

FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968

BEACHHEAD



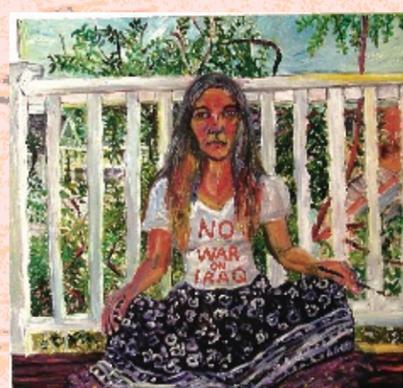
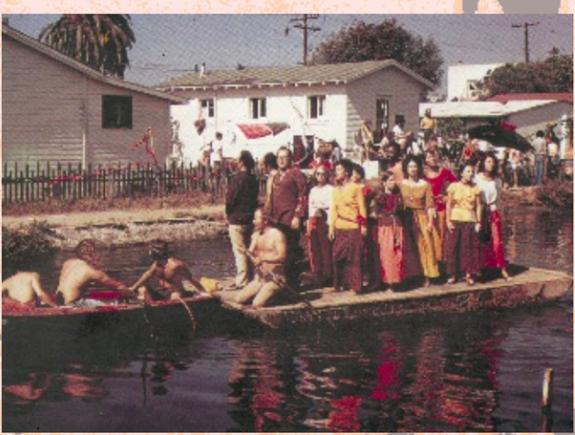
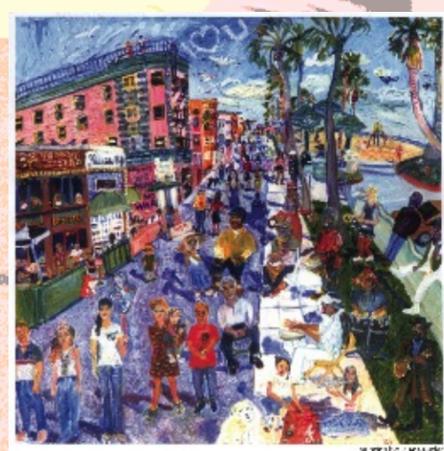
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on your
Donations

June
2006
ISSUE NO. 297

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

Summer Comes to Venice



CASUALTIES IN IRAQ
 U.S. 2,468 Dead – 63 this month
 U.S. Wounded 18,254 – 606 this month
 Iraqi Dead: 38,059 – 42,434
 This month: 3,348 – 3,573
 (some sources say 100,000+ Iraqi dead)
 Source: antiwar.com

**Celebrate the Summer Solstice
 at the Circle of Color
 7 Dudley Ave. June 17
 Art • Music • The olde Venice**

The
collective staff of the



BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:

Karl Abrams, John Davis, C.V. Beck, Carol Fondiller, Don Geagan, Yolanda Miranda, Jim Smith, Erica Snowlake, Alice Stek

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

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

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

Mail to: P.O. Box 2, Venice, CA 90294.
Web: <www.freevenice.org>
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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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John Haag

Dear Beachhead,

Carol Fondiller was, is, and may likely continue to be THE poet of thought, writing, articulation, while living her amazing life, committed to a better public, and better society, locally and globally. Her writings seem the gems, now, as all through the "Free Venice Beachhead" decades. Her article in honor of THE John Haag, whose life touches all of us, was the best of articles, once again, in the May 2006, issue.

Surely the paper will put forth more memorial statements from others in the Summer issues, on John, inclusive of the adult children's choice of date and place for John's public memorial.

Myself, I never knew him to directly participate with the beaches, shores, waters, parks. He adored to be in the cafe dens, the addictions of smokes, and wine and vodka, with, yes, stale cafe about, to edit the non-stop mind, to clarify aspects of the teeming human experiences.

He was dependent upon his own version of sequential polygamy (excessively common), dependent upon woman after woman for his very daily life. As he was the poetic beachheader, the social idealist, the pragmatic activist, working at it all, in great sports, over the decades. He was an articulator of the popular will, a public truth sayer. He knew well and believed in both critical mass, and communal mass. I do feel that he was conscious of his own failings and his own gifts. I feel he was conscious without fail, as he left his earthly life, in March 2006.

May we all be conscious of our daily lives, here, and in the hereafter. Many thanks to John, and AAAL-LLL the ones who worked so with him, as Anna, who so raised the children, and danced her passion of life so faithfully: for conscious, public gifts that guide us.

Maryjane

Correction

In last month's Beachhead in my piece about John Haag I'm afraid that I gave the impression that John Haag did everything but bring fire to us shivering humans. Even John would deny that. John was able to organize and theorize because he had support. Many women supported him. They typed his articles, fed him, listened to him. His wife, Anna, and many other women, gave of themselves so that John could do his work. I won't mention their names, because I know I'll leave some out and maybe some of the women would prefer not to have their names mentioned for their own reasons. Without the help support and sacrifice of these women, John would not have been able to accomplish what he did. I thank them.

C. Fondiller

Vending on Ocean Front Walk

Dear Beachhead,

A couple of months have passed since the end of commercial and handicraft vending on the Venice Beach Boardwalk. On weekdays, the beachfront appears like a bombed out alley, desolate, lacking in spirit and the bustle of eager shoppers. The vendors and handicraft people presented a backdrop for the artists. Everything fit as if by design and fit for the throngs from all over the world. Venice Beachfront was a welcoming spot for visitors to get into the feeling of the city all in one place, close and intimate. It was the most interesting place in Los Angeles and people had a wonderful time picking through goods and talking to artists, craftsmen and vendors. Taking home a five dollar object was a delight after a long trek through the sights in America.

The diversity is gone and the lackluster is evident. What has been accomplished by all of this? Are the merchants any better off? Do the artists sell more paintings? Are the musicians collecting bigger contributions? And where are the free speech people since far more space is afforded to them?

Weekends are better. The westside of the walk is filled with new artists, fortunetellers, rock sellers, tattoo artists and musicians as well as those that were here before. But, the fun is gone, the great spirit of the unexpected that the vendors and craftspeople contributed.

We see the march of history. At Thornton and Ocean Front Walk, a great new complex is going up. More are in the planning. Get out of the way, these huge structures seem to be saying.

The final word will be from the public. If they like the new effect, it will work. If they find it disappointing there will be changes. We can only wait and see.

Annette Robinson

(Last month, the Beachhead reported on a rally and march in Oakwood in response to a racist letter that had been sent to the police. The following letter is from the couple that was falsely accused of sending it. -FVB)

We didn't write the letter

Dear Beachhead,

We are writing this letter to express our deep concern and sadness over a letter that was written on March 18th, to Chief of Police William Bratton (and subsequently handed out throughout the neighborhood) in our names, without our knowledge, and the resulting pain caused to our community. As a result of this letter, a rally was held outside of our home two weeks after the letter was mailed. As we were not present at the time, we were unaware of the reason for the rally, or the letter, until this past Sunday when a police officer visited our home.

We are writing to tell you this letter was not written by us.

Upon obtaining the letter we found that it contained two crucial inaccuracies that clearly demonstrate we are not the authors.

1. One of our names is misspelled twice in the letter. We would not misspell our own name.

2. The letter mistakenly states that we are unmarried. While we have different last names, we are in fact married. Someone going through our mailbox to obtain our names obviously came to the wrong conclusion regarding our marital status.

We share in the community's sense of outrage at this cynical attempt to incite racial tensions. We also believe we know who wrote the letter, and why. That matter is the subject of a criminal investigation, so we cannot comment further.

We have lived in Venice for close to five years. We rented in the neighborhood prior to buying our current home and spent several years looking for the right place. We found it on Oakwood. We love the park. We love this neighborhood. We embrace Venice because of the very thing that the angry person who wrote this letter seems to despise; the cultural diversity. This is the place we chose to raise our children.

While we felt compelled to clear our names, we

hope this is an opportunity to turn this unfortunate circumstance into something good for the neighborhood. Nothing would make us happier than to use this person's malcontent to pull the community together. We're convinced that the best way to make this community a safer and more cohesive place is for all of us to get involved. We have spoken to and will work with community leaders to see how we can help.

This painful experience has moved us to ask what we can do, rather than who is at fault. We hope others will do the same.

Sincerely,

Lisa Feingold & Guy Buckland
Oakwood, Venice

More on the letter from Councilmember Rosendahl's office

Dear Beachhead:

I am writing this response to the events surrounding a letter that was written, falsely attributed to Guy and Lisa Buckland.

The Councilman called for, and received, a thorough investigation as to the veracity of its origin. Not only did the Bucklands not write this letter, but whoever did indeed generate this, has maliciously placed the Bucklands in a position of contempt with the neighbors with whom they share the same community. In addition, the actual authors' cowardly act has also placed the Buckland's daughter, and innocent child, at risk.

