ABG NO RIO



ABC No Rio is an exhibition, performance, and studio workshop space run by artists. Allo Rio is located in a double-decker storefront, with a backyard sculpture gardenounds of onstruction (Summer, 1981). Located de a serie neighborhood a few blooks east of the Orchard Street area, the artists at No Rio are dedicated to making achieving an interactive relationship with the third world community. Painting, sculpture and drawing on permanent display, and the gallery hosts frequent evenings of music, video, side and performance. No Rio is affiliated with Collaborative Projects, an artists' corporation. We have no staff and no regular hours, but We've however No Rio is open most afternoons and evenings. Call first: 254-3697. 156 Rivington Street, between Clinton & Suffolk Streets.



these new collectives is Collaborative Pro-jects, or Colab. Unlike other artists' alternatives, Colab occupies no space. Rather, it has a membership of a few dozen artists, most in their late 20s and early 30s, who share a similar political and esthetic out-look. One of the motivating factors behind its formation in 1977 was what its members perceived as inequity in NEA's granting procedures. "The chances of a nonprofit share a similar political and esthetic outinstitution getting a grant are 50 percent; an 's are only around three pe

plains Walter Robinson, 31, who acts as Colab's president. (The New York Sta Council doesn't award grants to individ-uals.) "Money earmarked for artists is going to administrative structures," says Alan Moore, another Colab member. "Artists can do a lot more with \$10,000 than an institution. 'Colab's operating costs were a modest \$21,000 last year, not including the money raised for specific projects. Over half their total annual budget, projected to be about \$150,000 next year, comes from public sources. Armed with their nonprofit status and government grants, Colab mem-bers say they aim to shift the balance of power back into the hands of ertists.

The projects funded by Colab reveal the group's distinctly political slant. They show the artist in the role of activist, taking art into the local community as an agent for social change. One of Colab's first efforts to flex its political muscle was the "Real Estate Show," which involved the takeover of an abandoned city building on Manhattan's Lower East Side, a predominantly Hispanic neighborhood, not well traveled by the art crowd that frequents galleries and mi ums. Tenants' rights and the oppressive tac-tics of landlords were the event's unifying themes. The artists' guerrills maneuver so upset city authorities that the unwelcome were promptly evicted from the premises. As recompense, but possibly just to keep them quiet and off the streets, the city offered the show's organizers another space in a tenement building around the corner. The location became the home of Colab's offshoot group, ABC No Rio, which got its name from a faded sign across

Strewn about this small and ramal loft, which has a constant leak in the ceiling, are objects, props, drawings and paintings left over from No Rio activities, which range from putting on evening perfor

mances to joining a march on the Pentagon to protest U.S. involvement in El Salvador. jumbled assemblage bears witness to the fact that No Rio is, as its members insist. a place for making work, not an empty and pristine space for the discreet presentation of art objects. Becky Howland, one of No Rio's directors, describes it as "clutter, chaos, cacophony-dense and thick.

VAN MOORE 8PM.\$2 DOMITON FOR PROPERTY.

NO RIO 156 RIVINGTON ST. TOTAL

SATURDAY 13TH SEPT.

INCK OF PRIESOS & PRIENTS

THE KENPERSERS & LINUX KENPELD

STEVE CANNON

PRIDAY 1241 SEPT.

TCH CORBER

While No Rio is broadening the possibilities for what artists can do with their work, it is also breaking down boundaries bern art and its public. One way No Rio and Colab artists have done this is by removing the financial barriers that have traditionally kept art within the hands of a wealthy few. Last Christmas, artists Kiki Smith and Alan Moore, with \$750 from Colab, opened a Moore, with \$750 from Colao, opened a retail shop that sold an inventory of cheap artists' multiples at prices from one to 20 dollars, which they sold directly to the season's shoppers. The store's flyer announced: "You won't pay more at A. More Store—the only direct artists' outlet in the city." The store did such a brisk business that its organizers are now busy putting together a mail order operation. An illustrated atalogue, featuring such hot items as Richard Bosman's woodcuts on paper towels, sold by the sheet, and Tom Otterness' bi-

zarre figurative paperweights and deak or-naments, will be available abortly. The idea for the store grew out of another Colab project: the "Times Square Show," last summer's art extravaganza, which took place in a recently vacated massage parlor in New York's Times Square. Among other things included in this free-for-all was a souvenir shop on the ground floor. The rest of the space was crammed with posters, graffiti, video, performances and installa-tions by an ethnic mix of artists and nonproonals that took their cue from show's locale in the city's porn center. It was P.S.1's "Rooms" turned into a raun-chy, earish spectacle for the masses. "What special about the Times Square says Christy Rupp, whose plas-ats participated in this celebration ter-cast rate participated in this celebration of urban decay, "was that we were creating an environment where everyone was wel-







REAL STATE at

MUD CLUB FEB. 28 77 WHITE ST. 9:00\$4



Bethany Haye

Real Estate Show opened Ne the Real State Show operact few sar's Eve at 123 Delancey Street, and irrports to be a statement about the indition of real estate. This was a real sanic process; the mechanics of ndition of real estate. Inits was a real ganic process: the mechanics of bunting the show directly influenced its ntent. Which may seem to be a given in y exhibition of artists' work, but in this et he dynamic goes deeper than the ation between a series of watercolors and allery or curator. The theme of the Real falle Show grew out of its own struggle r existence, and its premature closing by city (videotaped by Carol Brownell and E Lewis) is the show's video-verite climax hours after opening its doors.

hours after opening its doors.

In the interim between closing and pening at 172 Delancey, where, at this ling the re-mounted show is still on w, I talked with Becky Howland, Alan bore, Peter Moennig, Edit De Ak, Anne saner and Peter Fend at Becky's loft in ibeca. I asked how the idea for the theme

cky & Alan: We walked around one ernoon and took photos of vacant ildings, potential work and show spaces. Ilab (Alan is a member) had been talking dlab (Alan is a member) had been talking Annette Kuhn of HPD — Housing Servation and Development (Peter: No, stands for Housing Police Department)—and telling her we wanted tibition space, and being told there was thing available. You know HPD adhisters whole blocks!" Which often ans keeping them vacant for extended iods, available for "development" i.e., income high-rise housing, i.e. the hest bidder. The reason the show, now ependent of Collab couldn't get space is lemic to the situation it addresses: space, d, buildings are seen in terms of their rential for generating income. Real ste is not about people living or working newhere. Real real estate, both private elmsey-Spear, A.J. Clarke, the ckefellers, etc.) and public (HPD, the kS Department, and other city agencies) ans buying, financing, subdividing, structing, for profit. What happens to going on inside the bricks and mortar ans less than zero when millions of sks hang in the balance. In point of fact, beitek and morter more the struction of motor the selicited motor the selicited motor. Annette Kuhn of HPD - Housing

ans less than zero when millions of ks hang in the balance. In point of fact,

bricks and mortar themselves are not a

reality to the space brokers, How much the building will yield is the question. Plant a bank loan, get an interest rate. It's all futures. The market value of the creative process hasn't been worked into this scheme yet, so it's chances for consideration in there with the "realities" are "realities" are "realities". rather dubious.

