

FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

FEBRUARY 1973 No. 38

763 SUNSET AVENUE, VENICE, CALIFORNIA 90291

392-8586, 390-7292, TANK-YUK

CITY BUST PARK IN DARK

ON JANUARY 29, BOTH THE PARK AND THE BOARDWALK BUILT BY VENICE PEOPLE WERE REMOVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS. CROWDS OF UP TO A HUNDRED PEOPLE WERE ON THE SITE OFF AND ON SINCE EARLY IN THE MORNING, BUT AT ABOUT 8 PM, POLICE ORDERED THE CROWD TO DISPERSE AND ARRESTED SIX PEOPLE REMAINING ON THE BOARDWALK. THE SIX, LARRY BENSKY, CAROL FONDILLER, PAT LEUCHNER, PATRICK O'REILLY, ABE OSHEROFF AND JOE RAVITZ WENT PEACEFULLY, THOUGH OSHEROFF CHAINED HIMSELF TO THE BOARDWALK. ALL WERE RELEASED ON THEIR OWN RECOGNIZANCE! AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD THE FOLLOWING DAY, MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY REITERATED THEIR INTENTION OF RECREATING THE PARK ON THE SAME LOT. FOR INFORMATION, CALL 821-5421.

SAVE SANTA MONICA

By Joanne Curtis

Attending a Santa Monica City Council meeting is an incredible experience and it is even more incredible when a public hearing is called such as the one that occurred January 23, 1973, at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. The main topic was the proposed 34 acre concrete island in Santa Monica Bay and the removal of the historical Santa Monica Pier.

The fat cats came with slide projector and presented a slide show with a court jester sprouting propaganda about the "beauty and aesthetic value of the island, the new recreation areas and the skyline of the hotel being natural and pleasant." There was an underlying tension among the crowd of over 2,500 people and of course outright booing and at ridiculous points hysterical laughter during the majority of the slide show. The most pathetic display was the obvious manipulation of the "hard hats" by the profiteers. The big money boys bussed in "hard hats" and encouraged them to clap for a "new construction project" and wave "Save Our Job" signs...a classic example of exploitation. Most people had a very difficult time remaining courteous and one woman with grey hair attired in a neat suit expressed it all by yelling from the audience "It is too late to be polite."

An Environmental Impact Study was presented endorsing the building of the synthetic concrete 34 acre structure which would contain the absurdity of an ice skating rink among the other atrocities and

this horror would be erected in the middle of the ethereal beauty of the Pacific Ocean. (How rude!) The audience was never able to find out how much money was spent for the endorsement but it must have been "I'll make you an offer you can't resist" deal.

After the developers were allowed over an hour (it was like a real estate convention for the mayor and his boys), fascism developed when one speaker from the Save Santa Monica Bay group was told that her time was up after 5 minutes. She was unable to finish. However the many other speakers made some excellent points against the building of the island.

There were approximately 50 speakers against the island plus the majority of the audience supporting the speakers. The developers could only produce a pitiful four people who had nerve enough to speak for the island and these people arose from the midst of the "Save Our Jobs" crew. After all the speakers had been heard, the Council after lengthy dickering about law suits finally voted 4 - 2 not to build an island. There was a sigh of relief but this was short lived when at 1:15 in the morning after the crowd was reduced to about 100 people, "I'll do anything for a buck" Rinck made a motion to remove the Pier. It was seconded by another Perry Scott puppet Reidy and the motion was carried. The Pier is due to be removed by November 1, 1973. However I think many people feel that it would be much wiser and far more safer to remove Perry Scott, city

TOT LOT

by Carol Fondiller

Though the L.A. City Council and the Planning Department seem to frown on any efforts of people to do-it-themselves, the weather and the General Telephone Company seem to think that a children's playground in the Venice Canals is a lovely idea.

Previously, the canal folks had started a children's playground in another lot, owned by the City (remember, when it's owned by the City we are the City). The powers that be in the City made noises about unsafe, unsupervised, liability, etc., and tore it down. The City Council had promised another lot for the kids, and then stalled and seemed to be on the verge of renegeing on their promises.

Well, no one likes to see any public officials break their promises, so John Heller, Abe Osheroff, General Telephone, and the Carpenter's Collective helped the City officials save face.

On Saturday, January 13, the Canalites had their own hip, modernized version of an old-fashioned community barn raising on another City-owned lot on the corner of Dell Avenue and Howland Canal.

The boardwalk built by Abe Osheroff was still there, despite the fears of the City Engineering Department that it would break. (Actually, it's one of the few solid sidewalks in the Canals.) As a matter of fact, it supported a lot of Boardwalk Superintendents who had a view of the playground raising, and, if they wished to turn around, the ducks.

The playground was as much fun to build as it will be to play on.

One of the lusty carpenters said he had a lot of fun drilling holes into the erect poles. I did not question him why—that's his problem, not mine. The exotic dancers exotically danced amidst the lusty carpenters. The lusty carpenters showed as much grace as the dancers as they avoided hitting the dancers over the head while placing the poles into the good earth.

The giant jungle jim created by the phone poles and thick metal pipes was completed. Not only is it a great place to crawl and climb (this rather zaftig reporter sampled a few rungs and they held steady), but it really looks like a piece of sculpture that comes alive, with the children worming and squirming their way up and around the poles and pipes—which happened as soon as the carpenters laid down their hammers.

Then, continuing the good old fashioned American Frontier Communal Barn Raising tradition, music, beer and ice cream (yes, together!) were given to the thirsty participants and spectators.

Yes, folks, the frontier, let's-do-it-ourselves philosophy still lives in the good ol' U.S. And it's being kept alive in Venice. Now if only the behemoth of L.A. bureaucracy doesn't snuff it out!

Stand up for American Power to the playgrounds! May there be two, three—many playgrounds blooming!



photo by gail williamson

manager-corrupter, and his pals Reidy, Rinck and Gabriel by April, 1973, when the Santa Monica elections take place for Council members.

The only way to save Santa Monica from a future island nightmare is to give total support to the present initiative that will be going to the Santa Monica voters in April, 1973. Passing this initiative will give the people of Santa Monica a voice to vote on all major projects seaward of the mean high tide including the beach area. Our elected City Council members have been deaf to our needs but voting YES on the initiative will circumvent any more Perry Scott personal endeavors. In essence this will give the people the right of veto. The initiative includes a clause exempting voter approval for build-

ing and maintaining the Pier but in order to save the Pier we will have to remove the City Council members who want the Pier demolished.

Friends of the Santa Monica Pier sent 8,000 letters opposing the removal of the Pier to the City Council. The results of the public hearing proved that this was not enough. Not only do we need more Friends but we need the strength and power of the people as a whole. Removing the Santa Monica Pier is like removing the guts of Santa Monica and constructing concrete islands is like cultivating terminal cancer. Let us all work together to put an end to these outrages!

For additional information:
Santa Monica Initiative 828-4666
Friends of the Pier 399-2023

CANAL CHRONICLES

by Carol Fondiller

The Carpenters Collective collectively mopped their (it's?) sweaty brow. The pipes had been placed all snug in the poles. The last child had played past dark on the giant jungle jim that posed as a sculpture. The last musician had reeled home, the ducks had tucked their heads under their wings. It was quiet at the City-owned lot that Canal residents had turned into a children's playground, with the only safe boardwalk on the Canals.

That was Saturday, January 13. Five days later, on January 18, a public hearing called months ago was held to decide the fate of the only park on one of the few City-owned lots in the Canal area.

Notwithstanding the efforts of the Department of Public Works to keep the utility poles from being defaced by leaflets put up by Canal residents announcing a public hearing, and despite the cold and rain, the small schoolroom at Anchorage was filled with people eager to speak out and support the Canal playground, which had cost the City nothing and had helped General Telephone to get rid of excess telephone poles.

When 60 residents are face to face with their elected Civil Servants, things take on a magnificence of scope that can only be hinted at. All this reviewer knows is that civic duty was rewarded by one of the meanest improvised theatrical events in all of Los Angeles, including the Ahmanson and the line outside the Fox-Venice Theatre. The scenario had enough twists to satisfy Plautus, enough social significance to satisfy Shaw, more than enough gory thoughts to satiate the most devoted spaghetti Western Clint Eastwood buff, and more downright slapstick and pathos than Chaplin could have imagined.

The evening's entertainment was sponsored by Councilwoman Pat Russell under the guise of a public hearing to give people the illusion of participatory Democracy.

The resident renters, featuring John Heller and Abe Osheroff, were the protagonists. "We built this park so our children could play in the Canals. Eight months ago, the City tore down another park that we had built on another City-owned lot and promised another park. We went along with the City—but no park had been forthcoming. We built the boardwalk so that we could walk safely in our area. The City wants to tear the boardwalk down because it is structurally unsound. Well, it might need improvements, but it's better than the hole the boardwalk covers. We had a community house that filled a need for a meeting place. The City came by and harassed and finally closed it down, though the residents struggled to bring it up to code. We decided to go ahead and build this boardwalk and playground. The children have been playing on it every day except when it's raining—the boardwalk and playground will not come down." Some residents stated they would go to jail rather than bow down to discriminatory laws. Some residents hazarded

guesses that the City was embarrassed by the neat, sturdy boardwalk and the contrast it presented to the sidewalks left to decay by the City in the manner of slum lords who neglect their property in order to condemn it and move low and moderate income people out in order to upgrade the area for future, more affluent tenants.

