

IN THIS ISSUE:

- City Planning Commission Meeting Pg. 5
- Bay Street Tenants Pg. 6
- People's Republic of Venice - Center spread
- Birthing Center Harassment Pg. 14



MARCH 1979 ISSUE #111

P. O. BOX 504 VENICE, CA, 90291 823-5092

TOO MANY ACES?

THE BEAT GOES ON



Venice Town Council Gives Christmas The Dickens

by Kate Keeling

Poor Doug Christmas! In a T.V. interview on February 16th, the night of the opening of the new Ace Gallery, he claimed "It's hard...hard" to make a living through selling art. It's odd, then, that this gallery at Windward and Main is the third gallery he has opened in Venice. He has one in Vancouver and evidently one in Europe. (There is more information on his property in another article in this Beachhead.)

The new Ace Gallery, housed in the old Bank of America building, has opened with a showing of Robert Rauschenberg's works. Outside the gallery a group of some 30 Venice Town Council members protested the opening of the gallery on that night, and its very existence.

Why has the Town Council opposed the gallery? It's art after all, isn't it? Isn't a new gallery in keeping with Venice's long association with art and craft?

We strongly support art, local art, where artists live and work in Venice. Through living here, we hope and think they are part of the community, responsive to the unique mixture of people that has made Venice what it is. We consider the Ace Gallery to be another piece of the investors' jigsaw, being superimposed on Venice and replacing the traditional Venice with outside money and interests.

A gallery showing the expensive works of artists such as the New Yorker, Rauschenberg, is catering to rich Beverly Hills types. (Local residents couldn't possibly afford Rauschenberg's works.) This snowballs into providing ritzy shops, restaurants to cater to this influx of affluent people. (See what's happened in Main Street, just along the road in Ocean Park.) This in turn adds fuel to the escalating property prices. Venice residents are being displaced; the long established diversity of black, white, and brown, young and elderly, low and middle income residents is threatened.

After Christmas had approached us in January, we met with him to explain our position but he refused to even consider the issues.

The Town Council considered the proposed gallery to be inconsistent with the character of Venice, and a conversion of the building from coast-related use to a "non-beach" one. So Rick Davidson, on the Town Council's behalf,

appealed the proposed project at the State Coastal Commission. While an appeal is being considered by the Coastal Commission concerning a project seeking a development permit, no work must be started. When the Coastal Commission was informed that work was continuing on the gallery after the appeal had been lodged, an official stop order was issued. Christmas took no notice of this stop order, and when the L. A. Building Department was informed, they too issued a stop order. (Note -- in both instances they only acted after being informed and cajoled by the Venice Town Council.)

Despite both these stop orders, work was speeded up on the building. When Rick contacted the Building Department again he set off a chain of buck-passing. The Building Department claimed it was the City Attorney's responsibility to take action, the City Attorney that it was the Attorney General's. Attorney General Gissler refused to act unless so instructed by Mel Carpenter, Executive Director of the South Coast Regional Coastal Commission. Mr. Carpenter then claimed that the State Commission had told him "to go no further on this matter, it will be handled at the State level." He admitted that pressure was coming from Leo McCarthy's office in Sacramento. The eventual conclusion was that no action was taken by the responsible bodies to put a stop to the gallery's illegal construction work.

To further compound the illegal actions, an anonymous call was received by the Venice Town Council claiming the structural cross-ties had been removed from the building, and had been taken to an empty lot at the corner of Brooks and West Washington Boulevard. Having verified the call by checking the lot and finding the ties and steel cables as had been described, the Building Department when contacted actually took some interest.

On February 14 this office inspected the gallery and confirmed the removal of the structural ties. Mr. Fratt, head of the Building Department, said the gallery could not be legally opened, insurance wouldn't be valid, and his office wouldn't allow the public in unless the structural beams were reinstalled.

By now it was only two days away from the proposed opening, and still no one from either the Coastal Commission or the City Council was prepared to take any action at all against Christmas and his gallery, when he had ignored two stop orders and had removed structural ties from the building, thus making it unsafe in the event of an earthquake.

As the Coastal Commission and the L. A. City Council refused to perform their proper duties in

... Continued on page 3 ...

COASTAL COMMISSION UPDATE

by Brenda Harney

NORTH

On Tuesday and Wednesday, February 6 and 7, the State Coastal Commission met in Burlingame. Relevant to Venice was the appeal of B. Harney from the South Coast Regional Commission decision granting a permit to Davis Fowler/Goldfarb to construct an open-air retail crafts center between 17th and Market Streets at Windward on the Ocean Front Walk.

Though the drawings showed open-air structures with roofs supported by beams, it seemed if roofs go up, can walls be far behind... And the structures would remove one-third of all the existing parking spaces. Beyond these considerations, the North Beach Planning Task Force has recommended (in the North Beach Specific Plan) that these parcels be R-3-1-CA. (The R-3 zoning would allow residential construction and the CA overlay would allow art-craft sales to occur.)

Current zoning in these parcels is C-2, but as it turns out, the open-air structures proposed don't fulfill municipal code requirements for C-2 zoning -- which specifies that commercial activities must occur from a fully enclosed structure, though the customer may be outside. The City of L. A. has conceded that the approval in concept for this project was granted in error. Even more interesting is the fact that the applicants had already modified their plans to include boxed-in corner structures and were talking about back walls with roll-away grills over the front, or plate glass enclosures of some sort.

Substantial issue was declared on this appeal, and the public hearing was opened. It remains open at this time, and if you have any input, you should write to Bob Sheppard and Phil Kern at the State Commission; reference Appeal No. 1-79.

SOUTH

Two weeks later, the State Commission met in San Diego. Venice had 7 appeals up this time.

Substantial issue was declared on the appeal of the Venice Town Council and B. Harney from the South Coast decision granting Frank Gehry a permit to build a complex of three retail structures at Rose and Main. The appellants felt the incursion of exclusive Ocean Park type shops into the Oakwood and Milwood areas (for which a specific plan is being developed) would be a serious threat to the stability of those communities. Larry Abrams submitted a letter to that effect, and it was distributed to the Commissioners. The opening line was read into the record: "Rape is an odious crime to middle-class sensibilities..." Larry was talking about the symbolic rape of Oakwood by developers, and his letter was strong and passionate and to the point. Since the public hearing on this appeal is still open, you can submit your opinions in writing to John Bremner at the State Commission; reference Appeal No. 18-79.

Substantial issue was also declared on the conversion of warehouse space to a racquetball court, in an area adjacent to the Gehry project. The same issues of economic stability in Oakwood were cited. The hearing is still open on this appeal as well. You can write to Mark Prince at the State Commission; reference Appeal #33-79.

Three appeals were up on the Silver Strand: Hoffman, to develop an interior lot on Ketch, and two by Graner to develop lots on Via Dolce. The Hoffman project was appealed by PACE and the Graner projects by the Venice Town Council. Staffperson Jim McGrath grouped these appeals together and wrote an insightful analysis of the Silver Strand situation, including in it some innovative approaches to dealing with development there while preventing destruction of the Ballona Lagoon.

Staff declared substantial issue with the Hoffman appeal, but it was actually withdrawn before it was discussed. No substantial issue

... Continued on page 20 ...



Dear Collective,

Wait a minute! At times I have been ignored but I've never been considered "anonymous"! Those are my photos on page 1 and the Ocean Park pigeons. I shot them when I first came to Venice about four years ago. That was when I spent many a great day roaming the streets shooting what I thought was a beautiful place to live. There was Sweetpea's and The St. Charles etc etc.... and When I told people from Hollywood that I lived in Venice they would shake their heads and offer condolences (really!). Now they're all here on weekends and I can't even find a seat to have breakfast because Venice is "The Place To Be".

Ah well, it's still beautiful; except my friends no longer offer condolences. Now they ask, "If you hear of a place by the beach that's really cheap please let us know". I never do.

Yours,
Bill Weiner

Dear Beachhead Persons:

As a National At-Large Member of the Gray Panthers, I fiercely resent your publication of Ridley's poem "THE GREY PANTHER SNARLS". The Gray Panthers is not another "senior" separatist organization. We are a coalition of old and young, together as equals to abolish all forms of prejudice especially ageism. That poem was a ageist attack on half of our coalition and does not represent our viewpoint.

As a person, I abhor your ignorance on the oppression of the young as well as the old. Substitute "black" or "Venice" for the word "young" in the line "Look here you young bastards, keep your mouth shut", and its obviously a bigoted slur. Hiding prejudice under a poem is no excuse. You have a policy against printing racist and sexist material-why not ageist shit also. Most of the other alternative papers similar to the Beachhead that you mentioned have such a policy. Are you so insensitive that you do not realize that we too must face dehumanizing attitudes and policies? Out of necessity, I find that you and others are turning me and others into rampaging anti-ageist militants. I, for one, do not cherish that role.

-ADSLA-
young militant

Beachhead Collective Response:

We did not interpret G. Ridley's poem as representing or having any connection with the Gray Panthers Organization, nor do we feel G. Ridley inferred that in any way.

While we understand your anger at the ageism that is easily interpreted from the poem, we also feel that there are other issues involved. We understand the poem to be a statement about a real relationship between two groups of people in our society and an expression of anger about that relationship. The barrier between old and young is real, and the expression of anger about that is legitimate as is your anger from taking it personally. Old people and young people may point fingers at one another, and, clearly, the responsibility for the feelings expressed in the poem belong with all people and how they choose to relate to one another.

VENICE TOWN COUNCIL



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, March 21 - 7:30p. m.
Venice City Hall, 681 N. Venice Bl.

- 1- Report on Viet Nam-China War Association of Vietnamese Patriots in United States
- 2- This time they've gone too far: The Town Council, the Ace Gallery, and the survival of Venice.
- 3- Election of one new Town Council Coordinator

EVERYONE FROM THE COMMUNITY IS ALWAYS INVITED

The Venice Town Council Coordinating Committee, which sets the agenda for the monthly meetings, meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Venice City Hall at 7:30p. m.

Dear Beachhead!

I am a jogger/runner. To run along the beach is an exhilarating experience, but one seemingly small problem constantly diminishes my meditative motion.

Alas, it might sound ridiculous, but having to run around the rocks at Brooks Ave. and various other areas just blows me completely away. Especially when I'm peaking to a mellow, swift, comfortable stride.

Perhaps a few "bridges" similar to the ones in the Canals might alleviate this problem. Then again a "tunnel" might do the trick but I'm kind of leary on that idea.

I don't know if other beach runners experience this as a problem or not. I'm sure most people would tell me that this should be my only problem. Nevertheless, I would like some feedback as to possible solutions, without having to leave my own area or resorting to a track or jogging shoes of any kind.

Come on now you runners. I know you're out there 'cause I see you every day. If by some quirk of fate we can work this out perhaps a brand new tee-shirt will emerge....."Joggers Make Better Problem Solvers".

Thank you,
Jerry Rubin (399-4148)

sacramento responds to venice

Dear Beachhead:

Enclosed please find a letter from Bill Press, Director of the Office of Planning and Research in the Governor's Office, which was sent to me in response to my letter printed in last Month's Beachhead.

I plan to follow-up his suggestion to visit with Councilwoman Pat Russell, Calvin Hamilton, Deputy Mayor Ray Remy, and Alan Sieroty and Mel Levine, our State Senator and Assemblyperson. Persons wishing to be involved in these meetings should contact me at 396-1941 or 393-0237 as soon as possible.

It is best for a committee of concerned Venice citizens to go together and I certainly look forward to hearing from enough people to make a good sized group.

Keep up the excellent work. The Beachhead looks and reads better than ever.

Best wishes,
Linda Lucks

State of California
Governor's Office
Office of Planning & Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Ms. Linda Lucks
Venice, California 90291
February 13, 1979

Dear Linda:

I was both embarrassed and pleased to receive your letter of January 10.

Embarrassed - because it reminded me that I had not yet sat down to thank you, as I wanted to, for introducing us to wonderful Venice, for finding so many of us house, home and babysitters and for making us feel so "at home" and so "part of the community." Living in Venice was indeed a very special experience and Carol and I easily learned to love Venice as a very special place.

Pleased - because I at last had an opportunity to repay you for some of your kindness.

I discussed the Venice coastal planning situation with Mike Fischer, Executive Director of the State Coastal Commission and a former OPR colleague. The situation is rather complex.

First, let me say that I agree wholeheartedly with you that Venice is one of those special coastal communities that deserve special treatment by the Coastal Commission - and, indeed, the original coastal act recognized the necessity of special attention to preserving the unique mix and character of those communities. It would be a disaster if the uniqueness of Venice were lost in a sea of colorless, yet legally conforming, new developments approved by an insensitive local planning body.

The difficulty lies in the fact that, from the beginning, the intent of the Coastal Act was -- very properly, I believe -- to restore permit authority along the coast to the appropriate local government, as soon as a local coastal program consistent with state coastal policies was developed. The act even provides that, before a local coastal program is adopted, a city or county may exercise an "interim coastal permit



COLLECTIVE STAFF: Chuck Bloomquist, Emily Winters, Olga Palo, Gerry Goldstein, Brenda Harney, Arnold Springer, Wendy Reeves, Joan Friedberg, Dave Tappan.

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option" and thus regain almost exclusive permit authority within the coastal zone, subject to appeal to the regional, and then state, commission.

What was entirely unforeseen by the Legislature, but what is now happening in several parts of the state, is that certain local communities -- especially those with a particular "cachet" they want to preserve -- are resisting the return to exclusive local control, preferring to work out their planning options with a more responsive regional and state coastal commission.

Such is the case with Venice. Such is also the case, I am told, with Santa Barbara, the Barrio Logan community of San Diego, La Jolla, Mendocino, and parts of Marin and Sonoma Counties.

In the case of Venice, the city of Los Angeles has already chosen to exercise its interim coastal permit option, removing all planning decisions, save those on the immediate shoreline, from the jurisdiction of the coastal commission, except for appeals. This is, in fact, a test of the way things will work once the local coastal program is adopted.

To you, and those other citizens of Venice who want more particular attention than they seem to find possible from the Los Angeles city planning department, I would suggest:

1) sitting down with Cal Hamilton and very forcefully making your case. I have been impressed with Cal's expert planning skills and political instincts. I think he would prove responsive to your concerns. Talk to Deputy Mayor Ray Remy, too.

2) making sure that the staff of the regional coastal commission knows that you are going to continue to "watchdog" development proposals in Venice very carefully - and expect the commission to fulfill its legal responsibility toward this "unique community worthy of preservation."

3) meeting with Pat Russell, Assemblyman Mel Levine and Senator Alan Sieroty, so that they, too are aware of your concerns and your determination to continue to work actively for the preservation of Venice - and so that they are in a position to help with new legislation, if such be necessary.


In brief, the only way you - or the Venice community - can be "categorically excluded from the planning/permit process" in Venice is for you to give up the fight.

Don't do that. Venice, or any coastal community that provides a racial and economic diversity and a supply of moderately priced housing is worth fighting for. The Coastal Act would be a failure if, under the guise of good planning, it allowed such communities to lose their unique character.

Thanks for writing. Let me know if I can help.

Best regards,
Bill Press, Director

cc: Michael Fischer, Ray Remy, Pat Russell, Assemblyman Mel Levine, Cal Hamilton, Senator Alan Sieroty

Write To Us... 
we'd like to hear from you! -

more letters, p.4

SNOW JOB IN VENICE

The Ghost of Christmas Past, Present & Future

BY ARNOLD SPRINGER

"At one time it was considered that the main industry of Venice was the arts. Now the number one industry is real estate, and the number two industry is restaurants."

Doug Christmas July 9, 1978
at Artists-Community Forum

Doug Christmas has lived in Venice for 12 years. He has operated the Ace Gallery on Market St. for 8 years, keeping a low community profile and known mainly to artists and patrons of the arts from Los Angeles. Suddenly, with the Ace Gallery's moving into larger and more prominent quarters in the former Bank of America Building at Main and Windward, Mr. Christmas has been thrust into the limelight of community politics. The controversy about the Ace Gallery's re-opening is discussed at length not only in this issue of the Beachhead, but in other community papers, in the Santa Monica Evening Outlook, and was even presented on local T.V. On the surface the controversy is seen by many as a classic property rights vs public responsibility question. Many say that the right to develop and dispose of one's property is restricted only by zoning codes and building regulations. When some community activists and the Venice Town Council attempted to convince Christmas that he should assume a more public spirited attitude toward, in particular, the poor and minorities of Venice, - and failed, many interpreted their subsequent actions as a form of gangsterism and blackmail. As the controversy developed this writer decided to look into the other activities of Mr. Christmas to see if they would help Venetians measure the man who has, for the moment, become symbolic of the community's struggle for survival. What follows does not pretend to be a complete picture of Mr. Christmas' activities, but the sum total of all information this writer has gathered to date.

APPEARANCE AT THE ARTISTS - COMMUNITY FORUM

During the controversy which raged around the Rose and Main project, the first Artist-Community Forum was held on July 9, 1978, at the Front Porch on Washington Blvd. Many people who favored the project were invited to speak, but only Mr. Christmas accepted. He asked that the community put the recent dispute behind it, said that cooperation between artists and other community people was necessary if the arts were to survive in Venice. He pleaded for people to find artists studio space and said that artists were moving out of Venice because of high rents and the absence of space. What could be done? Well, nothing in the way of feasible concrete suggestions emerged from that meeting, but some of the comments made by Mr. Christmas, viewed retrospectively, help us to put together a picture of the man.

"The money that supports our artists, he said, does not come from Venice, or from L.A., or even from the United States." Where it in fact did come from was answered by Mr. Christmas himself in an article which recently appeared in New West Magazine.

"Eighty percent of our sales are to Europe, par for most galleries" he said. "All the best contemporary art is there. We raided them too, of course. We have a lot of great Matisses and Picassos. But they got us back, they really did." One consequence of this "raiding" is, according to New West, that Ace in Venice, with 50,000 square feet of gallery, is now the largest commercial gallery in terms of space on the continent.

Returning again to the Forum of July 1978. "Originally", said Christmas, I showed Venice artists. They have all left. Somebody else has to show Venice artists. I can only handle a small number of people, perhaps two dozen. Space is what's needed." People who attended the Forum had asked Christmas why he didn't have enough space. Subsequent events revealed that the lack of interest in Venice artists on the part of Ace stemmed from a particular attitude toward what constituted first class art. Rick Davidson and others recently suggested that one way to show his appreciation for the Venice community which, after all, helped him to develop Aces' image, was to put on one or two shows of local artists, perhaps minority artists, each year. Christmas rejected this suggestion charging, in the Ocean Front Weekly, that such proposals aimed at "hold/ing/ art down to a craft level." He said that the belief of peoples such as Davidson that

art should reflect the community in which it is presented is de-educational. He called "totalitarian" any attempt to "dictate" to gallery owners the type of art they should exhibit. "If art stands for anything, he said, it stands for freedom and the fact that there's no boundaries."

And then, in a surprising admission, he said: "I'm a Canadian and the Canadians won't talk to me, because I won't show Canadian art." In other words, he won't show Canadian art in Canada or Venetian art in Venice, not presumably because it is either Canadian or Venetian, but because as genres neither are first class or first rate. The response of Canadian artists to this attitude would probably be interesting.

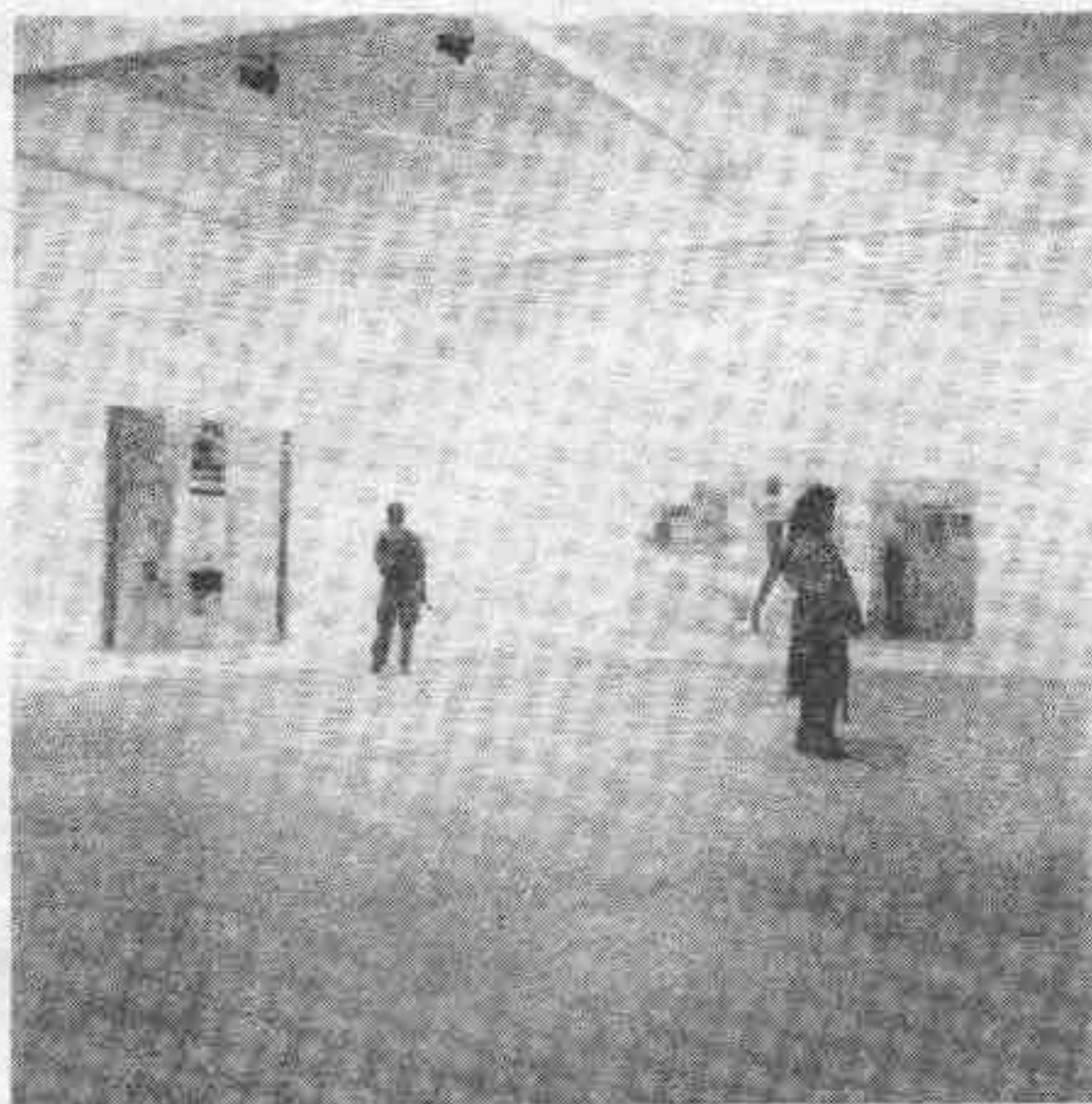


Photo by Gerry Goldstein

Back again to the Forum. The question then was space for Venice artists. Morrie Rosen, head of the Israel Levin Senior Citizens Center asked: "Space at whose expense?" Would it be at the expense of the elderly, the poor? He urged Christmas and others to consider the impact of successful galleries, the manipulation of Venice's image into a posh artists community, on the current inhabitants.

Bee Free asked Christmas: Do Venice artists want to give anything back to the community? Do they have a political commitment? Poorer artists as well as elderly and poor people are being driven out of Venice. There are a lot of affluent, well known artists here who capitalize on the ambiance of Venice. UCLA even offers a course where you can visit Venice artists in their studios, and that is a big drawing card. But do those artists care about giving anything back to the community? If not, perhaps none of us will be able to stay, except people like Larry Bell and Billy Al Bengston. We have to work together.

Christmas' response was interesting because it sidestepped the direct, blunt question. My fear is not Billy Al Bengston, he said. My fear is the people who hold the leases. They are raising the rents.

