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P.O. Box 2, Venice, CA. 90294 • www.venicebeachhead.org • free@venicebeachhead.org • 424 645-7358

COVID-19 and Homelessness in Venice (Part 1)

By Matt Fisher

The COVID-19 pandemic came at an interesting time for Venice and the unhoused community. The new Bridge Home transitional housing site just opened, and the introduction to the SECZ (Special Enforcement Cleaning Zone) was set to begin. The SECZ is a 1000' designated zone around the Bridge Home site that includes encampment cleanings five days a week by LA Sanitation CARE team, enforcement of taking tents down between the hours of 6am-9pm, and maintaining 36" ADA access while only being allowed 60 gallons of possessions per person living in the area.

The first week of the SECZ enforcement, it rained or was below 50°, allowing tents to stay up because of inclement weather, and the city got hit with a lawsuit on the 60 gallon limit preventing any bulky item seizures . By the time the sun came out and the court date was set, news of the pandemic hit and a county-wide stay-at-home order was put into effect.

The CDC recommended to allow tents to stay up 24 hours and for encampments to not be moved unless appropriate shelter was available as a self-quarantine measure. Sinks and toilets were installed near encampments and an extra clean up crew was provided for sanitation purposes. The LAPD, for some reason, was still wasting every single morning waking people up at 6am with ADA complaints, and filling out information cards on everyone, potentially spreading the virus. At this point, there were less than 30 people living inside the SECZ, all primarily on 3rd, with a few on 4th and Hampton Avenue.

An order for beaches, parks, and rec. centers to be closed came next, but still allowed use of the Venice boardwalk and its bathrooms. LAPD didn't miss their chance to mess things up more. Even with the CDC, State, City and Court orders preventing it, the LAPD Pacific Division still decided to tell everyone unhoused that they couldn't be on the boardwalk and would be arrested if they didn't leave. After witnessing this, I and another advocate Adam Smith started raising hell and actually got Mike Bonin and his field deputy to come out and help. The LAPD, of course, played dumb and pulled back on enforcement but, before they did, there were multiple disturbing incidents like officers forcing an elderly man in a wheelchair to move into the alley, throwing away unattended tents, and telling a large group that the shelter bus wasn't coming, when it was. They succeeded in scaring off around 150 people after continuing the next day, and forced most of the people into the SECZ.

Within 48 hours, the SECZ went from roughly 30 people to over 150. Without the ability to force people to take tents down, no right to seize bulky items, and the new crew cleaning already in place, LA Sanitation CARE team had nothing to do. Rather than saving the hundreds of thousands of dollars desperately needed during a pandemic, the CARE team still came out five days a week and wasted the resources. Between LAPD and Sanitation, they created a forced livcontinued on page 6







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Beachhead Collective Staff:

Eric Ahlberg, Alice Stek, Fehmi Yildirim, Logan Mote, Suzy Williams, Lisa Robins, Marty Liboff, Jon Wolff, Mike Bravo

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Mail: P.O. Box 2, Venice, CA 90294. **Email:** free@venicebeachhead.org Web: www.venicebeachhead.org

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When Public Property Goes Private

By Matt Fisher

Venice has seen its fair share of residents and businesses illegally confiscating public property. From planter boxes to no trespassing signs on sidewalks, some people feel they can illegally claim public property just to harass unhoused people on it.

Recently, the Venice farmers market manager, with help from Venice's BID (Business Improvement District) and one new LAPD SLO, installed no trespassing signs in both Venice Boulevard parking lots, and hired 24-hour private security to only harass homeless people. These lots are of course public, and considered parks. The poorly made signs were even posted above the signs indicating it is in fact public property. And your tax dollars are paying for this.

We've also had no parking signs for vehicles over 6' high pop up everywhere within the coastal zone and a couple on Lincoln Boulevard, a state highway. Some of the signs were made by the city and some are privately made. All are illegal.

LA City Council Member Mike Bonin said he would remove them because it's illegal and a liability for the city and, more importantly, find out how city signs were allowed to be illegally installed. The LAPD has stated no enforcement can be made with no trespassing signs on sidewalks and anyone issued a ticket for one of these parking signs is encouraged to contest it.

Not surprisingly, everyone has been avoiding the parking lot confiscation. And the private security paid for by you continues to harass any unhoused person walking through. Granted, there is a pandemic going on but, after a month of reporting all this, no signs have been removed, nothing has been addressed, and the situation is starting to stink like planter boxes.

CD 11 has a long history of ignoring and supporting this type of thing and recently even helped the canals residents make fake signs to close down the entire area claiming it was under quarantine. Of course, there's still a lot in question and plenty of time with more important things to worry about like a pandemic but, at some point, just like with planter boxes, all of these thefts of public property will be corrected. Whether through the city growing a spine, a saw, or a can of paint, the public will fight for what little space we have left.

Matt Fisher

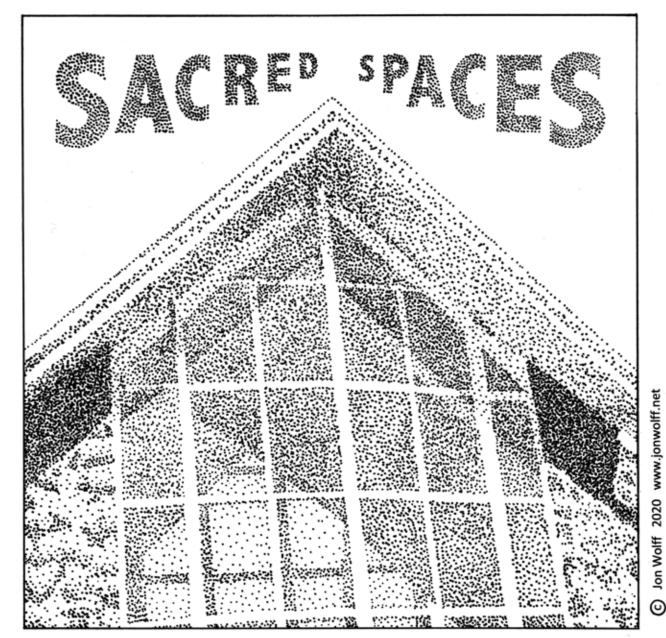
Cop Watch Venice (founder)

The Homeless Advisory Board of Los Angeles

OFW committee member

Below, several good citizens have been making sandwiches to give to the houseless.





ON SACRED SPACES AND THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

By Jon Wolff

The following is from a recent conversation with the Reverend Oscar Rhone about sacred spaces in Venice, and the fight to save the First Baptist Church of Venice, the historic African-American church in the heart of Venice.

Jon Wolff: You have a history, going back with the First Baptist Church of Venice.

