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Moon Over Venice



Summer Solstice celebrations concluded with Venice Fest, a big party on Windward Avenue. It ended with the lighting of a replica of the Venice sign that hung over the street until 1955. Slightly altered photo by Rex Butters.

THE CITY OF VENICE: Give Me Liberty, or Give Me Los Angeles

By Jim Smith

On July 4, people across the country remember and celebrate those heady days of the late 18th Century when our rich white men with wigs defeated the despotic rich white men with wigs in England. Plantation owners, shipping company magnates and crooked land surveyors in the colonies believed that they should be allowed to run their own affairs, and not be ruled from afar.

As with most good ideas, this one's been turned on its head with the passage of time so that today the descendants of these wealthy gentlemen think they can rule better than, say, Iraqis, and nearly everyone else in the world.

In Venice, while giving a nod to the audacity of the founding fathers (and non-voting mothers), we also think about the legendary founding of Venice on July 4, 1905. There is some confusion about this, as there is with any good founding myth. The date is actually the "grand opening" of Venice. The founding was at least a year or more earlier. And there had been Native peoples living in

the Venice area for thousands of years before that. In addition, Venice was called the city of Ocean Park until 1910, when it became Venice. But myths don't need to be factual, they just need to be believed in.

What isn't mentioned or celebrated is the day Venice lost its independence, and became an appendage of Los Angeles. On Oct. 2, 1925, an annexation vote carried in Venice by 3,139 to 2,197. Not an overwhelming turnout since Venice had more than 8,000 registered voters at the time. The election was denounced by opponents who said voters were coerced with promises of cheap water and electricity. Claims were made that hundreds of people moved to Venice in order to vote for annexation, and then moved out.

Weariness might also have played a role. Just two years before, on July 11, 1923, an annexation measure was defeated 1,849 to 1,503. A steady drumbeat for annexation that had begun as early as Abbot Kinney's death in 1920 continued nonetheless, apparently directed from L.A. City Hall.

After annexation was defeated in 1923, Venice celebrated. According to the Venice Vanguard newspaper (reprinted by Arnold Springer's Annexation and Secession Movements, 1919-39): "A two hour spontaneous demonstration occurred after the results were released and the huge fire alarm whistle siren sounded the call to victory..."



Venice Vanguard, circa 1920s. Reprinted in Arnold Springer's Annexation and Secession Movements, 1919-39.

CASUALTIES IN IRAQ

U.S. 3,474 Dead – 97 this month
U.S. Wounded 25,549 – 580 this month
Iraqi Dead: 655,000

Source: antiwar.com, Lancet Medical Journal

Cost: \$438+ Billion - Source: costofwar.com

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BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:
Karl Abrams, Rex Butters, C.V. Beck, Carol Fondiller, Della Franco, 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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The Ray Hotel

Dear Beachhead,
We in Venice are struggling with still another proposed over-development [APCPW-2006-9483-SPE-CDP-CU-SPP-SPR- MEL], and we hope our Councilman will oppose the developer's requests for exceptions from the Venice Specific Plan. Many of us remember Councilman Rosendahl's appearance before the LA City Planning Commission to oppose the extraordinary density requested by Robert D'Elia re the infamous bus depot land swap. It was a proud moment for us; and a firm and courageous moment for Bill. We need his help again, and I hope you will convey our feelings to him.

1. One could make a rational argument that no traffic-increasing development should be allowed in Venice (or the entire West Side for that matter). Our traffic problems have reached national notice. For us, it has become close to tragic. Why would city planners allow any traffic increasing development under such circumstances? Even for developments that do not violate the VSP?
2. Given the political and economic realities, it would be difficult to successfully press for such a moratorium. But we do have a specific plan--an ordinance less than 10 years old. Please help us to honor, at the very least, the constraints imposed by that ordinance.
3. Conceivably, the VSP may be amended in the future. We won't like that, but at least give us the opportunity to provide input to any such amendment. Please help us prevent the piecemeal destruction of the VSP through thoroughly unjustifiable exceptions--the developers' preferred method.
4. The Ray Hotel must abide by the height and density constraints of the VSP--they have no legitimate grounds for requesting exceptions. Green construction, however desirable, is not grounds for exceptions; increased tax revenue for the city is not grounds for exceptions; shortage of hotel rooms is not grounds for exceptions.
5. If the Ray Hotel is allowed to violate the height and density constraints of the VSP, the next hotel project (already in planning stage) will have legitimate arguments to request and obtain the same exceptions.
6. Until the Venice Specific Plan is redesigned and passed as a city ordinance, the current plan should determine development constraints. Please help us, and ask our Councilman to help us maintain the existing plan.

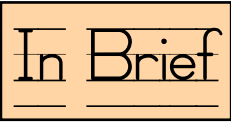
Sincerely, *Marvin Klotz*

P&F Celebrates 40th

Dear Beachhead,
June 23 was the 40th anniversary of the registration drive which put the Peace & Freedom Party on the ballot in 1968.
The Kennedy and Johnson administrations' war in Vietnam had combined with foot-dragging on civil rights to create mass discontent with the Democratic Party. Here in California, Governor Pat Brown (Jerry's father) had reneged on election promises to extend the state minimum wage to farm workers. There was a national debate among liberals and "radicals" about whether and how to mount an electoral opposition to the two-party system. In California, those who wanted primarily to pressure the Democrats to clean up their act advocated putting a "third ticket" on the 1968 ballot by petition. This would avoid establishing an actual party and (they hoped) attract tens of thousands of dissident Democrats to support it. Qualifying such a ticket would have taken the signatures of 10% of registered voters. Those who wanted a permanent break from the Democrats advocated a registration drive, which would establish a permanent opposition party if it could obtain registrations equivalent to 1% of registered voters in the state by January 1, 1968.
On June 23, 1967, President Lydon Johnson spoke at Century City in Los Angeles. It was to be his last public speech outside a military base for the rest of his term in office. Thousands of demonstrators assembled to protest the war in Vietnam and were attacked by the police. At that demonstration, a small band of activists (John Haag, Mike Hannon and Les Aisenman were the first three) launched the registration campaign for the new "Peace and Freedom Party," a campaign which soon became statewide and succeeded in obtaining 105,000 registrations by the end of the year.

Tom Condit

Visit
www.venice-beachhead.org
for back issues of the
Free Venice Beachhead



A Plan for Lincoln Blvd.

An initial hearing was held on June 13 regarding the Community Design Overlay (CDO) for Lincoln Boulevard. This was presented by the city of Los Angeles' Planning Department and attended by around 40 people from the community. The initial concept and shepherding for this CDO has been spearheaded by the Venice Community Coalition beginning with an "Envision Venice" workshop held in November, 2003. For more information, see www.venicecommunitycoalition.org

Tsunamis trump High Water

A panel presentation on the topic "High Waves, Flooding and Tsunami Disaster Awareness and Preparedness" was sponsored by the Venice Neighborhood Council, June 7 at Westminster Auditorium.
Although it was billed as a Town Hall, the meeting failed to attract a cross-section of Venetians. Significantly absent were residents of Oakwood, many of whom may have more immediate problems than planning for a Tsunami sometime in the next 10,000 years.
In any case, Tsunamis were the subject of interest for those who came. Little time was spent discussion flooding or high waves caused by winter storms or global warming.
Members of the panel estimated it would take six months to a year to put up signs warning of potential tsunamis or providing an evacuation route. Councilmember Bill Rosendahl interrupted to say he would take immediate action on the signs.
Meanwhile, residents in Venice were told to go to the second floor of their homes if there was a warning. Those on the ground floor, presumable, can kiss their ass goodbye.

Hope for Venice Bus Riders

A coalition of bus riders, labor/community and conservation groups is suing the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to challenge major fare hikes approved by the agency.
According to a lawsuit filed by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the Bus Riders Union (BRU) and the Labor/Community Strategy Center (LCSC), MTA violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by approving massive bus fare increases without considering the environmental impacts of its decision. Rising fares will turn many riders into drivers, say the groups. Fare increases – as high as 140 percent – will result in even more air pollution, global warming emissions and traffic congestion. The MTA's own projections and analyses confirm that the increases will cause more pollution.
"The MTA is forcing many thousands of riders off the system and back into cars," says David Pettit, director of NRDC's Southern California Air Program. "This will bring into our streets, roads and highways an enormous number of cars, trucks and other vehicles, increasing pollution and exacerbating traffic congestion."
Hundreds of bus riders – the majority of whom are persons of color with an annual median income of \$12,000 – testified at the May 24th MTA board hearing, saying they cannot afford the fare increases and that they will be forced to seek inexpensive, higher-polluting vehicles, which will cost less than public transportation.
"If the bus fares go up, I will have less money to spend on food and clothes for my children," says Rosa Miranda, a daily bus rider and member of the Bus Riders Union. "We've already tightened our belts far more than we can bear, and now we'll have to tighten even more, as MTA squeezes every last penny out of us."

How much will it take for you to sell out your community?

AIMCO's new happy face in Venice now includes a telephone survey that asks participants what it will take to get their support for violating zoning and development ordinances. AIMCO, the giant corporation that owns Lincoln Place Apartments has a new game plan for an end run around tenant and community opposition to replacing apartments with high-end condos (see the June Beachhead for details).
AIMCO has apparently teamed up with Playa Vista developer, the Maguire Company, to conduct the telephone calling that has been reported by a number of locals.

