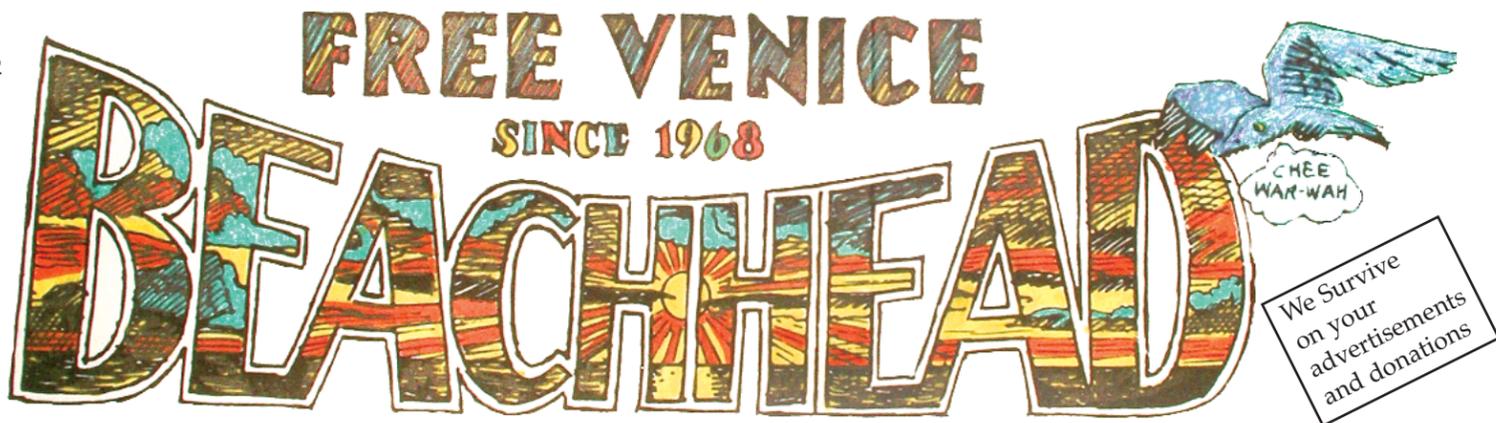


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February 2004

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The Media Empire Strikes Back at Howard Dean

By David Podvin

On December 1, 2003, Howard Dean was ahead by 20 points in the polls when he appeared on Hardball with Chris Matthews and said, "We're going to break up the giant media enterprises." This pronouncement went far beyond the governor's previous public musings about possibly re-regulating the communications industry, and amounted to a declaration of war on the corporations that administer the flow of information in the United States.

It was an extraordinarily noble and dangerous thing to do: when he advocated a truly free press, Dr. Dean was provoking the corrupt media conglomerates that control what most Americans see and hear and read, and thereby control what most Americans think.

The media giants quickly responded by crushing his high-flying campaign with the greatest of ease. This time, they didn't even have to invent a scandal in order to achieve the desired result; merely by chanting the word "unelectable" at maximum volume, the mainstream media maneuvered Democratic voters into switching their support to someone who poses no threat to the status quo.

John Kerry is a member in good standing of the feeble Daschle/Biden/Feinstein wing of the Democratic Party, a group of politicians whose disagreements with the mercantile elite tend to be merely rhetorical. Any doubts about Kerry's level of commitment to his stated progressive beliefs were conclusively answered in 1994 when he proclaimed himself "delighted" with the Republican takeover of Congress. The media oligarchy knows that a general election race between Kerry and George W. Bush will insure a continuation of its monopoly, regardless of who wins.

The news cartel had always been hostile to Dean; independent surveys revealed that he had received the most negative coverage of any candidate except Dennis Kucinich (the only other contender who strongly favors mandatory media divestment). But after his statement on Hardball, reporting about Dean abruptly came to an end and was replaced by supposition. The existing conjecture in political circles about his ability to win was transformed into a thunderous media mantra that drowned out all other issues.

By mid-December, the news divisions of the four major television networks were reporting as fact that Dean was unelectable. The print media echoed the theme; on December 17, the Washington Post printed a front-page story that posited Dean could not win the presidency. The Post quickly followed up with an onslaught of articles and editorials reasserting that claim. Before the month was over, Dean's lack of electability had been highlighted in The New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Boston Globe, the Chicago Tribune, the Los Angeles Times, and every other major paper in the United States.

As 2004 began, Time and Newsweek simultaneously ran cover stories emphasizing that Dean was unelectable. In the weeks before the Iowa caucus, the ongoing topic of discussion on the political panel shows was that Dean was unelectable. National talk radio shows repeatedly stressed that Dean was unelectable. The corporate Internet declared that Dean was unelectable.

-continued on page 4



Ralph's workers in Venice have been locked out of their jobs for four months, as have 59,000 market workers in Southern California who are either on strike or barred from working by the corporate moguls at Safeway, Kroger (owner of Ralphs) and Albertsons. - more on page six. Photo by Theresa Hulme

Neighborhood Council catching its stride

It's been almost two years since the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC) was certified by the city of Los Angeles on March 13, 2002.

After nearly a year and a half of turmoil, the Venice "government" seems to be at last coming into its own. Just recently, it qualified for up to \$50,000 a year in city funding, some of which has already been delivered. It's also seen a proliferation of committees, and sub-committees, working on various community issues. The Council has an office at the Vera Davis McClendon Community Center, 610 California Ave. and soon expects to have a phone and computer installed.

The recent advancements made by GRVNC were noted in the letter sent to Treasurer Jim Smith by Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) funding program head, Kevin McNeely, who, in announcing the release of city funds, said "Congratulations on the success and continual progress of the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council."

The new progressive leadership of the council was elected last July but was not able to begin functioning until October, after election challenges by the losing candidates were resolved. Adopting a scorched earth policy, the election losers destroyed the website (a new spiffy website has been established by Communications Officer Tom O'Meara at www.grvnc.org), and delayed turning over GRVNC records

until ordered to by the city attorney.

Some of the originators of the neighborhood council apparently fell into "founder's syndrome," which happens in many organizations where those who started the organization begin treating it as their own private property.

After challenges were tossed out, including one in which an opposition candidate, Marta Evry, voted on behalf of her dog, losing candidates of "Team Venice" began resorting to guerilla warfare to impede the new council leadership. Evry (whom the League of Women Voters has suggested be barred from ever seeking office again - see Oct. 2003 Beachhead) has kept up a barrage of hostile emails on the VeniceCA list-serve, while Rick Feibusch, another losing candidate, has done the same on an email newsletter he circulates.

Other Team Venice members who were not up for reelection including Tisha Bedrosian, John

-continued on page 3



Ancient monoliths found on Venice Beach - Experts say they are obviously the work of a pre-historic sun-worshipping, peyote-eating ancient Venetian culture. "Why didn't we ever notice them before?" wonder locals. Others speculate that they are actually the work of Stuart Finch, a semi-mythical homeless man who is said to wander the coast confounding archeologists. Photo by Jim Smith

LETTERS – send letters to:
 Email: Beachhead, POB 644,
 Beachhead@freevenice.org Venice 90294

Playa Vista - a contrary view from Moe Stavnezer

Dear Beachhead;

John Davis' article on Playa Vista could, more appropriately, be entitled "Ignorance is Bliss." The definition of ignorance is "the condition of being uneducated, uninformed or unaware." To assert, as Davis did, that this project "reared its ugly head in the early 90's" is to be ignorant of the long history of Playa Vista. So, as a player in that history, I will attempt to set some of the record as straight as I can.

The debate over Playa Vista began more than 25 years ago when the Hughes Corp., which soon morphed into the Summa Corp., first made its plans for the area known. Opposition to that plan began almost immediately led by a group of Playa del Rey activists who became Friends of Ballona Wetlands (FOB or Friends), led by Ruth Lansford. It also included some gadflies who, like myself, had been involved in coastal issues for some time.

The Summa plan, when it was made official as a permit application to the City of Los Angeles, was truly an abomination. That plan envisioned the almost total destruction of the wetlands, even those lands west of Lincoln Blvd. It included development both east and west of Lincoln Bl. including the land where the fresh water marsh has been created. The development was to be 2/3 commercial (luxury hotels, office buildings etc) and only 1/3 housing. As a sop to the community, the plan called for "saving" some 87 acres of the wetland with no provision for its ownership or maintenance. Adding insult to injury, a major roadway was designated to cut through the miniscule wetland to be "saved."

As this application wended its way through the City process in the early to mid 80's, FOB and its allies attended hearing after hearing in opposition. But the City, lead by then Councilwoman Pat Russell and Mayor Tom Bradley, consistently supported the project which won City approval. The plan then went to the Coastal Commission where, with the support of Russell and Bradley, it was approved virtually unchanged. During this time the opinion of many governmental and academic agencies were sought by FOB and its allies. All these studies suggested that the wetlands were far more extensive than the Summa plan called for and emphasized the ecologic importance of wetlands.

Soon after the Coastal Commission decision, we decided to bring a lawsuit challenging the decision. The we now included FOB, the League for Coastal Protection (LCV), on whose board I served along with Mel Nutter, former chair of the state Coastal Commission, and the League of Women Voters. We sought others to join us in the suit among them the Sierra Club and the City of Santa Monica. All refused. So, the 3 organizations went to court represented by the Center for Law in the Public Interest (CLIP) one of the best advocates for the public in the state.

The outcome of this litigation was a ruling by the court that the opposing sides had to meet and come back with a plan that was "acceptable" to both and then to the court. I should mention that by this time Summa Corp had sold its interest in Playa Vista to Maguire Thomas Partners whose president was well known developer Nelson Rising.