Bee Free: Let me clarify my question. Lida Albuquerque, Gloria Kish, Clare Falkenstein, all have lived in the community for years. They own their own studios. But they give nothing to the community. Now, they're established artists.

Christmas: Artists that have substance are the first one's asked to donate money or paintings for any cause. They're the easiest marks. So maybe no one asked them. Maybe we need.... a group of experts to make a proposal to insure that we maintain a balanced community in Venice.

When, in Feb. 1979, community activists asked Christmas to 'donate' to the cause, they were turned down.

BEYOND ACE THE GALLERY SCENE IN VANCOUVER

Doug Christmas' business activities are not confined to the Ace Gallery. He not only owns a gallery in Venice, but a restaurant and a gallery in Vancouver Canada. The Gallery, Ace Gallery Canada Inc., opened about one year ago. According to a Canadian source, it is quite important because it shows all the latest American art. Prior to the establishment of Ace Canada, Doug Christmas owned and operated another gallery, Douglas which, they said, was in business for about 15 years. The Douglas Gallery was located above the Muckamuck restaurant, also owned by Christmas, on Davie St. The restaurant has been sporadically closed for the past ten months because of a strike by employees. More on the strike below.

Last Spring when the Ace Gallery Canada was created, it moved to new quarters at 418 W. Georgia. Now W. Georgia street in Vancouver is currently the scene of a great deal of gallery/art activity. And there's big money involved.

... Continued on page 18 ...

SELF-DETERMINATION: AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO
THE ACE GALLERY AFRONT

BY RICK DAVIDSON

There is no question that most developers operating in Venice are against the Venice Town Council's concept that the present residents have a right to remain in Venice - including the poor, the Blacks, the Browns, the elderly, and the young.

There are some that confuse the issue by giving lip service to the idea that they care about Venice. Which Venice we must ask. Confusion is compounded when their project is not obviously a danger to our future, such as an art gallery or a restaurant.

I would like to suggest that developers claiming concern for the community go to the community to find out its needs, desires and concerns; go to the Drug Coalition, go to SCO, to the Town Council, go to NAPP, go to the Oakwood Wesley House, to the Tenant's Action Center....go to the community and discuss the project and work out any difficulties with the people most affected. This should be done be it an art gallery, a skating shop, racquetball facility, childcare center, apartment building, or what have you.

It is by such action or lack of same that we, the community, should judge the sincerity of developers, but let us remember that there can be sincere differences of opinion....and that the final judgement should be based on an analysis of the pros and cons of the project itself. And final judgement must be made by the people!

Too Many Aces (continued) from page 1

this matter, the Town Council was forced to act. Attorney Marge Buckley, on our behalf, went to the Superior Court of Santa Monica on Friday, February 16, the day of the opening, to seek a temporary restraining order. Judge Choate awarded such an order with the following provisions: "Doug Christmas and his employees are restrained from proceeding with construction on the building at 185 Windward, Venice..." and "are restrained from inviting the public on the premises until he has obtained the necessary permits."

Bob Wells volunteered to serve the order. He found Christmas in one of his Market Street galleries. As soon as Doug Christmas saw Bob Wells, he fled across the street to his other gallery, knowing that the person serving a restraining order must actually touch the defendant with the order for it to be valid. In hot pursuit, Bob tore after him into the other gallery and threw the order over Doug Christmas' head; it fell just in front of Christmas. As Christmas kicked the restraining order out of his way, Bob yelled, "You're served."

Amazingly, the police still refused to intervene as people began to arrive for the illegal opening of an, as yet, illegal gallery. Members of the Town Council picketed the opening distributing pamphlets outlining the issues at stake and talking with people lining up to enter the gallery. (We weren't able to talk with any of the wealthy prospective buyers, as they were immediately whisked into the gallery.) What really hit us was that most of those in line just hadn't thought of the implications for Venice of a gallery showing the works of a "big" artist, attracting patrons from Beverly Hills and other wealthy areas. When we explained the impact such an exhibition has on Venice as a living community, it was really sad that some people couldn't care less, or else thought a takeover of Venice by affluent outsiders to be an inevitable future. One ray of hope: an artist from Santa Monica, really keen to see Rauschenberg's work, left without entering the gallery once he realized the larger implications of such a show.

We had tried unsuccessfully to speak to Robert Rauschenberg, an artist who identifies himself with the plight of poorer artists, to alert him to the issues involved. We hoped that he would force Christmas to prevent the opening.

So, the illegal gallery opened. Apparently Christmas considered the restraining order a technicality -- some technicality! On Tuesday February 20, the Town Council's appeal was heard at the State Coastal Commission. In the three minutes allowed Rick Davidson to put the case, he was unable to get the Coastal Commissioners to understand the issues involved; how what happens on Windward, Main, or Market affects all of Venice; how "commercial" art is helping change the structure and character of Venice. The Coastal Commission disallowed our appeal, declaring no substantial issue. Christmas was given a development permit. (The fact that he continued construction illegally for 27 days is still being pursued in the courts.)

Where now? It is a complex situation: one where art, a traditional "goodie," has become allied with big business interests and is contributing to the displacement of poorer Venice residents of all ages and races, local artists amongst them. It is much easier to gain people's support in opposition to real estate developers, high rises, or demolition projects.

But big time art can pose every bit as powerful a threat to our community.

more letters



Greetings Beachhead:

Supposing that Venice was devoured by the giant green condominium in the sky. Perhaps the few survivors would awaken to the first morning of that day and upon departing from their abode would envision thousands of our sisters and brothers strewn across the streets, sidewalks and Ocean Front Walk. All lying motionless and quiet void of life. Within the first hour groups of the survivors would amass in the sections of our community eventually congregating centrally at the Venice Pavillion. At this point the government trucks, troops and powers would collect these remaining few, take them to a predetermined location and end their mortal being.

I do not think so. What is happening to us is that we are actually being removed from Venice through rent increase, inflation, primo coastal land value and price escalation. Reality that does exist in an "absurd world", as Rick Davidson described in his Beachhead article issue #110.

There is a movement in Venice that has no base in the population. It is a base of real estate, unlimited finance availability and political power...and it is succeeding. The reality exists that the result will be that most of our present citizenage will be removed by these forces, but devastated by such an occurrence.

Venice is and always has been its people. Yes, we are Venice. You and I. We are a diversified people. In my years as a Venician, I have never viewed this coastal town as a domiciliary for the aged and ailing who are unable or unwilling to tend to our well being. This town thrives on the active pursuits of its people who express ourselves and rights of self determination within our own chosen creative inputs and outputs, both young and old alike. We are Venice. Our unity is expressed in sharing food, clothes, shelter and money with the stranger and the friend. Our expressions transcend all the barriers of government, finances and geographical locations. We known and appreciate that we, each of us are living here. I very much doubt that if there were no Venice of today or yesterday that its people would become disabled.

We are Venice and we are a people of strength and beauty both as individuals and individuals collectively. This too is reality. I see the value of a collective people needed in the continuing of Venice as our community just as Rick Davidson would have us so unite.

However, if the sky does fall, I see, we the people of Venice as being so high and inner powerful that we will view this sky going down and not coming down.

David Carver

To the Beachhead:

Anne (my mother) sent me this month's Beachhead. I am glad that you had the courage to publish Gerry Goldstein's Town Council letter. Loved Harney's piece on communism and the Ruth Clark stuff. She was always kind to Sabina and once outright gave Stu Mundy, now deceased, \$100 after his court case on eviction. Best issue of the paper in a long time, but why'd you print that ridiculous critique of Fondiller.

Sharon Bas Hanna

subscribe Beachhead

1 year, \$5
2 years, \$10
Lifetime (yours or ours) \$50

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to: P.O. Box 504, Venice, CA 90291

Dear Beachhead:

I enjoyed Arnold Springer's accurate and well-written account in your February issue of my and my partner Chuck Bunker's battles-victories with crazed cops, corrupt cities, avaricious landlords, et al. However, we would like to add the secret ingredient to our legal triumphs was two very fine lawyers, who took us on, not for the money, which we didn't have, but rather, because they believe in things like human rights and principles, ideals and dreams. Not your ordinary, everyday attorneys, these two Venice residents handled our cases with exquisite adroitness, elan, flamboyancy, vigor, yes, and even with great ability! We are now, ladies and gentlemen, in the legal arena; in this corner beginning the bout with the city of L. A. and with Marcus Frank (both at the same time) is John Murdoch, esq., wearing kilts and tam-o-shanter -- will he win, when the city has so many attorneys -- and even a spy (true) -- fighting him? -- of course, he will and he did. Later, in this corner sits the young Sam Trosow esq. wearing an innocent (?) smile. Will he win, when Marcus Frank's new attorney, ex-city attorney for Santa Monica for 6 years, and the new owner of Marcus Frank's old firetrap, Rosario Perry, can afford any one of his battery of attorneys right out of his own legal offices? Of course, he will and he did, the outcome being we could keep our four months back rent and wouldn't have to move if only we'd begin paying current rent. We opted for keeping the four months' back rent and moved out of Perry's dolled-up firetrap to more pleasant digs at half the price. If Aesop were only alive; I'm sure he'd weave a fine fable out of all this, with a keen moral, like "Don't let the cops, the corrupt city officials, the avaricious landlords mess with you, or fuck with you, if you will." Ah, but alas, it's an Orwellian world we live in, and when the cops say freeze, we freeze; when the landlords say go, we go.

And speaking of going, I've attained a life-long dream out of all these trials and triumphs-- I've at last become a missing person! Will I reappear -- and if, when -- and where? Or have I taken again to riding my invisible unicorn through the early morning mists of Venice, when the town sleeps, like I did in the sixties, befuddling Art Kunkin, the Free Press, and them all? And do I still carry my invisible Super Eight, the one the cops just HATE? Or have I gone totally mad? Stay tuned.

Fight!

Ruth Clark

P.S. My phone listed in last issue is now invisible too, but do come by and have a garage sale, a sob sale or whatever at Park & OFW and Lori or Sam or Ted or Alice will help you.

Dear Editor:

In response to your article on Ruth Clark, I was appalled to see such an altruistic picture painted of such a self motivated selfish woman. As a tenant of the Hollister apartment, I was acquainted with the motives behind Ruth's actions -- and believe me, she had no interest in anyone other than herself.

Your article left out a few very important details in the Hollister incident; such as, when I moved into the building, three years ago, the apartments were renting for \$90 a month, and they were palaces, as compared to many of the dumps in Venice that my friends were paying \$150 for. I was a full time student at that time, and because the rents were so inexpensive, I was able to continue my education with no financial discomfit. Your article neglected to mention the fact that Ruth was harboring eighteen to twenty cats in her small single apartment. The discomforts caused to other tenants from this selfish act ranged from cat hair in the halls to cat fights at night, and a horrible odor from the cats on hot summer evenings. Not only did the woman keep cats in her apartment, she used to dump bird seed out of her second floor window -- to feed the birds, or to feed her cats? Judging from the amount of feathers in the area where the bird seed was dumped, I would suggest the latter!

In your article, you suggest that the tenants of Hollister had no backbone because they did not rally around Ruth; you can not be further from the truth. Why should I support a woman who is only out for herself? Why should I support a woman who has made me pay her utility bills for three years -- while she lived rent free? Why should I support a woman who caused the sale of a building that I enjoyed living in, and through the sale caused my rent to jump from \$120 to 185 dollars. (which is still a good

deal for the area that I live in).

Ruth Clark used and abused a living situation that many of my friends would have given their eye teeth to move into. Her motives were entirely selfish. She was not as much concerned that the building was not up to code as she was concerned that she was going to be evicted for keeping eighteen cats in her apartment. No one forced Ruth to stay in the apartment building -- I know at least thirty people who would have gladly taken her place, and put up with the supposed building deficiencies for \$90 a month.

I am mad and upset at the problems that Ruth caused in the building. If it wasn't for her, Mr. Frank (a 95 year old man) would probably still own the building, and I would probably still be paying \$120 a month. To glorify this woman as an altruist is revolting. As a side note, when Ruth was finally evicted, the state in which she left her apartment was obscene: she saved up her cat litter and dumped it into the bathtub, she left a bloody dead cat in the apartment, and the general state of the apartment looked like a hurricane had hit it.

You wonder why the tenants of Hollister didn't support Ruth in her fight? If I wanted to live in an animal shelter, I would have moved into the dog pound.

Sincerely yours,
D. Lewanda

To the Beachhead:

Jerry Goldstein, in his recent letter to the Beachhead, stated that I consider to be distortions of reality. Any distortion is dangerous, but the real problem comes from opinions and actions being based on the distortion by those not present to witness and to judge the reality reported.

Jerry stated that the Venice Town Council, and I quote, "purporting to represent the entire community, and even pretending to itself that it does". The Town Council has never claimed to represent the entire community; what it has claimed is that it is dedicated to the preservation of those qualities that are Venice and now endangered by the rampant speculation of individuals and local government - most importantly the present residents. The Council has gone on to state that the most endangered segments are those disadvantaged due to poverty, old age, race sex, etc.

Jerry went on to state that those who "run the meetings are selective about who they call on to speak." Since a large part of each meeting is given over to reports, certain individuals are given a large allotment of time. It is important to understand that the time is given to the "report", not the individual - anyone could be making the report. Some of us do take more time than our "reports" demand and I for one accept the criticism and will struggle for brevity in the future. (I also plead guilty to sounding like "political speeches"). But Jerry's claim of speakers being "selective" is false. I think what he is responding to is the chairperson attempting to keep remarks relative to the subject being discussed.

Another mis-representation of reality is Jerry's statement that "thers, less favored, are often shouted down even before they complete one sentence". On occasions the meetings have become shouting matches. Again, it is important to note that what has usually happened is that an individual from the audience has not only completed "one sentence", but has gone on for what seems like hours (15 or 20 minutes) on a personalized ego trip. To the degree that the person's trip represents a community problem, they are allowed to continue; too often it is a non-directional, ego-trip that won't stop. In such cases it is the speaker who is dictatorial, and totally disrespectful, not only of those running the meeting, but of the entire audience.

My main reason for this response is that Jerry's letter reminds me of the subtle way Sen. McCarthy began his witch hunts in the early 50's. I feel we are entering another such period and everyone must be careful as to how their opinions are formed. Persons interested in Jerry's, mine, or anyone else's views of the Town Council should go to the meetings (3rd Wed. of the month) and participate before drawing any conclusions. The closer we are to the actual events, the less chance for distortions - be they Jerry's, mine, or yours.

Although a member of the Venice Town Council I am speaking for myself.

In the spirit of comradely struggle,
Rick Davidson.



PLAN FULL OF HOLES

By Phil Bell

Venice voices rose in a chorus of protest against the proposed Venice Community Plan at a recent public hearing held in the Venice High School Auditorium. As required by law, the five members of the L.A. City Planning Commission were assembled to hear public input on the latest "brainchild" of the L.A. City Planning Department.

If this plan is adopted by the City Council and approved by the Regional and State Coastal Commissions, it will guide planning in Venice for the next 20 years. That's a scary prospect for our low and moderate income residents when the plan is examined carefully.

Basically, the plan does not guarantee housing for low and moderate income people. Instead, the plan uses flowery words like "encourage housing for all economic segments of the community, especially those of low and moderate income, including senior citizens." Sounds nice, but the word "encourage" does not guarantee anything!

After listening to the presentations by city planners Calvin Hamilton and Richard Gervais, I was appalled by their misguided priorities. The "boys" from city planning have concluded that low density housing is the primary goal of the community regarding a future housing plan for Venice. These conclusions were drawn in spite of overwhelming community input favoring low and moderate income housing as the paramount planning need for Venice. Low density housing is desirable, but not at the expense of our seniors and other low income groups.

Morrie Rosen told the commissioners to "tear up this document." He further noted that the plan "is no damn good," and "doesn't consider the needs of the elderly in Venice."

The plan is supposed to be a general guide to Venice planning with specific

plans and zoning ordinances to be adopted at a later date (sounds very suspicious, doesn't it?)

But, the plan is very specific about controversial street and highway changes through Venice which would become fact if the plan is adopted. The widening of Ocean Ave. into a secondary highway received the most criticism. Arnold Springer accurately noted that "Once Ocean Ave. is widened there is going to be pressure to widen other streets. If you are going to widen Ocean, you might as well run a freeway through Venice."

I spoke to the commissioners about the sections of the plan concerning condominiums and parking. The plan would allow condominium construction throughout Venice. Condos would insure the demise of our seniors and other low and moderate income groups unless substantial housing for these people is also specified. (This means most of us, folks!)

A parking provision which should include replacement parking for people who lose spaces due to new construction was omitted from the proposal. This will seriously affect the horrendous parking problem that already exists in Venice.

Moe Stavnezer was a member of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) that submitted an alternative Venice plan to the Planning Dept. He castigated the "City Hall" version for "not having any concrete proposals for housing, for solving the parking problem or what to do with the railroad right-of-way -- that is very important to the future of Venice."

Rick Davidson summarized my feelings when he told the commissioners, "The creators of the Venice plan have come to Venice with a lot of pretty words, but these are meaningless words. What concerns us is that the present residents of Venice remain in Venice."

☆☆☆

PAUL REVERE WAS RIGHT

by Moe Stavnezer

The Ocean Front Weekly ran a cartoon, in relation to the Ace Gallery issue, depicting the Venice Town Council yelling frenetically from horseback that "The wealthy are coming." The cartoon was not meant to be flatering and attempted to depict the Council as panicky and ridiculous.

Well in the very next issue of the OFW there was an ad for a real estate auction that shows just who really is ridiculous. The property in question is the old Hammond Lumber Co. on Main St. which the ad describes as "The Little Rodeo" at the beach--referring to Rodeo Dr. in Beverly Hills. The site, says the ad, is ideal for a shopping center, retail, office, design center or restaurant development. It further claims that the property is the "new restaurant row of So. Calif."

The auction takes place on the property on Tues, March 13th. Think I'll mosey on down and do a little bidding of my own. Hope to see you there..

Could it possibly be that the Venice Town Council was on the right horse after all?



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THOUGHTS ON THE VENICE PLAN

LETTER TO L.A. PLANNING COMMISSION

BY RICK DAVIDSON

I want to put the thoughts that I stated at your public hearing (Feb.6) in writing because I had the distinct feeling that you were not listening to what most of us were trying to tell you.

WHO REPRESENTS VENICE?

I began by way of explaining that while I was a member of the Venice Town Council, I was speaking as an individual, but wanted to speak to the question of who represents Venice....which always comes up at public meetings held by city officials

Although the Town Council as well as myself have been accused of claiming to represent all the community, the truth is that neither myself nor the Council has ever made that claim. What we have claimed is to speak from a definite side on certain community issues and it is this certain side or point of view that we represent: That is, AN UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE CONCEPT THAT LOW AND MODERATE INCOME RESIDENTS HAVE A RIGHT TO REMAIN IN VENICE, BE THEY BLACK, BROWN, OLD, YOUNG OR WHAT HAVE YOU. We go on to believe that all future plans and planning for Venice should reflect this concept.

THE VENICE PLAN

Knowing that others would address the Venice plan in all its detail, it is in light of the above mentioned concepts that I wanted to speak.

I feel like the kid in the story of the emperor who wore no clothes. He ordered his tailor to create the most unusual and beautiful garment in the world. In a flash of creative greed, the tailor conceived the idea of not creating anything at all, but selling the emperor on the idea that he had. Once convinced, who around him would dare say otherwise...except a child: "Hey man, you ain't go no clothes on!" The same process is going on with the Venice Plan. The creators of the plan have used many pretty words to make us feel good - to make us believe, such as:

"to preserve and enhance the low-density character of Venice."

"to encourage the maintenance and restoration

of existing housing stock";

"to satisfy the varying needs and desire of persons of all economic segments of the community".

Pretty words indeed, but they have no relationship to REALITY.

"Hey man, those words don't mean nothing!"

If you want to see the reality of the Venice Plan (remember it has been around a long time) drive down the Peninsula; walk the Ocean Front Walk between Washington Street and Venice Blvd; or stroll through the Canals....There's the reality of the planners view of the future Venice. Their plan is not for the present residents of Venice. Some Venice kids have been trying to tell us this for many years....It's time we listened. We must look beyond the pretty words and meaningless phrases to understand the reality behind the Venice Plan. Then we will think differently. Can you imagine the reaction in 1969 or 1970 if they had presented the community with the truth of their plan? "To all Venice residents the City of Los Angeles has created a plan for Venice; for most of you it will be an eviction notice. Those on the Peninsula - a 30 day notice; between Washington and Venice - a six month notice; the Canals - a year; 5 years for others; etc. (but all must go eventually)." Reaction would have been wild.

All residents serious about living in Venice must get involved. Go to the organization of your choice, be it the Town Council, the Drug Coalition, NAPP, the Tenants Action Center - go and get involved. Venice needs you. Reality is here.

(To Venice only, the meeting was very sane, i.e. there were no Venice crazies, no demonstrations, no disruptions; like martinets we followed the rules - lambs to the slaughter. Unfortunately, the rules are not for us, they are only to control us till we are out of the way. The elimination of our crazies, as much as we may be disturbed by their craziness, is a loss to the spirit of Venice. Who is crazy anyway?)



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BAY ST. TENANTS DEFENDING THEIR HOMES

EVICCTIONS ISSUED AT 631 BAY

DEAR TENANT:

Beginning in July of 79 the rent freeze I gave will be over. At that time each apartment will have a complete renovation; new electrical wiring bringing Bay Street Apts up to the requirements of new buildings (going from 30 to 50 Amps for each apt), new tiled kitchen---including a built in microwave, a Jenn-Air cook and barbecue top, built-in oven, dishwasher, new 18 cubic foot frost free refrigerator with ice maker, water purifier for drinking and cooking, and solid oak cabinets. I believe each will be the most functional and beautiful kitchen in any apartment in the Los Angeles area. Also new draperies, carpets, and repainting all walls and ceiling. It will be a completely new and greatly improved apartment---and of course more expensive though below its market value. Bay Street Apartments will still be the best rental value for your dollar.

The rent will be \$475 @ month \$460 for the apartment and \$15 for one parking place and storage in the security garage.

A new month to month rental agreement will be required with the following qualifications;

1. A total security deposit of \$950--which is refundable and Bay Street will pay the going rate of interest of the savings banks each six months for the deposit.
2. No last months rent.
3. Minimum income \$1900 (400% of the rent)
4. No pets (except the three dogs here now)
5. Existing children OK. No new tenants with children. In a short while all residents will have to carry four keys---one for the garage area for laundry or trash, one for the glass front door that will be closed at all times, and two for each apartment door. That is a lot of keys for a child to keep track of. And an area where this kind of security is necessary is certainly not the best for children.
6. Several years of being employed or in business with checkable references.
7. Two adults to an apartment with one principal tenant whose age is over 25.

The kitchens we can put in during February, March, or April will cost \$200 less than those after April. So I can pass this saving on to anyone who wishes to have their new kitchen and renovation before May or to those who will vacate before April. For my own convenience I would like to do as many as I can during February so I can offer an additional \$100 to anyone who makes this possible. Those who wish to stay will have a \$100 rent reduction during the month of the renovation to make the mess a little less painful. You will be without a kitchen nearly two weeks. If you feel you have better ways to spend your money don't limit your thinking by believing Santa Monica is the only place to live. There are lovely less populated (therefore less expensive) areas north that with the freeways are less time away than Hollywood.●

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ATTENTION LANDLORD!

Having received your letter of January 15, 1979, we now reply:

We oppose your improvements, your rent raise and your new "qualifications"!

At a time when housing for children is becoming more scarce, you are adding to the problem by refusing to rent to families. At a time when low and moderate income housing is almost non-existent, you are raising rents by as much as \$165 per month. At a time when the job market is shrinking and raises in pay are barely keeping up with inflation, you are demanding that your tenants make an income of \$1900.00 per month and that they give you a \$950 security deposit.