It is the hope of this office that the entire Oakwood Neighborhood can rally around the situation that this letter has placed this family in; that the entire neighborhood can see that the immorality of this letter as something that does not represent the prevailing sentiment of majority; and that the virus of hate from this one will not infect the health of decency of the many.

Let us not curse the darkness of the wickedness of this act but, rather, light the candle of unity within the community, and let this episode serve as a sobering reminder of the fact that we all share the same desire for a community; a place where we can see and know one another; where our children can play in safety and security, and where we adults can work and share in the pleasures as well as in the responsibilities of the upkeep of our neighborhood.

Now, as ever before, we must not only remember that; we must work, collectively, to make this a way of life.

Mark-Antonio Grant

Southern District Director,
Councilman Bill Rosendahl

Don't Ask, Don't Tell

By John Davis

The California Coastal Commission and the City of Los Angeles have a policy the public does not know about. The City illegally issues Coastal Development Permits without telling the State Commission. When the Coastal Commission is informed by the public it asks no questions and fails to enforce the law. This is not just State law but Federal law, the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972.

The ultimate effect is to give developers the green light to thwart law that protects sensitive resources and access to Coastal Zone, the area where the Coastal Commission has jurisdiction. In Venice, this results in an artificially ballooned real estate market, driven by large illegal developments. A cascade of pain and misery then ensues as both the young and old alike are evicted from their long-term rentals to make room for trophy houses, condos. Development like this could forever damage the character of Venice.

Having lived in Venice for 18 years, I have watched this happen with my own eyes, thinking the whole time something is wrong.

The process approved by the leaders of the United States to protect the coast is sound but rarely employed or understood.

At the local level, the people behind this are the Los Angeles City Council members and the City Attorney. At the State level, it is those appointed to serve on the California Coastal Commission and the Attorney General.

They make the argument that public revenues must be generated by as much development as possible. Well, that sounds good, feed the hungry and house the homeless. However, it is a deception. Since federal law stands in the way of over-developing the coastal zone, the excuse is invalid. In fact, it is a crime and those who reap the harvest are developers and their political lackeys. People's homes and shelter are taken and more go hungry while the public system has to pick up the pieces.

Here it how they have pulled it off since 1972. While public hearings are convincing, the real dirty work is done behind closed doors by Coastal Commission staff, the Council and Mayor fail to supervise. Both create illegal procedures that closely mirror the real law. But slight deviations are made, creating escape hatches for illegal development.

Here is a brief history of what has happened in Venice, ending with a current example.

The Coastal Commission was approached as soon as the California Coastal Act was passed in 1976 by the city of Los Angeles, seeking local power to issue Coastal Development Permits appealable to the Coastal Commission. This is legal. The first hearing was in San Francisco, so far from Los Angeles the public could not meaningfully participate, as the law requires. But Beachhead reporters made it anyway and witnessed what happened. The Coastal Commission directed its staff to continue the hearing to the

next meeting in Los Angeles.

At this point the commission lost control of its staff because just weeks later the final hearing was scheduled in San Francisco again, not LA as the Commission has directed.

If that wasn't bad enough, the Coastal Commission approved the city's request but did so in direct contradiction to the California Brown Act, by giving the City Engineer the power to issue public Coastal Development Permits. Only a legislative body or a standing committee of a legislative body can approve or disapprove a permit at an open hearing and the City Engineer is neither. Yet, recently the City Engineer issued a permit for a controversial project intended for the Venice Circle last year. The Coastal Commission then conducted a cover-up and hid from the public the fact the permit was then, and is today, totally illegal because the City actually issued the permit prior to appeal to the Coastal Commission.

It is the commission's executive director who allows planners and enforcement personnel to act more like corporate mobsters than paid servants of the people. The commission is directly responsible for maintaining control of its staff but knowingly fails, again and again, just like Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, Scooter Libby, who is now under indictment.

Another brief example of development gone wild is the huge green condo towers on Lincoln at the far south end of Venice. The land was a toxic mess and the developer was supposed to treat and filter contaminated ground water but did not.

-continued on page 4

Ban on Chain Stores sought for Abbot Kinney, Ocean Front Walk

When Dawn Hollier read an L.A. Times article two years ago about citizens of one San Francisco neighborhood organizing to pass an ordinance that banned chain-stores after a Wal-Mart suddenly moved in, she was inspired to take action in her own neighborhood. Hence, Venice Unchained was born.

Venice Unchained is dedicated to preserving the unique character of Abbot Kinney Boulevard and Ocean Front Walk by enacting an ordinance that would prohibit chain stores. With the recent explosion in building and property values in those areas, Ms. Hollier believes conditions are ripe for the chains. "I've watched as the funky, arty community of Soho in Manhattan (which I visit once a year) has morphed into a glorified shopping mall. I envision a different future for Venice."

Ms. Hollier and her partner, Melissa Bechtel, launched an on-line petition from their website, veniceunchained.org, to gain public support. To date, the petition has 2,336 signatures from Venetians, Abbot Kinney Business Owners and supportive Angelinos. "The website has given Venice residents the opportunity to speak out for their community" says Ms. Bechtel, "the comments section of our petition has elicited some very articulate and impassioned responses."

One passionate Venetian who signed the petition wrote, "My folks moved to Rose Ave in 1964. I and all 7 siblings are Venice High alumni as are most of our kids, too. We need to keep Venice from becoming "3rd St. Promenade SOUTH."

California communities that have been

successful in enacting such an ordinance include Arcata, Calistoga, Carmel, Coronado, Pacific Grove, San Francisco, Sausalito and Solvang.

On Wednesday, June 7, the Land Use and Planning Committee of the GRVNC will be asked to vote in favor of the ordinance. If the LUPC supports it, and the wider GRVNC gets on board, then Venice City Councilman Bill Rosendahl will make a motion asking the City Attorney to draft the ordinance, which he will then bring to the City Council for approval.

The LUPC meeting will be the next step in the process. Venice Unchained has asked for a show of community support at the meeting, 6:30pm, Wednesday, June 7, at the Westminster School Auditorium.★



A Coffee Bean has put up a sign at the former site of Global Gossip, just across the street from a local coffee house, Cafe Collage.

Likewise, for Campos Tacos, on the site of JJ Chill, and across the street from the local La Fiesta.

Chain stores invade downtown Venice – corner of Windward Ave. and Pacific Ave.



"Your Local Shop for Scrumptious Food and Sinful Chocolates"



Monday - Friday 9 am - 7 pm
Saturday 10 am - 7 pm • Sunday noon - 6 pm
1800A Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice, CA 90291

310-305-9800

Additional Parking after 5 pm and all day Saturday & Sunday behind the store.

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

Douglas Eisenstark L.Ac. acupuncture and herbs safe, compassionate care for appointments: 310.403.7018

Practicing in Venice and Santa Monica since 1996.

OLD GLOPY BARBERSHOP

1716 main st. venice, ca 310-821-1103

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

Mighty Hercules defeats Wal-Mart

The great Hercules of Greek lore was a giant of a man - half god, half human - for whom no task was too big. The city of Hercules in Northern California is small in population - about half that of Venice - but its city council has more guts than L.A.'s when it comes to taking on the rich and powerful.

The City Council voted unanimously May 23 to use its power of eminent domain to prevent Wal-Mart from building a 17-acre big-box store on land overlooking San Pablo Bay. The 300 people in the council chambers erupted in cheers and applause. Hercules had previously tried to buy the land from Wal-Mart, but its offer was rejected.

When several speakers, at a May 22 hearing at Walgrove Elementary, urged the L.A. City Council to use eminent domain to save Lincoln Place, several hundred people in attendance erupted in cheers and applause. However, L.A. City Councilmembers Ed Reyes and Herb Wesson - unlike their Hercules counterparts - ignored the advice. ★ -Jim Smith

Eviction Defense Network



Providing low cost legal assistance to tenants.

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

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

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

Don't Vote for these candidates

Don't vote for Rocky Delgadillo for Attorney General. He has sided with developers and landlords over tenants, especially at Lincoln Place.



Don't vote for Judge Dzintra I. Janavs for Superior Court. "We at Lincoln Place have been before this judge several times and she is capricious, arrogant, righteous, does not do her homework by reading the briefing materials, and is one sided in favor of 'the big guys' in this city." - Evicted tenant Jan Book.

Don't vote for Jane Harman for Congress. She supported the invasion and occupation of Iraq and the Patriot Act.

Don't vote for Diane Feinstein for U.S. Senate. She, too, has supported the invasion and occupation of Iraq and the Patriot Act.

