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# Rumors of War & Secession

## VOTE YES

### Let Hollywood and the Valley decide

by Jim Smith

On November 5, voters in all parts of the city of Los Angeles will vote yes or no on whether the San Fernando Valley and Hollywood shall separate themselves from Los Angeles and join the other 80 independent cities in the county.

This election is not about what you think about secession - or at least it shouldn't be. Not if you believe that people have the right to self-determination. If you believe that people in East Timor, Tibet, Kurdistan or elsewhere, have the right to determine what sort of government they have, then what about the Valley, what about Hollywood? If we are to let the Valley and

—continued on page 6



## VOTE NO

### Union and tenants forever!

by Carol Fondiller

Oh, please Valley, don't secede! We love you. All of Los Angeles loves the unique beauty that the valley offers us! We love the sunsets generated by your gas guzzling carbon dioxide emissions farted out by top-heavy flag-laden SUV's as they trundle along the freeways that they need so they can get the hell out of the valley, away from the smog that their pick ups, vans and campers emit.

We treasure your meth-manufacturing gang ridden neighborhoods. What would Los Angeles do if the lap-dancing sleaze-ridden strip mall black top parking lots of K-mart were to leave Los Angeles? Please, Valley, don't leave!

What would we do without the headlines of  
—continued on page 7

## The Bush Putsch for War

by Peggy Lee Kennedy

As President Bush drives on with his media campaign for war on Iraq, the opposition that we hear on mainstream media is that Bush must win the hearts of the UN or the US Congress and substantiate the "imminent danger" of Iraq's ownership or development of weapons of mass destruction. But this is only to ask, "Hey, why not war?" and if someone does not come up with a good enough reason, "why not" then we are just going to have to bomb the hell out of Iraq. So I ask you, my Venetian family, "Why not peace?"

I listened to the Bush plea to the United Nations on 12-Sep-02 and read his "Decade of Deception and Defiance" support papers. It is a great campaign, no doubt. Although, I am a bit scared by Bush's use of the word my when he talks about our nation. (Does he own it? Did anyone else notice that word choice?)

OK, Saddam Hussein is by no means a good guy, but our good oil' boy Bush is looking pretty power hungry to me.

Really now, how many other world powers own weapons of mass destruction? China and Israel do. They are both scary and both have some pretty big human rights issues going on. Except maybe they are not looking so bad on American television, maybe they are not Muslim, and maybe they do not sit on a big puddle of oil like Iraq. Oil interests are a definite con to my non-mass media campaign to ask "prove to us Why not peace?" The need to make the oil industry richer by means of our country's ravenous consumption is not a good enough reason to stop peace.

Do we believe that we are just fighting a war on terrorism, freeing and protecting those oppressed

—continued on page 4

## Romans planning to invade Mesopotamia

### CENTURION'S COMPLAINT

By John Haag

I tell you, Rome ain't what it used to be:  
the town's got fat, the boys don't want to fight  
or want to fight for spoils; they've got in sight  
some manor house or mansion by the sea.

We don't know what we fight for any more:  
time was, the farmers fought for their own farms;  
now it's nobles' slaves we keep down by arms,  
and lucky if we eat, outside the corps.

We've planted the wide world with Roman graves  
and still plow on; but can you tell me why  
the lordlings dance and banquet while we die?

That jewish cult that claims even the slaves  
have souls is gaining ground, and no surprise -  
you push a guy too far and he gets wise.

# LETTERS



**BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:**

Sherry Chovan, A Clover, Pano Douvos, Carol Fondiller, Jeff Hirsch, Peggy Lee Kennedy, Maryjane, Screaming Mimi, Vessy Mink, Calvin Moss, Jim Smith, Alice Stek

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

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

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Dear Beachhead Collective of 2002,

What a surprise (although I had seen a poster announcing the benefit) to see the Beachhead again! And it looks somewhat the same, although the typesetting has improved.

But there's the enjoyment of again being able to read Carol's Harpie rants, with the added bonus of seeing how long they take to download! Don't write brief 500 word articles just because you can, Carol. The Internet is infinite!

I look forward to seeing more issues-and while it's a comfort to know I can read them online if I can't find them elsewhere, it does feel strange to be "logging on" to the Beachhead. I never thought I would see it.

Good luck,

Lynne Bronstein  
Collective Member 1979-1983.

**CRISES IN HOUSING**

There must be tremendous crisis in housing when you have people willing to pay close to a million dollars to live in the Oakwood section of Venice. You have 24 hr. foot traffic, drug dealers, taxi cabs all night, crime, not to mention shopping cart people looking for cans in the wee hours of the morning. A million dollars to live here. Wow!

Cynthia Fenton

Dear Friends:

I was delighted with the September 2002 issue of the Free Venice Beachhead. It is of conspicuously high quality.

I am a former Venetian who was forced out by an intimidating landlord who assured me that that my Lincoln Place Apartment would soon be unavailable to me and that I'd better take a \$3000 bribe and hit the road. This was intimidation as the apartment is still empty.....

I am happy in my new Long Beach home, but a piece of my heart belongs to Venice.

Charles Kruger

**LINCOLN BLVD.**

I could not agree more with "Living on Lincoln by Jim Smith in the September Beachhead.

I would like to call your attention to a small community of transit advocates who share your view:

<http://boards.eesite.com/board.cgi?boardset=ExpLine&boardid=Green&thread=20&spec=4622967>

I have expressed similar sentiments to Los Angeles City Council members and the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. Don Knabe has passed along my comments to his appointees on the Lincoln Blvd. Transit Task Force.

Yours are ideas worth raising great visibility. No doubt, with all the redevelopment occurring on Lincoln from Santa Monica to LAX, there is certainly an opportunity to fix years of zoning and planning neglect.

Kind regards,

Ray Bianco

**SCRATCH BACK**

Never before has one single man with his administration so gutted the American constitution and destroyed many years work in producing wise environmental laws. Eisenhower warned of a military industry complex takeover 42 years ago in his farewell address.

We round the corner on one year of 9/11 and I was asked to help with a peace gathering. I will, but much of me feels at war. It is a pencil war at this time. While Washington's pencil scratches away at my freedoms and homeland in the name of running my gas guzzler 6 more months, or chasing elusive Bin Ladens, I scratch back with small handfuls of people writing Washington. Anyone remember Bin Laden?

Why do I feel we are losing our freedom to fight with pencils? We live in a time when individual enlightenment has reached an apex. Thanks to many Authors we have been able to study and explore the last frontier, our inner selves. But in these strong studies of the self we have begun to forget that we are still a collective whole capable of mapping our collective future. Apathy has set in because it seems futile because the percents are so low in participation and voting.

But how will we feel if we lose this possibly last chance to fight for our rights with pencils? Are we dooming our children to have to fight with physical violence to regain these freedoms because we won't click the pen?

How far into the future will it be before someone like me sets on remote island as a detainee for writing this terrorist letter against the government? Having been given the "fair military trial by judge only".

Is the media telling you how many people are being detained now? U.S. District Court Judge Gladys Kessler gives the Fed. Government 15 days to release the names of 1000 detainees secretly held. All Muslims with minor visa infractions.

Many of you will remember Skip and Doreen that for many years were rangers at the West Water put-in. Skip recently took on one of his passions about the added fees in the Parks and went to Washington for two weeks. His amazement was how happy the Senators were to see and hear someone.

I am not asking anyone to drive to Washington. Just pick one of the issues -Just one!- that you feel passion about and click your bic.

The War on Iraq? Call the President at 202-456 1111 or 202-456-1414. Fax 202- 456- 2461 Email: [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)

Congress can be reach through <<http://www.congress.org>>.

Bruce Harrison

**ONE VENICE BLVD.**

Hello from an aging activist residing at One Venice here in Venice!

While in total agreement that Carol Fondiller is, indeed, a "worldwide treasure" (and I've known her since 1970--even typed some of her seventies columns for The Beachhead), I was terribly chagrined to note her lack of specificity when summarizing the "Crises in Housing" (Sept. 2, issue No. 255).

We here at One Venice are quaking in our boots while awaiting our opt-out fate, and I would have loved to see us pointed out via Venice identification rather than merely as one of "at least three buildings in Los Angeles" affected by the City Council's 8/13 unanimous authorization to the City Attorney's office to call a halt to our being evicted out onto Ocean Front Walk.

