



FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968

BEACHHEAD

SEPTEMBER 1975 ISSUE NO. 69 BOX 504, VENICE, CALIFORNIA PHONE: 396-9325, 396-1941, 392-8239 or 821-2923

BEACHHEAD BENEFIT?
CHECK ONE: ☐ IS ☐ WAS
AUGUST 30, 6 P.M.
30 WAVECREST
TICKETS AT DOOR: \$2.50
CANAL FEST IN CANALS
-P.9
SOCIAL INSECURITY
-P.5
\$1500 FOR INJUSTICE
-P.4

PROPERTY TAXES WE GOT THE PRIZE

By Chuck Gross

Bleeding Venice got stuck real good this time. People here are usually on the short end of the stick when it comes to government services or protection, and now most of the community's land and buildings have been re-assessed at 60% to 115% higher values, for property taxes, by Los Angeles County Tax Assessor Philip E. Watson. It isn't just a big property tax increase, it's the second biggest increase anywhere in Los Angeles County this year.

Venice property valuations have been doubled like this, not because a construction industry fairy in a hard hat flew over us one summer day and built twice as much valuable stuff. No, it's because Philip Watson thinks this is what should happen in Venice. His tax assessor's office does not value property based on how the property is used at the present. Instead, tax men figure property values at what they think would be the property's so-called "best use" in the future.

In other words, if a piece of land has a cottage on it now, or a funky old building or a small home, but some day the land could, theoretically, have a high-rise hotel sitting on it, or a luxury home or a freeway, then the tax assessor's office pre-tends such lavish development has already happened on the land. So they say the land is worth twice as much right now. In fact, they say this even if the imagined development would be next door or down the street from the property in question. This is a very speculative approach to valuing property, but this is how the "best use" theory works for deciding how much a piece of property is "really" worth for taxes.

Why the county tax assessor applies this kind of concept is a good question. What it means, though, is that renters and small homeowners in Venice have another giant tax increase on their hands. It probably won't hurt big landlords much, because most likely they'll just pass the cost on to their tenants by raising rents -- a lot.

Besides the "best use" theory, the tax men have another explanation that they believe dictates raising our taxes. It's a bit contradictory.

In 1973, Venice got a huge property tax increase like this year's because

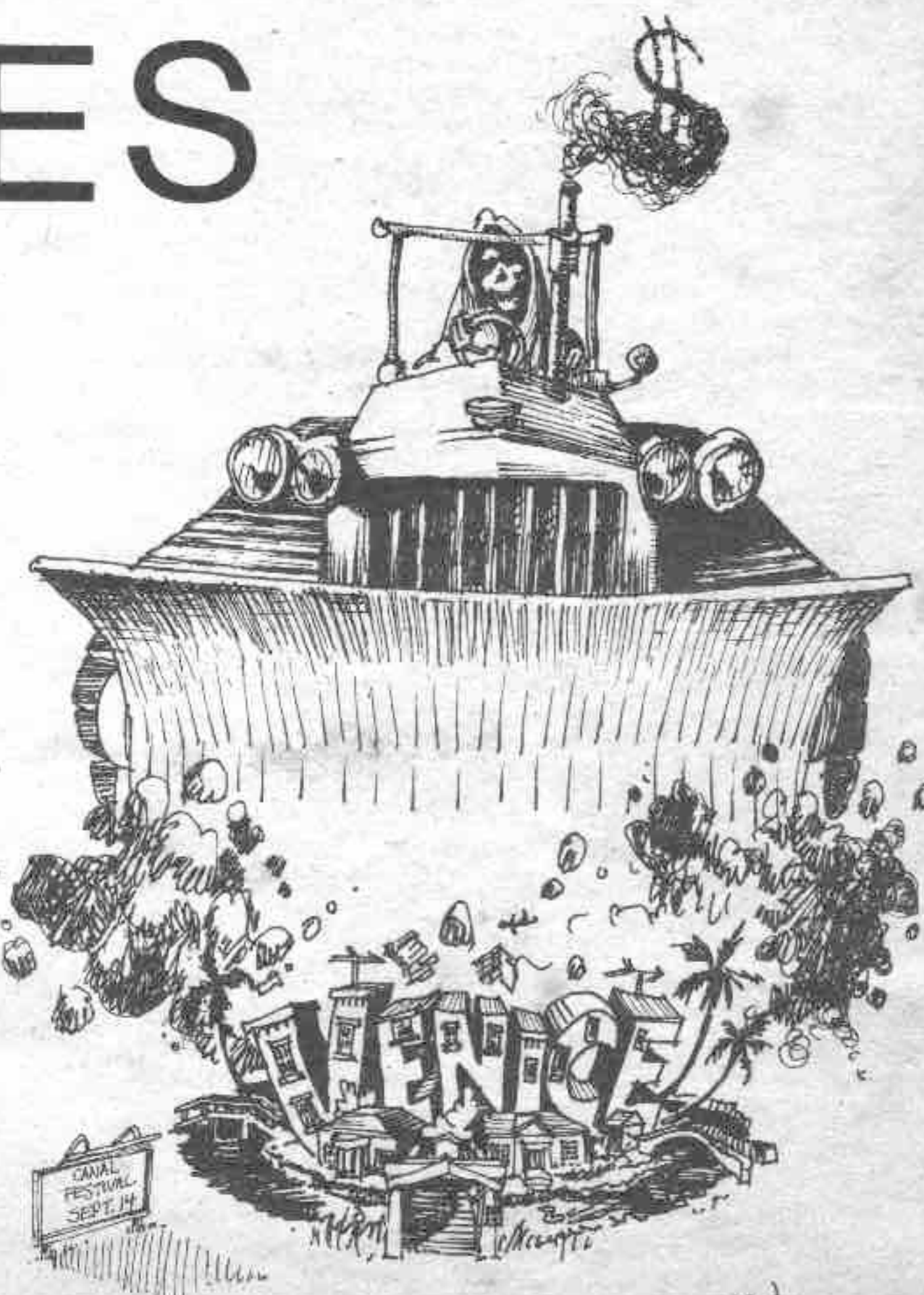
tax assessor thought Venice looked t for developers. Nearly undiluted "best use" theory explained the 1973 increase. This time, however, they say that property is also worth more in Venice even though there will not be development as fast as it seemed in 1973. For instance, the Nixon/Marina Freeway extension has been stopped, and the Coastal Commission slows things down somewhat. According to the "best use" theory then, this year you wouldn't expect Venice property values to be much higher.

But Mr. Watson has this other reason for upping property values here. It's "the popularity of the Venice lifestyle." Except a lot of the residents of Venice who are involved in the "informal lifestyle" that tax men admire so much, a lot of these people won't be living here much longer when they can't pay the next rent increase.

Moreover, the biggest increases in all of Venice, the increases of 115% in property valuation, were in the Oakwood community. What's the so-called "popular," "informal Venice lifestyle" got to do with life in the carefree Oakwood community? It isn't even at the beach, but Mr. Watson stomped people there the worst, with 115%.

If this isn't too far out, maybe it's because Oakwood voted more strongly for Mayor Bradley than other parts of Venice. It's interesting to speculate this way, since most of the other property valuation increases were on the liberal west side of Los Angeles, where among other things white people voted for a black mayor more than in most other areas. Just like Oakwood stands out in Venice, the west side stands out compared with most other parts of Los Angeles. According to one news item, after the tax assessor took care of the west side, he "ran out of staff" and didn't have anyone left to raise valuations in much of the rest of the county.

