

No on Prop. P
Yes on Prop. O

INSIDE:
ELECTION INFO:
BEACHHEAD BENEFIT
WITH PAUL
KRASSNER
NOV. 17TH

FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968



FREE

November 1988, #226, P.O. Box 504, Venice CA 90294, 399-0584, ISSN-0884-9641, Circulation 10,000

THE FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD 20TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE WILL BEGIN PRODUCTION ON SUNDAY, NOV. 6th AT THE TENANT ACTION CENTER, 442 LINCOLN BLVD. 11 AM INFO: 399-0584 PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES, ETC. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THERE WILL BE A VENICE POETRY SECTION-PLEASE SUBMIT POEMS TO THE BEACHHEAD OR JOHN HAAG BY NOV. 1

UNHOMOGENIZED HUMOR

WITH LOVE FROM
MARY WILSHIRE
©1988



VENICE PIER

On September 15 about 100 people attended the first in a series of hearings concerning the future of the Venice Pier. I discovered that the pier had been closed about 2 years ago. I had ridden my bicycle down the bike path, and had planned on riding to the end of the pier, which I had done in the past, but this time, it was fenced off. Someone said it was deteriorating and was unsafe due to a recent storm. Like so much in Venice and Los Angeles, I was disappointed but didn't have the time to further investigate the closing of the pier. I assumed that repairs would soon begin, and I and all the other people who walk on the pier, fish off the pier, ride the bikes to its end, would again enjoy its existence. Recently, however, there have been signs that the pier might not be repaired. It might be torn down and gone forever. The meeting at Westminster School on September 15 clearly protested this possibility loud and clear and was a good illustration of what many people in Venice are objecting to so vehemently: the way in which the character and quality of life in Venice is quietly getting raped by the city and county of Los Angeles, either by turning their heads the other way, or by decision-making that excludes the residents of our community.

Propositions and Oppositions

78, 79, & 98: You believe "U.S." education teaches/ breeds passivity/aggression, elitism/greed? How about the argument that those who benefit from the "education system" ought to pay more for it? I vote **NO** to throwing more money toward decaying, undemocratic institutions.

80 & 86: Something is terribly wrong with our desperately unequal society already. More jailing hardly seems to be a good new idea unless it was perhaps for the entrepreneurial pig rich. **NO.**

81, 82 & 83: Existing water supply systems stink. Although charging those responsible for pollution would be a finer idea, probably a good idea to support these bond issues, **YES.**

84, 90, 93, & 95: All these proposals encourage housing and/or incentive for the homeless and therefore deserve **YES** per priorities.

85: **YES** to more spending for libraries.

87 & 88: **YES** to greater financial government- flexibility.

89: **NO** to new super- governor parole override powers.

91: **NO** to permitting an already over-arrogant and incompetent State Bar as a regulatory yardstick for justice courts eligibility.

92: **YES** to permitting more public hearings of criminal-type judges.

94: **NO** to allowing overpaid judges teacher pay.

96 & 102: **NO** to oversweeping, police-state-type powers for anti-AIDS, governmental activity.

97: **YES** to restore CAL-OSHA, for worker safety.

99: **YES** to greater tax on killer-sticks.

100: **YES** to 20% auto insurance rollback proposal.

101: Richard Polanco's bill deserves a **NO** for it's shiftness.

103: Ralph Nader's backing seemingly deserves a **YES** for this most comprehensive (?) of reform measures.

104: This initiative deserves a **NO** just for the sheer length of the fine print.

105: **YES** to more public disclosures to potential conflicts of interest.

106: Tort claim limits on contingency fees probably hurt the less financially-well off, vote **NO.**

by RED EYE VICTOR

Heads They Win

Tails We Lose

By Rex Frankel

Richard Nixon calls the 1988 election campaigns "trivial and inane"; Jimmy Carter says they're "the worst ever". I agree. But it's not because of a lack of issues. They're still there. The problem is that the American corporate media is not investigating these issues. They prefer personalities over policies.