Would you allow the height limit on new development to be broken in exchange for: affordable housing, open space, green design, parks and playgrounds, dog parks, jobs for at risk youth, etc. Reportedly, the survey also asks what media you trust. The list includes the Beachhead.

Report from the (Ocean) Front:

CHANGE IS ON THE WAY

By Della Franco

The change is coming. That is for sure. Is it all good? For the City, probably. For some artists on the Front, maybe. For the activists who are trying to save the Free Speech Zone they helped create, definitely NOT. So here is what has been going on. In a nutshell, or should I say, a bombshell.

Two separate lawsuits were filed against the City – each claiming that the current Venice Boardwalk ordinance (LAMC 42.15) is unconstitutional. Both lawsuits have been assigned to one federal judge, which is not uncommon. One lawsuit is *Hunt vs City of Los Angeles* with plaintiffs Michael Hunt and Matt Dowd. The other lawsuit is *Venice Food Not Bombs vs the City of Los Angeles* with plaintiffs Venice Food Not Bombs (FNB), Bill Greenslade, Lani Ware, and a few others. Even though it has been agreed that parts of the existing ordinance is unconstitutional, rather than simply rule on the lawsuits, the judge has been attempting to bring the suing parties together with the City in an attempt to create a better, constitutionally sound law.

Multiple meetings have taken place in the Judge’s Chambers and an idea was proposed (not by any of the plaintiffs) to divide the Boardwalk into two zones. One zone would be for selling and another for Performances and Free Speech. The selling zone would be called the “I” Zone and only for selling items “inextricably intertwined” with a First amendment message/a spiritual/religious message. The other zone would be called the “P” zone and designated for Performers and Free Speech and the only things that could be for sale would be buttons, bumper stickers, and performer CDs. At the June 7, 2007 meeting the City Attorneys were instructed by the judge to write a Draft Ordinance. The draft was sent out promptly by the deadline of the following Monday. Then another draft was sent Thursday, the evening before the next court meeting with revisions regarding criminalization.



Some core issues of the Venice FNB lawsuit plaintiffs and attorneys are to try to de-criminalize the Free Speech Zone as well as preserve Free Speech, which has been a long-standing tradition of the Westside of the Venice Boardwalk.

Another problem with the zone proposal was that the City wanted the zones to be different sizes. The “I” Zone would be from Dudley to Navy along with some spaces around Windward and Market (not many). The rest of the boardwalk would be for the “P” Zone. A decision was made by the Venice FNB plaintiffs and attorneys to fight for as many changes as possible to improve the City Attorney’s draft ordinance. They decided to fight for EVERY possible change and that is exactly what Carol Sobel did in court on June 15.

One of their suggestions was to make the zones equal.

The Judge actually came down on Carol Sobel, but he later apologized. Carol Sobel did

not back down. The City Attorney accused her of grandstanding, but the judge responded to this accusation by defending Ms Sobel’s sincerity. The Judge then asked the City if they would continue to work with the suing parties to try to create this new Ordinance. The City Attorneys reluctantly agreed and parties met for hours arguing the detailed changes made by Carol Sobel and plaintiffs to the City Attorney’s draft ordinance.

Things seemed like they were starting to move forward and a new meeting was set for June 20, 2007 to discuss issues the opposing sides had not resolved. But this time the City brought in a wild card, Debby Rowland, the superintendent for Parks and Recreation. Ms Rowland had her own idea about what should happen to the boardwalk. Her suggestion was that the Venice Boardwalk be run like every other Los Angeles run park – everyone obtains a Public Events Permit. She made further suggestions regarding proof of [liability] insurance and other requirements in order to get such permits.

Had the City completely forgotten that the Westside of the Boardwalk is called the Free Speech Zone – not the “vending permit lottery zone?” What the hell was happening to negotiating a fair and just Ordinance? All discussions came to a standstill. Another meeting was set for only the City and the plaintiff’s lawyers. Who knows what will happen now. The entire freedom of the boardwalk could end and Commercial vending and lottery enforcement could win. If that happens artists will be driven out and commercial vending will destroy the soul of Venice Beach.

So for now, until we know what the final outcome will be, Councilman Bill Rosendahl’s word to protect and help the craftspeople of Venice was just dust in the wind. I will keep you updated. Pray for freedom.

One-Way Streets Get a Hearing

By C.V. Beck

On June 20, there was a hearing at Penmar Park Gym in the matter of one way streets being proposed for eastbound on Olympic and westbound on Pico Boulevards. This hearing was presented by the Westside Democratic Club and sparsely attended with about 30 persons in attendance. Len Nguyen was present from the councilman’s office and Allyn Rifkin, Transportation Planner/ Engineer presented the concepts which seemed to me like a good idea except for the “contraflow lane proposals”, which I felt were sort of tricky.

Key features are: Olympic is proposed to be eastbound, Pico westward bound, in a clockwise circulation pattern. Each arterial to be striped for a minimum of 7 lanes, 5 in the “main” direction, 2 in the contraflow direction...During weekday peak hours, contraflow lanes are to be exclusively for buses and vanpools. All other times, including all day weekends, the “contraflow” land is to be open to parking and local mixed flow traffic. In the “contraflow” land, mixed flow traffic, with the exception of buses, will be required to make right turns at designated locations. “Main direction” traffic lanes open to mixed flow traffic, which includes autos, buses and vanpools. Parking will be prohibited on both sides of each of these boulevards during peak hours only. All other times, including all day on weekends, parking will be allowed on both sides of the boulevards. Left turns will be prohibited from the “main” direction traffic lanes only during peak hours. Left turns prohibited from “contraflow” lanes at all times. Emergency

vehicles will have access to both “main” direction and “contraflow” lanes at all times.

Opposing ideas are that faster traffic equals worse and less safe traffic, for pedestrians and bicyclists, harder to cross without a median, local merchants hate “fast traffic drive bys.” A yellow flyer asked about where was the EIR (environmental impact report) on this proposal. Also the question was raised about faster traffic in this area creating “turbulence” in other areas...Other good questions were: Whose benefit is this for anyway? How much is this going to cost and for how much benefit? Also suggested were much less left hand turns, use of “smart lights” and focussing of mixed use redevelopment on major streets like Pico and Olympic and locating jobs, shopping and entertainment next to housing.

One More Report Card

Last month the Beachhead collected report cards on Councilmember Bill Rosendahl and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa from readers. Bill got an aggerate grade of B+, while Antonio only got D+.

Here’s one more from Sharon Snow: Bill Rosendahl: A+ I respect Bill for strongly supporting Lincoln Place tenants. I respect his ethics in opposing commercial development. I believe he really tries to help his constituents and support renters.

Antonio Villaraigosa: F What has he done for Lincoln Place tenants? Nada! Is he trying? In my opinion he’s in bed with the developers.

The gym reeked of sweat, someone kept closing the doors to cross ventilation. Most people seemed opposed to this “radical” idea of one-way streets in Los Angeles. I, myself, think it is a long overdue idea, as one way streets are and have been in use all over the world. I believe that particularly in this area proposed, this will be helpful in getting the traffic to move instead of resembling a parking lot or an oil painting.

