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FREE VENICE SINCE 1968 BEACHHEAD

FREE

NOVEMBER 1978 ISSUE 107 P.O. BOX 504 VENICE, CA, 90291 823-5092

FIRST NORTH BEACH CONDO APPROVED

Coastal Commission Cops Out BUILDER MAKES OUT LIKE BANDIT

BY ARNOLD SPRINGER

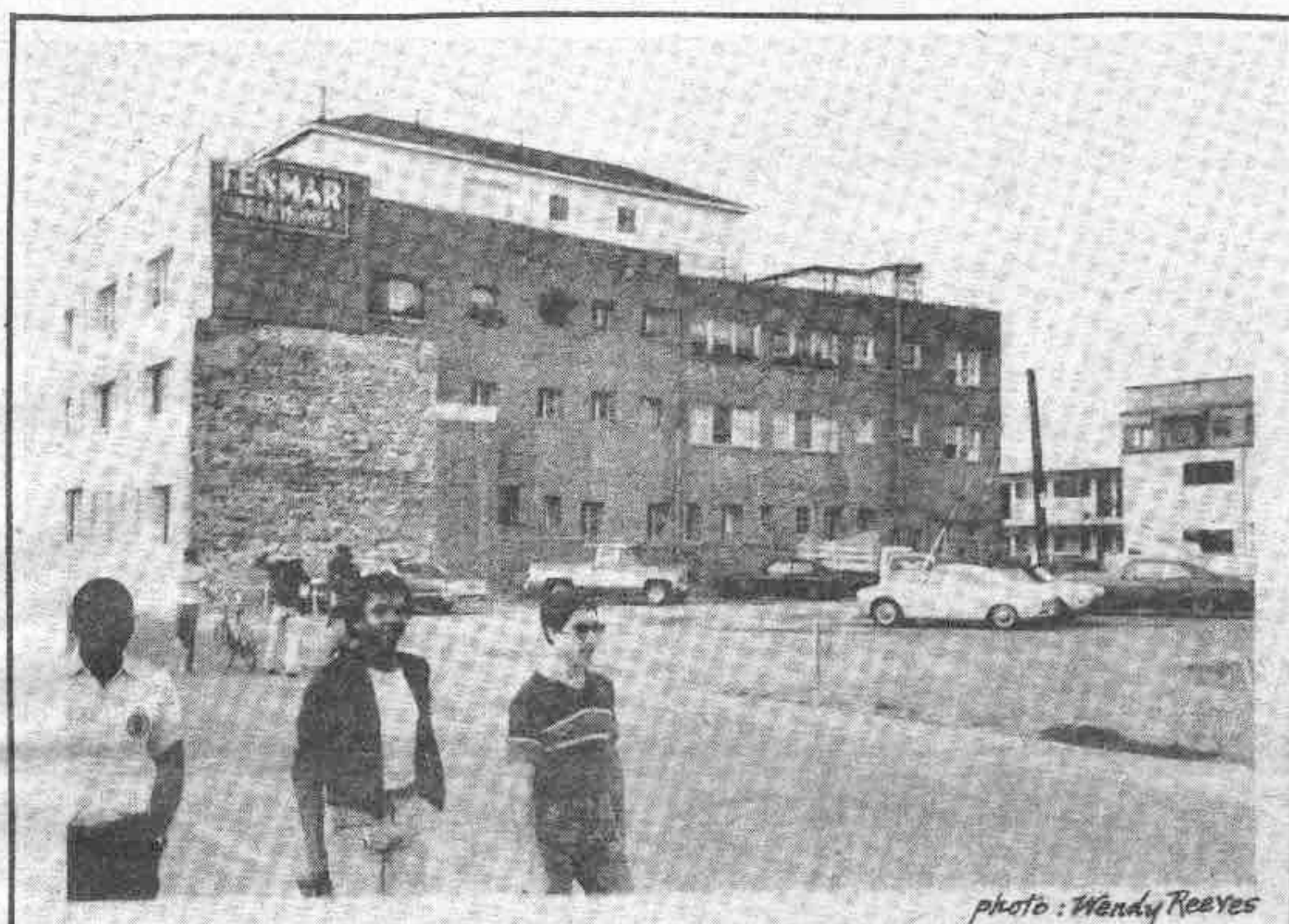
(Note: The facts for this story come from case records of the Superior Court and the public files of the California Coastal Commission, as well as from interviews with former deputy Attorney General Robert Keeler and Sherman Stacey, a lawyer involved in the matter.)

Last month The Beachhead bannered a story by Moe Stavnezer, "L.A. Sells Out Venice! Coastal Commission Protection Crumbles." This month we present a true story which underscores the truth of that headline. It is an outrageous and at the same time a sad story. Outrageous because it documents the story of a developer, Charles Gotanda, who blatantly violated the law and got away with it. Outrageous because it shows how the Attorney General of the State of California abetted this act. Sad because it indicates the weakness of the California Coastal Commission, its inability to command a formal public respect commensurate with its political stature. Although finally officially vindicated in the courts the Commission was in fact faced down by a developer because the chief law enforcement officer of the State of California, the Attorney General, chose to treat a willful violator of the law with kid gloves and bountiful consideration.

The story begins in September 1977 when Debra Winthrop, a staffer on the South Coast Regional Commission, paid a routine visit to 4 sites under construction by Charles Gotanda and his company, Terraco Construction. Mr. Gotanda, a sometimes partner of the influential Venice Peninsula developer Sherman Grinberg, has been very active in the construction business over the last few years in Venice. A profession, big time builder, Mr. Gotanda was certainly knowledgeable of the construction permit process viz the Coastal Commission. He knew that plans approved first by the City of Los Angeles had also to be approved by the Commission. He certainly knew that he could not submit two different sets of plans, one to each authority.

The sites Ms. Winthrop visited were 17 Ketch, 30 Quarterdeck, 1 Topsail, and 62130 Ocean Front Walk in Playa del Rey. At each site she noted "massive violations of the plans approved by the Coastal Commission." She reported the violations to the Commission and subsequently recorded her observations in a sworn affidavit, which was turned over to the Attorney General. At 17 Ketch Gotanda had added 822 sq. ft. to his building, this in excess of the plans he had submitted for approval to the Coastal Commission. His building was 2 feet higher than his approved plans. At 30 Quarterdeck he had added 803 sq. ft. to his structure and raised the building 4-6 feet over approved plans. At 1 Topsail he had, illegally and without informing anyone, changed the building from 6 apartment to 6 condominium units, and had added a fifth floor to the structure. At the Playa del Rey site he had put up a building which was 1,093 sq. ft. in excess of the approved plans and which exceeded the approved building height. Ms. Winthrop noticed that stairways had been enclosed, that decks had been enclosed and turned into bedrooms, that rooflines had been altered, and that parking spaces had been eliminated. Quoting from her affidavit on 30 Quarterdeck: "It appears that the structure as finally designed bears little resemblance to the approved South Coast Regional Commissions plans. Decks have been removed, windows added, the roofline is totally different.... Finally, the height of the building has been increased by approximately 20% over the approved plans."

Continued on page 12



This parking lot just south of the Fenmar Apartments on Ocean Front Walk is to be the site of the first North Beach condominium. See BANA story this page.

PUBLIC HEARING DENIED!

BY BANA

In a flagrant display of "condomania fever", both the Regional and State Coastal Commissions approved the beachfront condominium project at 911 Ocean Front Walk (corner of Breeze Ave. and O.F.W.). This was the first condo project EVER to be approved on the North Venice Beachfront by the Coastal Commission. Legal action against the State Coastal Commission is being contemplated by BANA.

Approval came in spite of petitions containing over 3,000 signatures and 50 letters to the Commission voicing opposition as well as BANA's efforts to defeat the project.

The Commissioners demonstrated a serious lack of concern for the low and moderate income people in Venice who will be crunched by rampant condo development.

The "condo catastrophe" will be constructed by developers Haskin and Sloan on land leased from Werner Scharf. It consists of 5 "\$100,000" plus \$222 condominiums, 6 "\$100,000" plus \$222 artist/commercial studios, 2 TOKEN low income units, and "replacement" parking for 40 of 52 leased parking spaces at a minimum of DOUBLE the current \$20 per month rate.

The Breeze Avenue Neighborhood Association

tion (BANA) strongly opposed this project at the Regional and State Coastal Commission hearings. We argued that approval of the project would lead to condo development on all the remaining 70 to 80 undeveloped beachfront lots. This, in turn, would cause existing housing costs to skyrocket, making North Venice Beach an exclusive enclave for the rich - MARINAFICATION OF VENICE. BANA pointed out that the two token low income units offered by the developers were terribly inadequate considering the disastrous economic impact condo development will have on the low and moderate income people in our community, especially senior citizens. We also contended that the loss of 52 moderately priced parking spaces was unfair and would compound the serious parking problem which already exists in Venice.

The Regional Commission ignored the critical concerns of our community and approved the project with some minor conditions. BANA immediately filed an appeal with the State Commission. Every effort was made to personally contact each commissioner and inform them of our opposition. A comprehensive 10 minute presentation with slides was prepared for the state hearing.

Over the strong objections of BANA, the state hearing was held in Burlingame (south of San Francisco) which drastically reduced the number of people who

Continued on page 15

WE ARE NOT ALONE

If you contemplate moving out of Venice and you enjoy THE BEACHHEAD, you might want to know that there are many, many community papers almost like us throughout this country. We are all members of the Alternative Press Syndicate and we publish the kinds of things the commercial big-time press doesn't think are important. Our organization and operating style are also very different. What follows are two examples of what our sister papers are up to.

POST - AMERIKAN Bloomington, ILL.

The Post Amerikan has a philosophy which is just like The Beachhead's. Here it is:

Anyone can be a member of the Post staff except maybe Sheriff King. All you have to do is come to the meetings and do one of the many different and exciting tasks necessary for the smooth operation of a paper like this. You start work at nothing per hour, and stay there. Everyone else is paid the same. Ego gratification and good karma are the fringe benefits.

Decisions are made collectively by staff members at one of our regular meetings. All workers have an equal voice. The Post-Amerika has no editor or hierarchical structure, so quit calling up here and asking who's in charge.

Anybody who reads this paper can tell the type of stuff we print. All worthwhile material is welcome. We try to choose articles that are timely, relevant, informative, and not available in other local media. We will not print anything racist, sexist, or ageist.

Most of our material and inspiration for material comes from the community.

We encourage you, the reader, to become more than a reader. We welcome all stories and tips for stories, which you can mail to our office, which is PO Box 3452, Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

LITTLE TOKYO NEWS

This alternative paper is published at 313 1/2 E. First St., in Los Angeles. It is one of the newest alternative community papers and The Beachhead wishes this new paper all kinds of success.

The Little Tokyo News is published by the Little Tokyo People's Rights Organization and was born out of the need to oppose the forced dispersal and destruction of the Little Tokyo community. The membership includes people from Little Tokyo, the wider Japanese American community, and supporters throughout Southern California. LTPRO is an all volunteer organization supported solely by donations.

The Public Relations Committee (one of five committees within LTPRO) produces the Little Tokyo News. We invite community organizations and concerned individuals to reproduce and use the articles contained within if it will help them to understand and wage their own struggles or to support ours.

Since its formation in 1976 LTPRO has consistently taken stands in the defense of people's rights and against the forces on the community who threaten the future of the community. LTPRO has organized and fought against evictions, demolitions, and unjust practices by the government and large corporations, while also uniting with residents and working people in Little Tokyo to campaign for more housing, equitable relocation practices, and permanent facilities for community and cultural groups. On a day to day basis the five committees work cooperatively in producing the Little Tokyo News, contacting residents, small business people, workers, and community groups; organizing community meetings and presentations. All this is within the context of the struggle for basic democratic rights in Little Tokyo. For more info call 680-1143.

WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED

Distribute the Beachhead on your block. All it takes is 1/2 hour per month. In Venice North Beach we need volunteers to do the following streets. Navy, Ozone, Rose, Dudley, Wave Crest, Club House, Westminster, Horizon. Anyone else wishing to do their street or part of it anywhere else in Venice please phone 823-5092 and leave your name and address and telephone #.

"THE COLORFUL HISTORY OF VENICE, CALIFORNIA COLORING BOOK"
AT YOUR LOCAL BOOK STORE

FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

Collective Staff: Olga Palo, Emily Winters, Gerry Goldstein, Wendy Reeves, Joan Friedberg, Arnold Springer, Chuck Bloomquist.

THE FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published monthly by the Beachhead Collective as a community information service. It is distributed free but if you wish to be placed on the mailing list for a year, please make a contribution of \$5.00 or more. The volunteer staff reserves the right to make decisions collectively on material published and is independent of all political and community organizations. The printing is financed by ad donations. The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry, art work, short fiction, or other contributions of interest to the Venice community. Please sign your name or a pseudonym. Anonymous material will not be printed but your name will be withheld on request. If return of material is desired, a stamped, self-addressed envelope must accompany it. No payment is made for material used. The Beachhead subscribes to Liberation News Service (LNS) and is a member of the Alternative Press Syndicate.

EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY westside tenant action center

The Westside Tenant Action Center is offering a series of training sessions in Landlord-Tenant law and tenants' rights. These sessions are designed primarily for those persons who would like to work at the Center, but they are open to anyone who would like to learn about their rights as tenants. Also, people who are involved in tenant organizing are encouraged to attend these sessions in order to learn more about the legal implications of their work and possible legal tactics which can be employed in the course of a tenants' struggle.

It is the strong view of the center that knowledge about landlord-tenant law should not be simply left to lawyers, but is of concern to everyone. We hope to be able to demystify the law and to arm more people with these legal skills.

Below is the schedule for the sessions, all of which will be held at the Tenants Center, located at 1301 Main St. at 7:30 p.m.:

1) Thursday, November 2: The first session will begin with an introduction to the nature of the landlord-tenant relationship, the different forms of rental agreements and unenforceable terms often found in these agreements. Then, an overview of the eviction process, from initial notice to final judgment will be explored.

2) Tuesday, November 7: This session will focus on the institution of the eviction lawsuit. A landlord must give a tenant notice before the suit is filed, and this notice must comply with strict standards to be effective. We will discuss these standards, and what to do when they are not met. Once the notice has been given, and the notice period expires, the landlord can then file the eviction lawsuit (called the complaint in unlawful detainer). There are numerous means for attacking the sufficiency of the complaint, and these will be explored. Attention will be given to the common defects found in many unlawful detainer complaints, and what to do when they arise.

3) Tuesday, November 14: This session will deal with the substantive defenses to the unlawful detainer action. If the landlord does maintain the building up to a certain standard then the tenant is entitled to withhold rent and there will be a defense to the unlawful detainer action. Also, the landlord cannot attempt to evict a tenant in retaliation for exercising certain rights. This defense, "re-

SPEAK UP for VENICE

THE FACE OF VENICE MAY SOON BE PERMANENTLY SCARRED
THE QUALITY OF YOUR LIFE WILL BE SPOILED

WHY? The Los Angeles City Council is trying to exclude Venice from the permit process of the Coastal Act. (City Council is also trying to exclude Pacific Palisades, Playa del Rey, and San Pedro).

HOW? The City Council is applying for exclusion of all Venice from the coastal development permit process, based on the Venice Community Preliminary Plan.

However, the Preliminary Plan has never been adopted and is thus still subject to change by the City Council.

And, the Preliminary Plan does not include any zoning ordinances yet, so the City Council can use the existing zoning ordinances to determine what types of building can occur in Venice.

THEREFORE:

The Preliminary Plan provides little or no protection for Venice to remain as it is, should the area be excluded from the coastal development permit process.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Get involved. This action affects everyone in Venice. We must preserve the permit process which is our only protection against development. The City Council meeting has not yet been scheduled, but will most likely happen in November. Contact Kate Keeling - 399-3591 or Tish Reid - 396-3733 for detailed information.


