

Inside  
 Politics . 3  
 Love . 4  
 Food . 5

# FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

SINCE 1968

CHEE WAW-WAW

FREE

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## Town Council Sues Over Hughes

by MOE STAVNEZER

In the boldest legal action of its long and bold history, the Venice Town Council has sued the City of Los Angeles and Howard Hughes Properties over the proposed Playa Vista project. The legal action is aimed at the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which the Town Council has, throughout the past year, said was inadequate and in need of major revision. The City steadfastly refused to make any concessions or even minor alterations to deal with the many issues raised by the VIC and other community and environmental groups who participated in the public hearings throughout 1985.

Playa Vista, which the City Council voted to annex to the City, is a billion dollar development—probably the biggest in California and very possibly the entire country. It envisions what amounts to a whole new city between Venice and the airport which will have a residential population of some 20,000 people in addition to a work force of about 18,000 people. Buildings may be as tall as 600 feet (50 STORIES!), taller than any building outside of downtown L.A. Traffic generated by Playa Vista will be enormous. The City's EIR indicates that almost all of the major intersections in the vicinity of Playa Vista will be at gridlock after its construction which prompted a L.A. Grand Jury to issue a very negative

report on the project. Certainly not least or last is the fact that our City Councilwoman, Pat Russell, is a very strong supporter of Playa Vista.

The Town Council has included the following areas of "significant adverse impact" in the law suit:

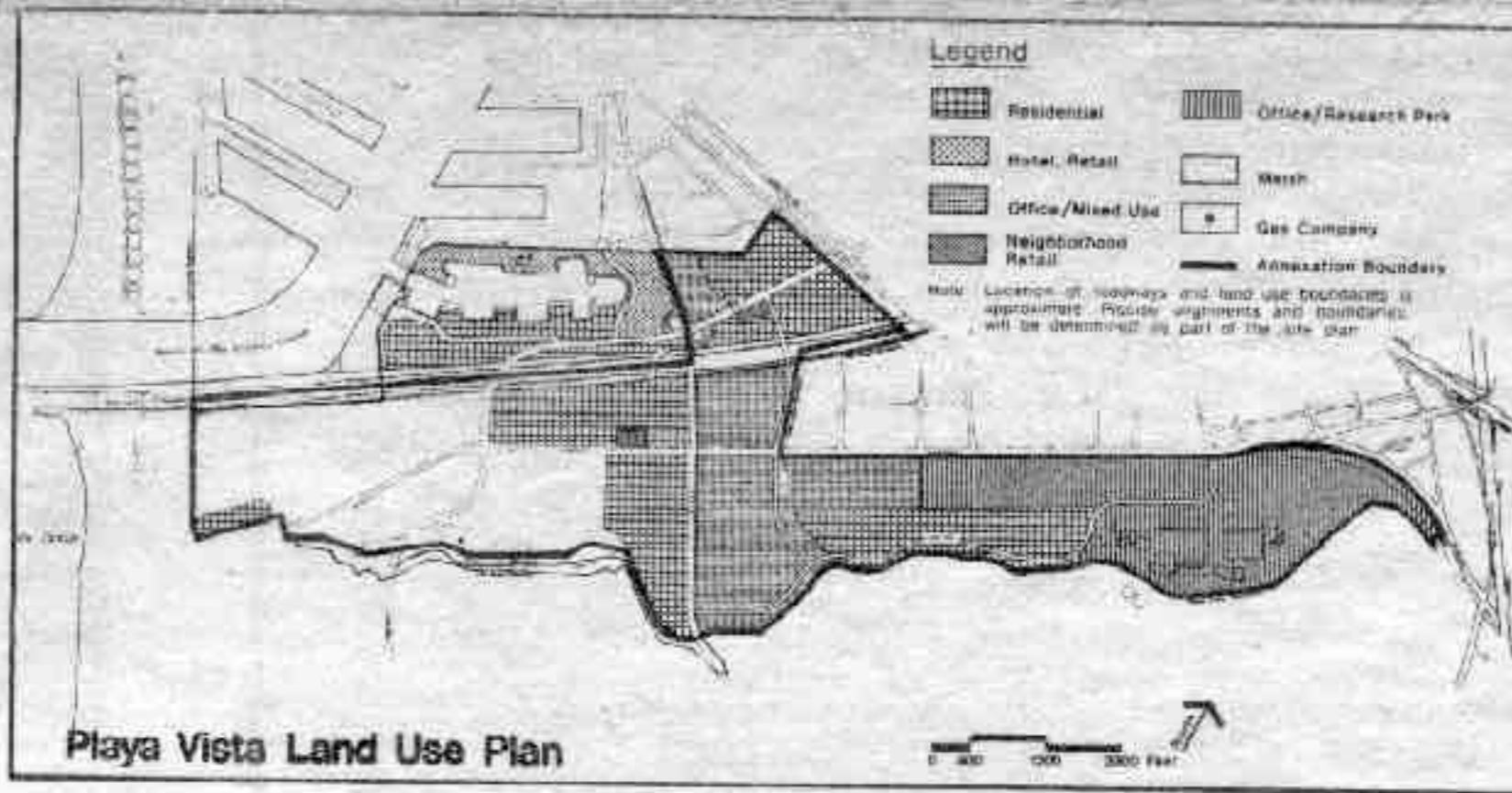
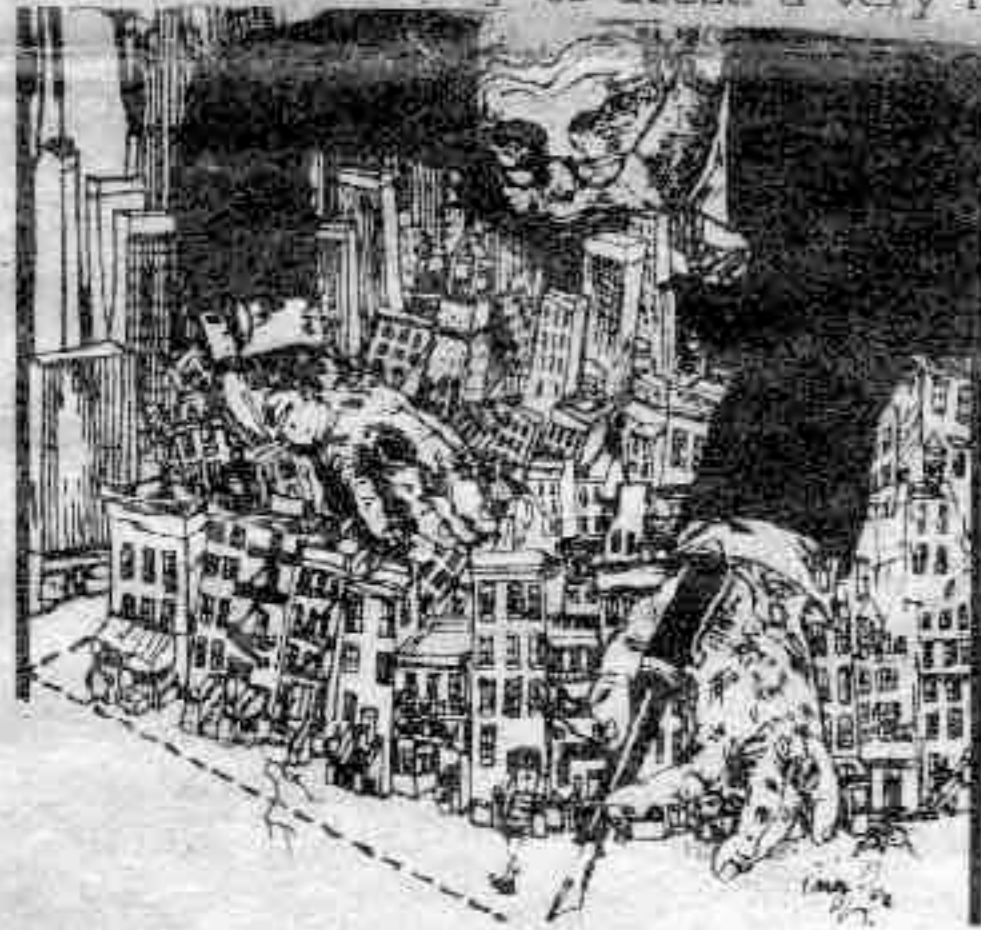
- + Sewage: The EIR omits any discussion of the impact that the additional sewage from the project will have on an already stressed Santa Monica Bay. Lack of capacity at the Hyperion Treatment Plant is entirely glossed over. (The EIR is seriously inadequate in this area and we're asking the City to correct its information so we'll know just what the real situation is and how to deal with it).
- + Traffic: The EIR forecasts gridlock at all the major intersections on Centinela, Culver and Jefferson and 8 of 9 intersections on Lincoln. In other words, the Washington & Lincoln corner will become the way things are for miles around us. (That intersection is already among the 5 busiest in L.A.).
- + Jobs/Housing Imbalance: The vacancy rate in office buildings on the Westside hovers around 20% while the housing supply is far below the demand. Playa Vista will ultim-

