

A Very American Coup

By Jim Smith

The office of President was not on the ballot in November. Yet it was around that time that a sitting president began to feel the power oozing out of the White House.

Things began happening that George Bush said would never happen. Donald Rumsfeld, the Secretary of War, was fired. "Mad John" Bolton's confirmation hearing by the Senate was quietly dropped. The rumblings and grumblings of Deadeye Dick Cheney (who can't be fired) have become less and less frequent. And *what-to-do-about-Iraq* became a subject for civil discussion for the first time.

The "Adults" who really run the country have stepped in and taken a hand in its day-to-day operation. Bush has long been an embarrassment to them, and now he's become a liability. The superrich in this country, which includes the Bush family, have decided that the current president has not been a good steward of their far flung interests. Georgie is on the verge of blowing their control of Middle East Oil, and with it, the U.S.'s ability to run a worldwide empire.

Young George (from the viewpoint of the Adults) has tried to run the country as if he was not responsible to its Board of Directors. Over the past couple of months, they have made it clear to him that he is not the Decider after all.

What a scene it must have been when the Adults, or "the men in the shadows," as Jackson Browne calls them, met with Pappy Bush. There may have been arguments as a father defended his idiot child.

3,000 DEAD IN IRAQ
-see back page

Bush 41 Feels His Own Pain



George Bush, the elder, cries for his idiot son in the White House. "It should have been Jeb."

But in the end George H.W. Bush threw in with class, not his kid. The toll it took on him was visible for all to see - over and over - as he broke down on TV, Dec. 4 (two days before the Iraq Study Group report was made public). If you missed it, check YouTube.com for "Bush cries." Some have speculated that Bush broke down with regret that George, not Jeb, had become president.

In any case, the elder Bush's Consigliere, James Baker, has become the spokesperson for the Adults. This is welcome news for those who think George W. Bush is some sort of aberration, and that if he was out of the picture everything would be fine. For the rest of us who see Bush, however ineptly, carrying out the orders of the most voracious and predatory ruling class in history, it's time to worry.

-continued on page 10

Take me with you, Godfather



1965
barely alive
see the T.A.M.I. Show
at the El Monte Drive-In
Marvin, Smokey, Jan & Dean,
Chuck Berry, Beach Boys, Billy J, the Supremes,
all great and all brushed aside
by James Brown's one legged power glide
across the stage into "Out of Sight"
pegged pantsed panic
Famous Flames flare furiously
10,000 megawatt grin
blazing ancestral light
primal plasticene pompadour
joltin jellied ankle dance
checked sport coat and double breasted vest
solid colored pants

Prisoner of Love/Please Please Please
Danny Ray with the cape
James repeatedly falling hard on his knees
begging his love
his face broken by misery
a man driven insane by pain
then it's time to get aboard
the Night Train

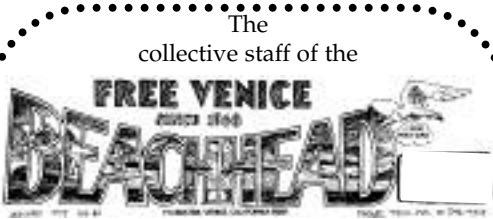
people around me shriek/whistle
and cheer in their cars
electricity sparks off James
like the night sky's stars
hyper-kinetic dance machine moves
the band roars out light speed grooves
then stops

NIGHT! NIGHT! NIGHT! NIGHT!

he screams
band slams back into ecstatic turbo gear
as the Jerk/Boogaloo/Mashed Potatoes/Skate
Camel Walk, too
possess the Babaloawo along with Shango and Oshun
James slides us up the Nile to the Moon
our shared origins binding our future
as people spill out their vehicles
beating their hoods and roofs
howling/honking/flashing car lights
a riot response
on rolling asphalt between orderly speaker poles

James Brown
drop down
quick splits
up laughs bows
and he's gone

-Rex Butters



BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:
Karl Abrams, Rex Butters, C.V. Beck, Carol Fondiller, Don Geagan, Yolanda Miranda, Jim Smith, Erica Snowlake, Judith Martin-Straw, 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.

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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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- | | |
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Letter from Prison

Dear Beachhead,

I am currently incarcerated and recently came across you newspaper. I’m very interested in subscribing to the Beachhead.

I’m from Venice, born and raised on California and Oakwood Aves. Although I’m away from home, I would love to stay updated to all the ups and downs happening all over the west side.

Please get at me with all the info so I can purchase a subscription, ASAP. Do you accept Institution checks?

Thank you for your time, hope to hear from you soon, Merry Xmas & Happy New Year!
Respectfully *Miguel*, Corcoran State Prison

The Collective Responds: Dear Miguel, A Beachhead subscription is coming at you free of charge. We’re confident our Venice readers will pay for a sub for a neighbor who is “away from home.”

Where else do you wanna eat?

Dear Beachhead,

Like other Beachhead readers, I enjoyed Paul Tranck's article, “Where Do You Wanna Eat?” (Nov. 2006). I was also impressed with the amount of research that went into it.

So consider this an addition, not a criticism. *The HOT*, is another Venice restaurant that pays more attention to its food than its sign. It began at Pacific and Horizon with a sign that read, *House of Teriyaki Donut*. But in fact, it specialized, then and now, in breakfast. When the *Lafayette* closed, the cook went to work at *The Hot*, and we continued to enjoy huevos rancheros and veggie rancheros. A few years ago, *The Hot*, moved to Pacific and Ave. 18 - the site of the old *Saucy Dog* - and became the *Hot Too*. More recently, a sign went up calling it *Benice*. By whatever name, it's still a local hangout place.

While not technically in Venice, *Olivia’s* Soul Food Restaurant, at Main and Hill, drew Venetians like a magnet. When I started going there in the 60s, heaping mounds of delicious soul food could be had for less than a dollar. Jim Morrison also loved the place, and wrote a song there called “Soul Kitchen.” Sadly, *Olivia’s* is long gone.

Mexican restaurants have played a major role in satisfying Venice appetites. In the 60s, *La Cabaña* was about half the size it is now, and many dishes were under \$2. On Lincoln Blvd., two restaurants - *Azteca* and *El Camino Real* (destroyed to build Staples) - competed for favor. But we often packed the whole commune in an old car or two and headed out for *Titos Tacos* at the corner of Washington and Sepulveda. Since then it's moved next door, but still offers cheap and delicious tacos and enchiladas.

With so many vegetarians in Venice, you'd think there would be a vegetarian restaurant on every corner. But, alas, there are none. Not long ago, we had our choice between *Venus of Venice* (on Westminster, then on Abbot Kinney) and *A Votre Sante* (on Abbot Kinney's restaurant row). Both are gone now, as are *The Comeback Inn* on Abbot Kinney and the macrobiotic restaurant that occupied part of the *On the Waterfront* restaurant space on OFW.

Also deserving special mention for years of service to Venice are *Cafe 50s* and *Hoagies*, both on Lincoln, and *Abbot’s Pizza* on AKB. Who says we need chain restaurants?

Other gone-but-not-forgotten eateries, not mentioned in Paul's article, include: *Joe’s Cafe* (OFW), *The Brandywine Cafe* (Lincoln), *Cheese & Olive* (Hamburger Square), the *Merchant of Venice* (Abbot Kinney Blvd.) and the *Dandelion* (Venice Blvd).

Jim Smith

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BOOK REVIEW: The Margolin Guide - State of California and Federal Marijuana Laws written by Bruce Margolin

By John Davis

What is the legal status of weed today? Laws change so fast it seems impossible to know. Most people haven't the foggiest notion what laws govern marijuana use in their city, county, or state, and know nothing about what federal laws overshadow them all.

If you or anybody you know uses cannabis it will pay to buy this book. Just think, a few bucks may be the best way to avoid losing your freedom because you choose to empower yourself with the basic knowledge surrounding a medicinal flowering plant that humans have used historically for thousands or more years.

If you travel from state to state keep a copy of this book with your highway map because every time you cross a state line the laws change dramatically.

Authored by West Hollywood attorney Bruce M. Margolin, the Guide spells out in simple terms the legal consequences facing people who choose to self administer medical marijuana and under what circumstances California Law allows patients to legally possess, use and transport the weed.

Luckily the acceptance of this ancient cure for various medical conditions has been recognized as legal in California, but not so fast: it's not time to light up yet. You first have to obtain a physician's referral then obtain the medicine from a State of California authorized distribution network.

A growing number of patients are in compliance with California law and possess, administer, transport and grow it with the blessing of the lawmakers and people of California.

While the federal government has not endorsed California law in this respect, it is clear the political wind is changing rapidly at the national level with the swing of the political pendulum in the November 06 elections.

