

# FREE VENICE SINCE 1968 BEACHHEAD

JUNE 1975 NO. 66

P.O. BOX 504, VENICE, CALIFORNIA 90291

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## HELISTOP

by Peter Galbraith

Under the guise of public welfare and convenience, Los Angeles City Council has approved the building of a helistop in Venice despite noise, questions of impropriety and strong community objections.

Approval of the controversial facility was made possible by the City Planning Committee overruling earlier denials of the building permit. Chaired by Councilwoman Pat Russell of the 6th district, the committee ruled in favor of the developers seeking the permit -- men who have made substantial contributions to Russell's election campaigns.

The City Council's approval is now being reviewed by Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, and will go into effect unless he vetoes the resolution by May 24th.

The helistop is to be built by developer J. Allen Radford on the roof of a nine-story office building at the Washington Square shopping center. Radford is general partner of La Casa Linda Properties, owners of the shopping center at 330 Washington Street.

The helistop is for the sole use of the executives of Cordon International Corporation of Brentwood--the organization planning to lease the top floor of the Radford building.

Cordon International is a world-wide corporation involved in the operation of nuclear plant environmental control systems, liquefied natural gas, and the material support for petroleum exploration in the North Slope of Alaska, South America and Southeast Asia.

La Casa Linda and Cordon International have hired Philip Krakover of Engineering Technology Inc. of North Hollywood to help them obtain the building permit.

Krakover is a successful legislative advocate representing developers in the Los Angeles area before city government, usually seeking zone changes.

At a Re-elect Pat Russell Dinner raising funds for the April 1971 elections, Krakover made a \$747 campaign contribution to Russell's campaign committee.

At the same dinner Radford kicked in his own \$747.

At a fund raising dinner at the Marriot Hotel in the fall of 1973, Radford contributed another \$1,000 to Russell's committee.

La Casa Linda Properties applied on Oct. 1, 1974, for a permit to build the helistop on their Washington Street building under Section 12.24 of the municipal code authorizing the City Planning Commission to approve land use excluded by zoning regulations.

Under this section of the municipal code, the commission can grant conditional use permits for facilities such as schools, libraries, museums, piers, cemeteries and airports only "if it finds



that the proposed location will be desirable to the public convenience or welfare."

In the case of the Washington Street helistop, the Planning Commission denied the conditional use permit Jan. 16. The commission determined the community would not benefit from a facility built for the convenience of one tenant, and questioned the environmental impact of the helistop on the community.

In the denial, the commission unanimously held, "Since the use of the helistop is primarily to provide transportation convenience to a corporation's executives and management personnel, it is extremely difficult to determine how the public might benefit from this use."

The helistop on the Radford building, the commission went on to say, "could not be supported because the proposed location is deemed to be inconsistent with the interest of public convenience and welfare, and because of its proximity, the proposed helistop could have a deleterious effect upon the Anchorage Street School and nearby residential developments."

With much of the 9-story office building vacant, Radford desperately needs to lease the top floor to Cordon International to save his \$15 million Washington Square development.

La Casa Linda filed on Oct. 17, 1974 for reor-

ganization under Chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy act because it is unable to pay -- among other debts -- its more than \$11,500 monthly mortgage payments to Mutual Life Insurance Co. of New York.

La Casa Linda also owes Los Angeles more than \$400,000 in city property taxes and penalties, and has large debts to contractors who built and furnished the shopping center.

La Casa Linda appealed the Planning Commission rejection of the conditional use permit to the City Council, coming before its Planning Committee. In addition to Chairman Russell, this powerful committee includes Councilmen Louis R. Nowell and Robert Farrell.

Under Section 12.24 B.3(e) of the municipal code "The appeal shall set forth specifically wherein the determination of the Commission fails to conform to the requirements of this section."

Yet the only argument the applicant presented in the appeal before the Planning Committee was that the commission's interpretation of the public convenience and benefit was excessively narrow.

Representing both La Casa Linda and Cordon Int. at the Planning Committee meeting May 13, Krakover stated, "The key factor here before the committee is the public necessity and the public convenience." Cordon International, Krakover argued, is "part of the private sector of the economy, and as such they are very clearly a component of the public. This is a reasonable request on the part of this entity."

But nothing in the public record supports the contention that there is any public benefit--benefit to more than a few corporate executives -- arising from the helistop.

Upon reviewing the appeal before presenting the Planning Commission's report to the City Council, Sederio R. Roldan, commission hearing examiner, concluded, "There is nothing in the appeal which effectively refuted the findings adopted by the City Planning Commission, nor is there any evidence which was not considered by the Commission that would provide a bases for granting the appeal."

The Community Planning and Development Division reported that because of the proximity of the Los Angeles Airport, the Santa Monica Airport, Hughes Airport and the surrounding primarily residential properties, it does not consider it in the best interest of the community to encourage further air traffic by the development of the helistop.

Besides questions whether a private helistop is grounds for a conditional use permit under the municipal code, the City Department of Environmental Quality objected that an Environmental Impact Report was not filed with the project.

The Environmental Evaluation Committee exempted La Casa Linda on Oct. 23, 1974 from filing an Environmental Impact Report by granting a Negative Declaration for the helistop project. The committee determined that the helistop "will not have a significant effect on the environment" because "the proposed helistop will not generate excessive noise according to a noise study in the EIR file."

please turn to page 4

## SAVE THE VENICE POST OFFICE

by Dave Sauve

The clerks of the Venice Post Office are faced with a crisis, and the ramifications of their problem affect every citizen of our city. Before August of this year, the distribution operation of mail destined for Venice, Playa Del Rey and Marina Del Rey may be moved to the Culver City Post Office. Twenty-eight postal clerks now working at the Venice office may be involuntarily transferred to Culver City to perform the sorting of Venice mail, a job which is now done in the Venice office on the midnight shift. This summer, the Venice mail carriers may also be moved, from the present office to the old Safeway building across the circle.

These proposed moves mean several things to the citizens of Venice. First, a potential deterioration of mail service. The carriers will have no direct contact with the clerks who sort the raw mail to them, and the mail will have to be trucked to Venice from Culver City after it is sorted. Second, these moves mean the inevitable sale and destruction (and probable replac-

ement by a high-rise) of the old Venice Post office, a landmark of historical value on the Venice circle since 1939.

To the postal clerks affected by such a move, this action would mean much more. Many of the Venice clerks live in Venice, and enjoy living there. They like the lifestyle, the people and the city itself. Many of them walk or ride bikes to work, and to go to work in Culver City (at 3:00 AM), some will have to buy cars or take a cab. All those who are transferred to Culver City will lose seniority standing and some who stay will be forced to take a cut in pay as their higher paying mechanical distribution positions are transferred to Culver City with the sorting operation.

The Inglewood sectional center management who is forcing this transfer, claim that they will save money by moving distribution of Venice mail to Culver City. They add insult to injury by telling the Venice clerks that they will be moved again within two years, to a large building which will centralize mail distribution for the entire sectional center (all cities with a zip

code starting with 902-905). This move of the Venice distribution clerks is a pilot project for the implementation of similar consolidations nationwide. The entire American Postal Workers Union, nationwide, opposes these plans. Since becoming a quasi-corporation in 1970, the management of the postal service has been increasingly concerned with making and saving money, and less and less concerned with service. Their planning and scheming has had the effect of raising postal rates from 6cents per ounce to the present 10 cents in five years.

The Venice Branch of the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO, is unanimously opposed to the involuntary transfer of Venice clerks to Culver City. The Venice APWU already has the support of District III, Venice Town Council; the Venice Branch (1611) of the National Association of Letter Carriers, and the Santa Monica Branch of the APWU. They need the support of the rest of the community. SAVE THE VENICE POST OFFICE. Contact your representatives in congress and the city council.



# letters

Dear Beachhead,

My name is John Duganne. I am 4 years old and have Cerebral Palsy. I have been a member of the Venice Community Playgroup for eight (8) months and I have many, many very, very, very good friends, big and little. I take trips and do all the things the other children do. Co-op child care has increased my family by 100 people who love and care for me.

If John could talk, he would say that and much more, and it's a perfect introduction into a worthwhile human venture I want to propose.

Since John has been in the Venice Community, his physical and mental attitude has grown a thousand-fold. There is no question that the source of his progress is the interaction he gets from the expanded family experience inherent in the co-op child care structure. The other side of the coin is the growth of both the children and parents of the Venice Community Playgroup. When John began to come to Playgroup, there was much apprehension on the part of the Playgroup, parents, and the staff people at the Cerebral Palsy Clinic at UCLA. After a while, it became clear that the children of the Playgroup felt differently. He was immediately accepted by most of the children, and even the kids who had shyed away at first, soon became comfortable with the situation. John is simply a member of the Playgroup.

Throughout the eight months I have worked closely with John, the Venice Community Playgroup, and UCLA, and feel strongly about the viability of co-op child care (pre-school) as a format to integrate handicapped children into our society. Not just in terms of a pure body count, but in the process of the raising of the community and individual consciousness towards the handicapped, and they towards us. By doing this, I feel one day maybe the handicapped can come out from behind the doors and be among us without the terrible fear that people will make fun of them, or that no one will be there to help them if they need a friend.

