

FREE VENICE

BEACHHEAD

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CANINE CONTROVERSY

by Carol Fondiller

O.K. let's get one thing straight. I am one of those people who believe in the old adage "birds are birds, dogs are dogs, cats are people".

I also believe that living in a recreational semi-urban area like Venice that dogs, particularly large, undisciplined hounds have no business being out jumping on children, old people, and cute short people such as I, perennially barking and prowling.

I believe that if one owns a dog that needs a lot of exercise, be prepared to run the four minute mile—I don't see why I should be the recipient of your dog's eccentricities just because you are not a health nut and refuse to run with your doggie—I am not your doggie's keeper.

I don't resent dogs as much as I resent the holier than thou attitudes that emanate from a lot of canine owners. They seem to feel that their animals have the right to run amok regardless of the consequences to people, and yes, to dogs who are leashed and to older, more fragile dogs.

About a month ago, some children were walking along the beach with their dog (on a leash) when some other children unleashed a pit bull, an animal who is a gentle, friendly canine to people, but a

neurotic and sometimes vicious animal, because no limits have been set on the dogs behaviour. It's an interesting fact that likeable and courteous people have likeable and courteous dogs.

Some people get cute little puppies and don't train them because they're so darling. But these sweet little fur balls grow up sometimes into 180 lbs. of appetite, bark, and teeth. Then the owners discover that little "Karma" costs money to feed and care for. These dogs and dogs who get lost or jump the fence in a fit of passion are from the moment they leave their premises, unleashed and stray dogs.

There is an agency called the Department of Animal Regulation that is supposed to hold these animals until the owner claims them, or until someone else takes them. The animals are held for a number of days and then are supposed to be destroyed humanely. The Animal Regulation Department is empowered to check pet stores for sanitary conditions and to act upon reports of cruelty and negligence to animals, and to cite people for keeping an animal that is hazardous to health and safety of others, i.e., a dog that barks constantly while the owner is away, or bites people.

FLASH!
CITY HALL IS OURS!

by Carol Fondiller

Venice City Hall, occupied for many years by the Los Angeles Police Department, and repository of many memories for some Venice Residents, is now vacant.

This wonderful piece of art-deco architecture would be perfect for the Venice Town Council meetings. It has parking places, it's fairly central and damn it, it's ours! It's our Venice City Hall. Los Angeles took it away from us and put in their occupying forces! Now, at last, they have left it! (For the bigger and better fortress on Centinella), City Hall belongs to the people!

paying customers.

About a year ago, I was in the heart of beautiful downtown Venice (Windward Ave. to be exact), when a large dog decided that I was a juicy morsel and to take a sample without my permission.

When I screamed in pain and outrage, I was told by the owner that I must have had "bad vibes". Dog and owner left the immediate environs. This incident cost me several dollars. Naturally I paid full costs. I think the owner left for Oregon, and I sincerely hope the dog died from an excess of my bilious spleen.

I begrudge writing about dogs when the North Beach area is under the guns of the speculators and high rises. It seems to me that we are being squeezed out by high rents while drowning in doggie droppings. Maybe that's part of the "quaintness" of Venice, but if you want to see real quaint, go to some of the isolated villages of India and Mexico—there you'll see dogs really enjoying their "freedom", i.e. suffering from malnutrition, dying in ditches, and sharing rabies, distemper, and worms among themselves.

Dogs have been bred for people to exploit. They have been bred to take commands and to be adoring companions.

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This agency is supposed to pick up animals that are diseased and/or vicious. In other words, this agency deals with people's cruelties and "mistakes" towards "our four-footed friends" and dispose of them quietly, so we can forget these slips from grace and get on with the business of loving one another.

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Make your feelings known!

Call Councilwoman Pat Russell at 393-9931. Write to her at: Room 260, City Hall, 200 N. Spring St., L.A. 90012. There are plans afoot to use it for things other than a community meeting place. Meanwhile, the Venice Town Council has no place to meet, no phone number, and at this point, not even an office. The Town Council needs the place to get on with making government for the people, by the people and of the people more of a reality!

Free Venice Wahoo! Yay! Huzzah!



DESTRUCTION FOR PROGRESS— The landmark Santa Monica Library built in 1904, in the process of being demolished to make way for a new bank, Century Federal.

photo by Linda Lucks

BYPASS BYPASSED

by Carol Fondiller

If the people who live here were not so busy fighting for projects they are diametrically opposed to, many worthwhile and beneficial ideas could be formulated toward maintaining quality of life, instead of quality!

"We feel the bypass will not benefit the Venice area, instead it will become nothing more than a route through Venice and will not best serve the residents or businessmen of Venice, but will only add more congestion to the area. The only ones to gain from this would possibly be those who hope to financially from the increased access to our area, enabling them to justify additional building of the type not considered desirable to the residents."

"We of Venice intend to fight for what we we feel is right and beneficial for us whether our elected representatives agree with this thinking or not. We will use whatever means are necessary and let those who dissent beware, for we can and will be worthwhile adversaries of this you can be sure!!"

"The time to stop and listen is NOW!!!" My, my, my! I turned the pages. Goodness me! Marina By Pass— a Bureaucratic Boondoggle" written and researched by Ron Hall, property owner—resident of Area 5 East Venice Town Council representative.

These quotes (out of context, but very accurate) jumped at me from the leaflet handed to me by a woman who had "NO BYPASS" in rhinestones flashing across her tee shirt. This is what it's all about, I thought as I found a seat in the already filled Coeur d'Alene school auditorium. I quickly counted heads—give or take about one hundred and fifty people from all areas of Venice. It was like a giant meeting of the tribes. I wondered if we'd all be called outside agitators, Myrtle Wilson of the Venice Chamber of Commerce was there against the Bypass. Rick Davidson of Free Venice, also against the Bypass. People of every political spectrum were jammed into the auditorium, determined to let Councilwoman Pat Russell know that they didn't want Venice to be divided for a freeway (for that is what the Bypass is by any other name) that "takes people from outside of Venice through Venice to get to the Marina or the airport" as Mrs. Wilson was to say later in the meeting. Pat Russell was there and representative of congressman Alphonso Bell, State Senator Anthony Beilenson and Assemblyman Alan Sieroty were there to hear what people had to say about the hated Marina Bypass. Curtis Rossiter, Pat Russell's aide was

handed petitions against the Bypass with three thousand signatures on them. Mrs. Russell said that the signatures were collected by people from the Peace and Freedom Party, the American Independent Party, the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. Mrs. Russell was asked point blank after an hour of listening to people from all over Venice speak against the Bypass, if she would state whether she would support the deletion of the Bypass from the city traffic plan. Well she dodged, parried, and avoided the answer.

However, on January 28 in a letter she sent out to Venice residents, Pat Russell stated that she had called on city engineers to eliminate the Marina Bypass from their plans.

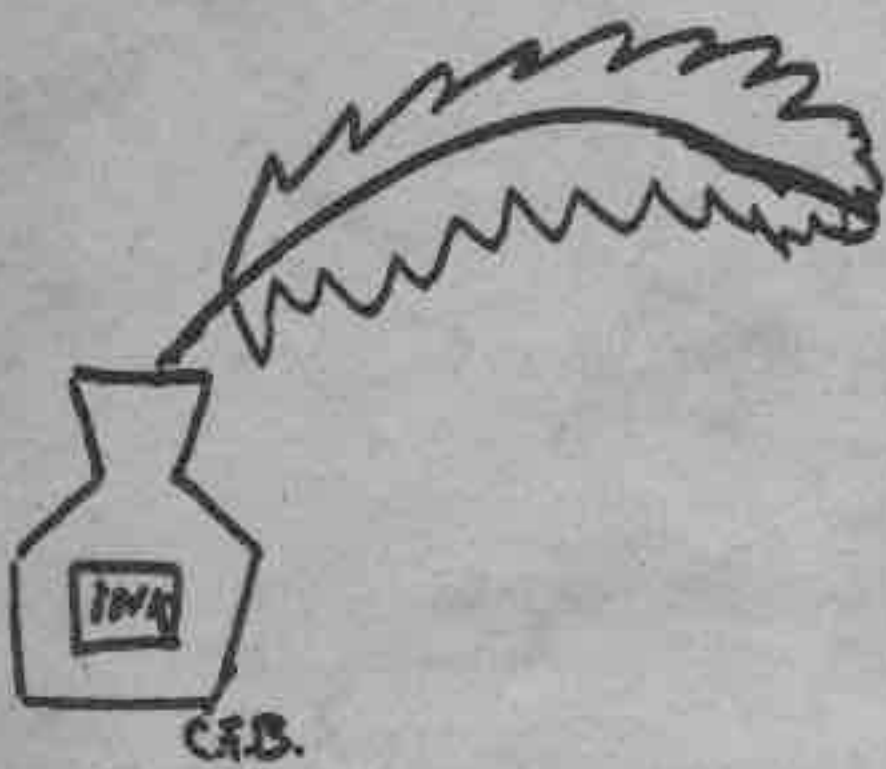
Further on in the letter, she scored the Venice community for "confrontation politics!"

"Community meetings are essential in a democracy, but I envision them as a forum for discussing alternatives, exchanging information and charting a direction—not as a platform for choosing sides and staging a confrontation."

