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FREE VENICE

BEACHHEAD

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VENICE HOMEOWNERS & RENTERS PROTEST TAXES

By Bob Wells

On Friday, March the 5th, the Venice community will go downtown to appear once again before the L.A. County Board of Supervisors in our continued resistance against unfair taxes, sparked by the doubling and tripling of Venice property taxes last November. Members of the Revenue and Taxation Committees of both State Senate and the State Assembly will be there for a full day of public hearings on property tax reform.

County Supervisor Baxter Ward said the hearing is a direct result of pressure from the people of Venice. Homeowners and Renters Against Unfair Taxation, a Committee of the Venice Town Council, has headed up delegations before the Supervisors several times in recent months presenting detailed grievances, and demanding changes in tax laws and reform in County Assessor Philip Watson's office.

Dorothy Weisser, Chairwoman of the Town Council committee, said the committee will be making a prepared presentation, but that everyone who can should come from Venice and tell the Supervisors how the present tax situation is making it so much harder for low and moderate income renters and homeowners to continue to live in our community. The committee will have a chartered bus at the old Venice City Hall on Venice Blvd.; people can ride for a minimal charge, or free if they're broke or unemployed. The bus leaves at 9 A.M. Friday morning. There's no way to tell how long the hearings will last, but there will be cars coming back early for those who can't stay.

The main demand of the Homeowners and Renters Committee is that the present \$7,000 homeowner's tax exemption be raised to \$25,000, and that it continue to rise with the inflation based on a statewide average. (That means that the first \$25,000 of property value would be tax-free.) Local County Supervisor James Hayes is preparing legislation for a \$23,000 exemption, though without the inflation clause. But as Dorothy Weisser says, "Sometimes politicians like Hayes say things like this and don't follow through."

The committee is demanding that the present \$25 to \$40 renters rebate tenants get on their State income tax be raised to \$75 to \$120. They're also demanding

that renters get copies of their landlord's tax bills ("to keep landlords from using taxes as an excuse for ripping off the tenants," says Mrs. Weisser). The committee also wants Sacramento to study the Vermont state law that discourages speculation by putting a heavy tax on land that's sold soon after it's bought.

Venice was one of the two hardest-hit communities in L.A. County in last year's tax increase, and the Town Council tax committee has taken a countywide lead in taxpayers' protest. It has also taken the lead in opposing Assessor Watson's tax initiative. Dorothy Weisser was matched against Philip Watson on a taping of Channel 7's "Head-On" show two months ago. The show was postponed and postponed and finally the station "accidentally" erased the tape. (See adjacent story.)

"We're going to talk against the Watson Initiative at the Board of Supervisors," says Mrs. Weisser. "Watson is using the legitimate demands of the homeowner to justify a giveaway to the big corporations. I'll give you an example. Last year 6.6 billion dollars in property taxes was collected in California. Under the Watson Initiative this would be reduced to 2.8 billion, which is 3.8 billion dollars less. The \$20,000 exemption for the small homeowner which Watson proposes would account for only 1.2 billion of the 3.8 -- the rest, or 2.6 billion dollars, would be a windfall for the big commercial and industrial interests."

"While a few advantages would be thrown to the small homeowner under the Watson Initiative, the Arco Towers alone would save 3 million 100 thousand dollars the first year and every year afterward."

Mrs. Weisser feels it was facts like these that caused Watson to kill the TV show on Channel 7.

"The money is important, of course," she says, "but the important thing is to save our community, to save Venice. Doubling and tripling the taxes is really a threat to the community. Using the tax power this way can mean the end of stable communities as we've known them in this country." She urges everyone in Venice to join the Town Council committee March 5th and carry the fight to the Supervisors.



THE CASE OF THE MISSING TAPE

By David Kasper

To what extent do local television stations shape or censor information that reaches the public in order to conform to the wishes of government officials? Dorothy Weisser's recent experience with KABC (channel 7) provides a case in point.

Mrs. Weisser is a Venice homeowner who has been actively organizing against unfair rents and property taxes. Last November, KABC agreed to videotape a debate on the subject of property tax assessments between her and county tax assessor Phillip Watson for their weekly public affairs program called Head-on.

The taping came off as scheduled in KABC's studios on December 4, but in the weeks that followed a series of confusing and mysterious developments took place.

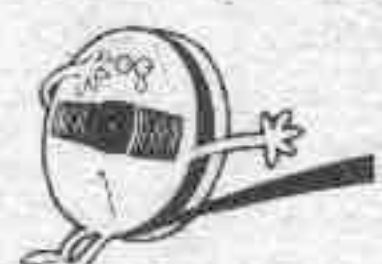
On December 14, the scheduled air date, a woman's golf tournament ran overtime pre-empting the Head-On show. There was no announcement on the air that the program had been rescheduled for another time. The program's producer Steve Skootsky, later informed Weisser that the program was rescheduled for December 21.

When the rescheduled airdate arrived, the Weisser-Watson discussion once again failed to appear. Skootsky again apologized and promised to air the program on January 4. So on January 4, when Weisser and the many other people that she had alerted tuned in to watch, they were treated to a program on the subject of the Equal Rights Amendment, which was repeated from the previous week.

Skootsky's explanation this time was that the tape was mis-labeled, and he promised to reschedule it again for January 31. On January 31, when the program again failed to show, Skootsky's final explanation was that the tape was "accidentally erased" and therefore could not be shown.

When Weisser proposed that she and Watson re-tape the debate, Skootsky replied that he was "positive" Watson would not be interested "because he was unhappy with the way the program turned out."

Dorothy urges those concerned about this apparent act of censorship to write letters of complaint to KABC's general manager, the ABC Network office in New York, and to the Federal Communications Commission in Washington D.C.