The antagonists were PROPERTY OWNERS (for when they spoke of what they were, they would say, "I am a PROPERTY OWNER", as if that encapsulated all the wisdom of the world. They were led by Mrs. DuFay, Mrs. Winters, and Mrs. Hays, who were doing a Greek Chorus, WEIRD SISTERS Act. They were supported and protected by Mr. DuFay, who seemed to have a proclivity to invite people outside to "punch it out".

They seemed to be saying—
"We don't understand why you should have a voice at all—you're just renters. You haven't worked hard and bought property. You just want things for your children—you're a bunch of radicals who purposely had children just so you could build that awful playground to stop progress. You're not unselfish like we are. We want many, many Marinas. If we don't get what we want, we'll fill in the Canals and build gun turrets on other City-owned lots."

The speeches and thoughts are accurate in the above quotes—I just forget who made them.

Mrs. DuFay got up from her side of the room, stalked across to the other side, and hit Gay Liberation community activist Sandy Blixton over the head with her spiral note pad. "He called me a bitch!" She must have had super-sensitive hearing or Mr. Blixton must have telegraphed some very strong thoughts, because it was impossible for this reporter to hear what was going on three seats away). Mr. Blixton denied calling Mrs. DuFay a bitch. "I'm too liberated to call a woman—any woman—a bitch!" he stated as he touched the welts left by the spirals.

The consensus of the group was to try to at least stick to Synanon games—verbal but not physical violence. Mr. DuFay wanted a policeman and yelled "Fill the Canals!" The renters told him to shut his trap. Curtis Rossiter, Mrs. Russell's deputy, who was chairing the meeting, called for order. Councilwoman Russell held her head in her hands. A lot. The City Engineer fondled his raincoat. Order was restored. Then Mr. Rossiter called for recommendations. Rick Davidson of Free Venice said that he had submitted an alternate City Plan to the Council that had not been read by that august body, that would cost a quarter of what the City would spend, and it would be beneficial to the present residents. A woman spoke and identified herself as a mother who was quite happy with the community-built playground and wanted others in and ar-

ound the Canals. Mrs. Hays said that when she had had young children she used to take them to the beach, and that the children could play separately in their little yards. When she spoke, one could almost hear Scrooge's question, "What? And there are no workhouses? No jails? No poorhouses? No orphanages for these people?"

It was a good, bravura performance. What she lacked in polish she made up for in zest. Mr. DuFay again recommended that the City fill in the Canals and said he would go to Mayor Yorty to have the playground taken down—his performance was rather limited in scope and lacked originality.

Of course everyone knew, from Mrs. Russell to little Sarah Grimke (kiddie liberation representative) to Mr. DuFay, that the issue was not a little plot of land owned by a City so large that it probably had forgotten that it owned it. The issues were People vs. Profit, Public Need or Private Gain.

Several RENTERS made offers to talk, to really talk, to the self-proclaimed PROPERTY OWNERS. One man told them that they (the RENTERS) were not at fault for the American-dream-gone-sour; it was the big land speculators working with City Hall to build for profit, squeezing renters and, yes, small property owners, off their land. For, in reality, Mrs. Winters doesn't own her land any more than the lowliest renters. The only people who really own land are the ones who can afford to pay the ever-rising taxes, who can afford to sit on their land watching it depreciate while waiting for a master plan to make a large, unholy killing. And, if these small "property owners" think they are in the same league with Silver Strand, Del Webb, John Radford or any of the other biggies, they have a sad awakening.

Curtis Rossiter said he wanted to continue Town Council-type meetings but that people have to listen to one another. And, because the playground had been built without permission, the chances of getting a permit seemed pretty dim. How like the outraged, petty gods of

Homer! And, indeed, Rossiter must have consulted an oracle or divined from the entrails of a Canal duck because, as it turned out, he was right.

What good does it do, pray tell, when the people talk and listen to one another but have no power to act on their decisions? This is what makes such good theater in community hearings, when gut-level interests are at stake and people know they are going to be ignored, and the City Planners make their decisions regardless of the needs and wants of the residents with the omnipotent disdain of the Greek Gods of Aeschylus.

For while the "public hearing" was going on, the Board of Public Works wheels had already ground out a decision and rejected the Howland Canal park on the grounds that the lot was already zoned for residential, i.e., high-rise, single, non-family apartments. But this is only one episode in the long saga of the Venice Community to retain its identity. The whole drama of Venice vs. the MONSTER Master plan has a mythic quality that ranks with the great epics of Gilgamesh, Beowulf, the Holy Grail, The Children's Crusade, the Long March, and Nat Turner's Revolt.

Seeing this on-going morality play is a must for all theatre lovers. See it next when it appears at any of the local meeting places. Or see the really Big Show downtown at City Hall.

The people of the Canals have not closed the curtain by any means, and the park is a reality. They have further plans to upgrade their community.

The City has not given up hope of turning Venice into Miami Beach West. The next show ought to be a real spectacular. This reviewer gives it a Four-Star rating.

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ENROLLING NOW
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MEDICAL PLAN RIP-OFFS

Widespread dissatisfaction with pre-paid medical groups, known as health maintenance organizations, has led to the formation of the Los Angeles County Health Rights Organization (LACHRO). Its self-professed goal is "to improve the delivery of health care services in pre-paid plans and to end their exploitation of the poor." (These plans, PHP's as they are called, contract with the State to deliver health care to welfare recipients. They receive a set fee from the State of around \$20.00 per month per enrollee for which they are supposed to answer all the health needs of the member.)

Josephine Cobb, LACHRO Chairwoman, described the organization's position this way: "We are not opposed to the concept of prepaid health service programs. We believe they are an efficient way to deliver more services per dollar, and it is a promising way to assure adequate levels of health care. But the government is so loose in its regulation of the plans that people are being ripped off rather than helped."

LACHRO has adopted a strategy of waging a massive disenrollment campaign among Medical enrollees coupled with the demands that each PHP adopt a minimum set of standards on the quality of health care provided. Its aim is to use the consumer boycott as a weapon to force each PHP to meet LACHRO's standards.

Good plans, according to LACHRO, would meet minimum quality standard in these areas:



1. Give the potential enrollee full information about the plan and abolish high-pressure and often fraudulent enrollment procedures.
2. Provide nearby hospitals that offer a full range of medical services instead of affiliation with small hospitals offering only limited services.
3. Hire enough doctors to care for all the patients including adequate numbers of specialists.
4. Have fully-staffed emergency services available to the enrollee reasonably close.
5. Provide transportation on a realistic basis beyond emergency ambulance services.
6. Utilize pharmacies located nearby to recipients' homes.
7. Allow for a realistic way for the local community to participate in the decision-making of the plan.

FOR THOSE DISSATISFIED WITH THEIR PRE-PAID HEALTH WHO WANT THEIR MEDICAL CARD BACK, LACHRO HAS DEVELOPED A SIMPLE DISENROLLMENT PROCEDURE FOR INFORMATION HOW TO DISENROLL CALL VERA DAVIS-399-7737, YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD ADULT PARTICIPATION PROJECT (NAPP) OR WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION (WRO) CHAPTER, OR CALL JOSEPHINE COBB at 582-8164 OR WARREN SHAHIAN AT 589-6811. IN WEST LOS ANGELES, CALL 399-7737, AL at LEGAL SERVICES-392-4177. IN THE WHITTIER AREA, CALL 692-0296

HEY MOMMA

by Carol Fondiller

O.K. Momma: You're not married anymore; or hubby skipped out; or you never were married and you've got some kids and you are Head of Household, as it's so quaintly put on the income tax and welfare forms. But you are treated as an irresponsible minor by friends, relatives, and banks. You find it's harder to get a job because, as you are told by that sweetly smiling employment counselor, "If one of the children gets sick, you won't come to work." It's harder to get car insurance because divorcees, widowed, or single women with children are not as reliable as single unhampered men(!?) You feel guilty because sometimes you just hate those kids. You feel lonely because men either shy away from you or manipulate the kids to get to you. You always feel tired. O.K., Momma, you're all alone. Nobody else knows about the hassles of getting kids off to school, of balancing a budget on a woman's wage, of wanting to give the kids quality care while you're away. You're all alone, right? Wrong!!

Other women are in the same boat--and they have started a monthly newspaper called MOMMA. Sometimes just knowing that other people are in the same fix helps. MOMMA is well written and, though it deals with problems that sometimes have no answer, it is common-sense, whimsical, and optimistic. I don't mean it's everything-will-turn-out-all-right-and-you'll-find-this-fantastic, rich, sensitive, caring, charming man optimism. I mean it says, "Look, you have a right and a duty to leave the kids with someone while you go out just to mess around." Some women have set up schedules to take turns keeping a score of the little darlings while the other Mommas get adjusted to sitting down alone without the feel of little clammy fingers tugging at their skirts.