Now is the time to start this process in earnest. A handicapped child in our society is destined to spend most of his or her life going from one handicapped situation to another; from one handicapped school to another--always surrounded by other handicapped children. We, all of us, desperately need exposure to one another. If we who are involved in co-op child care can help break the pattern and give handicapped children an environment which includes normal children and groups of loving, caring parents--then we will have begun to turn things around.

I have become deeply committed to this process of early childhood socialization, and will help any group to organize a program to incorporate handicapped children and/or help groups form co-ops which would also incorporate both normal and handicapped children. I have much to contribute in this field, and will work on a day-to-day basis and long term to help any group acclimate themselves to this new type of experience. I enclose, as part of this package, documentation from various professional people who also feel as I do about the reality of co-op as a means to this end.

In short, what I propose, is that each co-op take in one handicapped child.

Let me make my proposal perfectly clear. I am not saying that we jump into this without careful thought or planning, realizing full well the problems inherent in this undertaking. What I do propose, is that we open a dialog and discuss the possibility of each co-op taking in one handicapped child.

Sincerely yours,

Alistair James Duffy  
437 1/2 Carroll Canal  
823-4932

Dear beachhead,

I challenge every person who signed last month's attack upon Whizzy Lumpy to a debate at 8 p. m. on Weds. June 11th at my regular "Trans Gender xap" downstairs at the Church in Ocean Park (2nd & Hill, Santa Monica) All Imaginative, joyful, Feminine Sapiens of Venice/ Ocean Park community are welcome.

Whizzy is a cartoon and a very good one! Whizzy fucks facists and NOT the people! Whizzy is a most significant and very powerful playful surrealist archetype of a drive! Almost all good progressive, useful, cartoons (and mime characters) if honest, in an evolving society have strong elements of "aleintation." Whizzy Lumpy is no more sexist than Pip. (Marceau's universal Mime character, who also "never quite makes it"). I am tired of Venice constantly killing off its own creative artists or sending them off to be exploited by others: The Venice Beach area could not pay for a better, more absurd, yet integrative Huperson mascot than Whizzy: Fuck Puritan Radicalism! It will kill us all and is actually only a step away from Chief Davis.

Free Whizzy Lumpy Now! Return Bedard to all of us now! Bust your heads out of the prison before it is too late. I declare June 11th, the first meeting of the free North Beach (Love is Blind, Fuck a Facist today) Whizzy Lumpy Fan Club dedicated to radical surreal media revolution and freedom, madness, and total self creative (rather than just narrow prudish "subsistence." Art craft for all of Venice.

Both Z' and Whizzy Lumpy must live!

Ms. Lily Sabina Fairweather



## HANG ON WHIZZY

Dear Steve and Elizabeth,

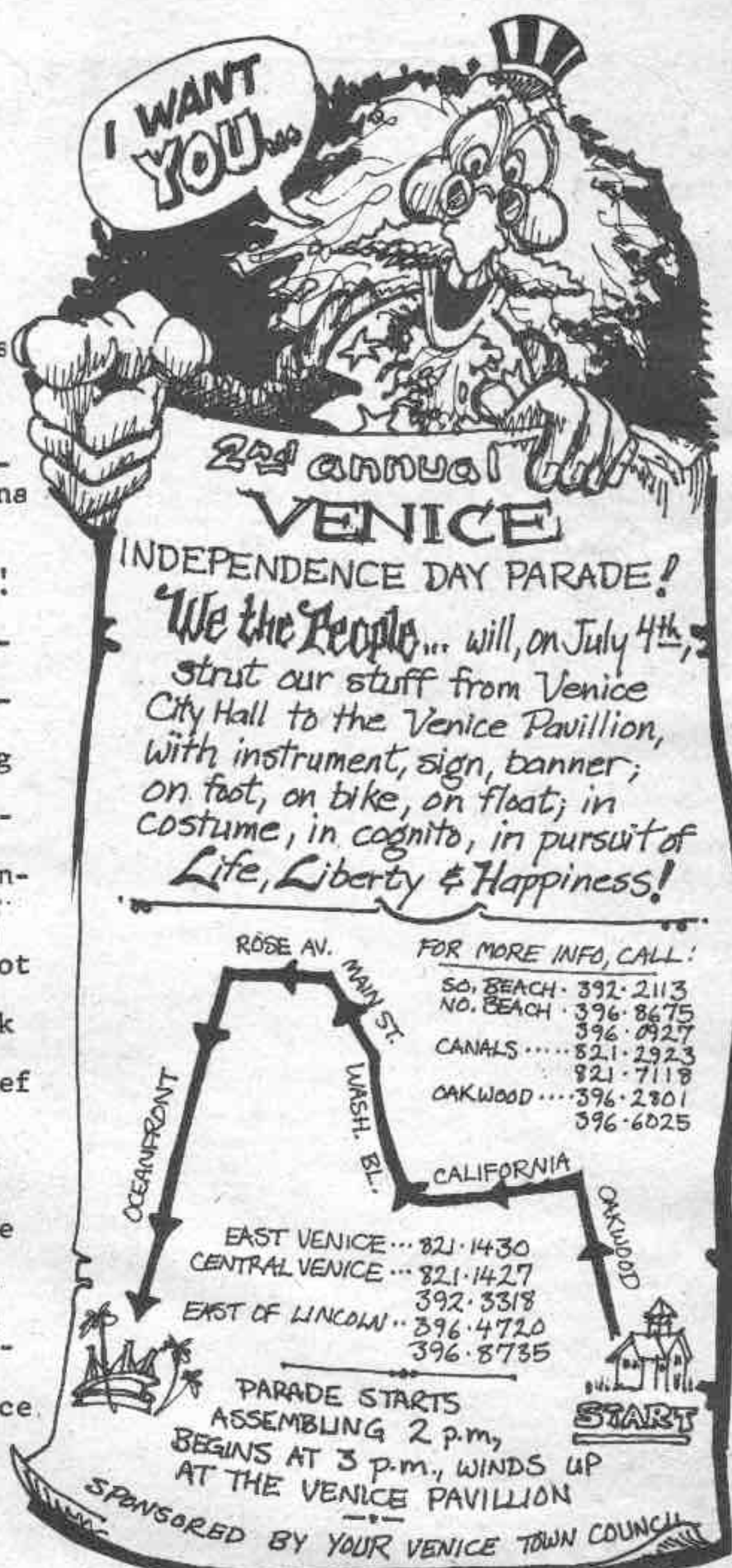
"Humor revolving around exploitation, sexual objectification and violence is nothing new."

Right. Bertolt Brecht, George Bernard Shaw, Aristophanes, and a host of others exploited peoples violence towards one another for humor, wit, or in Swift's case deep dark satire to hold the mirror, distorted to show ourselves our own hang-ups.

I am one of the people on the Beachhead staff who enjoyed the Whizzy Lumpy cartoon. I miss Whizzy, and I hope I will see him in the Beachhead soon. I am a woman, and my proclivities so far are heterosexual. Interestingly enough, I laughed at Whizzy's tragedies. How like Lumpy, I feel my heart throbbing with Welshmerz, singing to myself "someday my prince will come and I will come too," and behold I see a male human being and we "get it on" and magic! The Human Being has turned into a pig!

So, I too like Whizzy Lumpy keep running into false images. And may I say I am rejected or made invisible because I do not fit into any current image that Madison Ave. or Hollywood is trying to get us to buy. I have been the invisible woman at parties and at meetings because I'm short fat over thirty and been known to swear at children. I am not "feminine," much less a lady.

And yet tender emotions send forth tremors to this old shell. I empathize with ol' Whizzy as he sticks his neck out of his protective shell and grapples with the problems being single in a society that demands couples for status. And when he struggles with loneliness and alienation, Whizzy gets his Lumps. There he is as am I, trembling on the existential brink of despair. Ah, the men I've met who were into "feeling" and "sharing" with a multitude of relationships, have said goodbye to me because I was "special." This was usually said to me after they told me I had a fine mind. I have been solving this problem in my own Gerry-rig fashion. I have for the past months been fucking helmets, shells because the creatures inside them don't want to get "involved." (I've found out in certain segments of Venice society if two people are seen together more than three times they're "going to-



gether", and I, hopeless throwback that I am, don't really get it on to get it off after the third encounter. But I have learned that by closing my eyes and ignoring the person above or below me and fantasizing that some one I love and care for is with me and in me I can and do achieve the big O. So I use that person. He is a thing to me. And strangely enough the less I care who they are, the more I care about what their image is like. I don't like doing this, but I've lost pounds of weight, look terrific, and if I'm careful not to think, I feel great. I shall not be so easily trapped into "sharing" my feelings or my thoughts again with anyone who says he wants to know me as I really am - I know that one part of me is drying up, at the expense of keeping another part lubricated - but life is full of compromises, nœ ce pas? Every time I feel cynical I always shrug my shoulders and mispronounce something in French.

