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FREE VENICE

BEACHHEAD

SINCE 1968



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CANAL FESTIVAL FUNERAL

By Mary Lou Johnson

The question most often heard these days along the canals is "when is the canal festival going to be?" There seems to be a general feeling that somehow a Canal Festival Committee lurks somewhere in the wings awaiting the magic moment of resurrection and ---Voila!--- another glorious canal festival for the delectation of more ordinary mortals.

"Tain't so, folks! As a matter of fact, the mythical, mystical persons whose energy guided the festival from its inception in 1969, have been blown to the four winds like so many dandelion seeds by the nasty hot breath of high rents, eviction and the harsh reality of the high cost of being poor in Venice. Names like Mary Jane Kwan, John Heller, Nancy McCullough and Jo Hyacinthe come to mind---a new Diaspora, while the few of us remaining find our energies dissipated by the Babylonian nightmare.

The Canal Festival as a survival celebration would be a canard under such circumstances. One single developer, Solar Systems, has permit applications before the South Coast Regional Commission which would wipe out 25% of the remaining open space. Needless to say, these are not applications for low or moderate income dwellings. And that is but the tip of the iceberg. Sounds like a funeral is more in order.

And that's exactly what we have in mind. No more tie-dyed images of happy hippies bound in macrame solidarity preserving the illusion that "it's still happening in the canals." Our pot of joy has been broken and our lifestyle destroyed; so, let's tell it like it is --- not like it was.

The funeral will take place on September 26 from noon to dusk. Come mourn with us. Get out the widows weeds, practice your dirges, wear a black arm band or funeral attire, drape your dog, wallow!

Anyone wanting more information call 822-5154 and ask for the funeral director. We would appreciate any input from Venetians who share our grief and would like to participate.

By Carol Fondiller

About this time anyone who has been the least bit involved in Venice doings, start getting asked about the Canal Festival. "When's it gonna be?" "I gotta start making coke-spoons for it." Well, my dears, the Canal Festival was not originated to make the world safe for batik t-shirts. So put away your pre-earthquake Guatemalan glad rags. The festival is not going to happen. The Wilsons, Dufays et al can put away their ulcer pills.

The Canal Festival was put on as a political statement, and who said politics and fighting for what one believes in can't be fun?

In those days, the city called the Venice Canal assessment district the Master Plan. People from Oakwood, North Beach, Central Venice (all of us were to be called outside agitators by Councilmen Snyder and Nowell) showed up to protest the city's latest welfare for the rich scheme even though it was just the canals that were being decided upon. However, Los Angeles and the speculators and some Councilmen had not yet heard of the abolition of the poll tax, and thought renters had no right to decide where they could live, especially if they were low-income renters.

The people knew as the canals went, so went Venice. The people were riled that the City could even think of spending six million dollars for the development of a rich man's yacht club and not one cent for low income housing on that same land.

Despite the allegations of landowners and speculators who wanted to make Venice a decent place to live for the rich, we still fought and fought non-violently. We were called long haired hippy freaks by the L.A. Times and Evening Outlook. New West wasn't there to report on the quaintness of it all. Rexall was not carrying herbal shampoos, Bell Brand had not come out with organic potato chips, and one could still get a second hand pair of jeans for .50¢ at Sally's.

If a joint of grass was found on one's person, it was a felony. (continued on page 2)



NAME GAME

By Carol Fondiller

HOW TO READ BETWEEN THE LINES OF A PRESS RELEASE:

On August 12, 1976, The Los Angeles City Council approved Councilwoman Pat Kussell's motion to restore the original names to the sixty streets in Venice that had been given Italian names. A little history:

In 1969, in conjunction with the Venice Waterways Development Project, the speculators and the City Council decided that in addition to widening and deepening the canals for power driven yachts, they would ritz up the canals with names like Allegro, Destes, etc. After all, one can't dock one's yacht with the same élan at Sherman Canal, that one can at Gran Corso. Without consulting the present residents of the Canals the city painted out Linnie Canal, Sherman Canal, etc., and put up new street signs that read Bella Canal, Gran Corso, Bellini, etc.

Within days the new city signs were neatly repainted with the old names. The job was so well done that one couldn't tell the difference except for the addition of "Free Venice."

After several tries of repainting the (continued on page 2)

RUMORS ALLEGED!

By Carol Fondiller

The Beachhead caused quite a stir among some property owners by printing a staff report to the Coastal Commission (May, 1976, no. 77). It seems only the Evening Outlook and the L.A. Times can do that without getting government workers in trouble.

The Beachhead printed the staff report under the title of "Social Ecology of Venice". Even though no name was signed to it, applicants who want to use the coast for their own profit and pleasure to the exclusion of everyone else recognized the style of one Ms. Emerson, because she is an exception indeed in California Bureaucracy. She writes clearly and does not bore.

Through some of the people who are out to get Ms. Emerson and the Coastal Commission for doing their job - saving the

coast and making it accessible for all the public, not just the moneyed few, point out that she didn't sign her name which makes it suspect. They seem to forget that:

1. a staff report by a governmental agency is public property and can be reprinted by anyone, even the Beachhead.
2. staff reports are never signed by an individual.

Werner Scharf, large property owner in Venice applied for a permit to renovate the outside of Number 8 Brooks (Fenmar Apts.) with stucco instead of glazed tile. Ms. Emerson in her role of a staff worker for the Coastal Commission recommended against it. Mr. Brown, Mr. Scharf's agent, complained at a Coastal Commission hearing that if they had to face the building with the original white glazed tile, they would have to raise the rent. Well, the rents on all Mr. Scharf's buildings have

been raised to such an extent, that one is sure, along with his antique hunting in Europe he could scare up a few bricks for the restoration of an old Venice landmark.

At a recent Coastal Commission hearing, it is alleged that Mr. Scharf said that Pamela Emerson was Queen of that sex rag, the Free Venice Beachhead.

Well, I am used to that sort of talk from Mr. Scharf. He's called me an outside agitator for years. However, Mr. Scharf's alleged allegations re: Pam Emerson are something else. Working on the Beachhead could certainly be construed as conflict of interests.

Let it now be said: I know Pam Emerson. She is my neighbor. I knew her for some time before I found out she worked on the Coastal Commission. It took me a while to realize that the P. Emerson who sub-

(continued on page 2)

RUMORS ALLEGED (continued from page 1)

mitted poems to the Beachhead was the same P. Emerson who was my neighbor. All Goy names sound alike to me. I have gone to Coastal Commission hearings because I wanted to see how it worked. Though I have gone several times, I still don't understand it, and always get confused between affluent and affluent.