Don't vote for Arnold Schwarzenegger for Governor. Do you really need a reason?

DO VOTE for Prop. 82 for pre-school for all California children!

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, JUNE 6

Find your precinct: 800-815-2666 or <http://www.lavote.net/LOCATOR>

Don't Ask, Don't Tell -continued from page three

The most recent development, another 16-story tower, was not required to pay any money to mitigate traffic on Lincoln. But it just gets worse. When the city issues a permit, the Coastal Commission must be informed and have a copy of the conditions.

In this case, the planner for the Coastal Commission accepted a conditions list from the wrong public hearing. Now, neither the city, nor the Coastal Commission, nor the public can understand what conditions are imposed on the project, if any at all. Councilman Rosendahl's staff looked for the valid staff report referred to on the permit, but could not locate it either. At least they looked.

At 602-670 Main, in Venice, the city illegally issued a Coastal Development Permit without first informing the Coastal Commission, so that an appeal period could begin. The person who illegally affixed her name to the Coastal Permit was Emily Gable-Luddy.

She stated the permit was valid and in effect and no appeals had been filed. That is because the city did not inform the Coastal Commission so an appeal period could begin. The dates on the illegal permit then expired.

When it was brought to the attention of the city and the Coastal Commission, both began a well-rehearsed cover-up as they normally do. First, the developer signed documents too late. Then, the Coastal Commission opened an appeal period. Of course this process is illegal, since it is impossible to open an appeal on a project that is half-built on an illegally issued permit that is expired.

I have personally requested an enforcement action by the chair of the Coastal Commission who is appointed by the Governor. Also, I filed an appeal with the Commission just so a public process could begin and reveal the truth.

The chief enforcement officer of the Coastal Commission informed me that there is not enough money in the budget to enforce the Coastal Act, so a few staff member meet and determine what violations to enforce and which ones will get away. This is a decision that should be made publicly by the Coastal Commission at a hearing. The same officer said that since the Commission was sued for attempting to enforce the law against someone who had been caught and then applied after the fact for a permit, they would no longer enforce a violation if an offender immediately applies for a permit. The Commission lost in Superior Court but failed to appeal the decision to a higher court. Of course developers could only love this outcome.

It encourages developers to ignore the law because if they are caught nothing will happen. The Superior Court was wrong as they often are such as in the Playa Vista Phase One Lawsuit. This policy adopted by a secret committee of Coastal Commission Staff destroys the balance that exists at the time a violation is reported so the Commission could eventually rule and attempts to moot the law.

The enforcement officer also said that when violations are valid, cases are opened to determine what enforcement actions are necessary to protect the environment. The secret enforcement committee then makes judgments according to a resources policy to determine what the officer called "damage to the resource." The Coastal Commission has never approved of this committee or their methods. This is a case of enforcement gone wild.

Access to the coastal zone is the most important resource, not just fuzzy creatures and plants, which many of us enjoy. Yet, the enforcement committee does not consider access a resource that can be impeded by traffic-spewing development. The chief enforcement officer hears the voice of a developer.

When I asked what the oldest violation case still opened and marked priority by the members of the secret committee, I was informed it was dated 1983.

This, of course, begs the question! What developers does the secret committee like or dislike and based on what criteria?

In the case on Main Street, the city was supposed to provide all relevant documents to the Coastal Commission within five days of an appeal, or as soon as possible. It has been well over 45 days and the City has not responded.

This is probably because the conditions of the illegally issued coastal development have been inducted into the final tract map conditions and perhaps even recorded into official land records.

The city has another practice of illegally issuing coastal permits with conditions, then recording tract maps and land records with different conditions more favorable to developers later.

Perhaps this is why the city is slow on the Main Street appeal. Truth is hard for criminals to say. Stand by and see if the Governor's appointee to the Coastal Commission enforces the law or allows the building to go up while the status quo is destroyed?

Will the new hero of Council District 11 continue to walk tall and stand for upholding the California Coastal Act? In this case, a cease and desist order should be issued either by the city or the state. It is difficult to believe our tax dollars pay for this.

A Coastal Commissioner named Mark Nathanson was tossed in jail a few years ago. He was known as the Coastal Commissioner to the Stars since part of his area included Malibu. He was convicted of taking bribes. Sometime money trumps justice but not always. ★

The man who can save Lincoln Place, and himself in the process

By Jim Smith

Memo to Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa:

Dear Brother Antonio,

It's been a long time since our union days when we could sit down together and have a drink with friends while discussing the issues of the day. But if we could do it today, I'd like to steer the conversation to Lincoln Place, where tenants are fighting to save their homes and 696 affordable garden apartments, and to the South Central farmers, who are fighting to save L.A.'s largest urban farm and a source of nutritious food for poor people.

Could we have a civil conversation? I understand that you sometimes get angry when the evictees and the farmers demand that you take action on their behalf. Well, politics is a funny "business." Lots of people have entered the arena with intentions of doing what's right for the poor and powerless only to be seduced by big money and power.

Before you know it, political officials who come from working class neighborhoods are wearing sharkskin suits, living high on lobbyists' bankrolls and being "pragmatic" about issues that used to inspire them. Let's just hope, Antonio, that you can conquer this addicting demon, and return to being a "peoples hero." Everybody knows that you've got a touch of the disease. Some of us saw it coming a few years ago when you tried to ace out your boyhood chum, Gilbert Cedillo, and grab a state senate seat for which he had been campaigning. I believe Gil endorsed Hahn in the last mayoral election. Too bad.

Now the L.A. Times says you're playing footsie with the Terminator, because you want to succeed Schwarzenegger as Governor in four years. Others say it's the Vice Presidency that you're after. In either case, the Lincoln Place tenants and the South Central farmers can't do much for you. They certainly won't fatten your campaign treasury. Only AIMCO and other big corporations and developers can do that for you. Another clue that you're focusing on higher office came during Mexican President Vicente Fox's visit to L.A. in May when you refused to



The Mayor address a UCLA commencement ceremony

even discuss immigration policy with him. Have we already lost you to the political consultants for your next campaign?

So what's it gonna be, Antonio? Do you want to be just another slick media star who will do almost anything to move up the political ladder? Or do you want to do something meaningful with your life and your position?

It just might be that the tenants and the farmers could be your salvation. If you step in and push the city council to declare eminent domain at Lincoln Place and at the Farm, and then help to raise the money to pay for it, you'll be hailed as a real "peoples hero."

Let me suggest a role model. When he was elected mayor of Mexico City, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, was confronted with even bigger problems than you are.

Instead of hob-nobbing with the rich, he ended corruption, put thousands to work with public works projects, planned - and completed - extensions to the subway system, and on top of it, instituted a monthly stipend of \$65 U.S. for all senior citizens. That's enough to buy food, prescription drugs or pay the rent in Mexico.

Did thumbing his nose at the high rollers mean the end of López Obrador's political career? Just the opposite! He left office with an unheard of 83 percent favorable rating, and is now running for President as the candidate of a third party. And, he has a good chance of winning!

Granted, this is not Mexico (although it used to be). But we do have a lot in common with that country. Like a similar economic stratification pyramid. And a population that is fed up with business as usual, and is looking for someone, anyone, they can really trust. It could be you, Antonio. And it can all start by doing the right thing for Lincoln Place and the South Central farmers.

What's the downside? Well, there would be no more free rides in Ameriquest's private jet. But the upside could be the beginning of unimagined popularity, and perhaps the salvation of your immortal soul.

Your pal, Jim ★

ENJOYING OPEN SPACE AND GREEN, GREEN GRASS OF HOME



By C.V. Beck

Over the past few months, as I sit here at the Tent City, California/Frederick Streets, created out of a necessity and an emergency of the residents of Lincoln Place, I have a rare opportunity to observe in peace and quiet, the life of the community around me.

One thing I have especially noticed is how many people like to walk their canines at Lincoln Place and the easement area behind the Ross/Ralphs...a lovely, green, wooded area of great serenity and beauty (except, of course, for the massive wall behind Ralphs and brought to us Venetians by the city's Over-and-Under-Planning Department); the cars parked at Ross...(but comfortably so, not overcrowded, yet). While we residents and supporters of Lincoln Place remaining in place sit there, we can't help but notice many not responsible people walking their poochies unaccompanied by "the plastic bag" and the scooper. On the odd occasion, we do see a responsible someone who does use a plastic bag to clean up the waste product of one of the loves of their lives but, more frequently -- unfortunately--I don't see anything at all like that.

