

FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968

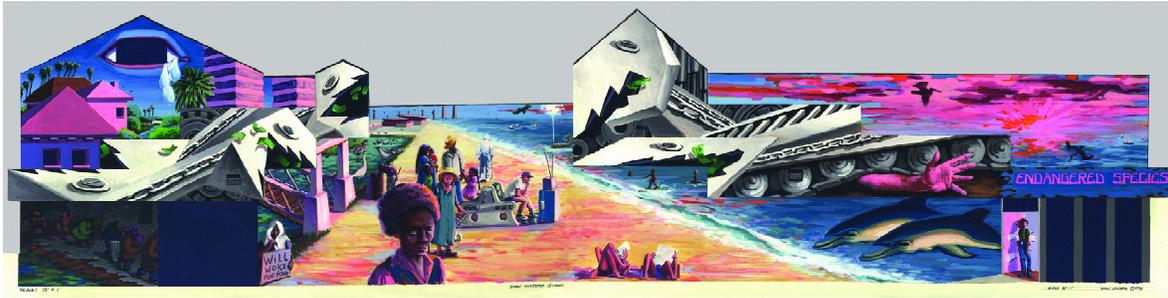
BEACHHEAD



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on your
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February
2006

ISSUE NO. 293 • P.O. BOX 2, VENICE, CALIFORNIA 90294 • www.freevenice.org • Beachhead@freevenice.org PHONES: 396-0811 or 399-8685



Endangered Species Mural, Park Avenue at Ocean Front Walk • Artist Emily Winters' 50 Year Retrospective –see page 7

Global Warming, Seniors evicted from their homes, the MTA lot turned over to Private Developers, Bank Robberies, Bomb Scares, Drug Busts, a New Ordinance on the Beach - What's Next?

2006 has gotten off with a bang in Venice. On Jan. 16, our community rallied against corporate plans to destroy affordable housing and turn out 83 households of seniors and disabled tenants by coming together at a Martin Luther King commemoration.

A few days later, North Beach residents and others trekked to Van Nuys to express their

opposition to the hand over of the MTA lot to RAD developers who want to build 201 condos. After hearing from RAD and the Venetians, the hearing was continued until March 9.

A major drug bust on Indiana Avenue, Jan. 26, kept lots of people up late listening to low-flying helicopters and police radios.

The next day, a desperado (Spanish for a desperate person) tried to hold up the Bank of America at the Circle with a bomb threat. The ploy didn't work, but it closed down the Circle to vehicle traffic for a few hours.

What's in store for February – a plague of locusts?

And now the bad news: Global Warming may be much worse than previously predicted

By James Lovelock
(James Lovelock is an independent British environmental scientist and Fellow of the Royal Society.)

Imagine a young policeman delighted in the fulfillment of her vocation; then imagine her having to tell a family whose child had strayed that he had been found dead, murdered in a nearby wood. Or think of a young physician newly appointed who has to tell you that the biopsy revealed invasion by an aggressive metastasising tumour. Doctors and the police know that many accept the simple awful truth with dignity but others try in vain to deny it.

Whatever the response, the bringers of such bad news rarely become hardened to their task and some dread it. We have relieved judges of

Before you do something rash, please remember that this is only a theory, and many other scientists don't take such a dim view.

–continued on page 8

CASUALTIES IN IRAQ
U.S. 2,241 Dead – 62 this month
U.S. Wounded 16,549 – 434 this month
Iraqi Dead: 28,287 – 31,891
This month: 580 – 659
(some sources say 100,000+ Iraqi dead)
Source: antiwar.com

Keep the MTA lot in public (our) hands

There aren't many 3.13 acre plots near the beach that are public property. There's one at Main and Sunset Avenue that been public – or quasi-public – land for 100 years. That's the MTA bus maintenance lot.

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, to give it's proper name, has been planning to move to a larger facility for nearly 20 years. Then, a couple of years ago, the RAD Development Company and Robert D'Elia came along – with lots of political connections and proposed a swap to the MTA. If the MTA would give them the prime beachside land and \$8 million, RAD would build them a nifty state-of-the-art bus lot a few miles ago on Jefferson Blvd.

The MTA jumped at the deal, without competitive bidding or hearings, and without any comments from Venetians, who knew nothing of the deal until it was done.

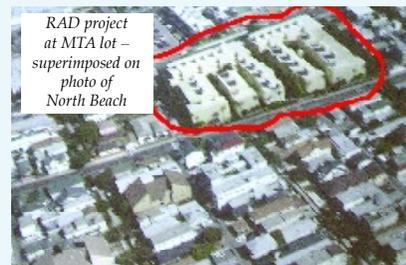
In some respects, it was a sweet deal for the MTA, and for RAD. The only ones who got screwed were us. Included in the covenant with the MTA was a provision that RAD had to get all the rights to build on the lot. RAD's vision of an ideal Venice habitat was a gated "fortress," with 201 mostly high-priced condominiums rising 55 feet above the neighborhood. They have since backed off, in the face of community opposition, to a partially gated project with "only" 34 rooftop structures reaching 55 feet.

Opposition to the project is nearly unanimous in the surrounding North Beach section of Venice. A lot of people have other visions for the property that they would like considered, including a park, a community center, public parking, and affordable housing.

The Beachhead urges that Venetians rise up and demand that this valuable property

remain in public hands. We're shocked – as we are by what's going on at Lincoln Place – that in the middle of a severe affordable housing crises, that a public agency would even consider giving away this property so that more condos, that are unaffordable to most Venetians, could be built.

Keep the MTA lot public!
Don't give in to greedy developers!
 –the Beachhead Collective



**Final
Planning
Commission
Hearing on the
MTA/RAD
Project:
March 9 at the
L.A. City Hall**



BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:
John Davis, C.V. Beck, Carol Fondiller, Erin Grayson, Yolanda Miranda, Jim Smith, Alice Stek

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

The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry or graphics of interest to the Venice community. The staff reserves the right to make all decisions collectively on material published. There is no editor on the Beachhead. The printing is financed by ads and donations. The articles, poetry and art work express the opinions of the individual contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Beachhead Collective.

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

Mail to: P.O. Box 2, Venice, CA 90294.
Web: <www.freevenice.org>
Email: <Beachhead@freevenice.org>

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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Send to: Beachhead
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Wants Investigation of Ellis Act

Dear Beachhead,
Attached is additional contribution for my friend, Lydia Poncé.

I feel your staff should consider investigating the "History" of the ELLIS ACT. Why was the Law offered and enacted? Under the Ellis Act are "historically" important building exempt??? Does the City of Los Angeles have regulations which provides "relocation" fees to Tenants affected by Ellis Act Evictions?

I love the paper and I feel a complete and comprehensive article would help your readers understand all "issues"...

Keep up the good works.
Thank you.

Michael Millman

Oakwood streets to get trees

Dear Beachhead,
We are all responsible for the welfare of our community. Join us,

Neighbors for a Greener Oakwood, in organizing a tree planting with the support of "Tree People". The planting is scheduled for April 29, 2006. If any neighbor lives on 4th, 5th and 6th Avenues between Broadway and Rose Avenue in the Venice are and would like a tree planted in the parkway, please contact Lou at 310 254-8099 for more information.

Tell a neighbor.

Trees reduce the greenhouse effect, trees provide oxygen, trees clean the air, trees save water and trees provide habitat for wildlife.

Thank you,
Lula Imboy

Act Now to End Gridlock

Dear Beachhead,

One of the most pressing challenges facing our neighborhoods, our city and our region is the crushing traffic gridlock we deal with every day. We have a rare opportunity to make a major progress on that issue – if you act now.

As I write this, the California Legislature is considering a proposed \$222 billion bond measure designed to rebuild the state's crumbling infrastructure. It is a worthy idea, too long in coming. But the proposal has a serious flaw: too little of it is earmarked for the network of public transportation we need to get out of gridlock.

I am asking you to join me in writing Governor Schwarzenegger and our state lawmakers. Please urge them to correct this error and dramatically increase the amount of money set aside in the bond proposal.

The Los Angeles Times put it well two weeks ago: "More than \$80 billion would go to improve state highways and other routes, with less than \$5 billion for transit and rail services. And all of the latter total would go for trains between cities, such as Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner. Not one thin dime goes for mass transit within cities."

That means Los Angeles can forget about an extension of the Red Line subway down Wilshire Boulevard. The desperately needed Green Line light-rail connection to LAX? Not going to happen, at least not within a couple of decades. More busways? Only if the county can fund them itself."

As I have said countless times, I am determined to see a genuine 21st Century network of mass transit built in Los Angeles. This bond measure is the best chance of jumpstarting that network and making it a reality in my lifetime. We cannot squander this opportunity.