RUSSELL RESURRECTS ANCHORAGE ASSESSMENT

By Arleen Hendler and David Kasper

The once unique beachfront neighborhood along the Venice peninsula with its original layout of small single-unit houses, fenced yards and pedestrian courts, has given way in recent years to the development of multi-unit luxury apartments and condominiums, and has been aptly re-named by developers the "Marina" peninsula.

Some 90 of these older houses still remain on the streets south of Washington to the Marina Channel along with most of the original yards and walkways, but a plan currently being pushed by Councilwoman Pat Russell's office would clear the way for development of what remains of the original peninsula neighborhood and set the stage for expansion of high-income high-density construction to other areas of Venice.

The project, called the Anchorage Assessment District, was originally proposed in 1974 and met with such strong resistance from homeowners and renters in the affected area that it was withdrawn by Ms. Russell just before it reached a final vote before the L.A. City Council. We recently learned from Russell's field deputy Sharon Kaplan that the project has now been resurrected in a revised form, but obviously aimed at achieving the same result.

Basically, the plan calls for "improvements" to be done by the city which would add to the tax valuation of each lot, and thus would be paid for by residents in the form of higher rents and taxes. The increased cost will make it impossible for many current residents to continue living in the neighborhood. The effect of the assessment on most of the older structures will be to force those owners to sell their property. This will allow developers

(Continued on page 3)

Letters



Hi Y'all!

The Beachhead is just getting better and better. \$5.00 enclosed for a subscription.

I'm doing some writing up here now for The Mendocino Grapevine, saving Redwoods, stopping roads, confounding speculators and developers, and just over all enjoying life in the country beaucoup.

Hope all is well with the Venice end of the struggle.

Regards to all,
Ron Guenther

Open Letter To The Beachhead:

I moved to Venice in December, 1959, largely because of the active poetry scene centered around the Venice West coffee house. Venice was the first place where I gave a reading of my own poems and I later became proprietor of the Venice West from 1962 until eviction closed it in 1964.

From then on, I worked full time in radical politics: the anti-war movement, Southern Californians for New Politics and, finally, the Peace and Freedom Party, whose first office in 1967 was on W. Washington Blvd. From the Venice PFP office issued the first Beachhead in 1968 followed by the Free Venice Organizing Committee in 1969. The Venice office was instrumental in national organizing for the PFP in 1968 and again in 1971 and '72, as well as initiating community protests and alternatives to existing institutions.

During 1973 and '74, I was active on the Venice Town Council, but severed all political ties last summer. Last fall, I decided to move to the country finally to leave the place I'd considered home for 16 years. It was then that all hell broke loose.

In my ten years of visible radical activity I experienced the usual spectrum of hassle and intimidation, from police harassment to bomb threats (and one actual fire-bomb attempt), but nothing equalled the hostility and interference I have experienced since deciding to leave Venice.

Old "friends," who'd apparently been expecting me to continue forever my services to the community in general and to them in particular, decided I'd flipped out and started elaborating on and inventing stories about my behavior and spreading them among people who knew me. A community activist colleague tried to have me arrested. A girlfriend tried to persuade my friends that I needed institutional "care" and, failing to convince them herself, called a state mental health agency to have them investigate me.

Official contempt and bureaucratic bullshit are nothing new to me and an ex-radical is a safer target than an active one. What has puzzled me and prompted this letter is the frequency and intensity of private rip-off I've encountered since bowing out of public life and civic activity.

Since October, 1975, I have had a car full of clothes and camping gear stolen and the D.A. has failed to issue a warrant against the identified thief; I was threatened by a neighbor with a handgun and the city attorney refused to prosecute; another neighbor planted three felonies worth of contraband in my apartment; people to whom I sublet my apartment failed to pay, then made a separate arrangement with the owner in violation of our rental agreement; a sublessor sold some of my furniture...I could continue a seemingly endless tale of assaults and rip-offs but that is not the point.

I suppose that politics is, if not a small circle, at least a fairly select one: whatever their self-serving motives may be, people in politics rarely steal from each other or carry conflict to the point of overt violence. (It's the exceptions that make the headlines.) To the extent that politicians rip each other off, the methods are generally more urbane than the crude brutality of junkiedom.

So, since October, I guess I've lived in the midst of a junkie jungle where nothing is quite straight and if you get it from a friend or neighbor that's just the price you pay for narcotic dreams and a taste of nothingness.

Previously I'd managed to avoid involvement with users and pushers, but in the past few months I found my neighborhood and the building I lived in full of drug users and their suppliers.

In some way still not clear to me, I offended this bunch and became a target for their united hostility. My complaints to the police did me no good and only intensified the dopers' hostility.

I don't know that friends could have helped

me in that situation; what I do know is that I found myself with neither friends nor allies, as though I had brought on myself my own victimization. When Santa Monica police locked me up for eight hours without a telephone call or even water in my cell, the Venice militants to whom I told the tale showed a remarkable lack of outrage. Too busy with the revolution, I guess, to bother with the trials of a former comrade.

When I first thought of moving from Venice to the country, I thought only of finding an environment better suited to my newly developing interests and preferences; there was in my choice no bitterness or rejection of Venice. Now, only four months later, I view Venice as hostile territory that I can't get away from soon enough. The Venice community that I once loved, believed in and worked for has become in my eyes a sham and a trap.

I wouldn't expect help from government agencies or anything but greed from landlords. But what about the community activists and long-time residents? Maybe my announced intention of leaving caused me to become invisible, some kind of vaguely unpleasant phantom the quicker forgotten about the better.

By mid-February I expect to be gone from Southern California and, if I ever return, it will be only to visit my family, if they remain here. I'll take my newspaper clippings, old posters and leaflets with me. Eventually the pain and disappointment of the past few months will fade to a merely unpleasant memory. New interests crowd out old disillusionments.

