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FREE VENICE

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BEACHHEAD

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Venice Against the War



On the morning of Dec. 5, about 50 Venetians turned out to picket an appearance by Venice resident and member of Congress, Jane Harman. The event was a breakfast meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held at the Abbot Kinney Library. Venetians were incensed by Harman's support of George Bush's resolution, which passed Congress, to approve a unilateral invasion of Iraq. A source in Harman's office told us that nearly 500 Venetians had written, emailed or called urging Harman not to vote for the resolution. Harman's response as she was about to enter the Library was that her vote required U.N. approval! Wrong, Jane. (See *Connect the Dots* on page two)

On the Corner of San Juan/Abbot Kinney...

...there are three vacant lots, vacant for at least 10 years. In April '02, several residents from San Juan Ave., including me and a few Abbot Kinney business owners went to a C-PAC (Community - Planning Advisory Committee) hearing for a proposed development on this corner.

by Lydia Ponce

This is what was proposed: a three level monstrosity, including a gourmet restaurant on the first floor; on the second floor, retail stores; and finally on the third and last floor, expensive condominium "artist lofts." At the south eastern corner, the entrance and the exit of the subterranean parking garage was proposed. The big bucks behind all this wanted variances for less parking, greater than allowed density, and a liquor license serving from 7am to 1am including take-out sales.

Many residents shared our concerns that this project which would draw much more traffic including drinking drivers, would be a danger to the community. Some of the comments included: "You want to place the garage exit and entrance adjacent to a five-point intersection? Everyone rolls through the intersection; the five stop signs don't mean anything. There isn't enough parking currently and you want a 4-6 space parking variance?" Several people noted that the proposed project would shred the Venice Specific Plan which is supposed to control development.

San Juan Avenue like many streets in Venice is so narrow that it's been made into a one-way street. The children at Westminster Elementary School which is across the street and down the block would be greatly affected by the increased traffic congestion and resulting safety hazard. At the school's cross walk on Abbot Kinney Blvd., the school crossing guard and two children were hit by a car. I shared my concerns, "People drive down the wrong way on our one way street as it is, without this building on the corner."

Just when the C-PAC board was about to

take a vote, and it looked like the residents were going to win this one, the Big Bucks behind this project raised his hand to say, "one last thing, if I may." C-PAC board members allowed him to speak after the closing of discussion. With a quiver in his voice, he pointed to a miniature model of the project -that by the way, was not built to scale - and offered, "My investors are waiting for this project to go through and there's not a better project proposed. We have worked so hard to come up with this plan, taking everything into consideration..." One C-PAC member asked, "So if you get the parking variance you want, will you donate trees to San Juan Ave?" It would have been a tie had not one vote been traded for trees instead of parking. There before our very eyes we all witnessed how development decisions are made. It passed except for approval of the liquor license.

No word of the project came for months. Finally in September, another notice came telling us about a meeting downtown. I spent three days making a lot of phone calls to various city offices trying to confirm the date. Conflicting information about the meeting date came from several city officials.

Over the weekend, Jim Smith, Phylis Des Verney and I collected 131 signatures on a petition, up and down San Juan Ave., Electric Ave. and Abbot Kinney. One young lady told us that she had racked up \$200 in parking tickets and if she continued getting tickets, she wouldn't be able to afford to work at a clothing store on Abbot Kinney Blvd. "There just aren't enough parking spaces," she said.

Monday was also spent trying to confirm the date and time of this meeting. One person and yet another, after another referred me to yet another person. "Not at the office, yet.... at a

-continued on page 4

EVERYDAY IS CHRISTMAS IN VENICE!

Everyday is Christmas - In Venice!
Everyday's the 4th of July!
Everyday's a play day,
May Day, Heyday, GAY day,
"Ole!", Shout Hooray Day! -
We're Alive!
Everyday's YOUR Birthday - In Venice!
Celebrate "your worth day," every-
day.

"Local Color's" REAL here,
"Magic Fingers" Heal here,
"Vegetables" can Feel here - so
they say!

Everyone is Someone - in Venice!
Every "bum" is Some Dear Mother's
Child!

Poets, Punks and Preachers
Health Nuts, Drunks and
Teachers
Hippies, Yuppies, Weirdos, Winos
- WILD!

Venice is for Valentines and Lovers!
Saint Patrick's Days - That never seem
to end.

Stars play in the Sunshine,
Blondes share all that Fun Time,
War Wounds, of the Worst Kind,
Come to Mend.

Commemorate the "Dream Town" - we
call Venice!

Here, "The University of Venice" LIVES!
Addicts mix with Purists,
Natives mix with Tourists,
The rich mix with the poorest -
Hey, what gives?

Venice, an oasis, to the traveller.
Yet, "Family Town" - This Kingdom-by-
the-Sea.

"Roller Skating Cuties",
(Barely) Bathing Beauties,
Music, Mermaids, Muscles - ALL
for Free!

Treasure your "Vacation Days" - in
Venice!

Participate - In all the ambiance!
Weight lift (if you're able)
Share your café table,
Support "the local artists"

needs and wants!
Yes, Everyday's a Holiday - In Venice!
Everyday's an Easter on Parade!
Halloween's "hang" here,
(The V-13's a gang here),
STREETSMART sings our "Sunset
Serenade"!

When you think you've seen it all - In
Venice!
SPECIAL guests drop in to "blow your
mind"!

See friendly porpoise play here!
Spot Great Pacific Grays here!
Catch Krishna's BIG Parade here
- what a find!

Celebrate "The Spirit" - That is Venice!
"Live and Let Live" - "IF you Snooze
you Lose" -

"Don't hit up the residents" -
"Cheers" - to Independence!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY VENICE - I LOVE YOU!

- Tina Corcoran (July 1985)

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collective staff of the



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The FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published monthly by the Beachhead Collective as a vehicle for the people of Venice to communicate their ideas and opinions to the community at large.

The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry or graphics of interest to the Venice community. The staff reserves the right to make all decisions collectively on material published. There is no editor on the Beachhead. The printing is financed by ad donations.

To submit material, include your name and telephone number. Anonymous material will not be printed, but your name will be withheld on request. If return of material is desired, a stamped self-addressed envelope is required. No payment is made for material used. Mail to: P.O. Box 644, Venice, CA90294 or

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Dear Beachhead,

I enjoyed Arnold Clover's article "Music in the Aire" in the Nov. edition of the Free Venice Beachhead. I completely concur with his comments about music and how it can take you back to a specific moment in time. I also agree that music can and does transcend all race, religion, social status and anything else that can divide us.

I love to write and play music. I have been playing music at the Cow's End every Friday from 5-7 pm for almost a year now and it feels great to be a positive contributor to the Venice music scene. I have also been playing club gigs at other places in LA, but the Cow's End is my home show and it is great to play 25 original songs every Friday. I have been living in Venice for six years and I appreciate it more everyday. I also work as a GED teacher in Long Beach, working with 18-21 year olds who have had some trouble with the law or other situations that have caused them to drop out of high school. Many of my students have found their way to the Cow's End on Fridays to check out my music and to check out the whole Venice scene.

Please accept my humble donation to your publication. It would be great if you could list my gig at the Cow's End in future editions. Please come on down to the Cow's End on a Friday between 5-7 and check out my music. I am also willing to play at local benefits that would help our community.

Dreams don't come true. Dreams are true!

Chris Kuter



Connect the Dots

from the Free Venice Beachhead Collective

On October 30, a group of Locals assembled in front of the Venice Library to let Congresswoman Jane Harman know that some of her constituents protested her pro-war stance on the war/no war on terrorism.

Since then, some of the demonstrators have been questioned about their priorities.

"It's too bad you people don't care about the war here at home, in Venice. The shootings, the murders, the dislocation of long-time Venice residents from their homes have been escalating. Guess it's easier to point the finger at something halfway across the world than to concentrate on what's happening down the street."

Well no, not really. Some people resent that they are taken away from silly boring projects such as homelessness, hunger, and health.

