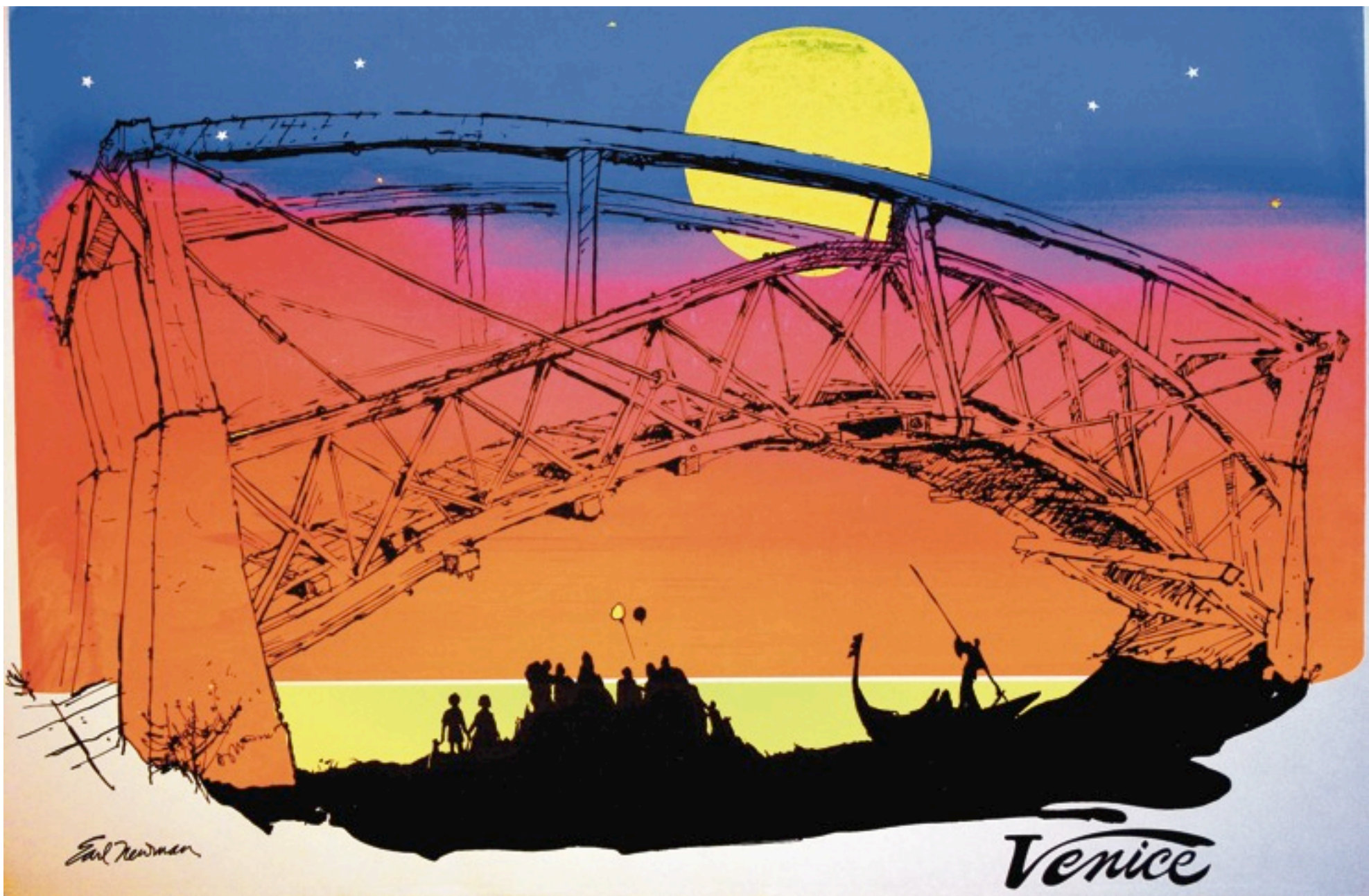


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 Many More Celebrations, Venice!



July
 2013
 #381

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Happy 108th Birthday, Venice! We Love You!

Venice and the Next One Hundred Years

By Pano Douvos

The Golden Age of Venice for me was the late 60's and through most of the 70's. The highlight was the glorious Venice Canals Festival. The free-wheeling "open house" celebration captured the spirit of that special time. It epitomized the arts ferment and the counter-culture activism. Jim Morrison and the Doors set the tone playing on the boardwalk at the Cheetah, a large hall with a dramatic 20-30 foot high wine-colored curtain.

To get the visuals, you see artistically decorated quarters, red canoes, multi-colored ducks, in brilliant sunshine and clean sea air. There's at least four canals and maybe eight picturesque bridges. Now add a swirling band of open friendly people. That mix would be my cottage-renting friends Rick Sinatra, Osah Harmon and Danielle Greco. Mary Lou Johnson owned her house and succeeded in holding out against all buyers.

The Venice Canals Festivals were a festive time for sure, the many diverse activities difficult to encapsulate. The celebrations held in late summer I believe for 4-5 years in the late 70's, covered a 3 or 4 day period. The original canal summer cottages had been rented, then fixed up into a bohemian low-rent haven. Chianti wine and recreational drugs flowed. Every other cottage became a mini-band stand or art gallery, that's with ducks...(and their contributions).

I experienced Venice as a mostly a laid back, if lively place. The only riot I saw was a police riot on a July 4th holiday some 10 to 15 years ago. An out of control cop was waving his gun around. He had this black kid handcuffed and pinned down on his stomach on the boardwalk. He suddenly just hauls-off and boots the kid on the side of his

head...forget that he was surrounded by a crowd of beach-goers.

I moved into inner-Venice when I joined the Venice Beyond Baroque Poetry Workshop and later wrote with the staff on the Free Venice Beachhead. The poets I met include Tom Waits and Wanda Coleman. I later became acquainted with John Doe and Exene Cervenka of the Band X. I sculpted a portrait-bust of Exene...at the Beachhead Arnold Springer was the most equal among equals. Those writing and contributing on the staff were Chuck Bloomquist, Moe Stavnezer, Olga Palo, Osan Harman and myself amongst other.

A "small village" atmosphere flavored Venice at the time. People walked, talked, made art, music and love, not war. Individualists in free-expression mode continue to congregate but the "bump-into-friends" aspect may have changed some and shifted, but the vitality remains.

Venice was being re-energized by the creative artists, musicians and poets who began to gather at John Haag's Venice West Café. Important Beat-Poets such as Jack Hirshman and Stewart Perkoff read their work. In scattered studios artists Billy Al Bengston, Ken Price, De Wayne Valentine, Fred Eversley and Ed Gilliam were completing prime sculpture and paintings.

Hot hangouts formed at the boardwalk's Sidewalk Café, the Earth Rose Headshop of poet Steve Richmond and at the La Fayette Café. The spacious Gas House Coffee Shop was memorable for its energetic paintings, plus the dude reclining on pillows in the decorated bath tub, serenely reading his book...(The Gas House was torn down ages ago.)

Happening spots in Golden Age Venice included live music at the Come Back Inn on West Washington, now Abbot

– Continued on page 10

VENICE VORTEX

By Krystle Shannon (TreeGirl)

Step into the Venice Vortex
 Make sure your shoes are laced
 Cause you don't wanna twist an ankle
 In this spinning Vortex Space

Welcome to the Freakshow
 To the trippy hippy beach
 Here the drummers never stop
 Nor the tapping of de feet

The girls they roll on skateboards
 The boys they roll a blunt
 'N unless you wanna lose a toe
 I wouldn't do any of the stunts

Welcome to the Venice Vortex
 Home of the Walking Trees
 This colourful metropolis
 A paint rash symptom Love Disease

Just remember on your plane home
 You never truly leave
 This boomerang bangin Vortex
 Will have you returning, turning, turning
 If only in your dreams.

Above: Lennie Canal, 1969

By: Earl Newman

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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.

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Dear Fellow Venetians,

CONGRATULATIONS on the resounding, unanimous defeat of OPD's at the Coastal Commission! A proud moment in Venetian self-determination (as John Haag used to call it). It made my heart sing to see the group assembled for the photo as they made the journey to Long Beach - a trip I've made many times in my own history with the Coastal Commission since we helped create it in 1982. Venice - for all its upscale transitions and problems - remains a public community, and has not gone the way of Carmel or other places on the coast. Bravo to The Beachhead and others for demonstrating what community means. Abbot would be proud of all of you.

*Sincerely,
Lance Diskan*

Dear Beachhead,

After spending some time in Santa Monica (getting more and more unpleasant), I have noticed on 11th street between Colorado and Olympic, two Portasans for the "casual labor pool" in this area, by Bourget Brothers and the Salvation Army Thrift Shop. This seems like an excellent idea to me and I can't help but wonder why we haven't yet been able to do the same thing in Venice (Venice Beach?) for easier access to the natural necessities???

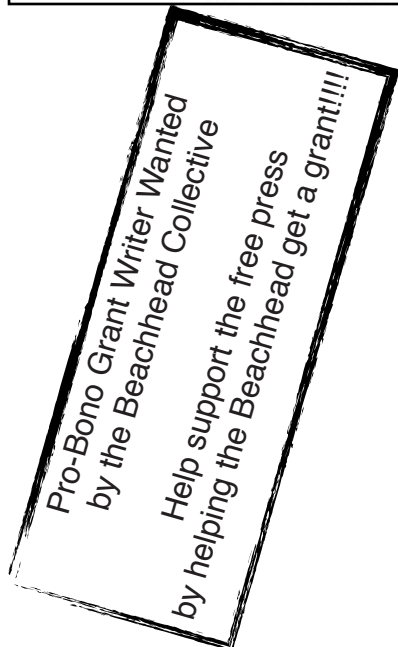
Now that the "Old Mayor" is becoming a resident of Venice (Beach?), maybe he could become engaged finally in improving sanitation facilities for those who need it most?

*Sincerely,
Carol Beck*

Dear Beachhead,

Am I the only one at odds with the appearance of a very aggressive valet parking regime on A. K. Bl.? Our new neighbors, Feed and Kreation have contracted with ABC Parking, who announced their arrival last week with tall ugly signage that they insist on placing far into the street, and cones with which they awarded themselves several parking spaces on either side of the A. K. Bl. At noon. On a Thursday. Spaces that I've parked at for 30 years, I was told I could no longer use. Yeah, right. If you find this invasion of Staples Center signage in the street and on the sidewalk undesirable, please give a holler to our groovy neighbors and let 'em know: Abbot Kinney is not downtown LA. Yet.

*Love your rag,
Gene Mendez*



Thanks for your generous donations!

