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# FREE VENICE

# BEACHHEAD

SINCE 1968



February  
2007

#305

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## Big Changes Planned for Rose and Lincoln Center

The Beachhead was able to confirm a persistent rumor that Whole Foods Markets will be taking over the shopping center and opening a store at Rose Ave. and Lincoln Blvd. A company official said the store would be 47,317 sq. ft. in a new building. An opening date has been set, optimistically, for Spring 2008.

The Texas-based chain is known for its healthy, but upscale, food. It has denied being anti-union, although it has aggressively fought efforts by employees to unionize, including at its store on Barrington Avenue in West L.A.

The Center currently caters to "budget" shoppers at Big Lots and the 99¢ Store. Whole Foods hasn't announced whether the building that houses these stores, the CVS/Savon drug store and a laundromat is to be demolished.

"We're still working out all the details around the space and what stays or goes," said Marci Frumkin, Marketing Director, Southern Pacific Region, Whole Foods Market.



### Developers Against Bush?

*You know he's in trouble when even developers turn against him. The sign is at 1214 Abbot Kinney Blvd. on a building under construction that is described as high-end artist in residence luxury homes.*

*Bush's job approval rating hit an all-time low in a Jan. 31 Newsweek Poll at 30 percent. And 58 percent of all those polled say they wish that Bush's presidency was over.*

# The Mistake of the Union

By Jim Smith

Last month I gleefully reported on George Bush's comeuppance at the hands of the "Adults," the people, like James Baker, who really rule this country (*A Very American Coup* - Jan. 2007 Beachhead).

Well, never underestimate the chutzpah of a boy wonder like George W. Bush. Instead of acquiescing in the face of such ruling class disapproval, Bush has fought back, firing generals and doubling down his wager on Iraq by throwing in 20,000 more troops.

What reservoirs of support is Bush calling on to back up his bluff? Of course, there are the war-mongering neo-conservatives who continue to infest his administration, and fundamentalists who seem to be counting the days until Armageddon. Most other power centers in America are aligned against the Boy King. The media, outside of Fox, has found new resolve.

Keith Olbermann on MSNBC has turned the viciousness of right-wingers around to focus on Bush. The L.A. Times has dramatically increased their coverage of Iraq, and on Jan. 28, ran an above-the-fold photo of an anti-war march!

Our court-appointed President is able to carry on because he has found a new ally - the Democrats. Fresh from their stunning election victory in November, Democrats in Congress have been distancing themselves from the reason they were elected - to end the war and occupation. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid even expressed his support for the "troop surge" in

Iraq, before someone sat on him. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House, did a good imitation of a cheerleader at Bush's State of the Union talk.

The State of the Union talk was the best example yet of the Democrats bankruptcy. Not only did they fail to protest America's number one war criminal, but they rose from their seats repeatedly to applaud every semi-human grunt from the Supreme Leader. And what was up with the hope-of-the-left-Democrats, Dennis Kucinich, when he grasped both of Bush's hands in warm embrace, on national TV, as the Fuhrer was leaving the hall.

Did any of the blood on those hands rub off? What message could that send the anti-war public other than that Bush was not such a bad guy after all. On Jan. 26, anti-war activist and Gold Star Mother, Cindy Sheehan, spoke to a sparse audience at the Methodist Church. I asked her about the Kucinich-Bush love fest. She said she was shocked too, and had immediately text-messaged Dennis for an explanation. There was no response from Kucinich, said Sheehan.

The shameful behavior of the suck-up Democrats has been explained by some apologists as merely following protocol and decorum. Say what? Don't they teach about the Nuremberg trials in the private schools these millionaires attended? Have none of them watched Prime Minister's Questions on CSPAN, in which Tony Blair is raked over the coals at

least once a week? Didn't they hear about Bush's speech to the German Bundestag (parliament), where members held up anti-war signs, turned their back on him, and did everything but applaud. How do these apologists weigh the relative merits of decorum with more than 3,000 dead American soldiers?

Even though I abhor torture, I believe every member of Congress should be forced to watch

the film "The Road to Guantanamo" until it finally sinks in that this country, with Bush in the lead, has committed horrible atrocities for which all of us may someday have to pay the price.

So what's to become of the last hope of the naive, the new Democratic majority? Can they muster enough courage to vote for a non-binding resolution against the troop escalation? Will they actually vote to cut off funding for the Iraq atrocity? Don't count on it.

The proposed troop surge has triggered a "peace surge" around the country. On Jan. 27, hundreds of thousands surrounded the Capitol in a march and rally

sponsored by United For Peace and Justice (UFPJ). At the same time, more than 100 other cities, including Los Angeles, held rallies and marches. The L.A. event, which drew 5,000 marchers on a rainy day, was initiated by the people who hold weekly neighborhood peace vigils, including the one in Venice. UFPJ and others have wisely switched from just condemning

—continued on page 10



**Troop Surge ignites Peace Surge**  
*Cindy Sheehan, who lost her son in Iraq, hugs Ron Kovic, former Venice resident who lost the use of his legs in Vietnam. They participated in the Jan. 27 anti-war march and rally in Los Angeles, one of 100 across the nation.*

*Photo by Marcus, L.A. IndyMedia*

### CASUALTIES IN IRAQ

**U.S. 3,085 Dead – 85 this month**  
**U.S. Wounded 23,114 – 679 this month**  
**Iraqi Dead: 655,000**

Source: [antiwar.com](http://antiwar.com), [Lancet](http://Lancet)

Cost: **\$362+ Billion** - Source: [costofwar.com](http://costofwar.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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## The Need for Radicalism

Dear Beachhead,

In 1970, I went to my first Peace & Freedom Party meeting at the office in Venice, California. Looking back at the intervening years, I can see that I always had good cause to be radical: large numbers of people starving worldwide was reason enough.

Today, the problem of global warming constitutes even more of an impulse toward radicalism. Large parts of Siberia are melting; glaciers are melting. The more optimistic predictions about climate change have proven incorrect. Gradualism won't work, since the world does not have twenty years to drag people kicking and screaming, into a sustainable society. We are all in the same boat; even the well-fed are at risk. People should be wary of minor tinkering with the system such as better fuel economy standards for automobiles.

Fighting global warming requires a change of lifestyle in the United States, Europe and Japan. China and India need to restrain their economic development aspirations, and they would expect people in richer countries to also make sacrifices.

To try to win over people who don't wish to make do with less, we should offer them the prospect of more freedom, that is, some relief from the demands of capitalists, governments and customers. For example, organic farmers might have a chance to be their own boss, and if they are growing food for themselves, their friends and their relatives (subsistence agriculture) they don't need to worry about what potential buyers might think.

*Milton Takei, Eugene, Oregon*

*(The writer was a member of the Beachhead Collective in the 1970s)*



## Voices from the Front (Ocean Front, that is)

What's up with Venice Beach these days?

If you are a cop, you spend a good couple of your daily hours looking for an artist on the boardwalk to harass.

And then you get to spend a few more hours discussing your violation of human rights with a few more carloads of cops while blocking business to all the other frustrated vendors. How lucky you are when you come across an artist who forget to bring their Lottery ID because then you get to handcuff and search them, you get to disregard their child, who is left frightened and abandoned on the sand and of course get to confiscate whatever you feel is evidence (this will often include artwork, musical instruments and crystals).

After that you get to move on to the drum circle and harass the drummers and dancers there. There's half a day's job done by over a half dozen cops.

If someone comes to an artist's defense the police often end up mentioning nonpayment of taxes and lifestyle choices as the big problem in Venice.

Now who says working with your hands is not a good lifestyle? And what about all the tax money going to these police for their training, equipment, uniforms, cars, helicopters, surveillance, etc... For what? So they can go around being partypoopers without a consciousness?

Now, how about the new police - the Parks and Reckless department, led by artist-hater Maria. She loves to single out and harass any indigenous person in her path. She must be some descendant from Cortez or evokes his spirit before she attempts to trample the rights of the working craftsman each day.

## A Message from Swami

Dear Beachhead,

God, or O Wow, as far as we know is Consciousness Existence Bliss\_Absolutely Light, Life, Love, Forever, and lives within us as intelligence, will & love. Alarming to realize, millions don't understand this. Big Business Religions, obviously, have not been fulfilling their spiritual obligation. Shame on them. Sending people to hell is no substitute for enlightening them; however, it is good for a fast buck. Be that as it may, I am convinced that God is Bliss, and we merge in that Bliss & Perfection, inevitably & ineluctably, even if we are Harvey Krishmans.

