

Bear Facts

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This is a special issue of Bear Facts. Judith Munk, a member of Oceanids, received a City Options Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Together with architect and designers Jeff Rogers, Tony Ciani and John Redlinger, she is studying the possibilities of a stepped plaza, a place for people to meet and cultural events to take place. Sad but true, central La Jolla has long outgrown the front lawn green space that successfully substituted for a village green. The "village" is now some 27,000 persons in need and perhaps ready for remodeling a strategic urban space. As you will see from the maps included, the study is specifically of lower Girard Avenue, a street which has great potential for the idea of an amphiplaza: It has the correct gradient; it is close to the commercial section of town; indeed it is a direct link between that part of La Jolla and Cove Park, with La Jolla's lovely oceanfront.

The study will be thorough. So far it has included mini-presentations to appropriate city agencies, and last October a one-day trial was held (see Judith Munk's letter).

As University people know, all grants have standard "ingredients", i.e. the proposal, and the follow-up conclusions. Mrs. Munk proposed to me that her grant pay for this special issue of Bear Facts in order to acquaint Oceanids with the amphiplaza's progress and to solicit comments on the design. Bear Facts readers' comments are not only important for the grant; they will reflect University opinion. She has often heard the UCSD community criticized as not being interested in La Jolla, upon which UCSD has had a great impact. A great many Bear Facts readers are directly affected by the planning process in La Jolla. My daughter points out that more than half of the Oceanids members have a La Jolla address.

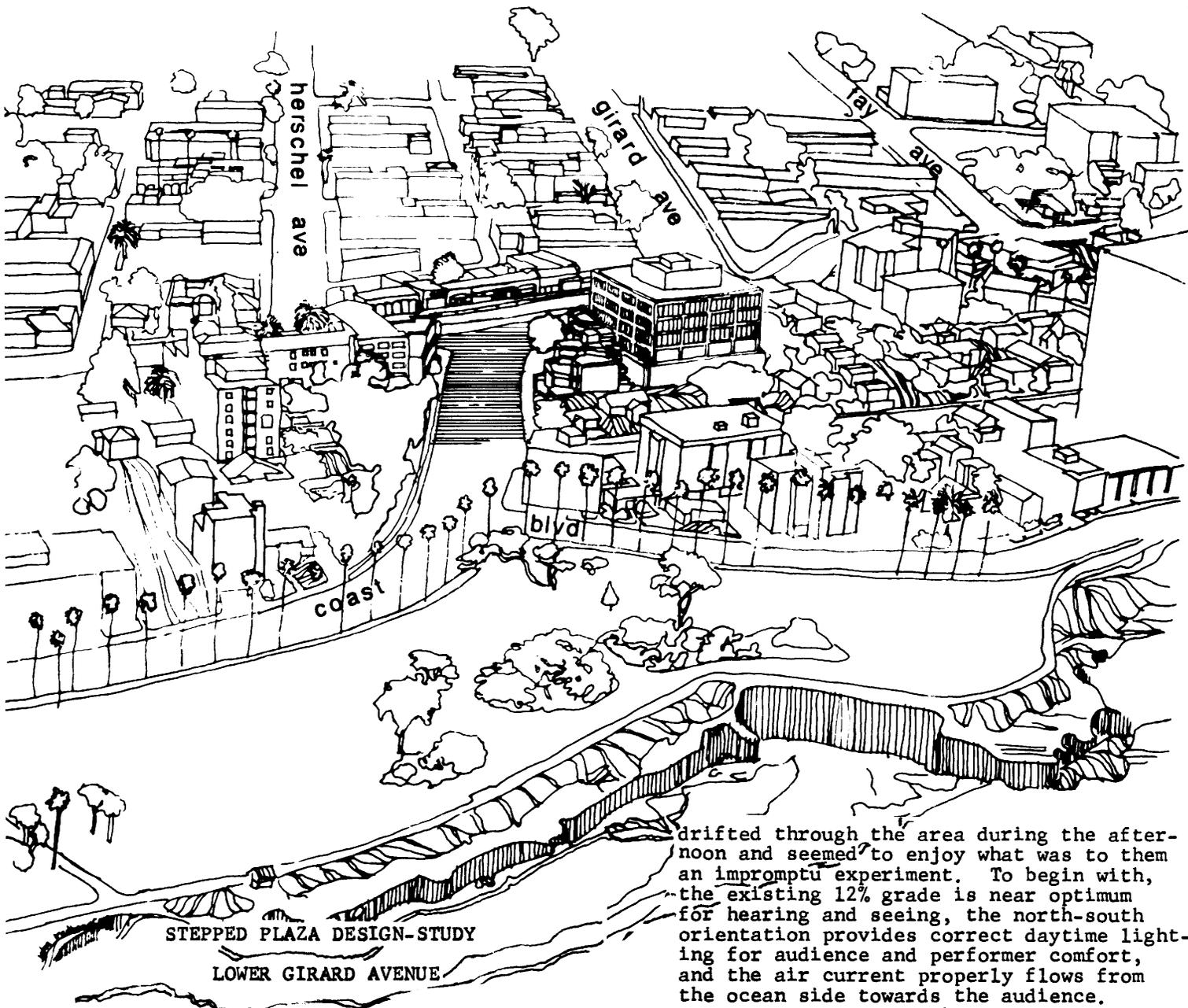
For myself, I should say I am very much in favor of the amphiplaza becoming a permanent part of La Jolla. I would like to be able to sit near a cafe bordering the plaza, and be able to see palms and the Pacific. This would be a place in which older residents of La Jolla and San Diego could meet. The many groups in music and the arts in San Diego could perform here. Last week Bird Rock Elementary School produced a 45 minute musical just for the school and parents. Such a production deserves a larger audience and could perform in the plaza. Since the staging area could accept the simplest as well as most complex presentations, community activities such as the grade school musicals could take place without the formality of a Sherwood Hall.

