

# VID NEWS

SPRING, 1982



## President's Report:

### THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING VID

Our club endorses candidates for political and party office by a majority vote of club members at General Membership meetings.

During our May and June meetings we will be having endorsement votes for U.S. Senator, Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, Congress, State Senate, Assembly, City Council (if the lines are approved), State Committee and various Judgeships.

The endorsement of the V.I.D. is always a most sought after one, for two basic reasons. First, because it's always accompanied by much hard work. Second, because our endorsement stands for something. It tells the community, and those listening elsewhere, that the members of our club, with its tradition of independence and liberalism, believes that the candidate is worthy of the position being sought.

I urge all members of the club to listen to the candidates, question them, study their records, and see what their vision of the future includes.

Then I urge you to come to the endorsement meetings and vote for those candidates who you feel best represent V.I.D.'s principles and merit our endorsement.

Dan Roskoff

## District Leaders' Report:

### THE PLIGHT OF OUR ELDERLY

Our visit to the Lady of Pompei Center confirmed our belief that the budget cuts have had a psychologically damaging effect on the elderly members of our community.

The budget cuts have exacerbated already existing fears. Further slashes to social security, housing programs and medical care are threatened.

They asked for assurances where none could be given. It was difficult to explain a White House policy that calls for millions of dollars of expenditures for a few, yet provides little assistance for millions.

And now, Carey's recent budget cuts make the elderly's situation even more intolerable. He has vetoed \$1.5 million for community services for the elderly, \$3 million in increased aid for public health and \$1.6 million for services of the New York City Office of Rent Control.

Although a balanced budget may be a worthwhile objective, that goal should not be achieved at the expense of basic human needs.

New York must not follow Washington's inhuman example.

Catherine Abate & Tony Hoffmann

## VID NEWS

Jon Pelzer, Editor



VID NEWS IS PUBLISHED BY  
VILLAGE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

President  
Dan Roskoff

District Leaders  
Catherine Abate  
Tony Hoffmann

### EDITORIAL

#### CARING COMMUNITY GETS SOME RELIEF

Do financial interests always win out over those of people? In the case of the Caring Community, an aptly named group of non-profit organizations occupying the old Food and Maritime Trades High School, the answer appears to be, at least in the short term, a heart-warming "no."

This optimistic assessment stems from what VID assumes to be the sudden willingness of Terrence Moan, the City's Commissioner of Real Property, to see the Caring Community for what it is; good people doing good work, rather than simply tenants in arrears. This "willingness" was fostered by the involvement of Bob Wagner, Carol Greitzer, Community Board 2 and other organizations, including VID.

Of course, the picture was not always so rosey.

A few months back, when the Caring Community's Executive Director, Michael O'Shea, spoke at VID, he was facing eviction for nonpayment, a situation caused, in part, by the delay of a \$600,000 federal grant.

At that time, Commissioner Moan saw Food and Maritime Trades High School as "an extremely valuable piece of real estate." He felt that, as Commissioner of Real Property, he was obligated to get as much money out of the property as possible.

The Caring Community acknowledged its obligations to the City, but asked for some flexibility in meeting them.

(Continued on page 8.)

#### INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM vs. CONSERVATIVE COERCION

by Mark Green  
President, Democracy Project

Despite their flag-waving rhetoric, right-wing conservatives have become the enemies of liberty in America.

In a demonstration of what Disraeli called "organized hypocrisy," they want to get government off our backs — and to regulate morality by federal "chastity centers," to condone CIA domestic spying and compel raped women to go to term. Also, they redefine freedom to mean freedom from government. But what of freedom for the ill and poor — whose condition denies them many choices? What about freedom from private sector abuse? For pollution and discrimination, for example, can inhibit people's physical and personal freedoms.

"Taxes on the affluent do reduce the freedom of those so taxed to spend their own money," Professor John Kenneth Galbraith wrote in the New York Review of Books. "But welfare payments, unemployment compensation, and old-age pensions serve even more specifically to increase the liberty of their recipients. That is because the differences for liberty between considerable income and a little less income can be slight; in contrast, the effect on liberty of the difference between no income and some income is always very, very great."

Similarly, an inspector from the Environmental Protection Agency may marginally reduce the liberty of a chief executive officer in order to expand greatly the freedom from danger for his workers and community.

Those who say that the public sector only limits freedom are really making a class argument that government should maximize freedom not for all citizens, but only for those already with means and power.

Instead, a progressive program for human liberties should include: achieving an effective income transfer system to expand the freedom-of-choice of the poor and disabled by the modest transfer of income from the comfortable; extending the Voting Rights Act as passed by the House of Representatives; allowing women the choice of whether to have a child; prohibiting the implied coercion of "prayer in schools"; and tolerating the differences between Americans, rather than a new Comstockery that has resulted in a measurable outbreak of 'book burnings' in the past year and a half.

#### ANNIVERSARY DINNER

MADE LOT OF "CENTS"

The 25th Anniversary Dinner, attended by 225 people, was a tremendous financial and political success.