Why else does Venice get a special prize, though, of the second highest property tax increase in the county? Is it because "that element" is so disgusting anyway? Look at how they live. They probably just deserve whatever they get. They're always asking for it.



venice renters league

By Edwin Pearl

Over the past few years rents in Venice and Ocean Park have been raised between 25% and 300%. Many people who had been paying \$85 for singles a year or two ago are now spending \$165 for the same, ever more run down place, now, often with a room mate. Only small, though brave protest actions have diverted the landlord-developer-governmental sweep of poor people from their homes in the beach area.

These rent raises were put on us without any significant raises in the landlords property taxes. But now, Phillip Watson the tax assessor has just raised the taxes on our homes up to 300%, with some of the highest raises landing on the poorest, black and chicano residents.

The Venice Town Council, together with the homeowners, the renters and some small landlords, has begun a struggle against this latest assault by the assessor and developers. We applaud and support its fight. But we must also understand that it is we the renters who will ultimately pay those tax bills through higher rents - or we will move over for those willing and able to pay.

HOW WILL THIS HAPPEN? You've seen it before. Your next-door neighbor moves because his rent is upped. Across street a nice landlady has to sell because she can't make the taxes. The new owner immediately doubles the rent for the four tenants, three of whom are forced to move. You, yourself, begin choosing between rent and food. Soon, people are also moving because the newer, wealthier tenants don't like them, call the police on "strange" types, etc., etc. This scenario has been happening more and more lately, and could be an everyday reality when the tax bills come due in December and February.

CAN WE DO ANYTHING TO PROTECT OURSELVES? The only honest answer is "perhaps." But it is certain that most of us will be out very soon unless we begin working intelligently, together, and right away.

Continued on page 2

GET OFF YOUR ASSESSMENT

By Peter Galbraith

People concerned about effects the recent hike in the L.A. County property tax assessments will have on rents in Venice should know such tax information is part of the public record and easy to obtain if you know where to go and what to ask for.

This article will enable you to estimate a raise in rent by comparing the 1974 and 1975 property taxes your landlord is required to pay.

The process for making the rent increase estimate involves some basic arithmetic and spending a couple of hours going downtown to the L.A. County Hall of Administration to obtain a few tax figures. You are entitled to property tax information and the civil servants will readily assist citizens,

especially those who know what to ask for. The remainder of this article will supply you with those questions.

The Hall of Administration is located at 500 W. Temple St. Entering the building through the Temple Street entrance you find yourself on the third floor. Take the escalators on the right down to the first floor. At Room 130 -- Tax Collector's Office, Real Estate -- inform one of the clerks behind the long desk on the right you want to know the 1974 taxed paid on the property where you are living. They will need your address.

The clerk, after using a microfilm machine for a few minutes, will return with several numbers which you should

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Assessment..

Continued from Page 1

take down: the Map Book, Page and Parcel numbers which locate the property in the county records. You will also be given the 1974 value of the property and the value of the "improvements;" improvements meaning the building. Together the total of these numbers the assessed value on which the landlord was taxed in 1974.

The clerk will also give you the amount paid in taxes in 1974. Be sure to get the tax rate which is in dollars of tax per hundred dollars of property value, and get the number of the Tax Rate Area, which you will need later.

You now have the taxes paid by your landlord on the property in 1974. In order to determine the tax increase, you need to compare the 1974 figures with the new assessment figures which you will find in the basement of the same building, one floor down.

Go to Room B-4 -- Assessment Appeals Boards, directly across the hall from the cafeteria. As you walk into the room there are bookshelves along the walls and tables and chairs in the center. On the end of each bookshelf there is an index. Using the Map Book, Page, and Parcel numbers you can find the volume in which the property is listed. Select the appropriate volume and take it to one of the tables in the center of the room. The pages of the volume consist of vertical columns of information corresponding to parcels of property listed on the left. The Map Book, Page, and Parcel numbers are listed down one of the center columns. If you have trouble finding the correct volume or page, or have any questions concerning the meaning of any of the figures, ask one of the clerks in the room for help.

In other columns you will find the newly assessed property value, and the new value of the improvements. Noting these two figures you now have all the information needed to estimate your rent increases.

The 1975 tax rate has not yet been set; it will be announced sometime in September. You can use the 1974 tax rate in figuring the taxes for 1975, although this will make the estimate less than the actual tax increase because in all probability the rate will be increased.

In figuring our rent increase estimate you may find the form provided here helpful. By the time you leave the Hall of Administration you should have filled in lines (a) through (d). Adding lines (c) and (d) you will obtain the 1975 taxable property value based on the new assessment.

Next you use the 1974 tax rate (b) to find the projected 1975 taxes. The 1974 tax rate will be a number like 14.0401. This means that for each \$100 of assessed property value the owner pays \$14.04 in taxes. For your calculations you should round off the 1974 tax rate (b) to two decimal places, remembering to increase the last remaining number by 1 if the dropped number next to it is 5 or more. Thus 14.0447 is rounded off to 14.04, and 15.0352 becomes 15.04.

By taking the taxable value (f) and moving the decimal point two places to the left, you obtain the number of \$100 units of property value taxed at the given rate. If the property value (f) is \$7525, moving the decimal point two places to the left makes (g) \$75.25.

Now multiply (g) times (b) to obtain the minimal taxes expected for 1975 (h). To find the increase in taxes (i), subtract the 1974 taxes (a) from the projected 1975 taxes (h).

Assuming the landlord passes all the tax increase on to the renters equally, the estimated tax increase will be split by the number of units in the building. Dividing the projected taxes (h) by the number of units in the building gives

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Beyond Baroque - A Happening

By Lorrie Kazan

Linked Poems happened August 16 at Beyond Baroque. Poets met earlier that day in groups of three and composed poems which, by association, linked. I attended the first part of their reading. They were spirited and supportive of one another. Some of the poetry was good, some I found pretentious. I particularly liked one woman's poem which started out saying something to the effect "I wish I had a regular job"; continuing, she wanted a house that someone would rip off while she was in Las Vegas. She wanted something someone would want to steal.

I hoped to talk with this lady and persuade her to submit poems to the B'Head. I take the liberty of paraphrasing, realizing as I do so that she did have something someone wanted to steal.

the rent increase possible on each unit.

One way of getting downtown without fighting traffic and parking is to park outside the area of downtown and ride one of the mini-busses to within a few blocks of the Hall of Administration.

Take the Santa Monica Freeway to the Harbor Freeway, and immediately bear left so as to avoid exiting traffic for downtown. Follow the signs for the Pasadena Freeway. Take the Pasadena Freeway but get off at the first exit, Hill Street, following signs for Chinatown. The exit puts you on Hill Street in the direction of downtown. Turn right either at the first or second light, College or Alpine Streets. Within a block you will usually find parking on a residential street with no time restrictions, and no meters.

Walk back to Hill Street and go one block farther to Broadway. There you can pick up a mini-bus to downtown. Cost is only 10 cents, the bus runs often and the stops are convenient and distinctive.

Take the bus just past Temple Street. Two blocks west on Temple is the Hall of Administration Building.

When leaving the building from the basement room, return to the third floor and leave by the Temple exit. Walk east on Temple to Hill Street, where the mini-bus will return you to Chinatown. After you are again ensconced in your vehicle, drove towards downtown on Broadway. There will be a freeway on-ramp on the left before Temple Street. Take it for the Harbor Freeway.

