

THE FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

Number 5, March!

1969

FREE TO VENICE RESIDENTS

THE COURSE OF HUMAN EVENTS

The Venice Health Council on February 17 elected 16 of the 21 member board of directors. Thirteen of those elected appeared on a slate endorsed by the FREE VENICE Research and Planning Committee. Five were nominated at the meeting: Marie Branch, Channa Carder, Rick Davidson, Anna Haag and Peggy Simon. The FREE VENICE group called for "comprehensive health services adequate to serve all the people such as a free medical clinic, low-cost dental care and a cooperative or non-profit outlet for medicines and supplies."

The FREE VENICE Organizing Committee on February 20 unanimously passed a resolution "to protest the use of any more public tax money in connection with the Venice Waterways Assessment District and to work with Venice residents in the canal area in urging the City Council of Los Angeles to oppose adoption of the proposed assessment district." This is the first organized opposition to the canal scheme. The Committee intends to keep Venice for people of low to medium income. Meetings are held every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Broadway School, Broadway at Lincoln Blvd. For information call 399-7681.

The Venice street theatre group presented the FREE VENICE meeting with a satirical view of a future Venice complete with freeways, choking smog, high-rise, oil-coated ocean and restricted beaches. For information call Lee Simon at 399-6462.

FREE VENICE Organizing Committee members Verna Black, Jane Gordon, Ian Halsema, Jack Jackowitz and Morris Rosen met on February 21 with Councilman Marvin Braude to determine his position on the master plan opposed by the FREE VENICE group and to find out what action Braude will take to bring the City Planning Commission to Venice. Mr. Braude declined to state his position but assured the group without enthusiasm that he would ask the Planning Commission to hold its May 8 meeting in Venice.

A new committee for the FREE VENICE Art Festival was formed on February 24 with Anna Haag chairman. The committee is actively seeking artists and craftsmen to exhibit at the festival which is held every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to sunset on the sculptured lot on Ocean Front Walk at Park Avenue. For information call 392-2892.

County health officials initiated a meeting on February 26 with Venice Survival Committee members to discuss a possible youth clinic in Venice. The VCS'ers held out for comprehensive health services including nutrition for all and advocated community control and use of volunteer and non-licensed personnel.

Just after midnight on February 27 a gasoline bomb was thrown at the BEACHHEAD office, which also houses the Venice Survival Committee, FREE VENICE Organizing Committee and the Venice Peace and Freedom Party. Luckily, the bomb missed so that no injuries or damage resulted.

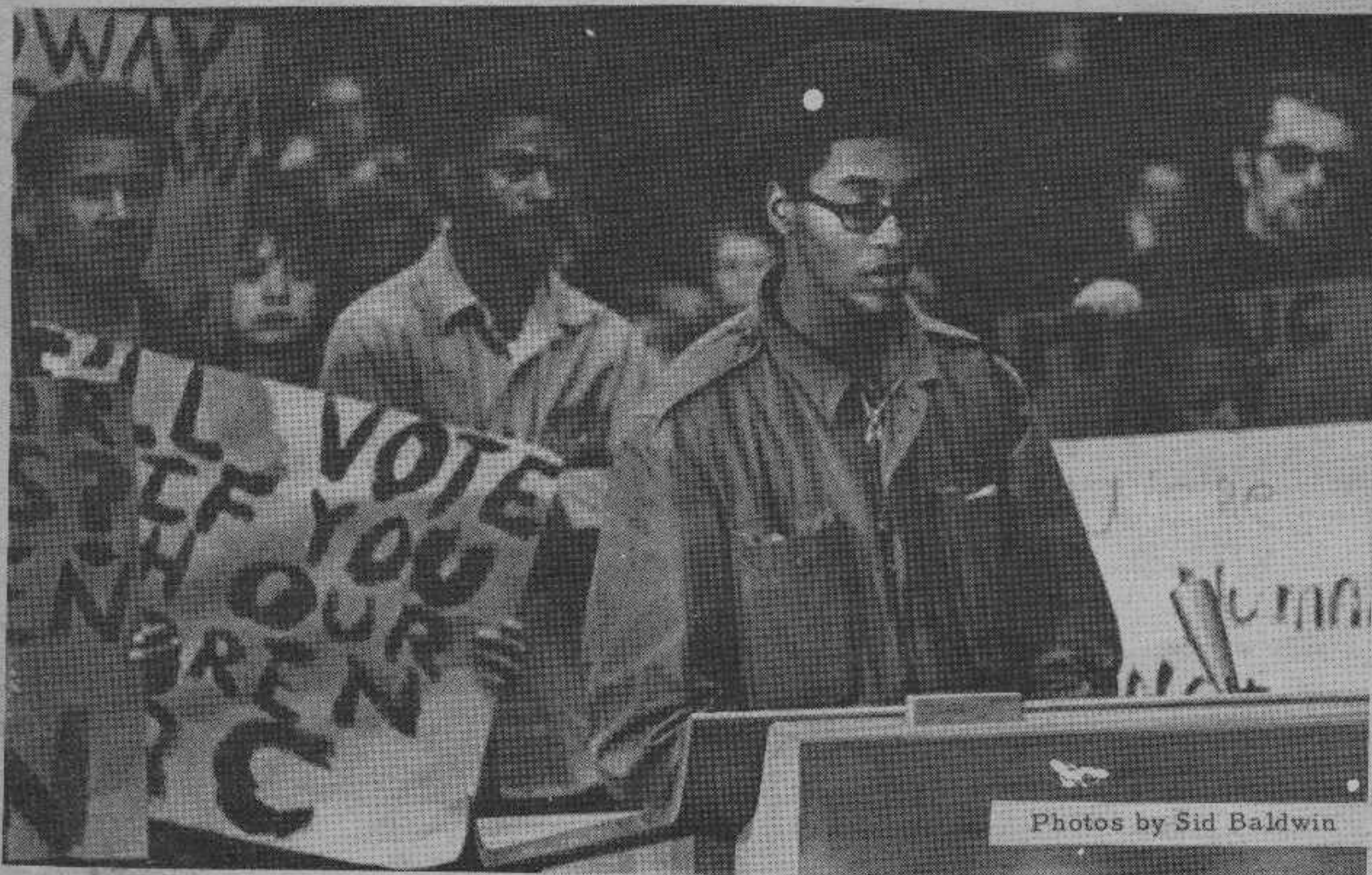
The Venice photo-lab cooperative now has a darkroom. For information call 399-7681.