Several cities and counties including Los Angeles have also made possession of small amounts of cannabis a low law enforcement priority.

The bad news is the state, county, and the federal government will still dish out the harshest of punishments to those individuals who do not choose to empower themselves, and then employ their new found legal knowledge to stay out of jail.

In the book the author outlines the primary legal concepts in an easy to understand thirty-three page guide that costs about as much as two cups of coffee at Starbucks. Ask yourself, what is your freedom worth?

If you would like to obtain a copy of the book, visit the website:
www.1800420LAWS.com

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JURY TRIAL SET FOR REMAINING LINCOLN PLACE TENANTS

A jury trial, to be held on Jan. 17 at Malibu Superior Court, will determine whether the owner of Lincoln Place acted in good faith using the Ellis Act to evict the tenants.

The trial pits AIMCO, a Denver corporation, against the remaining senior and disabled tenants of Lincoln Place.

On Dec. 15, Superior Court Judge Patricia Collins ruled that Lincoln Place tenants are entitled to a trial by jury on the issue of whether rental giant AIMCO acted in good faith in evicting 13 households - mostly elderly and disabled - under the Ellis Act, a state law that allows landlords to evict tenants, subject to certain protections to prevent abuse of the Act.

Rent control laws in Los Angeles require that all landlords who evict tenants under the Ellis Act must establish that they are acting in “good faith,” meaning that the landlord must honestly intend to permanently remove the units from the rental market. The Ellis Act does not permit the landlord to do any of the following:

- 1) Remove less than all the units in a building;
- 2) Evict the tenants in order to increase the sale price of the building;
- 3) Evict the tenants so that new tenants can be brought in at a higher rent (in other words, to circumvent rent control);
- 4) Interfere with the city’s power to regulate land use, including redevelopment entitlements.

In their defense against unlawful detainer actions, the tenants say that AIMCO, one of the largest apartment owners in the country, is violating Los Angeles rent control laws.

Sheila Bernard, president of the Lincoln Place Tenants Association (LPTA) explains, “all over the country AIMCO purchases older garden apartments, upgrades units from low rent to high rent units and obtains local concessions to increase density, and often then sells the property to the highest bidder. They see rent control as an obstacle to their plans to maximize profits on the backs of seniors and the disabled, many of whom have lived here for more than 25 years.”

AIMCO had challenged the tenants’ right to a jury trial. Amanda Seward, the pro bono attorney who has joined the legal team defending the tenants, said, “AIMCO’s challenge was rejected by the court, making way to a full trial on the issue of AIMCO’s good faith.”

In a separate legal action, LPTA and one family sued AIMCO and the city to enforce the tenant protection conditions agreed to by the owner when the city approved a redevelopment plan of Lincoln Place. That plan gave the landlord the right to certain land use entitlements in exchange for AIMCO’s agreement that it would not evict the tenants. Under the tenant protection conditions, the owner promised to allow tenants that wanted to remain on the property that they would have the right to relocate to comparable or better units within Lincoln Place at their current rent. AIMCO has refused to abide by these conditions and the city has refused to enforce them.

These lawsuits ask the court to clarify the interaction of the California Environmental Quality Act or “CEQA,” and the Ellis Act. CEQA requires cities to mitigate the damages of development on the environment, including the impact on the rental market. These two suits are:

- 1) Marlin v AIMCO, a suit for declaratory relief on whether AIMCO can evict the tenants in violation of the mitigation measures spelled out in the Lincoln Place Redevelopment Project, and,
- 2) LPTA v City of LA and AIMCO, in which the tenants ask the court to mandate that the City of LA cease its collusion with AIMCO in illegally evicting the tenants, and that the court stop AIMCO from engaging in the unfair business practice of illegally evicting the tenants.

On December 6, 2005 AIMCO had the Sheriff’s Department lock out 52 house-



Lincoln Place

TENT CITY REPORT

By C.V. Beck

As of Wednesday, December 6th, 2006 at 4 pm, Tent City is on hiatus. We expect to resume after a bit...when it gets warmer.

What goes on? (I know you want to know). Lincoln Place tenants will be going to trial in Malibu beginning on January 17, 2007 at 8:30 am in the matter of the Ellis Act evictions which we hold to be not lawful. This trial is being estimated as to be about two weeks long. We'll see. Our other court cases will be forthcoming shortly as well. Hold your breath.

In other parts of the Venetian forest, two of my neighbors, both “Happy Campers” received from LAPD a notice which I am reproducing here...just in time for Thanksgiving (on right).

Out of curiosity, I called the shelter number at the bottom of the form and was immediately referred to another number. (If that had been my only quarter, and I was in a pay phone, I would have been out of luck.) When I talked to the polite friendly female on the other end of the line, I enquired if any of these shelters would take people with their pets and was told they do not. This explains to me why there are so many homeless people with pets about. Since so many apartments nowadays will not take pets, or demand excessive pet security deposits, (I, myself, had to cough up \$500 pet security for my cats), it would seem a good idea if some of these shelter places were to be more pet and companion animal friendly. Yes, I know it's complicated but it could be done and it would be a good opportunity to network with the animal shelters as well, wouldn't it?

Brian Reynolds, a plein aire artist, has been doing exceptional paintings of Lincoln Place, arriving in his vehicle with his well behaved chocolate Lab on a leash and painting from the streets, alleys and sidewalks all around the complex. (See www.bhreynolds.com)

On a much less pleasant note, some residents continue experiencing very hostile dog walking around Lincoln Place. It is very clear now that some near and not so near neighbors use Lincoln Place as a convenient spot not to clean up after their pets and to exercise them at our expense. Additionally, these very hostile, aggressive people are using their dogs as instruments of their most hidden selves as they permit them to roam through the buildings and pathways, chasing and mauling cats. Some of these canine owners have been spoken to many times about letting their dogs off-leash and letting or even abetting them running through the buildings and mauling the felines. Last seen indulging themselves to our detriment is a dark haired woman wearing jogging type clothes, walking a mixed medium sized chow-shepherd(?) and a man with a German accent with a German shepherd off the leash. (This dog may be attack trained...according to the person who encountered him in their hallways.) Another off leash dog was reported as being larger than a great dane! Any of these dogs

holds (21 children and 65 adults) from Lincoln Place. More evictions followed. Fifty-four of these evictions are currently on appeal.

The tenants hope that when the dust settles on these cases, the hundreds of families who have been driven from Lincoln Place by AIMCO will have the opportunity to return to the historic apartment complex, which has offered thousands of low-and-moderate-income families stability and community in Venice since 1950.

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

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could injure or kill a senior or a child instead of a cat at any time. This is a major concern to us remaining residents. Even though the security guards have been alerted regarding this practice, and the laws about dog walking, they ignore it or secure themselves in their vehicles as they, too, are afraid of these dogs.

David Busch stopped by on Sunday, December 17 and we had a chat. He says he has been staying downtown with that homeless group of people he says the police and security guards down there are being very aggressive in the matter of homeless being “somewhere else” from 6 am to 9 pm...in their zeal to obey the letter of the law but not the spirit of the law. David says there are no cots available downtown for any homeless person with the flu or diarrhea for bed rest for a couple hours at any time although apparently there are hundreds of beds being kept empty and unused in the missions. Seems like it wouldn't be a bad idea to open up some beds to keep sick people from sitting up in fast food restaurants and wandering around the streets in an infirm state in the day time.

Happy New Year and a better one for all of us human beings.



Lincoln Place Cats Holiday Feast

In spite of rumors to the contrary, Lincoln Place people feed the cats that live at the garden apartments, as the well-stocked LP pantry shows.

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Book Review – *Raising Mama* – A Memoir written by Larry Michael Sullivan

By Judith Martin-Straw

It’s always a delight to discover that old friends are still around. When the Beachhead received a review copy of *Raising Mama*, I had already decided that Larry Sullivan had washed away in Hurricane Rita, or emigrated to Canada out of political disgust. Neither of those turned out to be true, and our happy author is said to be alive and well in New Mexico. For his part, Larry sent a note apologizing for referring to the Beachhead in the past tense. Our mutual friend Mark Twain can be called in to comment for both sides - “Reports of my demise have been greatly exaggerated.”

It’s one thing to hear stories about someone’s wild family or crazy parents when sitting around, shooting the breeze. It’s quite another to get them all sequential, substantiated and put to rest in a volume of memoirs. If you’ve read Ricky Bragg’s life in ‘All over but the Shoutin,’ consider that volume to be a mild jar of store bought salsa. This one is like the infamous homemade tongue-searing green sauce served at the Sullivan house for those willing to dip their tortilla chips into a possible second degree burn. *Raising Mama* starts off in a cotton field in Shake Rag, Tennessee, where a very small girl is working like a machine trying to win the approval (and reward) of her father. She meets the goal, but the reward is unfairly withheld, and insult sets the tone for her anger and her actions through the rest of her days. Dorothy, known as Dot, raises Larry, his sister Karla and a whole lotta hell.