We made a profit of over \$5,000 and attracted public and party officials from all over town — and aspirants, of course.

Tony Hoffmann and Catherine Abate paid tribute to our twenty-five year history by welcoming past presidents and district leaders.

Dan Roskoff made a stirring speech emphasizing our progressive tradition and encouraging us to continue the struggle against Republicans and conservative Democrats.

Bob Hayes was presented with an award for his terrific work on behalf of the homeless people of New York, and Tom Downey provided a biting and insightful critique of Reagan's arms policy.

Finally, everyone seemed to have a really fine time.

by Jerry Goldfeder,  
Chair, Dinner Committee

#### MARCHING TIME AGAIN

When the VID contingent of about 50 gathered in the haze of pre-dawn for the trip to the El Salvador March in Washington on March 27, there were those among us who had over and over said, "Never again!" Enough of staggering onto buses at 5:30; squabbles about smokers' and breathers' rights; excruciating lines at Howard Johnson toilets; screeching, sectarian harangues over God's first attempt at a public address system.

but we went anyhow, because it seemed important.

Because somehow, we had to let homebodies out in TV land know that there is an organized somebody — a lot of somebodies — saying "No!" to the latest White House attack on public decency.

As long as Right-Wing fanatics prevail in the White House, VID will be marching, for disarmament in New York on June 12 and in Washington on other issues.

Join us. It's a strange and wonderful way to spend a Saturday.

by Keith Crandell  
Co-Chair, Foreign Policy  
& Peace Committee

#### THINGS I MADE UP

by Jon Pelzer

The inside scoop is that Ned Regan will soon drop out of the State Comptroller race, and instead seek his old job as Erie County Exec. According to aides, the entry into the Republican primary of Leo McGuire, a Troy used car dealer, caused Regan to change his plans. "McGuire's got the biggest used car dealership in Troy!" an aide to the Comptroller explained. "How can we be expected to fight that kind of name recognition?"

\*\*\*\*\*

In response to charges by his former brother-in-law that he had little to do with Rite Aid's success, an indignant Lew Lehrman snapped, "I guess he forgot who fixed the Xerox last summer."

\*\*\*\*\*

Bruce Caputo is at it again! The former congressperson, who was never protestant, a veteran, or an honors student, acknowledged more falsehoods last week. "First of all, I'm only sixteen." Caputo began, explaining his boyish appearance. "Second, my real name is Sophie Miltowski." Caputo, er, Miltowski added that he, er, she is also an illegal alien.

\*\*\*\*\*

On a walking tour of the Village, Guy Molinari was overheard asking someone if he was "still in Manhattan?"

\*\*\*\*\*

What's named one color, but has several? Bill Green. Speaking of the congressional chameleon, his reelection committee recently filed suit to stop Congressional Quarterly from publishing his voting record. "We're not stupid," a committee spokesperson explained.

\*\*\*\*\*

When informed that tax tuition credits violated the constitutional separation of church and state, Al D'Amato quipped, "So? We'll change the constitution."

GREENWICH VILLAGE  
"OPERATION NUCLEAR FREEZE"  
TOWN MEETING

MAY 25, 7:30 PM  
METROPOLITAN-DUANE METHODIST CHURCH  
201 West 13th Street  
(See resolution page 5.)

# BLOCK PARTY

SATURDAY, JUNE 19!

TURN TO PAGE 8 FOR DETAILS!

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## CAMPAIGN by Meryl Berman, Chair

"Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation."

The quote is by Robert Kennedy. The sentiment must be ours now. We cannot edit out the Republican gains of 1980. We can write a new chapter in the electoral book, this time, one with a table of candidates with content, not cold cuts, whether Democrat or Republican.

We have suffered the indignities of Reagan mortis and redistricting. Many have marched, shouting "Fight Back!" The Club and the community will have the races to do just that.

The Campaign Committee is about to peak. Witness this in person at the next meeting, Thursday, May 20th, at 7:30 PM. There are more than enough races to go around. The Holtzman Senate race turned me into an active VID member. It could happen to you.

You are needed, and we all need the results.

Thank you.

**MARCH FOR DISARMAMENT!**  
**JUNE 12**  
Meet at the Washington Square  
Park Arch at 9:30 AM  
for March up to Central Park.

## COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

by Ilene Zucker, Chair

VID's Community Affairs Committee has been actively involved in many issues in the Village.

Ed Ortiz moderated our panel discussion on the Victim's Services Agency.

Rose James has been working with the Department of Transportation, concerning traffic control on 3rd Street.

Our resolution on the Women's Liberation Center helped them get approval to purchase the firehouse.

The 8th Street Playhouse has finally received their consumer affairs license and Steve Hirsch promises to continue trying to work with the residents. He welcomes any other suggestions we may have and will continue putting a sign up each weekend.