Some of the people who were at that demonstration have been wrestling with these problems for over three decades.

Some of those people connected the dots between war, ignorance, and poverty, and have been agitating for civil rights since the Scottsboro Boys, the Zoot Suit Riots and the right to organize labor.

Some of the people at that folksy demonstration, in reality more of a neighborly remonstrance with a fellow Venice resident who purportedly represents Venice in the federal government, have been agitating for civil liberties since Joe McCarthy had hair, before the Miranda Law (now on its way to being vitiated by the overwhelmingly reactionary Supreme Court) was enacted, before women were accepted on the police force, and before the right to privacy was put in place by an older more liberal Supreme Court in Roe versus Wade (also in the process of being eliminated by the 5-to-4 current Supreme Court).

In addition, if one looks at the Homeland Security Act and the Patriot Act, and the proposed National Security Agency, the phrase "civil liberties" will be used with as much opprobrium and subtext as was Nancy Pelosi (D. San Francisco) newly elected Minority Leader. She was dubbed a San Francisco Democrat which has become a code word for liberal which has become a code word for leftist which has become doublespeak for Burn the Commie Bitch.

The Big News on CNN during the week prior to Thanksgiving was Wacko Jacko dangling one of his offspring over a four-story high hotel balcony in Berlin. The crawl on CNN news stated that a recent study found that over 67 percent of full-time working low-income families are finding it more difficult to find safe decent and affordable housing and that over 51 percent of moderate income folks were paying over half of their income on housing.

The war/no war is going to cost billions a day.

So before people start with the left-leaning liberals, tired old hippies, obstructionists, comsymps, etc., remember these people are agitating for the folks to connect the dots.

Health services will be cut and those low-income folks who are struggling to find decent shelter will be the first victims of the war/no war and moderate-income families will be forced to decide between braces for their kids' teeth and car insurance.

So spend that six hundred dollar tax break you got by doing the patriotic thing, Christmas shop at bargain prices at one of the Marts, K or Wal, to keep them from crashing and burning.

The Demopubs are ready to privatize Social Security with Arthur Andersen doing the book-keeping.

Some people don't want to connect the dots.

If the situation is looked at from a different perspective, the war/no war couldn't have happened at a more fortuitous time. The party in power was mired in dirty money special interests and corrupt stock exchange scandals.

Lower echelon people employed by heretofore reputable stock exchange companies were being laid off by the thousands, while C.E.O.s were bailed out with multimillion dollar benefits and pensions.

Thousands of loyal workers were bamboozled into investing in companies they worked for. They believed their employers treated them like family. They were if one remembers the House of Atreus.

One woman spoke before a Senate hearing about the misdeeds of several firms. She invested her money in the firm looking forward to a comfortable retirement. Now all she has is Social Security. Don't get her wrong, she said, she's grateful for Social Security, but it's not what she expected.

Just imagine how much Social Security she would have had, if her Social Security funds were invested in ENRON, Dot.Com, etc.

But the horrors of 9/11/01 presented an opportunity for this administration to exploit.

Like an Evil Magician, the administration distracted the sad and shocked citizens by sleight of hand and spurious patriotism from the sleaze and greed at home to an easier and far-distant, vague target abroad.

People who have been fighting off successive administrations' efforts to further marginalize the poor in this country are now spreading themselves in other directions.

But this is nothing new.

People have fought the wars on poverty and racism, while fighting to bring troops back home from wasting their good lives and good money on a sordid senseless war in Vietnam.

It's been some time since 1984 has been published.

Now is a good time to reread it.

Orwell has been more prescient than it's believed he would have liked. Keep 'em busy with the phantom war(s)/no war(s), against some faceless, countryless group of raving terrorists and no one will complain about conditions at home, because Big Brother—oops, Homeland Security will keep an eye out for those grumpy and disaffected members of the population and for the good of preserving the American way of life they will be locked up for preventive measures before they utter a rat squeak, and no one will know.

The people who demonstrated against the war/no war on October 30, have their priorities straight, there are just so many of them.

And the readers of The Free Venice Beachhead have connected the dots.

Yours truly,

The Free Venice Beachhead Collective *

LINCOLN PLACE – a Test of Perseverance

By Sheila Bernard

A lost battle does not mean a lost war. At Lincoln Place, we suffered an unfortunate decision by the City Council on November 20th to capitulate to legal pressure from our landlord. It is important to understand the source of that decision and the dynamics at work within the City. It is also important to understand the profound implications for urban planning, property rights, equality under the law, and democracy that make us tenants determined to take this battle to the wall.

Why did the City approve the owner's redevelopment plan?

In 1995, the City denied the owner of Lincoln Place the right to demolish the complex and build expensive condos. The City's Housing Element and other planning documents spelled out the need to preserve affordable housing, so under a state law called the Subdivision Map Act, the City was supposed to deny the subdivision. However, the court ruled that for the City to deny the subdivision based on the loss of affordable housing was a violation of the Ellis Act, another state law. The court ruled (and the Court of Appeals recently agreed) that if the City chooses to deny the subdivision, it must do so for a reason other than the loss of affordable housing. In other words, the court did not command the City to approve the subdivision. It ruled that the City may deny the subdivision, but on other grounds.

The Council delegated the re-hearing of the subdivision to the Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee. During the hearing, both the City Attorney's office and the Planning Commission staff insisted that the City should approve the subdivision, because there weren't sufficient other grounds for denying it. The council members on the committee (Bernson, Reyes, and Greuel) all tried to get the City Attorney's office and the Planning

Commission staff to consider other grounds, or at least delay a decision until the matter could be studied more closely. The PLUM members felt a delay for further study was important because of new information brought by Lincoln Place tenants and supporters showing the eight-year-old EIR for the project to be inadequate, partly because Lincoln Place has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, and partly because the impacts of the proposed project on traffic, air quality, and open space should be re-examined. But the City Attorney's office and the Planning Commission staff were adamant. Based on City staff's insistence, the PLUM reluctantly recommended that the Council approve the subdivision, which they did. It is noteworthy that both Councilman Bernson and Councilwoman Miscikowski refused to be part of the closed session between the PLUM and the City Attorney, because of the threat of legal action by the owner of Lincoln Place.

It is startling to watch an entire City litigated into submission by a private speculative developer and his legal staff. It is sobering to see that no matter how serious our housing crisis gets, the right of developers to make more profit seems to supersede the right of tenants in our workforce to contract for homes for their families in stable neighborhoods.

What recourse do the tenants of Lincoln Place have now?

Tenants can sue to stop the project, because the City's hasty decision caused inadequate consideration of important new information. To conduct the suit, we must raise \$25,000.

We are encouraged by the fact that the Planning Commission and the City Council did some very important things right, even though their decision was hasty. The City placed some conditions on the owner. Before the owner demolishes any housing for luxury condos, he must build on site 144 units of affordable housing for our seniors, disabled residents, single-

parent families, and other low income tenants. These 144 units will not be remotely enough to meet the needs of the 450 households still living at Lincoln Place, of whom most fall into those categories. However, we believe that because of this condition, the owner will be slow to go through with the plan, if he goes through with it at all. However, we cannot take the chance that the owner will proceed to destroy 795 units of well-designed, sturdy, desperately-needed housing. We are preparing to sue.

We are also joining the rest of the tenants' movement in lobbying the state for changes in the Ellis Act. The state must iron out these perceived conflicts between the Ellis Act, the Subdivision Map Act, and Housing Element law. If a city must make a plan to provide sufficient affordable housing for its population, and if that plan is to be implemented in granting and denying subdivisions, then cities should not be able to be sued by developers' big guns when they carry out their state-mandated obligations.

Further, city planning must become proactive. Cities, and communities like Venice, should conduct detailed strategic planning sessions which map out the kinds of development needed and desired by our neighborhoods. We should make these results known to the development profession through Requests For Proposals (RFP's). This way, a developer responds to a neighborhood's needs, and the Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC) of Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council won't become a battleground between those of us who favor preservation and those of us who favor gentrification. Rather, we can find our common ground in a united vision for Venice, and then go about the creative process of realizing that vision together.

