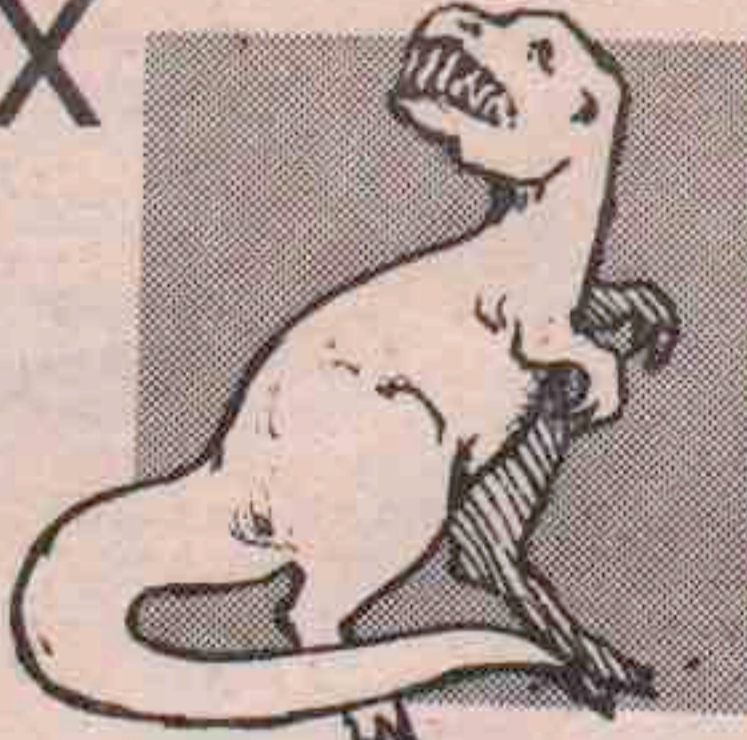


# TEHERAN-ASAURUS REX

# SNYDER

# GETS

# \$NYDER



by Moe Stavnezer

I am not generally a big fan of old sayings but in this case I can't help it--"I Told You So" is the whole essence of the L.A. Times story about payoffs to some of our favorite Coastal Commissioners. The Times reports that Regional Commissioners Art Snyder (a big surprise I'm sure), Jim Walsh, Rick Erickson and Don Wilson (the Chair of the South Coast Commission) have used their seats on the commission to solicit campaign funds from many developers who have appeared before them for permits. For years we've been saying that there has been a pretty cozy relationship between these two groups because, essentially, they have the same outlook regarding the way in which land should be used--always for the most profit for the developer and the public be damned!

But Snyder is a bit paranoid. In his 5-page letter of "defense" to Council Pres. Ferraro Snyder exhorts Ferraro to keep him on the commission or it will be captured by the environmental elitists "whether they be the rich of Malibu and the Palisades or the pro-Khomeini radicals of Venice." Now that's real dumb!

Seems like the whole gambit was not terribly different from the classic protection racket usually attributed to the mafia. The way the story reads if you happen to want a coastal permit and what you want to do is either slightly controversial or located in a place with lots of community involvement (Venice was singled out in this category) you are asked for some protection money--usually in the form of a campaign contribution. And the characters are right out of a Damon Runyon classic--the "big shots", the "sleezy bagmen" and the "victim" all smiling at the expense of the innocent and, constantly, duped general public..

### Honest Officer, I Never Saw It

The scam uncovered by the Times is that various developers were pegged by either the commissioners (and it pains me to use that word for these "crooks") or their lackies who represent developers before the commission, as potential "campaign" contributors. The whole situation is tawdry and cheap with the "Bugsie Malones" on or off the commission in the guise of "development facilitators"--a new word for people like Roger Osenbaugh--or lawyers--an old word for people like Sherman Stacy, the original "ambulance chaser of coastal law" playing "bagman" to the Don Corlione role of Art Snyder. Added to these players is the "wrapped in red-white-'n-blue" populist role of James Walsh and the "gee whiz" naivete of Rick Erickson (the Commission's resident wide-eyed boy about the law "never hurting anyone" especially potential campaign contributors). Well what we now have is an almost perfect mechanism for duping the public, including the many developers who gave money to this tight little cabal

Well, Phillip Marlowe lovers, all was going just fine until some people begin asking some pertinent, but "irrelevant" (according to the indignant commissioners) questions about the correlation between campaign contributions and votes on some developments. The Pacific Palisades Property Owners Assoc. 1st asked that

question of Don Wilson about a very controversial development in the Palisades part of the Santa Monica Mountains. Wilson was, of course, very self-righteously indignant but he did abstain from voting on the project--which passed mainly because the applicants had so well greased that Wilson's vote wasn't needed. But the issue was on (and shoved under) the table.

And then the whole thing got busted by a couple of enterprising reporters who took the ball from out of bounds to center court and the "cookie jar" got suddenly very crowded. And all the folks with hands in the jar were running for more open spaces. The private eye had become the public fishbowl and all the "kings" had forgotten how naked that can feel. So we are witness to all kinds of excuses and rationales, denials and counter-attacks, and accusations about "trial by press" that sounds like a deja vu of Watergate. Remember Nixon on T.V., in the all-Americanized "Checkers Speech" declaring "I am not a Crook". I'm sure that Art Snyder wishes that Tricky Dick hadn't already used that line!

We are now witnessing a well orchestrated series of denials ranging from a flat denial of any wrong-doing to well gosh, isn't this the way its usually done to the typical "what'd I do officer?" The folks involved are as crooked as the coast of California! No matter how far they run, no matter how much protection they get it really still is a matter of throw the "bums" out.

### You Can Tell the Players, Even Without a Program!

I keep making analogies to what has been happening at the Regional Commission to a game because so many of the same rules seem to apply. Play to win any way you can as long as you don't get caught. If you win, everything is forgiven. If you get caught, deny that you broke any rules and then pay the small penalty for getting back involved (everyone forgets after a while).

In this case the players are very obvious by how they act, look and speak. Dignity, American style, is very important. Dress in suits, hold an impressive position or at least have an impressive title. So the difference between an L.A. City Council person and a representative of developers becomes blurred and the public is lead to believe that the same legitimacy attached to the former belongs to the latter. Somehow that convoluted thinking makes Art Snyder and Sherman Stacy equally as important and also equally as credible. And the opposite becomes true, those who disagree with either of these symbols of good are, of course, BAD. So on one level, at least, they do become equal--you can't get either of them without money! Obviously they're on the same "team", but who the hell are they?

.... Continued to Page 9....

## THE PURVEYOR OF FEAR

# JARVIS CON

by Moe Stavnezer

My first "run in" with Howard Jarvis was around this time 2 years ago and the distance was just as great. In 1978 we were making the first stab at putting Rent Control across in Santa Monica and, in many ways, were undone by Jarvis' 1st great "tax reform" measure--Prop. 13. Well in that election Prop. 13 won by a landslide statewide, but won by 10% fewer points in Santa Monica where rent control was a major local issue on the same ballot.

Here it is, two years later, and the same kinds of issues are still on the agenda except that the issue of rent control has gone statewide and Jarvis is back with another "tax reform" initiative just as devious and seductive as Prop. 13. Proposition 9, like its predecessor, is playing to all the fears of an economy racked by the twin demons of inflation & recession. Damn how it looks like a rerun of 2 years ago, except...? Except this time I think that Jarvis is exposing himself for what he really is--the biggest political con artist in California. And Prop. 9 is the biggest hype since pet rocks, and about as useful unless, like Jarvis, you happen to be rich.

### Robin Hood in Reverse

Howard Jarvis has raised to an art the process of robbing from the poor to give to the rich. If Prop. 9 passes the 20% of the population with the highest incomes will get 60% of the tax benefits. The 2,800,000 senior citizens who don't pay any state taxes would, of course, get no tax relief but wou have some social services cut. Prop. 9 will cut the State budget by almost \$5 billion while at the same time the State is still expected to continue its bail out to local government from Prop. 13. The state just cannot afford to do both for any period of time.

But Jarvis is saying that the politicians cried wolf about Prop. 13, that the roof did not fall in as they said it would, and that they're lying again this time. He simply pays no attention to all the hidden increased costs from Prop. 13 ranging from flooding in the last storm due to debris filled flood control channels, due to a massive budget cut in the Flood Control agency, to a 20% cut in the time libraries are open. This at the same time that property taxes on residences increased as a percent of all property taxes collected. So Prop. 13 helped commercial property owners much more than home owners, just like those awful politicians said it would.

There is no doubt that California will not sink into the ocean if Prop. 9 passes. But poor and unemployed people will have a tough time getting health and welfare benefits and everyone who has children with emotional or physical handicaps will find special education programs hard to come by. All of the loss will have to come out of someone's hides and it sure won't be the hides of the rich. The money that will have to be found some way, probably on taxes such as sales, or gas or in charges for services that are now free, such as the garbage collection fee that almost passed last year. And these kinds of taxes and fees fall hardest on those least able to afford them. After Prop. 13 passed, about half of California's City raised, by as

.... Continued to page 17....

# Letters

Dear Beachhead Collective,

Please convey to Carol Berman my appreciation of her intelligence, wit, and writing style. "Kings, Queens, and Khomeinis" was an absolute delight.

Sincerely,  
Arnold Hansen

Dear Beachhead:

In March's issue of Beachhead you ran an ad for World of Poetry, in Stockton, California. The ad stated it was offering \$1,000 in prize money.

About one year ago I entered three poems in this contest, paying \$15 entry fee. Several months later I received their newsletter announcing the (felonious?) winners and saying that if I bought their book (\$19.95) my poem (coincidentally entitled "Venice") would be in it. I reported this scam operation to the B. B. B. and would stridently recommend anyone considering entering this contest not to do so.

Sincerely,  
Paul (the king) Beethoven

(Staff note: the B.B.B. is the Better Business Bureau, whose business it is to keep track of scams such as this. Complaints can be registered locally by calling 382-0917.)

Beachhead:

I found this stirring message wrapped like a forskin around a "coney island" hot dog. It apparently concerns the efforts of some in our community to form a band of vigilantes.

By all means, let's mobilize! We need a citizens army; of vigilantes. This is a democracy, no matter how imperfect; and that's the democratic way, an army of volunteers led by shopkeepers to keep the bench safe for merchants and tourists with money in pockets. I think they would look dashing if dressed in riding breeches and boots by Gucci. They could carry sabres, and swastika armbands would be optional. They will look such a dashing crew as they swoop down the Ocean Front Walk smashing winos and INSOLVENT aging hippies, stomping underfoot those undesirable and perverts. But alas! Too soon will come the day when all the undesirable - the winos, the aging hippies, the perverts who don't shine their shoes, and other such scum - have been wiped off the face of the beach. Who then will our vigilantes stomp? They're an exuberant bunch of good old boys, and they need somebody to harrass. Maybe we could declare war on Marina del Rey. But I hear the Marina crowd are a pretty tough bunch of dopers and wite-swappers; and they have a powerful flotilla. It rarely leaves the docks, but it's powerful. Our militia better start practicing close order roller skate drills and banzai charges with head set radios. Yea! That Marina crowd will never be able to withstand the onslaught of squadrons of stoned and coked roller skaters charging to the sounds of disco music. That will be enough to turn their stomachs. For a bit of nostalgic derring-do, we should first hold a commemorative beer hall putsch at the meatless messhall. It's about time that National Socialism got a boost here in Venice. Ich Muss lebensraum haben.

Sieg heil,  
Adolph Jr.

Beachhead:

I have been a sporadic reader of your paper for some time now. I am impressed with your recent issue of March 1980, especially the "Huelga" lead article by E. Elder of the Strike Support Committee. This is the kind of thing that could make your paper more important to the Venice community.

I'd prefer to see more of this than the fantasizing of S. E. M. about dog shit and sending Patton's tanks to Skokie to rout out some damn screwball Nazi's, etc.

Articles on the Oil Slickies and M. for S. have informative value also. (I for one don't care much about Greenie quacks, but that kind of harassment can be a pain in the ass for a person.)

You might inform the Huelga Committee that that's the kind of work in the community I'd like to help with, time permitting.

E. Swabeck  
I. V. O. E. Local #501

Beachhead:

How can you go on and on wasting space about Greenie, when there is so many important subjects that concern all of us?

Columns of trivia, important only to the writer not the community!

Nonsense poetry, whole pages of it! Just so some person can say they had their work published.

Lets get on with the things that concern us all. Not just the Venice Town Council or a few staff members.

A strike of a local factory concerns only the employees, not all your readers. Yet you gave it front page space. Why?

If you want a neighborhood paper, then change your format. Include articles that interest all the community. Not just the socialist and communist or the far left. There are still a few people in the bay district who believe in earning their living and in free enterprise, and don't want handouts from the government, which is really the tax-payers and the workers - who pay their share.

Rent controll is pure socialism, where those who earned to have, are forced to share, with those who have not! Free enterprise built this country and the right to own property and control it helped to build all our cities. When you put controls on a mans property, he will stop building it. Supply and demand controls rents. So if rents are controlled then building will stop. So then those who need housing can not find a place to live

With the Coastal Commission and the environmentalists, plus the rent control laws and the proposed law to force landlords to accept children, how can you expect anyone to want to build rental property?

The old saying - give a fool enough rope and he will hand his self also holds true with these

people who are pushing all these controls on rentals. They are only causing a greater shortage of housing and bringing up the price of much needed shelter. Solar houses cost far too much to build, and required set backs and open space and access lanes for public use takes up too much of expensive lots. So why build under such restrictions? No way. You liberals keep on restricting free enterprise and you'll be free to sleep on the beach or under the stars.

G. R. Wells

## Venice Town Council

City of  Venice

VENICE TOWN COUNCIL - APRIL MEETING  
Wed., April 16, 7:30 p.m.  
Will Be Held at Israel Levin Sr. Adult Center  
201 Ocean Front Walk (just S of Rose Ave.)  
1) Announcements, Committee reports  
2) Presentation by Venice, USA - group interested in local restoration.  
3) Supervisor Yvonne Burke will answer questions on housing, coastal preservation, issues of interest.  
Emergency issues, if they arise, will be handled at the beginning of the meeting so the community's time with Yvonne Burke will be opened.

*Everyone from the community  
is always welcome.*

Consumer Affairs Complaints  
California Public Utilities Commission  
107 S. Broadway, #5109  
Los Angeles, 90012  
Gentlemen:

I have been waiting ever since my last phone bill which outlined the new ZUM plan, for the public outcry, or at least for the information that the PUC would have hearings on the matter. I have been stunned at what I can only assume is a stunned taxpayers resignation on the part of the public.

I would like (for another while) not to be resigned to this constant attempt by all utilities to screw the ratepayer. This latest affront bewilders me because it is so blatant. Do we have no redress at all? What it is going to do, in making every call outside of an 8 mile radius (pr perhaps even here I am assuming too much; maybe it's 8 linear miles, and not even an 8 mile radius) will be, in effect, a long distance call, to be computer monitored for every single minute, whether one has been put on hold or not, whether one is calling the

## FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

COLLECTIVE STAFF: Brenda Harney, Olga Palo, Gerry Goldstein, Joan Friedberg, Arnold Springer, Lynne Bronstein, Emily Winters, Wendy Reeves, Elizabeth Elder, Chuck Bloomquist

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

airlines in an emergency or trying to reach a hospital, or trying to get an authority or the right person at the police station and being shifted from one department to another, being

put on hold each time -- no matter, the minutes click by in silence and we pay.

But even worse than that is the social aspect/ Many senior citizens, handicapped people, sick people, recluses, children whose mothers are at work, need the telephone for comfort, for conversation, for relief from tension. They use it for social visits and therapy which will now be denied them. Unless, of course, they have the money to pay for each individual minute. These are not business calls I'm talking about, which can be curtailed; they are aprt of a necessary lifeline to many people more unfortunate than those cold individuals who thought this up. You forget, also, the cost of gas makes the phone ever more needed. Would someone please tell me what is going on, and how I can protest this outrage?

Elaine Stansfield

ps : I am further upset and surprised that when I phoned PUC the impatient and rather snotty operator refused to connect me with anyone, saying that anything I wanted would have to be in writing. I said, "So what do you have a phone for?" and she replied, in effect, that was not for me to know, but the employees have to answer correspondence and so can't spend their time on the phone.

Dear Beachhead:

Please find enclosed a check for \$1. I want you to send me a copy of this years April issue. If my dollar entitles me to perhaps a few more issues, please forward them as they are published. I miss Venice, and wish to know what's going on.

/Steffan Finkel  
Massapequa, NY

Dear Beachhead:

Moe Stavnezer's article "Oil S(lickies)" touched upon many important fallacies about the new "less is better" mentality and convenient excuses for inflation. How gullible can the American public be? What kind of proof should be required for rent or gas hikes?

The oil companies, Jimmy Carter, and some (to be fair not all) landlords say "our costs are going up; so you see, we must raise up our prices".

Fair enough, providing the American public can audit, just like the IRS does, the specific breakdown of costs, and what is a reasonable profit for these, really, essential public utilities.

I want to see what exactly the profits are in relation to even rising gas prices, etc... More importantly, the American public should be allowed to see the exact figures and profit margin. Then we can decide what increases are fair and necessary.

Nebulous "buzz words" like "our costs are going up", "inflation is to blame for our price hikes", "it's the price of oil that responsible" seem to be accepted at face value, with resentment and maybe distrust, but no further demands for specific evidence.

I'm alarmed at the seeming acceptance of the notion that less is better. Less mobility, less money for workers, less food, less birth control and ironically, less people. Come on!

continued on pg 16

# VENICE-TEHRAN CALLING THE QUESTION

by ROBT. WELLS

Though the BEACHHEAD gave more space than any other paper to the February Town Council sister-city meeting around Iran, the articles by Carol Berman and Lance Diskan were frivolous and, in Carol's case, mostly irrelevant.

Still, they managed to touch on some of the questions most often raised about this idea; in discussing these questions I'll try to respond to the articles.

## "STICK TO LOCAL ISSUES"

Probably the main objection to even discussing Iran is that we should "stick to local issues" -- that we "don't have time" for these other things, that there are "too many local problems" we have to give our attention to.

Well, to begin with, Iran is very much a local issue. Imagine how we'd react if Fat Russell's office or the LAPD seriously proposed, and fully intended, to register with the government the name, address, Social Security number and vital data of every man and boy in Venice between the ages of 13 and 25. (Think about it -- most men now 26 will escape registering for the draft; but if it takes us five years to get rid of this law it will cover every male down to age 13; if it takes us ten years, every male down to age 8. And that includes all foreign nationals with or without papers -- no te enganas a ti mismo, folks, the draft law applies to every person present in this country, regardless of nationality, regardless of immigration status.)