The Caring Community is still negotiating with Commissioner Moan about the old Food and Maritime High School. (For more on the Caring Community, see the Editorial on page two.)

Our next meeting is May 18th and all VID members are welcome.

## ENVIRONMENTAL

by Neil Getnick, Chair

In addition to the Environmental Committee's continuing petition campaigns to replace Secretary of Interior James Watt and to halt the operation of Indian II nuclear power plant, the Committee has taken a lead role on crucial environmental issues.

The Committee has successfully sponsored resolutions supporting legislation to control acid rain, favoring the proposed "Bottle Bill," opposing the Prattsville Pumped Storage Project, against amending federal court venue statutes, and challenging the proposed federal "Dirty Air Act."

After passage of the above resolutions, the Committee followed up by writing to key legislators and administration officials along with local and national environmental groups communicating VID's positions.

The N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation expressed its strong support of VID's stance on the acid rain issue and pledged to continue its efforts to press for positive change on the federal level.

The Prattsville Pumped Storage Project, which VID opposed, now appears headed for certain defeat.

In the coming weeks, the Committee will be concentrating its efforts on lobbying for passage of the Bottle Bill. All VID members are welcome to join us on this and other issues of concern.

## FUNDRAISING by Betsy Naylor, Chair

VID has had a year of remarkably successful fundraising events! Think back: our 25th Anniversary Dinner at Les Mouches, the Holiday Party at Stephanie Rogall's, the Tribute and Thank You to Miriam Bockman and Herman Gerson at the Horn of Plenty, the October Wine and Cheese Party at the home of Judy and Jules Moskowitz and finally, the First Annual Ice Cream Sundae Party at Herman and Sophie Gerson's.

Our good times come from the many and varied efforts of club members and friends. People have poured in their energy for help helping each event to keep VID in the black.

Now, look forward to a heavier financial burden of inflated campaign costs and, no doubt, higher rent when we move.

But - look forward to the Block Party on June 19 and to the Second Annual Ice Cream Sundae Party this summer.

The Editor wishes to thank Jacqui Schock, Dan Roskoff and Ilene Zucker for their assistance, and Keith Crandell for his cartoon.

## FOREIGN POLICY & PEACE

by Anne M. Orton, Co-Chair

A mutual US/USSR nuclear arms freeze, and efforts for disarmament generally, have been our main activity.

The Club endorsed the freeze in December. Members collected over 200 signatures in support, and are working to obtain endorsements by organizations of all kinds - community, religious, professional, political and tenant. We expect to testify in support of a freeze resolution in the City Council on May 12.

We are helping organize a feeder march starting in the Village as part of the disarmament demonstration on June 12, at the special U.N. Disarmament Session.

## VID JOINS NUCLEAR FREEZE

The following resolution, introduced by Jerry Goldfeder, was passed at VID's April General Membership meeting.

"WHEREAS, Village Independent Democrats believes deeply that the nuclear arms race must be reversed;

WHEREAS, Village Independent Democrats believes that we must join together with all people who are struggling to freeze the development of nuclear weapons;

WHEREAS, Village Independent Democrats believes our community ought to be informed as to the dangers of nuclear armaments;

BE IT RESOLVED, that Village Independent Democrats supports "Operation Nuclear Freeze Town Meetings" sponsored by Episcopal Diocese of New York, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Union of Hebrew Congregations and WOMEN U.S.A.;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Village Independent Democrats co-sponsors the Greenwich Village Town Meeting to be held on May 25th, 1982."

(See page 3 for details.)



HOUSING by Rick Braun, Chair

The Housing Committee, in conjunction with the Judicial Reform Committee, sponsored a highly educational presentation on May 5th on "How to Obtain Apartment Repairs."

The speakers were Housing Court Judge Diane Lebedeff, former Civil Court Judge Jeffrey Gallet and Attorney Gene Hurkin.

The Committee has worked to support the causes of community groups with housing problems. I spoke and other VIDers demonstrated in support of the 371-73 Bleecker Street Tenants Association, whose members assert that their landlord has done nothing to repair serious fire damage so that displaced rent control tenants can move back into their apartments.

VID also endorsed a Committee resolution in support of the Third Avenue Tenants', Artists and Businessmen's (sic) Association, who oppose a developer's proposal to build high rise buildings on Third Avenue between 9th and 12th Streets.

Recently, the Committee has passed resolutions in support of City and State bills increasing the rights of tenants where conversions to a co-op is proposed; state bills improving tenant eviction and hotel tenants rights; city bills improving ~~the~~ rights of rent stabilized and pet owner tenants and all tenants regarding smoke detectors; and in opposition to Reagan's proposed housing budget cuts and to a confusing state co-op conversion bill.

The VID tenants clinic continues its weekly community service. Everyone is invited to our May 20th meeting at 8 PM.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS by Amy Wyman, Chair

The Legislative Affairs Committee has concentrated on providing letters at each membership meeting so you can make a difference — through lobbying.

Our members have worked diligently to research issues and draft resolutions/letters.

