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for Venice

FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968

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2006
ISSUE NO. 295

BEACHHEAD



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Highway to Hell

By John Davis

Well L.A. County is at it again trying to please developers who need extra road capacity in Marina del Rey. They want to replace a publicly funded and owned small craft harbor with non-priority housing and hotel projects.

An Environmental Impact Report is being prepared but it is unclear if City Council District 11 will comment on behalf of Venice or not. Given the adverse negative impacts on Venice and other City adjacent areas our elected leaders must not turn a blind eye to developments in MDR as they have in the past.

While many do not realize it, those of us who live in Venice also have a County Supervisor, Zev Yaroslavsky. The decisions he and the Board make have direct effects on those of us who live in the City.

This story is not new. Citizens have stood up to this nutty proposal and backed it down before. In fact it was even worse then. The plan was to build a bridge across the bay to Malibu. While the current proposal is less crazy, it's only real intended purpose is to support converting MDR from a public park and playground to apartments and hotels for the wealthiest segments of society.

The County Grand Jury said to the Supervisors in 1989-1990 that the County could not lease apartments out for sixty years because there was no active public use. Yet the County ignored its own Grand Jury. Public funding required only fair and reasonable rates to be charged and that equal access would be provided for all. The County has now gone renegade and is being sued by a local non-profit for almost 100 million dollars in leasing fraud.

A Transportation Implementation Plan exists for Marina del Rey and was approved by the Coastal Commission. It requires the extension of Admiralty way into area A of the Ballona Wetlands. Now that it is public land, that will not happen and it invalidates the existing transportation plan.

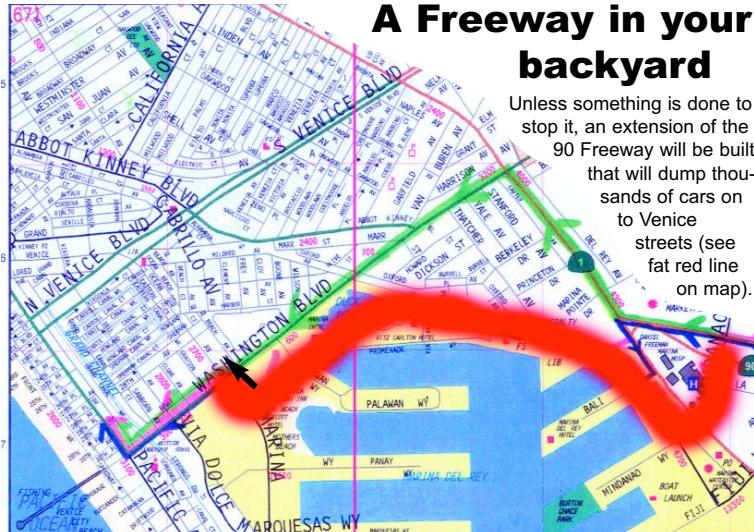
Luckily, the Coastal Commission is reviewing that plan. It has already told the County it cannot allow developers to pay into a

-continued on page 9

John Haag – poet, proprietor of the Venice West Cafe, a founder of the Beachhead and the Peace and Freedom Party – died March 29 after a brief illness.

John's quiet leadership over several decades was instrumental in shaping today's unique Venice culture. No date has yet been set for a memorial service.

Please send letters to the Beachhead about John for the next issue. Contact: 399-2215 or Beachhead@freevenice.org.



A Freeway in your backyard

Unless something is done to stop it, an extension of the 90 Freeway will be built that will dump thousands of cars on to Venice streets (see fat red line on map).



Photo by Marcus

Immigrant Rights Defended in Big March in Los Angeles and at Venice High School

By Jim Smith

The Anglo world was stunned, March 25, when between half a million and two million people – by various estimates – turned out to protest in downtown Los Angeles against a Congressional bill that would make unsanctioned immigration a felony.

HR 4437, as passed by the House of Representatives, also calls for up to five years in prison, and seizure of property, for anyone who "assists" an individual without documents. It also mandates a 700-mile-long wall along the border with Mexico.

The huge turnout in Los Angeles shocked even the organizers of the march and rally who had originally planned for 20,000 protesters.

The bill also sparked a widespread high school walk out. Several hundred walked at Venice High on March 27, and at least 100 walked out in pouring rain the next day.

Even if HR 4437 is modified by the Senate, it may have inadvertently have sparked a movement for immigrant rights. *

Above: Largest political march in L.A. history
Below: Venice High School



**CASUALTIES
IN IRAQ**
U.S. 2,327 Dead
- 58 this month
U.S. Wounded
17,269
- 527 this month
Iraqi Dead:
33,773 - 37,895
This month:
5,264 - 5,670
(some sources say
100,000+ Iraqi dead)
Source: antiwar.com

The collective staff of the

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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. The staff reserves the right to make all decisions collectively on material published. There is no editor on the Beachhead. The printing is financed by ads and donations. The articles, poetry and art work express the opinions of the individual contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Beachhead Collective.

To submit material, include your name and telephone number. Anonymous material will not be printed, but your name will be withheld on request. If return of material is desired, a stamped self-addressed envelope is required. No payment is made for material used.

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Our Mission Statement

Oh Holy Shit
The Thought Police are rising
It is the Time
for the Beachhead's rebirth
Now is the Time to get your thoughts
together
If you care whether
you have a thought of any worth.
Thoughts left of Center
Homeowner or Renter
Put your Head where your Pen* is
Send it to us use your wits
and if we like it
We'll print or plagiarize it
or tear it into
teeny tiny
bits — by the Slumgoddess

*Pen: Antique Term for Word
Processor or Computer

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GRVNC incompetence and its destructive result

Dear Beachhead,
The GRVNC – Grassroots Venice Neighborhood Council – along with its advisory Land Use Planning Committee – LUPC – has further disgraced itself by going along with the simplistic and inaccurate interpretation of the Venice Specific Plan – the VSP – promoted by James Shaw and Frank Murphy.

Like Karl Rove, Shaw and Murphy have managed to so distort the issue of development in Venice as to make one ask if we are reading the same documents. In their Rovian view, the VSP – the cornerstone planning law that took over 10 years to produce – means that developers can build to the maximum numbers regardless of whether the building is too big and too incompatible for a unique coastal Venice neighborhood. And, the GRVNC is going right along with this ridiculous and destructive interpretation.

The current GRVNC voted recently to recommend the granting of a Coastal Development Permit to Mr. Shaw for a 4,000 square foot structure on Bernard Ave. in the North of Rose neighborhood where even the biggest structure isn't 3,000 square feet.

This month, the GRVNC will be considering a proposal by Frank Murphy for a two-unit condo building in the same neighborhood (although who knows for sure exactly what they're considering, given the lack of notice typical of the LUPC?)

Each condo unit will be much bigger than the existing houses or duplexes. Why is the GRVNC doing this, you may ask? I don't believe it is because they want the destruction of a unique Venice neighborhood, although I can't be sure as to what their motives might be. My impression is that the GRVNC is incredibly incompetent and I hope that others will begin to understand this as well and ignore any advisory opinion they may offer.

In the LUPC and GRVNC meetings held on the Shaw-Bernard Ave. project, the entire debate was allocated approximately 30 minutes – and most of that time was spent in a raucous display of vitriolic rhetoric punctuated by futile calls to order and trying to allocate 30 seconds for comments per speaker.

Three governmental bodies – Zoning Administration, the WLA Area Planning Commission, and the Coastal Commission – reviewed these projects and after dedicating hours to the hearings, supplemented by onsite visits and the detailed and extensive review of all the materials, they concluded that the VSP requires compatibility analysis and the proposed projects are incompatible with the neighborhood – too big, too much size, scale, height and mass. After all of this careful consideration, the GRVNC votes to support the project with minimal review and discussion saying that it is compatible and consistent with the VSP. WOW.

Indeed, the prior GRVNC opposed these large projects for a neighborhood made up of small houses and duplexes. Rather than thinking through the implications of what they are doing, however, the current GRVNC is accepting at face value the new interpretation of the VSP promoted by Shaw and Murphy – support the VSP and build as big as you can anywhere in Venice without regard to how it impacts an existing neighborhood, and regardless of whether the neighborhood residents support the project or not. FYI: Approximately 75% of residents in the North of Rose neighborhood oppose the Shaw project, including the majority of those without development interests who live on Bernard Avenue.

The tragedy here is not that the GRVNC is incompetent. The tragedy is that their incompetence – the combination of lack of thoughtful consideration and misguided sense of what the VSP really says – will affect all of Venice. They are endorsing the proposition that the numerical maximums for development are the rule. Nothing else matters. Bring on the condos and over development. Let's make Venice look like everywhere else.

All we are asking is that Mr. Shaw and Mr. Murphy reduce the size of their projects to something more compatible with the existing neighborhood. We are asking the GRVNC to think about what the VSP really says and means. But, nooooo.... The GRVNC is going along with the biased and self-serving interpretation promoted by those who will only benefit from ignoring the important language in the law.

The heart and soul of the VSP calls for thoughtful consideration of size, mass, scale, height, and their impacts on existing neighborhoods. Let's hope that others with real decision-making authority continue to uphold the VSP because the GRVNC certainly isn't doing that. *Maureen Whalen*

► More letters on page 10

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Misuse of Prop. O anti-pollution funds

Dear Beachhead,

The fifteen fiefdoms of sprawling Los Angeles scored again: Prop O. The half billion, that's \$500,000,000.00, in municipal bonds voted into existence in 2004 will now be portioned out so each council district will get a share.

And the cause to clean up the waters will be lost in the mad dash to parcel the money out in neat, share and share alike, packages. Because the City of Los Angeles has no plan to clean up the storm waters draining into the ocean, in spite of looming Federal penalties for pollution.

Sylviane Dungan and I attended the Citizen's Oversight Advisory Committee (COAC) on March 15 and watched district reps belly up to the table for their share. The occasion of our attendance was to learn why the proposal from GRVNC was denied and what could be done about it.

It must be said that Sylviane did get a show of interest in her pictures of trash containers in Paris and doggy doo stations Normandy. And I begged at the table asking for help for Venice.

