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 Venice Go Bragh!

# FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968

# BEACHHEAD

**FREE**

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## Semitic

by Carol Fondiller

I re-read memphis slim's article "Lessons Not Learned," February '88, very carefully, to find out if there were any anti-Jewish or anti-Semitic remarks as charged. There were not. He criticized the actions of a sovereign nation towards dissident peoples within the borders of that state. Perhaps what touched the nerve of so many Jews were his parallelisms of the Israeli Army and the Nazis. Perhaps if he'd used the comparison of the way the U.S. treated the Amer-Indians, the Turks treated the Armenians, and all those other horrors that are hidden in the folds of Clfo's tunic, it wouldn't have stung so much. But memphis chose his metaphor.

Many Jews, especially American Jews, have a knee-jerk reaction when it comes to Israel. If the Israelis are criticized, they perceive it as being anti-Jewish. Yes, I said anti-Jewish. The Jews, at least in this country, probably are mostly descended from Jews in Europe, and probably haven't been Semites for centuries. The Semites in the U.S.A. are Palestinians, Lebanese, and Jordanians, and there aren't as many of them in the U.S. as there are Jews. But the Jews and the Arabs started out as Semites. The Arab lobby—that is, the American Arab lobby—is not nearly as strong or vociferous, as the Jewish Establishment and its heretofore monolithic stand on Israel. But after the recent six o'clock skirmish on our TVs, there are definite cracks at the base.

Frankly, the attitude of the Jewish Establishment, made up of charitable, educational, religious and political organizations—the attitude of these organizations has struck me as silly. When we criticized Idi Amin, we were not called racist by the Afro-American Establishment or lobbying groups. The descendants of Jacob, Hagar, Leah and Rachel have been at one another's throats for thousands of years.

Except for a time (800 - 1492) when the Moslem Arabs controlled a large part of Europe. In the Christians countries Jews were prohibited from owning property, driven out of their homes, killed and accused of blighting harvests and ritually killing children.

In Moslem/Arabic countries Jews were accepted and welcomed. Moslem Spain was the shining light

of Science and Philosophy in the dark night of the Middle Ages. When Ferdinand and Isabella

conquered Spain they drove out the Moslems and Jews. Spain began a decline slowed only by the gold extracted from her conquests in the New World.

I've avoided the subject of the Palestinians and the Israelis. It's too painful for me to get into arguments with my family about it. When I see Israeli troops beating up Palestinians, or hear spokespeople for the Jewish Defense League speaking in fear

of Arabs overrunning Israel because they have so many children, I try to tune it out. My heritage, my outlook, is based on Judaism. I'm not a religious Jew; definitely not a pious one. I've a lot of quibbles about the religion of my ances-

## Semantics

are! I blurted out. We are a special people. We are the people of the Book, the Law.

And what a Book! The Old Testament. Where can one read of betrayal, fratricide, jealousy, lust, inspiration, resisting temptation, yielding to and wallowing in vice, military maneuvers, erotica, and even genetic engineering (Jacob's goats); love, fighting for freedom, even though the outcome was clearly foreseen. What characters! That disagreeable old prophet who insulted Jezebel; Tamar, sacred prostitute who was the ancestor of heroes and kings; a jealous, stern, and sometimes vicious God. Quite different from the capricious and visible gods of the Summerians and Babylonians.

Such a fractious people, thought the Romans. So stiff-necked and obtuse were

'LESSONS' PROVOKES RESPONSE  
 --SEE CENTERSPREAD, PG. 6 & 7.



FROM A PAINTING  
 'KORE & DEMETER'

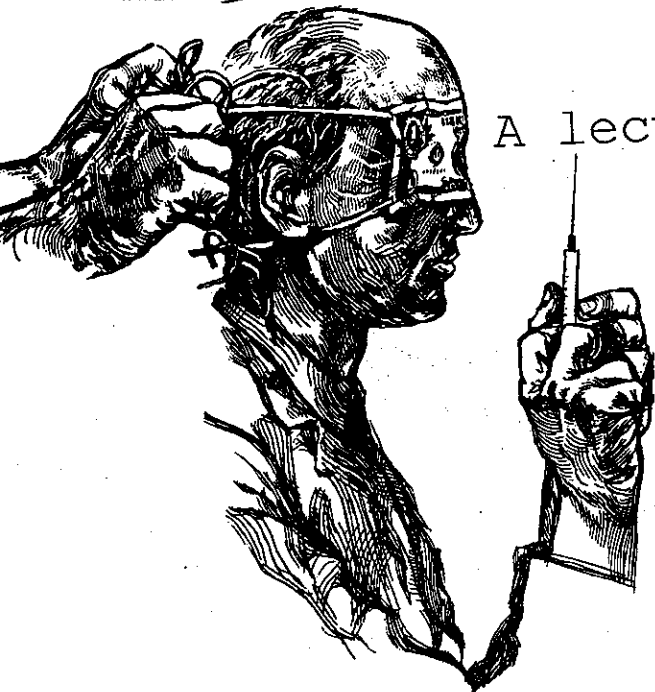
BY  
 MINERVA HERZOG

tors. But I've also been proud of them. There are phrases that I've learned that are loosely and inadequately translated here. Mizpah, which is doing a good thing, the right thing, even if it's vexatious to carry it out and might cause dissension. Rachmones: charity. Tam: which means heart, soul. Mensch - which means, literally, man, but as my mother means it, to stand up for oneself and others like a mensch. When she calls me a mensch, I know she's proud of me.

I remember having a discussion with a goyish (non-Jew) friend of mine about the Israelis - the Zionists, to be accurate - and their attitude towards their brother Semites, the Arabs. My friend said, What makes you think the Jews are any different than any other people? But they are, we

these troublesome people that they could not perceive the honor bestowed on them when the Roman Emperor told the Roman governor of that dinky backwater kingdom with its puppet kings put there by the Romans, that he wanted to put a really nice statue of the God-emperor in their temple. What a ruction that caused! Talk about ingratitude! However, the Romans were mollified somewhat when they were told by the Roman governor, who didn't want trouble during his term, that the Jewish God was so repulsive that no graven images of their God was allowed in or out of the temple, and that the Jews did not want to insult the emperor by putting his statue in the house of such a god. So an international incident was avoided - for awhile.

'Semitic' continued to Page 3



A lecture by Peter Dale Scott

## Dark Spring

by Kelly Ball

There was lightning on the altar last January 23 at St. Augustine's Church in Santa Monica when Professor Peter Dale Scott took the podium. A professor of English Literature, he has written a number of books including Crimes and Coverup and co-authored The Iran Contra Connection. He was sponsored here by the Christic Institute which is investigating and bringing to trial this June evidence concerning a CIA "secret team" that has run drugs and carried out "secret wars" and assassinations in Central America and, as it turned out, all over the world since the 40's and before. He has researched extensively the hidden history of our country and spoke this night on the roots of U.S. government involve-

ment in the international drug trade. Here is a synthesis of his report.

The roots of American drug involvement and abuse began in China. Like the British and French before us, the Americans realized that a flourishing drug trade, combined with the judicious use of gangsters, not only helped to keep foreign populations under control, it also provided money in the millions for private purposes, often war, far from the watchful eyes of troublesome legislatures at home. America during the last 20 years has resembled the last stages of imperial France he said, in its geopolitical course in Southeast Asia and Algeria. With loud

'Spring' continued to Page 10.



### THE STING OF POLICE BRUTALITY—

As a young adult who was raised in Los Angeles, I feel that I have been a victim of police harassment and police brutality on many different occasions. I have been arrested for not using my manners towards a police officer and for some strange reason a disturbing the peace charge works well if an officer doesn't like your mouth.

It seems like most of the time when approached by an officer, they're not friendly, and if you're in your car, they will most certainly rummage through it with or without your consent. Do they put things back in proper place? Hardly. And after they've inconvenienced you for forty minutes they use the "You fit the description excuse".

At least 40% of the people in the holding cell (the last time I was detained was Nov. '87) were bruised, scraped, cut and scabbed mostly on their face and arms. I asked several what happened to them and their replies were standard. The thing that really disturbed me was that after they had received their their injuries, they were then taken to a local hospital; probably one with very pretty nurses.

This is why I find incredible humor in the four separate incidents I have read about in the past few months. The first involved an undercover officer who was harassed by two patrol officers in downtown LA. The second involved 2 southbay officers that wandered from their turf and handcuffed 2 other officers face down on the ground for twenty minutes. The third involved an officer who was handcuffed to a bench, and when he asked for a cigarette he was struck. The fourth and most recent occurred in Westwood when a Hawthorne officer was arrested for wearing a gang costume standing on the sidewalk.

The fact is that these types of brutal injustices occur everyday in the city mainly on assumed poor people. If setting up the police is what it takes to stop them from crossing the line then we need more incidents like the one in Westwood Saturday night. If police would use a little more courtesy and not throw their weight around so much they wouldn't find themselves in these situations and civilians wouldn't get so defensive.

S.D. Mojo  
VENICE

### ABORTION?

Dear Collective:

The abortion issue raises adequate hell of its own as to invite a plausible and simple framework for analysis.

Accepting the conservative critique that the women's right to abort the fetus doesn't wash—that no person has the right to take born or unborn life—and accepting the conservative critique that the unwanted and deformed have rights said to be God-given: to the extent the unborn have rights across society, then the deformed and unwanted are a social responsibility. Since across nations there exist no special programs, for precisely these people, assuring a life of relative luxury and ease: therein is the right to abortions. For even if such programs were available: the political whims of the moment could erase them, abortion retained as a viable recourse. As a re-application of the concept of righteous rage, called insanity, the issue would be resolved as an act of rage against overwhelming odds. Sexually active teens might appreciate that more than most. So might the dying, or the old.

Rights to luxury and ease are reflected in two income support components: Commercial and financial types of debts. Bus-inessmen and margin stock buyers seek advantage and it is elsewhere shown that humans avoid pain. The debts of federally sponsored credit agencies, and of state and local governments, (income support components), are further strategies toward the same end.

This state is famous for coolie and bracero labor. Slavery, wherein freedom from pain is suborned to the necessity of toil, is only historically recently abomination. Since human energies are increasingly less necessary in the arts of survival, then any policy of income redistribution—enlightened free market or socialist engineering—alters concepts of behaviour for which reason is unprepared.

The income support components of the Euclidean, or economic geometry model, are now described over the several months. What is presented is a simple problem in arithmetic scaling. There is cursory evidence that the gravity constant does not exist. Since it is nowhere shown that sciences are reliant on theology, theology may be said reliant on generations, the gift of life: with respect to theologians, the reverse not being so.

Sincerely yours,  
/s/ Philip W. Gregg

## Pier Pressure

Dear Venice BEACHHEAD:

Has your paper had any articles recently about the status of the Venice Pier? There are many local residents who are alarmed that this landmark may be demolished.

I would like to request that your paper present an article discussing the pros and cons surrounding the preservation of the Venice Pier. Local residents should be kept informed and made aware of options available to them should they desire to fight to keep the Venice Pier. Many people through the years have enjoyed the pier, by fishing, strolling, viewing the ocean sunsets, etc. I would like to see some local interest in saving the pier and enhancing it in ways so it will even be more enjoyable to locals and others.