The slant of the newspaper is positive in that it says women are human beings who are just as human without men and do not need men to reaffirm themselves as females. It is written and published in Venice by single Mommas. They deal with specific issues and problems, and because they are on the lower rungs economically and socially (by that I mean a working or welfare single momma, no matter what her talents, intelligence, schooling or skills is not on the same level as a single, unencumbered man who never gets questioned about his plans for marriage and is not often asked why he doesn't have a woman or man of his very own to support him, etc.) Single mommas support themselves on income from jobs that don't buy as much as the same jobs for men, from alimony that can be late or not forthcoming at all because Daddy is in a huff-or from welfare, which is not welfare at all and cook dinners, darn, clean, nurse, discipline children, and feel starved for some private place.

MOMMA is a womanly newspaper. It says you're all right even if you don't like your own children sometimes and let them know that you don't. It gives practical advice in a cozy, cogent, unpatronizing manner.

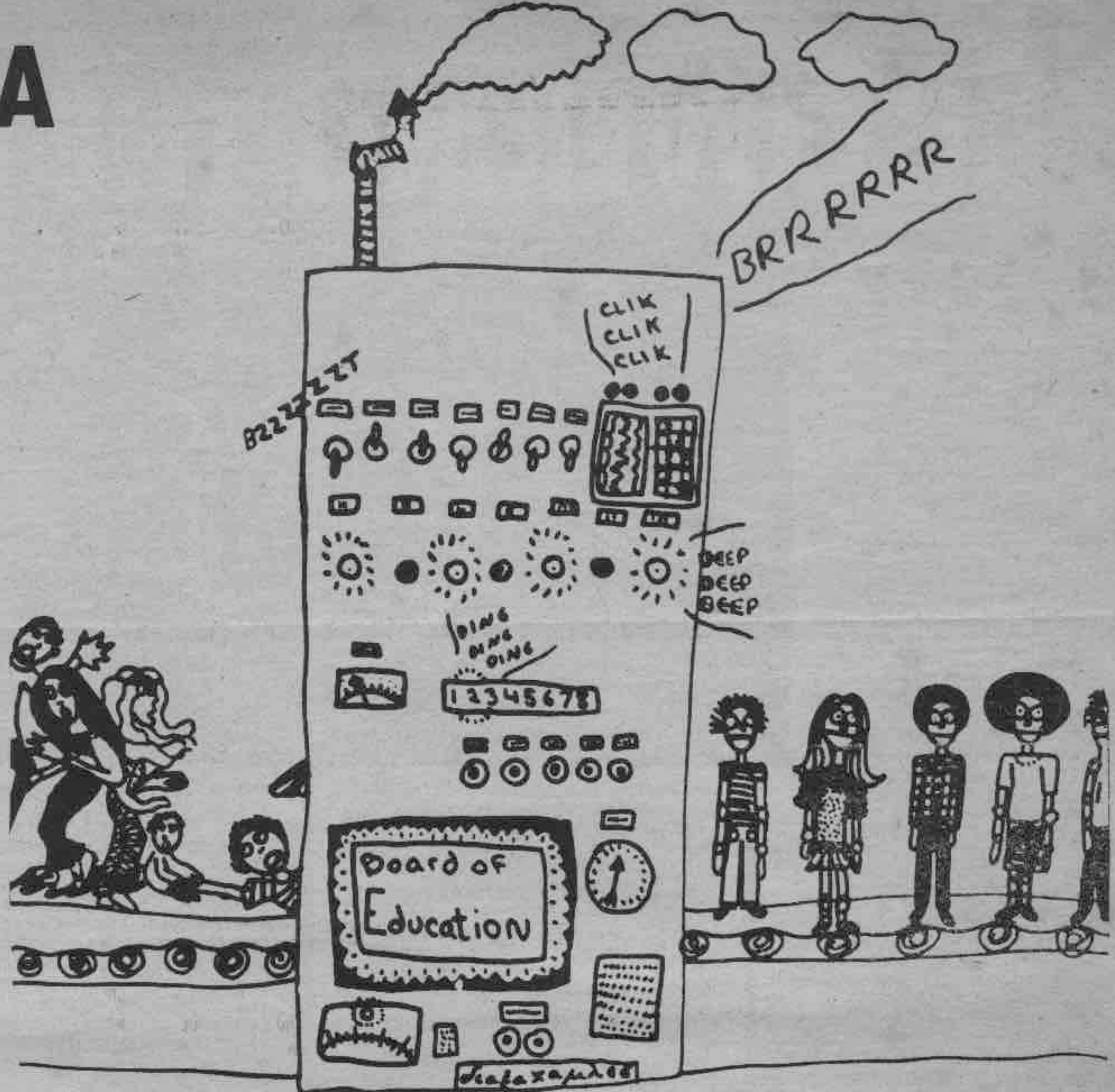
I did find fault in the first edition of the paper in the way that the author(ess?) was ashamed to be on welfare. The tone seemed to be, "The neighbors shouldn't know." The recipient shouldn't be ashamed to be on welfare. The government should be ashamed of the measly sums parcelled out in a stingy, grudging, patronizing, way that is designed to keep people on the rolls, while being generous, understanding, and sympathetic to airlines, railways, and oil companies who also get welfare. But when you're Big Business, it's known as a subsidy.

In the second issue of MOMMA, the writer's attitude seemed to change to good, old fashioned, soul-satisfying rage. Right on, Sister!

In its own quiet, non-rhetoric way, MOMMA is one of the most feminist publications I have read.

MOMMA has a list of organizations that cover everything from self-help clinics, consciousness-raising groups to N.O.W. I recommend this magazine not only to single mommas but to single, childless, married, old, young, square, straight, or gay women. Whether or not you want or even like children, you'll relate to MOMMA, because in dealing with specifics and getting down to cases and coming up with practical solutions or ways to cope with the present, insoluble problems, it enable you to see the why and wherefore of Women's Liberation and why it is so needed.

The cost is 25 cents an issue. It is available at The Venice Bookstore and Culture Palace, 1510 Pacific Avenue, Venice. The last time I checked at The Culture Palace they were sold out of the second issue. The third issue (February) should be on the stands by the time the FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD hits your apartment building, your favorite rose bush, or wherever our intrepid distributors leave them off.



FREE SPIRIT SCHOOLS

by Daniele LeCroy

The Venice Community Playgroup is struggling for survival, living the fate of illegal child care, according to the current laws of Today's Society.

When I wrote my first article about the VCP in September 72, I was actively engaged in it as "the Teacher" and as one of the mothers, my own baby being the youngest of the kids. It was at the time when we were still looking for a place for it to function, and when the Playgroup had been in existence only for a short time. This second article, on the contrary, relates to its end in its present bottom half of a private residence, with a large fenced yard. It has been going on 5 days a week since Sept. 72. The VCP is located on Victoria Ave, which residence had been used in the past by the Food Coop People. They were busted by the City and Health inspectors and moved away. As it is a part of their routine to check a place they have inspected once before every three months, they came back one morning to find instead of the Food Coop, a Playgroup of children and their parents.

At once, it triggered the authorities from all corners of the Administration to come inspect the building: its electrical wiring, plumbing, ect... People from the Playgroup had done a tremendous job on repairing, building, painting, installing a toilet, and with the help of the Job-Coop, put electrical wiring where needed. They even made the walls fire proof. All this work did not meet the Safety Regulations and a citation was sent to the Landlady. She was told that it was unlawful to have remodeled part of her property. Indeed, it is required by law that one's building be inspected before permit is issued by the City Building Authorities to let changes take place. The other unlawful act was that her property was meant to be rented only to a single residence family. She nearly lost her mind at all the trouble she was getting into, and decided to take her place back, getting every body out of there.

The Venice Community Playgroup holds regular weekly meetings on Wednesday night and so much enthusiasm and energy was generated to preserve its existence, that a lot

of professional people from different backgrounds were invited to come to the January 6 meeting. Thus came:

two lawyers, two representatives from Silverlake's Playgroup, one reporter from the Times, one reporter from the Evening Outlook, Councilwoman Pat Russell with her two co-workers. She actually was fetched at 11:00 pm by her Deputy-field representative. The only person missing was the landlady. After much debate, a committee was formed to meet with the landlady to reassure her of the support of the Community. But, it didn't make her change her mind. She gave the VCP a lease to leave her property by April 30th. Pat Russell affirmed her support to the VCP, and said that she was in fact in favor of this type of "parent-controlled" child care, which she hopes to see spread nationwide. She is using the VCP as a test case for her fight in trying to change the zoning law regulation, that restricts child care centers to commercial areas only.

Apart from its political aspect and its recent wide publicity through the mass media: the TV gave them 5 mn the Times and the Evening Outlook carried an article about their struggle, and so does the Beachhead now, the Venice Community Playgroup remains a human affair with its own internal life, regulated by working mothers dedicated to the welfare and development of their children. Despite every obstacle, the Playgroup expresses the need to get together for a common purpose, to stand the closeness of working with each other, to try one's own ideas, to decide the values to be transmitted to the children. The group serves also as therapy for its members because special rap sessions are provided for sharing emotions and experiences.

The single and married mothers on Welfare of the VCP can't afford to put their children into regular Nursery Schools, neither could they put them before the age of two, nor would they have any control over the decision making. A lot of them don't find these schools appealing any way. So, the Playgroup with its limited budget and facilities is vital to the Community.

Help the playgroup by calling 392-8933

"The Classroom is an authoritarian environment. Teacher up front, and rows of students, one after another. Do not lose your temper, fuck, kiss, hug, get emotional, or take off your clothes."