Joe and Nancy Ward
Larry Layne
Peter Force and Nancy Richards
Jeffrey Weiss
Electric Lodge
Venice Summer Fest
Fisherman's Appreciation Day
Robert Watts
Donald Geagan
Mary Richards
Ronald Rouda
Abbot's Pizza Company
Raven Productions
Delores Hanney
Nutritional Warehouse
Hoagies

Dear Beachhead,

AT&T wants to put a cell phone tower in this area that is understood. However they want it in a residential neighborhood and they want to put it on top of an apt that has 26 units in it. Many of the residents are not happy about living under radiation day and night (over 50% signed petition against it) and either are the majority of the rest of the immediate neighborhood.

We collected 80 petitions in two days. The building and the Antennas are in some cases just next door on these small lots with the radiation 24-7. This is a residential neighborhood zoned R3.1 and there are many location a block or two away where they are industrial or commercial zones. This area is three blocks together of industrial building from Main to Third street, and there are others in the neighborhood we feel that it is wrong to expose private homes and apartment to radiation just because it may be cheaper or more convenient for AT&T.

*Thanks for caring about the neighborhood.
Joanne Faust*

Dear Beachhead,

I am happy to help sustain a worthy publication. I am a Native Californian and lover of the entire West Coast!

-Mary Richards

Dear Beachhead,

A sad prophecy: Someone will be killed or maimed on the Boardwalk this Summer by a speeding Segway or similar motorized vehicle rented to tourists.

Is profit so important that these vehicles are rented out with no safety instructions about speeding through crowds?

Where are the laws to protect pedestrians from speeding tourists out of control on these vehicles?

Where is the common sense that would outlaw vehicles such as Segway and its offshoots on the Boardwalk?

- Bruce Meade, 35 years Venice resident



Sikh on Wheels

By Delores Hanney

He’s practically the living logo of our town, the rolling symbol of Venice eccentricity known far and wide. Rambling about northward and south, strumming his tunes flush with abundant distortion and wrapped around his particular form of poetry, he’s been a boardwalk fixture here since 1974.

Just a few years earlier – at the age of nineteen – Harry Perry was part of the Detroit cast of the quintessential sixties stage musical, *Hair*. Before and after this he was the leader and moving spirit of a local cover band. He became part of the stream of Motown music makers migrating to Southern California’s salubrious sunshine. Once arrived, it was his pal Antonio “Tony” Newton, of Smokey Robinson and the Miracles fame, who suggested Perry take himself off to Ocean Front Walk and “just go play.”

Music, that is.

His act, as it were, evolved. A friend named Alice hatched the notion that put him on skates and bought his first pair. From roller skates he matriculated to rollerblades then to LandRollers, those puppies with two large wheels slightly inclined. His original Les Paul guitar was amplified by the juice of six Radio Shack rechargeable AA batteries but when another friend engineered and wired him up with a power pack fast charger he said he felt like Iron Man coming into his power, able now to wheel about intrepidly transmitting his electrified sounds with scarcely a concern for broadcast capacity.

In a turban and the robe of a holy man, when he first fell onto my radar I just assumed Perry was all tricked out in his own personal version of street performer drag. But I was wrong! He’s the real deal. An actual Sikh. For many years till the yogi’s death, he was a student of Yogi Bhajan who brought Kundalini yoga to the west in 1968 and inspired multitudes to live in their excellence.

This suited Perry right down to his toes. He’s the offspring of very well educated parents whose idea of a good time was debating all manner of issues all night with a bevy of brainy friends. It grounded him in a mind-exercising practice that instilled the confidence, the creativity and the wits to fashion a lifeway in harmony with his bliss. Hallmarks of living said bliss include never having to ask for a job, no one to fire him and the maintenance of full control of his brand, down to producing his own recordings.

On an ordinary day, he’s to be found at Gold’s gym by 4:00 or 5:00 a.m., doing stretches, working weights in anticipation of a ten to twenty mile run, depending on the day’s agenda. This, along with yoga, fuels the high-octane needs to sustain the physical and psychic peak demanded by his public personahood. Most days, especially in summer, running segues into long hours at the beach riding the vibes of Ocean Front Walk. Making his music. Making the rent. Afterwards he might scoot off to a park or some other venue to set up his massive array of musical equipment and put on a concert in his Kama Kosmic Crusader guise. “Kama Sutra with a guitar,” he calls it.

In the 1990s a certain flowering of quirkiness-diluting gentrification commenced in Venice supported by the drive to squish its more exotic nature. L.A. Municipal Code Section 42.15 disallowed hawking, peddling or vending stuff on the Venice Beach boardwalk, an obstacle to Perry’s sale of his records, T-shirts and what have you. The named plaintiff in an oppositional class action suit based on the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression, commerce and congregation, Perry fought back and prevailed upon appeal. The Los Angeles City Council simply roared into action again with more specific codified restrictions acutely curtailing boardwalk performance. Twenty years later the battle over First Amendment rights still roils on, though Perry himself is seldom hassled.

His status as an icon means *You Tube* is full of him. His image is blithely bandied about on postcards and murals. There’s a statue of him at the California Adventure theme park. He had cameo roles in movies such as *Fletch*, *White Men Can’t Jump* and *The Gift*, television’s *CSI* too, serving as a signifying element to establish authenticity of place. Incredibly he appeared in TV commercials for Primo Milk in New Zealand, of all places. Tourists from there are always antsy pantsy to make his acquaintance upon visiting here.

As the unofficial front man in the street entertainer tradition that’s been operational in elevating Venice to its position as a SoCal tourist draw surpassed solely by Disneyland, Harry Perry is a legend in his time.



\$18 Dollars for 40 Seconds Will Do

By Greta Cobar

A zip line between the boardwalk and the beach is to be installed by the Canadian company Greenheart/Flightlinez beginning July.

Running for a distance of just under 700ft., 3 lines accommodating 3 people at a time will run from the area in front of Ocean Sidewalk Cafe to the public bathrooms by the basketball courts.

During the March Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) meeting, Kevin of Greenheart stated that they have a temporary permit to operate a zip line for 3 months, after which it will come down.

“We intend to come back and re-apply for a longer permit,” said Kevin during the March VNC meeting. To bring back the attraction, Greenheart would have to re-apply with the VNC and the California Coastal Commission.

The reasoning behind obstructing ocean view with a zip line is to use 2/3 of the money donated by Greenheart to the city of Los Angeles to improve bathroom facilities in Venice.

The bathroom situation in Venice is a violation of basic human rights. Hour-long lines and lack of toilet paper are the norm on summer weekends.

However, the city of Los Angeles is responsible for paying for bathroom upkeep, and bringing in an ocean-view-obstructing structure to get Los Angeles out of paying for our bathrooms is a bad precedent to establish.

The cost for a 40-second zip line thrill will be \$18 for California residents and \$20 for others.

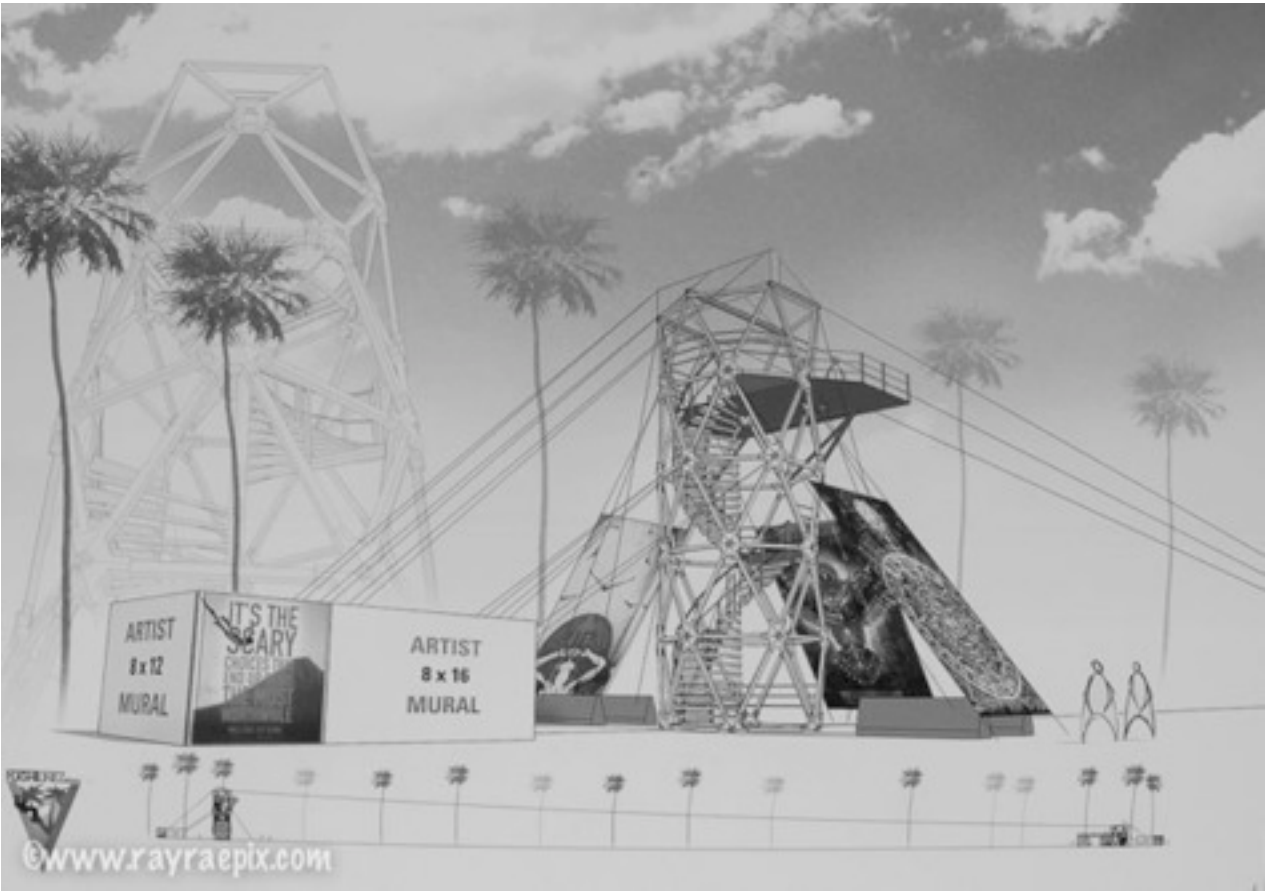
The zip line operators were required by the VNC’s Venice Impact Committee to “offer incentives to encourage non-vehicular and public transportation customers.” Consequently, California non-residents with bus passes will also be eligible for \$18 tickets. Those will be very rare, though.