But of course it isn't Russell or the LAPD that's doing this, it's the Federal government, and it's doing it everywhere, not just in Venice. Is that enough reason not to get involved? Turn the question around -- suppose they wanted to draft men everywhere except in Venice -- would that give us grounds to say it was none of our business, that we had more important, local things to do, that didn't leave us enough time to oppose the draft or another war?

I take a lot of pride in the Venice Town Council and the Venice movement -- but it would give me no pride at all to be associated with anything so selfish and narrowly self-centered as to take a position like that.

Does Iran have anything to do with the draft? If it were not for the hostage crisis in Tehran, the President would not have talked, as he has, about possibly invading Iran. If the President had not moved up ships, planes, and Marines as if he might invade, there would be no Soviet troops in Afghanistan. If there were no Soviet troops in Afghanistan, the President would not be reinstating the draft.

"Well, I support our government doing whatever it has to do to free our hostages, but I'm against the draft." You hear this a lot. Anyone who talks this way simply isn't being serious, from either point of view. Once you rule out returning the Shah, then about the only way of freeing the hostages involves serious risk of war, including war with Russia, and that means the draft and the sooner the better. If you support the government's propaganda about freeing the hostages (except by returning the Shah) then you add to the phony war fever they're whipping up, and with or without the incident that can happen here or there at any time, this gives them all they need to jam the draft through regardless what you or anyone else may have to say about it.

Yes, Iran is a local issue.

## THE TOWN COUNCIL MOTION IS "RIDICULOUS"

This was implied, if not said, in both BEACHHEAD articles. "Ridiculous" is meant two ways.

First, that it's "ridiculous" to propose that Venice and Tehran be sister-cities, to propose that the American people should support the Iranian people, because "everybody's against it."

Well, suppose everybody's wrong. (Anyone who thinks the U.S. is right in Iran is wrong.) It should be enough to

say that if people shut up because "everyone disagrees," the U.S. would still be in Vietnam today and none of us would be living in Venice. (For all that, we might still have African slavery too.)

The question isn't what "everybody" thinks -- it's what do you think.

The other meaning is that it's "ridiculous" to presume that poor, pitiful, insignificant, wee little powerless people like us should have anything to say about these big world problems, that the Town Council motion is "too big for its britches" or a "delusion of grandeur."

A lot of those who are against the Town Council for other reasons, or who support U.S. imperialist oppression of other peoples but don't have the nerve to come out and say so, take this line. Lance Diskan's article took this line. To read him you'd think the Venice Town Council, and by extension everyone who lives in Venice, were foolish clowns to take on such an issue in the first place, and then were so undisciplined, irresponsible, and un-self-controlled that we couldn't keep ourselves from chaos when we did get together ("how typically, typically Venice," yawns Lance).

As a matter of fact, everyone who came to that meeting with a baseball bat or with the intention to disrupt, without a single exception, was someone who was already an enemy of the Council for reasons other than Iran (some were developers the Council had opposed at the Coastal Commission, others were angry because the Council hadn't sided with them against the home-birth center).

Despite the deliberate disruption Chairman Moe Stavnezer did bring the meeting to order and get it on the track (this was accurately reported by Mike Searles in the Outlook, but not by the BEACHHEAD). It was only then that the Fire Marshal (called, I'm now convinced, by Pearl White) stepped in and declared the room unlawfully overcrowded.

This was an arbitrary and discriminatory abuse of his power. That room has been filled to overflowing many times -- in one case the crowd spilled out into the hallway, up the stairs, and out onto the lawn. This is the one single time the Fire Marshal has ever closed down a meeting, and it was done strictly for political reasons. Both the left and the right were wise to break off the meeting till another time rather than fall into the Marshal's trap. We were not, as Lance tried to say, "undisciplined and irresponsible."

The ordinary people of Venice, acting as and through the Venice Town Council, have made profound and historic (and permanent) changes in the shape of the Venice-that-was-to-be, and they have had a major influence on California coastal conservation law far beyond their numbers. For more than a decade they have been doing this diligently, seriously, and with joy. I don't believe it's possible for Lance to trivialize that, but in the process of trying he does trivialize himself.

## THE MOTION IS "DISLOYAL TO AMERICA" -- AND WHAT ABOUT THE HOSTAGES?

This gets to the meat of it. The first point was put very bluntly by Mrs. G.R. Wells (I don't believe we're related by family; we're certainly not related politically).

And what about the hostages?

Without changing the facts in Iran at all, let me for a moment just change the words we use to talk about those facts. The government, and so of course all the press, and so of course then all the rest of us, have called the taking of the hostages "an act of terrorism." Terrorism it may be technically, but just for now let's call it "an act of limited war."

Technically, that is just as correct as "terrorism," but if we're talking about "war," even "limited war," then it's possible to look at things over all, and to see what other acts of war there

have been, and to see who started it.

Once we do that, of course, we see that U.S. imperialism is the aggressor in the limited war with Iran, that the U.S. government started the war when the CIA overthrew the democratic government of Iran in 1953 (using "diplomatic immunity" as its cover), that the U.S. continued the war by putting the Shah in power, by training, equipping, and paying his army to keep the people down, by training, equipping, and paying the secret-police prison-keepers and torturers of the SAVAK.

We are used to calling the 53 Americans in Tehran "hostages," and they are. But just for the moment, let's call them "prisoners of war" instead -- which they also are.

When we do that we can see that they are being treated well within international standards for treatment of prisoners of war.

When we do that we can see that they are not the same kind of hostages as a teller in a bank with a gun to her head -- and so the solution is not necessarily to have a SWAT team rush in to free them. No, they are hostage prisoners of war, and the way to get them back is the same way we get all prisoners of war back -- to resolve the issues of the war itself.

Right now the issue is the Shah, an international thief and criminal against humanity. Everyone knows of the billions he stole from the Iranian people; everyone knows of the tens and tens of thousands he had tortured to death and murdered. No one can claim ignorance.

Why did Kissinger, Carter and Rockefeller want him in this country? Why won't they send him back? Because they know that when he goes on trial in Iran U.S. imperialism goes on trial with him. They know that the information in his head and in his files, on multi-million dollar bribes and kickbacks, can send an entire generation of Washington politicians to prison.

Rather than see that happen, they have brought this country to the edge of World War III and reinstated the draft.

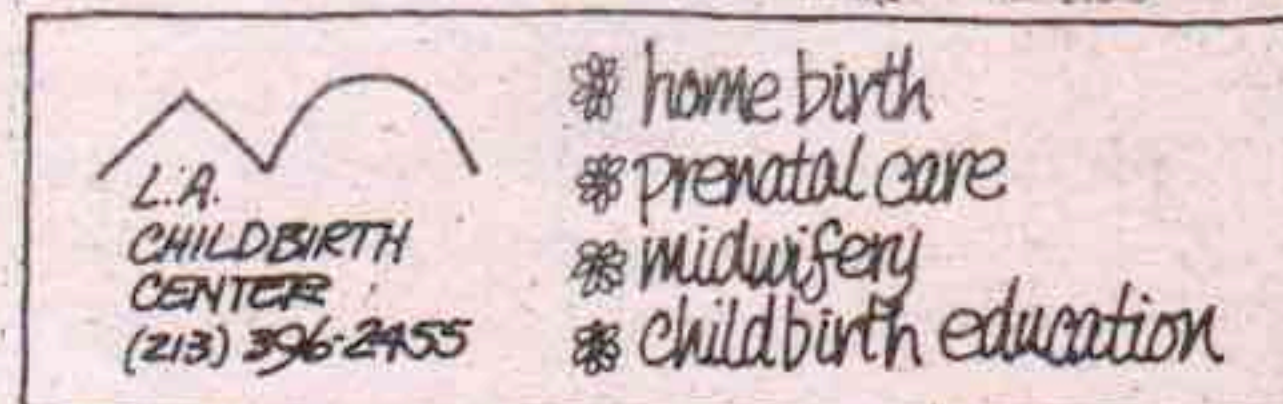
I am not available to have my patriotism misused in this way. My loyalty to America takes the form of anti-imperialism. When it became clear that the Vietnamese were right and the U.S. government was wrong, I sided with the Vietnamese, as did thousands of other Americans. And that's why we should offer our support and friendship to the Iranians now -- because they're right and the U.S. government is wrong.

"Patriotism" and "loyalty to America" now mean exactly the same thing as "support for U.S. imperialism," to the point where we don't even know what it really means to be American. The answer to that has not been forgotten, it has never been made. The only way we can begin to find our true identity as a people and as a nation is to give our fullhearted support to those peoples all over the world and within our borders who are fighting to free themselves from oppression by U.S. imperialism.

I made the motion that the Venice Town Council offer to become the sister-city of Tehran in place of the L.A. City Council. I think the people of Venice should come together and pass that motion: if we did it would not be decisive, only significant; it would not make all the difference, it would only help -- maybe help a lot.

If nobody else appreciated it now, the Iranian people would. And I predict that within a year millions of Americans will see clearly that this whole Iranian crisis has been a scam and a rip-off of people's patriotism, besides being frightfully dangerous and unnecessary.

We may have to take some heat for now, but there is no dishonor in getting there a little ahead of the rest.★



# The Greening Of Venice

by CAROL FONDILLER

One of the reasons I like living in Venice is that I can feel what it must have been like to live in different historical eras.

I'd sit there with what I call my bench acquaintances. I'd see them almost every day, and in a strange reversal of manners I'd know their first names, their opinions on drugs, sex, religion and politics, but etiquette forbade knowing, unless they volunteered the information, what they did for money, their last names, or their addresses.

We'd sit there on the top of the benches, our feet resting on the seat, and watch the population -- surfers, hookers, body builders, and people as sane and good as you and I, walk by. And as the 60's melted -- no incinerated -- into the 70's jog by. Blacks, Beats, Beat blacks, bonging guitaring humming shrubbling bopping in black chinol turtle necks succeeded by Army drab and hippie drag. The blacks flowering into 'fros, dashikis, and caftans, Chicanos in beehives, stilleto heels, khaki pants, suede shoes, the with-it whites taking a beaded head band, here a pioneer Granny dress, there a madras, or camouflage jacket, depending on what one's political proclivities were. The 60's and part of the 70's were a time of self proclamation. We strove to be stereotypical. Black is beautiful, Chicano power, women hold up half the world. We separated ourselves into tribes. It was a time of jealously guarded identities. We were what we wore and what our buttons proclaimed. We were as suspicious of one another as the Goths were of the Moors and the Anglos of the Celts.

And through it all there were the street people, who before the cooptation of faded jeans by the mainstream of working class heroes/heroines funky chic, wore the faded jeans they could get for a quarter at the Goodwill. Pairs of gays, their carefully tended bodies glistening with baby oil and iodine, their buttocks outlines in sassy little bikini trunks that accentuated their primary sexual attributes, would saunter by. People in business suits would cause much comment among the bench-sitting natives. Ties, jackets, stockings, heels would arouse discussion. "It's a narc or a landlord." "Naw, it's a social worker out in the field to smoke a 'j' with a client."

Now, we see fashion separating us again, not by political belief or ethnic identities, but by class. Well dressed preppies with their neat Peter Pan collars and low heeled shoes brush by people in survivalist chic dyed painter pants tied at the ankles worn with wedgies and if you're a member of the Wet Set, the tacky of the 50's Joan Crawford come-fuck-me heels worn with little cotton anklets trimmed with lace, lots of brown blusher, greasy lipstick. The male of the species, if he's really with it, raids so-called thrift stores for pin stripe jackets and baggy pants with Mork suspenders. If one can't find the real thing, Lauren, Sassoon and Porter are only too glad to oblige with copies of thrift store chic for a few hundred smackers.

And of course the anti-fashion punk look of Miami Beach sunglasses, Spandex crew cut men and women trying hard to look like the disreputable, tough, skinny street punks they hide from in their security buildings.

Satin basket ball jackets, copies of men's jogging shorts, blondes with hair styles stolen from Black female slaves. "Gee," I thought, "I remember when I wore second hand clothes because they were cheap, fun, and disposable." I was pointed at and made fun of by the very people who have driven up the price of thrift shops by making it "in."

I remember the sympathetic looks I used to get from people when I said I lived in Venice.

photo: W. Reeves



A woman I knew who lived in Brentwood considered it a step down when she was forced with moving to (ugh) Venice.

There was a charm, a feeling of peacefulness, or being a beachcomber in a Somerset Maugham novel, of watching a few brave visitors come to Venice armed with old clothes and a copy of "The Holy Barbarians."

In the Watergate years, life became a little more hectic and desperate. People became harder and if they pushed you out of line or out of your apartment, that was progress, bub, and even I, who hated the marshmallow-eyed oh-wowdom of the let-it-flow hippies, who were surprised when I didn't flow with love for their big hungry unfixed untrained "dawgs" and their introduction of bean sprouts in omelettes to the mainstream of American culinary culture, began to stiffen when certain people would, after telling me how they loved Venice because they could do their own thing, which as it turned out, meant buying cheap and selling dear, and when every time the Venice Town Council began to talk about rent control, we would be told to be realistic.

But I enjoyed Watergate. It was as bloody and scandalous as any history about the Ceasars, Plantagenets, or the Borgias.

I think Nixon did this country a great favor when he reinstilled in the American people a mistrust of government. A most healthy celebration of the Bicentennial.

I and anyone who'd lived in Venice and been the recipient of the City of Los Angeles' policy of benign neglect and colonialism could certainly appreciate Watergate.

A few years ago I felt like a not so noble Roman sitting on my bench watching the decline and fall of Western Civilization as I know and love it in this outermost outpost of the West with my back to the Pacific Ocean.

Last year I felt as if I were John Savage in Huxley's "Brave New World" but with a difference -- I was John Savage the intruder. I was stared at, threatened, shrugged off, as I yelled about my privacy, about my right to walk, about private business encroaching on the public right of way, about the snatching of living spaces and converting them to businesses. I was turned into the barbarian who yelled and cried too loudly to the Soma'd out hedonists who whizzed by on skates, who impeded the progress of the infirm and the slow

.... Continued on Page 5....

## I Could Write A Book About NOVEL

(title by Carol Fondiller)

by Moe Stavnezer

NOVEL is the "North Venice Environment League" which had, as of March 11th, 6 dues paying members. The sole reason for the existence of the lovely group is to prevent the construction, by Tom Safran, of a multiple use building on the vacant land next to the Israel Levin Center. The proposed development includes 36 units for seniors and would be rent subsidized, 6 condos and commercial space on the ground floor.

NOVEL is contending that the land actually belongs to the public and cannot therefore be built upon. They make this claim based upon a court case called "Gion-Deitz" which basically found that land that was used by the public, as if it were public, for recreational uses belonged to the public. No one can remember when such a ruling could apply to this property, especially for the five consecutive years required by the court case. NOVEL also claims public ownership based on a 700 year old Spanish law that no longer directly applies to the land but which NOVEL claims indirectly applies.

NOVEL's lawyer is John Clemons said to be a personal friend of Laura Harrisson, a major opponent of the development. Obviously these folks aren't serious. The idea is to delay the project into oblivion in order to protect the views of the condo owners east of Speedway.

There are some problems with the development that include parking and a possible inclusion of a restaurant as part of the commercial space. But Safran seems open to compromise on those issues and so far has the backing of the Coastal Committee (as long as the parking is taken care of), Morrie Rosen (as long as the restaurant is taken care of) Pat Russell, Yvonne Burke and the City agencies in the permit process.

Only the condo owners appear to be totally intransigent and capable of preventing this valuable housing for poor elderly people from becoming a reality on the Ocean Front. ■

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with their push carts. I was a stranger in my home town. No longer would these visitors from Outrem be content to admire out native handicrafts and our strange folk music, they brought their own and amplified it.

When I first read "Brave New World" I admired John Savage and his struggle to make people stop taking Soma, and to appreciate the pain and pleasure of love as opposed to institutionalized sex, and to opt for the right to strive and sometimes fail in one's endeavors. "Couldn't they see?" I thought as John Savage failed miserably in his mission to free the world from programmed sex, and people programmed to enjoy dull repetitive jobs.

But now I realize that John Savage is at worst a threat, an annoyance to their life. They are enjoying themselves as they skate by, their ears encased in headset radios, to shield them from shouts and screams, their noses filled to the septum with powder to numb them to anything but their own rhythm, as their eyes are fixed on some far Nirvana. They don't want to be bothered by thinking of the poor, the lonely, and the ugly. They are annoyed and frightened if they see them.

And I sit on my bench watching different historical eras di-si-do allemande and curtsy to one another. I am dazzled, intrigued, and bothered by the masses of people -- two hundred thousand visitors to Venice over a March weekend.

This ol' timer, as I was called (in an adoring fashion I might add) remembers when Venice didn't get that many visitors in a year.

Not until the nude beach became a local focal joke on KABC-TV did many people know Venice existed.

"We are in Brave New World and we like," I thought. "We are conditioned to enjoy and to leave the worrying to John Savage. We are drugging ourselves and boogying to the end of the world and there's nothing we can do."

But now dollars are turning into Reichmarks and it's 1931 in Berlin.

It's real educational to see how people can be too busy, too overwhelmed, perhaps, to see or worry about people being unlawfully detained, bullied and removed from view. I can understand now how people in Germany didn't know that 8 million people were being scientifically disposed of (I'm including gypsies, Slavs, Catholics, Communists, cripples, and gays along with the 6 million Jews) in their own country.

Now I don't like some of the street people. Some of them have threatened me and insulted me for years. Notice I've said some people. And some of these people sleep in hallways, on benches, and in the Pavilion.

But remember, two hundred thousand people visited Venice on one weekend in March.

These people were coming to the beach for different reasons. At nearly \$2.00 a gallon it's cheaper to go to Venice than to Tahoe. Venice has been mentioned in magazines from People to Vogue to the Smithsonian. The articles and pictures emphasize the mild weather, the picturesque, and the heretofore "easy-going lifestyle."

Certain business people who seem to feel that the beach, the ocean, and the climate were put there for them to make money, are intent on bringing in yet more people. They have had their part in hyping Venice. But they want a quick cosmetic job done now. At no cost to them.

Taking no responsibility for the hordes of people that turn every sunny weekend or holiday in Venice into a two mile long boogie palace where anything and everything goes, these business people are pushing for more people to spend in Venice.

That's fine. Venice was set up as a recreational area. It started out as a Chataqua Circuit Midway. Venice was and is a whore, promising untold delights for those who visit her.

Sometimes she delivers.

Sometimes she doesn't. And sometimes the tricks don't know what they want, or get more than they expected.