I have seen property owners and speculators threaten the Coastal Commission with everything from law suits to implied violence. I have heard renters talked about in such contemptuous terms that I am frightened by the hatred generated. Several property owners belonging to the Isthmus Property Owners Association (Ballona Lagoon) have physically attacked opponents, sending one person to the hospital. And why are people fearful of conservationists? Mr. Hettig, local realtor, has arrived with police escort to illegally evict people.

In the canals, other landlords raised rents in retaliatory actions against people who had the temerity to stand up to land rape. Certain people who have lived in the canals have left Venice and moved out of the state because of real and implied violence that have followed threats made by certain landowners.

It is rumored that a certain recent canal property owner was on welfare one year prior to his sudden promotion to the status of landlord. It is rumored that this person might be a gunslinger for certain mafioso types who it is rumored own most of the Marina City Club, and want to get property in the canals.

It is rumored that call girls occupy the security buildings in the Marina City Club, and that the mafia wants to get a toe hold in the canals. Maybe my paranoia isn't so silly after all. While some of the property owners, speculators and land-

lords probably are not mafia, they certainly act as if they know their business techniques. I do not mention names, and if I do you've noticed that I use alleged and rumored.

Well, I am frightened and so are the people who've told me incidents.

"I'm just a small businessman. How am I to get fifty parking spaces? Emerson shows favoritism". That is her job. She is paid to protect the coast and insure access, and anyone who has fought for a parking space in Venice knows how it feels to see a new Mercedes parked in your spot that your kindly small businessperson landlord charges you money for. "She wants to protect the junkies, winos and other failures." Right. Venice is a place where one can be a failure and still have friends.

Venice is a place where bizarre behavior is accepted. It might be all some people can do to cash their check, pay their rent and wipe their asses, but they're not tranquilized in nursing homes unable to do even that. They are forced to relate to other people no matter how minimally. And cost wise, isn't it cheaper to pay them \$3000. a year to keep them in the mainstream than to pay \$8,000. per capita to vegetabilize them in a "nursing home"?

These people, myself included, have been here long before the open air Cafes have opened up with their manufactured ambience.

Pam Emerson realizes this and is trying to preserve what is left of the Coast and indigenous life forms. She lives in Venice. Good. That means she knows what she's talking about. She has submitted poems to the Beachhead. We have accepted them. Anyone can submit poetry or whatever to the Beachhead - even bureaucrats.

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THE BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE: Carol Fondiller, David Kasper, Linda Lucks, Susan Scott.

NAME GAME

(continued from page 1)

new names, the city finally gave up and let the old names stay, putting the new Italian names on underneath the street signs erasing the "Free Venice" logo. The Post office and Thomas Bros. Street Map publications had two lists - one with the old names, Sherman, Howland, Linnie, etc. and one with the new names, Allegro, Destes, etc.

Councilwoman Russell gives the official reason in her August 12 press release: "The names were so difficult to pronounce that many residents continued to refer to the streets by their anglicized version."

If one didn't respect our local politician's veracity one might wonder if Double Think hadn't arrived eight years early.

However, one should have some charity, and take Ms. Russell's statement at face value. "The names (the Italianized names) were.... difficult to pronounce...."

How true. The present Canal residents with their pendulous lower lips, their sloping heads, their knuckles scraping the ground as they shuffle from bridge to bridge through the infested brackishness of the canals, would indeed find it difficult to pronounce them fancy Eytalian nayums.

Only Americans with Phd's could live on Boccacio and Amoroso streets because of this difficulty. One sympathizes with the efforts of Ms. Russell and the developers to upgrade Venice. However, there are some names that have been absorbed into American main stream that the future Canal dwellers who ride their power driven boats through the canals will be able to pronounce. These are respectfully submitted. Kitschy-Pucci Canal, Pizza Piazza, Bologna Lagoon, Mafioso Mall, Vini Vidi Vici Valley.

Beachhead readers are welcome to send in names to Pat Russell. It is rumored the winner will receive a kick in the head, a midnight swim in the canals and two pennies over the eyes, and a happy moritu moriatori to you!

CANAL FESTIVAL FUNERAL

(continued from page 1)

After one notorious meeting where 300 people were not allowed into City Council chambers for a public hearing, because they did not own property, and another hearing where the serfs were allowed in, but not allowed to speak because they were not property owners, and where those two hearings were declared unconstitutional, and when Hughes Tool Co. agreed in substance with the pro-lifers in the canals i.e. those who wanted to keep the canals as a mixed income public access area and not a playground for the rich (Hughes said that the city plan was economically unfeasible).

A Canal Festival was decided upon. It was organized with no help (and sometimes hindrance) from the city or any of its agencies or elected officials.

The City Dept. of Water and Power, pressured by the Marina-Venice Women's Chamber of Commerce, certain Realtors, Ocean Front Property owners association and other organizations representing outside absentee landowners tore down the handmade banners that were strung across the canals. Police stepped up their already heavy surveillance on the "Venice Radicals."

The Festival went on. It was like a private party for Venice. It was a rallying cry to keep up the good fight. It was a success.

Without help or encouragement from the city a second and third Canal Festival was put on. Naturally as with all things that take root, in beneficent soil, it flourished. Local craftspeople sold their wares. Anti-war, anti-pollution and other political groups set up booths. People continued to throw open their yards and houses for the festival. 85% of the people living on the canals, renters and live on property owners alike thought it was a fine idea. Every year Myrtle Wilson, the Dufays and others would mutter about the dope smoking hippie radicals that invaded the canals. However, the police decided to help instead of hinder and with few exceptions cooperated with the festival people. The sanitation Dept. helped with the porto-toilets. Then the question of permits to sell came up. Regulations. Requirements, records of taxes, etc.

When the festival started only a handful of people were needed to organize and monitor. By last year the organizers were sinking in a bureaucratic quagmire of paper work and permits. People lost sight of the raison d'etre of the festival. I remember receiving calls from people inquiring about the festival because the festival had become one of their fair stops in California.

It began to look like a bazaar for hippie capitalism. Mass produced leather goods stamped with marijuana leaves were for sale in the booths that dyed and

pressed turquoise tsatskes weren't. Boppers from the Valley and Pacific Palisades came to the festival to let it all hang out, get high, get laid and vomit in the canals. Like long hair, ethnic dresses and pot, the Canal Festival was being co-opted by the same folks who are co-opting Reggae, yoga and that last bastion of hip-granola. They know the ritual, but they don't know the meaning. They're the sort of folks who snort their coke, stage a concert and charge outrageous sums for a rock star that's been hyped by the media via Women's Wear Daily, New West, New York and L.A. Mag. as the new Big Deal.

What's unfortunate is that the rubes really buy it. Chewing their cud, coping their downs, smoking the grass they pay too much for, they crowd into events that are supposed to be "in".

How many times have I seen them crossing the bridges on the canals, their eyes blank, looking for something to happen to buy, their mouths prematurely petulant from having missed it all, but not knowing what they were at the festival for.