An important factor in establishing the plaza is the fact that the street itself is already owned by all of us, and there would be no assessment districts or conflict between private property and the "public good" in buying land. The merchants directly adjacent to the street are in favor of considering the proposal.

Presentations will be made to La Jollans Inc. and the Town Council before the grant period ends September 1. By that time the design would be firm and costed so that various options for financing could be suggested. Hopefully the stepped plaza could then be inserted in the La Jolla Precise Plan for further implementation.

Please read Judith Munk's letter and respond with your comments - they are wanted and needed. La Jolla is ready for something besides the Christmas Parade and the Rough Water Swim.

Judith Wesling



STEPED PLAZA DESIGN-STUDY
LOWER GIRARD AVENUE

drifted through the area during the afternoon and seemed to enjoy what was to them an impromptu experiment. To begin with, the existing 12% grade is near optimum for hearing and seeing, the north-south orientation provides correct daytime lighting for audience and performer comfort, and the air current properly flows from the ocean side towards the audience.

Our conclusion is that even without modifying the site and Prospect traffic, the area is receptive to unamplified music and reinforced voice. The study was definitive as to some of the things that should be done if the street were to be altered into a permanent performing plaza.

3. The attached sketches will give you some feeling of how a lower Girard re-formation might work. At the upper end a planted separator shields the performing area acoustically and visually from Prospect traffic. Looking down towards the ocean are two terraces followed by a sloping grass seating bowl contoured to break the wind and to shield the eye from Coast Boulevard traffic. The thrust stage and Shakespearean back proscenium is on the lower third terrace. Bowl and stage are offset in order not to obstruct the central vista. The top of the rear proscenium (ten feet above stage level) forms the base for the pergola, a seaward viewing place on the sunny side of the street.

1. We would like to keep you up-to-date on our study for remodelling lower Girard Avenue. As you may recall, we have received a City Option Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to study the upper dense commercial/office area of La Jolla (adjoining Prospect and Girard intersections) and the lower seascape (including Scripps Park).

2. On 20 October 1974, to test some of the potentials of the site, lower Girard was closed to automobile traffic. A varied program "Music on the Half Shell" was sponsored by a group of La Jolla citizens. The program included the La Jolla High School Band, Eric Christmas (reciting Henry V), Joe Morillo and Friends, the MAGIC IFS, the La Jolla Civic Country Band, UCSD Commedia del Arte, and Sam Hinton, all with and without microphones.

Acoustic conditions were measured and the behavior of an unsolicited audience observed. About 1,000 people of all ages

It also provides level access to the La Jolla Village Hotel and the lower La Valencia gardens. When the stage is not in use, a continuous center-stage jet of water is the actor. Actors' exits and storage are under the proscenium balcony. The ramp on the opposite side is a pedestrian aisle also providing for bicycle traffic and emergency access (and a future La Jolla minitram?).