But these business people who want these visitors are the same ones who refuse to take responsibility for their actions.

When you get nearly a quarter of

a million people in a small area with different ideas as to what constitutes a good time, there's bound to be conflict.

A recently formed organization, The Venice Beach Association, an organization set up by business people that costs \$100 a year, has its own methods of dealing with these problems, and that is in its own words to "FREE VENICE from the 'changelessness' grip of the

overaged hippies, vagrants, drunks, and other privileged unemployed who would keep this 'FANTASY BY THE SEA' a slum."

In other words, it's not their fault. Get rid of the "undesirables" and the problems will go away.

I too would like to FREE VENICE, the whole City, country, world, from those who sleep in doorways, who look for food in garbage cans, and beg or threaten for food, a fix, or a fuck.

But the VBA's methods are different than mine.

At the March 11 meeting of the VBA, Andy Kuchrawy, president, started the meeting off by calling Ms. Berman of the Venice Town Council Coastal Committee a liar, and accused the Free Venice Beachhead of being a creator of the Venice Town Council, about whom he said, "they only represent the 12 people who attend the meetings."

When Ms. Berman attempted to speak in her own defense, Kuchrawy waved her away and accused her of attempting to break up the meeting.

A letter was read addressed to a Mr. Haddaway of the City Rec. and Park Administration requesting that they ban the annual Christmas dinner for the poor held at the Pavilion for the past 25 years. Because the tourists had difficulty stepping over the drunks.

Mr. Alonzo Carmichael, an advance planning land management officer of the L. A. City Rec. and Parks Dept. was the guest speaker.

The VBA wants to have the rest-rooms in the Pavilion area opened at a later hour. They want more staff to control the hordes of visitors that the VBA members are making money from. They want the vagrants and derelicts removed.

Mr. Kuchrawy possessor of a fine new illegal patio that he'd remade from parking spaces, also wanted more parking spaces. At previous VBA meetings Mr. Kuchrawy has wanted the benches on the Ocean Front Walk removed because "tax payers weren't using them, just bums, winos, and vagrants."

On the March 11th meeting they were attacking Alonzo Carmichael for all the ills of society, when Carmichael said "we're interested in social problems but we aren't equipped to deal with

them." There were shouts of, "All the bums from L.A. came here, why don't we just send'em back?" greeted by cheers. Suzanne Thomas of Road Skates suggested that halfway houses be built. This suggestion, while given lip service, was brushed aside when Kuchrawy questioned Carmichael about a private agency taking over the Pavilion and turning it into a Chiradelli Square.

The revolving band of street people were accused of bringing in enough drugs that they foisted on the innocent who come in from Valley, Marina del Rey, Hollywood, and Beverly Hills, to get all of L. A. - every man woman and child - loaded.

Interestingly at a previous meeting when it was suggested that beer only be sold in six-packs, a resounding no came from several proprietors of liquor stores.

I was feeling dizzy. They lure people down here, don't provide them with parking spaces, frown on those who come by public transportation, make money off tourists, and then when the twilight hour approaches and everyone is coming down from whatever things they've indulged in, from non-health-permit shish-kebab to baking soda with a soupçon of PCP, cocaine, or strychnine, when people are disappointed in not scoring whoever or whatever was the brass ring of their dreams, and they're looking for their car, probably towed, ticketed, or stolen, and fights begin, they blame it on the street people.

And oh my, I have my grudges against some of the so-called street people, and oh yes, I'd like to walk out at night and wait for a bus in any section of this country without feeling

I need Karate lessons.

But hauling off all the unbeautiful (by VBA standards) people to some Concentration Camp, or spraying them with water as they sleep on the benches, and stealing their bedrolls, ain't my idea of fair.

And I feel just as threatened by a man whose final solution is for armed civilian patrols to walk the beach at night.

I also feel threatened by well-dressed men who follow me in cars as I do by scruffy men who follow me on foot. But a surprise was in store for me and the VBA.

Reverend Hilst was at the meeting and asked for an apology from Mr. K. At first he denied writing the letter to the Rec. and Park Dept. about the Christmas dinner. When shown the letter and the insulting remarks Mr. K. made, Mr. K. finally backed down. The other members of the VBA denied having anything to do with that letter. Just like the aristocrats who supported Hitler privately with funds, and publicly separated themselves from him when he acted "ungentlemanly."

See what I mean about history in Venice?

A surprise visitor, Bob Castile and several young black drug counselors from Oakwood Wesley House showed up. Castile suggested that Mr. K. might improve his attitude if he went to Rev. Hilst's church. He reminded Kuchrawy that there were more vagrants than there were business people and times were getting harder. "Is that a threat?" yelled Kuchrawy.

Several other poverty agencies were there and suddenly it seemed the VBA was terribly interested in working out something for their more unfortunate brethren.

But I believe that Mr. K. and the VBA will have to be reminded from time to time.

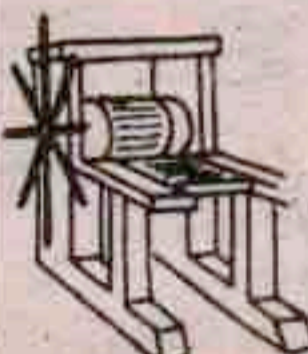
I've heard some business people tell me privately that they think Mr. K. is a little, well, extreme, but he has the right idea. It's not his motives they question, it's his manner and their image.

At the close of the meeting, Mr. Kuchrawy yelled at Ms. Berman, "What have you done for the bums?"

She's not separated them from other people by classifying them as haves and have-nots, Mr. K.

And the poor have not taken any more space from public use, or told people to leave because they weren't cute.

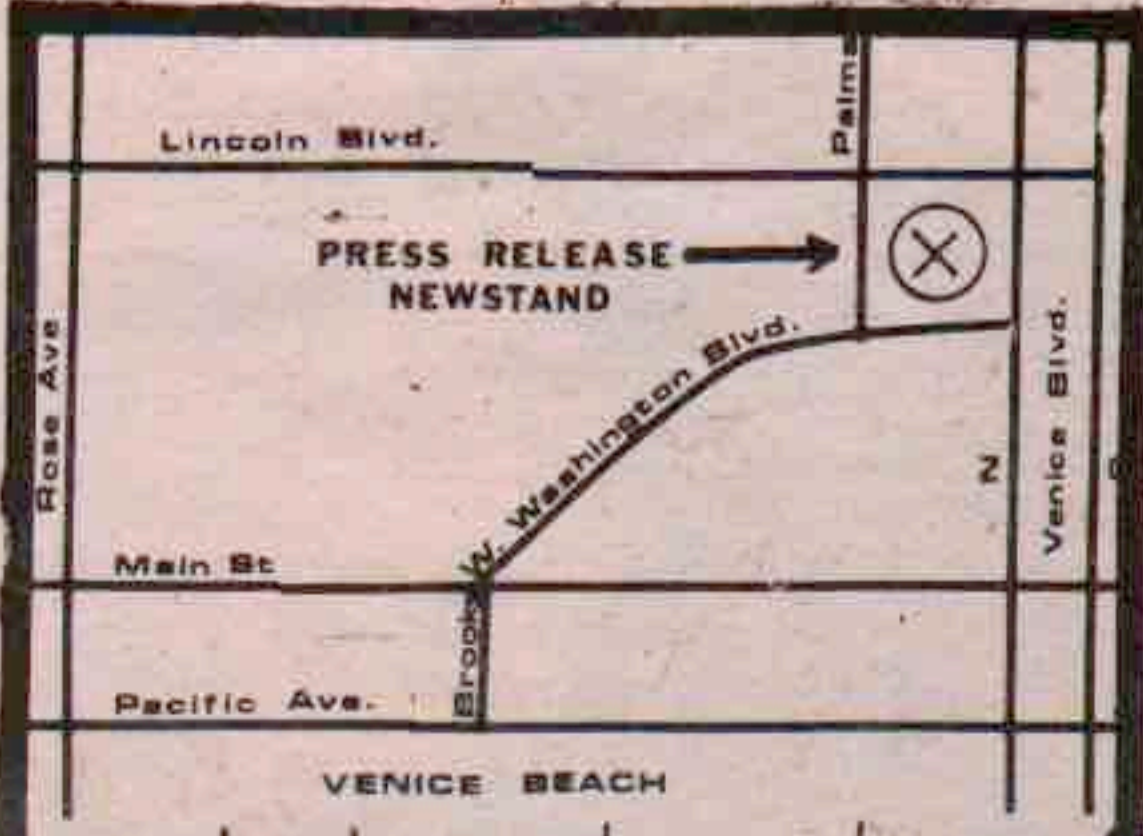
Look in the mirror, Mr. K., and then yell, "THROW THE BUM OUT!" You got that?



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# Epitaphs For A Survivor

An Evening in Celebration of the Late  
**JOHN HAMILTON**

BORN: MARCH 7, 1918



DIED: SEPTEMBER 1979

BY: Hawk Eye

On Friday, March 7th, Frank and Annie Bennett's Town House Bar on Windward Avenue was the scene of what Elizabeth Freeman and John Hunt called an "Irish video wake", in celebration of an old friend of theirs, John Hamilton.

A resident of the Avenue since 1960, Hamilton - dubbed the unofficial village historian - passed away last September. March 7th would have been his 62nd birthday.

About 100 people attended, a diverse mixture of the local crowd, street people and regular patrons, along with the Venice art set, the people from WET and Environmental Communications; some well known faces also, like Irma Armour of Armour's Liquor - it seems John somehow touched them all.

The normally active pooltable served as a buffet, a riveting video tape of Hamilton made by John Hunt was shown, as well as a big screen slide show featuring Hamilton and Windward Ave. from pre-skate days. It was Elizabeth Freeman's witty yet poignant presentation that left people asking for more!

A bar with a basement ballroom that goes back to the Thirties, the Town House is one business on Windward to have survived the "new look", and besides sporting the original tile spitcoons, the foyer is decorated by bullet holes from a shootout that took place years back - and documented by Hamilton in the video tapes.

Though somewhat eerie, the evening left a warm afterglow, bringing such diverse elements together around this man who at first glance was nothing but a wino -- but to his friends, and those who knew him, John Hamilton seemed somehow to bring the wretched history of Venice into sharper and more human focus.

I remember one candid photo from the slide show of Hamilton sleeping in his van in the alley behind Windward; on the door is a hand-written placard, plainly visible, and certainly written by John for all to see:

Better is one's Own Path  
Though imperfect  
Than the Path of another  
Well made...

## The Windward Avenue Sketches

By: John Hunt

I first met John Hamilton in 1969, in the old Marko Building at 73 Market Street. He slept on a small mat surrounded by mountains of junk. John was a pack rat, worked odd jobs in the neighborhood, and when half-way sober maintained the halls and two cold-water toilets that served Mr. Markowitz's tenants. In return, John was given a room to stay in but not only was the room piled high with scrap, but half the roof was covered, and the rear stairway was an obstacle course of discarded Venice refuse.

When John didn't feel like working he would pull out an inoperative radio, or a stack of old and worn phonograph records, or a box of books no one read anymore, and his friend at the pawn shop (46 Windward) would "loan" him a buck or two for wine.

I was making a film about Venice at the time and Hamilton recognized in me the power to record what he had witnessed as life on these streets from the time he arrived in 1960, til the present. He yearned to tell his stories and when he did I knew this man was the authentic historian of this "very peculiar place" -- as he called Venice-by-the-Sea.

After this I began working with portable video tape hardware and we started planning some way to tell John's tales. It took 4 years to produce anything; after all, there never has been much demand for TV programs concerned with the real street life.

In 1975 I began working at the studios of Environmental Communications at 62 Windward. John began rehearsing his scenes. He wanted to tell the whole story of Venice, and indeed he had it all in his head.

Unable to deal with his scope, I decided to limit our study to Windward Avenue and only Windward. Not only that, but I wanted John to relate the history in terms of the structures - and the empty lots - an architectural memoir. I figured in that way we would be able to fill in the missing spaces on this avenue which during the 3 years I worked there came to represent the end of the Western World: lost souls, searching souls, the maniacs, fanatics, and hustlers, the poets and revolutionaries... Some came to die and some to be enlightened, and in the end they are the same. John Hamilton has helped us preserve a few of their stories; perhaps these obscure people will enlighten us with their slim legacies.

What follows is an edited version of Hamilton's words taken from the tapes we recorded. At the time they were only sketches, a rehearsal. Now they are his epitaph. John passed last September - merely too ill to recover. He would have been 62 this past March 7th.

Of course everything's different on Windward Avenue these days, it's just not what it used to be, and in one way I'm thankful for that. However, we can also thank the speculators and shopkeepers for making a circus out of the destitution which really faces the residents of this cultural relic.

Today a Hollywood movie mogul sits and conducts business on the very spot where John used to sleep off his white port. Armour's Liquor, Amoon's Cafe, and the rest of Windward exist only in Terry Shoonhoven's great visionary portrait of the old avenue on the east wall of the St. Charles Apartments. The journey into our past begins on the west wall of this same building. It ends only when we have answered the question: Who are those who survived?



The St. Charles Apartments, 25 Windward Avenue

JOHN HAMILTON: Up there was Jeannie's first address here. She was living there, her husband was at work, she come down to the parking lot to spend the day with me. We drank one bottle of wine, it took us all day to do it and she told me a lot of things. Then for reasons not her own, she became the manager and she moved down to the manager's apartment on the bottom right - and then things started happening. I was working at the liquor store at the time. She had to come downstairs while managing the apartments anytime something came up. The first time we had trouble while I was on duty, a man was having a heart attack up in room 34. So I run up there, I pass by the nitro - we had nitro down there 'cause the boss, the owner of the building at the time, he had a heart disaster. I passed by his nitro and I ran upstairs and here's this guy gasping his last. Name, Charlie Ferguson, and he was gasping his last so I shoved a nitro under each side of his tongue, told him to close his mouth, keep his arms down, and told Jeannie to go and get the ambulance. All right, we got Charlie all right. He lived, and he was in such trouble, the first chance he got after he lived, he had to call me a nigger.

That's room 34, room 34 is important though, because the next time we had a scramble like that Jeannie came downstairs and she said, "I think I've got a dead woman upstairs", so up the stairs I went and sure enough in room 32 there was a dead woman. Now if she had taken room 34, and that's what her receipt said, for some reason they couldn't get in that room 34, so they put her in room 32. If she'd been in room 34 Jeannie would have been there at 8 o'clock instead of noon. Well, at noon she was dead. This nice lady from Malibu, two kids, lovely house, lovely husband, but for some reason she wanted to commit suicide. She did it. She made it. Like an appointment in Sumara, death was waiting for her, or she was seeking death and she finally found it. Maybe she was just given a put on. Her room rent was up at 8 o'clock, she was still warm at 11, but she was very, very dead, dead as you can get. 32 she died in instead of 34, her receipt read room 34. It was blowing in the wind when I came back out.

I took one look at her and I knew it, her eyes were open and whited, it was all over. And she'd overdosed on barbituates, just a matter

Continued on Page 7



of 3 hours, I could have got her back. That's Jeannie's story.

Now while we're at it, where the trash bin sits now, it wasn't there the night that girl came off the roof but she fell within six inches of the building. If she had jumped, she would have come at least three feet out but she was there, she was dead, very, and it appears she got into an argument with her old man up there on the top deck and she got decked up there and he just dropped her over the edge like a baby.

HUNT: Who owned the building before? It's different now.

JH: Ben Bass used to own the building. The guy that owned the liquor store, he used to own the building. The Liquor King liquor store. He sold the building, and a real shit, he had people lined up to do him in. So out that back door one night, the one on the far corner there, his ex-wife walks in, well, she's his wife back again, but she and her boyfriend remove the safe out of the building. They had the keys, they jury-rigged, they'd blown the burglar alarm and came out with the safe. They had a \$2,000 ring in there, the take came to about 50 grand. They were in the process of a divorce and he was putting all his money into cashier's checks so that when the property settlement came up, there would be small property. Well, she stole his safe, she stole his cashier's checks too, and he got hot and heavy. I was sitting over there at the restaurant (Amoons), I knew the caper was going on, I would'nt get into it, and I sat over there in the restaurant just to see the funny faces he was going to show when he found out he'd been burglarized. Well, that didn't take too long. At 0600, he came to work early, he went in there and pretty soon there was cops all over the place and I had a trailer parked here and the first thing he did was he had the cops shake out my trailer. Well, I wasn't there, I was over there in the restaurant minding my business and enjoying the scenery. It was such though, they had hired a professional thief and he wasn't getting his split. Sure around cashing the cashier's checks in the cool? so they couldn't figure it out and he was panting for his money so he offered Ben Bass the information he needed as to where his check was and so forth for a certain amount of money and Ben went along with the game and he did recover everything but the rings, there was jewelry, he was actually running a pawn shop which is very much against the law. He went along with the game and the guy finked, told him everything, that his wife and her boyfriend had engineered the whole project and they'd hired him on as a hand to steal that safe and they had'nt paid him anything for the simple reason they couldn't, they couldn't cash the fucking checks. I guess he got one of the rings out of the deal. There was a \$2,000 sapphire in there.



HUNT: Why did he sell the building?

JH: He was distraught. His wife had left him and so forth and he didn't like the looks of the place... memories... he didn't like memories. He shouldn't, that cheap crook.

HUNT: Did you know him?

JH: I knew him, I worked for that miserable mother. I was supposed to be working the liquor store stocking while he took his nap. He took a nap between twelve and three and I had to show at twelve. I'd work that three hour shift and I'd come back at night and stay with his stepson for the rest of the shift, just honcho and stocking and bad news, gun carrying, the whole bit. This used to be a rough territory.

HUNT: It still is, isn't it?

