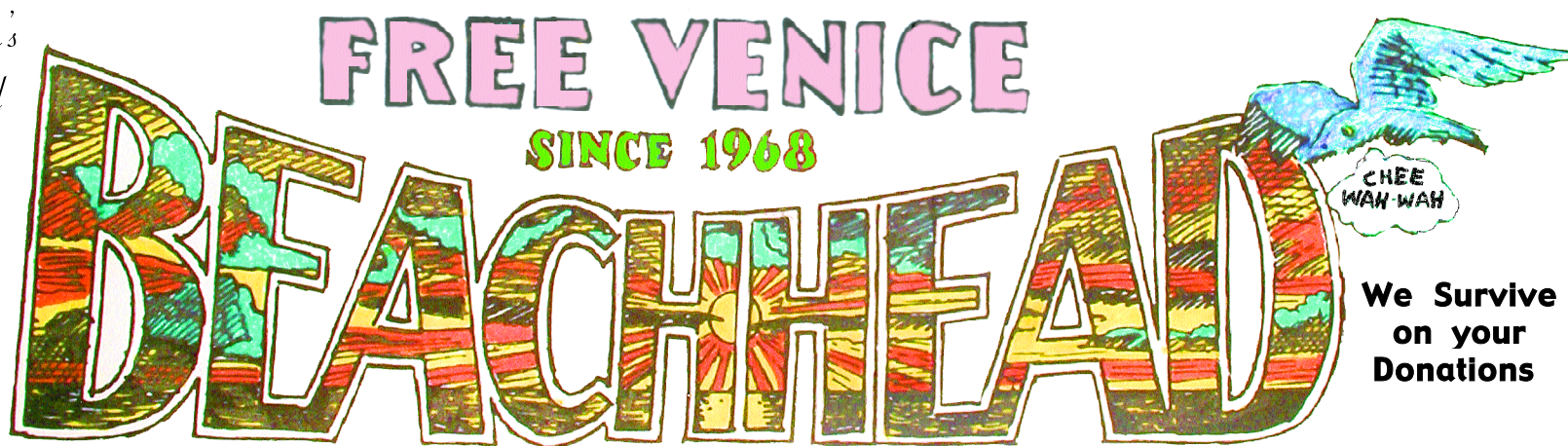


Happy Int'l Women's
Day, March 8, and
Women's History
Month!

March
2006



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Tiny Dancer, RIP

—see page 5

Art by Erica Snowlake

Developer Busted

By John Davis

The Beachhead has learned that one of the largest developments in Venice, at 602-670 Main Street, is proceeding without a required Coastal Development Permit (CDP). The developer is Robert D'Elia, doing business as Dogtown LLC. D'Elia is also attempting to develop the MTA lot across the street (see pages 1 and 4).

It is the City's responsibility to ensure that developers obtain these permits before development begins so the potential impacts such as traffic, parking, and other effects on the environment can be addressed at a public meeting.

Not only does a CDP consider California Coastal Act issues, it must also demonstrate that a development is compliant with the California Environmental Quality Act.

It is quite clear the City was aware no CDP

existed when it issued the other permits necessary to begin construction.

This development is not just a minor development such as an extra room or garage being built on a small home, it is already three stories underground and nobody knows how high it will be.

When the City does issue a CDP it can be appealed to the State Coastal Commission to ensure the conditions are valid.

In this case no public hearings for a CDP were held and no appeal period was begun according to Chuck Posner, the Coastal Commission Planner for Venice. This means the development is illegal.

Stephanie Zarro of Councilman Rosendahl's office was very helpful in searching for a CDP that did not exist. Now, Mark Grant, Venice Deputy to Rosendahl has asked Planning Deputy Greig Asher to see what can be done.

The bigger issue is how did this happen? What entity at the City is responsible? How many other illegal developments has the City approved? Will the City Attorney act to uphold the law? Public participation in the Coastal Development Process ensures that excessive traffic and pollution do not ruin fragile resources in Venice. ★

The Stealth Holiday — Celebrating Women

By Yolanda Miranda

In 1977, The United Nations proclaimed March 8 as International Woman's Day (IWD), honoring the struggles and contributions women have made that empower us as equal members of society.

Contributions to society by women have been made through history and continue to this day. A woman's right to vote was fought for by women throughout the 19th century and was won in this country only in 1920.

Women were involved in winning the eight-hour work day, including not having to bring work home from sewing factories and making their children work for the owners.

Women fought for child labor laws to stop children from being forced to work in factories and fields.