The battle for Lincoln Place continues to be educational and inspirational to those of us who hang in there year after year because of all it has taught us about law, democracy, land use, and above all, perseverance. *

–continued from page one:

On the corner of San Juan and Abbot Kinney

meeting... leave a voice mail... can I take a message... out to lunch... left early for the day... meetings all day and won't be in..." Finally late in the day we learn that the hearing would be held in downtown L.A. the next morning. We called as many residents and business owners as we could about the hearing and walked Abbot Kinney one last time.

I faxed off the signatures to Ms. Cindy M's office that Tuesday night. She would get the petitions that Wednesday morning before the hearing.

Wednesday morning we were heard. With only a few of us present who opposed this project, we turned in the petitions. I stated how difficult it was to confirm the date and time of this meeting and the response was simply a smile and it was never clear as to why this happened. Concerns raised were 'not having a valet plan, loading zone for all the deliveries for the restaurant, retail stores and the artist lofts. Mr. Big Bucks answered, "Just like all the other businesses, we'll have our deliveries on Abbot Kinney."

We asked about why they weren't offering something to the community like some affordable housing units? "

Another resident, a lawyer, shared his experience of 'playing chicken' with other cars as he traveled daily on Electric Ave. to and from his home. He questioned the interpretation and the application of this project in conjunction with the Venice Specific Plan. The hearing chair and the lawyer went back and forth and it became apparent to us that she really did not know how to apply this proposed development to the Venice Specific Plan.

A representative from our council district announced that Ms. Cindy M. was in favor of the project.

The C-PAC tree guy was there in support of Mr. Big Bucks, this time not mentioning anything about trees. Whenever the hearing chair had a question interpreting the various ordinances, she would ask the tree guy or the Big Bucks guy.

She approved the project including the liquor license. She offered those of us in opposition a consolation prize which was the possibility of 'some affordable housing under the Mello Act'. By mail, I received the written approval of this project. It stated that this project is 'exempt from the Mello Act because it is proposing to build only 7 units for living space', hence no affordable housing prize.

I went downtown and paid \$71.00 for an appeal on the grounds that we, 131 signatories, were not properly notified about this meeting, under the Brown Act. The proposed development was heard by someone who does not know the Venice Specific Plan regs, rules, and ordinances. We want another hearing.

We collected another 100 plus signatures opposing this project and \$26.00 towards reimbursement of the expense of the appeal at the Grass Roots meeting. At the October GRVNC Town Hall meeting I was approached by one of the monster developers and he asked, "What exactly is it that you want?" I replied, "What we want is that you scale down, you have three lots to build on. If you scale down, you can offer the proper parking for your project. You can surely be creative enough to come up with something better. Progress is for everyone not just a select few."

He said, "If we do that, then we lose the gourmet restaurant. You don't want us to do that, do you? (While he was talking I was wondering how many of my neighbors in Oakwood would actually be able to afford eating at his

restaurant.)

"Come down to our office and we'll show you how we have compromised, he continued. "We have already made so many compromises."

"Compromises?", I said. "It's going to affect your pocket? Oh, I see. You can't do what's right for all the residents who live in the neighborhood." I told myself to keep calm. Forcing a smile I said, "This just isn't about this development. It's about what is the right thing to do for everyone. We're talking about five hundred year's plus of cultural devastation. You don't get to bend the rules, just because of who you are. He walked away shaking his head.

To date, I have yet to receive word by mail about our appeal. The way that I understand it, it stops the project in its tracks for up to three months. If the appeal goes through it will be heard three different times again. Maybe then it will be heard by someone savvy and knowledgeable about the Venice Specific Plan.

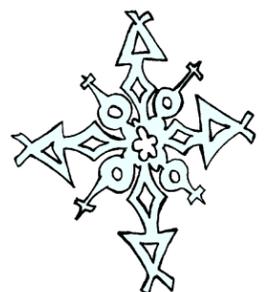
When we celebrated and enjoyed the Abbot Kinney Street Fair, we all witnessed the best use of this property in the last 10 years. With the big bucks guy's approval and permission, Free Pony Rides for everyone.

If you agree that these developers should scale down the size of this project and offer a better plan with enough parking spaces, please contact me. We need more affordable housing not more gourmet restaurants.

We need to sign petitions, get together and mobilize...

Nulydia@aol.com

*



A very merry alt xmas –

HAPPY HOLIDAYS - GOOD WILL TO ALL?

By Peggy Lee Kennedy

Are you tired of buying useless gifts for the sake of buying something? Does Uncle Harry really need another tie with a Christmas tree on it? Are you looking for the true spirit of the holiday season?

Well instead of supporting the national past time of over-consuming for the holidays, lets show holiday cheer by helping those in need right here in our local community!

Here are a few ideas to get things rolling:

- Contribute to a fund to purchase a van or a bus, which will be used to transport low-income families and at-risk youth to productive after-school and training activities. The Venice Community Housing Corporation (VCHC) offers a variety of programs that work to foster stable, self-reliant individuals, families and neighborhoods. You can find more about VCHC by viewing their web site at <http://www.vchcorp.org> and tax deductible check donations of any size can be made out to VCHC, 522 Rose Ave, Venice, CA 90292, 310 399 4100. Write "Van" in the memo portion of your check.
- Adopt-a-Family December holiday project with the St Joseph Center. Since 1976, St. Joseph Center has provided assistance to low-income and homeless women, men and children in both Venice and Santa Monica. For more information see www.stjosephctr.org and to volunteer, contact 310 392 8402 ext. 325.
- Organize a collection at your job or your school for the month of December for Children Helping Poor and Homeless People (CHPHP). The types of things you can collect are blankets, toiletries, cans of tuna, rain gear, and many other things that might help a homeless person here in Venice through this holiday season. For more information see

<www.chphp.com> and contact CHPHP by email at chphp@earthlink.net and by phone at 310-840-4777.

- Volunteer or contribute food to the local Food Not Bombs. The hot meals they provide weekly are some of the healthiest meals in the area given to homeless and low-income people. You are welcome to come and help serve the food you have purchased (no middle person collects an administrative fee!) and you can see your gift going directly to people. Contact the local Food Not Bombs by emailing worldatpeace@hotmail.com or nostrus@fastmail.fm and also by calling 310-892-8799.

Now you may be worried about those relatives who are expecting presents for the holidays. Many of these organizations give tax-deductible receipts and you can have them made out to your high-finance friends and relatives that can use a tax deduction. Maybe you can just put a little note in a Christmas or Hanukah card telling them that you made a contribution or volunteered in their name. Have a little picture taken of you helping or presenting donations and slip that in the card as well. I say give to those in need: food, blankets, clothes, toiletries, and even guilt. *



How About Adding Some Alternative News Sources to Your Programming

by Peggy Lee Kennedy

I do not necessarily endorse everything provided or reported on from the news sources on this list, but I certainly do not approve of everything provided or reported on from mainstream media sources. Maybe we need to get a little more information so we can make up our own minds.

Pacifica Foundation
www.pacifica.org

KPFK Radio
90.7 FM

NPR Radio and Website
www.npr.org
www.kcrw.com (89.9 FM)
www.kpcc.org (89.3 FM)

BBC (England)
www.bbc.co.uk

Guardian Unlimited Network (UK)
www.guardian.co.uk

Free Speech TV
Channel 9415 Dish Network
www.freespeech.org

The Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP)
www.merip.org

FAIR (Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting)
<http://www.fair.org>

Amnesty International
www.web.amnesty.org

We, the undersigned, oppose a war in Iraq

There is no evidence that Iraq is linked to terrorist attacks.
There is no evidence that Iraq constitutes a threat to the U.S. or its neighbors.
There is evidence that oil millionaires Bush & Cheney want more "black gold."

