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National Crime Syndicate, Part III

La Costa: The House The Mob Built

by Lowell Bergman

The National Crime Syndicate has many places where it plays and plans, from Acapulco to the Savannah Inn and Country Club. But, since it opened in 1965, Rancho La Costa has been the flagship of the fleet, and is as spotless as a first-class galley.

La Costa, southern California's headquarters and resort for the NCS, has been raided only once, and the reason was to protect its clean image. As one local police official remembered, "There was a convention of builders, who were running a 24-hour card game...We were called in and arrived in force. The old boys were jumping out of the windows. But what was more bizarre was the call to make the raid. It came from the management."

Twelve years ago, this was the Riviera of the Pacific: 30 miles of open beach, stretching south from the massive Camp Pendleton Marine base near San Clemente to the northern edge of the city of San Diego. The coastline was dotted with sleepy little beach towns, nestled between crane-filled lagoons, meandering inland to dry arroyos and rolling hills.

All this began to change in 1962. Soon after Allard Roen was convicted of stock fraud, and had to give up his active role in Las Vegas, Roen, Moe Dalitz, Merv Adelson and Irwin Molasky paid \$3.5 million for the 1,000 acre Meadowlark estate in northern San Diego county.



Having made millions in Las Vegas, the Syndicate spared nothing on La Costa, which soon flowered into a 5,000 acre development with 1400 residential units, including both condominiums and private estates. It boasts a \$6 million hotel, a health spa (the only one approved by the AMA) a theatre, restaurants and convention facilities—all kept trim by 650 full-time and 400 part-time employees.

NCS Patriarch Dalitz has a "thing" about golf and tennis, and La Costa is studded with 17 tennis courts. When Dalitz left his Las Vegas home adjoining the Desert Inn golf course, it was to relocate in an almost identical home adjacent to the world's largest and most expensive (\$2.4 million to date) course at La Costa. The course is also home for the PGA Tournament of Champions, a Desert Inn feature that Dalitz brought with him to California.

The tournament also typifies La Costa's style: each player is given \$2,000 plus expenses just for showing up. Until 1971, the 170 crowd control marshals were active-duty US Marines, bused daily from nearby Camp Pendleton, fed all week long and given a golf hat and windbreaker for their trouble.

The greening of the arid grazing land was costly. Unlike most investors and developers, however, the La Costa crew had some extraordinary resources. Three trustees of the Teamster Pension Fund sit on the La Costa board, and \$50 million in Teamster funds have gone into the work.

The ease with which Pension Fund cash has poured into La Costa is reflected in the minutes of a Pension Fund Meeting in 1965. La Costa Director Merv Adelson wanted a loan of \$4 million at low interest rates for real estate investment. The parcels of land in question were "directly across the golf course," he told a Board member, "from where your wife wanted to build a house, but you wanted it on the other side." Adelson got the money.

An additional \$20 million came from Prudential Life Insurance (administrators of the Western Conference Teamsters Pension Fund), American Life, the United States National Bank (which collapsed in 1973—the largest bank failure on U.S. history), and Home Federal Savings and Loan.

Since the new syndicate image is clean—almost sterile—its significance can no longer be gauged by counting cases of bootleg whiskey or roulette wheels in back rooms, and the days of the machine gun battle over territory are long gone. The guests at La Costa, and the purposes—not the possibility of violent police raids—tell the story of organized crime today.

Frequent visitors to La Costa, according to reliable law enforcement sources in the area, include some of the most important syndicate figures in the country.

To name a few:

—Lou Chesler, a 300-pound Canadian who has been in and out of organized crime for 15 years, was a key figure in the NSC's Florida-based real estate conglomerate, General Development Corporation.

—Wallace Groves began his career with a conviction for mail fraud. In the 1960's he represented Lansky in the development of casinos in the Bahamas. Groves' presence at La Costa has prompted law enforcement probes into possible hidden financial backing for La Costa and related projects.

—James Braden (also known as E.H. Braden), a charter member of La Costa and long-time resident, is still a frequent visitor. According to Peter Noyes in "Legacy of Doubt," Braden transferred large sums of unreported cash for the syndicate to overseas banks. Braden was once questioned by federal agents after \$200,000 in cash was found in his locker at La Costa.

—Eugene V. Klein, past board chairman of National General Corporation, is part-

Dancing in the District

by Susan Keller

"I don't think a dancer should have to go to New York. One of the best decisions I ever made was to come back to Washington."

Jan Van Dyke, one of Washington's foremost modern dancers, is striving to build a local dance environment free of New York City's domination. The pilgrimage of dancers to New York in quest of a reputation, has remained the unquestioned tradition for too long. Washington can be more than just a satellite of New York's cultural

"maybe she won't. It doesn't really matter. Then in September again she'll sign up for classes and drift along until the next concert."

"I think the main difference between dancers here and those in New York is that people go to New York to dance and everything else is subordinate. Here dance is one of those things people do along with having children and going to their husband's

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"I was having a hard time getting a job in New York in dance," she said. "I didn't want to lose any energy being a waitress or a model. I couldn't teach though I wanted to. Finally I came back to Washington where I could at least afford a studio."

Jan's studio is located at 2445 18th St., NW. She also teaches at George Washington Dance Department.

"Teaching keeps me creating since I have to produce new combinations every day. It is my primary income and something I can do well, but it is second in interest."

Her classes are demanding—often to the point of frustration—for her students. Quick and complex dance combinations are her emphasis.

"You can't be an intelligent dancer with your brain turned off. Speed is just one aspect. There are other things such as spatial orientation and being able to keep your body moving in the right pattern."

Jan's quiet face and personal composure are a reflection of her physical control. Her manner is powerfully aloof; her movement is gracefully sharp.

"The problem in Washington is attitude. I find it in my own studio. For example, if a student has a concert in June, she'll take classes two to three times a week in April and May. After June she'll take a two week vacation. She'll come back, and maybe she'll sign up for Wolf Trap," she shrugs.

VVAW Mystery Break In

by Tim Butz

As Official America honored veterans and war dead over Memorial Day weekend, someone "honored" the Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization with a burglary of their offices. The VVAW/WSO is charging that the act was another FBI counter-intelligence operation against them.

