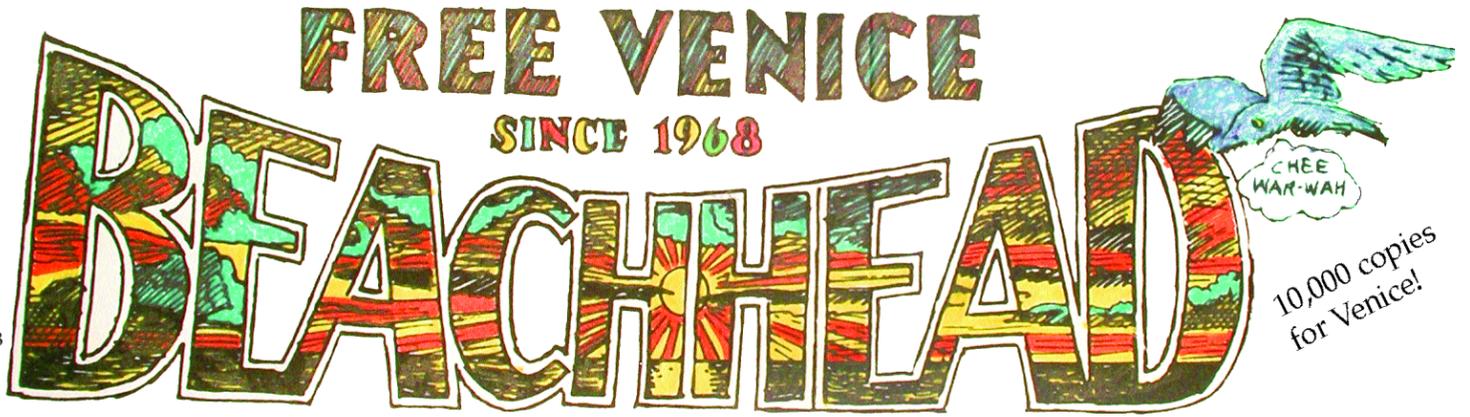


**In Case You Missed It,
The First Beachhead
is reproduced inside
—see centerfold**

35th Birthday Issue

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10,000 copies for Venice!

December 2003

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Anna Ricci Haag 1937 - 2003

Godmother Muse Lady Queen Take your Pick

By Carol Fondiller

The last time I saw her before she died she looked good. Delicate silver decorated her arms and fingers, and a little tendril of her long black hair kissed her temple. "I'm dying. My veins are black from all the chemo." We sat and talked of good old times how we would get so high. We'd laugh at how high we got, but we were very careful to cross with the lights and walk on the crosswalk, two young crones who knew it all going to the Ocean Front Walk at night because we were happy and angry and high.

Fiery as Vesuvius on a rampage, she could tell a cop to go fuck himself and he'd fall in love with her. She hit Big Lip Louie with a chair one night at the Venice West and he was devoted to her from then on. Not every cop fell in love with her. She was arrested several times, but found not guilty more times than not.

She fought injustice and the enemies of good times with all her heart and a wooden spoon. The Beats taught her to swear and she was an apt pupil. She was mother to her children and their friends.

"I make polenta. You come." It was a command. She'd use what she bought at Bay Cities import in Santa Monica and what she bought at various supermarkets. Realistic Italian cooking, canned tomatoes—corn meal stirred in a regular pot, she didn't have a special polenta pot. She'd stir the polenta made light and thin as a bridal veil and pour it on a special wooden board for polenta only smoothing it with her wooden spoon. And then pour over the sauce with mushrooms, pepper, cheap cuts of meat and we'd dig in with our spoons in her kitchen trying to shape the polenta into the shape of Italy as we gorged and drank red wine.

Her heart was broken so many times by eviction from the Venice West, the Vietnam War and men. But she broke a few hearts and I know there are men out there who still love her, even if

—continued on page 8



Anna Haag, reading the Beachhead interview with John Haag, earlier this year at the HOT restaurant.

Photo by Jim Smith

This issue is dedicated in memory of Anna Haag, one of the founder of the Beachhead and proprietress of the Venice West

35 Years of Venice and the Free Venice Beachhead

Tales of the Nude Beach and other strange events

Marcia Stone and Paul Tanck both individually moved to Venice in the summer of 1974. They met in 1978, and have lived together on Rialto Avenue since 1980.

Paul - hi. this is us. and we're gonna talk about our first days in venice.

Marcia- i know that mine was in september of 1974. and i know that i moved in on a saturday. and the day was so involved with the moving -

Paul - where'd you move from?

Marcia - i moved from malibu. i lived on the beach in malibu. north of topanga. so, it was a moving day and i'd come from this really peaceful place, right on the beach where i saw very few people, y'know, dogs and people sometimes on horseback, but rarely. i moved to carroll canal. i just happened to move in the day before the annual canal festival. and i woke up that morning and it was sunday and i thought "my god -" and now there's all these people and there's music and it's like a love-in. it reminded me of a love-in from the 60s. and i'm thinking this is really great but i don't think i want to live in a place where they do this every weekend. cuz i didn't know this wasn't every weekend. this was my welcome to venice. and i remember being a bit timid about it because i thought, man, i just really prefer the beach. venice was just overwhelming!

Paul - so then what'd you do after that? didja go out and join the crowds?

Marcia - absolutely! it was great.

Paul - so then the next day, what'd ya do?

Marcia - the next day i was still like moving in. i think i took time off from work. i had a job - i worked for this guy who invented the lucy-graph, frank ashby. at gateco company.

Paul - we still have an operating one out in the garage.

Marcia - i know.

Paul - so this was the 7th canal festival and the 8th a year later was the death of the canal festivals?

Marcia - i think the year later was the last one, actually. because that one was when mark and caroline were out visiting from san francisco and i remember there was a little rowboat that we rowed around in.

Paul - for the '75 one?

Marcia - yes, and the next one was the canal funeral. and i was into playing my harmonica by then. i got it from the blues guy, Paul butterfield. it was his!

Paul - so there you were out on the canals with 2 good friends. that's very venice.

Marcia - yes. it was very venice.

Paul - do you know how many canal festivals there were all together?

Marcia - i think there were like 6 or 7. i was only at the very end, for the last 3.

Paul - so it started in like 1970 -



Venice Envisioned - Community looks at Lincoln Blvd.

By Sheila Bernard

Economic growth based on legal and fiscal desperation has led to assaults on stable neighborhoods in our city, as well as serious environmental degradation.

The Venice Community Coalition organized the Envision Venice event to address this situation. At the event, 146 residents - business owners, and professionals - met together and in small groups to articulate their "design values." This is the first step in establishing guidelines for developers, so that they can propose projects that the community can embrace.

These guidelines will be part of a Community Design Overlay which needs to be created by the Los Angeles Planning Department to regulate development along Lincoln Blvd.

Each small group was facilitated by an architect or other professional. The individuals in the group expressed the values that they felt should guide development. (These values are not specifications such as building height; rather, they are general principles, such as pedestrian friendliness, that should be considered in evaluating whether a development is beneficial to the life of the community.) The goal was to establish which values are shared by everyone and which values are controversial.

We reached agreement on some matters involving Lincoln Boulevard, while on other matters we continue to disagree. It is possible that our areas of disagreement will melt away in the face of greater knowledge. Affordable housing is a good example.

Some Venetians feel that 15 percent is an appropriate amount of low-income housing to be included in every development project. Others feel 50 percent would be more appropriate. Still others feel that the current housing crisis dictates an even higher percentage. This is an important enough controversy that further study is warranted.

The design values arrived at during the Envision Venice event, both agreements and disagreements, will be published this month in a report which will go to the Los Angeles Planning

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BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:
Carol Fondiller, Theresa Hulme, Hillary Kaye, Peggy Lee Kennedy, Yolanda Miranda, Calvin Moss, Lydia Ponce, Jim Smith, Alice Stek, Suzy Williams

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 ads and donations. The articles, poetry and art work express the opinions of the individual contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Beachhead Collective.

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Our Mission Statement

Oh Holy Shit
The Thought Police are rising
It is the Time
for the Beachhead's rebirth
Now is the Time to get your thoughts together
If you care whether you have a thought of any worth.
Thoughts left of Center
Homeowner or Renter
Put your Head where your Pen is
Send it to us use your wits and if we like it
We'll print or plagiarize it or tear it into teeny tiny bits
— by the Slumgoddess

*Pen: Antique Term for Word Processor

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LETTERS — send letters to:

Email: Beachhead@freevenice.org Venice 90294
Beachhead, POB 644,

Support the grocery strikers

Dear Beachhead: Friends of Labor.com would like to remind you that the UFCW members are entering their eighth week on the picket lines in Southern California. 859 stores from Bakersfield to Baja have an estimated 20,000 striking members at Vons and Pavillions and an average 50,000 locked out members at your local Albertsons and Ralphs stores.

Please note that the picket lines representing 18,000 workers at Ralphs have been removed but SCABS have replaced those members inside the stores. Most Ralphs workers have been moved to Albertsons stores or have traveled to Northern California and across the Nation to Washington DC and Baltimore.

You can help these UFCW members by walking a local picket line, delivering coffee, or making a donation at <www.ufcw.org>. As the Christmas holiday grows near, one anti-war group has set up baskets at Whole Foods and Trader Joes to collect canned goods from the stores shoppers on the way out. The donations are then distributed to the area workers on the line. The Adopt-a-Store program is still available by contacting the LA County Federation of Labor at <www.launionfco.org>.

You can read the coverage from Detroit Michigan's Labor Notes activist newspaper online at www.labornotes.org of the ILWU Rally in support of the UFCW on November 10th, 2003 in San Pedro, Ca.

The latest news from the UFCW has been that they will return to the bargaining table with the Federal Mediator and the employers. A news blackout on the details is still in effect. Check www.FriendsofLabor.com website for the latest print coverage as we receive it.

The motto is "We will last one day longer! Hold the line for healthcare."

In Solidarity, *Shannon D. Donato*, Director
Harry Bridges Institute &
Community Labor Center, San Pedro

Ring in the New Year!

Dear Beachhead: For the last couple of months I have written a few letters to the Argonaut about the mismanagement of Marina Del Rey as well as of my perception of the corruption of our local politicians and Scumlords.