Please encourage the governor and state lawmakers to bolster funding for intra-city mass transit projects, such as: the Red Line subway; the Expo Line to the Beach; the Green Line to LAX; and a north-south mass transit along Lincoln Boulevard.

The Governor's contact information is:

Phone: 916-445-2841, Fax: 916-445-4633, <www.gov-mail.ca.gov>

You can find contact information for your state lawmakers at: <www.legislature.ca.gov>

Thanks in advance for your support. Together we will build a future – with mass transit.

Sincerely,
Bill Rosendahl,

Councilman, District 11

Lincoln Place Tent City

It has been reported that attendance at Tent City, on California Ave., just east of Lincoln, is down to a bare minimum which isn't fair to our on-site coordinator, David Busch. He has been a willing and much appreciated participant with a head full of good ideas.

The Sunday 1:30 to 2:30pm vigils in support of the tenants are a good idea spreading a good feeling to all who participate. The sad news is that we need more participation to keep watch and take care of the area; also donations of food and other useful items are needed.

Thanks you for your participation.

Rose Marie Murphy

Eviction Defense Network



Providing low cost legal assistance to tenants.

1605 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 510
213/385-8112

Hours:
M-F 9AM to 7PM (no appointment needed, first come, first served)
Saturday 9AM to 3PM

The Eviction Defense Network is a nonprofit, community-based organization providing access to justice to low and moderate income tenants.



Lori Leboy was one of 16 opponents who testified against the MTA/RAD hearing in Van Nuys, Jan. 26.

Planning Commission postpones decision on MTA/RAD

By Jim Smith

The Los Angeles Planning Commission decided Jan. 26 to postpone until March a decision on a 201-unit condo development at the site of the MTA bus lot. The decision to postpone was made as a result of a newly modified proposal from the developer that was received by the Commission only two days before the hearing.

The postponement was voted on after a hearing in Van Nuys in which 16 community opponents of the project, of which only two live in Venice, Jim Murez and Sherrie Scheer. Grieg Asher, Planning Deputy for Councilmember Bill Rosendahl also testified. He said that "last month we were prepared to recommend that the commission turn down the project. We request no action today."

Asher said he wanted no action because of the lateness of the developer's latest proposal. However, he criticized a number of aspects of the project, including the reduction of only seven units during the past year, an insufficient number of affordable housing units, a total of 24 roof top structures at 55 feet above street level, not enough setback from adjoining streets, too-high buildings next to the streets and not enough variation in the buildings. Asher said that it's

difficult to create a specific plan (with building restrictions) and that it "should be treasured."

Quite a few of the opponents had previously mentioned the problems enumerated by Asher. Others pointed out that the MTA lot had been

MTA's predecessor, RTD, planned to sell the bus lot in 1977

*** from the Free Venice Beachhead archives ***
October 1977 - Issue #94

Within the next 5-6 months RTD intends to sell its bus terminal between Main & Pacific. It's really difficult to put a price tag on this property - it's an entire city block only 2 short blocks from the ocean. It's safe to say that it's worth a small fortune.

I'm sure that its potential must be the cause of lots of wet dreams for people who get off on get rich quick schemes.

It's also an ideal place to put some low income housing and somehow we must begin to put pressure on RTD & the City to make sure that this extremely valuable piece of land is used to benefit the community rather than some greedy developers.

- Moe Stavenezer

public land for 100 years and should not be turned over to private developers, even if it benefited the MTA. In addition, they object to the "exclusive negotiating agreement" between MTA and RAD that excluded community input.

In rebuttal, Jerry Neuman, speaking for RAD, denied that the new plans were an attempt

The Neighborhood Council's Land Use and Planning (LUPC) committee will hold a hearing on MTA/RAD at 7PM, Thursday, Feb. 9. The Planning Commission meets March 9 at L.A. City Hall

to delay proceedings. He said there would be no more changes to the proposed project, "The line's been drawn. This is our project."

The "final" Planning Commission meeting on the project will be on March 9 at L.A. City Hall. Community meetings to discuss the final project proposal are expected to be held beginning Feb. 8 when a new Commission staff report will be available. Check <www.freevenice.org> for updated information.

Opponents who testified included Phil Raider, Erik Mankin, Marvin Klotz, Gail Rogers, Jim Smith, Naomi Glauberman, Ira Koslow, Suzanne Thompson, Emily Hertzberg, Carmel Beaumont, Rick Gunderson, Lori Leboy, David Ewing, Sylvaine Dungan, Milt Slade and Linda Lucks.

SIG-HEIL, MUTHUH-FUKUH

By Carol Fondiller

In the 70's I was involved with several women's groups and the Free Venice Organizing Committee.

At one time in one of the women's movement's the subject of discussion and the touchstone of how committed one was was signified by what clothes you wore and whom you slept with.

I remember one woman reduced to tears because she wore a brassiere.

No matter that this woman believed in a woman's right of control over her own body, that she pioneered in a "nontraditional" occupation that was deemed "unfeminine." (Higher pay? more prestige?)

The fact that she wore a brassiere and high heels, proved to the true believers that she wasn't a real Feminist. Now in my naivete, I believed that the women's movement meant that if one had the ability, one could be anything one wanted to be.

If you decided to be a police officer, and you had the chops for it, cool. Ditto bass player, saxophonist, ballet dancer, or telephone repairman--excuse me, telephone repair PERSON! I remember when there were no fire fighters, only fireMEN, no police officers only policeMEN.

I was chastised by one of the "leaders" because I didn't wear army fatigues. The woman who chastised me really looked good in fatigues. The Sam Browne belt tucked just so accented her small waist. Her khaki shirt unbuttoned at the neck accented the firm vibrant flesh. The military shirt called attention to her perky breasts, etc., etc. She looked, in short, like Jane Fonda, girl guerrilla. When I tried on the approved feminist attire I looked like Marjorie Main, girl gorilla.

There was a lot of oppression in the very groups that supposedly opposed oppression.

Recently, I was at a meeting that was supposed to deal with the ongoing problems on the Ocean Front Walk, i.e., commercial vending, amplified music, etc.

I was one of the few residents at the meeting. The other attendees were either shopkeepers, business people or "free expressionists" from the westside of the O.F. W.

It was supposed to be a working group. This was not the first group or committee I'd gone to about the Ocean Front Walk.

At other meetings I was also out-numbered, and at one meeting I was rebuked because I wasn't thinking of Afghanistan, just talking about noise. Of course the name of the group was the Boardwalk Committee, and at that meeting world-shaking subjects were whether the city

should be sued because the sprinklers went on and sprayed the products -- whoops -- artistic output of the "free expressionists."

At this particular meeting, we went around the room, limited to two minutes to speak. Jerry Rubin spoke first. Like developers and architects, who build on the fertile soil of Venice, managing to grow 40-foot height limits into 50-foot height limits, Jerry, as he has in the past, managed to expand his two minutes into five. I know. I timed him.

After several other speakers, it was my turn. I started speaking about the noise. From behind me, I heard the chant "Move, Move, Move." from several people, along with shrill voices denouncing me for writing mean things about

-continued on page 10



More Condos are coming. This time, on Ocean Front Walk.

The big dig on both sides of the Thornton walk street give an idea of the size of the new project.

Take a good look at historic Thornton Towers. You won't be able to see it from the Walk or the beach for long.

The State of the Union is #%!*@&

By Jim Smith

The Imperial President strolled through the Hall of Congress among the mortals, accompanied by members of the Blue state and Red state parties. He even deigned to take note of a few of them before mounting his throne to deliver his marching orders to the waiting dignitaries.

The Imperial trappings have advanced light years since the founding of the Republic. I don't yearn for the good-old-days when only white men with property could vote, and everyone else had an inferior status.

However, the great democratization of the early 20th Century is clearly in retreat. The Congress has surrendered its warmaking power to the president, and in his Jan. 31 speech, Bush claimed to turn questions of troop withdrawal over to the military.

Early Roman emperors also retained the facade of democracy. The first emperor, Augustus, walked among the people and even ran for the office of Counsel every year (he won every time). By the time the empire had morphed into Byzantium, the emperor had a hydraulic throne that would elevate his seat high above prostrate supplicants to show his majesty. We can expect the same during the reign of Bush VI or Clinton IX.

Meanwhile, where are the people? Scared shitless that the telemarketer or tech rep you're talking to in India might be a terrorist in disguise and now the NSA knows all about it.

I'd like to talk about the content of the speech, but there wasn't much.

Bush's plea to reduce reliance on foreign oil is a clue that he – and his neo-con advisors – understand what a mess they've made of things in the Middle East.

Not only has he provoked a guerrilla war to drive the "foreign devils" out of Iraq, and the entire region but he has united most of the world's population against the U.S. The Bush regime must be wishing for the good ole days in Iraq when they only had to deal with one person.