When you have a parent this extreme, putting her down on paper is perhaps the best way of putting it all in perspective. While the reader marvels at how they made it from one jump to the next, seeing what drove her, and why, opens these stories up into a larger motif.

It’s an irony not lost on Larry Sullivan that writing a book about the kind of people who never read books makes for open literature. Go ahead and tell the truth - they’ll never know, anyway. While the book is as much about Larry as it is about Dot, other major characters include the American South, Pop Music of the late 50’s and early 60’s, Class Consciousness, Racism, Serial Monogamy and Human Nature. In a wild decade that moves around the south, out to the west coast and back to the south again, Larry sticks with Dot through multiple marriages and divorces with two half brothers, dozens of sudden changes of residence, and the realization that even poor kids with wild mothers can be smart.

I was bit disappointed in the abrupt ending, but of course, a sequel is required. The promotional materials enclosed with the book tell us the next installment is titled “Trailer Trash”- but you’d have no way of knowing that just from reading the volume. I’d love to read “The Return of Memphis Slim”, but there’s another volume needed between here and there - how did he live long enough to grow up?

For those who remember Larry Sullivan when he lived in Venice, and enjoyed reading Memphis Slim in the Beachhead, this book is a homegrown treat. If you never heard of Larry

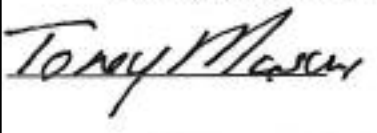


Kathy and Larry Sullivan, aka memphis slim,. Photo reprinted from Venice of America by Carolyn Elayne Alexander.

Sullivan until today, you should read this book, and marvel at the storytelling skills of a bona fide survivor.

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How Venice Voted

He’s Not Our Governor – Venice Rejects Schwarzenegger

By Jim Smith

There were six candidates in the Nov. 7 election who had some relationship to Venice. While Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger never actually lived here, he did work out at Gold’s Gym on Pacific, and owns property in Venice. Newly elected Secretary of State Debra Bowen lives in Venice, although she claims to live in Marina del Rey (as do other south-of-Washington residents).

Two State Assembly candidates, Karl Abrams and Peter Thottam, also live in Venice, as do two Congressional candidates, incumbent Jane Harman and me.

Apparently, Venetians don’t feel much kinship with Gov. Arnold who was soundly

trounced by Phil Angelides, 64% to 26%. At the same time, Schwarzenegger won statewide with 56% of the vote.

Oxford Triangle resident Debra Bowen, who was once the lawyer for the Venice Town Council, eked out a statewide victory by three percentage points over incumbent Bruce McPherson. But in Venice she finished 65 percentage points ahead of her main opponent.

It was a year in which the desire of voters to change Congress seemed to benefit Democrats no matter what office they sought (except for hapless Phil Angelides).

This trend worked against underfunded third-party candidates. Green candidate for Governor, Peter Camejo, received only five per-

cent in Venice, less votes than there are Green registrants. Together, Karl Abrams (Peace & Freedom) and Peter Thottam (Green) racked up 10 percent of the Assembly vote in Venice. I got 8 percent running against Jane Harman, the richest member of Congress, and took solace in beating the Republican in nine Venice precincts. My best showing - 13% - was in the Canals, of all places!

It may sound like sour grapes, but I have to say the election was far from fair or democratic. When one candidate is allowed to spend in excess of a million dollars and is given massive amounts of free media time, the outcome is not in doubt. Of course, most third-party candidates don’t expect to win, but they do expect a fair hearing in the media and from voters.

| How Venice Voted - Nov. 7, 2006 - Final Results | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|------------|------------------------|-----------|---------------|--|
| Nov. 7, 2006 | | | | | | | | | |
| | Registered Voters: | Actually Voted: | ---- Governor ---- | | | - Secretary of State - | | | |
| | | | Camejo (D) | Angelides (D) | Arnold (R) | Precinct | Bowen (D) | McPherson (R) | |
| Central Venice | 806 | 429 | 22 | 291 | 92 | 3201 | 338 | 29 | |
| Central/North Beach | 846 | 306 | 28 | 192 | 73 | 2308 | 227 | 34 | |
| Central/North Beach | 856 | 331 | 23 | 227 | 67 | 1243 | 257 | 22 | |
| North Beach | 868 | 369 | 19 | 226 | 93 | 1938 | 267 | 42 | |
| North Beach | 828 | 381 | 23 | 236 | 102 | 1244 | 274 | 45 | |
| Rose Ave./Oakwood | 798 | 347 | 25 | 237 | 71 | 6386 | 268 | 36 | |
| Rose Ave./Oakwood | 738 | 330 | 22 | 227 | 69 | 1542 | 257 | 31 | |
| Oakwood | 736 | 329 | 14 | 237 | 62 | 3235 | 266 | 15 | |
| Oakwood | 831 | 363 | 14 | 259 | 57 | 1546 | 263 | 21 | |
| Oakwood/Milwood | 796 | 425 | 17 | 311 | 78 | 1547 | 351 | 31 | |
| N. Penmar/Linc. Place | 707 | 341 | 13 | 195 | 121 | 1549 | 235 | 72 | |
| S. Penmar | 894 | 387 | 17 | 248 | 108 | 3202 | 282 | 55 | |
| N. Penmar East | 891 | 438 | 19 | 248 | 158 | 1553 | 285 | 94 | |
| S. Penmar East | 870 | 484 | 19 | 308 | 118 | 1554 | 345 | 60 | |
| Zanja | 747 | 294 | 12 | 181 | 82 | 5934 | 208 | 41 | |
| Presidents' Row | 818 | 429 | 23 | 249 | 129 | 5938 | 311 | 58 | |
| Presidents' Row | 722 | 322 | 16 | 205 | 79 | 5937 | 235 | 40 | |
| Silver Triangle | 730 | 329 | 12 | 192 | 100 | 2389 | 250 | 48 | |
| Canals | 725 | 422 | 17 | 250 | 142 | 2921 | 318 | 63 | |
| South of Canals | 749 | 335 | 17 | 186 | 121 | 2383 | 247 | 57 | |
| S. Beach | 848 | 397 | 15 | 234 | 124 | 2863 | 285 | 62 | |
| Total Venice 90291: | 16,800 | 7,746 | 387 | 4,933 | 2,047 | | 5,799 | 951 | |
| | % who voted: | 46% | 5% | 64% | 26% | | 74% | 12% | |
| Venice 90292: (S. of Wash) | | | | | | | | | |
| Oxford Triangle | 606 | 283 | 12 | 129 | 106 | 2392 | 173 | 58 | |
| Per: Wash. to Hurricane | 727 | 303 | 9 | 149 | 129 | 1884B | 203 | 64 | |
| Per: Hurricane to Outrigger | 870 | 382 | 11 | 182 | 194 | 3197 | 245 | 97 | |
| Per: Outrigger south | 555 | 244 | 4 | 100 | 131 | 0561B | 135 | 85 | |
| Total Venice 90292: | 2,758 | 1,192 | 36 | 540 | 560 | | 757 | 304 | |
| | | 44% | 2% | 41% | 54% | | 64% | 26% | |