Reverend Oscar Rhone: Yes, about fifty years. I started going there at twelve years old. My grandmother was the young mother of the church then. She made sure that all of her children's children attended church there at First Baptist. That is what a home type of environment was. Everybody knew everybody. The same people you would see at church, you would see throughout the community. It was like a homecoming, a gathering on Sundays. Pastor Holmes was from Arkansas. A good percentage of the community in Venice, at that time, had migrated from Arkansas: Little Rock, Pine Bluff, and other cities in Arkansas and Louisiana. They mostly knew each other. Pastor Holmes was a school teacher. He was a principal. When he came out here as the pastor, he had a vision. His vision was to pastor the Venice Community. And not only help pastor them, but give them the same vision that he had. That was to build

up the Venice Community.

JW: There's been an effort to save the First Baptist Church of Venice for over two years now. It's important to keep this space, and not let it be converted into somebody's private mega-mansion. Right now, it's harder for people to meet and gather in one place to worship. When this COVID-19 crisis is finally over, will we have a greater appreciation for sacred spaces?

OR: Yes. I think that this kind of crisis will either drive you closer to Christ or away from Christ. For the most part, it's driving people back to the throne, back to reading the scripture, back to prayer, back to meditation, back to fellowship. It's driving people to do different things to try to keep that communication. The church is a living organism. Jesus said, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." What we're doing here is glorifying God.

JW: So people understand what it means to have that kind of space, to have that building available?

OR: Yes. There's the saying: Absence makes the heart grow fonder. And we need to draw closer to the Lord. These are times of testing. I was reading the scripture. It says, in the days of adversity your faith is small. We have to continue to build up all our faith. Psalm 91:1 says, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." For more information go to: www.savexvenice.com



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A Letter and Photos below, from Maryjane.

The waters and the Big Box of Toilet Paper from D and M mid March The Canals signs and the Beach lots sign/s (and all Beaches in Lockdown, also,etc, as our Ocean Front Walk, and Strands and Boardwalks) were set up after 5 pm in our Venice Canals areas which includes the plastic park which the city put in after tearing down our 6th hand built park for the Canal Ruination Project 1992-1995...

we, i quite with, built 5 other open gardens-parks in our remaining canals... the 5th was so Fabulous and the city could NOT tear it down easily like the prior ones so @ 3 Jan 1973 LA City (which took over venice in Oct 1925) slammed in at midnight and the Huge crews and Helicopters ... and "media appeared, as did we and public was so enraged at LA tearing down the 5th FREEEEELLLY put park on unused city property that we finally got a lot for a little vest pocket park, but MOST never know that it was to be for only 3 years maximum! welll such as moi kept at it and FINALLY got it set for "inperpetuity" ... it was an hand built park by @6 of us again, and still in the days when nothing was locked: No homes, no autos, no bicycles, etc... The redo by LA has it mostly for the Yuppies Nannies park after 1995, over all.

NOTE long ago there were many vacant lots in Canals areas and in much of Venice: true round the world, then!



Notes from North of the Border

by Henry Rosebudz

Hello Venice...this is Santa Monica...come in Venice...recent secret things that happened outside our homes....

My friend T and I were bicycling on a recent Saturday, up Main Street across the Rose Avenue border, thinking, there are still too many fucking cars on Main Street...

Then we noticed something else going on. Pedestrians looked up as we rolled by. With the following greetings: "Good morning." "Hey." The head-nodding acknowledgements. There was one "howdy-do" that felt like we were strolling the canals a hundred years ago (they were built in 1905, right?).

I like to ring my bike bell to provoke the locals. But this was different. There was something in their eyes. (Granted, you focus on the eyes when a mask is covering the mouth and the nose.) Why were they looking at us? Nearly every passerby gave up their glance.

"Only connect," is that famous epigraph from E.M. Forster's 1910 novel, Howards End. As here we found ourselves yearning disabled, skin hungering (the condition where a human simply desires physical contact), what could locked-inside-in-a-locked-downcity dwellers with nowhere to go but back in do?

We got free. We flew the cooped up and lived inside an E.M. Forster bubblilicious fiction of affection for an afternoon...

On Friday night in Santa Monica, I drove my friend to Urgent Care on 9thand Wilshire just before they closed at 8:30. Seventy-one now, he'd been feverish for two weeks. And he lost his sense of smell – time for swabby, right? After blood pressure and temperature checks, they told him, "Everything looks pretty good." So no test.

We zipped up to UCLA Immediate Care on 16th and Arizona, open til 9 (after a quick stop at Hank's Liquor for a not-unrelated emergency). Streets were empty the whole way. Parking was a breeze. Inside though, they wouldn't even look at my friend's Medicare card, nor read the note from his doctor. They said sorry, he needed to send a fax with a diagnosis (who has a fax anymore?). The entire conversation was conducted outside the freaking automatic sliding door my friend never made it through. He got his doctor on the phone, held it against the glass. One guy did suggest trying the Emergency Room across the street.

Open 24/7! A Friday night in the ER and only one person in the waiting room! Four hours later, my friend walked out waving a 9-page document confirming what they did for him: chest x-ray, CT scan, liter of saline, script for Albuterol, and the Covid-19 test.

"I had five people working on me," he said. "They were fucking fantastic!"

(Test results would take a few days. I stuck him in the trunk and drove off....kidding!) ***

Sunday I slipped through the snow fence near Lifeguard Tower 28 at the end of Marine Street and sat on the beach. Illegally staring out at the Pacific, I tried to take in some deep compassion rising from the deep. I thought,

CV as CV by Gerry Fialka

Corona Virus as Curriculum Vitae, Latin for "life's course." We can refer to both as CV. Words evoke more than their meaning. CV is a written overview of someones life's work (academic resume), and often aims to be a complete record of the person's career. CV is causing us all to see our lives flash in front of us. The daily overview is making us all be very aware of our every move. CV woke!

The CV is a "forced" fast, which evokes McLuhan's probing of the environment's subliminal effects. What to do? We can reimagine "emergency" into "emerge" and "see." We can emerge from fear and panic by seeing wonderment with new eyes. Bingo a go go, epiphanies in everydayness.

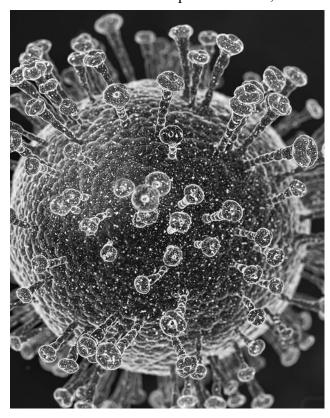
"Feel safe" is what I've been am trying to stress. Maya Angelou said, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Fish don't know the environment of water until you take them out of it, which inspired McLuhan to write:

"We are polluting Art as fast as we are tidying up Nature. The people of the Earth are encouraged to engage in an experiment of utmost urgency. We must turn off the electric environment for a period of one week to perform a cleansing of mass-human's mind, body and spirit. We must get back to our bodies, lest we forget they are still there! Imagine the freedom to be experienced as the top-down cultural control of civilization is eradicated for even the briefest period! If everyone did participate in the Media Fast, how would we know it happened? Stay tuned."