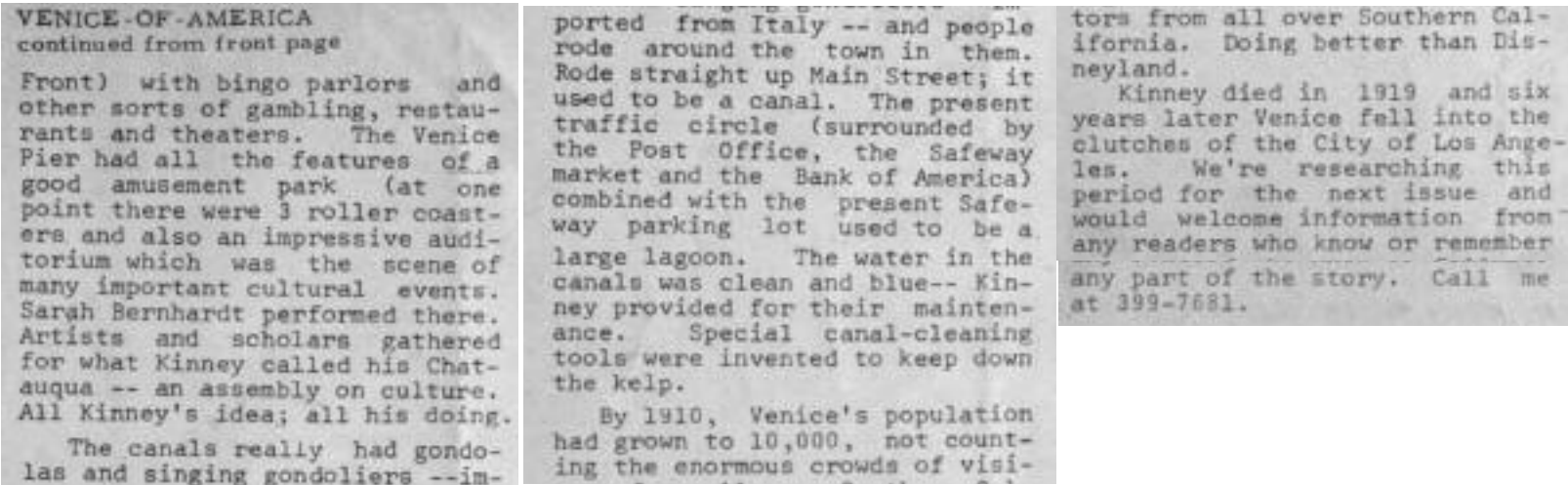
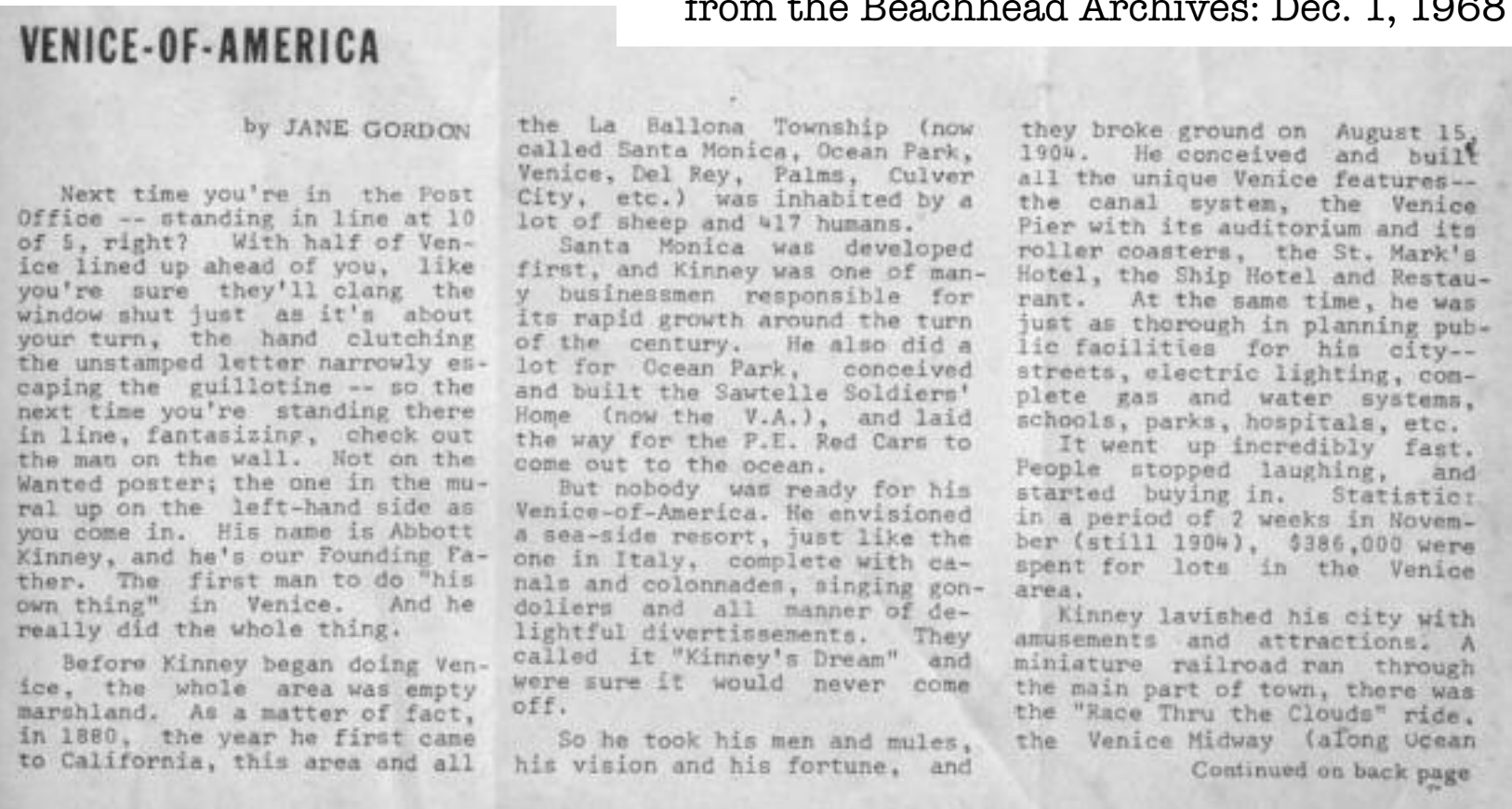
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THE CITY OF VENICE –continued from page 1

Only once before in the history of the city, at the time of the great fire, has the monster fire siren at the Kinney Power House sounded as it sounded last night. It was heard as far away as Santa Monica Canyon and Sawtelle... The town broke loose. It was the greatest demonstration ever seen in the history of Venice..."

The Vanguard also printed what may be the earliest Venice poem to come down to us: "As George W. Eldredge, poet-architect of the Rose Place Apartments stood in front of his home last night and watched the joy mad throng of citizen celebrating the defeat of annexation, it seemed to him that the spirit of Abbot Kinney hovered over the city which he founded. Seizing a pencil, he caught the words which seemed to come to him thru the air. Here they are."

Abbot Kinney Speaks
by George W. Eldredge.

*Blow the bugle! Beach the Drum!
The spirit of my town has won!
Of all the places that I see
Venice is most dear to me.
Of course men say that I am dead.
I used to be myself mislead
While it is true that I have gone,
It still is true that I am here,
And for every right and wrong
Have a feeling strong and clear
Venice! Venice! You will rise to be a glory
by the sea as I view thru amber sky's
the vision of thy destiny*

Sporadic efforts to regain cityhood continued through the 1920s, 30s and 40s. But by the late 1960s many Venetians had lost knowledge about the early history of their town. In the very first Free Venice Beachhead, dated Dec. 1, 1968, Jane Gordon wrote an article explaining who was that man (Abbot Kinney) on the Post Office mural. She told about the many canals with singing gondoliers, the amusement piers, and everything else about what had by then become an unknown history. In the same issue, John Haag wrote the first of many articles, titled Free

Venice, urging Venetians to regain our cityhood.

Since then, Venice historians have given us books and articles about various aspects of our history. We even have a street named after Abbot Kinney. And, there have been a number of efforts since 1968 to regain our independence.

So why should we try again? It hasn't been possible to win back our city so far, what's different now?

Perhaps Venetians are more aware of the indignities heaped upon us by our overlord, the city of Los Angeles. Decisions are made by unknown bureaucrats in downtown Los Angeles that affect our daily lives. Developments that are opposed by the overwhelming majority of Venetians usually get rubber-stamped in a megacity that is controlled by big developers and big corporations.

Even seemingly simple stuff like what statue should go in the circle, or putting some limits on chain stores, or deciding what should happen on Ocean Front Walk without violation the U.S. Constitution, are decisions reserved for officials who live nowhere near Venice.

At least, with cityhood we would have a city council whose members would live in Venice. We'd see them at Ralphs, at Danny's, maybe even in church. They would be accountable to us in a way 14 out of 15 Los Angeles city councilmembers will never be accountable for what they do to Venice. While Bill Rosendahl has done his best for Venice, he has difficulty getting even one additional vote on the council if it has to do with restrictions on development or corporations. Let's urge Bill to establish legal residency in Venice and run for Mayor.

The movement to reestablishing the city of Venice gains supporters when they learn about the history and culture of Venice, and how it differs from Los Angeles. The new Venice sign hanging over Windward Avenue reinforces our identity, and therefore brings us one step closer to cityhood.

A city of Venice could be a model environmentally-sensitive city. We could make it possi-

ble for people to move about Venice in non-polluting cars, trams, scooters and bikes. We could have a real recycling program. We could have a congestion tax on vehicles that use our city as a "cut through" on their daily commute. This would preserve the fragile coastal environment and bring revenue to the city. We could insist that all development includes solar energy and is environmentally friendly.

The possibilities are endless. In our efforts to get free of the rule of Los Angeles, we could also create a city that is artistic, poetic and of manageable size. We Venetians can again be trend-setters, this time in saving the planet. Let's talk about this with our neighbors. Send your comments to Beachhead@freevenice.org.

Epilogue: Venice, 2017 - The Mayor of Venice steps out of her apartment on Market Street into the bright July day. Now that the fog has burnt off, she'll push her baby carriage down to Ocean Front Walk to get some exercise and find out the latest news. As she walks past the Circle of Peace, she's tempted to stick her feet in the solar powered, salt water fountain in its center. She glances at the statues that surround the pool. Some are abstract, all are products of local artists. She admires her favorites, the 20 or so that are sculptures of famous Venetians from the past. Statues of Vera Davis and Rick Davidson are deep in conversation on a park bench. There's an empty seat between them. She considers, but decides to walk on. She passes Abbot Kinney and John Haag playing a endless game of chess. Endless until last year when the chess board became holographic and now the pieces actually move. They say it cycles through thousands of chess games but each player ends up winning about half the games. Maybe six people are standing around cheering on each player when a good move is made. She wheels her baby carriage around Flora Chavez and Stuart Perkoff (who seems to be reciting a poem). "Enough," she tells herself, "I'll come back tonight when living people are scheduled to recite their poems and the poems of their predecessors." She pushes her carriage down the middle of the pedestrian mall called Windward, headed toward the beach.

Venice Unchained

By Dawn Hollier and Melissa Bechtel

There is a more vibrant and visible street scene on Abbot Kinney than ever before, and increased parking coming soon. Unfortunately, these conditions are ideal for the chains to pounce. The first chain store on Abbot Kinney is already open. Pinkberry's backlit corporate logo and scripted service are already poisoning the street's authentic look and feel. Left unchecked, the chains will also hurt the community by squeezing out small businesses, exporting profits, and killing the neighborhood's identity. We believe that the fun and funky nature of our community is worth saving. Will you help us?