The class struggle begins in class."
— Jerry Rubin.

Dear Friends,

The Venice Children's Community Group is a child-centered learning experience for children who wish to learn in a way that is natural for CHILDREN!

We feel that organic learning can only take place when the child is inwardly motivated in that a child knows how HE feels, what HE wants to learn, and most important when HE wants to learn. We are concerned with the whole child, not a narrow segment of his intelligence. To encourage the child's natural curiosity, to freely express his feelings about himself and others in a safe way, and to recognize his own uniqueness and individuality as a whole person is of prime importance. We do not process children on an assembly-line in a subject-oriented, adult-dominated, authoritarian, "traditional public" mold. We have discovered as ex-public school teachers now living in an alternative culture that children must not be taught to blatantly accept society's conditions and expectations in this fast changing, materialistic, inhumane world of ours. We have seen adults who are violent and angry, and out of tune with themselves and unable to reach their creative potentials, because they have been programmed in such a way. We have seen children who are natural and spontaneous, carefree and loving, thinking and aware, sensitive and understanding, and learning in their own way to their hearts content, because they are psychologically free.

If you have children ages 4-10, and would like to become part of our family group, we would like to hear from you. Please call 392-0105 evenings and we can talk further.

Merlie Cuttrel and Marilyn Sitkoff

DISCOVERING THE OCCULT

ASTROLOGY IN ANCIENT

EGYPTIAN INITIATION

The initiate into the Ancient Egyptian Mysteries passed through many harrowing trials designed to impress his subconscious mind, awakening him to greater awareness of the truths obscured by Nature's veil of matter.

As he approached the end of the trials, his guides directed him into a chamber of masters who had gathered to judge his ability in the use of astrology, known to be the golden key to the arcana of nature.

Presented with no more than the time and place of birth of some person known to all who sat in judgement, but occult to the initiate, he demonstrated his skill by erecting and delimiting a chart of birth, a horoscope, and with it, relating the nature and time of the major events of the person's life. He was expected to accurately portray the personality of the unknown party, denoting the channels of activity through which his life had expressed, describing those areas of the subject's life in which he finds fortune, and those which are unfortunate.

By the time the aspiring adept stood before his examiners, he could demonstrate proficiency in all seven branches of astrology:

1. Natal Astrology: the relationship between the celestial bodies and an individual.
2. Astrological Signatures: the relationship between celestial influences and all other things.
3. Mundane Astrology: the relationship between celestial influences and groups of people, cities, nations.
4. Horary Astrology: the use of the horoscope as a means of divination of the outcome of ventures and the election of times for initiating ventures.
5. Weather Predicting: you guessed it - the effect of astral weather upon physical weather.
6. Stellar Healing: celestial influences as related to health and disease.
7. Spiritual Astrology: the relationship of celestial influences and the soul, including astro-mythology and astro-interpretation of sacred writings.

Fundamental to the initiate's mastery of astrology was familiarity with four factors:

1. The nature of expression of each of the planets.
2. The characteristics of the signs of the zodiac.
3. The significance of the mundane houses of the horoscope.
4. The significant relationships that can exist between planets - the aspects.

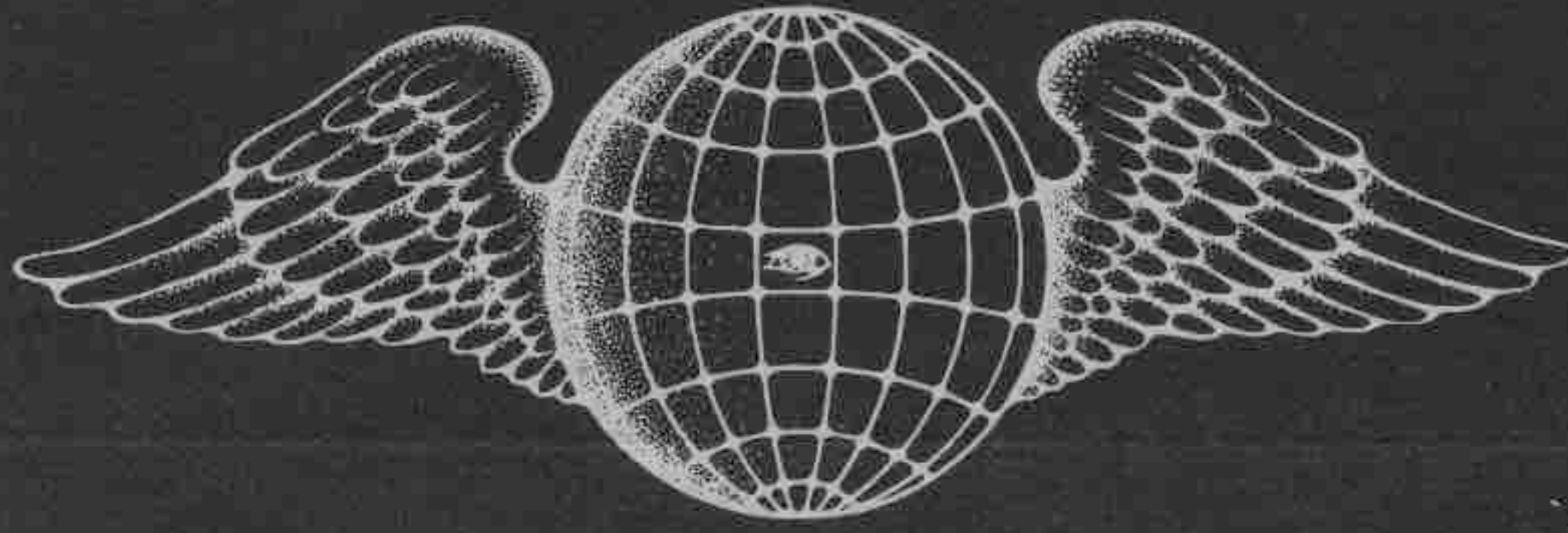
THE PLANETS

Because of its simplicity, its easy marketability, sun-sign astrology has gained popular acceptance in today's parlance. When we call someone a Taurus or a Scorpio, we use the language of sun-sign astrology, attributing to the person the qualities of the zodiacal sign occupied by the sun at the moment of his birth. This is correct - as far as it goes.

Beside the sun, there are nine other planets to consider. (For convenience, the sun and moon are called planets, though technically they are not - the sun being a star a little past middle age, and the moon, a living satellite of Earth.)

Each of the planets occupy some sign of the zodiac at the moment of birth; so, each of us have a Mars-sign, a Moon-sign, a Jupiter-sign, and so on. Often the Sun-sign is less important (less powerful) than other signs. For example, if a person has only the sun in Pisces, and has five other planets in Aquarius, more of his energy expresses through Aquarius than through Pisces.

It is not unusual for the sun to express much less energy than other planets in the chart,



indicating the individual's drive for power, expressed by the sun, is of less significance than the avenues of expression denoted by the other planets.

Each of the planets exerts its distinctive influence, modified by the sign it occupies and by its spacial relationships to the other planets.

Our own language offers an introduction to the nature of several of the planets....

MARS

Roman god of war, fourth planet from the sun, Mars provides the root of the word martial, reflecting the energetic and combative influence of this planet which expresses in human thought as aggression. We name for Mars the month of March; and the romance languages give him rulership over the third day of the week. The metal iron, the tone C, the color red all belong to the Mars family of vibrations. If Mars dominates your horoscope, your abundant energy flows into creativity or destruction; and strife is your companion. The martial initiate into the Egyptian Mysteries was admonished: *Remember, then, son of earth, only God is absolute. Reflect on the oaks that have defied the ravages of time and have finally been brought down after a century of immunity; and think that you too may be brought low at the very moment of your great arrogance by some unexpected blow.*

SATURN

The word Satan derives from Saturn, planetary ruler of fear and selfishness, whose energies stimulate cold, reflective, introspective thoughts of safety and security. "Saturnine" is defined by Webster as "heavy, grave, gloomy, dull". These same qualities express as the color blue, the metal lead, the tone G, and as system and order. Saturday is Saturn's day. Initiates into the Egyptian Mysteries who had dominant Saturn were given the following injunction:

Remember, then, son of earth, that the most unprofitable thing in the world is selfishness. Pride and rebellion but enchain the soul to lower spheres; but all trials and misfortunes accepted with resignation to supreme will are an accomplished progress bringing an eternal reward. Cease to rely on your own power and wisdom, and labor to disengage yourself from pride and selfishness, which but bind you to matter, mortality, and evil Fate.