4. Five restaurants overlook the plaza from upper Prospect Street and three (with a potential fourth) restaurants are immediately adjoining. The Stepped Plaza with its rolling green, center stage fountain, retaining wall seating, and sunlit terraces is to be a place where one would like to be, with or without performances.

The remodelled plaza reinforces one of the last remaining pedestrian ocean views seen from the central business district. It converts lower Girard from an automobile moat to a pedestrian gathering place.

5. Last week we appeared before the Park and Recreation Western Area Committee. The following is from the minutes of that meeting:

"Judith Munk and Jeff Rogers made a presentation regarding a project sponsored by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to develop an amphiplaza in the village of La Jolla.

After a slide presentation showing what might be accomplished if a portion of street between Prospect and Coast Boulevard were

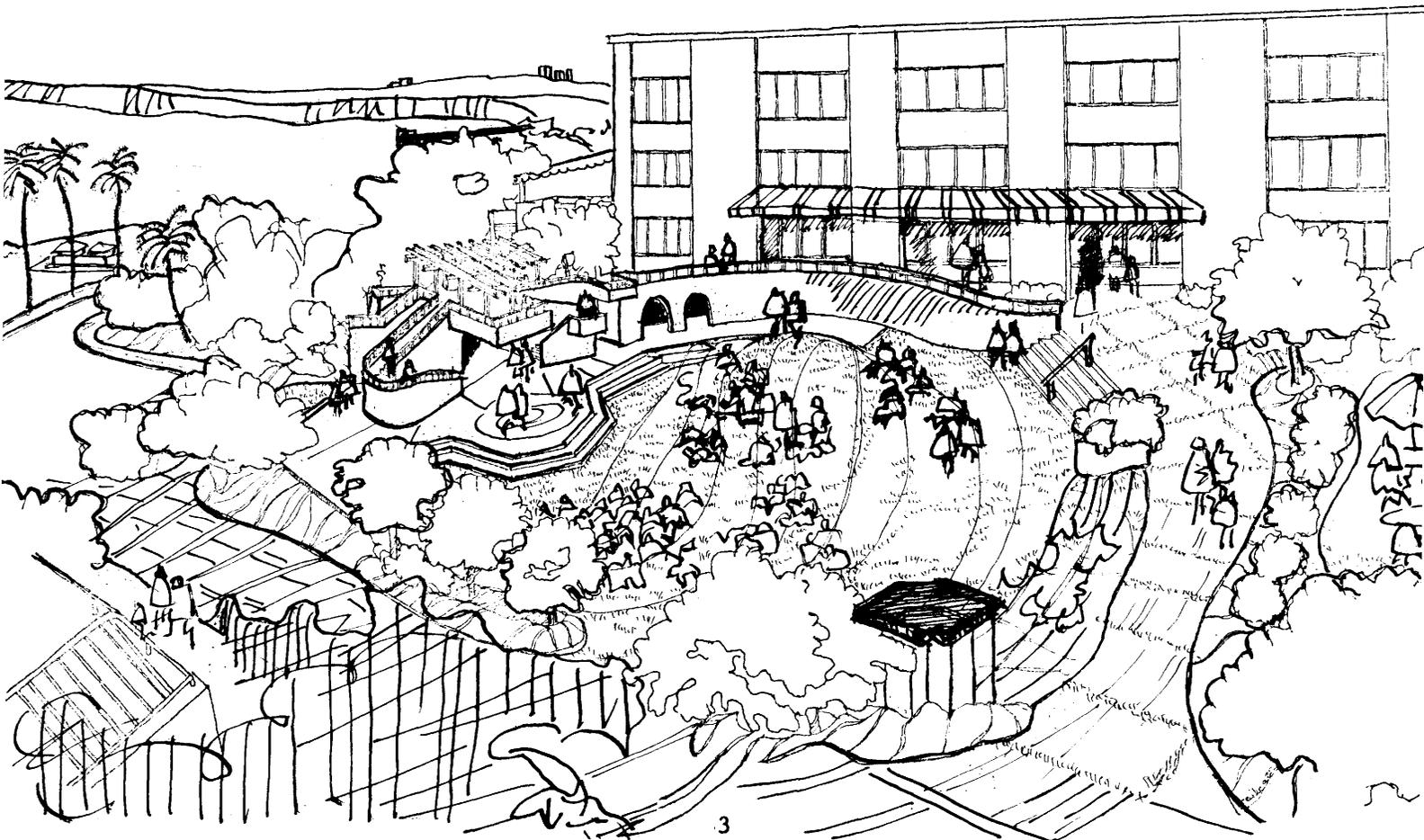
closed to vehicle traffic and developed into an amphiplaza, the Committee had a general discussion of the proposal. In general, Committee members were favorably impressed with the concept. Concern was expressed regarding the source of financing of such an undertaking.

