

FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968

BEACHHEAD

CHEE WAH-WAH

FREE

MARCH 1977 Issue #87 P.O. Box 504, Venice, California 90291, 399-4826 396-9325 396-1941 821-2182



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These are some of the more than 200 people who showed up for a rally in the canals on February 13 to support Steve Alpert, the alleged hit and run victim of a bulldozer driven by developer Alex Mlikotin. They demanded an investigation into the Venice Police Division's refusal to investigate the incident.

PHOTOS BY BILL WEINER (TOP & BOTTOM)
AND GREG MARTIN (CENTER)



SHORT SHOTS

2

Moe Stavnezer

Only recently did I notice what appears to be a newer and larger sign on Venice Blvd. at Ocean Avenue (as you drive west) which directs traffic to Marina del Rey by way of Ocean Avenue. It's a great way to increase traffic on Ocean and give the city traffic counters a justification for widening the street. Ocean Avenue is a narrow road with lots of dips--really unsuited to handle much more traffic, especially traffic to and from the Marina. About a year ago a survey was taken of the people who live on the street (it's mainly single family houses) and their feelings were virtually unanimous: no widening! Now a simple sign directing traffic onto the street can give the bureaucrats the statistics they need to widen and flatten the road. After all, if a street is too narrow to handle a bunch of traffic what else can you do except widen it?

Speaking of streets and the Marina, Vic Adorian, Director of Small Craft Harbors (a euphemism for Marina del Rey) has again recommended construction of the "marina bypass". This little beauty would connect Route 90 (formerly the Nixon Freeway, now the Marina Freeway) with Washington Blvd. He proposes using the railroad right-of-way, which hits Washington a little east of the bird sanctuary, as the roadway. A slightly different version of the scheme was stopped a couple years ago when a large number of Venice people noisily protested that such a road would dump tons of unwanted "through" traffic onto Venice streets. Nothing has changed. Write Victor Adorian, Director Small Craft Harbors, Fiji Way, Marina del Rey 90291 and tell him how you feel about this marvelous idea.

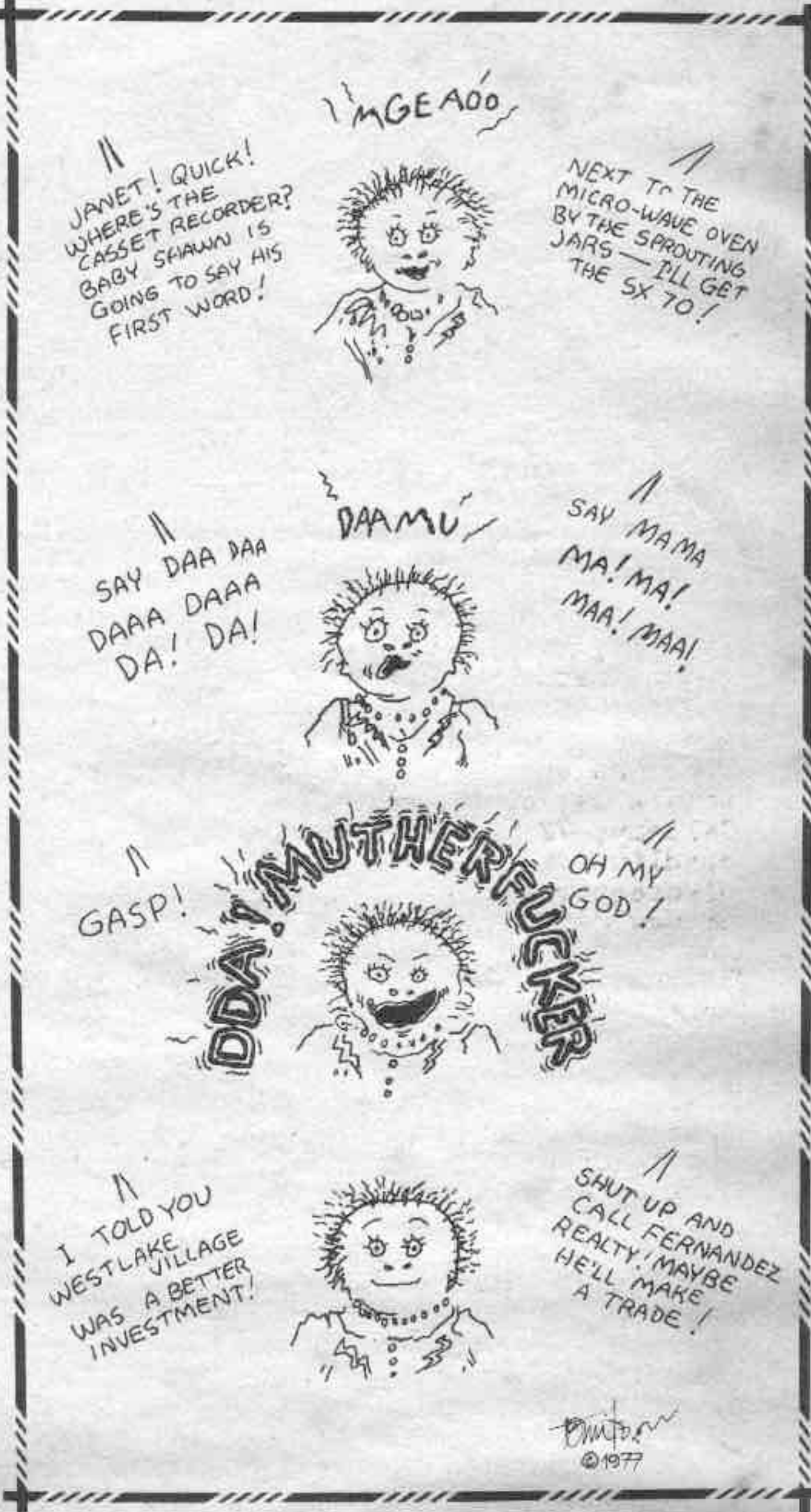
Looks like we're in for a shopping center of some kind at the corner of Main and Rose (the old Gas Company property). The Gas Company sold the property to some developer who in turn leased part of it to the Rose Milk Co. (now located near the northeast corner of the same intersection), the rest of the property will house the shopping center due to open this fall. I think we can use a shopping center if it's meant to serve the people of Venice and Ocean Park with such things as food stores, doctors, dentists,

pharmacy etc. What we don't particularly need is more expensive specialty shops meant mainly to serve people outside the two communities, antique shops, imported clothing stores etc. There are still lots of senior citizens in Venice, and there will be a bunch more in Ocean Park when the 100 units are completed this year, who could certainly use a practical shopping area within easy walking distance from their residences. Those people, and many others in the area, need practical services rather than more fancy frills.

Copies of the proposed Venice Community Plan drawn up by the Citizens Advisory Committee are available, in limited numbers, at Councilwoman Pat Russell's Venice field office, old Venice City Hall, 681 No. Venice Blvd. By the way, Sharon Kaplan is no longer the honcho of that office, she now works down town and has been replaced by Judy Hancock.

The Library is looking for a new location because its present facilities are inadequate to serve the community. I understand that they, and some Venice people, are eyeing Westminster Park for the new site. Other people, including me, have suggested refurbishing the old jail building. I'm sure that there are other suggestions. I personally don't like the Park site--it's one of the two parks east of Lincoln and should remain just what it is.

If our Assembly person, Alan Sieroty, becomes our state Senator in the March election there's going to be a hotly contested race for the assembly seat in the June election. At least four Democrats are said to be ready to run--Ruth Yannatta (a strong consumer advocate who lives in Ocean Park), Rick Tuttle (a dean at UCLA), Hilary Goldstone (L.A. City Attorney's office), and Nat Trives (mayor of Santa Monica). The Republican side isn't quite so crowded--only Clo Hoover (ex-mayor of Santa Monica) is said to be interested. She was convincingly beaten by Sieroty in last year's election for the same seat. There is, however, an unconfirmed rumor that a liberal republican woman from Venice may join the race. Should be interesting. Haven't heard if anyone from Peace and Freedom plans to run. (See the Beachhead interview with Ruth Yannatta on page 6)



City of Venice
VENICE TOWN COUNCIL

Venice Town Council meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Venice City Hall, 681 North Venice Blvd.

March 2, 1977 **AGENDA**

Typical introduction
AGENDA:
Film expose on Philip Watson
Steve Alpert vs. Bulldozer/
Oakwood vs. H.U.D.
Venice Conference & an Alternative
Conference
REPORTS

FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

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VENICE COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

The challenge of cooperative childcare is both difficult and enormously rewarding. Despite the difficulties, Venice Community Playgroup had continued to be an exciting, viable alternative to the isolation of home care and the impersonality of many nursery school setups. Venice Community Playgroup solidified into its present structure about 5 1/2 years ago when the concept of shared childcare transcended the boundaries of small groups of parents and children struggling to exist in homes and parks--to occupy a more permanent place in the community structure. Playgroup as it is called is geared to the 2-5 age range, although younger children have been accepted in the past. Each family contributes one day a week to Playgroup's schedule which consists of five 9:30-2 o'clock days. Playgroup has weathered all the problems inherent in the group experience and struggles daily with the challenge of a low budget and the varied needs of our various members. A monthly fee of \$22.50 is charged per child and each family contributes one hot lunch per month for all the children. From our present site at the Old Venice City Hall on Venice Blvd. we will soon be moving to

a group of buildings on 7th Ave. near Oakwood. A grant from Model Cities has made the purchase of these buildings possible, establishing permanently a facility for our lively children. Two "permanent parents" are employed to give continuity and stability to the children's experience. Many parents find that Playgroup is not merely a childcare facility, but also a way of life. Strong bonds are formed among parents as well as children. Several nighttime babysitting co-ops have grown out of Playgroup as well as our first dinner co-op which emerged recently. We have found that the contacts we have made with other parents and the friendships which our children have formed constitute valuable support systems which allow us to function more humanly in a difficult society.

We have openings right now at Playgroup for seven children. We are giving preference to minorities and female children, as our membership is currently low in these areas. If you and your children would like to participate in this exciting exchange, please call: 823-5693 days or 392-4271 or 392-7872 evenings. Or you may wish to drop by and visit us at 681 N. Venice Blvd.

Gail Hinich

a Venice day gathering

A few issues back I wrote an article up-dating the Venice struggle; a sort of, where we've been, where we are and where we're going. I concluded with a suggestion that we hold a Venice-wide meeting to discuss our Community's problems and hopefully create or plan some possible solutions. I had in mind something along the lines of the ol' FAMILY GATHERINGS that we had a few years back (hum, it's been quite a few years hasn't it?).

