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# FREE VENICE SINCE 1968 BEACHHEAD



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**DEVELOPERS LINE UP  
TO DEVOUR VENICE - See Pages 1, 4, 5, 8, 11**

## Living on Lincoln or Living in Riverside?

By Alice Stek

Not Quite What We Had In Mind

Mixed-use, small-scale development of Lincoln Blvd is just what Venice needs, but developers have other interests. Clever developers give the appearance that they are responding to community needs.

In the September 2002 Beachhead we discussed a proposal for improvement of Lincoln Blvd (*Living on Lincoln* - by Jim Smith). The idea is to incorporate small businesses on street level and affordable housing above, along with good public transit on Lincoln. Some large developers have heard the mixed-use message, but being large development corporations, they are proposing inappropriate, huge projects for our not-so-lovely Lincoln Blvd.

One of these, the Lincoln Center Redevelopment Project, was presented to the community at the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council Land Use and Planning Committee on January 20. Architects Khalsa and Associates presented their plans for a 6-story, 75-foot high development covering the 2 blocks now occupied by Rite Aid, Ralph's and Ross. This would include a large parking lot facing Lincoln, "small businesses," restaurants and cafes on ground level, and on the 2nd

*-continued on page 8*

## Can Venice Continue to Coast?

By Moe Stravnezer

A recent court decision regarding the Coastal Commission has caused great concern among those of us who strongly support the protection of our coast. This is especially true in Venice when, between 1972 and 1987, the Coastal Act provided an alternative to the rapacious development tendencies of the City of Los Angeles.

Indeed, were it not for the Coastal Commission, Venice would be unrecognizable: hotels would dot the ocean front and Pacific Av; a major road would bisect the community; the canals and Ballona Lagoon would be deep dredged allowing motorized boats to ply the waterways; and hun-

dreds of units of affordable housing would not exist. This didn't happen because community activists successfully appealed these development schemes to the Coastal Commission. So, reports that the court had put the commission in jeopardy sent shock waves through the community.

These shock waves were felt throughout the state as well. Drive the coast highway and you'll be struck by what you don't see as much as what you do. Wetlands that aren't filled by developments, access to beaches that didn't exist before, oil rigs that aren't there, dwarf forests that you can walk through, mountains unspoiled by housing developments, views not blocked by hotels or Wal-Marts. The effect the Coastal Commission has had on our precious coast and the people of California is incalculable. And, is taken for granted.

Taken for granted, in part, because almost half the people living in California today are too young to remember a time before Proposition 20, which established the commission, was passed in 1972. In large measure, however, it's because so many of us have simply gotten used to the commission being there that we have forgotten the work it has done.

But, contrary to rumor and innuendo, the court did not strike down the Coastal Act nor did the court abolish the Coastal Commission. What the court did do, in a very narrowly drawn opinion, is to declare that the legislature has too much control over the commissioners it appoints.

A little background will help. In order to defend the commission from undue influence by a single branch of the government, the Coastal Act of 1976 was crafted to give each house of the legislature and the governor an equal number of appointments to the commission. Thus, the Senate Rules Committee, the Speaker of the Assembly and the Governor each appoints 4 commissioners to 2-year terms. This is similar to the process used in appointing members to many of the state's regulatory boards and commissions. But the Coastal Act is different in one crucial

*-continued on page 4*

## REVOLTIN' DEVELOPMENTS

As you will see by the articles on recent developments in Venice, the City of Los Angeles at the instigation of speculators and developers are flouting the mandate of the Coastal Commission and Venice residents for affordable housing and access to the beach.

Los Angeles and the speculators are determined to shove "highest and best use" philosophy up the canals and narrow walkways and the low rise streetscape of Venice.

The almost automatic approval of the L.A. Planning Commission to consolidate lots in Oakwood, the Silver Strand, etc., almost guarantee mansionization and high end high-rise high price tenements that would effectively block all but the most affluent of Angelinos from enjoying the beach that all L.A. residents pay taxes for.

Do you see a pattern here?

Contact Councilwoman Miscikowski's office at 310-575-8461 and let her know your feelings about turning Venice into Century City West.



**Colorful peace coverage**

- pages 6-7 Artist: Diane Butler



**BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:**

A Clover, Pano Douvos, Fast Eddie, Carol Fondiller, Peggy Lee Kennedy, Maryjane, Screaming Mimi, Vessy Mink, Calvin Moss, Lydia Poncé, 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.

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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 or Computer

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- Richard Abcarian
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- Alessandra Montagna
- Mike Suhd
- Suzanne Thompson

**Become A  
 Beachhead Sustainer  
 See Page 5**

# MEN: PRO AND CON

## Some Modest Proposals for a Woman-Friendly Society

By Lynne Bronstein

Recently, a friend sent me a letter which has been making the rounds of the Internet for several years. It was a list of instructions to women to help them avoid being attacked and raped.

I've seen this list before. In fact, it was posted on the wall at a place where I used to work. I've seen these instructions once too often. The friend who sent me the list had heard my stories about harrowing encounters with predatory men. I appreciate those who want to help but I am getting tired of women always having to shoulder the burden of defending themselves. Why isn't there a letter being circulated to teach men and boys how to not rape women?

There is hope, however. Scientists are working on some amazing new technological developments which could be used to make our world safe for women. These developments are to be used on men, which should let women breathe a sigh of collective relief.

Dr. T.F. Barnard of Cal Tech has created a special microchip which contains a recording device. This chip can be implanted in a man's body, preferably in the genital area. If a man is accused of rape, a simple body scan will play back the recording, providing virtual proof that the man's body was used to attack a woman.

An experiment at Stanford has yielded a new drug, a pill called Testarelix. Originally designed to combat car sickness, the drug has proven effective in reducing male hormonally induced aggression. As in the 1973 Gene Rodenberry TV movie and series pilot "Planet Earth," American males would be required by law to take one Testarelix pill a day. "Not only will women be safer from male aggression," says Dr. Leslie Clark of Stanford, "But this drug will certainly have an effect on our foreign policy. I doubt that our President will feel like waging war under the influence of Testarelix." Political commentators will doubtless insist that this proposed program will only really be effective if the leaders of those hostile nations possessing weapons of mass destruction can also be persuaded to adopt the program.

The small Iowa town of Banning Wells has been trying out a plan that many other American cities may soon adopt- a curfew for men. "It's illegal for men to be on the street after dark in Banning Wells," says Banning Wells police chief Edgar Loon (his real name). All night jobs in Banning Wells are held by women. Even Chief Loon himself has to be home by six p.m. So far, Loon admits that the program has met with little opposition on Monday nights, when men are content to stay at home and watch football and crunch on pork rinds.

"I love the idea of these programs," says UCLA sociologist Margaret Dutton. "Just imagine-if we have men tranquilized, scanned, and corralled by curfews, I will be able to walk down the street naked at midnight, just like I've always wanted to."

When asked if the programs possibly violated men's right to privacy., Dutton replied, "We've had laws curtailing our right to abortion, and we've all had years of having our private parts invaded by cold speculums. I think it's about time the men found out what it feels like to not own their bodies." ★

Dear brothers, sisters and fellow revolutionaries,

I have come into this world of internet to see what my former compatriots are up to and see this incredible world of action, of revolt, which has finally begun again in the US, and which is also nostalgia for me while I am in Denmark, also protesting the insanities of capitalism-imperialism. I write primarily to let you all know you are appreciated by many many, and this old veteran of wars against the US state. I got weaned in protest in Venice four decades ago. I was with the Venice West Cafe, the Du Bois Club, Free Venice anti-Vietnam war, etc., all the way back in 1960.

**VENICE MEN**

HmmmVENICE MEN ARE SPECIAL MEN!  
 VENICE MEN ARE SPECIAL WHEN:  
 THEY START TO PLAY THEIR MUSIC,  
 BLAZIN IN THE SUN --  
 THEN -- THEY PLAY THEY'RE VENICE MEN!

VENICE MEN ARE GOOD AND STRONG!  
 SOME OF THEM CAN "DO NO WRONG!"  
 AND IF THEY'VE GOT THE RHYTHM,  
 THEY'VE ALWAYS GOT IT WITH 'EM.  
 CAUSE --EVERY VENICE MAN'S -- A SONG!

I LIKE TO FEEL THE BOARDWALK BEAT!  
 I LIKE TO SEE THE SOUL-MEN SING!  
 I LIKE TO WATCH THE ROLLER SKATERS --  
 ROCKIN' THEIR FEET!  
 (ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'RE DOING THEIR THING)

I LIKE TO HOLD A BALL PLAYER'S HANDS.  
 I LIKE TO WARM A SWIMMER'S TOES.  
 I LOVE TO SEE THE MUSCLES.  
 RIPPLE IN THE SUN --  
 AND, ALL THE GUYS IN -- "MUSCLE CLOTHES"!

