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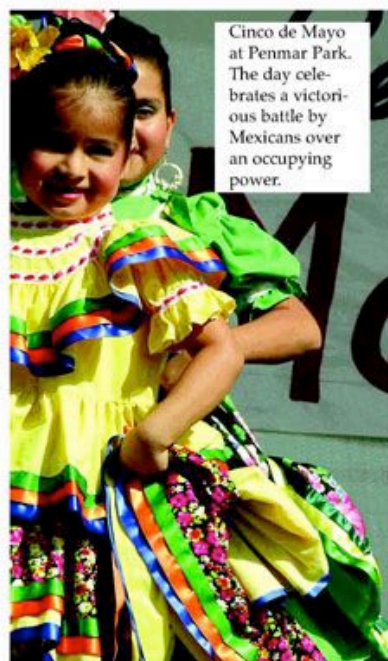
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FREE VENICE SINCE 1968 BEACHHEAD

June 2004

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Cinco de Mayo at Penmar Park. The day celebrates a victorious battle by Mexicans over an occupying power.

Photo by Lydia Porcili

Are We There Yet?

By Carol Fondiller

Several decades ago, I owned a bike, one of many. She was a beaut. Built for comfort, not for speed, with her fat balloon tires and broad comfortable seat, we had many adventures, my bike and I. She was hefty. A '50s (or earlier) girls Schwinn bike. She had a distinct personality, stable, and curvy. She was painted with bright blue enamel paint. If she had an engine she would have been a Hudson. She was called Prunella. I swear she named herself.

Prunella was the sort of bike lusted after by surfers. She was easy to steer, even if you were lugging a surf board under one arm, and wearing a wet suit. If Prunella got sand in her chains, she was easily cleaned. One early November evening, I left Prunella outside my place for just a minute to get something I forgot. I came outside, and witnessed the ABDUCTION of my Prunella.

I ran screaming after the two prepubescent males who, by their dress were matriculating in Gangers 101. Oh Prunella! Prunella! Bike o' my heart! My partner in cruising along the alleys and streets of Venice in the darkling dusk, with the scents of night blooming jasmine, honeysuckle,



gasoline, and frioles refritos blessing my nostrils, gone gone stolen, to perhaps be ravaged for her parts - I spent days raging and crying against those vile little brats who stole my Prunella. "In the old West, they used to hang people for stealing a man's horse," I moaned. "I could describe those nasty little humanoid sociopaths!"

A friend, who'd heard this aria before, said "Well lemme git mah dawg, mah pickup, a case o' Coors an' mah gun an' hunt 'em down lahk the yeller little varmints they are." "OK", I said, "but you don't have a pickup" ...My dear friend, master of the quirked eyebrow - quirked. "Oh, I get it, I'll fold up my white sheets."

I wish I could say this was the only time my rage took over my brain squelching all but a ravening hunger for vengeance. But luckily, I was brought up by rational ethical parents and their friends, various Jungian shrinks, etc. So generally I cooled it, mumbly, sulking, holding my sense of personal injury close to my heart while soaking in a warm bathos of self-pity.

When I saw the images of the abuse and tortures of Iraqi prisoners, I was shamed. I was shocked. But I recognized the feelings that engendered those actions against people who were powerless, and dependent on superiors for their survival. I had those feeling also. If I'd have caught those nasty little boys with my bike, I might have beaten the crap out of them. If my friend were of a mind we might have cruised the alleys, terrifying children in the quest for my Prunella. I was furious. I was frustrated. I was wronged. Those creepy little grem-lins, less than human. I did nothing to harm them; why me? I saw the pictures again—the naked bodies, hooded victims, the smiling youthful soldiers joking and pointing at their prisoners.

They looked all too familiar. I have a book called "Willing Executioners" about the willing participation of most of the German population in the extinction of the Jews in

Horrific photos on page 8

—continued on page 4

Racism in Venice?

By Jim Smith

Last month, a number of white Venetians were outraged at being called "white supremacists," "white crackers," and similar names by Venetians of color. Most of the insults occurred outside the Vera Davis McClendon Center (named for a late, great Black Venetian) as they were entering a Venice Neighborhood Council meeting. One instance occurred during public comment at the meeting, but the speaker was quickly interrupted by members of the board.

While the email lists and internet message boards, which are overwhelmingly white, have been abuzz with indignation ever since, the larger question has not been addressed. Is there racism in Venice?

My observation after 35 years in Venice leads me to answer in a resounding yes. Venice is still segregated, and still subject to different police practices for members of different races.

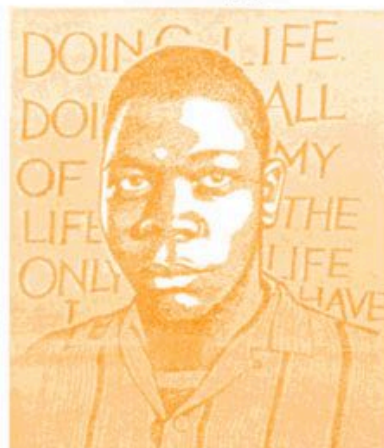
In the old days racism and discrimination were much more overt. Blacks were allowed to live only in Oakwood. Real Estate restrictions in Venice and elsewhere prevented white property owners from selling to Blacks, Mexicans, Chinese and others. The KKK had a chapter in Venice. Their office was near where the post office annex now stands. When long-time residents of Venice who happened to be of Japanese origin were rounded up and put in concentration camps during WW II, we heard no protest from the "great-est generation."

In spite of it all, Venice continues to be a multi-racial city. Even with segregation, many Venetians find ways to embrace the racial diversity of this odd-ball beach town. In fact, so much embracing has gone on that more than 1,700 Venetians are of "mixed race" according to the

2000 census. Those whites who are blinded by their racism unfortunately miss the rich diverse cultural texture that make Venice, well Venice. Because of past legal restrictions on their mobility many Black, Native American and Latino families came to Venice in its early days and never left. To be a third and forth generation Venetian of color is much more common than it is among white Venetians.

None of this has deterred a condescending or even hostile attitude from newcomers who are white. A white friend told me that one evening last month when she was standing outside a community center located on the Black-white border of Venice with one of the Black women who works there, a white man came by walking his dog. When he was asked not to

—continued on page 4



June 27 Election in Venice May Be Postponed

At press time, it was unclear whether the scheduled June 27 Venice Neighborhood Council election would take place, or be postponed for up to 90 days.

On May 20, the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC) voted to hold the election as scheduled, in spite of opposition from the anti-Progressive caucus group, which had filed a petition for bylaw revisions that would make the GRVNC more restrictive. A May 6 vote on the petition carried six of seven revisions.

However, the GRVNC is only semi-autonomous from the city of Los Angeles. The city's Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) was not yet ruled on the validity of the May 6 vote, nor on an earlier set of bylaw provisions approved by the GRVNC Board.

On May 25, DONE's chief, Greg Nelson, urged GRVNC's Board, "in the strongest possible way," to delay the election for 90 days.

GRVNC has called a Board meeting for 7PM, June 7, at the Vera Davis Center to consider what to do about the election.



BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:

John Davis, Carol Fondiller, Theresa Hulme, Hillary Kaye, Peggy Lee Kennedy, 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.

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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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Vanguard Lives!

Dear Beachhead,

Just wanted to send you a clarification in regards to your page 5 notice of the proposed plan for the Venice Vanguard building at 120 Mildred.

