

BEACHHEAD

NUMBER 16 JUNE 1970

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HEALTH SHUCK

CAROL FONDILLER

Did you know that Venice is getting a health center on 25th and Pico, about 5 miles away from Venice, and even farther from the Mar Vista Gardens Housing Project?

Did you know that our County Health Officials, dictated to by Burton Chase, our County Supervisor, are not going to have a comprehensive health clinic or an emergency clinic? It's going to be for Medi-Cal card holders only (that means if you have patience and fortitude enough to become a welfare recipient, you qualify for health care which lets out families who earn too much(!) for the poverty level, and whose fathers are still with the family pursuing the American myth about an Honest Day's Work - no matter about an Honest Day's Pay!

So, on May 23, the Venice Health Council called Burton Chase and his accomplices for a meeting with Venetians. Three hundred interested Venetians showed up. Less than half of the invited officials showed up to answer questions. Those that did did not even pass the buck well. We were patronized. "Peggy Simon (Health Council President) has been polite and cooperative" ... "Venice Health Council is a very intelligent group." cooed

continued pg. 3

the course of HUMAN EVENTS

• Summer time is coming and the local poverty groups have offered 12 summer programs to the Economic and Youth Opportunities Agency (EYOA).

The County of Los Angeles is scheduled to receive \$1,200,000 from EYOA for summer programs for the poor.

The Venice proposals were among 74 submitted by the County to the Office of Economic Opportunity. The local organizations which submitted proposals for the upcoming summer are Family Service of Santa Monica, Ocean Park Community Center, West Los Angeles Community Service Organization, the Venice Health Council, Venice Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Operation Service, Employ-

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VENICE & THE MASTER'S PLAN

RICK DAVIDSON

Often I hear the question, "FREE VENICE! is it still active?" My usual answer is the question, "The Canal Assessment District and the Venice Master Plan haven't passed yet, have they?" Yes, we are still fighting and the City Council has not found a way to kick us out of Venice. They have not found a way to pay for their multi-million dollar blunder - a blunder aimed at destroying the present character of the Venice Canals by forcing the present residents to vacate so playboys can build their private boat club. Also since our attack on their Master Plan for Venice many liberal to conservative groups are attacking Los Angeles for its planning failures. In fact, Los Angeles' failure to provide adequate low cost housing has brought criticism from major architects and planners across the nation. Venice of course is one of the best examples.

The Venice Plan has been in closed committee, i.e. the public could attend the meetings, but could not speak. FREE VENICE has been watch-dogging these meetings. Little has changed. The Plan will come before the City Council in about 3 weeks. This will be our last chance to

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Earthlight

The radical change in social ideas and whatever is causing a similar change in the arts, therefore it is as difficult to describe the revolution in the theatre as it is to describe the revolution in the streets. It's a heavy trip, trying to assimilate new and abstract ideas into your physical and real life patterns. Even if you believe emphatically in the ideas it's still difficult to make a reality out of something that has never been real before. Similarly the new theatre is trying to let a new reality take its place here. The outcome is an emotional theatre rather than an intellectual one. An emotional response to the performance leading, hopefully, to an intelligent reaction to the response is what Earthlight tries to get at. The pieces that we do are abstractions of real situations leaving people feeling or possibly not leaving at all, having them join us and adding their trip to ours and ours to theirs.

However Earthlight is a theatre rather than a political theatrical organization like many of "theatres of the revolution" are. We are not primarily political, we are primarily a theatre. We use theatrical concepts, such as Grotowsky (Polish Theatre Laboratory), Antonin Artaud (French

writer and thesien) and Spolin (she's into theatre games), to bring people together, realize themselves, others and everything around them. Everything we do is either created in workshop under the direction of Allan Mann or written by a member of the troupe.

The troupe has been together for a year. It started in a storefront in New York's Lower East Side, had a theatre in upstate New York (where we did some straight plays, like The Balcony and our own version of "Alice Tripping in Wonderland"). We have played in hotels in the Catskills, at the Woodstock Festival in Whitelake, and at the Open Theatre in New York City. The troupe made it to Hollywood in October, where we performed at an after hours place, The Climax, as well as our own theatre. We've performed and will be performing in various colleges in the country.