The Fairness Doctrine was created to provide balance to the publicly owned airwaves. At the time, Cold War politics and commie-hunting created a public fear of "Liberal media bias". During the Reagan years, however, all three US TV networks fell under new ownership--and all conservative. NBC was bought by General Electric--the U.S.'s 4th largest defense contractor and a top builder of nuke plants. ABC merged with Capital Cities Corp. CBS was taken over by Lawrence Tisch--a close Reaganite who owns Lorillard Tobacco Co. and CNA Insurance. (Tisch's brother ran the Postal Service for a while under Reagan.) A 4th network was formed by the arch-conservative newspaper baron from Australia, Rupert Murdoch, who bought independent stations in New York, L.A., Washington D.C. and Chicago, then bought 20th Century Fox studios and created the Fox Tv Network.

Now that America has four conservative TV networks, Liberal views seem to be relegated to public TV--channel 28. Last year, with almost complete Conservative control of the U.S. broadcast media, Reagan's FCC repealed the Fairness Doctrine.

Now, each network cites polls saying George Bush is way ahead of Mike Dukakis, based on a sample of say-500 people. Now, it's very easy to lie with statistics, especially with a sample of less than 1% of the American public. The Nielsen Television Ratings people poll 1200 American households each week and say the "Bill Cosby Show" is Number One. In a lot of ways, the Cosby show directly reflects the philosophy of the

Heads continued on Page 4

So what facts about the state of the Venice pier did I glean?

- (1) There was only a cursory inspection of the pier done prior to its closing.
- (2) There was no public notification given of the pier closing.
- (3) There will be no pier unless we the residents insist upon it.
- (4) It will cost approximately \$2 million to repair the pier.
- (5) It will cost approximately \$5 million to replace the pier.
- (6) Although the pier has been closed for about 2 years, building a new pier will take a minimum of 4 more years.

continued to Page 4



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MALCOLM X 1925

photo by Eli Finer

graphic J. Peterson/LNS

HOW TO SIZE UP A BALLOT MEASURE:

Reading through your official voter's pamphlet that election officials send you can be overwhelming. Listening to TV, radio or published advertisements is confusing at best and misleading at worst. Then how can you really judge the ballot measures before you vote? We recommend this approach:

- **Look for the Money.** Most special interest groups hide their identities behind dummy organizations with names designed to attract voters: Citizens for this, Consumers for that, Voters against this, Taxpayers against that, and so on. The name is meaningless. Look at where they get their money. Insurance companies expect to spend \$43 million to pass Props 101, 104 & 106 and to defeat 100 & 103. The tobacco industry will throw \$18 million against Prop 99. Why? Because these interests expect to make much more than that if the vote goes their way. Don't sell them your vote; you'll pay for it later.
- **See how they advertise.** High profile, big media campaigns are expensive. That usually means someone stands to make big money off the results. Even "Yes on Prop 100," which helps consumers in some ways, gets its money from lawyers who will benefit from its passage. Grassroots citizen groups can't usually afford to do much advertising.
- **Watch who's for and against it.** Ralph Nader backs Prop 103. The insurance companies oppose it. Who do you trust more? Look over the endorsers listed in your voter's booklet. Find out what independent political groups say. Find someone whose judgement you trust and ask their opinion.
- **Read over the summary** and the arguments for and against the measure in your voter's pamphlet, but remember: the remarks in those arguments may or may not be true and have never been validated.



- O YES: No Oil Prohibits drilling for oil in sensitive and scenic areas near the coast.** This measure only applies to specified zones within 1,000 yards of shoreline. We support it to protect the environment and to prevent more smog in L.A.
- P NO: Occidental Petroleum** Extends to Occidental Petroleum the right to drill for oil in an ecologically sensitive part of the basin. This is the profitable, special interest countermeasure which the oil developer arranged to oppose Prop O.