VENUS

At the opposite pole from Saturn stands Venus, soft and smiling. "Venus de Milo was noted for her charms", remember, old timer? Venus, clinging and submissive: who else could root the word "venereal", as in the disease, but sociable and loving Venus. In color, the quality of Venus expresses as yellow, in sound, as the tone E, and in the mineral kingdom as copper. The romance languages give Venus rulership over

the sixth day of the week. If Venus dominates your birth chart, your mild mannered ways incline you toward being overly pliant; but your social graces attract favor. Affection is the gift you offer to those around you. The Venus ruled initiate was admonished: *Remember, then, son of earth, that for the ordinary man, the allurements of vice has a greater fascination than the austere beauty of virtue. If the two paths of Venus dominate your horoscope, take care of your resolutions. Obstacles bar before you the path you would pursue. Contrary chances hover over you; and your will wavers between two resolutions. Indecision is, above all else, worse than a bad choice. Advance or recede, but do not hesitate; and know that a chain of flowers is more difficult to break than a chain of iron.*

MERCURY

Mercury, messenger of the gods in the Roman pantheon, and nearest planet to the sun, radiates an influence that is sharp, active, changeable and clever. Ruler of the fourth day of the week, Mercury expresses in color as violet, in sound as the tone, B, among the metals as mercury, and in human thought as intelligence. Just as "quick silver" is penetrative and easily scattered, the individual with the planet, Mercury, prominent in his horoscope exhibits penetrating perception, and a boundless curiosity that often leads to restlessness and a scattering of his energies. The Mercury ruled initiate was instructed:

Remember, then, son of earth, that man should, like God, act without ceasing. To will nothing and to do nothing is more fatal than to will and to do ill. If the Magus, Mercury, dominates your chart of birth, it announces that a firm will and faith in yourself, guided by reason and a love of justice will conduct you to the end that you would attain, and will preserve you from the peril of the way.

JUPITER

The largest of the planets, Jupiter, expresses as abundance and benevolence. Ruling the fifth day of the week, jovial Jupiter belongs to the vibratory family of the color indigo, the tone, A, the metal, tin, and the religious urge of man. The Jupiter ruled initiate was instructed:

Remember, then, son of earth, that before saying of a man that he is fortunate or unfortunate, you must know the use to which he has put his will; for every man creates his life in the image of his works. The genius good is at your right, and the genius of evil is at your left. Their voice can be heard only by the conscience. Retire into the sanctuary of your heart, listen to the voice of the silence, and guided by it you will reach the goal of your aspirations.

URANUS

Uranus transmits an influence of originality, individuality, eccentricity, and disruptive change. Its color correspondent is dazzling white, and its tone, the astral chimes. The Uranian initiate was enjoined:

Remember, then, son of earth, that for power you must will, that is will strongly; you must dare, and to dare with success, you should know how to be silent until the moment of act-

ion. Know that to possess the key of power you must learn to will persistently only for what is good and true. And in order to maintain yourself up on the heights of life, should you reach them, you must have learned to sound with a look, and without dizziness, the vastest depths.

NEPTUNE

Transmitting an idealistic influence often so vague as to be illusory, the planet Neptune expresses in color as iridescence, in tone as the music of the spheres, and in the thought of man as utopian urges. In the Egyptian Mysteries, the neptunian initiate was admonished by his guide:

Remember, then, son of earth, that for power one must believe in one's ability. Advance with faith. To become strong, impose silence on the weakness of the heart. Study duty, which is the rule of right, and practice justice as if you loved it.

PLUTO

The forceful and compelling influence transmitted by Pluto, god of the dead in classical mythology, and remotest planet from the sun, tends toward coercion, and at its worst becomes invasive. At its best it stimulates concern and action for universal welfare, and is then truly spiritual in its influence. Ultra-red infra-red are its color expressions, and, tonally, Pluto expresses as either harmony or discord. The Plutonian initiate received the injunction:

Remember, then, son of earth, that all things physical pass away; and before the soul can pass into higher realms, every debt to nature must be paid to the utmost farthing. Imprudence threatens to encompass your ruin, and you will be called upon to pay for your folly unless you immediately change your ways.

THE MOON

The moon, constantly changing in her appearance, radiates an energy that stimulates toward fluctuation, either as adaptability or inconstancy. Thoughts of a domestic nature, the color, green, the tone, F, the metal, silver, all belong to the vibratory family of the moon. Monday is Moon Day. If the moon dominates the birth chart, that individual will be marked by his impressionability - extreme sensitivity to his surroundings - and constant fluctuation of his moods. The moon ruled initiate was enjoined in this manner:

Remember, then son of earth, that all fortune is changeable, even that which appears most stable. The ascension of the soul is the fruit that it should draw from its successive trials. Hope in suffering, but mistrust yourself in prosperity. Fall not asleep, either in idleness or forgetfulness, for you have a mission to accomplish which providence will reveal when you you are prepared to receive it.

THE SUN

The sun, invigorating, vitalizing, and dignified, stimulates to thoughts of power, expressing the urge for significance either through rulership or dictativeness. It expresses in ordinary light as the color, orange, in sound, as the tone, D, in the mineral kingdom, as gold, and rules the first day of the week. The sun ruled initiate was admonished

Remember, then, son of earth, that the light of the mysteries is a redoubtable fluid, put by nature at the service of the will. She lights those who know how to direct her: she strikes down with a thunderbolt those who ignore her power or abuse it. Happiness awaits you in domestic life if you know how to strengthen the conjugal circle and guard its sacredness in the sanctuary of the heart.

This column reflects the teachings of the Brotherhood of Light. Text books and free classes in astrology and the Tarot are available to the public at the Church of Light, 659 1/2 So. Saint Andrews Place, L. A. For more information, call 392-8586.

THIRTY DAYS WITH GURU IN INDIA

by Cody

Sydell calls it a month long acid trip. You know, the kind of acid trip that is self revealing. And about the time it starts getting really heavy, you want to come down but can't yet, and there's no alternative except to face what's happening and maintain as best as possible. You see, we never know for sure what exactly we're letting ourselves in for until it actually happens...like a rollercoaster ride, ya know (?). Anyway, we only knew about India from stories we heard from other Premies (Guru Maharaj Ji's name for "lovers of God") who were with Maharaj Ji last year. Stories about how heavenly and blissful it is to be there in a holy country with Guru Maharaj Ji and the Holy Family (his mother and three brothers), and the thousands of Indian devotees and Mahatmas (Mahatma means great soul or sainted being). Well, the company was holy without a doubt and that part of India we visited (New Delhi and Hardiwar) is very lush and beautiful. The travel log part of the trip lived up to reputation: holy temples sparkling clean and white; Hardiwar, the very holy city, located on the banks of the Ganges, full of mysterious holy men and a cross section of beautiful though poor people, mesmerized by an ancient and ritualistic way of life. Then there's the teeming city of Delhi which reminded me a great deal of Chicago in size and style. Probably every cultural way of living ever adopted by the Indians during their entire 7,000 year history is available in Delhi. Amazing new semi-skyscrapers with Southern California style landscaping (billboards advertising "Jollygood Hollywood Luxury Apartments") exactly next to huts belonging to nomads who didn't move fast enough to escape the speeding advancement of the new materialistic, youth oriented, modern India. But enough of the travel log.

Describing the inner trip always seems so difficult due to my desire to be accurate in relating the experience so to avoid giving any false impressions concerning Guru Maharaj Ji, the Divine Light Mission, or myself. So, please dear brothers and sisters, be patient as a parent with a child who wants very much to express himself but doesn't have the faculties.

God is LOVE, and love is GOD. This love has a form which resides within the light and is too subtle to be experienced by the gross mind or thought process. Guru Maharaj Ji reveals this light and name to all people who sincerely desire to know the essential nature of their own being, who wish to know the absolute truth which is beyond all thought and imagination. THE truth which is in fact the source of all relative truth. The LIVING reality that is living inside each one of us already, waiting to be realized, to be discovered.

Isaac Newton did not invent gravity, he just became aware of a phenomena caused by a universal law of motion. The universal laws perform their duty silently, even without man's acknowledgement. We, all, continue to become aware of the play of the universal laws through the phenomena of daily life. And, as Mr. Newton was stimulated to his awareness by an

apple falling on his head, we are also, by virtue of the pains of day to day living, stimulated to growth through a greater understanding. This process is called evolution by many people.

