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NOVEMBER 1974 NO. 59

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Coastal Commission Orders Damage Undone

By Ron Guenther

On October 4, in a major landmark victory for the Venice community, the State Coastal Conservation Appeals Commission decided that the permit for the already completed Canal Street development project could be approved only if the cul-de-sac barricades at Mildred Ave. and Venice Blvd. were to be replaced, the old palm tree at the Mildred Ave. barricade, which was bulldozed over and destroyed by the City, replaced with a mature tree, and a small green park area created around the palm. The unprecedented decision made Coastal Commission history and may well have signaled the end of business as usual, Los Angeles City bulldozer politics in Venice. In coastal communities up and down the state, concrete may have to be ripped out, and trees and greenery planted in its place.

Canal Street before Councilwoman Pat Russell's election was a cul-de-sac paradise of peace and quiet, green parkways, no through automobile traffic, no fumes, noise, or congestion of automobiles, a place of beautiful, soft darkness at night, a small community of happy people who were given to using their clay street, with its almost nonexistent traffic, and lawns growing into the street, for recreation. At the Mildred Avenue barricade stood a 28 year old palm tree highly prized by the people of Canal Street, some of whom had seen the tree planted years ago by a fountain, long since removed.

After Pat Russell's election, an old petition initiated by a Canal Street land speculator and hopeful high density developer, Mr. Mark Hurst of Ontario, California, was finally acted upon. The petition called for "asphalt-concrete pavement, concrete curbs, gutters and sidewalks, street trees, and storm drain." The resident property owners who signed the petition had in mind a simple request for minimum street paving, repair of the existing narrow sidewalks, and soft, pedestrian oriented sidewalk lighting. They in no way intended, and the petition that they signed in no way called for destroying the cul-de-sac street layout and creating a through street, removing the old tree, installing high intensity mercury vapor street lighting, or putting in extra wide streets and sidewalks for high density development.

These people, with their simple needs, made the mistake of petitioning the City of Los Angeles to satisfy them. With the full and unqualified support of Councilwoman Pat Russell's office, their simple request was ballooned by City agencies into preparations for high density development in opposition to the wishes of the Canal Street resident property owner petition signers, and

later, the Venice Town Council. Non-resident property owners were united in their approval of preparations for high rise. Representatives from Pat Russell's office, together with Mr. Richard Rosenthal of the MDR development Company, Marina Del Rey, appeared at Coastal Commission hearings to plead for the City's obvious preparations for high density development on Canal Street.

Late in 1973, after Town Council members had fought the project through 3 public hearings at the South Coast Regional Commission and had lost each time, a law suit was initiated and won by attorney Tom Diamond of the Legal Aid Society of Los Angeles which had the effect of invalidating all Coastal Commission permits for Canal Street development, and sending the City back to the South Coast Regional Commission to reapply.

On a day which will remain infamous in Venice history, after the Superior Court had ruled in favor of the Venice community, but just before the final court order stopping construction on Canal Street had taken effect, construction crews along with police officers, sent expressly by Councilwoman Pat Russell to insure the destruction

of the old palm tree, arrived to bulldoze the tree and to prevent community members from saving this prized landmark and symbol of resistance to City bulldozers. While Pat Russell, even though urged by Town Council members to be at the scene, hid in her downtown office from the community that she represents, the tree was bulldozed over, chainsawed into lengths, and hauled off to the city dump. Venice Town Council member Bob Wells, risking arrest and prosecution, was on the tree as it came down.

With the destruction of this life giving symbol, the rest was easy. 40 foot asphalt streets covered the hard clay. 9 foot concrete sidewalks were smeared over green parkways, lawns and flowers. One of the most hideous of man's inventions the mercury vapor street light - replaced the soft nighttime darkness of Canal Street with a high intensity purple glare. The peace and quiet, clean air, and safety of the neighborhood were replaced by increasingly heavy through automobile traffic. The Canal Street speculators and hopeful developers dreamed their rosy dreams of alliance with City Government, and of the fat profits to be gained through the destruction of Canal Street. Councilwoman Pat Russell, in one of the more blatant lies of her political career, told the Venice Town Council in open public hearing that there was NOTHING she could have done to have stopped the project. In translation, this means that the big Venice-Marina development money which fuels her office would not have allowed her to. In plain fact, a representative from her office, or even a letter, opposing the project on environmental or social grounds would have killed it at the Regional Coastal Commission level. What this representative of the people of Venice actually did was to resist every community effort to mitigate the environmental and social devastation,

and to send her aides and deputies at every opportunity to support the destruction at all levels of government.

And now the State Coastal Commission, meeting at Pacific Grove, has made its decision very clear - replace the barricades, the palm tree, and build a park. Mr. Joseph Russell, from the City Bureau of Public Works and representing the City at the hearing, refused to meet with the Venice Community to discuss ways to implement this decision. To quote Mr. Russell, "Meet with you?!" If you think you're going to do anything to change that street, you can meet us in court." He didn't elaborate on who "you" and "us" were. Well, so be it, Mr. Russell. I guess that court is just exactly where we're going to meet you. After years of dealing with arrogant bureaucrats like yourself, we know our way around a courtroom too, the decision is very clear, and the Canal Street atrocity that you have bulldozed down our throats is going to be changed.