The burglary was discovered Sunday morning as DC chapter coordinator Dan Moyer arrived at the office shortly before noon to prepare for an afternoon leafleting drive. Moyer found that a lock was pried from the door and a hinge had been kicked in. Inside the office, papers were scattered and a membership file was lying on top of a file drawer. Copies of both current and

obsolete mailing lists were missing from the files.

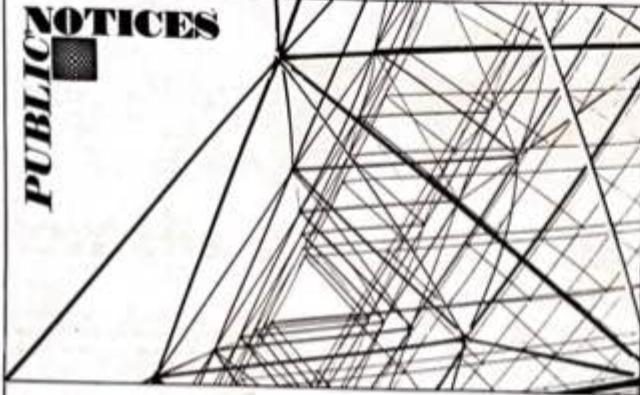
In addition to the mailing lists, the organization's only typewriter, a weather-worn Sears electric portable, was taken from the office.

Moyer told the Daily Rag that "If the burglary was for financial reasons, the crooks would have hit the Community Bookshop beneath us, not a second-story small political office. The theft of both the mailing lists will supply the FBI with a list of people to be harassed or surveilled for strictly political reasons. The theft of our typewriter makes our work more difficult— we will now have

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PUBLIC NOTICES



Open Schools Workshop

"Emotional Development in an Open Classroom" will be the topic of this Thursday's WCVC videotape screening and workshop.

The videotape was edited from footage shot during an average school day at the Harvard St. School and explores the different ways in which an open classroom environment affects children emotionally.

Following the screening, parents and teachers from the school will lead a discussion workshop. The free screening starts at 8 pm at the WCVC office, 2414 18th St. NW. Call 462-6700 for further details.

Consumer Office

The DC Consumer Affairs Office has opened its first satellite center, using space provided by the Parent and Child Center, 2124 14th St. NW.

The new office is intended primarily to serve residents of the 14th St. corridor, providing assistance and referral information to persons with any sort of consumer problems.

CAO has been operating since earlier this year at its main office, 1407 L St. NW. The phone number for the 14th St. center is 462-3375, while the headquarters phone number is 629-2617.

Friends Coffeehouse Opens

Quaker House, 2121 Decatur Pl., NW, has opened up a New Friends Coffeehouse, which will be operating five days a week with sandwiches, beverages and various artistic and entertainment features.

The works of DC artist Mary Ortner are currently on display, and there are plans for a weekly film series and possibly live entertainment by local musicians.

The coffeehouse is open from noon to 11 pm Wednesday and Thursday, noon to midnight Friday and Saturday, and from 12:30 to 5:30 pm Sunday. Their phone number is 347-9481.

Morgan School Election

Three seats on the Morgan Community School Board will be up for grabs June 8 when residents of the Adams-Morgan community get to elect persons to fill existing terms on the board. Morgan School is DC's oldest community controlled school, with members of the local board responsible for hiring the administrators, setting policy and deciding how to allocate the budget allotment received from the DC School Board.

Balloting will be from 8 am to 8 pm at the school, 1773 California St., NW, and persons can register on the day of the election. For more information, call the community board office, 629-7811.

Resident Parking Permits

For number of years, residents of neighborhoods near major employment centers in the Districts have been pushing for a means to keep commuters from using their streets as a cheap answer to over-crowded parking lots.

The DC Council Transportation Committee will hold public hearings Thursday June 6 on residential parking permits, seen by most as the easiest solution. Under the plan, neighborhood residents would receive special stickers exempting them from a two-hour parking limit which would be enforced from 6:30 to 7 pm.

The permit program would probably be a prerequisite to any plans to impose a parking tax in an attempt to cut down automobile usage by commuters.

The hearings will be at 2 and 7 pm in room 500 of the District Building. Persons wishing to testify should call Nancy Brailsford at 638-2223 by 5 pm June 4. Written comments can be sent to Council Secretary Ed Webb at room 509 of the District Building, 14th & E Sts., NW.

Spoiled Food Info

The DC Environmental Health Administration has prepared a consumer information pamphlet on ways of detecting decayed food.

While conceding that some forms of spoilage can only be detected by an expert, the booklet outlines some of the key indicators which shoppers should look for when buying food.

Copies are available at the EHA office, 801 North Capitol St., room 733, or by calling 629-3425.

Theater Classes

Archaeus Productions Inc. will be sponsoring a series of classes on the theater starting July 8 at the Cerberus Theater in Georgetown.

There will be separate classes for children, teens and adults, all of them taught by persons experienced in the theater. Registration closes June 10. For details, call Gary Young at 362-7032.

Women's Healthfest At Free Clinic

The Washington Free Clinic, 1556 Wisconsin Ave NW, will be sponsoring a women's health festival June 3 through 8.

In addition to special self-help sessions nightly at 7 pm, there will be daily workshops dealing with various aspects of women and their health needs.

The schedule for the week includes:

Monday — "The Sexual Politics of Sickness," a workshop with Deidre English, co-author of *Complaints and Disorders*, and *Witches, Midwives and Nurses*. Films at 7, workshop at 8 pm.

Tuesday, 8 pm — "Female Sexuality," a presentation and discussion concerning women; their sexual enjoyments and their sexual problems. A film on masturbation will be shown with discussions led by Sally Bowie and Betsy McGee of Pre-Term.

Wednesday, 8 pm — "Body and Movement," an exploration of the potentials of women's bodies with Barbara Dunn from Community of the Whole Person; Dottie Burkle, who does self-massage; Karen Ru-

back, a dance therapist; and Heavy Times Women, a new theater/dance group.

Thursday — "Women Loving Women," issues in the lesbian community. Several group workshops concerning jealousy, monogamy, and non-monogamy. Another workshop will be for women beginning to explore their feelings about other women, led by Eva Freund. The film *Holding* will be shown at 7:30, workshops begin at 8.