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Special Thanks to Bob Goodfader for his donation of the Sidewalk Cafe!

"Freedom of the press belongs to those who own one."

A. J. Liebling



Malcolm Tent, Diane Nickerson, Kathleen Alvarez, Beth Miller, Carol Fondiller, Kathy Sullivan, Memphis Slim, Sara Omari and Judith L. Martin Victor Wightman

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. 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 submissions be limited to 1200 words and be typed in single-spaced, 4-inch-wide columns. 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 and phone number. Anonymous material will not be published, but your name will be withheld by request. If return of material is desired, a stamped, self-addressed envelope is required. No payment is made for materials used.

Archives 1985--1988

To submit Venice poetry for the 20th Anniversary Beachhead issue, send to the Beachhead at P.O. Box 504 Venice CA 90294. Our first meeting for next month's Anniversary issue takes place November 6 Call 399-0584 for more details.

It Makes Me Wanna Live in Moldavia



By Diane Nickerson



SUMMA 13

God Changes Mind

Ducks Dumped in Canal Caper

By Carol Fondiller

Semantics



VENICE

License to Swill

Rain or Shine

by Diane Nickerson

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January, 1986

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Look Who's Talking

by Rex Frankel

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SUMMA RUSSELLING

Eating Out

KRASSNER

BURP!

SURP, Chomp, BURP!



VENICE

Bye Bye Baza

Underrated Virtues

BYE BYE PAT

PATRICK MCCARTNEY, Venice gadfly Council candidate and community activist has succumbed to the evils of capitalism and has taken a full-time job in San Francisco.



We Support Our Free Venice Beachhead BOB and ANITA ALEXANDER

Million Dollar Venice Ripoff Is There Love After AIDS?

By Lynn Bronstein

Heil Liberty!

Partis Wrecks Venice Party

Up Your Access

Queen of Lies

Prole Food Lessons

by Leticia Gourmet and Essie La Pressions de la Venta

US Out of Central America

LIES LIES LIES LIES LIES LIES LIES LIES LIES LIES



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And They Call Us the Kooks

Wanna Volunteer?

Venice Pier article (continued) *From Page 1*

(7) Funding for the pier will most likely have to come from a variety of places: city funds, state funds, the Coastal Conservancy, our pockets(?).

(8) Although not supported by the citizens who attended the meeting, the specter of commercialization of the pier in order to finance it has been raised.

(9) Venice residents need to watch this issue closely and attend hearings in order to protect against overdevelopment of the Venice pier and to keep everyone focussed on the real issues.

The real issues, in my mind have to do with why people support repairing or rebuilding the Venice pier. There were several young people who expressed the important role that it plays on a social level. The kids who fish on the Venice pier are engaged in a wholesome activity. They are not out scoring drugs, or engaging in gang activity. One kid stated that he used to go fishing at the pier everyday, and now there is nothing much to do. The Venice pier is free, so it is an ideal haven for people from all over LA to enjoy the ocean regardless of their income level, and there is even food to be gotten (barring pollution). Although I have always been naturally attracted to the Venice pier's low scale and simple identity as a fishing pier, I didn't really realize why. Now I can articulate that the Venice Pier's attraction is that it is one of the few "attractions" of Venice beach that does not impinge upon the experience of being at the ocean. In fact it contributes to that experience because it enables me to get out closer to the ocean due to its length. Fishing and the ocean go hand in hand, and the fact that many people have fed their families by fishing off the Venice pier reminds me of how interrelated we all are to the ocean and the life under the sea. And finally, the atmosphere on the Venice pier has always been one of quiet comraderie, present due to peoples' shared experiences of the ocean.