The proposed new construction is to be done on the adjoining vacant lot (1902 Strongs Drive) thus retaining the existing building at 120 Mildred as is (except for a new stucco/paint job and restoring the original exterior lighting). The entire plan for the building is to save the existing structure, not to destroy it, as your notice suggests.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed plan, please feel free to contact me and I will be happy to walk you through it.

P.S. - I have been a resident of Venice for 13 years and there is no one that cares more for this building and its significance to the street and community, than me.

Thank you.

Danny Kaplan

(The information in last month's Beachhead came from a mitigated negative declaration statement filed with the city. We're glad to hear that the Vanguard building won't be disfigured - Ed.)

Election messed up, says Reader

Dear Beachhead,

I voted against the initiative to change voter qualifications for membership in the Venice Neighborhood Council. I did so for a variety of good reasons.

I am writing this letter, however, not to argue about the substance of that initiative but to ask for clarification of the voting process. As I approached the table to get my ballot, I was startled to see that one of the people handing out the ballots was wearing a "VOTE NO" sign on his shirt. At the same moment, I heard an agitated female voice behind me asking this person why none of the people handing out ballots was wearing a "VOTE YES" sign. He blew her off.

I was startled because the image of someone handing out ballots prominently displaying his own position on the vote taking place violated everything I have learned over a lifetime of voting. How did this come to happen? And I am not asking a narrow, technical question about whether or not the regulations governing the vote did or did not permit this. I am asking how anyone thought that such disregard for the norms of democratic voting was not going to get the same negative reaction from voters ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ISSUE!

Richard Abcarian

(Even the GRVNC Board thought the election was screwed up. See their statement, below. - Ed.)

Election messed up, says Board

May 20, 2004

To: Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
From: Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council Board
Re: May 6 Special Election Meeting for Bylaws Modifications

The GRVNC Board believes that its published election timetable, including an on-site election June 27, should go forward.

The GRVNC Board would like to convey the following concerns we have about the special election meeting and the bylaws modifications voted on, May 6, at a special election meeting.

1. The May 6 election was flawed due to lack of supervision and procedures:

Neither the Board, nor the Executive Committee, was in control of the May 6 election process. The Election Committee did not administer the election. The committee did not count the number of valid signatures on the petition. Because of this failure, it was not determined until after the election that only 44 signatures - six less than the required number - were from voting members. GRVNC bylaws (Article X) state that one has to be a "Voting Member" to be able to sign the initiative petition. The bylaws also state (Article III, Section B) that "proof of community stakeholder status will be required for voting rights to be effected." There is no indication that any of the signers of the initiative have shown such proof of status. Indeed, the petition itself implies self-affirmation of stakeholder status was used. It states "By my signature below, I certify that I am a Venice Stakeholder..." The "self-affirmation" credentialing is not approved yet by DONE for Voting Members.

At the election meeting, the processing of voters and counting of ballots was left up to volunteers some of whom had no training. A lack of poll worker training and oversight as well as immature election procedures and a lack of poll worker instructions failed, among other things, to make it clear that all voters should be given at least a provisional ballot. The 30

LETTERS

— send
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voters without identification who were given provisional ballots found them stamped "void." In addition, two GRVNC Board members were refused a ballot because they did not have identification! Voters were not allowed to vote by showing their GRVNC voter registration card as had been the past practice. Other voters complained that they were not allowed a secret ballot, since their registration information was stapled to the ballot. There was no one clearly in charge. Voters received varying treatment depending upon whom they approached for a ballot. Some reported being treated rudely by election volunteers.

The ballot itself was in violation of the bylaws, Art. X, Sect. B: "All revisions to the By-laws should use strikethroughs to denote deletions from the By-laws and underlines to denote additions to the By-laws."

The election was conducted in a cramped lobby where there was a constant stream of people going to and from the Town Hall meeting in the adjacent auditorium. "Vote Yes" and "Vote No" flyers were left on the tables next to where people were voting.

The Board failed in its obligation to provide an election environment that ensured a fair process where all voters were treated with respect. The Board sincerely apologizes to any and all stakeholders who were insulted or inconvenienced.

In addition, the election was flawed by circumstances beyond the Board's control. Voters at the May 6 Special Election Meeting may have made their choices based on deliberately false and misleading information provided by some of the petitioners.

This false and misleading information included a flyer, "Who Speaks for Venice?" (attached), that was distributed throughout the community.

It states that the question of who speaks for Venice would be decided by the May 6 vote: (1) "Is it you and your neighbors - people who live, work, rent or own property here?" (2) "Or is it simply anyone who belongs to an organization with 'Venice-related activities'?"

In addition, the flyer claims "fraud...plagued last year's election."

These false allegations that outsiders control, or will control, the neighborhood council, and that the current board won the election because of fraud, would impel many, if not most, reasonable stakeholders - absent an investigation of the facts - to vote for the petition. It cannot be assumed that voters would have supported the specific provisions in the petition had it not been for serious misrepresentations of fact.

Since the petitioners included several candidates in last year's election and incumbent board members in 2003, it can be reasonably assumed they knew that only one case of fraud was found by either DONE or the League of Women Voters. That instance was Marta Evry's voting by absentee ballot for her dog, Raku Bowman. From their previous involvement in the neighborhood council, the petitioners also knew that all 20 Board members are Venice residents and that only a small percentage of absentee ballots in the 2003 election came from outside Venice (and these were from property owners and Venice workers as well as a handful of volunteers in Venice organizations).

Therefore, the Board cannot endorse any of the provisions either on their merits or as an indication of stakeholder sentiments.

2. We are concerned that some of the specific language in the proposed modifications, voted on May 6, is either inadequate, confusing or disenfranchises genuine stakeholders.

This includes the following:
Bylaws Change #1 - Art. II - Membership
A. GRVNC Community Stakeholders

This change would restrict the definition of "work" as a criteria for being a stakeholder. This provision would disenfranchise artists on the Ocean Front Walk who work everyday but are restricted by ordinance to donations (if this provision is approved it could trigger another petition to include them.). It would also disqualify non-resident board members of Venice organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce or the Venice Housing Corporation who are reimbursed with a stipend or not at all. It provides for no means of verifying whether the stakeholder qualifies under these restrictions, such as at least 30 days employment. It also denies eligibility to workers, and non-resident business owners, to vote for district representatives, while allowing non-resident property

FOR THE RECORD:

The May Beachhead article on Tenet Healthcare (*The Little Hospital That Could*, by Theresa Hulme) did not identify the hospital where 80 percent of heart surgeries performed were unnecessary. It was the Redding Medical Center.

owners to vote in those elections. There is nothing in the city charter that gives property owners greater status than workers in regard to neighborhood councils.

Bylaws Change #2 - Art. VI - Elections - Registration

D. Registration

This provision requires even those "who qualify as current Community Stakeholders" to again show "proof" that they are eligible to vote. At the May 6 Special Elections Meeting, many local residents were turned away because they were not carrying ID. Others, including at least one Board member, were offered the opportunity to cast provisional ballots, which were not counted. Because of a theoretical possibility of non-qualified stakeholders casting ballots, thousands of stakeholders will be required in future elections to prove that they are indeed Venice stakeholders.

The Board is opposed to any system of verification that makes it more difficult to vote in a neighborhood council election than to vote for president of the United States.