But there was no pity or show of acceptance of the need for more trash removal or studies of means to correct pollution in Venice. That was the gist of the proposal submitted by GRVNC. As a Category C contestant, Venice was judged out of the running.

By the way, the GRVNC proposal was composed in a hurry and please do not interpret my concern as only sour grapes over rejection. What hurts so bad is that the COAC refuses to consider any studies and has made a determination that trash collection will only be considered for certain locations. They have the nerve to say this without any plan.

Actually, more properly said, only half of Venice is unavailable for trash removal. The half of Venice in the Ballona Creek watershed probably could be considered. But that brings up the problem of wishful thinking.

The Los Angeles Department of Public Works (LADPW) thinks that all of Venice is in the Ballona Creek watershed. One only need look at their own proposals to find that the Westminster Dog Park and Grand Blvd. are considered to be in the Ballona Creek watershed.

But that isn't so. At least it isn't so if the drawings of the LADPW Bureau of Engineering are to be believed. According to their drawings, the part of Venice north of Venice Blvd. is a separate drainage system that pours pollution into the ocean during that first heavy storm of the season.

There are times when I feel like the kid at the parade who said the king has no clothes.

So it's paddle your own canoe for the fifteen fiefdoms. It appears that LADPW recognizes only three drainage systems in Los Angeles: LA River, Dominguez Channel, and Ballona Creek. Whoops. Probably makes it easier to divvy up the spoils that way.

The drainage from several canyons north of San Vicente and the drainage from the part of Venice north of Venice Blvd. do not exist for the purpose of cleaning up the ocean. Yet these little systems are the only ones under the total control of LA. And the diversion systems installed a few years ago in Venice are beginning to stink.

Here is my big beef. According to Wikipedia, systems analysis "is the science dealing with analysis of complex, large scale systems and the interactions within those systems."

Now, if I ever saw a complex, large scale system in need of analysis, the City of Los Angeles drainage system into the Pacific Ocean surely qualifies. But, there is no such analysis that includes all of Venice, Rustic Canyon, and Pacific Palisades. I sometimes wonder if they know what a system analysis is.

How in hell can the requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act be realized without such analysis. And how can Venice realize its goal of capturing drainage pollution without a study to know what elements in which places will give the best results? Where are the experts who can provide such solutions? In 2003 I wrote a letter asking if LADPW had any such experts. The letter was forwarded by the district office to Engineering. I never received an answer to my question.

I surmise that one excuse might be that there are regional studies. But I do not know how that can be of help in devising ocean pollution control for Los Angeles. And, face it, it is an excuse. When it gets out there in the ocean it is pretty hard to distinguish Venice pollution from Santa Monica's or El Segundo's.

Between tears, I was amused by the COAC's item III of their March 15 agenda: "Discussion and Possible Action on Staff Proposal to Use Existing Consultant Funding to Develop Project Concept Papers."

Well, well, Venice does not need a study but the COAC staff needs project concept papers. Wonder why? Is someone playing with words? By what stretch is a "concept" a capital expense and a "study" is not? Is the BandAid approach, so comfortable for fifteen districts, already set to boondoggle away a half billion?

Sadly, the bond fund that voters hoped would make the ocean clean for all users at all times, including the fish, is disappearing into the digestive maws of fifteen fiefdoms.

Dee Adele (The writer is president of the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council - GRVNC)

In Brief

Planning Commission Snubs MTA/RAD Developer and Opponents

At a March 9 hearing, the Los Angeles Planning Commission President Jane Usher curiously cut off opponents who had signed up to speak and then proceeded to negotiate with RAD's Robert D'Elia.

Also ignored was the advice of L.A. Council-member Bill Rosendahl who spoke in favor of a drastic reduction in the size of the project proposed at the MTA's bus lot at Main St. and Sunset Avenue.

Instead, Usher and her compliant Commission colleagues voted for a modestly reduced project. RAD had been asking for 201 condos, with a maximum height of 55 feet but Usher reduced that to 156 condos with a height not to exceed 45 feet for roof access.

The next day, project supporter Jim Murez sent an email around the community stating that D'Elia had withdrawn from the deal with the MTA, in which the Agency would give RAD the Venice lot and \$8 million in exchange for a new bus lot in West Los Angeles. The deal was contingent on RAD getting permission for its building plans in Venice.

D'Elia later denied dropping out, leaving opponents wondering if the premature withdrawal announcement had just been a ruse to gain sympathy and support.

In any case, at least some opponents are expected to appeal the Planning Commission's decision, as D'Elia undoubtedly will, if he stays in the game. —Jim Smith

DONE's Greg Nelson is Retired; was nemesis of old GRVNC Board

For a couple of years, it seemed that the Progressive-led Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council could do nothing right in the eyes of the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) General Manager Greg Nelson. DONE oversees L.A.'s 80-plus neighborhood councils, including Venice's.

Nelson even went so far as to write a letter to a Marina del Rey newspaper calling the elected Board members "goofy."

His departure – which sources tell the Beachhead was forced – follows on the heels of the "resignation" of Assistant General Manager Jamika Bell, who once said the GRVNC Board had gone "rogue."

In addition, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, which went along with Nelson's tirades against GRVNC has a new majority appointed by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. One Hahn-appointee who is still on the Commission is Bill Christopher, who had advocated de-certification of GRVNC. Christopher later turned up as a consultant to RAD on its MTA project in Venice. He is rumored to be next on the chopping block.

"The Progressives on the GRVNC Board stood up for the community against Playa Vista and the Lincoln Center shopping center. That's what got us in trouble with Hahn, (former City Councilmember Cindy) Miscikowski and their appointees," said for Board member Don Geagan.

—Jim Smith



New bylaws, more control endorsed by GRVNC Board

The Neighborhood Council Board voted, March 29, for new bylaws in an effort to stamp out opposition from Venice Progressives.

The Board voted 15-4 to throw out the old bylaws and replace them with provisions that allow each stakeholder to vote for only eight of the 21 Board members. Under the old bylaws, stakeholders could vote for seven officers, seven at-large members and a district representative.

The new bylaws would abolish district representatives and replace them with a total of 14 at-large representatives, although each stakeholder would only be allowed to vote for one. Opponents said this could result in most or all of the Board coming from the same part of Venice, leaving some neighborhoods without any representation on the Board.

In addition, the new bylaws would directly elect the chairperson of the Land Use and Planning Committee, which oversees development. Opponents were concerned that this could lead to developers spending large amounts to elect an ally to this position.

The bylaws will also drop "Grass Roots" from the name, leaving it as "Venice Neighborhood Council."

The new bylaws passed with only a one-vote cushion since 14 votes, a two-thirds majority, was required. Progressive Mindy Taylor-Ross joined the anti-progressive majority in voting yes for the new bylaws. In addition, Peter Force, a Progressive, voted yes, although he later stated it was a mistake since he was opposed to the bylaws. Had those two voted no, the bylaws would have failed. Dede Audet, who chaired the meeting, was not allowed to vote by Robert's Rules of Order.

The votes were as follows:

Voting Yes: Colette Bailey, L.J. Carusone, C.J. Cole, Peter Force, Yolanda Gonzalez, Michael King, Linda Lucks, Challis MacPherson, Brett Miller, Richard Myers, Naomi Nightingale, Diana Pollard, Phil Raider, Mindy Taylor-Ross and Kelley Willis.

Voting No: Sylviane Dungan, Ingrid Mueller, Stan Muhammad and Rebecca Tafoya.

Abstaining: Susan Papadakis.

The new bylaws must be submitted to a vote of the Venice stakeholders, possibly on May 1, and be approved by DONE before taking effect.

—Jim Smith

Creative Circles Formed

The Venice Arts Council's January 7th a Public Art and Culture Workshop asking the question "What do you artistically dream for Venice?" It was a gathering of Venice artists, organizations and the community for a dialogue and interaction about the arts in Venice.

A "Voice to Vision" workshop was held in which members of the community were asked to answer the question: "What are the five ideas you have for the enhancement of the artistic life of Venice which will establish our community as a leader in the arts in our city, will define what is uniquely Venice and will transform our community into an "artist community." At least one idea should be your wildest dream.

From these 300 ideas that were submitted by the participants, we developed 9 categories that we call creative circles. These circles are made up of the people who signed up at the workshop, those who did not sign up then but would like to now, and are encouraged to do so. We will probably merge some of the categories as the ideas come to fruition. Some already have. The categories of the circles are as follows:

Art Programs/Community; Art on the Boardwalk (this group has merged into Sculpture & Murals & Banners); Most Radical (this group has merged into other groups) Eco-system; Store Fronts (combined with Murals & Banners); Performance; Sculpture; Free Space; Banners/Murals

If you are interested, these Creative Circles will report their progress and be discussed at the next Venice Arts Council meeting that meets the first Tuesday of the month, the next one being April 4th 7-9 pm at SPARC, 685 N. Venice Blvd. Everyone welcome.

—Emily Winters, Venice Arts Council, Chair

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Tenants Organizing as Corporations Gobble Up Housing Around the World

By Michael Kane

AIMCO, the landlord of Lincoln Place, owns or manages more than 115,000 units of the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) housing (about 7% of the entire HUD housing stock), our local affiliates have encountered them for years.

In 1999-2000 we organized a national campaign, coordinated press events in several cities, and a national demonstration at their DC office during our annual conference in 1999.

We collaborated on a Sacramento Bee series exposing AIMCO.

For a brief period (2003-2004), the then VP for HUD housing, Chuck Turner, actually approached us and met with our national Board in two meetings and several conference calls (with our organizing network also) to discuss common ground (this was a period when they were trying to dump some properties to non-profit purchasers to consolidate their portfolio), but this dialogue ended when Turner left AIMCO about 18 months ago. We got a few improvements at the building level in Kansas City, New York, etc., but not much else.

In particular, the stunning revelation about the Deutsche Bank role in AIMCO opens up a whole vista of potential connections and strategies, linking with a housing network in Germany, who are focusing on the role of Anglo-American investment groups buying up the social housing stock in Germany and converting to condominiums. There are many groups in the US who are working against AIMCO, this is a major opportunity for collaboration.

