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FREE VENICE SINCE 1968 BEACHHEAD

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DECEMBER 1980 ISSUE NO: 132 P.O. BOX 504 VENICE, CALIFORNIA 90291 823-5092

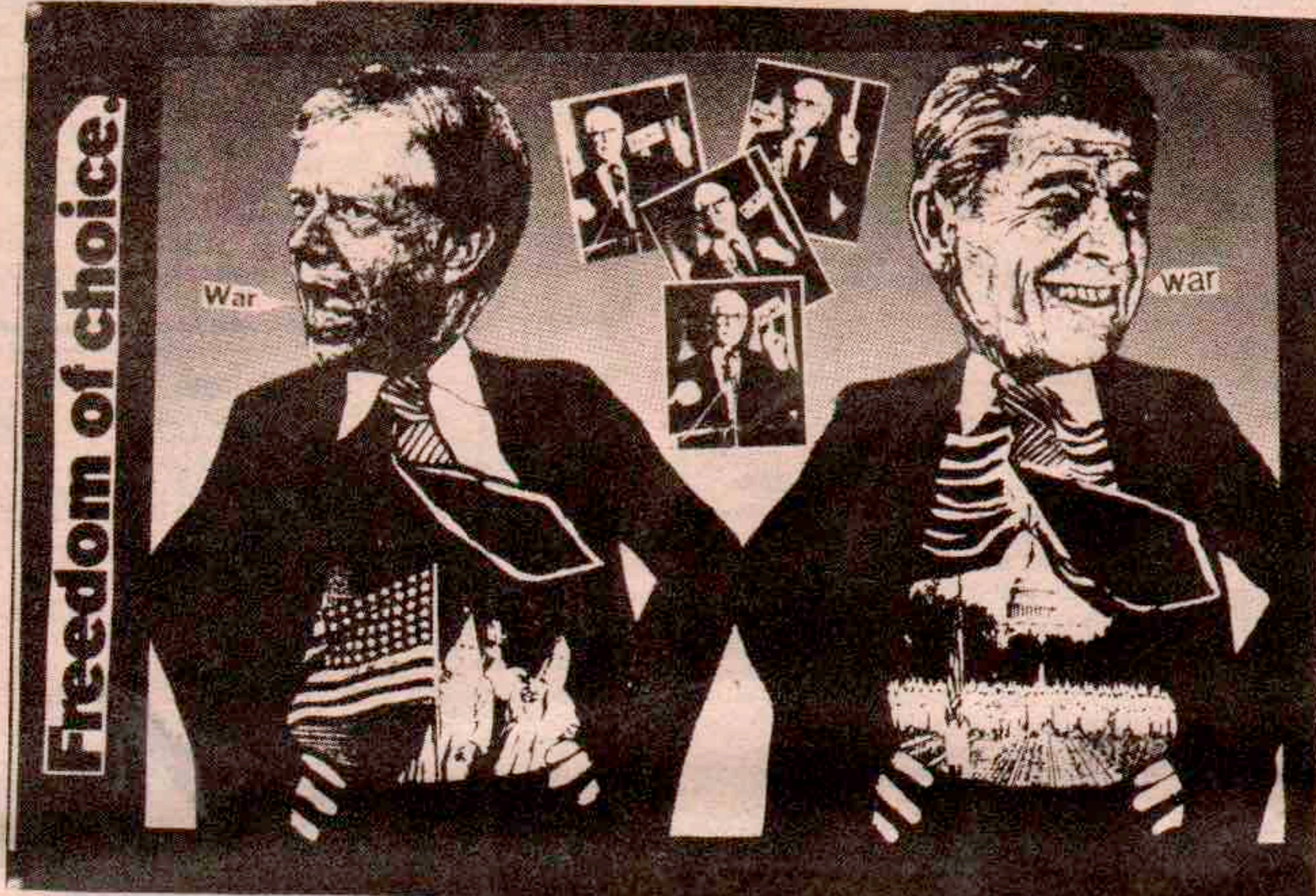


Photo by Jo Goodwin, poster by the San Francisco Poster Brigade from the "Anti WW3" exhibit at the Old Venice Jail.

BENEATH THE CRIME HYSTERIA

By Carlin Thompson

On November 12th, Sarai Ribicoff, a young editorial writer for the L. A. Herald Examiner was murdered in Venice. In the wake of this murder reports exploded across the pages of the local newsmedia - that Venice was in the grip of a huge crime wave with over 50 murders in the last year. Immediately, people began to speculate about the causes. While no one wanted to say it loud and clear, the constant suggestion was that murder and the crime rate were the result of a "criminal element" that is not white.

Flowing through all the misstatements and hysteria, a few things become obvious.

First, the murder rate has been greatly exaggerated. Six people have been murdered in Venice, not fifty. The original inflated reports are for all areas covered by the Venice Division of the L.A.P.D. Of the numerous murders in this geographical area, only 6 were in Venice. The Venice Police have stated publicly that in their division, Palms, a predominantly white area, has a larger crime rate than Venice.

But crime is on the rise in Venice, as it is in all of Los Angeles, and some of it is not unrelated to growing racial tensions. The Los Angeles Times in its editorial on the subject saw some general failing of society, including racial inequality, but failed to clearly pin point the causes. The Herald Examiner in its grief admitted it had no solutions, but suggested that we should increase support for the police. But Tom Victory in the Ocean Front Weekly was totally unvarnished on the subject. His view was that "We have our ghetto or barrio that is the home or haven for a criminal element that seems to pounce on local merchants, residents and visitors in the Venice area." (He did not, however, seem so certain about everything in

that column. He called for Pat Russell to resign, only to claim he never said it in the next issue, after he got lots of letters criticizing him for suggesting that somehow Pat Russell was responsible for the crime in Venice.)

Crime has been a fact in Venice for a long time, but as one long-time Venice resident put it, "It's only recently that whites have become the victims, so now it is an issue. No wave of editorials have followed the murders of third world people, like Brother Brown."

Local white merchants are divided in their opinions on how to react to these developments. Some groups, like the Venice Chamber of Commerce believe that bad publicity will slow development. They have reacted by stressing the fact that crime has been greatly exaggerated in the media. They stress police reports indicating that crime in Oakwood is not as high as in surrounding areas. The Venice Beach Association (the local right-wing merchants grouping) on the other hand is pushing for an accelerated police occupation of Oakwood. Some of these merchants' establishments were attacked last summer by third world kids from downtown. These merchants, then, immediately assumed that Oakwood kids were responsible since most Oakwood kids are not white. They have seen Oakwood as a threat since then.

The "crime wave" in Venice did not just happen spontaneously. Unemployment, redevelopment and soaring rents have all contributed to the pressures that turn people to crime.

For years developers have been moving into Venice, buying up old property and renovating it. The property is then rented out at staggeringly increased rentals. As middle class white tenants have been squeezed out of beach markets, many have looked to Oakwood where property values are lower. They move in, to renovate and to displace local residents, and become the new gentry.

Few middle class white residents realize that Oakwood has existed as a

-continued on page 10-

WORLD ARTISTS at SPARC

MAKE ART AGAINST WAR

By Bill Oxendine

"Anti-World War III" is a unique exhibit in more ways than one. Currently on view at the Old Venice Jail Gallery, located at 685 Venice Blvd. under the auspices of SPARC (Social and Public Art Resource Center), this is not your traditional art show where works of art are neatly displayed in orderly fashion. It is, instead, a giant collage: a multi-media, multi-colored, multi-country tapestry on the theme of international opposition to war.

Organized by the San Francisco Poster Brigade (the show originally opened in San Francisco), the exhibit features art and poetry from thirty countries: posters from El Salvador, Norway, West Germany, Italy, postcards from England, France, America, Argentina, photos from Brazil, East Germany, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, collages from Iran, Sweden, Mexico, art works from Australia, Holland, Belgium, poetry from all over the world. There are cartoons and political satire, letters and ads, all flung onto the gallery walls in an explosion of color and form, held in place by push pins and sheer audacity.

There is not a picture frame in sight, in keeping with the "mail-in art" style of the presentation. Indeed, the exhibit was created by sending flyers and announcements throughout the world, asking artists and poets to mail in material to the Poster Brigade. From the wealth of material submitted, the show was duly assembled.

The assemblage has been likened to graffiti. It is the spirit of graffiti -- outspoken, bold, vitally alive, aspiring to heights while not forgetting earthly realities -- that permeates this huge art work: a picture of Mount Rushmore with a skull instead of a president's head, a dramatically charred copy of John Hersey's book "Hiroshima", Coca Cola bottles in the shape of nuclear missiles, a scrawled slogan - "Boycott W.W. III".

Materials are still being added to the show. Anyone wishing to may submit their work to: San Francisco Poster Brigade, P.O. Box 31428, San Francisco, Calif. 94131. Material selected will be added to the show after it leaves Los Angeles to travel around the world.

There will be an open poetry reading in conjunction with the exhibit at 8pm, Dec. 4, at the gallery, to which the public is invited. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 10-6, Saturday 1-5. The exhibit continues through December 5. For further information call 822-9560.



The Changing Face of Venice

By Bill Oxendine

"The times, they are a changing", sang Bob Dylan nearly two decades ago, about a world fermenting with change. Nowhere has that change been more dramatic than in Venice, which has gone from a sleepy artists' colony in the 50's to a highly coveted piece of real estate in the 80's. These last three decades are the subject of a special three month exhibit called "Changing Venice", being planned by SPARC and scheduled to open in March of 1981.

SPARC, the Social and Public Art Resource center, has its headquarters in the Old Venice Jail, itself a part of Venetian history. There, a group of artists and administrators work closely with leaders of the community to create art projects that serve the community at large. Certainly one of the most ambitious projects undertaken will be the upcoming "Changing Venice" show.