The newcomers to Venice these days are not the seekers of the past. They're looking for a chic environment in which to do their thing. Their thing is a lifestyle that depends on affluence and more security than the old Venice could provide. Those who can't afford the Marina now head for Venice. Those who want a house to play in rather than a yacht basin buy in Venice.

Rumor has it that organized narcotics dealers are buying property in Venice and the number of big new cars cruising Venice streets does nothing to dispel the rumor. My own recent experience leads me to believe that the pushers' brazenness is based on more than narcotic fantasies.

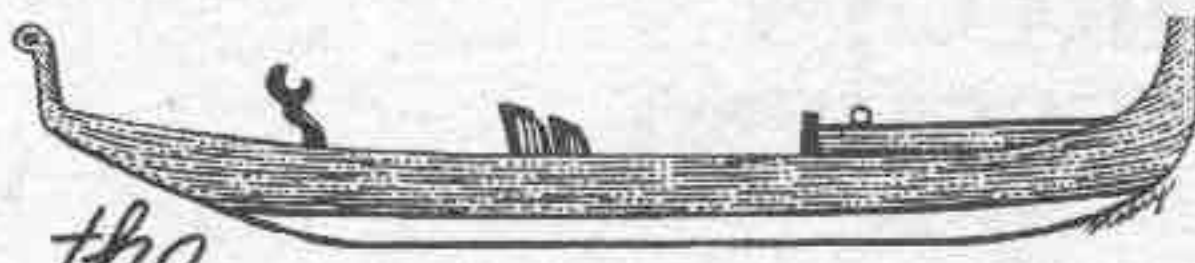
There are still some willing to put effort into saving Venice. For whom? For themselves, certainly, but who else? For the affluent semi-hip who couldn't care less about anyone but themselves? For the vocal revolutionaries whose main activity is reassuring each other that they still have a function when they no longer have a following? For the hard dope users and pushers who use Venice's image of freedom as a convenient cover for their death-trip? For the dying counter-institutions that have become more like social clubs than services to the community?

I have done what I could when I could. I have no regrets other than my present one: that Venice is no longer worth the trouble.

The enemy is no longer outside the gate; he is buying up the town. Sincerely,

John Haag

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Note From The Staff:

We received many letters responding to last month's article on Angola. Due to space limitations, we could not print them all.

Dear Beachhead:

I would like to make some comments on the article you had in your February issue titled: Angola: Superpowers Behind Civil War. The following few lines from your last paragraph sum up very sharply your position: "The centuries old struggle of the Angolan people against colonial enslavement has been manipulated, at the point of victory, into a war to see whether the U.S. or the USSR will replace Portugal as the main bandit robbing Angola."

Even by reading the New York Times, L.A. Times, Newsweek, etc., let alone progressive papers like the People's World and the Guardian, one can get facts enough to make it impossible to equate the role of the Soviet Union with that of U.S. imperialism in Angola.

Please consider some recent history. How could the Vietnamese people have possibly defeated U.S. imperialism without the massive and decisive aid of the Soviet Union? And it behooves us to acknowledge that such aid was given at great sacrifice and at the expense of the standard of living of the Soviet people. How could Cuba have survived without the Soviet Union? Did the Soviet Union help these countries and many other developing countries in order to exploit the economy of those countries to enrich itself as the imperialist countries are always doing?

But, back to Angola. I can make my point best by quoting extensively from a magazine called Dollars and Sense, dated February, 1976. In a very beautifully written, very factual article called, "U.S., South Africa Seek Control over Angola," they state, "...the United States and its allies, Zaire and South Africa, have intervened in order to prevent a popular socialist movement from governing that newly independent nation."

In September 1975, just two months before Angola won its independence from Portugal, the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) controlled twelve of the country's provinces. Today, having withstood a major Western-backed counter-offensive on two fronts, the MPLA continues the struggle for the liberation of Angola.

What is at stake in this struggle? With the newly-won independence, Angola faces a choice in its development. It can take the route of most other newly independent African countries and adopt a capitalist line of development, relying on Western investment to develop its rich minerals and agricultural resources, and seeing large profits drained out of its country. Or, it can take the socialist route, developing its own mines and oil wells in order to meet the needs of its people, and promoting land reform and cooperative agriculture."

The article refers to both FNLA and UNITA as being very small, very limited in its influence and very corrupt. Both UNITA and FNLA have accepted white South African troops, as well as American and Portuguese mercenaries to fight their war, the article states.

"Only the MPLA is a nationally-based organization which has continually fought against colonialism...the MPLA has established schools and health centers and popularly elected committees which govern under the slogan Poder Popular--People's Power. MPLA leaders have stated they will not permit Angola to be just a resource hinterland for Western multi-national corporations.

Over 37 governments, including the other African nations which recently won their independence from Portugal (Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique) have recognized the MPLA as the legitimate government of Angola, while none have recognized the FNLA-UNITA group."

I submit that the fact of what the MPLA stands for makes it plain for anyone to see that the Soviet aid to MPLA places it as a liberating force, a friend of those who struggled for independence and freedom. By no stretch of anyone's imagination can it be equated with the exploiting, oppressive, imperialist forces fighting against independence and freedom.

Your attempt to equate the Soviet Union with U.S. Imperialism is a terrible injustice, not only to the Soviet Union but to the people of Angola as well.

Bill Tomkin
Venice, Calif.

we did it...

BEACHHEAD STAFF: Linda Lucks, Carol Fondiller, Joan Friedberg, Sue Scott, David Kasper. Mailing: Olga Palo

CONTINENTAL WALK



The Continental Walk, somewhere on Rt. 101 between Cloverdale and Hopland, CA.
Photo by J. C. Stockwell

Win Magazine

By P.R. Chamberlin

Arriving Soon! By feet and back pack all the way from Mendocino: The Continental Walk for Disarmament and Social Justice. Arrives LA Friday March 5 and leaves on Sunday the 7th for D.C. (and all states in between).