A Brief History of Venice Unchained

We first brought our plan for an ordinance banning chain stores from Abbot Kinney and Ocean Front Walk to Councilman Bill Rosendahl 22 months ago. He stated his support for our cause and asked us to gather more community support, which would give teeth to his motion to pass the ordinance. This we did--almost 3,000 people have now signed the petition. The Venice Chamber of Commerce and Venice Neighborhood Council enthusiastically support us, as do most of the merchants in the Abbot Kinney District Association.

Now for the bad news: someone in Rosendahl's office misinformed us about the approval process and how long it would take. We were told the ordinance would be passed by now and we believed it. We are now told that the motion that Bill introduced this past February is being studied by the Planning Department and City Attorney's office, who will report to the planning subcommittee of the city council (PLUM). PLUM will come back with recommendations and the council will discuss and then (hopefully) vote to pass it. We have been told by Rosendahl's Planning Deputy that this process realistically takes 1 to 2 years. This timeframe is unacceptable to us, and we believe that our collective commitment can affect a quicker outcome. The city bureaucracy must be made to understand that time is our enemy. Remember, any chain store in place once the ordinance is signed into law can't be kicked out.

A Call to Action

We are planning a major campaign to save Abbot Kinney. We have a two-pronged approach: 1) boycott Pinkberry in order to stop new chains from opening as we 2) work on progressing the ordinance quickly into law. We urgently need lawyers and community leaders—people with experience in local government—to get this ordinance on the fast track. And we need this boycott to garner enough media attention and support from the public to deter potential chains and their prospective landlords from signing the next lease. (Pinkberry has 20 stores open, and will have over 100 by the end of the year...and that's just the West Coast.)

We will be evaluating the collective response to this e-mail to see if we have enough critical mass to move forward with the campaign. Pooling our skills and resources will be the key to success. You can start by forwarding this e-mail to everyone on your list, and printing copies to be placed in all the mailboxes on your



A front page photo in the June 2004 Free Venice Beachhead with a Taco Bell, Starbucks, Clare's and Domino's in place of local businesses. Is this photoshop nightmare from Eric Ahlberg becoming a reality?

block (this has received an amazing 85% response rate in the past). Please go to our website to submit ideas and suggestions, and to volunteer your skills as well as to leaflet outside the Pinkberry. We did this last Sunday afternoon for an hour or so, and deterred several potential customers. Others said they would honor the boycott in the future. We had fun leafleting and met a lot of new people. If enough of us sign up to leaflet in one or two-hour shifts, we could cover all or most of Pinkberry's hours (11am to 11pm every day). We also hope to enlist the neighborhood merchants...what if every store

had a "Proud supporter of the Pinkberry boycott" sign in its window?

Venice Unchained appreciates your assistance in whatever form it takes. We are two working moms with limited time or activist experience, but who are fervently committed to preserving the spirit of Venice. We are honored to be a part of this wonderful community, and we believe that with community anything is possible.

Support Abbot Kinney's merchants by attending First Fridays (next one is July 6).
<http://www.veniceunchained.org>



Lincoln Place

TENT CITY REPORT

By C.V. Beck

Tent City is taking place weekly, on Saturdays, from 10 to 5 pm, located at the southeast corner of California/Frederick Streets, to the rear of Ralphs and the Ross stores parking lot.

We remaining residents of Lincoln Place refer to this free speech area as "Squirrel Square". We have delicious, unhealthy snack, chatting all day long about whatever and try to have a few "yucks" despite our precarious and uncertain situation.

The CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) lawsuit, which is the "umbrella" under which all our other cases will depend, will not be heard until September, 2007. (That would be after Labor Day, naturally.)

In June, I had to contact Environmental Health (that would be the Health Department to those of us over a certain age) regarding lax practices from Ralphs...EH came right out and issued a clean up report for fecal and other organic garbage left around. The matter was cleaned up for that day and then, after that, the same problems continue. Shopping carts with plastic bags full of discarded food remain in the loading dock and around the dumpster area for days at a time decomposing and attracting vermin.

I have noticed, unfortunately, that similar problems exist at the Rite Aid rear parking lot area. These events have also caused me to reflect on the lack of adequate sanitation in the Ross, Ralphs and the Rite Aid toilets, which are normally "substandard." Trust me on this (Of course, you could check it out for yourself...).

Also, I was informed this month that one of our neighbors encountered a "dogwalking business" person with 8 dogs on leashes, with no clean up materials present, sitting on one of "our" park benches, letting these dogs defecate. Needless to say, the situation was addressed in no uncertain terms.

A Soldier's Lament

By Don Geagan

As an former soldier I know that nothing is more important to military success than the moral and cohesiveness of our fighting forces. From the company level, to the brigade, to the division, this "esprit-de-corps" is the very glue that holds the military together and determines victory or defeat.

I fear future defeats because of the loss of this moral. A loss, due in large part, to the growing trend of privatizing our military forces. With private mercenaries averaging a \$1000 dollars a day in Iraq, while US forces subsist on "standard military pay," the military's moral is being undermined by the excesses of a free market that it – the military – is busily and bloodily defending.

Ask yourself. How much would you like to be paid to get shot at? Standard army pay or \$1,000 a day?

No wonder vast numbers of service men and women are not re-enlisting, deciding instead to sign up with Blackwater for the "shooters" or Haliburton for the food prep and laundry service -- which also need armed escorts during transport to and from the Green Zone.

This loss of bars and stripes to the private sector -- and the experience that they represent -- is yet another taxpayer supported perk for the private companies. A perk that weakens our military and undermines the proud tradition of our military... namely that of fighting for love of country, instead of money.

And private mercenaries, unlike regular U.S. forces -- who have to stand and fight -- can pick up their check and leave the battlefield anytime they want. Soldiering should be left to soldiers who have a love of country and not to war profiteers who have only a lust for money.

Anything less is a disservice to our fallen comrades at Arlington and beyond.

We must stop the privatization of our military before it's too late.

Reveille and taps should never be replaced by a corporate bugler, supported by corporate burglars.

Don Geagan is an active member of Vet's for Peace.

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Venetians in the Street

This month’s question from the Beachhead:
Is Venice better off as part of L.A., or would it be better off independent?



Paul Dalfonso

I think Venice would be better off away from LA. A lot of parts of LA, I don't like the way the city runs them. I'd like it to be it's own entity. That's why I'm here. I don't like the hustle and bustle of what goes on over there in the major part of LA. That's why I like living here.



Vivica Madrid

I think we'd better off independent, because the area is just so special. It's kind of it's own little community in a way. When you live here, to tell you the truth, I rarely venture out without a good reason, visit a family member or something, but I always stay in the area.



Wendy Miller

Venice would be much better as city of its own. It's unique. People don't judge you here. Freedom of Speech.



Zubi Muhammad

I'd like to keep it independent. I like the idea of keeping Venice a certain way. I feel like if the city is involved, ultimately it will start changing Venice. I don't have any evidence to prove that, it's just my instinct.



Mo Ludlow

We don't need to be LA, Venice is better.



Lynn Tumpa

I think Venice is better off as part of LA. It sounds better, feels better.



Aria Malbezzi

I think we'd better of independent, because LA isn't doing anything about those motor homes parked in front of my property. I mean, million dollar property and you have people living in motor homes all the time. I don't think it's fair. The city won't do anything because they say it's street access to the beach. But I've got a guy living in front of my house for more than a week, watching our kids. You don't know who's there.

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— L.A. Times, 4/07

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New City Statue in the Circle Sparks Controversy

After more than two years of dispute over a statue, created by Robert Graham, bought by Roy Doumani, and donated to the city, it has been planted in the Venice traffic circle.

It was a deal brokered by former L.A. City Councilmember Cindy Miscikowski, and rushed through city agencies for approval before most Venetians knew what was going on, that brought this “donation” to our central plaza.

The city appropriated \$75,000 for construction of a base and installation of the piece.

Opposition to the statue has centered on the lack of local input, let alone, decision making, and the subject of the sculpture: a headless, armless, and legless woman.

In the May 2005 Beachhead, Carol Fondiller asked sarcastically, “what’s a memorial to Elizabeth Short, the Black Dahlia, got to do with Venice?”

Photos, below, are from June 22, the first of what promises to be many encounters between the community and Robert Graham and his supporters.

Venetians invited the torso to join the weekly peace and justice vigil. Shiny peace signs were carefully, and temporarily, affixed to private parts of the black torso. One person brought an artistic, but much cheaper, torso to keep the black one company.



Butts for peace!