For three months the jail gallery will play host to a procession of exhibits illustrating the history of Venice from 1950 to 1980. This will be a multimedia event, using film, art, video, music, live performances, photography and more to tell the story of how Venice has changed.

This will not be just a nostalgic trip down memory lane. Rather, the show will focus on the struggles of blacks, chicanos, senior citizens, women, artists and anti-establishment groups to gain --and maintain-- their place in the Venice sun against the encroachments of high-rise development and condo living. Indeed, SPARC is struggling to keep its jail building. Developers are planning to tear down this historic edifice in the not-too-distant future.

SPARC needs material for this show. Anyone wishing to loan or donate artifacts of the 50's, 60's and 70's should contact SPARC immediately. They are looking for posters, photos, movies, publications, pins, videotape, clothing, records, poetry, music, theatre, stories, in short, anything that represents a facet of life in Venice in those three decades. Of particular interest are items which illustrate important changes and developments in the community.

SPARC wants to produce an exhibit which truly tells it like it was. To do that they need your help. Anyone having material or suggestions for the show should call SPARC at: 822-9560 and ask for Ed Pearl. Submissions will be reviewed by a committee which will select appropriate material.

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FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

Collective Staff: Joan Friedberg, Elizabeth Elder, Emily Winters, Olga Palo, Chuck Bloomquist, Arnold Springer, John Sprung, Christopher Toussaint.

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 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. The volunteer staff reserves the right to make all decisions collectively on material published. There is no editor on the Beachhead. The Beachhead Collective is an open group and welcomes interested Venice people's participation. The printing is financed by ad donations. To submit material, include your name and phone number. Anonymous material will not be printed, but your name will be withheld on request. If return of material is desired, a stamped self-addressed envelope is required. No payment is made for material used. The Beachhead subscribes to Liberation News Service (LNS) and is a member of the Alternative Press Syndicate.

Mr. John Sprung c/o the Beachhead, Venice

Dear John;
In your letter "Nuclear Trojan Horse" (Nov. 1980 Beachhead) you are partly in the right and partly wrong. If to free ourselves from dependence on foreign oil, and from the rip-off by OPEC and the transnational oligarchies, we turn to electric cars, only to produce the electricity to recharge the batteries, however much improved, by dirty burning of untreated coal, by nuclear reactors with their inherent environmental costs and unsolved radio-active waste disposal problems, or by use of syn-fuels made at a like high cost in environmental pollution, we will indeed have jumped out of the skillet into the fire.

But electricity does not have to be generated in an environmentally disastrous way.

Aside from hydro-, wind-, tidal-, OTEC-, and solar-voltaic-electrical possibilities, even conventional steam-boiler power plants can be fueled with natural gas (of which we have vastly greater reserves than the public body has yet been made aware of) or with ethanol from bio-mass conversion, as you suggested (using all kinds of organic waste, and leaving a residue of rich fertilizer).

However, except for persons like myself (I am "retired" - don't have to drive on the freeway, or travel up to 20-odd miles to & from work, as I often did in my "gainfully employed" years as a construction worker) the purely electric personal vehicle is not the "wave of the future". An electric car could be built to go at highway speed up to 50 or 60 m.p.h. on a charging, but then it would be nearly all battery, with little payload, even with the promised improved batteries. "The way to go" is the hybrid motor vehicle, combining a combustion engine (piston, rotary, or gas turbine), with a D.C. electric motor drive, and using an ethanol or hydrogen-based fuel (see enclosed reprint re Hy-fuel). Your conventional gas-guzzler has at least 2 or 3 times as much H.P. as it needs at cruising speed on the level, in reserve for going up hills, thru mud or sand, or for quick get-away in stop-&-go traffic. But a DC electric motor can be designed to give maximum H.P., with high current draw, at low speed, and progressively less H.P. at lower current draw, as it comes up to level cruising speed; and there is no waste of energy by an idling engine

Venice Town Council

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NOTICE!

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Dear Beachhead,
As one who can still remember the Carter administration, I am much surprised by the degree of local consternation over Reagan's victory. Like W.C. Fields, I cannot be disgruntled, but only because I was never grunted in the first place.
John Sprung

while waiting for the green light. In the "hybrid" car, an engine only about 1/3 or 1/4 the size & H.P. of your V.W. "bug" will do the job for a modest vehicle, running steadily at optimum speed - easily enough to move the vehicle at cruising speed on the level. So you see your projected fuel/resource demand is grossly over-estimated, because an electric car-hybrid or strait- has the reserve power for heavy going, or coming up to speed, w.o. having to "feed" all that extra H.P. when it is not in use.

I have bought a used Sebring "citicar" and sold our V.W. transporter-van; we so rarely drive beyond a 12 or 15 ml. range that it would be cheaper for us to rent a Honda, Toyota or such, on special occasion that to "feed" & maintain the V.W. I use the "citicar" sparingly; I go with or without my wife (who can't drive) by bike or bus (we both have reduced fare cards) when & wherever it is reasonably practical, as a matter of ecological principle, as well as to save money.

How much does it cost us to keep & drive the "citicar"? After 5 months' experience, I can give a reasonable estimate. The electricity to keep the batteries charged costs us 1 & 1/2 or 2 cents a mile; with a moderate use of say 6000 mls. a year, and a replacement cost of 120 to 150 \$ a year for batteries (at 2 to 2 1/2 \$ a ml); drivers & car insurance will be at least 250 \$ a year, plus license & registration fees, and amortization of a 5 or 6 thousand \$ investment in (new) car over 15 yrs. or more; we arrive at a conservative figure of 15 \$ a ml. Can you do better with even a modest & efficient strait internal combustion car?

I haven't figured in any allowance for "normal" maintenance & repair, but it would be much less than the tune-ups, valve adjustments, oil changes, etc. for currently used cars.

Amicably yours, Newton J. Casper
P.S. Dynamic Braking could be built into an electric car, to reduce the amount of cancer-genic asbestos dust speeded into the air, but unlike the case of the old-time electric street-car, only a small part of the momentum energy could be saved (by putting it back into the batteries); most of it would have to be disposed of as heat, thru a resistance coil. The batteries could not take such a high rate of charge as the drive motor(s) would put out, when used as dynamo(s).

Beating the Meatless-Messhall

By Moe Stavnezer

In a significant legal victory, the Venice Town Council's suit for an injunction against the Meatless-MessHall owner, Andy Kuchrawy, was granted by Judge Jerry Pacht.

Kuchrawy had added a patio to the back of the MessHall, over a year ago, without getting a coastal permit. The patio more than doubled the seating capacity of the restaurant while, at the same time, it removed parking spaces for the restaurant's patrons (the patio was built on the parking lot). The violation was first reported by the VTC Coastal Committee in Nov. 1979.

Beginning in Jan. 1980, the City sent a number of "orders to comply" with the permit procedures to Kuchrawy. He ignored those orders and, instead, began a long process to evade them by constantly trying to find some City or State employee who would say that either there was no violation or that no permit was required. Burt Johnson, Kuchrawy's representative, did most of the calling or corresponding. All of this dancing around proved fruitless except for one thing: no permit was applied for and the patio remained open.

Finally, after almost a year, the Coastal Committee of the VTC lost patience with both the inability of the City to require a permit and Kuchrawy's unwillingness to cooperate with City and State law. It sued to have the patio closed until Kuchrawy applied for and received a coastal permit and to seek civil damages against Kuchrawy for his blatant violation of the Coastal Act. No part of any fine imposed goes to the VTC. If a fine is imposed--after a trial at a future date--it goes to the State of California. The VTC suit seeks only to ensure the integrity of the permit process which allows public input into the kind of development that takes place in this community. Because parking is a major issue along the ocean front, the expansion of a restaurant and the elimination of parking spaces for that restaurant is a dangerous precedent.

The suit became important to the Coastal Commission when Kuchrawy began to claim that the addition of the patio did not require a coastal permit because the Coastal Act and some regulations exempted it. In part he based this claim on his contention that Ocean Front Walk, rather than Speedway, was the first public road. If that claim were upheld in court it would have serious implications in Venice and other coastal communities. Coastal Committee members did very thorough research into this claim and, apparently, convinced the judge that Kuchrawy's claim was incorrect.

The penalty phase of this case will require a trial and is not expected to be resolved for from 6 months to a year. Meanwhile Kuchrawy will either have to appeal the ruling or apply for a permit.

The parking problem along the ocean front was the largest issue in the State Commission staff report recommend that a permit for Charmer's Tea House be denied. Charmer's owner, Doug Christmas, wanted to provide parking for the restaurant in a parking lot nearby by leasing the required number of spaces. The staff feels that such an arrangement only takes already existing parking away from the general public and reserves it for people going to the restaurant. Kind of like robbing Peter to pay Paul. The staff position is that parking be provided on the site of a development or that the development not be allowed. The Commission is due to vote on this permit in December after Christmas asked for a postponement last month. The decision on this permit will have important implications for the Meatless-MessHall and other businesses on Ocean Front Walk.

Sometime soon the Citizens Advisory Committee for North Beach will begin meeting to prepare a plan for the area. Undoubtedly parking will be a major issue in this plan. We'll try to keep you informed and urge people who have ideas about the problem to make them known to the CAC.

(p.s. The Coastal Committee extends its thanks and appreciation to Marge Buckley, our chief attorney, and to Susan Millman, for all their help).

THE 1980 ELECTION: Time To Stop Waiting For Teddy, Tom, & Jerry

By Ed Pearl, Venice resident and member of the Bay Cities Pre-Chapter of the New American Movement.

The overwhelming defeat of liberal Democratic politicians on November 4 has presented people with the choice of trying to rebuild progressive forces within the Democratic Party or of seeing the Reagan landslide as a vote of "no confidence" in that entire liberal-Democratic tradition.