Friday — "Mad, Mad Me — Sane Women in a Crazy Society," an experimental workshop with women talking about their various experiences in the mental health field, both as workers and consumers. Starts at 7 pm. At 8:30, women health workers will talk about their experiences and options that exist for working in the health field.

Saturday, 1 pm — "Growing Up Female," starting from where you are: opportunities to relate to various women of different ages and experiences. Earth Onion Women's Theater will do a workshop.

Child care will be provided for all sessions. Most will be open to women only.

Letters.....

NCS Series Hit

Dear Rag,

The underground press, such as the Daily Rag, can be relied on not to print all the news that fits. We are spared volumes of confusing words. Why then does it carry Lowell Bergman's hysterical ravings about Organized Crime?

Bergman seems to believe that mere mention of Organized Crime permits rambling and ranting (and he did get published). He cites but two government experts—Richard Nixon and Eugene Rossides (the latter a Nixon flunkie, formerly in the Justice Department, specializing in such matters as Operation Intercept and other politicized ill-fated narcotics events).

Bergman cites the annual revenues of \$70

billion accruing to the so-called Organized Crime (quoting Nixon as the source of knowledge!). This is almost three times what the 1967 President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice estimates... and they, too wanted to prove the existence of some external monster force tearing apart the society.

* At least the 1967 Commission tried to specify the shape and scope of the "Organized Criminals" and considered there to be about 24 families, overwhelmingly Italian or Sicilian in background. Bergman, alas, is caught for he accepts that Italian and Sicilian heritage is not very significant, but then the close family ties and odd criminal traditions no longer apply. Instead, Bergman invokes post-ethnicity—all under the rubric of a secret corporate structure, dubbed the National Crime Syndicate. This includes the traditional Italian/Sicilian clans,

and the Jews a la the septuagenarians Lansky and Dalitz, and throws in Irishman Frank Fitzsimmons (of the Teamsters) to boot. But, just what is the connection? For Bergman, the nice thing about the secret criminals is that they are secret... the reader is supposed to take his word for it (for he has the word of the President).

Bergman opens as many riddles as he answers. How come Nixon, the great anti-crime campaigner and expert, is shown in a photo with Fitzsimmons? Are the cops and robbers one? How come Administration Strike Forces in various cities around the country have so severely dented the ranks of Italian and Sicilian criminals if the so-called Mafia or Cosa Nostra has such clout and control? How come Moe Dalitz, with such fortunes and contacts, is hounded continually by federal agencies? Why would the Teamsters (or Dean-Erlachman-Halderman and you know who) want to deal with criminals with such a high rate of conviction as the known, standard brand, big-name New York-Jersey mafia?

If criminals, la gamblers and narcotics smugglers, were looked at reasonably, their profits would appear extremely low... especially compared to oil companies, railroads (such as run by Harriman's), banks (run by Rockefellers'), chemical companies, or even aerosol-spray inventors and Southern Florida real estate speculators. Far more money is made by legitimate drug companies than by smugglers, dealers and pushers; far more money by those who run legitimate gambling casinos than by neighborhood operators. That's why Moe Dalitz, using his yiddish Kupp, made his mini-fortune by parlaying his relatively meager illegal monies into legitimate gambling and real estate. Like the majority of the family fortunes which, now, are consolidated in the 75 wealthiest corporations, the big money is initially made illegally, but the incredible fortunes are made by business-as-usual.

The hysteria about ethnic criminals takes our eyes off the real action. In a world of tight (and tightening) money, members of lower-class ethnic groups will often seek legitimate channels. The Irish and Jews were the major criminal classes a few de-

cades ago when those groups were poor, then the Italians gained dominance, and now the blacks are filling the role. But huge fortunes and concentrated power accrued rarely to these ethnic criminals—witness the disproportionately small number of Italians among those who hold high office in this country, or those who are millionaires.

The heavy action, enormous and unsupervisely attained accumulation of money and power, is legitimized in America. None of the recent Italian or black (and only a rare Irish or Jewish) criminal family comes close to emulating the fortunes of the Robber Barons of the late 1800's (Rockefellers et al) or the corporate exploiters of this century (The Fords & Oil Barons).

Along with the money, the control of American society is solidly in the hands of WASPS and a few near-WASP interlopers. The brutality emanating from the core of this society is not a consequence of this low-status aberration of Ethnic crime but an aspect of the very heart of the beat.

Scare stories about the Mafia and Organized Crime and NCS get us worried about a handful of Italian street hoods instead of the slayings by US Government Armed Forces. The major urban violence is not caused by Organized Criminals but by desperate young men who correctly see the game stacked against them. It is not the Mafia but the administration and Congress which brought about the demise of OED, just as they tore up the hearts of inner-city Urban Renewal.

The consequences of hysterically abouting these lower class criminals has, historically, been to get more insidious government suppressive control—more wiretaps, undercover agents, bending traditional civil liberties, harassment via income tax investigations, and most of the worst of what is called "Watergate." The start of repression is to implant in people's minds the notion of a bogeyman, requiring super-powers vested in our top leaders. "Organized Crime," as a notion, is the domestic rationale for break-ins as "national security" is the cosmic term. It's a nice make-up term, but nothing more.

—Jerry Mandel

The Daily Rag

Address PO Box 21026
Washington, DC 20009

Phone 462-8172

Peg Averill, Bob Corbett, Scott Custin, Jean DeCicco, Terry Good, Dorothy McGehee, Marie Nahikian, Tom Rees, N. Matthew Richardson, Robert Shumpert, Dave Simmons, Tom Trapnell

Business Manager: Bruce Lowelett
Distribution: Erl
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Is This Any Way to Run a City? Dept.

Politicos Start Stampede

by Scott Custin

9:00 am, Monday, May 20.

For the first time in nearly a century DC gets its very own full-fledged local politics. The first half of the election to fill the mayor's office and 13 seats on the DC Council has begun: on the ground floor of the District Building it was an exercise in controlled confusion.

The DC Board of Elections had prepared for the onslaught by setting up a dozen long tables, cafeteria-style, to greet the prospective candidates. They didn't have to wait long for customers.

All day long they came by, signing in, receiving pre-packaged information kits, and having their nominating petitions prepared (their name has to be stamped on each sheet twice: once on the front, once on the back).

