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FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968

BEACHHEAD

JUNE, 1976 No. 78

P.O. BOX 504, VENICE, CALIFORNIA 90291

821-2182 396-9325 396-1941

PARADE LOOMS

**WE SURVIVE
ON YOUR
DONATIONS**



POSTAL WORKERS

by Jim Stehn

Clerks and carriers at the Venice Post Office have become active in the Postal Workers' Rank and File Movement. The Movement was formed recently to fight cuts in postal services and jobs. It is pushing for 1. a return to pre-1971 service levels, 2. retention of the Private Express Statutes (which guarantee public postal service), 3. retention of collective bargaining for postal workers, and last but not least, 4. passage of Senate Bill 2844, which calls for an increased postal subsidy, a moratorium on service cutbacks, and a study into the needs of the postal service.

On Friday, April 23rd, about 20 workers picketted for better service in front of the Venice Post Office. This was in conjunction with picketting all over the state called for by the state letter carriers association.

On Sunday, May 2, a strong group of Venice workers attended a rally held by the Rank and File Movement at the Old Plaza near Olvera Street in Los Angeles. Speakers at the rally included Jerry Perlongo, president of the Venice Branch of the letter carriers' union. After the rally the postal workers picketted Terminal Annex, the main mail processing center in Los Angeles. Coverage of the picket line included the ABC network news.

Presently Venice workers are beginning to fight against the Expedited Preferential Mail system which went into effect here recently. E.P.M. scheduling is causing delays of an hour or more in mail delivery in Venice. This is because the average carrier starting time has been moved from 6:30 to 8 A.M.

The reasons for this gross blunder on the part of management are rather involved but they basically go back to November when air mail service was eliminated. At that time the USPS stated that all long haul mail was being sent by air. But what they didn't say was that they weren't going to use the more expensive priority air shipment any more. Also they didn't mention they were going to cut out many 'direct' sorts and cause mail to undergo added delays due to additional sorting stops in various postal installations.

As a result of these two changes, even though the mail is moved by air it gets to Venice later and later, often times one or two days later but always later in the morning. So they are making deliveries later and later.

Obviously fighting for decent postal service is a complex process. It can only be done through cooperation between the postal worker and the public. Thus we are putting out public petitions calling for your support in our fight for better postal service. If you are interested in signing or distributing one of these petitions drop a line to P.O. Box 30, Venice, 90291.

Venice postal workers, hopefully along with other area postal workers, are planning a drive to get rid of E.P.M. We will be going to local patrons to enlist your support in bringing pressure on regional USPS management. We also plan to bring this matter to the attention of local members of Congress. It is time for the postal workers and people of Venice to put a stop to mail service cutbacks and restore good service to Venice!

the illusive black cat. Not exactly what we expected, it was a statue of a black cat with its head turned looking backwards. An iron railing encircled the precious antiquated creature and there was an epitaph which read:

"We", we say
and wee-wee yellows out
to the toilet full of the truth
where the suds of our insides
flush to putrid tanks
and we feel not
but a delicious sense of
emptiness.

DEJA-VU ENGLAND-VENICE

By C. Keuhn

I've heard a lot of talk about FREE VENICE - the encroachment of land development from either side. Thinking of this unique beach town as the sand inside an hour-glass - that time is running out - is unpleasant. But it appears that the vise is shutting upon Venice. An interesting experience occurred last year while I was living in Islington, a borough of London, England and I now think of it in relation to Venice.

The City Council of Islington was conducting a tour for interested citizens - renovation nearly completed, the Council aspired to enlighten the community of Islington's historical progression. We were to visit spots where man's cultural consciousness had preserved what time's elements had tried to ravage.

I boarded the double-decker bus just as the council member rounded off his introduction with an item, "the cat", the illusive little creature that could only be seen by an observant eye. He said we must all keep a lookout and yell out if spotted - the driver's eye had to remain on the road.

We were informed that in the 19th century Islington had been quite a fashionable place to live because it was on high ground above the impossible to build upon marsh. The wealthy bought property and constructed beautiful Georgian rows of homes, park grounds and commons. Adjacent to Islington the borough of Hackney - a slum district - was overflowing.

Then, during the age of Emerson and Thoreau these fashionable Islingtoners acknowledged the preferability of country living and so abandoned Islington for the quietude of rural life. Low-income brackets from Hackney were somehow unmindful of disadvantageous city existence and were grateful to discover discarded Islington. They doubled and tripled the number of families in each flat which enabled them to bear the expense.

Though the Islington property owners procured rent from the new dwellers, the all-absorbing pleasures of country life deterred them from making necessary repairs; upkeep was unattended to. Conditions declined and worsened through the years - Islington was labeled another ghetto area.

After World War II the country folk tired of the now monotonous bridle paths and motored back to the city. Now where could they go to? Ahh, what better place than Islington, a once loved spot and so convenient for commuting to London. But the present tenants, what to do with them? A solution came easily enough, just raise the rents and watch them flee. The owners' conscience rationalized the ousting: "But look how we've preserved the historical significance of Islington by renovating. If those people had remained Islington would have been demolished."

Renovation nearly completed the fashionable people resided once again in a fashionable district. On the outskirts of Islington in bombed-out hulls, families were trying to survive. This was somewhat embarrassing to the home owners and in a few years they decided to utilize funds for further renovation. This poverty area was of course very grateful and moved to temporary housing to await the completion of reconstruction.

The sixties brought with it an emerging clan of artists, writers and architects making the transition from idealistic radicalism to realistic liberalism. These people, weary of roaming, weary of scrounging - now that their art was popular - began seeking a place for their clique. Lo and behold, Islington, what an ideal spot for us. Not too fancy, and freshly painted. And look at the old architecture, how quaint, let's go."

Now the work was being completed for the low-income people, remember? But this new set is something else, sort of a new Emersonian, urban type; avant-garde is the thing. And they're so delightful, such a witty group, such a cute uncaring attitude towards the bourgeoisie. The affluent would do well rubbing shoulders with this clan. Yes, yes it would be a nice finishing touch for Islington - fashionable yet arty. How nice. Besides, look what happens to freshly painted flats when illiterate, dirty people occupy them. OK you chic, arty, cultural minded people - welcome.

Suddenly I cried out, "Look, look, the cat, the cat! Stop the bus." Everyone scurried from the bus and there we saw →

TO JUDY GRAYBILL, THE BEACHHEAD
AND READERS:

Judy, there is so much I want to say in response to your Beachhead article, POST FEMINIST RE-ENTRY (April Issue), but I find it difficult because of many mixed feelings plus the desire to express them in the spirit of support and not in the negative style that your article attacked; a style I too see as negative and destructive, especially when I sense it within me and allow myself to examine the results. Your phrase, "Lieutenants are zapping each other", describes a process everyone who has ever worked in any "Movement" group can relate to, but there are other processes also I feel that you have given one view, or aspect of your involvement in the Women's Movement and a very personal one at that! I would like to offer my view, granted a view from the outside, but another view of the movement. In describing any "movement" we should remember that it is similar to the blindmen that the king sent out to learn about the elephant, i.e., for every person there is a different feeling (experience) and reality is not any ONE, but a combination of all of them. For instance, I don't think the Civil Rights Movement was as pure as your experiences suggest.

