

Take the 'Head to the beach!

FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968



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FREE!

August, 1987, No. 212, P.O. Box 504, Venice, California 90294
 ISSN-0884-9641, Circulation 10,000, (213) 823-5092

Slavers in Drag

- By Jim Prickett

Lately I've been thinking about the abolitionists a lot.

Abolitionists had an odd problem fighting slavery. It was not that they had a weak case; in fact, it was just the opposite: their case was too strong. Abolitionists pointed out that slavery was the most evil system in the world and that it was a national (not a southern) system. They told northerners that it was the height of hypocrisy for them to claim allegiance to human rights while denying all human rights to black slaves.

This was not a message many Americans wanted to hear. Abolitionists were



lynched, their printing presses destroyed, and their meetings broken up. Although abolitionism was the largest and most important reform movement in antebellum America, it was also the most hated.

An aside: if people hated abolitionists so much, why was slavery abolished. Abolitionist agitation was co-opted by the Republican Party, which pledged to respect slavery in the South while keeping it out of the territories. Quite rightly, abolitionists objected to this feeble compromise, but northerners generally supported it. The slaveholders, in part because of their shortsighted arrogance and in part because of their dream of creating through conquest a giant slave empire in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean, rejected the compromise and went to war. That war doomed slavery, in no small part because of the performance of black soldiers during it.

But why am I thinking about abolitionists lately? I suppose it is an occupational disease, since I am a historian. But it is more than that. I think that those of us opposed to U.S. policy in Central America face a problem similar to the abolitionists: our case is so strong that many Americans do not want to hear it.

Consider: (1) The U.S. attempt to overthrow the government of Nicaragua has been condemned by the World Court of the United Nations. (2) It also violated the U.N. charter, the charter of the Organization of American States, as well as at least 5 different U.S. laws. (3) The planes which carried arms to the Contras came back into the USA loaded with cocaine and other drugs. (4) Although Contra atrocities have been documented by virtually every news and human rights organization which investigated them, "honorable men" in Congress refer to them as "the democratic resistance" and "freedom fighters." (5) The states surrounding Nicaragua, particularly Guatemala and El Salvador, which are death camps where tens of thousands of peasants have been murdered by government death squads, are called "Nicaragua's democratic neighbors." (6) The current

'Slavers' continued on Page 12.

Galanter Q & A

interview with ruth galanter 7/17/87
 by Arnold Springer

statement: Because of the attack on me and my hospitalization, and the injury to my vocal cords, I haven't had the opportunity yet, and I'd like to take it now, to thank the Venice community for the incredible turnout and the hard work and the support that Venice provided in this election. I think that that support was not only very moving (to me) and very effective, but that it taught the City that it doesn't do, as people have in the past, to take for granted the reactions of people in any given community. So I'm very appreciate of all your help and I'm looking forward to working together with you.

Q. How would you characterize the state of your health now? When do you anticipate being at full strength?

A. The injury I suffered was a couple of stab wounds to the neck [on both sides, symmetrically, from under the ear to the collarbone, a.s.] one of which severely damaged the vocal cords on the left side. That's had the effect of making speech more difficult. For awhile I had some

problems with swallowing but that is nearly corrected now. My speech is improving and being monitored by the doctors and it is likely that I will get additional treatment of my vocal cords in order to bring back more of my speech. The main health issue at the moment is simply continued recovery. After as serious a trauma as I suffered I'm told it is normal to expect a number of months simply to regain your strength, and I'm much stronger now than when I was sworn in. I get stronger every week. But it will be some months until I can spend the kind of- more than full time - that I feel the district deserves from its councilperson.

There's no way to tell precisely when I will hit fighting weight. I'll be doing more, progressively, as I get stronger, and I'll do it as quickly as I can.

Q. What is your Venice agenda for the next six months?

A. Well, I prefer to think of it as our agenda because it's derived from the issues which were raised in the campaign. I'm particularly concerned that we move forward with the Coastal

'Galanter' continued on Page 13

Righteous Indignation

It's all right ma, I'm only dying.

Approximately twenty years ago there were certain geographic boundaries where Jewish senior citizens could- and could not live. The majority of 50 odd rooms in the Cadillac Hotel were occupied with senior citizens- many of European Jewish background- some either directly or indirectly survivors of the Holocaust. The building was owned and benevolently overseen by Ben Gross - who is said to have written it in his will that the rents of the old people would never be increased. The front lobby- bordering on the boardwalk was nicely fixed-up as a Recreational room - replete with rugs, easy chairs, TV's, lamps, reading material, and of course, a constantly bubbling coffee urn. The front window provided a comfortable - protected window on reality. The Levine Center provided a wide range of services and activities, and the residents lived happily in their golden years.

The Property, and the Loving concern deteriorated rapidly after Ben Gross passed away. The present owner, who picked up the building for mere taxes - treated the Residents as financial liabilities- and proceeded to make life unbearable for the unprotected senior people. Notices were immediately posted under the pretext of legal jargon (from the Attorney's office) requesting everyone to move. The front Social Lobby was demolished and locked. The elevator was neglectfully, or cleverly kept in a constant state of malfunction.

I first met Yetta - almost in tears-sitting and catching her breath on the second floor landing - " If only I lived on the second floor, not the third." Later I discovered that she had broken

her hip a few years before, falling down a dimly lit staircase, and for her to climb stairs was a more than Herculean feat. Leah Rosenbloom also suffered from the elevator scam - fatally. Walking up four flights of stairs armed with heavy groceries she complained of heart pains - and in a few days succumbed to her fourth heart attack. The gruff manager, regularly yelled and threatened the Residents, and



declared no more in-house trash pickup. For the last three years there has been little or no heat, and on the coldest night of the year we called to ask why no one had bothered to turn on the heat. The reply was " Some of the rooms were missing radiators so we decided not to heat the building." The windows in the halls were either broken or stuck open

'Indignation' continued on Page 12.

by Geriatric Jack

7,000,000 DIVIDED BY 5

Everyone is always talking about expanding the Los Angeles City Council. It governs 3 million people and has 15 members.

What about the 7,000,000 plus people represented by only 5 County Supervisors who also govern you in everything from the beaches to the courthouse. Look at the map of L.A. County and realize that you are effected by both the L.A. City Council and the COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS from adoptions to weights and measures.

County Supervisor Dean Dana has over \$1,000,000 for his next campaign. Hard to upset him unless you have that kind of money-or is it?

WITH OR WITHOUT A PAINKILLER?

Mr. Noel Koch was our top anti-terrorist expert at the Defense Dept. When asked at the Iran-Contra hearings how to deal with terrorists he said he would kidnap the top terrorist from Beirut, start by cutting off one of his fingers, send it to his fellow terrorists and tell them that we would keep cutting until our hostages were returned. No thought was given to the fact that the terrorists wouldn't respond or might start cutting off appendages of our people held hostage.

This is the man who started the fund for Gen. Secord's defense and resigned when over \$500,000 came in from Swiss Banks and no one knew who sent it. He wouldn't mind blood on his hands but he balks at tainted money.

A TWO ACT PLAY

The Congress or the California Legislature vote programs for the homeless. Then they forget to vote the money to fund these programs.

DECIBELS ARE IN THE EARS OF THE BEHOLDERS or LISTEN UP NEIGHBOR!

I know you are proud of your sound system but would you please put on your earphones. You are decibelling us to deafness. Thanks.

IT FINALLY HIT THE FAN

For a long while doggy doo doo on the beach and human excrement (feces to you) in the bay was a heavy item in the Beachhead. As usual the Beachhead was ahead of its time and American foreign policy is now being formulated in the toilet - literally.

Manucher Ghorbanifar for contracting ambassador-at-large. Talk about a low overhead operation operating out of a toilet. Want to cut the deficit? Contract out the State Dept..President Rambo didn't listen to either our Sec. of State or Defense when they opposed the dealings with Iran.

Whynot contract out these departments? I cite you the example of Lt. Col. North and Mr. Ghorbanifar formulating foreign policy which dealt with the Middle East and Central America. This meeting took place in a hotel toilet in London. Talk about cost effectiveness. Rent was minimal (a toilet) in a hotel.

The overhead could be cut if they used public toilets.

GET OUT THE OUIJA BOARD

Let's have a seance and get in touch with Wm. Casey (deceased C.I.A. director) He could clear up the whole Iran-Contra mess.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The best thing that can happen to our strategy is a dramatic depression. There is more opportunity to make money in a depression for people like us who have the capital and culture and people to build through the cycle. We are not a public company."

So says Ted Fowler one of two co-heads of investment banking at Prudential-Bache which is owned by American Prudential(do you have a piece of the rock?).

American Prudential is the biggest insurer, the biggest farmer in America, the biggest investor in oil and gas, the biggest money-manager (with \$177 billion at the end of 1986) and the country's biggest owner of property after the Federal government and the Catholic church.

It is all just a game and people don't fit the equation.

ATTENTION MATHEMATICIANS
ONE HUMAN ≠ ONE HUMAN

While Pre. Rambo, North, Casey, Poindexter, McFarlane and Co. were "negotiating" for the release of the hostages they overlooked the fact that they were putting other human beings on the line. The type of thing that killed the sailors who died on the Stark in the Persian Gulf will likely happen again by the situation they have exacerbated in the Persian Gulf.

The Nicaraguans on both sides who will be killed by the weapons they purchased are also human beings- not pawns in a "neat" game.

DISSENTERS ALERT

I have shifted my concern about military takeovers in other countries to my own native land-the U.S.A. Apparently "your" government is thinking about putting you behind the eightball or behind barbed wire.

A plan is in the works in case of "violent widespread dissension" for a military takeover.

What is your definition of "violent widespread dissension" that would justify suspending the Constitution?

PRUNES IN YOUR COMPOTE

Don't be fooled by all that "fruit salad" on some soldiers uniforms. Some Boy Scout merit badges are more evidence of courage. You would be amazed at how far away from a battle you can be and still get a battle star. I've got five of them and the closest I came to gunfire was when our own Navy shot at me.

Maybe medals have to do with our coupon fetish?

CENTRAL AMERICAN G.I. BILL

I don't think the campensinos who got dragooned into fighting for the contras by our C.I.A. should be left up the creek when we drop them. Assuming 10-15 thousand. Make arrangements and give them a choice of going back to Nicaragua, coming here or anyplace that might have them. I'd prefer to leave the ex Somoza National Guard types out-but...

The cost should come out of the C.I.A. budget

YOU'RE BREATHING IN MY ARMPIT

The voters ain't so crazy after all. If you're feeling crowded you have a right to. Since 1960 Los Angeles population density has increased 23% while in Philadelphia, Boston, Detroit and D.C. it has dropped 20% or more.

In 1960, Detroit's density was twice that of L.A. Now they are much closer: 8,031 persons per square mile in Detroit, 6,663 in L.A. Is it radical or conservative to want to limit population density.

GRAFFITTI

Do we have a U.S. Post Office wall big enough to hold the pictures of all the past, present and future members of the Reagan administration who belong there??

CRIME DOES PAY Mr. Iacocca

Last month the Occupational Safety and Health Administration fined Chrysler a paltry \$1.5 million (their profit for 1986 was \$1.4 billion) for 811 violations, including willfully exposing workers to lead and arsenic. (By "willfull" the Federal agency meant that the company knew of the exposure problems but failed to correct them.) As is common in regulatory cases, Chrysler agreed to pay the fine without actually admitting guilt. Cheap price for attempted murder.

P.S. 60,000 of you are driving around in Chrysler cars which were sold to you as NEW after company managers had driven them with their odometers disengaged. Some of these cars were in accidents, fixed up and sold as new.

Remember the money you lent them and the loans you guaranteed for Lee baby?

WHY DON'TTHE POLLSTERS ASK ME ??

Have you noticed how the media keep mentioning the number of letters, phone calls and telegrams the Iran-Contra hearings brought. Drop your elected officials a postcard. A polite one line stating your position is enough. They do count them. Do it on the pebble in the lake theory. Can't hurt, might help and you will feel better

Of course you might decide to get active and raise some real hell.

**FREE VENICE
BEACHHEAD**

Kelly Ball, Memphis slin, Kathy Sullivan, Carol Fondiller, Kate Keeling, Diane Nickerson, Patrick McCartney, Victor Wightman and Malcolm Tent.

The FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published monthly by the Beachhead Collective as a vehicle for the people of Venice to communicate their ideas and opinions to the community at large. We welcome and take responsibility for publishing contributions exactly as the contributors submit them, although the opinions expressed by the contributors are not necessarily endorsed by the Collective staff. The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry, graphics or other material of interest to the Venice community. We ask that writing be limited to 1200-1500 words. The volunteer staff reserves the right to make all decisions collectively on material published. There is no editor of the Beachhead. The Collective is an open group and welcomes interested Venice people's participation. Printing is financed by ad donations. To submit material, include your name & phone no. Anonymous material will not be published, but your name will be withheld on request. If return of material is desired, a stamped, self-addressed envelope is required. No payment is made for material used.

Zev Who?



Councilman
Zev Yaroslavsky

Read the L.A. Times, the Herald-Examiner, the Outlook/Breeze. They're writing a lot now about Slow Growth--the political movement we created to save our neighborhoods.

