

Televangelist Scott Sets Up Shop on Broadway

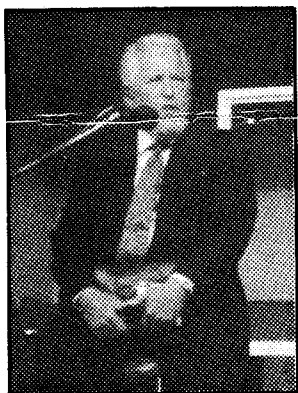
United Artists Renovation Complete

by Steven Wolf

Hold onto your hats, Downtowners, Dr. Gene Scott is back. The moody televangelist, real estate speculator and horse breeder who mesmerized the central city when he held forth at the Church of the Open Door on Hope Street has made a triumphant return. He has renovated the classic United Artists Theater at Ninth & Broadway, and is

activist group that promotes revitalization of the once-proud street.

Except for Scott's Sunday services, which began on Easter, last week's event was the public's first chance to see the renovations which the "L.A. University Church" has been working on since it leased the aging movie palace from Bruce Corwin's Metropolitan Theater Corp. in 1988.



Dr. Gene Scott

whose cigar-chomping visage and persistent appeals for money are staples of UHF television, volunteers from all over the country came to peel years of unwanted paint off the walls and seats, scrub and replace old bathroom tiles, and change literally thousands of light bulbs.

"I'm getting far too much credit for this operation," said Scott, as politicians and preservationists congratulated him. "There are thousands of people who have given their time and energy to this project."

Scott's church also hired a restoration team to bring back to life the mock-gothic murals that cover the theater's walls and ceilings; marble restorers were brought in to work on the aging stone floors, as well. Church officials wouldn't put a dollar amount on the renovation because so much of it was done by volunteers, but preservationists estimated it in the area of \$2 million.

"You should have seen those people," said Dolan, "scrubbing the walls. The whole place was painted red before and there was a lot of brown. It was a mess."

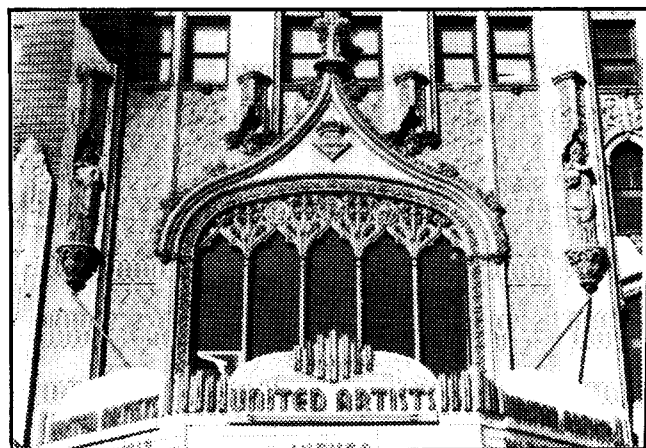
The only renovation

question remaining is when and where the "Jesus Saves" signs, taken from the now demolished Church of the Open door, will arrive. Scott has approval to put them on the roof of the UA building or on the roof of the theater, but he hasn't made a decision yet.

Broadway Wins

The renovation of the UA is a big step for Broadway, which has witnessed a stunning decline in recent years. Although the number of shoppers nears 100,000 on weekends, many of the street's prize buildings lie abandoned, except for retail

Continued on page 13



The United Artists Theatre.

now holding Sunday services there.

Scott lost the Church of the Open Door to the wrath of the courts (after he defaulted on a loan) and the wrath of God (when it was irretrievably damaged in the Oct. 1987 earthquake).

Last week, Scott showed off his restoration of the UA, a Spanish gothic masterpiece which once played host to Charlie Chaplin and Douglas Fairbanks. The event was a fundraiser for Miracle on Broadway, a communi-

Scott also has an option to buy the property, and he is expected to exercise it, according to Corwin.

"It is remarkable," said Jill Dolan of the Los Angeles Historic Theater Foundation. "It looks great."

Preservationists say the theater, built by Mary Pickford and inspired by the design of a church in Segovia, was in wretched condition before Scott sent word to his flock over the airways to come Downtown and volunteer their time. According to the white-haired pastor,



Downtown's Most Prestigious Address



Bunker Hill Towers Apartments, downtown's most prestigious and finest living address, now offers free cable TV in addition to:

- Night-Lighted Tennis
- Large Heated Pool
- Jacuzzi
- Beautifully Landscaped Grounds
- Supermarket/Pharmacy/Gift Shop
- Barbecues
- Exercise Room
- Cleaning/Laundry Shop
- 24-Hour Uniformed Patrol
- Full Service Beauty/Barber Salon
- Furnished Models
- Park-Like Atmosphere