It's time to stop dictating to other countries.
Instead of handing over our economic resources to the military,
LET'S PROVIDE:

- Health Care for All
- Affordable Housing for All
- Free, Quality Education for All
- Alternatives to fossil-fuel transportation

Tell our officials that you don't want WAR WITH IRAQ

George W. Bush 202-456-1111

president@whitehouse.gov

Diane Feinstein 619-231-9712

<http://feinstein.senate.gov/email.html>

Barbara Boxer 415-403-0100

<http://boxer.senate.gov/contact/webform.html>

Jane Harman 310-372-1600

<http://www.house.gov/harman/emailjane.html>

Paid for by those whose names are listed
and by the Venice Peace and Freedom Party



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Eric R Ahlberg
Trudy Alexander
Ari Anagnos
A New You Barbershop
Arhata
Jason Arteaga
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A Wiccan for Peace
Jefferson Azevedo
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Erik Matthews
Jonathan J. Markowitz
Mary Jane
Here's to you, Mary Lou -
Nom Myoho Renge Kyo
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Venice, Venezia – a tale of 2 cities

by Jim Smith

Have you ever thought about visiting a parallel earth in an alternate universe where things have developed just a little differently. That's the feeling you may get if you spend five or six hundred dollars for a round-trip airline ticket to Venice, Italy. It is truly another way to live. There are no automobiles - or wheels of any kind. There are no skyscrapers or big, ugly boxes that claim to be houses.

There are two ways of getting around in Venice (This is getting complicated. In the interest of clarity, let's call them Venice (California) and Venezia (Italy). Likewise, we're Venetians and they're Venezianos.). Anyway, in Venezia, you either can walk or get around by boat. The city's bus lines are boats, called Vaporetti, that ply the canals. It is common to see friends and neighbors run into each other on the streets, and stop to talk. In fact, stopping to talk seems to be a major pastime in Venezia. The pace of life is leisurely to say the least. Everything shuts down in the afternoon as Venezianos walk home for lunch, run errands or take a nap. Conversations tend to ramble on, as if everyone has all the time in the world. Indeed, you could spend the day in a restaurant or coffee bar without ever getting the feeling you were expected to leave.

For a visitor from this universe, some things stand out that are probably not noticed by the local inhabitants. Venezia is much quieter than any city I have ever seen. After leaving Venezia for another city, I was acutely aware of the racket made by cars, trucks and motorcycles. In addition, walking down the street without a subconscious fear that a car is coming up behind you takes some getting used to. And finally, the sheer volume of people in the streets reminded me of the Abbot Kinney Street Festival or the Boardwalk on a summer day.

In fact, Venezia is part of this world and is suffering from many of the maladies that affect us all, and some that affect only Venezia.

November 19: I'm sitting in the Piazza San

Marco, the beautiful and renowned center of Venice, Italy. But, I'm not in one of those fancy outdoor cafes that line the piazza and where a cup of Cappuccino can cost \$9.50.

Those cafes are great for the tourist economy that the former queen of the seas has been reduced to, but not so great for the pocketbooks of Venetians - of either Italian or Californian origin.

Instead, I'm sitting on one of hundreds of raised walkways - *Passerelles* - that criss-cross this stunning outdoor work of art. In a few hours, at high tide - *Aqua Alta* - walking on them will be the only way to cross the Piazza, and many streets, as the flood waters sweep in to cover what was once the heart of a great empire, and is now a priceless legacy for all humanity.

This year *Aqua Alta* is coming earlier than usual. Is it another sign of global warming? Or is it only because of a couple of days of rains driven by the Scirocco winds from Africa? Will Venice sink beneath the waves, and in the far future become just another myth like Atlantis?

It can be saved, most believe. However, in this city you'll get as many conflicting plans as you would in our Venice. Some, including the government, want to install huge floodgates at the entrance to the lagoon. Others, including greens and socialists, say this plan will just make it worse.

One of the main culprits causing the flooding of Venice is the automobile. That may seem strange since Venice is completely car-free. However many say that the digging of deep channels in the lagoon so that oil tankers can reach mainland ports has upset the equilibrium of the water. Venice may also become the poster child of global warming - along with low lying islands - as the water level rises with the melting of the polar ice caps. Unless some action is taken to halt *aqua alta*, and global warming, the future is bleak.

But today, Venezia is a sheer delight. It is no wonder that Abbot Kinney picked Venezia out of all the world's cities as a model for Venice.

Besides the name, both cities have a lot in common - gentrification, housing costs, tourism, and more. But there are significant differences: there is no parking problem in Venezia, and it contains the riches of a thousand-year empire. There are no slums in Venezia, although some of our Venice yuppies might consider the whole city a slum. It is quite old.

Venezia has strict laws about redevelopment. Historic buildings - which includes most of Venezia - cannot be altered on the exterior. Interiors can be remodeled, with proper permits. In many cases, this creates quite a contrast between very old and often shabby exteriors which contain ultra modern interiors.

Venetians, and other Italians, on the whole live quite as well as Californians (Italy and California are quite similar in many ways, but that's another story). The key work is "on the whole." The income gap between rich and poor is much less extreme in Italy, eliminating the super-rich and the super-poor. But Venetians live differently, and better, in many respects. They have refrigerators that are tiny by our standards. Larger ones are not needed since most people go shopping every day - to the bakery, the vegetable stands, etc. - because they want fresh, not frozen food to eat. Not only do they eat better, but they have more social contact with their local businesses and neighbors. Most chain stores, even supermarkets, would not work here. Not only are the shops small, but Venetians must carry everything they buy. Costco wouldn't last a day.

While prices are mostly comparable, they are much cheaper in Venezia for two essentials of life. Outside the Piazza, a cup of Cappuccino costs only one Euro (\$1) or less. Around Venice, it'll cost you more than twice as much at our friendly coffee houses. Why is that? A decent bottle of wine (without sulfides added) can be had in Venezia for the equivalent of three or four bucks. It's a lot more in our wine growing state. Again, why?

Venezia has been losing population since the 1950s and is down to around 80,000 residents, about twice as many as Venice. Many are leaving because there is not enough work to go around. Others are being forced out because of the ever increasing rents and housing prices. Supply and demand do not seem to be working. There are more apartments and houses available yet the price continues to climb. As a matter of fact, the same phenomenon seems to be at work in Venice. Our population has not increased substantially in the last 20 years, but rents and property prices have skyrocketed.

In Venezia, the wealthy and near-wealthy from around northern Italy are being attracted to Venezia (where housing costs are about the same as in Venice). Some want a second home, while others are attracted to full-time living in this unique city. The working class of Venezia is being driven more and more to Mestre and other mainland cities, from where they commute to jobs in the lagoon. Something similar is happening in Venice, with Culver City, Mar Vista, and beyond, being substituted for Mestre.

Today, Venezia survives mainly on tourism - nearly 20 million visitors a year. The Venice Boardwalk Association estimates that we have 300,000 or more visitors per summer weekend. The big difference is that visitors to Venezia have to leave their cars behind, while our's can merrily drive around looking for a parking space.

In addition, Venezianos seem to be much better at separating tourists from their dollars. What they don't take in with museum tickets and gondola rides, they get with a whole variety of tourist trinkets that go far beyond our t-shirts and sunglasses - and cost more too. A popular item with tourists seem to be the multi-colored jester hats. While walking down the Boardwalk after I returned to our Venice, I realized one difference in the two cities. In Venezia they sell funny hats, while in Venice, we wear funny hats.

Venezia is also filled with small hotels - 5 to 10 rooms - that cater to the five million overnight



Yes, but where is Venice?

HOMELAND WAR WAGES ON AGAINST THE HOMELESS

by Peggy Lee Kennedy

Anti-homeless ordinance disease spreads from Santa Monica to Los Angeles and new Chief of Police, Bratton, spearheads a crack down on the so-called criminal element living on skid row.

The Central City Association (CCA) of Los Angeles recently drafted an ordinance plan using a pretext of public concern, "Downtown's Human Tragedy: It's Not Acceptable Anymore A Public Health and Safety Plan." Except the tragedy of homelessness should never have been acceptable and the document reveals CCAs lack of understanding for the real problems surrounding homelessness in the downtown area. Furthermore, it specifically accuses civil rights and homeless advocates of being misguided and enabling homelessness by defending their rights to sleep outside when there is no other alternative.