JH: Not what it was before, no traffic now. When we had traffic, this was a rough deal. [Still in the alley.] This is the ladies head. This is the can, the toilet, the washroom. Directly under the corner there is a toilet and over to a partition there is a sink and then there's a wall going into the bar. One night I was sitting at the bar, I was a bouncer at the bar, I was just a hang-around Johnny, and the cocktail waitress came running up to me, snatched me off my stool and said come, come. This woman's dying in here. So I came and sure enough, this Dolores had taken an overdose, well it wasn't an overdose, she had taken the wrong pill. It was benzedrine, yes, but it was laced with digitalis and her heart kept stopping on her and her eyes would go white and I chest

massaged like that under her tit and then she'd come back and she'd start talking to me and die again, and then she'd lapse back, I started it up again and we kept this up and somebody called an ambulance. The police got here before the ambulance did and she'd white up her eyes and I'd punch her back and six times she went haywire. She was a goner and then the seventh time, just before the ambulance driver stepped in the room, the cop said, "quit punching her". I was only keeping her alive. Dumb shit... I was ready to open her up. I was reaching for my knife. I would have done it, just get some vodka off the bar, sterilize my hands and open her up and grab the heart itself, but that's why I'm not a doctor, I'm pretty fierce about those things. She lived. She was lucky though because she and a few other had a 1200 unit jar, 1200 pills and the night before, the piano player came in and he was in no shape whatsoever, so the bartender told him to go home so he went home and about five minutes later, well about a half an hour later, his buddy called up and said "Hey come on over here, David's laying out on the porch he's in convulsions." That was me so I zipped on over there and I had to start him up three times and we called the ambulance twice and by the time the ambulance got there he was up then and refused to go. Well, he made it. Then his lady friend, the woman he was living with, came down here and she blew it on the lawn here three times and I started her up three times. She refused to go with the ambulance and my next deal was find that sonofabitch who was selling that phony pill. It had digitalis, it was a heart stopper and all I had to do was find that guy and then I could quit running around starting up people's hearts. That's why I'm not a doctor. I hate to see someone die, I'm afraid of dead people. If you're a doctor and some unnecessary death like that goes on, how do you sue god?

Up there, third window, top deck, don't count that little one, a guy held up the bar across the street and I tailed him over here. He didn't clear the building. I was armed and he was up there holed up in that window and he'd taken the money and he had an inoperable gun but it was a gun. He was up there and the fuzz came and I pointed and said the guy didn't get past here so they went in there and they started knocking on

doors and they got to the room he was in, he was under the bed and no, he wasn't under the bed, he was originally under the bed but he got up, he was on speed or something, he got up and grabbed, he wasn't living there, he just jumped in these people's room, he grabbed the boy and he went to the door and he said you try and come in here and I'm going to kill this boy and he went in the bathroom and the cops of course broke in the door and there were shotguns all over everywhere and the guy chickened out of course, and they rescued the boy and they got the guy and he's in "Q"\* right now, he's going to be there a long time. He keeps thinking, every three years or something, he gets a chance to go to the (parole) board but I don't think he's going to make it because he's wanted in Georgia, hell, he's 22 years old, he's wanted in Florida and he just came back here to escape that. I knew him, a little whining miserable monster, his father's a little whining miserable monster, too.

\*San Quentin

FLEA MARKET, N.E. corner, Windward & Pacific Avenues

JH: I used to run the laundromat, I knew everybody in town. That's the one good thing about this town, all these tales of death and dying are interesting but they're depressing as well. Now the beautiful thing about this place, I watch all these kids grow up. Some of them turned out good, most of them turned out bad but you'd be surprised what a kid's big eyes can do for you and I could tell some tall tales. They'd look at me and their eyes would get wider and wider and they'd smile. It got so rough down there. It was babysitting, I didn't know it at the time, but these people would send their kids in there and they'd sit around and sit around and they'd call me on the phone, Hey, John, is my kid there. I said, yeah, he's here. Has he been behaving himself? You better believe he's been behaving himself and the little ones on the way to the play-

ground, they'd come in there and say, hey, man help us across the street and that was its compensation for what kept going on and it did keep going on. It would be depressing except you have to confine yourself to the smiles.

HUNT: You consider yourself a historian?



LNS/Cpf

JH: Yeah, I was going to write a book about this place. I didn't believe it but no one would believe it either if I wrote the book even if I showed them the blood stains and we got a few around here still.

HUNT: Nobody would believe it?

JH: I don't believe it myself and I'm standing there looking at it.

HUNT: Tail slate, reel 1, John Hamilton, January 18, 1976. This is the head slate for reel 2, John Hamilton, recorded February 22, 1976.

VAL'S PHARMACY, (opposite Flea Market)

JH: Goldstein had a Jesus Christ problem. He was a Jew, so was Jesus. Anyway, all he asked of people was, I think it was Charles Goldstein, he just asked these people, what do you want and they would tell him and he would call downstairs and they'd get it and usually on MediCal. Medi-Cal was more reasonable then, now it isn't. Hell, we could spend an hour on this building. The State Narcs had a mind about him because of his MediCal accounts and they shot three ladies in there on him, you know, ladies in distress, ladies that obviously needed something and he said what do you want and he'd say okay, go. I'll tell you a story about Goldstein. I had a lady of my own and we were going through this Venice Venerealis, an ordinary infection of the genitals and I said why don't you go over and be sure and take care of this contamination and I said don't worry about a thing, he's a chest nut, he ain't no butt nut. I met her down here at that third meter and I said how did it come out and she said your chest nut is a butt nut now, she had a fine ass on her.

HUNT: He had a lot of customers?

JH: Are you kidding, the State Narcs hit him. 200 people in 2 hours and he's a doctor and he could get away with that. That also meant 200 prescriptions. Let's hit the post office.

VENICE POST OFFICE

JH: (In the stairwell on the west side of the building). A couple of winos got holed up here, it was a shelter against the wind. One of the fuckin' winos turned that handle and the door opened and inside that door there was a mail sack full of blank money orders so he got those and then - they were both cons, so the smart son of a bitch, he said, "well, let's go get the stamps", so they went upstairs and got the validating stamps, it said Venice and it said 1, 10, 50, and 100. They had a half a million dollars worth of blank money orders and it was 0600, no, it was 0545 and they dragged the money sack across the street and the bar opened, that's Pietro's over there (213 Windward) so here they are sitting in the bar with a half a million dollars worth of blank money orders and they're drinking and while they were doing that at Pietro's, across this side of the street came the man who was the janitor and he saw these guys dragging this money sack and they weren't wearing no blue uniforms, he said I don't think I like this so he got on the horn and that's where they got busted. They were in there drinking their number one beer and the money sack was between them. A half million dollar caper wasted on a fifteen cent glass of beer. Terrible, terrible. ●

End first installment. To be continued next issue.

# HELPING THE OLD AND HOMELESS

by Martha Fitzgerald

The Senior Housing Assistance Program-Venice is moving out of the Old Venice Jail. From now on, we will meet with Venice seniors at 865 Venice Blvd. by appointment only. We are moving so we can do a better job of serving displaced residents of the community.

The Senior Housing Assistance Program is dedicated to assisting people who are victims of the housing crunch. Rents are unbearable for those on low and fixed incomes. As Venice goes through an inevitable renewal, those old timers who thought they had come to the beach to stay, are being forced out. Quietly they leave. They go where they do not want to go. And in their place is left a void to be spruced up, and built up and sold to the young and the up-and-coming.

We in the community can protest. We can testify as to ways of preventing this dislocation. There are opportunities to be heard in City Hall. We can present our plans to community development organizations. Community involvement is a painful and plodding process. But it is what we have. We have to continue to confront the system.

The Senior Housing Assistance Program has been in business for a year and a half in Venice. It was designed as a six month program with the vague commission to "assist seniors with housing problems". We were to cooperate with landlords and owners. When they had any listings to offer, they were welcome to call and we would see that displaced senior citizens were the first to know about the vacancies.

Very shortly we discovered that we would be hard pressed to fill the need if that were all we did. Senior housing needs a great deal of innovative alternative planning if we are going to keep our aging members integrated in the community.

Because the program has grown and the work become so diverse, we will be joining the staff of the Santa Monica Westside Voluntary Action Bureau. Volunteers and student interns will be incorporated into the program as well as those individuals and organizations who have already volunteered to cooperate with the program. Our hope is to be of service to every Westside program that deals in aging affairs. Housing is such a basic need it should be confronted from every social service group.

Housing should be a given. The quality of life goes on from there. ☐

# UP AWAY UP AND

By Jingles

On Saturday, April 19, 1980, at 8 pm., Miracle Media Development Association will present Venice Variety Concert No. 2. The event will be held at the Church in Ocean Park and will represent the combined efforts of more than 40 highly gifted performers, sound, light and video technicians.

The stained glass setting of the Church located at 2nd and Hill in Ocean Park is an environment conducive to the sharing of an intimate and exciting entertainment event.

Multiple staging will allow for fast paced action in the style of Ed Sullivan. In a little over three hours the audience will see the concentrated best of 13 highly professional variety acts. Several potential superstar level songwriter-composers will perform memorable original compositions.

The Master of Ceremonies and Co-Producer of the show is Richard Roller, freelance writer and longtime organizer of unique entertainment events and founder of Miracle Media Development Association.

The cast includes: SLAVIN' DAVID (Venice's King of Rock and Roll) certainly one of the most popular of the oceanfront performers. His cover versions of Chuck Barry tunes and his dancing and prancing around has made him a Venice Beach legend.

JINGLES AND FRANK (Odd Couple of Contemporary Music) Jingles and his outrageous costumes full of bells and scarves and feathers and his jingle bell Bellettes along with his conservative, laid back partner, Frank, have become famous as Venice landmarks.

Debbie, Brigitte and Jeannie make up the ROLLER SKATING BOOGIE QUEENS. Three adorable, high energy, rollercoasting, high flying, roller skating dancers. Venice is the creative roller skating capital of the world being represented by three of Venice's most exciting skaters.

MIMI HARRIS is a nightclub performer from New York City who gained much of her unique singing soulful style out there. Her amazing high powered vocal range and artistic flair and uplifting original music are aweinspiring.

SHERRY LORENTZ, Ocean Park harpist, accompanied by RICHARD SHOPE, the Mime of Hearts. Sherry, a masterful player

of the full-sized golden harp, will add a heavenly touch to the Church environment while Richard Shope dances mime to her music.

REVEREND PSYCHO is a crazy, wacked-out, very funny man whose real name is Jerry Chamalis who portrays Reverend Psycho, an evangelistic preacher who heals with drugs.

RANDY COOL, a Venice favorite. Randy is well known for his 50's rock-and-roll oldies but goodies. Elvis, Buddy Holly and Little Richard fans will go for him in a big way.

HANK KOHN accompanies Randy on bones and spoons. ☆



REGINA STARR, one of the featured performers in the street performers' spectacular two years ago. Regina dances with snakes and African-type masks. Her dancing is a cross between belly, exotic and Afro-Cuban. She has performed in shows and concerts all over the world. This is her first appearance at the Church.

The vision of Venice as an artistically experimental community, by Abbott Kinney, was rekindled with the first street performers' spectacular organized by the Venice Variety Concert director and co-producer, Jingles.

That event occurred in April 22, 1978 and drew thousands of people from all over Los Angeles. This concert will be the first major appearance of Venice street performers along with nightclub, T.V. and movie entertainers performing together on stage since the City ban on outdoor concerts. The ban resulted from a shooting incident at the Venice Pavilion less than two years ago. The show's producers, Jingles and Richard, feel strongly that if this community is to retain its cultural heritage and manifest a creative Renaissance concerts like the Venice Variety Concert and other cultural projects must be highly supported by all elements of the community.

Miracle Media Development Association is an evolving association of creative friends dedicated to bringing creative projects together in order to inspire one another and the community to an ever-higher sense of self and community. Creativity is the essential and unlimited human resource. The show promises to be a highly inspiring event. Tickets are \$3.50 per adult and \$2 for children and seniors. Advance reservations may be arranged by calling 322-1048 -- come regain the wonder!

THE L.A. JUGGLING COMPANY - Edward Jackman and Daniel Rosen make up the L.A. Juggling Company, which at one time held six members, formed by Edward Jackman. Edward and Daniel, separately and as a team, will amaze you with their comedy stunts, acrobatics, club tossing and unusual balancing tricks.

ANN HUGHES and PAT HUBBARD - Ann Hughes is a beautiful song stylist, guitarist, songwriter who spent many years doing back-up vocals for recording groups. She has played at Figtree's and a Venice concert at McCabe's and can now be seen every Monday at the Comeback Inn. This is also her first performance at the Church. She will be accompanied by Pat Hubbard on vocals and electric piano.

MARGO is a sensitive but powerful and communicative dramatist and world traveler. She was nominated for an Emmy Award for a national television production. Margo will share her experiences through poetry, drama and conversation.

TYLER HORN - stand-up comic and impersonator. Truly a wild and crazy guy. Tyler has been in T.V., commercials and motion pictures and has worked the Comedy Store, Improvisations and many other comedy rooms. His impersonations of

Donald Duck sneezing and Richard Nixon are outstanding. ●

\*\*\*\*\*  
**"NOTICE"**  
 Imagine a Venice culture Center for dance, drama, music, and the arts. This is now in the formative stage and with more community input will become a reality. Visualized as an alternative to the bar disco scene, a shoeless dance and non-smoking policy will be observed and an artist's coffee house atmosphere will prevail.  
 Instructors in drama, dance, jazzercise, etc... are encouraged to inquire about daytime workshop achedules. More donors and backers are urged to come forward and join those now committed to this project of revitalizing the life of Venice. Information call: Paul Jacobs at 467-0611  
 \*\*\*\*\*



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# FOX VENICE STAFF ON STRIKE

by LANCE DISKAN

In a highly unusual but typically Venetian action, the entire staff of the Fox Venice Theater went on strike Friday March 28th to protest the firing of Managers Kristina Olsen and Rick Carthew.

Every candy salesperson, security officer, box-office worker, and projectionist walked off their job and formed a picket line in front of the local entertainment hall.

Landmark Theater Corporation, which bought film exhibition rights at the Fox in 1979, dismissed both employees without citing any specific reasons for the terminations.

As cause for the firings Landmark L.A. District Manager Nicki Potmesil would state only that "things went wrong". Paradoxically she also said that Ms. Olsen's work was "really good" and that she had "worked harder than any other Manager" in the district. Landmark (formerly Parallax Theaters) also operates the Nuart, the Sherman in Van Nuys, the Rialto in Pasadena and approximately twenty other theaters nationwide.

She did comment that the gist of the reason for firing the Fox Managers was that corporation officials were dissatisfied when they entered the Fox because it didn't seem like a Landmark Theater, it still seemed like a Cumberland Theater.

When asked if there would be any forthcoming official company statement about the firings Ms. Potmesil said, "No, certainly not. We shouldn't have to give a statement. This is not politics." She also claimed that few people other than the striking workers would care about the dismissals.

Fox Venice founder and former owner Rol Murrow (now head of Cumberland Mountain Productions) termed the event "sad, drastic and unnecessary", and cited poor communication over a long period of time as well as lack of knowledge of the local situation as probable contributing factors.

Landmark President Kim Jorgensen visited the Fox during the night's activities while the striking staff members were taking a break from the picket line. It was reported that he slipped quietly out a rear exit without making any public comment on the controversial events.

At press time the Fox was being operated by emergency personnel from other company theaters as well as staff from the West Los Angeles corporate headquarters. The box office person had been hired only hours before, and a new Manager was brought in from the Berkeley theater.

The striking employees continue to meet and plan future presentations of their grievances. The Beachhead will have more on this issue - including interviews with Kristina Olsen and Rick Carthew - in the next edition. ⚡

## snyder, cont. from pg. 1

\*\*Art Snyder is a L.A. Councilman who has been running this scam at the City level for enough years that he's parlayed it into a threat for Mayor Bradley's seat or for a judgeship (with the rationale that if he goes the council seat will go to a Chicano). These charges have been brought against him before and last year he was relieved of an important committee because of them. But Snyder is a survivor and is smart. Art Snyder is evil enough not to get caught, YET.

\*\*Roger Osenbaugh is an ex-state coastal commissioner who, appointed by Ronnie Reagan and reappointed, briefly, by Brown, was the small business, "environmental" rep on the early state commission. Roger is now a major opponent of the policies of the commission, and the law, and a member of the Board of the shadowy anti-coastal Coastal Council. He is a man who, according to the Times, asks clients for political contributions for the commissioners as part of his fee.

\*\*Jim Walsh is a Gov. Brown appointment to the commission, originally as a representative of labor. An ex-advanceman for Richard Nixon, he was fired by the Operating Engineers Union but has not been replaced by Brown. He is currently working as a fund raiser for arch-conservative State Sen. Paul Carpenter. He is, by far, the most abrasive member of the commission as far as opponents to projects go.

\*\*Rick Erickson is a small town political hack who has a reputation for saying fairly dumb things in public. Without the other folks, his vote wouldn't be worth a plug nickel.

\*\*Don Wilson looks like the quiet kid on the block who got mixed up with the "wrong crowd". Wilson has been running for some office or another almost as long as he's been on the commission.

\*\*Sherman Stacy is an original coastal "groupie" who started out on our side but immediately saw that the money was on the other side and he's been there ever since. Stacy has a great "rep" for winning at the Regional level and that's not surprising since it takes a lot of effort to lose there. His record at the State, far more hidden from his potential clients in L.A. & Orange counties, is nothing to brag about.

\*\*William Stein is a developer who hates the Town Council because of his repeated battles with its members. (He is also, most likely, the Bill Stein who came to the Town Council meeting on Iran armed with a baseball bat!) Strangely I don't recognize the name (or the Zoe Construction where he works) so he can't be very big time.

(A person named Wm. Stein, in the Times article called Venice folks, involved with coastal permits a bunch of "scumbags." May not be a coincidence that Art Snyder, in his "defense" letter to Council Pres. Ferraro, referred to all of us "the pro-Khomeni radicals" who would take over the coastal commission if he were fired!)

### The REAL Crime

Most of the accounts of these doings have concentrated on the "bribery" aspects of the campaign contributions. I think that's light weight compared to what was really happening. I believe the real crime involved is extortion. Anyone even slightly familiar with the commissioners involved knows that they vote in favor of virtually everything that comes before the commission. The problem for many developers is that these folks are very often absent from commission meetings. So what the developers are paying for is the attendance of these crooks at meetings. An extortion scam if there every was one!

The Evening Outrage has suggested  
(to next column)

9  
solving the problem in its usual rational approach; do away with the commission and we'll solve the pay-off problem. Rather like doing away with homes in order to solve the burglary problem. The Times had a better idea; throw them all out! And I'd like to add that they should be prosecuted and, at the very least, forced to pay for the crimes they have committed in their blatant flaunting of the public trust.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* \* With great relish and pleasure I \* \*  
\* \* can remind you that soon after \* \*  
\* \* the Times article appeared two \* \*  
\* \* public minded commissioners were \* \*  
\* \* FIRED! Art Snyder was replaced by \* \*  
\* \* City Council president, John \* \*  
\* \* Ferraro. Ferraro appointed Ernarni \* \*  
\* \* Bernardi, pending the outcome of \* \*  
\* \* the investigations being conducted \* \*  
\* \* by the City, County, State and FBI. \* \*  
\* \* Also, Gov. Jerry Brown removed Jim \* \*  
\* \* Walsh from the commission the day \* \*  
\* \* after Snyder got the ax. \* \*  
\* \* On Mon. the 24th, Mel Nutter \* \*  
\* \* was elected to become the Region- \* \*  
\* \* al representative to the State \* \*  
\* \* Commission replacing Hand Doer- \* \*  
\* \* fling. Overall a big plus for us! \* \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## KNX Coastal Editorial

By George Nicholaw, CBS Radio Vice-president and KNX General Manager.