Then the realization came to me. The people who had always been instrumental in the festival had finally been pushed out by high rents, retaliatory evictions, overt threats to their lives and damage to their property. No, the happy natives

(continued on page 8)

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DOPE ON DOPE

By Bruce Margolin

This will be the first of a series of articles which will explain to Beach-head readers present law enforcement and prosecution for use, possession, and sale of drugs.

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - Under one ounce

Most people are aware of Senate Bill 95, and the new marijuana law enacted January 1, 1976. However, this article will provide specifics regarding what the law is and what actually happens if one is found in possession of weed these days.

If it is less than an ounce of marijuana, the defendant can be charged only with an infraction. This means that with proper identification (a driver's license, etc.) you can not be arrested, but merely issued a citation. Of course, as a procedural matter, the police will confiscate the grass.

Thereafter, like the usual ticket situation, you still be required to appear in court. At that time, you can of course plead not guilty or guilty, or request diversion (see below). If you are found guilty or plead guilty, the maximum sentence that may be imposed is a \$100 fine.

Usually the amount of the fine will depend proportionally on the amount of weed found. That is, for a quarter of an ounce, about \$25; for half an ounce, about \$50, and so on.

Subsequent convictions do not increase the possibility of additional punishment. You can not be fined more than \$100, no matter how many times you get busted. However, there is a possibility that upon the third conviction you may be required to complete the diversion program.

Diversion is just what the word means. The prosecution of the case is diverted by completing a program, usually consisting of a few classes, explaining the effects resulting from the abuse of drugs. Later articles will more fully explain the diversion program; however, it is generally available to anyone charged with a drug possession offense for the first time. It results in a complete dismissal of the charge usually within six months.

Where one is convicted of possession of less than one ounce of marijuana, after two years the record is automatically destroyed.

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - More than one ounce

This is a misdemeanor, which is punishable by a maximum of up to 6 months in the County Jail and/or probation, usually up to three years.

The actual punishment depends on the particular judge and on the background of the defendant. Generally, however, in most courts around the Venice area, the punishment for misdemeanor possession is a fine of up to \$250 and summary probation (non-reporting probation) for one year.



POSSESSION FOR SALE

This means that where a person has a quantity not for personal possession, but held for the purpose of selling to others, he or she is chargeable with felony possession for sale.

What is considered possession for sale?

Possession for sale is proved by the quantity and how it is packaged when it is found.

In some cases, the courts have conceded that up to three pounds can be for personal use. However, it would depend on how it was packaged. If the marijuana was broken down into lids, it would be deemed evidence of non-personal use, simply because it is argued that a person buying this quantity for his own use would not break it down into lids; he would do so only for purposes of sale.

So, although there might not be any actual evidence of sale, the expert opinion of the narcotics officers as to how it is packaged, and how much an ordinary user would possess for his personal use (usually not more than a pound), is enough to convict the defendant. The Man also may look for evidence of scales and baggies, even where the marijuana is not broken down into ounces, as evidence of sales activity.

Being a felony, the crime of possession for sale is punishable by a term of one to ten years in the state prison. Now, don't get freaked out, because this does not preclude the granting of probation, which is usual except when the quantity reaches hundreds of pounds.

Speaking in terms of first offenders, or those who have a minimal record and possess up to 2-5 kilos (4 1/2-11 pounds), a defendant might expect three years formal reporting probation, coupled with no time at all, or custody up to 90 days.

So those of you who don't think it would be any big thing to be busted with a kilo or so better take heed. Additionally, this is not a divertable offense.

SALES OF MARIJUANA

Initially it should be noted that giving away without payment of up to an ounce of marijuana is punishable only by up to a \$100 fine and a citation. This is the same penalty as that for possession of one ounce or less.

However, where there is money or other valuables exchanged for weed, this is considered sales. Sales is punishable in California as a felony, calling for a State prison term of five years to life. Again, however, this is a probational offense, and probation is usual except where larger sales are concerned, such as kilo quantities.

It is difficult to give a specific indication of what punishment a judge might give to a convicted dealer. However, looking to most of the Superior Court judges in Santa Monica Court (the closest one to Venice), generally sales of a few lid quantities is punished by up to 30 days, and three years formal probation. As the quantity goes up, so does the time in custody.

Each case is different, depending on the background of the defendant. For example, a woman might get straight probation for sales up to a few lids, while a man might get five weekends in custody for the same offense. These factors, as well as many others, cause considerable differences in sentences. The court's mood, the attorney, and the background of the defendant, all have an effect.

Hopefully the above will serve as a basic outline of what is going on with marijuana prosecution these days.

The next article will deal with the cultivation of marijuana and the prosecution of cocaine.

NATIVE AMERICAN Update

By Red Bird

Daresse Butler, 29 and Bob Robideau, 34 were the two Indian defendants who were acquitted in July of having caused the deaths of the two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Reservation of South Dakota. William Kunstler, the lawyer, put up a brilliant defense and subpoenaed the director of the FBI, Clarence Kelley, who was asked whether he thought that Indians had a right to defend themselves when attacked, even from the FBI. "Oh yes," the chief replied. "Everyone has that right if attacked." The jury brought in a not guilty verdict for the two Indian men who were not really freed as they were taken back to prison where they are awaiting trial on other charges, Butler for carrying a firearm and Robideau for supposedly carrying explosives across state lines. These are common kinds of charges make against Native-Americans these days where the government, like in the days before the Civil War, saw every black man as a potential slave revolt instigator. Traditional Indians carry hunting rifles on the reservation and drive very old cars which overheat and sometimes explode. The days of horse riding and the days of the buffalo are gone and that is a long, sad story to be told another time. There are too many stories of present day sadness which we must deal with rather than weep about.



Akwesasne Notes/cpf

In Gordon, Nebraska, ten percent of the population is Indian. And the arrests there tell quite a story. Of the fourteen hundred persons arrested last year, 1,224 were Indian. One of those arrested was the coordinator of the Nebraska AIM, Bob Yellow Bird, who was charged with two counts of assault and intent to do bodily harm to a policeman. Bob Yellow Bird edited the newspaper, Crazy Horse Advocate and had run for city council. And since his articles targeted racism, brutality and discrimination against Native-Americans, Bob Yellow Bird himself became targeted by his enemies. He sits in prison today because there is not enough bail money for him. Those who understand harassment, persecution and the threat to one's self for speaking out against injustices and have guts besides understanding, might want to help on this case. Write to Wounded Knee Legal Committee, P.O. Box 4287, Omaha, Nebraska 68104. If you send a check, mark it for BOB YELLOW BIRD.