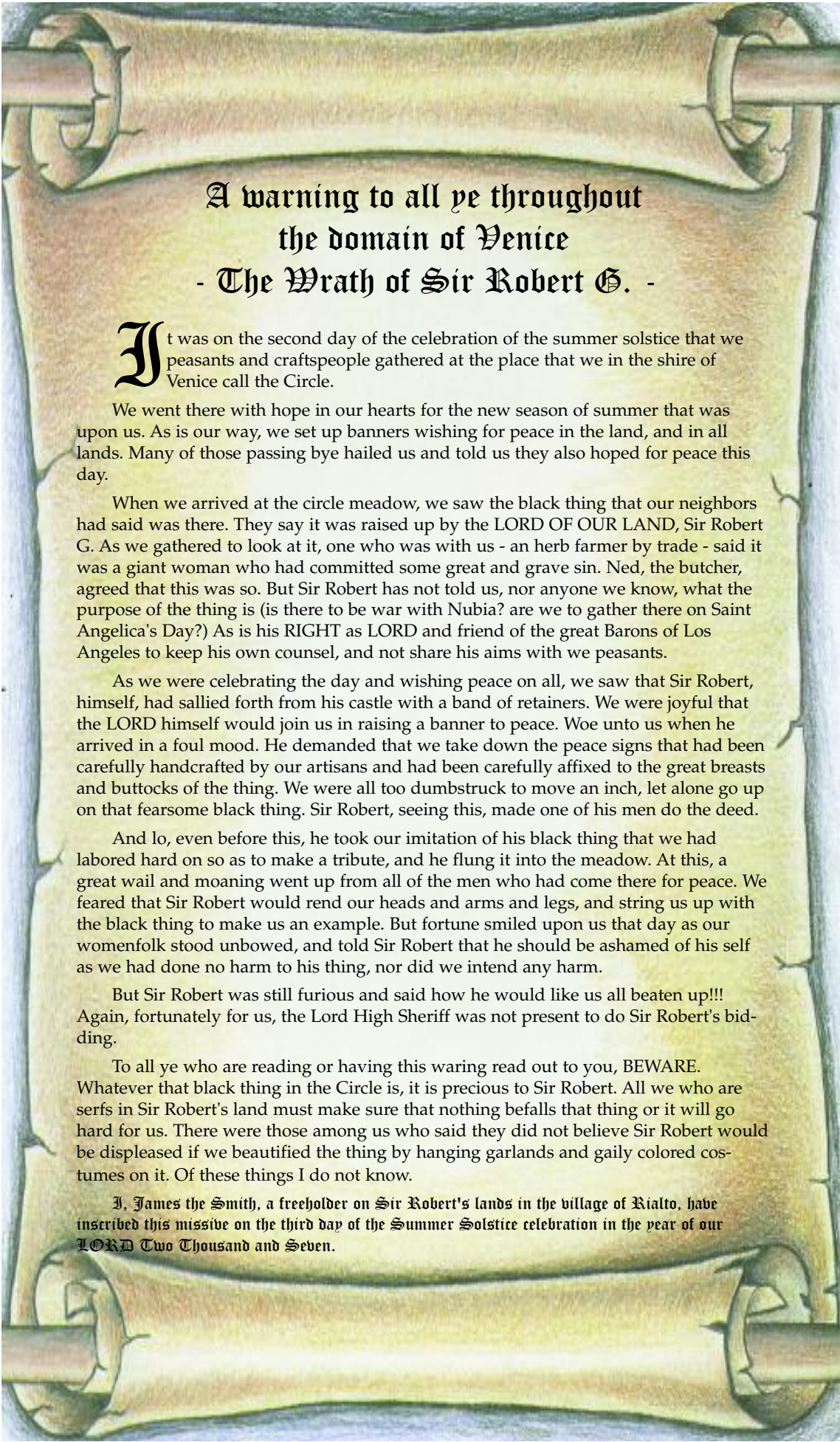
Peace advocates discovered that the \$75,000 statue base made an excellent place for anti-war signs



It was love at first sight, or touch.



Robt. Graham instructs one of his employees to remove the offending peace signs.



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Shattering Myths About Immigrants

DECONSTRUCTING “OPERATION RETURN TO SENDER”

By Margot Pepper

The cities of Berkeley and Oakland have adopted immigrant sanctuary measures disallowing the use of city funds and staff time in aiding Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

More than 60 sanctuary city initiatives protecting immigrants have been promulgated in 21 states across the country. Critics of immigration reform argue that sanctuary proposals send the wrong message to immigrants who, they argue, are responsible for eroding citizens’ living standards. They claim stiffer penalties and stronger barriers are the answer.

Little publicized is the fact that actually the opposite is true. Rather than posing a monumental problem, undocumented migration is a desired outcome of unequal international trade policies, boosting the living standards of U.S. citizens and enriching a powerful sector of the U.S. economy. Rather than discourage migration, dangerous but surmountable barriers and unenforceable, cruel laws only contribute to the “illegal,” status of needed workers, rendering them a cheap, profitable source of labor.

A Public Policy Institute of California report (2/27/07) by University of California, Davis, economist Giovanni Peri demonstrates that

“The greatest beneficiaries of cheap immigrant labor... are employers.”

“During 1990-2004, immigration induced a 4 percent real wage increase for the average native worker. An increase in the number of immigrants evidently increases the demand for tasks performed by native workers and raises their wages.”

“Between 1990 and 2004, as the percentage of immigrants in California’s labor force rose, immigration helped boost natives’ wages as much as 7 percent, even giving a tiny bump to native high school dropouts,” reports Kristin Bender in the Oakland Tribune, (2/28/07.)

But U.S. workers are not the biggest winners in the “immigrant sweeps-takes.” The greatest beneficiaries of cheap immigrant labor, says Harvard economist George Borjas, are employers. It is widely-known that undocumented immigrants are less likely to hold union jobs and are willing to work for wages under the minimum wage, without benefits and at jobs citizens are unwilling to accept. During an immigration peak in the United States from the third quarter of 2001 to the present, the share of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) going to corporate profits has soared from 7.0 percent to 11.6 percent, while the share going to labor compensation declined by 2.4 percentage points, according to economist Edwin S. Rubenstein.

One of the sources of the immigration surge was the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in the early 1990s. Thanks to protectionist measures like NAFTA, over an eight year period, “Resource transfers from the poor to the rich amounted to more than \$400 billion,” reported Massachussetts Institute of Technology professor Noam Chomsky in *The Nation* (“Notes on NAFTA.”) “The World Bank reports that protectionist measures of the industrialized countries reduce national income in the South by about twice the amount of official aid to the region--aid that is itself largely export promotion,” Chomsky states.

The losers in the game, of course are working Mexicans. In Mexico, “Poverty has risen by more than 50% during the first four years of NAFTA and wages in the manufacturing sector have declined,” reports the Data Center.

A 2004 report published by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means states that “At least 1.5 million Mexican farmers



May Day in Los Angeles

lost their livelihoods to NAFTA.” The situation is only expected to worsen in 2008 when Mexico is required to comply with a NAFTA deadline to totally eliminate its corn and bean import tariffs. A large sector of U.S. workers have also taken a big hit from NAFTA, as union jobs are farmed out overseas to non-union labor, widening the chasm between the rich and poor.

Many policy experts predicted that the Mexican farmers displaced by NAFTA would migrate to the United States. Indeed, a comparison of U.S. censuses of 1990 and 2000 shows “the number of Mexican-born residents in the United States increased by more than 80 percent,” states Jeff Faux in “How NAFTA Failed Mexico,” *The American Prospect* (July 3, 2003.) “Some half-million Mexicans come to the United States every year; roughly 60 percent of them are undocumented. The massive investments in both border guards and detection equipment have not diminished the migrant flow; they have just made it more dangerous. More than 1,600 Mexican migrants have died on the journey to the north.”

While NAFTA is responsible for the latest “migration hump,” it is not the sole culprit. Practices by bodies like the World Trade Organization, “along with the programs dictated by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, have helped double the gap between rich

“Chavez later said he could never have organized the United Farm Workers until growers could no longer hire braceros (guest workers) during strikes.”

and poor countries since 1960,” reports Noam Chomsky in *The Nation*. The ensuing foreign debt deprives these countries from accumulating capital to develop competitive industries and has lead to mass migration northward. This trend has been in operation for hundreds of years, as traditionally, there has been a migration trend originating in colonized countries toward the source of the economic disparities.

Given the fact that the presence of undocumented workers enriches the corporate sector, particularly in developed countries, it is not unreasonable to conclude that a powerful sector of the U.S. economy would be severely harmed should undocumented workers gain resident status. In other words, part of the success of programs like NAFTA is the byproduct of cheap, undocumented labor, both native to Mexico and migrant.

A little known, but related, fact is that draconian, unenforceable immigration policies, such as Operation Return to Sender, are actually products of NAFTA. After NAFTA was passed by Congress in 1992, “the agreement raised concerns in the U.S. about immigration from south of the border,” according to “*NAFTA, The Patriot Act and the New Immigration Backlash*” by the American Anthropological Association. To counter the predicted influx of Latin Americans,

President Bill Clinton signed The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. “The 1996 Welfare Reform bill included anti-immigrant and other measures that eliminated many social services for undocumented immigrants,” the report states. The latest wave of ICE raids are a result of these long term policies.

The immigration reform bill under consideration in the Senate only strengthens the trend toward higher returns at the expense of migrant labor by cutting off family ties and creating an even lower tier than today’s undocumented worker: the “guest worker” or *bracero*, whose legal status can be revoked by any whim of his employer. The *bracero* program was killed by labor organizers in 1964 spearheaded by Ernesto Galarza, with the blessings of Cesar Chavez. According to journalist David Bacon, “Chavez later said he could never have organized the United Farm Workers until growers could no longer hire *braceros* during strikes.”

Chavez and the UFW knew that stemming the flow of immigration required offering a living wage, not only to both documented and undocumented workers within the United States, but to workers abroad as well.