At this writing (October 4, Pacific Grove), Sharon Kaplan, a deputy from Pat Russell's office, also at the hearing to argue for no changes in the completed project, has agreed to arrange a meeting between City Government and the Venice community to "work things out." At this meeting, which will be attended by Venice Town Council members and Canal Street appellants, we can expect to be met with the usual full array of bureaucratic jargon and excuses as to why the Coastal Commission's holdings cannot be implemented - "You can't change a dedicated street to a park, you can't make a green spot out of a dedicated parking area, you can't plant grass and trees and flowers in the streets, the fire and police departments won't like the changes, blah, blah, blah, etc.

(CONT. ON P. 2)





(Zodiac) The U.S. Defense Department is currently perfecting a system that would allow computers to monitor millions of private telephone conversations simultaneously.

The basic principal of the program, being spearheaded by the Pentagon's advanced research projects agency, is known in computer jargon as "speech recognition."

"Speech recognition" is the electronic procedure in which a computer is literally taught to understand spoken words. Once the process is perfected, a person would speak into a microphone, and a computer would be able to translate the spoken words into perfect, verbatim written transcripts.

At a recent symposium on "artificial intelligence" at the Stanford Research Institute in Menlo Park, California, the Pentagon confirmed that it is spending up to \$7 million on speech recognition research.

M.I.T. computer science professor Joseph Weizenbaum warns that there are dangerous implications in the perfection of "speech recognition" techniques. Professor Weizenbaum states that the technique could be employed by a government to tap the telephones of millions of people simultaneously.

As an example, it is impossible today for government agents to listen in on massive numbers of conversations simply because there are a limited number of agents, and they can monitor only a limited number of phone calls in a fixed period of time.

However, with "speech recognition" equipment, all of this changes. Computers could be set up to monitor millions of phone calls simultaneously for "forbidden words." Then, when the computer recognizes one of these forbidden words - words, for example, like "marijuana" or "defeat the President" - a human attendant could be automatically signaled. Or perhaps the "forbidden word" or phrase would merely start a tape recording rolling that would later be automatically transcribed into written form and placed into the caller's dossier.

Professor Weizenbaum says he is so concerned about the potential abuse of "speech recognition" that he will not work on any computer projects related to it - and he has advised fellow faculty members and students to follow suit.

What speech recognition could mean, in short, is that the work of millions of agents could be replaced by a single machine - a machine with the ability to select, on its own, "interesting conversations." In the long run, the Defense Department's research could give some government, one day, the ability to monitor every single telephone call simultaneously.

POSSIBILITY OF VENICE BLVD. WIDENING NARROWED

By Moe Stavnezer

Los Angeles has backed away from Venice Boulevard. At the State Coastal Commission hearing on October 16, the city formally withdrew its application to demolish 27 homes on the median strip of Venice Boulevard. The demolition of these homes was the first step in the widening of Venice Boulevard. A spokesperson from Pat Russell's office claimed that, in view of the Canal Street decision (elsewhere in this issue) the Coastal Commission was unable to deal with permits for major projects in Venice. (Could they possibly mean that the Commission is more able than the City in dealing with projects in Venice?) She went on to say that Ms. Russell's office did not intend to in-

itiate other projects in Venice until the Coastal Commission completed work on the coastal zone plan. We don't suggest that anyone bet an awful lot of money on that last statement.

So, for now, we are spared having a major highway (based on the pretext of improving beach access) running through the middle of Venice. But the City has promised, and we have little reason to doubt, that they will be back. The battle for Venice Boulevard has been postponed but it is far from being won. While there is good reason to cheer this latest development in the saga of Venice Boulevard, we should not let it delude us into believing that the City has abandoned its plans to widen the street. We should also not forget that the City (using the law of eminent domain) can still purchase the property and, possibly, over a period of time evict the present residents.

A FORD IN EVERY GARAGE



"FEAR-MONGERING CONSUMERISTS" PETITION FDA FOR LIMITATION ON SUGAR IN BREAKFAST CEREALS

WASHINGTON (LNS)--A group of consumer and health organizations has petitioned the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently to limit the amount of sugar a manufacturer can add to breakfast cereals. The proposed standard would require a cereal with more than 10 percent sugar added to carry a warning label giving the product's sugar percentage, and the warning "Frequent use contributes to tooth decay and other health problems."

Some breakfast cereals contain "astounding amounts of sugar," says Dr. Michael Jacobson, co-director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, one of the groups petitioning the FDA. An analysis of 28 major cereal brands by the Center found that six consisted of 40 percent or more sugar. One, King Vitamin, was half sugar. The groups sponsoring the petition point out that nutritionally these cereals are little more than candy.

Eugene Hardin, president of an industry group, the Cereal Institute, disagrees. "To force pre-sweetened cereals off the market would deprive children of the nutrients they now obtain in a form they find attractive, could result in a deterioration of their nutritional health and would remove an exceptionally good source of food," says Hardin.

A spokesperson for the Kellogg Company echoes the Cereal Institute executive. "There is absolutely no connection between dental cavities and breakfast cereals. It is outrageous that fear-mongering consumerists continue to slander the food industry, to libel the Kellogg Company and to frighten American parents with impunity."

Sugar-coated, ready-to-eat cereals account for more than 30% of the cereal market, and in 1970, the industry spent \$81 million advertising them.