There will be the temptation to unite behind a Kennedy, a Brown or a Hayden to withstand the coming onslaught against Civil Liberties, Civil Rights and the quality of working peoples' lives. I believe that temptation must be fought for it will only serve to divert us from the absolutely essential task of building an independent political force which is not bound by tradition or patronage to the Democrats.

We independents are in good company. A new political party was agreed to on August 23, 1980 at the fourth Convention of the National Black Political Assembly in New Orleans and founded in Philadelphia the weekend of November 21-23. Since its founding in March of 1972, the NEPA has involved thousands of Black community organizers, politicians and activists across the country. Hundreds of delegates and observers met in New Orleans with the theme of "Developing a Progressive Black Agenda from the Grass Roots for the 1980s." Much of conventions original agenda was tabled as it quickly became obvious that a national Black Party was on the minds of most of the delegates. The dominant tendency maintained the historic necessity of building a new electoral formation outside of both major capitalist parties. The "lesser evils" theory represents no real alternative at all; Black people must have an organizational vehicle not dominated by white bourgeois politics. The Rev. Ben Chavis offered the 7 part motion founding the party, adding "Let it be, let it be. It is not only Nationtime, it is independent Black Political party time!"

The turning point for the NEPA has been Miami where popular rebellion against the political/economic/social oppression of blacks was seen as a statement condemning the era of accommodation and reform personified in the Old Guard leaders Jesse Jackson, Vernon Jordan and Andrew Young. For Blacks, as for the rest of working class Americans, the pie is too small and the crumbs too meager: It's time to demand a full meal

Liberalism, repudiated on the streets of Miami and at the ballot box, held that through limited state intervention the federal government could smooth out the business cycle and shrink the inequities of modern capitalism thus, holding out to all Americans the promise of a high and rising standard of living. The viability of this liberalism depended upon the U.S. being the most powerful nation militarily and economically and upon continued uninterrupted economic growth. By gaining privileged access to third world markets and raw materials while not maintaining a direct colonial presence, the American economy, aided by arms spending and governmental subsidies, was able to prosper with few interruptions, from 1948-1969. Because of the enormous profits exacted from the Third World and the incredible productivity of American labor, we were given some "crumbs off the table," such as Medicare, abortion funding, subsidized housing, etc. While the people who fought for these gains, which were not simply given out of generosity on the part of American capitalism, were certainly a major factor,

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4 THESE INTERESTING TIMES

by Lynne Bronstein

Like many of you who are reading this I had a bad case of Post-Election Blues. For two days after hearing of the Reagan-Republican victory I wasn't sure I wanted to do anything. And when I did get up and about I couldn't silence the echoes of news headlines that hit me in the middle of doing the laundry or riding the bus: Moral Majority, New Right, Down With Big Government. The ERA is dead. Now for the "Human Life Amendment" (Fundamentalist Newspeak). And so forth. They were already trussing me up and readying me for the stake where all Leftist-Bohemian free thinking Venice California witches are to be burned.

And I had to buck myself up to face my friends who would be voicing the same sentiments--or worse. One friend murmured as we munched on Pancho's tacos: "I've been wondering what country to move to." I wondered if we were returning to those paranoid days we grew to know during Watergate, and suddenly even that profoundly awful era seemed not so awful in retrospect.

But of course it only seems that way because we came through it, ready to throw ourselves anew into the tasks of repairing Nixon's ravages. And so as I remind myself now, those of us who still won't accept our lack of choices regarding the running of America will have to prepare ourselves for a new struggle to keep the New Right from snuffing out all our victories and blocking future goals.

Yeah, that's a heavy order. The truly concerned are already enlisted and overworked. Everyone I know who's involved with community organizing, women's rights, the Alliance for Survival, alternative cultural projects, human rights, or fair housing, also has to work for a living. Some are working full-time,

raising children, trying to recapture some insight or image in a work of art, and volunteering the time and money they don't have enough of to at least two human-need movements. "Burn-out" is Venice and Ocean Park's competitor with the common cold, a disease that reoccurs and is both painful and slightly embarrassing. Hedged in by the mass media who love to flog the allegedly dead horse of 1960's radicalism, by the ever-increasing number of major problems to work on, and by personal needs that cannot always be deemed selfish, the Contemporary Activist can be pushed to a plain old-fashioned nervous breakdown. And once down for the count, can hear the echoes: "Burn-out! Dated! You've lost your momentum. Your cause is lost."

In the excellent play about contemporary activists Left of Crystal Pier the organizer "Liz" suffers a moment of lost faith after one of her political projects falls through. "What do you want?" Liz's friend asks her. And Liz who had always been afraid to admit to hedonistic desires lists her secret dreams. A vacation. A good place to live. Someone to love. This "Me Decade" we have been living through has made some people draw harsh lines between their personal and political goals. Yet all our political goals have common and personal needs at their base and it's almost like the song in "The Wizard of Oz." A home, someone to love, a way to get to one's survival needs, communication between people, health for our bodies, souls, and the world around us. The complicated impersonal tangle of politics makes it hard to see the simplicity of what we want or which is the best way to get it. "Burn-Out" is sometimes the beginning of an individual's quest for a "personal solution"--that dreaded term of a decade ago that can aid her/him in getting back to work on the larger,

group-concerned issues.

So I had a moment of doubt too, and my perception of burnt-outness. And I remembered my efforts at various times for the Venice Beach-head, the Ocean Park Community Organization, the Alliance for Survival, the drive to extend the ERA ratification deadline, writing, reading, and editing poetry, making room for "unpopular" culture. I realized I'd lain on my bed after the election groaning because I was thinking: there's more work ahead. We need more energy. Echoes of Jim Morrison's: "Oh great creator of being/grant us one more hour to perform our art and perfect our lives." Echoes of Yeat's: "Too long a sacrifice/may make a stone of the heart/Oh when may it suffice?" Echoes of the Chinese proverb and curse: "May you live in interesting times."

I knew it would mean--will mean--more meetings, letters to politicians, newspapers, businesses, demonstrations. Old wine in new bottles--new methods of fighting back. Neighbors helping where the liberal programs used to. Exposing the hypocrisies of hospitals, clinics, schools, libraries, and the arts. Refuse to pay taxes if they go to the development of weapons? And still, not to feel guilty if I can't do it all or do it alone or get all I want to get. The solution to post-election blues is not running for cover. It's knowing one has to live on as one always has believed in living. It's keeping one's spirit intact post Burn-out and not letting one's heart turn to stone. It's accepting that these are neither the best nor the worst of times but certainly interesting. But I do wish I had few extra hours in which to do the extra work.

new right tunes out pacifica

Four architects of the conservative sweep in the national elections served notice Wednesday, Nov. 5, that Pacifica Radio heads their new "enemies list". Apparently, Pacifica's tenacious defense of free speech for those not wealthy enough to own media outlets is unacceptable to the New Right.

At a National Press Building news conference, Howard Phillips, head of the Conservative Caucus, picked a Pacifica reporter out of the crowd of journalists saying: "We have a gentleman here from Pacifica Radio which is federally subsidized and which has a very liberal point of view." The federal government must stop subsidizing "policy advocacy by liberals," said Phillips. Three other New Right media specialists, Paul Weyrich of the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress, Terry Dolan of the National Conservative Political Action Committee, and Richard Viguerie of the Conservative Digest, chuckled along.

Coincidentally perhaps, Phillips' line of attack exactly matches a recent offensive against Pacifica by two Washington based ultra-right-wing journals. Accusing Pacifica of being "communist broadcasters", they, like Phillips,

bemoan government training and equipment funds provided to Pacifica stations through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and other sources.

"It's very disturbing to hear on the day after the elections," said Pacifica President Peter Franck, "representatives of the New Right suggest that one of the ways President elect Reagan can balance the budget is to attack the few voices of communication in this country which are not bought and paid for by the corporation giants of the U.S. There's never before been a suggestion that there should be an ideological litmus test for stations receiving funds from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Such a test would be an incredible violation of the First Amendment right to freedom of speech."

"The funds we have received from CPB" continued Franck, "have helped us do our job better, but the very reason for listener sponsorship of community radio is so that we can be responsible only to the people in communities we serve. This is something we plan to continue to do during the crucial period this country is now facing."

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THE QUESTION OF

G·E·N·O·C·I·D·E

by ROBT. WELLS

The question of genocide has been brought back into the community movement this fall and winter. The last time genocide was a serious topic in the community was during the Vietnam War.

Some of us feel that "genocide" is a most accurate description for the nature of American government and society; we feel this gets to the essential character of the danger with which America threatens Third World peoples, inside the U.S. borders as well as outside.

Others oppose the word "genocide" because they feel it oversimplifies or misdescribes the situation, because it upsets customary views of our society and ourselves, because it challenges favorite theories about politics and revolution.

"Genocide" is a recent and modern word, although the practice of genocide goes all the way back through history. Webster's defines genocide as "The deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political, or cultural group."

The relevant law would be the United Nations Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide, signed in 1948:

Article I -- The Contracting Parties confirm that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and to punish.