By the time 4:30 rolled around 67 had signed up for a chance to run in the Democratic, Republican and Statehood primaries. On Tuesday, 22 more signed up. And every day since then one or two more have gone through the ritual, so that now the total stands at around 110.

Not everyone will get the requisite number of signatures by the July 12 cut-off date. But there could easily be a hundred names on the ballot for the Sept. 10 primary, and there are an unknown number of candidates waiting for a chance to qualify in the November election as independents.

They're Everywhere! They're Everywhere!

While the elections board was busy signing up the hopefuls, the candidates themselves were preparing to do battle. A number took the occasion to "announce" they were running, not so much because their plans were a deep mystery, but in hopes of picking up a few seconds free publicity on the six o'clock news or in the newspaper.

Monday's lead-off candidate was Jimmy Featherstone, assistant director of the Office of Youth Opportunity Services.

As an independent candidate for council chairman, Featherstone can't start his petition drive until July 15, but he brought the "East Coast Connection" rock band down to the District Building's front steps and soon had a modest audience of passers-by to hear his theme song and receive the news that he was running for office.

The start of his campaign was not entirely auspicious, though. Just before the benediction a gas powered generator running the PA system conked out.

Most of the candidates have chosen the council chambers on the fifth floor of the District Building as the site of their campaign kickoff; it's a convenient, free, and there are always a few reporters hanging around the press room next door.

Mayoral candidate Cliff Alexander was the first to announce in the council chamber, throwing his hat in the ring two days after the charter referendum.

Teddy Meyers, a Democratic member of the incumbent appointed council, was the guest candidate on "kick-off Monday." He outfitted the place with hand-painted signs to provide an interesting background for the cameras as he announced his intention to seek the ward one-council seat.

Among some of the others who announced in the council chamber:

Sterling Tucker, currently council vice chairman, who is expected to be opposed by School Board President Marion Barry in the Democratic primary for council chairman.

David Clarke, another ward one Democrat, Clarke, a lawyer active in the Adams-Morgan community, announced on a Saturday, which meant he was one of the few ward candidates able to wrangle a few precious moments of TV time.

Sam Harris, an independent running for mayor, Harris, an economist who now runs a private consulting firm, will be among those challenging the winner in the Washington-Alexander race. He may not win in November, but he could wind up with "best orator of the campaign" honors.

Rev. Jerry Moore, another incumbent council member, who is seeking the Republican nod for an at-large council seat. Moore and Rockwood Foster, also a council incumbent, will probably be uncontested in their bid to be the GOP's two standard-bearers in the at-large race.

Since the charter allows each party to put up only two candidates for the four at-large seats, one of the GOP candidates

has at least a good chance of winning in November, despite the fact they're out-numbered by the Democrats six-to-one.

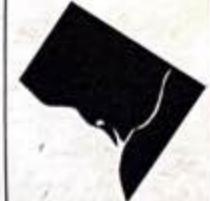
Henry "Doc" Robinson, another incumbent Republican council member, who is running in ward five, which is 87 per cent Democrat.

Most political observers rate Robinson the Republican most likely to succeed in the overwhelmingly-Democrat wards in the eastern part of the District. He's running as next-best-to-being an independent, carefully playing down his membership in the GOP and running instead on his record and the fact he's been cultivating friendships in his neighborhood for years.

Programs, Anyone?

All things considered, getting on the ballot will be the easy part for most candidates for council seats. Before them lies a low-budget campaign designed as much to overcome anonymity as to outline plans for combatting the District's problems.

Most of the media attention will be devoted to the relatively uncomplicated Democratic races for mayor and council head,



Walter Washington gives his backers a choice of campaign buttons: white on black or black on white. His cartographer, however, didn't do a very good job of portraying DC's outlines. On the right is what the District looks like on most maps. Or maybe the mayor is planning to annex parts of Arlington and Alexandria.

both of which will probably wind up as two-way races between well-known contenders.

The at-large and ward races, however, are turning out to be such complicated affairs that TV, and to some extent the daily newspapers, will probably provide only scanty coverage.

This won't help candidates become known, however. Most of them have been active in their own neighborhood, but few are well known ward-wide, to say nothing of city-wide.

It will be back to basics: door-to-door canvassing, addressing as many small

groups as possible, and shaking every hand in front of every store as many times as possible before election day. At least one candidate has decided to go completely mobile with her campaign, Diana Josephson, running in ward two (southwest, Chinatown and parts of Dupont Circle and Capitol Hill) has outfitted a small van with a battery-operated PA system and will be using it to campaign around her ward. Others may follow suit.

Meanwhile, Walter Washington and chief-rival Cliff Alexander are already well underway in organizing their campaigns. It will be a long summer.

Rent Controls: They're Still Writing

by Kathy Gannett

If all goes as planned, the DC Council will spend late June and July putting finishing touches on a rent control regulation for the District.

The process of drafting the complicated regulation started in January, when two days of public hearings were held. The process has taken so long that in late April a two-month rent freeze was rushed though the council, holding all rents in the District at their May 1 level until the end of July, allowing time to complete the bill-writing task.

Sterling Tucker, head of the council's housing committee, initially tried to have

Some places to call for help:

DC Consumer Affairs Office: 629-2618
[is administering the rent freeze, which requires all rents in DC to be held to their May 1 level]

DC PIRG: 676-7388
City-Wide Housing Coalition: 737-3703
DC Council: 638-2223

a panel of tenant and landlord representatives hammer out a compromise acceptable to both sides.

The discussions progressed smoothly until it came time to tackle the two key issues: how high landlords could raise rents without prior approval and procedures for gaining exemptions from rent ceilings.

The landlord representatives, led by John O'Neill, president of the Building Owners and Managers Association, then began backtracking on earlier agreements on such secondary issues as eviction controls and housing code enforcement. The talks quickly deadlocked; Tucker and his staff have since taken over the responsibility of drafting the bill.

Following the rift, the tenant representatives submitted a position paper to Tucker outlining provisions they want to see in the final bill.

Among the key provisions sought:

- Rolling back all rents to the base rent charged on Feb. 1, 1973, when federal controls were lifted, and allowing landlords a maximum rent adjustment of 3.42 per cent for 1973 and 4.28 per cent for 1974.