NEWS FROM WOUNDED KNEE

by Ishi Houmah

While supporters of Indians fighting for justice were celebrating the Means Banks dismissal of charges connected with Wounded Knee, the Government worked hard on its case against the grassroots warriors. Ten days ago, John Carlson who participated in Wounded Knee was sentenced to three years in prison and the conviction of four additional warriors was handed down in Judge Urbon's court in mid-October. Reginald Didge, Colin Weeshaw, Larry Johns and Mark Sleury were all convicted on the conspiracy charge to impede the work of Federal officers.

The government has been using informers, paid prostitutes and wire taps as evidence in their case against the Indians. They have denied the defendants the right to a fair trial. The question whether Indians could really win justice in white men's courts is a valid question. Those defendants in earlier trials who were freed are facing retrial on the government's appeal. The Indians too must appeal their convictions and fight being holed up in prison which is where the government wants to keep militant Indians.

The WOUNDED KNEE LEGAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE NEEDS COMMITTED LAWYERS AND FUNDS. If you can help in this historic movement, send funds and communication to:

WOUNDED KNEE LEGAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE
Box 80931 Lincoln, Nebraska, 68508



HARPY DROPPING

The Harpy has had writer's block this month, so she has gone off to get a mental high Colonic and spiritual advice.

As a result, only one dropping this month. It seems the Harpy has maligned Mr. DuFay in her last column.

He claims not to have said the things the Harpy attributed to him. Though the Harpy is a mythical beast, able only to survive on stale hotdog buns left by dieting Venetians and sweet compliments paid her by sincere young men, she is also a fallible one - being a mammal.

The Harpy offers a feathered claw in sincere apology. Though she has often disagreed with Mr. DuFay on the way Venice should be saved and for whom, the Harpy meant to slander no one, not even people whose ideas are dangerous to further existence in Venice, and who have on occasion called the people the Harpy associates with some pretty vile names and ascribes dastardly deeds to those people.

People convict themselves out of their own mouths. The Harpy does not need to make up things.

Reality is hard enough to believe nowadays.

VENICE TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

By Pat Vescera

Plenty of money for low and moderate income housing is apparently available to communities requesting it from the federal government, said a representative of the California Housing Authority at the October 2nd meeting of the Venice Town Council.

Les Birdsall, speaking in an open-forum type session at the council meeting, told Venice residents how the federal government had been pouring money to be used for housing renovation and construction into cities for several years and how much of the money had been misused or mismanaged.

Birdsall said that Venice could become the recipient of some of that money if the residents coordinated their efforts to get it.

"You've got to do more than say 'Don't do it to us'," Birdsall told the crowd of about 100 residents at the meeting. "Things are moving too quickly," he said, "and in five or six years your type of Venice won't be here anymore."

"You've got to get out and plug those loop-holes," said Birdsall. "You've got to convince the other interests involved in Venice - real estate, construction, business - to become more 'people oriented' and less 'money oriented' if you want to save your community."

Another member of the panel, George Beattie, an advisor to the California State Senate Rules Committee, told the residents they should get together and fight for what they wanted.

"Learn the rules and make the bastards play by them," Beattie said. He told the residents to determine what the minimum federal government requirements for financial aid are and then to fight for their fair share by using the different agencies available through the various levels of government.

"A recently completed state report filed in Sacramento," said Beattie, "virtually demands the

state establish a Housing Finance Agency to cope with the situation. Use that information in your request," he added.

Zoning variance stabilization, control of real estate speculation, rent controls and rent subsidies were some of the possibilities discussed at the meeting.

A tentative agreement was made for the panel to meet with selected representatives of the Venice Town Council Planning Committee in the near future to outline a program by which Venice would qualify for federal funds for low and moderate income housing.

In other action, the Town Council voted to retain a planning committee composed of Venice residents after Sharon Kaplan, Venice field deputy for 6th District Councilwoman Pat Russell, told the Town Council that Ms. Russell's individual appointments to the official planning committee had been made and that Ms. Russell would not be held accountable to the Town Council for her selections.

Rick Davidson, Area 6 (Central Venice) representative, was designated as interim chairperson of the council's planning committee.

Additionally, the Town Council passed a resolution demanding the removal of Charles Zeman, a Los Angeles City Planner, from the official Venice Planning Committee after he voiced his opinion at the August 2nd meeting of the South Coast Regional Zoning Commission that "to protect and preserve this (Venice) type of lifestyle is foolish." The resolution will be forwarded to Ms. Russell. (See Sept. 74 "Beachhead" for further details.)

The town Council also voted to support the "45-minute Presentation" to the South Coast Regional Coastal Zoning Commission as outlined by Terry Timmons and Bob Wells, both from Area 3 (Canals). The 45-minute presentation is a community-generated plan to preserve and beautify the canals.

VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

Area I: Peninsula- west of Pacific, south of Venice Bl. Meets every 4th Wed.(Nov.27) Call 392-2113 or 392-1594.

Area II: North Beach- west of Main, Venice Bl. to Santa Monica border. Meets every 1st Mon.(Nov.4) 7:30 pm to 10:30 at Levin Center, 201 Ocean Front Walk. Call 396-0267 or 396-3616.

Area III: Canals- south of Venice Bl. east of Pacific, west of Washington Bl. Meets every first and third Tues.(Nov. 5 & Nov. 19) 7 pm to 9 at Ancorage School. Call VC 1-9596.