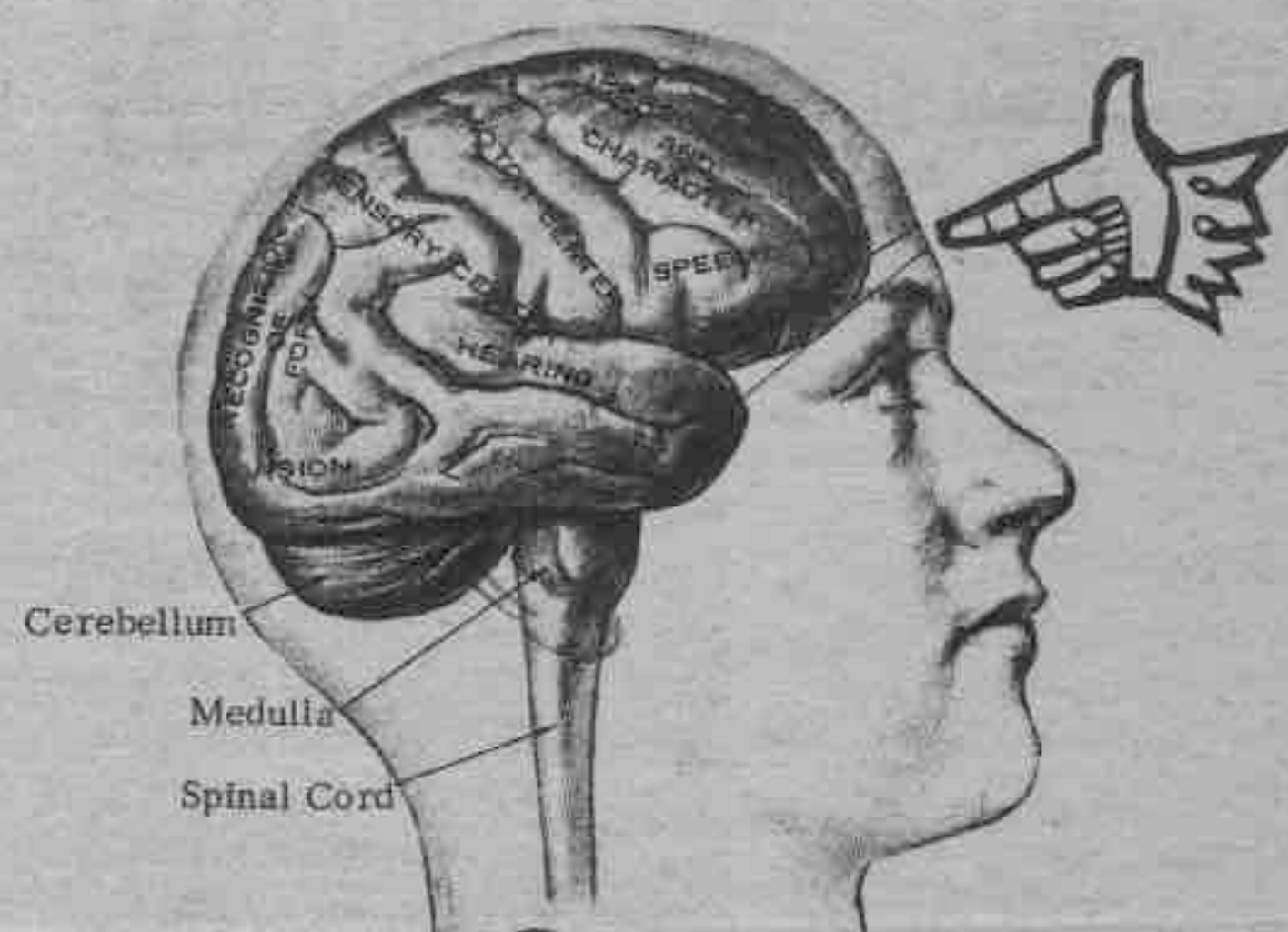
The thirty days we spent with Maharaj Ji in India was full of chaos, confusion, sickness, general physical and psychological discomfort; not enough of anything we were used to having. From 2,000 to 3,500 people (some from every country in the world, it seemed) crammed together over a six week period of time on about eight acres of land (personalities clashing everywhere; chips of ego flying here and there). Diane, a friend of ours commented, after hearing a more in depth description, "It sounds like you went through hell."

But here's the thing. In the Bhagavad Gita it is written that "a warrior can never know his own strength without an enemy." You see, all theories must be proven and put into the practical. And so it is with God, or that which is meant by the word G-O-D. The supreme living experience of love, if, in fact, it is a TRUE experience, if it is THE true experience, will remain steadfast and stand the test of any situation, regardless of how difficult. So how will we know when we have found the truth? One test is to try it everywhere. How will we know which key is the pass key? It will be that key that fits every door without exception. If we feel love only when times are good and easy, we are fools to believe we have true love. True love is a feeling that is stronger than hunger and the will to survive, for without love there is no reason to survive.

Well, those thirty days were the most miserable I have ever spent in my life, and I've seen my share of misery. And through it all was a constant and seemingly ever ascending sense of love. A strange kind of love I wasn't used to, because it was a brand of love that was not contingent upon anything. A steady, increasingly brighter sense of love in my heart that paved the way to a greater understanding and tolerance for myself and my own errors as well as those of my brothers and sisters. We are all growing and gaining swiftly in the knowledge of the "Age of Aquarius," of high energy, and mostly of that energy which is the highest of all...LOVE.

Guru Maharaj Ji has come to TEACH us how to be perfect. That is why we call him "Perfect Master." And the knowledge he gives us is the personal and direct experience of Divine Love that is within our hearts. And then he says, "...live in this world and learn to use this love for the sake of all mankind."

Thirty days in India around so much love and at the same time so much discomfort and agitation gave me an experience and an opportunity which has filled my heart abundantly with joy and happiness that just seems to keep on coming on.



A Monthly Column of Advice on All Subjects the Doctor Knows Absolutely Nothing About

by Jim Zane

Dear Dr. Zane:
Is there anything you don't know?
Wary

Dear Wary:
Nothing.

Dear Dr. Zane:
What is black and green, has four legs in the morning, ten legs at night, flies, and wears glasses?

Know It All

Dear Know It All:
I give up. What?

Dear Dr. Zane:
I am a History major at UCLA and one of my classes this quarter is American History. This has me very worried because I know one of the subjects we'll cover is "America as a melting pot." Since I've never understood that term, I wonder if you could explain what it means.

Worried Student

Dear Worried Student:
The term "melting pot" is just another term for absorption or assimilation. Ever since the first European set foot on this continent, white Americans have been assimilating various racial and ethnic cultures into one mass culture. The first culture that was assimilated was the Native American or Indian culture. Such an excellent job was done of assimilating these people through trickery, thievery, starvation, massacres, and other effective measures that we hardly have any Native Americans around today. Another group that was almost as thoroughly assimilated into our melting pot was the Blacks. Enticed to America from their home in Africa by offers of steady employment, free transportation on the fastest slave boats available, an excellent retirement program that was years ahead of its time, and/or knives placed against their throats, these people became part of our melting pot rapidly at first. The latest group our government wants to add to the melting pot is the Asians. This program started during the 1940's when Japanese-Americans were placed in concentration camps in California. The program was intensified on August 6, 1945 with the A-Bombing of Hiroshima. Not wanting to leave out other Asian nationalities, the U.S. has embarked upon a program of assimilating the Vietnamese, Laotians, Cambodians, and Thais to name just a few during the last ten years. Thus, this is what the term "melting pot" means in its truest sense.

Dear Dr. Zane:
I've recently heard that there's a man in Tibet who can see with his teeth. I personally find it hard to believe. Could you fill me in with more details please?

Bewildered

Dear Bewildered:
There is a man in Tibet who can see with his teeth, his eye teeth that is. This man has a very unusual way of reading a book—he eats it. That's where we get the expressions "digesting a novel" and "book worm." If it is a very poorly written book, this man, who is also a book critic, regurgitates the material immediately.

Dear Dr. Zane:
Are the people who write to you the same ones who write to Dr. Hippocrates?
Curious

Dear Curious:
Not as far as I know since I've never written to Dr. Hippocrates.

Dear Dr. Zane:
I think you are a pinko and a pervert.
A Good American

Dear Good American:
Thank you.

Dear Dr. Zane:
For some reason people hate me. I don't understand why. Let me make myself perfectly clear, I am not an ungenerous man. When George Wallace was crippled by that dastardly deed, I was one of the first people to send his wife a vibrator. Make no mistake about it, I am kind. Yet people hate me. My wife won't sleep with me. My daughter gave me a surf board for my birthday—now what am I going to do with a surf board?! My best friends talk unkindly about me behind my back. Where did I go wrong?
R. Nixon

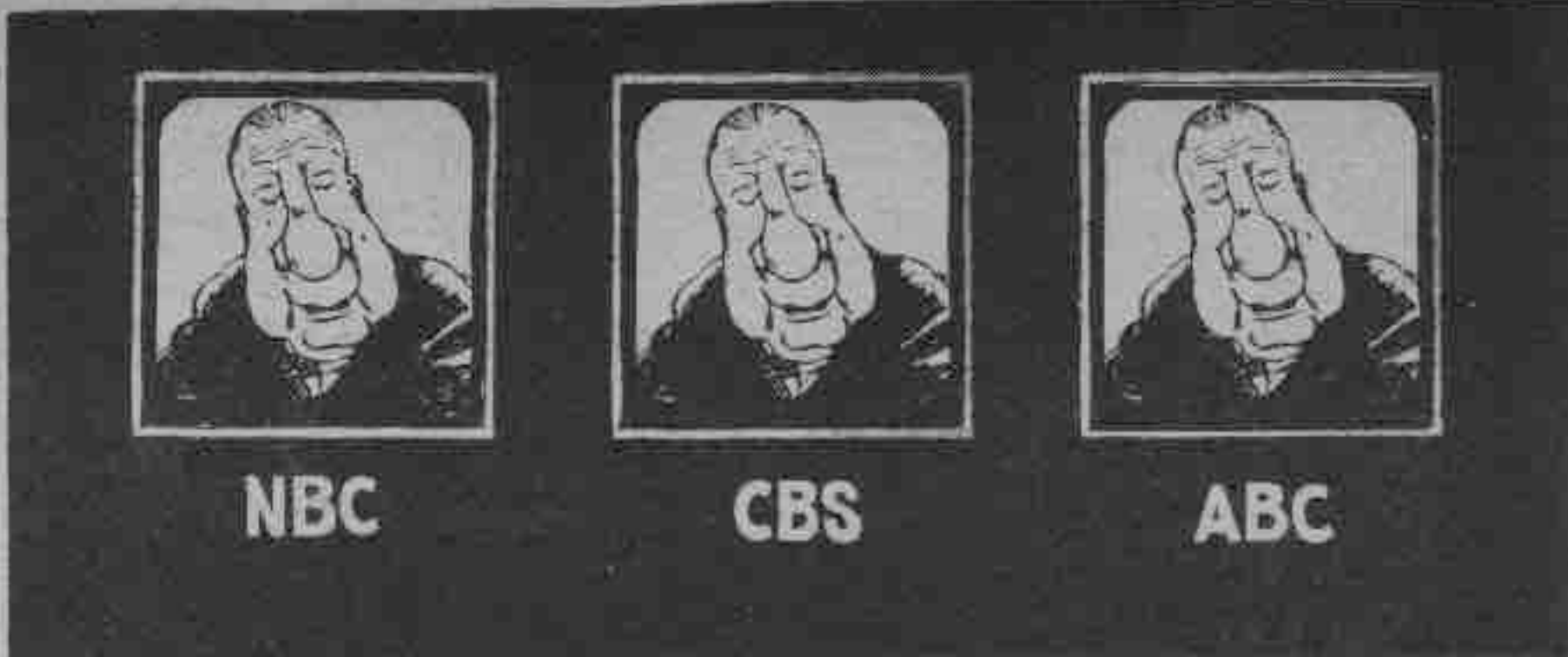
Dear R. Nixon:
Firstly, I don't need to tell you what you should do with that surf board. And secondly, it's not you who made the mistake. It was your parents. They should have taken more cold showers.