I know that in writing this I'm really leaving myself open for a lot of snideries. I'm sure groups will meet and people will dismiss this writing with "wow, she's probably not getting enough." "What she needs is a good fuck." Or, and this is almost more insulting than the preceding phrases, "I wonder if she's been fucking Bedard," dismissing everything I've written about whizzy because I am a woman, and a woman can't make judgments on things like art or politics unless she's fucking the artist or the politician.

As to whether or not I've been fucking Bedard, Whizzy's creator, I've never met the man, but he made me laugh at a turtle's love life, and I laughed at myself, and I had the comforting feeling that we're all in Hell together. Well, why the hell shouldn't I fuck him? And maybe fucking Bedard or someone else who laughs at himself, who knows how silly we look as we desperately look for love and being with one person and how heartbreakingly funny it all is, well, maybe fucking will turn into making love and hope (the cheat!) springs eternal. Hang in there Steve, Elizabeth, Venice. Let Whizzy show us where we are and we might find the way.

Love, Carol

P.S. Rumor has it that Whizzy will return to the Beachhead next month.

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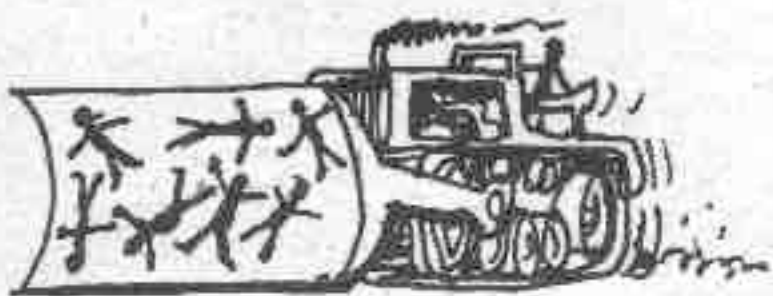
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ANA & ROY KINSLOW







# CITY VS THE LAW

by B. Trees  
portions courtesy of  
Elizabeth Elder

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Ten Canals residents were arrested and charged with trespassing on May 9th, as they attempted to stop the City Board of Public Works from illegally demolishing a house at 239 Linnie Canal. The request for demolition came from Our Councilwoman, Pat Russell, in spite of the State Coastal Commission law requiring a permit for any demolition within the Coastal Zone, and with clear disregard for the wishes of the community. About 5 years ago, the City acquired ownership of the house when Ms. Sadie Hay was unable to continue paying her property taxes. Ms. Hay, who was allowed to remain in the house as a tenant, was found dead in the house on May 1st, apparently of old age. Russell's office immediately requested Public Works to demolish the house and garage.

Ozzie Hunt, Russell's Field Deputy, has stated that on May 7th, he notified Public Works about the necessity of a permit. Curtis Rossiter, another of Russell's Field Deputies, also publicly stated that he would arrange a public meeting between the Canal Community and Russell on May 14th, to discuss maintaining the property as a much needed low-cost housing unit.

Meanwhile, other people were contacting the Mayor's office, informing him of the City's illegal action. Mayor Bradley's office intervened at that point and ordered the demolition to cease. The order was delayed, however, when Dennis Pickerel,

Asst. General Superintendent of Street Maintenance, refused to answer his on-the-scene radio phone and claimed that the City was exempt from the Coastal Commission permit process. By the time he accepted the order to cease, the garage had been demolished and ten people arrested trying to prevent it. Both the Mayor's office and Public Works had tried for an hour to reach Pickerel with the order.

Nevertheless, the Board of Public Works appeared with bulldozer and private army, (in the form of Venice Division L.A. Police) to demolish both the house and garage. Canal residents informed them that they were breaking the law and that there would be citizens' arrests made if they continued. The Police refused to assist in the citizens' arrests and instead, very politely, arrested ten residents who were attempting to stop the City of Los Angeles from breaking the law. The ten were later released on their own recognizance.

The hero of the day was the driver of the bulldozer, a city worker who was there 3 years ago when the City tore down the community house on Eastern Canal and 2 years ago when the Boardwalk and the children's playground on Howland Canal were destroyed. He apparently had finally had enough and got off the bulldozer, risking his job, and refused to take part in the demolition. Another worker was quickly hustled into his place.

It should be noted that this is not the first time that the City has taken action in violation of the laws established by the Coastal Commission. The City is currently under order by the State Attorney General and the State Coastal Commission to rectify another illegal action in Venice, where they opened and paved a previously unpaved cul-de-sac, Canal Street, and destroyed a 31 year old date palm without a Coastal Commission permit, and against strong community resistance. We have now learned that the residents of Canal Street have refused to pay the assessment and filed charges against the City for what was done, placing the City in the position of having to deal with TWO suits around their actions on Canal St. Meanwhile, the assessment remains uncollectable in the amount of \$50,000, give or take a thousand or two, and we, Dear Fellow Taxpayers, are paying for the City to fight these suits, for the amount of the assessment, for the bulldozers, and for the police, the court action against the Ten, etc., while the City pursues the rather expensive hobby of breaking laws at the instruction of Our Councilwoman.

Support is needed at the trial and the demonstrations around the trial. For further information, to get involved or to send much needed donations, write The Venice Ten, P.O. Box 575, Free Venice, 90291, or call any of these numbers: 823-1753, 823-6977, 396-6876 or 822-5154.

## WITCHCRAFT ON TRIAL

by Elizabeth Sunny Sky

Z. Budapest is a witch and High Priestess of the Susan B. Anthony Coven. She is also co-owner of the Feminist Wicca, a shop in Venice that offers books, herbs, candles and other occult supplies. She was convicted of "fortune telling" in a West Los Angeles Municipal Court in April; news of the outcome appeared in last month's Beachhead. It is felt by many in our community that what was really on trial was Witchcraft itself: Woman's Wisdom. As Z herself has pointed out, the practice of witchcraft falls under the protection of the first amendment which guarantees the right to freedom of religion.

Whether any one of us "believes in" witchcraft or not, the First Amendment issues this trial raises are basic and critical to all of us.

That the case raises basic Constitutional issues was stated by Z's attorney, Marge Buckley when the trial opened in Div. 94, a courtroom with seating for only 23. Three other courtrooms in the W.L.A. facility have seating for 70. Ms. Buckley made a motion to have the trial moved to a larger courtroom in the interest of affording Z a "public trial". The motion was denied. Only three people representing alternative press were allowed in the courtroom that first day, during which the selection took place. The only other "public" were three law students.

Witnesses for the "People" included undercover officer Kimberlin (the policewoman whose Tarot reading got Z arrested), "bunco expert" Alcantera, whose expertise includes 2-300 fortune telling cases and one class at UCLA on Gypsies, and officers Falkenberg and Shelley, who made the arrest. Their evidence included Z's Tarot deck her ad in the Beachhead, her business card, and a bottle of oil Z gave to Kimberlin. Throughout the proceedings the Prosecution referred to items at the WICCA in such a way, I felt, as to perpetuate the view of witchcraft as evil, menacing and dangerous: bottles of oil were "vials" of "potions," etc. In her closing argument, the City Attorney eventold the jury that she had visited the WICCA and that if she hadn't had a police car waiting out front for her she would have been afraid! I felt that she misstated the evidence time and time again throughout the trial.

Witnesses for Z, on the other hand, were people who could and did break down many of the old conceptions of what witchcraft is. Barbara Chesser, for instance, about to receive her PHD in Anthropology (in the area of female spirituality), has written on the female practice of ethno medicine, studies trance states, divination and E.S.P., and teaches Anthropology and women's studies at UCLA. She talked about shamanism as an archaic, worldwide phenomenon and the use of so-called supernatural abilities to help people. She stated, among other things, that witches, by tradition, are allowed remuneration for Tarot readings. She also pointed out that both the U.S. and Russia are currently studying phenomena that fall under the category of parapsychology.

Another Defense witness, Alison Harlow, a systems analyst and computer programmer with an extensive background in mathematics, is a High Priestess herself of a coven in the San Francisco area. She described Wicca as the oldest religion and one which held a belief in the female principle—a female deity. She said that all natural religions of Europe, North America and Africa were Pagan (from



the word Pagan, which means of the country people). She affirmed Z as a High Priestess, and it was a heavy moment when she said her presence and testimony in the courtroom was the highest form of affirmation she could give Z. She stands to lose her job by doing it.

Another Defense witness, Dr. George Peters, made the point that there is and has been scientific study of pre-cognitive powers and related abilities (abilities Z claims to have) and his testimony contributed to the Defense's attempt to de-mystify the aspects of witchcraft that confuse and even frighten people.