- 1) Write to Councilwoman Pat Russell at City Hall, 200 N. Spring, L.A. 90012. Tell her you wish to be notified when the exclusion application will be heard by the City Council. Also tell her that you oppose any such subversion of the intent of the Coastal Act.
- 2) Plan to attend meetings of the City Council and Coastal Commission when this issue is discussed. Speak up for Venice!

taliatory eviction," will be discussed. Also, the remedy of "repair and deduct" will be covered.

4) Tuesday, November 21: This session will start with a short discussion of tenants rights around security deposits, and the limitations on the landlord's entry of the tenant's premises. The major part of this session will be concerned with the Los Angeles rent rollback ordinance, its various exemptions, and how to best force landlord compliance.

5) Tuesday, November 28: The final session will deal with the office procedures at the Center. There will also be a workshop given on interviewing skills.

If anyone would like more information about these sessions, please contact the Center during our regular office hours at 399-9255. (Monday and Wednesday from 7:00-9:30 p.m., and Saturday afternoon from 1-4). There will be no charge for these sessions, but we will ask for donations to cover our costs of reproducing materials and handouts.

City of  Venice
VENICE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
15 November - 7:30p.m.
Venice City Hall, 681 N. Venice Bl.

This month - election of new officers
EVERYONE FROM THE COMMUNITY IS ALWAYS INVITED!

The Venice Town Council Coordinating Committee meets the 1st Wednesday of every month at the Venice City Hall.

PT. CONCEPTION OR PT. DESTRUCTION

Sacred Indian Land Under Siege

BY MARK BUTLER

"We have a prophesy that the Chumash Tribe will die if the 7th generation loses our faith and traditions."
 --Sespe Gutierrez, Chumash Elder

On May 11, 1978, the 7th generation had to occupy Pt. Conception to enforce the law and to protect the most sacred spot of their culture from further trench-digging operations for a proposed Liquid Natural Gas (L.N.G.) terminal site.

The "Western Gate" as it is called by the "People" is the place on this continent where their souls must pass through to join their ancestors after death. It is also the point of conception through which the souls of unborn children pass.

Kote Lotah, spiritual leader for the Chumash, equates the closure of the "Western Gate" with telling the Christian world there would be no more heaven. "Christians would go into a panic. You would threaten their existence and their reason for existence - their religion, and it's the same with us...."

While a railroad track and some water tanks already exist on the point, Kote explains: "Those are mostly surface things. It has altered the spiritual energy here a little bit, but nothing that couldn't be worked on. The L.N.G. plant is going to destroy it. It's going to alter the spiritual energy out here so bad it's going to be incorruptable."

SOME BACKGROUND

The story of Pt. Conception and the "People" archeologically begins over 13,000 years ago through the finding of one of the oldest Indian artifacts known, a scraper, found in one of the two trenches dug by Western L.N.G.

The first written record of the Chumash was made on October 10, 1542, when Portuguese explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, in the employ of Spain, sailed his two galleons into the Santa Barbara Channel, landed near an Indian village, and claimed the land.

The Indians were friendly. They provisioned the ships with cooked fish, according to contemporary observers, who were amazed at the sophistication of a maritime culture far more advanced than the other tribes encountered in California.

Modern ethnologists and anthropologists say the Chumash numbered as many as 25,000 at the time, and occupied about 6,500 square miles from San Luis Obispo south to Malibu, including the channel islands of Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, and San Miguel.

More than two centuries passed with little interaction between Chumash and Europeans, but in 1769 Spanish soldiers, missionaries, and Russian sea otter hunters made contact and started the precipitous decline of the Chumash.

"The gentleness and good disposition of the people gives good reason for entertaining the moral certainty of their reduction, provided they be preached the word of God," Lieutenant Pedro Fages, a Spanish soldier, wrote prolifically in 1769.

As the mission developed, the Chumash came in daily contact with the Spanish. Without immunity they died of syphilis, measles, chicken pox, pneumonia, and tuberculosis.

The People were abused by the Spanish; murdered by the sea hunters for sport or to take their furs; converted by the missionaries; and enslaved by the soldiers.

In the space of a single lifetime, the majority of the Chumash, the guardians of the "Western Gate," ceased to exist as a people.

"...WHEN AN EAGLE WALKS ON THE MOON..."

For many years archeologists and historians thought the Chumash were extinct. What actually happened was two-fold. In the late 1800's the old people put the culture "to sleep" because they knew the White Man's medicine, religion, and alcohol were so bad for them. Secondly, in 1954 the state government, with the knowledge of the 1969 California Indians Land Settlement, claimed the Chumash extinct. Though in 1969 as the roles swelled they had to pay the pittance of \$.47 an acre to the Chumash and other California tribes.

As the "People" went into self-extinction their medicine men prophesied that "the Chumash would return when an eagle walks on the moon, the White Man comes to us dressed as an Indian, and two stars change position in the sky."

The eagle on the moon, of course, was the 1969 lunar landing, the White Man in Indian clothes are the hippies, and the astronomical activity could be any of a variety of comets or planetary conjunctions.

And so the Chumash have returned with their brothers and sisters from a dozen different tribes, a group of white supporters, and two Buddhist monks, to protect the "Western Gate" and save their religion.

The fact that Point Conception is the most spiritual place on this continent for the Chumash and other tribes is not the only reason why an L.N.G. terminal should not be put there.

The proposed rules of the Federal Office of Pipeline Safety Operations regarding siting of an L.N.G. port reads in part:

- (f) An L.N.G. facility is prohibited in the following locations. (1) A location where surface faulting near critical components is...likely to have occurred in the past 35,000 years as indicated by geological evidence at or near the site.

This criteria applies to at least four faults at or near Pt. Conception.



of Western L.N.G., surmises - the L.N.G. terminal simply must withstand an earthquake registering 7.5 on the Richter Scale.

Richter, incidently, now an old man living in Pasadena, is skeptical that any construction can be made earthquake-proof and besides, he says, when the big shake-up comes it could register 8 or more on his scale.

If things go as planned the four 13-story storage tanks will sit on top of the Arroyo Central fault. Each tank will contain 550,000 barrels of natural gas which has been liquified at 260 degrees below zero and compressed to one six-hundredth its normal volume.

Furthermore this instability might cause a rupture, releasing a cloud of gas which could stretch as far as 50 miles, reaching Lompoc, Goleta or Solvang, depending on wind direction.

Just one spark could turn the whole area into a 3,000 degree flaming inferno.

RED HERRING?

Point Conception has long been known as a graveyard for ships. During the summer and fall there is heavy fog which limits visibility in the mornings and evenings. In the winter there are often rough, stormy seas. All this spells potential trouble for L.N.G. tankers as they navigate between the northern group of channel islands and Point Conception.

Keith McKinley, president of Western L.N.G., said the objection that Point Conception had high winds and rough seas was a "red herring." Nonetheless, mariners contend that the area has the roughest seas on the whole west coast.

Finally, an access road will have to be constructed, causing further environmental damage. Trucks traveling over the road transporting the L.N.G. always run the risk of having accidents, such as the one in Spain, which killed at least 180 people.

It is all I can do to wonder why Western L.N.G. and the P.U.C. are so intent on Point Conception being California's site for an L.N.G. terminal.

For Western L.N.G. the answer is quite simple. They have put all their eggs in one basket - Pt. Conception. There was a year of planning before the first trenches were dug, and the spiritual encampment here has held them up for another five months. Seventeen months of time is a lot of money. The other part is that they could put a site at Point Conception a year earlier than any of the other three sites. Again, time is money and money is what it's all about. If it wasn't, they wouldn't choose Point Conception.

As far as the P.U.C. is concerned, it's not quite so simple. But here I will just state facts and leave the interpretation up to the individual.

THE PLOT THICKENS

To begin with, the California Coastal Commission ordinarily would have had siting authority over the L.N.G. terminal. But it was Governor Jerry Brown's campaign that stamped the State Legislature to pass the Alquist Bill, giving the P.U.C. - Brown's appointees - the ultimate decision.

Now Jerry Brown has pushed two interim solutions to California's energy problem: low-sulphur oil and L.N.G., both of which are to come in massive quantities from Indonesia.

The plot thickens as we find out that Pat Brown, Jerry's father, has holdings amounting to \$100 million in Indonesia. He owns 100 percent of Petra Oil Marketing Corp. U.S.A. and 50 percent of Petra Oil, Hong Kong. Petra's contribution to Jerry Brown's 1974 campaign



Kote Lotah, Chumash medicine man and spiritual leader of the encampment at Point Conception.

POSSIBLE 50-MILE INFERNO

The Public Utilities Commission (P.U.C.), who has final say as to where the site will go, released a brief describing Pt. Conception as "a seismically active region that has experienced at least one and probably two major historic earthquakes."

The brief goes on to say that, "A large number of faults exist which could generate earthquakes producing significant if not severe ground shaking at the site."

Instead of concluding that these faults preclude the siting of an L.N.G. terminal at the site, the P.U.C. has voted to put the site at Point Conception.

This recommendation flies in the face of the P.U.C. staff's own proposed safety standards and the standards of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Coastal Commission, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

If this brief adhered to the already proposed or adopted safety standards regarding an L.N.G. terminal, Pt. Conception would have been automatically ruled out as a site. Instead the P.U.C., with the enthusiastic endorsement



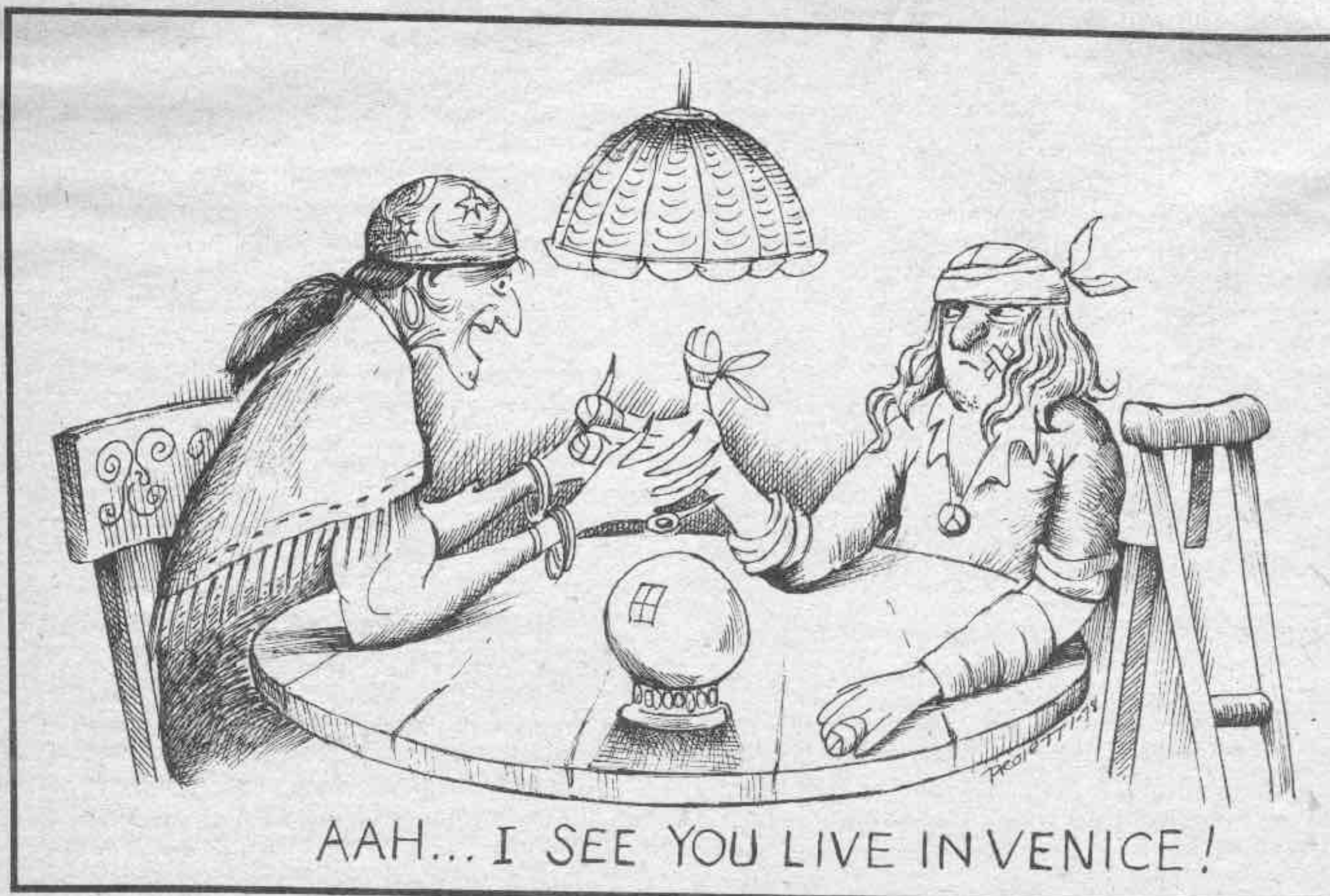
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FROM
LANCE DISKAN

In my opinion the reason we don't hear our police and politicians talking about eliminating violence from American life is that it is part and parcel of our political/economic system - capitalism. There is no way of eliminating violence without totally altering the system. Competition, the made rush for profits, is the key to the capitalist system. War is the ultimate act of competition: one side wins, the other loses. During this century we have seen governments move toward "legalizing" war - the concept is that as gentlemen all we have to do is to "declare" war and it's somehow ok. We no longer ask, what is the reason for the war? After the Tonkin Gulf Resolution we know all about "legality" in war. Even in what

It's the old question of property values vs. human values: do you want more profits from your corn or are you concerned about starvation? Are you only interested in receiving your rent on time or do you care about decent housing for your fellow citizen? There's such a set of questions for every problem in our society. The answers will never change as long as our focus is limited to police defined acts of violence - individual acts of assault, rape, robbery. I in no way mean to condone assault, rape or robbery, but if we are to eliminate such anti-social behavior it should be obvious that we must re-structure our political/economical system to allow the full development of our entire citizenry - not just a chosen few. Once we reach such a conclusion then we can begin to search out other systems. I hope to see a dialogue in The Beachhead of alternative systems to the present one we mistakenly call democracy. ♦





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WOMEN, MEN & EQUALITY

by Moe Stavnezer

This is a response to Bob Well's response to Karen Manov's article in the 100 edition of the Beachhead.

The main problem with Bob's article is that it basically ignores the tremendous political/social implications of male supremacy and sexism which are the main reasons for the necessity of the feminist movement. Bob would never make that mistake in discussing racism, and that is the crux of the problem. The white male American left does not consider the oppression of women as requiring the same amount of political attention or struggle that it pays to the oppression of third world peoples despite the fact that more than half the number of any oppressed group are women and the fact that oppression seems always to come down hardest on women. Women are oppressed by the outside oppressor class AND by the men in her class as well. The real failure to deal with that situation is a great failure of the white male left. Most men only have to deal with the outside oppression but the combination of the two is unique to women. (I should say that I'm referring to adults since this argument could also apply to children)

Institutionalized Anti-sexism?

I believe that the failure of white men to elevate women's oppression to a high level of analysis and struggle betrays our innate, institutionalized sexism. I have heard some men in Venice refer to a discussion of sexism as therapy— not worthy of serious group discussion or struggle. Men would, I fear, mainly like (and often encourage, as Bob did) to have the women deal with sexism while they (the men) deal with the "real" issues as they define them. In fact, no where did Bob suggest that men must, or even should take the initiative among themselves to deal with their oppression of women. He says that the women deserted the real struggle and that it is they who must come back to the men (who are pure and have been here all along involved in the real struggle). However, the white male left would not say that to a Black or Latino activist. They accept the need for those peoples to be separate and to deal with their issues as an oppressed people. Why does the same reasoning not apply to women?