Excuse me, but I disagree. The only way that the city has ever responded to the people who live in Venice has been when people have stood up to the bulldozer bureaucracy. The paragraphs I quoted at the beginning of this article were written by a PROPERTY OWNER—an inside agitator if you please! And I hope that Ms. Russell realizes that most of us would rather be somewhere else than at another meeting to say the same damn things that we've been saying over and over again for years! This is not the only time we've told our elected representatives that we don't want no freeway highway bypass thruway no way no how no where! So excuse us Ms. Russell if our voices seem to get a bit shrill from repeating the same things over and over again. We might get a little loud but perhaps that's because City Hall Councilmen, including Councilman Snyder who "is sick and tired of Venice" doesn't want to hear about Venice—just let it rot! and Councilman Louis Noell who is on the Coastal Commission and has voted consistently with real estate developer's interests, has called Venice people who go down to the Coastal Commission "trash" and told them that "venice has too many meetings" might be a bit hard of hearing.

So, as someone said to Ms. Russell when she spoke against "confrontation politics"—"What other kind is there?"

LETTERS TO THE BEACHHEAD



Dear Beachhead,

I'm pleased and most astonished to see you people transcend your usually low literary standards, in the February No. 50 issue.

The printing on the back cover of Neruda show me something of you. Hopefully I'll see more. Yes?

Just a little note to say do it, do it, and again please.

Printing of literature like that, does something to people, something of value. Unlike your usual trite trite political content.

With concern, yours

Le Voyeurs

The Beachhead is interested in publishing accounts of personal experiences in local (city, county or state) jails, prisons or other detention centers.

Dear Beachhead,

There exists in Venice today a disturbing lack of people who are interested in preserving our city's charm- its historic old buildings. Owners for the most part are ignorant of their property's cultural-historic worth or disinterested in their pursuit of profit. At the same time, the city has granted are no... the cause of preservationists, but surprisingly renters and the North Beach Town Council are also guilty of this selfish short sightedness. The North Beach Town Council's Planning Task Force has asked for an end of the area Councils policy of opposing all new North Beach developments at the Coastal Commission. They have asked to be able to negotiate with a developer if he will guarantee to include a percentage of moderate to low income housing in his project. At this time when Venice is plagued with fortune hunting developers such a change in policy predicts a dismal future for Venice, and her residents. It also shows an ignorance of the tax structure. One condominium or apartment house on the street raises substantially the taxes of the adjoining properties. If they are single family dwellings it will become impossible to maintain them as such, causing them to be torn down for condominiums or apartments and so the process occurs down the street, the houses falling like dominoes. The result of this is a Levittown-by-the-Sea, a poor copy of the Marina still owned by absentee landlords. A few guaranteed low rents are not worth the cultural and architectural ruin of Venice. The character and charm of Venice is inseparable from her old buildings. The historic old homes, the canals, the Westminster Arcade, are integral parts of Venice. Take them away and you no longer have a Venice that is worth fighting to save. To negotiate with the developers is to sell the soul of Venice in exchange for low rent and soulless buildings.

Kathleen Arianne Inches



Dear Beachhead,

The dog letter by Don Pettit in the February issue cites a number of valid discomforts imposed upon people by loose dogs in Venice. It is obvious that Don is not a dog owner however, and so his letter only reflects one side of a more involved issue. His complaints can be remedied by measures less restrictive than always keeping one's dog on a leash, and certainly less oppressive than the current enforcement practices of the Department of Animal Regulation, hereafter referred to as the dogcatcher. The problem in Venice is loose dogs with no homes, or whose owners are too negligent and inconsiderate to take proper care of their furry friends. I have a dog who requires a great deal of exercise. He runs several miles daily, and not being a physical fitness freak, I am incapable of accompanying him with a leash of these jaunts. The beach is an ideal place for him to exercise, and the sight of him splashing through the waves after birds if a source of continual pleasure to me. Because I care about my dog and other people, I see to it that he shits where people do not walk, crossed streets only when it is safe, gets fed so he stays out of trash cans and refrains from attacking pedestrians and cyclist. The dog problem, in short, is created not by unleashed animals, but by out of control animals. It is a crime against life to restrain an animal that is not creating a nuisance; just as we condemn preventive detention of people, we should oppose the leashing of dogs because they might create a disturbance.

The dogcatchers have rightfully earned the enmity of local dog owners through their increasingly Gestapo-like enforcement tactics. Unleashed dogs are subject to arrest and execution by gassing if not claimed within seven days. The owner of an unleashed dog if subject to exorbitant fines if caught in the act of allowing his/her dog to walk unrestrained regardless of whether that dog is creating a nuisance. So when the dogcatcher comes, it is a choice between paying a fine or having the courts or having to ransom your dog out of death row. One way out of this damned if you do, damned if you don't situation is to run, and the alleys of Venice have thus turned into the site of many a chase scene characterized by fear in the face of oppressive force (dogcatchers have a certain amount of police power). One humane humane officer has adopted the reasonable policy of only picking up obvious strays or diseased dogs and responding to specific complaints. He does not take sadistic delight in capturing animals and ticketing or chasing residents, as so many of his co-workers do. An enforcement policy that seeks to eliminate nuisances, rather than arbitrarily enforcing the leash law, would do a lot to improve relations between all concerned in the Great Venice Canine Controversy.

Power to the people and the Puppies

Brian Borsook

Dear Beachhead:

Mary Jane just sent me the January Beachhead Good News. I am one of the dispossessed- me and my kids. We had been renting one of the canal houses for six years when it was sold to a speculator who moved in herself for a couple months so that kicking us out and raising the rent from \$100 to about \$300 was so neatly and cleanly legally assured. When I finally found someplace else to move to which I could afford, one of the Grand Canal Apartments, they wouldn't rent to me because I admitted to receiving some welfare. Pretty naive huh to tell that truth.

Anyway, as old friends became more dear and new ones came to help in that last awful frantic month, the land and the realtors became so cold and resistant (the place didn't want us) that I cooperated in the expulsion. I had no heart for fighting but I have much heart for your fight which I have always felt would succeed.

In love and nostalgia for Venice,

Pamela Dawn
Danville, N. J.

Dear Dr. Zane:

Your column last month contained a letter which suggested that if lobotomies are to be performed on "violence prone" individuals, "then why aren't they cutting up the brains of such people as Nixon, Brezhnev, Mao, Thieu, and most of the leaders of North Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Syria, Egypt and Israel?" Your response was, "these people don't have any brains to cut up." Now I recognize the satiric intent of your column, and that that particular letter was aimed not only at the world leaders you mentioned, among which Nixon and Thieu are certainly worthy targets, but also against the idea of lobotomies and Violence Centers. However, I found the casual lumping of Nixon with Mao, of the leaders of North Vietnam with South Vietnamese Premier Thieu, to be not only unfunny, but politically, intellectually, and morally incorrect. I was particularly surprised at your failure to make a distinction between the North Vietnamese and Premier Thieu, since I know that you personally support the National Liberation Front and the North Vietnamese in their struggle to rid their country of U.S. domination. Given this consciousness, I find it hard to believe that you can equate the violence involved in the incredible level of technological terror that has been rained on the Vietnamese people by the U.S. and its Saigon puppets, with the violence used by the Vietnamese people in defending themselves and struggling for their national liberation. The misdirected humor of that letter can only serve to reinforce the "anti-communist" and "red-baiting" mentality which made the prosecution of the War in Vietnam possible.

While I don't expect you to support uncritically the socialist countries and their leaders, to fail to see a moral distinction between Nixon and Mao is not only "bad taste," which the motto of your column declares to be "timeless," but bad politics as well. Bad taste in the pursuit of humor might sometimes be tolerable; bad politics never are.

Bob Niemann

Dr. Zane-

I thought your letter lumping Mao and the North Vietnamese leaders into the same categories (violence-prone and brainless) as Nixon and Thieu was both inaccurate and irresponsible. I don't think that communist countries should be immune to criticism. We need to study their revolutions, to evaluate them within their own contexts and, if they have made mistakes, to understand why.

But to put them down in a flash of glib humor for being "violence-prone" is to ignore the fact that both North Vietnam and China have been involved in bitter struggles to survive. That they have taken up weapons in those struggles seems to me both intelligent and brave. To confuse those who are fighting for their lives with men like Nixon and Thieu who oppress the living seems a real act of disservice to those of us who are struggling to piece together the elements of a gentle living society in the U.S. today.

Your comments remind me of a paragraph Mark Twain once wrote about people who feel offended by the violence of revolutions. Regarding the French Revolution, he wrote: "There were two 'Reigns of Terror' if we would but remember it and consider it; the one wrought murder in hot passion, the other in heartless cold blood; the one lasted mere months, the other lasted a thousand years; the one inflicted death upon a thousand persons, the other upon a hundred millions; but our shudders are all for the 'horrors' of the minor terror, the momentary terror, so to speak; whereas, what is the horror of swift death by the axe compared with lifelong death from hunger, cold insult, cruelty and heartbreak?.....A city cemetery could contain the coffins filled by the brief terror which we have all been diligently taught to shiver and mourn over; but all France could hardly contain the coffins filled by the older and real terror-that unspeakably bitter and awful terror which none of us have been taught to see in its vastness or pity as it deserves."