I have heard of a group called "Pier Pressure" that is active in the fight to save Venice Pier, but have not been able to locate their address or phone number. I would appreciate your help in finding the information and publicizing it.

Sincerely  
LuBelle Boice

### PIER PRESSURE

2011 Pontius St., L.A. 90025  
Frank Maddocks 477-4227

Let us know what you find out.

## FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

Diane Nickerson, Patrick McCartney, Kathleen Alvarez, Carol Fondiller, Shipford Branes, Victor Wightman, Kathy Sullivan, Sara Omari, Malcolm Tent and Memphis Slim

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.

To: Free Venice Beachhead:

I'm cleaning out my files and came across the enclosed article that appeared in the New York Times 14 years and 2 months ago—interesting, huh?

I subscribe to the FVB and realize things haven't changed - still fighting "The Good Fight". All I can say is, "don't give up".

As Carol Burman said in the article "When they say Master Plan, we say 'Master's Plan'" and so it goes—

Good luck, salud, and solidarity

We have the same problems here.

/s/ Loretta Szeliga  
New York City

The attached article was too long to print and besides, Carol Fondiller lost it!  
Dear Editor, of a temporary exhaustion...

The 80's, as an endless debauch, in the face of everything, say nothing new. And can't. The villain is; hero. The hero; zero! The ideal? Nero! (And he was a bit nutty). One could be factual and say we hibernated, in a sense, some years ago. And we resist being awakened from the "Kiss" of Death. If this has a precedent, it will be replaced, accordingly, by a new era of people who run, into the future, as do athletes at an Olympic. Those, who may be aroused from their torpor, by then, will be infuriated, as if by being "left out" of history: Rip Van Winkles, of the next century, no doubt. If the tide of life is damned at one point, it finds other outlets. As old as I am, I refuse to subscribe to the rot-rust of spirit. It is almost heavy enough now to obscure original shapes. Future generations will not and cannot, allow that to happen.

Sincerely,

/s/ Joseph P. Krengel

## Radicals Unite

To Free Venice Beachhead People: 1/27/88

Greetings from Dekalb, Illinois! You probably don't know us, but we have heard of you. "We" are a group of people in Dekalb (Northern Illinois University) who feel that an alternative press publication is long overdue in our college-town/suburban-farm community. We are tired of the apathy instilled in our student body by a campus paper (The Northern Star) that effectively silences minority and left-ring/radical voices in the community. Our aim is a bimonthly tabloid style newspaper that would include stories and editorials as well as a section for poetry and art. We hope to fill the void left by The Northern Star.

We heard of your publication through friends at the Post Amerikan in Bloomington, Illinois. They suggested we contact you for advice and/or contacts in your area. Perhaps we could set up some kind of exchange system. What do you suggest?

Again, any advice, contacts, or inspiration (?) you could offer would be greatly appreciated. Although most of us aren't strangers to journalistis processes, the concept of alternative press production is somewhat new to us.

Thanks!

Jill Wininger  
519 Leonard  
Dekalb, IL 60115

Jill Wininger and friends

## How to Do It

As a veteran of Amerika's alternative press, I am heartened by your letter. You and your friends are the one Che spoke of when he said death would be welcome as long as another picked up our weapons and continued the fight. Our weapons are, of course, ideas. You are armed and dangerous and believe me, those that fear you will find you more dangerous than you ever imagined yourself to be.

You say you are students. Well, initially you may have access to facilities provided by the school you attend. Use their facilities and equipment as much as you can but remember—Academia is not free. You will find that out as soon as you print (or want to print) something the powers that be do not approve of. (You may even be criticized for writing sentences with dangling participles. Ha!) Always remember that your power is measured in how much they hate you or fear you as the case may be.

The best way to put out a paper is to use a Photo Offset Printer and have the paper printed on newsprint. This is the cheapest way to go and the printers who can do this type of work are plentiful. This will come in handy as people try to shut you up. Believe me, if you are saying worthwhile things people will find your printer and lean on them. Don't be too hard on your printer if he or she abandons you though, because most of these shops do advertising and religious periodicals as their main business and they're really afraid of offending their regular customers.

Find someone you know who is an attorney a and who can tell you whether it is better to incorporate or not. The Beachhead is not incorporated and for legal purposes, we are only liable as individuals. Legally there is no Beachhead; only a buncha' names on the Masthead. The Great Speckled Bird was a product of the Atlanta Co-operative News Project. It was a dummy corporation that no one worked for. Even though we had a Standard & Poors business rating. IBM found that out when they came looking for their Compugraphic which we did our headlines on. They thought we were real.

You'll need some basic tools to get your paper "laid out" prior to taking it to the printer. A couple hundred dollars will get you a waxer, some glue sticks, scissors, tape, press-on letters, etc. Go to a good stationary store and/or printer and they can fix you up.

Sell some ads. In the old days most of our ads came from Head Shops and the like. Now your task will be a little harder but even the most radical people eat and restaurants are a good mark. Search out businesses owned by people with a social conscience. We have an ad presently from a discount clothier that probably gets little or no business from their ad in the Beachhead but the owner of the store supports us politically. (Since I wrote that, he's canceled his ad. So it goes)

Do not get into hierarchy. Having an editor editorial committee or "correct line" enforcers will eventually kill your paper. Make the paper structure such that all progressive ideas get heard whether or not you agree with the author or the point of view. Make sure all tasks are done by all people. A paper with distinctions between workers and managers is not an alternative paper. It also won't be around long.

As your paper starts, try to keep new people coming into your group. Everyone has a different level of commitment and you'll always have a "core" of people who'll devote more time and energy than the rest. This can lead to burn-out or elitism, both of which can kill your paper.

Continued to page 3

By the Walker

The Venice Town Council, once the comfortable purview of Venice's soft-core left, just took on a brand new look. The characters are different. The political agenda is different and the way the Council goes about its business has definitely changed.

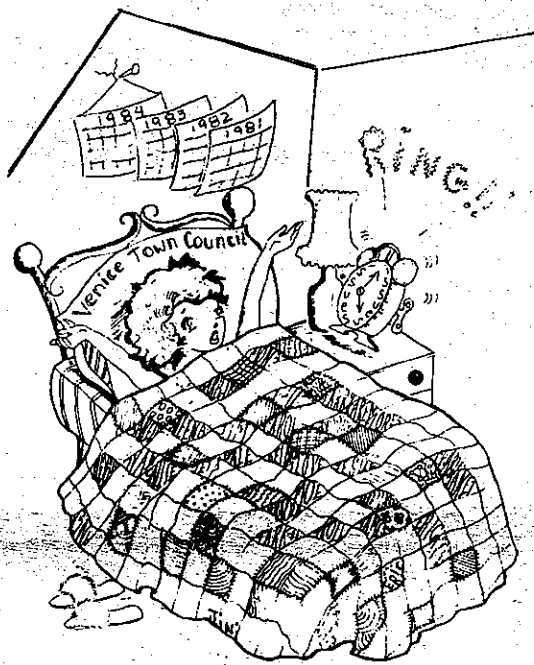
It's too soon to tell just where the new Board of Directors will take the group - but it sure looks like there are some changes in the air which won't go well with a lot of folks who have looked to the Venice Town Council (VTC) as a bellweather organization. This goes for its style as well as its politics.

Historically, people who follow Venice politics could always count on the VTC Board to approach government plans, programs and development decisions from the point of view that what is really going on here is that lower income people (and the services they need) are being gradually, but definitely driven out of Venice in the name of improving our sometimes not-so-fair community.

It may be that those of us who can cut it economically will wish they left too because of the air pollution, noise, congestion, density, lack of sky, or whatever, but these admittedly negative consequences of "upgrading" Venice were never the core issue. These are great issues for people who can pay their basic nut to live in Venice, but they don't compare in impact with the problems faced by a person who just can't stay here because some other guy can pay \$100 a month more and wants to move in.

Whether these differences will mean much in terms of how the new VTC Board acts in respect to community problems is still an open question. But there are ill winds a-blowin for the VTC's traditional support group if the new Board's style is an indicator of its politics.

At the sound of the gavel (GAVEL?) opening its February meeting, members and interested observers were greeted from the podium (PODIUM?) by the new VTC president who promptly introduced the new Sergeant-At-Arms (WHAT?) who, the assembled were told, was charged with the responsibility of removing those persons who "have 'second meetings' during VTC meetings" (read: whisper to each other while someone



has the floor) or otherwise intrude on the pristine decorum expected at VTC meetings. According to the newly adopted By-Laws, "Abusive or hostile actions or language shall be deemed inappropriate behavior and may result in their expulsion from the meeting". Forgetting about how the affable and good natured Sergeant-At-Arms is supposed to expell the actions or the language without including the person(s) responsible for it, it seems to be a fair question to ask - What's the perceived threat? Why the sudden need to adopt an expulsion rule?

There hasn't been a fracas at a VTC meeting in years and never a serious one despite the fact that people have felt angry and hostile, and have expressed themselves accordingly. Do people go to community meetings for tea cakes and scones or to speak out on issues they feel strongly about? Even to the point where they (bless us all) shout, mutter, groan, blasphemize and call each other dirty names. Even when someone else has the floor.

Also new, are rules excluding non-board members from meetings which the board determines to be "cases of great sensitivity or legal

import". (Sounds like "national security" to me.) And these are just the kind of meetings I'd want to go to. Great sensitivity sounds like it might be juicy enough to bring in a good crowd.

As long as I've lived in Venice, local politicians, including VTC Board members, have called each other up anytime they felt like it, bullshit about anything they felt like - including "matters of great sensitivity" such as (can we say it?) to plot, scheme and connive to further their interests and agendas. I'm sure glad to know we'll have no more of that from the new Board

To further generate interest and activity in VTC affairs, and to reach out to the politically powerless in the community, the new Board has also doubled membership dues to \$20 per year. Exclusionary, you might say, but wait. There's a provision for people to pay "\$1 per month" AND "provide ten hours of service to the Council" if they can't come up with the \$20 fee for voting. For lack of the magical \$20, some poor bastard is supposed to work for 80¢ per hour doing what? Helping the Sergeant-At-Arms expell someone from a meeting? Or maybe cleaning up the dishes after an Executive Session of the Board of Directors at someone's house. That would be a great evening for an unfortunate soul who couldn't scrape together twenty bucks. And what's the minimum wage for stamp licking and envelope stuffing these days? It's gotta be better than 80¢ per hour. How about having the one dollar a month crew do research on pollutants or automobile trip generation models? That might be fair.

And who's going to keep track of the books? Will the Treasurer stop you at the door? Suppose you miss a meeting, do you owe back money before you can vote? Shouldn't there be financial counseling for the one dollar a month crew? Or should they wear armbands to match their slick new VTC membership cards issued to all members in good standing.

Perhaps Arnie Springer said it best when (under threat of expulsion) he agonized and muttered with great sensitivity: "I can't stand this fascist crap any more!"