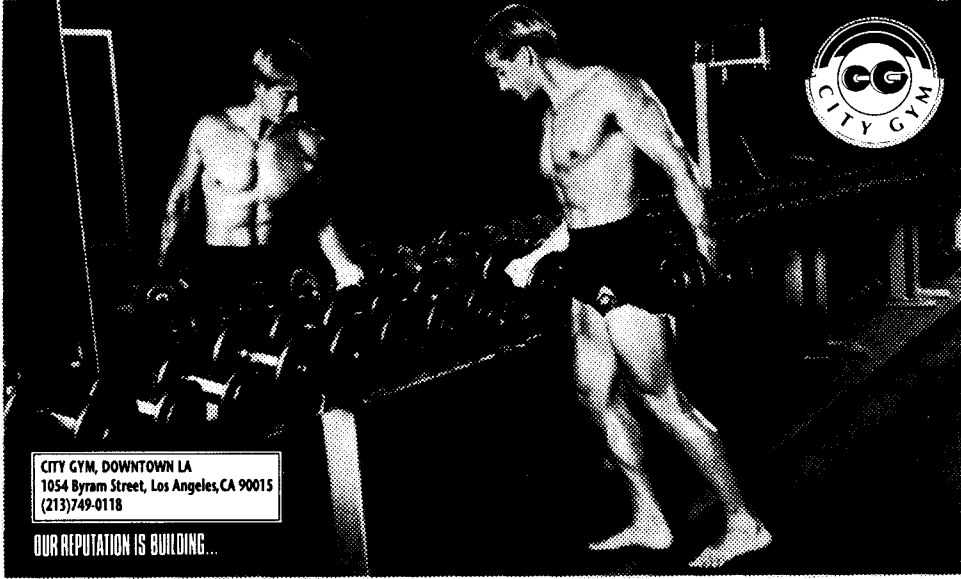
Studios \$695-\$830
1 Bedroom \$850-\$1065
2 Bedroom \$1170-\$1465
Prices effective date of publication and subject to availability.

Bunker Hill Towers
 APARTMENTS

234 S. Figueroa St. • Los Angeles, Ca 90012
 (213) 624-2877
 Leasing office open everyday except Sun. 9 am to 5 pm



7TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL!



CITY GYM

CITY GYM, DOWNTOWN LA
 1054 Byram Street, Los Angeles, CA 90015
 (213) 749-0118

OUR REPUTATION IS BUILDING...

COUPON

CAR WASH & POLISH WAX

ONLY **\$4.99**

BRUSHLESS & HAND DETAIL CAR WASH

Regular \$10.50 You Save \$5.51 • (NO OTHER PURCHASE NECESSARY)

FREE LOTTERY TICKET

W/CAR WASH AND GAS FILL UP (OVER 8 GALLONS)

Downtown Car Wash • 811 Olympic at Figueroa • 629-1273

Expires May 20th, 1990

VANS \$6.99
 POLYSEALANT WAX
 \$3.00 EXTRA (Reg. \$6)



problem. But money—that's another story. As soon as I got it, I spent it on drugs," says Woods.

Soon after Woods began smoking cocaine, he began arriving late to work. Eventually, he stopped going into his job at Cedars Sinai Medical Center.

"They [Cedars managers] sent me through a rehab program," says Woods, "but what I really had was a spiritual problem."

"I was going out, doing drugs and chasing girls—doing exactly what I wanted to," he says. "Then my mother told me about a friend of hers who had been through the program. When she told me that, the spirit of God came upon me. So I came down and started. I signed a contract to be here for one year," says Woods, who now works in the mission booth, where tickets good for clothing, shoes, shower and shave and meals are handed out.

Woods has written Cedars Sinai in hopes of repairing the relationship with his former employer. On June 21, his one-year

anniversary at L.A. Mission, he will likely graduate from the program. He plans to continue working with another church, he says.

Housing Bodies

Despite the apparent success stories, such as Woods, some 'housing activists,' are critical of Holsinger's opinion that low-income housing is not as important as rehabili-

"The missions don't make a lot of noise like the activists, but we're there every day feeding people."

tation.

"You cannot begin to solve the problems of these people until you provide them with someplace to live," says Alice Callaghan, a low-income housing activist and director of Para Los Niños, a Skid Row day-care center.

"There are thousands of homeless people who need rehabilitation.

Among those there is a need for some to be in the kind of program Reverend Holsinger is talking about. But all homeless are not in need of rehabilitation. Many of them need a place to live because their poor, not because they're lost souls," says Callaghan.

Big New Mission on 5th

In his cramped office, with a wall-sized collection of Bibles and Biblical reference books behind him, Holsinger talks about moving out of the 15,000-square-foot Mission into a new 125,000-square-foot building at Fifth and Wall Street.