Now we're building a permanent home in Venice at 1621 West Washington Blvd. If you're into helping build a theatre, restaurant, castle, or if you're into theatre, music or anything come. We perform on Fri. and Sat. at 8:30 pm and have open workshops on Sat. at 1:00 pm. There is also going to be a Hatha Yoga class, given by one of the teachers from the Integral Yoga Institute, every Thursday night at 7:30 pm.

PEACE

RALLY FOR BOBBY and the L.A. 18

EMBASSY AUDITORIUM 847 SOUTH GRAND STREET SAT. JUNE 13 at 8 pm

PUKE THE LITTLE DUKE

by PUBLIUS

Once upon a time, in a Dukedom called Plotzville-By-The-Sea, which is a political approximation, there lived a people and sort of royalty as well, but mostly they were royalty, because leaders chose the leaders, with lots of mumbo jive and jumbo, shuck and hype, plus sprinkling of the bread, and anybody who had a mind to could be a part of this ceremony, which came to be known as the "Electoral Process".

Now, in this time that we are speaking of, there came to be suffered a whole series of misfortunes, catastrophes and calamities. So that all of the usual leadership, in the ordered, natural, yes, and normal too, line of succession and/or chain of command, were done in, in some shape or fashion, which means is not relevant, at the bottom of the barrel, they hustled up a young farm-boy, and made him regent-of-the-realm, and sent him out for fun and games till they called him for the coronation.

In the mean time, the realm was to be ruled by the new Duke's advisors, in his name, who always consulted him first, before doing anything, and in the manner prescribed by royal protocol. For this procedure, the Duke was provided with an ink pad, and the royal rubber stamp. Thys, when a matter of import was to be decided, it would be outlined in a memo, and submitted to the Duke, who naturally, because he was of such a low class of royalty, was never taught to read. So the matter was explained to him. The Duke would then properly deliberate, and make his decision known by affixing to said memo, the royal rubber stamp. Of course, if the Duke was in the royal bed, or at the royal games, or in the royal can, the royal rubber stamp could be affixed by the royal cook. The memo would then be forwarded to the royal advisors, for action that was called for by edict of the Duke.

So it went along until close to coronation time, the royal advisors making lots of acquisitions, also lots of wars, in the name of the Duke, and the Duke playing their games, and then one day they came to him with a new game, which they called, "Put-Off-the-Coronation". The rules of this game were, as usual, presented to the Duke, with an explanation. The "Little Duke" was to be not only Duke of Plotzville, but also East Plotzville, West Plotzville, and McArthur Park. Since this would take some time, the coronation would have to be postponed.

But the Duke was getting tired of these games by now, and had been teaching himself to read, and getting some ideas of his own about decisions that were being made in his name. And one day, when he was messing around down at the beach, wearing a false mustache, someone handed him a free newspaper, in which he read the following: Knowledge is Power! Power to the People! to be continued

HUMAN EVENTS cont.

ment and Redevelopment, Bay Area Latin Americans, Venice State Service Center, and the People Venice. The Los Angeles County Recreation Department also submitted a proposal for Venice. Requests for Venice add up to over \$150,000. Funds available according to EYOA are \$62,000. Who will suffer this summer?

• Recently, 75 families living in the Lincoln Place Apts. on Penmar Ave. recieved notices to move. The notices flatly stated that "these buildings are to be converted to adults only". The tenants crimes then, were two-fold. 1. They had children. 2. They were not rich. Incensed, the tenants held a meeting at the Venice Library to organize some resistance to management's action. Approximately 100 people attended, including a management fink who took down everything that was said. It was learned that a total of 150 families on Penmar had children and could expect to get notices soon. A committee to carry on the protest was formed.

The next day the committee met with the manager of the apts. who, very devisively stated that not everyone was required to move and that all cases would be treated separately (contrary to what was stated in the notice). Our friend, the manager was also very aggrieved that no one had spoken to him before going to the meeting.

Currently, no more notices have been recieved by the tenants and some have asked management to be allowed to stay.