## 'SEMITES' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But I am worried about the charges of anti-Semitism. Does this mean that no Jew can be criticized without the specter of charges of anti-Semitism? For instance, there's a synagogue here in Venice. A representative of that temple charged at a public meeting that the homeless were responsible for acts of harassment and anti-Semitic remarks yelled at members of the congregation as they walked to the synagogue. I happened to have witnessed several instances of this and the harassers seemed to be young thugs who were matriculating to gang membership. I also witnessed on one occasion several people - myself included - remonstrate with the young hooligans. Am I anti-Semitic-Jewish? Because I charged that congregation with bigotry and lack of rachmones? Will I be called an anti-Semite because I disagree with a member of the synagogue who wants to see the Ocean Front walk go completely commercial? Maybe I'll be called a racist because I disagree with some members of the black community as to where the proposed new Venice Library will go. Perhaps I'd be called bigoted if I were to describe the young thugs as Latino, which they seemed to be. Perhaps I will be called a self-loathing Jew because I feel that some of the Orthodox Jews in this community have built themselves a little ghetto of houses that include two sinks - one for meat and one for milk - when some people don't even have a pot to piss in. It might be Kosher, but is it right? It seems to me these Jews are observing the letter of the law and ignoring the spirit.

But the Jewish community is not monolithic. There are Jews here and in Israel who are protesting, lobbying, and getting arrested for saying the same things that Memphis Slim wrote about. And please - I do remember the Yom Kippur Massacre. And the bombing of a busload of Israeli school children. And, oh yes and oh yey! - even an impious New York holiday Jew like myself lights candles on the Days of Atonement and Dread for all the nameless innocent victims of all the holocausts and massacres in the world's history - and sometimes on the High Holy Days, I stand outside the Synagogue and listen to the prayers in Hebrew, sung and chanted, and I think how similar the melody is to Arabic music. I think of the Palestinians who are used as pawns by the Arab states that surround Israel, by exploiting the tragic Palestinian situation so they can be assured of a supply of young, hate-filled terrorists. Cannon fodder for the Arab countries to keep that balance of power and terror over Israel and incidentally over the U.S.

of the Jewish religion. They have more in common with their Fundamentalist counterparts in the Middle East than with the rest of the world

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Remember: unarmed Palestinians were driven out of Jordan where they sought refuge by Jordanian guns and tanks.

I understand the pain that Michael feels who has been calling our advertisers to get them to stop advertising in the Beachhead. Michael, I just wish you'd have written an article or a letter. Bet you we would have printed it.

I remember seeing Alec Guinness in the movie version of "Oliver Twist," many years after its release in England. It wasn't released here for many years because several Jewish groups said that Guinness' Fagin was anti-Semitic. Would I be an anti-Semitic-Jewish Jew if I disagreed and said it was a superb portrait of an outlaw who was Jewish and that there are Jews who do speak with an accent? Don't let me get started on this, because I'll tell you how offensive I find most Arab portrayals are, because hardly any Arab characters in TV or the movies are anything but belly dancers, oil-rich playboys, dope smugglers or wild-eyed terrorists with really rotten Arabic accents.

I want to believe that the Jews are a special people, made special, strong and sensitive because of the centuries of persecution and oppression heaped on them.

and oppression used on other peoples. But maybe going through all the diaspora pogroms, which meant the Jews were being driven from their homes, has twisted and not made us lovable or sweet. And now, in Israel at least, we are -pardon the expression -the Ubermensch top dog. Yes, I am super-critical of the Jews, because I am one, and I love the soul and the sweetness of Jewish thought and want it to come back. I love the U.S. because of its precious pieces of paper, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. And I'm a citizen and I love the U.S. and I want it to live up to those precious ideals that some people think are best spoken of only on high holy days like the Fourth of July or political campaigns, but really should never be put to use. As my mother says, it's only because I love you so much that I criticize you. Shalom.

Continued from page 2

Get a copy of the latest Alternative Press Syndicate listing and send a letter to each listee similar to the way you wrote us. Ask for ideas, feedback and graphics. As soon as you're publishing, graphics will be easier to get. There are lots of talented, creative people in America who will do something for free, just to see it published. Having your name in lights is all you can give people in this business.

Decide whether you want to have a free paper or one with a nominal charge. If you want to charge for the paper, you have to have places to sell it. That's a rub when you wanna' say offensive things. Most businessmen and women are very sensitive to public opinion. Paper boxes on the street make inviting targets in the middle of the night for your enemies and just common pranksters

There's a million other things I haven't written about but you'll find them out. The Free Venice Beachhead is a collective of unpaid volunteers. We meet three Sundays a month in a donated studio. We rotate the job of "coordinator" every month. The coordinator is in charge of making sure the Collective does the job and a good paper is produced with as little hassle as possible. We also have a Post Office Box and a reliable phone number with a reliable answering machine. We paste down our pages on pieces of white cardboard named "flats" and take them to the printer to be made into a newspaper. A wonderful person does our financial stuff and keeps us out of debtor's prison. And we all try to sell ads.

That's it! Good luck, solidarity and love from us to you. Memphis Slim for THE FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE

4...ads...ads...ads...ads...ads...ads...ads...ads...ads...ads...ads...

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# The Sidewalk Cafe

**March Entertainment Schedule**

Sundays: Michael Lanning (6,13,20,27)	Thurs: Michael Joao (3)
Mondays: Mike Hamilton (7), Alison McHale (21).	Wade Preston (10) Jody Allen Sweet (17,24)
Tues: Cheryl Saunders' jazz.	Fris.: Craig Sadler (4)
Weds: Randy Coffey (2,16), Floyd Wayne (9), Joanne Kurman & Howard Yerwood (23)	Joanne Kurman (11) Alfred Johnson (18) Sats: Bill Todd (5,12,19,26)

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# Black Air Force

by memphis slim

As I write this article it is Black History Month, February. I'm struck by how little is known about the Black contributions during World War II. I'd wager that if you ask the average non-Black American, you'd probably find out that most Americans know more about Black participation in the Civil War than they do about Blacks in World War II. And I bet if you asked about the Black Air Force, you'd get at least a look of disbelief if not outright laughter. But there was a major contribution from Black Airmen trained at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

A month prior to Pearl Harbor, a program called the Tuskegee Experiment began. This program eventually trained almost 1,000 Black Airmen. The first graduates flew the P-40, P-39, P-47 and P-51 in the 99TH Fighter Squadron. They were under the command of then Colonel Benjamin O. Davis who became the U.S. Air Force's first Black Lieutenant General.

The 99TH proved itself over North Africa flying bomber escort and doing sorties. They proved that as a fighter unit, Black Americans were as capable as White Americans. But these fighters had had to fight just to get into America's armed services which were strictly segregated until President Truman de-segregated the Armed Forces after World War II. After their struggle to get into the service, these men had to face another high hurdle, the candidacy requirements for the U.S. ARMY AIR CORPS. Many were failed when they had achieved passing scores because of the prejudice that a black man could not be a good pilot. However, these highly motivated individuals kept trying and eventually they overcame. Four Black Fighter Squadrons flew from Italian bases much as the highly decorated Japanese-American Infantry troops fought across the Italian boot.

*"The wartime record of the 99th & 332nd led to a reversal of the War Department's racist policies."*

It is ironic that the site of their training was Tuskegee. Tuskegee was central to a debate between America's major Black leaders almost a century ago. Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee, promoted practical education for Black people and a non-confrontational attitude towards segregation. W.E.B. DuBois, Harvard's first Black Ph.D., taught that the "talented tenth", the 10% of the black population that was exceptional, would lead Black people's progress in a

confrontation against segregation. Years later, the school supposedly not built to dismantle segregation, produced these brave pilots who helped de-segregate our country's armed forces.

Also trained during the Tuskegee Experiment were the bomber crews that made up the 477TH Medium Bomber Group. They never saw combat, having just finished training when the war ended.

The fighter pilots trained at Tuskegee received a total of 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses from their missions over North Africa, Sicily, Anzio and from their missions out of Italy late in the war. They were called "Der Schwartze Vogelmenschen" (The Black Birdmen) by the Germans.

### Arms Agreements Seen Costing Many Jobs

From Reuters Friday, August 28, 1987

GENEVA—Millions of armaments and defense industry employees would be out of work in the event of major disarmament agreements between the superpowers, the International Labor Organization said Wednesday.

It said about 53 million people worldwide are employed in military production and defense services, including about 14 million in the major industrialized non-Communist nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

A one-third cut in military expenditures could affect about 4 million workers in OECD countries alone, the ILO said.

*The Beachhead needs volunteers. We need more people to deliver Beachheads and sell ads. We almost always have more articles and poetry than we can possibly afford to print, but we chronically don't have enough ads. We can always use more participation on the Collective. I know the staff box has a lot of names, but it takes a lot of work by many folks to put out a newspaper. We're all volunteers and we can use your help. Regardless of how many or how few hours you can spare, call us at 823-5092 or come by the studio above the Fox International Theatre, the second, third and fourth Sundays of the month. We meet at 11 a.m. to twoish. Thanks. --The Free Venice Beachhead Collective.*



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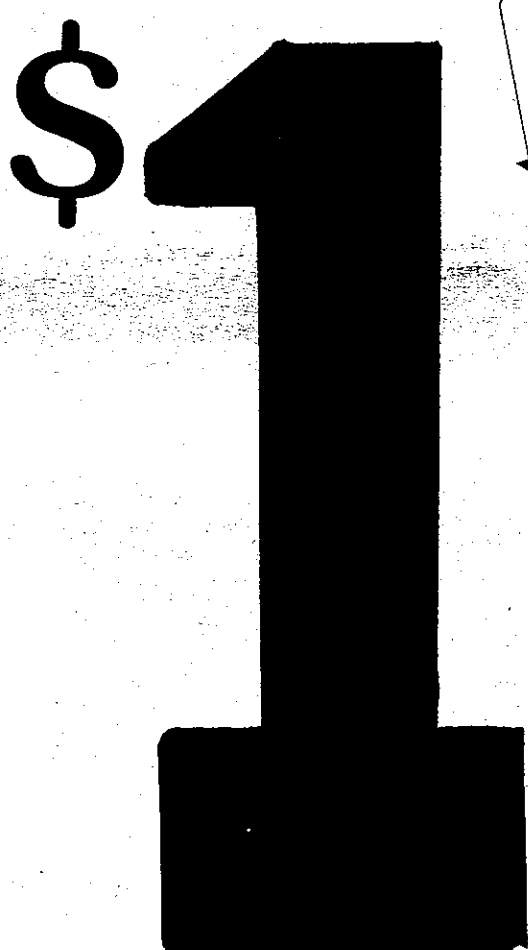
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## Lessons Not Yet Learned

To the Beachhead Collective  
From David Weisman.

memphis slim (Feb. Beachhead) has many lessons to be learned. Many supporters of Israel criticize the Israeli reaction to recent Arab provocations. Some young Israeli soldiers have undoubtedly over-reacted to violent provocations. See Alan Dershowitz's op-ed column in the L.A. Times 2-14-88. However, m.s.'s tunnel-vision as he explores history seems to compel him to overlook forty years of lessons the Israelis have been forced to learn at the hands of the British and Soviet trained armies of Egypt and Jordan. Even before that, there were the lessons they learned from the followers of the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem in the forties, after he spent World War II in Berlin as a guest of the Nazis.