Area IV: Oakwood- north of California, west of Lincoln to Washington Bl. Meets every third Wed.(Nov. 20) 7 to 9pm at Broadway school bungalow. Call 396-2801.

Area V: East Venice- south of California west of Lincoln to Washington Bl. Meets every 4th Wed. (Nov. 27) 7:30 to 10pm at Couer D'Alene school. Call 821-1430 or 821-1489.

Area VI: Central- north of Venice Bl., east of Main, west of Washington Bl. Meets last Thurs, but because of Thanksgiving will meet Thurs, Dec. 5 at 7:30pm at Short Walk Community Center, 1102 West Washington Bl. Call 821-1774.

VENICE TOWN COUNCIL includes all areas and meets every first wed. (Nov. 6 and Dec. 4) 7:30 to 10:30pm at Venice Town Hall, 681 North Venice Bl.

Constitution Protects The Finger

The Maine State Supreme Court has ruled that "giving the finger" or "flipping the bird" is constitutional.

The court handed down its landmark decision in the case of Maine resident Daryl Drake, who was arrested after flashing the one-digit gesture in front of state trooper Richard Arnold.

The Maine high court ruled that even obscene gestures fall under the constitutional provisions which protect freedom of expression.-- (ZNS).

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MYTHS ABOUT RAPE

An extensive study of the general problem of rape was published in 1971 by Menachem Amir. The results were rather startling for it showed that many of our beliefs about rapists were only myths. These myths are numerous, varied, and often contradictory.

•Perhaps the most common myth is the widely held belief that a rapist is a sexually-unfulfilled man carried away by a sudden uncontrollable surge of desire. The actual facts: Dr. Amir's study showed that 90% of group rapes were planned in advance and that 58% of the rapes committed by a single man were planned. Generally rape is NOT a crime of impulse. As to the myth that rapists are sexually-unfulfilled, Dr. William Prendergast of the New Jersey State Prison states that all of the rapists that he has studied had available sexual relationships. 60% of the men in Dr. Amir's study were, in fact, married and led "normal" sexual lives at home.

•A second myth is that all rapists are pathologically sick and perverted men. Evidence does not support this view of the rapist. According to Dr. Amir, men convicted of rape were found to have "normal" sexual personalities, differing from the norm only in their greater tendency to express violence and rage. Sex, therefore, is not the motivating factor in rape -- it is merely the chosen mode of expression.

•Another popular myth is that most rapes occur in dark back alleys or to women who hitchhike. Some people feel the solution to rape is for women to spend their lives staying at home. But Dr. Amir's study clearly shows the

fallacy in this type of thinking. Over one third of rapes are committed by a man who forces his way into the victim's home. And over half of all rapes committed occur in a residence.

•Most people believe that the typical rapist is a stranger to the victim. This just isn't so. Women can't even trust the men they are acquainted with. A full 48 percent of the rapists that Dr. Amir studied were known to the victim. Some were merely casual friends, others were close relatives.

•The age-old myth that black men rape white women at every opportunity is still perpetuated even though Dr. Amir reports that in 93.2 percent of rape cases both the man and the woman are of the same race. In fact, white men attack black women more often than black men attack white women. (3.6 percent compared to 3.3 percent respectively).

•Many people are inclined to believe that a raped woman was at fault somehow -- that she probably provoked the attack. This provocation, considered a mitigating factor in a courtroom, may consist of only a gesture or a way of dressing. Even using this extreme scale, the Federal Commission on Crimes of Violence reports that only 4 percent of reported rapes involved any precipitative behavior on the part of the women. In some cases precipitative behavior is nothing more than walking and dressing in a way that is socially defined as attractive. Our society lauds women who are sexy -- but those unlucky enough to be raped are dismissed as tramps.

•Some persons really believe that rape is impossible without consent, that a normal man cannot rape a normal woman unless he has assistance. Unfortunately, it is simply not true that a woman who does not want to be raped can always prevent it. She may be knocked unconscious, or may submit because she fears for her life if she struggles. Most men are physically stronger than most women, and the attacker usually has the advantage of surprise.

•Another myth, upheld even by the law, is that a woman cannot be raped by her husband. This legal fallacy is a direct result of the age-old concept of a woman as the property of her husband. Any act of sexual intercourse to which the woman does not consent is rape.

•The common male belief that women, in fact, enjoy rape when it occurs would be hilarious if it wasn't such a tragic and destructive myth. The very idea that a woman could enjoy being attacked by a man she is not attracted to, that she could enjoy being exposed to injury or death, that she could enjoy being treated in a humiliating and brutal fashion is preposterous.

