

# FIGHT BACK

## City fathers know best Downtown redevelopment

Lewis McCammon

On October 28, 1976, hundreds of renters and homeowners packed the L.A. City Council chambers to voice their vigorous opposition to Mayor Bradley's \$750,000,000.00 downtown "redevelopment" rip-off.

Nevertheless, the City Council voted by a very narrow margin to continue with the "redevelopment" scheme and to deny the people a chance to vote on it.

Massive opposition to the Bradley-supported plan has come from many social sectors. Organizations going on record demanding that the public have the right to vote on the rip-off include: The Peace & Freedom Party, the Coalition for Economic Survival, the Venice Town Council, the Tenant's Rights Coalition, Seniors for Political Action, the California Housing Council, 11 homeowner's associations, 14 Democratic Clubs, the CDC Urban Planning Committee, the L.A.

County Board of Supervisors, and the United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA, AFL-CIO) Board of Directors, the California Teachers Association, the L.A. Community College Board of Trustees, 21 local chambers of commerce, and numerous other organizations. Mayor



(LNS)  
Bradley opposes letting the people vote on the plan.

**HOW THE RIP-OFF WORKS**  
Under a complex "tax increment" financing formula, rents

and property taxes everywhere in the County will go up by an increasing amount each year to compensate for the hundreds of millions of dollars diverted to the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) for the downtown project.

The CRA will use most of the money to buy up downtown areas and demolish the existing structures, uprooting many long-time residents of the community. It will then sell the land far below costs to private construction companies to build high priced apartments, stores and office buildings to bring rich people back to live, shop and work downtown. The CRA has already promised some land to the owners of the ARCO Towers.

The money diverted to the CRA is money taken away from schools (hence the UTLA position), and needed public improvements and services in all other areas.

Over the 20-year life of the



project, backers of the scheme admit, you will have to pay many hundreds (and perhaps thousands) of dollars in increased rent and property taxes. Renters know that apart-

ment owners raise the rent with every property tax increase—hence the Tenant's Rights Coalition position.

### WHO BENEFITS?

Wealthy downtown business interests are the beneficiaries—not the people. Commercial properties like the 62-story United California Bank Building, the Hyatt-Regency Hotel, the new Broadway Department Store, the Occidental Life Insurance Company building and the over \$15 million worth of downtown properties owned by the Times-Mirror Co. (publishers of the L.A. Times) in or adjacent to the redevelopment area will skyrocket in rental and resale value—at your expense.

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### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO STOP THE RIP-OFF

Two more votes are needed to bring the issue to a vote of the people—but these votes will not be easy to get because of the pressure and money from the banks and other downtown interests. Four City Council members who voted for the rip-off and against letting the people vote on it are:

David Cunningham... 937-7515  
John Ferraro... 485-3337  
Pat Russell... 822-2582  
or 485-3357  
Zev Yaroslavsky... 278-0840  
or 485-5013

Call them at the office phones listed and demand that they change their vote and put the issue on the April ballot. Yaroslavsky broke his pledge to support a public vote and he is

up for re-election in early 1976.

Others supporting the rip-off and opposing the people's right to vote, besides Mayor Bradley, are council members Robert Farrell, John Gilman, Gilbert Lindsay, Louis Glickman and Arthur Snyder.

Opposing Mayor Bradley and supporting the people's right to vote on the issue, are council members Ernest Berni, David Lorenzen, Peggy Stevenson, Joel Wachs and Robert Williams.

If you don't write or call your council member now, you will have to pay hundreds of dollars for extra rent and taxes for the banks and ARCO later.

Lewis McCammon is treasurer of L.A. County Peace & Freedom Party.

The Peace and Freedom Party has distributed over 10,000 leaflets in opposition to the downtown redevelopment ripoff during the first two weeks of December. If you or your group want to help in this fightback or want more information, contact the Peace and Freedom Party, 4309 Glenalbyn Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90065. (213) 221-2404.

**FIGHTBACK** is a weekly forum for individuals and groups actively campaigning for social change, or engaged in some form of citizen action. Opinions expressed are those of the author. Persons interested in having their views expressed in the FIGHTBACK section of the Vanguard are urged to call the Editor at 473-0931 or to write us at 11556 Santa Monica Blvd., W. Los Angeles, Ca. 90025.

### Fix your own

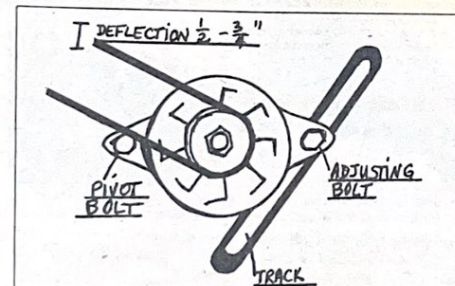
## Tighten your car's belts

Susan Nestor

Position yourself over your engine compartment. Come on, with the hood up! Now, do your very best frightened, "I'm going to touch my car" stare. Look down behind the radiator. Look at the pulley below the fan. That's where your crankshaft sticks through the engine and, since it has power to go around, a pulley is attached to it in order to drive other things.

Everything that is driven connects to the crankshaft pulley for power. The power steering pump is driven this way and used to assist your cornering muscles when driving a heavy car. An alternator is driven to recharge your battery, which would only last about 8 hours during the day and 3 hours at night if it wasn't being recharged. You might have a smog control air pump hooked up. Your fan (for blowing on your radiator to cool it when a breeze is not doing the job) and the water pump directly behind it that pumps water into your engine for cooling, are driven in this manner also. Air conditioners are likewise operated by pulleys. And all of these pulleys are driven by belts.

Now, I'll be the first to admit that belts are wonderful as well as durable. Old motorcycles used to zoom along at 73 MPH with belt-drive to their rear wheels. Though strong and durable, they do demand your attention and concern. If you're



excessively thrifty in your attention these belts will proceed to require your full and undivided attention—usually in the Mojave Desert on July 30th, at high noon—and it's the fan belt!

Let's inspect your belt(s). Twist one around a little bit and look for cracks or fraying (that's threads hanging).

If you find either of these go buy a new belt right now. Your belt is going to break soon. Be communicative about the whole thing. Explain to your car where you are going and it will probably be kind enough to not break between your house and the part store. Also pick up a new belt if yours look glazed, which looks like someone put shellac on it. The belt has been so loose that it slipped, got hot, and glazed—and it will slip on pulleys instead of pull them. While inspecting, take your finger and press on each belt—if one gives way more than 1/2" you're going to have to adjust it.

Take a glance at the picture accompanying this article. To adjust, you're going to loosen

the pivot bolt and the adjusting bolt. Move the unit a little further away from the engine by moving it in its track. That will cause the belt to tighten up. Then tighten the two bolts you loosened. This will hold the new adjustment. Re-check that the belt has 1/2" deflection.

If you have to replace a belt because it has broken, stretched too far, is cracked, frayed or glazed you will be doing basically the same thing as in an adjustment. Loosen the pivot bolt and adjusting bolts and swing the unit in its track as close to the engine as possible. The belt will now be totally slack and you can work it off over the blades of the fan. Put the replacement on the same way, over each blade of the fan, because the belts are smaller in diameter than the fan. Once you get the new belt over the fan rest it on the proper pulleys and adjust as mentioned above.

A new belt will stretch a lot after about 500 miles—so make a note to go out and adjust it then.

## Ads to beat ads

NEW YORK (LNS)—"The Six Billion Dollar sell" is a new 15-minute film designed to show kids "how not to be taken in by TV commercials." Produced by the Consumer's Union, publisher of Consumer Reports, the film is purposefully slick to duplicate methods used by advertisers, and features humorous take-offs of real TV commercials.

Advertising Age, the industry's weekly magazine, reports that few of the companies whose ads are mimicked in the film have seen it yet. But if Steward Sims, division manager of Ideal, is any indication, they will be extremely defensive. Sims hasn't seen the film but maintained that the kids in the sequence must not have followed instructions. If they had, they could have performed the stunts as they were shown in the commercial, he claims.

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# INFORMED SOURCES

## Bar Ass. toys with judge, justice

A murder trial can be a barrel of laughs, at least in the eyes of the Ventura Co. Bar Association.

At its annual dinner last month, the association "roasted" the trial of the American Indian Movement members, Paul Skyles and Durand, and Richard Billings Mobawh who are charged with the 1974 death of Los Angeles cabdriver George Aird.

The defendants have charged they are being framed by the FBI as part of a plot to discredit the Indian movement. They note three suspects arrested the night of the crime were granted immunity in return for their testimony against Skyles and Mobawh.

The bar association skit, "People vs. Tombs," was set in 2026, implying the trial had been delayed 50 years by preliminary defense motions. It featured such songs as "You Fly to the West and What Do You Get" and the title, "We Don't Want to Quit Cause We're Having So Much Fun."

Included in the audience were the prosecutor in the real trial, Peter Kossoris, defense co-counsel Andrew Marsh, and Judge Marvin Lewis, who tape recorded the event and produced a copy of the tape to the defense. Defense supporters, denied entrance to the fete, picketed outside the Ormand Elks' Club where it was held, accusing the bar group of racism.

The defendants condemned the bar association for racism in court following the incident and asked Lewis to cite it for contempt; they also asked the California State Bar Board of Governors to censure the local group. Defense co-counsel David Callahan told the *Vanguard* the incident might form part of the basis for a change of venue motion to move the trial to another county.

Lewis declined to take action but apologized if anyone believed the skit was racist, adding that he did not. The Board of Governors discussed the matter at length in a closed-door session in Los Angeles Dec. 4, finally deciding to seek more information before acting.

Prosecutor Kossoris refused to comment on the skit, and claimed he is not a member of the bar association. He refused to say why he was present for the annual meeting.

Also refusing to discuss the topic was bar association President Bruce Johnston who charged press coverage of the issue was more harmful to the defendants' chances of receiving a fair trial than anything lawyers might do at a private dinner.