I have been fortunate in my anti-war and community activities to have the opportunity of working with many strong, intelligent and committed feminists who continually pointed out sexist remarks, acts and thinking patterns - not as a method of putting someone down, but by way of helping all of us to see, learn, understand and grow. These women's own mixture of style and politics replace the egotistical, competitive and alienating style so strongly associated with the male phenomenon. The love, support, strength, fairness and collectivity of these women was infectious adding greatly to the group process. I don't mean to suggest that everything was "peaches and cream". Disagreements, arguments and divisions due to political, racial, sexual and class differences will be with us for a long time to come. Things will not change by simply wishing it so; we must get beyond or around the fact that they exist and begin figuring out how to modify them so we can all work together in order to create a society where such differences will either vanish or no longer be used to oppress one group by another. And this work must go on simultaneously - that's the difficulty.

A person can not escape the effects of sexism, racism or war by seeking one's personal Walden Pond... for the oppressed, there is no individual escape. In the 40s and 50s we saw the rise of individual therapy followed in the 60s by group therapy merging with political organizing; if we are to change this death producing society that we are all victims of, the 70s will have to produce unity among us or purgatory will continue to be our fate.

Judy, your opening lines about, "Dropping out of the Women's movement is like returning from a war..." speaks to another reality: you can't dropout of the Sexist War anymore than the Vietnamese could escape America's War on the Indochinese people. And getting upset over the shape you're in has more to do with how society programs us to act and react than anything to do with a particular group you may be in at the time.

The fact that you found within your movement many of the evils you have struggled against all your life should not be too surprising - ideology is strong medicine and today's movements are thin indeed when compared to our authoritarian-competitive development. You proved the point by using sexist phrases in your article, such as "ladies", "frozen cunts" and equating feminism with the clothes one wears, i.e., pants, dresses, boots or tap shoes. I know it's not you, but the conditioning we are all raised under - a conditioning that continues to divide and alienate us which serves well our common oppressor, an oppressor that is not any one individual white or male, but a system that uses every devious mechanism available to it... sexism, racism, whatever. The system is capitalism and while I know that just getting rid of capitalism will not automatically mean the end of sexism or racism, those are the struggles that must go on simultaneously. I am convinced that under capitalism, those isms will never be eliminated.

You are a strong, beautiful woman, Judy, and the Movement needs you, not just the Women's Movement, but the People's Movement we must create in order to free us all. You say that you, "suffer for lack of balance." We all do, that is why we need to share our personal points of view in order to find the complete elephant. Yet, we need to share within the movement, not on the way out the door.

In the spirit and search for love and unity,

Rick Davidson



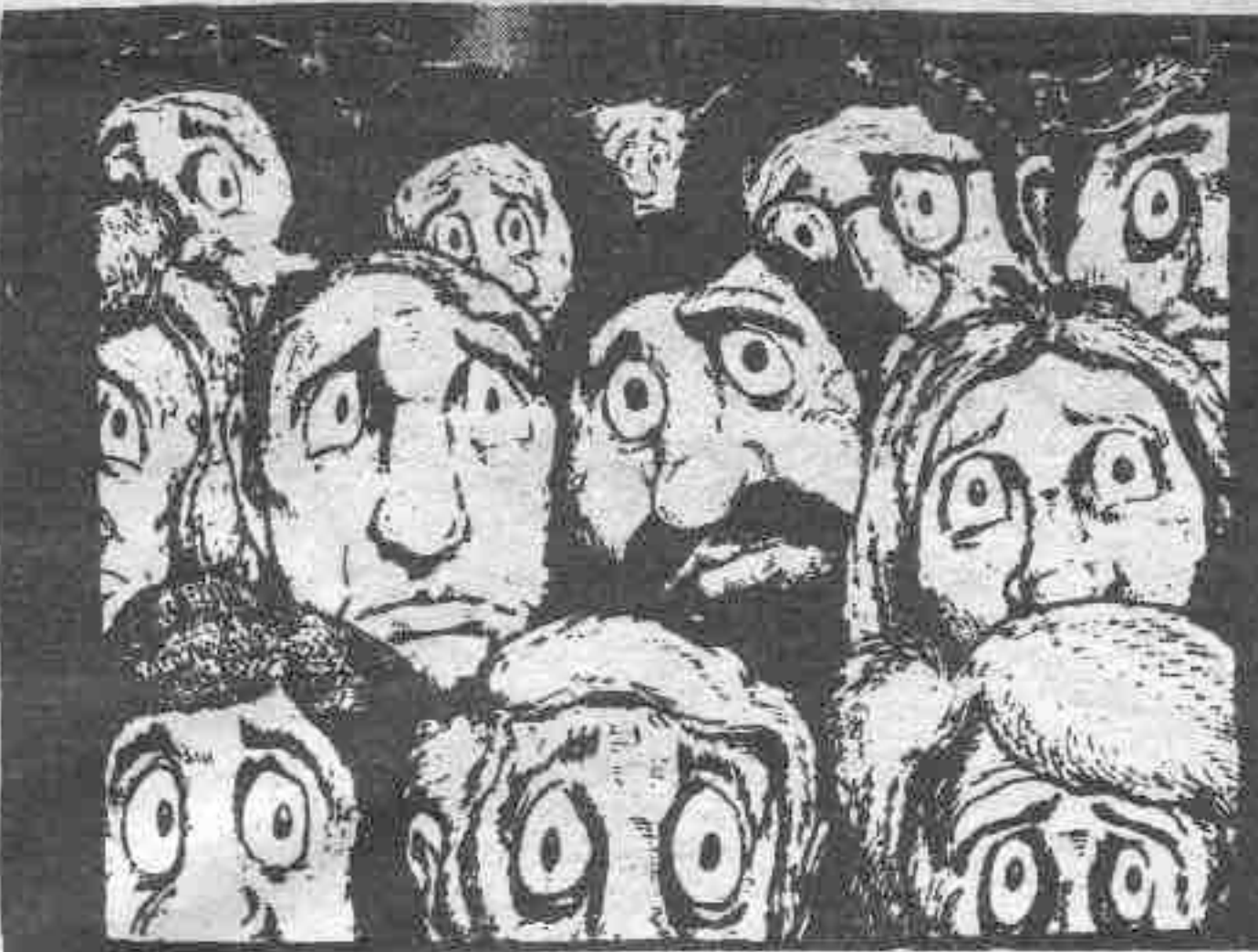
Letter to everyone,

The cause seems to be the same but the people saying the words are far fewer so that a smaller cast has to play many roles. And the players are different, so different. I used to have a bit part maybe a supporting role. Now I'm center stage, an expert at my craft. And I've become a good "character actor", a specialist because the vacuum existed and because the feedback and input slowly dried up. So its still crisis-by-crisis, building-by-building, until it feels ludicrous and insignificant.

What am I talking about? I'm talking about the Venice dropouts, gone aways, driven outs, burned outs, can't-work-with-that-factioners, energy changers, head-in-different-placers, sometime interested, never do anything, people who "love" it here people. Cynical? Sure, why not? I'm an "activist" (great label that I and other people give me and other people who do anything more than hang out on the front or "take care of business") who gets compliments because of an article in the Beachhead. "Read your article, sure learned a lot, well written, you must really be involved, keep up the good work!" Hidden meaning "don't ask me to help, I'm having too much fun living in Venice." (Actually, strange as it seems, I expect to get the same kind of "right-on" comments on this complaint).