The pieces that comprise the Real Estate Show were not made for museums or galleries. The people who created them did it to send out ideas about city space that will hit subliminally, that'll infiltrate and will hit subliminally, that'll inflitrate and subvert your preconceptions about real estate. Collectively, the show says something about having the defiance to exist, and about art in the maw of money. The show was intended to be as open as possible. Alan, Becky et al told artists they knew about it and emphasised that rather than art as curators selecting pieces from

knew about it and emphasised that rather than act as curators selecting pieces from what was offered, they intended to accomodate everything on an equal basis. There was no space limitation; had the response been even greater, the exhibits would have been rotated. "It's sort of a post-gallery movement" away from the traditional ellists art world.

Peter M: Did you see what a certain weekly news said? Something about artists who live in Tribeca listening to the Clash at Tier 3, waiting on tables, waiting. In all those articles is that stupid insult, which is that we are the failures, the suckers waiting

that we are the failures, the suckers waitin to be selected by gallery owners — like Tribeca is waiting to be Soho. Which is absolutely not the case. It should be clear that many of the people involved in the show will still have "concerns" 20 years from now. They'll still be doing the kind of art they have to do, not sitting back, having made it, being trendy.

Edit: There are two kinds of artists,

those who show in galleries, and those who don't. Out of those who don't some are waiting to get in, and some aren't interested, and those are the people who

Alan: It was a choice for them, not a compromise until they could get into a

gallery.

Peter: We want to put art into collaboration with other disciplines. In Europe, artists are isolated, they're not a sociological factor. Here, they can change neighborhoods.

Becky: The whole idea behind this in-

surrectionary act is that the status quo can

be overcome.

Of the 20 or so artists showing, a random sampling follows: Peter Moenig's facetious newspaper front pages couch the truth about real estate and the Lower East Side about real estate and the Lower East Side in outrageous headlines accompanying actual newsphotos. "One couldn't expect population of the prictures, so they are presented in newspaper headlines. Art code can be transformed into a language that can be spoken on the Lower East Side."

Anne Messner presented a group of photos of some L.E.S. residents, mostly doorway sleepers, shufflers, losers; pathetic and accusing, the shreds of human evidence in the case against real estate as investment.

investment.

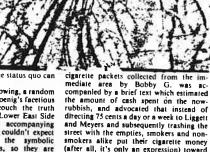
Gregory Lehman's series of colour photos of suburban homes, straight and unabashedly out of an estate agent's catalogue are captioned with ironic, perhaps bitter quips such as "3BR, no rats, no unemployment" and "Etan Patz would not have been abducted if his parents lived in this lovely duplex." A stable mound of

smokers alike put their cigarette money (after all, it's only an expression) toward urban renewal. Do you realise that in one month that's \$50,000! (And that's not even counting extra for longs.)

Peter Fend's work was great fun to look

at as a purely abstract graphic piece using colour and lines of all description — straight, squiggly, maze-like. Turns out they're diagrams of radical architectural projects, 'architectural propes' using a naturally cycled fuel-methane gas — and artists. artists concepts of space utilisation.
"Traditionally, artists have initiated ideas of space usage. The goal is to bridge the dichotomy between artists and architects."

And there were lots more. Now don't





MTERNATIMOAL WORKERS DAY SHOW

By SUSANNA SEDGWICK

Art and politics are wild lovers. They incite scandal, thrive on public flagellation by the establishment and though they are into dolminance among each other, they fight against it

as a social more. Strange bedfellows as they may seem, Art and politics

have a long standing relationship and are now well on their way to a climax in the hotbed of the 80s. Supporting so controversial a couple is never easy, but there are those who do, despite the hassles. Colab, Cokaborative Projects, has been instrumental in bringing Art and Politics between the sheets of inner city streets. Colab was instrumental in organizing the Real Estate Show, geared toward bringing art out of the hi-tech gallenes and into low income neighborhoods where it is accessible to all. Their next big success we the Times Square Show (reviewed in EYE, summer '80) and now a Colab affiliate has opened a gastery over at 156 Rivington Street.

"We got this place as a direct result of the Real Estate show. City housing realized they couldn't get rid of us so they conceded us this space. It was a buy-off really." says Becky Howland, one of the No Rio members.

They took the place, named it "ABC NO RIO" inspired from an old corrupated sign in Spanish across the street and, got to work. Collaborative Projects, has been instrumental in bringing Art

from an old corrugated sign in Special and got to work.

The recent show at No Rio is described in their flyer as "the glemorous and controversial international Art Show, a college of contemporary political art and poetry from around the world." The show came to New York thanks to Joseph Nechvatal who brought it from San Francisco. The San Francisco Poeter Brigade conceived the show as a "May Day Mail-in Art Show," to which revolutionaries from all over the world would mail in their posters as a tribute to May 1, 1980, International Workers Day.

The collection is a collective cry of protest from workers all over the world. In the past ten years poster art has burgeoned as a new form of socio-political art. Posters are easy to mail, not prohibitively expensive and accessible to

all.

Posters, as well as postcard art, color xerox graphics, lithographs and all-kscreens cover the walls from corner to comer of the gallery. There are political postcards from West Germany, woodcuts from Japan, and the assortment of socio-realistic posters whose color separation and art are clearly the work of sensitive artists as well as inscensed revolutionaries. The black and white photographs from Northam trained by Campraneydes are an anotypically defined.

revolutionaries. The black and white photographs from Northern freland by Cameraworks are an anguished rendering of the effects of war on humanity. From the Rock Rebels in Holkand the message was "Rock Aguinst Beatrix." The English organization Rock Against Racism (RAR) are also well represented. The Rock has been thrown and will continue to roll gathering momentum and a whole new generation of cables.

been thrown and will continue to roll gathering momentum and a whole new generation of rebels.

What exactly are the plans for No Rio? Are they going to continue as a socio-political gallery or be sucked into the compromise of an "alternative space?" It is a hard question to answer, but Becky Howland, Alan Moore, Joseph Nechvatal and Bobby G. all of whom were instrumental in getting the gallery off the ground with the help of Colab, seemed to agree on one point. In the words of Becky Howland: "It's important to learn about the neighborhood, to reach these people, rather than just have a "White Club."

The means proposed to do this would include video workshops with local vouths 'participation, art playes that

The means proposed to do mis would enclude video workshops with local youths' participation, art shows that would concern the neighborhood and its possible artists and events. They also hope to provide a program which would help the locals become more aware of their rights and

consequently exert more control in the ceasele

consequently exert more control in the ceaseless battle between neighborhood and urban developers. Alan Moore voiced the goals of No Rio very succincity: "I feel No Rio could have a political purpose. It should stress the areas of common concern between artists and the oppressed people. We want to create a certain communication, if we can do this we will have achi-

comething."

Artists are often as undermined and persecuted as the Artists are often as undermined and persecuted as the socially oppressed, who in turn harbor many artists. Hopefully No Rio will give art and politics a chance to do their thing openly using all media available to further their

cause.

In fact, as this article goes to press, I've got the word on the next shows scheduled at No Rio for October. A show of "Suicide, Murder and Junk, the last group show," organized by John Morton. Also a show on Animals living in Cities featuring rats, roaches, pigeons and other urban wildlife, organized by Christy Rupp.