Bylaws Change #3 - Art. VI - Elections - Qualification

E. Qualification

This provision would raise the voting age in neighborhood council elections from 16 to 18. There is no indication on the ballot that voters knew they were raising the voting age, and thus disenfranchising Venice youth. The ballot did not state what was proposed to be changed per the bylaws: "All revisions to the By-laws should use strikeouts to denote deletions from the By-laws and underlines to denote additions to the By-laws." (Art. X, Sect. B)

Bylaws Change #4 - Art. VI - Elections - Proof of stakeholder status

F. Credentials

This provision requires that credentials be shown both to register and to vote. The list of credentials is deficient in several respects. It includes a valid passport (which doesn't list a home address thereby allowing anyone to vote). Another is a pay stub from an employer within the GRVNC boundaries. This is the only credential that would apply to workers. However, a pay stub contains confidential salary information that a stakeholder might not want to show to a neighbor who is checking credentials. In addition, not all Venice workers get a pay stub with a Venice address on it. Stores like Ralph's, Sav-on, RiteAid, etc. do their payroll out of a regional office, hence disqualifying their employees.

In addition, there are no credentials for non-resident property owners. If their tenants pay the utility bills, then how are property owners to qualify to vote? Missing from the list of credentials is a rent receipt that would be helpful to residents and to business owners who rent their store.

This provision does provide for additional "proof" of stakeholder status to be adopted by the Rules and Elections Committee, but then makes the adoption process more cumbersome than the current procedure for changing the bylaws.

Bylaws Change #5 - Art. VI - Elections - Voting for a District Representative

G. Voting

This provision restates the ineligibility of non-residential workers (and business owners) to vote in district elections, while allowing non-residential property owners to vote (See Bylaws Change #1, above).

Bylaws Change #6 - Art. VI - Elections - Changing election procedures

H. Election Procedures

This provision makes it more difficult to create election rules than to change the bylaws. By requiring dual approval of election rules by a 2/3 majority of the Board AND a majority of the Voting Membership (presumably only those voting), it makes it exceedingly difficult to meet a normal timetable for preparing for an election.

Bylaws Change #7 - Art. VI - Elections - Absentee voting

I. Absentee voting

This provision was not approved in the special election meeting.

3. Summary:

1. The Board wishes the upcoming Board election to take place in accord with the bylaws and as previously scheduled and publicized.
2. The Board asks that DONE provide more guidance and assistance to all-volunteer neighborhood councils who are attempting to conduct proper and fair elections with limited training and expertise.

This memo was approved by the GRVNC Board, May 20, 2004.

Approving: Zoe Garaway, Peggy Lee Kennedy, Tom O'Meara, Lydia Ponc, Jim Smith, Alice Stek, Suzanne Thompson, Jataun Valentine, Laddie Williams and Sheila Bernard (Chairing and not voting, but in support).

Opposing: DeDe Audet, Bonnie Cheeseman, Greg Fitchitt, Dennis Hathaway, Paul Ryan, Sabrina Venekus, Kelley Willis

City Foils Coastal Commission

By John Davis

The California Coastal Commission Staff has rejected the Venice Specific and the Oxford Specific Plans as incomplete. Completed plans are needed to qualify for a certified Local Coastal Program (LCP) for Venice.

Many communities in the California Coastal Zone already have LCPs that allow the local entities more jurisdiction over development and management of coastal resources.

Venice already has a Land Use Plan (LUP) that was certified in 2001. Now the City is supposed to provide the Coastal Commission Staff with all information to prove that the Venice Specific Plan (VSP) is in conformance with Chapter Three of the California Coastal Act. Chapter Three Policies are stringent so that a balance between development and preservation of valuable coastal resources can be achieved.

The City has failed to submit even enough information for the Commission staff to begin the evaluation process. Deputy Director Debra Lee of the Commission has endorsed a request for further data from the City of Los Angeles.

Here in order are some of those materials requested by the State Coastal Commission in a letter of February 13 and City Planning Director Con Howe's responses of April 28, some of which are summarized:

RESOLUTION OF SUBMITTAL

- CCC REQUEST - State in City whereas resolution that the LCP is intended to be carried out in a manner fully in conformity with the Coastal Act. Note the start date.
- CITY RESPONSE - An amended resolution will be submitted to the City Council and this should not slow the process.



LAMC SECTIONS AND ISSUANCE ORDINANCE

• CCC REQUEST - Submit Los Angeles Municipal Codes (LAMC) referred to in the VSP required by the California Code of Regulations as well as "all policies, plans, standards, objectives, diagrams, drawings, maps, photographs and supplementary data in sufficient detail to allow review of the LCP for conformity with the Coastal Act requirements." Note: The City failed to submit 10 sections of the LAMC and a section of the City Charter.

• CITY RESPONSE - The City will submit the Municipal Codes but "not for certification." The reason stated by the City Director of Planning is that it would put a "tremendous and unmanageable workload on City staff... There is no need to additionally certify these other procedures". State Laws, the California Coastal Act, and other applicable laws require the City to comply with the Coastal Commission request to certify the LCP. City Planning Director Howe fails to even respond to the other requests.

OTHER LAMC SECTIONS

• CCC REQUEST - Submit "all parts of the LAMC that could be used to implement the LCP, including the procedures that the City could use for approving variances or exceptions from LCP standards."

-Continued on Page 10

LINCOLN CENTER PROJECT REJECTED BY L.A. PLANNING COMMISSION

The city of Los Angeles Planning Commission, May 13, rejected the proposed Lincoln Center Development. This project would have been the largest commercial development in Venice. The pair of six-story buildings would have stretched from Lake Street along Lincoln Blvd. to the alley next to Palms Blvd (the area that Ralph's, Rite Aid, Ross and the old Warehouse building now occupy).

The Commission began by calling on developers/architects Sam Adams and Jai Pal Khalsa to explain their project. Adams took one look around the room, which was packed with opponents of project, and asked the Commission for a continuance. This request was denied, somewhat indignantly.

After about a 15 minute presentation by the developers, the Commission noted the 40-plus requests to speak in opposition the project from Venetians who had trekked down to City Hall, and asked if a smaller number would speak. Representatives of the Venice Community Coalition and the Neighborhood Council agreed and reviewed the project's problems with traffic, excessive height, impact on local businesses, lack of an environmental impact report and the overall unvenetianess of the development. The Commission also heard from Kevin Keller, chief planning deputy to L.A. Councilmember Cindy Miscikowski. Keller said Cindy M. supported a mixed-use development at this site but opposed this particular one.

The Commission seemed to waver in favor of approving the development, if it was moved forward on the lot to the Lincoln Blvd. frontage. Ultimately, they voted to disapprove the project, as recommended by Hearing Officer Jon Foreman. But before that, two commissioners, Mitchell Menzer and David Burg felt it necessary to lecture the peasants - that is - the Venetians who had come downtown for the hearing. We were told not to celebrate the disapproval too gleefully because soon more

outrageous projects would come along and then we would be as miserable as everyone else (not a direct quote).

The project which was proposed nearly a year and a half ago aroused a storm of protest around Venice. Meetings were held in which more than 200 people turned out in opposition, the Beachhead ran numerous articles opposing it, and last June an anti-Lincoln Center slate was elected to the neighborhood council.

The project began at seven stories and 75 feet in height but was revised downward to six stories and 66 feet, with two floors of retail space and four floors containing 280 apartment units. It was still deemed much too tall for the neighborhood.

The disapproval of this monstrous project was a big victory for the community. When it had first been proposed, several members of the old Land Use and Planning Committee said that would be impossible to stop to project. They took the position that it would be better to wrangle some concessions from the developers. Not enough was gained, however, for the hundreds of locals who insisted on standing up against the project and ultimately beating it.