Suggestion: in your archives, you possess an article written by Arnold Springer (in itself historical) in which he interviewed the builder and still part owner of One Venice. The man's name is Jim Anthony.

In this interview, Anthony is portrayed as the New Redeemer of Venice, because of his sensitivity to the needs of seniors wanting to live beside the ocean here. I wish I had photocopied this article, which was dated in about 1979 and was a celebration of this "Second Coming". The neighbor here in the building who showed the article to me has fortunately passed away and did not live to see the way in which Mr. Anthony's manager is treating those whom he was purporting to Arnold Springer to be so redemptive.

It would be just great to see a reprint of this article, conjoined with a couple of interviews with today's residents of One Venice, some of whom were here when our building was built and the Beachhead article was written.

I would personally purchase copies of such an edition of The Beachhead, and would see that Mr. Anthony received a copy in order to refresh his memory.

Speaking of memory, thanks for all the memories of times gone by...and a very warm welcome back to each and every one of you, including the "worldwide treasure"!

Affectionately, Susanne Chilton,  
old venetian crone still trying to survive

.....  
Response from Carol Fondiller:

Dear Susanne,

Thanks for the trip down Memory Lane. So why don't you return my calls? Write us an article, ol' chum!

Love,

Carol



# this paper is a poem

## A PACIFIST REFLECTION ON THE TERROR WARS

by Charles Kruger

I am almost ashamed  
To speak of my horror  
At the rebirth of patriotism  
Out of the holocaust of innocence.  
It is patriotism that breeds the terror.  
That old drum beat in the blood.  
Horror begets horror and I am loath  
To be present at this birth.

Each death matters.  
And each death that follows will matter.

I want to have the faith  
To affirm my absolute patriotism  
Even when faced with the massacre of the innocent.

But absolute pacifism requires confidence  
In the presence of a good God, or else  
There is no point in so called "spiritual values".  
And if there is a good God,  
It seems She is absent, if such terror can be unleashed.  
But then, the world has never had a shortage of horrors.

To live fully, one must stand for something.  
And to stand for something one must be resolute.  
Many will speak of the necessary costs of waging a just war.

At the risk of shame and misunderstanding  
I could do worse, I think, than to stand firm  
In my willingness to speak  
Of the necessary costs of waging peace.

## MAKE THE PIE HIGHER

by George W. Bush

I think we all agree, the past is over.  
This is still a dangerous world.  
It's a world of madmen and uncertainty and potential mental losses.  
Rarely is the question asked, Is the children learning?  
Will the highways of the Internet become more few?  
How many hands have I shaken?  
They underestimate me.  
I am a pitbull on the pantleg of opportunity.  
I know that the human being and the fish can coexist.  
Families is where our nation finds hope, where our wings take dream.  
Put food on your family!  
Knock down the tollbooth!  
Vulcanize society!  
Make the pie higher! Make the pie higher!

## What's Wrong

By Panos Douvos

What have we done wrong  
we only protect our national (oil) interests  
bribe an Arab goon king or two  
what's wrong with that

are they angry at our SUV's and heavy wallets  
why are these dark Arab peasants upset  
if they have a problem  
we can squash them like bugs  
what's wrong with that

we steal their human basics  
back their goon-leaders  
but they're our goon-leaders  
what's wrong with that

they have a beef we sound the drums  
send in the black and brown boys  
preserve our oilocracy  
loot their lands pollute the world  
they look at us cross-eyed  
we nuke their ass  
what's wrong with that

so it is known  
dad owns oil in Saudi-Arabia  
dad owns Devils-brand oil wells  
and come tomorrow will own  
the whole heil world

what's wrong with that

## Qué ha pasado? What has happened?

by Susana C De Leon

Por qué mi corazon esta cansado?  
Y porque mi cuerpo ya pesado?  
Mi inspirasion por la vida se ha calmado  
Por qué esta preocupasion intensa?  
Y porque esta desesperacion inmensa?  
Esta separasion de cuerpo y alma me quita la calma  
Mi cuerpo como un harbol delata su existencia  
en sus ramificaciones y capas en el tronco  
Cansada estoy esperando que mi dia venga pronto  
Y mis pasos cuidadosos de no caer por cualquier tonto  
Porque mi corazon cansado esta de querer tanto  
Sigo por estas calles caminando  
Al mundo siempre observando  
Corazones contemplando  
Mi vida amansando  
Tu mente experimentando  
Y mi inteligencia aumentando  
Porque aunque este mundo no me quiera  
Por no ser como cualquiera  
Pronto mi alma explotara en el universo  
Pero antes traisionada en carne solo por un beso  
Solo por un peso  
Entonces mientras mi tiempo toma su evolucion  
Mi alma se prepara para esta revolucion  
Y traspasa la geometria de toda tentasion  
Porque el rey de este sistema siempre busca mi participasion  
En cualquier situacion  
Y influirme hasta con una cansion  
Pero no me aflijo porque el juego de la vida es mi diversion  
De la cual hablo en cada conversasion  
Asi es que t' que caminas delante de mi, no me jugsues por mi fragilida  
Porque me buscaras al final de esta calamidad  
Porque consiente dijistes estar  
Pero ha este mundo todabia te gusta contemplar

## What has happened?

Why is my heart now tired?  
And why is my body now heavy?  
My inspiration for life is now calm  
Why this intense worrying?  
And why this immense desperation?  
This separation of body and soul takes my patience  
My body like a tree notates its existence in its ramifications and layers in the trunk  
Tired I am waiting for my day to come soon  
And my steps cautious not to fall for any fool  
Cause tired is my heart of loving till itis full  
I continue through this streets walking  
This world always observing  
Hearts contemplating  
My life taming  
Your mind experimenting  
And my intelligence increasing  
Cause even though this world doesnít love me  
For not being like any other  
Soon my soul will explode into the universe  
But before, betrayed in flesh with a kiss  
Only for a buck  
So meanwhile my time takes its evolution  
My soul prepares itself for this revolution  
And trespasses the geometry of all temptation  
Cause the king of this System always looks for my participation  
In any situation  
And tries to influence me even with a song  
But I donit worry cause the game of life is my diversion  
Of which I speak of in any conversation  
So there for you who walks ahead of me, do not judge me for my fragility  
Cause you will look for me at the end of this calamity  
Conscious you said you were  
But still this world you like to contemplate

## MISSION TO THE EAST

By John Haag

*It's strange to feel tranquil, almost at peace  
up here above it all, snugly enclosed,  
our complex eggs packed close behind the nose,  
while shrieking bombers race us to the East.  
The clouds break up to show us bits of sea,  
the navigator checks our way to land,  
the bomb release fits firmly in my hand:  
it all seems ordered, just as it should be.  
For us so long familiar with the sky,  
(not thinking now that when our bomb-clouds rise,  
they'll fuse the earth and tear apart the skies)  
it's only natural that men should fly.  
How calmly, with a clean and shaven face,  
I ride the mission that may end the race.*

## Still Free

by Sherry Chovan

sometimes the world just speaks  
it says to me, "excuse me brown girl,  
are you having fun, are you happy 'hon?"  
And me I'll smile and say, "who me honey, look at  
this place look at the smile on my face" I'm  
bathing in god's grace  
Even if sometimes my emotions seem displaced  
I know my place saving grace not running around a  
maze in the rat race I know I don't need new  
shoes I already got the finest kicks with no  
lace.  
I don't need make-up 'cause I'm not trying to save  
face.  
I don't need to cover my scars I know the pat-  
terns they make are truly the key to my heart.  
I don't need to find my place in this society 'cause  
I don't want to be a part of you,  
you want to be a part of me.  
My black, brown, red, yellow family.  
I don't need to brush my teeth, I could just go  
chew on a leaf and then have some hot tea.  
But Big Brother got some of y'all out there thinking  
your Free because you've got two TV's.  
But I know how to cure disease with a tree.  
And I know someone wants to ask, "black girl who  
you think you be?"  
And I'll smile and say don't you recognize me?  
I'm an ant, a bear, a tree.  
I'm Free and your lies can't stop me.  
Your planes can't drop me.  
Your crimes can't shock me.  
'Cause my hair is nappy, and my sprits happy.  
Even thought your prisons got me locked inside,  
your schools try to wash away my ethnic pride,  
you've shown me tools to dye my eyes, reshape  
my thighs, and shown me places to hide from  
the sun's eyes.  
You can't stop me 'cause I've got pride and a will  
to stay alive.  
So the ones you've slaughtered won't ever die.  
'Cause I'm alive,  
and I'll be back for the eagle, the buffalo, as  
strong as the elephant and quick wit, and beat  
you' ass with the same whip that forced my  
ancestors onto you ships.  
'Cause even though we lower class we still free,  
Even though some of us got three babies and no  
man, we still Free,  
Even though we eat your trash, we still Free,  
Even though we ain't got no flag we still Free,  
Even if I'm looking sad you ain't got me  
Broke still free  
Sad still Free  
Scarred still Free  
Hurt still Free  
Mad still Free  
Dead still Free  
Still Free!  
Still Free!  
Still Free!