For 15 years, the tenants of Bay St. Apartments have paid you hundreds of thousands of dollars, enabling you to hold on to your property. We have made your bank payments, paid your property taxes, paid your maintenance costs and provided you with an income. Many tenants voted for the benefits you now enjoy from Prop. 13. We expected -- as did all tenants -- a rent reduction, or at the very least a long term stabilization of rents. But you gave us a one time \$155 rebate and then slapped us with as much as \$165 per month rent increase. Do you consider this just treatment?

At present you collect about \$4500.00 per month in rents. You pay only about \$200 per month in taxes. Not being content with a fair return, you now raise rents and turn our homes into hi-income luxury apartments and effectively evict us with your impossible "qualifications".

You arrogantly tell us where we should look for other housing. But unlike you, we work for a living; our jobs and family needs dictate where we should live.

You are not one of the many fair and decent landlords who temper their need for an income with a real and human concern for their tenants. You are instead in the ranks of the greedy landlords who put their desire for money above all else.

The Democratic system was founded and grew strong on the principles of the free market place and of property rights. Why then is this system turning against the tenants and making us the victims of the whims of the landlords? For tenants, property rights mean landlord rights. But why is it that landlord's rights too often mean rent raises, evictions, conversions, and intimidation?

Why is it that landlords tell us they only raise rents in relation to the market value



Gerry Goldstein

when it is they themselves who create the artificially high market value by unrestricted buying, selling, and speculating? How is it that landlords are able to gouge the top dollar out of our paychecks and pension checks in the name of property rights? And why is it that landlords are able to uproot families, destabilize neighborhoods, shuffle children around from school to school, and dispossess senior citizens?

The tenants of Bay Street Apartments have been good and responsible tenants--some of us for years. We have paid our rents on time and we have respected your regulations and your property. And for this, you are squeezing us out. Instead of wasting our money on your unnecessary improvements, we urge you to cancel them.

We are fighting back! ●

Bay Street Apartments Tenants Association

LANDLORD RESPONSE

For sixteen years I have been a fair apartment owner, doing my best to give my tenants the best value for their rental dollar. There have been years when I have had to put money from other sources into Bay Street Apartments to help pay for the monthly expenses, and there have been times I couldn't sell it for even less than I paid for it though I tried because it was a burden for me to carry and care for it. Now because of inflation this apartment is valuable and I want to invest nearly \$120,000 to make Bay Street as beautiful and up to date as any new building. You are telling me I have no right to do this.

I gave you a voluntary rent freeze that was already below the market value to promise no rent increase for nearly two years. I gave each of you your 1/16 share of my rebate due to Prop. 13. Since coming home eight months ago I have spent nearly \$5000 in improvements at no cost to you and my husband and I both have spent countless hours doing physical work to bring Bay Street Apartments up to a high standard of cleanliness and order and beauty.

I refuse to be a sacrificial lamb led to the slaughter of financial ruin by the insanity of rent control. I know you are angry at the ever increasing cost of living. So am I. But this anger we all feel at inflation should not be directed against me because I am not deserving of your anger. I know there are a small minority of owners who have taken advantage of the apartment shortage and increased rents twice a year in large amounts for no good reason except greed. But I am not one of these and I will not accept punishment for a crime I have not committed.

The new rent of \$475 was not pulled out of the air by me but established by the necessity of paying a new Trust Deed of nearly \$4000 a month--going from 6.5% interest to 10.5% and the knowledge of what it costs for the average monthly running expenses of the apartment to keep Bay Street in good condition and fulfill your needs at all times. I will have ten qualified applicants for every apartment I offer because it will still be the best bargain in the Santa Monica area.

If you do not want these improvements you have no right to deny some one else that privilege if they can afford it and want it. You would never think of going to a Buick salesman and saying "You can't sell Buicks because I have not the money to buy a Buick--you can only sell Fords because that is what I can afford". You wouldn't dream of this because the automobile industry provides cars for all pocket books. Bay Street may not fit your pocket book after the improvements are finished but you have no right to say someone else can not have it any more than you can say someone cannot drive a Buick because you can not afford to drive a Buick. Nor do you have the right to expect me to face financial ruin without a fight. ●

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TENANTS UNITE

Rent control is on the agenda in Santa Monica and Los Angeles. On April 10th Santa Monicans will vote on an amendment to the Santa Monica city charter to provide a system of rent control for that city. On March 8th the Los Angeles City Council is scheduled to consider an ordinance to "regulate" rents in Los Angeles. Both proposals contain provisions that would require landlords to prove that they have some good reason ("just cause") to evict their tenants.

The fact that these proposals exist and are now being given serious consideration is, in and of itself, a major victory for tenants.

The content, however, of the two proposals, one written and sponsored by community and tenant groups representing the interests of the vast majority of Santa Monica's residents, and the other issuing from the bowels of city government, and representing only what it imagines it may be forced to concede to these very same interests in Los Angeles, the content of these proposals is quite different.

The Santa Monica charter amendment would, first of all, subject almost all ordinary rental housing to its provisions (exempting only owner-occupied duplexes and triplexes). The Los Angeles proposal exempts 17% of all ordinary rental housing, that is every single-family dwelling, from its terms.

In Santa Monica rents would be fixed at their April, 1978, levels with increases granted only for actual increases in taxes, utilities and operating costs by an elected rent control board. In Los Angeles, the proposed ordinance would establish base rents as those paid during the month of March, 1979, and would allow automatic increases of 7% on all controlled units on May 31, 1979, PLUS an additional 6% for each additional year (up to two years) that a landlord had not raised rent prior to May 31, 1979. In addition to these automatic increases, landlords would also be able to petition an appointed "Rent Adjustment Commission" for even greater rent increases to cover capital improvement or code enforcement repair costs or other "costs beyond the landlord's control or for other "general hardship".

In Santa Monica, the rent would remain the same for every successive tenant no matter how the vacancy occurred. In Los Angeles, if a tenant were to give up his or her apartment voluntarily, i.e. without being evicted, the landlord would be able to charge whatever rent he wanted to to the new tenant. (This is called "voluntary decontrol")

Violation of the Santa Monica proposal would subject a landlord to a fine of up to \$500 and 6 months in jail AND a civil suit for damages of \$500 or three times the amount of the unlawfully requested rent increase, whichever was greater. There would be no criminal sanctions imposed for violation of the L.A. ordinance and a maximum damage award of three times the amount of the unlawful rent increase.

Finally, the Santa Monica initiative would provide for decontrol only in the event that the vacancy rate in Santa Monica exceeds 5%. The Los Angeles ordinance would terminate automatically one year after adoption.

In effect, the difference between the two proposals is the difference between a rent control program and a rent increase ratification plan.

The most important feature these proposals share in common is that the fate of neither has as yet been decided.

Your energy is needed. Your effort may make the difference in Both Santa Monica and L.A. Go to City Hall March 8th. Call up Pat Russell's office. Demand a rent control ordinance that has

1. no automatic rent increase provisions
2. no exemptions for single family units
3. no vacancy decontrol
4. no rent increases for capital improvements or code enforcement repairs
5. criminal penalties for ordinance violators that are enforced by the City AND
6. civil remedies for tenants that will make landlords think twice before breaking the law
7. and remains in effect until the housing crisis ends

Help the people of Santa Monica too. Remember that \$250,000 and a massive campaign of lies and false promises defeated this proposal once before. Contact the Santa Monicans for Renters Rights - (392-2715 - 205 Hill Street #1, S.M.). Pass out literature. Canvass neighborhoods. Contribute what you can.

Rent control for Los Angeles and Santa Monica. These are victories that can be won.

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REVERSE ANNUITY MORTGAGE: 7 Let the Bank Pay You

By Joan Friedberg

Mr. and Mrs. G. bought their Venice home in 1952 for \$14,000. Today Mrs. G., now a widow, is facing the threat of having to sell her home even though it's paid for. Mrs. G. receives enough income from her husband's social security to cover her basic living expenses. But her home, now valued at \$125,000, is costing her more than she can afford in property taxes in spite of Proposition 13 savings. Mrs. G. is able to make the tax payments, but she knows she would be able to live a much more comfortable life if she were to sell her house and move into an apartment. But, she tells herself, how could she live in an apartment and leave this home where all of her children were raised. How could she leave her garden to people who might not care for it the way she has?

Mrs. G. is a fictional character, but there are hundreds of citizens like her in Venice. Until recently, many of them felt compelled to sell their homes. Real estate people were coming to them and making offers they couldn't believe. But as of January of this year, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board passed a regulation which offers people like Mrs. G. an alternative. It's called the Reverse Annuity Mortgage, and, like its name, it's a mortgage in reverse; that is, your house pays you back.

With a reverse annuity mortgage, Mrs. G. can start to receive monthly payments which are taken from the equity, or ownership investment, she has in her house. Instead of building equity in the house, as she and Mr. G. did when they were buying it, under the reverse annuity mortgage she will be depleting her equity with each payment...in other words, she will be selling the house back to her savings and loan association on a month-by-month basis. She will still own enough interest in the house so that she will be able to live in it for the rest of her life. Upon her death, the remaining equity in the house will become part of her estate.

Unfortunately, at the present time savings and loans are not yet offering the reverse annuity mortgage, and many do not plan on offering it in the future. However, The Beachhead talked to two savings and loan associations who are planning to offer it. First Federal Savings of Santa Monica and California Federal Savings have said they plan to have the reverse annuity mortgage available in about six months.

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venice artists' forum

by Jeff Gillenkirk

Last summer and briefly into fall I attended the meetings of the Venice Artists' Forum. It changed my life. I had never gone to so many boring meetings before, and resolved never again to. In fact, I chaired a few of the meetings, and apologize for it. We had been carried forward by the white heat of Main and Rose, an incident which saw artists backing a ritzy development that would have established the Marina on one of Venice's most vulnerable corners, then dissipated as the issue dissolved into the community's memory.

But the issue of Main and Rose still exists. So too, apparently, does the Artists' Forum. We met again at the end of January and decided there were many reasons to gather artists together to talk, support, stimulate, inspire, and question each other, sometimes perform for each other, and serve as an intelligent voice in the debate over what kind of town Venice should be.

The Forum's first project is to compile a directory of people who are artists, who are interested in art, who want to learn (an) art, or who just like to be in directories, to serve as a resource manual for people getting something together and need help. This will not be a confidential file. It will be open to the community to study or use (discover your neighbor is a famous artist!). We see it as a mailing list for any newsletter that may emerge from the Forum, a contact list for people of specified talents, a true indication of exactly how many artists do live in Venice, and a social register. We may even publish it if enough people want to. But returning the form which should be on this page in no way enrolls you in the Forum or creates any obligation whatsoever. We just think it will be useful for artists who want to be in touch with one another, and for others to be in touch with the arts.

We also talked about the revival of the Venice Mootney Company, a theater ensemble scheduled to perform Glenn Hopkins' and Wayne Lindberg's Dinosaur at the Church in Ocean Park in late spring. They need actors, actresses, set designers, lighting--in short, the camaraderie of greasepaint. From their search for company we arrived at the idea of an artists' directory.

We talked about an art fair to coincide with the opening of City Hall in late April or early May as a cultural center for Venice, under the auspices of new leasee Beyond Baroque. This could signal a rebirth of creativity and resolution and pride in Venice as we prepare for the Eerie Eighties. We want to support Beyond Baroque's efforts to save, and restore, the Westminster School Auditorium. We decided that the permanent home for the Artists' Forum would be in the Social and Public Arts Resource Center (SPARC), 685 Venice Blvd., the old jail beside City Hall. And we will try, with the help of SPARC's already extensive information network and schedule of programs, to keep our directory informed of films, readings, exhibitions, plays and whatnot taking place in the community. The Forum itself meets the last Sunday of every month at 4:00 p.m., at SPARC.

Much the same thing is happening in Ocean Park, with the formation of the Ocean Park Association for the Preservation of the Arts (OPAPA)--artists are sharing talents and strengths to preserve their community and promote a common interest in beauty. It is time to either come together, or come apart. Artists are being forced from the area by speculation and inflation, the same way the elderly and minority populations are. We can leave, or we can work towards preserving Venice as the inspirational place which drew us and holds us here.

I'm talking about the other half of the phrase: "... and for others to be in touch with the arts." The arts,

also, have to be in touch with the others, the community. The funky, lopsided town we all find so dear and amusing is going to be the tightest jive-ass condo refuge since Redondo Beach unless the people with imaginations take some time to imagine what that will mean: freeways, sprawling garages, security buildings, the sterility of stucco and bathed Mercedes.

The City of Los Angeles is drawing up a Community Plan for Venice. It is also maneuvering to exclude Venice from the guidelines and procedures of the California Coastal Commission, to facilitate development and boost the tax base of our slovenly burg. Huge tracts of city-owned land are being sold to developers rather than leased to community groups, or held as wedges against the rolling thunder of inflation and speculation threatening to wipe out the entire community. The look, the feel, even the smell of Venice are up for grabs this year, and the Venice Artists' Forum hopes to be a vehicle for creative input into any planning that might be done.

The meetings promise to be a mixture of information, inspiration, performance, discussion, exhibition, resolution, and organizing of coming projects. On February 25 we plan to show the film, "The Great Wall of Los Angeles," about the world's largest mural organized by SPARC and the City-Wide Mural Project and painted in L.A. Hopefully by March we will have developed any number of presentations or forums--"Art and Politics: Is it all Propaganda?" "Self-images of Venice: Black, Brown, and White"; "How to apply for Arts Grants"--lined up interesting and informative guests, and set up some workshops and collaborations.

Ironically, one of the forces trying to change Venice is the so-called "art world"--the Galleries, artists, and speculators drawn to their exhibits. The development at Main and Rose was strongly supported by artists who would trade an expensive "space" for two floors of offices and boutiques beneath it. While I write this, the Ace Gallery is transforming the old Bank of America into its newest wing, despite the fact that its application for a Coastal Commission the building's use is illegal pending further public hearings. Several Venice groups are objecting to the Ace's expansion on so grand a scale because of its connections to Norton Simon and the LA County Museum of Art. They think it will attract to Venice too many people who can afford to buy a \$5,000 painting rather than paint one.

The Venice groups offered the director of the Ace Gallery to drop their appeal, according to Rick Davidson, one of the appellants, if the Ace would agree to two things: donate their enormous exterior wallspace to a competent local muralist group, and to have a showing of Venice artists every 4-6 months. The director of the Ace refused. The appeal was filed. Work continues on the Bank of America building, appellants claim illegally, and the Gallery's grand opening on February 16 was contrary to a restraining order issued by Judge Raymond Choate of the LA County Superior Court.

Personally, I am confused about these developments: do galleries like the Ace help or hinder the preservation of Venice as a community supportive of artists? Are they a vanguard of art, or of speculation? As an artist I am uneasy opposing a gallery, though its effect on the community must be measured as dispassionately as if it were a condominium or a shopping mall.

These are some of the things the Venice Artists' Forum hopes to take on. Join us, at least in name. For information call Eric Ahlberg or Linda Eber at SPARC, 822-9560. *



The VENICE ARTIST'S FORUM has reconvened, and as one of our first projects we would like to put together a directory of Venice artists and artists' suppliers. We hope to act as a clearing house for information on the arts in Venice, to open lines of communication between artists, and to schedule some functions where Venice artists can display their talents. As we hope to make this directory public, please leave out any information you consider confidential.

NAME _____ HOME TEL. _____
HOME ADDRESS _____
BUSINESS ADDRESS _____
OCCUPATION _____ BUS. TEL. _____

In the spaces below indicate your areas of talent and give an evaluation of your proficiency, I.E.: P-Professional A-Amateur S-Student T-Teacher R-Resource or artist's supplier. If you are involved in more than one area, please number them in order of importance, I.E.: 1-Most involved, etc.

<input type="checkbox"/> Animation/cartoons	<input type="checkbox"/> Jewelry	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> Calligraphy	<input type="checkbox"/> Mime	<input type="checkbox"/> Stone
<input type="checkbox"/> Collage/assemblage	<input type="checkbox"/> Mosaics	<input type="checkbox"/> Television
<input type="checkbox"/> Dance	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum/gallery display	<input type="checkbox"/> Textiles
<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater
<input type="checkbox"/> Fiber	<input type="checkbox"/> Painting	<input type="checkbox"/> Toys
<input type="checkbox"/> Film	<input type="checkbox"/> Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood
<input type="checkbox"/> Glass	<input type="checkbox"/> Poetry	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing
<input type="checkbox"/> Graphics	<input type="checkbox"/> Prints	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Interior design	<input type="checkbox"/> Puppetry	

Please describe: _____

Please include any further information you think relevant or a resume if you wish. Include any ideas or directions you would like the VENICE ARTIST'S FORUM to pursue.

If you know of any artists or artists' suppliers who may not have been reached by this form, please tell them about it. This form should be returned to THE PUBLIC ART STATION-685 Venice Blvd., where additional copies may be obtained.

If you wish further information or wish to become involved in the VENICE ARTIST'S FORUM, please attend our meeting held the last Sunday of each month at 4:00 P.M. at THE PUBLIC ART STATION.



educational opportunity remains

by Brenda Harney

Since 1974, an office of the Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) has been functioning in Venice. The EOC program is directed toward persons of all ages who might not be viewing college or vocational education as a viable option. EOC counselors encourage prospective students to consider college or vocational education, explain admission requirements, provide assistance in filling out college applications, pre-admission examination forms, and financial aid forms, and offer reinforcement and support during and after the time the student is enrolled.

With four offices throughout the City, EOC is funded by federal grant monies administered by UCLA Extension. From 1974 - 1978, the citywide program has assisted some 13,000 students.

Last week it was learned that the Venice office might be closed. In response to this information, a meeting was held February 20 at NAPP. A cross-section of Venice was represented by the 15 people who met with Muriel Hecsh and Claire Malis from UCLA Extension.

Local residents were passionate in expressing their desire that the local office remain open, feeling the presence of the office in the community was beneficial in terms of accessibility. The Extension people listened.

On February 25 it was learned that the order to close the office has been rescinded -- for at least 60 days. The next day, representatives of NAPP, the Oakwood Recreation Center, the Venice Drug Coalition, Barrios Unidos, and the Venice Town Council met with Ms. Hecsh and Ms. Malis at the Neighborhood Justice Center, to discuss possible strategies for the future.

At this meeting, community representatives identified two goals: to keep the Venice office open and to maximize outreach in the community. Ms. Hecsh and Ms. Malis shared the desire that outreach be expanded and emphasized the need for community support in this effort.

The services provided by EOC are valuable, especially to minority or low-income persons who might not be considering college or vocational education as a real possibility in their lives. And the Venice EOC needs to get in touch with these persons. Greater community involvement with and utilization of these services will result in greater assurance that the local EOC office will remain open.

In the meantime, UCLA Extension will continue to meet with the community in the hope of establishing a dialogue and developing means to increase outreach in Venice.

THIS COMMUNITY CENTER NEEDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT. It is located at 318 South Lincoln Blvd., Room 119. Phone: 392-4527

If you can utilize the services offered by EOC, or can recommend someone who can, you will help keep the local office open and functioning in this community.

If these services are important to you, now is the time to speak out. ☐



Mootney Theatre:

"Why silent, Labor?"

You should catch MoreTheatre's truly fine coming production of UNDER MILKWOOD. (call 399-0556 for details) but look-out there's more.

It's THE VENICE MOOTNEY COMPANY, founded in 1976 to provide a critical look at the American Revolution with Glenn Hopkins' play, AINT THIS IT? The original group, which branched into MoreTheatre, is being revitalized for the coming production of DINOSAUR at the Church in Ocean Park.

Wayne Lindberg, former graduate Director at the Yale Drama School, aid to Benjamin Spock and editor of Grass Roots for The Peace and Freedom Party collaborated with Hopkins on DINOSAUR for the last year and a half.

Set in the context of the forty-year history of a single American family, DINOSAUR illuminates the life-roles of the steadily-rising labor leader and those who serve as his support. Hopkins notes, "Everywhere we've taken this play the discussion gets really hot. The ruling generation often doesn't get it because it's about them."

There are still positions open in design, crew, and acting so call Mary Ann Cherry (396-0556) for details. Otherwise, because of the ninety-nine seat limit, plan to buy your tickets early in April from Midnight Special Books on Washington Blvd., Small World Books on the Boardwalk, or The Bookshop in Ocean Park. ☐

ANTI-UNION JINGLES ?

9

By Emily Winters

On Feb. 14th, my family and I went with much anticipation to see two Marlon Brando films at the NuArt Theater. We had marked our calendar a month in advance and had enjoyed the prospect of seeing such well made films. But as we neared the theater, we saw to our dismay, a group of 9 or 10 persons carrying signs and walking around in circles directly in front of the entrance. The Projectionists Union, Local 150, was picketing the NuArt. Their signs read that Parallax Theaters were not paying their projectionists enough money. As most working brothers and sisters known, we should never cross a picket line and betray our fellow workers. So we swallowed our disappointment and started to turn away. But it was while we were doing this that I happened to see "Jingles", a Venice street musician, get into the small line at the cashiers booth. He was wearing some, not all, of his usual jangly attire and seemed not to notice the pickets at all. I called out in surprise...."Jingles!! Your aren't going to cross this picket line are you?" He replied...."Yes I am! I'm not going to miss two good movies. Just watch me!" With that he made a theatrical leap over an imaginary line. I said...."Jingles! I can't believe that you, especially from Venice, would do this!" He tartly replied...."I leave my image at home!!" I noticed his usual band masters jacket as it disappeared into the small crowd, and heard his bells jangling to his parting remark...."Go back to Camarillo!!"as he pranced up to the cashiers booth to purchase his ticket.

Now wait a minute....wasn't this the same Jingles, our Venice Street Musicians Organizer that we all supported to insure his and their rights? I wonder if some of the people on the picket line had seen and admired his performances and contributed some of their hard earned money to his livelihood. I have. Let's hope that one of the films he saw On the Waterfront, raised his consciousness just a little....that's if the noise of his bells didn't get him thrown out of the theater first. ☐



News from Communitas

Communitas, a crime prevention project in Ocean Park, has submitted a proposal for \$10,000 for the purchase of locks, for doors and windows for approximately 350 low and moderate income families. These locks will be available to renters and homeowners in the Ocean Park area.

A Communitas press release justifies this particular project by reporting that Ocean Park is one of the highest crime areas in Santa Monica. It is requesting the funds from the Environmental Services Dept. of Santa Monica. ☐



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MOE READS A BOOK:

Chandler's L.A. — a sign of the Times

By Moe Stavnezer

"Thinking Big: The Story of the Los Angeles Times" is a whole lot more than you might expect it to be. Robert Gottlieb and Irene Wolt have written a superbly readable history of the growth of L.A. and the forces that shaped that growth. It's a big book, over 500 pages, and very well worth the reading time especially if you like history and are also interested in how L.A. got to be the way it is.

The book is divided into 4 time-period sections each one corresponding to one of the 4 publishers of the Times; Harrison Gray Otis, Harry, Norman and Otis Chandler. When I came to L.A. 11 years ago the Times was pretty much what it is today; lots of news stories and some news analysis, quasi-liberal, always supportive of Republicans. It was considered one of the best papers in the country. Little did I know that as recently as the 1950's the Times was considered one of the 3 WORST papers in the country. That legacy, as Gottlieb & Wolt make clear, came in a direct line from Harrison Gray Otis.

Otis came to L.A. in the 1880's and almost immediately took over the Times. He had very big ideas for the paper and for the entire L.A. basin. He foresaw a huge metropolis populated by millions which is quite a vision for a near lawless cowtown. Otis used his paper to relate his vision and to make that vision come true. He promoted "boosterism" all over the country with special editions of the paper which extolled L.A. and urged people to come here. He was very big on land speculation and participated in the many booms in land sales—whether legitimate or not. Otis had 2 other sterling attributes; he was a vehement union-hater and a vicious red-baiter. Otis set the ideologic tone for early L.A., crusading for the open shop and opposing any kind of social reform as being red, pink, socialist etc. In that atmosphere business thrived and controlled the city.