The National Alliance of HUD Tenants (NAHT) has joined the Habitat International Coalition (HIC), a global housing rights network headquartered in Chile, we're the North American board rep. HIC has picked up our suggestion for coordinated International Housing Rights Days of Action each October in different countries and cities, timed with the UN's World Habitat Day. HIC has also agreed to sponsor a Working Group on the Privatization and Globalization of Habitat, which I and others coordinate.

One current project is to raise the themes of housing rights and anti-privatization through a demonstration and march and other activities at the UN's World Urban Forum in Vancouver, June 19-23. ★

Michael Kane at the National Alliance of HUD Tenants in Boston.



Growing up Latino: How Cesar Chavez Inspired A Generation

By Yolanda Miranda

Cesar Chavez birthday on March 31, a state holiday, was preceded by the largest mainly-Latino march in the history of Los Angeles on Saturday, March 25.

As many as one or two million Latinos marched against Congress' attempt to make felons out of undocumented workers living in this country and setting up a wall separating Mexico from the USA.

Latino students, as in the 60s, started by holding walk outs from their schools. The finale was the march that took place on Saturday with Latinos from all parts of the state participating. Not even during the Vietnam war, when we were marching against the war, were we ever able to organize these many people at one time. Latinos have been known as the "sleeping giant." Not only did they wake up but they roared in disengagement over the proposed policies of this government against them and their families.

¡Ya Basta! Enough is Enough! Although they cross the border to come work in this country illegally the majority of these workers contribute to the economy, not take from it. They pay taxes, work the jobs that most Americans will not work, and which pay only the minimum wage or even less.

At one time the majority of farmworkers were U.S. born, but as they left the fields to work in factories and other trades, they were replaced by undocumented workers. In the cities, many of the undocumented workers are "day workers," doing construction work or any type of work while being paid low wages and many are robbed of their wages since there aren't any laws to protect them.

Many who are vilified as "illegal" are parents whose children are fighting and being wounded or dying in Iraq. More than 37,000 non-citizens serve in the military, mostly in Iraq.

Racism and injustice has not been eradicated in this country but the civil rights movement has been given a breath of life and spirit this past Saturday. If undocumented workers can organize themselves, we need to support their efforts and learn from them to get rid of the Patriot Act and get out of Iraq now!

We can trace the roots of today's uprising back 79 years, to March 31, 1927, in the dusty agricultural town of Yuma, Arizona, where Cesar Chavez was born to Librado and Juana Chavez.

The family's decision to move to California was made out of desperation due to a severe draught that drove them from the ranch they worked on. Thus started the Chavez family saga in becoming migrant farmworkers, living in government labor camps, following the crops that consisted of vegetables and fruit. Cesar, like many migrant children of farmworkers, dropped out of school while in the eighth grade to help his family work in the vineyards. Eventually, the family settled in San José, where Cesar joined the Navy and served in World War II.

After the war, Cesar met Fred Ross, who worked in the Community Service Organization (CSO) founded by Saul Alinsky. He registered Latinos to vote, travelling throughout California and becoming the Director of the CSO. Cesar never forgot his roots as he registered Latinos to vote. He left the CSO and formed the National Farmworker's Association (NFA) in the middle 60s to organize for higher wages. Dolores Huerta, a former school teacher, joined the NFA also because she believed in his cause, fighting for farmworker's rights. Dolores will be 76 years old on April 10th, working equally as hard to build the NFA.

I was raised in a migrant farmworker family of 14, married in the middle 60s, with two children and two more yet to be born. I always keep the memory of the elation I felt when I heard of

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Photo by Bob Morris

Star Wars Sequel: Firestorms and Nuclear Winter from Missile Lasers

By Taylor Trowbridge

Evangelists of the Strategic Defense Initiative -- more appropriately known as Star Wars -- paint for us a picture of an idyllic heaven-on-Earth in which the great powers have military defense and no military offense. They paint a world of nations safe within shields like the force-fields of science fiction, with no ability to commit nuclear aggression upon one another. Returning to reality, it is known that even if Star Wars is possible, which remains extremely controversial, every Medieval knight in his suit of "defensive" armor knew that defense is a powerful aid to offense, even though indirectly. But beyond even this myth of benign defense, evidence has emerged that a Star Wars system of infrared lasers can be used for offense directly. And that offensive use would be as destructive as a nuclear attack itself -- even to the point of initiating a "laser winter."

Under a "Defense" Department contract, two scientists, Latter and Martinelli of the research firm R & D Associates of Marina Del Rey apparently had shown that such a Star Wars system of lasers in space could be used to start 100 million fires on the surface of the Earth. Little news of the study had become public when the Defense Department censored it.

However, the study is not difficult to perform and does not require a big expense account. Dr. Caroline Herzenberg of Argonne National Labs, and a number of other scientists experienced with analysis of laser weapons, have performed the calculations on their own.

One of these is your author who has the experience of 15 years with the Defense Department analyzing the performance of a variety of laser weapons systems. He has been told

that he has gone even further than the Latter and Martinelli study -- his study additionally considers how much the laser beam deteriorates as it passes down through the Earth's atmosphere -- which could have invalidated all previous studies.

But you don't have to be a weapons scientist to imagine the offensive potential of a fleet of hundreds of space-borne lasers each the size of a football field. And equally awesome and deadly would be its pointing abilities. It would have to be able, within minutes, to zap thousands of missiles rocketing at thousands of miles per hour from thousands of silos across the endless steppes of Asia.

Our studies confirm that such a Star Wars system could easily be designed to include the capability to start fires on the Earth's surface. And with such incredible pointing capability, each laser beam could strobe over a city leaving dozens of separate fires every second. The result, hundreds of thousands of precisely located individual fires spread over hundreds of cities, is an awesome offensive threat.

But we find much more than even that. Closely spaced individual fires in large numbers can become much more than their sum. As few as 500 fires in a city may start what is called a firestorm. In Dresden and other cities during World War II, thousands of fires from Allied incendiary and high explosive bombing united to form a single vast fire. The firestorm generated hurricane winds to fan its own flames and united all of the fires to form a single, gigantic column of flame and smoke extending into the stratosphere.

The "nuclear winter" studies show that smoke from cities ablaze from a nuclear attack would darken the skies for months or years and turn summer into winter. Massive crop failures and environmental chaos would threaten possibly the survival of the human species. The nuclear winter studies also show that the most dangerous smoke is that injected into the stratosphere by firestorms in cities. They find that the burning of as few as 100 cities (with only 5% in firestorms) would trigger nuclear winter effects. Our studies find that the Star Wars system could initiate firestorms in more than one thousand cities. This shows that Star Wars could indeed be capable of bringing on a "laser winter."

The idyllic world that Ronald Reagan fantasized in his Star Wars Speech would be vulnerable to a Star Wars war of equally severe consequences -- immediate consequences comparable to a nuclear exchange, followed by a laser winter. After some trillions of dollars, rubles, marks, francs, and so on, the world would be no better off it is than now.

Actually, it would be worse off. Now the world benefits from some nuclear "stability" because each side knows that if it attacks first the other side can retaliate. There is some stability because there is a disincentive to attack. In contrast, if both sides were to have Star Wars systems, one system could attack the other system at the speed of light and destroy it utterly. Each side would know that if it presses the button, then poof, the other side would be disarmed, could not retaliate, and would have to surrender or face a nuclear like annihilation. Incentive to attack would be infinite and stability zero. *

The author (ap886@lafn.org) is a retired laser weapon system analyst of the Defense Department. He is on the Executive Board of Southern California Federation of Scientists (SCFS) <www.scfs-la.org>, a public interest science organization that since 1953 has been performing alternative technical analyses related to pressing public issues.

from the Beachhead Archives 35 Years Ago

The Beachhead published a special issue: the war in Indochina in April, 1971. Included was one still-topical article entitled "Operation Total Victory...Leads to Inevitable Defeat." Venice resident Judy Goldberg reported on an international women's conference in Vancouver, Canada where she and others met with women from North and South Vietnam and Laos. An advertisement from the Midnight Special Bookstore at 1335 1/2 W. Washington Blvd., Venice listed volumes of books it carried on the war. An article by John Haag urged people to sign a people-to-people peace treaty being circulated by the Peace & Freedom Party.

30 Years Ago

"Save the Coast (again)" by Moe Stavnezer was the headline in the March, 1976 edition. Carol Fondiller began her article, "I sometimes think I'm the only one in Venice who admits to watching television..." while Lance Diskan explored a new medium - video. Venice Town Council activist Bob Wells announced his candidacy for L.A. County Supervisor. "Saving Venice is what the Town Council's all about," says Bob. "Stopping the freeway bypass from cutting Venice in half...is something everybody in Venice agrees about..."

20 Years Ago

The April, 1986 headline screamed, "Ocean Shlock Walk." Patrick McCartney's story said "Welcome to the sunglasses, the T-shirt, cheap shoe and earring capital of the world - otherwise known as Venice." Walkstreet Chronicles by Laura Stewart described life on a sidewalk street, "The Orphans of the Storm arrive in droves at our house...we offer warmth, herb tea, relaxation. There are five of us all together, and we live in a cooperative. No one but no one rules the household." The Merchant of Venice restaurant took out a full page ad to tout itself as the "best restaurant in Venice" - a claim many Venetians would agree with. The site is now called Hal's.



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Lincoln Place Tent City Report

By C.V. Beck

Our Tent City Coordinator, David Busch, was called away on family business. We miss him and hope he'll be back soon. Meanwhile, hours at Tent City are Wednesdays and Saturdays 10 am to 5 pm, weather permitting.

People continue to come by, ask questions, take pictures, donate money and take away flyers to read. We have munchies and feed "our" squirrels an apparently endless supply of peanuts, unshelled, unsalted. The gardener from Ross/Shafers Family Trust continues to put the sprinklers on our TC, according to his whim—with a continued no warning to us, although we had asked to let us know, so we could move our stuff out of the sprinklered area. I rebuke him, as we are in the public walkway—but to no avail. He doesn't know what an easement is and I haven't been able to explain it to him properly. People drive by and swerve at me on the corner. They drive around and around the center square part of Lincoln Place, they look familiar but I can't place them (I did, however, write down their license plate number). Others drive through, and out of, the Ross parking lot at high rates of speed, shouting, "It's too late!", waving their arms and gesticulating wildly, turning left on Frederick Street and right on Lake. Others come by, shouting at us, "Assholes!" and some politely reply, "Up your nose, Jocko!" Still others come by and sit with us for long periods of time, explaining patiently, (with beer cans in their pockets)

how David can't beat Goliath in this day and age and I wonder if they have been paid for in 12,000 cans of beer, saying as much to this man, who laughs, knowing.