Article II -- In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
(b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
(c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
(d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
(e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Article III -- The following acts shall be punishable:

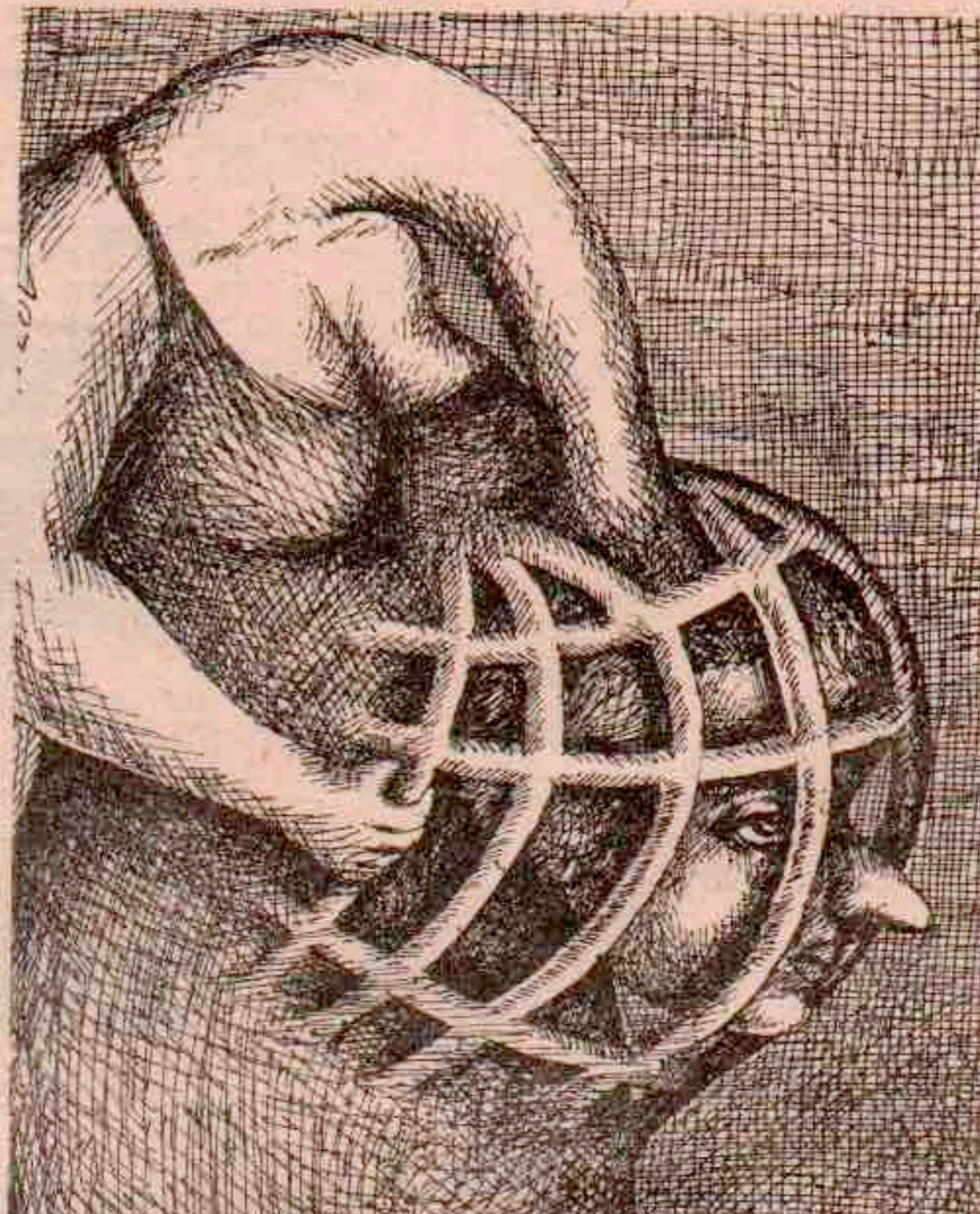
- (a) Genocide;
(b) Conspiracy to commit genocide;
(c) Direct and public incitement to commit genocide;
(d) Attempt to commit genocide;
(e) Complicity in genocide.

Article IV -- Persons committing genocide or any of the other acts enumerated in article III shall be punished, whether they are constitutionally responsible public officials or private individuals.

Thus guilt for genocide is not limited to government officials, but can involve anyone; the offense includes not only "genocide" but conspiracy, incitement, attempt, and complicity as well; and genocide itself is not limited to a completed, finished act, but rather it's a process.

This refutes those who seriously put forward the notion that the term genocide can be used only to describe the Nazi holocaust against the Jews in World War II. The UN Convention which came immediately after World War II and which was written because of the holocaust and other acts of genocide that occurred during that war, clearly understands that genocide, which includes the holocaust, includes many other things as well, and that genocide is a process and not necessarily a completed act.

There isn't space in this short article to describe the history, which should be better known, of the American empire's genocidal assaults against the Native Indians, against the Mexicans and the Filipinos, the Puerto Ricans and the Cubans, against the Polynesians, the Indonesians, the Koreans, the Indochinese, and the Latin Americans, and always and most centrally against the Black people, from their capture in Africa, the Middle Passage, slavery, Ku Klux terror, population relocation, and the present move to elim-



inate them as part of the economy of their continent.

Where the issue of genocide lately became most relevant to the community movement was in the planning sessions for October's Community Conference Against Racism. The question presented itself this way: The white community is presently agitated over a rise in crime which it sees as coming from minorities, especially Blacks; is this crime the result of unemployment in the minority communities, inadequate health care, bad housing, school segregation and poor education of the children? If so, then the white community can solve its problem of crime by working for more jobs for minorities and for better conditions in their communities.

OR -- are the joblessness, the maleducation, police repression, murderous "health care," dangerous housing, etc., etc., not the causes of which crime is the result, but rather are they, along with crime, themselves the results of some deeper, more fundamental cause -- namely the process of genocide against Third World peoples? If so then the problem is not how to eliminate crime in the white community, but how to end the white community's conspiracy, complicity, and incitement to genocide. If so, then our duty as whites is to aid the targets of genocide in their efforts to put an historical end to the process of genocide; namely, their movements for self-determination and national liberation.

NAM (the New American Movement), the Communist Party, and others in the racism

conference expended a great deal of time and energy working (unsuccessfully, it turned out) to exclude the question of genocide from the Conference sessions. This is understandable, since the idea that our system may be genocidal is unsettling to customary (white) ideas about the kind of society we live in, and it is a threat to long-cherished assumptions about social change.

But while the shallow "economic determinists" from the Racism Conference are busy putting together their affirmative action and housing programs, we see, in the November 19th Ocean Front Weekly the unashamed and aggressive racism of that newspaper and Tom Victory, of Joe Piscitelli and the Venice Concerned Citizens,

of the Venice Beach Assn. and the Venice Civic Union, who collectively are saying that the "ghetto" and "barrio" of Oakwood are the source of all "our" crime problems, who are calling for the police to cordon off and saturate Oakwood, who are calling for citizen patrols and firearms training in the white community.

The missionary social-workers are going to find they have to cross a police line to get in and out of Oakwood; the better housing will be built in there just in time to accommodate the new white gentry replacing the Blacks and Latins, who will have been relocated elsewhere to carry on their fight against genocide without our help.

In short, the problem is coming not from the Blacks and Latins in Oakwood, but from our own white community. Our responsibility at this time lies in confronting the conspiracy, complicity, and incitement to genocide in our own white community rather than in missionary social work in Oakwood. This is going to make us unpopular -- we are not going to organize masses of whites by telling them what they don't want to hear. But to do anything else at this time is to be opportunistic, and ultimately, to be defeated.

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SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE MALODY OF RED, WHITE AND BLUE

May heart's good water spread through this land
 The monster is oozing pus that the ocean can't handle
 The snake has turned and bitten the man,
 and no drink can cure venomous flesh.
 Pico sewer has turned to blood,
 Five lifeguard lives are threatened--
 a bad omen for those that can hear
 worse for those that are bleeding.

Longevity center on Death Row's
 NO TRESPASSING!
 PRIVATE PROPERTY!

The pride of Santa Monica has been poisoned
 They tell me there's a hundred more pus Jubes
 pouring into the harbor new man made excrement
 Horror worse than the plague that killed half of Europe
 into Los Angeles sacrament waters
 Milky Way's Flower Vase has tilted over
 from the weight of plastic flowers in my living room
 That which gives birth has the means to take away. The ocean,
 which gives birth has the power and means to erase the dishonest
 shorelines from the face of this earth. It all comes down to--

Do unto thy neighbor
 as you shall have thy neighbor do unto you.

And I heard the voice of much knowledge speak
 and this is what the voice of infinite silence said:

"Splitting and manipulating the nucleus of cells
 is cancer produced by hand.
 When a man puts money in his pocket that belongs
 to another man, that is cancer of money
 When the government prints money that doesn't come
 from honest labor acceptable to the land, that is cancer
 of everybody's money
 'The patterns of the large can be found in the small and
 the heartfelt harmony permeates one and all'."

Ocean Flame

Heart Creek
 Yaakob Dellal
 Jamil Soorani

And I heard the voice of many oceans speak and this is what the ocean
 inside me, the ocean that makes the sea level said:

"To me ten solitary people united with the earth count as much as
 ten million soldiers directed into the sand
 To me the life of one child tortured in front of his father
 counts as much as the whole city of Teheran
 To me the five lifeguard lives on Station 18 count as much as
 all the people whose lives they're protecting
 To me the life of my fish in the ocean
 count as much as all the lives that they are feeding
 To me the life of one child born in the ghetto counts as
 much as the life of the whole city that gave birth to that ghetto
 To me the stability of the structure of one atom
 counts as much as the integrity and structure of the whole earth

my sky is a carpet of blue green gold
 From which suspended trees assemble
 arms stretched Guiding the feet
 at sunset of my black panther's
 eyes of gold
 Who in that night's moon saw clearly
 your cotton and your clothes
 Bathed in clear water and light,
 all my children are born"

When you've seen the shadow
 you're not white anymore
 When you've seen the light
 you're not black anymore

And I heard the fountain inside my heart speak, and this is
 what the source, the one that hears all voices said:

"I speak through the wind, the trees and the clouds
 To those who understand me, and I send my poetry
 To speak in human tongue to those on distant roads
 so they can see the direction,

Sun and water are my eyes
 Earth and water is my flesh
 My voice speaks the wind and clouds
 The rain washes my children's graves

The mountain streams are my holy parts
 Where I make love

My birth canal opens when my sweet river
 Meets the salty waves

this is where all my children are born

The deserts are my backbones
 Jungle rivers are my jugular veins
 Through the wind and leaves I hear and
 My clouds bring forth the rain

The forces of gravity and electricity
 are the nerves of my spine
 The densest forest I sweep when
 My flowers need space

Ocean flames of purple coral flow
 Through the four chambers of my heart
 Alaskan snow covers the top of my head
 As love's day progresses
 Melting ice awakens my face

Most of the time I am asleep folded in (your) dreams
 Your (un)conscience, but when you awake in me
 I give you the key that conquers hell and death
 opens the door into life

each one through a new door, all of my children
 are born

And I layed myself close to the earth, in the stream cascading
 over soft pebbles to the sea and began to pray;

"Staircasing waves lift my heart in song
 with my mother earth, I dancing around the sun
 Touch me and with your fingers weave in me the easterly suite
 Of the sunlit day with the westerly blossom of the starlit night
 'The tunnel of darkness you must pass to open the door of
 the colorfull light'
 Oh shine your light!
 And wash my sight!
 Blazing sky
 Galaxy night!