Perhaps it's obvious that you speak only for yourself, but since your column is so central to the Beachhead, I want to point out to our readers that you don't speak for all the Beachhead staff. Some of us do not think that the real unspeakable terrors of our lives can be peacefully changed. Allende could have told you that.

G.Y. Dardovich Quinlan

In the two letters of criticism I have received, I am told that the left is not perfect, that mistakes are sometimes made and that these mistakes should be pointed out, and that socialist countries should be criticized when they do something wrong. Apparently, this guideline does not apply to all socialist countries. China and North Vietnam seem to be special cases for certain people. China and North Vietnam cannot do wrong. If on the surface they seem to be doing a fascist act, that somehow can be explained away by these people-they say that China and North Vietnam live in a hostile world filled with enemies and they are forced to do hostile and violent things because of that fact. Bangladesh fought for her independence from what many of us believed to be the oppressive rule of West Pakistan. West Pakistani troops plundered Bangladesh and raped the women and the country during that war. The United States sided with West Pakistan. The United States was criticized for that and deservedly. China sided with West Pakistan but apparently doesn't deserve to be criticized because world "power politics" no doubt forced her to take that position.

I upset some people when I attack Mao. These same people don't mind when I attack the Guru Maharaj Ji or any other person proclaimed as a god by their evangelical followers. These people don't mind when I attack organized religion or pseudo-gods. But they won't allow me to attack Mao. Mao is more perfect than God (if they believed He existed in the first place). I believe that Mao is a great man. If he did nothing more than cause hunger to disappear from China that would be enough for me to recognize him as being a great man. I know that he's done much more good than that. But I don't believe that either he or China is perfect, and therefore, I don't believe that either one should be immune from criticism.

China and North Vietnam may be going down the correct paths for their countries and we have a lot to learn from them. As China is unique, so are we. But China is the way for China and not the way for the United States. We have to find our own path.

I do agree that I did use some unfortunate wording in that question in my column. I do not believe in a clear conscience at

China and North Vietnam are violence prone. I do believe that the leaders of the countries that I mentioned in that question however have not done as much as they could have to help bring about peace in this world and therefore deserve to be lumped together in that sense.

I have been told that our community newspaper should not contain such false and misleading material (by people who have accused the Beachhead of censorship). I have been told that this has resulted in people's consciousness being lowered. I am sorry that my readership is not as well-informed or as insightful as these people seem to be. It upsets me to think that Chairman Mao will no longer take his rightful and esteemed place in history because I have dared to criticize him. Maybe if some of my readers can't forgive me, Mao will.

Jim Zane

Dear Beachhead,

Regarding the comment made by Jim Cookson on my letter in the Beachhead January commenting on the article **Drugs and Religion: The "One way out"**, by Bob Wells in Dec. 1973 Beachhead; I wish to say that wars, starvation, famine, ignorance, inadequate housing and other social evils are all external effects of humanity's collective consciousness.

These external effects will never change unless the human collective consciousness changes. The inner experience of man must change before the outer expression can show the change in its effects. There is no quick salvation that I speak of. This change can only take place over long periods of time as man evolves.

The sooner we get started the better for us all. We can change the outer only by changing the inner first. TAO

With Blessings Along the Way,

Diane Lee

THIS SELF THAT I AM: A MAN'S VIEW OF SEXISM

by Gordon Quinlan

In the depth, you are what a deer is, or your god...

Wilhelm Reich

During the civil rights movement in the 1960's, I felt guilty being white. I worked in the congressional election of a black man named Louis Ford back in Missouri, and mostly what I did was to drive Louis Ford's Ford from one place to another. It was very big in St. Louis to have a white chauffeur just then. I didn't like driving Louis Ford's car very much when he could have driven it just as well, and I didn't enjoy trotting through the ghetto behind Louis Ford as he knocked on doors and kissed the women and gave the secret Masonic handshake to all the men. But I did it anyway. Besides being naive, I was a little bit crazy back in those days, and I figured that since my people had been oppressing the blacks for so long, if it did them good to shit on me for a while, I wouldn't complain.

But I don't feel that way any more. For one thing, Louis Ford came in fifth out of a field of five, which made me question his tactics just a little. And for another, I've aged. The civil rights movement gave way to the peace movement which in turn has given way to the feminist movement. And in the process, I have passed somehow from being 23 to being 33. I may still be crazy, but I'm not quite so naive any more. If Germaine Greer wants me to drive her car, she'll have to ask politely.

In the meantime, I've got some driving of my own to do.

One of the big truths for me is that I came into the world naked. And through no fault of my own. Nobody asked me on the way through my mother's birth canal whether I wanted to take this trip, no less if I preferred to be chocolate or vanilla. I didn't choose my Irish-American heritage. God knows I didn't choose my parents. And I didn't choose my sex. As best as I can remember, I came sliding down this slippery chute into a cold lightning-white room where some bastard grabbed me upside down by the heels, slugged my hiney, and pronounced the solemn decree, "Eeeezabo!" Twenty-nine years later, I figured out what that curious pronouncement meant. "Eeeezabo!" when translated into the King's English means, "He's a boy!" Fate worse than death.

If you want to know what it's like to be a boy, get ahold of Shulamith Firestone's book, *The Dialectics of Sex: The Case for a Feminist Revolution*. I don't know how, but she knows.

What it's like is that you come into the world naked. Naked and gentle and scared and needing the warmth of your mother's body, and your ears hungry for her words, and they grab you and splank you and put you in a white plastic basinette somewhere in the middle of nowhere, and you feel that you will never get back to your mother and you get a lot of time to reflect on the advantages of death, until they take you to another room and cut off a piece of your prick without anaesthetic and shove a plastic bottle in your mouth. Except for the part about your wiener, I don't imagine it's too different from being a girl.

That's one reason, in case you're interested, why all men are perverts: inside us we're just like little girls. Inside but not outside. They take us home and Mommy and Daddy get busy killing that little girl, that little, scared, hungry, lonely child, that bundle of gentleness and need, that self I am.

Actually, it happens to both boys and girls, except that boys as a general rule get it a whole lot worse. In our society, it's accept-

able for a girl to cry and to be cuddled; but for some reason, it's not acceptable for boys. Why is that? Shulamith Firestone says it has a lot to do with the nuclear family and incest taboos, the whole miasma of oedipal conflicts between mother and father and son. I think she is right. But I also see a tremendous importance in that blind brutal force of history which repeats its mistakes over and over without rhyme or reason, without hope or intelligence.

In the suicidal relationship called the American family, one fact is paramount: the man is boss. That is the lie. I learned it as a child. I ate it with my meals, and breathed it in the air. And when I left my childhood home and went to school or work, the lie was there too. Men tried to be strong and women weak. We deceived one another, and finally became what we had always feared.

Now imagine that into that American family of ours a child is born, a boy, a son, gentle and feelingful, alive, a son who has got to throw the lie in the face of his father, will he or nill he, who has got to betray the image of the strong, unfeeling man: because children, whether boys or girls, are all feeling, all gentleness. Children are truly the hope of the human race. The existence of a son creates an intolerable tension between that hope and its destruction, a contradiction between boy and man. One of them will have to change and this is where it happens.

Somewhere between the ages of four and nine, that blind brute force of history which perpetuates its sickness and violence like a mechanical law descends on the child. Around the time when boys march off to school (as if that weren't bad enough), a decision is made by our parents that we will have to grow up. Fate worse than death.

I don't know if I can communicate the massive irreversible trauma this involves. Almost overnight, the boy who has identified with his mother, who was once a part of her body, is rejected by her. He is told to identify with his father whom he has always considered cold and frightening, the hard, loud man who metes out punishment, the monster in his dreams. From now on, the young boy is no longer held by his mother: he is ridiculed if he cries or wets his pants; and he knows, however vaguely, that it is no longer acceptable to be who he truly is. From now on, he will be taught to think of his true self as a fairy, a girl, a sissy or, finally, a queer.

Perhaps I've exaggerated; and no doubt this scenario doesn't happen to all men alike. But though there may be differences, though the trauma may be spread over a period of years, there is no doubt that almost all of us go through this chamber of horrors at some point or other and that we come out of it emotionally destroyed.

Most men are unable to cry. Not just to cry, but to weep. To cry is to let tears fall out of your eyes. But to weep... To weep is to lie on the floor or on your bed and to feel your whole body convulse with loneliness, or lost loveliness, or grief. To cry for hours. To cry your eyes out. To cry like a little baby. To pound on the floor in rage or need or brokenheartedness. It is a deep physical spiritual convulsion. It is one of the few ways out of the tunnel of confusion and despair. If you live in the same dead, pig, concrete, Amerikan, male world as me, crying is like breathing. If you can't do it, your body sickens and dies. Most suicides can't weep. Executives can't weep. Nor can the mad.

And those whose emotions are destroyed are dangerous. Just see how fast and slippery men are, how condescending to the old, how superior to children, how they fear and oppress their fellows, and how they can't see women. Really—men can't see women. Isn't that a flash? We see the needs our mothers never filled for us, the pink and dreamy princesses the teachers

lied to us, the sex-starved love-slave images the merchants sold to us. But we never see who's there. We never see the slow and conscious person that stands in front of us. And we are merciless to those who will not fulfill our fantasies. We walk around in a state of pain, of fantastic tension. Think of a man's body: isn't it uptight? Isn't it going to feel fear and hatred for other living things? Isn't it going to kill animals for sport. Isn't it going to kill its own kind without tears: How would you like to be a man? Men don't like it either.

