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(Warning: Partial Frontal Nudity)

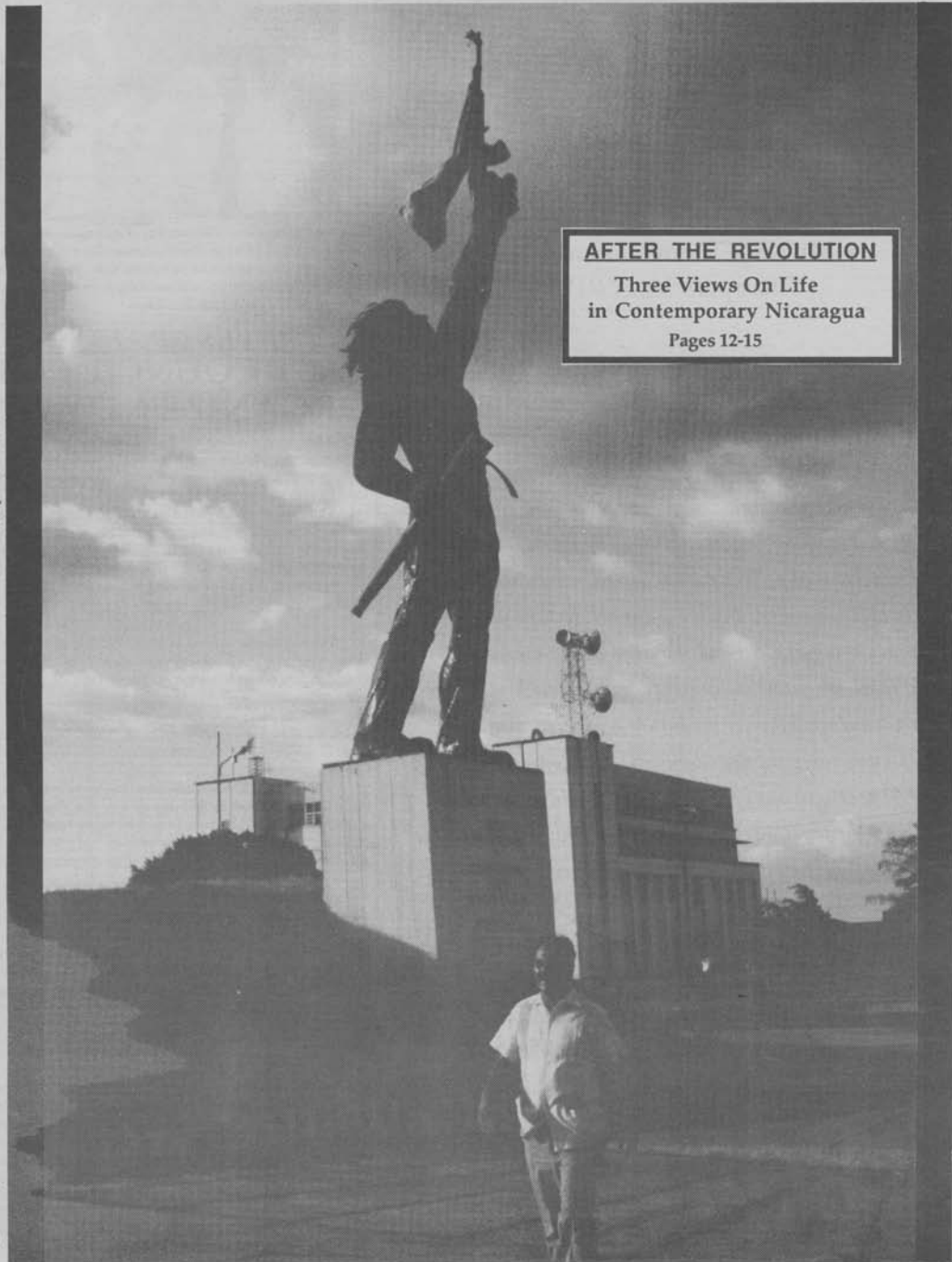


ISLA VISTA AND WESTERN GOLETA

FREE PRESS

MAY 25-31, 1988

Rogelio Trujillo in Managua, Nicaragua walking past the Monument to the Heroes and Martyrs of the Revolution. Photo by Kevin McKiernan.



AFTER THE REVOLUTION

Three Views On Life
in Contemporary Nicaragua
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The April, 1988 ceremony opening the Del Sol Open Space and Vernal Pool Preserve to the public. A project of the Isla Vista Rec. & Park District and the California Coastal Conservancy

A Message from Laura Price, Chairperson, IVRPD

*Graceful eucalyptus trees. Rocks and drying leaves
on the bare earth. Monarch and Buckeye butterflies
gliding over plantain and rustling grasses. These are
some of the things which help make Isla Vista feel more
spacious and peaceful.*

*I'm a strong advocate for open space in Isla Vista.
Open fields and pocket parks help us remember the
earth and our roots. I don't want I.V. to turn into
another smog-choked and crowded urban wasteland.
Yes, these are value judgements, but I'd much rather see
a little nature left over for future generations to enjoy
than more rampant development. Environmentalism
can be costly in our profit-oriented world and is often
blocked by developers and landlords whose interests lie
in squeezing the biggest profit from every square inch of
land.*

*Are we just going to dream and hope that our open
spaces will somehow survive? Will we fall down the
path of least resistance and allow the increasing
exploitation of our town? I say take a stand! Make a
commitment to protect open space, community and the
quality of life in Isla Vista.*

Laura Price finishes her 6-month term as
Chairperson of the IVRPD this month.

This is a paid advertisement by the Isla Vista Recreation & Park District



The last Isla Vista Community Council in happier times. From left to right, Javier LaFianza, Chris Hilkene, Dee Heckman, Mike Boyd, Mike Luprow, Linda Akyuz, and Eric Kittay. Members absent for this photo were Charlene Weed and Zenyasha Ivanivsky. In this May, 1987 photo, the Council members were showing off a new Isla Vista Cityhood petition they had printed but did not distribute.

IVCC GIVES UP AFTER 18 YEARS **LAST COUNCIL FAILS TO** **ORGANIZE NEW PLEBISCITE**

After several failed attempts to reorganize in order to conduct an advisory election (plebiscite) on whether or not the Isla Vista Community Council should be continued, the remaining representatives who were elected in November, 1986 have given up and the IVCC is for all intents and purposes dead.

The *Free Press* reported in March that five of the members had met and planned on holding some kind of public meeting in May to examine options for continuing the Council. This public meeting was to be followed by a communitywide advisory election on what basis the IVCC might be continued in conjunction with the June 7th County election.

However, the public meeting was never called and no advisory election is currently planned.

Origins of the IVCC

The IVCC was formed in May, 1970. It had held elections for at-large and districts representatives in each November through 1986. However, no one signed up to run for the vacant seats in the November, 1987 election and the Council has essentially been inactive since that time.

From its inception, the boundaries of the IVCC included Francisco Torres and all on-campus dorms and apartments. In 1972, the IVCC was recognized as a "municipal advisory council" (IVMAC) for this community; in this capacity, it was the official advisory body to County government.

While the IVCC never had more than advisory powers, through the years it accomplished many projects through its lobbying efforts. The Council met weekly through 1982, and twice monthly after that. The Council's method was to hold public hearings and advisory elections on community issues, establish an official "Isla Vista" position, then lobby with County government officials to have the will of the community implemented.

Accomplishments

Some of the projects accomplished in this manner include all bikeways and barrier parks in I.V., the handicapped access curb cuts, the establishment of the I.V. Park District, and the preparation of the three proposals (in 1973, 1976, and 1983) to establish an election on Isla Vista becoming a "city." The two significant rezonings of Isla Vista since 1970 began in the IVCC's Planning Commission. The Council had been jointly funded by the County and the UCSB Administration until all monies were stopped during the 1983 cityhood election campaign which County Supervisor Bill Wallace and then-Chancellor Robert Huttenback had opposed.

Replaced by the Federation

Some of the functions of the Council have been taken over by the Isla Vista Federation, which serves as a forum to advise the County Supervisor on Isla Vista issues. The Federation is a loosely knit group of representatives of landlords, businessowners, homeowners, the UCSB Administration, and the St. Athanasius Church, plus the I.V. Park District and the UCSB Associated Students. Three other groups — Isla Vista's Greek community, the remaining churches, and I.V.'s social service agencies — each has a seat in the Federation, but have never appointed a representative. The Foot Patrol usually sends a representative to the meeting. Any official Federation position must be established by consensus.