This is the text of a KNX radio editorial, broadcast four times during the day on March 20, 1980:

California's coastline is one of this state's most fragile and spectacular natural resources.

KNX is outraged to think that decisions about its development are for sale to the highest bidder.

The California Coastal Commission was created by the voters to stop the uncoordinated development of the coastal zone. Californians overwhelmingly backed the idea of letting unbiased commissioners make coastal development calls on their behalf.

However, a long shadow has been cast over that process. Some members of the South Coast Regional Commission have taken money from the very developers coming before them with projects.

Between them, four commissioners accepted about \$200,000 in campaign contributions. The cash was solicited by the politicians or their agents, and the developers gladly coughed it up. It's all perfectly legal -- and that's precisely the problem.

It's "legal" for a developer who wants to build a condo complex on the beach to hand a fistful of cash to a politician. A politician, by the way, who is representing the public interest in voting that project up or down. It's legal -- but it's not right. It's a conflict of interest you could sail a boat through.

It goes without saying that those kinds of campaign gifts should be outlawed. And the Attorney General is investigating the whole scandal. Meanwhile, KNX thinks the commissioners involved should step down, voluntarily or otherwise. That's already happened in at least one case.

Their replacements on the coastal planning body must be people whose sense of propriety and public trust is more highly developed.

KNX editorials are (each) broadcast at 8:15am, 12:15, 6:15, and 10:15 pm.

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Above Photo

Congregational Church of Venice (center, circa 1915), the site of the birth of Religious Science as created by Fenwicke and Ernest Holmes. Antlers Hotel on the right, Bathhouse has been torn down. Photo taken from present Safeway-Post Office parking lot location.

# VENICE: RELIGION 1914-1916

## Hells, Bells, and Canaries

(This is the third in a series of articles dealing with the history of Venice between 1914-1916 prepared by students at Long Beach State University and published by The Beachhead in celebration of the 75th anniversary of this community. Research for this paper was gathered by Nancy Hogan, Art Kuhlmann, Mark McIntire, Marilyn Cavanaugh, Ralph Migliozi, John Haber, Kathleen MacAndrew, and Maureen Burns. The final paper was written by Ralph J. Migliozi, revised and edited by Arnold Springer.)

RALPH J. MIGLIOZZI ©1980 Trustees of California State Univ.

The end of the 19th century was a period of crisis for American protestantism. Although anarchic in its stubborn resistance to authority and organization and therefore constantly splitting into sects, it had not only survived the challenge of more conservative and traditional denominations, but had actually grown and prospered, capitalizing on rapid colonization of the mid-west and west and on the frontier mentality which spawned individualism and encouraged innovation. The challenge to this American protestantism came about with the closing of the frontier, the rising importance of science, and the transition from a rural to an urban society. Within the religious community itself there developed a liberal tendency, originating in Germany, called 'the higher criticism' in which the authority of the Bible as a literal explicator of Christian liturgy and tradition was called into question.

The response to these challenges was consistent with the character of sectarianism, that is individualistic, anarchic, idiosyncratic, and creative. One of the more successful and bizarre responses originated right here in Venice California where the Reverend Fenwicke Holmes created a new sect which he called Religious Science. With the assistance of his brother Ernest, Fenwicke Holmes, a pastor in the Congregational Church, created a new ministry which he hoped would reconcile religion with the new world of the American 20th century.

Fenwicke L. Holmes was one of the nine sons of William and Anna Heath Holmes. Fenwicke and his brother Ernest, who was later to become the more successful of the two, were born on a small farm in Lincoln, Maine.

In 1910, Fenwicke, an ordained minister, moved to Venice in search of

a flock and of warmer climate (for reasons of health). Ernest followed him two years later. A graduate of Hartford Theological Seminary, Fenwicke found it difficult to adjust to the new theological concepts ushered in by the new age. Because of this, it was hard for him to accept the more radical views propounded by his brother.

Eager to get started, Fenwicke soon began preaching in the Venice Bath House, assisted by his brother.

Ernest worked extensively with young people and founded what came to be known as the "Junior Church". The Junior Church consisted of children under 15 and separate services were held for them. Fenwicke boasted later that the Junior Church was the first development of its kind in the United States. It eventually became a branch of the future Venice Union Congregational.

While Ernest worked with the church, he continued to study, having dropped out of school at the age of 15. He was soon offered a job by H.B. Eakins, President of the Good Government League, as the city's purchasing clerk. Since this job was not time consuming, Ernest spent much of his time reading the likes of Emerson and Troward. He was deeply influenced by Mary Baker Eddy's response to the changing society--Christian Science. He even allowed himself to be known as a Christian Scientist but eventually he graduated to "new thought" and Theosophy, that is the study of metaphysics. Through this and other concepts, Ernest Holmes began to build a religion that would make him nationally famous. This is the essence of his teaching:

"Religious Science (his new religion) was...the fusion of

metaphysics, psychology and philosophy. It would be a synthesis into one harmonious whole of the teachings of Emerson and Troward, the Religions of East and West, New Thought together with Harmetic teachings, the Bhagavad Gita and the Zendavesta would be related to great poets like Whitman, Wordsworth and Browning."

It is obvious that this philosophy was an outgrowth of a changing society. The idea was to take some truth out of each writing and philosophy and combine these in a way which would meet all the needs of a society undergoing evolutionary development. Although it is a very hard philosophy to understand, it is not because it is an intellectual masterpiece, but because of its ambiguities and endless semantical expressions. It is the same problem any religion would have if it tried to synchronize such a wide range of teach-

ings. But evidently the religion, in the climate of the times, met the needs of the people because it was to gather a substantial following.

Ernest was soon ready to share his views. His first opportunity came when H.B. Eakins let him speak at his home with about 20 people present in April 1914. This engagement led to others, and Ernest was soon speaking in L.A. to over 2,300 people.

When Fenwicke eventually accepted his brother's teaching fully, they both agreed that the interests of the Venice Congregational Parish must come first. Thus although the brothers were conservative when matters of church policy were at stake, this didn't keep them from reflecting a new style and intellectual substance in their church work. For example, Ernest gave a "dramatic recital" in his brother's church where he hung canary cages all over the auditorium. The canaries "blended nicely with the choir", and it created such an impression that the L.A. Times reported it the next day.

Fenwicke was just as creative as his brother. He once gave a sermon entitled "The Wireless Message" in which he illustrated his points by bending a bunch of wires into all kinds of grotesque positions.

As Ernest became more popular and went on tours, Fenwicke began to get involved politically in the city. One issue that was of importance to Pastor Fenwicke Holmes was that of prize fighting. He wanted to prohibit it and

spent several weeks in debate with the sport's supporters. Holmes wrote rebuttals in the daily paper and he won quite a few debates.

**A**nother issue Holmes jumped upon concerned the Venice Bathing Suit Parade. It seems that some of the women in the parade were not dressed to church standards. Holmes, as one of the members of Bay District Ministerial Union, protested to the Board of Trustees and the Chamber of Commerce. The Ministerial Union, a political Church body, called the event "illegal, immodest and detrimental to the best interests of the city". Although it put a great deal of pressure on the Chamber of Commerce and the Trustees, the Ministerial Union failed in its attempt to have the parade cancelled, gaining instead a long term commitment

from the Trustees to never again sanction such an event. Holmes became so involved in these issues that he gave a sermon entitled, "The Peace That Passes Politics." New Theology may have changed Fenwicke's Theological position but it didn't seem to have affected his moral standards.

Both Ernest and Fenwicke became increasingly more involved in "Religious Science." Ernest was getting more speaking engagements and he had to move to bigger and bigger auditoriums to hold the throngs that were flocking to see him. Fenwicke eventually went on to speak in Carnegie Hall and as time went on both Fenwicke and Ernest found it impossible to hide their new theology from the home church. Fenwicke began to combine elements of "Religious Science" with Congregationalist doctrine. For example, the Venice Vanguard printed a sermon that proposed the position: "Does God Forgive?" and "Can We Escape the Consequences of Sinning?" "Holmes will discuss the theme from the standpoint of science, faith and the Scriptures and such conclusions will be reached as will satisfy both reason and deeper inconsequent reason." Fenwicke was presenting a traditional sermon subject (The Scriptures) but interpreting it from a modern position. He was constantly struggling to reconcile science, reason, and religion into a harmonious relationship, and religious science seemed to be the missing link to join the two. This was the first of transitions for Fenwicke as far as the Congregational Church was concerned. Eventually Fenwicke became more courageous and began to incorporate more and more of his brother's teaching. The Congregationalist Board of Trustees could not tolerate Fenwicke's views and he was eventually ousted from the church.

Although this marked the end of Fenwicke's ministry in Venice (C. 1917), it opened up a new ministry for him in L.A. with his brother who was now internationally famous. The two men produced more than one hundred books between them and in Fenwick's later years, he appeared on radio and television, but their greatest desire was yet to be.

In 1960 Ernest Holmes founded the Institute of Religious Science, the "Founder's Church", dedicated to his name. Other churches popped up all over the United States. Ernest and

Fenwicke Holmes had successfully sown a new religion into America's fabric. Very shortly after Ernest founded the church, he died; Fenwicke passed on in 1974. Both of them left thousands of followers.

Ernest and Fenwicke Holmes were not the only ones to respond to the new problems represented by science and higher criticism. Many churches were challenging the traditional existence of hell. In Los Angeles the Rutherford-Troy debates, which were being held at Trinity Auditorium, discussed the issue as to the validity of such a place. Fenwicke Holmes spoke on "The Unseemly Debate Over Hell" in response to the debates in Los Angeles.

Pastor W.C. Graves spoke at the tabernacle Mission in Santa Monica on the subject, and his topic was, "What are they doing in Hell?" The Vanguard responded to Grave's sermon...

But what's the use? Who can picture hell at any standpoint? It's a shame to think of such a place when living in Venice.

One would gather that both the Vanguard

and Holmes questioned the existence of the fiery spot.

The existence or relevance of such concepts as hell, eternal damnation, and sin were questioned especially after the Industrial Revolution. An idea called "the social Gospel" spoke to the growth of an urban industrial nation. The new society could deliver the goods and make life much easier. People responded with pragmatism and optimism which blended into another idea of social salvation. The idea was to make society better and the more this was achieved, the more negative and foolish the idea of an old fashioned hell would become the response, so the argument goes. If one lives in a fun, growing town like Venice, then why believe in a hell?

But not everyone was questioning traditional standards. Pastor W.E. Shepherd came to bat for the fundamentalists. Since the Bible was under direct attack, he focused on its reliability. He had been invited from Pasadena to speak at the Nazarene Church on "Recent Discoveries in Bible Lands." Christian apologetics became more strident, insistent, and popular as the

ution produced more material goods, the idea of forsaking "worldly wealth" eventually disappeared from many churches as they joined their equals on the road to modernism, and only a handful of traditionalists were to remain.

Although the new ideas of the Twentieth Century officially troubled the churches, membership refused to be dismayed and sought refuge by involving themselves in heavy social activities. For example, the First Christian Church of Ocean Park had plans to hold "cottage" member of the church for a period of a month. The Methodist Episcopal Church started "a drive to have (its) members contribute and pledge to cover expenses to provide for current expenses for the entire year."

**S**t. Clements Catholic Church was very active socially. Every year the church prepared for the annual Catholic picnic. It was started several years before to bring Catholics together for a one day outing. Twenty to twenty-



From left to right: Standing are Ernest and Fenwicke Holmes, Reginald Armor, Anne Galer. Seated: Nona Brooks (Founder of Divine Science Church of Denver), Agnes Galer (Divine Science Church of Seattle), Letita Andrews, metaphysical leader from Oakland. Venice Beach 1915.

positions of religious conservatives were challenged.

Most of the churches, however, were resistant to the changes already described. This was not because the churches had a strong scriptural basis for their opposition, but because most of them were ignorant of the facts. They thought that these new movements were attacking their faith. It would not be until the nineteen twenties that the real impact of the nineteenth century would start to convince the masses.

There was a large list of churches to choose from in Venice which maintained traditional approaches. The Evangelical Pilgrim Lutheran, had alternating services in English and German; First Baptist Church of the Nazarene, headed by Rev. Carrol S. Laddox; the Methodist Episcopal Church Rev. G.O. Skafte, Pastor; the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Alfred Taylor Pastor; First Church of Christian Scientists; Seventh Day Adventist Church; The Spiritualist Church; and St. Clement's Catholic, Rev. M.L. Hennessey. Phillip's Chapel was a "colored" church pastored by Rev. A.C. Caldwell.

The sermons were in keeping with traditional Christian themes. Ideas such as "self-sacrifice", and forsaking "worldly wealth and worldly attainments" were popular. As the Industrial Revol-

five thousand Catholics from all over the southland came to Venice for a day at the beach. Special Pacific Electric trains were supplied all day to bring the people to and from the beach. Elaborate entertainment, sports, and contests were available to the people.

Two of the most popular contests were the baby contest and the "largest family" contest. About 200 babies were expected to be entered into the contest. Captail P.C. Lulqueeney was in charge, and the judges were chosen from the audience. Several of the babies who were entered in the contest and won prizes were from Venice, Ocean Park, and Santa Monica. The "largest family" contest was for the family with the largest number of children. The winner was the R.E. Knipshere family which had nine. They were honored with a gift of a one hundred piece dinner set for winning the contest. A dinner was given in the ship cafe for all the Catholic priests in attendance, and, at night, all the people were entertained with an airplane flight and amid fireworks.

Many churches centered their socials around outdoors and physical activities.

The Belvedere Methodist Church had a pastor who was a proponent of "muscular Christianity". He led eighteen of his brotherhood boys on a hike to Venice where he camped with them "a la Boy

# VENICE: 1914-1916

HELLS BELLS & CANARIES  
from page 11

Scout" and prepared to witness the auto race the following day.

And it isn't the first time the pastor of the Belvedere Methodist church has led his charges across the country. When there isn't a volley ball, basketball, or baseball game on the schedule, the athletic minister corrals all the youngsters who care to be corralled, and off they hike for the oceans or the mountains.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Santa Monica rose to the occasion when the local W.E.C.A. needed a gymnasium and reception rooms. A large room in the basement of the church at Fourth Street and Arizona Avenues was made available to the Association and the church anticipated no trouble in raising funds to equip the gym.

Other churches jumped on the bandwagon too. Ernest Holmes made sure his youth group was physically active by taking them into local wilderness areas.

He often took young people to Topanga Canyon to camp, an activity which later resulted in the establishment of a permanent camp there. He also delighted in taking the Boy Scouts to the beach, and St. Mark's Church was credited with having several boy workers such as Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, and others. Evidently the youth were highly valued in Venice in 1916.

In keeping with the demands of social life and tradition, Venice churches honored the holidays each year.

**O**n Easter, at the Sawtelle Christian Church, 287 parents attended the Sunday School, and each parent was presented with a candy rabbit or chicken in keeping with the occasion. There were also Easter festivities at the Church of The Good Shepherd. The "Holy Week" started off with morning prayer and meditation every day at 10 a.m., and then evening prayer was scheduled at 4 p.m. every day except Wednesday and Friday. Then on Wednesday Night there was an evening service at 7:30 p.m. which was followed by a three hour prayer service on Good Friday, and on Sunday, the week came to an end after an "all day" attendance in church. One could speculate that the Church of the Good Shepherd was one of the more dedicated churches.

Christmas was the holiday that had special activities formed around it every year. During the months of November and December of 1914, the Venice Union organized a charity drive for the Christmas season and Christmas festivities for the children.

In 1913, the FeeBee moving Picture Company filmed a Christmas Pageant in Venice. The pageant focused on Santa Claus. The film begins with Abbot Kinney, the founder of Venice, dressed like Santa Claus. He then receives 1300 Venice children arriving from Santa Claus Land on the good ship Cabrillo for the "Xmas" party at the Dancing Pavillion, then 50 children put on a pantomime of five solo dances. After this the two to four year olds come on stage in nightgowns looking for Santa who then passes out his presents. The movie was called "Christmas in Venice".

Another year the high schoolers contributed their share to the festivities by holding a Christmas story contest. It was won by Donna Hall who wrote a piece entitled, "The Answered Christmas Prayer".

To bring in the New Year, the Nazarene Church held an "Old Fashion" night watch "to see the old year out and the new year in with song and prayer."

Although the churches seemed very

active and committed, personal commitment seemed lacking. The Vanguard said this about Sunday attendance: "In the matter of church attendance a great many men are gallant enough to hang back and exclaim 'Women and children first'". One man pleased with the annual event of "Go to Church Sunday" declared that he could "scarcely wait for a return date" the following year. It is obviously hypocritical to suggest a one day a year church outing in the first place. Evidently the gentleman caught on to the idea because he was excited about attending church yearly but not daily. The Vanguard mentioned an example of a young telephone operator who fell asleep during a sermon. At the close the minister said, "we will now sing hymn number three-forty-one. Number three-forty-one." The young lady, hearing the numbers and becoming startled quickly answered "The line is busy, please call again."

On a platform at the foot of Pier Ave., two men preached for over an hour to an audience of only one. And yet this did not hamper their zeal or enthusiasm because they kept on preaching "as though they had a thousand people in front of them". The commitment of the two gentlemen and their follower is clear, but it seems that the rest of the religious community needed a dose of their excitement.

Sometimes the religious community did break from tradition substituting superstition in its place.

There seemed to be a superstition held by some Venetians that there was a "ghost" in the Santa Ynez District as it made its "weekly nocturnal promenade over various trails in the mountains". It was reported that the "ghost" had "yellow" hair and "it" smiled pleasantly at whom "she" met but "ran away when people got too near." Different sightings of this ghost allowed for a couple of weeks of articles on the ghost and its different habits.

Sometimes the religious community poked fun at certain superstitions like Halloween. An article headed, "Wants to exempt Halloween" appeared in the Vanguard:

An ordinance (was passed) which provides for hanging bouquets

at the front doors of residences to indicate birth. Red flowers for a boy, white for a girl, (and) move to amend so as to prohibit births on October 31 or "Quash" this occasion by tying a head of cabbage to the door knob."

This is an example of the real potential that Venetians had in making their religious experiences fun.

Although there were many different sects and denominations, the churches in Venice were surprisingly close with one another. In illustrating this unity, it was reported that some religious people met in Santa Monica and organized a coalition of churches called the Bay District Christian Endeavor Union. At one of these meetings a church goer could expect to spend the evening in song and games with the serving of refreshments.