The actual percentages allowed for each building would vary according to which utilities, if any, are provided as part of the basic rent.

- A "hardship exemption" for landlords who could prove the specified limits deprived them of a fair return on investment. Advance approval of the rent control commission would be needed for each exemption.

- Landlords would have to bring their property into substantial compliance with the housing code before any rent hikes were permitted over the February 1973 level.

- Rent roll-backs would be ordered in cases where increases exceeded the permitted limits.

- Specified grounds under which an eviction order can be obtained would be spelled out and the burden would be on the landlord to prove that the eviction was not



being sought in retaliation for tenants demanding their legal rights.

In an effort that began nearly a year ago, the DC Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) has been helping tenant groups research rent control measures in other jurisdictions and collecting data on increased rents, decreased services, and retaliatory acts suffered by local apartment-dwellers.

Once Tucker and his staff have completed the drafting process, PIRG and other groups will begin informing the public on provisions of the bill, pushing passage of the strong points and recommending changes in areas where the measure falls short of tenants' objectives.

After the Battle is Over

Under the congressional enabling legislation, whatever bill is finally passed by the council will be administered by a rent control commission, comprised of four representatives each of the tenant and landlord interests and a ninth neutral member. The

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commission members will be nominated by the mayor, subject to the approval of the council.

The commission members, all of whom are required to be DC residents, will draw up detailed procedures for implementing the regulation, including reviews of requests for hardship exemptions and complaints of excessive rent hikes or decreases in service.

In hopes of ensuring that those named to the panel are knowledgeable about DC's housing law and the basic economics of housing management and have a familiarity with key management associations and tenant unions, an ad hoc group, including PIRG, is working on a list of possible nominees to be sent to the mayor for consideration.

Once the mayor makes his selections, there is a possibility the council will hold public hearings on the nominees in order to give the public an opportunity to comment on their fitness to serve.

If the rent commission proves to be successful in its work, especially in the area of mediating tenant-landlord differences, it could form the basis for a comprehensive tenant-landlord commission with a broad grant of authority to deal with rental housing problems in the District.

With the start of the local election campaigns, many of the groups involved in lobbying for the rent control regulation have formed a coalition which will draft a tenants' platform, which all candidates in the local elections will be asked to endorse.

The coalition includes tenant unions, senior citizens groups, housing service organizations, representatives of the Latino community and others.

Members will be encouraged to hold community meetings to explain the importance of making housing a major campaign issue. They will also attend campaign functions to question contenders on their position regarding key housing problems.

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One Dance Experience

continued from page one

cocktail parties, I don't think there are many who live the way I do."

Are there enough schools, studios, and performing outlets for a dancer to build a reputation in Washington?

"I have said this for ten years but now I really feel Washington is ready." She laughed but meant it still. "With the Dance Alliance coming alive and several other groups merging, I feel more and more that people are starting to produce."

She leaned forward intently.

"In the next ten years we will probably see a Washington School of Dance where people will make reputations for themselves. I feel much more visible here than I did in New York. Suddenly now I am turning things down. All the possibilities are incredible to me. I think there is room for more people, too." She added quickly, "I don't think I am going to gut the market."

Jane was studying dance seriously at an early age. Her encounter with Merce Cunningham, a leader in the avant garde dance movement, at a Connecticut College summer program strengthened her desire to dance. She went to the University of Wisconsin which gave her sororities, football and a good time but, as she said, "taught me nothing about dance". At the end of four years she went to New York with the sole intention of studying with Merce Cunningham. Unfortunately, Merce and company were in France that year. She signed briefly with Alwin Nikolais, a leader in multi-media dance theatre, and Murray Louis.

Nearly broke, she joined a summerstock troupe and travelled the tents. At the end of the summer she returned to Washington to teach in the studio where she had studied as a youth. Next she went to graduate school (she was the first graduate student of dance at GWU) to study teaching me-

thods and choreography. After this she started a quite successful studio theatre with her husband in Georgetown, which folded when their marriage dissolved. She then went to New York to study at the Martha Graham school, but decided she hated it.

"It was the atmosphere there... Graham is a goddess and everything she says is right. Her technique is so regimented that it has become like a ballet class. The teacher comes in and you stand up. She sits down and then you sit down. Then you begin. You know exactly what you have to do. Essentially it is a regime... knowing what I know about kinesiology, I think that some of her exercises can be harmful for certain body types; especially for men. It is very female technique... Graham works with so much unnecessary tension. It can work against you. You are much more efficient when relaxed and your speed increases a great deal... So I dropped Graham and concentrated in Merce Cunningham's studio."

What does Merce emphasize in technique class?

"Two things seemed important to me. First, the use of the back which you study in segments over a motionless base of support. Suddenly, I was able to loose on top and not lose my balance. Secondly, his use of the foot, which is essentially a ballet foot without the shoe. My balance has immensely improved by way of these two things... Merce's technique seems to be the synthesis of the very best of ballet and Graham... You never sit on the floor in his class."

Speaking of the New York experience, Jan said, "The three years of New York taught me a lot; they increased my perception. I saw so much. I went to concerts all the time. I saw the big names on a day-to-day basis and the unknown struggling to get a show on. To see what's in and what's out. To see how people work, improve and grow. For a choreographer, an exposure to the variety of New York is essential. But a dancer need not be a product of New

York."

Obviously Jan's choreographic and dancing abilities were enriched by the New York experience. However, Jan is finished with New York. Washington gives her a new freedom and more pleasant atmosphere.

"I think dance as a field has to decentralize and get out of New York. I think there should be ways of keeping people on

salaries here. You don't have to be from New York to make it."

This summer Jan will be performing at the Baltimore Theatre Project (43 West Preston Street) May 16-19. She is also dancing and coproducing the For Free Festival on June 6 and 7 at Grace Church in Georgetown. If Baltimore is too long a drive, then see her at Grace Church.

VVAW Memorial Day Burglary

continued from page one

to scrounge around to type our newsletter and other important items. None of this will set our organizing efforts back, but it will make them more difficult."

DC/Maryland/Virginia Regional Coordinator Terry Selzer said that there are several reasons for the break-in and theft. "First," said Selzer, "it follows a pattern we had in 1972, where six weeks before the VVAW/WSO members went to the Miami political conventions the DC office was the target of a burglary and the membership list was stolen.

