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# FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

SINCE 1968

CHEE WAR-WAH

**FREE**

SEPTEMBER, 1981 ISSUE #141 P.O. BOX 504 VENICE, CALIFORNIA 90291 823-5092

## OCEAN FRONT WALK

# Lots of Difference

by JIM BICKHART

A demonstration by a coalition of Venice residents drew more than 100 participants, two television crews and a large crowd of beachfront spectators on Sunday, August 16th. The protest was aimed at drawing public attention to the coalition's dissatisfaction with the current development plans of Thomas Safran and Associates for the parking lot on Ocean Front Walk between Navy St. and Ozone Av. near the Venice/Santa Monica border. The coalition has appealed the project to the California Coastal Commission.

The group, organized by the Venice Town Council, the Israel Levin Senior Adult Center and the Navy Estates Homeowners Association, consisted of local residents of all ages, from infants to a large contingent of senior citizens.

The seniors expressed concern that Safran's proposal for sixteen luxury condominiums, six low-income units and a large restaurant would contribute to economic pressures which would drive them from the North Venice beachfront neighborhood, a traditional area of residence for the elderly. Interviewed by Channel 7 for broadcast on that night's evening and late-evening newscasts, the Levin Center's director Morrie Rosen said, "the elderly of Venice are threatened by more than just rising expenses, they're threatened by extermination." Rosen went on to discuss the likelihood that his center might close as the Venice elderly community is dispersed by economic conditions.

Another issue brought up at the demonstration was the fact that the Bel-Air based developer reduced the low-income housing component of the project from 78 units to the current 6 units since he first introduced the proposal some two years ago. Acknowledging the current scarcity of Federal housing subsidies, Jim Bickhart of the Venice Town Council Coastal Committee stated, "the problem has been Mr. Safran's continual downgrading of the low-income

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# Community Unity

As we are all well aware, the Venice community is in great need. For those of us who live, work or provide services in the area, it has often been under difficult conditions. Unemployment, youth services, decent affordable housing, education and training opportunities and a variety of other necessities have been painfully limited or absent.

Now, with the current budget priorities and cutbacks coming from Washington, D.C., Sacramento and the County Board of Supervisors, the community we live and work in is facing even further reductions in resources and in our standard of living. For our children, youth and elderly the future prospects are bleak, unless we begin to work together as a community to preserve what resources we have acquired and educate the community on their importance and availability. This is the only way a community strategy can be devised to insure those resources in the face of the inevitable cutbacks.

Some agencies and community organizations have already begun to respond to the impact the cuts will have in the Venice area in various ways. The Coalition for Economic Survival (CES), along with the N.A.P.P. Advisory Council is proposing an event that will bring the community together so that we may share

Cont. on pg. 10



Photo by C. Furst

## Ill-Legal Aid

# Reagan Steals Scales

by MOE STAVNEZER

It is becoming very obvious that the Reagan budget cuts are rapidly coming to Venice. The lead story in last month's *Beachhead* chronicled the cutbacks in the Venice Health Clinic and the closing of the Clinic in Culver City. Now, even before the cuts have been made, the community must absorb the loss of the Venice Legal Aid office.

### 40-50% Budget Cut Expected

Even with tremendous support nationwide, the most optimistic supporters of legal aid anticipate that the budget of

in the 3 remaining offices. LAFILA will save about \$120,000 through this move or about the equivalent of 4 attorneys. Venice and Santa Monica will lose one of their most valuable resources.

### A Community Resource

Rick Davidson's article (pg. 6) makes clear the importance of the Neighborhood Legal Services office in the early days of the Venice community struggle. Law suits were, and remain, a viable strategy for any group seeking to fight for its rights. At times the strategy is a necessity since "going to court" may be the only way to assert the rights of the underdog or the oppressed.

The Venice Legal Aid office brought some significant suits that benefitted people in this and many other communities. For example; tenants now receive notice of various permit applications & public hearings that used to be sent to

Continued on pg. 10



the Legal Services Corporation will be cut in half. The Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFILA) is almost totally funded by the Corporation and will have to function with \$1.5 mil. less than last year if the expected cuts take place. LAFILA currently has 6 branch offices including the one in Venice. Three of those are owned by the Foundation and the others are rented. The Venice office is one of the latter.

LAFILA intends to consolidate the 6 offices into the 3 it owns and provide legal aid in this area thru 1 or 2 satellite offices. Venice office staff are currently looking into either free or inexpensive space for a small Venice office. Another satellite office will be located in the So. Inglewood area. Some of the staff of the Venice office will be laid off while others will be placed

### PRESS RELEASE

The Neighborhood Justice Center, a dispute resolution project of the Los Angeles County Bar Association which has been located in Venice since 1977 has temporarily suspended operations for a move to Santa Monica in September.

We are pleased to announce that we will be moving to 1320 Santa Monica Mall where we will be available to resume our mediation service in mid September 1981 and continue to serve the Los Angeles community. Neighborhood Justice Center will be sharing office space with the Santa Monica Legal Aid Society. We will continue to accept referrals from the courts and criminal justice system as well as from social service agencies and individuals where both parties to the dispute indicate an interest in participating in the mediation process.

For further information about the program contact Susan Stockel at 390-7666.

(Note: The S.M. Legal Aid Society is not funded by the Legal Services Corporation but is a project of the Bar Association)





Augusto 10 1981

Dear Peter,  
Good day!

On Saturday evening I received R. Reagan's announcement regarding the neutron bomb. I was, of course, not surprised, but overwhelmed and had a difficult time dealing with my emotions. I resorted to sending a note off to a friend.

Waking on August ninth, I was not calm and sent off the enclosed mailgram to R.R. after spending time at the A.F.S. in the A.M. - I went to Venice and enjoyed the sun, which brings me to you. I read your article "36 Years of Fallout" and thought you might be touched by my reaction earlier that morning.

Please find the enclosed donation to cover mailing costs, minimal as it may be. I hope it helps.

Thanks for your time!  
Sincerely,  
Debra Tygell

Following is the text of Debra's mailgram:

President Ronald Reagan  
White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

This horrific anniversary of the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. How can you escalate more tools of annihilation? I am only 25 years old. I want to get the chance to grow old. Now I am terrified I may not. We have the capability to destroy many times over. Now why can't we employ people to create things for a healthy and a full future and give children a hope for a bright tomorrow instead of sending them to bed with nightmares of nuclear war. Peace is a sacred word. Don't think the people can be fooled when it's used for the reason of weapons of war. Don't you want your children and grandchildren to be able to share the opportunities and beauty life has offered you? Don't you realize you don't have the right to be so selfish to take this away from the children of the entire world. On this anniversary of the brutal destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I beg you to please think of what you as one man have the power to do before it is too late. Don't let politics and economics blind you. Remember humanity. We're in your hands, President Ronald Reagan. Please stop the arms race. Thank you for your time.

Debra Lynn Tygell  
(address)



**CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN ANNOUNCES**

We presently house several cooperative groups in our studio above the Fox Venice Theatre. Presently we have **DARKROOM SPACE FOR RENTAL**, and a number of people plan to form a new

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**FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD**

STAFF: Moe Stavnezer, Elizabeth Elder Peter Kelly, Joan Friedberg, Chuck Bloomquist, Olga Palo, Christopher Toussaint Emily Winters

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

Dear BEACHHEAD,

I've lived in Venice for 8 years and like us all, have watched all sorts of changes occur; however, last Saturday, Aug. 1st, I was shocked to see police on horseback patrolling Ocean Front Walk, the bike path and the beach itself. Watching crime escalate, I recognize the need for increased police protection but strongly question the need for horse patrols. As much as I like horses, I feel their presence is very inappropriate for heavily crowded, concrete areas. There was horse shit all over the Boardwalk (made worse by unknowing skaters and pedestrians) and parking lots bordering the bike path near Venice Blvd. I questioned one of the policemen about the mess left by the horses and he said it was "only alfalfa and water" and "would dry up by the sun and blow away." Nevertheless, it still comes from an animal's rectum, still smells and looks horrible. The dog shit is bad enough and now we have to tolerate horseshit as well? The worst of it was seeing the horses down by the water's edge leaving shit to be washing into the ocean as the tide rose. I enjoy swimming in the ocean, but the thought of swimming around in horse shit (alfalfa and water or whatever) disgusts me. It's hard enough to deal with the commercialization and onslaught of tourism well in excess of what our community can absorb in addition to sanitation problems arising from this experimental program. I have written letters of protest to both Pat Russell and Chief of Police Darryl Gates, suggesting they reconsider this program or at least make ample effort in cleaning up the mess - that means taking full responsibility and not leaving it to the sun and the wind. I feel the only way we can affect this program is by flooding both offices with letters or cards. If you feel the concern as well, please drop a note to the following addresses:

- 1) Councilwoman Pat Russell  
7166 W. Manchester Avenue  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90045
- 2) Chief of Police Darryl Gates  
Los Angeles Police Dept.  
150 North Los Angeles Street  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90012

Sincerely,  
Marcia Stone

bank on V.O.P.

Dear BEACHHEAD Readers,

The Co-op Bank is doing its best to help the Venice-Ocean Park Coop survive. However, for VOP to succeed the people of the Venice and Ocean Park communities must immediately give their support to the store.

The VOP Coop needs community involvement and people shopping at the store, located at Brooks and Lincoln, to strengthen its business. The next two months are crucial! We at the Coop Bank are working closely with VOP people to increase the store's operations. We recognize the tremendous efforts being made by the members of VOP over the past few months to provide a larger inventory, longer hours and a better equipped store.