That Z is recognized as a religious leader was attested to by Jim Conn, minister of the Methodist Church in Ocean Park. His testimony drew similarities between the customs and traditions of his religious organization and those of Wicca. He stressed the feeling among religious groups these days as one of pluralism-acceptance of a wide scope of religious beliefs, of which Wicca is one. Under cross-examination he was asked if he was testifying in order to keep Z from being convicted. He answered, "I don't want to see ANYONE convicted for practicing their religious rituals". He went on to explain that it is part of the Christian tradition to prophesy and tell the future, and described the ways in which a person becomes a religious leader in the various eastern and western traditions. He pointed out, for instance, that it was ancient Judaic practice for the position of religious leader to be passed down through the family; the manner in which Z was designated.

Then Z took the stand, placing an herb bough on the ledge in front of her, and from time to time she broke off a bit of its flower and ate it. She wore a coronet of shells and beads in her hair, and embodied the spirit of serene confidence throughout what I felt was sarcastic and cruel cross-examination by the city attorney. She described a coven as a gathering of like-minded people who come together to worship the same deity and described her group as dedicated to the female principle of the universe. She described the seasonal celebrations and her role as High

Priestess of the Coven and shared intimate experiences related to her status as a witch. She delineated the role the Tarot cards played in her religious rituals as a tool and means of consultation and cleared up many of the misconceptions about such things as "bat's blood," an herb available at the Feminist WICCA.

An important moment came when the Pros. asked Z to describe the "secret" rituals. Defense attorney Buckley objected on the grounds that NO court could ask her to define the mysteries of her religious practices. Then, asked why the rituals were secret, Ms. Budapest answered, "Probably because they burned 9 million women for witchcraft 300 years ago, and they made some new rules; don't tell anyone what you say." She did, however, describe to some extent the joyful gatherings that take place at full moons and times of seasonal change (winter and summer solstices, for example) and stated that though she herself believed in the power of various herbs and oils, the co-owners of the WICCA were advised by legal counsel to display a disclaimer sign about them in order to protect themselves and the shop. She feels having to display such a sign that is in contradiction to what she "absolutely knows" indicates her oppression as a religious leader.

When asked why she told the L.A. Times she wouldn't pay a fine if required, she took the opportunity to relate this situation to that of Susan B. Anthony, the Suffragette after whom her coven is named, and who 100 years ago was convicted of voting. Anthony also refused to pay her fine. Z closed her testimony by saying, "I believe I can practice my religion and the American people won't fine me for it." They did.

In closing, the "People" hammered away at the issue of fortune telling in a business context, and said that what Z did was against the law because she was not a trained, licensed marriage or other counselor. The Pros. tried (I felt) to discredit the Defense witnesses while picturing the police people as under oath and penalty of perjury (the Defense witnesses weren't?) and without motive not to tell the truth. The Statement, like the rest of their side of the trial, was, I feel, full of pejorative comments related to the language and practice of witchcraft. As a final example of use of religion as a "cloak" under which to break the law, she cited Hitler and Aztec human sacrifice. Really!

Ms. Buckley's closing argument opened with the statement that this "IS a witch trial!" She pointed out the code ordinance under which Z was prosecuted provided an exemption for her as a religious leader; that otherwise the code would be unconstitutional! She drew the right-on comparison of Z's case to Amish exercise in not sending their children to public school. She noted that priests, rabbis, and other religious leaders are not, and could not be licensed behind the principle of separation of church and state as set forth in the Constitution. She ended by reading a beautiful spell/prayer used in Wicca ritual.

It is extremely clear that this IS a case which involves first amendment freedoms. Hopefully, in the months coming, at the end of the Appeal process, the right of women to wor(th)ship the deity they choose will be a right taken as for granted as our right to vote!

Funds are needed to continue the appeal. Send your contributions to WOMANSOUL DEFENSE FUND, 442 Lincoln Blvd., Venice 90291.



# HARPY DROPPINGS



by Carol Fondiller

The Harpy has been moulting lately and has not kept up with politics, so would someone please tell the Harpy whether it was the marijuana decriminalization law, or the consenting adults sex law that got passed? She doesn't want to get busted for sucking on the wrong joint. Now that the Harpy has your attention:

A bunch of the good ol' property owners, 35 to be exact, were whooping it up at the State Coastal Commission hearing on May 13. It seems that the Coastal Commission postponed a decision on whether or not to allow a 2 story mansion to go up on 2 consolidated lots.

The Canal Community has been working on a community plan that calls for urban parks, marine life study, low income housing, and more public egress. The Argyropolis plan is in direct contradiction to the desires of the community.

Evan Seacrest, property owner, told the Commission, "I'm going to throw you out of here bodily if you support this (the Canals Community plan)."

Eleanor DuFay, another property owner told someone in the corridor outside the Coastal Commission hearing room, "We property owners are going to get you out. We're going to get together and raise your rents so you can't pay them, and you'll have to leave the Canals." Someone from Hettig Realty informed someone, "We're going to get rid of those Town Council people in the Canals."

Hmmm. The Town Council must be doing something right.

A few months ago the Harpy reported that Mr. DuFay yelled at another hearing of the Coastal Commission, after they had decided in favor of preserving an old house near Ocean Beach, when a petition with 2,000 signatures was presented to the Commission in favor of preserving the old landmark. It was reported to the Harpy that Mr. Alfred Du Fay suggested that five gallons of gasoline poured on the house would solve the problem. Mr. DuFay called the Commissioners Hippie Lovers.

Mr. DuFay called the Harpy and denied that he said those things. Since the Harpy could not get in touch with anyone who was there, she retracted the statement. The Harpy has since been informed that the statements Mr. DuFay uttered were indeed true and were heard by several people. Therefore the Harpy retracts the retraction.

In Stanfield, Oregon a law against animals copulating in public was passed by the Stanfield City Council. The owners of the immoral animals are to be fined.

Maybe Venice's own Whizzy Lumpy can show those lubricious beasts how to copulate a helmet or other inanimate objects like a Stanfield City Councilperson.

Guess what--the Marina Del Rey Bicentennial Commission is going to have a re-enactment of the Boston Tea Party, and we're all invited to watch them throw bags into the Marina.

The Venice Marina Del Rey Chamber of Commerce, that group who objected to public drinking at the Canal Festival is having a floating wine and cheese party. The Harpy is aghast and appalled. There are enough drunks floating at the Marina already.

The Washington Square Building is losing a lot of shops. Business is bad. Lawyers are moving in where once Schwabs drugstore used to be. When business is bad, it booms for lawyers.

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# AMTRAK BLUES



This is a copy of a letter sent to the Interstate Commerce Commission's special hearings in San Francisco from John Thomas Maybury, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, AFL-CIO.

May 7, 1975

My name is John Thomas Maybury. I live in Albany, California. I am involved in the nationwide organizing drive to set up the Amtrak Service Workers Council, a joint council of my union (the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters) and the Transport Workers Union and the Hotel and Restaurant Employees.

I worked for Amtrak until January 1975 as a coach porter, waiter, dishwasher and waiter-in-charge. After a kangaroo court hearing on a trumped up charge of insubordination, I believe I was fired for my union-organizing activity, which consisted mainly of publishing and editing an employee newsletter called AMTRAK BLUES. I am submitting two recent issues of the publication to the ICC here at this time; I think you will find them interesting reading insofar as they thoroughly document and illustrate the lack of basic amenities of life on board Amtrak trains.

Amtrak says it wants to make the trains worth traveling again. But this will not happen until they make the trains worth working on too. In other words, there is a distinct connection between working conditions and adequacy of service. The workers deliver the service. If they are mistreated, the public suffers. If their quarters lack showers, sanitation, ventilation and good beds, they will meet the public in a dirty, smelly and cranky condition. An in fact, this is what does happen on Amtrak in 1975.

As workplaces Amtrak trains are nineteenth century sweatshops. Speed ups and 18 hour workdays are common, especially in the summertime. The constant, violent rock-and-pitch of bad-suspension cars on poorly maintained track dulls the senses of crew and passengers, robs them of sleep, and throws off their vital inner-ear balancing/compensating system. There is ample evidence among Amtrak workers of reduced immunity to viral infection. Assorted colds due to lack of sleep, bad food, confinement in poorly ventilated quarters, inadequate sanitation, and above all, the debilitating psychosomatic burden carried by all Amtrak workers who suffer under the Victorian rule of Amtrak management.

This demoralizing force is destructive of the crew's mental and physical well being, thus directly impacts on the level of passenger service.

Amtrak's carelessness, or else its lack of control over the careless railroads, leads to such stupid accidents as the defective stove explosion of 2 weeks ago that nearly killed 2 Amtrak cooks in Oakland. The accident occurred in an antiquated diner which had been sloppily altered to do transcontinental service for a full passenger load. One of the injured called it a "suicide car" because its kitchen has only one means of ingress and

## helistop

(continued from page 1)

This noise study was conducted by another lobbyist, Jule B. Fisch of Geomega Planning Services Inc of Sherman Oaks, hired by representatives of La Casa Linda Properties.

The Department of Environmental Quality criticized the Geomega study in a letter Dec. 11, 1974, stating the applicant's noise study was inadequate and misleading, and that noise generated by helicopters utilizing the proposed helistop would probably exceed that permitted by city ordinance.

In addition to the numerous governmental recommendations against the approval of the helistop, there have been many objections from the community.