Amongst the Seminoles of Oklahoma a full scale war against the government rages. The Atchison, Topeka, Santa Fe Railroad has been using Seminole land without paying for it. There was a contract made with the Seminoles in 1898 but hell, those Indians are dead. At last, the Seminoles woke up to the rip-off. They went to court and the court ruled that the railroad had to pay up. But the railroad has its own law and didn't pay. Then the Indians got real mad at the railroad and wrote the officials a nasty letter. The letter went to the FBI. And one day when the Indians received a reply from the railroad asking them to meet, the Indians went gladly but to their utter amazement, they were met by the FBI who charged them with conspiracy and had them arrested. Conspiracy to do what? Conspiracy to destroy a railroad.

The prosecution had no difficulty in convincing the Oklahoma jury that Johnson Warledo, Jack Warledo and five other Seminoles were nothing more than a bunch of terrorists. That courtroom shook with fear and the jury found the "Indian troublemakers" guilty. The judge sentenced them to ten years. Now there must be money found to raise an appeal. This is such an obvious case of injustice and a scheme to conceal a gigantic rip-off by a railroad. This case must raise a whole lot of indignation amongst white people so that the government could see that Native-Americans can't struggle alone. And it is not easy taking on a powerful railroad who has government backing. Those who want to help, contact Jummy Warledo, P.O. Box 71 Seminole, Oklahoma 74868.



Chez Hélène

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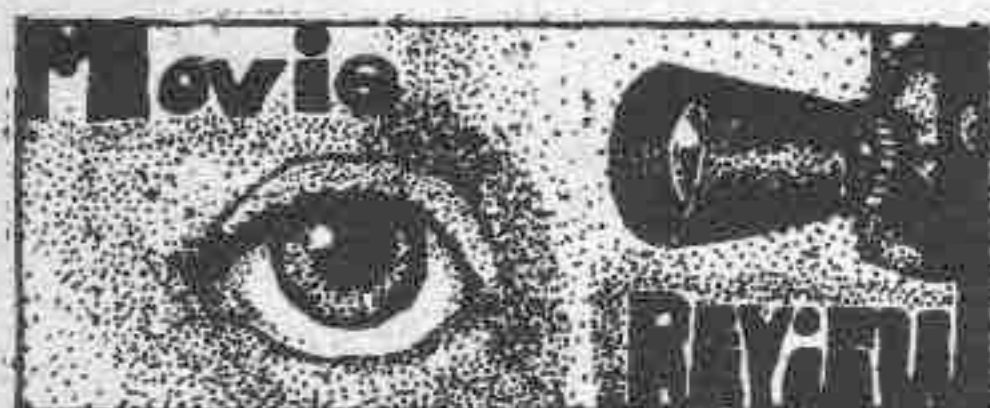
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ROBERT ALTMAN/ROBERTALTMAN
An open review of Buffalo Bill & The Indians...
as a classic art type

by Ms. Lily -Sabina Fairweather

(A CRITIQUE OF MODERN VIOLENCE VERSUS
POSSIBLE TRUE SOCIAL ART: SITTING
BULL'S HISTORY LESSON)

As Joyce might have said through St. Thomas:
Three qualities are required for all true Art
or BEAUTY
intelligible INTEGRITY OR Perfection (often
used classically as sense of Significant Subject)
DUE PROPORTION or Harmony AND an ultimate
BRILLIANCE or CLARITAS - ITSELF TWOFOLD
according to the famous "On Divine Names"
of the NeoPlatonic Dionysius Areopagite...
A sort of NeoJoycian, Borges is playing with
the same "double theme" in a more secular
art theory context when he talks of the semi
mythic Encyclopedia of Tlon a society created
by a Kabhalistic Atheist in which long centuries of
idealism have created for every searched for
scase object: "a second... no less real, but more
in keeping with... expectations "But a little
larger than the originals! OR again as St.
Thomas quotes Dionysius "The beautiful
"imitating the Divine Creator) IS AT ONCE
the most beautiful AND THE SUPRABEAUTIFUL
AND SUPRAEXISTENT ACCORDING TO THE
SAME."

With such an overkill of semi-meaningless over
violent "revenge films", Sitting Bull/Buffalo
Bill is well worth seeing as a near hyper classic
example of a truly beautiful film so well "pro-
portioned" that Altman's true "second reality"
very "nicely" replaces with one low key set of
brilliant character studies two to three usual
violent social realism films.

As most aware film goers know from other
reviews almost all of Altman's action centers
on just one large set a sort of circus like
"Winter Camp" of the original Buffalo Bill's
Wild West: a sort of actual historical Greaser's
Palace with visits from Sitting Bull instead of
Jessie.

I predict "Buffalo Bill and The Indians..." if
we survive that long as a culture will be
actually still seen as various versions of
Shakespeare's Classic Kingly Tragedies are to-
day BUT its very reserve will be one of the
first models of a new High Content yet low key!
"Classic Surrealism" of the type that even
St. Thomas and certain classic Hindu and Zen
temple dramatists have long known: THE HIGH
AS OF TOTALLY REAL YET INFINITELY
CAREFILLED CLASSIC UNDERSTATEMENT...
For this both excellent actors (like Joel Grey
and Lancaster in absolutely crucial "balance"
if not main roles) and AN INTUITIVE FREE SEAR-
CHING BUT NOT GREEDY OR SENSATIONALIST -
Director such as Altman are needed: a very
good example of what depends for full effect
almost exclusively upon Altman's careful
directorial and creative economy of choice
is the very balance way in which the Sitting
Bull death and Ghost scenes are introduced into
the in some ways larger yet more polished and
inately less violent yet equally serious world of
"Buffalo Bill's WILD WEST."

In the proportioned, yet equally real context of
the showit is enough that all the persons are
such for entire situations that would otherwise
be "cardboard" to instead work with great
economy. In Bill's West Annie Oakley's reactions
along with the telegraph agent and a simple
flash to Bill yet unaware proceeding with fake
rescues as usual and the dusty appearance of
Bull's missionary beads above an apparent
grave hit with more force than the most violent
cut to the real event the X or R rated Peckenpaw"
type director could brew up. Only once in the
later ghost scene, in which Bull still says
nothing and a very haggled but still elegant Bill
goes on endlessly about illusion and reality
and survival do we see as in the Shakespeare
Tragedies the "king" of the new wild west of full
readdressed chiefs and seven and a half foot
replacements for calm quiet five foot-one
leather Shamen is talking to thin air.

Even if some later studio editing may have
been done Buffalo Bill is still the most classic
rounded and polished work of a single director
even including the Europeans. Altman, the
wizzard of LION GATE FILMS right down the
block in Westwood, truly challenges all of
Hollywood to do better with only the larger
pencil of Borges and Joyce!