HmmmVENICE MEN ARE SPECIAL MEN!  
 VENICE MEN ARE SPECIAL WHEN:  
 THEY START TO SHOW THEIR MUSCLES,  
 THAT RIPPLE IN THE SUN --  
 THEN -- THEY SHOW THEY'RE VENICE MEN!

VENICE MEN ARE YOUNG AND OLD!  
 SOME OF THEM ARE "MADE OF GOLD!"  
 AND IF THEY HAVE NO MUSCLE  
 YOU KNOW THEY'VE GOT A "HUSTLE"  
 AND -- THE GREATEST STORIES, TOLD!

I LIKE TO CATCH THE SURFERS' RIDES.  
 I LIKE TO HEAR THE POETS READ.  
 I LIKE TO WATCH THE BODY BUILDERS -- TAN-  
 NING THEIR HIDES --  
 (I EVEN LIKE TO WATCH 'EM FEED)

I LIKE THE GUYS WITH 'FAR OUT" ART!  
 I LIKE THE GUYS WITH "SWEET GUITARS!"  
 I LOVE TO HEAR THE MUSIC,  
 BLAZING IN THE SUN --  
 THEN -- THEY PLAY THEY'RE VENICE MEN

VENICE MEN ARE GOOD AND STRONG!  
 SOME OF THEM "CAN DO NO WRONG!"  
 AND IF THEY'VE GOT THE RHYTHM,  
 THEY'VE ALWAYS GOT IT WITH 'EM.  
 CAUSE -- EVERY VENICE MAN'S -- A SONG!

LOVE,  
 TINA CATALINA

We kicked ass and I am so glad to see others taking up the challenge-the fight-the moral courage.

I left the US in 1980, lived in and worked for the Cuban revolution for eight years, one year with the Sandinistas, oh, and it goes on. Now I am in Denmark and write, teach, hold talks about the US Global Strategy, the wars, racism.....

I am glad you are alive and kicking.  
 keep on truckin',

Love Ron Ridenour

# POETRY

Breathes a Venetian numbed so dead  
Who never, in a rage, has said  
This situation's pretty stark,  
My kingdom for a place to park!  
-Meri Albright

## Dawn Over Venice

By John Haag

The sun, like henna,  
bleaching the night away,  
orange-gold glancing  
off back windows

Making the chrome shine  
on passing cars  
then filling the sky  
with its golden copper

Fire-ball, the people  
half-asleep, walking  
to Winchell's for do-nuts  
and coffee, starting

The good morning with  
hesitant conversations.

## Causa Belli

"They read good books, and  
quote, but never learn  
a language other than the  
scream of rocket-burn  
Our straighter talk is  
drowned but ironclad:  
Elections, money, empire, oil  
and Dad."

- Andrew Motion  
British Poet Laureate

## Set Free the Slaves!

By Peggy Lee Kennedy

"Be Free," I said to a spirit  
and the wind took your dead ashes

Again I say, "Be Free!"

Maybe they heard my words  
but did they feel their meaning?

It's a Message - Man  
words are Words  
actions are Actions  
And is it different?  
Racism from Sexism  
Reverse from Sub Verse

The Record of History was Chosen  
for us, not about us  
Oppression of Woman is even Older  
than those Mesopotamian words.  
The actions are norms, burned-in,  
embedded acutely  
A disgusting festering sore  
that just **Feels Natural** - NO!

Feel My Passion!  
History's Chains:  
the bondage of My Mothers!  
the thoughts and actions of All  
Feel My Heart!  
Present Reality:  
the creation of a "third-space" world  
the actions of a New Mind!

Free My Daughters!  
Free My Spirit!

Set Free the Slaves!  
Be Free!

## LaFayette, we were there

The LaFayette Café located on the Ocean Front Walk and Westminster Avenue was a meeting place for Venetians since the 1950s and before. It was one of the few sit down places on the ocean front where one could get Coffee and Conversation after the coffee houses were shut down by the Venice Civic Union.

Favorite servers were Yola, Ruth, and later the legendary Anna Haag—but all the waiters named and unnamed had their own following.

I used to like to sit at the formica counter and listen to Yola expound on her theories of the moon landing and various assassinations (they all braided together in a very colorful twine of conspiracies and global cooling).

The LaFayette's pink-orange naugahyde booths were redolent of decades of fried eggs, hamburgers and stewed coffee. And cigarette smoke. Remember cigarette smoke? Ted, the owner was always there facing the quilted chrome back splash as he flipped burgers and scraped the grill, as was the picture reputed to be of General LaFayette that hung over the cash register.

Pacé Salve La Fayette,  
et Merci Randy.

- Carol Fondiller



## LAFAYETTE CAFE

By Randy S. Brook

When you reach for the illusion and close your fist on sand  
When the time it takes to say "hello" no longer fits your plan  
When your special friends have all left town and you just can't find your way  
I'll meet you down at the LaFayette Cafe

When your mind has turned to ashes and your face has turned to clay  
When the moonlit dreams an' promises have broken with the day  
When your newfound lover blows a kiss and slowly walks away  
I'll meet you down at the LaFayette Cafe

When your treasures are in boxes in somebody's garage  
When your castle walls have crumbled into yesterday's mirage  
When your keys have fallen off the ring and they tow your car away  
I'll meet you down at the LaFayette Cafe

And we can start over with nothing  
But a seagull in the sky  
A diamond lace of broken glass  
And a dream that will not die

When all the self-important fools have left their violence on your door  
And you will not seek forgiveness for the honesty you wore  
When they've taken all the love you bring and the songs you have to play  
I'll meet you down at the LaFayette Cafe

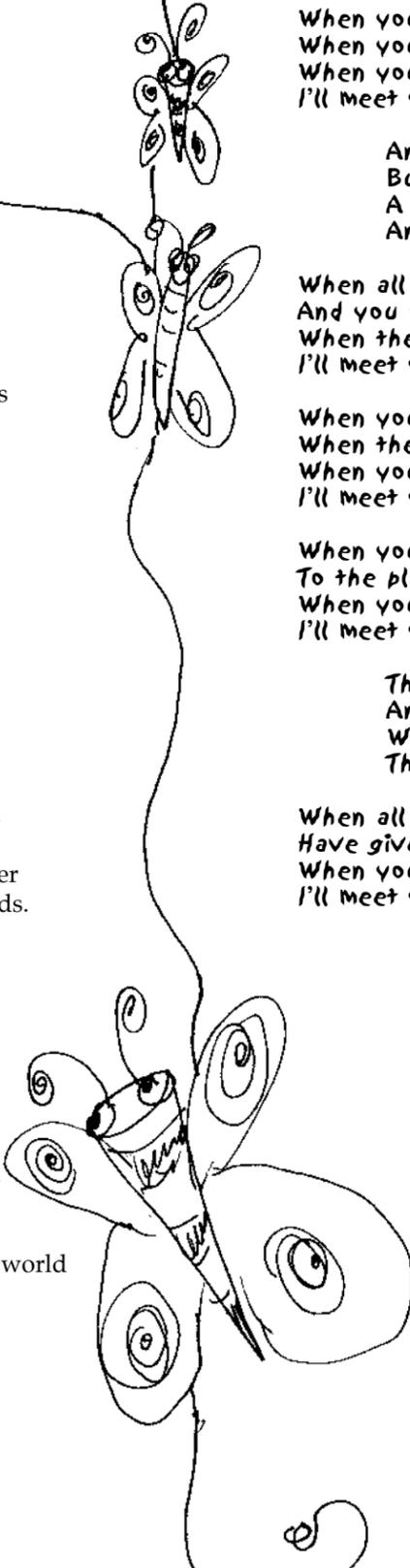
When you grow tired of your leisure and your magic ocean view  
When the words you write won't fit the page and the meaning don't break through  
When you just can't find redemption in anything you do or say  
I'll meet you down at the LaFayette Cafe

When your highway songs've all been sung and the road has brought you back  
To the place you started from with your rainbow blanket and your pack  
When you reach the place where the gulls won't fly and the children do not play  
I'll meet you down at the LaFayette Cafe

Through all the wind and tears Abandoned fears  
And voices lifted high  
Waves pounding on an empty beach  
That told us not to try

When all the love-lost gypsy children you thought were yours to save  
Have given back their broken minds and vanished with the waves  
When your rainbow tears have washed the streets and there's nothing left to say  
I'll meet you down at the LaFayette Cafe

Take Care, ☺ ☹  
Randy ☺ ☹



# Coastin'

— continued from page 1

respect and that difference is the linchpin of the court's decision.

The Coastal Act allows appointees two year terms at the pleasure of the appointing authority. In other words, commissioners can be removed at will. To quote directly from the court's opinion:

"The flaw is that the unfettered power to remove the majority of the Commission's voting members, and to replace them with others, if they act in a manner disfavored by the Senate Committee on Rules and the Speaker of the Assembly makes those commission members subservient to the Legislature."