The Movement in Venice

Next is Bob's contention that the movement in Venice has, though not ideally, included and includes many women at all levels of the struggle. Significantly, on the question of leadership roles, he admits that men have (and certainly still do) dominate these but then drops the subject like the hot potato it is. My experience in Venice, and one I'm sure I have contributed to, is that men were and are considered to act like the leaders of various organizations in which they've been involved and are perceived in that role by the community as a whole. Saying that the "shit work" was shared to prove otherwise is analogous to a wife beater saying he's not a sexist because he does the dishes. Because most women were only given the shit work and were excluded from real leadership/decision making roles, it is easy to understand why they have felt they were doing a very disproportionate amount of the former and why they sought other arenas where they could do both.

Another error, this one by omission, is the lack of mention of the men who left the community struggle. This is a serious omission because it implies that the men stayed and continue to struggle in the community or if they left it was to continue the struggle at some other level. In either case the assertion is sexist to

the core because whether they stayed or left the men remained in male dominated arenas which seems OK to Bob. But the women get criticized for getting involved in female dominated arenas which is the old double standard writ very large. Women left the community struggle because they could no longer tolerate the male supremacist attitudes and practices of the male leadership which were not responsive to most issues concerning women.

The Class Struggle

It is also interesting that there is no discussion in Bob's article about the projects which have been started by



women and the clear implication is that, no matter what they are, they don't serve the interests of the oppressed class or peoples. (Bob does not, however, define what he means by class). Now that is sheer nonsense and very anti-women. Just as the oppressed peoples have had to establish alternative ways of dealing with the white-male-dominated society so to have women. And they have done so because the white-male supremacist society has refused to deal with the issues involved. Bob says that the Women's Center stayed out of the canal struggle and thereby attempt to prove his point. Well where have men been on such issues as rape, abortion, & welfare rights which are issues that affect many, many women in this community and others. When an attempt was made to form a support committee for the women's shelter men stayed away in droves. Guess it was just one of those issues relegated to women because they needed the shelter. But they needed the shelter because of what men did to them and, to my knowledge, the male left hasn't even had a serious discussion about that. Now what "class" of people do you suppose the shelter, the rape crisis hot line, the welfare & abortion rights struggles were directed towards? Surely it was not the rich who can buy these services when it's necessary.

And what about violence? Wife beating and rape are the two major acts of violence against women and both, especially the former, frequently end in murder. Both these acts are committed by men and the male supremacist police and judicial systems condone them by relegating them to the level of household squabbles and provocative clothing. Yet violent rape is a constant fear of every woman in this community and the men here have made virtually no attempt to deal with it. And isn't this the same kind of violence that has been used against third world people to keep them in fear and in line? Why is that violence so much less important when women are the victims?

Intellectual Anti-Sexism

All of the above and the lack of the male left's willingness to deal with the issue of male privilege, in Venice and the society as a whole, lead me to conclude that anti-sexism is an intellectual exercise rather than a gut level, functioning part of every day life. Women are much closer to the every day life of most white males yet there has been, relatively, less struggle in the white male movement concerning sexism than racism. I firmly believe that the two are strongly connected and that as long as men remain dominant, paternalistic and sexist in their dealings with women, they will never be able to shake off their deeply imbedded racist feelings as well. Neither women nor other oppressed peoples left the white male dominated movement on a whim. They left based on the reality of non-action by white men in dealing with the local and societal manifestations of women's oppression and the need to discover their own power—politically and socially.

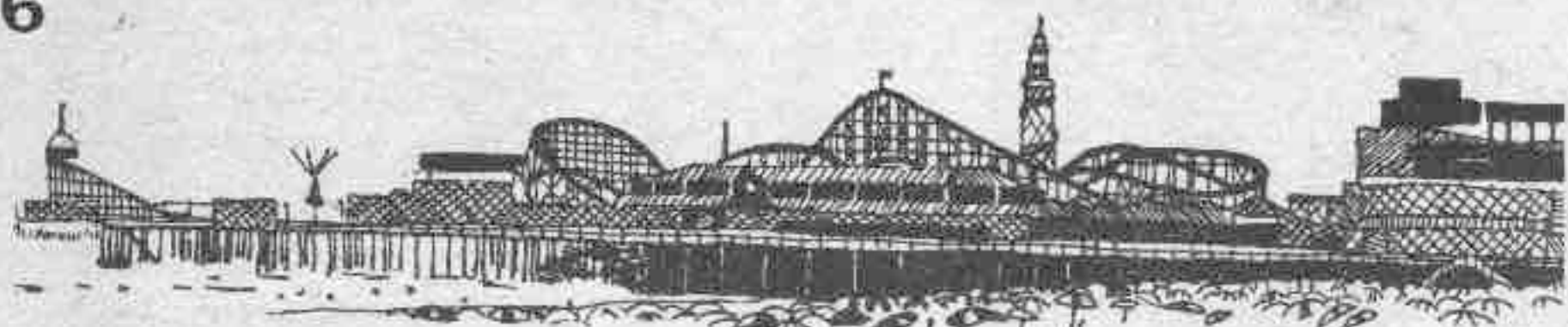
I don't have a poem to quote, just an old saw—actions speak louder than words. It is up to the white male left to elevate its anti-sexist rhetoric into anti-sexist action in the same manner it has attempted to do so regarding racism. White male supremacy is, after all, the well-spring of both these "isms" and the burden (though not the leadership) of overthrowing them, in practice as well as in words, rests with the men who perpetuate them. It seems clear to me that only when men recognize the centrality of women's oppression as part of any progressive movement will women, like many Black activists, feel comfortable and secure enough to trust white males as co-equal partners in the same struggle.

Sexism and racism are two symptoms of the same disease and the body will remain sick until both are cured. ~

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SAVE THE PIER again

HERE WE GO AGAIN

Quentin Josephy

The citizen's action group that saved the Santa Monica Pier from destruction four years is doing battle with the city again. This time the fight will be more difficult. The Santa Monica City Council and the Landmarks Commission have approved a 2.5 million dollar proposed redevelopment plan by the Carosel Corp. - a group of individual investors (La Monica Disco, Carosel Park, and Gladstones 4 fish). The proposal is now being taken before the Costal Commission.

In 1974 the Santa Monica Pier was designated a state landmark. 1 million in renovations on the pier, financed by the Community Development funds improved and upgraded public restrooms, improved public access to beach, and some much needed beautification and structural improvements.

The present proposal "package" offered to the city includes complete restoration of merry-go-round and wurlitzer, including a second floor turn of the century restaurant, restoration of the surrounding area to authentic boardwalk atmosphere; with a pizzeria and ice cream parlor in the two towers.

Below the carosel - in what would be called Carosel Park - is proposed a giant water slide (\$2.50/hr. admission) with bathhouses and sauna for users of slide.

The other approved projects awaiting Costal Commission review are; Gladstones 4 Fish Restaurant - which would move from its Rustic Canyon location to the end of the pier. The restaurant would conflict with the Costal Guideline priorities for recreational and cultural uses of the pier which are coastal dependent - such as fishing - which has been done on the spot proposed for the restaurant - for the last 20 years.

Club Management Corp. is planning a dancing establishment called Disco La Monica. It would take over Beryl's plaster studio.

The City Sees \$\$\$

The city in its' rush to maximize it's profits has planned a disproportionate number of commercial attractions. Due to limitations in space on the pier the recreational and cultural uses are not one of its' priorities, (recreational uses in this case being fishing, walking on the pier, etc.).

The user only water slide park is proposed on the site the city once approved a 300-400 person outdoor amphitheater providing public space for cultural events. (The proposal was scrapped due to lack of revenues by the city).

In the city's haste to increase profitability of the pier - (in 1974 the city city revenues from the pier was \$180,000. This year the city expects to pull in \$500,000. In the first 5 years of the new development, the city predicts a minimum of \$900,000 over what it already receives from the pier.

Where You Gonna Put 'Em ?

The city in its customary fashion has again over looked some important environmental issues.

1) There has been no provisions made for improved pedestrian access to the pier from Ocean Ave. With the increased use of the pier generated by the new businesses, with no adequate parking available on the pier itself, public access becomes more hazardous.

11) Parking on the pier is fixed at 375 cars, with the projected increase in traffic, this presents increased traffic problems for the area in general. The Carosel Park architect has suggested some ideas on the parking shortage problem, they are not a part of the plans presented to the city.



Santa Monica Pier by Nite & Day
Photos by Gerry Goldstein

The city is planning to reduce the rents of all three project developments. Rents in the first 5-6 years of the 20 year leases will be offset significantly to allow for the developers to recapture their initial investment in upgrading and renovating their own structures to city specifications.

Where Has All The Culture Gone ?

The Santa Monica Pier as a cultural landmark is a precious public resource. It has been serving the multicultural communities of Santa Monica, Venice, and greater L.A. for 75 years or more. The City Council of S.M., in its usual manner is again trying to bring in commercially oriented development companies whose all-or-nothing "package" deals - which never are worked out with the people of the community, but are pushed thru by the development-minded city council. (Remember the 35-acre-artificial-island convention-center defeated by a last minute public initiative movement that resulted in a campaign to throw out the city council in the next election !?). The pier needs to be made cost effective, (it should be self-sustaining, because the city has little money to put into it - especially since Prop. 13). This could be done with far less capital intensive businesses that then need to be subsidized and need to charge high prices to get the returns on their investments. It doesn't need shortsighted developers taking over our landmark and turning it into a Marina-style nightclub spot and restaurant row.

The Big Picture

The city's long range goal is to turn Santa Monica into financial and tourist center for the West side. The city recently approved (last year) a 4 square block area redevelopment plan for a mammoth indoor-outdoor shopping complex, it includes 3 major department stores. This complex is located just a few blocks east of the pier entrance on Colorado Blvd. The proposals for the pier are another step in the direction of total renovation of the area of Santa Monica, Ocean Park, and Venice. The development in the financially depressed area of Santa Monica will drastically increase the property values, which will have the effect of increasing rents - and we all know where that leads. Higher property values, poor people move out - rich people move in.

The Santa Monica Pier is pivotal in this struggle.

A public voice needs to be heard on these matters. Concerned people should write : Save the Pier Again Committee
3010 Santa Monica Blvd., S.M.,
90404 or directly to the Costal Comm.
666 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA. 90801
(Use project # Carosel Park 3851,
Gladstones 3835, Disco La Monica 3853, in all Commission correspondence. ♦

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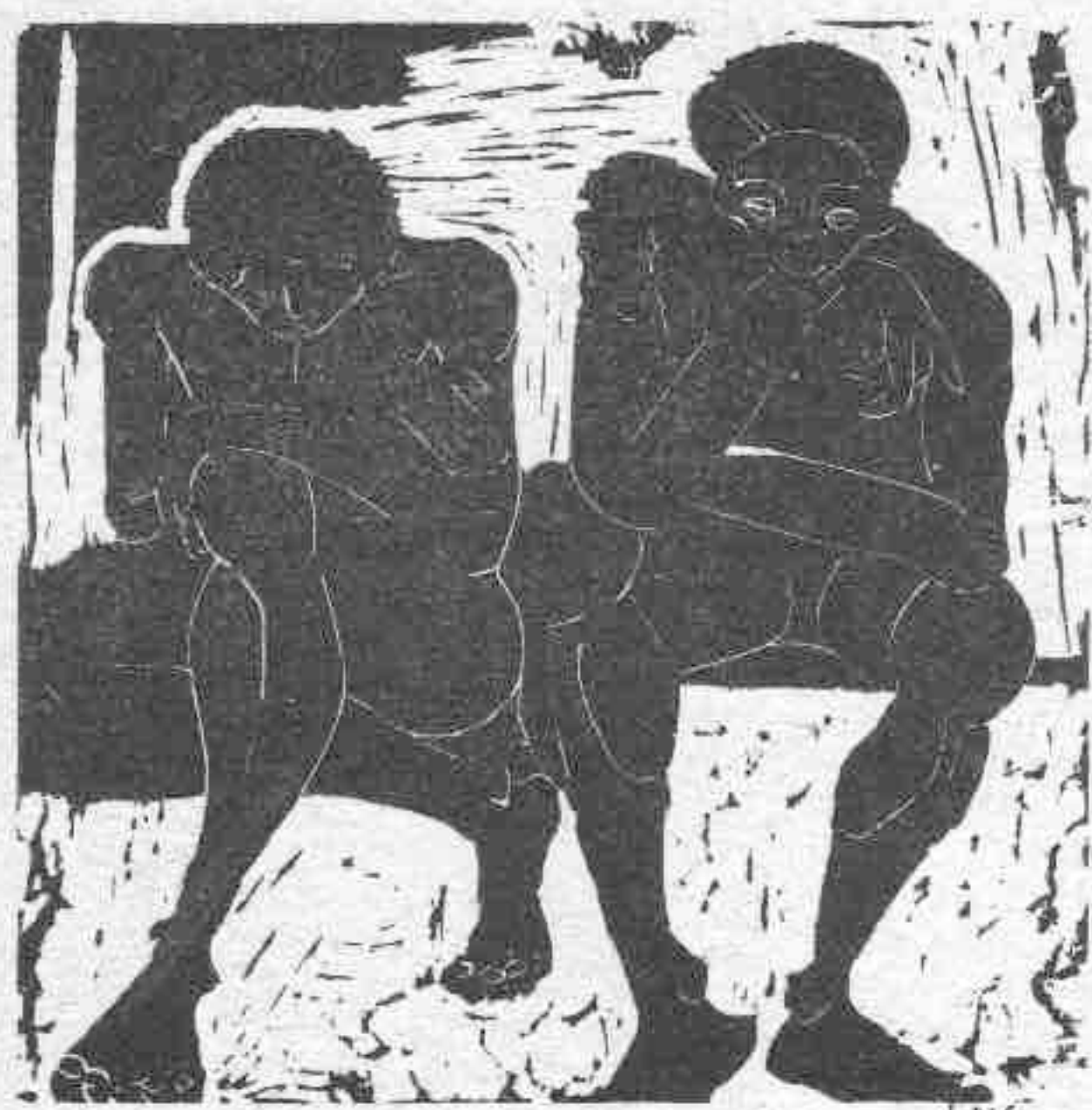
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SAMMY SICS SIX!

HELLO ALL YOU LOVERS! I

Cheers and great praises to the people and orgs urging a "no" vote on Prop. 6! Conrad's fine cartoon in the L.A. Times (9/22) showed Sen. McCarthy's ghost carrying his "Prop. 6" paint for smearing as he emerged "out of the closet." Since a teacher's very opposition to Prop. 6 may become a basis for firing that teacher (entrapment and guilt-by-association) the cartoon is appropriate. Today it's teachers and so-called "homosexuals" - and who will be persecuted tomorrow?

According to S.F. Police Commissioner Jane Murphy, Calif. Fed. of Teachers Pres. Raoul Teilhet, and L.A. County Supervisor Edmund Bielman, "This proposed law... stifles the voices of those who believe in the right to privacy and civil liberties. It legislates repression that threatens every individual and group. We don't need to squander tax dollars to invade privacy and disrupt school systems. Fair and effective laws now exist to protect our students. DON'T INSTITUTE WITCH HUNTS. VOTE NO ON 6."

Seminars and courses given to thousands of mixed audiences at UC and UCLA by psych and med school profs on Human Sexuality suggest that perhaps the scariest feature of the Judeo-Christian taboo-bugaboo is the chance that anyone could be attracted to nearly anyone else! These courses feature 3 movies shown simultaneously of people enjoying one another in many unorthodox positions and breathlessly exciting sexual relationships.