Since the article came out I have received a number of calls along with many people stopping me on the street saying that they thought the idea was a good one. Also the Venice Town Council discussed the idea and voted to host a VENICE-DAY GATHERING: a committee was created and plans for the event are coming together.

The starting point for unity is understood to be the concept that the present residents of Venice should be part of the future plans for Venice, i.e., that Venice remain a home for the poor, the elderly, the black, the brown and the low- and moderate-income working class. This is seen in opposition to the City's plans to transform our community into the "Miami Beach of the West Coast".

The plan runs as follows:

DATE: Sunday, March 20, 1977
PLACE: Westminster Senior Citizen Center -- Westminster Park
TIME: 2pm to 7 pm plus
PROGRAM: 2 to 2:30 open discussion
2:30 to 4:30 workshops
4:30 to 5:00 summary
5:00 to 7:00 pot-luck dinner, and then anyone's guess.

Some of the ideas for workshops are: community elections for the Venice Town Council; program proposals and structure for the Council; community communications; and others that may emerge.

The idea for a Venice Program was to get a better understanding of what we are all about, how our solutions can be realized and a concrete plan that we can build around.

Anyone interested in working on a VENICE-DAY event call: 396-6876, and please come to the March 2 meeting of the Venice Town Council.

Rick Davidson
for the VTC

Warhol show: using Means for an end?



They're here. Hidden behind buildings whose paint peels from the stucco, hanging loose like old scabs. The buildings no longer hold stores that sell fringed straw hats, souvenir postcards or Tangee Purple Lipstick. The shakers, makers and innovators of the Southern California Art Scene are toiling in various media behind buildings that are left purposely shabby.

These are not the starving artists, too proud to exhibit their wares to the vulgar on La Cienega. These are the Art Heavies. The buyers come to them. And on Saturday, February 19, 1977, it became official. Venice is a part of Cultureburg. It's where the jet set can roller skate down the Ocean Front Walk, and bump into Chris Burden or run down Rauschenberg.

February 19, 1977. Andy Warhol, the man who in immortalizing the Campbell Soup can showed us how important our trivia is, came to Venice at the Ace Gallery, 72 Market Street. It wasn't headlined in the L.A. Times, but it was discreetly let out in the sleek pages of New West Magazine. It was Public Invited. This was something, since none of the Art Heavies in Venice had done anything like that.

At 12:45 there was a small crowd knotting outside the gallery doors. A security guard told us the doors would open at 1 p.m. precisely. I looked at the other people and they looked at me. Most of us were dressed in semi-formal casual hip. I was dressed in an ancient persian lamb coat, a lovely sleazy second hand dress, high heel boots and pounds of make up. I looked very 1930's Berlin whore. I fit right in. I looked at them, they looked at me, and since all of us had committed the unpardonable sin of arriving early, we decided we were nobody. Slim hipped young men dressed in casual denims and flowing scarves sighed as their narrow shoulders supported Leicas and Nikkons and rolls and rolls of film. Girls shuffled in their wedgies. They fluffed their Botticelli perms. They jangled their Art Dreco Jewelry. I jangled mine right back. Who were they? Was that girl in the bright purple lipstick Holly Woodlawn? God, I should've brought out that stock of Tangee Purple Lipstick from the Venice Variety store before it folded. Across the street much like the neighbor painting his fence and looking at the doings of the folks, the incomparably handsome Tony Bill was arranging his engine in his Porche and casting glances over his well

turned shoulder. One o'clock. The guard lets us in. White walls. Skylight. Grey cement floor and in the middle of the room a table loaded with prints of Andy Warhol's American Indian Series. We had arrived early, and had a chance to look at the pictures. And that was fine, even if that wasn't the main reason we were there. The paintings were portraits of the same Indian in the same pose done in different colors. The paint was laid on differently in each painting. The small crowd was quiet. They looked. They stood. They advanced towards the paintings and looked away. I took off my glasses and let the hard thick colors vibrate into the stern visage of the Indian. I do have sight without my glasses. It's just different, and it's fun to change vision in mid-scene.

A man in tropic whites with a flowing scarf and well scuffed tennies came in with an entourage. Who was he? Obviously just someone with an entourage. The room filled. Someone arranged in tie dye chiffon exclaimed "I've finally admitted to myself that I live in Los Angeles." A beige lady with a flowing green print scarf was being nervous and brittle. The Indian stared impassively in multiple images. The noise level became louder as it ricochet against the white walls. There was no air. My feet began to ache from my high heel boots and the cement floor. God! A cocktail party without booze, cigarettes or a chair! I elbowed my way out. A respectable line had formed outside. I told the guard. I'd be back. Across the street, Tony Bill, owner of the Marco Building and movie producer was still fussing with his car. The Hollywood second string jet set was there complete with dark glasses and

ATTITUDES. Earnest couples, direct descendants from the quietly cultured liberals were back packing infants. A chauffeur driven black limo pulled up followed by a yellow Volkswagon. The chauffeur got out of the limosine and opened the door. "He's there! Andy! Andy!" called the crowd. I could see that someone was surrounded by popping flashbulbs, mikes and video cameras. The yellow Volkswagon doors flew open and like the clowns in the circus car, countless people with more bulky video equipment poured out.

The media fanned out. There he was. The crowd whispered "Andy, Andy." He was skinny. He was almost albino in coloring with his pale pink skin and his white hair and heavy white eyebrows. Up close I could see his blue eyes behind his glasses with rabbit pink frames. He was neatly dressed in a neat white shirt and



neat dark tie, looking like a schoolboy at a family reunion. Warhol's entourage guided him past the crowd and into the gallery. The guard shouted for us to move back. Finally some people came out and some of us were let in. No. What really happened is some people came out and I shoved past some people who'd been waiting for hours. Warhol was standing in a corner talking with someone I knew. What an opportunity! The crowd made a wide circle around them. I walked up to Warhol, shook his hand and babbled something about working on a community paper, the Free Venice Beachhead. Then my mind went blank. Finally, I blurted out "what do you think of Venice?" He loved it. He was here before. His voice was soft and diffident. I decided to let him off the hook and not ask him about low income housing. Local cult movie star Goldie Glitters rolled up to Warhol on his roller skates. Warhol looked at Goldie. "I love your T-shirt" "Thank you," drawled Goldie.

Someone guided Warhol to the table laden with prints. Now that the raison d'etre was here the crowd lost its brittleness and it became jovial and celebratory. The noise pounded in waves as people crowded to the print tables. My friend and I stood at the edge of the crowd. I became aware of a stillness behind me. It pierced me through the noise. I turned and saw two figures standing by the wall behind me. The man's cheek bones jutted under his dark copper skin. He wore a denim jacket. It was not a costume on him. He'd worn denim all his life. His shiny black hair was tightly braided. Irridescent discs hung from his ears. The other figure, a woman stood next to

him. Her skin was browner, not as coppery as his. Her nose was as proud and aquiline as his. They were still. They watched. How elegant they were! They were Indians definitely, but who? Were they going to claim the Warhol paintings? Did they just drop by? They were impassive like eagles watching may flies. They looked as if they were somewhere else, not here in this jabbering crowd of fame freaks, culture suckers and scene stealers. I was embarrassed. I was trivial and silly. And they were beautiful. The man with those aquiline features, those eyes that watched... The face! The face! The face that was on every wall in that white tight box room! That face repeated over and over again. That austere face that didn't judge just watched - but there was something

else. Someone came up and said "Russell Means! I want to ask you..." I eavesdropped. Warhol had asked the Indian Tribes which Indian they felt best represented them. They selected Russell Means, one of the leaders of the American Indian Movement, one of the few activist Indian organizations around. Though he was shot in the back, Means was convicted of assault. As a consequence of his trying to give the first Americans the same rights and privileges that the imported whites enjoy, he was also convicted of murder, though the dying man made a statement to the police the Means was not the man who beat him up.

As he told me, he finally beat those and ten other cases. Someone came over and got Mr. Means. He was going to sign the posters also. Wait! - Was he going to get any money from this? He evaded my question. I'd heard rumors that the proceeds from the sale of the prints were going to A.I.M. I edged up to Warhol who was signing the posters on one side while Means was signing the other. Real assembly line. Were the proceeds going to A.I.M.? Warhol gave a helpless artist shrug and a gentle "I don't know." One woman who was clutching 10 prints told me she made out a check to A.I.M., and that it was a shame that Means wasn't getting any money. Meanwhile I'd borrowed some bucks from a buddy and had Means and Warhol sign my posters. Two heroes for the price of one. The pictures were selling for \$30,000 and \$50,000. I found out from an unnamed source that Russell Means got somewhere in the neighborhood of \$5,000. Most people didn't know who he was. But when Wounded Knee and South Dakota were mentioned, they looked at the pictures on the wall and clutched their posters tighter, their eyes getting wide. But some knew who he was and pressed against him and shook his hand. I wondered if any Indians in South Dakota would see those pictures. They suddenly looked wrong on those white walls. How silly and sinful that art should be confined to galleries. It should be where the people are. It should be freed from the snuffiness of museums and shown where people are. Why couldn't the Old Venice Jail be used for art experiences? And I don't mean just the media of painting. There's all sorts of art with experimental media, lights, tones, electronics, metaphasers video, and it's fun.

"This wasn't done as a political thing," said Doug Christmas, proprietor of Ace Galleries. "It was done as an art thing." How in the world one expects to do art in the world while not relating to it, and by political, I don't mean political parties or even causes. How one can do art and not realize its consequences, because art is communication and communication is political, as is everything that people do together whether it's sex or viewing a piece of art, is beyond me.

To paraphrase Venice poet Marty Abrams, art should be put back where it belongs, on stage along with the jugglers and magicians. Warhol, who showed me beauty when all I saw was utility by taking the time to give importance to the Campbell's Soup can by putting it on canvas, and who painted Marilyn Monroe like a holy triptych should realize how much it costs a human being to be a symbol, and what Means symbolizes. Surely his image is worth more than the price of an authenticated Indian blanket, or the price of a good turquoise squash blossom necklace.

(Photo of Warhol's portrait of Russell Means by Roger Vargo.)