I live on a sailboat in I-Basin Playa vista AKA Ballona Creek. I do this because I refuse to give money to the county and Scumlords for decrepit docks and having some one telling me what I can do or not do with my boat!

I have no intention to rent a slip so I am not intimidated or scared for being retaliated against by Scum lords for speaking up against them and the Counties corrupt BuroCRATS.

However there is a saying that the nail that sticks out gets hammered. Two years ago I jumped in the water in Deauville Marina and pulled a man out of the water that was drowning. He later died on his way to the hospital!

Doug Ring and his wife Cindy Miscikowski, City councilwoman of La city, own these derelict docks. They were never charged with manslaughter but should have been if there was any justice!

However, they were sued by the family of the deceased man in a three and a half million dollar lawsuit Mr. Ring and his wife insurance company paid a very large settlement to the deceased mans family. Prior to the settlement Mr. Ring could not get financed until the settlement was taking care of. This meant that the destruction of small slips and building of big slips and apartments was delayed.

Since then La County, Beach & Harbor has retaliated against me for be a witness in the above wrongful death suite.

Doug Ring had proposed in a meeting with the Harbor commission that he would commission some artwork for his new building. I suggest he spend that money on a war memorial dedicated to those people that have lost their life or been injured on his property. Thats right a war memorial because he and the rest of the scum lords has with the help of the county declared a class warfare on the boating community and its residents!

J' ACCUSE the County of directing the Sheriff of LA County to harass me and directing their employee at the Burton Chase Park of the same! The Sheriffs has come to my boat at one AM shined light inside my boat and honked their horns when I was anchored outside of the harbor asking me who I was, what I was doing there, whose boat it was, how long I was staying there! I called their supervisor and filed a complain over the phone with no results Imagine that happening at your house at 1 AM!

Since then there has been many more incidents including the Sheriffs doing twenty knot and u-turns into the anchorage causing me to almost falling overboard when I was setting my anchor from the swells.

Last incidents was in June 03 when I came in to the public docks in Burton Chase Park At 8 PM with a broken windlass and 60-70 feet of chain out and a 110 pound anchor! I barely parked the boat, motor still running and with only one bowline securing a 57 foot 22 ton sailboat. I was approached by a very hostile and boorish public servant, Deputy Clark and his female deputy protector behind him. He immediately ordered me to leave told me that I was banned and black listed from the public marina.

I told him that I was not banned and that I had an emergency and that he could not intimidate me to leave!

I proceeded to tie of the stern to prevent my 22 ton reinforced concrete boat from hitting public property the

dock and causing severe damage, that moment deputy Clark stops me and hand cuff me and put me on his patrol boat. His female protector runs my records and find that I have no warrants that they can arrest me on so they let me go and leave me in the slip

I asked to see the blacklist deputy Clark said that he had seen my name on it but he said he did not have the list. I know he was lying because I asked the security that night if I was on the black list and he said I was not!

I thought here in America there was such a thing as due process!

I did file a complain but never heard from them again I called SGT. Thornton in beginning of September he told me that the investigation into my complain about having my civil rights abused was closed and letter I never got was sent to me on July 28, and he said that the deputy did nothing wrong.

The deputy claimed I failed to register at the park and felt that I was verbally abusive to him and threatening. I find that the fabrication of deputy Clark was both amusing and pitiful since you first has to tie up your boat at the dock before you can walk up into the park, and after five o'clock you have to put your check in a box.

What was it that I could have said that a big strong deputy with a gun and a bullet proof vest as well as having deputy female protection holding his hand could be so afraid of?? It is too bad that brains are optional when hiring deputies. Since then I always carry a video camera to document the abuses. I have also instructed my attorney, friends as well as relatives if I am found floating dead in the marina or locked up in jail on some trumped upped charges it will be because the counties actions.

I will sue as soon I have enough evidence against the county as well as the sheriffs and I will continue exposing their crimes for as long as I can. I was willing to risk my life in an instant trying to save a stranger from drowning and to take the heat by testifying against very powerful interest. So taking on the county as well as the sheriffs does not daunt me It may very well cost me my life or my freedom but I hope I can encourage others to come forward to expose the scandalous behavior by the county and the sleazy developers as well as the very selective law enforcement done by LAcounty Sheriffs Department!

Sincerely, *Hans Etter*
Coalition of the willing
VIVA LE RESISTANCE!

PS. The black list that they used but no official knows anything about was rescinded on the 15 of July the heat was getting to them, call and ask park supervisor Jose' Matia, Dusty Crane his supervisor at Beach and Harbor and Sgt. Thornton at the Sheriffs Station in Marina Del Rey to see if your name is on the list, that should irritate them!

Happy Birthday!

Dear Beachhead: Best Birthday Wishes to the Beachhead. If anyone remembers me from the "olden days," please write.

Howie Siegel <hsiegel@shaw.ca>

The Old Safeway

Dear Beachhead: I was wondering if you knew the history on the building used by the U.S. Postal Service for the Postal Annex on Windward circle. It appears to have been a large grocery store at one time as well as being the land where Abbot Kinney himself lived.

It is too bad that it's not used for anything other than parking mail trucks and sorting mail, like being a great community grocery store for Venice.

Let me know if you have any information.
Thanks, *Bryan Rogers*

(Beachhead responds: It was the location of a Safeway for many years. It was a great loss to the community when the store closed before 1980, even though it was one of the "low income" stores with "green meat and brown vegetables," as people said. Its closing hit seniors hard, since many are without cars, but could walk to the old Safeway. It would be a great site for a Trader Joe's!)

Lincoln Blvd.

Dear Peoples of Venice: Lincoln Blvd. functions as a through fare. Either a tunnel or overpass must be built for it to function properly. Any further development which will dump more cars on the road, already at gridlock capacity, will make the city claim one side of the street for public domain.

Here is my proposal. We construct pedestrian foot bridges over Lincoln resembling the Venice canal bridges at the turn of the century. We impose strick building codes for any future building. Facades of buildings must be from the turn of the century.

Most importantly, I would like to see Venice validate graffiti art, be the first in the nation which gives it the respect and forum to be seen world wide. Each building to be built must have a reproduction Victorian front and side walls which accomodate Graffiti art. There would be a need to document the art being that it changes so rapidly so there would be the need for cameras and a log so we could index the artists later. Then at Christmas I would like to see each business put out a graffiti calendar...It would be hot...hot...hot. Anyway..Don't let them take our valuable property and make a mess with it. We could do better. One more "Thang"...I say we make it a toll road to really piss people off.

Stephanie Denyer, Venice



by Ali Katz

Grey fade to Schwarz

After his investiture, and the promise to cut the 300% car registration fee, guess what our new governor proposes?

He wants to float a loan to get California out of its financial troubles.

The fiscally conservative Al Jarvis Taxpayers Association and Darrell Issa who spent much money and time to remove Governor Davis, support Gov. Schwarzenegger in his efforts to borrow.

Farm' me, but wasn't that why Governor Davis was ousted?

I don't recall.

Concerned citizens want to know or treat us like mushrooms dept.

The Metropolitan Transit Authority recently sold the MTA bus depot on Main and Rose.

There was no public notification of this, and as far as this cat can learn the Coastal Commission was not notified of any pending development. Councilwoman Miscikowski denies knowledge of the transaction or what the plans might be.

This is a big parcel of land for its location. It would certainly affect the community and depending on what is built there, the traffic flow. After scratching on the Internet—the developer

is represented by Venice Properties and the developer's name is...Robert D'Elia of GTO Developments.

Venice Properties and Mr. D'Elia are building the new Art bunkers on the east side of Main next to the binocular building, former home of Chiat-Day. It is strongly suggested that D'Elia approached the MTA and proposed a land swap for some land that Mr. D'Elia has in Inglewood for the MTA lot.

It is true that the MTA lot has been a bone of contention for years because of noise, fumes, etc.

The MTA Bus Depot has been a transportation hub since Venice was a pup.

But long-time residents in the area who grew up in houses surrounding the depot, are complaining because of the longer schedule of the busses and the noise and pollution last far into the night.

While they might applaud the exit of the bus depot, they are concerned about what will be built in its place.

Concerned citizens want to know.

Surely this development should be reviewed by the immediate neighborhood and the community at large.

Though the MTA claims it is not owned by the state or city, it certainly is a public entity and should have informed the public of its intentions of selling to a private developer. It is also rumored that the County Supervisor had a hand in manipulating the deal.

Is this a job for the Grass Roots Venice

Neighborhood Council or what? Or is GRVNC just another organization created to keep activists and residents busy deciding on what kind of trees should be used for landscaping while a megadevelopment is slid right by. I mean don't you know there will be requests for zoning exemptions, conditional use permits, traffic cut-offs, height exemptions, etc.

Other rumors are: that the alternate bus depot is located at Rodeo and Jefferson, not in Inglewood, and the Metropolitan Transit Authority will spend \$8 million on rehabbing the MTA lot. The MTA workers who struck to retain their health benefits are upset because they are being deprived of health benefits. \$8 million to rehab a yard that's not yet been used for transportation and not one buck for health.

The community should have input first, before the developer puts plan on paper.

Stars shine in Venice

Riffling the elderly magazines in the veterinarian's office, the cat came across the October 2003 issue of a magazine called Hollywood Life. Never heard of it and this cat goes through heaps of mags left next to the dumpster. Yup scale to the max its one of those good life mags. Ads for \$27,000 watches, \$500 tee shirts, articles on where to sweat with the stars, and bizarre eating habits of same. Definitely for fat cats. In the pages of Hollywood Life was an article titled, "The Other Venice."

— continued on page 15

Trammell Crow project rejected by Neighborhood Council Board

By Jim Smith

The Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council rejected a committee's recommendation for approval of the 298-unit Trammell Crow project in the Oxford Triangle neighborhood.

The Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC) approved the project, provided an access route to Lincoln Blvd. could be found. However, at the Nov. 24 Board meeting, Oxford Triangle residents turned up in opposition to the project, even though it had found an outlet to Lincoln. The project would provide spaces for more than 600 vehicles, but would include no affordable housing units. The Board voted to reverse the LUPC's approval of the project., except for Dede Audet, Sabrina Venskus, Laddie Williams, Greg Fitchitt and David Moring who voted to uphold the LUPC recommendation, and Bonnie Cheeseman, who abstained.