ately employ 18,000 in office jobs, but housing for only 42% of that number. That obviously aggravates the housing shortage (a situation that prompted General Telephone to move out of Santa Monica). The EIR gave short shrift to this situation by only considering alternatives that maintained the current situation (the suggestion that the VIC made to convert the project to all residential was ignored).

+ Aesthetics: Imagine 50-story buildings on the horizon. In response to objections to such height the City agreed to move these monoliths away from the cliffs; hey, thanks a lot! Aside from how big they'll be, 50 story buildings will cast shadows of a ¼ of a mile -- bye, bye sunshine.

Playa Vista will be 3 times larger than Century City! It will be more populous than 25 cities along the coast! It will change how we live and where we live -- for the worst. The VIC has not opposed all development of Hughes' property. Instead we feel that the density has to be scaled down so that the impact on this, and other communities, will be reduced to a tolerable level. The law suit seeks to show that the EIR glosses over many, if not all, of the potential adverse impacts and is therefore quite inadequate. We'd like to the City to rewrite the EIR in a manner that takes into consideration many of our concerns. We were forced to bring the suit because those concerns have thus far been ignored.

But legal action costs money. The Town Council, which is now incorporated, needs your financial support. We also need people who are willing donate time doing graphic work for a fund raising mailer. If you can help in any way please write or call us. Our address is 681 N. Venice Bl. You can also call the various members of the litigation committee: Patrick McCartney 392-7095; Joan Cory 396-8332; Don Tollefson 392-8385; Moe Stavnezer 822-4725. This development will shape the future of the Westside of L.A. and will have great impact on Venice from increased traffic, high-rise, high-density buildings and the sheer impact of another 20,000 people at our back door. Give generously. After all it's your community that's at stake.



## Bradbury to Speak Death in Venice

by Joan Del Monte

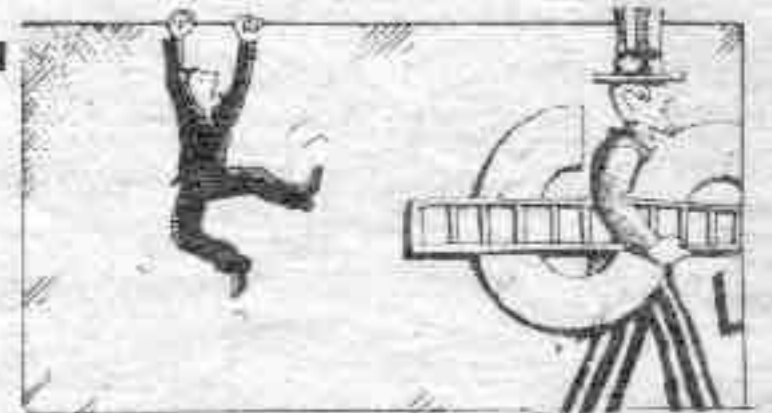
A tour de force. I was once present at a dinner with a group of headwaiters and their Italian Maitre d. Without a word they decided to one up one another. One stretched like an elegant cat and served the salad dressing, right on target, from head height. Another idly reached for a fork and dismembered an artichoke, serving it in rows of perfectly parallel leaves. A third judiciously selected a knife and attacked the loaf of bread with a series of lightning chops that would have forced a Benihana chef to fall on his sword in envy. The Maitre d. let the children play. Then he stood at one end of the table, took a large fork and spoon in one hand and a stack of plates in the other. He served the spaghetti course with the with the spaghetti in a perfect curl down the center of each plate, with all the ends tucked under.

That's a tour de force. Which brings me, believe it or not, to Ray Bradbury's new myster, Death is a Lonely Business, based on his recollections of his life here in the 1950s. It's 1949 and bulldozers are chomping the great roller-coaster at POP; all Venice shudders with each impact. A young writer returns to Venice on the old P.E. red car and while

crossing one of the canal bridges to his woodframe house, looks down into the oil slicked water to see a dead body. So starts the novel, in which Bradbury obviously shifts time and weather to suit himself—he has Venice enveloped in a worn grey fog for three months straight—and he goes on to a vivid list of minor characters: Cal, the barber whose haircuts are so atrocious they are instantly recognizable by any Venice resident; an elderly lady which is dying in genteel fashion behind a sign on Speedway that reads "Canaries for Sale" in 30 year old faint pencil; and an aging movie queen who romps naked in the surf every night.

Bradbury has pacing problems—the novel drags its feet at several points and some of it just doesn't work—but he manages a McGuffin. A McGuffin, according to Alfred Hitchcock, is the one relevation which when made makes sense of the mystery. Difficult to do; it's one way of separating the sheep from the goats among mystery writers. Bradbury pulls off a nifty one. Hats off to you, sweetheart, Ray the Ram. A tour de force.