There are many metaphors in the English language to describe Bush's missteps, such as Pandora's Box, a can of worms, a sea of troubles to name a few. But that old Vietnam standby "quagmire" will do nicely.

The growing demand outside the Beltway to get out of Iraq as soon as possible puts Bush in an untenable position. He can't stay and he can't leave. If the troops stay in Iraq, in reduced numbers, they will have to assume an increasingly defensive posture. The French well remember the Indochina end game, the surrender to the Viet Minh at Dien Bien Phu.

If Bush pulls out of Iraq, he is dead politically. In any democracy worthy of its name, there would be resignations up and down the civilian chain of command.

Before shedding any tears for Bush II or believing his line that "the State of the Union is good," think about what he has squandered (in addition to the number of human lives lost that are listed on page one).

Congressional appropriations by the Demopubs add up to more than \$238 billion.

According to the National Priorities Project, that could have paid the annual salary of four million school teachers, built two million homes, put 31 million kids in Head Start programs, fully funded global anti-hunger efforts for nine years, or global AIDS programs for 23 years.

Sadly, the last five years have not been due only to one Texas draft-dodger run amok. The illegal invasion of Iraq, the "Patriot" Act, all the deaths and injuries and the squandering of billions of dollars could not have occurred without, at least, the passive cooperation of nearly everyone in Congress. But now, more than four years after 9/11, that act is wearing thin.

The L.A. Times conducted a nationwide poll that was reported on Jan. 27, which asked: Which party in Congress do you think has higher standards of honesty and integrity?

The responses were Republicans, 14%; Democrats, 13%; No difference, 68%; Don't know, 5%. Hopefully, we won't get fooled again.

In Brief...

Moratorium Resolution Passes

A resolution for a moratorium on commercial development was approved by the Neighborhood Council's Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC), Feb. 1.

Contrary to the moratorium petition being circulated by Venice Progressives, the LUPC resolution does not address the explosion of condominiums in Venice and would not stop the proposed Lincoln Place or MTA/RAD condo developments.

Voting for the moratorium were Sabrina Venskus, Ann Giagni, Pam Emerson, Challis Macpherson and Phil Raider (who introduced the motion)

Voting against the moratorium were Sylviane Dungan, Michael King and Brett Miller. Susan Papadakis abstained.

The moratorium resolution will be on the agenda of the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC) Board meeting on Feb. 21 at Westminster School. Opponents will likely turn out in force.

A Giant House is not a Home

Also on Feb. 1, the LUPC approved a nearly 4,000 square foot, 7 bedroom, 6 bath house at 201 Bernard Avenue.

The approval was in spite of the oppositions of residents in the surrounding North of Rose (NoRo) neighborhood which is made up of small, single-story homes. Inge Mueller of NoRo said 60 neighbors had written letters and 131 had signed petitions against the project.

An only slightly different proposal had been unanimously rejected by the Coastal Commission on Jan. 11. At that time, Bill Rosendahl wrote a letter opposing the project.

The Applicant, James Shaw, argued that the project should be approved since he was not seeking exceptions to the Venice Specific Plan.

Turning out in his support were a collection of developers, contractors, landlords and real estate agents.

The new LUPC approved the project, probably in ignorance of the requirement that a building must conform to the character and proportion of the surrounding neighborhood. In February 2005, the West L.A. Planning Commission denied two projects of developer Frank Murphy on those grounds. The Commission President, Matthew Rodman, said at the time, "Decisions made tonight *should* guide developers and owners in the future." Apparently some people didn't hear him, or didn't want to hear him.

L.A. to sell Venice land?

Sources in City Hall confirm that a sale of city-owned land in Venice is in the works. The sale would not benefit Venice, but would go to augment the city's \$6 billion budget.

If you'd rather see the land retained for parks, community gardens, affordable housing, parking, etc. protest at the usual places.

Bush Responds to Terrorist Birds

To deal with the threat of bird flu, President Bush has ordered a preemptive bombing of the Canary Islands.

Beachhead could use your help

Volunteers needed to help with distribution, write poems, articles, take photos, sell ads. Apply at Beachhead@freevenice.org or 396-0811.

Easements eased away at the Coastal Commission

By John Davis

To everyone's amazement the California Coastal Commission overruled it's own staff recommendation that would have allowed a private business entity to obtain a public parking easement for it's exclusive use in Venice.

Many Venetians turned out for the hearing and all but one acted in unison to oppose the parking give away.

There are things that pull this community together, like the need for parking and beautification measures. Tree planting along our main corridors of entry is something that we all can appreciate.

All of us want to be proud of the community we live in and share with the world. And we want a parking place when we need it, damn it.

Anyone who lives or visits here, especially on the weekends knows the ritual. You move into a holding pattern like an airplane waiting to land. You try to be nice to people you think are leaving with a wink or a wave then charge the spot and do battle with another desirous car in the most hostile of fashion.

The loser then shouts, honks, or tosses obscene gestures to you as they squeal their tires in anger. But who cares? You got a spot in Venice on a sunny day.

So why should the City give away public parking easements? Only a City dumber than a box of rocks would dare such a thing.

Jim Murez was instrumental in convincing the Coastal Commission that negative precedents would be set and other important parking easements would soon follow in domino fashion if they approved the City's maniacal plan. He also provided a well thought out multi-media presentation of all at risk parking and the community planned greenway.

Others followed and supported this position. My small contribution was to show that the City failed to sign its application for a Coastal Development Permit rendering it moot anyway.

Only one speaker, David Buchanan of the Venice Chamber of Commerce, spoke in favor of the give away. It was indeed sad to hear from him about all of the poor developer beggars who are starving for public parking.

Another related parking story is that our City Councilperson Bill Rosendahl not only opposed the give away but also is working to open other City parking easements up between Electric and Abbot Kinney Blvd. There is an immense wealth of public parking that has been closed because businesses have erected fences to keep the public out. According to the Councilperson's Deputy, Mark-Antonio Grant, the Office of the City Attorney is working to move the encroachers off. The two previous Councilpersons just sat on their hands and did nothing. Rosendahl is a real breath of fresh air for Venetians.

GEORGE BUSH WIELDS THE SCEPTER OF POWER



Turning out in his support were a collection of developers, contractors, landlords and real estate agents.

The new LUPC approved the project, probably in ignorance of

Dean Hillel Weiss, M.D.

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

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Sunshine at the Lincoln Place Vigil

By Elena Popp

I have been an activist for social change since the mid-1970s and, although I consider myself a spiritual person, when it comes to effecting change, I prefer action and protest to meditation and even prayer. Nonetheless, on Sunday, January 29, 2006 I found myself at Lincoln Place in Venice at a silent vigil.

I went to the vigil at Lincoln Place with some hesitation. As an attorney, I represent the approximately 140 families that are facing eviction from their homes. After an unsuccessful battle which is now in the appellate courts, nearly half of my clients were evicted in a raid of this otherwise peaceful community just before Christmas. 70 very low income seniors and folks with disabilities are slated to be evicted in March and I was annoyed that in spite of the urgency of the situation, the action for the day was a silent walk around the property and a meditative vigil.

As I joined the circle I could not help but notice and be disappointed at the turnout. Less than 10 people had turned out. I tried to focus on the reasons to be there ... the sun was out and warm ... the sky was incredibly blue ... the ocean breeze was light and refreshing ... think of this as a necessary break between the morning Lincoln Place tenant meeting and the work you have to get done this afternoon.

Pastor Tom Ziegert of the Venice Methodist

Walking among the mix of abandoned buildings I wondered about the people who had made their lives at Lincoln Place.

Church was speaking to the group about the power of ritual and storytelling. During his talk, my mind wandered a bit to all I had to accomplish before the end of the day and after only a few minutes I was contemplating my escape route. And then Pastor Tom stopped, handed us each an index card and a pencil and sent us on our way to walk either a short route within the Lincoln Place Community or a long route around the community ... in silence, he reminded us.

As I took my first steps I considered the benefits of participating and decided I needed the exercise.

Walking among the mix of abandoned buildings I wondered about the people who had made their lives at Lincoln Place. Through the fences and boarded windows the beauty of this community still struggles to break through.

A discarded toy fire truck lay on its side on the lawn in front of one of the boarded and fenced buildings. It made me think of my meeting the prior Sunday with one of the displaced children. Her mother had told me that this little girl (who I will call Aurora to protect her anonymity), had been having nightmares. I had shared with mom that my family had been evicted from our home when I was 8 years old and offered to talk to Aurora, who at age four, is

Support
Lincoln Place
Tenants Association



"Let's Own It"

P.O. Box 1312, Venice, CA 90294
24hr. Hotline: 310.281.6877

DARKNESS AT NOON

By C.V. Beck

On Friday, January 20 at 3:30pm, I was at a red light at the intersection of Lincoln Boulevard and Maxella Avenue by the Ralph's Marina store, immediately adjacent to the Venice border.