Ironically, this is the opposite view of the anti-commission people who brought the suit that resulted in this decision. Their view has always been that the commission is out of control, unfettered by any agency of government. Meaning, of course, that the commission could over-rule local government decisions where developers have far greater influence to the detriment of the public. In other words, lets go back to the bad old days when the coast was for sale and the public be damned!

So, what can be done?

The Coastal Commission has taken the first steps. In early January, the commission voted to: first, appeal to the court to rehear this matter; second, to appeal the decision to the California Supreme Court if the appellate court refuses a rehearing. In either case, the court decision would be stayed during the appeal process and the commission would continue to function normally. It should be noted that either the appellate court or the supreme court can simply strike the "offending" language from the Coastal Act and that would be that.

There is also the strong possibility that the matter would go to the state legislature, especially if the court refuses either appeal. And here there are many possibilities. The legislature could simply vote to strike the section of the Act that allows for removal of commissioners at will and satisfy the court's decision. But when such a change takes effect is also an issue. So, many are urging the governor to call a special session of the legislature because a change in a special session takes effect in 90 days while the same change in a regular session would not take effect until next year. Is this complicated enough?

If not, consider the fact that there is some movement out there to increase the number of commissioners so that the governor would get to chose the majority rather than the same number as the senate and assembly. Imagine what the commission would have looked like under Pete Wilson or Ronald Reagan if that were the law when they were governor.

There may come a time, and it may come sooner than later, when we will have to demonstrate our support for a strong, independent Coastal Commission. A recent letter in the L.A. Times from a man in Seattle states the case for doing just that says it better than I can:

"California's coast is a priceless resource enjoyed by all. The Coastal Commission has championed public access, environmental protection and economic development for all the people, not just the few who can afford the high cost of coastal real estate."

Hear, hear!! ★

**Join your neighbors and friends  
Feb. 1, March 1 and the 1st of  
every month in**

## Car-free Venice

**One day a month  
Make Venice – and the planet –  
a better place to live**

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around Venice at 4 pm at the Venice  
Circle, Main & Windward**

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*No war for oil, No global warming,  
No pollution, A more livable city*

# Coastal Commission says NO to widening of Lincoln Blvd.

By Jim Smith

At least we won one victory against development during the past month. It was the Coastal Commission to the rescue again. This time against CalTrans, with Playa Vista in the background, which wanted to widen Lincoln Blvd. to seven lanes through the Ballona Wetlands.

The developers were up against a host of wetlands advocates and four Venetians: Sheila Bernard, John Davis, Steve Friedman and me (see below). We all argued that even though traffic on Lincoln is horrendous, widening it to accommodate even more cars at the expense of wetlands was not the answer. The Commission listened to our testimony and to the recommendation of their own staff who were opposed to granting a construction permit to CalTrans. The commissioners were also swayed by Bolsa Chica, a recent court case against widening roads through wetlands except when there is no alternative and the widening must accommodate existing traffic, not future development.

The Battle for Lincoln Blvd. is far from over, but it felt good to win this one!  
**Here is the testimony of three Venetians before the Coastal Commission:**

**Good afternoon, Commissioners:**

The widening of Lincoln Boulevard would be an uneconomical use of scarce public funds.

At about \$40 million per mile, a light rail system on Lincoln Boulevard from LAX to Santa Monica, a ten-mile stretch, would cost about \$400 million. Compare this to the cost of piecemeal highway work on Lincoln Boulevard, including today's proposed project, which are part of the mitigation for the Playa Vista development, all of which are budgeted at about \$300 million. For a slightly higher price, we could get a rail project that would stimulate development of housing and businesses along a transit corridor, while diminishing congestion in streets and parking areas, thus improving access to the coast.

It is clear to an enormous and growing number of people that our traffic and environmental problems can only be solved by means of a long-range, comprehensive plan for our region that gets large numbers of people out of their cars, instead of ceding more and more land for more and more cars. The Coastal Commission could be of great help to us in this endeavor. Please vote against the proposed Caltrans permit.

— Sheila Bernard

**I'd like to address some of the issues that go beyond preserving the wetlands, although that in itself is reason enough to deny this application to widen Lincoln Blvd.**

We in Venice are already overwhelmed by traffic from single-occupant vehicles. The Coastal Commission should further its mission by discouraging auto use near the beach. Through traffic up and down Lincoln Blvd. actually inhibits access to the beach, whether by car, bus, bicycle or walking.

Most traffic engineers will tell you that simply widening a freeway or boulevard like Lincoln will only

attract more traffic, in this case, from the San Diego Freeway and other streets. It will not speed the flow of traffic.

What we need is mass transit on Lincoln Blvd. combined with adequate affordable housing density to support it. Mass transit, not single-occupant cars, is the wave of the future. It will come sooner or later, but sooner if the Coastal Commission will support it.

— Jim Smith

**Approving this permit would clearly prejudice the ability of the Coastal Commission to conduct its mandatory review of the Marina del Rey Local Coastal Program according to the Coastal Act as agreed in a Consent Decree recorded in the Superior Court resulting from a legal challenge to conduct such review by a local non-profit organization.**

Approving this permit would further prejudice the Coastal Commission's ability to certify a Local Coastal Program for Venice under the provisions of Chapter 3 of the California Coastal Act.

The California Environmental Quality Act requires a full Environmental Impact Report for this application. County of Los Angeles Former Sanitary Landfill Maps show a former Dump at this site. This former land use indicates a high probability that the soil and groundwater may be contaminated with a variety of Toxic Substances.

Construction could redistribute toxic substances into the Ballona and Silverado Aquifers which have been designated as a municipal and beneficial sources of public drinking water. Given the fact the Coastal Commission and Caltrans lack the expertise to properly evaluate the potential threat to human health and safety and the environment from such toxic substances I respectfully request that the Coastal Commission invite and enjoin the California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control to evaluate the potential threat to human health and safety

in the Coastal Zone.

The project is located in a Seismic Hazard Zone and is near proximity to active faults and submarine canyons prone to slumping that could cause local tsunami-genic events.

The new bridge over Ballona Creek that is proposed would be occupied by thousands of humans in automobiles on a daily basis introducing a new seismic risk element to the populace.

This new highway bridge and widening of Lincoln is proposed on Public Trust Lands. Ca vs. Summa adjudicated at the U.S. Supreme Court does not apply to these lands and a delineation of the Public Trust by the Lands Commission is now necessary to determine the full extent of the public trust in this region.

Finally, other environmentally superior transportation alternatives have not been adequately considered by Caltrans.

Caltrans incorrectly assumes that traffic is synonymous with automobiles. People are the traffic and there are more efficient ways to transport volumes of people than Caltrans can currently see.

A practical solution would be to route westerly bound Culver Blvd. automobile traffic directly onto Jefferson over the Route 90 bridge. This would allow the complete removal of Culver Blvd from the wetlands present in area C and area A allowing them to flourish as a new State Park. These two unnecessary sections of Culver bisect areas A and C with what biologists call a killing zone for wildlife. Removal of this road would allow wildlife to freely move across the area. Lincoln Creek could then be raised allowing a true connection between areas A and C both of which have been proposed as part of a new State Park.

Light rail could then be directed over the former Culver Bridge with minimal to no impact on the wetlands in Ballona the Ballona Wetlands, creating a more environmentally friendly transportation and coastal access modality for humans traveling in this sector of the Coastal Zone.



**Q. What do Venetians want?**

**A. Anything. As long as it costs less than a dollar.**

Opening day, Jan. 24, at the new 99¢ store at Lincoln & Rose.

PLEASE RETURN Shopping Carts HERE THANK YOU

# The Battle of San Juan Avenue

## San Juan Ave / Abbot Kinney Project Update

by Lydia Poncé

A proposed three level monstrosity was approved by Emily Luddy, the Deputy Commissioner back in September.

An appeal was filed against this approved project because Ms. Emily Gabel-Luddy had difficulty interpreting and applying the Venice Specific Plan and the Beach Coastal Commission Zoning regulations for this particular development. This development is too large for the street, which consists of one and two story buildings. It does not provide sufficient parking, as required by the Venice Specific Plan. It provides for the sale of liquor. There are already too many liquor outlets in our community. The development would add nothing to our community. The condominiums would be too expensive for area residents. The proposed business would not cater to the neighborhood. The development creates a potential health hazard due to flooding in the subterranean garage. The development creates a traffic hazard with the only parking entrance/exit on a residential street, San Juan Ave." Ms. Emily Luddy is now suggesting that our appeal be denied.

The hearing regarding the appeal was the 15th of January and the notice never made it to me via mail and I am the appellant on behalf of the 126 signatories. Hey, Councilwoman Cindy M. did not receive her notice either. What a cawinky dinky! Thanks to Sheila Bernard's e-mail that gave me the information I needed to get off work early and represent - as best I could - without preparation or paperwork.