The Federation ordinarily meets at the URC, 777 Camino Pescadero on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 PM. Wallace serves as the convener and chair of the Federation. Its meetings are open to the public.



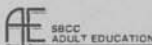
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Candice Etz, Coordinator

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Angela Davis during her speech last Saturday evening in a packed Campbell Hall.

DAVIS CALLS ON STUDENTS TO REMEMBER THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PREVIOUS ACTIVISTS

Recalling that she had last spoken at this "progressive" university during the tumultuous Spring of 1970, San Francisco State University professor of philosophy Angela Davis told a packed Campbell Hall audience that "Student movements tend to live in the present" but that it was only possible to "obtain a secure path to the future" by understanding the movements which preceded them.

Once a candidate for president on the Communist Worker's Party ticket, Davis address was entitled "Women, Race, and Class," stating that women could never successfully deal with the issue of sexism until they understood that it was an aspect of the same situation which produces racism.

"Racism is a woman's issue," she said. "Racism should be a major issue on the way to defeating sexism."

Davis observed that, while there has been a significant rise in racist violence over the past few years, there has also been a significant coming together of progressive coalitions opposed to this violence, although this is not as well reported as is the violence. While she doesn't feel that the election of Jesse Jackson would forestall the need for a true revolution in the U.S., that he is winning primaries in states like Nevada and Alaska has proven that his campaign is a sign of real progress against attitudinal racism.

"Just how many black folks are in Nevada and Alaska?" she asked the audience rhetorically. "Not that many!"

Davis asserted that President Ronald Reagan was obviously not capable of establishing any original policies at this point and that representatives of the "military-industrial complex" were not only writing his speeches but in firm control of U.S. foreign and domestic policies.

Davis lamented that black women "have been left out of both the women's movement (because of classism on the part of its white leaders) and left out of the Black Liberation struggle (which has been dominated by black men). Yet black women are the connecting link between the twin issues of racism and sexism because we have experienced both."

"It doesn't do the cause of women's rights any good to have a woman appointed to a corporate board which is profiting in South Africa," she said. "Sandra Day's appointment to the Supreme Court has done a lot more harm than good."

"We all suffer when one of us falls. But it is a victory for all women when one woman on the bottom of the economic scale rises out of poverty."

Davis called for support of Palestinian self-determination as well as an end of U.S. support for the *contras*. However, she received the most applause following her comment that "More and more people are coming to realize that something is really, radically wrong at the foundation of this country. We need a revolution."

HART'S BILL CALLING FOR 10TH UC CAMPUS ADVANCES IN STATE SENATE ON 9-0 VOTE

Legislation by Senator Gary K. Hart (D-Santa Barbara) calling on the University of California to develop a plan detailing how it will cope with increasing student enrollments, including a timeline for opening a 10th UC campus passed the Senate Education Committee this week. SCR 85 was approved by a vote of 9-0.

"Applications to UC have increased by almost 70% since 1980, and many campuses and their surrounding communities are already experiencing severe overcrowding problems," Hart said in a press release. "There is no question in my mind that we need a 10th campus to take the pressure off the system — the only question is how soon we'll need it."

Fresno has been mentioned as a likely candidate for the next UC campus.

Hart's measure calls on the UC Regents to develop a plan for accommodating increased enrollments into the 21st Century, including an assessment of the capacity of UC's existing campuses and their respective communities. While Hart's press release does refer to the announced plan's of UCSB to expand by 4,000 students, it does not mention Isla Vista specifically — the community which will no doubt be the hardest hit by the impacts of both these 4,000 new students and the 4-6,000 additional people which will also migrate to the area as a result of the enrollment increase.

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COUNTY SUPERVISOR CANDIDATES FORUM

Jim Thompson

Thompson moved to the Goleta Valley a few years ago after retiring from the military where he served as chief of staff in NATO's Southern European Command and reached the rank of lieutenant general. He was elected to the Goleta Water Board in 1985.

LANDLORD/TENANT

RELATIONS

Do you support for (at least) Isla Vista:

- A Just Cause eviction ordinance
- A landlord/tenant arbitration board
- The payment of interest on rental deposits
- Rent control

I am philosophically opposed to rent control, except for mobile home parks because those people are essentially in a captured situation. I could agree with some kind of arbitration board before I would favor any new legislation requiring interest or eviction causes.

Bill Wallace

Wallace moved to Goleta in the late 60s and to Isla Vista in 1970. He served two years on the Isla Vista Community Council and part of a term on the Goleta Water Board before he was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1976. He is a veterinarian.

I'm not certain we need a "just cause eviction" ordinance — we haven't received any complaints, so it's not a priority. Paying interest on rental deposits seems OK, but we haven't had any requests for this kind of legislation, either. The City of Santa Barbara's Landlord/Tenant Arbitration Board is available to non-city residents and in fact over 40% of the people who use it are residents of the county. The Santa Barbara Tenant's Union is still probably the best place to call for help on most of these issues.

I don't favor rent control just for Isla Vista because the rental market is really the entire South County. If rent control passes in the City (it's probably on the upcoming November ballot), I would favor some kind of special district for the rest of the South County for rent control.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Would you appoint more I.V. residents to County advisory boards and what about *elected* vs. *special interest* community government.

The lack of geographical representation in appointments to advisory boards is a crucial issue this year because Bill Wallace only appoints his friends to these County committees. This is no way to promote a dialogue in the community on these issues the County is seeking citizen input on. I think that all philosophical positions should be appointed, maybe 60/40% in favor of the sitting supervisor.

Mike Boyd

Boyd has lived in Isla Vista 10 years. He was elected to the Isla Vista Community Council in 1982 and re-elected in 1984 at which time he was also elected to the Isla Vista Park Board. He graduated from UCSB with a degree in physics and now works at Santa Barbara Research.

Yes, Yes, Yes. I support an independently elected Rent Control Board which collects rental deposits and pays interest on them. I think that rent control in I.V. would be good for the landlords too because it would protect them from losing money on damage done to apartments. With our 96% renters, I.V. needs rent control and if Wallace was sincere about a "special district" for rent control, he could have done it years ago.



I think that it's awful that I.V. has only one or two people of the 70 appointments Wallace has. I would have two criteria for making appointments: first, area of technical or professional experience in the field when this is relevant; secondly, some kind of proportional split between I.V., Goleta, and the Santa Ynez Valley. Wallace doesn't make these vacancies public enough — I would use newspapers, posters, etc. Overall, I would decentralize my administrative staffing into the three distinctive geographic areas of the Third District.

I think that it is a real problem that Wallace replaced elected community government in I.V. (the Isla Vista Community Council) with special interest government (the Federation) that is 75% business, property owners and landlords — in a town that is 96% renters. I have tried to work with the people who live in Isla Vista while Wallace has been working with the people who own I.V. The County's new ban on open containers of alcohol is a good example. This was his idea and I spoke at the public hearings in favor of a vote by residents before it might be implemented.

Susie O'Rourke

O'Rourke has lived in Goleta for twenty-five years. She ran against Wallace four years ago. She is currently an administrative assistant in the UCSB housing and residential services department.

I favor a just cause eviction ordinance, an arbitration board and paying interest on rent deposits, but not rent control.



I believe that people from all areas of the District should be appointed to these citizen advisory committees, not just the supervisor's friends. I've tried for three years to get appointed to one, but I guess I'm not on the right fund-raising committee.

I don't know anything about the Federation or the demise of IVCC.



- IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS**
Do you support
- including UCSB enrollment growth within the 1% population limit of the proposed 'growth management plan' for the Goleta Valley
 - County support of litter-control and Park District programs
 - cleaner beaches
 - the proposed seawall
 - more offstreet parking
 - purchase of Texaco property
 - a 'redevelopment agency' in Isla Vista.

I support some kind of beach clean up program and the purchase of the Texaco property — if only to help solve the parking crisis. The absence of parking spaces is one of the most miserable aspects of I.V. I think that we need real solutions to this, and not necessarily ones that cost money. For example, there could be a rule that first year students can't bring a car to I.V., or something like that. I don't have a position on the Park Bonds (Measure A) — that's up to the local people. But, you can't expect to keep open space open unless you buy it. I support continued County funding of existing I.V. programs.