Every politician in town is now trying to jump the bandwagon. I've actually read in the Times Mayor Tom "Too-Tall" Bradley is a Slow Growther. Sure.

When our 15 member City Council makes local decisions, it almost always makes them unanimously. West L.A. Councilman Marvin Braude last year admitted the system. He said "It is the accepted practice to follow the direction of the council member of that district."

So, when Pat Russell wanted the Big 4 Westchester projects--everyone else voted for them. Even Braude and Zev Yaroslavsky--the authors of Prop. U. (Just coincidentally, Prop U didn't apply to any of the Big 4.)

The laws that allowed the skyscrapers--the Coastal Transportation Specific Plan and the amendments to the District Plans designating the L.A. Airport and its "environs" as high intensity "Centers"--all passed without a word of Council dissent.

Where were our Slow Growth friends then? Two years ago, Now-Council President John Ferraro ran "against" Mayor Bradley. Bradley was reelected by a landslide. Why? The two long time city politicians represented the same developers, voted the same way on environmentally dangerous projects+took the same contributions. No other credible candidate from the downtown political machine dared run.

It was in those last two years that Ms. Russell, with Bradley's and every other Council members rubber-stamp OK, shoved through a pile of laws that make it easier for developers to cut up and sell our communities to the highest bidders.

Zev Yaroslavsky is now the "Big Money" media choice for Mayor. The Times and Herald keep referring to him as the savior of the Slow Growth movement. What crap! Zev gave money to and actively endorsed Ms. Russell; his Chief Deputy until 1985 was Steve Afriat, who ran Ms. Russell's "Big Lie" campaign against her five community challengers; finally, Zev is despised in his own district for allowing "urban strip mining" along Wilshire Blvd.

Why should L.A. voters be stuck with the lesser of two evils for Mayor, again? I don't want to be forced to vote for Wally George. Help!

Rex Frankel

The Seduction of America

By Alice Cramden

Drug running; guns for hostages; assassination attempts; gun running by the Ku Klux Klan; secret proposals for suspending the Constitution, martial law and concentration camps in America; shredded government documents; diverted funds and Swiss bank accounts; secret governments; secret wars; lies, deception, covert activities...

Sounds like a bad T.V. movie, doesn't it?

Well if this bad T.V. movie is oscillating and vibrating on your T.V. screen and if you think you hear a faint heart beat, don't be surprised if the fantasy has become the reality and IT'S ALIVE!

Starring the swashbuckling, newly acclaimed folk hero Ollie North as Blood & Guts who "did not carry out a single act without authority from his superiors." ("I was only following orders").

In supporting roles, his quiet, religious and long-suffering wife Betsy North, Mrs. Belly Button who was amazed by some of what she learned Steel Hammer was doing when he wasn't home.

Also, Brendan V. Sullivan, North's brilliant attorney who will go down in history for his most famous quote "I am not a potted plant."

And Fawn Hall whose most famous quote could be... "I am not a Bimbo even if I do wear loose underwear..." OR "Steel Hammer definitely was not hammering me."

Also, the cool, pipe smoking, doublespeak, deniability rear Admiral superior Poindexter whose most famous, not very original quote was "the buck stops here."

...And many, many more palyers ad nauseam and Ronnie Raygun in absentia.

Whew!! Is this really happening or are we all in hyperspace playing out some cosmic soap opera -- entertainment for the gods?

I don't know what this is all about, there is so much information and just so much just plain absurdity about the whole mess that frankly I have stopped reading the newspapers or listening to the news...I am media blitzed-out.



Carol Simpson 1987

I want to pretend that there is order in the Universe! I want to pretend that people are not dying in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Afghanistan, Guatemala, South Korea, etc. I want to pretend that I did not read in the papers yesterday that babies and pregnant women were bayoneted in Mozambique, that a whole town was massacred in cold blood. I want to pretend that U.S. flagged Kuwaiti tankers and American Naval ships are not really strutting and posturing in the Persian Gulf flirting with Armageddon. I want to pretend that Death Squads are not really here in California, mauling, raping and threatening. I want to pretend that today this little rag of a paper did not really get a "Commie" death threat...

"Don't be so negative, someone recently said to me, "life goes on."

Does it? Really? •



EVICITION ALERT!

by Dennis Burke

Are you aware of Lincoln Place Apartments? They are the large complex east of the Boys Market at Lincoln and California. Built approximately forty years ago with government involvement, they have been the largest source of low- and moderate-income housing in Venice--with 898 units, and a large senior citizen population. Lincoln Place Apartments are a significant community resource.

Now for the bad news. On July 17, 1987, ten families were served with 30-day eviction notices under Section 151.09A9. This section states that if "rehabilitation work" costing at least \$10,000 per unit is carried out, the unit can be decontrolled, allowing the owners to raise rents to market rates.

In conversations by residents with management, it was learned that these first ten evictions are only a "pilot project" and that 200 more evictions are planned in the very near future.

We, the Lincoln Place Neighbors, feel that these "rehabilitations" are simply a ploy to decontrol the units. The apartments have always been very well maintained, and the new owners have not been "rehabilitating" apartments vacated under normal turnover.

A meeting will be held at Ruth Galanter's Westchester office on Wednesday, July 29 at 2:00 P.M., 7166 West Manchester Avenue.

If you would like to help, or receive more information, call 399-4333, or 392-1088, or 396-0711.

Volunteers Make the Best Slaves. Wanna Volunteer?



FUTILE PREPAREDNESS AGENCY



Five items never to put into your ear.

Dear Readers:

The many financial ties of our departed Ms. Russell keep revealing themselves. A few weeks back, the Silver Strand Marina Association presented their proposal to turn the Ballona Lagoon into a concrete toilet, dredged 21 feet deep for the pleasure of the owners of the lagoon, a Mr. Clifford Rome and surprise!--Summa Corp. Contributions to Ms. Russell over the last 12 years from Silver Strand property owners have totalled more than \$30,000.

Seven shopping and business center companies all reside at the same address, 21515 Hawthorne Blvd. in Torrance, and gave at least \$6,500. The firms own the Villa Marina shopping center, and the Marina Business Center, both located at Mindinao Way and the Marina Freeway, and the LAX Business Center, a new office development springing up in El Segundo.

Finally, the Kreshek family and the Robert E. Bayley Construction company, each of which gave at least \$3,000, are affiliated with the Alexander Haagen Construction Company. Haagen heads the L.A. Coliseum Commission, which is apparently about to lose us another football team.

The Beachhead Lives! Malcolm Tent

7-13-87
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Vidiot

My skin has become pasty and my eyes are bulging out. Friends are recommending that I see a doctor but I don't want a cure. Besides I see plenty of doctors on St. Elsewhere, General Hospital and on Marcus Welby M.D. re-runs. In a word, I'm an addict. My addiction costs me \$18 a month but it provides me with everything I want. I'm addicted to Cable TV.

How totally naive I was, believing that Mainline TV was enough. 10 or 12 channels beamed in from Mt. Wilson in Pasadena or from as far away as Ventura or Orange County. I was provincial and isolated. Then, my neighbor, who works for Galavision, got me to spring for cable. It's only \$18 a month he said. Yeh, just like the Reefer sellers who get you hooked so you can move up to harder drugs, I fell for it. I haven't been the same since.

Basic cable is what it's called by the local cable company. It doesn't include the extra pay services like HBO or the Playboy channel but with the world at your fingertips, who needs those expensive extras?

As soon as I wake up I turn the box on. Cable box that is. I hear Neil Diamond singing on the ever present Channel 36. This is the electronic program guide that runs through what's on the cable for the next several hours. It's like a TV Guide with music. The music, of course, is KSRF radio but it's called Cable radio. So not only do you get to start being mesmerized by the program listings, but you can close your eyes and imagine yourself at the dentist or even better, in your favorite elevator.

Being adventurous today I think I'll start at the beginning. Channel 2 is KCBS. There's Charles Kuralt, Dan Rather and the Peagan Bozo Band. Poindexter says Reagan didn't forget because he didn't have a reason to forget. He'dy stuff. I think I'll try a little less reality.

Channel 4 is KNBC. There's Tom Brokaw telling me more bad news. I click the remote immediately. Tom's best moment came at the Saturday Night Massacre during the Nixon era when he was screaming into the microphone live from the White House, "he can't do this. It's an impeachable offense." The anchor that night was Dan Rather. Dan kept trying to calm Tom down.

Channel 5 brings me KTLA, the former Gene Auty station. Even though these are regular TV stations, the reception is much better on cable than on most area TVs. In Augora, you have to have cable; you can't get any stations because of the mountains.

Finally, I get to a real cable channel.

Channel 6 is ESPN. I want muscles. Sports, sweat, pain, 24 hours a day. It's early Sunday morning and I'm watching a young black American trade brutal blows with a young Hispanic American. Boxing at its finest. This is the Lord's day and Lord I love a good boxing match. Surprisingly this all sports network does not run constant beer commercials like the so-called commercial networks.

Channel 7 gives me KABC the 3rd rate commercial network that once brought me the greatest most disgusting but most entertaining trio on TV. The football broadcasting team of Don Meredith, Howard Cosell and what's his name, the guy who actually told you what was going on in the game.

Channel 8 is the USA network. It's one of the alternative networks possible because of the lower delivery costs of cable. Cartoons, Wrestling Kung Fu fever. This is an alternative?

Channel 9 is L.A.'s KHJ. Game shows, movies, schlock, but at least they carry Second City TV. This is one of the reasons I went cable.

Channel 10 presents news 24 hours a day. This is Cable News Network, one of the best things to ever happen to American TV news delivery. It presents the Ted Turner-approved view of the world, which is strikingly different from the major networks. The anti-communist bias of the major networks is almost absent, and since most of these people are rejects, like Daniel Schorr, they try to tell you what they want instead of what they're ordered to say. Remember Turner founded CNN. He also spent two weeks with Fidel Castro and said of Fidel, "He's not a communist, he's a dictator like me." This network is also the only one that doesn't discriminate against people with Southern accents.

Channel 11, L.A.'s so-called movie station, presents the bad movies and second-rate religious programming that made me spring for the \$18 a month in the first place.

12 MTV is on Channel 12. Top 20 lip-synch videos with a VJ (video jock). Wanna know how old you are? China--Grace Slick and Paul Kantner's kid-- is a VJ. However, spend countless hours with MTV and your video cassette recorder and you can record the best party music video around. Remember, the party ain't over till your brain cell's gone.

13 KCOB, Channel 13, is the only local station I remember from my childhood in Orange County. We moved back to Tennessee but I never forgot Channel 13. It's never improved either.

14 Channel 14 is listings for local movie houses and short trailers on present, first-run movies. It's also the Dodgervision station which is local cable's most expensive per-view regular event and a terrible waste of money.

15 Prime Ticket is Channel 15. It's Jerry Buss' network. Almost anything happening at the Forum--Lakers, Kings, boxing, track etc.--is on Prime Ticket. When there's nothing at the Forum, this is the Cable Value Network. CVN is an unbelievable video shopping catalogue with live sales pitch. Anything I say concerning the people who buy the crap they sell on this channel would be either racist or sexist.

16 Channel 16 is the Lifetime Network. It's a hodgepodge of Health/Lifestyle programs and issues. It's the only network where you're gonna see advertisements for brand name drugs. Watch it and you'll know what's trendy with your doctor.

Channel 17 is the Super Station, WTBS in Atlanta. Ted Turner's flagship.

17 Channel 17 is the Super Station. WTBS in Atlanta. Ted Turner's flagship. Turner Broadcasting presents numerous programs from the Soviet Union as well as my Atlanta Braves. Every commercial is for something that can be ordered by credit card and costs less than \$20.

18 After so many stations, so many messages, I'm losing track. I'm getting the glazed look in my eye that I notice when I have to go to the bathroom. I'm trying to figure out where to put a cable outlet in the bathroom. It's so painful to leave the screen for a minute or two. So I panic. I switch to the Christian Broadcasting Network, Channel 18.

This is slick stuff. The production values are high and the message is quite often subtle. The commercials are for diet plans and religious scams. Psychotics unite, watch CBN.

19 The Nashville Network on Channel 19 will teach you auto mechanics and remind you why you don't like country music. They also have their own Nashville game shows. If you must watch this, I recommend the auto mechanics.

20 My nerves are jangled. I must do quiet time. So I switched to Nickelodeon, Channel 20, The Children's Network. I Spy, Lassie, Route 66, the Monkees, Cartoons: I'm back to being a kid in Huntington Beach, throwing the paper to George Maharis, him in his underwear. They were filming the episode where he "shoots the pier." The 70s and 80s haven't happened yet.

21 Jumping past the pay movie channels I hit Channel 26, WGN in Chicago. This is wonderful. You get the Cubs and the commercials. Chicago TV is disgusting. They have a commercial recommending the Chicago Tribune Sunday paper 'cause it's thicker. "Honey, get yo Sunday's worth." There's also a company that'll pay you \$35 for that wrecked car in front of your house. Before you dial though, I think you need the pink slip. Details, details. The "bad cop" on Hill Street Blues does commercials for the Cubs. You think he's sleazy on Hill Street, wait till he belches

as he recommends Chez Wrigley as a place to eat. Remember Chicago is the city of broad shoulders... and loud belches.