How? Why? When? What? When? Wow?

The root of the CV "vitae" is "vital," meaning important and necessary. Whether the Venice BeachHead is on newsprint or online, it is



What must the sea creatures think of us? All those out-of-this-world amphibians, outrageous fish, mammal families. Would they say: "Told you so."

A guy in a wetsuit breaks my reverie. We acknowledge each other, gently. Suddenly, we're sheltering in the same space, right? He says I should take care – the beach being closed and all. Just before diving headfirst he shouts back: "You can't close the ocean!"

(I wonder if he knew about that surfer who was fined a thousand dollars because they'd closed the ocean in Manhattan Beach)

essential and relevant. Thanks to all who contribute to our community and our newspaper. Consider – From Cliché to Archetype (1970 book) by Canadians Marshall McLuhan and poet Wilfred Watson, that included the following:

THIS IS A PRINTING OFFICE
CROSSROADS OF CIVILIZATION
REFUGE OF ALL THE ARTS
AGAINST THE RAVAGES OF TIME
ARMOURY OF FEARLESS TRUTH
AGAINST WHISPERING RUMOUR
INCESSANT TRUMPET OF TRADE
FROM THIS PLACE WORDS MAY FLY
ABROAD

NOT TO PERISH ON WAVES OF SOUND NOT TO VARY WITH THE WRITER'S HAND

BUT FIXED IN TIME HAVING BEEN VER-IFIED IN PROOF

FRIEND YOU STAND ON SACRED GROUND

THIS IS A PRINTING OFFICE

So free your mind, and your ass will follow, a mantra from P-Funk shaman George Clinton, who also sings "Here's a chance to dance our way out of our constrictions." Yes, we can can.

Have you heard the latest? It ain't out yet. Superman was spotted selling face masks on Rose Ave for 10 bucks. Lock down and look up.

YouTube video The Mothers Of Invention - Oh, In The Sky (1968)

YouTube video Frank Zappa - Anything 1968 [Vinyl Rip]

YouTube video FEATHERS- JOHNNY DAR-LING

LET'S PULL TOGETHER AND STAND APART

Words by Suzy Williams 3/24/2020

Let's pull together and stand apart Let's sanitize our own shopping cart Let's do our huggin' just from the heart Let's pull together and stand - - - - Apart.

We've gotta flatten this doggone curve Six feet of distance takes some reserve Call up your buddy, now THAT will serve -We've gotta flatten the dog - - - - gone curve.

[spoken] Virtual virtue ... is the order of the [sung] DAY...
Let's do our face time here on face-book – Instagram, Marco Polo, Skype – OK?
[Brad:] Okay!
[Suzy:] OKAAAYYYY??
[Brad:] OHHH – KAAYYY!!

[Suzy]: Show solidarity to Hospital Staff, Knockin' themselves out on our behalf - THEN

When this is over, we'll live to laugh!

Let's pull together and stand --
Then we'll resume what we planned –

THAT will be so frickin' GRAND! [triplets]

Let's pull together and STAND - - - Apart!

PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES

by Diana Hobstetter

Nearly 3 years ago my husband, Richard, unexpectedly had severe strokes that obviously impacted his life and also turned our family's lives upside down. Besides all the medical and emotional issues from this event, I learned a lot about how emergency situations can affect so many things in one's life.

In dealing with Richard's medical emergency, there were things that were harder for me because I didn't have certain things, and things that were easier because I did have certain things. Richard wasn't and still isn't able to give me some information I needed (i.e., passwords) so certain things were even impossible.

So I wanted to share some tips for preparing for emergencies based on that experience as well as thinking about it further for myself. Some people may already know these things, but I had to learn a lot the hard way. I'm sharing this info for those of us who may not always plan ahead about everything. And for a lot of people, it can be emotionally difficult to think about something happening to you, and that can get in the way of this preparation. I get it. But while part of this is for your own benefit, it is mainly for the benefit of your loved ones in dealing with such an emergency.

Now that everyone is in the midst of this pandemic, this might be a good time to prepare for potential emergencies.

- 1) Have a medical and financial Power of Attorney (POA). Who do you want to be responsible for medical decisions if you're incapacitated and can't make them yourself. Who do you want to be in charge of your finances if you are unable to do so? Some things might default to a spouse or next of kin, but some things won't. Some banks, mortgage companies, etc. won't even talk to a spouse without a POA, let alone if you're not married or related. Be sure someone knows where these documents are and/or the name of the attorney.
- 2) Having a will ensures that whatever you have (large or small) goes to who you want, not the probate court. Even if you don't have a lot of money, wouldn't you rather what you do have go to someone you choose rather than loved ones having to fight for it in a probate court? Again, be sure someone(s) knows where your will is and/or the name of the attorney. People with a lot of money and assets often do this, but people without a lot of money/assets, may not think they need it, when it still could be helpful.
- 3) Other legal aspects to consider might include life insurance, long-term care insurance, and such. If those aren't financial possibilities, MediCal and other social services are what you might need.

- 4) Have a list with all the people who should be contacted in case of an emergency. Share the emergency contact list with some or all of them. Remember that some friends might not know all your family and vice versa. Maybe post your emergency contacts on your fridge. Include information on who your POA is and who knows other key information (see next steps). Include who has a spare key to your home or your building manager, landlord, etc..
- 5) Passwords. We all need to make sure our passwords are secure, so determine the best way you can for communicating this info safely (paper document, locked pdf file, etc.) but at least share important passwords with one other person, possibly your POA(s). You could even give access to one item (like your phone or computer) with instructions on where to find the remaining passwords, whether on your computer or in a file in your home. Passwords to share might include your phone, your computer, if you have a master password for a password tool (some programs allow you to designate an emergency contact), bank cards, online banking, etc.
- 6) Other key information like Social Security number, health insurance info, life insurance/ long-term care insurance info, mortgage company, storage facilities, where to find important documents or other things in your home or on your computer or in the cloud, and any other important information. Again, password-protect the document and share it with one or more people in your trusted circle. I also created an "Emergency" folder for all this information so

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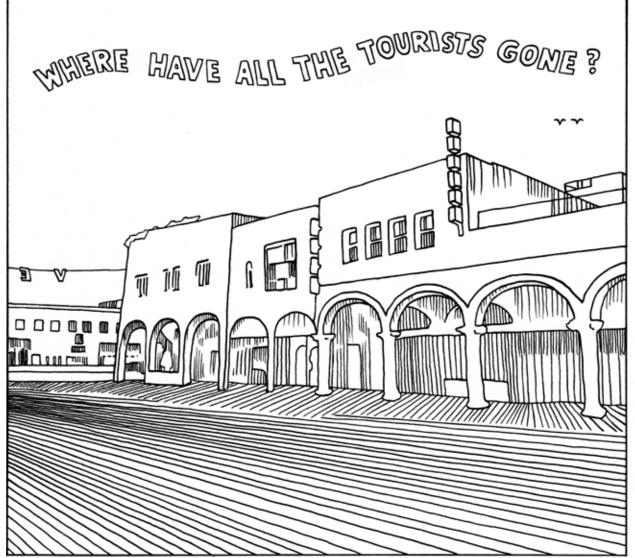
it's easy to find.