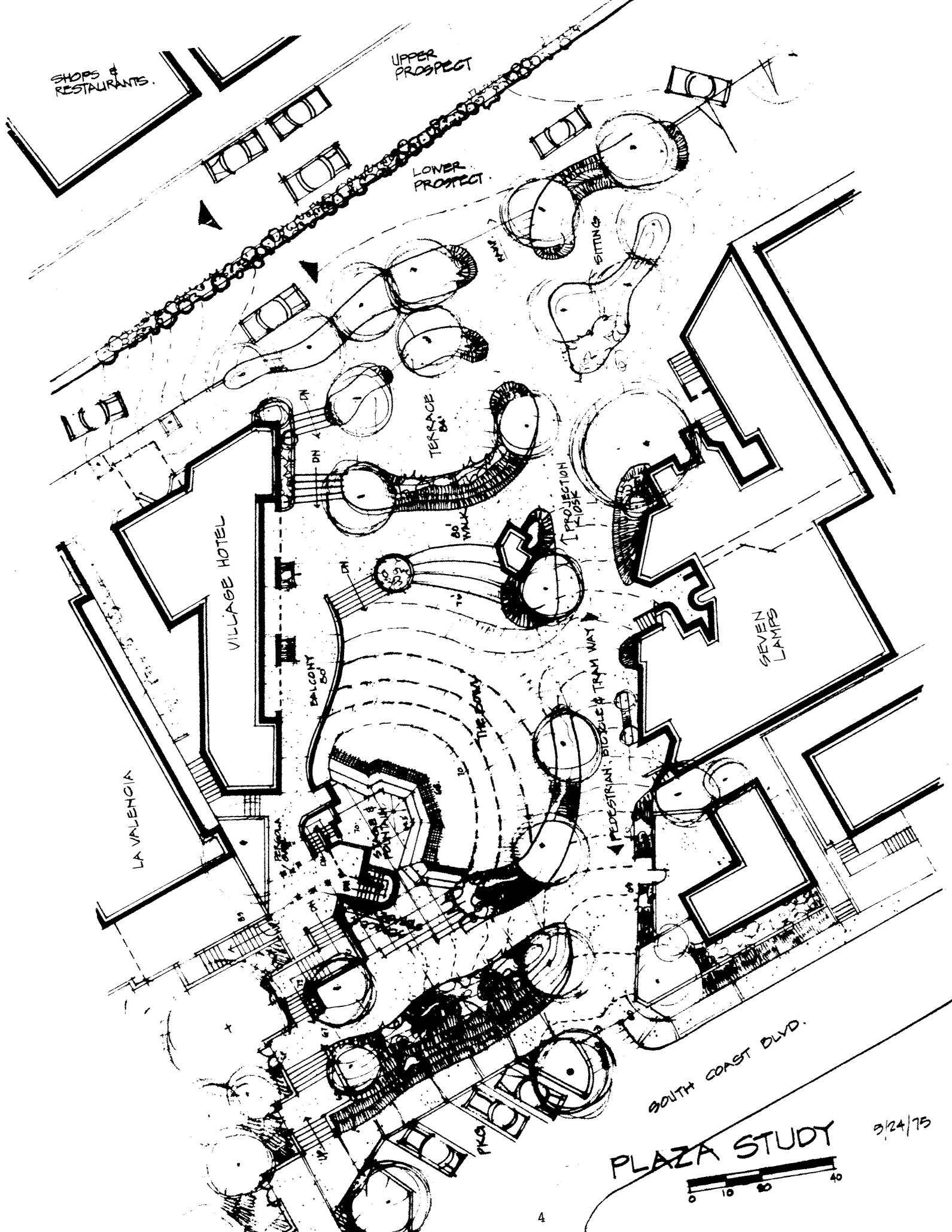
Mr. Allen moved that W.A.C. recommend to the Park and Recreation Board that the Amphiplaza concept be reviewed by appropriate City staff to determine the feasibility of the required street closing. The motion was seconded by Ms. De Jong and passed unanimously."

