

People's
Centennial &
Beachhead
event, March
26 at SPARC –
see back cover

FREE VENICE SINCE 1968 BEACHHEAD

CHEE
WAH-WAH

Happy
International
Women's
Day!

March 2005

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By Carol Fondiller

The voice on the other end of the phone said, "Rumors are whizzing 'round, noisy as skeeters on a stagnant pool spreading west Nile disease. Billy's apartment building is up for sale."

Fighting through my friend's hyperbole, I asked "Say what? Who's Billy? And what's love got to do with it?"

"Well," said my friend, hereinafter known as Gary, "Billy's apartment building is located on the Ocean Front Walk between Park and Brooks Avenues. About 8 units, 10 people, right next to one of the surviving single family houses on the Front and Billy's..."

Oh yeah, "Billy's Apartments." Well. There's a strip mall on Park Avenue that sells nothing useful to the surrounding community, the two-story single family house, Billy's Apartments—which is painted a sort of pinkish brown, has what Easterners call a stoop, and what God-fearing heartlanders would call a small porch, is three stories high. It's just north of a tattoo parlour and the Café Venezia on Brooks Avenue.

In the late 50s the Ocean Front Walk had a varied streetscape of former hotels turned into permanent apartments, bars, single family houses, a few Mom 'n' Pop stores....Excuse me while I brush away a nostalgic those-were-the-days tear.

Well, things do change, sometimes for worse, and sometimes for the better. And sometimes it's just change. As in decay, rebirth, and all that Karmic stuff.

But to me, the sale of Billy's Apts. signals a real change.

This is one of the last apartment buildings that have moderately priced units on the Ocean Front Walk, perhaps in Venice. Some of the tenants have lived at Billy's for twenty years. Years ago, developer wannabes dreamed up a plan for Venice that would, in the words of one developer, "Make Venice a Miami Gold Coast."

This plan included a freeway that ran west of the beach onto the ocean, the taking of property east of Speedway by eminent domain, in order to facilitate two-way traffic. (It's estimated that the proposed plan to widen Speedway would have taken about 20 percent of the properties abutting Speedway.) Not just the Hippies and Commies opposed that plan. And, of course, there's always been controversy in regards to development on the O.F.W.

To put it delicately, Venice is entering another phase.

To my way of thinking, there is a

—continued
on page four



Guadalupe Angel by Judy Baca – see page six

YOU HAVEN'T COME A LONG WAY, BABY!

By Theresa Hulme

As International Women's Day passes with nary a nod from the boys in charge: The White House, Congress, Senate, the heavy majority of CEO's/Board's of Corporate America, the Corporate Media, most governorships, state legislatures, the Supreme Court, etc., women are facing an Axis of Evil. But this time, its not a lie, not mere propaganda or a public relations blitz, nor is it happening in a poor, distant nation.

The war being waged on America's women has been carefully planned, strategically laid out and almost inevitable, if the Bush Regime has its way. Like the war on terror, the war on women has its roots in a patriarchal, Anglo, neo-conservative, fundamentalist Christian belief system. The direct recipients of this and any war, Cold or Bloody, are women and their children.

This war on women begins in the trenches of U.S. Courts. As political payback for a George W. Bush second term, right wing extremists expect Bush to fulfill his 2000 campaign promise to end abor-

tion in the U.S. So far, Bush has nominated 213 right-wing judges to lifetime appointments on the federal bench. If this isn't scary enough, that translates into one-fourth of the total number of federal judges in the country! 200 of these will be confirmed by the end of June. Anti-choice and anti-civil rights judges will dominate the Circuit Court of Appeals, for now and the next generation. (courtesy: NARAL)

Justice Harry Blackmun, author of Roe vs. Wade revealed how dangerously close we have come to the overturn of Roe on several occasions. Blackmun, in his recently released papers, was especially aware of how narrow the votes protecting it have been. Since his death, things have worsened.

Today, there is a very delicate 5-4 majority in the Supreme Court in favor of Roe. This slight majority is threatened as the aged Supreme Court is ready to retire 3 or 4 of its present Justices. Even one new Justice appointed by Bush, can overturn Roe, or commonly understood as a woman's right to choose what is best for her body. The precarious state of the Supreme Court is perhaps more terrifying than 4 more years of George Duh!bya.

Here's how the present U.S. Supreme Court stands (facts courtesy of NARAL - www.prochoiceamerica.org):

—continued on page four

CASUALTIES IN IRAQ
U.S. 1,493 Dead – 10,968 Wounded
Iraqi Dead: 16,121 – 18,393
(some sources say 100,000 Iraqi dead)





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

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

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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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Boycott L.A.

Dear Beachhead,

Well it is time for solidarity and national if not city wide and beyond action. We must push for a boycott L.A. nationwide to garner support for keeping Venice free.

As a resident of Venice excited about the 100 year anniversary of Venice. Anyone who says they moved, live, came to Venice for peace and quiet is a bold face liar and has some hidden agenda. Since the founding of Venice 100 years ago Venice has never been or reported of being a quiet peaceful place. So if someone is say a 100 years old then they would have a reason to gripe or complain about the noise, crowds, congestion and activities. L.A. City is very noisy everywhere.

We need a grass roots national boycott LA campaign in the same spirit as Caesar Chavez. This will make the local greedy land developers back off because the bigger greedier fools of LA who control the City Council and City government will make them back off.

Also those who gather near Post Offices the (Day Laborers) should have spaces painted on the sidewalks and have a lottery set up for them otherwise to do so just for Venice is blatant outright discrimination.

This is from a resident who lives here in Venice and does not sell anything on the Ocean Front Walk. It is an Ocean Front Walk not a "Board Walk." It is also unique and special and not a place of homogenous Corporate America without Mc Donalds, and Taco Bells and all the rest.

Everyone you talk to who is not a Real Estate investor or mid evil Land Lord says they came to Venice cause it is "Funky" and is the way it is and does not look or feel like the rest of America were greed and corruption is rampant.

In Venice a nut who should be in a mental hospital has nearly as strong a voice as the insane Rich fool who builds his huge mansion on a crumbling hill and gets government aid when the House comes down in a rainstorm. I pity the fool.

Boycott LA now! They are out of control.

Randy Saludes

Auburn-Haired Beauties

Dear Beachhead,

Hello, I was at Maxwell's Cafe on Washington & Walgrove and noticed a poster from the "Venice Auburn-Haired Beauty Parade" that had a Venice Beachhead logo in the corner. Do you know where I can get one of these posters? Thanks,

Laura Martin

The Beachhead Responds: That was a great poster that helped raise money for the Beachhead in the 80s. They were all sold years ago, but we hope to offer it again for that noble cause in this centennial year. Details in an upcoming Beachhead.

Feeding the Sparrows not allowed at Lincoln Place

I have been hearing through the grapevine that certain senior females at Lincoln Place are being subjected to harassment. This harassment takes place while certain women are recycling in order to make ends meet financially.

Also, it appears to observers that these ACSS security guards, have been directed to focus against certain women who are residents as well as being members of a tenants union. By and large, these are women of a certain age, either retired or approaching retirement.

One woman, Martha, who was feeding leftover bread to the seagulls was spoken to so harshly that she stopped doing this charitable act, something that had made her happy. It is clear the focus of the security guards is on women who live here at Lincoln Place rather than on the many people who also come to recycle from the larger community. Some people wait until after the security guards have passed by, before coming out to recycle, and for some reason, the guards never look in their rear view mirrors to see who is waiting behind them.

Also, certain security guards, as well as other residents and employees of AIMCO, the corporate owner of Lincoln Place Apartments, seem to be in competition for these recyclable resources. So much for quality of life in Los Angeles.

C. V. Beck

Urges Vote for Flora Gil Krisiloff

Dear Beachhead,

As my good friend says, there is no doubt that Angela Reddock will be in our future. She is a good candidate and I look forward to her next campaign, although I do not believe she has much of a chance in this one. But Bill is something else.

I am concerned about this Johnny-come-lately, the big grin, the pix with all the celebs. Invariably on the right, er, um, left side of everything, a regular paragon of virtue, charms the socks off ya while leaving yer shoes in place. Ladies in our million dollar hovels swoon over the trim, athletic figure while their husbands toil diligently in the vineyards of Century City and the skyscrapers downtown.