You can help the Coop by shopping there, becoming a member and by spreading the word among your friends & neighbors. The Co-op Bank can only help if you help too.

I used to live in Ocean Park and helped to start Co-opportunity (the food co-op in Santa Monica) some years ago. I care about the neighborhood and understand the need for a place like VOP in your communities. I sincerely hope that you, the reader, will shop at VOP and become partners in this community venture.

Together we can give new and invigorated life to VOP.

David Thompson  
Regional Director  
Co-op Bank

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**Old Myth Exploded!!**

The Free Venice Beachhead is not free. Paper and printing cost plenty. Ads and donations pay for them. \$5 this size.



# BUSINESS\$ as usual

There is now a massive lobbying effort to gut the 1977 Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) & to legalize foreign bribery, and S.708 is the bill in the Senate Banking Committee which would accomplish this. As Senator William Proxmire (D.Wisc.), original author of the Act stated, any changes would be like "a .45 slug through the heart of the Act."

Congress enacted the FCPA in 1977 after widespread disclosures revealed that some of America's largest corporations, such as Lockheed and Gulf Oil, had secretly maintained large slush funds, made questionable payments to foreign officials, & maintained off-the-book accounts. The FCPA prohibits all American corporations from bribing foreign officials to obtain business, requires corporations to keep adequate books & records, & requires corporations to maintain proper internal controls.

S.708 is sponsored by Senator John Chafee (R.-R.I.), & supported by Reagan administration special trade representative William Brock, the Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers.

Proponents of S.708 claim that the FCPA is too vague, ambiguous, unclarified and strict for businesses to determine what they are legally permitted to do, & that many American corporations have lost much business & profits in foreign countries as a result of the FCPA. However, during some 1981 Senate hearings on the FCPA, under questioning by Senator Proxmire, William Brock & other witnesses could not name any documented examples of lost trade. Brock was unable to quantify the FCPA's monetary impact on exports, instead saying that the Act's impact was "significant." Statistics, in fact, show a doubling of U.S. trade in the 3 years since the legislation, from \$121.21 billion to \$220.71 billion.

The 1977 FCPA requires business to keep their records in "reasonable detail" but S.708 changes this by requiring corporations to only keep records of what is "material." The SEC feels that as it is too narrow & too insensitive an index, materiality is a completely inadequate standard for an internal control system. Such practices as off book expenditures & slush funds would occur again, they concluded.

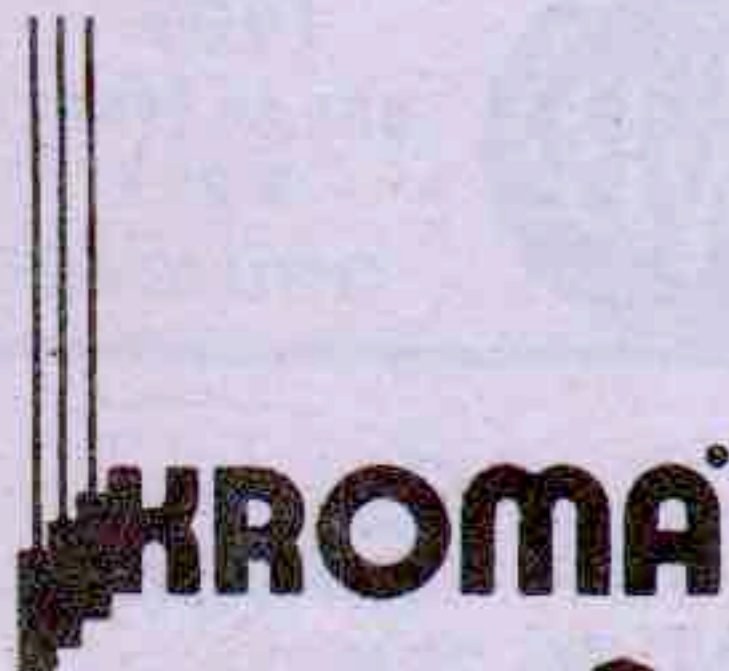
Under the 1977 FCPA, a corporation is held responsible if it has "reason to know" that its employees are engaging in corrupt practices in foreign countries. S. 708 only prohibits corporations from "directing or authorizing" payments to foreign officials. (Does this sound like Watergate re-runs?)

Senator Proxmire asks, "How can the Senate of the greatest democracy in the world favor a bill that is blatantly pro-bribery? S. 708 is immoral and terrible corporate and foreign policy to boot."

Experience has shown that the 1977 FCPA has helped curb bribery without harming exports. As Senator Proxmire says, "This is no time to gut the law with the radical changes contained in S. 708."

For more information about the bill, contact Americans Concerned About Corporate Power, 1126 16th St. NW, Rm. 214, Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 861-0456.

- Big Business Day



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democrats lose



## Democracy Wins

On August 26, a committee of the State Senate quietly tabled AB 2131, putting to rest another periodic attempt by Democrats to remove the Peace & Freedom Party from the California ballot. As you may remember, in May the bill passed the Assembly with the support of almost all Democrats voting. The Senate situation looked equally grim.

However, a coalition formed, made up of the Peace & Freedom, Citizens', Libertarian, and American Independent parties, the ACLU, and several left groups. Much initial effort was devoted to broadening the coalition, which soon included the League of Women Voters, Common Cause, and the California Democratic Council (openly breaking Democratic Party ranks). We then used our larger forces to elicit over thirty editorials from television, radio and newspapers against AB 2131. Simultaneously, we began intensively lobbying State Senators, but with little apparent effect. In fact, absolutely no media or organizations ever did support this openly undemocratic bill, yet Berman, Roberti, Levine, et al refused to debate us, meet with us, or even publicly state their positions, obviously hoping to pass the bill unnoticed.

Lew McCammon of Peace & Freedom researched the fine points of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and discovered that AB 2131 probably violated that Civil Rights law. This would most likely lead to a veto of the bill by U.S. Attorney General William French Smith, a Republican, causing a terrible embarrassment for California Democrats and Black and Chicano legislative supporters of AB 2131. We kept pushing and got the L.A., S.F., and Alameda County Boards of Supervisors to come out against the bill. Even so, almost all Democratic legislators stonewalled it to the end. Finally, the two Democrats needed to defect did so, but behind the scenes: rather than be publicly humiliated, only three Democrats attended the committee session, thus allowing the committee to table AB 2131.

It was the combination of ever broadening forces, the probable violation of the Voting Rights Act, and persistent lobbying by Lew McCammon that did the trick. Unfortunately, it was at times difficult keeping the coalition together. There was a very unequal work distribution and increasing pressure from sectarian elements within Peace & Freedom to dominate the coalition. Had they succeeded, both the coalition and the effort would have been sun.

With all the problems, the effort was worth it. A rather substantial coalition of democratic groups worked together for the first time; they made Californians aware of ballot democracy, exposed the hypocrisy of Democratic politicians, and won against great odds.

Lessons for the future: learn from the past or be condemned to repeat it.

by Ed Pea..., Citizens' Party

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# The Last Chapter?



Dear Friends:

Five years ago this month, we opened the Book Shop in Ocean Park at 2915 Main Street, then a slightly seedy building with reasonable rent. Before agreeing to rent to us, the landlord asked if this would be a socialist bookstore. I replied that it would be a community bookstore - he seemed reassured that "community" was safer than "socialist." He later changed his mind.

From 1976-1981, through good and bad times we have tried to serve the community. Not all our actions or decisions were correct ones but our commitment and intentions were honorable and I believe that we maintained our integrity. We were naive and inexperienced in the business world but nonetheless the business grew for 3-1/2 years on Main Street and the store began to feel like a community center.

By the time of the eviction in February 1980, there was a large base of support in Ocean Park. Many of you helped us move and continued to support the store on Pier Avenue. But as you know the past year and a half have been very difficult and the store has steadily declined. In spite of the assistance, loyalty and concern of hundreds of people we cannot continue.

It has taken me a very long time to be able to reach the personal decision to let the store go. I agonized for months, but after spending some time this summer in Central America, the decision finally came. Nicaragua, where even in a brief time a visitor can begin to understand the excitement and energy of a people who have been oppressed for centuries and just now have some power, have some control over their lives and can see a future for their children, gave me hope for our future. My experiences in El Salvador and Guatemala, where a holocaust is occurring with the aid, assistance and encouragement of our government, helped me see more clearly the direction that my life will take - an active commitment to the struggle in Central America and against U.S. intervention.

I still believe strongly in the importance of the store to the community, in fact more now than ever. As the Right becomes firmly entrenched in power, the very existence of the world is threatened by men who will stop at nothing in their last ditch defense of capitalism. We are entering a period of increasing racism,

sexism, militarism and unprecedented attacks on poor and working people. It is imperative for us to understand the crisis as it unfolds and to begin to act collectively to struggle for our very survival. As access to real information and analysis becomes more difficult and necessary, alternative bookstores, newspapers and radio are essential in order for us to develop our understanding of events. The Book Shop has been a small part of the struggle and we hope to sell it to someone who will feel responsible to continue that commitment.

I wish I could thank everyone in the community by name but I must only mention a few friends most responsible for the birth and growth of the store..