The CCA ordinance plan classifies the downtown homeless population as people who are temporarily homeless, people with mental problems, panhandlers, parolees, drug addicts that are service resistant, drug dealers and other criminals. It neglects to identify the substantial homeless population of working adults, families, women, and children. It suggests that existing social programs, such as Chrysalis, are the solution. Many homeless people simply require a living wage and affordable housing. When these are not available, how can any social service provider help to transition a person from homelessness?

CCA's plan states that it is cruel to allow mentally ill people to live in "squalor" and it estimates that 35 to 50 percent of the homeless population suffer with mental illness, but it overlooks the root causes for this problem. Homeless people suffering with mental illness often want housing and/or support services, but they are unable to manage the obstacles and limitations of existing social service systems. A housed person having problems managing the obstacles and limitations of a HMO should have a small idea of what a person suffering with mental illness must deal with.

CCA is an association concerned mainly with the revitalization of businesses in the downtown area and it would be wise for it to consult with local human rights and

homeless advocates before drafting proposals suggesting anti-encampment laws in Los Angeles. The existing shelter and social services cannot accommodate the police enforcement of an anti-encampment law.

Why aren't CCA and its supporting city council members creating partnerships in order to seek housing and support service solutions? Instead there is criticism of homeless advocates and proposals for direct police action against homeless people. Think about the words "police sweep." Are homeless people dirt that should be swept off the streets? And where will they be swept to with only 13,000 shelter beds for an estimated 50,000-85,000 homeless on any given night in LA County.

Maybe the Vice President of Public Policy for CCA, Diana Warren, should experience first-hand what it means to spend the night in one of those "available shelter beds" before she judges people, especially women, sleeping in cardboard boxes on the street.

Furthermore, classifying the homeless as parole violators and drug dealers is a way to gain public approval for detaining, harassing, and arresting people for the "suspicion" of a violation. Painting negative images of the homeless population sets the stage for public acceptance of harsh police methods used to "clean up" the skid row area under L.A.'s new Chief of Police William Bratton. Coincidentally, a recent special state bar report stated that nearly 1.5 million poor families in California do not have access to lawyers when they are faced with legal disputes. Maybe the skid row police sweeps can create even more suspected parole violators.

Why must it be a crime to be sick and poor? And isn't it interesting how so many human rights complaints have come from our new chief of police's history of law enforcement? Homeless people are very vulnerable. Are the Venice poor next on the hit list? Targeting poor people and service providers with ordinances and police action is a waste of our tax dollars and a cheap shot. Downtown developers support the proposed CCA ordinance plan. Let's not stand with people and corporations waging war against the homeless. The solutions are supportive services, affordable housing, and decent jobs. War is not the answer in Los Angeles, Venice, or Iraq. *



visitors per year. This creates another source of income for locals instead of big chains. Couldn't we do that in Venice, too, before the big hotel chains descend on us?

Venezia is one up on us in Venice. It is, more or less, in control of its destiny. It is no longer La Serenissima, The Most Serene Republic, but it is a city with a vibrant political life. Politics and political parties are not seen as divisive, but as essential to the democratic process. Party posters - including the center parties, neo-fascists, secessionists, greens, socialists and communists - are much in display, as are those of the anarchists. Anti-war signs, banners and activities abound. Large numbers of Veneziano students and trade unionists joined a one-million strong anti-war march in Florence on Nov. 9.

Meanwhile back at home, there is no imminent danger of Venice being flooded. Although it will probably happen if global warming is not slowed or halted. Most of Venice is at sea level, except for the sand bar on which the walk streets along the Boardwalk were built. The more dangerous flood right now is from developers who have been unleashed with our councilmember, Ruth Galanter's departure. We have no say in what they will do, and it's unlikely they will replicate the architecture of Venezia, or even Abbot Kinney's imitation of it. If we do regain our cityhood before this development flood engulfs us, we should establish a sister-city relationship with Venezia. We could learn much from their 1500 years of experience in how to make a livable city.

For more on how you can help save Venezia, go to <www.savevenice.org>. For more on how you can help make our Venice a city again, talk to your neighbors. *

Venice Gondolier here to stay

Venice Vanguard newspaper
April 8, 1908

Francisco D'Este formerly employed as a gondolier on the Venice canals, has returned here from Italy where he returned two years ago during the illness of his aged father. D'Este is an experienced gondolier and a native of Venice, where he and his father were both employed on gondolas practically their entire lives. D'Este said today that he could not be satisfied with living in Italy since he had spent a number of years in this country, especially in Venice. Captain Grant, now in charge of the boating concession on the lagoon and canals, has employed D'Este on the gondolas. (Quoted in Vol. 1 - History of Venice of America: History of the Venice Canals: 1850-1939 by Arnold Springer) *

Food Not Bombs

Peace Camp

on the Boardwalk

(at the Venice - Santa Monica border)

Every Saturday, All Day

Food Not Bombs

Peace Picnic in the Park

at Ocean and Arizona, Santa Monica

5 pm, Every Tuesday

Vegetarian Food

The Law End Force Human

by Calvin

For Homie the Bells Clank and Buzzzzzzz

As the bells chime and the whistles blow this time of year. Let us all remember those who are locked down and imprisoned around the world. The prisoners of the wars that go on forever and the relentless antagonisms of the rulers against the masses of humanity.

The strange disappearance of death row inmate on the stroke of midnight Jan.1, 2002.

Prof. Chimes R. Bellman had vanished into the underground many years ago. He was a great criminologist, clockmaker and observer on the heavens. Adjusting himself perfectly to the tides and the synchronicity of spontaneous human thought. Understanding crime, the



Sher-ruff of Venice

Hydrogen bomb and the snap of the electronic synapse. His voice and mind where in perfect tune with the harmonics of the universe. While riding a motorcycle his skin would vibrate to the frequency of the engine and his eyes would spin in their sockets like a gyroscope. Bicycle locks sprung open as he walked the streets and the local bank vault would swing open whenever he came near. Sometime while welding with his brain he had detected an innocent homeboy in a steel box on death row. Bending a radar beam from the control tower at LAX he penetrated the prison on a biotelemetric carrier wave.

From his secret hideout underneath the streets of Venice Beach California he had formed an alliance with the earth's greatest sewer suckers and muckrakers. Within this underground bastion of free thought he planned the mutual transmutation and escape of Little Muffin, the homey on death row. On a day in January as all the clocks on earth struck seven minutes before midnight he moved between all the molecules of time.

Slipping into an Electric Ave. high wire fireball, he entered the power lines that stretch and snap over L.A. Traveling at the speed of light he skidded into and popped a dozen transformers on the California power grid. Bellman's body aura hummed as his coronas sped northward shutting down a nuclear reactor on the coast. Communication systems scrambled as he tore through the power towers in the desert. A

Teslaesk lightning bolt shot from the KPFK transmitter tower high in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Little Muffin sat motionless in his death box. The warden and the prison guards had been remotely mesmerized by Dr. Bellman's vibrating telemetry. Inside Homey Muffin's cell a brilliant pinpoint of light shot from the keyhole and entered his body through his left nostril. His body began to vibrate and alchemically transmute into a pure energy being. The steel bars in the death box began to vaporize as the electromagnetic wizard's molecules joined with Little Muffin's. Moving upwards towards the heavens the duo dissected a HAARP projection. They flashed across the southwest at high altitude on the fringes of space.

The bells and sirens went off at the NORAD command center, Cheyenne Mountain Colorado. The radars and satellites studied the ionized fireball moving towards the Gulf of Mexico at tremendous speed. Somewhere south of the island of Cuba the flaming ball descended into the bay and rolled steaming into a mangrove swamp. Little Muffin and Prof. Bellman emerged from the swamp holding hands. They followed a path into the mountains.