And so, by order of the court, FOB & LCV met with Maguire Thomas. We met every Friday morning for a year. Included in these meetings were experts, our and their's, on hydrology, restoration, the extent of the wetlands, housing, development proposals, traffic, and every other aspect involved in Playa Vista. By this time Pat Russell had been replaced by Ruth Galanter and the Playa Vista project was a major issue in the campaign to elect Ruth. The outcome of these negotiations was a plan that was, in almost every

Dear John and other Friends of Anna,

I am saddened to read about the loss of Anna Haag. For many years (until I married one) Anna was the epitome of a hot-blooded Italian. Her passion was in your face, and for a reserved do-gooder from New England she was a breathtakingly tempestuous spirit.

I remember the fact that she refused to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance - something unheard of in my experience - but in retrospect a daring and committed act of defiance against the injustice she saw. I can still hear her voice - and hope I always will.

Lance Diskan



A memorial for Anna Haag brought crowd of friends to the Rose Avenue concrete pier, Jan. 18, to celebrate the life of the Venice icon. A nearby flock of sea gulls looked on respectfully.



aspect, superior to what had been approved by the City and Coastal Commission. It included, among other things, a vastly increased wetlands area from 87 to almost 300 acres, no development on the land now restored as a fresh water marsh, a complete reversal of the commercial/housing balance including 1,100 units of moderate income housing, and a plan for a neighborhood, pedestrian oriented community.

Though I supported the final compromise agreement, I did not agree with all of its provisions. I think we made a mistake in agreeing to development of any land west of Lincoln Bl., but felt that we had come up with a plan that was generally acceptable to both sides and to the court.

At the time, rejecting it was a deal breaker for the developer and would have landed us back in court where, as future litigation by others proved, victory would have been iffy, at best. We felt that we had come up with a plan that was generally acceptable to both sides and to the court. That feeling was confirmed after an extensive series of presentations we made to a host of community groups, many of whom came out publicly in support of the plan.

Enter Marsha Hanscom and a number of others who have, in the ensuing 15 years, brought countless legal actions against this compromise, virtually every one of which has been rejected by

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The collective staff of the



BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:

Carol Fondiller, Hillary Kaye, Peggy Lee Kennedy, Yolanda Miranda, 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.

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.

To submit material, include your name and telephone number. Anonymous material will not be printed, but your name will be withheld on request. If return of material is desired, a stamped self-addressed envelope is required. No payment is made for material used. Mail to: P.O. Box 644, Venice, CA 90294. Web: <www.freevenice.org>. Email: <Beachhead@freevenice.org>. Copyright 2003

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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—continued from page one

Caldwell and Chris Williams resigned from the Board. They were followed by several members of the Land Use & Planning Committee (LUPC).

Some of them fantasized about a spreading conspiracy that included not only the Progressive Candidates, the Peace and Freedom Party, the Venice Community Housing Corp., and this newspaper, but also DONE and the League of Women Voters. It seemed as if the whole world was conspiring against these good citizens who just wanted to be left alone to live in an upscale Venice free of homeless people, campers and people who disagreed with them.

Several of them claimed that the neighborhood council would not be credible without their participation, but instead it seems more productive than ever.

Bedrosian has been replaced by tenant leader Sheila Bernard; Caldwell by Attorney Paul Ryan and Williams seat is filled by housing expert Dennis Hathaway. Likewise, LUPC has done an about face from supporting developers in spite of community opposition, to being a voice for reasonable and sustainable development in Venice.

LUPC co-chairs Attorney Sabrina Venskus and Laura Burns have mobilized community opposition to Playa Vista Phase 2 and the massive Lincoln Center shopping center. In addition, they have supported the St. Joseph's Center on Hampton Avenue, which is generally well-regarded by the community but has attracted its share of anti-homeless opponents, led by realtor and defeated Board member, Barbara Gibson.

Presently, only a few board members who have been associated with Team Venice remain in office. They include VP Greg Fitchitt, Milwood/Central Venice Rep. Kelley Willis, Oxford Triangle Rep. DeDe Audet and North Beach Rep. Bonnie Cheeseman. Some of them even deny being part of the old group. Willis seems to be the only hard-core Team Venice member left on the Board. His disruptive tactics at Board meetings usually find no support.

All of them are up for election this June. Progressive slate members also up for election include Sheila Bernard (appointed president after Bedrosian resigned) and Alice Stek (appointed 2nd VP after Chris Wood moved to Colorado).

Others up for election include David Moring (Penmar North Rep.), Jatun Valentine (Oakwood Rep. appointee), Paul Ryan (appointed Gov't. Relations Rep. after Caldwell resigned), Geoff Collins (appointed at-large rep. after Bernard moved to president), and a vacant position representing Canals and the Peninsula (vacated by Stek when she became 2nd VP).

Perhaps the most encouraging development of the new neighborhood council is the expansion of democracy through committees which are open to all Venice residents and stakeholders.

The LUPC, Conservation, and Poverty and Homelessness committees have been active in bringing proposals to the GRVNC Board.

Other committees are based on specific neighborhoods in Venice. There is the Envision Venice sub-committee which focuses on Lincoln Blvd.; an Abbot Kinney Blvd. committee; and the newly formed Ocean Front Walk committee.

A Children, Youth and Families committee, initiated by Board member Lydia Poncé, began meeting last month. Noise and pollution caused by jets taking off and landing at the Santa Monica Airport is the focus of yet another committee. The airport pollution problem for Venice was exposed in a series of articles in Beachhead. There is a follow-up article on page 10.

Other committees are related to the council structure, including the executive, elections, budget, by-laws and communications and outreach committees. Any stakeholder can serve on any committee (except the executive and land use) and any stakeholder can propose a new committee by sending an email to communications@grvnc.org or by mail to GRVNC, 610 California Ave., Venice 90291. To get involved in a committee, just attend the next session (see box on this page).

Committees will be on display with information and invitations to join at the upcoming Town Hall meeting on Feb. 26 at the United Methodist Church Community Building, 2210 Lincoln Blvd.

New, Revised (DRAFT) Ocean Front Walk Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance amending Section 42.15 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to require that the public expression activities allowed by that section be exercised in designated spaces on the Venice Beach Boardwalk, and that the use of those designated spaces be regulated by a permit process.

WHEREAS, the Boardwalk at Venice Beach is world-famous for its free performances and public expression activities; a tradition that is maintained pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 42.15, which prohibits commercial vending;

WHEREAS, recent improvements completed to the Boardwalk have made the area even more popular with visitors than ever before, and the number of persons wishing to perform, show their paintings, sculptures or photographs, or otherwise exercise their right to public expression also has increased, creating problems in noise, crowd control and competition for space among those wishing to legally perform, exhibit, or otherwise engage in expressive activity on the Boardwalk;

WHEREAS, to alleviate noise, control crowds, provide for emergency ingress and egress for health, safety and law enforcement purposes, allocate available space on the Boardwalk in an equitable manner that balances the uses of visitors, businesses and resi-

dents located adjacent to the Boardwalk with those wishing to reserve space for the legal exercise of their public expression activities, and to provide for public access to and enjoyment of the Boardwalk and Venice Beach, the Department of Recreation and Parks has adopted a permit program to organize and regulate the activities allowed on the Boardwalk by LAMC Section 42.15; and

WHEREAS, for purposes of enforcement, and to make certain violations of the permit regulations punishable as misdemeanors, the City desires to codify those violations of the permit program included in this ordinance,

NOW THEREFORE,
THE PEOPLE OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. A new Subsection D is added to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 42.15 to read:

D. No person shall receive any payment or accept any donation in connection with any activities not

otherwise prohibited by this Section unless that person holds a valid "Public Expression Participant Permit" issued pursuant to the program adopted by the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners on October 1, 2003, as that program may be amended by the Board from time to time. The permit is not transferrable and the permittee must be present in the permitted space at all times that permitted activity is occurring. No person shall place or allow anything within the permitted space that extends beyond the boundaries of the permitted space (20 feet by eight feet for performers, and ten feet by eight feet for all others), nor shall the permit holder conduct any activities requiring a permit outside the boundaries of the permitted space. No person shall set up, take down or use a permitted space between sunset and 9:00 a.m. No person shall place or allow any item exceeding four feet above ground in the permitted space, nor shall any item placed in the permitted space have more than two sides. No person shall alter or reproduce any permit issued pursuant to the program, nor shall any person possess an altered, reproduced or falsified permit document.

The permit may be revoked in accordance with the program adopted by the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners for violations of the program rules. Revocation shall occur upon a third violation of a program rule or upon any single violation of the conditions set forth in this Subsection. A notice of violation of the program rules may be appealed to the Department of Recreation and Parks District Supervisor. Revocation of a permit may be appealed to a 3-person board consisting of a representative from the Park Advisory Board designated by the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners, a community member appointed by the Councilmember of the District and the General Manager of the Department of Recreation and Parks or the General Manager's designee. The conclusion of the applicable appeal process shall constitute an exhaustion of administrative remedies pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.5.

Sec. 2. Subsection C of Section 42.15 shall be redesignated Subsection E and moved to the end of the Section.

Sec. 3. The two unlettered paragraphs of Section 42.15 shall be redesignated Subsection C. The word "applicable" in the first sentence of the first paragraph shall be replaced with the word "constructed."

Sec. 4. The effective date of this Ordinance shall be _____, 2004.

Sec. 4. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located in the Main Street lobby to the City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the ground level at the Los Angeles Street entrance to the Los Angeles Police Department; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

I hereby certify that this ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles, at its meeting of _____, J. MICHAEL CAREY, City Clerk

Order out of chaos, or repression of free speech?