Otis' son-in-law, Harry Chandler, took over the paper in 1917 when Harrison died. Harry shared Otis' philosophy but was far more interested in making money. He was considered a financial wizard who established a financial dynasty and

became the most powerful man in L.A.

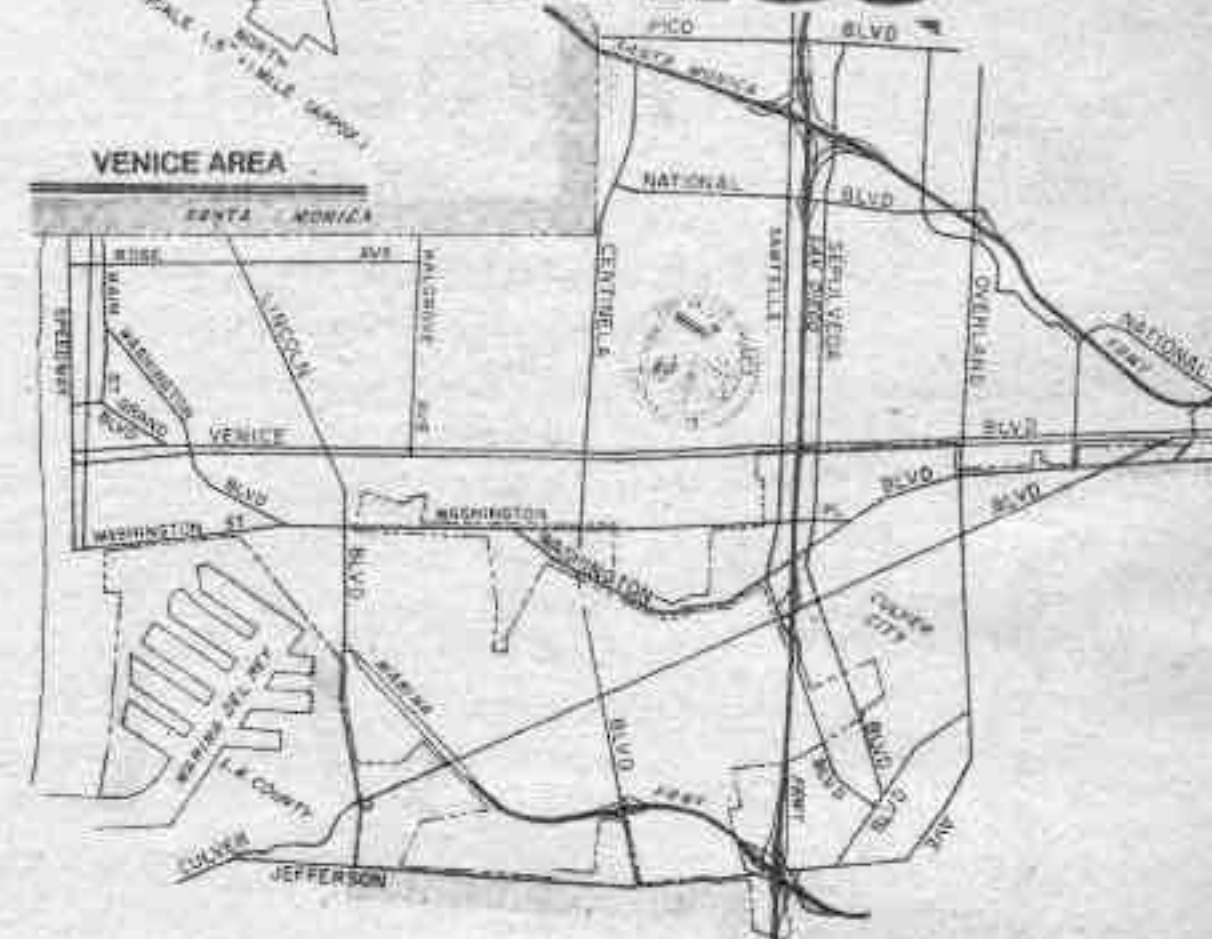
Harry was a primary force in land speculation, subdividing the San Fernando Valley, bringing Owens Valley water to quench the growing thirst of rapidly growing L.A. Harry was instrumental in evolving the physical shape of L.A. from its small lot subdivisions and single family homes to the freeway system. His paper hated FDR, railed against the Commie threat and continued its strong anti-union rhetoric.

By the time Norman Chandler became the publisher in 1941 the family and the paper were an established power in L.A. & Southern California. Norman was interested in consolidating the family fortune and playing the role of an aristocrat. The Times never faltered in its reactionary politics, it supported Nixon and Joe McCarthy and virtually controlled City Hall. It should be noted that the Times politics were not confined to its editorial pages, its "news" stories were just as much an extension of its philosophy as its editorials. Norman's disinterest in the paper allowed the emergence of his wife, Buff Chandler, as the only woman in the family to become a power at the Times. Dorothy "Buff" Chandler's greatest achievement was the music center and her concern with the Times' image. L.A. had changed since Harrison Otis and now, finally, the Times would begin to change as well.

Otis Chandler became publisher in 1960 and along with editor Nick Williams transformed the Times from one of the country's worst papers to one of its best. The Times-Mirror Company greatly diversified its financial empire and became the largest publisher in the nation. Greater L.A. has a population of around 10 million and the Times, its anti-union anti-communist, pro-business line in tact, is the biggest most influential newspaper. Harrison Otis' vision had been realized in the short span of 90 years.

This is a bare bones outline of a richly detailed history. Gottlieb and Wolt have obviously done a great deal of research and have woven it all together in an often chilling story of money and power. Unfortunately this excellent book is not yet in paperback and the hardback costs \$15.00. The book is available at the Venice Library and I strongly recommend it. *****

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HEALTH LINE

A community service column by the Venice Drug Coalition
by diana huss

Health care isn't only going to a doctor when you're sick. It's learning how to take responsible action for your own physical, mental and social well being. Health care to also applying your own ability to tune in on what's happening within your self.

With this concept in mind the Venice Drug Coalition (VDC), Central Intake Unit, 826 Hampton, has expanded its health education and counseling activities. Already many interacting neighborhood groups are exchanging info in order to identify needs and fill gaps in educational services. Using the VDC as a supplementary resource, mini forums are being put together on hypertension, sickle cell disease, nutritional deficiencies, and drug reactions. Watch next month's column for times and places! Starting in February, free health education and counseling has been available weekdays 3-5pm and other times by appointment. Check out other services which you could use...

blood pressure checks, health screenings, "pap" tests, lab work at cost and referral services.

It's our bodies, our health and our loved ones. Lets' make sure we have the tools, especially knowledge, to give ourselves first rate care.

many groups such as the Venice Family Clinic, Family Planning, NAPP, NYA, the Westminster Senior Citizens Center, Project AWARE, and COPE already incorporate health education components in their programs. Through this column Venice residents will find out what is happening where and when. *

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LORENTZ and O.P.A.P.A. Fight For Artists

By Pano Douvos

Sherry Lorentz has spearheaded the Ocean Park Arts Preservation Association in their successful drive to retain her studio in the Parkhurst Building at Pier and Main in Ocean Park.

The intensity and drive evident in her fine concert harp musicianship was also shown in the good fight she fought to preserve the rights of artists. She is one of the last of 15 or so artists shoved out of the immediate area, included in that group are: John Abbott, Jill Ciment, Pano Douvos, Sam Francis, Charles Garabedian, Jane Golden, Mike Scoggs and Arnold Meshe.

Feeling that artists are also on the endangered species list, Lorentz would not go quietly and rallied support from O.P.A.P.A. to save the artist as well as the whale, condor, and the bald-eagle. A Pier Ave. street festival on Jan. 28th started the ball rolling.....and the group will be an ongoing champion of artists rights.

After forming O.P.A.P.A. as a non-profit organization, the group is now actively pushing to establish the Parkhurst Building as a Culture Center for the Arts. The core of the group in addition to Lorentz is: Grant McHenry, author/poet; David Perkins, woodwind artist; Dickson Mac Murray, graphic design/flutist; Jason Lord, audio specialist/bassist; and Pano Douvos, visual artist. Lorentz underlined that as well as the artists instruments and brushes, their studios are equally the very essential "tools of their trade"..... without which they cannot be productive members of society.

STAYING PUT

Right now in the U.S., artists are pushed out of areas they have improved and there is a rip-off of their efforts by businessmen. Money talks and the artist walks. O.P.A.P.A. feels it is not a natural law, and now is the time for artists to make a stand and give voice to their rights to be an integral part of

America at its very center.

The new owners of the Parkhurst Building, Allen Freedman and Norman Ollestad are not noticeably enthusiastic over the proposal to establish a culture center there. They gave a grudging increase to Lorentz from a 30 day to a 1 year lease with an option for an additional year. Also increased was her

NOTE

On the night of February 19th, a private plane crash on Mt. Baldy caused the death of Norman Ollestad. His son, Norman Ollestad, Jr. survived the accident.

rent - by 150% plus additional expense - surrounding the repair on her studio after earthquake-proofing the building.

The intention of Jack McKay of "One Life" to move into the Parkhurst with yet another restaurant for Ocean Park will apparently now have to be put in cold storage!

O.P.A.P.A. member MacMurray has drawn up a floor plan design to form artists' studios around a central gallery and performance area. The concept envisions income from art sales and from musical and theatrical performances.

FUNDING SOUGHT

Funding help is being explored -- National Art Endowment and National Historic Preservation bodies have been con-

tacted. Private financial support is solicited and O.P.A.P.A. can be reached at 187 Pier Ave., Santa Monica.

Politicians are slow to include artists rights in their thinking. Sen. Sieroty of California is aware and has produced several artist supportive bills. A suggestion may be made here for a rider to his current renters eviction bill which requires just cause for eviction... those who are forced out by change of ownership, city sponsored building upgrading (read..people removal) etc., should be guaranteed alternate living space. It exists in England, now it is time for such a bill here.

Politicians think of civil improvements in the form of quantity. More day-care centers, senior citizen housing and more and wider streets. The time is now for considerations of quality. The spiritual and cultural development of the people is equally imperative...and the artists role is one of sparking the creativity which flows from human freedom when the rights of all the people are fought for and assured.

Mexico is more enlightened as a society with regards to the honoring of artistic expression. Maybe they will show an interest in Venice/Ocean Park if there is a secession from the U.S. . Maybe the U.N. will investigate the deprivation of the rights of an American minority -- the embattled artist. 'Till then we can follow the example of Sherry Lorentz and make a lot of noise. ●

O.P.A.P.A.

We Proclaim

AS A COMMUNITY THAT MUSIC AND THE FINE ARTS SHOULD HAVE A VITAL PRESENCE IN THE VENICE/ OCEAN PARK AREA.

The OCEAN PARK ARTS PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION, by its ideals, goals and actions has proven itself to be not only a dynamic contributor towards community awareness of the artists needs, but a means by which to circumvent the obstacles artists face in preserving their creative environments. As such, we propose OPAPA be recognized as crucial in our attempts to keep in Venice/ Ocean Park those things we consider so valuable.

NAME	ADRESS	TELE #
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_____	_____	_____
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Please return these signed petitions to one of the following locations: (A box will be provided outside the door.)

Brandywine Cafe Lincoln Blvd at Pier Ave
Davy Jones Liquor Locker - Pacific at Pier
or mail to OPAPA at P. O. BOX 1218 Los Angeles, California 90272

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NOTHING SUCCEEDS

ON ESTABLISHING A PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

by Moe Stavnezer

Upon returning from the L.A. City Planning Commission meeting, a group of us decided that the only recourse left for Venice is to secede from the United States and establish the People's Republic of Venice (hereafter known as PRV). We, the undersigned, have therefore established and do now proudly announce the formation of the ad hoc Venice Secession Committee. And we now solicit your minds and bodies for the difficult task that lies ahead of us. When in the course of human events a community like ours gets screwed so often that community, black, brown & white, old & young, male & female, must give the collective finger to those who oppress us (you may quote that): We should note here that an oppressed person from Ocean Park called during our deliberations and immediately requested the inclusion of the north-east panhandle of O.P. in our fledgling state--negotiations are under way even at this early stage.

Though a number of items were seriously and passionately discussed only two decisions were reached--that this article be written and that the cash crop of the Republic be marijuana, everything else is up for grabs. But why not, you might ask yourself, simply secede from L.A. (or even Calif)? Well! The whole discussion became serious when we began to think about who we might have to vote for in the next presidential election and the choices narrowed to Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan or Jerry Brown. Certainly you can understand our decision in light of that pretty dismal prospect. And so the proverbial die is cast as we embark on this historical path to freedom and independence.

Seriously folks, just think about it. The People's Republic of Venice! Our flag unfurled (see questionnaire) waving in the ocean breeze; our own money (see questionnaire) and rate of exchange; the construction of the "semi-great wall"; our own ambassadors to ABC, NBC & CBS! Now really, doesn't that make your heart swell with pride? Just imagine the potential--Radio Free Venice blaring out a message of hope to the huddled masses of L.A., checkpoints along the semi-great wall baring developers and real estate agents!, the voice of the Republic at the U.N. Tears come to our collective eyes. And now that you are imbued with the great magnitude of this endeavor, we must of necessity and our dedication to honesty, speak of the difficulties involved and the decisions to be made.

L.A. would, in ascending order of severity; cut off our water, our electricity, and gas, destroy our communications systems, cut off welfare, send in L.A.P.D.! We must begin investigating the nationalization of our oil fields, desalination techniques, solar and wind energy systems burning dogshit, a system of full employment that benefits us all, personal contact, and the establishment of the Venice Reserve Militia. We must have our own declaration of independence and interdependence and our own constitution. These

are not exactly trivial and the ideas you have hidden away in the deep recesses of your brains will now, we hope, come flooding forth to become part of the final product of our desires and aspirations. Whew! To be clear, the US is not going to, without a fight, allow a foreign power to take the very lucrative marijuana trade away from Marina del Rey.

Lest you think that all we discussed was meaningless and frivolous (brought on by some severe state of altered consciousness--whatever the hell that means) we had a short, but intense, discussion on the legal aspects of our action and pretty much decided that none of that crap had a damn thing to do with the Republic. We spent a totally unproductive and unspecified amount of time head-tripping on some kind of royal rule (a duck and a duckess) that might become our way of life here in PRV. After abandoning that concept as frivolous and demeaning we had absolutely no idea of what to do next. Your suggestions will be great (see below).

What is to be done is our next most exciting question (pant, pant). Imagine if you will the total shock felt around the world when we gloriously announce this stupendous event--a watershed in the history of all humankind. How will we deal with all the publicity? who will speak for us, in what language? How will this great event effect Echo Park?

FREE VENICE

LONG LIVE THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC!

signed: Sue Baker, Phil Bell, Olga Palo, Jeff Gillenkirch, Rick Davidson, Moe Stavnezer, Linda Lucks

QUESTIONNAIRE (Check anything)

1. Which flag would you like:
 - ☐ Black star on green field
 - ☐ Don't Tread on Me (Serpent on yellow field)
 - ☐ Tri-color, black, brown, white
 - ☐ Abbott Kinney on white field
 - ☐ Brown turd on green field
2. What should our money be;
 - ☐ Venice duma
 - ☐ none
 - ☐ dollars
 - ☐ Gold bars
 - ☐ all of the above
3. Where should we send ambassadors;
 - ☐ Nowhere
 - ☐ Everywhere (would require entire population)
 - ☐ US, France, England etc.
 - ☐ USSR, The China, Cuba etc.
 - ☐ Monaco, Virgin Islands etc
 - ☐ Colombia, Nepal etc
4. What should the semi-great wall be made of:
 - ☐ Wood
 - ☐ Old Cars
 - ☐ Dog & cat shit & fly paper
 - ☐ Roller skates
5. What kind of government do you favor:
 - ☐ None
 - ☐ Democratic socialist
 - ☐ Monarchy
 - ☐ Anarchy
 - ☐ All of the above



DS LIKE SECESSION

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC DEFIES HEGEMONY

by Jeff Gillenkirk

Following a recent meeting of the Los Angeles City Planning Commission, the ad hoc Committee to Study the Secession of Venice from L.A. suddenly declared Venice independent from the United States of America.

"This definitely changes our relationship with the city," ad hoc spokesperson Hank Leering pointed out.

Washington reacted swiftly. Presidential spokesman Jody Powell recalled this afternoon entering the Oval Office at approximately 8:30 this morning:

"Mr. President, Venice has seceded from the Union."

"We seek no wider war," the President responded. "Venice must be retained for the integrity and preservation of the Union."

The new government will call itself the People's Republic of Venice. It plans to take power as soon as someone figures out what the hell to do, and

everyone is welcome to try, uninformed sources say.

"We have legal battles and possibly a war to fight before the People's Republic is free from city and federal control," ad hoc committee member Rick Grevious said. "Until then, we're going to hang loose."

While legal and illegal forces muster their strengths for the fiercest challenge to the Union since Fort Sumter, plans for the People's Republic of Venice are going forward. Committee person Lynn Influence reports that the structure of the new government is to be clearly a Puppet Monarchy.

"The real power will belong to the entire population--the Dukes and Dukesses of Venice," Ms. Influence told the Beachhead. "The Grand Duke--or Dukess--will just be a figurehead who deals with film companies and visiting politicians. Real decision-making will take place where it always takes place in politics--at parties and in bars."

The People's Republic hopes to support itself by nationalizing the oil well at Windward and legalizing the cultivation and sale of marijuana. Income tax will be paid voluntarily into a giant hat situated in the Windward Circle. It is hoped that a successful fishing fleet can be organized, which will be used as the Navy should Santa Monica, Marina del Rey, or Japan invade Venice territorial waters.

"The immediate problem is what to do about Los Angeles," Rick Grevious said. "We figured it would be easier to secede from the Union than from LA. With their eye on development and rising property taxes, Los Angeles will not let us go so easily."

Grevious, who intends to run for a seat as the Republic's Secretary of Offense, announced that Venice troops were already massed at the Mar Vista and Marina border, awaiting action by the City and County of Los Angeles and drinking a shitload of beer.

"We have traded ambassadors with Ocean Park and Culver City and feel secure on those fronts," Grevious confided. "And we have formed a committee to study the advantages and disadvantages of recognizing Los Angeles."

Republican activist Bo Samson also announced that the new nation's currency will feature a pile of dogshit on one side, and facing it, the People's Palace on Venice Boulevard, the old City Hall. The state bird is to be the Pigeon, and the state flower, according to Samson, the Landlord.

"We hope to be an inspiration to all people fighting for self-determination," Hank Leering declared. "But we have one advantage which other secession movements don't--we have the Bomb."

U.S. Secretary of State Virus Trance confirmed reports that Venice has been invited to the 57th round of Strategic Arms Limitations Talks in Geneva next month. The Republic, however, unable to raise the money to send a representative, has suggested that SALT LVII talks be held

But domestic issues remain at the forefront of Republican planning. Senior citizen subsidization, worker-owned industry, agricultural communes, food cooperatives, a National Poultry Board, and establishment of the People's National Bank are scheduled for study in 1979. All property owned by foreign interests will be confiscated and distributed equally amongst Republic residents, and inheritance will be directed through the state and redistributed amongst the entire population of Venice.

"Venice was once described as a New England town on acid," Carol Burn-Fiddlesticks once said. "Now we're going to be a whole fucking nation on its own trip."



COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP PROGRESS

Carolyn Rios
Robin Rudnick

Thursday, March 15th, the Venice Community Playgroup will hold a community discussion at the Oakwood Recreation Center to discuss the problems and promises of the future at our funded site at 7th & Broadway. 7P.M. Everyone is invited.

For those of you new to the community - VCP is a parent cooperative day care facility for children 18 mos - 5 yrs. old. Parents work one day each week plus do all the organizing, planning required to run a day care program. This means meetings, clean-ups, projects and supply lists, etc. It's hard work at times but the reward is the security of a loving home-like environment for our children. Playgroup is an extended family giving mutual support to families, another endangered species in Venice. The schools and government gain control soon enough. Now is the time for parents!

Yes! Venice Community Playgroup is alive and well at the old Venice City Hall - Yess, we're still there & yes, we've received yet another six month extension to use City Hall. The normal crisis situation has prevailed but we've survived several spot health checks, fire department and Building and Safety plus two cease and desist notices. Given three weeks to obtain a Child Care License, we managed to complete a thick pile of forms and expect to receive a provisional license soon.

The Fox Venice Benefit Night - an emotional issue for us. We cancelled a benefit of our thinking we were to be the sole recipient of this benefit. Due to many reasons - including mismanagement and poor communication - plus the political clouds hanging over our head, we ended up with a mere \$350.00 which was quickly spent on long over due bills (phone, water), did a complete paint job on our room at City Hall, plus we bought some long needed supplies. (HELP! we still need a cannister type vacuum plus some tricycles - donations are tax deductible!)

The site - ah yes - our site at 7th & Broadway. Molasses still drips on our progress and as usual we hope to move in six months or so. We are obtaining our required zoning ordinance variance now. Once that is in hand we should be able to start looking for a contractor. Any local contractor who has the ability and manpower to deal with the reams of federal regulations and its concomitant paperwork, please contact us at 396-9972.

The Zoning variance was opposed by Pearl White, Flora Chavez and Velicia Mande etc. The opposition stems from the fact that our group is mostly white, the local black community has not been consulted enough, the question of priorities (jobs, housing or more childcare), plus we have become a symbol of Pat Russell and City Hall to some people.

We feel the concerns are valid and feel caught in a quandry because our program is good, it works and it's needed; but we need more advice, involvement and support from the community. We feel many of these concerns come from misunderstanding and misinformation about our program and the history of our funding and the site.

Our answer to some concerns are:

Our current membership represents Black, Mexican and White (including French, English, and Danish). Most of our new members come via word of mouth although we are constantly spreading flyers and are now working on a new more comprehensive flyer.

Basically there's been nothing to 'consult' the community about, we've only been working on the physical plans for the building - most of which is predetermined by the Child Care Regulations and Building and Safety. The program to be implemented at the site has not been developed yet; the program of playgroup is the program of the participating parents. We were given the grant for cooperative child care services only, with a possible handicapped program and a program for adolescents who already have or want to have children.

As far as jobs are concerned, it should be made clear that our funding is for the facility only. We do not receive funds for our current operation. Once in our site we hope to receive operational funds, at which time we will hire a director and possible other staff from the community.

In answer to the accusation that there is already enough childcare available in Oakwood we want it to be understood that we are not a conventional 'child care center' but a family support system in a broader context. We provide a service to families who:

1. Cannot afford 'child care' or
2. Do not qualify for state subsidy or
3. Have children under the age of three for whom there is nothing available, or
4. Do not feel ready to leave their children and go to work full time, but want to work part-time and be actively involved in the program their child attends.



As for us representing Pat Russell and City Hall - most agencies and funding are administered through City Hall, hence one has to work with the Council person, whose job is to serve the people. But IF, in fact, Ms. Russell had really put her support and effort behind us we feel we'd already have passed thru the bureaucratic maze. Instead she's given us token support and left us fumbling frequently. Hence the long delays of this project. Of course, she uses us to show that she is progressive and supports child care - indeed she's been instrumental in changing some important rules and regulations. Ms. Russell is another quandry.

Those of us in VCP are struggling to survive in Venice amidst rising rents and other problems. Our concern and our goal is that Venice remain and become a place to raise families and our hope is that by cooperating inter-culturally in operating playgroup we'll all achieve a better understanding of ourselves and each other and our children will be raised in an intercultural environment.

Everyone come to the meeting. There will be entertainment, as yet unknown. There will be a question and answer period, refreshments. We hope to form an Advisory Committee of concerned citizens to help us plan and implement our program. ●

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RIGHT TO LIFE for the BIRTHING CENTER

by Moe Stavnezer

There is a particularly disgusting travesty occurring in this community. The L.A. Childbirth Center, at 252 Fifth Av., is being systematically & maliciously threatened by people who want to destroy it. In the past 10 months there have been about 30 incidents of harassment toward the staff and patients alike. These have included a number of trespasses onto the property and into the clinic, threats of rape, threats of burning the clinic down, and, most recently, the smashing of the car windshields of 2 staffers. Astonishingly, though all of these incidents have been reported to the City Attorney's office not much has been done to prevent further incidents.