At home, I sometimes hear a galloping sound, as some huge animal, off the leash, chases my felines as they jump frantically in the open window and hide in the highest, furthest part of "my" comfortable, ade-

quately spacious one bedroom apartment (rent stabilized). When I leap, galvanized, into the hallway with a broom (hopefully wearing clothes), I sometimes only see enormous muddy pawprints all over the "French White"-painted hall floors (brought to us, unannounced by AIMCO and the Housing Department) and I don't see an owner, as they are far away from their off-the-leash methane generator, usually talking on the cell, or reading the paper, paying no attention whatsoever to what their companion might be up to.

Sometimes, I "catch a person in the act, red-handed, and they are inordinately uncomfortable and guilty-acting.

For example, when I flung the door open four weeks ago or so, I caught the man, holding a leash with no canine attached, and then found a large, white female german shepherd in the backyard that the payment of my rent entitles me to think of as "...my own"...(silly me). So, coolly, I told the person with the German-sounding accent that, although I was a cat person, I didn't mind people walking their dogs through the property (although, no doubt, the owner did as "it" [the corporation] has been madly exercising "it's" private property rights throughout the complex as of late) but that I did feel visiting dogs should be on a leash. As I had managed to bust this

man in the act, he felt obliged to tell me in future he would keep his dog on the leash. I neglected to mention the requirement of cleaning up after

—continued on page 10

AIMCO and Lincoln Place

It's a Hairball.
A tied up mess.
Rosendahl, bless his heart,
can't take a scissors to it.
Two wrestlers in a deadlock.
The judges stalled on the 405,
might not be here for years.

—Douglas Eisenstark

The Latest from Lincoln Place

By Sheila Bernard

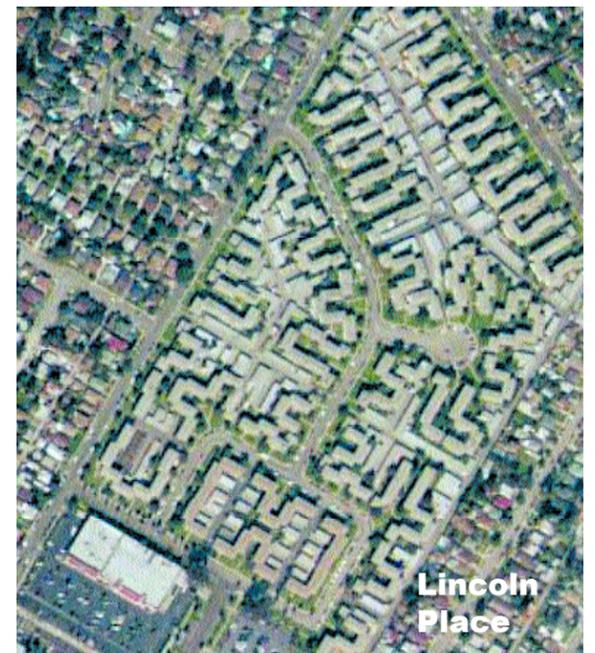
On May 31 at the Los Angeles City Council, there was good news and bad news.

The bad news is that Bill Rosendahl's motion to record the conditions of the Lincoln Place tract map lost by a vote of 5 to 8.

And now for the good news.

- The seven-minute film about Lincoln Place, produced by Laura Silagi and David "Preacher" Ewing with footage from Erin Grayson, music by Spike Marlin, and editing assistance by Laura Burns, had a strong impact on the Council and provided backdrop for the three hours of testimony and discussion of the Lincoln Place situation.
- Bill had the support of four of his colleagues, in spite of the fact that the City Attorney's office had done its best to scare the council with threats of liability for the City and for the councilmembers personally.
- Ed Reyes, chair of the Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee, did not vote for the motion; however, he expressed strong interest in hearing what mechanisms did exist with which the City could enforce the conditions.
- The Council heard testimony from LPTA's CEQA attorney, John Murdock, who informed the Council that according to the appellate court, the City is bound to enforce the conditions of the tract map whether the conditions are recorded or not.
- The evictions at Lincoln Place are on hold. When notified by John Murdock that LPTA would be going into court to request an injunction against the evictions, and when told the basic content of the lawsuit, AIMCO asked Murdock to hold off on filing suit, in return for AIMCO not starting eviction proceedings without providing Murdock with ten days' notice, which is plenty of time for him to file the lawsuit and seek an injunction.
- While AIMCO's reason for requesting the additional time may have had to do with their redoubled efforts to entice tenants out of Lincoln Place by offering low-cost apartments in other AIMCO properties as part of their "enhanced relocation package," and while AIMCO can possibly accommodate a few of our most vulnerable tenants, many of the remaining tenants do not want to lose their community or their familiar surroundings, and will stay to fight the evictions if and when they are filed.
- The City and the media seem to have finally awakened to the fact that the problems we face at Lincoln Place are citywide problems which cry out for legislative and policy solutions.
- Councilman Rosendahl continues to support the effort to save Lincoln Place, and has said to the LA Times that this battle is not over until it is over. ★

Sheila Bernard is president of the Lincoln Place Tenants Association.



Lincoln Place



We like it just the way it is – A big development firm, Champion Development Group, is licking its lips over a couple of Ocean Front Walk heirlooms that are for sale. An email from the developers was sent May 19 to an unnamed member of the Neighborhood Council's Land Use Committee. It details their interest in four parcels on OFW including the Gingerbread Court (formerly the Sea Breeze Apartments), which was once owned by Comedian Eddie Cantor, and one of the last Abbot Kinney-era houses, commonly called the Mayor's House. The developers also crave the apartment building at 511 OFW that was built in 1907, and the vacant lot at Sunset Ave. Why aren't our relics protected with official historic status?



Stop Condomania

Several hundred people packed the Walgrove Elementary School Auditorium, May 22, for a joint hearing on affordable housing and condo conversions. The hearing – the second of three – was convened jointly by the city of L.A.'s Planning Commission and the Housing Commission.

The chairs of both committees – Ed Reyes and Herb Wesson – listened to all the testimony, but were non-committal. Most of those in attendance wanted a moratorium on the destruction of affordable housing and its conversion into condominiums. ★

Coming in the July issue



It's that time again. Another birthday for our favorite un-city. It's time to give her a big send off into the second hundred years.

Send your Venice recollections, inventions, myths and facts about Venice to the Beachhead, POB 2, Venice CA 90294, or to <Beachhead@freevenice.org>.

Carol Fondiller, founding member of the Beachhead Collective and writer extraordinaire, is celebrating her 70th birthday.

While not quite as old as Venice, Carol has been a force of nature around our town. In addition to cranking out her, sometimes controversial, pearls of wisdom each month in these pages, Carol is known and respected across the country as a fighter for affordable housing. Send your comments to the Beachhead, POB 2, Venice CA 90294, or to <Beachhead@freevenice.org>.



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For U.S. Congress
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For P&F Central Committee (vote for 6):
✓ Karl Abrams, College Professor
✓ Erin Grayson, Artist/Teacher
✓ Della Franco, Therapist
✓ Alice Stek, Physician
✓ James R. Smith, Educator/Writer
✓ Yolanda Miranda, Union Organizer

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Getting a grasp on a greased pig

By Martin Rubin

As a former Santa Monica Airport Commissioner put it, trying to get Santa Monica City officials and airport staff to address the air pollution issue from the airport that they own and operate, is like trying to get a hold of a "greased pig".

Los Angeles residents to the east of the airport, just across Bundy Drive get 90% of the fumes from the idling jets. These obnoxious smelling jet kerosene emissions are carried by the air currents over the neighborhoods and into the interiors of many hundreds of residences. Los Angeles borders the airport to the east and the south, but impacted Angelinos have no representation on their Airport Commission, and are left with just three-minute public comments to try to get a hold of the "greased pig". Without the assistance of our then LA

City Council Representative, Cindy Miscikowski, Santa Monica officials found it easy to say that their hands are tied by FAA restrictions. Apparently their mouths were tied too, as they did not even try to make a stink about the stink.

Venice residents are impacted greatly by the noise from jet take offs that have grown from around 500 to 9,000 annual take offs. In the early 1990's (and this is an important fact) Santa Monica officials requested that the FAA change the procedure for IFR (basically jets) takeoffs toward the west. They asked that they be allowed to blend in with the air traffic from LAX. The result of this was twofold. One: takeoffs went straight out over Venice rather than making a right turn over Santa Monica and, Two: Because it now became necessary for clearance from the LAX tower for a jet to take off to the west, jets began to sit idling, often backed up three or four deep waiting for permission to takeoff. This caused a tremendous increase in the air pollution dumped into the neighboring Los Angeles communities. At the same time it dumped a lot of the noise over Venice that would have impacted Santa Monica even more than they are now.