Why this interest in District 11 from such a big time operator? Boggles the mind, don't it? Here's the photogenic face with whiz bang charisma and a full set of teeth who, late in the game, decides to run for District 11. But how is he going to get along with those Spanish speaking council members from other districts? Anyone who uses the elevators down at City Hall these days knows you have to understand Spanish to eavesdrop.

So I am giving my vote to Flora. In her quiet, persistent, and effective way she accomplishes things that need to be done. She does her homework, listens to people, and habla español.

Thanks, Beachhead, for providing the community with more than one viewpoint.

DeDe Audet

Urges Vote for Bill Rosendahl

Dear Beachhead,

If you haven't decided who you are voting for our City Council person, I encourage you to vote for BILL ROSENDAHL for our council district - Council District 11.

I am very impressed with Bill Rosendahl, so much so that I have decided to commit my free time over the next two weeks to volunteer for his campaign. I am excited at the prospect of electing someone NEW, DIFFERENT, BOLD and VISIONARY to our district. And, if you don't think that our district councilperson is the most important position when it comes to protecting and improving our local community, think again!

In fact, in the City of Los Angeles, our local government essentially operates on something called "district prerogative." This means that what the City Councilperson wants, the Councilperson gets.

Hence, why the majority of the 15-council person City Council voted for the expansion of Playa Vista and LAX, DESPITE THE FACT THAT 9 out of 10 people in our community -- and even in other council districts-- opposed these developments. Why did the LA City Council vote for these developments? Because our current City Council District representative Cindy Miscikowski wanted them, even though her constituents -- were overwhelmingly opposed.

I know Bill will be different. Bill will listen to and represent our communities. Bill is a strong, decisive leader who has taken BOLD positions and stood up to the resulting heat from big business and special interests. I've seen him in action, and I'm impressed.

He spoke out against Playa Vista Phase 2 while others stayed silent. He was the first district candidate to oppose Cindy Miscikowski's LAX expansion plan. He was the first to speak out against the proposed decimation of hundreds of units of existing affordable housing at Lincoln Place in Venice. He is supported by leaders of key LA environmental groups such as NRDC, Heal the Bay, and Santa Monica Baykeeper -- he knows what it takes to clean up our bay and he will fight to clean up our water ways and preserve our quickly disappearing open space and park opportunities.

Bill has vision. He sees how traffic, development, and poor regional planning are all tied together. He doesn't want to tinker with the existing planning codes to do little things. He wants to change the process entirely so our problems don't keep getting worse.

Most importantly, Bill is a consensus builder. Especially in local government, he believes it is important to leave ideology and ego at the door, bring everyone in the room, and solve problems. There is no Democrat and no Republican way to pick up trash or trim trees.

I hope that you will join me on Tuesday, March 8th (or before, if you vote absentee) in electing Bill Rosendahl as our next City Councilperson for our District 11.

For more information on Bill's campaign and positions, please visit his website at www.bill-rosendahl.com. If you feel as inspired as I, commit a couple of hours this weekend and next to make phone calls at his campaign office, or put a sign in your yard. Get involved, take part, and make a change for our quality of life here on the Westside!

Sabrina D. Venskus

Out of the Litter Box

By Ali Katz

This lil' Kitty has noticed a diminution of amenities in Venice. Here's Kitty's list; maybe Beachhead readers can supply more.



- No pay phones,
- Bus benches are being converted to "leaning poles" for bus patrons to use instead of bus benches,
- No outside reading areas at the Venice Library,
- Benches have been eliminated on the Ocean Front Walk, and
- Mere ghosts of the pagodas are on the Front with uncomfortable seating.

Ali Katz's friends called several city agencies and were told the same by all of them: "To discourage the "criminal element" and the "homeless" from congregating."

Well, this cat has news for you: THEY CONGREGATE anyway! Much as the much hailed "anti-crime" lights on the Front were supposed to discourage crime, failed to deter criminal activity. All the lights did was to give those folk a place to ply their after hours bike repair shops, fight deals in a place where they could meet and beat (each other).

How are people supposed to be lured into using mass transportation when one has to stand/lean for half an hour waiting for a bus? Perhaps the busses themselves should be seatless, so as to discourage people from riding them day and night when they are homeless. Waiting for a bus is no fun if one has a disability and might need to sit down.

Pay phones are being discontinued because "dope dealers use them and they get vandalized." So do people who need to call someone in an emergency. Well, buy a cell phone.

No benches on the Library concrete. Homeless people might use them. Well, yes, but library patrons might like to use them also.

Why should simple comforts like bus benches, park benches, and pay phones be eliminated because homeless people use them? Can't the benches be made of a shorter length to discourage sleeping on them?

Why is this country so grudging in providing a little comfort in public places?

Maybe instead of eliminating bus benches that mostly working people, students, children, the elderly (another repeat of the tragic accident at the Santa Monica Farmers' Market because of lack of public transportation) use to get them places, there could be an increase of police patrols, low-income housing, and outreach services to better solve the problem of vandalism.

Perhaps the buses should be eliminated altogether to discourage the poor from roaming from their squalid enclaves into places where they don't belong—like beaches.

And talk about misplaced compassion, every California governor from Pat Brown to Schwarzenegger has mourned the loss of houses and property during the rainy season, as houses and swimming pools do their mudslide waltz. Every governor has promised to help them rebuild—whoops pull Ali Katz's whiskers! Pete Wilson threatened at one time to look into the permits in regards to allowing building on fragile hillsides. Anyway, the Govs have promised to help the property owners to rebuild on the same hillsides! Perhaps some brakes should be put on disaster relief if people are going to rebuild in the same slide location. The money saved could go into a real disaster fund housing the homeless.

And maybe a few decent bus and park benches so Los Angeles can pretend to be a real city like New York and Moscow.

That's all for Meeow.

The Beachhead needs you

We are a non-profit community paper. We print poetry. We print your letters. We tell you "What's up" in your neighborhood. We're not the kind of newspaper in which the big corporations want to place advertising. That's ok with us, because we have your support. Don't we? If you haven't already, please become a Beachhead sustainer for \$100/year or a subscriber for \$35/year; and please come to our March 26 event.

Why Not Vote for the Best on March 8? Angela Reddock – City Council Richard Alarcón – Mayor

By Jim Smith

It is perhaps the height of irony that progressive voters want candidates who are not beholden to developers and corporations. But when those candidates don't take big contributions from the fat cats, they are said to be unelectable because they haven't raised enough money!

Case in point: There are two candidates running on the left side of the pack in the upcoming local elections - Angela Reddock for our city council slot and Richard Alarcón for mayor. Incredibly, some progressives are turning up their noses at these candidates, not because of their positions on the issues, but because they haven't raised enough (developer and corporate) money. Here's my personal view on why you should not only vote for Reddock and Alarcón, but get out and campaign for them.

Angela Reddock supports a moratorium on commercial development until issues like traffic, protecting the environment and overdevelopment can be resolved. Neither of the other candidates favor such a moratorium. In addition, unlike the other council candidates, Reddock is not receiving campaign contributions from developers.

Both of the other city council candidates, Bill Rosendahl and Flora Gil Krisiloff, have been appealing to the well-known progressive tendencies of voters in Venice and throughout the district. However, a look at who is supporting them raises concerns.

Rosendahl is raising a great deal of money from supporters outside the district because of his career as a TV "personality." He is also raising money from developers, and from some leaders of the anti-progressive faction in Venice, including Marta Evry, Robert Feist and David Buchanan (They and their friends are also giving to Krisiloff). Last week, former Mayor and Schwarzenegger-appointed Richard Riordan spent \$24,978 for a mailer for Rosendahl, according to the city's Ethics Commission.

Riordan has spent a lot of money trying to convince us that he is a "moderate" Republican, but in fact, he is not. He was the leader of the "Impeach Rose Bird" campaign that destroyed the progressive majority on the California Supreme Court. Bobbie Fiedler, who was the anti-busing Queen of L.A. when the district was trying to integrate its schools, has also contributed to Rosendahl. If he is as progressive as he claims to be, then why are people like this so interested in getting him elected?

Krisiloff's claim to fame was from sitting on the West L.A. Planning Commission, where she was not particularly known in supporting resi-

dents over developers. In addition to getting her funding from assorted developers and anti-progressives, Krisiloff has also received the endorsement from the current, unpopular councilmember Cindy Miscikowski. It is rumored that she will retain Miscikowski's even more unpopular rep for Venice, Sandy Kievman, if she is elected.