| How Venice Voted - Nov. 7, 2006 - Final Results | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|-------------|
| Nov. 7, 2006 | | | | | | | | | |
| | Congress | | | | Precinct | Assembly | | | |
| | Smith (P&F) | Gibson (P) | Harman (D) | Binkley (Lb) | | Lieu (D) | Ford (R) | Abrams (P&F) | Thottam (G) |
| Central Venice | 31 | 21 | 332 | 18 | 3201 | 326 | 22 | 12 | 31 |
| Central/North Beach | 34 | 24 | 217 | 7 | 2388 | 213 | 27 | 20 | 22 |
| Central/North Beach | 30 | 13 | 254 | 15 | 1243 | 246 | 19 | 10 | 23 |
| North Beach | 26 | 34 | 252 | 9 | 1938 | 248 | 40 | 11 | 27 |
| North Beach | 24 | 37 | 290 | 6 | 1244 | 270 | 43 | 21 | 20 |
| Rose Ave./Oakwood | 30 | 27 | 271 | 6 | 5386 | 262 | 32 | 9 | 28 |
| Rose Ave./Oakwood | 21 | 20 | 270 | 5 | 1542 | 236 | 24 | 18 | 30 |
| Oakwood | 29 | 12 | 271 | 8 | 3235 | 266 | 16 | 16 | 15 |
| Oakwood | 24 | 18 | 284 | 6 | 1546 | 269 | 21 | 22 | 19 |
| Oakwood/Milwood | 44 | 25 | 329 | 5 | 1547 | 334 | 28 | 21 | 20 |
| N. Penmar/Linc. Place | 14 | 59 | 248 | 6 | 1549 | 230 | 61 | 11 | 16 |
| S. Penmar | 39 | 40 | 290 | 3 | 3202 | 276 | 40 | 22 | 22 |
| N. Penmar East | 23 | 66 | 316 | 11 | 1553 | 295 | 79 | 11 | 30 |
| S. Penmar East | 30 | 43 | 352 | 7 | 1554 | 330 | 56 | 16 | 25 |
| Zanja | 11 | 36 | 221 | 8 | 5934 | 207 | 37 | 12 | 18 |
| Presidents' Row | 15 | 52 | 323 | 11 | 5936 | 304 | 59 | 7 | 26 |
| Presidents' Row | 22 | 32 | 245 | 5 | 5937 | 233 | 36 | 13 | 18 |
| Silver Triangle | 14 | 38 | 264 | 8 | 2389 | 249 | 40 | 15 | 15 |
| Canals | 51 | 48 | 297 | 11 | 2921 | 302 | 54 | 22 | 24 |
| South of Canals | 23 | 40 | 249 | 9 | 2383 | 231 | 57 | 13 | 13 |
| S. Beach | 26 | 43 | 299 | 11 | 2863 | 300 | 50 | 12 | 10 |
| Total Venice 90291: | 554 | 726 | 5,674 | 175 | | 5,627 | 841 | 314 | 452 |
| | 8% | 10% | 80% | 2% | | 78% | 12% | 4% | 6% |
| Venice 90292: (S. of Wash) | | | | | | | | | |
| Oxford Triangle | 16 | 55 | 175 | 6 | 2392 | 166 | 66 | 6 | 11 |
| Per: Wash. to Hurricane | 9 | 48 | 224 | 5 | 1884B | 204 | 63 | 5 | 9 |
| Per: Hurricane to Outrigger | 5 | 65 | 290 | 9 | 3197 | 258 | 84 | 11 | 8 |
| Per: Outrigger south | 0 | 55 | 172 | 4 | 0561B | 151 | 66 | 3 | 4 |
| Total Venice 90292: | 30 | 223 | 661 | 24 | | 779 | 279 | 25 | 32 |
| | 3% | 20% | 76% | 2% | | 70% | 25% | 2% | 3% |

Councilman Rosendahl Launches \$11 Million Transportation Plan

L.A. City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl chose the intersection of Lincoln and Venice Blvds., Dec. 7, to announce a laundry list of transportation initiatives ranging from pedestrian safety to mass transit.

Rosendahl was joined by Venice community activists, mass transit advocates and Gloria Jeff, general manager of the City's Department of Transportation. For the past several months, Jeff and Rosendahl's staffs have been working together to develop plans to spend accumulated traffic mitigation funds that can only be spent in Rosendahl's coastal district.

Rosendahl's plan includes:

- Left Turn Signal Improvements
- An estimated \$3 million for 32 signal improvements district-wide
- Signal Timing and Synchronization improvements and enhancements
- An estimated \$5 million for 165 synchronization enhancements and for 239 controller change-outs to give DOT better control and vision of signals

- Extension of Green Line to LAX
- \$500,000 to fund the work of the Green Line Task Force, a multi-agency group looking at extending the Green Line to the airport
- \$750,000 for planning potential Green Line station locations
- \$750,000 allocated for study and planning light rail along Lincoln Boulevard
- \$250,000 for studying and planning a connection between the Green Line and Phase Two of the Expo Line
- \$50,000 allocated for additional parking along Lincoln Boulevard
- \$550,000 for boulevard masterplan studies of Sepulveda, Olympic, Pico, Santa Monica, and Venice boulevards. Masterplans, which include mass transit, land-use planning, and streetscape studies, link transportation and planning to create livable boulevards.
- \$200,000 for bicycle and pedestrian transit plans in Council District 11.

Bill Rosendahl launches anti-gridlock campaign: (left to right) Jim Smith, Dist. 11 Transportation Committee; Gloria Jeff, General Manager, L.A. Dept. of Transportation; Bill Rosendahl, Dist. 11 City Councilmember; Angela Reddock, Chair, Dist. 11 Transportation Committee; David Ewing, Dist. 11 Transportation Committee; Betsy Weisman, Principal Planner, L.A. Planning Dept. Photo by Laura Silagi



How Do You Spell “Free Venice” in Arabic?

By Matthew Rothschild

This is a story about one T-shirt that caused two rows.

The shirt has the phrase “We will not be silent,” written both in English and in Arabic. This may seem innocuous enough, but not in today’s America, where the very sight of Arabic alarms some citizens, and Homeland Security.

On August 12, Raed Jarrar, who works for Global Exchange in Washington, DC, was wearing that T-shirt as he was trying to board a JetBlue flight from JFK to California.

While he was at the gate, two men approached him and one flashed his badge, Jarrar writes on his blog raedinthemiddle.blogspot.com. They asked for his boarding pass and driver’s license.

“People are feeling offended because of your T-shirt,” said one of the men, whom Jarrar identifies as Inspector Harris.

“He asked me if I had any other T-shirts to put on, and I told him that I had checked in all of my bags,” Jarrar relates on the blog. “And I asked him, ‘Why do you want me to take off my T-shirt? Isn’t it my constitutional right to express myself in this way?’ . . . Do you have an order against Arabic T-shirts?”

Inspector Harris said, according to Jarrar: “You can’t wear a T-shirt with Arabic script and come to an airport. It is like wearing a T-shirt that reads ‘I am a robber’ and going to a bank.”

Harris asked Jarrar to turn his shirt inside out, which he says he refused to do. Then an employee from JetBlue offered to buy Jarrar a T-shirt to put over the one he had on. Not wanting to miss his flight, Jarrar eventually agreed.

Jarrar says he told them: “I feel very sad that my personal freedom was taken away like this. I grew up under authoritarian governments in the Middle East, and one of the reasons I chose to move to the U.S. was that I don’t want an officer to make me change my T-shirt. I will pursue this incident today through a constitutional rights organization.”

When he boarded the plane, Jarrar says he was not allowed to sit in seat 3A, which was on his boarding pass. Instead, JetBlue moved him to the very back of the plane, he says.

“It sucks to be an Arab/Muslim living in the U.S. these days,” Jarrar says on his blog. “You are a suspected terrorist and plane hijacker.”

JetBlue explains its side of this story.

“Mr. Jarrar was approached both by TSA and

JetBlue personnel because they saw that customers in the area had noticed his T-shirt and were confused or concerned about it,” says spokesperson Jenny Dervin. “In that situation, our crew members have the responsibility to create a safe environment as well as safe travel. At the same time, they have to respect the rights of the individual and make sure the individual is treated fairly and respectfully. JetBlue personnel approached Mr. Jarrar and explained that customers were concerned or confused, and asked if he could ease the confusion. At no time was he ever denied boarding. He did agree to put another T-shirt on, which we purchased for him, which we really appreciated.”

“We have apologized to Mr. Jarrar for any embarrassment or unnecessary attention” the incident may have caused, Dervin says.

Jarrar spoke to Amy Goodman of Pacifica radio's Democracy Now show on October 23. He told her he is taking legal steps with the ACLU and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

By the way, Jarrar reports that he has received death threats. On his blog, he quotes from a National Guard member who served in Iraq: “If I run across you in my daily tasks, I will kill you. GET THE FUCK OUT OF MY COUNTRY IF YOU DON’T LIKE IT HERE.”

Stephanie Schwartz goes to Hunter College in New York, and she was also wearing a “We will not be silent” T-shirt on October 9 when she was going on the Staten Island Ferry.

She told Amy Goodman that once she got on the ferry, four Coast Guard officers positioned themselves in front of her.

When she was leaving, a security officer told her, “You better not wear that shirt on this ferry again,” she said, adding that he asked: “You remember what happened on that JetBlue flight?” Schwartz said she answered that it smacked of racial profiling to her.

When Jarrar heard that the security officer invoked his experience with JetBlue, he was taken aback. He told Amy Goodman: “I’m very shocked to see how my incident, my oppression at JFK, is being used as a precedent to justify oppressing more people.”

The Coast Guard gives a different account.