It's not the end of the project, however. It will be heard by the West L.A. Planning Commission on Dec. 8. The hearing is at 9 AM at 1645 Corinth Avenue (off Santa Monica Blvd.).

In spite of several resignations, the new majority on the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC) seems to be hitting their stride. New committees, and sub-committees are being formed, a budget is being prepared, an office - and regular meeting place - has been found (at the Vera Davis McClendon Center), and communications with the rest of Venice are being restored.

New members have been voted on the Board and the (LUPC) to fill open positions (see box: Who's out and who's in).

In spite of the musical chairs, two well attended board meetings were held during November, as well as executive committee, conservation, land use and budget committees. The GRVNC-endorsed Envision Venice workshop attracted about 150 people, including most of the neighborhood council board.

Much of the past two meetings of the Board has been taken up with reviewing the development decisions of the LUPC, which has been meeting during the months when the Board was

sidelined because of election challenges. The Board has not endorsed the massive Lincoln Center shopping center and housing project, delaying its decision until the Envision Venice workshop report is heard. That workshop death, at least in part, with the issues raised by the Lincoln Center proposal.

Also coming before the Nov. 24 Board meeting was the controversial, but unseen, Ocean Front Walk ordinance. Artists, performers and free speech advocates who populate the west side of the walk have been up in arms about a rumored lottery plan which would rotate their spots. Sandy Kievman, an aid to Councilmember Cindy Miscikowski, responded to complaints that the Neighborhood Council had not involved. She said the council office welcomed the input of GRVNC and interested individuals. She said a group called the Boardwalk Task Force had been actively participating in formulating the ordinance.

At that meeting, the Board also filled two vacancies. Dennis Hathaway was elected by body over Todd Darling to fill the Penmar South seat that had been vacated by Chris Williams.

Geoffrey Collins, who was attending his first neighborhood council meeting, won a three-way contest over long-time activists Moira LaMountain and John Davis for an at-large position. Neither LaMountain nor Davis was able to attend the Board meeting, but they were well known to those voting, since both had campaigned for the election of the Progressive Slate.

The first choice votes were for Moira LaMountain: Paul Ryan, Peggy Lee Kennedy, Lydia Poncé; for John Davis: Suzanne Thompson, Alice Stek, Jim Smith; for Geoffrey Collins: Sabrina Venskus, DeDe Audet, Tom O'Meara, Greg Fitchitt, Dennis Hathaway, Laddie Williams, Sheila Bernard, Elinor Aurthur and David Moring.

Chris Wood, 2nd Vice President and one of the founders of the GRVNC, announced that she was resigning her position because she was taking a one-year job assignment in Denver.

A scheduled Dec. 10 Town Hall meeting has been cancelled. The next Board meeting will be held on Dec. 22 at the Vera Davis McClendon Center, 610 California Avenue.

Venice's Neighborhood Council

There have been a number of changes in the GRVNC lineup since last June's hotly contested election. Here's the collateral damage:

Who's Out?	Position	Who's In?
Tisha Bedrosian - resigned	President	Sheila Bernard - appointed by Board
Chris Wood - resigned Nov. 26	2nd VP	Pending
John Caldwell - resigned	Gov't Relations	Paul Ryan - appointed by Board
Naomi Nightingale - resigned	Oakwood Rep.	Jatun Valentine - appointed by Board
Chris Williams - resigned	Penmar South Rep	Dennis Hathaway - appointed by Board
Sheila Bernard - appointed president	At-large	Geoffrey Collins - appointed by Board
David Moring - resigned from LUPC	LUPC Comm.	Laura Burns - appointed by Moring
Greg Fitchitt and vacant position - not reappointed by Board	LUPC Comm. (Board appointees)	Sabrina Venskus & Lydia Poncé - appointed by Board
Daryl Dufay, Phil Raider, Chris Williams - resigned	LUPC Comm. (Regional Rep. appointees)	John Davis (appointed by Alice Stek), Greg Fitchitt (by Bonnie Cheeseman), Dennis Hathaway (by himself)

Meet Fannie Chappel

by Lydia Poncé

She's lived in Venice since 1973. Fannie has been picking up litter on Broadway Ave. and surrounding streets for more than 30 years. You can find her as early as 7 AM, Monday through Saturday, volunteering and collecting the unthinkable, to deposit it properly. I stopped to interview her. She's really quite shy and is the most humble person I've met.

Beachhead: In 2003, people are still littering. Why do you think people are still trashing Venice streets?

Fannie: The parents haven't taught their children right, or people just don't care. Some people that visit Venice are the ones that litter. People that pass through here throw the trash down.

Beachhead: Have you seen where the trash ends up when it rains or when it is hosed off the sidewalks and streets?

Fannie: Well some of it stays on the street...

Beachhead: It would be a much trashier place! For miles you can see the trash collected on the sand and it takes a day for it to be cleaned up! Fanny, you are part of the solution to Venice's pollution!! Candy wrappers, cigarette butts, baby pacifiers, Styrofoam cups and paper plates! Miles and miles of this stuff washes up on our beach!

Fannie: Well that's what I pick up off the street. There's a lot of chip bags, coffee cups and paper. The furniture is picked up and that takes time. I find allot of food containers. Once in awhile I've found hypodermic needles and I leave the condoms. I've found a couple of dollars once in awhile, too.



Beachhead: What do like most about the volunteering you do?

Fannie: Everybody's friendly - People tease when they offer to come and help out, but then they don't come through. (She said with a smile.)

Beachhead: Who supplies you with what you need?

Fannie: I supply myself with rubber gloves and trash bags.

Beachhead: What motivates you Fanny?

Fannie: It makes the neighborhood look better and I was raised that way.

Beachhead: Do you have any holiday wishes for the people of Venice?

Fannie: People can still be friendly and they need to act as family. Come and help me in the New Year and take more pride in our neighborhood.

GRVNC STAKEHOLDERS ENCOURAGED TO COMMENT ON THE PLAYA VISTA PHASE TWO DRAFT EIR DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING!

Playa Vista Phase Two Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") Case No. ENV-2002-6129-EIR

The Grassroots Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC) Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC) has created an ad hoc subcommittee which will work together with the GRVNC Conservation Committee to gather comments on the Draft EIR (DEIR) from GRVNC stakeholders. The subcommittee will then compile these comments and submit a final comment letter on behalf of the GRVNC to the Board of Directors for approval. The Board of Directors will consider the subcommittee's comment letter and transmit these comments to the Los Angeles Department of City Planning with an appropriate cover letter including:

- 1) purpose is to communicate stakeholder concerns and facilitate community input on the EIR.
- 2) outline the major areas addressed in comments
- 3) request the Planning Department address each of the comments thoroughly, which will enable informed discussion so that GRVNC will be able to take a position on the development subsequent to the release and review of the Final EIR.

Stakeholders may submit all comments in one of three ways:

- 1) via email to lupc@grvnc.org;
- 2) via U.S. Mail to PO Box 2224, Venice, CA, 90291, or
- 3) dropped off at the Vera Davis McClendon Center at 610 California Ave., Venice.

Comments should be addressed to "GRVNC LUPC Subcommittee." COMMENTS ARE DUE BY 5:00pm Monday, December 15, 2003.

Comments received later will not be included in GRVNC's comment letter.

To review a summary of the Playa Vista development proposal and its environmental impacts, go to: <http://www.lacity.org/PLN/eir/PlayaVistaDEIR/DISK1/issues/general%20de scrpt.htm>

Click on "Overview of Environmental Setting"

To review the full EIR, go to: <http://www.lacity.org/PLN>

Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the Playa Vista Draft EIR link. This will take you to a general page. Scroll down this page until you will see the Playa Vista Draft EIR description. Click on that link, and it will take you to an index of the entire EIR.

You can also review the full EIR in paper format at the following local libraries:
 Venice Library - 501 South Venice Blvd. (310) 821-1769
 Marina del Rey Library - 4533 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey (310) 821-3415
 Mar Vista Library - 12006 Venice Blvd. (310) 390-3454

MORE LETTERS

Santa Monica Airport

Dear Beachhead: I find it interesting that the City of Santa Monica appears to be making it very comfortable for the jet centers at Santa Monica Airport. I attended the most recent Airport Commission meeting and found it quite upsetting that yet ANOTHER limousine service, with a fleet of four limos, was given the recommendation by the Santa Monica Airport Commissioners to be granted a permit to operate a business at the airport.

When I hear commissioners say that there are two other limo services and a car rental at the airport already, that they feel don't increase air traffic, it appears that they don't get it. Could there be a slight possibility that the red carpet is being laid out for the jetsetters? One of the limo company's clients is the Santa Monica Airport jet center Super Marine. This really is a slap in the face to activists who are trying to fight for clean air and a REASONABLE level of noise from the airport.

As it stands now, we residents around the airport are experiencing a noticeable increase in huge jets. All of the creature comforts that are made available for jetsetters to use the airport would most certainly increase jet traffic.

Joan Winters

Homeless in Venice

Dear Beachhead: I had the pleasure of spending a few years homeless in the Rose Av parking lot in several vans and memories of police harassment but at the same time knowing some of the most interesting people in the world and a variety of experiences too numerous to mention - the "beach-house" is yours to do whatever..... (see back cover for Ray Packard's painting!)

Have a great 35th!
 Ray Packard

THE PARKING GANGS OF VENICE

By John Davis

As the Coastal Commission pretends to act as a legitimate regulatory authority of the State, local interests such as the County and City of Los Angeles are exploiting this failure of due process in an orgy of greed.

Together this gang of three have and are giving public parking in the Coastal Zone away to private for profit corporations in apparent violation of the State Constitution and the California Coastal Act .

The City of Los Angeles, utilizing a proposed and unapproved component of the future Venice Local Coastal Plan, grants what it terms hardship exemptions to new commercial development.

Since the new commercial developments are excused from providing the requisite number of parking places for their customers, private for profit corporations encroach on parking Californians use to visit the sea. Why, because the value of a square inch of real estate near the coast has rocketed into the stratosphere.

