics. They all say in other words, that Nixon's immorality—the fact that he had gone "too far" and hadn't abided by the rules of the game—is what's behind everything.

But this isn't a very plausible explanation for the many Watergate-related proceedings that are now in progress (besides the Ervin hearing there are also at least two important grand jury deliberations, several trials and a number of different investigations being conducted by the FBI, the General Accounting Office and all sorts of other government agencies). Mere "immorality" is not by itself enough to cause much excitement among politicians and journalists. Nixon went "too far" not in the moral realm but because he stepped on certain toes. When CBS and the *New York Times* and Senator Percy start complaining about Nixon's lack of ethics then that is a clear sign that they want to destroy him, because he is getting in the way of the business interests for whom they speak.

It is the big banks of New York and New England who control the largest media networks and newspapers and many of the most powerful people in Congress;

it is they who are trying to throw Nixon out of the White House by means of Watergate. Why do those interests—who were among those that put Nixon in office to begin with— now want to drive him out?

To answer this question one must take stock of the various other business groups— groups that until recently managed to cooperate with the Eastern banks but are now starting to fight them. Because of very high profits made during World War II and for about twenty years after it ended, new powerful business groups appeared in the country. These are:

1. Aerospace and other enterprises connected in one way or another with the military-industrial complex— most of the important ones located in California and Texas.
2. Land speculation and development— especially in California and Texas
3. Oil and natural gas— in Texas, Oklahoma and California.
4. Organized crime— which flourishes throughout the country generally but has been especially profitable in Southern Florida, Southern California, Nevada, the Bahamas and the Caribbean.
5. The leadership of organized labor— e.g. the bureaucracies headed by Hoffa, Meany, Abel, et al.
6. The entertainment industries.

All of these fields are dominated by tightly-knit business groups. There are, as well, a number of semi-independent individuals whose financial empires have attained considerable size in the last third of a century or so— individuals such as Howard Hughes, H.L. Hunt, C. Arnholt Smith, J. Paul Getty, Daniel Ludwig etc.

These groups, like the older more established ones, require the services of politicians and judges to represent their interests in government; they also must work closely with the police and military if their operations are to be successful. One of the men who built his political career around these new, vigorously expanding groups is Richard Nixon. For thirty years he has been their tool in Congress and the White House, and has served them even when not in office (in the span between 1960 and 1968). At the same time, naturally, he attempted to represent the Rockefeller, Morgan, Harriman, etc. interests headquartered in the East. It was only because he could represent the many different groups so effectively that he was able to get into the White House. Now that the Eastern group is involved in ser-

ious battles with the others it has become impossible for him to represent them all at the same time. Nixon thus had to decide who he would favor, the Easterners or the others, primarily in the West and South. He evidently chose the latter, and it is for this reason that the Eastern bloc has set its political and media machinery in motion to force him to resign.

An extremely important question is why didn't Nixon simply go along with the Eastern bloc, serve out his final term in the White House and tanquilly retire among his Mafia friends in Key Biscayne. The answer to the question is to be found in the fact that Nixon has always been a gambler, someone who plays a long-shot in the hopes of realizing a gigantic profit. In this case, the payoff as a reward for favoring the South and West would have been a dictatorship. Nixon would have kicked aside the traditional political process and established himself as President for an indefinite period— much in the manner of Hitler in Germany in the '30s.

A still more important question is why the South and West were interested in trying such a thing now; why do they feel that they can no longer live comfortably with the Eastern bloc. The answer lies in the fact that the United States (along with the other big capitalist countries) has entered into a period of economic crisis, one which may turn out to be just as serious as that of the Great Depression, if not more so. During such times of crisis, when businesses are unable to sell what they have produced and there is high unemployment, smaller concerns are wiped out and only the giants remain. With such a depression confronting them now (economic analysts of all schools of thought are predicting a serious downturn by around the end of this year) the Southern and Western groups have for several years felt they were fighting for their lives. They decided that they must somehow put in the White House a man who would be absolutely loyal to their interests and keep him there no matter what, even if it meant establishing a fascist dictatorship (just as in the case of Hitler, who was largely the creation of smaller German business groups that were being badly damaged by the Great Depression). Without control of the machinery of government, many of the Southern and Western groups that back Nixon will be obliterated by a serious crisis and only the

huge multinational companies, controlled by the East, will survive. It is this fear of being wiped out that panicked the Southerners and Westerners.