I noticed a three high-rise building shadow being caused by Azzurra-del-rey, presently under construction, Regatta and Marina Pointe I and II, towering over Lincoln Boulevard, all in building shadow convergence across Lincoln/Maxella and how very dark, cold and gloomy it was.

In the middle of the afternoon, it was like being on the bottom of the Grand Canyon. It seems apparent that there has been no "sun study" done on any of these high-rise "luxury" apartment buildings. If there had been any, somebody might have figured out that the three-four building convergence across Lincoln



and in the rotunda directly underneath these megaliths, would probably be three times darker, denser, colder, creepier...humm?

Who needs it, who needs "New York Canyons" in our formerly sunny, warm Southern California--by the beach? What's happening to us? Call it "luxury greed" if you want.

As my mother used to say, "Hoist by their own petard"! and now that I know what a petard is, I have to add, "brought to you by people in power, you voted for them, happily and greedily destroying the liveability of the fabric of the community of Venice and environs". They will not stop unless we stop them, they're just too plain "greedy and selfish", too crazed

by money and too shallow to have anything but short-term aims and goals. How disgusting! Can we get off our dime now and do something about it?

struggling to understand what has happened. Aurora had told her mom that she was frightened but as we explored what she was afraid of, we realized that, in fact, mom had successfully persuaded Aurora that there was nothing to fear ... they are safe at grandmas and eventually they will get their own home.

Having determined that the nightmares are not about being afraid, after a long and very wiggly conversation we figured out that Aurora is sad. Aurora did not have a name for her sadness so we gave it one ... homesick. If Aurora were an adult she would say that she misses the wonderful sense of community at Lincoln Place ... the green open areas and the beautiful old buildings and the way the neighbors all know each other and help each other. But Aurora is 4 and what she misses is her friend Mindy and all the other kids who would play in the yard in front of her house for hours on end and eventually end up at the home of an elderly neighbor who could always be persuaded to feed them.

My path soon crossed with one of the naysaying tenants pulling a grocery cart, heading for the store. She has been a thorn in my side and strongly dislikes me. By this point I was in a seriously meditative and spiritual space and my Mexican Catholic sensibilities were front and center. Instead of seeing the horribly annoying woman of the regular Sunday meetings

I remembered all the small and seemingly inconsequential acts of resistance that made up that struggle and how each had built on the next...

I saw a senior who is frightened of the impending displacement from her home and has chosen to lash out at those who are trying to be of service. She looked away and ignored me and I forged ahead pondering all of the little timing factors that fell in place resulting in the two of us

reaching that corner at exactly the same time.

My mind turned back to 1985 and the day I joined the student anti-apartheid movement at UCLA. After a sit-in at Murphy Hall students flooded Schoenberg Quad and set up a tent City where we lived or several months. I remembered all the small and seemingly inconsequential acts of resistance that made up that struggle and how each had built on the next and had joined with the seemingly inconsequential acts of resistance of others and how those seemingly inconsequential acts of resistance lead to the downfall of a racist and oppressive system.

I thought about the role I had played in slowing the nuclear arms race by engaging in acts of resistance at the Nevada Nuclear Weapons Test Site in the late 1980's and early 1990's.

I thought about three decades of activism starting with the grape and Gallo wine boycotts of the mid-1970s.

I thought about my Abuelito (grandfather) who fought in the Mexican revolution and did land redistribution work under Las Leyes de Zapata in Mexico after the revolution, representing campesinos (farmworkers) against multinational corporations who tried to take their land. He was a "People's Lawyer" just as I am, and when I am tired I feel his will and his force rise up inside of me and I go on.

I thought about all of this and felt proud Before I knew it I had walked the perimeter of Lincoln Place and was approaching the circle of activists that was re-forming. I looked up and saw Jataun Valentine, of the Oakwood Seniors and the Venice Neighborhood Action Coalition.

Jataun is one of those powerful women that comes in a very small package. She had arrived after the walk started and had chosen the shorter route and our paths met and we hugged and I was proud of all the anti-gentrification work we have done together in the Oakwood neighbor-

—continued on page 11

Martin Luther King Rally brings Venice together to support Lincoln Place

About 350 people turned out on the Martin Luther King Holiday, Jan. 16, at an outdoor rally to support the tenants at Lincoln Place Apartments.

Many of the tenants have already been evicted and 83 households of seniors and the disabled are facing eviction March 21 until something prevents it.

There are 696 apartments at Lincoln Place that are not available for low and middle income tenants because the corporate landlord, AIMCO (Apartment Investment and Management Corporation) refused to offer them for rent.

Speakers at the rally included most of the leaders of Venice community organizations. They pledged their support for the tenants and buildings, which AIMCO wants to tear down and replace with luxury condominiums.

Various solutions were offered including declaring eminent domain to save the housing and return the evictees, a moratorium on condo development, city historical status (Lincoln Place already has state historical protection) and changing the Ellis Act which allows landlords to go out of the rental business.

Left: Gwen Gorg speaks about the successful effort by Venice Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) to integrate Lincoln Place in the 1960s. To her right is Amanda Seward who was one of the MCs.



Speakers at the Rally included:

Bill Rosendahl, L.A. City Councilmember
 Pastor Marvis Davis, Jr. - New Bethel Church
 Pastor Tom Zeigert - Venice United Methodist Church
 Robert Greenwald - Brave New Films
 Lincoln Place Tenants: Karen Dreyfus, Sheila Bernard, Lucy Siam, Rose Mary Murphy, Freida Marlin, Maria Colores
 Oscar Howard - 2nd Community Baptist Church
 Stan Mohammad - Venice 2000 & GRVNC
 Sophia Soil - Holiday Venice tenant
 Steve Clare - Venice Community Housing Corp.
 Gwen Gorg - Led fight to integrate Lincoln Place
 Judy Baca - SPARC
 Billy Harris - performer
 Maureen Cotter and tenants of 1101-1109 Venice Blvd.
 Francisco Letelier - Artist and activist

Right: Bill Rosendahl embraces Frieda Marlin while Lucy Siam looks on. Both are in danger of eviction on March 21.



Speakers at the Rally – continued

Emily Winters - Chair, Venice Arts Council
 Chris Gabriel - POWER
 Jataun Valentine - Oakwood Seniors
 Rev. Sherwood Fleming - Venice Neighborhood Action Committee - (reciting "I have a dream" speech)
 Karl Abrams - Venice Peace and Freedom Party
 Laura Silagi and David Ewing - Venice Community Coalition
 Elena Popp - Eviction Defense Network and tenants' attorney
 David Busch - Homeless Activist & Tent City Coordinator
 Performers: Eric Ahlberg and The Shueflies; Alfred Johnson & Suzy Williams; Dennis Wilson - Electric Brown Band
 MCs - Amanda Seward and Jim Smith

Left: Sophie Berwick, 96, and her sister Mary, 87, have lived at Lincoln Place for 25 years but are now facing eviction.

180 keys representing the evicted tenants

Hanging in a evergreen tree at Lincoln Place Tent City (California Avenue, east of Lincoln Blvd.) is a vivid reminder of the 180 residents who have lost their homes through eviction.

Created by Linda Young and Kevin Krell, the keys were hung during the holiday season. Tenants were evicted in the early morning hours of Dec. 6 by Sheriffs, Marshalls and LAPD acting on behalf of the landlord, AIMCO.

Since then, a symbolic tent city has been established next to Lincoln Place to provide a place for tenants and supporters to meet and is a living reminder of their continuing fight for justice.

The keys are made of packing material, representing the fact that the tenants have had to pack up all of their possessions and put them into storage while searching for elusive and rapidly vanishing affordable housing.



Photos on this page by Margaret Molloy



← Photos by Jim Smith →

A Sunset, A Sand Berm, and Venice Bring People Together



The "Jaya Mural" on the corner of Dell Avenue and South Venice Blvd.



Emily Winters 50 Year Retrospective

Feb. 4 – March 4 at SPARC, 685 Venice Blvd.

Artist/ Activist Emily Winters will celebrate her 43 years in Venice and her 70th birthday with a 50-Year Retrospective (1956-2006) at The Social & Public Art Resource Center (SPARC), which is also celebrating its 30th Anniversary.