Greenheart will offer valet parking services for bikes, skateboards, skates and rollerblades. It will be open daily from 11am to sunset.

In a June phone conversation with the Beachhead Brina Marcus, Marketing Director for Greenheart, stated that the zip line will employ about 25-30 people who were recruited through the company’s website and craigslist. When asked if locals are given priority in the hiring process, her answer was “No.”

“When hiring, our priorities are safety-conscious mind-sets and competency,” Marcus told the Beachhead.

“We would like to be there as a permanent attraction, but the community and the city have to agree on that,” Marcus said.



Big Bill's Automotive Fearing Eviction

By Greta Cobar

Abbot Kinney would be unhappy with the current state of affairs on Abbot Kinney Blvd. Chain stores selling things for ten times their worth are a clear sign of the hyper-gentrification overtaking our bohemian town by the sea. The latest victim, for the first time on the South side of Venice Blvd., is Big Bill's Auto Shop at 1715 Abbot Kinney Blvd.

Having been there for the past 32 years, Bill does not want to close shop and go. Both he and I got a little teary-eyed just contemplating the idea.

Yes, he has been paying the same amount of rent for the past 32 years. But the lady who owns the building lives in the canals and owns several other properties in Venice. And they've been friends for the past 40-some years. Bill was there for her when her husband passed away, when her boys needed him, and of course whenever her car broke down.

"She's been such a nice lady for all these years, I don't know what happened," William Welchance, known around Venice as Big Bill, said of his landlord. "I was in the Veterans Affairs hospital for two months and missed paying rent, but I've been late in the past, and it's been OK. I try to help people, and sometimes they pay later, or in installments. I don't get to take home a lot of money."

What I found in Big Bill is a real old-time, small-town kind of guy. His candor and simplicity, his aim to help people as opposed to just being out there to make money, his integrity and high regards for his old-time friend who is now pushing him out made a mark on me.

"What it comes down to is, you can't be a nice guy anymore," Big Bill told me. "I always made sure people got good work and a good deal. When I go home, I can lay down on that pillow and sleep, because I know I didn't cheat anyone. My dad taught me that."

Those old-time values, together with the old-time feel of his shop, are being eradicated by the newcomers busy cheating the next person out of a dollar. Although Big Bill guessed he is getting kicked out because his shop is an "open sore in the new downtown Venice," I see his shop as a gem instead.

Just as we were talking a young man stopped by. He goes to school to learn to be a mechanic, and spends time at the shop watching Big Bill work. "I'm trying to pass on what was at one time passed on to me," Big Bill said.

"She must have something else planned for this property, but I don't know what," Big Bill said of his landlord. "When I got out of the hospital, I got the money to pay all of the back rent I owned, but she came up screaming 'You keep the money - you'll need it for moving - I'll get you evicted. I want you out!'"

A court date has been set for July 15, but all Bill is hoping for now is to be able to stay in the shop for another four to six months. He says he needs to pack up and clean up, but it's more than that. "I've been here so long, it is home," Big Bill told me.

"I don't want to quit working on cars, that is my hobby. I plan to continue by going to people's houses," Big Bill said. When I asked him if he's going to take some of the parts from the shop to his house, he answered: "A man has to have a few toys of his own."

If money did not rule the land we would not be kicking out an honest person who has been fixing our cars for the past 32 years, somebody whose job is also his hobby. It is sad to see him go, and it will be even sadder to see his replacement.

"It's not like her, it's like there's someone else behind her," Big Bill said of his landlord.

Venice drivers don't want to see Big Bill's Auto Shop gone, and tons of people are ready to help Big Bill stay. However, Bill's outlook is not too positive now: "I got a lot going against me right now - the big increase in rent on Abbot Kinney and the high cost of liability insurance for the shop."

Trying to hang on to the shop for as long as the judge allows him, Big Bill is planning to sell most of his parts directly out of the shop and through Craigslist. So if you're into that kind of stuff, stop by and ask a few questions. He might have that old piece you've been looking for. Either that, or you might just want a souvenir from one of the last old-school Venice institutions.



Above: Big Bill as painted by Barbara Mastej. Her work is currently on view at the Cadillac Hotel on Dudley and OFW.

They're Driving Up Real Estate on Lincoln

By Greta Cobar

"Venice is changing" has become an often-heard statement around town these days. Like a plague spreading around town, the infestation of gentrification is now trying to overcome Lincoln Blvd.

And if you want to be cool and fit in with that crowd, call it the Linc. It's the hipster-thing-to-do.

On June 22 the Venice Music Crawl made its debut on Lincoln, with locations including Deus Ex Machina, RG Club, Floyd's Barber Shop, Venice Love Shack, Witzend and the Talking Stick.

Some parts of the event were fun and ran smoothly. For example, the crowd at the Talking Stick was bigger than usual and local talent was on display.

"If they're gonna give away free beer, they shouldn't arrest homeless people with empty containers," David Busch said of the youngsters walking down Lincoln with beer in their hands.

Free beer was given out in the empty industrial space near Floyd's, on Lincoln and Sunset. There was a sign stating that all proceeds will go to Ocean Park Community Center (OPCC) and suggested a donation of \$4.

Knowing that OPCC runs anti-substance abuse classes and programs, it seemed unusual for beer to be sold on its behalf. Michael Pegues, speaking on behalf of OPCC, told the Beachhead that although OPCC agreed to accept proceeds from the event, they were not present at the event and were not aware that beer was used to raise money for their organization. According to him, OPCC thought that money was going to be raised by providing haircuts at Floyd's.

Although with a different vibe, that's how First Fridays started on Abbot Kinney: with the free wine and live music. It attracted the locals. There were some great parties and stories to be told – or forgot-

ten. Before we knew it, the out-of-towners found out and started pouring in. The wine was all of a sudden gone and music was no longer allowed. The locals soon bailed out on the insanity that First Fridays became, but the out-of-towners continued to come – and the more they came, the higher the real estate went.

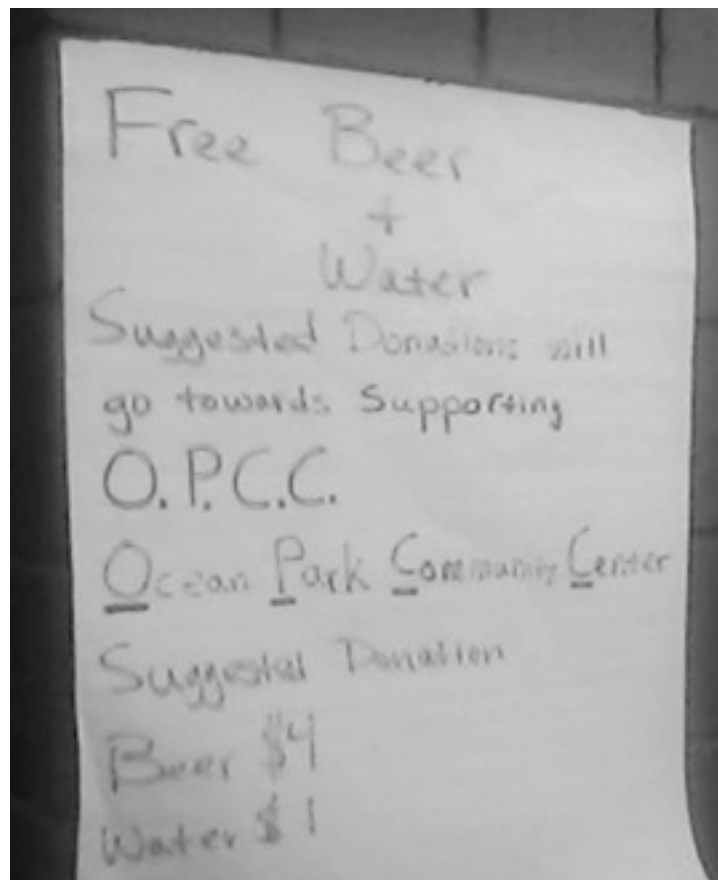
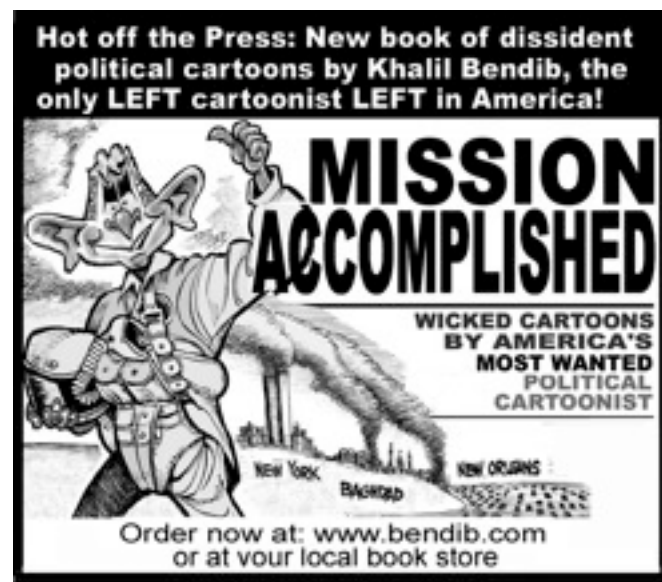
Store rent prices on Abbot Kinney jumped up several hundred percent as a result of attracting well-to-do people who were presented with a store-front cool Version of what Venice really is not.

It will be interesting to see how the real estate moguls will use free alcohol and music to drive up real estate prices on Lincoln.

The Music Crawl's initial mission statement mentioned bringing the wave of gentrification from Abbot Kinney and Rose onto Lincoln. It was partly deleted and modified following the date of the event.

Right: Sign advertising beer given away for donations supporting Ocean Park Community Center

Photo by: David Busch



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Big Boss Man vs the Indigent Children

By Eric Ahlberg

Get a job. Nothing seems to disturb the gentrifiers of Venice like unemployed youth hanging out on their block. Why can't they just get a job like us decent hard working American middle class people. Well maybe the jobs suck, the pay sucks, and often the employers suck. Venice has it's share of sucky employers, from popular trendy restaurants to the fast food chains.