And as I proceeded to spread her platform like a hungry
 butterfly
 She knew I was black but she couldn't understand why
 from my skin shone the colorful light



The sun facing the dawn of Aquarius' fountain of life
 half moon slices join the dark and the light
 As the seven stars of Pleiades converge in my flesh through
 my eyes

I saw the iron horse of Orion giving back his sword to the sky
 And the smell of an infected birth canal from my whore
 turns sweet water river of life
 And the sight of boiling skin and blood of a boy's body
 still standing and burning with napalm washed
 by tears from an ocean of stars in my eyes

And the smell of burning flesh of a dead man's
 body mixed with grease from the cannon, washed
 by oceans of stars in the sky
 And the smell of a German factory making soap
 from Jewish bodies

Washed by six million galaxies that shield
 the Lion of Judea's six pointed star

And the sea of boiling people, men, women, and
 children of Hiroshima and Nagasaki radiate flesh
 out of graves and fly to the sky, come to life
 by the fire of two newborn stars, return to earth
 in a cloud of winged humans that every blind eye
 shall see

And the burning souls of Indian, white, black, and Mexican
 prisoners in the jails of our city
 washed by all the stars in the sky shining
 together giving them direction out of the caverns
 of hell
 And all the imprisoned minds that drive the cruel iron
 wheels of our steel shirt and tie society washed by the
 openness of space from the heart of the universe
 And the multitude mutilated murdered and tortured sheep of human
 oceans come to life
 sparked by all the kind and gentle spirits in
 all the stars that have been, are, and will be

And flesh boiling with cancer will
 melt like candlewax
 And the smell of benzene mixed with shit
 in the Pico sewer
 And the taste of seaweed freshly greased (by oil
 washed ashore)
 for early dawn breakfast washed and sprinkled
 with tears from the Milky Way turning and sprinkling
 very slowly

Santa Anna wind blowing
 me around

When my love is opened
 my summer roots stand firm in winters ground
 When the tide is down and my rocks all bare
 I come close to the ocean to smell her night air"

And the sun came shining
 As I went strolling
 And the palm trees waving

And the fog clouds rolling
 And the voice that came pounding
 As the waves came crashing said,

"THIS-LAND-WAS-MADE-FOR-YOU-AND-ME

YOURS IS

SANTA MONICA,

WHERE THE HOBOS KNOW MORE THAN THE KINGS
 AND SHOPPING CENTERS GO UP WHERE BIRDS USED TO SING"

Out of America a new order of social democracy
 Will raise the flag

When the red and the blue join with the green
 And the white joins with the black
 Held together by the lives of those people
 Whose one life in the whole earth, their share

One drop of ink can change the color
 of the whole ocean

One drop of blood can change the color
 of the whole earth

As one dream can shed the light on tomorrow
 In one picture in one moment comes out the birth

Unpainting the Town

By Pat Robinson

A recent article in one of the Sunday magazines laments the demise of a number of murals, particularly in Venice. The title of the piece calls them "vanishing" murals, and the author goes on to speak of these art works in such terms as "missing", "disappeared" and "slipped from public view", such passive verbs implying that they had somehow been effaced or dissolved by a mysterious fog from outer space.

Upon further examination, however, the Case of the Missing Murals conceals some hard political questions. Take the remarkable group of works "chopped in half when a wall at the Venice Pavilion was lowered." A nice euphemism for a fascist act of destruction performed solely so the police can keep an eye on the enclosure's nocturnal wine picnics. How strange that this rich-folks magazine deplores the death of the murals to a readership composed of the same good citizens who bitched so loudly about the bums sleeping behind the barbecue pits: the same affluent clone-heads who don't give a rat's ass about art except as an investment. Public art can't be owned by an individual, can't appreciate in value or provide income tax benefits. Historic murals may have their place in the sun - but not if the wall they're painted on conceals the shabby sleeping bags of those who don't participate in the Great American Money Chase. History, shmistory: saw the fucker down!

Moving on to the now-observed boardwalk mural "Venice in the Snow", which "vanished" when an apartment building was erected 18" away, and to an L.A. Fine Arts Squad work on Brooks Ave. adjacent to which a building is currently under construction. Going by such evidence as the calibre of its ads, it would appear that this Sunday magazine's readers are drawn from the same socio-economic group as the contractors and investors who profit from these structures. It's unlikely that they're losing very much sleep over the demise of a few art works.

Another mural whose disappearance the article laments is Terry Schoonhoven's "Study in Chrome and Gray", which formerly adorned the doors of one of the Milestone School's buildings on Rose Ave. The space had been let to a day-care center. When the lease ran out and the Milestone people would not renew it, claiming they needed the extra room, there was a widely-publicized protest. Involved parents and other community members picketed, and one dark night in the summer of '79 Schoonhoven's portrait of the desert acquired some extra brushstrokes, as a dissenter spelled out anti-Milestone sentiments in the strongest terms. Eventually the entire thing was painted over.

It's too bad about the defacing of this quite lovely mural, but after all no artist can ever rest secure that his work will be immortal. The real story here is the loss of the

Venice Children's Circle premises and its inability to find another appropriate space in the area is served with so much dedication. This facility, with its excellent caregivers, was loved by the children and was a blessing to their families: a good place. Milestone School for children with learning handicaps is also a good place.


Why was the painting damaged? Better we should ask why two good and worthy institutions must fight each other for space to do their work, why two organizations both trying to benefit our children must be at each other's throats. Seen in this light, the question of a damaged picture is only a red herring which distracts us from looking long and searchingly at a problem of much heavier implications.

Finally, to Windward Ave. and Schoonhoven's gigantic masterwork, variously called "St. Charles Mural" or "Doge's Downtown". According to the article this painting is now somewhat the worse for wear, having sustained "damage from cars and passersby". It is also partially veiled by a chainlink fence which the artist feels "changed the perspective".

A good argument might be made for the point of view that the fence only serves to enhance the trompe l'oeil effect. Be that as it may, Schoonhoven is quoted thus: "I can't look at that painting now...in fact I don't like looking at Windward Avenue any more." It seems unlikely that Terry S., who has been described by another journalist as a wryly humorous, philosophical type, meant it in quite that way. After all, the mural has been featured in *New West*, the *L.A. Times*, *Art News* and *God* knows where else, and reproduced by Environmental Communications in poster form. Perhaps Schoonhoven's share of the revenues from 100 signed lithos at \$25 per and an unnamed number of posters at \$10 apiece, will help ease his pain.

The unkindest cut of all, in a new development reported in a recent *Beachhead*, is the projected construction of a building which threatens to obscure the St. Charles mural entirely. The newest structure to menace the work of the last remaining member of the Los Angeles Fine Arts Squad will be... an artist's studio.

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8 NOT JOB: AN ADULT CHRISTMAS FANTASY

by Helen Ruffner

Every Monday through Friday evening the guard at the ABC studio on Vine Street admits the cast of NOT JOB, the wierdest Christmas play in the world. There they will rehearse in the headquarters of The Hollywood Revitalization Committee until one a.m.. They will open their show on December 5 here at The Church in Ocean Park. Scheduling is one of the big problems in an equity waiver show like this. Good actors get paying jobs and have to leave. Budgets are limited. Yet at this writing the cast has nicely stabilized with Mike Nissman, Pat Specks, Christopher Gerard, Jimell Dash, George Samaniego and Adrienne Regard. And the actors are hungry to rehearse the demanding roles.

Santa, Mrs. Santa, elves, a man-size puppy and a gay kitty cat...why don't all these creatures leave Los Angeles if the earthquakes are destroying the city?

As with HEY SAILOR, WHAT SHIP? (1975) at LaMamma Hollywood, AINT THIS IT? (1976), SURROGATES (1977) and most recently with the now-published Hopkins/Lindberg collaboration, DINOSAUR, Glenn Hopkins is directing his play himself.

I started putting on my own plays long before I realized it was a gauche thing to do. When people say you can't can't direct and write, what they mean is that it's two different sets of skills. They say 'you need feedback,' but I've never known theatre people to be shy about giving feedback. We were all trained to rip each other to shreds in theatre school. I've taken a beating from reviews a couple times too. No. People aren't shy about feedback. And I listen, too. Like the readings of NOT JOB at The Cast Theater and the Provisional earlier this year, or the discussions and term papers written by Mike Gordon's manuscript evaluation class at UCLA. I learned a lot and I was proud that the play did well with those three very different kinds of audience."


People ask me if I'm still writing and doing plays and I say, 'yeah, they keep trying to get me to quit but I won't do it.' I'm proud that the brightest people and the unpretentious people always like my plays. I've decided you've gotta challenge the intellectuals and please and excite and engage the groundlings and forget about the middle-brows. They are the ones that always have to ask each other before they decide what they think. Writing for those guys is what'll make you quit."

Hopkins puts on a convincing Southern drawl for the last part of the story

and puts his feet up on the cluttered desk in his Market Street apartment/office. Our talk is frequently interrupted by phone calls. He quickly tells prospective scenic designers that there is no salary.