Three Los Angeles policemen assigned to Venice spent some off-duty time on March 1 throwing eggs at pedestrians on the Ocean Front and then fired several shots that narrowly missed at least seven persons. At press time the L.A.P.D. was still refusing to reveal the cops' names, but the Santa Monica Evening Outlook reported that one of them, Thomas F. Mullen, Jr. of 1132 12th Street, Santa Monica, told the Outlook that he and his accomplices "certainly did nothing fundamentally wrong."

Los Angeles police officers attempted to close down a party for BEACHHEAD on March 2. Anna Haag was given a citation for providing live entertainment without a permit from the Police Commission. Venice Survival Committee attorney, Paul Abram, will defend Anna and benefit parties will continue.

The "Air Raid Poetry" session at Beyond Baroque last Friday was more of a happening. The main speaker Sam Eisenstein, was unable to appear. Still the event was a success due to the efforts of other speakers (mostly local) who volunteered to take Mr. Eisenstein's place. The subject was poetry. Many original and forceful poems were read and discussed. The evening was made complete with coffee, cookies, and conversation. Many weekly activities are taking place at Beyond Baroque. A poetry workshop meets every Wednesday night and "happenstance" (the unexpected) meets every Thursday night. It is free and all are welcome.

The American Apparel Manufacturers Association, Pacific Coast Division, in conjunction with the Venice Public Library is sponsoring a fashion show to be held Sunday, March 23, 3 p.m. at the Venice Public Library 610 California Avenue, Venice.



