

VENICE 5 COME HOME

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THE FREE VENICE

BEACHHEAD

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATED IN LOS ANGELES

by Ethel Herring



Editors note: Though the mass media, including NBC cameramen and Free Press reporters were out in force at the March 8th International Women's Day celebration in Los Angeles, there was no real coverage of the women's actions. In an apparently nation-wide news blackout, women's nonviolent activities were quietly ignored. Even international news, such as the march by 4,000 Englishwomen bravely walking through a raging London blizzard to honor their sisters, was tossed aside. Despite obstacles from state officialdom and news blackouts, the Women's Liberation Movement continues to grow.

"Unidos mujeres del mundo! Women of the world unite! Unidos mujeres del mundo! Out of the office and into the streets! Move on over or we'll move on over you!"

Chants, songs and a powerful sense of sisterhood filled the air as upwards of 250 women began the first L.A. celebration of International Women's Day on Monday, March 8th. On that date in 1857, women garment workers in New York bravely demonstrated for shorter hours and decent working conditions. In response to their demands, they were dispersed, arrested, and brutalized by the police. On March 8, 1908, women from the now organized needle trade unions marched again, again demanding better working conditions and increasing their demands to include the vote and legislation to protect child laborers. A few years later, March 8 was proclaimed International Women's Day but its origins are all but forgotten. It is honored in other parts of the world but forgotten in the U.S.

Mid-Monday morning women assembled in front of Chic Lingerie in downtown L.A.'s garment district. Chic was chosen because the Women's Liberation Intergroup Council (sponsors of the action) felt it would be fitting to remember the origins of the day, honor our sisters presently working in virtually the same oppressive situation as existed in the 1850's and because members of Women's Liberation had walked the picket line with their striking sisters at Chic this past fall in support of their lengthy strike which was ultimately sold out by the male-dominated union leadership. Pam Tigar, from the Women's Liberation Labor Committee reminded the assembly of the strike history and briefly spoke about the exploitative and discriminatory plight of women in today's labor force. Celia Silva then read the nine demands of the L.A. Women's Liberation movement in Spanish.

Preceded by a life-sized statue of Sojourner Truth, a leading black feminist of the 1850's, the women joyfully marched up Broadway singing, chanting and issuing Certificates of Sisterhood to non-marching women along the parade route.

Arriving at Pershing Square 45 minutes ahead of schedule, Jackie Goldberg conducted a remarkable impromptu teach-in on Women's Liberation to the already flabbergasted female and male onlookers. The official rally began at 1:00 with original feminist songs sung by Ruthie Gordon. Renee Harding, from the L.A. Committee to Defend Angela Davis, told of Sojourner Truth's life and the hardships and degradations she endured as a black woman slave. After gaining her "freedom," Sojourner committed herself to fighting for the rights of women and blacks just as, today, Angela Davis has made that same commitment. Renee urged the women to become involved in Angela's defense as she, too, is a black woman who is facing repression because of her courage in speaking out against the exploitation in today's society.

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ACTION REACTION

by Marie Banks

The Venice Improvement Project (VIP) accuses Robert Castile and John Fleming, directors of the Venice Community Improvement Union (VCIU), Project Action, and Action Industries, with conflict of interest, personal profiteering, and betraying the people of Venice in connection with their building of Federal Housing Authority (FHA) low-income housing in Venice.

After the housing is built, Project Action turns the management over to Action Industries, also controlled by Castile and Fleming.

While representing themselves as champions of low-cost housing for the poor, Castile and Fleming have involved themselves heavily in real estate speculation in the poverty community of Venice through C.F.F. Properties (Castile, Fleming and Funk). Their partner Ron Funk is a Reagan political adviser and owner of the right-wing *Santa Monica Evening Outlook*.

Project Action contracted to build the apartments by promising to employ community people in the construction. The only people from Venice at the construction sites are the picketers protesting the exclusion of community workers. The federal money that was supposed to go to the community is instead going to outside workers—predominantly white—and to a Beverly Hills contractor, Shapell Industries.

Venice, like most low-income communities, is a high-welfare area. A mother and child who get \$148 a month welfare money are allowed to spend only 25% on rent, or \$47. Project Action promised the FHA housing would accommodate low-income families—instead, one-bedroom apartments are being built (2 people allowed) for \$88 a month, two-bedrooms (4 people allowed) for \$122 a month, and three-bedrooms (6 people allowed) for \$139 a month.

Forty percent of the units could qualify for Federal rent subsidies. Instead, Action has allocated less than 20% of the apartments for rent subsidies and they are refusing to take applications from people on welfare or on unemployment.

Meanwhile, families have been evicted, their homes torn down, and promises to relocate them have been broken.

We demand that the people of Venice be included in the planning of Federal housing projects in our community. Action Industries has ignored the presence and interests of the people as it pushes for more money to start

VERMONT MCKINNEY'S ROUST

by Robert Wells

During the first part of March black community organizer Vermont McKinney, Director of the Community Activity Aides (CAA) in Oakwood, was subjected to one of the weirdest and heaviest police rousts yet in Venice. For 10 days he was shadowed around the clock by foot cops, plainclothesmen and black-and-white cars—and at times by a helicopter which would hover over his home and follow him down the street when he left the house.

"We have recordings of their ground-to-air radio communications," says McKinney. "They stayed with me 24 hours a day. Everywhere I went they would go; everyone I talked to, they would follow. One night after Don Wright talked to me they followed him all the way to Long Beach, where he was teaching.

"I don't know if I was the target of this intimidation or if the community was the target. It was supposed to have started because somebody came into the station and said something was supposed to happen in Venice and I was supposed to know about it. It was really heavy for about 10 days, until I got people to get on the phone to the police and ask what it was for." McKinney says he never did find out why, and he understands he is still "under investigation."

Community people were concerned that the police were setting McKinney up for some heavy hit, perhaps even getting ready to kill him. About the time Vermont was being shadowed the police planted an obviously phony story in the *Evening Outlook* that they had caught two unnamed "community activists" with "all the makings of a

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"That man over there say that a woman needs to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helped me into carriages, or over mud puddles, or gives me a best place... And ain't I a woman? Look at me. Look at my arm! I have plowed and planted and gathered into barns, and no man could head me... And ain't I a woman? I could as much and eat as much as a man when I could get it; and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen children and seen them most all sold off into slavery. And when I cried out with a mother's grief, none but Jesus heard... And ain't I a woman?"

Sojourner Truth: Speech before the Woman's Rights Convention at Akron, Ohio in 1851.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

cont. from 1

Geraldine Goutaca, from the Asian Women's Collective spoke of the struggles of women internationally, particularly those of our Vietnamese sisters who are suffering incredibly as a result of America's imperialism.