Acting on their fears, they gave Nixon the go ahead to put together the plan for establishing a dictatorship, known as Operation Gemstone, of which the Watergate break-in was a small part and whose details are being released bit by bit in the various investigations presently underway. The East, to protect itself, will continue with hearings and trials until Nixon and his gang are either out of the White House altogether or are so badly mauled that they will have to compromise. (It must be noted that the Easterners have no objection to dictatorship per se. It is just that: a) they don't think that a dictatorship is desirable now, and b) they want the dictator to be someone who is loyal to their interests rather than those of their competitors.

Considerations of space allow for the investigation of only the last question, namely, why did the East wait to destroy Nixon until after the election of 1972. Wouldn't it have been easier to prevent him from being elected rather than to pry him out of the Presidency once he had gained it? There were two essential reasons for their reluctance to act before the election. First, Nixon himself had not made his intention to go over to the side of the South and West perfectly clear until a few weeks after the election victory. In all likelihood, he deliberately allowed the East to entertain the idea that he was not about to abandon them. Second, there were other candidates— Kennedy, Wallace, McGovern, etc.— who, for one reason or another, were even more repugnant to the East than Nixon was. The East reasoned that once they had used Nixon to torpedo these other threats they could then go on to deal with Nixon himself.

As a last consideration, ordinary people— particularly those interested in progressive change— must ask themselves what their role in this matter ought to be. What is called for is a two-fold effort. First, progressives must familiarize themselves with exactly how this society operates, so that they can see the Watergate Affair as a normal part of its normal functioning. Second, they must find ways of communicating what they know to many others, so that the American people not only have an accurate understanding of how their lives are dominated by the big financial interests but also how they can take steps to change this society and set up a different system— a system which will not produce Nixons and Watergates

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VENICE-FOX



In the early hours of the morning, most of the City sleeps, but the Central Avenue Wholesale produce market is alive with activity. Gigantic trucks squeeze through the narrow lanes—they have been traveling through the night carrying food to Los Angeles from the farmlands of the state. Smaller trucks wait patiently in line while someone picks up their produce. Workers wheel dollies to and fro carrying stacks of produce almost as tall as themselves. LA Potatoes...Rudnick's...Vasquez... L.A. Nut House...Bong Lee... the shops are packed into a rectangle and arranged in an array bewildering to the newcomer.

The market is generally populated by hardnosed professionals who make their living buying and selling produce. "Hey Charley," one man yells, "Buy these tomatoes, only \$2.00 a box." "You kidding?" Charley replies, wrinkling his nose, turning his face away and throwing his palm at the other man in the international gesture of disdain.

Three years ago, long-haired men and levy-clad women from Echo Park-Silverlake and Venice, members of newly-formed food co-ops, began infiltrating the market with their battered pick-ups and vans. These people realized, years before national meat boycotts began originating in the San Fernando Valley, that there was something very wrong with the price of food. They proposed to by-pass the supermarkets and buy food directly from the wholesalers, trading work for cut-rate prices.

The reaction of the market ranged from surprise to hostility. Some shops refused to sell to food co-ops, and the food co-ops in turn boycotted others. Today, things are a world different. Fred Stone, long time Free Venice/Santa Monica Food Co-op member says, "If you miss Rudnick's one week, he'll grab your arm the next week and wonder where the hell you got your apples." Once some of the smaller shops found out exactly what co-ops were about, they became partisans of the food co-op idea, because they didn't like the squeeze put on by the supermarkets. All the shops appreciate co-op business.