Coast Guard officers “were approached by an employee of the ferry who had concerns about the shirt, but their response to that



Top Stories of 2007

By Predictus

1. George Bush flies to Iraq to assume personal command of the troops. His body is never found.
2. Dick Cheney, in his first address to the nation as President, announces that he has been a lifelong Muslim, and that his Arabic name is Osama bin Laden. His approval ratings double overnight.
3. Gerald Ford soars to the top position in the polls among Republican presidential contenders for 2008. One Ford supporter commented, “that dude ain't gonna start no wars.” The Democrats retaliate by nominating Jimmy Carter.
4. Martial law is declared on Ocean Front Walk in response to massive violations of a new L.A. ordinance prohibiting smiling.
5. Complete gridlock throughout L.A. enables the LAPD to arrest thousands for sleeping in their cars. Chief Bratton calls for 10,000 more officers to fight the new crime wave.
6. OPEC nations embargo oil to the U.S. in retaliation for its invasion of Saudi Arabia in a vain effort to restore the deposed royal family. Gasoline climbs to \$10 a gallon, when you can get it. OPEC says it will lift the embargo when there is regime change and democracy in the U.S. On the up side, the U.S. leads the world in pollution reduction and bicycle sales. People become nostalgic about grid-lock.
7. Los Angeles suffers a devastating earthquake. Unfortunately, it happens on the same day that Brad and Angelina announce they are separating. Most people never hear about the quake.
8. Lincoln Place tenants reoccupy their apartments as the LAPD is kept busy with citywide looting after the quake. AIMCO CEO Terry Considine agrees to sell Lincoln Place to the tenants for 1,000 gallons of gasoline. Please!
9. By late Fall, more Americans are entering Mexico illegally than vice versa. Mexican President Lopez Obrador stations troops at the border wall, which has been abandoned by immigration agents fleeing to Mexico in search of a better life.
10. China offers to buy California, “as is.” The U.S. accepts.

employee was that they weren’t going to take any action,” says Commander Jeff Carter, spokesperson for the Coast Guard. “They had no intention of intervening. She had every right to wear the shirt.”

Schwartz organized a protest at the Staten Island ferry on October 23.

According to the Staten Island Advance: “A group of nearly 100 anti-war activists, most wearing T-shirts with the legend ‘We will not be silent’ boarded two evening ferryboats . . . to exercise their right to free speech.”

This article previously ran in The Progressive magazine.

Venetians in the Street tell what they wish for Venice in 2007



I just want to see Venice the way it is. It's just got everything already. I don't know what you need to change.
- Andrew Stefan



I would like to see the cops stop harassing the homeless. I see a lot of that and it discourages me. The homeless don't have nowhere to go. If they had something to help themselves, they would. I would like to see more resources going towards helping the homeless people of Venice Beach.
- Lionel Jean Baptiste

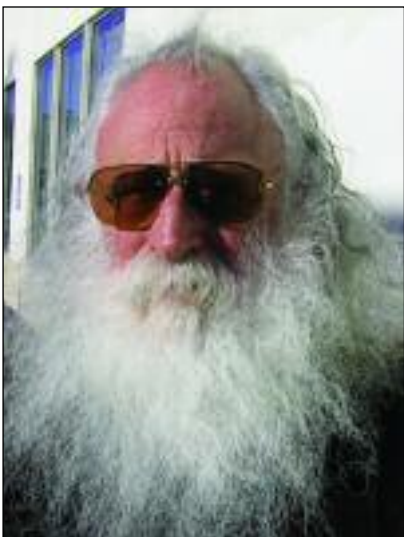


I would like to see less cop cars on the beach. As we speak, there's one right there. I would just like them not to drive through the park.
- Katya Rudmeda



More public murals.
- Wendy Profit

Less large corporate businesses.
- Jim Trena




No more variances.
- Arnold Springer

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Photos by
Rex Butters



More parking. Parking around here is ridiculous, because I bring the kids down here every other day. Parking's crazy.
- Derrick Wilkinson



Housing for the homeless
- Matthew Price



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2006 in Review

From the Beachhead archives. All issues back to 2002 are on-line at www.freevenice.org.

As the year began, high waves wrecked the Venice Pier, closing it for much of 2006.



Left: The years' long struggle over Lincoln Place Apartments continued.

Below: Councilmember Bill Rosendahl comforts Lincoln Place seniors at the Martin Luther King rally.



"Tiny Dancer" murdered while sleeping by the beach.



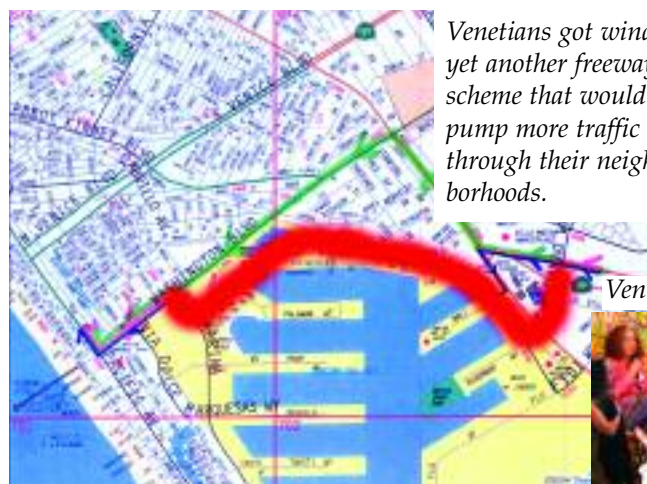
Venice icon John Haag died in 2006, as did Landlord Werner Scharf and Community leader DeDe McCrary.



Saving Venice's murals from graffiti and fading became a topic of discussion, and some action.



Homelessness continued in Venice, although with growing hostility from some homeowners.



Unrest continued on the Ocean Front Walk from what many considered a repressive ordinance and police harassment.

Venice artists began to get organized through the Venice Arts Council



Last Summer, tempers flared in Oakwood after LAPD targeted the community in the wake of a shooting at Venice High.



Venetians rallied in support of their Graffiti Wall, which was blamed by others for spreading problem.



Last Summer, tempers flared in Oakwood after LAPD targeted the community in the wake of a shooting at Venice High.



The annual canal boat parade, Dec. 18, rounded out the year. The sparkling lights on houses and bridges, which are usually kept up for part of January, add an extra glow to this part of Venice during the holidays.



Through it all, Venetians could take comfort that nature has provided them with a truly beautiful part of the world to mess up!



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EBT Welcome

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By Brian Lindquist

Thomas Malthus [1766-1834] warned us 208 years ago. The doubling of population in 28-35 years would eventually deprive the population in general of equal access to the benefits of the natural resource base. Malthus was a nationalist and a racist. His proposed solutions to the problem were unacceptable. He was wrong about everything except the population “explosion.”

Our natural resource base has been built over the last 2.5 billion [plus] years. The Industrial Revolution and population explosion of the last 200 years has used up most of the prior accumulation. Trees, fish, petroleum and soil have been seriously depleted. As population and consumption increase, coal, natural gas and the mineral base will be in a similar place soon.

Agriculture is the most critical of our present concerns. The demographers at the United Nations tell us our agriculture can provide 2200 calories/day for 6 billion people. Current population is 6.559 billion. We can increase food production somewhat, at great expense and for a short time. If we do not concurrently reduce our population we will outrun our capacity to solve this --- “our most basic problem.”

Our agricultural land mass and therefore productive capacity, is finite. The U.N. demographers also tell us 500 million people is a sustainable world population. This is approximately 8% of our current numbers. The popular opinions regarding solutions, while intuitive and helpful are almost universally incorrect. Disease, war, famine, pestilence and natural disasters do kill large numbers of people. Threatened populations compensate. The second world war is the best example I can cite. The population trend during the “great” depression of the 1930’s was upward. The bloodiest war in history caused a slight slowing but the population continued upward. By the late 1940’s the post war baby boom was at full tilt.

The Population Bomb

Training, education, increased standard of living, widespread birth control information and distribution, are all good ideas and deserve great effort. We haven’t the time to use these modalities to reduce our “footprint” on this earth, with one exception, which will be discussed further on. Some will say, “technology will save us. It always has and it always will “! In the grand sense, it is impossible to develop enough new farmland to keep up with the population growth. The remarkable technological advances of the last 200 years have had a soporific effect. However, our history shows us just how vulnerable we really are. In 1883 Mt. Krakatoa filled the stratosphere with enough particulate to produce “volcanic winter” for two years in a row. The people of North America and Europe suffered widespread deprivation and death. Weather perturbations in recent times have produced drought in Sub-Saharan Africa. The images of suffering and death are all too familiar.