POETRY

poetry by michael mollett

from the boards at the unemployment
office:

tray person
floor person
pickle person
fit-up person
tie-up person
lay-up & rubber person
fascimile maker
pattern rigger
programmer

shooter
driller
scraper
spreader
detailer
chocolate dipper
zipper setter
glass watcher
line driver

baghouse supervisor
Ann Franklin
scheduler
companion

gas island attendant
hospital attendant
tool crib attendant
log clerk
logical designer
quality assurance manager
od-id grinder
chipper operator
telephone solicitor
termite inspector
color matcher
mail opener
note teller
phone answerer
night guard
wind tunnel model builder
physicist
egg candler
chore service provider
blind stitch operator
live-in help

tire mounter
squeezer moulder
unit tester

plant engineer
site cleaner
dried flower arranger
field rep.
plumber

back maker
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checker
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candy maker

marijuana in colonial America

(exerpted from The Leaflet)
In keeping with the spirit of the Bicen-
tennial, NORML presents a page of histo-
ry: a capsule sketch of cannabis com-
merce in the colonies. A part of every-
day life, marijuana played an important
supporting role in the development and
expansion of the country.

Marijuana, or hemp as it was called,
was an essential crop in colonial America.
First planted in Jamestown in 1611, as
required by the settlers' contract with
the Crown's Virginia Company, marijuana
was cultivated throughout the colonies
for the long fiber strands of the stalk.
Many basic necessities for the self-suf-
ficient colonists were made from the
hearty plant. One source reports that
by 1630 one-half of the winter clothing
and nearly all of the summer clothing
worn by the the colonists were made from
hemp fiber. The tough fiber was also used
to make twine, blankets, and long-lasting
paper for Bibles and currency. Early
transportation also depended on hemp.
Ships were rigged with hemp sails and
ropes, and canvas, a coarse hemp fabric
that derives its name from cannabis,
covered many of the wagons which took the
pioneers westward.

The colonies rapidly became the Bri-
tish Empire's natural resources farm.
England required and encouraged hemp
production in the colonies to promote
and stimulate its selfish mercantile in-
terests, and to challenge Russia's near-
monopoly on world hemp production. Bri-
tain's weavers were skilled at fashion-
ing the rough hemp fabric into fine-
grade napkins, sheets, bags and the
country's Union Jack flags. The Eng-
lish government, and some of the co-
lonial legislatures, gave bounties
for hemp cultivation, and in 1762 Vir-
ginia actually imposed penalties on
persons who did not cultivate hemp.

Hemp farming was a respectable
and profitable enterprise among the
colonists, and there were large plan-
tations throughout the South both be-
fore and after the war for independence.
In his diary, George Washington des-
cribed growing cannabis at Mount Vernon
in 1765. One entry tells of separating
male and female plants, an undertaking
interpreted by some historians as done
to enhance smoking potency rather than
fiber strength. There is little evi-
dence, however, to suggest that mari-
juana's psycho-active properties were

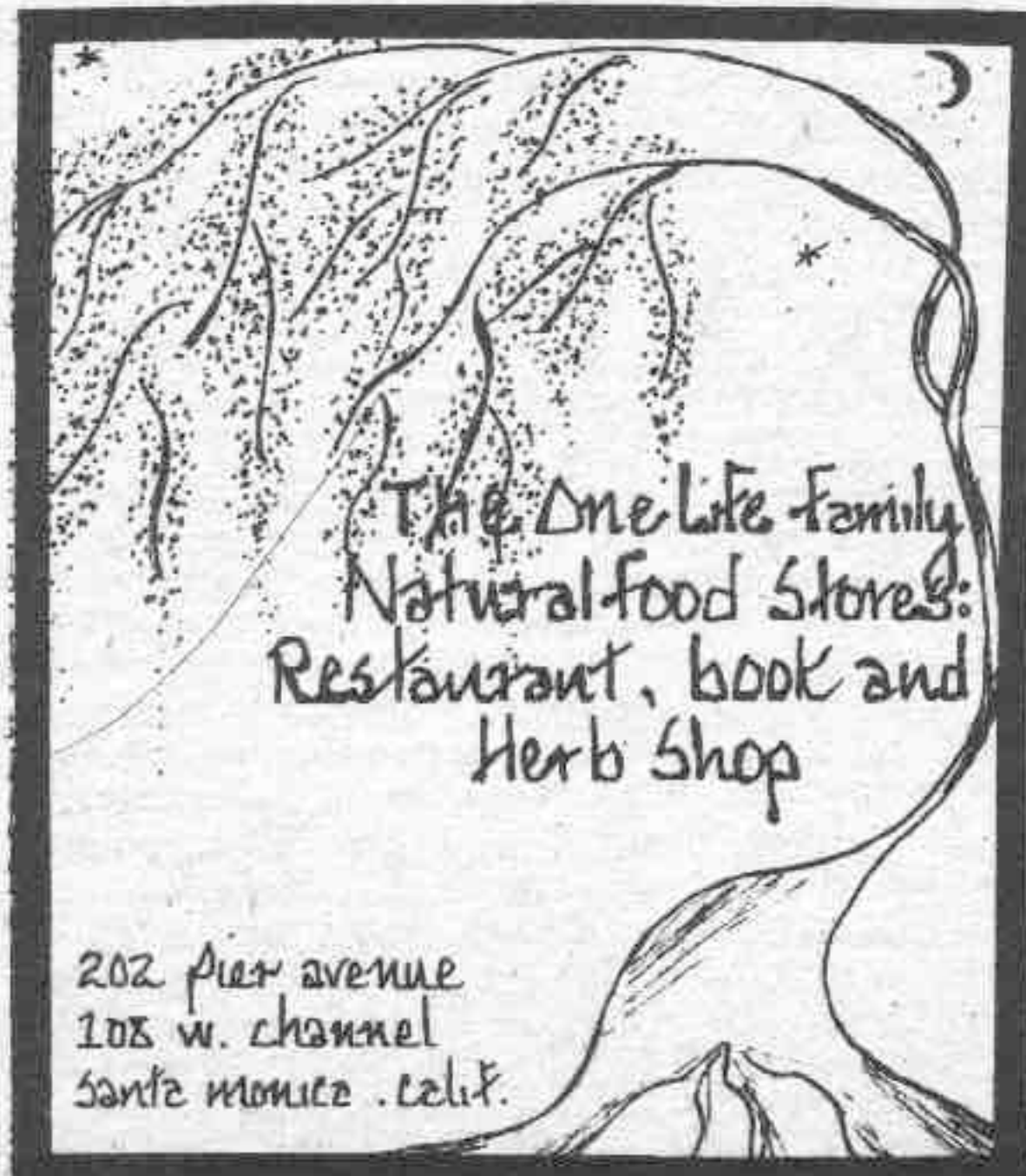


much explored in America before the
next century, though most of the Afri-
slaves who harvested the weed probably
knew of its extra-fibrous uses.