One article, under the heading of, "Protestant and Catholic Worship Under One Roof", referred to the chapel at the Old Soldiers Home in Sawtelle. The article stated that it was perhaps the only building in the United States, and possible the world in which such a sight could be viewed.

The churches along the Bay District elected delegates to attend a County Convention to be held in Los Angeles. The Northern Baptists met in Los Angeles occasionally, and the five-thousand delegates were sometimes invited to Venice along with their families.

Some churches also allowed other pastors to speak to their congregations.



Ernest Holmes, co-founder of Religious Science movement, in 1915.

For Example, during a Spring revival in Santa Monica, the Methodist Episcopal Church invited ten L.A. preachers to speak. It is surprising that the churches worked so well together in a time of such turmoil and drastic change.

But there are always exceptions to the rule; the Jewish Religion was the exception. No church would work with the Jews so closely. The Protestant churches engaged stereotyping and anti-semitism. The Vanguard spoke for the churches in a lengthy article which recalled how Jesus accused the Pharisees of not being right with God, and went on to equate the present day Jew with the Pharisee, "The Pharisees, today's Jews, were living unrighteously..."

For people of the Jewish Faith, services were held at the Masonic Hall

in Ocean Park. At one particular service, Rabbi I.E. Marcuson of Terre Haute, Indiana, delivered a sermon on the "Jewish Contribution to the Thought of Today". After Marcuson's teaching Miss Beatrice Shapiro of San Francisco sang "Fear Ye Not O Israel".

Sometimes famous religious leaders or big events were publicized in the Vanguard to promote the growing city. For example, Rev. C.C. Kaddos and other workers, went on record as having laid plans for the Santa Monica Bay Day. The Bay Day was a big push to get religious and non-religious support for a faire for the bay area. Once, in an attempt to "push" the city, Joseph Smith, the famous Mormon leader, was mentioned. In this interesting article it was said that Joseph Smith was "well known to Venetians because he used Southern California for Summer camp meetings. (Dec. 1914) It is surprising that the Vanguard would print such a statement since Joseph Smith was shot and killed in a Carthage Missouri jail some 51 years before Venice was founded. This embarrassing blunder was an example of the journalism that sometimes appeared in the Vanguard in an effort to promote the city.

Another big leader that was mentioned by the Vanguard was Billy Sunday, an Evangelist. Billy Sunday was well known then and he had preached to crowds as big as 40,000 in the East. On one particular occasion (April 1914) the paper quoted him as saying that he was in favor of war because his God "is a God of war." Every time a popular religious leader visited the area it was good public relations for the city to mention him.

In the early twentieth century religion was still trying to catch its breath from the changes of the times. Some churches reacted to the changes by trying to accommodate them, while others were openly hostile to the flux and merely rolled with the waves. But both reactions found asylum in highly social religious structures. Entertainment seemed to be a release from the heavy theological debates that were forever continuing in Los Angeles. But was this highly social church base reflective of true personal commitment or group commitment? Was the commitment made to churchianity or to Christianity? After all, isn't it harder to go to church than it is to a church picnic? ●

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# Free At Last: Ben Chavis At Banquet '80

By Elizabeth Elder

Give me not up to the will  
of my adversaries; for false  
witnesses have risen against me,  
and they breathe out violence.  
-from the 27th Psalm.

The Rev. Ben Chavis, the last of the Wilmington 10 to be freed, was greeted with wild applause and cheers when he entered the ballroom at the Biltmore Hotel in L.A. March 23rd for "Banquet '80", fundraiser for the Nat'l Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression in coalition with a host of other civil rights and labor groups. Also speaking was Congressman John Conyers of Detroit, Chairman of the national Congressional black caucus.

Chavis, who spent 6-1/2 years in prison for "inciting to riot" when he protected his church from an attack by the North Carolina Ku Klux Klan, told the racially diverse audience that the challenge of the 80's is how to advance the freedom movement. The tragedy of the 70's, he said, is that some doors were opened, but once a few people got through, they forgot the struggle.

Chavis sees the apparent move to the Right in this country as not due to the organization of the Right, but rather the disorganization of the Left. The masses of people are now ahead of the movement. Calling the Martin Luther King assassination an "organized, systematic government attempt to silence not only the dreamer, but also the dream", he said King was such a threat because he had merged significant elements of the peace, civil rights and labor movements. Chavis himself now in his 30's, has been actively involved in the civil rights movement since the age of 12, when as an avid young reader he was thrown out of the all-white library in his home town of Oxford. (His persistence succeeded in integrating the library.)

The other equally well-received key address of the banquet came from a man who, in his lengthy Congressional career, has never voted for a military appropriation. Congressman John Conyers blasted the U.S. government as the "biggest gun-runners in the history of civilization."

Prefacing his remarks with a quote from, of all people, Otto von Bismarck, that "the less people know about how sausages and laws are made, the more comfortably they'll sleep at night," he gave an insider's view of the workings of the Congress. According to Conyers, even if Congress were to balance the federal budget - by cutting social programs and increasing military spending - inflation would only be curbed by 1/2 of 1% and it would take 18 to 24 months to do even that!

He criticized Congress for the inclusion in the FBI charter of a section enabling the FBI to engage in internal disruption activities in the U.S. a la COINTELPRO of the Nixon era. Additionally, he said the proposed new federal crime bill, SB 1722, besides being an extremely repressive piece of legislation generally, would do away with the parole commission, as well as creating a virtual explosion of federal crimes, since it seeks to make any current state crimes into federal crimes.

Citing that every one of the Democratic and Republican Presidential candidates have called for the bill's "swift passage", he concluded by stressing the timeliness and great necessity of a 3rd party effort.

Attorney Linda Ferguson of the Nat'l Conference of Black Lawyers also spoke briefly, on the use of deadly force by the police. Over 590 people have been killed by the police within the last 10 years. Over half of that number are black.

A dominant theme of all the speakers was summed up in Chavis' statement that the "uprising" of the American people against the injustice and oppression of this system has already begun. The question is whether all of us will have the courage to channel that anger and frustration in a non-violent way to transform this country. ☆

# SALT OF THE EARTH



"Salt of the Earth", a famous and controversial film about a strike in a New Mexico zinc mine will be shown at the Church in Ocean Park, 2nd & Hill St. on Saturday, April 12, at 8 PM.

The film is extraordinary in its effort to deal with the struggles of workers, an ethnic minority, and women, for dignity and equality. It was the product of a unique collaboration between mining families and black-listed Hollywood people. The film's narrator and protagonist is a Chicana who grows in consciousness and effectiveness through her participation in the struggle.

Deborah Rosenfelt, author of a recently published and acclaimed book on the film, will introduce and lead discussion of the film on behalf of the New American Movement, a socialist-feminist organization.

"Young audiences today, seeing "Salt of the Earth" for the first time, often express surprise that so "old" a film should portray with such passion the sometimes conflicting claims of ethnic, feminist and class consciousness-issues yet with us, conflicts yet unresolved."

....D. Rosenfelt, from her book "Salt of the Earth".

This screening is the first of a series to be presented by the newly formed Westside branch of NAM at the Church in Ocean Park. The June film is "With Babies and Banners" (1978), which documents the Women's Emergency Brigade in the 1937 great General Motors strike.

May Day will be celebrated on Saturday, May 3, at Fritchman Aud, 2936 W. 8th St, as a benefit for the Campaign for a Citizen's Police Review Board, with the theme of MUSIC AND THE MOVEMENT. Featured will be singer/activists who have combined their art and their social commitment.

Artists scheduled are: Betty Mae Fikes, a great blues singer from Selma, Alabama; Cleo Kennedy and Mamie Brown, soloists with the famous Birmingham Movement Choir; Sam Block, legendary and pioneer SNCC organizer in the Mississippi delta; L.A.'s Guy Carawan, of Knoxville's Highlander organizing school who was the arranger and Johnny Appleseed of "We Shall Overcome"; plus Len Chandler, singer, songwriter, and civil rights activist. Political satire and shenanigans will be performed by the Isla Vista Gorilla Theater. ■



# Bookshop Benefit 13

by Lynne Bronstein

The troubles of The Bookshop in Ocean Park (reported on in January Beachhead) may be over for awhile. Evicted by auctioneer John Wilson from its long-time Main Street location, the shop has found a new home at the former location of Muskadine Music (212 Pier Avenue) in Santa Monica. Not quite as large as the Main Street shop, it nevertheless looks roomier than it did as Muskadine. There's a balcony level with the table and chairs for browsing, plants in the windows, and the same variety of books and magazines.

Judging by the size of the crowd at the Bookshop benefit February 23, there must be a bigger contingency of Bookshop customers than I thought. My eyeball estimate of the number of people packed into the Church in Ocean Park's main room was at least 200.

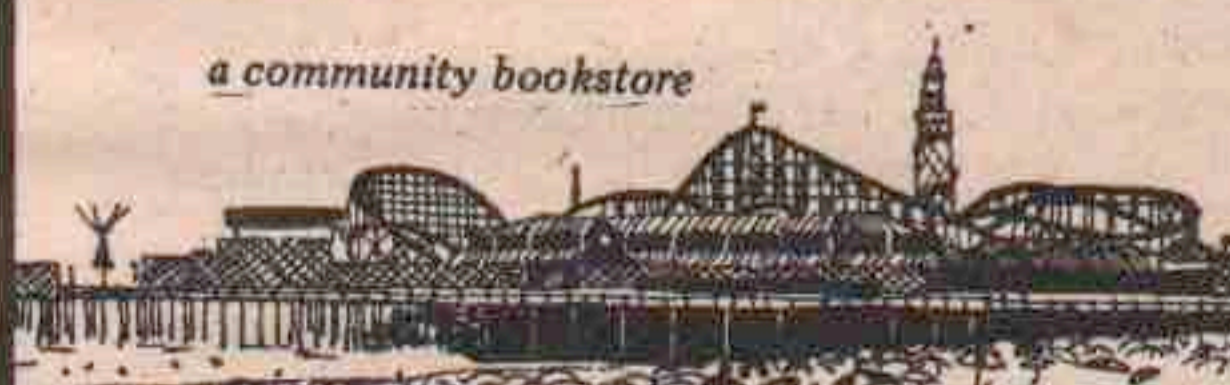
In sunny hedonistic Southern California, a crowd like that coming out to help keep a bookstore alive has to mean something good. Maybe it has less to do with love of books than with widespread community feeling and an increasing activism among Ocean Parkers who just plain don't like realtors and entrepreneurs deciding our destinies for us. It was the same spirit as that which brought rent control to Santa Monica and is gradually changing the political makeup of the S.M. City Council. Whether the bottom line be the survival of reading material, a place to live without paying unreasonable rents, or streets one can walk in relative safety, people in Ocean Park are coming out and fighting for it. In this way Santa Monica may be a proving ground for the rest of the nation.

Many thanks are due [and appreciation was given] to the Ocean Park Community Organization, the Campaign For Economic Democracy, the friends of the Bookshop, the businesses that donated food and drink to the benefit, the Ocean Park Perspective, yes the Beachhead, and especially Bookshop manager Linda Garrett and her assistants. The \$3.50 benefit tickets bought participants a buffet dinner (healthy salad, macaroni and bread sticks) plus door prizes for two people, and a movie "The Shop On Main Street." Obviously chosen for its title, the film, which deals with the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia, proved a bit too intense for most people, who ignored Jim Conn's suggestion that they resolve their feelings about the movie by dancing. That and some CED people hustling raffle tickets to benefit their anti Prop-10 campaign, [which not all of us were in the mood or state of solvency to handle,] were the only off-notes struck in an otherwise powerfully optimistic evening. ●

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# cmi CALIFORNIA MARIJUANA INITIATIVE '80

## GENERAL INTRODUCTION--

The 1980 California Marijuana Initiative removes criminal penalties for the private possession, cultivation, and transportation of marijuana by adults for their personal use. It also establishes a state commission to conduct a one year study into the potential agricultural, economic, and tax benefits of a regulated marijuana market.

The first section of the initiative is patterned after the law in the State of Alaska, where private possession and cultivation of marijuana by adults is constitutionally protected by the Right of Privacy. The second section, establishing a special commission, is designed to study, for the first time, the economic impact of marijuana in our society and various regulatory approaches for controlling it, a concept recommended by Consumers Union, in its landmark report, *Licit and Illicit Drugs*.

Public support for liberalized marijuana laws has been growing in California for the past decade. According to the statewide California Poll, conducted by the Field Research Corporation in April, 1979, 58% of all California adults favor relaxation of current marijuana laws, with 42% favoring full legalization. The Field Poll calls increased support for marijuana reform a "long term trend", noting that "a fundamental shift in basic attitudes about the effects of marijuana has taken place."

The questions involved in CMI-80 are not whether marijuana is good or bad, or whether people should use it. The real issues are the marijuana laws themselves, and determining the best public policy to deal with the reality of marijuana use in contemporary society.

As Consumers Union stated in 1972: "It is now much too late to debate the issue: marijuana versus no marijuana. Marijuana is here to stay. No conceivable law enforcement policy can curb its availability."

## SECTION ONE -- DECRIMINALIZATION OF PRIVATE USE

Marijuana was first outlawed in California in 1915, at a time when the only people using it in the state were Mexicans, who had introduced the social custom of marijuana smoking into the American Southwest. These early marijuana laws were passed with little public debate or study and were based on ignorance and prejudice, rather than on a factual understanding of marijuana and the effects of its use. Since their enactment, hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent enforcing California's marijuana laws, resulting in the arrests of over 500,000 persons in the last 15 years alone.

Though penalties for marijuana possession in California were reduced from a felony to a citable misdemeanor in 1975, thousands of arrests continue to take place annually. According to the April, 1979 Field Poll, seven million California adults (42%) have used marijuana, with almost three million considering themselves to be current users today. It's clear that sixty years of prohibition has failed to accomplish its goal of ending marijuana use, despite enormous costs.

CMI-80 is based on a policy which respects the responsibility all adults have for their own health and personal conduct. It implements an approach known as decriminalization of marijuana, similar to what has been recommended by the American Medical Association, the American Bar Association, the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse and the American Public Health Association.

Section one of the initiative removes criminal penalties for private, adult conduct. Its emphasis on privacy is an important element of CMI-80 and corrects a shortcoming in the 1972 California Marijuana Initiative (Prop. 19), which did not distinguish between public and private activity. Under CMI-80, public use of marijuana would continue to be subject to a citation and fine (though not arrest and jailing), but private use would be legal under state law.

By focusing on private, non-commercial activity by adults, CMI-80 attempts to restore respect for the rights of privacy and personal choice by adults, which have been ignored during marijuana prohibition.

Section One represents both sound fiscal policy and sensible law enforcement priorities. The marijuana laws currently cost California taxpayers an estimated \$75 million annually

(according to state studies), with most of the funds being spent on cases involving possession or cultivation of marijuana for personal use. Reduction in possession penalties in 1975 has saved an estimated \$25 million annually in police and court costs alone. Passage of CMI-80 should substantially increase these savings, freeing an additional \$50 million every year which could be channeled into combatting serious, violent crime.

## SECTION TWO -- THE ECONOMIC STUDY

Experience has amply demonstrated that marijuana prohibition, like alcohol prohibition before it, simply has not worked. Instead, it has spawned a massive illicit market -- free of regulation and taxation, and lacking any effective consumer protection and education.

According to federal Drug Enforcement Administration estimates, marijuana has become California's top cash crop, grossing \$1 billion annually - more than grapes, cotton, lettuce, and every other agricultural commodity grown in the "bread basket of the world". Hundreds of millions of additional dollars are spent every year in California on imported marijuana. Marijuana has become Big Business.

Section Two focuses on the economic reality of marijuana. It does not legalize the commercial cultivation or sale of marijuana (steps which cannot currently be taken under federal and international law), but it recognizes the importance of studying new regulatory approaches, which could be adopted in the future.

The initiative proposes a one year study, by special commission consisting of both private citizens and public officials, who will serve without compensation. It will explore dealing with marijuana through education, rather than prohibition, and will consider different ways of regulating marijuana which minimize the potential for its promotion and misuse, thus hopefully avoiding the mistakes which have been made with alcohol and tobacco.

There are important economic reasons why new policy approaches towards marijuana should be seriously examined. Marijuana is a totally unregulated, multi-billion dollar business in California. At a time when "Proposition 13" has brought about substantial cuts in public services, when state and local governments are in need of new sources of tax revenue, it makes sense to study the tax implications of legal marijuana.

In some rural parts of California, marijuana has already brought about economic revitalization to many communities. Based on these experiences, attention should be focused on the potential agricultural and economic benefits of a legal marijuana market, including new jobs and the development of other commercial uses of hemp (as marijuana was once called), such as a source for paper and fiber.

There have been major studies on legal and social aspects of marijuana, as well as extensive scientific research into the health effects of marijuana use and potential therapeutic uses of cannabis. There has never been a serious study of the economics of marijuana, despite the need for one. CMI-80 addresses this need, by establishing a balanced, independent study commission.

The one-time cost of the commission (which should be less than \$200,000) is minimal when compared with the annual savings of more than \$50 million brought about by the decriminalization provisions of Section One. Moreover if the study finds future economic benefits for all Californians and leads to the adoption of a sound and intelligent public policy of marijuana, creation of this commission is a prudent investment in the future.

## SECTION THREE -- DRIVING

The third section of CMI-80 has no direct legal effect, but instead emphasizes that the initiative does not affect existing legislation which makes it a crime in California to drive under the influence of marijuana or any other drug. The initiative recognizes the legitimate public interest in prohibiting such conduct.

For more information on the 1980 California Marijuana Initiative, contact:  
California NORML, 2964 Fillmore St., San Francisco, Ca. 94123 (415)563-5858.

## THE LOONEY TUNER'S GYP OF THE MONTH

Greed has finally hit Looney Tuners. Our landlord of six years has evicted us for want of \$\$\$\$. We love it here in Venice but alas, as you all know, rents are unaffordable in this area. So...if any of you have a tip for us, please call Mark or Phyllis at 823-2722.

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## Attention

Every civilization is in need for a new age prophet to speak the words and actions that lay hidden in the subconscious mind of the masses who are fooled by false morality and values.

I come to you out of darkness, and in the time of sear misery where noone has a real name, where the sick are divided from the healthy, where the sane are divided from the insane, and where the killing of love ends in hatred.

I come to you with a double edge sword that can save you. So beware of my words death cannot touch me now; for I have seen through the eyes of madness, and have come to understand that the light of new age prophets must be ready to smash every idol, and break your most precious dream. The new age prophet hides amongst you now. We are looking for a handful of creative people. Call 399-2497.