We started out from Ukiah in the sparkly morning frost, our pockets jammed with tangerines, extra sox and leaflets from the candlelight rally the night before. The 12 miles to Hopland for our first night's lodging at the Indian Center passed introspectively, resonant with the chanting of the five monks participating. Our biggest concern was blisters. Suddenly, out of the bowels of Middle America blasted one of these chrome and exhaust autos filled with future heroes of American wars, who sprayed our line of walkers with a high pressure water jet. He ho we all tried to say. Ho ho. How refreshing.

A shot gun was brandished at us a couple of days later, again out the window of one of those juvenile style GTO's. Whether or not they mistake us for anti-gun lobby was crowded from my thoughts by a now mature blister, and by visions of the morrow's day of rest and festivity in Cotati, legendary townspeople that elected a hip mayor.

Hundreds of children, women and men of the village merged with our line, obliterated our identity, joyfully took us over. Led by Vito on the accordion and his dance troupe, "The Free Store" they pried pipered the intoxicated paraders with their signs to conjure with, to the square for a satirical sequence. Finally to the Last Great Hiding Place for a free feed for the walkers, and a fund raising benefit bash which put the walk in the black, where, by increasing ingenuity we have managed to remain. Sweet Cotati--- you loved us.

Next thing we know, our five drumming monks are getting stopped by a bay area cop. "Can't play drums in public here." (Where have you heard that one before?) Now, they have played every beat of the way so far. As well as address every sunrise. And cry their nam yo ho's. Still, a bust would mess up the scheduled send off in The City tomorrow. What to do? We develop a consensus right there on the jail house lawn. Someone goes to call the lawyer, someone gets up to

ARRIVES

stash a joint. Someone goes into the police station. Miracle: "Alright you can drum. But try and keep the noise down." Yeah, sure, Sheriff of Larkspur.

Next evening Dan Ellsberg is assuring us that popular protest has force. He said it has recently come out that popular outcry over bombing Cambodia is all that deterred Nixon from picking up a tactical nuclear option then on his desk. (Gasp!)

Then Dr. Abernathy drew the parallel between Rosa Parks and her refusal to go along with the accepted order, thus to spark the entire civil rights movement as we know it, and our refusal to accept the way of armedness among nations, and the new disarmament movement we would spark.

Dan and Patricia joined us for the walk by 600 disarmament-demanding folks out through the Mission District to Daly City, and remained with us for four days and nights. Dr. Abernathy will lead a feeder walk to D.C. from Montgomery.

Neither of these men is short sighted. They both see that the Key to racism and sexism and violence is military conversion to peaceful purposes, in all lands. While the military party, acting through the Pentagon-Kremlin-etc., seeks to be rid of any popular demand for the peace of disarmament. We in turn persist in non-violent action aimed at disestablishing the warrior classes. In this dialectic you may see the ghost of 19th century class antagonisms: The entire upper classes called bourgeoisie suppressing an industrializing proletariat, now incarnated more narrowly as milioisie and civiltariat. If Dr. Abernathy is not wrong these slogans the Continental Walkers carry are the rallying call of the next level of revolution.

While maneuvers toward a final World Disarmament Conference with public access probe ever closer to the ganglia of the military beast, the specific injustices inflicted by that mentality must be attacked where manifest. This has meant the following so far, for the walk between Ukiah and Sunnyvale: Support of the Nuclear Safeguards Initiative; Total defeat not revision, of Senate Bill ne;

Stanfor/Community Alternative to Prison; San Quentin Six trial and Defense Committee; Alternate tax form 1040, with defense proportion exemption of 59%; carrying the 500 ft. Trident Monster to the gates of Lockheed, Sunnyvale; ban the B-1 bomber; personal disarmament for men; total amnesty for draft resisters; cross-continental nature trail.

Some ideas emerging in slogans and signs: Large defense is a leading cause of inflation---A dollar spent in defense creates fewer jobs than the same dollar spent any other way. (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

The above annihilation of the cult of economic war worship could explain the ominous note in Continental Walk New #7: "Hassles? Brad Little (War Resisters League disarmament theorist) has expressed concern that the attack on the walk in the Congressional Record may be sent to police along the route by the FBI in an attempt to label the walk the enemy".

SUN-MAID BOYCOTT

The United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO, ask you to please help them in their boycott of Sun-Maid and Sunsweet products.

Sun-Maid and Sunsweet growers were the leaders behind what the L.A. Times called "Stranglin the Farm Board" (Editorial page, 1/18/76). They used their immense political power in the Calif. Legislature to stop funding the Agricultural Labor Relations Act which provided for free secret-ballot elections for Calif. farm workers.

Why did Sun-Maid and Sunsweet destroy the Farm Labor law? Because the results of the elections held under the law made it very clear that the workers want their own union, the United Farm Workers AFL-CIO rather than the Teamsters (which many growers promoted) or no union at all.

Here are the results of elections held since Oct. 1: UFW 122 Teamsters 29

Sun-Maid and Sunsweet, by killing the farm law, have forced farm workers to resume striking and boycotting (there were no strikes during the 5-month existence of the law) or give up their pursuit of dignity and justice.

Please send telegrams and letters to Speaker Leo T. McCarthy, State Capitol, Sacramento Cal. 95814 demanding that the law be refunded without amendments Now!

United Farm Workers of America AFL-CIO
1434 W. Olympic Blvd.
L.A. Calif. 90015
381-1136

Anchorage (continued from page 1)

to buy up these places and replace them with expensive multi-unit structures.