Men are taught to compete and to succeed. It is a way out of the pain. From high school sports, we go on to business or to war. But for every one who conquers, a million fail; and failure for a person who has been taught all his life to succeed is truly failure. In the end, he can defeat no one but his wife and children whom he hates and who surely hate him. And even those who conquer conquer a dead world, a battlefield strewn with the bodies of those people who could have given love. If it is a truism that men cannot cry, it is also true and for the same reasons that we cannot feel tenderness or love. "Fathers and teachers," Dostoevski wrote, "I maintain that hell is the state of being unable to love." Most men live in hell and in one corner of their hell they have built a place for women.

And in the hell of women there is a special place for men. I know it is heretical these days to say that we are equal in our suffering, to forget who is oppressing whom, who is the butcher and who the bacon, and who profits from the whole goddam mess. And it is unquestionably true that men are in control both of the media and of the means of production, that it is men, far more than women, who are responsible for the continual re-creation and dissemination of the lie. But it is the lie that enslaves us all, that makes men so much more than they really are and women so much less. It is the lie which history and our parents shoved down our throats that deprives women of the chance to live and men of the opportunity to feel.

If it's heretical, then it is. But I'll be damned if I can see who is the greatest loser. If

it is true that we are all sisters and brothers, then we are all being robbed of our one chance to experience the miracle of being alive on earth, of our one chance to touch one another. And while I'm into heresy, I have a hard time sympathizing with those

in the women's movement who wish only to enter the mainstream of American male life. That life is a life of lies, a dead machine wilderness in which we are all quickly or slowly being crushed. We need to destroy those machines that control our lives, to remake that wilderness, to see it quicken again, to find our ways together with those we trust.

I think it is a tragedy that most older men can't change. For most of us to start feeling the twenty or thirty years of unfelt hurt and grief and rage which we carry around in our bodies is simply impossible. Men who are driven by pain to control and dominate will do anything to avoid the truth. They murdered 20,000 in Chile; they invent new slaveries every day.

But there are men who are not like that. There are men, especially the young, who are still able to feel pain and to love, men who feel exhilaration and hope in the feminist movement, men who are working to destroy the lies that deprive us all of sunlight. And sexism is not the only lie. Agism and racism and capitalism and imperialism and all the other sickness that fester at the heart of contemporary American society, everything that keeps us from touching one another and living free in this world that is ours; all that is also the lie, the dragon we are going to kill.

It is unlearning the lie that matters and also changing the world. And there is too much work to do to feel weird or if there ~~is~~ being a man. I want to do that kind of work. I aint driving Louis Ford's Ford no more.

WHO WE ARE

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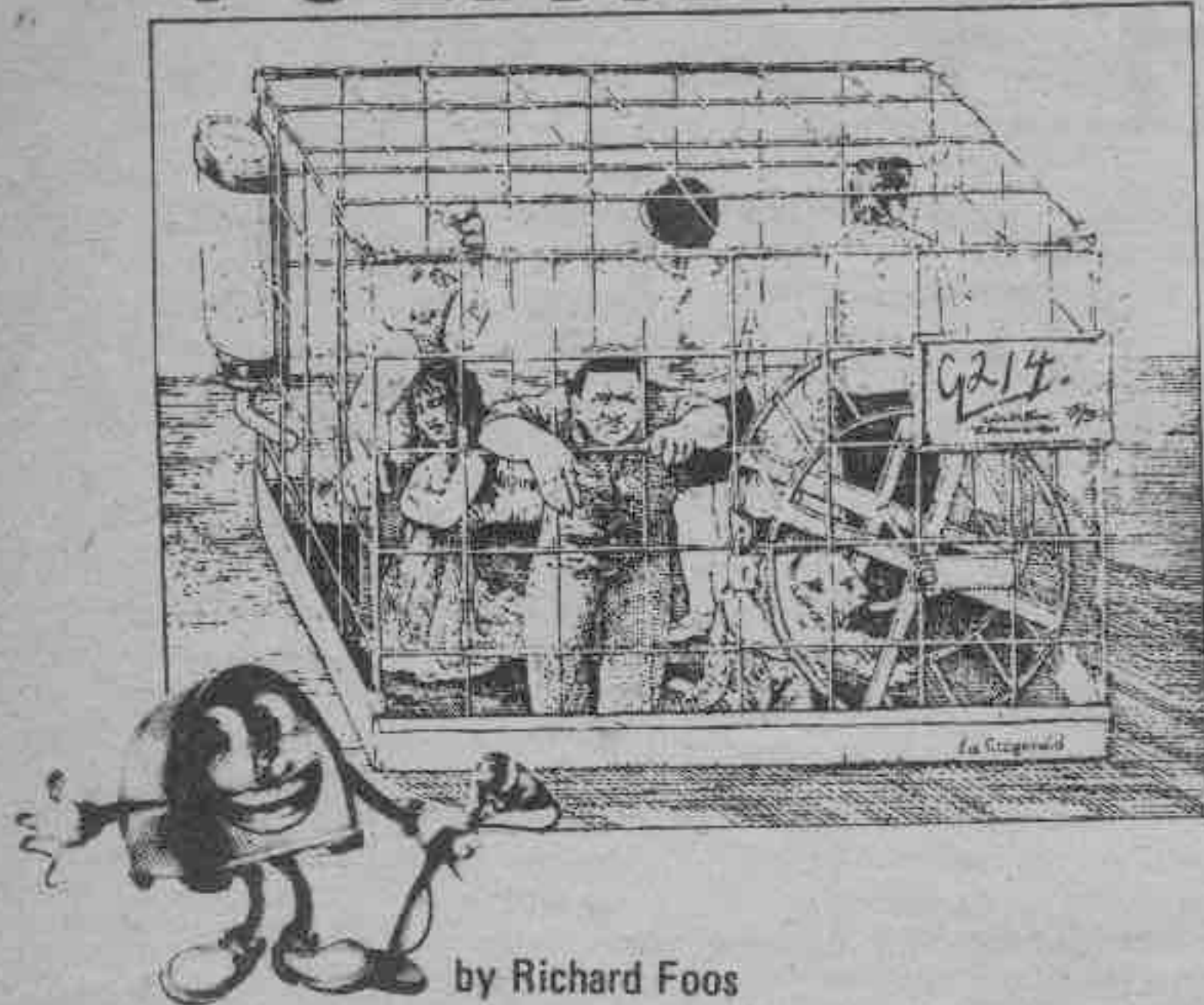
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POLITIDISCS



by Richard Foos

A RECORD REVIEW COLUMN WITH AN EMPHASIS ON RECORDS THAT HAVE AN ENLIGHTENING SOCIAL OR POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

This month's column was written together with guest columnist Dr. Jim Zane.

Recently, a Canadian by the name of Byron MacGregor had a Top Ten record with his rendition of "The Americans" (a recording of an editorial praising our great country for being the most altruistic but least appreciated land on the earth). Although myself and most fellow Americans were tickled pink that a foreigner would think so highly of us, I also feel that it is about time for a native American to speak up for our perfect patriotic paradise. The following is my, a natural-born U.S. citizen, rendition of Byron MacGregor's "The Americans."

THE TRUE AMERICAN

copyright Richard Foos and Jim Zane/
Lumpin Proletariat Music 1974.

(Dr. Jim Hamilton in the background as the author, all time following.)

The United States took another drubbing today. In an independently taken worldwide poll to determine the ten most unpopular countries in the world, America finished ninth, just ahead of Vatican City and ranking considerably behind the eighth placed Dutch Guinea's leper colony. When further questioned, nine out of ten world citizens said they would not live next door to an American or let their daughters marry one. Well, I'm one American who's sick and tired of the unfair treatment we are receiving from our supposed foreign friends.

As long as 10 years ago, I first started reading about revolutions in Laos, Vietnam, and the Dominican Republic. Who, without even being asked, rushed in to squelch these totalitarian uprisings? The Americans did. They have helped control revolutions in Haiti, Thailand, and Cambodia. Today the seeds of revolution are growing right here in America. And has any foreign country rushed in troops and money to help out? Where were foreign troops at Kent State, Jackson State, and People's Park? Yes, in every one of these crises the American military was forced to face these dangerous uprisings all by themselves.

When distant cities are hit by earthquake, the U.S. is there to help. When Managua, Nicaragua had a devastating earthquake, America sent aid, food, and relief to them while people in Appalachia starved. And did the Nicaraguans bother to send aid to the starving people in Appalachia, U.S.A.?

Oil companies, soft drink companies, have all pumped billions of dollars into foreign economies. Now these countries are talking about the greedy, exploitive American. I'd just like to see one of those countries who are gloating over the decline of the U.S. economy build their own Coke machine. Come one let's hear it, does any country in the world have a Coke machine that can give you crushed ice and dispense drinks in over seven different flavors? If so, why don't they use them?

You talk about scandals, the Americans put theirs right up front and are proud of them. Even corrupt politicians are not even harassed nor incarcerated. They are still on our streets getting American dollars from Ma and Pa Bell.