Anita Isola and Rick Braun poured over the lengthy Family Protection Act and compiled a comprehensive attack.

John Howe is our link to the city-wide campaign for small business rent control.

New members John Colangelo and Gary Rappaport have joined right in with verve. John studied and reported on the 25 bills threatening to strip the Federal Courts' jurisdiction. Gary has researched a Food

JUDICIAL REFORM by Carol Arber, Chair

The Judicial Reform Committee has continued its series of panel presentations with an enthusiastic response from the Club and the Community.

On March 25, 1982, Denny Farrell, Stanley Friedman, Roger Olson and Henry Berger conducted a heated debate about the effects of separating the Bronx and Manhattan for purposes of judicial selection. The discussion was not only lively and amusing, but informative.

This was followed by a joint presentation of the Judicial Reform Committee and the Housing Committee, instructing us on how to get our landlords to make repairs. This panel (on May 5, 1982) included Jeffrey Gallett, Diane Lebedeff and Eugene Hurkin.

The Committee has discussed proposals for improving the judicial selection process. In addition, Committee members are concerned about issues that have arisen in the Court raising issues that affect sitting judges.

One such issue concerns the newly instituted panel selection for temporary Supreme Court assignments for judges from other courts. The Committee will explore presenting the pros and cons of this system late in the summer or early in the fall.

Our next meeting will be on June 2, 1982, at 8 PM at the Club. Hope to see some new faces then.

Stamp problem for a Village resident who came to the Committee.

Ed Ortiz coordinated the efforts of several committees in their opposition to Reagan's budget cuts by providing important information on the cuts, guiding the Legislative Committee on the budget process and by coordinating the letter-writing campaign.

Such enthusiasm and work make Committee participation truly rewarding.

On March 30, Dick Kelmans and myself represented VID in Albany with the New York Civil Liberties Union Citizens Lobby for Abortion Rights.

Future projects include distributing copies of representative's voting records in the Village and going to protest the Right to Life Convention in Cherry Hill, N.J., July 17.

LABOR by Bill Van Felix, Chair

A most informative symposium on Puerto Rican status was held with active audience participation. It was clear that proponents of Commonwealth, Statehood and Independence all had one thing in common, a desire for Puerto Rico to have greater control of its destiny.

I participated as a delegate to an exciting three-day N.Y. Regional Convention of District 65, UAW, where the following decisions were made:

1. Six hundred delegates unanimously voted to work for a nuclear arms freeze.
2. With many contracts coming up for renewal in the next few months, delegates voted against "give backs" and resolved to press for economic gains to meet the needs of members.
3. Reaching the conclusion that government has been captured by the most reactionary forces of big business, District 65, in coalition with all other progressives must mobilize to retake government FOR THE PEOPLE. To accomplish this, a massive voter registration drive was launched and every effort will be made to insure active political participation by the membership.

This will present an exceptional opportunity for VID to reach out and recruit many trade unionists and work with them to make a tremendous change for the better in Manhattan politics.

It also presents us with the responsibility of formulating a program and of nominating candidates who will convince labor that our party is their party.

The Labor Committee will be doing important work in the coming months. I urge you to join us, for we can make important contributions to the coming campaigns.

POLITICAL OUTREACH by Carol Feinman, Chair

The Political Outreach Committee has been on the move since the last newsletter. A meeting was set up with some of the surrounding District Leaders in an effort to work even more closely together. The hope is that this Committee will be useful when there is a need to bring surrounding political groups together for specific projects.

The Committee has also presented speakers from groups with which VID has, and continues to have, close relations. At the March General Meeting, Roger Olsen, the chair of Manhattan New Democratic Coalition (NDC), with which we are affiliated and work together, spoke on the continuing importance of NDC.

At the April meeting, Jo-Ann Mort, the President of New York Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) addressed the club on DSA's background and programs, which are particularly important in these days of creeping Reaganism and right-wing encroachments on both federal and local levels. At that meeting, VID also voted unanimously to be a co-sponsor of the Democratic Agenda Issues Conference on May 8.

Both of these conferences will hopefully end with the formulation of a left-liberal agenda which will be a viable alternative to the reactionary programs of today.

An event in the planning stages is a meeting between VID and leaders of the Black and Hispanic political community, with the hope of working even more closely on common issues. The concept and development of this has been done by Ed Ortiz, who will be keeping everyone up to date on this project.

The Political Outreach Committee will be slowing down in the upcoming months, as the summer approaches and members drift off to form coalitions of their own with - progressive candidates, other people, Fire Island, Bar Exams, etc.

The next official meeting should be sometime in September, so keep an eye on the bulletin board for further announcements.

**CREATE TIME TO CAMPAIGN!**

You may think you're "too busy" to help in VID's upcoming election campaigns, but if you follow these simple guidelines, you'll have enough time to run for office yourself!

- 1) Don't watch the same M\*A\*S\*H fourteen times.
- 2) Don't sleep till noon every Saturday.
- 3) Save part of the Sunday Times for Monday.