I don't believe that the University's expanded enrollment should be included in the 1% growth management plan target growth. It would be unfair to have these increased students soak up all of the growth allowed. More than that, I think the University should not increase its enrollment by the 4,000 they are talking about. But if they do, they should provide for all of these students on campus. We need a better dialogue with University officials and a real mitigation plan including less cars, more buses, and more off-street parking. If we can't get this kind of cooperation, then we should go to Sacramento and ask for help in changing the laws making the University exempt from local planning efforts.

I support a 'redevelopment agency' for I.V. — anything that will improve the place and deal with the parking problem. I don't know enough about the seawall to be in favor or opposed. I'm not familiar with the Federation vs. IVCC situation.

The University should stop its enrollment growth at its current 18,000. If they are going to increase any more, then they should be included in the 1% population growth limit of the proposed 'growth management plan.' That would limit the total increase over ten years to 1,800, not 4,000.

I support the continued County funding of the I.V. Park District through State special district augmentation funds. I'm the one who started it! But if Measure B passes (continuing the special assessment approved last year by the Park Board), we'll probably cut it way back. I do support continued County funding for some of the projects the Park District does which are really County responsibilities — maintenance of the barrier parks and beach accessways, etc. Also, for the street-cleaning program.

The beach-cleaning program is difficult. The County sends a beach-cleaning machine over every Thursday, but it only goes as far as Campus Point. There just isn't a machine that will pick up the tar. There's been tar on I.V. beaches for hundreds of years.

The County is working hard on securing the Texaco property through some combination of County, State and I.V. Park District funds. We'll probably use the end bordering on El Colegio Road for parking at Francisco Torres, and save the Southern end as open space. I'm really excited about the 100 acres we are securing in Ellwood for a major recreation park. I'm happy, too, with the \$150,000 renovation we accomplished recently at County Park in I.V. (Del Playa and Camino Corto).

I haven't seen the EIR yet, but I imagine I'll support the proposed seawall in Isla Vista.

I think that the 'redevelopment agency' concept is a great one for I.V. because we can accomplish as much or as little as we want to. I would also support an expansion of the I.V. Park District to provide more services now provided by the county, but not as a 'municipal advisory council.'

I favor I.V. being included in a City of Goleta. But this was rejected by area voters last November (although it did have 45% approval in my supervisory district). Right now I'm neutral on any cityhood effort; I'll just have to see what materializes.

I would not have the University's increased enrollment included in the 1% population limit in the growth management plan because this would eat up all of the allowed growth and have adverse impacts on residential and employment development in the Goleta Valley. I think that the limit should be raised to about 1.6%, include UCSB enrollment increases and put it on the ballot. If voters reject this, then I think we should seek State legislation to add more UC campuses and to bring the University under the control of local government planning and growth management.

I support the County continuing to pay for some services in I.V. through the Park District and I think that they should start adding clean sand to our beaches to keep them more useable. I think that a people-powered beach cleaning program would help a lot, too, just like it has with our street-cleaning program.

I think that the County should buy the Texaco property but keep it all open space so that there will be a wildlife corridor between the Park District's Del Sol property through the Texaco parcel, onto West Campus and beyond. I mean, Texaco shouldn't be converted to a parking lot.

I do not support the proposed seawall; adding sand would be a better alternative, plus some rock oddies or buttresses to diminish the impact of the waves.

I don't favor a 'redevelopment agency' for Isla Vista if it is controlled by the County; I prefer some kind of expanded Park District which would have its board of directors elected by I.V. residents.

I favor a City of Isla Vista, but not right now. I think we haven't yet assured the University Administration that local government can work in I.V. — it's obvious that the Park District experience hasn't been enough. I think that the next step is an expanded Park District that includes both the University properties and Francisco Torres. This 'community services district' could pay for the University's share of the Foot Patrol, solving one big problem for the U. And its board would be elected by local residents.

Of course, if a citizen petition for either I.V. or Goleta cityhood were to materialize, I would become their advocate at the County government level.

WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON ISLA VISTA CITYHOOD

I am not opposed to I.V. Cityhood, but I am opposed to a City of Goleta including I.V. because the people in Goleta don't want it. It's true I supported it last November (Measure Q), but I was just going through the motions so that the people could have something to vote on. Maybe there needs to be more local government experience in I.V. so that the University and the County would be more trusting and allow a city there.

Students today are not the long-haired hippies who burned down the bank. I think that I.V. should be able to vote on becoming a city if they want to. But it is in Goleta that the real problem exists — we need a central government here.

I do favor continuation of the litter-control program in I.V. and the purchase of the Texaco property through whatever means necessary. But I would like to see some of the I.V. Park District's money from the County go to expand the number of parks in Goleta. I would support a seawall if it was necessary to save the blufftop housing. I'm not sure about a 'redevelopment agency' because frankly, I think I.V. today looks better than downtown Goleta.

ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS

FEAR HEIPLE, EDITOR

MUSIC REVIEW

The Pixies

Surfer Rosa (4AD/Rough Trade)

This band is a seething mass of contradictions. They appear on an English label noted for gloomy, synthesized music, and yet they are from Boston and play happy surfer-like pop. Despite their predilection for the classic and raw rock styles of rockabilly and surf music, the tracks are extremely well produced (by Steve Albini) and even on the grungiest most thrashed-out tracks like "I'm Amazed" the guitars and vocals never compete. And then there's the way-too-cute name and topless flamenco dancer on the cover (Spanish porno from the '30's?).

This is their second album. The first, *Come On Pilgrim*, also appeared on 4AD last fall and was the second American band to be signed by the prestigious label (following their fellow New Englanders the Throwing Muses). Yankee vocalists are all the rage in the U.K., e.g., That Petrol Emotion, Voice of the Beehive, and Ruby Wax, but that doesn't explain why this American band had the number one imported record for about six weeks. The reason for that is very simple: the Pixies make great music. The surf- and rockabilly-derived stuff is familiar enough to make for easy listening. But the songs are original enough to make for everything sounding fresh and interesting. And there are brief elements of humor, like studio outtakes, which are used quite sparingly to set up songs rather than waste time.

Despite an overall familiar sound to the band, it is impossible to really pigeonhole hole them as far as being into any particular genre. They are not wacky like Camper Van

Beethoven, playing every instrument in sight, nor are they jaded sociopaths like the Cramps, grinding out the rhythms in your face. They can make a beautiful song about confusion and self-doubt with wonderful melodies and a sweet chorus ("Where is My Mind?"), and an infantile surf romp ("This is a song about a superhero named 'Tony.' It's called 'Tony's Theme,'" and "Oh My Golly!" is sung in Spanish and is probably about the topless dancer on the cover, other songs are fuzzed-out instrumentals, plodding ballads, or fairly conventional rock songs. Bass player Mrs. John Murphy adds backing vocals to most tracks, but sings lead on "Gigantic," which she co-wrote with lead vocalist/guitarist Black Francis (who wrote all the other songs).

Surfer Rosa is a baker's dozen of terrific tunes. I listen to it all the way through at least once a day. I think you should, too.

— Fear Heiple



John Lee Hooker headlined at the Santa Barbara Blues Fest II at the Graduate in Isla Vista last May 17. Future shows at the Graduate include John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers on June 7 and Ornette Coleman June 28. (Photo by Keith Madigan, Isla Vista Free Press)

GOLETA THEATERS

Cinema Theater

#1 *Crocodile Dundee II*

Fri, Tues-Thurs 5, 7:30, 10:00
Sat, Sun, Mon add 12:15 & 2:30

#2 *Rambo III*

Fri, Tues-Thurs 5:30, 8, 10:15
Sat, Sun, Mon add 12:30 & 2:45

Fairview Theater (both)

Willow (PG)

Fri, Tues-Thurs 5, 7:40, 10:15
Sat, Sun, Mon add 12 noon & 2:30 PM

Goleta Theater

Colors

Fri, Tues-Thurs 5:30, 8, & 10:15
Sat, Sun, Mon add 1:00 & 3:15

Santa Barbara Drive-In

#1 *Biloxi Blues*

Fri, Sat, Sun 8:20 & 12:15
Mon-Thurs at 8:20 only

Good Morning, Vietnam

10:20 Fri-Thurs

#2 *Beetlejuice*

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MOVIE REVIEW

Willow

Produced by George Lucas, directed by Ron Howard

Perhaps we expect too much from our heroes, from those whom we have canonized and made "larger than life," whether on the silver screen, or in reality. With that in mind, imagine, just for a moment, the Herculean undertaking that each new release from George Lucas, the man responsible for the most successful box office attractions of all time, inevitably becomes. From audiences and critics alike, there appears to be very little in the way of middle ground where the work of Lucas is concerned. Rather, the extremes seem to be the rule; either monumental blockbusters (*Star Wars* or *Raiders of the Lost Ark*), or absolutely dismal failures (*Howard the Duck*). Lucas' latest undertaking, the Ron Howard-directed fantasy *Willow*, is clearly neither, and just as clearly, falls neatly in between the extremes.