## -continued from page one: The Bush Putsch for War

Middle Eastern women, getting food and medical supplies to the poor starving Third-World peoples, and creating freedom through democracy in an otherwise corrupt area of the world? Look, I am scared of terrorists, but maybe we should look a bit closer at the current situation in Afghanistan before we go bomb another country.

What about the new democracy in Afghanistan and those liberated Muslim women? RAWA (Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan) states that fundamentalism itself is the problem, not just Bin Laden and the Taliban. In the 11-Sept-02 RAWA statement regarding the anniversary of the September 11 tragedy, they claim that warlordism, opium cultivation, and the extreme oppression of women are still very much present in Afghanistan. The implications are that different local fundamentalist factions, such as our allies the Northern Alliance (well known for their human rights abuses against women), are running different regions of the country. So maybe the Afghan women are not merrily skipping off to school or work in their mini-skirts with their make-up on after all.

On a more conservative note, the director of CARE in Afghanistan was interviewed on BBC's Hardtalk with Tim Sebastian on 12-Sept-02 and it appears that there are considerably more returning refugees than expected, increasing lawlessness, questionable regional controls, and decreasing safe zones. Furthermore, last month Bush vetoed an additional request for aid meant to rebuild and provide aid for refugees.

Hey, we bombed the hell out of those people and blamed them for the Taleban and Bin Laden and 9-11 all in the name of what? Was it preserving our homeland from terrorists or just some good oil'boy revenge? We did not catch Bin Laden or stop fundamentalist terrorism in the region and it turns my stomach when Bush tells us how we are going to help someone, give them food, freedom, democracy, and all (y'all).

What about the cost of making a democracy? Rebuilding a country takes money and infrastructure. If we are not doing a good job at rebuilding the devastation and installing a democratic run government in Afghanistan, how will we be doing it for Iraq? We are talking bombing oil refineries, water systems, transportation systems, hospitals, and homes. What makes us think not? Oh, guess we are so dumb we believe that we will just miss the nice people with our bombs and not hurt them? In fact, we will be creating a refugee situation, killing, maiming, widowing, orphaning, starving, and probably some more things we here in the land of the fat cannot even imagine. And our media will not show it to us. Maybe my friends in New Zealand can fill me in later.

So who will rebuild Iraq? What democratic government will run Iraq after we bomb the hell out of them? Will we be stopping fundamentalist terrorism? And how about that crafty Saddam Hussein? Think we will catch him?

If Iraq has weapons of mass destruction, well so do we. And so do Israel and China. I don't trust them. And by the way, we are the ones that just bombed a whole country. Maybe the UN should be thinking about protecting the world from another world war instead of helping that oil'boy Bush start one. That is a concept: the UN working for world peace.

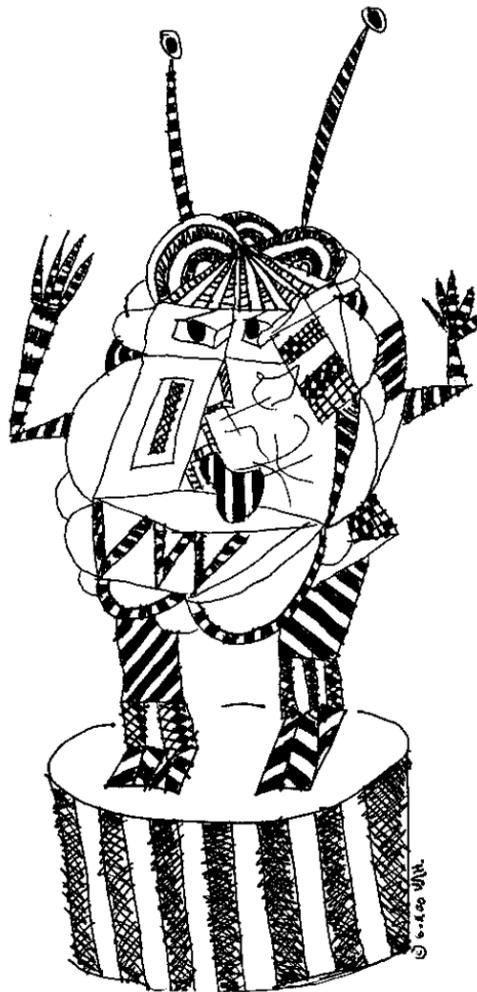
An old friend of my mother used to say, "Which side are you on?" Well Venice, I choose peace.

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### WHITE WHALE STILL REACHING FOR THE SKY

by Marvin Klotz

I have filed an appeal of the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission decision to overrule its staff's recommendation to disapprove the Best Western Marina Pacific Hotel's request for exceptions from the Venice Specific Plan (see *Free Venice Beachhead*, July 2002). The Commission, as you know, voted to allow the Hotel to build a fifth story, thus increasing the height of its already oversized structure from 52 feet to 63.5 feet in an area limited to 35 feet by the VSP; as well, it approved the Hotel's request to further violate the VSP's 1.5:1 density constraint (it already is at 2:1).

The matter will be heard by the City Council PLUM (Planning and Land Use Management) Committee, but no date has been set. The Committee meets on Tuesdays, at 2PM, and must provide 24 days advance notice.

You may express your feelings on this matter by FAXing (213-978-1040) or emailing (jwhite@clerk.lacity.org). John White, the Legislative Assistant to the PLUM Committee, assures me that all written correspondence will be included in the case file. If you have questions about procedure, you can call him at 213-978-1068. Correspondence must refer to Council File 02-1870 (Best Western Marina Pacific Hotel).

You might note that the Commission ignored its own staff's 46 page recommendation to disapprove the request for exceptions from the VSP because the Hotel was unable to meet the conditions for such exceptions set down in the Municipal Code. Further, note that it will be impossible to apply the 35 foot height limit to the developers of adjacent vacant lots, if the Hotel is permitted to ignore that restriction. The Los Angeles City Planning Department points out that the oversized existing structure could not be built at all under the current ordinance.

If you would like further information, please email me--  
<marvintax@earthlink.net>.

### The War By the Numbers

845,441 - Number of structures (covering 30 million acres) controlled by the Dept. of Defense, the world's largest landlord.

\$396 billion - Bush's 2003 military budget

\$289 billion - 2000 military budget (before Bush)

\$60 billion - Military budget of Russia, 2nd in the world after U.S.

25 - Number of top military spending countries whose combined military budgets equals that of the U.S.

\$45 billion - Budget for education, 2nd largest discretionary budget item after military in 2002

50.5% - Proportion of the total 2002 U.S. discretionary budget devoted to military

-War Times newspaper

## Briefly

### CITIES WITHOUT CARS

The streets were quiet in Europe Sunday, 22-September.

The citizens of more than 30 countries – and 1,400 cities – participated in Car Free Day on September 22, the highlight of European Mobility Week. Daily events focused on different aspects of sustainable urban mobility from September 16-22. Focusing on a specific topic each day of the week allowed for an opportunity to initiate a wide range of activities tackling different aspects of sustainable urban mobility.

European Mobility Week provides a platform for local authorities along with organizations and associations all over Europe:

- to promote existing policies, initiatives and best practices on sustainable urban mobility,
- to launch new policies and initiatives,
- to contribute to raise awareness on the damages that current urban mobility trends generate on the environment,
- to establish performing partnerships with local stakeholders,
- to be part of a Europe-wide campaign sharing a common goal and a common identity,
- to emphasize the local commitment towards sustainable urban transport policies.

Wouldn't Venice benefit from a few Car Free Days, not to mention an organized consortium promoting sustainable urban mobility.