The question is, can we change, world wide, to avert the inevitable? Humankind is and has been flexible and accommodating. China adopted a one child per family policy. Mormons engaged in plural marriage, polygamy. Tibetans and other people in the Himalayas practice polyandry. Tribal societies practiced group marriage successfully for millions of years before the nuclear family was imposed by the requirements of slave production. In the 1600’s crop failure in

northern Europe caused people to engage in infanticide and cannibalism to save themselves. In recent times couples have decided to limit the size of their families when deprivation would result. The “can-do” spirit will save us.

Solution to our “greatest problem” will require the cooperation of the religious orders. Christians, Moslems and Hindus represent a very large fraction of the human population. The interests of religions large and small will not be served by mass deprivation and starvation. Natural disasters, volcanoes, floods, hail storms, pests, blight, even small weather perturbations will result in great declines in the major religious populations. They have the greatest vulnerability to decline from starvation.

As the question of population enters the “dialogue,” the nationalists [read fascists], will offer that we are the only people who matter; we are the strongest and we are the most productive. We are entitled to thrive, even at the expense of the rest of the world. It should be evident since 9-11 that

this attitude increased our vulnerability. Fascists typically identify differences in others. Race, religion, location and culture are the usual areas of difference. Demonizing and attacking the others is the scenario when those people will not give up their wealth, natural and/or produced. The fascists will also promise a “leveling off” of population some time in the future, and refer to it by comparison with a “bell curve.” Any mathematician or demographer who has “run the numbers” will tell you this is a lie.

In the other direction, we hear that an egalitarian society that addresses maldistribution is what is needed; and no further action need be taken. This is specious. We do not have enough farmland to support a continuously increasing population and there is no technology that can make this possible. We will have to work to hold back the encroachments of the deserts, reforest, protect our biodiversity, rebuild the depleted soil, replenish fish stocks and solve the problems of petroleum dependent agriculture. If we do not reduce the population at the same time and we distribute food equally, we will all starve at the same time.

Fifty years ago abortion was spoken of in hushed tones. In the northeastern cities of great religious strength these hushed tones had an air of revulsion attached. In the intervening years abortion on demand has had the support of at least 73% of the American adult populace. Five years ago global warming was not in the “dialogue.” Some time back the hole in the ozone layer was discovered and there was an alarming level of denial. The most successful international agreement was struck and sometime in the next century the hole should be “healed.” Shortly after HIV-AIDS was discovered a lone activist was saying “we can spend a few million dollars now, to solve this problem, or we can spend billions later.”

Empire is described as one group of people stealing the natural resources and/or the surplus value created by another group. To eliminate the need to steal, we will have to guarantee food, clothing, shelter, education, transportation and health care for every person on earth. We can establish an international civil service to mitigate the effects of natural disasters. A declining population and a stable, or more productive agricultural base will make this possible.

China suffered deprivation and death from population pressures. They instated a “one child per family” policy. If applied worldwide it will take 250 years to bring us to 500 million and we will increase to 28 billion in the interim. We cannot feed 6 billion-plus now. Abstinence has never worked for sex, drugs or anything else that drives humanity.

A paradigm shift that will solve the problem in 100 years requires that ten people accept responsibility for one child. Five couples, at the outset, will preserve the nuclear family. We will have to be flexible enough to institutionalize whatever other modality the populace wishes to examine. We have the capacity to provide every pubic boy with a vasectomy. We can declare sex for recreation not for procreation and make the vasectomy a rite of passage. Imagine what a great opportunity each precious child will have with 10 parents. Broad sections of American and Chinese children have been pampered into obesity and bad attitudes. We will have to be careful not to continue or repeat this. Our future and theirs will depend on their strength, health and capacity to solve the substantial problems on our horizon.

The statements above were meant to be provocative. Let’s not be the lone voice 25 years from now. The crisis is upon us. We can have a rich, useful, productive, fulfilling life; let’s work on it. The problem is simple: Too many mouths to feed and not enough farms. If we move swiftly we will avoid the most painful and hopeless human condition, HUNGER. The problem of population explosion will be solved; starvation or controlled reduction.

YOU CHOOSE !!!

The author is a technologist and member of the Southern California Federation of Scientists. This is one of a series from the SCFS written for Beachhead readers.

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I missed the peace march
to see Zac
off to Iraq
to fight a war
for a core of elected
oil executive cowards
a cartel that smells
like death by greed
deaf to the pleading
of a million children
slowly embargoed to death
a hierarchy of hyenas
cracked crusaders
freedomphobes
led by a lop eared cowboy clown
deserter-in-chief
election thief
third generation career politician
elitist east coast college cheerleader
pr reborn Texas rancher
Hitler money fortune
cocaine main brain
DUI dumb guy
like a chimp
with a chip on its shoulder
a spoiled boy playing
at playing soldier
unfazed by lack of facts
using meat and blood troops as photo
op props
ringmaster of fear
to the media zombies
his hypno sleep sheep flock
jolted to submission with terrorist alert
shock
slip slide skate to police state protection
surrender their minds to Asscrot and
Rummy
Orwell’s oil well a gusher
unattended elections held
ballots stolen
and the fainthearted media raising
their ad rates and fainthearted
Democrats watching their
polls roll
over on their backs

Oh, shake the Old Vampires
off the throat of my Nation

Zac,
when you get back
we’ll laugh
at how expensive your cheap education
became
I’ll show you this poem and
you can teach my son
your best skateboard moves
antigravity flips and jumps
and your lucky way of landing
lucky way of landing
lucky way of landing
you have a lucky way of landing
lucky way of landing
lucky way of landing
lucky way of landing you
home

– Rex Butters

somebody keep the beat

just had a tribute
at beyond baroque
a play for the beats
kathy leonardo sang
some words to them...
those who never asked
for publicity but after
liptons book, got it
ride the tram
see the freaks

now they are gone
they are on public display...
honored as they should be...
ginsberg being the only beat
from the north beach....
to dance with us...
snapping our fingers
for applause
so the neighbors
wouldn't shut us down

no more
poetry
at the venice west

shanna

HISTORY LESSON

By John Haag

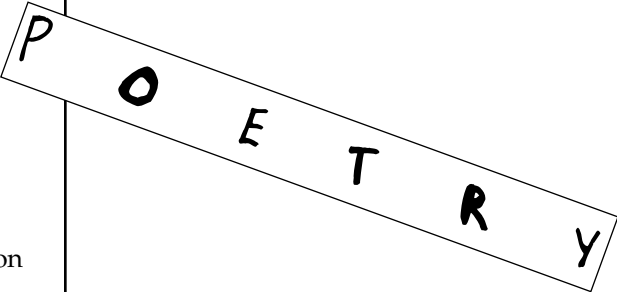
That little ape that came down from a tree
and used a stick on his enemy
and called aloud to his family
to show what a great brave ape was he
made followers out of you and me.

That little ape that got caught in the rain
and used some branches to cover his brain
and thought up gods for rain and for tree
to explain away the mystery
made worshipers out of you and me.

That little ape that had more than enough
and didn’t know what to do with the stuff
and instead of handing it out for free
put others to work for a salary
made employees out of you and me.

That little ape that schemed and planned
and put a fence around some land
and told his followers they’d be free
if they fought his next-door enemy
made soldiers out of you and me.

That ape whose stick is his bravery
whose ignorance makes theology
whose avarice makes wage-slavery
and makes a cause for nationality
makes monkeys out of you and me.



A Dream

by Hillary Kaye

I marched out of favor with the stars and stripes
Got hooked on a different dream and left town.
Imagined stained glass windows glowing with the words
“America is sorry for its wrongs.”
It enumerated them starting with the Native Americans right
straight through til morning and mourning were joined.

I got a vision on christmas day...God was a shaman a sainted
Tribal Chief ...and the world went backwards til we were all sitting around a
camp fire
chanting and smoking a peace pipe....chanting and thinking about how to
finely live
with nature.

I got religion that day the kind that won't let one man kill another.
The kind that speaks of the earth as mother.
the kind that cares that man and child mother and daughter sister and son
can come together and feel as one.

GHOSTORY LESSON

For John Haag, the ethereal Venetian

By John O’Kane

I see John Haag on the Boardwalk near Big Daddys
lost in the toxic mime
meeting my look with those white holes
combusting Eros for the unfooled paradise in all of us.

I flash through the cackling sheen
frantic to capture this astral fume for the
Venice Historical Society archives as Eric Nord
corrals him up Market dogged by a streak of robotically
effervescing hare krishnas, pacing the parade
to Speedway and north against traffic.

Near Park it becomes a gyre of weakening whiteness
rising toward the leaden heavens to a
hovering copter
vanishing into its blades with a terminal swoosh.

As the machine lunges north like a beach crane
spotting the spume, I follow its racing rotors to a circling
slomo above Dudley where a bullhorn
berates the spectres below.