Disagreeing with Johnston was the Ventura County Star-Free Press which chided the bar in an editorial titled, "It Was a Dumb Thing to Do." "(A) murder trial isn't just another mother-in-law joke, particularly while it's pending before the court," the editorial read.

The Star-Free Press characterized defendants' charges of an FBI frame-up as "incredible," adding they were no more incredible than the actions of the bar association.

Carl Neuburger

## Panthers file suit against U.S.

The Black Panther Party has filed a \$100-million damage suit against the U.S. government and former and present government officials, charging them with conspiracy to destroy the party and complicity in the assassinations of at least four Black Panther Party members.

Named in the massive lawsuit is the estate of former FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, former Attorney General John Mitchell, the Justice Department, Army Intelligence, IRS, CIA, FBI, the U.S. Postal Service and the Treasury Department.

The suit specifically contends that government agents were directly responsible for the assassinations of Panther leaders Mark Clark and Fred Hampton in Chicago in 1969, and the 1969 assassination in Los Angeles

John Higgins and Al "Bunchy" Carter.

The Panthers contend that thousands of documents released by the government through the Freedom of Information Act clearly outline the government's secret "Co-Intelpro" attempts to destroy the party politically and financially in the 60's. Those documents have revealed widespread illegal surveillance, wire tapping, forged letters, mail intercepts, burglaries, and infiltration by "agent provocateurs."

Watergate Judge John Sirica has been assigned to handle the case and BPP attorneys expect that additional terrorist activities of the government will be disclosed during the trial.

Tom Thompson

## BIA: only good Indian is sterile

(ZNS) The U.S. Government's Indian Health Service performed sterilization operations on 3400 American Indians, reportedly without telling many patients that the operation was not necessary, and without obtaining their proper consent.

The General Accounting Office (G.A.O.) issued a report this week on the sterilizations after conducting an investigation into the sterilizations of Native Americans at the request of South Dakota Senator James Abourezk. Abourezk said he had asked the G.A.O., the watchdog agency of congress, to look into the matter after receiving numerous complaints that Indian women were being sterilized as a birth control procedure without their consent or knowledge.

The G.A.O. report covers four areas administered by the Indian Health Service in the Southwest over a four-year period. The investigation found that most of the sterilizations were performed on Indian women, between the ages of 15 and 44. Thirty-six of the women sterilized were under the ages of 21, despite a court-ordered moratorium on sterilizing all persons under the age of 21.

Senator Abourezk commented on the report, stating "Given the small American Indian population, the 3400 Indian sterilization figure would be comparable to sterilizing 452,000 non-Indian women in the United States."

## FBI, CIA keep Panther's files

(ZNS) A former leader of the Black Panther Party, who has spent more than three years in solitary confinement in a California prison cell, contends he is being held for a murder he did not commit.

Elmer "Geronimo" Pratt claims he can prove his innocence in the murder of the FBI and the CIA would release their secret surveillance files on his activities. The agencies have refused to do so.

Pratt was a decorated Vietnam War veteran who joined the Black Panther Party and became one of its leaders in the late 1960's.

In 1972, he was brought to trial on charges of committing a murder on a Santa Monica tennis court in 1968. He was convicted of the crime on the basis of one eye-witness who claimed to have remembered Pratt after seeing him just once and briefly during the crime four years earlier.

Pacific News Service reports that Pratt believes he can prove his innocence if federal agencies will release their files on him. He insists that at the time of the murder, he was attending a Black Panther Party meeting in Oakland, 400 miles away from the murder.

## Super-spy unit fears court suit

(ZNS) The super-secret National Security Agency (NSA) has been ordered by a federal court in Washington to explain why it would harm U.S. national security if the NSA is sued in court.

The spy agency had asked U.S. District Judge June Green to dismiss

a suit, filed by a number of groups opposed to the Vietnam War, who are seeking information on the NSA's monitoring of all public and private communications overseas.

The NSA argued that proceeding with the suit would result in the release of highly-secret information damaging to the United States.

The NSA admitted last year that it has been regularly intercepting every overseas Telex message, telegram and phone call placed by private U.S. citizens.

## ACLU defends principled sailor

(ZNS) The American Civil Liberties Union has entered a case on behalf of a navy nuclear instructor who refused an order to start up a nuclear reactor because he feared it might explode.

The instructor in question, Alex Williams, refused the order last May at the navy nuclear power training unit in Idaho, when a safety-motor gauge failed to operate properly. Williams says he recalled that 16 years earlier, at the same Idaho site, a reactor exploded killing three men, and that a similar malfunction was blamed.

After Williams, and subsequently five others, refused the order to start the reactor, his nuclear license was revoked by the navy; his pay scale was reduced \$6000 a year; and he was shipped out to sea.

The navy contends that Williams' obligation was to point out the potential safety defect, but nothing more. According to his superiors, once he had complained, he was then obligated to start up the reactor if ordered to do so by his commanding officers.

The ACLU has entered the case, and has initiated legal action against the navy in an attempt to restore Williams to his former position and restore his former salary.

Williams insists that nuclear power is safe; he says it's the humans operating it that aren't.

## Women's Bank: in name only?

If you think having a "women's bank" in town means an advance for the cause of feminism, don't bank on it.

The First Women's Bank of California opened its doors at 12301 Wilshire Blvd. in West Los Angeles November 15, but it has been closing the door on many of the women who have come seeking loans, according to head cashier Diana Rios.

"We got a lot of women coming to us who are bad credit risks," said Rios. "They think they'll get a loan from us when they are turned down by other banks, because they think we are a bank. But the bank is not a cause, it's a bank. We won't make a loan just to make a point."

The bank was supposedly founded because several years ago, women were heavily discriminated against by the banking industry, which assigned all credit records to husbands, and considered women to be at best temporary workers. Even now, despite some new laws on the books, discrimination continues.

Considering this, one would expect the top priority of the bank to be to hire a competent, feminist loan officer—presumably a woman.

But the bank doesn't have a loan officer at all yet. Such loans as have been granted are approved by bank president Rowan Henry—a man.

Not that men can't be feminists. But all things considered, this bank should be watched for a while before its' appellation can be taken seriously.

Dave Lindorff

## Evado-Tax

(ZNS) Members of the Monty Python group have incorporated for tax reasons in the United States. The name of their company: Evado Tax, Incorporated.



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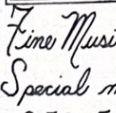
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**Maitresse's Schroeder:**

# Heaven and two kinds of hell

Barbet Schroeder has been an important influence on French cinema for 15 years; first as a critic; then as a producer of such artistic films as Eric Rohmer's *Six Moral Tales*, Jean Eustache's naturalistic *The Mother and the Whore*, and Jacques Rivette's atmospheric *Celine and Julie Go Boating*; and now as a director. He has made five films, including *More*, made in 1969, *The Valley*, *General Idi Amin Dada, A Self Portrait*, filmed in 1974, but only recently seen here, and now *Maitresse*, which stars Gerard Depardieu, a young actor heralded as the new Belmondo, and Bulle Ogier, described as an intellectual Bridgette Bardot.

Schroeder and Ogier were in Los Angeles recently for the opening of the controversial *Maitresse*, a film in which Ogier portrays Ariane, a professional sadist (a mistress) who falls in love with Olivier, a small-time burglar (Depardieu), bungling his way into her laboratory of sexual perversions.

The film juxtaposes scenes of their possessive and volatile relationship developing in her fifth floor apartment with graphic footage of her at work in her menagerie one floor below. The fourth floor sequences are graphic, bizarre and sometimes shocking scenes of actual masochism, and although these moments comprise only 15% of the film (the figure is Schroeder's and he says emphatically, "I get so pissed off at reviews that talk about the film only mentioning those scenes"), they are so intimate and authentic, that their impact quite overpowers the body of the film, which is concerned with the moral masochism that exists between the two lovers.

"*Maitresse*" draws a cold, objective analogy between the casual pain people inflict on one another under the guise of love, with the ritualistic pain endured by masochists as an outlet for their passion. As Schroeder puts it, "What happens between Ariane and her clients on the fourth floor acts as a sort of magnifying glass held up to the relationship between Ariane and Olivier on the fifth floor."

As we are being served the Polo Lounge's potent margaritas, Schroeder, dressed in his characteristic black, with the looks of a handsome and sophisticated Paul Morrissey, explains that the development of *"Maitresse"* began 13 years ago. "It was the first story I ever wrote," he begins in heavily accented, exact English. It came out of two true stories and a fascination I had when I was 14 and began reading about cases of sexual deviation in *Kraft Ebbing* and *Havelock Ellis*. Some of the cases were extraordinary," he says sin-

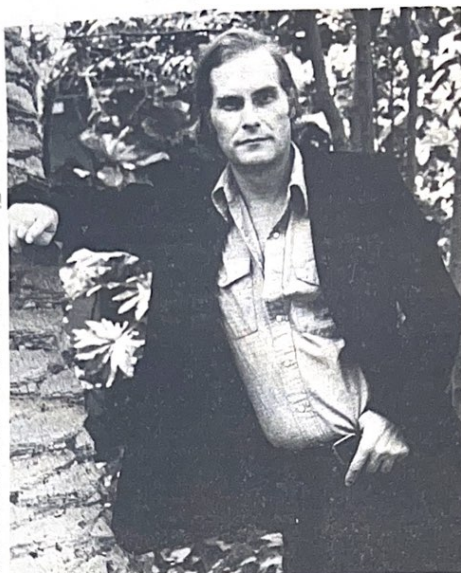
cerely, "true works of art—very elaborate, esthetic creations. I saw a connection between cinema and the element of staging requested by masochists. But I was afraid to make the film until I met Gerard Depardieu four years ago. I had always wanted Bulle for the maitresse, but I needed an actor who could capture the hidden violence, as well as the health and joy needed for such a delicate subject, and Depardieu has those qualities."