I know about this because I come from a migrant farmworker family and along with other children had to work in the fields beginning at five years of age. Our formal education was between the harvest seasons and took place in many different schools since we followed the crops.

—continued on page 10

Venice Council Votes to Oppose MTA/RAD Project

The controversial project at Main St. and Sunset Avenue that would convert a public bus yard into private condominiums received another setback, Feb. 21, when the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC) voted 11-4 to oppose the development.

The previous week, the GRVNC's Land Use and Planning Committee had voted narrowly, 4-3, to oppose the project. Councilmember Bill Rosendahl has also stated his opposition. Last month, the Free Venice Beachhead ran a front page editorial condemning the virtual give away of public land to a private developer.

Neighbors of the project in the North Beach area of Venice have been vocal in their opposition to the project.

The project is being opposed for a variety of reasons including that it is too dense, too high, too ugly, will cause more traffic, doesn't include enough affordable housing and is not the best use of the land.

GRVNC Board members voting to oppose the project were: Mindy Taylor-Ross, Susan Papadakis, Richard Myers, Naomi Nightingale, Phil Raider, L.J. Carusone, Linda Lucks, Rebecca Tafoya, Peter Force, Colette Bailey and Kelly Willis. Supporting it were: Brett Miller, Challis Macpherson, C.J. Cole, and Dianna Pollard.

Absent were Sylviane Dungan, Michael King, Yolanda Gonzalez, Ingrid Mueller and Stan Muhammad. As Chair, DeDe Audet did not vote.★

CASUALTIES IN IRAQ

U.S. 2,269 Dead – 28 this month
U.S. Wounded 16,742 – 193 this month

Iraqi Dead: 28,5091 – 32,225
This month: 304 – 334
(some sources say 100,000+ Iraqi dead)

Source: antiwar.com

Important Hearing on the MTA/RAD Project (at Main & Sunset)

**City Planning Commission
at L.A. City Hall
10AM, Thursday, March 9
for a ride, call 310-737-1116**



BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:
Karl Abrams, John Davis, C.V. Beck, Carol Fondiller, Don Geagan, Erin Grayson, Yolanda Miranda, Jim Smith, Alice Stek, Suzanne Thompson

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

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

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

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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Construction on Every Block

Dear Beachhead,
It’s been more than a year now I’ve been dealing with ongoing construction of two- that’s right two 35 foot concrete boxes built up to the property line next to where I live. The impact of the conditions including: the complete loss of use of my private yard, being woken up before legal construction hours are in effect, woken up early almost EVERY Saturday for the past year to name a few has degraded the quality of my personal and professional life (I work at home).

This has affected my immediate neighbors as well and similar stories are heard all over Venice as a result of CONSTRUCTION ON EVERY BLOCK in Venice.

I’ve started a blog to recount my efforts and the results- and yes there are some positive ones that have happened after action taken on my part, however, I’m one person and we need to take action and remain vigilant. This is a place where you are encouraged to post what your situation is with ongoing construction and advice on how to help people. I have posted resources as well to help you too. To post on the blog, click the pencil icon at the bottom of any post and type away! Please forward the link to others in the community: <www.jagmedia.net/venice>.

Janet A. Gervers



Corruption in City Hall

Dear Beachhead,
There is a growing problem not just with affordable housing in L.A. but with corrupted City Hall and City officials who get their perks, campaign money and travels from rich property owners and developers....!

We must create a Grass Roots organization to fight these City criminals, these abuses and illegal evictions.

I sent a letter to Inspector general because I believe State Attorney and the Governor must get involved.

The problem is that we do NOT have people in City Hall who work for us,,,they just pretend they will to get reELECTED.

These lies and fraud must be exposed stronger.

L.A. Times and other Media must be helpful otherwise there will be still 70,000 people evicted illegally from their homes every year like Lincoln Place. And like myself, a disabled woman who is simply trying to live without roaches, leaking roof or with working toilet in Los Angeles, California in 2006.....!!!!!!

Hey what about and a serious demonstration with other low income people, Save Section 8 and others??

Eva Pardo

Defends Bernard Ave. Project

Dear Beachhead,
I was wondering if you can please put me in touch with the reporter who wrote this article. I am a homeowner and I attended the LUPC meeting. 90% of the people who attended in support of James Shaw’s project own homes and live on Bernard, Rennie and Ruth. This should have been accurately reported. We are people with families who actually own homes in the area - unlike Inge Muller’s roster of renters.