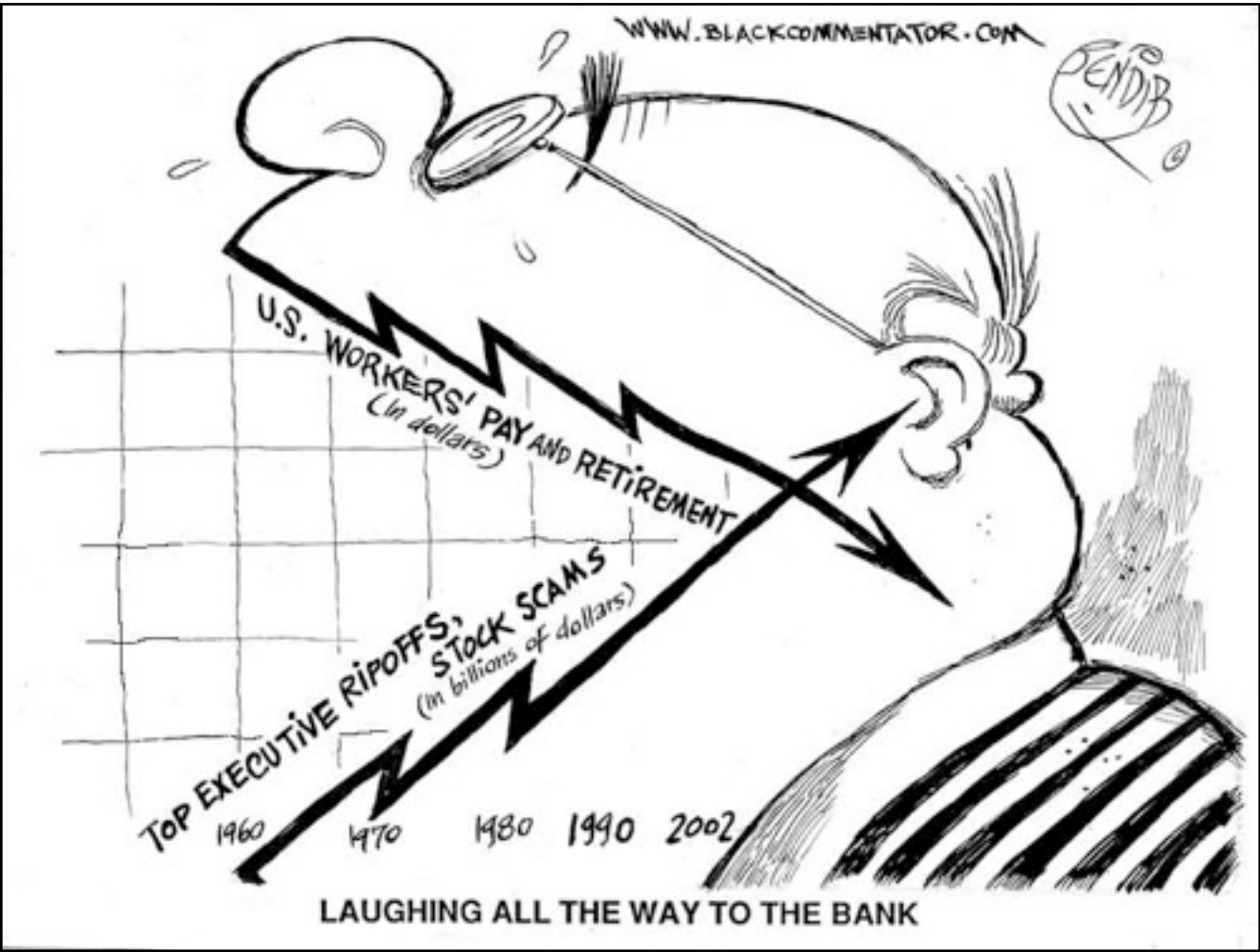
The boss, the big guy, the guy in charge, the entrepreneur, the self-made man, the guy who can take the money right out of the till. It has come to our attention that several local restaurants have settled lawsuits over wages and hours and unreported income. I'm sure it's just an annoyance to them, and viewed as unfair, and they see it as a conspiracy of Lawyers and disgruntled ex-employees after money, which is true enough, that's what it takes to settle. It's all about the money. Restaurant workers must be paid at least minimum wage, excluding tips.

The restaurant servers may pool tips, to share with the other workers. Restaurant Owners may try to take control of tips, but tips are gratuities from customer to server and the restaurant owner should have no part in it. Restaurant workers are also entitled to uninterrupted 30-minute meal breaks and 10-minute rest breaks. It is ironic that employees working in the food service business are illegally deprived of their right to enjoy an uninterrupted 30-minute meal and be relieved of their work duties during this time. Violations of the employment laws can subject the employers to six figure settlements, including back pay, penalties, fines and civil penalties.

The failure to pay proper overtime compensation or pay for missed meal and rest periods may give rise to other violations of California's labor laws. In addition to the actual overtime compensation owed to the employee (computed at 1.5 or 2 times the employee's regular rate), employees may recover the following: 1) Legal Interest 2) Statutory Penalties. 3) Attorney's Fees and Costs 4) Civil Penalties. If you think your employer is screwing you, we suggest you file claims and contact an Employment Attorney at <http://goo.gl/Ym7wi>. There are several employment attorneys in Venice.

Restaurant owners have a great incentive to cheat workers on hours worked and overtime, and often do so with impunity. Why? Because they can be greedy Pricks. If a restaurant owner is a prick about paying his workers, he is also a prick about most other things. This is what greed does to people, they must seek advantages over others, and pocket the difference. This is basic capital accumulation on the grass roots scale in the small businesses. Now we love it when a business has a positive attitude toward its workers, it pays them well, and encourages them to be a team player with the other workers, and treats them kindly. But then there are the arrogant entitled shits who are always trying to screw everybody, who seem to always question your worth to them, even when you pull their ass out of the fire. You're just a fucking peon and you are lucky to have a job. Seventy percent of American workers are "emotionally disconnected" at work, with nearly one in five employees "actively disengaged." Fifty percent of women work for minimum wage, and that includes a lot of single moms.

Indolent youth on the street? Get a job bum! But what's a young person to do? Twenty percent youth unemployment, forty-three percent for black youth. Anybody ever see a Oakwood black kid working on Abbot Kinney? Fast Food Job? Forty percent of fast food outposts in the country fail to consistently pay their employees a minimum wage or overtime, and Eighty-four percent of NY fast food workers complained that their employers regularly force them to work off the books, work overtime without overtime pay or pony up for their own gas for deliveries. The whole structure of franchising is set up to throw



Political cartoon by Khalil Bendib

workers under the bus while insulating corporations from the messy exigencies of their labor. Sexual harassment too. A GF of mine, a great flute player, studied with Galway, but she was working at a national hamburger chain. Turned out that it's mandatory to attend team building retreats where fucking your superior is your path to suckcess. No Future? Yes we still treasure the punk rebellion cuz it sucked hard. Now the world is going punk Anarchy everywhere while the richest just keep getting richer. No Future is what the one percent are offering.

Then we have the bottom of the labor pool. The Homeless Street Kids. These kids seem to be the punching bags for the OPD gentrifiers in Venice. They're the most likely to try sleeping in a car, because it is unsafe to sleep in the bushes. There are 10,000 homeless youth in L.A. Here is a recent report about this issue, No Way Home: <http://goo.gl/nJ3Ph>

The statistics are frightening..

- Every 26 seconds a child runs away, and 1.6 million children run away from home each year in the U.S.
- One in three teens will be recruited by a "pimp" within 48 hours of leaving home and becoming homeless.
- At least 100,000 to 300,000 youth are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation annually in the U.S. (Estes and Wiener, 2001)
- The average age of entry into the commercial sex industry in the U.S. is 12 years old.
- Hollywood has a serious problem with homeless street kids and prostitution. Sexing people up for money is a survival skill, also known as the oldest profession, and the pimps know what a gold mine a beautiful young thing can be. You don't suppose any of those 12 year old sex workers are in Venice? Here we like to bitch about 12 year old Muslim brides in the Middle east, what's wrong with those people?

The Golden Path to Riches...Exploitation.

Exploitation can be defined as any harmful or dangerous work detrimental to the physical, psychological well-being and emotional development of children and / or disrupting their education. Child abuse affects 1 in 8 children in the world - about 179 million children between the ages of 4 and 17 years (ILO 2002). Sexual abuse through exploitation for commercial purposes is one of the main violations of children's rights. Approximately 1 million children (mainly girls but a considerable number of boys also) fall into the sex industry each year. The refugee phenomenon of exploited and abused children, street children and children engaged in hazardous work, is a universal phenomenon.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recently launched a multiagency task force to address the ongoing issue of sex trafficking involving youth in the foster care system. The move was spurred the passage of an anti-sex-trafficking ballot measure, which county officials said will shift much of the responsibility for juvenile prostitutes from the criminal justice system to the foster care system. Which is to say that

when you call the cops on a homeless youth, you may be sending them into sexual slavery in a corrupt foster care system.

The system is broken folks, the government is not able to take care of this and it is up to you. How about instead you get to know them, respect their humanity, have some empathy, and help them get to an appropriate solution provider. This problem is only going to get worse unless you act to create and support humane solutions.

- HOLLYWOOD HOMELESS YOUTH PARTNER-SHIP: <http://hhyp.org/>
- A Safe Place for Youth - has a drop in center in Venice Beach, open Tuesdays and Thursdays. Donations and Volunteers welcome. <http://safeplaceforyouth.org>
- My Friend's Place assists and inspires homeless youth to build self-sufficient lives. <http://myfriendsplace.org/>
- The Gay and Lesbian Center has a youth center on Highland in Hollywood. <http://goo.gl/XM8Qq>
- Los Angeles Youth Network <http://layn.org/>
- Ocean Park Community Center 1616 7th Street Santa Monica 90401 Free food Mon., Wed., Fri. 9am.
- Teen Challenge 3156 Euclid St., Lynwood, free christian residential program, intake on Tuesdays from 1-4pm.
- Housing Resource center, low income housing Call 877-428-88444
- PATH-People Assisting the Homeless--low income housing 340 N. Madison ave., L.A.
- New Image Shelter--3804 Broadway Place, L.A. Call 323-231-1711
- Labor Ready (ID required) Short term work 323-860-0783
- Los Angeles Dream Center one year discipleship Call 213-273-7171
- Los Angeles Mission, 213-629-1227 ext. 317
- Downtown Woman's Center-213-613-1024, 325 S. Los Angeles St. 90013
- New Beginings Christian Discipleship 323-766-1784, 1167 W 39th PL, L.A. 90037

– with help from Rick Garvey, The Asian Journal, 'How Fast Food Companies Steal Worker's Pay' by Seth Freed Wessler

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Beachhead Front and Center in NOPD Battle



Holding the June issue of the Beachhead, Venetians traveled to Long Beach to oppose Pay Parking Districts in Venice
Photo by: Jim Smith

By Greta Cobar

Over the past three months the Beachhead proved to be the go-to source of print media when it came to Overnight Parking Districts in Venice.