We residents are awaiting the start of the mediation, hopeful that it will work out to the betterment of seniors, disabled, those unlawfully evicted and traumatized, way back in December, 2005 and perhaps others as well. Bill Rosendahl came by two weeks ago and we women present thanked him for not forgetting us. He said he would not forget us. I told him I wanted to "see" Terry Considine in the flesh after all of this and he said he did, too.

Two weeks ago, a homeless person, "Philly" (not his real name) arrived by bicycle, stating he had been through "three emptying outs of the emergency room" at Brotman Hospital but was not yet treated. They told him to come back later, over and over, had put on a yellow plastic ID bracelet on his wrist but wasn't treated. He says he has had problems getting treated at Venice Family Clinic, he thinks because he is not a family, not Hispanic, gets passed over at Brotman and at Freeman.

He had what looked like gangrene rising up both his legs and clearly needed medical treatment. "Philly" said the person in charge told him his Medi-Cal card was "no good." He said he has a permanent, very old card but that it is good. I suggested he try the urgent care place in front of Daniel Freeman Hospital as these places are never "busy" like the emergency rooms are. Most people don't seem to be aware of these places. I drew a map for him, hoped it would work out. (He was on his bicycle, with flip-flops.) It was cold and windy that day.

Last week, I followed up a suggestion and went over there myself to see what was what. This place is an urgent care center located along the right side of the medical office building immediately in front of Daniel Freeman Hospital. As it turns out, they are closed between 12 and 2 but I was able to get information from the reception person, as follows: I asked clearly if they took "Medi-Cal"? The person replied, "Yes". I then asked if they took "Temporary Medi-Cal"?...she said "Yes". I then asked if they took "Medicare"? She said "Yes". I asked her again, just to make sure, if they took "Medi-Cal"... (she was starting to get nervous)...and asked me what was the problem? I said I wasn't asking for myself but for a homeless person. She then said that they don't take "Medi-Cal" and told me I had been asking about "Medicare"... I replied I had asked about both programs and thanked her for her time and left.

OK, so, then, "Philly", sorry to have wasted your time. Hope you didn't go there after all and that you did find an emergency room that would treat you. (I haven't seen him since that first time and I hope he is alright.) *



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Save Lincoln Place Vigil, held at California & Frederick every Sunday at 1:30 pm., except April 30 – see below for information on the Spring Fling

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auction.....proceeds go to LPTA
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DEATH IN VENICE

NO LEADS IN OCEAN FRONT WALK MURDER

Last month the Beachhead reported on the Feb. 12 murder of Verika "Tiny Dancer" Popovich at Avenue 19 and Speedway. Since then there have been no leads in the case, according to LAPD Detective Mike DePasquale. He said the police have been unable to find anyone who even heard the attack on Popovich. Anyone with information on the brutal murder can call him at 310-482-6369.

DePasquale said that rumors of other murders in the vicinity were just that, rumors. He said the police have no knowledge of any other murders in the beach area in recent months.

CARJACKING SUSPECT HAD BEEN SHOT 11 TIMES

New information has been obtained by the Beachhead in the police shooting of Venice resident Jeffery Lynn Smith, Jr. The Coroner's report obtained by the Beachhead reports that Smith had been shot 11 times by police at the corner of Santa Clara Avenue and Electric Avenue around 5 am. on Feb. 9. The gunfire woke much of Venice. A number of those who heard the gunfire said from 20 to 50 shots could be distinguished.

Santa Monica Police Detective Richard Lewis is quoted in the Coroner's Report as stating that a carjacking had taken place at 10th Court and Michigan Avenue in Santa Monica. He said the car was seen going southbound on Venice Blvd. (he probably meant Lincoln Blvd.) and was located at 7th Street and California Ave. in Venice.

Lewis says the suspect got out of the car and fired a shotgun at police, who returned fire. The suspect then returned to the car and drove down Santa Clara Avenue where he hit a building at the corner of Electric. It is unknown whether he had been shot by then.

Again, according to Lewis, the suspect got out of the car and fired a round at officers, who returned fire. Within three minutes backup officers - presumably LAPD - arrived at the scene. The Coroner's report states, "They verbally order (sic) him out of the vehicle and could hear him moaning from inside the vehicle as he is now lying on the front seats. At approximately 0508 hour they observe the shotgun emerge

again and placed on the driver's side door pointed at Officers. At that point all seven Officers fired numerous rounds using 3 rifles and four 45-caliber handguns..."

Paramedics declared the suspect, Smith, dead at 5:20 a.m.

See last month's Beachhead for an additional statement by police and eulogies for Jeffery Lynn Smith. *

-information for these two reports was compiled by Jim Smith

Douglas Eisenstark salutes the Beachhead for its coverage of the Lincoln Place crisis.

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Planting Hope, Growing Lives

St. Joseph's Breaks Ground on New Center for the Poor, Homeless

By Suzanne Thompson

St. Joseph Center's mission is to provide working poor families, as well as homeless men, women and children of all ages, with the inner resources and tools to become productive, stable and self-supporting members of the community.

On the eve of its 30th anniversary, St. Joseph Center is getting ready to build a new main service center at its 204 Hampton Drive site.

Scheduled for completion towards the latter half of 2007, it will meet the needs of 3000 working poor individuals and offer such services as affordable childcare, job training and free groceries.

The founders, Sister Marilyn Therese Rudy and Sister Louise Bernstein, were joined by Executive Director Rhonda Meister, Capital Campaign Committee Co-Chairs Steven Hilton and Joan Payden, board members, elected officials and members of the community on Wednesday, March 22nd for the Center's ground breaking ceremony.

Congratulatory remarks were made before a crowd of over 100 people by Robert Holbrook, Mayor of Santa Monica, Vincent Jones from Senator Barbara Boxer's office, Flora Gil Krisiloff from the office of Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Torie Osborn Special Advisor to Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Mark-Antonio Grant Venice Deputy to Councilman Bill Rosendahl.

Ms. Osborn's remarked:

"The Mayor is on a plane back from New York, but his message I pass on to you today is one of great gratitude. Gratitude for your vision of service that shines in a dark time. We live in the richest country in the history of the world but we have lost our heart. We have the greatest economic disparity in American history. Today it is welfare for the rich and free enterprise for the poor. And the middle class is evaporating. And, there's lots of pious talk about God in the corridors of national power these days. But there is no finer example in this country of TRUE ANGELS AT WORK than right here at the St. Joseph Center. Thank you for 30 years of service to children, families and seniors. Thank you, Rhonda Meister, for your leadership that empowers others and sets a gold standard in the non-profit community, for your humble and true leadership on poverty and homelessness. Thank you, St. Joseph Center, for embodying an ethic of love that lights the way for all of us. On behalf of Mayor Villaraigosa, it is a privilege to support your work."

Founded in 1976 by two Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, in a small storefront on Rose



Avenue in Venice, St. Joseph Center, through its three decades of service to the community, has evolved into a multi-faceted social service agency that serves very poor, as well as homeless, families and individuals, employing close to 100 paid staff and benefiting from the dedication of more than 400 volunteers annually. It is a significant presence on Los Angeles' Westside through its 10 programs at seven different locations, all of which continue to respond to the wide-ranging needs of homeless and low-income families and individuals in the community.

The campaign's fundraising goal is \$10,225,000. In addition to providing funds to build the new family service and administration building on Hampton Drive, the campaign will cover the costs of temporary relocation during construction as well as establishment of an operating reserve fund to help assure the Center's long-term financial stability, especially during periods of economic downturn. With the help of hundreds of committed institutional donors and individual contributors. Planting

Hope, Growing Lives has passed \$9 million and is still climbing. For information on making a gift to the campaign of cash or appreciated securities, or if you would like to arrange a planned gift or bequest, please contact the Director of Community and Donor Relations at 396-6468 ext. 324 or visit their website at <www.stjosephctr.org>. *

PHOTO: Mary Ann Dolcemascolo



New Ocean Front Ordinance Redefines Free Speech, Handicrafts

By Erica Snowlake

cops walking the beat, jes like ol' times that was the scene Saturday and Sunday, March 25 and 26 on the Venice Boardwalk. these pedestrian cops were eyeballing, others could say censoring, the wares of the vendors on the west side of the boardwalk with the intended deliberate enforcement of yet another new ordinance, this one banning commercial vending, items of more than nominal use, and especially coming down hard on t-shirts, among other nefarious things, the psychics were out in full force, however being immune to such scrutiny.

while it is generally considered beneficial to outcast the plastic, made in China tchotches, it is somewhat incomprehensible and unfair banning unique works of art by diverse multicultural artisans under the blanket term "jewelry," painting and music are seemingly encouraged, though the tunes may only be heard radiating from under 50 feet away. quiet, now that's the spirit of the beach!

no doubt the powers that be will be going back to the ordinance draftboard for round three, as far as enforcement goes, a few citations were issued, and like round one with the lottery system, arrests were threatened and made to seem seriously imminent and forthcoming.

a statement from beloved and controversial vegan and animal rights activist Jingles follows, who was told to cut his stand down from twenty feet to ten feet and issued a citation in the process.

"Has Venice Boardwalk become a non-commercial free zone? I think not. Due to the new ordinance I can no longer sell my political t-shirts, ones that express my constitutional 1st Amendment rights. i can show them for display purposes only. Offering these for sale or donation is now illegal and will lead to citation and arrest. Please help defend and save free speech on Venice Beach. Contact councilman.rosendahl@lacity.org." *



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**Growing up Latino:
How Cesar Chavez
Inspired A Generation**

-continued from
page 4

Cesar and the work he was doing for the farmworkers in the San Joaquin Valley. The grape boycott was the beginning of my involvement in my community. I housed the union's organizer, planned picketlines, marches, and rallies.