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## VENICE x 5

by  
andy castro

[there's a yellow haze now  
in the backroom]

(It used to rain here  
i remember.....

when palm trees...  
black against  
deep-light-ening blue;  
were rows of india  
print flowers...  
& evenings were cool)

venice & pisani,  
late evening/red sky  
over  
neon beer sign  
white & blue facade  
welcomes

### That Van Ness Feeling

light tannish sand melds  
w/ an eye on meeting  
dark blue mountains  
under gold-fringed red sky,  
setting sun

eagle's eye/ wings fade  
inscribed on white walls  
steps  
- yesterday  
cool, gritty boardwalk  
carried forward  
wandering mystic children  
singing of demulcent pasts  
& acid dreams/sidewalk discoveries

now  
p.o.p.'s ghost hangs over  
in a brick smell  
of fine powdery sand

Cheetah of memory

fire.

### Water & Sand

venice breakwater  
colors : dirty olive in yellow sheen  
sand, arm of  
blackish grey stone  
to the right, dissolve:  
greenish metallic wavelets  
( a sea of light tin spoons )  
break to: glassy green curl  
tense upfront

moving up  
between break & jetty,  
an analysis of nature's technique:  
clouds...  
soft mists of wet grey on sky  
sunlight...  
shiny daubs of silver  
random behind clouds  
signed by Turner

addendum:  
little beaked puffs  
scurry by  
grey & white

### empty fins

sharp bulky shoulders  
here & there push  
& roam thru empty  
paced over streets

these dark cutouts  
are the current ghosts,  
the ones we meet  
in parks  
drinkin' whiskey

or, they might be  
behind the punchy couch,  
-they might be  
in the coolest corner  
sniffin' paint

or, under a bridge  
in the canals  
floating empty boats  
downstream.

### spiky, ripped edges

taking a parallel  
from Rimbaud,  
winter is the time  
of warmth/security  
& today (late afternoon)  
grey days of grey walk  
arrive

wrapped in wool  
by Venice in the snow

9/27/79 VENICE BLVD.

a raft of grey  
clouds  
soft fibrous cover  
for a sad city  
in sad days

- watch overhead  
one lone black hawk  
(distinct stark wings)  
over telephone poles  
umbrellaless  
as a sleepless wino

all poems  
© 1980 Andy Castro

collage: W. Reeves

## LETTERS...

Continued from page 1

Inconvenience is not better.

What is needed is more and cheaper. I can't afford a car and it doesn't make me happier. Less food doesn't make me happier, etc...

This is not to say that there is anything wrong with voluntary sacrifice. What is wrong is lack of choice.

When you're poor, less does not at all seem better. Ride RTD busses to work everyday, for example. Public transportation, in my opinion, is a total failure as is. Why? Because the only way to improve it is more frequent buses and routes. More money for this is not forthcoming.

So who rides public transportation? The poor and the hard up. Very rarely do I see business executives on the RTD cattle cars during rush hour or waiting sometimes two hours for the more out of the way routes.

More is better. Cheap gas and more reliable (more frequent and less congested) public transportation. The right and affordability to choose - like with birth control - is better.

Just because gas is \$2 a gallon in Europe is not good enough as an excuse for Carter deregulating oil prices here. The proof of the bullshitting, as Moe Stavnezer points out, is these excess profits.

Instead of Carter saying "OK, roll back the prices. You lied to us. I don't care what is happening in Europe, you didn't need those price increases here" he in effect says "well, we'll tap those increased profits and leave the gas prices where they are and hope they will go higher because less is better".

Vacancy de-control in Venice means outrageous rents unless you have less mobility and never move.

I don't care if Jerry Brown wants to live more leanly than his inherited wealth requires. If he wants to ride public transportation and not live in the Statehouse - fine. But this seems to be a political ploy to force everybody to deprive themselves. Conservative Republicans like Howard Jarvis have always been at the forefront of this movement

Phil Nurenberg

The Beachhead -

On Feb. 22nd I went downtown to "Parker Center" our L.A. Police Hqts.. To view the large display of stolen gold and silver and diamonds that were confiscated by the police from a 'fence' who was buying loot from robberys. There had been an announcement on T.V. that anyone who had been robbed of such items should come down and see if their stolen items were in this haul. I was told we would be admitted from 5pm to 9pm on that date. I went down early, arrived there at 3pm. At that time the auditorium was already packed and the police were allowing people in groups of 10 people to come up to the display tables and look at the items on display. I got up to the tables around 5:00pm. There was a lot of Sterling Silver table service, most of the rings had the diamonds and other precious stones removed. The watches had the works removed, and there were no silver coins. I was told that the coins had been melted for their silver and the stones which were removed could not be identified and they had trays full of them! They were not on display! There were ingots of Silver and Gold, melted down, which could never be identified. Therefore not on display. I asked if these things could be bought at their next auction and was told no. The items, including Gold and Silver and loose stones would be returned to "The Criminal" they took it from as it could not be proven that it was stolen; unless an owner could positively identify it. How can you swear a loose diamond or melted ounce of Gold or Silver belongs to you. That your jewelry was in that melted metal. Therefore, they could not display it. There were a few rings with very small diamonds, 'mostly 1 cut chips'. A few with semiprecious stones. A lot of very old watches and some ladys wristwatches with no bands. All the good jewelry had been taken apart and melted and precious stones dismounted. By the Fence or the crooks. But what impressed me was the enormous crowd of people there - all had been robbed right in this City!! I left that auditorium at 6:00pm and the place was packed, even the aisles, and people were lined up down the hall to the door and outside to the sidewalk and clear down to the corner. Waiting to get in, and they were standing in a cold and windy rain! Being the inquisitive type,

I stopped all along the line to talk to people waiting to get in, who hoped to find some of their belongings. I'd ask what part of the City they lived in, and believe me they were from every section of Los Angeles. The majority were older people. Most had been conned into admitting some strange person or couple into their home. I could write a book on the storys they told me, of the methods used to gain admittance. One sweet elderly Lady said a young couple came to her door and said the woman was ill and would she give her a glass of water to take her medicine. She let them in, went to the kitchen for water and came back with it to see a gun pointed at her. This happened around 11:00am. An Officer told me that the price of precious metals and diamonds was so high today that it was dangerous to have even a sterling silver table service in your home. And that there were so many people on dope that they would do anything to steal to get money for their habit.

Mayor Bradley has cut funds to maintain our Police Department at a time when we need to enlarge our Police protection. Our Liberal Laws today, favor the crooks not the victims! However an adequate, well-trained Police Force isn't the entire answer to our crime problem! What good is it to capture a crook if he isn't convicted and put away? We have allowed our law makers to pass these "too liberal laws" and our Judges to pass out light sentences or hand our paroles far too often. Plea bargaining is "The Order of the Day" with our prosecutors because they are afraid they can not get a clear conviction and the criminal will be let loose on a technicality by a Liberal Judge and jury. The average murderer today serves about 7 years. Don't you think its high time we all got on our elected representatives in Washington D.C. and Sacramento to put some teeth into our Criminal Laws? Robbery with a gun or knife should automatically be 20 years, without parole. Lets make our Homes and Streets safe again. Write your representatives. If you don't know who they are call your "Councilwoman Pat Russell" and ask who they are and where to write to them. Those long lines of victims of crooks I saw last Fri., Feb. 22nd made my blood boil! I'm ready to fight back--are you???

E. Moore  
Venice, Calif.

(The following letter originally appeared in the Ocean Front Weekly.)

It was a gray, fuzzy midweek day last winter when I drove my parents to visit a friend who lived near the Venice boardwalk. My folks are from out of state and I'd been looking forward to showing them the beach. Although warm, the sun had not yet broken through and the area was misty, quiet.

I parked the car on the side of an empty lot, across from my friends apartment. As we got out, three men walked toward us; the largest one broke away from the group, approached us and demanded, 'that'll be \$2.00 to park there.'

I couldn't decide whether he was drunk or stoned or both. "Baloney," I replied, "there's no sign that says you have to pay to park here."

"DON'T YOU SEE THAT SIGN, YOU MOTHER-----?" He roared at the top of his lungs, gesturing to a non-existent sign.

"You can go to hell, there's no sign." Although I was a woman with two older parents, I still did not regard this man as a serious threat. That is, until he continued shouting, screaming filthy words and threats toward us, describing what might happen to the car if we left. My dad hurriedly thrust \$2.00 at the man. "here, here," he muttered to me, "can't you see this man is crazy or something? Please, come away, let's go."

My friend had heard, and hurried across from her apartment as the man grabbed the money and sauntered back to his friends. Together we all watched until they left, afraid they might do something to my car. I'll never forget the anger I felt, or my dad's shamed face as he shook his head at the ground and said, "I should have punched him."

My poor dad, he couldn't punch his way out of a paper bag. That ended our visit to Venice Beach.

Now we flash forward to this last summer when I worked on Ocean Front walk for two months. And guess what? There are those same guys, still there... doing the same things to other people as they did to me, and worse. The more I saw of those guys, the more pissed I got - and of course, they're still there today. When I wondered how they always got away with it,

I was told, "Oh, you can't do anything about those guys, they're sort of a 'cause' around here." I also heard, "This is their home, they have a right to be here."

But NO ONE has a right to continually rob and threaten others, do they?

My dad never did get his punch in, and maybe I didn't either, but now it looks like others are starting to say, "enough, already." At long last a few people are getting the balls to speak up and fight back. Mostly business people who get mad enough to try to do something to stop it. Finally the police are starting to respond and crack down on these bullies.

Then the Beachhead comes out with a whole edition - filled with articles and letters telling us it's anti-social, against brotherly

love, against the community, etc., to arrest these guys when they commit a crime. NOW these dudes are being described as 'unfortunates,' 'free spirits,' and 'wanderers.' The police are 'picking' on them. The business people are described in condescending, outraged tones as encouraging this clean up strictly for profits. Wait a minute.

Why this sudden almost hysterical outcry in defense of 'poor street people'? Why are they being defended with such vigor by the Beachhead people in Venice? Are they doing it for Profit, just like the business people?

Well...these 'free spirits' DO keep the area down. And 'down' is where the Beachhead seems to want it to stay. 'Down' means Profit to them in the form of lloowwv rreennt.

Now anyone, including the Beachhead, has the right to preach their point of view but, "me thinketh they doth protest too much." At least the business organizations are more honest about their motives.

Beachhead, it looks like these 'unfortunates' are only being used by you. I don't recall seeing a single program you've ever sponsored to help them. So why not drop this self-righteous, community-spirit guise and let's just call a BUCK a BUCK.

Carol Thompson, Venice

(The following letter is a reply to the above letter. It was sent to the Ocean Front Weekly and may or may not have appeared at press time.)

To the Editor:

In response to "Venice Resident"'s complaints about the Venice Beachhead's defense of "street people", I'd say that I would get just as upset if I were approached on the street by thugs--but I would not jump from a condemnation of street crime to approval of vigilante tactics to "clean up" the area, ridding it of so-called "undesirables" not all of whom are criminals and many of whom happen to be honest poor people.

I do not think the merchants' motives are so pure. I think they would like to get rid of the competition (street vendors) as well as the opposition (poor long-time Venice residents who are being driven out already by high rents, evictions, police harassment, and now this "clean-up"). They would probably like Venice to be a "wholesome" (ie: middle-class to wealthy and preferably white) neighborhood. At any rate their vigilante committee doesn't sound to me like such a good alternative to crime.

"Venice Resident" also has some nerve saying that the Beachhead (a volunteer-staffed paper whose staff members receive no salary and earn no profits) wants to gain profits through low rents. Did "Venice Resident" ever have to eat five pieces of bologna and mustard for dinner, have one piece of stale bread for breakfast next morning as "profit" after paying this month's rent?

We should of course be happy that we the poor are allowing the rich merchants to make money and kick us out of our homes because that is the genteel way to live, isn't it? My own self-interest in this comes, I suppose, from my ancestors' centuries of experience being evicted from their neighborhoods in periodic "clean-ups" known as pogroms. Of course everyone knew these people (my relatives) were undesirables and only out to make a buck.

Yours truly,  
Lynne Bronstein  
Venice Beachhead  
Collective

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much as 100%, fees for such things as building permits and Prop. 9 will bring even more increases.

Phoney Fiscal Figures?

Hokey Howie is using the same old snake oil show that worked 2 years ago out on the road to convince the "just plain folks" how much they'll save in Prop. 9 is passed. He's not exactly talking alot about the fact that the average savings from this law will be \$65 a year. He's not saying that the problem of having a pay raise "eaten up" by getting into a higher tax bracket has already been dealt with when the Legislature provided for full "indexing" in last year's session. They also eliminated the business inventory tax, the 3rd part of Prop. 9. He's also keeping very quiet about the fact that \$1.1 billion of this tax "savings" will go to the Federal government which has not shown much generosity after the windfall it received after 13 passed.

Fact is that Jarvis is running a scam that plays on one of biggest fears--not having enough money! The economy is messed up and is getting worse and Jarvis is playing on all the uncertainty in the economy by holding out a carrot that he says is really a magic potion. Sounds a like the fable about the king and no clothes--has anyone really looked at ole Howie lately?

Fear and the Middle Class

The big middle class of America is in mortal fear of being displaced from the middle by someone, anyone from one side or the other. The middle class has come to believe that poorer people (which they used to be) are its enemies. So a rich businessman, Hokey Howie, uses a typical business tactic of pitting one group's desires and fears against another group that simply wants the same cut of the pie as those in the middle. All of this happens while the affluent merely want more and more and, because there are so few of them, go unnoticed and are always the winners in any tax scam like Prop. 9. It the Big Lie mentality--say that government is too big and too fat, and say it often enough and then accuse government officials who dispute the lie of petty self-interest! Howie's got the Big Lie down pat and there's been enough hanky-panky among government officials to give Howie the ideal atmosphere to play on the cynicism and fear rampant in the '70s and getting worse in the '80s even though the decade is less than 4 months old.

Fear brought the "cold war", it gave us Joe MacCarthy, it gave Germany the Nazis, and it allowed us to sink in the mire of Vietnam. Howie loves fear 'cause its a potent arguement against truth and Prop. 9 is a terrible lie.

The Word in June is NO

Maybe Howie has overplayed his hand this time. Afterall Prop. 9 saves his rich friends a bundle of money and Prop. 10, which repeals rent control for his fellow apartment house owners, are coincidentally side-by-side on the June 3rd ballot. Howie never was bashful!

But the nearness of the two frauds on the ballot makes it easier to defeat them both. There is a connection between the two if only because they benefit the same people ( who incidentally benefitted from "The Spirit of 13"). Makes lots of sense for those of us who have nothing to gain and a whole bunch to lose to vote NO on both Prop. 9 and Prop. 10 in June.

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17  
**Review Board Campaign will hire petitioners**

The L.A. Campaign for a Citizens' Police Review Board is canvassing its supporters for people who can collect signatures full-time.

The petition is for an elected civilian police review board which would investigate and judge complaints of abuse of power by L.A.P.D. officers.

The campaign needs to collect 116,000 signatures of registered L.A. voters by the beginning of June, in order for the review board proposal to go to a vote in November. Allowing for a large number of disqualified signatures, a total of 200,000-plus may be needed.

Seven hundred volunteers (and eighty organizations) are already collecting signatures part-time, but a staff of full-timers is usually needed for such large campaigns.

Campaign organizers feel they can hire an unlimited number of field workers. Part of the petitioning job will be to collect spare-change donations, and some staffers will work on special fundraising projects, so the staff can be self-financing.

Weekly pay is \$100.00. Only people who are registered to vote in one of the L.A. City Council districts are eligible to sign or to circulate the petition; this includes Venice and many other communities, but does not include independent cities like Santa Monica. A person who is not eligible to sign or circulate the petition can still work on a petition team with someone who is.

Campaign supporters who want to join in (either as paid staff or as unpaid volunteers) should phone 733-2107 or go to the campaign office at 2824 So. Western Ave. in L.A.

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# 18 AVAKIAN GOES TO COURT

By The Committee to Free the Mao Tsetung Defendants

The battle to Stop the Railroad of Bob Avakian and Free the Mao Defendants has continued to gain momentum nationwide through the work of the defense committees and the Revolutionary May Day Brigades. Many new people have stood in support of the case, from Ex-Panther Bobby Seale and Russell Means of AIM to the Chicago Gray Panthers and 85 residents of a Greensboro, N.C. housing project.

An important new force was added to the legal battle with the filing of an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief along with the defense brief, in preparation for the March 27th date in which the case opens in the Washington, D.C. Court of Appeals for oral arguments. Any hope the government had of rushing this appeal through the appellate court, out of sight of the people, and narrowing the legal battle to an argument over the "facts" rather than its obviously political nature has been dashed by the exposures in these briefs.

This case grew out of a demonstration last January 29, 1979 in Washington, D.C. against the visit of Chinese Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping. What began as misdemeanors for those arrested mushroomed into scores of felonies carrying more than two centuries in prison when the government realized they had Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Revolutionary Communist Party, in their clutches.

In November of 1979, despite attempts by the media nationwide (the Los Angeles Times and the UCLA Daily Bruin locally) to slander Avakian and undercut support, the government was faced with such mounting opposition that they dismissed the charges on the grounds of prosecutorial vindictiveness. Immediately, an appeal was filed and the Secret Service was unleashed to investigate the possibility of railroading Avakian further based on a fabricated and later retracted threat on the life of the President which had appeared in the L.A. Times.

Close investigation of the gov't appeal now under consideration shows that it is "glued" together by a maze of vague, arbitrary and unsubstantiated "aiding and abetting" charges which they theorize result from and result in political conspiracy. This "joint enterprise" theory states that all defendants can be held equally guilty of any crime committed at the January 29th demonstration, regardless of being personally charged with committing any specific crime.

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It is clear that the government wants Avakian silenced in one way or another, especially before May 1st, when the Revolutionary Communist Party is calling on everyone to celebrate International Workers Day by demonstrating instead of going to work or school. But the government is also using this case to deliver a message to those dreaming and daring to challenge their rule that they will be crushed. It is necessary and possible for everyone to turn that message around by supporting this case and beating back the railroad.

At the time of this writing, a major action is planned for Washington, D.C. on March 27th, with a support action in Los Angeles at the Federal Courthouse. People interested in actively working

on this case can endorse and circulate the Protest of the Appeal statement, and can contribute money for legal and defense fees (checks to the Capp Street Foundation are tax-deductible.) Contact the L.A. Committee to Free the Mao Defendants at (213)585-8234 or 384-3856.