7) Write your own biography/obituary. Don't think of this as morbid. You are simply being the chronicler of your life story, and who knows it better than you? You might even find enjoyment in writing it. You can update it every year or so as things change in your life. Again, share it with someone or at least where it can be found.

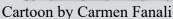
With any of the legal aspects, while using an estate planning attorney is likely to be the better option, even something like LegalZoom is probably better than nothing, particularly for those without a lot of assets or financial resources. I'm not a legal expert, professional social worker, insurance agent, or have any other relevant qualifications besides the school of hard knocks. Just trying to help others not have to knock so hard.

Make some preparations and then get back to living life. Encourage your loved ones to do this for you. Feel free to contribute more ideas too. And stay healthy out there!

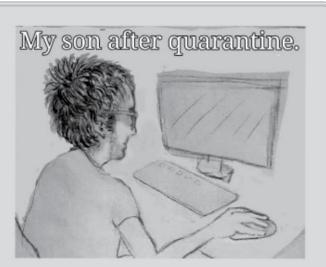












Jon Wolff

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COVID-19 & Venice – continued from page 6 ing situation that intentionally put everyone in danger during a pandemic. The original plan of the SECZ was following guidance under the Martin v Boise decision and was only somewhat legal treatment because bridge housing was built and everyone in the area was offered a place to stay and had an option to move. Now the City and LAPD were forcing everyone to live on top of each other, all in one area with no options to move or ability to properly sanitize, no food, inadequate services, and in constant contact with the outside world whose sole purpose was now illegal.

There was one very wasteful incident where someone built a pretty interesting tiki bar, and its presence, for some reason, angered Sanitation and a neighborhood council nosy neighbor so much that over twelve police officers showed up on two occasions to watch a full team of Sanitation CARE team workers measure and try and find a reason to take it when court orders said they couldn't. They actually ended up wasting even more money and breaking the law by taking and storing the bar downtown indefinitely. The complaint-filing nosy neighbor now has an illegal peepshow on the internet about it and films people intentionally trying to show them in a bad light and files nonstop false complaints about it.

So far during the pandemic, most of the homeless service agencies have been closed or have limited capabilities. A lot of private groups stopped feeding and most people on the street were starving and confused. The Department of Public Social Services was

photos above by Matt Fisher also closed and people couldn't sign up for government assistance without an address or phone number, leaving the unhoused with even less options. Thankfully, places like the Bible Tabernacle and St. Joseph's kept feeding, and neighborhood groups like Save Venice's Laddie Williams, Lydia Ponce, Naomi Nightingale, Eileen Archibald, Lily Garcia, Sarah Meir and more have been donating food and hygiene supplies which I continue to sanitarily distribute daily throughout Venice. I've also been signing people up for government assistance, provided a cheap prepaid cellphone for people to share for the callback, and an address for the mail. For some reason, I can't convince the City or any service providers to do this on a large scale yet.

Shelters and hotel rooms are slowly coming available, but not in Venice. And after a month of nothing but harm from the City, it's not enough and possibly too late. Sanitation and LAPD have brought in germs daily while wasting housing resources on unlawful enforcement and shifting encampments around, potentially putting the entire community in danger. CD 11 is still ignoring all requests for alternative options like safe camping and needed services like hygiene supplies and food. And the SECZ population continues to grow every day.

A Bridge Home is still housing and helping as many people as possible. It's far from perfect and definitely not going as planned, but it's only because of the pandemic and lack of staff. Most people seem very happy to

have the space and lots of others outside still want in. In the end, it's definitely better than the horrible forced conditions created outside. LAHSA (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority) outreach is still out trying to help the few people they can or providing information on everything going on. And other than a few local volunteers, there's been no other help throughout the first month of the pandemic.

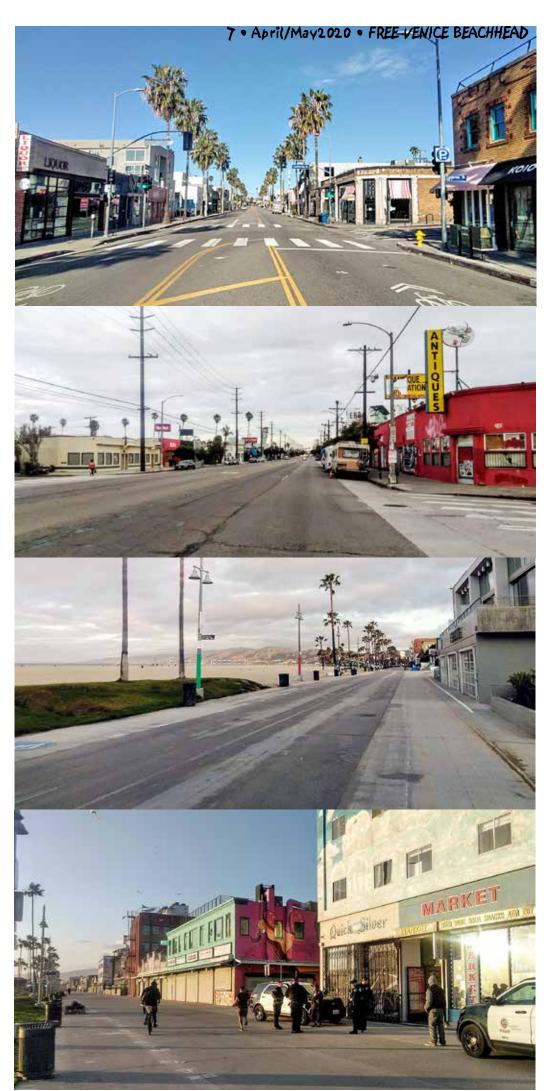
CD 11, just like the rest of the City at this point, is clearly overwhelmed and has refused to do what's needed. They continue to ignore the requests or suggestions of the only people helping on the front lines and have created conditions that put everyone in harm's way, all in one month. The pandemic brought the opportunity to end homelessness in Los Angeles, and the responsibility to protect the public as a whole. Instead, the City continues to gamble with everyone's safety and waste the resources at the tiki bar. Hopefully, next month's report will be filled with progress and not obituaries.