The problems were endless. A suitable place to distribute the food has been a constant headache. The co-op has been visited by police agents and hauled into court, but came home free each time—being after all only part of the American Way ("Practice self-reliance," says the President). The co-op once seemed to be always reorganizing, but now appears to have found a good basic structure—one where the work is reasonably spread. There are still many, many problems. Meetings are still heated and disorganized—difficult for many members to stomach.

So you want to be a pioneer? Want to be part of an experiment that may someday revolutionize the food buying habits of the nation? Try joining the Free Venice Food Co-op. It meets every Tuesday at 8 P.M. in the Venice Recreation Center card room, on the beach between the weight-lifting area and the children's playground. For information call 396-2708.

In January of this year a quiet but potentially great change took place in Venice. The old Fox Venice Theatre, long neglected and given up to the cheapest of multiple run biker films, passed into the hands of a community based group of filmmakers. Only now is it becoming clear what that change means for the entertainment starved citizens of Venice.

The new group evolved out of Cumberland Mountain Film Company, which was formed originally by a number of filmmakers and the remnants of the Single Wing Turquoise Bird show. You might remember them better as the people who brought you the spectacular light shows at the Pinnacle dance concerts in the Shrine Exhibition Hall during the late 60's. The same spirit of experiment has carried into the theatre.

It has been twenty-three weeks since the take over in the theatre. Most of these earlier weeks have been spent in trial and error for the theatre. They were also weeks spent indiscovering what the citizens of Venice felt involved in as far as the movie going experience was concerned. A broad section of community members were invited to join the staff, and the possibilities for the theatre were discussed.

One of the major changes was the recognition of the Chicano community in the theatre's programming. Spanish language films were started on Wednesday nights, and the Chicano response was overwhelming. No one else in the local area offered them film entertainment in their own language. The program was so successful that it was expanded to include Sunday matinees.

The general distribution films improved tremendously from what was shown before. Some of the new films included the following: Lady Sings the Blues, 200 Mo-

tels, Yellow Submarine, Deliverance, and The Godfather. A children's matinee ran for many months, but died for lack of community involvement. Many of the more exciting adventures into film have been offered at midnight screenings. These experiments into the community, and into the world of film distribution and exhibition have led the theatre to take its boldest step in order to bring the best entertainment to the community all the time.

Most people don't realize the games played in film distribution. The amount of money involved in film rental makes it big business. Deals wheel and reputations suffer. Many movies have been denied the Fox Venice for fear of the film being tainted by a 99 cent house. In order to enhance the entertainment experience of the community and to avoid these games, the Fox Venice has vowed to bring a different double feature every night of the week for the community's enjoyment. Some of the films may be old, but they're the best. Cumberland Mountain hopes to touch every segment of the entertainment world, and make it fun to go to the movies again. They'll keep their 99 cent price.

Drop by and check out the schedule for what may interest you; even make a suggestion for your favorites.

FOR THE CHILDREN

The Venice Library, 610 California Av, (821-1769) is providing free films for children every Saturday at 11 am. Every child gets a free kite. In addition, every Tuesday at 10 am, the library has a story hour for 3-5 year olds.

DR. FEELGOOD BUSTED

Dr. Goldstein was released on \$2,500 bail. He pleaded innocent to all the charges on June 21. A Santa Monica druggist, Norman Berry, was indicted with Dr. Goldstein on one count of illegal narcotic sales. Deputy D.A. David Disco said Dr. Goldstein spent only about two hours a day in his office, during which time he would write as many as 140 prescriptions at five dollars each.

Dr. Goldstein's lawyer, Burton Marks, says the charges are unconstitutional. "The question is whether or not a doctor can treat a sick person if that person is an addict. Dr. Goldstein feels he should

be allowed to treat sick people without interference by legislators, police, or narcotics officers."