Ogier is a blonde wisp of a woman with the bangs and fine hair of a child and the intelligence of a respected artist. She also appears in *"The Valley"* and says, partly in her own words, and partly with the help of Schroeder, her director-companion-translator, "Barbet makes real films, and it's a 'trip' to work for him. In *The Valley*, we were in the last uncharted spot on the map. We were a group of actors, playing, but it was also an actual experience for us, living very primitively for three months in New Guinea. Barbet's films offer me the opportunity to discover worlds that I wouldn't have known about, otherwise."

Ogier also says that she wouldn't have accepted the part of the maitresse if it hadn't been a group of friends making the film. "We thought about this film for a long time," she explains earnestly. "While Gerard was filming *'1900'* with Bertolucci, he would come into Paris to be with his wife and child, and Barbet and I would meet with him. The film was in discussion for at least a year before shooting began," Schroeder adds.

Schroeder thinks it is more the fault of the audience than the film that the fourth floor scenes become so important. He has also observed that men react more strongly to the scenes of masochism than women. "Men see the possibility somewhere in themselves that they could be the clients, and certainly that is possible, because all of us have masochistic tendencies in some repressed and secret form," he theorizes. "Men react in panic and then talk about nothing else. Women don't have that problem to as great an extent," he says, and then reasons that this is perhaps because the maitresse is in control and most of her clients are male.

"In films, as in life, masochism is usually repressed and exploited from the standpoint of showing women as victims of torture, violence or hatred," he continues. "This is an extension of the woman as the victim or object of male sexual fantasies. But in my film, as in life, you have a majority of masculine masochists, and to have the tables turned makes the male members of the audience uncomfortable."



Barbet Schroeder

An attempt to discover the director's personal view of masochism proves futile as he answers tactfully. "I try very hard not to have moral point of view toward my subject, although sometimes it's very hard. If you approach this subject moralistically, you are sure to lose it. That's why Ariane and Olivier don't die in the end. If they were killed in the car accident, there would be no question that a moral statement was being made, but I wanted a sense of joy and freedom to come out of the absence of a moral point of view."

Ogier is more open about her personal feelings and volun-

teers an opinion that masochists are not evil or harmful because they do whatever they want to themselves without hurting anyone else.

Bulle Ogier is one of the most sought-after French actresses. She has worked with the major European directors: Alain Tanner, Jacques Rivette, Andre Techine, Claude Lelouch and Louis Bunner since she began in films in 1967. Acting the part of the maitresse was difficult, she explains, because she had no point of reference to work from, having no personal or observed experience of her own. In order to background her for the part, Schroeder se-

cured two coaches—one maitresse for the love story (the model) and one for the scenes of masochism (she brought her own clients, shown briefly in the film). Schroeder masked the masochistic scenes over two days and Bulle followed the maitresse's direction regarding the proper treatment for her clients.

"The customers hated me because I wasn't as good as their real maitresse," Ogier remembers slyly. "Despite the slight inconvenience, Schroeder obviously had no difficulty curing eager and willing clients." "The rack (an old-fashioned torture stretch rack) built by the man who uses it," the director recounts casually, "He took one entire morning to set it up and was very happy to be able to use it because many places he went weren't large enough to accommodate the machinery." Levels of realism and role-playing get even more confused as Ogier explains that in two sequences she was dubbed by the professional maitresse because of her skill and experience was required.

As our second margaritas arrive, and cocktail hour traffic in the Polo Lounge gets heavy, we observe that *"Maitresse"* seems a long way from the austere documentary, *"Idi Amin Dada,"* but Schroeder makes the evolution seem rational as anything else we have discussed—he has the objectivity of an intellectual combined with perceptions of an artist. "My first two films were about the quest for paradise," he shouts over the din that is making conversation all but impossible, "either artistic

(Continued on page 6)

## Spicy cookin' with (Luis) Gasco

It's 1969. Hipsters in the Bay Area boogie to the sounds of the Dead, the Airplane and Sly Stone. Political aficionados storm buildings. In the heart of the Fillmore district, a small club named Andre's is a showcase for a new progression in jazz.

Trumpeter Luis Gasca and friends assemble regularly, and delight a small, but faithful crowd with a unique blend of latin, jazz and rock music. Gasca's trumpet soars above a pounding rhythm section of drums, congas, timbales and a variety of hand-held percussion. They blow instrumental music replete with jazz phrasing and textural explorations. But they also capture the electric energy of the city's hard rockers.

Carlos Santana drops in occasionally and begins to discover alternatives to Fleetwood Mac compositions and old Tito Puente standards. In 1971, Santana and most of his band go into the studio with Luis to wax *For Those Who Chant* (Blue Thumb Records-BTS 37), a now-classic recording of new jazz. Luis, referring to his association with Carlos, says, "It

was very productive for both of us. I turned Carlos out to jazz and he turned the Bay Area on to our music."

Luis hails from Houston, Texas. The city is a cross-current for black, Mexican and southern white cultures. Luis studied trumpet in high school and picked up flugelhorn while gigging with a variety of bands—from mariachis to rhythm and blues. Today, he lives in the Bay Area, another cross-pollinated cultural center.

His music reflects this diversity. He has played straight-ahead mainstream jazz with saxophonist Joe Henderson, mambas and sambas with San Francisco's finest latin musicians, and, on his most recent album, soul-rock with Rick Stevens, former lead singer with Tower of Power.

Luis currently gigs with an eight-piece band, and, in a recent appearance at the *Jazz Gallery* in North Hollywood, they cooked with tasty spices. The rhythm section includes Ted Hawks on drums, John Heard on bass, Lee Pactora on congas, Carmelo Garcia on timbales and George Cables on electric piano.

When Luis or tenor saxophonist Hadley Caliman stepped to the mike, they soloed ahead of a solid wall of syncopated rhythm. But Gasca, in the best jazz tradition, allows plenty of latitude for all his musicians. A highlight of the evening was a stirring timbale-drum duet.

Long-time associate Caliman, guitarist Calvin Key and former Freddie Hubbard pianist Cables traded solos with Luis. Caliman's fluency in the language of jazz is astounding. He creates tonal colors which defy written description, but convey to the listener the entire spectrum of human emotions. Cables weaves beautifully intricate arpeggios on keyboards, though he suffered from poor electric pickup. Calvin Key plays a sparse, punchy guitar which constantly dances in and out of tempo.

Pundits on both sides of the jazz-rock chasm have attempted to pigeonhole the music of Luis Gasca. What is his reply to these attempts? "All I can say is this is my music, but it belongs to anyone who listens." Nough said.

Don Ford



# 'Artweek' weak on arts

After 62 days of working as Assistant Los Angeles Editor of California's only weekly art sheet for a 50-buck-a-month salary, I was suddenly "terminated" by the Editor/Publisher for writing a piece evidencing a complete lack of empathy with art concerns that many knowledgeable people consider to be deserving of serious attention.

When brought to my attention that my empathy was completely lacking (funny, last check measured 1/4 full) by this self-appointed knowledgeable person, I decided to peruse my former writing forum *Artweek*, and see what readers were getting out of their fifty cents.

I found—"The esthetic moment is just that: the smallest fraction of measured time during which we are projected outside the temporal and inside the temporal / esthetic."—the temporal / esthetic. "The esthetic moment is just that: the smallest fraction of measured time during which we are projected outside the temporal and inside the temporal / esthetic."—the temporal / esthetic.

Another example: "As such she (a small model of the artist's dog) represents the valorization of the miniature place / event. She is in many ways the folklore trickster; attending rituals made sacred through her profanity in the style of a Coyote, Monkey, Eshu or Raven."

Peppering prose with "valorization," throwing in phrases like "folklore trickster," providing gruel, a poorly prepared watery mixture that's grueling to read. Writing of this sort belongs in a high school magazine, not in a professional journal of criticisms that purports to earn its keep by providing readers with intelligible reports, free of pretense and pomp.

Essentially, what's printed should be more than someone's preconceived notions of how "accepted" art criticism should

sound. Posturing and affecting a stance is merely an exercise in mimicry. If readers want satire they buy the *Lampoon*, not an art journal.

When not adopting an "artsy-smartsy" style, *Artweek* reviews often speak in mock scholarly tones, believing mere mention of dates, movements, and names infuses the analysis with truth, wisdom and right—a kind of critics' version of AM radio's name-it-and-claim-it. One writer, figuring she'd cover all bases, described a painter's works as containing "elements from sixteenth century masterpieces, giant Bouguereau appendages, Greek mythology, Disneyland characters, and contemporary life." Ah, if saying something only made it so. References unsupported by cohesive evidence and arguments mean nothing and are at best as enlightening and illuminating as reading someone's laundry list.

One of *Artweek's* most overt offenses is its eagerness to defer to more prestigious art journals' views, rather than articulate its own position. Instead of expressing a view contradicting its East Coast elders, the journal from "up-North" prefers killing controversial stories. (One writer continuously has her reviews rejected because they don't tow the party line advanced by "respected art periodicals.") *Artweek* takes its cue from the boys back East when deciding "What constitutes an art review." Pieces that do not fit into the tight restricted definitions are branded inadequate or misinformed. "A very little research in the library's Art Index might have suggested to you that (pick the artist of your choice) deserves more from an art publication than your glib dismissal of his work." Appar-

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ently, criticism is fine as long as fault is found with the designated out-of-favor-artist-of-the-week.

What do we have then? In the main, a timid tabloid filled with pedestrian pieces all seemingly written by the same person.

In the manner of a house magazine for G.E., G.M., or I.B.M., *Artweek* is content to serve as the echo of California's art industry—a situation that will hurt the very galleries the journal claims to support. (It is only a matter of time before discriminating gallery-goers tire of the sheet's pre-digested pap and lose faith in the only coin a periodical of criticism has to trade—credibility.)

While all is not rotten in the pages of *Artweek*—L.A. Editor Sandy Ballatore is a thorough writer, often approaching her subject with wit and humor; a lone voice in a sea of grunts—the magazine has thus far failed to develop into a place where writers can air legitimate concerns and pose new questions. What readers now get is a publication afraid of leaving "a bad taste in peoples' mouths," Bianca without the blast.