Express yourself on this draft ordinance by attending the Feb. 17 OFW committee or the Feb. 19 Board meeting of the Neighborhood Council (see box below for locations) and/or write a letter to the Beachhead, POB 644, Venice 90294
Email: beachhead@freevenice.org

Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council Meeting Schedule

All meetings begin at 7 PM, at Vera Davis McClendon Center, 610 California Ave. unless otherwise noted.

- Tuesday, Feb. 17 - **Ocean Front Walk Committee** - Oakwood Recreation Center, 767 California Ave.
- Tuesday, Feb. 17 - **Santa Monica Airport Sub-committee** - Azteca Restaurant, 424 Lincoln Blvd.
- Wednesday, Feb. 18 - **Poverty and Homeless Committee** - 658 S. Venice Blvd. Extra Space Storage Conf. Room.
- Thursday, Feb. 19 - **Board Meeting**
- Monday, Feb. 23 - **Children, Youth and Families**
- Thursday, Feb. 26 - **Town Hall** - United Methodist Church Community Room, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. - 6pm Reception, food; 7pm Meeting
- Monday, Mar. 1 - **Executive Committee**
- Tuesday Mar. 2 - **Land Use & Planning Committee (LUPC)** - Boys and Girls Club, 2232 Lincoln Bl.



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My very own Resume - by G.W. Bush

- I was arrested in Kennebunkport, Maine, in 1976 for driving under the influence of alcohol.
- I pled guilty, paid a fine, and had my driver's license suspended for 30 days.
- My Texas driving record has been "lost" and is not available.

MILITARY:

- I joined the Texas Air National Guard and went AWOL.
- I refused to take a drug test or answer any questions about my drug use.
- By joining the Texas Air National Guard, I was able to avoid combat duty in Vietnam.

COLLEGE:

- I graduated from Yale University with a low C average.
- I was a cheerleader.

PAST WORK EXPERIENCE:

- I ran for U.S. Congress and lost.
- I began my career in the oil business in Midland, Texas, in 1975.
- I bought an oil company, but couldn't find any oil in Texas.
- The company went bankrupt shortly after I sold all my stock.
- I bought the Texas Rangers baseball team in a sweetheart deal that took land using taxpayer money.
- With the help of my father and our right-wing friends in the oil industry (including Enron CEO Ken Lay), I was elected governor of Texas.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS GOV. OF TEXAS:

- I changed Texas pollution laws to favor power and oil companies, making Texas the most polluted state in the Union.
- During my tenure, Houston replaced Los Angeles as the most smog ridden city in America.
- I cut taxes and bankrupted the Texas treasury to the tune of billions in borrowed money.
- I set the record for the most executions by any governor in American history.
- With the help of my brother, the governor of Florida, and my father's appointments to the Supreme Court, I became President after losing by over 500,000 votes.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS PRESIDENT:

- I am the first President in U.S. history to enter office with a criminal record.
- I invaded and occupied two countries at a continuing cost of over one billion dollars per week.
- I spent the U.S. surplus and effectively bankrupted the U.S. Treasury.
- I shattered the record for the largest annual deficit in U.S. history.
- I set an economic record for most private bankruptcies filed in any 12-month period.
- I set the all-time record for most foreclosures in a 12-month period.
- I set the all-time record for the biggest drop in the history of the U.S. stock market.
- In my first year in office, over 2 million Americans lost their jobs and that trend continues every month.
- I'm proud that the members of my cabinet are the richest of any administration in U.S. history.
- My "poorest millionaire," Condoleeza Rice, has a Chevron oil tanker named after her.
- I set the record for most campaign fundraising trips by a U.S. President.
- I am the all-time U.S. and world recordholder for receiving the most corporate cam-



Howard Dean - continued from Page One

And the mainstream media continued with the storyline that Dean was unelectable right up until Iowans attended their caucuses. Iowa Democrats could not watch a television or listen to a radio or read a newspaper or go online without learning that Howard Dean was unelectable.

It was the classic Big Lie. Through the power of repetition, the corporate media - which has been wrong about who would win the popular vote in two of the last three presidential elections - inculcated the public with the message that Dean could not win. Pollster John Zogby wrote, "Howard Dean was the man of the year, but that was 2003. In 2004, electability has become the issue and John Kerry has benefited."

The unexamined factor is how electability became "the issue." It had never before been the dominant consideration in Democratic primaries, because voters had focused on policy rather than crystal ball gazing. Electability was this campaign's version of "Al Gore claimed to have invented the Internet": it was a media contrivance that was used to manipulate voters.

On January 19, Democratic caucus goes in Iowa - who were the initial intended audience for this propaganda disguised as reportage - overwhelmingly repudiated Dean, telling pollsters they believed he was unelectable. Later that evening, Dean yelled encouragement to his supporters at a pep rally, an incident that provided the pretext for the coup de grâce.

During the week leading up to the New Hampshire primary, the media obsessed about Dean's "bizarre" rally incident, adding "un-presidential" and "emotionally unstable" to its descriptions of the governor. The unified message was that Dean had self-destructed. When he finished a distant second in New Hampshire, journalists and pundits hailed the defeat as confirmation of their premise that Dean had always been unelectable.

Yet there had been no tangible basis for that assertion. At the beginning of 2004, a poll conducted by Time magazine showed that Dean trailed Bush by only six points. That was a smaller deficit than Gore faced shortly before the general election in 2000, and he wound up getting the most popular votes. Undaunted by this evidence to the contrary, reporters adhered to the motif that Dean had absolutely no chance.

Matea Gold of the Los Angeles Times is one of the many deceitful corporate scribes who obediently supplemented the "Dean is unelectable" message with its companion lie, "Dean is emotionally unstable," although she was a little slow on the uptake. In a report she authored the night of the pep rally, Gold wrote, "We will not give up!" (Dean) declared, his gravelly voice barely audible over the din of applause inside the '70s-style disco hall. "We will not quit, now or ever! We want our country back!"

But 24 hours later, when it had become clear that the official corporate media version of events was to be Dean had gone berserk, Gold omitted all reference to the noise over which the Democrat had been shouting: "Dean leapt onto the stage, tore off his suit jacket and rolled up his sleeves. His face beet-red, he punched his fists in the air and spoke in a near-guttural (sic) roar. The frenetic response to his poor showing struck many as inappropriate."

Gold's colleague at the Times, Ronald Brownstein, joined the chorus of supposedly objective journalists who expressed relief after witnessing Dean's apparent demise. Brownstein has written that it is "reassuring" to see Democrats abandon Dean. And to whom is it reassuring? It is reassuring to Brownstein's employers at the Tribune Company, which recently reported record earnings as a result of media deregulation implemented by Bush.

Howard Fineman, the author of the Newsweek attack on Dean, has now written an analysis of why Dean fell so far, so fast. One of the reasons Fineman cites is that Dean has been

- paign donations.
- My largest lifetime campaign contributor, and one of my best friends, Kenneth Lay, presided over the largest corporate bankruptcy fraud in the U.S.
- I refused to allow inspectors access to U.S. "prisoners of war" detainees and thereby have refused to abide by the Geneva Convention.
- I am the first President in history to refuse United Nations election inspectors (during the 2002 U.S. election).
- I set the record for fewest number of press conferences of any President since the advent of television.
- I set the all-time record for most days on vacation in any one year period.
- After taking off the entire month of August, I presided over the worst security failure in U.S. History.
- I garnered the most sympathy for the U.S. after the World Trade Center attacks and less than a year later made the U.S. the most hated country in the world, the largest failure of diplomacy in world history.
- I have set the all-time record for most people worldwide to simultaneously protest me in public venues (15 million people), shattering the record for protest against any person in the history of mankind.
- I am the first President in U.S. History to order an unprovoked, preemptive attack and the military occupation of a sovereign nation. I did so against the will of the United Nations, the majority of U.S. Citizens, and the world community.
- I have cut health care benefits for war veterans and support a cut in duty benefits for active duty troops and their families in war time.
- In my State of the Union Address, I lied about our reasons for attacking Iraq, then blamed the lies on our British friends.
- I am the first President in history to have a majority of Europeans (71%) view my presidency as the biggest threat to world peace and security.
- I am supporting development of a nuclear "Tactical Bunker Buster," a WMD.
- I have so far failed to fulfill my pledge to bring Osama Bin Laden to justice.

RECORDS AND REFERENCES:

- All records of my tenure as governor of Texas are now in my father's library, sealed and unavailable for public view.
- All records of SEC investigations into my insider trading and my bankrupt companies are sealed in secrecy and unavailable for public view.
- All records or minutes from meetings that I, or my Vice President, attended regarding public energy policy are sealed in secrecy and unavailable for public review.

PLEASE CONSIDER MY EXPERIENCE
WHEN VOTING IN 2004.

PLEASE PASS THIS ON TO EVERY
VOTER YOU KNOW.

Primary Election

too "defiant." And whom has the former governor of Vermont been defying? When Dean advocated breaking up the media giants, he was defying Fineman's employers at the Washington Post Company, which recently reported record earnings as a result of media deregulation implemented by Bush.

Those Democrats who have been hoodwinked into believing Dean self-destructed by yelling at a pep rally should recall how the major media handled Bush's drunk-driving arrest that a small Maine newspaper revealed right before the 2000 election. It was an incident that on the surface seemed as though it should have been politically fatal - the candidate who had based his campaign on the vow that "I will restore honor and dignity to the Oval Office" was proven to have lied about drunkenly driving off a road.

Demonstrably, it is never what a politician does that creates a scandal; it is always whether the television networks and major metropolitan newspapers respond to the incident with saturation coverage. When a presidential candidate who was committed to deregulating the corporate media got caught lying about breaking the law, the importance of the event was minimized. When a presidential candidate who was committed to breaking up the corporate media got caught shouting at a pep rally, the importance of the event was maximized.