We will continue working (as recommended by the committee) with the San Diego Planning Department, City Manager's Office and appropriate consultants to follow-up the subjects of parking, costs, administration and suitability. We are scheduling discussions with the La Jolla Town Council Traffic and Safety Committee, the City Planning Department, La Jollans, Inc., the San Diego Park and Recreation Board and the La Jolla Town Council.

Your comments (not to be confused with commitments) are important at this stage. Please do take some moments to mail them to:

Stepped Plaza Design-Study
Ciani, Munk, Redlinger, Rogers
9530 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, California 92037





SHOPS & RESTAURANTS.

UPPER PROSPECT

LOWER PROSPECT

VILLAGE HOTEL

LA VALENCIA

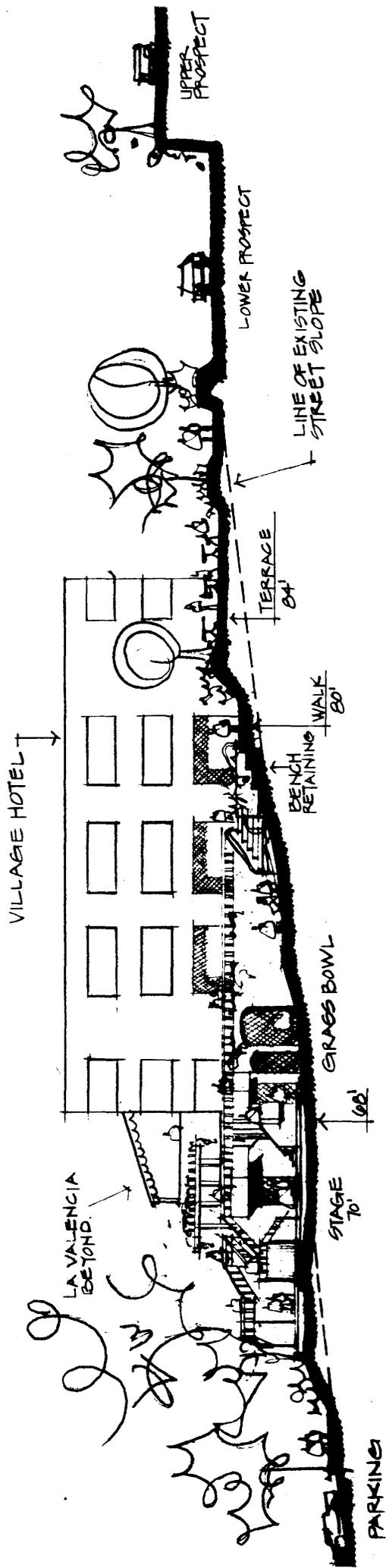
SEVEN LAMPS

SOUTH COAST BLVD.