The great contradiction in Venice is that so many people have come here because of the "relatively large amount of freedom" as opposed to "the responsibility to keep it a good place to be" feeling. How the hell do drop-outs become activists? Why do activists become drop-outs? Good philosophical questions, don't cha think? Let's have another study of Venice, or better yet, let's "get our heads together and talk about it..."

Columbus Free Press/cpf



I guess a person (me) can "care too much". I guess I've become "involved" and that even, EVEN, my "ego is involved." Heavens what a terrible fate. "But I like it." It's true, I admit it in front of all of you, I LIKE IT! And I'd like you to like it too. It's not hard to care about the place you live. It's not hard to care about it enough to give a little of yourself for it, to it. And my greatest frustration is not knowing why most of you don't. Because most of you can afford a little time and have chosen not to give it. Because some of you are, for one reason or another, afraid to give that time and won't tell anybody about it. But I have a strong feeling that living here, living in Venice, is a statement-a kind of declaration of separation from a whole bunch of "accepted" patterns. There's an acceptance here that reaches beyond my experience of other places I've lived. Venice, like an estuary, is a place where different environments meet and "feed each other" to become healthier in the process. And when that process breaks down the whole ecology of the community becomes endangered. Funny thought, "Venice on the endangered species list"... Are you convinced that your time here is very limited and just want to enjoy it while you can? (Then you'll go somewhere else and do it all over again). Have you thought that by your own actions (or non actions) that you are destroying the very life

style/atmosphere/uniqueness/community/quaint place/radical/alternative/free place left in L.A.? Is it easier to do your "thing" away from where you live or just not do it at all? Please answer - this is not meant to elicit thoughtful answers to yourself, please send your thoughts to the Beachhead,

Moe Stavnezer

TO THE BEACHHEAD AND THE
CITIZENS OF VENICE,

On Sunday morning, May 9, I and about twenty other people witnessed another incursion on a citizen's rights on Venice Beach. An officer from the Department of Animal Regulation wrestled a man to the ground and choked him into submission. The man was then handcuffed by the dog catcher and held until his supervisor and three police squad cars arrived. The police quickly whisked the man off to jail. Why? Because the man's dog was on the beach.

It is against the law according to signs on the beach and on Ocean Front Walk to allow a dog on the beach. But would not a warning or a ticket to the dog's owner have sufficed as a penalty? The man tried to explain to the officers that the dog had been ill and had been indoors for two weeks. The physical appearance of the animal made this obvious. Was it necessary then to put a rope around the dog's neck and lift it over the fence on the beach? The solution to the problem of dogs on the beach is not to strangle the animals and their owners. That is blatantly an inhumane way to treat living creatures.

The incident raises other questions. Who as public servants, are the Department of Animal Regulation people serving when they commit such acts? A dog on the beach is hardly enough of a public menace to warrant a manhandling and subsequent arrest of the animal's owner and the incarceration of the animal. I do not feel served by the actions of these men. I would not if I had a choice feed my tax dollars to support dog catchers who seemingly have complete disregard for and a complete misunderstanding of the rights of people and their animals.

Further, can Department of Animal Regulation Officers detain and handcuff people for any reason? And if they can, how did they come to possess this right? Should they have it? Are they after dogs or people? Is there a difference in their minds? The Animal Regulation men did not arrest the man. They only detained him until the police arrived. If your dog was caught on the beach these men could presumably "detain" you until you could be arrested. They are paid by you and me to haul away animals. Evidently their authority includes homosapiens.

At least their authority is that broad in their minds. My wife was threatened with arrest by the dog catchers. Arrest for inciting a riot. The threat was precipitated by her walking toward a group of standers-by on the grass about twenty yards away and saying "Hey all you people come over here and watch what's going on." One of the officers warned her for inciting a group of people to riot. It is hardly an incitement to riot when a citizen tells people to witness the actions of public servants. It is politically oppressive when one of those public servants threatens to arrest a citizen (which dog catchers have no legal right to do) for beseeching other citizen to witness public servants performing their job badly.

If you wish to complain call Pat Russell at 822-2582 and/or Bob Rush (head of Dept. of Animal Regulation) at 485-5771. More importantly if you witnessed this incident and want to help call me at 396-9780. The man is in serious trouble. He has been charged with either a felony or a misdemeanor. He will need witnesses when he goes to trial.

Rocky Swingle
24 Brooks Ave.

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 90291). 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 396-9325, 396-1941.

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Stop Rape



Myths and Realities of Rape:

MYTH: It could never happen to me.

REALITY: According to estimates by the Los Angeles County Ad Hoc Committee on Rape, one out of three women will be raped during her lifetime in Los Angeles. All women are potential rape victims.

MYTH: Rape is a non-violent crime.

REALITY: Rape is a violent crime, usually done under the threat of death, and forcible rape is increasing in this country, more than any other violent crime.

MYTH: All rapists are pathologically sick and sex-starved men.

REALITY: Men convicted of rape were found to have normal sexual personalities, differing from the norm only in their greater tendency to express violence and rage. Sex, therefore is not the motivating factor in rape.

RAPE CRISIS

HOTLINE

677-8116

3

MYTH: Any woman who resists rape will probably be killed.

REALITY: Few rapists are murderers. Los Angeles police report that less than 1% of murders in the city involve sexual assault. Studies have shown that those women who immediately resist seldom sustain anything more serious than a cut or bruise.

If You Are Raped:

CALL A FRIEND AND THE RAPE CRISIS
HOTLINE FOR SUPPORT

677-8116

IF YOU WANT TO REPORT
THE RAPE TO THE POLICE:

- * Do not destroy evidence; do not clean up, bathe, douche or change clothes.
- * Write down the details about the rapist and circumstances of the rape as soon as possible
- * Call the police in your area immediately. The sooner you report, the more you will be believed.
- * Demand to go to the nearest hospital; take a change of clothes with you.
- * Have a friend or Rape Crisis Hotline advocate accompany you.

WHETHER OR NOT YOU REPORT
THE RAPE, GET IMMEDIATE
MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR

- * Treatment of injuries.
- * Pregnancy testing. If you were raped in the middle of your menstrual cycle (12-16 days after your last period ended) and if you were not on birth control, your chances of being pregnant are increased.
- * If you're nervous or worried and can't sleep, request sedatives or tranquilizers.
- * Get tests for venereal disease. Rapists often have V.D.

How to Avoid Rape:

Be Aware!

AT HOME: Have strong locks on doors and windows, good lighting, and last name only on mailbox. Keep drapes closed. Be Aware when someone you don't know comes to the door or talks to you on the phone. Ask for identification.

IN YOUR CAR: Watch where you park. Keep doors locked always. Check the back seat before entering.

ON THE STREET: Carry your keys in your hand with a whistle on the key chain (not around your neck). Don't overload with packages. Wear sensible clothes and shoes. If you think you are being followed, turn and look. Walk towards traffic.

Self-Defense

WHEN CONFRONTING AN ATTACKER you must decide what is best for you. The rapist expects you to be passive and is afraid of you. The element of surprise is on your side. If you do remain passive, there is no guarantee you will not be harmed.

- * Develop a deep, gut yell.
- * Try to face your attacker and STRIKE WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH at points along the center of his body (eyes, nose, throat, testicles and knees).
- * If hands are on your neck, raise your arms high and twist.
- * Take a self-defense course. Practice. Repetition builds competence which gives confidence. You are stronger than you think & strength is not just physical.