Second, the organization is working in two areas in which the government is most vulnerable: universal, unconditional amnesty for war resisters, and better VA hospital and educational assistance. Third, the FBI has been trying to tie this organization into the SLA, and in the process of not being able to make those connections they have been harassing, surveilling, and in at least one case, arresting members of this organization without justification.

"We know from the past history of the FBI, especially from the revelations of the FBI COINTELPRO (Counterintelligence Program) New Left operations that the FBI is not above breaking the law and violating the Constitution for their own ends," said Selzer. "Our July 1st through 4th demonstration for universal, unconditional amnesty for all war resisters, the end of aid to the Thieu and Lon Nol governments, and other demands that have related to

better treatment of veterans have shown that we will be struggling for social justice long after Richard Nixon is kicked out of office, and that scares them."

The VVAW/WSO decided not to take the burglary "laying down," and on Tuesday held a picket line in front of the Washington FBI Field Office. With support from Youth Against War and Fascism, the National Lawyers' Guild, and the United Farm Workers, the picket line lasted 45 minutes as angry FBI agents looked at signs reading "Kelly's Kommandos Must Be Stopped," "Stop FBI Terrorism," and "Federal Burglars of Investigation."

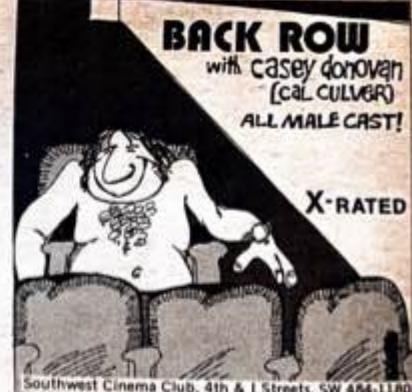
Halfway through the rally, Selzer used a bullhorn and called upon the FBI to stop its counterintelligence operations. "Special Agent Rarity, Special Agent WI IIa, this is the VVAW/WSO. We know you're in there. Come out with your hands up."

When the two FBI agents who work the New Left Desk did not appear by the time the picket ended, Selzer called them gain through the bullhorn: "We know you're in there with your feet on the desk dreaming up conspiracies..." and added, "We'll be back on July 1 through 4 with the rest of our organization to push our demands for amnesty and better treatment for Vets as well as an end to FBI harassment."

Selzer later said the organization plans to write a letter to Cong. Don Edwards of the House Judiciary Committee demanding that the Committee begin an investigation of FBI counterintelligence programs, and that the Justice Department would be the object of one of the July demonstrations.

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Love's Fingers

by Richard Shell

The Folger Shakespeare Library looks a little like a music box. It is no surprise, then, to find a play being produced at their theater which turns out with a snap of love's fingers and shots off with a sweep and a bow. *Love's Labour's Lost*—one of those middle comedies Shakespeare wrote when the pun and the turn of wit were the rage on the London stage—is playing at the Folger through May 26. It is as smooth, as precise, and as fanciful as a music box—and just as harmless. For those who study the intricate workings of male pride and female coyness there is much to see. Elizabethans may have been flingy, but they had their act together when it came to understanding sex.

The story concerns a quartet of nobles led by the King of Navarre who sign a mutual vow to stay off women, food, and drink for three years in order to better devote themselves to the honorees of pure thoughts and study. The King has hit on the notion of sublimation and he will be friends. Just when he has done so, however, the Princess of France and three ladies-in-waiting appear on a business trip. He makes them camp out in the fields so as not to break his vow, but evening finds all four gentlemen with their horns on, making out to court the ladies of his choice. The women play it pretty cool—stringing out their loves' hopes and having a good old time giving poems and promises knowing full well they are to leave soon. Love conquers all, however, and by the end all are revealed to be foolish and a little hypocritical. Fingers are made all around to meet in a year and a day to see if love's spark can still be fanned into a flame—thus proving it true.

The Folger has filled this outline with music. Songs between the loves, songs between the men pledging faith, songs between the women pledging revenge on them for being so stuffy. Best of all are the songs put to the sonnets and poems written by the loves. It is a completely original score financed in part by the Folger and Agnes Meyer Foundation.

The plot, too, has been rewritten—of at least one. The original is a long series of verbal battles between the sexes. Puns pile upon puns until even a king begins to cawn a little. The Folger—on either David Van Tieh—has tightened everything up and left only the essence of the verbal play. Bryan Williams' music is a cross between Broadway and the opera house—and it is the music which makes the whole play work.

Martin Vidmark plays the King of Navarre and has the best of the male voices. Richard Kline, John Butt, and Eugene L. Nelson are his friends. The Princess of France is elegantly played by Meg Bassett—who also has a very enjoyable way of singing. Her voice is played by Charlotte Morris, Dorothy Charday, and Terri Allen.

Also in the court are a Spanish Donkey named Don Adriano Armado and a fool named Costard. Both of these roles are very well played by Romeo Robinson and Mark (the prettiest) Robinson. These two Robinsons have a grand deal of fun chasing Leslie Simpson, an exotic young woman who goes by the name of Jaquenetta in the play. Don Armado has an especially fine moment in a number called "Love, You Are A Devil." Bassett has such an audience-filling laugh even as little. Except, perhaps, on a Saturday night at the Guards on C Street.

Love's Labour's Lost is a high-folio evening, and



If you are in the mood for that sort of thing, I highly recommend it to you. Shakespeare, as far as I know, has never dedicated and never paid a group change bill, but he had it all figured out.

Tragic Caprice

The Playwright: Thomson is moving to larger stages in the very near future. He new home will be at 612 1/2 19th Street, NW, where a possible name is Washington's old theater district. That is all well and good and I hope they have a costume shop there. But they are going to have to improve the quality of their fall of fare before I get too interested.

The two one acts currently running at the Playwright: Thomson dep. drop, drag and quote cheap way to material consciousness. His are not from the culture on my chart and I was beginning to think that they had indeed the only show. Poetry and song-related emotion were running rampant in the theater, and I was really curious to look outside to the cold air to see if there was any drama going on. Some were, however, taking what they are, however. I found

through to the end.