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## 8 BLOCK PARTY TO BE AN "INTERNATIONAL FIESTA"

The Village Independent Democrats Block Party will be held on Saturday, June 19, 1982, from 11 AM to 7 PM, at 7th Avenue and West Fourth Street to Perry Street.

It promises to be one of the Club's most exciting outdoor, small festivals.

The theme of the Block Party is an International Fiesta, which will offer Korean food, Italian food, Chinese food, Soul food and excellent home-made baked goods donated by VID members.

There will be live entertainment and a dance contest with prizes.

There will also be a children's section with games, music, face painting and prizes for the most original costume. (Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.)

There will also be a raffle featuring a Grand Prize of a ten speed bicycle, a magnificent lithograph, a \$50 cash prize and several dinners at famous Village restaurants.

There will even be a tag, or "White Donkey Sale!"

Another exciting aspect of the Block Party is that it will have several tables reserved for community organizations, so that everyone who attends will be informed of the linkages with the community and the services which they offer.

The rain date for the Block Party is Sunday, June 20th, at the same time.

For further information, call Danny Roskoff or I at CH-3-6555.

Rose James, Block Party Chair

### CARING COMMUNITY CONT.

VID supported this goal, and Ilene Zucker's Community Affairs Committee formulated a resolution, subsequently passed by the general membership, calling on the city to: extend the eviction date to allow for "further discussion," recognize that the Caring Community is a partner with the City in rectifying "social ills" and that "the demise of the Caring Community would put additional financial pressures on the City."

As of early May, according to VID Community Affairs and Community Planning Board 2 member Ed Gold, the threat of eviction has been lifted and talks are under way to find a financially viable

formula for the Caring Community to meet its obligations and, in the process, carry on its work, which includes supplying over 100,000 meals for the elderly yearly.

While VID is proud that its voice was among those urging this more humane approach, we remain concerned that it was cast as an agonizing exception in the City's quest for real estate dollars.

We at VID believe that non-profit organizations doing worthwhile community work DESERVE the City's understanding and assistance.

As a result, VID will continue to press for a City policy which makes the understanding shown the Caring Community the norm.

# VID NEWS

SUMMER, 1982



## President's Report

### "CROSSROADS TIME"

It's crossroads time for the Democratic Party in New York State.

Is the N.Y.S. Democratic Party going to continue to stand for progressive principles, in the tradition of people like Al Smith and Franklin Roosevelt, or is it going to be taken over by its neo-conservative wing and be little different from the Republican Party?

V.I.D.'s endorsed candidates represent the progressive wing of the Democratic Party. The head of our ticket, Mario Cuomo, represents the principles that V.I.D. was founded on. Unlike his opponent, Mario Cuomo has never and never will endorse the politics or candidacies of people like Ronald Reagan, Alphonse D'Amato or John Calandra.

On September 23rd, the people in our community will have some very important decisions to make, both on a statewide and communitywide basis.

We've endorsed a slate of dedicated, hardworking and progressive men and women. There is much work to be done to help them get elected.

Come on up and help out.

Dan Roskoff

### V.I.D.'S SLATE

Governor

\*MARIO CUOMO

Lt. Governor

\*CARL McCALL

State Comptroller

\*BILL FINNERAN

State Attorney General

BOB ABRAMS

Congress

\*BETTY GOETZ LALL - 15th Dist.

TED WEISS - 17th Dist.

State Senate

FRED OHRENSTEIN - 27th Dist.

\*FRANZ LEICHTER - 28th Dist.

Assembly

BILL PASSANNANTE - 61st Dist.

City Council

\*MIRIAM FRIEDLANDER - 2nd Dist.

\*CAROL GREITZER - 3rd Dist.

Surrogate

\*ED LEHNER

Civil Court

SHELDON LEVY

LEONA FREEDMAN

SHELDON LEVY

MILTON TINGLING

State Committee

VIRGINIA KEE

PHIL SCHWARTZ

(\*Primary Races)

INSIDE! HOW YOU CAN HELP V.I.D.'S ENDORSED CANDIDATES  
ON PRIMARY DAY (SEPT. 23rd) AND ELECTION DAY (NOV. 2nd)!

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**DISTRICT LEADERS' REPORT****REDISTRICTING & THE VILLAGE**

After many misstarts, redistricting is finally an accomplished fact. The basic political unit in New York State is the assembly district. Greenwich Village, unlike many other communities, was fortunate enough to remain intact within one assembly district (the new 61st A.D.).

Chelsea has also remained intact, but, unfortunately, not with us. For the past ten years, V.I.D. and the New Chelsea Reform Democrats have worked together within the reform movement of the Democratic Party.

Artificial boundaries will not deter us from continuing our close working relationship.

Our new partners are the Downtown Independent Democrats (D.I.D.) and the United Democratic Organization (U.D.O.), who represent much of the area south of Greenwich Village.