You can write in support of restoring the Venice pier to:

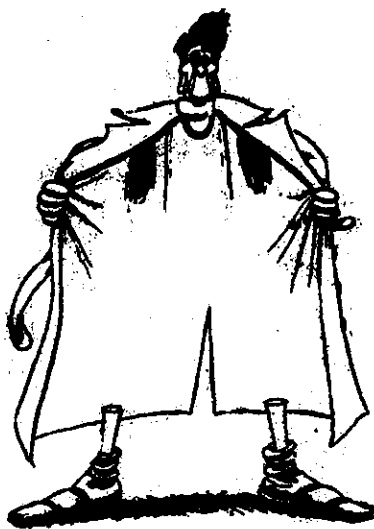
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Wedding Announcement

BRENDA & UKWELI KASIMU were married on October 1, 1988. CONGRATULATIONS, PEACE & LOVE ALWAYS. Your Friends in Venice of the World.

Heads

Continued from Page 1

Reagan/Bush years: a happy rich family who never worry about nuclear weapons or the \$2 Trillion Federal budget deficit. They don't seem to care that much of America's wealth is now in the hands of foreign owners, and that near monopolies are not just tolerated but have been encouraged. Do Cosby and Co. know that Ronald Reagan has vetoed every major piece of pro-environmental legislation to come to his desk--such as the Clean Water Act? One Reagan deed really hits close to home--his EPA's 25-year exemption to L.A. to clean up its air--which is the worst in the nation according to both Republican and Democrat statistics.

My God! How could anyone vote for someone like that? Well, I did. Reagan promised to cut wasteful government spending, yet only cut it out of social and environmental programs. He promised to get government out of people's lives and instead supported getting the government off the polluter's backs. Reagan deployed more nukes in Europe, and now says we're at peace because we're destroying the ones we've just deployed. Reagan promised a fight against drugs coming across our borders, but looked the other way when the drug smugglers were Contras. This must be what George Bush means when he describes his domestic policies as a "Flexible Freeze".

As the Soviet Union becomes more democratic, the US is becoming more of a police state. Criminals don't just control the government here--they are the government. And a George Bush/CIA presidency will keep the great coverup going. Vote for Dukakis in '88 or we get a Police State in '89.

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No GAME TONIGHT CANCEL BUSH

By Diane Nickerson

Back in 1984, after Ronald Reagan's "landslide" Presidential victory, all I could do was continue shaking my head in disbelief, bemoaning the prospect of another four years of backsliding for America. I had thought, however naively, that the American people would have surely realized that their Emperor indeed had no clothes. Perhaps their actor/puppet was butt-naked (everything must've been in Nancy's closet, but then that's another story), and asleep most of the time, too. But noooo... not these folks. So we indeed got four more years.

As a writer, homemaker and the single mother of a severely disabled child (read: Poor American), I steeled myself for what was, to me, the obvious reality of what was to come in those four years: more of the same. Higher rents, teeny-tiny increases in my daughter's SSI checks, more homeless and less regard for them, 'crack' up, peace down, arms up, lies and deception on every level, except of course, the highest level, the President... asleep again? Remember the Iran/Contra affair? Good, 'cuz Uncle Ronnie doesn't. What is a social program, anyway? Here we go, not even again, but still. And it got worse.

Fast forward, if you will, to early to-mid-1987. Election talk. Small, uncontrollable parts of my being tried to get excited about the possibility of change. Hah. That was such a quickie it doesn't even rate as a one night stand. (Sorry Jesse, and I mean it.) What are we doing here, people? Sleepwalking too? I realize that the choices here are seriously limited, but George Bush? President George Bush?? These people are total crooks (see Bush article, page one, this issue). They care only about you, the people, as potential votes. Numbers is all. (Remember the Declaration of Independence? The Constitution? Good,



MOMMY, MOMMY, WHAT DO YOU GET AFTER 8 YEARS OF REAGAN? MORE BUSHIT.

Uncle George doesn't.) You're getting fucked without so much as a thank-you, let alone a kiss. What's truly horrifying is that you're going for it! Buying right into that pie full of lies.