After critiquing Tom Wolfe's "Painted Word," Peter Plagens concludes by saying his original impulse was to "have some fun," pen a humorous piece instead of a serious inquiry into the inherent pitfalls of Wolfe's assault on modern art. My experience in writing about *Artweek's* inadequacies has been the opposite. For the odd editorial quirks of a well-meaning but misguided magazine are the stuff of comedy, not concerned criticism (i.e. if a writer doesn't send a picture along with the review, the story is killed). If *Artweek* is happy sounding like the preface to a Sear's & Roebuck catalogue explaining a Vincent Price Famous Oil Painting Show—when discussing Johns, Moses, and Nauman—let it be.

Miles Beller



## 'Maitresse's Schroeder

(Continued from page 6)

ial, like in "More," (which explores drug use) or "The Valley," which involves the quest for a paradise in New Guinea.

"Then I wanted to make two movies on hell. 'Idi Amin' came about because I didn't have the money to make a fictional film about the French gestapo in Paris during the Second World War. I made the documentary on Amin instead because he is a figure similar to the man who was the head of the gestapo—charming but deadly. 'Idi Amin' is about real hell, 'Maitresse' is about artificial hell," he says simply.

The documentary of the Ugandan dictator received enthusiastic support when it was shown here, and no doubt some of the interest it aroused was due to the dramatic events that surrounded the film's release. "It was my idea from the beginning to film a self portrait," Schroeder explains, "because I didn't feel I could decide what to film and what not to film I went to Amin with the idea, he agreed, and I was left to edit the film as I chose. But after one month of exhibition, he read a transcript given to him by friends in the IRA who had seen the film in London, and demanded that 90 seconds be removed from the film."

The controversial sections contained three statements by

Schroeder which inferred that Amin murdered one of his cabinet members, is responsible for the disappearance of thousands of Ugandans since his seizure of power in 1971, and a concluding statement which said: "After a century of colonialism, we should not forget that it is partly a deformed image of ourselves that Idi Amin Dada reflects to us."

"He marked the scenes he didn't like," Schroeder continues, "and then became menacing. He threatened to break off relations with France and he rounded up French citizens who were living in the capitol. When people are rounded up by Amin you don't fool around," he remembers soberly, "so I made the cuts. But they will be back in the movie as soon as he dies."

"Maitresse" is one of many French films to recently screen in L.A., either as part of a series or in an independent run. The popular "Cousin, Cousine" and Marcel Ophul's "Memory of Justice," are just two examples of current films from France to be screened to large, appreciative audiences on this side of the Atlantic. Schroeder, the continental gentleman, graciously moves from a discussion of his work to voice support of the French film industry in general. "French film is very alive. It is a rich cinema. I don't know if we have many geniuses, but there is an incredibly wide variety of talent working in France, many of whom are not yet known here. I don't think it's because I'm French," he says with charming modesty, "but I can't think of many other countries from which you can name twenty important directors working today." Schroeder credits this richness to France's respect for talent, saying, "Our system has a veneration for the important creator and commercial success, or lack of it, doesn't destroy an artist's reputation, or his career, if he is talented. Because of this, important filmmakers such as Jacques Rivette and Robert Bresson aren't stopped from making movies, just because their last film didn't do well at the box office."

After tackling heaven and hell, Schroeder says his next project will be closer to the former, and will be shot in California, maybe even in English. It will be an independent production, but eager to experience all types of filmmaking, he doesn't rule out the possibility of working for a Hollywood studio one day. In the meantime, one of his earliest films, "The Valley," is scheduled to open in L.A. in February.

because we had roses  
which we pulled apart petal  
by petal

until our loving bed was  
a smear  
of hundreds of rose petals.

Then, we had no roses  
but the fragments of roses

and did cry out  
in each other's arms,  
"lost love..."

"Flight" is one more example of the poem as an ideal. Tidler is representative of all those forgotten Americans who fled an immoral war only to be chastised by those who defended the murderers. Now many thousands along with Tidler will return home.

"Flight" is the document of their agony, the single thread that runs through all their lives attaching them to nobility and courage. Much will be written about this poem, though not by the litocrats. The word will go out in the small presses and in the alternative newspapers. That is where the action is in literature anyway.

Ben Pleasants

Leigh Charlton

## Poetry

### Tidler puts litocracy to 'Flight'

In the past month I have had the privilege of reviewing several fine volumes of American poetry. They are all noteworthy. They all have some lasting value. None of these books will ever be reviewed in the pages of the *New York Times*, the *New York Review of Books* (which is known in the trade as *The You Review My Book, I'll Review Your Book Review*), the *New Yorker*, the *Partisan Review*, *American Poetry Review*, *Harper's*, *The Hudson Review*, *The Carlton Miscellany*, the *Northwest Review*, etc.

None of these writers: Gerald Locklin, Deena Metzger, Steve Richmond, Charles Tidler or Lawrence Lipton, are part of the American litocracy. Their publishers cannot afford ads in prestigious publications. They do not have lunch with Truman Capote or drink with Norman Mailer. Their agents are themselves. With the exception of Lipton they have not made much money as writers, yet they all have something to say and they say it well.

Take the case of Tidler. Charles Tidler is an American poet who vanished into the great expanse of Canada in 1969, when McNamara's war caught up with him and his little family and drove them into exile. During that time he published two fine books of poems, "The Straw Things" (Crossing Press) and "Whetstone Almanac" (Pulp Press). None of them received any attention from the American litocracy. In 1974 he set to work on a major poem entitled "Flight", a study of his escape from the U.S. Draft Board and his ultimate exile. It took him more than two years to finish the poem, a work that is moving and powerful and tragic. Compare that to the slapdash effort of John Ashbury who won the National Book Award for a collection of fingernail parings and belly-button lint.

Tidler's long poem has the epic quality of Hart Crane's "The Bridge" and follows in the footsteps of Whitman, while Ashbury and his narcissism,

kept alive by the New York litocracy, will be forgotten in less than a decade.

Tidler is a poet of courage, living his convictions on the ragged edge of poverty, while Ashbury is a creation of the hip New York art scene. "Flight" is a linear poem. It moves across highways, on railroad tracks, through crossroads, in and out of railroad stations. It looms between defeat in Indiana and a respite in Vancouver.

In "Ironhorse Drifting" it traces the quest of social credit and capitalism across Canada. In "Wreck Beach" it comes to a standstill in a rainstorm. "Spilling the Beans Vancouver" is a comedy concerto played on the keyboard by deft FBI men as a sack of Tidler's poetry books come undone and are scattered surrealistically into oblivion. At times he is lyrical. At times he is harassed and angry. At times he is bitter and vindictive but never defeated.

We would never see each  
other again,  
but we did not cry out



Out of the closet

# The Fat Underground

Summarized by Sharon Bas  
Hannah from THE FAT ILLU-  
SION by Aldebaran

Ample evidence from nutritional, physiological, and genetic research supports the conclusion that fat people are fat by biology, not choice, and can't effectively get thin because it's not in their bodies' natures to be thin.

The Fat Underground accuses the medical/psychiatric professions of genocidal malpractice on fat women's bodies and minds. With their ideas about "overeating," they've ignored the findings of nutritionists that most fat people don't eat any more than most slim people. The great majority of fat people seem to believe the lie that they're fat because they eat too much, and feel that their fat is a personal choice; an emotional and physical sickness. Actually, this public faith that fat people get that way by lacking will power is without foundation.

For example:

"When food intakes of obese individuals were accurately assessed and compared with people of normal weights, the intakes were identical. There are thin people who eat excessively, 'He has a huge appetite and never puts on a pound' and there are fat people who eat too much. Likewise, there are thin people and fat people who have small appetites."

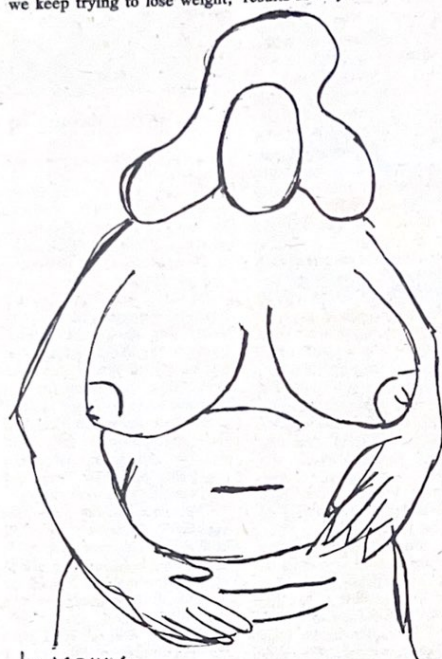
—A.M. Bryans, *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, November, 1967, p. 487.

Fat and thin, we are all, as a culture, caught in the Fat Illusion. We believe that our body's size is chosen and reflects personal control, and we ignore or reject all evidence of heredity and innate diversity of bodytype (found in all species of plant and animal) that contradicts this belief.

"Lose weight or you'll die of a heart attack," medical authorities warn fat people. They threaten other diseases too: stroke, diabetes, kidney failure, etc. As the years pass, we keep trying to lose weight,

tion contained in the following two quotes must be taken together:

"The few studies (of weight loss) containing long term results usually show a very low



by keanne

and keep gaining it back, and we get sicker and sicker until finally we die of heart attacks, strokes, diabetes, kidney failure, etc....

This essay argues that doctors are killing fat people through a combination of neglect and deliberate bad advice. This argument is based on information well-established in the medical research literature but generally suppressed from public knowledge. The information

success rate—no more than about 1 or 2 percent."

—Alvan Feinstein, M.D. in "How do we Measure Accomplishment in Weight Reduction?" in *Obesity: Causes, Consequences and Treatment*, Louis Lasagna, ed., Medcom Press, 1974, p. 86.

"(Repeated losing and gaining) may be actually more harmful than maintenance of a steady weight at a high level...

it has been shown that serum cholesterol levels are elevated during periods of weight gain, thus increasing the risk of deposition...It is possible that a patient whose weight has fluctuated up and down a number of times has been subjected to more atherogenic stress than a patient with stable though excessive weight... (Tests with laboratory animals show that) if an animal has once been obese and then has been repeatedly reduced, it will have a shorter life expectancy than the obese animal, which has never been reduced."