Recently, the deportation of 7-year old Gerardo Espinoza, a top student at Rosa Parks school in Berkeley, whose only recourse to claim his right to education as a U.S. citizen was to remain in Berkeley as an orphan, reverberated in various newspapers and internet sites. The story struck a chord because the case demonstrated that the vast majority of model immigrants who comply with current immigration policy are destined for outcomes as tragic as the separation of the Greek lovers Orpheus and Uridice.

Operation Return to Sender is nothing more than another incentive to go underground. According to the Contra Costa Times and the San Francisco Chronicle, thousands of people have been detained in the Bay Area since the beginning of Operation Return to Sender, a campaign that has resulted in over 18,000 arrests nationwide and the deportation of 800 immigrants in Northern California cities alone.

Yet this has not deterred the courageous marches on May first by thousands of immigrants for the last couple of years.

By standing their ground, these Americans have every intention of complying with the current administration’s edict to “Return to Sender—” since the “Sender,” or source of the “immigration problem” lies not abroad, but on U.S. soil.

Margot Pepper is a former Venetian and a contributor to the Beachhead. She is a poet, journalist and author. Her memoir, *Through the Wall: A Year in Havana*, was a top nomination for the 2006 American Book Award.

By Rex Butters

like a tall ship’s mast
high haired twisted Lucho longboard sails
wrap around shades serene
skates Windward circle
centered
hands down
hands up
tiny Tema Luna
holds tight
plays prow
figurehead goddess
regally still
trusting dad’s smooth
maneuver
roundabout rowdies
sunshine activated art
sliding skyward

CONSIDERING GRACE

By John David West

I drove past Memphis, no time for Graceland.
Trellis bridge encaged, no exit to the
Mississippi shore. Repetitious white
lines laughed with buck tooth smiles. Mile
marker, mile marker, mile marker, mile.

Visions of bleached heads, National
Inquirers folded under fleshy
postmenopausal arms, a pilgrimage
to the musical gates. Thoughts of tales
dripped away, baptized in black velvet
dreams. No time for bellbottomed ghosts,
faithfully to Nashville before the blood orange
moon burned blue. I let iconic figures be,
leaving the worshiping to the fearful sheep.

Still Near

by Hillary Kaye

there is history in the eye of a child
who will always remember the beginning place as it is still near is near
and the rubble will cover over the beauty
and the bountiful will make the hungry into believers
the scorching rhythming river will carry the rocks just a bit further.
my father is dead
and my mother will follow
i will watch the hands go cold and the eyes gloss over and there won't be a
place to come back to.

IN LIEU

Substitute these words:

for heart, say jar
for love, say river

for blood, say electricity
for tears and rain, say mountain runoff

for rose, say indian paintbrush

go dissemble

I fill my jar at the river
mountain runoff waters indian paintbrushes

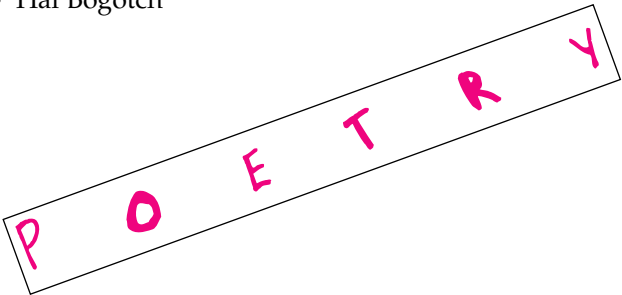
electricity sets my jar aglow
I bathe in cool science

world awaits germination of sesame

for lonely, say shaded
for heartache, say hairline fracture

for passion, say controlled burn.

-- Hal Bogotch



Requiem
for Stuart Perkoff

Refuse to sleep

To be absorbed

By that from which you drank.

Do not go blind and speechless

To that dark and wordless thing.

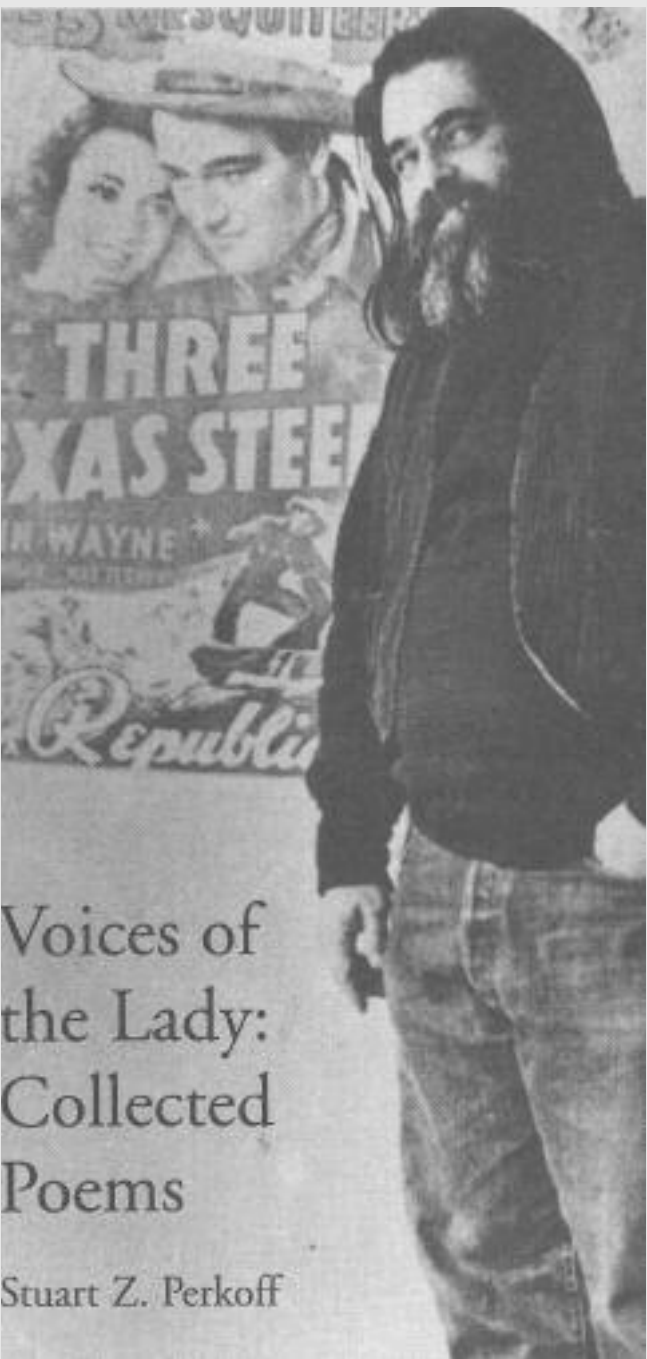
Heaven's tired

Of its faint whisperings.

Let it grow loud.

--Philomene Long

*Note: Stuart Perkoff, Venice Poet
Extraordinaire died of cancer on June 25,
1974. Philomene Long was at his bedside.
His poems are available at Beyond
Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd.*



Visit
www.venice-beachhead.org
for back issues of the
Free Venice Beachhead



photo by Rex Butters

The band Venice performed at *Venice Fest* on June 24 at Windward Plaza. Venice is made up of cousins Pat Lennon, Kip Lennon, Mark Lennon, Michael Lennon and some others not named Lennon. The first block of Windward Avenue was closed to vehicle traffic all day, and even though it was a Sunday, it was a nice local event. Councilmember Bill Rosendahl officiated at the lighting of the new Venice sign. Unfortunately, the reviewing stand was facing the back of the sign, which does not light up. A message had to be relayed via cell phone that the front of the sign did, indeed, light up. The sign is on a timer which turns it on from dusk to dawn every day (see front page). Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa was supposed to show up, but didn't. The official dedication of the city's new statue in the Circle was supposed to take place, but didn't. Something about the artist not liking the base that was installed. Other than that, things went off without a hitch. Everyone seemed to be having a good time.

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General Forecast for July 2007

General Forecast -

This month is a time ripe for beginnings. While the summer is often a time for relaxation and travel, you'll do well to relax and let yourself dream of your ideal life, and how you can create it. Plan to travel to places that inspire you, and advance you into the scene you want to be in. The powers that be conspire to help you. Think of fun in a pragmatic way, and you're on your way home.

Aries - Not much dramatic play, but a lot of magnetic pull. Let yourself be persuaded by the craving for completion. Pull yourself in a good direction, and the tide will sweep you home.

Taurus - You may be unknowingly working against yourself. What factors are most noticeable in your struggles? Stop and think if they aren't self created. Gemini- Birthday over, you may have settled into a scene of confusion. Just let it wash over you, it will all come out right in the spin-dry cycle. Sweep up the confetti- your new year is already here.

Cancer - A moment of serenity and generosity, you can settle in for a month of doing what you love best- taking care and getting things done.

Leo - There may be a sense of loss haunting you, but you need to recall that you have resources- emotional, spiritual and physical -that you have not even tapped yet. Give a roar and shake that mane, it will work out for you.

Virgo - You may be considering a trip, and if so, the education that you receive will be more that you can sum up on a postcard or an email video. Whatever comes home with you could be life changing, if you allow.

Libra - Major shakeups are on your mind or already in process. Time to leave your lover, break your lease or emigrate to Canada? Think it through, and let yourself find that point of balance. It can't all be good. But it's all important.

Scorpio - There is something seriously amiss that you are either unwilling to acknowledge, or just ignorant of. Look carefully, listen closely and trust your gut. Once you know what's happening, you can handle it. Sagittarius- Sometimes, you are sitting in the right place at just the right time. You have some very good cards in your hand- play them right, and you'll win big.