FREE AT LAST!!!! *

RANT

by Eric Ahlberg

So many wonderful things have happened since we last spoke. Suzy, thank you so much for putting that superb concert.

Alfred Johnson, Stephen Longfellow Fiske, The Boners, Bobbie Jackson, Felicia, am I gushing enough about how wonderful they all were.

Ms. Harman, meanwhile, got many earfuls of protestation from her local constituents re: her complicity in Bush's saber rattling. She said 95% of her calls were against the Iraq War resolution, but she said she didn't know if that really represented 95% of her constituents. What an excellent waffle, seems focus group tested. She's a defense democrat, There's a lot of Aerospace and military contractors among her well heeled constituents.

Aren't you relieved to know that Cindy Miz's hubby's real estate development interests are only in MDR? That couldn't have any impact on LINCOLN BLVD, or on any part of LA that surrounds it.

So Venice has gone from being that crime and gang infested skuzzy place to being HOT! Location Location Location.

Located under much of the industrially zoned areas of Venice are the toxic residues of another era. Cute Garden, do you know what's underground across the street there?

Everything you feared is true. There is a conspiracy of developers, realtors, banks, private investors, architects, designers, and tradesman to keep driving up the land value and building

more apartments and houses.

It's the official religion of American Business, can't argue with that. Current litany, slow growth, rehab, upgrade the common areas, send the poor kids into the army via no opportunities.

There's always opportunity, never do what you can tell a trainee to do. We crave an apprentice/learning relationship to our jobs, communities and networks of friends.

Except for the arrogant pricks that think their shit doesn't stink.

Another Canal friend has had his sunshine blocked by a 3 story. Will GRVNC oppose development? Cheap Landlord Rehab=Bury the mold and termite structural damage under a new layer of plaster if possible, double the rent. Have to fight each one, if you can catch them before they slip it by you. But how do we stop development in MDR? Major money there. I wonder how many gadflies they could afford to pay off. All you need is a little congestion aversion agitation and some NIMBY and you will have a majority for stopping new developments.

Anyone not yet convinced that Capitalism is a stinking swamp of mendacity? We are arrogant fucks and we stand to make good money from it. We reward our family, friends, and those who help us, with our benevolence, and we use proxy thugs to keep the others away. We have enough money to buy you. I'm not talking about all those sweet shop owners and designers and small creative businessmen. I'm talking about the assholes who buy up and manipulate the market for land, water, food, and power all over the world. But do I live in a cultural Bubble? Many thousands of people go to demonstrations

and to see Nickled and Dimed, and Bowling for Columbine.

The republicans won the election by threatening Iraq. How many trigger-happy living room warriors does it take to waste the poor youth who look to the military as a steady job?

Oh Goddess of heavens, give me the passion to achieve a better world.

Oh great unspeakable bless us all with the heart to stop killing.

No more murders in anyone's neighborhood. Yeah sure you idealistic fuck.

Why lose when anything is possible.

No one knows how the economy is controlled. Let us control it for you.

Rid yourself of the human vermin.

Support the Robot Army! *



by Carol Fondiller

So Governor Beige was outspent by Businessman Simonize, by a few gazillion clam shells. But integrity won out and Gov. Beige won by one percent or close to.

Similar figures came out in this off-year election across our Great Nation.

But accurate figures or no, billions of bucks were spent on congressional and governors races.

Much clucking and chin wagging amongst the Punditocracy.

Oh, the cost, the terrible cost. Will we ever again get the likes of ol' Andy Jackson, Abe Lincoln, or even Harry Truman striding from the wilderness or haberdashery to take the reins of government?

'Fraid not unless there is a change.

The talking heads and columnists suggest TV is the villain. More debates and for free, more free air time for more gas bags.

Pooh to that say I. Let's return to our roots.

George Washington did it, so did Grant, Zack Taylor, and Rutherford B. Hayes (another winner by the Electoral College and disputed votes).

Graft and bribery. Get 'em drunk. Get 'em to the polls. Get 'em to vote early and often for your Pol and if you got your neighbor and his dead dog to vote, the local ward healer would see to it that you'd get a job as local postmaster or at the very least a free slide on your next arrest, or if you managed to get enuf dead dogs to vote for your man, a place on the local Planning Commission Board.

I say, bring it back! Bribe! Graft! Actually, it's here already but the trickle down has dribbled out.

George W. (the one with the wig—father of our country? Yeah, that one) used to treat his constituents to jugs of rum and brandy.

Now they won't even give you a glass of Gatorade for your vote.

I used to get cookbooks, calendars, pens, pot holders—all with the candidate's name or motto.

I received a ruler once that had "Joe Doakes Rule of Law."

I'm not saying I voted solely on the value of the *tchotskes* I received, but I kept them for a long time and thought kindly of the Republicat who sent me that smashing Jewish calendar.

I'd prefer a measly little sun visor to the plethora of thick glossy campaign so-called literature that stuffed my mail box from September—November.

Bribe me! Bribe with bagels, a cup of coffee, maybe even a coupon for a latte grande at the local Charbucks.

I have no loyalty.

Better yet if I hold a coffee or get-together, and get enough dead dogs to vote, bribe me with a neat little job as Commissioner of the Department of Water and Power. I promise I will prove myself to be incompetent after six month's time and when threats of jail and suspension loom, I can threaten to sue, be bought off by a six-figure lump sum and forced into retirement on a pension of half of the seven figure salary I was hired at to do the work of the people.

Maybe you could see your way clear to put me on some local housing committee or other, where I could transfer funds from some for-profit housing companies like AIMCO and G and K, to funding scattered site housing for low-income families, or funding the rehabbing of the few remaining SRO (single room occupancy) hotels in urban areas so that people who are on the streets can get off 'em, instead of being swept away to live under freeway underpasses and arrested by New-Broom Bratton, our new LA Police Chief.

Maybe I could take a leaf from Ollie North's book, and as he testified before the Iran/Contra hearings, answer to a higher power and skim some bucks from the defense budget (not touching benefits to enlisted forces) or the Federal Bureau of Incompetency (the FBI) and devote those funds to environmental resources and health issues.

I can be bought, and if bought, not only will there be a two-lane bike path down Lincoln Boulevard and Main Street, you'll be treated to a bowl of rum or hemp. Your choice, or both.

Ol' George W. (the one with the wig) would have liked that.

From the Dubya Watch: By Pano

The Associated Press referred to an article published in The Monterey County Herald on May 26, quoting U.S. Air Force Lt. Colonel Steve Butler calling Dubya a "joke." He accused him of allowing the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks to happen because "His Presidency was going nowhere"...He did nothing to warn the American people because he needed this war on terrorism."

Col. Butler is under suspension for using "contemptuous language" against U.S. leaders. He is targeted under Military Law for possible dismissal from the service and one year confinement.

That's the U.S. report...The report from England in late November concerned the banning of a commercial that jabbed Dubya. The piece shows him putting his "favorite video" into a supposed video player which turns out to be a toaster and burns it up.

In the Canadian report in the L.A. Times of Nov. 27, a news story has Francoise Dulros, the aid to the Canadian Prime Minister, calling Dubya a "moron" she subsequently resigned under intense pressure from opposition politicians and the media.

The account of the world's assesment of the person in charge of U.S. decisions continues and the fate of countless human beings hang in the balance. *



How Venice Voted

By Alice Stek

The Democratic Party candidate won in every Venice precinct on November 5. In no partisan race did a Republican Party candidate win a majority, or even a plurality. Of course, we do not know with certainty the party affiliations of elected officials such as judges.

In some Venice neighborhoods, the Republicans have become a minor party. In the majority of races, the Democratic Party candidate won by a large margin, up to 34-fold the number of Republican candidate's votes in 1 Oakwood race. The smallest margins, 1.7 : 1, were found in the Peninsula, Oxford Triangle and Penmar areas.