Specifically, the project makes the following recommendations:

1. The elimination of all "encroachments" on city property.

What this means is that the city will take possession of the 15 feet of property in front of every lot on all of the walkway streets from Anchorage to Westwind eliminating the existing front yards, and will replace them with paved malls widened from the 12 foot walkways that now exist. On either side of the malls will be "planted strips" designed by the city and maintained by the owners. The plan apparently sees no need for individual fenced yards in its concept of a high-density neighborhood. "Better access to the beach" is the reason given for this improvement.

2. The completion of Lighthouse and Privateer as through streets with the costs for those improvements being spread throughout the assessment district.

This means that one out of every four streets would be opened to traffic and parking spaces would be created, thus helping to alleviate the traffic congestion created by further high-density development.

3. Minimal right of way acquisition.

This would allow the city to buy property to create additional parking and for whatever is determined necessary to complete the project.

4. Completion of Ocean Front Walk and accompanying lighting.

Ocean Front Walk would be extended from where it presently ends at Washington Street and would continue down to the Marina channel. This is a desirable improvement, since it would provide more public access to this large area of city beach. (Many feel that the bike path should also be extended along this route for the same reasons.)

5. Construction of storm drains.

The area does need storm drains and most residents would probably like to see them built. The question is whether it can be done without destroying the existing walkways and gardens as suggested in the plan. Ms. Kaplan insisted that it should all be done at once, since this is what the city engineers recommended.

Several provisions of last year's plan have been deleted to cut costs such as installation of underground utilities and less right of way acquisition by the city.

Pat Russell's support for this project should come as no surprise to those who have watched the development of her political career. Once considered an ally of community resistance, she has tried to maintain a liberal facade while being heavily financed by the very real estate interests that are profiting from the conversion of Venice into an enclave for the wealthy. She has supported building code enforcement, a process begun in 1964 which resulted in the destruction of hundreds of structures along the beachfront from Windward to Westwind (then called Avenue 54). If the city had genuinely desired to upgrade and improve the area, low-interest home improvement loans could have been arranged to allow people to make the necessary building and safety alterations. It seems fairly clear that the purpose of this massive code enforcement was not to improve Venice but to sell it out to the developers.

The plan's recommendations have already been sent to the city engineers for preparation of an environmental impact report which is to be released sometime in July. Russell has begun discussions with the South Coast Regional Zone Conservation Commission and the Army Corps of Engineers in order to meet their requirements. A public hearing on the matter is expected to be held in July.

Those interested in organizing against this project are urged to work through the Area I Town Council which meets every 4th Wednesday at the Anchorage School, and to attend the full Venice Town Council meeting on the first Wednesday at Venice City Hall at 7:30 PM.

ONE LIFE

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A VIEW OF VENICE



By

Lorrie Kazan

Nothing happens
with a vengeance that distracts us
with alarms that shake us out of sleep
and up
to another scheduled squeezing the life
out of hours
(when we might have slept with nothing
worse than bad dreams)

from a poem by
John Haag

That's the way a lot of people feel about life in Venice these days, people who knew Venice in the 1950's when the Beatniks lived here or in the 1960's early 70's when Venice bustled with an inner life a contagious spirit that refused to be crushed, a sense of community created by people looking for a decent place to live, to relate. Venice was home for artists, writers, street people, poor people, people with nowhere to go, non-conformists, people who came out of the cold atrofying atmospheres they'd known in places like LA where no one has to know anyone else is alive. They fled to San Francisco's North Beach and to Venice. Both places offered inexpensive coffee houses, a place to hang out, out of the cold, weather or life; a place to be near other people. Quickly there was unity, protesting the continuous police harassment suffered by community members and leaders. The oppressive establishment usually in the form of the LAPD, roasting people, framing people, spying on people, openly attacking people, finally arresting them. The war was on. The establishment vs. the crazy "degenerate" Venicians. It was all happening out front.

In 1962 The Gas House, cafe building was condemned for being unsafe but since in reality it was a sturdy well-constructed building it took something like 6 days rather than the City's projected three days before the building was finally crushed.

In 1966 John and Anna Haag were illegally but successfully evicted from The Venice West Cafe, the last remaining Coffee House in Venice.

There was an obvious vengeance to the way things were happening. All central meeting places were destroyed; a major element in breaking down communication preventing organization. But people believed then in the possibility of resistance; in change. Everyone heard about Mahatma Ghandi. The Eisenhower 50's gave way to the exciting 60's, a glamorous President who talked of liberal change, of New Frontiers. Civil rights was happening. Bob Dylan was happening. People were speaking out in the North and the South. Lenny Bruce was also happening. Everyone was taking sides.

Particularly in places like Venice, Berkeley, San Francisco, the antiwar movement found a stronghold. People were not only conscious of the Viet Nam War they were hurting from it. New politics was, by necessity, happening and the Peace and Freedom Party evolved organizing the protest in Venice.

During the 60's and early 70's there were issues common enough and clear enough to protest, like the Viet Nam War. The protest happened until finally we were told the war was over and though that wasn't entirely believable, who can protest forever? Certain improvements were made, such as ending the draft, which means less people were hurting from what our gov't was doing "over there". Most people aren't anarchists ultimately. Some reform seems better than none.

The protest began eroding. High rents in Venice forced people out. Homes in the canals are sold out from under people. The level of energy needed to fight back is hard to maintain over a period of time. It's also harder to mobilize protest because today the issues are more diffused.

The gov't creates a myth to placate us pretending to expose corruption as if to uproot it. Newspeople sell newspapers pretending to expose gov't. We are continuously inundated with scandalous information. This fosters a feeling of impotence, sapping our energy convincing us that the enemy is everywhere. The admissions made by the gov't are not only abstract but they in no way conclude that the gov't is being "cleaned up". To confess to having tapped Martin Luther King's phone in no way concludes that wire-tapping has diminished; is abstract not only because Reverend King is dead but because there is an expectation that political leaders give up their right to privacy, give up as many rights as may be taken. We don't know how political how much a leader one must be before surrendering one's rights.