A small victory was made when the commission gave us a continuance, since Councilwoman Cindy M. or myself were not properly notified. All we want is that the developer, who has three lots to build on, to simply scale down... that

### HEARING:

**4:30 pm, Feb 5  
Wednesday at  
Henry Medina  
West Los Angeles  
Parking Enforcement  
Facility – 2nd Floor  
11214 W. Exposition Blvd.  
Los Angeles  
(cross streets are  
Sepulveda Blvd.  
and Exposition;  
southwest corner;  
on street parking.)**



would place this project within compliance with the ordinances, rules and regulations (Venice Specific Plan and Beach Coastal Commission Zoning) that exist to supposedly protect our neighborhoods from such monstrosities.

If this project is approved and our appeal denied... then what is next? Someone knowledgeable with the Venice Specific Plan and the Beach Coastal Commission Zoning MUST hear this project!

Come out to the continuance and be heard ...or send an e-mail to me and I will submit it! <NuLydia@aol.com> ★

## Los Angeles practices LCP interruptus

By John Davis

The City of Los Angeles is flouting the law, to the detriment of all of us coastal dwellers. Chapter 1, Section 30006, of the California Coastal Act reads as follows: "The Legislature further finds and declares that the public has a right to fully participate in decisions affecting coastal planning, conservation and development; that the achievement of sound coastal conservation and development is dependent upon public understanding and support; and that the continuing planning and implementation of programs for coastal conservation and development should include the widest opportunity for public participation."

Los Angeles is doing something different. The Coastal Act requires local governments to create Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) to ensure maximum public participation in the planning process. The LCP must also be designed to reflect and implement the stringent environmental and access protections of the Act.

The City has completed only half of the Venice LCP, but is allowing development at such a rapid rate that it will prejudice the Coastal Commission's ability to certify a LCP consistent with the Coastal Act.

The City plan is a rush to change the face of our fair community forever without letting the public participate. Huge luxury apartment complexes and angular buildings called "artists lofts" are going up all over Venice and the City is allowing other buildings to exceed the legal heights required by the certified Land Use Plan.

Development sprung up before a Land Use Plan for Venice was ever certified.

Until a Land Use Plan is certified by the Coastal Commission, all permits for coastal development must be approved by the Coastal Commission.

The two condo towers, euphemistically known as the Regatta and Water Terrace, stand as a developer's view of what Venice should be.

They were approved by the City years before the certification of the Venice Land Use Plan. The Coastal Commission turned a blind eye to this huge problem and let the City get away with it. It appears that the original project should not have been permitted until the Venice Land Use Plan was certified. Perhaps new hearings are in order.

And now as a further insult to the good citizens of Venice, the City is again cutting the public out of the process. According to Theresa Henry of the Coastal Commission, Los Angeles has not submitted the final part of the LCP to the State.

In fact the City has not even submitted a draft of the required Implementation Plan to complete the Venice LCP in over two years. And it is no wonder, the City has not held one required workshop or public hearing.

Recently the local Sierra Club Regional Group filed and won a lawsuit against the City to stop it from illegally destroying one of the only original wetlands in Venice. The City had planned to use heavy equipment to dam and dig up the wetlands, letting the sea life die slowly in the sun. We won and still have our wetland.

But the fight is not over, the City is still appeasing the interests of large scale developers and hanging the community out to dry.

We are all watching a movie about Venice. Special effects are being used to transform small homes and businesses into a huge gated luxury community of bizarre trophy homes overnight. And we the people are just watching.

It is not too late to preserve our unique coastal heritage. People of all walks of life have a right to live in Venice. We are a Renaissance culture of free thinkers perfectly capable of protecting our own interests.

So it is time to demand that the City begin holding public workshops and hearings on the final component of the LCP, the Implementation Plan. Those of us who call Venice home will settle for nothing less. ★

### The Beachhead needs you

Dear friend and reader,

If you believe that Venice needs a newspaper that tells the truth about what's going on in our beloved town, then we need your support.

The Free Venice Beachhead disappeared back in the mid-1990s but last June, we gathered together some veterans and some newcomers and began publishing again. You're holding in your hands our eighth monthly edition of the paper.

The goals and ideals that led to the founding of the Beachhead in 1968 are still our goals and ideals. We want to inform and mobilize our community to threats and opportunities. We love both the idea and the reality of Venice.

The Free Venice Beachhead is, as always, put together by a volunteer collective (see page two for our names). However, our printer likes to be paid for its work.

We love our hometown advertisers. But the Beachhead has never survived solely on advertising. We are primarily a reader-supported institution. You might say we're the Venice version of the Pacifica network and radio station KPFK. As you know, the Beachhead and KPFK are among the few publications or broadcasters that are not corporately owned.

**That's where you come in.** We'd like you to become a Beachhead Sustainer. We'll only bother you once a year for your hundred bucks. Or if you prefer, send us \$50 now, and we'll hound you for the remaining \$50 in six months.

Here's what you'll get by becoming a Beachhead Sustainer (in addition to the satisfaction of helping the Beachhead survive and grow).

- We'll list the names of Sustainers in each and every Beachhead (unless you tell us to withhold your name).
- If you like, we'll mail you a copy of the Beachhead so you can avoid waiting in line to get one.
- We'll give you a big discount on the price of admission at Beachhead events.
- We'll give you a free business-card-size advertisement in the Beachhead once a year.

Thank you in advance from the Collective for helping to keep a free press alive and well in Venice!

#### Count me in as a Beachhead Sustainer!

\_\_\_ Here's my \$100 check. \_\_\_ Here's \$50. Bill me again in six months for the other \$50.  
\_\_\_ Please mail me the Beachhead every month.

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

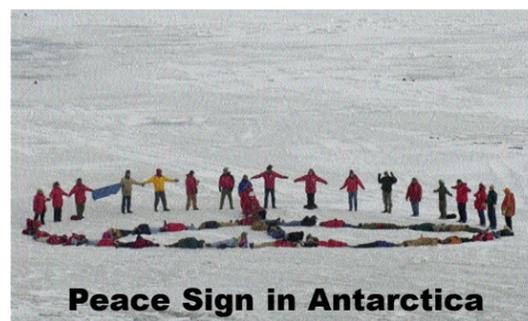
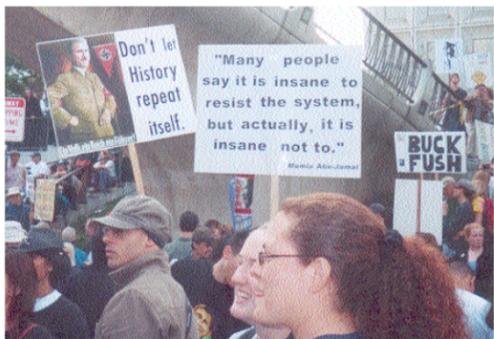
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Clip & mail to: Beachhead, POB 644, Venice CA90294

# PEACE



## The Los Angeles Peace March – Jan 11, 2003

by Suzy Williams

Yessss, Oh what a thrill to be amongst the thousands, the brothers and sisters, the fan of colors and ages, the individual ways of expressing outrage against the sad and nasty war that impends. Little Chicano children in sing-song voices, chanting "mas escuelas, no guerras", a two-toned couple, covered in full-bloomed, multicolored roses, a deeply musical, wild "marching band", with all kinds of horns and drums, some made of plastic True Value plastic buckets, makeshift, inspiring dervish dances or loud unison chants from all who venture nearby. Big Aztec-esque dances with headdresses and bright golden breast plates, organized by GALBO, the Venezuela-solidarity group also known by a sea of red berets. Bread and circusy puppets high in the air, you could look up their skirts. FREE FOOD, bagels, cream cheese, and teas served from a bike-powered cart, by Food Not Bombs, Darlin' octogenarians from Sunset Hall with wide, wily smiles. So many signs, handmade "Osama bin Forgotten", "War Is Good for Business, Invest Your Kids," "The World Needs LOVE", "The Only Bush I Trust is my Own", "Oh, and all the hugs from friends, some long-lost, some brand new-made... Emotions ran the complete gamut: abject joy, wonder, tiredness, wiredness, fury, quiet repose, and plenty of Love from and for all these fellows who realize that there's GOT to be a better way than to bomb first, ask questions later. Next time, we'll number more. After all, we're part of The Human Movement, the world movement towards Peace. ★