It's been claimed by some who are more interested in supporting the winning candidate rather than the best candidate, that Angela Reddock can't win because she hasn't been able to raise enough money. There is truth to the underlying argument that elections can be bought. However, this is an election that will be decided by only a few thousand votes. Getting into a runoff election will require even less votes. Therefore, spreading the word, walking precincts, putting up signs, phone banking and other traditional democratic ways of promoting a candidate can have a big impact.

Richard Alarcón is running the kind of progressive campaign that Antonio Villaraigosa ran four years ago. Unfortunately, Villaraigosa has chosen to campaign this time from the middle of the road. Alarcón is the only candidate for mayor in 2005 who supports community control of development. You can imagine the huge difference that could make for the future of Venice if binding decisions about Lincoln Center or preserving Lincoln Place were made in Venice. Alarcón has also made fighting poverty a centerpiece of his campaign. He is also proposing the strongest ethics requirements of any candidates. Plus, he has pledged to replace Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) chief, Greg Nelson, who has caused Venice so much grief.

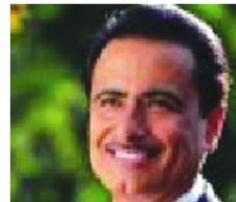
Like Reddock, Alarcón is an underdog at this point. However, his ratings in the polls has been rising, thanks to his strong showing in the debates. If any area goes strongly for Alarcón, it should be Venice. We have the most to gain from having a 'Peoples' Mayor in Los Angeles.

A statement by Gaius Marius is as relevant today as when he spoke it more than 2,000 years ago: "Election to a post of authority seems to change most men's characters. As candidates, they are full of energy, humbly entreat your support and behave with moderation. Once elected, they become arrogant and slothful." Let us take care whose high-powered advertising we listen to and who we elect.

You can check out who's giving money to the city council and mayoral candidates at <<http://ethics.lacity.org>>.



Angela Reddock



Richard Alarcón



Unclear on the concept. A new "leaning post" on the Circle for people waiting for a bus has been converted into a more useful bike rack. What was wrong with the bus benches in the first place.

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Billy's Apartment —continued from page one

plan to eliminate all dwellings on the Ocean Front Walk. Billy's Apts. and the single family house next to it can be consolidated. And with claims of hardship exemptions, easements, setbacks and other development goodies, to combine with the property that includes the tattoo parlour, Mom 'n' Pop shop and the Café Venezia into one helluva package for plasticized quaint B'n'Bs or Hotel California for discreet business meetings.

As it is, the Ocean Front Walk and the adjacent walk streets are barely livable now.

The uh, gee...dare I offend the west side artistes? I can find no other description—NOISE from the Ocean Front Walk 8 hours a day or longer, 7 days a week, and the fumes of endangered sage, gasoline emissions from huge buses with faulty engines, and the stench of rancid oils that emit from our many fine restaurants. I understand that much of this will change after the Ocean Front Walk ordinance is in place, but I am skeptical. The charms of Venice were the juxtaposition of seedy apartments next to one family houses next to bars and groceries, fruit stands, synagogues, tabernacles, etc.

There was also the mix of Bohemian outcast, orthodox Jew, fundamentalist, etc., workers, poets...; well you know the drill—diversity.

That's coming to an end now, and not only because of the developers, real estate and the Artbunkers that are popping up like giant pustules. J'accuse some of the aforesaid Artistry-Poos that have invaded the Ocean Front Walk. They seem to think that just because they are poor like Van Gogh, unrecognized as Van Gogh, they automatically have the genius of Van Gogh.

They seem to think that because they claim to be artists, they have the right to annoy and denigrate all the Philistines and greedy money grubbers who have the nerve to live on the O.F.W.

Well, cheer up. Within a few years, with some exertion, Ocean Front Walk will be lined with charming air conditioned hotels and condos converted to "boutique" hotels. Those units facing the Front will have windows that open, so as to be able to throw money to the buskers, hucksters, etc., that will line the O.F.W. Visitors will enjoy the "ambiance" of the O.F.W., because they will be leaving after a short visit, to go back to their homes that do not have a Loud Noise Free Speech area. They will show videos of the man and his rubber snakes, the people who keep assassinating John Lennon over and over every day for 8 hours a day. Those hotel visitors will be able to open and close their windows at will and still be comfortable in their air-conditioned units, free of the concert stage amps used by the exhibitionists to extort money from them.

Debit cards will be issued by the Dept. of Entertainment division of Recreation and Parks. The cards will be issued in varying denominations to be used for entertainment expenses ranging from \$1.00 on up—to throw at the hucksters.

But best of all, the residents, or most of them will have fled from the Front inland, east of Lincoln, so that the walk streets can be converted to parking palaces for the hotel patrons. These palaces will be disguised as quaint beach cottages. The end result will be an Ocean Front Walk free of those annoying residents.

The Artistry-Poos will be free to bray bleat whine, sell incense, etc., without any interruption. They will have become part of the establishment that they profess to loathe.

But like "artists before them, from Michelangelo to Warhol to Kinkaide, they go where the money is.

As I was writing this I heard a noise on the Front, no, not the Lennon-McCartney assassin, but some guy who was lecturing the customers at the café by my apartment building—he was yelling at some of the patrons. A bouncer came out and chased the man down the Front.

The "musician" who was singing applauded. A customer rebuked the exhibitionist for

cheering as the man was chased off. The exhibitionist yelled at the customer for "trying to dominate my space. This is MY space!" he yelled through his microphone, "This is my show! I get to perform here! You don't like it, leave!"

So much for love, camaraderie and caring by the sensitive (only to their own needs) exhibitionists on the Ocean Front Walk. Did it ever occur to the exhibitionist that if this man's two-minute tirade so disturbed him, what must it be like to listen to his atonal renderings (and I mean rendering) of the Beatles songs over and over again five hours a day five days a week?

Someone takes over on the weekends, and after the Beatle Killer and his Arnold Schwarzenegger imitations (another reason to vote out Arnold!) someone who kills off Bob Dylan comes on to commit more auditory rape until it gets dark.

Perhaps the proposed Robert Graham statue for the Venice Traffic Circle is a fitting definition of Venice after all—a stainless steel cunt.

Supreme Court —continued from page one

Support Women's basic right to choice

John Paul Stevens, Age 84

Appointed in 1975 by Gerald Ford, and one of the most progressive justices on the court, he has voted consistently during his tenure to support Roe. He has worked to prevent states from unduly restricting a woman's choice. One of the longest serving and oldest justices on the bench, at age 84, he could be the next member to retire.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Age 71

Appointed in 1993, she had previously been an active supporter of women's rights. One of only two members of the court appointed by a pro-choice president, Ginsburg has voted to protect safe access to health care for women and limiting the restrictions a state can place on abortion providers. She has upheld the constitutionality of Roe v. Wade.

Stephen Breyer, Age 66

The most recent appointed member of the Supreme Court, he was the second appointee sent by Bill Clinton. He has staunchly upheld the constitutionality of Roe and has resisted state efforts to ban safe abortion procedures. Young for a Supreme Court justice, he should remain on the court for many more years.

Swing Votes

Sandra Day O'Connor, Age 74

A Reagan appointee in 1981, Justice O'Connor has carved out a reputation of a centrist. She has ruled to support restrictions on a woman's right to choose, yet has unwaveringly defended the constitutionality of Roe v. Wade. She often acts as the swing vote in 5:4 decisions on abortion issues. It is rumored to believe that O'Connor wishes to retire during a Bush administration.

Anthony Kennedy, Age 68

Justice Kennedy has demonstrated that his support for abortion rights is highly unreliable. Like O'Connor, he has ruled to restrict a woman's right to choose in some cases but has supported constitutionality for Roe in others. He has joined fellow justice Scalia in dissenting on court decisions that protect "free buffer zones" around entrances to health clinics. His inconsistency is expected to remain on the court for many years to come.

David Souter, Age 65

The third in a trio of the centrist 'swing bloc,' Souter has ruled to uphold Roe and voted to allow "fixed buffer zones" around clinic entrances. The second youngest on the court, he will be with us or against us for years to come.