Check out your priorities. If you think I'm dreaming, take note of a recent blurb out of the T.V. Guide -- America's largest-selling magazine (huh?): "Pay attention, folks, tonight's prime-time picture is kind of confusing. If the Oakland A's and their East Division opponent need a seventh game to decide the American League pennant, ABC will televise it live beginning at 8 pm (ET). If there's no baseball game tonight, there will be a Presidential Debate." Get it??

If you own a TV set and watch it even only once in a while, then you know about the plethora of political TV commercials currently occupying

"our" airwaves. One in particular (in a field of many) really "grabs" me. You know, the one with the wide-angle shot of a darling little white-bread girl, sitting on the porch of her parents charming, yuppie-blue painted home, filling in her own coloring book; the gentle-mannered male voice-over tells us how fortunate the little one's been. She's only 8 years old, and her perfect life's a direct result of a Republican Administration. Wouldn't it be awful if she lost it all? Give me a break. Let's ask my aforementioned disabled daughter about it. It'd be great if she could answer, but she can't. You see, she is also 8 years old and things were going o.k.-- until she was 7 weeks old and contracted meningitis. Now she's diagnosed with cerebral palsy, mental retardation, blindness and grand mal seizures. According to her doctors, she should've been dead 4 years ago. She isn't, but no thanks to the past 8 years worth of Reaganomics. Damn near every door we knocked on was either locked or slammed shut. Private sector..yeah. We know, we know. We know no one wants to insure a non "well" baby. We know that physical and occupational therapy costs \$65-\$90 per hour. We know that the public facilities for therapy and care are there, but not adequately staffed. We know what they really mean when they "just say no".

George Bush?

Who's gonna run the store while the inmates are running the asylum, kids? ●

Jesse-Jack-In-The-Box

Omari, Sara
18 July 1988

One of the illegal aliens and I were talking about the effects of the new law on immigration. This illegal alien, a very clean and hard-working lady can neither read nor write (she cannot even print her own name). One must be very careful when speaking to her; one must pronounce carefully, since she echoes every little thing.

Perhaps, at one time or other, some one did not enunciate clearly enough, because, as our conversation turned from the Immigration Bill to the upcoming presidential elections of 1984, she spoke of Mr. Reagan and Mr. Jack-in-the-Box (a franchise of fast foods in Southern California).

It took me a verry looonnng time to figure out that she meant the Reverend Jesse JACKson.●

DAWN OVER VENICE

by John Haag

The sun, like henna,
bleaching the night away,
orange-gold glancing
off bank windows

Making the chrome shine
on passing cars,
then filling the sky
with its golden copper

Fire-ball, the people
half-asleep, walking
to Winchell's for do-nuts
and coffee, starting

The good morning with
hesitant conversations.

MONDAY MORNING AT THE 7-11

by John Haag

The alcohol addicts
arriving at six o'clock,
buying their beer or
bumming for wine,

Everybody waiting
for the morning deliveries
of milk and newspapers
or something to start

The day with, hoping
that nothing goes wrong;
but, of course, the
outside newspaper rack

Swallows their quarters
without recompense.

Lick Bush in '88

MORE

Bushshit

by Captain America

Wherever the human species has appeared, some men have succeeded in gaining power to compel obedience, to rule. Their desires and wishes have been called the law, their decisions and policies the decrees of justice, and their armaments the means of enforcing obedience. They have been obeyed not because they had any right to be, but simply because they have the power to compel it. What some men call "the duty of obedience" to one who exercises "legitimate authority" is nothing but the age old habit of bowing to the superior power of one who has assumed the role of ruler, who may also share his power with other powerful men, thus forming some kind of democracy. It must be understood that the power of government, by whomever it is exercised, even today, remains what it was in the beginning: Naked Power. The difference between a judge and the leader of a group of thieves and murderers is just this: The judge has more constituents. Our government and its laws is a correct one, in that it was formed to save us from the deeds of those who would hurt the individual citizen. However, recent events have shown us what happens when money enters into the political game of governing. We are no longer a government of the people as long as those in power continue to deny the public its right to know about the complete story concerning Iran/Contragate, the Pia Vesta and her cargo and why this ship managed to sail from Rostock, East Germany to the Caribbean entrance of the Panama Canal on thru to Callao, Peru, where she was to unload, take on cargo, which according to some sources, was supplied by the affiliates of the Medellin Cartel. The deal went sour before the ship could unload. The Cargo: 32 East German military trucks carried on deck, 1500