—U.S. Dept. of H.E.W., *Obesity and Health*, 1966, p. 40.

In other words, permanent weight loss is almost never achieved, and repeated efforts to achieve it actually increase the risk of major diseases that weight loss is supposed to control and prevent! (Deposition of cholesterol causes strokes and heart attacks).

All studies claiming to prove that fat is unhealthy were done on people who have dieted frequently and who live in an atmosphere of constant persecution, stress and self-hatred. Studies of fat people who are not persecuted—those who live in an atmosphere of cultural acceptance—show they are quite healthy. Studies of persecuted groups other than fat people, such as blacks, show these groups to suffer from many of the diseases "characteristic" of fat people.

Actually, health is not the real reason for discrimination against fat people. The real reason is looksism. The \$21 billion per year diet industry (this includes all weight loss programs, doctors, and reducing pills and foods) profits from our aesthetic programming.

Feelings of being sluggish

and "weighed down" are a reaction to the culture's hating, internalized and expressed in the "overweight" person as self-hatred. Otherwise, how could our very fat grandmothers and aunts have busted and scrubbing through their full hard lives?

People seem to be divided into those who fear getting fat and those who are ashamed of being fat. This division is real, because slim people generally feel uncomfortable in the presence of a fat person.

The fat person represents the low status symbol the thin person fears becoming. Because of this fear of low status, the thin person will suffer to avoid being fat. Everytime a thin person talks about a desire for the fat person is reminded of the undesirable s/he is. This is especially true for women, especially, are rewarded with male approval and with permission to feel superior to fat women.

As fat people liberate knowledge about ourselves from medical journals, we will come out of the closets of our minds to realize that there is nothing wrong with us. Fat and thin, we can now begin to struggle with the implications of this privilege and fat punishment in the society whose other injustices we have recognized for years (whether we do anything about them or not).

The Fat Underground is a fat feminist collective in Los Angeles. If you'd like to know more about our meetings and educational programs, send a card with your address and/or phone number to The Fat Underground, P.O. 5622, Santa Monica, CA 90405. A literature packet is available for \$2 (less if you can't afford it). In that case, send what you can afford).

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Folks wanted to help form a genuine country homestead (somewhere on the West Coast?) Though all who are interested are welcome I am principally seeking people who are addicted to food and who compulsively overeat to deal with living pains. Single young women and people with past homesteading experience are especially welcome. Pessimists and insecure persons are not welcome. Phone 394-5102 or write Ed Macauley, 9348 Santa Monica Blvd. Rm 101 Beverly Hills, Ca. 90210.

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**L.A. got you down?** Do you think this city is sitting on its upraised thumbs? If so, call 485-3311 and say so.

**Feel the same way about what's happening in the county in general? Don't just sit there!** Call 974-1411 and spill your guts.

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**Know any rich friends? Have any connections to foundations, grants, etc.? We need financial support. Anything you can do to help steer us in the right direction will help. Also, if you know of groups and organizations who could help by distributing the paper to their members, contact us. We're at 255-8732. Or write the L.A. Vanguard, 713 Terrace 49, Los Angeles, CA 90042.**

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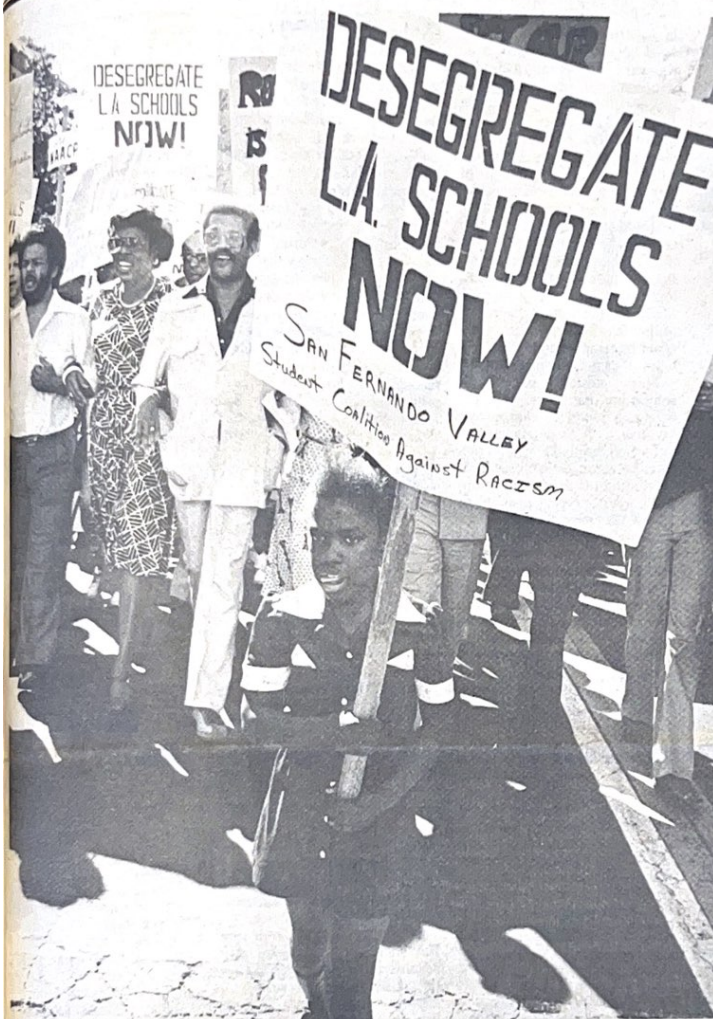
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## School Board fails integration test

Thompson

More than 2,000 persons, representing a wide range of racial, ethnic and political backgrounds celebrated Lin's birthday by marching on the L.A. Board of Education to protest what was labeled the "racist policy of limited integration" and to demonstrate that a significant portion of Los Angeles residents favor desegregation of all schools.

The marchers, led by Board of Education member Diane Watson, City Councilpersons Robert H.H. Brookins and Robert H.H. Brookins, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference West, provided Los Angeles with its first civil rights march in more than a decade.

Member Diane Watson, City Councilperson Dave Cunningham and Robert H.H. Brookins, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference West, provided Los Angeles with its

first civil rights march in more than a decade.

Resentment at having seen a generation of children pass through the school system since the 1963 order to desegregate schools was handed down in the Crawford decision spurred speakers at the rally to angrily attack the five member school board majority and praise Diane Watson and Dr. Robert Doctor who have held out for extensive integration.

Bishop Brookins, his speech often drowned out in applause reminded the audience that "if a Boston is to come here, if a Louisville is to come here it won't come from us it will come from the five board members who don't have the guts, courage or morality to act responsibly."

Diane Watson was enthusiastically cheered when she stated "We say to the school district that a large majority of people support active integration now. We are going to

desegregate peacefully, not violently, but with spirit, and we will never leave our task untended."

Arturo Sanchez, told the cheering crowd in Spanish, that "We're victims of a system that keeps the second class. We're in a system where the poor person doesn't know how to read because of the system."

The Lincoln day march and rally was, according to sponsors which include the ACLU, The Integration Project, SCLC, the NAACP and a score of others, only the beginning of a massive campaign to insure that after 14 years of court ordered desegregation 1977 is the year that something is finally done to implement the court order.

Pro-integration forces are demanding an integration Plan which upgrades the quality of education in all schools, peacefully and equitably desegregates all schools, is bilingual in all schools and desegregates

continued on page 4

## Atomic Follies

a 4 page pictorial history they never told you.

## Sansinena shock waves:

plans for hazardous LNG terminals in Southern California are under increasing attack

## Life as theatre:

how to pull up a chair and become the audience in the great drama of Life

## Kennedy murder probe:

the FBI is trying to torpedo the investigation — why?

## Industry and DNA:

regardless of the danger industry eyes profit from new life forms.

L.A. VANGUARD  
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# Letters

## Board's disgrace

Board of Education,  
WOMEN FOR: has already made clear its support for peaceful implementation of an integration plan.

We would like to express our dismay and disappointment at your preeminent handling of community input, whether it comes from a Citizens' Advisory Committee on Student Integration group, local school community advisory councils, citizen spokespeople for organizations, or individuals who sign up to speak to you at Board meetings. You demean us—the public—by disregarding us in the process helps you reach another example of the Board and District staff's lack of respect for the supposedly sincere intent to involve community. Other examples include the Decentralization Committee, the Goals Committee and the initial response you have given to the Citizens' Management Review Committee's reports.

If you do not really want constructive, independent community input, please do not put us through a charade of spending thousands of hours to give you the benefit of our thinking and research. In the future, unless you specifically intend to listen to the recommendations of citizens groups you create, before your decisions are made, don't expect us to continue to participate in this exercise of hypocrisy.

Although we may not support the CACSI proposal in its entirety, we feel that this group was treated with disrespect and without the dignity it deserved.

On the other hand, we have grave reservations about the Board's plan because it doesn't address itself to the long range, real problems of integration.

In summary, we object to:  
-Your failure to honor the input of the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Student Integration.  
-Your failure to make use of local School Advisory Councils.  
-Your use of executive sessions to discuss and formulate important educational policy and programs.

Your hearing from speakers after you have already debated and decided on issues.  
These are some of the reasons the community questions your credibility.

Muriel Blankfort  
coordinator of WOMEN FOR.

## Amnesty for all

To the Editor,  
Jimmy Carter's "pardon" has finally been unveiled. Although not too much has really been revealed yet it looks like it will fall far short of any real type of solution to the whole question of amnesty. Carter's plan only covers people who resisted the draft. The Carter plan also will "study" the idea of a pardon for military deserters. All told, the pardon will affect only about 123,000. There are over 1,000,000 war resisters including deserters, vets with less-than-honorable discharges, and civilian resisters, left out of Carter's "full, complete, and unconditional" blanket pardon.

During the 60's and 70's, millions resisted the war in one form or another, marched in the streets and many were arrested. Men refused to be inducted into the military. Many deserted to protest the war.