Photos by Sid Baldwin

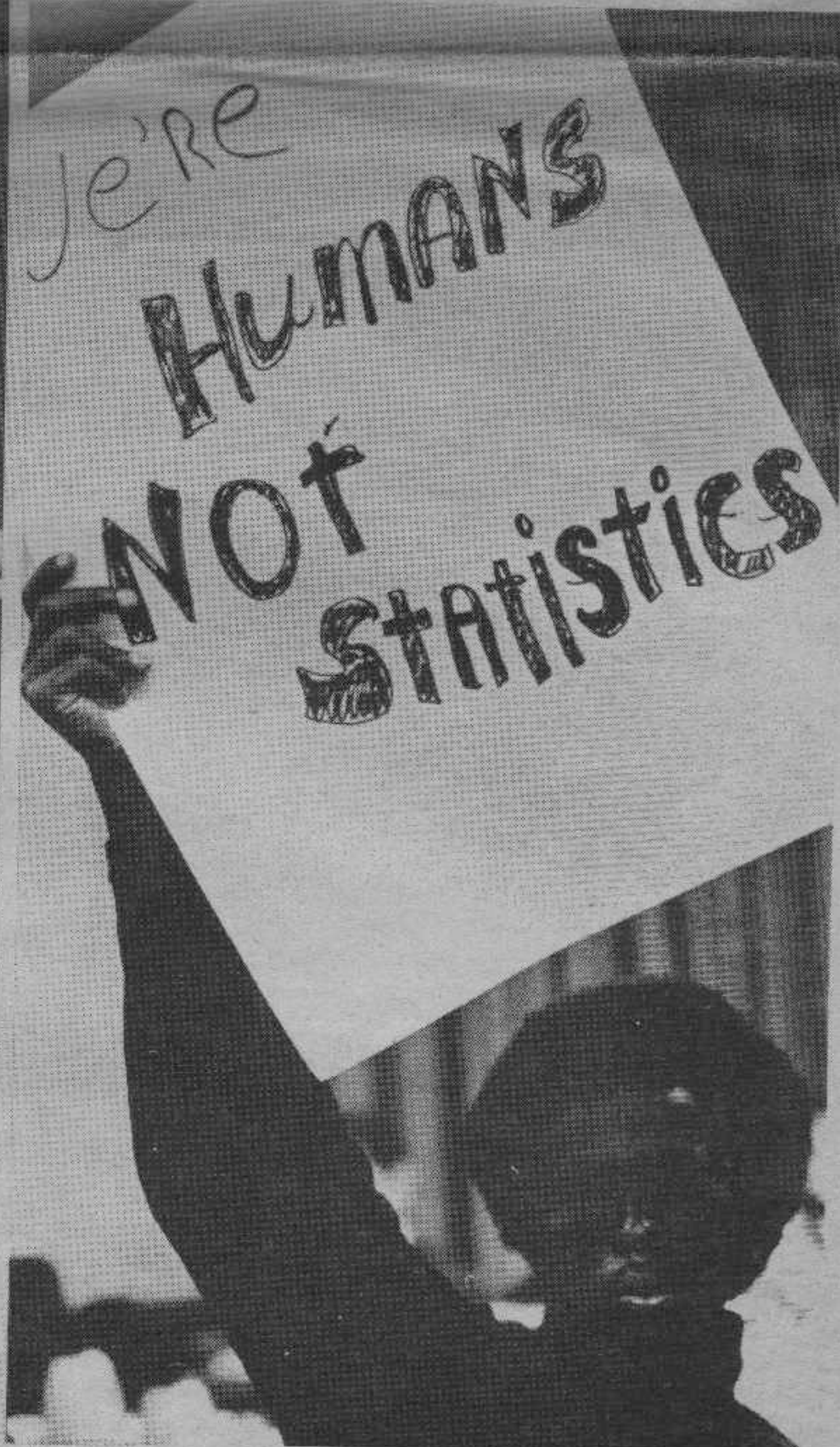
L.A. BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETS VENICE

After a month of runaround, the Venice Education Cadre again went downtown to the L.A. Board of Education to get the 2 teachers (Phys Ed. & Music) reinstated at Broadway Elementary School. Approximately 50 parents, students, and other concerned residents of Oakwood were finally heard demanding a decent education for our children with signs and voices. Ten speakers and 40 supporters tried to reach the humane instincts of the board members, citing: the

benefits the 850 students received from the Music and Phys. Ed. programs, the absurdity of sticking to the same student/teacher ratio whether the school is in Oakwood or in Bel-Air, and the unexplainable cut-back of 2 teachers from a ghetto school where 4th, 5th, and 6th graders still can't read, write, add, or subtract.

Although the community had no voice in the cut-back decision which affects 850 of our own children, the 50 people on Monday certainly impressed the board that from now on Venice cares - and is going to be

heard. The board called for a full investigation of Broadway school (unprecedented in its history) to find out what we already and what they should already know. However this delaying tactic will only prolong the issue for the length of the one week study. All other community people that are also determined to get these two needed programs back - and focus the board's attention on the educational inadequacies that do exist in Venice - should join the Venice Education Cadre at Broadway School parking lot on Monday, March 10, at 2:30 p.m.



Jim Moran

WHEEL CHAIR CASE

Atheist drool marble voice
Inside the plastic rocket
One way slump ticket on death road;
Looked around the dome
And found the written message
To end the aching of the voiceless all alone.

WHY CANT YOU HEAR ME
His voice screamed -- echoed

ohmygodimblind

There are the lonely who have command
Of themselves and a little band.
And the lonely who by birthright
Search nakedly for anyone to understand

I am my brother
I am my mother
I am my sister
I am my father
I am my daughter
I am my wife
I am my son
I have to be.