For instance, if a new commercial development cannot meet it's Coastal Act parking requirements for customers, the City allows the developers to pay an "in lieu" fee to exchange existing public parking (access to the sea) for business parking places (access for business parking). That fee is then placed into a City fund that promises to someday replace that parking, someplace, but is not required to be in the Coastal Zone. Perhaps they intend to replace

- continued on page 14

Missing Beachheads

Please help the Free Venice Beachhead Collective complete its library of back issues. If you have any of the following editions, and are willing to donate them to the Collective, please call 310-399-8685 or mail them to: Beachhead, POB 644, Venice, CA 90294.

Issues 72, 88, 89, 107, 142, 144, 178, 188, 189, 222.

Lincoln Center NOT Moving Forward

The following preliminary response from Envision Venice to the Lincoln Center project (proposed for California and Lincoln) was presented at the Nov. 26 Neighborhood Council meeting and at the Dec. 1 Land Use Committee meeting by Laura Silagi.

The ENVISION VENICE workshop elicited a variety of recommendations for the future of Lincoln Boulevard which could be applied. The ENVISION VENICE workshop elicited a variety of recommendations for the future of Lincoln Boulevard which could be applied to the Lincoln Center development proposal.

One of the primary concerns of the community was PEDESTRIAN-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT. Here are some of the basic applications.

- Stores should front the sidewalk.
- Parking should be behind and/or below
- There should be pedestrian oriented architecture with articulated facades & doors to enter from the street, and windows for pedestrians to view things of interest.
- There should be improvement of street life on Lincoln Boulevard with meeting/ eating places and benches providing places to go and meet.
- Signage should be oriented to the pedestrian and not be on a monumental scale.

Diversity of types of businesses should provide for the diverse community of Venice, including "mom and pop" stores that offer services and goods to a mixture of income levels and ethnic groups that make up our community.

Affordable housing at a low and moderate level should be part of the Lincoln Center development for the life of the buildings.

Density and height were of major concern to many groups at the Envision Venice event. Specifics were not arrived at.

There was a consensus that traffic flow needs to be improved through multi-modal means – and the Lincoln Center proposal for 306 units needs to be looked at in concert with these improvements.

Transit improvements on Lincoln Boulevard should include bus shelters and other efforts to improve public transportation access to the Lincoln Center development.

Plazas for public outdoor gathering could be included in this plan.

These preliminary findings of the Envision Venice workshop as applied to the Lincoln Center development are in accordance with the Venice Community Plan. The Venice Community Plan sets forth goals and objectives to maintain the Venice community's "distinctive character" in future development. In regard to commercial development it states:

1. New development should focus on pedestrian street activity. The mass, proportion and scale of all new buildings shall be at a pedestrian scale.

Venice Envisioned – continued from Page One

Department, Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski, and Mayor Hahn. Meanwhile, the Venice Community Coalition and the Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC) of the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council will both discuss next steps in securing the Community Design Overlay for Lincoln.

Members of the community, both those who attended Envision Venice and those who did not, can participate in future events which will help the process along. Community members can suggest ways to achieve consensus in areas of controversy, such as affordable housing. One way to study the issue might be the following:

A survey can be conducted of all businesses along Lincoln Boulevard. Business owners can be asked how many employees they have; what the wages of these employees are (within broad ranges, say \$5,000 - \$10,000, etc.), where the employees live, how they travel to work, etc. From this survey, we could learn approximately how much housing we would need for the



Beauty on Lincoln Blvd.
—Artist's conception of the Fox Venice Theatre

Land Use Committee Reconsiders Support for Lincoln Center

The Neighborhood Council's Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC) voted to "Reconsider (its) approval of motions related to this development because project does not comply with Venice Community Plan..." Voting for reconsideration were committee members Laura Burns, Sabrina Venskus, Lydia Poncé, Dennis Hathaway and John Davis. Opposed were DeDe Audet, Dan Valenzuela, Richard Carter and Greg Fitchitt.

2. New development (should) be designed to enhance and be compatible with adjacent development.
3. It should preserve community character, scale and architectural diversity.
4. Establish street identity and character of commercial areas through appropriate sign control, landscaping and streetscape improvements.
5. No structures should exceed 3 stories or 45 feet in height or less. (This is in regard to mixed-use development.)
6. Locate surface parking to the rear of structures.
7. Coordination of new development with the availability of public infrastructure.
8. While only the west side of Lincoln Boulevard is regulated by the Venice coastal Zone Specific plan, similar design and development standards should be applied to the eastern side of Lincoln Boulevard.

I urge the LUPC to pay close attention to the findings of the Envision Venice Workshop when they are released, and ask that all future development along the Lincoln Boulevard corridor be reviewed with respect to these findings, along with the objectives of the Venice Community Plan

workforce of Lincoln Boulevard, and how many car trips we could eliminate from Lincoln by providing this housing. Any low-income housing percentage arrived at without such a survey is purely speculative, and should not serve as a basis for policy decisions. On the other hand, a percentage arrived at through such investigation could create measurable improvement in traffic conditions over time, which would benefit people of all income levels.

To be this thorough in our deliberations, we must not be pressured by the desperation that is evident in statements such as, "If we don't agree to this development, we will get something worse." No. It is our responsibility, and it is the purpose of the Envision Venice process, to enact laws which will render that kind of fearful reaction no longer necessary.

Guided by an ethic of the common good, we can achieve environmentally beneficial development through deliberation rather than desperation.

"Do Not Let This Happen"

By Jerry Jaffe

Comments presented to the GRVNC Board, Nov. 26.

Last April, over 250 people came to a Land Use and Planning Committee meeting to voice opposition to the Lincoln Center development. Over 200 people who had signed petitions opposing the project presented these to the committee, and sent copies to City Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski's office and the LA City planning department. Many also sent personal letters to the planning department in opposition to this project. At that time the LUPC voted 8 to 1 to oppose the project proposal.

Six months later, the LUPC held a meeting -- on Oct. 6, 2003 on the topic of the Lincoln Center development. Not only was this meeting scheduled with one week's notice, it was also scheduled on Yom Kippur, the most important Jewish holiday of the year.

At that Land Use Committee meeting of October 6th over 100 people were in attendance. The Lincoln Center developer presented a new proposal. Over 25 Venice stakeholders spoke, and ALL were in opposition to the proposed project and zone change. Most asked that the LUPC table the matter until after the November 15th "Envision Venice" event, to which the developer and architects had agreed to come.

The Land Use committee voted to approve, with various conditions, the request of the Lincoln Center developer. (One member abstained.) One of these conditions was for the developer to attend the upcoming "Envision Venice" workshop. For the most part, the specific provisions presented by the LUPC did not represent what the community wanted.

Six weeks later, the "Envision Venice" event gave the architect and developer, as well as numerous LA City officials, an opportunity to hear the public's ideas and concerns for development in Venice along Lincoln Blvd.

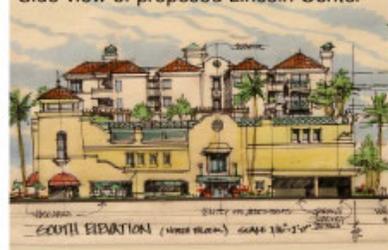
Prior to this event, in an article in the "Venice Paper" newspaper entitled "Lincoln Center Moves Forward", there is a quote from Lincoln Center developer Samuel Adams that, "we received a positive recommendation from the LUPC and we're moving forward. We're going to continue filing with the city." Adams pledged to move ahead with the city regardless of "Envision Venice's results.

The preliminary results of the 'Envision Venice' event show that the proposed Lincoln Center development is out-of-sync with the Venice community's values for Lincoln Boulevard, as well as the recommendations put forth in the Venice Community Plan.

It is urgent that the Grass Roots Neighborhood Council weighs in with officials in the Los Angeles planning department, the Mayor's Office and City Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski's office – and let them know that the LUPC recommendations do not carry any weight at this time. If no action is taken and no communication is made with the city, LUPC's last report will stand, by default, as the authoritative view of the community.

Esteemed board members... Please do not let this happen. It is your duty to take action now – Before it is too late.

Side view of proposed Lincoln Center



35 years of the Free

THE FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD and Me

Where it started

By John Haag

The California Peace and Freedom Party qualified for the ballot in time for the 1968 elections. Three P&F candidates ran: Bob Nieman for State Senate, myself for Assembly and Sherman Pearl for U.S. Congress. Venice members of the party formed a united campaign to support and publicize all three candidates.

Campaign committees vanish once the election is over. The Venice Peace and Freedom campaign committee resolved not to do this. We intended to continue as a group, working on some project to be decided after the November elections.

Immediately after the election, the campaign committee met to decide its project. Among several suggestions, community radio station and a community newspaper were the most popular. The absence of media coverage of our candidates pointed up the absence or distortion in coverage of other issues.

The final decision was for a community newspaper to be called the Free Venice Beachhead. The first issue came out in December 1968, a 4-page paper printed on green newsprint. Among the members were Carol Fondiller, Jane Gordon, Rick Davidson and myself. At one time or another, almost every leftist Venice activist has been a member of the Beachhead collective.

It was possible to get our first issue in less than a month because the Beachhead collective consisted of the prior campaign committee, P&F members who knew each other well and were used to working together. In my opinion, the structure of the Beachhead collective has much to do with the paper's effectiveness and longevity. All members of the collective are volunteers. None are paid: all members of the collective are equal. There is no editor or other officer. Anyone who works on a given issue is entitled to vote on the business of that issue. There is no requirement to be registered in the Peace and Freedom Party.

If this be anarchy, let's make the most of it

By Chuck Bloomquist

My first contact with Venice was in 1951 when some fellow Marines and I came here to have a last night of revelry before shipping out to Korea. What a great party; what a great place!

I next returned in 1956 when I was considering UCLA to further my education. I figured out that I could live in Venice on my government pension and take the bus to the campus. However, I didn't like the academic offerings at UCLA and so went to Berkeley instead.

In 1959 I was back in Venice, living at 28 1/2 Sunset Avenue and working at Packard-Bell Electronics Corporation at Olympic and Bundy. Venice was a happening place with scores of beatniks, music, Pacific Ocean Park, Lawrence Welk and Lawrence Lipton, John and Anna Haag's poetry and politics at the Venice West Café on Dudley, The Gas House, Big Daddy (Eric Nord), etc., etc. My interests, however, tended more to the fairer sex. In 1961 I was married.