The two plays are called *The Flower and the Sunflower* and *The Green Garment*. *Flower* came first.

Flower (written by Romeo Robinson) is labelled in the program as a "caprice." The story concerns a king and his servant bound by lack of wit and determined to find categories for themselves and everything around them. Enter an elf who projects a little like she just missed the audition for *Peter Pan*. She

The two one acts drip, drool, drag and quake their way to merciful conclusion.

is clutching a large, overgrown flower which has the curious power of (you guessed it) making whatever holds it talk in rhyme. As the plot unfolds, greed and jealousy move the two men to try to steal the flower. They only succeed in getting a third neck—which legally allows the playwright to have all of his characters speaking in rhyme at once. *Elaine*, however, is not so much fun after all. The characters know, as the audience has known since the first glimpse of the flower, that poetry can be a drag. The king's men kill both the elf and king to get the whole flower for himself and the lights dim on him whimpering over his ill-gotten and self-nurturing prize. Wayne Katchel one proves good as the king. Marvin Max Maynard had a few good moments—usually ankles—as the king's man. Series. Judi Pollack plays an impossible elf role a little too stiffly. I was sorry for all three of them in view of the script. Dick Dongheen directed with a good sense of the space limitations imposed by the tiny theater, but why he chose to present this particular play in the first place is a mystery to me.

Play number two—*The Sunflower and the Green Garment*—looked at first as if it would develop into something interesting. Two white faced clown figures were encircled on the floor as off-keyed autoharp music strung in the background. Lights up on a blue screen held in a clear white place on top of an old stool. It was a long, however, before the long speechette came back. The sunflower turned out to be a stage presentation of the life of Oscar Wilde. When Oscar got a minute to make a quick comment on life, the place was dead. The trouble was that the playwright, Paul Hildebrand, wanted to test either his own or the actors' ability to sustain a tragic monologue. Oscar Wilde, over to life, came down with a wad, a quiver and a sort of self-teaching. I held on to my seat and waited for it to end. This play is subtitled "an autoharpist of Oscar Wilde." It would have made a good show on Wilde's own and if it had been a little shorter. Substitution, thanks to Kathy Flanigan, a William Styron, and Geoff Winter, who acted in the play, and the author, Paul Hildebrand, who also directed, I learned some things about his Wilde and heard a few good programs about art.

The two plays will be running until June 14, and tickets can be arranged by calling 272-5999.

—R. Shell

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SCHWARTZ SCHORTZ?

... a new generation with seizes upon constant motion and change as the only way to outrun corruption, and virtue sexual satisfaction as the only human response worthy of trust."

—from a review of the film 'Going Places'

by Jack Schwartz

Counter-culture to middle America
That huge poll that was out last week brought an amount of good news. Morality is down, from 1969 to 1973, in the eyes of from 77 per cent to 57 per cent of non-college youth, and from 45 per cent to 34 per cent in college people. Religion is down 64 per cent to 42 per cent in non-college, 38 per cent to 28 per cent in college; patriotism 60 to 40 per cent non-college, 35 to 19 per cent college; hard work 79 to 56 per cent non-college, 56 to 44 per cent college goers. Acceptance has increased greatly for sexual freedom, homosexuality, abortion, and a de-emphasis on



money making. As pollster Yankelovitch put it: "What's happened is that this social revolution, which started on campus, has begun to spread, and it has spread particularly now to other young people..."

Abbie Hoffman has been underground for over a month now. The New York police had framed him on a cocaine charge, and as his wife Anni put it recently, "As early as 1970, Pentagon intelligence records stated that Abbie was ideal for a drug bust set-up. With typical government efficiency, it took them only four years to accomplish their goal. . . During the arrest, one cop pointed a shotgun at Abbie and said, "Why don't you run so I can shoot you?"

Abbie has a new book out, which no publisher will touch, called *Book of the Month Club Selection*, which if ever printed will be quite useful to people, as the parts circulated attest. Safety and strength to you, Abbie, wherever you are.

Soledad Brother was the first book written by Greg Armstrong about George Jackson. Jackson was serving a possible life sentence in California prisons for a \$70 robbery committed when Jackson was 18. As he became more and more radical, the State tried to crush him. As Captain Moody of Soledad Prison put it, killing Jackson would be good because "we don't want another Eldridge Cleaver on our hands." Warden Parks of San Quentin said to a Grand juror in Marin County, within minutes of Jackson's death by prison guards on August 21, 1971, "At least one good thing happened today. We got Jackson."

Now Armstrong says that Jackson confessed, and took credit for the killing of a guard in Soledad, for which he and two other "Soledad Brothers" were put on trial. It was a response to the official get-Jackson attitude of the prison guards and administrators, and the daily plotting and attacks they levelled at him.

The New York City council once again voted down a gay rights bill that would have made overt discrimination against homosexuals illegal. In the normal filth and stench of American city politics, the Councilmen and women made deals with

the backward and sick Catholic Church hierarchy of New York, those wonderful folks fighting abortion and birth control, who always stuck behind the American platoon of Vietnam, and the racist and anti-New York Firefighters Union.

The National Lawyers Guild has filed their Watergate suit, asking that the courts set aside the 1972 elections, in total, because the Nixon-Agnew victory was the result of mass trickery and dirty deals. Sly old Georgetown University waited until the campus was empty before affirming the firing of popular Vice-President Rev. Ed Ryan by President Rev. Robert Heyle, who resented having a decent person in his administration. The lame and quiet protesting by the GU students before they went home for their "vacations" was really a disgrace. . . In Detroit, volunteers from the United Auto Workers are protecting the home of Mayrill Richards and her children, who have been the target of attacks by vandals for being the first black family in the neighborhood. The union members have also offered to repair the \$400 worth of physical damage to the home (LNS). . . I know I promised, but: the guru got married recently, and the question bouncing around is when the kid arrives, will it have been by immaculate conception, or does the goo lower himself to screw his premises physically also? . . . Early this month, the United Mine Workers strikers at Marlan County photographed and recorded the bribing of workers by coal company controlled by scabbing Southern Union officials. Fuck Duke Power Company. . . Quaalude market has dropped, as has speed and heroin. Methadone is becoming a problem. LSD is getting much better. Cocaine is \$50-\$100 per gram in the northeast. Columbian and Jamaican grass prices are high, Mexican low (*High Times*). . .