Karma and reincarnation are obvious facts to the enlightened mind, and tend to make life much easier to understand. God being everywhere, and in everything. I leave it to everyone to figure it out for themselves. Of course, if you take me to Las Vegas for the weekend, I'll explain some things to you.

It's moving much faster now, & 2007 will be a whirlwind. Fasten your seat belts; get grounded, centered, connected and meditate like a mother; keep your mind, heart & bowels open; love everyone, especially small children, but don't get caught; pray that your congressman &/or priest doesn't get caught, pray that Jesus returns before Buddha, even though Buddha originally had a head start; pray that the retards running television are struck by lightning, become enlightened & start dispensing relevant information, entertainment and inspiration; pray that when Jesus returns he will sit down and have a fireside chat with George W. Bush, and very firmly instruct him in the basic truths, reality and compassion of Christianity

P.S. We must not forget that George W. Bush is a soul, just like the rest of us, and even though he may have to do some time in the Lower Astral Plane, we must still love & pray for him, as we will all, undoubtedly, someday be rejoicing in heaven over the grand adventure we all passed thru together.

Peace, Swami X

All joking aside (or not) the harassment on the boardwalk continues as the unfair ordinance's future lies pending on the desk of a judge. The value of the handmade jewelry amongst these crafters is not a monetary one, but a personal and beautiful cultural exchange. The boardwalk is being robbed of a unique experience that you won't find in any retail shop.

What's so bothersome is that store-made items are still being sold on the boardwalk, but Maria and her squad are focused on a few crafters ignoring the real law breakers. Leave them alone!! They are being judged as offenders to the law but they are simply abiding to their cultural and god-given talents.

What a pity to witness such stagnation in a place that had such vitality just prior to the passing of this horrid ordinance. The artists need to unite as a cultural force protected by the spirit of Venice and their first amendment right. Does anyone remember our right for "pursuit of happiness."

But seriously, all you artists who are just sitting back and complaining about Maria and the cops and your freedom being taken away. Why not attend the Ocean Front Walk Committee meetings (www.grvnc.org), stand up for your rights, educated the people of the injustices that occur daily. Write email or call Bill Rosendahl's office at 311 - let your voices be heard!

And Venetians, when you witness harassment of a vendor stop the cops and tell them that you don't want your tax paying dollars going to police brutality on art and cultural devastation.

— Shamama and Della



## In Brief

### Arnold to Venice: "Never heard of it"

Arnold Schwarzenegger is not very popular with Venetians. We gave him only 26 percent of the vote in the gubernatorial election in November.

Apparently, the feeling is mutual. In a Jan. 26 article in the L.A. Times (*Bodybuilding governor feels the unforgiving weight of time*), Schwarzenegger moved the location of the World Gym (in his mind) from Venice to Santa Monica. Is it possible that the now pudgy Guv forgot where he was for all those years when he trained with Joe Gold?



Arnold when he worked out in Venice

Arnold in 2003

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### More permits coming to the beach

Permits for artists and craftspeople have worked so well (not) on the Ocean Front Walk that they are now coming to the Graffiti Walls, where they are likely to inflame another segment of the beach community.

And the walls, at the site of the old Pavilion, will be getting a spiffy new name - the Venice Public Art Walls or the Venice Art Walls for short. Stash Maleski, curator of the walls, stated: "Painting on the walls will be by permit only and will only happen on weekends... This change has come about because of complaints by Venice area residents of increased vandalism attributed to the presence of the walls. In an effort to keep the walls here, and in an effort to work with the community to reduce illegal vandalism, the area will be governed by new rules and regulations."

"In order to obtain a permit to paint on the four large walls, artists will have to have a sketch of what they plan to paint and have a crew of at least three people," said Maleski. "The last paintings to go up on Sunday afternoon will run all week until the following Saturday. There will be no painting on the walls on weekdays." Uh, sure.

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### No more impersonal spying on your email and phone calls.

#### Now a neighbor can do it!

Rep. Jane Harman (D-Venice) has been named Chair of the Homeland Security Committee's Intelligence, Information Sharing and Terrorism Risk Assessment Subcommittee. The subcommittee has jurisdiction over domestic intelligence issues, information-sharing, threat and vulnerability assessments, and oversight of the Secret Service, among other issues.

"I'm delighted to be chairing a subcommittee that is so vital to securing the homeland," said Harman.

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### Rumor Central

The rumor about a drug store opening at the long-vacant Koo Koo Roo restaurant in the Clown Building at Main and Rose is true. Long's Drugs has opened a store there, reversing a long trend for businesses that serve the residents to be replaced by those catering to tourists.

Another rumor about Cafe 50s, on Lincoln Blvd., losing their lease is not true, according to the owner. But it wouldn't hurt to give this community oriented restaurant some more business.

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Got a tip, rumor, or hot news item? Send it to the Beachhead at [Beachhead@freevenice.org](mailto:Beachhead@freevenice.org) or PO Box 2, Venice 90294.

## City of L.A. compensates Playa Vista for destroying Gabrielino-Tongva burial site

By Kathy Knight and Judith Davies

The Los Angeles City Council, on Jan. 16, unanimously approved the use of \$11.4 million of Mello Roos Bonds to be used to reimburse Playa Capital for destroying the largest Native American burial site in California. Playa Capital's owners, wall street corporations Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs, had asked for the funds because they originally had allocated \$1.9 million for excavating the site, but because of its significance and size (411 bodies exhumed), they asked for another \$11.4 million in publicly subsidized Mello Roos Bond funds to cover their cost-over-run.



Playa Vista processing center for the removal of Gabrielino-Tongva bodies.

Gabrielino Tongva Native Americans spoke at the Council hearing. Anthony Morales, Tribal Chairman and Chief of the Gabrielino/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, asked the City Council to stop endorsing these atrocities. He stated "this request from the developer for payment is a shame and an ongoing attack on our culture! Instead of asking for compensation, they should be talking to us about a reburial. Our ancestors have been out of the ground for several years and in storage. This action is an injustice and genocidal. To pay for this atrocity would be a misuse of bond monies. The City did nothing when one of our last remaining intact cemeteries was destroyed and 411 of our ancestors were desecrated which is a hate crime."

Linda Gonzales (Gabrielino-Tongva/Yaqui) also asked the City Council to deny the use of Mello Roos bonds. She stated the developers of Playa Vista knew there was a burial site, and they chose to go ahead. In fact, Howard Hughes had uncovered bodies when he put his landing strip in. The public should not have to reimburse Playa Vista developers for the destruction of the cemetery. She stated Mello Roos bonds are for community improvements such as street lights, not for being reimbursed for grave digging. Other speakers pointed out that the new

"riparian corridor," which includes a ditch for street runoff, could have been left in its original place, thereby avoiding the burial site. It was moved to give Playa Vista developers more land to build on.

Other points raised included Grassroots Coalition statement that there is no approved EIR for the development, since the Appellate

Court overturned its approval in relation to the gas mitigation system. Also that the bonds were not to be used for gas mitigation systems.

Kathy Knight, Board Member of the Ballona Ecosystem Education Project, stated that the Gabrielino-Tongva, have been living in the Los Angeles area for 10,000 years and took good care of the

land, leaving a "paradise" for the rest of us to inherit. She objected to "thanking" them by publicly subsidizing the destruction of their burial sites.

Judith Davies said "This is a human rights issue." She pointed out that Tongva Leader Anthony Morales, working closely with other Native American representatives, succeeded in recent months to have the California State Senate pass a new law which would strengthen protections for Native American burials in California. This misuse of Mello-Roos Bond monies, 11.4 million dollars, would set a very bad precedent and work to undermine such protections, giving developers monies that were designated for public projects such as lighting, street improvements, fire stations, and schools.

Council Member Bill Rosendahl, whose district includes Venice and Playa Vista, asked Mr. Morales to work with Playa Vista representative George Muhlsten to rebury the bodies at Playa Vista. However, Mr. Morales stated that that provision was already something that Playa Capital was required to do, and that they should talk to Robert Dorame, the designated Most Likely Descendant.

*Kathy Knight and Judith Davies are with the Ballona Ecosystem Education Project.*

## Invasion of the Home Snatchers

(A True Story of Horror)

By Glenn Taranto

I am the last tenant in my apartment complex. There's no one else here... I miss the human interaction. There was laughter, singing... There had been children here once. I think there were children. I'm not sure anymore. I've lived here for fourteen years. My 80-year-old neighbor lived here for thirty. She's gone now. Not sure what happened to her. Thirteen units... Empty now... Not sure what happened to any of the others... They were here one day and gone the next. Is anyone reading this?

I am taking a moment from packing up my belongings to make a last ditch effort to let whatever human beings, still living in Venice, know an enemy has invaded our homeland. Can anyone hear me? I hope someone is reading this.