22 The cable company says the lower channels are the most popular but how can you live without the Arts and Entertainment Network, Channel 27. You like British TV? This channel's for you. This has more high-brow entertainment than anything this side of PBS or the BBC.

23 Channel 28 is naturally, KCET. The PBS affiliate in L.A. More high-brow stuff.

24 Channel 29 is the Discovery Channel. They got a nice logo but mostly they look like a video National Geographic. When this is not the Discovery Channel it's KWHY, your Asian TV spot in L.A. You'll find out why it's call letters are WHY.

30 C-SPAN, the Congressional Channel, is on Channel 30. Twenty-four hours a day of all those hearings that no one cares to attend. Bellicose and boring, this channel will show you everything you never wanted to know about Congress. However, if you missed one of Ollie's lies you can catch the repeat on C-SPAN. And it'll come without a network pundit telling you what you just heard.

31 Like all news radio but with pictures? Then Channel 31, CNN Headline News, is for you. This is for serious news junkies.

32 Amnestia o Problemas Legal? Then check out Channel 32, your Spanish language public television station. This is the only station I know of that originates in Corona, California. It's not a Spanish version of PBS, believe me.

33 You want high-brow Spanish-language entertainment? Then check out Galavision, Channel 33. Soaps, drama and dubbed European TV make this the flagship of all Spanish-language TV stations.

34 If you need more commercial Spanish-language TV fare, try KMEX on Channel 34. This'll show you that TV can be stupid in any language.

35 Miss Japanese or Korean TV? Try Channel 35. This'll teach you that there's a Barry Manilow or Olivia Newton-John in every culture. Bay Gio Thang May sings your greatest hits in Vietnamese. You ain't lived till you've heard a Korean pronounce Mitsubishi.

36 The worst channel though is Channel 37, Public Access. These are the folks that brought you the group grope of all six candidates in the City Council election a few months ago. This station

gives amateurish a new low in broadcasting. Terrible lighting, cheap sound and bad programming prove that your local cable company is indeed responsive to the community. No one watches this until one of their friends is on.

I miss MTV sometimes but I prefer music by those over 25 years old. So I watch Video Hits 1, VH-1. VH-1 gives you background noise and moving pictures. Also a cure for insomnia.

Next up is Black Entertainment TV. Lots of boxing, Video Soul, football and basketball games from small black colleges and consumer ads directed at, well let's say America's underclass, make BET a unique spot on the cable.

Bravo, the part-time programming Channel 40, runs evening programs of live music and non-mainstream movies.

Channel 41, American Movie Classics, also part-time, runs little known old American movies that appeal to fans of old "B" movies.

Channel 42 is KLCS, L.A.'s mainline channel 58, the L.A. Board of Education Channel. After they go off the air at 10:30pm this channel presents Country Music TV for eight hours for those really sick insomniacs.

Channel 43 is one of my favorites. During the business day this channel is the Financial News Network, it's also SCORE and the Travel Channel. It has some of the best boxing on TV and it's on the basic cable. It also has some shows that sell you stuff such as.....

Channel 44, the Quality Value Network. This is one of those cheap jewelry catalogues that blabs at you 24 hours a day. Everything is a great buy, especially if you like cheap jewelry.

On Channel 45 I get more Jesus Jumpers. Praise the Lord!

On Channel 46 I get to watch Wally George and Ralph Williams. Lies and Fascism direct from Orange County.

Channel 47 is a Feature Channel. I've never seen a single feature on it and I don't find listings for it in any TV Guide or Cable guide. But there it is, at least according to my cable company.

Lastly, Channel 48 is Orange County PBS.

With all these to choose from what do we do on a Saturday night? Drop some acid and watch Jimmy Lee Swaggert save souls in Peru. Now that's Entertainment!

by memphis slim



The Greening of America



FIRST NATIONAL GREEN CONFERENCE

by John Haag

Well over 1,000 people from most of the states and 9 other countries attended the first national Green conference in Amherst, Mass., July 2 through 7. The California contingent was the third largest, after Massachusetts and New York.

Amherst is a picture-book, small New England town with a park-like commons at its center, surrounded by brick, stone and white wooden buildings whose architecture goes back a century and more but whose careful upkeep makes them look as fresh today as when they were built. Hampshire College, where the conference was held, is a few miles from the town and the campus contains wooded areas like the countryside around it.

Arriving in pouring rain, we found long lines waiting for the registration procedure. Instead of getting annoyed and griping, most people just got acquainted with their neighbors and made a social event of it. Thus my first impression of the conference was of pleasant, considerate people - and that impression carried all through the six days. This was a refreshing change from most of the (Left) conferences I've attended where people have tended to be tense, suspicious and contentious even beyond the hostility level of everyday life.

Of course, Greens don't like to be considered "Left", and this conference was designed not to make decisions, only to discuss the many aspects of Green. And discuss we did; one or two plenary sessions each day, a total of 120 scheduled workshops, and hours of informal talking in between.

The conference was sponsored by the Committees of Correspondence, a network of close to 100 Green groups around the country with a structure designed to produce decision-making from the grassroots. The Santa Monica-Venice Chapter of the Peace and Freedom Party (PFP) has been affiliated with the CoC for a year and we are part of the Green Caucus of the PFP.

West German Greens, who often credit U.S. social movements for their inspiration, define four "pillars" of their program: ecological wisdom, nonviolence, social responsibility and grassroots democracy. The CoC, in its Ten Key Values, has added personal as well as social responsibility, decentralization, community-based economics, postpatriarchal values, respect for diversity, global responsibility, and future focus/sustainability. These values are not a shopping list like the usual political platform. They are interconnected facets of a coherent perspective, expressed in part by the saying: "Think globally, act locally."

The American Left, Old and New, has concentrated on trying to mobilize opposition to government policies without projecting a clear vision of what its future society would be like. However rational, its view of class conflict followed by a workers' state is too bleak and negative for most of us, except the most angry. Like the Right and the rest of the political spectrum, the Left would employ the government to enforce its demands, using force and the threat of force, as all governments do.

We Greens, committed to nonviolence and rejecting top-down power relationships, are urging people to recreate society from the bottom up, beginning in our own neighborhoods and communities, rediscovering our ability to pursue our goals through compassion and cooperation. We believe that money relationships can be transcended by human relationships and we look to American Indians for part of our inspiration. While people are certainly workers, we are many other things as well: We play, love, create, experience spirituality and so on.

Green politics is about being fully human in human-scale communities existing in harmony with each other and with the rest of nature. If we can't fill in every detail of how that

would work, it is because people will decide those things for themselves and we can't predict their decisions any more than we can predict the future course of evolution.

Given the Green emphasis on local organizing, how can we stimulate activity in the many thousands of communities and neighborhoods across this vast country before nuclear or environmental disaster closes off our options or destroys us utterly? Most Americans have never heard of Green as a political term, though millions already share Green values without putting a name to them. Green values lie deeply in American culture, obscured as they may be by money relationships, isolation of individuals and families, consumerism and increasing violence.

The problem is communicating the Green perspective and modes of acting to enough people in time to avoid catastrophe. I have been advocating electoral politics as the way Greens as candidates may campaign door-to-door and in other ways to explain Green ideas and suggest ways to organize. At the Green conference, I handed out leaflets calling for a Green electoral party now, spoke at a plenary on electoral politics as an organizing tool, and helped facilitate three workshops on aspects of electoral campaigns. Skepticism turned to interest and by the end of the conference 75 people from 16 states signed up for the Green Party Organizing Committee (which I first proposed at the National Alternative Politics Conference in Chicago in mid-May, where 35 people from 17 states signed up).

My efforts were aided by Greens from other countries, especially from Latin America, who urged the conference to create an effective Green movement in this country with all possible speed in order to help them resist the looting of their countries and the attrition of their peoples by our present economic and military system. Other Greens at the conference with electoral experience tended to reinforce my position. I came away from the Green conference feeling enriched and invigorated and more hopeful now that there will be Green parties in at least a few other states to encourage our efforts in California. (There is a Green party in Maine and the Wisconsin Labor-Farm Party is Green). Here, the PFP Green Caucus, based in Venice, is working to "green" the Peace and Freedom party by finding Greens to run as PFP candidates.


The first office of the Peace and Freedom Party was in Venice. The office of the PFP Green Caucus is located here, and now the Green Party Organizing Committee is also based here. Well, why not? I could argue that the PFP would be Green now, if it were not for the antics of the Marxist left, but that is another article.

I want to thank the dozen people who contributed to my travel expenses, without whom I could not have gone - nor returned. I think we've started something, folks. If you want to join the fun, call us at 396-3555 or write to the Green Caucus, 837 Lincoln Boulevard, Venice, CA 90291.



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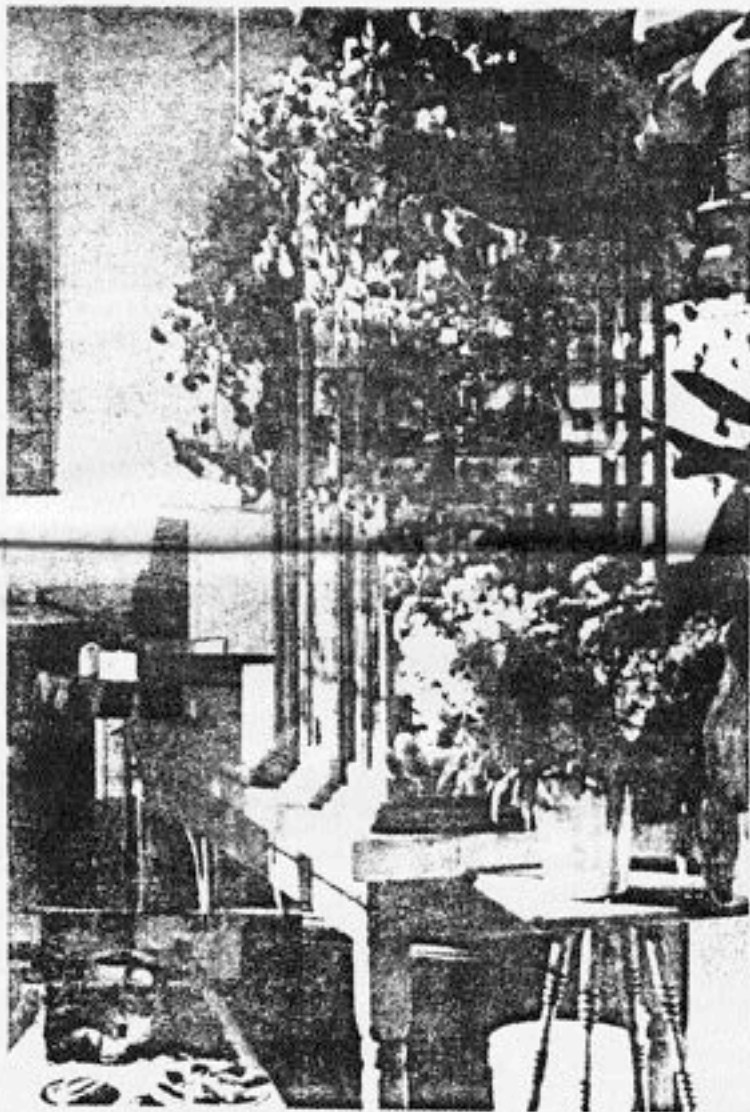
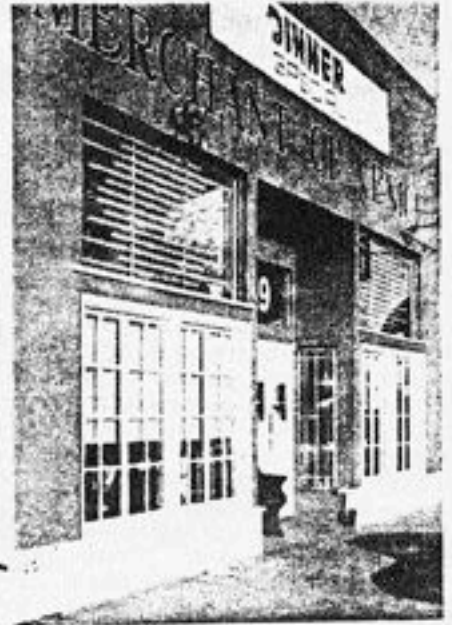
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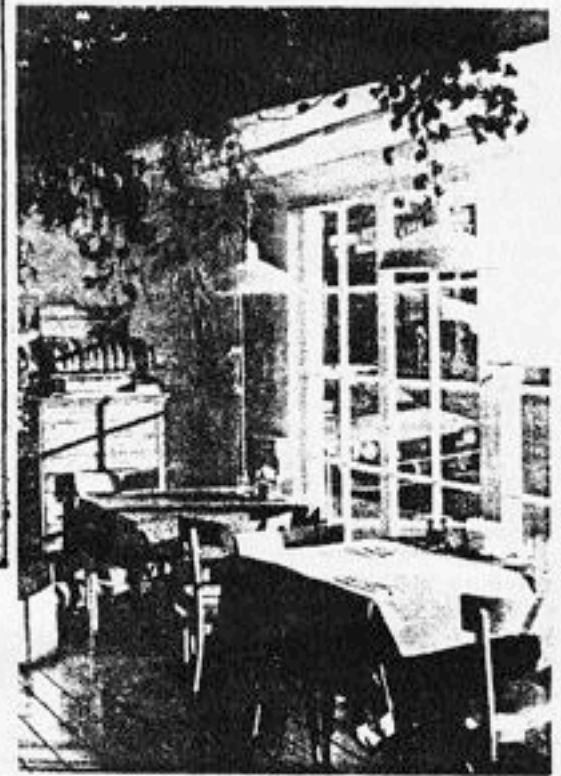


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ENTERTAINMENT MONTHLY: "Possibly The Best Restaurant On The Westside"

No Room at the Lot

by Patrick McCartney

Poor Spark.