My days revolved around caring for my four children, working and devoting any time left to organizing the community for the grape boycott which had targeted Safeway at that time. The union organizers were only paid \$15 per week as the union had no contracts or members.

My husband at the time yanked us out from a small town, moving us to Napa County, then to Sonoma County. He hoped that by taking this drastic action that I would come back to my senses and leave all this political involvement behind. Little did he know the union was stronger in Napa and Sonoma because of the organizing of the wine grape pickers and the wineries.

How could I explain, describe the burning flame illuminating within me, of pride and hope about the light Cesar was shining on the plight of the farmworkers both nationally and world-wide. He was describing our family and others who faced poverty, lack of education, and worked long hours for little pay.

No matter how long and hard we worked, the winter months were feared. There was no food stamp program, unemployment checks and my father would have to go to work in Oregon in the sawmills to feed the family while my older brother worked in Arizona in the lettuce fields. It never failed, the electricity was always cut off in winter in our home. My mother had to choose between light or food. So, kerosene lamps were always available in our house.

With 14 children to feed and clothe, the only access my dear mother had to birth control was through breast feeding. My siblings are two to one-and-a-half months apart. Later, as we grew up, our mother shared with us that when she found out she was pregnant, she would jump off the kitchen table, over and over again, hope to bring on a miscarriage. It never worked. She spent most of her growing up years pregnant as she and my father were married when she was sixteen.

Although we were poor economically, we were taught to be poor was no sin but to be poor, not work and keep a dirty house was next to a mortal sin. Her life was not easy. Can you imagine having to wash clothes for these kids with a washboard and hang them? The guilt she felt being pregnant meant more hardship for the family.

In 1994, I joined the United Farmworkers (UFW) as an organizer after the name was changed. Cesar's low paid attorney's finally won the Agriculture Labor Relations Board Act in California. This Act oversaw the holding of fair union elections without the intimidation of the ranchers or their supervisors. It gave us the right to file unfair labor practice charges against ranchers who were violating the rights of farm-

workers. There was no way I could not be part of this historical time, to do my part in preventing the injustice my family. Farm workers had anguished for years about the control ranchers had over us and the conditions we were forced to work under.

Have you ever worked while the field next to you was being sprayed with pesticides? Crop dusters made our eyes water, leaving pesticide dust on our clothes. The planes gave us coughing spells as we inhaled the poisons. Many of us suffered from skin rashes brought on by the spray they used. Cesar knew all about it, he had experienced it, along with his family, and he never forgot.

I wasn't the only member of my family to answer "La Causa," the call to help build the union. My first cousin, Luis Valdez, started El Teatro Campesino in the fields, using the story lines of the ranchers versus the union and farm-

workers. He went on to become a famous producer and filmmaker. My cousin, Ramon Passillas, another organizer, who, like me, was rank-and-file, didn't hold an official position but was equally important in the organizing we did. We were trained by Fred Ross in organizing techniques. After I left the UFW, two years later, I went on to work and gain more experience with other AFL-CIO unions. Yet, being involved in the Farm Workers Union was like nothing else in my life. When Nick Jones, the former National Boycott Director for the UFW visited me

last month, we exchanged war stories as if they had just happened yesterday.

Granted, the UFW, the "movimiento," the beam of the lighthouse, has dimmed since those years. I, like other organizers and some union officials, have seen the difference in what the UFW was once and what it is now. But it will never lose the legacy that Cesar left.

The farmworkers feed the nation and the world, but are given no respect, or a decent income, with the union. The gains we made "way back when" will be lost unless organizing continues on. So, organize, organize, and organize.

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- Free, Good Quality Health Care for All
- Equality and Integration
- Free, Quality Education for All
- No Tuition, Grants, not Debt, for Students
- Preserve & Build Affordable Housing
- Decriminalize Immigration

FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD • April 2006 • 7

Art by Jeffrey Hirsch



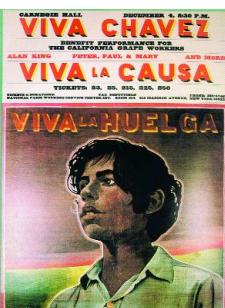
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HAPPY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY
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It was an honor to work with you both. To regain my dignity, pride as a farmworker family member.

Because of the union, I was the first in my family to graduate from high school and go on to college. My younger brothers and sisters followed in my footsteps. My older siblings sacrificed their education to fulfill our parent's dream. *



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James R "Jim" Smith for U.S. Congress (CD36)

Jim is a community and labor activist, an educator and writer. He is the chairperson of the Venice Peace & Freedom Chapter and writes for the Free Venice Beachhead newspaper.

He was the presidential candidate on the Venice Progressives slate in last year's neighborhood council election. He has worked as an organizer, negotiator, administrator and communications director for a number of unions.

He is running against Jane Harman who has endorsed Bush's war policies and the Patriot Act. "It's time we had a peace advocate to represent us in Congress."

Karl Abrams for State Assembly (AD53)

Karl has been a scientist and professor of chemistry for more than 20 years. He is the author of several books including *Algae to the rescue!* and *Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, A Nutritional Approach*.

He pledges to introduce bills in the legislature that will benefit renters, and to repeal the anti-tenant Ellis Act and Costa-Hawkins Act. "The lack of affordable housing is an urban crisis. We must not allow good affordable housing like Lincoln Place to be destroyed."



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Story of an RV Owner Caught in the Act of...Painting! in Free Venice (what's still free of it)

By Erica Snowlake

Venusians! injustices festering along cherry blossom avenues! biking by the Venice United Methodist church i spotted my friend Lush fixing his van in the parking lot. he told me a not-so-funny story, which we continued in interview form days later on the boardwalk.

Beachhead: Lush, (who is 6'3" with eyes of blue glacial ice), tell me what happened the night of thursday march 9th atwhat time?

Lush: well "everybody hates chris" was just starting on up on my little black'n'white tv so i know it was 8 pm.

Beachhead: what were you doing?

Lush: in my van painting parked close to a friend's house on Brooks near 4th.

Beachhead: describe the nature of what you were painting. (Lush usually paints big canvases depicting day-glo maelstroms radiating over Venice Beach, cataclysms of sun and waves, silhouetted imagery of the boardwalk, ancient battles between dragons and knights, and polar bear cubs tumbling in the snow, from what i've seen and admired)

Lush: a landscape in orange of a guy pushing a gondola downstream with a couple in the back having sex.

Beachhead: ye olde venezia! so you heard a knock?

Lush: no, saw a flashlight shining in the window, asked what do you guys want?, heard "STEP OUT OF THE VEHICLE".

Beachhead: whoa, woe.

Lush: got out, told my name, got searched, handcuffed from behind, and put in the patrol car.

Beachhead: did they have papers?, citations?, warrants?, CHARGES?

Lush: nothing, they did not identify themselves

either, they declared i was being arrested for sleeping in my van, and they were going to impound it pronto.

Beachhead: Dang, Lush, let's dig grass.... how long have you been an artist on the boardwalk?

Lush: since 1999.

Beachhead: how prolific are you? - like how many paintings do you sell?

Lush: around five a week, and they go anywhere from \$18 to \$4,000.

Beachhead: who's your main source of revenue?

Lush: definitely tourists. (FYI: the boardwalk is the most visited tourist attraction in California after Disneyland)

Beachhead: do you have family in Venice?

Lush: i'm a father, i have a baby here.

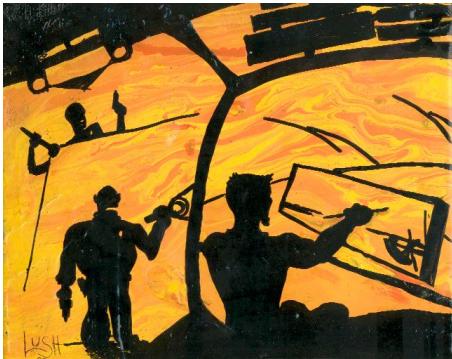
Beachhead: so back to our timeline, what happened next?

Lush: a tow truck came and confiscated my Suzuki TS-100 dirt bike. two more tow trucks arrived and after consideration declared my van untowable due the danger of too many attachments and the possibility of them falling off.

Beachhead: saving grace! those attachments would be?.....paintings of course? so were the cops pissed?

Lush: they told me this was my one warning, the next time they see me in Venice i'm busted, they told me to leave, get out of Dodge that night, to consider myself blacklisted in Venice, and to stop painting on the boardwalk.

Painting by Lush



LUSH

the part of renegade cops.

Lush: there never was any official paperwork or charges.

Beachhead: think it was a person living on that street who complained? either that or they simply have an agenda of harassment.....

Lush: just because i'm covered in paint doesn't mean i'm homeless. (and that's not a crime either, folks, tho' it's treated as one).

Beachhead: so how did the church figure?

Lush: let me just say i find it surreal-- i can't believe i'm seeking sanctuary at a church because i'm an artist. (then we concur all the great artists had churches, hahaha)

Beachhead: yeah, political asylum in this case. i know Pastor Tom from making soup in the

kitchen there for Food Not Bombs, he's really cool, totally into community.

Lush: he knew what i was going to say before i said it, he outright told me "Yes, you can park here."

Beachhead: now that's compassion. i saw a van next to yours with all these little plastic animals glued on it, and on the back doors it read "MUSEUM," maybe yours could say "ART STUDIO"!

Lush: that's what it is. right now i've got around 25 paintings and more coming.

Beachhead: listen up, art aficionados, galleries, and restaurants out there. Lush sets up every Saturday on the boardwalk--check him out, or come lend your support. (the gondola painting's still available, and it's lovely!)

Lush: yeah, i'm there til they throw me in the can.

Beachhead: definitely not a wish-fulfilling statement.

Some parting gems from Lush (who's super groovy, by the way):

It's a battle of economics--someone's obviously controlling someone's salary.....

I create art and sell it.

It just shows the divide----if someone's making 100 grand, does that mean my life isn't worth theirs?