Easier, cheaper and different is to take the RTD's Line 75 bus. The yellow one that stops (among other places) in front of Juergen's restaurant and the health food store at Windward and Pacific will take you to the very heart of the Civic Center. Cost is a quarter, takes an hour (bring a book) and you can ask the friendly driver for the best stop to reach the Hall of Administration. If you get off at City Hall, walk north to Temple (you'll be on Main). The Hall of Administration is four blocks west of Main on Temple.

to return to Venice catch the bus

ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR THE OCTOBER BEACHHEAD MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 20, 1975.

The FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published once a month 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 the ad donations. The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry, artwork, short fiction, or other contributions of interest to the Venice community (send them to P.O. Box 504, Free Venice, California 90201). If return of the material is desired, a stamped, self-addressed envelop must accompany it. No payment is made for material used. The Beachhead collective subscribes to Liberation News Service (LNS) and is a member of the Alternative Press Syndicate (APS). For information on deadlines, call TANK-YUK, 396-9325, 396-1941.



Renters..

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*Legal committees must be formed to fight each individual assault every step of the way, to make it as expensive as possible for the evictors.

*Legislative committees must contact sympathetic legislators, propose general and specific tenant laws, etc., much as a few have tried through the Coastal Commission.

*Research must be done into property ownership in Venice so we can use that information in our fight.

*We, ourselves must develop an inspection system to check on health and safety violations.

*And we must publicize what's happening both within the community as well as to renters similarly oppressed, as in Echo Park, Chatsworth, etc.

Our short range goal must be to make it as difficult as possible for landlords to raise the rent to unpayable heights, while struggling for the long range goals of rent ceilings for the poor and changing the current method of taxing without any consideration for who lives on the property, and how much money she/he/they can afford to pay for rent.

The Venice Renters League has just been formed by over 100 people as a response to this crisis. The committees, the block to block organizing; in short, the flesh and blood of the structure has yet to come into being. A temporary address (1102 W. Washington Blvd.) and phone 399-9553 await the community's response.

on Spring Street across from City Hall. Line 75 bound for Santa Monica.

You can eat cheaper in the cafeteria in the county building or on the tenth floor of City Hall than anywhere downtown, if you don't mind institutional food. Or you can brown bag it and picnic at some pleasant civic parking garage or helistop.

MAP BOOK	VOLUME
PAGE	TAX RATE
PARCEL	AREA

1974 TAXES	(a)
TAX RATE (per \$100)	(b)
1975 ASSESSMENT	
LAND VALUE	(c)
IMPROVEMENTS (Building Value)....	(d)
TOTAL TAXABLE VALUE Add (c) + (d).....	(f)
FAIR MARKET PRICE 4 Times (f).....	(f)
TOTAL TAXABLE VALUE...	(f)
Move Decimal in (f) Two Places to the left.....	(g)
1974 TAX RATE.....	(b)
MINIMUM 1975 TAXES Multiply (g) x (b)...	(h)
1974 TAXES.....	(a)
MIN. TOTAL TAX INCREASE Subtract (a) from (h).....	(i)
DIVIDE:	
(j) APPROX. RENT INCREASE	
UNITS ON PARCEL	(1) MIN. TOTAL TAX INCREASE
	(j).....
	(1).....
(Units)	
APPROXIMATE RENT INCREASE.....(j)	



TREATY TRAMPLED

By Red Bird

For over 100 years, the Homestead Mine Co. of San Francisco has been leasing the Black Hills of South Dakota from the U.S. government to mine gold. But how many of us know that the Black Hills belong to the Sioux Nation? Recently, the U.S. government has offered 17.4 million for the Black Hills but the Indians have turned it down. Some traditional Indians say that land is sacred and must not be sold. Others say it is a rip-off.

There is a treaty amongst many which the U.S. government has broken umpteen times. The treaty signed at Fort Laramie, Wyoming, in April 1868 by two independent nations, the Sioux and the U.S. is a legal document. The first paragraph of that treaty says that the two nations shall not make war on each other. The second paragraph defines the boundaries of the Sioux Nation and that includes much of land of Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota. Today, only a fraction of the original tract of this land is left to the Sioux Indian tribes and the Dept. of Interior means to rip even this off.

Very "subtly," the U.S. government appointed its own Dept. of Interior to deal with the leasing of mineral rights on the Indian reservations. Peabody Coal Co. is strip-mining the Black Mesa and destroying the land belonging to the Navajos. Westmoreland Coal Co., Kewanee Oil Co., Pennsylvania-Virginia Co., Morrison-Knudson Co., are all out to covet Indian land with the assistance of the Dept. of Interior, land that belongs to the Cheyennes and the Crows. The alarm of "energy shortage" is raised as a camouflage in the search for enormous profits at the expense of the Indian people.

The siege at Wounded Knee, 1973 raised the question of rip-offs. Before the warriors laid down their weapons, an agreement was reached that the Federal government consider the following:

1. The formation of a commission to examine the 371 broken treaties made with the Indian people.
2. The repeal of the Indian Re-organization Act of 1934 which helped make the rip-off of Indian lands easier for the U.S. government. It set up puppet governments, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to help steal the land and pacify the Indian people. An election free from violence and fraud on Pine Ridge was also demanded.



...and stay off!

3. A demand to deal with the whole matter of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the auditing of the books (corruption is rife on Pine Ridge) and the whole question of corporate interests versus Indian peoples' rights must be raised.

It is two years since these demands were made and presented to the U.S. government and they have been ignored. Instead the government takes the tactic of harassment of those who speak to their rights.

The traditional chiefs of the Sioux Nation, Chief Frank Fools Crow, Chief David Flying Hawk, Chief Luke Weasel Bear, Chief Charles Red Cloud, Chief Frank Kills Enemy, and Chief Matthew Bear Shield have unified the Sioux Nation. They will be facing the U.S. government in Washington to ask for a redefinition of the Treaty of 1868. And just as the FBI could not invade Canada, so could it not harass and intimidate the independent nation of the Sioux.

The Oglala-Sioux Lakota Nation with sacred pipe sends a prayer and a call for help to all directions, to the Grandfather Great Spirit, to the Grandmother Earth and to all life in between, to stand in support of the Sioux Nation which has formed its own council, the Lakota Treaty Council.

Funds and information to:
Lakota Treaty Council
Box 2337
Rapid City, South Dakota, 57701
(605) 348-5846

Too Poor to Live Here

Here is the song "Too Poor to Live Here". I'd like to preface the song by saying at the Renters League Rally, Aug. 17, it was referred to as the "Venice Anthem". While I like the flattery, the song is not done yet, because the story of Freeing Venice is not done yet. I wrote the song in 1971. It appeared in the June 1971 issue of the Free Venice Beachhead. It was stolen by Horst Schmidt-Brummer for his \$6.95 paper back book, VENICE, AN URBAN FANTASY, published in 1973. I stole the melody from Woody Guthrie, but I stole only to add my own words to a melody that Woody improvised on somewhere. And what I stole I gave away for free with my words. Mr. Brummer, on the other hand, stole my words and sold them for \$6.95. The whole book, by the way, is derivative and he took the images created by other people and sold them, ending with a crocodile tear for Venice--typical affluhip! The plagiarist didn't even send me a book! The trailer park that I referred to stood on the place where J. Allan Radford's tower now looms. There was nothing more low-income than that trailer court. Mr. Radford, liberal Mr. Radford, young Mr. Radford, hip Mr. Radford evicted those people to make room for his building that now squats indecently on Washington St. Mr. Radford went bankrupt on his building. He got rid of that tacky sleazy trailer court and now the new owners of the Radford Wreck want to crown that monstrosity with a Heliport, which as everyone knows, is much more appealing than the small trailers that used to park there. These were trailers--not those huge "mobile homes" that need a truck to move them from place to place.