### NIKE SUED FOR FALSE ADVERTISING

Nike will appeal to the Supreme Court to review a California court ruling that allows an activist to sue the company for false advertising. Marc Kasky first brought suit against Nike after reading an article about Nike workers in Southeast Asia. He decided, as a consumer, to sue Nike for falsely claiming it was a fair employer and responsible corporate citizen. Nike is also under fire for ending a contract with a supplier in Indonesia, a move that will cost 7,000 jobs. Some anti-sweatshop activists say that Nike is pulling out of Indonesia because of increased unionization.

– Labor Notes, Sept. 2002

Meanwhile, a petition campaign has begun to keep Nike off the Boardwalk. See last month's Beachhead.

### POVERTY ON THE RISE

About 1.3 million more people were poor in 2001 than in 2000 (32.9 million versus 31.6 million). A Census Bureau report, released September 24, states that the nation's poverty rate rose from 11.3 percent in 2000 to 11.7 percent in 2001. The number of poor families increased from 6.4 million in 2000 (or 8.7 percent of all families) to 6.8 million (or 9.2 percent) in 2001.

As poverty increased, the median household income fell 2.2 percent, from \$43,162 in 2000 to \$42,228 in 2001. As the percent of personal income declines for poor Americans, the top 20 percent of high income earning Americans (the rich), earn more than one-half of of the nation's total personal income.

So according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the poor got poorer and the rich got richer!

### IT'S NOT JUST YOU. DECENT HOUSING IS OUT-OF-REACH FOR MILLIONS

On September 18, the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) released its year 2001 statistics regarding rental affordability in the United States. According to the NLIHC, the wage required (for a 40-hour work week) in order to afford a two-bedroom rental at the fair market value in the Los Angeles/Long Beach area is \$16.63 per hour. This is 266 percent of the minimum wage (\$6.25 per hour).

## Equal Protection Under the Law

By Carol Fondiller

Jeb Bush, bro of our coronated President George the III, and Governor of that land of the hanging chad, might be fighting eviction whether or not re-elected this November.

It seems one of his daughters was caught for the second time with crack cocaine. She was going through rehab while she was on probation. Previously either she or her twin sister had tried to get a forged prescription filled.

Aside from the obvious disparity of how the children of the affluent and influential are treated, as opposed to the way some black or brown kid from 7th and California would be treated – what rehab center—what parole-straight to juvenile hall or prison for that kid for a mandated term of 10 years (depending on the state).

Recently a law was enacted specifically for low-income residents of public housing and the tenants of HUD subsidized housing. The law goes something like this: If you are a resident of HUD housing or public housing and a friend, visitor, relative, child is arrested for possession of illegal drugs, not only can that person end up in jail, but the tenant in subsidized housing can be evicted after only one time.

An entire family can be evicted even if the offender is not in the neighborhood and if the family knew nothing of the illegal activities. 73 year old grandmothers, battered women in fear

of their spouses, stroke victims whose health-care providers have been found with drug paraphernalia are being evicted under this “one strike” eviction policy. Los Angeles has evicted over 300 tenants.

This action was supposedly one of the weapons in the war on drugs. The U.S. Supreme Court voted unanimously to uphold the law. The George Bush administration put the policy into effect in 1991. In 1996 congress broadened the policy to include drug activity “on or off” the premises. President Clinton announced the “one strike and you're out” policy to enforce the law. Supreme Court Chief Justice Rehnquist said nothing in the constitution prevents public housing authorities from enforcing the policy. Tenants are on notice because it's written in their leases.

Certainly some action should be taken to evict the family Bush from their Florida Governor's mansion since it is subsidized housing. George Dubya should also be served with an eviction notice from his publicly subsidized mansion because his niece was caught with illegal drugs “on or off” the housing project premises. And what about homeowners who have federally insured mortgages and loans? And tax breaks? What about the for-profit developers who rake in tax breaks whose friends or relatives are caught naked toking on a doobie while dancing to “I shot the sheriff?”

Ge e maybe dreams do come true.

### Introducing Glibby Lil'Red The Free Venice Beachhead's First Feminist Advice Column



**Dear Glibby,**

*I need help. I am just head-over-heels for my mail delivery person. This person has acted interested in me: flirting, talking on the phone, and we have had infrequent romantic encounters. I even went out and bought some nice thong underwear to try to make this person happy. Me not being the thong underwear type, makes this somewhat of a compromise - both style wise and economically. I have asked this person to go places with me and this person seems to use excuses not to go. I have tried to tell this person that I wanted a relationship, but this person has not responded positively. The problem is that I still want this person and think about this person all the time. Plus it does not help that I see this person often, because this person delivers my mail! I really need to get this person out my head.*

*Signed: Head-over-heals*

**My Dear Dear Head-over-heals,**

I totally know what you are going through. It's so hard when someone gives you a little “attention” and then leaves you wanting more - especially if you are lonely. But honey

when are you going to get it through your head that s/he probably only wants the thong and not the person inside. And if you have not been practicing safe thong I suggest that you go for testing. As far as how to “get this person out of your head” well use a little common sense dear. After all, s/he is the mail delivery person. S/he must have many stops on the mail route and may have multiple stops on the thong route, too. S/he doesn't sound like s/he wants a relationship and it sounds like you do. Decide what your route is and move on.

Peace and Love,  
Glibby

To write Glibby, send letters (snail or email) attn Dear Glibby at the Free Venice Beachhead

Between 2001 and 2002 this two-bedroom “housing wage” increased by 5.08 percent. More than 60 percent of minimum wage workers are family heads or their spouses.

The NLIHC states that the Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom unit in the Los Angeles/Long Beach area is \$865 per month. If renting a two bedroom apartment in Venice costs \$1,730 then the hourly wage required in a 40 hour work week must be somewhere around \$33.26 in order to live in a two bedroom apartment in Venice! Other options are living in a garage, staying in your camper in a friend's driveway, or sleeping on the beach.

Check out the  
Free Venice Beachhead  
on-line and in living color  
at  
[www.freevenice.org](http://www.freevenice.org)

-continued from Page One

## VOTE YES: Let Hollywood and the Valley decide

Hollywood decide their destiny, we have to vote yes. That's not necessarily a vote for secession, rather it's a vote to not block secession if that's what voters in those two areas want.

According to the American Heritage Dictionary, self-determination is "Freedom of the people of a given area to determine their own political status; independence."

This right is reflected in the Declaration of Independence of the American Colonies in 1776: "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government."

This means that a people, any people, have the right to make damn fools of themselves in the name of democracy. That's a hard pill for the average American to swallow. Aren't we supposed to have a say in what other people do? If we can determine what kind of government people in Iraq have, then why not the Valley?

Unfortunately, from a democratic standpoint the secession law is fatally flawed. It allows people not in the Valley, or not in Hollywood, to vote as if they lived in one of those places. This is as if East Timor had to win a vote of people throughout Indonesia before it could be independent. Or if Americans in 50 states got to vote on Puerto Rican independence.

The campaign against secession is in full swing, fueled by huge contributions from L.A.'s biggest developers. According to the L.A. Ethics Commission, they include more than \$100,000 from Mr. Big himself, Eli Broad, and our "friends" at Playa Vista - Playa Capital (\$25,000) and Maguire Partners (\$10,000). Doug Ring, husband of our reassigned councilmember Cindy Miscikowski, gave \$50,000. These figures are only through June 30. The big money is yet to drop (see box for more contributions). Contributions for and against secession from July 1 through Sept. 30 will be available online and at the City of L.A. Ethics Commission around Oct. 15.

Strange that all these developers would be so keen to keep L.A. together since the drumbeat of the anti-secession forces is that the Valley would lose the pathetically inadequate rent control regulations in the city of Los Angeles. Fat chance of that happening in the apartment-rich S.F. Valley. Still, it would seem that the fat cat developers don't listen to their own propaganda (And why are all these out-of-state developers so concerned with keeping L.A. together?).

Tagging along with the Los Angeles ruling class bandwagon are some of the more backward unions, including the Laborers and Electrical Workers, and of course, the city workers. Unfortunately, a number of progressives have suddenly forgotten their long time commitment to self-determination (it's too close to home) and have fallen for the shrill nonsense against secession cascading from on high. On closer examination, most of the progressives fronting for the big money boys have some connection with downtown L.A., either a job, an organization or union, or a Democratic Party political connection. Maybe they haven't lost their minds after all.

Another argument against secession that its opponents have the gall to make is that "bigger is better!" We haven't heard that one in a while, at least in regard to urban entities. The reasoning goes that L.A. can't be a world class city if a million Valleyites leave it. Apparently they don't know that L.A. has been a world class joke in much of the world precisely because of its bigness, lack of planning, freeway snarls and mini-malls.