**AGAINST S. B. 1722:** A talk by Frank Wilkinson, Executive Director of the National Committee Against Political Repression.

On Sunday, April 13, at 11:00 A.M., the Unitarian Society, Los Angeles West, will hold a meeting at 3744 Barrington (1/2 block north of Venice Blvd) in WLA to discuss this critical bill.

Kennedy's and Thurmond's S. 1722, among other things, may stop Draft/War Resistance, single out anti-nuclear activists and utility reformers for special prosecution; re-establish the old Mundt-Nixon Subversive Activities Control Act, et., with massive individual penalties of \$250,000 fine, 5 years or more in jail, with no parole provisions.

The defeat of S. 1722 would not leave the government powerless to meet an emergency. However, its passage would seriously undercut civil liberties, would insulate the government from effective political criticism, and virtually establish a police nation.

True freedom means the freedom to dissent. ●

### PROPOSITION II MOVES TO SANTA MONICA

The statewide offices of the CITIZENS TO TAX BIG OIL have moved to 1928-14th St. in Santa Monica.

Volunteers are wanted immediately to pass Proposition II.

This proves to be one of the most exciting campaigns on the June ballot. The BIG OIL companies are expected to spend more money than has ever been spent on an initiative to defeat Proposition II. Prop II provides for a surtax on BIG OIL's windfall profits which will be placed into the state transportation fund. The monies raised will be used for increased bus and rail service as well as subsidies to fare hikes.

Los Angeles will be the largest recipient of these new state funds. Possibly rapid transit will get off the ground in LA and cleaner air will be a side benefit as well.

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## POETRY

4/8 T, Old Venice Jail Readings, Eloise Klein Healy & Karen M.C. Minns, 7:30 PM, 685 Venice Bl.

4/11 F, San Francisco poets, Bobbie Louise Hawkins, Leslie Scalapino & Duncan McNaughton reading original works. Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Bl., 8 PM, FREE, 822-3006.

4/15 T, Old Venice Jail Readings, Susan Anderson & Jill Bohlander, 7:30 PM, 685 Venice Bl.

4/22 T, Old Venice Jail Readings, Bill Margolis & Michael Andrews, 7:30 PM, 685 Venice Bl.

4/29 T, Old Venice Jail Readings, Doren Robbins & Doraime Poretz, 7:30 PM, 685 Venice Bl.

## DANCE

4/5 Sa, Workshop: Balancing, with Katja Biesanz & Peggy Dobreer, noon - 4PM, \$15, I.D.E.A., 522 SM Bl., SM, 395-0456.

4/6 Su, Trance Figurations, Easter Ritual, a dance performance, noon, \$2 minimum donation, Katja Biesanz & Peggy Dobreer & the Natural Movers. I.D.E.A. 522 SM Bl., SM, 395-0456.

4/6 Su, The Mark Dresser Ensemble, a jazz dance group performs, 8 PM, Donation \$4, I.D.E.A., 522 SM Bl., SM, 395-0456.

4/13 Su, Interim Dance Theatre, Touring Repertory, Kay Turney & Marian Weiser, Directors, 8 PM, Donation \$4, I.D.E.A., 522 SM Bl., SM, 395-0456.

4/20 Su, Lendra, Classical Balinese Dance, 8 PM, Donation \$4, I.D.E.A., 522 SM Bl., SM, 395-0456.

EVERY FRIDAY, The Movement Experience, an ongoing class of letting go through movement, 10AM-NOON, Storie Crawford Studio, 1329B 5th St., SM, 450-1744. EVERY FRI & SAT: "Dance Home" 8:30 PM to 1:30 AM, I.D.E.A. Studio, 522 SM Bl., SM, \$3, 395-0456.

## ART

Eve Thompson, Award Winning Watercolorist. April 4-May 8. Guzartz Gallery 1601 1/2 West Washington Blvd. Venice 396-2579

4/8 through 5/8: A photographic exhibit by Lyn Smith in honor of National Dance Week, I.D.E.A., 522 SM Bl., SM, 395-0456.

## THEATER

4/26 Sa, Theatre Skills Workshop, Gorilla Repertory Theatre of Isla Vista, 1-4 PM, I.D.E.A., 522 SM Bl., SM, 395-0456.

4/27 Su, Gorilla Repertory Theatre of Isla Vista, 8 PM, Donation \$4, I.D.E.A. 522 SM Bl., SM, 395-0456.

### ODYSSEY THEATRE

6 Play Season, Marathon Madness by Dan Duling, Nightclub Cantata by Elizabeth Swados, Year One of the Empire by E. Fuch and J. Antler, The Elocution of Benjamin by Steven Spears, The Great American Playwright Show, Voyage to Arcturus by David Lindsay. Subscriptions \$24-\$38, 826-1626.

ACTING WORKSHOP accepting new members, Tuesday nights, Hollywood. Organized by the not-for-profit Los Angeles Repertory Ensemble. Call Sue at 982-5330 for info.

Ed Levey's workshop series on techniques of the San Francisco Mime Troupe has been shifted to Monday nights, not the Tuesdays listed in February's Beachhead.

The series, ranging from improvisation to the basics of Commedia dell'Arte will take place at SPARC, in the old Venice jail at 685 Venice Blvd. And will run for ten Monday nights, beginning April 14. A special session is scheduled April 7th for interviews and a discussion of the course.

SPARC has also recently begun a silkscreen poster workshop on a regular Monday night basis. People have been making posters using themes from the women's, Black, anti-war, Chicano, renters and other movements. Though formal instruction is not being offered, artists are sharing their skills with the less experienced. While SPARC is trying to elicit materials, poster makers are encouraged to bring what they have. Call Ed for either workshop at 822-9560 or just show up.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## MUSIC

4/4 F, Santa Monica Folk Music Club, 1st Fri. each mo. Bring instruments, food, songs. Donation. 1440 Harvard St., SM, 8 PM.

4/5 Sa, Cris Williamson in concert, Embassy Auditorium, 8 PM, w/ Jackie Robbins, June Millington, Cam Davis. Women on Wheels Prod. Tx \$7.50 at Mutual Agencies or PO Box 27251-P, LA 90027.

4/5 Sa, Composer/multi-instrumentalist Vinny Golia performs. 8 PM, Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Bl., FREE, 822-3006.



Arco Iris - Band members from left, Guillermo, Danais and Ara. Arco Iris, which means rainbow, is an Argentinian group that plays lively original songs, based on traditional rhythms, harmonies and melodies of the ethnic music of Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador. The group plays standard electric and acoustic instruments plus some unusual ethnic woodwind, string and percussion instruments. The band plays regularly Tuesday and Friday nights at Come Back Inn, 1633 W. Washington Blvd in Venice. 396-7255

4/12 Sa, Harpist Carrie Kourkoumelis & cellist Roger Lebow in recital, Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Bl., 8 PM, FREE, 822-3006.

4/25 F, Songmakers meets 4th Fri. ea. mo. Westdale Savings, community room, near Sepulveda & National in Palms. FREE. 8:00 pm

EVERY TUES., Singing Singles rehearses, 7:45-9:15 PM, Palms Playgroup Rec. Bldg. 2950 Overland near National. The group performs Kern & Porter style old standards and singalong.

EVERY WED., Song of Earth Chorale, rehearses, Bay Cities Jewish Community Center, 2601 SM Bl., SM. The group performs folksongs from around the world in their original languages.

## FILM

4/10 Th, Documentary Film Program, 3 & 7:30 PM, "The Look of America", a photographic survey of colonial life in America, and "Money on the Land", Alistair Cooke details the lifestyles and opulence of the Carnegies, Rockefellers & Vanderbilts. LA County Museum of Natural History.

4/17 Th, Documentary Film Program, 3 & 7:30 PM, "Pygmies of the Rain Forest" about the tribes of the Ituri forest of Zaire, and "The Bend of the Niger", a tour of the river narrated by Ossie Davis. LA County Museum of Natural History.

New from Green Mountain Post Films, an 18 minute color documentary, "Save the Planet, The Story of the Atomic Age". For booking & information about "Lovejoy's Nuclear War" & other films on nuclear power, write or call: Green Mountain Post Films, Box 229, Turners Falls, MA 01376, (413) 863-4754 or 863-8248.

## WOMEN

4/13 Su, I.D.E.A. Gallery slide presentation exploring the role of women in art and culture. DISCOVER LOST WOMEN ARTISTS. 522 SM Bl., SM, 1 PM, \$2, 395-0456.

5/2 F & 5/3 Sa, Women's Employment Conference for the West Coast, LA Convention Center. for info call Career Planning Center, Inc. 273-6633.

## COMMUNITY

### EARTH DAY

In celebration of Earth Day, initiated in 1970 by the Environmental Council of the United Nations to promote World environmental Consciousness; and in celebration of their 6th anniversary, One Life Natural Foods is planning a street celebration on Saturday, April 19, from 1 pm to 10 pm on Pier Ave. between Main and Second Sts. The program will consist of environmental speakers; children's theater with environmental themes; and throughout the day, musical entertainment. Information Jim O'Connell 392-4501; 399-3901

COUNSELING INTERNSHIP OFFERED: Ocean Pk. Community Center has openings, 16 hrs/wk, minimum 6 mos. (9-12 mos. preferred), call 399-9228.

PET ADOPTION: can place almost any cat or dog in new home. Call Marqo 839-1828. BROWNBAGGERS: Compiling list of EZ lunch ideas for working person. Quick, inexpensive, tested recipes only, pls. Will send a list of light lunch ideas in return for useful suggestions & an SASE. Morris. 920 Venice Bl. #220.

4/17 Th, LA City Council Hearing on adoption of a position against Prop. 10 (statewide measure to abolish rent control), 10AM, LA City Hall, 200 N. Spring St., LA, Rm. 340.

4/19 Sa, LET'S SKIP THE NEXT WAR, Party honoring Betty Rottger, peace activist, 1st Unitarian Church, SM, noon. Speaking: Frank Wilkinson & Rev. Philip Zwerling. \$3 to benefit the People's World newspaper. 396-4720.

4/26 Sa, Angela Davis, 1980 Vice-Presidential candidate, keynote speaker, at the 42nd Anniversary of the People's World, Fritchman Auditorium, 1st Unitarian Church, 2936 W. 8th St., music, 1 PM. Donation \$2.

### UNITARIAN SOCIETY, Los Angeles West:

Sundays -- 11:00 am  
3744 Barrington Avenue  
(1/2 Block north of Venice Blvd)  
W. L. A. 90066 391-9135

April 6 - "Renewal Reknwed" a traditional Easter/Passover/Vernal Equinox service.  
April 13 - Senate bill threatens civil liberties. A discussion led by Frank Wilkinson of the Natl Committee Against Political Repression, regarding the Kennedy-Thurmond bill SB 1722.

April 20 - Current Work of the New Age Caucus, by Dan Maziarz, President.

April 27 - "Who" is and "Why" is the UUSC? by Marie Stiebing and Mike Young - celebrating the 40th year of the Unitarian-Universalist Service Committee.

May 4 - "You ARE Involved" by Rev. Mike Young - something to learn about valuing experience and the passion for truth.

Singletarians, Unitarian Church, 1260 18th St., SM, 8 PM, Donation \$2, 394-4318

4/4 Su, Lecture: "Overcoming Obstacles to Relating", led by Andrea Schalman & Jesse Ivanhoe

4/6 Su, Lecture: "Controlling (your own) Depressions", led by Reuben Kanter

4/13 Su, Lecture: "Cultural & Psychological Bags of Maleness", led by Jerry Kitay

4/20 Su, Lecture: "Trusts, Wills & Financial Planning", led by Louis Gotenstein

4/27 Su, Lecture: "India & Nepal - Fermenting Pot of Cultures", led by Milton Farbstein

### ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL

Making the Connections: Nuclear Power and Weapons, the Draft, and Our Energy Future will be the subject of the April 9th public educational forum of the Santa Monica-Venice chapter of Alliance for Survival. The free forum will feature a slide show "Peace in Search of Makers", with narration by Dr. Helen Caldicott physician and anti nuclear activists; Rev. William Sloane Coffin Jr., peace activist; physics professor Michio Kaku; and Dr. Richard Barnett, international affairs analyst. Discussion and refreshments will follow. Wed, Ap. 9, 7:30 pm at the Marine Park Bldg, 1406 E. Marine in Santa Monica. Call 393-7997 or 392-3172.

NEEDED - POLLING PLACES: Registrar of Voters pays \$25 for 1 day. Also needed: PRECINCT OFFICERS, \$24 for 1 day. Call collect: Polls Div., 725-5945.

### L. A. CHILDBIRTH CENTER

We had a relatively disastrous year in terms of money in addition to debts for the year's legal battles, we now face the costs of moving.

So, we're having a party to celebrate the good things, and to raise funds for the center.

Sunday April 13, 1-5 pm. \$5, children under 12 free, wine and beer on sale, cookies free.

Auction of goods and services (massage, yoga class, family counseling, windmill, handmade quilt, astrological chart), Entertainment includ. Stephen Fiske, Jerry Moore, Public works Improvisation Group.

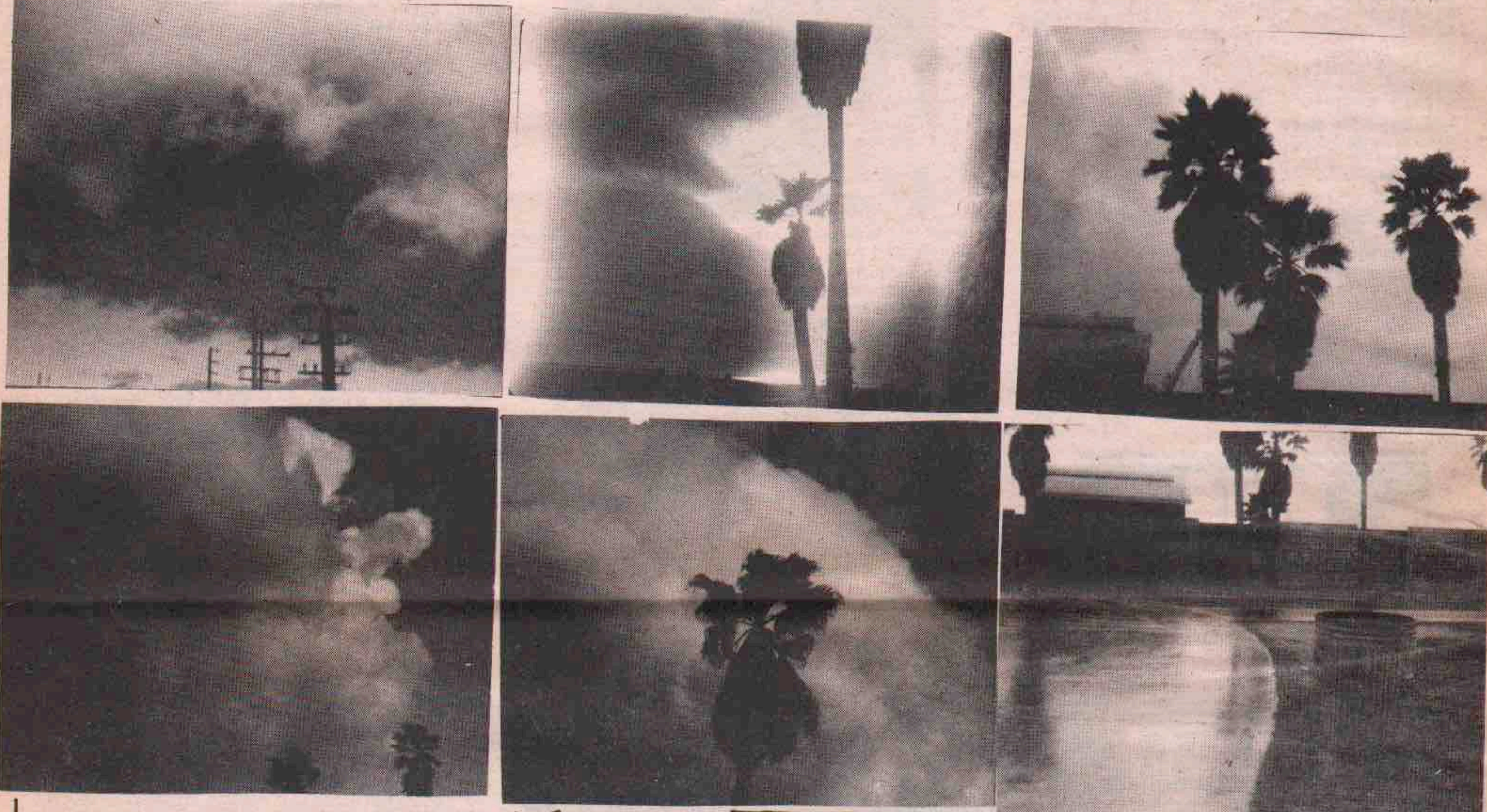
AT: 525 Georgina St. Santa Monica 396-2455

Violence on  
Canadian Ice:  
Fun Is Gone

# January Los Angeles Times

Carter Says He'll  
Accept Higher  
Unemployment

## YOUR WORLD. IT'S ALL HERE? U.S. Ponders the Unthinkable



### The Funny Bunnies of Venus

**STARTLAND** there is no joy in Bunnyville.....  
AS the price of grass goes out of reach due to inflation and Regulation where will the Bunnies hop?

**CONTROLLAND**  
COMMANDS:  
1) Footprints Required  
2) ALL WORK - NO PLAY  
3) NO Growing  
4) NO MORE nothing - That is Fun

**Musicland**  
Green Grow the lilacs?  
How Green is your ally?  
The Bunny Hope  
DO ALL we need is a good green  
TOOT - TOOT Tooty hello  
A Toke in Time saves Fine  
Home Sweet Home - Grown  
I want Cope anymore  
Help is on the way  
SAVE yourself everyone  
VERY HOTEN Public Land BoTen

**Art Land**  
Make Music  
Pass the Pipe of Peace  
Make Venus Green  
Anyone for BE?

**Public Land**  
Public Land  
Action  
Where is Jerry Now?  
PLOD PLOD  
Rocky Biker Derby Club  
Who is Driving?  
Boo Hoo  
The end is Fini

**HopelessLand**  
All is Lost  
Where is Jerry Now?  
PLOD PLOD  
Rocky Biker Derby Club  
Who is Driving?  
Boo Hoo  
The end is Fini

**ENDLAND**  
Public Land  
NEAR Furrowed  
Brown seed  
Lies the answer as ye shall ye reap the Pot of Green GOLD

Any similarity to persons or places living - or dead - anywhere is by pure Grace.

© Nov 78  
J-Curtis