"All the techies want money. We're pulling it off, though. People say, 'with the multiple themes and the cartoonish mode...Will other people get it?' They always get it, but they're so quick to presume they're superior to the average audience member, or that the montage I'm creating is just some random ego trip. I've worked for years to carefully structure the surprises and inevitabilities of this piece. This thing is gonna be like no other play you've ever seen."

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BY GLENN HOPKINS

Not Job

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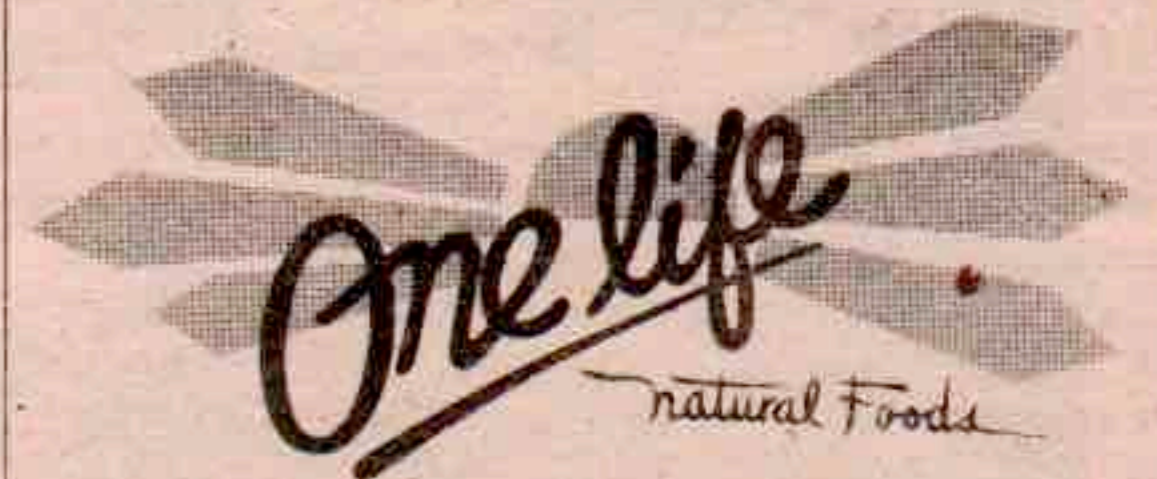
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INFORMATION: 399-0011

NOT JOB will run the first weekend of December at The Church in Ocean Park and then move to Channing Hall downtown for six additional shows. Information: 399-0011. ☆



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The filthy swine is at it again! Nixon has hit the Washington diplomatic circuit, showing up at the Soviet Embassy's celebration of the 63rd anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Good grief! Even Henry Kissinger seemed a bit uncomfortable. Nixon, apparently oblivious to it all, wheeled around the hall offering the 1000 guests and Ambassador Anatoliy and Irina Dobrynin his accumulated wisdom. Although the crook was the star attraction, many kept their attention on the buffet tables with their own stuffed pig as centerpiece.

Photo by Harry Naltchayan-The Washington Post

REPRESSION VS REVOLUTION

THE CASE OF BOB AVAKIAN AND THE MAO DEFENDENTS

By the Committee to Free the Mao Tsetung Defendants

November, 1980 marked the one year anniversary of the mass protest which successfully prevented the U.S. government from sending Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Revolutionary Communist Party, and the Mao Tsetung Defendants to prison for life. In November 1979, and the months leading up to that time, thousands of working people, of all backgrounds, wrote letters, sent telegrams, and finally took to the streets of Washington, D.C. to demand that the trumped-up charges be dismissed; that is to demand that the government cease its underhanded attempt to destroy this vanguard force and its role in forging the revolutionary movement in this country.

On November, 14, 1979, the government was forced to backdown and Judge Pratt dismissed the charges against the 17 Defendants. Since the dismissal, however, the government did not drop their campaign against the RCP and its Chairman. Immediately following the dismissal, the Secret Service launched a nationwide investigation against Bob Avakian. There were over 800 arrests of Party members and supporters, and one Party member-Damian Garcia, who flew the red flag over the Alamo-was even murdered by police agents in the months leading up to May 1st, building for revolutionary demonstrations on May Day. But now the government has decided that events compel them to escalate this attack and bring back the original 26 charges.

The events of 1980 in Iran, El Salvador, Miami, and Atlanta have sharpened the division between the forces of continuing oppression and imperialism and those of revolution and liberation. As part of their attempt to quell the mounting drive of the oppressed and conscientious people in this country, the government has seen to it that these charges have been reinstated. As Bob Avakian stated; "I think one of the things that has to be recognized...is that what goes on between the ruling class and our Party is not some abstraction without any relation to the class struggle. Rather it is in fact not only a part of but in an important way a concentrated expression of what is going on in society as a whole..." Once again we, as progressive and revolutionary-minded people, must demand that this political repression cease. We must stop the railroad of Bob Avakian and the Mao Tsetung Defendants.

The case of the Mao Tsetung Defendants began on January 29, 1979 when 500 demonstrators marched in Washington, D.C. to denounce the Chinese Vice-Premier Deng Xiao-ping for reversing Mao Tsetung's revolutionary direction and policies in China and for what the demonstrators termed "China's enlistment in the U.S. war bloc". As the march approached the White House, its permits were suddenly revoked, and a 15-minute full-scale assault by nearly 1000 police was unleashed. When the smoke cleared, 30 demonstrators were injured and 78 arrested, and charged with a misdemeanor, among them RCP Chairman, Avakian. Over 6 months later, 2 separate indictments were filed against a total of 17 Defendants, each indictment carrying over 100 years in prison. At first the government insisted that the two groups of defendants, one charged on 11 counts and the other with 15 counts of felonies, were significantly different and had to be tried separately.

On July 17, 1979, the Defendants filed to have their cases joined. On July 25, the government objected; (however it was later learned they had already obtained a secret indictment charging all Defendants with 25 felonies and 1 misdemeanor). Thus, as a result of their exercising their legal right of joinder, they each faced greatly increased sentences of 241 years in prison for each Defendant.

The Defendants claimed that the government's doubling of the charges following the defense's request for joinder amounted to prosecutorial vindictiveness and demanded that the

case be dismissed. (Normally all that needs to be demonstrated is that the prosecution's actions display the likelihood of vindictiveness, because the mere appearance that a defendant



is being punished for exercising his/her rights could be enough to dissuade others from freely exercising similar rights.)

In the three months that the judge took to "think about" his decision in this case, many thousands of concerned people let him and the government know what they thought about this case. With the help of newspaper articles (as appeared in the November, 1979 and February 1980 *Beachhead*) advertisements, leaflets, T.V. interviews, demonstrations etc. the public's outrage regarding this attempt to corruptly manipulate the legal system in order to squelch political opposition grew and grew. In the face of such overwhelming support for these Defendants and the undeniable facts of this case, the judge ruled that there was vindictiveness "as a matter of fact", and thereafter dismissed the charges.

The government immediately appealed the case, essentially arguing that this case amounted to a conspiracy by all Defendants. Lacking substantial evidence identifying most of the Defendants (including Bob Avakian) with any specific illegal acts the government claims they were involved in a "joint enterprise" to commit preplanned illegal acts.

So what does all this legal maneuvering mean to people in general? Consider this: joint enterprise is just a newly contrived name for what has been called witch-hunting, Mc Carthyism, and in the 1960's, conspiracy. The government prefers not to call this a conspiracy trial because, as Russell Canaan, defense attorney, states, "because conspiracy has become too easily recognized as a cover for political repression." The motivation behind such illegal repression is clarified in the opening paragraph of an article by two National Lawyers Guild members as:

"The use of conspiracy theory in criminal prosecutions has a long and sordid history as a cover for political repression. Phoenix-like, it seems to rise from the ashes whenever government finds itself threatened by political currents beyond its control. In what may be a run-through for the conspiracy doctrine of the 1980's, the government has invoked the legal concept of "joint enterprise" in an attempt to hold (the Mao Tsetung Defendants)..."

What is curiously revealing is that the Revolutionary Communist Party is currently attempting to enlist 100,000 co-conspirators. The conspiracy into which these workers and others are being enlisted is for the

purpose of spreading revolutionary thought and building a network of conscious activists through the distribution of the RCP newspaper, the REVOLUTIONARY WORKER. This effort, to educate the masses to enable them to bring about their own social, political, and economic rebirth through revolutionary action is part of why the government is so desperate to smash the RCP and its leadership, Bob Avakian. The government has created an illusory conspiracy in an attempt to banish this effort.

If the government is successful in prosecuting Bob Avakian and the Mao Tsetung Defendants, it will have precedent and encouragement to repress and imprison any dissenters it finds intolerable. The list of professionals and activists who recognize the significance of this case is impressive: Dave Dellinger, Daniel Sheehan (Karen Silkwood's attorney), Father Phillip Barrigan, the National Conference of Black Lawyers, the Nation Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, and many more. However, this effort to protect not only our constitutional rights, but to support and defend revolutionary leadership, cannot succeed without the support of everyone reading this article.

The Committee to Free the Mao Tsetung Defendants is calling for a flood of thousands of statements and telegrams and messages in any other form, to be sent to the D.C. Court of Appeals by December 4th to protest and oppose their reversal of the dismissal of the charges against the Defendants. We urge you as individuals and as organizations to send letters, telegrams, or messages to:

D.C. Court of Appeals
500 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

We are also asking that you send a copy of your statement to:

National Committee to Free the Mao Defendants
P.O. Box 6422
"T" Street Station
Washington, D.C. 20009

Information about this case and copies of the REVOLUTIONARY WORKER are available at the Venice-Ocean Park Food Co-op, 839 Lincoln Blvd. and at Revolution Books, 2597 W. Pico Blvd., L.A. 384-3856.