When I wrote about the plight of Venice resident Spark who had his car towed and sold because of unpaid parking tickets, nobody seemed to care. My friends tended to blame Spark, saying that he should have been willing to park in one of the pay lots.

Only trouble with that argument is that Spark would have been thrilled to have parked at a private lot--in fact he was on the lengthy waiting list for the Bathhouse lot, or Sea Spray, or whatever the hell they call the brick sepulchre at Breeze Avenue. But there was no room at the lot left at any price.

Others had no sympathy for someone who parked illegally but couldn't pay the tickets that followed. Spark is a musician, comes home late at night and there simply weren't any legal spaces close to where he lives near Brooks and Ocean Front Walk. It's clear that those who can't visualize an inability to pay for a rash of tickets either have no soul or have a garage for their Beemer.

Anyway, Spark's dilemma may soon be shared by increased numbers of Veneziens. Caught in a shortage of parking at a popular beach resort, more residents will chalk up five unpaid tickets. Now, though, the City can lock a "Denver Boot" on the scofflaws, a bright orange clamp that locks the front tire--a scarlet lock.

Little wonder that the City has doubled its parking-ticket revenues in the past few years. And little wonder too that 40 or so of the Denver Boots have up and disappeared.

To refresh your memory about Spark, he paid \$800 the first time the City towed his car away after five tickets went to warrant. He scraped together rent money, food money, borrowed money and bailed out his cherished VW bug he called

Rocket.

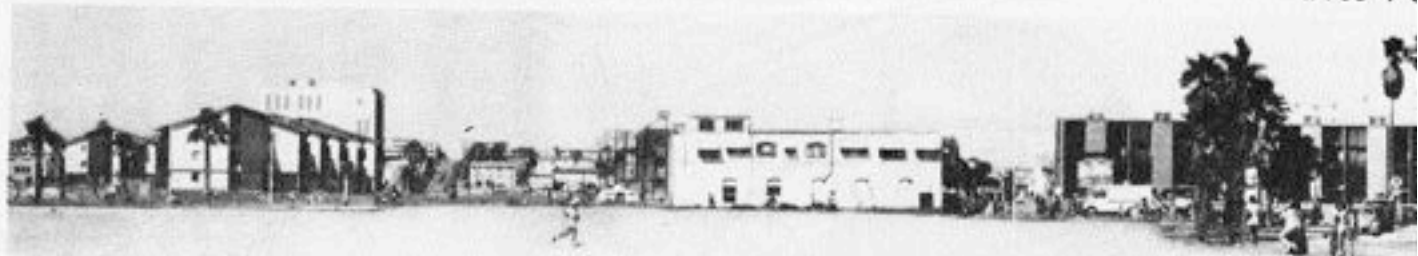
The second time the tickets piled up and they came for Spark's car, he had to let Rocket languish behind the barbed-wire fencing of Bruffy's towing garage where the Rocket was given a temporary home for \$8 a day, \$240 a month. Not able to raise another \$800 on short notice, Spark allowed the city to sell his car to pay off Bruffy's and the parking fines.

When I ran into Spark a few days ago, I wanted to know how much the new Venice Boulevard parking lot had helped him. Certainly it had to be inspiring when Russell, in the waning days of her long run in office, slapped together a parking lot from the median-strip dust in a matter of what seemed like hours.

Spark, sitting on his favorite boardwalk bench, wasn't overjoyed at the dawning of a new day for parkers in Venice. He was no better off than before, Spark said, for he had bought another car to replace Rocket, but--wouldn't you know it--he'd lost the second car in exactly the same way he'd lost Rocket. Five unpaid tickets and you lose, and Spark had lost a car to the Venice parking crunch for a second time.

I asked Spark if he had given the second car a nickname like he had named the Rocket.

No, Spark told me, he hadn't wanted to get attached. These days, Spark walks a lot. ★



Invisible Child

Miguel Rivera. The small child with the dough boy face who is so silent, so ordinary he fades into the classroom like the worn wooden chair with the shorter leg in the sea of newer plastic chairs. I change the seating arrangement with the hope that the class might settle down. Miguel ends up at the edge of a table, a void between him and the rest like the gap in the smile of a woman who is missing a tooth. I assign Laura the seat. She approaches me and whispers:

--Nooo Ms. Pepper... please don't put me there... he smells like pee!--

One day I sit next to him--to encourage his art work. He is a wonderful artist; science fiction rocket ships which happily lack the military connotations present in most elementary school drawings. I remember all too easily what Laura had whispered. It is not the smell of urine however. It is the smell of the homeless. The smell which intrudes upon the daydream of a stroll down the Venice boardwalk on a fine morning, momentarily spoiling the sparkle in the sea air.

It is the smell which hovers by the boardwalk's shabby green Pagodas; yesterday-theaters of Beat poets, today the churches of the new order of Saint Ronald's mendicants where Lucy is suffering another fitful sleep of scratching and twitching.

With a start she is up, pendulous breasts disturbingly visible under her filthy sweatshirt, the back of her grey sweatpants stained below the buttocks with how many months of passion unfulfilled, blood of the child which if nature is kind shall never be born? She knocks down the metal trash container and smashes bottle after bottle on the ground because there is no liquor inside.

--Fuck you god! Fuck you, God!--her voice sexless.

gruff as a coal miner's.

It is the smell of the amputee with the peg leg who had collapsed, cheek upon the hard cement, hand outstretched, just outside the Nuart theater last fourth of July, his walker beside him like a trail of ants around some boulder in their path. Who can blame them for not wanting to notice?--they are meditating upon the significance of those magical words in Lost Horizon, the film they have just paid \$5 to see: "Be kind."

Who, then, is the Viridianna who will pull a beach towel from her car and place it under his head? His solid, heavy head. Who would have thought a head could be so heavy? Who will stroke his oily hair, his dusty hair, the forehead like your grandmother's in the hospital, your lover's on the pillow?

Who will listen to his story? His language, alien, guttural, muted by the gravel of indifference, of a lifetime of rejection and obstacles as persistent as the flashbacks. His utterances mere gestures in a void; fossils from that dark unspeakable place. The fossils of longing, the echo of their essence long since forgotten like the wife and the future and the reasons.

Who will lend their voice to these ineffable sounds that they may begin to shape themselves in the ears of those who might listen? Will we, with our pens and paints and cappuccino froth on our lips? We whose brains are bloated with books and galleries and clubs and plays, with art films, rallies, readings and cafes; our nuit-blanche conversations with potential poets, potential musicians, potential radicals, potential contacts, potential names emblazoned upon the sturdy spine of a thousand thick biographies of which we will each be a page, a chapter, and eventually an entire shelf in a used bookstore. We who

replace impotence with Super-Extra ACTION. And all we must do is take a deep breath of what is before us, down here on the cold cement.

We are already beginning to heal. We feel uncomfortable. We have noticed the stench. The stench which makes us feel guilty because we can't wait to wash our hands clean, even though it may well be the stench of a human being like ourselves lying here on the sidewalk.

But it is all right. We can wash our hands. It is not his pride we are washing down the drain. He has no ego. He is the supreme fakir who has attained the enlightenment we seek in our metaphysical bookstores and our thousand acupressure treatments. No, it is not his essence we want to soap and lather away. It is the acrid, putrid stench of inhumanity which repels us. For this is the stench of ignorance; of questions never asked, of languages not understood; of a seat next to a little boy that is as empty as the fears which refuse to fill it.

No matter. America will make it all clean with colognes and antiperspirants and mouthwash and air-fresheners. America will douche and dab and sprinkle and spray and then America will cover the whole mess up with make-up and designer labels. We

"CHILD" continued on Page 9.

'Number One

THIS ARTICLE IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF MILTON CARROLL BLATTEN. I'M NOT SURE OF THE SPELLING OF THE LAST TWO NAMES. HE WAS KNOWN AS THE CHOCOLATE BUDDHA. HE HAD A BEARD THAT SEEMED TO MELLOW, NOT AGE, WITH TIME. HE WAS A BOOK SCOUT AND AN AUTHORITY ON AFRO-AMERICAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE. I WAS NOT WELL ACQUAINTED WITH HIM BUT WE BECAME FAMILIAR FACES TO ONE ANOTHER THROUGH THE YEARS. WE ATTENDED MEETINGS, SAT ON THE BENCHES ON THE OCEAN FRONT WALK, OR SAT IN ONE OF THE DARK COFFEE-HOUSES THAT FLOURISHED IN VENICE DURING THE BEAT ERA.

MOSTLY, THOUGH, WE SEEMED TO SWIM THROUGH EACH OTHER'S LIVES, FLOATING ON DIFFERENT CURRENTS, FOLLOWING OUR DIFFERENT MUSES. THE LONGEST TALKS WE HAD WERE ON THE NO. 2 BLUE BUS. MILTON HAD AN ACCIDENT, AND SUSTAINED INJURIES THAT PREVENTED HIM FROM WALKING FOR A LONG TIME. HE GOT THE POINT WHERE HE COULD HOBBLE WITHOUT CRUTCHES, AND WAS JUST USING A CANE. HE USED TO LIVE IN THE RED BRICK BUILDING ON OCEAN FRONT WALK. WHEN THE OWNER DIED, THE NEW OWNER EVICTED ALL THE TENANTS IN ORDER TO REHAB THE BUILDING. AND IT NEEDED IT. THE PLUMBING WAS LEAKY, THE PLASTER WAS FALLING, AND THE WIRING HADN'T BEEN TOUCHED SINCE 1920. BUT THE RENTS WERE GOING TO BE QUADRUPLED. MILTON FOUND ANOTHER PLACE. IT WAS SMALLER, AND MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE. MILTON LIVED THERE UNTIL THE LANDLORD LOCKED HIM OUT WHILE HE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL. MILTON, CRIPPLED AND NEEDING A PLACE TO STAY, KNEW HE COULDN'T MAKE IT AT THE SANDS HOTEL, SO HE BEGGED A FRIEND OF HIS TO LET HIM SLEEP IN HIS VAN. MILTON'S FRIEND HAD A DISPUTE WITH SOMEONE, SO THE STORY GOES, OVER SOME PROPERTY. THE VAN WAS TORCHED ONE NIGHT. MILTON WAS IN THE VAN. MILTON WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL. HE DIED FOUR DAYS LATER IN GREAT PAIN.

When I saw Venice for the first time, it was love at first sight. Venice was a place where the Theys didn't come. The Theys who passed judgments, who formed clubs and only allowed other Theys to join. I had tried hard to be a They and failed miserably. I had been aware that more and more Theys were moving into Venice. But it was a shock when I received a Venice Town Council meeting notice. The VTC notice said that when the homeless camp in downtown L.A. was to be closed in August, the City was going to move the homeless to Venice.

Funny. I'd read the newspapers, and what I'd read was that the City was looking at four sites in Venice to shelter the homeless who were already in Venice.

The meeting was packed. The most vocal of the Town Council people were demanding of the agency reps that something be done. But when suggestions - mind you, just suggestions - were made that shelters be made available for homeless, NIMBYmania took over. NIMBY is an acronym for Not In My Backyard.

"The only thing worse than living next door to a shelter is living in one," said Gary Blasi, Vice President of the Coalition for the Homeless. It was reiterated over and over again by reps from the City Attorney's office that being without a home was not an arrestable offense. Crimes of every sort and description were blamed on the homeless. People who were spoken to rudely by scruffily dressed men wanted for the police to arrest them. The statistics came out: 47% of men without shelter are Viet Nam vets, and a percentage of these are mentally ill, and a percentage of the mentally ill Viet Nam vets who are homeless are substance abusers. Only 6% of these people are receiving any sort of benefits from the V.A.

My attention wandered. I remembered an Op Ed piece I'd read in the L.A. Times. Oh for an Ollie North who would siphon funds from the missile programs for medical aid to the poor! Oh for an Ollie North who could divert money from Star Wars to use to build homes. And if Olliehood were caught, he would stand straight





West Dudley'

by Carol Fondiller

and tall in his uniform and tell the Congressional Committee in his heartfelt voice: "Sometimes one must go above man's laws to obey God's laws, sir." "We don't want any more homeless!" someone was shouting. I envisioned the downtown campers being herded into sealed boxcars and dumped on Venice Beach, each one required to wear an armband until they moved them to a camp in the desert where they'd be tattooed.

