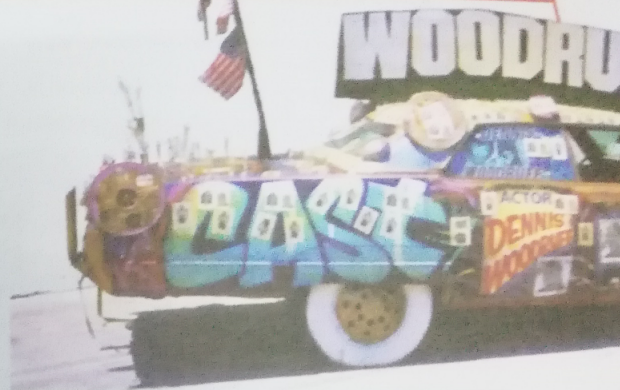
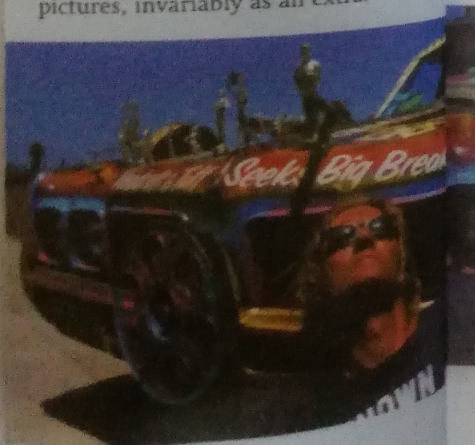


# Famous for not being famous

If you go to Hollywood and look around the trendy coffee shops and restaurants, it is unlikely that you will meet your favourite film star. However, it is almost certain that you will meet Dennis Woodruff.

Dennis is a 'movie' star - well, sort of. You learn this quickly because he tells everyone he meets. He wears a T-shirt that says 'Dennis Woodruff, world-famous actor'. On his modified Chevrolet convertible he has five Oscars® (fake, unfortunately) and other awards that he has won. He also hands out videotapes of his films in exchange for a modest \$10.

If fame is a matter of being known by influential people, then Dennis Woodruff is certainly famous. He describes himself as Hollywood's best known out-of-work actor. He has been looking for work for 25 years. It is true that he has been on television over 300 times and has worked in about 45 motion pictures, invariably as an extra.



But mostly he is known as the hippie guy with the long blond ponytail, who is trapped in the only role he has been able to play with any success - playing Dennis. Everything about Dennis has to do with selling himself. He talks constantly about his life, his talent, his artistic abilities, his ambitions. His never-ending search for work in the film industry no longer has any realistic chance of success, so now he acts out the role of an actor looking for work. 'Cast me!' shouts the writing on his car. 'Buy my movie!'

'Actually,' says Dennis, 'I am a movie star. It's just that no one has realized it yet.' His 'movies', titled *Dennis Woodruff the Movie, Parts I and II* and *Double Feature*, starring Dennis Woodruff are heavily autobiographical - more documentaries of his life than anything else. You can watch him auditioning for parts in

front of the security cameras local restaurants. People recognize him and then, sadly, ignore him.

He has rugged, unconventional good looks, though he seems tired. 'I've been making another movie about me. It's called *Life Art*. I want to show everyone my life is like a work of art.'

One of the most miserable tales he tells is about how he nearly made the big time. The famous actor John Wayne was going to give him a break, but unfortunately he died. Legendary producer Otto Preminger wanted to make him a star. He also died. Now nearly 50, Dennis first had the idea of promoting himself over 20 years ago when he