After a year in Santa Monica and four in Ocean Park we bought a house in Venice for \$25,000. We raised six kids here, all of whom are a credit to the community. And my wife and I are still together and still in the same house. In addition to making a living and raising kids, we worked on various community endeavors - the Ocean Park Community Center, the original Venice Town Council, the Canal Festivals, and a couple of 4th of July Parades. We came to know and greatly respect many of the Venetian activists.

I was particularly drawn to The Beachhead. At one point I made some overtures to join the collective but was told, by one who shall remain nameless, that the collective didn't need any dilettantes (such as I was presumed to be) mucking up the process.

In May of 1977 I had a hip replacement to ameliorate an old injury and was on the disabled list when I saw the "Up for Grabs" issue of The Beachhead with its invitation to take it over. I've always favored a free press, over the government if it came to that, so I said, "What the hell," and went to the initial meeting. Ye gods! There must have been two dozen people in Arnold

Springer's upstairs living room on Electric Avenue. Powerful people, with pagers and professional experience and clouds of suggestions for resuscitating the old paper.

I felt that my nameless critic might have been right, but I knew Arnold who seemed to be facilitating things so I decided to come to the next meeting. This one was not nearly so well attended and involved actually getting a paper ready to publish.

Over the next few meetings and issues of The Beachhead, the collective shook out to a fairly stable and competent group. In our first few issues we got our act together and established our process.

Each issue was put together at three Saturday meetings, although there was ad selling and collecting, research, and typing, between meetings.

Our first meeting recapped the last issue and laid out what articles, photos, and stuff we were

going to run.

Authors were asked to read their articles. The collective read the submitted poetry, which always arrived in avalanches. At the second meeting we got all the inputs together and created headlines in a fun brainstorming session. One of my favorites headed an article on a Japanese factory worker killed by an errant robot. Bob Wells suggested "ET TU, D2." Another was Lynn Bronstein's head for an article on Arafat: "Yassir, That's My Baby." Oh well, maybe you had to be there.

This was before computers. We relied on typewriters and press type, extracting and pasting each letter to make a headline, sort of like preparing ransom notes. The articles and ads were pasted up on boards using wax so they could be moved. When finally laid out, the boards were delivered to a printer in Glendale. Arnold retrieved them in his pickup and members of the collective then delivered them to various stores and public places. We usually ran 10,000 copies.

I kept the books, logging in receipts and paying bills. I also harassed people who were late to pay for ads. Tomas Burgers was one of our best advertisers, but would never cough up his money without several personal visits.

My best collection story, however, involved a small ad that we inherited from a fellow in Toronto, Canada offering books for sale at a discount. Although we ran his \$5 ad monthly and billed him, he never paid. It turned out that my work required that I give a technical paper at a Futures Conference in Toronto. While there, I called on the recalcitrant advertiser in his office on a Saturday morning. He was stunned. I think he actually made some partial payment, but definitely withdrew the ad.

We really pulled out the stops for the 100th issue - 28 pages with a special photo poster. This was September 1978. In December 1978 we published the 10th anniversary issue, in which, among other things, we listed all 160 collectivists who had a hand in putting the paper out for the first decade.

Although the collective membership changed from month-to-month, I remained a part of it until November 1982. The photograph, at the right, taken in late 1979 is representative of the staff during the five years I was with the paper.

Others who were frequent members of the collective during this period were Osah Harmon, Moe Stavnezer, Larry Sullivan, and Elizabeth Elder. We put the paper together in Arnold's living room on Electric for the first couple of years and then moved to Moe's place on Amoroso for a while. Rol Morrow then offered us the upstairs of the Fox Venice Theater for our meetings and production. We accepted and it worked well offering ample space to store things between meetings. We dealt with all the hot issues of the day, both local and in the world at large.

We solicited ads from local merchants, held fund-raising parties, and sold tee shirts and posters to keep the paper afloat. It was fun, worthwhile and rewarding. These were five of the most interesting years of my life, but I was turning fifty and my large family deserved more attention than was compatible with three missed Saturdays every month. So I resigned. The collectivists, in a special tribute, printed an Extra issue of The Free Venice Beachhead celebrating my fiftieth birthday.

The Beachhead, of course, continued after I left and although it eventually fell on hard times, now, thanks to the current collective, it is back and better (well, at least as good) as ever. I am pleased to count myself among its loyal readers and supporters.



Carol Fondiller and John Haag with their Chee Wah Wah Free Venice Beachhead Awards for Service to the Community. The presentation was made at the Beachhead Birthday Party, Nov. 22, at the United Methodist Church. Jim Smith in the background. Photo by Lydia Poncé.

Venice Beachhead

THE BEACHHEAD and Moe

By Moe Stavnezer

I wasn't there at the birth, but I fell in love with the baby, spittle, poops and all. As befits a doting, now turning senile, grandfather, I can't remember the first time I saw the tyke though I admired its spunkiness, its zaniness and most of all the honesty in its eyes. Oh yes, its eyes. Because it was the eyes of Venice, intense, glinty, often bloodshot but true and warm and caring.

That's how I began my tribute to the Beachhead in the 1988 20th Anniversary issue of the Beachhead. In it are articles by John Haag, Carol Fondiller, Rick Davidson, Patrick McCartney, Memphis Slim, Alice Cramden, Diane Nickerson, Geriatric Jack, Lynne Bronstein and me. Even then, the Beachhead was the oldest continuously published free community newspaper in the country and it was an honor to write for the rag. And it was, quite often, a rag but kinda like that favorite rag that you use all the time and would never throw away.

I wrote articles for the paper for almost 15 years and was a member of the collective for five. I have a collection of Beachheads that includes issues printed before and after that time. They are, aside from the people I met during those years, many of whom remain good friends, my most tangible connection to a community that changed my life.

The Beachhead was born in an age before computers, even before correcting typewriters. The first articles I typed were on a manual typewriter that I bought at a pawn shop and they looked like it. The paper sported as many type-faces as there were people who could type. My greatest personal challenge was typing Carol Fondiller's wonderfully creative prose. Carol could, and still can, write but she couldn't write if you know what I mean.

The headlines, ah! the headlines, were done with press-on type and never looked the same from one article to another. Lots of creative juices went into the headlines. After reading the articles we would sit around in various altered states of consciousness and come up with brilliant, witty and often downright silly headlines. I can still hear Arnie's distinctive laugh when we came up with one that was absolutely over the top. We often got more comments about the headlines than the articles they headed.

If this all sounds silly, let me tell you that none of us ever thought that the Beachhead was silly. It was our voice and that was a very serious matter. No matter that our voices were not always the same, they were voices that could not possibly be heard anywhere else. The paper was filled with various viewpoints about issues ranging from the war in Viet Nam to Prop 13 to community planning and development to the latest book on the community. Nothing was too large or too small. Hey, if you wanted to have your say about the latest city plan for the community or the graffiti at the now destroyed pavilion, this was the place to do it. And many, many people did just that and, amazingly, are still doing it.

That the Beachhead is still a vital part of the Venice community is just a little short of a miracle. Yes it's now available online (there was no online in 1988), it's neater and more colorful but it still has a voice, loud and clear, that can't be found anywhere else. 15 years ago I ended my article with a statement that still stands:

THE FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD Today

By Jim Smith

During the 1990s, many of the Venice organizations declined in activity, or stopped functioning altogether. This included the Beachhead, Peace & Freedom Party and the Venice Town Council.

Issues of the Beachhead became more and more sporadic in the early 90s. Issue #252 finally appeared in August, 1994, nine months after Issue #251. Many more months went by and Venetians, who thought about it, probably assumed that the Beachhead had breathed its last. This was a sad thought for many, and a cause for celebration for others.

Then one day in June of last year, John Haag, Carol Fondiller, Yolanda Miranda and I had dinner. Someone said, "Wouldn't it be nice if the Beachhead was still going!" And someone responded, "Yeah, why not?"

Some of the usual suspects were gathered together, including veterans of former Beachhead Collectives, Chuck Bloomquist and Carol Fondiller, as well as new collectivists Mimi Bogale, Sherry Chovon, Vessy Mink, Yolanda Miranda, Calvin Moss, Alice Stek, Suzy Williams, and me.

An 8-page Issue #253, dedicated to the late Rick Davidson, rolled off the presses in July 2002. That was the first of 18 consecutive issues of the 21st Century. That's not a record for consistency, but it's pretty good considering we have no visible means of support.

"The Beachhead is the only place I've found where I, and so many others, can tell it just like we think it is and why. Hundreds of people have, and still, contribute to this paper, thousands read and support it because there simply is no other place to get the information and ideas it offers."

If you read and value the Beachhead, I urge you to support the paper with some of your hard earned money. This may be a free paper but it costs money to print it and you can help. No contribution is too small or too large.

Long live the Beachhead!!

It's a mad scramble every month to come up with enough cash to pay our printer (everyone else works for free). We have some advertisements from local merchants (who you should patronize, and tell them you saw their ad in the Beachhead), but no one on the collective is very good at going out and selling ads. We've started a sustainer program (which you can join for \$100 a year). These are the people who really care about the Beachhead, part of that endangered species called the alternative press.

Even though the new Beachhead is put together on computers, we try to keep the "look and feel" that has made the paper distinctive for the past 35 years. We also hope we're true to the spirit of the old Beachheads. As Carol says, we try to afflict the comfortable, and comfort the afflicted. The Beachhead looks at the world through that odd sensibility called Venice. If there is any such thing as a distinctive Venice culture, you'll find it in this newspaper.

While some of the old Beachheads dabbled in color from time to time, we went one step further beginning last February (Issue #260), when we started using full color on four pages. Yes, we know this makes our monthly scramble for money more difficult, but Venice is a colorful place. There were too many works of art and photos that we only could properly portray in living color. Some purists were aghast, but most readers said they liked it.

Will there be another 35 years for the Beachhead? Will you be part of the Beachhead Collective somewhere down the road? Will the Beachhead sell out, as we joked in our April Fools edition (issue #262)?