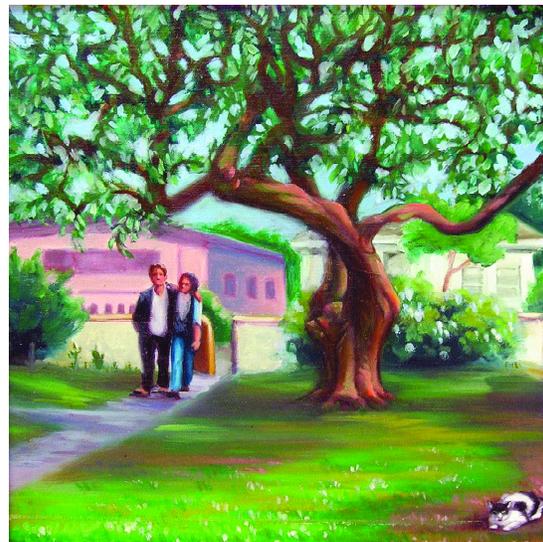
Emily is a graduate of the Chicago Art Institute. She moved to Venice in 1963 where she raised two daughters while working in commercial art as: a billboard painter for record companies and then outdoor advertising, (the first woman painter hired by Foster and Kleiser, a union activist in Local 831, elected to the executive board and served as shop steward), television graphic artist and animation, taught at Rustic Canyon and Santa Monica College Art and Entertainment Technology School.

She has also designed and painted several murals, two in Venice for the Neighborhood Pride Program through SPARC and the Los

Angeles Cultural Affairs Department. They are "Endangered Species," located at 801 Ocean Front Walk at Park Ave and the "Jaya Mural" on the corner of Dell Avenue and South Venice Blvd. Jaya was a women's artist collective that flourished in the 70s.

The exhibition is composed of her student years at the Chicago Art Institute, her move to Venice, images of her life and experiences, ie: eye surgeries, camping at Joshua Tree National Monument with the Free Venice Astronomy Club, graphics for the Free Venice Beachhead, a broad spectrum of drawings and paintings of figures, friends, landscapes from 1956 to current work 2006.

Emily founded and is Chair of the Venice Arts Council, served on the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council 5th District, the planning



Above: Palms Court, painting by Emily Winters
Left: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Emily Winters

committee for the *Jazz at Palms Court* – a fund raiser for The Venice Community Housing Corporation. She also served on the panel to select muralists for the Neighborhood Pride Mural Project. She is an avid international folk dancer and is Publicity Chair for the Westwood Co-operative Folk Dancers.

This exhibition is the opening event for the 30th Anniversary of SPARC, Social & Public Art Resource Center 685 N. Venice Bl. Venice, CA. (310)822-9560 x15.

Gallery hours Mon. - Thurs. 10 am - 4 pm, Fri. 10 am - 8 pm, Sat. 1 - 5 pm.

Global Warming – continued from page one

the awesome responsibility of passing the death sentence, but at least they had some comfort from its frequent moral justification. Physicians and the police have no escape from their duty.

This article is the most difficult I have written and for the same reasons. My Gaia theory sees the Earth behaving as if it were alive, and clearly anything alive can enjoy good health, or suffer disease. Gaia has made me a planetary physician and I take my profession seriously, and now I, too, have to bring bad news.

The climate centres around the world, which are the equivalent of the pathology lab of a hospital, have reported the Earth's physical condition, and the climate specialists see it as seriously ill, and soon to pass into a morbid fever that may last as long as 100,000 years. I have to tell you, as members of the Earth's family and an intimate part of it, that you and especially civilisation are in grave danger.

Our planet has kept itself healthy and fit for life, just like an animal does, for most of the more than three billion years of its existence. It was ill luck that we started polluting at a time when the sun is too hot for comfort. We have given Gaia a fever and soon her condition will worsen to a state like a

coma. She has been there before and recovered, but it took more than 100,000 years. We are responsible and will suffer the consequences: as the century progresses, the temperature will rise 8 degrees centigrade in temperate regions and 5 degrees in the tropics.

Much of the tropical land mass will become scrub and desert, and will no longer serve for regulation; this adds to the 40 per cent of the Earth's surface we have depleted to feed ourselves.

Curiously, aerosol pollution of the northern hemisphere reduces global warming by reflecting sunlight back to space. This "global dimming" is transient and could disappear in a few days like the smoke that it is, leaving us fully exposed to the heat of the global greenhouse. We are in a fool's climate, accidentally kept cool by smoke, and before this century is over billions of us will die and the few breeding pairs of people that survive will be in the Arctic where the climate remains tolerable.

By failing to see that the Earth regulates its climate and composition, we have blundered into trying to do it ourselves, acting as if we were in charge. By doing this, we condemn our-

Each nation must find the best use of its resources to sustain civilisation for as long as they can

selves to the worst form of slavery. If we chose to be the stewards of the Earth, then we are responsible for keeping the atmosphere, the ocean and the land surface right for life. A task we would soon find impossible - and something before we treated Gaia so badly, she had freely done for us.

To understand how impossible it is, think about how you would regulate your own temperature or the composition of your blood. Those with failing kidneys know the never-ending daily difficulty of adjusting water, salt and protein intake. The technological fix of dialysis helps, but is no replacement for living healthy kidneys.

My new book *The Revenge of Gaia* expands these thoughts, but you still may ask why science took so long to recognise the true nature of the Earth. I think it

is because Darwin's vision was so good and clear that it has taken until now to digest it. In his time, little was known about the chemistry of the atmosphere and oceans, and there would have been little reason for him to wonder if organisms changed their environment as well as adapting to it.

Had it been known then that life and the environment are closely coupled, Darwin would have seen that evolution involved not just the organisms, but the whole planetary surface. We might then have looked upon the Earth as if it were alive, and known that we cannot pollute the air or use the Earth's skin - its forest and ocean ecosystems - as a mere source of products to feed ourselves and furnish our homes. We would have felt instinctively that those ecosystems must be left untouched because they were part of the living Earth.

So what should we do? First, we have to keep in mind the awesome pace of change and realise how little time is left to act; and then each community and nation must find the best

use of the resources they have to sustain civilisation for as long as they can. Civilisation is energy-intensive and we cannot turn it off without crashing, so we need the security of a powered descent. On these British Isles, we are used to thinking of all humanity and not just ourselves; environmental change is global, but we have to deal with the consequences here in the UK.

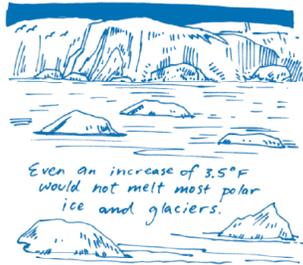
Unfortunately our nation is now so urbanised as to be like a large city and we have only a small acreage of agriculture and forestry. We are dependent on the trading world for sustenance; climate change will deny us regular supplies of food and fuel from overseas.

We [in Britain] could grow enough to feed ourselves on the diet of the Second World War, but the notion that there is land to spare to grow biofuels, or be the site of wind farms, is ludicrous. We will do our best to survive, but sadly I cannot see the United States or the emerging economies of China and India cutting back in time, and they are the main source of emissions. The worst will happen and survivors will have to adapt to a hell of a climate.

Perhaps the saddest thing is that Gaia will lose as much or more than we do. Not only will wildlife and whole ecosystems go extinct, but in human civilisation the planet has a precious resource. We are not merely a disease; we are, through our intelligence and communication, the nervous system of the planet. Through us, Gaia has seen herself from space, and begins to know her place in the universe.

We should be the heart and mind of the Earth, not its malady. So let us be brave and cease thinking of human needs and rights alone, and see that we have harmed the living Earth and need to make our peace with Gaia. We must do it while we are still strong enough to negotiate, and not a broken rabble led by brutal war lords. Most of all, we should remember that we are a part of it, and it is indeed our home.

'The Revenge of Gaia' is scheduled to be published by Penguin in February.



Celebrate Black History Month



Coretta Scott King - RIP

If the words of Jesus Christ are true George Bush will burn in hell and his supporters too...

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POETRY

Why grow uncomfortable
with this prison now?
Why ask more of the walls now
more of the view?
Why be desperate to know now
what has been long so buried
Why care to question now?
Why want to know their views
couldn't the world become smaller still?
Why want to know?
Why think to want love now?
Why need a friend
who can't now know you?
why ask more of the day
that gave you reason to hope there would be another.

-Hillary Kaye

THE SCOPE

Always the cry
primitive, wild
fluttering in the night
the cat devours the spider
spares the butterfly

there is a wolf
inside the eye
open to the tearing open
to the telling

sometimes it is the sheep
that feels the bite
sometimes the she-wolf
there is blood
and there is pain
so that life will go on

let the howl take you
lips round and black
head way back tilted
to the zenith

animal is no more
human cannot be human
the primal scheme erupts
from the vegetation
the universe burning
in the telescope

we all have cat's eyes
taking in the night
holding still until the kill
shedding no tears.