Nettie, Richard and the rest of our extended family - Eva, Carol, Bill, Randi, Dick, Michael, Sarah, Bidu, Luke and most especially, Angela..

and to Patti Rhoda and Rosanna... and to Jim Conn, the Church in Ocean Park, OPCO, Kerry and Judy, the Perspective, the Beachhead, Derek and Ruth, Public Works and the other John Wilson..

and to everyone who participated in the benefits in February 1980 and again this summer - Roger and Nedra, Carol, Robin, Nora, Mary and Judy who organized the Grab Bag; Anita, Ethel, Beto, Hugh, Cheryl, Doug, Mallory, Andy and the Rattlesnakes for the dance, Paul Kessler and the Pink House for the potluck and all of you who bought gift certificates, memberships, t-shirts, tickets for the Grab Bag and donated your skills...

and to Eric Shapiro for invaluable financial advice and services at no pay for five years - and Kathy Silver, Jimmi, Dida, Camden, Stan, Gwynne, Carol and Eva, all of whom worked in or on the store over the years..

and to my brothers and my sister and father for their nurturing support...

and my companeras, companeros for their example, commitment and guidance..

and to Nam Hau, who has taught me so much about gentleness, strength and patience.

Most of all, I will miss the privilege I have had of being in a position to meet and know so many of you. Together we have created and benefitted from the store for five years....

Forward!

Linda Garrett

# Paranoia or Terrorism?

By Joan Friedberg

A relatively unknown poet and playwright, Amiri Baraka, received a "letter of concern" in June which describes an incredible government plot to harass progressive activists, especially those in the entertainment industry. Baraka's letter was printed in the July 3 issue of *Unity*, a San Francisco-based newspaper which describes itself as a "newspaper of the U.S. League of Revolutionary Struggle."

The letter, which allegedly was written anonymously by government workers, claims there is a blacklist in which "a number of individuals have been singled out for a long and subtle process of elimination more efficient and less overt than in the 50's." The harassment ranges from assorted dirty tricks to "actual



HARRY CHAPIN 1942-1981

physical assault with eventual disappearance," says the letter. "The thing is, to conduct the repression without leaving any proof of what's going on... Individuals will be picked one at a time and the method will vary from one to the other as fits."

The letter provides a partial hit list of 18 targeted individuals, including folksinger Pete Seeger and feminist-journalist Kate Millet.

The letter could be attributed to the usual paranoia common among political groups except for one frightening coincidence. Among the names on the list is that of singer-songwriter Harry Chapin, who was killed in an automobile on July 16th when the compact car he was driving was rear-ended by a large truck and burst into flames.

The letter claimed Chapin's "association with consumer activist Ralph Nader and other organizations is under constant surveillance."

A spokesman for Chapin told *Unity* before the crash: "It's hard to say if the letter is accurate, but it seems to ring true...It gives you a scary feeling!"

If he was scared before the accident, he must be horrified now. Was Chapin's accident really a murder? And if so, who's responsible? An investigation would certainly help others on the list to sleep at night.

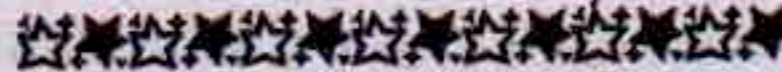
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# LOVE IS ALL YA NEED

Sartre and the Existentialists have said: We are each responsible for our own actions. Each of us may consider taking responsibility, as well, for our missiles aimed at-the-ready, our escalating preparations for mutual mass murder-suicide and countless unborn generations. I recommend a positive alternative: that we choose to activate our survival instincts and our powerful spiritual energy, that we joyously welcome and sincerely appreciate every live human being and that we create a safer, friendlier world --- by becoming friends!

Some of the "most important" "highly placed" people in this world seriously consider a "first-strike" nuclear attack. Millions of precious humans could be fried and our wondrous planet sizzled to a charred unlivable horror! But "the fire" is not inevitable. We can choose "to be", to survive: we can take responsibility to practice and learn to be friends and create a peaceful world!

Shakespeare saw that we are all "playing" "roles". Sartre felt that each of us take part in creating our own reality. I think they're both right on! In 1972 I chose the role of "greeter". A greeter greets with direct eye-contact and sees the goodness in every person. It works! I see the precious, loveable, human qualities in everyone. My positive actions help me feel good, raise my self-image and boost my consciousness higher. Glorious lover Betty Jane and I raise each other way up by our conscious direct shared attention, approval, admiration: we nourish and heal one another. By the dramatic expression of the anger and rage within me (Rajneesh's psycho-drama) I find I can more effectively catch my "monster" (me) before I obnoxiously shout commands or put people down or act self-righteous, arrogant, superior.

We can all learn to slow down and stop "playing" the kinds of negative games, roles and rituals that have created humanity's (our) "monster". Obviously we're not required to ignore one another or "act" invisible; we may choose to nod, bow, smile, speak and be a live friend. We're not required to "play" "I'm a star" "I'm macho", "I'm better than you."; we may choose to accept, admire, praise and raise each other way up high! We may choose to be playful, have fun, turn each other "on" and encourage one another to

create a positive world of friends! We can be the friendly appreciative "boss"; and, as we talk things over, the "enemy" turns out to be another person, another friend. Merely by choosing to be friendly, we become friendlier! We have become experts at ignoring one another and "playing" superior -- but we are in no way bound or limited by past ways of being. My experience as a "greeter" proves that each of us can easily be as friendly as is comfortable in each situation, in each relationship. If others don't re-



spond, we can be glad we did our part to make our own selves and our own world a little friendlier. Our own friendliness creates a friendly atmosphere around us and we create a friendlier civilization by appreciating the greatness in each and every one of us! We may save millions of lives and our miraculous planet and untold future generations: I think it's well worth considering!

Human qualities include God-like qualities. Our human wisdom has cried out: "Do unto others", "Love ye one another", "We're all God's children", "Self-actualization", "Be here now!", "spontaneity", "awareness", "insight", "born free", "unconditional love", "All the love, all the wisdom is within you", "God-realization", "What heaven we're in" and so on. Hopefully, we joyous lovers are becoming friendlier and responding to the need to get closer in order to survive; feeling our unity and oneness; creating a safer and much friendlier world!!! Hopefully, we're learning new ways of acceptance and appreciation to enable us to continue our miraculous existence on this star!

LOVE & BLISS & HAPPINESS FOREVER TO ALL!!!!  
Sammy Israel, a greeter.

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## FREE VENICE



I found this picture-as-is-covered in sand in a local garage basement which was the last place in Venice that BINGO stayed. You who knew her will recognize the printing "shepard soul with lamb" as hers.  
Randi Brook



## What Will It Take To Prevent Nuclear War?

You are invited to respond to the question, "What Will it Take to Prevent Nuclear War?" for a book in preparation which will consist of brief contributions from a wide variety of persons.

Since no one seems to have "the" answer to that vital question of human survival, perhaps everyone has the answer. That is, perhaps collectively we can discover how to prevent nuclear war.

The deadline for responses is October 1, 1981. Responses should not exceed 300 words, or the equivalent of 1 page. Contributions may be prose, poetry, photograph, line drawing or other form of expression. Contributors should include a one-sentence biographical note. All responses will be acknowledged; responses accompanied by return postage will be returned.

There will be a special section of responses from children.

Facts, feelings, ideas and outcries are solicited, as are the voices of those who are discouraged about prospects for the survival of the human race.

Don't hesitate to speak out. Each person is an expert in the art of living and wanting to preserve life. What set of circumstances or forces or people or incantations will be sufficient to turn us from the brink of nuclear holocaust; or is it, in your view, virtually too late?

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[Staff Note: Please send copies to the Beachhead if you would like us to print them].



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# MYTH OR REALITY

by RICK DAVIDSON

The slogan "FREE VENICE" first appeared on a Peace & Freedom button designed by John Haag. It was conceived to raise the issue of community control, symbolize the colonial relationship between Los Angeles and Venice, and express many people's desire to be free of L.A.

John used the slogan in his race for State Senate in 1968, the first election Peace & Freedom participated in as a legal 3rd party in California. Thus the birth of FREE VENICE is tied directly to the birth of the Peace & Freedom Party.

Many activists participated in various Peace & Civil Rights organizations prior to forming Peace & Freedom, such as, Women's Strike for Peace, Peace Action Council, the Angry Arts, Core, Californians for New Politics etc. The idea of using the electoral arena developed in Venice, then Berkeley, eventually merging in a state-wide registration drive in 1967. Peace & Freedom (P&F) was "left" of the Democrats, who were waging the war on Vietnam. At the same time, George Wallace's American Independent Party (AIP) gained ballot status to the "right" of the Republican Party. The curtain was closing on the '60s setting the stage for the '70s.

The name Peace & Freedom was selected to express our demand for peace in Indochina and freedom for oppressed peoples here at home.

Using the electoral process was putting into practice our desire to move beyond rallies and marches and carry the issues of War and Racism into our neighborhoods. Most of us were beginning to realize that in order to accomplish "peace & freedom" for everyone, a major change in the structure of American society would be required. We hoped to begin that change within ourselves in our own communities.

## Local Community Politics

Venice activists in the Peace & Civil Rights movements were also active in local community politics--street politics if you will. John and Anna Haag used their Venice West coffee house to muster support for a local outpost of the ACLU in an attempt to keep in check the LAPD; a similar effort by Bob Castile was set-up in back of Oakwood Wesley House; Venice activists precipitated Councilman Rumberg's political downfall; the Black community of Oakwood brought a halt to the City Code Enforcement that was destroying Venice (25% of the Ocean Front was torn down); Morrie Rosen waged a valiant effort to awaken us all to the disaster confronting Venice's elderly; Don Wright and Lynn Williams with the help of Vista Volunteers exposed the racism and inadequacies of the L.A. School Board; Ray Martinez and "Chino" Melgoza created BALA mirroring the fine anti-war work going on in East L.A.; Vermont McKinney, Sally Leffall and Addie Edwards with many others organized to keep Venice together.