The Venice Town Council unanimously passed May 5 a resolution asking Russell to vote against the helistop in accordance with the determinations of the Planning Committee.

Also on record are a number of letters from residents and property owners of the community effected by the helistop objecting to the noise, the pollution and the hazard of operating helicopters so near a school. Anchorage Elementary School is one block from Washington Square.

R&B Development Co., owners and managers of Oakwood Garden Apartments filed objections to the helistop in a letter by Howard Ruby, general partner, dated May 5.

In addition, 185 residents of the Oakwood Garden Apartment complex -- located across the street from Washington Square -- signed a petition requesting the denial of the appeal by La Casa Linda.

Despite all the evidence that there would be no public benefit from the helistop, and despite the dispute surrounding the environmental effects of its operation, Russell's Planning Committee voted unanimously on May 13 to recommend that the City Council approve the construction of the helistop.

egress. Nor is there any assurance that other jerry-rigged Amtrak cars won't blow up, killing and maiming crew and passengers. Had the explosion occurred half an hour later, the car would have been full of passengers boarding at Oakland. A full investigation is in order.

Climactic conditions of heat, cold and humidity become especially objectionable because the ventilation (heat and air conditions) never seem to work right, whatever the season:

The dining car ranges burn presto-logs and charcoal because of the risk of using gas. But this results in a high level of radiant heat. Miserable, bleary-eyed cooks and waiters perspire into the food, while sweaty passengers squirm uncomfortably in the diner. There are recurrent food poisonings of crew and passengers, due to bad management of leftovers, ill-advised cost-cutting measures, and inadequate storage.

Crew dormitory cars have no showers. When they do, they are usually defective, dirty and dangerously slippery. The tiny bunks are impossible to sleep in. The toilets and sinks often cannot be operated because the dorms are out of water. It's usually either too hot or too cold to sleep. But crew are forbidden to seek alternative housing in Pullman cars. Most just suffer silently and present unspeakably surly countenances each morning to the public... can you blame them, after the treatment they receive at the hands of Amtrak?

I feel very strongly about these matters and have pursued safety and working condition issues in my newsletters and in correspondence to regulatory agencies such as this one, Federal Railroad Administration and OSHA. I have also written about the plight of Amtrak workers to dozens of legislators, lobbyists, transportation and labor experts, and for the media. CBS-TV News 60 Minutes on May 4 did a show on Amtrak; I had provided the producer Norman Gorin with many of the details of on-board life which he so expertly filmed and interpreted for his millions of viewers.

My motivation in criticizing Amtrak here today is not a vindictive one. I knew back in September after being called on the carpet for publishing the first issue of AMTRAK BLUES that I might not last very long around such a bunch of thin-skinned incompetents who are so afraid of their employees speaking out. So I became involved in outside union organizing efforts and trying to publicize the lot of the Amtrak worker --- as a way to bring public attention to bear on a neglected area of public interest: intercity rail transportation. My only intention here today is to tell about the dedication of most Amtrak employees and support personnel and about how high-level mismanagement has thwarted this dedication and turned it sour and in the process given the passengers a bad deal, a very bad deal. And this makes me very sad, because I like trains; they are fun, they are ecologically sound, they are an important national resource, they are truly unique. I even hope to continue riding them even though my pass has been revoked.

The committee's recommendation included conditions that there is to be no direct overflights of the school, and restricting all other flights from the hours 9-11 and 1-3 school days.

In its report to the City Council the committee stated, "After carefully reviewing the various issues involved including the testimony presented, your Committee is of the opinion that the Conditional Use request is reasonable and would be desirable to the public convenience and welfare."

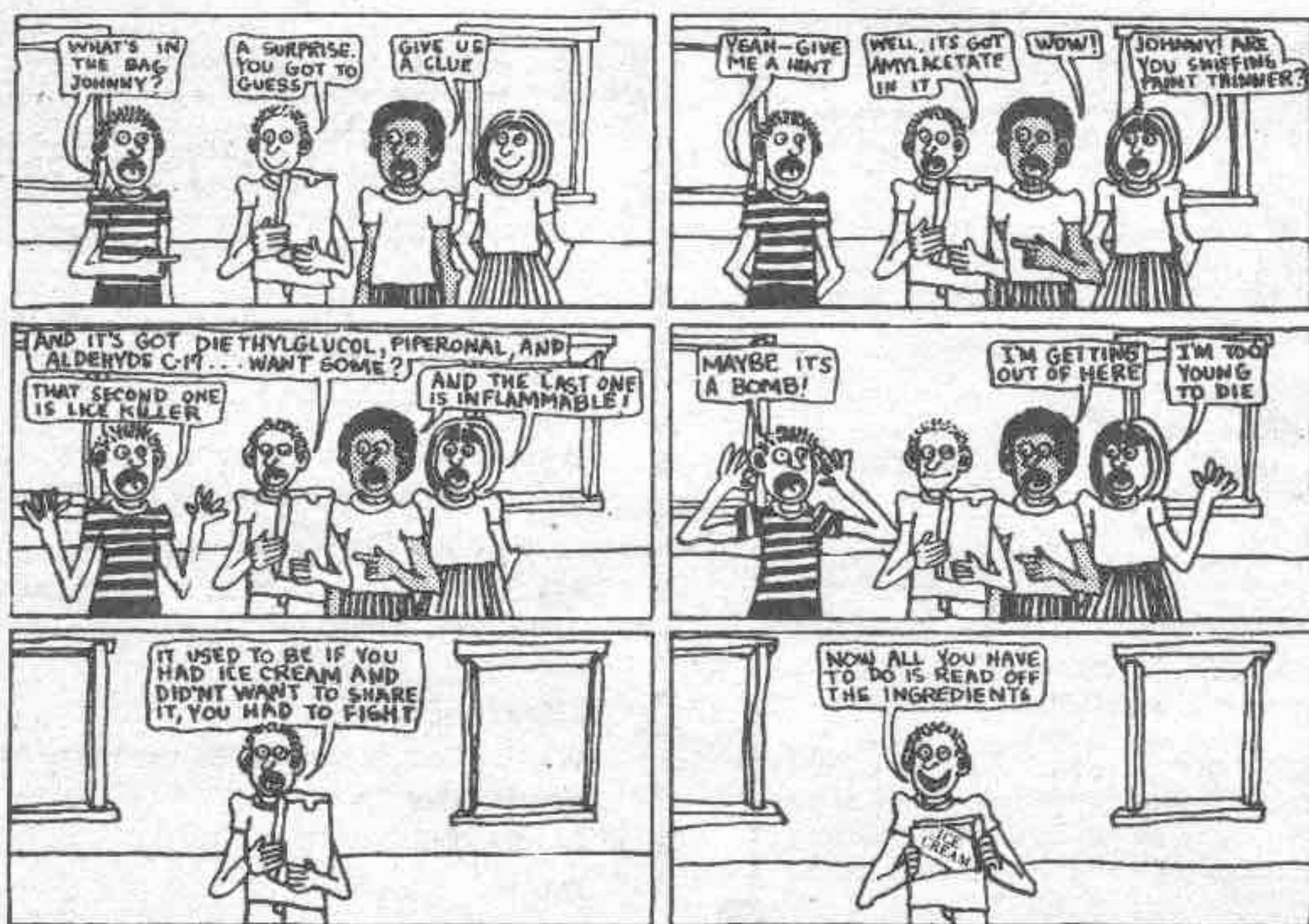
Speaking on the issue before the City Council May 14, Russell said she had had great concern about helicopter flights in the area. But upon investigation of the problem, she said, she was satisfied by the conditions imposed upon the helistop.

"I also found in my investigations," Russell told the council, "that the people in the community were not concerned about helicopter flights. As a matter of fact, people have supported and welcomed them." On the recommendation of the Planning Committee, the City Council voted Wed. May 14, to approve the helistop in a 10 to 2 vote, with Councilmen Marvin Braude and Ernani Bernardi dissenting.

In his final comments at the May 13 Planning Committee meeting, Krakover argued that Cordon Int. should be rewarded with a favorable decision for its refraining from being deceptive with city government.

"We have been very candid with the commission, and with the staff, and we are being candid with you," Krakover told the committee. "We told you that Cordon is going to be the user. We could have come in, and LaCasa Linda could have made the application for the helistop saying we are just going to have a public helistop here, not disclosing that basically we are talking about one tenant that will be using it. But let's be honest about it. I don't think that we should be penalized for coming in and telling you exactly what we are going to do!"





## POLICE MOVE AGAINST VENICE TOWN COUNCIL

By Ron Guenther

In the latest of a series of carefully planned and orchestrated moves against the Venice community, and in particular the Venice Town Council plan for the Venice Canals, Chief Davis has called for a Los Angeles Police Department "investigation" of the Venice Canals Festivals.