Their requests have been graciously granted. Organizing towards a tenants association continues.

• More than 100 women from Southern California met in a Conference to Unite Women the weekend of May 16 at Trade Technical College in downtown Los Angeles. Women came to the conference from San Diego, from Orange County, and from at least a dozen women's liberation groups in Los Angeles County. There was a wide range in age and political persuasions.

The conference began with a get acquainted meeting, followed by the film, "Salt of the Earth," and then broke up into action oriented workshops. The workshops were set up to isolate problems, and then form groups committed to working on solutions.

One concrete result of the weekend conference was the formation of action groups in the areas of child care, women against the Southeast Asia war, and women in education. Women interested in working with any of these groups--and in getting in touch with the women's movement in Los Angeles--can contact the Women's Center, 1027 South Crenshaw; Phone; 937-3964.

• A tenants' union is being formed and attorneys are backing it. Meetings are every Saturday at 11:00 am at NAPP, 1101 Washington Blvd. Bring your bodies and your ideas; numbers are critical. The more people there, the more chances of success. A union can succeed, and housing conditions can be changed if people stop complaining and start acting.



MARGE BUCKLEY
PEACE & FREEDOM
CANDIDATE
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STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE:
Steve Clare, Judy Goldberg,
Rick Davidson, Sam Green-
berger

CANALS BATTLE ON

by Steve Clare

The Venice Spring Offensive has been launched; the battle for the canals is raging again. You will recall that the Canal Assessment District, a get rich quick scheme concocted by absentee landlords and downtown politicians, was passed by the Los Angeles City Council last May and let out for bids in June. THERE WERE NO BIDS and the project came to a grinding halt. Several factors were responsible for this temporary reprieve, not the least of which was the near unanimous and vociferous opposition expressed by Venice residents. Another was the difficulty expected in selling the bonds which were to pay for the construction. This problem the city hopes to solve by reconstituting the project under a different municipal ordinance (the 19-15 Assessment Act). This law guarantees the contractor his bread by obligating the city to pay any and all assessments which property owners within the district may default on, i.e. the taxpayers of Los Angeles might be forced to pick up the

tab for the construction of this private yacht harbor.

We'll all have the opportunity to protest this new scheme since the city must hold MORE PUBLIC HEARINGS. (By the way, don't expect any of that promised opposition from Councilwoman Russell. She now supports the project with the condition that canal residents will be relocated - something the city is required by federal law to do anyway.)

If the project is to be stopped again we'll have to do it ourselves. Our city fathers have stated that the only alternative to this project is to fill in the canals, but we will present a second alternative - a modest redevelopment project controlled by a board elected by canal residents and paid for with federal and state monies. The state legislature has recently passed a new law which provides for small scale redevelopment projects con-

trolled by local residents, both property owners and renters. Under this law any blighted area can be made a renewal area by petition of 20% of its residents and approval of the local legislative body. Such a petition is now being circulated in the canals and will be presented to the City Council at the next public hearing on the canal project.

Who do our city fathers represent? Which plan will our city fathers approve? They have a clear choice - people or profit. Any bets?

If you have not yet signed the petition, or wish to help circulate same, call Charleen Thygeson at 399-5327 (after 6 pm) or Lea Culberg at 399-0608 (days)



MASTER'S PLAN cont.

be heard. There'll be a mobilization. Hope to see a full house.

But FREE VENICE feels that it is not enough to just fight City Hall. We must build toward a better community. We have several projects in process: a community canal assessment plan, see article this issue; a Venice Tenant's Council, for information, call Steve Clare at 392-4177; and a construction project as follows - we are getting together Venice residents with construction skills to assist in bringing up to code sub-standard homes now threatened with demolition. This group is starting out in the spirit of "barn raising" projects of the past. We are all volunteers. Our main purpose is to save Venice for the present residents of Venice. Our first project is at 468 Howland Canal. The city has been trying to destroy another low income rent structure. The owner has been fighting them for two years. FREE VENICE is contracting to bring it up to code (furnish labor and materials) and then lease it so it can be sub-leased as a community house which will serve as headquarters for the neighborhood assessment area (see article.) We know that if we are to survive then we, the community, must do for ourselves what the City of Los Angeles has never done and never plans to. We also understand that although L.A. refuses to treat Venice as a legitimate community we must see ourselves as such and act accordingly. The first act is one of self-preservation. This summer we hope to see not just the reconstruction of old homes, but the rebirth of the Spirit of Venice - a spirit of brotherhood, trust, and peace ...through which man helps his fellow man to live and build a man made world equal to the beauty of paradise nature offers him. Those interested and willing to help, please call Rick Davidson at 392-4177 or 399-7681.