I am sure most of your readers and many of your staff are appalled by the utter obscenity and gross errors of scale in m.s.'s attempt to portray the Israeli army as mimicking or learning from the Nazis. Among your readers, others may have found it is easier to forget the unpleasant aspects of the 40 years of the only-slightly interrupted War--the terrorists' tactics and urban guerilla 'wars' of the unrelenting losers of the big battles of 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1982. For these others I feel compelled to dignify m.s.'s eight points with specific replies and a dose of historical perspective.

CONSIDER indeed!

1. The Israelis 'deport' violent leaders to countries with which they share religion, culture and devotion to the idea of driving the Israelis into the sea. The Nazis deported whole communities to death camps.
2. The tactic of using civilians against civilians is hardly a unique one except in the very ubiquitousness with which it appears in so many times and countries.
3. Palestine has been a name on the map, but an Arab from the 'West Bank' area moving to the East Bank in Jordan (or to Egypt or Syria)

should suffer no more cultural shock than a surfer from Huntington Beach moving an equal distance to Playa del Rey. He might be put off by a lot of signs saying, in effect, 'locals only.' Yes, one of the saddest aspects of the Middle East situation, the refugee camps, is primarily a result of the 'locals only' attitude in Jordan, Syria, Egypt, etc., which for forty years have stubbornly refused to allow the refugees even a chance to assimilate.

4. Israelis' cultural bias is less than that of almost all small countries. The arguments among Israelis are over questions like 'Shall we play the music of a notorious German anti-semitic like Wagner?'
5. Much prattling (as well as genuine concern) about 'security' can be found among nationalists in dozens of countries the world over.
6. Where does he have any evidence that the Israelis are holding to a fixed ratio among the epidemic of killings? Yes, the Israelis have used a large ratio, but in the humanitarian context of prisoner exchanges in which a hundred PLO were exchanged for each Israeli.
7. In his most monstrous distortion of history, m.s. claims that Israel ignores the UN as Hitler ignored the League of Nations. The Israeli government is in fact one of the few (if not the only) that has ever given up territory it has conquered in (long-since blasted) hopes of establishing a good relation with the UN and its peacekeeping missions.
8. The site of the Temple of the Mount is sacred to more than one religion, indeed one of the principal sources of tension within Israel relates to the problem of rebuilding the original Temple and its 'Holy of Holies,' because many ultra-orthodox Jews believe the only place to rebuild it is right on the site of the original which the Temple of the Mount now occupies. Incidents of racial and ethnic tension and violence have been increasing in Southern California since 1985. Let us hope that memphis slim's future effusions in your paper will not be the kind that further worsens such trends.

## Lessons in Logic

In the Feb. 88 issue, an editorial, "Lessons Not Learned" was presented by staff writer memphis slim. I fail to see where the editorial adheres to normal logical argument. What I do find is sensationalism, faulty logic, and nonsensical hyperbole.

Mr. slim's article was called "Lessons Not Learned," possibly implying that victims of the Holocaust deserved their fate. Was this an appropriate headline?

Mr. slim laments that the Israeli Army was not patterned on the American, British, or Soviet Armies, but rather the Third Reich. Where are descriptions of how each army is patterned? Further, is the use of the Soviet army of that time (i.e. Stalin's reign) appropriate as a positive example? Can the non-nuclear forces of the Israeli army be compared to the nuclear forces of that era?

The term "NAZI", or "Third Reich" usually produces Orwellian visions of diabolical sadists and bleak death-camps on a grand scale. The phrases cannot but be used for exaggerated, dramatic effect. Linking such terms to Israel compounds this effect. Does the article justifiably use this device to uncover alleged hypocrisy?

Within Mr. slim's first point, the reader is to assume as premises:

"The Israelis 'deport' people from a land they have conquered. It is the natives who are 'deported' by the conquerors. The Nazis used this technique in Zechoslovakia (sic)..."

Does the Israeli government in fact deport people? Technically, yes. The action is a result of breaking Israeli law-- violence, rioting, promoting life-endangering upheaval, or other serious crimes--by individual Palestinians. Such felons are evicted from Israel and released in another country.

Can this be compared to the NAZI version--death camps, slave camps, human experimentation? Mr. slim falls into

## Beachheader Responds

Somehow I don't believe pre-WW II Germany was ever a country surrounded by other peoples determined to ignore it into disexistence. And it would take just such an exaggerated leap to swallow last month's Memphis Slim analogy comparing Israel to Hitler's Third Reich.

I certainly recognize and appreciate several of Slim's plunges...describing Israeli 'military maneuvers' against the civilian populations for the terrible spades they truly appear to be. His footnote humor and statistical ironies in drawing clever parallels to Nazism hit their marks hard. Yet the long-run historical comparison to the original fascists seems to me a bit far off.

Some theorists would maintain that Israel was born out of a height of post-war sympathy for Jewish survivors...creating in fact the first 'self-determined, haven/homeland' for 'Semites' in a long and persecuted history. Other observers, noting Western guns situated behind Zionist advances into 'Palestine' would view this history from a different perspective, questioning the very motives of this same national emergence.

It probably should not be argued however that the birth of this nation-state, located amongst a native population (then immediately (?) relegated to a subordinate status) did not disrupt this same population. It has already been pointed out on many occasions that the much vaunted 'American Revolution' was one in which vast removal, if not destructions of Native American societies took place as a similar result.

When I attended school in France during the early 70's, I was struck by the sheer emotion and fear of Israeli military might expressed to me by several, foreign, mid-east colleagues of mine. By the way,



they also admitted astonishment to what they saw as an incredible ignorance on the part of many American students as to what was occurring in these, their same homeland affairs. These students and residents saw a very tilted imbalance of power with the militarily, forceful presence of Israel...even if supported with

Western dollars and technology. In simpler terms, Israel was looked on as the "Policeman" to U.S. interests in the region.

Yet it hardly seems deniable that viewing the same location from the vantage point of the Israeli, Jew, or anyone else sympathetic to the plight of this particular and historic religion...there seems to exist an unending and constant hostility (at least in terms of the sheer numbers of antagonists) which surrounds this little State. Whether under the names anti-semitic, anti-Zionist, Arab nationalist, Muslim fundamentalist, pro-Palestinian terrorist etc. and so forth...the attitude and feeling that Israel does not deserve to even exist PERIOD as a state (!) seems no illusion or hypochondriac interpretation drummed up by some "buried-in-the-past Jew".

And why would it be? For horribly

legitimate reasons, the Jewish peoples may justifiably claim the need to own one patch of the earth as do so many other peoples. The problem obviously being that more than one peoples claim this same land.

Meanwhile, the chief of world capitalism (the U.S. of A.) would seem still content continuing to "police" the arena through Israel despite our own country's ambivalent, somewhat undercover, self anti-semitism. To me, our country's denunciations of Israeli military "excesses" against in-house (and/or) bordering neighbors rings hypocritical. Especially in light of the fantastic weapons and political exchanges which have taken place over the years between our two (the U.S. and Israel) dealing governments.

That the P.L.O. and/or any other alternative political entity in the region remains unconvincing to Israeli citizenry in posing more peaceful and/or progressive solutions to the dilemmas of conflicting claims to the land comes hardly as a surprise. Given the backlight of witnessing large powers' desires to stroke the area with continually unsettling fires...perhaps in order to help facilitate what is hoped to be the cheapest flow of oil

for their own large(r) economic and military engines throughout the world.

I'm glad Memphis Slim raised the issue in spite of my objections, for I now know he has succeeded in stimulating much informative feedback to his (perhaps) necessarily shocking, but exaggerated propositions.

For the germ of his truth...that after all, killing is killing, no matter WHAT rationale is used to say it is not, is probably something not really too complex to learn over and learn over and over again.

The Relearning Reporter:  
VICTOR WIGHTMAN

logical fallacy: using one common factor of two different events to equate the events through the use of the word, "deportation."

Mr. slim's second argument again equivocates: comparing some NAZI group called the Iron Cross (who?) and what I can only assume from the article's reference are Israeli citizens who witness an urban crime. Does Mr. slim condemn an equivalent of our "Neighborhood Watch" or "We Tip?" Some clarification for the uninformed reader would have helped.

The third argument mixes the meaning of the word "Palestinian", the word "Palestine" which is the geographic area, and the word "Palestine" as a



formally recognizable, sovereign nation. Further, what consideration is given by Mr. slim that the State of Israel is refused recognition by most every Arab nation--to the point of armed hostility.

Mr. slim's fourth item confuses different uses of "security". In the fifth "citizenship" is misused for "culture." Besides, what country would accept as a citizen someone who refuses to recognize the government's right to exist and who plans to see that that authority is destroyed?

In six, Mr slim compares the arbitrary decimation of 100 Greek citizens each time a NAZI soldier was killed by a Greek freedom-fighter to the individual deaths of Palestinians using deadly weapons in skirmished uprisings against Israeli soldiers again expresses faulty logical argument.

The article blames Israel entirely. I will not say Israel is completely innocent; however a major portion of blame lies elsewhere. Has Mr. slim considered events involving Jordan's King Hussein? Two decades ago he slaughtered twenty thousand Palestinians.

For many years Hussein refused to discuss any Palestinian resolution unless an international conference were held to mediate discussions with Israel. When the Reagan administration, via Secretary of State George Shultz succeeded in scheduling such a meeting in late 1987, Hussein changed his mind and refused to participate.

As described from a recent article by William Safire, a columnist for the New York Times, and reprinted in The Outlook, :

"...[Hussein's] bluff had been called; the king was not about to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians because they were more valuable to his regime angry in their jampacked camps than participating in his nation's life...."

"And so the world ignored the Palestinian Arabs and their frustration spilled out in violence, abetted by the PLO. Israel has been made to look the villain...."

"Hussein emerges the innocent observer. What do a score of Palestinian lives mean to him? He slaughtered 20,000 of them when they challenged his power two decades ago. "When next you see a picture of an Arab youth flinging a rock, think of the man whose interest is served by keeping Palestinians angry in their camps: Hussein..."

Has Mr. slim also overlooked the thousands of Palestinians and Arabs killed by their own people in Lebanon? If Lebanon cannot form a peaceful, stable, ethical government, then can the West Bank and Gaza Strip--equally fragmented--be successful? Can Syria and Jordan be counted-on to assist in the democratization of this area when they themselves have been incapable of such in their own countries?

I could critique further points of the editorial; it should not be necessary. It seems that the "Lessons Not Learned" are those of logical argumentation, and topic research. ▲

Ross D. Frankel -- Feb. 27, 1988.

# Ethnic Rivalry

by PATRICK MCCARTNEY

We Beachheaders knew when we ran the provocative article by Memphis Slim last month called "Lessons Not Learned," that we were in for sharp reactions. The article made the sensational comparison of Israeli army actions against Palestinians to the tactics employed by the Nazis--and a paper doesn't run an article like that without knowing that many persons of good will will be hurt if not outraged.