Marc Fasteau in "The Male Machine" concludes that the most effective and happy individuals are likely to be those who have accepted and developed both the 'masculine' and 'feminine' sides of themselves, "and that to deny either is to mutilate and deform; that human beings, in other words, are naturally androgynous." Hopefully, in our modern context, we'll refuse to elevate taboo into law. It seems insensitive to knowingly deny any person their personal, intimate, private preferences - to punish people for daring to choose a different side of their very own being - or to punish people for allowing that preference to others. Shakespeare's message still makes sense, maybe: "this above all; to thine own self be true"! It seems more considerate to vote "no" on 6 and thoughtfully grant permission to one another to be what we think we are! WE HUMANS MAY BE BRINGING IN A NEW AGE - AN AGE OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP & VALUING HUMAN LIFE!!!!

PLEASE VOTE "NO" ON 6!!!!!! sammy israel.

P.S. Your paper reflects the assumption that we all have brains and our way of relating to one another makes a great difference in our understanding, values and growth -- we become more & more fantastic every day!



The One Thing Wrong With⁷ Being Gay

BY DAVID DANIELSON

I'VE GOT A "NO ON 6" BUMPER STICKER ON MY car. It's a simple sort of sticker, black on blazing orange: typical political colors. But it certainly causes a lot of fuss. "You don't want to put that on your car," a friend advised me. "Not unless you want your windshield smashed."

That had already occurred to me. "Well," I said, "if that's the kind of society I live in, I want to know about it firsthand, instead of hiding out and not being sure."

I recently bought my car from my parents, and I suppose if they see the sticker on it, they'll be unhappy. Certainly they'll vote against 6. I doubt if they'll say they oppose advertising it, either: they handle my being gay in a delicate, sublimated way. But there is no way they would brandish such a sticker on their own car. Someone might guess about their own son, and as my mother says, "It's none of their business."

To which I always answer, "That's circular logic. If it's none of their business, then you shouldn't be worried about them finding out. Sexuality being a private matter is an ideal our society does not practice." (Proposition 6 certainly proves that.) "In 1978 and in America, my sexuality is political, whether I like it or not."

HOW TO KEEP IT PRIVATE

I'm uneasy about my best friend from high school seeing the bumper sticker. I'm visiting him and his wife up north this next week. He is an unreconstituted Calvinist (if you can believe that there's any left: they believe everything that is going to happen has already been determined by God, even whether or not you'll make it to heaven). He married in August. The minister stood before the bride and lectured her heavily for fifteen minutes how woman first corrupted man by Eve's transgression and if we were to ever make up with God, it would be by woman knowing her tidied and domesticated place. My friend's bride listened calmly, for she's a Calvinist, too. But I did not.

I looked at my friend's back. This was the same fellow who made genteel suggestions about the two of us making out when we were eighteen. I declined: after three years in that suffocating closet, I understood all too well the consequences of saying yes. I usually know in my gut if any male acquaintance is gay or not (not based on effeminacy but on how a man reacts to other men), and I believe my friend is gay. There's room for error, but not much. And here he was being charged by the minister to keep his bride in tow.

I nearly stood up and shouted, "Listen, this sexism is what's driven you headfirst into this reactionary religion and your affection for the John Birch Society. You sense something is wrong with you deep down. So you abase yourself with these attitudes that tell you unless you stay within these strictures, you are indeed wrong!"

I did not make such a scene. Instead I traded sarcastic comments sotto voice with my girl friend from high school days, who was equally appalled.

And how will he react if he sees the sticker? (He'll want to see my new car.) If I don't say I'm gay myself, he probably won't disown the friendship, though he'll know Satan has me within his clutches. (He already knows that, anyway.) And I would like him to know that there's someone he can talk to should he ever become aware of what he's suppressed so adamantly. Yet I doubt if he ever will. And it would cause so much pain to readjust by now, maybe that's just as well.

And maybe I'll just park close enough to another car to block out the bumper sticker. You know: make it nobody else's business. No matter how far you've gotten out of that closet, occasionally you have to breathe its shitty air of self-oppression again.

Then there is that friend who advised me not to put the sticker on because my windshield would get busted. The only time he has fallen in love, it was with another guy in college. The two of them carried on a curious, contorted sort of affair. My friend's announced for years now, however, that he's turned out straight. He's also still watching men's bodies and saying things like "God, I would be gay if society didn't make it so awful for them." We've had so much friction on the issue I've given up and I urge him to see women: he needs somebody, at any rate. Instead he reads a lot in his apartment after work.

Lord. I've written several pieces for the *Beachhead*, but this is the hardest. I get so choked with anger it's hard to speak. All I want to do is to write violent things in capital letters. It is, after all, not my problem, but I still have to deal with it being dumped into my lap every day of my life. (Like November 7th.)

A PSYCHOLOGICAL SIN?

I came out first with my parents, backasswards, when they got uneasy over something I had written. My father once was a Baptist minister but had given it up (along with any orthodox belief in God) to teach psychology at a community college. And when I came out, it was not a Bible he grabbed to beat me over the head. He drew a psychology text from the bookshelf and pointed out two paragraphs. It was a Reader's-Digest-sized condensation of muddled stereotypes and unquestioned assumptions, utterly unscientific. It told me what I had gleaned from *Time* magazine, *Playboy*, and such all those years when I felt so alone.

I do not doubt that my gayness is a psychological adaptation. I'll even agree I'm "abnormal"--an epithet many gays want to assassinate. The majority of us are heterosexual, so being gay is abnormal. And I am curious as to why I turned out gay, for I don't know why. But I can tell you that if we ever find out, there is no way whatsoever that it could be construed to be wrong--Freud and religion be damned. In fact, I feel lucky to be gay: not to say that it's the only way to go: you should feel lucky to be straight if you are (as long as you enjoy your sex).

"Of course you realize you can never have a family," said the sober counsellor I sought out during those long years of coming-out. "Of course you realize this is something you're doing to yourself." Or some friends preferred dis-trusting homosexuals generally, though certainly not me: "But the gay world is so callous, and you're such a loving person." Or: "There's some strange things going on among gay people." But telling me to avoid gay society because it's screwed-up and that it's screwed-up because people are taught to avoid it leads me into another circular argument: though it's different than my mother's ("It's nobody's business"), they both revolve around the same point.

For years I have felt being gay was it for me, and that I wouldn't change if I could. But still nonetheless the feeling that I was settling for second best hung on. Then sometime last summer, during which I had the first decent affair of my rather monastic life, I was driving home and thinking about all of this when something erupted in me. I had to pull over on Rose near Pacific until my eyes cleared of the red.

For I realized, right through my bones, that there was nothing wrong with my being gay. Excuse me: there is one thing wrong with it. Society is against it. That's all.

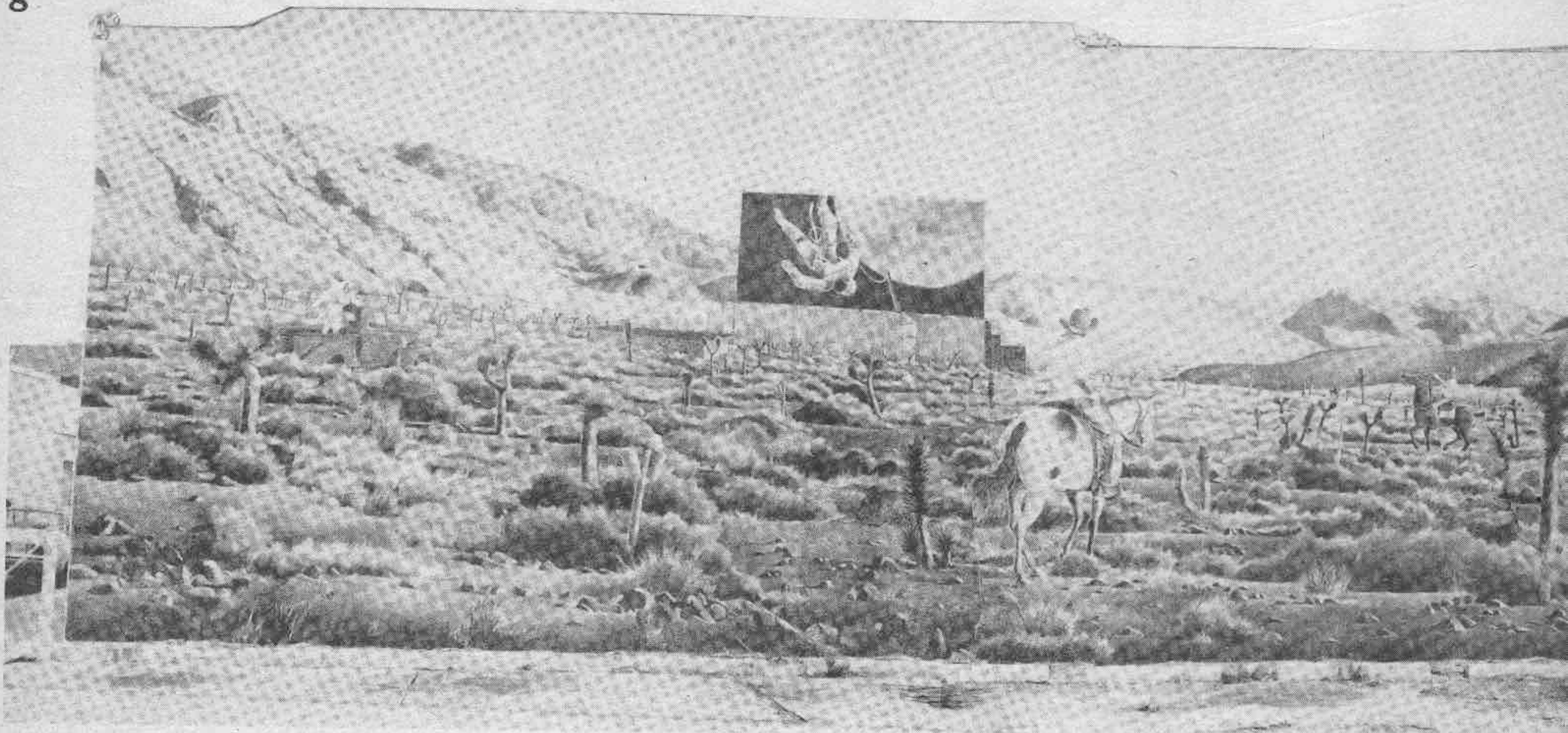
I am fortified everytime I see a "No on 6" bumper sticker, but I have a reservation about the ones that add "Who will be next?" (The *Beachhead* even argued this line last month.) It is a good reason against 6, but it's almost as if arguing against oppressing gays is too shaky to stand on. Instead we'll argue how all the rest of us get ripped-off, too. I know my fellow citizens all too well, and this may well be the best argument to offer: good liberals may vote against it even though reluctant to accept homosexuality.

But look at it this way: What if Proposition 6 instead prevented Black people or Jewish people from teaching children? I doubt if it would have made the ballot. If it had, there would have been enormous hue and cry. But as it is, the Los Angeles Times and all the rest conduct a polite and timid debate: now, now, let's hear both sides. This will not do.

We can be condemned this way while other minorities are not because a method we use to express ourselves is deemed morally wrong. It's not who we are; it's what we do. The self-righteous in this society cannot walk up to a Black or Chicano and say, "I don't want to be made aware of who you are. Don't put on your skin color until you're in the privacy of your own home."

In one sense, this makes things easier for us than most oppressed peoples (especially for gay men; Lesbians can still be identified as women). We can be cowardly and not let others know who we are. But it's really not an escape but a particularly cruel psychological torture. If you wince

Continued on page 15



The photo above is a composite of four separate shots.

MURAL, MURAL, ON THE WALL

Photos & commentary
by
Wendy Reeves



Mural artist John Wehrle at work.

screen, an astronaut tumbles away from a glowing flameless sun. John calls his work "an allegorical painting" and leaves the details of the interpretation to the viewer.

For most artists, there's no profit in muraling. The grant money just covered materials and living expenses while working on the painting, says John, adding "Whenever I can get the money I do some kind of art."

Happily for Venice, we have been undergoing a renaissance of mural painting this past summer and fall.

The most recently completed is the desert fantasy shown above. Located on the west wall of the Fern Violette building between Market Street and Zephyr Court (the one-way alley just behind the St. Charles Hotel at Windward and Speedway); the mural is separated from Ocean Front Walk by two parking lots but is easily visible from the Walk.

Artist John Wehrle began painting the wall towards the end of June, for several months working catty-corner to Terry Schoonhoven, who is painting the mammoth east wall of the St. Charles (see June issue of the BEACHHEAD). Like Terry, John's funding is thanks to the California Arts Council.

When I talked with him about mid-way through the project, John explained that he had first done an original line drawing with a background based on photographs. Then he sketched the drawing onto the wall and, using oils, painted in the vibrant colors. "I'm doing it like a large oil painting," he said.

The scene shows two cowboys on horseback watching the screen of a curious drive-in theater mysteriously operating among jewel-toned desert scrub and velvety California hills. Several angels and a bighorn sheep have also paused to watch. The theater tower, modeled after the one at our own Fox Venice, advertises "The Fall of Icarus." [Gr. Myth: A youth who, attempting to fly to the sun with wings made of feathers embedded in beeswax, fell into the sea to his death when the sun's scorching heat melted his wings.] On the



Boardwalk Rider

Good images are few and far between, and may last only a few seconds. When one strikes, you hope that you can think and feel hard enough to press it into words.

It was on a bright day that I joined the crowds of people thronging up and down that wide strip of asphalt. I walked until I saw a man in a wheelchair perched at the edge of the strip. A weak smile was fixed on his face, as though painted there. The voice I heard may have been his own, though it came from a tape recorder that sat on the grass next to the chair. Stories and anecdotes came out, while the wheelchair man hardly moved at all—even that funny smile stayed the same.

I soon walked on, but I couldn't turn off the recorder...

"You know, fifteen years ago I was on top of it . . . in San Francisco with a big Harley, cruising the Golden Gate, then up to Marin along that winding road past Stinson Beach and toward Bodega Bay. Riding high—my old lady was on back, light as a feather because she never once tried to sit up on a corner. Yeah, I suppose I was going too fast—hadn't got any sleep for two days, was spacing out a little. Maybe I could have missed the car that came around a blind corner on my side of the road.

"That son of a bitch drunk changed my life. My wheel caught his headlight, and before I could lay it down I went through the handlebars and bounced off the side of the car. Somehow the girl got thrown under his left rear wheel. I remember lying on the side of the road for a long time and not being able to move my legs.

"I was so drugged when they told me the girl was dead I didn't feel much of anything. I wasn't even too bothered when they told me my back was broken. It's strange and sweet what demerol can do.

"I'll tell you what it was like. When you're paralyzed you get bedsores without even knowing it, bruises and ulcers that never heal. I had a special bed for seven months, the kind that straps a mattress to your back before they turn you over. I had to learn how to shit all over again, with diaphragm pressure. For two months I pissed through a tube, and even after that I couldn't tell when I had to go.

"I met a girl who used to come up to see us—she'd got out a year before, after being in for a year with a broken neck. Dove in a swimming pool one night, thought there was water in it. She could move her face and two fingers on one hand a little bit, but she was a total quadriplegic. She was great to us, came up to see us in her battery-powered chair and talk to us, every other day or so.