Carol Fondiller

LOVE ON THE HALF SHELL
(lines written after visiting a swingles bar)

By Dan James

Sexual impotence and frigidity abound
in a world made sexless by glut of sex,
where even the young seem bored by it all.
"Love" is rarely made these days,
and genital friction is not enough
to move one's soul with joy.
With bodies coupled but minds not joined,
procreation brings but little joy;
and the barren spasmodic clutching
of today's sad sexual couplings
seems dull as last month's "playboy",
wherein sex is presented as sterile and plastic
All is depicted with such gloss and sheen,
it makes one long for a little raunch.
When joyful lovers couple and love,
the juices then should certainly flow.
One cannot then stay neat and dry!
A modern love seen might run something like this:
"Let's use the Arrid and Vaseline, honey;
I'm gonna pretend you're a Playboy bunny."
"O. K. dear; I'll use the vibrator when you're thru,
and fantasize being raped by the Harvard crew."
"Oh brave new world, that hath such people in it",
as the Poet lamented with rue.
Was sex always as cold and sterile as this?
I certainly hope that is not so.
I'd like to believe I was conceived with joy,
or at least with some genuine pleasure;
and I think that somewhere along the line
I have actually made love,
when loving a lover.



cpf

YOU DON'T HAVE SEVERANCE TO KICK AROUND (WITH) ANYMORE

By OSAH HARMON

In January a band named Severance was at the St. Charles, playing for the last time. The meaning of their name didn't occur to me until the day after. I thought it had something to do with a bonus--like severance pay.

When I was driving to L. A., moving from Berkeley to Venice, I wished myself to be linked to cultural phenomenon that the media didn't tell me about first. Have a place to go at nite and be extremely anything and have it be a homeful of strangers. Be a groupie until I was nudged into illusions of grandeur. In some kind of ghetto-myth place where the musicians would lend their cohesion to people struggling to be loose. Where the melting pot inclinations of my American soul got out of my lock-jaw head into my immigrant bones. Somewhere I could not disappear.

The disparate musics, that my counter-culture ears clung to, were full of tokens missing in action. I couldn't give thanks to any one influence. If I came out of the 60's without dying of over-exposure, then it seemed the things that had happened were already embalmed. And hearing the music that had turned me on to what was happening gave me survivor's guilt. I left the Bay Area in the Gothic ruins of Tanya's hippie-dom; pulled along thru a dissonant spell of conscience.

Perhaps a cadre of musicians with nothing to hide; no concealed weapons, white-wash, black-lash, or sold-out confessions, could recast moods in which I marched in the streets, left before wakings, admitted my isms, and escaped from paradise. Some mixture of voodoo remedies, plaintiff refrains, and one-hand-clap timing might loosen my grip on the causes that rushed towards nostalgia like tourists to Venice.

Shortly after my arrival a huntress neighbor of mine took me to Hoagie's to get a better look at the natives. And there was Severance, wearing Earth Shoes, playing music sympathetic to any fanatic's disillusion. Mist rose from the dancers, an air of fathers, sons and brothers, of masculinity made tender by broken molds, loosed itself casually upon the crowd! They were somebodies who had made it thru from "where it's at" to "what it is".

For months at a time when I went out at nite it was to see Severance. Each set was an evenings worth. You'd arrive and start shaking the lid out and a bolt of confidence would hit you from a nest of skin and strings that tore limb from limb. Their non-sequitur polkas revised limits. Stumbling it was easy to recover.

POETRY



photo by Greg Martin

Venice you bleed,
and your blood will not clot.
Your vital juices ooze
under the yellow caterpillar blade.
And I can not stop them.

The stormy husky brawling city of big
shoulders
is come to cart away your corpse.
They wait but for your heart to die,
your flame to go black,
And I cannot stop them.

With contracts and proposals they plot
your evisceration.
When development has done with your soul
we will not need autopsy to ascertain
your cause of death.
The cause is plain as the smashed glass
and fractured rafters of a wrecked out bungalow.
As clear cut as the mighty cedar they doze up
by the root.
And why can I not stop them?

Philip Chamberlin--1974

By Ed Rose

Dear (Aunt) Maxine and George

and yes i remember
Barbara and Ruben
and the brown brazilian horses
that when sat upon
would just stand,
and i inmy armor
and shield in my hand
upon my charger would call
to my merry band,

and i remember
Margaret's little lambs
that carried snow
on their bodies and
bellies
to be melted into clothes
while we in our mitten hands
would snoop like sherlocks
with fingerprint kits
with special code rings
with siamese eyes
trying to catch

bandits
indians

the bad guys
in whatever disguise,

and i rmemeber
the green gardens
that grew salads
of surprises
while the flowers
righ in their morning robes
of violets
oranges
and golds
perched their sashes
against the white farms house
and would stick out
their tongues
at bees and butterflies
when we weren't looking,

and i remember
the green pine neddles
that stood stoically
against the frostbitten feet
of winter

waving
e
a
v
i
n
g

socks for spring
and night would come
bringing its black blanket
and you would cover me
careful of my early eyes.

and i remember
the red rooster
that could crow
across the country hills
awakening
the nuns still burning
their church bell dreams
or the boulders
in quiet streams
or the old man asleep
in the gas station
who never had any maps
of treasures.

and i remember
the lake painted blue
reeds looking like brushes
tatooes

or
glued
to the black bottom
where serpents swam
while ripples
from rowboats and rafts
and noisey children
would laugh

or dance
on white clouds
from swings
made of magic rope
with pumping feet
k i c k i n g
giggles and dares
and "no you can't"
while Frances played mother.

and i remember
the fences of wire
that separated our palette
from the gray cement
gray buildings
and gray skies
that bent under youths
climbing castle walls
eager for toeholds
pubic hair
and grown-up games.
you painted with so much color.



Thank You,

Todd Bingham, Züm Vanderlip, Phil
Shenale, Greg Hines, Barry Saperstein, Arthur
Rappaport, Mike Daniel, Allen Goldberg, and
Ron Cokley.

VENICE AND THE COASTAL PLAN

By Laguna N. Colton

How do you get to the beach?
Are you going to be pushed out? Trying to move in?
What will the beach look like in five years?
What will Oakwood look like? In five years who will live here?
What happened in the canals?
The Coastal Commission and the city government decide what gets built and how big it is and where. What gets built changes the price of land. Land prices make taxes go up. Taxes make rents go up. Moving? Why?

Is land just going up or
Is there a way to influence this? Do we want to try? Or should we just make a change to another kind of community more comfortable?
What should be the price of moving out? Nobody has answers. Except you, and the landowners.

Who decides what the coastal Commission decides?

Who decides what the city decides?
Who writes the rules for builders?

March 14 & 28, 1977 Torrance City Hall
9:00 a.m.

There will be 2 hours of discussion from all of L.A. county about
What should be built in each community until a coastal plan is adopted.

This is a summary of the guidelines:

The Oakwood rules now say

- .it is ok to build onto a house that is there; unless you add a unit or a story, you don't need a permit.
- .it is ok to build a five bedroom house (2900 square feet) up to 25 feet high, two stories.
- .it is ok to build two 3 bedroom units, 4000 sq. feet.
- .Apartments are ok if they are not above 28 feet (3 stories), and the whole building is less than 4,000 square feet.
- .they are for poor people and rents are low.
- .two parking spaces for each unit.

The Beach rules now say

- .it is ok to build two bedroom units (2600 square feet) on a lot.
- .save all pay parking
- .keep height to three stories (28 feet)
- .save the benches and pagodas (amenities)
- .save the walks
- .apartments should be for poor people
- .two parking spaces per unit.

The Milwood rules now say

- .keep new houses to 22 feet height.
- .keep new duplexes to 25 feet height.
- .keep them small
- .save the walks.

The Canal rules allow

- .2 stories, a small house
- .1 or 2 bedrooms (1800 square feet)
- .set back from the canal.

The staff has rules for the rest of the county (590-5071)

After these rules are discussed in March, the State Coastal Commission in San Francisco will vote again on them in May.

The smoothest way to be heard is to come in with a set of community guidelines agreed to by as many people as will ever agree on anything - to the city and to the commission - even to the legislature. These rules will be the jumping off point for compromise with the developers - or citizens - or whoever. The Commission will make the deal.

The legislature judges if the deal is right. Need a map? Do this March 14, 9 a.m., Torrance, for guidelines. Do it again when the plan comes up.

The Plan

Meanwhile, the City of Los Angeles will be writing a plan. They are supposed to figure out what Venice would look like if everyone built as much as they can build by the city rules. Then they are supposed to ask .can you still get to the beach?
.are there still poor people using the beach and living near it?
.do the new buildings fit in with the landscape and the old houses?

Frank Eberhardt

Al Landini

Richard Gervais

are writing this part for the planning department 485-5386 and Mr. Fisher and Mr. Archuleta 485-6621 at the city legislative analysts office know what the law is supposed to say.

The city makes a guess and makes an offer to the commission.

The planning commission and the city council decide what the offer will look like. Is it the right offer - the residents will tell. Talk to Sharon Kaplan & Ozzie Hunt at 822-2582 - Councilwoman Russell's office. Talk to the City Council Planning Committee, (Art Snyder, Louis Nowell, Mrs. Russell)

After the city writes the plan, the Coastal Commission staff has sixty days to review it. Does it fit state law? Only the residents know if it fits the community.

The Commission will decide what changes are necessary to fit the law.

Once the city and the commission agree on a plan (which must include low and moderate income housing, beach access, how big the houses are) only projects that don't match the plan may be appealed.

Who wrote the law? The state legislature wrote the law. They control the budget of the commission and all the policies the commission enforces.

Structure Information

There are two commissions - a local one and a statewide one. Decisions of the regional (local) commission may be appealed within 10 working days by someone who wrote in or stood up at the local hearing. Decisions by the state commission bind the regional commission.

The regional director is Mel Carpenter - 590-5071. The state director is Joseph Bodovitz - 415-547-1001. They will send you permit agendas, notices of planning hearings and copies of reports, lists of who is on the commission, copies of rules and regulations, copies of guidelines. For long documents there is a copying charge. For agendas send in stamped self addressed envelopes and request it. This way you can keep informed, 666 East Ocean Avenue, Long Beach, 90801

Hey - What if you don't want to write a plan, you just want to build.

1) An add-on to your house. You probably don't need a permit unless you are adding a story or a unit or you are on the beach or on the canals or a bluff. Just go to the city.

2) A new house or second unit. Show how high the house is, where the outside walls are. Don't bother with working drawings, just site plan and elevation. Get it stamped at the city (Mr. Baca, approval-in-concept, West LA City Hall) (\$25) Pick up a coastal form, (\$50), get a list of land owners 100 feet of your property, (don't count street widths) and bring in stamped envelopes addressed to them. For names, either go downtown to the County Assessor or Recorder, or pay a title company ten dollars.

Time: Allow a couple of months. 42 days plus 10 day appeal. If it is bigger than a house (like a 10 story hotel on Windward and Main, allow six months for a decision)



PHOTO BY BILL WEINER

The guidelines (the rules) to be voted on in March will be used to decide your project. After the local coastal program is developed, the rules will follow that plan.