For several years request were made to the Airport Commission to record the taxi/idle times of the jets. This information could be used with computer modeling to show the extent of the pollution into the surrounding residential neighborhoods. Airport staff did not budge.

Now legislation has been introduced in the State Assembly that will require the airport to

record this information for a one-year period.

What was the City of Santa Monica's reaction to this? Let me put it this way: When you try to grab a greased pig, what does it do? You guessed it. Squeal! Mayor Robert Holbrook sent an opposition letter on behalf of the City to Sacramento.

Quoting from the letter; "AB 2501 is based upon three erroneous assumptions. First: many general aviation airports in the State of California are situated in dense urban areas and Santa Monica Municipal Airport is not unique in that respect.

Second, the unfunded mandate for data collection will not result in any relevant data regarding air quality. Third, because emissions from streets and highways are the dominant sources of pollutions in the area there is no mechanism to determine and separately state the emissions from aircraft that use the Santa Monica Airport."

This letter was sent without going to City Council and getting public input. Santa Monica residents cried foul, and one month later at the May 25 Santa Monica

City Council meeting, an item was on their agenda. Airport Staff requested the adoption of a resolution in opposition to State Assembly Bill AB2501.

If you have a computer, I urge you to go to the City of Santa Monica's home page and go to the video files for this meeting, item 8a to see and hear for yourself. There were about a dozen public speakers who waited from 7 pm until past midnight to express their views and discredited the airport staff's report. At times, it seemed from the tone of the questions, that one was at a committee on un-American activities.

Councilman Kevin McKeown grilled Sierra Club representative Marcia Hanscom, and he and Councilman Richard Bloom made me feel like I was being cross examined. The newest Councilmember, Bobby Shriver, was the most sympathetic to the communities concerns. The outcome was a unanimous vote to pass a newly formulated motion by Councilman Ken Genser and seconded by Bobby Shriver. The motion was not to oppose AB 2501 if it would cost the city no more than \$35,000 and would amend the bill to require recording only jet operations.

Maybe the "greased pig" is being backed into a corner? I really don't mean to be harsh, but



the analogy seems to fit, and besides, what is really harsh is being forced to have the quality of your life and probably your health and the health of your children, neighbors and pets put under siege by this influx of commuter jet traffic that only serves to make air travel more comfortable for an elite class.

Santa Monica officials feel that the City should not have to pay to collect the AB 2501 required data. They often say that the City does not make money from the airport. I understand that all revenues collected at the airport, including the fines for noise violations, go back into the operations of the airport, and for capital improvement projects.

Residents worked hard to pass Prop. MM which allows the City to increase fines for noise violations. Surely there is money to be used from those fines to collect useful data that is in the interest of the many people who are impacted. Also, what the City does not say is that since the jet traffic blossomed at SMO, Colorado and Olympic Boulevards have shot up with office buildings for many of the companies that use the airport. It has been a boon for business in Santa Monica and that translates into tax dollars; property taxes and sales taxes.

Now we will just have to wait and see what responsibility the City of Santa Monica is willing to accept regarding the operations of its airport. And how will Santa Monica City officials treat their Los Angeles neighbors when looking at this issue on a regional basis? Los Angeles Councilman Bill Rosendahl has made a tremendous difference by representing his constituents fully. State Assemblyman Ted Lieu who introduced AB 2501 on behalf of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution did exactly what needed to be done. Among the many supporters of this bill are Los Angeles City Council, Congresswoman Jane Harman and her opponent Marcy Winograd, the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Friends of Sunset Park as well as residents from all around the airport.

I urge Santa Monica to work with all of us who are interested in finding solutions. Let's wash the grease off and come together at the same table to work out real solutions. It may not be an easy task ahead, but it is a necessary one. ★

Martin Rubin is the Director of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution



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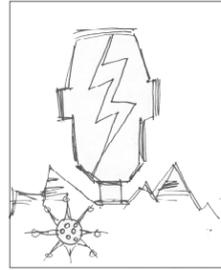
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Self-portraits by flash

FLASH - the interview

By erica snowlake

Flash is the name he's going by for this...printed mirror image of human lightning. he is quite mercurial. rajneesh meets elvis meets fat freddy's cat - whiskers and great chops, lamb chops, (got sideburns! get it?) wears all black, the odd pinstripe suit jacket, leather pants, meticulously clean for a dude living in his volvo the past seven moons. loquacious, interesting, fascinating, even. possesses a wisdom apart from the ordinaire. perhaps playing the role of superhero, in his own mind, and, in fact, in reality. definitely pursuing a mission related to godhead. teaching me spanish, so far the words arco iris y pesadilla prove sublime. makes me laugh and gives me hope - if he can sustain positive vibes day to day "out there" what more affirmations of a blessed life do we need? why? flash? and more miraculously, how?

flash: i was born in mexico city. we soon moved to los angeles. my parents are of spanish and italian origin, had four kids. early on, the feeling "they are not my family". i remember me as a kid telling them our family is like a band, everybody needs to play an instrument in harmony to actually make music. by 9 i wanted to leave, moved in with uncles and grandmas and cousins. part of this time we lived in hippie communes with folks from argentina, brazil, europe, and africa. playing with the commune kids i recall speaking a jumble of five languages! the adults practiced thankfulness, following a spiritual life over any prescribed religion. as a mystic, one comes to understand and honor every belief - it is plainly stupid not to see jesus is mohammed is buddha is one....

beachhead:is spirit is mystery....

flash: my favorite book as a kid was The Jungle Book.

beachhead: you are so totally a mowgli ninja, especially with those traditional koi tats, you can see your other lives coming through.

flash: i always get asked by the cops if i'm from the middle east. i just say yeah. i love the streets, and art. i see it all as mother nature, there is no separation. i channel myself from the sky. the beauty of my art for six years now is black ink abstracts, i feel satisfaction in my mastery of this as a process. i went to the National School of Plastic Arts, (in mexico city), but, believe me, art is a lot more complex than wine, women, and cheese. the surrealists and dadaists blow my mind, how alien they seemed to the early 1900's!

beachhead: just saw this flick Art School Confidential - great art world exposé! so what jobs have you had?

flash: forklift driver, bartender, cook, music store clerk, dishwasher, go-go dancer . i never liked any of them. you've gotta choose your role on earth, we're here to do God's work. people want

to see you slave yourself. i have three dreams - live my life as a creative person doing what i love, travel the world, and become psychic through meditation and contemplation of my life.

beachhead: homeless?

flash: when i first started hanging out with homeless people, i felt overwhelmed. they need help to heal themselves, in the heart or in the brain. i've been living in venice for a 1000 years with all that craziness, Fellini's Land, i call it. when i lost my last job, and, subsequently, my apartment, i asked myself "how are you going to survive? i was already into drugs and alcohol, i suffer migraines, i decided to take it as an opportunity to get to know myself deeper, what hurts me?, what gives me joy! there is a feeling of exhilaration being on the streets - a freedom like, yeah, you've got nothing yet you feel like you own the whole city. every moment is spontaneous, is totally unknown, time speeds up and slows down in weird ways.....

beachhead: yeah the keepers of the keys! zen alleys! i remember the same feeling walking the streets of montreal all night and sleeping on rooftops by day. we howled at people carrying briefcases taking the metros at 6 a.m.

flash: walking is one of my greatest salvations - really calming. the downside is i feel judged, people think i'm lazy, you don't work.....keeping myself alive is my work - my Jimi Hendrix Experience - it's a totally psychedelic experience that keeps me pretty much aware and awake. the cops presume i'm a criminal, and if you resist them, they kick your ass. i'm not stealing or killing people - i shouldn't feel bad about myself - but now the few things i possess have been taken away - it's like what penny do you have left we can take? my vehicle's been impounded this week, i've been pretty down, when i saw my art gone, i felt dead, they've drained my blood. i want to live on peace, not the constant adrenaline of drama, it's a big difference.

beachhead: so you've got zero money coming in? (nods his head) how do you eat?

flash: before i put myself in this situation, God gave me some signs. i saw a container when i was walking, it looked clean, it had pizza and

potatoes and salad in it, at first i was paranoid about poisoning. now i love rich people - cuz they waste alot of stuff! there's free lemons, oranges, greens like fennel and dandelion growing wild....

beachhead: edible flowers! thank goodness for groups like Food Not Bombs!, though even the dearest angels are harassed. last week the cops escorted the health dept. to where they set up sundays at 3 at dudley and the boardwalk to try to shut them down. you mentioned God?

flash: i didn't know i am also a poet, an actor, the movie star of my own life. as far as God goes, God's not my boss, but i do follow him. he knows what's best, the best chance for me to grow, you have to grow yourself in this life. you can have lots of talent and money but still be an asshole.