Photos by Matt Fisher Major excavation and dewatering at 1211 ocean front walk property with no permits on file with LADBS or posted on site. 311 and LADBS reports filed to see if it is permitted.







above – Ghost Town, Venice under Social Isolation.

 $below-Rose\ storm\ drain\ project\ looking\ good.$





8 • April/May2020 • FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD "You Know We Gotta Stick Together" - FZ by Gerry Fialka

Frank Zappa sang these words in 1983. Let us all be inspired to join together in sync and in song. Professor Richard Hand wrote that Zappa "employed for the purposes of communal celebration, socio-political satire, or outright unbridled laughter."

So a joke may help. Try this one: "They told me all I needed to go to the grocery store was to wear a mask and gloves, so I did but everyone else was also wearing clothes." Frank sang, "There will come a time when you can take your clothes off when you dance." Or shop?

Preeminent Venice historian Marty Liboff has written in past issues of The BeachHead about Frank Zappa and The Mothers on Invention playing their righteous and raucous music at The Cheetah Club on the beach. He recalled how Frank lead a second line through the club evoking how N'Orleans celebrates the spirit of life rather than remorse with a parade of crazy people. Sounds like the Boardwalk to me. True liberation!

Is one of the functions of music to set us free of confinement? Oliver Sacks has observed how "music makes one experience pain and grief more intensely, (and) it brings solace and consolation at the same time." Frank taught me to embrace contradictions. He also wrote about how music is sculpting air molecules.

When one combines lyrics, melody, harmony, rhythm and tone color, the results are endless. Stupid love songs can really affect us. Frank's love of doo wop influenced me.

The 2019 book ZAPPA DOO WOP by Bruce Whitaker does a fine, fine, super fine job of connecting Frank Zappa with his early southern California Doo Wop and R&B roots. Essential reading for anyone who wants to delve deep into a foundation to Zappa's sonic alchemy. Frank blended known tropes and transformed them into the "new."

Check out "The Mothers of Invention - Oh, In The Sky" on youtube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hjU2GCKx4g to understand this scavenger composer combining of social commentary (from 0 to :10, then from 2:26 to 2:59), chaotic noise clusters (from :10 to :16) and doo wop (from :17 to 2:26). The brilliance of the 3 minutes is not simply a cover version ala the rhythm and blues classic "Let's Start All Over Again" by The Paragons. It is much more.

"Status Back Baby" from the album "Absolutely Free" combines Doo Wop and Stravinsky, by quoting "Petrushka" on the guitar. Frank said this is "a song about acne America and their daily trials and tribulations. It is unfortunate that many young Americans really do worry about losing status at their high school."

Whitaker's comprehensive research opens up revelations galore about a specific type of genre that is often overlooked as an influence on Zappa. As Wikipedia notes, "Doo wop has complex musical, social and commercial origins." It appears on the surface to be very simple.



In the March 1990 issue of Sh-Boom magazine, J.P. Cantillion asked Frank: "When were you first exposed to rhythm and blues, particularly the doowop sound?" Zappa responded: "I can't say the first time I ever heard a doo-wop record – and we'll use that definition to be quintet or quartet music or that kind of harmony – but the first time I heard anything that resembled rhythm and blues was on a radio in my parents' car. We were driving around and I was turning the channel and I came across this unbelievable noise that I liked right away. I believe the song was 'Work With Me, Annie' [by Hank Ballard & the Midnighters]. My parents went crazy and forced me to turn it off."

Frank championed Doo Wop seduction with his own songwriting throughout his career.

Cantillion (Sh-Boom): And you were hooked from that first time?

Zappa: Yeah. I said, "That sounds good to me. All right, this is something I would like to do."

Cantillion: When did you first compose a doo-wop song?

Zappa: Probably it would be "Fountain of Love" or "Love of My Life" [both from the Cruising With Ruben & the Jets LP]. At that time I was working with Ray Collins, who could sing all this kind of stuff. If you're a composer, you need a vehicle to bring your music to life. If you write for instruments, you need somebody who can play it, and if you write vocals, you need somebody who can sing it. It's fortunate that I had Ray Collins, because if I hadn't met him, I wouldn't have had any way to move into that kind of songwriting.

The stellar vocals of Ray Collins shine on "Ruben and The Jets," The Mothers of Invention's parody/ tribute album to Doo Wop. "Anything" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttrXan2syvc

This doo-wop kind of songwriting can touch the listener profoundly in the heart, soul and mind. Take a moment to listen closely to The Feathers singing "Johnny Darling" on youtube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIstNniTuoA

Zappa emulated this sound. Now rewatch The Mothers perform "Oh In the Sky" on youtube again, and connect the dots. Frank often reverently satirized what he loved most.

Whitaker's book renews an appreciation for fun. With 30 full color photographs, the book honors the tunes with photos of the original 45's and 78's. The reader is astutely informed of how Frank was impressed by LA's Vernon Green with his Finneganese-like invention of words like "pizmotality" and "puppetutes/pompatus." Too post-post-modern?

We love music. But at this time, who can think about anything but virus. Is it the po-mo de-con (post modern deconstruction) dance? Theodor Adorno wrote, "To write poetry after Auschwitz is barbaric."

Yes, the human condition is risky, dangerous and uncertain. Many strategies and tools are available. Consider the Zappa question "does humor belong in music?"

YouTube video The Mothers Of Invention - Oh, In The Sky (1968) Preview YouTube video Frank Zappa - Anything 1968 [Vinyl Rip] Preview YouTube video FEATHERS- JOHNNY DARLING



NOTHING (by THE FUGS) https://tinyurl.com/w7kle4s

Monday, nothing
Tuesday, nothing
Wednesday and Thursday nothing
Friday, for a change
A little more nothing
Saturday once more nothing

Sunday nothing
Monday nothing
Tuesday and Wednesday nothing
Thursday, for a change
A little more nothing
Friday once more nothing

Montik, gornisht
Dinstik, gornisht
Midvokh un Donershtik gornisht
Fraytik, far a noveneh
Gornisht pikveleh
Shabes nach a mool gornisht

Lunes, nada Martes, nada Miercoles y Jueves, nada Viernes, por cambio Un poco mas nada Sabado otra vez nada

January, nothing
February, nothing
March and April, nothing
May and June
A lot more nothing
July, nothing

'29, nothing
'32, nothing
'39, '45, nothing
1965, a whole lot of nothing
1966, nothing

Reading, nothing
Writing, nothing
Even arithmetic, nothing
Geography, philosophy, history, nothing
Social anthropology, a lot of nothing

Oh, Village Voice, nothing New Yorker, nothing Sing Out and Folkways, nothing Harry Smith and Allen Ginsberg Nothing, nothing, nothing

Poetry, nothing
Music, nothing
Painting and dancing, nothing
The world's great books
A great set of nothing
Audy and Foudy, nothing

Fucking, nothing Sucking, nothing Flesh and sex, nothing Church and Times Square All a lot of nothing Nothing, nothing, nothing

Stevenson, nothing Humphrey, nothing Averell Harriman, nothing John Stuart Mill, nihil, nihil Franklin Delano, nothing

Carlos Marx, nothing Engels, nothing Bakunin and Kropotkin, nothing Leon Trotsky, lots of nothing Stalin, less than nothing

Nothing nothing nothing Lots and lots and lots of nothing Nothing nothing nothing nothing Lots of it Nothing! Not a God damn thing Waiting for My Turn

By Majid Naficy

After two weeks of staying at home I go at dawn to the street again For stair-climbing.