Capricorn - There are so many small hassles going on, it may seem that just getting through the day is exhausting. Try not to take it all personally- Those people treat everyone this way, not just you- Know that there's a light at the end of the tunnel, and it's not the oncoming train.

Aquarius - Creative and courageous, that's you all over. Now is the moment to broadcast those qualities as long and as loud as you like.

Pisces - Watch a group of children playing, and notice how freely they exchange roles and ideas. Take that notion with you, and see what other parts you'd like to play in your own life.

Cancer in the kitchen - Home is where the Crab is.

If you are a person born under the sign of Cancer who does not love to cook, love to shop, love to present a fabulous meal- well, you might just be the only one. Ruled by the moon, Cancer is truly the sign of Momness. It's about nurturing and providing, Cancer is almost the sign of the Cook, and it all comes from your love of taking care of others.

The kitchen may be a bit messy, but the aromas that come from it are delightful. You are particularly fond of the big production, grand cassoulets, paella, or jambalaya might all have a spot in you repertoire. When it's time for your birthday, celebration might be a trip to the farmer's market and a day spent packing your homemade salsa or pickles. Your sign even rules the stomach. It just doesn't get more symptomatic than that.

Cancer's Country Captain Chicken Casserole

3 pounds of chicken, cut into pieces, skin removed,

1/3 cup flour

1 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon pepper

1/4 cup of vegetable oil

1 cup chopped onion

1 cup chopped green pepper

3 cloves of garlic, chopped fine or crushed

1/2 cup of tomato paste

2 tablespoons brown sugar

3 heaping teaspoons of curry powder

2 teaspoons dried thyme or 4 sprigs of fresh

4 cups hot cooked rice, white or brown
raisins, currents, chopped dried apricots, almonds

Preheat oven to 350. Blend flour, salt, and pepper in a bag, and add chicken pieces one at a time, shaking to coat.

Pour oil into a skillet and brown the chicken pieces, a few minutes on each side. Place browned chicken into a 9 x 13 baking dish.

Add onions, peppers, and garlic to the skillet, and sauté for three to five minutes.

Stir in water, tomato paste, sugar, curry and thyme. When nicely blended, pour the sauce over the chicken and bake uncovered for an hour.

Serve on a bed of rice, and top with dried fruit and almonds.

Country Captain is an old style Southern American corruption of a chicken curry, and it will keep a Cancer happy in the kitchen for more than an hour. Lots to play with, pretty to present and delicious as well. I'll bet someone will even tell you it reminds them of home.

And that will put a smile on your face that just couldn't be Crabbiere.

More Astrological features and recipes are available at astrologicalcookery.com. Come and check it out for weekly recipes and advice for your sun sign.

Coming August 3
Howard Zinn's MARX IN SOHO
with Jerry Levy as Karl Marx
In a benefit performance for Food Not Bombs! Imagine all Karl Marx would have to say after one hundred years of just being able to watch... Historian and activist, Howard Zinn is most well known for his "A People's History of the United States." This tackles so many dimensions of Marx; It is a MUST SEE!
Performance at 7:30 with a Dinner served at 6:30
On Friday, August 3rd at Venice United Methodist Church Peace & Justice Center
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CommUnity Events

— by the numbers



- July 1** • Sunday 5pm Open reading with Timothy Green who edits the poetry journal Rattle, with Eric Steineger whose poetry has appeared in online and print journals, and Jack Cooper winner of the Palabra Productions 2006 National Poetry Month Contest. Beyond Baroque.
- Sunday 9-12pm - **Onaji Murray**, great jazz vibes, Hal's Bar and Grill, no cover
- July 2** • Monday 9-12pm - **Bobby Matos**, Latin jazz drumming icon, Hal's Bar and Grill, no cover
- July 4** • **Fourth of July Fireworks** – Culver City High School: Braddock Dr., 2 blocks east of Sepulveda - fireworks at 9pm; **Marina Del Rey**: The traditional fireworks extravaganza over the main channel starts at 9pm. The fireworks are choreographed to patriotic music, which will be broadcast in sync with the pyrotechnic display over FM radio KXLU, 88.9. The music will be relayed over loudspeakers in Chace Park for those watching there; Venice fireworks: Nada.
- July 6** • "1st Fridays on Abbot Kinney" event. Participating Abbot Kinney businesses will be open until 10pm. Also Aug. 3.
- Friday 8pm – **Temenos-Sacred Space festival of creative music**-Life Force Trio + Double Duo, musicians include Adam Rudolph, Joshua Spiegelman, Ralph Jones, and Braham Frihgane. \$10 Electric Lodge.
- July 7** • Saturday 8pm **Temenos-Sacred Space** festival of creative music-Vashti World Percussion Ensemble, includes local percussion idols Adam Rudolph and Munyungo Jackson. \$15 Electric Lodge.
- July 8** • Sunday 6-8pm – **Joke Artist**-Live subversive performances by cutting edge comedians - produced by Paul "The Aristocrats" Provenza & Brian Baldinger. Live music at 7pm: flamenco/world guitarist Michael Jost. Sponto.
- Sunday 8pm **Temenos-Sacred Space** festival of creative music-see above.
- Sunday 9-12pm, **Louis Taylor**, Hal's Bar and Grill, no cover.
- July 9** • Monday 6pm the Venice Library's series on Small Business continues with **How to Get a Loan** presented by the Loyola Marymount Small Business Center. To register call 338-7714.
- Monday 9-12pm - **Cal Bennett** - too funky to be smooth, Hal's Bar and Grill
- July 11** • Wednesday 7pm **Radical Politics In Mainstream Media**: Gleaning Grains Of Truth From Mountins Of Chaff - Seminal researcher John Hankey surveys important political statements that have found their way into Hollywood films. Plus 6pm: Special revolutionary feature film. Sponto.
- July 12** • Thursday, 6pm - **Neighborhood Council Review Commission** - wants to hear from you about changes to the neighborhood councils - University High School, 11800 Texas Ave, West L.A. www.ncrcla.org
- Thursday 7:30pm - **Beyond Academia Poetry Lecture Series** - argues a democratic ideal for poetry. Brendan Constantine will cover the history and use of a certain word and its connection to and ownership by poetry, curated by Carlye Archibeque and Richard Modiano.
- July 15** • Sunday 7pm - **Poets Beyond the Half Shell**: 12 by Twelve, with SA Griffin, Scott Wannberg and Brenda Yates. Hosted by Carlye Archibeque and Richard Modiano. Open sign up 6:30, 2 poem limit. FREE. Beyond Baroque.
- Sunday 9-12pm, Greg Poree, busy guitarist/composer/arranger, Hal's Bar and Grill.
- July 16** • Monday 6pm - the Venice Library's series on Small Business continues with **Marketing Your Small Business** presented by the Loyola Marymount Small Business Center. To register call 338-7714
- Monday 9-12pm - **Thom Rotella** - Hal's Bar and Grill, no cover
- Monday 6pm – **Cinematic Interventions** - 8pm - John Cannizzaro screens Fountain Of Youth ('06, 13m) the last Super 8mm home movie: a cine-poem to time, childhood & the color of memory, AND an eye-opening 90

minute program of mutiple projection (16mm, video, live spoken word, bongos - the future of movie viewing?) layering of avant garde, educational, travelogue, animation films & more. Plus experimental films from 6-8pm including shorts by Bryan Konefsky,

July 17 • Tuesday 7pm - **Venice Neighborhood Council** Board meets - Westminster School Auditorium. www.grvnc.org

July 18 • Wednesday - Miss Beatnik Contest - **Win \$100** for best poetry, bongo drumming, threads, drawing and dance. With celebrity judges. Sponto.

July 20 • Friday 7:30pm - **Mary Kite & the Veachettes, Jack Collum, and Gloria Frym** read from their works. Beyond Baroque.

July 21 • Saturday 7:30pm - **The Spirit of Southern California Poetry Series** honors Leimert Park's The World Stage, one of Southern California's leading cultural institutions. Poets include Kamau Daaood, Michael Datcher, Jawanza Dumisani, Peter J. Harris, the late Merilene Murphy, Imani Tolliver, and Conney Williams. Beyond Baroque.

July 22 • Sunday 9-12pm - **Forecast featuring JS Floyd** - Hal's Bar and Grill, no cover.

July 23 • Monday 6pm - the Venice Library's series on Small Business continues with **How to Import and Export** presented by the Loyola Marymount Small Business Center. To register call 338-7714.

• Monday 8 & 9:30pm Suzy Williams and Her Solid Senders play smoldering Jazz and Blues, the Temple Bar, 1026 Wilshire Blvd, Santa Monica 393-6607 \$10.

• Monday 9-12pm - **Bobby Matos**, Latin jazz drumming icon - Hal's Bar and Grill, no cover.

July 24 • Tuesday 7pm - **Urpomes** - Sponto's "kNOw rules" poetry-spoken word.

July 25 • Wednesday 7pm – **Foggy Mountains Break Down** More Than Non-Foggy Mountains ('06, 59m) Jessie Stead's eminent experimental exploration of Flatt & Scruggs bluegrass classic. Plus shorts. Sponto.

July 27 • Friday 7:30pm – All Acoustic: **Henry Mortensen, Mike Moonves, and Friends** Beyond Baroque.

July 28 • Saturday 7:30pm – Code Pink Women for Peace present: **Art & Activism: Writers on Politics Now**, with Gayle Brandeis and Diane Lefer. Beyond Baroque.