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Don Geagan  
(Vets for Peace)

says,

Call your Congress-

members and demand they co-sponsor and vote for Rep. Jim McGovern's Bill.

**End the War in Iraq Act (HR4232)**

- Prohibit funds to deploy Army to Iraq
- Provides financial aid to Iraqi Forces
- Provides for reconstruction of Iraq

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## Lincoln Place

## TENT CITY REPORT

By C.V. Beck

Tent City is still on hiatus due to winter.... we intend to resume when it is warmer. In the meantime, my focus will be on LINCOLN PLACE.

One of our neighbors, who lived at Lincoln Place for a very long time, has passed away. Charles (Chuck) Snow, husband of Sharon (Shapiro) Snow died on January 20th after a lengthy illness. Chuck was born on October 1, 1954.

The memorial service at Four Square Gospel in Venice, was held on January 28th. This very thoughtful service was well attended by old friends, family and residents of Lincoln Place. The eulogy was spoken beautifully by our councilperson, Bill Rosendahl, who was accompanied by Mark Antonio Grant, field deputy. Sharon Snow read a poem about her life with her husband. His sister spoke and the pastor, Steven Hurrell gave very sensitive and moving testimony celebrating Chuck's life. Charles has been cremated and a beautifully engraved metal urn containing his ashes was accompanied by a happy photograph of Chuck barbecuing for a family gathering during happier times at the front of the church. His large, well-worn white Bible was on a table at the entrance of the church along with the guestbook. Refreshments were served afterwards in the patio.

We will miss Chuck's "aggressive evangelical" energy in our struggle to preserve Lincoln Place as a vitally necessary source of truly affordable housing.

We were waiting for a Malibu court date for mid-January in the Ellis Act matter which we remaining residents of Lincoln Place, all seniors and disabled persons, believe to be not legal. This is now continued forward to a date in late March, April or perhaps, even May. More hurry up and wait, hurry up and wait. The attempt at forced relocations of Venetian citizens has been going on for almost 20 years and we are used to it, unfortunately. However, our quality of life is not what it used to be, is it? What's up next on the landlord's agenda for this punishment of innocent citizens of a small beach town?

One of our supportive property-owning neighbors, has pointed out to me that even only 5 acres of open space replaces X thousand tons of numbers of air conditioning units...seems like open space is a clear winner in this chat and this should be a no-brainer, 'cept maybe on the westside of Los Angeles in Southern California.

Meanwhile, we can sit and think about our fates or strategize further. It is my feeling that this is cruel and unusual punishment for seniors/disabled and people on the lower end of the economic strata and an outrageous violation of the public trust. While these overly/well/paid city council persons (not referring to Bill) sit around, stalling and ruining our beloved city by their greediness, people's lives are being irreparably changed for the worse. It is my opinion that our public servants are really working for the developers and are in thrall to them, hoping to get home free with all the benefits and perks, clean as a hound's tooth while we pay the price for their lack of engagement with reality. Not nice, not nice at all.

The other day, I overheard from a worker at the 99 Cent Store, that "LAX is buying my apartment" ...naturally, I inquired how much was being offered and she replied, "twenty-five thousand dollars" and seemed to think that was a lot of money.

On January 31, I attended the first of what will be an on-going series of meetings at WCIL (Westside Center for Independent Living). The purpose of these meetings are to identify main concerns for disabled persons now. Topics introduced by the facilitator, Fidel Valenzuela, and to be discussed in depth include (1) Housing (2) Transportation (3) Health/Wellness and (4) Assistive Technology. These meetings will be held at the Center (located at the corner of Beethoven Street and Venice Boulevard) and will be announced well in advance. There were people from Venice as well as other areas of the western edge present at this first meeting, a good sign.

## A Friend Remembers Molly Ivins

Molly Ivins began writing her syndicated column for *Creators Syndicate* in 1992. Anthony Zurcher is a *Creators Syndicate* Editor in Austin, Texas, and he has been Molly's editor and friend for many years.



By Anthony Zurcher

Goodbye, Molly I.

Molly Ivins is gone, and her words will never grace these pages again -- for this, we will mourn. But Molly wasn't the type of woman who would want us to grieve. More likely, she'd say something like, "Hang in there, keep fightin' for freedom, raise more hell, and don't forget to laugh, too."

If there was one thing Molly wanted us to understand, it's that the world of politics is absurd. Since we can't cry, we might as well laugh. And in case we ever forgot, Molly would remind us, several times a week, in her own unique style.

Shortly after becoming editor of Molly Ivins' syndicated column, I learned one of my most important jobs was to tell her newspaper clients that, yes, Molly meant to write it that way. We called her linguistic peculiarities "Molly-isms." Administration officials were "Bushies," government was in fact spelled "guvment," business was "bidness." And if someone was "madder than a peach orchard boar," well, he was quite mad indeed.

Of course, having grown up in Texas, all of this made sense to me. But to newspaper editors in Seattle, Chicago, Detroit and beyond -- Yankee land, as Molly would say -- her folksy language could be a mystery. "That's just Molly being Molly," I would explain and leave it at that.

But there was more to Molly Ivins than insightful political commentary packaged in an aw-shucks Southern charm. In the coming days, much will be made of Molly's contributions to the liberal cause, how important she was as an authentic female voice on opinion pages across the country, her passionate and eloquent defense of the poorest and the weakest among us against the corruption of the most powerful, and the joy she took in celebrating the uniqueness of American culture -- and all of this is true. But more than that, Molly Ivins was a woman who loved and cared deeply for the world around her.

And her warm and generous spirit was apparent in all her words and deeds.

Molly's work was truly her passion. She would regularly turn down lucrative speaking engagements to give rally-the-troops

speeches at liberalism's loneliest outposts. And when she did rub elbows with the high-falutin' well-to-do, the encounter would invariably end up as comedic grist in future columns.

For a woman who made a profession of offering her opinion to others, Molly was remarkably humble. She was known for hosting unforgettable parties at her Austin home, which would feature

rollicking political discussions, and impromptu poetry recitals and satirical songs. At one such event, I noticed her dining table was littered with various awards and distinguished speaker plaques, put to use as trivets for steaming plates of tamales, chili and fajita meat. When I called this to her attention, Molly matter-of-factly replied, "Well, what else am I going to do with 'em?"

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of Molly's life is the love she engendered from her legions of fans. If Molly missed a column for any reason, her newspapers would hear about it the next day. As word of Molly's illness spread, the letters, cards, e-mails and gifts poured in.

Even as Molly fought her last battle with cancer, she continued to make public appearances. When she was too weak to write, she dictated her final two columns. Although her body was failing, she still had so much to say. Last fall, before an audience at the University of Texas, her voice began as barely a whisper. But as she went on, she drew strength from the standing-room-only crowd until, at the end of the hour, she was forcefully imploring the students to get involved and make a difference. As Molly once wrote, "Politics is not a picture on a wall or a television sitcom that you can decide you don't much care for."

For me, Molly's greatest words of wisdom came with three children's books she gave my son when he was born. In her inimitable way, she captured the spirit of each in one-sentence inscriptions. In "Alice in Wonderland," she offered, "Here's to six impossible things before breakfast." For "The Wind in the Willows," it was, "May you have Toad's zest for life." And in "The Little Prince," she wrote, "May your heart always see clearly."

Like the Little Prince, Molly Ivins has left us for a journey of her own. But while she was here, her heart never failed to see clear and true -- and for that, we can all be grateful.

Occupation  
Can't Be Won

Dear Beachhead,  
"There's a Difference Between a War and an Occupation" - We found this out in Viet Nam in 1975, and Israel is finding it out today in the Middle East.

You can "win" a war, but you cannot "win" an occupation in an age of cell phones, laptops, and sophisticated small arms and explosives. We "won" the war in Iraq when we took Baghdad, but we will never "win" the occupation of Iraq or Afghanistan.

The "War on Terror" can only be fought successfully by a strong homeland defense and an endless series of individual "strikes" against selected terrorist strongholds.

Let's not continue to use 20th century battle tactics in this 21st century "war."

Frank Loweree, Pacific Palisades

Response to Book Review  
of *Raising Mama* in  
January Beachhead

Dear Beachhead Folks,  
Judith Martin-Straw, and the rest of the Beachheaders rock! Kathy and I will be in LA in early June. Megan, our granddaughter, is graduating Sammo High.

The Tri-State Defender, the African-American weekly in Memphis, is doing a feature on *Raising Mama* for Black History Month. Beachheader Makes Good! Film at 11!