Opposed to women's choice

William Rehnquist, Age 80

Originally a Nixon appointee, Rehnquist was promoted to Chief Justice of the US by Ronald Reagan in 1986. He is the only sitting justice to have participated in the actual case of Roe v. Wade in 1973. He dissented from the Courts opinion in that year and was subsequently credited with structuring the Court's conservative shift. He feels a woman's right to choose is not guaranteed by the Constitution. At age 80, he is reportedly waiting for a conservative president, such as Bush, to guarantee an anti-choice replacement. Rehnquist brings truth to the old adage "only the good die young."

The University of Venice



The University of Venice is a free institution devoted to community development. contact 391-2314 uov@freevenice.org

Unless otherwise noted, all classes are at the United Methodist Church/Center for Peace with Justice and the Arts, 2210 Lincoln Blvd.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES/EVENTS: Weekly

- Sundays - 9-9:30AM - **Singing Lessons** - contact Cathleen Crone - 391-2314
- Sundays - Noon-2PM - **From Hollerin' in the fields to Hip Hop** - contact Nicholas Walker - 795-0953
- Sundays - 2:30-4PM - **Imagining Venice** - contact Eric Vollmer - voiceinthewell@hotmail.com
- Sundays - 7-9PM - **Venice Filmmaking/Writing Workshop** - contact Rokk Lattanzio - 323-993-8616 or rokkinla@yahoo.com
- Tuesdays at 4:30 PM - **Toddlers Group** - at the Head Start Center - Bring your parent!
- Wednesdays - 7:15-9:15PM - **A Better World is Possible - How we got into this mess, and how we can get out of it** - contact Jim Smith - 399-8685 or jsmith@freevenice.org
- Thursdays (except March 24) from 6:30 - 8:30PM - **Looking at Christianity** - contact Pastor Tom Ziegert - 391-2314 - includes dinner.

One time only

- Sunday, March 6 - 4-6PM - **From Here to Everywhere** (Beginning Webcasting) - contact Ray Stedding - 980-5187
- Sunday, March 13 - 4-6PM - **Reframing the Argument** (influencing public opinion) - contact Jeff Norman - 842-8794
- Monday, March 14 - 7:15-9:15PM - **Yuen Healing Method** - contact Elma Mayer - 323-665-5695
- Sunday, March 27 - 4PM - **University of Venice planning meeting** (bring your ideas for a class)
- Tuesday, March 29 - 7:15-9:15PM - **Creative Commons Licensing and Copy Left** - contact Joanna Silva - 980-5187

Antonin Scalia, Age 68

The most staunchly conservative member of the bench, Scalia believes that Roe v. Wade is unconstitutional and a woman's right to choose should be decided by the states. Scalia has dissented in opinions upholding "fixed buffer zones" - areas created around entrances to health care clinics to protect patients, doctors, nurses, and volunteers from harassment and potential harm by aggressive protesters. He could be a possible Chief Justice should Rehnquist retire. Whether promoted or not, we can look forward to many more years of his anti-choice terror reigned upon us. Scalia is also credited with the dramatic rise in female homosexuality.

Clarence Thomas, Age 56

Infamous for Long Dong Silver and his Senate confirmation hearings, Thomas has consistently sided with Rehnquist and Scalia in ruling against a woman's right to choose and has boldly stated his position in favor of overturning Roe v. Wade. He has also joined Scalia and Kennedy in dissenting against "fixed buffer zones" and has ruled in favor of nearly every effort to limit a woman's right to choose. Commonly referred to as 'the House Negro,' he brings undeserved embarrassment and bitter irony onto America's mostly democratic black population. As the youngest member of the court, we have plenty of time to fondly remember Thomas as putting sexual harassment into the national consciousness.

Truckin' Mail to South Central May Give Developers a Sweet Deal

By Jan Book

If your zip code is 90291 or 90292, get ready to mail those birthday and anniversary cards, as well as your rent, mortgage and credit card payments, a few days earlier. Why? Because unless we act NOW, all of our outgoing mail (and incoming mail), which used to be processed at and distributed from the center here in the Marina, will soon be trucked to South Central L.A. for processing and distribution. Window service will continue, at least for the time being.

On January 11, the US Postal Service decided to close down the westside processing and distribution center, even though the center was on budget and very efficient. I have reviewed the documents supporting the 'business decision' to close down this center, and the decision is based on faulty reasoning, and possibly, back room dealing.

Unless we campaign the US Postal Service to reverse their decision, we will not only have slower outgoing and incoming mail service, but there will soon be more housing, more retail and/or more office space to increase our current traffic problems. Oh, and don't forget the future increase in our postage!

How does the current system work and will the change improve our mail service?

Currently, all mail with the above zip codes is first delivered to the Marina Processing and Distribution (P&D) Center located on Jefferson Blvd., near Lincoln Blvd. At the Marina P&D Center, the mail is re-sorted by zip codes, trucked to smaller processing centers in our neighborhoods, and delivered to us by our mail carrier. For outgoing mail, the process is just the reverse.

Under the new plan, the Marina P&D Center will be closed and the land sold. Our Venice mail will be trucked to South Central L.A., sorted, bagged and reloaded onto a truck to then travel back to the westside for delivery or to LAX for out-of-town mail.

And for incoming mail, the trucks will be loaded at LAX, driven to South Central L.A., sorted, bagged and reloaded onto trucks to travel back to the westside for delivery. In addition to the travel time required to drive this distance, just think of the increase in traffic on our roads caused by all those Postal trucks traveling to and from the westside to South Central L.A.

According to Bill Almaraz, USPS Los Angeles District Manager, "the change will have no negative effect on service."

Why would the Postal Service sell a well performing and efficient facility?

On February 22 at a briefing on the closure of the Marina P&D Center, I was given a packet of information which contained letters and financial information pertaining to the consolidation. In a letter to Congresswoman Maxine Waters, the President of the American Postal Workers Union, John Driver, wrote, "Mr. Almaraz unequivocally stated that the Marina P&DC was a very efficient facility." And John Holden, Senior Manager at the Marina P&D Center, "stated that the facility was operating within budget and at an appreciable level of efficiency," however, the decision to close the Center "was a business decision, not an efficiency decision."

Being an accountant who likes detail, I reviewed the financial report which was the basis for making the 'business decision' to close the Marina P&D Center, and found errors in their calculations and reasoning. I won't bore you with the fine details, but they report that they will save \$17 million annually, which I believe is overstated by \$3 million. However for some reason, they have failed to address what will happen to the over \$37 million of revenue currently generated at the Marina P&D Center from processing bulk mail.

In addition, the Postal Service reports that it will cost over \$8 million to renovate the

South Central P&D Center in preparation for the consolidation. Furthermore, the internal documents show that the South Central P&D Center (which ranks 329 out of 400 processing centers) has a substantially higher processing error rate and lower performance rate than the Marina P&D Center (which ranks 178).

The real 'business decision' appears to have nothing to do with the processing of mail or the selling of stamps, but with the value of the land. According to Mr. Driver's letter noted above, Mr. Almaraz revealed in a meeting on August 17, 2004, that "the Pacific Area, led by VP Al Iniquez, had been informally approached by an unnamed private entity about the possibility of selling the land the Marina P&D Center occupies."

I found on the last page of the report prepared by the Postal Service in determining the viability of keeping or closing the Marina P&D Center, a one line entry

which reads as follows: "Sale of Marina P&D Facility, \$35,000,000." I couldn't believe my eyes. The Postal Service is planning to sell over 17 acres of land located directly across from the Playa Vista development for half it's market value. This is an outrage!

This is not the first time the Postal Service has sold valuable property for less than market value. In another correspondence, Mr. Driver gives the example of the sale of the Denver Colorado Annex USPS property in the summer of 2004. In this situation, the USPS property was sold for \$7-8 million to a private interest. Within 72 hours, the property was split into two parcels; one parcel was sold for about \$12 million and the other parcel has plans to be developed into a \$65 million project.

What kind of 'business decision' motivates the owner of prime real estate to sell its valuable property for 50 cents on the dollar (or less, as in the Denver example)? No wonder the Postal Service is losing money, but how dare they continue to ask the public to pay for their bad business decisions. Or worse, for the back room dealing which appears to be in play here.

It is time for the community to stand up and say "STOP" to the 'bad business decisions' currently being made by the US Postal Service.

Is it wise for the Postal Service to close the Marina P&D Center at this time?

According to Mr. Almaraz, the reason for the move is declining mail volume at the Marina and excess processing capacity in Los Angeles. Nationwide, the first-class mail volume has declined 5.5%, while according to Mr. Moden, at the Marina P&D Center it has declined 20% over the past few years.