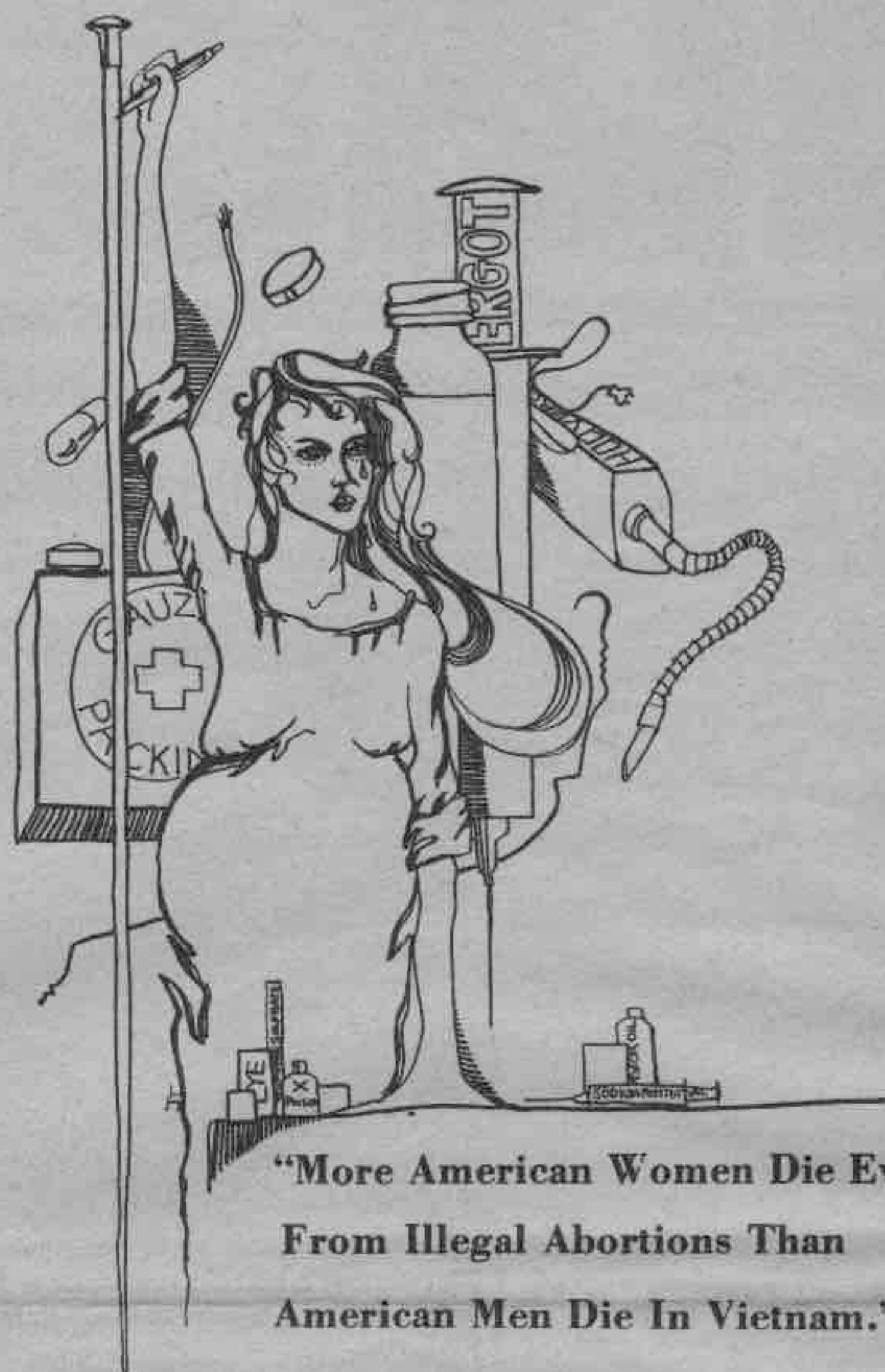
Rita Goldberger from the Lesbian Feminists concentrated on the destructiveness of male supremacist society all around us and urged us to create a society in which all women would have the opportunity of making real choices in every aspect of our lives.

Marcia Salisbury made a successful plea for funds to allow the Women's Center to expand its work and reach more women.

As Renee Harding read the speech Sojourner Truth gave before the Women's Rights Convention at Akron, Ohio in 1851, popularly known as "And

Ain't I a Woman?", the statue of her was chained to the center flag pole in the middle of Pershing Square. The women, with arms linked, joyously sang a feminist song, each one of them overpowered by the growing sense of sisterhood and strength the successful demonstration had given them.

Sojourner Truth no longer graces Pershing Square (the L.A. Park Department removed her within one hour after the demonstration had ended), but the Women's Liberation Movement in L.A. will remember her as a symbol of courage and strength in demanding freedom for women and an end to male supremacy. If you too are interested in joining with your sisters in this struggle, contact the Women's Liberation Center, 1027 So. Crenshaw, 937-3964 for further information.



"More American Women Die Every Year From Illegal Abortions Than American Men Die In Vietnam."

ABORTION CONTROVERSY by Ann Forfreedom

Abortion is still a dirty word in many corners of America and debates on the subject tend to raise more tempers than questions. This was the fate of the Abortion Panel, meeting on March 10 at the Venice Library, 610 California Avenue. Even a quiet, factual presentation by Dr. Harvey Karman, a former cofounder of the Los Angeles Abortion Clinic and now serving at the New York Women's Medical Clinic, failed to penetrate the charged emotional atmosphere.

Mrs. Ayala, a nurse, began the eve-

ning program. Having lost her job because of her religious opposition to abortion, she testified that women she had seen are "pushed by social agencies, by parents, or boyfriends" to get abortions.

Concluding with an appeal to "stop the murders," Mrs. Ayala then introduced a grisly slide show exposing portions of fetuses. The audience of 30 men and women gasped and groaned in shock.

Responding to the charge of forced

ANTI WAR RALLY by John Haag

Those of us who won't be able to go to one of the massive anti-war marches to be held on April 24th in San Francisco and Washington, D.C. will be able to join a supporting action here in Venice on April 25. Initiated by the Venice Peace and Freedom Party, a march and rally is being planned by several Venice organizations to be patterned after the event on May 10th last year which drew about 700 persons.

The march will start at noon on Sunday, April 25, at the intersection of Rose Avenue and the Ocean Front Walk, proceed south to Windward Avenue, then to Pacific Avenue and back along Pacific to Westminster Park. The rally in Westminster Park will probably include speakers from Venice movement groups and music by a local band, but exact details have yet to be decided.

The Free Venice Organizing Committee has decided to co-sponsor the march and rally, and other Venice groups are

Some groups are considering feeder marches which would start in other parts of the community and link up with the main march or go directly to the park. Since no permits are required for sidewalk marches that observe traffic regulations, none are being asked for.

The rally will be the last opportunity to sign the People to People Peace Treaty with Vietnam before it is to be presented to President Nixon on May 1. The treaty itself will continue to be circulated until the U.S. government agrees to its terms.

With anti-war sentiment growing every day and with plenty of time to publicize the march before April 25, the planners expect that more than 1,000 Venice residents will participate.

Overall planning for April 25 is being done at the regular meetings of the Venice PFP on Wednesdays at 8p.m. at 1727 W. Washington Blvd. For information call 821-8526.

ACTION cont. from 1

new projects. While our community suffers from a scarcity of housing and jobs, a group using outside workers and an outside contractor is building middle-income housing on our land with Federal tax money—our money.

The Venice Improvement Project has demanded an investigation of Shapell Industries, Rozet Contractors, Action Industries, Project Action, the Venice Community Improvement Union, C.F.F. Properties, and the Santa Monica Evening Outlook by the FHA, the OEO, HUD, and the Department of Justice. When the investigation determines that the present crew cannot satisfy the wishes of the community, we demand that they be terminated and replaced by a representative community group.

WHO TOOK THAT PICTURE?

Last issue the *Beachhead* printed a photograph on the front page and forgot to put in a photo-credit... The photographer is Theresa Sandison, a Venice resident. She belongs to a cooperative art gallery where she recently had a show—the Paper, Wood, Iron and Cloth, 6 East Holly in Old Town, Pasadena. If you would like to

MCKINNEY cont. from 1

bomb" in a car beside the Venice station. They said they couldn't arrest them because "they had not yet committed any crime." Since when has that ever been necessary in Venice? Was this story a cover for some action planned against Vermont McKinney?

"The mood of the community behind this has hurt the relationship with the police," he said. "People can't understand the reason for this invasion of privacy."