--Carol Fondiller

(To be played for free, but if ya make any money, send it to me!!) --C.F.

TOO POOR TO LIVE HERE

by Carol Fondiller

(To the tune of Woody Guthrie's
"So long, it's been good to know you.")

Chorus:

Too poor, too poor to live here
Too poor, too poor to live here
Too poor, too poor to live here
The land speculators are grabbin' my home
So I got to leave Venice and roam.

I used to live in the trailer court
With friends and buddies I used to consort
The rent was cheap and the air was free
But they say that sunshine is too good for me.

Cause I'm ... chorus

I had a pad on the Howland Canal
The place was good for my morale
As I was feedin' the ducks one day
A big bulldozer tried to chase me away.

I used to live in a house by the sea
But the Master Plan had no plans for me
Gold over people - the master's choice
Our councilmen heed the master's voice.

Cause I'm ... chorus.

They're gonna have a parking lot
And where you live there'll be a yacht
I'm too poor to live by the sea
That's what the system is tryin' to tell me.

Cause I'm ... chorus

But hell no, we're gonna stay here
Hell no, we're gonna stay here
Hell no, we're gonna stay here
We're gonna stay here and we're gonna fight
For a Free Venice that is our right.

1975 © C. FONDILLER

a man's man

By Lorrie Kazan

The Gallery Theatre and Art Gallery is open complete with the Gallery Players performing in Patrick Kearny's Delightful and still timely play "A Man's Man".

The play opens into the living room and the lives of a young couple preparing to celebrate their first wedding anniversary. They live in a 5th floor walk-up cold water flat that rolls and quakes mercilessly each time the "L" thunders past. The Tuttle's living room is 1920's right down to the white crocheted doilies protecting the full-cushioned red velvet couch and easy chair. On the end table stands a gold-framed picture of Mary Pickford, the pronounced whites of her eyes, the long curls. Some people think Edie Tuttle looks like Mary Pickford; Edie thinks she does;...if only Edie could get into the Movies-like Mary Pickford. First she'd make lots of money, then she'd tell Mel.

The couple's life centered in Mel, in his aspirations. His dreams of success would be partly realized if he could join the Elks, a fraternal organization Mel describes with all the radiance of a little boy describing the boy scouts.

Mel buys all the right books. He reads them too. Edie times him 15 min. a night. Mel says it feels more like 3 hours. Sometimes he doesn't understand a word but he's sure that all this education is bound to make him a success in business. Ain't he already doin better than his father? It was a man's world, one in which a regular guy like Mel could succeed just by working hard and doing all the "right" things. It was also a harsh world as represented by Mel's "friend" Charlie Goff, deftly portrayed by Ian Tanza. Charlie was a real Man's Man; slicked back hair, fancy tweeds, big, brash, fast-talk ing; a real con man. Charlie assumed the classic role as trickster. To gain Edie's favors he pretended that he would make her a movie star; he siphoned Mel for money which was to pave Mel's way into the Elks. Both Charlie and Edie's friend, Hazel were catalytic characters. Kathy Easterling was slightly too brash; the yellow dress, bracelet, hair, and seemed a little uncomfortable, not quite sure how to play Hazel. Hazel was a successful character. Ms. Esterling may have been only opening night tense.

The Players had been denied their stage lights by the electrical inspectors who had visited earlier that day. This was announced in a tongue and cheek manner before the performance. The company performed under the work lights and performed well. Karen Knotts who started out speaking a bit too quickly soon became more than convincing as Edie. She added a naive but ironic inflection to her lines. Her performance was totally enjoyable. Gary Socol's entrance as Mel was a highlight in the play. It was timed beautifully. Whether Mr. Socol's Brooklyness is his own or an affect it fuses splendidly with Mel's character. For me however, Mel became a bit tiresome later in the play. This may be a script problem, i.e. how to convey a character as insecure, as wrapped up in himself as Mel without becoming obnoxious. I felt that the party scene might be shortened and still impart the same message. Otherwise I thought the play and the characters revealed a fine sense of timing.

I wholeheartedly recommend the play. The actors, the audience were in fine spirits the night I attended. Refreshments were served without charge. The tickets sell for \$3.50 each which is not a lot of money for live theatre, theatre in Venice for the price of a first run movie. There is also a history to the building which houses the Gallery. I would have liked to include the history but I was unable to reach the right people.

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sandalmaker

has a new home:

1334 Westwood Blvd.
Westwood, Calif. 90024
Phone (213) 473-9549

One block south of the Crest
theater in Westwood

CUSTOM SANDALS BELTS POUCHES PURSES BAGS
and BRIEFCASES;
LEATHER, FOOLS, and CRAFT INSTRUCTIONS
for MAIL ORDERS, send SKETCH and SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE

In the Slammer

By Ron Guenther

I was one of the three arrested on May 27 in the old Monterey Cypress tree on No. Venice Blvd. at Mildred, along with six other Venice people who were arrested on the ground.

My crime was protesting the destruction of the tree - to the two developers William E. Keenan and Michael Epstein, both of Marina Del Rey, and to the contractor, Robert Weiss, of the Marina Construction Company - from the old tree itself, instead of from the sidewalk like a good, normal citizen. Children had been playing in this friendly old tree for at least 25 years, and the house next to it had provided shelter for the same family for 20. The tree was 80 to 100 years old, and in good, healthy condition.

The family was removed, and the house and tree bulldozed by Epstein, Keenan, and Weiss, to make room for a Security-CaCa type apartment house, which could have been designed around the tree, had the developers wished.

Venice Town Council people determined the exact species of the tree from a beautiful and gracious woman, Dr. Mildred Mathias, of the UCLA botany department. The Monterey Cypress grows naturally in only two places on earth - at Point Cypress on the Monterey Peninsula 17-mile drive, and at Point Lobos in the Point Lobos botanical preserve. Dr. Mathias also emphasized the tremendous regenerative powers of the tree. If the root system and stump are left intact, they will usually sprout, and grow again into a full size tree.

We placed a message on the Marina Construction Co. phone-recorder pleading that the stump and root system of the tree be spared, to regenerate into a new tree. The stump was bulldozed a few days later, and hauled off to the dump. The bulldozer operator told us that he had received strict orders to not release so much as one acorn of this magnificent, rare old tree to anyone from the community who wished to have it.

Protesting this act of environmental and social madness almost resulted in serious injury to those in the tree, as the tree was dismembered and ripped apart by chainsaw with the three still clinging to its trunk and branches. According to what passes for justice in these times, in due course we were charged with "Trespass J," which means that in the eyes of those responsible for upholding law and order, we had interfered with the right, of the two speculators and their hired tree killers, to use their newly acquired property as they absolutely saw fit, in other words, with their right to murder this rare, beautiful old tree and to bulldoze the low-rent house for their own private gain.