The long, uninterrupted, and continuing history of public access and recreational usage of the canals is a very important part of the community's plan for the canals preservation, restoration, maintenance and use by the people. If the Canals Festival were somehow not to be held this year, and the long history of public use of the canals broken, a major victory against the Venice community and visitors from all over the state would result for the Venice-Marina Women's Chamber of Commerce and other Venice economic misfit organizations and their supporters, in their long campaign to destroy the canals community and replace it with an exclusive, private playground for the ultra-wealthy yacht owner.

The Venice-Marina Women's Chamber of Commerce (which has recently endorsed off-shore oil drilling in Santa Monica Bay and the helistop on top of the J. Alan Radford Washington Square Building), and various other like-minded Venice groups are moving strongly to force force this year's Canals Festival into the Venice Pavilion, and well regulated concrete tomb unenlivened by colorful waterways, boats, wildlife, or the happy spirit of Canals Festivals past. Venice-Marina Women's Chamber of Commerce, although a relic from the past in a fast-changing world, and unencumbered with notions of social or environmental responsibility, exerts a powerful money influence on many of the politicians in our present city government.

In preparation for eliminating all future Canal Festivals, the city in late April posted the canals and canals walkways "No Trespassing".

This legal maneuver would make it a crime for anyone to walk along the canals, or to use them for boating. The signs and posts lasted 24 hours and rumor has it that they have been recycled to meet community needs for building materials.

In another important Venice development, the South Coast Regional Coastal Commission on March 31 granted a permit for a luxury 2-lot, 2-story, estimated \$85,000 single-family residence at 460 Howland Canal, the first of its kind in recent canals area history. The commission ignored its own published findings that out-of-scale development, and development that would have the effect of forcing low-income people out of the community should not take place. The commission also ignored its own recommendations that grass root citizens groups should be involved in the planning process, as well as its own decisions, just prior to the vote, that the project would impede public access to the Venice Canals, a coastal tidal zone. The Venice real estate development and Chamber of Commerce money was present at the hearing in great force, and the pressures were obviously tremendous on the commission to approve the project.

The project has been appealed to the State Coastal Commission on the basis of numerous gross inconsistencies with State, South Coast Regional, and Los Angeles City Planning Commission recommendations for Venice and other special coastal neighborhoods.

If this structure is ever built, an avalanche of similar massive, luxurious, private structures on the multiple lots in the canals would surely result, eliminating parks, recreation and wildlife areas, low-cost housing sites, public access sites to the canals, and Canal Festivals. There would inevitably be new proposals for the deep water, private yacht harbor canals project. Property values, taxes, and rents all over Venice would rise to unknown levels.

There seems little doubt that the key to the future lies in the fate of the Venice Canals. The struggle is clearly between the needs of working class people for food, shelter, and a quality living environment, which would benefit other life forms also, and the big money, which would turn Venice into a concrete channeled plastic play ground for those wealthy enough to live here.

The Venice Town Council argued strongly against granting this permit, and if the appeal to the State Commission fails, legal action will be taken immediately to prevent this first step in the destruction of the Venice Canals community.

The Venice Town Council has long been moving in the forefront of the struggle to save Venice. It has been a very effective body in many different areas; before commissions, agencies, bureaucratic and administrative bodies, and with the media. It speaks for a large part of the 72% renter population in Venice, and many of the 28% supporting the possible prosecution of Terry for making an annoying phone call, and by a strong effort by those present, especially the police, to label the Venice Town Council a terrorist organization. On the basis of no evidence whatever, including lack of evidence that Realtor Lackey had even received an annoying phone call, Hearing Officer Manley finally leaped up with a theatrical flourish and declared to Terry, "Your part in this is over, we're going to file on you. We're here to solve the problems of the canals." Officer Manley then proceeded to discuss filing conspiracy charges against the Venice Town Council. This kind of no-evidence witchhunt could be used against any person getting in the way of Real Estate profit in Venice, aided with the full cooperation of the City Attorney's office.

The night before Terry's trial jury went out to deliberate his guilt or innocence, after all the witnesses had finished testifying, the windows in Lackey's Canal's area house, from which he had recently evicted a struggling welfare mother after a huge rent increase that she had been unable to pay, were mysteriously broken. The large plate glass windows in the Hernandez Realty office on Washington Street were also broken. The prosecution at Terry's trial the next morning was primed and ready with this information, and in view of those present, attempted to tie this property damage to "... this organization of yours this Venice Town Council," and present this information to the jury. Defense Attorney Marge Buckley, who also handled the McCoy trial, prevented this from happening.

Other attempts to discredit the Venice Town Council by linking it to property damage, violence and terrorism have been made repeatedly at Coastal Commission hearings by spokespeople for various Venice and Marina Property owner and developer groups, and some of their members. These hearings are all on tape, or transcribed, and may someday provide a valuable record of the history of this phase of the Venice struggle.

In other police action against the Venice Town Council, member Ernest Jefferson, manager for Stephanie Lee in the election campaign against Councilmember Pat Russell, had his home broken into by police looking for "stolen firearms", and his family terrorized. All a big mis take as it turned out, but although the timing of this attack by City Government was perfect, the Venice Town Council and Ms. Lee remained as the most effective voices in Venice for change in the corrupt system which dominates this community.

In North Beach, Police Metro Division cars park in front of the North Beach Town Council meeting, watching, waiting, and intimidating those interested enough in their community to participate in community democracy and planning.

In the Canals, Town Council members Elizabeth Elder and Nancy McCulloch have been evicted from their homes by landlords and real estate companies admitting that they are determined to "get rid of" Town Council troublemakers." Mr. and Mrs. Woolley,

property owner people, particularly those who are not interested in trading or developing real estate for speculative profit. Any determined effort could be expected to focus on discrediting the Venice Town Council, and harassing its members.

The nudity trial of Dave McCoy, a canals area activist working for the canals community plan, Judy Weiner is a Venice Town Council representative and canals community activist, was concluded in dismissal March 5 because of a total lack of evidence that a crime had been committed. Even the city prosecutor admitted this at the trial. The prosecution was clearly absurd, and the case would never have been tried if Dave and Judy had not been community leaders in active support of the Venice Town Council plan for the canals.

Terry Donahue, another canals area community activist and Venice Town Council member, was acquitted March 13 of charges that he made an annoying phone call to Pacific Shores Realtor William Lackey. The trial was preceded by an extraordinary evidentiary hearing in the West Los Angeles office of hearing officer Sam A. Manley, the same hearing officer who decided that Dave McCoy should be prosecuted. Terry, several Town Council observers, and a friend walked into a hearing packed to the wass with police officers (one uniformed, two plain clothes detectives), numerous canal area and Marina Peninsula property owners in favor of the deep water canals project, local real estate agents, and the president of the Venice-Marina Women's Chamber of Commerce.

The attack began immediately on the Venice Town Council as a terrorist group and on Terry as a canals area terrorist. There appeared not one shred of evidence during the hearing to support this attack. To quote the police, "We know the Venice Town Council is behind the property damage in the canals (window breaking and bulldozer burning), but we just can't prove it." (If they can't prove it, they don't know it.) At another time, the same police officer stated that a package containing a mixture of several acids had been thrown into the yard of a canals area real estate operator, that it would have taken a knowledgeable person to have mixed the acids, and "we know that there's a chemist on the Venice Town Council." At still another point in the hearing this officer stated that he had a statement placing another Venice Town Council member at the scene of property damage in the canals, but that he "couldn't find the witness." This political orientation of the City Attorney's office and the LAPD against Venice is nothing new, but the effort has clearly escalated with this hearing.

The hearing was characterized by Hearing Officer Manley studiously ignoring the purpose of the hearing, which was to listen to evidence the owners of Councilmember Ron Guenther's home, have been repeatedly threatened by early morning phone calls demanding his eviction "for political activities," and threatening to "burn down the house on that dirty hippie."

It is certainly clear, and understandable, that knowledgeable and articulate spokespeople, elected and supported by the community, can have a terrifying effect on real estate speculators, developers, other social and environmental despoilers, and gouging landlords everywhere. But the weapons used are the pen, the microphone and the community meeting.

Every resident of Venice is automatically a voting member of one of the six area councils, except for the area east of Lincoln Blvd, which is now forming the Area 7 council. The full Venice Town Council meets the first Wednesday of every month at the Venice City Hall (the former police station). Attend and participate! You are needed to help plan your community.



Post American/cpf

The FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published once a month by the Beachhead Collective as a community information service. It is distributed free, but if you wish to be placed on the mailing list for a year, please make a contribution of \$5.00 or more. The volunteer staff reserves the right to make decisions collectively on material published and is independent of all political and community organizations. The printing is financed by the ad donations. The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry, artwork, short fiction, or other contributions of interest to the Venice community (send them to P.O. Box 504, Free Venice, California 90201). If return of the material is desired, a stamped, self-addressed envelope must accompany it. No payment is made for material used. The Beachhead collective subscribes to Liberation News Service (LNS) and is a member of the Alternative Press Syndicate (APS). For information on deadlines, call TANK-YUK, 396-9325, 396-1941.