To publicize the novel, Bradbury speaks at the Venice library, 610 California Avenue, February 5th at 7:30.



You are cordially invited  
 To dance your heart out,  
 at  
 The Beachhead Valentine's Day  
 "Love is Hell" Benefit Dance.  
 Friday, February 14, 8pm  
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To Venice Beachhead

I was impressed with Jim Prickett's article relating to anti-Semitism. It was intelligent and factual. His candor reflected a class personality. I am a proud Jew, whose one and only allegiance is to the land of his birth, the United States of America. It is the best nation on Earth for a human to exist on, until something better ever comes along -- which I greatly doubt.

Thank you for printing my Israel Levin Center piece, a while back. --E.S.

Dear Editors:

This is another angry letter of protest over the absolutely Unconstitutional discrimination that Venice suffers at the hands of LA city because of unequal protection of the law.

I am not referring to the cute Beach-children on bikes, on Ocean Front Walk who play Tourist Attraction for the drably dressed Visitors, while harassing the more variably dressed locals. Nor am referring to the prowling Nemeses in Black-and-White, who lock down Venice at Night the way they do a jail.

This time I am protesting the Yuppies newest tactic for taking over Venice: the Discriminatory Rent Ordinance.

Santa Monica has distinctly different Pent Laws from LA, and Venice needs local autonomy in this vital Community concern, whether or not it regains Cityhood. When a landlord maintains a dump and gets Rich, that is a Slum Lord or Slum Lady, but when they maintain a dump and stay Poor, that is Charity!

Frankly, I would rather live in a dump by the Sea, in Venice, than anywhere in Beverly Hills. They would rather I lived here too and we deserve the same Rights to keep the BH-types out of Venice that they do to keep Free Thinkers off Rodeo Drive.

What can be done to get Local Autonomy over Rent Ordinances?

Sincerely, Terry Hardly

P.S. Here is a cheap trick for Venice locals with Rats. Keep garbage in a tight can all Day, and put it outside when you go to bed. This will get them out of the Place for the Night.

If you have Roaches, then use the same trick. Put your garbage in the sink at Night, to keep them away from the bed. In BH they poison themselves to kill these things.

Dear Beachhead:

Love your paper, its coverage of Venice issues and its off the wall nature. Keep on rolling.

Love, Andre

P.S. \$10 for my subscription is enclosed.

Dear Collective:

Thank you so much for running another of my stories, on page 9 of issue 193. Frankly, you illustrated it better than I had even imagined!

slim's story on Moe leaving touched me because I enjoy his stories and views in the Beachhead. When Dave Marsh left Rolling Stone they lost Moe (and others) because he misplaced Mr. Marsh.

Druids always encourage folks to make their own choices, and wish them well. I wish Writer Stavnezer well, and I hope the Collective will keep his fans current, as Stone did not.

Moe and I spoke only once, briefly, but I did promise him that I would show up some Sunday to work on the Beachhead, but ... as W. C. Fields once said: "Things happened." So far.

At the moment I am busy starting a Union Political Action Committee. The Collective inspired me to start with a Union newspaper, with the Committee as Editor.

Enclosed is the last product of my individual effort, the American Druid Monitor. It goes to a quarterly magazine format on 3-20, but I have enclosed a column exclusive to the Beachhead that I can probably do monthly if you

Good luck to Moe and the Collective, and remember that the Druidic god is

All for fun,

Tim on Dick the Druid

P.S. My deadline for Venice news (esp. archet. conservation, etc) is Arbor Day, 3-7.



Dear Beachhead:

This announces publicly that I myself personally left the Venice Town Council in January, 1985, given its newly adopted by-laws, and otherwise supports John Haag's assessment of its recent incorporation.

Mr. Haag's details are wrong. The corporation does have a reconsideration provision designed to curtail abuses of authority, membership packing of meetings by outside interests, or stupid policies ill-advised or ill-considered. The board can simply mandate that participation in two council meetings satisfies the five hour volunteer labor requirement for membership in lieu of dues. Government funding is available to legal individuals that is not available to forms and essences.

In Tom Hayden's 1985 paper, Going West: California and the Future of the Democratic Party, his reliance on the rich man's economic scarcity assumption that the planet is finite (as though once consumed the atoms leave it forever): built a logic of management and control able to lead to nothing better than a shooting war for the so-called scarce resources. Therein lies a justification for guns as well as the impoverishing of certain of the neighbors. He publicly stated that he had consulted with experts. The sophistication of the paper suggests that they were professionals.

Professional persons adopted and put in place a percentage cost-of-living adjustment that is wrong: with their lawyering, with their writing, with their science and with their management. (I personally advocate replacing the percentage basis with an equal dollar amount which increases itself the percentage of the rise of rise of prices: since banks tend to pay interest, stocks tend to be paid dividends per share, profits tend to be maximized in unit pricing industries so that the free market has people with money to sell its goods and services. The percentage basis is wrong since it deprives businesses a lower income market to sell. Experts use the percentage basis in government programs and pensions.

This relates to the Venice Town Council since they are professional people, professionally trained, and they are wrong. All their training reduces to what Hayden did in Going West: their reliance on sophistication as the repository of truth. They are wrong about everything: history, organization, social order and daily life. Their substitute is forms, complex rules, and procedure as is.

In an open council meeting I attended, on my suggestion that the corporation put an attorney on retainer to help filling out the legal forms, there being expertise in the council itself, an attorney present, within thirty seconds, said, "You mean work for free?"

You can't tell them anything, and they clearly don't listen. Their reliance on their structures bars all effective discourse. Such is their training, and in that they are wrong.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Gregg formerly First Chair, Beach and Recreation Committee

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Patrick McCartney, Diane Nickerson, Carol Fondiller, Jim Prickett, Kate Keeling and Memphis Slim. Thanks to Susie Grochowski.

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.



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PARKING SCAM DENIED--One individual connected with the Eat-a-Pita parking lot strongly denies the implication in my article that he gets a kick-back from Danny Daytona's. "There is no scam," he has told the Beachhead.

---Patrick McCartney.



# P & F Locals

## Announce Candidacy

Four local people are gathering signatures so they can qualify for the primary to be held June 3rd. They are all local Peace and Freedom Candidates.

Here is a partial list of Peace and Freedom plat form.

A freeze on nuclear weapons as a first step toward total nuclear disarmament. Reduction of all military weapons towards disarmament. No draft registration and release of draft resisters. Conversion from military to peaceful production.

Socially useful work on guaranteed income for all. Affirmative action to overcome racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination. Adequate and secure housing. A poison free and protected environment.

Extended and fare free public transportation. The right of all workers to strike and to organize and control working conditions.