FAMILY GATHERING
SUNDAY JUNE 14
468 HOWLAND CANAL

MUSIC

LOVE

HEALTH SHUCK CONT.

Dr. George Pritchard, L.A. County Health Dept.

Councilman Braude was not present and Councilwoman Russell sent The Ubiquitous Curtis Rossiter as her deputy. He copied his boss. He didn't say a word for health. (I mean you'd think everyone would be for health!)

The officials who were there ignored a comment that the reason that the clinic was being moved out of Venice was that the low income people would not be here in a few years.

Indeed the Master Plan raises its pervasive head again!

Though the Health Council has asked for the paltry sum of \$200,000 for a mobile unit, they were pooh-poohed in a patronizing manner, despite the fact that over one million dollars has been spent on the Pico "Clinic" that will not be open twenty four hours a day and will have no community advisory board.

What we will get, whether we want it or not, is a drug abuse clinic, i.e. a thorazine dispensary in Oakwood. Drug abuse clinics are all the rage. No matter about the commonplace of burst appendixes, or wounds that happen at night, the bright young men with their Sears manufactured, i.e. dye shirts, and their masters degrees in public health prefer the exotica of some fool on an acid bummer. But even those poor souls won't get treatment for the auxiliary complications of drug abuse such as malnutrition, cirrhosis of

the liver, kidney ailments, or infectious hepatitis. Nope, just thorazine, (no kick pad) a counselor, and a JOB AGENT (!?)

May be the powers that be don't really want low income people to be healthy. After all if you're sick, not fatally, just "feeling tired all the time", you don't have the energy to fight their special interests.

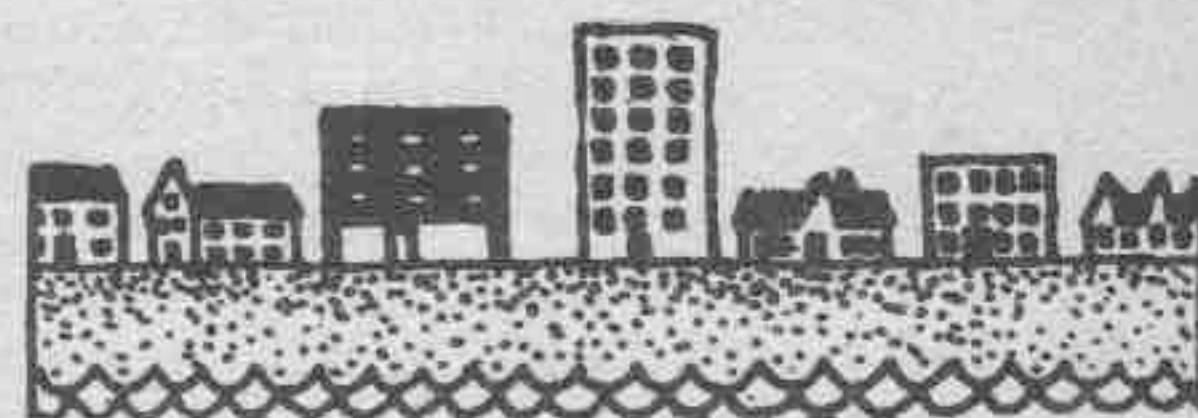
Watts got their clinic by some radical urban renewal in 1965. What will Venice residents have to do?

getting it together.....