beachhead: yeah! word up l.a. so what's other ways of keeping it real?

flash: on the path to pure existence! well, i've found sweet friends who are also homeless - offering smooth ways to interact - for example guys sharing their medical marijuana . i enjoy seeing people who have nothing sharing what little bread they have. it's the only way out for humanity, MAN. look and see if you can find it in your heart. look for absolute truth within yourself!

beachhead: what can we do in venice?

flash: create free spaces, happening places, for everyone and anyone to make art and music. open up personally owned garages and gardens, as safe, supervised, sleeping and storage spaces for people, befriend a homeless person with whom to share your humor and wealth.....

we end with hugs, flash has a shower at my place and we feast on some tacos. fortunately, he's got a friend's van to crash in, i lend him an umbrella as it's pouring out tonight. i'll see him again and share what i can.

p.s. the next time we meet he relates he did get his stuff back from the impound! he's got a bit of a sunburn, and just been ticketed that morning by the cops for sleeping in a park near the beach. under his shades i see a glint of quicksilver.... ★

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post holiday blues

he sits alone
fashioning light from
earth
burning the Promethean
torch
crouched
riding the pipeline of
inspiration
sunning in winter
warm beachfront exhibition
sells originals before
they're finished
paints/pastels/pens
clear curled sun spackled surf
he wonders
why things don't get better

—Rex Butters

P O E T R Y

WHO OWES WHOM?

by Margot Pepper

And what if we were allowed to interrupt
the blue phosphorescent faces
that calmly assess our fate

What if we stripped the presses of
their convenient projections,
voicing instead our own objections
to the national debt and immigrant debate

We are not the trespassers
who transformed our cobble-stone streets,
adorned by the twice repossessed
temples to our future,
into war zones:
bombed out and abandoned
like the dreams

hunger consumes.

We are not the trespassers
who engraved malnutrition
into the ancient faces
of our children;
carved servitude
into the knotted driftwood backs
of our campesinos
who mush relinquish our food
to the world's table.

We are not the trespassers
who annexed half our nations
hoarding our wealth in hands
as smooth and white
as the teeth of bankers,
las guardias blancas,
la Casa Blanca,
el banco mundial blanco,
though the skin at times may look brown.

And we will not pay one increment more
than the blood and tears
shed like ticker-tape
in the miscarried revolutions
creditors aborted.

For how are we to repay a debt that is owed us?

Please Sir, tell us,
how do we trespass on land that was first peopled by us?

All that land you pried from the fingers of our dead
like artifacts to be sold to private collectors.

All those wares you ripped like flesh
from the ribs of our hungry.

All that land on which we die
like ants in a poison rain when we till it;
like worms for turning garbage to gold.

All those riches all that blood all that sweat.

How are we to repay a debt owed us?

Please, Sir, tell us,
How does one trespass
when a land belongs only to
the rivers, roots and sun?

SOAPBOX

For John Haag, in Memoriam

High in the trees
birds are rehearsing the old politics; their arguments
rustle the leaves—one screeches
the anarchist position, another trills the glory of the state.
Pigeons on the grass below
feast on the words dropping down,
nodding emphatic agreement with all points of view.
A dog runs free barking *Christ, Christ,*
to warn the squirrels he's chasing about doomsday.

I'll hold my peace for now. I want to listen to what
that photo of you as a young poet
has to say, to join you among the dissidents who
fought the good wars with broadsides of flowers.

The old crowd
is gathering, you among them.
I spot them on the sidewalk handing out poems
like pamphlets. I hear them honking opinions
from the street, gunning their engines.
Hidden somewhere among the shadows
that darken the park
is that soapbox we used to mount shouting
My friends, my friends

— Sherman Pearl

Everyday

Every morning I check to see if I have all my teeth.
I may give away some to fund my war in Iraq.
At breakfast I check for food that I may have given
away to fund my corporation's scandals.
Driving to work I check the gas I maybe
gave away to wreck my children's environment.
Each month I check the paycheck I may have given away
for my superb and comprehensive health coverage.
Each year I check down shirt for the fat I have
contributed to agribusiness.
Each second I check my head to see if it is still there.
I think I gave it away but can't remember to whom.

—Douglas Eisenstark

THAT LINCOLN

That place in Venice named after a much-beloved US
President,
It's been my home for 18 years.
A nest to populate after two young ones flew off into
their futures,
excitedly.
To commune with stable and wise neighbors.
To enjoy the quiet far from the (already) maddening
Highway 1 traffic.
To gather thoughts and write them down in colorful
languages
That surround(ed) us everywhere in Venice. That was
then.

Now, tomorrow, June 1, 2006, is the day of serious
questions:
Can that Terry in Denver actually be the One Person
and Voice, speak:
Corporation,
That can make decisions for 'innocent investors'?
Would they actually buy shares if they were truly
informed
how their hard-earned buckeroos are 'invested'?
Do they not check the BBB for ratings?
Better to make profit\$\$?
Oh, America, please take better care of your (previously?)
much admired
soul.

That was one of my reasons to immigrate in the mid-
Sixties:
The generosity of the People after WWII, CARE
packages
that allowed me to stick my tiny fingers into dried
milk.
One of my 'favorite foods' to this day.

dedicated to the
Venice Beach Drum Orchestra

Circle of Color

an easy riddle to answer
rainbows!
joy manifestations of the sun
here and gone, yes
yet eternally here and gone
gone only to reappear
rainbow spirits without fear
Circles of Color
many one people's heartbeats
Venice Beach

many child's first treat
to the ocean's salty deep
to the shamanic gypsy beat
of ancestor african drums
dance! leap!
sings the feets
while electric swordfire
screams like a vampire
who's just seen the light
shake it like you gonna break it
who's gonna pay any heed?
Here Sweet Lovin'
Heavensent
is Free Free Free
—erica snowlake

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Free Venice Beachhead



David Asper Johnson, Editor and Publisher of The Argonaut

By Carol Fondiller

David Asper Johnson, Editor and Publisher of The Argonaut died on May 17, 2006. I've had an interesting relationship with The Argonaut. Part hometown newspaper, part boosterism, the Argonaut was, for a long time, the only other newspaper in the area that had a point of view--that cared admit that it was run by a man with strong opinions.

David Asper Johnson was the Publisher and moving force behind the Weekly Argonaut. At one time, The Argonaut never never disagreed with anything that would benefit the Big Businesses that leased large tracts of land from the county. Whether the subject was economical or ecological, the paper always sided with commercial interests. The Argonaut's desired readership was the inhabitants of the shiny new Marina Towers, and partons of, as the Chamber of Commerce used to say, "The many fine establishments in the Marina Del Rey".

David Asper Johnson treated M.D.R. as his hometown but he also treated her as a country club for bright young things who were involved in yachting, free spending, dancing, dining drinking, (and drugging, a pastime that The Argonaut stoutly maintained stopped at the south side of Washington Street.)

But between the columns of advertisements, the columnists who always gave rave reviews about the restaurants who advertised in The Argonaut, and columns that reported on awards given by one business group to another business group. The Argonaut reported on local events.

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as were those crazy environmentalists. Low income people didn't have the right to live by the ocean -- you can't stop progress. The Marina by the way, like Venice, was built on a dream. The dreamers being business interests and the County of Los Angeles. Touted as a playground with access to

boating for all economic classes, it was transmogrified into a high-end playground for the moneyed classes by their business interests, with a wink and a nod from the Board of L.A. County supervisors. The Argonaut, surviving on ads gleefully reported on the fun, fun, fun, the money, money, money and the Antiprogress spoilsports from that other artificially dredged dream.



David Asper Johnson

But I happened to be witness to an act that changed my view on David Asper Johnson, from a condescending sneer to a deep respect for the man. The Los Angeles Department of the City Recreation and Parks was trying to put the kibosh on one of the Canal Festivals. I went as an observer with some people who represented the Canal Festival Committee. David Asper Johnson also was there to see the fun.

The L.A. City Rec and Park rep. lectured the canalites on responsibility and that they couldn't consent to a festival if it had political content. Hey, this was the '70's, man! Everything was political. The Canal Festival itself started as a political statement, held in spite of lack of permits from L.A. But the event had grown from a local happening to the gathering of the counter-culture clan. Every political non-conformist rep. was there Anti-War, Anti-Nixon, Pro Choice, feminism, rock bands, etc. etc. When the rep from Rec and Parks stated that we could have free speech but we couldn't have political content, we first sat there in, pardon the cliché, stunned silence.