CAROL BERMAN is our candidate for State Assembly, 44th District. An actress and writer, who has long been active in the Venice community's resistance to development that displaces people.

Carol is especially concerned about renters' rights, low-income housing and protection of the coastal environment. Her purpose in running is to promote the principles of the Peace and Freedom Party and to involve people in our activities.

JOHN HAAG is our candidate for State Controller. He was a founder of the Peace and Freedom Party and its first official state chair, 1968 to 1970. He has run for State Senate, Lt. Governor and Congress. Besides working as an organizer for the Santa Monica-Venice Chapter, he is active in the Big Mountain Support Group and Green Alternative-Los Angeles.

John plans to emphasize preservation of the natural environment, limits to industrial growth, economic and political decentralization appropriate technology, animal rights, non-violence, disarmament, feminist values and aid to the homeless.

ABBY KIRK is our candidate for State Senate, 22nd District. She lives in Santa Monica, is a single mother and works as a medical transcriber. Her commitment to nuclear disarmament has led her several times to acts of civil disobedience in cooperation with several groups.

Abby will campaign for increased awareness of nuclear arms/nuclear power issues in public schools. She is also concerned about providing quality day care for children of working parents, state budgeting for humane services for the mentally ill and the provision of quality health care for all.

THOMAS L. O'CONNOR, JR. is our candidate for U.S. Congress, 27th District. He is an accountant who has dedicated his skills to the Movement. He was Treasurer of the Free Venice Food Co-Op and is now Treasurer of the Santa Monica-Venice PFP Chapter. He is active with the Big Mountain Support Group and the Audobon Society-Santa Monica Bay Chapter.

Tom plans to campaign on issues affecting the environment, peace, Native American rights and the U.S. involvement in Central America.

For information on how to get involved call 396-3555.

-CAROL FONDILLER



# Canal Controversy

By Carol Foniller

One thing is certain about the Canals. Things are never certain.

It seems that there are several homeowners groups in the canals of which only one seemed to be instrumental in getting the Canal assessment district passed.

According to the other homeowners groups, the Canal Residents and property owners associations was the only one who wanted this assessment district in this particular version. The City is kicking in about \$500,000. dollars for dredging and improvements and the property owners, all of them, even those who don't want it, will be assessed approximately \$7,000.00 per property, a jump up from the \$4,000.00 originally proposed. In all my years at meetings, I have never seen estimated costs go down.

The meeting officially known as Venice Canals restoration - Coast Hearing, was fought with drama. At the previous "Unofficial" meeting with all the city reps from environment and engineering, the Venice Canal Residents and Property Owners Association seemed to be in the majority. I was told later by some canal residents that some home-owners were excluded from the organization because "they were not on the right side." That is, the dredging of the canals. At the September meeting about the canals, Rick Morgan city engineer, jokes about overweight ducks and how cute little architects drawings of what the canal restoration would look like. Somehow in architects' renderings, everything is made to look, well, ideal, I can understand that but what I can't understand in this particular case is the canal renderings. All the houses on the canals were little cottages that are held in such low esteem by certain developers and homeowners. In not one of the drawings of the big two and three story developments that have been popping up disguised as "one family dwellings". Oh, really? - I digress...

It was almost old home week at the January 14th meeting. Darryl Du Fay was there speaking for the development and thanking the city and Property Owners Homeowners Assoc. for their plans and accusing a small group of dissidents, just as his parents did 18 years ago of "stopping progress". The only thing is that most of the "dissidents" of 18 years ago have been pushed out and there are a new set of dissidents, some of whom are homeowners and ex-members of the Property and Homeowners Association. Sentiments pro and con development, seemed about equal among the 300 residents who attended.

David Cogden who opposed the project, spoke of wishing to restore the "historic feel" and wanted the project to be more environmentally sensitive..."an endangered species, The Least Tern forages in the canals."

Reed Monroe, a developer who used to "recycle" i.e., get rid of the Free Venice Beachhead before it was distributed and in the past has threatened to treat all who opposed him "the way we treat the Viet Kong", expressed a need for human values of safety and welfare of the community. He accused a "small group of dissidents" of "holding the Least Tern Hostage" to stop the canal project.

A lot more people seemed to be more concerned with the environment than the previous meeting. Jim Doty at the Conservation Unit spoke of relocating the ducks, I could see it, tiny closed trains, no windows, the clacking of the wheels muffling the sounds of quacking as the sealed trains rolling relentlessly towards downtown Los Angeles at it's final stop...The Kowloon Poultry Co. Well, living in the 20th century, the work "relocation" gets an odd reaction from me. Am I paranoid? Of course! You'd have to be crazy not to be paranoid.

Tom Moran, homeowner and former aide to Pat Russell, spoke about the "grave inadequacies in the present plan",

## Continues To Dredge is Divine?

though the canals are registered as a historical and environmental resource, the proposed restoration does not even attempt to duplicate critical historic features of the canals. Moran contended that..."a slope-walled version of the project, suitable to any preservationist concerned about the Venice Canals, could be built with minimal financial impact" would be historically correct and would "provide water-related pleasure activities with an equal or greater effectiveness than the present vertical side plan". The fact that boating activity has thrived on the (slope-sided) canals for nearly 80 years

is clearly indicative of the point". Moran went on to point out that in spite of the fact that it had been said the "original design was a poor one", and that the canals were built..."inferior beach sand and without any maintenance of the public right of way by Los Angeles City, the canals are still passable throughout 95% of their perimeter"...that durability in the face of municipal neglect is testimony to the high quality of design...that by using modern construction materials and methods with minimal maintenance, a historic reproduction of the early canal design would last a century or more".

Moran also recommended that during the "relocation" of its' waterfowl that the waterfowl be tagged and the canals emptied sequentially instead of all at once and that duck ramps be built.

Ghosts of the past taunt me, laughing remember how it was? We were fighting for the right of low-income people to stay where they were living, now you're grateful that people recognize the need for water birds and pickle-weed and it is funny to hear homeowners and people who pay \$2,000. a month for rent called a "small group of dissidents"!

Funny, at the September meeting I would have thought all canal residents were in favor of killing the ducks and renting out speed boats, now it seems there are more than a small group of dissidents who are perfectly willing to devote time to come up with a plan that would preserve historical authenticity, environmental integrity, keep it open for the public.

Further meetings are coming up. As I write this, I have yet to go the the January 31 hearing.

Ever more meetings spawn even more meetings.





# To Happy Apart

- By Jim Prickett

Most people don't realize that a good divorce is more precious than a good relationship. After all, relationships come and go, but divorce is forever.

Don't think of divorce as just a few words said by a judge. You can call me sentimental, but to me what matters is that you feel your divorce in your heart.