The scream that had the greatest impact on the Democratic presidential campaign was not Dean's gonzo yell in Iowa, but the deafening roar of deceit that emanated from Corporate America's media subsidiaries. The downfall of the Democratic frontrunner was not self-induced; it was self-defense. Dean had threatened to mess with General Electric, Viacom, Disney, the New York Times Company, the Washington Post Company, et al., so they messed with him first.

Such corporate vigilance is inconsistent with the principles of American democracy, but welcome to the real world. In a dictatorship, the tiny minority of well-armed people maintains absolute power by intimidating the vast majority of unarmed people. In a democracy that is populated by citizens who get their information from a few greedy companies, the tiny minority of well-informed people maintains absolute power by manipulating the vast majority of misinformed people. When you control what people think, there is no need to point a gun at them.

In recent years, corporations have dramatically increased their power at the expense of the average citizen (and with the apathetic complicity of the average citizen). Big Business has evolved from merely being a vital part of society into being master of both the political system and the means of communication. As a result, the boundaries of the national debate are now defined by the interests of the Fortune 500, and the malefactors of great wealth have become increasingly brazen. Americans used to laugh at banana republics, where the ruling elites are so shamelessly debauched that judges go on duck hunting trips with the politicians whose cases they are scheduled to review, but it doesn't seem quite so funny anymore.

After the last presidential election, the corporate functionaries on the Supreme Court overrode the will of the people by empowering the man who had lost. It was an awkward procedure, so the process has been refined. In 2004, the mainstream media is rapidly disqualifying all the candidates who fail to honor the business agenda, thus eliminating the need for another controversial judicial intervention.

Howard Dean's campaign now lies in ruins because he chose to confront the multinational conglomerates that run this country. If Dean is so resilient that he fights his way back into contention, the Fourth Estate will be ready to batter him again. In the United States of America, people who pose a threat to the reigning corporate establishment are destroyed. Or, as the Soviets used to put it, emotionally unstable individuals who deviate from the party line are guilty of engaging in "self-destruction."

Debt and Taxes

Proposition 57 on the March 2 ballot would borrow \$15 million to pay for the deficit in the current state budget.

The Republican and Democratic Parties have united to support Schwarzenegger's version of Gray Davis' bond bailout. State Treasurer Phil Angelides, the Greens and Peace and Freedom oppose the measure.

Opponents say it would put future generations in hock to paying off our debt. They say it's like using one credit card to pay off another.

Proponents say, what's the alternative? They claim deep cuts in social services will result if Prop. 57 and 58 don't pass. What most proponents are afraid to say is "Tax the rich and the corporations." It is the wealthy who fund most political campaigns. Could it be that's why the rich and obscenely rich are not held accountable for paying their fair share in taxes?



Primary Facts

Last day to register to vote for the March 2 election: Feb. 17.

Last day to apply to vote absentee: Feb. 24.

Presidential Candidates (all parties):

Candidate Name	Party
(includes some who have dropped out)	
Michael A. Peroutka	American Ind.
Wesley Clark	Democratic
Howard Dean	Democratic
John Edwards	Democratic
Dick Gephardt	Democratic
John F. Kerry	Democratic
Dennis J. Kucinich	Democratic
Lyndon Larouche	Democratic
Joe Lieberman	Democratic
Carol Moseley Braun	Democratic
Al Sharpton	Democratic
Peter Miguel Camejo	Green
David Cobb	Green
Kent Mesplay	Green
Lorna Salzman	Green
Michael Badnarik	Libertarian
Gary Nolan	Libertarian
Aaron Russo	Libertarian
Walter F. "Walt" Brown	Peace & Freedom
Leonard Peltier	Peace & Freedom
George W. Bush	Republican

Peace and Freedom Day Election Rally and March Feb. 22

This is to inform you that the name of the Feb. 22 holiday has been changed from Washington's Birthday to Peace and Freedom Day!

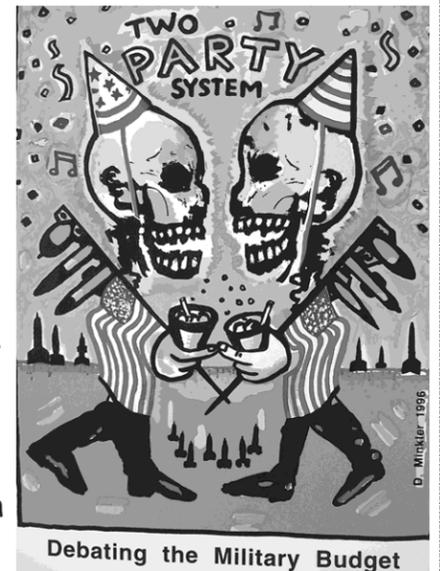
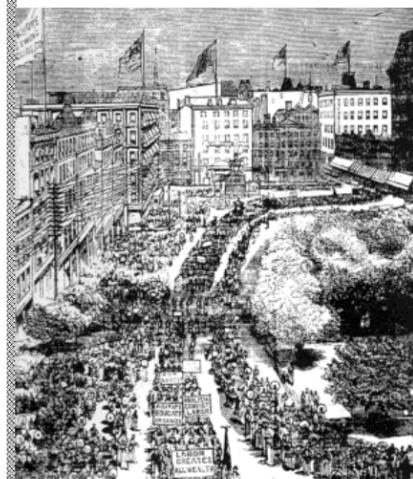
Instead of honoring a dead slaveowner who stole land from Native Americans, we'll celebrate those who spent their lives fighting for social justice.

Feb. 22 - Peace and Freedom Day festivities include:

11AM - In honor of the Wobblies' (IWW) free-speech protests, Soapbox Speeches will be given by and for P&F candidates: Leonard Peltier (President - a representative will speak); Marsha Feinland (U.S. Senate); Dr. Alice Stek (Congress - CD36); and Jim Smith (Assembly - AD53)

Location: The concrete pier on the beach at Rose Avenue, Venice.

Noon - An old-fashioned election campaign march, with rousing music, will proceed down Ocean Front Walk from Rose Ave. to Windward Ave. It's in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the civil rights marches; Cesar Chavez and the farmworkers; and marches for peace and justice.



Peace and Freedom Voters

Please vote on March 2 for:

- ✓ Leonard Peltier (President - a representative will speak)
- ✓ Marsha Feinland (U.S. Senate)
- ✓ Dr. Alice Stek (Congress - CD36)
- ✓ Jim Smith (Assembly - AD53)

1PM - Meet the Candidates Reception at 533 Rialto Ave., Venice. \$5. In honor of community and union activists who are struggling daily for grass roots democracy.

For more information: 310-399-2215

www.peaceandfreedom2004.org

www.la-peaceandfreedom.org

Paid for by Smith for Assembly and Stek for Congress

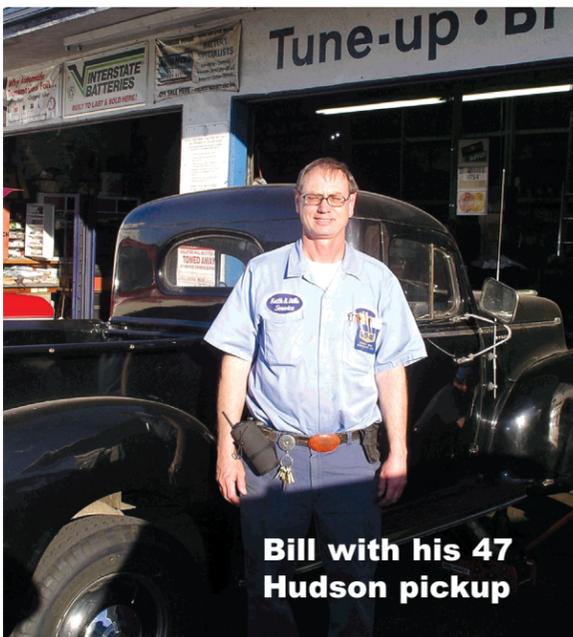


Keith and Bill Chamberlin ... Two Generations Move On

By Betsy Goldman

You may have noticed that "Keith and Bill's Service," on the southeast corner of Venice and Abbot Kinney Blvds. is for sale. If the escrow closes and things go according to plan with the City's approval, the 8,000 square foot lot will become retail with residences above.

Although the auto repair facility hasn't been around quite as long as the Garacochea family's Pioneer French Bakery, established in 1908, it is still one of Venice's earliest business establishments that is currently in operation (or at least at the present time).



**Bill with his 47
Hudson pickup**

Keith Chamberlin, the third family member to run the business, first came to Venice in 1938 as an eighteen year old. It was during the depression when there were no jobs. Keith's uncle offered him one in the gas station he opened in 1925. Keith remembers arriving in Venice on the Red Car. "It was a beautiful place to live," he says. "The pier was going strong. There were bingo and gambling games ... like a small version of Las Vegas ... 24 hours a day. Crime wasn't nearly like it is today. The traffic wasn't so bad."

Then Keith went off to war, and to live other places. He wouldn't return until 1958 when another uncle, who had been the owner since 1940, was getting ready to retire. Keith was offered a lease, which he had for 12 years. By that time his uncle had passed away and his lease went month-to-month because his aunt wanted to sell. "I didn't think I could run a business from month-to-month so I was kind of forced into buying it, which was a good deal" he says. Keith paid \$55,000 for the station and \$10,000 for the office ... both properties are worth \$1,500,000 today.