Since I am but an existential cornflake, wafted on the winds of landlords' whims, I felt they were talking about me, my future.

You can't afford the rent, move out and don't ruin my view. Who were these people who were complaining about the homeless? Where did they come from? Why did they move to Venice? Didn't they look at the place before they plunked down their first and last and their security deposit on their 1 BdrM w/Vu \$1200/mo apt? These people were the They who always judged me. I used to be safe from them in Venice. They never came to Venice. Too dangerous. Too wierd. Couldn't they see that the place was inhabited before they moved in? They moved into the Canals and then complained about the dirty Canals. They tore up the plants that Nature had provided for the ducks and other water fowl, and cemented it over. Then in true Tiny Tim mentality, they bragged about the feed bill they ran up in feeding the ducks.

I glanced at the VTC opinion poll that was handed me: (A) I support more homeless in Venice. (B) I oppose more homeless in Venice. Was this a consciousness-raising gimmick, or

Someone else complained about coming home and discovering homeless people taking a bath in her Jacuzzi.

The other day I was going to a movie matinee. A woman pushing a shopping cart filled with stuffed plastic bags asked me for some money. I told her I didn't have any money. And I was angry at her for ruining my good time. And by making me feel so guilty, I wasn't able to see the movie. She spoiled it for me. She spoiled it for me?! I don't like being panhandled. I don't like the feeling that I'm in someone's bedroom when I sit in the pagoda by the beach. It frightens me. I'm next, and I don't think I'd be able to cope with being without shelter. I don't like to be reminded that someone else is worse off than I am, when I want to forget my troubles and have a good time.

There were some people who signed up for a subcommittee on the Homeless Task Force. They have, you might say, a vested interest. They're homeless, and they deal with being without shelter with grace, humor and optimism. "Have a seat. Welcome to No. 1 West Dudley." We were on the beach and a small area was arranged with shelves for belongings, and rolled-up sleeping bags. I sat in the guest folding chair. A young man with long hair came by and borrowed a can opener to open his can of sardines. We looked at the setting sun. A young woman who was rolled up in a sleeping bag asked someone to walk her to the bathroom. Someone did.

The homeless are everywhere and everyone. Every town think it's the homeless capital of America. There are homeless in Long Beach, Carson, and

"CHILD" continued from Page 8.

are busy. We don't have time to read the papers, to think... to feel. Because if we did we might begin to look at things. Really to look at things. Like the peg leg on an amputee; to trace the stiff dead wood back to the point at which the flesh has been severed, back through the flesh to the grotesque event itself, back to a labyrinth of causes so complex and so insidious it makes our heads swim. How humble we would feel then!

Today a man came to the class room door during reading hour. I thought it was a workman--a janitor--but he looked too grubby for that. Perhaps a drunk. As I approached him I noticed the crooked teeth, the black stubble like dried chocolate icecream on his face... his black oily hair, stained shirt. He put a piece of paper in my hands and nervously began to mumble something with embarrassment in a Spanish I could not decipher. But one word. Miguel. Miguel with the last name of a famous painter he had never heard of though his father had and he smiled and shook his head with humility when I asked if there was any relation. The paper said Mr. Rivera was to accompany Miguel to the auditorium as he had just qualified for the gifted program.

The boy who is always first in line to come back to the classroom after lunch. He stands quietly, clutching his little metal lunch box in both arms, waiting. His dull blue synthetic jacket on, even in summer weather. A good student. The child who will listen, who will do very well on tests, who will never give you any trouble--so little trouble I almost forgot him.

Viridiana In Bunuel's controversial anti-Catholic film by the same name. Viridiana is a nun who dedicates her life to helping the dregs of society, more out of a moral sense of duty than of compassion.

Fakir According to Ouspensky, one of the three paths to immortality: "The fakir strives to develop physical will, power over the body. This is attained by means of terrible sufferings, by torturing the body." ★

1987 Margot Pepper



Photos by:

Rich Mann

what? The homeless. The Homeless. Who were The Homeless? A young man stood up and said he was homeless, and was opposed to violence on the beach. He had been mugged and the police had arrested his attackers. People craned their necks to look at him. Whaddya know - a regular person! And the people who had been sitting next to him hadn't even known he was homeless. The talk veered off to the deserving and the non-deserving homeless. Gary Blasi asked us not to put the homeless people in one group: The Homeless. The Jews. The Blacks.

"If there's a homeless problem, there's a community problem. The visible homeless are the tip of the iceberg."

Reginald Dunn of the City Attorney's office said he was proud to serve under James Hahn who refused to prosecute people for beng without shelter. The camps are not a solution. Dunn said he wouldn't like to live in a country where the homeless are housed in camps in the middle of the desert.

Ironically, the reps from the various agencies including Deputy Mayor Grace Davis and the Deputy from Supervisor Deane Dana's office, Mary Lee Gray, and Lieutenant Corella from the Police Department, were allowing the homeless to keep their dignity.

Where was the heart of the Left-leaning bleeding heart VTC we'd read so much about in the L.A. Times? Alan Citron, you'd have been proud. People yelled at Rhonda Meister, Director of St. Joseph's Center, for the feeding program on the Rose Avenue parking lot. The food program used to be handled on Fourth & Rose, but some concerned citizens firebombed the building.

People complained that the feeding program was unsightly and that some of the 210 Buns that St. Joe's feeds every day (65% white, 23% black, 66% men, 34% women, the largest number of homeless between 21-54 years old; the next largest between 13-19 years old) threw their food away, or gave it to the birds. A businessman complained after the homeless got their cold sack lunch they sat on the benches and ate them right in front of his restaurant.

the Crenshaw area. San Bernardino has a park that the homeless sleep in. Two teenage boys attacked a person in that park who was sleeping.

In this era of Reaganomics, most of us are nearer to being homeless than we'd like to think. The unemployment runs out; the husband runs out; an accident; the house is destroyed by fire after the insurance lapses, or there was no earthquake insurance. Lockheed doesn't get the bid and it's layoff time, and the house payment/rent is due, past due. Your roommate who rented you couchspace in the one-room bach apartment skipped town and hasn't paid the landlord in three months. The Homeless.

The homeless are not outside our community. They are a part of it. The homeless are not problems to be dealt with. We have problems we - the homed and the homeless - must deal with together. We can't blame the victims of circumstance for the circumstance.

Nearly every day I get pieces of mail from the Board of Zoning Appeals and/or the Coastal Commission that contain requests for permission to build a 4,000 square foot house, permission to raze a duplex and build four condominiums, permission to build office space and shops, and the offices are built, and the offices are empty, and there are people evicted out of the "substandard duplex" and onto the streets. Permission requested to raze five cottages, to build apartments in price ranges that the dwellers in the five cottages could never afford.

Okay. Here's some low-income units, but for seniors only. We don't want low-income families; seniors are quiet.

The short-term quick-fix, i.e. allowing people to sleep in public buildings during the winter months, won't solve the problem. Feeding people on the beach will stop hunger, but you're still homeless after the baloney sandwich is eaten. Or fed to the pigeons. Or shoved up Raygun's polyp-ridden anus.

Perhaps we shouldn't allow people to build empty boxes to litter our landscape if they're being

built for speculative paper profits. Perhaps buildings should be built for use. Perhaps incentives should be found for those who build to build not just shelters or a place to keep out of the cold, but homes for people to live in.

No matter how long we've stood holding hands across America, the problems of housing low moderate income people are still here and not just in Venice.

Luckily, at subsequent meetings of the VTC Task Force on Homelessness, Venice residents - the homed and unhomed - are working to explore ways of dealing with our problem of homelessness. Surely there's someone in the government who could shake that money tree, who could siphon money from the chemical warfare department and divert it to those of us who have fallen through or are in danger of falling through the large holes in that there safety net. If not, it might get real crowded at Number One West Dudley.

(I want to thank Mary Ann Hutchison, Chairperson of the VTC Task Force on the Homeless for her statistics; Mary Lee Gray; Mary Claire Molitor, City Attorney; Kevin Schultz; Charles Sladky; Rhonda Meister; Terry Vestal; John Haag; Abby Kirk; Cherie Leslie for the ideas that I've stolen from them. The mistakes I've done on my own, thank you.) O





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The following is a found poem from Medi-Cal eligibility forms:

I voluntarily want I understand to be discontinued I withdraw my eligibility to receive return require Medi-Cal

You must always bring verification you have to pay long term medical expenses each month

Your income exceeds property limits personal limits relative responsibility and... need standard

I have the responsibility to cooperate sign date apply report

I understand you have a right to examine inquire request share my property reserve

health care costs medical expenses quality for Medi-Cal

you your spouse your child health blind aged disabled have been denied

You can be represented by an attorney



memphis slim

DO YOU THINK THE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF RECYCLING?



SURE THEY DO! THEY'VE BEEN USED AGAIN AND AGAIN -

LIFE ON BROADWAY, SANTA MONICA

There's been no war - or none identified - Yet all around us the walking wounded dwell. Fragments make habitations - bomb crater, shell And dumpster - images one knows too well. Though cops may cruise, one takes it all in stride. One walks. One sees so much. One does not tell. A place to rest, perchance to sleep a spell, A place to urinate - one need not hide: An alleyway will do, if not too wide. One walks. One craves a decent pair of shoes. One's feet are swollen, cracked and caked with sores. One learns the friendly from unfriendly doors (The rain will make it easier to choose.) The grime and perspiration often fuse. One walks. One does not dream of distant shores. The neutral sidewalks do not yield. They know. The walking wounded will outlive them all. One walks in winter, summer, spring and fall. (Who says these wounded have no place to go? They're ever going, a constant stream, and slow. They simply have no way to stop. That's all.) One walks the Palisades, but not The Mall. The throng of crowds is death: They wish one ill, They wish one out of sight, or dead - just gone. Crowds are not safe - one walks and walks until One's solitude is safe. One sees the dawn. One feels the heat of day, the midnight's chill. One walks. One sees so much. One ever will.

abby kirk

Potpourri*

By Diane Nickerson

A potpourri is a mixture of flowers, other aromatic plant parts and oils, kept in a decorative covered container. The old "wet" method of making potpourri, often called "sweet jar", is when the ingredients are mixed with salt, resulting in a rotted, aromatic caked mass, accounting for the name "potpourri". It's derived from the French tern pot pourri, meaning, literally, "rotten pot". I'd like to add that this method is more likely to take on a stale or musty odor with time.

Last November 25th the Reagan Administration admitted to diverting funds from the sale of U.S. arms to Iran to the Nicaraguan contras. Since then, there have been congressional hearings by four committees, a report by the Senate Intelligence Committee, a report by the Tower Commission, two General Accounting Office studies, and a continuing investigation by independent prosecutor Lawrence E. Walsh. And now we have the joint Senate and House Select Committees on Secret Military Assistance to Iran and the Nicaraguan Opposition, or the Iran/Contra Committee, if you will. It is made up of an 11-member Senate panel and a 15-member House panel. The public hearings began May 5 (following much preliminary investigation). We are (at press time) currently in Phase III of these hearings: Assessing responsibility. This time out, we really do have a messy, rotten pot, with human ingredients rather than flora (although some of the principals do behave rather like deadwood with that stale, musty odor).

House members of both parties have helped turn these hearings into a pro-contra telethon. Rather than seeking to check-out whether the White House's covert dealings violated the law, they have tried to discredit the Boland Amendment and obfuscate the issues and other legal obstacles that prevent President Reagan from unilaterally waging war on Nicaragua.

Let us not forget that the make-up of this Committee is heavily pro-contra: 16 of the 26 members voted in March to send the final \$40 million installment of the President's \$100 million contra-aid package. Also, almost a third of the Committee members sit on either the House or Senate Intelligence panels. These committees have been largely complicit in overseeing and approving inherently illegal covert action by the CIA and other agencies. (It seems that the CIA and the NSC have consistently violated the sovereignty of foreign nations while undermining our own constitutional democracy at home through secrecy, deception, and law-breaking.)

Our potpourri seems to be definitely shifting from the aromatic "sweet jar" to something much closer to the stale, even more organic fragrance most likely to be found in a wet porcelain pot, complete with lid, seat, flusher, etc.

This brings me to my favorite pot-sitter, patriot, humanitarian, the Marine's Marine, you know, that ol' buffoon himself, Lt. Col. Oliver North. As early as the beginning months of 1984, following constrictions on contra funding, then NSC Aide North devised a plan to use private U.S. citizens and other countries to funnel aid to the Nicaraguan rebel forces. On Oct. 10, 1984, Congress strengthened the Boland Amendment by banning any U.S. agency from supporting the contra war.



Ollie-gar-chy (ōl-ō-gär-kē) n.