David Asper Johnson was dressed in a navy blue jacket with gold buttons, his thin blond hair neatly smoothly groomed, it's been years, but, remember a blue tie that nearly matched his eyes. Johnson, who'd been sitting quietly asked since when was free speech separate from politics. The Rec and Park man, flustered backed down. The Canal Festival went on with the condition we had portable toilets and internal security. In return, the police would work with the Canal Festival organizers to prevent violence by the festival participants OR the police.

David Asper Johnson was a true conservative - conserving the right to free speech. And he

spoke on behalf of a group that he disagreed with. I continued to read The Argonaut with the same guilty pleasure that I get when I watch "The Dog Whisperer."

The Argonaut's editorial stand on certain things changed in the past years. No longer did The Argonaut rail against environmentalists. It actually agreed with some of them. David Asper Johnson's columns became more skeptical of big business. Lately, he had questioned the wisdom of tearing down a now stable community consisting of people who came to the Marina in their twenties and thirties and are now still in their apartments thirty years later.

The powers that want to be started out first renovating Fisherman's Village, that faux New England horror. Now they want to build up and out, obliterating the community to make room for a more affluent clientele than a bunch of grey haired residents. Though well off, most of them, they are not as free spending as the Jimmy Choo Prada gourmet vegan set. I began to miss his take on local happenings, as he traveled around the world sending in his travelogue columns.

That's fine, I whined but c'mon back, David, I want to read your acerbic comments on local goings on.

When I heard of his death, I was shocked. David Asper Johnson in the last ten years published news of Venice Poetry readings and local festivals whether or not these events were sponsored by Business interests. The Argonaut reviewed books by Venice writers and wrote non-condescending reports on political events and would surprise the hell out of me that we thought alike on some of the ballot initiatives and candidates.

I wish the present publisher, Carol Hector, well and may she display the same humour and integrity that David Asper Johnson did when he reported on his home town, Marina Del Rey. ★

Green, Green Grass --continued from page five

the waste products of his pet but felt sure he already knew this...as this was obviously what he was avoiding doing. All's well that end's well, sure, but then I remembered how scared my cats are when this off-leash experience happens.

Another day, I stepped out into the hallway in my zebra-patterned Muu-Muu, singing loudly at the top of my lungs...I startled a woman who, I thought at first, was one of my neighbors but, as I approached her, (with my hair standing up on end and disheveled), she began backing away, in alarm. It was only then that I noticed she had a leash in her hand, attached to nothing. I saw a very well-behaved black lab-looking doggie, whom she referred to first as "Bec" and then, "Malbec."

One of my companion cats was cowering by the window, ready to leap in at a moment's notice. Her dog was after doing his business and the woman behaved as though I had caught her doing something wrong...which I ignored. We began to talk in a civilized way and she said to me, after the weather chitchat, something like, ...so, when's it all coming down?...She confided to me that she really liked to walk here and I replied that many people do, because of the open/green space we have here at this historic resource.

She then said something like...how nice it is here but unfortunately that..."we can't do this

anymore!"...(Oddly enough, the very same words that Mr. Robert Shober, the AIMCO relocation salesperson, had used when he first appeared at the complex two or so years previously, simultaneously sitting on the grass, enjoying the green, green grass of home and the wonderful open space resource we have here at Lincoln Place, eating cookies and telling us we had to leave, because, "we can't do this anymore!"

This neighbor said her son was a property owner nearby. She was very guilty-acting and embarrassed that I had "caught" her, both enjoying the fruits of Lincoln Place and not keeping her dog on a leash. Also, doubtless subconsciously, well aware I knew she was walking here because she and others living nearby believe it is OK to do this here and also, somehow, magically, all right not to clean up after one's own pet because of the situation here at Lincoln Place. Maybe she thought the "poop fairy" would take care of it.

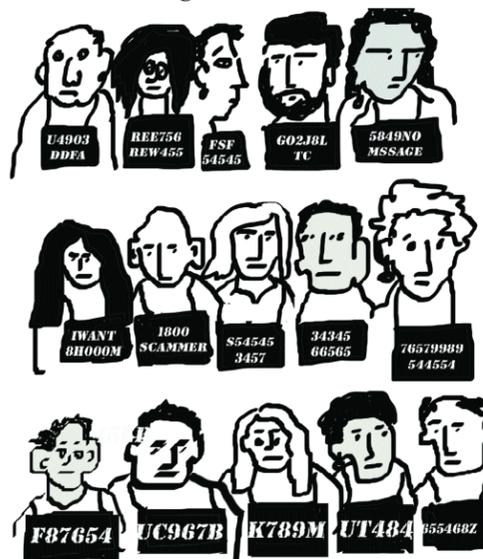
On the very rare occasion when we Tent City people do see someone doing the right thing, that is, cleaning up after their dog, we have literally applauded them and cheered, "Yay!" as well and they seem totally non-plussed, apparently missing the point our clear, vigorous expressions of appreciation for a responsible dog owner here in Venice. ★



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Crime Ring Found in Venice!



SOME OF THE CONDEMNED

Lincoln Place Owner
Terry Considine
says Evicted Tenants
"Scamming the System."

City Attorney Rocky
Promises Quick Punishment

Mayor is Silent

Councilman Rosendahl:
"Asks for Understanding"

Eviction Disease

By Erin Grayson

The failure to preserve EXISTING rent controlled affordable housing has caused higher rents on the fewer available units. The out of control Real-Estate market drives up inflation, reduces job opportunities for the middle class because employers want to invest in cities where the employees could at least afford to rent an apartment or buy a home. This runaway locomotive has caused more homeless on the streets adding to the 80,000 + homeless population here in LA many of these new homeless are seniors on a fixed income who cannot spend a 700 dollar a month pension entirely on rent. The waiting list for senior housing is from 4-8 years in different parts of LA. How would you feel if this was your own grandmother dealing with the threat of sheriffs banging on their door and forcing them onto the street. This situation is really bad for seniors, students, middle class, jobs, inflation, traffic, smog, environment and the weather. Air flow throughout the city is being clogged.

Yes, build new condos and apartments along transportation corridors but not near the ocean where the main source of fresh air for the entire city would be blocked from high rises along the Lincoln Boulevard traffic corridor. Traffic corridor because there is currently no sufficient public transportation along Lincoln to justify the density bonuses developers are receiving from the city. That is putting the cart before the horse. Developers are not doing the residents any favors by evicting them from rent controlled homes to more expensive and smaller units in another part of the city. Many of these disposable tenants are now commuting and adding more traffic to the freeways, boulevards and side streets.

Lincoln Place is a model for airflow between buildings and instead of tearing it down to build market rate new housing it can be used as an example of utilizing the fresh air and sunshine of Southern California that everyone is moving here for. It has also been an example of high density for 55 years with almost 800 original units on 38 acres of land. The surrounding single family homes provide a fraction of that amount of dwellings per acre. Lincoln Place is also an example of shared open space for entire communities to gather and enjoy the outdoors. At Lincoln Place the community had several areas such as the laundry rooms and clothes lines where people could air dry their clothes and save energy, the mailboxes situated under 55 year old trees also provided a place to gather. This is not Paris, New York, or Chicago and the architects and designers were aware of this.

Los Angeles is a lonely city when all you know day by day is a small apartment, sitting in a car in traffic and a cubicle in an office. Lincoln Place is now three times confirmed a California State Historical Resource and hopefully soon City of Los Angeles and National Resource. There needs to be more incentive for private owners to preserve our public history. Lincoln Place is a prime example of the vision of the great Modernist Movement where the connection of indoors and outdoors, humans and Mother Nature was fully realized. Many Lincoln Place tenants also grew their own vegetables in the gardens. There needs to be a governmental policy that encourages apartment owners to continue a high standard of maintenance, provide new sources of energy such as solar panels & rain water receptacles, decrease the space needed for parking and increase the amount of green space. New developments would not need so much space for parking if we had the infrastructure of public transportation up and running. The government must acquire the resources to make it happen all over the city not just with one line. This is the first step in creating a ribbon city. It is not development that is the problem it is how the development is occurring with out social conscience and thought for the existing affordable housing stock that provides homes for those who would otherwise become homeless. I was homeless for two months during the holidays before I could find a home. My new home is

smaller and far less community oriented. There is more pavement and less green space. It would be a shame to see LA become a Paris or New York. I have lived in both cities and felt claustrophobic and unable to breathe the air in both. The city government and developers are helping build this city up as fast as they can with out the care and thought that went into older cities like Paris. Look at the metro system there. Not just the facades. Look at the parks that are so large you could literally get lost in them. That is suggested and hinted at but I see only taller buildings with smaller units and more profits for the city (attorney) Rocky Delgadillo and developers.