But I believe the outrage elicited by the Beachhead (and I fielded a few of the angrier calls) was worthwhile.

Sure the article was outrageous and provocative. It was meant to be. Knowing Memphis Slim, the article couldn't have been anything less.

But the point made, through hyperbole, was valid. Israelis, and all those who support the historic justice of a Jewish homeland--as I do--must confront the ugly situation that will fester so long as Israel occupies the West Bank, represses Palestinian political expression, and believes that peace can be achieved through the arrogant use of military power.

The danger to Israel is the continuing, overriding sense of ultimate self-justification caused by the Holocaust, and generalizing that moral righteousness to its relations with the Arabs.

With each octogenarian Nazi hunted down and brought to trial, the moral currency of the Holocaust is diminished, not strengthened, in the collective unconscious of countries and people who played no role in the Holocaust.

Past tragedies should not shield Jews or Israelis from criticism. It is not anti-Semitic to throw verbal stones at Israeli politics or the tactics of the Israeli occupation of what should have been an Arab Palestine.

In other words, how does American and to a degree European, favoritism of Israel play to the countless other repressed ethnic groups? The Gypsies and gays killed by the Nazis deserve some of the special sympathy Israelis militantly court.

How about the Armenians, who were slaughtered by the Turks in the First World War? Or the Kulaks by the Soviets? Or the Cambodians killed by a fanatically brutal Pol Pot regime in the name of progressivism?

My own family left Ireland during the potato famine some 130 years ago. A quarter of the Irish population--two million souls--died or emigrated during the famine. The tragedy was compounded by the fact that there was more than enough food raised in Ireland during the potato blight to feed the Irish, but the wheat and other foodstocks were shipped

foodstocks were shipped on British ships to England to further the 'political economy.'

Seven hundred years of English occupation of Ireland and repression of the Irish produced a depth of feeling at least as intense as that felt by most Jews following the Holocaust. But that should not exempt the IRA from criticism or comparisons with the occupying British Army.

Israel and its supporters will have to confront some bottom-line truths. Among them are:

1. Occupying a foreign land will never be accomplished without long-lasting resistance. Conquest brings definite advantages--ask the United States or Soviet Union--but it also

*"With every octogenarian Nazi hunted down and brought to trial, the moral currency of the Holocaust is diminished..."*

brings certain disadvantages. The costs of conquest continue to increase with more sophisticated weaponry and modern communication media.

2. If an Arab Palestine had been created at the same time a Jewish Israel was, the perception by many Arabs that Israel was a puppet state created by imperialistic western countries might have been lessened.

3. Despite claims that Israel is a bastion of democracy in the Middle East, the claim is true for Jews only. When Israel deposes popularly-elected Arab mayors on the West Bank, or refuses to negotiate with the PLO, it forfeits its claim to moral superiority.

4. The last Arab war against Israel was 15 years ago. The Arabian deep pockets are obviously tired of spending ever-more resources against the Israeli presence. Hang-gliding guerrillas hardly count when compared to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and its creation of a "cordon sanitaire" in southern Lebanon.

5. Israeli ethics are eroding. Israel's bombing of the Palestinian ferry, world-wide assassinations of PLO officials, its killing of 65-and-counting Palestinian rock-throwers, the bulldozer-burying of Arab youths, the official policy of physical intimidation, the pressure to close PLO offices in Washington and New York, and the bombing of the Iraqi nuclear facility are seriously depleting Israeli claims of moral superiority.

6. Peace will never come to the Middle East by a dependence on military might and "defensible borders." Peace must come from the heart.

One last word. Thank you to those who reacted with passion and intelligence to the article by Memphis Slim. Please take his message to heart. Ethnic rivalries led to evil in Germany, and are leading to evil in the Middle East. Shalom and Salaam. ▲

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# Save Water; Heal the Bay

## THE GREATER L.A. BASIN



by Moe Stavnezer

As many of you are acutely aware, there are major problems with Los Angeles' sewer system. The spate of overflows during the past 2 years is clear evidence that something is seriously amiss. One of these problems is that there is simply too much sewage going thru the system. More than the pipes or the treatment plants can handle.

The system is designed to handle some 480 mgd (million gallons a day) and currently handles about 440mgd which is about 92% of the designed capacity. And even as you read this, more sewage is added to the system every day as new development continues to come on line. Estimates from various city agencies are that 10mgd are added to the system each year. At that rate we will reach absolute capacity in the next 3-4 years and overflows will be a common occurrence.

Mayor Bradley has responded to this crisis with a 10 point water conservation plan currently being presented to various committees of the City Council. The reasoning is that cutting down on water use will take the pressure off the entire sewer system by reducing the amount of water in the pipeline. According to the Dept. of Water and Power (DWP), each of uses 178 gallons of water each day, 2/3 of it in our homes. Almost 1/2 the water we use at home washes our cars and waters our lawns. The mayor's plan, which he's entitled the "Heal the Bay" Plan, is to cut back water in- and outside our homes, where we work and where we play.

The mayor hopes to reduce consumption of water by 10% in the next 5 years while also reducing the number of sewer hook-ups by 30% until 1981 when the Tillman plant expands.

Ten percent is not small potatoes when we're talking about 440-460 million gallons every day. If we could save 44-46 million gallons a day it would be equivalent to the entire treatment capacity of the Tillman plant in the San Fernando Valley. It most surely would not solve the problems of our sewer system but would be a reasonable step back from the edge, which is where we are now. It would also reduce the amount of water we steal from Mono Lake in order to quench our enormous thirst.

The lynchpin of the mayor's program is the installation of water conservation devices (low flow shower heads etc) in residential, commercial and industrial buildings within 6 months of the passage of the ordinance. Owners of apartment and businesses who do not comply with this program would see their water bills increase from 105-100%, depending on how long they are out of compliance. Additionally, major water users would be audited by DWP which would have the authority to order installation of cost effective conservation devices. This can be very effective because almost 30% of our water is consumed by large industrial, commercial and governmental users.

The 30% reduction in new flow is a bit more complicated to explain. The 10mgd added each year comes mainly from the city of L.A. (80%) and also from 7 small cities (e.g. Santa Monica) and a number of county agencies as well as from the intensification of uses in existing buildings. Bradley wants to reduce the new flow to 7mgd. This means reducing the total flow from new development in L.A. to 5mgd and the flow from other sources to 2mgd. The lynchpin here is a partial moratorium on new

construction. Priorities for housing over commercial uses are included in plan at Heal the Bay's urging. But, how such a program could or would be administered is anyone's guess. Heal the Bay is looking very closely at this program and intends to inform the mayor, and the general public, about its strengths and its pitfalls.

We must all keep quite firmly in mind the fact that neither of these programs deals straightforwardly with the state of Santa Monica Bay or the real problems of L.A.'s sewer system. The Hyperion Treatment Plant will function only marginally better than with no conservation program and will still treat only 25% of the sewage secondarily; the HERS program (to burn the solid waste portion of the sewage) is

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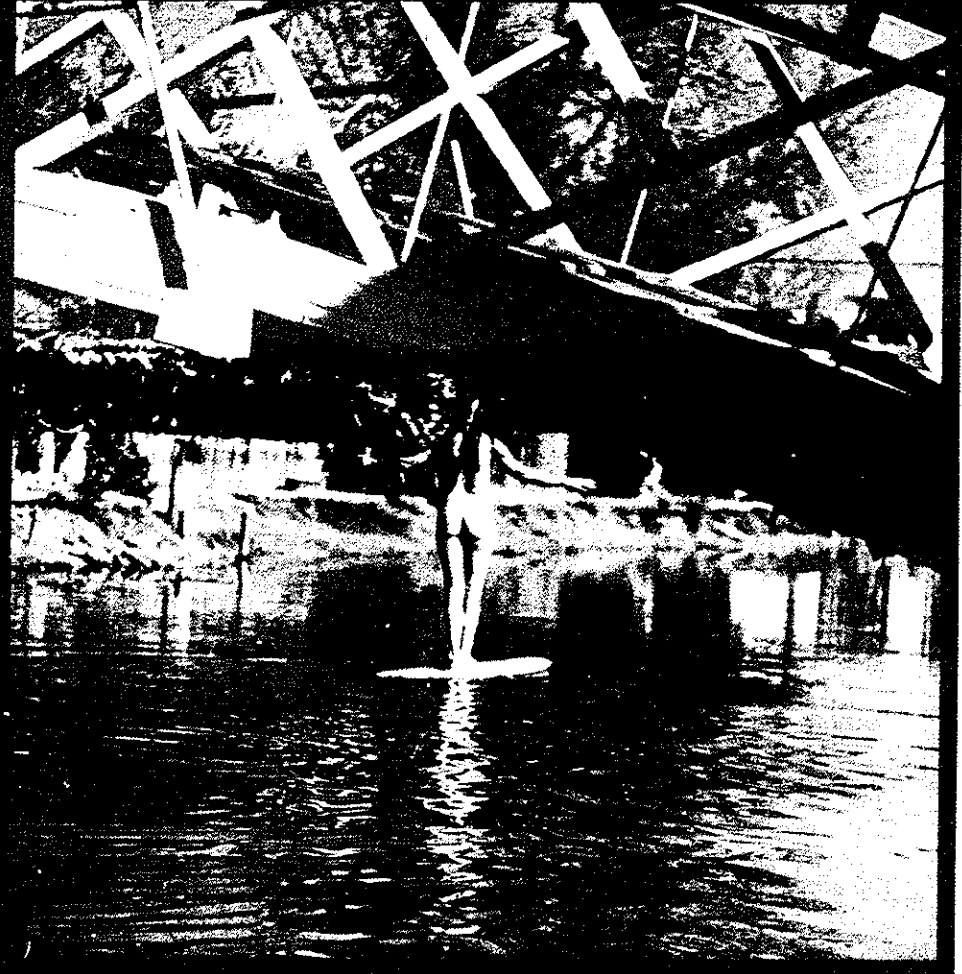
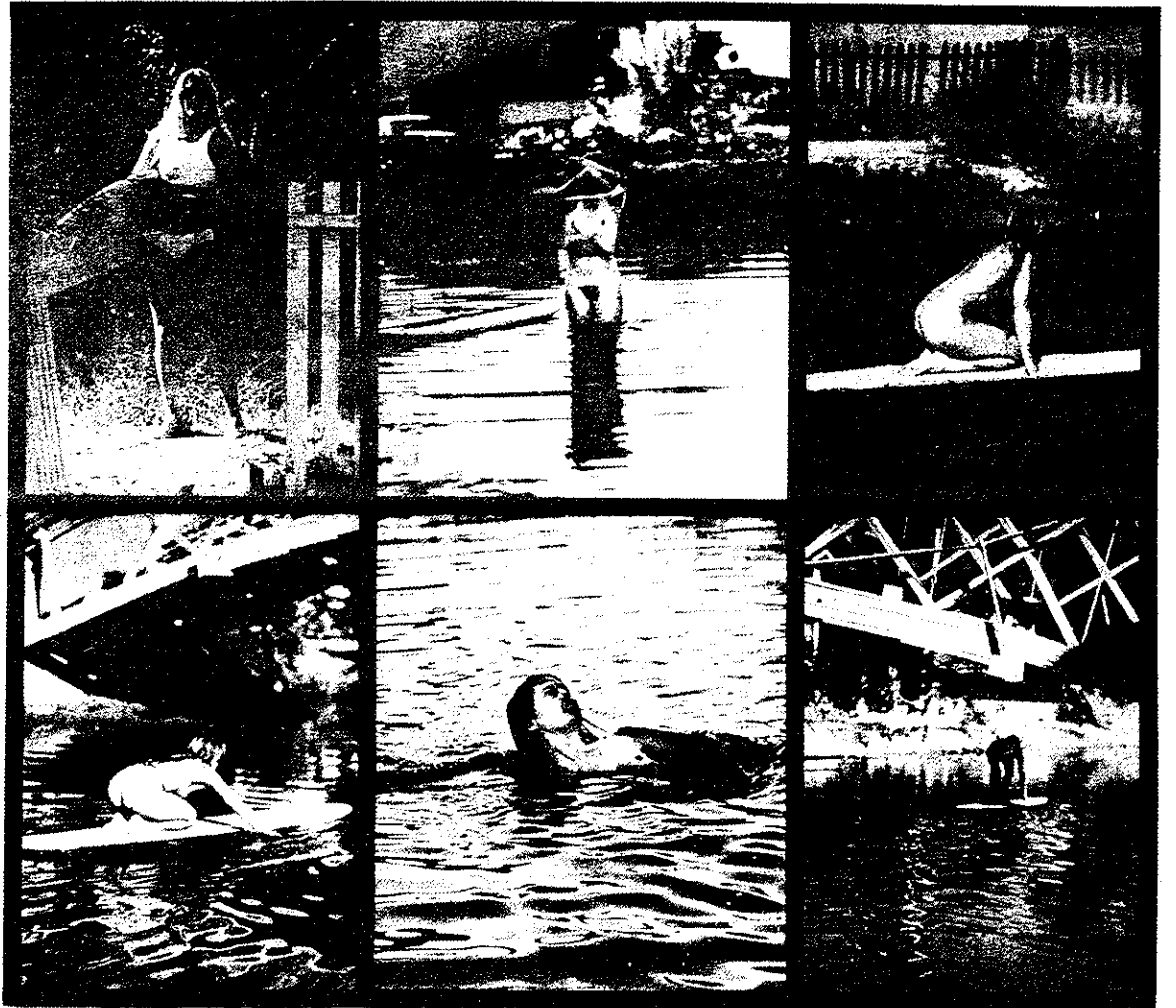
Mayor Bradley has taken a positive step forward but it is only a first, relatively small step. The mayor is to be praised and he must be reminded that to truly "Heal the Bay" is to do much, much more.