1. a. Government? by the few, especially by a small faction of persons... eg. Nero, Hitler, Marcos, Muxso-

So what does Ollie do? Well, according to the man himself, he went around the world, simply telling private citizens of the "situation" in Central America, showing slides, etc. In effect, "pitching" his project to these wealthy "individuals". Not "soliciting", mind you, no never. Just pointing out some of the "needs" of our neighbors to the south, and in most cases, even going so far as to show slides to more effectively demonstrate those needs. Nothing a potential financial backer appreciates more (besides profit, of course) is to see how his/her money will be spent. This, he says, was done with the approval of his superiors. All this was relayed to us, the American people, in Ollie-speak, though someone on the committee felt he spoke with "compelling eloquence". Col. North claims their aims were to "free hostages, advance Democracy and fight Communism." It sounds more and more like an Ollie-garchy to me.

We cannot have a foreign policy made-up by and carried out by a small group of people (let alone the military), independent of our government of elected representatives of the people.

We also cannot have a President who privately encourages such acts, while publicly denying any knowledge of, or responsibility for them. Funny, I always thought a big part of the definition of democracy is government by the consent of the governed. And Thomas Jefferson said, "The whole art of government consists in the art of being honest." Yet Chairman of the Senate Investigating Committee Sen. Daniel Inouye believes that Lt. Col. North's treatment of Congress was "erroneous, misleading, evasive and wrong." Congressman Hamilton says he feels North was "driven by a policy of lies".

Oliver North, and apparently he's not alone, considers himself a Patriot, even though the policy of selling arms to Iran cannot be defended as in the best interests of the U.S. We sold arms to a government officially designated by the United States as a TERRORIST GOVERNMENT. If he thought that if the news of what he was doing got out to the public it would cause serious damage to U.S. credibility, etc., then what did he think he was doing in the first place? His justification just doesn't wash with me.

So what will be done about all this? Will justice be served, and if so what is justice? Will this be treated as just another disease of the week? Did Ollie North get higher ratings than the latest AIDS-related (pardon the potential pun) movie? Than daytime soaps? Is life so great for some that they have to watch the trials and tribulations of others on TV (whether it's soaps, day or nite time, or the evening news, or Carson, or Letterman, ragging anybody, Rivers ragging everybody? Is it just to make themselves feel less guilty and reinforce their own "superiority"? Or maybe, just maybe, the "people" are more than interested. The question remains, will they (the people) continue to buy, lap up, suck up, embrace whatever comes down the chute? Including the selling of Presidents, "heroes", liars and thieves? Maybe, as long as they look good and have references, however dubious, and a good TVQ. Well, Ollie, this is some rotten pot you've gotten us into this time!

To me, in the final analysis, the scandal demands justice, an end to the contra war, and restraints on both the imperial presidency and the national security state. ●

REMEMBER:

He'll feed you,
And mislead you,
With all the bullshit
That he needs to...
He's got Oliver North eyes.
to the tune of
"Bette Davis Eyes"

*Rotten pot

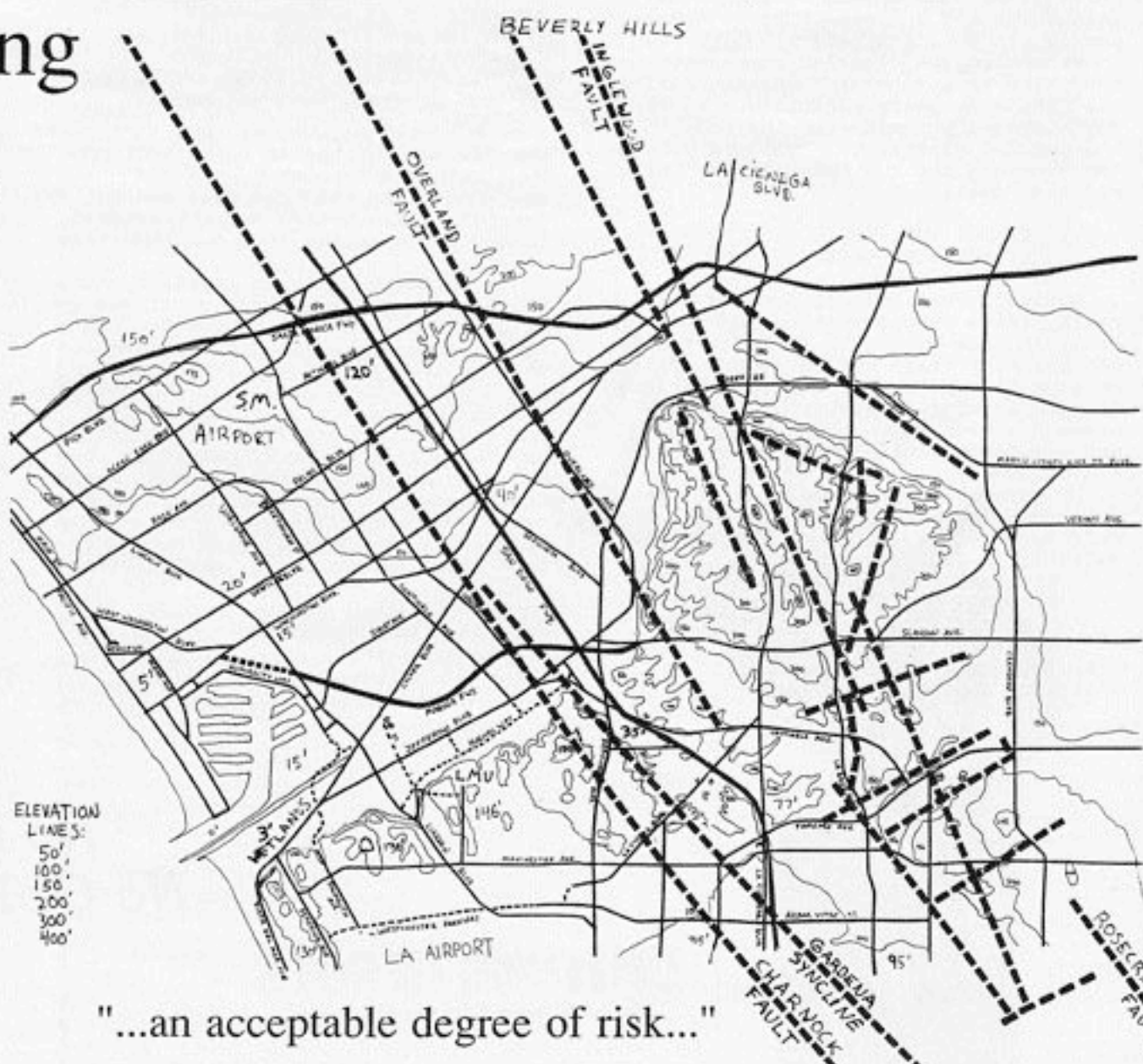


Summa Shaking

Story and map by Malcolm Tent

Summa Corporation, the monolithic remnant of the Howard Hughes empire, is sitting on an environmental timebomb. Summa's planned Hi-rise cities, Playa Vista and the Howard Hughes Center, are located on land with a water table 5 to 15 feet below the surface. There is no bedrock--considered essential for a stable building foundation--anywhere. All buildings will float on massive piles, which will extend at least 50 feet underground into the wet clay and sand.

Three parallel earthquake faults pass within less than a mile of the Summa property. All are considered part of the Inglewood-Newport fault system. From West to East, we have the Charnock Fault and the Overland Ave. Fault, which straddle the Howard Hughes Center. Next is the Inglewood Fault, which extends from Costa Mesa in Orange County all the way to Beverly Hills. Because of these faults and the high ground water levels of the Summa property, geologists say the Howard Hughes Center has a "medium" potential for liquefaction, and Playa Vista has a "high" potential for it.



"...an acceptable degree of risk..."

...FROM THE PLAYA VISTA SEISMOLOGY REPORT



PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AFTER THE FEBRUARY 9, 1971 SAN FERNANDO QUAKE.

'Indignation' continued from Page 1.

permanently. The fire escapes were condemned years ago- but still provided easy access for unwanted people to scale the building, and unnerve the senior people.

I wrote this months ago - but decided not to publish - only wanting to work positively - but since the older lady across the hall shattered her hip - tripping out of the elevator that did not stop at floor level - I've decided ENOUGH IF ENOUGH!! WHY SHOULD the building be intentionally run down trying to force the Building and Fire Depts. to close the building? To politely evict weak and vulnerable people. (Only 8 remaining) after years of trying every tactic under the sun. Why give people only token pocket-money, and only a five year rent stabilized lease, a mile from their 10 to 20 year residence? What would happen after 5 years when the rents increase 10 times? Why in God's name have the 3rd floor locks been taken off the bathrooms in the hallways?

The last case of wholesale legal eviction was dismissed by the Judge - who reprimanded the owner's lawyers for lying about the Coastal Commission's permission for building permits and zoning.

I used to have a thriving business in N.Y. City - 40 pushcarts, snack bar, Natural Food store and wholesale bakery. Due to unusual circumstances it folded and I found myself on the streets of N.Y. My Church said, "Sorry, after 10 years of monastic life, Good luck." My parents said "Son, do you want to be institutionalized?" My ex-friends said "If we can't make money from you, you're just an embarrassment." So often, I would be sleeping in a cardboard box, in the middle of winter in somebody's hallway, not on the Rivera of Venice Beach. The only shelters the City could provide were disgusting and scarier than Death. My biggest problem was, if I stood up, where would I sit next?

What is helping save me is the personal love and concern of my triple (X) girlfriend who wanted me to be a whole Human Being and take responsibility for my own life. She helped me get SSI and I crawled out of N.Y.C. after ten years. For the past 1 1/2 years I have been spending my own government check to feed the homeless on Venice Beach - knowing that the answer is individual initiative and a loving concern - for people not just statistics.

We invite the owner to gracefully work hand in hand with concerned citizens and City and County Officials - in an experimental project - of low cost housing and experimental shelter providing services for the community at large and the Homeless.

IF NOT YOU, WHO?
IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

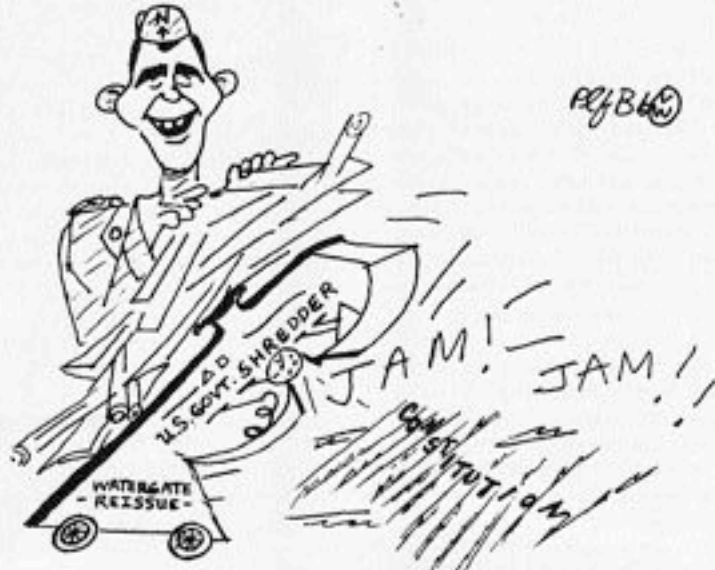
National Food Relief, Inc. is outwardly three people cooking on a Hot-plate in Room 307 in th Cadillac Hotel for the last year- for 75 people a night. We have been told by the management not to cook anymore in our room (the hot-plate has been permanently unplugged) and are facing eminent eviction (legal and otherwise).

If you want to help or communicate or receive plans for the New Age-Cadillac Project; please contact Sarva, Valiniki or Vicky from

National Food Relief, Inc.
Room 307 Cadillac Hotel
P.O. Box 1724, Venice, Ca. 90291
Tele: (213) 281-8430

We Have Non-Profit Status so donations are TAX-DEDUCTABLE.

'Slavers' continued from Page 1.



DAMNED CONGRESS!! - CAN'T EVEN KEEP THE DOMESTIC MACHINERY CRANKIN!

administration had plans to (a) invade Nicaragua, and (b) to suspend the Constitution, declare martial law, and arrest those Americans who opposed the invasion. (7) The death squads are now coming to Los Angeles: two Central American women, one from El Salvador and one from Guatemala, have been kidnapped and tortured, and many others involved in Central American support work have received death threats. (Unlike Oliver North, however, they will not be given an expensive security system by General Secord.)

I could go on, and probably so could most of the people reading this. Many of you would have different points to put on this list. The main point is that U.S. policy in Central America is not at all ambiguous or unclear. It is a crime, both because it violates specific U.S. and international laws, but also, and more importantly, because it violates all moral precepts.

I think about this, watching Oliver North testify and reading inflated press reports about Olliemania. The blame for whatever Olliemania that exists falls on the Iran-Contra committee. Watching that committee reminds me of Bruce Cockburn's song, "Call It Democracy":

"See the paid off local bottom feeders
Passing themselves off as leaders"
"The paid off local bottom feeders" on the committee have helped make Ollie a hero by the narrow way they have posed the issues. Of the 26 members of the committee, 20 support Contra aid. Not one member has said one word against the Contras, while Contra supporters have turned the hearings into a Contra love feast.

