

# Policewomen Used to Arrest Prostitutes' Patrons

INGLEWOOD—Stealing a page from the Los Angeles experience with prostitution, the city of Inglewood has announced it has begun using policewomen to arrest male customers of prostitutes.

Police Chief Jay Stroh said his department will use as many of the seven regular and 12 reserve female officers as necessary to combat a growing prostitution problem particularly around Hollywood Park.

Mayor Merle Mergell said the prostitution problem near Hollywood

Park used to be seasonal with the professionals setting up shop there only when the racing season was on. "They appear to be working there year-around now," he said, noting that many female residents of the area also have complained that they have been solicited for prostitution by men in the area.

The new strategy of arresting the customers resulted from the admitted failure of an emphasis on nabbing the prostitutes to curb prostitution along Century Blvd.

Mergell said massive police sweeps have produced a large number of arrests of prostitutes (104 so far this year), but have not lessened prostitution activity.

Half of them have been convicted, fined \$50 to \$200, and released.

"You might say the fine increases the problem," Mergell said. "They have to go back to work to make the money to pay the fine."

Stroh said police arrested 37 males in a two-week test of the new policy. He said the department also will in-

tensely its anti-prostitution program in hotels and motels in the area.

Mergell acknowledged that the program may be criticized, as it was when it was publicized in Los Angeles last year. But Stroh said, "men who use the services of prostitutes are just as guilty of violating the law as the prostitute and most of them are much more fearful of arrest than the prostitute."

He believes it will work because, once arrested, the man "rarely goes back again, and neither do his friends."

The people in charge of the same program in Los Angeles are unsure of its impact.

Lt. Robert E. Jones, officer in charge of vice for Hollywood Division, where the program has been concentrated, believes it served to curb solicitation by men of women who were not prostitutes.

"I cannot say it has reduced prostitution activity in Hollywood," Jones said. "But it has made them

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## Centinela South Bay

PART VII

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1974

## Task Force to Get Help With Ripoff-Statute

Four Counties Will Cooperate in Developing Remodeling Fraud Law

BY WILLIAM C. REMPEL  
Times Staff Writer

District attorneys in four counties will team with the state attorney general in drafting proposed legislation to protect homeowners from house remodeling schemes.

The attorney general's Task Force on Consumer Protection has enlisted the cooperation of district attorneys in Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties with the aim to develop protective legislation by early next year.

Alan MacQuoid, a member of the task force, said public hearings can be expected by the end of this year and he predicted the state mechanics lien law could be subjected to legislative pressure.

"This is going to receive top priority," MacQuoid said. "We're going to look into possibly changing the lien law and the feasibility of requiring contractors to obtain performance bonds."

The task force interest in home repair frauds comes from a series of articles in The Times Centinela South Bay Section which revealed an extensive remodeling scheme in the area. Some 65 families lost as much as \$2.5 million.

"It's clear we've got to protect the consumers," MacQuoid said. "Southern California is particular in particular is ripe for remodeling frauds and we're going to emphasize consumer education as well as possible legislative changes."

Herschel Elkins, director of consumer affairs for the state Department of Justice, will be chairman of the task force subcommittee on remodeling schemes.

Before hearings are called the subcommittee will compile a report on present legislation dealing with contractors and material suppliers, some of which may vary from one city or county to another.

MacQuoid says this inventory of laws will be analyzed for loopholes and weaknesses and proposed replacement legislation will be submitted to consumer groups and industry representatives for comments.



TICKLISH BUSINESS?—Rachel Grace probably finds it hard to keep from twitching just a little as Medora Wilden-Story on Page 3



berg points designs on her face, but she seems pretty happy with the results, right. Face painting will be



included at the second annual Children's Festival in Hermosa Beach on Saturday and Sunday at Valley Park. Times photos by Gill Cooper

### REQUEST 'OUT OF LINE'

## Redondo Beach to Protest Bid for Water Rate Hike

REDONDO BEACH—This city, which is one of the largest customers of the California Water Service Co., does not intend to accept the firm's latest request for rate increases.

The City Council has authorized its administrative staff to vigorously oppose the requested increases contending that the proposed rates are out of line.

The firm is asking for permission to raise rates 14.9% this year, 2.1% in 1975, 2.8% in 1976 and 2.6% in 1977. The four-step increase would produce \$675,000 in income.

California Water informed its customers in Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, part of Torrance and unincorporated county territory that increases in expenses and plant investments and increased interest rates exceed growth and revenue gains.

A report from the city staff, however, indicated that if the increases are granted, California Water's customers would be paying an average of 39% more for water than the average prices charged by five surrounding companies.

The city's protest will be made by letter and possibly with an appearance by a staff member before the

state Public Utilities Commission.

The report compared the firm's rates with those of Torrance Municipal Water Co., Manhattan Beach Municipal Water Co., Hawthorne Municipal Water Co., Southern California Water Co. and Dominguez Water Co.

In its conclusion, the report stated that "California Water Service Co.'s rates are extremely high relative to the prevailing rates charged by surrounding water companies."