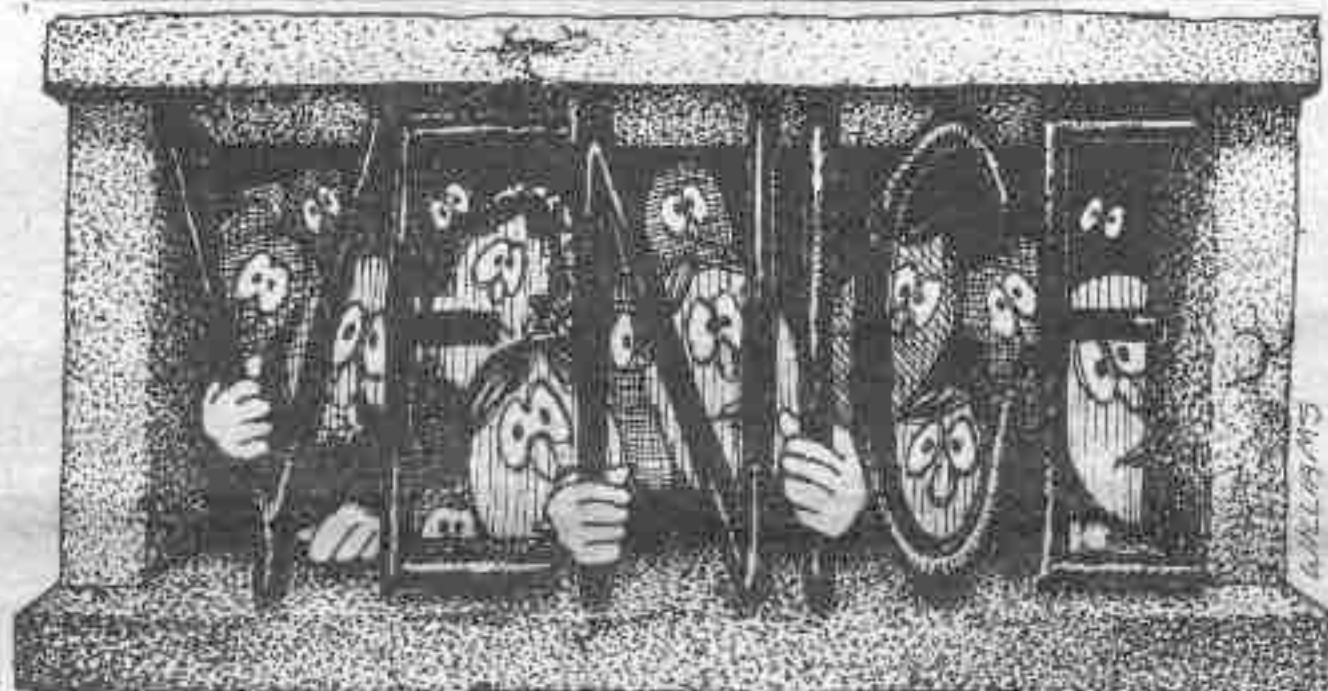
So after the usual routine rapport with the developer's point of view by the West Los Angeles City Attorney's refusal to listen to community witnesses, to investigate the serious crimes committed against those in the tree, or to respond in any other way to the legal needs of the Venice community, and after legal maneuverings (handled beautifully by attorney Marge Buckley) which resulted in a completely matter-of-fact guilty plea on my part to Trespass J, the sentence was handed down by the court: \$100 or 5 days, no suspension of sentence, and 1 year of summary probation - obey all laws. The probation part was easiest for me to understand. It meant forget your environmental and social conscience, and quit getting in the way of the Venice real estate speculation and development money, or else.

Since the system's impacted money-greed was the very reason for the tree's destruction in the first place, paying the \$100 fine was just as clearly unacceptable to me. So in another due course of time, I appeared on July 17 to begin three days (two credited for Venice jail dead time) in the Los Angeles County Central Slams. Richard Clark went to jail directly from the courtroom on July 10, Dennis Gunter, whose picture is on the tree poster, paid the fine. Charges against the Venice Town Council people and others on the ground were dismissed.

The place was unbelievable. You just can't believe it unless you've been there.

For starters, the computer broke down, which I understand happens regularly. The jail can handle a few thousand people without the computer, but with it, the sky's the limit. When the thing broke down, the result was chaos. Busloads of newly arrived prisoners just stacked up in holding cells for interminable hours, with new bus loads arriving regularly. The guards naturally rip off and trash can anything dangerous like magazines or books, so

that for 6-8 hours, hundreds of people just sat there on stainless steel benches (everything in the place is either stainless steel, painted steel, or grey concrete) getting blood circulation problems, flat asses, and very hungry. Standing up for a few minutes to stretch is forbidden, naturally, as this might make the suffering less intense, and presents a threat to "jail discipline." At the booking window, I reported



that I had a long-time allergy to tobacco smoke, and wished to be placed in the "No Smoking" section of this County facility. After a moment of stunned silence the computer's brain almost blew out again on this request, the guards did a Ho, Ho, Ho and refused to enter "tobacco smoke allergy" as a medical problem; can't fight City Hall you know, and besides there isn't room on the form. There just ain't a "No Smoking" section in this jail, and since jail is a place to suffer in anyway, if you're allergic to tobacco smoke, then all the better.

Cigarettes are sold in the jail by the carton, and are a traditional means of jail exchange and money. There are many heavy smokers in most jails, and no relief at all for non-smokers.

After more hours of processing, insecticide treatment, pictures, VD tests, chest X-rays (two in a row for the guy ahead of me because the technician screwed the first one, so sorry, happy cancer), and blood test, you get your jail "blues", mattress, and blanket, and at last home-sweet-home, your very own bunk in a 10x12 cell shared by five other people who

have learned to be very careful in talk-to newly arrived strangers. On the way to your cage, "Aw right, assholes, right shoulder to the wall, march, no talking, hands in your pockets, eyes straight ahead, if you don't bother the deputies, they won't bother you!"

You are warned to sleep away from the electric power gate which opens and closes the cell. It turns out that once the gate is set in motion from the remote control center, it is extremely powerful, and according to the guard, a few people have awoken from deep sleep to discover their arms, hands, or feet flopping on the concrete corridor outside the cell. Anything sticking through both the fixed bars and the bars of the gate is crushed and severed by the moving bars as the gate is opened or closed, sometimes without warning. It is just part of the brutal force-mystique of the place not to put a simple clutch release in the mechanism somewhere to prevent this.

Intense cigarette smoke all night. Reveille arrives dramatically at 5am with an announcement on the public address system, and then starts one of the most mind-boggling devices of torture that the ingenious mind of man has ever dreamed up. For 18 solid hours the most excruciatingly loud disc jockey prattle, rock and roll, music of other kinds, and noise of all kinds is blared through the P.A. system until the speakers distort, the walls rattle, and the victims go slowly mad. I had my ears stuffed full of chewed up toilet paper and paper towels, but there was no way of escaping this premeditated and deliberate torture. It is impossible to think, talk or read a book (although books are available from a very dedicated and gentle County librarian). The level of noise pollution is illegal under federal, state, county and city law, and would be prohibited anywhere but in the man's jailhouse.

The reason for this constant high noise level on the P.A. system is fiendishly clever; when the noise is cut suddenly, the silence hits you like a thunderclap, and in the midst of the silence comes the voice of man-god booming down with an announcement: Gates opening, freeway-time, chow, someone wanted (about every hour someone turns up missing in this giant building), prowler squad to the rescue, etc. And do you ever notice that announcement. You can't help but notice it. And then comes the noise again. 18 hours of it. It goes off from midnight until 6am; six hours silence out of 24.