640,000 GI's received less-than-honorable discharges for their active resistance to the repression and racism of the military and to the unjust war. These people were right to resist and they need a total, universal, unconditional, amnesty. Any

just amnesty program must also include the complete, reparations to the peoples of Indochina along with the immediate recognition of their governments as well as their admission without further opposition by the U.S. into the United Nations.

President Carter's plan deliberately tries to obscure this massive resistance to the war. Even the idea of calling for a "pardon" and not "amnesty," is an attempt to cover up the truth about the true nature of the war in Indochina. A pardon implies guilt on the part of resisters but the rich and the politicians are guilty here. They didn't fight there. It was us, the poor and working people who were forced to fight their filthy war. And we soon learned that we weren't out there to fight for freedom and democracy. Not by a long shot! With banks built like bunkers and oil refineries that reminded us of San Pedro a lot of us figured out that we were really there to protect the profits of the rich. Realizing this, some of us became demoralized and many of us got downright angry.

This pardon isn't just something that Carter is giving to us as a goodwill gesture from his heart. It is a concession wrested from the whole rich class he represents. Since their defeat and the war's end, more and more Americans have joined the mounting fight for amnesty, universal and unconditional so Carter was pushed into this pardon program. But he tries, as Ford did before him to say he is doing it to "heal the wounds of the war and the divisions in the country." If the war in Indochina created any divisions, it was by deepening the ones between we poor people and the rich. If the rich had dared to tell us the truth to begin with they were never have gotten us to fight for them in the first place. Now the whole truth needs to be told.

The truth is that we veterans got a belly full of the rich man's war in Indochina and learned a lot from it. We don't like the taste it left in our mouths. And we will tell that to the recruits, potential recruits, and all the American people. If the rich want to start another war

somewhere they'll have to fight it themselves; we won't. Instead, we will fight here at home against them and their wars of aggression abroad, just as we will continue to fight for jobs and a decent life.

Sal Patti  
Vietnam Veterans  
Against the War,  
LA Chapter.

## Branded

Dear Editor:

What is happening to those great documents of American freedom—the very foundation of our country—the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights? Not only is there dictatorship rule in Americas' Judicial System, but one of the most cruel, and inhumane acts ever used in all mankind...the Habitual Criminal Law. What crime have we committed to have judgement passed on our poor misguided souls? Saying we're not fit to live among society anymore!!!!

Now the Habitual Criminal Statute, court records, prison records will show that Tennessee, California, Kentucky, Texas and 36 other states are violating the 8th and 14th

Amendments by letting person, the prosecutor, pick and choose who to try and habitual criminals.

(Since the statute is randomly and vindictively prosecutors without guidelines or standards, constituting Cruel and Unusual Punishment requires that punishment be handed out uniformly.)

In America, all citizens are created equal, governed and judged by the same laws. "Our Great American Heritage."

On behalf of Americas' founding fathers and Americans past and present who have given their blood, limbs, and very lives for "Sacred Honor" for this issue a challenge to anyone the "Whole United States Judicial System" to deny these allegations publicly. **Conquers All Things!!!**

Thomas Joseph Smith  
Station A West  
Tennessee State Prison  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

## Don't Watch What We Say

### "To protect and serve" — but whom?

On the doors of all the police cars in Los Angeles (except the ubiquitous unmarked fleet) are the words "to protect and serve."

The "shoot-to-kill" policy of Chief Ed Davis, the inordinately high number of citizens killed "mistakenly" by police, and the large numbers of blacks, browns and poor people in general in county jails, all make it abundantly clear that it is not the people that motto is referring to.

Now it has also become clear that above all, the police—and the sheriff's department, protect and serve themselves.

Both the LAPD and the L.A. Sheriff's Department have admitted that they have always been destroying records of citizen complaints against uniformed officers.

Davis, more of an out-front brownshirt than Sheriff Patches was destroying the records, which testified to wrongful beatings, excess use of violence and possibly even maiming and murder, after a year or less.

Sheriff's policy is to dump all complaint files into the shredder after two years.

The files are rarely used in their stated purpose—disciplining an officer by his or her department. But they can be invaluable to defense lawyers and those trying to bring charges against a particular police officer or sheriff's deputy.

Because the files contain names of witnesses to police beatings and the like. When the files are destroyed, those witnesses are lost forever.

The Sheriff's and LAPD spokespersons all argue that the files are dumped because they lose their value over time.

But as Ramona Ripston, director of the Southern California Chapter of the ACLU noted, "It's outrageous for the police and sheriff to say they should only keep records of police misconduct for one or two years. I wonder how long they keep unsubstantiated records on private citizens who have committed no crimes in their 'intelligence' files?"

## NOTICE!!!

The Los Angeles Vanguard is still very much alive, attempting to create a meaningful NETWORK of information for you the reader.

We've had some hard times, which is reflected in the frequency and size of the paper. Despite those problems, we are growing and hopefully will continue to provide you with news you won't find elsewhere.

To do that means a great deal of commitment, commitment on our part to struggle to keep the paper going and commitment on your part to generate the funds needed to pay our

printing bills.

Our support comes from our readers, not from multinational corporations or pornography. It takes \$500 each month to pay for typesetting and printing for a medium sized 8 page paper. That means that with 100 new subscribers each month we can continue. More subscribers means we grow. Won't you help by subscribing today? If you're already a subscriber pass the paper along and encourage your friends to join our network.

We would also like to remind you that often our readers are the best source of information on what's going

on in the community. Some of our best articles originated with a tip from a reader. If you see something wrong or simply feel we should be aware of something please let us know. Since we are a volunteer network the best way to insure reaching us is to write a letter.

In addition, with this issue, we are proud to introduce Vanguard readers to IN THESE TIMES, a national weekly newspaper with a fresh perspective that deserves your attention. Read it, and if you are as impressed as we are support their effort by subscribing. (See IN These Times page 21 for details.)

## Los Angeles Vanguard

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## Resistance to LNG grows

# Sansinena shock waves

where it continued to burn for days. At least nine men were killed.

The next morning harbor residents began to pick up the pieces. Some residents had been disturbed for years by the dangerous and unsightly cargoes and facilities, but their complaints had gone unanswered.

The Union Oil terminal, where the Sansinena was docked, had been particularly irritating. It was installed in 1958, on land zoned for recreational and light-industrial uses. The zoning specifically prohibits oil facilities, but the Los Angeles Harbor Department applied for a conditional use permit on behalf of the lessee, Union Oil, on the grounds that this was a "public use." When asked the legal definition of a "public use," a Harbor Department lawyer replied: "There is none."

Now Union Oil has acquired an emergency permit to extend a new pipeline from the destroyed Berths 46 and 47 to Berth 50. "It's probably a very

control tanker traffic.

Greg Smith of the San Pedro Environmental Action Committee suggested the establishment of a port authority to govern both the Los Angeles Harbor and the adjacent Long Beach Harbor, picked by SOHIO to be the terminal for their Alaska oil supplies. Smith and his organization are also proposing that the controversial liquid natural gas facility should be located offshore on undeveloped San Clemente Island.

Southern California Gas Company was quick to claim that there was no way that LNG could explode like the oil tanker had. "They're right," says Burt Wilson. "It would have been much worse."

LNG is gas pressurized to 259 degrees F., reduced to 1/600th of its natural volume for transportation purposes. Experts differ widely as to the possibilities of LNG accidents. Some believe that LNG could not explode or would create muted, low-energy explosions. Others argue that sufficient testing has not been performed—particu-

super-tankers. The proposition was put on the ballot without a required public hearing and not in time for negative arguments to be printed in the voter identification pamphlet. The Office of the City Attorney replied: "We do not intend to take any action in regard to your request."

Seismic conditions have become another major issue in the controversy. The U.S. Navy recommends against the harbor site because it sits on a major earthquake fault. The Federal Power Commission has rejected the LA site for the same reason.

CAUSE Co-coordinator Burt Wilson is also alarmed by other risks that the consumer will be asked to bear. "It's symbolized by Elliot Richardson's last act as Secretary of Commerce. He approved a \$730 million loan guarantee for the construction of LNG super-tankers to carry LNG from Indonesia to Japan." All the proposed LNG facilities will be financed by special arrangements because conventional financing is not available.

Taxpayers will subsidize the

Residents Association and Jim Stanberry, a candidate against Councilperson Gibson in the April election, had called the citizens together. Neighborhood meetings and grassroots actions were planned to build a continuing campaign to ensure that the residents of San Pedro will be heard in future decisions. The response has been vigorous. Local state Assembly member Vincent Thomas, who had raised some questions about the advisability of the LNG facility in early December, says that his mail is running 50 to 1 against the Southern California Gas Company plan—and in considerable volume.

The gas monopoly has announced plans for three LNG facilities on the California coast—in the L.A. Harbor; at Oxnard; and Point Conception. Because of the harbor site's obvious inadequacies, some informed observers believe that it was designed as a bluff by SoCal to draw attention from Oxnard. The Federal Power Commission recently released a favorable environmental impact statement on the Oxnard site, and Assembly member Terry Goggin, who in the past has been critical of the federal government for not adequately considering siting and safety issues, has now drafted legislation opening the way for the Oxnard site.

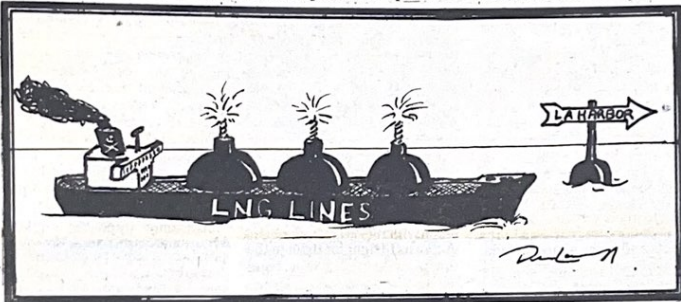
Another blow to the gas utility's plans came in January when noted energy authority Barry Commoner spoke to the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, which has been one of the major supporters of the LNG projects. (Safety questions have since lessened that support). Commoner, after dramatically demonstrating the dangers of LNG, stated that he believes that LNG, like nuclear power, suffers from "technological immaturity" which will soon price it out of economic usefulness.