Confidential to Inquisitive: In the end I only can wonder, did Arthur Godfrey really have cancer or was he merely trying to get our sympathy?

Thousands upon thousands of letters are not pouring in to Dr. Zane. This trend will probably continue. So if there is something troubling you, don't write unless you want to make a fool of yourself in print along with Dr. Zane. Dr. Zane cannot be reached at P.O. Box Camarillo at any time with your questions.

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SPOCK AND McGOVERN SUPPORTERS



'The President and I are happy to announce that the Justice Department has broken the vicious network monopoly over TV programming. Stay tuned for an hour of martial music followed by a stirring two-hour discussion by the Secretary of Agriculture'

Since 1967, Californians believing in the "new politics" in elections have taken two roads--some organizing within the Democratic Party and others starting a new party, the Peace and Freedom Party. Liberal Democrats and Peace and Freedom people have unfortunately been competing for the same constituency and this has led to a great deal of enmity between the two groups.

I believe the necessity for promoting a party has caused people to lose sight of the fact that, despite the real differences between the candidates, McGovern and Spock activists are basically the same kind of people divided over minor differences in tactics. The results of the 1972 Presidential election should impress upon people that left-leaning voters are definitely in the minority. When you add the fact that among left-wingers, many do not believe in "working within the system" (i.e. electoral politics), the conclusion can be drawn that "new politic" Democrats and P and Fers are not that much different. I believe the possibilities are great for the new politics to grab some REAL POLITICAL POWER, but this power can be maximized only if we work together.

P and Fers who insist there are no good Democrats are putting the narrow interests of the Peace and Freedom Party above the interests of the struggle for social change in this country. Democrats who support the Democrat Party for its own

sake should realize that it is still the party of Hubbert Humphrey, Henry Jackson and George Wallace, and it is rapidly moving right.

The past few years have shown that it is actually possible to win elections on a local level. There have been victories by Ron Dellums and the April Coalition in Berkeley; The Peace and Freedom Party in Cotati (Sonoma County); the Human Rights Party in Ann Arbor; the Wisconsin Alliance Party in the area of Madison. These victories would not have been made possible without the support of people both in and out of the Democratic Party.

Victory is not likely on the National, State-wide or Los Angeles County-wide levels, but it is possible to significantly influence the election. In the Marge Buckley for L.A. County D.A. campaign, the support of left-liberals and radicals (radiclib) was important enough for Bugliosi to move far to the left in the primary, and for both Busch and Bugliosi to seek Buckley's endorsement after the primary. I BELIEVE OUR POWER COULD BE MAXIMIZED IF THERE EXISTED A GROUPING NOT TIED TO ANY POLITICAL PARTY WHICH COULD REWARD GOOD DEMOCRATS WITH A SUPPLY OF WARM BODIES BUT PUNISH BAD DEMOCRATS BY TRANSFERING THESE WARM BODIES TO A RADICAL CANDIDATE (P and F, La Raza, or Independent).

Precedents have already been set for a working relationship between P and

F and former McGovern supporters. Many Democratic clubs supported Buckley over Bugliosi in the D.A.'s race. McGovern offices supported P and F candidate Toni Novak Sutley over Democrat Randolph Collier in the 1st State Senate District race in northern California. P and F er Len Evans in effect withdrew from the 60th Assembly District race in favor of Democrat Roger Diamond. (Evans asked Diamond to file the suit taking Evans off the Ballot).

We should not be concerned that P and Fer Ben Perrick polled more than the difference between Cathy O'Neill and Robert Stevens in the 25th State Senate District race. O'Neill was not a good candidate--in parts of the district she presented herself as very much of a moderate and gathered a great deal of Republican support. Those who blame O'Neill's defeat on P and Fers are scapegoating at best and merely serving the Democratic Party at worst.

The P and F candidate is usually invisible--money and media coverage is hard to obtain, even for an active candidate. People vote for and against the Democrat, without knowing much about the P and F candidate. Both Tim Burrill in the 63rd Assembly District and Anita Stephens in the 46th Assembly District pulled 4% of the vote without a campaign, while Jack Hampton polled only 2% of the vote with a fairly active campaign in the 28th Congressional District where liberal Mike Shapiro was running.

P and F at present makes a difference only in close races and those are relatively few. For P and F to decline to run a candidate in the 37th Congressional District would have been a mere gesture, since either Yvonne Brathwaite or Billy Mills would have won handily. But in a potentially close race, P and F and McGovern people could agree to throw all their support to either a radical candidate, or a good Democratic candidate.

But what to do between elections? Power lies in organization and organization falls apart if not used. The old McGovern forces would be wise to follow the example of P and F by engaging in community organizing between elections. P and Fers have already been working together with Democrats in initiative petition drives such as those for the Clean Environment Act (Proposition 9) and the California Marijuana Initiative (Proposition 19). We have worked together in Peace Groups and in supporting Farmworkers so what is keeping us from creating a formal coalition? Why recreate an organization for each campaign? We can't get so involved in our organizations that we forget that both the Democrats and Peace and Freedom Parties are merely tools for a higher end--the remaking of America. If interested, please contact me:

Milton Takei, Member
P and F L.A. County Comm.
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MEETING OF NEIGHBORHOOD TOWN COUNCIL
An important meeting for everyone who lives or owns property in Venice in the area bounded by Ocean Front Walk, Main Street/Strongs Avenue, Venice Blvd., and the Santa Monica City line will be held on Thursday, February 8, 1973, at 7:30 p.m. at the Israel Leven Center, 201 Ocean Front Walk, Venice(Ozone at OFW). Pat Russell, our City Councilwoman, will attend the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to organize a Neighborhood Council and to select representatives to the Venice Town Council. The Councils will give us an opportunity to learn about the issues that face us in Venice and a chance to communicate with one another and decide what to do about the decisions that are going to be made at City Hall. Hope to see you there.

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PEACE AND FREEDOM PARTY POLITICS CONFERENCE

The Peace and Freedom Party is having a politics conference the week-end of February 17-18-19, at the LA Convention Center, Rm. 202, 12th and Figueroa. Speakers will be Benjamin Spock; John T. Williams, anti-war Teamsters leader; Gay Liberationist Morris Kight; Raul Ruiz of La Raza Unida Party; Louise Monaco, former Eldridge Cleaver campaign manager.

There will be a discussion on "Why we are working within P&F and what direction we feel it should take" plus Men and Women's caucuses. Panels will feature Gay Community activists; Men and Women's Liberation activists; Black, Chicano, Asian-American and Native American Community activists; working people's oppression and liberation activists.

The conference is open to non-P&F but there is a limit of 300 people, so sign up early. There is a five-dollar charge, plus a thirty minute child care requirement. Make checks payable to the Peace and Freedom Party and

mail to Lew McCammon, 4309 Glenalbyn Dr, LA 90065. Include name, address and phone number. If you need child care, or can supply housing to out-of-town people, call McCammon at 223-2552. Registration for this area will take place at a house party Friday night at 226 San Juan, Venice, or at the conference site Saturday morning.

OAKWOOD SUES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER

On January 10, the ACLU of Southern California filed a class action suit for an injunction in Santa Monica Superior Court against the Department of Water and Power. Venice attorney David Blumberg and ACLU staff counsel John O'Loughlin are representing Mr. and Mrs. Robert Castille and 9,000 other residents of Venice, California in a class action to prevent the Department of Water and Power's current policy of discrimination and a claim for in excess of \$11 million paid for services never received by the residents of the Oakwood section of Venice and for emotional and physical damages due to the refusal of the Department to supply service.

The suit claims that since December 28, 1968 and continuing in slightly altered form since December 7, 1972, the Department of Water

GAY LIBERATION
Westside Gay Community Center
1829 Stanford Ave, Santa Monica
828-2444 or 392-3324

COMMUNITY PLANNER
Community Design Center
1101 W. Washington Bl
392-4525

VENICE HEALTH COUNCIL
1306 W. Washington Bl
392-5752

CO-OP TRUCK

Ever needed to borrow a truck? you probably borrowed a friend's truck. The hangup is that if a commercially licensed vehicle is owned by an individual, it can be insured only for people listed with the insurance company, and of course, your friend pays all the repair bills.