The American hemp industry began a
decline from which it never fully re-
covered with the coming of the Indus-
trial Revolution, the introduction of
the cotton gin, and the disruptions
caused by the Civil War. Commercial
hemp production did continue into the
twentieth century, and as late as 1937
about 10,000 acres were cultivated,
principally in Kentucky, which was the
center of nineteenth century production,
and in Illinois and Wisconsin. With
marijuana less used for its fiber, the
uses of its seed for bird food and for
oil to make paint became the chief of-
ficial reasons for its limited existence.

During World War II, large-scale
domestic production of marijuana briefly
came back. The U.S. Department of Agri-
culture encouraged stockpiling of home-
grown hemp when the Japanese occupation
of the Phillipines cut off America's
supply of rope fiber. The legacy of
war-production marijuana survives to-
day, in thousands of acres growing
wild throughout the country. The De-
partment of Agriculture now distributes
an identification and destruction guide
to farmers, while admitting that total
eradication is virtually impossible.

Natural and man-made fibers have
largely replaced the use of hemp in pre-
sent day commerce, but marijuana looms
as a far larger, though illicit, "cash
crop" than ever before in history, with
revenues estimated to exceed \$4 billion
annually.



"POP" PSYCH SUPERMARKET

By Ted Hulbert

A burgeoning breed of popular psychologies has attracted vast numbers of followers lately by promising what people seem to desire most: expanded consciousness, personal growth, control over self or others, heightened sensory awareness, more joy, better sex, improved health.

But can the various brands of Pop Psych actually deliver what they promise?

A UCLA psychology professor, assisted by several of his graduate students, asked that question as they studied half a dozen major brands of pop therapy: Arica, est, Primal Therapy, Reevaluation Counseling, Scientology, and Silva Mind Control. Their research led professor Gerald M. Goodman and his students to the conclusion that Pop Psych is a highly commercial field where the buyer should be wary.

Other investigators reported similar findings during a UCLA Extension study on the abounding market for quick and easy therapies.

The entire Pop Psych supermarket reflects extreme narcissism, a deification of the self that ignores morality and the individual's relation to society, said Peter Marin, teacher, author, and former fellow of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions.

The expanded consciousness movement is riddled with fallacies, not least of which is the notion that a person can maximize one single value such as self-awareness, said Professor Charles Hampden-Turner of the Wright Institute. "The most precious human values," he said, "come to you not by direct grasping, but by indirection."

Each year brings its own most fashionable therapy, noted Professor Goodman. The craze right now seems to be est (Erhard Seminars Training). Nearly all the Pop Psych brands have some common goals with religion, psychotherapy, medicine, and science. They are elusive to study because their procedures change rapidly. Often they are created in a flash by some charismatic person, and usually they charge a flat fee for a packaged program which guarantees to lead the buyer to an exalted condition.

Many of these therapies, Professor Goodman observes, make this pitch: "You are already perfect, but with our package you can change your imperfect self-concept and distorted perception of the world." Does it sound like double-talk? "Yes, if one approaches with skepticism it is double talk," says Dr. Goodman. "But skepticism is hard to muster when we feel desperate, aching for relief, or in a long search for serenity, and someone says, 'It's all so ridiculously simple, succumb to our procedure.'"

After visits to various Pop Psych programs, Dr. Goodman came to this conclusion: "Pop therapies sell hard, they claim to be based on revelations of truth, and they outpromise their competition." One therapist promised to deliver joy at his group sessions. Others in succession offered more joy, peak joy, cosmic joy, and advanced cosmic joy.

But desperate people who respond to slippery promises, says Goodman, pay a heavy emotional price once their therapeutic glow fades upon returning to the unsheltered world.

Harsh reality, however, seems to be a selling point for the latest therapy model, est. The standard est program, according to Dr. Goodman, involves two weekends sitting on folding chairs in a hotel conference room with 250 other initiates who each paid \$250.

In spartan, shared discomfort, they receive a common diagnosis of their problems. There is extended interaction and controlled rage, mingled with "that vital ingredient for change in self-perception, personal mortification. It's a hard package to resist. Est promises to put us back together again after tearing us down and throwing away our old beliefs."

An amazing number of est graduates insist on the program's value. "Most people who submit to personal sacrifice for psychological gain, and urge others to submit themselves," says Goodman. "I did a controlled study wherein 96 percent of the original applicants said they would do it again, even though a non-treated control group improved more. The patient is the least trustworthy informant about therapeutic gain."



Photo by Bill Weiner

The fact that the Pop Psych movement is so totally oriented toward personal gain is what troubles some observers most. "It began as a genuine movement for people to discover something about themselves," says Peter Marin, "but the movement has gotten out of hand precisely because it was never wed to any intelligent thinking about society."

People who go searching for a new consciousness cannot discover what they seek in trendy psychologies which ignore or negate morality and the individual's relation to society, Marin told his UCLA Extension audience.

"The self is discovered only in relation to something other than the self. Think about your own experiences, and you will discover that the truly great moments, the peak experiences, those times of feeling free and at home in the world, have occurred in the presence of other persons and would not have occurred without them. And yet when these therapies talk about self-actualization, nothing would lead you to believe that their concept of self-actualization requires the loved presence of others. Any sensible therapy should be devoted to restoring the loving community, which the soul aches for, and which we lack most of the time in our lives."

"We armor ourselves from the inside out, and lose touch with nature within ourselves. That is precisely what happens in therapies based upon self. Any therapy which concentrates on self, and which doesn't bring people together, is always a form of exploitation, because only through relation, love, and caring does the self become whole."

"We are in pain because we ask what we want 'next' for ourselves. To think only of ourselves in our privileged world while other people are hungry, is an act of viciousness. Underneath everything, we know it is morally wrong, we ought to stop it, and that it will get us deeper and deeper into moral pain."

"It is viciously criminal that most of our therapies ignore this moral reality. To live a life of moral isolation is the most painful thing in the world. If you have a sexual life and an emotional life, but no moral life, you have no life at all."

Another analyst of Pop Psych, Dr. Charles Hampden-Turner, takes Marin's society-oriented argument several steps farther and suggests that mass-marketed psychologies have failed even on their own narrow terms. "They're simple and seductive, but they're based on faulty premises," Hampden-Turner identified five major fallacies of the Pop Psych movement.

The first fallacy is that mind and body work better when subjected to conscious control. "You always can tell the person who's thinking too hard about his next move; instead of being smooth and sensitive, he clunks. The truth about accomplished human relationships is that they move far faster than the deliberating mind. To become painfully self-conscious of your every move can put relationships back decades. The more you concentrate on single, narrow techniques, the more you overlook the remainder of the world, and lose sight of the kaleidoscope of life."