Our experience in community politics convinced us in P&F that in order to take the issues of the War and Racism into our neighborhoods we had to connect them with the struggle (war) in progress in Venice. It was in this context that the slogan "FREE VENICE" emerged as an active force in the community.

The Free Venice Organizing Committee (FVOC) was officially created at a major anti-freeway meeting at the Broadway Elementary School Jan. 9, 1969. Venice had always been noted for its many community groups; it was our hope that this new organization would retain the wide



cross-section of the community attending that meeting. The freeway was stopped and FREE VENICE took form, but having grown out of the Peace & Freedom Party, its image remained white-left-radical. Still, the new organization grew, developing many successful projects. It became a major force in fighting the Venice Canal Redevelopment Project and the Venice Master Plan. These two plans were the City's hope of transforming Venice of America into a Miami Beach on the West Coast...at the expense of the local residents, of course.

FREE VENICE shared the P&F office at 1727 W. Washington Blvd. thanks to Earl Newman. Most of us wore 2 hats. We didn't separate the politics, we did divide the work. From the beginning we felt that food for the stomach and food for the mind were essential needs in the community. So we created the Beachhead newspaper and the Free Venice Food Co-op. The newspaper was housed in the office, but we made sure that the Co-op functioned elsewhere. Key people like Marvena Kennedy and Milton Takei maintained the politics. In Venice, protection from the LAPD was also essential; so we created the Venice Survival Committee. This became the Venice Defense Committee thanks to Steve Clare and Judy Goldberg with the help of Marge Buckley and the lawyers and staff of the Neighborhood Legal Services. Venice being known for its art community, the Free Venice Art Festival was an on-going art-political event on the Ocean Front Walk thanks to Ken Havens and Anna Haag. A typical Venice contradiction saw Werner Scharff, one of the heavies in the speculating department, let us use one of his many lots along the Ocean Front--"as long as it wasn't political." Anna was in charge and everything was cool. Mr. Scharff loved anything Italian. It was on Scharff's lot that the San Francisco Mine Troup first played in Venice. They marched up from the ocean in a light rain, set up their stage and performed to a soaked but appreciative audience. It was love at first laugh, a beautiful experience for everyone, except Mr. Scharff. JAYA, a women's art collective, added to the growing culture of resistance.

Idealism was our strength, but we didn't want it to cloud a working class perspective. In an effort to unite work, community and politics, a Free Venice Carpentry Collective was formed. Only a few projects emerged; an addition for Jane Fonda and mock tiger cages used at anti-war demonstrations.

We had waged a long struggle to allow local performers use of the Pavilion. Time was ripe to take it over. George Geller (Gelernter) an infamous actor from Hollywood and our own infamous actress, Carol Fondoller, joined in an un-holy alliance and created the Venice Free Theatre. Typical of the "left", it was not long before we had Venice Free Theatre I & II. How prolific the "left" can be at times.

## The Wars Won't Go Away !!

Fun was fun, but the War in Indochina refused to go away, nor did the LAPD give Venice any rest. To pinpoint the reality that the War in Indochina and the war in Venice were being waged by the same generals, FREE VENICE and the Peace & Freedom Party planned a joint march through

the community concluding with a rally in Westminster Park. The final leg of the "Short March" was down the Ocean Front Walk. The American Nazi Party got wind of our plans and informed us that they would disrupt them. As our march turned onto the Ocean Front at Rose Ave. a platoon of fully uniformed Nazis turned onto the Ocean Front at Westminster. The LAPD was in the middle not knowing what to do. They ended up keeping us separated as we passed one another. We finished our march and rally looking over our shoulders as we developed some bizarre contingency plans. The saddest part of the day was that the uniforms evoked many of the horrors of Nazi Germany for many of our Jewish elderly who had experienced them first hand.

Events moved so fast in the late 60s that we seldom had time to plan, only react. In 1969 Councilman Timberlake resigned. A special election was called for the 6th District of which Venice represents about 20%. At the time John Haag, Jane Gordon and I were the full time organizers for P&F/FV. We decided that it would be worth our effort to use this special election to build the two budding organizations. We felt it would make a good platform from which to talk about the War, Racism, Peace & Freedom, FREE VENICE, and what L.A. was doing to Venice. We also felt mounting a serious campaign would expand our perspective, get more people involved and generate needed funds to help pay the office overhead. We were not thinking in terms of "winning," but in terms of raising real issues effecting the residents of the 6th District and of offering real solutions to the problems.

Not seeing any volunteers, we had to look to ourselves. With John and Jane functioning as a unit, it was decided by a two-to-one vote that I should be the candidate. We divided the work; I would design the campaign and concentrate on the District outside Venice, John and Jane would take care of Venice. George Geller, my 'ol partner from our theater days, jumped in as campaign manager; Bob Wells moved back from Hollywood and freelance writing to help define and articulate the issues; Larry Johnson, a drop-out public defender, gave us legal advice

Bob Martin, my ex-brother-in-law, took on the task of organizing high school students, and many more joined in for all the work required to run a campaign. With only a few hundred dollars to spend, obviously the point was not to win, but to educate.

We got a thousand votes, spending about \$900 dollars. Pat Russell won with 7,000 votes, spending \$25,000. A important pay-off for us was a deeper understanding of Venice's problems, a clearer appreciation of the forces against us and a more realistic view of the required solutions.

## Big Plans for Venice Stopped

FREE VENICE was active 24 hours a day it seemed, but for all the many activities generated out of the P&F/FV office, it was the work in response to the City's Canal Project and the Venice Master Plan that defined the local struggle. It required a massive effort on everyone's part to keep up with events. This was compounded by the fact





that the 2 projects were at different levels of the City's bureaucracy. The Canal Project had passed thru all the various departments, commissions, committees, and was scheduled before the full City Council. While the Venice Plan was just beginning with a public hearing at the Planning Commission. This meant that we had to organize bus and car loads, usually 300 people plus, several times a week, to get downtown L.A. With delays and postponements (always after we got downtown) the process was endless.

The 2 projects required different strategies. The Canal Project was relatively simple; delay, delay, delay. Time would cost the City the project. As it turned out it was the City's arrogance and stupidity that gave us our first delay. A scheduled "public" hearing on March 27, 1969 to hear opposition to the Canal Project closed its doors to tenants. Two LAPD officers barred the doors to City Hall refusing to let anyone in who wasn't a property owner. A law suit was filed on behalf of those unlawfully barred and FREE VENICE had its first delay.



This gave us time to organize. Eventually the Canal Assessment District (a way of funding City projects) was passed, 13-0! The project was sent out for bids, but there were no bids. Several factors accounted for this happy surprise; our united and vocal opposition, the law suit and the difficulty expected in selling bonds to finance the construction. The fact that not one bid came in on such a large project had a conspiratorial ring to it. And all Venice loves a conspiracy.

The final struggle ended up in the courts where FREE VENICE, represented by Neighborhood Legal Services, and Howard Hughes both filed against the project. And that's where it stands until this day.

Strategy around the Venice Master Plan was more complex. FREE VENICE's first task was to convince other community groups what the plan was really all about. This we had learned first hand a few years earlier from Kurt Simon, Scharff's sidekick. Unsatisfied with the City's effort to plan Venice in the mid-1960's, Mr. Simon had graduate students from Cal Poly Pomona spend a summer in Venice designing his dream city; Profitville USA. It was in these plans that he first articulated the importance of a freeway through Venice i.e. to wall off the Black and Brown communities from the Ocean Front. About this time the US government announced that cities that didn't develop a master plan would lose their federal funds. L.A.'s planner, Calvin Hamilton, immediately went to work. His approach was to create a series of local community plans, put them all together and call it L.A. Since Mr. Simon already had one started for Venice, it seemed logical to begin with a Venice Community Plan. That was the second major mistake L.A. made. FREE VENICE took advantage of it.

Our strategy was to create a Venice-wide coalition with each organization analyzing the City's plan and developing

arguments as to why the plan didn't serve their community. The process was good and brought the various community groups closer than they had ever been. Meetings at City Hall outdid anything produced in Hollywood. It was pure theater, but with heart and soul. But we became too bureaucratic which, combined with the legal talk in connection with the projects, killed the spirit that held us together.

We were realistic enough to know that we couldn't "beat city hall" and were only buying time. Some of us are still here, but many have been forced from the community they loved. Most of us felt and still feel that nothing less than a socialist transformation of our society will allow the Venices of America to exist in peace. Our direct connection with the Anti-War Movement kept this reality clear in our minds.

#### FREE VENICE, Everywhere!

A by-product of fighting the two major City projects was the development of many mini-support projects; The Community House with its Ecology Action Center, Community Switchboard, Family Gatherings and playground, all beautifully explained in Mike Clare's article in the 100th Issue of the Beachhead. We rebuilt sidewalks the City had neglected since they annexed Venice in 1925. Boardwalks, parks, and more parks were built with loving hands and sharing hearts. And each summer was concluded with the Canal Festival, an event where the community turned near defeat into victory.

The list of law suits is long, spanning the legal spectrum from humorous to horrendous. A book could be written on them alone.