The main mistake people make is waiting too long to get divorced. A good divorce is difficult, and it is almost impossible if you wait until you no longer love each other. The strongest (in fact, the only) argument for marital fidelity is not so much that an extra-marital affair will cause the marriage to break up—the marriage will break up anyway—but that the bitterness an affair would engender would make a good divorce impossible.

You probably think that I'm romanticizing divorce. Perhaps you know couples who have actually become more unhappy, hostile, and bitter following their divorces. Well, not every relationship is mature enough for a divorce.

I admit that divorce is not for everyone, but for me it is much better than being either married or single. Being single was the hardest for me—intensely needy, always horny, very lonely.

Being divorced is much better—I am only moderately needy, usually horny, and often lonely. At the same time, having been married, and not wanting to stay married, I have a profound desire to remain single. This poses no problems for any of the women I date—after seeing my apartment, they have no desire to live with me. (There was even a woman who got out of bed at 2:00 in the morning. It seems that she could not fall asleep because she feared that she would have to use the bathroom and found that prospect more appalling than a long drive home.)

More important, I have yet to find a woman who shares my fantasy: living together, but in a duplex, each with our separate kitchens and living rooms, inviting each other over frequently, but not living together.

I realize that it is bizarre to describe such a drab arrangement as a fantasy, but it is as unrealizable as any more red-blooded sexist fantasy that readers could imagine.

Why is divorce so much better than being single? My children. Since they spend alternate weeks with me and their mother, I can never be quite as needy or as lonely—horny is another question, but I think I've said enough about that already—as when I was single.

Of course, I now realize that we were a bit cocky about the effects of the divorce on our children. Well aware of the scars inflicted on us by our own parents, we figured that this would not be a major trauma for them. I reminded myself that my own father was gone for 6 of the first 12 years of my life. (It was not his fault; the largest block of time was spent in a Japanese prison camp in the Second World War. Still, he was gone and I will not be gone.) They are deprived of being able to spend time with both of us at the same time and that does mean a lot to them. But it would have been worse for them (as well as impossible for us) if we had stayed together.

I'm not denying that there is a lot of pain in divorce, but marriage is no picnic either. And if people realize that divorce is hard work and still care about each other, divorce can be very rewarding. ■

Love is Hell

# Prole Food

By Essie de la Yenta

Essie is sitting on the horns of a dilemma.

Since she started writing about places to eat for cheap and/or little over or under, Essie's been asked by several by people to "review" their restaurants. After a while, Essie usually does, but here's a test in ethics. A friend of Essie's has become partners in a restaurant in Venice. The friend asked Essie to come over to the restaurant to sample the food gratis. Essie accepted, knowing that a mention would be appreciated. Now, suppose Essie doesn't like the food, service or atmosphere? Does she write this and risk a rift in friendship - despite Essie's charm and charismatic personality, Essie needs all the old friends she can keep. Suppose Essie loves the food, service, the way the light lit the Espresso machine, etc., would people think Essie was just saying things to be nice to her friend, or because she had a free feed.

But what is life without risks?

The restaurant in question is The Merchant of Venice. The present partners are leasing the business from the owner. Essie's friend assured her that the butcher paper and crayons for the customers to amuse themselves with would still be there as a tradition. However, the restaurant will be run along democratic lines, i.e., the employees would have some control over the working conditions and hours and days worked.

Essie must say right off that the prices are a little beyond what Essie can afford as a regular, say, several times a week customer. But to meet out of town friends, or as a gathering place several times a month, well - maybe Essie could manage if she gave up more bad habits than she wanted to.

The "Merchant" is in a big old building. The insides are painted 1910-1920's cream and green. There's a full bar and espresso. There are booths and tables, most of the clientele is Yup-Scale boutique owners and shoppers.

The booths are comfortable, the place has a cheerful, noisy bustle.

When Essie was there as a guest of her friend, she had the Merchant's salad which was a Cobb Salad variation, everything was finely chopped and laid out in rows. Essie tried the buttermilk-garlic dressing, mild, with a touch of garlic—the Herb and Vinegar dressing, too much vinegar, the Honey and Please turn to the facing page to read the continuation of Essie's PROLE FOOD.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Call 396-1778

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PROLE FOOD Continued from Page 4.

Mustard-though popular, too sweet for Essie's taste. The buttermilk dressing was a nice foil for all of the fresh veggies and blue cheese that made up the generous portion of the Merchant Salad. She also had Brazilian bean soup, mildly spiced with a touch of cumin. The salad which would have been a sufficient lunch was \$6.95. The soup was around \$3.00. Essie, beguiled by the hominess of some of the dessert selections tried the bread pudding. Frankly, Essie thinks that the Lafayette had the best bread pudding around-creamy, unctious, full of raisins. The Merchant's was on the dry side piping hot, served with a little pitcher of whole cream. Essie could tell the ingredients were fresh and of high quality but \$2.50 is a bit high for bread pudding.

Essie came by again and sampled the cream of spinach soup.

Essie believes there was too much thickener used and the soup arrived lukewarm with a "skim" on it. Essie also remembered she has never been fond of cream soups. How she wishes the waitress had told her about the other special chicken soup. The coffee was good but it came to the table like warm, a most unpleasant sensation.

Essie went back for breakfast. She ordered the special which included 3 eggs, homefries and toast for \$3.00. The eggs were cooked to Essie's request, the English muffin was good, the homefries were fine, brown and crisp outside, creamy and hot inside. The portion of home fried potatoes could have been larger. Again the coffee was lukewarm.

Essie wishes to stress that the "Merchant" serves a good tasting cup of coffee, it just needs to be hotter. The waiters were somewhat disoriented but well meaning. Essie has hopes for this place after the kinks get straightened out.

Hours 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. seven days a week.

1349 West Washington Blvd. ■

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**GOOD NEWS!**

Ron & Michele have re-opened the Sea n' Shore in the Venice Village. Now with pink and white decor, the restaurant offers a menu with something for everyone. Speciality of the house—"Moules Frites"—is a plate of mussels which have been steamed in beer, served with french fries. The mussels are specially flown in from Prince Edward Island, Canada. Another great dish—"Filet of Calamari"—comes with a delicious caper sauce. To accompany your meal, select one of the 14 Belgian Gourmet Beers in stock. As Ron says: "If you've never tried a Belgian beer, then you've never had a beer!" His beers have an alcoholic content of up to 25%.

You can sit on the front patio and watch the movement on the boardwalk, or in the secluded garden behind the restaurant, with its trees and ornamental pool.

Sea n' Shore Cafe, in the Venice Village, 205 Ocean Front Walk (North of Rose Avenue), Venice, CA 90291  
Phone: (213) 392-5201

# Confessions of a Male Spinster

by Patrick McCartney

This is not a column for lovers, husbands or wives. I'm not talking to those of you who left the sexual battlefield years ago and fulfilled your genetic destinies.

Instead, this is a Valentine's article for those who are alone this year, who haven't had a Valentine's Day worth bragging about for much too long. Happy Valentine's to the only ones who need it.