The major difference between *Willow* and *Star Wars* or *Raiders* is that the new film, a tale of magic and fantasy, of heroic warriors and evil villains, never quite manages to rise above the level of entertainment for the kids. It never does hit that point of adult sophistication while still managing to appeal to the kid in all of us, that Lucas made look so easy in most of his previous films. Not to infer, of course, that *Willow* might not be a box office smash. It certainly has all the ingredients to do just that, but it lacks the seemingly timeless mass appeal of certain of its producer's now classic earlier work.

Willow is a film that could conceivably drive Randy Newman to distraction, filled, as it is, with short people. Former Ewok Warwick Davis, in the title role of Willow Ufgood, is a member of the Munchkin-like Nelwyns, a tiny race of peaceful farmers (when you are only three feet tall, it is usually a good idea to be peaceful) laboring in the pastoral beauty of their forest home. Into the world of the Nelwyns, and Willow's life in particular, comes a floating basket (where is Moses when you really need him?) carrying the baby whom it has been prophesized will one day bring about the downfall of the evil



Queen Bavmorda (Jean Marsh, in a role straight out of Disney's *Snow White*). Needless to say, the Queen feels impelled to locate little Elora, the baby who can end Bavmorda's reign, and nip the problem in the bud, so to speak.

As Bavmorda's battalions embark on a baby search-and-destroy mission, Willow sets out to deliver the child to the neighboring Daikini, the big people who live across the way. En route he encounters the by-now standard Hans Solo-like adventurer/warrior/raconteur Lucas character, Madmartigan (Val Kilmer, as Harrison Ford) and a pair of tiny special effects brownies who provide the film's Abbott and Costello antics. The standard adventure, action, sorcery and romance ensues, with strong performances from both Davis and Kilmer, and also from Joanne Whalley as the Evil Queen's warrior-daughter and Patricia Hayes as the helpful sorceress who undergoes an entire zoo's worth of animal form changes (a result of Bavmorda's bad vibes) before she finally is herself again.

Dazzling special effects should serve to obscure the extremely thin story line in *Willow*, and the youngsters are bound to like it immensely, but in the end, as far as grownups are concerned, *Willow* is definitely more a film for the little ones, and I don't mean the Nelwyns, Munchkins, or Dopey, Sneezzy, Bashful, and Grumpy.

—Rick Williams

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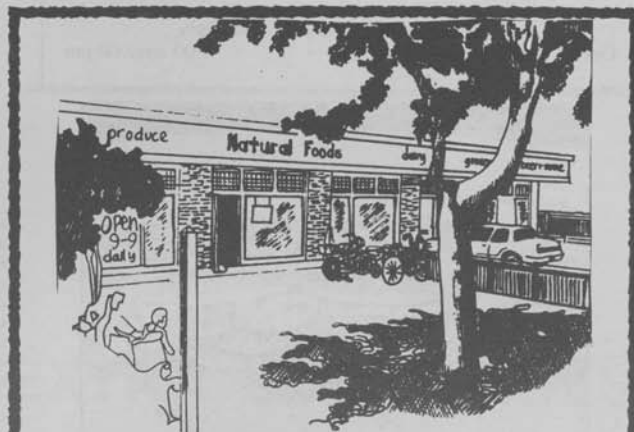
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COMIC BOOK REVIEW

Those Annoying Post Brothers

by Matt Howarth (Vortex Press)



Those annoying Post Brothers are pretty annoying. They can pop up anywhere, and seemingly never where or when anybody else wants them to be. The story line appeared out of nowhere a few years ago as a series called *Changes* in *Heavy Metal*. Matt Howarth experimented with a variety of styles at the time, sometimes even gluing photographs and bits of string onto the drawing board. But his two main characters, Russ and Ron Post, have not changed much since Howarth first dreamed them up: they are "Two funloving but extremely twisted bad-boys hailing from the wrong side of Bugtown. They are very greedy, pathologically trigger-happy, completely corruptible, endlessly irritating, psychotically solipsistic, and — unfortunately for all — possessed of the ability to instantly shift between all possible reality levels. The universe is their oyster, and they like it raw."

Howarth's serious science fiction stories appear in *Particle Dreams*, published by Fantagraphics Press. The Post brothers stories are serious, too, seriously twisted. The writing is clever, hilarious, and adolescent. The titles alone are great (e.g., "Part Four of the Loot Trilogy," and "Every Picture Tells a Story," wherein wall paintings in a suburban home moonlight as novelists).

Howarth never bothers to explain why the residents of Bugtown are able to shift between reality levels. Nor does he ever try to explain the cosmology of his many layered universe. Plenty of science fiction stories about time travel, parallel worlds, and other dimensions with windows, black holes, and/or hyperspace connecting them all have been written to lay the foundations for the Post brothers' antics.

Howarth prefers to let the Post brothers run amok. For example, on a typical day Russ and Ron will be returning home from some mischief to discover their house blown to bits. Oh, yes — Ron had a shoot-out with another Ron from another universe. Ron blames it on the other Ron, but that doesn't work and it looks like he is going to get his lights punched out (only Ron can do it). But he gets away and as he unleashes his daily cross-town reign of terror, Russ goes house-hunting. Howarth tells the stories simultaneously by dividing the pages horizontally and letting the events blend back and forth until they both conclude with Ron blowing up the new house Russ had just bought.

Howarth litters his stories with amazing characters: there are the numerous and well-meaning Caroline clones (Caroline Kennedy's?), touchy irritable underground musicians, living landmass landlords, aliens, gods, monsters, and the unholy creations of science and magic.

But above all else, it is those annoying Post brothers. Far, very far from heroes, it is amazing how much trouble they can get into just being themselves. In a battle with a sorcerer, Ron gets turned into a rock, a science fiction nerd, and a pair of bag-lady's old shoes before he shifts himself in from a universe of giants and blows the now-pea-sized sorcerer to hell. He thinks he is pretty sly and delivers the magician's talking fish he was hired to steal. But the witch who hired him only wanted the fish in order to find her long-lost love — the sorcerer — so she could make amends with him before she dies. Boy, was she mad when she found out Ron killed him. The Post brothers narrowly escape but manage to get a good seafood meal out of it (yes, the talking fish).

Those Annoying Post Bros. comics are violent, deranged, and shocking, but cheaper than a cross-country murder spree and they'll make you feel just as good.

— Nils Hoffman

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

Isla Vista/UCSB/Goleta

Thursday 5/26

MUSIC

Lagoon Fest with Confusion, Certain Echos, and Shakin' not Stirred, UCSB Lagoon noon-3

PM. Pub Fest with Crucial DBC, the black watch, Collage of i, and the Swinging Tiki's at the UCen Pub, 5-11 PM. UCSB. Shaken, Not Stirred, Borsodi's, 938 Emb. del Norte, Isla Vista. Moving Parts, Jaime's, 5838 Hollister Ave., Goleta.

FILM

Crimes of Passion, 7,9,11 PM, Isla Vista Theater.
Less Than Zero, 7, 9, 11, PM, UCSB Campbell Hall.

RADIO

Isla Vista Today & Tomorrow hosted by Mitch Stockton & Glenn Lazof. 9-10 AM, KCSB 91.9 FM.

ART

Art Studio Department Undergraduate Exhibition, UCSB Art Museum, through June 12.

Illusionist Space: an exhibition by Denise Shavers, through June 17.

DRAMA

Orestes, 8 PM, UCSB Main Theater.

FRIDAY 5/27

MUSIC

Kushite Raiders (reggae), Borsodi's, 939 Emb. del Norte, Isla Vista. Moving Parts, Jaime's, 5838 Hollister Ave., Goleta.