Finally, because the cost of this legal battle is tremendous we are urging people to contribute as much as they can in support of this effort. Donations can be made to the Committee, or if you wish a tax-deductible contribution, specifically earmarked for legal costs, it can be sent to:

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stable working and lower class community for generations. When Venice was first developed, blacks were allowed to purchase homes but not to rent. A number of blacks did, and they became the nucleus of the present black community here. Some Chicano families have been here as much as three generations. These communities are now under attack.

In today's inflation-ridden economy, third world youth have a staggering unemployment rate of between 75 and 85%! Study after study of the "causes of crime" undertaken by government agencies and law enforcement, as well as private entities, has shown that the single societal factor having the highest positive correlation with the crime rate is the unemployment rate. In other words, as unemployment goes up, so does crime, and as unemployment decreases, so does the crime rate.

Rents are skyrocketing and many third world families are being evicted to make way for the new gentry and new profits for the landlords. Faced with no jobs, no chance for college and no homes, many third world youth are about to explode. As one Oakwood youth put it, "Some kids may be committing crimes, but they aren't near the crimes committed on our community."

Oakwood is bordered by Washington Blvd. Here new shops and restaurants catering to a young, affluent crowd stand as a symbol of the new gentry. As whites move into Oakwood, they start at the boundaries near Washington Blvd., making the street itself a symbol of the invading white middle class. It is no coincidence that police report a much higher rate of crime here.

The Venice Beach Association, whose members include some of the people involved in the gentrification of Oakwood, has been instrumental recently in forming the Venice Business Association, in an attempt to unite business interests from various parts of Venice, particularly beach merchants with those of West Washington Blvd. Primary on the agendas of both groups is the issue of crime. These merchants need a middle class clientele to support their businesses. Some members of both groups are involved in land speculation. They may feel they need a large police force in Oakwood to protect the white citizens who are displacing minority community members, who presently stand in the way of real estate profits.

It is important to note that violence against racial minorities is also increasing in Venice, and elsewhere. In the last year signs proclaiming "kill niggers" and "niggers off the beach" have surfaced on the boardwalk along with swastikas and anti-Jewish slogans. Racist whites talk about "our beach", adding to the hostilities.

The media's cry for more police in Oakwood is ultimately a racist and violent solution. The experience of third world people in Los Angeles and Venice is that increased police in minority communities leads to more deaths of third world people, while doing little to solve the "crime rate".

One young black musician was returning to his home late at night several weeks ago, when he became aware that 2 white men were following him. He turned a corner. They followed. Finally, fearing for his safety, he decided to run for it. Suddenly one of the white men screamed "Freeze! Police!" The young black man had done nothing suspicious, but fortunately he froze or he could easily have been killed. The 2 white men were plainclothesmen with guns.

Recently in Venice two black youths happened to arrive at a bus stop at the same time, but from opposite directions. Police looking for 2 black suspects in a robbery detained them for nearly an hour, despite testimony from other people at the bus stop that the two had just met each other. The police had no other connection of the 2 besides the color of their skin.

Is reliance on the police the solution to the problem? Organizers on Breeze Avenue don't think so. They have been working with neighbors on Wavecrest to organize neighborhood support on a block level. They take turns walking together between 9 and 11 seven nights a week on their block. The idea is to create a presence, so people walking home at night, particularly women, will feel safer, and, perhaps even more im-

portantly, so that people will have a greater experience of community, of being connected and concerned with one another. One local Breeze Stroller said "It's great! You get to know your neighbors and you don't feel so isolated."

The Breeze Strollers try to avoid physical confrontation. "We're not a vigilante group" is a comment frequently made. The folks on Breeze don't believe that the walks will end crime, of course. But they do believe they can curb it, and in the process cut down on alienation and fear. They hold regular block parties and try to meet all their neighbors.


Betty Brooks, a L. B. State professor, has held a series of self-defense workshops for women at the Boys and Girls Club of Venice. Local women have been unanimous in their praise of the classes. One Breeze resident claims that she has had much greater confidence since taking the class. The next one is scheduled for January 8th from 7 to 10 P.M.

Community involvement is essential, but if Reagan makes the cuts expected, we should expect to have more crime. Reagan plans to cut C.E.T.A., the government's major job training program. He also plans to cut welfare and essential benefits for the poor. He could probably cut unemployment compensation directly. His policy of not interfering with business and trusting on the "good will" of moneyed interests in this country to provide jobs will probably mean greatly increased unemployment. His dedication to beefing up the military budget and increasing defense spending will result in increased unemployment since defense industries employ proportionately few people. And finally, there's a very good chance that he will take the right-wing's advice and eliminate affirmative action programs in hiring, which will greatly increase unemployment among minorities and women.

As has been shown, unemployment increases directly relate to crime increases. The fight against crime in the next decade will require a fight to support a decent standard of living for all citizens. If we are not willing to wage that fight, we will also have to accept an even higher level of crime.

The Conference Against Racism had one workshop project involving the issue of crime. Participants from this workshop will be reporting back to the community on December 13th. (See page 2 of this issue.)

All people concerned with the issue of crime are urged to attend.




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even these minimal advances were only made possible by the unprecedented growth experienced by capitalism on a world scale. The "crumbs" given working people were generally sufficient to keep much working class and third-world opposition within the parameters of the controlled, bourgeois parties.

Between the American defeat in Vietnam, the rise of Warsaw Pact Power, and the reconstruction of Europe and Japan, the U.S. lost its absolute military and economic superiority. Simultaneous inflation and unemployment, a declining dollar overseas, and the continuing revolt against U.S. imperialism, all mean that liberal policies can no longer sustain liberal promises. The economy is shrinking and the pie will never be as large again. It's time for a reevaluation.

Liberals can either advocate substantial state intervention in the economy---wage price control, a takeover of energy sources, etc.---and a more egalitarian view of America's role in a changing world, or they can institute the conservatism of an earlier age by re-distributing income toward the wealthy and re-instituting Cold War militarism and attempting to restore American control over less developed nations.

As this crunch has developed, liberal and moderate Democrats, Jimmy Carter among them, have vacillated. J.C. tried to use fiscal policy through tax rebates to curb inflation while at the same time decontrolling domestic oil prices. When this failed, Carter resorted to a government induced recession. In the face of losses in Iran, Nicaragua, El Salvador, et al, he has reverted to traditional Cold War policies. The results have been disastrous, with unemployment and inflation both rising and an increase in American bellicosity and military spending which have served not to revive American dominance, but only to bring the threat of annihilation to the fore.

The Liberals have just paid the price for this non-strategy. Republicans, by promising to fulfill liberal promises by conservative means, split apart the old Democratic coalition and picked up half of the blue-collar, Catholic and Jewish votes. Reagan appealed directly to Northern blue-collar workers with an assault on the liberal state and a willingness to jettison past anti-labor positions such as Right-to-Work laws, aid to Chrysler, and opposition to OSHA. However, he indicated his preference for loosening the forces of the free enterprise system, proposing, for instance, the proposal for tax free "enterprise zones" in central cities. After four years of Jimmy Carter's non-action, even such obvious pre-business rhetoric sounds plausible as an alternative to more liberal non-solutions.

The Republican sweep was aided by the declining turnout amongst the electorate a drop concentrated among minorities, blue-collar workers and youth--in short those voters who might have voted Democratic had the liberal solution appeared viable. In New York, Elizabeth Holtzman lost by less than 150,000 votes with voter turnout down over 500,000 from 1976.

Liberal democrats blame many individual failures of Carter policy for the overall loss, but each of these were merely the elements of a larger choice. The successful use of wage-price controls requires permanent government intervention in the economy - Nixon's experiment in 1972 failed precisely because of this. But any more decisive step is more than traditional liberalism has allowed, and more than the business half of the alliance that sustains the Democratic Party will countenance. It requires a break that neither Carter nor any other politician bound to the Democratic party and its labor-business alliance can probably make even if they had the foresight and courage to do so.

Reagan's policies stand as little chance of success. The massive Kemp-Roth tax cuts will widen the gap between rich and poor but will not "get America back to work", and his program of massive arms increases will not win back the Third World or achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union. More likely, these policies will plunge us into another Vietnam or into W.W.III. This means

TENANT ALERT!

Governor Brown has signed two bills which relate directly to tenants' rights and which all renters in the state should be informed about.

Bill S.B. 1645 was introduced by Sen. Alan Sieroty (representing Venice). It requires that tenants must be given notice when an application for a condominium conversion has been filed and prospective tenants must be notified of any impending conversion before paying their deposits and moving in.


A companion bill (S.B.1838) will extend the notice required to a tenant from 120 day to 180 days.

S.B. 1645 also requires that tenants be notified of all public hearings on such a conversion and that they be told that they have the right to speak at such hearings.

Tenants desiring purchase of their apartment in a condominium conversion will now have 90 days to make that decision, instead of the current 60 day option.

All of the following laws go into effect beginning January, 1981.

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Neighborhood Justice Center

The Neighborhood Justice Center (NJC) is a dispute resolution center which helps people settle disputes, conflicts or disagreements through mediation in which both sides sit down with a skilled neutral Mediator to talk out their differences and arrive at a solution which satisfies both sides. A successful mediation will usually end with a written agreement.

The existing justice system, such as the police and the courts, are overcrowded and overburdened. They are being called on to deal with situations which could be better served by mediation. Disputes which the NJC is helpful in resolving involve tenants and landlords, consumers and merchants, roommates, neighbors, employees and employers, domestic situations and other personal disputes involving a continuing relationship.

They have received more than 10,000 phone calls, opened approximately 2,000 cases, mediated more than 900 disputes and have made over 4,000 referrals since opening in April of 1978. The NJC is a free public service project serving all of Los Angeles and is available to anyone who desires the service of mediation. They are funded by the United States Department of Justice through a grant to the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

If you have a dispute you can call or come into the NJC and be interviewed by an NJC intake worker. The other party is then contacted and a mediation session is scheduled with a specially trained NJC Mediator at a time convenient to all.