Venice residents are, for the most part, peaceful and willing to turn the other cheek. Venice landlords know this and use it to exploit their tenants. This exploitation ranges from unreasonable rent raises without warning to minimum, if any, maintenance of the property these tenants call "home". Landlords make promises concerning rent levels and apartment improvements while never intending to keep them.

The above conditions prevail at the apartment building located at 407 Ocean Front Walk. The landlord, Ray Robinson, is attempting to raise rents an additional \$60.00/mon. for some units, while never maintaining the units as promised. The twist in this story is that the tenants, although remaining peaceful, are refusing to turn their cheeks. They have organized a tenant union and are refusing to pay unjust rent.

The landlord has made threats and offered many bribes, but the tenants are strong and will face eviction rather than have the price on their souls raised by one seemingly without one.





U.S. INVADES CAMBODIA

CAMBODIA: BACKGROUND TO THE WAR

The American invasion of Cambodia, Nixon said at his press conference, has definite military purposes: to destroy National Liberation Front bases in Cambodia. But these bases will be back in the hands of the NLF within months no matter what the Americans accomplish in the next period.

Why? Because the invasion is not simply a "brief surgical operation lasting...six to eight weeks" as the White House has said, but part of a war that has lasted nearly thirty years between the Japanese, French, and now Americans (with their local political cliques like Thieu's in South Vietnam) on one side and the people of IndoChina—the Laotians, Cambodians, and Vietnamese—on the other.

The reason American governments from Ike to Nixon have committed this country to an increasingly obvious aggressive and unpopular war in Vietnam is basically the same reason behind the government's Cambodian policy: to keep Asian markets open for American business.

An understanding of the history of Cambodia and the background to the invasion makes us believe that there are only two choices in IndoChina: invasion or liberation.

The American government knows that if the National Liberation Front wins in IndoChina, it will serve as an inspiration for liberation movements throughout the world.

THE POLITICAL BACKGROUND

In 1881 the French took over the territory of Cambodia. The entire peninsula of IndoChina was a French protectorate until the Japanese conquest in 1941. The resistance movements in Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and Burma united to sabotage and harass the Japanese. When the French returned at the end of the war, the resistance movements in the entire peninsula attempted to block French power. The main battleground was chosen by the strongest of the resistance forces, the Viet Minh of Vietnam.

In 1950 the Viet Minh set up a resistance government in opposition to Sihanouk who had been declared King by the French. France "granted" Cambodia independence in 1953, and, defeated in Vietnam, withdrew from all of IndoChina in 1954. America took the economic and eventually military place of France in IndoChina.

From '54 to '63 Sihanouk kept Cambodia out of military alliances but neutrality became increasingly difficult after '63 when the U.S. sent heavy troops to South Vietnam to fight the growing National Liberation Front. In 1963, when Sihanouk rejected American aid, and stopped relations with the American government in 1965, attempted political coups were backed by the CIA-financed and Special Forces-trained Khmer Serei.

Khmer Serei (White Cambodians) is a political group recruited from the 100,000 Cambodian population in South Vietnam, led by rich and middle level Cambodian land owners in South Vietnam who have cooperated with the Americans since 1950. Most of the prisoners released by the new Cambodian regime are Khmer Serei.

The Khmer Rouge is a liberation force working with the NLF and the North Vietnamese to clear IndoChina of American military and economic power.

Khmer Rouge (Red Cambodians) is the Liberation Front of Cambodia whose role, until recently, has been to defend the Sihanouk government against the attacks of the Americans and the Khmer Serei. As Cambodia moved closer to the United States in 1969 by joining the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the Khmer Rouge began to develop independent activities in the cities and countryside with a program of real independence through economic and political control by the people living in Cambodia over their own resources.

By late 1969 the stakes were set: independence and self-determination or American domination. Political neutrality that Sihanouk stood for, without economic dependence, was becoming an impossible feat. American political interests revolved around keeping all of Southeast Asia, from Indonesia to Thailand, an open market for American profit making. Local regimes from Thieu in South Vietnam to Suharto in Indonesia and now to Lon Nol in Cambodia are ready to do the American bidding.

This article was prepared by the LOS ANGELES POWER AND LIGHT COMMUNICATIONS CENTER which is located at 73 Market No. 6, Venice 90291.