“Drop that weapon,” it echoes to one street-citizen near
Spontos surrounded by slouching gorilla-stick shadows.

“that little...ape...came down from a tree with a stick,”
he blurts between blows from a scrap of paper
projected on the Cadillac Hotel façade across the way
like a pulsating monkey-wrench
swelling to superhuman silhouette.

The scrap looses from his grip unseen
sucked into the blade-whirl of particles, freeing his
fury to finish:

“...to show....what....a great brave....
was he...and told.....his...followers they’d be free....
if...they fought...his next-door enemy!!”
he concludes to an enfilade of thud-syncopated-cheers
from a roving chorus of Make America Beautiful Again.

life and times
of a Venetian Courtesan

homeless
well you know
gone are the grande palazzos
she makes love on the sand
or in the van
kissing delphic oracles
trading rings with the winde's
winged faerietale blings
wandering souls displaced
in time and space
a doom witchstalkes
the Beautiful People
believing
like Crazy Horse Dreams
one does not sell the earth
upon which the people walk.
red stilettos sparkling
there's no place like home.

– erica snowlake

God to be God, I declare, would have
to be Everywhere, even in
quarks, strings, things, wings, flings,
Jimmy Swaggart's underwear
Things only seem to be better or worse,
the last winds up first.

The Big Bang could just be an orgasmic
burst
She could be in paradise, while you
fantasize she's in that hearse
Beneath all your minor ego tragedies
there's a mountain
of ecstatic, spiritual mirth

Until you really know yourself, you
don't know what life is worth
Some people don't seem to have com-

pleted the first, let alone,
The second birth
From the Goddess, of truth, good,
beauty and compassion, there is never
a death
When we awake, we'll realize, in won-
der; how we could
have failed to care for our
Mother-Earth

I don't want to scare you any more,
especially if you are
a religious friend, or a political
whore; however, if the
worm should turn inside of you,
The Enneagram could serve to enlight-
en you
Eckhart Tolle also could've told you

But then again, it's always up to you
Atheists are fish deep in an ocean of
bliss
denying the existence of water

--Soul is everywhere, in reality, there is
no border
You're doing it to Him, so give up that
dollar, or quarter
It may not be The Son; it could very
well be The Daughter
Everything born--dies; the onliest
remain--The Dindu Dot
And for Endless Light Life & Love;
Dear Sweet Goddess, Thanks a lot
Peace

– Swami X

JANUARY EVENTS

Jan. 11 - 6:30 - 9:30PM - Neighborhood Council Review Commission Public Hearing at Walgrove School. Tell the City what you think about the Neighborhood Council.

Jan. 17 - 8:30AM - Lincoln Place Tenants Day in Court - Malibu Superior Court, Dept. W, 23525 Civic Center Way, Malibu. Come and support your neighbors.

All Month - Photo Exhibition: OAXACA: Revolt, Resistance, Realities and Remembering - SPARC, 685 Venice Blvd.

All Month - Various meetings of the Venice Neighborhood Council. Check website for details: www.grvnc.org

Peace - Venice Circle of Peace, at the traffic circle, Main & Windward, every Friday beginning at 4:30PM.

From Carolina to Venice— blues on the beach

Essay: Dave Lindorff
Photo: Lory Robbin

This article is a reprint from THE LOS ANGELES VANGUARD

His music is mellow, and so are the Venice folks who gather around him at his favorite bench on the boardwalk in Venice every day.

Bill Crawford, a self-proclaimed 65, came to Venice a quarter of a century ago from North Carolina. He brought with him a rural black blues tradition that was popularized in the last decade by people like Mississippi John Hurt and Big Bill Broonzy.

Crawford is proof that that tradition is alive and well today.

Crawford lives in a beach-front apartment building near Windward Avenue, where he has the job of parking lot attendant. He took the position because it lets him sit within view of the lot and play and sing his songs—songs that range from a truly raunchy "Dirty Song" to his own "Venice Blues."

He uses a pulsing strum, alternating with a two-finger picking style. A crowd of admirers and fellow musicians gathers whenever Crawford appears at the bench with his Ventura guitar. (It was given to him by four friends and an inscription on the back reads: "To Bill, from Vic, Joanne, Steve and Carol.")

Crawford is a man who's found what he likes. Though

friends have tried to get record companies interested in him, he seems disinterested in gaining fame and glory. "What I want to do is play," he asserts.

"This parking lot job is not my living, it's my pastime. Singing is my living," he said.

If life looks fine for Crawford today, it wasn't always that way. He views the world through one eye, ever since a junkie knifed him, taking out the other one and leaving a long scar down the right side of his face. The incident occurred during a robbery of a Standard Oil station on Rose and Lincoln, where Crawford used to work.

The gentle music he plays belies a fierce will to survive. Crawford, recounts how he had sympathetically offered that same robber \$40 from his pocket, only to be stabbed afterwards. "He started runnin' when I grabbed my Mauser from the drawer," Crawford recalled, "but I got him."

He still has a bullet to show that was returned to him by police after it was removed from another man he wounded during a robbery attempt at the gas station.

"I'm not a bad man," Crawford explains, "but if you mess with me, I mess back!"

From the Beachhead Archives:
30 Years Ago in Venice (Jan. 77 - Issue #85)

VENICE BLUES*

Well I'm goin' honey, to that ol' West Coast,
Well I'm goin' honey, to that ol' West Coast.
Well I'm goin' honey where you don't have to wear no clothes.

Well I love it, you know Venice is my home.
Well I love it, you know Venice is my home.
Says come on, come on and go down with me.

They goin' to put you and me on TV.
They goin' to put you and me on TV.
Just to see everything 'bout you and me.

News is comin', comin' from all over town,
News is comin', comin' from all over town.

Oh in Venice, oh right down by the sea,
Oh in Venice, right down by the sea.
You know I love it, honey you'll love it just like me.

Just to see, comin' to see 'bout you and me.

Take a sunbath, and you'll feel just like a man,
Take a sunbath, honey you'll feel just like a man.
Lay out, oh lay out in the sand.

Well I'm goin' to Venice, honey where you don't have to wear no clothes.

Well I'm goin' to Venice where you don't have to wear no clothes.
They go nude there honey, don't even wear no shoes.

*To be sung in standard 12-bar blues form.



A Very American Coup – continued from page one

The Coup

The Iraq Study Group is not a peace effort. They admit to consulting with 136 experts and leaders, including our own Jane Harman. Yet, not one of the 136 is anyone associated with the peace movement. They did not talk with Ralph Nader, Cindy Sheehan, former UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter, and certainly not to any Army Sergeants or Privates who have been in Iraq and know what's really going on better than the Generals.

The Adults are not about to lose their grip on the Middle East, no matter how many 9/11s are the result. While there may be differences in strategy and tactics between the Texas Oil Billionaires and old Wall Street money, they are in agreement that they must maintain their grip on the world's population.

The unanimity on this point is reflected in the unusual step in shedding the facade of the two-party system for a one-party declaration of the Iraq Study Group. Five Democrats and five Republicans made up the ISG, which can also be considered the public Board of Directors for the Adults. And like most corporate boards, it even had a token woman and African-American on its board.

As Antonia Juhasz wrote in the Los Angeles Times, Dec. 8, "it's all about oil in Iraq." The ISG report urges the privatization of Iraq's oil and its control by foreign (read American) firms.

The ISG report is about institutionalizing aggressive actions like "this decade's war" as the ISG calls it, rather than flying by the seat of the pants as Bush has done. This is spelled out in Recommendation 75: "For the longer term, the United States government needs to improve how its constituent agencies— Defense, State, Agency for International Development, Treasury, Justice, the intelligence community, and others— respond to a complex stability operation like that represented by this decade's Iraq and Afghanistan wars and the previous decade's operations in the Balkans."

So it's just a "stability operation," not an illegal invasion, not a war crime, not an impeachable offense, as we were so naive to believe. It wasn't any of these violations of international law that has caused the Adults to intervene. It was bad management of crucial assets, even if they don't belong to us.

The Adults seem to reject Bush's resort to brute force when such time-tested methods as bribery, puppetry and covert action might have served better. A few hundred million dollars in Saddam's hands might have ensured his loyalty better than the billions spent on the occupation. And besides, then it would have been Saddam's headache to deal with the fundamentalists.

The Adults are getting better at separating presidents from the power. When John Kennedy decided to remove U.S. advisors from Vietnam, and talked rashly about breaking the CIA into a thousand pieces, the response was brutal and bloody. It caused a trauma from which the country still hasn't recovered.