---Thank to Freedom From Rape published by the Women's Crisis Center of Ann Arbor (REPRINTED FROM THE O.B.RAG)

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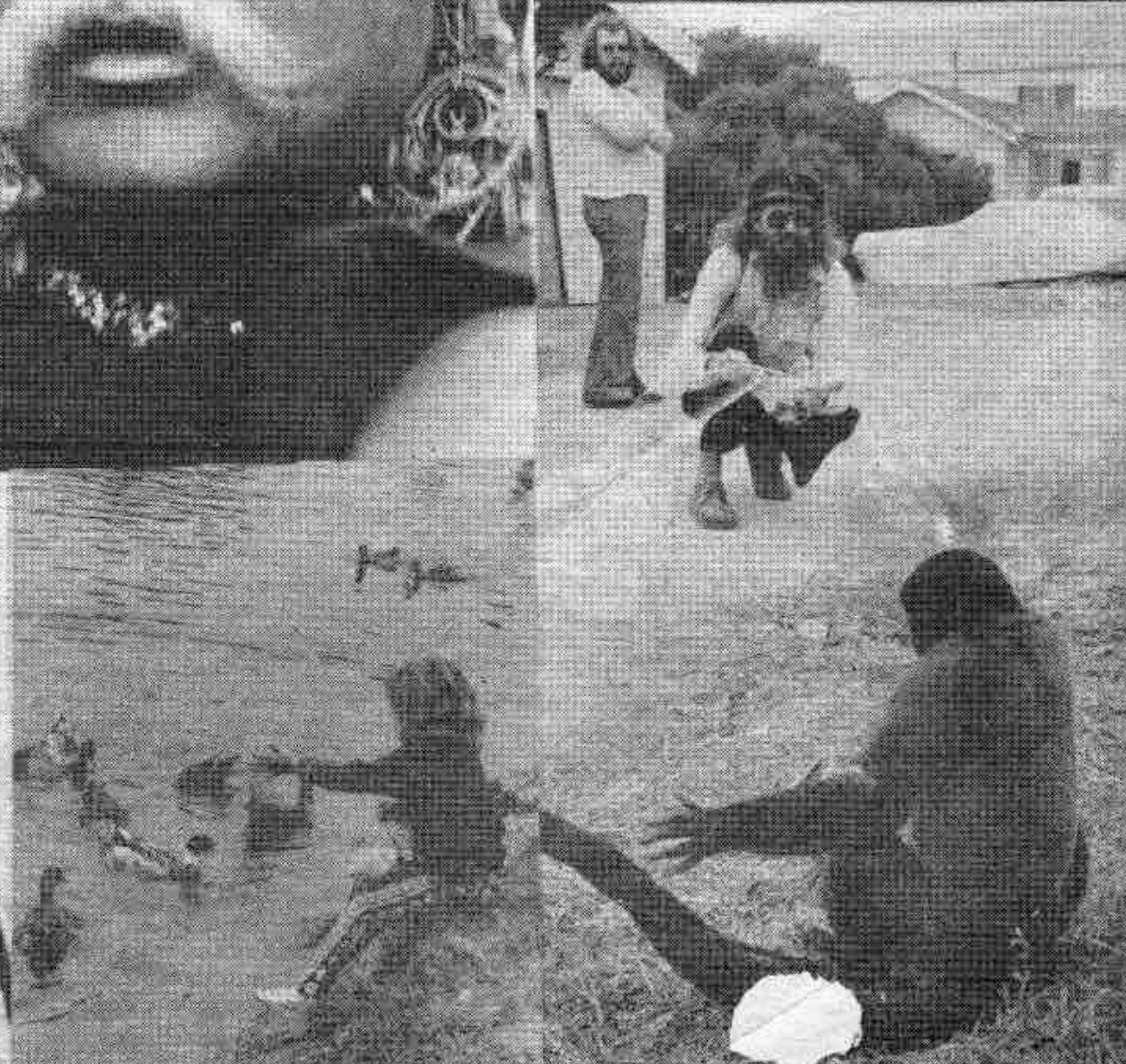


Photo by Jim Coit

6th Annual Venice Canal Festival

PHOTOS BY PHIL BELL
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LAYOUT BY JOHN HAAG