The LA County Registrar of Voters demonstrated that in some communities, the Green Party vote is the second largest. In all the Oakwood, North Beach/central Venice and Milwood precincts, in every race with a Green Party candidate, this candidate got more votes than the Republican candidate, often by a 2 - to - 3:1 margin. A quarter to a third of the Libertarian candidates received more votes than the Republicans.

The tables to the right summarize some local races. The other local races had similar outcomes.

Governor	Davis	Simon	Camejo	Copeland	Gulke	Adam
	Democrat	Republican	Green	Libertarian	Am. Ind.	Nat. Law
N. Beach/Central Ven.	984	174	278	41	18	13
Oakwood	902	123	207	61	18	22
Milwood	485	82	103	11	6	6
Venice Bl. to Wash. Bl.	908	293	160	51	16	12
Penmar	1080	365	220	47	16	16
Zip 90291	4359	1037	968	211	74	69
Oxford Triangle	232	118	30	19	3	8
Peninsula area	705	269	82	37	10	8
Venice total	5296	1424	1080	267	87	85

	Lieutenant Governor			36th Congressional			28th Senate			53rd Assembly	
	Bustamante	Mc-Pherson	Warren	Harman	Johnson	Mc-Spadden	Bowen	Hill	DeBaets	Nakano	Wilson
	Dem.	Rep.	Green	Dem.	Rep.	Lib.	Dem.	Rep.	Lib.	Dem.	Rep.
N. Beach/Central Ven.	1052	153	224	1182	138	119	1239	168	78	1304	161
Oakwood	940	82	181	1077	103	94	1129	121	58	1146	132
Milwood	538	60	67	538	66	44	581	75	21	600	77
Venice Bl. to Wash. Bl.	960	265	140	1070	250	83	1102	251	50	1138	275
Penmar	1133	344	187	1259	323	110	1305	332	73	1314	369
Zip 90291	4623	904	799	5126	880	450	5356	947	280	5529	1014
Oxford Triangle	243	110	28	276	92	24	270	106	20	282	112
Peninsula area	731	274	61	837	228	34	813	258	28	814	276
Venice total	5597	1288	888	6239	1200	508	6439	1311	328	6625	1402

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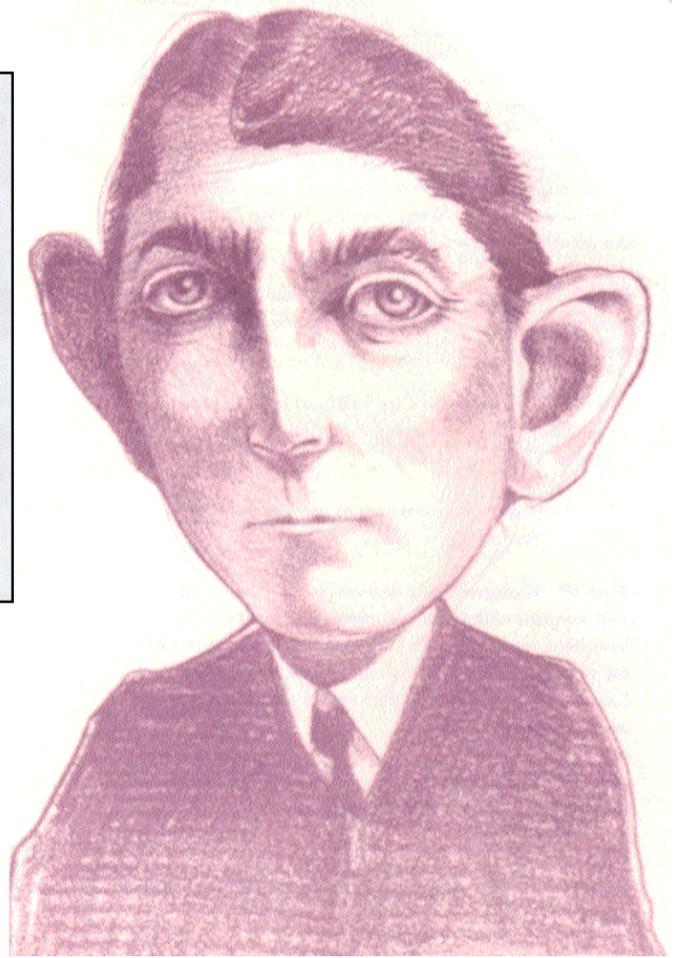
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Diversity Fest
A celebration of unity
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Venice Center for Peace with Justice and
the Arts

Saturday, Dec. 7

Free Open House: 10am - 4pm
\$10 Reception & Concert: 6:30pm - 10
pm

2210 Lincoln Blvd. (at Victoria)

All Proceeds support community pro-
gramming and services

Hosts: Venice United Methodist Church,
Delta Sigma Theta Head Start, Inside
Out Community Arts, Venice Adult
Learning Center

More info: 397-8820

...

Shop til you drop
on **Friday the Thirteenth**
Abbot Kinney Blvd. shops
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*Celebrate a year's fight for PEACE
Celebrate a year's fight
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Holiday Party Party
Saturday, Dec. 14

Live music by

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Donation \$10 (includes delicious food
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...

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Music, including Suzy Williams
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New Year's Eve Party
Church in Ocean Park

235 S. Hill St., O.P.

Good Riddance to 2002

Comedy Review, Music

7 pm, Tuesday, Dec. 31

\$20.03 low income; \$30.03 regular
includes parking

Sponsored by Alliance for Survival
Host: Jerry Rubin

...

Annual New Year's Day

Swim, at the beach,

south of Windward Ave.

10 am, January 1

...

Car Free Day

January 1

Start the new year off right -
walk, don't drive on New Year's Day
- see below

This is not a
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Join your neighbors and friends
January 1 and the 1st of every month in
Car-free Venice

One day a month

Make Venice - and the planet - a better place to live

Don't drive on the 1st
Walk, bike, skate, take the bus

If you have a bike, join us for a short ride around Venice
at 4pm at the center of the Venice Circle (Main & Windward)

Sponsored by the Free Venice Beachhead
beachhead@freevenice.org • www.freevenice.org

**The Beachhead
Needs Ads**

Do you like bicycles; or
recycling? Or alternative
radio; or theater? Politics
lacks hypocrisy? Food
Co-Ops?
Something little known,
but hugely great in
Venice?
Anything at all along
these lines? The
Beachhead is non-profit.
But, our PRINTER is
not. See. That's why we
need ADS.

POETRY

At Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd.:

- Dec. 5, 6:30 PM - **SUBLIME MISCHIEF**: Suzanne Lummis, a poet and teacher in Los Angeles, presents a reading of her students' work. Her most recent book of her own poems is titled *Danger*, and she is Director of the LA Poetry Festival. A reception for the poets will start at 6:30 PM. The reading will follow at 8 PM.
 - Dec. 6, 7:30 PM - **SPLISH SPLASH**: Inaugural Reading for POOL Join us in celebrating an exciting new Los Angeles journal! The inaugural issue of POOL, a Journal of Poetry, is edited by Gretchen Mattox, Amy Schroeder and Judith Taylor, your hosts for the evening. Poets Susan Briante, Elena Byrne, Molly Bendall, Amy Gerstler, Martha Ronk, Gail Wronsky and Jan Wesley will read poems from POOL and other work.
 - Dec. 7, 3-5pm - **EX/PRESS Creative Writing Workshop for At-Risk Teens**. Reading - FREE
- Venice High poets read from their 2002 anthology, *Reality*. Says EX/PRESS facilitator, Genet Bosque, "Their poignant work - mostly cries from the dark - astonishes and deeply moves the listener".

- Dec. 13, 7:30pm - David St. John and Toni Buerge - St. John's most recent collection of poems is *Prism*, published by Arctos Press. Toni Buerge is a young poet living in Santa Monica who is presently completing a book-length poem in two voices.

FREE WORKSHOPS & READINGS

Since 1969, Beyond Baroque has provided a free workshop program and gathering place for writers to develop their voice, find support, and build new communities. Bring copies of your work.