We called the Venice station for some answers and got Lt. John Cleghorn, the community-relations officer. Cleghorn said he was "not at liberty to discuss" McKinney's surveillance, and would neither confirm nor deny that it had even happened.

PUKE THE LITTLE DUKE

by PUBLIUS

When last we left Puke the Little Duke, he was in really bad shape, which couldn't get worse, so we'll have to save his ass, to which we now proceed. And having done so, we send him on to bigger and better, which is show-biz, folks.

For the Venice Free Theater came along and Puke put down his royal pretensions, and joined up, learned to sing and dance, sell refreshments, sweep the theater and deal with beurocrats of various types and descriptions. He invites all who are interested in meeting his un-royal self (and an autographed picture) to come to the Theater. Further adventures of Puke the Little Duke may follow intermittently. He is also writing a musical extravaganza, to be entitled "KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, POWER TO THE PEOPLE."

abortion, Mrs. Julie Barton, a member of a Valley women's liberation group, affirmed her belief that "anyone who wants an abortion should be able to get one free." She noted that laws about abortion "are made by men, who can make the laws and enforce them, but the women get punished."

Mrs. America Dunnivant, a black poet, speaking for the "minority point of view," opposed abortion. She charged that abortion is "the middle-class woman's issue because the middle-class woman has the money and can afford the bills."

Speaking gently and quietly, Dr. Harvey Karman stated that improvements have produced a 30-second vacuum aspirator abortion procedure. He also noted that attempts are underway to lower the costs of abortion to no more than \$25. Drawing on data collected at the New York Women's Medical Clinic, Dr. Karman said that "abortion is most often the result of failure: failure of a contraceptive, failure of birth control education. It is a mistake."

Later, responding to questions from the audience, Dr. Karman noted that the time an abortion takes "is important, because if an abortion takes only 10 minutes in all, how can a doctor justify a thousand dollar fee?" He said that some Los Angeles hospitals, including County General Hospital, are charging \$150 to patients who do not have a MediCal card.

Commenting on the growing use of paramedical personnel, both women and men, Dr. Karman mentioned that doctors at Johns Hopkins and USC are training paramedics. He noted that at USC paramedics are performing all duties in abortion cases except the aspirator procedure itself. He added that the Women's Center, 1027 So. Crenshaw, is also working on abortion aid. And anyone who needs an abortion should phone 937-3964.

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FREE VENICE BENEFIT

Venice's own coffeehouse, The Other Side (on the other side of the A&W Root Beer stand at Ocean Front and Washington), was the scene March 7th of the first Free Venice Benefit. Performing artists from Venice and from outside the community provided an evening of beautiful talent. The people dug the music and the hot cider, and Free Venice made \$160. The money will go as needed toward the construction co-op, the *Beachhead*, the food co-ops, the free theater, the Save the Canals Committee, and other Free Venice projects.

The musicians, ranging from Venice's own funky blues man Uncle Bill to the folk-baroque counterpoint of Mary Lee & Nancy, included The Floating House Band, Kathie McKenna, Reverend Wolf-tooth and Penny Nichols.

Free Venice thanks Audrey & Jim, Mac, Yaffa and John of The Other Side, who not only run a groovy coffeehouse but are real community people. And thanks to the musicians for helping us with their talent in our fight to save this community.

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PEACE AND FREEDOM GOES NATIONAL by John Haag

The Venice PFP office is headquarters for the PFP National Organizing Committee (NOC), which has had remarkable success since its formation after the 1970 election.

PFP groups are now forming in six states and we have at least one active contact in 25 more states, leaving only a few states where we have no contact at all.

Just in the past month we have begun working closely with New Party people in California. Some are already registered Peace and Freedom and are urging others to work within the structure of the PFP. We've been invited to a New Party meeting for the western states in Salt Lake City. (The New Party grew out of the Eugene McCarthy campaign in 1968 and separated from the Democrat party even though their candidate did not.)

The National Organizing Committee has ambitious plans, the success of which depends partly on building an effective work force at the Venice PFP

office. We're preparing a detailed manual on national organizing. We plan soon to issue press kits to all the underground papers and the campus press outside California. We hope within a month to publish the first issue of a national newspaper. We're doing other kinds of publicity, correspondence and fund-raising. Later we'll be training organizers for travel to other states. Much of this work, if it is done at all, will be done out of the Venice office.

Which brings us around to the point of this article. If we are to mount a national challenge to the existing parties of war, racism, poverty and pollution, we have a lot of work to do from now on. It's interesting work, exciting even, but at the moment a bit overwhelming. We need your help to build a national radical party!

If you think that goal is worth your trouble (and some time), stop by the Venice PFP office at 1727 W. Washington Blvd., between 1 and 6 p.m. any day except Sunday or call 821-8526.

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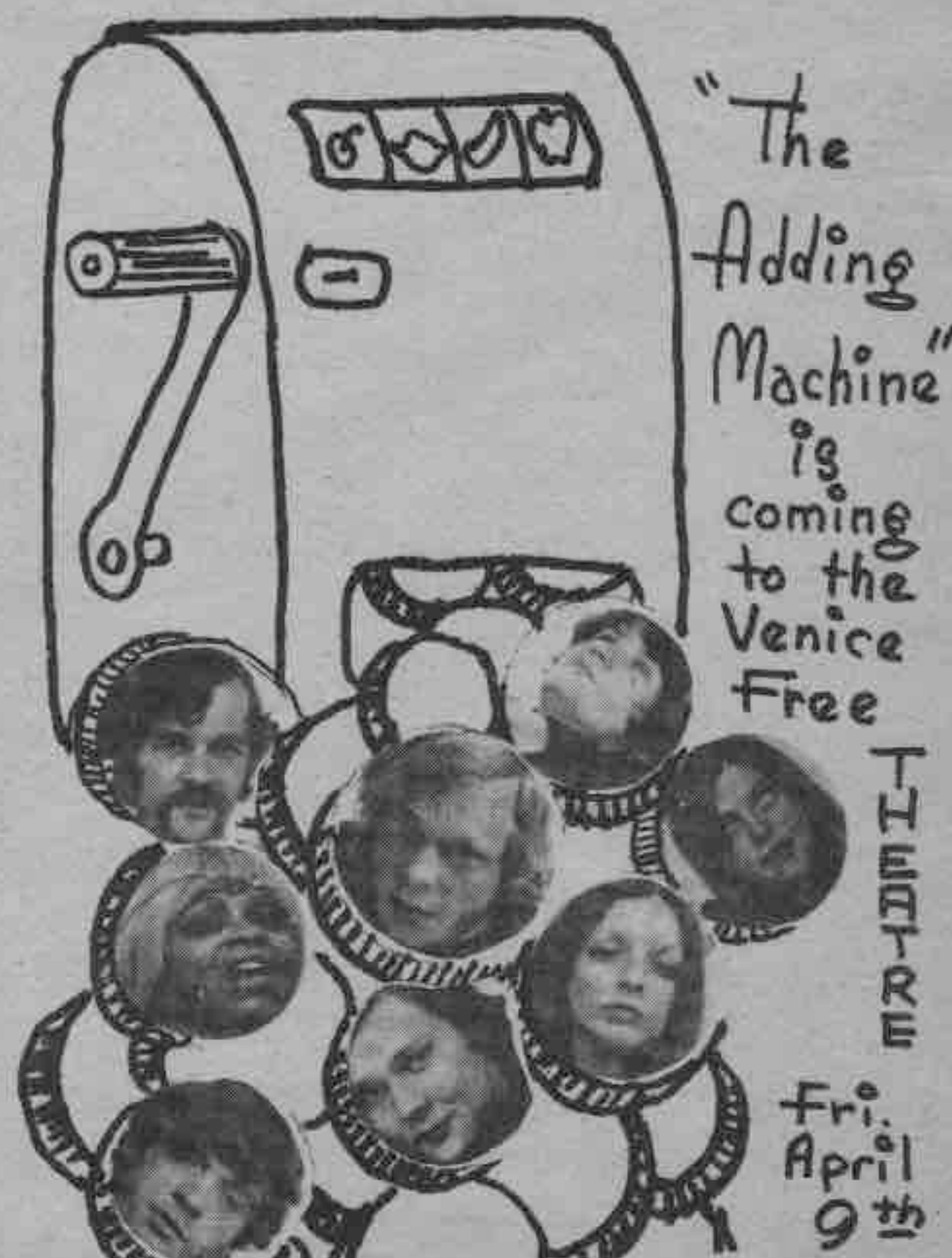
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PRISON

A MAZE FOR THE POOR

When I was quite young I remember witnessing an arrest of a man in the house I lived in. The neighbors said the man was an anarchist. I wondered about him and supposed the man had committed some brutal act or he wouldn't have been arrested.