Kalashukov assault rifles, and 1440 RPG18 rocket launchers. All of this addressed to the Navy of Peru, who had not made such an order, and they did order the capture of the ship, which was fired at and some sources are saying that some of the party that went ashore did not come back. The ship managed to escape only to return to the Pacific entrance of the canal to be captured by Gen. Noriega on June 15 1986.

The odd point is that some are saying that there was no ammo with the shipment, which was one of the reasons that the deal fell through.

The estimated value of the shipment was 1.5 million dollars, which to some in the 'intelli-

gence community is rather a paltry sum, however such an amount of weaponry would buy ten times that amount in cocaine, an estimated \$150,000,000 worth, pure and uncut, Translated into a street value in smokable rocks of well over \$150,000,000 which would not only support the Contras but also put the 'spare change' in the pockets of the principal players. Here is a partial list of persons who are said to have had interconnections with the whole affair. They are: Robert Owen, Col. North's arm to the Contras, Ret. Maj. Gen. Richard V. Secord, Sen. Jessie Helms, Ret. Col. Eldon Cummings, Nester Sanchez, David Duncan, George Starckmann, Alberto Coppo Gayosos, Maj. Retired from the Peruvian Army, Patrice Gentry, the official owner of the cargo, Lt. Gen. Robert Sweitzer, military advisor to Regan during the President's first term, John Poindexter, and of course, nameless others. When Noriega seized the ship, he may have halted another U.S. Gov't. backed drug run.

How many other Pia Vestas have never heard of, and how many more are planned? ● ●

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 Every Wednesday; Bill Todd 21 & 28: Wade Preston
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 13: Romero Medina 15: Terry Garrison
 20: Katie Stuart 22: Jody Allen Sweet
 27: Tim McDonald 29: Alfred Johnson

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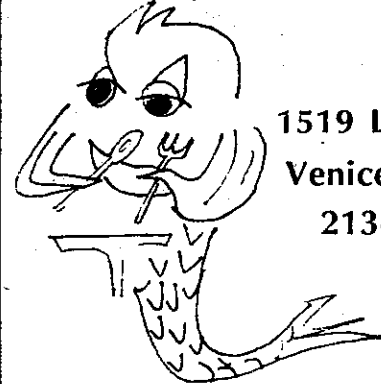
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Gracias a la Vida

BETH MILLER

(Venice Sketch #16)

Photos by CHILI CHARLES

The truth is, as anyone recently arrived from back east can tell you, the seasons are scarcely seasons out here, and they certainly don't arrive on time. When the rest of the country is celebrating summer, we are still in spring; our major heat wave often coincides with the first snows in New England. It is easier for me to perceive when fall is on its way on Venice Beach than in the city. When I see the parade of black frocks and hats out among the jugglers and street people on the Ocean Front Walk, it's the High Holidays. And as usual, after Labor Day weekend the crowds have definitely thinned out. This year I was sure when we had five glorious sunsets in a row, hot canteloupe pink and fiery papaya color, that summer was really waning on the West Coast.

When I first came out to California from the Midwest in the early sixties to live in Berkeley and San Francisco for five years, I had never tasted or even seen an avocado or an artichoke. Years later when my mother came to visit me in Santa Monica, she refused to even try one.