FILM

Moonstruck, 7, 9, 11 PM, UCSB Campbell Hall.

DRAMA

Orestes, 8 PM, UCSB Main Theater.

Saturday 5/28

MUSIC

Surprise Dance Band, Borsodi's, 938 Emb. del Norte in Isla Vista.
Live Music, Spike's Place, 6030 Hollister, Goleta.
Moving Parts, Jaime's, 5838 Hollister Ave., Goleta.

FILM

The Mission, 8:30, 11 PM, UCSB Campbell Hall.

DRAMA

Orestes, 8 PM, UCSB Main Theater.

Sunday 5/29

MUSIC

C.O.M.A. (avant garde jazz), Borsodi's, 938 Emb. del Norte, Isla Vista.

RADIO

60's Revisited hosted by Gerry DeWitt. 9 AM to Noon, KTYD 99.9 FM.
Fear of Music — Progressive rock hosted by Fear Heiple. 8-11 PM, KTYD 99.9 FM.

Monday 5/30

MUSIC

Jon Horvitz (jazz), Borsodi's, 938 Emb. del Norte, I.V.
60's Party w/Jane Asher DJ, Alex's Cantina, 5918 Hollister Ave., Goleta.

Tuesday 5/31

MUSIC

The Volcanos, Alex's Cantina, 5918 Hollister, Goleta.
Rich Stillwell, Borsodi's, 938 Emb. del Norte, Isla Vista.

Wednesday 6/1

MUSIC

The Distractions (ska and reggae), Alex's Cantina, 5918 Hollister, Goleta.
One Way Out, Jaime's, 5838 Hollister Ave., Goleta.

RADIO

The Bent End, performance rock hosted by Mary Ellen Mason, 10 PM-Midnight, 91.9 KCSB-FM.

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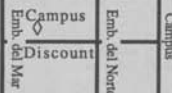
You often hear that "Goleta" is the real name of this town. The County Clerk even sends your voter's pamphlet addressed "Goleta" even though you signed your voter registration card "Isla Vista." But "I.V." is the accepted name by both the County and the post office for all of I.V. — including Francisco Torres and the on-campus apartments (but not the dorms on Main Campus). Evidently the County Clerk's computer isn't smart enough to tell the difference between Goleta & I.V.

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I.V. — It's No Longer For the Birds

I love flying back to I.V. I wouldn't even ever leave except some strange urge, the 'eggheads' label it an "instinctive imperative", to fly south for the winter overwhelms me. I fight the urge, having heard from my non-migratory friends how great the winter is here, but a bird's gotta do what a bird's gotta do, you know.

Ventura's such a drag! Look at it down there. No good wires to roost on. Where those Ventura birds sit and preen I'll never know. And worse yet, you can't have any fun there. Santa Barbara's the same way. Just trees to hang out in. But you get bugs on you and sometimes splinters. Cheep — it's not for me.

Give me good old I.V. where there's wires crisscrossing the Loop like one loose nest. Never having to fly far for somewhere to land! Being right in the center of the action! And best of all, you can drop some great bombs. There's always a car right underneath and expensive ones at that. One summer I musta' ruined the paint on 3 Porsches, 6 BMW's and at least a dozen Z cars myself. One year Beaks and me had a contest to see who could hit the most, dollar per dollar. I knew I'd lose - no one's ever

by Scott Wexler



beaten Beaks. But Feathers was impressed enough by my efforts to do some serious nesting (she said she liked the way my wings rustled when I let go).

Yeah, I love I.V. There it is! Whoa, hold on here! Where's the wires? I got no place to land! What have they done? Oh no, what do I do now? Wait! I see Beaks just ahead.

"Beaks, what happened to I.V.?"

"Cheep — they put the — cheep — wires underground! The cheeps! No more contests here!"

"Oh no! Where you goin' now?"

"I'm heading for — cheep — Capistrano! Lot's of — cheep — tourists to hit there!"

I never thought it would happen to me, becoming a Capistranoid, but I guess I'll have to swallow it. I hate 'progress'.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Fault is Not With Measure T

Hal Kopeikin's exclamation to Doug Butler at the May 16th Goleta Water Board meeting: "See what your Measure T is doing to us!" (as reported in the May 19th *Isla Vista Free Press*) reflects a serious misunderstanding of the development phenomenon which exists in Isla Vista.

There are many regulations already in existence which should prevent developers from committing the kinds of abuses we are witnessing. Trouble is, the county whose responsibility it is to monitor development, often turns a blind eye to Isla Vista. Landlords are supposed to provide parking for their tenants but they don't. Apartments on the bluffs of Del Playa are supposed to be a safe distance from the cliff edge but they aren't. And now Measure T is installed with voters intending to provide a limited number of single-family houses with water meters, but developers continue (as they always have) to pack in as many bedrooms as physically possible.

There is a long history of rule bending and breaking on the part of landlords and developers and this will probably continue until the County starts applying

the same housing standards in Isla Vista that exist for the rest of Santa Barbara. Residents of Isla Vista should start demanding that the County quit treating us like a second-class community. Tenants and students are people, too, and have as much right to decent and properly planned housing as the folks who live in Hope Ranch and Montecito.

If the County continues to ignore our rights, then I.V. citizens might need to take matters into their own hands (isn't that what the I.V. Cityhood movement is all about?). Maybe what we need is a citizen's committee that would inspect building plans for each new project — plans are always available for public inspection by law. If building plans appear inappropriate, then the citizen's committee could work to alert the County and involve the proper agencies before construction could begin.

The commercial exploitation of Isla Vista can't be blamed on Measure T — let's place the blame and the responsibility for abusive development where it belongs — on developers who break the rules and on the County which is supposed to be enforcing these rules.

By the way, I voted no on T.

Laura Price

— PUBLIC NOTICE —

Public Hearings Isla Vista Recreation & Park District

1988/89 Benefit Assessment Levy

Thursday * June 2 * 8 PM
Univeristy Religious Center
777 Camino Pescadero

1988/89 Preliminary Budget

Thursday * June 16 * 8 PM

Park District Meeting Room
961 Embarcadero del Mar

The Preliminary Budget functions as the District's Operating Budget from July 1 until the Final Budget is adopted in late Summer.

The Board of Directors may be considering Fee increases for Rentals of IVRPD facilities at this time.



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FOR COUNTY SUPERVISOR

WALLACE — warts and all!

The two biggest issues in Isla Vista are rent control and I.V. Cityhood. Granted that Bill Wallace is one of the biggest impediments to both, he deserves your support to be re-elected to a fourth term on the County Board of Supervisors.

If I.V. resident Mike Boyd had kept his campaign limited to just these two issues, I might have made a different endorsement. Instead, he has wandered into positions critical of Wallace in growth-control and offshore oil development. For Boyd to imply, for example (as he has in some of his campaign literature), that he was even partially responsible for stopping the offshore ARCO oil development while Wallace is to blame for the oil refineries up the coast is preposterous. It was Wallace's leadership that secured the veto of the ARCO project at the State level, and it has been Wallace's leadership which minimized the environmental impacts of what off-shore oil developments the State and federal governments have forced on us.

In addition, while Boyd's recent statement that a "Slow growth (policy) without rent control is classist, racist, and wrong" is absolutely correct, overall his position on growth is hopelessly fuzzy. If he had stuck to the call he made a year ago for two additional UC campuses and local control over enrollment-setting practices, his leadership on this issue would have been made more apparent.

Antipathy to Citizen Participation

This isn't to say that Wallace — himself an I.V. resident since 1970 — doesn't have other shortcomings. His lack of appreciation of authentic citizen participation has always been discouraging. The lack of adequate representation of I.V. residents on the County's citizen advisory boards accounts for much of the reason that I.V. doesn't figure in many institutionalized county service improvement plans. If an I.V. resident served on the County Parks Commission, for example, they could have suggested far better ways to spend the \$150,000 the County put up for the renovation of their one park in I.V. on Del Playa at Camino Corto. And, why has it taken so long for the concept of an Isla Vista 'redevelopment agency' to be raised?

In addition, I feel that Wallace has intentionally let elected community government unravel in I.V. because it disagreed with him too often — and not only on the cityhood issue. Boyd, however, bears equal responsibility in this area because he was the most experienced leader on the last IVCC.