If we don't get more merchants to advertise, and we don't get more sustainers, and we don't get more of you to come to our great fundraisers, the Beachhead may have to stop coming out each and every month. On the other hand, if we can get several pages of ads every month, or some magnificent donations, we might be able to come out more often, say every two weeks like the founders envisioned back in 1968. It's up to you Venice.



BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE, CIRCA 1979: Arnold Springer, Gerry Goldstein, Olga Palo, Joan Friedberg, Chuck Bloomquist, Lynn Bronstein, Brenda Harney, Emily Winters, Wendy Reeves (on floor)



Anna Ricci Haag - April 10, 1959



John Haag and Anna Ricci wedding - Jan. 25, 1959



Anna Haag, 1960

Anna Ricci Haag 1937 - 2003 -continued from Page One



Anna and children Thomas & Duanna, Venice - 1974



Photo by Paula McCredie

their hearts aren't broken.

My friend, who turned a limp into a seductive amble. Always walking with her 4-inch wedgies making earrings on an ocean front bench just as she did the last time I saw her. She walked with a bag full of jewelry to sell along the O.F.W.

Even in the hospital for her triple bypass, she was selling jewelry to the nurses, holding up her fingers for how much when she couldn't talk.

She was as earthy and eternal as the Rome she was born in. She survived the barbarians goose-stepping under Titus' Arch, her father being beaten by the fascist stooges of Mussolini, the farcical descendant of the Caesars. She survived accidents and swindles with ferocious courage.

She'd cook for benefits to end the war in Vietnam, for the Beachhead. Spaghetti chicken or meatballs—"You no like? You a vegetarian. Fuck you, eat. It's good!"

She had a goldfish. It swam in its Five and Dime glass bowl placed in the smoky kitchen. She fed it guacamole. The damn thing lived for years.

Anna Haag, born Anna Ricci on January 19, 1937 in Rome. Died November 3, 2003 in Glenwood, Colorado. Survived by her son Thomas Paine Duggan, her daughter Duanna Haag, her son-in-law James Davey, and three grandchildren: Jason, Davey and April Anna.

Anna, stalwart friend, good company, direct and so truthful even if it hurt.

She fed us love and nurtured us with her courage to stand for Venice.

Tiao, Anna



Anna in Aguiamo, Italy, 1985.
Photo by Paula McCredie



Photo by Tomito Kakos

◆ Anna Haag, chairman of the FREE VENICE Art Festival Committee and a member of the Venice Health Council board of directors, was bruised and arrested April 18th by L.A. police officers Jones and Flemming after she asked the charges against several juveniles in custody at Rose Ave. and Ocean Front Walk. The juveniles were released, but Anna was charged with interfering with an officer. She pled not guilty and will be tried at 8:30 a.m. on May 26th in Division 63, West Los Angeles. FREE VENICE attorney Paul Abram will conduct the defense.

More than 20 persons protested Anna's arrest that evening. On April 19th, more than 75 persons joined a rally by the Venice Survival Committee at Rose and Ocean Front, then walked 2 miles to the Venice jail to protest police brutality and to demand the removal of Capt. Robert Sillings, commander of the Venice Division, L.A.P.D. Venice Civic Union president Stan Roberts joined police observing the protest.

◆ Members of the Canal Emergency Action Committee, which won a 30-day delay and elimination of peripheral property owners from the Canal Assessment District, are now facing reprisals from (mostly absentee) landlords in the form of retaliatory rent increases and evictions. The FREE VENICE Legal Committee has offered to defend residents from reprisals because of exercising political rights.

from the
Free
Venice
Beachhead
archives

THE COURSE OF HUMAN EVENTS

Venice resident Anna Haag was acquitted of three misdemeanor charges on July 31 during a court trial by Judge Philip M. Newman in West L.A. Municipal Court. Anna had been charged on April 18 with interfering with a police officer, battery and disturbing the peace after she asked L.A. police officer William C. Jones the charges against several juveniles already under arrest at Rose Avenue and Ocean Front Walk.

Photographs of the incident introduced by the defense did much to discredit the testimony of the arresting officers. Attorney Michael Hannon defended Anna without charge because her arrest appeared to be a politically motivated reprisal against attempts of the Venice Survival Committee to reduce police harassment in the beachfront community.

Starting September 8 BEACHHEAD

#7
May
1969

#10
Sept.
1969

This Paper is A Poem
The first Free Venice
Beachhead, Dec. 1968
Reprinted in this issue!



Venice 1959

By Bill Fleeman

Long hair, beard, looking like Raskolnikov 'bout to kill his landlady, back in Baltimore I didn't fit. I read "On the Road" in '58, "The Holy Barbarians" early '59. Then I read a U.S. highway road map. Broke, no car, I bummed money from a friend and a ride out of town to I 94 West.

My friend said, "Why you wanna go to California, man? Get a job at the Chevy plant. Find a girl, get married, buy a house, have some kids. We could visit back and forth, go on Sunday picnics, get drunk together."

I didn't say I'd rather die.

My friend dropped me off at a good place to hitch a ride, drove up the road a ways, made a u-turn, then tore passed about eighty in a blur of teeth and a roar of wind. Then I turned my back to the morning sun, turned my face away from the city of my birth, away from my family, my friends, and my home, and set my eyes on the long, long road that vanished to a point in the west. 9:30 AM, August, 15th, 1959. I was nineteen years old, had forty dollars in my jeans. In the bottom of my battered suitcase, under my socks and shorts, lay my sketch pad, some pencils, a journal and a pen. Standing thumbout waiting for a ride, I thought of Thomas Wolfe. Inside my head I heard, "You Can't Go Home Again," and felt sad because I knew it was true.

Two rides got me to Chicago, where Route 66 began. Four days later, three nights at the weed hotel, I landed in L.A., then rode the bus to Venice Beach.

At Pacific Avenue and Market Street, the bus squealed its air brakes, belched smoke, gave one final lurch, and opened its doors. I hauled my suitcase down the aisle and stepped out. Walking along the sidewalk under the plaster arches that held up the facades of the buildings along Market Street, I saw the crumbling genius of Abbot Kinney. Reaching the Promenade, I sat down on a bench to rest. Picking up my suitcase, I walked across the sand and stopped and stood at the edge of the surf—the edge of the continent, the end of the road. I saw the sea rising and falling like a living thing breathing in and breathing out, heard the roar of the waves crashing on shore, smelled the salty-sweet odor of kelp scattered on the sand in the sun, felt the steady west wind blowing from a thousand miles away, tasted the salt spray coming in off the tops of the breakers rolling in. The suitcase fell from my hand. I fell on my knees, and wept.

In 1959 the Venice West Espresso Café was where the Sponto Gallery is now, at 7 Dudley Avenue. It was, to us, a holy place, where the Muse hung out, where we went to say our sacred poetry. It was where some of us slept when the cops rousted us off the beach, or it was too cold to sleep on the sand. Stuart Z. Perkoff, greatest basso poet reader ever, created the Café. Tony Scibella painted the sign, Wally Berman the first graffiti: "Art is love is god." John Kenevan was proprietor when I arrived, then John and Anna Haag till the Nazi council closed it down in '65. Deep-felt thanks, Sponto for resurrecting the place and keeping the spirit alive.

Standing outside looking in, this is what you saw through the window: Long, narrow room. Paintings hanging on lath and plaster walls. Mis-

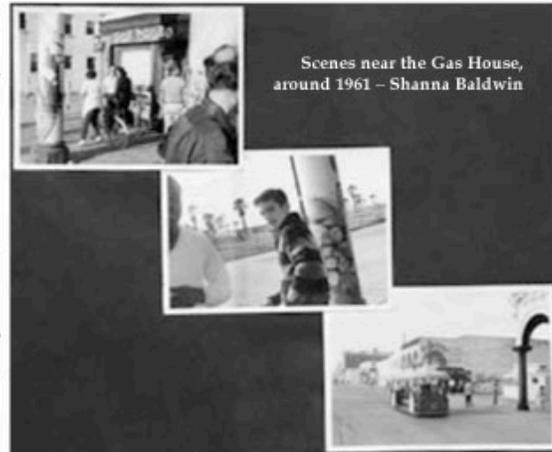
matched tables and chairs either side of a narrow aisle. Coffee-stained table tops, butt burned, candle dripped. Indefinable things embedded in the wax. School house lights shining down through smoky air thick enough to cut. Gleaming copper espresso maker standing on the counter, hissing and steaming like some kinda Jules Verne doomsday machine. Hi-Fi squatting on a high shelf bolted to the wall. There were almost fistfights caused by the tuning knob. Would it be jazz blaring full tilt boogie out of the box, would it be classical played down low? Jazz won because most wrists that twisted the knob liked Monk, hated Mozart. John Kenevan, shrapnel-scarred painter poet pacifist hero of Korea war, leaning elbows on counter willing to stake any beatnik landing broke on Venice Beach craving freedom, friendship, longing for a home, to a burger or one free night at the Grand Hotel. I made the scene same year, same month painter poet computer genius John Thomas appeared. Saw him one night at the Café sitting at a table alone, big as a lumber jack, brooding, bearded, chin in hand, staring into the candle flame. Back in Baltimore he'd helped build UNIVAC. When he saw they were going to build another one called MANIAC and make bigger bombs with it, he hitchhiked to Venice West. People played plastic chess late at night by candle light.

"Shush!" the Muse told me back then "You're too young, don't know nothin' yet. Listen. Watch." So when the poets read on Friday nights, that's what I did. I listened, I watched. There was Stuart Perkoff, John Thomas, Frankie Rios, Tony Scibella, John Haag, Jimmy Morris, Maurice Lacy. Other geniuses too, but I don't remember their names. Some came later, after I hitchhiked back East August '63, Philomene Long came later. Ex-nun poet movie maker genius, Philomene busted out of the convent and landed on Venice Beach in time to nurse Stuart Perkoff through death by cancer. She held Stuart's hand till the Lady came to claim him. Then, only recently, she helped beloved husband John Thomas finish his earth-walk poet path. Reluctantly, she let go his hand. After reading, the poets passed the hat. People put in quarters and dimes. Instead of applauding, we snapped our fingers so the LAPD wouldn't close us down for making noise. Curtis Smith, a.k.a. Bamboo, made poetry on his conga drum. Larry Lipton all in gray wearing a laborer's cap sat in back and grinned.