Katherine Freed and Howard Hertzberg, from D.I.D., are the District Leaders. Virginia Kee, from U.D.O., is the State Committeewoman. We look forward to working with them in our ongoing efforts to elect liberal public officials and to provide the services our communities need.

Catherine Abate & Tony Hoffmann

**VOTING RIGHTS IN NEW YORK CITY**

by Cesar A. Perales  
President and General Counsel,  
Puerto Rican Legal Defense and  
Education Fund

During 1981 two important events coincided. A decennial census of the population dictated the reapportionment process, and the Voting Rights Act was up for renewal.

The importance of the Voting Rights Act in safeguarding the votes of minorities became clearly evident when the New York City Council was redistricted because of the need for re-apportionment.

In October, 1981, the front pages of the City's major newspapers announced that the N.Y.C. primary elections had been stopped. The Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund and others achieved an important voting rights victory when a three judge Federal Court enjoined the elections. This decision was later upheld by the U. S. Supreme Court.

The primaries were stopped because the City Council redistricting plan had been found by the U. S. Justice Department to have been racially gerrymandered, that is, that it did not fairly represent minority voting strength.

While this was happening on the local scene, a national debate brewed concerning the renewal of the Voting Rights Act. The legal battle that took place in N.Y.C. had a critical impact on the national debate. The application of the Act in N.Y.C. belied the insistence of Southern critics who attacked the Voting Rights Act as being unjustly focused on the South.

The Voting Rights Act is an important legal mechanism to assure that the United States' democratic system works for all the nation's citizens. However, in order to ensure a government "by the people and for the people" a real commitment must be made to register all eligible voters.

The voting rights of minorities can only be exercised when they are registered to vote. A large percentage of those minority individuals eligible to vote are not registered.

Those progressive individuals who supported the Voting Rights Act now need to follow through on that democratic commitment, and facilitate and participate in the process of minority voter registration.

The challenge before us now is that of maximizing minority voter participation and for this we must register all eligible minority voters.

SUN SHINES ON SUCCESSFUL BLOCK PARTY  
by Rose James, Block Party Chair

After a cool morning with threatening rain and a dreadful forecast, it was very exciting to see the sun come out and observe the array of colors and articles from forty-eight vendors selling clothes, jewelry, records and antique collectibles.

The different aromas reflected the fact that we had Filipino foods, Italian foods, Mexican foods and V.I.D.'s own hamburgers, beer, soda and home baked goods.

The spirit of the fair was warm and friendly. It was truly a reflection of the Village and our neighborhood.

Financially, it was also successful. Our special thanks go to the Sixth Precinct's Det. Hollywood and Capt. Jansen, for working with us during the day and helping us to keep everything under control.

Our special thanks also goes to the following restaurants for donating dinners for two as raffle prizes: Pirandella, El Charo, Hunan Pan, Ennio and Michael and Bubbas.

Because V.I.D. is committed to concerns involving the total community, we had six community tables where organizations could pass out their literature and discuss their programs. They were: The West Fourth Street Block Association, The McBurney Y.M.C.A., The Fortune Society, The New York City Union of Lesbians and Gay Men, The Chelsea-Greenwich Village Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. and District 65, of the United Automobile Workers, A.F.L./C.I.O.

Community Planning Board Two was also very helpful.

Above all, I wish to thank Dan Roskoff, the Block Party Committee members, and every V.I.D. member who worked so hard in both planning the affair and spending the day with us to make the Block Party the success it was.

**WANTED! ELECTION INSPECTORS!**

If you would like to be an Election Inspector on Primary Day (Sept. 23) and on Election Day (Nov. 2), or know someone who would, please contact either John Colangelo or Marisol Riverol at the Club (CH3-6555).

SITTING FOR PEACE  
by Dave Camacho

Four members of V.I.D. were arrested on July 14 in an anti-nuclear demonstration. In a daylong action, aimed at disrupting diplomatic business, they, and thousands of others, sat in front of the United Nation Missions of the five nuclear powers - the United States, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Great Britain, France and China.

The sit-ins were held to demand an end to the nuclear weapons buildup. They were part of a week of activities designed to heighten awareness of the dangers of nuclear weapons.

The demonstrations were scheduled to coincide with the appearances of world leaders at the U.N. Conference on Disarmament.

The situation outside the British Mission was amazingly peaceful. There was tension between the demonstrators and the police, but little antagonism. The police went about their job calmly and the demonstrators, having made their point, did not actively resist arrest.

On the buses going to Central Booking, the atmosphere was light, with both sides discussing the peace movement and the issues involved.

All charges against the V.I.D. Four; Meryl Berman, Allen Roskoff, Dan Roskoff and myself, were dismissed at a hearing on July 16.

**POLITICAL OUTREACH QUESTIONNAIRE**

1) What groups do you think the Political Outreach Committee should work with?

2) Who do you feel would be a good speaker? Do you have access to the group and speaker?