In between doing good community work FREE VENICE activists were everywhere. Steve Clare and Elizabeth Elder organized Hawaii for Peace & Freedom; John Haag and Jane Gordon toured the US in a similar effort; Jane went on to Paris to deliver the "people to people Peace Agreement." Bob Wells put together the Free Venice Indochina Peace Campaign; as Marge Buckley and I took the Indochina slide-show to St. Louis, Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Miami Beach (the Republicans were conventioning there). One would think that so much diverse activity would have drained us, but no. The details reinforced the whole as the whole gave meaning to the details. Greater understanding made sense out of chaos...activity created more energy with which to create more activity...as people like Bea Free helped us maintain a human concern, which served to hold us together, creating a culture of resistance that is the Venice Myth. I call it political synergy--where the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

This period of the late 60s and early 70s also served to develop our politics. Yes, we had been active in community politics for a long time, but that's about as far as we developed. The cross-fertilization between community work and Anti-War activity moved us to an anti-imperialist perspective. Politically this was a qualitative step forward.

The continuing of the War and America's seemingly unlimited destructive

power and its will to use it took its toll psychologically. Political divisions began to emerge. Some FREE VENICE activists began to move further "left" while others "stayed behind." The Free Venice Organizing Committee became just Free Venice. Then there was the Free Venice Resistance. And there was a Free Venice Socialist Collective. And finally some of us created the Provisional Prairie Fire Committee in an effort to complement aboveground what we understood to be developing underground by the Weather-people.

#### Modern Times, Almost

The time is now 1973 and Councilwoman Pat Russell, the winner of the special election, created an advisory Venice Town Council. We had just begun thinking about reviving ol' FREE VENICE. The idea of the Town Council was so similar to the idea of community congresses that we decided during my campaign that we decided to leave FREE VENICE on the shelf. We urged everyone to participate and support the Venice Town Council. The Town Council with its Coastal Committee, Tax Revolt Committee, Renters League etc. is a story unto itself.

The Myth of FREE VENICE has been its unending energy to struggle for the rights of people. The energy is still alive and working in the Beachhead, the Coastal Committee, and is even being transplanted to such exotic places as Mendocino, Ft. Bragg, Santa Fe, San Francisco, Berkeley, Oregon and Hawaii. The Myth is alive and well! So remember:

**FREE VENICE TODAY! TOMORROW BURBANK!**  
Burbank??.

[Note: For a living history of FREE VENICE read past issues of the Beachhead. And for a better list of activists read the staff members listed in the 100th issue of the Beachhead.]





# CALLING THE QUESTION ON BOB WELLS

Q. Can you give Beachhead readers a bit of background history about who you were before you came to Venice? Many readers know who Bob Wells is in Venice, but who were you before you came here?

A. I was born in New York City in 1935. My family was important in shaping where I wound up. Both sides were Irish Catholic; my mother was staunchly religious, my father was an ex-Catholic. To marry my mother he had to make a deal with the Church that the children would be brought up in it. But she died when I was six and as far as my father was concerned the deal was off. Sticken it to the Church was one of the best things he ever did for me and my brother.

My father came off the streets of Brooklyn, worked his way thru Cornell, became an engineer. He was ambitious around government work during W.W.II, and wound up broke by the time he died. And very bitter.

So I had one foot in this upwardly mobile, east side, trying to get the good things...and the other in this working class Irish family which kept coming around to me and my brother trying to get us back into the Church. That was a lost cause, but nevertheless they were always there. I had much more affection for them than I did for my immediate family.

My grandfather, from county Gallway, was one of those people. I learned that the family was part of an Irish national tradition of resistance to imperialism. He didn't put it in exactly those terms. It was the English more than imperialism. Unbending resistance; to be Irish was to be a rebel.

I went thru the State University in New Jersey as a Jeffersonian Republican. Majored in English. My ambition was to be a poet, fiction writer, or journalist. College was driv'n me crazy so I quit in the middle and joined the navy in 1954 or 55. I thought I was going to Korea but wound up in Indo China which none of us at the time had heard of. I was in Haiphong the day the Viet Minh took over from the French. We didn't know where we were or what we were doing. We were sailing down the river road, we were maybe fifty years away. We would have cut loose on them, blown them away if someone would have given us the order.

Q. What were your interests as a youngster?

A. Well, in grammar school I was into reading because I had lousy eyes and nobody knew it. So I spent all my weekends in the library literally with my nose in the page of a book. I went thru the 72nd St. branch of the library, shelf by shelf.

What grabbed me the most were...like Walter Scott, Robert Lewis Stevenson, those big gothic historical novels, you could buy them by the pound. Treasure Island, Kidnapped, The Talisman. All of those 19th century...just because you got into that romanticism.

Q. What else? What about history, sociology, political theory?

A. Political theory was what I would come across based on the propoganda that I was getting in grammar school. That was in the late 40's and early 50's. It was red, white and blue time.



Q. How did you know it was propoganda?

A. I didn't. I bought it. But in terms of the Bill of Rights, libertarianism, Jeffersonian Democracy. The rights of the individual against conformity. Conformism was the big bugaboo in those days. Everybody denied that they were being conformist. Of course everybody was.

I thought at that time that the hedge against conformism were the democratic principles built into the system. Free speech, etc., etc. I believed that the U.S. system was the best expression and guarantee of that. I thought that the communists were alien geographically, mentally, and politically, and that they were a threat to those freedoms which were worth fighting for.

Q. So that's why you joined the navy?

A. Well, the Korean War was takin place. I was goin buggy in college. I didn't know why I was there, it was grim....I just wanted to get the hell out, so at the end of my sophomore year I volunteered for combat sea duty in the Far East. I thought I'd wind up in Korea but wound up in Viet Nam.

In Viet Nam there was this Dr. Tom Dooley. A navy doctor in a refugee camp on the beach. He came on the ship and told us what was going on. He was a significant figure in the early days of the war. A real staunch Irish Catholic who was very much mind-washed by the French Catholic propoganda. He told his view of what was going on; that people were coming in with chop sticks driven in through their ears; that the communists, the Viet Minh, were like some oriental, evil force coming out of the jungles. He was sincere but a conduit for French propoganda. He had a tremendous effect, scared the hell out of us.

I concluded that if we were going to fight this challenge to freedom, Viet Nam was the best place to do it. Not wait till it gets to California. We could do a hell of a lot better than the French. Our governments goin to just shine it on, but to do it right, just let the navy and marines come in.

Q. That's what you believed then?

A. Ya. So I came back to college, went to a year of law school

Q. Why law school?

A. Well, I didn't particularly want to, but I had the G.I. Bill, had no job, got a good mark on the law school aptitude test, which made up for my lousy marks in college. I had nothin else to do. I checked it out and found out that I didn't want to be a lawyer. I was just driftin. Then I got a job with some small magazines.

Q. What magazines? What were you doing?

A. Well, I was editing. One was a civilian magazine that was distributed to fleet sailors, and I was doing some free lancing for a judo and karate magazine out here in California because I was in AAU competition judo in the NYC area. I got married, had a couple of kids. Then the magazine out here said hay, we need an editor. Black Belt; it still comes out. They moved me and the family out here in 1964 and we ended up in Culver City because it was near work. We got a car, we just started driven around, and we found Venice.

We didn't know what it was called, it just looked like the place to be. So early in 1965 we moved out to a place on the Peninsula. It was real different then. Mostly empty lots, small old cottages and some larger houses. None of the new stuff. In those days it was much foggier than it is now. People who have been around a long time will relate to that. These tremendous fogs would roll in off the ocean. You'd stand on the beach and it would come thru like a wall. People would just drop out of sight. It doesn't happen anymore, I don't know why.

Q. So that's how you got to Venice. Do you remember what was going on in a political vein?

A. Well, right about that time John & Anna Haig had opened the Venice West Cafe on Dudley. He was coming under a lot of pressure from the right wing, mainly the OUTLOOK which was really retrograde, the Funks and McClures at that time.

Q. But that wasn't political. That was hippies....

A. It was also political. John was into civil rights. Proposition 14 had recently passed. It repealed the California Fair Housing law, and it passed two to one. Fighting Prop. 14 brought a lot of progressive and left forces together. So they had lost, but were in touch, had networked up. When the war heated up, and when the black liberation movement heated up, they had some experience working together.

Q. Well, but where were you politically? You had bought what Dooley had told you ten years earlier. Had you changed?

A. I had been primed for change by the Algerian war. In fact, the Algerian

war had already begun when I was in Viet Nam. I didn't know where Algeria was either; I just knew that there was a war. While I was still in New York, finishing school, getting married, having some kids, I closely followed this particular war in the New York Times.

Because of the heritage of guerrilla resistance that I had from my family I could see clearly which side was which in Algeria. I sided, without hesitation, with the Algerians against the French. Just on the facts, because the New York Times was not into steering people into being anti-French.

Just about the time I got to California the Algerians won. That was a Vicious, Vicious war. So, I had been exposed to a Vicious attempt to crush a war of national liberation, in detail, over a long period, and I had very clearly seen which side I thought was right.

Q. At that time did you think of it as an Imperialist war, or was it just a matter of right and wrong?

A. A combination. I saw it as an anti-imperialist war, but my understanding of imperialism was shallow. I was

NEXT PAGE, please



# bob wells...

still carrying those Jeffersonian ideals of democratic and individual rights. I was also primed around the question of wars of liberation by the combination of the Irish and Algerian...that I had been through.

I thought of them as wars of liberation, the Irish against the English, the Algerians against the French. I wasn't putting them in the context of western imperialism. I really wasn't political when I came here. I was going to work for this judo magazine.