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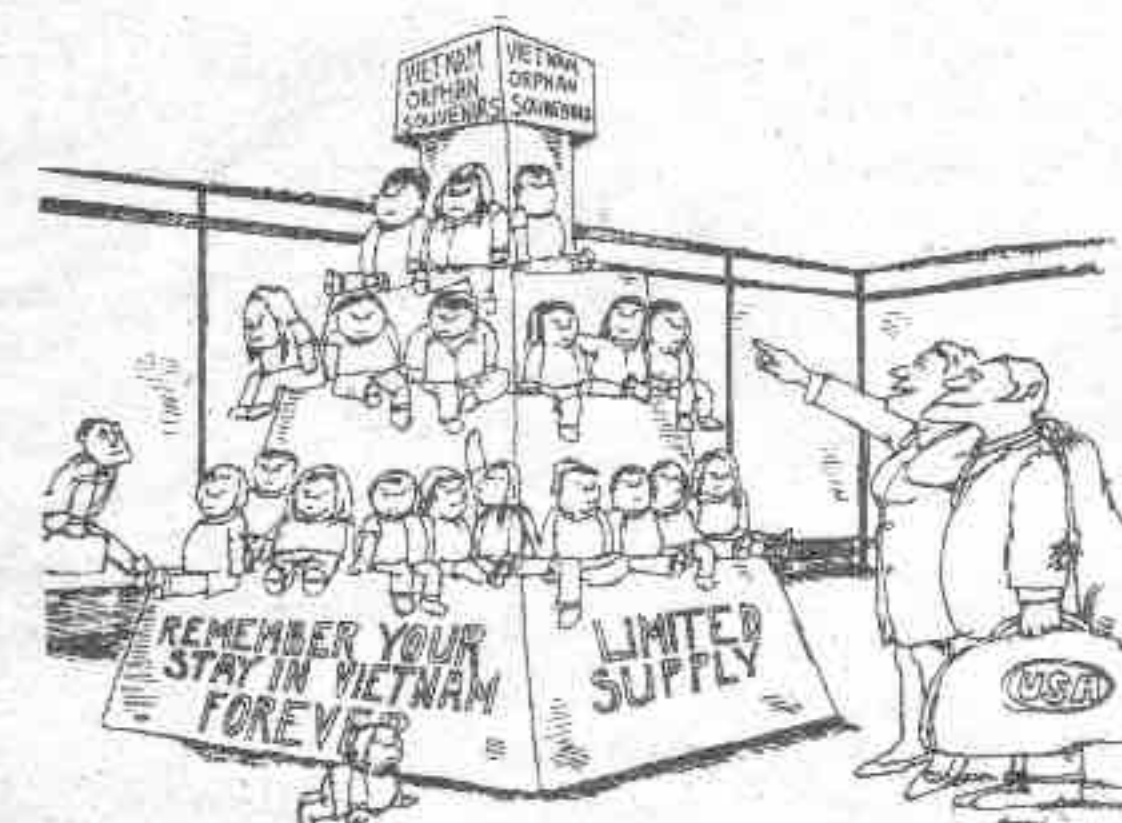
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The Venice People's Rainbow Pages is an alternative directory, listing services, organizations, cooperative ventures, anything that seems relevant to the people of Venice. We plan to list artists, musicians, crafts-people, if you are one, please mail us a description of what you do and how you can be reached. The deadline for information is May 15, 1975. We still need help gathering information, collating, printing, ads, money, moral support. We encourage artists to submit their work since we have not decided upon a cover. Send submissions to the Venice Rainbow Pages P.O. Box 363 Venice, Ca. 90291 or call 392-3264.

Rainbow Pages

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### RUMMAGE SALE

Clothing, household stuff, furniture, etc  
Sunday, June 15 noon to 6 p.m.  
at the parking lot between the Ocean Park Community Center and the Westside Women's Center (on Hill St. between 2nd and 3rd)  
Proceeds to go to WOMANSOUL DEFENSE FUND  
If you want information or can contribute articles, call Judy 821-3956 or Elizabeth 396-0167.

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City of Venice

Venice, California

### VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

Area I: South Beach - West of Pacific, South of Venice Blvd. Meets every last Weds, Anchorage School, 7:30 - 392-2113 or 392-1594 (June 25th)

Area II: North Beach - West of Main, Venice Bl. to Santa Monica, Meets every 1st Monday at Levin Center 201 Ocean Front wk, 7:30 396-0167 or 392-7956 (June 2nd)

Area III: Canals - South of Venice Bl, East of Pacific, west of Washington Bl. Meets every 1st & 3rd Tuesday at Anchorage school, 8:00 821-5931 or 923-1753 (June 3rd & 17th)

Area IV: Oakwood - North of California, West of Lincoln, to Washington Bl. Meets every 3rd Wed. at Broadway school bungalow & 8:00 396-2801 (June 18th)

Area V: East Venice - So. of California, W of Lincoln to Washington Bl. meets every 4th Wed. at Couer D'Alene School, 7:30. 821-1430 (June 25th)

Area VI: Central - No. of Venice Bl, east of Main, west of Washington Bl. meets every 2nd Thursday 328 Market St. 7:30 821-1774 or 821-5438 (June 12th)  
Penmar - east of Lincoln Bl. No. of Venice Bl. meets every 4th Wed. at Penmar Recreation Center, 1341 Lake St., 7:30 396-6303 or 396-8160 (June 25th)

VENICE TOWN COUNCIL includes all areas and meets the 1st Wed. at Venice City Hall, 681 N. Venice Bl. 7:30 - (June 4th)

## MILK PRICES

Price drops of as much as 9¢ per half-gallon of milk in Sacramento contrast with a 2¢ drop in the Los Angeles area. Southern California consumer organizations are determined to press for a roll-back of at least another 7¢ to match the Sacramento price.

According to Ruth Yannatta, Chairwoman of Fight Inflation Together, "The 9¢ drop confirms what consumer organizations have maintained for over a year. State set minimum retail prices are too hi, insuring unnecessary and excessive profits. We have now seen that milk can be sold for substantially less. Isn't it ironic to call a 68¢ Los Angeles price a true minimum when milk is selling for 59¢ in Sacramento?"

Commenting on the Agriculture Department's "experiment", Lucy Fried of the coalition for Economic Survival, said, "Merely eliminating minimum prices will not stop the industry's rip-off of consumers. What is needed is state regulation to guarantee milk at low prices. This means breaking up the monopolies, outlawing excess profits, and protecting the small operator without victimizing the public. Right now, the Director must use his authority to bring the Southern California retail minimum price down to a true minimum."

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# VENICE TENANTS UNION

By John Curtis & Phil Bell

Over the past year, numerous articles have appeared in the Beachhead concerning renters' problems of steeply rising rents, lack of repairs, and unfair rental agreements. Various specific examples of these abuses have been described regarding the occurrences at the Casa De Roma, the Kemper Apts. and The Royal Star. In some of these cases, local tenants associations or groups were formed. These grass roots groups conducted negotiations with landlords with a fair degree of success.

A number of things become clear when we review the tenants' plight over the past few years. First, the problem is not an individual, localized issue. The pattern of rising rents and eviction is well established and now has a momentum which will severely affect all renters in Venice. Second, in those cases where the tenants joined together, collective negotiations were able to obtain significant concessions from landlords. Third, where no unified action is taken, many unscrupulous landlords will continue their oppressive and intimidating actions.


With the coming of summer and a new round of property tax increases directly in view, the time for preparation is now. We have seen that local battles have had some success, but, the key to real, effective action is to establish a broad based, total Venice Tenant's Union which represents the interests of the renters and counter balances the power of the landlords. Such an organization has been formed. However, this is only the first step of a difficult journey. What is needed now is concerned and involved people who will work within their own building to develop communications and cooperative efforts on local, individual problems. At the same time that these local groups or associations are forming, people are needed to carry out the objectives of the Venice Tenants' Union, which include the following:

1. Provide consulting services for solving renters' problems
2. Assist in organizing local associations
3. Act as a central point for communication among various informal Venice Associations
4. Establish communications and cooperation with other outside tenants' organizations
5. Assist in negotiations with landlords
6. Provide a rapid means for mobilization of support for legislation supporting Tenants Rights.

Everyone is invited to attend the Venice Tenants' Union Meetings which are normally held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, at the Israel Levin Center. If there are any questions regarding the Tenants' Union, please call 392,3155 or 392-7956.

**NOTE:** The Torres Rent Control Bill needs your support now. On June 4th the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee will vote on this vital rent control bill. This is the same bill that was unsuccessfully initiated in the State Senate by State Senator Roberti. The Bill would permit cities to establish local rent control boards and roll rents back to December, 1974. Write your letters in support of this bill to:

Assemblyman Peter Chacon  
Chairman, Housing & Community Development Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814



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# POT LUCK-LESS

In a stunning setback on May 8th, the State Assembly refused passage of SB 95 which would reduce penalties for marijuana possession to a misdemeanor, with one ounce or less being a mandatory citable offense punishable by a fine of not more than \$100. The assembly action, totally unforeseen until the week of the vote, marks the first time in recent years that a marijuana reform bill has been defeated on the Assembly floor.