How could the westside have declined more than the national percentage when we have been experiencing a growth in new housing, new retail and new office space? Something doesn't make sense here.

I did some research. In the Venice and Marina area alone:

- 4,525 new homes/apartments have been completed in the past few years
- 2,939 new homes/apartments are currently under construction
- 1,976 new condos/apartments are in-process of being approved either by the City of L.A. or the County

This totals 9,440 new units, without considering the increase in retail and office space or the increase in hotel rooms.

And how much mail would 9,440 new units generate? Well, I receive 5-10 pieces of mail each day (including letters, bills, invitations, maga-

zines, etc.). Over a week, I receive 30-60 pieces of mail, and over a year I receive 1,560-3,120 pieces of mail.

This could mean that these new units might generate from 14,726,400 - 29,452,800 pieces of mail a year. With the Marina P&D Center currently handling 2,758,104,900 pieces of mail annually, this represents more than a 1% increase. And, I'm only talking about the Venice and Marina area.

What if you consider the recent increase in housing, retail and office space currently going on in the other 23 communities affected by this closure.

If these communities are experiencing even half the amount of growth that Venice and the Marina have, then the increase in mail would result in more than a 12% increase.

We can all use common sense. There is no way the Marina P&D Center has had a 20% decline in the processing of mail. It is obvious that the consumer demand in the above zip codes has been on the increase, not the decrease.

This is supported by Mr. Driver's above mentioned letter in which he writes "the USPS has begun diverting Marina P&DC first-class mail volume to other facilities...This decision is being made to directly impact the Marina P&DC operation and support the USPS contention that Marina P&DC first class mail volume has decreased.... The decrease is self-imposed, not consumer driven."

In addition, "USPS Management has made subtle changes to standard operations at the Marina P&DC which have directly affected the performance and efficiency of the Marina P&DC...resulting in poorly prepared mail for Automation impacting performance and efficiency...the USPS have implemented relaxed Maintenance repairs and preventive maintenance schedules resulting in increased inoperable and unreliable vital" machinery....

"Furthermore, the USPS has instructed employees to mix First Class mail with Second Class mail...Why are machines not being repaired properly? Why are classes of mail being mixed? What are the motives? Who is making the decisions and why?"

The Postal Service is not being honest with the community, and this is another reason why the decision to close the westside center is a 'bad business decision.'

What can I do to stop the closing of the Marina P&D Center?

We, as a community, can stop the closure of the Marina Processing and Distribution Center. But it requires each of us to stand up and be counted. The US Postal Service currently expects the consolidation to be completed by July 14, 2005. So write your letter today and mail or fax it to:

William Almaraz FAX 323-586-3702
LA District Manager
United States Postal Service
7001 S. Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90052

Postmaster General John Potter FAX 202-268-5211
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC 20260-0010

John F. Walsh
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC 20260-0010

Legree S. Daniels
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC 20260-0010

John A. Rapp FAX 202-288-5381
Senior Vice President - Government Relations
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC 20260-0010

Ralph J. Moden FAX 202-288-2503
Senior Vice President - Government Relations
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC 20260-0010



The Postal Service is planning to sell over 17 acres of land located directly across from the Playa Vista development for half it's market value. This is an outrage!

See Jan Book's list of development projects on Page 8



Beachhead salutes Judy Baca on International Women's Day

By Suzy Williams,

Judy Baca, founder of SPARC, that wild lavender deco ex-jailhouse on Venice Boulevard, has been painting since she was little.

She was influenced to create by women: her mother and two aunts, but especially her grandmother, an immigrant from Mexico. At the age of six, she and her family moved over the hill to Pacoima in the San Fernando Valley.

Judy keenly felt the loss of her grandmother. She found solace in her art. She was fascinated by the art of the Mexican Socialist Mural Movement, which included the works of David Alfaro Siqueiros, Jose Clemente Orozco, and Diego Rivera.

Her murals are all over Los Angeles, because of The Neighborhood Pride Program under the direction of Mayor Tom Bradley when he was in office.

There are no Judy Baca murals in our fair Venice. We can see her work at SPARC and at La Memoria de Nuestra Tierra at USC. Right now she is doing a commemoration of the great Cesar Chavez in San Jose. She will be touching up her mile-long Great Wall mural, in Tujunga, this July. As a working artist, Judy is hell-bent to make sure the community is involved in each project. She interviews the locals, finds out their talents, hopes and dreams and incorporates this into her giant colorful emotional pieces.

Above: *Triumph of the Hearts* depicts the beginning of any movement of a society towards peace: the individual taking action. Completed in 1989.

On the front page: *The Future of Guadalupe*, 1990, from *The Guadalupe Mural Project*, four panels, each 8 by 7 feet, on the history of Guadalupe, California.

"Torso" Statue in Venice Circle Subject of Hearing, March 17

By Jim Smith

A hearing will be held in downtown Los Angeles, March 17, to determine the fate of a statue, called the Torso, which Councilmember Cindy Miscikowski and some Venetians want to install in the Venice Circle.

The hearing date was announced at a community meeting, Feb. 12, called to consider the future of the Circle, and art in Venice, by the Venice Arts Council, a committee of the GrassRoots Venice Neighborhood Council. A business owner on the Circle, who happened to be at the meeting passed around a notice of the hearing that he had just received.

The reaction of those at the Arts Council meeting to the lack of notice ranged from deja vu to outrage. A plan was adopted by consensus to demand that the hearing be postponed until community input on the statue and the future of the Circle can be obtained. Failing that, the hearing by the city's Public Works Department, should be moved to Venice so that more locals can attend. And failing that, plans are being made for carpools to downtown to attend the hearing.

The Arts Council meeting, which was chaired by Muralist Emily Winters, also discussed ideas for the future use of the Circle. They ranged from building a bridge from the center of Windward at the western edge of the Circle to the center of the Circle; closing the Circle to auto traffic, either permanently or intermittently; bringing water back to the Circle, which was once a lagoon, either as pools or a fountain. Also receiving support was a proposal for a tall vertical structure in the center of the Circle.

The discussion and debate about the Circle is just getting started, unless it is prematurely cut off by the city. One participant at the Arts Council meeting said that Miscikowski wants the statue in place in time for a dedication ceremony around the 4th of July, Venice's legendary birthday. Call GRVNC at 821-6030 or more information.

**A community meeting on the Circle and Public Art in Venice will be held:
Saturday, March 12 - 2-5PM
at Hama Sushi on the Circle**

Venice Ice Storm

By John Davis

Thor, the Norse God of Thunder, has been swinging his hammer on Venice, lately, raining down lightning, sound and ice.

Currently, 2005 stands as the third wettest season recorded in California history and may edge to first with a couple more storms.

On one night, Venetians were treated to booming thunder and flashes of lightening at three in the morning. Streets were turned into rivers and staircases miniature waterfalls.

Then the "shhhhhhhh" sound of hail

replaced the rain. Venice was blanketed in ice.

Knowing nobody would believe Venice really had ice on the ground, I quickly went outside to gather some of the pea-sized hailstones and molded them into two ice snowballs then tossed them into the freezer.

Two days later, Venice was placed under a tornado watch and a water spout, an ocean tornado, was seen in Santa Monica Bay.

So brace for more wet weather this year, it may wake you in the middle of the night. As for the fate of the two ice balls, they have been recycled into Venice Margaritas.



Good Omen at Lincoln Place

The corporation that owns Lincoln Place may be trying to run tenants out, and is even cracking down on bird feeding, but the Palm Trees seem to be saying they like the people they've lived with for the past 50 years.



Photo by Barbara Eisenberg

A fountain in the Circle?

A FOUNTAIN. An enormous fountain, in the tradition of European cities, right in the middle of Windward circle – but with colorful tiles made by all Venetians (like those done beautifully at the Vera Davis Center, for example) – in a very high Attawayesque pillar, water shooting up, and pouring down off of it, in an endless ecstatic, mirroring Venice.