The violations that happened in Venice are still happening but with more subtly, better organization, direction, better protection.

There's a new community in Venice, in part a richer community that lives here because it's the sea place to be, and a junkie community because Venice is a known place to score. Too often these people share in common a lack of interest in anything outside their immediate personal gratifications. That the lack of interest in their community, which is still a unique community though it becomes less and less positively so, may threaten their personal gratifications, their lives, is again an abstraction. There are no central meeting places to draw these separate energies together, places where people who wouldn't mingle on the Ocean Front Walk can't help but overhear each others conversations, hassles; where people would become real to each other. In reality, with the prevalence of information, education, we still don't know what's going on around us, partly because we don't want to know, don't want to expend the physical and emotional effort.

The National state of mind seems to be tired, abused, in need of oblivion. What one hears about others suffering becomes overwhelming, in some way unreal. If it's not happening to you it's not happening. But, as the former or longer residents of Venice knew, if it was happening to anyone, if any one's rights were violated then it could, it likely would happen to them. It was close. It was real; out front.

In Venice today, the devisiveness, the lack of concern facilitates crime, injustice. There's a ready excuse for not knowing who got hurt or how as abuse intensifies abuse. It makes me wonder if Nazi Germany also lacked central gathering places because, like Venice, so many people didn't know what was going on in their own home town.

NATIVE AMERICAN JUSTICE?

by Red Bird

Bryon Desersa, age 27, was gunned down in cold blood at Wanblee, a village of 250 Sioux Indians on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. This heinous crime took place a few days after it became known that Chairman Dick Wilson had lost the election as tribal chairman and Al Trimble won with AIM support. Bryon Desersa and his father were known AIM supporters. Dick Wilson and his goon squad after the loss of the elections had decided to wipe out his enemies.

The night there was to be a victory celebration for Al Trimble, Dick Wilson's goons had decided to terrorize the population at Wanblee where Al Trimble got much support. They chased Bryon Desersa in his car, cornered him and shot him. The goons went on a rampage that whole weekend of Jan 31st



Woodcut from Akwesasne Notes.

and Feb. 1st. The B.I.A. police did not interfere or give protection to the beleaguered Sioux. Then the people of Wanblee called a meeting and decided to send Al Trimble to Washington, D.C. to speak with white men's chiefs. Al Trimble met with the Justice Dept., the F.B.I. and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and demanding that Dick Wilson and his goons be removed at once (Wilson stays in office until federal agencies could offer no assistance or rather, they declined to.) Then a beautiful thing happened.

The Iroquois Confederacy known as the Six Nations heard that their Sioux Indian brothers were in trouble in Wanblee. They offered to come to Wanblee to help see that no more Sioux were murdered. In addition, the people of Wanblee met and decided to form their own police patrol. The people voted for sixty deputies to serve as a police patrol of their village; these deputies are armed. They will take no more shit from Dick Wilson and his goons who have terrorized the Pine Ridge Reservation since before and after Wounded Knee. The terror that has come down on the Pine Ridge Reservation with Wilson in command reads like a book of horrors. It would take more than one or several articles to tell how he and his goons have assaulted and threatened to kill any outsider, be it a legal worker or reporter, who had come to the reservation to tell what was going on. There have been more than 200 unaccounted for murders on the reservation since Wilson had taken office. The F.B.I. has not investigated. And when pressed for a reason, the local chief replied that there were mistakes made in law enforcement.



The solidarity beginning to take place as in times past between the Indian nations who are being assaulted and oppressed by the same oppressor is most heartening. But the other side of the coin is Russell Means going to prison the other day and fugitives Lou Pell-etier and Johnny Black Horse being picked up for refusing to stand trial on wounded knee charges. They were found in Canada.

In this Bicentennial year when the media keeps talking about its past and the history of young America, it never mentions the rip-off of Indian land and the massacre of Indians. It's a very sensitive subject for white American historians and one in which they tell the biggest lie. The U.S. army is trying to perpetuate the lie by claiming that Wounded Knee was not a massacre in 1890. They are bitterly resentful of Senator Abourezk for introduction of a bill to offer \$3,000 to all descendants of the massacred victims at Wounded Knee. It's a dangerous precedent, the army cries. Yes, quite dangerous for an institution that commits murder wholesale. And what about the danger to the minds of school children who one day learn that their history books have told lies about the first people to inhabit this land, the Native Americans?

Russell Means Defense Fund, Box 30116, St. Paul, Minn. 55165
Those interested in supporting the Native American struggle in an organizational ongoing way, subscribe to: AKWESASNE NOTES, Mohawk Nation, Roosevelttown, New York 13683-- it's a fifty page newspaper--\$5 per year, with poetry, articles and news.

LOVE
by John Keskulla

When I speak of Love, I speak
not of memories of a past that is no more.
Nor do I speak of dreams of a
future that may never come.
I have no use for words like
"if only" or "once again".
Nor do I make demands about
my likes and my dislikes.
When I speak of Love I speak
of a calm place within where
together or apart, regardless of
what comes between us, a part
of you lives and flourishes,
sheltered from all harm,
Always present, always close,
Now eternal.

FANTASY OF A DREAM

This is a dream I do not want to have.

That there is a city
Of gleaming spires
Arcing walkways and promenades
A science-fiction city
Strolled by beautiful people
Draped in pastel fabrics
The colors of various petals,
And there is grace,
And ease,
And time,
And music.

This city is surrounded by a cylinder
of bars,
and you are all dead.

And I am on the outside,
In the grassland and the wood beyond
Where I meet with tigers,
Looking in,
Longing for the grace
And ease
And time.

I am clad in furs and leather,
And boots, not sandals.
An array of tools and weapons
Spikes out from my belt,
And dead rabbits smashed and bloody
Hang therefrom, for food.