FOX

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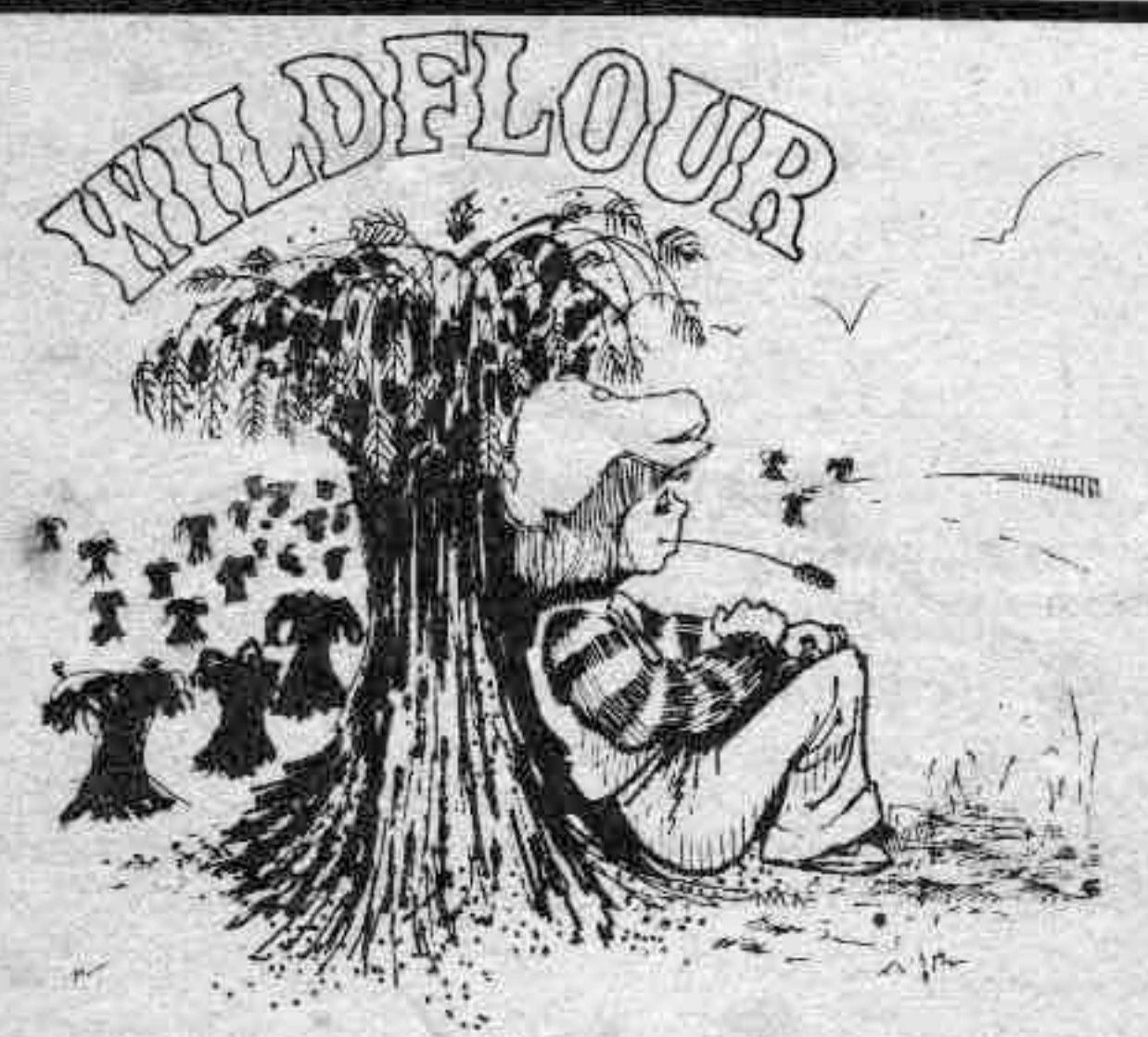


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COMMUNITY FAMILY HEALTH CENTER
320 Lincoln Bl, 392-4125
M-F 6 pm - 10 pm

FAMILY PLANNING CENTER
1501 Pacific Av. (at Market St)
392-4147

UCLA DENTAL CLINIC
392-4125

VENICE DRUG COALITION
392-4151

DRUG HELP
1. Venice Drug Clinic 392-4114
2. Drug Hotline 392-2873
3. Drug Emergency 393-0636

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RAPE CRISIS HOT LINE
677-8116

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2. Welfare Rights 731-5095
3. NAPP 399-7737

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Assemblyman Sieroty 277-5955



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201 Ocean Front Walk...399-9584
2. Ocean Park Community Center
399-1248

CHILDCARE INFORMATION
Westminster Childrens Center - 396-6846

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NAPP, 528 Westminster
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391-6067

...other Life

PET PRIDE (for Cats)
459-1703

STAFF!

BOYCOTT FOLLOWS SHOOTING

A boycott of The Trading Post Liquor Store on the corner of Main & Horizon is being organized by some Venice residents to protest the shooting of Roger Curry, 31. The incident occurred on October 4th, following an altercation between the proprietor, Norm, and Roger. For more information on the boycott, write Citizens For A Safe Community, c/o 218 Horizon, Venice.

BELA BITES IT AT LIBRARY

More chapters of the horror serial "The Phantom Creeps," starring Bela Lugosi, will be shown at the Venice Library during the month of November. Friday at 3:30, November 1, chapters 4-6 appear with a Bugs Bunny Cartoon, "Broomstick Bunny". Chapters 7-9 will appear 3:30 Friday, November 8th, with "Two Crows from Tacos." The final three installments of the Bela Lugosi chiller screen 3:30 Friday, November 18th with "Tired and Feathered," another Roadrunner Cartoon. All the programs are free. For more information, call the Venice Library at 821-1769.

ADVERTISING RATES

\$5 per column inch (3 1/2 column)
1/4 page ad: \$50; 1/2 page ad: \$90;
Full page ad, a bargain at \$175.

BACK ISSUES OF BEACHHEAD

A few complete sets available
Nov. 1972 - Oct. 1974. If you want one, send us a \$10 donation and your name, address, + phone number. For even older issues, call us and we'll try to find them for you.

RAINBOW PAGES IS COMING

The second edition of the Venice Peoples' Rainbow Pages is on the way. As you may remember, we gave away 3,000 copies of the first edition of this unique community directory last February. So, for those of you who want something listed, now is the time to get it in.

The last issue cost \$1,300, and this one, with the rising costs of printing and paper, will probably cost more. Consequently, we are now exerting a lot of effort to raise the funds necessary for the production of the next issue.

We are accepting ads which will be the reproduction of your business card. The cost is \$10. If you want one please contact us at the address below.

Those of you who got a copy of the last edition and want to help get this one out can reserve a copy of the next edition by sending us one dollar and your name and address. This can be done even if you didn't get a copy of the last issue.

If you have copies of the last issue you no longer need, give us a call and we will pick them up. We are out of them, and need more for those who haven't seen them yet.