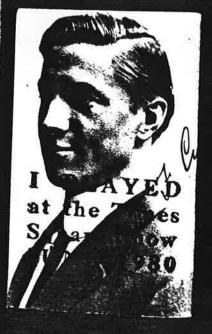
No Rio is embarking upon something which could mean a shot in the arm to the relationship of art and politics.





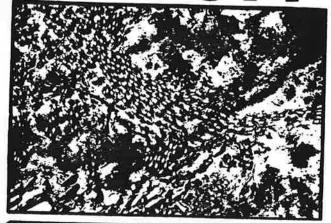








BIG GAME OVERRUNS BIG CITY



MASSIVE TIDE OF ANIMAL BODIES RUSHES TOWARDS BIG CITY. ARTISTS RESPOND. According to biologists who have studied other such massive migrations, including migrations ending in massive die-offs, the animals approaching the big city-unquitates here-are trying to reclaim ancient homelands. The city, biologists say, is sensed to be illegitimate and monopolistic. It denies other animals their space. It smothers crucial marehes and feeding grounds. It layers over with concrete and buildings any mating grounds. It lowers the water table, denying underground animals their chance to live. It cuts off paths of migration, even for insects and birds. It greatly reduces the variety of animals needed for ecological stability. Like most cities, it damages ecological processes for hundreds tables around. And like mearly all cities nowaday, it poisons everythave no clear concept of how to respond. The emergency is being mat by have no clear concept of how to respond. The emergency is being mate by them so animals and other animals—the animal magicians, the artists.



NO RIVER, NO RIO.



Portrait Studio

Venga Ahora!

Portraits of Lower East Side Residents and others.

Organized by Tom Warren

Participating artists

Steven Biegleiter, Alona Granet, David Baker, Bebe Smith, John Morton, Joli Stahl Scott Plahhman, Florance Neal, Richard Mock, Cara Periman, Jim Quinn, Bill Nogosik, Richard Amijo, Pam Raffaelli and

Opening:

Tuesday November 17th, 7 to 10 p.m. Showing thru November 22nd.

Portraits will be taken for the duration of the show.

ABC NO RIO 156 Rivington St. 254-3697



1981

PORTRAIT STUDIO PHOTO: TOM WARREN









It beats pop radio. It's better than strapping an enemy. The portrait show that Tom Warren developed at ABC NO RIO suggests that an equivalency to broken' English exists in the visual communicative realm. Broken English communicates despite the breakdown of a much hallowed syntax. And for a moment let's pretend that the portrait of a Nuyorican is equal in meaning to the latest Mary Boone fixation.

Which is to say that the image of a Puerto Rican is valuable.

It is and no, again like broken English. Their faces announce their presence, but as anyone knows a photograph is hauntingly speechless. As with rare words the value is underscored by survival. Normally we pay little heed to a. word that is on the endangered list - with

a portion of the human race it sudder becomes more complicated. Err, wh would Mary Boone do in this dilemma' suppose put her undersold artist on son sort of holding list.

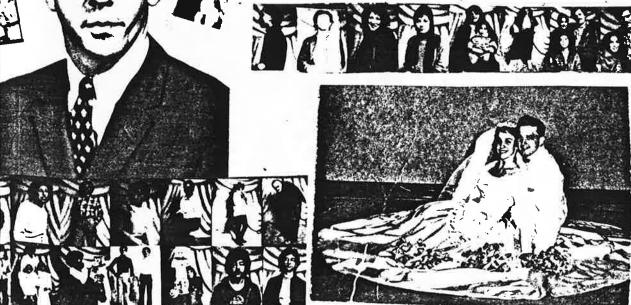
Broken English and broken aesthet have much in common. Somebox speaks then some people respond. Mos ly the response to the portraiture was e ceedingly positive. But why? I mean I wa certainly flattered to see a picture myself up there. And I imagine so to were the other experimentalists. Pay buck and see yourself. Come to the oper ing and mingle.

If only for a moment we're up there wit them. And we think it feels great. They ar their best and so are we. But, like pause, our fulfillment is shortlived. I thir we are holding our breath. We are waitin for something to happen and nobod knows just what that will be, not them an not us. So we are left with the pictures.

Photos of anonymous lives that piled u year after year collecting dust and abuse hopeful pictures developed just yeste day, even some sad pictures of us - th local hangers on. For me it was much lik television: wonderful commercials an soon they are over. There's Bobby an Christy, there's Robin and Rebecca there is me and there is you and no we're all gone. Somehow we are over an much beside the point.

I started out thinking about defacing our language but still forcing it to mean.

Dialogue strapped down to gesture remark equalling attitude (some men ca only smoke a cigarette while they cruise. street), very gestural. I think the photographs contain much of that sort o transient beauty. We can stare at then much the same way we stare out at the world. Like saying cheeze like freeze.





Gerald Marzorati

ess donating a print to Ed Koch's mayoral campaign cuts it as praxis, the late ill be remembered as a time when artists quietly and wearily retreated from

troops who pushed their [political] objectives in the early 1970s" — e mentions the Art Workers Coalition, among others — "have not been

if the first days of the 1980s offered any clues, politics — radical, left-leaning that is - may be burrowing a fresh niche for itself in the tame, if varied, dscape. In the case of John Halpern, who last year planted "explosives" on ooklyn Bridge, the digging was literal: He and a group of artists dug a ditch ear's Eve in a vacant lot on Spring Street and entrenched themselves for the talking about social ills and toasting potential cures. Joseph Beuys, the g field marshal of the fine art of radical politics whom Halpern so admires a evening at the Guggenheim last week in abstruse discourse with a Vassar

south of the ivory tower, where Delancey Street runs down to the East a loosely-knit group of three dozen artists moved anonymously into a ministered abandoned storefront and set up "The Real Estate Show." The d, unlabeled art works they exhibited — first at a word-of-mouth opening types on New Year's Eve, then at a neighborhood housewarming the ig afternoon — were of an ephemeral dashed-off sort: photo-and-textis attention—were of an epitemeral dashed-off sort; photo-and-text-tos indicting landlords and developers whose activities, the artists say, have sainters in the same high-rent, no-help boat with the city's poor. intention of this action," reads the handout for the show, "is to show that the willing and able to place themselves and their work squarely in the

As it turned out, access to the show proved even more ephemeral than the work. Last Wednesday afternoon, just 72 hours after the artists first moved in to clean up Last wednesday atternoon, just 12 nears after the artists may moved in to clean up the seedy showroom, officials from the city's Housing Preservation and Development Dept., citing regulations, padlocked the atorefront. A meeting with the artists Downtown Wednesday night led to a tentative compromise — the Delancey St. Downtown wednesday night ied to a tentative compromise — the Delancey of storefront was off limits, but HPD would show the organizers other abandoned sites. "It was like parents," said one of the organizers after the meeting. "We couldn't have the storefront because we didn't ask first."