When the Americans get out of this bind, as they will, who could blame them if they said, "To heck with the rest of the solar system! Let someone else provide the world with its necessities! Let someone else make seven day deodorant pads! Let someone else make scented toilet paper! Let someone else hit golf balls on the moon!"

I can name you 250,000 times when the the Americans have raced to help someone else in trouble. Come on, just name me one time when someone else has rushed to help the Americans besides when the French helped us win the Revolutionary War or when Britain helped us enforce the Monroe Doctrine or when the Japanese sent C.A.R.E. packages to unemployed Seattle residents in 1972. Yes, we Americans have had to face it alone.

And I'm one American who's gosh darn tired of having us kicked around. We'll come out of this with our cars bigger and better than ever. And when we do, who could blame us if we turned Mexico into one large parking lot—at least we'd give those Mexicans full employment.

Finally, at the first annual convention of the National Institute for the Xonneration of Ostracized Nationalists, an organization better known by its initials N.I.X.O.N., it was discovered that the organization was bankrupt. This year's scandals had taken all its funds. And nobody but nobody came forward to give a helping hand.

PEOPLE'S LAW



Tenants, have you ever wondered what to do when your home or apartment deteriorates to such a condition that it becomes uninhabitable? Have you ever found yourself groveling before a landlord who believes he has earned his rent by providing little more than four walls? Take heart, poor tenants. When something so basic as the plumbing or the electricity fails, you need not pay for the repair. That is the landlord's obligation; the law is on your side.

If the landlord refuses to repair an essential item within a reasonable time after you have notified him of the need for repair, then you may arrange to have it fixed and you may deduct the cost of the repair from the rent. The "reasonable time" which you have to allow the landlord will vary according to the thing that needs repair. A broken window, for example, might not require as immediate attention as blocked plumbing. If you wait thirty days after notifying the landlord, then you may safely assume that you have waited a reasonable time. Only in very unusual circumstances will a landlord be allowed more than thirty days to comply with your request to repair an essential feature.

If you give the landlord proper notice and wait a reasonable time the law allows you to repair, and deduct the cost of repair, any condition which makes the place uninhabitable. A home or apartment is uninhabitable according to the law if it lacks any of the following: (1) weather protection, including unbroken windows and doors; (2) a plumbing system in good working order; (3) hot and cold water system; (4) heating and electricity; (5) floors, stairways and railings in good repair. You may also use your rent money to clean unsanitary areas which are under the landlord's control.

There are some limitations to the tenant's right to repair at the landlord's cost. The cost of repairs may be deducted from the rent only once every 12 months, and it may not exceed one month's rent.

As every tenant knows, the landlord is in the position of power. What tenant would dare to deduct the cost of repairs from the rent, without expecting to be evicted in retaliation? Well, the Legislature has tried to deal with that problem in its own meek way by decreeing that a landlord may not increase the rent, decrease the services or evict the tenant in retaliation against the tenant's lawful repairs for a period of 60 days for what that's worth.

The right to repair with rent money so worried some landlords that they try to get the tenants to sign away that right. Rental Agreements often contain a provision like "The lessee (tenant) hereby waives all rights under Civil Code sections 1941-1942.5." If the landlord asks you to sign such a lease, you might show that you know your rights by asking that the clause be stricken. Whether it is actually stricken or not makes little difference, because you cannot waive the right to repair necessities with rent money.

The California Supreme Court has recently given its approval to another method of pressuring the landlord. If your place is uninhabitable because of any of the major deficiencies listed above, you may decide to withhold the rent entirely until the necessary repairs are made. The landlord's usual recourse when a tenant withholds rent is to have that tenant evicted. But the State Supreme Court recently decided that uninhabitability is a defense to an eviction procedure. When the landlord takes you to court for eviction the court must reduce the rent owed according to how uninhabitable the place is, and you will not be evicted.

Both of the above methods of pressuring the landlord into making necessary repairs obviously involve substantial risks. A court may rule that your home or apartment was not uninhabitable and that you resorted to your rights prematurely. Under the first method, where you make the necessary repairs out of rent money, you might end up paying for the repairs and rent too. Under the second method you might be evicted for non-payment of rent. You should always consult a neighborhood legal aid office before making repairs or withholding rent.

Eviction is a quick procedure for landlords, but it must be done in strict compliance with the law. A landlord must not try to evict you by harassing or threatening you. He may not try to get you to leave by turning off your utilities. If he does that he is liable to you for \$100 per day. He may not lock you out, personally evict you or take your belongings. If your landlord attempts any of the above, contact a legal aid office immediately (The Community Assistance Center, 392-9011, will also be glad to help).

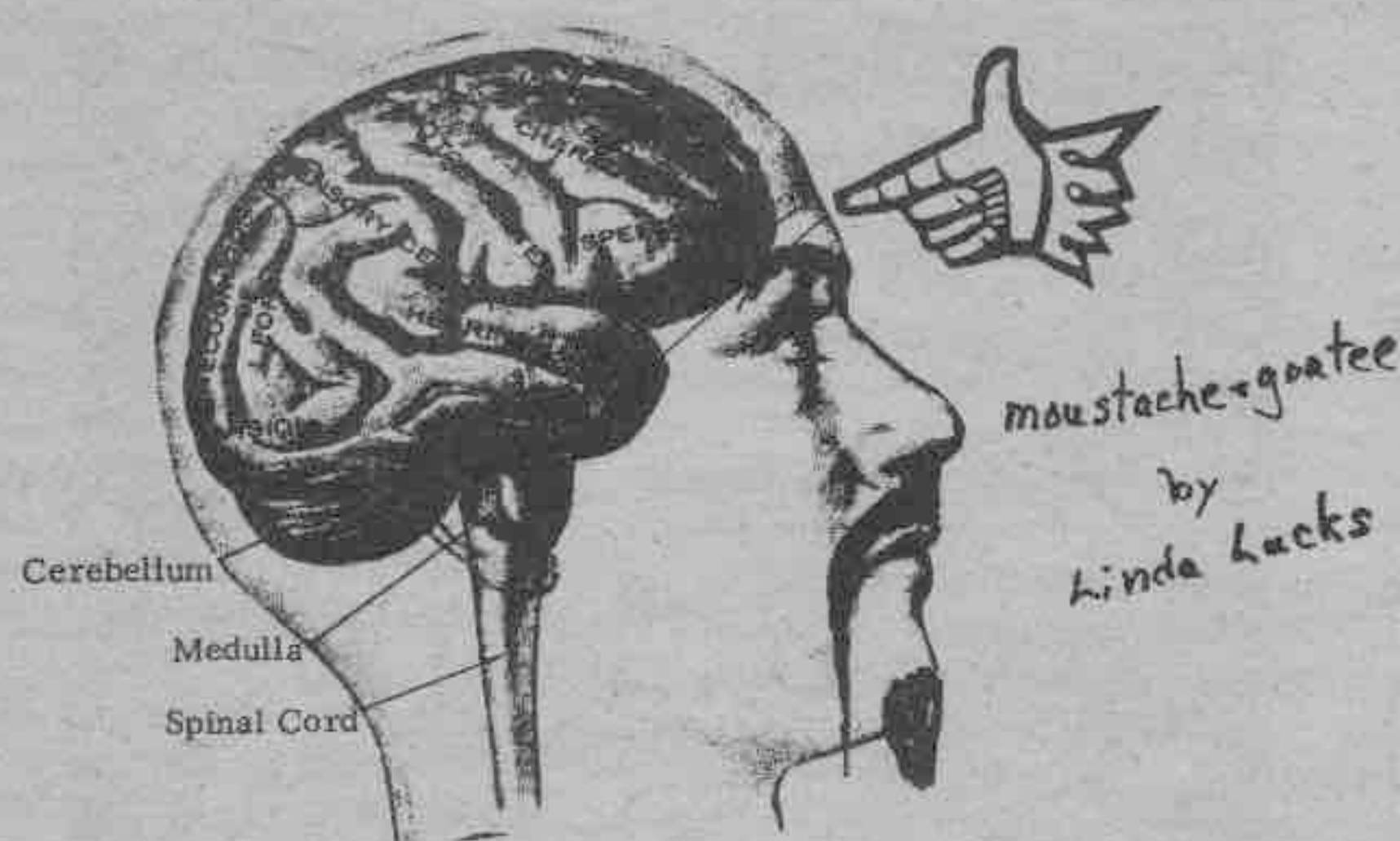
The proper eviction procedure takes at least a couple of weeks. The landlord must first give you a three-day notice to quit the premises. Next, a summons must be issued which allows three days to respond. And if you don't respond, the landlord may get a writ of eviction which permits the Sheriff to evict you after five more days. This may seem like an easy way to get two weeks free rent, but the law gives the landlords much better protection than that. At the end of an eviction the landlord may wind up with a court judgment against the tenant for any "damages" suffered (such as the two weeks rent). The court may triple the amount of damages if it appears that the tenant was malicious. If you have no money then a money judgment may not scare you, but upon legal eviction the landlord is entitled to keep your possessions until you pay him the money the court has awarded.

In sum, the law will support you in pressuring a recalcitrant landlord into repairing an uninhabitable abode, but the standards of habitability are determined by law, not by individual tenants. You should always get legal advice before taking on your landlord.