Many years later I was to understand what the man was all about by understanding the ways of the wolves, the super-rich American Empire and how its oppressive nature works. I was to see how it operated in the everyday ghetto experience. Poor people were harassed and trapped for refusing to be its passive victims. I began to see oppression come down hardest on poor black and brown people and prisons as inevitable in the racist-fascist maze for the poor.

Then a new chapter in American history came upon the horizon. Middle-class white youth became involved in the civil rights struggle and that meant prison for them, for the first time, perhaps. The Vietnam War brought a whirlwind of protest and prisoners, the "ideological criminal," disbelieving in American institutions and the drug cultist who wanted out. Prisons began to fill to bursting with thousands arrested, suffering a long time in prison before even a trial.

That prisons try to break prisoners' spirit is old hat. Jails within jails, political exile, "adjustment wings," intimidation and provocation, killings. Racist and inhuman personnel are hired to break prisoners. Fifty percent or more of the prisoners are black and brown and only five percent of the staff is of these groups. The cycle of oppression spins with ever greater force as punishment and not rehabilitation is their goal. (Write to Sacramento for Senator Dymally's Report on the Treatment of Prisoners at Soledad, July, 1970.) Pri-

by Rachel Dranow

soners work in many of the prison shops for from 4 cents to 16 cents an hour.

Venice is a community of struggling brown, white and black people who know harassment, busts, court battles and prison terms firsthand. The whole process of clamp-down is meant to produce a passive product for wolves to mangle sheep. But there seems to be a new consciousness amongst prisoners and ex-prisoners that comes through strongly in new writings and raps. Etheridge Knight, author of *Black Voices from Prison*, 1970, compares the old convicts to the younger ones who think and feel regardless of the accompanying pain. Let us share with you what some ex-prisoners think and feel and do in our community.

Hector did eleven years in California prisons. He is Chicano and talked at length about the Chicano movement in the prison where guys identify with Cesar Chavez and Tijerina. Hector did time in the joint for pushing drugs, armed robberies, etc. Now active in the Farm Workers Movement, he had this to say:

"The Man wants you passive, wants you locked up. But La Raza, our people, need you on the outside. So stop taking junk. That cooperates with the Man."

Andy, white and 33, did ten years for possession of marijuana and bank robbery. He comes from a working class background in L.A.

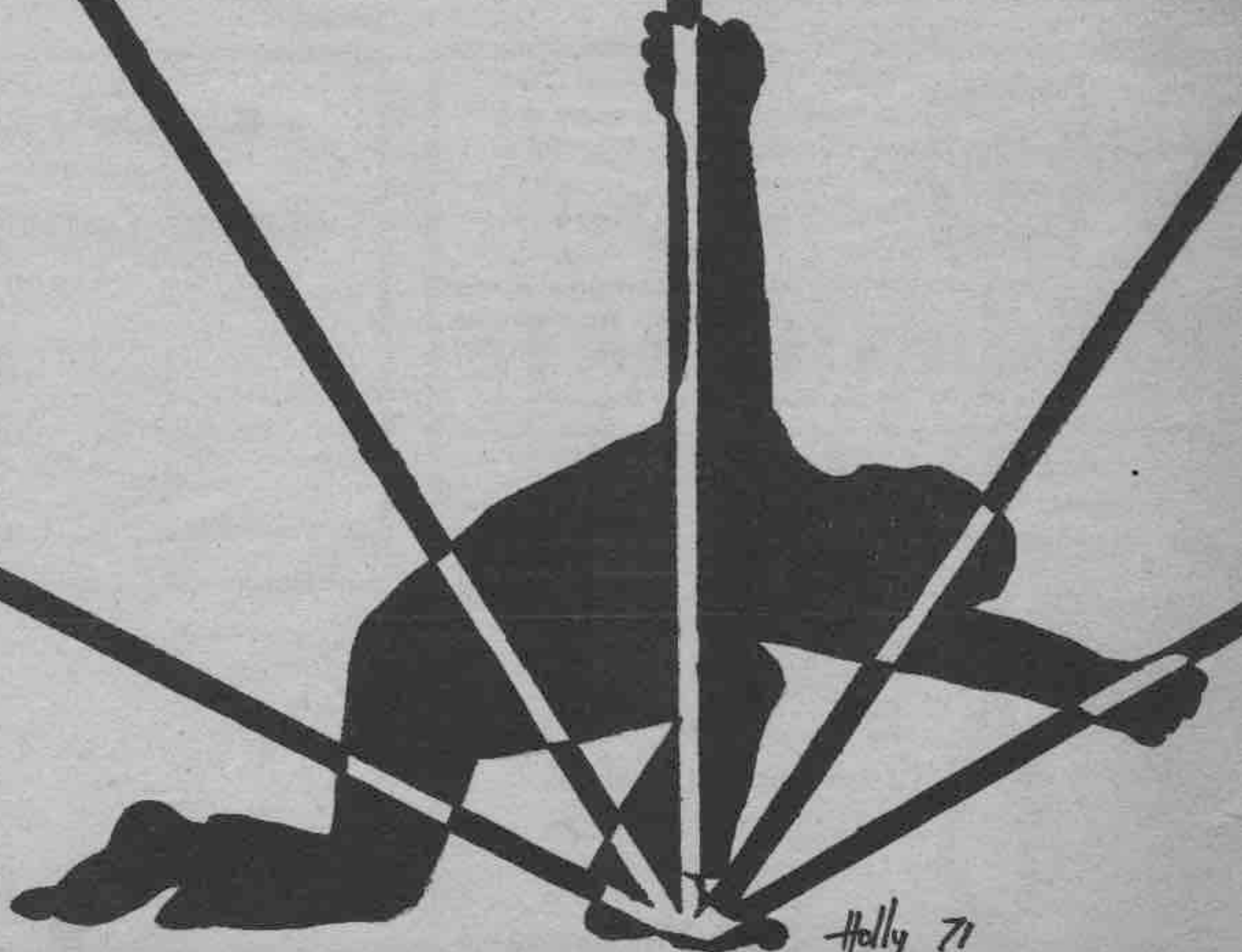
"I saw the senseless, systematic violence against the prisoners and the brutality against young guys by older guys encouraged by the guards. I began to read about our social sickness in the prison library to help me understand. I hope never to go back."

Andy has become one of the Venice activists since his release.