We worked well 3,000 miles apart but couldn't work in the same office together. So, within less than a year I left them. By this time Cydel was going wacko at home and wanted to work so I said fine I'll stay home and take care of the kids and see if I can get it off the ground as a free-lance-fiction writer.

So I was living in the fog on the Peninsula and along came the struggle around the Venice West Cafe - which was the assholes, the Outlook, the Funks, McClures, the Venice Civil Union. That kind of triggered my Jeffersonian prejudices. I guess I had a lot of built up frustration and welcomed the opportunity to unload all of that on the Outlook.

Q. Did you ever go to....?

A. I never set foot in the Venice West. To me that end of Venice was unknown country. Wierd stuff was going on there, and I really just wanted to sack out in the fog. In the north end of Venice were the hippies, the beat generation. I just didn't know what was going on there, and was hesitant, wasn't into finding out.



C. Winters

Q. So the Outlook introduced you to Venice politics?

A. Right! On the issue of the Venice West Cafe. I took on the Outlook in the Outlook, and they printed my stuff. Through that I met John Haig.

I'm not sure how the actual meeting took place. In 66 or 67 there was a big teach-in on Viet Nam at UCLA. It sounded like the same thing that had gone on in Algeria to me. I had been prepared to go in with guns blazing in Viet Nam...so I decided to go to UCLA and check it out.

I remember one of the speakers, Mas Kojima. He just laid out the facts. One of the things he said was that Dulles had offered the French foreign minister Bidault an atomic bomb, and he said--what the hell are we going to do with that--and Dulles said, all right, we'll give you two, one to drop in China on the staging areas. Bidault said Dulles was crazy.

That struck me, because George Bidault was a maniac during the Algerian war. He organized the Secret Army which tried to start the war all over again, to undermine De Gaulle's negotiations with the FLN. So, if he thought Dulles was crazy maybe I should take a better look at what was going on.

So I looked up some of the books Kojima had mentioned, and there, sure enough, were all the facts. It was clear to me that what was going on in Viet Nam was the same thing that had happened in Algeria, and the same thing that was going on for hundreds of years in Ireland. So I changed sides. My loyalties changed to the rebels from the French, and therefore against the Americans. What the hell were we doing there? I was pissed because I had been suckered and almost to the point where I was ready to pull the trigger in Viet Nam....



Venice on the Half Shell (aka Boticelli's Venus) is the title of the new mural by R. Cronk (Photo by Peter Kelly) recently installed at the Pavilion. It has received many favorable comments, and some criticism, especially for apparent sexism. One woman artist claims, for instance, that all the perspective lines seem to converge on the skater's crotch, reinforcing the view of women as sex objects. Other artists disagree. Is the mural sexist, for this or any other reason? What do you think?

So I started writing letters to the Outlook, saying: Hey! did you know.... They printed my letter with a note at the bottom saying: well, Robert Wells is obviously misinformed because this is communist propaganda.

So I called Mas Kojima and said: Hey! they're calling me on this; Where's the documentation? I got it and wrote the Outlook and gave them another 'did you know....' Well, they published the letter without the documentation I provided for the first letter; just the second 'did you know', and said that it was communist propaganda. We went through that for about 6 months. The Outlook would always jump on the second fact and ignore the documentation.

Q. So the Outlook was shoving your nose in it? Then what happened?

A. Well, about that time the California Democratic Council was still strong. Its president, Simon Cassidy, came out against the Viet Nam War. Governor Brown got Cassidy canned. That was taking a positive action in support of the war, so an insurgent caucus developed called Californians for New Politics. Its first and last campaign, when Regan was running against Pat Brown. The point was, o.k., we are not going to support unsatisfactory liberal Demos. just because they're up against totally outrageous conservative Republicans. It was the rejection of the lesser of two evils. If Pat Brown is going to do this ax work around Viet Nam, then people should boycott Pat Brown, whatever the circumstances. The lesser of two evils

is still evil.

A boycott movement was organized, mainly in Berkeley and L.A. The L.A. part was based mainly in Venice. It was John Haig and Rick Davidson, a guy named Mike Marcus, Jane Gordon, and some others whose names I've forgotten.

This eventually evolved into the Peace and Freedom Party.

Q. So you made your connection with Venice people through this insurgent movement in the C.D.C?

A. Yes. I wasn't in CDC. It was because of Brown's action on the Viet Nam war. I knew John Haig through the Venice West thing, and through him I met other people. So for me it was Viet Nam and anti-imperialism from the get-go. Even before I arrived in Venice. But it was a combination of the Venice and California stuff, and anti-imperialism, which kind of jelled.

(next month. The Free Venice Movement and the interest in Marxism).



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## 10 Illegal Aid cont. from page 1

property owners only. That change was due to a complaint from some renters in the Canals and a law suit brought by Legal Aid. More recently, the Venice office won a Supreme Court ruling, in a case originally brought by the Kemper Apt. tenants, that changed the law regarding the habitability of an apartment in favor of tenants. Both these suits took years in court and never would have been done without Legal Aid--poor people simply can't hire lawyers to work on these kinds of cases. They cost too much. And that, in a nutshell, is why there's legal aid in the first place.

The Venice office also played a big role in the rent control movement in Santa Monica--not only in helping to write the law, but also in its defense. Much the same comments can be made about the Coastal Law especially as it concerns housing for poor people.

### Situation May Get Worse

But even this consolidation may not last long if Reagan really does veto the bill that re-authorizes a scaled-down Legal Services nationwide. Right now the House has passed that bill with a \$241 million budget (25% less than this year). The Senate has yet to pass anything but one of its committees has recommended a \$100 million budget.

Even a scaled down Legal Aid will provide some assistance to the poor and must be supported. Please write members of Congress urging them to support the Legal Services Corporation. If you have any input regarding the future of the Venice office, call the Directing Attny., Michael Wine, at 392-4177. ●

## COMMUNITY UNITY cont.

from page 1

resources, educate the community, and begin a dialogue with each other on a united strategy for Venice's economic survival.

In an August 20th meeting, 18 representatives from various agencies and organizations outlined the purpose of the Community Unity Day Festival as: a) an opportunity to do outreach in the community, making people aware of existing resources and how to obtain them, b) an opportunity to develop a community network to respond more effectively to the proposed cuts, and c) to heighten community involvement, especially among young people. Some of the organizations who have already expressed interest in the Festival include: CES, NAPP, Community Service Org., Venice Community Coalition, VOP-COOP, St. Joseph's Center, Oakwood Rec Center, Hampton Clinic, Education Opportunity Program, L.A. Childbirth Center, Venice Skill Center & the Venice Vet Center, and the list is expanding.

The projected date for the Festival is October 10th from 10-3; the tentative place is the Oakwood Recreation Center playground, 767 California, Venice. The plan is for each organization or agency to have some kind of exhibit, display or, if possible, provide a service. Also planned are speakers, films, entertainment and a health fair.

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.** The next planning meeting will be held on Sept. 3rd, at 11 A.M. at the N.A.P.P. Center, 641 Westminster, Venice. This meeting will attempt to set up several committees to coordinate the event. They will include program, logistics & publicity. For further info: call 399-7737 or 657-4741.

In the Spirit of Unity,

Midge Purcell  
Chairperson of C.E.S.  
Coordinator of Community  
Unity Day ●

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## SAFRAN DEMONSTRATION

cont. from page 1

housing without consulting the community. He originally sought and received community support as well as extraordinary parking and height variances from the City of L.A. based on his low-income housing proposal. Now he wonders why we don't think he should be allowed to keep those variances."

The coalition is concerned that Safran's project would replace a 100-space parking lot (currently rented to residents and beach visitors) with a building which would provide substandard parking for its own needs and no replacement parking for the community. Claiming that he has no obligation to replace community parking, Safran has constructed a fence around the lot (without the requisite coastal permit) and notified his parking customers that he will close the lot for good on Sept 8th.



Photo by C. Furst

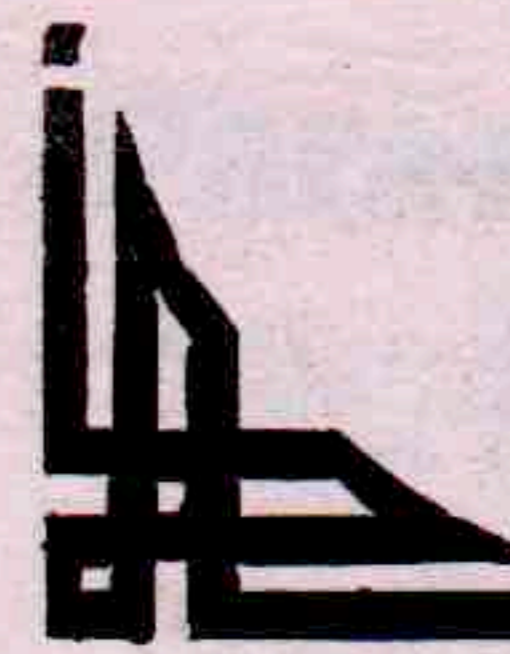
"We've reported the fence to the State Commission," said Dorothy Lang of the Navy Estates group. "It's an example of Mr. Safran's 'good faith' intention to impede coastal access."

The coalition's Coastal Commission appeal focuses on the affordable housing and replacement parking issues in addition to questioning the variances granted to the developer based on his now-defunct proposal to provide a significant amount of affordable housing. They cite as one relevant precedent the Commission's recent decision to tie variances for height and lot coverage to a developer's agreement to provide 100% replacement parking on-site for a project at the corner of Breeze Av. and Ocean Front Walk in the North Venice beachfront area (the Haskins project). Final hearings before the Commission are not yet scheduled but are expected to take place within 60 days. ●

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# COMMUNITY

# THEATER

# DANCE

Sept. 2, Wednesday 10:30a.m.--"How to Avoid Roadblocks In Personal Communication" by Grace Lee, M.A. Co-Director of Inter-Generation. Clare Foundation, 909 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica. Call 450-5123.