A handful of artists spent last Thursday touring the less scenic nabes, but turned

up no prospects. On Tuesday, after a weekend of meetings, the show's participants joined, climactically, by Beuys, Halpern, a few cops and the media such an amalgam attracts - returned to the scene with ideas of breaking in. But save for two locals who sneaked in a back door - and were led out by a pair of smiling police officers — the wire reporters were left to document a peaceful street

Many of the artists involved, most of whom are quite young, concede they share little beyond their position near the bottom of the art-scene ladder. Yet perhaps that's just the point. They're being pushed out of loft space downtown to make room for their peers who pursued professional degrees. They're being turned away by galleries hedging in the face of ceaseless inflation. Huddled in cramped apartments on the edge of the East Village, eating soup each night on Second Avenue, dancing at Tier 3 to the Clash, they wait tables - and wait.

"The main thing," said Rebecca Howland, one of the organizers of the event, is that we're here to show people that artists can take things into their own hands.'







PROBLEMAS DE VIVIENDA Y COMPANÍAS IMMOBILIARIAS (EL DÍA DE AÑO NUEVO ABRIMOS LÁS PUERTAS SOLAKES, NUEVOS PROYECTOS DE VIVIENDA, PLANES FUTUROS ABUSIVOS, etc..... UN CENTRO DE CIUDADANOS AL PUBLICO. ESTO 18A A SER EL COMÍENZO DE UN INTERCAMBIO SOBRE LA ESPECULACIÓN DE LOS DUENOS DE CASAS, DERECHOS DE INQUILINOS,MAL USO DE EDIFICIÓS LA PUERTA IMPIDENDO QUE LA EXHIBICION EDIFICIO DE LA CIUDAD, QUE HA ESTADO VACÍO POR MAS DE UN AÑO, LO MICIMOS PARA EXPONER, EL TRABAJO DE 35 PERSONAS, BREGANDO CON LOS AL PRINCIPO DE LA DÉCADA OCCUPAMAS ESTE PASADA DESPEDIDA DE ANO INTERCAMBIO SOBRE L

CEL 11 DE ENERO LA CIUDAD DECIDIÓ SACAR NUESTRA PROPIEDAD Y LA LLEWARON A UN ALMACEN DE LA CIUDAD.

ESTATE SHOW

DISTRIBUTE THE WEALTH CARDBOARD AIR BAND:







by Lehman Weichselbaum

Most of us missed the New Year' Eve Most of us missed the New Year' Eve party at 123 Delancey Street hard by the Williamsburg Bridge, where 35 artists as the the Committee for the Real Estate Show (CRES) were sneaking a preview for the New Year's opening of what was 10 be a two-week exhibit. The Real Estate Show was all about the way money controls where and how people live in New York City in general, and the Lower East Side in particular. Artworks in every conceivable medium dealt with facts such as as son in the meighborhood. local alternate energy proneighborhood, local alternate energy pro-posals and the media blackout on what ex-actly the city is doing to low-income

neighborhoods.
The show, several weeks in the planning, was consciously geared to the space that was to contain it. The city-owned storefront at 123 Delancey — built as a factory showroom in 1916, last used as a Federal Model Cities office but having lain vacant for over a year — had been invaded and commandeered by CRES on December 30 after what they claim to be a year of long and fourthing part of the commandeered by CRES on December 30 after what they claim to be a year of long and fourthing assumptions. and frustrating campaigning to rent the property for an exhibition space from of-ficials of the Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD).

Preservation and Development (HPD).

The squatter arrists spent the next couple of days cleaning the windows, clearing the trash, fixing the plumbing, turning the heat on and putting up the show in preparation for the New Year's Eve preview. On New Year's Day the show was officially opened to the public, even as arrists continued bringing in their work.

On the morning of January 2, arrists discovered the storefront padlocked from the inside, their work locked within. Phone calls revealed it to be the doing of HPD.

The Real Estate Show had been open exact-

the inside, their WOTK IOCKEU WHITHIN, FIRMING CALLS revealed it to be the doing of HPD. The Real Estate Show had been open exactly one day. Its basic ideological premise that artists, working people, the poor are systematically screwed out of decent places to exist in — could not have been brought home with more brutal irony. The artists were experiencing firsthand an insulantary maxime neighborhood folk

involuntary pastime neighborhood folk have been long familiar with: being cost out onto the street by indifferent interests, whether from private or public sectors.
"We're nomads," says video artist, Mitch
Crober. "We've got nowhere to go. We
deserve a place. We spotted it. No one was

For their part, HPD officials - fronted For their part, HPD officials — fronted by Assistant to the Commissioner, Edgar Kulkin and Executive Administrator for the Deputy Commissionmer to the Office of Property Management, Denny Kelly — insisted they had other, bigger plans for the site. First, they said, three merchants had a prior claim on it (even though it had been allowed to stand empty for so long). Then, they said, it was part of a wide swathe of neighborhood slated for demolition in nine months to make way for an ambitious commonths to make way for an ambitious comnonths to make way for an ambitious combination of low-income housing project, shopping mall and senior-citizen center. But what seemed to irk the bureaucrats

most was that the artists finally broke the rules they'd been playing by, patiently and unsuccessfully, for months. "You blew it." charged Kelly at one of many meetings bet-ween both sides. "You illegally entered a ci-ty building." ty building.

Yet even here, the artists tilted closer to conciliation than confrontation. They of-fered to rent the place for just two weeks, promising to close the show and be out by January 22. "We had hoped they would go on with reopening the space, helping us, joining us to present an informational display about their plans in the area," says Alam Moore. "They saw it as a challenge not an invitation."

not an invitation."

HPD did give artist representatives a list of other city-managed property in the area, all of which proved to be too small, too

all of which proved to be too small, too decrept, or both. The arrists still had hopes that HPD would let them back into 123 Delancey in time for a press conference CRES had called for noon, January 8.

At the appointed hour, the arrists, accompanied by German artist, Joseph Bueys, found reporters from the Times, Soho News and the Eye, HPD officials—scurrying from street to their heated city car and back again—and a handful of cops guarding the doors. Nobody was getting in texcept for two arisess who somehow managed to smeak in before being gently escourted out by police). The press conference was called off in favor of standing around in the cold, pondering the next step. around in the cold, pondering the next step. The notion of storming the building to in-tile arrest was ultimately shrugged off. The

confrontation fizzled, at least for that day.

But HPD was losing face while it was scoring points. Less than flattering reports scoring points. Less than flattering reports, began to appear in the local papers. Lower East Side residents plainly liked what the artists were up to. "The merchants got everything else down here," said one young woman. "Instead of it just standing here, it would be a tribute to the block," Even the cops charged with defending the storefront from possible artistic wrath were outspoken in fewer of the artistic.

from possible artistic wrath were outspoken — in fevor of the artists.

"In my opinion, I would say they should have this building to rent from the city." said one officer from the local beat. "The city seems to have forgotten this area. This area hasn't been built ap in the past 10 years. Anywhere the artists have come shey've upgraded the community. They seem to being a resurgence."

But HPD had yet to play its fast hand. Sculptor Peter Moenning believes the agency to be afflicted with a collective "forked tongue." "They promised everything, but

tongue." "They promised everything, but never tried to be bonest and helpful in a real sense," he charges. But the artists' feelings of betrayal was not quite complete until language."

January II.

On that day, city workere swept into 123
Delancey, cleared out the exhibited work
and trucked it to an uptown warehouse.
Only until a few days later were arisis
granted entry into the warehouse to take
their stuff home.