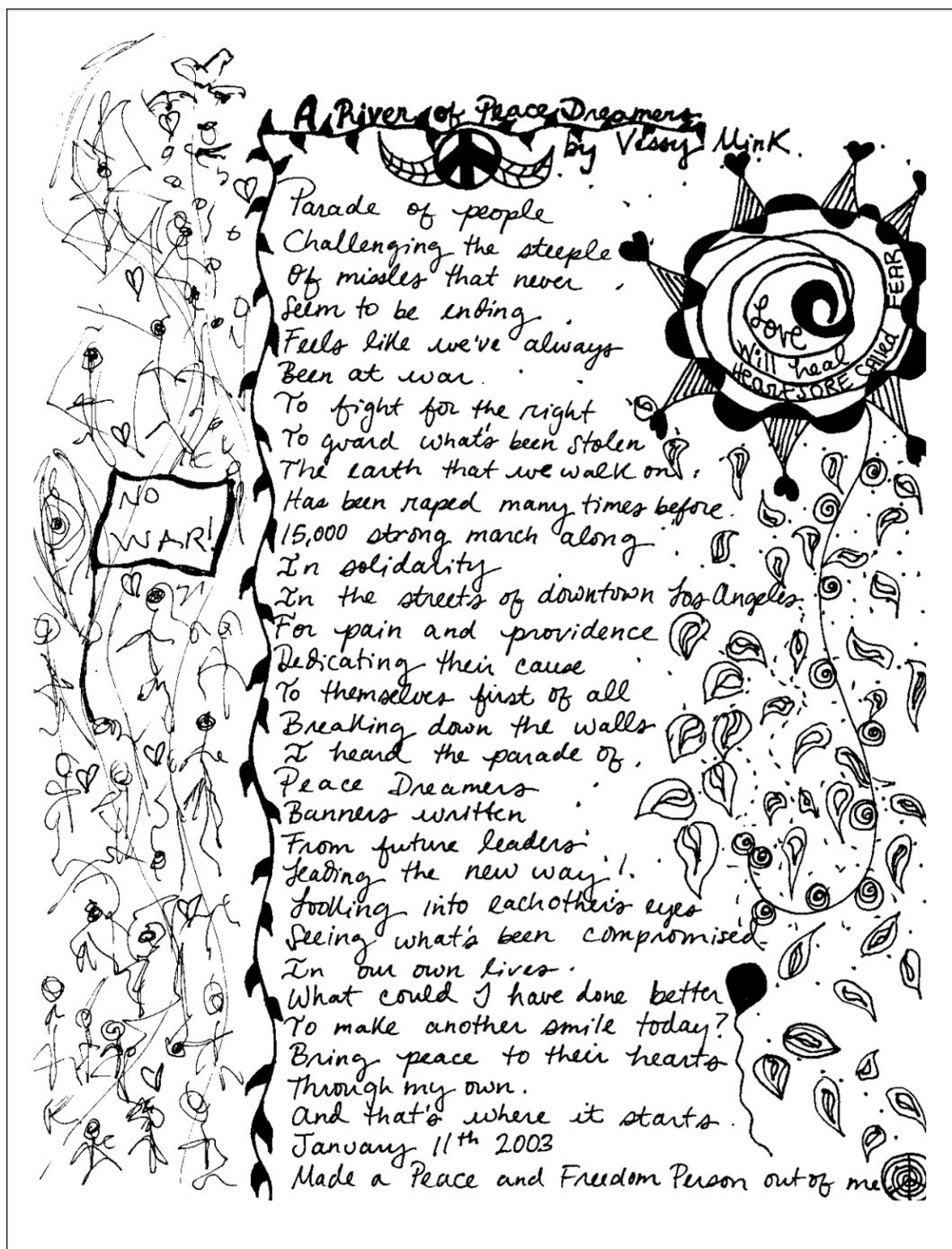
## Food Not Bombs at the Peace March

By Peggy Lee Kennedy

On January 11, 2003, the Venice Peace Movement joined with the Venice/Santa Monica chapter of FOOD NOT BOMBS and the Peace & Freedom Party in downtown Los Angeles to march for peace and to protest the escalating militaristic actions of our government against Iraq. Peace marches against a U.S. invasion of Iraq are happening world-wide. Hundreds of thousands are marching and taking direct action, but mainstream U.S. media is not covering this movement adequately.

Calvin Moss, from the Venice/Santa Monica Food Not Bombs collective, says that "Homeland Security" should be about feeding and housing the poor, not about violating human rights. Food Not Bombs takes direct action by giving food to homeless and hungry people. From within the January 11th Los Angeles Peace March (of well more than 10 thousand people) Food Not Bombs served hot green tea, cold chamomile and maté teas, and vegetarian bagel peace sandwiches from a mobile cart pulled by Calvin's bicycle. Everyone is invited to protest war and poverty by delivering, cooking, and serving free vegetarian food at the weekly Food Not Bombs peace gatherings. Email the Venice Santa Monica Food Not Bombs at <venicesantamonicafnb@fastmail.fm>.

The Venice Peace Movement has been marching every Sunday since October 14, 2001, and is the longest running peace march in Southern California. The march starts just after 2 pm every Sunday at Ocean Front Walk and Rose Ave. and proceeds to an open mic rally held at Market and Ocean Front Walk. See you there! ★

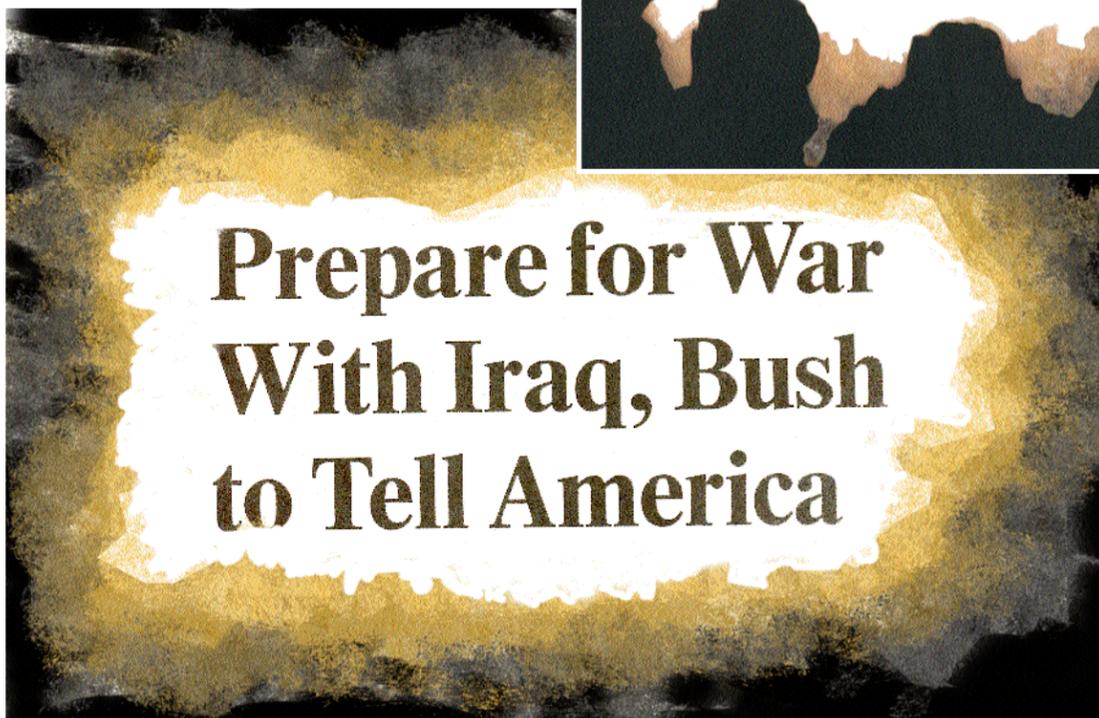


Since 1950, the United States has fought perhaps a hundred overt and covert wars. None were declared by the nominal representatives of the American people in Congress assembled; they had meekly turned over to the executive their principal great power, to wage war. That was the end of the constitution.

– "Dreaming War - Blood For Oil and the Cheney-Bush Junta," Gore Vidal



Los Angeles Times headlines, Jan. 25, 2003



## just one more war

by rick davidson

i'll not die again.  
no more,  
i've had it:  
wars, wars, wars  
and more wars  
have cost me too much.  
shit,  
what's it for?

To win a bit of land:  
a dollar more  
for what?  
to place my name on a list  
that's too damn long  
in the first place?

win - ha, die you mean.  
die dead  
for god, mother and country. . . .  
flags of all the nation states  
don't fly high enough  
to try for, to die for, even to live for.

and of soul,  
shall i go once more to the cliff,  
jump over the edge  
to death below  
to be resurrected when,  
always when,  
you need me for just one more war?

"hell no, we won't go"  
youth sang through the sixties.

won't go.  
no way. . . . class my ass. . . .  
it's power struck everyone - everyone  
except the dead.  
yes, hiroshima's come and gone  
and we haven't learned a thing.  
not a goddamn thing.

"just one more war"  
is the call.

the brave stand still - silent  
as the fearful  
set out  
to kill us all.  
"just one more war"  
is all it will take.



To: L.A. City Council and Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council

## Proposed Resolution

### Opposing U.S. Military Action Against Iraq

WHEREAS, the government has estimated that a war would cost \$200 billion, resulting in less federal funding for education, health care, job training and housing in a time of increasing need for residents of Los Angeles and Venice; and,

WHEREAS, a war would result in the death of Iraqi civilians, as well as military casualties, including U.S. men and women. Additionally, a war would result in widespread environmental destruction; and,

WHEREAS, a preemptive attack by the U.S. not only sets a dangerous precedent for the international community, but also promises to destabilize the entire Middle East region; and,

WHEREAS, the Bush administration has failed to present credible evidence that Iraq poses a military or security threat to the United States,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**  
this body opposes any military action against Iraq.