Other publications that cover Venice are the Marina del Rey-based Argonaut and the LA Times.

The Argonaut did not inform the public about the June 13 Coastal Commission hearing. Its only mention of Overnight Parking Districts (OPDs) in Venice was published on June 20, a week after the unanimous vote against OPDs.

The Los Angeles Times, on the other hand, published an editorial the day before the hearing openly advising the California Coastal Commission to approve OPDs in Venice.

Following, Richard Abcarian (father of LA Times columnist Robin Abcarian) had this to say in an email message to Venetians: "Congratulations to all of you. What a great victory! I am going to rag on my daughter about the editorial stance her paper (LA Times) took. Then I am going to sit quietly and entertain myself thinking about Mark Ryavec."

"No one was happy with our suggestions," states a June 14 LA Times article concerning their own advice to the Coastal Commission regarding OPDs in Venice.

Having been around for the past 45 years, the Beachhead documented a significant part of Venice's 108-year old history. Happy 108th Birthday, Venice! And here's to many more!

You can watch the entire video of the June 13 Coastal Commission hearing at: <http://bit.ly/czVepn>.

This is what commissioner Jack Wickett had to say about Venice, Venetians and the Vibe

"I want to thank everyone for their testimonies today. Often times when we have so many people testify it gets pretty repetitious for the Commissioners, and I just want to say that each one of you brought a different flavor and actually had something original to say. Congratulations to you on that. I don't think you were organized very well, and if ever you did get organized, that would be pretty amazing. I live in Northern California, and I know when people come to visit me they always stop in Venice - and actually sitting here today, I'm beginning to see why.

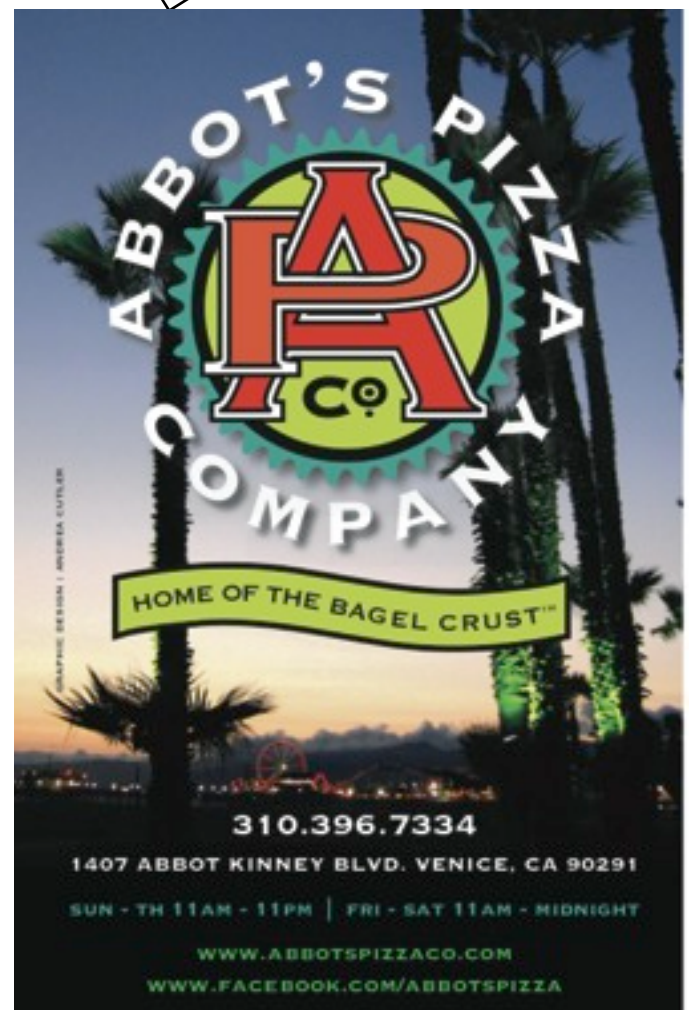
This is not the first time I've heard "The Vibe of Venice," I hear it from people coming to visit you from international destinations. Whatever your marketing department is doing, it is attracting people from all over the world. Having said that, we are all about coastal access. When people come and visit from all

over the world and stopping in their journeys in the Mecca of Venice, they are also hoping to visit the coast, and depending on the kind of person they are, they want to visit the coast at all times of day, so frankly I am disappointed with the current curfew on the beach. I am hoping that the new mayor of Los Angeles, your new City Council Person, the new City Attorney, will all appreciate what you really bring to the greater Los Angeles area, and what you provide to the world, really. The creativity that comes out of Venice to the entire planet is something quite remarkable. Some people here today have thrown out a few examples of the Doors emanating from here, but it's so much more than that, it is regardless of it being famous or not. It's just that.

We're all about coastal access, though."



Eric Garcetti, new Mayor of the City of Los Angeles reading the Beachhead
Photo: Anne Alvarez





Venice Victorious

How We Won The Third OPD War

Venice, a jewel of the Pacific

Venice, a dream so sublime

Venice, where freedom is in our hearts

*Venice, where the light will not be
extinguished*

*Venice, where time goes by but the magic
remains*

*Venice, where a city like none other is being
born*

By Jim Smith

Our recent victory against Overnight Pay Parking Districts (OPDs) is well-known by most Venetians. In spite of great odds against us, an army of truth-sayers from Venice made their way to Long Beach, June 13, where they again spoke truth to power as they did in 2009 and 2010, but this time with even more eloquence.

It was a victory supported by the majority of Venice residents and a lesson to those who would attempt to restrict the freedom of our community.

We were arrayed against our old nemesis, the city of Los Angeles, represented by a bumbling Norman Kulla (none of the better known OPD advocates, including Councilmember Bill Rosendahl and City Attorney Carmen Tutanich showed up), the empty suits of the Coastal Commission staff who bought into the OPD advocates bogus arguments, and Mark Ryavec's Venice Stakeholder Association, represented by John Henning, who is the right-wing Pacific Legal Foundation's favorite lawyer.

This month we are celebrating the 108th anniversary of the founding of Venice. During that time, we have also celebrated some astounding victories, and some devastating defeats. The very founding of Venice was a victory for the creative spirit of humanity. Venice arrived full grown, as out of the brow of Zeus, and was a marvel to behold. There was nothing like it in 1905. We have the genius and perseverance of one man, Abbot Kinney, to thank for our home. And even today, after years of being treated like a punching bag by Los Angeles, Venice is still a marvel to behold. And so are Venetians. So says the Coastal Commission.

Venice has been on the ropes many times. Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty wanted to bulldoze the whole town. In the late Sixties, the city's "Master Plan" would have turned Venice into a high-rise abomination. The Canal Project would have made the remaining canals another Marina yacht harbor. A freeway would have run down Electric Avenue, bisecting Venice into white and Black halves. All these schemes were stopped by an aroused community.

Later, a seven-story "castle" would have risen where Ralphs, Rite-Aide and Ross now

stand. Lincoln Place would have been destroyed and replaced by 1,000 condo hi-rises. Permit parking schemes have been swatted down since the 1990s. And still they come.

You have to admire the tenacity of Venetians. We exist in a permanent state of war to preserve our homes and our culture. Our obituary has been written many times. Beat poet Tony Scibella bemoaned the end of Venice in 1959 (*The Kid in America*) when tourists descended upon Venice to gawk at and take photos of the "beatniks."

Venice activists Arnold Springer and Moe Stavnezer stared into the camera in Moritz Bormann's 1978 documentary, *Feeding the Sparrows by Feeding the Horses* and declared Venice wouldn't exist in ten more years.

Yes, Venice has changed from (pick a date). But it continues to attract refugees who need a haven where they can take a time out from the capitalist world. Many lost souls come for a few months and end up spending the rest of the lives here. Sooner or later, they become involved in saving their adopted home when it is under attack by developers, city planners and the self-righteous. This is how in 2013, we are still able to defend the promise of Venice as envisioned, and fought for, by Abbot Kinney, John Haag, Rick Davidson, Marvena Kennedy, Carol Berman and so many more, now departed.

— Continued on page 10

No Overnight Parking Districts (OPDs)

By Karl Abrams


I'm concerned with the Spontaneous Poet that dreamy visitor who drives in to our Coastal Venice by the sea, without warning bringing peace in character and freedom of spirit, Visitor or Venetian, who teaches and talks into the night

leaving a trusty parked car without OPD permit. Perhaps it's a Walt Whitman, a Pablo Naruda or a Mary Getlein, who spends a tired and spontaneous night at my carefree Venice house. Who, after a few glasses of wine, sleeps on my couch without OPD permission rather than risk a life driving back home alone.

I'm concerned with the Spontaneous Lover Visitor or Venice rover, who parks near the misty coast and dreams innocent songs of Love, at most, told by some among us that they're just too afraid of his or her nightly unpermitted presence and too afraid to let them sleep through the night to wake again in a new and Free Venice morning by the sea.

This poem was read by Karl Abrams in front of the California Coastal Commission at the June 13 hearing concerning OPDs in Venice

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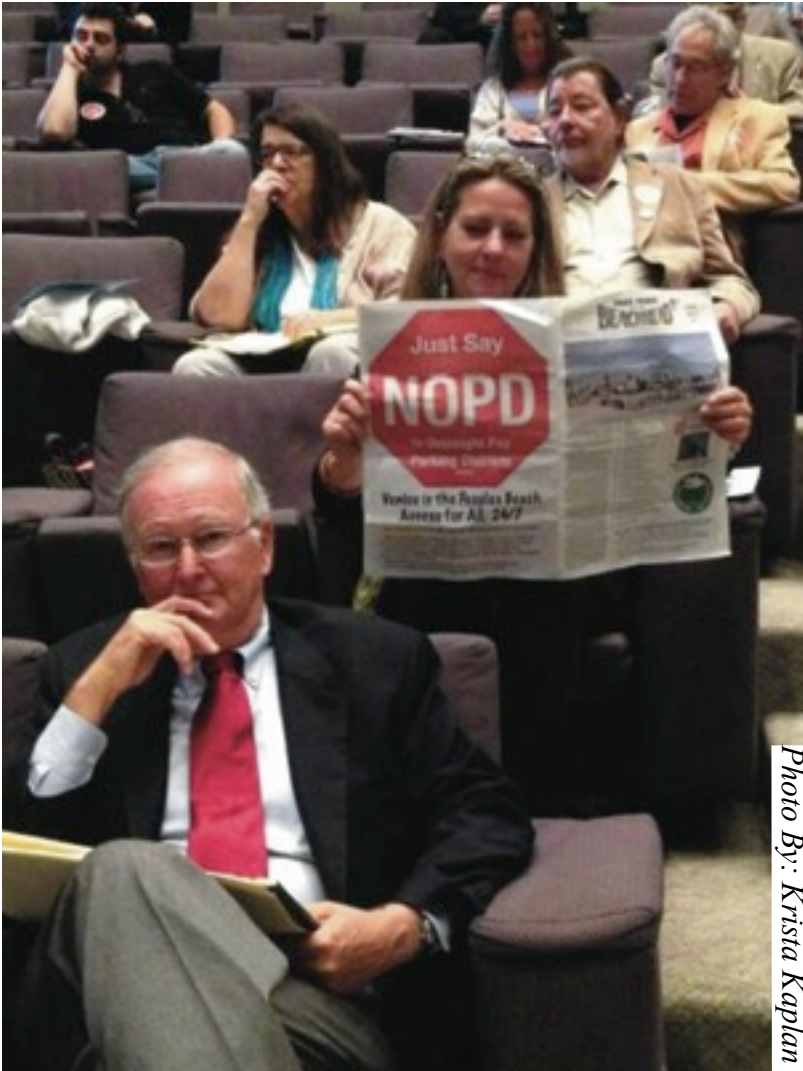
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Venetians attending the June 13 CCC hearing. In ascending order: Mark Ryavec, Suzanne Thompson, Mary Getlein, Jim Smith, Karl Abrams
Photo By: Krista Kaplan