"After I got out, whenever I saw my father

the pot shop



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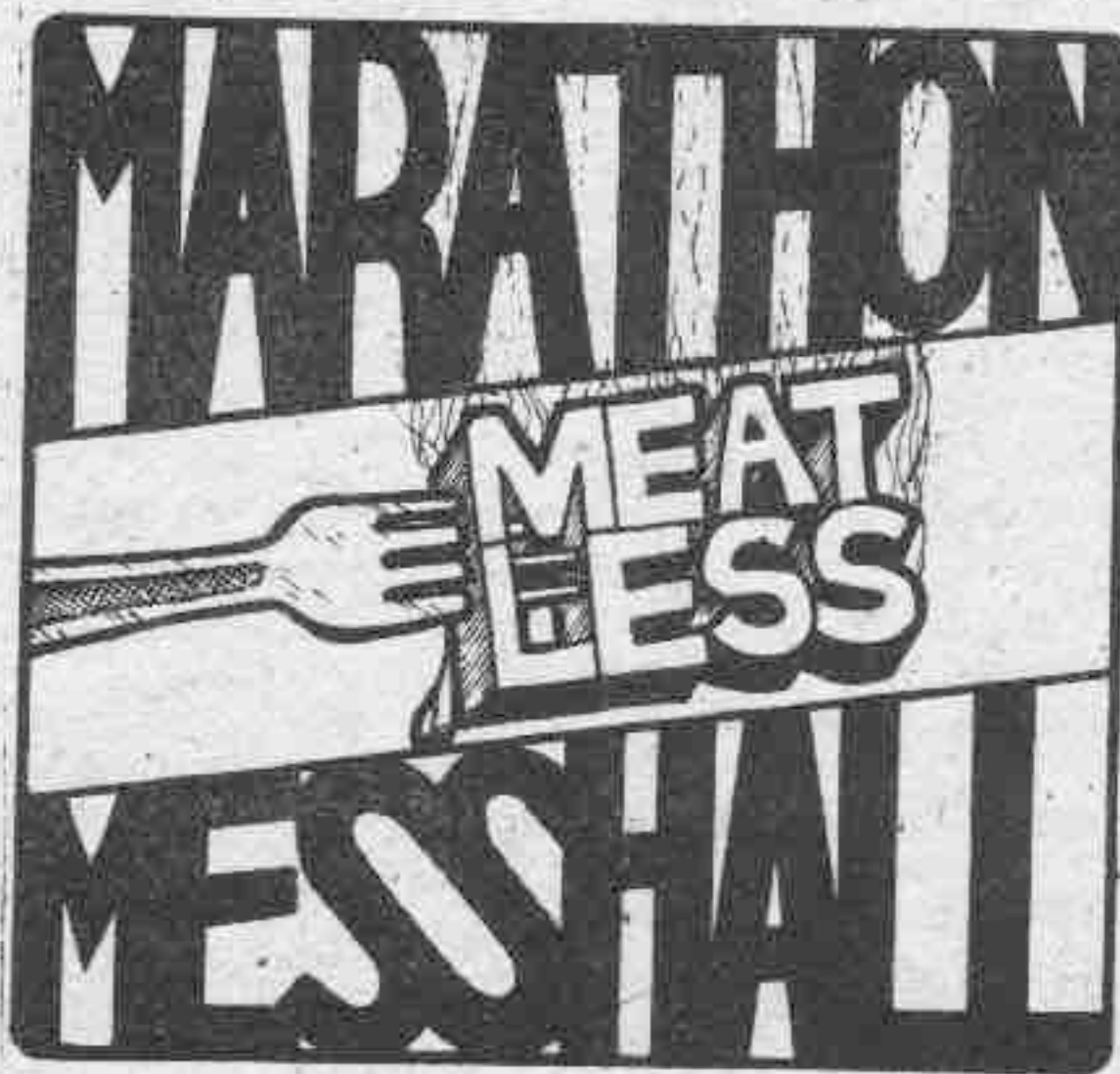
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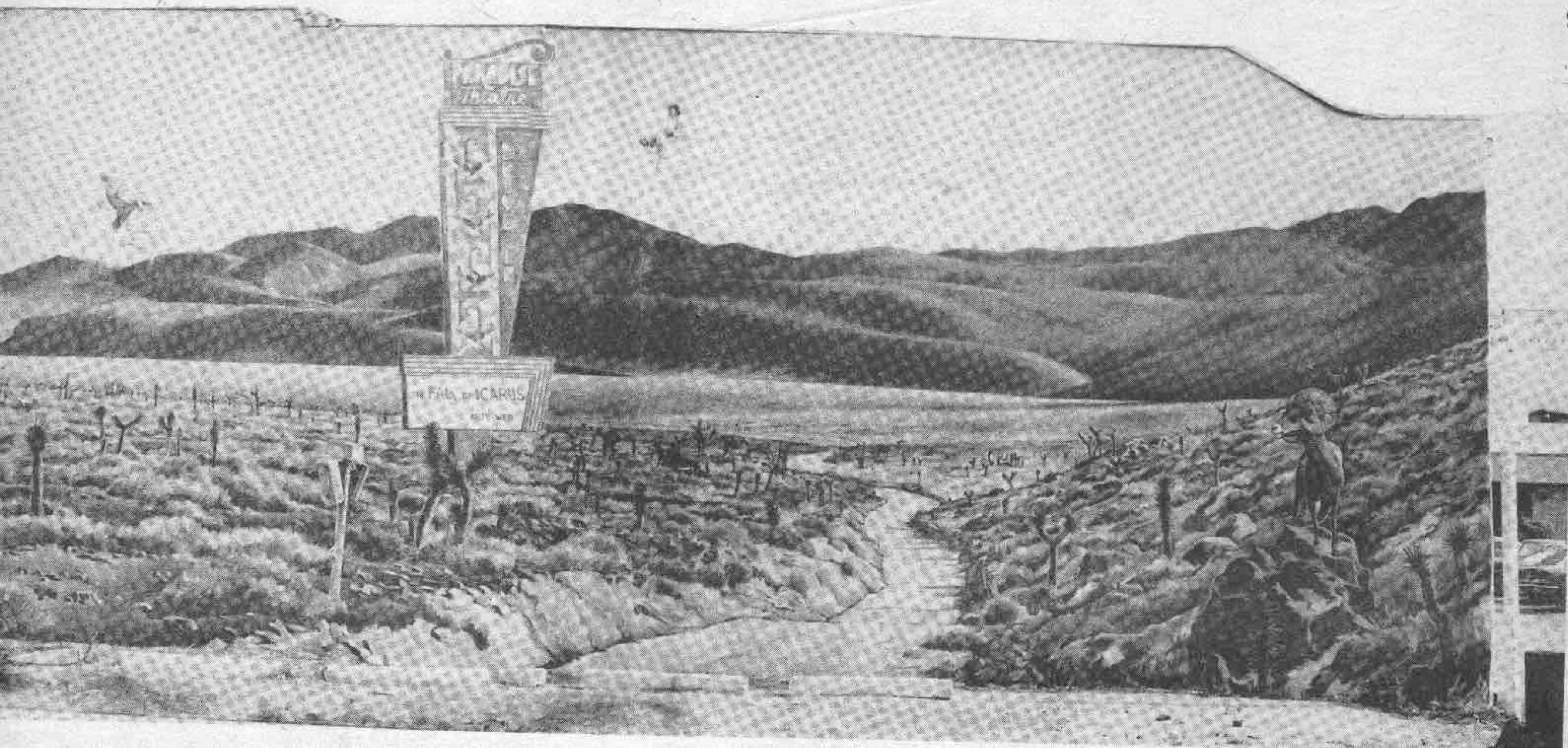
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SOME LANDLORDS

.....yuch

(PART THREE)

by Lilly Tanner

(continued from the August and September Beachhead)

Synopsis: In the August issue, I talked about the loss of a \$5000 investment in a small shop on a quaint business street in Venice. This was the sum to renovate which brought the building up to code. The landlord began to force me out for higher rents through neglect of the roof, outside walls, and rent raises, an irresistible combination. I stopped paying rent in May of this year to retrieve part of the loss. In the September issue, details of how to file an Appeal and answer an Unlawful Detainer through a General Denial were given....

September 15th, the day of the Eviction arrived. The Court came to order. The Judge entered. He was black. He had an immediate soft elegance without speaking. His first words confirmed my impression. They were clipped, slow, and carried a force of natural intellectualism. His presence changed the tacky atmosphere into a Broadway stage set. One by one, they came before him, all evicted, all behind in rent, withholding rents because of unworkable plumbing, roaches, rats. It was a tribunal: no inspections were ordered to confirm the tenant's complaints. The tilt was in favor of the landlord. In some cases, files were withheld for further study and the judgment was to come down later.

Mediation was offered, a device to get the parties to settle in the next room. The mediator was an old man with pallbearer eyes, like those of a professional mourner. He asked us what we wanted in whispers. It was useless; my landlady gave no points, she wanted it all. The rent, fixtures, damages, me out.

Back in the Courtroom, we were the last case. The landlady testified to an empty stage set. I didn't listen. It was memorized, inked into my political consciousness. The Judge asked me: "Do you have any questions?"

I was played out. I repeated some words left over from other hearings, "Could I take some things I need for my new shop?"

All of a sudden, an amazing thing happened. The Judge whipped out some pictures from my case envelope I had given him and asked the landlady, "Could she just have this? You don't need this, do you?" And so on down the line of fixtures. One by one the landlady said I could take out this and that. On the witness stand, she seemed cooperative, very willing. I ran out of the Court with a sense of fairness.

Early the next morning, my workman began to remove the heavy shelving. Down the street we accompanied the timbers piled on a wheel barrel to the new shop. But euphoria is often shortlived. Out of nowhere, the landlady pulled up in her compact. She began to scream, rushing out of her car: "Don't you take that. Bring that back. I'm calling the police. I'll get the sheriff. I'll find a judge!" (It was the City, it was Saturday.)

So it was the end. The real Court, the streets. My workman refused to continue under those conditions. After that I turned the keys over to her in exchange for peace.

I am reminded of a poem by a ten year old girl who remains anonymous: "A person can move from place to place; a plant must meet his adversary face to face." The old landlord's winnings did not take place in a garden. They took place in a boxing arena with human contact. What began as a private dispute, ended up as an insurgency against an ambiguous law: everything pounded into the wall belongs to the landlord. Carried to extremes, I would have contacted the news media, hired a lawyer, organized a class action or tried to change the law. Instead I moved on.

NOTE: I have used my pen name to protect the seemingly innocent as well as the seemingly guilty. Be sure to consult the Westside Tenant Action Center if you are having trouble with your landlord or with an apartment or house you are renting. This is an excellent service and it is free. Call 399-9255. ●

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we would get into it. Once I did a wheely with the chair into his shins and knocked him down, grabbed his shirt and started pounding on his face. I can't even remember what he said. I had pretty strong arms in those days and I messed him up good before my uncle pulled us apart. He was a hustling car salesman all his life and I never did like him, for some reason--I guess because he never really like me. Two years later he had a heart attack and died. He was 52."

At the next pause in the tape, some of his audience left, but more stopped to listen.

"Do you know how it is to always look for the one book that's going to change your life? I never read a lot, but I started looking.

"One day I found a book on praising--that's something like praying, except you don't ask God for anything, you thank God for what you have. But it's more like thanking God for what's gone wrong than what's gone right. If you've lost a leg, don't thank the Lord for the one good leg, thank him for the bad or missing leg. At least, that's the idea this writer had.

"I thought anything was worth a try. Thank you Lord, for breaking my back, I said. Then I shouted it. Thank you Lord, for breaking my back. I shouted it until I got tired.

"I did it every day for a week, and it made me feel better. But I didn't mean it, you know, I was just saying the words. Maybe it was the shouting that made me feel better.

"I thought about how I felt sorry for my dad. He was a son of a bitch alive, but I didn't feel sorry for him until I saw his body lying there dead at the funeral and knew he was a sorry son of a bitch.

"I know it doesn't make any sense, but I figured if I could feel sorry for my dad I could thank the Lord for breaking my back. I tried, and maybe it worked, because I started crying like I never did before. But that good feeling lasted just for a little while. Because when you think about it, you can't really thank anyone for something like that. That writer was talking a big if--if you can thank God or fate or whatever it is, if you can say thanks for everything, then you might be happy."

There was a pause in the tape. I stared at the man, wondering why he was wearing a warm jacket on such a hot day. I looked at the thinning hair on a head that now leaned forward and took the direct rays of the sun. He wasn't moving, and I walked around beside his chair and put my hand on his arm. There wasn't any response, so I leaned over to look at his face and saw what may have been a smile, or maybe just his flabby cheeks pulling up his mouth a little because he was leaning forward. That kind of scared me, so I felt for a pulse in his wrist. I found it, then I saw his chest expanding and subsiding. He was asleep, and I guess he looked sort of peaceful.

A new story began as I left. "You know, I've known many different kinds of people in my life"

- J. Moisan

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10 TENANTS UNITE !!

By The Westside Tenant Action Center
THE LA RENT ROLLBACK -- MORE EXEMPTIONS

In a series of articles, the Tenant Action Center is examining the effects of the Los Angeles City Rent Rollback Ordinance on tenants. Last month we discussed the exemption which allows a landlord to raise the rental price on a unit when that unit becomes voluntarily vacated during the moratorium period, and how tenants might insure that this provision is not abused by landlords anxious to raise rents. This month we will look at exemptions which allow the landlord to raise the rent after making either capital improvements on the building, or to bring the building up to Building and Safety Code standards.

It is important to note that the proposed ordinance did not get passed until the exemption allowing landlords to pass on "rehabilitation costs" to their tenants was included. Landlords lobbied hard for this loophole and several City Council people responded. The inclusion of this exemption was justified, however, with the "newspeak" that tenants would benefit from this exemption, that it would provide an incentive for landlords to make repairs and improvements and thereby prevent neighborhood deterioration.

This "logic" ignores the obvious fact that terrible housing conditions already exist in Los Angeles. They developed long ago when landlords had, as they have today, the unfettered option to pass on any cost they could to their tenants. The ordinance, with or without exemptions, will not affect these conditions. On the contrary, as far as the law goes, landlords are forbidden to rent any units which are not up to Building & Safety Code standards. The limitations, which create slum housing are imposed not by any system of jurisprudence, but by the system of capitalism organized around the drive for profit rather than the needs of people. Poor people, working people and minorities will never be provided with decent housing until that system is fundamentally changed.

The City Council knows all this much better than most of us. The City Council knows the reason for slum housing conditions and they know that an exemption for rehabilitation costs won't affect them one little bit. They also know a loophole when they see one, and they know who they are working for.

However, the fact that these exemptions exist does not make the ordinance meaningless and it does not mean that a landlord can legally pass on every expense they incur to tenants. Even with the exemptions, tenants in Los Angeles are in a better position now, during the moratorium period, to press for needed repairs than ever before. At least tenants who are willing to stand up to their landlords and demand repairs can make sure that their rents will be increased no more than the costs of making them AND that the costs will be spread into equal monthly payments (amortized) over at least 3 years.

In order to make sure that the landlord is charging no more than he is allowed, the tenant must be able to distinguish between a "capital improvement" and a "rehabilitation cost" and to be able to distinguish both from ordinary maintenance and repair costs which may NOT legally be

passed on to tenants. The ordinance defines a capital improvement as "any improvement to the building (other than rehabilitation costs) in which the rental unit is located which has a useful life of 5 years or more". A recently passed amendment allows landlords to pass on costs for capital improvements which have been made as far back as April 1, 1978. A "rehabilitation cost" is defined as any cost incurred in order "to bring the building into compliance with the Building & Safety Code." Unlike capital improvements, these costs must have been incurred during the moratorium period. Capital improvements must be amortized over a 5 year period and

must be divided among all effected tenants. For instance, if your landlord installed a washer and dryer costing \$600 for everyone's use in a six unit building, the allowable rent increase per unit would be \$600, divided by 60 months equals \$10. per month; and that figure (\$10.) divided by 6 (number of units in apartment) equals \$1.67, the allowable rent increase.