Larry Sullivan, aka memphis slim



By Jim Smith

I got to the hearing at Mark Twain Middle School early on the evening of Jan. 11 in hopes of getting a good seat. As it turned out the Neighborhood Council Review Commission played to a mostly empty house, even though it was the only westside hearing that will be held by the Commission. Absentees included every elected Board member of the Venice Neighborhood Council, and 90 percent of those who used to flock to its meetings and elections during the past few years.

The Commission includes an appointee from every L.A. City Councilmember and assorted dignitaries including Political Scientist and frequent "media expert" Raphael Sonenshein. Also known as the 912 Commission, for Section 912 of the City Charter, it is mandated to evaluate the neighborhood council system and make recommendations.

It seemed like a good idea at the time. With unrest mounting in L.A.'s "captive cities," including San Pedro, Wilmington, Hollywood, Westchester and Venice, and the entire San Fernando Valley, something had to be done to, at least, create the illusion of a democratic city. That something turned out to be neighborhood councils. These councils would carve the city up into 86 bit-sized portions, but would not exert real power, nor be an official part of city government.

The scheme worked, along with millions of dollars from developers and corporations that was pumped into anti-secession campaigns in the Valley and Hollywood in 2002. While a majority in the Valley actually voted to secede, the law required that it win throughout Los Angeles before it could be set free.

With the secession option failing, thousands turned to neighborhood councils in the belief they would be better than nothing. In Venice, both new arrivals and long-time residents got involved in creating the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council. Everything went smoothly until the bylaws discussion got around to election policy. A proposal to include Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) in the bylaws passed with a big majority. But less than a month later acting President Tisha Bedrosian called a meeting to reconsider the vote. Apparently, a mobilization had taken place to get people out to vote against IRV. It was repealed by one vote.

Many supporters of election reform, including IRV, felt blindsided by the maneuver. At this point, the Council participants split into two camps - Progressives, and supporters of Bedrosian, variously called "Grvnicns" (groovnicns) and "Team Venice." Other issues quickly surfaced, including attitudes toward the homeless, affordable housing, the Ocean Front Walk and gentrification.

Fuel was added to this expanding fire by Greg Nelson, the general manager of the city's Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment, who seemed more interested in disempowering the Venice council. The major point of conflict

seemed to be at election time, with neither side feeling that the election had been fair, especially when the other side won.

This tended to produce more animosity and name calling and resulted in both elected officers and other interested Venetians dropping out of the process. Others stopped participating when they realized that the neighborhood council had no power, and was likely to be ignored by city officials.

With this background, I presented the following to the Review Commission:

## The Neighborhood Council Review Commission Comes to Venice

lowing to the Review Commission:

### The City should make Neighborhood Councils more democratic and begin devolution of powers

Summary: Neighborhood Councils are neither fish nor fowl. They should be integrated into the city government structure and election code. Once deficiencies of fairness and democracy are addressed, the city should amend the charter to begin devolving powers from the city council and administration to the neighborhood councils.

Neighborhood Councils work better when the council's jurisdiction is homogeneous. They work less well when there are sharp economic, racial or tenancy divisions. In areas, such as Venice, which is undergoing gentrification, the NC, as currently structured, becomes a battleground for competing interests.

Proposals for Reform of the Neighborhood Council System

1. Allow only residents within each neighborhood council to vote. The current rules allow absentee property owners, workers and non-resident participants in local organizations to vote. A person who owns multiple pieces of property in a number of neighborhood councils can vote - and hold office - in all of them. This violates the principle of one person - one vote.

2. Election reform:

a. Integrate neighborhood council elections into the city and state election code and procedures. Hold council elections every two years under the control of the Registrar of Voters.

b. Alternatively, develop standardized city-wide election rules and procedures that apply to all NCs. Allow no NC election rules and procedures that are more restrictive than city, state or federal election rules.

c. In neighborhood council elections, abide by the city's campaign finance reporting rules, with strict regulations on campaign

contributions by individuals and corporations.

3. Provide information about who is representing our community. All candidates for Neighborhood Council Board positions and all appointees to a Land Use and Planning Committee should be required to file a Statement of Economic Interests with the City

Ethics Commission, prior to their election or

appointment. Form 700 which itemizes investments and interest in real property held by the candidate on the date of declaration of candidacy or appointment, and sources of

income received during

the 12 months prior to the date of filing should be required.

4. Structure - Allow neighborhood councils to use a Town Hall format, which is probably the most democratic structure possible. (In this structure, every member of the community is allowed to participate and make decisions, instead of leaving it to a small board of officers.)

### Devolution

In addition to real or perceived problems of fairness, many residents will not participate in NCs because of their lack of real authority. A devolution, or transfer, of authority on community issues can make democracy a reality. Area wide issues can still be addressed by the City Council and Mayor. Still broader issues, such as transportation, can be coped with by the creation of a county or regional mayor and representative structure. Los Angeles can benefit by studying the reforms achieved by Greater London, in which communities have taken on city-like powers, and work in tandem with a regional mayor and council.

•••

In all likelihood, the Commission will not rock the boat. Instead, it will deliver a report to the City Council that the neighborhood council system is basically sound and only needs some tweaking. Everyone will be congratulated for a job well done, and the councils will be allowed to die a peaceful death during the next few years.

Venetians, who are concerned with rapid, and unwanted, changes to their community should consider how they want to have a voice in modifying or rejecting those changes. There are at least two alternatives. They can get involved in the Venice Neighborhood Council and turn it into an effective voice for Venice regardless of what happens to the rest of the city.

Or they can form an independent body like the old Venice Town Council, which although it didn't have any official standing, was much more effective than the VNC has been the last couple of years.

## Venetian in "Fallujah"

Dear Beachhead,

I opened in "FALLUJAH" last week end. I have a wonderful role of a photo-journalist. It's a murder mystery with a lot of well researched info about the war laced throughout. The LA Weekly says "Robins gives a sassy but sensitive portrayal of a rogue journalist"

Hope you can make it!

FALLUJAH - Thursday, Friday, Saturday nights at 8pm, at the Lex Theatre, 6760 Lexington Ave., Hollywood (one block north of Santa Monica Blvd. one block east of Highland) There is street parking but no late seating.

The play is written by Colin McKay and directed by David Scott. Tickets are \$15 and it's running till March 3rd. Call 323-960-7822 or online at [www.plays411.com/fallujah](http://www.plays411.com/fallujah)

Belated Happy New Year...

Best! Lisa Robbins

## Homeless Services Topic of Town Hall Meeting

Bill Rosendahl, L.A. City Councilmember will chair a Venice Town Hall meeting about St. Joseph's Center opening a homeless services storefront at 404 Lincoln Blvd. (at Flower Ave.).

The Town Hall will be at 7pm Tuesday, Feb. 6, at the Penmar Penmar Recreation Center, 1341 Lake Street.

St. Joseph's had provided homeless services for many years at 4th and Rose Avenue, until the owner sold the building after being pressured by the Rose Avenue Working Group, an anti-homeless organization.

Although St. Joseph's has operated a thrift store at the Lincoln Blvd. site, opposition to providing homeless services has emerged. The meeting is likely to attract many residents with both pro and con views.

## "Your Local Shop for Scrumptious Food and Sinful Chocolates"



Monday - Friday 9 am - 7 pm

Saturday 10 am - 7 pm • Sunday noon - 6 pm

1800A Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice, CA 90291

310-305-9800

Additional Parking after 5 pm

and all day Saturday & Sunday behind the store.



# Venetians in the Street sound off on Iraq

This month's question from the Beachhead's Rex Butters:  
*What do you think of the proposed "Troop Surge" for Iraq?*



Maury Ruano

We just had the elections, and we had big changes in both Congress and the Senate. The main point that the people were trying to get across was that we're uncomfortable with the situation in Iraq. We wanted a shift in policy. So, sending more troops to Iraq, I think, is Bush's personal agenda to say, "I'm still in power and I don't care about what people have said about what's going on." It wasn't working before, I don't think an increase in 20,000 troops is going to help anything.



Glen Ashley

I'm completely against it. I don't know what we're fighting for. He talks about victory, I don't know what victory represents when it's a war of ideology. I'm completely against it. I'm appalled by the thought of more young American men and women losing their lives in that situation.



Magali Gajan

It's silly, it's very silly. It's like he's out of his mind, and people believing it's going to be better, they are wrong. They are totally wrong. What he is doing now is the worst thing he can do.



Anthony Williams

Personally, I feel we have far more important issues out here in the United States, where we need more people out here to deal with the internal affairs, than going into Iraq to deal with the issues of another country.



Wally Ball

I'm against that. There's too many people dying over there, young kids losing their lives. I don't go for that.