A second fallacy, one that Hampden-Turner finds particularly appalling, is the growing notion that any positive attribute (freedom, creativity, love, openness)

can be expanded infinitely by some special technique. "Take the concept of creativity. Most people would agree that creativity sets you free. But is is a fallacy to believe that creativity is novelty increased unilaterally. The truth is, creativity has as much to do with tradition as it does with novelty. Genuine creativity is the new straining against the old - old images and old pieces reworked into new forms. Freedom and determinism go together, and the freedom of living forms is a freedom withing the law. "Take the idea of love. If you attend groovy sessions at Esalen or a Humanistic Psychology Association meeting, again and again you get the sensation that people by an act of will are trying to force themselves to love or to accept everyone else. It doesn't work. When you try to increase love, you become vacuous. The same is true of 'acceptance.' If you accept everybody, you will drown in experience." Furthermore, the escalation of halftruths about love or acceptance usually produces results just the opposite of what was intended. Fallacy three, says Hampden-Turner, is that certain nostrums or inventions are good for everyone, regardless of prior diagnosis. "The truth is, people tend to expose themselves selectively to what they already have in excess. Pop Psych tends to run things into the ground."

The fourth fallacy is that human values can be maximized when each single value is isolated. "Contrast that notion with the example we see in Martin Luther King. He was a brilliant synthesis of opposites, religious and secular at the same time. He asserted himself by being both proud and humble. How did he confront repression? He said, 'Relax, sit down, hug your brothers and sisters, but do it right in front of the authority figure, looking into the face of injustice and thrusting out your own values as an alternative.' Consider how trivializing it would seem to break his movement down into its separate techniques."

"And yet that is what the Pop Psych supermarket does. It takes a movement and a process with historical roots and a purpose, and breaks it down into lethal shards, much as you might shatter a plate of glass into jagged pieces."



Finally, says Hampden-Turner, there is "the fallacy that psychic goodies can be sold on the marketplace without vitiating their true values. Our most precious human values cannot be sold, directly grasped, or obtained. Consider the ideal of self-actualization. It's a good description of a healthy human being, but it's a lousy prescription. The hardest way to become self-actualized is to condescend to self-actualization. It's rather like trying to work very hard at being happy. All attempts to directly grab at sensations are like putting a needle in your arm and getting high without loving somebody."

"True values are not a programmed high. They are a reconciliation of opposites. Creativity is a synthesis of change with continuity. Courage is a synthesis of bravery, which is the affirmation of courage, and caution, which is its negation."

"All moral advice and all moral help are two-dimensional. Ultimately, the relationship between values is the key to self-actualization."

(Reprinted from The UCLA Monthly, July-August 1976)

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

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

North Beach - West of Main, Santa Monica to Venice Boulevard. Meets every first Monday at Venice Pavilion Meeting room, Windward at bike path, 7:00; 396-3885 or 392-4765

Canals - South of Venice Blvd., east of Pacific, West of Washington Blvd. Meets every first and third Tuesday at Anchorage School, 7:30 823-2626 or 823-1753

Oakwood - North of California, West of Lincoln, to Washington Blvd. Meets every third Wednesday, at Boradway School bungalow, 7:00 396-2801

East Venice - South of California, West of Lincoln to Washington Blvd. Meets every fourth Wednesday at Cover D'Alene School, 7:30 821-1430

Central - North of Venice Blvd., east of Main, West of Washington Blvd. Meets every Second Thursday 328 Market Street, 7:30, 821-1774

Penmar - East of Lincoln, North of Venice Blvd. Meets every third Wednesday at Penmar Recreation Center, 1341 Lake Street., 7:30 391-6471 or 396-8160

GAY ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, regular meeting Thursday, 8:30 p.m., men's stag meeting Sunday at 4:30 p.m., Beyond Baroque Library, 1639 W. Washington Blvd., Venice, 396-6551

A Venice bicentennial (ugh!) group has been formed to restore the Westminster school auditorium as a community arts center. We hope to create a flexible space for display, performing arts, and workshops for the use of resident artists and citizens. Your participation is requested. Meetings are held each Monday at 7:00 p.m. at the Israel Levin Center, 201 Ocean Front Walk, 396-6343 for more information.

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WEST WASHINGTON ARTWALK

On Sunday, Sept. 12 from noon until dusk artwalk will be held on West Washington Blvd. with ten galleries and artist's studios participating. The participating galleries are: Auratorium, AVA Gallery, Chelsea Gallery, Helen Drue, La Gallerie Moderne at Traditionnelle, Memory Bank, Paint your Wagon, Sheldon Tarrant Picture Framers, The Living Room Studio & Art Gallery, Fred & Miriam Crostich. Chelsea Galleries at 1338 W. Washington Blvd. will be showing lithographs, drawings and paintings of Cathy Karol, as well as a photo exhibitions by brother and sister Wolfe and Lisa Kirson. The photo show is titled "The Party". Wolfe and Lisa are 8 and 12 years old respectively and this marks their first show. Wine will be served throughout the day and a concert by Richard Aldorasi and Tom Tedesco performing their own work on drums and guitar will be featured.

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AGRICULTURAL LAND REFORM CONFERENCE

The California Food Policy Coalition announces a State Conference on Land Reform, to be held in Fresno, Friday and Saturday, October 15-6. The conference, the third in a series of six to be sponsored by the Coalition, will focus on the control and use of agricultural land in California.

Registration deadline will be October 8. Registration will be \$5 plus cost of simple meals and housing. For more information individuals and groups should contact Mack Warner, Chairperson, Conference Planning Committee, 2160 Lake St., San Francisco, CA 94121.

INDIAN WARS (continued from page 5)

Also in Oklahoma City at present there is a McCarthy-type fishing expedition going on in the grand jury which had summoned fourteen Indians to question them about their involvement in Wounded Knee and conspiracy to assassinate a U.S. Senator. Since they have refused to cooperate with the federal grand jury, another hearing has been rescheduled for September 7th. Again, this is an open and shut example of harassment and persecution of Indian militants by the federal government. They don't seem to be able to forget that Wounded Knee, South Dakota was held successfully for seventy-one days by several hundred Indians. Some are sitting in prison for it and some are still to be tried. For one, Leonard Crow Dog, the spiritual leader of the Rosebud Sioux got five years. Letters of protest against the federal grand jury inquisition should go to Attorney General Edward Levi, Dept. of Justice, 10th St. N.W. & Constitution Ave., Washington D.C.

The Menominees of Wisconsin have had their brave warriors, Mike Sturdevant and Robert Chevalier, taken from them and holed up in prison for the take-over of the Catholic monastery in Greshen. White supporters together with Native-Americans have formed a Menominee Solidarity Committee, Box 92652 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202.

Russell Means goes to trial together with David Hill for conspiracy to commit riot. This is in Vermillion, South Dakota on September 13th Russell has just finished his trial in Rapid City where he was acquitted of being accessory to a murder. Russell Means and David Hill need encouragement. Letters should be sent to them care of the WKLD Committee, 712 Allen, Rapid City, South Dakota.