If you're interested in helping to clean up Santa Monica Bay, please drop us a card or letter. Write to:

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*Hyperion Christmas Water Wreath '88*

*Kella Calderwood 1976 Love*



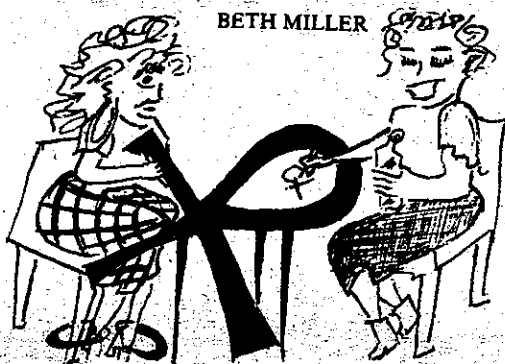
# New Age in Venice, Part 2

## SHARING

At the Oar House/Buffalo Chips, we spot an unoccupied table in the back and shuffle through the sawdust to sit down at the large corner booth. We take our time choosing our food, let ourselves grow accustomed to the cacophonous hum. The girls are fascinated by the decorative menu, folded like a pamphlet but suitable for mailing, with a collage on one side (James Dean, Marilyn Monroe, Jack Kennedy, a fifties car with tail fins, and other historical American icons). They gather a bunch to send to friends as post cards or to put on their walls as souvenirs.

We decide on a healthful Banzai Salad, very yin despite the chicken (cashews, water chestnuts, snow peas, multicolored bell peppers, red onions, broccoli and bean sprouts in a teriyaki dressing). This is for Sam and me to share. Sam and Michelle are going to share potato skins filled with cheddar cheese. Michelle and I are going to share some French-fried zucchini. We'll all have onion rings. We wait for the waitress who never comes. (Here one orders in person at the kitchen window.) The girls to with the id a of beer. I say encouragingly, why not, children in Europe and Latin America often drink beer and wine, maybe to prevent adult alcoholism. So mother bustles to the bar and brings back several. A disembodied voice beckons: "Sam, Sam." Sam and Michelle proceed in tandem to the order-and-pick-up window to fetch the food. We regroup to eat and drink, ignoring the drunk young men flirting openly and slobbering at the next table. Some people are playing pinball and video games, others are pinning. A few cluster around the television sets, watching a football game and cheering.

Taking a break from eating to walk through the pinball machines, we encounter one of those contraptions that stamps out i.d. tags in tin for a quarter. They each stamp a disk, making sure to include their astrological signs, something I don't recall we did in the fifties. Apparently one's astrological sign is a part of your identity if you're a New Age



BETH MILLER

child. I do not know for certain what New Age children are, but to a sixties person like myself, it's hard to distinguish what's really new about them. They seem to have been influenced by ancient traditions of the East, from Hindu and Buddhist spirituality to the Chinese I Ching, incorporating diverse bits of folklore.

Buddhist spirituality to the Chinese I Ching, incorporating diverse folklore and primitive beliefs as well.

When they see that the rough-hewn tables are suitable for carving, they borrow my keys to record for posterity the occasion of our dinner, juxtaposing their initials with names and messages and hieroglyphics from decades past. Michelle begins with an "M," drawing firmly with one of my keys, then gathering steam, with a fork, scratching out an Egyptian ankh and then a yin-yang, copying two of the signs from among the myriad silver symbols on the rings on her fingers. Sam carves an "S," then a peace sign and a woman sign. (That's my daughter after all! I'm really proud! The best of the sixties survives!)

When the delegate of authority comes by at 7:30 to check drivers' licenses, as several annoying announcements on the loudspeaker had threatened, I send him packing with a "Humph. I'm their mother. They're with me." We all enjoy a thrill of adolescent defiance as we exit haughtily.

### CULTURE AND COUNTER-CULTURE

After dinner we walk south to have coffee at the Rose Café. On the way the Granola Girls request a stop at One Life, a natural food store, to peruse the edible exotica. We spend a long time in a fragrant room of herbs and teas. They

stick their noses into everything, memorizing bits of herbal healing lore as they inhale nature out of jars and flasks. Sam prescribes tea for my sniffles, which Michelle measures out into a baggy and weighs on an antique scale. Then Samantha talks me into buying her gardenia oil, since the orange blossom from the Boardwalk makes her sick. They nag me to punch another hole in my ear. With luck, the tiny orifice will activate the acupuncture point that removes the nicotine craving. I try to freeze them with a steely rational gaze, as though to shrivel such superstitions in the bud. (There are over a hundred points on the ear, fat chance!)

In the rose Café Sam studies the assortment of denizens, jangles the Indian bells around her ankles as she checks out their clothes. While we sip powerfully aromatic cappuccinos, I spot my old friend Carl Boggs, an under-employed professor of political science, sitting on a tall stool reading The Free Venice Beachhead. I say, "I know that

man." Is he famous?" Michelle asks. "Not like a rock star," I reply. "He's an intellectual like me." "He looks sad," Sam tells sympathetically. She creates a scenario in which she would go over and talk to him, plumping up his ego: "Aren't you Professor Boggs, the famous Gramsci scholar?" But then she chickens out, so I go over and do the job myself. Homeward-bound at last, we proceed north to the video store next to Mishkon Tephilo Temple, singing "Yellow Submarine" at the top of our capacity. We peruse the selection, but fail to achieve unanimity, until Ben, the blond, earringed young clerk behind the counter, cannily recommends Something Wild.

At home, I light a Handy Log in the fireplace while they put Something Wild on the VCR. I envy their generational ease with electronic gadgets. We like the soundtrack, especially the variations on the theme song, "Wild Thing," of which the most memorable is the final one, when Sister Carol sings the song over and over (you never want her to stop) in the doorway of a dive in New York City while the credits are running:

you make my heart sing,  
you make everything  
groovy.

## The Downside of Downzoning

By Rick Davidson

Moving to Venice in 1961 as an architect just five years out of college, I was not prepared for the lessons in community planning Venice was to teach me. After studying architecture at the University of Florida I went out into the world to design a better built society, i.e., through design, create a healthier, happier, and fuller life for my clients. I was not totally naive. Growing up in Miami, Florida, winter politics. Mafia, I knew of corrupt politicians. But not architects, not engineers, not city planners; no, no, we were the idealists, the pure of heart, the creators, not destroyers of society.

My rude awakening came with the code enforcement program in Venice. The idea was to "upgrade" the community by removing dangerous and unhealthy living conditions. Certainly reasonable goals. In reality the program was a conspiracy to move low- and moderate-income residents out of Venice in order to make room for a Miami Beach West. Through the efforts of a lot of people, the program was first modified, then stopped. But not till large numbers of old buildings were removed.

A few years later the Canal Project came along, followed by the Venice community Plan as envisioned, not by Venice residents, but by City Hall planners and developers. The first master plan was actually created by students from Cal-Poly Pomona; paid for by developer Kurt Simon.

Again the ominous shadow of a Miami Beach West was cast over Venice.

Now comes down zoning. Down zoning in Venice is a question of class and class identification. It's good for lowering density, reducing traffic congestion, raising property values, i.e., it's good for property owners, real estate agents, insurance companies,

and home-gardening experts, but it isn't good for renters, poor people, especially those poor persons who are also a minority; and certainly the upgrading of a neighborhood by down zoning it isn't good for those of us who are homeless.

The contradiction is between much needed housing and the image and ease of 'city beautiful'. A city of low density, single family residents, duplexes and some triplexes and a few nice restaurants just around the corner, and of course, adequate parking, clean streets and sidewalks makes a nice picture every American can relate to...except those who are not allowed in the picture due to zoning laws.

No one is against the good life, the clean life, the beautiful life. Unfortunately not everyone can afford it even if they desire it. Surprising as it may seem, some of us don't even desire it. Some are more interested in the process of living than the products of the good life. But that's a discussion for another day.

The contradiction between housing and parking; between people and ease is what's before us. It's not a city planning question. It's a moral question.

In a society that fails to provide employment and affordable housing, to say nothing of possible housing alternatives, lowering density is not a blessing, but a curse.