Any problems: Schedule or red tape - call Dave Smith or Pam Emerson - 590-5071

What the Coastal Commission can do

- 1) follow the law - the law is available at 590-5071. It includes beach access parking, and low income housing.
- 2) Use yes or no on permits and yes or no on local plans to follow the law. The Commission can't buy land or build housing or adjust taxes or regulate rents or regulate sales prices. Some of these even the city can't do.

The city could decide to build public housing or investigate rent control. A plan usually will say how big new buildings may be, how many units, and unless there is public pressure will not go into topics like rent control and land cost.

How you can help decide what happens:

- 1) Talk to your neighbors and figure out what makes sense to you.
- 2) Appear March 14 and 28 at the Coastal Commission meeting at Torrance City Hall - 9 a.m. and speak to the guidelines.
- 3) Receive notices of plan meetings and agendas.
- 4) Talk to (or write) city planning staff, Mrs. Russell, coastal staff, regional commissioners, state commissioners, state legislators: Mr. Willie Brown, Mr. Roberti, Mr. Sieroty, Mr. Smith.
- 5) Follow up with letters on plans and on permits.
- 6) Help figure out new ways to protect what there is in this community in a time of change.
- 7) Figure out what's important to you
- 8) Expect to be misunderstood the first 10 times.
- 9) Contact outside agitators
PACE - Mo Stavnezer - 822-4725;
475-3888 - Alan Emkin
- 10) Offended by old cans and mud? Talk to Mrs. Eleanor Dufay.

WOMEN ON WHEELS CONCERT SERIES

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Santa Monica 90405.
Enclose a self-addressed-stamped envelope.

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Beachhead interviews Ruth Yannatta

(Alan Sieroty, the incumbent state Assemblyman in the 44th district, which includes Venice, Santa Monica and parts of West Los Angeles, is moving up to the Senate. The vacancy will be filled by a special election in the late spring, probably on May 31, the same date as the Los Angeles municipal run-offs.)

The Beachhead conducted an interview of Ruth Yannatta, a consumer advocate to the Director of the state Department of Consumer Affairs, who plans to run for the open seat. The Beachhead spoke to Ruth about the race and her positions on issues affecting Venice.)

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR THE ASSEMBLY?

Because I think our district can and should be represented by a community activist, not just another party politician.

This district is one of the most progressive in the state. Tom Hayden carried the district in the primary last June. The U.F.W. initiative won, and the Nuclear Initiative almost got a majority. It's time that we had a person in the Assembly who comes out of an organizing background.

If elected, I plan to use the resources of the Assembly office to help people and groups in the district gain more power. Each assemblyperson has an annual budget of almost \$50,000 for staff and office expenses, plus three newsletters a year to constituents. I've pledged to use these resources to open community action centers around the district and bring in activists--students, senior citizens, representatives of other organizations--to help people get organized around the issues which affect their lives.

I personally will commit to appearing on behalf of the community before the Coastal Commission, before the County Board of Supervisors, and local city councils.

IF ELECTED, HOW WOULD YOU ACTIVELY ASSIST LOCAL COMMUNITIES SUCH AS VENICE OR OCEAN PARK IN FINDING WAYS TO IMPLEMENT AND MAINTAIN LOW-INCOME HOUSING?

With all the real estate speculation that goes on, this is hard to accomplish--but there are some possible solutions. In Canada, the provincial governments (equivalent of states here) provide grants and loans to housing cooperatives which build or buy housing units for low and moderate income people. I would immediately introduce legislation to create such a program in California. Cooperative ownership of housing is one way to reduce the cost of housing by removing the building from the private profit market.



In Washington, D.C., city council members have introduced an anti-speculation tax which imposes very high rates on property sales which turn over quickly. I would favor such legislation in California to help reduce the rampant real estate speculation in our communities. Ralph Nader's Tax Reform group in Washington has worked out such proposals in detail. I've received their material and would seek their expert help in drafting legislation.

I also think it's important to have better tenant legislation. We desperately need a tenants' rights bill to be passed in California. New Jersey has passed excellent legislation that requires all landlords to provide tenants with a booklet outlining their rights. We might follow that example.

I've been active in a new statewide housing coalition called CHAIN, which has been established to counter the real estate lobby. This group helped to influence the Governor to veto the anti-rent control bill which the real estate lobby rammed through the legislature late last year.

I've also worked with Toni Tarlau and her groups efforts to open up existing housing for families with children.

VENICE HAS A HORRENDOUS PARKING SITUATION, HOW WOULD YOU ASSIST RESIDENTS TO RESOLVE THE PARKING PROBLEM?

I understand that there are over a 100 city-owned lots in the Venice area. Perhaps this land could be used for parking, perhaps even for more low-income housing. I would want to work closely with the Venice

Town Council and local activists in coming to a solution of the problem. Basically, I would want to back up and assist in the solutions which the community wants.

One thought I have is that it might be possible to get a Federal grant for a mini-bus system throughout Venice, so that residents can park in larger, central lots and catch a mini-bus to their homes. Such a mini-bus system would make it easier for seniors and children to get around the community. I would also inquire at the state Department of Transportation to see why we couldn't use some of our highway funds for such a project.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE PRESENT TAX STRUCTURE?

It's incredibly inequitable, as most people realize. A Gallup poll taken a few years ago showed that over 80% of the people felt that the tax system is rigged for the rich--and of course it is. Really substantial tax reform will have to come at the Federal level, but there are a few steps we can take here in California.

There is a bill now in the legislature called the Tax Justice Bill (SB 154) introduced by Senators Petris and Dunlap. (My husband, economist Derek Shearer, helped to write the first version of the bill a few years ago.) The bill is strongly supported by the Service Workers Union (SEIU) and by a number of community groups around the state.

The bill closes loopholes that benefit big corporations and raises the rates that state's super rich have to pay. The bill includes a provision for tax relief for renters, as well as to homeowners. It is a good first step in the direction of making everyone pay their fair share of taxes.

WHO'S SUPPORTING YOUR CAMPAIGN AND CAN YOUR REALLY WIN?

Yes, I can win. Because of the composition of the district and my own background in doing community work, I'm considered by the political commentators to be one of the leading candidates.

Tom Hayden has strongly endorsed me, as has the local Westside activist group which grew out of Tom Hayden's campaign. A number of women activists have endorsed me. I have the support of many religious leaders such as Rev. Jim Conn at the Church in Ocean Park, Rabbi Albert Lewis at Temple Isian, and a number of others. I expect some unions to endorse me. It's expensive to run for the Assembly, but we are raising the money. We're planning some fund raising events and concerts in the coming months.

With all this support, it still won't be easy. We expect that other politicians outside the district will be supporting regular party candidates and that these candidates will be well financed. But we can beat them with a people-oriented progressive campaign by energizing and getting out our vote.

HOW CAN PEOPLE GET INVOLVED IN THE CAMPAIGN?

I hope people in Venice will see my campaign as part of a statewide effort to put community activists in office and to use political resources to organize. We need help in fund raising and in precinct work. We want to have a 100 precinct walkers in the Venice area alone, going door-to-door to talk about the campaign and to get out the vote in May. We plan to open either a storefront office in Venice or use someone's home to coordinate the local precinct work.

Anyone who's interested should call our Santa Monica office at: 392-3919 and ask to speak to Pam Baker or Judy Epstein.

We also have lawn and window signs and bumper stickers which people can put on, and postcards they can send to their friends so even if people can't walk precinct, they can help get the work out this way.

Mass actions block evictions

REPRINTED FROM THE GUARDIAN

By MORRIS WRIGHT

Guardian Bureau San Francisco

This city's ruling class was forced to back down last week and stay an eviction order against 80 elderly Asian tenants of the International Hotel in Chinatown-Manilatown.

The stay was granted less than 24 hours after a demonstration at the hotel by some 5000 people Jan. 16. Not only political militants but thousands of working people from various neighborhoods, including more than 2000 Black people, filled the sidewalks for more than four blocks around the hotel. They shouted the tenants' slogan: "We won't move."

This was the fourth demonstration in less than two weeks, each much larger than the previous one. Not since the end of the Vietnam war have there been such actions. Thousands of the people pledged to return at 5 am Jan. 18 when an eviction attempt was expected.

City officials retreated into explanations that were both slanderous and comic rather than admit they were overwhelmed by the growing mass working-class and third world movement. Police Chief Charles Gain asked for a delay in execution of the eviction, scheduled for Jan. 16-19, on the grounds that one of his men allegedly had seen an automatic rifle on the hotel roof. If the cops saw anything, it was a walkie-talkie.

Judge Ira Brown, who had held the sheriff and his deputy in contempt of court for not carrying out the eviction, decided Jan. 17 that the building owner Four Seas Corp. had been "incorrect" in pressing for an eviction in view of other developments. Brown said he had not been influenced by demonstrations or by Gain's reported gun-sighting. He did not explain why he himself had not been "incorrect" up to that time in using all force at his command to bring about an eviction.

Speakers for the International Hotel Tenants' Association (IHTA) and their

supporters ridiculed the gun-on-the-roof story. Emil deGuzman, IHTA secretary said: "We have not used violence. There was violence here in 1969 when the hotel was a slum and a fire killed three people. Now after we have repaired the building and cleaned it up it is probably the safest hotel in San Francisco." He complained bitterly that the San Francisco Examiner had referred to the hotel as a "fleabag" in an article arguing for eviction.

Recalling the 8-year fight against eviction, deGuzman said: "Some of us never went beyond the third grade but we have learned to speak to anyone--the mayor, the superintendents--in front of big crowds. DeGuzman hoped the victory would encourage people in other neighborhoods to fight harder for low-cost housing, welfare, child care and other needs of working-class and third world people.

Since September, when Four Seas obtained an eviction order, the battle between the Asian community and encroaching business concerns has escalated. Four Seas reportedly plans to raze the hotel and build a shopping complex with underground parking.

Whatever the outcome of legal maneuvers to oust the tenants, the authorities now know that hundreds, possibly thousands, of people will be massed in front of the hotel if an eviction is attempted. A "telephone tree" is ready, day and night, if a sneak eviction is tried.

As a tenants' association speaker said: "All of the third world and working-class communities are with us. Every demonstration gets bigger and the tenants get stronger."

Also stronger was the militancy of the speakers. A spokesperson for the community-based Chinese Progressive Association, located in the International Hotel, denounced the Kuomintang, as the Chinese businessmen's association is called. He lumped their interests with those of U.S. imperialism against the welfare of the people and expressed admiration for "socialist China."

Sheriff Richard Hongisto posted eviction notices Jan. 11, after he and his deputy had been convicted of contempt of court for not doing so during a 60-day period following a court order in late September. The sentences--five days in jail and \$500 fines--have been stayed until Jan. 31, pending appeal.