When we moved back to Venice," says Bill. "I remember my mother walking us down Windward and there was the beatniks and the coffee shops." Bill specifically remembers the Gas House. "One famous coffee house was torn down," he says. "It was all political. It was condemned for building codes but it was the same structure as the rest of the block. They just wanted to get rid of the beatniks."

"It was a unique atmosphere during the late 60's and early 70's," says Bill. "Venice became flooded with kids coming from all over the country. Kids were hitch hiking throughout Venice just to meet people and party." Bill lived in the office for a while. "Venice Blvd. was the main corridor to hitch hike. It was always a bohemian atmosphere. It became like L.A.'s

Haight-Ashbury type of neighborhood. It gained a reputation. And it has always been a center for artists," continues Bill.

The national headquarters for the Peace and Freedom Party was down the block. Bill remembers Dr. Spock coming to Venice when he was the party's candidate for president. He remembers Jim Morrison and John Haag. The Manson family lived on Main and Brooks. He knew a girl who was living with the family, but of course didn't really know who they were at the time.

"The governor pumped iron here in Venice at the original Gold's Gym," says Keith. "He came in the gas station and pumped his own gas," adds Bill. "I said 'you're a body builder.' He says, 'and actor and author.' He had one movie out and one book out. That was in the 70's. He only got a couple of dollars of gas at a time."

Dudley Moore was a regular customer in the 80's. "He used to come in his Rolls Royce," says Bill. "He was nice and would tip us." Bill also remembers that Dudley was always on his cell phone. "He was one of the first people I saw use one," he adds. Keith remembers, too, that Dudley was nice and would also talk to customers. Dennis Hopper was a regular. "I used to go to his house to change a flat tire," says Keith.

The Venice Police Station was just up the street where SPARC is now located. The uncle who first owned the station made home brew beer. "The policemen would come here to loaf and drink free beer," says Keith.

Both Keith and Bill have great stories about police officers and their misadventures ... particularly regarding drinking. "You would see police officers drunk all the time," says Bill. He remembers a time in the late 60's when a motorcycle cop pulled up in the lot and fell over. "His motorcycle pinned down his leg and he was yelling for help," he says. "My father walked over, knowing he was drunk, and took his keys out of the ignition and started walking away. The officer threatened to shoot him in the back. He said, 'Give me my keys back.' My father called the police station and they came and got him and said, 'thanks.' Stuff like that happened all the time."

Keith had a interesting hobby. He was a renowned Hudson collector. He was featured in both People magazine and the Los Angeles Times in 1974. When you go by today you will see a 1947 Hudson pickup parked in front. "It's a landmark," says Bill. "People know the place by the truck." Keith drives a 1955 Hudson. He also has a 1970 Buick. "It's the newest car I have," he says. At one time he had 23 vehicles ... 15 of them were Hudsons. The garage, itself, has been a popular location site ... seen on television shows such as the movie "Man on Fire" with John Forsythe in the 80's and an episode of "Marshall Law" in the 90's plus videos and commercials.

Bill took over the business in 1982. Now it's time for him to move on. He is moving to Montana after escrow closes. "I want to get away from L.A. and I want to hunt and fish, ride horses, shoot my gun," he says. And Keith? "I am going to stay here until they haul me away," he says. "I've been in almost every state and four European countries during the war and I've never seen a climate that would compare to Venice."



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DeDe McCreary, Venice Ralphs Asst. Manager and Picket Captain, speaks at the rally on Feb. 8. MC Jim Smith is behind her.



Singer/Activists Suzy Williams, Michelle Shocked and Vessy Mink perform for strikers and supporters. Williams will perform at a Beachhead Party, Feb. 21 at Spontos Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave.

Supermarket Workers Stand Their Ground Against Corporate Moguls

In normal times, people who work at Ralphs and the other markets – just like most of us – have a hard time making ends meet.

Just imagine how tough it is going without a paycheck for four months! That's how long it's been since one October day, 60 workers reported as usual at the Venice Ralphs and were told they wouldn't be allowed in the store. A few hours earlier, their colleagues at Vons had gone on strike to protect their health benefits, wages and pensions.

In a remarkable show of corporate solidarity, Albertsons and Ralphs refused to let their employees work. They were locked-out. Now there are an estimated 59,000 workers collecting meager strike benefits instead of a paycheck. Meanwhile, the corporations Safeway (Vons), Kroger (Ralphs) and Albertsons are losing hundreds of millions of dollars in their determination to grind down their employees. And Wall Street is cheering them on with higher stock prices.

If you can help with contributions, contact UFCW, 1410 2nd St., Santa Monica 90401 or phone: 395-9977.

The Mural Paint-Out of 1981:

Canal Neighbors to the Rescue

By Ann Arens

Advocates of property development and those favoring community preservation have long lived in uneasy coexistence in the Venice Canals, but never have the factions been in more open conflict than during a few Spring days in 1981 when residents took action against paint compressors with rags and turpentine to preserve a symbol of the Canal community.

The mural on the side of the building at the corner of Dell and South Venice Boulevard is dismissed by some as "people's art" and revered by others as an icon of the glory days of the canals of Venice. Mostly, it is ignored by all but a few who stop to take in its rich detail and consider its origin.

In 1975 the Citywide Mural Project granted a few hundred dollars to a women artists' collective called Jaya - a Sanskrit word meaning "non-violent victory - to create a mural depicting life in the unique Canal community. Through lengthy and often lively discussions, the content of the mural was determined by these women and other residents of in the Canals. Artist Emily Winters, a Canal resident, was chosen to put all the ideas together in an overall design and carry out the actual creation of the mural on the side of the building which then housed John's Market, the local stop-off for beer and snack foods. Working with Winters, the women of the collective (whose names can be seen at the lower right of the mural) painted the mural over six months time.

At first glance, the mural seems to depict an idealized view of people living their lives in innocent pursuits - enjoying the company of friends, farming, playing music, embracing. Each of the figures depicted was a specific Canal resident of the time, including an elderly couple who lived near the mural, a ceramicist in her studio, a couple who were expecting a child, Jay "the bubble man", Mr. Leslie, who fed the birds while making his way around the canals on an electric cart among others. The mural shows the park that the community built with their own hands and resources, enduring conflicts with the City of Los Angeles. On closer inspection, the mural also reveals another level of what was happening in the Canals at the time.

"The mural is essentially a picture of the struggles the people who were living here and were trying to preserve the Canal community," according to long-time Canal resident Mandy Peck. "It has a pastoral feel, and that's the way it was. We had a lot of people here from all walks of life. And it was an inexpensive and safe place to live, and we were being encroached upon by the Marina del Rey development from the

South. So when you look at the mural, you can see the Southern part is where the bulldozers are coming from. Back in the '70s, our community was being attacked, you might even say, by developers and speculators, who suddenly realized that this was some pretty valuable property."

During this time, the face of the Canals, long an ethnically diverse mixed-generational Bohemian enclave, suddenly faced radical change, often causing disruption in personal lives. Sudden evictions were common, and people were getting 30-day notices left on their doors while they were at school or at work. "Our little

paradise that we lived in was being eyeballed by the speculators and developers," says Mandy.

Mural artist Emily Winters was one of those displaced. "I was living in the Canals at the time and, like a lot of places, the building was sold and the new owner raised the rent. So, in the middle of painting the mural, I had to move out of the Canals."

One of the central images of the mural depicts an example of the callous attitude the Jaya artist collective felt outsiders had toward the Canal community. Sadie Hayes, a woman in her late eighties was unable to pay her property taxes because of failing health. Two days after she died, the City, claiming the property as its own, sent a bulldozer to tear down her small house before her family had been given time to remove any of her possessions. Community residents stood firm, preventing the driver from carrying out his assigned work. When he was filled in on the background leading up to the demolition order, the driver climbed down and joined with the group of protesters.

The family was given ample time before the destruction was carried out.

An assault on the mural itself would come in March of 1981.

"Early one morning we heard a commotion outside the window," recalls Toby Watson, long-time Canal resident who was then living on Carroll Canal near John's Market. "When we looked out, we saw the guys painting over the wall a dark greenish-gray with rollers. When they finished and left, my friend Brian, who lived across the canal from us, came out of his house with one of those little spray bottles. He went up to the wall and spritzed it and saw that the paint was water-based." Toby and wife Debbie Hall were among those who started a barrage of phone calls around the Canals. "All of a sudden, all these people just poured out with hoses and buckets and brushes," Toby recounts.

"We all went changing over there, and about 30 people at least started scrubbing the green paint off," said Mandy Peck. "It took all day, but we got the darn stuff off the mural. It was sort of fun because it was like a celebration when we got done."

But the next day, the developer returned - this time with ten professional painters using compressors to spray on oil-based paint of the same green color - and a police car. Again calls went out, but neighbors could only wait and watch. "And when they were done," recalls Toby, "half a dozen of these guys just stood around with their arms folded

for a couple of hours, and, when they figured it was safe, they took off."

Debbie (artist D.J. Hall) brought out turpentine from her studio. Neighbors rushed to the local home store to buy paint thinner.

According to Mandy, "More people came out this time because they had all heard about what had happened the first time. There were 40 people out there trying to get the green enamel paint off. And we were successful."

The owner of the building, a woman who lived in Texas, received numerous calls from residents complaining about the paint-out, and the story behind why the mural had been painted over final-

ly emerged. The owner had received a letter from a pro-development Canal homeowner who told her that her building had dirty words written on it and offered to clean it up. Thinking this could only be an improvement, the owner had authorized the homeowner to take action.