Rebects Howstand it aculates indicate

their stuff home.

Rebecca Howland, a sculptor, admits with some relief that half the work was original, half reproduceable. Plainly, one suffers in suckier than the other. "Pieces were-hastily ripped off the wall and shoved into a box," she reporte. "There are things missing. It was a real fast hatchet job."

The battle for 123 Delancey Street can be seen from two different, though related perspectives. First, the besieged empty stoleffort is typical of countless such properties throughout the city standing abandoned-but eminently habitable, as officials wave never to-be-realized "renewal" plans wave never-to-be-realized "renewal" plans in one hand and the wrecking ball in the other. It is precisely this problem that CRES addressed. Explains Alan Moore: CRES addressed. Explains Alan Moore:
"A lot of people are tired of gettting the short end of the stick in the real-estate world because of forces they don't understand but that always amount to money."

Second, the dispute reflects the city's deep-rooted ambivalence toward its artists.

deep-rooted ambivalence toward its artists. On the one hand, an artist can now take over a commercial loft and not feel like an outlaw. After all, it was those illegal loft people who made Soho such a fun upper-middle-class place to live, wasn't it? And on the other hand, artists who, like those of CRES, refuse to act as shock troops for gentrification and play the art-commodity game, find their needs, at best, simply not taken seriously. taken seriously.

Rebecca Howland considers herself and her friends part of a "post-gallery movement." What they're after ultimately is not just another art space, but a "citizen's center," where the line between the eatheric and the social blurs into meaninglessness. Issues to be taken up, accor-ding to a recent manifesto, include "landlord speculation, tenant's rights, property misuse, projected

REAL ESTAT

1. land, including the buildings or improven otural assets, as minerals, water, etc. 2. ownership of or property in land, etc.

REAL,

3. in law, of or relating to permanent, immovable things: as real property: opposed to personal.

ESTATE,

7. in law, the degree, nature, extent and quality of interest or ownership that one has in land, etc.: abbreviated est.

LAND, *

1. the solid part of the earth's surface; distinguished from sea. 3. a) a country, region, etc. b) the inhabitants of such an area; nation's people. 5. ground considered as property; estate: as, land is a good investment. 9. the Lord: a euphemism, as in the phrase, for land's sake! 10. in economics, natural resources: abbreviated L.

MONEY.

1. a) coin or hard money. b) bank notes, bills or paper money. 4. property; possessions; wealth.

Webster's New World Dictionary

Jody Wright Jan. 9, 1980

developments and arbitrary urban plann-

on January 16, a compromise finally reached with the city a little closer to that goal. HPD's Denny Kelly — herself a painter and resident of nearby Tribeca — and arrangement to take over worked out an arrangement to take over 172 Delancey Street down the road, former-ly Vivian's House of Beauty, until the end

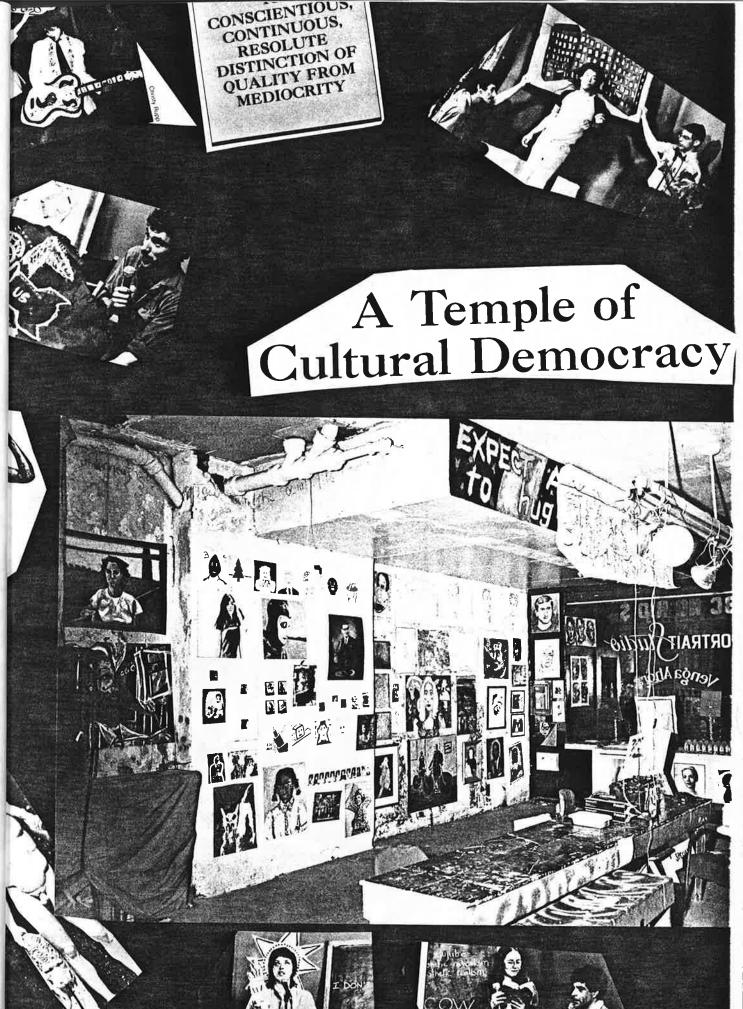
The solution is far from ideal. 172
Delances—one of the alternative sites rejected partier by the artists—is far more cramped than 123. It is completely unsuited to the exhibitions, musical performances and community meetings they envision. For now, it remains a base of operations from which to find what they're after. Says Peter Moening: "Now the work begins."

. . .

Library Street Street













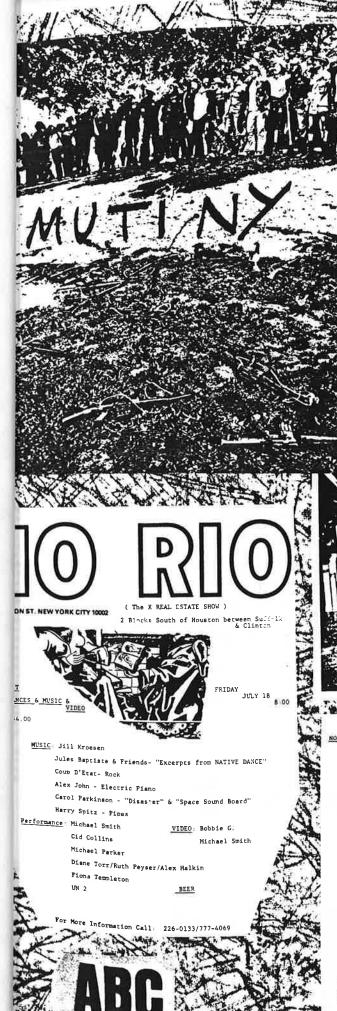


PARTINE 1 NAME OF



CHOICE

NO GOVERNMENT REGULATION



ABC NO RIO Thursday Night Performances THURSDAY 4TH OF MARCH

7 JILL KROESEN Singing. with Tim Schellenbaum, Joe Hannan, Eric Barsness, Thi-Lin Le, Merle Ginsburg and Marisa Lyon

PETER CUMMINGS Reading

work in progress . . .