After the Jan. 12 demonstration, Hongisto said that the size and spirit of the crowd vindicated his contention that he did not have the forces to carry out an eviction.

The International Hotel is not in the center of San Francisco's big Chinatown, where tourists abound, but at one edge. An expanding financial district already has begun to encroach on the area and the hotel was purchased last year by Four Seas, owned by investors in Hong Kong and Thailand.

On Nov. 30, the city's Board of Supervisors, responding to popular pressure, voted to transfer \$1.3 million in development funds to the Housing Authority for purchase of the hotel. The Housing Authority filed eminent domain action in Superior Court Dec. 24 stating its intention to lease the building to the Tenants Association. On Jan. 11, the authority asked the court for immediate possession.

Presiding Superior Court Judge Henry Rolph appeared to be waiting to assess the balance of forces. While he stayed Hongisto's sentence, he also delayed a decision on the Housing Authority's request for an order giving them immediate possession. He said he would sign the order, but not until Feb. 1. When and if he signs it, the eviction automatically will be stopped.

Four Seas' claim that the building required between \$150,000 and \$200,000 in improvements was refuted by the city's chief building inspector, Robert Dunne. After a Jan. 4 inspection, Dunne said: "The residential areas of the building aren't that bad. They need a sprinkler system and three or four minor repairs and that's it." The tenants them-



selves have made repairs and improvements equivalent to almost \$100,000 if done by a contractor.

Organizations expressing support for the tenants association at the Jan. 12 demonstration included: Warehouse Local 6, ILWU, ILWU Pensioners Association, United Steel Workers Local 1303, Retail Workers union, the San Francisco Bulk Mail Carriers union, Chinese Progressive Association, Garment Work-

ers union, Municipal Railway Drivers union, Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee, Tenants Action Group, I Wor Kuen, Kearny St. Workshop/Jackson St. Gallery, Prairie Fire Organizing Committee, Union of Democratic Filipinos, Bay Area Gay Alliance, Northern California Alliance, May 1 Organizing Committee, Everybody's Bookstore, Southern Africa Solidarity Committee, Revolutionary Communist Party and the Guardian.

CONFRONTATION BREWS AT CHANNEL 28

By DAVID KASPER

Although TV watchers are not likely to have noticed, there has been a confrontation taking shape behind the scenes at L.A.'s public TV station KCET, channel 28.

While KCET continues to cultivate its public image as a community-supported, community responsive TV station, the group of men who presently control it are apparently concerned that public participation in the station's affairs might become too much of a reality. They are taking firm steps to counter any effort by subscribers to achieve a voice in how the station is run and are taking a hard line against the suggestion that board meetings and records be open to the public.

The first outward indication occurred during KCET's latest on-the-air fund raising drive. Regular watchers are familiar with these periodic appeals to donate \$15 or more and become "member subscribers". The obvious implication is that KCET is an organization that one can "join" and become a part of. And join they do: 115,000 people have taken out their membership in KCET, donating over \$2 million last year.

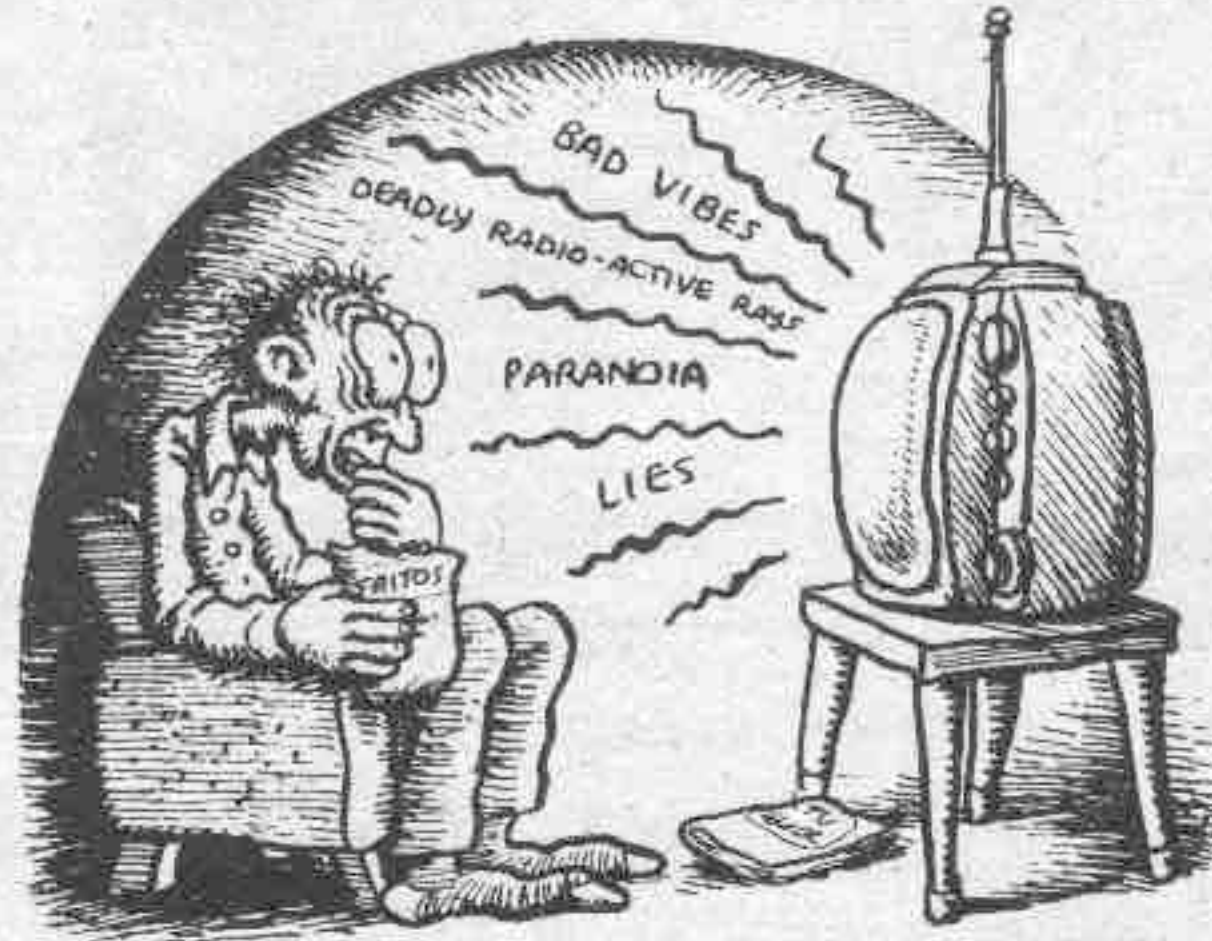
The latest membership drive however, was re-named a "Pledge Festival" and the word "member" has since quietly disappeared from the station's vocabulary. In order to insure that subscribers shall never again be referred to as members, KCET President James Loper issued written instructions to all station personnel directing them to hereby drop the use of the term. No such announcement was made to the station's subscribers or to the public. (An alert reporter for New West Magazine published the fact in a recent issue, however.)

Thus, when subscribers become organized--for which there is strong movement under way--KCET officials will be able to say that this is not "your" station after all; you are only supporters and have no legal right to exercise control.

Subscribers are not the only ones being stone-walled. In the years to come, the California Public Broadcasting Commission plans to dispense some \$12 million a year for public broadcasting in California--to be raised from an excise tax on the sale of new TV sets. The Commission proposed that individual stations be required to open their board meetings and records to the public as a condition for receiving this money. They invited comments from station representatives and held public hearings on the subject last January.

KCET ignored the hearings. A letter to the Commission from KCET's Loper made his position clear. Loper wrote, in part, "KCET does not intend to respond to the questions as submitted.... We feel it is inappropriate for the Commission to even ask such questions. Until these matters are clarified, KCET does not intend to submit further proposals for funding by the Commission."

In other words, it is more important to KCET to be able to conduct its business secretly than to receive the millions of dollars in public money that will be available through the State Commission. The Commission however, has since softened its stand, and is showing signs of yielding on this issue to KCET and its counterpart in San Francisco, KQED. Anyone interes-



ted in telling the Commission how they feel should attend the public meeting scheduled for March 11 at the UCLA Law School--the first such meeting in L.A. in eight months.

So, why all this concern about who controls KCET and how it is run? Aren't they doing an excellent job of providing a good, high-quality alternative to commercial TV?

Some people think so. But growing numbers of people see KCET's obsession with award-winning quality and high-brow culture as catering to an elite audience. There are those who feel that since KCET is run with large amounts of government and foundation money, it has an obligation to serve the entire public, and not just its upper-middle class subscribers.

The constant effort to maintain an ultra-professional polish and slickness to its programs is carried to the extreme and extends to all levels of the station's operation. The story is told of a young production trainee who was handed his first assignment as a lighting director for a local show. Apparently overwhelmed by the magnitude of his responsibility, he suffered a heart attack before the show was taped, and was unable to carry out his assignment.

The charge is also made that KCET for the most part avoids controversy in its programs, perhaps for fear of alienating the corporate underwriters who have come to find public television such an attractive way of buying public opinion. By deciding which programs to sponsor, underwriters are indeed exercising control over programming.

How pervasive is the corporate influence at KCET? Consumer advocate Ellen Stern Harris tells of the time she sent a letter to KCET commending them for an excellent documentary program that was shown. To her amazement, a reply thanking her for her interest was received from an ARCO official written on ARCO letterhead!

Management likes to point to the nightly news series "28 Tonight" as an example of their commitment to local public affairs. This is the only regular public affairs program currently running on KCET. The show is staffed with some excellent people who have the freedom to report in ways that commercial news shows do not, but management has demonstrated that it will not hesitate to throw the switch of censorship if the reporting happens to wander into areas that are taboo.

One of the "28 Tonight" reporters had the go-ahead from his editor to do a story on the

recent shake-up in the news department at KTTV channel 11. The report was finished and ready to air, when senior program executive Loring d'Usseau, an administrator who is not part of the news department staff, stepped in and said no. He said that the reason he killed the story was because he thought it was a poor piece of journalism. A more likely reason is that if KCET begins reporting on the internal affairs of other TV stations, it could invite other stations to turn the investigative spotlight on KCET--and we have already seen what KCET thinks of having its internal operation open to public view.

Another bitter complaint on the part of many people is that access to air time and production support for those who are independent from the station is virtually non-existent. All production is done "in-house" under the careful eye of station management. With rare exception, outside acquisitions are for completed programs only, and almost never are these programs from local independent film and video makers--of which there are hundreds. (Superstar video group TVTV is the exception to the rule.)