– Suzy Williams



CORRECTION

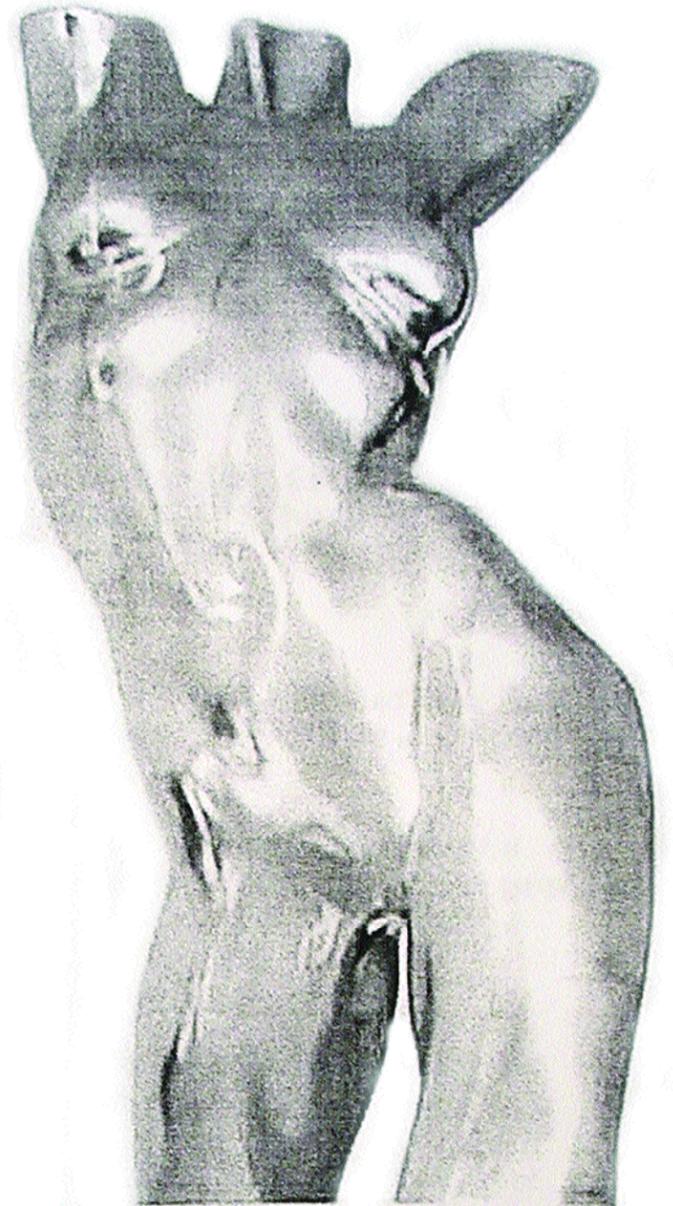
Last month's Beachhead contained a suggestion for putting a surplus Lenin status in the Circle, but omitted the writer's name. It was from Joe Gross.

HEY KIDS!

Now you can have hours of fun dressing Circle Betty!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cut out the Torso, your favorite head and other body parts (ask Mom if you can use a scissors).
2. For a head, you can choose from sunny Cindy (who made this all possible), Mayor Jimmie, or girly-man Arnold. Or you can cut out your favorites from your mom and dad's magazines!
3. Glue the cut-outs on a piece of cardboard. Then cut out the cardboard to match the paper. Be careful!



Actually proposed to be erected in the Venice Circle!



Woman De-Masts Male Sailors

By John Davis,

The Sea and women have long been bonded in superstition and lore. Men have always said, "she can be your best friend or worst mistress." They have been lulled by her gentle swells and tossed asunder by her violent rages.

Men have banned women from ships while secretly wishing they would visit as mermaids.

Figurines of mostly buxom ladies adorned the bows of the greatest sailing ships. What man could not adore such powerful mammary glands cleaving huge ocean waves before their vessels. And their boasts were passionately named after women.

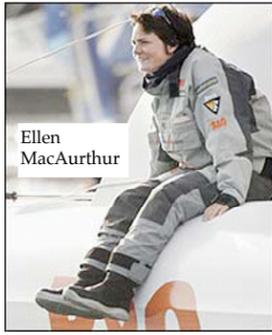
It has been an ocean of men, machismo, gnarled captains and the ugliest of stinking crews.

To prove their mettle men sail in contests awarding themselves with grand loving cup trophies.

But now the holiest of machismo grails has passed to a female.

A British woman of just 28 years, Ellen MacAurthur, has circumnavigated the earth faster than any man before her, and single-handedly. In fact she sailed so fast her record may never be touched. She is the second person to solo around the globe in a multi-hull vessel.

Racing in a three-hulled trimaran she left England and finished the 27,000 mile course in only seventy-one days and less than thirteen hours arriving to congratulations from the Queen of the British Islands. She then was the



given honorary rank of lieutenant commander in the Royal Navy.

"It has been the hardest thing I've ever undertaken. It's pushed me further than I've ever been pushed before. I don't think I will ever be able to communicate how difficult it has been."

Ellen braved storms and grueling conditions as she rounded the southern most leg of the journey around the Cape of Horn of South America, just north of Antarctica.

The toughest times were when she had to climb up the mast, the large vertical pole the sail is attached to.

"You just get beaten up," she said.

"It's so violent up there, you come down black and blue."

But her mettle was strong and she made it.

Perhaps this will start a new trend in sailing.

Soon women may festoon wooden figures of bare-chested men to the bows of their vessels and give them names like Jake or Elvis. And men can keep a candle burning in the window as they wait for the women to return from the Ocean Sea.



LETTER: Is a Moratorium on Development Legal?

Dear Beachhead:

I just read your Beachhead response to my letter printed in the January 2005 edition. There are a number of significant errors in what you wrote and I hope that the Beachhead will correct them.

You wrote that the Supreme Court ruled in *First English Evangelical Lutheran Church v County of Los Angeles* that "moratoria were illegal." This is not the ruling of the *First English* case.

I am enclosing the first six pages of a law review article, "Regulating the Timings of Development: Takings Clause and Substantive Due Process Challenges to Growth Control Regulations."

About the *First English* case, the article states, at page 1207:

"A second major development occurred when the Supreme Court held in *First Evangelical Lutheran Church vs. County of Los Angeles* that (1) money damages were constitutionally compelled in cases brought under the takings clause of the fifth amendment and (2) that local governments could be held liable for "temporary" takings at least where the landowner was deprived of "all use." *First English* effectively overruled state court precedents which had held that invalidation of offending regulations rather than payment of monetary damages was a constitutionally permissible remedy for regulatory takings."

I think you can see from this description from the *First English* case that a temporary moratorium which does not deprive the landowner of "all use" would most likely not fall within the ruling of the *First English* case. But there's more:

None of us who asked Galanter for a temporary moratorium on commercial development while an EIR was done to determine the area's capacity to have more commercial development ever took the position that landowners should be deprived of all use of their land, even temporarily.

Your statement, "Some people seized upon the phrase "commercial development," and expected Councilwoman Galanter to make all commercial developments on the Ocean Front Walk to go away," is also totally untrue. I don't understand why you would say this.

You must know from the petitions which we circulated and the Outlook article I sent to the Beachhead (which I am enclosing for the second time), that we ask only for a temporary moratorium on new commercial development until an environmental impact report – an objective land use study – was prepared to assess how much more commercial development this area could take.

I would like to return to the law review article and the *First English* case.

In the next paragraph of the law review article, the authors ask whether delaying development

through growth control measures can be equated to a "temporary taking" – that is, a deprivation of all use of the land. If it can, public agencies would not be able to implement land use growth control because of the financial liability pursuant to the ruling of the *First English* case:

"The latter holding of *First English* is uniquely important in the context growth control regulations. While growth control regulations, virtually by definition, do not preclude development of land permanently, they often effectively delay potential development for at least some landowners. If such delay can be equated to a temporary taking, public agencies implementing community-wide growth control measures may be exposed to potentially crippling financial liability."

The law review article goes on to respond to this question. At page 1209, the article states:

"Federal courts generally decline to find that temporary local development moratoria or other development interruptions amount to a taking of property, at least where the delay is limited in duration and justified by legitimate planning concerns."

Accordingly, at the time of our petition drive the Chief City Attorney, Kenneth Hahn,

"...told Galanter the City Council could legally pass a moratorium if she could prove that emergency conditions exist that would justify it. Councilman Nate Holden persuaded the City Council to pass a short-term moratorium on demolitions last summer." (The Outlook, March 16, 1990)

The Beachhead had a copy of the Outlook article when I sent in my letter and I am sending the same article to you now, again.