The birth clinic has been functioning for 2 years and has provided home birth support for about 300 westside woman & babies. The clinic provides pre and post natal care, charges sliding fees according to income, & accepts Medi-Cal. The fees charged range from \$450 to \$1,000 compared to an average hospital charge of \$2,500. The clinic employs 10-11 people from the Venice/Santa Monica area who are very oriented toward providing a valuable service to this community. All of these people are feeling increasing fear for their safety and, given the intensity of the threats against them in the past 2 months, those fears seem amply warranted. But all of the staff is determined to stay and continue their work.

But why, what's this all about? Why all this violence against a birth clinic? Well it appears that its all about money and real estate. Even though the building which had been quite run-down has been completely renovated, inside & out, a couple property owners on the block and real estate company people who deal and own in the area (The Real Estate Exchange Fred Sands-which owns the Exchange- and MDR) feel that the clinic will lower property values on the street and so are opposing it. Rudie Axford who lives at 237 Fifth and owns other property on the street and elsewhere in Oakwood, appears particularly & vehemently opposed to the clinic. In fact in a document submitted to the City Attorney by the clinic describing 27 incidents of harassment, Axford is implicated in half of them. Axford's son testified against the zone variance required for the clinic saying that he wouldn't buy the property next to the clinic because it had lowered the value of that property. Well it just so happens that the property next to the clinic belongs to Rudie Axford. Clearly there is a vendetta and just as clearly the reason behind it is greed.

In order to counter the violence that's been happening, the people who live in the immediate vicinity of the clinic held an emergency meeting late in February. Neighbors and local businesspeople, as well as reps from Pat Russell's office & LAPD attended. They expressed great concern over what was happening on the block and demanded more and better protection from the police. It was a good showing of support for the clinic. But more support is needed.

In order to continue functioning the clinic needs a zone variance from the City. The first try was denied mainly, according to zoning administrator Charles Cadwallader because of a petition signed by 70 people against the clinic. But Gary Richwald, one of the directors of the clinic, feels that most of those signatures were gathered after a rumor was spread that the birth clinic was really a abortion mill and that fetuses were being thrown in the trash. Gary and the clinic will appeal the zoning decision. They need our support. Send letters of support to Councilwoman Pat Russell, City Hall, Rm 260, 200 N. Spring St., L.A. 90012. Or you can call here office at 485-3357. Also be on the lookout for the petition in support of the clinic which will soon be circulated. We must show the Rudie Axfords of Venice that we will not tolerate him or his tactics of violence and fear. SUPPORT THE BIRTH CLINIC. ●

A DAY IN THE LIFE

BY
DAVID
DANIELSON

15

NEGOTIATING THE CITY STREETS TO WORK: A FULL half an hour of Los Angeles madness (can I slip into the next lane?) driving maybe twenty miles (is that Cadillac going to pull in front of me?) and past twenty-seven signals (will I make the light?). At least I can listen to some down'n'dirty hard rock, KROQ-FM. It's good to hear that it's still being made, what with most of the rock stations gone soft.

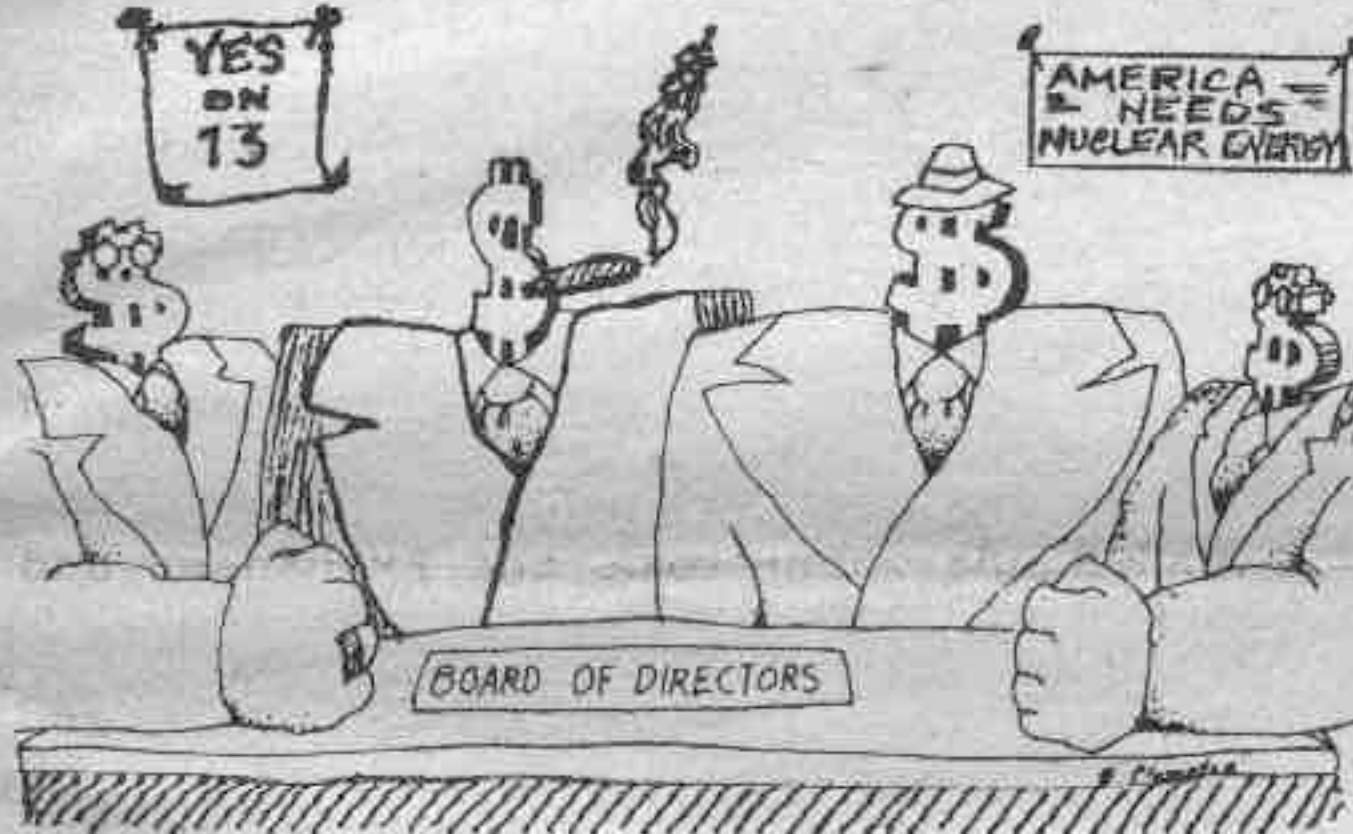
But what's this? Oh, shit; there that damned disc jockey goes again. Right there along with his just-between-us dope jokes, more drooling comments about "especially the ladies out there". And he chuckles afterwards into the microphone. Ain't he cool; just like the musicians they interview: "Oh, yeah, it's a great group, the women have fantastic bodies." "Hey, if I'm taking call-in questions, I'm only talking to females!" All right, man, what's hap-pen-ing! Business as usual, apparently.

Well, so who's surprised? When I discovered my friends were smoking dope to watch situation comedies, I already knew the revolution hadn't quite come off as first planned.

READING A LOS ANGELES TIMES ONCE I'M SITTING around at work, a headline announces, "1979 Hardly Shaping Up as the Year Taxes Go Down." The article calmly explains, "The apparent losers will be low- to middle-income taxpayers and renters. They do not benefit from...Proposition 13. ...The federal tax cut...is tilted toward the 5% of all taxpayers with incomes above \$30,000." And the poorer folks, it continues, will be paying more Social Security and state taxes as well.

"Totalling it all up, a factory worker with a wife and two children...who owns no property and will earn \$15,000 annually in 1978 and '79 will pay \$32 more in (1979) taxes...A single secretary earning \$10,000 will pay \$11 more."

But an executive with a family of four, a



\$150,000 house, and a \$60,000 salary will save \$1,600. And a married entertainer making \$150,000 annually plus taking in \$35,000 from stocks over the two years (and who lives in a \$350,000 house) will pay \$4,340 less in taxes.

One thing's sure
and nothing's surer,
The rich get richer
And the poor get...
I set the paper aside, seething.

CHATTING WITH MY SUPERVISOR NEAR LUNCHTIME. He's in his later thirties and gets to talking about growing up in the fifties. He begins reminiscing about being in Boy Scout camp. Once he was the last boy to finish his meal. "Two times," the troop leader told him. My supervisor found out soon enough this meant running a gauntlet two times: dressed only in underwear, he crawled through the spread legs of the other boys while each boy was to slap him as hard as he could on his rear. There were an awful lot of boys. One boy ate eight hot dogs at one meal and was punished by running the gauntlet eight times. He cut his knees up on something on the floor but the pain from his spankings was so intense he didn't notice the bleeding.

My supervisor recalls, "We had to keep everything absolutely spotless. I still remember the commander's desk. Immaculate. Every corner straightened, edge to edge. We had to march in formation, too." When he dropped out, he was called a sissy--perhaps even a Communist.

I sit and listen, dumbfounded at how much of our own country's history doesn't make it to our ears. The U.S. weaves itself a net made from pious claims of liberty and justice, strand upon hypocritical strand, and through it the nation pours its history and all impurities are filtered from reaching us. "I know," my supervisor says, "I can still remember when they added 'under God' to the pledge of allegiance."

"That came in the fifties?"

"It was a bad time."

I consider this. Finally I say, "It would sure make me feel terrible to be in that line, swatting a kid for eating too many hot dogs."

"Oh," my supervisor says, "they had a strict rule. If you didn't swat the kid as hard as you could, you took his place, and he and the rest

swatted you."

I GO OVER TO CROCKER BANK AT LUNCHTIME AND fill out an application for a MasterCard. Not that I particularly want to, but it's been getting harder and harder to cash checks without that miraculous "major credit card". My union has a deal with Crocker for special services, one of which is to process applications for credit cards "extra fast". They're speedy, indeed. The fellow glances at my application and turns me down.

Why?

"You have no prior credit history, sir, and you've only had your current job a year."

You mean to say that in order to borrow I must already be borrowing?

"Oh, well, buy a car or furniture through your credit union."

But I don't want to sink myself in debt. I like to handle my money more carefully than that. Doesn't that count for anything?

"Are you a student? If you're a student making a slight income each month, you can get a Visa."

You mean to say that if I was still a student, dependent upon my parent's support, I could get the card, but now that I'm on my own, with a record of supporting myself, I can't?

"Yes."

I leave without pleasantries, although I know he isn't the person making these policies. And of course the policies are rational, supported by the clean curves of statistics. But I am not looking forward to the increasing struggle of getting my checks honored. And I envision some well-clothed pedestrian being held-up: "I'm sorry, but no one carries cash anymore. Do you take Visa?"

Eventually, I fantasize, only the poor will carry cash, and then the cycle which already turns against itself like a snake biting its own tail will never be broken: the poor will only rob from the poor.

YOU REALLY CAN HELP TO KEEP YOUR PHONE BILLS down," a woman informs me when I call information, in a relentlessly pleasant, coldly warm tone, "just by looking up phone numbers in your phone book whenever possible. Thanks for helping."

"You're welcome," I tell her. By this point in the day, I feel like talking back whether I'm heard or not.

But by the time I'm done listening to a real woman giving me the number I want (the information operator's accents never fail to be in extreme contrast to the predigested tones), I'm feeling slightly guilty. Perhaps it's just because the recording was trying to enlist my help instead of lecturing me as another voice does: "If the number you need isn't in your phone book, please, stay on the line. When the operator gives you the number, write it down for future use." (This voice is male.) Or, more likely, it's just that the recording's new, so I listened to it. (The woman used to thank me for checking my phone book first, which I always thought was presumptuous of her.)

Well. I could have checked the phone book instead of bothering Ma Bell. After all, I know she's already charging ten cents per call for information in Tucson, once you use up five free calls per month. Will I have any right to complain if that happens here, after my licentious ways?

I have just about convinced myself to really help in keeping my phone bills down when I realize what the smudgeless voice was actually saying: the money to be saved is in salaries, of course. I wonder how the operators feel, what with a recording cajoling any caller just before they answer to help make them as unnecessary as possible. Seven percent of U.S. workers unemployed (or whatever it is these days), and I'm told, "You can really help keep employment down just by looking up numbers..." I vow to keep on calling information.

And then I think: My God, what an absurd system! A system in which I would deliberately choose the more wasteful procedure, just to keep things bustling! No wonder our economy vomits out so much refuse. No wonder we're so eager to suck the planet dry.

THE END OF THE WORK DAY, AND I WALK OUT TO THE parking lot with two security men and a secretary, talking the usual five o'clock small talk. The men spot another employee leaving in his car and decide to give him a hard time--all in fun, of course. "Faggot!" one screams. "Double faggot!" the second adds. The fellow who is screamed at barrels away in his car, topping seventy and proving his virility, even if the macho noises are only made by the machine.

I get into my car but I think, Fuck it. I can't let this pass. I dash over to one of the men, who's putting his sedate station wagon into drive.

"Excuse me, Paul," I say. "You're a friend of mine, and I feel I should let you know that I don't like the word faggot. I'm gay, and I really

resent the word."

Paul is astonished. "Well, hey, Dave, nobody knew--."

"Whether or not anybody knew, it's still not a word I think should be used. I think certain words are wrong words to use against each other." Paul is black, and I know he may understand that more deeply than some whites might.

"Well, say, then, I'll try to accustom myself to that with you."

You don't understand, Paul, I'm thinking. I know you weren't screaming at me. It's just that each time we pull bullshit like that, we hem ourselves in, we give each other less elbow room. I'm not just asking for myself, but for all of us, because that attitude spreads.

But I should just thank him; he's confounded, and I'm not up to consciousness raising in a parking lot. But I'm too angry to be gracious: "It's an ugly word," I say--as I've already said--and return to my car.

On the drive home (foregoing KROQ) I think of a letter in the January Beachhead which dismissed an article I had written; the letter had declared, "Surely L.A. is the one place in the U.S. where acceptance is now good" for gays. Oh, yes! Proposition 6 was defeated--only 39% of L.A. County voters don't want gay people near their children. Fume. The letter-writer apparently isn't gay. She isn't curtailed as to where and how she expresses an important part of herself. Yet she presumes she can speak for those who are.

(A few days later leaving work I discover other security officers screaming "Faggot" at each other; this time because two of them have to ride together in the back of a van on the drive home. Push the rock uphill; watch it roll down.)

STROKE, STROKE, STROKE.

I'm home now. I've strung up my skates and coasted out to Ocean Front Walk, fast enough to catch the calm yellow sunset.

Stroke, stroke, stroke: past the motley faces of the homes and stores, somehow fresh though I've memorized every one of them.

Ah.

Suddenly I remember I'm in the midst of a miracle, and I look around me: the people with their edges as ragged as ever, the dogs grinning because they're kings and queens here. The sun. I've been reading about science again lately, and I try to glimpse the atoms fizzing inside the wine stumbling past me. And why does he stick to the ground? Einstein said because the planet's bulk sucks in the space and time around it. Now there's something to think about.

I realize again how much I've already bucked the odds just to be thinking, to be able to per-



ceive this slight chip of eternity for myself. And I remember that even people whose every day is brutal also choose to live. And I don't think it's just because it's the only game in town. If the game is vicious enough, well of course you quit playing. Rather, even the most ripped-off of us somehow senses his or her good luck in being somebody, no matter what.

I've been rubbed the wrong way all day by petty tyrannies. But no longer. It's not that they don't matter; they still do. And it's not that now they just seem the price I have to pay. Instead, I discover those little skirmishes I fought today are part of me. They don't deteriorate my life; they enrich it.

As it grows dark: stroke, stroke, stroke.



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16 Enlightened New Zealand

By David Tappan

Last fall I boarded a DC-10 for a flight to New Zealand with the idea that I might immigrate. I exited America thinking that it had become too oppressive, that it was not even remotely living up to its ideals, and that the approaching decade of the 1980's did not seem hopeful. For reasons I am still sorting out, I returned in late October. What follows is an effort to share some of New Zealand with Beachhead readers.

To this observer, New Zealand is as enlightened a country as I have ever visited. Domestically, New Zealand is regarded as a model welfare state. In response to the worldwide depression of the 1880's, New Zealand democratically elected the world's first "radical" government. The Liberal-Labor administration of 1891 laid the foundations of social reform which turned New Zealand into a respected pioneer of social enlightenment and compassion, far ahead of the rest of the globe.

Women received the vote in 1893 (the first nation in the world to give women the right to vote;) their sisters in Britain and America were to wait another 25 years for it! The country prospered as an egalitarian society and a comprehensive set of social programs protect all New Zealanders, assuring them of a reasonable standard of living and safeguarding them against severe economic misfortune. These programs include: a tolerable minimum wage in relation to the cost of the basic necessities, unemployment compensation, retirement pensions, free hospital care (including maternity deliveries and subsequent allowances for each child), free mental health care (it should be noted that because these health care services are available to all New Zealanders, rich and poor alike, the standards of their health care and hospitals is very high), compensation for accidents regardless of the cause (covers even foreigners while traveling in New Zealand), compensation for victims of violent crime, free education at the university level, the use of an ombudsperson to investigate citizen complaints against government departments.

The above programs have not stifled or diminished the self-reliance of New Zealanders. What they have accomplished, in my view, is to foster a saner and healthier society than ours, wherein not a single person need fear malnutrition or not getting needed medical care. Is it any wonder then that New Zealand has attracted intelligent, tolerant immigrants?

Added to these governmental programs, many community-volunteer programs exist. One of them is especially unique and inspiring: The Plunket Society, a flourishing cooperative infant care program (prenatal, natal, ante natal) which is part and parcel of New Zealand society. Working within the family structure, the society offers free information, preventative diagnosis and treatment of both the sick and the well child. Some of the results of the society's works are that New Zealand's infant mortality rate is among the lowest in the world, their lifespan among the longest, their divorce rate much lower than that in the states. The society aids the needs of the infant and the mother with the hope that parenthood will be a time of happiness.

Until it became fully independent in 1947, New Zealand followed Britain's lead in international affairs. Since that time, they have become quite independent and have assumed a leadership role in the South Pacific. They don't want the super powers tampering with the relative tranquility of the South Pacific. They abhor France's nuclear testing program in the South-east Pacific and have protested vehemently. As a member of the United Nations, they have an excellent reputation. Recently they adopted a 200-mile fishing limit off their coasts. This was a response to huge foreign trawlers which have been accused of depleting many of the species of fish which flourish in New Zealand's waters.

If I have brought light to Beachhead readers concerning New Zealand, I am happy. I have attempted to convey the impression that it is a compassionate country. An added thought is that it is a startlingly beautiful parcel within the God's world.

Just as Venice is a critical alternative within a larger megalopolis and suburban mania, New Zealand is a bright spot within an increasingly darkening, maddening world body of bullying nation-states. New Zealand is small, is beautiful, is remote.

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NORML NEWS



by California NORML

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

Under Assemblyman Brown's bill - AB315 - cultivation of three plants by an individual or not more than six plants in a household with more than one adult, would be punishable by a maximum fine of \$100, without any jail sentence. Enforcement would be through the issuance of citations, rather than arrests, as possession of one ounce or less is currently handled.

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. Cultivation of marijuana with intent to sell would remain a felony.

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.

NOW -- YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED!

Public support for AB 315 is needed now in the California Legislature, especially in the Assembly Criminal Justice Committee and the Ways and Means Committee. Assemblyman Brown introduced similar legislation in 1977 but it was defeated by the full Assembly because legislators did not believe the issue was politically popular.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL SUPPORTERS OF MARIJUANA REFORM IMMEDIATELY WRITE THEIR STATE LEGISLATORS IN SUPPORT OF AB 315

Letters are most important and most persuasive when they are written from constituents to the members of the Assembly and Senate who represent them. All supporters should write to their own elected representatives in the Assembly and Senate. If you don't know who your elected legislators are, telephone the Registrar of Voters, the local newspapers.

LETTERS ARE NEEDED IMMEDIATELY to the members of the Assembly Criminal Justice Committee and the Assembly Ways and Means Committee who will be hearing testimony and voting on the cultivation bill very soon. Names and addresses of key legislators are:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE:

Hon. Bill McVittie - Chairman
Hon. John Knox
Hon. Richard Alatorre
Hon. Elihu Harris
Hon. Mel Levine (our Assemblyman)

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE:

Hon. Daniel Boatwright - Chairman
Hon. Howard Berman
Hon. Peter Chacon
Hon. Leona Egeland
Hon. Terry Goggin
Hon. Gary Hart
Hon. Richard Hayden
Hon. Marilyn Ryan
Hon. John Vasconcellos

Letters should be legibly written, respectful, and mention the bill by author's name and number. All members of the California Legislature can be written to at the same address:

Hon. _____
State Capitol
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

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 your State Legislators in Sacramento. You can send a 15 word message for only \$2.00 and have it billed to your home phone.

Time is crucial. Your letters and telegrams can make a difference. Contact your friends, family and neighbors and urge them to write today.

In addition, everyone who supports more humane and rational marijuana laws should send a letter of support of AB315 to:

Gov. Edmund Brown Jr. Hon. Leo T. McCarthy
State Capitol' Speaker of the House
Sacramento, Ca. 95814 State Capitol
Sacramento, Ca. 95814



REVOLTING AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

BY PAUL DILESKI

If you were a plumber, printer, cobbler, cook, how would you like the State Legislature to pass a law saying that everyone in the state had to use your services at least once a year and at any price you chose to charge? Right! You could make a bundle. But probably you would think "It's certainly unconstitutional!"

Wrong. California's auto insurance companies have this very thing going for them. In 1975 a "Financial Responsibility" law was passed in an attempt to eliminate the uninsured motorist and aid the victims of accidents. To be sure, it was a good idea. But the result has been to make the state a tax collector for the industry. Adding insult to injury, the law punishes the wrong person, leaves the victim out entirely, and actually promotes more uninsured motorists. We need a better program.

As it now stands there is only one way you can comply with the law, and that is to purchase insurance from a profit-motivated entity which knows no limits on the rates it can charge. This carte blanche has permitted insurance rates and company profits to climb steadily. No matter what your driving record -- either pay your levy or become an outlaw. More and more people are rapidly becoming outlaws.

DMV's Financial Responsibility Dept. says that 12% of accidents involve uninsured motorists. These are the reported cases. An official insurance source feels that 25% statewide and 40% in the L. A. area are more accurate figures. Clearly the present law benefits only the companies, punishes the poor person - not the poor driver, and creates more uninsured motorists. Furthermore, the law is enforced only after an accident has occurred. That's right. After you have been in an accident you must buy insurance or your license is suspended. Of course, the insurance doesn't cover the accident you were just in, and so many victims never receive compensation.

Now don't let yourself think you can hide from the insurance tax man. (Unless you have \$30,000 in a checking account, in which case you escape!). If you are read-ended at a red light, you may be effected. Even if you don't own a car but are involved in an accident you may be victimized.

If the state is going to demand that drivers have insurance it also has an obligation to see that the law applies equally and fairly to all. Present law required every driver to carry insurance of \$15,000 (each person), \$30,000 (limit per accident), and \$5,000 property damage. The average bill for this minimum insurance is \$200-\$300 per year.

These costs are exorbitant and unnecessary. An alternative would be to draft a law under which every person, regardless of age or territory, when registering a vehicle, to pay \$30 on top of the registration fee, this to defray the cost of liability insurance. The \$30 fee is appropriate and derived from the following sources. First, insurance companies now charge about \$20 for uninsured motorist coverage (15/30). Second, the lowest price offered in Calif (but impossible to obtain) for 15/30 is \$25. Third, a former official of the Financial

Responsibility Department, Sacramento, who had been working on a State no-fault plan, said that as of 1975 the estimated cost of 15/30 should have been about \$23-\$30.