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

by Jim Zane

This month Dr. Zane is brought to you by America's foremost watch company:

"Hello folks. This is John Cameron Swayzee coming to you from high above the Santa Monica Cliffs hovering over Los Angeles' beautiful Pacific Coast Highway to demonstrate just how much abuse a Timex watch can take. Here comes an unsuspecting pedestrian.

"Hi. I'm John Cameron Swayzee and I'd like to give you our newest Timex watch. Put it on. Thank you.

"Now our unsuspecting pedestrian is walking down the street with his beautiful Timex watch strapped to his wrist. Here comes a car. It's heading for our unsuspecting pedestrian. The car has hit the pedestrian who has the Timex watch strapped to his wrist and he's flying through the air over the side of the Santa Monica palisades. Look at him fall! I see his hand with the Timex watch on it hitting the mountain time after time after time. He's finally reached the bottom of the cliffs and is surrounded by a crowd of people on the Pacific Coast Highway.

"Let me through folks! Let me through! I'm John Cameron Swayzee and we're filming a Timex commercial. Now let's look at his Timex watch. Look at it! It's still running and it's keeping perfect time. After all that abuse, it still keeps perfect time. And that's much more than we can say for our unsuspecting volunteer who happens to be dead. So remember, for watches that can withstand abuse and keep the correct time, get a Timex."

Dear Dr. Zane:

Is President Nixon telling the truth when he said in his State of the Union message that there won't be a recession this year? Skip Tickle

Dear Skip:

Absolutely. There will be no recession this year. Only a depression.

Dear Dr. Zane:

Why have you refused to see *The Exorcist*? Spendthrift

Dear Spendthrift:

Mainly because I hate to stand in lines. First of all, I refuse to stand in line for a couple hours just to get inside the theater to see the picture. Secondly, and even worse, when the scary part comes, I'll hate standing in the line that's rushing to get out of the theater. And finally, I'm waiting until the Fox Venice gets it so I can pay 99¢ to see it billed with *Last Tango in Paris*.

Dear Dr. Zane:

Is there really an energy crisis? William Simon

Dear Simple Simon:

Of course not. The phoney energy crisis was created so the oil companies could make more money. If there was a shortage of energy, the government wouldn't be doing what they've done. For instance, they wouldn't have lowered speed limits. The

government says that because there is a fuel shortage, motorists should drive at lower speeds and therefore conserve gasoline. Offhand, this is a good idea. Offhand, it sounds like there is a fuel shortage and that this is one way of saving fuel. But let's look a little closer at this sneaky government plan. During the month that speed limits have been reduced and cars drove at 55 mph or less, there was a marked decline in car accidents and fatalities. In the end, what this means is: that because of the lowered speed limits, there are now more people alive than there would have been if the speed limits had not been lowered. Therefore, there are more people who want to buy gasoline. So if there actually was a fuel shortage, the government would have raised speed limits and the resulting rise in car-related deaths would have meant a lower public demand for gasoline.

Dear Dr. Zane:

Is it true that Richard Foos is making a sequel to *The Exorcist*? Richard

Dear Richard:

Yes, it's quite true. Richard is making a movie about a horse, Mr. Ed as a matter of fact, who gets possessed by the devil. It sounds like an exciting movie to me and Richard tells me that he's got Francis the Mule lined up just in case Mr. Ed gets temperamental on him.

Dear Dr. Zane:

I've written to you a couple times now and you've printed every single one of my letters except one. What I want to know is why you refused to print my last letter? Was it because of my politics that you refused to print it? Why are you censoring me? Jim Zane

Dear Jim Zane:

Just because I didn't print your letter does not mean that I'm censoring you. If I had placed your letter in my column and changed it around without your permission, then I'd call that censorship. What you call censorship, I call discrimination. I, admittedly, have little discrimination—you apparently have none at all.

Now a letter of advice that Dr. Zane received this month:

Dear Dr. Zane:

Every so often I like your column—especially when you attack such outright evils as communism and that menace commonly known as Sam Ervin. Unfortunately, you don't attack these dangers to our Republic often enough. Too much of your time is devoted to making fun of God, country, capitalism, and our President.

I think you owe it to your readers to stop attacking God, country, the President,

capitalism, and to start praising them instead. Where would this world be today without those Big Four? Tell me wise guy!

Where would we be without this country? Just think, if there never was a United States, where would we be? Where you're living right now might be Russia or Red China or Cuba if the United States never existed in the first place. Kind of shakes you up, huh? And think how Neil Armstrong would have felt when he landed on the moon and learned that he wasn't the first American to land on the moon because there wasn't an America. And think about the Spanish. If there never was an America, who would they have fought in the Spanish-American War?

Where would we be without capitalism? What would motivate people to so much as get out of bed in the morning, let alone work, if there never was such a thing as capitalism? Capitalism motivates people. They know if they work hard, they can someday get to the top and get all the money for doing nothing. And people need to do that because if they don't, they'll be on welfare.

Thirdly, where would we be without our President? Our President is a peace maker. He has helped avert a third world war by ending the war in Vietnam with honor. It's true that more people died while he was ending that war than while previous Presidents waged that war, but this country wanted peace and our President said he'd bring it to them and he did. And not only did he end the war in Vietnam, but he also ended the war on poverty without one American casualty. casualty.

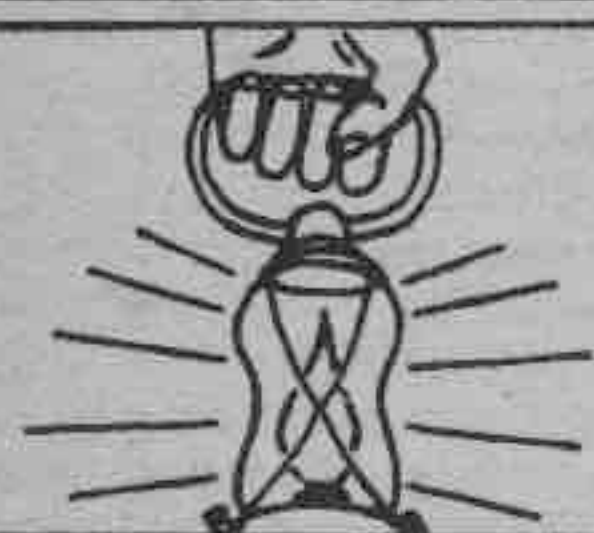
Finally, what I want to know is where we'd all be without God? What would people do on Sunday and Saturday mornings without God? The jewelry business would fall completely apart: people would have no reason to buy crosses or other religious medallions. People no longer could get any relief after they had hurt themselves because they couldn't say "God damn it!" if there had never been a God in the first place. And finally, what would happen to me without God? I'm too old to become a rock 'n' roll star like Marjoe. God is the bread of life and without Him I'd starve.

Billy Graham

Dr. Zane got a number of people upset last month. He got them so upset that they wrote in to him. To find out more about this controversy, turn to the Letters page. Dr. Zane has never received so many letters in his life and appreciated all three letters even though two of them were highly critical. At this time, Dr. Zane would like to thank a "Puzzled" Gene Truman for his letter: "Thanks Gene."