There have been recent attempts to organize these independents. A series of meetings organized by local video makers John Hunt and Shirley Clarke drew a surprising word-of-mouth turnout last year. What is needed, these people say, is air time available for showing completed films and tapes, and a method of contracting with KCET and other funding sources before beginning production, with the money to back it up.

Who are the people who control this important public resource? A look at KCET's board of directors shows that it is heavily dominated by members of the corporate establishment. ARCO, Union Oil, 20th Century Fox, Western Federal Savings, Lloyd's Bank, Great Western Financial all are represented, along with officers of some of the local colleges. A further look reveals that certain exclusive social clubs are well represented, such as the California Club leading the way with 10 of its members on the KCET board. Also represented are the Town Hall Club, L.A. Country Club, Jonathan Club, and Sunset Club, to name a few. This group has remained largely unchanged over the years. And little wonder; The board is essentially self-nominated, self-elected and thus self-perpetuating.

The most active group pressuring KCET, and the one which most of station's hard-line responses have been directed to is a recently formed organization called California Friends of Public Broadcasting (CFPB). It is led by Henry Kroll, a veteran of the highly successful movement to reform KQED in San Francisco; Ellen Stern Harris, consumer advocate and weekly columnist for the L.A. Times; communications analyst and media activist Bob Jacobson and others, with support growing rapidly. They put out a newsletter and hold monthly meetings.

Since its last meeting, several important actions have been taken. Two letters have been sent, one to President James Loper requesting a complete list of all 115,000 subscribers, and a second letter to the chairman of the board requesting to be put on the agenda of the next board meeting--an invitation to dialogue which KCET has every reason to accept but probably will not. Appropriate follow-up action will be discussed at CFPB's next meeting on Monday March 7 at 5670 Wilshire Blvd. in the 4th floor conference room of the California Federal Building at 7:30 pm. For information call 936-6547 or write CFPB Box 36144, L.A. 90036.

GAS COMPANIES PROFIT FROM CRISIS

REPRINTED FROM THE GUARDIAN

How is it that the most advanced industrial country in the world can be brought to its knees by a drop in temperatures?

The answer, actually, is not that hard to find. In fact, the "cold crisis" is a classical case of monopoly rip-off and anarchistic capitalist production.

The net effect for the gas companies of the 1977 energy crisis is that natural gas prices will be deregulated, a victory they have been thirsting after since 1954, and profits will zoom. They are, of course, aided and abetted in this by a willing Federal Power Commission (FPC) and a Carter administration that quickly revealed its subservience to powerful economic interests.

Perhaps one of the frankest discussions of the natural gas situation came from Antonio R. Sanchez Jr., whose Laredo, Tex., office has discovered what may be the largest domestic natural gas reserve in 20 years.

"Why should I sell my gas out of state for \$1.42 [per 1000 cubic feet] when Texas buyers are waiting in line to pay \$2 for it?" Sanchez asked. "I wouldn't even go out and drill the holes. We wouldn't even consider it."

And so Sanchez sells his gas to Texas customers, because natural gas sold within a state is not regulated by the FPC. Interstate natural gas, meanwhile, has a price ceiling of \$1.42.

"The people in the East," continued Sanchez, "may not pay a lot for the gas but now they don't have any gas at any price. There's got to be a lesson in there somewhere."

There is indeed. And it was soon memorized and repeated by rote by government officials: the "crisis" will be solved only by deregulating gas prices. This

1-track solution, besides exposing the profit motive that rationalized hoarding of gas supplies at a time people were literally freezing to death, revealed another law of capitalist production: anarchy. Industry, schools, states and cities stood by seemingly helpless as chaotic production allowed a gas glut in some areas and a shortage in others.

Rather than forcing natural gas companies to reallocate intrastate supplies at regulated prices and develop new well-heads, Congress is expected to pass an emergency energy bill lifting price control on interstate gas until April 30.

And what about the supposed shortage of natural gas? A study by federal and private groups concluded that more than 40 years of natural gas resources are available, given current rates of production, current technology and current price control by the FPC, according to the Washington Post.

"There is indeed a deliberate withholding of natural gas from the market in order to force deregulation" of natural gas prices, charged Sen. Howard M. Metzenbaum (D-Ohio). In testimony before the House Energy Subcommittee, James F. Flug, director of the Energy Action Committee, said that deregulation "would allow those who have hidden, withheld and diverted natural gas from interstate markets to reap huge windfall profits in selling that very gas."

Even without total deregulation, the cold weather has warmed the heart of many a natural gas company executive.

"Some of the cold weather impact is coming through in earnings now," said Norman Greenberg, vice president-research of Drexel Burnham and Co. On Jan

24, the Dow Jones utility average rose to a new 3-year high. In the midst of the cold crunch, the General Public Utilities Corp., which serves Pennsylvania and New Jersey, reported that profits were up 67%.

Even before the profit-boost of this year's cold, the natural gas companies were feeling the surge of rising income. Last year, for example, El Paso Natural Gas reported a 53% increase in profits.

The gas companies, in fact, are experienced in trading off fears of an "energy crisis" for higher fuel prices. Some 18 of the 20 top gas producers are large oil companies. Exxon, for example, is the nation's largest natural gas producer.

And what of the FPC? Because natural gas is considered a "natural" monopoly, the FPC was entrusted with safeguarding the public's interest.

The commission, however, has been charged with being the least competent of federal regulatory agencies. House investigators charged Oct. 16 that the FPC has "consciously disregarded... and mismanaged and betrayed" its mandate under law "to protect the consuming public from exploitation, especially by natural gas producers."

A study by the House Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations claimed that the FPC's natural gas decisions are based solely on data supplied by the American Gas Association (AGA), an industry organization that compiles its reports from gas producers. The study said the AGA data had never been audited and were "highly suspicious."

And yet it is AGA information that is being used to bolster the spurious claim that this country is suffering a serious "natural gas shortage." BARBARA MINER

READING BETWEEN
THE LINES



To a computer cash register, these lines spell "Nabisco Shredded Wheat." The computer reads the widths of the lines and the spaces as a 12 digit number. Purely for the convenience of humans, 11 of the digits are also written numerically.

The first digit tells the product type: 0 for grocery. When the code expands to other types of stores, 3 will mean drugs and health aids, 8 will mean liquor. The next five digits are the manufacturer: 13130 is Nabisco. Then come five digits for the product: 00002 for Nabisco, is a 12-biscuit box of shredded wheat.

The last digit in the black lines (not printed numerically) is a check digit which must relate to the other 11 digits according to a complex formula. This allows the computer to catch anyone putting fake labels on packages, unless they use exact replicas of all the lines on the labels of lower-priced products.

Source: Computers and People, 12/75

7



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LETTERS TO THE BEACHHEAD

Dear Beachhead,

For fiscal 1975-1976, the Ocean Park Community Center submitted a revised program description proposing the use of county revenue sharing monies to provide housing and supportive services to women and their children. It is our understanding that our proposal was approved and recommended for funding but was not high enough on the priority list to actually receive monies. We are now attempting to gain support for the proposal so the county will prioritize it and grant funds. We think it should be a priority for the following reasons:

1) There are no temporary housing resources in L.A. County which meet the needs of transient women:

- except for the few spaces available through religious groups whose services are not available unless the person participates in their religious services
 - without specific admission criteria such as drug or alcohol addiction
 - without requiring them to move out of the shelter in one to three days (far too short a time for women in crisis to exercise additional options)
 - without separating them from their children, thereby precipitating, in many cases, additional problems.
- 2) There is an increasingly critical need for shelter for battered women and children in this community. Police reports and social service agency statistics (DPSS, Family Services, Commission on Assaults Against Women) all reflect the increased number of battered women seeking shelter and services. In the absence of adequate shelter to temporarily remove these persons from physically dangerous environments, other forms of service (counsel-

ing, information and referral, etc.) are meaningless.

According to Los Angeles Times staff writer, Ursula Vils (Sunday, May 23, 1976) L.A. County has only 44 beds available to transient women as compared to between 200-4000 for transient men. Battered women and children, ex-psychiatric patients and women who are living "on the street" for lack of an alternative require an entire network of supportive services which facilitate the difficult transition from crisis to stability.

We are requesting your support for the Ocean Park Community Center women's shelter proposal which will, for minimal cost, establish a vital community resource and an important first step in changing the existing conditions of these women and children's lives.

You can provide this support by writing to Supervisor James A. Hayes (1725 Main St., Santa Monica, 90401), requesting him to support the Ocean Park Community Center women's shelter proposal. We have stated our reasons for its immediate need. You have your own experience with this problem. Please write Supervisor Hayes stating why you see the need for a women's shelter on the west side and that you support the OPCC proposal.

If you have any questions about our proposal, its content, or how to support it, please don't hesitate to call us at 399-9228 and ask for Ariana Manov, Mollie Lowery, or Tita Caldwell. Thank you for your consideration and support. If you do send a letter of support to Supervisor Hayes, please send us a carbon to 245 Hill Street. If you are interested in helping create this shelter, please call us.

Ariana, Mollie, Tita, Linda
The OPCC Staff

Dear Beachhead,

OK, so you people have a line on who's running the country. But put this in your commie pipe and smoke it:

The conspiracy mentioned in your article on Carter-Brezinski goes beyond just the Atlantic Alliance and the Japan-West Germany-U.S. alliance. In fact, they own the Soviet Union and Red China. The Soviet Union provided the impetus for the alliance in the first place. Without the communist threat to the east there would have been no motivation to build NATO, EEC, CENTO, SEATO etc. To fight communism, the State Department has been busy promoting socialism. This is the Fabian dream, ala British Fabian Society. Where do you think the CFR and TLC have their roots?

The conspiracy is old. Some suggest it goes back to eve and the serpent. More recent beginnings are a secret society called the "Order of the Illuminati" founded on May 1, 1776 by Adam Wieshaupt a jesuit theologian in Bavaria. After they were kicked out of there they used the tactics that would later be employed by the Bolsheviks to topple Louis XVI and establish the Reign of Terror. Marat Danton Robespierre Rousseau Robert Owens Fouries St. Simon were all in on the game. The much celebrated Revolution of 1848 was also theirs as was Karl Marx, Lenin and Trotsky were paid agents of this conspiracy. The Federal Reserve System, the U.N. and the U.S. State Department are also theirs. Roosevelt Acheson Marshall Eisenhower Stevenson Kennedy Johnson Rush Kissinger Vance etc. etc. are all "illuminated" to one degree or another.

What is their goal?

To put it shortly, establish a communist world government that will own everything, including you. Disarmament, ban the bomb, world peace are all their ideas. What does "peace" mean? It means the condition that will prevail when all resistance to this Leviathan ceases. They want to create a New Secular Order (New World Order) and wipe religion from the minds of men. Once nobody is thinking of God they will all come, arms outstretched to the all powerful state which will furnish them all their needs, in exchange they will give the state a blank check on their lives.