"The move will enable us to deal with the growing need. We'll have a running track and weightlifting room, for example, which will serve the homeless population, which is getting younger. In fact, the average age now is 28," says Holsinger.

"The missions don't make a lot of noise like the activists, but we're there every day feeding people, giving out clothing and providing shelter. What are [the activists] doing?"

United Artists Theater Renovated by Preacher

Doors Opened Easter Sunday

shops on the ground floor. The saving of the theater seemed even more important in light of the approval, given by the Community Redevelopment Agency, to tear down the California Theater, a rocco movie palace on Ninth Street and Main.

"The vision Gene Scott has is the vision we all want," said Councilman Richard Alatorre, who was on hand to applaud the pastor's return. "I think he has been able to demonstrate that there is spiritual life in the heart of the city."

But Broadway needs more than just spirit if it is to get back on its feet, it needs money. Scott, who lost \$6.5 million when he tried a complex legal maneuver to gain control of the Church of the Open Door back in 1986, said except for Sunday morning services, he plans to rent the theater out to cultural groups.

"In terms of its use as a community center and as a cultural center, I think this will bring a lot of people down to Broadway,

who wouldn't otherwise come down here," said Estela Lopez, Executive Director of MOB.

Broadway got another boost this month when developer Ira Yellin received approval to go ahead with his renovation of the Grand Central Public Market and the Million Dollar Theater on Fourth Street. However, the economics of renovation on Broadway are still perceived as perilous.

"It takes a lot of ingredients rolled into one," said Lopez. "Obviously it takes vision. Obviously it takes investment and investment and investment. It takes dealing with a bureaucracy that is more focused on disincentives

than incentives. And you have to have people that have an idea. Money alone will not work."

Defensive

Despite adulation from such powerful politicians as Alatorre, and Deputy Mayor Ed Avila, Scott wanted to play down his new prominence in the central city.

In the past he has been investigated by the Feder-

"Obviously, this takes vision."

al Communications Commission and has been involved in numerous lawsuits over investments, and it appeared he was trying to remain very low key.

"We have no reason for being here," said Scott. "We just came down to say as one protestant church, we are not leaving the city."

5 MIN WOMENS HEEL AND SHINE \$4.00

KARPIS EXPERT SHOE REPAIR

COMPLETE SHOE REPAIR SERVICE
DYING • ZIPPERS • HANDBAGS
AND ALL LEATHERWORK

WE CUT KEYS

MON. - FRI. HRS. 7 A.M. - 6 P.M.

WORLD TRADE CENTER
350 S. Figueroa St. #180
Los Angeles, CA 90071
☎ (213) 626-3822

BEAUDRY CENTER
333 S. Beaudry Ave., 2nd Floor
#208 Los Angeles, CA 90017
☎ (213) 482-8214

Help Us Sell
Real Estate

Of Covina/ West Covina/
CHARTER OAK

HAS MANY HOMES AND
TOWNHOMES WITHIN A
REASONABLE
DOWNTOWN COMMUTE.
ALSO CONVENIENT TO
PARK AND RIDE AND
THE MAIN R.I.D. BUS
TERMINAL.

HOMES YOU'LL LOVE AT
PRICES YOU CAN AFFORD
- call today for
COMPLETE LISTINGS.

Help Us Sell
Real Estate

(818) 332-0627

\$1 Moves You In!!

- First Month's Rent \$1⁰⁰
- Normal Deposits Apply
- 3 Month Minimum
- One per Customer
- Valid April 1990

SELF STORAGE

SAFE • DRY • SECURE
PROFESSIONAL, FRIENDLY CUSTOMER SERVICE

- 24 HOUR RESIDENT MANAGER
- ELECTRONIC SECURITY/SPRINKLERED
- BUSINESS INVENTORY & RECORDS
- P.O. BOXES AVAILABLE
- INSURANCE AVAILABLE
- PEST CONTROL
- ALL SIZES
- PACKING SUPPLIES
- SHORT OR LONG TERM

EMPIRE SELF STORAGE/ LOS ANGELES
300 S. AVERY LOS ANGELES
626-1726

CALIFORNIA PLAZA

...YOU'VE GOT TO MOVE...

COLLECT A FREE VACATION AS YOU PASS

GO*

WELLS FARGO CENTER

THE ADDRESS THAT REFLECTS SUCCESS.

- Prestigious location on Bunker Hill, across from the Museum of Contemporary Art.
- Walking distance to theaters, restaurants, shopping, banks and Courthouse.
- 372 magnificent luxury apartments. Spectacular views available.
- Stunning marble lobby displaying fine works of local artists.
- Amenities include lap pool and spa, recreation center, full service gym, 24 hour resident assistance, gated underground parking.

(213) 229-9777