Imperial attitudes reemerge in yet another argument, to wit, the inner city will suffer if Valley revenue isn't imported over the hill. This,

in spite of the official study by the Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO) which states that there would be no financial impact from the separation.

Enough about L.A. What about Venice? There are some advantages for us if the Valley and Hollywood secede. The average size of a L.A. city council district would drop from nearly 250,000 people to around 140,000. Still not too impressive when compared to Santa Monica's 12,000 people per councilmember. In addition, we'd have instant redistricting of the council districts. We'd actually get to vote for our councilmember - soon - not in 2005.

Finally, if the Valley and Hollywood are successful in divorcing themselves from L.A., it might make it easier for Lil' Venice to slip away. Still, it's hard to imagine how we few could convince the rest of L.A. to let us go. Better to change the law so only Venetians decide what kind of government Venetians should have.

The worst outcome of the Nov. 5 election would be if a majority in the Valley and Hollywood vote yes but they are overcome by no votes in the rest of L.A. We would then be keeping them against their will. Would the LAPD become an army of occupation? Venetians have some experience with this situation. Would "Free the Valley" and "Free Hollywood" signs crop up around the world? What will Kofi Annan say?

There is a new theory, called Glocalism, making the rounds of academia. It says that with the development of globalization, that local communities are becoming more important. Seems that people want a place they can identify with in a changing and homogenizing world. If this is true, Valley and Hollywood secession may be just the tip of the iceberg. This time, 20, 30 years from now, there may be hundreds of self-governing little cities in the L.A. area. There might be enclaves of rock-ribbed Republicans, others that are run by Democrats of various stripes, even a few that are solidly Peace & Freedom or Green. But all of them would be small enough that most people could walk to city hall and know where their representatives live. Little cities that come together voluntarily to cooperate and/or argue about issues that are bigger than them, but smaller than L.A. County or California. What a scary thought - not.

### BIG MONEY VOTES AGAINST SECESSION

These contributions (partial list) from Jan. 1 - July 30 total \$1,925,921. The pro-secession camp raised only \$75,514 during the same period.  
Source: L.A. City Ethics Commission  
<[http://efs.lacity.org/public\\_election.cfm](http://efs.lacity.org/public_election.cfm)>.

Aerolease Assoc./Aerolease West (Long Beach) - \$25,000  
Arden Realty - \$5,000  
Beverly Hills Construction - \$50,000  
BP Corp. North American (Tulsa, OK) - \$100,000  
Eli Broad (Sun America) - \$101,935  
Calpoint, LLC (Beverly Hills) - \$25,000  
Casden Properties, LLC (Beverly Hills) - \$100,000  
Catellus Development Corp. (San Fran.) \$25,000  
CH2MHILL - \$25,000  
City National Corp. - \$25,000  
Forest City Residential - \$25,000  
HMS Host (Bethesda, MD) - \$25,000  
Alan Horn (Warner Bros. Exec.) - \$25,000  
Int'l Airport Centers (Highland Park, IL) - \$25,000  
Electrical Workers (IBEW) - \$50,000  
Kenny Construction (Wheeling, IL) - \$25,000  
L.A. Arena Co. - \$50,000  
Laborers' Union - \$10,000  
L.A. Police Command Officers Assn. - \$6,000  
L.A. Professional Managers Assn. - \$10,000  
Macerich Management Corp. (Santa Monica) - \$25,000  
Maquire Partners Development (Playa Vista, etc.) - \$10,000  
Majestic Reality (Ed Roski) - \$250,000  
Mercury General Corp. - \$25,000  
Official Police Garage Assn. - \$25,000  
P&O Nedlloyd Limited (East Rutherford, NJ) - \$20,000  
Jerry Perenchio (Chartwell Partners) - \$100,000  
Playa (Vista) Capital Corp. - \$25,000  
Stewart Resnick (Roll Intl.) - \$25,000  
Doug Ring - \$50,000  
Riordan & McKinzie - \$20,000  
Robert Ruth Real Estate (Torrance) - \$10,000  
Shamrock Holdings (Burbank) - \$5,000  
Laborers Union - \$25,000  
Electrical Union (IBEW) - \$25,000  
TBCI, A CACorp. - \$10,000  
James Thomas, CEO Thomas Properties - \$10,000  
Trans Pacific Container Service - \$5,000  
Tutor-Saliba Corp. - \$50,000  
Robert Voit (Land Developer) - \$25,000  
W.H. Smith Corp. (Atlanta, GA) - \$25,000  
Zenith Insurance - \$50,000

# L.A. SECO

Weigh in on the differing opinions on this high spectives on how this could impact the city and al session.

## PROS

**RICHARD KATZ**  
Valley Independence Committee

**JEFF BRAIN**  
Valley Vote

**GENE LA PIETRA**  
Hollywood Independence Committee

**BILL POWERS**  
United Chambers of Commerce of the S.E. Valley

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## SECESSION

ly sensitive issue. Learn from opposing per-  
nd it's people. Join us for this very education-

## CONS

**COUNCILMEMBER CINDY MISCIKOWSKI**  
L.A. City Council

**COUNCILMEMBER JACK WEISS**  
L.A. City Council

**RUSTY HAMMER**  
L.A. Chamber of Commerce

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**WEST L.A. NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

-continued from Page One

## VOTE NO: Unions and tenants forever!

families of 5 murdered, interviews of people saying well he seemed like a real nice person, while the T.V. camera lingers on the wide 6-lane highway that zooms through neighborhoods. And we find out that the family next door was more Manson than Cleaver, and still the Valleyites treasure their illusion of a Warner Bros. Andy Hardy fest, with nary a gay brother, unwed sister or child abusing dad within yards of the pool or the green lawn courtesy of Owens Valley and the Colorado River.

We love you for holding on to the AMERICAN DREAM, as you fire up the barbie with enough gasoline to fuel all of Serbia.

We treasure your children, your drop-outs and throw-outs, as they come to Venice to find or lose themselves.

O.K. O.K. Writing against secession is more difficult than I thought it would be. At heart I am as much a secessionist as Tom Paine and Scarlet O'Hara.

Decades ago, I was among the hundreds of people who filled city hall chanting "Free Venice! Free Venice!" after the city council said yes to yet another project that would guarantee yet more urban removal, more gentrification and more destruction of neighborhoods to get rid of the "undesirables" i.e., low income people and people of color. At that time the Free Venice Organizing Committee was deeply serious about Venice seceding from Los Angeles. There were issues ranging from pot-holes to "benign neglect" of the Ocean Front walk to "benign neglect" of the residents of Venice who were not members of the absentee landlords or business or speculator community. Venetians of a certain class were treated as if they were the enemy by the police at the encouragement and prodding of the propertied class. Venetians had very little autonomy.

Yes. We had voices, but no one would listen. So I know how it feels to have the patriarchal attitude "we're doing this for your own good. Shut up and enjoy it." And yes there'll be some collateral damage i.e., mass evictions of low-income home owners, tenants and small businesses. But that's progress.

Now, secession, the word that was only uttered by crackpot radicals in the "slum by the sea," is being chanted by the respectable God-fearing homeowner valley folk. For sure! But I'm apprehensive about the people who are spearheading the campaign.

According to Larry Gross, Executive Director of Coalition for Economic Survival, "The same people we fought 25 years ago for rent control, are the same people who are trying to break Los Angeles apart. They may tell you they support tenant rights, that they would support rent control, but their records tell a different story."

Assemblyman Keith Richman, a candidate for valley mayor signed the pledge to keep rent control but has consistently voted against tenants' rights. Richman's recent assembly votes included voting against Senate Bill 1403, a bill that would extend 30-day eviction notices to 60 days. Governor Davis just signed S.B. 1403. Richman also voted against A.B. 2330, a bill that would allow tenants to collect interest on their security deposits. Richman also voted against the 2 billion dollar housing bond on the November ballot (S.B. 1227) that will provide funds to preserve at risk HUD subsidy housing. Paula Boland, a leading council candidate and secession leader voted as an assembly member to restrict the abilities of cities to enact strong effective rent control laws. Richard Katz, Valley Independent Committee President, while an assemblyman, voted against tenants' rights at every opportunity he had. He voted against bills to restrict housing demolitions and voted to cut state housing funds to cities with rent control. Richard Close, a real estate attorney and Valley

Vote chairperson was a leader of the Coalition for Housing, the landlord group which spearheaded efforts to stop the adoption of L.A. Rent Control Law of 1978 and yes Los Angeles has one of the weakest rent control regs in the country. But now L.A. is waking up to the fact that over 50 percent of the residents of L.A. are tenants and the mayor and city council recently approved the following:

A moratorium on major rehabilitation evictions. This action prevented the eviction of a 104-unit complex in the valley.