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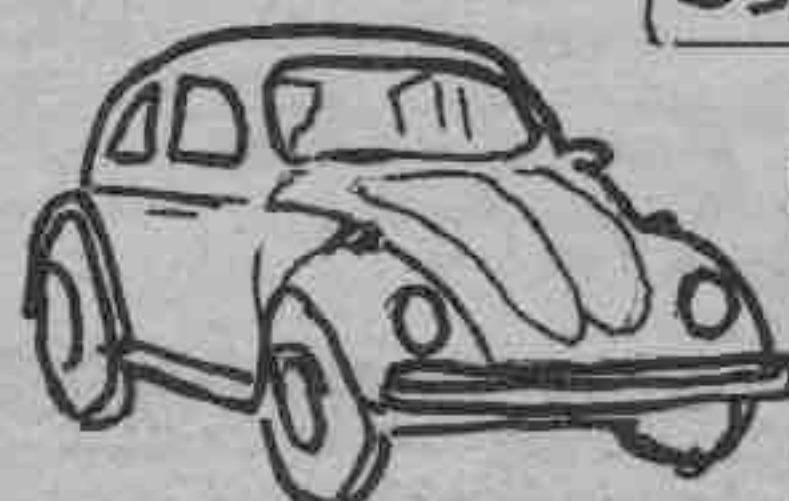
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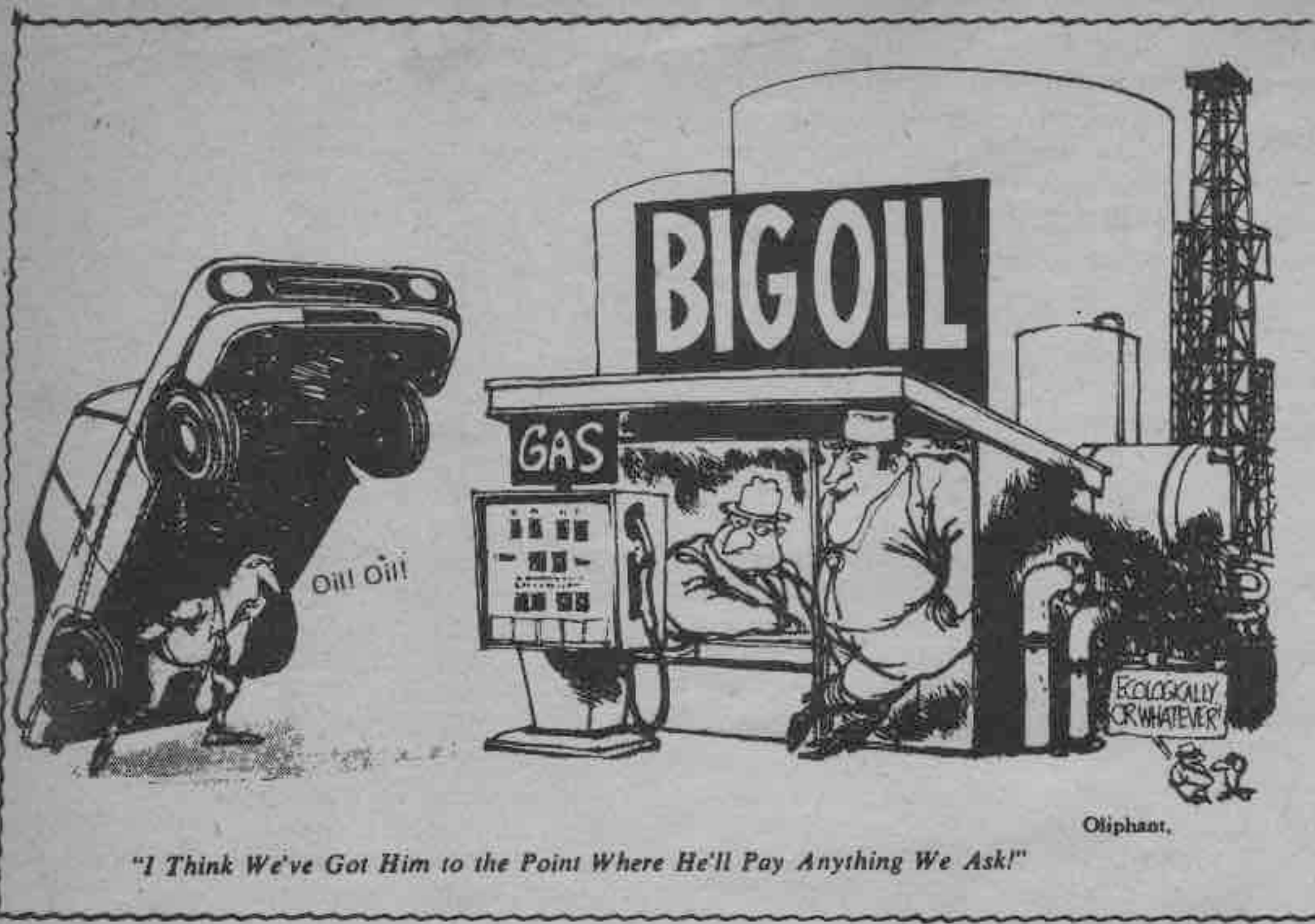
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ENERGY CRISIS

By William Harnett
Instructor of Economics-Pitzer
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As the days move into the heart of winter, more and more people are beginning to question the origin of the so-called energy "shortage." And rightly so. The present crisis is contrived by the largest oil companies to extort higher prices and profits from the consuming public for all energy and fuel sources, in order to maintain profit margins that once depended on total control of low-cost crude oil in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Allan Hamilton, Treasurer of the big energy giant, Exxon, makes no bones about the issue: "Unless and until the real nature of the crisis is understood and profit levels become such that the industry is confident that its investments will bear fruit, the supply of energy required will not be forthcoming."

Business Week recently revealed that the oil industry will only begin to develop their reserves and search for new ones when the price of oil is forced up to the "shortage" from its present level of \$4.20 per barrel to \$6 a barrel.

Such information runs smack in the face of the false propaganda that has been perpetrated by both business and government about the impact of the Arab oil embargo. The real embargo has been manufactured by the large oil companies by their failure to develop existing reserves.

The emergence of the present "energy crisis" happens to be very well timed from the standpoint of the Nixon Administration. For almost a year now, the most prestigious analysts of Wall Street and the major banking institutions have been predicting a perilous decline in productive activity beginning around December of 1973.

This is not a new phenomenon but a periodic one in the history of our country.

The U.S. economy in general is moving into a period where a general surplus of goods (inventories) will emerge due to the restricted purchasing power of the American people. Monopoly-controlled industries exacerbate this problem by forcing prices up even when faced with declining demand.

The latest average hike in auto prices of \$150 on December 11 is a perfect example. Why are such prices increased when this same industry has a large stockpile of automobiles on hand and has initiated significant cutbacks in production?

The energy crisis provides an excellent rationale for the rise in unemployment and spiraling inflation that would have occurred (although not as severely) in the absence of the so-called energy shortage.

The seriousness of the present decline is particularly important because the high unemployment and inflation of recent years has never allowed the economy to recover from the recession of 1971. To move into 1974 with higher rates of

inflation and unemployment definitely necessitates a new rationale.

The present crisis is designed to drive out the remaining independent oil distributors, as well as gradually to terminate the existence of independent gas station operators. The Wall Street Journal reports that the largest number of gas station failures (5000) in the post-war period has taken place this year.

This problem extends not only to gas station operators, but to independent truckers as well, who are destined to be strangled out of the transportation market. It is most unlikely that they will be successful in their fight with the big oil companies although their death as independents might proceed slowly rather than abruptly.

Concern with ecology can now be conveniently set aside as government regulations are bypassed or not enacted to allow production of dirtier fuels and defacing by strip mining of significant areas of surface land.

At present this bogus crisis has produced phenomenal increases in oil company profits. Recently released profit figures for the third quarter of 1973 show for example, Exxon's profits are up by 81% over the same quarter last year. Gulf- 91%, Mobil- 64%, Texaco- 48%, and Standard of California- 51%.

The current situation is not unlike the actions that were taken by Nixon in 1971 at the time of the price-wage controls (which in reality were wage controls). It was a time of relatively high unemployment (approx. 5%) and gen-

intervene with independent monitors to watch the election. The BIA Commissioner answered by telegram that all assistance was denied. In several districts it was reported that more people voted than physically exist in the district.

The American Indian Movement is seeking court action to impound the ballot boxes so that national independent observers could be brought in to examine for voting irregularities and other illegal acts by the incumbent administration.

AIM leaders enjoin the United Nations and the World to question the inhuman oppression that Indian peoples continue to suffer under the dictatorial BIA plus their U.S. puppet governments on reservations throughout the United States. AIM calls for the formation of an International Commission to assist Indian peoples in obtaining the basic human rights while residing in a hostile, unjust society of invaders who have stolen their country.

erally low level of investment activity on the part of corporations.

Who was asked to bear that crisis? The corporations were able to subtract .9.5 billion dollars from their taxable income for investment credits, thereby inflating profit levels. Workers were given a mere one-half billion dollar income tax reduction, which was almost wholly absorbed by an increase in social security taxes for the same year.

The cry of the capitalists to their workers at that time was, "We must all tighten our belts for the good of the country." A glance at profit rates of the most concentrated industries (in recent years) quickly reveals whose good was being served.

The theme is only slightly different currently: the working people are being forced to bear the relative loss in income via direct monopoly price increases and being asked to tighten their belts once again, but this time by restricting their consumption of basic energy fuels.

All the evidence presented thus far negates the existence of an "energy crisis" as a crisis based on actual shortages as they would like us to believe. Quite the opposite situation is at hand, an over-production crisis—where the existing reserves of oil will not be exploited until the prices received by monopolists have increased to their desired levels.

MUSIC CO-OP

SPECTRUM is a cooperative

of musicians who are dedicated to music as a creative art. The concept of the coop is to create an environment of harmony among musicians to enable them to let the spirit flow into their music and to encourage new artists in their search for an expression of original music.

The cooperative was formed on the East Coast in Washington, D.C. in June, 1972 and migrated to Los Angeles in July, 1973. The search for an ideal working environment resulted in our studio workshop, and school being located in the Venice beach, next to the Venice Fishing Pier, in the heart of Santa Monica Bay where a view of our front door of the sun, the ocean, the Santa Monica mountains adds to the good vibrations of the staff, and to the excellent facilities of the school and studios. The SPECTRUM STUDIOS are designed, owned, and operated by the coop on a non-profit basis. The rates charged are very low in order to encourage people with little funds but a sincere desire to study and create music.

The SPECTRUM STUDIOS include three small practice/rehearsal studios and one large studio for rehearsals, recording, and special programs. The studios are tastefully decorated, air conditioned, aesthetically lighted and well equipped in keeping with the concept of an ideal working environment. Equipment which is available for use includes a Fender Rhodes Piano, an ARP 2600 Synthesizer, a Wurlitzer Electric Piano, two excellent acoustic pianos, Echoplex, Phase Shift Units, Wah-Wahs, Fuzz-tones, FENDER, SUNN, and ACOUSTIC amplifiers, a SHURE PA with mikes, and an excellent 8 channel, 4 track demo recording set-up.