"Stop the Pig" - the phrase the homeowner had represented as offensive - had been written on the wall as political graffiti at an earlier time in protest to incidents where Canal residents had been hassled by police. Then when the women artists were planning their mural, there was an objection to painting over this graffiti. Mandy Peck recalls, "A young man named Louie - kind of an eccentric - objected to the mural because he considered "Stop the Pig" to be existing art and free speech and he thought painting over that - even for the creation of a mural - was not a good thing. So Emily, in her infinite wisdom, decided to incorporate it into the mural." Within the context of the mural, the phrase "Stop the Pig" came to represent not the police but developers.

Mandy conjectures that the homeowner who got permission from the owner to "clean up" the building thought the mural would discourage new homeowners from coming into the Canals. "If you can imagine that. It's not the kind of mural that you would think would scare anybody. He was afraid it would take away his business." After finding out that the clean up she had authorized had led to the obliteration of a city-funded public mural, the building owner characterized the letter she had received from the homeowner as "misleading" and rescinded her permission.

The media got wind of what happened in Venice and within a few days stories appeared in the Los Angeles Times, The Herald Examiner, and The Evening Outlook - all presenting stories favorable to the community's team effort to rescue the mural. The pro-development homeowner backed off from any further efforts, but the mural had suffered as a result of the doubled-barreled

assault. "After we got the paint off, the mural looked sort of antiqued," says Mandy, "like it was very old, almost like a Roman fresco."

And so the mural remained until 1997 when public funds paid for the restoration to its original form, and the mural was re-dedicated.

"People shouldn't deface something that was a sanctioned piece of public art," comments Debbie Hall. "And it really is a piece of history because it represents the Canals, what they were back in the '70s, which was the glory days actually for the Canals. It's sad to see that part of history unrecognized."

Now, more than 20 years later, the Mural Paint-Out has another lesson for our Canal community, still struggling with some of the same issues of change and divisiveness.

"It was a pretty victorious event for the people who lived here because we got to keep the mural and it sort of represented our tenacity about keeping development down to a reasonable level." Says Mandy. "This was something that bonded the community. People came out from different backgrounds to do this, and we realized we had a community that cared about what was going on."

A footnote to this story: In the most recent remodel of the building at Dell and South Venice, a section of the mural at the most southern end was again somehow covered over with green paint. The current owner of the building has agreed to pay for the restoration - a project which should be starting soon. We will be watching.

Reprinted with permission from VOCAL, the Newsletter of Voice of the Canals (VOC), the resident association of the Venice Canal Community.

PHOTOS: Scenes of the Canal Mural by Jim Smith.



Another view of Playa Vista

—continued from page two

the courts. It is certainly possible that the same outcome could have been achieved in a more positive manner by the Hanscom faction. By badmouthing and mischaracterizing the original settlement agreement, they created unnecessary bad blood between environmental organizations. We never had any objection to attempts to gain more acreage, in fact, would have been delighted by that achievement, but could not stand by and allow hard-won victories to be trashed by these newcomers to the battle over Ballona. It was both sad and disgusting for me to hear and read the personal attacks on Ruth Lansford and Ruth Galanter especially those suggesting that they had some ulterior motives for their actions.

During those years ownership of Playa Vista has changed hands more times than I can keep up with and with those changes so has the commitment to the plans we originally agreed to. I will not defend what I consider the atrocious buildings that now line Lincoln Blvd. I believe that these lawsuits have resulted in one very positive outcome, the possible preservation of the land west of Lincoln as open space, and many, many negative outcomes. Primary among them is the loss of a coherent plan for the entire development that many of us felt was very innovative and a precedent for the entire city.

I do not deny that the development will very negatively impact the already intolerable traffic conditions on Lincoln Blvd. But, as events have unfolded, there was never any chance that we could prevent some development at Playa Vista or that the development would be significant and dense.

From the beginning of this process the forces favoring development were significant and very powerful and the opposition was also significant but far weaker. Do I feel that the



opposition was let down by the Sierra Club and the cities of Santa Monica and Culver City who have subsequently expressed opposition? Yes I do! Do I feel that revisionist histories such as the one Davis would have us believe are distortions of what really happened? I most certainly do!

Now the State owns Ballona, including everything west of Lincoln and Area C which is east of Lincoln and north of Ballona Creek. It will take 3 to 5 years to plan restoration. Meanwhile, the Trust for Public Land, which brokered the State deal, will take over maintenance of the wetlands.

It's now time to concentrate on coming up with a good restoration plan for the wetlands and that means relying on science, not politics or hyperbole or dogma. The Friends have almost completed the dune restoration on the west, the freshwater marsh is in place on the east and functioning well above anyone's expectations, and now it's the salt marsh's turn.

The history of Playa Vista/Ballona is not easily reduced to the simplistic 20/20 hindsight that Davis has presented no matter how popular it has become. Some will accuse me of simply stubbornly supporting an outcome that I was involved in shaping and I will admit to some of that. But I also stand by that outcome as a vast improvement over what we were facing 17 years ago against all odds. I cannot help but wonder where all the opposition, including Mr. Davis, was in 1986.

Moe Stavnezer



More from Moe on Playa Vista

Aside from the florid prose in "The Death of Playa Vista," there are many factual errors.

First: No parking for Lincoln small businesses is being taken.

Second: The frogs not only have not gone, but are there in droves at the freshwater marsh – more than there ever were. Not only that, but the freshwater marsh has, in its first year, drawn over 110 species of birds, virtually all native. That's almost half the number of species recorded at Ballona cumulatively since record-keeping began. Fish and invertebrates are also thriving and the water quality exceeds standards by far.

Third: Centinela Creek isn't being replaced by "sewer pipes". Centinela Creek is being replaced by a more viable stream at the bottom of the bluffs and a riparian corridor of native plants. The bluffs above will also be replanted with natives. There will also be over 50 best management practices installations (some already installed) that will filter out pollutants that used to enter the wetlands completely untreated.

Fourth: The best methane detection devices are at Playa Vista. I don't think any of the other developments nearby, also on depleted oil fields, has them.

Fifth: The west bluffs aren't owned by Playa Vista but by Catellus.

Sixth: The roadway projects wanted by Playa Vista were granted. The one denied was pushed by CalTrans and neither PV nor the Friends nor any other organization (except perhaps the Chamber of Commerce) supported it – that was to widen Lincoln north of Jefferson Blvd. It was basically left over from when PV planned development west of Lincoln. After PV dropped that, they didn't care whether that widening went through or not.

Seventh: "Crushed burrowing owls??" The burrowing owls had disappeared years ago and are now returning, probably drawn by the goodies at the freshwater marsh.

Eighth: Native American remains, under the supervision of legitimate Tongva-Gabrielino monitors, are not being cavalierly tossed into buckets, but preserved and labeled and stored according to the law.

Ninth: Development east of Lincoln, where Playa Vista is, is not on wetlands, but rather the old Hughes Aircraft site and its former runways, most of the area 10 to 15 feet above sea level, hardly a wetland environment.

Tenth: If PV is at risk of a tsunami, how about Venice? The whole Marina is also a State designated "Seismic Hazard zone."

Gabrielino/Tongva Tribal Council Sues to Save Burial Sites

A complaint alleging numerous legal violations was filed Jan. 16 in Federal Court by Johntommy Rosas, Vice-Chair of the Gabrielino/Tongva Tribal Council.

The suit is against Playa Capital Corporation, Catellus Development, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the State Historic Preservation Officer, the EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, among others.

"This Sacred Site and the Burial Areas are being desecrated and our tribe and culture are being violated by the illegal actions of all the defendants," said Rosas. "It must be stopped immediately. This is what we are seeking in Federal Court," Rosas continued. "If these burial areas had crosses and tombstones, this destruction would not be happening."

The suit charges violations of the national Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, American Indian Religious Freedom Act and Native American Graves Repatriation and protection Act.

The lawsuit claims \$525 million in damages as the result of destruction of burial areas and sacred sites currently under construction for Playa Vista and West Bluffs developments.

HEARING

on Lincoln Center Development 9AM, Monday, March 1

WLA Muni Bldg. 2nd Floor, 1645 Corinth Ave.

This project, replacing Ralphs and Ross, includes: 2 floors commercial including big box stores and 280 luxury apts., no affordable housing, 6 floors above ground, 2 below ground.

Distant Sun

by Hillary Kaye

They try to stop me
but they can't
my legs are made of feathers
and my heart is big like the moon
The stars are my home.
and the clouds are the way I travel.
The distant sun keeps me warm as I follow it.
I enter a paradise that can not be paid for
and
these things they want to take from me but
can't.