I am in pain.
I have no grace.
I am alive.

©1976 Stephen W. Goldman

AMERICA by Murray Barnett

Look America, I've done as you asked.
I had my attic insulated to cut energy
waste,
Sealed the windows to stop the drafts,
I even eat by candlelight.
I thought the electric company would
be fair
And reduce the cost for the poor and
desolate of the land.
I didn't expect conservation to be
a deceitful practice.

Look America, I take the bus to go
to work,
Bought a bicycle to do the shopping,
Traded my V8 for an economy model
And joined a car-pool for my vacation.
I thought the oil company wouldn't
rejoice
And make a wind-fall out of my sacrifices.
I didn't expect conservation to be
a fraudulent practice.

Look America, I've planted vegetables
in the front lawn
And tend my little garden every day.
I didn't expect dairies to pour their
milk down the sewer
To keep the prices high.
I thought conservation could be
a noble purpose.

Look America, I see Death riding a
pale-colored horse
Across battle-lines drawn for your
depleted resources.
And you, unmoved, as in the past,
are busy
Selling what's left to the highest
bidder.

Look America, there was a time I
trusted in you
And tried to believe that conservation
Was not a fast-buck practice.
Why does the passion for wealth
possess you?

ETUDE IN B by Lance Diskan

Oh Venice,
Crying out in a soft whisper:
"It's all right."
As you roll by
Hair blowing,
In rose-colored glasses.

"Funny,"
You say,
How much people miss
When it's right before their eyes."

Sailing in youth
And creeping in age;
Shouting to the crowd,
Into the wind;
Music harmonizing
With banded sunset.

Oh Venice,
I am your amazed lover.



Ben Shahn/cpf

PILOG

(To the memory of Richard M. Portnoy M.D.)

When Sigmund Freud went nuts,
He retired to a mountain cave
In Nepal.
There I met him
While backpacking for the CIA.
There,
Over haunch of goat,
Eaten sitting crosslegged
Round a guttering fire in a circlet of
rocks
On a rocky prominence
While the ice-wind
Howled and keened,
He told me the distillate
Of his wisdom of Life,
Which was the same as the Chinaman's
of the joke:
Oh, Oh, strange business,
Oh, Oh, strange business.

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PROVISIONAL THEATER TO PERFORM AT OCEAN PARK CHURCH

ProVisional Theater, the radical perform-
ing ensemble with an international re-
putation for their scathing broadsides
and profoundly moving insights, will be
presented by PUBLIC WORKS at the Church
in Ocean Park Saturday night, March 6 at
8 p.m. ProVisional will perform their
new work Voice of the People, a hidden
history of the United States - seldom
told stories about real people, men and
women whose irresistible spirits are demon-
strated in their rebellion and strength
their laughter and music. It is a sequel
to their much acclaimed America Piece.
The Church is located at 235 Hill Street,
S.M. Call 399-1631 for reservations.
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REVIEW: 5



THE WORK BOOK

by Sue Scott

The Workbook is a comprehensive compilation of
sources of information about environmental,
social and consumer problems. Firmly footed in
the belief that knowledge is the source of change,
the authors also conclude that the process of
working for change is what's important. Because
"Any problem can teach you the same lessons:
what interests oppose change? Who is profiting
from things as they are? How do good ideas get
watered down and made ineffective?" The crux
of the matter is of course whether the cata-
logue will be used. If it is, I believe it
could prove to be a viable tool for researching
government or any bureaucratic structure.
Written especially for those of us in small
cities who want to know how to gain the infor-
mation needed to assert control over our envi-
ronment, it's also an aid for all people interested
in being catalysts for effective change--not
just participants in committees or regulatory
commissions like the Progressive Reformers of
1900-1915. Some topics hit upon include: agri-
culture, business-corporations, consumer affairs,
education, energy, pollution, wildlife, women
and etc.

The introduction is inspiring because it is
clearly and articulately expressed. And it
exposes the dedication of energetic people who
are obviously already involved themselves and
who are expressing their desire to get us all
involved with our community affairs, national
politics, the world. To quote from the intro:
"Information is power, the corporate world
knows well. The Workbook is one more small
effort to give people access to power, access
to information...the old pattern of progressive
reform must be broken. Citizens must get in-
volved and stay involved...turning off helps
the system stay the way it is. To spread feelings
of hopelessness and powerlessness, all that has
to happen is for enough of us to do nothing."

After planting that thought in our minds, it
continues with the most simple, significant and
realistic recommendation to effect change--that
is to get involved in ONE project at a time and
pursue it to its end. The substance of the
pamphlet is the 28-page compendium of literature,
including a review of each publication. It's
well put together, visually and informationally.
The price may seem high, but as a tool to get
our energies directed, off the drawing board
and in use, I believe it is well worth \$1.00.
Published by Southwest Research and Information
Center, P.O. Box 4524, Albuquerque, New Mexico,
87106.

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392-4151

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1st Friday and 3rd Saturday of each month, 9:30-12 noon - \$2 membership fee at YWCA - 10936 Santa Monica Blvd. - contact Ida Hill at 839-3450 for further info.

WESTMINSTER AVE. SCHOOL RECRUITS VOLUNTEERS

At Westminster Ave. School, 1010 W. Washington Blvd. in Venice, volunteers are needed to help the staff with a variety of interesting programs and hobbies. Parents, high school students, senior citizens and all interested people are encouraged to participate. All types of talents are needed. Some persons say "I have no special skill." Please remember individual help in basic skills is a very special need of our youngsters. Whether you can donate a few hours or a few days a week, we need you! Interested persons should call the Westminster School office. 392-3041

WOMEN IN PRISON

Amnesty International, 200 West 72 St., New York, N.Y. 724-9907, has published a list of 252 women who are in prison in 25 countries. These women are detained in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to which the governments who arrested them subscribe. They are hoping and encouraging individuals to write letters to officials involved in protest of these arrests. If you are interested in obtaining a list of the women prisoners and some detailed information, write to Karen Swaine at the above address.