Love is the greatest mystery. Compared to it, the existence of God and the quest for political enlightenment seem like puny nitpicking. I mean, who cares on a Saturday night if there's a God, Goddess or Ridiculous Void if you either can't get a date or know, if you have one, it's likely to end on a tragicomic note?

Nobody ever gave me a manual when

*"Love is mysterious. It'll probably be the very last gene figured out."*

I was young, telling me what to expect. I remember ridiculing the dating

games my older brother and sister learned to play when they began to show an interest in a sexual universe outside the little orbits of our lives. But the time came for me, too, when I learned to care, and life since then has brought its share of ecstasy, despair and constant befuddlement.

The same fundamentals apply now as they always did. Men and women are each disappointed. A high-school boy summed up his insight about "it" when I visited his school to interview students. An engaging intellectual youth, the boy scrupulously attributed his insight to a buddy when they were years younger. "Girls use sex to gain love; boys use love to gain sex." Nobody gave him a manual either, but he's years ahead of where I was at his age.

Love is mysterious. It comes easily for some and much harder for others. It'll probably be the very last gene figured out.

I sure as hell don't claim to understand it. I fell in love romantically very young, but didn't know mature love--or whatever sexual love passes for--until I was about 20 years old and in college. (Going to an all-boys high school gave me a theoretical background only--not counting what the good fathers referred to as "self abuse.")

It didn't take me long to shed my religion's attitude towards sex. "Try not to do it again," the priest told me when I confessed by first premarital affair. Turned out to be my last confession.

My experiences couldn't have been much different than others coming of age during the tumultuous late sixties. Hopped up on testosterone and the political and social ideals swirling around me, I faced the dilemma of anyone whose intellectual beliefs are challenged by personal observation.

Feminism, one of the powerful arguments for personal freedom I learned, seemingly repudiated my masculine self at every turn. Feminism as defined by its movement's angriest proponents meant a strict equality that stifled any discussion or exploration of the differences between men and women.

I was, and remain, sympathetic to the struggle for justice. But I was stifled as a male by an aggressively egalitarian mood that eventually seemed to turn political equality into a denial of biology and conventional wisdom--feminist rhetoric similar to the wishful-thinking biology of Lamarck.

Ultimately, it seemed male sexuality itself was seen as oppressive. Female sexuality, on the other hand, was championed. I still remember a good woman friend--who never failed to call me sexist scum when I showed the slightest sexual interest in any female--leaning out the window of my car to whistle and hoot at a beefcake standing on the curb.

In short, being male fell out of favor. As the poster, bumper sticker and T-shirt said, "A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle."

I don't know how different that ambivalence about men is from what it's always been for women. I keep remembering the old Grin and Bear It cartoon of the caveman with a club over his shoulder, dragging his captured woman by the hair.

Compared to women's, men's impersonal sexuality, aggression and competitiveness seem pretty crude, I admit. ("Every man's got a bit of dog in him," a woman who'd known life told me once.) The world needs more than dominant males calling the shots, more yang to balance the wild-eyed yin, you could say.

The battle between the sexes hasn't gone away--it's just acquired a new vocabulary. The outlines of the struggle are fuzzy to the participants--almost any complaint is futile and sounds bitter. The wounded are legion. Here's the secret: only the species benefits from the farce. ■



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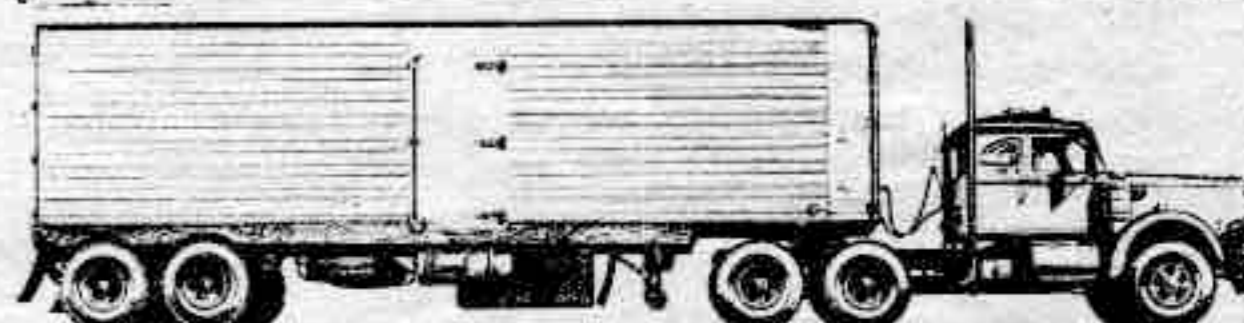
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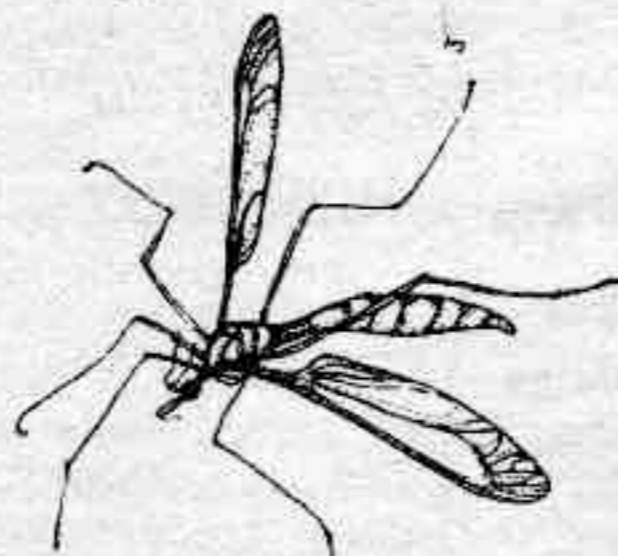
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Northern Sun News/CPB

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# Community Events

## POLITICS

**BIG MOUNTAIN SUPPORT GROUP** - Save traditional Navajo culture in Arizona needs people and supplies. For info, call (213) 396-3555. •

**PEACE AND FREEDOM PARTY** meets 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month (Feb 2nd & 16th) at 7:30 PM at 1354 W. Washington Blvd. Info, call 396-3555. •

**TALK:**  
"The Miskito of Nicaragua" Vernon Bellecourt co-founder AIM (American Indian Movement) plus... Lenora Hill, Dineh Woman, on Big Mountain - Hopi & Navajo Relocation. Memorial Park Auditorium 14th & Olympic, Santa Monica Saturday Feb. 1st 7:30pm. Donation: \$5.00 INFO: 396-3555. •

**RECON: CENTRAL AMERICA ACTIVISTS** send \$4.95 (includes handling) for Witness to War: An American Doctor in El Salvador to RECON, P.O. Box 14602, Philadelphia, PA 19134. •