Venice's own Dr. M.A. Goldstein of Pacific Ave, has been indicted on 27 felony counts of prescribing drugs to habitual users or addicts, using a false address for prescriptions, and prescribing drugs outside the practice of his profession. He was also charged with three misdemeanor counts of prescribing drugs without physical examinations. The charges cover the period from September 1971 to last February.

BEACHHEAD PHOTOGRAPHER

GAIL WILLIAMSON (PHONE: TANK-YUK)

COMMUNITY SERVICES

ADVERTISING RATES

\$5 per column inch (3 1/2" column)
1/4 page ad: \$50; 1/2 page ad: \$90;
Full page ad, a bargain at \$175.

THE BARGE

2906 LINCOLN "SANTA MONICA" 399-9027

LIVE MUSIC - SAT-SUN

WELFARE & FOOD STAMPS
1. 11390 W. Olympe Bl, 478-5511
2. Welfare Rights, 731-5095

WOMEN'S CENTER
218 S. Venice Bl, 823-4774

ABORTION REFERRAL
936-7466, 823-4774

PET PRIDE (FOR CATS)
459-1703

CHICANOS
La Causa Youth Center
531 Indiana, Mon-Fri
392-5361, 392-1616

FREE VENICE
226 San Juan 396-6876

GAY LIBERATION
Westside Gay Community Center
1829 Stanford Ave, Santa Monica
828-2444 or 392-3324

COMMUNITY PLANNER
Community Design Center
392-4525

PEACE AND FREEDOM PARTY
221-2404

CANALS PARK
821-5421

VENICE DRUG COALITION
392-4151

PEOPLE'S ACTION UNION
734-4540

TOGETHER
396-0108

CHILD COUNSELING CENTER
392-7995

VENICE PEOPLE'S RAINBOW PAGES
17 Ozone

SENIOR CITIZENS
Israel Levin Senior Adult Center
201 Ocean Front Wk, 399-9584

HEALTH RIGHTS
LA County Health Rights Org
399-7737 (Vera Davis), 392-4177
(Al Emkin)

ALCOHOLISM SERVICE CENTER
NAPP Community Center
1101 W. Washington Bl
Hours: Mon-Wed-Fri 5 pm

VENICE COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER
826 Hampton Dr, 392-7722

RECYCLING
Westside Environmental Center
Behind the Co-op Market
2021 Barrington Av, West LA
478-3429 Open 7 day/wk, 24 hrs.

VENICE HEALTH COUNCIL
1306 W. Washington Bl
392-5752

YOUTH CLINIC
905 Venice Bl,
Medical help: 4: 30- 10 pm

DRAFT COUNSELLING
1. Valley Peace Center, 7105 Hayvenhurst, Van Nuys - 787-6925
2. Papa Bach Bookstore
11317 Santa Monica Bl, W. LA
Dial: GRUBERG, MTuWF, 7: 15 pm

JOB INFO CENTER
316 Lincoln - 392-4811

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

FAMILY PLANNING CENTER
1501 Pacific Av (at Market)
EX2-4147

BENJAMIN RUSH CENTER
Help for your head - 392-4905

HITCHHIKERS
Rides and riders - 931-4357

WINTER SOLDIER/VVAW
734-1391

UCLA DENTAL CLINIC
392-4125

LEGAL AID
1. NAPP, 1101 W. Washington Bl
MTuW 6: 30- 9 pm, 399-7737
2. 1607 Pacific Av (upstairs)-
392-4177, M-F 9: 30 am to
3: 30 pm.

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

FOOD CONSPIRACY
Meets every Tues, 8 pm, (new members should come at 7: 30) in the Venice Rec Center Card Room, on the beach between the weight lifting area and the children's playground. For information - 396-2708.

COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP
Sharon Shapiro, 391-7939

FREE VENICE TRUCK
\$2/trip, 821-0216

ASIANS
Involve Together Asians, 477-0357

NATIVE AMERICANS
391-6067

BLACKS
1. American Youth Academy
442 Lincoln Bl, 392-2736
2. NAPP, 1101 W. Washington Bl
399-7737