MENACE ANYONE?

by Ralf Jennings

Remember the good old days when you had to be convicted of a crime in order to be arrested and put in prison? The fact that a person had served time was a social stigma to be concealed at all costs, and spies were hanged instead of being venerated. This is no longer socially acceptable. Crimes have changed. Here is an entire issue of a newspaper concerned with the plight of so-called criminals. These people no longer conceal the fact that they have been incarcerated, but are articulate and in some cases perhaps even proud of the fact that they caused the establishment so much embarrassment that they had to be silenced by the courts. Now the underground newspapers have given them voice, and one must question whether or not this is a valid thing to do. I think it is not only valid, but necessary. I feel that where there is no victim, there is no crime, and that life styles which do not impair the freedom of others, or victimize them are the only hopes left for people. If we were to take the policemen whose job it is to entrap homosexuals and pot smokers and send them after the real criminals we could control the victimizers. The biggest source of concern to me is the prevalence of victims for which no criminal responsibility can be placed. This includes minority groups, anti-war people, so-called sexual deviates, and long hairs. Giant corporations can now poison thousands of people with defective products and since a corporation is impersonal, no single person is to blame, so the corporation is fined, and the fine is paid for largely by the victims. Menace, anyone? We have just bred the headless horseman of the apocalypse.



DRAFT RESISTERS AND PRISONS

by Joe Maizlish

Greg Nelson

and Art Zack,

all having served between 18 and 29 months for resisting the draft and having been released recently. Two live in Venice.

As the day drew near when Art was about to begin his prison sentence for resisting the draft, flashes of fear grew heavier. "They're coming to take me away!" he quaked. It was definitely a death trip. It got so bad that by the time he was busted, it was a relief, in a sense. The tension was over and now he could begin dealing with the reality.

One of the realities we all had to face was what it would mean to be a "political prisoner." There were some quick and rather surprising answers. First the human aspect of being imprisoned is the main feature, people living radically restricted lives in the physical and social sense. As one is faced with the day-to-day reality of living together with others in prison what someone's criminal offense was becomes a smaller question than most folks on the outside would assume.

In prison, like in any other community, there are divisions based upon interest, background, culture; the difference between freaks and non-freaks is greater than political and racial separateness. The abundance of super-patriotic convicts is largely a myth and in most cases we found that getting along was an easier thing than we had expected.

Among the guards and the administration there were some who were unable to keep their negative opinions of draft resisters under control, using official excuses and authority to cause us discomfort. But then there were also guards prejudiced against Blacks, Jews, Chicanos, Hippies and many others, and it is a rare prisoner who isn't going to arouse the prejudice of some guard simply by existing. In fact, whereas draft resisters may be subject to some petty harassment for their "crime," they have a definite advantage. Since they are looked upon as political and have outside support, they don't face the big dangers of getting more time for infractions of behavior that the average prisoner with no outside support faces.

In the last few months there has been a lot of publicity about brutality in prison life. While all of it is true, it doesn't strike at the core of the matter. The hardest thing about day-to-day prison life and probably the source of most of the violence within prison is the fact that prison is structured so that prisoners are not considered nor treated as human beings and therefore there are no personal or civil rights accorded them. The feeling of being worthless and evil is brought out in all dealings with the administration through a subtle kind of violence.

When one begins talking politics with other prisoners, one finds that there is political awareness of sorts simply because a steady fact of life is our daily oppressive relationship with power and government. And while once again it is hard to make generalities, many prisoners, especially blacks and Chicanos, are aware of their oppression. The question is what is to be done about it. All of us participated in strikes and protests (which have long been a more common feature of prison life than most realize). However, we found these actions to be of limited effectiveness. There must be outside support for prisoners to reverse the process of retaliation for political work of the prisoners. Support to prisoners means making prison officials aware of the existence of outside forces working to support the prisoners. Out of fear prison officials respond to outside pressures. Correspondence and visits to prisoners means helping them

fight to expand their civil liberties. More legal aid to fight for prison rights will bolster prison morale. Active support in the form of demonstrations in front of prisons where prisoners are carrying on a tough battle is a way of building public awareness. Then organizing within the prison can really begin to give people the room they need to get themselves together and will erase the isolation and self-doubts that help destroy a prisoner's morale.

Another misconception erased by the prison experience is the idea that we are somebody special as political prisoners. We realized that almost all prisoners are jailed for political crimes when we analyzed who defines what crime is. It is not a crime to build a car that will last only a year or two, or to lock up bread behind barred doors when people are hungry. There are only a few rich people in jail because in this society the values and interests of the wealthy and powerful decide what crime is. Most of the people are in prison for crimes against property; very few are in for crimes against people. It seems that most of the laws are aimed at the protection of the property interests of the wealthy and generally the people with the higher sentences are those convicted of "crimes" against property.

Prison does a lot to change one's conception of reality. Most people seem to assume that this thing we call reality is the necessary result of the physical facts of our existence and must be conformed to if one wishes to be effective in one's actions. In prison, however, one realizes that the present reality is really a very arbitrary thing. One lives and works and acts in certain ways because there is a Man who has set up walls and bars and handcuffs—and if necessary, clubs, teargas and guns—all arbitrarily ordering the reality.

It's hard to convey to others who haven't been in prison (although any high school kid should be able to get some feel for this) the degree of frustration that grows out of having the physical conditions of one's life controlled by others with greatly differing value systems. Further, the pettiness with which this control is exercised is almost unimaginable.

Dealing with the realities of prison is likely to make a lot of changes in one's conception of reality when the prisoner is released. For one thing, we tend to find that a lot of what we previously considered to be necessary reality appears to be every bit as arbitrary as prison life was. The amount of bullshit in this society is simply overwhelming (most jobs; most consuming trips; big, glossy supermarkets full of glossy, nutritionless food; the prison aspect of schools, people's indifference to each other). All this is especially hard on those of us released with parole, required to hold down jobs and forced to live fairly conventional life styles. This whole trip turns out to be more prison than we had formerly noticed. However, the most heartening thing we find upon our release is that many friends who didn't go to prison are coming to similar conclusions about the reality of America. Prison was a school that drove home lessons on personal levels. And now, like so many others, we find ourselves reaching out for ways to change the reality and join together in building more human life styles and social structures.

Editorial Comment: We note that the involvement the war resisters had with protesting the war didn't figure heavy in their prison reflections. Apparently, prison life has a way of making everything on the outside unreal and remote, forcing the prisoner to swap old horrors for new ones, a napalm war in a distant land for one's own oppression behind prison walls.

TOMMY WHO'SE goin' to prison

... where ya going ... Cherie ... my darling young sun? ... at 8:34 ... el dia, 3/12/71. And the hand? A key ... to turn the locks of steal ... or the mind. From Don and Terry.

Superstitious? 13/16?

How about a black cat? or a black and white cat? a litter? A black letter print:

I'll be right back. At 1:30. On 3/14/71.

To who'se men and women that find themselves deliberating on ... the Way of prison ... will ya feel me ... a similar struggle, trying to get a ... way ... from living in a Roman city-state. The gnawing fear of solitude ... challenged ... perhaps, of ending inner strength ... of crimson and white, exploding ... waiting! Steeds of great passion ... with sometime desires of an even flow, other times aware ... only ... of fair struggle.

... "cops don't need ya ... and man, they expect the same" ... so sings Judy Collins.

Oh, Pig! Give me the strength to keep caution at my side, and ... Roman law ... aware? in my head. the psychology of prisons prove the outcomes of returns ... numerical, and so related to the numbers of time.

Are the teachings of prison of fairness, time, and sex? Or mostly, of Roman law ... society, fearful of its perpetuation? Loneliness, the damming of forceful human rivers ... expressions of any communication minimized, if not desisted.

do Roman soldiers want a hearing with you? And for What? ... will be your criminal issue? And ... How ... numbered a day shall it find you?

can you find today's Solitude, today's reflection of a-loneness? Breathe evenly; a hand openly placed ahead ... the windows of any mind. Looking out and around fingers Signals realize cold and warmth as symbolic of a physical, mental ... state ... of Being.