Maggie Kuhn  
"Peace and Disarmament"  
Friday, Feb. 28th  
6-9 pm  
Federal Building  
11000 Wilshire Blvd.  
INFO: 399-1000  
FREE •


## ART

**MURAL TRAINING PROGRAM**  
Lecture Series - Winter '86  
2/1 - Harry Gamboa - Intermedia Artist "Conceptual Performance in the Contemporary Foto Novela"  
2/8 - Tony Ramos - Video Artist "Contemporary Politics in Video As An Art Form"  
2/15 - William Oandasan-Poet/Editor/Publisher "Survival & Resistance in American Indian Poetry"  
2/22 - Terry Schoonhoven - Muralist "Contemporary Techniques of Mural Painting"  
Time: Saturdays 10:00am-12:00pm  
Place: Social & Public Arts Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd., Venice  
Fees: \$5.00 per lecture or \$30.00/series. •

## Law

Bet Tzedek Legal Services announces relocation of office:  
145 S. Fairfax Ave.  
2nd Floor, LA CA 90036  
213-939-0506. •

## Boogie!



VENICE  
TOWN  
COUNCIL

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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13**  
7:30 p.m.

Beyond Baroque Center  
681 N. Venice Boulevard

The members of the Venice Town Council and the public are invited to further discuss the merits and drawbacks of the canal restoration project. Advocates of the proposed plan have been invited, as have those who question portions of the plan which is meant to refurbish and possibly redesign the canals.

## RELIGION

**SUNDAY, Feb. 2nd 11am** "Rambo, Rocky, And The American Hero" speaker Rev. Phillip Zwerling, 1st Unitarian Church, 2936 West 8th St. INFO: 389-1356. •

**SUNDAY, Feb. 9th 11am** "Many Ways To Love On Valentine's Day: The Liberating Legacy of Dr. Alfred Kinsey" speaker, Rev. Phillip Zwerling, 1st Unitarian Church, 2936 West 8th St INFO: 389-1356. •

**SUNDAY, Feb. 16th 11am** "From The Summit To Central America: Prospects For Peace" speaker Congressman George Brown 1st Unitarian Church 2936 West 8th St INFO: 389-1356. •

**THE 1ST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES**  
**SUNDAY Feb. 23rd 11am** "Is Peace Possible In Central America? A Report From The International March for Peace", speaker Blase Bonpane 1st Unitarian Church, 2936 West 8th St  
INFO: 389-1356. •

## EDUCATION

Venice Skills Center to offer **Free Course** in Medical-Clerical Administrative Office Procedures.  
Registration now in progress.  
Apply at Venice Skills Center  
611 Fifth Ave., Ca 90291 - Mon. to Fri.  
between 8am & 11:30am or between 1pm & 2pm - Info: 392-4153. •

## VENICE

Former Venice resident, **RAY BRADBURY** is to speak at the Venice Branch Library Feb. 5th 7:30pm, 610 California Ave. Books for sale - Info : 821-1769  
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## SOCIAL

**Socially Responsible Singles:**  
1) Lecture: "Drunk Driving: A National Epidemic" with Arlene Joy of M.A.D.D. Westwood YWCA, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd.



2) Talk: "Confessions of a "Raving Unconfined Nut", With Paul Krassner Westwood YWCA, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd. Westwood, east of Veteran.  
Adults \$2.00, children free, refreshments For Info call (213) 398-4141. •

Santa Monica Community Unitarian Church  
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Informal singles get together age 25+ Discussion, dancing, refreshments  
Friday Feb. 14th & Friday Feb. 28th  
7:30pm Unitarian Community Church  
Forbes Hall, 1721 Arizona Av. Santa Monica  
Donation: \$3.00 Info: 397-0028. •

Faculty Harp Recital at CalArts  
Susan Allen presents recital on Wed. Feb. 19th 8pm in the Roy O. Disney Music Hall on the Valencia Campus.  
General Admission: \$4.00  
Students & Seniors: \$1.00  
Info: (805) 255-1050 or (818) 362-2315. •