- **MONDAY NIGHT FICTION - 8 PM**
Workshop focuses on short shorts, stories, and novels. With Steve Pitkin and Matthew Byloos.
- **TUESDAY NIGHT CREATIVE NON-FICTION - 8 pm.**
Bring works of creative non-fiction, memoir, and prose. Led by Cindy Bailey and Wayman Barnes.
- **WEDNESDAY NIGHT POETRY - 8 PM**
The West Coast's longest running, free workshop and a legendary gathering of poets.
- **THURSDAY NIGHT POETRY - 8 PM**
First and last Thursdays of the month. Bring poems you're thinking about (yours or other poets'); with Jenny Factor and Jessica Goodheart.
- **THURSDAY ALT.SCREENPLAY - 8 PM**
Documentary, narrative, art film scripts, actor readings. Non-commercial only. Moderated by Peter Coogan.

COMMUNITY

- Dec. 7, 7-11pm - **FREEPLAY** Hosts Dog Beach Fundraiser. 723 Ocean Front Walk . \$25 per person - Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, silent auction and entertainment.
- Dec. 8, 5pm - The NASA/UCLA Astrobiology Institute presents *Astrobiology SuperStar Lectures*. DDT in the Santa Monica Bay. Midnight Special Books.

GRASS ROOTS VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

- All meetings begin at 7pm and are open to the public
- Dec. 11 - Parking Committee - Vera Davis McClendon Center, 610 California St.
 - Dec. 16 - 7pm - Neighborhood Council Land Use Committee - Venice Boys and Girls Club, 2nd Floor Arts and Craft Room, 2232 Lincoln Blvd.

Organizations

- Abbot Kinney Library - 501 S. Venice Blvd. 821-1769.
- Beyond Baroque - 681 Venice Blvd. <www.beyondbaroque.org>
- Grassroots Venice Neighborhood Council - <www.grassrootsvenice.org> - 281-1943.
- Midnight Special Bookstore - 1318 3rd St. Promenade, Santa Monica - <www.msbooks.com> - 393-2923
- Venice Arts Mecca - 610 California Ave. 578-1745.
- Venice Community Housing Corporation - 399-4100 or <www.vchcorp.org>. 720 Rose Ave. Venice.
- Venice Family Clinic - 604 Rose Ave. 392-8636.
- Venice Health Center - 905 Venice Blvd. 392-8636.
- Venice Historical Society - POB 12844, Venice 90295 or <www.veniceofamerica.org>
- Venice-Ocean Park Food Co-Op. - 839 Brooks Ave.
- Venice Peace & Freedom Party - 399-2215 - <pfp@freevenice.org>.
- Venice Skills Center - 611 5th Ave. 392-4153.
- Vera Davis McClendon Center - 610 California Ave. - 305-1865.

Community Events



FILM

- Dec. 7, 7pm and 9pm **DOCUMENTAL** the documentary & experimental film and video series:
 - 7 PM SHOW
 - **INVESTIGATION OF A FLAME** ('01, 45m)
 - **ART STRIKES BACK** ('01, 12m)
 - **VESSEL WRESTLING** ('01, 13m)
 - **EXCHANGE POLICY** ('01, 16m)
 - 9 PM SHOW
 - **McLUHAN'S WAKE** ('02, 94m)
 - **CULTURE JAM - HIJACKING COMMERCIAL CULTURE** ('01, 57m)
- Dec. 13-19, mornings (call for time). From the Ashes...The Storyteller (Ron Taylor in the tradition of Mark Twain and Will Rogers). Laemmle's Monica 4 Plex, 1332 2nd St., Santa Monica. 280-3131.
- December 12, 8 pm - 7 Dudley Cinema will screen at the Sponto Gallery a program devoted to the Watts Towers and their creator, Sam Rodia. Independent filmmaker Edward Landler and Rodia's great-nephew Brad Byer will present a special preview rough-cut segment of their feature-length documentary work-in-progress, "I BUILD THE TOWER": The Passion of Sam Rodia. **399-2078**.
- **VENICE, LOST AND FOUND OPENS DECEMBER 13TH**. The hour long documentary, "Venice Lost and Found," opens at the Laemmle Theater in Santa Monica on December 13th for a one week engagement. The documentary tells the story of Venice from its beginnings under the guidance of Abbot Kinney to its current status as a world famous beach resort and California's second largest tourist attraction. Interviews with Dennis Hopper, Gregory Hines, Ray Manzarek (of "The Doors" fame). See review in the October Beachhead <www.freevenice.org>.

POLITICAL

- Dec. 7, Saturday, Noon-2pm - Venice Peace & Freedom Party. 310-399-2215.
- Dec. 7, 2pm - David Barsamian on media and the war on terror. Midnight Special Books.
- Every Wednesday, 6:30pm - Homeless issues - Side by Side. Community group on homeless issues for beach area. The Ken Edwards Center in Santa Monica.
- Every Sunday, 2pm - Venice Peace Movement - No new war, End mass detentions & attacks on our civil liberties - March starts at Rose & the Boardwalk. Open Mic Rally near Windward Av. & the Boardwalk.



readings

- First Monday of the month, 6pm - Marshall McLuhan - Finnegans Wake Reading Club, Abbot Kinney Library, 501 Venice Blvd. 821-1769.
- Midnight Special Bookstore, 1318 3rd St. Santa Monica:
 - Dec. 8, 2pm -- Readings by Women Writers from Los Angeles and the Western United States and Canada on "Contemporary Women's Pilgrimage: To and From the Isle of Avalon 2002-2004."
 - Dec. 9, Monday, 7pm -- Sisterhood Reading Group meets monthly to share thoughts and feelings on books written by women. Books are chosen by those participating each month. All books read are by women authors and cover a wide range of experience. This month's book is: *Savage Beauty* by Nancy Milford.

THEATRE



- Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 Venice Blvd.
- BETRAYAL** - by Harold Pinter, Extended through Nov. 17th
 - BIG LOVE** - By Charles L. Mee, Directed by Mel Shapiro, now playing.
 - LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT** - The Co-op at PRT. 323-460-2508
- Play times are Thursday - Saturday 8 PM Sunday 3 PM - Box Office 822-8392

ART

- Dec. 7, 5-11pm - Wozani! Fortune Mduzuzi Sitole, South African Artist. Fortune's Gallery, 8 Brooks Ave. Studio #1. 396-1903.

MUSIC

- Fridays @ The Cows End:
 - 5-7pm - **Chris Kuter**
 - 8-11pm - Lovesick Fridays featuring The Lovesick Lunatics and many more!
 In Hamburger Square, Washington and Pacific.
- Dec. 5, 8pm - Clay DuBose at The Mint, 6010 W. Pico. 323-954-8241.
- Dec. 8, 15, 29 at 9pm - Nova Blue at the Temple Bar, 1026 Wilshire Bl., Santa Monica. 393-6611.
- Dec. 8, 7:15pm. Adelaide - A unique acoustic rock band with piano, cello and guitar. Genghis Cohen, 740 N. Fairfax Ave. 323-653-0640.

FILM: McLUHAN'S WAKE

McLUHAN'S WAKE screens at 9:00pm on December 7 at Midnight Special Bookstore, 1318 Third St Promenade in Santa Monica, 310-393-2923, free admission, as part of the series DOCUMENTAL. The 7:00pm show that evening will include: *INVESTIGATION OF A FLAME* - Lynne Sach's 45 minute experimental documentary portrait of the Catonsville Nine war resisters (including the still active Berrigan brothers), the disparate band of resisters who chose to break the law in a defiant, poetic act of civil disobedience. "This film provides a potent reminder that some Americans are willing to pay a heavy price to promote peace." - Baltimore City Paper.

Also Gordon Winiemko's *ART STRIKE'S BACK* - in the summer of 2000, San Francisco artists, faced with a de facto "strike" brought on by the rising rents and rampant development accompanying the ersatz "new economy," decided to strike back. This colorful 12 minute short chronicles the ensuing dance, theater, music and mayhem that took place on the streets of one of culture's last and most endangered strongholds, The Mission district in San Francisco.



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