The stairway has been boarded up. There is no one on the street And only the wind talks with leaves.

I remember that year when in Tehran My comrades were shot one by one And buried without any gravestones In the Cemetery of the Infidels.

First was Sadeq,
Who had a charming smile.
I visited his grave with Ezzat.
Second was Ezzat,
Who had passionate eyes.
I visited her grave with Hossein.
Third was Hossein,
Who had strong hands.

I visited no other graves, Escaped from one house to another And finally crossed the border.

But now where can I escape From this world-wide pandemic? This time I must stay home And wait for my turn.

March 29, 2020

TEN YEARS April 26, 1996.

Another page torn from the calendar,
A cold grey silence devours the waking sun,
Heavy, choking air,
The ground a crumbling poisonous powder,
To the horizona tattered and barren village
a sea of animal bones
greet the concrete monuments to Death,
A toxic greeting that never ends.

Chernobyl.

A merciless legacy,
Blackened apple trees in bloom
nature's bizarre cycle,
Hungry
a five-legged calf lumbers to pasture,
A lethal feast of grass,
Ground Zero,
Silent playground
Cancer is eating our children,
Persistent conqueror of weakened minions,
From the seed of human folly.

The calendar is folded, And death-continues

February 3, 1996

Lynette

Fight The Virus

Song to Victory

Our invisible enemy strides the Earth killing us without a thought and seeking new victims in every land.

But we shall win this war and rejoice across the world. We don't need bombs and nukes, we fight with love and care for family, friends and strangers.

No virus can defeat our unity no virus can invade our homes, if we isolate and scrub our hands all day and all night.

Our doctors and nurses are our generals and soldiers, fighting on without weapons

We'll give them a hand, when we wear our masks and test, and test, and test some more until all are free and clean of this dreadful illness brought to us unseen.

We'll run and hide to defeat this massive tribe. When they can't find us they will wither and die

Our survival will be our victory! Our survival is our victory!

And when it's over we'll build a better humanity that stops polluting and let's us all live in harmony without endless fighting and war

We'll win this war when all countries come together and later, we won't forget that we needed each other We need each other.

Written by JimfromVenice
Please set to music
and sing out your window
And on the internet!
Copyright waved for all troubadours fighting in this war.
jimfromvenice@freevenice.org

-Joanna Sílva 23 March2020

music is great,
like a lick of god.
and it is way bigger than we are.
and it is not quite vast enough to hold even
the smallest sliver
of one of a moment
of one of us.
but may be the closest we can come
to The
to All
to each other.

9 · April/May2020 · FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

Crows During Corona By Majid Naficy

The larks are singing.
The doves are mourning.
But where are the crows?

Every morning before Corona
When I turned from the alley to the street
A crow would caw:
"He comes! He comes!
He comes with his white cane!"
And when I reached the boulevard,
Which like Charbagh in Isfahan
Has ancient trees,
I would see the crows who in harmony
Were playing "The Firebird" Suite.

The crows are smart.
They have understood
That streets are empty,
Cars are silent,
And stores are closed.
So they have left the city
For a conference.

Do not panic! They will not be replaced By vultures.

April 5, 2020

Its Name Is Fear

I hear birds sing from my window Wish they could teach me to be free Took for granted when I was though Now prison walls close in on me

The life we knew it came and went Ready or not the change is here We can't renew the time we spent There's a new game its name is fear

All radios have gone silent
The bars are closed the schoolyards too
Fear turns sadness into violence
Our concrete jungle now a zoo

The life we knew it came and went Ready or not the change is here We can't renew the time we spent There's a new game its name is fear

Stay inside and hide your faces
If you must leave put on a mask
Isolation is the safest
How longs unknown so please don't ask

The life we knew it came and went Ready or not the change is here We can't renew the time we spent There's a new game its name is fear

-sunny war



BEYOLOSED.ORG

Trump's "Perfect Plan" to Become Dictator in November Runs Through 12-18 Swing State Legislatures

BUZZFLASH: April 13th 2020

https://buzzflash.com

By Bob Fitrakis, Joel Segal & Harvey Wasser-

Donald Trump's "Perfect Plan" to become dictator in November now runs through 30 Republican-controlled state legislatures, with the pivot in 12-18 swing states.

Anyone hoping for any remnant shreds of human rights and personal freedom has just seven months to stop the terminal destruction of what's left of American democracy. Nothing is hidden or a surprise. There are no excuses.

Trump's path to dictatorship is simple...and no secret.

Its primary foundation is the stripping from the voter rolls some 17 million American citizens. Using a wide range of pretexts, the Republicans have made it clear that "voter fraud" means any ballot cast by anyone who is not rich, white, old or a member of the Republican Party.

There has been no effort to hide this. Trump has worried in public that if all eligible voters get a ballot in a Vote by Mail system, the Republicans "will never win another election."

The Electoral College means, in effect, that we no longer have national elections. The presidency this fall will essentially be decided in 12-18 states. In many of them, GOP legislators have proudly proclaimed that they'll do everything they can to restrict the vote.

We have already seen in Wisconsin (and now in Ohio) the definitive GOP model for November. It's based on stripped voter rolls, withheld ballots, dysfunctional polling stations and rigged vote counts.

Thirty states have Republican legislatures. A dozen of them could swing the Electoral College to Trump. Six more may be in play.

Despite its Democrat governor, Wisconsin's gerrymandered state legislature (as certified by the US Supreme Court) trashed the April 6 primary. It stripped voter rolls, sabotaged Wisconsin's vote by mail system and forced countless non-millionaires of youth and color to stand in line for hours, exposing themselves to the rain and Coronavirus. .

In 2019 alone, Ohio's GOP Secretary of State stripped 485,000 citizens from the Ohio voter rolls. This spring, Ohio's primary was rightfully postponed until April 28 by its Republican Governor Mike DeWine. But in the interim, the gerrymandered Legislature has duplicated Wisconsin's age/race/class-based disenfranchisement by making it virtually impossible for non-millionaires to get vote-by-mail ballots.