"STRIFE"

Also "THE REPTILE MIND

THE PALEO-MAMMALIAN MIND per, Jim Sutcliffe, Terry Mohre, nson, Brian Piersol, Leonard Abrams, sorge Shustowicz and others... Produced by Alan Moore ape with Kiki Smith, Cara Periman, Ellen Co obinson, Sally White, Bobby G, Mindy Stav

DELANCEY STREET GOES TO THE SEA

PEOPLE OF DELANCEY STREET NEIGHBORHOOD (LOWER EAST SIDE) MONDER WHAT CON ED OR THE REST OF MANHATTAN EVER DID FOR THEM. THEY FORM A SEPARATE POWER-EMERGY COOPERATIVE.

THE COOPERATIVE SURVEYS ALL ENERGY SUPPLIES TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND CONCLUDES THAT CON ED SERVICES, MASED ON FOSSIL AND MINERAL PUBLS, ARE NOT ECONOMIC. MITHIN THE NEIGHBORHOOD THE COOPERATIVE PROMOTES ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS.—BY INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS, OR EVEN MHOLE BLOCKS.—FOR DIRECT USE OF SOLAR, MIND AND ANIMAL POWER. FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD ALTOGETHER, THE COOPERATIVE PLUGS INTO THE SEA.

IN THE LOWER EAST SIDE THERE ARE MANY GAS MAINS. THE MAINS ARE NOW OWNED BY CON ED. THE DELANCEY STREET NEIGHBORHOOD FOMER-ENERGY COOPERATIVE MAKES A CONTRACT MITH A PONCE COMPANY AND FORCES-BY A CLAUSE IN THE PUBLIC UTILITIES LAMI-A TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF THOSE GAS MAINS FROM CON ED TO THE COOPERATIVE IN CONTRACT WITH BROOKLYN UNION GAS.

A GAS MAIN IS LAID UNDER THE EAST RIVER TO THE BROOKLYN NAVY YARD, AND THERE IT IS PLUGGED INTO AN EXISTING GAS MAIN NOW SPECIALLY RESERVED FOR THE POWER-ENERGY COOPERATIVE. USE OF THAT GAS MAIN IS RECOTIATED WITH BROOKLYN UNION GAS. THE SUPPLY LINE RUNS TO ROCKAMAY INLET.

THE POWER-ENERGY COOPERATIVE SETS UP LARGE SEAMEED PARMS IN ROCKAMAY INLET, AND IT USES TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED BY HIGH-POWERED COPPORATIONS AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE 70S. WITH THAT TECHNOLOGY, IT BUILDS LARGE SEAMEED DECOMPOSITION CHANGESS IN THOSE CHANGES RETURNE GATHERS. THE NETHANE, A CLEAN-BURNING MATURAL GAS, PLOWS THROUGH CONTRACTED PIPELINES IN BEOOKLYN TO THE BEOOKLYN AMY YARD AND THEN UNDER THE RIVER TO GAS MAINS IN THE LOWER EAST SIDE WHICH ARE BY NOW THE PROPERTY OF THE ENERGY-POWER COOPERATIVE.

HETHANE GROWS AS FAST AS THE PLANTS DO--MHICH IS PASTER THAN WITH ANY OTHER ORGANISMS.
COMPOSTED OR BURNED GARBAGE CANNOT YIELD AS MUCH POWER. DIRECT SOLAR YIELDS ONLY A VERY
INFLEXIBLE KIND OF POWER, BEST SUITED FOR BUILDINGS OR ELECTRIC POWER GRIDS. MINED PRODUCTS
ONLY POLLUTE UPON COMBUSTION, AS IS SEEN ARONG TUBERCULAR CHILDREN HEAR THE THET
CON ED POSSIL FUEL PLANT. METHANE FROM THE SEA ALTOGETHER SEEMS THE BEST MAJOR SOURCE OF
PLEXIBLE, TRANSPORTABLE, LIQUIPIABLE OR GASEOUS, ENERGY GOURCE--OF VERY HIGH YIELD.

BUT AT ROCKAMAY INLET, IN MATERS HELD UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND THE GATEMAY MATIONAL PARK (WHICH ASSURE THE ECOLOGICAL STABILITY OF JAMAICA BAY AND THE INLET), THE COOPERATIVE GAINS RIGHTS TO ANY NUMBER OF CONSTRUCTIONS AND RIGS IN THE SEA. NOT ONLY SEAMHED-TO-METHANE RIGS, BUT ALSO MINDMILLS, MAVE-PREEDY ROLLERS, HYDROGEN-EXTRACTORS FROM EPAWATER, TYDAL EMERGY DAMS AND TUBES BRINGING UF COLDMATERS TO TURN TURBINES.

BY SETTING UP AN ENERGY BASE IN THE RELATIVELY-CLEAR SEA JUST BEYOND BROOKLYN, PART OF MARMATTAN SECEDES FROM CON ED AND THE BIG POSSIL FUEL COMPANIES FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE.



Rio N.Y. 10002 (212) 254-369

major of

INSURRECTIONARY URBAN DEVELOPMENT

FOR DVLPMNT



ig is almost collapsing. The space azy quilt of colors splattered on the anging pipes, a decrepit refrigerator s, and an uneven floor with a hole in forefront, flanked on either side by r drug addicts, which has been conthe semblance of a gallery. It is ABC it is presenting the truest and most ac-oriented exhibits in the city.

e thing started in January 1980 with lied the Real Estate Show, in which cover an abandoned building on itreet and mounted an exhibition. me in and closed the place, but some its pressed on and found the Riv-et location and City Hall said okay. is certainly didn't expect to stay set length of time, but four of them did I now run ABC No Rio with an easynd no salary. (The name came from a ic's faded sign written in Spanish.)
phazard air belies an intent that is
serious. This is apparent by the type at are put together—all solidly politi-gh the gallery claims no political

agural exhibition, called Artists for ad an antinuclear theme. Two of the net show were a lead raincoat and a arden that included life-sized cement rats burrowing through rubble.

Artists for Survival was followed by Suicide, Murder and Junk, which was organized by a heroin addict with some work done by neighborhood people and junkies. In the next show the walls were plastered with political posters internationally solicited by the San Francisco Poster Brigade. Sometime later. City Wildlife went up; it addressed the issue of vermin in the urban landscape and people's reactions to its presence. Household pets were displayed alongside wild infesters such as pigeons. roaches, and rats. The health department was brought in for workshops on preventing infesta-tion, and a roach behaviorist from the American Museum of Natural History gave a lecture.
The exhibition schedule follows no orderly

pattern, but the space is generally open for anyone who wants to come by to make art (some materials are provided) and to attend the frequent performances, readings, and meetings.