Finally, off the cuff: We both believe Venice to be a sanctuary of sorts for all kinds of people, for the protection and expression of free speech and free spirits, for folks dedicated to exploring other connections and nuances in life's rich tapestry besides robotically salivating to the holy buck. why are people living alternative lifestyles punished? are we really such an eyesore? we wonder what we are coming to. *

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Florida flooded
panhandle plunged
sunk like Atlantis
even rebuilt New Orleans
submerged

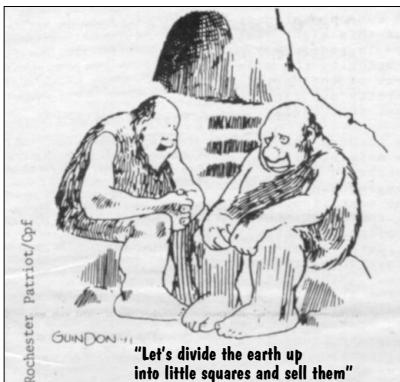
I see the bright side
to global warming
as remnant rebel culture in Venice
driven out by jagged edged
gentrification, voodoo investing
and greedy glutinous ground grabbers
soon enough witness
a saline solution
to the architectural aggression
neighborhood negation
and demolition delirium
bloated real estate bubble
long burst
inflated assessments
corrected
by the conquering persistence
of righteous reclamation
waves

-Rex Butters

Philomene --
I had a flash/image
of you standing in
what I cal yr "nun's
position"--hands clasped,
head bowed, body a
straight line --
& looking at you standing
that way in my
mind--stunned by
the beauty of you--
I realized you look like Maud Gonne--
the Angel of the
Irish Revolution,
Yeats' lifelong
passion & muse
figure--

Philomene--
daughter of lite
bring yr luminous dance
to open new visions
within the black
against which
all struggle

- Stuart Perkoff



Y Like a dream

By Hillary Kaye

R They arrive fashionably late
this new year
fresh as daisies
shining like stars
T meanwhile the seventh son
is overcome by feelings of darkness
and does not arrive
but the goat and the elephant
get on.

P Springtime has no monopoly on flowers
the garden never stops blooming
there where the sun never sets.
It's a dream and like a dream
it's coated and coded
and marched through.

The soldier cleans his rifle
it sparkles in the noon day sun
all these things become like miracles.
Unnoticed the miraculous, the bountiful has come
and gone.

Suddenly there is a storm on the horizon
things have to be rethought
the whole concept has to be redone.
Volunteers are expected from every corner of the
world
till then the spider and bird eat dinner.

PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND PROGRESS
UNTIL IT GETS IN THEIR WAY

WE UNDERSTAND PROGRESS
EACH TIME WE LOSE OUR HOMES
OR PAY A RENT INCREASE, BECAUSE
OF A TAX INCREASE
OR WATCH A TREE COME DOWN OR
THE GRASS DISAPPEAR OR
THE DUCKS DISAPPEAR
AND THE CONDOS GO UP
WE UNDERSTAND PROGRESS.

IT'S UP TO US NOW TO STOP THE
PEOPLE THAT LOOK AT LIFE AS A
COMMODITY
TO BUY OR SELL WHEN THE MARKET
DEMANDS

IT'S UP TO US TO BE STRONG,
FREE,
UNITED AS ONE, ACTING AS ONE.
IT'S UP TO US!
-Nancy McCulloch

GOING TO NOODLES

I'm going to Noodles
& open a needle place
and raise needles
won't need a beedle
keep your oedles,
don't need it

--C.V. Beck

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STRANGERS IN THE PARK

March 25, 2006 starts the end of commercial and handicraft vending on the Venice Beach, CA Boardwalk

My mind fails
I will start.
Leaders wear hats covering one eye.

So tempting, so evil.

Cement mixers roll over a bed of daisies.
Modern structures and dogs take their place.

America will die in an earthquake-proof
house.

Traffic is heavy on the 710 North.

Shut up and listen to me. Leaders love
what they've got. You don't know the
secrecy.

The council shouts and you die at their
voices.

I will tell you my secret. Soldiers took away
my ten liter snake.

You don't know God is talking to you.
The sellers are being chased into the sea.
Craftsmen and vendors go out with a wave.

I will write a book: The Importance of Saving
Vendors. Better title: Renaissance Craftsmen of the
Future.

The epitaph:

The muse and the sellers wander the town
no place of their own no place to go

It's over
the picking of goods and telling of secrets. Go home
to your friends and take off your shoes. A decade here
here, a decade there to give away. I hear the wind.
It sings curses.

- Lily Tanner

Highway to Hell

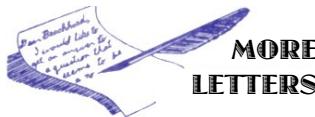
continued from page 1

Transportation Mitigation Fund in hopes that
someday those funds will really mitigate the traffic
the projects hemorrhage onto Venice streets.

The County claims its needs to be one grand
entrance into the Marina. That is their only justification.
But it is a lie. Developers want that land
bad and this is the best last desperate lie they can tell.
Ask any small craft owner if we need a highway
to get to the Marina for boating or a picnic.
Hell no. We can all get in just fine. If they build
the freeway and turn Admiralty and Via Marina
into class one state highways what will be next,
another bridge to Malibu?

- Contact Dominic Osmena, County Project Manager for details at 626-458-5912.
- Call City Councilman Bill Rosendahl and ask him to comment on behalf of Venice at 213-473-7011.
- Call Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky at 213-974-3333
- Call Pam Emerson at the Coastal Commission at 562-590-5071 to comment on the MDR Review ★





MORE LETTERS

Remembering Verika

(Beachhead note: Verika Popovich was murdered on Feb. 12. See the March Beachhead and page 5 of this issue for more information.)

Verika was one of my friend's girlfriend when I knew her.

Verika was one those whom I call, "The Homeless Hotties."

The first time I saw Verika I was really impressed by her loyalty to her boyfriend Chris Heffernan. She didn't have to stick by a homeless man's side like she did.

As I went through three girlfriends, I watched Verika follow Chris to the ends of the earth.

I remember seeing them together in the distance as if they were on the threshold of a new horizon, their entire worldly possessions in a folding shopping basket.

Verika and Chris were a cute couple. Both had bold blond hair, both were in their late twenties or early thirties, both seemed to have a positive outlook on life that was inspirational.

Verika and Chris were a stabilizing force in the homeless community. They showed the world that love conquers all, even joblessness and homelessness.

Poverty it seemed was only a state of mind.

Verika always had a smile on her face. She was like the happiest woman in the world and everyone, even Chris, knew Chris had made her that way.

One day Verika and Chris showed up in a yellow Camaro that really brought out their blond hair. From that day on Chris maintained and drove it.

Chris became the mechanic to the homeless. For steak dinner and a couple of beers, he'd fix anything on any motor of any car, truck or bus. Chris kept Verika in steak dinners.

Chris helped me change the motor on April's green Volkswagen van that she and I lived in. He also did a major overhaul of the hippie bus of the blond homeless couple who'd been extras in Wayne's World.

With such skill, Chris must have loved Verika quite a lot to stay with her despite her nuances and peculiarities.

Verika and Chris were like a model homeless couple who could have been starring in their own live movie. They were that much of a hit amongst the upper class homeless people who have motor vehicles.

Verika was from Hungary, I think it was. One day there was a picture in the newspaper of the national currency in her country piled up in the streets because it had devalued so much in relation to the rest of the world's currency.

Verika left her native country on the last airplane to be allowed to leave the airport before it was closed down due to political upheaval.

Verika was a political refugee in the United States and that to me is a reason for lack of news coverage, besides the thorn to tourism.

Hypothetically speaking, the United States cannot afford to let the world know that political refugees come to the United States to end up homeless on the streets and ultimately raped and murdered like nothing, only to have the matter hushed up like homeless women do not deserve the equal protection of the law guaranteed to all citizens in the US Constitution.

Verika was very opinionated and she had strong political views we didn't always understand and it sometimes made her smile but it sometimes really frustrated her.

Verika would get angry at political injustice.

Verika despised injustice and believed in getting more help for the homeless, especially women.

Verika would speak out about many things while Chris smiled blissfully in the background of her notable presence.



Verika, aka Tiny Dancer

Sex on the Beach returns

Dear Beachhead, Last year you were good enough to run a reprint of my flyer on your paper. Hope you can find room to do it again this year.

Tim Rudnick

The Venice Oceanarium

The Venice Oceanarium
Kids Encouraged
Grunion Party
At the rocks of the Venice Breakwater at the end of Windward Ave
Fri. Night March 31st, 10:30-11:30+ Sat. Night April 1st, 11:00-12:00+
For more information call The Venice Oceanarium (310) 396-7974



Verika and Chris were regulars at Saint Joseph Center in the early nineties. They ate at Bread and Roses regularly.

Some considered Verika the luckiest homeless girl in the world because she had the most handsome homeless man for a boyfriend, not counting myself of course.

In those days, perhaps as now, homeless women who had any looks would secure a man to act as her protector. A man can also carry more luggage than a woman can.

When Chris broke up with Verika her whole world crashed. She became a wreck.

She disappeared from the ranks of the upper class homeless and they say she went straight downhill after that.

I accidentally saw Verika naked once. She was such a vision of beauty I would have loved to rush up to her and fondle her but she didn't even know I was looking at her.

I think lots of guys wanted to be Verika's boyfriend and there was much speculation over whom she'd had or not had sex with since breaking up with Chris, but the sad truth is that Chris was the love of her life and she never recovered from his breaking up with her.

In a way, I was hoping she's finally come around to considering me when I asked about her at Saint Joseph Center as soon as I recognized someone who might remember her. After all, it's been over ten years since Chris.

I couldn't believe what I was told. Verika had been raped and murdered just few days ago when I asked about her and how she was doing these days.

I rushed off to take pictures of the memorial her friends had set up for her on the boardwalk. Along the way I searched out the murder scene.

What I could find out was the murder scene of yet another victim; another homeless woman. Another blond, but this lady was elderly, or at least in her fifties and weathered.

It was in talking to 'Hemp Ray' my old friend from Jack Herer's HEMP Booth heyday that we both realized we were talking about two separate murder victims.