The director of the Scientists' Institute for Public Information says there are other more immediate solutions which, while not providing for the gas company's future nearly so well, will adequately take care of the industry and consumers of California. "Methane gas generated from waste, hard wood crops grown for fuel, and solar collectors can pick up 75% of the state's consumption."

The labor representatives took the occasion to jam up Joseph Rensch, President of Pacific Lighting, Southern California Gas Company's holding corporation. One sharp question after another was thrown at the \$180,000-a-year executive. Longshoremen, who work the harbor, were particularly upset about foreign registered ships such as the Sansinena, which flaunt U.S. labor, environmental and safety requirements.

At the end of the all day conference, though, Bill Robertson, the head of the labor federation, laid down the line, stating that the county and state federations had not changed their position. Later he nudged Commoner, however, and said: "We've been dependent on the industry for all our information."

With community and labor support rapidly eroding, several questions remain unanswered in this energy battle: Will the real safety and economic risks ever be evaluated? Is Oxnard the real target? Will the decision finally be made in the interests of consumers or of the Southern California Gas Company?



dangerous situation," says Bea Atwood of the Crescent Avenue Homeowners Association, "but we'll never know because they didn't have to prepare an environmental impact report because of the 'public use' classification." Atwood, who lives about 300 feet from Union Oil storage tanks, is particularly upset about the steady expansion of the Union Oil facilities because it has destroyed a beautiful natural setting and because of the now apparent safety hazards. "There's been a lot of fraud here," she says. "There always has been."

The San Pedro Planning Alliance is drafting a lawsuit to challenge the new Union facilities and to prevent them from rebuilding the demolished berths. "We tried to stop Union at the Harbor Commission," says Warren Shahian of that organization, "but the commis-

sioners wouldn't listen." Shahian believes that there aren't adequate protections for the Harbor residents. "The Harbor Department has no policing power. They rely on the Coast Guard or on the lessee. They say they don't have the manpower." Another group has filed a \$15 million damage and injury lawsuit.

More stringent harbor regulation became a major topic of the state Lands Commission in the hearings January 12 in Los Angeles. Ken Corey, state controller who heads the commission, inquired whether some form of state regulation of the harbor area was needed to

largely testing which uses the same massive volumes as the super-tankers Southern California Gas has commissioned.

But an even more harrowing possibility exists—the threat of a spill. A Rand Corporation report describes it thus: "In the maximum credible accident—the release of an entire shipload of LNG—a cloud covering several square miles would be formed within five to twenty minutes. This cloud could be ignited when any ignition source contacted its boundary, the resulting fire probably causing severe fire damage. Until ignition or gradual warming and dispersal through the lower atmosphere, the cloud would freeze or asphyxiate any living thing caught in its path."

CAUSE, five days after the harbor blast, asked the City Attorney to investigate whether collusion was a factor in the city council's overwhelming vote to approve the LA Harbor LNG site. "In considering the safety of such an operation, the city council relied solely on a study that was financed by the gas company—the company that wants the terminal. This private study showed minimal hazards whereas two other independent studies—ignored by the council—showed a much greater risk assessment."

Burt Wilson of the consumer organization also questioned the validity of the passage of Proposition DD in last November's municipal election. This ballot measure lowered requirements for harbor leases, making way for the 1000 foot

liquefaction plants through the Export-Import Bank and the super-tankers through such loan guarantees and the Maritime Administration guarantees.

In addition, Southern California Gas Co.'s investors and lenders are requiring absolute assurances against commercial or technological risks so consumers are being asked to bear the burden through the proposed "all-events tariff."

"That means," Wilson says, "gas company customers will pay for the super-tankers and facilities even if, due to embargo or technological breakdowns, we never get the gas. And with all these subsidies, the projected cost for the LNG is now about 15 times current prices."

A week after the explosion the city council held a second hearing on the LNG site. Harbor residents and CAUSE, however, were not allowed to testify. When asked why there was to be no public discussion, one councilperson replied: "Because someone doesn't want there to be any." At the end of a one hour session, a "safety committee" was established to assess the risks of LNG for two months. Now city officials are saying it will take four months—conveniently past the April municipal elections. Informed sources view the committee as a stall tactic reflecting no basic change in the council's pro-LNG position.

Twelve days after the blast 250 harbor residents gathered in Peck Park Auditorium for a spirited harbor safety rally. Tom Politeo of the Point Fermin

California Gas Company's plans for a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal in the Los Angeles Harbor may well have been shattered with the explosion and fire that destroyed the Sansinena when the ship exploded December 17. The explosion focused the attention of that quiet community on the issue of harbor safety and new threats to the area. John Gibson was among those who participated in a public hearing on the issue of harbor safety. The aging city council president was sitting on his bed at 4:40 p.m. when the sky lit up. The shock from the explosion threw him across the room. Just the day before, this style politician had yielded the chair at a council hearing to participate in a rather one-sided debate on the siting of a processing plant for LNG from Indonesia in his district. "Belly-aching," he called the LNG opponents, "who stand in the way of economic progress." Council member Gilbert Shinn shared Gibson's attitude. He attributed opposition to the plan to "the half-men, half-women who are taking over the city. I want everyone to control. I'm all man." He called California Energy Commission official Robert A. Wilson, who testified that his agency was opposed to siting the facility in a densely populated area such as Los Angeles Harbor, a position new to the California Coastal Commission legislation. "You have a Chinese firm, but you don't look Chinese," Lindsay said. "You all mixed up to me." Shinn also reported that the study used by the Harbor Commission was inadequate because it was not based on sound operational data for the type of facilities proposed for California, nor analogous data from similar types of operations in similar environments. Donald Lorenzen, a council member from the west San Fernando Valley, referred to a 1973 New York LNG accident which had killed 40 people. "An explosion could help New York. They could start all over." Several council persons stated their uncertainties about LNG facilities. Joel Wachs said, "I'm always suspicious of such a one-sided presentation because real life isn't that simple." Marvin Braude called for a technical audit. Only one citizen stepped forward during the hearing to oppose the plan. Burt Wilson, co-coordinator of CAUSE—Campaign Against Utility Service Exploitation, revealed that several safety studies, which the council and Harbor Commission had ignored, had shown that a major spill could cause thousands of deaths through burning, asphyxiation or freezing. "There is only one word for city officials who would risk the lives of their constituents unnecessarily," Wilson said, "and that word is fraud." The dramatic charge fell flat on the audience of city officials, gas company employees, and labor officials, who mostly backed the project. But the next night made Wilson's words prophetic. The Sansinena blast shook the entire LA basin. Shock waves were reported 50 miles away. Thousands rushed to the area to witness flames leaping more than 100 feet into the night sky, and streets strewn with glass. The superstructure of the 800 foot tanker had been lifted 100 feet into the air and had then landed on the nearby dock





## Integration struggle

continued from page 1  
by any means necessary including busing.

The history of obfuscation, delay and stall tactics of the Board of Education to avoid desegregating Los Angeles schools is a long one, but this was the year that it was to have all come together. This was to have been the year that a "liberal majority" would take action, and the marchers could stay home while the board took care of business.

That was the plan. The reality became apparent a year ago for those who were carefully watching.

Last February 26, school board member Kathleen Brown-Rice and Howard Miller shocked pro-integration forces when they introduced a resolution pledging no "forced busing" to achieve court ordered integration in Los Angeles.

The resolution, adopted

March 1 only to be rescinded 10 days later, was the first real indication that the new "liberal" majority on the board had crumbled, and with it hopes that integration could be achieved in Los Angeles without the divisiveness that had torn so many other communities.

Brown-Rice was elected to the board in June 1975, along with Diane Watson after receiving strong support from a broad coalition of pro-integrationists. Miller was later appointed to fill a vacancy on the board with the backing of that same coalition. Those three, along with Dr. Robert Doctor and board president Dr. Julian Nava, were to have formed a 5-2 liberal majority committed to ending segregation in the schools.

If last year's resolution was shocking it proved to be only an inkling of what was to come.

Last month the Citizens

Advisory Committee on Student Integration (CACSI), appointed by the board to "recommend ways to reduce student racial isolation" issued its long-awaited preliminary report. The 119 member committee, representing a wide range of community opinion both pro and con, had labored, sometimes painfully, for nine months before giving birth to a plan that would hopefully meet a court test and provide a smooth transition from segregation to responsible integration.

The CACSI report urged the board to adopt a three-year integration plan that would begin with the desegregation of 199 elementary schools this September. Those schools would be integrated where minority enrollment was 70% or greater. An estimated 64,000 elementary school children evenly divided between minority and white students would, according to the plan, be

reassigned until the 199 target schools were integrated. Junior high school students would be integrated by 1978-79 and senior high schools by 1979-80.

The CACSI report recommended that parents of children in grades K through 6 be given until June 1, 1977 to voluntarily transfer their children, but that if integration goals were not met by that date, mandatory reassignment of students would occur. In either case, busing would be necessary.

Now the school board, which had dodged integrating Los Angeles schools for nearly a quarter of a century after the Brown decision (which declared that separate was not equal) and 13 years after the Crawford case (which led to court-ordered desegregation of Los Angeles schools), the board with its new "liberal" majority would have to bite the bullet.

Seven days later the board lived up to its advanced billing,

spelled out less than a year before by the Brown-Rice/Miller resolution. They rejected on hand the CACSI report and instead pulled a plan of their own out of the hat.

The board's hat trick called for the establishment of specialized learning centers where school children would be bused for one nine-week period each year to ostensibly participate in multi-racial learning and cultural programs. During the rest of the year the students would remain racially isolated, as before. Beginning 1977 with fourth through sixth grades (K-3 students would be exempted altogether), the board's plan calls for grades 7-8 to be "integrated" into the nine-week learning centers by 1978-79, with grades 10-11 joining by 1979-80.