Our Community Efforts: Parking and Post Office

By Greta Cobar

When it came to deciding on Overnight Pay Parking Permits in Venice, the California Coastal Commissioners stayed true to their oath of protecting beach access. It definitely was a breath of fresh air and source of inspiration after losing the long and hard-fought battle with the Postal Regulatory Commission to keep our historic post office.

In the campaign to save the post office we had just as much public support and outcry as we more recently had while fighting Overnight Pay Parking Districts in Venice. However, in the case of the post office the publicly-supported Board of the Postal Regulatory Commission concluded that it does not have jurisdiction over saving a community's historic post office.

One of the issues the Coastal Commission had to consider before deciding on Overnight Parking Districts in Venice was the Commission's jurisdiction over parking in the Coastal Zone. Unlike the Postal Regulatory Commission, which denied its own jurisdiction over post office closures, the Coastal Com-

mission defended its power and relevance by continuing to claim jurisdiction over parking in the Coastal Zone.

The Coalition to Save the Venice Post Office is currently in a lawsuit in Ninth Circuit Court, Washington, DC, claiming that the Postal Regulatory Commission does have jurisdiction over deciding the closure of our post office. Even if we were victorious, the Postal Regulatory Commission's input to the United States Postal Service would have an advisory role only.

It's been difficult not to notice the revenue suppression highly prevalent at the new location during the past six months. Habitually out of money orders and stamps, the post office is not even allowed to post signs that popular items are out of stock. The employees get to tell you that personally after you have waited in line for over twenty minutes.

The Postal Regulatory Commission was set up to uphold, amongst others, the Constitution of the United States, which mandates the continuation of

postal service to all. Through nation-wide closures; significant reduction in service; and revenue suppression, a unionized reliable service is purposely being exterminated in favor of private, more expensive, non-unionized shipping companies that do not deliver to all, everywhere. Needless to say the disabled, elderly, minority, rural, poor sections of the population are affected most.

It is vital that public institutions continue to advocate for the public, like the Coastal Commission did on June 13, when it upheld the public's right to enjoy the beach without time constraints.

When a public institution such as the Postal Regulatory Commission denies its jurisdiction over post office closures, decision which in effect destroys one of the cheapest, most reliable services in the country, it is not doing its job of serving the public.

By upholding its ban on Overnight Pay Parking Districts in Venice, the Coastal Commission upheld one of the provisions of the California Coastal Act of 1972: to ensure public access to the coastal zone. This is an example of a job well done!

The Keystone Pipeline XL is an ecological disaster in the making

By Don Geagan

In spite of reassurances from the business and oil lobbies that such a massive pipeline would be environmentally sound and create jobs, the truth appears to be quite the opposite.

According to the State Department, a mere 6,500 temporary jobs in construction would be created. The on going 'permanent' jobs would be a few hundred, at best. By forgoing investment in clean energy jobs the pipeline kills more jobs than it actually creates, while producing sand tar oil that generates three times the global warming pollution of conventional crude oil production.

The tar sand oil currently being delivered from the Canadian side of the pipeline has already caused 11,000 spills in North Dakota.

At one such site, that includes nine active oil wells, each with its own "reserve pit" which catches what workers call 'cuttings' – a mixture of rock dust produced by drilling, as well as salt and 'frack' water adulterated with various chemicals -- all of which are then pumped out of the hole, in order to capture what amounts to only a few barrels of sand tar oil.

A concerned landowner in Stanley, ND sent a sample of these cuttings to the lab. It was reported back that the reserve pits contained benzene, toluene and xylene, all suspected carcinogens. There are over 5,000 of these wells in and around Stanley, destroying the environment and the lifestyle of the local property owners.

The legislature was sent these samplings and the lab report, as of this date it has taken no action.

The environmental concerns are only half the problem, as the slant drilling and the manpower that that process entails has overwhelmed many small rural towns of a few hundred citizens and turned them into tent cities of tens of thousands of men who have come in hopes of a job with 6 figure paycheck.

Along with these dirty jobs comes the gun play, bad roads, noisy rigs and cross country bikers that have decimated the natural habitat of all other living creatures, leaving in its place a sandy barren wasteland.

Add to that, the environmental disaster that will occur if this pipeline leaks into the largest fresh water aquifer in the US. Fresh water for the people and the

farms of the mid-west could well become a thing of the past.

Little if any of this oil will stay in the American market and instead end up on the world market where it will be sold to the highest bidder, which means that price of the 25 to 250 billion barrel of oil that will be pumped out of US lands will cause vast land speculation and ultimately would destroy farm and ranch communities all over the Midwest.

The real reason for the push to expand this pipeline may be that when the existing pipeline ended in Oklahoma and Illinois, America had the "right of first refusal" when it came to all the oil produced. With the expansion of the pipeline into the gulf of Mexico's 'free trade zones' all rights of America to be first in line to buy the oil are negated – along with the ability to lower America oil and gas prices.

It is claimed that all this oil will instead end up going to China, who has already signed futures contracts.

In light of all that, one must ask: Is America ready and willing to accept all these environmental risks, just to benefit the rich state capitalist of China?



Fabian M.V. – Artist/Musician/Filmatographer/Writer – in Venice, 2013

Photo by: David Healey

CHANGES

The Venice Boardwalk looks the Same
But the Faces have Changed-
Where are all the old Kings and Queens
of Venice?
Joseph playing belly dance music and telling all the gals;
"You're the most beautiful girl in the world!"
Sonny writing songs for Hendrix and playing guitar with Ernie
on the Grass-
The Haaigs running the Venice West Cafe
with Poems by Beatniks-
Ruthie in the Bakery
Feeding the Homeless and even hungry Pigeons-
Dr. John by Windward with his Peace Flag
Healing everyone for Free-
King Al sitting on the Phoenix House Bench
Holding Court while puffing a cigarette-
JC, Crazy Mary and Riff Raff Ralph
Yelling and annoying the Tourists-
So many Faces have Come and Gone
Like Sand on the Beach
Washed Away by the Endless Waves of Time...

Marty Liboff

THE MOCKINGBIRD

Ahhh! Spring in Venice
The fragrance of jasmine perfumery
The Venice Art Walk
The return of tourists.....

But for me spring
Wrenches jagged with
Cries of desolation and despair
Only the hungry Baby Mockingbird can manifest

Sensitized I am to their calls
For I have raised two to flying--
Amelia and Beauregard
Gobs of blue-veined plasm flesh
But when grounded, a sorry plight indeed

Baby Mockingbirds fall from nest
Insistent to fly before they even have feathers
Impatient to get on with IT!
Disobedient, adamant creatures

Unfortunately prowling Enemies
Of teeth and of claw
Hunt, alert to opportunity, those
Crows, hawks, cats, raccoons

Hey,
Whadda ya think?
Baby Mockingbirds should become
Venice's official city bird:

Venice....
Composed with its disobedient citizenry

Venice.....
Haunted by prowling Midases
With cash to gobble her up.

Laura Shepard Townsend

North On Robertson

by krista schwimmer

Early evening
driving along Robertson Boulevard
i spot the Dancing Man
stripped down to his waist
his back a hard tan.
i've seen him there before,
sometimes on roller skates,
always watching his reflection
in a store front window.
Once, i saw him get into a taxicab right
before nightfall.

i cross Beverly Boulevard
leaving the Dancing Man for another
familiar sight -- a seated, gold-leafed Buddha,
12 feet tall, bolted down in a parked, pickup truck.
Today, he is covered with carpets
revealing only his head and topknot.
Why is he still here, i wonder,
held down like a hostage? Does he see
the Dancing Man, just two blocks south?

They could be dharma brothers
neither of them caring so much
for West Hollywood Samsara. i continue north,
turn east onto Melrose Ave,
man and statue no longer visible
in my side mirror. i sink into my body
feel the strength in my ample thighs,
and know that at last, i am happy --
just a simple, earthbound woman
making her way to work.

The Abyss

I am going to
close my eyes
and open the mind
to project myself
into the abyss
where the elements of perception
dissolve
into an undefined essence.
There,
at the point
where the dreams
of animals and humans
converge,
I will shed
the corpuscles of my identity
until I can see
the root of the horror and the ecstasy
of my existence.