John and Anna Haag took over the café in '62. Anna, sweet, sweet Anna. "Ciao! Bill. Ciao!" Coal black eyes, candlelight glitter. The night John Haag first read his poem "A History Lesson," '59 or '60, the seed that grew the Beachhead and the PFP was planted in apolitical beatnik soil. Unlike Dos Passos, John Haag didn't turn sharp right at mid-life and disappoint us all. And Stuart's Lady the Muse who gave him words and moved his hand is still Queen of Bohemia, dressed in black like Philomene Long.

Except Frankie Rios and John Haag, all of those Venice Beach Beat poets who didn't know they'd mentored me are all gone now—gone the way of all flesh like Butler said. But when I come to visit in February I know I'll hear the echo of their words bouncing off the brick wall of the Cadillac across the street from Sponto. I'll

see their spirits moving like shadows down Promenade foggy nights.



Scenes near the Gas House, around 1961 - Shanna Baldwin

The Bookstore on Dudley

By Kittly Bratton

It seems like all the important events of my life were on or near the boardwalk of Venice.

My parents, Milton and Bunny Bratton met there and were a big part of the Beat generation, my dad was the music man - The Blues, Billie Holiday, etc. - and my mom, a very clever woman, well ahead of her time, happy in a mixed marriage.

In the 60's, my dad had a bookstore on Dudley, next to the Venice West Cafe.

It was quite a gathering place. I was a kid of 10 trying to get to POP whenever I could, in and out of the SRF all summer, I can still hear the conga players on the Brooks Ave. rocks, down by the water.

I also met my first true love on the ocean front, he lived in the same courtyard apartments as my dad, around 1973.

This place (517 OFW—the gingerbread cafe) has since been turned into shops.

But at the time it was full of elderly ladies and the owner was ancient, the building was built in 1924 and has nothing to do with Charlie Chaplin. It had originally been the summer place of star, Eddie Cantor. I lived there for a short time and sadly my mom died upstairs, in what used to be #17.

The place was sold in 1985 and it was the end of an era, my dad had lived there since '68.

So, Venice had given much to them and taken alot too.

It sure is not the way I see it in my memory. I love looking at the at the early photos of the fun place it was. But every time I visit, there are less of the old places left. I have one friend left there and I envy her. I clearly remember when the beach was my front yard, my kids were babies, everyone knew everyone. And the beautiful sunsets.

My dad died there in '87, he loved the freedom of individuality that it offered. It seems there is more than one idea of Venice, the folks who love it each carry their own dream of it.

Living in Sacramento - thinking of, longing for - Venice.



Manuella Theiss, Milton, and Shanna Baldwin...Milton owned the bookstore next to the Venice West Cafe. Courtesy of Shanna Baldwin.

This was Roscoe Weathers jazz group who played at the Gas House...I think this was the last time for jazz and poetry at the gas house - Shanna Baldwin



Peace in Palestine/Israel – two views

Peace in Jerusalem

By Pano Douvos

The best holiday wish would be a gift of peace between the Semitic brothers, the Jew and Arabs. A family dispute can be the worst, with major destructive consequences.

We remain skeptical of peace prospects, because murderous human behavior has a long and bloody history- the lamentable treatment of the American Indians is our historically -recent contribution.

Novelist Tom Robbins observes that "pillaging, torture and butchery visited upon Jerusalem's Jews over the centuries by various foreign contingents were simply too great and too horrendous to ever, ever be forgotten."

Today's Palestinians feel that Israel should be denied existence--that the only space, that the Jews are entitled to is the land under the Mediterranean Sea. The Hebrew tribes however are ancient tenants of the Holy Land, led there by Abraham between 1800 and 1500 BC. In 132 AD they were forced out by the Romans and the Greeks and also occupiers at one point. Nomad Arabs in 600 AD moved through as well.

In 1917 the Balfour Declaration gave British support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine, a mandated territory under League of Nations auspices. The British proceeded however in the 1930's to limit Jewish immigration. Israel came into official existence in May 14, 1948.

The UN General Secretary agrees to divide Palestine, the Jews accept and the Arabs balk. ON the next day May 15, 1948, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan attack Israel. A year later the Jews emerge victorious in the war.

In the 1967 Six-Day War and in the 1973 Yom Kippur War the Arab's attempt to push

Israel into the sea again proved unsuccessful. There was an Israel-Egypt peace treaty in 1979 and then in 1985 an Israel- PLO accord, but disputes continued, and somewhere along there Israel was pressed to return land captured from invading armies.

Novelist Robbins states, "these so called Palestinians who contest the Jews for this territory have little or no legitimate title to it....The disputed territory has not been the Palestinian home since time immemorial as they contend. Very few of them have lived in the area for more than 50 years....Most of the Arabs have foreign roots....They immigrated into areas settled by Jews in pre-Israel Palestine....But what really happened is that they were trucked in from all over the Arab world by the British."

To view the ongoing conflict as a case of underdog Palestinian stone-throwers against Israeli tanks is regrettably short sighted.

Perhaps we can now agree that the Jews have paid a high price for their right to live in their own homes, in their own country on a peaceful spot of dry land.



Peace of the conqueror, or peace with justice?

Unfortunately, the article, "Peace in Jerusalem," by Pano Douvos leans toward the former, and repeats a number of surfs against the Palestinians. This is hardly a way to promote lasting peace.

Douvos claims that Palenstinians feel that "Israel should be denied existence," a position that is certainly held by some, but not by their government, the Palestine Authority. Most Palestinians and their supporters have endorsed United Nations Resolution 242 and subsequent resolutions that recognize the right of Israel - and Palestine - to exist.

Violence has divided two peoples who have lived in peace for thousands of years. Too many Israelis and too many Palestinians have died because of this conflict. But, Douvos ignores the suffering of the Palestinians, hardly a way to create an atmosphere conducive to peace. He mentions the suffering of Jerusalem's Jews over the centuries, not much of which until recent years came at the hands of the Palestinians. He also repeats the old slander that the Palestinians are recent immigrants, and "have little or no legitimate title to (the land)." One wonders who it was that lived on the land when it was ruled by Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Crusaders, the Ottoman Empire, etc. Could it be that Palestinians lived in Palestine for all those centuries?

In any case, one cannot equate the vast military power of Israel with the poverty-ridden Palestinians. The Israeli government has militarily occupied Palestinians lands on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and continues to build settlements there in violation of the Oslo Accords. Now Sharon's government is building its own "Berlin Wall," made of concrete blocks, razor-wire fencing, watchtowers, trenches and motion sensors around the Palestinians.

Both Israelis and Palestinians deserve the right to "live in their own homes, in their own country on a peaceful spot of dry land," but it won't happen as long as the Israeli government seeks a military solution and is backed by billions of dollars in annual aid from the U.S. Support by Douvos and others for Sharon's hawkish policies only puts the day of reconciliation between these two peoples on the basis of mutual respect and cooperation farther into the future.

- The Beachhead Collective

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE BEACHHEAD! The following readers have given the Beachhead a gift as well as their congratulations. **MANY THANKS and CHEE WAH WAH!**

Joe Ahlberg
Susan Archibald
Carol Berman
Sheila Bernard
Chuck Bloomquist
Alexey Borodin
Christina Brunk
J. Kevin Brunk
Joy Buckley
Maureen Burrud
Leandra "Lulu" Carmone
Steve Clare
John Davis
Steve Dean
Destiny DeMarras
Dona Mary Dirlam
Pano Duovos
Marie Elena Foti
The Fizzies
Mary Getlein
Joe Gross
Martha Guerrero
Anna Ricci Haag
John Haag
Theresa Hulme
Ian Johnston
Hillary Kaye
Peggy Kennedy
John Kertis
William Leaf



Linda Lucks
Rick Mann
Susan Millman
Vessy Mink
Yolanda Miranda
Miriam More
Calvin Moss
Sue Nelson
John O'Kane
Ed Pearl
Lydia Poncé
Martin Rubin
Fred Schultz
Howard Siegel
Jim Smith
Moe Stavnezer
Alice Stek

Jason Stroh
Carol Tantou
Suzanne Thompson
Wellington D. Waters
Joselyn Wilkinson
Suzy Williams
Wendy Winston
Joan Winters
Letha Worden
Marianna V.
Vance
Will Yeager

PARTY

The Beachhead Collective would like to thank the artists, volunteers and other Venetians for supporting the Nov. 22 fundraiser.

Thank you - Jacquelin Fuentes, Francisco Letelier, Joselyn Wilkinson, Scunc, for your amazing performances, talent and positive energy!

Thank you to United Methodist Church for having us, Reverend Tom for your support! Food Not Bombs; our M.C. de Jour Suzie Williams, love you girl!, Peace & Freedom Party; cupcake sales rep. Lulu Carmone; Stage Manager Lydia Ponce; Superhero Jim Smith; Treasurer Alice Stek; Cashier Therese Hulmes; and Superman Sound Engineer, Eric Ahlberg.

And most of all, our first Chee Wah Wah, Free Venice Beachhead Awards for Service to the Community - Carol Fondiller and John Haag!

the holy three

By Frank T. Rios

the last time i was here
would i ever get back
dying as i am

i always thought i'll come
back belly resting
on the warm sand
& the edges of rooftops

but that was only in the poem
in all the poems not yet written
not spoken

there was a time we walked
with them surrounding us
in our holy
in our flight

i sometimes cry remembering
the three of us colored against
the venice sky
alive in our inner movement
alive in each other

the last time i was there
the holy scream swung
a soft wind
that carried me into the flock
as we hovered just above the wire-poles
breathe-talking

of course the night looms
like a long black coat
with the bottom cut off
walking the edge of passion
like a balance of knives

an original cut
of black
down dark streets
of stone
caressing the three of us
like birds
down the long hall
of our vision
broken like starlight
inside the ballad
of the poem

we three called venice
board-walking
our holy mouths
to shape real
the dark visions
as we huddled
under the half moon
of our lives

the years have passed
& time has broken the spell
& the birds that hang
on the roof-edges
have bad diarrhea

yet i still pray my muse
to bird-wing my tongue
above the wire-poles.