To sum up, Galanter knew that the *First English* case was not a barrier to the temporary moratorium we were asking for. The moratorium petition drive had nothing to do with eliminating all commercial development on Ocean Front Walk. The request we made would not have deprived any landowner of all use of his or her land, even temporarily. For example, undeveloped lots with vending along Ocean Front Walk would have been allowed to continue vending.

Galanter represented developers and she did not want any interference in helping them in the best way she saw fit. Our effort to get an objective assessment of the community's capacity to take more commercial development threatened Galanter and she did everything to avoid it.

Since so much effort was put into helping the community through our petition drive, I hope the Beachhead will allow me to correct the record by printing this letter unedited.

Sincerely, Steve Schlein

9,440 new units in Venice and the Marina

Compiled by Jan Book

Recently completed:

- 96 new apt units in the 5 story Alexan Fontaine on westside of Glencoe between Washington and Maxella
- 225 new condo units in the 18 story Regatta tower off Lincoln Blvd. at Maxella
- 450 new apartment/condo units in the 18 story Water Terrace tower off Lincoln Blvd. at Maxella (Marina Argonaut 1/13/05)
- 508 new apt units in Chateau Marina on Lincoln Blvd. between Mindanao and Fiji Way
- 3,246 residential units in Playa Vista Phase I for a total of 5,846 residential units from both Phase I and Phase II on Jefferson between Centinela and Lincoln Blvd. (L.A. Times 9/23/04)

Currently under construction:

- 99 new apt units in the 6 story Panay Way on Panay Way (Marina Argonaut 5/23/02)
- 102 new apt units in the 5 story Alexan Fontaine on eastside of Glencoe between Washington and Maxella
- 138 new condo units in the 18 story Cove tower at Lincoln Blvd. and Maxella (Marina Argonaut 1/13/05)
- 2,600 new single family homes in Playa Vista Phase II for a total of 5,846 residential units from both Phase I and Phase II on Jefferson between Centinela and Lincoln Blvd. (L.A. Times 9/23/04)
- 175,000 sq feet of new office space in Playa Vista Phase II on Jefferson between Centinela and Lincoln Blvd. (L.A. Times 9/23/04)
- 150,000 sq feet of new retail space in Playa Vista Phase II (L.A. Times 9/23/04)
- 2,300 sq feet of new office space in the 3 story Panay Way on Panay Way (Marina Argonaut 5/23/02)

Currently in-process of approval:

- 310 new apt units in the 5 and 6 story Ocean Walk at Lincoln Blvd. and Maxella (Marina Argonaut 1/27/05)
- 544 new apt units and 1,114 parking spaces in the 5 story Del Rey Shores will replace the two story building with 202 units at Via Marina and Via Dolce (Marina Argonaut 1/27/05)
- 526 new apt units in Legacy Residential Partners will replace the 136 unit Neptune Marina property on Marquesas Way next to Woodfin Suite Hotel below (Marina Argonaut 10/28/04)
- 292 new apt units in the 4 and 8 story Waterfront, formerly Harbor House-Edie's Diner on Admiralty Way and Palawan Way (Marina Argonaut 8/26/04)
- 125 new apt units in the 4 story Waterfront, formerly county parking lot on Palawan Way and next door to the Harbor House (Marina Argonaut 8/26/04)
- 179 new apt units in the 5 and 6 story Admiralty Apartments would replace the current 64 units on Admiralty Way and Palawan Way (Marina Argonaut 7/26/01)
- 178 new hotel rooms in the 20 story Woodfin Suite Hotel at Via Marina and Tahiti Way (Marina Argonaut 10/28/04)
- 108 new time-share units in the 20 story Woodfin Suite Hotel (Marina Argonaut 10/28/04)
- 147 new hotel rooms in the Residence Inn, formerly county parking lot on Admiralty Way and Via Marina (Marina Argonaut 10/16/03)
- 50 new hotel rooms to replace the Foghorn Inn on Via Marina (Marina Argonaut 10/16/03)
- 9,000 sq feet of new retail space in Ocean Walk at Lincoln Blvd. and Maxella (Marina Argonaut 1/27/05)
- 36,000 sq feet of new retail and 3 restaurants in Waterfront, formerly Harbor House - Edie's Diner (Marina Argonaut 10/16/03)
- Unknown sq. feet of new retail space and two restaurants to replace the Cheesecake Factory and the adjacent county parking lot on Via Marina (Marina Argonaut 10/16/03)

NOTE:

The above does not include the redevelopment planned for Fisherman's Village, the large hotel planned for Pier 44, the Deauville Marina and Bar Harbor Marina project, the increase in hotels planned by the L.A. County around Mother's Beach, the Senior Center proposed on the county parking lot across from the International Hotel, or the condo and apartment complex planned on the Bureau of Street Maintenance station located on Thatcher Ave.

My Little Old Lady

by Jessica Aden

Every morning as I drive down Lincoln Blvd;
 There she is
 Sitting at the bus bench

Looking stylish as ever
 Ragged fur coat, bottle bleached hair, and her only possession
 Revlon red lipstick
 She had ventured to California years ago, Venice to be exact
 to become a famous starlet

Then something happened... something just went wrong...
 Her jaded expression and squeaky little voice always brightened
 up any day, as I sit through neverending Monday morning traffic

Never moving an inch from that bus bench at lincoln and California
 in the last two years,
 One day she gone...

Every night as I go to bed, I wonder where my little old lady ventured off
 too
 I wonder if she finally became the star she always wanted to be...

I know one thing for sure,
 Wherever she is, she's sitting in the bright sunlight, wearing her ragged
 old coat and her Revlon Red lipstick in hand,
 Ready to apply at any given time.

Hunter S. Thompson...RIP

We have become a Nazi monster in the eyes of the whole world--a nation of bullies and bastards who would rather kill than live peacefully. We are not just Whores for power and oil, but killer whores with hate and fear in our hearts. We are human scum, and that is how history will judge us...No redeeming social value. Just whores. Get out of our way, or we'll kill you.

Who does vote for these dishonest shitheads? Who among us can be happy and proud of having this innocent blood on our hands? Who are these swine? These flag-sucking half-wits who get fleeced and fooled by stupid rich kids like George Bush?

They are the same ones who wanted to have Muhammad Ali

locked up for refusing to kill gooks. They speak for all that is cruel and stupid and vicious in the American character. They are the racists and hate mongers among us--they are the Ku Klux Klan. I piss down the throats of these Nazis.

And I am too old to worry about whether they like it or not. Fuck them.

—from *Kingdom of Fear: Loathsome Secrets of a Star-Crossed Child in the Final Days of the American Century*, London: The Penguin Press, 2003

Another Venice Landmark Goes Up In Flames

By Paul Tanck

On the night of Tuesday, January 11, Venice lost another famous landmark. Firehouse 63 of the Los Angeles Fire Department responded to a fire at 1101 Ocean Front Walk and Wavecrest Avenue at 10:30 p.m. The tall, vertical sign of the Beach Market was on fire.

It took the fire company approximately 20 minutes to put out the flames on the blazing sign, caused by a faulty electrical connection. The rapidly melting plastic sign had become engulfed, sending smoke upwards to the third floor of the accompanying apartment building which houses the Beach Market on the ground floor along the board walk, and an offshoot crystal shop and piercing studio.

Luckily, by the next morning, all that was left was a blob of molten plastic underneath the dissolved sign, and the bare fragments of what once was a long-lost signature of the Venice boardwalk of lore.

Fire officials at the time shut off power to the sign, then contacted the owner of the building, informing him that he should contact an electrician to alleviate any further problems. Employees of the market, which was closed at the time, arrived the next morning to a state of shock and resignation. Their beloved sign was no longer there.

We'll all just have to wait to see if the neo-San Francisco typefaced sign will be rejuvenated and replaced. If not, we can happily reminisce on the lost signage with R. Cronk's mural on the south side of the building. And the rapidly fading sign above the doorway.

Ah, Venice. It seems like you'll be forever burnt down into our memories.



The Beachhouse sign lives on in the mural, to the right of the real thing. —photo by Paul Tanck

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PROTEST!

**U.S. Troops Out of Iraq!
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NOON Saturday, March 19

Up Yours, Bush!
I'm Keeping My Right To Choose!



**Venice Says...
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End the War Against Iraq**

paid advertisement

**Carpools
from Venice
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**Support your local
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**Defeat the
right-wing agenda!**

399-2215

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\$25.**

**MORE INFO CALL 396-0811
VENICE • BEACHHEAD**

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*** BICYCLE THIEF ***

To whomever has stolen my worthless, ragged, rusty, old black bike, unless it is returned, you shall suffer, with a monkey on your back, a punishing retaliatorial accident prone existence due to it's loss. Beware culprit, *Trucha*.