Sept. 5-6, Sat. & Sun.--Garage & Yard Sale 1439 Cabrillo Ave. Sponsored by Venice Temple of Man. 399-9747.

Sept. 6, Sunday 8p.m.--"Labor Day Party & Sing Along" Unitarian Community Church, Forbes Hall, 1260 18th St. Santa Monica. Donation \$3.

Sept. 13, Sunday 8p.m.--"How To Bring The Joy of Living Into Life" by Dr. Michael May. Unitarian Community Church, Forbes Hall, 1260 18th St., Santa Monica. Donation \$3. 394-4318.

Sept. 20, Sunday 8p.m.--"Update on Santa Monica City Politics" by Mayor Ruth Yannatta Goldway. Unitarian Community Church, Forbes Hall. Donation \$3.

**Ongoing Family Life Enhancement Program** Starting Sept. 21, Mondays--"Boys & Girls Group About Divorce" 4:30p.m. "Youth Group" 6p.m. "Young Adults Group" 7:30p.m. Jewish Family Service Of Santa Monica 1424 Fourth St., Santa Monica. 393-0732

Starting Sept. 22, Tuesdays--"You And Your Aging Parent Group" 7:30p.m.

Starting Sept. 23, Wednesdays--"Men & Womens Group" 10a.m. "Couple Communications Group" 7p.m. "Life Before & After Retirement" 7:30 "Post Residential Treatment Support Group" 7p.m.

Starting Sept. 24, Thursdays--"Weight Group 9a.m. "Effective Parenting" 7p.m. "Mens Support Group" 7:30 "Mens & Womens Group" 7:30 "Bereaved Parents Group" 7:30p.m. For more info on costs and details call 393-0732 for brochure.

Sept. 27, Sunday 8p.m.--"How To Live With Your Second Self" by Swiss psychologist Vierge Traub, Ph.D. Unitarian Community Church, Forbes Hall, 1260 18th St. Santa Monica. Donation \$3.

The Venice Skills Center is now accepting applications for enrollment into a CETA-funded training program. Residents of WLA, Santa Monica, and unincorporated LA County areas may apply if they are 18 and over, unemployed and economically disadvantaged. Opportunities in Auto Mechanics, Auto Body Repair & Painting, Auto Upholstery, Apartment House Maintenance, Multi-Clerical. Venice Skills Center, 611 Fifth Ave, Venice. 392-4153.

Sept. 18-20, Fri.-Sun.--Fourth California Men's Gathering. Rap groups, workshops, discussions, celebrations, etc. Exploring the male role and alternative non-sexist ways of interaction. Sliding scale registration from \$35.50-\$81. Camp Hess Kramer in Malibu. Sponsored by LA Men's Collective, P.O. Box 25836, LA 90025. Call 396-3655 or 613-0005.

The Socialist Road, an open forum analyzing the history and current state of the struggle for socialism today, with particular emphasis on the Soviet Union, China and U.S. Communist Wkrs Party nat'l spokesman Phil Thompson is featured. Audience comments & questions are welcomed. Sunday, 9/6 7PM, Channing Hall, 2936 W. 8th (1 blk E. of Vermont) Donation \$3. Further info: 748-7741.

Gay & Lesbian Health Fair. For men: Free VD tests! For women: Free pap smears, breast self-exams: learn how! For all: Free blood pressure check. A community service of So. Cal. Physicians for Human Rights. 11-5PM 9/20 Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Bl. Adm: \$2, No one turned away for lack of funds.

Sept. 25, Friday 7:30--Radical Women Formation Meeting at 744 1/2 S. Sycamore Ave. (near Wilshire & LaBrea) Dinner at 6:30 for \$3.50 donation. For info 935-8638.

## People Are Falling Off All The Time

If the earth revolves on its axis, why don't these people on the bottom fall off?

Actually that's a common misconception: people are falling off all the time.

-THE QUESTION MAN, Mad MAGAZINE

by MOE STAVNEZER

There are not now and there have never been any people who understand the reason that going north is always going uphill. Certainly in the general scheme of things that statement is an incontestable truth. Just, for the smallest part of a moment, think about it. And while you're at it, think about the converse of that statement, also truth personified, which is that going south is always going downhill!

Now I realize at first blush both these facts seem silly. They more than likely seem irrelevant as well but are in fact neither. The realization and ultimate acceptance of these important laws will make you a better person and, of course, change your life forever. Those are heavy statements to make about facts that do not appear to have much bearing on one's everyday life and you may ask, so what?

Well I'll tell you so what. Imagine, if you can, how much easier and less complicated your life is made by the manner in which these laws work. Roads and paths that go north are far more difficult to traverse than those that go south and should be avoided if you have any sort of physical ailment. That is so because the kind of stress placed on your various bodily organs is increased when you go uphill. Conversely the road is less strenuous and demanding on all of those same organs when traveling downhill. Everyone knows these things but no one has, before this time, dared to think about why and state, unequivocally, the truth in so straightforward a manner as this.

### THE EARTH IS ROUND !

Draw it! Go ahead just draw a picture of the earth. Immediately you will notice that it is round, unless you are one of the thousand or so crazies left who remain convinced that it is flat. If you agree with your eyes that the earth is round you are well on the way to accepting the facts put forward above--that is that north is uphill and south is downhill.

Just look at what you've drawn. No matter which way you look at it your eyes are immediately drawn to the fact that no matter where on the roundness you start, when you go north it is always uphill. Try it if you don't believe me. Put the tip of a #2 pencil at the bottom of the earth and draw a line toward the north pole, that is to say the top of the earth. The line, you will note quite readily, always travels upwards. Never, never does a line going north also go downhill. Astonishing you say. Well you ain't seen nothing yet.

Take the self same pencil, tip and all, and begin in the middle of the earth and you will discover that: if you draw a line towards the north it always go up while if a similar line is drawn towards the south it inevitably goes down.

By this time I can tell that all of you who have, with an open mind, tried this series of experiments are true believers. Now you can take your #2 pencil and show the world these astonishing facts. ☼

"Story-Dances" for boys and girls. Ages 8 - 12. Harmonious development of mind and body through a blend of arts - dance, theatre, aikido, judo. Children will work cooperatively to create their own dances. Starting September 17, Thursdays, 4:00 to 5:30. Taught by Linda Holeman and Laurel Near. Call KARATEWOMEN 398-5539

Beginners Folk Dance Class in Topanga. New classes starting Sun. 9/13, 7:30-10PM Instructors are Joan Friedberg, Carolyn Alport & Jerry Saltzman. Party after the class. Call Jerry: 455-2365 or Joan/Carolyn: 455-3127.

WORKOUT WITH DANCE includes stretching, strengthening, through dance. Relaxation and breathing exercises at close of class. Feel energetic and refreshed. Venice and Santa Monica classes. Leave message at KARATEWOMEN 398-5539. Taught by Laurel Near

# ART

Thru Sept. 25 8-10p.m.--"Mondo Pastello" exhibit by Ramon Alvarez at L.A. Eyeworks Gallery, 7407 Melrose Ave. LA 653-8255.

Artreach is offering a one-day seminar on "Computers & the Arts". Computer literacy for artists will be the goal. 9/25, 9-5PM at Embassy Aud., 843 S. Grand, L.A. Registration: \$3 Info: 467-6690 or 554-0326.

KPFK Salutes Composer John Cage. KPFK, 90.7 FM offers 3 programs in celebration of the 69th birthday of John Cage, noted contemporary composer. 9/5, 10PM, 9/6, 6 AM - 12 mid., 9/25 6:30 PM - 6:30 AM on 9/26. On the last day Cage himself will present the premier of "Empty Words" with text by Thoreau.

Thru Sept. 10--"Aesop's Fables" by the Burbage Theatre For Children at various locations. Sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Dept. Free. For info call 838-0342.

# POETRY

## BEYOND BAROQUE POETRY READINGS

Open Poetry Readings - 1st Sunday each month at 8 PM.

Sept. 4, Friday 8p.m.--Evening of Poetry by Peter Schjeldahl. \$2 admission. Beyond Baroque, Old Venice City Hall, 681 Venice Blvd. Info 822-3006.

Sept. 11, Friday 8p.m.--Publication Party/Reading for premiere issue of Barney Magazine. Free. Beyond Baroque.

Sept. 13, Sunday 8p.m.--Open Poetry Reading Series. Open to all poets. Free. Beyond Baroque.

Poetry Writing Workshops - Intensive & beginning, led by Jack Grapes, begins Mon. 9/14. Phone for registration & info.

Reading/Publication Event - for rara avis magazine #5. Fri. 9/18, 8 PM, Free.

Evening of Poetry with Janine Pommy Vega - Sat. 9/19, 8 PM, Admission: \$2.

All of the above at: Beyond Baroque Literary/Arts Center 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006

Sept. 13, Sunday 4-6p.m.--Special Reading/Sampler at B. Dalton Booksellers, 106 Santa Monica Place (the Mall) Featured poets include Jaqueline DeAngelis, Dennis Cooper, Amy Gerstler, Jack Grapes, Michael Silverblatt, Jack Skelley, and David Trinidad. Presented by Beyond Baroque. Free.