What kind of pathetic man has to murder women to get laid? What kind of loser has to take it because he can't get a woman to want to give it to him?

The last years of Verika's life are a testament to her true and undying love for Chris Heffernan of Oregon, the greatest love of her life. A man could not ask for more love and devotion from a woman.

Public torture might be a step in the right direction of punishment for the piece of shit who raped and killed poor defenseless little Verika.

Sure she was mouthy! But so what?

Hell yeah I like her! Who didn't?

Who didn't want to have sex with Verika?

She was pretty hot and tempting when I knew her but I was April's boyfriend and she was Chris's girlfriend and for that matter, I loved the hell out of April and wanted to marry April.

Verika and I were just in the homeless couples' circuit together. She didn't want anybody after Chris!

May God NOT have mercy on the soul of the person who is raping and killing homeless women!

Sergio Trevino

New book about "Brick" Garrigues

Dear Beachhead,

My new book, HE USUALLY LIVED WITH A FEMALE, THE LIFE OF A CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPERMAN, is now in print.

In 1925, a young Arizona reporter, virtually fresh off the farm, wrote a love letter to a sophisticated Jewish New Yorker he had met at a dinner dance. It was the first of scores of letters they would exchange across the continent over the next four decades.

She became his literary agent. He became a graft-busting investigator in Los Angeles, a jazz reviewer in San Francisco, a husband and father, a target of Red-hunters - and a man haunted by a secret from his high school past.

This book is his story.

"Man, oh, man — that guy could write, couldn't he? I'll bet even his shopping lists were interesting." — Eric Weinstock

"This brought love home for me. . . You have touched my soul . . ." — Donna Honeycutt
"Wonderful manuscript . . . congratulations!" —Dr. Kevin Starr, California State Librarian Emeritus

You can read excerpts, see photos and order it at <www.ulwaf.com>.

Of course, there are many references to Venice in the book.

George Garrigues, Palms

(See the June and July 2003 Beachheads at www.venice-beachhead.org for articles about Venice by "Brick" Garrigues - BH)

Ocean Front Walk Ordinance

In the February '06 issue you devoted a page to the ordinance prohibiting commercial vending on the Venice Beach Boardwalk. I noticed in the March issue no more was said about the vending. I was hoping for a large cry concerning the end of a long and successful tradition.

As a craftsman on the beach, every time I told a customer that the vending is closing down, I got the same response — a gasp, a question why and a remark such as "I can't believe it!" as if a good friend had died.

And so it is, Venice Beach has been a good friend to all the people from all over the world. The vending on the Venice Beach Boardwalk has notably provided interesting arts and crafts but conversations and teachings from all over the world.

Vending goes back in history to the time when the

stranger was most important bringing the news and the seller was important giving the news.

Large new structures are going up or are in the planning for the Venice Beach Boardwalk. what a shame that the old can't be side by side with the new with many kinds of activi-

ANASWARA
POWER YOGA FLOW
SANTA MONICA POWER YOGA
DONATION BASED

SAT 4pm west
T, TH 4:30 west
FRI 9am east

smplj west 1410 2nd st
smplj east 522 SM blvd

Non - Linear Calendar of Events

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Beyond Baroque events:

681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006

- 1 April, Saturday - 7:30 & 9:30 PM
- 3 Fools 4 April: With Hank Mortensen, Scott Wannberg, and Viggo Mortensen No advance purchases, first come first serve. Admission \$10. Tickets on sale at 6:30 PM.
- 2 April, Sunday — 5 PM Open Reading with Louise Mathias and Marjorie Becker, Sign-up 4:45 PM. Free
- 4 April, Thursday — 7:30 PM Word and Violin with Pireeni Sundaraling and Colm O'Riain
- 7 April, Friday — 7:30 PM Judith Taylor and Stefanie Marlis.
- 8 April, Saturday — 7:30 PM David Lloyd and Alfred Arteaga.
- 9 April, Sunday — 7 PM In → Rhyme with Robeson: Ross Altman and Len Chandler Concert.
- 14 April, Friday — 7:30 PM An Evening with Ugly Duckling Presse: Brent Cunningham, Stan Apps, Cedar Sigo, with editors/translators Matvei Yankelevich, Anna Moschovakis, and Genya Turovskaya.
- 15 April, Saturday — 7:30 PM Elijah and Bob Forrest: A night of poetry, rants, folk and blues
- 23 April, Sunday — 7 PM Poets Beyond the Half Shell, Theresa Willis, Rachel Kahn, Jaimes Palacio, Carlye Archibeque. Open sign up is at 6:30 PM (2-poem /3-minute limit).
- 27 April, Thursday — 7:30 PM M.E.S.S. (Media Ecology Super Sessions) Superecology Session: Dialogue with Ann Magnuson, Interview by Gerry Fialka.
- 28 April, Friday — 7:30 PM Mothers and Daughters: Annie Finch, Margaret Rockwell, and Barbara Bain
- 29 April, Saturday — 7:30 PM RE/SEARCH presents: The '705 Punk Revolution, with Gerald Casale, Graeme Revell, V. Vale, and rare films. Details at www.beyondbaroque.org



Electric Lodge Events:

- April 3 - (First Monday of every month) 7:30pm - \$7 Max 10 Performance Laboratory is an uncurated event, a place to do brave work, experiment, and risk failure. Ten months a year, ten performers, ten minutes each and you never know what you are going to get! max10@electricleodge.org

- BRIGHT BOY: THE PASSION OF ROBERT McNAMARA. April 7-May 7 - Friday-Saturday,

ORGANIZATION, NEIGHBORS, RESIDENTS & VOLUNTEERS
LET'S PUT OUR HEARTS TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE



HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE SOMETHING
FOR US IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD-TOGETHER

8pm; Sunday 7pm By Katy Hickman, Directed by James Eckhouse, Can America learn from history? Robert McNamara, Kennedy's Secretary of Defense, grapples with the major decisions of his life with moving and often hilarious results in this world premiere performed by LA's award-winning Ensemble Studio Theatre. For reservations or further info: call 213-368-9552

- LOVE & POLITICS: The Living Theatre's Judith Malina & Hanon Reznikov One night only: Thursday, April 13, 8pm - \$20 The Electric Lodge, in association with Iris Lord, presents Love & Politics, a performance by Living Theatre directors Judith Malina and Hanon Reznikov. They will perform scenes from The Living Theatre repertoire, including The Zero Method, Capital Changes, Utopia, Refugee Blues and Antigone, and read their poetry and texts by Julian Beck, W.H. Auden, Ludwig Wittgenstein and others. For reservations, call 823-0710 and press 2#

- Until April 14, Humanity Art Show: The "Humanity" show is in the lobby. Artists: Teresa Accardi, David Em, Janet A. Gervers, Karyn Janowski, Sophia Louisa Lee, Vibul Wonprasat, Hagit Worona, Michael Wright.

Upcoming Events: Venice Garden Tour May 6, Venice Art Walk - May 20-21

Support your community newspaper by becoming a Sustainer (\$100/yr.), a Subscriber (\$35/yr.), an Advertiser (\$3/Sq.In. Black & White) or a Distributor in your neighborhood or a Contributor.

- Victoria Davis "An Evening of Photographs" April 1 - June 1 Reception April 1 6pm Universal Art Gallery 2001 Lincoln Blvd, Venice, CA 90291 302-8909 A portion of the proceeds will be go to "I have a Dream Foundation" www.ihadla.com www.victoriadavis.com

Off-Rose Gallery

- Saturday, April 22 3-6pm "Local Color" Artists: Vera Armand, Francesca Crowley, Sophie Crowley, Dellis Frank, Patricia Garcia, Cassie Hulen, Michelle Kelchak, Barbara Kolo, Sally Nicholson & Jordon Spiva. Music: Martin Espino. 841 Flower Ave. 664-8977

Venice Arts Council meets Tues., April 4 7pm sharp to 9pm at SPARC 685 Venice Bl. (side entrance)

7 Dudley Cinema all at 8 PM. Sponto Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave. 306-7330. Website: www.81x.com/ 7dudley/cinema

- April 5 Films: "JFK Redux" Screening of political researcher John Hankey's film. Hankey presents a new exposé on the foul play in the death of John Kennedy Jr. and cross references John Jr.'s death to George Bush's Oil Mafia. 7 PM, a pre-show of other political films.

- April 19 Films: LA Noir Nite. Poet Michael C. Ford shows rare films with live readings about a seedy road house, a fallen angle and a waitress



who keeps hot-rodding teens off the streets.

- April 26 Films: "Re-railroaded" Jeremy Rubin's movie that reflects the warped, fractured chapters of Larry "Wild Man" Fisher's unique life, who went from the streets to countercultural icon with Frank Zappa.

- April 7 Conference: Wrongful Conviction "The Faces of Wrongful Conviction: A Conference Examining Wrongful Convictions and the Administration of the Death Penalty in California." www.stopwrongfulconvictions.org.

- Sunday Vigils at Lincoln Place 1:30 with Pastor Tom Ziegert and Douglas Eisenstark
- April 30 Noon-7pm Spring Fling at Elk Grove Circle, Lincoln Place, music, art, food, moon-bounce, auction, rally, film. 310.990.9308

- Most Excellent Pianist Brad Kay - Sundays 2-5pm at the Unurban Cafe 3301 Pico Bl.