Hours: M: 7 P.M.-8 P.M., W-Sa: 2-7. Closed major holidays. Admission free

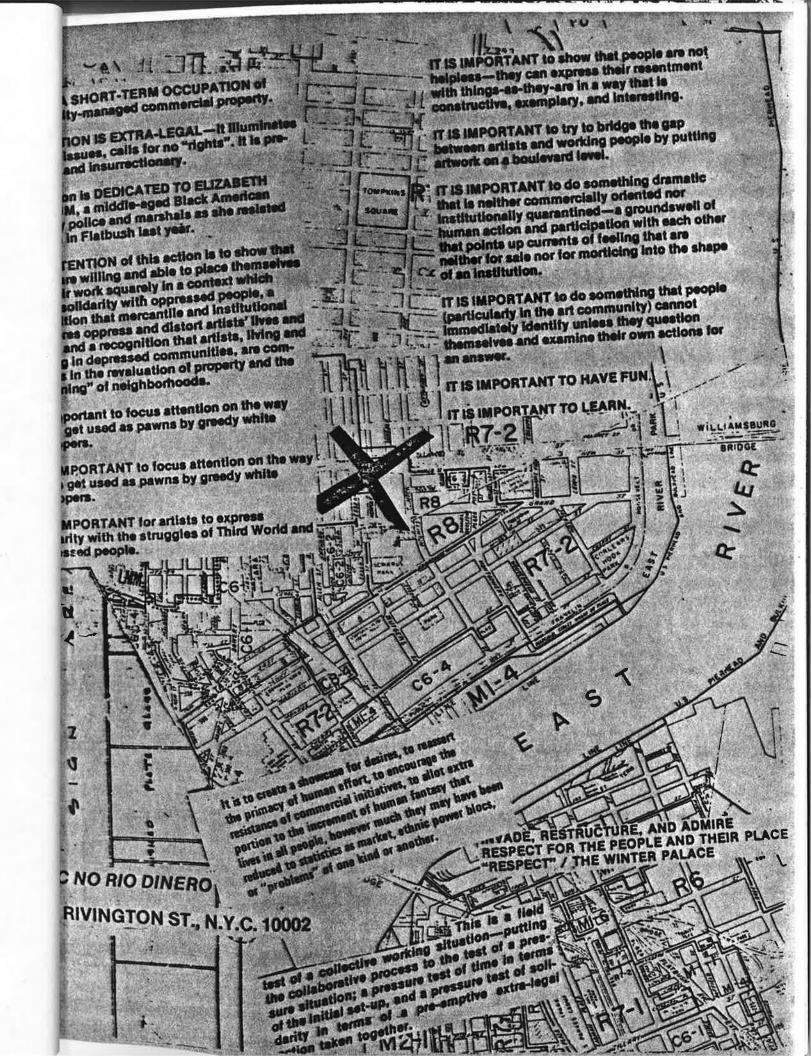
Picture-taking by permission.

Access: Subway: F to Delancey Street; J. M to Essex Street, Bus: M15. Car: Metered street parking and garage parking nearby.







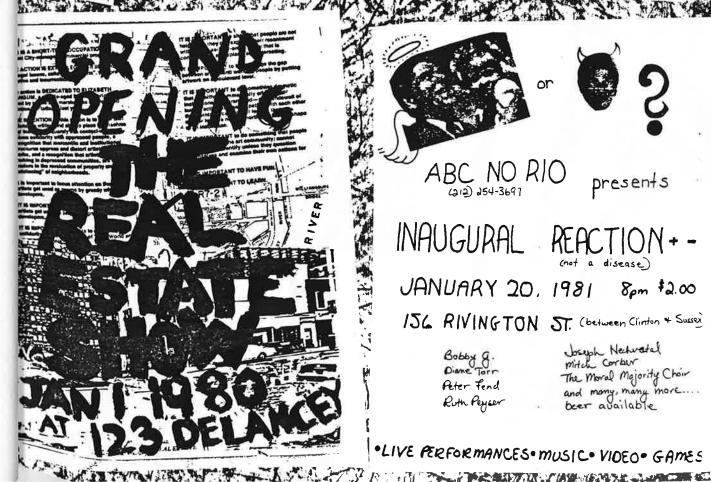




DINNERS AT NO RIO al Estate Show; 166 Rivington St. between Suffolk



enemies and nude to her friends, and of Urm the Fool in his quest for revenge. Wraparound cover







ABC NO RIO

presents

INAUGURAL

JANUARY 20. 1981 8pm \$2.00

156 RIVINGTON ST. (between Clinton + Sussex)

Bobby g. Diane Torn Peter Fend Ruth Peycer

Joseph Necturatal Mitch Corbur The Moral Majority Choir and many, many, more.... beer available

·LIVE PERFORMANCES · MUSIC · VIDEO · GAMES

147/16 EZING DEATH BLUSE DUNTLET

ABC MO RIO NEWS









Jurkey from the J rear, would Greece help?







SOCIETY







THE REAL ESTATE SHOW NEW OFFICE AT 171 DELANCEY ST. OPEN 172 DELANCEY ST. 012-6

Views of City Planning

MA 100 Ma

The exhibition, known as "The Real Estate Show," depicts 35 artists' largely acerbic views of the real estate industry and the city planning process through drawings, montages, cartoons, architectural mockups and, in one case, a sculpture made of cigarette wrappers

ure made of cigarette wrappers.

It was installed quietly, and not without looy, in a two-story pale blue city building at 125 Delancey Street Dec. 30 and was scheduled to run two weeks. The artists say they have been made, in the words of one, "economic outcasts in their own neighborhoods," but city officials by they adamantly refuse to reopen the thibition lest they endorse an illegal octopation.

topation.

"Sure, we broke in," said Alan Moore, by identified himself as a writer, a decoartist and a member of the show's sanizing committee. "But we wrote letter for six months first and didn't get an answers. Artists are getting pushed tound by loft landlords, by banks, by the

Manuel Mirabel, an assistant commisoner of the Housing Department, met with the demonstrators at noon in front of building on the corner of Norfolk kret yesterday, but refused to alter his

Last month, the city advertised for appropriate to be built on the site.

Mr. Moore said the group would conto mount drawings outside the
settont while they began a campaign
the city agency to reverse itself.
Our ideas are behind bars," he said.
It is is a statement made by the





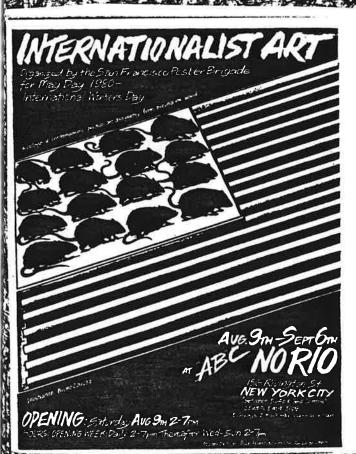
Roger, the paranoid puppet, virgo, the cosmic maiden, Russian astronauts. Conquering Armies, the ultimate rock festival, while Harzak, Sunpot, and Den



white with bla with metal ser protect your holds twelve GET WRECKED

GET
POLITICAL
156 RIVINGTON ST.