William B. Leaf, III

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Sunshine
 Blue skies
 Winter waves crashing
 washing the lava leaving
 a vision of white water
 like snow of long ago
 Salty air taste of wind whispering
 songs from across the ocean
 across the planet
 sand kicked up from the rover "Spirit"
 from a crater on Mars
 footprints of joy
 across the sands of time
 this Universe of Verse
 I am humbled.....
 Shanna Baldwin-Moore.
 January 2004

Road Poets

first road poet, first
 drunk poet too, maybe,
 also first rant poet, was
 li po.
 then came old walt, 19th
 century poet pacifist
 kicking up dust down
 dirt road america.
 scraggly beard baggy
 pants holes in his shoes—
 what a sight!
 then came kerouac,
 lurching on & off
 the road. wrote a
 million words, he said,
 before his first bleeker
 bar legal drink.
 micheline, another jack,
 brooklyn bred like walt,
 hitchhiked all the way to
 isreal, partying the
 waters of the red sea.
 jumped into the arms of
 the Muse from a west
 coast commuter train,
 neal cassady along lonely
 railroad tracks.
 ginsberg quietly in bed.
 -Bill Fleeman

To My Wife Natasha

By Terence Pearce

A certain line of the cheek, the pillar of the
 neck
 All delicacy; and above, the crucible of
 thought,
 the invisible, the inexplicable running like
 quicksilver,
 turning with massive implacability in the fal-
 low darkness;
 The hind before she springs, with the
 forest in her
 gaze,
 The willow curtsying , gentle in her
 river-strength
 Caressing the black earth with her hair,
 The gold in the gleam of the wheat.
 The geometry of the soul is lucent and ineffa-
 ble
 but words are the smaller part of language;
 She is mute, standing quite still, studying
 something in her hand
 and out of this clay she is shaping the
 divine.....

dog park priorities

13 bright spotless
 sun gleam aluminum cans
 at 30ft intervals
 each with new yellow
 painted handled
 shit shovels
 patio chairs
 folding chairs
 tree shaded benches
 large cool clean
 water bowls
 for pampered pooches
 bulletin board adverts
 expensive grooming
 walkers
 and massage services
 across the parking lot
 human beings with nothing
 lean into dwindling
 hot afternoon shade
 unemployed/unemployable
 old mildewed bedrolls
 soiled packs of nutty junk
 dirty/hairy
 panhandle a cool moment's
 rest from life
 before they're chased into the sun
 or arrested for their crime of
 poverty
 maybe
 if they wore collars
 ate out of bowls
 on the ground
 the plush puppy parents
 might
 throw them a bone
 -Rex Butters, Westminster Ave.

P
O
E
T
R
Y

Year 2004
 Resolution

Here we are, A new Year
 What about the vanished
 year
 How many tears
 Were shed for the victims
 Of oppression
 Of occupation
 Of WAR
 "infinite war" they call it
 How many times we stood
 by them
 A war,
 For whom?
 Against whom?
 For the capitalists and
 Capitalism
 Maybe
 The final phase of bar-
 barism! ?
 Against
 Iraqis, Afghanis
 The Palestinians
 O' yes, Columbians,
 Nicaraguans, Cubans,
 Indians,
 Africans
 The toiling poor
 Children, women and men
 Against nature
 The oceans and seas
 The streams
 The rivers, lakes
 Aquifers too
 The trees
 The skies
 The earth
 Life itself
 It's an infinite war, no less
 Has to encounter
 The drive for peace
 For justice
 For democracy
 For life
 Is an awesome force
 Cannot be conquered
 It's the engine
 Driving life forward
 Against destruction
 Against death
 Death
 Dictated by market forces
 Lest there be
 Life
 Spread further
 Claiming
 Sharing
 The wealth.
 This is the force of
 The people
 Organized
 United
 Visionary
 Everywhere
 Loudly saying
 Roaring
 Another world IS possible!!!
 For us and for nature.
 -Ali Hebshi, jan. 2004

The Flame

by Miranda

Where did the flame that once glowed so deeply in
 my soul go?
 The one that made my eyes shine like sparkling, vin-
 tage wine
 reflecting the hope each tomorrow would bring.
 The tide of curiosity directing me as I walked the
 path of life's journey.
 The excitement within myself as I turned every cor-
 ner life had to offer.
 Never looking back as I crossed each bridge in front
 of me.
 Never faltering in my steps, driven by the sensation
 of faith for what lies in
 the past I could not undo.
 But learned from each new step that I took.
 My life has not been in vain for I have so many self-
 dimensions still to
 explore.
 Feeling the sensation of the flicker in my heart that
 keeps me connected to
 my body and spirit.
 Where did the flame go so embedded in my soul?
 That makes my eyes bright that reflect my inner-
 core.
 From an ember it grew filling my soul with passion
 as my life unfolds.

Venice is free

Venice is me
 Since 1964 I have called you home
 My, how you have grown
 I can't say I'm happy with all the changes
 Strange days and rearranges
 Trams and canal festivals and concerts in the
 pavilion
 It doesn't seem like 40 years have gone by
 It seems more like like a million
 I waved as Bobby Kennedy rode down Venice
 Blvd.
 He was gone a week later, the world was
 scarred.
 Peace and Freedom
 Freedom and Peace
 I heard Anna Haag died
 That I knew her, gave me pride
 Hail Hail Rock & Roll
 From the Doors to ST to Jane's
 I blew mind so many times
 I'm surprised anything remains

Before disco and before the roller-skates
 Before crack cocaine and Ballona Creak
 debates
 There was a little haven at the edge of LA
 Where free spirits come out to play

Venice, yes, you've changed...alot
 There's not denying that
 But the sun still shines, the winds still blow
 there's some who remember, some who know

I can't forget the beautiful new blood that fills
 your streets
 From Washington all the way north to Marine
 There's a light in peoples eyes
 A smile so serene

We can't give up and moan for the good old
 days
 It's up to us to carry in our hearts
 Peace and freedom and love
 Not become bitter, cynical old farts
 Wink, wink
 Shaka Nana

-Kurt Max, January 20, 2004



Update on the Santa Monica Airport and its Community Impact

by Martin Rubin

Homeowners: Sellers' disclosure of airport noise was added to California's Transfer Disclosure Statement last October in of the new law [Airport noise disclosure (AB 2776): Requires disclosure to potential buyers that a property is affected by airport noise], according to Ann Pettijohn, president of the California Association of Realtors.

On the back burner: A possible opinion from the UCLA Environmental Law Clinic on whether Santa Monica has the legal right to regulate air traffic at the airport based on the amount of emissions aircraft emits.

Everyone welcome: The Sub-Committee on

Airport Affairs (a sub-committee of the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council Conservation Committee) will meet for the third time at 7pm, Tuesday Feb. 17, at the Azteca Restaurant, 424 Lincoln Blvd. The Sub-Committee is working on strategies to address our neighborhood concerns regarding Santa Monica Airport.

Recently founded: *Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution*, covering all communities impacted by S.M. Airport pollution invites all concerned residents to sign up at to be on our contact list at jetairpollution.com or call 479-2529.

S.M. Airport Noise Management Program November and December, 2003 Reports: Jet Aircraft Operations up 38% in November from the previous year, and in December, up 13% from the previous year. The violations recorded on the two official noise monitors, for November were up from 17 to 25 from the previous year, and in December they were down from 24 to 16 from the previous year. The measurements assume the maximum level of noise occurs over the monitors. It does not account for landings and take offs that do not go over the monitors. It certainly does not include the noise that occurs anywhere away from the monitors.

Request to know what becomes of the complaints that residents make to the airport: As co-founder of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution, in response to questions from residents, I asked the Airport Operation/Noise Abatement Supervisor, January 29, for an official answer to several questions. These answers, which will be posted on jetairpollution.com, have still not arrived.

The Feb. 2 S.M. Airport Commission meeting: Residents expressed their concern that the City of Santa Monica is granting Commercial Operation Permits at the airport to businesses that are attractive to commuter jet traffic, i.e. film production companies, film and television development, and several limousine services.

Under the Budget Discussion item: Residents requested that a portion of the monies collected from noise violations be set aside to be used for the sole purpose of improving the monitoring of the environmental impacts on the communities surrounding the airport.

Consideration of various new Airport Commission Agenda Formats: This will be carried over to the February 23rd meeting. The public expressed their concern that their input might be limited and several requests were made for workshops on items of concern to residents, i.e. noise and emissions.

Last two items on the agenda: Due to a 10pm closing of the Ken Edwards Center, the items on: Discussion of Procedures Regarding the Processing of Public Request for Information Concerning Aircraft Operations, and the item on Legislative and Regulatory Update were rushed through.

Send questions or comments to the Beachhead, or to 479-2529 and jetairpollution@earthlink.net.



By Joselyn Wilkinson

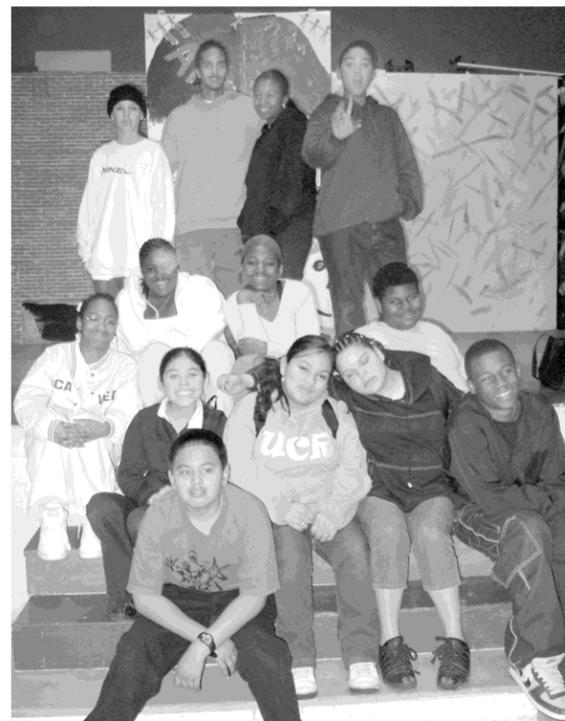
Roberto Martinez* was having trouble in school. A soft-spoken young 7th grader who likes to draw and skateboard, he came face-to-face with "zero-tolerance" when he was OT'ed ("Opportunity Transferred") for looking at a classmate's BB gun. He was expelled and his family was left to search of another overburdened middle school to accept him. During the three months he was left in the cold, nothing much to do every day, living in a crime ridden low-income area of Venice, Roberto got a ticket for truancy. Fortunately, Roberto found himself facing Judge Pamela Davis in L.A. County Superior Juvenile Court, and he was given the unusual sentence of enrolling in a local arts program.

Andre Franklin* was having trouble in school. A bright young man full of creative energy, Andre could not keep still in class. Teachers came down pretty heavily on him for his lack of focus and for not getting his homework in on time. In dance and drama classes he excelled, but much of the time he felt left out for being "different." When Andre heard about a local after-school arts program, he decided to give it a shot.