Last night I dreamt of tiny peachy melons and miniature lettuces, purple and blue peppers to go with the now-common red and yellow ones, sweet juicy carrots and tender, perfect corn. The Henri-Rousseau-colored dream was probably due to an incident at the Venice Boys Market (#54) on Lincoln. When I realized that the store was not only full of Halloween candies and decorative autumnal gourds, but many premature signs of Thanksgiving, I concluded that summer must indeed be over and the August harvest complete. I headed for the produce section.

Recently many local supermarkets seem to have turned their produce departments into designer agricultural concessions, complete with hired specialists. At most fruit places people will help you and you need it. After all it isn't easy for the customer to choose seedless watermelons. It wasn't easy to grow them either. They've been working on them for half a century. They're called mule melons and are pollinated by bees. Other premium fruits include the sensemilla red grapes that first appeared in local stores about two years ago. Red peppers used to be a terrific luxury item, but this year everywhere you look there are red, yellow, and orange peppers, chock full of vitamin C and colorful crunch.)

It was a revelation! The section devoted to fruits and vegetables is huge, the most important section in the store. Everywhere people test, eye, sniff, and select with gusto, as though at Neiman-Marcus. The ambience is a mixture of traditional deciduous Autumn and semi-tropical. There was an array of seven kinds of red apples and some green ones, mostly from Washington. I noticed little day-glo stickers on the fruit, some announcing "Ripe," some promising "Tasty, Delicious," some seductively beckoning "Try me." I had decided to try something new and was seduced by a lovingly-wrapped half of a Crenshaw melon bearing a "Try me" stamp. I placed it in my cart without even looking at the price. I stocked up on other fruits as well, but that was the special treat. In fact, it said "Treat," so I thought why not.

When I reached the checkout stand, the checker said she believed it was quite green and called the manager over to consult. The manager said she didn't think it was a Crenshaw melon at all, and she phoned the produce section to speak to a fruit expert. In less than two minutes a young man appeared and, after an intense look at the questionable fruit, pronounced it an authentic Crenshaw, adding with a friendly but confident air his professional diagnosis: while it was indeed green, he promised that if it were exposed properly to the sun, it would be ready to eat by the next day. All three entreated me to save my receipt and bring the Crenshaw back if I didn't like it. I thanked them, saying that since I had never tasted a Crenshaw melon, it would be sad if I had chosen a lemon, so to speak, and confessed that I had had a bad experience with a honeydew the previous week. They apologized and urged me to return any remaining fraction of the honeydew for a full refund. These are persons who obviously take great pride in their produce and respect the price tags. My Crenshaw melon, a large half, costs \$1.78, whereas my generic aluminum foil cost fifty cents and my very large bell pepper (green) was twenty-two cents. So I may drive the Crenshaw back if it is a

major disappointment after it ripens. I will give it two days.

The people around here who can afford them tend to buy their designer fruits at boutiques. Northern Venice fruit gourmets may shop at the one in Santa Monica Place or at Santa Monica Farms, opposite the Boulangerie in Ocean Park. A less pretentious option is the little truck run by Mexicans on Rose Avenue one block east of the Rose Cafe near the parking lot of a former billiard hall. There are always people chatting around la troca. The prices are not bad although not great, but the conversation (in Spanish) and service are superb. The other principal places in this area for gourmet fruits are Windward Farms in downtown Venice and One Life, a health food store nestled in among clothing boutiques, gift shops, little antique stores and such on Main Street, which has a small but carefully-stocked produce section. There are also open air farmers' markets on Wednesdays in Santa Monica and Fridays in Venice.

Of course California breeders supply wondrous and creative produce in response to our demand, and our exotic demands were intensified by the Latin influx. Venice's 5,000 Latinos and Chicanos don't find tunas, mangos, papayas, and jicamas exotic; they are everyday fare back home, like borscht once was for Yiddish-speaking immigrants or eggplant for Italians.