Wallace's Strengths

Wallace's twelve years of experience on the Board of Supervisors, his forthrightness, and his unwavering (even dogmatic) support for "environmentalist" positions are his strengths. Even County employees from law enforcement to general staff have endorsed his re-election although they readily admit they don't always agree with him. And, Wallace has always stated up front his positions on cityhood and rent control. In addition, the federation of university cities which Wallace has been sponsoring is a promising forum for dealing with the over-enrollment problems each faces.

Both in his modest life-style and his honesty, Wallace has gained the respect of people across the political spectrum which in turn has fostered a respect for his home town, too.

Thompson and O'Rourke

While personally charming, Jim Thompson as supervisor would not likely improve living conditions for I.V. residents. First of all, he knows too little about the community and about how County government works. Perhaps this shortcoming is only the result of inexperience; it is still, however, a real shortcoming.

Thompson has concentrated his campaign on reducing the traffic congestion caused by the overdevelopment policies followed by previous boards which were dominated by Thompson's current supporters. The contradiction here is more than just ironic.

O'Rourke still hasn't mounted a credible enough campaign to be considered for an endorsement.

from the Publisher's Desk



BEYOND THIS CAMPAIGN

A NEW DIRECTION FOR I.V.?

Mike Boyd's inability to tap into the latent activism in Isla Vista for either his Water Board campaign last Fall or his Supervisorial campaign this Spring has been disappointing but instructive.

If Boyd had been able to draw a hundred people or so into either one of his campaign organizations, then it might truly be said that his was a "community" statement addressed to Wallace's shortcomings — and perhaps then Wallace would have to listen. However, this failure leaves only bitterness as the heritage of these two recent runs against Wallace and his Goleta-based electoral machine — the Citizens for Goleta Valley.

Present Strategy Has Failed

For the past six years, Isla Vista's political leadership has pursued a strategy of challenging in electoral contests the Goleta Valley's left-of-center/environmentalist ruling clique. Even though these I.V. politicians have been largely correct on the issues (especially cityhood, rent control and citizen participation), I believe that an assessment of this electoral strategy would have to conclude that it has largely failed to produce positive results. What it has produced is a personal animosity which has divided the Left (both in I.V. and between I.V. and Goleta) and played an important part in pushing down I.V.'s voter turnout to under 15%. This isn't to suggest that Wallace and his machine aren't at least equally responsible for the present situation — but a successful community strategy has to overcome or rise above existing impediments.

For reasons of principle (and personal mental health!), it was probably necessary for I.V.'s leadership to follow the present strategy after the 1982 IVCC election which saw over 3,000 people voting 2-1 against Wallace's pro-Goleta cityhood position. However, I think the time has come to find a new strategy aimed at the same purpose — empowering I.V. residents.

The 'new direction' the present leadership seems to be offering is an expansion of the present Park District's functions into a 'community services district' which would include the campus properties and population. While this concept has significant merit as a marginal change away from the status quo, to me it doesn't go far enough or fast enough.

I am convinced that the only way to significantly improve living conditions in I.V. is a focused program of civil disobedience aimed at confronting the rigidity of both the County and the University power structures. I believe that the history of this town has demonstrated that this is the only way to move these entrenched bureaucracies. The building of such a campaign would revitalize this community with the infectious scent of empowerment.

The validity of this approach has also been demonstrated on campus where students have recently dragged the UC Regents to a more enlightened position on UC investments in South Africa and have effectively gotten rid of the CIA connection in the UCSB faculty. Unfortunately, improving living conditions in I.V. has not yet been added to the agenda of these student-activists.

I hope that Isla Vista's current leadership (now centered around the Isla Vista Park District) is sufficiently flexible to re-assess their six-year-old strategy in order to lead the community in a more fruitful direction. If the old leadership is not able to do so, I hope that enough younger (or older!) people are here — and care sufficiently — to provide the required new leadership.

Where to Start?

Even if a lot of people agree with this call for a new direction, the biggest problem is where to start.

When the Isla Vista Community Council (IVCC) existed, representative elections each November were thoroughly adequate ways to gauge community support for one direction or another. It was, after all, the 1982 IVCC election that brought the current I.V. leadership (Boyd and Glenn Lazof especially) into prominence when they won election as representatives against Wallace's pro-Goleta cityhood candidate slate.

Elections in Isla Vista are very different than those for the Goleta Water Board and the Third District Supervisor where there is so much external money and influence that strictly Isla Vista issues are overwhelmed.

With all five seats up on the Park Board next November, this may be the arena in which the contest for alternative futures will be played out. And while this may not be the best arena in which to discuss a new direction for community governance — it's a bit like the Goleta Water Board having to be Goleta's planning agency, too — it may be the only one available. Hopefully, the November election won't be just another re-run of the traditional (but now largely irrelevant) contest between I.V.'s middle-class reactionaries and the outmoded strategy of I.V.'s current leadership — a battle in which student-voters have shown an increasing resistance to playing their traditional role as referee. While the current Park Board is doing an excellent job of maintaining and expanding I.V.'s park system, with the demise of the IVCC the Park District is now more than ever "More Than Just Parks."

The sign-up deadline for candidates seeking the three four-year terms and the two two-year terms is in early August.

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LIVING IN NICARAGUA AFTER THE REVOLUTION

Managua, Nicaragua
It's a wonderful town...

A song that was popular in the U.S. in the 1940s.

by Shannon O'Reilly
Isla Vista Free Press Contributor

Sometimes it's warm in Managua; more often it's hot!

The constant wind blows the dirt streets through the open windows. The low tin roofs radiate like a microwave on low voltage.

The lower classes — the 90% without car or bike — start the day early waiting for the bus. They wait in line till one arrives with less than a hundred aboard, then cram on and push, then stand and sweat their way across Managua to their work sites.

Nicaraguans are very hospitable people; they are very open to all foreigners regardless of their politics.

On the surface at least it's a very cheerful place to live. Scarcely a week goes by when there isn't a saint or historical figure to give some reason for a holiday or celebration. It is a country of great poets and dancers — the music is a mixture of salsa, rock, and raggae. When the sun goes down, it's time to find a friend to have a beer with and listen to some drunken prose.

Times Are Tough

But times are tough. People aren't so enthused about being revolutionary nowadays. Nicaraguans are far worse off today than when President Reagan took office seven years ago. In this sense, U.S. policy toward Nicaragua has succeeded.

The Sandinistas (the political party in power) have concentrated their energies on the military and political battle against U.S. hegemony. The economy, fundamentally still an agricultural-based subsistence economic system, has suffered tremendously. Full time work brings about \$25 a month — it's not easy being a Sandinista or being optimistic any more.

In spite of this, the Sandinista Front for the Liberation of Nicaragua (FSLN) still commands the support of a hard core 30% of the population, a popular police and military, and a large and diversified international community which has been essential for economic assistance and political goodwill.

Internationalist Community

I am a member of this international community and have lived in Managua since 1985. I'm guardedly optimistic about Nicaragua's future and strongly believe that the worst is coming to a close.

President Reagan has only seven months left in his presidency. His *contra* army is counting down these months and fervently hoping that George Bush will be his successor. The cease-fire between the Sandinistas and the *contras* is continuing to hold and though the *contras* might continue to be a destructive influence, their military possibilities are limited and decreasing. The \$48 million the U.S. Congress voted after

the cease fire went into effect will ensure the survival of the *contras* for the next six months, but the split between those who want a settlement and those who want to fight on is probably irreparable and will lead to their ultimate undoing.

An Even Tougher Challenge

With the *contra* war on the wain, the struggle in Nicaragua will be shifting from politics and the military where the Sandinistas have been very successful to the economic sphere. If the Sandinistas cannot put together a successful economic program in the next two and one-half years before their 1990 elections, it is doubtful that they can get 50% of the vote.

So far their economic program has had very mixed results and often defies logic. But there have been some areas of the economy in which they have done well.

Economic Successes

For example, it is hard to get evicted in Nicaragua; inability to pay the rent is not sufficient cause. If the tenants have no other place to go, the owner cannot throw them out. Rents are controlled, too.

In Managua, the capital city of a million people, housing construction and improvement is booming. \$1,000 will buy a house. The law says one person can't own more than two houses. Government policies have held down the value of land and housing and also distributed tens of thousands of small plots on which the owners can build their own homes.

Some Economic Failures

Unfortunately, many of the government economic policies have not been so successful.