It is so obvious when developers show up on the list of campaign contributors that the politicians and land use entitlement speculators are working together to pave over this entire country. It is also perfectly clear when you look at the rights of land owners and tenants and see that there a far fewer rights for tenants. And when you actually test those few protections for tenants in a court of law they are ignored or reinterpreted in favor of the landlord (quite possibly because many judges are landlords themselves). The Ellis Act does not provide nearly enough money for a normal person with out disability or senior status and I have kept the receipts to prove it and will be glad to provide copies of those receipts to anyone that can use it. In the case of Lincoln Place the Ellis Act has also trumped any of the protections for tenants while continuing to allow land use entitlements for the land owner. This is just dead wrong. Where is the Mayor? How could he allow such obvious gaining of the

LA City governmental system. You have heard us speak about this on many occasions. When will you take action? Eminent domain for the PEOPLE, for the EARTH for the ENVIRONMENT. Lincoln Place can be an example world wide on green housing that helps preserve the fragile ecosystem on this planet. It has set a precedent for positive actions on the part of the government for the people, let's make sure that it continues to set that example. I urge you to take serious and bold action immediately. Eminent Domain before more funds are wasted in litigation. ★



SAT, June 10, 4-9 pm - Opening Reception of **Urban Rays** - Urban Office of Offensive Architecture - SPARC, 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560

FRI, June 14, 7:30 pm - **Suzu Williams** will perform songs written by literary icons Lewis Carroll, Jack Kerouac, Dorothy Parker, Langston Hughes, Allen Ginsberg, Tennessee Williams and her own compositions. Also, in honor of Bastille Day, Williams will feature the music of Edith Piaf and Erik Satie. Beyond Baroque - 681 Venice Blvd 822-3006

WED, June 14, 7 pm - **Ulysses** - Screenwriter Fred Haines will introduce Joseph Strick's brilliant 1967 adaption of the James Joyce classic. 7 Dudley Ave. 306-7330

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JUNE CALENDAR

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Thursday, June 1 ... **Budget & Finance Committee** - 8:30 AM at Extra Space Storage.

Friday, June 2 ... **Ocean Front Walk Committee** - 9:30 AM Location to be determined.

Tuesday, June 6 ... **Overnight Parking District Committee** - 7:00 PM. Location to be determined.

Wednesday, June 7 ... **Land Use & Planning Committee** - 6:30 PM at Westminster Elementary School.

Monday, June 12 ... **Executive Committee** - 7:00 PM at Extra Space Storage.

Tuesday, June 13 ... **Rules & Election Committee** - 7:00 PM at Extra Space Storage.

Thursday, June 15 ... **Communications & Outreach Committee** - 7:00 PM at Vera Davis McClendon Center.

Saturday, June 17 ... **Animal Welfare Committee** - 10:00 AM at Brick House Cafe.

Tuesday, June 20 ... **BOARD OF OFFICERS** - 7:00 PM at Westminster Elementary School Auditorium. The Board will address community issues brought by stakeholders and committees to the Executive Committee meeting.

Thursday, June 22 ... **Disaster Preparedness Committee** - 7:00 PM at Vera Davis Center.

Wednesday, June 28 ... **Land Use & Planning Committee** - 6:30 PM. Venice High School Cafeteria.

Thursday, June 29 ... **Education Committee** - 7:00 PM at Venice Family Clinic.

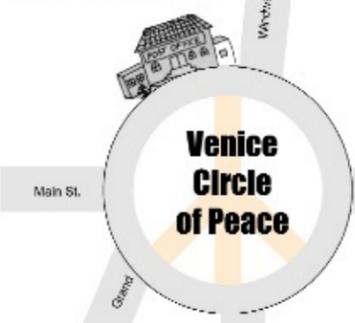
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THE VIETNAMIZATION OF OCEAN FRONT WALK

by Helene Wolff

On May 27, 1971, at a public hearing of the Los Angeles City Planning Commission, Commissioner David S. Moir told William Heeb, of the Planning Department, who presented a specific plan for Venice's ocean front community, that he was horrified at the department's "grotesque plan" and proposed that the Planning Department shelve it and go into the community to find out "what the people there need and want."

Mr. Moir took his cue from the 23 Venetians who spoke to the commission (and twice that number who supported them with their presence, applause and cheers). For those of us who have been fighting to "Free Venice" for many years it was an experience on the fantasy level to find ourselves fighting for our community on the same side as erstwhile foes. It was clearly Venice's day. Free Venice, North Beach Resident Property Owners, Venice Civic Union, property owners, renters, real estate people—all spoke against the freeze on new building and most against the specific plan.

Despite Mr. Moir's attempts at the beginning of the hearing to keep the people from speaking about the plan, which was just being reported on, and stick to the freeze, which was being voted on, the people persisted, on the

basis, as stated by Helene Wolff of Free Venice and the North Beach Resident Property Owners, that the two items were of a piece, and dependent on each other. It became evident that the only people who wanted the freeze were the planners. It seems obvious that this illegal freeze was meant to keep costs down when the time came for the city to condemn and acquire property for widening the streets and walks as called for in the Specific Plan.

The plan affects the area of Venice bounded by: the Santa Monica City boundary, Washington Street, Ocean Front Walk and property on the northeast of Pacific Avenue. The Venice Master Plan adopted by the L.A. City Council on October 14, 1970, calls for, among other things, two initial programs—the widening of Pacific Avenue, which had been previously designated as a major highway, and a Specific Plan for the ocean front area.

Major provisions of the Specific Plan call for 1) a freeze on new building except for single-family dwellings until Pacific and Speedway are widened; 2) "the establishment of a funnel shaped arrangement of building setback lines" on certain streets between Pacific and Speedway, [thereby chopping off perhaps fifteen feet from the front yards of area houses]; 3) "the vacation

and use of airspace over speedway" and portions of certain streets between Speedway and Pacific (meaning that above the third story buildings could jut out over the street, forming tunnels); 4) acquisition by the city of air rights on corner lots bounded by Speedway, Ocean Front Walk and the streets mentioned above; and 5) "the vacation of existing Ocean Front Walk with dedication and improvement of a contiguous strip of land to replace it, parallel to and on the beach side of this Walk."

The theme of "consolidation of property" and "high-intensity development" runs throughout the city's ocean front plan—the city is deliberately acting as the bulldozer blade, driving the people out of Venice and shoving the small property owners off their land so the place can be exploited for huge profits by the speculators, the real estate sharks and the giant syndicates that are gathering all the country's land and wealth into their hands.

An L.A. Times article dated March 12, 1967, entitled "Riviera-Like Resort Envisioned for Beach," quoted Dr. Fred E. Case, professor of business administration and acting director of the Real Estate Research Program at UCLA as saying if private investment could be encouraged, "Venice, in time, could

become one of the better, exclusive areas in the country... Venice has beautiful beaches, the climate is ideal... if someone would only grab hold of it, they could do something with it." The article itself went on to say, "While police powers... can be applied to individual properties, only the availability of large parcels could make a redevelopment feasible. This could be accomplished by condemnation procedures by federal authorities who would 'assemble properties' and then offer them for sale for development by private enterprise."

An important delay has been won. Victories, however, bring responsibility and the challenge of still more work. The people of Venice have foiled Los Angeles's plans to turn our city into a "Riviera-Like Resort" so far. The Venice Rehabilitation Program was deemed a failure by the FHA as failing to drive the small homeowner out of Venice. Ground has not yet been broken to turn the canal area into a private yacht basin, the freeway will not belch its way thru Venice, West Washington still is zoned to allow small shops, Oakwood has not been further isolated from the rest of Venice by tricks of zoning...

We have won concessions, but the philosophy aimed at driving the present residents out of Venice has not changed. There was talk Thursday at City Hall of

rollbacks in zoning. The ocean front area is presently zoned for high-rise. There was talk of banishing automobiles from Venice and establishing a model pedestrian community.

Rick Davidson, of Free Venice, was not dragged from the hearing room in handcuffs this time. He drew some of the loudest and broadest-based applause from his neighbors for his visionary architectural demands that Venice have the best planning possible—not the second-rate expediency planning of the Los Angeles bureaucrats.

I want no less than incorporation—I want Venice to be an independent city of its own, as it used to be. I realize the whole city of Los Angeles would have to vote to let us go. But, I saw Mr. Moir's face change from apathy to horror at the atrocity being committed on a community that wants to take care of itself—to work with its areas of agreement and interest rather than to continually fall for propaganda that tells us we are divided by enmity and inimical differences. Julie Mulvaney, the last Venetian to speak before the Commission, said Venice was together and that, although she had heard that Venetians never agreed on anything, we perhaps had just had bad publicity. She also said that we would be back. We will!

35 Years Ago in Venice

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