I missed eating my first breakfast because I took time to pour four cups of coffee for brothers at the table. You have barely time enough to sit down with your food tray before it's time to move out. A person could use both hands to shovel food into one's mouth, and still not have enough time to finish eating what you are given to eat. The garbage can is the best fed thing in the place. Hungry people are forced to throw good edible fruit, cereal, bread, eggs, pancakes, milk, meat, and vegetables into the garbage. My guess (and that of one or two of the long-timers) is that one of the guards operates a hog business on the side, and that the hogs thrive for free on what hungry people are not allowed to eat.

The place is institutionalized, lifeless, ugliness; a place of cold grey concrete and clanging steel gates, and a place of brutality, mostly mental, unless you incur the attention of the "prowlers", a squad of extra-heavy-duty guards who roam the corridors, "maintaining jail discipline" in their own inimitable way, reflecting the concrete and steel.

The jail is run by a Mickey-Macho master race, and fed by the courts for the benefit of us folks who don't know to stay out of other people's newly acquired old trees when there's profit in chopping them down, or who otherwise are unable to cope with this society, it's money-oriented greed, it's machine madness, and it's mindless destruction of the life-support system that all life on this planet depends on.

Right now, the emphasis is on spending huge amounts of tax money to expand the jail into the surrounding area. One can see the scars of new construction all around.

But someday the time will come for this stupid, ugly, lifeless, health and mind destroying, antiquated human storage heap, brutal excuse for the existence of the present court and punishment system, and just all-around piece of intolerable shit, to go the way of the dinosaurs.

I'll be there with my sledgehammer and dustpan to help this place along into its well-earned final resting place in the dustbin of history.

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SOCIAL INSECURITY

By Martin Dudziak

In the coming weeks or months, the U.S. Social Security Administration will be opening a new office on the West Side, to be located within Venice. Residents of this community and others may wonder at the marvel of bureaucratic speed in the accomplishment; within internal Social Security circles it is acknowledged that the proposal for a Venice branch office was in the offing for several years. However, we may also wonder at the purposes behind the opening of yet another such office; i.e., whether the intention is to provide better service to the public or simply to increase and fatten the bureaucratic beast.

The planned location of the new Social office will, I believe, provide a strong indication of where that administration's true interests lie, if that is not already evident to the hundreds of people in this area who have had interminable problems with SSA or SSI. The new office will be located not in the heart of Venice, but rather at the very outskirts, and practically inside Marine Del Rey. It will not be placed in any of the several buildings along Main St. or Pacific Ave. which could be rehabilitated for that purpose, and which would be within easy reach of the people of Venice, but instead it will be in Washington Square. If it is in walking distance for anybody, it is so for the residents of Marina and "redeveloped" Venice. Even a cursory geographical survey of previous and current claimants for SSA and/or SSI benefits will show that the aforementioned areas account for a very miniscule portion of claims activity, whereas a great volume of claims (now being handled by the Santa Monica office) comes from areas other than South Beach, and in particular from the North Beach and Oakwood districts.

Is there any likelihood that the opening of this new office will have beneficial effects for the processing of claims? So one would hope, but I think that the positive results will not be in proportion to the added public cost, over and beyond the fact that an office will be somewhat closer to the Venice people than that in Santa Monica. As a former employee of SSA, I can strongly attest that the true interests of that bureaucracy, and particularly that of the Santa Monica District Office (which will govern the Venice Branch), are hardly in the interests of "serving the people," and that the primary goal is the cultivation and expansion of the bureaucratic system and none other. To the extent that this is and remains the case, no radical improvement is likely to be seen with regard to the common problems faced by the public: i.e., receiving a timely decision of award or disallowance, and if an award is made, then receiving the checks at the right time.

In the course of the seven months that I served as a claims representative at the Santa Monica office, I witnessed and was instructed to participate in what I and many others consider gross inequities and abuses of the Social Security Act and the codes of civil service action. A few examples may serve to illustrate this point of accusation.

For instance, at an employee meeting in March of this year, office management officials advised us that because of a decrease in the number of claims during the past 3-month period, the office might lose staffing; as a solution, we were advised to take as many claims as possible, even when it seemed clear that no benefits would be payable. This was especially the practice with disability cases, and I came under fire from my supervisor, Mr. Boland, for criticizing this gross inefficiency.

On several occasions, claimants who needed to present proof of age had extreme difficulties in obtaining such proof because of the state or country of birth and

of records, and they requested our assistance. Efforts to help these people get their due share of benefits were criticized by management personnel; my supervisor advised that the public was not to be trusted and that they were all imbued with self-serving interests, implying that the public was dishonest or at least inclined to dishonesty. On at least two occasions claims were taken from my jurisdiction and disallowed because, according to management, they were old and looked bad on the office statistics, and if the people could get the necessary proofs, then the cases could be reopened at that time. Clearly there was no regard for whether or not the people had a need for those benefits to meet daily living expenses, and all indications pointed to the existence of such needs.

In another case, that of a student beneficiary, I was told to set aside the claim, even though it was very old, since it was not being counted in the office statistics game, and advised to work on other claims which were used in the tallies and statistics. Obviously no concern was given to the expressed need of the claimant for benefits so that he could pay for school and living costs.

On several occasions claims would be lost, in entirety, and this would necessitate an entirely new process of filing, but without any possibility of retroactive benefits. Early in my employment I had a man apply for a reconsideration of his claim which had been denied. His file had been lost during interoffice transit and there was no record of his application available. His new claim was eventually approved, but he could receive no benefits at all for the time between his first and second applications, which amounted to approximately one full year.

Not too long ago I received a case where a couple on SSI had received a small amount of money in excess of their allowance. One of the supervisors, Ms. Dean, overheard that my opinion was to waive collection if it turned out that the fault was not the claimants' and that they could not easily afford to repay the sum of money they had received thinking it was due to them. I was lectured that "this office takes a strict, hard-line policy on all over-payments," even though the laws allow for considerable leniency, and the case was subsequently taken from my jurisdiction and given to an employee who from all indications thinks along the same narrow, bourgeois lines. It should be noted that this same supervisor recently given a high-level promotion, no doubt in recognition of her anti-social practices and obedient behavior!

The abnormal attention paid to tallies and statistical games by the Santa Monica office management may provide a plausible explanation for at least part of the reasons why people must wait for months before they receive notice of an award decision and often get the wrong amounts or even nothing at all. Claims which still require various documents and forms are often sent out of the office to the appropriate regional processing center simply because they are "getting old on the tally," while a wait of several days might result in actual completion. This happened with me on a few occasions, one involving a mother with eight children, the file was "forced" out with only a partial award of benefits being made; papers received later had to be sent separately as they arrived, leaving the regional office to make continual additions and corrections and probably many errors and delays in the process.

On another occasion payments to another widow with four children were held up and split up because my supervisor wasn't satisfied with certain proofs, even though the papers in the file fulfilled the legal requirements. Much of the claims process involves decision-making by the interviewer and/or supervisor, and the attitudes of

such persons can have great effects on the awarding of benefits, much less the time required before any checks arrive. Then an individual has obviously misanthropic attitudes towards the people he is paid to serve, I think it is also obvious that his her service will be less than the best possible.

On numerous occasions people will come into the office with problems arising from not having received their check(s). Here again red tapes works to keep people hungry, for there are, even with easy phone connections to the offices which disburse checks, a plethora of paperwork requirements which prevent employees and claimants from getting quick answers and quick checks. Use of the most expeditious methods to solve such problems is, to my experience, heavily frowned upon and criticized.