Yes friends, the wars against the Indians, as you can see, continue-- despite the three hundred some peace treaties signed.

RENT INCREASE PSYCHOLOGY

"Never retract an increase. You will lose face if you do," landlords are advised in an article in Profession Builder Magazine. And "if you increase rents and no one says anything, you have undershot your market." Tell your manager to stay away from the complex the day after the rental increase is announced," suggests the article. "By the second day, tenants will have cooled down enough to talk without getting too emotional." (CPF)

"I am an anti-imperialist. I am opposed to having the eagle put its talons on any other land." Mark Twain

MAN EATS PATROL CAR

What do you charge a man with who tries to eat your patrol car?

Two deputies report they were on a patrol recently when they spotted a nude man standing outside a gas station. When they attempted to question the man, he attacked their car and tried to eat the plastic casing around the patrol car's radar unit.

When the suspect was subdued and taken into custody, he reportedly began eating the back seat of the car on the way to the sheriff's station. The hungry nudist was eventually charged with malicious destruction of property...ZNS

TWINKIE TWINKIE

The city of Cleveland has officially changed the name of West 20th Street to Twinkie Lane.

The ITT Continental Baking Company, maker of the chemical cake, has a Twinkie plant on the street.

Apparently, millions of Americans are hooked on Twinkies. Produced by workers at Hostess (read ITT), 700 million or more Twinkies are being gobbled down a year. One Twinkie plant in New Brunswick New Jersey employs 19 workers to operate a giant 190 foot long oven. The oven turns out 50,000 Twinkies an hour or three million a week. Consumer groups condemn the health value of Twinkies which are made mainly of sugar, refined flour, shortening and chemicals. Nevertheless, the Twinkie craze is growing and, according to Borrowed Times, an international Twinkie Festival is held in Rochester, Minnesota featuring a Twinkie derby where contestants equip the cakes with toothpicks and axle wheels. (CPF)

EVEN THE WATER'S HOT IN MEXICO

A river near Mexico City is in danger of burning according to the Mexican government.

The water is so polluted with wastes that the government is considering posting "no smoking" signs. Tests conducted by Miguel Romero, a Biochemical engineer, indicate that the Tlalneplanta River is highly flammable.

Governmental inspectors were required to take anti-tetanus injections before inspecting the river due to the high degree of contamination..(Primo Enquirer)



OIL VEY!!!!!!!!!!!!

Major US oil companies, three years ago, were warning about massive petroleum shortages on the west coast and successfully lobbied for a crash effort to build the \$7 billion Alaskan pipeline.

Today, many of these companies are conceding that when the Pipeline becomes operational the west coast is likely to be glutted with oil it can't use.

Ames Smith, the marine department manager for Exxon, admits Exxon is planning for a large surplus of oil from the Alaskan pipeline. One of the alternatives, Ames says, is to sell the oil to Japan.

Selling the oil abroad would be in direct contradiction to the assurances made to Congress when the Pipeline was approved. Oil company executives stated at that time the Alaskan oil amounted to a national emergency resource that would be used for domestic purposes only.

The expected surplus on the west coast beginning next year could be as much as a third of the Pipeline's daily capacity -- or a whopping 400,000 barrels a day. Several oil companies confirm they are studying plans for yet another pipeline--a billion dollar project that would carry the excess oil to the Midwest from California. New plans for large refineries and massive oil storage facilities are already being devised for west coast cities...ZNS



Photo by Bill Weiner

TO FLUSH OR NOT TO FLUSH

A former government researcher says one modern device which would seem entirely strange and illogical to a visitor from another planet is the flush toilet.

Harold Leich states: "In one year the typical user of a flush toilet contaminates 13,000 gallons of fresh water to carry away 165 gallons of body wastes." Leich says that toilets with almost no waste at all could easily be designed.

"To a visitor from another planet," he says, "it would seem incredible that human beings who are intelligent enough for space travel solve their problems of personal hygiene by putting their body wastes into the public drinking water and then spend billions of dollars in futile efforts to restore the water to its original condition." ...ZNS

CANAL FESTIVAL FUNERAL (continued from page 2)

ain't gonna put on this quaint and curious festival for the delictation of the tourists and realtors. They are going to do something more positive. They are going to bury the specious joy of the Canal Festival.

It's time for the festival to die. It's being given a decent burial by people who love it.

The Canal Festival is being buried. Childish things are being put away. And those who invested their energy into the festival are now channelling their energies into fighting the incursions of ticky-tacky monstrosities built for the second string jet set that just adore the quaint unique lifestyle - if it were n't for all those ghastly poor people.

The death card in the Tarot Deck does not necessarily mean death. It can be the end of an old way of life or thinking and the birth of a new struggle.

APPEAL TAX ASSESSMENTS

Los Angeles residents interested in appealing the latest assessed valuation of their property may file a written application to the County Assessor's Office by September 15 at 5 p.m.

For further information, call the Hall of Administration, Assessments Appeals Board at 974-1471 or visit Councilwoman Russell's office at 681 Venice Blvd.

Applications are available only at the Assessment appeals boards in Room B-4 Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple St. L.A.



WOMEN'S HEALTH AND HEALING CONFERENCE

A Women's Health and Healing Conference will be held October 8th through the 11th at Los Angeles City College (1855 North Vermont) featuring panels, speakers and workshops. Holly Near will sing and share women's culture. Registration is \$30 or \$10 for unemployed (at door). Send to: Women's Health Care Project, 1711 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica CA 90405. Phone: 450-2191.

PEARLS FROM PAT

The Los Angeles City Council voted to reject plans for an artificial reef in Santa Monica Bay until a thorough environmental impact report is prepared, announced Councilwoman Pat Russell.

Acting on a recommendation from Ms. Russell and the Recreation and Park Committee, the Council refused to approve construction of the reef until a governmental agency--local, state or federal--is found willing to sponsor an EIR.

"I favor the concept of an artificial reef," said the Councilwoman. Concrete blocks deposited in the Bay to form an underwater wall probably would attract and shelter many forms of marine life. But I am particularly concerned about the effect above water," she stated.

Portions of the Playa del Rey beach would have been paved so trucks could load concrete more easily into sea barges.

"This would further erode the beach area and increase safety hazards on city street," said Councilwoman Russell. "And I am confident an EIR, if conducted, will explore these issues and recommend a more acceptable method of developing an artificial reef for marine life." July 27, 1976

Los Angeles Councilwoman Pat Russell announced today that the City Council approved a 30 cent reduction per \$100 assessed valuation in this year's City property tax rate.

Homeowners with a market value of \$50,000 on their homes and no increase in assessed valuations this year, can expect to save about \$32.33 on their City tax bill.