If you would like to help put the actual book together, please call or come to our weekly meeting, Wednesdays 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Our new office is upstairs from Juergen's, courtesy of Juergen's, and soon we will have regular office hours. Come by and say hello. With all our love, The Telephone Company, 1611 Pacific Ave. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 363, Venice, Calif. 90291. We are a non-profit organization, all donations are tax deductible. Phone: 392-2574 or 392-9716.

VENICE TOWN COUNCIL
WILL MEET NOV. 6
AT THE OLD CITY HALL
(FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY THE POLICE)

681 N. VENICE BLVD.
THE MEETING STARTS AT 7:30
BE THERE
FOR THIS HISTORIC OCCASSION

ONE WOMAN ART SHOW

Anita Segalman opens an exhibition of her colorful abstract paintings with a reception from 8 to 10 p.m., Friday, November 1st, at Beyond Baroque Gallery. The showing continues through November 23, and the gallery is open Monday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m., except Wednesday to 8 p.m. Beyond Baroque is located at 1639 W. Washington Blvd. in Venice.

4 1/2

"4 1/2" is a place for the arts, happenings and expanding consciousness. It has opened at 124 1/2 Washington Street. Friday nights are devoted to poets reading their own works, live music and talk. Creative writing and yoga workshops are being formed. Time and space are still available at "4 1/2" for your ideas and projects. Call Mildred Harris at 392-8525.



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CANAL RAFFLE PARTY NOV. 2

At the 6th Annual Venice Canal Festival, raffle tickets were sold and winners notified, but artists and craftsmen still have things for soul, eye and body to be raffled. Proceeds will go to the Save the Canal Fund (lawyers, etc.)

So on Nov. 2nd another raffle will be held. There will be Arabian soul food--Cous-Cous and live music.

It all happens at 8pm on the first Saturday in November at the church in Ocean Park on 4th and Hill streets. Donation: \$1.00. Food is extra.

THE LIVELY ARTS

Venice Flash and Trash Fashion Show! Let's get mother's old curtains and put on a show! But first, let's get organized! We need you! Proceeds to go to the Venice Town Council! Call 396-9325, OR 316-1676

THE NEW THEATER WORKSHOP GROUP
CHURCH IN OCEAN PARK
FOR INFO CALL 396-9570

FILMS about Venice: any length, from any era, are being sought for a Venice Film Festival. If you know of any or would like to help, call John Haag - 396-0267

LITTLE LEAGUE AND BIG MONEY

reprinted from the OCEAN BEACH RAG

Most people know that professional sports are big money. I mean how can you miss it: Million buck contracts for the big ball players, inter-league cash battles to obtain talent, the building of multi-million dollar sports arenas, product endorsements ("the hemorrhoid remedy used by the National Football League"), and other monetary-tinged aspects of sports get more press coverage than the actual games do.

People that are freaked out by this gross commercialization usually take solace in the fact that at least there's still amateur sports--lily-pure and free of the dirty touch of money.

One of these pure sports in the past has been Little League baseball-- a sport packaged as the ultimate answer for American boys between pabulum and puberty. J. Edgar Hoover (who was on the Little League board of directors) once said that Little League was the greatest deterrent to crime that America has ever seen.

Small chinks have appeared in the Little League armor from time to time. Accusations have been made that the program is more for adults than kids, and that emphasis is placed more on winning than on physical activity.

Recently, more controversial aspects of Little League ball have been revealed.

Research has shown that Little League baseball is actually "Little League, Baseball, Inc.", a federally chartered, tax-exempt corporation that acts in cooperation with the U.S. government to "Promote Americanism in 30 countries besides the United States." (from its charter)

If you think that your local little league runs itself, you are mistaken. And if you think that those nickels and dimes you give the when they come around collecting help keep a poverty-stricken organization alive, you are wrong again.

Each of the 8,500 Little Leagues pay \$68 a year to the national office. That's half a million dollars and it's only the beginning.

Next are all-star tournament fees. These raise an additional \$250,000 for the national office.

Then there are the royalty fees for the Little League emblem (Little League pitching machines, Little League bleachers, Little League bats, Little League jewelry) that are sold.

There are also Little League summer camps, an insurance business (operated by Continental Insurance), and real estate (Little League Baseball Inc. owns many tracts of land donated by civic-minded individuals as ball fields). The corporation also publishes and sells over a million Little League manuals every year.

There is a lot of money pouring in, but very little expended. Most work that goes into the Little League is done by parents for free. They rake the fields, paint the fences, run the concession stands, solicit sponsors, etc.

The only people paid for their services are in the national office.

The president and chairman of the board make \$25,000 a year plus expenses. Two other directors make \$18,750 a year and expenses.

These developments would surely come as a shock to William Stoz who founded Little League as a grass roots organization providing kids with the opportunity to play ball. They would also probably shock the millions of parents and kids ripped off by Little League Baseball Inc. every year.

This past spring several girls across the country showed up at tryouts with the millions of 9 to 12-year-old boys who participate in the yearly rite. The Little League national office found this so upsetting they ruled that any team with girls playing on it would not have their records recognized.

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FRIENDSHIP NOT COMPETITION SPORTS IN CHINA

reprinted from the OCEAN BEACH RAG

Since Nixon recognized the existence of China and the media was granted permission by the U.S. to visit, a number of articles have appeared on sports in the People's Republic.