There are 17 million registered vehicles in Calif. At an average of \$30 the fund would amass over \$500 million. Using a similar Canadian program as a guide, this amount should be plenty to cover any claims. Drivers with good records could have even this charge reduced, while those with poor records would pay progressively higher rates, based on their reported incomes. Ultimately, licenses of such drivers would be suspended if their records become too bad.

Such a law would cause no additional costs to taxpayers as existing agencies would administer it. The former official is sure such a plan is sound and would work, as evidenced by similar Canadian and Australian programs already in effect. The only force holding back such a plan is the greed of the well financed insurance lobby.

Actually this program wouldn't even hurt the companies. There would still be a need for higher limits or liability insurance. And increased property damage coverage could be purchased by each motorist to fit his/her needs. At the same time this program would eliminate two big headaches for the insurance industry: the assigned risk driver and the uninsured motorist claimant.

I think it's time for a Proposition 13 type of revolt against auto insurance taxes. It's time for a law fair to all. The above proposed law inexpensively corrects the present inadequacies while filling a minimum basic need equal to all.

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ON EAST

from: Between The Lines, by Jim Horwitz

"Mother Jones Magazine", in its December issue, is charging that EST, (Erhard Seminars Training) leader, Werner Erhard, is using his much publicized Hunger Project as a recruit-ment vehicle for his Erhard Seminars Training and possibly as a tax shelter.

The Hunger Project is an independent non-profit organization which reportedly started with a \$400,000 loan from EST to get rid of hunger worldwide.

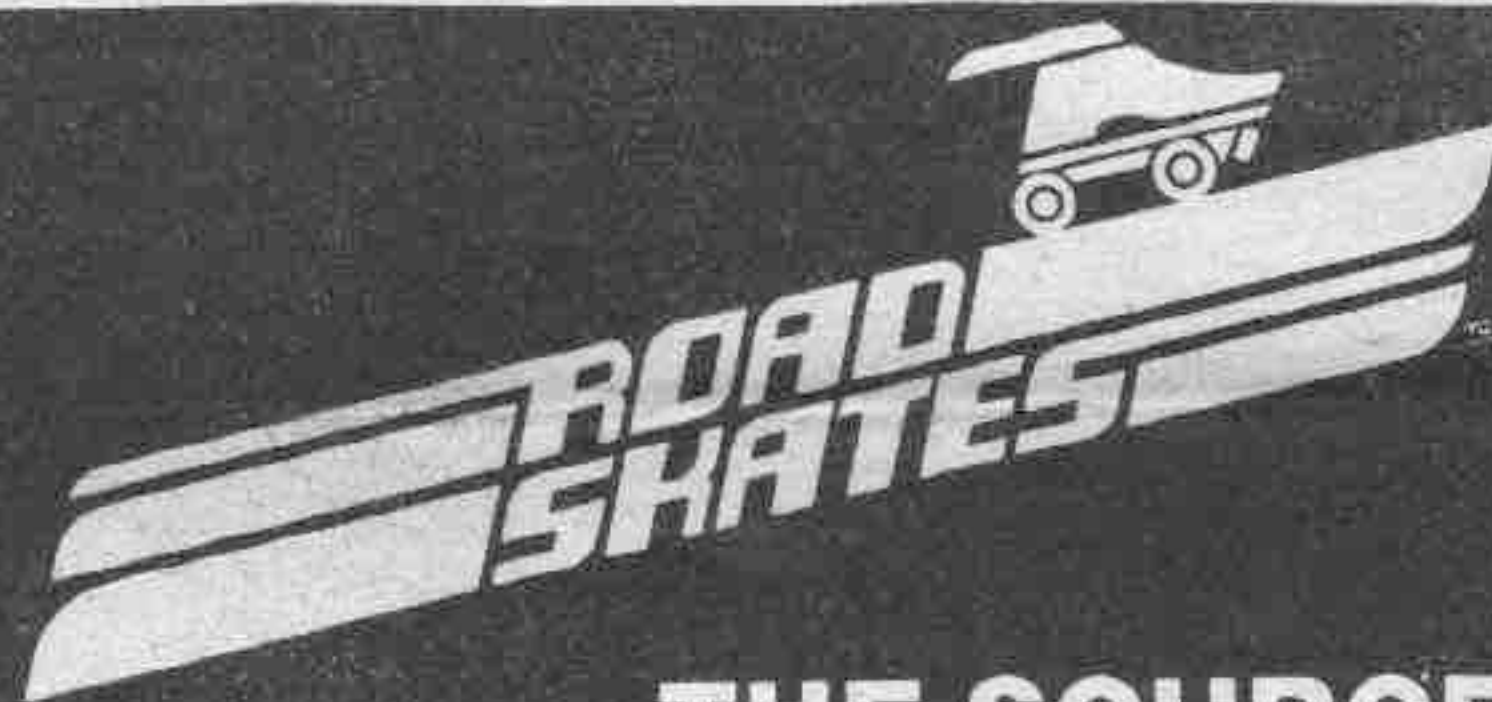
"Mother Jones" says, however, that a six month investigation has revealed that the project may have a far different set of goals.

The magazine claims the project was set up by Erhard "when his image was on the slide", and that it does not advocate any particular solution to hunger. Instead, "Mother Jones" alleges, it heavily pressures the 180,000 people who have enrolled in the project, and especially Hunger Project volunteers, to take EST training at \$300 apiece.

The magazine charges that the Hunger Project is supposed to be a non-profit legal entity separate from the profit-making EST. Yet, "Mother Jones" says that EST staffers admit the profits from a recent Hunger Project Seminar Series, which cost \$30 a person, went directly into EST.

The article says that so far, some 30,000 people have contributed nearly \$900,000 in tax deductible contributions to the Hunger Project, yet, says "Mother Jones", so far none of this money has gone into the mouths of hungry people.

The magazine adds that although the Hunger Project and EST are separate legal entities "careful examination reveals a pattern of ties with obscure corporations and various paper shuffles to create tax benefits for Erhard."



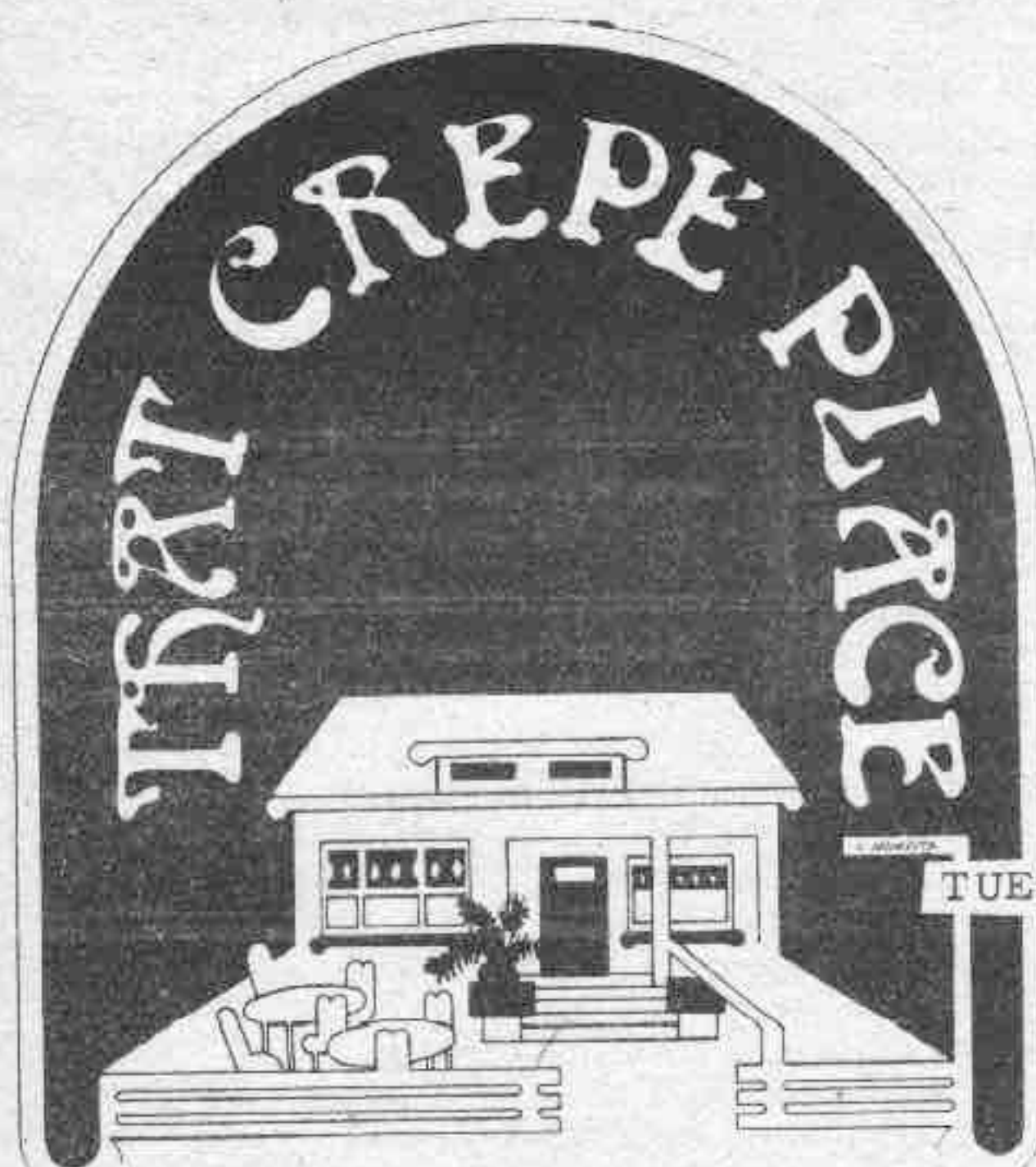
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from page 3

The Vancouver Sun of Sept 13, 1978 reported that the mayor of Vancouver will try to get \$2 million from the Provincial Gov't of British Columbia to renovate the old courthouse and turn it into a new art gallery. Once the \$2 million is pledged, the mayor and the interests he supports will request \$4.5 million from the central Canadian government. The total cost of the renovation project is \$11 million. An unnamed gallery currently located at 1145 West Georgia, will move into the renovated courthouse.

VENICE RESTAURANTS

On July 25, 1978, the South Coast Regional Commission approved an application above the name of Doug Christmas for a restaurant to be located at 1815 Ocean Front Walk, between 18th and 19th Aves just south of the Meatless Messhall. The project, P 3221, was described as 1,480 sq. ft. of building, 14 parking spaces, exterior decking, 18ft. from Ocean Front Walk. It would be built on 3 lots, approximately 84 ft of frontage, in a C-1 zone. Half the building was to be devoted to a kitchen, the other half, 690 sq. feet, would be the dining area and would seat about 46 occupants. A large exterior deck was apparently meant for patio dining. What sort of a restaurant would this be?

Sources at the Coastal Commission remembered the project clearly, because of the rather strange nature of the public hearing. A good number of persons carrying placards and signs were in evidence. When the project came up for discussion, these demonstrators made it clear that they were there to support the project. The demonstration looked like overkill however, because no one from the Venice community came to oppose the project, no letters were written opposing it, and the staff had recommended approval.

The massing of support and demonstrators surprised some at the Commission hearing. But the proponents of Mr. Christmas, apparently reacting to the stinging defeat in June of the Rose and Main project, had decided to gird for battle and adopt the community strategy of demonstrating which had been so successful in June. A siege mentality had taken hold.

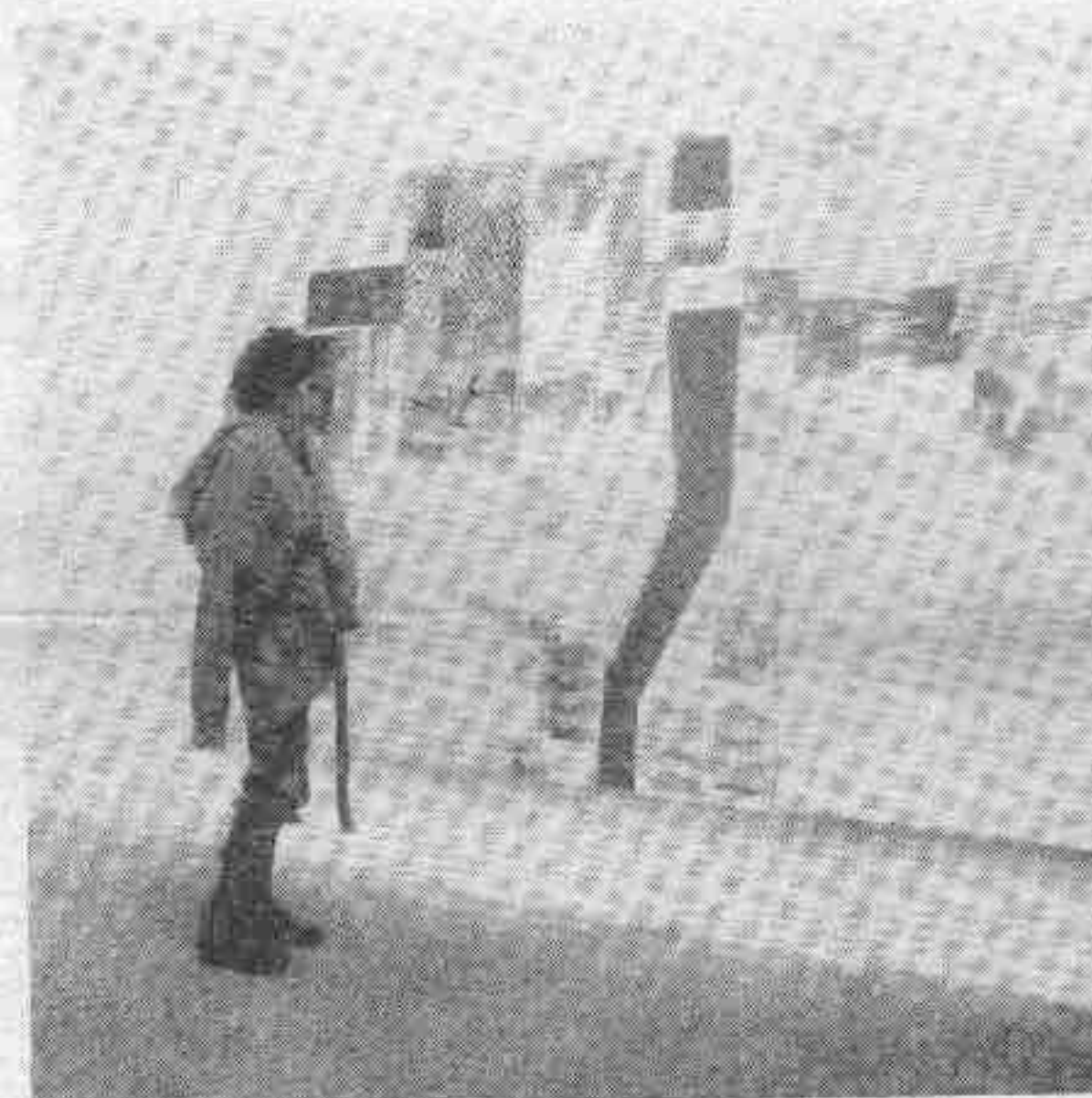
APARTMENTS INTO RESTAURANTS, STUDIOS, OR.....???

Rumor has it that some time ago Mr. Christmas approached Bob Goodfader of the Side-walk Cafe and offered a great deal of money to buy his place. Goodfader was not interested in selling. When the building next to the Side-walk Cafe came up for sale late last year, interests apparently representing Mr. Christmas bid successfully for it. Although it is not known how much was paid, the initial asking price was \$650,000. The building, at present, an apartment complex with 20 units, is located at the corner of Ocean Front Walk and Market, around the corner from the original Ace gallery buildings. It is inhabited almost exclusively by senior citizens on Social Security. The former owners were a Mrs. Wiley and Mrs. Farrell, two elderly women.

Mr. Winters, a former manager, remembers that in 1970 the rents were \$60 for singles and \$90 for one-bedrooms. The building was formerly the Merryland Theater. Designed as a theater, it had to be constructed to support a roof over a very large open space. It is thus

steel beamed with brick walls 14 inches thick. It was originally planned to add six stories to the building. During WWII the Theater interior was converted into apartments to house the influx of people who came to work in the aircraft industry of Southern California. Many of these people came to Venice because of the low rents.

It takes little to imagine how easy it would be to tear out the apartments, since they are in no way necessary to the structural integrity of the building. One problem with the building is the plumbing. Converted during WWII when there was a shortage of building materials, second hand pipe was used in the building, and the plumbing has always been marginal, according to Mr. Winters.



Photos by Gerry Goldstein

Mrs. Wiley and Farrell apparently owned the building for a long time. They instructed their managers to keep the rents low and to rent to seniors. Annette Robinson, who lives in the building, commented that they did look out for the seniors and that their attitude was a fine example of social concern and action on behalf of older people.

Mrs. Wiley died recently. Mrs. Farrell is believed to live somewhere in the East. Both women wanted to turn the property over to their grandchildren. Perhaps they did so by testament. Anyway, when the building came up for sale, it was put on the market by Bank of America, as trustee of the Wiley and Farrell estates. At the same time as Mr. Christmas was engaged in negotiating the purchase of this building, he was already negotiating, or had finished negotiating, the transfer of the Bank of America building itself to Ace!

Worried tenants heard rumors of an impending sale. In Jan 1979 they were told by the manager that the B of A had ordered rent increases of about \$20 per month. These increases were rescinded because of the rent freeze. Then they all received notices that the building was on the market, and that they had first right of refusal. Asking price, \$650,000! They were stunned. Next came the rumors of a quick sale. The property was off the market inside of several weeks. Emile, the manager, called B of A and requested information. He was told that the building was in escrow, and that Canadian money was behind the purchase. Rumors spread among the tenants that either Ace Gallery or Doug Christmas had bought the building. But there was no confirmation.

Then one day the manager reports that an unidentified man and a young woman who identified herself as Jane Erickson inspected the building. The man indicated to the manager that Erickson was the new owner. The manager reports that they showed some interest in the attic and the roof. Erickson gave the

manager her number in case he needed to contact her. The manager called B of A and was informed by an escrow officer that she was not familiar with the name Jane Erickson and that no one by that name had bought the building. Erickson is reported to have told the manager that one of the reasons she bought the building was so she could live there. She asked that one of the better apartments, recently rented by the bank for \$150, be vacated so she could occupy it.

The local number which Jane Erickson gave to the building manager turned out to be the Ace Gallery. When this writer asked to speak to Ms. Erickson he was informed that she was in Vancouver, where she was associated with Ace Gallery Canada, Inc.

Finances and rents may become problems for the new owners and tenants. Reported rental income now stands at about \$2,250, per month. Tenants did some research and discovered that if in fact the selling price was \$650,000, then the monthly payments on that sum would come to about \$8,000 per month, perhaps less if the downpayment was substantial. But tenants fear that the new owners will have to raise rents 3 1/2 times in order to break even. Rents might go as high as \$350 per month. Certainly no new owner could long afford to subsidize the current low rents. Something is certain to happen in the building very soon. The tenants indicated that they were prepared to fight to stay in the building, and that they would resist any large rent increases.

ACE RUNS AMUCK IN CANADA

For the past ten months Canadian workers, mostly Indians, have been on strike against the Muckamuck restaurant, located at 1724 Davie St in Vancouver. The restaurant, opened 7 or 8 years ago, is unique because it served native Indian foods. According to Canadian press reports, 90% of the employees were Native Indians. The owners of the restaurant, also according to these press reports, were Doug Christmas, Jane Erickson, and Teresa Bjornson.

The strike against the restaurant by its employees began in June 1978. Twenty employees members of Local 1, Service, Office, and Retail Workers Union of Canada, voted to strike and charged that the owners had failed to negotiate in good faith. They wanted a contract which would recognize the Union as their bargaining agent, job security, staff meals, better wages, and an end to deductions from salaries to cover staff uniforms.

Management accused the Union of bad faith bargaining. The workers went on strike and threw up an informational picket in front of the Muckamuck. Management refused to resume negotiations as long as the informational picket was continued. "We think this is unlawful picketing" said one of the owners. "Obviously it hinders business". She estimated that business had declined 25%. On June 13 the Vancouver Sun reported that the owner claimed that they were \$277,000 in debt and that they hadn't paid their rent in nine months.

The management was claiming near bankruptcy according to a skeptical spokesperson for The Union of B. C. Indian Chiefs. That Union came out in support of the striking employees "because the problems being experienced here by our people are the same problems we have been experiencing all over B. C. for 100 years." "The owners of the Muckamuck exploit our resources - Indian work, Indian culture, Indian food - yet refuse to treat our people fairly." The Union represents 183 native Indian bands in B. C. Christina Prince, a Muckamuck employee and union spokesperson was quoted by the Sun on May 30 to the effect that "the racial issue... emerged out of the labor dispute when employees realized that the owners were getting rich off native culture." "We like the Muckamuck and we are proud of the image it presents of the native culture in B. C. But we want a contract and some rights and respect."

Erickson responded: the restaurant "has never had any problems in the racial field." "If there's ever been any discrimination she said, it's been against highly qualified whites who we've passed over to hire untrained native people."

Erickson responded that she learned of the chiefs' statement with "a sad heart." "It was with a sense of respect, not a desire to exploit, that we put together a restaurant which most business people advised us against." On October 7, 1978, the second floor of the restaurant was reopened as the Chilcotin Bar Seven. Eleanor Boyle writing in the Sun on October 13 charged that the Muckamuck restaurant was the victim of "a failing union that needs the publicity of an altruistic cause" but that the restaurant was also the victim of its own inflexibility and determination to keep a union out. The article, which is in fact an editorial billed as an "analysis" attempted to belittle and dis-

(Continued on next page)

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credit the union; the Service, Office, and Retail Workers Union of Canada or SORWUC. It was described as young, inexperienced and crusading, ready to strike at any turn. It found an issue ripe for a crusade. "It alleges that native workers are being exploited. Perfect." By then, she reported that the restaurant was \$320,000 in debt. She implied that SORWUC was an outside agitator attempting to foment labor unrest, using the righteous cause of Native Indians in pursuit of its own selfish interests. Most of the pickets, she said, were not union members. The 'analysis' ended with a reference to Jane Erickson. "She says she thinks the new Chilcotin Bar Seven will make a go of it, even though customers have to step over pickets."

The Beachhead received these news clippings from Vancouver on Friday, March 2. On the evening of March 2 (Friday), the night before publication, this writer called Muggs Sigurgeirson, a SORWUC representative. What follows is the substance of that conversation. The Beachhead has no way to verify the validity of her comments, but if there is any clarification we will be glad to print it.

A SERIOUS GAME OF COWBOYS AND INDIANS

According to Sigurgeirson, in Feb 1978 the restaurant staff, all native Indians, approached SORWUC and asked it to help them get a union contract. The union did not initiate the contact. The workers were angry about their working conditions and felt they were being exploited. They charged management with violation of Canadian labor protection laws. Workers were fined, according to Sigurgeirson, for neglecting to seal garbage bags with plastic twists, or for failing to properly wrap the bannock (a native Indian pancake or bread) for storage overnight. Fines were said to range from \$5 to \$50. Such fines were illegal, yet if workers complained, they were given back the money, but fired on some pretext or other. It was a common thing continued the organizer, for Jan Erickson to tell staff she had 100 applications of other native Americans on file who could be asked to work if current help found the conditions unsatisfactory.

Staff was made to wear Muckamuck tee-shirt the cost of which was also deducted from their pay. One woman employee complained to SORWUC that she had worked for 20 straight days. She had refused to work on the 21st day and claimed that she was then not called back for 10 days. She had children to care for. She and the union considered that she was being punished by management. Workers were also told that if they complained too much, experience white workers could be hired at the drop of a hat.