Roman police states want to continue maintenance of prisons: consequence

People of the Third World will sometime face Tommy who'se introduction, or return to an existence ... described by time—fearful of love.

what of life in a monastery Garden? mirrored at 2:03 on march fifteenth, nineteen seventy-one.

Prisoners? are we.

Terry 6.45

PEOPLES ART AUCTION



works by Ed Badajos
Al Blaustein
Charles Bragg
Ron Cobb
Antonio Frasconi
Leon Golub
Chaim Gross
Corita Kent
Jacob Landau
Arnold Mesches
Elizabeth Leigh Taylor
and many others

Location: 707 N. Hillcrest, Beverly Hills Date: April 4th, Sunday

ART WORKS MAY BE VIEWED FROM: 12:30 to 2:00
AUCTION STARTS AT 2:00 SHARP

All Proceeds Go To:
Committee to Defend Ridenhour and Warren, Political Prisoners

THE VENICE FIVE

by Peter Young

The five Venice people who have been held in jail in Tucson, Arizona since last November for refusing to testify before a Federal grand jury were released March 26 with the end of the grand jury's term. At the same time they were resubpoenaed to appear before the next grand jury April 7.

The five movement activists—Pam Donaldson, Teri Volpin, Dave Scheffler, Karen Duncan and Lee Weinberg—were called to testify last year in what was supposedly a grand jury investigation of interstate explosives purchases. Instead, it became apparent immediately that the Federal prosecutor was using the hearings as an excuse for a wide-ranging "fishing expedition" into the Los Angeles movement. When the five refused to cooperate they were jailed for contempt for the remainder of the grand jury's term.

The jury's term was scheduled to end March 31, and at first it was feared that it might extend its term an additional nine months, thus extending the jail time of the five.

Instead of extending the term, the Federal prosecutor had the grand jury terminated early because it was not returning any of the indictments that Mitchell's Justice Department wants against Los Angeles people. The Tucson Federal Attorney will now convene another grand jury that he hopes will give him his indictments.

The subpoenas to the new grand jury are nothing more than continued harassment of the Venice Five for their political views and for their work in Los Angeles.

Although the five were entitled to be released when the old jury was terminated March 23, the government continued to hold them. They were released three days later, only because their lawyers insisted they were being held illegally. This shows clearly that the Attorney-General's office, which is busy using political trials to suck votes for the Nixon Administration, has no regard for the Constitutional rights of the people.

The Venice Five must not feel isolated from the community they've lived and worked in—we must not be isolated from each other! On April 10 at the Community House, 468 Howland Ave. (in the canals), there will be a mass rally and get-together for people in Venice and throughout Los Angeles. We'll be able to tell everyone just what questions they're asking in Tucson, what indictments and political trials might be the outcome of this grand jury, and how we've begun to learn how to fight political grand juries and conspiracy trials. **SPREAD THE WORD**



letter from tucson

BY LEE WEINBERG

It has been said that an experiential model of learning has an impact: it is in that sense that I would like to share my latest learning experience. I entered Sybil Brand Prison as a raw nerve—and every moment entered me as shock waves cutting to the deepest core. Therefore all was seen in glaring clarity.

I had knowledge of prison and some understanding of the causes of jails before this past week; the difference in my understanding now is the difference of Sartre's sorrow to Nizan's hate. It is a week now since we left Sybil Brand and as the exhaustion and shock ebb and strength wells up, what is left is a deep, deep anger—a rage that leaps from this moment to centuries of human horror of a civilization raised upon the destruction of life. In only three days and four nights, I—like Merlin's charge—became many things.

I was a junkie kicking for two days and nights with no help, violently disgorging the poisons of ten years of heroin and chased by death into every cell of her body—and helpless. I have been a mother of two weeks whose baby—seen once—is stolen by the courts because she is not fit in their eyes; and in her eyes the disbelief: "How do they know that at 19, I will never be different; how do they know I can't love my baby?" I have been a woman so stripped of her worth, that her only value is reflected in the number of times she has OD'd on reds and made it. I have been women who prefer jail to streets, their only alternative. Women who, denied their minds, their bodies, their dignity and their souls, cling to the one thing allowed—their faces, their wigs and their polished nails as a gift of self-respect.

We were arrested Tuesday night at 7 p.m. when eight men—marshals and agents—entered our house, searched us, looked for any excuse to search the house (found none), handcuffed us and removed us. We were not allowed last hugs and kisses, we couldn't take anything—jackets, money, shoes, etc. By 9 p.m. we had been booked in at the Federal Building and arrived at Sybil Brand Institute for Women (Ms. Brand was a philanthropist concerned with rehabilitation of women, gave the money to build this model prison). We sat in various rooms equipped only with seven-inch wide metal benches until 6 a.m. We were at various times, printed, photographed, bathed, searched in every orifice, sprayed with disinfectant and dressed in prison blue. There were 18 women booked at the time; besides the three of us, only two were not on drugs or prostitution and only one besides us was there for the first time. At 6 a.m., I was taken to intake cell; it was very crowded and several of us were given mattresses on the floor underneath a lower bunk bed. We were all exhausted and thoroughly chilled from the night—the women who during the long wait were still up on drugs began to come down and some began withdrawal. Every time we crawled into bed, there was another reason to be lined up and shuffled somewhere—or to just stand by our cells while searches were made, names checked, punishment doled out or threats made. By mid-day those of us who had come in the night before could barely stand straight and the voices continually roared out: "Straighten that line," "Hold your heads up," "Don't lean against that wall." As we shuffled in our lines to the dining room the woman in front of me just keeled over. I caught her head just before it hit the ground, laid it down gently and silently moved on—no one broke step. The only sound was the matron screaming at me, "Straighten up—leave her alone—keep your line straight." The tone of voice was like a slap, an accusation, a demand for smiling obedience; I remember only once being spoken to, not ordered. The second night was filled with screams, sounds of the women in the next cell kicking and the matron's refusal to get her help.

The third night, we slept. Physically it was a "model" prison: the cells were painted colors like pink, blue, yellow, etc. The dormitories of 60 women had music continually, large windows, high ceilings, a day room with TV (only two hours a day), there was a beauty parlor and you were allowed to check out scissors, nail files, etc. etc. The dining room was attractive with round tables of natural wood, seating four each—but when you sat at them you could eat only—no talking, look straight ahead (not at each other or anyone else) and eat fast. I wonder if Ms. Sybil Brand understands that a human soul is not fed by colored walls and "modern" facilities—and women aren't rehabilitated by setting their hair. But how could she know? Sybil Brand Institute was no different than everything around it—it just had fewer pretenses and an up-front statement to "adjust to the order around you."

This was the real horror: it was just the same, just larger and more intense. It was our society through a hall of mirrors—we live in it every day—and for many the prison outside those walls was even worse. It was merely a refined process of ripping away identity, allowing no decision making or responsibility and rendering you useless. Everyone knew how to behave there, because each had gone to school at some time. Enough—there is more, but later.

I had thought—a secret weapon—atalisman against evil forces and I raised it as an incantation: that was the hope and faith that is manifest by all of you. I continually conjured up images as shields: orange clouds of billowy silk, the first sunset when I was home, a kiss on the cheek from Beth, the candlelit faces of our study group, Marca and Haley clutching their puppies and bravely shouting "Goodbye," "Don't worry"—one by one each of your faces, your smiles, your eyes and sound of you slowly meshing, 50 separate spheres becoming a sphere of 50—learning that freedom is not given, it is seized from within and built around you.

Venceremos, companeros.

CHINO STATE PRISON

by Diane Wayne

The Venice Legal Services office is presently investigating prison conditions at the Chino State Men's Facility in Chino, California. There is an institution on that facility which is called the Palm Hall Adjustment Center. That name is just a euphemism for what is commonly known as the "hole," or solitary confinement.