Sharon Hays

It's outrageous, it's even more outrageous. Al Gore was absolutely right. I teach college students. All of them are completely immune from this. They have no sense that this is their future. The wealthy, affluent, and middle class college-bound American kids are immune from this. What this means is, the wealthy politicians in Washington sending off poor and working class kids to go get killed or get their heads screwed up for the rest of their lives.



Photo by Eric Ahlberg

## First Look at the Torso

The proposed statue to be erected in the Venice Circle has aroused passions in Venice for several years, sight unseen.

Now it can be seen at 4 Yawl Street, at the end of the Peninsula.

Opposition to the torso by Robert Graham, who is building a new studio in the Windward Avenue Historic District, has centered on two objections.

Many Venetians were opposed to the depiction of a headless, armless, legless, naked woman which reminded them of hideous crimes against women. Others objected to the lack of community dialogue and notification before the statue was approved by the city of Los Angeles.

Whether the statue will still be installed in the Circle at Main and Windward, or will find a permanent home on Yawl Street is unknown.

### See Jane Run

After several months and hundreds of requests, CodePink was again denied a meeting with their westside Congressional representative. In hopes of finally securing a meeting with Congresswoman Jane Harman, hundreds of CodePink activists have set up a "bike-path block" (AKA: roadblock).

Oh, wait, news flash. Homeland Security officers "protecting and serving" their new Chair of Homeland Security Committee's Intelligence, Information Sharing and Terrorism Risk Assessment Subcommittee Congresswoman Jane Harman, have arrested the CodePink activists.

— Betty Bullhorn



### High Officials Caught in the Act

Jane Harman and Bush's Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff, break the law on "Bikes Only" path.

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# CHOCOLATE=CACAO: The Revolution Will Be Eaten

By Erica Snowlake

Americans have an unfortunate history of being kept in the Dark - though in one unique arena we have intentionally been kept out of the Dark for way too long. Which Dark Realm are we Forbidden Now and how do we break-through to join in it's healing and beneficial revolution?

We are all eternally blessed to enter into communion with the Highest Bliss-inducing Portal on our Mothership Earth through ingestion of one of Her Most Supreme Offerings. Hint: Valentine's Day Gifts!!! Heart Shaped Box. Surrender ye unto the Anandamide spell of Raw Dark Chocolate, Theobroma Cacao, Food of the Gods and Goddesses. Live long and prosper, heal and soothe your heart, increase sensuality in your loveflesh, double joy and beauty, nourish your intellect, laxative your innard karma.



Chocolate and Humanity go way back together, swinging gleefully from jungle trees, early primitivos discovered cacao fruit berries fertilized by gnats hanging as papaya-like bean-pod grasping devices! Broken open and crushed ala stone mortar and pestle, cacao (ka-kow, rhymes with cow) shamans have been fortifying the tribes forever by unleashing unlimited high-energy potentials, i.e. faster and fierouser swinging in trees, and probably, the first epic arboreal lovemaking. Cacao's powerful aphrodisiac and appetite-inhibiting qualities granted our lucky ancestors total liberation to Love All Day Long!

Synchronizing with the Mayan and Aztec calendar/cultures, who so revered Cacahuatl, Bitter Water, ceremonially as thee Religious Sacrement and Currency of the Realm, we are now entering a new appreciation and awareness of what chocolate is really about, and how our symbiotic/synergistic relationship has evolved. Take a good look at what passes for chocolate today in the U.S. - it's a joke, hershey's kisses, m'n m's, nestles cocoa, milk chocolate? the chocolatiers of Europe have been laughing at us for decades, their exquisite recipes basically shunned, import-banned and registered illegal by the multi-corp sugar death and trans fats/cholesterol/heart attack cartels for the general american public. we are in major denial, a nation in chocolate guilt, why? cause something so good has been co-opted by demons.

Let's explore a woman's cravings for chocolate around her moontime. She knows intuitively some of the more than 300 compounds found in raw cacao paste, making it one of the most chemically complex foods on earth, will set her just right hormonally. Here's the breakdown of what she's really desiring:

- 1) Magnesium: cacao contains the #1 source of magnesium of all foods. Magnesium balances brain chemistry, builds bones, brings happiness, and, coincidentally, is the most deficient mineral in over 80% of our population.
- 2) Phenylethylamine: an adrenal-healing related chemical created in the brain and naturally released when we are in Love. PEA increases focus and alertness by pumping serotonin levels, a.k.a. Nature's Prozac.
- 3) Anti-oxidants: raw cacao has been dubbed the "new red wine", containing four times



This is a Kirlian Picture of a Cacao Bean.

as many anti-oxidants as red wine, and six times the total of green tea.

- 4) Anandamide: the Bliss Chemical! a Mysterious Ambrosia secreted by our bindis when we're feeling compassion for all Sentient Beings, the kind of Guru Bliss we've all got shining inside our flowering Kundalinis.
- 5) Tryptophan: hmmm, relaxing, an internal oozing massage.....

So our sensuous Punany poetess seeks a raw cacao treat, but it's hard to find, so she settles on some chocolate imitation. What happens next is raging nightmare; the white sugar, bad fats combo in most commercial chocolate cause an over-production of insulin, which not only exacerbates her PMS, but induces candida and diabetes in everyone from habitual use. Punanys Beware! chocolate as an addiction is thus born.

In contrast, the sugars used in raw cacao treats are organic; agave nectar, raw honey, yacon root syrup, maple sugar, date paste. Raw chocolatiers also add superfoods such as maca, blue-green algae, spirulina, chlorella, and bee pollen, (the world's most complete food). Ask cacao what it's favorite allies are and it will reply Kola Nut, Chillies, Cinnamon, Maize, Vanilla, and GANJA! Cacao becomes a potent medicine united with it's allies, a veritable Elixir of Healing Love.

Support the Cacao Revolution! Lovers Lead the Way! Seek your source of cacao from fair trade collectives in countries along the 20 degrees north and south tropical equatorial zone, the top producers being the Ivory Coast, Ghana, Indonesia, Nigeria, Brazil, Cameroon, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, New Guinea, and Malaysia. Locally, raw food restaurants are more than happy to initiate us, blending cacao into smoothies, shakes, brownies, fudge, and oraweo puddings. You are wholeheartedly invited to Leaf Cuisine's Valentine's Party at 9 pm on Feb.14th, 11938 W. Washington Blvd, Culver City. Chocolate Confectioners will be on hand to indulge your raw cacao dreams, and supply free samples! ([www.leafcuisine.com](http://www.leafcuisine.com))

The book Naked Chocolate, by David Wolfe and Shazzi, is the most current and comprehensive download of cacao lore, "allowing one to find the perfect alchemical potion causing all heaven to break loose!" Mouth-watering recipes abound. David's company, Nature's First Law Inc./Sunfood Nutrition in El Cajon has an online dispensary featuring a fine selection of organic, raw cacao nibs, powders, butters, and oils.

Locally visit Santa Monica's ELF, [www.essentialivingfood.com](http://www.essentialivingfood.com) for high vibrational supplies as well.

In the Valentine Spirit of Sweet Firey Passion, enjoy this shawoman love nectar/ concoction communally with beloved ones, channelled by JadeGoddess!

**Chilcacahuatl - Ancient Alchemy of Cacao**

Smile from your heart and bring 2 liters of Blessed water or Nut milk to a near boil then remove from flame.

Elements:

- 2 oz of cacao butter,
- 8 tbsp of cacao powder,
- freshly ground is of the highest vibration:
- 1 cinnamon stick ( approx 1 tsp of ground cinnamon),
- 1/2 of a kola nut ( approx 2 tbsp of ground kola nut),
- 1/4 of a nutmeg (approx 1/2 tsp of ground nutmeg),
- 1 dried red chile ( approx 1 tsp ground cayenne),
- 1/4 of a vanilla bean (approx 2 tbsp vanilla extract),
- 1/2 tsp of Maca root
- and a pinch of Himalayan sea salt

Blend elements into a paste and stir into warm water, sweeten to taste with Agave, Maple or Raw Honey

Kiss between sips! XOXOXOXOXOX

P.S. we doubt there ever was a St. Valentine. More likely, some Pope Gelasius I in 496 decided to co-opt/nullify the wild pagan festival Lupercalia, in which women were flagellated by wolfmen wielding thongwhipskins of goats and dogs to induce fertility and divine spring joy! The word February comes from the root word for fever, obviously we the people have always possessed a passion for purification.



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# final solution: DEVELOPER BULLDOZES RESIDENT

By Carol Pondiller

On Friday, January 21, at approximately five p.m., canal resident Steve Alpert was knocked down twice by a tractor with a bulldozer attachment driven by developer Alex Mlikotin of Solar Systems.