"However, if the proposed rate increase is approved, it would be materially out of line with the rates charged by these other water companies."

In a typical October the average California Water customer consumed 1,900 cubic feet of water and, under the present rates, pays \$9.25. Under the proposed rates the customer would pay \$10.76.

For the same amount of water, customers of the five other companies would pay \$6.62 in Torrance, \$9.50 in Manhattan Beach, \$7.25 in Hawthorne, \$8.48 to Southern California Water Co. and \$7.06 to Dominguez Water Co.

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Fired Officer's Hearing Set

TORRANCE—Morton Hesse, fired Torrance police officer who is seeking a medical discharge, will take his case to the state Workmen's Compensation Board on Dec. 6. In the hearing at 230 E. 4th St., Long Beach, Hesse's attorneys will argue his alcoholic condition was aggravated by his police duties.

#### Vote Change Favors Barge

REDONDO BEACH—A vote switch by Councilman Anthony B. DeCouture cleared the way for the 240-foot fishing barge California to be moored inside the King Harbor breakwater through next April. Last month DeCouture voted against the barge, calling instead for a study of alternate sites. He gave no reason for his vote change.

#### Policewoman Aims for Rank

TORRANCE—While bracing for a court showdown with the city's policemen over requirements that they take a rugged physical agility test to qualify for promotions, city councilmen have authorized officer Ferny Koenig to take the sergeant's examination. Mrs. Koenig is one of two department women to pass the agility test and could become the city's first ranking police officer.

## Hermosa Residential Unit Tax for Parks May Jump to \$500

BY ROBERT J. ALLAN  
Times Staff Writer

HERMOSA BEACH—If city councilmen hold firm, builders and developers will pay a sharply increased tax on new residential developments by the end of November.

On a 4-1 vote, the council introduced an ordinance to increase the city's park and recreation facilities tax from \$200 for each residential unit to \$500.

The council, however, still must approve the ordinance at a second reading, scheduled for Oct. 29, and then wait 30 days before the law takes effect.

Councilman Hank Doerfling, who introduced the measure, said that the increased fee would help provide adequate funds for recreational facilities for those who would occupy the new units.

The tax also would put the city in a better position to take advantage of surplus school property that is expected to be sold.

The school district already has ap-

proved a program calling for closing several of its school plants and presently is determining which property should be retained and which should be sold.

Doerfling said that if school property is sold and if the city has additional funds from the increased tax, the city should be in a better position to assure retention of some of the land for open space.

He also pointed out that the proposed rate would put Hermosa's new residential unit tax in line with Manhattan Beach, Rancho Palos Verdes and Torrance.

Councilman George C. Barks, the lone dissenter to the increase, termed it inflationary and called on the city and all levels of government to hold the line on spending and taxes in order to stop the price spiral.

Barks also criticized the increase, claiming it would tend to deter low-cost housing.

### LOYOLA'S MAN OF MANY ROLES

## Priest Doubles as Dealer in Las Vegas

BY KENNETH J. FANUCCI  
Times Staff Writer

One of Thomas Higgins' most sublime moments in Las Vegas last summer occurred when he spotted three nuns feeding nickels into a casino slot machine.

With all the feigned indignation he could muster, he demanded to know what they were doing, "in a place like this." They thought he was just another blackjack dealer.

"Even after I told them I was a priest, they did not believe me," he said.

For their peace of mind, the Rev. Higgins, 42, is indeed a priest, serving as chaplain, religious studies instructor, golf coach and unorthodox gadfly at Loyola Marymount University.

He was a "21" dealer last summer in a Las Vegas casino.

If the priest-blackjack dealer combination seems incongruous to outsiders, it surprises few at Loyola.

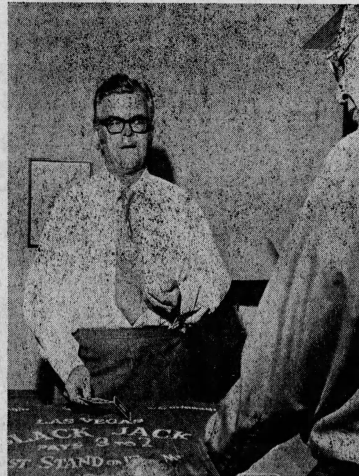
Over the last five years, Father Higgins has cut a wide, controversial swath at the university.

To kick off his notoriety, he set up a spiritual advice booth on campus, charging students a nickel each session.

"Most of the students turned out to be freeloaders," he said of their insistence that they couldn't afford the fee.

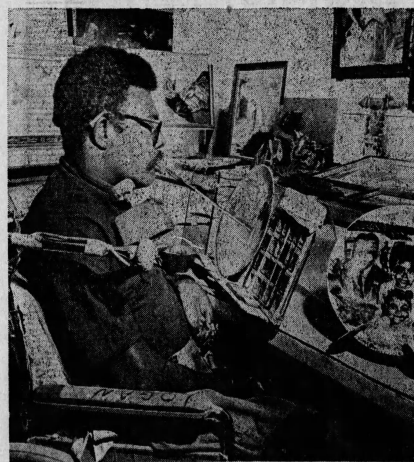
He established a talk show on campus, featuring the wit and wisdom of four area bartenders.