The Venice Community Coalition was formed by Penmar-area neighbors who were incensed by the project. This group was behind the very successful "Envision Venice" workshop, Nov. 15, that brought out hundreds of people to discuss a community vision for Lincoln Blvd. Needless to say, that vision did not include this mega-development.

It was also a big victory for the Progressive Slate on the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council. They had campaigned against the project and put the neighborhood council on record in opposition to it, in contrast to the majority of the previous council and land use committee.

-Jim Smith



Are We There Yet?

—continued from Page One

WWII. There are pictures of smiling young soldiers placing their feet on the backs of bearded old men in their yarmulkes and prayer shawls. There are photos showing soldiers and civilians forcing men and women to dance, rifles pointed at the feet of their prisoners. There are excerpts of letters they sent home telling of how proud they were to rid the world of Jewish vermin.

There were several stories a few years ago about a sheriff who forced his prisoners to sleep in tents, depriving them of "treats" like hot meals and coffee. These prisoners were worked hard, physically punished, deprived of newspapers and books except for the Bible and given pink underwear. This, I guess to make them feel less than men, and to de-sex them.

One of the accused guards in Abu Ghraib prison was an ex-prison guard. I believe this man was a civilian guard leased out by Halliburton.

The most telling to me, was the picture of a fresh faced little pixie pointing her gloved fingers in a trigger position at hooded and/or naked "detainees"—so much for the superior sensibilities of the "fairer sex." We are just as good as men and just as vile.

I know these crimes committed by our military and our wardens are not as horrific as the Nazi atrocities of WWII, or other genocides ranging from the Persian annihilation of indigenous people BCE, or the killing fields of Armenia or Vietnam or Russia, but its only in degree, my friends, only in degree.

When I got over my shame "we're not supposed to do that! We're better than that!" to quote Rumsfeld, "Oh my..." The Palestinians blow up women and children, likewise the Israelis—brought up with Jewish guilt, I find that hard to face.

I guess I remember some Jew saying "Eventually, we will forgive the Palestinians for killing our children, but we will never forgive ourselves for killing theirs."

I was surprised that some of the participants in the abuse of prisoners never heard of the Rules of the Geneva Convention in regards to the treatment of prisoners of war. Didn't their mommies tell them it was wrong to pick on the powerless? Our leaders do the tightrope dance of they're not POWs, they are insurgents-terrorists-they wear no uniforms therefore they are not soldiers (so we get to torture them?).

They are people. We are Americans. Aren't we supposed to be better than our enemies? Isn't that the reason our leaders gave us for ridding the world of Saddam Hussein?

Oh, of course, there were weapons of mass destruction, and a vain attempt to link Iraq with the horrific events of September 11, 2001, but our president has come up with the moral imperative to bring democracy to the non-Christian masses. And woe to any one who disagrees, no matter how respectfully, how quietly they do so. They are called unpatriotic—and that's one baby step away from treason.

In Nazi Germany, people were exposed to the constant rat-a-tat-tat of war mongering. And told of their racial and cultural superiority. Anyone who questioned authority was questioned. People were told that to inform on one's neighbors or spouses was patriotic. We're not there—yet. But librarians are told to give up lists of what people read to the government. People can be held without access to lawyers, or even notifying friends or family members for no stated reason. I fear I might be held in a dungeon under a letter of cachet because I have a fondness for pita bread, humus b'tahini, mid-Eastern music and Omar Khayyam. People are scrutinized. Their e-mail examined, their letters opened, hearsay evidence collected by government agencies because they are persons of interest. They are surveilled, just as what happened in Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union, and in Iraq under Hussein. Well it's not quite that bad...or is it? Are we there yet?

Racism in Venice?

—continued from Page One

leave his dog's poop on the yard, he complained that people visiting the center threw trash in his yard. My friend responded that she had never thrown anything into his or anyone else's yard. "That's because you're white," was his retort. While it may be extreme to express these feelings out loud, if you are white, ask yourself if you scrutinize a Black man walking down your street more than you would if he was white. Would there be any neighborhood watch committees if people of color never came into white neighborhoods?

It's only been in the past few years that a derogatory name for Oakwood among white Venetians has stopped being used in polite company (I'm not going to revive it here.) Lately gentrification has come to Oakwood. Whites who previously wouldn't have dared set foot on Brooks, Broadway, Indiana, etc. now drive their BMWs slowly down those streets looking for real estate. Others come looking for something more illicit. Some whites actually move in, all too often behind 8-foot fences patrolled by Pit Bulls. Meanwhile Black and White police cars cruise up and down every street. One long time resident remarked that the stepped up police presence is because "Blacks aren't selling their homes fast enough."

Hot on the heels of the Yuppie invasion come proposals for not one but two charter schools on the grounds of Broadway Elementary School. When schools like Broadway and Westminster were overwhelmingly Black and Latino, no one outside Oakwood cared about the quality of education. Now, 50 years after Brown vs. Board of Education, we may be seeing the resegregation of our neighborhood schools.

Advances like integrated schools, lunch counters, an end to Jim Crow laws and other overt manifestations of racism came as a result of Blacks - and a few whites - becoming militant. Marches, sit-ins, freedom rides, and in some cases, rude behavior, put liberal whites on the spot. Now, in some ways the clock seems to be turning backward. There are more young Black Venetians in jail than there are graduating from Venice High. Those on the street are restricted by terms of probation or gang injunctions (often without due process). Twelve year olds are already in THE LAPD's computer databases. Is it unreasonable for Venetians of color to feel angry and powerless?

An LAPD bust in Oakwood on May 13 involved kicking in the front door of a home, and arresting two local men on charges of dealing crack cocaine. Some locals claim the search warrant was bogus and the evidence was planted. This followed the March 27 alleged police beating of Donovan Moore, which was covered in last month's Beachhead.

Admittedly I wasn't on the scene in either case so I don't know from personal observation whether the THE LAPD's went "by the book" or if they used excessive zeal. However, police practices in Oakwood have been called in question

by residents for a long time, probably since Venice was taken over by Los Angeles. One former Venice Division cop, Mark Fuhrman - of O.J. Simpson trial fame - in an interview with Laura McKinney, bragged about beating and torturing gang members, "we had them begging that they'd never be gang members again, begging us." Fuhrman's negative attitude toward Blacks - which I'm sure is not shared by any other police officers - was apparent. He said that he would tell Blacks, "You do what you're told, understand, n____?" Fuhrman was also accused of planting evidence, a tempting shortcut for any "bad cop."

Even while police are kicking down doors in Oakwood, it is possible to buy powdered cocaine in some of the Venice watering holes frequented by affluent Venetians. Quite a few impressive new homes throughout Venice have elaborate pot farms in their walk-in closets. When was the last time you heard about a police raid on a plush nightclub or a fancy home where illicit drugs were cultivated or sold? I'd guess never.

The unequal enforcement of crack versus powdered coke and other drugs is not the only problem. What is the problem is the lack of concern, sympathy, or action by those white Venetians who see Blacks and Latinos, and not racism, as the problem. Venice is a microcosm of our society. We have our suburbs and our inner city, our wealthy and our homeless, and we have residents from all over the world, including thousands of Blacks, Latinos, whites, Asians and hundreds of Native Americans on whose land we are all living.

Meanwhile, Spanish classes are poorly attended by Anglos. Community programs at the Vera Davis McClendon Center and Oakwood Recreation Center seem to be boycotted by whites. When the Neighborhood Council held a town hall on May 6 focusing on helping at-risk youth, hundreds of whites streamed into the adjoining lobby to vote in favor of denying 16 and 17-year-olds the right to vote and then made a beeline to their cars.