Filing lawsuits to prevent owners of HUD subsidized affordable housing from opting out of their rental subsidies (#1 N. Venice, a HUD financed low income senior housing unit might benefit from this - See Susanne Chilton's letter in this issue).

A \$100 million housing trust program to preserve and produce affordable housing.

The people who are chanting, "Hell no!" and emailing Free Venice today, also worry me. Some of them think secession would be "cute." Some of them think that Abbot Kinney Blvd. is too charming to have low income housing in Irving Tabor Court in back of Abbot Kinney Blvd. And goodness me what would we do about cars? Imagine low-income housing encroaching on the sacred parking space. Some of these people are in favor of low-income housing, but not next to them.

They have a Walt Disney-Beaver Cleaver city walk vision of small-town U.S.A. populated by the Hardys, Aunt Bee, Sheriff Andy, and for a character or 2, Goober, and Gilligan, and maybe the beatnik guy on Dobie Gillis.

And yes I am deeply pissed off at the cavalier way Venice has been treated in redistricting. This is nothing against Councilwoman Miscikowski who seems willing to hear what people have to say, but a councilwoman for whom we did not vote now represents us. And this bothers a lot of people in Venice. The Los Angeles City Council could have worked it so that our elected councilperson would not have been gerrymandered out. And for those Galanter haters, she would have been term limited out in one year, never to be able to run for city council again. So here I am world's crummiest debater, shilly shallying about secession.

Yes, Los Angeles is too big, but do I want a patchwork of carved out cities with different laws every 10 miles?

Do I want cut backs of childcare, housing preservation and city workers under the guise of efficiency and economics?

Do I want closing of even more hospitals and maybe preference given to private school funding over public school funding?

Do we want these separate little cities with their well-disguised restrictive covenants ranging from how high one's lawn can grow to what color you can paint your house or proliferation of non-regulated bars (because the police aren't paid adequate salaries and are subject to the bribes and graft of certain businesses) and yet more non-regulated businesses who can ignore environmental regulations?

Do we want anti union regulations disguised as economy? Can we deal with eviscerating the minimum wage laws that have been enacted by Los Angeles? When or if the valley and Hollywood secede, whom will the powers that be listen to?

From the looks of the candidates who are backing secession, certainly not the working poor who also inhabit the valley, and have yet to meet Mr. And Mrs. Cleaver.



BS Productions is proud to present Baby Bush to the new fall season. With the roaring success of Daddy Bush, Baby Bush was sure to land on TV near you. Baby Bush finds himself trapped in a nursery, with old friends, and enemies. Some that you've seen before, but many that are new and full of surprises.

Baby Bush. Catch him before he catches you.

## PERHAPS YOU WERE THERE? Venice: Lost and Found

by Maryjane

You may or may not have been there September 13 through 19 to see documentary films presented at the Laemmle Theatres on Second Street in Santa Monica. The "DOctober" series was produced by IDA, the International Documentary Association (ph # 213-534-3600), and included at least 21 films. "Venice: Lost and Found" a color 16mm, one-hour length film by Brad Bemis (with Angela Galletta) was one of the projects screened at various schedules in the week. It certainly has the brave attempt of its conceivers and all involved, as do most documentaries.

The film may be effective for those who have not lived here in Venice. It may be effective for the recent decades of biz careerists who keep an abode here and of jet-set security hangout times, whose fortress/private security and high maintenance modes ensure problems and impossible economic squalor. Then, it would be all about them. Still, it holds some brave attempt.

It seemed full of the biz-hype in its focus of celebrities. The interviews of such are intercut

for lengths, but they basically repeat the bit they have to say over and over. The shots of such are, generally, what I term as "close up of an eyelash," not my cup of tea. Gregory Hines was my favorite of "celebrities," speaking unpretentious truth. Yet, it may seem to fit with the other modern modes, so proliferated, as it has tons of split second edits of decades old footage with late 1990s footage. The loud music cuts are smatterings, also, except for the beginning and end. The teeny-tiny cuts of interviews with locals are partial "sound bites" for "color," overall. Philomene Long and John Thomas were my favorites of these; they are angel poets. I ached for some real focus on Skip and surfers/skaters/skate boarders. The frequent cuts of a few of the many Venice murals were a shame...and there was no inclusion of the mural artists as community people.

Perhaps one issue is that the documentary seems to be groupie adoration of "The DOORS," specifically Jim Morrison and "appears" to have the backing of Ray Manzarek, DOORS keyboardist.

The film pretends to give an overview of Venice from a century ago. It cannot and does not do so. The editing of oral interviews intercut with visuals of decades purports superficial chronology. Yours truly, and many other senior artists/locals here catch every frame of visual

and sound discrepancies. Perhaps it is geared for those of the future, yours truly is clearly no part of; the blast of imposed sensationalism versus the incredible courage, within constant trauma and tribulation of daily people committed to community and to living with harmony in seashore environs, inclusive of the artists and arts.

Venice, like all sacred sanctuaries, has drawn true spirits and all the other sorts not needing to be "named." She has been, is, and likely will be, for some time: raped, pillaged, tortured, polluted, fortified-uglyed, and killed. A true spirit, this cradle of breeding waters and light, she does not die. Nature, thank all goodness, outlasts each and all. Wouldn't it be lovely if we could all live together manifesting her glorious spirit in all aspects of our frail human condition?

It seems doubtful that any "one" documentary/film/project/play can accomplish the daunting wish to portray an entire area, community, or environment. The "essence" may be the best goal to convey and manifest in our high limitations(?). Essence as "big picture." Perhaps a compilation of collective projects may tell an overview of such amazing spans. Perhaps it will be Potluck Poetry distilled...as true waters and spirits are.

Maryjane is a Venice filmmaker. Three of her documentary films can be viewed at the Venice library

## The Law End Force Human by Calvin

Jacob La Mounthey was born out of wedlock on July 26, 1956 on the highway just outside of Odessa Texas. Son of Jock La Mounthey of St. Pierre Island (Fr) and a local Texas girl Emy May Beaumont. They were in transit to Venice Beach Ca. Little is known of the rest of the family.

His inauguration as Sher-ruff of Venice Beach Ca. July 29, 2006 by an overwhelming



## Sher-ruff of Venice

popular vote by the local constituents after many years of corruption, deception and skulduggery by law enforcement agencies.

### Day of the Beard

Ruben, the friendly street Bruin (bear), had noticed that the local law enforcement had not shaved in over a week. The woman officers who were usually smooth as a fresh peach had developed a thick stubbly mass of whiskers. Showing his concern for the officers, Ruben the street Bruin, had called the local Sher-ruff and had spoken to him about the beards. The Sher-ruff then called upon his friend George Crassfar explaining the strange beards on the normally clean shaven officers. Shocked they decided to investigate this strange event.

Warning to all government agencies. BEARDO WEIRDOSIS VIRIALOSIS MELANCOSIS is becoming a national problem. National Center for Beard Control and Management.  
A must read for all concerned peoples.

## Beard Management for Egalitarians and those who where once clean shaven.

Authored by the HORSE

The strange malady had escaped from a secret government laboratory. The substance had contaminated some razors destined for the law. Nothing can stop Beardo from growing. Those infected display strange behavior. Beardo can jam guns, cause car doors to become clogged with its long titanium, kevlar matrix. Officers start to itch and scatch becoming disoriented. They then start arresting each other while driving around in circles, Their memories lapse and they forget where the jailhouse is. Stopping at fast food joints gobbling down fastfood and donuts. One person with Beardo began kayaking to the Panama Canal from Venice Beach. Another was found swinging from his beard like a possum in a tree..

Pretty Scruffy Situation.....

## Neighborhood Council

# Democratic Process in Action

By Alice Stek  
District 7 councilmember

Public participation brought the Board back on track at the second Grass Roots Venice Board meeting. It was held on September 23 at the Venice United Methodist Church and much of its time was devoted to debating the composition of the Land Use and Planning Committee. The committee is intended to advise City and County agencies on local development. It could play an important role in protecting Venice from inappropriate development and preserving and/or expanding affordable housing.