They have it so wired that the fools at the Beachhead are busy running off at their typewriters about "working people's rights" (just another name for slavery to the state), solidarity, feminism, gay rights, etc. etc. all of which are requisite to the godless amoral secular order which is the conspiracy's goal of world rule. For more information read Gary Allen's "None Dare Call it Conspiracy" (ser-

Battered Women — Skeleton in The Closet (REPRINTED FROM SISTER NEWSPAPER)

Not too long ago most people thought wife beating was an outgrowth of a Saturday night drinking bout. And today most people believe that wife beating isn't much more serious than an occasional slap across the face. But thousands of women throughout the country know the devastating realities of physical abuse. They know what it feels like to be punched, kicked and thrashed. They've experienced the pain of blackened eyes, loosened teeth, broken bones and miscarriages.

There is also a relationship between wife battering and alcohol abuse, jealousy of other men, women and children (even unborn children), and the attitude that women enjoy being beaten and put in their rightful, subservient place.

The woman who lives with an abusive man lives with the constant tension that he might unleash his fury at any time. She learns to control her anger and to avoid argument so he will have no excuse to hit her. Her continual state of fear drives her to the doctor for medication to treat her "nervous" condition.

She comes to accept her husband's criticisms of her housekeeping and child rearing performance. His attacks on her competence serve to reinforce her already low opinion of herself. Her low self-esteem fills her with a sense of emptiness, of being useless, and of having nothing to offer anyone else.

The battered wife does not have too many opportunities to change those self perceptions because she is often socially isolated from others. She tends to be without many friends. She is not active in clubs or organizations. So she receives no other feedback about her abilities except through her husband.

Her sense of shame and failure prevents her from telling people about the batterings.

Dear Beachhead,

On Friday, February 18, I went to Hull Lumber Company (Venice Blvd near West Washington) in Venice to purchase some lumber. I was shocked when in the office I saw a large framed cartoon of a man with golf clubs on his back, a mean look on his face and his fist punching a woman's face. The woman (his wife I presume) was wearing an apron and carrying two drinks.

I immediately asked why that picture was hanging there and was told by the salesperson (male) that it was there because it was funny. I said it wasn't funny, it was violent. He laughed and said that I "didn't get it." Another salesperson (male) then came over and

And even when she does, most people, including her relatives, hold little sympathy for a woman who allows herself to be beaten. They don't understand her fear of being alone, a fear perpetuated by a society that demands "togetherness", and her concerns about supporting herself and children.

When women try to change the situation, they encounter a series of roadblocks. Many police departments give "domestic disturbance" calls low priority and once on the scene do very little to help. Police are hesitant to intervene because of the "sanctity" of the family and also because of the potential for violence involved. In 1974 one out of every five police killed in the line of duty died while responding to a domestic disturbance call. Often police do not arrest for wife battering and leave after urging the husband to take a walk around the block or settle his differences peacefully. If a man is arrested he is soon out on bail and back in the home, further outraged because of his wife's call for help.

The courts are no more able to provide assistance. Most arrests go unprosecuted. Charges are dropped or reduced due to lack of evidence. Women themselves drop charges in fear of retaliation, fear of making it alone if her husband were to go to jail, and knowledge that jail is no real answer to the problem.

Judges and juries hesitate to convict for wife battering, and convictions frequently result in no more than probation and a reprimand. Restraining orders against the husband can be issued only if the woman presses charges or files for divorce, and they are nearly impossible to enforce. Police can intervene only after the man has arrived at home, and frequently this is too late.

Women are often forced to flee their homes to save their lives and sanity. But

this is not easy and does not happen as often as it could if there were more social supports available. Young children keep women at home as do the realities of economic survival.

Women are embarrassed to confide in friends and family and have no place to go. They spend nights in motels, bus stations and out on the streets and return home because of no alternative.

Social service agencies are bureaucratic and unable to provide immediate financial assistance or emotional support. Legal assistance is costly, and legal aid societies either don't handle family and divorce cases or tell the woman she is ineligible for help because her husband's income is too high. Battered women remain alone and isolated with few real options.

Naturally, in an environment that accepts the husband's right to beat his wife, the sanctity and privacy of the family, and the belief in innate masochism of the woman who allows herself to be beaten, not much attention has been paid to this problem.

As with rape, until public attention focused on the plight of the victim, wife beating has been a "skeleton in the closet", only recently exposed as a situation in which women have been victimized by society and by cultural attitudes as well as by violence.

In the Los Angeles area there are 2 shelters: Haven House in Pasadena and the Women's Transitional Living Center in Orange. A NOW Task Force in Long Beach is planning to open a shelter soon. The Rape Hotlines have been receiving calls from women who have been beaten and are planning to offer hotline services

asked me if I ever watched funny programs on TV. I said not if they are aimed against me. He said "it's not against you." I said, "yes it is, I'm a woman and when any woman is violently attacked I consider it against me. They then laughed some more and told me that "of course, I would think that way, it just shows where I'm at." I decided not to pursue it further that way. I'm writing letters instead (to Hull, and all the local newspapers).

That picture has no place in this or any other community. I urge you to go see it for yourself, and please comment to the management.

Linda Lucks

to battered women early in 1977. The Social Service Department of Santa Monica Hospital offers counseling for women who are seen in the Emergency Room as a result of being beaten. A Coalition on Battered Women representing agencies, groups and individuals in the Los Angeles area has been meeting for 3 months. The group has discussed the glaring gaps in the network of services available to battered wives seeking help, and are working on a resource directory for women.

Plans are being made for a conference in March to learn from and to educate the community about the problems and needs of battered wives. (For more information write: Coalition on Battered Women, P.O. Box 145, Venice, CA 90291.)

The Coalition has concluded that a coordinated network of services must contain:

1. Hotline and crisis counseling which is (a) non-judgemental and supportive, (b) prepared to discuss the woman's options and (c) informed about the resources in the area.
2. Legal counseling, especially to prepare women to deal with the legal system.
3. Emergency shelters for women and their children to protect them from more violence; to provide food and shelter until a safe place and a means to pay for it are found. This is perhaps the most pressing need.
4. Follow-up help to establish a new life, involving education, finding jobs, child care, a place to live with manageable rent, continued counseling and emotional support.

Karen Hilfman
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Saturday, March 5, 12-5 p.m. - gallery opening and reception Whitney Snow. Show continues through Mar 26.
Art Exhibition by Whitney Snow - Opening Reception, Saturday, March 5, 1977 noon-5 p.m.

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for women over 45 only. A 6 week exploration into feelings, consciousness-raising, and myths surrounding the many changes at this time of life. Safe and supportive. Facilitator: Lynn Laredo. Mondays 6-10 p.m. in Santa Monica. Includes pot luck supper. Info: 450-4514

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201 Ocean Front Walk
Retired Senior Program, 394-0251
Westminster Senior Citizen Center, 392-5566
Jewish Home for the Aged, 881-4411
Holy Family Services, 484-1441

community services

NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Venice Legal Aid, 392-4177
Ocean Park Community Center 399-9228
Information referral, crisis intervention, counseling, emergency food & clothing. 245 Hill St., Santa Monica.
Food Stamps only, 479-4421
NAM (New American Movement), 392-7690
Food stamp/unemployment counseling,
Rainbow Pages, 392-7469
St. Joseph's Center, 392-5101
533 Rose Ave. Venice, CA.
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Job Information Center, 451-9811
Welfare
1. 11390 W. Olympic Blvd, 478-5511
2. Welfare Rights, 731-5095
3. NAPP, 399-7737
Free Venice, 226 San Juan, 396-6876
Pet Assistance, 937-5204
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WOMONSPACE

Womon-space, a new Women's Westside Center is holding open planning meetings on Saturdays at 11 a.m. at 237 Hill St. Santa Monica. For more information call: 399-9220. Sisters, join in creating Womon-space.
Mens Gay Rap Group meets every Wednesday at Unitarian Society - L.A. West, 3744 South Barrington Ave., (near Venice Blvd.) Mar Vista at 7:30 p.m.

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Dear Beachhead contributors,

We work as a collective and we gather together at least two, sometimes three Saturdays a month to read manuscripts. It isn't fair to turn in manuscripts after the deadline (unless of course its news that happens after the deadline i.e., Coastal Commission decisions, police harassment, Camel sellouts). It does not give us a chance to meet and talk together to make decisions about your articles which we do want! But, quit procrastinating and turn 'em in ON TIME! Our next deadline for the April, 1977 issue is: March 19
Our mailing address is P.O. Box 504, Venice, Ca. 90291.
Thanks - The Free Venice Beachhead

P.S. Always keep a duplicate copy of your material in case it gets lost.

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To teach as many citizens as possible the life-saving technique of CPR, Civilian Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, the Los Angeles City Fire Department is providing free, one-day training programs for the public. For further information on attending or hosting a CPR training class, please contact your local fire station.

BENEFIT FOR CLINIC IN MOZAMBIQUE

OPovo Organizado (The People Organized), a new movie from the maker of A Luta Continua is being shown around Los Angeles to raise money for a desperately needed clinic in rural Mozambique. African poetry readings, discussion on the current situation in Mozambique. Saturday March 6 at 1 p.m. at St. Roberts auditorium, Loyola Marymount University, at 80th and Loyola. \$2.

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905 Venice Blvd. Venice, pregnancy tests, infections, abortion counseling, birth control, 4 p.m.-4:45 p.m.
Community Family Health Center, 392-4125
320 Lincoln Blvd. M-F 6 p.m.-10 p.m.
Family Planning Center, 392-4147
1501 Pacific Ave. (at Market St)
Westside Women's Health Care, 450-2191
1711 Ocean Park Blvd.
Women's Center, 826-0818
Women's Building, 225-1724
Drug Treatment Center, 274-5387
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Methadone Treatment, 477-4085
Venice Drug Coalition, 399-9374.
Narcotics Anonymous, 372-9666
Drug Hotline, 392-2873
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A NEW ORGANIZATION FOR A NEW DAY IN VENICE!

Meet at the regular Wednesday March 2nd Venice Town Council meeting to discuss:

Support "Alternative Meeting" concept to found free anarchist absolute poverty level surreal dramatic feminist and humanist organization to be called "Freer Venice".

To start a "Freer Venice all day open town meeting cultural event soon at pavillion: If necessary to oppose.

Plan by "left-over clique" of old town council to have closed, short meeting semi-authoritarian group with "elected representatives". Bring back and expand "old Venice" surreal, dramatic, radical cultural, non-violent free speech revolution instead!