Since 1983, the U.S.-sponsored war against Nicaragua has placed the Sandinista government on the economic defensive. In response to this threat, the Nicaraguan government has had to spend 50% of its national budget on defense. This has forced the government to print money in order to pay even the military, thereby causing uncontrolled inflation. In the Summer of 1983, a dollar bought 60 cordobas; in 1985 it bought 600; today it buys 40,000 — at least on the black market. While it is illegal to trade in these currency black markets, the great majority of the population with access to dollars do so and arrests are rare.

Until recently, the government had set up several "official" exchange rates — for tourists, for foreign exchange, etc., a practice which led to such unrealities as gasoline for 7¢ a gallon, bicycle tires more expensive than car tires, and imported machetes less expensive than locally made ones. The recent adjustment of the cordoba has only made most things more expensive. As a result of



The Mantagalapa grave site of Benjamin Linder, the U.S. engineer killed by the *contras* last year while working in an agricultural co-operative in Nicaragua.


both the inflation and these artificial exchange rates, real wages and exports have dropped more than 50% over the past five years. Wage earnings are so low that workers can't be assured of feeding their families and both government and private industry is hard-pressed to keep workers on

their jobs.

Difficult to Obtain Taxes

One of the problems government has had in controlling inflation is that the

see MANAGUA, page 13



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in Isla Vista
in front of
Dave's Market

Photo by Shannon O'Reilly.

economy is largely anarchical, unlicensed, and difficult to tax. Even though on paper taxes are very high (50-65% of incomes above subsistence), they are not consistently paid. In restaurants and shops, for example, if a receipt is requested, the 15% sales tax is added on; if the customer does not wish a receipt, it isn't. Overall, I would be surprised if even 50% of incomes is reported. The only tax that is universal is inflation.

Besides printing money, the other major tool the government has in controlling the economy is to set wages for all jobs in the formal sectors of the work force. Faced with defense and other expenses which amount to more than revenues, the government has attempted to keep wages very low. Workers can no longer rely on salaries to provide for themselves and their families. This has resulted in a strong motivation for theft and corruption.

Theft and Corruption

While corruption has not become endemic as in Mexico (the police do not ask for bribes), theft has. It is no longer possible to ride Managua's crowded buses without being concerned for the safety of your wallet and bags — particularly if you're a tourist. The thieves are often in small groups of three; one pushes, another steals and passes it to the third who runs away. Even as you feel it being taken, it might be too late.

Similar theft problems are rampant in the neighborhoods and from job sites. Income earned from thefts from job sites

may well exceed salaries. For instance, a worker at a cooking oil processing plant earns about 100 cordobas a day; in the black market, a quart of the oil he/she is producing brings about 200 cordobas.

Gang-Related Violence

At a more serious level, youth gangs and violent robberies have greatly increased in recent months, making nighttime walks in some unlighted areas ill-advised. The shooting last month during a robbery of a young Danish volunteer shocked Managua and the international community. While this crime, like most other major crimes, was solved quickly, it points up that times are tough.

The populace of Nicaragua is well-armed. Households often have guns — either as part of the national defense effort or as a memoir of army service, etc. Though guns are increasingly used in crimes, they and machetes are more often used in fights within families or quarrels with neighbors.

Last August, my wife and I were awakened in the night by cries from an old woman crying out in a neighboring house. The commotion died down without any cries for help, so we went back to sleep. The next morning we found out that this woman's grandson — a 21-year old medical student — had shot himself with an AK-47 left-over from his military service days. He had apparently been distraught over marital problems — although he was married, he

see MANAGUA, page 15



Four members of an agricultural co-operative on the outskirts of Managua who received their bicycles from BIKES NOT BOMBS. The co-op bought thirteen bikes for \$100 and a 100-pound bag of beans. Photo by Shannon O'Reilly.

Bikes & Parts to Nicaragua

ISLA VISTA, BERKELEY COLLECTION POINTS FOR MAY

A campaign is on sponsored by "Bikes Not Bombs" to send 600 bikes from Santa Barbara, Isla Vista and Berkeley to Nicaragua. The campaign is being organized by Shannon O'Reilly, a young man who grew up in Santa Barbara and who has been living in Managua, Nicaragua since 1985 where he has been operating the "Bikes Not Bombs" program.

Currently, O'Reilly is visiting California. He hopes to collect enough used and even currently inoperable bicycles, plus several hundred pounds of parts, to fill two shipping containers when he returns to Nicaragua in mid-June. The bikes, which will be repaired by O'Reilly and other workers once they reach Nicaragua, will be distributed to teachers, healthcare workers, and co-operatives.

If you want to contribute an old bike (or parts of one), take it to Isla Vista Bikes and Recycling at 961 Embarcadero del Mar (next to Rexall Drugs) between 9 AM and 6 PM daily. The Isla Vista Rec. and Park District has agreed to store the bikes and parts until O'Reilly is ready to send them South. Over 1,000 bikes have been sent in this manner in previous years.

For more information, call O'Reilly at 682-7714, Robert Bernstein at 685-1283, or Jennifer Vassos at 685-3178.

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THE MAGIC OF LAKE ATITLAN A TOURIST IN GUATEMALA

by Carmen Lodise
Isla Vista Free Press Publisher

The several towns and villages around Lake Atitlán in central Guatemala are some of the most hauntingly beautiful places I've ever visited. The most overwhelming thing about the area is the two live (!) volcanos that tower thousands of feet above the Lake which is more than fifteen miles across in most places. But what the visitor remembers most about a trip there is the color and character of the six villages which are spread almost equal distance from each other along the Lake's shoreline.

It's not that there is a lot to "do" in the sense we're used to in the States. Mostly, it's walking along the cobblestoned streets, exchanging an "A Dios" (both a hello and a good-bye greeting meaning literally to God) with the colorfully dressed Indians as they pass, soaking up the bright sun or half-heartedly ducking the large rain drops that fall almost every Summer afternoon, being dazzled by the brightly painted houses with huge poinsettias blazing in the yards, marveling at the women carrying huge plastic pots of water perfectly balanced on their heads or washing cloths in the Lake with their naked children wandering nearby, seeing older children playing some kind of hop-sotch game in the few places there is a sidewalk, the men carrying machetes to and from work — often with bales of freshly cut wheat or firewood or cilantro over their shoulders... these are the sights that mesmerize the traveler while they visit these communities.

Many friends who have traveled through this region into South America have told me that Guatemala is still the most beautiful place to visit.

Panajachel

Panajachel is the largest town on the lake (about 6,000 people) and the most Westernized. Perhaps 1,000 people from Europe, Canada, and the U.S. are here at any one time. Most are tourists, but many have set up permanent residence here. My last trip down, I met a man who was once the chair of the biology department at the University of Michigan who had lived here

since his retirement, and a woman from Miami who retired here in her early 50s on a teachers pension.

There are also some enterprising people from beyond Guatemala who reside in Panajachel. Brenda is a Californian who with her Guatemalan husband, Stuart, own a shop on the main drag, *El Mundo Real*, which features the highest quality locally produced jewelry, blankets and clothing. Brenda has some roots in Isla Vista because she was once busted on a trumped up charge by Capt. Joel Honey, infamous for the picture of him with a medieval mace and sword taken while he was commanding the troops during the Isla Vista riots of 1970. Also, there is a couple from Italy who run a super restaurant, *El Bistro*, down near the Lake; an excellent meal with wine is under \$20 for two. And Ken, an ex-patriot from Chicago who built a split-level home here next to a water fall for under \$4,000, and who runs movies off a VCR in town (almost) every night.

Several other *gringos* run a dozen or so restaurants, health food stores and cantinas which cater mostly to the tourist trade. The watering holes serve inexpensive drinks and pretty good food and are open usually late into the night. Surprisingly, they somehow manage to play the latest music from the States on their stereos.

Because it only costs \$1-5 a night to rent a thoroughly adequate hotel (even less by the week) and only about \$3-4 a day to eat really well, a lot of young travelers find their way to Panajachel for a month or so at a time. Most of the other villages around the Lake lack the tourist facilities available here.