It was practices such as these that impelled the workers towards unionization, continued the organizer. They approached SORWUC because it was a young, democratic union which allowed its workers to write and negotiate their own contracts. Apparently wages were not the primary issue, but intimidation and unfair labor practices were important. Workers also asked management to commit itself to a preferential hiring system for native Indians. Eighteen out of twenty Muckamuck workers signed up with the union, which applied for certification as bargaining agent in Febr. with the B.C. Labor Relations Board. At that time Doug Christmas owned 51% of the restaurant, the other two partners 49%. In August co-partner Bjornson sold her interest to Christmas and bowed out. The day that SORWUC applied for certification the first firings began. By the end of May 8 of those who had originally joined the union had been fired or had their hours so drastically reduced (for example to 8 hours per week) that they were forced to quit. Three of the key pro union workers were fired. By the end of May the remaining workers decided that they had to take a strike vote because they were afraid that with union people being dismissed, the chances were that non union people would replace them, the pro union workers would lose their majority, and decertification of the union, that is stripping it of its bargaining rights, would become a probability. The workers thought that once out on strike the process of decertification would be frozen and management would be forced to negotiate a contract. Management steadfastly refused to negotiate. Doug Christmas told union representatives and workers, still according to Sigurgeirson, that he would rather close his doors forever than have a union in his business.

The strike dragged on: no negotiation, picketing continued. On Oct. 7 part of the restaurant re-opened, now called the Chilcotin Bar Seven. The workers considered this a particular affront and provocation, because Chilcotin is an area in B.C. where there is a lot of cattle ranching, and has a reputation as 'cowboy' territory. A number of white and native Indian scabs were hired. They wore cowboy hats and blue jeans. Perhaps they were making an attempt to integrate, continued Sigurgeirson. They introduced

beef to the menu - steak and hamburger. Why was that significant? Because she said, beef was never used by the Indians, it was not native food. The Muckamuck had done a lot of research, the cuisine was authentic. It was an affront. The restaurant was famous all over Canada and even the world because of the unique quality of the food. It was a very expensive restaurant too. The Vancouver Sun ran a headline on the Chilcotin Bar Seven opening: "Cowboys Lasso Indians on Davie St."

The Muckamuck was re-opened several weeks later - with scab labor, some white, some native. She said there was incredible intimidation and bribery in an attempt to break the strike. All kinds of promises were made to the workers she said. It has to be remembered, the organizer continued, that the highest group of unemployed in B.C. are native people and they need work. Thus there is this large pool from which to recruit scab labor.

Segurgeirson claims that the strike and continued picketing has reduced patronage at the restaurant by 90%. Many tourists will not cross the picket line. Management has countered by giving out large numbers of complimentary meal tickets, she says, to demoralize the picketers, to make them think they don't have public support. Prior to the strike, during the tourist season, there were lines outside of the restaurant and no reservations were accepted. There are no longer lines.

According to Canadian law after certification of a union as bargaining agent, 10 months must pass before a decertification petition can be presented. Such a petition has been presented by the current employees. The strike has now become a hot issue because much of organized Canadian labor sees the latest developments as a grave threat to the workers right to organize. Never in the history of the Canadian Labor Movement has a union been decertified during the course of a strike. Union locals have contributed to the strike fund, some have asked their members not to cross the picket line. Postal workers have given strong support, as has the International Wood Workers, the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway and Transport Workers, the Fishermans Union, and the Vancouver District Labor Council, again according to Sigurgeirson.

The B.C. L.R.B. is currently investigating the entire issue. Many unionists, said Sigurgeirson, are demanding that the LRB refuse to even consider the decertification application because of the strike in progress. The LRB may reach a decision within the month.

I asked Sigurgeirson why Eleanor Boyle had said the deprecating things about SORWUC in the Sun. She replied that Jane Erickson and Boyle were friends, that Erikson and Bjornson were former ballerinas with many connections among the business and society leaders of Vancouver.

Segurgeirson was asked about the source of Mr. Christmas' financial resources, given the rumor that the galleries did not make money. She said she didn't know for sure, that there were rumors he had inherited a large amount of money, that his family home, in West Vancouver, was situated in the most affluent area of the city. She also volunteered that Doug Christmas had planned to open a new restaurant featuring French cuisine, downstairs from the Ace Gallery on Georgia St. It was to be called Names. Construction was halted the day the strike began.

Those wishing to send support to the striking Native Indian workers at the Muckamuck should send whatever they can to: SORWUC, Local #1- Strike Fund., 115-207 W. Hastings St. Room 1114, Vancouver, V. 6 B1H2.

In the next issue we hope to have an interview with Mr. Christmas and present his side of the story.

WHO GIVES A BUCK?

19

As the Santa Monica Rent Control Campaign enters the final, and most crucial month, it once again is clear that this is a money vs. people election in the true American tradition. The first campaign contribution filings were made public in late Feb., the pro-rent control forces collected a total of \$16,000 in support of PROP A, while the opposition collected over \$108,000!

Interestingly a recent court decision, which struck down the part of the contribution law allowing apartment owners to contribute for each building they own, would have cut out many of the opposition's contributions. But even that would not have made much difference given the fact that 10 contributors gave a total almost equal to that given by 1,300 contributors who support rent control.

A leading contributor to the anti-rent control campaign is Mr. Bubbles himself--Lawrence Welk. Welk, in the name of 2 different companies gave almost \$3,000, the maximum allowed by law. Coincidentally, Welk has been all over the paper's lately, appearing at various benefits, polishing up his rather tarnished image. Could it be that he's trying to counter his plans to build an 11-story building on Ocean Av. and his anti-rent control position?

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20 coastal commission.

Continued from page 1

was declared on the Graner project appeals. Since the staff report spoke to all three, however, the points raised on Hoffman were presented by way of comparison.

It is encouraging to note that at this time, staff views the internal lots as being separate from and qualitatively different than the external lots. There are 22 "external lots" which front on Via Dolce and are thus adjacent to existing power and water sources. Moreover, the precedent to develop these lots has already been set.

However, staff views full build-out of the internal lots as the death knell it would be for the Lagoon. In the words of the staff report, "...to approve development on one of these lots would be to approve all of them." At this time staff is responsive to the sensitive Lagoon area and is not willing to allow this kind of encroachment. Keep in mind that there are over 300 so-called internal lots. Your input on the Hoffman appeal can be made by writing to Jim McGrath at the State Commission; reference Appeal No. 463-78.

No substantial issue was also declared on the Venice Town Council appeal of the application by Southern Pacific Railroad to reorganize land holdings for purposes of transfer. (This has in fact already occurred.)

And it was no substantial issue on the controversial appeal of the Venice Town Council from the permit granted to Doug Christmas to convert the Bank of America building into an art gallery. Obviously this too has already taken place, in the face of stop orders from the Commission as well as the City. Other information on this appeal and this project appears elsewhere in the Beachhead.

So -- it was another win a little, lose a little month with the Coastal Commission. What is important is that the community did have the opportunity to interact with the Commission. In fact, you still have time to connect with the Commission regarding the appeals on which public hearing is still open. You can write to any of the staffpersons mentioned at this address:

California Coastal Commission
631 Howard Street
San Francisco, California 94105

And on March 20-21, the Commission meets locally, at the Airport-Marina Hotel. Many of these appeals will come up for voting, and there will probably be other issues of relevance to Venice. Plan to attend if you can. Your voice could make a difference. There's always that chance, y'know. That's what it's all about.

If you would like any further information regarding these appeals, call the Coastal Commission Committee of the Venice Town Council at 399-5983. ●

*"written by the community,
for the community"*



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Santa Monica

Jim Gilio
President
Michael Horbund
Manager



Photos by Gerry Goldstein

Our Venice

By Nancy McCulloch

Dorothy Weiser and I were talking on the Ocean Front Walk amongst the crowds of tourists on a Sunday afternoon. I was selling my art, setup in a space provided by the owner of the Sidewalk Cafe. We were discussing our feelings of Venice rapidly changing; our anger, our horror, and our confusion. This confusion or conflict I carried quite a long time - how to preserve our community as it continues to be oppressed by a different value system and not to be oppressive in return. Where to draw the line? It's very clear when the community is opposing speculators, developers, slum landowners, and the big city of Los Angeles, but what about those who come in and say they want the same thing for Venice that the community wants - to protect and preserve its life style, and its streets, its homes, its trees, and most of all, its people. Those same mixed feelings came up in regard to Ace Galleries. Although Ace Galleries does bring into our community many so-called rich-aflu hip people, I saw the gallery as a place of creative art exposure for Venetians as well, and Ace Galleries has been in Venice a long time. The owner, Doug Christmas is one of the people who says that he wants to preserve the Venice life style. But then, we find out that Doug has bought an apartment on Ocean Front Walk next to the Sidewalk Cafe. So what about the people who have been living there for years? Naturally the rents will increase and those people will be gone. The Sidewalk Cafe brings into Venice the Marina dwellers. Bob Goodfader, one of the owners, has leased the parking lot and is providing a space for local artists and craftspeople to sell their wares. Great! The space is well managed and a very reasonable rate. But now Bob is wanting to build and enclosed that space and naturally, most of the artists that are there now will not be able to afford the new rent and they will disappear.

One can't miss the complex structures on the canals, sticking out like sore thumbs. A developers delight, building to make a profit (a killing) and destroying the open space and gardens and replacing the wonderfully close neighborhood feeling with high fences and apathy.

It becomes really clear where the line is drawn as to what come into our community - to enhance it and help it, or to dissolve and destroy it.

It's just a small town, it's people a community, and like a small town, if you take advantage of its people you will be opposed and fought because you do not belong if you are out to make a killing. That is what the Venice Community has fought since our annexation to Los Angeles and that's what were still fighting about. If you are going to affect many lives in Venice and you sincerely want to help and respect this community, you would become a respected community member. It's as simple as that. It's all a matter of values.

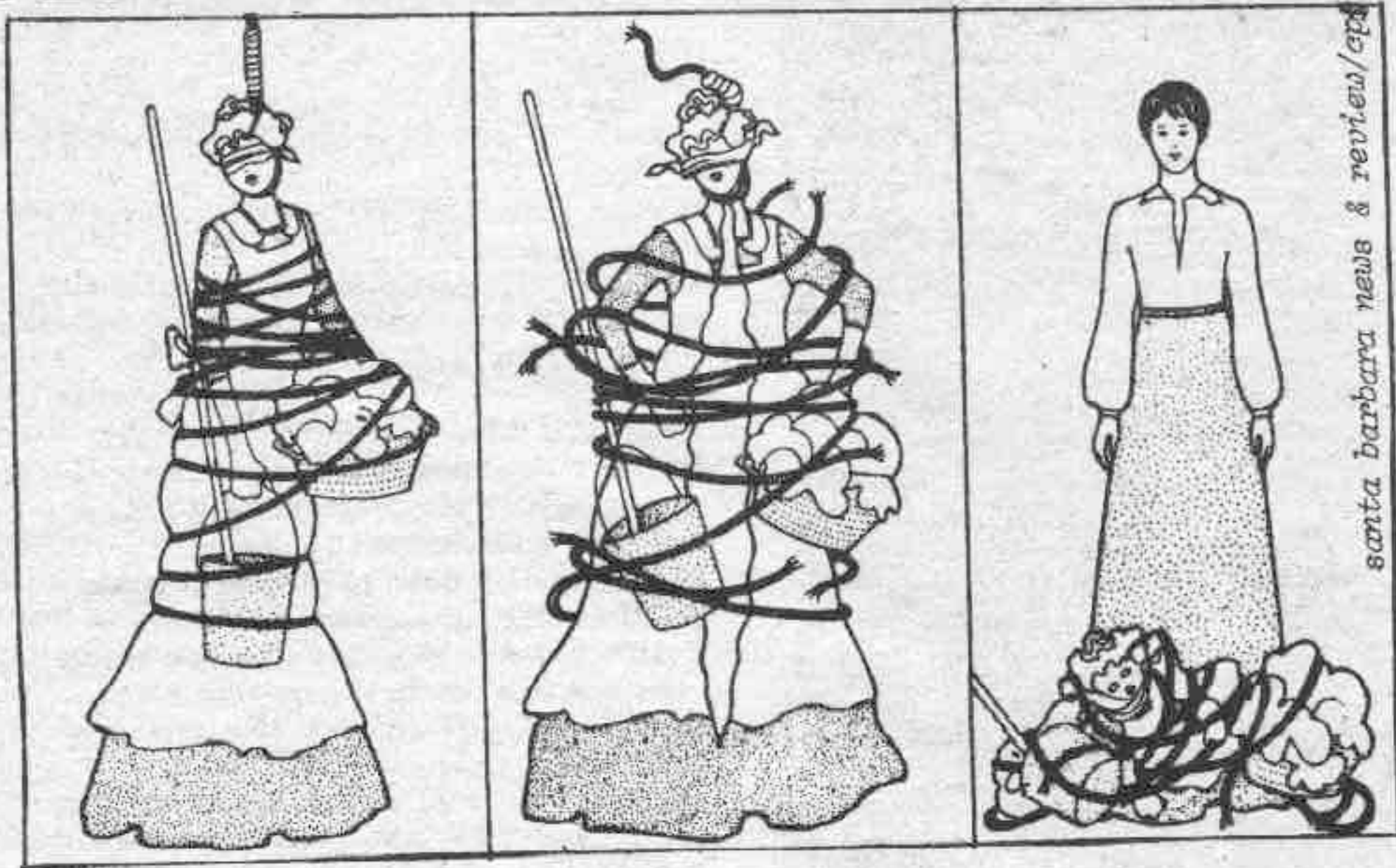
We Apologize.....

An apology to Stuart Perkoff's family, friends, and Frank Rios for not printing the segment of his poem "Some Aspects of Prison Life for Frank Rios" in the visual form he intended. Due to space considerations, we printed it in column form with slash marks to indicate the end of a line. Although this is standard and accepted procedure for poetry, it has been brought to our attention that this poem was intended to have visual impact as well, and that this impact was lost by our using that form. In all due respect to Stuart Perkoff's poem, we regret that our limited space does not allow us to print his poem as he intended. For those wishing copies of this poem in its complete and original form, please call "The Temple of Man" ... 399-9747.

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● MEN! WOULD YOU MIND.... ???

- Relocating because of your wife's job, although your salary was higher?
- Taking a typing test, with an engineering degree?
- Having your college advisor suggest a nursing school, despite your wish to become a doctor?
- Participating in a Mr. America contest, where the size of your genitals was a key consideration?
- Paying for your daughter's education as a chemist, and having her work as a lab technician?
- Bringing coffee to your female manager?
- Changing your name when you got married?
- Having to get your wife's signature for a credit card?
- Sending your son to college only to find a wife?
- Deferring your own intellectual and social growth to that of your wife's?
- Being whistled at, with accompanying lewd gestures, by a female group?

Baby bottle disease ~ there's big money in it.

Declining birth rates in western countries have sent infant formula manufacturers looking for new markets. They've found them mostly in the Third World.

But no more than 10% of third-world mothers — those who can't breast-feed — have any real need for formula. So the manufacturers launched aggressive marketing and advertising campaigns to convince the other 90% that bottle-feeding is modern and scientific, breast-feeding backward and primitive.

These campaigns have been incredibly successful. In Singapore, in 1951, 71% of all babies from low-income families were breast-fed. Twenty-years later, only 5% were.

But the problem is much more serious than just promoting an expensive and unnecessary product. To use infant formula safely requires pure water, a way to sterilize bottles and nipples, and enough money to buy the necessary amount of formula. A refrigerator is also needed unless the formula is to be prepared every few hours.

Because exclusive bottle-feeding can cost over 80% of their total income, many families over-dilute infant formula, which



leads to malnutrition.

They must also mix the formula with contaminated water, because that's the only water available. They can't afford fuel to boil water, so the bottle and nipple become contaminated too. Then the prepared bottle usually bakes in the sun. The result is diarrhea, which also leads to malnutrition.

Malnutrition causes irreversible brain damage in infants. If prolonged, it brings death. The problem is so widespread that doctors speak of an epidemic of "baby bottle disease."

By the time baby bottle disease is diagnosed (if it ever is), it's usually too late to do anything about it, because the mother's own milk has already dried up.

Chronic malnutrition

directly due to the unsafe use of infant formula by mothers who could have breast-fed has killed thousands of third-world babies and caused severe mental retardation in countless others.

Church groups here have used stockholders' petitions and lawsuits to force some U.S. formula manufacturers to discontinue their promotion of infant formula to mothers who can't afford to use it safely.

But Nestle, the gigantic Swiss transnational which sells more than a third of all the infant formula in the world, is, by its structure, immune to such pressures. They ignore moral arguments. The only way to get at them is a boycott. A partial list of Nestle products (and products of companies they control) is at the bottom of this page.

For more information about the boycott, or to help us organize it, or to contribute to the cost of running it, contact the Infant Formula Action Coalition at 1701 University Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

But most important, when you see a Nestle product, remember what it represents — third-world babies who died for the lack of their mothers' milk.



Crunch Nestlé quick.

Boycott anything with the name Nestle on it, including Taster's Choice, Quik, Nescafe, Nestea, Decaf, Crunch, Soupertime and Lactogen; all Libby's and Stouffer's products; as well as Crosse & Blackwell's, Keiller, Maggi, McVities, Crayford, James Keller & Son; also Deer Park Mountain Spring Water, Jarlsburg and Swiss Knight cheese.

21 Laboring on our Behalf?

Alan Cranston, U.S. Senate

voted for:

a bill to broaden eligibility for federal student loans to students from middle-class families.

establish a Presidential Commission to identify & protect rights of individuals involved in federally funded biomedical and behavioral research.

allowing cities and counties with pockets of poverty to apply for Urban Development Action Grants, a new program that encourages private economic development to combat urban blight.

a Constitutional amendment giving District of Columbia full voting representation in Congress.

establishment of a National Consumer Cooperative bank. Loans to eligible consumer co-ops.

federal education programs to be moved from HEW to a new cabinet level Dept. of Education.

against:

increasing outlays for Selective Service System by \$10. Money that could be used to reimpose draft.

eliminating federal impact aid to school districts where fed gov't has large amounts of land but pays no local property taxes.

resuming military arms sales to Turkey.

granting a tuition tax credit for parents who send their children to private elementary and secondary schools.

lifting President Carter's 5.5% ceiling on pay raises for military and federal civ. employees.

cutting federal funds for improvement of teaching basic skills -from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

eliminating \$170 million earmarked in fed budget for mass transportation systems.

appropriating \$150,000 for military education and training for General Somoza's gov't.

● ● ● ● ●

Arson Kills Native American Activist and Family

NEW YORK (LNS)—Native American activist Tina Trudell was burned to death along with three of her children and her mother, February 12, in a suspected arson attack on the family's home on the Duck Valley Paiute-Shoshone Reservation. At the time of her death Trudell was active in the reservation's struggle over water rights in the Wild Horse Reservoir.

"They don't care who you are, whether you are a woman, man or child," Roque Duenas, a member of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee told LNS in a telephone interview after the incident. Along with Trudell's husband, AIM National Chairperson John Trudell, Duenas is currently in Washington, D.C. attempting to have Peltier's case brought before the Supreme Court. He noted that women and children are frequently the victims of assaults on the Native American movement. "Before Tina, there was Jeanette Bissonette, Anna Mae Aquash and Leonard Crowdog's [another Native American activist] sister—all



Rachel Burger/cps

killed in a suspicious manner."

The death of Aquash, a participant in the 1973 occupation at Wounded Knee, wasn't announced by FBI officials until almost two weeks after it occurred. When it was discovered, traditional leaders of the Oglala nation charged that the FBI and the Bureau of Indian Affairs had sought to cover up her death.

An investigation into the deaths of Trudell and her family is now being conducted by investigators from the Center for Constitutional Rights, representatives of the Congressional Black Caucus and the National Council of Churches.

Venice-Santa Monica-W.L.A. Chapter, Alliance For Survival

SPECIAL MEETING ON "THE SOCIAL COSTS OF THE ARMS RACE" -- See full details on Community Events page, under "Community" head. Phones: 473-9732, 399-7377, 399-3182, or 392-2172. Chapter mailing address: 3732 Sawtelle Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90066.

The Venice-S.M.-West L.A. chapter of Alliance for Survival works against the arms race and nuclear weapons and power, and in favor of funding for human needs. This meeting will be the first of a series of monthly public meetings on topics related to our issues. Other work of the chapter has been leaflet distribution, support for the Diablo Canyon occupiers, participation and publicity work for regional events such as the demonstration at the arms sales convention in Anaheim. Plans for the coming period include a desert visit for appreciation of its ecology and to protest plans to reserve and dig up a fair chunk of the Mojave for the MX missile system; a campaign for conversion of a local military related institution (possibly Rand) to more peaceful purposes; a local demonstration project on solar energy and conservation.

Roller Skater
 Creator of illusion
 Of endless space
 In a race, pursuing
 Further places
 She feels
 On 60 ml wheels
 So much
 It's too much to feel
 The pores, the sores, the rocky road
 She grips
 The sand - She slips - the sand
 Rips, tears her from the path
 To meet the land
 Beneath her feet, within her hand
 Between the wheels
 She feels so much
 So far away.

Linda Hammond
 Toronto, Canada
 7/11/78



Children in Milwood

Photo: Arnold Springer



Pavilion Patio Murals

Photo: Wendy Reeves

on the beach in Venice

Children on the sand,
 voyeurs on a front walk,
 dogs running, playing, biting
 across the grass.....
 bystanders watching.
 All transformed as surrounded
 by an evening sky
 casting momentarily,
 in its last hour of pregnancy,
 a burning statement of the ever present
 past.
 Out of its passing comes the night
 into which
 the transformed souls will go
 to bed....to sleep, to live, to die,
 or just to cry
 the whole night out.
 Passing on their way
 the transformed see others
 who,
 refusing to go.....stay
 to laugh
 the silly night through.
 Continuing transformed,
 they walk in the midnight dew
 and of course at the same time
 the dog shit
 that's everywhere.

rick davidson
 freevenice, california 1970

Build the faster airoplane,
 give the man a job
 Make some airlike cereal,
 the economy needs to rob;
 A one time evolution made
 slaves of your head,
 Your spending time with your survival,
 like those already dead;
 And spending time with your survival
 that now comes in a can
 is like running on a treadmill,
 or making love with Spam;
 So, build the faster airoplane,
 and fill the air with smoke,
 and make some airlike cereal,
 let your children choke;
 Yes, run your life much faster,
 faster, faster man
 Yes, run your life efficiently,
 run faster in the sand,
 run your life efficiently
 feel wind from a fan
 And spend your whole creation
 selling shorts of red and tan
 Yes, spend your whole duration
 placing paper in a can.

© 1979 Andrew Von Sonn

Poem on the Railroad Ties

That rainy night
 we made love
 on the old railroad ties on Electric Avenue
 was the first time I didn't care
 if I got caught.

I didn't care
 that I was wet and disheveled,
 that my clothes might be torn.
 I didn't think
 about what bones we might have broken
 as we fell in a heap of limbs,
 or what my relatives would think
 to see me lying there
 with my legs in the air
 taking it from this big man
 and neither of us married yet.
 For once I wished the cops would come.
 They would have thought
 it was a case of rape
 because no normal woman goes out on rainy
 nights

and spreads her legs on the rainroad ties.
 I was waiting to say:
 it's all right. It's not rape.
 This man and I are both poets
 and we
 are composing a poem
 to sanctify these railroad ties
 before you wipe them out.
 I heard the cars skidding by,
 saw their headlights grinning upside down.
 but no one stopped.

And then the only sounds
 were not sirens
 and bullhorns
 or scoldings
 but just
 our dripping skins slapping together
 and our voices crying out
 new funny dirty words.