THE QUESTIONS OF MEAT: WHAT'S AT STAKE

By Peter Galbraith

Whether or not one should eat meat is a question that is being much debated with the food co-op community. While there will never be a definitive answer to an issue as personal as one's diet, the exchange of ideas this debate provides is important for our growth as individuals and as a community.

To facilitate this discussion, I would like to articulate a few of the arguments in favor of an abstention from eating meat, and briefly describe an alternative.

Two of the arguments for not eating meat stem from the recognition that what we eat affects our bodies and long-term health, and that it affects whether or not other people in the world eat adequately or suffer malnutrition.

The first more personal ramification of eating meat is the amount of environmental contaminants each of us accumulates within our bodies and the possible diseases we experience as a result. Meat is not just simply the highest source of environmental pollutants in our diet. It contains 2 1/2 times more organochloric pesticides such as DDT than dairy products and 13 times more than an average level for vegetables.

The reason for the high contamination of meat is twofold: the first is inherent in the fact that carnivorous animals are substantially higher on the food chain, where the lower levels of the poisons in vegetables are concentrated in the meat and especially in the fat of the animals eating them.

This effect can be seen in the reproductive malfunctions of predatory birds such as the pelican and hawk, and the nervous disorders in the large ocean fish as the tuna and the swordfish, both caused by DDT residue accumulation in their tissues. These animals are at the end of long food chains and show the poisoning effects first. Humans eating meat are at the top of a similar food chain. Eating lower on the food chain minimizes this accumulation of destructive chemicals of which our bodies show little ability to rid itself.

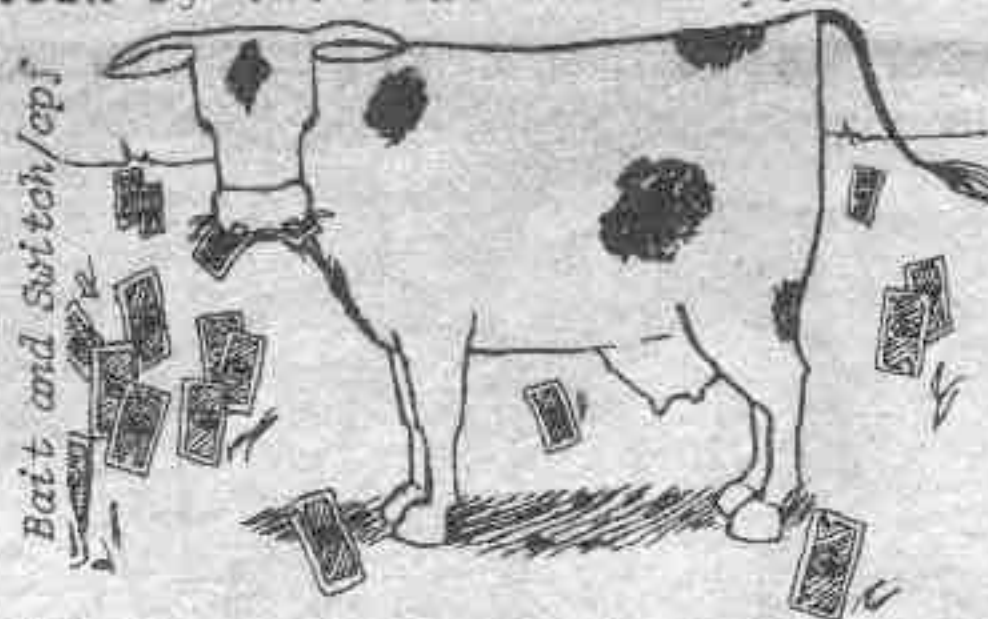
The other source of contaminants in meat is the feed lot, where the cattle are force-fed grain to fatten them before slaughter. Here hundreds of thousands of cattle are penned, injected with hormones and appetite stimulants, and forced to consume tons of grain.

More chemicals are introduced in the butchering and packing process, where the meat is colored and dressed with nitrates to give it the appearance of fresh red meat. But when one opens the package of hamburger, it is brown with age.

This wanton adulteration of our food and complete disregard for the safety of our health on the part of the meat industry

is nothing but criminal.

The second reason for abstaining from eating meat is that what we choose to eat has a significant affect upon whether or not the rest of the world's people eat or don't eat. To understand this we must take a closer look at the production of protein by the meat industry.



Of all the animals that convert grass and other vegetable matter into meat, the beef steer is notorious for its inefficiency to convert vegetable protein into animal protein. It takes an average of 7 pounds of grain fed to cattle to produce one pound of edible meat. And the meat that results is only 20 percent protein, much of the rest being fat. The result of this inefficiency is the destruction of millions of tons of perfectly edible grains and soybeans in the feedlots annually.

Of the 140 million tons of grain and soy we fed to our beef cattle, poultry and hogs in 1971, one seventh or 20 million tons was returned as meat, the rest of the 118 million tons of grain and soy were lost. This astronomical amount of food being destroyed by the meat industry is enough humanly nutritious grains and soybeans to more than make up the world's entire protein deficit if it were consumed directly by the people.

Contrary to the myth that America is doing as much as it can to feed the world's poor, the U.S. and Western Europe are the world's largest importers of protein, large amounts coming from the poorest nations in South America and Africa.

The U.S. was the world's largest agricultural importer in 1970 and the world's leading importers of beef. This beef comes mainly from the most protein deficient sections of central America, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala. One third of Africa's peanut crop is fed to dairy cattle and poultry in Western Europe. This, while people starve in Ethiopia.

The U.S. and other rich countries, which comprise only one-third of the world's population, consume about 75 percent of the world's fish supply. Much of this fish is fed to livestock as feed. In 1974, ten percent of our grain exports would have kept the world from having starving people. Instead, we are selling it to countries who are increasing their

own meat production. Meat has become very fashionable.

Realizing the impact our eating habits have upon the well-being or hunger of people around the world, one can help underdeveloped nations feed their own people by not eating meat, and at the same time limit one's own exposure to cancer-causing substances.

But don't we need meat to remain healthy and strong? Do we have to sacrifice our own health to feed the hungry people of the world? The answer to these questions is no.

We can get all our nutrients and all our protein from non-meat sources. While this is not as simple as living on vegetables and fruits, being sure one consumes the protein our body needs is not as hard as one might think.

By selecting the foods we eat at any particular meal, we can maximize the protein our body can absorb from vegetable sources. This is the principle of protein complementarity, which if followed can provide protein as good, if not better than meat.

Proteins are complex chains of molecules which the body's digestive process can divide into 22 basic units called amino acids. Of these building blocks, the body can synthesize all but eight from non-protein food. These are called the eight essential amino acids which one has to obtain from food.

Meat has been considered a "superior" source of protein because it provides complete proteins; that is, proteins with a substantial amount of each of the eight essential amino acids.

Only complete proteins can be absorbed by the body, with any partial proteins being lost because they cannot be stored.

Vegetables, grains, and beans have been considered "inferior" protein sources because the proteins they contain lack significant amounts of particular amino acids.

While one family of vegetables is deficient in certain amino acids, another family has large amounts of them. When foods from both families are eaten together at the same meal, such as beans and rice, they complement each other and provide us with plenty of high quality complete protein.