Name:	Address:	Phone/Email:	Are you a Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC) member? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Name:	Address:	Phone/Email:	Are you a Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC) member? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Name:	Address:	Phone/Email:	Are you a Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC) member? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Name:	Address:	Phone/Email:	Are you a Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC) member? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Name:	Address:	Phone/Email:	Are you a Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC) member? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

For more information, or to circulate a petition, please contact:  
RETURN TO FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD • POB 644, Venice 90294

—continued from page one: Lincoln Blvd.

level, Ralph's, Rite Aid, Ross and another large store. On top of this would be more parking and 4 floors of apartments, totaling 280 units of 1 or 2 bedrooms, with 2.55 parking spaces per unit. In response to a previous community input session, the developers promised to reserve 20 per cent of the units for "affordable housing." They correctly stated that this is not required for this development. The intent is to make their portion of California Avenue attractive for pedestrians with landscaping, outdoor seating and for some strange reason diagonal parking. Details of the Lincoln Center Redevelopment Project can be found at: [http://www.grassrootsvenice.org/documents/Lincoln\\_Lake\\_Project\\_012003.pdf](http://www.grassrootsvenice.org/documents/Lincoln_Lake_Project_012003.pdf)

The landscape architect was in attendance to show us his drawings of the greenery camouflaging the huge buildings; the drawings and photos presented were indeed quite attractive. Other concessions to the neighborhood include incorporating solar energy technology, moving loading docks into the enclosed garage, and re-striping Lincoln Blvd with a reversible flow traffic lane.

Community members in attendance supported the concept of a mixed-use development, but unanimously rejected a project of this magnitude.

Some comments:

"This project is a blimp from Orange County that crashed in Venice."

"It would be nice in Riverside."

"The developers need to first ask the community what their needs are." "What is meant by affordable housing, for how long would this apply, and will this be available for Venetians?"

"Will the workers at these businesses be able to afford the apartment rents?"

"Senior housing must be included."

"How will this development impact traffic on Lincoln?"

"Why so many parking spaces; people will want to use public transit."

"Eliminate parking on California Street."

"More green space instead of parking."

"Venice small businesses will not be able to afford the rents."

"The developer should purchase Lincoln Place to compensate for this project."

"They need to seek alternate sources of funding to ensure more low-income housing"

"We can support such large-scale projects only if they are 100% low-income housing."

"This is about money and greed and a con-

spiracy to gentrify Venice; we can't lose this battle."

While the Grass Roots Venice LUPC did an admirable job of organizing and conducting the January meeting, what the developers really ought to do is have a design meeting and invite the community, so that we are actually participating in designing the project. It would be especially helpful if the community could know exactly how much of the developer's profit would be compromised if he scaled the project in order to be acceptable to the community.

The GRVNC Land Use and Planning Committee meets monthly. The next meeting is February 17 at the Boys and Girls Club. Representatives from the Lincoln Center Redevelopment Project promised to provide responses to the public comments at this meeting. ★

# Brainless Newspaper found in Beachhead land



Far-right wing media mogul Rupert Murdoch, who also owns the war mongering Fox News Network, has inflicted one of his least appealing products on Venice. The New York Post was once an upstanding example of New York journalism. Today, it's better known for headlines like, "Headless body found in topless bar." Can't someone call the Graffiti removal squad?

## Neighborhood Council

(All meetings are open to the public.)

Feb. 17, 7pm - Land Use and Planning Committee, Boys and Girls Club, 2nd floor 2232 Lincoln Blvd.

Date not set - February General Meeting Westminster School Auditorium

Feb. 26, 6pm - Conservation Committee meeting. Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd.

## Even Bigger Developments on the Way!

By Sheila Bernard

On Thursday, January 23, a hearing was held by the Los Angeles City Planning Commission on an amendment to the Venice Coastal Specific Plan to make it consistent with the Venice Coastal Land Use Plan. A number of Venetians attended this hearing, because one item in the amendment would permit three-lot consolidations in Oakwood and in the Marina Peninsula.

This means developers would be able to buy three lots and build one large building, like the project at Abbot Kinney and San Juan, which is being appealed by GRVNC board member and Oakwood resident Lydia Ponce. Three-lot consolidations are not permitted anywhere else in Venice.

Kristin Montet, planning deputy for Councilwoman Miscikowski, said that the amendment should be approved so that all the planning documents would be consistent. Once that is accomplished, it will be easier to amend the entire set of documents with less hearings required. Kristin suggested that tougher design standards could be incorporated into the Land Use Plan and the Specific Plan, so that any buildings resulting from three-lot consolidations would have to conform to the character of the rest of the neighborhood.

Five Venetians spoke regarding three-lot consolidations. Phil Raider, a member of the Grassroots Venice Land Use Committee (LUPC) who first pointed out that Oakwood and the Marina Peninsula were being singled out for these lot consolidations, spoke against the con-

solidations, and expressed doubt that even higher design standards could really protect Oakwood from out-of-scale development.

DeDe Audet, Grvnc area rep for the Oxford Triangle and member of the Grvnc LUPC, said that the overdevelopment that would result from three-lot consolidations would threaten Venice's status as L.A.'s number one tourist attraction, thus hurting all of Los Angeles, not just Venice.

I spoke of the singling out of Oakwood and the Peninsula as blatantly discriminatory, and I called upon the Planning Commission and the Planning Department hold extra hearings and use extra time, to give Oakwood and the Peninsula the same protections from overdevelopment accorded the rest of Venice.

Darryl Dufay, chair of the Grvnc LUPC, expressed gratitude to the Commissioners for not permitting three lot consolidations in the Canals, where he lives.

Finally, another gentleman from Oakwood told the Commissioners that any structure that would be built on three lots would definitely be out of character with the single family homes in Oakwood, which are quite big even when they are built on two lots, and would be extremely large in comparison with the rest of the neighborhood when built on three lots.

The Planning Commission ended up adopting the amendment, with three-lot consolidations still included. It is now up to us to figure out by what process we can amend all the planning documents in order to protect Oakwood and the Marina Peninsula from three-lot consolidations. ★

### Community Meeting:

# Affordable Housing in Venice?

7pm, Tuesday, Feb. 25  
Vera Davis McClendon Center  
610 California Ave.

## Sponsored by Progressive Grassroots Candidates

Progressive Grassroots Candidates ran and elected several people to the Neighborhood Council Board last June. The candidates ran on a program of affordable housing and preserving Venice's economic and racial diversity.

More information:

310-280-3411

VeniceCandidates@aol.com

<http://home.attbi.com/~venicecandidates>

# THE FUTURE OF VENICE IS UP TO ALL OF US!

## IN MEMORIAM MARVIN GRAYSON (JUNE 1917- DECEMBER 9, 2002)

by Pano Douvos

Marvin Felix Grayson, noted Venice artist and political activist, died December 9th at this home on Amoroso Place from the complications of lymphoma. He was 85.

He was a master draftsman and painter as well as a powerful sculptor. He worked in all mediums and was exhibited widely, including work at the Hermitage in Leningrad and in 1959 at the Pushkin Museum in Moscow.

Throughout his life he was always at the forefront of the social justice struggle and movements for peace. He was an avid reader and a tireless truth seeker, always with humor and a mischievous spirit. He reenergized himself in his last ten years studying and playing the piano.

Politically inspired in the 1980's he began sculpting a larger-than-life-sized standing nude monument to Karl Marx. This, his master work, emerged after 6 years carving from a giant red-brown block of Honduran mahogany (see page 12). Marx is depicted as a human being not an idealized Greek God, rather a common man. Grayson felt that "not only mythical figures do great things, but ordinary people do great things" as well.

Marv was born in New York in 1917. He trained and taught at the Art Students League before moving to L.A. in 1948. In the early 1950's Grayson's work began receiving recognition. The L.A. County Art Museum accepted a painting depicting black and white longshoremen tugging ropes together. This work was exhibited subsequently at labor rallies for many years. His art showed a "social realist" focus at that time. Humanistic figurative work predominated.