Racism is so deeply ingrained on us whites that it can probably never be fully eradicated - at least not in our lifetime. All of our families have profited, either directly or indirectly, from the enslavement of Africans, genocide and taking the land of Native Americans, conquering the Mexicans in California, and near-slave labor conditions of Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos and other Asians and Pacific peoples. And the list goes on. Just ask Wal-Mart and other U.S. Corporations what they are doing around the world.

Overcoming this legacy is like a 12-step program. "My name is Bill White, and I'm addicted to racism." We're guilty as sin of exploitation and discrimination. We should be sentenced to community service for the rest of our lives. And when someone who has suffered from white supremacy all his life hurls an unfair expletive in our direction, we can be sure that someone in our family tree truly deserves it.

COMITÉ DE RESIDENTES DE "VENICE/OAKWOOD"



Everyone is a "minority" in Venice

Total	31,018	
Am. Ind.	295	0.95%
Asian/Pac. Isl	1,147	3.70%
Black	2,087	6.73%
Latino	7,834	25.26%
Other	3,694	11.91%
White	14,182	45.72%
Haw./Pac. Isl	48	0.15%
2+ races	1,731	5.59%

2000 Census data for Zip 90291

BOOK REVIEW

QUEST: The Search for a Soul for Modernkind, by Vincent Coppola

Reviewed by Steve Goldman

With great passion, yet without a scintilla of mawkish sentimentality, Coppola here makes the strongly compelling case for love as the direct and primary implication of human consciousness. That would be laudable by itself, but these are not merely the pleasant musings of a decent well-intentioned person. This is (and it is astounding) tightly reasoned philosophy, based on acute, astute observation and profound and powerful argument. Building on Descartes (whom he explicitly reverses on the fundamental matter of "proof" of personal existence) and Kant, who seems indispensable to all who came after, Coppola emerges with a distinctive and compassionate American existentialism that is unlike anything heretofore. With strongly grounded links to modern cosmology, evolutionary theory and the sheer phenomenology of consciousness in space/time, Coppola delivers a ringing statement of free will, so sorely needed in this era of burgeoning biological reductionist determinism.

This in turn yields a ringing adduction of the ontological primacy of self, with commensurately devastating attacks on any variety of teeny-bop-ping reductionism, chemical, biological, physical

or psychological: and as well on any religious-philosophical tradition (usually Asian), which explicitly denies or tries to "eradicate" the self. "I myself exist, and I can love" is the rigorously derived, powerfully demonstrated theorem, which is the "first principal" here. What is more, the revolutionary "optional" theology "Quest" proposes, seems to at last settle that huge and perennial question for contemporary times. Additionally and astonishingly, and with philosophical deftness and gracious style,

Coppola's secularized Christology evinces sacred humanitarian values, again so needed in this era.

Coppola is a highly trained professional philosopher, a prodigiously well-read and deeply thoughtful theorist and analyst, whose similarity to the preponderant mentality in his field is only superficial. That is because Vincent is a philosopher in the all but abandoned grand tradition, a professor who actually professes, a professor who operates from a stance of engagement and compassion, so unlike his horde of reductionist, detached, time-serving technician faculty colleagues of the professorate; a man who actually strives to influence his student's lives for the sake of liberation through philosophical method, this, let's say it, in the tradition of the Platonic Socrates. Philosophy is no idle pastime, dealing with jejune abstractions for Coppola, it is a matter of life and death, a tradition he shares with only a few of the greats, the likes of Wittgenstein, Nietzsche, and Kierkegaard, who, apart from particular doctrinal identity or particular slant or area of concern, were in it for "blood."

And most importantly in that connection, Coppola herein posits suffering as an object of philosophical scrutiny, i.e. being worthy of philosophical address. This is unknown in western philosophy to my knowledge: evil yes, even cruelty, but not suffering. While at pains to refute the Buddhist account, he does not of course solve the matter of suffering, how could he? Short of a thoroughgoing and slavish deism, ("the ways of the Lord are unknown to us, but He has His reason blah, blah") - how could anybody? Remember we are returning here to the root meaning of philosophy: philo+sophy = love of wisdom, not love of word games.

The written style of this book is commensurately unique to its conceptual output. It is by turns funny, personal, engaged, warm, redolent with true and moving pathos (in the best sense) - derived from the author's own sometime anguished personal experience: the death of those he loved, and as well, (brace yourselves) his love for his Old English Sheepdog, and cockatiel. The book is startlingly and refreshingly entertaining. Stylistically, there has, I hazard, never been a book of "serious" philosophy remotely like this.

The schema expressed herein is in no way explicitly political, as indeed neither is Vincent's classroom teaching. Remember, we are doing philosophy here, not proselytizing. But never have human affairs so greatly needed such an incredible book as this: remember, we are about to embark on another horrible, horrible war. Read this book, it will change your life. It changed mine and I was already a pretty loving guy, going in.

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NO PEACE IN VENICE

The L.A. Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners, May 19, named the park next to the Venice Library. They chose the name "Venice of America Centennial Park," even though Venetians had voted at a Town Hall meeting last February to name it "Peace Park."

NO SMOKING

Also without consulting Venetians, the Los Angeles City Council voted, April 21, to ban smoking on Venice's beach. Councilmembers apparently forgot to consult with the local neighborhood council. Enforcement of the ordinance is not expected to be a high priority, however, it could be enforced selectively against "undesirables."

DUCK!

The GRVNC Conservation Committee wants to construct a small freshwater pond at the head of the Grand Canal to encourage ducks not to cross busy streets and migrate into neighborhoods in search of fresh water. It's also calling for "Caution! Ducks Crossing" signs to be erected nearby.

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Below: Former city Councilmember Ruth Galanter (center), received an award for service to the community from the Vera Davis McClendon Center, last month, during Disaster Preparedness Day. Galanter, who was on the council from 1987 to 2003, is the only Venetian to every serve on that body. With Galanter, left to right, are Venice Neighborhood Council Board members Sheila Bernard, Elinor Aurthur, Jim Smith and Suzanne Thompson. Carol Berman is in front of Smith.
At left: Cliff McClain, Director of the Vera Davis McClendon Center; and Jataun Valentine, Oakwood Seniors Club and GRVNC, present award to Galanter. To their left is the Venice Peace Wall.



TO: Venice of America Foundation Inc.

RE: Sprint of Venice Awards

Who better represents the Spirit of Venice than John Haag?



He was a small businessman who ran the Venice West Coffee House for several years.

John was also a politician and an organizer. John was one of the people who had the concept of Venice seceding from Los Angeles. He helped found the Peace and Freedom Party, and organized marches against the war in Vietnam in Venice, and the war on Venetians by speculators.

A gentle Anarchist, the only bombs he threw were thinking outside the box. It was John who instituted the idea of participatory democracy in Venice which eventually led to the Venice Town Council. The VTC's descent is the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council.

He is also a poet. He also taught many people to question authority. When the community was faced with the prospect of having to choose several city sponsored plans for a freeway to divide Venice, John asked "why a freeway at all?" As a result we have no freeway cutting up our Venice.

Thanks to John and people like him, we still have a small town feel with a cosmopolitan edge.

—The Beachhead Collective

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Monday, June 14th @ 6:30PM
Wednesday, June 16th @ 6:30 PM

Broadway Elementary Auditorium, 1015 Lincoln Blvd. Venice.