PLAZA STUDY

9/24/75



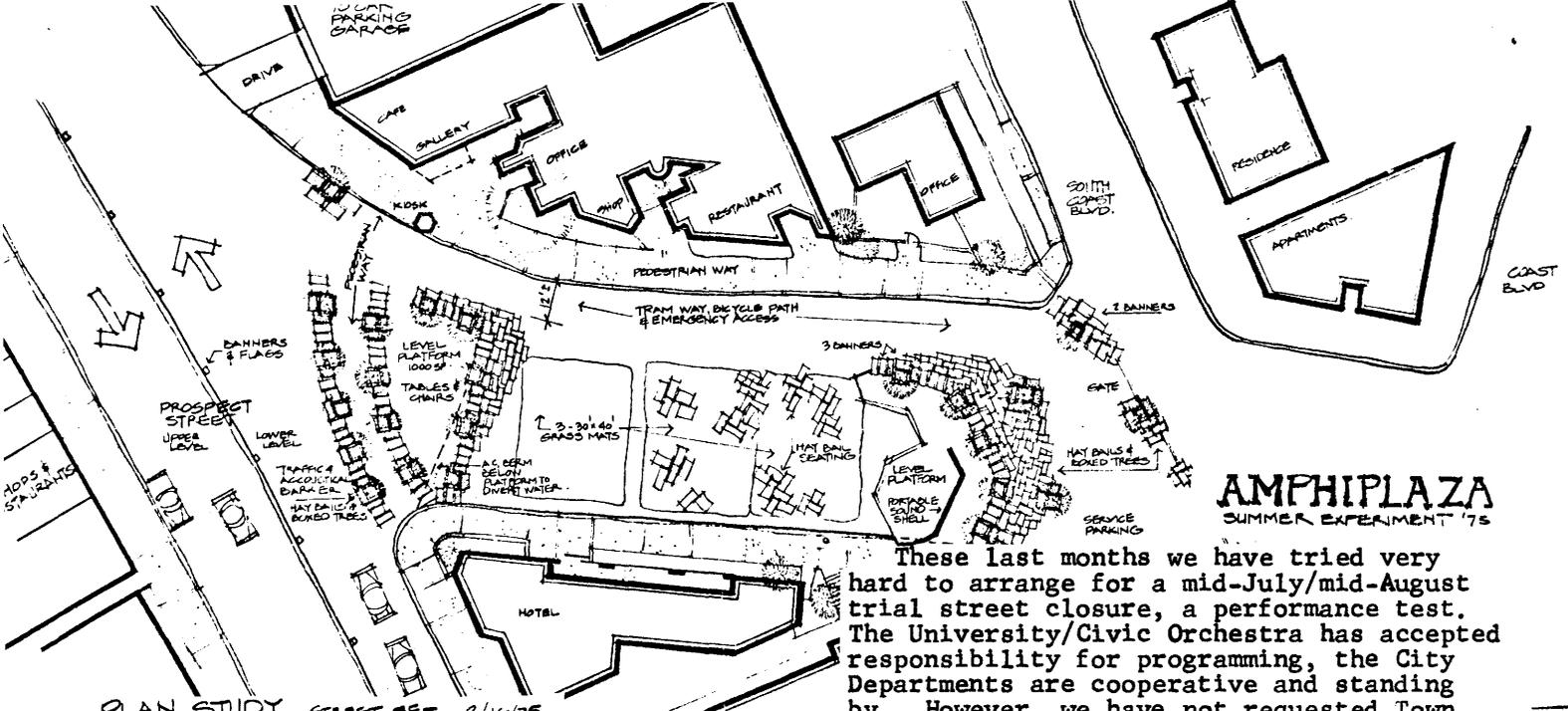


PLAZA STUDY 5/1/75

CROSS SECTION

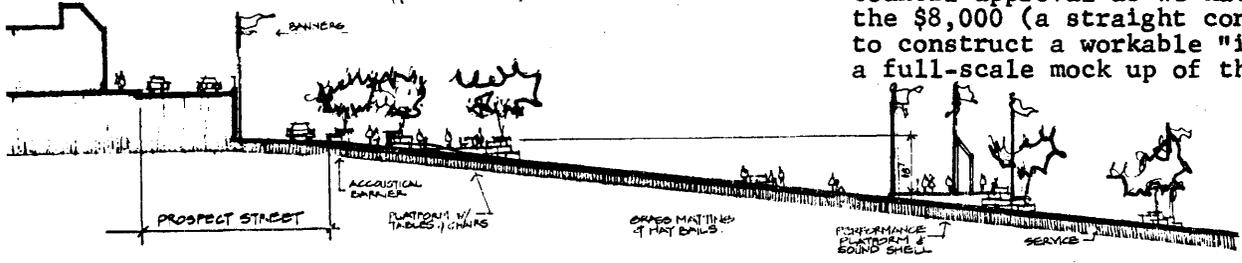
We have made an effort to be in touch with adjacent property owners and a representative number of those who would affect and be affected by this remodelling (listed below). A few have expressed strong opposition, some are waiting for the outcome of this study, others await reactions from community organizations. A large majority considers that a remodelled lower Girard Avenue would be a major contribution and a focus to local as well as the regional community.