TOWN COUNCIL

The Venice Town Council will hold its third anniversary meeting 7:30 PM March 3 at the Venice City Hall. There will be reports from the Renters League on the Rent Control Initiative; Homeowners and Renters on the March 5 hearing they've been given by the board of Supervisors; a report on the new problems with old Anchorage Street Assessment project, and a report from the Strategy committee. Bob Wells' candidacy challenging Supervisor Hayes will be voted on... as well as a proposal from Rick Davidson for a "Community Economic Bill of Rights." Plans for the big Festival on March 28 to celebrate our third anniversary will be discussed. KCET, channel 28, has indicated an interest in televising the meeting.

GOT A HEAD PROBLEM?

Walk-in crisis counseling is available at the Benjamin Rush Center, 1426 S. Main St. in Venice. Hours are: Monday -10-11:30 a.m., Tues, Wed.- 3-7 p.m., Thurs.- 12-4 p.m., Friday 9-11 a.m. The center also offers on-going group therapy, family counseling, and counseling for Spanish-speaking clients. All counseling is by professional people, psychiatrists, psychologists and clinical social workers.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

RAPE CRISIS HOT LINE

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2. Welfare Rights 731-5095
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JOB INFORMATION CENTER

316 Lincoln Blvd. 392-4811

Please Recycle the Beachhead

A THRIFT SHOP OPENING AT 1439 CABRILLO Anita Alexander announces the opening of A Thrift Shop, a Temple of Man, Inc. endeavor. The proceeds will be used to assist the publishing of works of art, literature and poetry, and to make available financial aid to exhibit such works. Donations and discards needed. Call 399-9747 for more information.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Do you have something to teach? French, Braille, quilting? Do you want to learn something? Plumbing, tennis, magic? How about exchanging information on stamps, judo, cooking? We have files of people who want to teach, to learn, or exchange knowledge. Phone us to get in our files... no charge and no educational requirements. Lynda Martin 472-5466 Nancy Jacobs 395-4822

PET ASSISTANCE aids financially in the spaying and neutering of your dog or cat. Don't breed misery. Call 457-7086; 781-6611.

WESTSIDE WOMEN'S CLINIC

1711 Ocean Park Blvd. S.M. - Pregnancy tests, birth control, gynecological exams, and abortion counseling in a supportive environment - Hours: Mon-Thurs. 10am-8pm. Call for appointment and further information. 450-2191

MEN'S GAY RAP ORGANIZATION

The Men's Gay Rap Organization meets Thursday nights at 7:30 in the basement of the Church in Ocean Park, 235 Hill St., S.M.

UNEMPLOYMENT CLUB HELPS YOU COPE

A free club for unemployed persons with problems has been organized and will meet every two weeks at the Didi Hirsch Center, 4760 South Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City. It will deal with problems of how working wives of unemployed men can cope with the stress of role-reversal, loss of medical insurance, dealing with unemployment depression and how to face the reality of unemployment without giving up hope of finding a job. For further information, call May Hartman, 390-6684 or 870-2946.

FOOD CONFERENCE SET FOR MARCH 20

Ten consumer organizations have formed a coalition to sponsor a food conference on Saturday, March 20 at Immaculate Heart College in Hollywood. "The meat and milk boycotts only illustrate one of many ways in which consumers can affect change," says Ruth Yannatta, assistant director of the State Department of Consumer Affairs, "...the food conference will give all of us a chance to exchange information, air our gripes, and confront the problems that may better be tackled by a concerned and informed force of people." For further information, call 474-4518.

KULTCHURE

VENICE LIBRARY

610 California Av. 821-1769
M-F, 1-9 pm, Sat. 9:30 am-1 pm

LITERARY WORKSHOPS

Beyond Baroque - 396-6551

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FOOD CONSPIRACY

Venice Food Coops meets every Tuesday at the Short Walk Community Center 1102 W. Washington Blvd., 8:00 p.m.

Venice Legal Aid 392-4177

Venice Peoples Rainbow Pages 392-3264

VENICE LIBRARY - Senior Adults Club

Beginning January 15, 1976, the Venice Library announces the opening of its Senior Adults Club. Seniors are invited to join in games, films and friendly conversation. Meetings will be held every Thursday from 1:30 to 3:30 in the afternoon, admission is free. For further information please contact Maria Acosta, at the Venice Branch Library, 821-1769. The Venice Library, which is located at 610 California Avenue, is open daily from 1:00 to 9:00 p.m., and on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

VENICE PAINTINGS SHOWN

Artist Robert Farrington's paintings of Venice are being shown during the month of March in Lake Arrowhead at the Blue Jay Library.

RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Santa Monica/Westside
609 Arizona Avenue, Santa Monica
394-0251

Volunteers are assigned to many non-profit agencies in Venice as well as Santa Monica & the Westside.

Beyond Baroque

Friday, March 5th, 8 p.m. sharp
Peter Clothier and Huncle Voelcker read their poetry.
Saturday, March 6, 7:30-10 p.m.
Opening reception, exhibition
Michael Tracy - continues through Mar.
Friday, March 26, 8 p.m. sharp
R. H. Deutsch and Daniel Halpern read

OPEN WORKSHOPS CONTINUING WEEKLY

Autobiographical Fiction - every Monday 7-9 p.m. directed by Liza Williams
Venice Poetry Workshop - every Weds. 8p.m. Directed by John Harris, Frances Smith and James Krusoe
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Master Class in Fiction Writing, led by Joseph Hansen; February 17-March 23
Experimental Writing Workshop, led by George Drury Smith, April 6- May 25



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