A rehabilitation cost is figured in the same manner except that it may be amortized over three years rather than five years.

It is usually easy to distinguish capital improvements from rehabilitation costs. Sometimes, however, there may be problems. For instance, suppose your roof has always leaked and your landlord finally decides to fix it. Suppose further that instead of reroofing with asphalt shingles, he has a tile roof laid down. Is this a cost necessary to bring the building up to code or is this a capital improvement or both? Who knows. The landlord will probably argue that it is a rehabilitation cost so that he can amortize it over three years instead of five. The tenant will argue that the expensive tile roof was unnecessary to satisfy the building code and therefore should be considered a capital improvement to be spread over 5 years. Depending on how big the improvement cost is, the way it is classified may have considerable effect on the size of the allowable rent increase. (A one-thousand dollar (\$1,000.) improvement to a single rental unit amortized over three years means a monthly increase of almost \$28.00 per month while the same cost spread over five years means a monthly increase of only \$17.00).

Even more important than this distinction however, is the one that must be made between either capital improvements or rehabilitation costs on the one hand and maintenance and ordinary repairs on the other. You can be sure that most landlords will claim that every nickle they are forced to spend on their rental units should result in

a rent increase to cover those costs. But this, of course, is not true. Many of the landlords' expenses are just part of the ordinary costs of doing business as a landlord. These costs have already been figured into the rental price, and therefore, under the ordinance, may not be double charged as a rent increase. Repairs and maintenance fall into this category; so do many improvements which are nice so long as they last, but do not add any long term value to the property. Interior painting would be one; laying down carpets or linoleum, depending on the quality and care of installation, may be examples of others.

If you think your landlord may be charging you more than s/he is entitled to under these exemptions, come to the Tenant Action Center. We will help you figure it out, and if s/he is, we'll help you file a complaint with the City Attorney's Office and maybe even get some of your money back. The Center is open every Monday and Wednesday evening from 7-9:30 pm and Saturday afternoon from 1-4 pm. Beginning Nov. 2, we will also be open all day Thursday from 10 am until 5 pm. If you have any questions about the Ordinance or any other problems with your landlord, give us a call at 399-9255 or come into the center at 1301 Main Street in Venice.

There is another office of the Tenant Action Center at 2212 Sunset Boulevard in Echo Park. If you don't live on the Westside of town it may be more convenient for you to go or call there. The number is 413/4399 and their open hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-10 pm and Sundays from 1-5 pm.



LETTERS

Dear Mr. Keats;

I take offense at your attitude which you make very clear in "Right to Life". Had your mother decided she did not want you, you would not have written the article!

Did you consider the following facts when you wrote your article, or are you so down on the Catholic Church, you could not be fair if it killed you?

1) Except for the events during WWII, the ones where people were burned at the stake took place in the dark ages. Are the Catholic leaders of today to blame for what happened then?

2) Are you to blame for what your father, grandfather or even great-grandfather did?

3) The Catholic Church does not say, as in affect you claim, "Have babies, come hell or high-water". It offers a birth control method, which has been found to be safer and more sanitary than

An Open Letter to the Community

Memoirs of an Ex Coastal Groupie

BY MOE STAVNEZER

For the past 5 years I have spent an extra-ordinary amount of time involved with the Coastal Commission. Many of the Commissioners and staff people were or have become personal friends and I have enjoyed their company and as well talking about the ins and outs of the everyday workings of the Commission. And even though I knew that bureaucracies tend to become more rigid and cautious and that the Coastal Commission was no exception, I allowed myself to be lulled into a false sense of security about the Commission. Not that I expected them to agree with every appeal I made or position I held - but certainly they could see and understand the big ones, couldn't they? Now, after the very negative position of the staff and the Commission's decision to approve the condos at Breeze and Ocean Front Walk, I know the answer. None of us can depend on any of them for almost anything.

My Commission friends helped get me an award but wouldn't help us get the Commission to determine that the Breeze appeal represented a substantial issue. My Commission friends invite me to parties and then ignore the fact that condos on the beachfront will turn North Beach into the Peninsula. My Commission friends keep telling me about the importance of public participating and then turn their backs on Venice, the most active coastal community in the state. I hear that they're sick of use, tired of hearing about low income housing and poor people. Tired of being faced with difficult problems that require hard decisions, patience, and innovation. Eager, it seems, to grab the first attractive straw that comes floating down stream. And in one fell-swoop they have changed the entire North Beach oceanfront. Eleven condos that will sell, at minimum, for \$100,000 will not exactly contribute to maintaining the neighborhood as we know it.

For me the Breeze decision was particularly bitter since I have spent so much time working to develop a plan for the oceanfront which would speak to the needs of the community. And now with one insensitive decision and with the City trying to exclude Venice from the permit process entirely, that plan looks like a dead issue.

All of this is difficult for me to admit, and the things I've been involved with will be difficult to let go of. But for me the time has come to do just that and to greatly downplay my role as an advocate of the Commission.

But this doesn't mean that I feel that the community should ignore the Coastal Commission - only that I've lost that special energy that's kept me so involved for so long. The community will, I hope, keep up the fight in this arena and I will help in whatever way possible. I strongly believe that by acting together we can still be effective and continue to believe that the Venice Town Council remains the place for that togetherness.

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some of the methods offered today. The Rhythm system. It is your problem if you must have sex every night and day. Some of the methods, such as the birth control pill, have been known to cause cancer. Others have caused other problems. Think about that before you vent your venom upon the Catholic Church.

4) It is true that many young priests and nuns are leaving the churches, but not for the reasons you write of therein. They are leaving because they don't have what it takes to keep on. Some of them are leaving for health problems, others leave because they did not have the true vocation. How do you know all the reasons they leave? And - put this in your pipe and smoke it to high heaven. Most of those who do leave come back and continue to work for the Catholic Church.

5) Finally, I am sick to the teeth of all you people who write such filth. Your religion is SEX - so go practice it and leave the Catholic Church alone! You're sickening.

Sign me
Disgusted With You



passed on to tenants. The ordinance defines a capital improvement as "any improvement to the building (other than rehabilitation costs) in which the rental unit is located which has a useful life of 5 years or more". A recently passed amendment allows landlords to pass on costs for capital improvements which have been made as far back as April 1, 1978. A "rehabilitation cost" is defined as any cost incurred in order "to bring the building into compliance with the Building & Safety Code." Unlike capital improvements, these costs must have been incurred during the moratorium period. Capital improvements must be amortized over a 5 year period and



UPDATE:

PEACE & FREEDOM

The Peace and Freedom Party is running six candidates for all statewide offices plus the Board of Equalization in the upcoming November election.

Two former Venice residents are on the Peace and Freedom Party ticket this year. Milton Takei for U.S. Congress in Santa Barbara, and Lewis McCammon for Board of Equalization in the 4th District (which includes Venice). Howard Jarvis was the Republican Party nominee for this seat in 1970 but this year there is no Republican on the ballot for this office, only McCammon, the incumbent Democrat (Mr. Nevins), and an American Independent Party candidate.

This year the P&F platform includes planks on Socialism vs. Monopoly Capitalism, Taxes, Housing and Rent Control, Labor and Full Employment, Energy and Environment, Political Freedom, Law and Justice, Undocumented Immigrants, Disarmament, Education, Rights of the Disabled, Racism, Sexism, Gay Rights, Health Care, and the Road to Socialism. A strong position was also included against Prop. 6 - the Briggs initiative.

Peace and Freedom is the only socialist party with ballot status in California and at least one of its statewide candidates must get over 130,000 votes this November to retain its place on the ballot. The P&F Party was able to re-qualify in both 1970 (on the basis of the vote given to Venices' own Marge Buckley who ran for Attorney General) and in 1974 (on the basis of Marilyn Seals' vote for Lt. Governor).

Registration in the Party has increased sharply in the past three years, from 12,508 in Jan 1975, to well over 30,000 at the present time. This is approximately the same number of registrants as P&F had in December 1968 after members who failed to vote in the presidential elections of that year were removed from the voter lists.

P&F candidates for statewide office on your ballot this year include: Marilyn Seals, a secretary and lesbian mother of three, for Governor; Jan Tucker, a graduate student at Cal State Northridge and an attorney service's assistant, for Lt. Governor; David Wald, a solar engineer and teacher from Santa Clara, for Secretary of State; Elizabeth Cervantes Barron, a teacher and KPFA radio reporter from Cupertino, for Controller; Lewis Shireman, a computer programmer from Oakland, for Treasurer;



MARILYN SEALS, Candidate for Governor on Peace & Freedom Party Ticket.

and Robert Evans, an attorney from Oakland, for Attorney General.

Generally, the main focus of the P&F campaigns this year is on the need for basic tax reform and the need for a fundamental change in our economic system. The patchwork reform programs of the past have utterly failed to resolve the problems of unemployment, health care, affordable housing (with Brown running around earlier this summer

opposing rent control), and the need to convert from a wartime economy to a peace-oriented industrial focus.

Aside from the terrible waste on military expenditures (money largely spent to prop up dictatorial regimes from Chile and Nicaragua to Iran and South Korea), the P&F campaign is also pointing out how the state tax structure favors the rich over the poor. It lumps millionaires into the same 11% state income tax bracket as single working people with taxable incomes of \$15,500 per year and makes a wage-earner pay over 5 times as much in income tax on an income of \$14,000 per year as it charges a real estate or stock market speculator with the same income.

(This article was excerpted from a letter written to the Beachhead by Lewis McCammon, P&F candidate for Board of Equalization). ◆◆◆

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November 1968 - November 1978*

videography.....photography.....xerography.....project coordination

BUILDER MAKES OUT

Continued from pg. 1

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The violations were so massive and obvious that there could be no mistaking the builders intentions. Once having gained Coastal Commission approval of his plans he had decided to ignore them in his construction. This action was feasible since the Commission does not usually inspect buildings under construction which it has approved. It relies on the integrity of the builder and on his observance of the law. The Commission does not have the staff to police its projects. But Los Angeles City Building and Safety does inspect every project at various stages of construction. These City inspectors apparently found no violations because in their minds there were none. Gotanda's buildings looked exactly like the plans they had in their hands, but very different from those he had submitted to the Commission. But unexpectedly, he had been found out. Gary Gleason, then the staff planner for the Venice area, was ordered out for a verification inspection.

That same month, in September 1977, he visited the same four sites and subsequently set down his observations in a second affidavit. At the 17 Ketch project he observed "that the structure had been modified... apparently to avoid intended permit conditions." Decks and a patio had been enclosed. At 30 Quarterdeck he noted that the plans specified a building 28 ft high but that the structure being built exceeded that limit by 45 ft. At 1 Topsail he stated: "The changes from the approved plans are so substantial that I believe that there is virtually no way in which the existing partially completed structure can be modified in a way which would bring it into compliance with SCRC plans."

Having certified that there were massive violations the Coastal Commission notified the builder. Construction continued. Frustrated the Commission requested the Attorney General to begin proceedings against Gotanda and Terraco, and also against Sherman Grinberg, and the story of Superior Court Case # C 218632 was underway, officially that is. The Attorney General, Mr. Keeler, was not satisfied with the documented case against Terraco. So, although he began formal proceedings in October 1977, he asked the Coastal Commission staff to prepare additional information on the violations. MS. Winthrop and Mr. Gleason prepared their affidavits. Mr. Keeler wanted copies of the building plans for comparison before the court. But these plans, the plans according to which Gotanda was building were held by the City which refused to release them without permission from Gotanda. He refused to give such permission or to have his plans copied by the Coastal Commission staff. Finally he relented. In November a meeting was held between Terraco, the Attorney General, and the Coastal Commission at which Gotanda was presented with the fully documented case against him. At last, in January 1978 he allowed his plans to be copied by the Coastal Commission, but by that time two of the four project plans had disappeared from Los Angeles Building and Safety. Gotanda's procrastination had resulted in a 3 month delay in the process, a point which would figure later in the story.

Late in January, or perhaps in early February deputy Attorney General Keeler received a letter from Terraco's attorneys charging that the proceedings were moving too slowly, and that their client was suffering losses as a result. So, on February 8, 1978, formal charges were filed against Gotanda, since it appeared that no progress was being made on an out of court settlement. Despite these developments the Coastal Commission was not certain that all construction had come to a halt and so in April the builder was again informed that he was in violation and asked to halt all construction. On May 13 Sherman Stacy, one of Gotanda's lawyers wrote the Attorney General admitting many of the violations at the Playa del Rey site and offering to resolve the issue by removing the illegally added square footage. On June 2 the Coastal Commission informed Stacy that it would accept this solution. But the builders, Gotanda and Grinberg, refused to comply with this agreement. In August attorney Stacy informed the Attorney General that his clients (who were then defendants in a law suit) were refusing to abide by the agreement. In a letter to the Attorney General the Coastal Commission urged that the suit be pressed. If the state did not move against Terraco Construction the Commission would be injured in its ability to "uniformly and fairly administer and enforce the Coastal Act, and defendants will have been allowed to perform development in violation of a plan, in flagrant violation of the Act." "If this violation is allowed to proceed" continued the latter, "other persons unwilling to abide by the outcome of the... permit procedures will be encouraged" to violate their approved permits. The Commission asked the Attorney General to press for heavy fines (\$10,000 and \$5,000 for each day in violation) "to deter further violations." The Commission formally charged that the defendants had "intentionally and knowingly" violated their permits.

The project at 1 Topsail continued to cause problems. On May 13 Stacy wrote the Commission admitting to certain violations as far as square footage was concerned and agreed to remove it. He did not agree that the building exceed the height limit by 8 feet, as now charged by the Commission. Although originally approved for 28 feet, the Commission had subsequently allowed other buildings to go as high as 45 feet and that had become the accepted standard on the Peninsula. Stacy argued that his client therefore should be permitted to build to that limit, because if he had reapplied for approval the Commission would have permitted it. Of course, Gotanda had not bothered to apply. But even with such permission, he was still, by Commission figures, 8 ft over. The dispute was resolved by the Attorney General who opined that the 8 foot overage was inconsequential and that he advised against pressing that particular point.

The question of the excess square footage however remained. Although Stacy had agreed that it would be removed on May 13, it was by now late in August and no action had been taken to implement the agreement. The Attorney General called Mr. Stacy who told him that "Mr. Grinberg refused to remove the offending room, and that Mr. Grinberg did not feel he had ever agreed to remove it." The Attorney General reminded Stacy of his May 13 letter and the lawyer "admitted an agreement had been reached, but indicated he could not control his client."

Terraco's brazenness was too much for the Attorney General who had hoped to settle the case through negotiations and he now began to press for a trial date. Gotanda and Grinberg finally began to negotiate. Terraco hired a new law



firm, Stacy withdrawing from the case because, as he said, he didn't have the time to pursue it the way he would have liked, and negotiations to head off a trial were begun in earnest. The new law firm began these negotiations with a set of claims, i.e. that their client had suffered \$155,000 in losses as a result of vandalism, increased interest payments, and lost income as a consequence of the delays caused by the Coastal Commission's interventions. The best defense is always a good offense. Realizing that Terraco was in massive violation and caught dead to rights and that, as a consequence, the firm faced huge fines and perhaps more, the firm suggested that since Terraco had already suffered huge losses, it would be unfair to impose civil and punitive fines on top of these. Besides those losses were unnecessary and resulted from the ineptness of the Coastal Commission staff which was dilatory in pursuing the case. The Attorney General essentially accepted Terraco's approach, despite the fact that the delays which occasioned these losses, seemed to be the result of obstruction and obfuscation by the defendants. In a telephone interview Mr. Keeler, the deputy Attorney General, maintained that all parties were, in part, responsible, not just the defendants. The stage was set for a negotiated settlement. Terraco would plead guilty to substantial violations but its "losses" would be taken into consideration when the fines were levied against it.