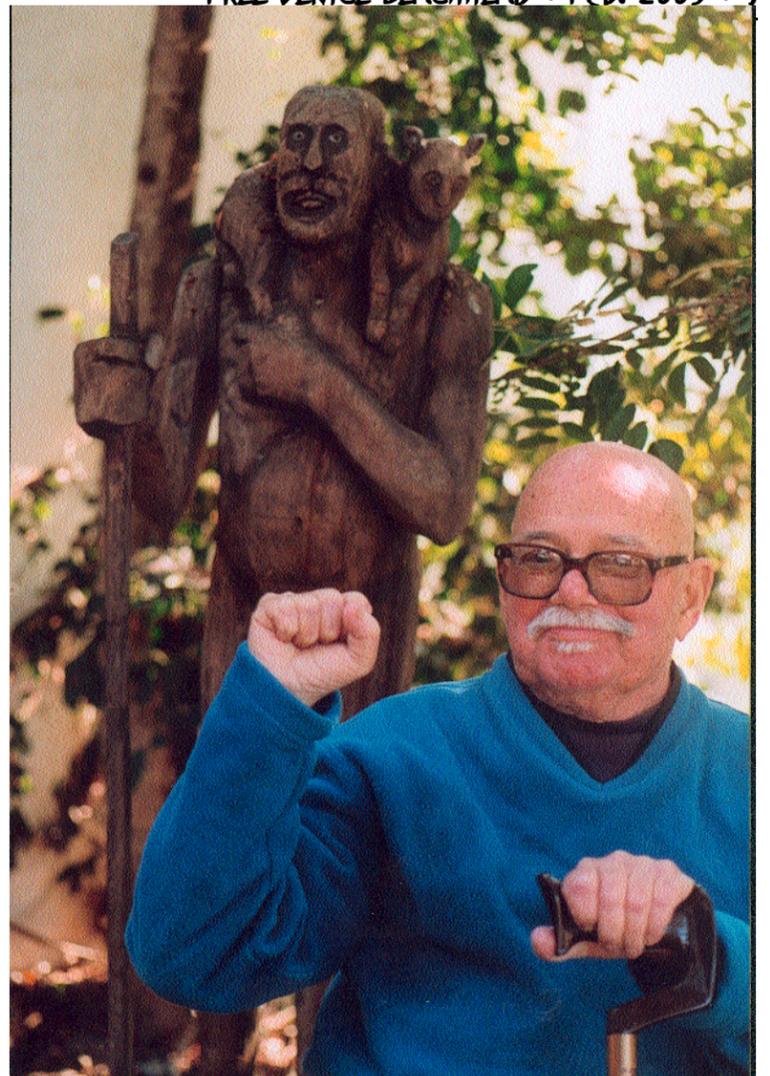
He moved on to his closely examined portrait work, producing a large body of impressive pieces in oils, acrylics, water-colors and pen and ink. Some of his portraits were reminiscent of the approach of Egon Shiele.

In 1942 at age 25, Grayson joined the Communist Party, becoming an open member some years later. "I'm basically a political artist, recording the struggles of this country in my time," he was quoted. However, this was during the witch hunts of the McCarthy era and he became unacceptable to the mainstream art world. His career was blunted as he found his name on the black-list of the 500 people branded in the L.A. Times.

Coincidentally, he was able to express his politics explicitly thereafter including his efforts for the Peace and Freedom Party. "I don't have to worry anymore about being able to make a living as an artist because I'm publicly identified as a Marxist." His active political commitment to progressive causes defined Grayson. This energy and spirit is a lasting legacy that he has bequeathed to us all.

For the last three decades Grayson's talents served the popular political struggle; the Ban-The-Bomb movement of the 1950's, the trade union strikes and the movement against the U.S. intervention in Viet Nam. During this period he brought home the groceries by designing lighting fixtures at his studio at the present location of the Sidewalk Cafe. He dabbled also in movie poster work and did record album covers for Fats Waller amongst others. He had several art instructor gigs including the Chouinard Art Institute and later the Kahn Institute of Art.

Having moved into his Venice sidewalk studio in 1963, he became a true Venetian. He swam the year around and first jogged five miles daily then shifted to walking. His daughter Debbie remembers Marv's appreciation



of Venice including the winos and street-people with whom he shared his invariable offer of tuna-fish sandwiches.

Some remarked on the excitement and glee radiating from Grayson as he banged away at his Marx carving. Friend and colleague Emily Winters commented on his creativity that grew stronger even into his eighties. He kept his hand in at Meredith Gordon's painting and drawing workshop until a couple months before his death. He was my and the group's beloved guru.

Marv's dynamic personality was displayed in his concern for social justice which he expressed politically and artistically. His humanity and optimism and his ability to embrace love and commitment was demonstrated by his last marriage to Karen Grayson in his 79th year. Their loving bond began shortly after their meeting in an art setting which was soon followed by their marriage in 1997.

Reminiscing at one point Marv seemed most proud of a drawing he did for a postcard campaign waged by black churches in the South, following the murder of 14 year old Emmet Till in 1955. Over 250,000 post cards with his sketch of Till's mother bending over her son's coffin were sent to President Eisenhower urging action against racist lynchings.

Glancing back through the years, Grayson said, "I'm pleased with what I've done, though the anti-communist restraints were difficult, I have no regrets."

Marvin Felix Grayson is survived by his wife Karen Grayson, daughter Deborah Grayson, sister Miriam Tucker, step-daughter Amy Perez and Son-in-law Jonathon Russo. ★

## CALL TO ACTION extended through Feb. 21

A compelling collection of reading and performances at Beyond Baroque on January 18, honored the 320+ women of Juarez, Mexico who have been abducted, raped, and murdered. CALL TO ACTION complemented the HIJAS de JUAREZ exhibit next door at SPARC, which has been extended through February 21, 2003. During intermission, guests were encouraged to visit the exhibit, and meet the artists and performers. UCLA professor Alicia Gaspar de Alba read from her soon to be released book, *The Factory*, which is about the incidents in Juarez. Gaspar de Alba is a native of the border near Juarez and takes the issue very personally. She wants people to explore "why this is happening." Alma Lopez, a very talented local visual and public artist, created the exhibited art piece that will also be the cover of Gaspar de Alba's book. The SPARC HIJAS de JUAREZ exhibit is a gripping collection of many local activist artists and you should not miss it. ★



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proponent of  
general and  
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Chamberlin**

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"Locals" will be screened at VID-IOTS,, 302 Pico Blvd., on Feb 21st. It was shot in PXL format by a 17-year resident of Venice, John Snyder. All scenes were shot on location in and around the boardwalk and include footage of former graffiti pit and the demolition of the pavilion. Black and white portraits of colorful places and a stark glimpse of the ever-changing face of Venice.

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Workshop focuses on short shorts, stories, and novels. With Steve Pitkin and Matthew Byloos.

• **TUESDAY NIGHT CREATIVE NON-FICTION** - 8 PM

Bring works of creative non-fiction, memoir, and prose.

Led by Cindy Bailey and Wayman Barnes.

• **WEDNESDAY NIGHT POETRY** - 8 PM

The West Coast's longest running, free workshop and a legendary gathering of poets.

• **THURSDAY NIGHT POETRY** - 8 PM

First and last Thursdays of the month. Bring poems you're thinking about (yours or other poets'); with Jenny Factor and Jessica Goodheart.

• **THURSDAY ALT.SCREENPLAY** - 8 PM

Documentary, narrative, art film scripts, actor readings. Non-commercial only. Moderated by Peter Coogan.

Every Sunday Night, 7:00 PM Open-Mic Poetry at Abbot's Habit (Abbot Kinney & California), Venice

**Midnight Special Bookstore** 1318 3rd Street, Santa Monica

**FRIDAYS OPEN POETRY** - Open readings every Friday night, 8 PM Sharp! Sign-up starts at 7:30 PM. Please be rehearsed and stay under the 5 minute time limit. Prizes every Friday.

**POETRY WORKSHOP** -- the 2nd Saturday of the month. Hosted by Elizabeth Pavone. Please come prepared with 5 copies of your poem.

• Tuesdays 5 PM **Food Not Bombs** Palisades Park at Ocean and Arizona Ave in Santa Monica - FREE Vegetarian meal.

Jan. 1 - Mar. 15, **Homeless Winter Shelter** at the Culver City Armory and the Veteran's Administration. Pick-up (and drop-off) sites:

- Venice - the corner of Westminster and Pacific at 5:30 PM
- Santa Monica - OPCC at 1616 7th St, 6:15 PM and Step Up On Second at corner of 2nd & Arizona, 5:45 PM

Feb. 1 and Mar. 1, **CAR FREE DAY**- all day - make Venice a better place to live by parking those cars! Meet Feb. 1, 4 PM with your bike at the Venice Circle (Main & Windward) for a short group ride around

Feb. 1, Saturday Sidewalk Sale for **Venice Ocean Park Coop.**-Come to Buy and Sell donated clothing, furniture tchotskies to benefit the Coop! Food available. 839 Lincoln Blvd (at Brooks)

Feb. 9, Sunday 2:30 PM **Pasta for Peace** - Venice Methodist Church 1020 Victoria Blvd at Lincoln (N of Venice Blvd) featuring the music of **Stephen Longfellow Fiske**, author, singer, song-writer, artist coproduced by **Andy Lieberman** and the **Venice Ocean Park Coop.** Coffee-house Teach-in benefit with meal. \$10 donation requested.

Tue, Feb. 18, 7-9 PM Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council **Progressive Candidates on affordable housing.** Vera Davis McClendon Center, 610 California St. Call 310-280-3411.