Eating habits developed over many years are hard to change suddenly, yet they can be transformed by developing new habits that can eventually take their place. Substituting fish and chicken for beef more often and preparing vegetarian meals a few times a week is a good way to begin enjoying the variety and nutrition of a non-meat diet.

Protein complementarity is clearly and simply explained in "Diet for a Small Planet" by Frances Moore Lappe, along with recipes based on this principle.

(Reprinted from the Garlic Press)

REVIEW:



By Carol Fondiller

This review comes out too late for the present showings, but I'm sure both films will be shown again in the L.A.-Venice area.

Two films that deal with what I call contemporary history, were premiered in Venice. My definition of contemporary history is as follows: Events that happened during the life time of people who are still living.

Both films are documentaries.

Both are stories of the American dream; or perhaps I should say of dreams peculiar to unique Americans.

"Canals, Calliopes and Chaos, the story of Abbot Kinney's Venice of America" is the story of a city built by a man with a dream, and "Underground" is the story of a small dedicated group of people who want to make the American dream come true by any means necessary.

"Underground", shown at the Fox Venice for the West Coast premiere, examines some of the people of the Weather Underground and how they got that way.

Produced by Emile de Antonio ("In the Year of the Pig", "Painters Painting", "Millhouse-A White Comedy"), Haskell Wexler (Cinematographer - "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf", "Five Easy Pieces", "American Graffiti"), and Mary Lampson (editor of "Millhouse" and "Painters Painting" and sound interviews and camera person for "Attica").

"Underground" was shot in a three day period in a "safe" house in the Los Angeles area where the filmmakers shot footage and recorded the voices of five Weather people: Billy Ayers, Kathy Boudin, Bernadine Dohrn, Jeff Jones and Kathy Wilkerson, all of whom have evaded arrest for six years. The film was subpoenaed by the FBI. The filmmakers refused to give up the films, prints, etc., or to testify. After vehement protest by media heavies and the A.C.L.U., the FBI called off the investigation, so the FBI has to pay admission to see it like everyone else.

Filmed through gauze and into mirrors, so that the Weather people would not be seen, gives "Underground" a surreal derring-do quality that enhances feeling of suspense and urgency that these people have.

What is most interesting and chilling to me is how "normal" their backgrounds were.

They talked about their origins, and the various points at which they turned from the more peaceful forms of protest to something as "American as apple pie - Violence" (Thank you, Rap Brown).

Their narratives and philosophy are intercut with news films from various American Adventures - Civil Rights, Anti-Pentagon, Anti-war, the Chicago Democratic Convention, campus demonstrations - all those action films that so livened up our six p.m. TV's for the last decade,

(a paid political advertisement)

Ben Perrick

44th ASSEMBLY
DISTRICT

IF YOU BELIEVE IN THE VENICE TOWN COUNCIL
IF YOU BELIEVE IN THE VENICE RENTERS LEAGUE
IF YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH

THEN YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO VOTE FOR
BEN PERRICK

PEACE AND FREEDOM PARTY

40 Rose Avenue, Apt. 3 396-3885

CANALS, CALLIOPEs, CHAOS

THE STORY OF ABBOT KINNEY'S VENICE OF AMERICA

give their decisions and statements a stunning validity. The conclusion that the only way to effect change is through violence seems a surprisingly traditionalist and reactionary solution by so supposedly a group of intellectual radical revolutionaries. "Underground" is a beautiful manipulative piece of propaganda.

The young men and women, came off like "real people" - clear, confident, calm voices saying things like, "it's unfortunate that innocent people have to die...." They are a bit more earnest than most people, but not as paranoid as they could have been. But still these nice well-scrubbed white kids from their nice middle class homes, (Bernadette Dohrn remembers her mom doing the ironing while watching the McCarthy-Army hearings on TV. Her parents voted for Joe McCarthy). The Weather people seem to know what's best for the masses. But

they are certainly not of the masses and only mean to do good for us poor brainwashed types. I feel they define society's ills beautifully. But it doesn't mean I have to like their solutions.



ABBOT KINNEY 1910

The Weather Underground people remind me of boy/girl scouts who used to snitch on you for smoking for your own good. They'll get you across the street into a new and better world if they have to break every bone in your body to get you there. And you can bet it'll hurt them every bit as much as it'll hurt you. The road they are blasting through to a better life is paved with outcroppings of self righteousness and martyrdom which if they succeed might make the Joe McCarthy era seem like the golden age of reason in retrospect.

I do wonder if these people who grew up on movies and TV haven't grown up with the ol' instant-gratification, bloodless-mayhem, Tom and Jerry, Zorro complex. But quicker than you can say "he was born with a gift of laughter and a sense that the world was mad," comes the revolution, thoughts like that will have me up against the wall. And that's the prime reason I disagree with them.

But "Underground" is a daring, innovative documentary that does not pretend to objectivity. It's as thrilling and chilling as anything by Costa Gravas, and it's for real.

"Canals, Calliopes and Chaos, the story of Abbot Kinney's Venice of America", has a title almost as long as the film.

It runs for 18 evocative and enchanting minutes, using old photos that give the illusion of movement. The film was produced by Tom Sewell, entrepreneur and old building buyer and renovator (The Flea Market on Pacific, The St. Charles Place from which he evicted some of our more picturesque but less artistic types

The Beachhead needs original graphics, cartoons and photos of events around Venice, i.e. the 4th of July Parade, dog catcher, etc. Black and white only. Please submit work with a stamped self-addressed envelope. What we really need is a graphic artist who can illustrate articles.

than reside there now, and Tom Moran, Venice historian, Project assistant for Councilwoman Pat Russell (come on, we all gotta eat) and Columnist for our local weekly paper, The Argonaut.

The film is an animated slide show of gaudy garish, glamorous Venice from its founding by Abbot Kinney in 1904 through its decline as a gambling resort town to a home town for blue collar working class during the Depression. We are teased with hints of spicy details of scandals and follies of the officials who came along after Abbot Kinney's death, along with circumstances beyond their control, that caused Venice to be chained to Los Angeles.

The fads and foibles of America were brought to Venice. Stunt men hanging by their hair on bi-planes. Beauty contestants wearing bathing suits that bared dimpled knees. Rides and bands... "I did not make a city for the rich. The rich can take care of themselves." Said Abbot Kinney. There is a fading film strip 1904-10 vintage that has a phantasmagoric-Turner quality that shows canals and palaces shimmering in a hazy landscape. It fades and one wonders if it were a mirage. According to Moran, there is some dispute whether that haunting film is of Venice, Italy or Venice, USA. But it doesn't matter. It evokes the dreamy mythical feeling that Kinney might have felt when he envisioned canals on the marshes of the Pacific coast. "In USA did Abbot Kinney a flashy pleasure dome decree."

"Canals, Calliopes and Chaos, etc." is enhanced by music of Brad Kay's collection of authentic 78's. He also mixed the sound for the film. The narration, written by Tom Moran in a hyperbolic, zippy parody of 1930's travelogues succeeds most of the time. Occasionally it gets too precious. It is narrated in mellifluous tones (again fitting into those lovely travelogues) by Harris Yulin. I can think of no better complement than to say "more! more!" Like the Venice of a working men's resort at its giddy frivolous height, the film doesn't last long enough. As social history of an era, it might not give all the details, but one gets the essence of early Venice and its quixotic creator. "Canals, Calliopes, Chaos, etc." was shown in the best of all possible settings for this film, the Venice Library.