3) Would you be willing to be a liaison to a group which we might decide to work with?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

(See Carol Feinman's Report page 5.)

THE CALL OF THE CAMPAIGN  
by Meryl Berman, Campaign Chair

This is going to read like an Oscar speech for a moment. It is time to deliver thanks, to all the people who made it possible. "It" being the 1700 signatures culled from an almost three week petition period.

To Shelley Stangler and Liz Schollenberger, Petition Co-Chairs, take a bow. You did one hell of a job. The kudos from our candidates are still coming in. This team has agreed to stay together during the primary day operation, having perfected their technique of cajoling, pleading and harassing suspecting V.I.D. members.

To Carol Feinman, who ran the Law Committee's checking of those same signatures in a year of conversion tables rough enough to make one faithless. Ed Ortiz was invaluable, and binding would be a dreaded task, not the pleasure it was, without Margot Sklar.

WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN  
by Shelley Stangler, Petition Co-Chair

Well, now that petitioning is over, it's time to get started on the real nuts and bolts of any campaign - stuffing buildings, handing out literature at subways and supermarkets, and getting revved up for the primary and election day operations.

For those of you who helped out petitioning, thanks so much. Now it's on to

To every Club member involved, and unnamed here, thank you for putting the Protestant ethic to shame. I truly hope you enjoyed it, particularly since we'll be calling again soon, with new irresistible opportunities.

Thursday, September 23, is Primary Day...Our sign is up by now. Palm cards and literature readied. Our first walking tour with Carl McCall complete. Voter registration continues. A rally contemplated. A September 10 Champagne Campaign fundraiser set. And the street campaign itself being put into place even as you read this. And, of course, campaign meetings continue...

The final pitch. Please. Pick a candidate, phone the club, volunteer for active duty. It does make a difference. Thank you again.

bigger and better things.

For those of you who missed out on the joys of petitioning, we need you more than ever to join with us on the work ahead. Shortly, you will be contacted by myself, Liz Schollenberger, or Meryl Berman. Please give us some of your time to help elect V.I.D.'s endorsed candidates.

FOREIGN POLICY & PEACE by Anne M. Orton & Keith Crandell, Co-Chairs

Our peace agenda continues to support the nuclear freeze and oppose spending for nuclear weapons.

We spoke and lobbied for the freeze resolution in the City Council (it passed) and for the bill in the state legislature mandating a freeze referendum on the November ballot (it never reached the floor).

We co-sponsored a forum on "Military Spending - Menace to the Economy, Menace to Life" on May 23rd, in the Cronin Auditorium, St. Vincent's Hospital. About 100 people heard a panel of experts, including a representative of the Soviet Mission to the U.N.

We have also passed resolutions and sent letters opposing the MX missile.

Most of us were there on June 12th, so there's no need to tell you how GREAT that was!

To keep the spirit of June 12th alive,

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ENVIRONMENTAL by Neil Getnick, Chair

V.I.D.'s environmental platform met with continuing success this summer.

New York enacted the Bottle Bill after a decade of lobbying and campaigning. Senator Ohrenstein responded positively at a private meeting with V.I.D. Environmental Committee members and then went on to play a key role in securing the bill's passage on the day of the Senate vote.

The Congress adopted a position on the Clean Air Act consistent with V.I.D.'s endorsed position. The Congress refused to weaken the Act in accordance with the Reagan administration's wishes.

Finally, the State Legislature enacted a statute banning uranium mining. V.I.D. adopted this position soon after the issue arose, adding its voice to the constellation of organizations coordinated by Friends of the Earth in opposing this dangerous mining activity in our State.

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CONVENTION REPORT  
by Phillip Schwartz  
State Committeeman

The State Democratic Committee met in Syracuse on June 21 and 22 to endorse candidates for statewide office. Anyone receiving 25% of the votes cast was assured of appearing on the September primary ballot; anyone receiving more than 50% of the votes received the Party's endorsement.

V.I.D.'s four endorsed candidates for statewide office (Cuomo, McCall, Fineran and Abrams) all received more than 25% of the votes and therefore did not need to obtain signatures on designating petitions. They will all appear on the primary ballot.

The overwhelming impression I got of that meeting in Syracuse was that of a media event, rather than a nominating convention. For example, there were more representatives of the media and candidates' staffs than delegates. Also, some of the candidates' staffs expressed disappointment that Princess Di had her baby during the convention, because it would make it harder for the candidates to receive media coverage.

As a result of the recent statewide redistricting, V.I.D. will become a part of the 61st Assembly District. As such, we will have a new State Democratic Committeewoman. Her name is Virginia Kee.

For those of you who do not yet know Virginia, you have a pleasant experience in store for you. I look forward to working with her and you during the next two years.

HOUSING by Rick Braun, Chair

I am pleased to report that several bills, in support of which V.I.D. has passed resolutions, have been signed into law: that increasing the rights of tenants where co-op or condominium conversion is proposed, protecting hotel tenants from eviction without court action; and the loft bill.