I don't know why I wish
 there had been witnesses
 that dark night on Electric Avenue.
 I suppose I want someone to tell me
 what the two of us were
 as we embraced on the corner
 of Washington and Palms,
 with the rain washing off
 outer layer grime
 of our mutual drunkenness.
 A very dirty couple,
 two of the craziest of the looney
 and stuck in a mess
 we'd made to make sure
 we'd get what we wanted
 before our world together ended.
 And what is there now
 that he is gone
 and the quick passion dried up
 as quick rains dry on city pavements.
 What is there now
 that replays of those
 last tactless words he spoke to me
 almost send me to throw
 these memories in the garbage,
 obsolete and useless
 like the railroad ties themselves?

I went back there by day
 to see where we had been.
 I saw my head had been close
 to the half-buried tracks.
 There was a ragged carpet,
 old tires, assorted junk.
 But on the wall of the nearest building,
 next to some Venice gang graffiti,
 in big black letters were written the words
 I LOVE YOU

And I smiled to think
 the whole world would know.

Lynne Bronstein



ART

SPARC (Social and Public Arts Resource Center), 685 Venice Blvd., 822-9560, is currently showing drawings by Judith Baca, paintings & drawings by Paula Gray, & hand-colored etchings by Christina Schlesinger; M - F 10-5 PM, Sats. 12-4 PM.

Coming to SPARC in April: "Artists for Survival: A Festival of Arts," featuring Bob Althouse (sculptor, painter, graphic artist), Judy Baca (muralist), Peter Carr (painter), Anthony Fiorillo (sculptor), Yuval Golan (painter, graphic artist) & Barbara Pelochino (painter, graphic artist) in a gallery exhibition Apr. 1-21; hours M & F, 10-6; Tues, Wed, Thurs, 10AM - 9 PM, ALSO -

OPENING DAY RECEPTION & FESTIVAL, Apr. 1st:
Press reception - 3 PM
Public reception - 4 PM
Films & Slides - 5 to 7 PM
Singer/Songwriters & Poetry Readings - 7 to 9 PM

Sponsored by The Alliance for Survival (937-0240) & SPARC (822-9650, 822-9783).

I.D.E.A. GALLERY, 522 Santa Monica Blvd., 395-0456, open to the public 1 to 5 PM Mon. thru Thurs., will feature Gaudia Chapline's "Glass," a visual & sound event with Scott Fraser, Sunday, Mar. 18, 8 PM, \$3 donation. Gaudia's Glass Installation may be seen Mar. 18 thru Apr. 12.

The OLDE BAROQUE GALLERY, 1639 W. Washington Blvd., will show "Naughty Sculptures in Paper Mache" by Exra Williams Mar. 10-31st, Fri's & Sat's only from 1-4 PM. Reception Sat 10th, 1-4 PM. Info: 392-5763.

Artistic teenagers may enter work (painting, sculpture, ceramics, photography, design) in the Arco Plaza "Springfest" being sponsored by Mobile Open Classrooms (MOBOC), a unique private school in Ocean Park, 212 Marine Street, Santa Monica (near Main); 392-7008. Deadline Apr. 1st.

MOBOC is also opening a School of Fine Arts with 24 classes (dance, drama, guitar, flute, synthesizer, poetry, songwriting, others) for teens & young adults. Enrollment starts Mar. 3, classes begin March 12; Craig McEwan, director.

THEATER

Currently on an indefinite run at the CENTURY CITY PLAYHOUSE, 10508 W. Pico, 839-3322, the Burbage Theatre Ensemble presents 2 one-act comedies, "Sexual Perversity in Chicago" & "Duck Variations," Fri's & Sat's @ 8:30 PM. Program of Cent. City Educational Arts Project (non-profit corp.)

The Dell'Arte Company is coming to L.A. with "Under Glass," an evening of one-act comedies, in benefit for the Alliance for Survival, at Cal State Long Beach, Mar 18, 8 PM. (Then at the Pilot Theater in L.A. beginning Mar 22.) No local phone given. Re benefit, try Alliance @ 937-0240.

At I.D.E.A. (Institute for Dance & Experimental Art), 522 S.M. Blvd., 395-0456 Sundays at 8 PM:
-- Mar. 11, Los Angeles Mime Guild in "A Special Evening of Dance Mime"

-- Mar. 25 "Coming From A Great Distance," based on Hasidic stories, created/performed by Corey Fischer & Albert Greenberg collab. N. Pollock.

COMMUNITY

Annual Purim Festival at the ISRAEL LEVIN CENTER, 201 Ocean Front Walk, Sunday, March 11, noon to 4 PM. Info: 828-3434.

Venice Artists' Forum meets last Sunday of every month, 4 PM, at the PUBLIC ART STATION, 685 Venice Blvd. Films, discussions, exhibits, guests, readings, writings, workshops. Everyone invited. Call 822-9560 for information.

Venice Town Council - see box on page 2.

A youth activities program will begin in the Oakwood section of Venice; 15 youths & their dogs will take a 9-wk program in obedience training at the rec center in Oakwood. Local vets will vaccinate dogs at cost, training collars & leashes will be donated by pet stores; licenses for pets will also be donated. Volunteers, some of them championship dog handlers, will conduct. Contact Larry Kaplan at 485-3357 for more info.

"The Social Costs of the Arms Race" will be the topic of a free public meeting sponsored by the Venice-Santa Monica-West L.A. chapter of the Alliance for Survival on Wednesday, Mar. 14, at 7:30 PM at the Marine Park Building (Driftwood room) 1406 Marine Av. The program will consist of a talk by Mike Gibson, an activist experienced in this issue, and discussion. The topic is "all the more in order in view of Pres. Carter's budget priorities!" Ideas and participation are always welcome. Call 473-9732, 399-7377, 399-3182, or 392-2172 if you can't make it on Wed. the 14, or write us at 3732 Sawtelle, L.A. 90066.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MARCH 1979

POETRY

Venice Poets present their own work every Tuesday evening, 7:30-9:30 PM at the old Venice Jail (now the SPARC bldg), 685 Venice Blvd. THESE READINGS WILL NO LONGER BE HELD IN THE VENICE PAVILION. Everyone invited to listen; to read or for other info: Steve Goldman, 823-1158.

FIGTREE'S COFFEE HOUSE also hosts readings by local poets, every Wednesday, 6:30-9 PM, 429 Ocean Front Walk.

BEYOND BAROQUE FOUNDATION, 1639 W. Washington Blvd., presents the following FREE events:

--Book party with Ruth Weiss reading from her work, preceded by open readings, Mar. 9, 8 PM

--Allen DeLoach is featured Fri., Mar. 16, 8 PM (no open reading)

--Featured poet William Mohr, preceded by open readings, Fri., Mar. 23, 8 PM

--Naomi Rachel follows open readings on Fri., March 30, 8 PM

ALSO: Venice Poetry Workshop every Wed. at 8 PM, free & open to public, since 1969.

PHONE INFO ON ALL OF ABOVE: 392-5763.

GEORGE SAND BOOK & ART STORE, 2076 Westwood Blvd., L.A. 90025, 474-4685, presents these poets:

--May Swenson reads Thurs., Mar. 8 at 8 PM

--Barbara Abercrombie, Norma Alquist, & Jeanne Nichols read from their joint anthology, Thurs., March 15, at 8 PM

--Of-published poets Blair Allen & Jason Weiss read Thurs., March 22 at 8 PM

--New York poet Ted Greenwald will read with Anne Veis, Thurs., March 29, 8 PM

\$1 donation for all above events

film

SPARC presents for International Women's Day, "The Life & Death of Frida Kahlo," a "devastating documentary" on Mexico's most famous woman painter, by Karen Crombie & David Crommie; and "Woman to Woman," doc. on hookers, housewives, & other mothers, by Donna Deitch. Mar. 8 (this Thurs.), 8 PM, 685 Ven. Blvd. \$2.

"With Babies and Banners: The Story of the Women's Emergency Brigade" will have its first L.A. screening at the FOX VENICE THEATER on Thurs., Mar. 22. Oscar-nominated color documentary, in a program with singer/songwriter/cultural worker Holly Near. Tickets \$5 or \$25 (that's what it says), proceeds to Liberty Hill Foundation. Contact Mary Jo Von Mach at 396-8988. FOX address: 620 Lincoln Blvd.

music

Holly Near, singer, songwriter, and cultural worker in the women's movement, will appear in a benefit for Liberty Hill Foundation, at the FOX VENICE THEATER, 620 Lincoln Blvd., Mar. 22 (Thurs.) at 7:30. Tickets \$5 or \$25. Also special film (see "Films" section).

The Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra presents an evening of Gustav Mahler works, S.M. Civic Aud., Pico & Main, 8 PM. Info: 394-4176. FREE.

At the GEORGE SAND BOOK/ART STORE, 2076 Westwood Blvd., 474-4685, Wednesdays at 8 PM, \$1 don.:
-- Mar. 14: Roger Hyde presents "Contemporary Song & Entr'acts," with guitar & lute.

-- "Clarinets & Keyboards," contemp. classical music by Martin Walker & David Hatt, Mar. 21.

-- Mar. 28, classical musicians Don Better on guitar & Bob Carr on flute.

At MC CABE'S, 3101 Pico in S.M., 828-4497:

-- Mar. 9 & 10 (Fri/Sat), 8 & 10:30 PM, Mimi Farina & The Peter Rowan/Richard Greene Band (\$5)

-- Mar. 11 (Sun.), music of Bolivia, Peru, & Ecuador by Edmond & Quentin Badoux, 7 & 9 PM, \$4.

LISTINGS ON THIS PAGE ARE FREE. PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO EVENTS IN AND NEAR VENICE OR OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO OUR COMMUNITY. INFO MUST BE RECEIVED IN WRITTEN FORM (WE MAY CONDENSE IF LONG) BY THE LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH. MAIL TO: BEACHHEAD COMMUNITY EVENTS, P.O. BOX 504, VENICE, CA. 90291.

WOMEN

CAREER PLANNING CENTER, INC., has immediate openings in CETA-funded job training programs. Designed for women with or without work experience who wish to enter/re-enter labor market, upgrade skills, or change professions. Applicants must be unemployed w/annual income from \$3,140 (1-person family) to \$7,790 (4-person family). CPC is at 1623 S. LaCienega Blvd. Call 272-6633 or 273-8123, 8:30 - 4:30.

WOMONSPACE is having it's 3rd annual Womins-Craft Street Fair, Sun. Apr. 1st, 10 AM to 4 PM, at 237 Hill St., S.M. All are welcome. Fun, food, frolic, crafts, entertainment. FREE. Any crafts woman or entertainers who want to be in fair, call Gail, 399-9813 or 396-0054.

There will be an All Women's Square Dance on Mar. 10 (Sat.) at 8 PM at the CHURCH IN OCEAN PARK, 235 Hill St., S.M. It is a benefit for "Building Women," a non-profit women's construction collective. \$3 donation requested but no-one turned away for lack of funds. Child-care provided. Call 391-5442 for more info.

Classes at WESTSIDE WOMEN'S CLINIC, 1711 Ocean Park Blvd., S.M., 450-2191; ALL FREE.

-- Mon., Mar. 12, 7-9 PM: "Self-Help" workshop on vaginal & full-body care.

-- Mon., Mar. 19, 7-9 PM: Members of Lesbians of Color will discuss the Dessie Woods case & status of women of color in U.S.

-- Mon., Mar. 26, 7-9 PM: "Depo-Provera" discussion & how FDA approves/bans such drugs. WOMEN ONLY PLEASE!

SENSOR Women's Media Resource Center will sponsor a 1/2-hr Theta Cable produced entirely by women debuting Wed., Mar. 21 at 10 PM. Called Journal: An Electronic Magazine, show will feature local, national, & intern'l news. ALSO internship program for "Journal" open to qualified women. Contact Heather Hamilton at Sensor, P.O. Box 5595, S.M., CA 90405.

Radical Therapy Action Rap at 1946 14th St. in S.M., 2nd & 4th Fridays each month, 7:15 to 10: PM on time. \$5 donation. A place where you can come for pers. problem-solving, make contact with other women, learn about R.T. Phone: 829-4165 (Bond Wright, ans.serv.)

DANCE

The Jazz Tap Percussion Ensemble, starring Lynn Dally, Camden Richman, & Fred Strickler, is back by popular demand with their revue "Riffs," March 23, 24, 25, 30, 31, & April 1, at PACIFIC MOTION DANCE STUDIOS, 1621 W. Washington Blvd., Venice, 8 PM. Reservations recommended; 392-3931.

OTHER

The JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF SANTA MONICA, 1424 Fourth Street, S.M., 393-0732, has just announced their spring program with many interesting groups starting the first week in March, including Men's Support Rap Group, Women's Support Rap Group, Couple Communication Group, Rap Group for Seniors, Women's Sexuality Group, & more. For copy of program brochure or details, 393-0732.

Reading/Author Reception on Sat. Mar. 17, 4-6 PM at GEORGE SAND (see "Poetry"), with T. Coraghesan Boyle reading from his "wickedly funny" story collection Descent of Man. \$1 donation.

At BEYOND BAROQUE (see "Poetry"), a Fiction Workshop, led by Michael Silverblatt, begins Mon., Mar. 19th, 8 weeks. Registration limited. Suggested donation, \$40 (scholarships available). Regis. deadline Mar. 12. Details, 392-5763.

Mensa (the high-IQ society) will hold an Open House, Sat. Mar. 17 at 8 PM, at Bar Harbor Apts Rec Room, 4242 Via Marina, MDR. Wine & refreshments; \$5 donation for non-members. 822-9795.

Program on "Problem Drinking: A Family Issue?" with panel discussion and film, Thursday, Mar. 15, 7:30 - 10PM, conf. room of the DIDI HIRSCH COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, 4760 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City. Call 390-6618 or 390-6612 for reservations & free child care.

Events for children at I.D.E.A., 522 S.M. Blvd., 395-0456, Sundays at 1 PM, \$1.50 donation:

-- Mar. 11, "The Crow Show" orig. participation songs, fun, magical, by Dan Crow.

-- Mar. 25 - magic, music, & fun with Nared the Magician.

Singletarians events, Sun's 8PM, Unitarian Church, 1260 18th St., S.M. (at Arizona):

-- Mar. 11: Tom Hayden, "Reflections & Projections"

-- Mar. 18: Post St. Patrick's Day pot luck party!

-- Mar. 25: "Morality, Eros, & Love," talk by Dimitrios, cybernetics consultant.

FOLK DANCING AT 7:30 BEFORE EACH PROGRAM.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

health/therapy

- Venice Family Clinic.....392-2488
322 S. Lincoln Blvd., Venice
Free Clinics: Pediatrics M-Th 3-6
General health M,W,Th. 6-9 pm. Registr.
5 pm. VD (men only) Tues. 6-9 pm;
Hypertension, to be announced.
Eyes, Ears & throat every 2 weeks.
Dermatology & Neurology once a month.
- Benjamin Rush Center..... 392-4150
Individual therapy, family & 392-4159
child counseling, in Spanish.
- New Start..... 393-9261
1222 7th St., Santa Monica.
Outpatient drug counsel ctr., detox
referral, diversion, court liaison,
drug edu., bilingual services.
- Los Angeles Free Clinic..... 653-1990
8405 Beverly Blvd., L.A.
Psychological and legal counseling,
job placement, VD treat., Family plan.,
gen. medical service, emergency dental.
- Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Ctr.. 390-6612
4760 S. Sepulveda Blvd. Cul. City. x 254
Family counseling and guidance;
Community education and consultation;
Older persons counseling service;
24 hr. emergency service..... 390-6612
- Jewish Family Service Ctr..... 393-0732
1424 4th St., S. M.
Rap grps for men, women, seniors,
couples, etc. See also "Events."
- Open Paths Community Counseling Ctr.....398-7877
3744 S. Barrington Av.
Private and group counseling, adult
& children. Separation and divorce
clinic. Fees—sliding scale. Also alcohol & drug
diversion.
- CLARE Foundation..... 396-5940
alcoholism problem solving
- Project Resocialization.....870-1557
318 Lincoln Room 121, Venice.
Community re-entry for ex offenders,
parolees and pre-parolees, low income
& other socially disadvantaged persons,
immigration/naturalization, health counsel.
emergency housing & food, half-way house.
- L.A. Man's Collective.....476-1949
Anti-sexist; potluck supper-raps,
1st & 3rd Sun of each month. At
Church in Ocean Pk, 2nd & Hill 7 pm.
- Venice Drug Coalition..... 399-9374
739 California Av., Venice
Referral services, counseling.
836 Hampton. Out patient clinic.....392-4183

Neighborhood

- Venice Town Council..... 396-6876
399-1925
- Westside Tenants Action Ctr. (Venice).... 399-9255
1301 Main St. free legal advice
concerning housing problems for renters
- Venice Peace & Freedom Party..... 396-1488
25 Clubhouse Ave. #4, Free Venice
- Barrios Unidos, Westside..... 399-9194
gang related issues, prevention
and education. 826 Hampton, Venice.
- Educational Opportunity Ctr (EOC).... 392-4527
318 S. Lincoln, Rm 119 (see article elsewhere)
- FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD..... 823-5092
Community written/produced news
service, open collective. PO Box 504
- Venice Artists' Forum..... 822-9560
Monthly in SPARC bldg. See article.
- NAAP..... 399-7737
neighborhood adult participation
project. education, soc. welf;
neighbor. improv., consum. ed.
8-5 M-F 641 Westminster, Venice.
- Venice Civic Union..... 399-0031
- Casa de Hermandad..... 477-8272
work exper. programs, classes, job
search. techniques for low income folk,
unemployed of Venice and WLA areas.
- Ocean Park Community Center..... 399-9228
Information referral
245 Hill St., Ocean Park.
- St. Joseph's Center..... 392-5101
community alt. bi-lingual educat.
food stamps, counseling. 16 and over.
533 Rose Av. Venice 9:30 - 4:30.
- Neighborhood Youth Association.....392-2873
Drug counseling, child, family coun.
- Coalition for Economic Survival..... 396-4720
housing, consumer issues, human 938-6241
rights. Meets 3rd Thurs of each
month at 641 Westminster, 7:30
- Fair Housing for Children Coalition.... 837-7114
Box 5877, S. M.
- Welfare - Family Aid only..... 478-5511
11390 Olympic Blvd. WLA
- Alliance for Survival, Ven. - S. M. - 479-9732
West L. A. Chapter..... 399-7377
Energy/ecology, activism ("see also EVENTS") 399-3182
- Beyond Baroque Center..... 392-5763
Poetry and writers' workshops,
gallery, classical music recitals,
nonprofit typesetting ctr., small
press library. Call for free lit.
magazine and other pubs. 1639 W. Wash. Blvd.
- Writer's Cramp West..... (no # yet)
c/o Morris, 920 Ven. Blvd.
Workshop for poets, writers; send SASE for info
- S. M. Recycling Center..... 454-3845
3120 Nebraska, 1 short block no. of
Olympic, betw. Stewart & Centinela
- Councilwomen Pat Russell.....822-2582

CITY SERVICES

- Large Parcel Trash Pick Up..... 272-6376
call one day in advance. ex. 392
- Lot Cleaning..... 485-3465
fire hazard, health or building
and safety hazard. Owner gets
billed for clearance.
- Emergency Street Clearance..... 485-3702
- Street Lights..... 485-3491
- Beach Weather Report..... 451-8761
- Calif. Coastal Commission..... 590-5071
- Consumer Protection Agency..... 974-7861

LEGAL AID

- Venice Legal Aid..... 392-4177
- Centro Legal de Santa Monica..... 392-4188
235 Hill St., S.M. Free legal
and paralegal services to any
low income family or individual.
UCLA Chicano Law students group.
- Free Legal Counseling for Women..... 450-2191
Each Tues evening, 7:30-9:30
at Westside Women's Clinic.
Conducted by feminist attorney
Marge Buckley.
- Neighborhood Justice Center..... 390-7666
voluntary mediation to help settle
intra-family, neighbor, tenant-
landlord and consumer-merchant disputes.
- The Battered Women's Legal Coun-
selling Clinic..... 392-8383
Free legal info/counseling service
for battered women, M 3-6PM, Tues 6-9 (more hours soon)

EMPLOYMENT AID

- Career Planning Ctr. WLA..... 273-6633
on job training for low or eco,
disadvantaged women over 45.
- Man Power Employment Ctr..... 417-8272
work exper. programs and classes
in job search techniques for low
income, unemployed of SM, Venice.
- Venice Community Employment Ctr..... 399-4151
641 Westminster Ave., Venice.
Employment, placement, ed. testing,
G.I. benefits and discharge upgrade.

Senior Services

- Dial-A-Ride..... 934-DIAL
15¢ ride serv. See Article elsewhere.
- Israel Levin Senior Adult..... 399-9584
Center. 201 Ocean Front Walk.
- Retired Senior Program..... 394-0251
- Westminster Senior Citizen Centr..... 392-5566
- Jewish Home for the Aged..... 881-4411
- Senior Outreach Service..... 396-5964
Bay Cities Jewish Community
Center provides medical escort
to seniors residing in Westside
region, Mon, Wed, Fri, from
10 AM to 3 PM. Two days prior
notification is requested.
- Hot Meals for Seniors..... 399-2775
Mon-Fri 1:30-3:00. 65¢. 399-4253
- Santa Monica Bay Area Health
Screening for the Elderly..... 451-1727
1250 16th St., Santa Monica.
- City of Los Angeles..... 397-1977
Senior Services and Information

EMERGENCY!

- Police..... 393-9911
- Fire..... 473-1155
- Ambulance..... 473-1155
- S.M. Emergency Hospital..... 451-1511
- Poison Center..... 451-1511
- Rape Crisis Hotline..... 677-8116
- Helicopter Complaints..... 485-3585
- L.A. County Lifeguards..... 394-3261

PLEASE HELP US KEEP THIS PAGE UP-
TO-DATE. IF YOU KNOW OF NEW SER-
VICES, #'S, ETC., CALL & LEAVE US A
MESSAGE ON OUR ANSWER PHONE, THANKS!

HOT & HELP LINES

- Crisis Intervention hot line..... 390-8896
- Maple Center 24 hr. drug hot line..... 274-5387
- L.A. Sex Info. Help line..... 653-1123
M-Th 3-9 pm.
- S.M. -Westside Hotline ("exhels")..... 394-3577
24 hr. general hot line. Crisis
listening, counseling, referral.
Suicide, battered women, child abuse.
- Spiritual Life Line..... 652-9505
- Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity..800-424-8590
Operated by HUD. Info to people TOLL FREE
with housing problems, those in-
volving discrimination.
- Nat. Solar Heating and Cooling.....800-523-2929
Information Center TOLL FREE
Info on availability of solar
installations for heating and cooling.

CO-OPS

- Venice-Ocean Park Co-Op 396-2132
Meets Thurs 7:30-10 pm at 399-4304
945 1/2 Lake St., Ven. 396-4928 info.
- Co-Opportunity..... 395-5732
1530 Bway, Santa Monica.
- Co-Op West..... 477-9949
11556 Santa Monica Blvd., WLA

Women's Services

- Womospace..... 396-0054
237 Hill St. Ocean Park
Radical therapy rap for women.
Thurs. eve. 6:45 pm. donation.
- Women's Substance Abuse Resource
Center..... 399-3295
Info. & referral by phone, specializing
in referral service for pregnant women
- Feminist Women's Health Ctr..... 936-6293
Self-help clinics, birth control,
pregnancy screening, abortion serv.
- Los Angeles Childbirth Ctr (Ven.).... 396-2455
home birth, midwifery, pre-natal care
- Westside Women's Clinic..... 450-2191
1711 Ocean Park Blvd, S. M.
(See Comm. Events for classes)
- Center for Feminist Therapy..... 393-9194
1640 5th St., Ste. 220, S. M.
Workshops, drop-ins, on-going grps
- Women's Community Service Ctr..... 826-0818
11914 S. M. Blvd., WLA
total gynecological care, contracep-
tion, and abortions
- Fat Underground..... 821-6557
support for fat women not into dieting
but political action