All of the people that we have contacted in Palm Hall have been in the hole for one or more years. That means that these men have been locked up 23 hours a day in a cell 5 feet by 8 feet. These cells have no windows and the prisoners are never permitted to see sunlight. They are watched by armed guards 24 hours a day. The cells are freezing in the winter and so hot in the summer that the inmates have to flood the floors with water and lie in it to breathe. The noise is intolerable in the metal and cement structure.

The conditions at the prison are so hideous that they are unbearable. The one hour a day that the men are let out of their cells they are permitted to do one of two things—take a one-minute shower or stay in an exercise room that is approximately 8 feet by 35 feet and inside the same structure as their cells. All meals are served in the cells, sometimes cold. Visiting is monitored and rare.

The boredom is intolerable. It is designed to break all men of any "fight" or "will" they have to oppose the oppressive prison system. The officials are terrified of any left political organization. All political books and magazines are considered contraband, including *Mohammed Speaks* and *The Confessions of Nat Turner*.

All correspondence, including that to state and federal representatives and to attorneys, is read and censored.

In short, the conditions at Chino Palm Hall are worse than in any POW camp. The men who are in there are what prison officials call incorrigibles. That means that the men are those who are brave and strong enough to stand up for what they believe in. They represent some of the most beautiful people in the prison population. But to the prison officials they are dangerous—they include political organizers, Black Muslims, radicals and people who dare to challenge the prison officials in court actions charging brutality and misconduct. Many of these people have been placed in the hole because they have dared to express their political and religious beliefs.

Last Friday a federal judge in San Francisco threatened to enjoin the state from sending any more prisoners to the county jail in Santa Rita, calling the conditions there absolutely dehumanizing. The situation at Palm Hall and almost every other adult detention facility in this state is the same as Santa Rita. The California Department of Corrections is a multi-million dollar business that has a great deal at stake in maintaining the tyranny over the prisoners so that their system does not fall. They will fight long and hard to maintain the system of exploitation and dehumanization that presently exists.

We are planning to file a suit in federal court challenging the conditions at Palm Hall as cruel and unusual and in violation of the 8th Amendment to the Constitution of the U.S. We will also ask that the procedures for putting someone in the hole be changed. Presently there is no hearing, no counsel and no chance for an inmate to fight the arbitrary orders of the prison officials sending them to solitary confinement.



GRASS ROOTS POLITICS.....

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF VENICE:

Having realized the necessity for an international socialist revolution for the fulfillment of our dreams and visions of worldwide love, peace and happiness, we dedicate ourselves to the following program:

1. Lowering the price of bricks and increasing the size of lids;

2. Taxing ourselves a fair amount of our profits to help subsidize Movement projects;

3. Because we have contacts in the course of our business with so many people who are potential revolutionaries, we intend to seize the opportunity to educate and organize them politically;

4. We reaffirm that marijuana is a revolutionary, self-realizing, life-affirming and holy herb, and that on the other hand drugs like speed, reds and smack are counterrevolutionary and destructive. Moving on this, we urge all heads to cut off the use of uppers and downers, but especially we urge all dealers to realize the bad karma in dispensing this trash and to refuse any further trafficking in it.

Those who persist in harming the interests of the masses will be dealt with like the enemies they are.

We hope to see more dealers joining us in realizing their social responsibilities.

STP - Serve The People

League of Revolutionary Pot Dealers

TO THE FREE VENICE BEECHHEAD

We of the Rainbow Ashram Venice (RAV) have been talking about the revolutionary pot dealers letter that's being printed in the underground press around the country. We can't decide if there really is any "League of Revolutionary Pot Dealers," but the ideas in the letter have to be taken seriously anyway.

We know that the liquor industry pays many millions of dollars in taxes to the government every year. And we know how this money is spent—for guns and cops and bombs and helicopters to oppress and destroy free people everywhere, from Vietnam to Venice.

Our thing is grass, not alcohol. But for all the money that moves behind grass, none of it goes toward defending our communities against the threat.

We can deal in Venice because the community is our market and our protection. We are aware that the Man is moving from many directions to off us and our community. It's not our particular thing to get into politics, even movement politics. But we realize that the movement people working to save Venice are working in our interest. So the Rainbow Ashram is donating one dollar to the movement for every lid we buy, and every time we score a key we give ten dollars to the movement—a dollar for every lid, and a lid for every key.

Money is power—power to the people!

THE COURSE OF HUMAN EVENTS

In the cause of organic consumer services, we thought the community would want to know what the price includes when it buys at New Pars Health Food Store. While a neighborhood woman was being interviewed for a job in the upstairs office, the man behind the desk suddenly got on the phone, called down to the store, and chewed out an employee for flaking off. Seems New Pars has a closed circuit TV system with hidden cameras, not only for spotting shoplifters but for keeping an eye on the help. But New Pars isn't spendthrift. Before they opened they got a crew of community women to spend a week cleaning out the two stores, without pay but on the promise of jobs when they opened. When they opened none of the women was hired.

The cooperative nursery school at Paloma and Ocean Front has lost its meeting place because of earthquake safety regulations. Known as the Venice Preschool, the group had been using one of Werner Scharf's storefronts rent-free since last Oct. If you know of a place, call Carol Ross at 392-3828, or Joanne Faust at 396-3423.) Once the group gets a location they plan to expand and take in school-age kids. Tuition is \$20 a month, plus one half-day a week helping at the school.

JUDO AND KARATE GI'S. Free Venice will buy used judo and karate gi's, jackets and pants separately or together. Call Bob, 392-8345.

After a number of months a small group of people have come together to discuss, plan, and get involved in child care work in the Venice neighborhood. If you have a child or do not, if you are male OR female, and see child care facilities as one of the most important needs in developing a Free Venice, please call Jim at 396-4182.

A Discussion Workshop is being organized for the benefit of all interested high school students. As concerned young adults, we feel that most of the subjects that are truly relevant are being neglected in the normal classroom procedure. We want to dig deeper into subjects such as American propaganda, migrant laborers in the U.S., overpopulation and parent-child relationships to find out where it's really at. There is a very together lady who has a broad understanding of our social problems and can be helpful in providing us with an opportunity to get it together in our heads. We are wide open to any suggestions you may have concerning the Workshop. Please call soon. Jessica, 392-3521.

Every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. there is body movement therapy at the Venice Pavillion (Ocean Front Walk & Windward). Bring bodies, musical instruments, thoughts, dreams and friends.

Anyone interested in learning or teaching any kind of dance please call Jean, 399-4050.

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PEACE AND FREEDOM PARTY

PFP CHOICES FOR L. A. PRIMARY

The Venice Peace and Freedom Party is making the following suggestions for voting in the L.A. city Primary election on Tuesday, April 6. There are no PFP candidates on the ballot due to the exclusion of Rick Davidson, who expected to run for City Council. The PFP suggestions:

FOR MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL, 6th District, which includes part of Venice:
WRITE-IN Rick Davidson.

FOR MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Office No. 1: No recommendation other than do not vote for J.C. Chambers.
Office No. 3: No recommendation.
Office No. 5: Baxter D. Smith.
Office No. 7: Margaret Wright.

FOR MEMBER BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Office No. 1, unexpired term: No recommendation.
Office No. 1, full term: Willard Harper. Barbara C. Peterson is also acceptable.
Office No. 2: David J. Boubion, Jr.
Office No. 3: Kenneth S. Washington.
Office No. 5: David Lopez Lee. James L. Little and John McKee Pratt are also acceptable.
Office No. 7: Jeffrey M. Elliot.