After the showing, Tom Moran introduced Helen Kinney Boyer, daughter of Abbot Kinney, and Mrs. Tom Thurlow, wife of the last Mayor of Venice. They received a round of applause. It was as if the audience was saying to them, "Thank you for letting us share your lovely dream."

Then in the spirit of Venice, a dark haired woman with peircing eyes stood up and declaimed, "Abbot Kinney still lives! His spirit is here! Right here in someone's body!"

She might have been a little off, but she was right on.

Later that night on the canals, looking at the black rippling waters, a decaying white wood bridge, and a leperous moon, my friend told me if I squinted my eyes, I might see a gondola scudding silently around the marshy bend...I squinted my eyes and...you go see "Canals, Calliopes and Chaos, The Story of Abbot Kinney's Venice of America," and see what you see.



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VENICE TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

BY DOROTHY WEISSER &
ARNOLD SPRINGER

Venice Town Council regulars were pleasantly surprised when they arrived at Venice City Hall for their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 16. They found approximately 50 fathers, mothers, and children encamped on the doorstep waiting for the meeting to start.

These people had come to ask the Town Council to support them in their fight against the closing of the Milestone Early Education Center in Venice. They brought along a Spanish speaking interpreter who provided simultaneous translation of the meeting and discussion. (The issue of the Milestone closing is described in detail elsewhere in this issue of the Beachhead).

After hearing the presentation of the Milestone parents, the Town Council voted to send a letter to the Board of Directors of Milestone expressing disappointment at their failure to appear at the meeting of the Council (to which they had been invited) and urging an indefinite extension of the lease for the center. On a motion by Rick Davidson, the Council set up a joint committee with the Venice Children's Circle to explore ways to bring before the media the plight of the evicted Early Education Center people.

TOWN COUNCIL FOCUS ON DEVELOPERS

Milestone was not the only community organization coming to the Town Council for support. At the request of the Los Angeles Childbirth Center, the Venice Town Council had appeared at a hearing before the Los Angeles Board of Zoning Appeals. The Childbirth Center needed a zoning variance to allow it to continue to operate, and the Council added its voice to those of numerous residents of Venice who packed the room in support of the Center. Councilwoman Russell also supported the application for a variance. In the end the Board ruled in favor of the Childbirth Center.

Developers were also coming to the Town Council seeking input, advice, and ultimately support for various projects.

A special meeting of the Town Council had been held at the Israel Levin Center to discuss a proposal by developer Tom Safran and Associates to build a large senior citizen subsidized housing project on Ocean Front Walk between Navy and Ozone. Over 100 people came together to hear about the project and voice their concerns. Discussions with Mr. Safran are continuing. At the May 16 meeting of the Council, there was general agreement that the proposed structure should have as many senior citizen units as possible, but questions were raised about the 8 \$300,000 condos planned for the top floor, about the very large commercial space and restaurant proposed for the ground floor, and about parking.

Safran argues that the condos and commercial are necessary to finance land and development costs, but as yet he has not produced figures to support this position. He will have to satisfy these concerns before community support from the Council is forthcoming. Without this support it is doubtful that the building would be approved.

HAMMOND LUMBER CO PROPERTY

Also present at the May 16 meeting were two representatives of New World Pictures, the corp. which just purchased the Hammond Lumber Co. site. Mary Ann Fisher and Paul Almond, attorney for New World, told the assembly that the company had plans for a special effects studio, that no basic changes would be made to the outside of the building. Preliminary discussion between New World and the Coastal Committee of the Town Council had already been held. The Committee reported that it had recommended the following items; That New World agree to a condition as part of its Coastal Commission Permit not to change the use of the site from Light Industrial (M-1) to Commercial for 10 years; that it offer free classes to interested people from the community in the various techniques involved in the special effects process; that it open its building to occasional tours by Venice elementary school children; that it make its signing unobtrusive; and that it not make extensive modifications to the exterior of the building.

Pearl White, speaking for the Oakwood community, wanted to know if the company would agree to have a small Geta job program in their operation so that disadvantaged youth from the Oakwood community could get needed training so they might eventually enter that craft field. The Company has indicated that it would like to cooperate but only if federal or state funds were provided. They promised to provide a letter to the community to this effect.

New World appeared hesitant to agree to the 10 year condition limiting its use of the property to light industrial. But Moe Stavnezer reminded company representatives that the Venice

community had had plenty of experience with speculators who bought property which they held for a few years while they did their thing, then sold out for large profits, allowing the property to go for condominiums, restaurants or other commercial purposes of no value to the community. The conditioning of projects by the Coastal Commission was a common occurrence, said Stavnezer who concluded that New World was certainly not being singled out for special treatment. If it was sincere it would agree to the condition.

Appearing somewhat beleaguered, New World stuck to its position that the company would not agree to this condition, and asked that the Council accept it on his word that its intentions were good. Under much pressure Almond finally agreed to take the matter back to the owners for further discussion. The latest word is that the company will agree to the condition as part of their Coastal Permit. Another meeting with New World will be held with the Coastal Committee on June 1 to hammer out an agreement.

Ms Fisher appeared to be genuinely touched by the democratic process she had witnessed that night and by the plight of the community which feels itself reeling from outside forces. After a lot of listening and a long period of silence she explained that up until that moment, to her Venice had been just another place on the map. She was now beginning to see the problems of the community. She said she thought that New World would do everything it could to be a good neighbor and a contributing member of the Venice community. It wanted to contribute positively to the well-being of Venice and all of its people.

If the company agrees to the suggestions of the Town Council and its Coastal Committee, New World will receive Town Council support for its Coastal Permit. The hearing is scheduled for June 8 before the Coastal Unit, City of Los Angeles, at WLA City Hall.

NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The Next meeting of the Venice Town Council will be held at the Venice City Hall, 561 Venice Blvd., (parking on the center strip) on Wednesday June 20, at 7:30 pm. For those readers who have not been around Venice for a long while, now is the time to spend an evening with the Council, experiencing the new energy generated by its involvement with other community forces and with some of the developers who are showing signs that at last they would rather talk than fight. Are thanks should go to all those Venetians who have struggled tirelessly for their community before the City of Los Angeles and before the Coastal Commission. It is their work that has begun to transform developer attitudes. People who want to participate in this process of transformation should get involved with the Council and its Coastal Committee. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity. ●

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NEWS RELEASE.....

Burglars broke into the offices of the Westside Women's Clinic, 1711 Ocean Park Bl. in Santa Monica, last week and stole the appointment book containing the names and phone numbers of all patients scheduled at the clinic for April and May.

"The implications of this particular act of vandalism are very, very serious," said clinic director, Kate McDonough. "Not only has the work load for the staff more than doubled, but more importantly, the confidentiality of our patients has been breached."

Women's clinics, specifically those clinics who do abortions, as does the Westside Women's Clinic, have been the target of violence and vandalism by anti-abortion forces throughout the country during the past two years. While there is no clear evidence that the Westside Women's Clinic is the latest victim of this type of harassment, the possibility cannot be excluded, according to Ms. McDonough.

The clinic has no way of knowing if patients listed in the missing appointment book have been bothered in any way, according to Ms. McDonough. There is indication, however, that some of last week's appointments were cancelled.