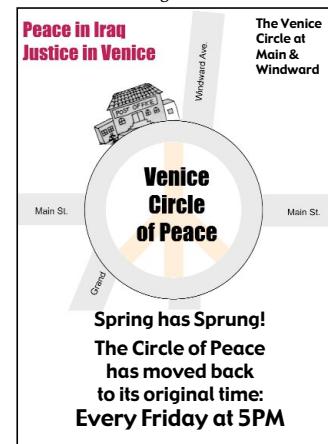
- Songwriter Vessy Mink and friends Wednesday evenings at the Brickhouse Kitchen 826 Hampton, 581-1639

- SAT 4/29 - LOUDON WAINWRIGHT III at McCabes Guitar Shop

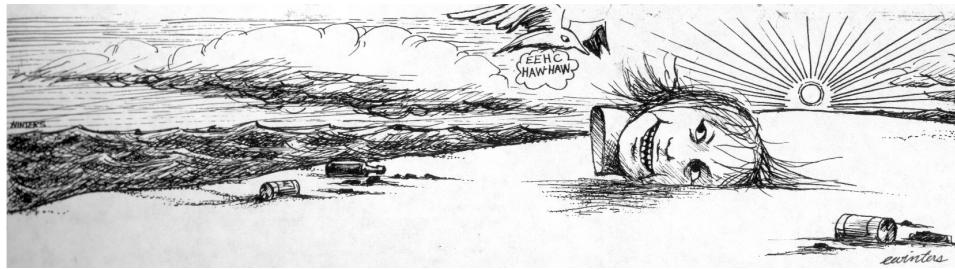
- Other Places to check out your local musicians: The Talking Stick, the Venice Bistro, Brennan's Pub, Synergy Lounge, Bonedaddys at the Townhouse!

- Sponto Gallery - UNLEASHING THE GODDESS Saturday, April 1 from 1-10pm. Free admission. Sponto Gallery 7 Dudley Ave 306-7330 Mimi Bogale will assist collaborative art under the sun at (Ocean Front Walk) and Dudley Ave. Bring art supplies. 6pm on with: wild-woman performer Kathy Leonardo, Linda Toth on women's health and the dangers of cosmetics, poets Hillary Kaye & Linda Albertano, Robin Carter music, Suzy Williams, yoga belly dancing Christina drumming MB paintings/political activist Therese Dietlin, on misogyny, war, military policy, women, HIV, Meditation, feminine divine. Closing drum circle. Bring to share.

Send information on your Venice event to:
Calendar@freevenice.org



**April
First
2006**



P.O. BOX 2, VENICE, CALIFORNIA 90294 • www.freevenice.org • Beachhead@freevenice.org • 396-0811 or 399-8685

BIZARRO VENICE NEWS, April 1 2006 by Chas. Keating, News from an alternate reality.

Playa Vista Corporation apologizes for Playa Vista Development. In a campaign clearly designed to alleviate the apoplexy their brand produces in the Venice community, PVC hired Mike David, noted for his searing critiques of LA architecture, to verbally abuse PVC executives and their horrendous development in a series of house meetings. "We want to reach out to the entire community to say we're sorry for the increased gridlock, pollution, depression, and generally bad architecture we have caused," announced PVC spokesmodel Sis Buchanan, "...and we have free gifts for everyone." Also enthusiastically self-effacing was Alden Greene, who received major funding for his all Venice festival. PVC also announced that they have started hosting Realtors Anonymous meetings at their headquarters.

Councilman Bill Rosendoll embeds charity advertising on his million dollar smile.

Local Artist proposes camels statues for locations around Venice. Interest perked up when an opponent called them fucking camels. However now others are opposed to the fucking fucking camels. Sparc Muralist Judy Baca has proposed burros as being more historically accurate, kid friendly, and my are they are cute.

Statue of Karl Marx proposed for the Venice Circle. Venice Artist Mary Grayson's nice wood statue of Karl Marx would make an excellent replacement for the dismembered torso proposed that other group of idiots wouldn't it? If right wing radio got hold of it we could be holding counter-counter demonstrations every day and doing a brisk business in bumperstickers and t-shirts. Venice - Got Communist?

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez will headline a rally in April at Penmar Park calling for the secession of California from the United States of America due to the unconstitutional and terrorist acts of the President and Congress.

Jane Harman spoke at the opening of the new security checkpoints on Venice Beach. "The safety and security of Venice against potential terrorists has to be our first priority!" she shouted to enthusiastic applause. Police Captain Richard Firebush demonstrated the latest in facial recognition software quickly running up credit checks on everyone in camera range and flagging a few celebrities and sex offenders. Undercover cops then spotted a few potential terrorists and took them away for questioning.

Michelle Bachelet - President of Chile, spoke at the International Women's Day Rally at Lincoln Place Park on March 8th, at the dedication of the beautiful new mural plaza, featuring works by Francisco Letelier, Judy Baca, and many others.

Lincoln Boulevard Hookers linked to police. When brought before the Public Safety Committee of the Neighborhood council, John Buyer demanded an investigation into the hookers stakelokder status. The committee rejected the request on a technality. My Buyer promised he would personally investigate the situation.

Homeland Security reports major drug activity in Venice. Yet Venice ranks only 270th in the per capita zip coded drug trafficking statistics released today. The pilot surveillance program uses sophisticated voice recognition software to identify suspicious activity thru complete monitoring of all communications and financial systems.

Area Man has own crash on the way to see movie "Crash". Venice Resident Jeff Lebowski reported a traffic altercation due to the road rage action of some asshole. He suffered a small dent on the driver's side quarter panel, and was

called a low life stoner gringo honky American by the other party, after Jeff blockaded the street with his vehicle. The other party was of undetermined nationality.

David Ducannon was seen desperately toadying up with Playa Vista Foundation board members. "He knows where the money is." commented one wag.

A group of **angry jerks** showed up at the GRVNC meeting proposing bylaw changes which would prevent stakeholders designated as potentially progressive from voting. After a lot of hand waving and misinformed discussion many felt it was a complete waste of time,

Westside Realtors house homeless.

BJ Cold has united Westside Realtors to house homeless, provide nomadic parking zones, and preserve affordable housing and hold rents down. Her conversion caps a week of realtor epiphanies.

Local Activists propose vagina cove for Venice Beach. The sculptural stonework includes oceanic dynamics to control sand dispersion, and activate a geyser after a particularly strong set of waves. *

Venice city council declares Eminent Domain at Lincoln Place

April 1, 2007 - In a rare show of unity, the Venice City Council voted 10-0, today, to declare eminent domain at Lincoln Place. Mayor Bill Rosendahl signed the ordinance a few minutes later.

The ordinance will protect all 700 units at Lincoln Place and will allow tenants to return, and more to find homes in the 60-year-old complex.

As the vote was taken to a pack audience at the Venice amphitheater at Independence Park, Main St. and Sunset Avenue, Dr. John Michel exclaimed, "that's what I'm talkin' about." Others cheered and a car caravan honked its way throughout Venice for the next several hours, as Venice Peacekeepers looked on.

In a hastily called press conference and signing ceremony, Mayor Rosendahl said it gave him great pleasure to actually accomplish something in city government. "When I think about how this action will benefit hundreds of families, I get a warm and fuzzy feeling inside," said the former L.A. City Councilmember turned Mayor of California's newest city.

Venice City Attorney Amanda Seward said rents would begin at \$500 per month for a one-bedroom and \$800 a month for a two-bedroom apartment. Venice's new, strong rent control law will prohibit increases to 3 percent a year or less. Seward said those who had been forced out by the former owner, the AIMCO corporation, would receive the first apartments. After that, evictees from other apartments in Venice would be able to claim a home at Lincoln Place.

Plans are underway to convert at least part of Lincoln Place to a cooperatively-owned complex, in which tenants, as a group, will own and run the historical garden apartments.

AIMCO president Terry Considine also held a press conference on April 1. He said that God had spoken to him harshly about the evictions at Lincoln Place and challenged him to change his ways if he wanted to enter Heaven.

As a result, Considine said he was going to charge the city of Venice only 50 percent of the value of Lincoln Place. This still amounts to a hefty \$50 million which the city expects to get from a combination of state, federal and nonprofit grants, as well as from a new tax on exorbitant rents in the city.

More news at Free Venice TV, Ch. 8 *

Wal-Mart Acquires California in Hostile Takeover

By George Wolfe

SACRAMENTO — Wal-Mart, the world's largest company, is now the proud owner of the most populous state in the U.S.— and the world's sixth-largest economy. Management at the Arkansas-based company acknowledge that it successfully completed a hostile takeover of California, which the company says will be renamed Cal-Mart.

"We were fixin' to just open up a whole slew o' them superstores," said spokesman Rita Wrenshall, "but the state and its government were just so darn inefficient that we couldn't pass up such a golden... er, state... opportunity. Sure, there were a few nay-sayers, but all in all the negotiations went pretty smoothly."

Governor Schwarzenegger was offered a position as a regional manager.

"Actually, we're quite fond of Schwarzenegger's lean managerial approach, which is why we made him this job offer," said Wrenshall. "It's just that we know from our own track record that, as a corporation, we can do even better."

Company officials acknowledged that Schwarzenegger's new job would pay \$9.39/hour, slightly more than the barest of wages offered to most Wal-Mart employees.

Appearing on the steps of the state capitol, Schwarzenegger stood by a teary-eyed Maria Shriver as he issued the following statement: "My fellow Californians... today I stand before you as a happy member of the Wal-Mart Corporation. I cleaned up state government as best I could, but I'm only human. Now, it's the era of Wal-Mart — the ultimate terminator. I fought hard, but was defeated by their finely tuned machinery. Wal-Mart Republic über alles!... über alles!... über alles!!!..."

Schwarzenegger's eyes turned red and he emitted a puff of smoke before spontaneously combusting.

Wal-Mart management declined to speak about the incident, nor would it confirm allegations that it was next considering a takeover of China, the world's seventh-largest economy. Instead, it issued the following press release: "China? That's totally preposterous! That'd be a step down. Now Japan — that's a different story!" —*LaLatimes <www.latimes.com>* *

Renters to be added to "No Overnight Camping" prohibition

April 1 - The Venice Vigilance Committee (VVC) is demanding that the new prohibition on overnight camping be extended to renters. "Just because someone is camping inside an apartment doesn't mean they are a home owner," says Wolfgang Ziegler, a leader of the VVC.

The Venice Vigilance Committee is committed to "cleaning up" Venice, just as past organizations including the Rose Avenue Working Group, the Venice (Re) Action Committee and the Venice Civic Union tried to do. VVC believes they will have better luck this time by simply banning "undesirables" from Venice.

"First, we started with the RV campers, then we came for the homeless, now we are going after the renters, then the immigrants and the non-whites, when we are finished, we'll take care of the homeowners who don't have the proper attitude," said Ziegler, who also wants to ban wrong-thinking and the Beachhead.

"We all love Venice because it is sooo unique," he added. *