Mr. Alpert saw the tractor going the wrong way down Dell Ave. He called out to the driver of the vehicle, Alex Mlikotin "Wrong Way." Mlikotin ignored Alpert's advice and hit him with his tractor. Alpert got up and Mlikotin hit him again. Stunned the second time, Alpert lay still, and Mlikotin moved on, without stopping to ascertain if Alpert needed help.

When Alpert talked to the police they did not want to come to the canals and interview him. Instead Alpert had to go to the station. It was decided that even though Mr. Alpert did not get the license plate of the vehicle or the model, the police would talk to Alpert and Mlikotin.

Though Mr. Alpert asserts that Mr. Mlikotin did not stop to see if he needed assistance, the two officers of the Venice division of the Los Angeles Police Department did not even take Mr. Mlikotin down to the police station for questioning on possible hit and run. Mr. Alpert quoted one of the officers as saying "if he (Mlikotin) really wanted to hurt you with that thing, he could have killed you." Mr. Alpert says the officers told him he might have a civil suit against Mlikotin, but they felt that since Mlikotin showed them the tractor that was involved in the incident, there was no criminal intent. The attitude of the police Department towards Mr. Alpert, a canal resident renter was in marked contrast to the solicitude shown towards

renters, developers and land speculators. In one instance, the police drove a renter, Mr. Hettig to his property when he evicted a tenant. In another, when the realtors were picketing the canal residents because the residents were fighting the incursions of intensive developments, the police came along to act as protection for the picket line. Most recently, in September of last year, The Venice Division of the LAPD threw a cordon around the canal area. This police action was precipitated by a community event, the Canal Funeral. The funeral was organized to focus on the fact that 21 lots in the canals were on the regional Coastal Commission Agenda for development. Mlikotin of Solar Systems owns 18 of the 21 lots.

After the obsequies and the symbolic burial of the Canal Festival which had degenerated in the past years as a show case for the wares of light industry counter culture, the police, who were strongly opposed to the festival broke up the waks that was held after the funeral. A battalion of the LAPD driving motorcycles, paddy wagons, walking in military formation over the Dell Ave. bridges, and police 'copters flying overhead, told the crowd to disperse. The police beat up and arrested one man in his front yard. They arrested about 8 other people in the children's playground area for failure to disperse. Most of the charges were misdemeanors and were dropped by the time the cases got to pre-trial hearings. However, the people who were picked up were handcuffed, booked and jailed.

Mr. Alpert is one of a group of renters and homeowners who want the canals to remain a mix of people of all incomes and lifestyles. This group has made the

going difficult but not impossible for Mr. Mlikotin and the Resident and Non-Resident Canal Property Owners Association to realize their goals of building outsize luxury one-family homes that dwarf the existing frame cottages.

In December last year, one of the final acts the State Coastal Commission did was to facilitate and expedite the destruction of the canal community. They denied the appeal of several renters, resident homeowners groups, and the Venice Town Council and granted permits to build with conditions such as setbacks and height limits. The pro-development forces have been most vociferous in voicing fears of reprisals by the long term canal residents, whom they refer to as radicals, outside agitators. Many times while those opposed to the high development, high-line luxury homes have been speaking in front of the Coastal Commission, they have been interrupted by cat calls, booing and name calling by those protectors of the American Way, members of the Resident and Non-Resident Property Owners Association. At times members of the Canal Area Town Council have been verbally and physically abused. But the police seem to find themselves powerless against protecting canal residents who oppose speculation against the large land developers.

The two officers who dealt with Mr. Alpert's complaint surmised that there was no intent because Mlikotin could have killed Alpert if he really wanted to. They do not seem to understand that many canal residents, renters and homeowners alike have been victims of harassment, threats of bodily harm, nuisance arrests by speculators and would be speculators. While most of these actions are not fatal,

(continued on page 5)

## Eviction Defense Network



Providing low cost legal assistance to tenants.

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Los Angeles 90057  
213/385-8112

### Hours:

M-F 9AM to 6PM

(no appointment needed, first come, first served)

Saturday 10AM to 3PM

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

30 Years Ago in Venice - from the Beachhead Archives



Canal woman Mary Jane Kwan takes to the water. Photo by Rick Sinatra

BULLDOZER (continued from page 1)

they are terrifying. The late Ms. Myrtle Wilson was instrumental in eviction proceedings against a family who ran a recycling center. Ms. Michalak was responsible for driving truck gypsies off the vacant lots. There have been retaliatory rent raises and evictions, not to mention threats of physical violence. Unfortunately, the bulldozing of Mr. Alpert by Mr. Mlikotin happened on a Friday. Most of the agencies that could have helped Mr. Alpert were closed for the weekend. However, there might be something the LAPD can do to halt Alex 'Mad Man' Mlikotin. It seems Mr. Mlikotin was driving his tractor the wrong way. In spite of their reluctance to prosecute him for hit and run, they might have to issue him a ticket.

Oh well, it's the intent that counts.

Note: One of the officers' names was Cunningham - at this time I do not know the name of the other.

THERE IS A COMMITTEE FORMING TO HELP ALPERT.  
CALL 396-6876.



**Walking the boardwalk**

by Leah Rose  
 I see a beautiful  
 Sunrise & sunset

I also see

A dream dying

A shell of  
 A man crying

A lost soul

Once loved  
 By someone

Who Cared

In such agony  
 And pain

Drowning in  
 His own despair

And misery

Cops blow  
 Like the wind

They come  
 & go

Harassing the  
 Homeless

Seen by all  
 No one cares

A jumping here

An overdose there

A stabbing here

Do the cops  
 Really care

Or is it just a  
 Game to them

Tear drops from  
 A child's eye

Like rain gently  
 To the ground

At the sight  
 They see

A man Knock's on  
 Deaths door

Waiting to die  
 Day by day

In a back alley  
 Somewhere

From the  
 Torture of

This life &  
 His own

Agony &  
 Suffering

People pass  
 Him bye

And step over  
 His lifeless body

And spit on  
 His grave

Like he is  
 Not even there

The boardwalk  
 Claims victims

Yet we all  
 Are blind to

What happens

Every day  
 As they are

People like  
 You & me

**CIRCLES**

(from the Beachhead Archives, Feb. 1977)

BY Jerry Harrison

Want to  
 Inform You  
 That Your  
 Monthly Rent  
 Is Being  
 Increased  
 By 10.  
 As of  
 1/1  
 2/1  
 3/1  
 4/1  
 5/1  
 6/1  
 7/1  
 8/1  
 9/1  
 10/1  
 11/1  
 12/1  
 1966  
 67  
 68  
 69  
 70  
 71  
 72  
 73  
 74  
 75  
 76  
 77  
 And the 1st of each  
 month  
 Every year  
 There - after.

**FLOWER GIRL**

July the 10th...

She follows shadows in empty rooms,  
 Alone now,  
 Gliding her hands across the cold satin bedsheet,  
 Where he slept,  
 Between love and pain--and the Darkness.

Dressed in a wedding gown of midnight lace,  
 the ceremony is complete,  
 She was his girl,  
 Innocent red-haired waif wearing flowers,  
 A sacrifice to the dangerous poet.

Her happiness was the road  
 music, whiskey, parties,  
 Scars and needlemarks  
 a grisly diary recorded on thin freckled arms,  
 Today demands another entry.

She trembles like a caged bird,  
 Vulnerable in black,  
 Groping through a fog of memories for instant bliss,  
 Her fate is sealed,  
 Another fix for the rock'n'roll widow.

To kill the loneliness forever on July the 10th...

--Lynette

**DOGSTAR**

By Hal Bogotch

Accordion emotions  
 squeeze in and stretch out  
 a barrel roll of dolphin power

flexible Edison  
 strives to reinvent  
 the spiral galaxy

out far beyond  
 Inverness lighthouse  
 cosmic golf balls collide

glittering white teeth  
 a light-year smile  
 majestic cuneiform asterism

parallel lily pads  
 lie witness to sticky tongues  
 shot out to snag

unseen grasshoppers  
 skip by bellhop  
 sign hotel ledger

TV remote  
 bolted to end table  
 flip familiar digital signals

disingenuous polka party  
 wholly lonely planet  
 hold up clump of daisies

straight to the horses mouth.

**Untitled**

The new cancer slowly exposes itself to me.  
 Skeletal fragments,  
 enough to affiliate it form.  
 Light is only complimented by darkness.  
 Sanity by madness.  
 I am the sunlight on your face right now.  
 And when you touch the bottom.  
 I surround you.