The recording studio is aimed at musicians who need to put demo tapes together for record companies, club gigs, producers, managers, or for themselves. The studio and the sound produced on tape are professional quality but the rates are charged at our cost in aiming to serve people with limited budgets. The school is staffed by several members of the SPECTRUM cooperative. Individual and group instruction is being offered in a number of subjects including: Voice, Guitar, Percussion, Electro-

nics, Keyboards, Sax, Clarinet. The instructors are experienced recording artists who are very proficient on their instruments and who are dedicated to the learning process. We regard teaching as an important aspect in encouraging new talent, which is a fundamental goal of the cooperative. As the demand is created for a subject not currently being offered we will locate a qualified teacher for that subject.

One of the programs we are sponsoring to encourage musicians to develop is an open jam session for instrumentalists into progressive rock and jazz every Friday night. Some of the finest young instrumentalists in the Los Angeles area have been showing up and blowing their finest. There is no charge for attendance and all musicians are invited. The response to the Friday sessions has been so great we require advance reservations, which are available on a first come first serve basis by calling or stopping in the studio. In the future we will expand this program to include other styles of music: folk, blues, etc.

Our plan is to offer a unique environment to the community of creative musicians in the Los Angeles area. Our particular special

interest is progressive rock and jazz; however the cooperative aims at living up to its name; SPECTRUM in encouraging musicians of varied interests and tastes to study, teach, and create their own form of music.

The SPECTRUM coop is a non-profit enterprise. Proceeds of the school and studio rentals will be used to improve and expand the facilities as well as to encourage new artists who lack the necessary funds via scholarships and free studio usage.

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If you see something you think should be photographed, please call: GAIL at TANK-YUK LINDA at 396-1941, or CAROL at 396-9324.

continued from front page

Now I just told you what I thought the Department of Animal Regulations was supposed to do. And I think from the tone of this article you'll get the idea that I wish they'd get on with it. But it seems like everything else in this society, the true intent has been perverted much like the Constituion which only exists for King Richard the WORST, and is inoperative for the rest of us. Now if society deals with the aged, children, minorities, and the disabled in a callous and uncaring manner, it follows that it ain't gonna be too hot for the animals that fall prey to the tender mercies of good ol' Animal Reg. and certainly the people who have to deal with the frightened, hungry, vicious, and sick animals are not going to be selected for the thankless and probably low-paying jobs or their ability to deal with animals in a caring manner or their knowledge of Animal Psychology. For the kind of treatment the people get who are in these jobs, you're not going to get St. Francis of Assisi or Dr. Dolittle.

In North Beach and according to Ron Guenther in the Canals, there seems to be a drive on thfrom Animal Reg to get dogs who belong to people, neglecting the dogs who are strays and usually semi-wild visious and at large.

Item Feb. 6: Warm sunny day on the Ocean Front Walk. Dalmation leashed to bike rack on bike path. Dog catcher (WALTEK on his name plate) goes over to see if dog is leashed. WALTEK goes up very close to the dog and the dog backs off and growls, baring his teeth. WALTEK found the owner and told the owner she would be fined one hundred dollars if WALTEK sees this dog leashed or unleashed on the Walk again.

Item Feb. 8: Looked out my window and saw our friend WALTEK go into some one's yard with intent to put the snatch on a large dog with teddy-bear eyes with his dog noose (a rope made into a lasso). When the people took the dog into the

house, WALTEK attempted to follow inside without the tenant's permission.

Now, I don't know what precipitated the latter incident. The only thing I know is that this man WALTEK acted in an arrogant and fascistic manner. Other people have told me of incidents involving him which lead me to believe that WALTEK fancies himself as the Javert of Animal Reg, tracking down dogs and dog owners alike as if, as a police Seargent said "he were chasing a bank robber."

Now for the Why People Go Nuts When Dealing With the City Department:

The North Beach Town Council had a dog committee that came up with the following proposal. The main point of the proposal was that dogs would be allowed to run free, unleashed from the hours of 6 pm to 9 am, with their owners in calling distance. After 9 am and before 6 pm, dogs would have to be leashed. All dogs unleashed would be subject to confinement by Animal Regs and owners would be subject to a fine (the above proposal applies to the area of the Ocean Front Walk in North Beach) As I recall, this rproposal was passed unanimously at the North Beach area town council. The dog committee met with some of the powers that be at Animal Regs and seemed to get a favorable response. Hurray! Well, at a full Town Council meeting, people were told that the Animal Regs Dept. was planning a concrete lined and fenced in "doggie run" at several areas along the beach where dogs would be allowed to run unleashed. Well, I had this vision of an exercise yard in San Quentin, where thousands of mutts of all sizes, sexes, and ages, and temperaments were all in there together mixing it up, barking and getting it on. Well, the Town Council said "No!, that's not what we wanted! We wanted our proposal that cost no money and would not uglify our beach with fences and concrete pits! We worked up a proposal taht was agreed upon by dog-owners and dog-haters alike!"

So far we have gotten neither.

So far all we have gotten is dog-catcher WALTEK, who told one of our residents that he "wished he could take some of our you two-legged dogs to the pound also." Maybe officer WALTEK needs a rabies shot? I don't hate dogs--yet.

I'm just impatient with certain dog owners who believe that owning a dog puts them above common courtesy to other human beings who also inhabit Venice. Hitler loved dogs, believed in astrology and was a vegetarian--that didn't make him a better person.

Here are some suggestions on how to deal with the canine question for dog-haters and dog owners and people who respect animals and people.

Problems with dog catcher? Call councilwoman Pat Russell at 393-9931 or write to her in room 260, City Hall, 200 N. Spring St., L.A. 90012. Problems with dogs or other animals or maybe you lost your pooch? Call West L.A. Animal Shelter at 820-2691. Complaints about a dog catcher in this area? Write to Mr. Joseph Von Slomski, West L.A. Animal Shelter, 11950 Missouri Ave., L.A. 90025. Complaints or suggestions or questions about about laws regarding animals in the big city? Call 485-5771 or better yet, write to Los Angeles Animal Regulations, attn: Robert Rush, Room 410, 111 E. 10th St. L.A. 90012.

Need to have your pup spayed, neutered, immunized against distemper, rabies, etc.? (Please don't give me that jive about it being unnatural to do this. Number one, it's not natural for animals to live in the city in a protected environment without predators to keep the canine and feline population down. It's not natural to see kittens and puppies trying to survive in traffic! Number Two, I'm not asking YOU to get spayed or neutered--so stop equating your animals potency with yours. That's silly...) Now that I've won that argument, here's the number for low cost spaying and neutering complete with shots:

222-2669. It's run by the City. Unfortunately, it's all the way hell and some downtown. Perhaps the Westside of Los Angeles needs a neuter/spay clinic also?

Now I hope I have bored all Beachhead readers to tears with the Canine Controversy. And instead of whining and whimpering and scratching at the door, we will use our opposable thumbs, turn the knob, and use our brains instead of our teeth

and concentrate on the real enemies who are trying to shake us all, Humans and animals alike from our home.

EXHIBIT OF DRAWINGS

Artist, choreographer and poet Claudia Chapline will be exhibiting some of her drawings, until March 22, at the Beyond Baroque Center, 1639 W. Washington Bl 396-6551.. She will show a selection of drawings from a series of over 100 india ink drawings done when the artist was studying botanical and anatomical structures.

DANCE CLASSES

Dance classes in Jazz technique and spontaneous movement are being taught by Linda Cohen, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7-9 pm at the Venice Pavilion. They cost \$2 for six weeks. The money goes for records and other things used in the classes. "A Real Bargain!"

A NOTE OF THANKS

I wish to thank all of my many friends, especially the beautiful Venetians, who sent me cards, messages and the nice floral for my father's funeral! Thanks so much for your expression of sympathy and a special thank you to my pals, Albert Young, and Rusty Lew. "You are all wonderful people!"

Sincerely,

John Johnson
Venice, Calif.

No well learned politics
shrouds my soul
that beholds no religion
bound only by the scars
of experience.

EL DOPER

HERE (for Venice)

Here
no one quite belongs
each of us an unexpected
face.
Our life stories meet
in quick, sharp scenes.
Not belonging,
none of us say,
"what are you doing
Here."

Pam Emerson

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for alexander solzhenitsyn

& you
not even a Jew
as the hand of power reaches
to crush yr flesh & vision

marching up to the very edge, then going further in their vehicles which crawl the
earth's skin
digging deep & discarding everything, bone, bottle, verse, equally condemned
in their terror'd flight
as birds wing to their deaths uncomplaining in the nite air over them
they cannot forget you
they have torn you from yr rooted joy & wrapped you in their steel gaunted holsters
shrouding yr presence as a wound is wrapped & hidden
seeking yr obliteration under their huge wheels

a long road back you must travel
a journey of return
to the kingdom of nite, enslaved
not only by yr enemies
but by the face you will remember from having worn it
before. it does not change

it is a command stronger than fear
She puts on yr tongue
yr protests will not help, She needs
yr pain and clarity
for Her own purposes

traveling mapless by instinct & memory
you will move thru the dark tunnels
the lite which pulses from the core of yr being
human will barely
illuminate. each step a risk. but you
having once emerged from the abyss
know a way can be found
without markings or definitions

what choice have you? none. & none
to help or guide. only what you know
is real
including those trapped by their distorted masks who strangle yr cries
can protect you now

no one can walk with you
where many have walked
with yr same pride
& terror

stuart z perkoff
12 feb 74