Sebastian Adler, the Burt Aginskys, the Willis Allens, the RF Backmans, Maury Bakken, the George K Batts, the James Beckers, the Eugene Bernsteins, the Larry Bertrands, the Albert Blatz', James Britten, Mrs Jacob Bronowski, Denise Carabet, the John Carsons, the Armistead Carters, the Eric Christmas', the Marvin Clarks, Barbara Cole, the Robert Collins', the Loch Cranes, the Ronald Dahlins, Homer Delawie, the William Doyles, the Roy Drews, Richard Duffy, the George Ellis', Mrs Lynn Fayman, the Russell Foresters, Josephine Foulks, the Harold Franks, the Herman Froebs, the Kennedy Gammages, the Theodore Geisels, the Wayne Grays, the Cecil Greens, the William Greens, the Hollis Hamstras, the Cyril Harris', the William Harris', the Edward Hartes, the Deane Haskins', the Baird Hastings', the Robert Henkels, the Sam Hintons, the Francis Howells, the Richard Irwins, the Irwin Jacobs', Ruth Jenkins, the Harry Johnstons, Quincy Jones, the Roy Jones, John Katzenstein, John Kerman, the Charles Klapperts, the Frank Kockritz', Mrs. Harry Krog, Ms Angeles Leira, Robert MacKichan, the Hamilton Marstons, Jon McDowell, Mrs DeWitt Merriam, Larry Milne, the Gilbert Moores, Judith Morgan, Mr Flip Nicklin, Craig Noel, the John Quadys, the Everett Rogers', the Jonas Salks, Charles L Sanders, the JW Sandersons, William Schofield, Ms Marion Scott, the Gordon Sears', Tom Shepard, RT Silberman, Art Simpson, Mike Smith, Robert Souders, the John Spizizens, George Story, the Harold Torberts, the Harold Ureys, the Nicholas VanDorns, the William Watsons, the Nathan Zvaiflers, San Diego City Council Members, AB Rodriguez, the Goldsmiths, Viola Fryman, Seven Lamps Restaurant, Hawaiian Shop, La Jolla Optical, Village Liquor, Lyerly and Bell, Little Folks Shop, Scandinavian Pacific, Dean Witter and Co, American Express, Village Cupboard Restaurant, Sophia's Fashions, Court Room Restaurant, Shanghai Restaurant, El Gaucho Imports, Tarbox Gallery, Nat Cordova, Greek Imports, Carlson Travel Service, Schnitzelbank Restaurant, La Jolla Village Hotel, "Monkey Business", La Jolla Town Council Members, Bear Facts, Marie Wideman, the John Welshs.



AMPHIPLAZA
SUMMER EXPERIMENT '75

These last months we have tried very hard to arrange for a mid-July/mid-August trial street closure, a performance test. The University/Civic Orchestra has accepted responsibility for programming, the City Departments are cooperative and standing by. However, we have not requested Town Council approval as we have not found the \$8,000 (a straight contractor bid) to construct a workable "instant park", a full-scale mock up of the proposed design.



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DAY BOOK GROUP

The present chairman gives special thanks to those who researched authors, to those who lead discussions, to those who opened their homes to share pre-meeting coffee with about twenty-three of us per session. We began the fall season with the Solzhenitsyn travail, The Gulag Archipelago, and Margaret Mead's folk-heroine autobiographical frolic Blackberry Winter. We marvelled at the social-psychological puzzle, Boll's Group Portrait with Lady before we orbited into another part of the galaxy with Clarke's Rendezvous with Rama and discussion of trends in science fiction. The strong parallel between the real life struggles of Mishima and his novel Confessions of a Mask was revealed in January. Two selections of fictionalized social satire, "62" by Julio Cortazar and The Eye of the Storm by White were then studied. The gothic romance by J. Rhys, The Wide Sargasso Sea preceded the Studs Terkel volume of selected interviews and commentary, Working. We finish the year with discussion of Doris Lessing's novel The Summer Before the Dark and reconvene in September with Carol Schultz and Kristi Hille as co-organizers. Hoping to see you this fall.

Ann Van Atta

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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OCEANIDS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
AND
BEAR FACTS SUBSCRIPTION

For the 1975-76 membership in Oceanids (including a subscription to "Bear Facts"), send a check for \$5 payable to Oceanids to Membership Chairperson Mary Bailey, RFD 340, Del Mar 92014, 755-6813. Dues are payable June 1.

Interested persons ineligible for Oceanids membership may subscribe to "Bear Facts" by sending \$5 to Isabel Wheeler, 1594 Crespo Drive, LJ 92037, 459-7461.

COMMENCEMENT

School of Medicine
Sunday, June 8, 11 o'clock, front of the Basic Science Building.

Revelle College
Sunday, June 15, 12:30 o'clock, Revelle Plaza. Speaker: Professor Roger Revelle, Harvard University.

Muir College
Sunday, June 15, 1:30 o'clock, Muir Courtyard (between 2A and 2C). Speaker: Remarks by Provost Stewart; a member of the Senior Class; and, continuing a Muir tradition, one of three distinguished professors chosen by Muir Senior Class balloting.