--D.T. Jenkins

listening to a recording  
 the dark poets voice  
 reading stu perkoffs  
 riff for the lady  
 lightened, him up for me  
 he was a dark blur  
 in my memory  
 outside the Venice west  
 in the breezeway  
 talking story  
 he never had a face  
 I never heard his voice  
 he was Jimmy's friend  
 a poet in a dark place  
 from a dark city  
 gave me dark thoughts  
 opening a vile  
 spilling poison  
 into his veins  
 spreading to his pen  
 black on white  
 bare bones of a city  
 whose people  
 never look you in the eye  
 and stab you in the back  
 anyway

- shanna  
 art is love is god

**A New York Poem**

By Hillary Kaye

I say, " How have you been?"  
 and you tell me, what you've  
 been,  
 and to whom.

**Violence Just Ain't Right**

When violence becomes real,  
 People know how to change  
 When it hits your family,  
 It causes too much pain

Bush needs to stop lyin  
 So mom and pops can stop cryin  
 For all the soldiers dyin  
 Dick Cheney shouldn't hold a gun  
 Trouble everywhere creates fear  
 Nervous anxious sadness  
 This tension isn't fun

Violence just ain' right  
 Violence just ain't right  
 Violence just ain't right  
 And bein in a gang ain't tight

When violence becomes real  
 People know how to change  
 When it its your family  
 It causes too much pain

Look, bein in a gang ain't tight  
 When you get shot yo mom go cry every night  
 Then all the gangs at school gonna fight  
 And then the police gonna think it's black on  
 white  
 And parents, don't let your kids play those  
 games  
 They teach you how to fight, and be in gangs

Violence just ain't right  
 Violence just ain't right  
 Violence just ain't right  
 And bein in a gang ain't tight

- Written by the kids of the  
 Neighborhood Arts Project of Inside/Out

**BUSHMANDIAS**

I met a traveller from the ancient Iraq land  
 Who said:—Two vast and trunkless legs of stone  
 Stand in the desert near Baghdad, in the sand,  
 Half sunk, a shatter'd visage lies, whose frown  
 And beady eyes and sneer of cold command  
 Tell that its sculptor well those passions read  
 Which yet survive, stamp'd on these lifeless things,  
 The hand that mock'd them and the heart that fed.  
 And on the pedestal these words appear:  
 "My name is George W. Bush, leader of the free world:  
 Look on my wars, ye peace-loving people, and despair!"  
 Nothing beside remains: round the decay  
 Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare,  
 The lone and level sands stretch far away.

- by Percy Bysshe Shelley (with a little tweaking by Jim Smith)

Art by Eric Ahlberg



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## Invasion of the Home Snatchers

— continued from page one

This enemy has already silently infiltrated our community. No one seemed to be aware of it. Because they look like you and me. You can't recognize them at first site. In fact you may be sitting next to one right now. Look carefully. They have a pocket full of cash and a head full of dreams. Their dreams are our nightmares... It's a nightmare of homelessness and displacement from all you know.

I remember, in the years before the 21st century, every war fought by Americans has been in defense of our homes. It was an American way of life. King George III, The Kaiser, Hitler, Stalin, Castro. Fight all of these despots. We had to. They wanted what we have but it's ours, isn't? Our home? Not to these new invaders. They are the new dictators... They're called developers. I don't know where they come from. I'm not sure how to eradicate these developers. They're a terrifying, relentless and soulless breed. They say they are here for the benefit of the community but what does a community gain when it loses its soul? Make no mistake about it Venice has lost its soul to these developers.

Legend has it once you allow Dracula to enter your home he will have free reign to come and go as he pleases. That's what's happened to Venice. Dracula is here and he's sucking the life blood out of the community. He wants to give us eternal life but it's life on his terms not ours. "It's my building, he says, I can do what I want. You are powerless. You're existence has no meaning. Only what I want is important." Those are the words developers speak... If you hear them run for your lives. Run... But where? I can't afford to live anywhere... Forty to Sixty percent rent increase... I'm tired. I can't go on... What is there to do? There's no one left to fight... The wrecking ball is... Hello? Hello?

Is any one getting this message? If you are, please... please pass this warning on... please do something before it's too late... **They're coming for you... Yes, YOU! You're next...**

## Mistake of the Union — continued from page one

Bush to also pressuring Democrats to cut off funding for the war. The new Congressional majority will quickly have to decide whether to side with their constituents who overwhelming want out of Iraq, or to prove once again they are not trustworthy in stopping the war machine.

Meanwhile, the Bush counter-offensive may well include the worst crime of his career - attacking Iran. As George Galloway said in the British Parliament the other day, his country's troops likely will be the first victims of such an inane attack. "Think of the movie Zulu, except without the happy ending," Galloway said (watch it on YouTube.com). The second victim would be the American soldiers and sailors who are sitting ducks in Iraq and the Persian Gulf.

Even if we avoid this nightmare scenario, Bush is still guilty of blunders and errors of judgement approaching those of Hitler's when he invaded the Soviet Union. The Middle East today is a hornet's nest. The peace process between Israel and Palestine has been derailed, the crusader state of Lebanon has been put into play, Iraqis were denied the pleasure of overthrowing their tyrant because of foreign intervention and are now focused on killing each other, Iran has become a defiant state under siege, Afghanistan's secular and progressive government was overthrown with billions of dollars in aid to the Bin Laden crowd (most of this was the fault of Bush's political "father" Ronald Reagan), and Pakistan is armed to the teeth with nuclear weapons and is providing military training to the Taliban.

Let's all give the President a big round of applause!



## Cookery

By Judith Martin Straw

## General Forecast for February 2007

By Judith Martin Straw

February has two kinds of new year celebrations- Chinese new Year on the 17th ushers in the year of the pig, a time of feasting and merriment. And Feb 2nd, which most of us know as Groundhog Day, is also the ancient Irish holiday of Bridgit, the day when winter's slumber ends, and the first awakening of Spring begins. We can see that there is cause for waking up and feeling good. If you want the best of Feb for So Cal, your job is to hope for a wet one. It's already been a dry winter, and we often get a lot of rain in February - now is the moment to be mindful and thankful of the water we have, and ask for more to fall. It's going to be a very generous month-let's be good to each other.

**Aries** - Some kind of giveaway is hoping to give something to you. Might be the perfect time to enter a contest, or buy a raffle ticket. And when you're poised to get, it's always good to give- make a donation, clean a closet, volunteer. The universe loves balance.

**Taurus** - Are you doing something that is not in your own best interests? What's happening on your private agenda that does not square with the long term goal? Ask yourself and then revise the plan. You need to be on your side all the time, not just some of the time.

**Gemini** - Partnership is your specialty, and this is a great time for investing more effort and energy in it. You and your lover, spouse, business partner or work-out buddy have some really great stuff coming your way.

**Cancer** - Major housecleaning, or is it really just time to move? There's no harm in just pretending you're moving and getting rid of all that excess stuff while you are waiting to find out what's going on. If you aren't willing to take it with you, then you don't need it now.

**Leo** - It's time to remind yourself that the flesh is not the enemy of the spirit- it is the vehicle that gets the spirit from here to there. Try to keep your discipline in balance-not too many miles to run, not too many glasses of Merlot, and you'll get even more accomplished.

**Virgo** - Women, lots of happy women, perhaps you are one of them, or you just have a bunch of them in your life at the moment. Whatever you are doing, keep doing it.

**Libra** - A good time to make a bold move. Is there a promotion you have your eye on, or someone sweet you want to meet? Courage and persistence, and the gods will find favor with you.

**Scorpio** - There isn't any part of you life that won't benefit from your passionate creativity. Break a habit, take a chance, buy yourself a big box of crayons and see where your doodles inspire you to go.

**Sagittarius** - Lady luck is smiling down on you- Smile back! This is a great time for you to plan out some big goals, and take the first step to achieve them.

**Capricorn** - It's time to finish off that big project, and get ready to hand it over to someone else to manage. You have put in great effort, and you'll enjoy some great success, but you don't need to keep your hand on the tiller. Find a good manager, and take a break.

**Aquarius** - There may be strife on the way, but you know how to fight the good fight, and keep your own ethics flying. Don't let the challenge distress you-your role is to meet the challenge and not lose your cool center.

**Pisces** - It's time to fasten your ideals to the bulletin board and read them every day until you have them memorized. Life can be like this- Just focus and find a way to step forward.