Classic cars were on display in Penmar Park at the Cinco de Mayo celebration.

AROUND VENICE

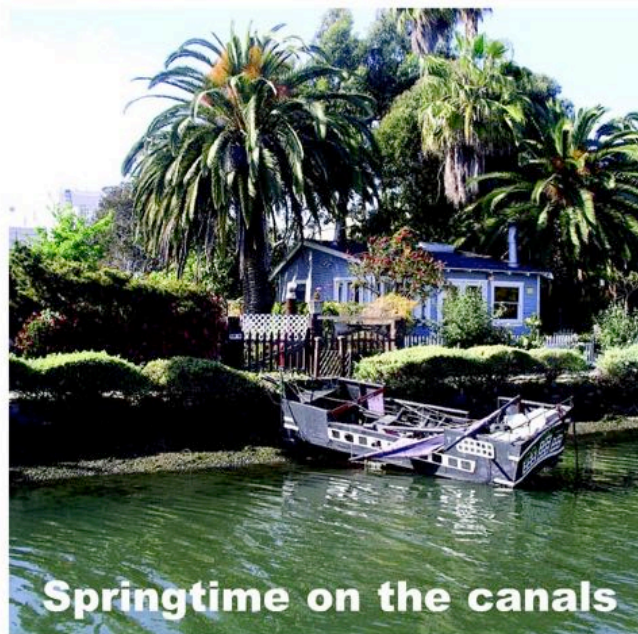


Oakwood Seniors cooked a meal for the Venice Town Hall participants, May 6



Photos by Lydia Poncé

Parents looking to get their kids into Ocean Charter school line up outside the Oakwood Recreation Center, last month.



Springtime on the canals



Affordable housing units on San Juan Avenue are emptied and fenced off in anticipation of their destruction and replacement by high-priced condos.

Find all the Free Venice Beachhead issues of the past two years on the internet at:
www.venice-beachhead.org

It's not just in Iraq

The recently exposed horrors of prisoner abuse in Iraq shocks people of sound mind. The current US administration has not yet admitted that we also torture American citizens who are prisoners in equally illegal and immoral ways within the United States. One example is the experience briefly described below by a Viet Nam War era conscientious objector who endured the horrors of the US Federal Prison in Springfield, Missouri.

....Most of my prison-time was served in the Federal Prison Hospital at Springfield, Missouri - in solitary confinement. The prison authorities explained this was necessary so that I wouldn't corrupt the rapists, and robbers, and murderers with my beliefs in conscientious objection and moral obligation. War-resisters were known as troublemakers, holding group hunger strikes and fasts and protest sit-downs. We were of course

forbidden to do any of those things, or even to discuss our "crime" with each other.

I was beaten bloody by guards, placed in cold rooms with no blanket, with unflushable toilets that overflowed with putrefaction. My head throbbed. And I was beaten yet again - and stabbed in buttock muscles with syringes of massive over-size doses of prolyxin - but without the cogentin which is supposed to be given with the prolyxin because it is necessary to counteract the extrapyramidal reactions that occur when the prolyxin is administered alone - which results in excruciatingly painful muscle paralysis. One cannot so much as move a finger. Agony racks every body fiber. The cerebral cortex of the brain is on fire.

I couldn't get enough air. My lungs refused to breathe deep. I thought I'd die of suffocation.

As we lay on our stomachs upon our metal bunks unable to turn over by ourselves - the pressure of the weight of our own torso upon the lungs was enough to kill us! And prisoners had actually died that way. So the guards watched us writhe, unable to breath, choking, retching, and made sure we suffered as much as possible without passing out, before they came in and picked us up and turned us over on our backs and left us struggling and gasping desperately for each

breath. On prolyxin without cogentin a person cannot swallow. Occasionally a doctor came along and extracted the pilegm from our throats with a suction device to keep us from drowning. But they always let us choke a lot first.

After receiving such a shot of prolyxin sleep is impossible. One can only lay immobile and stare at the ceiling. Electric lights were deliberately left on all night long to impact the garish nightmare's maximum potential. The prolyxin's primary effect lasts seventy-two hours - but many weeks are necessary for full recovery.

The guards called it the punishment drug and laughed. It was cruel.

Another method used by prison authorities to squelch critics was to strap the person nude in a bathtub of ice cubes - where screaming was not allowed.

Let me emphasize here once more: "...where screaming was not allowed." Forgive me if I do not describe that further. It is a terrible memory....

The aforementioned horror is an excerpt from *Comporting Roadwise* by RomTom, a recently published book from Medicine Bow Gallery. RomTom's experiences and perspectives with the previous military draft and the penalties for conscientious objection are unparalleled.

Don't Turn Away!

We must look at, and remember, these scenes of torture and dehumanization carried out by the U.S. military, with the approval of high-ranking officials of the Bush regime. These photos are from Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad, but similar treatment may have been common at Guantánamo Bay military prison and in Afghanistan. Our government must be held responsible for these violations of international law.



When I imagine love
I see things not
mirrored here
something appears
metal
knives
into the air
out of nothing
shimmering and strong
where love should
have stood
and didn't

— Hillary Kays

Broken Carousel

You say only poetry/music
can make you cry
nay not sooooo
I saw a painting once
that made me cry...
It was a
broken down Merry go round
over grown
and left to wonder..and wait
for the lost childrens laughter....
in a field of grass...
still in me memory
horses sunbleached driftwood
in the grass they cant eat..
never to ride again
to the music
and hugs of the children...

— shanna moore

The Young Dead

Nature gave and took away
What now is gone and doth decay
Reverges' shadowed hearts display
An ode to all the dead.
What misery inherits shame?
That's bred by sickness in the brain
That steals the youth unto it's game
Just think of all who died in vain.
You oppressor, distressor
Maniacal undressor, you traitor of
The youth. You're a sheep in the herd
But have not heard a word of what
The people have been sayin.
And now you condemn the sick soldiers
Of war crimes? Who you playin?
Your baby, War, made them do it!
Your glory is ripe with greed fluid.
For whose purpose and whose dollar?
The collar on their shirts are still
Blue, even though they've mass murdered For you.
You king, you oppressor
Most ancient all-knowing coward
Come out of your hole!

—Vessy Mink

POETRY



Collage created by S.A. Griffin in memory of Tony Scibella

that's Tony as the kid flying into the hands of
art is love is god
that's tony sparking up, he & the Lady as one
the crowd gathered before the act & the muse
billy holiday sings the blues for tony
bill dailey there w/black ace
wallace berman/steve wilson
john munson/johnson
a couple embraces/begin again

the scum doesn't just float on the water

me & Miles
early December morning
Venice canal stroll
some few lights and decorations
can't warm the chill
of dentist office complex
bus terminal homes
squeezing out character cabanas
and old flat fade boat bungalows
the cancer in the canals
killing quaint cottages
an archive of aggressive awareness
and agonized architectural anomalies

old dyed blonde bat
big bug eyed shades
trowels flower dirt before
towering gray bitter bank vault
with industrial smoke stack chimney

glass and concrete
monument to mundane

she barks
"watch and learn"
turning topsail
"you don't live here, do you?"
she accuses
"you're new here, aren't you?"
she spite through punched lips
here off and on for twenty five years
I say nothing
remember the colorful cabin bulldozed
for her windowed parking lot
tomb
her aquawks
learned from grunting ducks
who seem somehow
more
human

—Rex Butters

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City foils Coastal Commission —continued from page three

• **CITY RESPONSE** — The City will submit this information. The Director argues by implication that this request is valid whereas others are not.