The NJC is located at 1527 Venice Blvd., several blocks east of Lincoln. You can call them at 390-7666 or 870-5679.

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The second round of registration for the draft is scheduled for the week of January 5-9. Males born in 1962 and 1963 should get draft counseling as soon as possible. Counseling is offered free of charge by the Venice/Santa Monica Draft Task Force on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, 7-9 pm, at the Church in Ocean Park, 235 Hill St. (at 2nd near Main), and on Saturday mornings, 10-12, at the Tenant Action Center, 1301 Main St. in Venice (at Westminster Ave.). Counseling for Spanish speaking people is offered at the Tenant Action Center. Undocumented workers are advised not to register, as this could result in their deportation. For more information, call 396-3659 or 399-1150.

Once again the government's timing is designed to make student mobilizations against the draft most difficult. The Venice/Santa Monica Draft Task Force is therefore gearing up to reach local draft age youth before the holidays. Leaflets will be distributed at high schools, colleges and in local communities. People wishing to participate in anti-draft activities before, during and after the holidays should contact the Draft Task Force at the above numbers.

Despite government threats of imprisonment and fines for failure to register, there was over 25% non-compliance with the two week registration this last summer. Over one million young men are in violation of draft laws. There have been no prosecutions, however, and none are expected until after the Supreme Court decides on the constitutionality of a male-only draft. This decision may come in February. Whatever the decision, experts agree that it will be practical and politically impossible for the government to track down and prosecute more than a small percentage of non-registrants.

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-- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10. **11**

that, if we survive, in 1984 we will see a moderate Democrat successfully charging President Reagan with using recession to fight inflation and with permitting American prestige to drop in the world.

Liberals are already headed in that direction and they are not confronting the basic choices facing American Capitalism. Governor Brown's Commission on Education favors what amounts to an elimination of the California Public School System, and Brown accepts great cuts in social funding; Tom Hayden proposes an "alliance of builders and renters which guarantees incentives (read: high profits)", and Ted Kennedy has promised Reagan a six-month honeymoon and a bear hug, not to mention his infamous SB 1725. Can anyone seriously maintain that working-class and third world people and women should put their hopes and their lives in the hands of such people?

It must be stated that from a working class point of view we did in fact face a choice between the lesser of two evils this past fall, and that this choice was made in a time of scariness and scarcity. We must continue, however, to see that without building a party based on our interests, without taking that step just taken by the NEPA, we will forever be confronting the same kinds of sorry choice and will never get around to posing the question of fundamental social change. Without an independent electoral vehicle we stand no chance of breaking our dependence on wishy-washy liberals who are in turn dependent on big business and its accomodating labor partners in the Democratic Party.

What must be accomplished in the next period is the building of a working class party or parties, based upon movements which have clear class allegiances such as the renters movement, the Black movement, the Reproductive Rights movement, the ecology/anti-nuke movement etc., and ultimately and indispensable, an uncompromised labor movement. It is essential for these forces to see each other as allies and working partners and to see that grand seducer, the Democratic Party as entirely compromised and responsible in large part for the fudging of class lines in American society. I plan to spend much of my political time between the renters movement, the anti-racist movement, and the Citizen's Party which seems capable of talking sense to many, many people. My reasons for emphasizing these areas of work will be explained in later articles. I also see alliances with Democrats on specific issues such as Civil Liberties as necessary, but will always speak out against the repeated temptation to put our eggs in that particularly leaky basket. After all, if this is not the time to build an independent political party, when will the time ever come?

While all of the above truly reflects my own thoughts, I would highly recommend two articles which supplied much of the factual material for my analysis. They are: Manning Marable's "Towards a Black Political Party" in the Nov/Dec issue of Moving On, the Magazine of the New American Movement, and John Judis' "It's 'no' to Liberalism by a Landslide" in the Nov 12, 1980 issue of In These Times. Solidarity! ●

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The Baby'on Warriors, popular reggae and ska group, will play a benefit dance for the Venice/Santa Monica Draft Task Force on Saturday, December 20 at 9PM at The Church in Ocean Park, 235 Hill Street, Santa Monica.
Tickets are on sale at the Bookshop in Ocean Park, 212 Pier Ave. Tickets are \$4.00 in advance or \$4.50 at the door. For info call: 396-3659 or 399-1150.

COOPERATION AMONG CO-OPS

Thurs., Dec. 11, 7 p.m.. FREE.
A meeting of many cooperative groups in Los Angeles to share information and explore ways to work more closely together. Reps. from Humanist Construction Co-op, S.M. Consumer Credit Union, Muscle Beach Weightlifting Co-op, Cooperativity, and Rt. Two Community Housing Co-op plus Jerry Voorhis. Embassy Aud., 839 So. Grand, Downtown L.A. For info call 626-1453. ask for C.R.S.

REBUILDING NICARAGUA

Frid, Dec. 12, 7:30 Church in O.P. 235 Hill St. Info 822-9812. Santa Monica Venice Alliance for Survival presents forum. Rev Phil Zwerling, recently returned from Nicaragua, will report and show slides on health, education and human services. Joined by Hon. Manuel Valle, Consul-Gen of Nicaragua in L.A. FREE discussion and refreshments.

GIFTS FOR HOMELESS KIDS

Christmas gifts for County Foster Children sponsored by CATHY. Tree located in Center Court of Fox Hills Mall in Culver City. Volunteer staff needed from 10 am to 10 pm, M-thru Sun. For info call Norma Jacobs 478-5511, x 222

GERONIMO PRATT BENEFIT

Sat. Dec. 13, 10am-3 pm. Benefit garage and craft sale to help free G. Pratt and the Pontiac Brothers. Parking lot, Church in Ocean Park 235 Hill St.

L.A. Oceanic Society

Dec. 11, 8 p.m. Public Meeting. Year of the Coast, "Wildlife in the Tidelands" by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

January 8, "Return from Oblivion--The California Grey Whale" with Em. Rosales of Cabrillo Marine Museum.

Thursday nights, 8 pm. Chace Park Community Bldg., M.D.R.

HOUSE AND APT SHARING FOR SENIORS

Dec. 12, 2-4 pm. Sponsored by Senior housing Assistance in Sharing Program and S.M. Westside Senior Multiservice Center. For older persons who own their own homes and want to share for companionship or some of the household responsibilities with those who have been forced out of apartments by high rents or condo conversions. At Santa Monica Place Community Room. Info Martha Fitzgerald 394-3795

FILM

- Dec. 11. THE LADY KILLERS. 76 min. b/w. 1955. Alec Guinness, Peter Sellers. 3, 7:30pm, Santa Monica Public Library, 1343 6th St. Free.
- Dec. 12. UNION MAIDS. Presented by Westside Branch of NAM. Marine Park Auditorium 1406 Marine St., Santa Monica. 7:30 pm. \$2 donation. Call 829-7251.
- Dec. 18. SHOW BOAT. 108 min. color, 1951. Ava Gardner, Kathryn Grayson, Howard Keel. 3, 7:30 pm, Santa Monica Public Library, 1343 6th St. Free.

THEATER

- THE GREAT AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHT SHOW. Thru Dec. 21. Wed. and Sun. 8 pm. Odyssey Theatre, 12111 Ohio Ave., W.L.A. Call 826-1626 or 879-5221.
- IN NEED OF CARE and IN THE COUNTRY'S NIGHT. Thru Dec. 14. Fri & Sat. 7:30 pm and Sun., 5 pm. Night Flight Theatre, 1707 N. Kenmore, Hollywood. Call 656-2915.
- PENELOPE. Thru. Jan. 4. The Fifth Street Studio Theatre, 4157 W. 5th St., L.A. Call 383-7177.

WOMEN

Widow-to-Widow Support Group Program. A 10-week seminar, beginning Dec. 8. Free. 7 pm, Columbia Savings, 3021 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Call 450-5150, Ext. 367 for information.

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- Dec. 14. Santa Monica Symphony. 8 pm. Free. Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. Call 399-9961 for information.
- McCABES
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- Dec. 6. Chambers Brothers & Bessie Jones. \$5.50. 7:30 & 10 pm
- Dec. 7. Bessie Jones. \$3. 11 am and Noon.
- Dec. 12. Gordon Bok, Ann Muir, Ed Trickett and Don Lange. 8 & 10:30 pm. \$6.50.
- Dec. 13. Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown. \$7.50. 8 & 10:30 pm
- Dec. 15/16. Charlie Haden, Arthur Blythe, and Pat Metheny. \$9.50. 8 & 20:30 pm. Pico at 31st St., Santa Monica. 828-4497

POETRY

- BEYOND BAROQUE POETRY
 - Three Nights of L.A.'s Top Poets. Thurs, Dec 18th 8 p.m. Holly Prado, Eloise Klein Healy, Leland Hickman, Manazar, Deena Metzger.
 - Fri, Dec. 19th. Robert Peters, Ron Koertge, Michael Ford, Jack Grapes, Patricia Whitten, Bob Flanagan and Jack Skelley.
 - Sat., Dec 20th. Lewis MacAdams, Kate Braverman, Michael Silverblatt, Dennis Cooper, William Mohr.
 - Dec. 5. Maurice Kenny and Robert Burdett Sweet.
 - Dec. 7. Open Poetry Reading.
 - Dec. 12. Ten Los Angeles Poets: William Mohr, Michael Silverblatt, David Trinidad, Amy Gertsler and more.
 - Dec. 13. Five Black Poets: Ahmos Zu-Bolton, Doris Davenport, Joanne Jimason, and Curtis Lyle.
- Old Venice City Hall, 681 Venice Blvd., Free. All at 8 p.m. Call 822-3006.

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