THE POTENTIAL PROFITS FOR AMERICAN BUSINESS IN CAMBODIA

from resources:	cash crops in rice pepper cotton rubber maize and sugar—cheap manufacturing labor—oil tin etc.
from markets:	the same sort of markets the U.S. has found in Thailand Indonesia and South Korea—industrial machinery, power generating machinery, cars and tractors, medicines and pharmaceuticals, building construction, hotels and tourism—and all the American-style needs created by huge profitable and alienating cities like Tokyo, Jakarta, Singapore, Seoul, and Hong Kong.

THE ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

The American invasion of Cambodia is related to the present and future American control of the Cambodian economy. Cambodia has been an agricultural country with rice as its major product, feeding its 80% peasant population, its cities and towns, and serving as the main basis for foreign trade. In 1960 Prince Sihanouk accepted a five year plan based on American aid and American plans for development. In 1963, after 350 million dollars, Sihanouk decided to refuse further aid because America was demanding a larger role in the development plan. Planning after 1963 was on a project-by-project basis with aid from Japan, France, Russia, and China.

Most sectors of the economy were government owned and run by a top-heavy and corrupt bureaucracy. In spite of it, between 1963 and 1970 the preconditions for industry and large scale agriculture were finished: roads and train lines were finished that connected the country; the port, Sihanoukville, was enlarged for international trade; the airport was expanded for international use; 24% of the budget was spent on educating a managerial and technical class; and a large dam, power and flood control project was started at Prek Thnot which would eventually provide power for industrial development.

American businessmen had planned on the development of the whole Mekong River Basin—in Laos, Cambodia, South Vietnam, and Thailand—but Cambodia's refusal to join the World Bank and to use large scale American aid slowed down America's plans for development of the entire peninsula.

At the same time Cambodia was in economic trouble because of heavy corruption, piece-meal planning, and the drought and bad harvest of 1969. In the summer of '69 Lon Nol, Sihanouk, Matak, and the other men who ran Cambodia were pressured into joining the World Bank in order to get loans; the condition for their joining the World Bank was the devaluation of Cambodian money by 12.5%. When the Cambodian currency is devalued, American dollars are worth more, can buy more, which means bigger profits for American investors. Presided over by Robert McNamara, the World Bank is a pool of money, mostly coming from the U.S. government, used to pay for public works, in construction, transportation, water, and power that are necessary to open up new markets for American products and investments.

Sihanouk insisted on cautious development and in maintaining national control of banks, insurance, rice, rubber, and transportation. The coup throwing out Sihanouk in April 1970 was a reversal of Cambodia's neutralist policies. The country was opened to foreign investment. Banking and other government operations were given over to private business. The invasion was necessary to secure that investment.

CONCLUSION

The battle lines in Cambodia, and in all of IndoChina, are set. Opposition to the war in Vietnam is now opposition to the war in IndoChina. It is clearer than ever that this war is in the interests of the companies that profit from it, not the American people who pay for it, nor the soldiers who fight it.

The American government has been extending its battle lines into the black and brown communities for many years. Now we see the same battle extended to white college campuses. The threat that the Nixon government feels is not simply mass opposition to the IndoChinese war, but a mass understanding that the battles for self-determination waged by the people in IndoChina are the same battle the American people must wage against their own government: a government that represents corporations not people; a government that takes care of profits but not human needs.



Over 700 anti-war protestors participated in a march and rally on May 10 (Mother's Day). The demonstration was called by the Venice Peace and Freedom Party "...for those who wanted to show their feelings against the war and couldn't go down to Exposition Park on the 9th" according to Jane Gordon, PFP candidate for Congress in the 28th District, and one of the speakers at the event. Lew McCammon, PFP congressional candidate in the 26th District and Jim Berland for Movement for a Democratic Military were other speakers, as were Mike Coffey, Stan Armsted, and Ed Ferrer, residents of Venice's Black and Brown communities. The best received happening of the afternoon was an unscheduled performance of EARTHLIGHT, a newly arrived theater group in Venice whose address is 1631W. Washington Blvd.