All things considered, it appears that the management of the Santa Monica District Office is not oriented towards service to the public as much as it is towards service towards its own ends, which appear to consist of success in the statistical games and the maintenance and increase of the district bureaucracy. Such has been the conclusion drawn by one employee, namely myself, after seven months in that office; I am certain that many past and present claimants have similar opinions, and the examples cited in this article serve to substantiate these ideas.

The Venice office will be a branch of the Santa Monica District Office, and if there is to be an improvement in public service, pressure towards that goal must begin now. The people are not without recourse, since insistent complaints and criticisms, directed particularly to the attention of local news media (especially KNX TV Action Reporter) and local political representatives (especially Sen. Alan Cranston, an SSA critical observer), can have constructive effects.

Rumor has it that the most recent District Manager, in Santa Monica, Walter Starcher, has been reassigned, perhaps due to previous complaints about the manner of his operations. Action by the people of Venice now can help insure a better office for their community than they could hope to have without taking any action in that direction. Voice your protest and your concern—initiate Community Action to curtail and overcome Bureaucratic Reaction!


It may be added here that the Community Economic Rights Center at 1102 W. Washington Blvd. is ready to assist people of Venice and other communities in the procedures for obtaining various social service benefits, including food stamps, unemployment, Social Security, and SSI. People who desire assistance and information should come to the Center in person or call 399-9553. NOTE: New hours for the Center are as follows: Mondays & Wednesdays, 10-1 and 6-8; Tuesdays, 6-8; Saturdays, 10-4.

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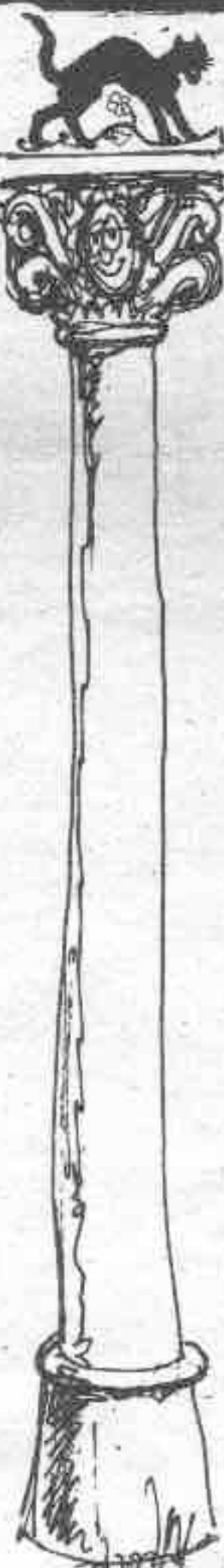
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POLICE/COMMUNITY RELATIONS MEETING, SEPT. 8

The North Beach Area Council has arranged for open meetings between the North and South Beach Communities of Venice and representatives of the Police Department to discuss Ocean Front problems and means for improvement of relations between the Police and the community.

The initial meeting will be held at the Israel Levin Center at 7:30 P.M., Monday, 8 September. If there are questions, please call: 396-0267, 821-2923; or 396-9325.

HOLLYWOOD BLACKLIST - An evening

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PHONE (ALL LOCATIONS) 396-5940

COOKING CLASS

The Venice Community Adult School will be starting a special cooking class September 16 called the "Healthy Gourmet" Included will be whole grain breadmaking, vegetarian meals, and international dishes, with recipes and nutritional information. The class will be actually cooking. Class time will be Tuesdays from 6:30 - 9:30 P.M. Call the Venice Community Adult School for information on registration, phone 391-0411. Course number is 2807-01.

The Gallery Theater and Art Gallery is located at 1621 West Washington Blvd. Tel. 8379317 "A Man's Man" will continue through Sept. 7 Th-Sun 8:30 pm.

Free Lunch for Seniors every Saturday from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. at the N.A.P.P. Center, 528 Westminster. For more information phone 399-7737.



City of Venice

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VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

Area I: South Beach-West of Pacific, South of Venice Blvd. Meets every last Weds, Anchorage School, 7:30 - 392-2113 or 392-1594

Area II: North Beach - West of Main, Venice Bl. to Santa Monica. Meets every 1st Monday at Levin Center 201 Ocean Front Wk, 7:30 - 396-0167 or 392-7956

Area III: Canals - South of Venice Bl, East of Pacific, west of Washington Bl. Meets every 1st & 3rd Tuesday at Anchorage school, 8:00 - 821-5931 or 923-1753

Area IV: Oakwood - North of California, West of Lincoln, to Washington Bl. Meets every 3rd Wed, at Broadway school bungalow 7:00 - 396-2801

Area V: East Venice - So. of California, W. of Lincoln to Washington Bl. meets every 4th Wed. at Couer D'Alene School, 7:30 - 821-1430

Area VI: Central - No. of Venice Bl. east of Main, west of Washington Bl. meets every 2nd Thursday 328 Market St. 7:30, 821-1774 or 821-5438

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TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION
An introductory lecture on TM will be held in VENICE on September 17, 7:30 P.M. at the Venice Public Library.

MARKISM AND FEMINISM STUDY GROUP
Beginning Tues., Sept. 9 at the West Side Women's Center. 7:30 p.m. Marvena Kennedy and Terry Vestal, facilitators. Call 821-1774 for more info.

Vietnamese Scabs

(LNS)-- A three-month-old wildcat strike at the world's largest egg ranch, Egg City in California, is threatened by the use of strikebreakers, many of them Vietnamese refugees, charged United Farm Workers President Cesar Chavez on July 30.

Egg City is technically under a Teamster contract, but 300 of the ranch's 350 employees walked out on strike April 10, protesting the firing of a worker who was organizing for the UFW. The Teamsters have since been recruiting other workers to replace the strikers.

John Rogers, vice president of Egg City told the Los Angeles Times that the ranch would hire "people who will work--Americans, Vietnamese, it doesn't matter. We don't anticipate hiring (more than) 200," Rogers said.

The refugees are apparently being referred to Egg City by Food for the Hungry, a "refugee relief organization," based in Glendale, California. A spokesperson for the group refused to comment on the reports, but the UFW maintains that there are now 50 Vietnamese strikebreakers in Egg City.

At a press conference in Ventura, California, where the strike is taking place, Eliseo Medina, county organizer for the UFW, said the union is not opposed to having Vietnamese refugees doing farm work. However, they have become "a captive labor force for both Julius Goldman (owner of the ranch) and the Teamsters to exploit," Medina said.

Medina said the union plans to seek a state sponsored union election at Egg City when the new California Farm Labor Bill, providing for union elections, goes into effect on August 28. But by hiring large numbers of refugees, Medina explained, the company is trying to rig the election.

"As political refugees in a strange country under government sponsorship, there is no way they can be approached about voting for a union," Medina charged. "And the Teamsters will take dues from anything that walks or talks, regardless of nationality."

T.V. COPS FOUND TO BE CONSISTENT LAW BREAKERS

(LNS) Two lawyers recently spent three months viewing randomly selected television dramas to determine whether television police violate the law. Their findings, which appeared in the Wall Street Journal, were that "almost every episode of every television police show contains one or more violations of the Fourth, Fifth or Sixth Amendments' guarantees of freedom from illegal searches and seizures, the right of due process of law and the right of counsel."

"Unlike the situation in the real world," noted the two lawyers Ethan Katsh and Stephen Arons, "these violations were always fruitful--the illegal search turned up heroin and the coerced confession came from a child molester and husband killer."