## February is Aquarius

Here we are, wishing a very happy birthday to our friends of the Aquarian persuasion. You are the sign most likely to be vegetarian, or vegan, you are the sign most likely to vote Green or Peace and Freedom, you are the sign whose recycling bin is always full before the garbage bin is even halfway up. Simply put, you are the folks most likely to be reading The Free Venice Beachhead. And you subscribe to the Nation, just to prove to yourself it's not all about the poetry. You have the balanced blessing of being very committed freedom lovers; open to almost anything except changing your ideals. Perhaps being born in this time of dark night and deep dreaming gives you a gift for dreams in particular. We have not been singing about the Age of Aquarius for the last 30 years without knowing that it means peppermint and parsley for all. Not the little white candies with the red stripes- we are talking about a serious cup of tea. And parsley is not on your plate to garnish it- you eat it after your meal to freshen your breath. But, all you Aquarians know this. You are devoted lovers of peppermint tea and dedicated parsley munchers as well.

In the quiet peace of your own kitchen, most things are labeled organic- the exception being those things that do not even have labels, because you bought them from the farmer's market or bartered them for some bodywork. Your pots and pans might be second-hand, your tools a bit jumbled, but you know where everything is at the exact moment you need it. You like to keep it simple, but a nice plate and a hand woven napkin might grace the table, with perhaps a little candlelight. Simple doesn't mean Spartan, not for our Aquarius friends. And when you finish, you'll be scrap - ing those last bits into the compost bin, because you really do love your Mother. Still, there won't be much left over from this dish, because it's everything you like best- Simple, veggie, easy enough to do but challenging enough to be interesting, and soul satisfying like a cold peppermint tea on a hot winter's day.

### Japanese Bean Rice ( Mame Gohan)

- 3 Tsp dried yellow soy beans (daizu)
- 1 1/2 cups short grain rice (white does better than brown, here)
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1 Tsp sake
- 1 1/2 tsp salt

Toast the soy beans in a dry saucepan, shaking the pan over medium heat for about 2 minutes. Beans will crackle a bit, smell nice and scorch in some spots. Don't worry- it's part of the plan.

Cool beans on a plate. When completely cool, fold beans in a clean tea towel, and go over them with a rolling pin, to break the beans and slip the skins. Give it three minutes, or 108 rolls of the rolling pin. Spread the beans out on a fresh towel and pick out the meat, discard (compost!) the skins.

Place rice in a saucepan, along with the beans and everything else. Cook it like your average pot of rice, (I like to kill the flame on the last five minutes and just let it finish itself with ambient heat- ) Make certain your lid is on snug; steam is essential to happy rice.

This recipe is a traditional part of the Setsubun Festival in Japan, which takes place in February. It's just the dish for you.

- And , it goes very nicely with-  
Spinach with Walnut Dressing
- 1/2 pound of stemmed, washed spinach
- 4 large whole walnuts (or 1/3 cup chopped)
- 1 tsp sugar
- 4 tsps soy sauce
- sake or water

Parboil spinach briefly- very briefly. Like the amount of time you are tasting your soy beans. Rinse the spinach in cold water, and gently squeeze the excess. Cut the spinach into 1 inch wide shreds. Crush walnuts, but don't pulverize them. You want dressing, not butter. Add sugar and soy and mix. Dilute to taste with sake or water. Toss with spinach, and enjoy.

You can feed your happy vegan self or treat a bunch of friends.

They know your rice is co-op, your spinach is organic, and your sake is as warm as your smile. A cup of peppermint tea makes a lovely dessert.



# Community Events

## — by the numbers

**Feb. 3** • Saturday, 3pm – **Urban Tango:** The Agony and Ecstasy of Amateur Tango-In Search of the Elusive Embrace, the performance brings the audience into the heart of the woman's Tango experience. Electric Lodge.

**Feb. 4** • Sunday, 9:30am – **Lincoln Place Tenant's Association** meeting, Penmar Park  
 • Sunday, 5pm, – Open reading with **Theresa Antonia & Lisa Marie Sandoval**, Beyond Baroque. \$7/seniors \$5.  
 • Sunday, 9-12pm – **Onaji Murray**, great jazz vibes, No cover. Hal's.

**Feb. 5** • Monday, 9-12pm – **Bobby Matos**, Latin jazz drumming icon. No cover. Hal's.

**Feb. 6** • Tuesday, 7pm – L.A. City Council-member Bill Rosendahl will be holding a **Town Hall meeting** to discuss the relocation of **St. Joseph Center**. Penmar Rec. Center, 1341 Lake St., For more information, call 311 or 568-8772.

**Feb. 7** • Wed. Feb. 7, 7pm – Miles of Miles, Ken Kubernik screens rare videos of electric **Miles Davis** concerts from Europe and NY, featuring Chick Corea, Dave Holland, Wayne Shorter. 6pm preshow clips of Ornette Coleman, Cecil Taylor, Sun Ra. Sponto Gallery.

**Feb. 11** • Sunday, 4-8pm – **The Gumbo Brothers**, live music. Venice Mardi Gras fundraiser, art & photography show. Sponto Gallery.  
 • Sunday, 9-12pm – **Louis Taylor**, No cover. Hal's.

**Feb. 12** • Monday, 9-12pm – **Cal Bennett**, too funky to be smooth alto sax player, No cover. Hal's.

**Feb. 15** • Thursday, 7:30pm – **Yan Li & Denis Mair** read their poetry, Beyond Baroque. \$7/seniors \$5.  
 • Thursday, 8pm – **PXL THIS 16**, the 16th annual Fisher Price toy camera film festival, screens at Vidiots, 302 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica. 392-8508. Free. indiespace.com/pxlthis

**Feb. 17** • Saturday, 7-11pm – **A Tribute to the Late Great Venice Beat Poet, John Thomas**. Featuring readings by Wanda Coleman, Philomene Long, Frank Rios, Truth-I, Black Shoe Polish, and Firefly. Free. Sponto Gallery.  
 • Saturday, 7:30pm – **Daniel Tiffany & Ellen Willis** read their poetry, Beyond Baroque. \$7/seniors \$5.

**Feb. 18** • Sunday, noon-2pm – Venice Ocean Front Walk **Mardi Gras Parade**, show off your alligator wobble joining with your wackily costumed neighbors walking from Rose to Windward and back.  
 • Sunday 7pm – **Poets Beyond the Half Shell**, Beyond Baroque.  
 • Sunday, 9-12pm – **Greg Poree**, busy guitarist/composer/arranger, Hal's Bar and Grill 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 310-396-3105, no cover.

**Feb. 19** • Monday, 9-12pm – **Thom Rottella**, smooove jazz guitar, Hal's Bar and Grill 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 310-396-3105, no cover.

**Feb. 21** • Wednesday, 7pm, **Taurobolium**, filmmaker Larry Wessel screens his intense bull fighting documentary. Sponto Gallery.

**Feb. 23** • Friday, 7:30pm – **Voices From Leimert Park**, the World Stage Anthology Reading, Beyond Baroque. \$10

**Feb. 25** • Sunday, 9-12pm, **Quentin Dennard**, legendary Motown/jazz/r&b drummer, No cover. Hal's.

**Feb. 26** • Monday, 9-12pm, **Phil Upchurch**, one-time session man for the Dells, Jerry Butler, the Crusaders, Howlin' Wolf, and Muddy Waters, the long-time LA mainstay gets blue, funky, or soulful with the flick of a pick, No cover. Hal's.



### Ongoing Events

Thurs./Fri./Sat. 8 pm and Sundays 3pm – **Hogan's Goat** by William Alfred Pacific Resident Theatre 705 1/2 Venice Blvd. 822-8392 \$16-\$23

Mon.-Fri. 10am-4pm, 1-5pm Sat. thru Feb. 28th – **Documentary Photography:** Antonio Turok's photographs of demonstrations and protests by indigenous people of **Oaxaca**, who are denied education, and whose protests are suppressed. Traditional Oaxacan art objects are also offered for sale. SPARC



### Location Guide

- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006
- Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 306-1854, brownpapertickets.com/event/8979
- Hal's Bar and Grill 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 396-3105
- Sponto Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave, Free, 306-7330, pfsuzy@aol.com
- SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd, 310.822.9560 x 15.

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

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Photograph/Painting by Robert Farrington

Please send notices of Venice events to: Calendar@freevenice.org or PO Box 2, Venice 90294.



# Join the Peace Surge! Speak Out for Peace



Photo by Next Move



Photo by Next Move



Photos by Geronimo



Photo by Marcus

## Photos from the Jan. 27 anti-war march in Los Angeles



Photos by Jim Smith



Photo by Marcus



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Photo by Hugh Stegman



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Bring Peace signs and banners for peace, justice and equality  
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**Peace & Justice Vigil**  
at the Venice Circle at Main & Windward



Photo by Hugh Stegman



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