Feb. 11, Tuesday 7-8:30 PM - **STOP SMOKING:** Chinese Medicine can Help - Reduce Cravings, Learn what it takes to really quit - Yo San University 13315 Washington Blvd (3 Blocks E of Lincoln) 557-3000 www.yosan.edu Contact: Deyla Tappan

# Organizations

- Abbot Kinney Library - 501 S. Venice Blvd. 821-1769.
- Beyond Baroque - 681 Venice Blvd. <www.beyondbaroque.org>
- Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council - <www.grassrootsvenice.org> - 281-1943.
- Midnight Special Bookstore - 1318 3rd St. Promenade, Santa Monica - <www.msbooks.com> - 393-2923
- St Joseph's Center - Rose & 4th - 396-6468
- Venice Arts Mecca - 610 California Ave. 578-1745.
- Venice Community Housing Corporation - 399-4100 or <www.vchcorp.org>. 720 Rose Ave. Venice.
- Venice Family Clinic - 604 Rose Ave. 392-8636.
- Venice Health Center - 905 Venice Blvd. 392-8636.
- Venice Historical Society - POB 12844, Venice 90295 or <www.veniceofamerica.org>
- Venice-Ocean Park Food Co-Op. - 839 Brooks Ave.
- Venice Peace & Freedom Party - 399-2215 - <pfp@freevenice.org>.
- Venice Skills Center - 611 5th Ave. 392-4153.
- Vera Davis McClendon Center - 610 California Ave. - 305-1865.



# FILM

Feb. 5, 8:00 PM - Seven Dudley Cinema, another fine film by **CRAIG BALDWIN**: *Sonic Outlaws*, an unabashedly partisan view of the new technologies war between a corporate media marketplace and underground 'culture jammers.' And yes **CRAIG BALDWIN** will be present! Sponto Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave, Venice, CA 310 399 2078.

<www.81x.com/7dudley/cinema>, also contact Gerry Fialka at 306-7330.

Feb. 21, 8:00 PM, **VIDIOTS**, 302 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica (310) 392-8508 FREE - *PXL THIS TWELVE* **Gerry Fialka's** highly acclaimed series this year features Eli Elliott's eye-opening *PXL MATION*, the first ever Pixelvision animation. Steve and Ross Craig's *ART HACKS BABBLE* toys with the 'art question'; John Snyder's *LOCALS* is a tribute to the ever-changing face of Venice. Plus many more short films.

# THEATRE



Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 Venice Blvd.

**BIG LOVE** - By Charles L. Mee. (thru Feb. 3) Friday & Saturday 8 PM - Sunday 3 PM Call Box Office at 310 822 8392

• Feb. 13, Thursday, 8:30 PM \$8 The Comedy Store - **Betsy Salkind** will perform a one hour standup extravaganza 8433 Sunset Blvd (Just E of La Cienega across from the House of Blues)

# POLITICAL

• Feb. 8, Saturday, Noon-2 PM - **Venice Peace & Freedom Party** meeting. 310-399-2215.

• **THE UNIVERSITY OF VENICE.** Take the seven-week course: Classes are \$5 (P&F is free). SPARC at 7 PM 685 Venice Blvd-Sponsored by Venice Peace and Freedom. Call 399-2215 for more information.

• Feb. 6, Feminism - Peggy Lee Kennedy.

• Feb 13, Racial Equality - Yolanda Miranda

• Feb 20, Globalization, past and present - Dr. Gonzalo Santos

• Feb 27, Building a Mass Socialist Party

• Every Wednesday, 6:30 PM - Homeless issues - **Side by Side.** Community group on homeless issues for beach area. The Ken Edwards Center in Santa Monica.

• Every Sunday, 2 PM - **Venice Peace Movement** march and rally - No new war, End mass detentions and attacks on our civil liberties - March starts at Rose & the Boardwalk, followed by an open-mic rally. On Feb. 16th (70th Peace March), the Radical Cheerleaders will grace us with their political cheers.



# readings

• First Monday of the month, 6 PM : **Marshall McLuhan - Finnegans Wake Reading Club**, Abbot Kinney Library, 501 Venice Blvd 821-1769

• Sunday nights 6:30 PM at **Abbot's Habit** Coffee House. Open Mic.

**Midnight Special Bookstore** 1318 3rd Street, Santa Monica

• **SISTERHOOD READING GROUP** meets the 1st Thursday of every month to share thoughts and feelings on books written by women. Books are chosen by those participating each month. All books read are by women authors and cover a wide range of experience.

Feb. 8, Saturday 7:30 pm - Beyond Baroque-An evening with Asylum Arts Publisher, **Greg Boyd** and Company. Other Asylum Arts authors: Marc Cull, Larry Fondation and Jordan Jones. \$7, \$5 students/seniors

Feb. 9, Sunday 5 pm - Beyond Baroque - Open reading featuring **Kelley Lossada and Sholey Wolfp**. Hosted by **Sarah Maclay**. Sign-up at 4:45 pm. FREE.

# ART

Feb. 1, Saturday, 7-10 PM Abbot's Habit - Art Opening for "Multiplicity", artist: **Paul Schoepflin**, 1401 Abbot Kinney Blvd, 399-1171

Sponto Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave, Venice 399-2078.

Red Room Gallery Pacific and Windward.

Soapbox 701 Venice Blvd 305-9145.

The Sandbox 1327 1/2 Abbot Kinney Blvd 399-4164.

# MUSIC

• Wednesdays Come hang with the **V-Rock girls** at the Venice Bistro 7-11 PM (On the Venice Boardwalk between Rose and Dudley)

• Thursdays & Fridays AM Mommy and Me Dance classes for Toddlers w/ Instructor **Natasha Maidoff** The Electric Lodge 1416 Electric Ave 358-6769

• Fridays @ The Cows End:

5-7 PM - **Chris Kuter**

8-11 PM - Lovesick Fridays featuring The **Lovesick Lunatics** and many more!  
www.lovesicklunatics.com  
In Hamburger Square, Washington and Pacific.

• Sundays @ The Unurban Coffee House 2-5 PM **Brad Kay**- Entertainer at the piano-Hot Jazz, Blues, Ragtime and Hilarious songs. 3301 W. Pico Blvd, Santa Monica (310) 315-0058. FREE

• Feb. 1, Saturday, 1:00 - 3:45 PM \$15 Percussive Dance & Irish vocals workshop with **Maira Smiley** and **Maire Clerkin** at GROUND LEVEL 220 Pier Ave Santa Monica (by the Novel Cafe)

• Feb. 1, Saturday, 9 PM **Dialing Zero** CD release party - The Mint 6010 Pico Blvd  
www.dialingzero.com

• Feb. 2 & Feb. 9, Sunday, 7:30 PM \$20 **De santos y pecadores** featuring **Rafael Aragon** at The Electric Lodge 1416 Electric Ave 306-1854

• Feb. 11, Tuesday 6:30-10 PM **Ruby Tuesdays** at SLAVE SALON 1223 Abbot Kinney Blvd (310) 314-7016 Starring: **Delta Bad Hand** - acoustic washboard blues; **Count Smokula** - 496 year-old accordion-playing undead TV talk show host; **Cherie the Moon Fairy** - shadow dancer; **Dr. Patti Britton** - sex therapist, will read extracts from her book; Belly dancers: **Mel and Janie**; artwork by **Mark Andrew Allen**; a shoe fashion show and **The Smiling Minks (Vessy Mink, Maira Smiley and Suzy Williams)** \* FREE \*.

• Feb. 16, Sunday 9 PM \* FREE \* - FULL MOON JAM with **Big Dave Little** at The HARDROCK CAFE @ The Beverly Center.

• Feb. 27, Thursday Starting at 7:30 PM - \* FREE \* **Club Mosaic** at The Yard (behind Warszawa Restaurant) Get Real & Hang Loose-Spoken Word to beats, Funky Jazz Music by George Gilliam Project & Art all night hosted by The Impressario, B., Hammond and 45 Vibe. 1414 Lincoln Blvd. Santa Monica 310-260-6498.

**Karl Marx**  
wood sculpture  
by Marvin Grayson  
1917-2002



## Marx in Mahogany for Marvin Grayson

by Sherman Pearl

He's still standing  
huge in your studio, balls-out naked, muscular  
as a Michelangelo deity poised to crush  
oppressors and uplift the proletariat.  
But I need to tell you, Marv, he seems changed  
by your death, more human, a sad old prophet  
grinding his wooden teeth.  
Oh, the face still tries to look fierce, righteous  
as the day you carved him. But his brow  
is furrowed with contradictions,  
his beard a tangle of dialectics, the strands  
can find no synthesis. His eyes show  
more past than future; his vision  
seems to be sandpapered over. What's left  
are glimmers of sorrow for those who've been  
sacrificed in his name. The hardwood  
you chiseled him from has shriveled a little,  
cracks widened, skin a bit darker and softer.  
What's happened, I think,  
is that your soul, having no heaven but art,  
is seeping into him. He's even  
starting to look like you, how you'd stand  
in the studio, surrounded by your creations,  
molding ideas, making revolutions.