Crime stoppers textbook

"Is your agency prepared to cope with political violence and terrorism?" If not, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has a "Clandestine Tactics and Technology" (CTT information service to keep you informed.

Currently in its second year of operation, the CTT information service was formed mainly for police and security agencies and corporations, largely through the initiative of Ron Newhouser. Newhouser had previously worked on the International Association of Chiefs of Police National Bomb Data Center until it was turned over to the FBI in 1973.

"We felt there was a need for this kind of service," Newhouser told a Liberation News Service reporter who posed over the telephone as a representative of a security agency interested in subscribing. "We're going through some problems of terrorism now and we're going to have to expect even more."

Available for \$300 a year, the service provides subscribers yearly with ten "major documents" about terrorism, six "update special reports," a two day "terrorism seminar" and a "telephone inquiry response service," allowing people to make telephone calls to CTT staff concerning "terrorist related subjects."

This year's documents include one called "organizing urban guerrilla units--an actual terrorist document with CTT analysis of content." A CTT spokesman explained that it was "an actual Black Liberation Army document obtained through police sources."

Other tentative titles are "What the Terrorist Reads--a Bibliography," "terrorist tactics or propaganda," and "The Bicentennial Terrorist Threat."



CONGRESS APPROVES BUILDUP IN INDIAN OCEAN

A five-year debate in Congress apparently ended July 29 with a Senate vote rejecting a resolution by Senate majority leader Mike Mansfield that would have blocked funds for expansion of US naval facilities on Diego Garcia, the first US military base in the Indian Ocean. The Navy is now free to proceed with construction of port facilities to handle an aircraft carrier task force and nuclear submarines, and a 12,000-foot runway that could handle B-52s.

The Pentagon contends that the Diego Garcia expansion is necessary to maintain a military balance in the Indian Ocean with the Soviet Union. Senate Armed Services Committee chairman John Stennis termed the base an "absolute necessity," and the New York Times said it was "worth the relatively modest expenditure."

Critics maintain, however, that the \$30 million in planned construction on the island is only the top of a \$10 billion Pentagon iceberg which will be requested to build a permanent Indian Ocean fleet. They also warn that a US build-up in the highly volatile and unstable Indian Ocean region could lead to Vietnam-type interventions. This was given credence by the Pentagon itself, which told Congress last year that the US has vital interest in oil and other raw materials in that area, adding that the US role would be "just like the policeman on the beat who deters crime just by being there." The "crimes" to be deterred apparently include unfriendly changes of government in any of the African, Middle Eastern, South or Southeast Asian nations bordering on the Indian Ocean.

Win Magazine

A PLAN TO MAKE ELECTRICITY WITH H-BOMBS IS DROPPED

The Federal Gov't has given up a plan to create electricity by exploding hydrogen bombs in abandoned salt mines in Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and the Gulf of Mexico because the program would be too expensive, according to representative Frederick W. Rickmond.

The Brooklyn Democrat, who announced the plans by the Energy Research and Development Administration last April 17, said that the agency had informed him by letter of its intention to drop the plan.

He said that Maj. Ernest Graves, director of military application for the agency, said "due to funding limitations, we have no plans at this time to continue the study of the Pacer Fusion Energy Concept."

Win Magazine

Nuke Germ Spreads

(LNS) U.S. corporations have sold South Africa enriched uranium and nuclear technology used for building nuclear weapons, Representative Les Aspin (D-Wis.) charged recently.

Aspin noted that "South Africa has the fear to want to build a bomb, and it has the technical skill. All it needs is weapons-grade uranium, and the U.S. government is now supplying that."

The U.S. Nuclear Corporation, a private company from Oak Ridge, Tennessee closely associated with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of the U.S. government (formerly the Atomic Energy Commission) has been the supplier of the enriched uranium. In addition, two other U.S. corporations, IBM and Foxboro Corporation, have provided much of the technological equipment and know-how to build the South African uranium enrichment plant at Pelindaba, South Africa, outside Pretoria.

Besides a nuclear weapons capability, South Africa has strong interests in developing an enriched uranium export business to meet an expected world wide demand for fuel for atomic reactors. South Africa has one of the largest uranium reserves in the world, but until recently lacked the capability to enrich raw uranium.

A.J.A. Roux, president of South Africa's Atomic Energy Board, estimates the country will net \$375 million annually in Uranium exports by 1986.

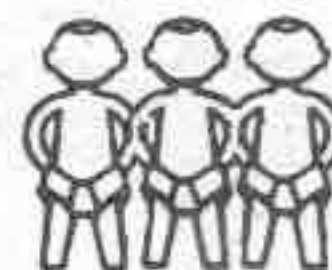
IUD Loses Suit

In the first case to be decided in the U.S. involving the Dalkon Shield, an intra uterine device (IUD), Connie L. Deemer has won her suit against the A.H. Robbin Company. The suit was filed in the Sedgwick County, Kansas district court.

Connie Deemer found she was pregnant in November, 1971, three months after her physician had inserted a small size Dalkon Shield. After delivery the shield was found to have adhered to Deemer's uterus and required surgical removal.

Deemer brought suit against her physician, Dr. O'Ruth Sisk Patterson of Wichita, claiming departure from standard medical practice in inserting the shield and lack of informed consent regarding the information she was given about possible complications. She also sued A.H. Robbins Company, manufacturer of the Dalkon Shield, for punitive damages, claiming gross and wanton negligence, breach of implied warranty, willful misrepresentation and fraud.

After deliberating for a day and a half, the jury found the doctor not at fault, but ruled against A.H. Robbins Company. Deemer was awarded \$10,000 in compensation and \$75,000 punitive damages. The drug company intends to appeal the decision.



WHITE COLLAR CRIMINALS

While alleged President Ford rants and raves about mandatory jail sentences for street criminals, Justice Department records reveal that in less than one year Ford has pardoned and released from jail 145 white collar criminals.

Convictions for which he pardoned them include counterfeiting U.S. currency, income tax evasion, bribery, embezzlement, theft, narcotics, the illegal possession and manufacture of firearms, armed robbery and assault with a dangerous weapon.

--Dave Potvin

How about grasshopper steaks?

(ZNS) Are you ready for antburgers, grasshopper stew or caterpillar cake?

Two L.A. entomologists, Roy Snelling and C.L. Hogue, say that insects are the ideal answer to the world's food crisis. Both men, who work for the L.A. Museum of Natural History, report tasting various types of insects; they say the bugs are not only high in protein but that they actually taste better than many foods now on the market.

Grasshoppers, pound-for-pound, for example, have triple the protein value of steak. The two bug experts say that some species of ants are especially sweet-tasting and can be eaten uncooked. They both insist that beetle eggs, roasted in coconut oil, are a culinary delight.

Anyone for a second helping of potato bug pie?



VENICE CANAL FESTIVAL

Despite the objections of a few outside agitators, i.e. the Venice Chamber of Commerce, who wished to move the Canal Festival from the Canals to the Pavilion at North Beach, the Venice Canals Festival will be held on Sunday, September 14.

This is a community festival to celebrate that the non-affluents are still alive in Venice and enjoying it.

It is also a reminder that the bull dozers of the "Squeeze 'em out!" speculators and Realtors, and their serfs the L.A. City Council are always ready to run us out and put us down.

Be cool, enjoy. If any one makes any unpleasantness, they will be branded as paid agents provocateurs of Silver Strand realtors or the Venice Chamber of Commerce!