Unless somehow stopped, Republican legislatures will do the same in November, guaranteeing Trump's coronation. The key states include Alabama (which has a critical US Senate race), Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, West Virginia, Wisconsin. Minnesota has a split legislature, as does Alaska.

The twelve most critical swing states are MN,

WI, MI, OH, PA, NH, NC, FL, NM, AZ, NV, IA. They are almost certain to decide the elec-

Six states where the Democrats have an outside chance are Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Kansas, Montana and Kentucky. Georgia and Texas have strongly shifting demographics. Louisiana, Kansas, Montana and Kentucky are also generally considered blood red, but all four have Democrat governors. Kentucky is especially key because its senior Senator Mitch McConnell is running for re-election.

Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, New Mexico, and Nevada also have Democrat governors. In many, Democrat popular majorities in 2018 (55% in Wisconsin) were overridden by gerrymandering that gave the legislatures to the Republicans, sometimes with 2/3 margins or more.

And as in Wisconsin and Ohio, come November the GOP plan will be to shred the Vote by Mail systems, making it impossible for suspected Democrats to get ballots.

The situation is complicated by the Trump assault on the US Postal Service. The Republicans have long wanted to destroy the USPS, mostly because it is a largely functional, heavily unionized public institution that could be privatized for the immense personal profit of their corporate cronies. The Trumpites now have the added incentive of destroying the most effective way to distribute ballots in a Vote by Mail scenario.

We can also expect Republican legislatures to guarantee that polling stations in areas of youth and color will be reduced in number, shortchanged on ballots and supplied with hackable voting machines all set to flip the vote. The polling stations will also be riddled with irregularities, making millions stand in line for hours...then trashing their mostly "provisional" ballots anyway.

Vote by Mail has many respected opponents for a wide range of very good reasons. Establishing a functional, reliable VBM system will be a monumental task.

But it's also important to remember how incredibly complex, thoroughly corrupted and easily hacked our traditional ways of voting have been, and would be again in 2020.

As with Al Gore in Florida 2000, John Kerry in Ohio 2004 and Hillary Clinton in Wisconsin-Michigan-Pennsylvania 2018, we can expect the Democratic Party to say and do little that's effective about any of this.

In all three of those elections, Green/election protection journalists and activists showed clearly how the deciding votes were stolen. The Republicans generally don't bother to deny it.

But in all three, charges of "conspiracy theory" are still being spewed by corporate Democrats and "progressive" media. They cannot be counted on to do the nitty-gritty work it will take to install, operate and monitor a reliable VBM system. That will have to come from a powerful, focused grassroots movement.

If Biden is the 2020 nominee, it's likely he'll win a legitimate popular majority, watch the Electoral vote stolen in the states with GOP legislatures, do and say nothing about it, give everyone a big smile and quietly concede. Trump will then be dictator...for life.

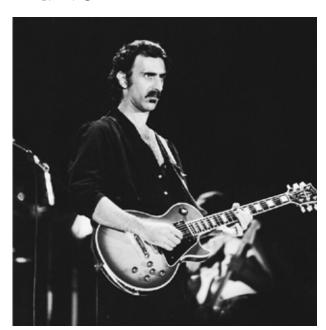
So what are you going to do about it?

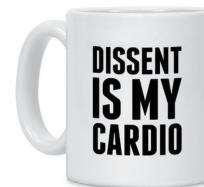
LAUGHT CaRS

Established 1953

Laughtears.com "live" events are semi-postponed, new dates tba. We'll be meeting in the clouds ala

Richard Brautigan, who said, "Everyone has a place in history. Mine is clouds." Feel safe! Call Gerry for weekly zoom sessions 310-306-7330, or email pfsuzy@aol.com.







DO YOUNEED LEGAL ASSISTANCE REGARDING YOUR HOUSING?

Receive FREE legal help on the third Saturday of each month.

Upcoming Dates:

10:00a - 12:00p at Venice Community Housing 720 Rose Avenue, Venice, CA 90291

WOMEN'S

If you have any questions, please contact the California AW CENTER Women's Law Center at (323) 951-1041 or info@cwlc.org

MANY BELOW ARE CLOSED CALL FIRST

Ongoing Events

COMPUTERS

• Abbot Kinney Public Library. Free Printing of homework for K-12 students.

FOOD

- 4pm Saturdays through Wednesdays. Free Vegetarian Food. OFW & Dudley.
- 1:30pm, Thursdays. Free Vegetarian Food. OFW& Sunset.
- 5-7pm, Wednesdays, Free Organic Vegetables Giveaway. The Learning Garden 2426 Walgrove Ave

KIDS

• 11:30am-noon Wednesdays. Toddler Storytime. Abbot Kinney Public Library. Free.

MUSIC

- 9pm Wednesdays, Venice Underground Comedy, Townhouse, No Cover
- 11pm Wednesday Burlesque, Townhouse, No Cover
- 6-10pm, First Fridays. Venice Street Legends. Venice Bistro, OFW & Dudley. No Cover.
- 8pm Saturdays, Brad Kay Regressive Jazz Ouartet, Townhouse. No Cover
- 2pm Sundays, Almost Vaudeville W/ Brad Kay at The Unurban
- O'Brien's Irish Pub Live music most nights.
- 1-3pm Every Saturday and Sunday Free Live Music, Fisherman's Village, 13755 Fiji Way, MDR 90292

MISCELLANEOUS

- 9-4pm, 2nd Saturday, every month. Venice High School Flea Market. 13000 Venice Blvd.
- 7-11am, Fridays. Venice Farmers Market. 500 North Venice Blvd.
- 4:15pm, every Thursday Chess Club. Ages 6-15. All levels welcome. Abbot Kinney Library.
- 11:30am-2:30pm, every Sunday, weather permitting. The Venice Oceanarium (a museum without walls). Venice Pier. Free.
- 5:30pm, Sundays. Open Mic Night. Twentieth Church of Christ, Scientist. 132 Brooks Ave. Free.
- 7-10pm, 3rd Wednesdays. MOM: Meditations On Media. Beyond Baroque. Free.
- 10am Sunday Morning Gatherings of Creative community. http://goo.gl/BbsDV2

YOGA AND DANCE

• Mondays, 1:30-2:30pm Dancing Through Parkinson's, Donation, Electric Lodge

Events are subject to change, please check with the sponsor and let us know if changes have been made.