Sunday Market

The Sunday market in Solola (six miles up the hill from Panajachel) is overwhelming in its colors, sounds, smells and unusual sights. Solola is the capital of the State which includes Lake Atitlán, and its market day draws thousands of Indians from outlying villages who come to both buy and sell. Clothing, housewares and vegetables



A mother and child at the Sunday Market in Solola, Guatemala.

are the main commodities in the open air stalls, but there are also such exotic items as strings of a dozen live crabs carefully secured in a banana-leaf harness which sell for about \$2. The patterns of the brightly colored bales of cotton material are unique to each village, giving the visitor many options to choose from — the Indians of course buy only the pattern characterizing the village in which they live. Bargaining between buyer and seller is expected, but I usually give up early because everything is so inexpensive.

The rise in altitude between the Lake and Solola is over 2,000 feet, so you'll probably want to take a bus from Panajachel to get to Solola. But plan on walking back because it's all down hill and the view of the Lake is breathtaking.

Other Villages

Perhaps the most interesting village on the Lake is San Antonio. It's a two hour boat ride directly across the Lake from Panajachel and a trip back into time. I also like a small village two or three miles South of Panajachel (I forget its name) which, thanks to a Peace Corps volunteer in the 1960s, has learned to grow onions to such an extent that they have cornered 80% of the cash crop market in the whole country. Row upon row of onions are spread up the mountain side in all directions and a very invigorating smell lingers in the air. You

can walk to this village or rent a bike for the trip at the two bike rental shops in Panajachel.

Two Experiences

There are two experiences that have stuck with me from my trip to the Lake villages that vividly portray the quaintness of Guatemala. While wading through the main river near Panajachel one day (one of six or seven rivers that drain into the Lake), trying to get to my friend Ken's house, I asked a passing Indian the name of the river. "Name?" he asked back in Spanish. "It doesn't have a name. It's just 'the river.'" The other is when I found an inch thick telephone book and was told that it was for the entire country.

Transportation to Lake Atitlán: Fly to Guatemala City and bus the 85 miles North to the Lake (about \$650 round trip), or train through Mexico to Quezaltenango, Guatemala and bus two hours to the Lake (\$200-350 round trip).

NEW ADVENTURES is offering a 62 day guided tour to Mexico and Guatemala for a maximum of ten people that includes a week at Lake Atitlán for a total of \$825 (all transportation and hotels) or \$1375 (including food). Call 968-8294 for more information.

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had recently discovered that his girl friend was pregnant.

Death

Death is more tangible in Managua than in the States, partly because the news spreads very rapidly through the neighborhood and partly because so many young people die. Some of these deaths are not surprising in a Third World country — children dying of diarrhea, young men being drafted and dying in war, etc.

But there are some you really don't expect. For example, there are a lot of deaths due to drownings at the local beaches. Over holiday weekends, the newspapers will feature a death count of drowning deaths. There are also death counts for various time periods covering children hit by cars or trucks. The pro-*contra* newspaper *La Prensa* keeps a running tally (publishing photos when possible) of pedestrians hit by military vehicles.

Alcohol Consumption

Besides the war, the two major contributors to social carnage are alcohol consumption and the birthrate which is higher than the country can absorb. Excessive drinking and alcoholism are not unique to Nicaragua, but cheap liquor and the strains of the badly-functioning economy only add to the problem. Good rum costs about \$1 per quart; cheap rum is about one-half that.

Birth Control

Birth control has gotten a mixed reception in Nicaragua and within the Sandinista leadership. President Daniel Ortega and his wife Rosario Murillo have had a child every other year — a total of eight to date. Ortega professes that Nicaragua is under-populated; it is in fact the least densely populated nation in Central America. Birth control is available and sex education is starting to be taught in the education system to some degree. Abortions are illegal but widely practiced; a doctor will charge about \$40 to have one done in his office or at a hospital. A far greater number are done at less cost and at far greater risk of injury or death. The women's association AMLEA doesn't seem to want to forcefully oppose the government on the abortion issue.

The result is a population growth rate of about 3% a year — very high by any standards. The average age in Nicaragua is now about 15. One result of this is an over-burdening of the public health and education systems — lowering their quality for all age groups.

While I would estimate that support for the Sandinistas has been cut in half since the last election in 1984, these defectors have not joined the opposition. Rather, they have joined a disgruntled, largely apolitical majority.

Public Health & Education

Health care is free and universally available. However, most doctors are very young and marginally trained, placing a high premium on foreign-trained physicians. There is a door-to-door vaccination program that helps a lot, but people remain under-educated about modern public health so that diarrhea is still the main killer of children.

Everyone is encouraged to go to school but many children don't. Teachers are severely underpaid.

Opposition to Sandinistas

There is a strong but fragmented opposition to the Sandinistas operating at least in Managua. There are a dozen or so political parties, several of which are represented in the elected legislature. There are political demonstrations all the time. It's funny that the Community Party is actually to the right of the Sandinistas, although there is a Marxist-Leninist party to their left.

Labor unions are strong and almost every political party has one. Because of the low wages, there are strikes quite often with varying success.

Sometime Bleak, But I Love It

All of this may sound rather bleak — and sometimes it is. I stay because living there helps me live out my social-political beliefs. And, in spite of the problems, it is a place that you can accomplish things that you know are right. For me it is an uplifting experience, both because of the politics and because I love the people. In fact, I have a wife and son there.

And, life in Managua can be very enjoyable if you make the most of it. With a million people and only three elevators spread out over fifty square miles, Managua is a lot like 50 Isla Vistas spread back-to-back. Though the average age, income level, and educational attainment are all lower than I.V.'s, the level of alcohol consumption per capita is probably very similar.

Think about it — with 50 I.V.'s spread back-to-back, would Reagan and the CIA leave it alone?

Shannon O'Reilly lived in Santa Barbara for twenty years before he moved to Managua, Nicaragua three years ago.



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COMMENTS OF TWO LOCAL RESIDENTS WHO VISITED NICARAGUA RECENTLY

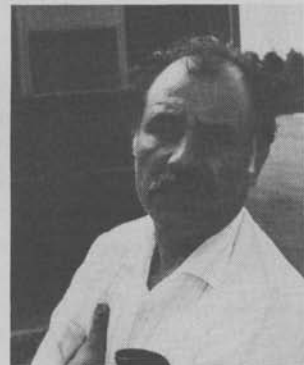
Rogelio Trujillo was born in Mexico but in now a U.S. citizen. He owns a grounds maintenance firm in Santa Barbara.

What struck me most was the poverty of the people. It is really difficult living there now. But the access of education and medical care gives the people hope.

They seem to be very friendly to U.S. citizens. I got lost one evening, wandering around a neighborhood and wound up at the front gate of the president's home. The guards there were really nice to me — not defensive at all.

I also visited El Salvador while I was there and the difference was like night and day. El Salvador is like Tijuana or maybe even Saigon while the U.S. was there. So many very young women were prostitutes — nothing like in Nicaragua. It was very discouraging.

The people in Nicaragua didn't seem to have any trouble telling me their



ROGELIO TRUJILLO

dissatisfactions with the government. I was kind of surprised.

FRANK FROST

Frank Frost is a professor of history at UCSB. He ran for Congress in 1982.

I went to Nicaragua to see if the Sandinista government was exaggerating its successes. I receive the English version of the government's official paper *La Baracada*, so I know what they are claiming.

What I found was a basically free, plural, pragmatic society. I heard someone say they call themselves "Pragmatic Socialists."

The people I met were united in their opposition to "Yankee Imperialism" but they were tremendously friendly to individual Americans — primarily because they have met so many of them who are working in Nicaragua as doctors, laborers, technicians, etc.

I think that the U.S. could have moved in in 1981 with lots of money and trade and effectively co-opted the middle-class and thus prevented the consolidation of power by the Sandinistas. But, now it's too late. The U.S will never have the opportunity to influence Nicaraguan development — at least for a long time.

The Somozas who ruled here before the

Sandinistas (1933-79) looted what had been a very rich country — I call it the France of Central America. It is still a net agricultural exporter even though its rich central valley is a war zone. A country can always develop an industrial economy, but few can master the agricultural sector sufficiently to feed its people; Nicaragua has done this.

I spoke with a man who had headed a collective for the past year. He had joined the *contras* as a young man because he had resented the Sandinista's military draft. He had returned, however, after a year when he realized how much terrorism of the civilian population was an integral part of the *contras'* strategy.

I think that the U.S. should turn its present policy toward Nicaragua upside down. We should in fact be promoting the kind of democracy which has emerged there for other Central American countries.


The Nicaraguan government has distributed over 300,000 AK-47s to almost all the households in the country; this is hardly a government afraid of its people.

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