COASTAL TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR SPECIFIC PLAN

• **CCC REQUEST** — Submit the Coastal Transportation Corridor Specific Plan (CTCSP) referenced in the VSP and the Oxford Triangle Specific Plan.

CITY RESPONSE — The CTCSP is not submitted for certification! Again, Director Howe blatantly disregards the Commissions valid requests. Without this vital information a Local Coastal Plan cannot be legally certified.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES SET FORTH IN THE CERTIFIED LUP

• **CCC REQUEST** — Submit "City regulations, ordinances and standards that are necessary to carry out all the Implementation Strategies as set forth by the certified LUP (e.g., replacement housing criteria, housing enforcement procedures, in lieu fees for affordable housing, maximum number of youth hostel units, designation of historic districts, standards for the Windward Historic Arcade District, cultural resources search requirements, Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program, Beach Parking Signage Program, Venice Intercept Parking Shuttle Program, ordinance amending Standard Plan D — 22459 to create a standard category for walk streets, inventory of vacant land suitable for acquisition as public open space, Storm Water Management Program, Water Conservation Ordinance, Recycling Program, Venice Streetscape Plan, etc.)."

• **CITY RESPONSE** — Director Howe states, "This is not feasible."

LARGE SCALE ZONE DISTRICT MAPS AND TABLES

• **CCC REQUEST** — "Please submit legible zoning maps for the entire Venice LCP area, as well as the LAMC Sections that regulate land uses and building standards within each zone district. Please also submit the Arterial Overlay District map and regulations referenced in the certified Venice LUP

(Policy I.B.9), and any other overlay zones and/or special districts that could be applicable in the Venice LCP area (e.g., Historic Preservation Overlay, Windward Historic Arcade District, Business Improvement District, etc.)."

• **CITY RESPONSE** — They will not be submitted for certification, look on the internet.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REQUEST

• **CCC REQUEST** — "Please submit a map of the area proposed for exclusion that also identifies statutorily non-excludable areas (i.e. tide and submerged lands and beaches, lots immediately adjacent to the inland extent of the beach or of the mean high tide line of the sea, all lands and waters subject to public trust and riparian areas and freshwater wetlands. The "Dual Jurisdiction" area identified on the map submitted with the categorical exclusion request would not be relevant if the Commission grants the categorical exclusion request."

CITY RESPONSE — Director mischaracterizes and disregards the specific requests made by the Coastal Commission.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

• **CCC REQUEST** — "Please submit a complete list of all public hearings, Planning Commission meetings and City Council meetings during which the proposed LUP was agendaized and copies of all staff reports, minutes, mailing lists, public hearing notices, and notices of actions taken for each of those meetings. The submittal is currently incomplete in this regard as public hearing notices were not included for each meeting and no meeting minutes have been submitted."

• **CITY RESPONSE** — "We did not duplicate all this information as this would be extremely wasteful...No meeting minutes were taken and our limited resources and current budget constraints do not permit us to transcribe audio tapes."

GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION

• **CCC REQUEST** — "Please submit a summary of the measures taken to consult and coordinate with contiguous local governments and to provide other affected agencies (including other City

Departments) and districts and the public maximum opportunity to participate in the LCP process."

• **CITY RESPONSE** — Planning Director Con Howe says they were notified. But again he fails to show that the City really engaged these governmental entities in meaningful dialogue because he only has included a list of contacts with no responses whatsoever from other governmental entities.

Sandy Keivman, Venice Deputy for Councilperson Cindy Miscikowski, stated to me that she had not seen the letter from Director of Planning Con Howe nor did she know if the Councilperson had seen it or if she supports it. I was then referred to Kevin Keller, the Councilperson's Planning Deputy who also failed to admit seeing the letter. When asked if the Councilperson supported Director of Planning he stated, "The Councilperson generally supports decisions of the Director of Planning."



Regatta

All of this begs an enormous question for Venetians, does Councilperson Miscikowski support the decisions of what appears to be a rouge City Director of Planning or is she so entirely out of touch with her duties and is not aware of this major development? The Venice Neighborhood Council Conservation Committee at its meeting, May 27, voted to recommend that Councilperson Cindy Miscikowski state to the City Council that the Venice Council concurs with the Coastal Commission and that she advocate for this position. The Neighborhood Council Board must first approve this recommendation for ratification.

It is highly probable that both the Coastal Commission and the City of Los Angeles have already prejudiced the City's ability to prepare a Local Coastal Program consistent with Chapter Three of the Coastal Act by allowing two very large structures to be built in Venice in the early nineties. The photograph, above, shows the massive scale of just one of the buildings in question. Is this what the City has planned for downtown Venice?

ART

• SPONTO Gallery @ 7 Dudley Ave. 399-2078. Collage

• Agape International Spiritual Center, 5700 Buckingham Pkwy. Culver City 91505 features Stephanie Dawn: "Radiate Love" until June 13. A solo art show in a spiritual pop art genre.

• 18th Street Arts Center -- Presents "Black Panthers" historical photographs of the movement by Ruth Marion Baruch & Pirkle Jones - This photo essay makes Los Angeles premiere after 35 years! May 15-July 23

Yoga Info-

• Congregation Mishken Tephillo - 201 Hampton Dr.

392-3029 Yoga with Yiddishkeit
Sundays 3 PM, Free

• Vera Davis Center - 610 California Ave. 305-1865
Hatha Yoga classes Mondays & Thursdays
6:30 PM, Donation

• Karmakulture 1305 A Main St. 399-1904
Emphasis: Body alignment Tuesdays & Thursdays
7:30PM to 9PM, \$7

• Yogafitness Studios 621 Palms Ave.
827-5144 Group Kundalini yoga
Tuesdays 7PM, \$15

• Energy/Movement Relaxation Marina Dance Center -
13376 Washington Blvd., 915-8575 Tues. Evenings 8:15,
\$15

FILM

• 7 Dudley Cinema - 8PM @ Sponto Gallery
306-7330 - Admission Free!
www.81.com/7dudley/cinema

POETRY

• Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006

• The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge 1630 Ocean Park
Blvd., (between 16th & 17th) combines literary works with
electronic music. BEATSPEAK, every third Thursday @
9PM. 754-9664 or info@beatspeaker.com

• Inside Out Community Arts Presents:
Rhythms - An evening of Music, Poetry & Art, featuring
Spoken Words Friday, June 4 @ 7-10PM (and 1st Friday of
every month) Open Mic, Featured Artists & Music/Poetry
Jam * Poetic Expressions from L.A.'s rising talent features:
Pocho Joe & Downbeat Youth Slam Team, Francisco
Letelier, Mc Cristol Harris, Metamorphosis with James
Wade & Jocelyn Wilkinson, other artists to... Venice
Center - for Peace with Justice & the Arts 2210 Lincoln
Blvd. (Lincoln & Victoria) \$5 (Seniors/youth \$2) Proceeds
benefit: Inside Out's free after school arts programming for
middle-school youth. 397-8820 or InsideOut@InsideOutCA.org

Chillato comes to Venice

On April 20 Jason Guffy and Joseph Nejman officially opened the doors of JJ Chill, located at the corner of Windward and Pacific and began to serve their freshly prepared dessert delicacies to the people of Venice. Back in June of 2000 Joseph Nejman, a Philly native, and Jason Guffy, a So Cal resident, first met in Leveret House as roommates attending Harvard Summer School. Jason Guffy had decided to take a break from a demanding surfing career in Orange County for a unique opportunity to study Marine Biology at Harvard. Joseph, after spending his freshman year playing lacrosse at Notre Dame, transferred to Harvard in pursuit of a more focused academic career with a Concentration in Anthropology. Both young men, ambitious and adventurous, instantly became best of friends. The dynamic combination of Joseph's intense east coast work ethic blending with Jason's easy going California attitude is as unique as their Chillato, a dessert consisting of Granita (gourmet Italian Water Ice homemade with fresh fruit and Natural Juice) sandwiched by a bottom and top layer of premium Frozen Custard (soft ice cream made with fresh cream, non-fat milk and eggs).