Third College
Sunday, June 15, 10:30 o'clock, Third College Plaza. Speaker: United States Senator Dan Inouye.

Fourth College
Sunday, June 15, 3 o'clock, IGPP Conference Room, SIO. Speaker: Professor Herbert York, UCSD.

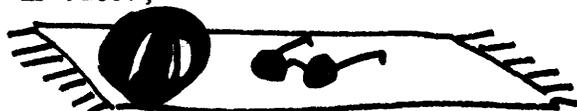
Graduate Studies
Sunday, June 15 with Revelle College.

CHINESE COOKBOOK

Dr. Lanna Cheng, a native of Singapore, who is studying marine insects at SIO, has written a cookbook called Chinese Cooking Made Easy. It has been designed to capture the traditional flavor of Chinese food while taking advantage of American labor-saving devices. Her book will show you how she serves a splendid chinese dinner 30 minutes after leaving her Scripps lab.

The book is a "thank you" to the American Associan of University Women (Cabrillo-Diego Branch) who awarded a year's post-doctoral fellowship to Dr. Cheng, and can be obtained at the UCSD and SIO bookstores for \$2.25 (tax-deductible as a donation to the AAUW fellowship program). To obtain a copy by mail, send \$2.50 to AAUW Cabrillo-Diego Branch, % Jean Erickson, 3859 Centraloma Drive, San Diego 92107.

Kathleen Winsor



Please print and tear off

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EVENING BOOK GROUP

This year the books we chose provided us with a wide range of subjects for many stimulating discussions. We read of Gore Vidal's interpretation of the characters and motives of our founding fathers in Burr; and Kurt Vonnegut Jr.'s ideas of where the military-scientific segment of our present world may lead us in Cat's Cradle. We saw the Latin American point of view from Gabriel Garcia Marquez's One Hundred Years of Solitude, an allegorical portrait of the history of Latin America which in many ways parallels world history.

The feelings of women about the roles they play in society and the needs they have to express themselves through their writing were seen in A Room of One's Own by Virginia Woolf and Portrait of a Marriage by Nigel Nicolson (representing the 1920's); and Fear of Flying by Erica Jong (representing the 1970's).

Some of the other problems of our contemporary society were seen in House Made of Dawn, N. Scott Momaday's beautifully written portrait of the feelings of a present day American Indian; Kind and Usual Punishment, Jessica Mitford's indictment of our pris on system; Two Worlds of Childhood: US and USSR, Urie Bronfenbrenner's contrast of the United States and Russian school systems; and A Nation of Strangers, Vance Packard's study of the effects that the high rate of mobility in the United States has on our lives. The last book seemed especially appropriate since about 80% of the people at the meeting would not be staying in San Diego more than another two years.

For a change of pace, we read some of T. S. Eliot's poems and tried to unravel the puzzel of The Magus by John Fowler.

We closed out the year with a pot luck dinner, keeping in mind Vance Packard's statistics which would indicate many of us would not have many more occasions for getting together.

Again we may meet during the summer and would welcome seeing some new faces. For information call me, 453-3106 or Nancy, 452-1608.

Thank you to all members of the group who have helped to make this an interesting and successful year.

Elsa Weinstein

BEAR FACTS

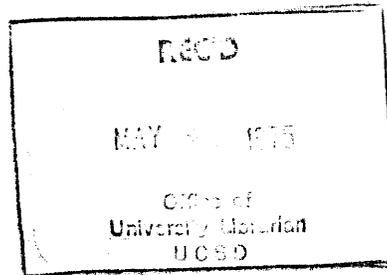
Again we can say our year of doing "Bear Facts" has been informative, exciting, and full of "kicks". We thank the many contributors who made it possible: Particularly the writing staff; Nora Atlas, Calendar Editor; Isabel Wheeler, Circulation; Elibet Marshall, Staff Artist; and of course, Julie Olfe. Now it is time for someone else to anticipate the challenge and fun of editing "Bear Facts". Judith Wesling is Editor for next year. Onward and upward! The next issue of "Bear Facts" will be 1 October 1975. Have a good summer.

Marie Pearce

A special behind-the-tanks visit will be conducted by the Scripps Docents for Oceanids on Wednesday, June 4 at 1 PM. Call Beth Wilkie, 454-6656 or Rose Baily, 453-2637.

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Bear Facts

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Year: 1975 -B



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