It would be silly to complain about Henry Hyde or Orrin Hatch; what can you expect from them. It is the Democrats who deserve our harshest criticism for the way they framed the issue: on the one hand, we have gallant freedom fighters struggling for democracy against the evil Sandinistas; on the other hand, we have a rule narrowly passed by Congress which prohibits government funds from aiding this gallant band. To Democrats, the whole issue is process: the rules must be obeyed. They refuse to talk about Contra rapes, executions of civilians, or drug running. That is beyond the scope of the inquiry, the Democrats piously intone.

Suppose, then, that you were an American who believed the Demopublican version of the issue: would you side with

Ollie North, who bent the rules to save the lives of freedom fighters, or would you support bureaucrats who let people die to live up to the letter of the law? What the Democrats have done is give support for the bipartisan lies on Central America: that Salvador and Guatemala are democracies, that the Contras are freedom fighters, and that the Sandinistas are enemies of human rights. After several months of repeating these lies over and over, public opinion polls show a large increase in support for Contra aid.

I think also of an interview I saw with Arthur Liman, who discussed his role in investigations after Attica. Attica was a prison rebellion brutally crushed by armed force. In the aftermath, it was announced that prisoners had killed hostages by slitting their throats. Americans were horrified. Then autopsies showed that hostages had been killed by state police. None had knife wounds; all were killed by bullets.

What I found interesting was Liman's statement that an investigation was needed, not to establish the truth, but to restore confidence in the government. I mention this not to attack Liman, but to suggest that we need to understand that the purpose of the hearings is not to establish the truth, but to restore confidence in the government. That is why there is no discussion of Contra atrocities or gunning, or the plan to suspend the Constitution, or anything that would cast doubt on the bipartisan lies about Central America. Perhaps the best gloss on Central America comes not from any politician but from Bruce Cockburn's aforementioned "Call It Democracy" (from the World of Wonders album, which is Cockburn's latest):

Padded with power here they come
International loan sharks backed by the guns
of market hungry military profiteers
whose word is a swamp and whose brow is smeared
with the blood of the poor

who rob life of its quality
who render rage a necessity
by turning countries into labor camps
modern slavers in drag as champions of freedom

Or perhaps we should take another song as our motto: "North to Alaska." Perhaps there our newest national hero can find some Contras who need snow tires.▲



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Galanter

Q & A

Continued from page 1 |

Plans that have been languishing on the shelf for several years now, and I've already asked the Planning Department to move those forward, and hope to have documents available for public comment and updating by the end of the summer.

In addition we've got to work seriously on the issue of the homeless, and there are a number of specific planning projects that won't wait. Marina Place for example. Now we've had a hearing and I've proposed to Culver City that this project should be scaled down, and then the cities of L.A. and Culver City should sit down and begin to work together on the problems that exist and will exist on our common borders.

Traffic and parking solutions are obviously major components of the planning, and I am expecting to hear a large amount of community input on it.

We are looking for space to settle a Venice office. Until that time the Venice staff will be sharing the Westchester space. My staff should be fully employed by August. I've instructed my staff to begin initiating meetings in the community. We're available now for phone calls and letters at City Hall and at the Westchester office. But we will be attempting to extend our outreach and bring more people in as quickly as the staff can get it together.

Q. What do you have to say to those longtime residents of Venice, readers

of the Beachhead and supportive of the Town Council in spirit but who, for various reasons, are no longer actively participating in this community's politics? How can they best remind your office of their concerns and expectations.

A. I would encourage everybody to be involved in community politics. I think the basic message of my election, of the whole campaign, is that the City of L.A. is experiencing a real movement in community politics, and it isn't possible for any single politician, at any level, to carry out an agenda without active public support. So I will be as prepared to raise as many issues as I can, but I need the support of people who care about the Coastal Zone, for example, before the Coastal Commission. We need community people to let us know what we need to know.

Q. Should people be involved in organizations or groups or should they just contact you individually?

Q. My experience as a community activist is that generally an organizational base is most useful but I think there are things that people can do as individuals to keep the spirit of the campaign alive. We do want to make use of some of the people who have already volunteered to serve as community based, almost adjunct staff, out of the different offices, meeting with local organizations on a regular basis, helping to improve the flow of information, not only to my office, but to help us get to the City agencies to resolve the problems.

Q. What are your thoughts on the homeless situation in Venice?

A. I think that Venice has done more to shelter the homeless and tried to be humane about what is clearly a widespread social problem in many parts of town. I think however we need to be sensitive to the fact that

some other parts of town may see that as a reason to ask Venice to provide more of a response than is possible, and I will be working on this. I have no clear cut answer to the problem. I wish I did, but I will work with all people interested on this at the community level, with the agencies, Community Redevelopment Agency, Mayor, to see what can be done to address this problem on a more geographically equitable basis.

Q. People are interested in your position on rent control in Los Angeles, particularly vacancy decontrol.

A. I said throughout the campaign that I was not going to push for a vacancy control provision in Los Angeles and I still feel that way. I feel that the issue we need to struggle with is getting enough affordable housing. We need housing for families, for regular working people, and even in Santa Monica where they have vacancy control they're finding that there are all kinds of ways in which that does not work toward providing the affordable housing. So I'll be concentrating on ways to deliver that housing, rather than on changing the existing law as it applies to the existing housing.

Q. How did you choose your staff?

A. With pain and difficulty. One of the first things I learned as an elected official is that after a really wonderful campaign, after 100's, perhaps 1,000's of very dedicated volunteers, there simply isn't enough money or room to hire all of the people who deserve to be hired, so there were some very tough and painful decisions for me, but I tried to find people for each of the three offices who are familiar with the community, who are well known in the community, and who will be able to provide the kind of constituent service that we missed in the last councilwoman's term.

One of the difficulties we came across was that we had the same amount of money allocated although we were committed to opening a new, third office, the Venice office, and so we were forced to offer lower salaries, to stretch the money further than we might have, and that made it even harder to find people able, willing, available, and qualified. I wish I could have hired people in addition to those I did hire.

Readers of the Beachhead should know that there are four Venice residents who have been hired. The Venice office will also service Mar Vista, and will be making, I hope, significant outreach to the latino community in Mar Vista and Venice. So one of our people is bi-lingual, and well known and well connected in Mar Vista.

It wasn't easy is the main thing I have to say. I hope that people in each of the communities will work with the hired staff and with me, and we'll evolve our relationship over the course of our term. We are looking for ways to acknowledge and make good use of some of the considerable talents we weren't able to hire. I mentioned earlier asking the district staff to set up community meetings. And I'm hoping to set up a district-wide advisory group of people who are active in their respective communities who are willing not only to work with me but with one another so that the district is less fragmented.

Q. Your politics might be considered radical, liberal, or even conservative? How real are those terms in the politics of Los Angeles and the region.

A. I find it hard to identify my politics with any of those labels. I would be unwilling to do that largely because they are so subjective. I come from a background of community involvement, involvement in

environmental issues, in public health. I'm ready to discuss issues with people at any time. But I can't put any of those kinds of labels on myself.

galanter press release #1

Staff.
Marcela Howell. Chief Deputy. Headed the campaign. Press release otherwise identifies her as a long time political and community activist.

Jim Dickhart. Legislative Deputy. Jim has resigned from the Chair of Planning and Development Committee, Venice Town Council. He will be the lead on the LCP process in Venice, and will be helping to formulate policy, coordinate council-community relations.

Getsty Reifsnider. Legislative Deputy. Past five years "coordinator" for the Los Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. Environmental issues-policy clearly her section.

Virginia Taylor Hughes. Public and Community Safety. NAACP, SCLC. Crenshaw resident, ran against Pat in the primary, like all other primary contenders, supported Ruth in the general.

Rick Ruiz. Press Deputy. Assistant for press liaison with Lieutenant Governor Leo McCarthy 1984-87. Training journalism.

Downtown bureaucratic staff. Elsie Parker. Executive assist and schedule. Worked for councilmen Finn and Ronka.

Audrey King. Office Manager. Worked for Finn and Ronka.
Sandy Anguiano. Worked for one of THE great's of the Council, the wonderful Richard Alatorre.

Venice Staff:

Joan Cory, past President, Venice Town Council. Talk to her first about all Venice matters. She's the person to take care of things ASAP.

Yolanda Bacerra-Jones, Venice resident, latina and community activist in health and education issues.

Phones:
Venice Office 641-4717
(bureaucratic complex, Lincoln and Manchester (Pat's old office!))

Downtown: 641-4717. Pat's old number.

Carol & Bob Simpson

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The Gates of Hughes

Remember Zonker's advice--lather up

by KELLY BALL

The Take Back the Beach meeting held by the Venice Action Committee last month was a study in political motivation. Held a few days after the election of Ruth Galanter it sought to instruct the locals in techniques of making citizen arrests on other local miscreants, drug pushers and general disturbers of the peace. The V.A.C. as you recall was the onetime darling of former city councilwoman Pat Russell and under her auspices was "the" group in town to plan the future of Venice; despite an earlier plan worked on for many years by a broad spectrum of area residents. It was a notion they did little to dispel, whereby managing to alienate at least a fair number of their fellow citizens. Their exclusive attitude that seemed to favor developer's monied interests, i.e. mainly themselves didn't particularly help either; it therefore seemed somewhat odd of them to be jumping into the public arena so soon after the defeat of Mrs. Russell.

The crowd as usual for our lively little town was...well lively. Between the presentation of this police lieutenant and that citizen and these seven or so officers, and that accusation and an attempted mugging of my friend Bill for his difficult questions by two thugs obviously not of his political persuasion, there were only three or four charges on the mike by disgruntled members of the audience. Being Venice we were much more interested in an open forum than a presentation. The speakers held their ground and to the great good fortune of everyone Robert's Rules of Order and civilization itself were preserved. The message from the V.A.C. was let's co-operate with the police; the message from the crowd was we'd like to, but for a number of reasons citizens arrests don't work. The whole affair was not exactly the last word in social engineering and fortunately so. Overall the crowd seemed generally respectful to the men in blue, not quite so to the perceived members of the V.A.C.

Meanwhile fresh in our memories is the image of Darryl Gates, Chief of Police, standing up and casting his vote publicly for Mrs. Russell. At the same time there was Mrs. Russell speaking

behind the backs of the people to slide into the neighborhood extremely unpopular developments of which good old Summa Hughes was prominent, a company whose thievery and public pilfering is a matter of public record. Why then does Darryl Gates and the police department expect the good people of Venice to co-operate with them in helping to drive the cocaine traffic out of town when it is direct Hughes associates, the C.I.A., that has been making cocaine by the tons available to the area to finance their illegal wars. This is reported by the Christie Institute which now has an office in Santa Monica. From what I've heard from a reliable source, it is John Wayne Airport in Orange County that has been the major port of entry in this country for these drug shipments from Central America. (No irony here). Does any of that make it's way to Oakwood or Beverly Hills? Mr. Gates I wish that you would look at these connections and what has been happening in this country these past twenty years especially considering the public trust invested in your office. In an affair strikingly bad of public corruption, I mean this Curtis Rossiter thing, this sneaky so called case

clarification for the Hughes properties which will destroy forever the equilibrium of some rather nice neighborhoods not to mention the nature of the entire Westside with little or no public input; I must say I don't particularly feel protected, such less served. This attitude that just because you have a little extra cash on hand you can push your way in is reflected therefore in both Hughes and the developers in the V.A.C. to a lesser extent. Furthermore I am shocked and amazed by the city council, our public employees, so derelict in duty who allowed this so called clarification to pass without genuine consultation with the public. (Speaking of social engineering) They must be out of their tree, to support a company so closely identified with the trashing of the ideals of our nation; not to mention the lives of an entire generation on both sides of the Pacific. Mr. Gates did you

perhaps get a good look at what the Hughes Center will look like as published by this exercise in free speech in our June issue, although I somehow doubt the Beachhead is high on your reading list. This picture was not exactly banded about by Hughes-Russell-Rossiter. And although one must admit that it architecturally does have all the charm of a shoe box crossed with an Aztec funeral parlor and Mayor Bradley and the former council president cheerfully pointed out during the campaign that the area was conveniently zoned for such an edifice, the voters finally decided that one cemetery in the neighborhood was really quite enough and said no thanks when they defeated Mrs. Russell. Perhaps the public knows something that our public officials don't. Well happy endings are the best kind and the pursuit of them is after all constitutionally guaranteed and this being America it should end here. The people have spoken, 85% in Westchester and Venice. But wait, after the dust falls there's good old Summa Hughes holding up a little memo, the people can't change their mind, they got the city to agree to a 20 year binding agreement knowing full well that as soon

as the people got wind of their monstrous project they would object. So ironically turning to the law, something for which they have had little respect in the past, they once again betrayed the concerns and the needs of the people. Since we're neighbors, let's be friends is not exactly in their corporate lexicon. (5,000 extra cars at rush hour. Really, No Thanks.)