The following summer, on his way to



Australia to spend a semester doing field research in Aboriginal communities, Joseph stopped to spend time with Jason in his native land. Spending three months every summer living at the South Jersey shore, Joseph had a deep and growing interest in surfing and the SoCal beach lifestyle. As the sun set on a glassy Pacific Ocean, Jason and Joseph sat at the edge of the world not discussing biology nor anthropology, but how great a lemon-mango "Granita" would taste. The smooth velvety texture and refreshingly sweet taste of Granita was the only sensible choice to satisfy the thirst of a salty sanded surfer's mouth.

Sadly, the only thing lacking for Joseph in California was the absence of his favorite summer time treat... Granita.

Joseph had grown up enjoying the classic lemon Granita (known in Philadelphia and New Jersey as Italian Water Ice) made by his Grandfather from just a bag of California lemons, sugar and a block of ice. Joseph now uses that same basic family recipe for over twenty flavors of Granita that he makes fresh every morning at JJ Chill with fresh fruit.

JJ Chill also offers the JJ Smoothie, any combination of Granita Flavors with either their dairy (made with fresh cream and eggs) or non-dairy (organic soy milk) vanilla /chocolate blends.



Community Events



readings

• Mc Luhan Finnegan's Wake Reading Club 822-3006 Call for info or www.jesgrew.org/wake/ This club has met every Monday @ Abbot Kinney Library - 501 S. Venice Blvd. 821.1769

• Midnight Special Bookstore Events

- Closed -

1450 Second St. Santa Monica 393-2923 or 394-6123 We will miss you.

Seniors

• Israel Levin Adult Senior Center, 201 OPW, 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.

MUSIC

• Church in Ocean Park 235 Hill Street (Santa Monica)
323-468-9938 Thursdays 7:45 PM - 9:30 pm Sacred Spaces
Workshop Open to ALL. \$15

• Venice Bistro 323 Ocean Front Walk 663-4673

• Townhouse 52 Windward 392-4040

• Sidewalk Cafe 1401 Ocean Front Walk 399-5547

Acoustic music Wednesday- Friday /karaoke on Sundays

• Gough's Cohen Cantina (not in Venice) 740 N. Fairfax
Ave. West Hollywood 323-653-0640/ Venice's Diva
Deluxe-Suz Williams, Nick Ariondo & Kahil Sabbagh
perform Friday June 4 @ 8PM for more info
www.morlaista.org/suz \$10

• House of Blues (not in Venice) - June 13 - 11pm - Vesey
Mink and The Lovesick Lunatics

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POLITICAL

• Bring Our Troops Home Now!!! Rally at noon @ Olympic & Broadway, Downtown L.A.
ANSWER Coalition, Free Palestine Alliance, ADC L.A./OC, Nat'l Lawyers Guild, Latino Movement USA, Mindfullae, Palestinian American Women's Association, BAYAN USA, Global Women's Strike, Internat'l Action Center, US Labor Against War, Peace & Freedom Party, Coalition for World Peace, Afghan Women's Mission, Al-Awda- LA/ UCLA, south Asian Network, CAIR - L.A., United Arab Society- UCLA, Students for Justice in Palestine- UCLA, Internat'l Socialist Org., and many other organizations to demonstrate!!!

• Peace Vigil Saturday June 5 noon-2 @ Lincoln & Rose Ave. if you can't make it downtown! Neighbors for Peace & Justice

• Venice Peace and Freedom Party meeting on Wed., June 13 11AM. For more info: 399-2215.

COMMUNITY

• Venice of America Foundation, Inc. 392-2633 is accepting nominations for "Spirit of Venice" for the year 2004. Nominations in writing not more than 250 words, email - john.kertis@comcast.net or US mail- 1319A Abbot Kinney Blvd. Deadline for submissions- Friday, June 21, 2004 @ 6pm.

• Venice Community Adult School/Venice Skills Center - 611 Fifth Ave. 314-7535 Recognition ceremony 6/17 @ 6:30PM held @ Veteran's Memorial Auditorium Overland Ave. & Culver Blvd. REception to follow after.

• Food Not Bombs - 822-2771 - Volunteers needed! E-mail: venicesantamonicafnb@fastmail.fm

• Venice Center for Peace with Justice & the Arts 2210 Lincoln Blvd 397.8820 Call for info-

• Bike Out - June 12, 6:30 - 11pm - Summer Fundraiser honoring AIDS/LifeCycle III participants - 2811 Pico Bl. - 4535040 - www.bikeout.org

• Beginning Spanish - Wednesdays - 6 - 9 PM, Venice High Adult School \$16 for the semester - \$3 for seniors - 306-8111

• Intermediate Beginning Spanish - Tuesdays - 6 - 7:45 PM, Vera Davis McClendon Center, 610 California Ave. Venice - \$25 for the semester, or \$5 per class - 831-2325 or 305-1865.

Democracy in Venice Party

4PM - 2, Sunday, June 27

809 Brooks Avenue

Celebrate our democratic traditions

Meet the Candidates

• Alice Stek for Congress

• Jim Smith for Assembly

FOOD • LIVE MUSIC

Silent Auction (bring stuff to auction)

Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council

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

• June 7 - Special Board meeting on the elections

• June 14 - Monday - Board

• June 24 - 6:45 - 9PM - Thursday - Conservation Committee, Abbot Kinney Library, 501 S. Venice Bl.

• June 24 - Thursday - Children, Youth, & Families meeting

• June 27 - Noon - 4PM - Neighborhood Council Election? - Westminster School

• June 28 - Monday - Board

• July 6 - Tuesday - Land Use and Planning Committee - Boys & Girls Club, 2232 Lincoln Blvd.



MOON OVER VENICE

By David Scott (1973)

Ain't got a nickel or a dime
Ain't got a watch to tell the time
Ain't got no job
Ain't got a prospect in sight
But I'm not feeling low
I've got no place to go
But there's a Moon Over Venice tonight

Ain't got no friends in city hall
Ain't got nobody I can call
Ain't got nobody who I helped
when times were tight
But I've no need to fear
I know the coast is clear
Cause there's a Moon Over Venice tonight.

I've got my eyes - to watch her shining
I've got my ears to hear the ocean roar
And there's a big bed of sand for reclining
Who could call for anything more?

99 or 100?
Either way
Happy Birthday, Venice!

The parade route is as follows:

Assemble at 10 am, July 4th in front of Venice City Hall (Beyond Baroque), 681 Venice Blvd.

From there, we'll march, walk, skip or dance to Abbot Kinney Blvd., then on to Brooks Ave., and Ocean Front Walk, south to Windward Ave. and the Ocean Front Walk Plaza for a very Venice celebration of the history and mystery of Venice.

Come one, come all. Form your own group and parade with us!, i.e., the Anti-gentrifiers Squad, The Canine Collective, etc. For more information, call 310-396-0811 or parade@freevenice.org.