Maria Garcia* was painfully shy. Her wide smile and bright eyes were full of vibrant life, but most of the world didn't know that because she found it impossible to speak in front of a group or raise her voice above a whisper. Luckily for Maria, L.A. Bridges referred her to an after-school arts program.

In September 2003 Inside Out Community Arts welcomed these three middle-schoolers, and 25 others, into its Neighborhood Arts Project. Four professional artists, trained in a special curriculum, met once a week with the students, who learned skills in acting, movement, writing, photography, visual art and music. Each week they explored a different theme: respect, imagination, changing the world, seeing yourself as a superhero, creatively exploring your neighborhood, and many others. The students learned to work as a team, they built their self-confidence, and then they began to write plays. The students, in two playgroups, chose music and teen street life as their themes. These topics are symbolic of the crossroads at which Venice middle-school youth find themselves. Caught between innocence and ugly reality, kids reach inside themselves with the help of professional actors, musicians and

INSIDE OUT



writers and find they have something entirely unique to say.

Now it's February and they've performed two incredible plays on Feb. 7 for an audience of community, friends and family, letting the world know "What's On Their Minds"! For many youth who've taken part in Inside Out Community Arts programs over the past 10 years, this is a profound experience they will remember for the rest of their lives. But what's most important is the process -- young people finding positive ways to explore who they really are and take an active part in who they are becoming.

Roberto Martinez is doing much better in school. His counselor said she saw him smile for the first time last week. His grades are improving, he feels like he's part of a team, working with adults who genuinely care for him. Andre Franklin is shining as a creative force to be reckoned with. He's learned that he doesn't have to talk all the time in order to be heard. And Maria now knows that people want to hear what she's got to say. Her voice is getting louder and louder, and she hasn't lost that beautiful smile.

* Students' names have been changed for confidentiality.

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...

The Free Venice Beachhead has been the voice of the Venice progressive community since 1968. The nonprofit newspaper survives on local ads, individual sustainers and fun-raisers like this one.

INFO: 310-306-7330



Saturday
Feb. 21

at

Sponto Gallery
7 Dudley Ave., Venice

...

Two Shows:
8PM & 10PM
\$10.



Beachhead
Party!

Beachhead:
www.freevenice.org
Beachhead@freevenice.org

BRAD KAY



610 California Ave.
Venice 90291
www.grvnc.org

Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 26

Venice United Methodist Church
Community Building
2210 Lincoln Blvd.
(1 block north of Venice Blvd.)
Free Parking • Child Care

6pm - Reception/Dinner
7pm - Program

RSVP for Dinner (seating limited) to rsvp@grvnc.org

Program

Destiny of our Neighborhoods

- **Lincoln Center Development - pro and con**
Moderated by 2nd VP Dr. Alice Stek
- **Ocean Front Walk Ordinance - pro and con**
Moderated by Board Member Laddie Williams
- **Abbot Kinney Blvd. parking - pro and con**
Moderated by Gov't Relations Officer Paul Ryan

Public comment invited on each topic.

Venice organizations and GRVNC Committees:
Reserve your information table for the Town Hall.
rsvp@grvnc.org • www.grvnc.org

Volunteers
Needed

ART

• **SPONTO** Gallery 7 Dudley Ave. Contact: Mark Kornfeld - Director 399.2078 - Majestic Digital Productions presents- "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" a twenty year collection of Reggae photos by Clint "Joseph" Shelby, Feb 4-18.

COMMUNITY

• **West L.A. Planning Commission Meeting Hearing for St. Joseph's** proposed development for a NEW facility to serve the community! Please come out and support @ Henry Medina West L.A. Parking Enforcement Facility (Second Floor) 112214 W. Exposition Park. Call with questions: 396-6468 x 301

• **Grassroots Venice Neighborhood Council Meetings** (see page 3 for listings and info.)

• **Bhagavad-gita** (The Song of God) Hare Krishna Ctr. - 111 Dudley Avenue FREE 450.5371

• **Food Not Bombs** - -892-8799 - Volunteers needed! E-mail: venicesantamonicafnb@fastmail.fm
-Tuesdays 5 pm - Venice Peace Picnic
FREE Vegetarian meal - Dudley Hill (Rose Parking Lot in Venice)
-Sundays 11 am - Cafe on the Beach -Hot Breakfast 'neath the pagodas at Rose Ave.

• **Venice Center for Peace with Justice & the Arts** 2210 Lincoln Blvd 397.8820 Tuesdays 3:30-5:30 (some Saturdays) - proudly presents "The Neighborhood Arts Project" through Feb 10, 2004 -

Comm-unity Events



POETRY

• **Beyond Baroque**, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006
✓ **"O FREEDOM": SONGS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HEROISM**
Hosted by Los Angeles folk singer ROSS ALTMAN. **Frederick Douglass Remembrance Day** is celebrated with a program bringing together a quartet of outstanding black artists from Southern California: storyteller LESLIE PERRY, folk singer LEN CHANDLER, interpretive artist JOHANNE TODD, and legendary classical singer HOPE FOYE. Spoken word and music to commemorate Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Paul Robeson, Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou and Martin Luther King, Jr. Reception and refreshments will follow. 20 February, Friday - 7:30 PM

POLITICAL

• **Support the Strikers:Huge demonstration!** Thursday, Feb 19th @ Noon at Santa Monica's Vons Supermarket (Broadway & Lincoln Blvd.)

• **Leonard Peltier for President!** Come support and march- Sunday, Feb 22 at Rose Ave. concrete pier, @ 11:AM - 399-2215

• **Venice Peace and Freedom Party** meeting. 7 pm, Wednesday, Jan. 14. For more info: 399-2215

• **Vote! March 2- L.A. Registrar of Voter** 800-815-2666



Midnight Special Bookstore Events
1450 2nd St. Santa Monica 393-2923

✓ Reporter and commentator Larry Everest will discuss his book, **Oil, Power and Empire: Iraq and the U.S. Global Agenda**, Feb. 20, Friday - 7:30pm
✓ The pre-eminent African-American writer of science fiction and fantasy, **Octavia Butler**, will appear in celebration of the 25th anniversary edition of her book, **Kindred**. Feb. 21, Saturday - 1pm
✓ **Michael Halperin** author of **Black Wheels**, will discuss a little known incident when 19 black soldiers in 1897 made a harrowing bicycle trip across the most rugged territory in America. "The Bicycle Corps: America's Black Army on Wheels" will be screened. Feb. 22, Sunday - 2pm



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Seniors

• Israel Levin Adult Senior Center, 201 OFW, 396-0205.
-Movie matinee, 1 pm, Mondays
-Line dancing, 11 am, Tuesday
-Israeli dance, 10 am, Wednesday
-Current events discussion, 11 am, Wednesday
-Weight management workshop, 1pm, Thursday, 6 weeks for \$20.

FILM

• **Sponto Gallery:** 7 Dudley Cinema 399-2078, www.81x.com/7dudley/cinema - **The Beats: An Existential Comedy.** Frank T. Rios & the film's director, Philomene Long will read poetry. Free admission, Feb. 18

• **The Magic of JRR Tolkien's Middle Earth!** Class, hand-outs, film documentary & discussion Feb 21, 3-5:30 PM, RSVP jenniferreif@juno.com

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"This country has extraordinary human potential. It is time to awaken it."
- **Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich**
Presidential Candidate '04, Democratic Party



ONLY ONE CANDIDATE ... ONLY DENNIS J. KUCINICH!

U.N. IN, U.S. OUT OF IRAQ! Every day, American soldiers and innocent Iraqis are suffering the consequences of President Bush's senseless war in Iraq. Congressman Dennis Kucinich led the opposition in Congress to the War on Iraq, sued Bush to stop him from going to war without a Congressional Declaration, opposes giving Bush additional billions for the occupation, and has a plan to bring the U.S. troops home and replace them with a United Nations force. Kucinich will stop the sweetheart no-bid contracts to corporations like Halliburton. And he will make sure the Iraqi people swiftly regain control over their country and its oil resources. Dennis Kucinich's position is clear: "It is time for the United States to rejoin the world community in the interests of international security."

NAFTA AND WTO: 10 YEARS IS ENOUGH! A decade of corporate trade deals have led to layoffs, environmental destruction, and a \$400 billion trade deficit. As president, Dennis Kucinich will stop the global race to the bottom by withdrawing from NAFTA and the WTO and replacing them with bilateral trade agreements that protect labor standards and the environment. He has consistently spoken out against corporate-managed trade: "This is called free trade. But where is freedom when jobs are lost? Where is freedom when industries threaten to move out of the country unless wages are cut? Where is freedom when the right to bargain collectively is crushed?" It's time we had a president who puts workers, human rights, and the environment ahead of corporate profits.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL—NOT HEALTH CARE FOR PROFIT The number of Americans without health insurance is over 40 million and rising. Corporate-backed politicians say that the world's richest country can't afford health care for everyone. Dennis Kucinich disagrees. His plan is called Enhanced Medicare for All. The idea is simple. Bring everyone into a comprehensive, universal public insurance system like Medicare. Cut out the waste and profiteering of corporate HMO's and private health insurers. Let everyone choose their own doctor. Make quality health care a right of citizenship. "Our country has great wealth, yet we trail dozens of countries in our ability to provide health care to our citizens. It is time to fix this great injustice in our society. We must not wait, and we must not be timid."

Paid for by Kucinich for President

Dennis J. Kucinich is a four-term Congressman and Co-Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

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VOTE March 2nd for Dennis J. Kucinich for President

Los Angeles Office: 323-655-6617