Voluntary integration, already rejected by residents,

was the basis of the board plan.

Calling the plan a "vestibule," and "insult," "Totally unacceptable," and simply a "nine-week field trip," board members Diane Watson and Dr. Robert Doctor found themselves voted down 5-2 as the plan was presented and accepted in a stormy nine-hour meeting. The board accepted the plan first, then listened to comments from the audience. Nava, Brown-Rice and Miller had, according to critics, "shown their true color" and joined conservative members Bardos and Ferraro in ramrodding the proposal through.

The speed of the board's new majority response to the CACSI report led many, including Watson and ACLU executive director Ramona Ripston, to conclude that the board action was preplanned and indicated a "lack of good faith with CACSI and the people of Los Angeles." Watson told the *Vanguard* "I'm paranoid, it appears that some members of the board may have been working behind my back with a predetermined plan." Ripston angrily stated, "I think the board of education has perpetuated a fraud on the city of Los Angeles...I feel that Julian Nava, Kathleen Brown-Rice and Howard Miller saw to it that someone was working on some sort of plan before the CACSI report was issued."

Ripston and numerous other board opponents contend that the board created the Citizens Committee thinking it (the

## FBI agents torpedo Kennedy probe

Sue Edelman

While few detective or newspaper offices would be without a \$3 suction cup, used on telephones to tape record conversations, this small item was denied the House Select Committee on Assassinations for its new probe into the murders of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.

Congressional leaders had been attacking as exorbitant the committee's proposed \$6.5 million budget, but the denial of a \$3 suction cup reveals how far they'd go to weaken—if not kill—the investigation.

Despite efforts by friends of intelligence agencies, mostly Republican politicians and the mass media to thwart the 4-month-old committee and its director Richard A. Sprague, Congress voted to keep it alive, at least through March.

But the movement to "get rid of Sprague" finally succeeded. There was a dispute between Sprague and the committee's chairperson Henry A. Gonzales (D-Tex) over who should hold the reins in the new investigation. Sprague was stubbornly independent and undiplomatic. Sprague Gonzales was set on being "responsible and accountable"

to Congress. He fired Sprague, without consulting the rest of the committee.

Now, if there are further disputes between Gonzales and the committee or its staff, Gonzales may recommend an end to the investigation. It will look like the committee destroyed itself, while in fact opposition from outsiders was strong.

Congressman Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (D-Calif.) said the GOP introduced its own resolution calling for the Government Operations Committee to examine intelligence agency behavior, removing that legal power from Sprague and his staff.

A leader in the attack against Sprague and the committee is also a former FBI agent, Rep. Don Edwards (D-Calif.). Edwards has criticized as "immoral and likely illegal" stress evaluation machines and "hidden" tape recorders he says Sprague will use. Edwards also opposes the committee's plans to hold public hearings. "He wants everything done the way the Warren Commission did it, behind closed doors," assassination investigator Mark Lane said.

Strangely, the judiciary subcommittee on civil and

constitutional rights Edwards chairs held valuable hearings in October 1975 concerning Lee Harvey Oswald's ties to the FBI.

It was learned then that a lot of information on Oswald and Jack Ruby—a suspected FBI informant—was withheld from or suppressed by the Warren Commission.

After these hearings, Edwards told the Citizen's Commission of Inquiry that a re-investigation into Kennedy's murder would have to be a "first-class big job."

An associate of former FBI agents lobbies against the committee, Burke said, probably the "strong and organized" opposition forces Gonzales had referred to.

Information revealed in these hearings can only support the new committee's insistence that it cannot rely on the FBI or the CIA—rather these agencies will be subjects of their investigation—and it's budget request, high because of the need for more staffers and their travel expenses.

The committee has also been frustrated by the major news agencies, led by The New York Times, for vastly limiting coverage of the new probe—thus keeping it a non-issue—and for presenting biased

reports. The Times, for example, recently ran a story which dredged up five instances where Sprague was "faulted"—in minor political situations—during his 18-year career.

The Times also brought up criticism of Sprague's expenses for his most celebrated case, his successful prosecution of the killers of United Mine Workers leader Joseph A. Yablonski and his family, a case for which he had been praised by the Times at the time. "Now even that is being used against him," Lane said.

Discreditation of the Warren Commission would surely embarrass its longtime supporters, including the Times. Also, Burke suggested that both politicians and others on Capitol Hill—"some who've never had their names in the paper"—may resent the attention newcomer Sprague attracts. Knowing that he'll get most of the glory as his staff unravels assassination mysteries may arouse "petty jealousies," she said.

And, as David Williams of the Assassination Bureau said, opponents of the new probe, especially those responsive to the intelligence forces, are "fearful of the revelations that will inevitably flow out of an investigation, once it gets going."

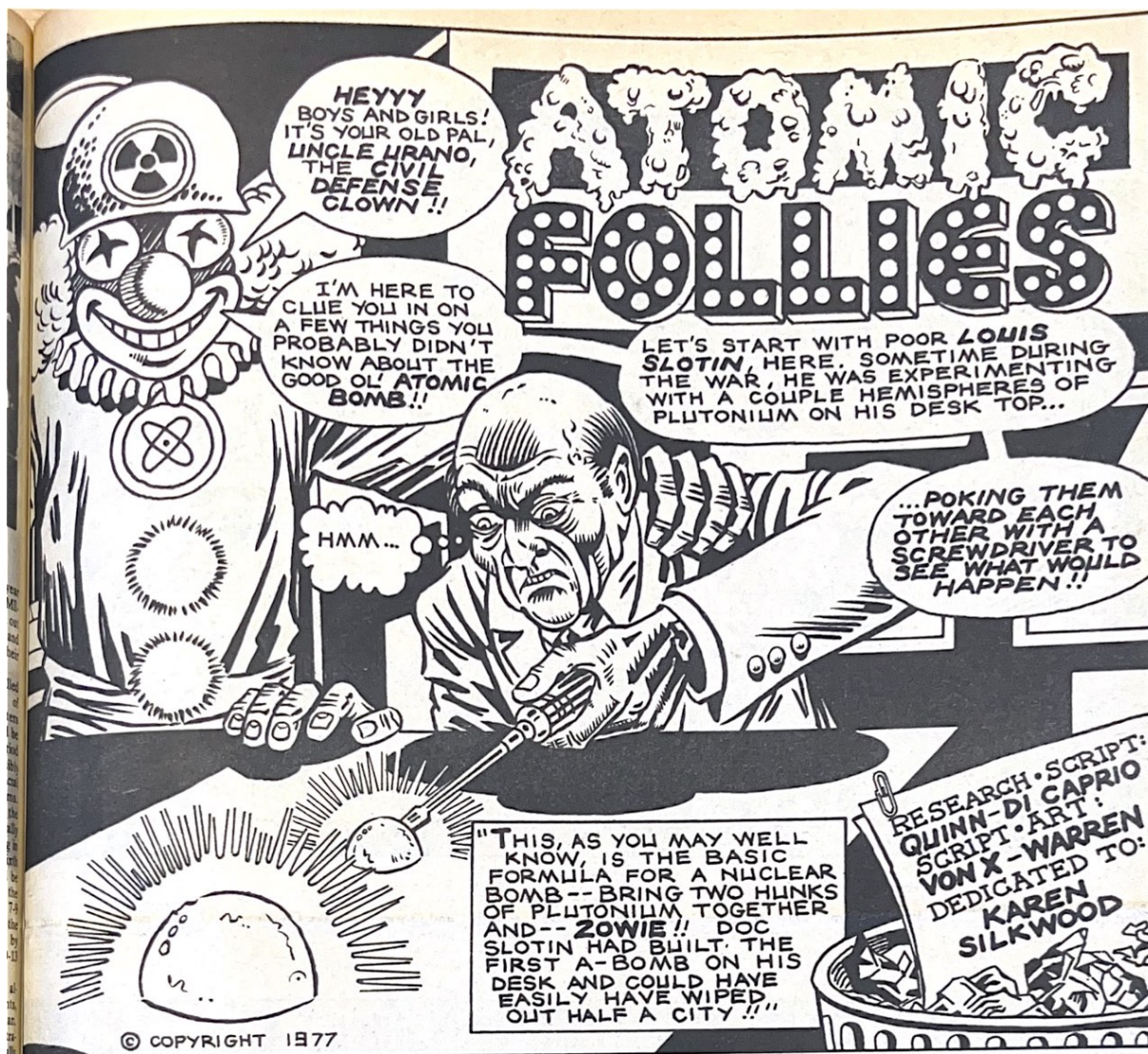
WATSON, BROWN-RICE, MILLER

WATSON, BROWN-RICE, MILLER

WATSON, BROWN-RICE, MILLER

WATSON, BROWN-RICE, MILLER





"WHEN HIS ASSISTANT'S HANDS STARTED TO TURN FUNNY COLORS AND FALL APART, YOU'D THINK THEY'D HAVE CAUGHT ON THAT THIS STUFF WASN'T THE KIND OF THING YOU'D PUT IN A GILBERT'S CHEMISTRY SET!"

"HE DIED SOON AFTERWARD WITH-OUT A SINGLE WHITE BLOOD CELL, LEFT IN HIS BODY, MUCH TO THE BEWILDERMENT OF 'MEDICAL SCIENCE'."

"BUT LOUIE KEPT AT IT UNTIL ONE DAY THE DEADLY HEMISPHERES ACTUALLY **TOUCHED**. PULLED 'EM APART WITH HIS BARE HANDS! **HOT STUFF!**"

"HE KEPT HIS COOL, THOUGH. STROLLED OVER TO A BLACKBOARD AND CALMLY DIAGRAMMED THE POSITION OF EVERYBODY PRESENT FOR THIS LITTLE NUCLEAR MISHAP...!"

"IT DIDN'T HELP MUCH. THEY ALL CAUGHT A RIGHTEOLIS DOSE OF RADIATION POISONING AND CROAKED PROMPTLY. **BYE-BYE DOC!!**"