John Ferraro, Marvin Braude, Mike Woo, Gloria Molina, Joy Picus, et al; we have been served rather poorly in this matter. Ruth Galanter does it seem appropriate that we should just accept this without a challenge. They say we can't change our mind. We never did. The area was zoned for light industrial-residential many years ago. It is they who attempt to change our minds for us; is this not the beginning of tyranny. If we do not challenge this, if we let this corral gate be locked around us, with such clear indications of public

corruption in this matter then I observe that we have become a rather tame people indeed. If I wanted to herd sheep I'd move to New Zealand. I hope we Americans have a little more spunk. Only 19% of the registered voters bothered to turn out four years ago for the last council election. Pretty scary for the world's greatest democracy, wouldn't you say. I suppose we richly deserve what is happening because of this. One can imagine that the directors at Hughes are at this point even bored. Still I will remind the public of the reports of the deals struck by this company with the Nixon Administration, the bribes to all levels of municipal, state and federal agencies, the placement of their aircraft division under their medical center and the ensuing multi-million dollar tax dodge, the money laundering in Las Vegas, the funneling of billions of dollars from the CIA in non-competitive bids; the same CIA from which many Hughes executives have come, that has been responsible for the illegal, immoral wars, the gun running and drug smuggling that is now more or less playing itself across the television screens of this nation and bringing another American Administration to ruin. Is it any wonder that these illegal millions now show up in projects that are detrimental to us all. For better or worse this mega-city of ours is not exactly Lawrence, Kansas, and the standards of integrity that we set for ourselves will reverberate and influence the entire world. What goes around comes around.

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| John Ferraro | 465-3337 |
| Joy Picus | 465-3466 |
| Mike Woo | 465-3353 |
| Gloria Molina | 465-3451 |
| Marvin Braude | 465-3811 |
| Ruth Galanter | 465-3357 |

Let 'em know how you feel.

Prole Food



by Essie La Fresseur de la Yenta

Where is it written that proles only eat at places that serve crankcase oil and pressed potatoes out of clown faces? Show a prole a joint or a jernt that dishes out good food, portions that don't need a magnifying glass to be seen, reasonably courteous waiters (proles know waiters work hard for their money and some proles are waiters also) and prices that will still permit paying the monthly rent, and proles will patronize that place and so will their descendants, even if they are no longer proles. The paragon of prole dining is the Original Pantry downtown.

Since America is a nation of immigrants, there's going to be all kinds of food that's American, from Span and Bean Bake to Swiss Steak to Souvlaki, from Nabisco to Nori.

Essie's protoprole eats it all. Yuppies have been involved in hunting down food trends, so while the proles were safe with their eggs, bacon, guacamole, yakitori or dim sum, the YUPs were mortgaging their future for three asparagus spears artfully arranged around half a gram of Montrachet, and the concentration-camp-sized serving of pasta. Not satisfied with Nouvelle Cuisine - as who would be? -, they've found prole food. Eisenhower is what the YUPs call it. Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, hearty breakfasts swimming in saturates. Essie has nothing against saturates, poly- or unerwise, but there seems to be a reaction and a longing for the Beaver Cleaver era of Mom's cookies.

Essie thinks this presages a drop in the market and pretty soon all those YUPs are going to have less income to dispose of, and they'll want more calories for the bucks, and something to fill their tummies. They're going to eat those bulls they've been investing in.

But Essie has found the proliest of prole food places. It's owned by a relative of Essie's and Essie was treated like the royalty she is when she went there. Essie challenges anyone to find a location more prole than Danny's Diner. It's on that most prole of Venice Streets, Lincoln Boulevard. It can be easily missed: It's squeezed between a tire store and a health center for old cars on the west side of Lincoln Boulevard. It's between Rose and Marine on the boundaries of Santa Monica and Venice.

Danny's is more of a take-out place than a restaurant. There is a place for four people to sit and eat in a small nook with a tire for a headrest. Danny's Diner is open from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m., closed Sundays. The eggs with toast and real home fries - not frozen - go for \$1.30. Danny's says the prices on some of the items might go up, but the eggs are large. The Burrito Grande goes for \$2.29, and grande it is. American-Mexican, accent on American, but not bland. The cheese in that great heavy burrito is cheddar, jack or swiss. Fresh hot corn chips with just-mashed guacamole accompany the burrito. The fresh-made corn chips, the crunchy-fresh salsa that accompanies the hot burrito, would command an army of credit cards if served in a restaurant that specialized in Cuchina Mexicana. There is a straightforward thick hamburger with French fries and assorted condiments. Danny has that and for less than four dollars. Less than three, if you leave out the cheese. There are pancakes, steak and eggs, and creamy coleslaw. The pizza is imported from Del Cor's on the beach, one of the few things that are not made in that unbelievably tiny kitchen.

Yes, Danny is a relative, but if Horowitz was a relative one would be objective if one said "He was a darned good piano player." Danny is a darned good cook and gives value for the money. Nothing could be finer than to eat at Danny's Diner.

The Dandelion Cafe is a place that Essie has avoided for a long time. The Dandelion was started in the early 70's, maybe even earlier, as a health food restaurant.

The Dandelion has changed -

it's located on 636 Venice Boulevard in the same little shopping area that houses Savino's Hair Salon* and Ashe Artist Supplies. The patio dining is still there, wood tables and umbrellas. It's open seven days a week from 8 to 5. The Dandelion has changed from De Riquer meatless, seasonless vegetarian food, but there are echoes of the past. All I needed was Donovan or sitar music playing on the tape and I'd be crying into my mimosa. There's meat on the menu now - thick, juicy burgers on Good Stuff buns. Good Stuff is another Venice institution that made good with its whole-grain breads. The burgers are superb. No fries, but served with carrot salads. They range from \$3.50 to \$6.00. Tuna melts, chicken melts, and tuna-with-sprouts abound. There are big green salads with a very good house dressing of oil and vinegar. One of Essie's favorite meals is the Italian Quesadilla and Caesar salad. The quesadilla has fine sweet Italian sausage with melted Swiss cheese, homemade tomato sauce. The vegies are cooked to just-right crispness. A moderate-sized portion of Caesar salad with the authentic classic dressing makes a good light lunch for \$6.00.

Essie makes a better hummous, but if you haven't tasted Essie's hummous, the Dandelion's is fine. But Essie cannot, will not compete with the walnut pie, made like a pecan pie. How virtuous, to eat one of their Munchy Salads - so good it can't be healthy, but it is: sliced mushrooms, cabbage, sprouts and peppers - and then spend all the saved calories on that wonderful walnut pie or other slabs of cooked sugar!

FLASH! FLASH! It has been learned that Savino's Hair Dressing Salon has moved to West Washington Blvd. Is that a move up or down, Michael?

- Essie

Community Events

The Beachhead welcomes notices of public meetings and entertainment for publication on the Community Events page. To have your event publicized, please mail your press release to us at P.O. Box 504, Venice 90294 by the third Sunday of the month. Late additions can be called in at 823-5092 no later than the following Wednesday.

Free Venice Beachhead

POLITICS

WE NEED SPACE!

The Venice office of the Peace and Freedom Party and the Green Party Organizing Committee has received notice to relocate because of construction. If you know of a possible location to rent or share, please call us at 396-3555. Contributions to open a new office may be sent to Peace and Freedom Party, 837 Lincoln Blvd., Venice, CA 90291.



BUCKS FOR BOOKS--Pat Johnson (left), President of the Friends of Venice Library, and Lucille Cappas, Librarian of the Venice Library, accept check for \$750 from the Commander of Venice Post 177 of the American Legion, Joe Capriglione,

and Post 177 Treasurer John Diamond. The check from the Venice American Legion will pay for a 1987 set of the Encyclopedia of Science and Technology.

POLITICS

- Aug. 3. Civil disobedience at the Van Nuys National Guard Base to Protest U.S. War in Central and Aid to Contras. Sponsored by the Pledge of Resistance. 660.4457.
- Aug. 1, 7:30pm. FROM VIETNAM TO CONTRAGATE. A Talk by James Gibson, author of "The Perfect War," sponsored by Unity Newspaper. 1010 S. Flower St., \$3.50 donation. Free parking.
- Aug. 4. 8am-11am. CITY AWARENESS DAY. Limited to supervised groups of young people ages 14-21. A day at City Hall for program on nutrition and career opportunities. Call Mayor's Office of Youth Development. 485-3821

Continuing. VENICE SKILL CENTER offers a course on training in all types of medical and front-office skills. Call 392-4153.

RELIGION

- UNITARIAN CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES. Progressive and peace-mongering. 2936 W. 8th Street. 389-1356. August schedule:
- Aug. 2, 1pm Ecumenical service of concern over DEATH SQUAD victims. Testimony, poetry, & song.
- Aug. 2, 11am. Dublin-born actress/writer FIONNULA FLANAGAN will speak. Produced "James Joyce's Women," which she adapted for stage & screen.
- Aug. 9, 11am. "EROTIC LIBERATION AND CENSORSHIP."
- Aug. 16, 11am. "THE QUEST FOR SOCIAL CHANGE." topic of DENISE & HALFORD FAIRCHILD.
- Aug. 23, 11am. Excerpts from the play "SHOOTING SOMEBODY DANCING" by Marlene Rasnick, Lee Boek and Bob Frazier, based on assassination of Prof Edward Cooperman of Cal State Fullerton.
- Aug. 30, 11am. "STORY OF THE PEACE MARCH" as told by Mary Jane Jones.

The Church in Ocean Park
235 Hill Street, Santa Monica

CONTINUING GROUPS

- AA Monday Evenings at 8 p.m.
- KUNG FU with Victor Walker Monday, Tuesday & Thursday at 6 pm & Saturday at 8:30 am
- OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 7:30 am & Saturday 10 am
- CISPES (WESTSIDE CHAPTER) 2nd Saturdays at 10 am (call 396-6557 for info)
- COCAINE ANONYMOUS Meditation workshops on Thursdays, 7:30 to 8:30



ANTI-NUKE

- Aug. 3-9. PEACE CAMP.
- Aug. 9. NAGASAKI DAY ACTION. Join peace activists in demonstrations against the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant located north of Denver. For transportation and info, call SHUT DOWN at 450-0308.
- Aug. 6. HIROSHIMA DAY DEMONSTRATION at Nevada Test Site, sponsored by SANE/FREEZE. Join the S&M City officials at the front lines of nuclear protests. Call 452-5068.

ODDS & ENDS

- PUBLIC FORUM SERIES--Center for Interracial Counseling and Psychotherapy. 280-9909.
- Aug. 12--"The Racially Mixed Adult" 6:30pm Palms Recreation Center, 2950 Overland Ave.
- Aug. 26--"Racially Mixed Children" 6:30 pm Culver Palms YMCA, 4500 S. Sepulveda Blvd.
- M.A.S.C. MULTI-RACIAL AMERICANS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. This is an organization that promotes the SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND POLITICAL INTERESTS of racially and culturally mixed individuals and families. 227-8317.
- Aug. 14 SANTA MONICA DISCOVERY. Informal singles get together, age 25+. Stimulating discussion, dancing, refreshments. Topic will be "FEELINGS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT." 7:30pm. Unitarian Community Church, Forbes Hall, 1721 Arizona Avenue in Santa Monica. \$5. 392-4713.
- Aug. 28. Topic will be "LETTING GO." Same place, time and group.

Aug. 6, 10:30am. FOOT REFLEXOLOGY DEMONSTRATION. Performed by Adele O. Murphy at the Santa Monica Senior Rec. Center at 1450 Ocean Ave.

POETRY

- POETRY ON MELROSE. Reading on Sundays in August at 3pm at Gasoline Alley. 7219 Melrose. 937-5177. Donation.
- Aug. 9. FRANCES DEAN SMITH & ROSELLA PACE.
- Aug. 16. PEGGY AYLSWORTH & NORM LEVINE.
- Aug. 23. JACK GRAPES.
- Aug. 30. Open Reading. First Six Poets to show.

WOMEN

- Aug. 8, noon to 2:30pm. HEALING AND HEALTH THROUGH YOGA. Afternoon workshop sponsored by Alcoholism Center for Women. Stress reduction, visual relaxation, journal writing. \$10.00 Pre-registration required. 381.7805. Funded by L.A. County Alcoholism Budget.
- Aug. 30, 10am to 3pm. ARE WE HAVING FUN YET? A one-day workshop to learn and practice play and practice. \$15. Alcoholism Center for Women.



VENICE
TOWN
COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
7:30pm Thur., August 13
Beyond Baroque Center
681 N. Venice Blvd.

AGENDA

1. A Homeless Task Force has been meeting weekly since the July Town Council meeting, and will give members a report on its progress and future plans.
2. Planning and Development comm. members will discuss the Local Coastal Plan process and what the Committee has done on behalf of the Town Council.
3. COMMITTEES:
Board of Directors (392-2872),
Planning & Develop. (305-7149),
Airport Task Force (396-6774),
Homeless Task Force (392-8037).

Aug. 10. AIRPORT-MARINA GROUP of the SIERRA CLUB, holds their 3rd ANNUAL SUMMER POTLUCK, 7pm, Community Room at Burton Chace Park, in the Marina. Bring a dish for 8-10 persons: A-L, Main dish; M-S, salads, T-W, bread, rolls, butter; X-Z, desserts. Bring serving utensils. Info,



through Aug 17. Paintings, Drawings, and graphics by CARLO MARIA MARIANI at the Richard Green Gallery. 830 N. La Brea. 460-2924.

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