PAINTINGS DEG. 17-JAN. 9 ABC NO

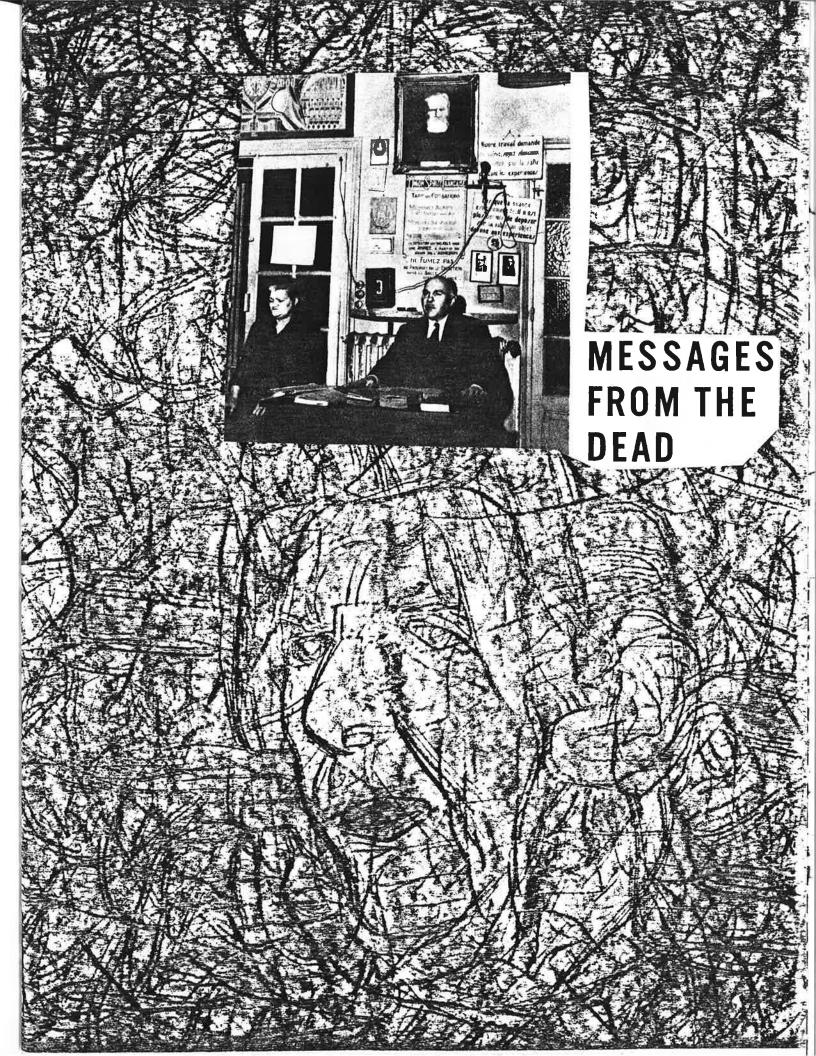
ABC NO RIO

156 RIVINGTON STREET

PHONE: 254-369 GREED

AND

DEATH







SAUDI REBELS JOIN IRAQ, SYRIA, S.W. IRAN TO FORM 'ARABIAN GULF ECONOMY', BAN ALL OIL PRODUCTION

SPREAD OF REBELLION

R. D. D. L. J. U. Sabbil some than saudi royal family have been joined by oppermental in Irea, byras, and by Arab actionalists in oli-rich 3-W. Trash, Turkey and family. They treatin action in Urbalan section in Objectives. Both Br. and Soriet tremps here been resided, 511

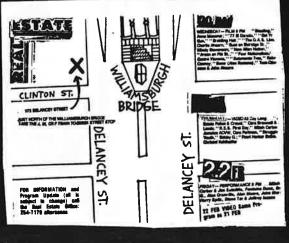


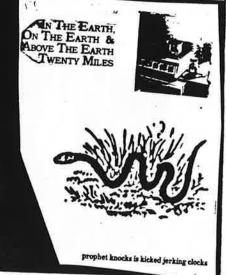






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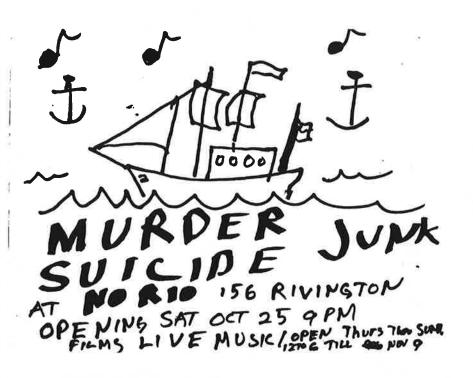
9

ONE OWES NO ALLIGIENCE TO ANY STATE, DOCTRINE, OR INSTITUTION.

20-MEGATON BLAST

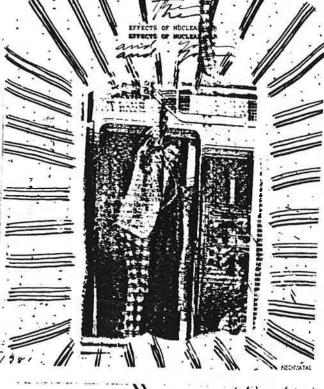
WITHIN A RADIUS OF 4 MILES FROM THE DIRECT HIT THERE IS TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY. WITHIN A 10 MILE RADIUS MOST SURVIVORS ARE SUFFERING FROM SEVERE RADIATION BURNS AND MULTIPLE INJURIES WHICH GO UNTREATED. WITHIN A 20 MILE RADIUS MOST OTHER SURVIVORS ARE QUICKLY KILLED IN THE UNCONTROLLABLE FIRE STORM. ALL TOLD, 2/3 OF THE CITIES' POPULATION ARE ANNIHILATED INSTANTLY. IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, ACUTE RADIATION POISONING WILL KILL 20% OF THOSE STILL ALIVE BRINGING SUCH DEWASTATION THAT THE LIVING WILL ENVY THE DEAD.

SUPPLY ADEQUATE SERVICES & MAINTENANCE. THEY ARE ARROGANT, UN SCRUPULOUS AND DECEITFUL SCOUNDRELS WHO THREATEN COMPLAINING







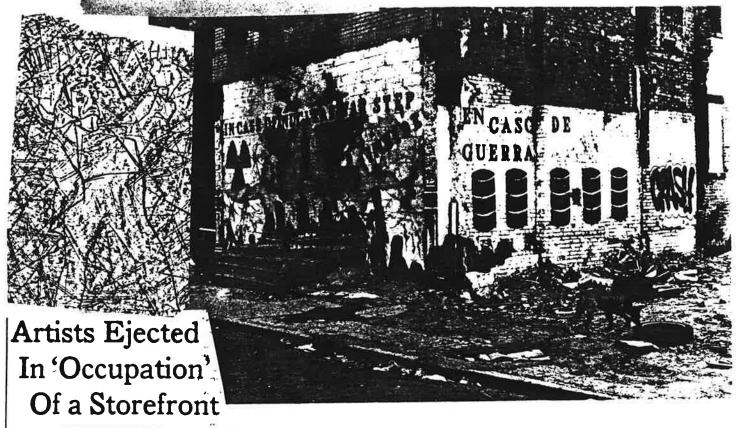






ABC NO RIO





By JOSH BARBANEL

A group of artists staged what they called a "tactical occupation" of their padlocked art exhibition in a city-owned storefront on the Lower East Side yesterday, but they were immediately ejected by the police.

by the police.

The artists first occupied the building without permission on Dec. 30 and were locked out three days later by officials of the city's Department of Housing Preservation and Development. Yesterday, after rejecting several alternative sites offered by the city, the artists pried open a back door and returned.

"After a while all the work of individual artists merged into a new expression," said an artist who gave his name only as Bobby G. "The show wouldn't be the same anyplace else."



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