Problems of parking and traffic congestion in a beach area are not solved by down zoning. We need to take a more creative look at the problem of parking and traffic as it relates to the beach. Venice Beach is a major recreation area for all of Los Angeles; and must be seen as such. Because some of us happened to have moved here early shouldn't give us the right to restrict the use of Venice to just ourselves. A study might look into the idea of surrounding Venice with

parking structures with a revived tram system which used to run on the Ocean Front Walk. This approach could be a pilot program that eventually would be found in every major center throughout Los Angeles - the plan could be expanded to include mono-rails, moving sidewalks, golf-cart types of low powered vehicles. Too expensive? What is the total cost of our present system, or lack of system?

Are we a society, a species if you will, that protects our own, nurtures and supports our own; or are we a species that devours the weak, destroys the infirm, and buries children alive? Do we care more about 'things' than we care about ourselves? These are the questions; questions we can't afford to turn over to city planners, building officials, government bureaucrats, and architects to answer - their track record is too deadly to live with.

The planning of our communities must relate to the realities of the day. Our solutions must first of all be humanistic in outcome. While we are a society of laws, the reason for the laws is that our species has failed to live in harmony with nature and each other. Therefore we have created a complex system of rules to govern our inability to live in peace with ourselves. These rules are not universal laws, but human made. Keeping this in mind, it's important to remember not the letter of the law, but its intent. Example: to write an ordinance that punishes or prohibits people from sleeping on the Venice beach assumes those beach sleepers are somewhere else to sleep. In their cars or vans? No. On a park bench? No. In parks? No. To create a law, call it an ordinance, prior to providing adequate alternatives is criminal - it's inhuman. Yet this is the process our planning experts and city officials have taken. They certainly are not following the spirit of anyone's laws.

'Downzoning' continued to Page 10.

declarations of fighting to protect liberty and democracy they succed in killing it overseas. During these wars, war lobbyists, well financed by weapons merchants lobby the respective legislatures for the continuation of those wars, playing on people's fears, pride and greed. When these wars of tyranny and misunderstanding are ultimately lost as they often are, the generals cry that the war was lost at home and not on the battle field.

The Americans relative to the French and British were latecomers to Asia. The French were heavily involved in the international drug trade and the British had been involved in the Opium Wars that had forced the drug trade on the Chinese which inspired the Boxer Rebellion. As Professor

Scott remarked; we were soon involved in the politics of the drug trade though we brought a special intensity as well as technology to it that our European allies had not.

Histories of the CIA usually trace its covert actions back to the special operations of its WWII predecessor agency, the Office of Strategic Services, the OSS. Within the CIA was a group called the OPC, or the Office of Policy Coordination. It tended to be the "cowboy" branch of the agency and contained some of the more reckless operatives that claim to serve this country. Immediately following the Second World War when the "enemy" was "suddenly" transferred from Nazi Germany to Communist Russia, this group, the OPC having nothing better to do with their time I suppose, began organizing different operations around the world in what soon was to become an insane and poorly planned war on Communist and Socialist societies.

In preparation for this future war, it smuggled SS intelligence officers, who still had spy networks in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, as allies now to parts of the Middle East and South America. One of these agents was Walter Rauff who later had a small yet significant role in the IIT and CIA planned 1973 assassination of Salvadore Allende in Chile and the installation of the regime of Pinochet. Another was Klaus Barbie who took part along with the Argentine generals in the 1980 Bolivian cocaine coup that brought in the drug regime of Luis Garcia Meza. As Professor Scott put it - at certain castles in Germany this so-called underground railroad was harboring large numbers of Jews from the concentration camps as well as, ironically, their former tormentors, all awaiting exfiltration from Germany. As shocking as this report may come to some, especially to the generation of people who fought the war, I have heard from other sources that there was a cartel of American, British, Dutch, and Swedish industrialists who gave money and support to Hitler before and during the war hoping among other things, that he would attack the Soviet Union and its socialist's sentiments that threatened their vise of power. The Fords, the du Ponts, the Rockefellers, the Morgans, IIT and Chase National/Manhattan Bank were all part of it. Ford gave Hitler money as early as the 20's and invariably remembered his birthday with a donation of 50,000 Reichmarks, as well as truck sales and repairs during the war from his subsidiary companies in Europe and Africa. All of this and more is well documented in Trading With the Enemy by Charles Higham, Dell Press, 1983. One immediately wonders if the war and its vicious holocausts would have happened without Henry Ford and friends. It is this realization of the direct fascist leanings of some of our powerful countrymen that is the lynchpin of plausibility that our own secret services would be directed to help SS ..... right after the war.

Along with the enlistment then of these SS officers was the OPC organization of European and American crime families to form local armies in "sensitive" areas of the world. In Tammany Hall style, mafioso were released from American prisons and returned to Europe. The Corsican mob was supported and brought back to power. As reported in The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia by Alfred McCoy, it was in Marseille, France, the major port through which material (particularly American munitions and supplies) were transported to the French expeditionary Corps fighting in Indo-China. This Vietnamese war was about as unpopular with the French as it was with the Americans twenty years later. A selective boycott of those freighters carrying supplies to the war zone from Marseille was begun. With the help of these Corsican gangsters the strike was brutally broken. There were, however, other consequences of this cold war 'victory'. The French police later reported that Marseilles first heroin laboratories were opened in 1951, only months after the Corsican syndicates took over the waterfront - just in time, it turns out to cooperate with other CIA/OPC operations in Southeast Asia

When the Chinese border was closed in 1949 and we lost the opium sources in China which had been fostered by the British in the earlier opium wars, it is claimed, to what will be the disbelief of many, that

## Venice Go Braugh!

March, 1988

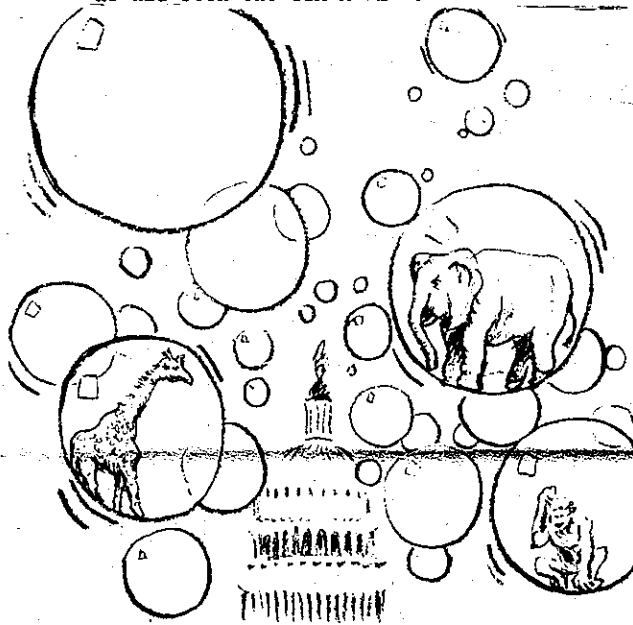
the CIA conciously began to develop the opium growing capacity in Burma, Cambodia, and Laos, and increased the areas estimated opium poppy production from 40 tons a year in 1946 to 400 tons 7 years later. By the time the war in Viet Nam reached its height, the area which became known as the Golden Triangle was producing 1,000 tons of the opium poppy to help finance the secret wars of these somewhat crazed people throughout the world. Much of that heroin making its way to the United States as reported by the Christic Institute among others, was courtesy of your CIA (in cooperation with American and Carribean mobsters.) No wonder some of us didn't wish to attend the war.

Naturally with such claims it is necessary to examine the events of these years. It is amazing to note how many men identified with what the Christic Institute calls the core of the secret team were in the WWII OSS office of Kunming, Yunnan, the major opium producing area of China.

John Singlaub, who is the director of the neo-fascist World anti-communist league, some of whose members were ex SS smuggled out of Germany, as mentioned previously. From 1966-1968 he was chief of special operations which launched covert cross border operation into Laos in a "secret war" that employed 30,000 men and dropped as many bombs as we did on Germany, it is claimed to protect the opium fields.

Richard Secord, who later was director of air support operation in Laos with Singlaub, flew to Iran with Reagan emissaries Robert McFarlane and Ollie North in the May 1986 arms deal.

Theodore Shackley became the CIA Chief of Station in Laos also in '66-'68. Before that, he had been the CIA Miami station chief



from '62-'65, directing the Cuban Bay of Pigs veterans against Fidel Castro - which is a whole other story involving CIA/organized crime/drug running links in the casinos of Havana. From 1969-72, he was station chief in Saigon.

Tom Clines was there before the revolution of Mao which might have stopped a large part of the planetary drug trade. He left the CIA and worked as a "private business man" as a Laos era associate of Singlaub and Secord and lately has arranged clandestine arms deliveries to the Contras out of Portugal.

Howard Hunt of Watergate break-in fame along with Lou Conein were there as OSS officers and their mob contacts.

These men were all in this office where Professor Scott reports that drugs were kept on hand and bills and informants were regularly paid with opium derivatives.

China went communist in 1949 as it was clear for years that this was going to happen. Her borders were closed and the CIA lost its opium revenues. It was this event that drove these men south where they engaged the Hmong tribesmen to grow the increasing

supply of the opium poppy to replace what had been lost in China. A furious campaign was waged, with the use of overseas Chinese gangs called the KMT, to terrorize and "influence" ethnic Chinese in surrounding countries lest they follow the socialist lead of their homeland

As you may recognize by now, many of these men are the ones that have been so frequently mentioned in the Contra-gate hearings and are the ones that are being brought to trial by the Christic Institute in Miami. This case, as you may know, represents the plaintiff, Tony Avrigon and his wife Martha Honey, both reporters, who were injured in what they see as the CIA assassination bombings in La Penca, Nicaragua, where the CIA failed to murder Eden Pastora.

When an in-house investigation was sent from Washington to Thailand at one point to investigate charges that this group was fostering the production of the opium poppy, they were murdered by their fellow Americans. This became known as the 'Thailand Flap' within CIA circles and led to the resignation in disgust by some of its agents.

Until we eliminate poverty, unemployment, dependency on drugs, social problems that keep us malfunctioning, until we eliminate the inhuman conditions much of our species is faced with, let our lawmakers and enforcers act on the intent of our species. They must move off the sense of power they wield - it's a false sense of power, because it is a delegated power and will be retracted when the people have had enough.

There are long-range solutions being investigated and worked on. Some may even relieve the pain and burden of living in the shadow of great wealth. But the emergency is NOW and we must act NOW. Perhaps if our species really realized what an emergency we are facing, we'd create the needed solutions. It is certainly time to try.

There is a geographical question that comes to mind; one that carries the moral weight of an atomic bomb: where did all the homeless go when they were forced off the Venice Beach? There are other questions too: were the tents on the beach so terrible? Are those who fought for their removal now working to provide needed shelter for our less fortunate citizens? And to Councilwoman Ruth Galanter, wouldn't it have been more humane to provide housing first, i.e., prior to removing Tent City? Couldn't you have instituted an emergency resolution to help those without shelter rather than bow to the restaurateurs and their clientele? No, these are not architectural and planing questions. They are moral questions all of us must answer.