Poem for the Poets,

Stuart, Jimmy, John, Bill and Tony
July 1961

Out of the abyss
a cry of another

in the shape of a kiss
That poet my brother

the seagull sounds of Venice
like rusty swines
In an long forgotten
empty playground

the swift shadows
silently grow
and fade into shade

And the Lady wears black
So the blood wont show
I wore red.. so no one
would notice
My Eyes.

- Shanna Baldwin

Hillary Kaye

Remembrance

It is raining inside my coffin
where we the dead meet
we are talking about
better days
we are remembering back to
hope and fresh air.
We are complimenting ourselves
on I told you so.
Inside here where the light shines
only by mistake
we are remembering truth and
beauty
poetry and music.
We are compiling data on
a future devoid of dreams.
We are speculating on culture,
mentioning camaraderie
when there was time for friends.
We are hearkening back to a world
of sensuality
and love.
And we are desperate
to exchange this time for any.

**Memories of Venice,
1956**

I am 8yrs old.Mom moved to
Venice in the 50's. Sleeping in
sandy beds of the children of
Beatnick poets and artist. Waking
in the middle of the night to the
artist peeing on his painting and
the couch I am sleeping on. Larry
lipton and his wife Netty hosting.
Big Daddy and the Gas House
with a bathtub in the middle of the
studio. I sat in and thought it was
funny. Main Street sunlight mis-
sion, the 5 and dime, sawfay, a
gas station on the corner of main
and Ocean Park Blvd. Olivia's
Soul food. Later Mom worked the
Muffin Pan Game at P.O.P. I got
in free. Spying on prostitutes and
winos flashing on speedway.
Don't go to the canals the Hells
Angeles are there. The Venture
Inn and Saucy Dog are where
they hang out. Fond memories.

- Christine Fulbright

POETRY



Photo by Jim Smith

FREE! FREE! FREE!

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Free the Cuban Five!

Free Leonard!

Free Love!

Free your mind!

Free America!

Free Media!

Free Venice!

Happy Holidays

Peace,
Lydia

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Tales of the Nude Beach, etc.

- continued from Page One

Marcia - monique schick would know. monique is the one who is like the keeper of the flame of the canal festivals.

Marcia - so, your first day in venice was what day?

Paul - i moved in on a friday. it was june 21st of 1974. it was the day after the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. i was living in west hollywood. my old girlfriend karin moved out to phoenix to be with her other boyfriend gary, who was playing in the nba at the time. i had gotten a job at doug boyd's, which was on 3rd street and santa monica which is now the 3rd floor of the gap on the promenade. it's like the storage room now, which is like weird, y'know. with this job in santa monica, it was very inconvenient to commute from west hollywood, which was ridiculous. and the van i had at the time was very unreliable.

Marcia - that was bill.

Paul - so i guess after work one day, i said "well, i should move to venice. why not? it's the beginning of summer right now, and i'll just drive along until i find a place." just like, naive. so i found this place on westminster, just west of pacific avenue. what i loved, it was close to the beach. yeah - it was a half a block from the beach! 40 westminster #5. go down through 2 doors and then you get to my pad in the back on the left. it was great. it had early morning sun. it had southern exposure all day long. it was a great place. so then i packed up. friday night i remember pulling in, unpacked the van. i had all the boxes, i had my bed, i kinda just like did it. and i was like "aaaaah." i remember actually thinking, "here i am in venice. aaaaah. this is gonna be a cool part of my life." 30 years later, i'm still here.

Marcia - you can't get away.

Paul - so the next morning i wake up. "aaah, it's the summer. yesterday was the summer solstice. this is saturday morning. i just moved to the beach. i'm going to the beach." so i put on my shorts and i grab my towel and my flip flops and my sunglasses -

Marcia - which beach did you go to?

Paul - straight down westminster. i mean, what the heck! you live at the beach, you go to your beach. you check it out. i walked down to speedway, and then to ocean front walk. right there on the right was the lafayette cafe. that's where the lafayette was. so i just kept going. i get down there and it's like 10, 10:30, whatever time it was. oh my god! it's the nude beach! i lived exactly up from the nude beach! i'd barely heard about it, but now, there it was. it's like, this is my beach! it's the nude beach! so i like went, "ok, i'm here."

Marcia - so your first morning in venice is at the nude beach? y'know, that's comparable to mine at the canal festival.

Paul - the first day i remember really quite specially, it was like really cool. plus, just the swimming in the water and the feeling of the ocean with no clothes on. it's just like so - it's so nice.

Marcia - it was so perfect back then -

Paul - yeah, and everybody was just like -

Marcia - really cool

Paul - yeah, and the lifeguards, they knew how to take care of the guys that were jerking off under their towels. they just came up and said, "c'mon. haven't you got anything else better to do? c'mon!" just doing that to the guy would just totally embarrass him so he'd have to stop. i saw that, y'know -

Marcia - i have a really funny story about that, because i have this friend, georgette. blonde nurse, santa cruz gal. she told me that she was at the nude beach with a girlfriend. and there was some guy walking around taking pictures. and he was like wearing shorts and sneakers, like one of those tourist guys. "hi. hello. i'm a tourist." and taking pictures. and they pants'd him. she and her girlfriend just pants'd him, and said "y'know, you're gonna take pictures of us - you can't be here unless you're with it or without it."

Paul - that's kinda like my thing. one sunday afternoon, it was like 5 or 6 or 7 o'clock. it was the summer time and everybody stayed out at the nude beach until the sun went down. i put on my clothes and was walking back. and these two old ladies were walking up and wearing old, like old ladies from texas clothes. and they go "xcuse me." and i go "yeah." "is this the nude beach?" i'm going "yeah. it's the nude beach." and they said "we wanna get a picture. can you take your clothes off for us?" <laughter ensues> i went, "no." i said "just go on down there if you want to take pictures ladies." knowing it was a very long walk for them and they just wanted to get their cheap thing, but i wasn't gonna give them <laughter again> even though i did have the overall tan which was great and i loved it.

Marcia - haaa! imagine showing these pictures to their nieces today. uhhh -

Paul - but the nude beach, it got all controversial. had to go before the city counsel. and i think the city counsel might have decided that it was ok to have this little designated area on the city property -

Marcia - i think they did.

Paul - no they didn't. and the reason was because people were protesting for it. they went in there and they got naked in the city counsel, instead of just playing it cool. so because they got naked, then it's like "of course we can't do this! if we allow nudity there, then there'll be nudity everywhere. it'll be the naked city" kind of a thing. i think that's what happened and that's why it finally got shut down. but i remem-

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ber the police, the cops were really cool. there were people that were peace and freedom party guys going around, and it was really, really cool.

Marcia - it was a kind of a post-woodstock feeling of we're all cool, and everything's great, and we're all one.

Paul - yeah. plus, i spent my whole summer body surfing nude. and that was great! i remember tommy arakas and his cousin the voice came and we all just went naked. and it was just, phew, such a cool time.

Marcia - but that lasted what? really one summer -

Paul - yeah, just 1974.

Marcia - how did that effect your concept of living in venice?

Paul - shhht, are you kidding me? it was great.

Marcia - how did it make you feel? did you feel like you landed home?

Paul - yes. i felt like i was at home. there are certain spots in america - in the 70s there was a section of richmond virginia called the fan. this was the section that was like the east village, that was like berkeley at the time, which was like venice. there was just like these cool communities. i really felt like i was home. i think that for me the whole idea of the nude beach came at the perfect time in my life. i was 23 going on 24 two months later, after i moved in there, and it was just so lovely. it was like a hippie paradise. at the end of the first day, you remember janet planet?

Marcia - yeah

Paul - that's where i met her. so i'm laying there and i'm like frying my wienie, and she walks up saying "can i lay down next to you?" and i look at her and go "sure." and she was blonde and surfer-chick-ish. she was already tan all over. so we became an instant item.

Marcia - she was a regular venice local. a person you could trust.

Paul - i loved the nude beach. everybody should be nude. i think that the nude beach is a very important section of the history of the entire 99 years of venice. so therefore, i just want this section to be included in the free venice beachhead paper.

from the Archives
- Free Venice Beachhead, March 1975

NUDE VENICE LIVES

On February 5, 1975 the Venice Town Council approved two resolutions making clear the Venice Community's support of individual lifestyles. The resolutions were prompted by the arrest of Venice resident David McCoy on Nov. 16, 1974 after being seen painting the outside of his house on a ladder allegedly while nude. One resolution calls for an immediate dismissal of the 314, 1 (obscene exposure) charge against Mr. McCoy; an immediate end to police arrests and harassments for nudity within the entire Venice Community; an immediate end to City Attorney Office's prosecution of nudity within the Venice Community.

The second resolution requests that the Los Angeles Police Dept. and prosecuting agencies desist from their present policy of arresting and prosecuting for victimless crimes, such as nudity within, the Venice Community.

The Town Council stance was based on U.S. Supreme Court decisions which allow a community to decide for itself what constitutes obscenity. Also involved was the State Supreme Court decision re: Chad Merrill Smith. According to the Smith decision a person does not expose his private parts "lewdly" unless his conduct is sexually motivated. Mere nudity does not constitute a form of sexual activity. Examples of actual "lewd" conduct are listed where a defendant was seen masturbating in the doorway of an apartment house.



The Venice Town Council has reaffirmed the pro-nudity stand taken last summer when it was resolved to "oppose any limitation on the present unrestricted right to nude bathing on the entire Venice Beach."

Since the law is clear on the point that "nude is not lewd" one must question why McCoy is being prosecuted in light of the fact there are at least five witnesses willing to testify that on the date of the arrest there was absolutely no obscene behavior or gestures associated with his nudity.

The L.A. Police Dept. and City Attorney's office it would seem, are attempting to dictate to the residents of the Venice Community what their lifestyle should be. This is an abuse of police power and goes beyond the slogan "to protect and to serve" into the area of "to control and to harass".

The trial of David McCoy is on March 5, 1975 at Division 90 in West Los Angeles at 8:30 A.M. It is hoped that this will be the last of these ridiculous prosecutions which encroach on the right of an individual in Venice to decide how to dress.

Conviction for a 314 charge requires an individual to register as a sex offender with the Police Dept. within 10 days, in every city where he may live.