- Hal Bogotch

CAN'T MOVE YET

Can't move yet - I still have printed checks
I can't move, I still have address labels left
I can't move yet --I just learned my phone number by heart
I can't move, I love where I am--it's my home, my neighborhood,
mi barrio, my shtetl, my turf and
I don't wanna
-C.V. Beck

Packing

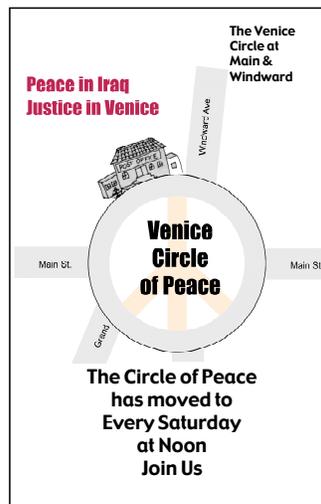
David Byrne's internet radio station is playing Country Music this afternoon.
I'm dismantling my bed with the same screw gun I used to put it together.
Cloudy, drizzle, Friday afternoon, leave work early.
What to do with the old screws?
Save them? Toss them.
Tammy Wynette, George Jones, Hank Sr.
It all fits in a Grapes of Wrath kind of way,
I turn it up loud, so it can be heard by those left outside.

Damn, those aren't dust-bunnies under the bed!
Those are Kangaroos!
Find an envelope two decades old.
German stamp. What was her name?
Why didn't she print her name at the bottom?
I can't read this signature!
Good English though. What was her name?
I'll save it for the time when my long term memory works.
hahaha!

Unlike some,
I have no animosity towards
the fascist corporate motherfuckers who are evicting us.
Nor the spineless mayor and gutless city councilpersons
who are whipped into submission by them.
No, I give them all good, good energy
While this afternoon outside our squatter camp, they sit
betting on college football. DO YOUR BEST, ASSHOLES! DO YOUR BEST!

Yesterday, I paid a younger friend to help me.
He lifts a box I once lifted
from Massachusetts to Missouri to Chicago to New York to L.A.
Stick your nose in the box, I say.
That, my friend, is the smell of film, I say.
The bed is almost gone.
The place is getting pretty clean. If the
sheriff comes,
we'll go to my storage space and I'll
show you my art work.

-Douglas Eisenstark
Lincoln Place Evictee



SIG-HEIL, MUTHUH-FUKUH – continued from page 3

them in the Beachhead. I tried to continue, but I was shouted down. I was so angry that I lost Control. The intimidation shouldn't have surprised me, since these same people used the same tactics on me and other people who didn't agree with the "free expressionists" at previous meetings. I was so angry that I left the meeting, realizing that I would only be destructive and negative. I left the meeting and went out on the Ocean Front Walk to sit on one of the few remaining benches on the Ocean Front Walk.

It was only 9 a.m. on a weekday. Not many people were out. I screamed and yelled. If I were more agile and could pass for two years old, I would have flung myself on the ground, kicked my heels and held my breath. As it was, I tantrumed for about 15 minutes until I ran out of breath, only to hear one of the shopkeepers who was opening his store, say to one of his helpers, "Oh my God, another schizophrenic." At this point, people were coming out of the meeting onto the Ocean Front Walk. I spotted the people who had heckled and shouted me down--Ibrahim Butler and his family--the same free expressionists who had shouted and intimidated anyone who disagreed with them at previous hearings and meetings.

I went up to Ibrahim Butler, head sensitive artistic soul, and I sez to him, I sez "Sig Heil, Muthuh Fukuh!"

Ibrahim, with "LOVE" painted on his hat and hate in his heart muttered under his breath about "getting even" with the Beachhead, while his wife mewled about how mean I was.

About another week later at a town hall meeting cosponsored by the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council and Councilman Bill Rosendahl, the players were again assembled.

Now, I've gone to meetings and been rowdy. Scores of us used to show up at City Hall to oppose the Master Plan for Venice, which was get rid of low-income people and the folks in Oakwood. We made a racket, we made noise because we were at that time prohibited from speaking at City Hall because we were not property owners.

Shortly after, it was decided that we would be allowed to speak because of something called the Bill of Rights.

We did speak, we were rowdy, but we did interrupt the opposition because we were not allowed to speak. We hissed and booed while they spoke, and we were threatened with arrest. And some of us were arrested. By the way, some property owners attempted to shut us up, using the same tactics that Ibrahim et. cie. used to shut up dissenters.

At the Venice Town Hall meeting, anyone who disagreed with the free expressionists was shouted down, as usual. So it struck me as peculiar that a proposal for peacekeepers was put forward, that involved self-policing, since these thugs couldn't even control themselves at a meeting. They couldn't even control themselves when they got into fights over spaces on the Ocean Front Walk.

These so-called free spirits displayed the same mentality that they have accused developers, business people, landlords, the Gov't, of having--Greed, lack of consideration for diversity of opinion. Their behavior had little to do with the right of free expression, and more to do with protection of their turf, so they could make their profits in good ol' capitalist style--just like the shopkeepers and landlords on the east side of the O.F.W.

So, it was with a feeling of dread, frustration and hopelessness that I attended the most recent Town Hall meeting to discuss the proposed ordinance regarding the Ocean Front Walk.

Councilman Rosendahl & various officials from the Police Dept., Recreation and Parks, Los Angeles City Attorney's office and a representative from the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council were present.

Several people representing nonprofit organizations claimed they would be unable to func-

tion if they were not allowed to sell T-shirts.

They managed to equate the prohibition against selling anything "that has any utility other than communication or art," as being against homeless people.

Performers, artists, free expressionists, henna artists (an oxymoron if there ever was one), vendors masquerading as artists, etc., spoke and were wildly applauded by their brethren.

When residents, shopkeepers, homeowners, etc., spoke, they were interrupted and booed by the "free expressionists." Free speech for the artistic sensitive sociopathic thugs on the west-side of the Ocean Front Walk, but none for anyone who might disagree with them--FREE SPEECH FOR ME BUT NOT FOR THEE.

As a group of Korean shopkeepers spoke, there was laughter. "Free expressionists" made fun of their accents.

These free expressionists who have such trouble with regulations, seem also to have trouble with courtesy. The Free Expressionists slanted their eyes, bucked their teeth in their mockery of Asians. If anyone had done the same thing as black people were speaking, there would have been outrage expressed by the audience.

Some of the people who were ridiculing the Koreans were the same ones who were accusing people who were for the ordinance in principle, of racism.

They were demanding "Repatriation."

I would have been happy to repatriate them to Outer Thule, but they meant restitution. Not one of the officials stopped this nasty racist attack.

To my everlasting embarrassment, I did not speak out.

Marta Evry, yers MARTA EVRY, she who attempted to invalidate a legitimate election of the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council and succeeded in highjacking the Progressive Slate in the last GRVNC election. She stated that she had no dog in this fight. (A reference to the attempt to register her dog as a Stakeholder in a previous GRVNC election?) But, she said she had to speak out about the blatant racism displayed.

The sensitive artistic neo-fascist souls--those people making their last stand against the machine, those people who can police themselves, outed themselves as the tyrannical fascist bullying greedy sociopathic creeps they really are.

And it is a deep shame that not one "Progressive" not one antiwar activist, not one free speaker got up to rebuke these self-styled representatives of the true free Spirit of Venice.

It took a person who has opposed low-income units in favor of parking lots, who has aligned herself with pro-condo development, to unmask those people who have no trouble crying racism when they don't get their way, practice it when they think they can get away with it.

These people shout down and bully anyone who doesn't march in goose step with them.

There are many things I find fault with in the proposed ordinance. But because these sociopathic bullies drown me out, I can only play one string on my theme before I am shouted down. I have been accosted by these Auditory Rapists accusing me of insulting them. Look-Listen you Auditory Rapists, you don't have to read my stuff. I'm not forcing your eyes open with toothpicks forcing you to read my stuff. You can toss it. Make a paper hat out of it. (But read the other articles in the 'Head!') But I am forced to listen to your sound whether I like it or not. Thus, Auditory Rape.

And since these people bully people out of their spaces, stop people from speaking and now make racist remarks under the flag of free speech, anti-violence except when someone disagrees with you free spirits, I say unto you fascism comes in all colours and it appears in all politics left or right, and I say to you

SIG HEIL, MUTHUH FUKUH

Lincoln Place Vigil

—continued from page 5

hood of Venice since 1988 when the Holiday Venice Tenant Action Committee made its way to my office and asked me to help them save their homes. I was pleased by the crossing of our paths and was persuaded that I was at the right place doing exactly what I needed to be doing and as I sit here writing I realize that my long list of things to accomplish that day had been put in perspective.

Pastor Tom asked us to write what we had learned during our walk and we did. He then asked us to share. The power of story telling and of sharing is seriously underestimated by activists like myself who focus on constant action. I was particularly touched by Mary's story (not her real name). Mary is one of our seniors. She has lived at Lincoln Place for nearly three decades and, because of her limited income, has no place to go. She talked about the sadness of passing a particular address and remembering the children who had played there and the beautiful time she had had with them and of how much she missed them. I wondered if Aurora was one of those children and if she had given them cookies and milk after school. I blinked my tears away.