You, out there!
You: granite core
Wrapped in plastic
Cased in iron.
Pounding stone
To steel-laced cells
For green-filthd gelt
And computated death.

Where hides THY pain?

LeBlanc

CENTURION'S COMPLAINT

I tell you Rome ain't what it used to be:
the town's got fat, the boys don't want to fight
or want to fight for spoils; they've got in sight
some manor house or mansion by the sea.
We don't know what we fight for any more:
time was, the farmers fought for their own farms;
now it's nobles' slaves we keep down by arms,
and lucky if we eat, outside the corps.
We've planted the wide world with Roman graves
and still plow on; but can you tell me why
the lordlings dance and banquet while we die?
That Jewish cult that claims even the slaves
have souls is gaining ground, and no surprise-
you push a guy too far and he gets wise.

The crumbling buildings
fall into the sea-
Building on top of building,
window over window
on an age-old, ageless beach of
bright yellow and jazz
floating out over the sea
as
little children with angelic faces
pee
all over the beach
and in the mouths of frogs
and on the heads of babies with
hair like peach fuzz

John Haag

MISSION TO THE EAST

It's strange to feel tranquil, almost at peace
up here above it all, snugly enclosed,
our complex eggs packed close behind the nose,
while shrieking bombers race us to the East.
The clouds break up to show us bits of sea,
the navigator checks our way to land,
the bomb release fits firmly in my hand:
it all seems ordered, just as it should be.
For us so long familiar with the sky,
(not thinking now that when our bomb-clouds rise,
they'll fuse the earth and tear apart the skies)
it's only natural that men should fly.
How calmly, with a clean and shaven face,
I ride the mission that may end the Race.

.....nature

eleven

Rick Davidson

darkness finished
midnight awakened
enchanted tiger
noble sunrise
lazy creatures
awake unkind
slumber follows meadows.

Tomy Gillespie

conventional
transformations,
but above all -
melancholy madness;
futility
underlies
inhibitions.

fifteen

incompatible -
masks, costumes,
the end -
most beautifully
the decorated
manifest
the graves of the living.

VENICE SUNSET

The slow-motion breaking of the waves
Spray hanging in the air
Feld suspended
By the final
Rays
Of the sun

NUMBERS

Life is Numbered;
Days are Numbered.
After Death
No Numbers.
Only Infinity.
There are no Numbers in Infinity -
No time -----

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Martin P. Wraman

MANDOLIN

-i saw you
dancing in front of police cars,
telling Sargent Sunshine the
telephone poles are
lopsided-

-& here it is
Sunday afternoon,
and the gondolas are streaming down
Grand Canal-

green moss gardenias
floating by--

-& who fish'd up
the venetian mandolin;
Polyachee's blue-gray hairs
dripping red
melancholy seasons--

-& the summer high
black crow--

harvest circles over a
stranger in paradise
sleeping peacefully astray
next to a brokendown
adobe house on
Mexico's gold coast--

venice wst smr '68

WONDERBLUE

wonderblue--
who are you
--wonderblue

naked is dead, dead
naked is dead

what tune is looney's tune
what tune is looney's tune

i dream day and
night drops cold sparks

blame no one said the moon
blame no one said the moon

your time is June, June
your time is June

who paints these
dismal colors on my soul

really time, you are so blind
really time, i crack your
perimeter

colorado spring '68

NEPTUNE'S CHILDREN

We are Neptune's children
& find your land
too hard to dance on

We swim vague
& dreamy through
Oceana's purple deep

Our mates are
mere reflections,
that come close & fade
fade & come close
but dwell in our vicinity forever

At times we
even devour one another,
exchanging
one for the other
other for one

Rippling dawns
early light
against the continental shelf
we land amongst you

mimic your ways
die your deaths
& live on your seashores

venice est smr '68

THE EARLY SEA

A swath of silk billowing
into a crisp white ruffle -
Spread by the merchants hand
- his gift to the Oriental
princess.

We sit upon our separate discs -
revolving side by side
touching in those briefest
of moments - in passing.
The brass ring felt but
not close enough to grasp.

this ceaseless thumping, throbbing
this shaking, quivering aching
starting, raw rawness.
the price of thirteen years
of hating, fearing, revenge -
a small cost - a pittance
a prayer to one day love
as much as hate has been --

America Sunnavant

MAN, GO CONQUER

Go, man, cut the high bushes
Before her delicate walk
Protect her every step.