Free Venice has purchased a truck that is now owned by a corporation so it can be insured for anyone driving it. It is a cooperative truck, so the groups and individuals using it all help pay for it. We have been charging one or two dollars per trip, (plus gas) or some monthly payment arrangement.

The truck is a 3/4-ton stake bed with a lift gate. To borrow it, call Don or Milton at 823-6552 (VC-FOLK-2).

VENICE POETRY WORKSHOP

Every Wednesday at 8 pm, formerly 8:30, at the Venice Poetry Workshop, poets read and discuss their works. The workshop is open to the public, and is free of charge. It is held at the Beyond Baroque Center, 1639 W. Washington Bl, Venice, Ca 90291, (213) 396-6551

FAMILY LAW AND DIVORCE CLASS

Feb. 3, 11:00 a.m. Westside Women's Center, 218 Venice Blvd.(Southside). Attorney provides forms. Requested donation \$10.00.

Playgroup Enrollment
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WHY THE CANALS? WHY VENICE?

By Rick Davidson

During the past four years people have questioned Free Venice's fight to Save the Canals: to few people live there; many of the residents are not poor or minority; let them have the Canals— consolidate north of Venice Bl, etc. It has been Free Venice's opinion that the major battlegrounds in Venice's struggle against City Hall have been as follows:

1. The Freeway— now defeated;
2. The Canal Project— a natural extension of the Marina high-rent-

plastic development;

3. The Venice Community Plan—the overall master's plan for the "final solution";
4. The Ocean Front— site of the future Miami Beach of the West Coast, high-rise hotel, delux commercial development;
5. The General Street improvements— designed to serve the future Miami Beach development;
6. The Zoning Roll backs— Oakwood, Northbeach, industrial— designed to force the poor out due to increased taxes, rents, etc.

Where do we stand today? The City Council passed the Venice Community Plan only to find that, as the community had been telling them, its details don't work— the design is too poor even to serve the rich. It is being restudied. As to the Venice Canal Project, it's dead, at least dying a slow death in the courts. But the city must do something. It can't ignore the canals for another fifty years. If the community doesn't act, then we will once again have to accept what the city offers without an alternative. The question is: are they still a valid battleground? Free Venice believes that they are for the following reasons:

1. They are symbolic of Venice's struggle and we have won some important victories there;
2. If lost, nine hundred people would be displaced— those relocating in Venice would tend to displace economically less fortunate residents;
3. A private waterway project would raise rents to a new high in Venice, \$500/\$600 a month;
4. The Canal Project would complement and help speed the Ocean Front and Central Development (Miami Beach style).

So What do we do? Free Venice offers three alternative plans at this time:

- A. A Renewal Area Agency— a State law giving the community the chance to design and build for and by the people;
- B. Design Alternative No. 1— (presented to the Council June, 1971) Last year we suggested the design approach and ran a cost estimate based on the following concept: the Canals are desirable, but they do not have to be opened to the ocean there is no need for a new bridge at Washington Street over Grand Canal; no need for widening or deepening; no need to relocate the sewer; no need to acquire right-of-way; no need for bulkheads of a major structural nature.

Construction cost	\$2,742,253
Cost increase for past few years 30%	822,706
Construct. contingencies 15%	548,513
Design, plans, etc. 10%	420,527
Incidentals 10%	462,529
Bond discount	360,000

The City's own construction cost figures are used here. Costs total \$5,356,678 compared with the City's 25,000,000.

- C. Design Alternative No. 2— based on the same general design concept as above, but also conceived as a total community project as follows: The entire Canal Project from deso design to final construction would be adopted as a job training project as well as a project to rebuild the Canals and sidewalks
Phase I would be an educational or training period. Job training would grow out of the actual needs of the construction planned. This would be developed on a job flow chart showing all the jobs, how long each would be needed, time of training, etc.;
Phase II would be the design of the project; Phase III would be the actual construction period. There is no reason why a person couldn't learn more than one job during the life of the project. The project is seen as a long range community re-hab project— housing, child-care centers, clinics, etc. could be included.
Free Venice's basic concept has always been: **Community Control of Community Affairs.** Anyone interested in our plans please contact us at 226 San Juan, or call 396-6876



Gerry Goldstein

INTERESTED IN THE BEACH-HEAD? WANT TO CRITISIZE? WANT TO GET INVOLVED? COME TO THE BEACHHEAD OPEN MEETING— SAT, FEB 10, 10: 30 AM, 763 SUNSET AV PHONE 392-8586

ALTER-EGO



By Joanne Curtis and Joan Peeples

This man doesn't feel the need to equate his manhood with his male cat's sexual prowess. He is sophisticated enough to know that it is ridiculous to place anthropomorphic connotations on the sex life of his pet. He knows that because he lives in an overpopulated megalopolis that is MANDATORY to neuter his male. The cat will be more content to stay home and the owner will never have to smell the male cat's "spray" in his home. The neutered male is no longer interested in cat fights and there will not be the risk of his death in the streets. There will also be a reduction of the chance of finding him poisoned or the chance of finding him injured by children or irate neighbors.

But most important is the fact that the neutered male will no longer be responsible for sharing in the reproduction of 20 MILLION cats that are gassed annually in the decompression chambers which are reminders of the horror of Nazi Germany.

Unaltered cats and dogs can only be the result of two things: ignorance or just flagrant lack of concern for the welfare of animals.

The long-debated zoning changes being contemplated once again for the Venice beach area by the City of Los Angeles were stalled by the inaction of the City's illustrious Planning Commission at the Commission hearing Jan 11 downtown. The blind charge led by Commission "President" Edward Meir postponed a motion initiating basic proceedings with regard to the proposed zoning changes.

The proposal, which comes from the staff of the City Planning Department (the Department staff is the group of city planners who actually have some idea what they're doing, as opposed to the Commission and the City Council, who don't, but who pass judgment on anything the Department proposes) suggests moderate down-zoning in the North Beach Area of Venice. The changes, in general, alter the current unlimited high-rise, high-density beachfront zones to zones which would for all practical purposes limit residential buildings to about three stories. Commercial uses would be limited to small stores, offices, restaurants, except in a couple of specifically-named places.

Despite the fact that the Roll-back is an issue which has been before the Commission before (in a different form), and despite the fact that the Planning Dept. has had many months to prepare a thorough report and solicit public input from Venice, Commissioner Meir managed to convince his fellow Commissioners that the matter required more study before any action was taken. He also sent up a "smoke screen" which implied that any immediate vote taken on the matter would be the final judgment, and not the move to initiate public hearings it really was. Meir had the matter rescheduled for a Jan 25 hearing, which hadn't taken place as of this writing.

The unnecessary postponement of the initiation of proceedings was a direct affront to the many Venetians and several community groups who have been working hard to at least make the Planning Commission hold public hearings on zoning. The Venice Community Design Center, the local planning office, had worked closely with the Planning Dept. to prepare the report which was taken so lightly by Mr. Meir. Its director, Ken Norwood, commented that he's heard Meir's double-talk before and expressed disappointment at the rest of the Commissions continued willingness to put up with it.

The North Beach Residents and Property Owners and LOVE in Venice, two north beach citizen's groups formed in 1971 and 1972, respectively, to do battle over the issues of high-density development

and zoning, were both represented at the hearing. These groups, both of whom have had trouble sustaining member participation due to the apparent futility of these battles, got another object lesson on activism on the eleventh.

The main problem with stopping developers from converting Venice into their idea of Ft. Lauderdale is that it requires more than "rap sessions" and laying down in front of bulldozers. Even safeguards like the Friends of Mammoth court decision (which ordered that Environmental Impact statements be filed on all potentially damaging projects, public and private) and Prop. 20 can be sabotaged, as recent events have shown. And the bureaucratic hassles involved with their enforcement may allow a lot of violators to get away with their plans to overdevelop ocean-front land no matter what. The dizzying number of implications, legal, economic and so forth, have scared off people. That's the only reasonable conclusion to make; one would much rather avoid the alternative conclusion that Venice residents don't care whether rich land-speculators run them out of their homes by surrounding or replacing them with high-cost housing.

The big question is whether enough public might can be mounted in any way to stymie development. It is generally conceded that Venice is going to be developed to some extent, and there's to legal method to stop it totally. But if nothing is done, Venice will be turned into a high-rise, high-rent community against even the better judgment of the city planners who will probably allow it anyway. The city government accepts the fact that there isn't enough vehicular access to Venice as it is, nor enough parking (and, given pollution problems, little excuse for creating more facilities for autos), and power companies are talking about 1978 as a reasonable guess as to when power blackouts will become a fact of life in Los Angeles. Plus, L.A. county is losing population by the thousands every year. Many high-cost housing developments already have a healthy percentage of vacancies (contrasted with the overcrowding of lowcost housing). All these things point toward inhibiting further over-development, but so far the powers-that-be are listening only to the Money men who are looking for short-term profits on the way to destroying Los Angeles and making it unliveable.

There is probably something many Venetians can do about this problem beyond sitting around being cynical about it. If you don't want to do anything about it, don't complain when you have to leave Venice to make way for Marina Del Rey-north.
-T. Widener