July 29 • Sunday 9-12pm - **Quentin Dennard** - legendary Motown/jazz/r&b drummer, Hal's Bar and Grill no cover.

• Sunday 7pm - **Beyond Music: The Voice**, with **Becky Allen, Julie Adler, Sylvia Desrochers, and Kira Vollman** - Come for an evening of L.A. vocal artists revisiting and recreating landscapes and atmospheres of sound, cinematic mood, and questions of where they are or are not. Beyond Baroque.

July 30 • Monday 6pm - **Free First Aid Training class** with certificate at Santa Monica Airport. Reservations and questions, Dr. Bernard Harris 393-7758

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

Location Guide

- Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd, 821-1769
- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006
- Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 306-1854, max10@electriclodge.org
- Hal's Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 396-3105 - www.halsbarandgrill.com
- Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 Venice Blvd. 822-8392 - www.pacificresidenttheatre.com
- SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. 822.9560 x 15.
- Sponto Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave, Free, 306-7330, pfsuzy@aol.com
- The Learning Garden, 13000 Venice Blvd.
- Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbott Kinney Blvd. 310-606-2015

Ongoing Events

- Every Tuesday 10:30 am – **Toddler Storytime!** – Abbot Kinney Library.
- Every Tuesday 2 pm, beginning June 26 – **Teen Summer Reading** – 1st session: Create a wallet out of duct tape. Abbot Kinney Library.
- Every Friday 5:30 pm – **Peace and Justice Vigil** at the Venice Circle, Main St. and Windward Av.

Please send notices of Venice events by the 25th of the month to:
Calendar @ freevenice.org or POB 2, Venice 90294.



**Peace in Iraq
Justice in Venice**

Bring Peace signs and banners for peace, justice and equality
Sponsors include:
Venice Peace Movement
Venice Peace & Freedom
Lincoln Place Support Center Hq.
Info: 310-390-2125 - Peace@freevenice.org



- Out of Iraq NOW
- No Attack on Iran
- Fund Social Needs
- Save Lincoln Place

*** PEACE ***

**Join us
every Friday
beginning at 5:30 pm
at the Venice Circle for a
Peace & Justice Vigil**

THEY'RE HERE! Interview with a Verifiable UFO Lady

Don't Drive Any Faster Than Your Guardian Angel Can Fly!
- sign on Linda Lu's front gate

by Erica Snowlake

This past little while's gone supernova. Has it for you?

It all started with contacts made at a raw cacao party talking of spaceships landing and communing with folks at a certain upcoming time and location on native land. Later that evening we witnessed vid recorded channelings of Baschar, a super helpful entity from Elron4. Then later in the week, super high from being graced by the presence of Amma, the hugging saint, (over 26 million served), and her heavenly entourage, I fluke into the motherlode.

Out of the blue riding my bike down Electric Avenue I meet Linda Lu. Stopping to take a peek at a small compilation of goods labeled Free, Linda Lu, (chatting amicably with a neighbor), rewards my curiosity by opening a wooden fenced door to reveal a treasure trove/green space full of oddities - yeah, Space Oddities! Scores of multiple sized framed and unframed neon glowing space art, depicting sparkly space pods, stellar beings, and tribal medicine wonders. Her Art.

I'm in awe, experiencing a certain resonance as lately I've been psychedelic painting under black lights wearing 3D glasses. My enthusiasm and appreciation of her art leads Linda Lu to generously and wholeheartedly offer me caretaker-ship of her entire fantastic legacy. "Ain't got the storage space", she decrees while giving me names of each and everyone. "UFO Baby" "UFO Horse" "UFO UFO"

I've got to get to know this vibrant, super-positive vibed lady! She invites me through a narrow, vine laden walkway into her petite garden paradise. Amid fragrant flowers and angel statues, we sit on rainbow blanketed wicker chairs sipping Ed Hardy structured water, mingling with her two dogs, two Manx silver tabbys and a Siamese.

Linda Lu: I've been here a longtime.
Beachhead: Enigmatic enough! In Venice long then?

Linda Lu: Rounding 15 years. Use to live on Speedway and the Beach. I've enjoyed being in numerous art shows over the years, on different Windward cafe walls, a place called Van Gogh's Ear. Before Venice, my ex-husband, an abstract artist, and I ran a gallery in Mission Beach, San Diego. One of my inspiration/muses is the potter and Dada Mama Beatrice Wood, who lived to be 105 and was neighbors with Krishnamurti in Ohai.

Beachhead note:
Linda Lu's chatting while drawing a colored pen and ink portrait of me as a UFO. How thrilling! How did the UFO thing happen?
Linda Lu: Well, something in Venice re-manifested it, and I started seeing everything around me

as UFOs, or everything I see I turn into UFOs. Alot of them are regular people, you know, animal UFOs as well. I remember telling artists on the Boardwalk years ago to depict UFOs. Now they're everywhere.
Beachhead: The first time I came to Venice Beach my mom and I took a photo together sitting on beach chairs with those lifesized big headed aliens!

Linda Lu: I saw my first UFO in Illinois, where I was born, when I was fifteen. My fiance and I were petting on the hood of his car when we both saw a huge ship with red, green, and blue lights hovering overhead. It then took off so fast we got spooked, jumped into the car and sped off, til we caught our breath, looked at each other and said "where are we going?!"
Over the years I've felt many visitations by my bedside, right there, for real. They don't really want to fully contact us because we would contaminate them, these are very High Spiritual Beings. And the way we treat our Elders and our Earth, well, they want us to help ourselves before they can help us.
Beachhead: And that's the



UFO Lady

nice ones.
Linda Lu: Yes. There's a set like the government of our country, BAD. In Illinois we use to find whole herds of cattle with their parts taken out by lasers and their blood drained. The good ones walk with us. If you are aware and ready, they will heal you, especially while you are resting. I know there are certain ones who know me really well, they know us better than we know ourselves.

Beachhead: They are part of the special magic keeping the balance here - extraterrestrials, the angelic realm, and the elven and faerie devas. 2012 Baby. I just rented an amazing vid from Main Street Video in Venice of a lecture by Ian X Lungold,(google!), a download of knowledge on



UFO UFO

the Mayan calendar/prophecy of 2012. We are entering a phase of time called Cosmic Conscious Co-Creation! Soon we will realize our place in a Galatic Federation of Beings, a family of Starpeople!!!!
Our chat morphs into cats, as her female Manx is miaowing loudly at us. No tails, huh?
Linda Lu: The Manx are the closest breed to the wild cat. You

should see how high up straight into the air they can jump, and how long they can stretch out. There's alot we don't know about them.
Beachhead: Everything's alien to us in terms of



UFO Mushrooms

understanding!
Linda Lu: There's an old saying if a person doesn't like cats there's something wrong with them!
Beachhead: So what kind of feedback do you get on your UFO art?
Linda Lu: One guy said no one can ever copy me! Some register disbelief, others share their experiences. I do alot of work with Spirits, even my home here is a transport place for souls to go on. I worked as a nurse in a hospital for a long-time and helped/witnessed many people crossing over to the Other Side. Spirits of family and friends are always with me, they help me tremendously. I pray alot, funny, since Venice has become so populated, alot of my prayers are for parking spaces. (Laughter) I find it really sad when people don't believe in Spirituality, it's like getting hit in the stomach. Everythings Spirit, how people get by without prayer in their lives astounds me.
Beachhead: How does it help to believe in UFOs?
Linda Lu: It helps to believe in hope, and a Higher Consciousness. UFOs can be your hope. Also they represent a consciousness beyond nationalism or patriotism, a global way of thinking - caring for all Beings on our planet. UFOs as a concept threatens our government because people will realize our government isn't the highest power, they can't control everything, and that other laws are operating in the Universe besides soulless greed for money and power.
Beachhead: It's a revolution/evolution to believe in UFOs - that we as a people can reach Universal Love, Peace, and Understanding, Unity and Propulsion Without Oil. Linda Lu, I love the stained glass effect of your work, and the very strongly tribal nature of your style.
Linda Lu: I am part Blackfoot Indian from my grandmother's encounter with a Blackfoot man.
Beachhead: Why is Venice so special?
Linda Lu: Venice charms me. Being a Cancerian and close to the Ocean brings out my Cre8tivity. You know it used to be all canals, which got filled in with sand, ontop which we now live. We are all resting on electromagnetically charged sand, we can feel the earth energy coming through.
Beachhead: Sand is basically crystalline vibration in nature.
Linda Lu: Unfortunately I've seen many changes for the worse. I have a fit for every tree cut in Venice. Just that green space across the street is going to be turned into a parking lot. I heard a crow crying for three weeks for a pine tree they cut down, used to watch him diving into that tree like a jet...of course, all the morning glories are going.....progress....lacks in spirituality.
Beachhead: What's your ideal vision for UFOs?
Linda Lu: That they accept us more to help us, to show us the way. Through them miracles and healing can take place, and teachings on how to be more caring, loving, and forgiving. Oh, I'd like to mention my concern for a monument in Santa Monica for all those people cut down in the market tragedy, they need an energy release and recognition for those Souls.
Beachhead: Indeed! Coincidentally, I just heard you are a Beachhead Sustainer!
Linda Lu: I think everyone should be! (twin-kletwinkle).
Beachhead: Linda Lu and I are going to hang out when I install her work and mine on a wall under black lights. Venetians - watch for UFOs! They are here, we are they!