Two such articles appeared in Sports Illustrated magazine this past fall.

The authors for Sports Illustrated judged China with a Western cultural bias. They were disappointed to find few gigantic stadiums and no Chinese "super-star" heroes.

They asked people they observed engaged in sports the question, "Why do you participate in sports?"

A thirteen-year-old girl said, "I swim to build my health and defend the country and advance the socialist revolution."

A nineteen-year-old woman said, "I row when-

ever I can to build by size...only if our level of health is rising can we construct a better country."

A seventy-four-year-old man in Shanghai told them, "Chairman Mao has issued a call for the nation to improve its physical fitness, and this is true for older people too. Though Wu Shu is thousands of years old, the exercises are now applied to the work of advancing the revolution and defending the motherland."

The Sports Illustrated writers viewed these statements skeptically. They were expecting answers like "I swim to be best in my event" or "to win the championship."

Finally, after hundreds of interviews and observations of Chinese sports, one of the writers said to the other, "I guess they really believe this stuff."

They were beginning to understand. The people they were interviewing were not just athletes. They weren't members of the "Peking Blasters" or "Shanghai Reds". They were ordinary men and women -- factory workers, commune members, students (NOT "student athletes"), and old people. Sports in China, like the country's economic and governmental policy, and almost everything else, is for the benefit of all the people, not just a few. The writers on the other hand, were coming from an environment where sports, like American government and economic policy, are organized for the benefit of special elites--the professional sports industry and its wealthy backers.

Finally the authors understood that the motivation for sport in China is the promotion of health and enjoyment for all the people. It is merely one part - a very important part - of building a better all-around society.

No wonder there are no giant stadiums in China - people are not spectators, they are participants.

Remember the quote from George Allen, coach of the Washington Redskins? "Winning is everything, it's the most important thing." Compare this with the Chinese motto about sports: "Friendship, not Competition."

At one point in their visit to China, the Sports Illustrated people talked to a worker at the Hangchow Red Flag Paper Mill. The conversation went as follows:

writer: Your team is ahead by 20 points (basketball). You will win the game certainly. Does this make you feel especially good?

worker: Yes, very good, for I find that my tension is gone if I play some basketball after my shift is over.

writer: No, I mean winning today makes you feel better than losing?

worker: Sometimes we win, sometimes we lose....

NEW ASSASSINATION PROBE

(ZNS) Texas Congressman Henry Gonzales says his office is now spearheading an effort to have Congress reopen the investigation into the 1963 assassination of President John Kennedy. He was in the motorcade when Kennedy was shot. He says that recent Watergate revelations have caused him to take a second look at the possibility of conspiracy involving the CIA. (The news that two of the Watergate plumbers were involved and that Nixon himself was in Dallas that day has not been released in the straight press. Watch for it if this investigation opens. -ed.)

PRISON GHETTOS

(ZNS) A study by the US law enforcement assistance administration has found that 42% of the total US prison population is black. Half of all the prisoners are between the ages 19 and 29. Nearly half of all prisoners earned \$2000/year or less prior to being sentenced to jail. 40% had not completed highschool. Of the 141,000 inmates in American jails and prisons, 51,000 have not been convicted, but are being held awaiting trial.

NEW HIGH IN POT ARRESTS

(LNS) More than 420,000 persons were arrested on marijuana charges during 1973 - an increase of more than 100,000 arrests over 1972 - according to previously unpublished FBI figures. These arrests were 66.9% of all drug arrests in 1973.

SPACE SHIT

(ZNS) NASA has proposed a bizarre new method of getting rid of the hot nuclear wastes from atomic power plants. Yup, NASA has just completed a study which recommends that atomic wastes be blasted by rockets either into orbit around the sun or out of the solar system entirely!



To push their point even further, the national office took the matter to court.

In July, a U.S. District Court Judge ruled that Pamela McGill, a fifth grader in Pittsburgh, was ineligible for Little League ball because of her sex. Pamela really wanted to play and had demonstrated considerable ability. In one game she hit three homeruns, a double, and a triple.

However, during testimony the Little League contended that Pamela's admission to the league would downgrade team talent, inhibit play, and greatly embarrass boys who were benched while a girl was playing.

"And they testified that little girls are more susceptible to injury; that they shouldn't be taught to be competitive," Pamela's mother reported.

"I doubt if there's any discrimination of any kind in this instance," District Court Judge Barron P. McCume.

PLASTIC CHEWING GUM

(ZNS) Not only are chewing gum prices going up, but the gum itself will contain a new ingredient - PLASTIC! Gum manufacturers, faced with a shortage of chicle, have been forced to use plastic to extend their product. Chicle, the main ingredient in gum, comes from a tree found in Mexico and Central America. Americans and Canadians are the leading gum-chewers in the world with the British and Germans catching up fast. The growing popularity of chewing gum is apparently creating a chicle shortage. A spokesman for the Wrigley Chewing Gum Company in Chicago has confirmed reports that the company is using plastic extenders in gum, claiming (quote) "We have no choice."

ALUMINUM AIR

(ZNS) A University of Toronto chemist has discovered that air conditioners can be a serious source of polluted air. Dr. Dmytro Buchnea states he has found that rooms which are cooled by automatic air conditioners often contain hazardous levels of aluminum powder.