Over 15,000 people have signed a Dutch petition in support of the Wounded Knee defendants now on trial. There seems to be more publicity on the cases in Europe than in the U.S. . . Deep Throat has been banned in Maryland. The Washington Post recorded this part of the censorship board conversation: reportedly the board secretary asked a reporter, "have you eaten yet?" after they saw the flick. The reporter did not know if that was an invitation or a critique. . . Buenos Aires City Council voted Chilean dictator Pinochet "an unwanted person within the city limits. Argentine President Peron had to meet Pinochet outside the city because of the resolution." (LNS). . . *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* is being made into a movie. . . The Algerian government has hired Richard Klendienst, Nixon's reactionary former Attorney General to represent that country in its legal affairs inside the U.S.

AIM Members Freed of Charges

The US government lost another round of Wounded Knee cases on Tuesday, when three long-time American Indian Movement activists were freed on a motion for acquittal. Madonna Gilbert, Lorelei DeGra Means, and Toni Ackerman filed the motion after the prosecution ended its shoddy showing of the evidence against them in the Sioux Falls courtroom of Judge Warren Urbom, who agreed with the defense that the government had presented no basis for the possibility of a finding of guilty for any of the three.

Earlier this year, four other Wounded Knee cases were dropped by the government, and two other defendants were freed on a granting of a motion to suppress the wrongfully attained evidence that was to be used against them. That's 9 down and 500 to go.

—J. S.



MOVING??

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General Store Advertisement

Evidently, there have been mistaken impressions due to our recent ads. We are **not** going out of business nor are we selling most of merchandise at reduced prices. Since we are moving to smaller quarters (probably in September) we do have reduced prices on quite an assortment of merchandise. Such merchandise is being put out every day, but not all of it is out at one time. Further, in the listing below, when we refer, for example, to "crepe shirts @ \$6.95" this does not mean *every crepe shirt in the store, but rather a selection of crepe shirts*. To be more concrete, we have decided, more or less, to rely on one company, India Imports of Rhode Island, for garments of Indian cotton and we are having a sale on nearly all other companies that make Indian cotton garments. We have chosen this one company because they are by far the most top-notch company with respect to styling and quality. Sometimes their garments cost slightly more than the "bang-bang" companies although we are definitely selling this brand for less than anyone else.

PARTIAL LISTING OF SALE MERCHANDISE

Mexican Wedding shirts	\$6.50
Embroidered Ecuadorian shirts	\$6.95
Insulator jackets	\$3.00
Crepe shirts	\$6.95
Western/American shirts	\$3.95
Imported shirts	\$4.95
Musical instruments, table cloths, soaps, incense, oils, bags, pipes, underwear, gloves, hats, display spreads, etc. also on sale.	

Again, we emphasize that our regular merchandise is not on sale. The store is, more or less, divided into two parts, the back and front. The front of the shop contains all the merchandise that will be carried in our new store (which will be one block south of where we now are). The back of the store contains the merchandise that is marked down and which will not be carried in the new store.

The General Store

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Washington, D.C. 20009
667-0449
Mon. - Thurs. 12 to 8:
Fri. 10 to 8. Sat. 10 to 6

Mob's House

owner and director of the City National Bank of Beverly Hills, described in police reports as a key financial institution for NCS operations.

Sidney Korshak, the mob's representative in the money-hungry Hollywood of the 1930's, has risen to become a big-time lawyer and "stranger" of appearances by celebrities like Debbie Reynolds (\$1 million contract in Las Vegas), Dean Martin, Kirk Douglas, and Dinah Shore.

Korshak, like Klein, has no arrest record, and is typical of the "new image" mobster. Like Klein, he would seem to be just another fast-talking LA tycoon adept at the ins and outs of the stock market. But he has profitable connections: when Dalits was trying to sell the Stardust, in 1969, Korshak found a buyer, Parvin Dohrman—for which he was given over \$500,000 in addition to his insider's profits from resulting Parvin Dohrman stock fluctuations. Ten years younger than Dalits, Korshak is seen by many as Lansky's successor as NCS Board Chairman.

Meyer Lansky himself reportedly slipped into La Costa for four days in 1970 under an assumed name, according to police intelligence sources.

Keeping La Costa clean means keeping less respectable associates at a distance—but not too much of a distance. The Acapulco Garden Bar, in Oceanside, within easy calling range of La Costa, is a favorite hangout of Anthony Spilotro, last arrested in March, 1974 for murder; and Marshall Califano, suspect in a score of Chicago murders and one of 11 men banned by the state from entering Nevada's casinos.

Since 1969, the La Costa group has become active in multi-million dollar real estate deals. Adelson and Molasky—part owners and co-directors, like Roen—have guided the development of La Costa's new 110 acre industrial park. La Costa ev. n. tried (unsuccessfully) to have the scenic Pacific Coast Highway moved inland to make room for further expansion.

Land near La Costa is going for up to \$50,000 an acre—but with Pension Fund backing at the turn of a spigot, finance causes barely a worry to the La Costa crowd. "They seem to have an endless supply of money," complained one prominent San Diego financier. "We can't compete with them."

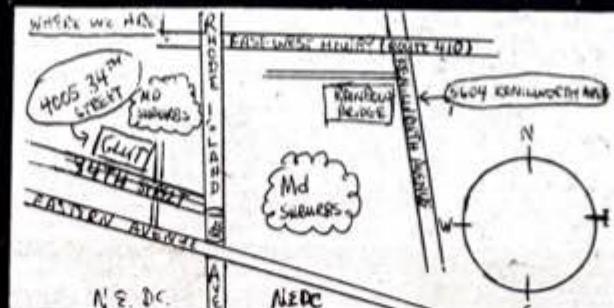
La Costa has an aura of respectability, surely, but appearances can be deceiving. "I used to be assigned to La Costa," a former police official mused. "I was sure glad when I was transferred. Those people are really powerful. They run their own show. Someone could get killed out there and you would never know it."

Next: The Teamsters Central States Pension Fund: A Private Bank for the NCS.

Lowell Bergman has been investigating organized crime for over three years. His material has appeared in *Life*, the *New York Times* and other publications.

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