ELECT A RADICAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL IN SANTA MONICA

We need 204 people to walk the 102 precincts in Santa Monica on Saturday and Sunday, April 3rd and 4th. With your help, we think we can elect PFP candidate Jack Hampton to the Santa Monica City Council. Join us APRIL 3 and 4 beginning at 9:30 AM at the Venice PFP office 1727 W. Washington Blvd. For information call 821-8526 between 1 PM and 6 PM except Sunday or call the Hampton Committee 396-2575 and 475-3495.

IF JACK CAN RUN,
THEN YOU CAN WALK!

PEACE AND FREEDOM PARTY



HAMPTON

Canal News

by Steve Clare

The first item on the L.A. Planning Committee's agenda last Tuesday (March 23) was the petition of the Venice Canal residents to form a Renewal Area Agency. Judy Goldberg, a petitioner, attempted to make a formal presentation to the committee but was stopped by the chairman, Councilman Bernardi, on the grounds that the petitions were not verified and therefore not legal. "Go and get another petition, but this time get it verified," said Bernardi, closing the hearing. Responsibility for verification, however, seems to rest with the City, not the petitioners. Kent Brownridge, field deputy for Councilwoman Pat Russell, agreed. "It's the City's responsibility to verify the petition. That's a lot of work, but it's up to them to determine if the signers live at the addresses given."

This was only the latest of a series of attempts by the City to sabotage Canal residents' efforts to prepare an alternative to the City's proposed thirty million dollar urban renewal project for the Canals. In fact, the petitioners suspect that there is a conspiracy to defeat their plan. From the first meeting with the Planning Department there was continuous disagreement. The Department rejected the petitioners' request for independent arbitration and refused to suggest any alternative way of handling conflicts. They likewise refused to meet in the Venice Canals so that petitioners without transportation could attend and participate in the meetings. But the obvious evidence of a conspiracy, or at the very least an unwillingness on behalf of the Planning Department to comply with the intent of the statute is the document presented to the petitioners at a meeting February 17 which is titled Preliminary General Plan-Venice Renewal Area Agency Project. This document not only stated on the title page that it was "prepared by the Department of Planning in cooperation with the petitioners for the Venice Renewal Area Agency" but also was post dated to March. Both assertions were totally untrue. As to the document itself, architects have reviewed it and state that it is virtually meaningless, completely unrelated to what a preliminary general plan should be.

Despite these setbacks Canal residents are continuing to struggle to save their community. Anyone who would like to help should contact Don

THE VENICE FIRE

At 719 Palms Blvd., Venice, in the rear, the Ibarra family of five rented a garage to live in. Landlords don't want families with many children and the Ibarra's didn't have many choices. During the night of March 11 at about 11:30p.m., a fire broke out in the garage.

Senora Ibarra, 24, and two of her babies were burned to death. The youngest daughter survived. Senor Ibarra had been at work when the fire occurred. The charred ruins of the family's few possessions are still standing in a heap.

But for all intents and purposes, the City government is unmoved by the firetrap housing of the poor. Landlords are protected as a special interest group. For them, it is good business to rent shacks at high rents to the poor. Poor areas are redeveloped only when this means profits for the money interests. The City feels it has the power to condemn homes and move poor people about to make way for parking lots, luxury housing, shopping parks and freeways. When it comes to the problem

And the Callousness of Power

of decent housing in the ghetto, the City shuts its eyes. Since only "riffraff" (a term used by realtors and other such) live between the oceanfront and Lincoln, it's all of no consequence to them. This is the callousness of power. And this is at the heart of the tragedy that has struck this young family in Venice.

A Plea for Help From Vic Garcia

Organizations and residents within the community are raising funds in an effort to aid the stricken Ibarra family. Donations are needed to help bring other members of the Ibarra family who live in Mexico to the U.S. and to help Mr. Ibarra get started again.

Please send your contributions to:

Mr. Ibarra
La Causa Youth Center
1043A Washington Blvd.
392-5348

Hung Jury

by Spy

"Are any members of the jury members of the Peace and Freedom Party?" asked Judge Pat Mullendore of Division 17, L.A. Municipal Court. So opened jury selection after six days of preliminary legal motions in the case of City Hall vs. FREE VENICE, i.e., the criminal case against Rick Davidson for allegedly disrupting a Los Angeles City Council meeting. Rick, along with 75 other Venice residents attempted to present to the Council a Community alternative to the City's 26 million dollar pork barrel Venice Canal Plan.

Rick claims that, "While the Council's failure to let people from Venice speak is unconstitutional it is just another example of City Hall's total disregard for the people presently living there and the City's colonial attitude toward poor communities in general."

Marge Buckley, Rick's attorney/wife, said that "despite the early rising of the Peace and Freedom issue it was difficult raising the real political issues surrounding Rick's arrest, such as: who owns and controls Venice; property rights vs. human rights; and why doesn't government—local, state and national—solve the problems of the poor rather than continually move them from one ghetto to another."

"The judge's question to the prospective jurors about party affiliation only proves that the court has joined with the rest of the Los Angeles power structure—City Council and administrative agencies—to drive low-income people out of the Venice community," declared John Haag, former Chairman of the California Peace and Freedom Party and presently the Party's national committeeman from California.

"Since when does a voter's political affiliation become a factor in a criminal trial?" Haag questioned. "If a member of the Democratic State Central Committee were on trial in Judge Mullendore's Court, would prospective jurors be asked whether they are registered Democrats? We doubt it, and the question only revealed prejudice on the part of the judge and his attempt to spread that prejudice to the jury trying Rick Davidson."

But the judge's efforts failed, along with the City Attorney's efforts to put Rick away... the jury hung, 7 to 5, and had to be dismissed. Still the City refuses to give up, and it demanded a retrial which has been set for April 19. They don't care how they spend taxpayer's money, do they?

What's happening in Tucson?

**18 MONTHS IN PRISON
for 5 venice residents**

Find out WHY

**APRIL 10 1 PM
COMMUNITY HOUSE 468 howland ave.**

STREET THEATER FOR VENICE by David

How much can we say? What acts are subject to arrest? Don't we know that only the President is authorized to determine insurrection? What have we to fear? The President hasn't even declared war in Southeast Asia, much less insurrection in Venice.

Yeah, but that's the point: the FBI is authorized to apprehend and detain any person whom there is reasonable ground to believe probably will engage in or will conspire with others to engage in certain future illegal acts.

How many public hearings of the Woodland at the Venice Community House, 468 Howland Avenue (821-6101), or Rick Davidson at Neighborhood Legal Services (392-4177).

Park Commission will go unattended by those people it directly affects? We as residents of Venice know that the city is simply an extension of the State. Can City Hall and Park Department ordinances control our lives? What is the justification of an ordinance that inhibits freedom of speech and assembly?

How much is too much? Those interested in forming a *Guerrilla Mime Troupe* in order to focus community attention and action on relevant problems call David Christopher, 821-3538. If you pound a drum or play a horn, then let's form a band of gypsies and get it on this Spring. Venice needs a street theatre. Besides, harlequins and deaf mutes are not subject to arrest.

FRIENDS OF THE BEACHHEAD

RUTHIE from the bakery
MINA EVELYN ANNE

AARON OF VENICE IS HERE

His parents, Lynn and David, acting in his behalf, have made him a charter member of the Free Venice Infants Liberation Front.

ALL POWER TO THE VENICE PEOPLE

J. B. POLLARD, the mechanic

Though I know that evenin's empire has returned into sand, vanished from my hand, left me blindly here to stand but still not sleepin'; my weariness amazes me, I'm branded on my feet, I have no one to meet, and the ancient empty street's too dead for dreamin'. (Photo: Richard Hasher; Lines: Dylan.)