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music is cosmic energy  
cosmic energy stimulates the soul  
the soul is the unifying force  
of our inner self  
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pearlescent skin prisms  
play like sun on water dawning  
over eastern ocean flowing  
bluing  
sky brightening  
with ultra-violet  
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Jim Hovey

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**LABOR DAY  
FUSION FESTIVAL  
Sept. 7th**

1:00 PM MACAW  
3:00 PM STEEL WOOL  
6:00 PM CROSS CURRENT

MACAW - a super duet of piano and percussion featuring the dynamic vocals & original compositions of Benson Brown & Kalid Abdullah. Mesmerising sounds of joy and passion emerge from this stylish and sophisticated musical menage, influenced by a world of unique and exotic stimulations. A delightful way to start a holiday!

STEEL WOOL - this reggae has thrilled our audiences for several weeks now and will further excite you with this special outdoor performance. Reserve your seats now for this enchanting blend of Chicago soul, jazz-rock, and reggae. Originals led by Robert Berryman on vocals and guitar are superbly assisted by a five-piece group of expert musicians and a vocalist. Exciting sounds to all who lend their ears to this warm but driving outfit.

CROSS CURRENT - improvisational, majestic sounds freely emerge whirling, splashing melodies. Vibraphonic textures with uplifting flute or guitar impressions intrigue and inspire. JOHN POWERS leads this creative group of musicians as they journey through musical styles and rhythms of all varieties. Intricate patterns of harmonious delight will ease your thought and spirit as you share musical expressions and sound sensations.

ARCO IRIS - A rare, exclusive performance in our outdoor garden with the leaders of Ethnic Fusion. Over 50 instruments blend together with artistry and inspiration as these friends of life share their spiritual beauty with everyone. Come renew your energies with ARCO IRIS the music and spirit of the Americas.

FREE FLIGHT - A CLASSICAL JAZZ UNION - Inspired by the richest musical themes in history, translated into fusion jazz. You will be marveled by the splendid exuberance of this provocative cross-over direction in music. Fresh and appealing, FREE FLIGHT is a magic carpet ride through time and music! Jim Walker, flutes; Micho Leviev, keyboards.

SKINS with Miguel Cruz - Diverse Latin and African ethnic rhythms pulsate with musical ingenuity. Expert percussion sounds will stimulate you into pleasurable sensations. Please come early for this debut of LA's most renowned percussion ensemble. SKINS

BRAZILIAN CARNIVAL MUSIC FESTIVAL with EMBRA SAMBA - The sounds and movements of Brazil are brought to you in our beautiful garden environment. When this delightful group appeared in July, all who attended were marveled by the exotic rhythms and incredible dancing of this festive group. Stunning solo vocalists and dancers highlight the activities. Come and celebrate! Don't expect to stay calm, when this Brazilian ensemble roars, they wanne make you dance.

POETRY BY THE SEA - in cooperation with ALEXANDER - A unique concept of participatory artistic expression will introduce itself to our patrons. THE GIFT - a symphonic jazz duet, will provide music and poets will read their original works in an open forum. Sign up by 7:30 if you would enjoy sharing your creativity with poetry lovers.

Billy Childs' A FINE MADNESS - At the forefront of the American fusion scene is this incredible new age conceptual energy source. Melodic inegration of rhythm and texture captivate the listener. Vital exchanges of thout and sensation are expressed through poetic musical communication. Now expanding to Saturday Evenings as well as on Thursday, this group continues to turn the future of fusion jazz. It is now: A FINE MADNESS!

**GARDEN CONCERTS AT 2:00 P.M. SEPT.**

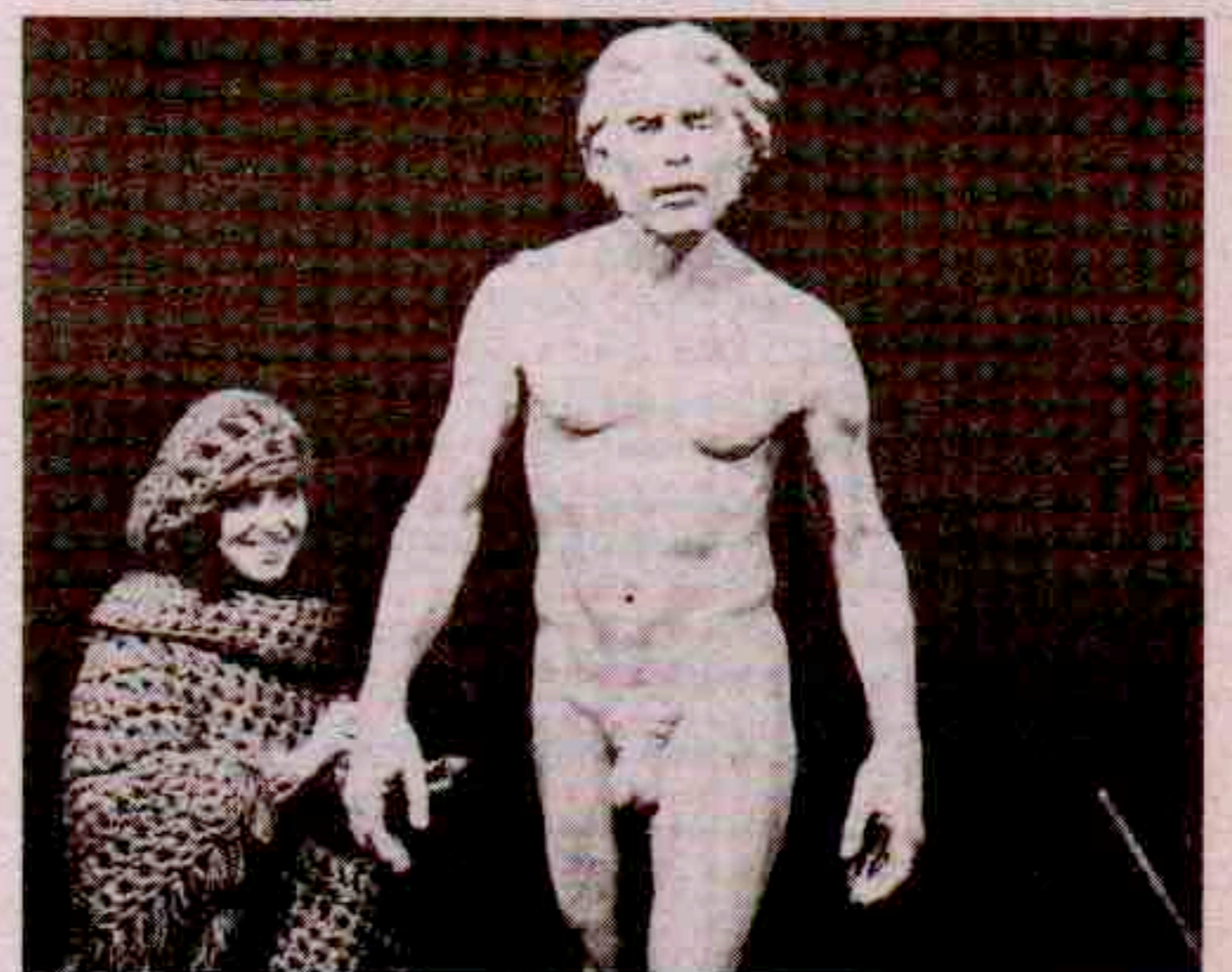
on Saturdays	on Sundays	1981
Sept. 5 : BASSLINE (REGGAE)	Sept. 6 : ARCO IRIS	
Sept. 12 : UNDERWATER TRAFFIC	Sept. 13 : FREEFLIGHT	
Sept. 19 : KOWALCZUK & KOMPANY	Sept. 20 : SKINS	
Sept. 26 : UNDERWATER TRAFFIC	Sept. 27 : BRAZILIAN CARNIVAL MUSIC W/ EMBRA SAMBA	

**NEW AGE FUSION JAZZ 9:00**

Tues. 1 : ARCO IRIS	Wed. 16 : RIVER
Wed. 2 : UNDERWATER TRAFFIC	Thurs. 17 : A FINE MADNESS
Thurs. 3 : A FINE MADNESS	Fri. 18 : STEEL WOOL
Fri. 4 : STEEL WOOL	Sat. 19 : UNDERWATER TRAFFIC
Sat. 5 : A FINE MADNESS	Sun. 20 : MANDALA (6:00 to 10:00)
Sun. 6 : MANDALA (6:00 to 10:00)	Mon. 21 : BASSLINE (REGGAE)
Mon. 7 : SPECIAL LABORDAY CONCERT	Tues. 22 : ARCO IRIS
Tues. 8 : ARCO IRIS	Wed. 23 : RIVER
Wed. 9 : UNDERWATER TRAFFIC	Thurs. 24 : A FINE MADNESS
Thurs. 10 : A FINE MADNESS	Fri. 25 : STEEL WOOL
Fri. 11 : STEEL WOOL	Sat. 26 : call for late booking!
Sat. 12 : A FINE MADNESS	Sun. 27 : MANDALA (6:00 to 10:00)
Sun. 13 : MANDALA (6:00 to 10:00)	Mon. 28 : BASSLINE (REGGAE)
Mon. 14 : POETRY & JAZZ	Tues. 29 : ARCO IRIS
Tues. 15 : MANDALA	Wed. 30 : call for late booking!

**Special Dinner Concerts at 7:00 P.M.**

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Thursdays : THE GIFT  
Fridays : KOWALCZUK & KOMPANY  
Saturdays : CROSS CURRENT



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