If we're facing a moral question, then we should look for certain qualities in our leaders, such as honesty, integrity, justice and compassion. Yet such qualities seem mutually exclusive relative to elected officials. Now we've compounded the moral question with one of accountability.

A few years back, Free Venice, a local community organization of the 60's hosted a 4th of July celebration where a Venice Declaration of Independence from L. A. was proclaimed. It was a fun event with many serious and humorous parts to it. Is it time for another declaration? Some of my freinds keep telling me that this is the 80's, not the 60's and we have to act differently. I think that they are wrong. While it's true we're not continually in the streets and on the campuses like we were, it's not that the problems we were addressing have been solved: Relocated and hidden, maybe, but not solved. That we are not in the streets is more a reflection on ourselves than the issues or styles. I fear that we are growing old too gracefully. It might be good for us to review our country's Declaration of Independence ...certainly its Bill of Rights. They are being down zoned also.

One final question: Has anyone seen Thomas Paine lately?•

The webs of these scandals are much more than can be presented here. From the first importation of heroin into Australia and the Nugen-Band Bank there to SS officers in Argentina to the formation of the death squads in Central America, where tens of thousands have been murdered and, as Bill Moyer states, "...have been incinerated" these crimes and their fascist elements are ripping this planet apart and much of its is courtesy of our own CIA. The cocaine epidemic in this country began at the time large CIA covert operations began in Central America. This involvement is being documented. Seventy-five per cent of the heroin now available on the world market does not come now from S.E. Asia but from regions along the Afghanistan/Pakistani borders. Guess who's there?

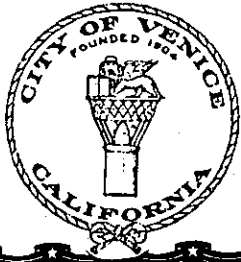
Millions and millions of dollars have flown into this country's electoral process from these drug sources. By the time the Senate got to Nixon they told him to resign or be impeached and convicted lest this further scandal would get out to the American people. I don't know what the Senate was trying to protect us from-- apparently their approach didn't work.

It is these roots of past madness and corruption, this hidden war of still fascist elements- that with the pressure of the current presidential elections will reveal themselves fully. And hopefully, once and for all, these powerful patterns that have brought so much suffering will be broken, understood and healed.

There are lives in the balance,  
There are people under fire,  
There are children at the cannon,  
There is blood on the water.

And all is not right with America.

The Christic Institute sponsors frequent lectures. 659-9080.



## Venice Town Council

Thursday, March 10  
Beyond Baroque Center  
681 N. Venice Blvd.

### AGENDA

1. Discussion of deteriorated public facilities in Venice, including the pier, the Pavilion and the Pagodas--not to mention the benches, rest-rooms, water fountains and other non-existent Venice facilities.
2. Charter By-Laws vote.
3. Committee Reports:
  - Planning & Development (823-5092)
  - Homeless (281-8323)
  - Board of Directors (281-8323)
  - Boardwalk Task Force (306-7756)

## WOMEN

CONCERT SET IN CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY --- Jazz/folksinger Kimberly Miller & Nueva Cancion group Sabia; Sat. Mar. 12, at 8:00 p.m. Held at the Church in Ocean Park, at Second and Hill in Santa Monica. Sign language interpreted. \$10 donation at the door. Event sponsored by the Los Angeles Local of Democratic Socialists of America. For info: 213/385-0650 or 213/399-6617.

SETTLEMENT OF CADILLAC HOTEL LAWSUIT :  
ATTENTION: T. Daron, T. McGilvern, or successors--YOU are entitled to money!  
Call Bet Tzedek at (213)939-0506  
Deadline is March 22, 1988-----

Venice Neighbor to Neighbor is a community organization which reaffirms Venice's historic character of accepting and welcoming a wide range of residents from all lifestyles and incomes. Our first programs dealt with low-income housing and help for the homeless. We want to let people know that Venice neighborhoods are not merely investment opportunities, but places where people live. Our members include renters, homeowners, landlords and homeless people. We welcome our neighbors to join us in our efforts. Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 8, 7:30 pm Venice City Hall, 681 N. Venice Blvd. For more information call 399-9256.

### "THE GREATER ROSE AVENUE COMMUNITY EFFORT"

The G.R.A.C.E. Patrol is a volunteer group of homeless individuals dedicated to serving our community through good deeds and good works. Homeless does not mean helpless.

Members of the G.R.A.C.E. Patrol are reliable workers seeking further employment. For more information about the Patrol, contact:

Donna Herlihy/Job Counselor  
St. Joseph Center- 204 Hampton Drive  
Venice, CA 90291  
(213) 399-7943

- The Beachhead would like to thank
- Frank Rios for all his work and
- initiative on the Baza memorial,
- published in the February issue. It
- also acknowledges the financial
- assistance of Sande Cohen, Arnold
- Springer, Savino Studio, and
- Armadillo & Co.

# Community Events

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

The Church in Ocean Park  
235 Hill Street, Santa Monica  
CONTINUING GROUPS

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

BALLONA WETLANDS WALK! Mar. 20 & April 17  
9-- 11 a.m. Near scenic BEACH. Groups leave  
at 15 minute intervals, so you can get there  
anytime between 9 & 11 a.m. For info call:  
Friends of Ballona Wetlands, 213/821-7695.

## POLITICS

Southern California Interfaith Taskforce  
on Central America (SCITCA) presents  
Dr. Charlie Clements, with the story of  
his personal journey in Central America,

!..MY FEET IS TIRED, BUT MY SOUL IS RESTED...  
5:30 p.m., Sat., Mar. 19. Live music, wine, &  
fine food. St. Augustine by-the-Sea,  
1227 Fourth Street, Santa Monica, (just  
south of Wilshire). Donation: \$30.00  
Donation includes admission to the Public  
Forum at 8 p.m. in St. Augustine's sanctuary  
where Dr. Clements will speak on "Human  
Rights and U.S. Foreign Policy." For Public  
Forum only, donation: \$5.00. Reservations  
required for dinner. For info SCITCA, 213/  
746-8375

# Prole Food

by Essie la Fresseur de la Yenta

Essie is not dredging up memories of the Summer of the Homeless '87, she is recounting what happened at a zoning change meeting this past February. Seems the neighbors of two trendy pricey restaurants on North Venice Blvd., the West Beach Cafe and Rebecca's, have been subjected valets playing TV cop, squealing the tires of the Beamers, Rollses and Jags of restaurant patrons as the valets rush to park. Drunken fights and arguments spice up the early hours for the benighted residents of North Venice Blvd. and environs. Several residents complained of restaurant patrons urinating and defecating on the street, in parking lots and in neighboring yards and lawns. Essie wants to have a press conference and wants to demand to get those restaurants off the beach because they attract an undesirable element!

On to more appetizing and affordable subjects. Essie loves to eat at take-out places. On Skid Rose Ave. and Ocean Front Walk, the place to graze or gluttonize is the Carousel. It looks and smells like a New York neighborhood hangout. When the Carousel opens at 7:00 a.m., a stampede of locals bursts in to order the Italian Coffee at 75c which is guaranteed to start the most sluggish of hearts. American coffee is also served, 5 c. Sometimes one has to wait for those pasty-white mounds that are sitting behind the counter on a tray to enter the chrysalis of the brick oven to be transformed into brown fat, shiny-crust croissants. These are big airy fellers that come plain to stuffed with a number of fillings: ham & cheese, strawberry, etc. The price range is \$1.25 to \$2.00.

Essie has discovered, as others before her have, Jody Maroni's Sausage Kingdom, located at 2011 Ocean Front Walk. That's south of the weightlifting pen which is what you'll need after finishing the sausages that the Sausage King sets before you. There's your basic Italian sausage, sweet or hot; Polish sausage; Cajun Boudin, spicely in the range of hot. Essie likes all of the above

in the \$1.50 to \$3.00 range. The sausages are served on specially made poppyseed buns with grilled red and yellow peppers and onions. The Sausage King goes epicurean which is fitting, since sausage was a favorite treat in Roman times, with sausages made of duck, chicken, lamb and goose. These prices range from \$2.50 to \$4.50. Moroccan sausage, Hunan-style, goose with pistachios, all can be sampled before one buys.

Essie feels Sausage Heaven is reached with a duck sausage with pine nuts, figs, and a touch of prosciutto. Subtle with a hint of sweetness, grilled onions and the peppers. Who needs to go to a trendy overpriced restaurant when one can sit at a rough wooden table with fellow proles or wander over to the paddle tennis courts and look at people sweat as they hit the balls over the net. Watching those fit, trim bodies, Essie vows to diet tomorrow. Right now, she bites into her duck sausage. Essie will carpe diem and be one with the Romans: Ave Caesar!

Several new restaurants have opened up on West Washington Blvd. A new takeout place raised Essie's hopes that there'd be a barbecue place within walking distance. The Glencrest, on 1146 W. Washington Blvd., is a modest little place with a few tables. Essie ordered the rib dinner. \$5.95. The ribs were meaty, but they were coated with a bland tinny-tasting tomato sauce. The black-eyed peas had no zip and no tang. The cornbread muffin was good and homemade and not too sweet. The coleslaw was a miserable snot-green texture of what once was a vegetable before it was macerated with some sort of slime that mass food manufacturers use in place of dressing. Xanthum, vegetable gum, BHT, BHA, and artificial flavors coated Essie's tongue. Essie has nothing against the use of some canned preserved or precooked foods in restaurant cooking: canned tomatoes make a good sauce if doctored, and especially if some fresh tomatoes are mixed in. But this was the soggiest mess that ever oozed out of a ten-gallon plastic restaurant-supply container. The two women who ran the restaurant were courteous and friendly. Essie sincerely hopes they will make their own coleslaw and

their own potato salad which Essie didn't taste, but had that telltale yellow cast that means Manufactured Food. A good barbecue is needed as an antidote to the hoity-toity Restaurant Row that's taking over West Wash.

Danny's Diner, at 3306 Lincoln Blvd, between Rose and Marine, has changed his menu and downzoned prices. Burgers, hotdogs, burritos, tuna, pastrami and omelettes on a bun, are all one dollar. The burgers are a little smaller than a McDonald's, but fine and juicy. One makes a snack, and two will fill one up enough for lunch. The burrito is a dainty chubby little tike. Essie recommends covering its nakedness with chili, at 75c extra. The star of Danny's Diner is the pastrami on a bun. This is the first time Essie ever ate pastrami on white bread. Essie will have to seek forgiveness from all of New York. But no matter. The bun with mustard, lettuce, etc., makes a California cuisine: white bread. The pastrami is lean, the best Pastrami this side of Fairfax. Essie misses the homemade coleslaw, though: it would go great with the pastrami. Make it and charge extra, Danny.

Essie stopped in Hal's. It used to be the Merchant of Venice which in its short life had become a hang-out for Venetians of all classes, stripes, and gripes. It's been turned into what the new owners seem to think is the epitome of sleek, high-techiness - bleached wood, booths, and a lot of them, give it all the charm of a loan office. People who only feel at home in an office environment will love it. Essie has more to say about this establishment, but will do so in a future column. Essie's got a hot date with a cool bird. Gotta fly.



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