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Beyond Baroque Center  
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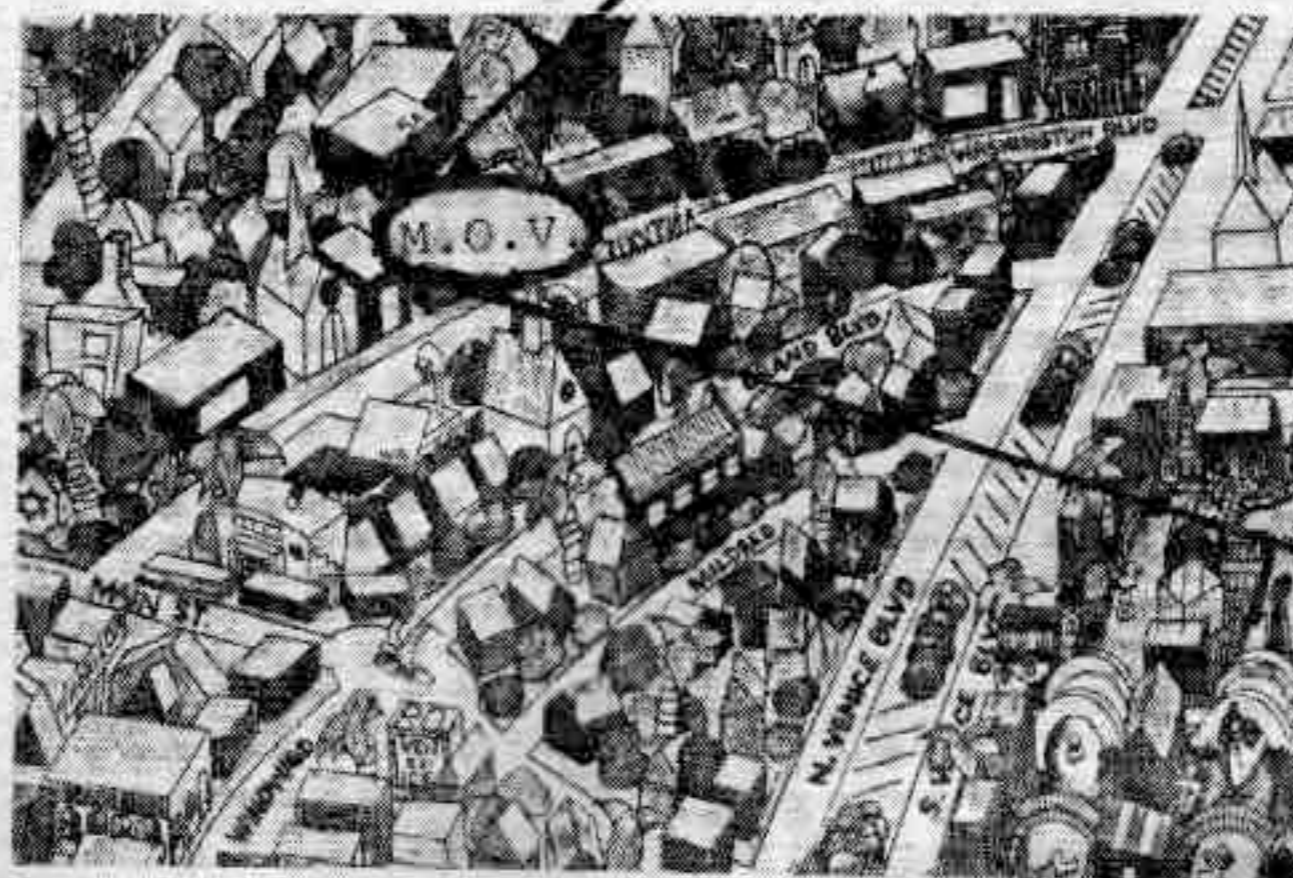
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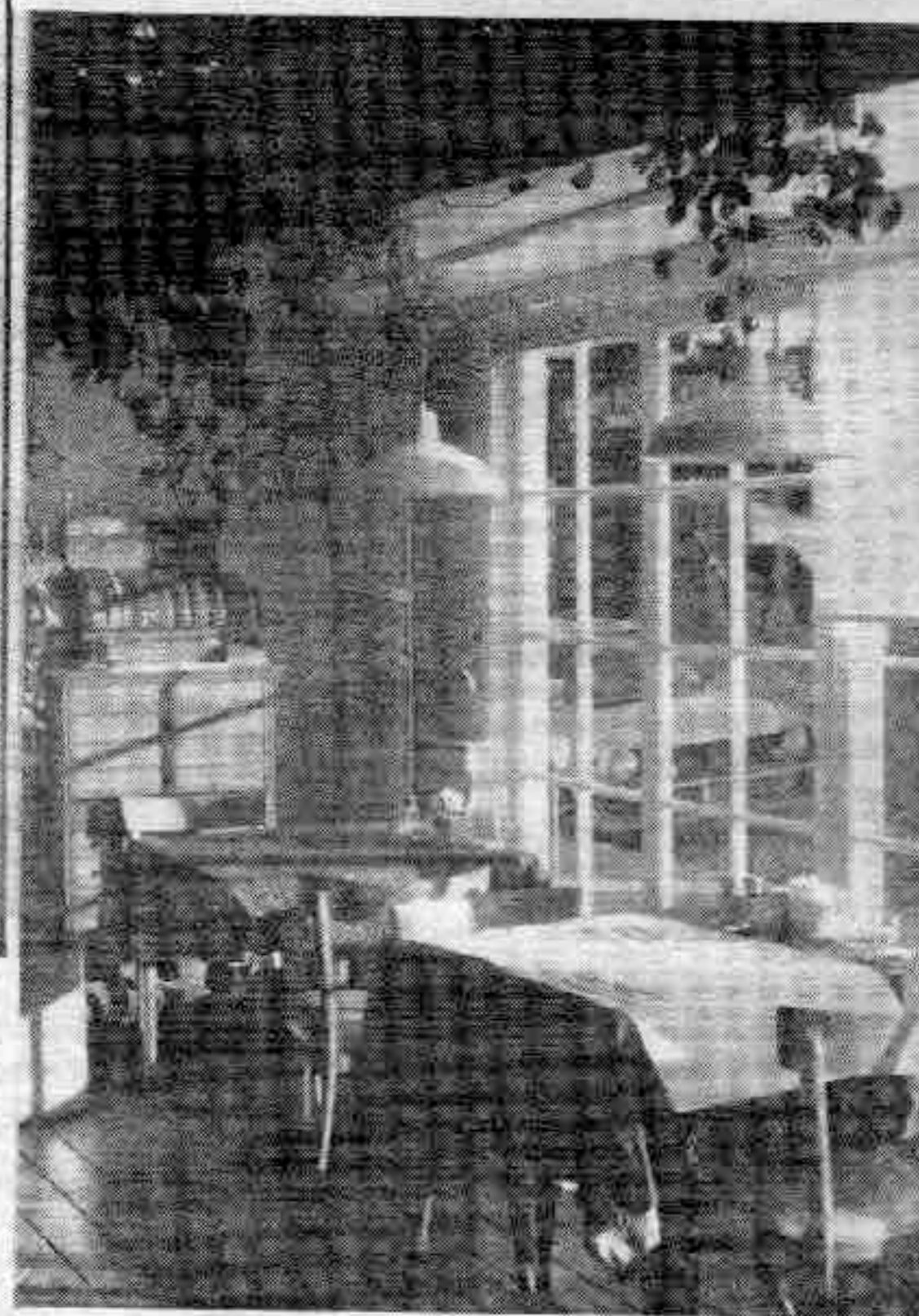
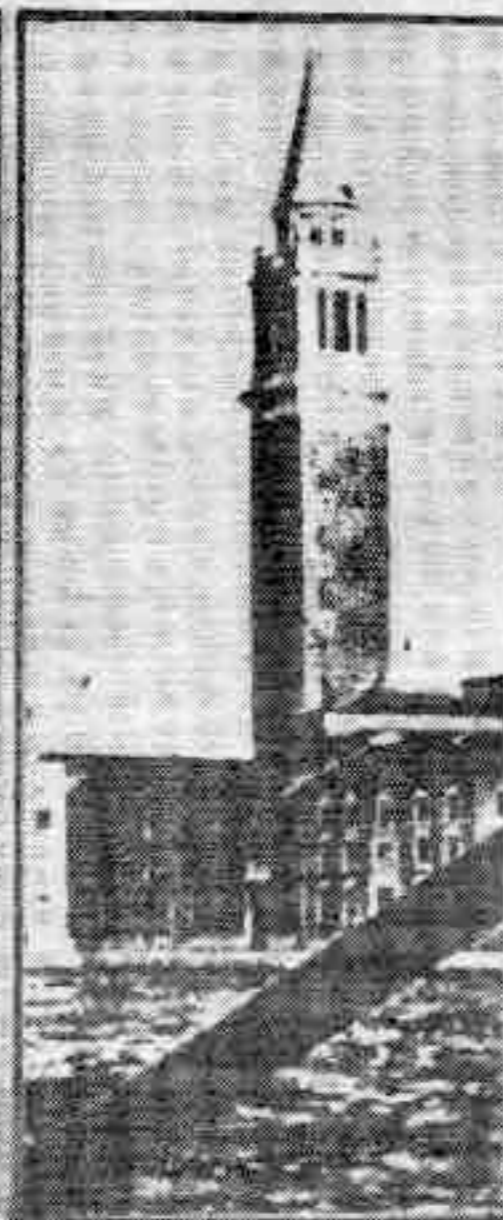
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