I am also happy to note that the Appellate Term for Manhattan and the Bronx, in 420 East 80th Company v. Chin, has barred a landlord from evicting a gay couple where one member of the couple had originally moved into the apartment under the standard form lease restricting occupancy to tenant and members of tenant's immediate family, and the other moved in subsequently.

The Court held that, in light of today's virtual non-existence of apartment vacancies, such a clause would not be enforced unless the landlord could

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HELLO V.I.D.!  
by Virginia M. Kee  
State Committeewoman

I am writing you to introduce myself as the Female State Committee member of the 61st Assembly district.

I grew up in Chinatown, where we had a "mom and pop" restaurant at 6 Mott Street, a building which no longer exists. I teach at Junior High School 65 in Manhattan, where I was formerly a student.

My involvement with young people and their families impelled me to seek solutions to the crucial needs of the community. Consequently, I became one of the founders of the Chinatown Planning Council.

For almost twenty years I have volunteered to do what I can on such issues as civil rights, poverty, youth, daycare, senior citizens and health. I have been a supporter of the Peace Movement, Gay Rights, E.R.A., Women's Rights and Pro-Choice.

When I first ran as a candidate in 1976 and became the first Asian American elected in New York State, it was and still will be our struggle (United Democratic Organization) to involve Asian Americans in the political process.

I am glad to be your State Committee member along with Phil Schwartz and would like to thank my supporters and friends in the new 61st A.D.

HUMAN RIGHTS by Stephanie Rogall, Chair

For those of you who've been depressed over the failure of the E.R.A., take heart! On July 14, E.R.A. was re-introduced by 51 senators and 201 representatives. We expect to do it better/faster next time.

On July 17, a Pro-Choice Rally was held outside the National Right to Life Party Convention. Estimates put the pro-choice people at 4,000 and the anti-choicers at 2,000.

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POLITICAL OUTREACH

by Carol Feinman, Chair

Summer '82 is the first half-year birthday of the Political Outreach Committee. As is the wont on birthdays, time is taken for reflection on the aims and effects of the Committee.

The Committee arose from the realization that we cannot be politically

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BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
New York, N.Y.  
Permit No. 12018

VID MEMS  
224 West Fourth Street  
New York, N.Y. 10014

## 6 ENVIRONMENTAL cont.

In September, the Environmental Committee will concentrate its efforts on the issue of toxic wastes and toxic dumping. The Committee will present a report to the full membership at the September meeting on this issue.

The Environmental Committee welcomes new members. Interested individuals are encouraged to attend our September meetings, which will focus on planning our Fall agenda.

## FOREIGN POLICY & PEACE cont.

our Committee was a prime mover in initiating a Greenwich Village Coalition Against Nuclear Arms. As its first project, this embryonic group, made up of people from about a dozen organizations and concerned unaffiliated individuals, organized a Candlerlight Walk through Greenwich Village the evening of August 6th, in memory of the victims of Hiroshima.

The Club took up the Middle East crisis, but was unable to agree on a policy position. So, it was decided to hold a forum. The Committee, which has set the forum date for September 30th, is lining up speakers.

## HOUSING cont.

show that the additional occupant caused prejudice to the landlord, violation of overcrowding laws, or damage to the apartment. A landmark decision for gays and for all roommates! Hopefully, if appealed, it will not be overturned.

The next Housing Committee meeting is on Thursday, August 26, at 8 PM. The agenda will include Phyllis Spiro of Open Housing speaking on housing discrimination, discussion of the effect of Reagonomics on local housing, and possible resolutions on bills on the J51 tax abatement program, housing energy conservation, fire escapes and vacate orders. Come join us!

## HUMAN RIGHTS cont.

Our ongoing drive to help the Homeless has been spearheaded by Shelly Stangler. She has done an excellent job fundraising for our project at the Tony Olivieri Shelter. VIDers cleaned up a storeroom and erected shelves so that the room could be functional. I want to thank Shelley both for the excellent job and for the unfailing enthusiasm she demonstrated amidst much apathy. Yea Shelley!

Our next Human Rights Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 7, at 8PM.

Everybody is welcome. Please come!

## POLITICAL OUTREACH cont.

effective as a self-sufficient entity. Instead, we must work at coalition building with other groups which share our principles

The purpose of this report is to provide everyone with an opportunity to help decide the Committee's future.

While there will be a meeting set for soon after the primaries, the questionnaire on page three of this issue is being provided to enable us to prepare for the future.

Please take a few minutes to fill it out and either mail it to the Club, it out and either mail it to V.I.D, stick it in one of the mailboxes at the Club or talk to me about your ideas.

(SEE QUESTIONNAIRE PAGE THREE)

The Editor wishes to thank  
Jacqui Schock and Dan Roskoff  
for their assistance.

MARCH WITH LABOR! Sept. 6, 11AM, W.30th St. & 6th Ave.  
For more info, contact Bill Van Felix, Labor Chair.