As reported in the July Beachhead, the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council was certified in March and initiated by current president Tisha Bedrosian, members of the Rose Avenue Working Group, Venice Action Committee, and other community activists. This group was primarily focused on process and name recognition. Until the Progressive Grassroots Candidates came out with their detailed platform, there was no real discussion of the issues facing Venice. The Bedrosian/Rose Ave./Venice Action group quickly and misleadingly named themselves "GRVNC/Groovenic" slate. The "Groovenics" managed, without really taking a position on the issues, to elect 12 of their candidates to the Board. The Progressive Candidates slate had 12 candidates; 8 were elected to the Board.

Despite the efforts of some of its members, the Board at times appears to be a closed club of insiders. Attempts to prevent the general membership electing the new members of the Land Use and Planning Committee, which may be the council's most important committee, do nothing to help correct this perception. Fortunately, a dedicated group of Venetians is safeguarding democratic process in Venice.

Bylaw issues can become exciting – read on...

In the September Beachhead I reported on the first public meeting of the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers on August 26. An addendum is in order.

At the August 26 meeting, Elena Popp introduced a motion to modify the bylaws to expand the membership of the Land Use and Planning Committee by adding 6 members - to be elected by the general membership of the neighborhood

council in addition to the original 9 members appointed by the Board. This would potentially allow a more diverse and democratic representation on this important committee. After the vote, council president Tisha Bedrosian announced the motion had passed by a 9 to 6 margin (voting against: DeDe Audet, Chris Bedrosian, Rick Feibusch, Greg Fitchett, Chris Williams, Kelley Willis). Two weeks later she informed Popp, the council secretary, that the motion did not pass after all because the required 2/3 majority approval was not achieved. So now we are back to the 9 Land Use Committee members, all appointed by the Board.

The confusion described above may be transient; this was only the first public meeting of a new organization subject to numerous city government regulations. Don't forget that the Board is composed of volunteers - many of the members have day jobs.

Thanks to Popp's efforts, the Land Use Committee issue was added to the agenda for the second Board meeting, but due to a "miscommunication" was not properly announced as an action item and therefore could not be considered for a bylaws amendment at this meeting.

However, the bylaws allow proposals directly from the membership. Several Grass Roots Venice members, both general and Board members, anticipated the above problems, studied the bylaws and found a strategy to bypass the obstructions on the Board. They quickly organized a petition to submit the same amendment to the general membership. All bylaws amendment proposals must be approved by the general membership at an election meeting.

The organizers of the petitions collected nearly twice the required number of signatures. Only two Venetians who were approached declined to sign. After an hour of discussion, the Board had not decided on a plan of action. So the petitions were submitted to the Board from the public. Now the expansion/election of the Land Use and Planning Committee is required to be placed on the agenda of the next general membership meeting.

Other business at the September 23 meeting: Additional less controversial bylaws revisions were discussed. Bonnie Cheeseman presented a report from the Parking Committee. Parking

issues impact our quality of life; contact Cheeseman to learn about a variety of possible solutions. The Conservation Committee is also addressing transportation and parking issues.

A member of the "Groovenic slate" who accused the Progressive Candidates of relying on popularity rather than addressing the issues provided an amusing interlude.

A general membership meeting is scheduled for October 28 at 7:00 PM at the Venice Boys and Girls Club. Important decisions may be made at that meeting, such as amendments to the bylaws. This may sound like a dry subject, but if you attend the meeting you may find the debates more entertaining and revealing than you expected. The proposed expansion of the Land Use Committee will probably be voted on then. LA City Council member Cindy Miscikowski is on the agenda. All Grass Roots Venice members are encouraged to attend!

Grass Roots Venice has taken no official position on Valley/Hollywood secession, but encourages discussion. The council will co-host a Forum on L.A. Secession with other Westside groups on October 8 at 7 pm; see pages 6-7.

Meeting announcements with agendas will be posted on the Grass Roots Venice website at <[www.grassrootsvenice.org](http://www.grassrootsvenice.org)>. This will include executive committee, full board and general membership and committee meetings. The communications officer plans to post contact information for the board members on the website soon.

Any Venice "stakeholder" (live, work, own property in Venice) who is at least 16 years old may register. You need not be a citizen or eligible to vote for state elections or have a green card to register, but you must be able to document stakeholder status. Register and have input into local government!

Contact us at Progressive Candidates: telephone 310-280-3411 or visit our website: <<http://home.attbi.com/~venicecandidates>> or via the link at <[www.freevenice.org](http://www.freevenice.org)>.

## An Army of Women By Peggy Lee Kennedy

Mother  
Did you wonder?  
Who would take over  
when you were gone.  
Who would be here  
to take your place  
when you could not stand to march  
or even walk  
when you fell and could not get up  
not once more  
when your voice had lost all sound and  
when you were no longer  
seen or heard on this earth  
Did you worry?  
Who will care for your family  
Did you wonder?  
Who now will carry on the struggle for peace,  
and sing the song of freedom  
for women and men and for our planet  
Mother  
in your place  
we need an army of women  
since you are gone

And how many people saw the September 1973 Venice Town Council Meeting that was filmed "live" by public television, KCET-Channel 28? The three-hour show was so beautiful it made news, won a Golden Globe Award for a Public Documentary, and almost won an Emmy! Seeing thirty Venice residents (duly elected at the local level), representing the ethnic and income diversity of America  
-Venice of America by Sweet William



**Marvena Kennedy**  
1924-1989

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크리스티나 피아노 개인레슨

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piano, organ

(310) 586-0114

e-mail: [mootney123@aol.com](mailto:mootney123@aol.com)  
1532 Berkeley Street #3, Santa Monica, CA 90404

## NO WAR WITH IRAQ

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- ✓ Join the Sunday march on the Boardwalk
- ✓ Call your representatives
- ✓ Register to vote with P&F



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## HELP SAVE DANIEL FREEMAN MARINA HOSPITAL

EVER SINCE Tenet Healthcare Corporation bought the Daniel Freeman Marian Hospital and Emergency Room, the future of this important community facility has been in doubt.

In May, Tenet announced that it was going to shut down the hospital and emergency room. Fortunately Attorney General Bill Lockyer persuaded a judge to temporarily halt the hospital closure. On the heels of strong community activism, Tenet recently announced that it is "reassessing" its decision to close and is holding hearings to gather public input about the operation of the hospital and the community's health care needs. Your voice is needed to help preserve our community's health care resources.



COME TO A COMMUNITY MEETING:

6 pm, Tuesday - October 8  
Venice High School • 13000 Venice Blvd.

COME TO BOTH MEETINGS TO SHARE:

- Stories about how the hospital has met your medical needs
- What you count on from the Marina Hospital
- What you would do if Marina Hospital was closed

*You Can Make a Difference!!*

For more information visit the SOMH (Save Our Marina Hospital Coalition) website <[www.somh.org](http://www.somh.org)>, call 310-306-1487 or write POB 5393, Playa del Rey 90296. SOMH is a coalition of community groups, physicians and medical staff, neighborhood councils, and religion organizations.

# Community Events



## ART

- Sep 14, Saturday RED ROOM GALLERY - reception 7-10 PM - Support Local Art Live DJ food and drink 1604 Pacific Ave 310-399-1785
- Sept. 21 Saturday, 5:00 PM -- Diana Fuller, Phyllis Jackson, JoAnne Hanley, Karen Higa and Amelia Jones will form a panel to discuss ART/WOMEN/CALIFORNIA 1950-2000: Parallels and Intersections.