Location Guide

- **Abbot Kinney Public Library**, 501 S. Venice Blvd. 310-821-1769, fovl.org
- **Beyond Baroque**, 681 Venice Blvd. 310-822-3006, www.beyondbaroque.org
- Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave.
- 310-306-1854, electriclodge.org
- Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 Venice Blvd, 310-822-8392,

pacificresidenttheatre.com

• SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource

Center, 685 Venice Blvd. sparcmurals.org

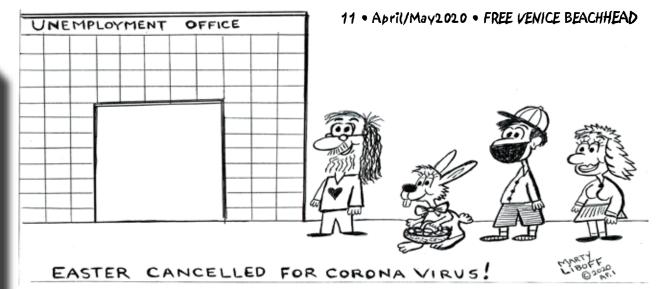
- Townhouse. 52 Windward.
- **Venice High School** 13000 Venice Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90066 (310) 577-4200
- **Vera Davis Center**, 610 California Ave. under remodeling.
- Westminster Elementary School, 1010

Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium

from Westminster Ave) 310-606-2018

• Unurban Coffee Shop - 3301 Pico Blvd, Santa

Monica, 310-315-0056



CORONAVIRUS SING-A-LONG WITH MARTY LIBOFF

OY CORONA (as sung to, My Darling Clementine) marty liboff

Oy corona! Oy corona! Oy corona Quarantine! have caught you, my tiny virus
Oy my corona Quarantine.

Oy corona! Oy corona Quarantine Wash you hands, keep away from people Oy my corona Quarantine.

Oy corona! Oy corona Quarantine Trump is full of Bologna & crapolla so drink a beer Corona Oy my corona Quarantine.

MY CORONA marty liboff
(as sung to 'MY SHARONA' by the Knack)
Ooh my little virus scum, virus scum
When you gonna get some Corona?
Ooh you make my nose run, my nose run.
Phlegm is comin! Off congested lungs Corona.
Never gonna stop coughing, can't give it up.
Such dirty hands & behind
always get it from a touch
of the carrier kind.
My, my, my I yi wooo
Ma, Ma, Ma Corona
Ma, Ma, Ma Corona.

Oh my little virus scum, virus scum When you gonna get some Corona? When you gonna give it to me, give it to me? Is it just a matter of time Corona? Is it just destiny, destiny? Or is it just a game in our mind Corona? Ma, Ma, Ma Corona Ma, Ma, Ma Corona...

CORONA VIRUS IS COMING TO TOWN (sung to, SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN) marty Liboff

You better watch out or you're gonna die better not go out I'm telling you why Corona Virus is coming to town!

It's making us panic so wash your hands twice doesn't matter if you're naughty or nice Corona Virus is coming to town!

It infects you while you're sleeping it gets you when you're awake it can make you feel bad or good so cover your cough for goodness sake!

Oh you better watch out or you're gonna die better not go out I'm telling you why Corona Virus is coming to town!

Classified ad: Single man with toilet paper looking for woman with hand sanitizer for some good CLEAN fun!

You used to wear a rubber for sex. Now You wear a rubber suit and diving mask! -marty
Before the corona if you ran down the street with a mask and gloves the cops would arrest you for robbery. Now if you run down the street without a mask and gloves the cops will arrest you! -marty



WANT TO GET ORGANIZED?

OFFICE HOURS

FOR NEW LATU MEMBERS

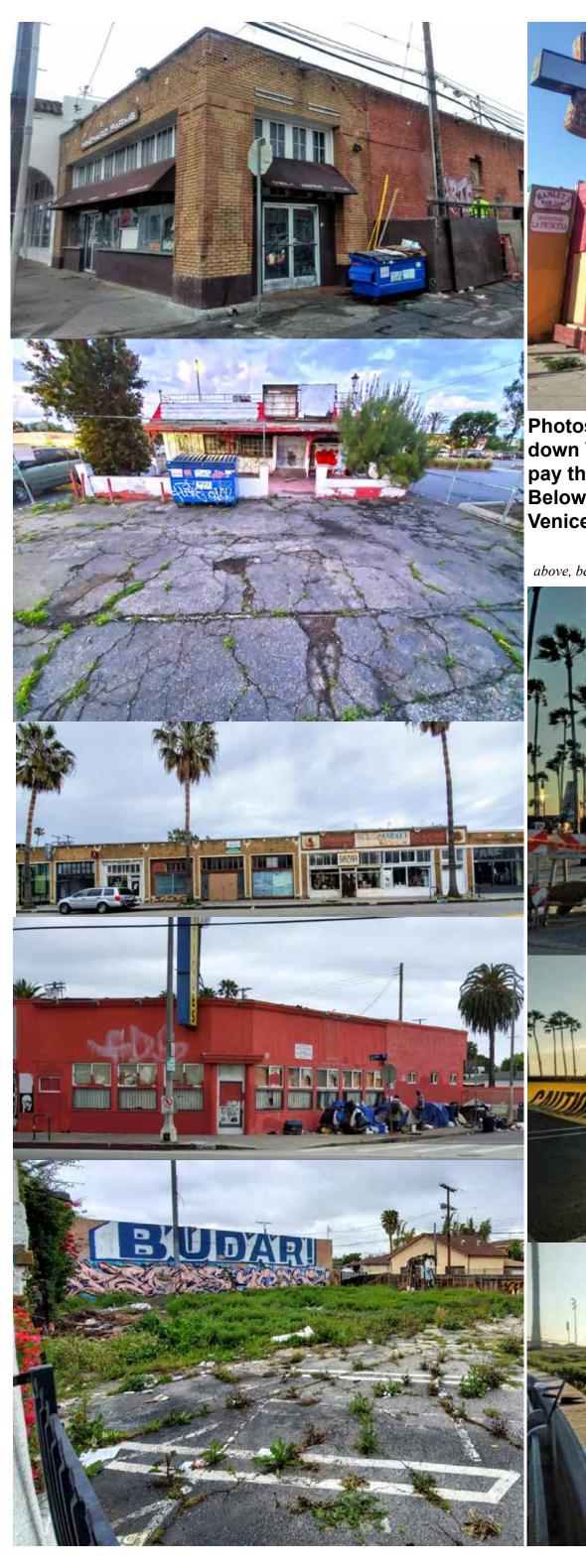
¿QUIERES ORGANIZARTE?

HORARIO DE OFICINA

PARA MIEMBRXS NUEVXS DEL SILA

APRIL / ABRIL 13,15,17 5-7PM

outreach@latenantsunion.org





Photos above and to the left portray a run down Venice, where small businesses cannot pay the rent. Thank You gentrification.
Below are more Social Isolation Photos, Venice Beach Closed.

above, below, and top left photos by Matt Fisher, others by Eric Ahlberg