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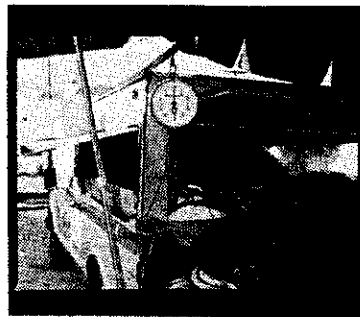
santa Monica Discovery Singles; Fri. Nov. 25 at 7:30 PM, Unitarian Community Church, 392-4713

Dance Performance; Gary Bates and Iris Bell at SMC on Sat. Nov. 5 at 8PM, tickets call 452-9214

Venice Branch Library FALL BOOK SALE on Sat. Nov. 12 from 9 AM to 3:30 PM needs donations. For pick-up or info call 821-1769. Support Venice Branch Library !! Donate and/or buy books !!!

Venice Writer's Coffee Hour. Nov. 7 6:30 at the Venice Branch Library.

Alcoholism Center for Women has workshops and classes throughout the month. Contact 381-7805



I read in the Times the other day about two UCLA academic drop-outs who have gone into business inland from Oceanside. They opened a rare fruit nursery called "Exotica" where they propagate some twenty varieties of fig, thirty-five kinds of bananas, and tropical fruits like cherimoyer (a heart-shaped fruit with numerous large black seeds and a scaly interior, known in its native Peru as "chirimoya"), guava, and sapote. Actually I had only had chirimoya in Chile, guava in Puerto Rico, and sapote in Brazil before now.

I understand they also cultivate something called the longan (from the Chinese lung-yen, meaning "dragon's eye") which reminds me of a version of lychee, and the jak, a very large fruit I have never seen and whose name is derived from the Portuguese jaca, an East Indian tree like the breadfruit with edible seeds and a fairly tasteless pulp. They hold tastings and fig festivals at their nursery. They remind me of the folk who at the end of the sixties decided to build their new societies on manageable levels, like the ancient Indian cooperatives of the Yucatán Peninsula, and migrated to places like Oregon and Maine, where some of them still dwell, farm, and thrive. Of course, jaks, like mangos and kiwis and pineapples don't give a sense of the passing season or of the fall, because they are out of synch with the local cycles and seem as seasonless as eggs or tofu. Pumpkins, on the other hand, keep you as in touch with nature's stages as asparagus or matzoh. But I would not trade the subtle seasons here

on Venice Beach for the aggressive East Coast ones. I don't miss the brief spring-crocuses and winter slush; here we have bougainvillea and sunshine (the spring-time) all year long.

Many days, but perhaps especially in the Fall, some lines of a famous song by Violeta Parra run through my mind as I'm walking or jogging or just taking a coffee break on Ocean Front Walk:

GRACIAS A LA VIDA,
 QUE ME HA DADO TANTO!

POLITICS

No on 96

Proposition 96 would allow enforced testing for A.I.D.S. anti-bodies of a person accused of spitting or having any body fluid touch the skin of any police officer, fire fighter, or person of authority. Proposition 102 would eliminate all anonymous testing for A.I.D.S., allow testing for life health and disability policies and employment; allow testing without written consent and encourage reporting the name of any one suspected of having A.I.D.S. to the County Health Department. VOTE NO ON PROPOSITIONS 96 and 102. For more info, call 399-0049.

COVER-UP: Behind the Iran Contra Affair

Filmakers and representatives of the Christic Institute will be present for weekend screenings of the film COVER-UP. Each screening will be followed by a question and answer session about what this means to your life and your constitution. Saturdays and Sundays at 10 AM, at the Monica 4-Plex, 1332 2nd St., S.M., 394-9741. For more info, call the Empowerment Project at 828-8807. Find out what's going on in government.

WANT THE FACTS ON PROPOSITIONS "P" AND "O" ??? contact the California League of Conservation Voters, at 12234 West Pico Blvd. L.A. 90064 or call 826-8812

COMMUNITY EVENTS

CONTINUING GROUPS

AA Monday Evenings at 8 P.M.

KUNG FU with Victory Walker

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OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

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