And then Pearl (not her name) who is in her 90's shared one very simple sentence. "I have lived at Lincoln Place for 36 years and I don't want to leave." Her voice cracked and tears rolled down her face and we all felt her pain and I flashed to that inevitable moment of conflict when the Sheriff's Department will come to her door to take her out of her home. She has told me that she has no intention of leaving voluntarily both because she has no place to go and because she loves Lincoln Place. I have been using my legal mind to find a way to save Pearl's home for nearly a year now. On the day of that inevitable conflict when the Sheriff comes to physically remove Pearl from her home I will stand with her.

I re-learned a lesson on the power of meditation last Sunday afternoon. There were 25 people in that circle at the end and I pictured that next week there will be 50. And I meditated on the power of doubling the numbers each week and inspiring participants to return week after week until we create the groundswell that will persuade the owner, AIMCO, to be a good corporate citizen.

While I was writing this I received a news flash that Coretta Scott King has passed. Mrs. King made the ultimate sacrifice to the struggle. Her husband was taken from her and she persevered and struggled on and the world is a better place because of her. Aurora, Pearl, and Mary will also struggle on and their struggle makes the world a better place.

Please join us on Sunday, February 5, and each Sunday after that at 1:30PM sharp on Frederick and California (one block East of Lincoln; South of Rose Avenue and North of Venice Blvd in Venice).

Meet the courageous tenants of Lincoln Place. Help us Save Lincoln Place.



NEW RULES – Another attempt to regulate the west side of Ocean Front Walk

CITY COUNCIL MOTION

Venice Beach is one of the signature attractions in Southern California, drawing more visitors than any other site in Los Angeles County. Each year, millions of people are drawn to the colorful and entertaining spectacle of performers and personalities offering a lively blend of art, entertainment and information along the boardwalk at Ocean Front Walk (OFW).

It has long been the goal of the community and the City to preserve the unique character and personality of the Venice Boardwalk by restricting commercial activity on the city-owned west side of Ocean Front walk, making that area available to artists, entertainers and the unique spirits who have come to give the area its international renown.

Efforts to restrict commercial activity have been difficult. At the urging of the Los Angeles City Attorney, the City Council last summer repealed the ordinance governing commercial activity at Venice Beach. Since that time, the City Attorney has been working closely with the council office and community stakeholders to develop a replacement ordinance that protects free speech and expression, restricts commercial activity, and survives constitutional scrutiny.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council adopt the ordinance attached to this Motion revising provisions of Section 42.15 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council officially declare Venice Beach's Ocean Front Walk, from the Santa Monica border to 17th Street, to be an officially recognized "Free Speech and Expression Zone."

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request the Department of Recreation & Parks form a "Venice Beach Free Expression Protection Working Group" with the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council and all relevant Venice Boardwalk stakeholders. The working group should:

- monitor the effectiveness of the new ordinance and suggest improvements and modifications to the neighborhood council and the local council office;
- study the Venice Beach "lottery" and other Recreation & Parks programs governing the boardwalk and make suggestions on whether to change, replace or abolish them.
- recommend whether and how excessive noise can be curbed through a permit system for amplified sound.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request the Department of Recreation & Parks, the Los Angeles City Attorney, and the Los Angeles Police Department conduct a public education campaign to educate all boardwalk stakeholders on the new ordinance.

Presented by BILL ROSENDAHL
Councilman, 11th District
(Motion Approved Unanimously)

THE ORDINANCE

An ordinance amending Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 42.15 to prohibit vending on public beach lands and adjacent public properties, and to impose time, place and manner regulations on expressive activities exempted from the ban.

THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 42.15 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read:

SEC. 42.15 Vending on Beaches Prohibited.

No person shall engage in vending activity upon any public beach lands or beach properties adjoining the waterfront of the Pacific Ocean, or upon any immediately adjacent boardwalk, sidewalk or public way between the southerly boundary of the City of Santa Monica and the northerly boundary of the City of El Segundo and between the northwesterly boundary of the City of Santa Monica and the northwesterly boundary of the City of Los Angeles.

(a) Findings and Purpose.

The City Council of the City of Los Angeles finds and declares as follows:

- (1) The Venice Beach Boardwalk is a major tourist attraction in the City of Los Angeles, historically significant for its performance and visual artists as well as free speech advocates. Unregulated vending adversely affects the historic character of the Venice Beach Boardwalk by deterring tourists from visiting and shopping along the Boardwalk resulting in an economic and cultural loss to City;
- (2) Unregulated vending along the Venice Beach Boardwalk from tables, pushcarts, stands, or by persons impedes the orderly movement of pedestrian traffic and may make the Boardwalk unsafe for pedestrians by limiting the City's ability to effect crowd management and control;
- (3) Unregulated vending along the Venice Beach Boardwalk may impede the ingress and egress of emer-

gency and public safety vehicles by creating physical obstacles to emergency response and administration of aid to those in need of immediate medical attention and to victims of criminal activity;

(4) Revitalization of the Venice Beach Boardwalk requires a vibrant and stable merchant, artist, performer and free speech advocacy community. Unregulated vending could serve to undermine the Boardwalk's commercial life by reducing sales from local merchants thereby eroding the City's tax revenues due to unfair competition, and by offering additional opportunity for the sale of stolen, defective or counterfeit merchandise;

(5) Unregulated vending causes visual clutter/blight along the Boardwalk, impeding views of the beach and the Pacific Ocean threatening the City's ability to attract tourists and preserve businesses along the Boardwalk;

(6) Unnecessary, excessive and annoying noise detrimental to the public health, welfare and safety, and contrary to the public interest, on the Venice Beach Boardwalk harms residents, businesses, and the historic character of the Boardwalk, diminishing the quality of life for those who visit, live or work on or near the Boardwalk;

(7) The amount of space on the Venice Beach Boardwalk that is available for performing and visual artists and for political advocacy is limited due to the size of the Boardwalk and the large crowds of visitors that the Boardwalk attracts. Prior to the City's Board of Recreation and Parks Commission establishing a program for assignment of spaces, there were numerous alterations over the locations and amounts of space that any one person or organization could use. Frequently, the alterations became violent requiring law enforcement response to preserve the public peace. Persons wishing to secure spaces often arrived at the Boardwalk prior to dawn and created loud noises in setting up their displays, thereby disturbing the public peace and requiring law enforcement response. Unregulated, the Boardwalk became a lawless area, where only the strongest and earliest arrivals could secure space to exercise their rights of free expression without threat of intimidation. It is, therefore, necessary to regulate the use of the limited space on the Boardwalk to prevent breaches of the public peace and to allocate the limited space available fairly to all who desire to use it for lawful purposes.

(b) Definitions.

For purposes of this section, the following words or phrases shall have the following meanings:

- (1) Food or Food Products. Any type of edible substance or beverage.
- (2) Goods or Merchandise. Any items that are not a food product.
- (3) Vend or Vending. To sell, offer for sale, expose for sale, solicit offers to purchase, or to barter food, goods, merchandise or services in any area from a stand, table, pushcart, motor vehicle, bicycle, or by a person with or without the use of any other device or other method of transportation, or to require someone to pay a fee or to set, negotiate, or establish a fee before providing goods or services. Requests for donations in exchange for food, goods, merchandise or services also constitute vending.
- (4) Vendor. A person who vends. This includes a vendor who is an employee or agent of another.
- (5) Pushcart. Any non-motorized mobile device used to vend.

(c) Exemptions.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to:

- (1) Any individual or organization vending newspapers, leaflets, pamphlets, bumper stickers or buttons;
 - (2) Any individual or organization that vends the following items, which have been created, written or composed by the vendor: books, cassette tapes, compact discs, digital video discs, paintings, photographs, sculptures or any other item that is inherently communicative and has nominal utility apart from its communication;
- Although an item may have some expressive purpose, it will be deemed to have more than nominal utility apart from its communication if it has a common and dominant non-expressive purpose. Examples of items that have more than nominal utility apart from their communication and thus may not be vended under the provisions of this section, include, but are not limited to, the following: housewares, appliances, articles of clothing, sunglasses, auto parts, oils, incense, perfume, lotions, candles, jewelry, toys, and stuffed animals;
- (3) Performances by performing artists and musicians.

(d) Use of City Property Prohibited.

No person shall use any City-owned or maintained street furniture or structure, including but not limited to, any bench, planter or trash receptacle installed on public property, in connection with their artistic performance or for the display of anything whatsoever not otherwise prohibited by this section.

(e) Permit Required for Exempted Activities.