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LEARNING ABOUT HUMAN NATURE—The Rev. Thomas Higgins, a religious studies instructor and golf coach at Loyola Marymount University, spent the summer as a blackjack dealer in a Las Vegas casino to better understand human nature. Times photo

## Artists Who Do It the Hard Way



WORKS TO BE SHOWN—Ray Logan, handicapped artist at Long Beach Veterans Hospital, will be among those displaying work at the 12th Annual Art for Fun(d)'s Sake at Marineland on Saturday and Sunday. Hours of the exhibition are 10 a.m. to sunset both days. Times photo

RANCHO PALOS VERDES—The works of disabled veterans, police artists and underwater painters will be among the hundreds of exhibits on display at the 12th Annual Art for Fun(d)'s Sake Saturday and Sunday at Marineland.

The festival, second in California only to the Laguna Beach festival, is expected to attract more than 25,000 visitors between 10 a.m. and sunset both days. Proceeds will go to support the Palos Verdes Arts Center.

About 260 artisans will participate in the invitational exhibit sponsored by the Palos Verdes Community Arts Assn. The event will feature work in a variety of media, from stained glass and doll making to photography and graphics.

An art auction will be held both days from 2 to 4 p.m. with items expected to bring bids ranging from \$1 to \$1,000.

Food, entertainment and a children's creativity center for child care also will be provided. A full Marineland program will operate continuously during the weekend and all gate receipts will be donated to the arts center.

Featured art exhibits will include the following:

Disabled veterans who are patients at the Long Beach Veterans Administration Hospital will exhibit paintings, leather works, carvings, macramé and ceramics. Some of the art works were painted by paraplegics using a brush held in their teeth.

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**PATRONS**

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more cagey about whom they approach. I think the word has gotten out that the person they solicit for prostitution may be a policewoman."

He said the department still is utilizing undercover policewomen, but not as many as when the program was started last year. "We simply cannot afford the officers for the program," he said.

Approximately 100 men were arrested for solicitation in the last four-week period when the program partment, compared to more than 300 in a similar period when the program of customer arrests was widely publicized last year.

LAPD spokesman Lt. Dan Cooke said the effects of the program on limiting prostitution may be one of those "throwing sand in the sea" situations.

"It is difficult to evaluate the impact," Cooke said. "Prostitution is something you must continue to control."

Roosevelt Dorn, chief of the criminal trials division for the city attorney of Los Angeles, said his office is continuing to prosecute customers.

The maximum penalty for the offense is six months in jail and/or a \$500 fine. But Dorn conceded few, if any customers, have been given the maximum sentence.

"Sentences vary," he said. "I think most receive either suspended sentences, are placed on probation or are allowed to plead to a lesser crime, like trespassing."

—KENNETH J. FANUCCHI

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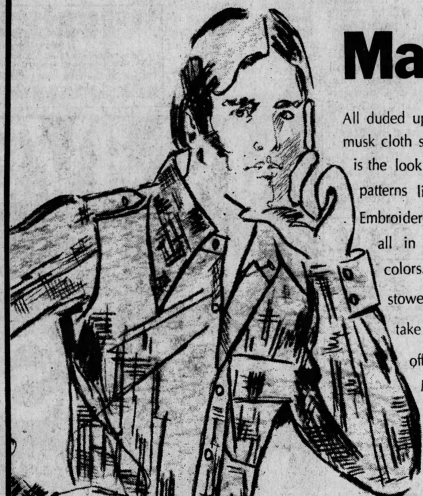
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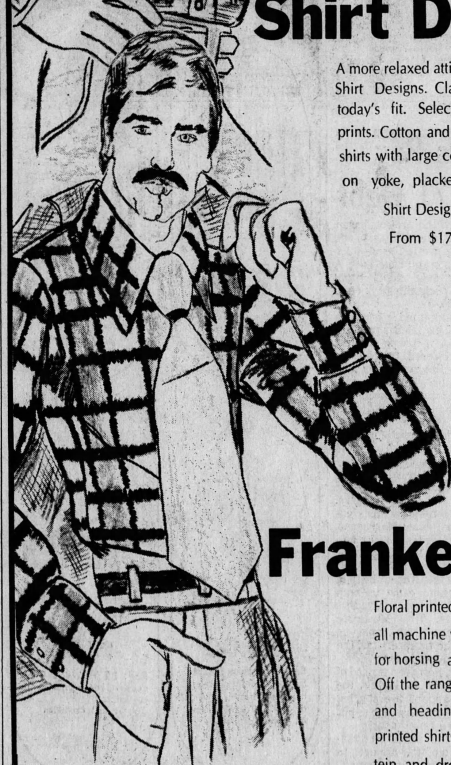
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