The defeat came in the form of a 37-36 vote, with 41 votes required to pass the measure. The roadblock was engineered by Republican Assemblyman John Briggs of Fullerton, who developed a unified Republican caucus position against the bill, thus costing Senator George Moscone's bill the votes of 4 Republicans who otherwise would have supported it. Except for two who abstained and one who was absent, every Republican Assemblyman voted against SB 95. They were joined by 14 Democrats who also opposed the bill. All 37 votes in favor were cast by Democrats.

On May 12th, Venice's Assemblyman Alan Sieroty, floor manager of the bill in the Assembly, won that house's approval for a reconsideration vote on SB 95 "in due course". This means that a second and final vote will be held in the Assembly. No date has been set for this vote, but it is imperative that supporters pick up the votes of 4 more Democrats first.

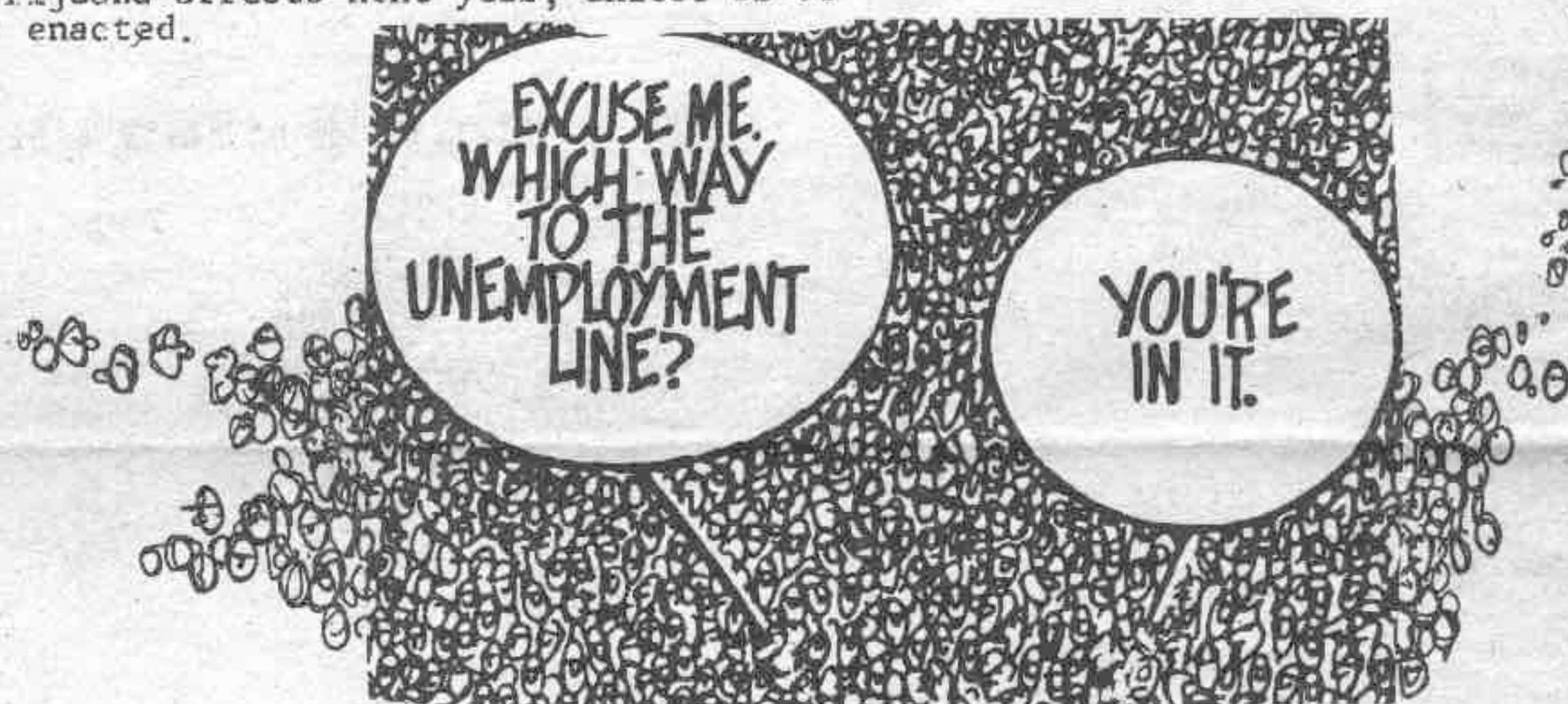
If SB 95 fails to receive 41 votes when the Assembly next takes it up, there will be no chance of changing California's archaic and harsh marijuana laws until 1977, the earliest a new bill (next year's attempt) or successful statewide initiative would take effect. The California Department of Justice projects 106,000 marijuana arrests next year, unless SB 95 is enacted.

Especially needed now are organized constituent action programs in 14 key Assembly districts, selected by NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) for special attention because they are represented by Democratic Assemblymen who at one time or another have expressed an understanding of the need to change California's current marijuana laws. Endorsements and expressions of support for SB 95 must be communicated to these Assemblymen by constituents in their districts.

Alan Sieroty voted in favor of the bill letters urging reassessment and reconsideration may be sent to Paul Priolo (Rep. Pacific Palisades), Curtis Tucker (Dem. - Inglewood) and Tom Bane (Dem. - Van Nuys) all of whom are local and voted no. Assemblyman Fred Uhl (Dem. - Long Beach) abstained. Letters expressing appreciation for his support of SB 95 to Leo McCarthy, Speaker of the Assembly are also urged.

Letters should be legibly written or typed, respectful, and should mention SB95 by name, giving one or two good reasons why it should be enacted. All letters should be signed, with a return address. Send Letters to Hon. State Capitol, Sacramento, Ca. 95814.

A new NORML chapter in Los Angeles is being put together to concentrate on building support for marijuana law reform in the Southland. Local political action, public education, fund-raising, and a speaker's bureau are among the projects being developed by activists in the state's largest county. For more information, contact Linda Lucks at 396-1941.



## CHILDREN'S Benefit

Summerhill Day School is presenting an evening of Film and Live Entertainment at the Church in Ocean Park on Saturday evening, June 7, starting at 7 p.m. The program features "head", one of the great Rock movies of all time. This nostalgic extravaganza includes self-impersonations by Carol Doda, Sonny Liston, Victor Mature and Annette Funicello; and starring "The Monkees". Remember them? Remember Peter Tork (The cute one)? The show presents live performance by Peter, as well as lots of other goodies. There will be Children's Theatre, both by and for kids, as well as films made by the children in our school. Summerhill is an alternative school where kids are people. We have our headquarters at the children's playground on Ocean Front Walk, but use the entire L.A. area and its resources as our classrooms. The many free schools of Venice are an example to the whole area as to what can be done to Free the Children. We need your donations to survive. And you'll have a lot of fun for a little money ( ). Refreshments, too. The Church is at 2nd and Hill streets.

## Waitress Fired for Hairy Legs

(PF) A waitress who was dismissed because she refused to shave her legs has filed a sex-discrimination complaint, charging that she has as much right to have hair on her legs as men do. The woman, Judith Montwid Quist, 27 years old, filed the complaint against Jerome Young, who dismissed her from his restaurant because several patrons complained about her unshaven legs. Mrs. Quist, who was working part-time at the restaurant, said she had shaved her legs since the eighth grade and five years ago got sick of it. "It's silly to remove something from your skin that is naturally part of you just because men believe you look better for it. Maybe once it's common, they'll get used to it."

## BICYCLERS

Since the beginning of 1975, regulations have been in effect which require increased reflector equipment on bikes. It is now illegal to operate a bicycle on any highway in California unless it is equipped with either an amber or white reflector on each side, forward of the center of the bicycle and a red reflector on each side, to the rear of the center. Reflectorized tires on the front and rear may be used in lieu of the side reflectors. Reflectors and reflectorized tires must be of a type approved by the California Highway Patrol. A white reflector in front is also a new requirement.

A regulation which bears repeating forbids operating a bicycle on any highway during darkness unless it is equipped with a white lamp in front, visible from the rear for the same distance visible from a distance of 300 feet, and a red reflector visible from the rear for the same distance. In addition to, but not in place of the reflector, a red light may be used on the rear of the bike.

Venice Area, at 12312 Culver Blvd. will be conducting bicycle safety inspections and will be issuing bicycle licenses on Saturdays from 10am-3pm. License fees are \$1.10 and you must bring correct change.

## Renegade Girl Scouts

Philadelphia (LNS) - The Philadelphia archdiocese has announced that church buildings will now be off limits for the 8,000 Girl Scouts who used to hold their meetings and programs there.

The church's withdrawal of its sponsorship is the result of a Scout Council proposal that instruction on contraception, abortion, rape and female anatomy be awarded with "To be a Woman" merit badges. And the last straw was when a local Scout leader announced that sex education workshops would take the place of former programs.

The church has now switched to the Camp Fire Girls, whom it hopes will operate in a more "Christian context."