## POETRY

- 2pm, Saturdays - Poetry Readings - Abbot Kinney Library, 501 Venice Blvd.
- 8pm, most Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays - Poetry Readings and Workshops. Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd.
- Fridays Sept. 6, 13, 20 8:00 PM -- OPEN POETRY - sign up begins at 7:30 PM Midnight Special Bookstore, 1318 3rd St. Santa Monica
- 9/14 Saturday, 12:00 Noon PM -- POETRY WORKSHOP -- held on the 2nd Saturday of the month. Please come prepared with 5 copies of your poem. The workshops will be hosted by Elizabeth Pavone. Midnight Special, 1318 3rd St. Santa Monica

## COMMUNITY

- Mondays 7PM Venice-Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library - Ongoing Preschool Storytime for ages 3-5 "Pop Up for Reading" Summer reading club 4PM Wed Free - 501 S Venice Blvd 310-821-2065
- 1pm, 2nd Sunday of each month - Ballona Wetlands Tour - meet at 303 Culver Blvd., Playa del Rey.
- Every Friday, 7-11am - Venice Farmer's Market. Between Venice Blvd. and Venice Way (at Ocean Avenue Parking lot).
- Sep 8, Sunday 11-4 KELPFEST - Free - Where Ocean Park Blvd meets the beach 310-305-9645 www.smbaykeeper.org
- Sept. 10 Tuesday 7:30 PM -- SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST. Midnight Special Bookstore - This month's subject: "Navigation of Missions to comets and Asteroids" presented by Connie Weeks
- Sept. 14, Saturday MUSCLE BEACH - Powerlifting contest Venice/APF "West Coast Bench Press Championships" APF Sanctioned  
Sept. 21-22, Saturday & Sunday - Handball Tournament - "Big Blue Classic" 3-Wall Big Ball Doubles
- Sep 17, Tuesday 7 PM at 5 ROSE - KPFK Voices of Venice - Mobilizing to Inform & Educate the community, Expose hidden truths of the US Military-Industrial-Media complex - Pacifica Radio 90.7 www.pacifica.org

## Organizations

- Abbot Kinney Public Library - 501 S. Venice Blvd. 821-1769.
- Beyond Baroque - 681 Venice Blvd. <www.beyondbaroque.org>
- Grassroots Venice Neighborhood Council - <www.grassrootsvenice.org> and 310-281-1943.
- Venice Arts Mecca - 610 California Ave. 578-1745.
- Venice Community Housing Corporation - 399-4100 or <www.vchcorp.org>. 720 Rose Ave. Venice.
- Venice Family Clinic - 604 Rose Ave. 392-8636.
- Venice Health Center - 905 Venice Blvd. 392-8636.
- Venice Historical Society - POB 12844, Venice 90295 or <www.veniceofamerica.org>
- Venice-Ocean Park Food Co-Op. - 839 Brooks Ave. (at Lincoln Blvd.).
- Venice Peace & Freedom Party - 399-2215 or <pfp@freevenice.org>.
- Venice Skills Center - 611 5th Ave. 392-4153.
- Vera Davis McClendon Center - 610 California Ave. 305-1865.

## readings

- First Monday of the month, 6pm - Marshall McLuhan - Finnegans Wake Reading Club, Abbot Kinney Library, 501 Venice Blvd.
- Midnight Special Bookstore, 1318 3rd St. Santa Monica:  
Sept. 5 Thursday, 7:00 PM -- Sisterhood Reading Group meets monthly to share thoughts and feelings on books written by women. Books are chosen by those participating each month. All books read are by women authors and cover a wide range of experience. This month's book is: Hill Country by Janice Woods Windle
- Sept. 8 Sunday, 5:00 PM -- Dr. Charles S. Grob will read & discuss HALLUCINOGENS: A Reader. In his book, Grob surveys recent writings from such important thinkers as Terence McKenna, Huston Smith, and Andrew Weil illustrating that a reevaluation of the social worth of hallucinogens -- used intelligently -- is greatly in order.
- Sept. 19 Thursday, 7:30 PM -- ADVENTURES IN TIME & SPACE - Ongoing, popular series of bi-monthly science-fiction/speculative fiction book discussion groups led by Midnight Special staff member Bill Glass. This month's discussion will focus on: THE VOID CAPTAIN'S TALE written by Norman Spinrad

## FILM

- Sept. 28 Saturday, DOCUMENTAL the documentary & experimental film and video series:  
7:00 PM Show 1. HAPPYARE THE HAPPY (YOUR BEST JOKE PLEASE) ('99, 18m) 2. QUEEN OF THE MIST ('96, 29m) 3. THE GREAT SADNESS OF ZOHARA('88, 40m)  
9:00 PM Show 1. TO RE-EDIT THE WORLD ('02, 32m) 2. CULTURE JAM - HIJACKING COMMERCIAL CULTURE ('01, 57m)

Midnight Special Bookstore, 1318 3rd St. Santa Monica

## THEATRE



- Thursday, Friday, Saturday 8PM SUN 3PM \$20-\$25 "Betrayal" PACIFIC RESIDENT THEATRE  
Continuing "Mary Rose" in PRT Coop donation \$12 until Sept. 22  
"Big Love" \$20-25 Opens Oct. 12 703 Venice Reservations 310-822-8392



## MUSIC

- Fridays @ The Cows End from 8-11pm come to Lovesick Fridays featuring The Lovesick Lunatics and many more! On Washington and Pacific.
- Saturdays @ Coffee & Sympathy from 7:30 onward catch this summers musical extravaganza featuring live music Venice Beach style! Windward & Speedway.
- Sept. 5 - 7pm Virgin Megastore - Lamya Performs - To celebrate the release of her new eclectic R&B album, Learning From Falling. 8000 Sunset Blvd, Los Angeles (323) 650-8666
- Saturday, Sept. 7 from 12pm-9pm don't miss this event!!!! Soul Satisfaction presents The Art of Elysium summer music event! FREE. Crystal Springs Picnic Area at Griffith Park. Revolve, Keaton Simons, Children of Paradise, Nova Blue, Jillian Spears, Firstman (with drummer from The Black Crows), The Lovesick Lunatics (5pm), Weapon of Choice (with Fish from Fishbone!), Animastik, and Fanbelt! Special guests include Leon Mobley (percussionist from Ben Harpers band, The Innocent Criminals!) and lots more!
- Sep 7th, Friday 12 noon FREE "The Eternal Feminine" Los Angeles Master Chorale MADISON SITE THEATER 1310 11Th Street, Santa Monica 310-434-3431 Madison Project and Los Angeles Master Chorale under direction of Maestro Grant Gershon present a sixteen-voice ensemble and string chamber orchestra concert - sponsored by LA County Arts Commission and the Recording Industries' Music Performance Trust Fund through Professional Music Union Local 47.
- Sep 10, Tuesday, SLAVE SALON - Ruby Tuesdays 1223 Abbot Kinney Blvd - 310-314-7016.
- Sep 19 Thursday - 7pm AMOEBAS MUSIC Store Jazzanova performs & signs 6400 Sunset Blvd 323-245-6400.
- Sep 26th, Thursday 8PM World Music for World Peace THE CHURCH IN OCEAN PARK \$15 / \$10 Seniors and Students 235 Hill Street, Santa Monica 310-859-5846 or www.suzanneteng.com

## POLITICAL

- Sept. 7, Saturday, 11am-1pm - Venice Peace & Freedom Party. 310-399-8685
- Every Wednesday, 6:30pm - Homeless issues - Side by Side. Community group on homeless issues for beach area. The Ken Edwards Center in Santa Monica.
- Every Sunday, 2pm - Venice Peace Movement - No new war, End mass detentions & attacks on our civil liberties - March starts at Rose & the Boardwalk. Open Mic Rally near Market St. & the Boardwalk.
- Sept. 12 Thursday, 7:30 PM -- Dr. David J. Andrus, Heather McLean, Seevun Kozar, Angela Rueda will present as part of a delegation of 20, including several USC students recently returned from Colombia-- where they were investigating the War on Drugs and the effects of US foreign policy on the region. In an attempt to disseminate the alternative information that was gained and demonstrate solidarity with the Colombian people that are so often unheard, these delegates will be speaking on their personal experiences, critiques of US policy, and prescriptions for future action on Latin American issues. Midnight Special Bookstore, 1318 3rd St. Santa Monica.
- Sept. 17 Tuesday 7:30 PM -- Jeremy Rifkin will read & discuss THE HYDROGEN ECONOMY: The Creation of the Worldwide Energy Web and the Redistribution of Power on Earth. The message of the book is resoundingly simple: The earth is depleting its oil reserves and even the most generous estimates show oil reserves peaking in about 40 years. Rifkin's answer is to embrace a new energy source: hydrogen, Midnight Special Bookstore, 1318 3rd St. Santa Monica.
- Sept. 18 Wednesday, 7:30 PM -- Meeting of the Los Angeles Monthly Review Discussion. Midnight Special Bookstore, 1318 3rd St. Santa Monica.
- Oct. 8, Tuesday, 7 pm - Secession, Pros & Cons - Wadsworth Theater, 11301 Wilshire Blvd., W.L.A.



Jazz at Palms Court



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