—Humberto Gómez Sequeira-HuGóS

No Longer

By Emily Wood

The colors spin
They've never mingled
My head falls back
Mouth agape to drink the sky
There's no anger
Where I wish it were
Where it used to be
Now a memory to join
My heart's release along the sea
Now it's complete
My senses obsolete
And you're no longer
And I'm no longer
There's a crash
And then a ringing
Silence softly hollowed
As it fumbles from your lips
As much as always
Familiar warmth among my finger tips
Without discrimination
But an aching
For something cool that cannot come
It's all here
I can't forget now
And you're no longer
And I'm no longer

Beyond

by: Aryn Youngless

there is a life
beyond these walls
a world
a song
a light, so bright
it will blind us all
with one glace
but we hide
in the darkness
of mundane
hoping for change
wishing for it
but never wanting to
break the smallest sweat

there is a life beyond this one
& it waits in the city
& it waits in the pastures
& it waits in the gutter
on the side of the road
choices – all of them
even the ones
we pretend we never
really had to make
they cry out in the night
and in the day
all hours
if only we would
stop & listen
out there
& it is not defined
by the shadow we
refuse to release
or the melodies that
illuminate favorite moments
it is pure
it is true
it is the person you forgot
you were always meant
to be
harmoniously, you
in all the glitter
and gold
there is
peace

There is a life
beyond this one
waiting, patiently
like you never knew
someone could wait
because it wants you
it wants you there
so let go of the anchors
& swim into
the abyss

always remember
that every moment is life
when you are grateful
you are free

Art or Poetry

What brings you more joy, art or poetry?
I like to hear poetry performed
someone else reading it - not me
it's hard to put your feet in the water
and get up and throw your arms around
and be all theatrical
so I watch the other poets do that
and copy them
and write my poems or let the poems write themselves
and I hardly ever throw my arms around
I used to watch Franceye perform her poems
in a condemning voice
pointing out the inequities of the world
poems are a cry from the heart, the soul:
it hurts, it hurts, it hurts
when the rest of your life is dedicated to
pretending that it doesn't hurt
and you're "normal" like everybody else -
content to do the same ol thing day after day
people that feel pain too easily
that can't stand how hellish it is sometimes
what are they supposed to do
except sit down and write another poem
or let a picture come through them to the canvas?
and hope that someone out there is listening

- Mary Getlein



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– Continued from page 7: **How We Won The Third OPD War**

NOPD - The enduring resilience of the Venice Vibe

Our victory in Long Beach on June 13, against OPDs ranks with our other righteous triumphs, described above. It was a textbook example of community organizing.

Even though many of us believed - correctly, as it turned out - that some residents were growing dubious about OPDs and would reconsider their support, we didn't take anything for granted.

Our campaign was decentralized. No one person or group made decisions for everyone. Each group - Venice Action, Venice Peace and Freedom, Occupy Venice, the Beachhead, Venice Community Housing, Spirit of Venice, Venice Surf and Skateboard Assn. - essentially ran their own complementary campaigns against the OPDs, as did other groups and individuals.

The Free Venice Beachhead should win a newspaper award for its three-month long series of articles and public service announcements explaining why OPDs are contrary to the spirit of Venice (Of course, the Beachhead also rallied the community against pay parking in 2009 and 2010).

Venice Peace and Freedom distributed 12,000 postcards throughout the community and created the "NOPD" stop sign artwork that was adopted by the campaign as a whole. Venice Action Alliance raised money for a lawyer and held a rally that brought everyone together.

Occupy Venice mobilized social media while Surfers and Skateboarders reached out to their young-ish community for support. While the Venice Neighborhood Council stayed neutral, they did run a poll on their website that showed the overwhelming opposition to OPDs in Venice (400 No OPDs votes to 294 Yes votes).

How we won - the strategy and tactics of the NOPD campaign:

- A clever slogan, NOPD, a contraction of No OPDs, had been used by some in 2010. This time around, Peace & Freedom ran with it on all their flyers and postcards. By the end of the campaign, everyone had adopted it.
- A decentralized campaign meant that every organization and group could do whatever they did best, and reach the age, ethnic, income and gender group they knew best.
- Our side took the offense. We presented numerous arguments why OPDs were a bad idea. Pro-OPD groups, like the Venice Stakeholder Assn., ended up responding to our points. The city of L.A., was less than aggressive as it was caught in the midst of a changeover with the strongest advocates of OPDs,

Trutanich and Rosendahl, becoming lame ducks. At the hearing, only a low-level staffer came to speak on behalf of the city.

- We had strength in numbers. Lots of people attended the rally, distributed literature, wrote emails, tweets and Facebook. Our numbers really helped us at the Coastal Commission hearing where we outnumbered the pro-OPD advocates by 90 or 100 to five or ten.

- The city made a serious blunder in closing the beach at night in spite of strongly worded letters from Commission officials telling them not to do it. We jumped on the beach closure as an example that city officials held the Commission in contempt. We further argued that there was no way to measure how many people would be deprived access to the beach by OPDs, since they were already deprived access by the illegal closure.

- We seized the moral high ground. While our opponents tried to turn OPDs into simply a parking issue (and under their breath, into an anti-homeless issue), many of us focused on the right of everyone to have access to the beach. This was not a tactical ploy on our part but rather a matter of principle. We explained to other Venetians and Commissioners, alike, that Venice had always been the People's Beach where everyone, no matter who they were, could feel at home. Our beach was a cool (in more ways than one) haven for Angelenos, in particular, who live in a much hotter summer climate. It is one of the few places a poor family can take their kids, and not spend a cent if they can't afford it.

What were the lessons we learned, and the lessons we should learn:

We learned that good people abound in Venice and have not disappeared into the sands of history. We learned that programatic unity (No OPDs) does not require organizational unity. We learned that the Coastal Commission is still our friend. We learned that the city of Los Angeles is not our friend. It will do whatever it can to grind us down into its image of quiet, obedient Matrix-like consumers. We should learn that they will come at us again and again because there are billions of dollars to be made in Venice by the developers who pull the strings of city officials. We should learn that it never works out well when a people - a nation or a city - is ruled from the outside by people who have a different set of values. We should learn that no matter how long it takes, or how many defeats we suffer along the way, we have to begin the struggle to restore the city of Venice.

– Continued from page 1
Venice in the Next 100 Years

Kinney. Across the street was the perfect home for rhythm and blues in a righteous wood floored down and dirty establishment, the Taurus Tavern. It should be a historical landmark, but it is a chichi restaurant.

A living landmark is Swami X. He was a long-time feature standing on the benches down on the boardwalk. He presided for years, offering his very clever material of a radical political and lusty-vibe kind. He peppered his delivery with the attack humor of a stand-up comic. Today he sometimes contributes, mainly poetry, to the Beachhead.

I was introduced to the aura of Venice at the Church-in-Ocean Park at a performance night. Goldie Glitters was the transvestite master of ceremonies, on stage bare to the waist with a jewel in his navel. He later was chosen Homecoming Queen at Santa Monica college.

At neighboring Synanon, a large drug-rehab center, Saturday nights were music concert nights. The music-heavy clients formed top-notch groups and rocked. The nights were always well attended. One client told me that I didn't know life if I had never been down in "Junky Hell."

Bill Attaway is a hard-working Venice artist currently producing large 20 foot tall ceramic sculptures, with a totem-like piece recently located near the beach west of Windward Ave. One day he allowed me to assist him by adding a small ceramic piece to a large wall mosaic he installed near Muscle Beach. He continues the Venice art heritage, as does my long-time friend Emily Winters, well noted for her large wall murals which can be seen in several prominent locations. She is an activist citizen of Venice and a stabilizing force as chairman of the Venice Arts Council.

Bravos here go to Steve Clare for his commitment to his low-cost housing efforts and also to Jim Smith for his Beachhead and political organizing efforts. Also kudos for Arnold Springer and Moe Stavnezer who forced the builder into including needed low-cost housing and inside parking in the building I live in. They're to be commended for their long-time Venice activism.

I great picture of the people and history of Venice can be found in the book "Call Someplace Paradise" by Pat Hartman. It can be ordered at Small-World Books or through www.Xlibris.com. Hartman's book is chock full of engrossing anecdotes of Venice and its spirited locals. I could have been one of her characters, but she failed to record my participation in the Venice Nude-Beach scene (of the early 70's if I remember right.)

Possibly the counter-culture community changes, but Venetian Veteranos remain to fight the good fight, thus sustaining the uniqueness of Venice. A June KCET Program on beaches gave a national Number One rating to the Venice "Mardi-Gras" Boardwalk and Beach.

The Venice Canals Festivals were shut down by the powers-that-be in one big misguided change. The festival was a beautiful sharing time in a beautiful setting. A vision of a better future. We memorialize the past 100 years, but the future also needs tending.

Venetians could be catalysts for change to a co-operative, peaceful society. Women could influence their sisters to get out of the Army...then influence the testosterone tribe to say no to war. We won't go. Conflict resolution by arbitration will stop war senselessness. Venice America can be the small-acorn start of a Venice Sunshine Festival for all the world.

This is a re-print from the July 2005 issue

Somewhere Over the Rainbow

By Anne Alvarez

Rainbow Acres health food store recently celebrated its 33rd anniversary. It was no small feat for owner, Howard Pollack, who in 1980 decided to lease 1200 square feet on the corner of Washington and Redwood, opening one of the first health food stores in the area.

The store has recently expanded to over 14,000 square feet, and has been called the largest independent natural food distributor in the country. They carry their own line of vitamins and teas. Asked how he has been able to grow with competitors like Whole Foods Market nearby, Pollack says it is not a competition. What his store has to offer in customer service and quality speaks for itself. "We make most of our prepared foods in-house. This includes our soups and chili, made fresh daily. The smoothie and juice bar are extensive, and the prices are reasonable. "As a matter of fact, when the Whole Foods located on Rose & Venice was going through the process of establishing a store, Pollack spoke on their behalf, encouraging local council members to approve the project, because it would bring a healthy awareness to the community.

Bonnie Ji, a store regular, said "I find that this place is a great asset to community members who prefer to support the local cottage industry, as opposed to the Wal-Marts of health food." Most of the core management team has been with the store between 12 and 30 years, including Pollack's two daughters and son. This is, after all, a family business. Ramon Marron, who has been working at the store as a manager for nine years, says, "This store is like his second family. I enjoy coming into work."

Throughout the store when I asked employees what they thought about their job, the response was

similar. Cashier Mark Alvarez said, "I love this place. It's fun working here. I love the people, both the customers and my employers." Trina M., also a cashier, said, "What I like the most are the people that come in. They are so warm and down to earth, with a no-one-is-better-than-anyone attitude."

Pollack is highly involved with the Venice community, supporting and sponsoring local schools during fundraisers and special events, whether by donating food or gift baskets for raffles being held. Pollack has received many awards through the years for his business ethics and community involvement. He has been President of the Rotary Club of Venice, has served on the LAX Coastal Area Chamber of Commerce, and is a supporter of the Venice Boys and Girls club.

Rainbow Acres is located at 13208 W. Washington Blvd.



Community Events – day by day

Free Venice Beachhead • July • 2013 • 11

Monday, July 1

- 11-6pm - Fragile Kit. Wendy Heldmann. **Art exhibition.** Ongoing through August 3. Marine Contemporary. 1733-A Abbot Kinney Blvd. Free.
- 10-5pm - Place/Non-place: Locality in the Digital Age. **Photography exhibition** featuring 28 artist. Ongoing through August 16. Venice Arts. 1702 Lincoln Blvd. Free.
- 4pm - **Stuffed Animal Sleepover.** Drop your animal friend off Monday and pick them up with pictures! Abbot Kinney Public Library. Free.