No person or organization engaging in activities specifically exempted from this section by Subsection C shall set up a display table, easel or other furniture or place any item to be used in connection with the exempted activity on the property described in this section unless that person or organization holds a valid "Public Expression Participant Permit" issued pursuant to the program adopted by the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners on October 1, 2003, as that program may be amended from time to time. The permit is not transferrable and the permittee must be present in the permitted space at all times that the permitted activity is occurring. No person shall place or allow anything in the permitted space that extends beyond the boundaries of the permitted space, nor shall the permittee conduct any activities requiring a permit outside the boundaries of the permitted space. No person shall set up or take down or use a permitted space between sunset and 9:00 a.m. No person shall place or allow any item (except an umbrella or other sun shade) exceeding four feet above ground in the permitted space, nor shall any person cause or allow a permitted space to be enclosed on more than two sides. No person shall alter or reproduce any permit issued pursuant to the program, nor shall any person possess an altered, reproduced or falsified permit document.

EXCEPTION: Any person or organization, whether or not a permit holder, may use any designated but unoccupied space for activities specifically exempted from this section by Subsection C, after 12:00 p.m. daily for the remainder of that day; provided, that if the permittee to whom the space was assigned pursuant to the program rules established by the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners for the "Public Expression Participant Permit" program arrives after 12:00 p.m. and asks to use the assigned space, the person or organization not assigned to the space must immediately relinquish the space to the assigned permittee. The program rules established by the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners for the "Public Expression Participant Permit" program, as they may be amended from time to time, are incorporated here by this reference and no person or organization occupying a designated but unoccupied space shall violate a program rule.

A permit may be revoked in accordance with the program adopted by the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners for violations of the program rules. Revocation shall occur upon a third violation of a program rule, a third violation of the conditions set forth in this section, or a combination of any three violations of the program rules or conditions set forth in this section. A notice of violation of the program rules may be appealed to the Department of Recreation and Parks District Supervisor. Revocation of a permit may be appealed to a three-person board consisting of: a representative from the Park Advisory Board designated by the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners; a member of the Venice Neighborhood Council appointed by the Neighborhood Council; and, the General Manager of the Department of Recreation and Parks or the General Manager's designee. A majority of the three-person board shall constitute a quorum. No action of the three-person board may be taken by less than a majority of its members. The conclusion of the applicable appeal process shall constitute an exhaustion of administrative remedies pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.5.

(f) Noise Regulations.

No person on property described in this section shall make or cause any noise that can be heard at a distance greater than 50 feet from its source or that can be heard inside the premises of an adjacent building or structure while the doors and windows to the premises are closed. No person on property adjacent to the property described in this section shall make or cause any noise that can be heard on property described in this section at a distance greater than 50 feet from its source or that can be heard inside the premises of any building or structure located within 50 feet from the property described in this section while the doors and windows to the premises are closed. No person shall use amplified sound before 9:00 a.m. or after sunset.

(g) Opening and Closing Hours.

No person shall engage in activities not otherwise prohibited by this section between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.

Sec. 2. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

I hereby certify that this ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles, at its meeting of January 31, 2006.

FRANK T. MARTINEZ, City Clerk
Approved as to Form and Legality
ROCKARD J. DELGADILLO, City Attorney



Artists Meet - Envision Venice

By Eric Ahlberg

The Venice Arts Council produced a very successful, five-hour Public Art and Culture Workshop on January 7 at the Venice Center for Peace with Justice and the Arts, 2210 Lincoln Bl.

Venice artists, organizations and the community gathered to participate in a dialogue and interaction about the arts in Venice. We asked the question "What do you artistically dream for Venice?"

The purpose was to bring our divided community together with art as a catalyst, to start a dialogue of what we envision the arts of this artistic and cultural diverse community to be. 74 people signed in, evaluation forms were filled out by some, and we are still evaluating the results. No proposals or decisions were made, or intended to be made. This is a beginning for artists and community to interact with each other, get to know each other and work together through future workshops.

Participants from art institutions in Venice included Jonathan Zeichner, Co-Director of Inside Out Community Arts, who led a creative interactive activity that promoted a creative mood. And Judith F. Baca, Founder / Artistic Director of SPARC, who led the "Voice to Vision" workshop, that blew us all away with many, many (so very far out) ideas.

The co-sponsorship of many people and organizations made this workshop successful: Councilman Bill Rosendahl, John S. Brady, West area Representative from the Office of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Grass Roots Neighborhood Council, Beyond Baroque, 826LA, Electric Lodge, epOxybOX, Free Venice Beachhead, Inside Out Community Arts, Social and Public Art Resource Center "SPARC," Ulan Bator Foundation, Venice Arts, Venice Chamber of Commerce, Venice Community Coalition, Venice Community Housing Corporation, Venice Progressives, Aldis and Maria Browne on Behalf of the Venice Trust, Joe Smoke, Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department. Venice Arts, Groundworks Coffee Co, and Playa Venice, provided refreshments.

Here are some collected notes from the workshop, is your vision here? You may say they are dreamers, but they're not the only ones.

VOICE TO VISION WORKSHOP
Presented by Judith F. Baca
Comments from posted notes

Art Programs:

- Trash as Art: the most artistic, outrageous trashcans in the world. Created by local artists and school kids. Coordinated with schools to learn about trash, how much is produced, where it goes. Fun facts about trash. Learn about recycling.
- Art in the alleys
- Create art workshops for children using volunteer artists
- Make sure all public schools in Venice have arts education during class day
- Awareness campaign that the arts for all children promotes a sense of community and prevents social problems
- Creating mentorship programs (emerging new artists with name artists)
- Police, fire, mayor, other public workers make public art work on community art day

Venice Circle:

- Solar-powered "light bricks" various colors for Venice Paths including Circle of Peace

Sculptures

- Celebration of buildings as sculpture
- Redesigning street furniture
- Natural materials to be replaced as needed by local kids.

Most Radical:

- Any street that is not at a right angle to other streets turn back to a canal
- Level all of Venice, make it a wetlands again
- Flood the streets and make Lincoln Blvd. a water-way with gondolas and revolving art installations on boats.
- No homeless
- Beautification not Gentrification
- Make the Streets into fairways
- Get rid of affluent
- Lincoln as a waterway with revolving installations
- Turn every liquor store in Venice into a public gallery for emerging artists.

Community Centers:

- Housing complex, sub studio apt., low rent. Audition, resume of arts and serious artists required for tenancy. Evict when income increases.
- Venice Historical Museum: photographs, paraphernalia, post cards, film archives, collectables and video stories
- Build/open a community art center for Venice local non-profit arts organization
- A cultural center for exhibitions and performances
- Venice archives and collection in L.A. museums and institutions
- Jazz cultural center

Banners:

- Selecting folks to be faces of Venice on banners
- Keep banners local

Free Space:

- Remove asphalt from every school and replace with grass or planted areas.
- Turn Venice into a park
- Public space for use by the community to exhibit arts, theater and music
- Open space (Piazas) for public art installations
- Declare some space as "public space" or "commons" and place installations and sculptures.
- Outdoor amphitheater

Politics:

- Require Venice developers money that goes to Cultural Affairs stay in Venice, and or require Venice developers to contribute to public art in Venice
- Evict all residents with a six-figure income
- Eminent domain at Lincoln Place for artist, environmentalist, eco village type community
- Affordable housing - rent/own, work spaces for artists. New developments must have a substantial amount of affordable housing both rented and owned.

Murals:

- Historical community, public wall painting
- More political murals like the Jaya canal mural
- Mural project for all of Venice starting at Lincoln Place in alleys on garage walls. Entire history of Lincoln Place from 1949 to present.

Events:

- All Venice residents come out in costumes on our annual Venice Carnival (second Saturday of May, every year)
- Create a Oaxacan Arts Festival in Venice

Performance:

- Establish a place for the performance of jazz music that children can attend.

Art on Boardwalk:

- To develop and implement a sense of our historical importance
- Arts organization interacting with community businesses
- Poetry square - set up every night, an open mic on the boardwalk available to all
- Boardwalk spot daily, 9am-6pm for Venice Arts Collective combine artists and funds back to the community

Installations on Store Fronts and Streets:

- Improve Lincoln Blvd. with art in combination with commerce

Work on the Beach:

- Create Venice beach as an ongoing festival/renaissance of art
- Regular boardwalk events with art, performances, poetry, live music and games
- Community plan for placement of public art
- Maintain OFW beach pedestrian zones: employ homeless clean up trash on beach, sweep OFW and recycle bins everywhere.
- Canopied people mover for boardwalk

Miscellaneous:

- Planting of native plants throughout Venice with additional medians on streets
- Venice carnivals; costumes, floats, etc.

Photo montages by Eric Ahlberg