If harm comes to her,
The bearer of the young,
Man will be no more...

Go conquer the wild grass
That tangles around her feet.
She'll give nurture to your soul.

Provide her with earthly comforts,
'Tis, indeed, a manly desire.
She'll surrender Heaven's best.

Toughen your muscles,
Sharpen your brain,
Let your aggressiveness show.

Treat your woman with respect,
Let your conception of her be high,
Less you drag yourself down.

God has given her the softer side,
Unto you the tougher side.
Each seeks in the other
What he has not in himself.

Go, man, and conquer!

Cindi Lee

A POET FOR VENICE

I Cries rival ghost seagulls
Venice mine
Your face is being torn.
I cannot mend it with only my
eyes,
nor tear away each shadow they've
thrown over your soul.

II Cries rival each tired wave
gently pushing carcass of limp
seabird to cold sand shore
A wail of Progress
carefully written lament of "Masters Plan"
swollen lips hunger money dreams
and somewhere
lost beyond
a sob for gentle freedom.

III Silence of quiet water canal nighttime
sleepy ducks
prowl cat after slither lizard
and small mouse of shoe button eyes
declared a Major Sin in this writhing
South Country.

IV Will they assess the shadows of faces
at each window
when their glass apartments tear the
darkness to expensive splinters.
Have they seen behind the sun
into the night meditation
of Venice
as I have.

FREE VENICE!

M.W.

MUSIC

An 8 year girl

Listen I hear some music.
It's coming from up there
oh! a bird
and what else? the wind
Music comes from a lot of things
a bird, the wind, a record and others

Music is a beautiful and wonderful thing.

J. See Wernberg

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About 100 Venice canal area residents gathered on March 2 to discuss their pending dislocation. The Canal Emergency Action Committee will present the L.A. City Council on March 27 with an alternative proposal for restoring the canals without uprooting the present residents. (Photos by John Heller.)

EDITORIAL

Since Venice was taken over by Los Angeles in 1924, the canals have been public ways. Los Angeles has been responsible for maintaining the canals just as L. A. has to maintain Venice streets. Obviously, L. A. has failed to keep the canals clean, safe or attractive.

No wonder a group of property owners decided years ago that if the canals were to be repaired at all, it would have to be paid for by the owners themselves. In 1961 they thought the job would cost about \$3,600,000, of which the owners would pay about half. Now the estimates are five times that much with costs rising every day.

The re-built canals would be a colony for millionaires. Nothing so common as a boat slip in the marina: the canal set will have their boats at the back door. One version has it that no one will get into the canals unless he lives there or can satisfy the guard at the gate that someone inside is expecting him.

So much for the public and those public ways which the canals will still be. Yet, the public will have to pay for a new bridge over Grand Canal at

Washington Street. Not that we need a new bridge. The bridge we have is perfectly adequate.

It's the jet set that needs a new bridge - with 14 - foot clearance so they can bring their yachts in to the back door. They need the bridge, but we get to pay for it.

Repairing the canals would be good for the children. But the children won't be there any more, nor their parents either. All the present renters will be gone and many of the homeowners too. The new townhouse units will rent for \$500 a month according to one real estate salesman.

In July, when groundbreaking starts, the exodus of canal residents will begin in earnest. (Some have been evicted already.) There are not enough rental units vacant now in all of Venice to absorb the canal refugees. By summer it will be worse.

Most of the canal refugees will have to leave Venice. The pressure of all those people looking for places to stay will force rents up throughout Venice and that's bad for all of us.

The canals should be repaired. They should be repaired by the city which has allowed them to deteriorate for more than 40 years. They should be repaired without forcing anyone

to leave Venice and without destroying our community.

If the city and county want to spend 2 million dollars in Venice, fine. We need low-cost housing, medical care, better schools, etc., etc. We do not need the Washington Street bridge. We do not need yachts in our canals.

On March 27 the City Council of Los Angeles will hold a hearing to decide on the assessment district. Every Venice resident who does not want to leave Venice and who does not want higher rents and higher taxes should be at L. A. City Hall for the 9:00 A.M. hearing.

We should demand a postponement of any decision until we have a plan for rebuilding the canals for the people of Venice, not against us. The FREE VENICE Organizing Committee will help with transportation for the 27th. For information call 399-7681.

The Canal area could become a beautiful community center with parks, schools, a zoo and other public facilities. Around the canals there could be low-cost housing to accommodate the present residents and others who would like to live between the canal parks and the beach. Instead of yachts for the rich, let us have rowboats for children!