Patients who had appointments at the clinic during the last two weeks in April and for all of May who have received unusual phone calls are asked to contact the clinic, she added.

"Our patients have a right to know that someone has involved them in their own personal vendetta against the clinic and that their right to privacy has been invaded," she said.

"We are an integral part of the Venice/Ocean Park community and we are here to stay. We trust that our patients and our neighbors will rally around us and that we will weather this crisis together," she said. ●

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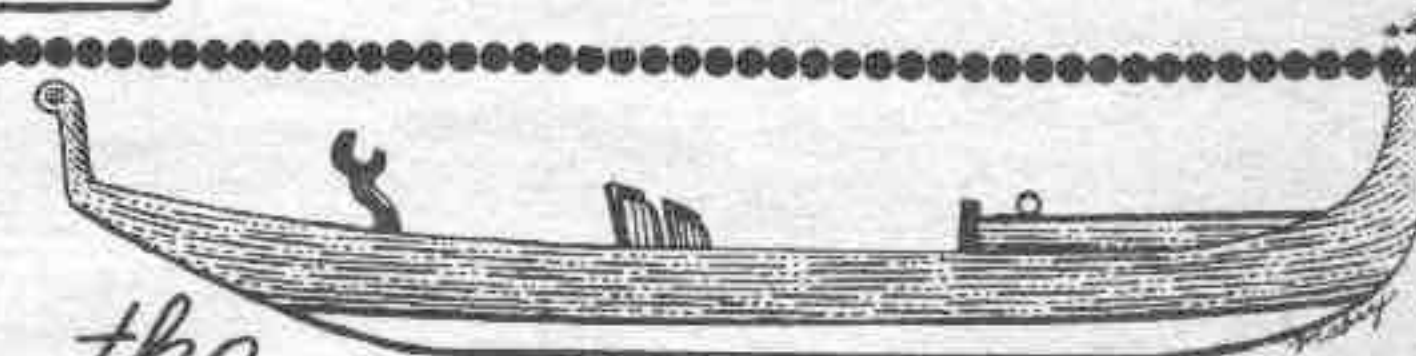
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Venice Town Council meetings are held on the
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South Beach - West of Pacific, South of Venice
Blvd. Meets every last Wednesday, Anchorage
School, 7:30 392-2113 or 392-1594

North Beach - West of Main, Santa Monica to
Venice Boulevard. Meets every first Monday
at Venice Pavillion Meeting room, Windward
at bike path, 7:00; 396-3885 or 392-4765

Canals - South of Venice Blvd., east of Pac-
ific, West of Washington Blvd. Meets every
first and third Tuesday at Anchorage School,
7:30 823-2626 or 823-1753

Oakwood - North of California, West of Lin-
coln, to Washington Blvd. Meets every third
Wednesday, at Boradway School bungalow, 7:00
396-2801

East Venice - South of California, West of
Lincoln to Washington Blvd. Meets every
fourth Wednesday at Couer D'Alene School,
7:30 821-1430

Central - North of Venice Blvd., east of Main,
West of Washington Blvd. Meets every Second
Thursday 328 Market Street, 7:30, 821-1774

Penmar - East of Lincoln, North of Venice Blvd.
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ple can get together to talk about the
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recommendations which will have great
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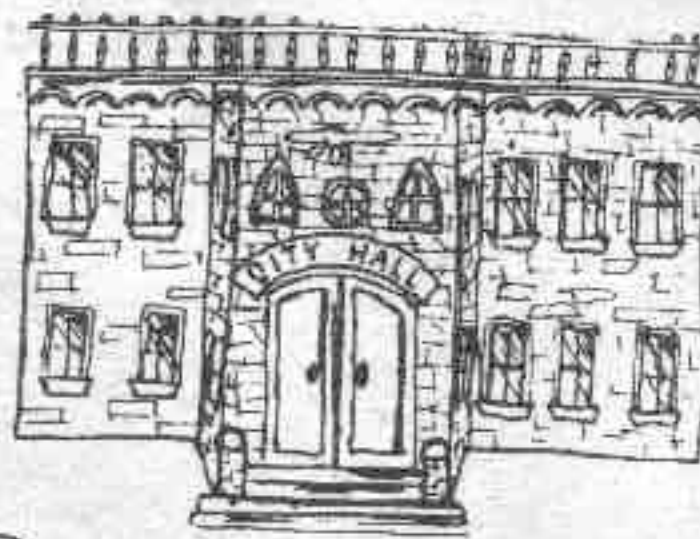
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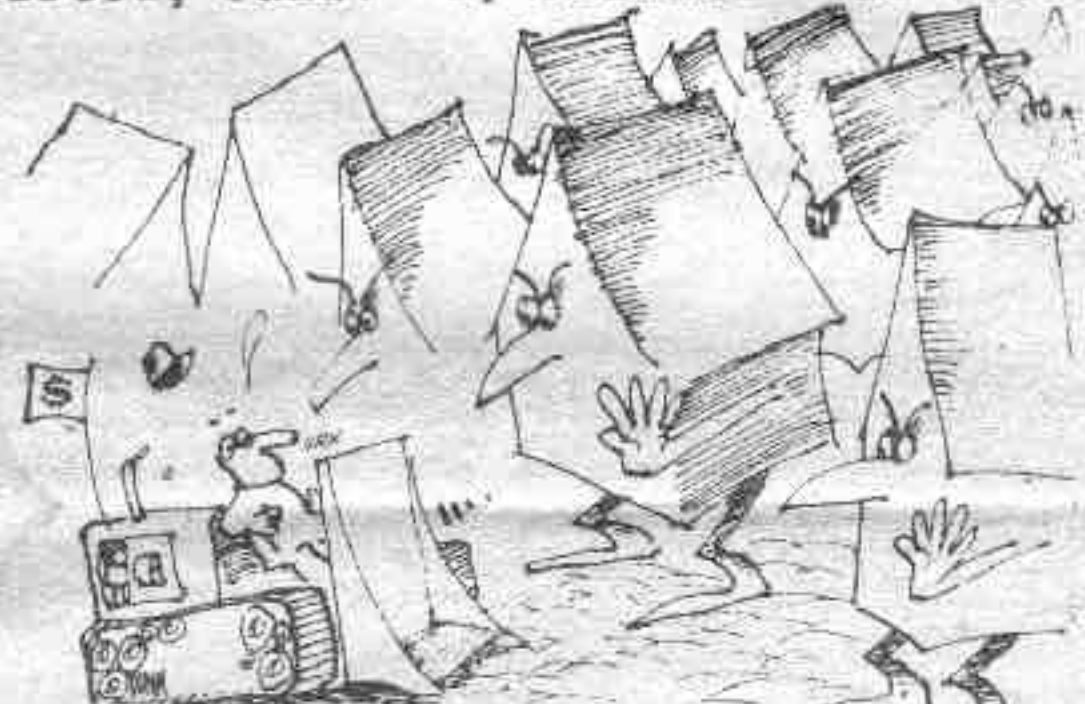
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CITIZENS ACTION LEAGUE- ASSESSMENT ACTION

On Monday, May 17, in an action sponsored by the Citizens Action League, 60 people crowded in the County Assessors office to protest Equitable Life's request for a 25% reduction in assessment on it's building build at a cost of 40 million dollars. It was already assessed downwards to 17 million and Equitable Life wanted the assessment lowered 25% on that.