By late April or early May word of the developing settlement reached the Coastal Commission staff, which had not been a party to the negotiations. There was sentiment for opposing the terms of the settlement. Some staffers suggested that all fines be forgotten, but all violations should be put right, the buildings to be brought into conformity with the approved plans. The Attorney General was not sympathetic to this position. On May 8 the California Coastal Commission met in executive session. Its staff was not asked to testify on the matter. On May 9 the Attorney General wrote a letter to Terraco's lawyers which began: "Dear Rick" "As you know the South Coast Regional Commission held an executive session regarding the above case on Monday, May 8." "As a result of the meeting the Commission determined that it would settle."

The first draft of that negotiated settlement, a settlement to which the staff, or some of it, objected, was as follows. Judgement to be rendered in favor of the Coastal Commission, against the defendants. Terraco to be assessed the following penalties. - 17 Ketch. As a fine for altering original plans without approval \$5,000, to be offset by \$4,000, "in recognition of losses already suffered by defendant."

- 30 Quarterdeck - none of the violations would be corrected. Fine of \$2,500, offset by \$1,500 in recognition of losses already suffered.

- 1 Topsail - "The changes which have been made in the dwelling... without Coastal Commission approval... are so numerous and substantial that the building would have to be extensively rebuilt in order to bring it into compliance." "To require such extensive changes at this stage of construction would serve no useful purpose." Fine \$10,000 plus \$5,00 in damages, offset by \$12,500, "in recognition of losses already suffered."

- 62130 O. F. W. - Make alterations in building and pay fine of \$5,000, to be offset by \$4,000 in recognition of losses already suffered.

In sum, the total fines and exemplary damages amounted to \$27,500, but would be offset by accepted losses of \$22,000, so that the real fine paid would have been \$5,500. This fine amounted to a slap on the wrist. At the executive session the Coastal Commission balked at this settlement and a compromise was reached.

The final stipulated judgement approved by the Superior Court on Sept. 21, 1978 was as follows: 17 Ketch- fine of \$5,000; 30 Quarterdeck - fine of \$5,000; 1 Topsail - Conform to 45 ft height limit and remove the 5th floor, plus fine of \$2,500; - 62130 O. F. W. - remove excess square footage and a fine of \$2,500.

The sum total of fines was \$15,000. Terraco was ordered to deed restrict each of its buildings to the number of units stipulated in the permits. The court sanctioned settlement also forbid Terraco Corporation, its agents or representatives from making any changes in any building plans approved by the Coastal Commission.

Despite the fact that the final settlement represented an almost 300% increase in assessed fines it would be incorrect to believe that equity resulted from this decision. Although the agreement stipulated that much of the illegal square footage added to the project on Ocean Front Walk in Playa del Rey and on the Topsail project was to be removed, it appears that 1,600 square feet illegally built at the Ketch and Quarterdeck sites was permitted to remain. According to knowledgeable sources, developed property on the Peninsula currently sells for between \$100 and \$150 per square foot. The remaining bootlegged square footage could thus be worth as much as \$160,000. When construction cost of \$30 per square foot are subtracted one ends up with an theoretically profit of about \$100,000. Subtract the fines of \$15,000 and one still comes up with a profit of \$85,000. If such a profit represents a realistic figure it would call into question both the justness and equity of this agreement. Of course the defendants claimed they suffered losses far in excess of this potential profit. But if, as it may appear to some, that the losses resulted from their own actions and were not the responsibility of the State, then the need for balancing is eliminated.

The Terraco case was unique in that a series of blatant violations of the Coastal permit process occurred, and in that the violator was pursued and punished. Whether the punishment was sufficient and whether it will serve as a deterrent to others is up to the reader to decide. Several weeks ago, two more violations were filed against Charles Gotanda and Terraco Construction.

ANIMALS ALIVE

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PROTECTION FROM SLURS

BY SHARON BAS HANNAH

One thing that really makes me angry is the way most thin people respond with disbelief when I tell them I am called names on the street. Here are some recent insults:

1) I was coming back from a stroll on the beach, with my slacks rolled above my knees, showing my large calves and hairy legs. Three tennagers went out of their way to walk past me so I'd be sure to hear their comment: "legs like a man."

2) I went to a thrift shop that specializes in 1940's style clothes. In the shop, there were many beautiful and inexpensive dresses for fat women, from that time period. I said to a "hip-looking" thin woman, "Isn't this place fascinating?" and I noticed that the woman seemed to be giving me an odd look. Then she and her friend, who was also thin, looked at me as I tried on a turquoise oriental robe. As I stood a few feet away, I "overhear" one of them say, "You know, it's really hard to find the right fitting clothes here because most of these dresses were made for women who look like elephants." Hearing this, I said to them, "And they should still make clothes that way. It just so happens that women who look like elephants were in style at that time!" Soon thereafter, the women departed.

3) At a poetry reading the poet used such paraphrased images as "slender foxes" and "thin raindrops." Afterward, I suggested to her that she try using some fat images too. A thin admirer of hers turned to me with eyes of hate, saying, "But she used words like round and full." "But full, round, aren't the same as fat," I said. I had to repeat this once more, to be heard. "We have to re-learn our aesthetics," I said, "to make art without looksist or ageist images." (She'd also said "young breasts.") Then I walked away, shaking.

4) I went with some fat friends, who are a fat support and political action group, to an ice cream chop. The place was crowded with slim people. At last it was our turn to order. While we ordered, a woman in line behind us joked to her male companion, "They're from Weight Watchers and tonight's their night off." I heard her, turned around, and said, "We're not from Weight Watchers, and we believe fat is beautiful." The couple, startled, and finding themselves stared at by five angry fat women, retreated to a corner of the room. Said Lynn, a member of our group; "You can bet they'll never dare say anything like that again."

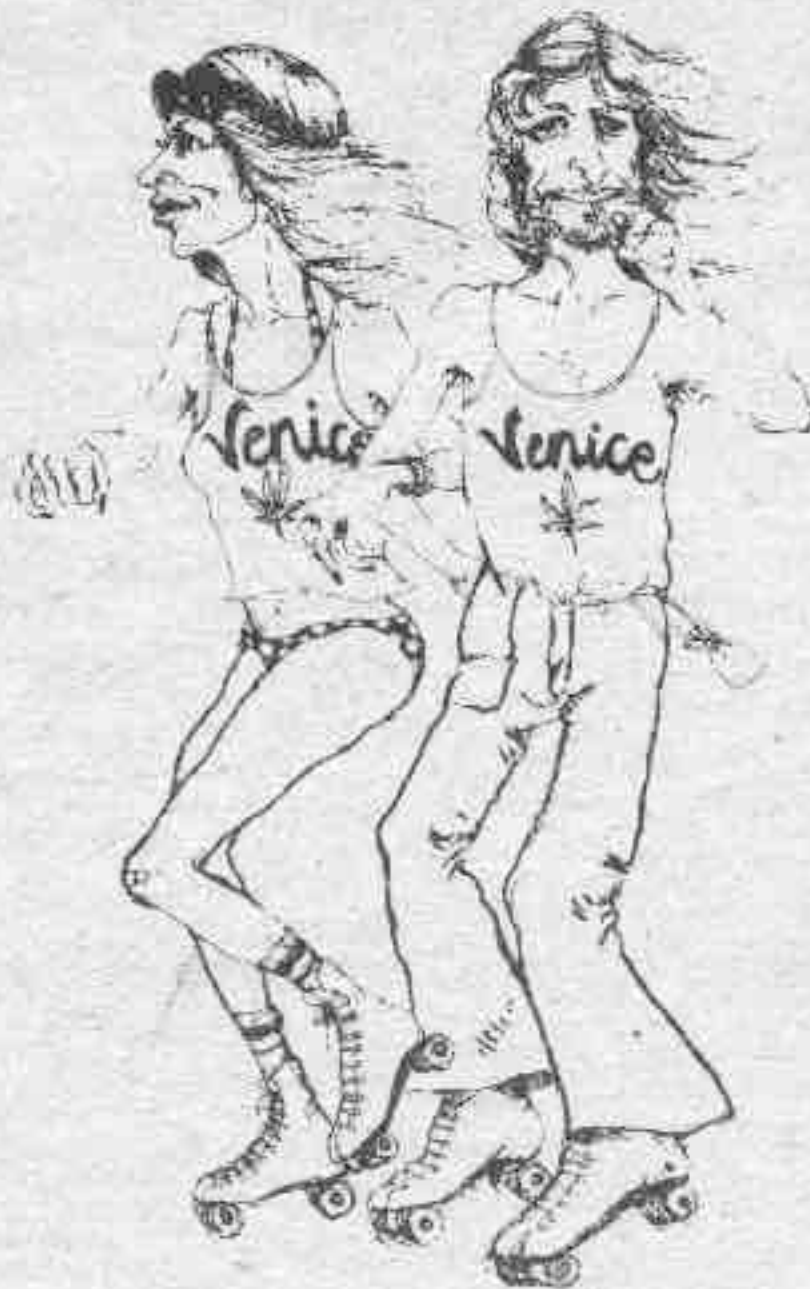
In more refined neighborhoods, people don't shout insults, or even whisper things that fat people "overhear." Instead, they stare, which is perhaps less honest. After a while, you can sense who's going to be twisting their heads around after you walk past them, and you can surprise them by staring right back at the exact moment, even making faces!

When "little street rapes" occur, I try to instantly remind myself that what they are seeing is not something ugly in me, but rather, a reflection of themselves and their own dissatisfactions, encompassing unrealistic values of success and beauty. I also give myself permission to dress in various self-styled costumes. Such unconventionality, as with any social non-conformity, is given less approval when someone who's already a social outcast does it. (i.e. Rich people who odd things are called "eccentric", while poor people who do the same odd things may get locked up for being "crazy".)

Visualizing a circle of light around yourself is a good protection from slurs. Also, body centering, using the martial art form of aikido, works this way for protection. When under stress it's also good to breathe in a relaxed, even way. These methods, as with any skill, require practice, discipline and effort. But we would not need these methods of protection if fat women could walk down the street or the beach without being harassed.



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14 I COULD HAVE DANCED ALL NIGHT

by Mary Davenport

The Idea Company or Institute for Dance and Experimental Art at 5th and Santa Monica Boulevard is among other things a place for people who like to dance.

Friday night a friend and I ascend the stairs to a large, airy, well-lighted studio. We pay a \$3.00 donation and remove our shoes, the only requirements for entrance. At one end of the room is a rag-tied rug covered with cushions. A low cabinet along the top of the stairwell holds shoes of every description and size: sandals, Adidas, loafers, high spiked heels, boots, ballet slippers, Mary Janes, oxfords and tennies. There is a comparable assortment of dancers on the polished, hardwood dance floor.

Everyone looks relaxed, mellow and slightly self-pleased. The casual atmosphere has the immediate effect of easing the Big Daddy apprehensions I have been harboring. I join the people on the cushions. My friend joins the dancers.

The music is eclectic, ranging from big band to classical to jazz to folk rock. The dancers seem to like all of it.

For me, part of the comfortable aspect of the Friday night Idea Company dancing is the lack of a hustle scene. How can there be when few people dance as couples and where there are children, teenagers, even an occasional grandmother or grandfather. Of course the majority are young adults, coming in families, alone, in couples or with a group of friends. Yet once there, everyone seems to melt into the whole, no cluster of buddies in one corner or family thing in the other. Everyone dances with everyone else in a neighborly, communal fashion.

As I listen to the music, I watch the dancers. There is the disco couple, he in white pants, a little too loose for the Travolta look and black tank top, she in a shimmery, copper-colored plunging leotard and black wrap-around skirt. On the floor which at peak number between 40 and 50, they are the only two obviously together. An older man in shorts and a hawaiian shirt, not long off the beach does something that looks suspiciously like a solo bunny hop. A Zen fellow in white handwoven cotton tunic and pants with a black beard and splendid

white teeth moves on the floor in what appears to be a religious experience. A pubescent 15 or 16 year-old young lady, surely stirred by tales of Isadora Duncan, twists and turns in an agony of abandon. A large woman in African print skirt and poncho top, gracefully sways across the floor, like a mother hen keeping a watchful eye on her children. The boisterous shouts and screams of children are totally absent, such is the affect of the low key atmosphere. A young man in tennis whites, navy trim shorts and placket front T-shirt complete with alligator applique does a modest hustle. Any attire seems appropriate, any style of dancing. I feel completely at ease doing my 60's version of the frug. I even manage a cha-cha when the music takes off on a brief tropical jaunt.

In the back room is food: sliced oranges, celery and dip and carrot cake. The luke warm, vaguely herbal tea leaves something to be desired but there is plenty of cold, fresh water to quench the thirst.

Starting about a year and a half ago, the Friday night dancing is an outgrowth of improvisational dance classes given at the Institute. "It's all very well to teach improvisational dance but there are no real outlets for individual self-expression in the social context," says director Claudia Chapline, the person responsible not only for opening the studio on Friday nights but for founding the Institute in 1974.

Dedicated to the development of the contemporary arts, the Institute has a teaching staff of about ten, sponsors many guest artists in dance or art (six are presently funded by the GETA program)

and houses a dance theatrical group, appropriately named the Idea Company.

Although normally the Institute charges a nominal fee for dance lessons, starting in August and September as a public service made possible by CETA, weekly dance workshops for adults and bi-weekly dance-drama classes for 6th grade level children will be available at no cost to all interested. Pre-registration is required. Call or write The Idea Company, 522 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica 90401. Telephone 395-0456. ☆

INSURGENCY AND THE VENICE CONNECTION

BY Annette F. Robinson

What starts out in Venice as a private dispute between landlord and tenant, pedestrian and dog owner, homeowner and street cleaner, often progresses into an insurgency action, a revolt for the common good without belligerence. In this way, we have forced compliance and change, and kept the "Steamroller" away.

When insurgency fails completely in this form of government we do not get a bloody revolution and a new political party. Nor (except in rare instances) do we engage in organized disruptive forms of protest such as general boycotts, national sit-down strikes, marches on agencies and government chambers, mass bank withdrawals to reduce interest rates, protest leaders going to jail, hunger strikes, and the like.

When our taxes are misspent, our needs overlooked, justice miscarried, our investments blown away, we do not take up rebellion or arms. We try hearings, debates, letters meetings, newspaper articles, civil actions, court rulings, new laws and elections.

When none of this works, we give up. And a new class of citizens, hatched out of speculation, driven into power by default, arrives victorious -- and just as self-righteous as if riding on top of a column of tanks. ●●

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could attend and oppose the project. Six BANA members flew, at their own expense, to Burlingame to participate in the appeal.

A few days before the hearing, BANA was notified that the State Commission staff was recommending that our appeal had no substantial issue. If the State Commission approved the staff recommendation then there would be no public hearing on the appeal. BANA was given 3 minutes to state why the appeal should be heard. We stressed that no condo project had ever been approved by the Commission on the North Venice Beachfront and the presence of such construction would set a dangerous precedent for further condos as well as erode the low and moderate housing that exists today. Therefore, a public hearing was obviously justified.

Once again the grave concerns of our community were ignored. Incredibly, the State Commissioners voted that our appeal had no substantial issue! BANA members representing the Venice community who had flown to Burlingame, were not even allowed to speak in a public hearing.

Outraged by the callous indifference of the State Commissioners, BANA is seriously considering legal action against the State Commission to allow a public hearing. BANA needs your support and financial help to continue the struggle to save our community from becoming Marina II!!