Love in the Goddess. Contact Sandy Blixton, Wizzy Lumpy, Mary Lou Johnson, Elizabeth Sunny Sky, John Haag if you can find them!

Come to Meeting: Leave Messages for Eve or Sabina at 396-7138 A.M.; or "Adam" care of Robert at 392-6980. Write Freer Venice care of KALI KONG Box 5035, Santa Monica Shores CA 90405.
Tuum Est, 392-3070
503 Ocean Front Walk 870-6095
Venice, a non-profit
Calif. Corp. for the re-habilitation of drug abusers.

THE CATS MEOOW!

Victor Marchetti, former CIA executive assistant and a fourteen year veteran with the agency, revealed that the CIA had once recruited a cat. In an attempt to eavesdrop on conversations held by "enemy" agents discussing covert plots against the United States government, the animal was wired for sound. A problem arose, however. The cat developed hunger pangs and began wandering away from the target area in search of food.

Two new wires were implanted in the cat-one to detect the cat's hunger response, and another to abort it. This didn't solve all of the CIA's problems. The cat then began roaming in search of the opposite sex. So two more wires were implanted, one to detect the cat's sexual urges, and the other to somehow bypass them.

After exhaustive testing, the cat was finally ready for its first assignment. It was turned loose in the street, followed by a CIA support truck loaded with electronic monitoring gear. The cat was immediately run over by a taxi cab.

(Springfield Advocate)

PLAGUE OF COMMUNES

The U.S. Census Bureau says that there are so many communes that it will be forced to include them in a new category in their next population survey. (DC Gazette)

NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS PERSIST

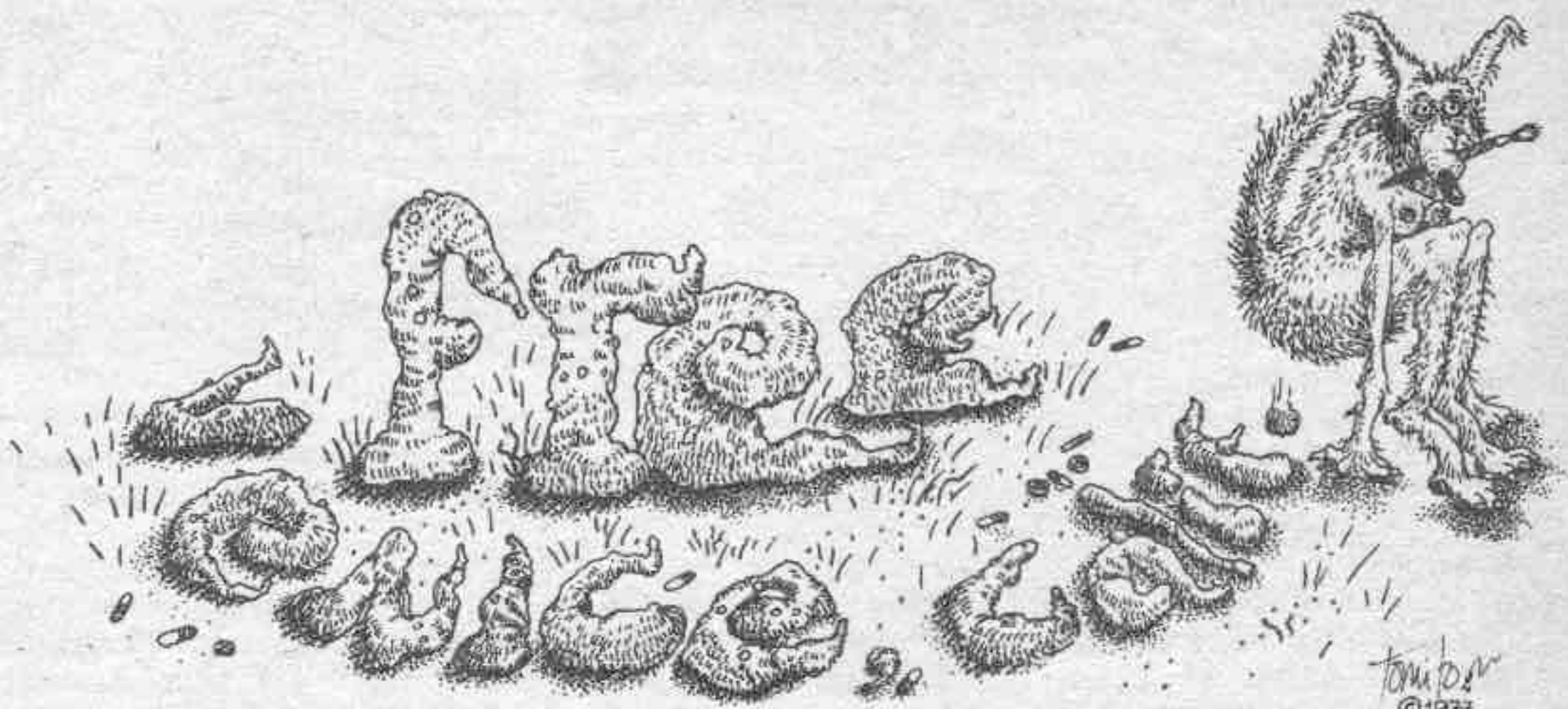
An new study concludes that nuclear power will cost even more than is expected because parts of the plants will remain radioactive for more than 1½ million years. The study, by the New York Public Interest Research Group, disputes the nuclear industry's findings that atomic plants may be safely dismantled about 100 years after they quit operating.

The industry contends that the typical plant will produce energy for about 40 years, that it will be "mothballed" under 24-hour guard for the next 100 years, and then can be safely dismantled. The group, however, says certain types of dangerous radioactivity will remain inside the plants for the next 1.56 million years. This persisting radioactivity will require flooding the plants and divers working under a protective layer of eight feet of water to cut the plant into pieces; after that, the pieces must then be placed in lead caaks and permanently buried at federal repositories. The group says its finding indicate that disposing of the plants will add "many tens of millions of dollars to the cost of nuclear power." (ZNS)



JOBS

The number of jobs created by environmental regulations has vastly offset job losses, according to figures released by Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Russell Train. The EPA figures show that between January 1971 and June 1976 pollution control laws were at least partially responsible for the closing of 82 industrial plants resulting in the loss of 17,890 jobs. On the other hand, said Train, the building of municipal sewage treatment plants, mandated by the EPA, has provided more than 100,000 new jobs. In addition, a study by Arthur D. Little Inc. contends that air and water pollution laws passed during the 1970s will create at least 75,000 new jobs in pollution control equipment manufacturing. Train said that some 175,000 workers will be engaged in construction activity financed by the EPA by June 1977. (PNS)



WHEN IS LSD NOT ACID?

"High Times" claims that authentic LSD has not been available on the streets of the United States since 1966, saying that virtually all psychedelics sold as LSD for the past decade are, in reality, different in chemical structure from pure acid. LSD-25 was first manufactured by Dr. Albert Hoffman at the Sandoz Laboratories in Switzerland. In 1966, LSD was outlawed in the US, and according to High Times, none of the so-called acid made since then, including Sunshine, Windowpane, Blotters and Micro dots was precise enough in structure to unlock what are described as the minds delicate "doors of perception." According to High Times: "Today's acid trip is far more likely to resemble a live TV broadcast in runny color from the front seat of a roller coaster" than a true LSD experience. (ZNS)

RENT CONTROL

One third of all renters in the U.S. pay more than they can afford for housing according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' breakdown of necessary living expenses. With soaring rentals putting the squeeze on other necessities, city after city is witnessing the birth of a hot new issue: rent control.

If the trend continues, it could have far reaching consequences. "Rent control," says Prof. Beau Brincefield of the American University business school, "is totally altering the concept of real estate as we have known it in the U.S."

"We are in a transition from property being viewed as a commodity to property being viewed as a social resource that must be committed to the best interests of society." (PNS)



LET IT GROW

THE NEXT TIME YOU LIGHT UP A JOINT LET YOUR LEGISLATOR KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.

Assemblyman Willie L. Brown, Jr. (Democrat-San Francisco) has introduced legislation in the California Legislature to eliminate arrests and jail penalties for persons who grow small amounts of marijuana for personal use.

Under the new bill - AB-367 - cultivation of six plants or less would be punishable by a maximum fine of \$100 and/or up to six months in county jail. Enforcement would be through either a citation or an arrest, at the discretion of the police officer, as is the case with possession of more than one ounce of marijuana.

The cultivation of more than six plants for personal use would be a misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum fine of \$500 and/or up to six months in county jail. Enforcement would be through either a citation or an arrest, at the discretion of the police officer, as is the case with possession of more than one ounce of marijuana.

Cultivation of marijuana with intent to sell would remain a felony and would be treated the same as possession with intent to sell.

Currently in California, cultivation of any amount of marijuana-even a few plants for personal use - is a felony, punishable by a term in state prison. Assemblyman Brown's bill would make the penalties for cultivation for personal use the same as possession for personal use and provides a non-commercial alternative source of supply of marijuana by repealing felony penalties for personal cultivation.

Public support for AB 367 is needed now in the California Legislature, especially the state assembly and most importantly the Assembly Criminal Justice Committee.

Most importantly and most immediately, letters are needed to the Chairman and members of the Criminal Justice Committee who will be hearing testimony and voting on the cultivation bill in March. The names and addresses are listed below. Letters to legislators are much more important than many people realize, so urge your friends and neighbors to write also.

You can also send a Public Opinion Message via Western Union. To do this, call toll free (800) 648-4100 and tell the answering operator that you wish to send a Public Opinion Message to Assemblyman in Sacramento. You can send a 15 word message for only \$2.00 and have it billed to your home phone. This is both quick and effective!

Letters and telegrams can make a difference. Contact your friends, family and neighbors and urge them to act today also. Time is crucial.

Letters written to these legislators in support of AB 367 and to Senators Cranston and Hayakawa in support of S-601, the newly introduced federal bill to decriminalize marijuana possession are all needed now!

Hon. Leo McCarthy - Speaker of the Assembly

Hon. Ken Maddy - Chairman, Assembly Criminal Justice Committee

Hon. Terry Goggin V. Chairman - D. San Ber

Hon. Richard Alatorre - Dem. from L.A.

Hon. Paul Bannai - Dem. from L.A.

Hon. Julian Dixon - Dem. from Culver

City, MDR, Crenshaw

Hon. John Knox - Dem. from Richmond

Hon. Bruce Nestande - Rep. from Orange

Hon. Alan Sieroty

Hon. State Capitol

Sacramento, CA 95814 Wash., D.C. 20510

Sen. U.S. Senate

-(NORML)