Old Law: "**Steal not**", especially from the poor.

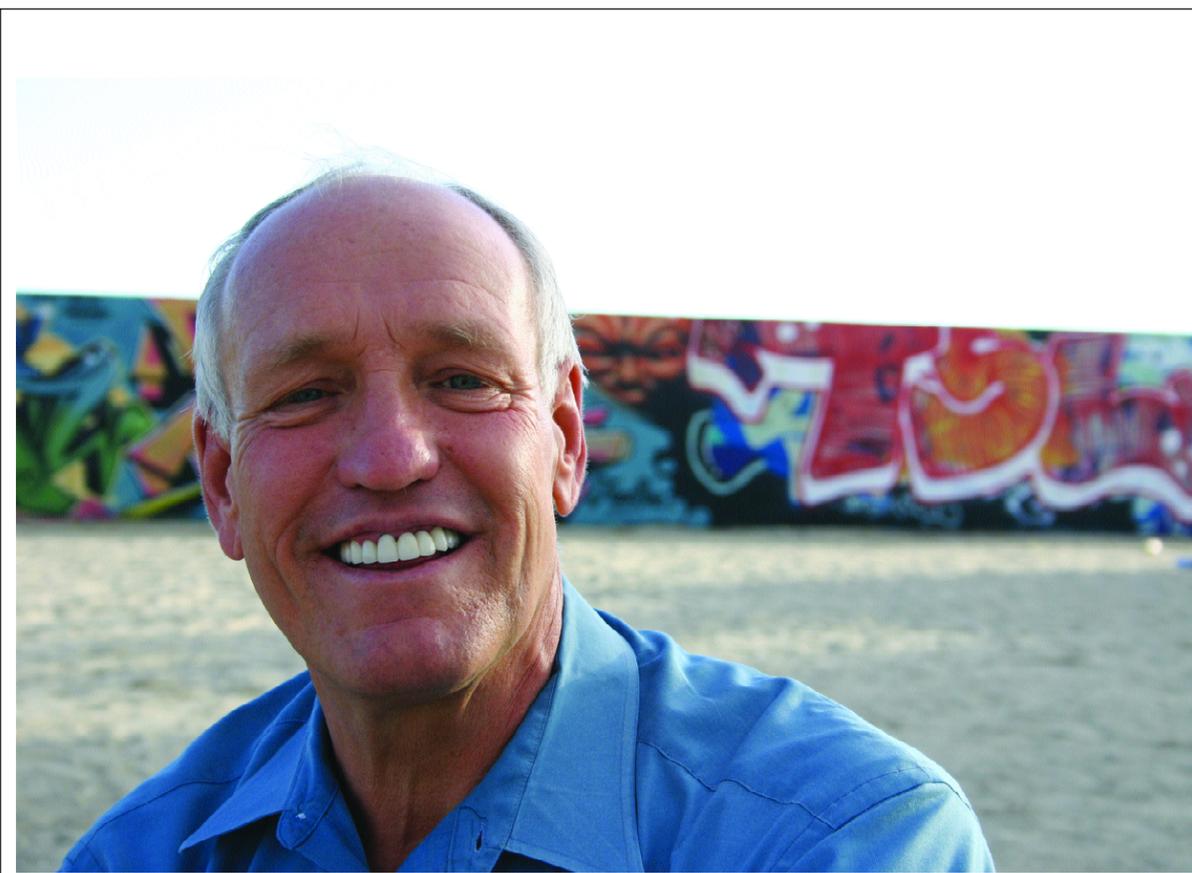


That crude form of transportation, as humble as it is, carries with it (like a: De Sica or surreal Serling movie) a major **revengeful, mother of all Karmic curses** and echoes a threat to the performer of this evil!
We'll be watching you....guaranteed!



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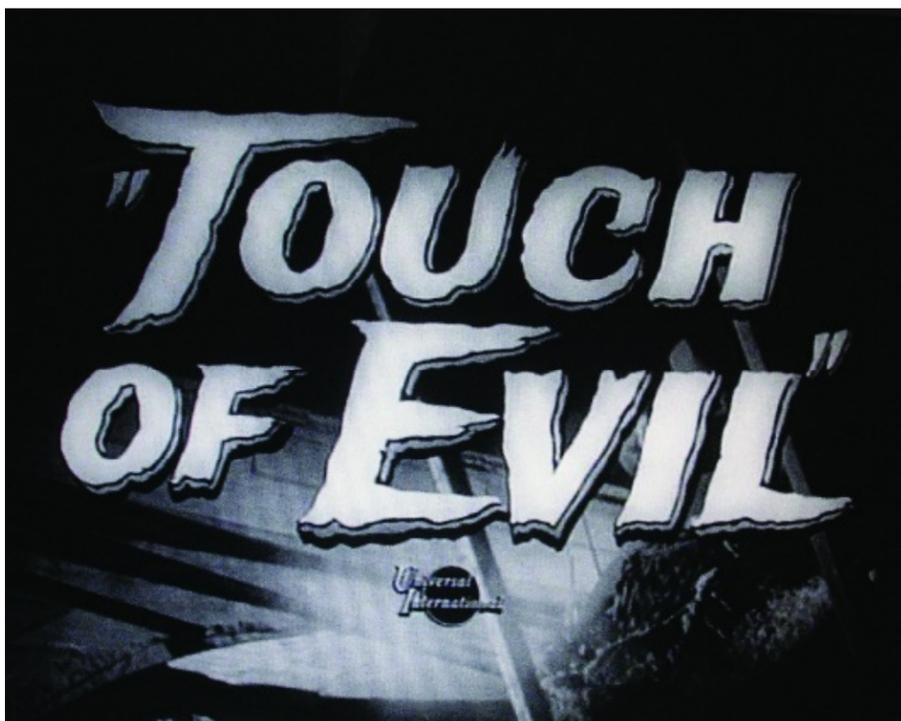
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**In the
days when
Venice
passed for
Tijuana:**



Director's Cut

112 minutes

Starring:

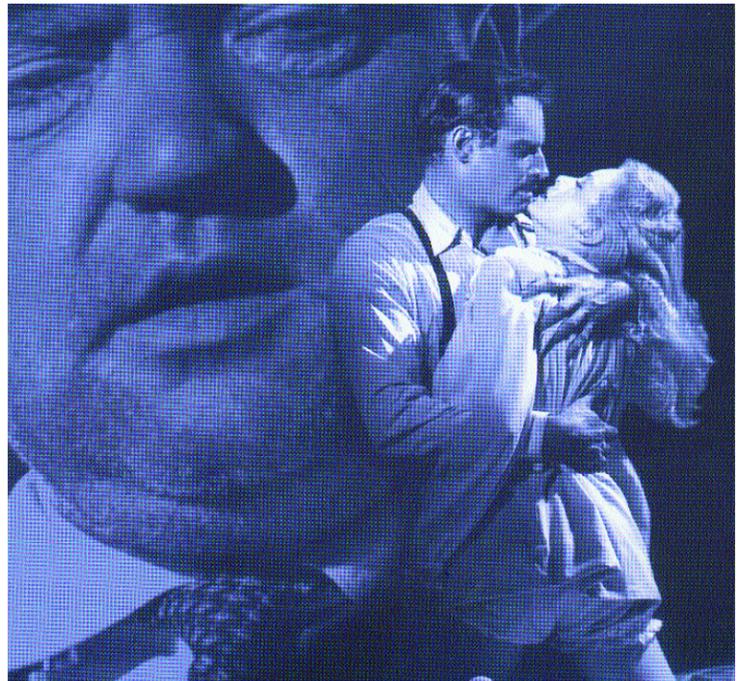
Orson Wells

Janet Leigh

Charlton Heston

plus Marlena Dietrich & Zsa Zsa Gabor

and scenes of Venice in the 1950s



**Saturday, March 26 -
the fun begins at
6:30PM
at SPARC, 685 Venice
Blvd.**

Wait, there's more:

- **Short films of Venice**
- **Snacks, drinks, popcorn**
- **It's all for a good cause - the Beachhead** (a small donation will be requested, but no one will be turned away).

Info: 399-2215



Border crossing on the Boardwalk