Tuesday, July 2

- 8-10pm - **Word Salad.** Spoken word. The Talking Stick. No Cover.
- 8-10pm - **Not Safe For Work.** Comedy Central & CleftClips stand-up comedy at The Del Monte Speakeasy. Townhouse. 52 Windward Ave. No Cover.

Wednesday, July 3

- 8pm - **Venice Sign Summer Lighting.** The Venice sign will be changing its color of the bulbs to proclaim the beginning of summer. Venice birthday cake and happy birthday sing-a-long at various venues. Free.

Thursday, July 4

- **Happy Birthday Venice Beach!!**
- 10-2pm - **Mr. & Ms. Muscle Beach.** Bodybuilding event. Venice Recreation Center. 1800 Ocean Front Walk. Free.
- 5:15pm - **Venice Symphony Orchestra 4th of July Concert.** Live music, stay for fireworks and after party. Edgemar Center for the Arts. 2437 Main St. Santa Monica. Free, donations are welcome.
- 9pm - **Marina del Rey 4th of July Fireworks Show.** Burton W. Chace Park, Fisherman's Village and Venice Jetty are popular view spots. Free.

Friday, July 5

- 6pm - **First Friday.** Food Trucks. Abbot Kinney Blvd. Crowds.
- 9pm - **High Voltage:** The Decisive Instant. A large ensemble playing compositions for improvers. Electric Lodge. Free.

Saturday, July 6

- 8pm - **Stomach & Ears: Depression Era Poetry.** Poetry ready by Kenneth Fearing and Matt Sedillo. Beyond Baroque. Free, donations welcomed.

Sunday, July 7

- 9-12pm - **Kids Venice Basketball League Natural Leaders Camp.** Basketball lessons for kids 5 and up. Every Sunday through August 18. Ocean Front Walk, blue basketball courts. Free.
- 12:30-sunset - **The Venice Basketball League.** Outdoor basketball games. Every Sunday through August 18. Ocean Front Walk, blue basketball courts. Free.

Tuesday, July 9

- 9-11:30am - **Theatre Fare.** Theatre reading series for seniors. Pacific Resident Theatre. Free.

Wednesday, July 10

- 4pm - **Salsa Dancing Workshop.** Learn fun and easy salsa dance steps. Tweens and teens welcome. Abbot Kinney Public Library. Free.
- 7-10pm - **Suzy Williams.** Singer/songwriter, live music. Danny's Deli. No cover.

Thursday, July 11

- 7pm - **Twilight Concerts: Surfer Blood.** Outdoor concert. Santa Monica Pier. Free.
- 7-9pm - **Summer Concerts in the Park.** Summer symphony, "Opera at the Sore." Marina del Rey, Burton Chace Park. Free.
- 8pm - **I am to Die Soon.** A play by Jake Arnette based on the last days of poet Lord Byron. Ongoing through July 28. Pacific Resident Theatre. Suggested \$15 donation.

Friday, July 12

- 10-5:30pm - Nick van Woert: Labyrinth. **Art exhibition.** Ongoing through August 23. L&M Gallery. 666 S. Venice Blvd. Free.

Saturday, July 13

- 6-8pm - Summer Magic. **Photography exhibition,** opening reception. Ongoing through August 25. Aran Cravey Gallery. 1638 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Free.

Sunday, July 14

- 7:30-11pm - Pretty Gritty plus Peach & Knife. **Live Music.** The Talking Stick. No Cover.

Tuesday, July 16

- 6:30-10:30pm - **VNC Board Meeting.** Always open to the public. Westminster School. Free.

Wednesday, July 17

- 4pm - **Let's Make Sushi (candy).** Make fun and fruity snacks. Abbot Kinney Public Library. Free.

Thursday, July 18

- 10-6pm - Rogue Wave '13. **Art exhibition** featuring 15 artists from Los Angeles. Ongoing through Aug 23. L.A. Louver. 45 N. Venice Blvd. Free.
- 7pm - **Twilight Concerts: Meshell Ndegeocello.** Outdoor concert. Santa Monica Pier. Free.

Saturday, July 20

- All Day - **They Will Skate Again. Life Rolls On Foundation** event will include skateboard clinic for quadriplegics, paraplegics and amputees; a professional skate exhibition. Venice Skate Park. Free.
- 7-9pm - Brin Levinson & Optimist. **Art exhibition,** opening reception. Ongoing till August 3. C.A.V.E. Gallery. 1108 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Free.
- 7-9pm - **Summer Concerts in the Park. Billy Ocean.** Marina del Rey, Burton Chace Park. Free.
- 7:30pm - **Suzy Williams:** The LIT Show. Performances of songs and literature. Beyond Baroque. \$15.



Sunday, July 21

- 7-10pm - **Blues Time with Tom Gramlich & Mystic Miles.** Live music. The Talking Stick. No Cover.

Wednesday, July 24

- 4pm - **Movies and Munchies.** Movie with snacks and a family-friendly film. Abbot Kinney Public Library. Free.

Thursday, July 25

- 7pm - **Twilight Concerts: No Age.** Outdoor concert. Santa Monica Pier. Free.
- 7-9pm - **Summer Concerts in the Park.** Classical Thursdays: American Influences. Marina del Rey, Burton Chace Park. Free.

Friday, July 26

- 7-10pm - MAETAR. **Live Music.** World groove eclectic funk jazz. The Talking Stick. No cover.

Saturday, July 27

- 10-7pm - 5th Annual **Summer Fest.** A family friendly event. 200 exhibitors, 60 bands and many performers. Ocean Front Walk. Free. Also tomorrow, July 28.
- 6-7pm - **Give your Medicine Cabinet a Makeover.** Free class on essential oils. First participants to arrive get a free wild orange oil. Electric Lodge. Please RSVP. Free.

Sunday, July 28

- 7:30pm - **7 Dudley Cinema.** A screening and discussion on hippie revolution films. Beyond Baroque. Free, donations welcomed.

Tuesday, July 30

- 10-7pm - **Ansel Adams: Ansel Adams,** American Grandeur: Alan Ross, Nature L.A.: Wanda Boudreaux. **Photography exhibition.** Ongoing through September 15. The G2 Gallery. Free.

Wednesday, July 31

- 4pm - **Taiko Drumming Performance and Workshop.** Join Tom Kurai as they close this year's Summer Reading Club with taiko performance. Abbot Kinney Public Library. Free.

Saturday, August 3

- Noon-4pm: Seventh **Annual BBQ** and potluck at Oakwood Park, 767 California Ave.

Location Guide

- Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd. 310-821-1769, fovl.org
- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 310-822-3006, www.beyondbaroque.org
- Burton Chace Park. 13650 Mindanao Way. Marina del Rey.
- Danny's Deli, 23 Windward Ave. 310-566-5610, dannysvenice.com
- Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave. 310-306-1854, electriclodge.org
- G2 Gallery, 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd. 310-452-2842, theg2gallery.com
- Hal's Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd. 310-396-3105, halsbarandgrill.com
- Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 Venice Blvd, 310-822-8392, pacificresidenttheatre.com
- SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. 310-822-9560 x15, sparcmurals.org
- Talking Stick Coffee Lounge, 1411c Lincoln Blvd. 310-450-6052, thetalkingstick.net
- Vera Davis Center, 610 California Ave. 310-305-1865
- Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave) 310-606-2015

Ongoing Events

COMPUTERS

- 2:30pm, Mon-Fri. **Student/Homework Zone.** Computers, iPads, homework resources and a trained computer aide to assist students grade 4-12. Abbot Kinney Public Library.
- Tues/Weds 8:30-6pm, Thurs/Friday 8:30-5pm. **Free Computer Use.** Vera Davis Center.

FOOD

- 10am Tuesdays, 12:30pm Thursdays, 1pm Fridays. **Free Food Distribution.** Vera Davis Center.
- **Sign up for Food Stamps (EBT Cards).** Vera Davis Center. Call for date and time. 310-305-1865.
- 4pm, Saturdays through Wednesdays. **Hare Krishna Free Feedings.** OFW & Dudley.
- 1:30pm, Thursdays. **Hare Krishna Free Feedings.** OFW & Sunset.

KIDS

- 11:30am, Wednesdays. **Toddler Storytime.** Abbot Kinney Public Library. Free.

FILMS

- 7-10pm, fourth Sundays. **7 Dudley Cinema.** Dialogue on films, art culture and politics. Beyond Baroque. Free.

MUSIC

- 8pm-12am, Sunday and Monday nights. **Hal's Bar and Grill** features live jazz. No cover.
- 6-10pm, Fridays. **Venice Street Legends.** Venice Bistro, OFW & Dudley. Free.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 9-4pm, 2nd Saturday, every month. **Venice High School Flea Market.** Antiques, crafts, collectibles, toys, jewelry, clothes. 13000 Venice Blvd.
- 7-11am, Fridays. **Venice Farmers Market.** Fruits, vegetables, flowers and coffee. 500 North Venice Blvd.
- 7-10pm, 3rd Wednesdays. **MOM: Meditations On Media.** Beyond Baroque. Free.
- 11:30am-2:30pm, every Sunday, weather permitting. **The Venice Oceanarium** (a museum without walls). Venice Pier. Free.
- 8:30am, 2nd Fridays. **Bus Token Distribution.** First 40 people in line will receive a free bus token. Vera Davis Center.
- 5:30pm, Sundays. **Open Mic Night.** Twentieth Church of Christ, Scientist. 132 Brooks Ave. Free.

POETRY

- 2pm, 2nd Sundays. **Soap Box Open Mic.** Bring your words, sign up begins at 1:45pm, six-minute limit. Beyond Baroque. Free.

POLITICAL AWARENESS

- 7:30pm, Mondays - **Occupy Venice General Assembly.** Meetings. Beyond Baroque

Get Your Local Event Listed

Email your time, date and a brief description to Calendar@venicebeachhead.org



Neptune Festival, June 29 2013

5th ANNUAL

FX3Events.com Invites You To

Summer Fest 2013

VENICE BEACH

July 27th & 28th, 10am - 7pm

The biggest two day event to open summer in Venice Beach is back!!!

FOOD FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

A Family Friendly Event !!!

Featuring:

Free Fun Under The Sun!!!

More than 200 Exhibitors/booths, 60 Bands and Performers will play all day



Jimmy Jax Pinchak Band



Eileen Carey



Random Ninjas



Come out and join the walk for the homeless at Venice and help support the non-profit organization "sEnd mE a pEnNy."









Call 562.277.7174 For More Information



Above: Beth Alllyn's Venice Bike, June Art Crawl