HOW YOU CAN HELP TO SAVE VENICE

Since Venice is OUR community we are asking that the people of Venice who want to save Venice from "Marinafication" and therefore be able to remain as residents help in the following ways:

- (1) Send your contributions to BANA to help pay legal costs. Address: 31 Breeze Ave. (Make checks payable to BANA.)
- (2) Send letters to the State Coastal Commission expressing your outrage at their approval of this condo project without a public hearing. Appeal #336-78.

Address: State Coastal Commission
631 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Send copies of the above letters to Governor Brown (He was the one that formed the Coastal Commission in the first place!)

Address: State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

If you have any questions call 396-1007 for more information.

was \$21,000. Jerry Brown will probably run for the presidency in 1980, a much more expensive enterprise.

As it stands now there won't be any decision until November 9th (two days after the elections). Between now and then the P.U.C. and Western L.N.G. are going to have "open hearings", at which the public will have no voice, to determine when and if the trenching will begin again.

On the other side the "People" are preparing for the winter. Round houses are being built and a new kitchen and storage area is nearly completed. When this is done, the sacred fire, which has been lit since they first arrived, and the sacred sweat lodge, will be moved to the new camp on higher ground.

The "People" will stay here through the winter and longer if need be. They are not going to let this sacred ground be desecrated again. They are a peaceful and very spiritual people and do not want a violent confrontation. But if they are forced, they will die for what they believe in.

THE "PEOPLE" AT POINT CONCEPTION NEED YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT DESPERATELY. ALL DONATIONS OF MONEY, WHICH IS NEEDED MOST, CAN BE SENT TO:

Point Conception Spiritual Camp
American Nation Bank
Buellton Office
Buellton, California 93427

FOOD, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, CAMPING EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING CAN BE BROUGHT TO:

Mark Butler
1734 Sycamore Road
Topanga, California 90290
Tel. 455-2867

SUPPORT IN THE FORM OF A PROTEST LETTER SHOULD BE SENT TO:

Fred John, Executive Director
Public Utilities Commission
350 McAllister Street
San Francisco, Cal. 94102

ALSO WRITE GOV. BROWN, YOUR SENATOR, AND YOUR CONGRESSPERSONS.

Peoples History



November 20, 1969
Indians of All Tribes occupy Alcatraz Island for preservation of Indian culture; stay 19 months.

CONGRESS ENDS PARAQUAT FUNDING

(NORML) In a major victory in the continuing drive to stop the use of dangerous herbicides on marijuana fields in Mexico, the House and Senate gave final approval to legislation banning U.S. funds for Paraquat spraying after Oct. 1, 1978. Reps. Henry Waxman and George Miller, both of California, led the anti-paraquat forces. President Carter signed the bill Sept. 27.

when you see two women walking arm-in-arm or two men kissing, you are not alone. A most well-adjusted gay man can still freak when I take his arm in public or put my arm around him in a car. People should not be afraid to show affection outdoors! Heterosexuals aren't.

This is not to say that gays are more ripped-off than other groups. On the contrary, I know gays who consider themselves an "elite" and many gay men who are sexists (and thus self-destructive)--and they disgust me. Though we are oppressed by different means, it is all towards the same end: curtailing the freedom of many so that the freedom in our society is preserved for a few. And getting ourselves to see gayness is a natural thing will be as hard to reach as getting natural respect between the races. There has been too much gut-deep conditioning for too long.

AND IF IT PASSES?

When I first heard of Proposition 6, I vowed I would leave California if it passed. Well, that was nice melodramatics: it relieved a temporary upset, like over-the-counter medicines that don't do any good in the long run. But where would I go? Gays aren't doing well in such elections anywhere in the United States, and though I may move to New Zealand someday, homosexuality is outright illegal there. And, strange to say, I won't regret it if Proposition 6 passes. It's a back-lash reaction to gays at last speaking up, and fighting the self-righteous was never promised to be easy, or it would have been over long ago.

I will regret the misery 6 will bring to my brothers and sisters teaching school. I will regret how it'll remind some gays to keep on leading vampire lives: all night at the discos and into the closet at sunrise. I will regret that particularly because I won't get to hear well-meaning people ask "How come there's so many more gay people nowadays?" as I so often do now. For there aren't any more, we've just been speaking up. (Can you imagine, then, the silent oppression that's been grinding down countless souls for centuries now?) But I will not regret how 6 makes one thing brutally clear, and in every closet the message will be heard: It is not you who is wrong. It is your society. ♦♦

DIABLO LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

On August 6 and 7, 487 people were arrested at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant as they staged an occupation of the site and a blockade of the road leading to the plant. Those tried so far have received harsh sentences - in most cases the sentence has been 15 days, \$500 fine, and two year probation. Obviously the friends of the nuclear industry are trying to stop our protests by intimidation. Some fifty of the protesters are from Southern California, four coming from the Venice Santa Monica area. We need money for legal defense in the coming trials. You can help by coming to our benefit. Also, tax-deductible contribution may be sent to the ACLU Foundation of So. Calif., 633 So. Shatto Pl. Los Angeles 90005/ Sat., Nov 11, 8 pm. St. Augustine by the Sea 1227 4th St. S.M. Film of the Diablo Protest. Speakers. Refreshments, and Music. Donation \$2

CLASS STRUGGLE, THE STATE AND THE HEALTH CARE CRISIS

Oct 15 8 pm. Lecture and discussion sponsored by Venices' Midnight Special Bookstore. Vicenter Navaro, professor at John Hopkins and recognized as a leading Marxist analyst of health care politics and economics. He is author of Class Struggle, the State and Medicine, Medicine under Capitalism, and other works. 8 pm at Hope St. Hall 1329 S. Hope St., for blocks from LA Convention Ctr. \$2 & \$2.50

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FILM

FILMS AT SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIB.

Thurs., Nov 9 3 and 7:30 pm. "Nature's Half Acre, Wolf Pack, and Sanctuary". Three films focusing on wildlife make up this program. 67 min. 1343 6th St. 451-5751

POETRY

POETRY AT GEORGE SAND IN WLA

Wed. Nov 1, 8 pm. Music Concert. Original songs and music of B. Jarrell, C.J. Quarto, J. Phillips and D. Berglund.
Thurs. Nov. 2 8:30 Poetry of Jerome Rothenberg.
Thurs. Nov 9 8 pm. Poetry of G. Traucht.
George Sand 2076 Westwood Blvd. 474-4685

FREE POETRY AT VENICE PAVILION

Nov. 7 Stesart Lishan and Joanne Nilan
Nov. 14 Steve Martinot and Doris Dehne
Nov. 21 Robin Johnson and Rick Lowitz
Nov 28 Maryanne McFadden and Judy Brown
Tuesday evenings at 8 pm.

BEYOND BAROQUE CALENDER

Nov. 3, Fri 8 pm. Poetry of Ann Stanford
Nov. 4, Sat. 8 pm. Gallery Opening of Rifka Hirsch
Fri. Nov 10 8 pm. Poetry of Peter Schjeldahl
Sat. Nov 11 7:30 pm. Alto saxophone performance of original music by Jeff Harrington.
Fri., Nov. 17 8 pm Poetry of Marcus J. Grapes
Fri. Nov 24. Thanksgiving Weekend.

Workshops

Journal Writing with Lea Schweitzer. 6 Mondays
Nov. 13-Dec. 18 7 pm.
Beginning and Intermediate Fiction Writing. 6
Tuesdays with Lawrence Calmus 8 pm.
1639 W. Washington Blvd., Venice info 392-5763

MUSIC

UP FROM THE ASK GROVE

Ed Pearl, Venice activist and former operator of the famed club, The Ash Grove will host a weekly 90 minute show dealing with the extra-ordinary musical, dramatic, and political presentations for which the club was famous. The first show, Nov. 4, will connect some of the traditional great players who formed the base of the Grove: Doc Watson, Bessie Jones & the Georgia Sea Islanders, Mance Lipscombe, Bill Monroe, and some of the young artists whom they influenced incl. Clarence White Ry Kooder, Taj Mahal.

Nov. 11 will focus on jazz with guest John Hunt of the Gerald Wilson show on KBCA. Nov. 18, Sherry Barnett, manager and musician with the New Miss Alice Stone Ladies' Society Band, will look at "Unsung Heroines" devoted to fine but neglected artists in non-traditional women's roles. KPFF, 7:30-9 pm. Wed. 90.7 FM

McCABE'S PROGRAM

Nov. 3 Bluegrass Blowout; Bottom Dollar String Band; High Window Boys
Nov. 4 Jean Ritchie; Bessie Jones.
Nov. 5 Children's Concert with Bessie Jones
Nov. 10 Time Hardin
Nov 17 John Hammond; Roosevelt Sykes

ASTROLOGY

METAPHYSICAL SEMINAR SERIES

Sat. Nov 4 Major Progressions 1-4:40 pm pt.1
Sun Nov 5 pt. 2 1-4:30 fee,
Sat. Nov. 11 Hermetic Philosophy 1-4:30 fee
Sun No.12 Financial Success Through Astrology 1-5
Sat Nov. 18 Chart Interpreting. 3 sessions 10:30 am to 5:30 pm.
Sun. Nov. 19 Astrology and Happiness in Everyday Life. 1-4:30 pm
All Classes have FREE at Fantasy Meets Reality
132 Broadway Sm. info. 451-3461

COMMUNITY EVENTS

WOMEN

WOMONSPACE ACTIVITIES

Womonspace is now going to be open and staffed after being closed most of the summer. It has enough volunteer help to be open 5 days per week. Ceta funding has been cut and it greatly needs money to pay expenses. If you have any time to put into your woman's center, please call 399-9813

Calendar of Events

Tuesdays. Fat Underground. Ongoing, open grp 7 pm
Wednesdays. Nonviolent Feminists study group open to all interested women 6 pm.
Thursdays Radical Therapy drop-in group, open to all women, 7 pm. Suggested donation \$5, unemployed \$2. More info 391-2186
Fridays Potluck dinners on 3rd Friday of each month. Entertainment. Nov. 17.
Saturdays Open Staff Meeting 11 am
OWL (Older Women's Liberation) general meeting. Last Sat. 10 am-1 pm.
Coffeehouse, vegetarian cuisine, entertainment 8 pm.
Sundays OWL open rap. 3-5 pm.
Women's Creative Growth Group, using art and poetic medium to explore personal and social issues of women 8-10 pm. Donation
Womonspace 237 Hill St. Santa Monica 399-9813

WOMAN'S BUILDING PROGRAM

Sat. Nov 4 10 am. Auto Mechanics, Pt. 11.
Healthful Chinese Cooking
Sun. Nov 5, 12 noon. Sapphic Education
Sat. Nov. 11, 10 am. Journal Workshop for Women
Getting Known, Being Shown.
Sun. Nov 12 12 noon. Lesbian Relationships.
Your Body is Your Expression.
Sat. Nov. 18 10 am. Anatomy of a Book, M. Lecky.
Sun., Nov. 19. 12 noon. Lesbian Body
Sun., Nov 26 12 noon Lesbian Writing.
Sat. Dec. 2, 10 am. How to be Successfully Single in a Couple Society.
Feeling to Form.
The Journal & Creative Writ.
Sun., Dec. 3 12 noon. I Dream in Female.
Woman's Building 1727 N. Spring info. 221-6161

HEALTH CLASSES FOR WOMEN

Nov. 6, Mon. 7 pm. Self Defense. Betty Brooks, a member of So. Calif Rape Hotline Alliance, instructor at CSULB, and feminist. Her techniques get right to the point. She can tap any woman's strength, show us how to turn fear into anger, embarrassment into dignity.
Nov. 13, Mon. 7 pm. Flow with Your Cycle. With Laura Birns. Natural, holistic ways of staying healthy and healing, such as nutrition, accupressure, herbs and breathing.
Nov. 20, Mon. 7 pm. Herbs with Gail McDonald. Sharing knowledge of local and common herbs & discuss how to prepare them. Plans for an on going herb workshop will be discussed.
Nov. 27 Mon. 7 pm. Menopause and Hysterectomy. Suzanne Morgan, instructor at USA and Loyola, will offer personal and research info on hysterectomy and menopause. Topics: alternatives to estrogen, hospital procedures, decisions, regarding hysterectomy etc.
Westside Women's Clinic 1711 Ocean Park Blvd. Santa Monica. info. 450-2191

ACTIVIST WOMEN NEEDED BY SHELTER

Battered women need shelters. Shelters need you SOJOURN is a women's shelter offering refuge and supportive services for battered women and their children. The SOJOURN collective which operates the shelter is now seeking new volunteers. Collective members must be willing to make a six month, 13 hr. per week commitment. SOJOURN is also seeking women with less time who would be interested in working with shelter task forces in areas such as children's advocacy, fundraising, second stage housing, cultural-recreational programming, and transportation. For info. 399-9228

WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED

Single women who have deliberately become single mothers, including planned pregnancy. Need to interview for article. Elaine 748-0321 or 799-3207

DANCE

CRYSTAL BALL AND FOTOS AT I.D.E.A.

Through the Crystal Ball. A Performance by Nancy Cutts. In her performances she takes a somewhat tragic situation in the life of a young woman in today's world and adds to it a touch of sparkle, magic, and fantasy. Nov. 4 8. p.m. \$2

Sunday, Nov. 12 at 8 pm. Photographs - Do not Bend by Robert Davey. The purpose of the event is to reveal, in concrete form, the fantasies which whirl through the photographer's mind. These will be the 'untaken' photos. Davey will present an outrageous selection of various forms of personal expression, all designed to elicit strong emotional response. \$5

Idea Company 522 Santa Monica Blvd. 395-0456

PACIFIC MOTION DANCE STUDIOS

Fri, Sat. Nov 17, 18 Jeff Slayton Concert, new works by former member of Merce Cunningham Dance Co. Also large variety of dance classes. FEE 1621 W. Washington Blvd. Venice info 392-3931

ART

SPARC SPARC SPARC

Social and Public Arts Resource Center

Nov 4 -Nov.18 Community of Venice invited to the Staff art show. The exhibit will include works in various media: sculpture, painting, photography, 685 Venice Blvd. (City Hall) info. 822-9560

COMMUNITY

VENICE CIVIC UNION SPEAKS

from their Newsletter

Bums on the Beach and Windward

The Venice Civic Union is joining with the Women's Chamber of Commerce to find humane ways of dealing with the problem of beach bums. Animals are treated better. A sick dog is picked up by the Humane Society. We can do better than to let this situation go on without a place for these people to go to get help and lodging.

Safe and Clean Streets

Thousands of civic minded, middle-income Venetians have left Venice because of crime, littered streets, dogs running loose and high taxes. Real Estate interests have had a field day while the most concerned citizens feel they are forced to flee. How many might have stayed despite high offers for their property if the city was clean and crime controlled? How many more will leave because of these conditions?

ECOLO - HAUL

A New concept in community recycling centers has been opened at 10309½ National Blvd., WLA. The center, which accepts newspaper, bond paper, and aluminum cans, will buy these recycling prone products from those who deliver them. The hours are M-F 7:30-4:30. For info on this community buy back program call 836-2100

FREE FOR ALL NEW CO-OP FORMED

The purpose of Free for All is to provide a means by which members can obtain services from each other at no cost. It differs from an exchange or barter system in that the services are freely shared--there is no need to "balance out" what is used against what is given. Among the 100's of services currently offered are sewing and alterations, writing and editing, typing and stenography, astrology, cooking, auto repair, psychological testing, sailing, and flying. For further info call 826-9665

DIDI HIRSCH COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28. 8-10 pm. "What is it Really Like to be Old." Series will include reports on up-to-date professional thinking on aging; all participants encouraged to ask frank questions. 4760 S. Sepulveda Cul. City 390-6618 for reserv.