Trauma number two was the removal of Nixon. While not as bloody as the Kennedy Assassination, the proposed impeachment and subsequent resignation of the president caused a loss of belief - well deserved - in the American system that was nearly as devastating as that in the wake of the Kennedy shooting.

The Adults have learned that preserving appearances in the affairs of Empire is all important. In the late 80s, the Reagan administration was caught red-handed in an illegal arms-for-hostages trade, called the Iran-Contra Affair. Then, a committee of Adults, called the Tower Commission, convinced the public to accept Reagan's excuse that he "just didn't remember." Vice President Bush's role was covered up, even though Reagan said the VP knew about the scheme. A new team was sent into the White House to run the country.

The contradictions inherent in maintaining the facade of democracy in the reality of a worldwide Empire run by a small elite (the Adults) is getting harder to manage. In fact, every presidency since Eisenhower has finished badly, or has survived only one term. Kennedy was shot, Johnson had to decline to run again, Nixon resigned, Ford was appointed, Carter survived one term, Reagan ended in scandal, G.H.W. Bush was a one-termer, Clinton was impeached but not convicted, and G.W. Bush is fast becoming a figurehead.

While Bush may seek to strike back at the Adults, he seems to be without resources. The military top brass doesn't like him, ditto for Intelligence, many in Congress were elected on an anti-Bush platform, and the executive office, itself, is divided. Josh Bolten, the White House Chief of Staff, who was formerly at Wall Street's fat-cat firm, Goldman Sachs, seems to have become the Adults watchdog there.

Why and when did the Coup begin? The beginning dates back to, at least, last March when the Iraq Study Group was created, without the approval of the Bush administration. A short time later, Josh Bolten replaced Bush loyalist Andy Card in the White House.

Reasons for the Adults to begin the unseating of a president probably include the following, as well as reasons none of us peasants know about:

- The growing quagmire in Iraq and Afghanistan. By 2006, it didn't take a foreign policy expert to figure this one out.
- The lack of success of the Bush Administration on a whole variety of foreign and domestic policy initiatives, including those having to do with North Korea, Iran and Latin America.
- A seriously weakening economy with massive deficits in trade and the federal budget.
- Loss of control of the number one client state, Israel. The tail began wagging the dog, drawing the U.S. in even deeper in the Middle East quicksand.
- The agitation by Cheney and the neo-conservatives for some sort of military attack on Iran. Bad plan. Iran is equipped with state-of-the-art cruise missiles that could take out the U.S. fleet that is bottled up in the Persian Gulf. Further, it could seal off the Straits of Hormuz from whence comes the oil on which modern economies run. Another reason to get control of Israel before it does something rash to Iran.
- The mass peace sentiment expressed in the November election. While the Adults could care less which party controls Congress, or the White House, for that matter, they do worry about the growing disdain for imperial adventures by the populace.

What happens next? Probably more, not less, U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Efforts will increase to find more loyal puppets in Iraq and Afghanistan who will do the U.S.'s bidding. More money will be poured into the quagmire, although it will be better hidden from the public.

If there was ever any question that there would be more terrorist attacks on the U.S., the recent statements by the Adults have sealed our fate. Terrorists and liberationists alike now have no doubt - if there ever was any - that the Empire has no intention of peacefully withdrawing from Iraq, or other parts of the Middle East where it is not wanted. Once again, the U.S. is saying, "Bring Them On!"

If history is any judge, including Vietnam history, none of the various strategies and tactics being bandied about Washington is going to work. The foreign invaders - that's us - will be tossed out on our ear after many more people die. Unfortunately, our ruling elite seems incapable of learning anything, and lurches from one debacle to the next. But what about the public? Are we also incapable of learning? Bush won't be dethroned no matter what. He is too good a foil. But will we ever notice the bipartisan "men in the shadows" who are pulling his strings?

Recipes for Capricorn

Capricorn loves the classics. You folks are known for being passionate fans of the usual—the kind of person who walks into a favorite restaurant and the waiter can bring your order without even asking what it is— he knows, it’s the same thing you had last time and the time before that. Steak and potatoes, salmon and salad, chicken and rice— whatever the usual is, you are a big fan. As your ruling planet is Saturn, you tend to be settled on being settled, just as is.

Even with that in mind, your meticulous nature puts you at the forefront of the health concern, and odds are good that you’ve changed that classic just a bit in your kitchen at home. Perhaps you’re using more olive oil and less butter, or adding fresh veggies to the menu on a daily basis. Capricorn loves to organize, strategize and then enjoy. Your kitchen is a model of simplicity and cleanliness— or you have a plan as to when and how it will be.

Thinking about a hot, calming drink? Caps do well with sassafras tea, and something with a bit of ginger or cloves can hit the spot just as completely. Planning a feast? You’ll want a nice leg of lamb, with garlic and rosemary, of course. With the holidays just clearing away in the background, ham and turkey have all been done, and your cooking likes to stand out. Remind your guests not to hold the applause — like Virgo, Capricorn can be overtaxed by perfectionism, and a word or two of praise is the ideal garnish.

If you just having an evening at home, something simple, easy, and healthy is just the perfect Capricorn plan. Classic!

Capricorn Chicken Saute

- 3 or 4 boneless chicken breasts (2 or 3 lbs. of chicken)
- 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 yellow or white onion, chopped fine
- 2 red peppers (or 1 red and 1 green), chopped fine
- 3 or 4 leeks (white parts only, well rinsed) cut into coins
- 1 cup sliced mushrooms (white or brown)
- 5 cloves of garlic, chopped or crushed

Put a large frying pan on a low heat, and add the olive oil.

When the oil is warm, (not hot, not smoking, just warm enough) add all the vegetables and let them sauté for 4 or 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Next, add the chicken breasts and turn the heat up to medium high,

and put the lid on. In 3 minutes, turn the chicken to the other side, so there’s an even browning on both sides. Give the veggies a stir, and turn the heat down again. Keeping an eye on things by lifting the lid and stirring every few minutes, and turn the chicken again as needed, perhaps ever five minutes or so.

Serve with hot rice (white or brown) and spoon the veggies over the rice, with the chicken on the side. Salt and pepper as desired.

If you are not utterly satisfied with that, you may be a Capricorn with Virgo rising, and in that case, you should just order something in — whatever you don’t like about it won’t be your fault.

General Forecast for January 2007

The guideline here is that it’s going to be a tough struggle, and you are going to win. Whatever the odds against you, or whatever huge obstacles you feel you need to overcome, you have a bit of magic in your corner that will help out in some unseen and maybe even unnoticed ways. It’s a whole new solar year—Step into January knowing that the contest will be called in your favor.

Aries- The game is in your favor, and whatever you do this month, make sure it includes some plans for the future. Now is the moment to feed the 401(k), or set up a savings account. By July, you’ll be so glad you did.

Taurus- If happy days are not already here, they are just around the corner. Take advantage of being in the black to pay back the friends you owe, and you’ll have your books and your life in balance. Gemini- Whatever heavy obstacle you need to move out of your way— job, relationship, residence, you have the horsepower to move it as far as you are willing. Clear the road, and watch the horizon open up.

Cancer- The day you have been waiting for is almost here. Take one more shot and give it your best effort. This is the one that will be going into your permanent record, and you want it to look great.

Leo- Disruption may be the last thing you want right now, but you have to get rid of the old to make room for the new. Let go willingly, and it will be so much easier. Hold on, and you’ll only be harming yourself and delaying your progress.

Virgo- You are not pleased about where you are right now, but you are on your way to a better place. Stay in focus and keep you eye in the viewfinder, it will appear, and you get to say “lick”

Libra- News is on the way— a message, an invitation, or a letter will let you know that things are about to change. Don’t worry about checking your email every hour, when you get the news, you’ll know this is what you’ve been waiting for.

Scorpio- Are you still obsessing over the material world when you know that what matters is intangible? Life is short, art is long, or so the Romans said. Focus on your long range obsessions, and be happy with it.

Sagittarius- Everything that you have planted, weeded and watered over the last year is bursting into bloom. Get the baskets ready, you have a remarkable harvest coming your way.

Capricorn- It’s about to happen, almost all the things you have been reaching for are getting close enough to grab. Just don’t close your fingers too soon, or you’ll have an empty fist.

Aquarius- Good work! You have taken every drop of free time and put it to the best use —being free. Now it’s time to figure out what kind of work would be the most unlike actually working. When you find a job where you get paid to play with what you are good at, you will have gold medal for good work.

Pisces- This month is a great beginning to a great paradox — the less attention you pay to daily life and the more attention you pay to the big picture, the better daily life will get. Breathe easy, the big picture will look better, too.

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The Venice Circle at Main & Windward
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Venice Circle of Peace

What Have You Done For Peace This Week?

Every Friday at 4:30 PM

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