People whose 40 thousand dollar homes have recently been reassessed to 80 thousand felt there was a vague inequity somewhere. Venice had more people at the action than any other area.

There will be a follow-up action to this in the near future. For those interested, call: C. Cullum 451-0231



GAY GROUP SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT

The following statement was issued April 5 by the National Gay Task Force: "We wish to state categorically that to the best of our knowledge and information neither Pope Paul VI, Richard M. Nixon, Bebe Rebozo, Henry Kissinger, Scoop Jackson nor J. Edgar Hoover are or were at any time practicing homosexuals. It is our fervent hope that our information is correct." (LNS)

WESTMORELAND REFLECTS ON VIETNAM

"The Vietnam War was not a military defeat. We won every battle. The American record of never losing a war is intact."

---General William C. Westmoreland, retired U. S. Army Chief of Staff and top commander in Indochina at the height of U. S. troop buildup, in a statement made on March 31, 1976. (LNS)

DUST TO DUST

A Ralston Purina Co. official has concluded that grain dust is actually good for you. In a letter to Dick Ginnold of the Wisconsin Univ. School for Workers, who has done a comprehensive study of hazards among grain elevator workers, the Ralston official wrote: "Although I cannot document it with any specific reference, I think it has generally been held that grain dust may actually be beneficial to a normal, healthy pair of lungs."

Why? Because, he says, it causes a worker to cough up foreign material and thus clear the respiratory system." (LNS)

SCHORR CHARGES TV NEWS HAS CLASS BIAS

"The real bias on TV news is not a political bias, it's a class bias. For example, when I found out that the government was about to raise the cost of Medicare premiums, I couldn't get the story on the air. The Cronkite crowd couldn't have cared less. Twenty million people were affected, and the Westport crowd didn't care."

---Daniel Schorr, journalist recently suspended by CBS for releasing the secret House report on the CIA, interviewed by Harrison Salisbury in March, 1976.



TOTS TESTED BY HEW

The latest target of the federal government's information gathering are millions of pre-school children.

The L. A. Vanguard, a new weekly alternative paper in Los Angeles, reports that children in many states throughout the nation are being tested and screened for potential emotional and psychological problems under a program mandated by the U. S. Department of Health Education and Welfare.

The name of the federal program is "Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment" -- or "EPSDT" for short -- but it goes by a variety of other names depending on the state in which it is being administered.

The Vanguard states that in California alone, hundreds of thousands of pre-schoolers have been screened, and that their medical records as well as their emotional and psychological evaluations have become part of a permanent dossier in state offices.

The Vanguard says that many parents, whose children have been tested and evaluated, are not even aware that the program exists.

4th of July PARADE LOOMS

IT'S UP TO ALL OF US.

CALL IF YOU
WANT ONE

396-6876

396-6025

CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE



On Monday, June 7th, the South Coast Regional Commission will again consider a permit application to begin development on the Silver Strand is the large parcel of open space just east of Ballona Lagoon on the Venice Peninsula (between Washington St. and the Marina Channel). This is basically the same permit which was denied by both the Regional and State Commissions earlier this year.

Though the permit is almost the same the major group opposing it is both bigger and stronger than the last time. The Ballona chapter of S.W.A.P. (Small Wilderness Area Preservation Foundation) is a group of citizens from Venice, Marina del Rey, Playa del Rey and other local neighborhoods who would like to preserve the area for public use. S.W.A.P. asks your help. Please write the South Coast Regional Commission, 666 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, Ca. 90801 and ask them to preserve this valuable ecosystem. If you'd like to know more about Ballona Lagoon, S.W.A.P. and its proposal for the area please call 399-1765.

\$4 BILLION IN UNNECESSARY OPERATIONS

According to recently released figures, an estimated 2.4 million unnecessary surgeries were performed in the United States in 1974. These unneeded surgeries took nearly 12,000 lives and cost patients almost \$4 billion. The most common of these surgeries were hysterectomies, tonsilectomies, and appendectomies. (LNS)

NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS

There are 56 nuclear power plants licensed to operate in the United States, three of those are in California. Many more are in various stages of planning and construction. By the year 2000 as many as 40 or 50 nuclear reactors could be in operation in California. There is, however, a growing controversy as to the safety of nuclear power as an energy source.

One result of this controversy is the Nuclear Safeguards Initiative, Proposition 15. This proposition requires the nuclear industry prove that their safety claims are true. The proposition calls for the nuclear industry to prove within 5 years to the satisfaction of the State Legislature, 1) That emergency systems will perform as designed. (They have never been fully tested). 2) That nuclear wastes can and will be stored safely for however long they remain dangerous. Plutonium remains dangerous for 500,000 years. 3) That nuclear materials will be safeguarded against theft and sabotage. (It only takes 20 pounds of plutonium to make a bomb). The industry also must provide full and complete compensation for the public in case of a reactor accident. (There are limits on available insurance now). Oh yes, one more thing, the governor must publish evacuation plans for each nuclear plant. (Imagine evacuating L.A., rush hour is bad enough).

None of these requirements is unusual. You would expect any manufacturer to safety test his product before marketing it. Yet, we have had nuclear reactors operating in the United States since 1957, and there has never been any full scale, comprehensive testing done. I think it's about time. If you think so too, vote YES June 8 on Proposition 15.

(If you want to help, you can contact Californians For Nuclear Safeguards, 6022 Wilshire Blvd. LA 90036. 213-935-1223)

Matthew Leeds

ONE-THIRD OF ENERGY BUDGET GOES FOR GOVERNMENT SPENDING

For the second consecutive year, one-third of the Energy Research and Development Agency (ERDA) budget actually represents military spending, statistics published in Nucleonics Weekly reveal.

Approximately \$1.7 billion of the proposed \$5.2 billion ERDA budget for 1977 is set aside for research and development of nuclear weapons, atomic reactors for naval vessels, and space nuclear systems.

Nuclear research comprises 86 percent of the total ERDA budget whereas conservation research and development is only 2.2 percent of the total, and solar and wind energy development less than three percent.

Most of the non-nuclear outlay -- \$388 million -- was set aside for development of coal gasification schemes which, according to many environmentalists, are as disastrous as nuclear energy.

URBAN GARDEN POLLUTION

More and more people are raising food in backyards, flower boxes and on rooftops in cities. This rewarding trend does have drawbacks -- heavy metal fallout from air pollution which can accumulate and pose risks to consumers of homegrown foods. Gil Friend, co-director of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, points specifically to lead and cadmium levels in produce grown in Washington, Boston, New York, and St. Louis. He advises that urban gardeners plant gardens as far as possible from heavily traveled roads, screen gardens from pollution with trees, buildings or fences, consider windborne pollution, wash produce in mild chloroform or acid solutions to remove surface contaminants (although this may leach away nutrients), and avoid growing greens (which tend to accumulate heavy metals) under severe conditions.

---Public Occurrence

26THE FESTIVAL OF NATIONALITIES

Fight repressive legislation! Defeat Bill #S-1 and the Rodino Bill, free Ben Chavis and the Wilmington 10. Come to a festival at the Los Angeles Workers' Center, 1251 S. St. Andrews Pl. Admission: adults - 75¢, children - free, June 13th, 1976. With Earl Scales, Wally Hille, dancing and food of all nationalities.