If you’re going to report something - make it accurate. It’s this kind of fabricated bluster that is doing more to hurt the secretive, stealth organization that these NORO renters are perpetuating. NORO stands at meetings and claims to speak on behalf of the neighborhood. I personally have e-mailed Inge Muller and asked to be included in the e-mails and neighborhood “actions” - of course, Inge continues to ignore my requests (even though she says she represents the hood... hmm...). The NORO renters do not represent anyone who actually has a stake in the neighborhood. Renters who live in NORO now could move on in a year. Renters should not be making decisions for people who actually own property north of Rose.

These facts would have been apparent to anyone who actually attended the meeting and this should have been accurately reported.

Celeste Chada

Opposes Bernard Ave. Project

Dear Beachhead,
I am writing in opposition to the Shaw project proposed for the 201 Bernard Avenue, Venice property.

It is indeed a shame to see that the elected body closest to where we live, The Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council, is set to go against the expressed desires of 200+ neighbors within a defined neighborhood, and recommend allowing a small group of property development interests to build over-sized homes. I ask you, what could be more grass-roots than hundreds of people, a clear majority, within a few blocks, signing a petition to oppose this project? Have you forgotten where you are, and who your constituency is?

Further, I am baffled as to why the GRVNC feels that they are better informed and wiser on local building issues that the real decision-makers with the authority at the California Coastal Commission and the West Los Angeles Planning Commission, who have already decided cases of precedent in this exact neighborhood. Both of these organizations did so after staff came to the neighborhood, conducted extensive research, and wrote very studious reports. There is no evidence that LUPC did any such research prior to the meeting on February 1, when they approved a motion supporting this over-sized residence.

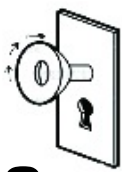
Fortunately, GRVNC has no final decision-making authority, and therefore, no standing in this matter.

I would ask the Board to consider their reputation going forward as a credible advisory body representing Venice. Again, this case has already been considered and rejected by the Coastal Commission, who is the issuer of the final permits needed to build in this protected coastal zone. They clearly did not send this issue back to GRVNC for consideration. They intended it to go through the public process of Los Angeles City Planning. For you to willfully pass a motion opposing the Coastal Commission view, in the interim, could ultimately be damaging to your credibility with these city/state decision-making authorities. This could possibly hinder GRVNC efforts in much larger and more important future building projects and issues in ways which you have not yet considered.

For these reasons, I am proposing that the GRVNC decide not to take any position at the present time on this over-heated project, but instead, recommend that the parties directly involved get together with our City Council office staff, perhaps after having the advantage of the Land Use and Planning Forum at the Town Hall Meeting this next weekend, and see if we can come to some reasonable conclusion in this matter.

Doug Morris

Lincoln Place Seniors and Disabled Get Two-Month Stay on Evictions



*Price of living get so high
the rich and poor they starta' cry*
—Bob Marley

By Douglas Eisenstark

It's been 2 months now since I was evicted and the last two months have been totally not fun. I've put everything in storage, found another place in Culver City, had my car and computer stolen and last week had to move my office because of a rent hike. I'm now driving 3 times as much (that's me on Lincoln clogging the street) because I've lost my connection to the geography I made for myself over the last 15 years in Venice. I pictured myself as someday one of those old people in Lincoln Place, tottering to Ralphs, pushing the grocery cart back to my apartment. With Lincoln Place there were no fantasies of "escaping LA" to Portland, Austin, Santa Fe or back to Kansas. Those thoughts are back.

My friend Jay talks about how in Latin America dictators will go after the middle class first by attacking their economics. With no middle class dissent (other things to worry about) the dictatorship can proceed on unimpeded. I can't speak for all my fellow Lincoln Place residents but I was/am a liberal/radical type and spent a fair amount of time and energy working on behalf of others. Angry, but at what was happening in the world to other people. The injustice to them made me feel that much more lucky. Lincoln Place is perhaps the first thing that has happened to Me and even with my relatively comfortable resources, if this eviction is some sort of oppression then it is a drag.

Last year I was studying in Beijing for a few weeks and the talk was on how to preserve the "hutongs" or old neighborhoods from development. In the basement of a huge shopping mall near my hotel and the center of town is a reconstruction of the hutong complete with many of the vendors and food sellers that had been displaced by the shopping center above it. Similarly, last year, I listened to a Santa Monica City Council meeting discussing how to create an "international food court" on the 3rd St. Promenade. Of course, there was an international food court there before the Promenade raised the rents on all of the small shops there.

Even in China there is a lot of romanticization about the hutongs. They are dirty, lacking 20th Century running water and toilets in many cases and, of course, as they become scarce they are being bought up by speculators and rehabilitated into costly low rise lofts (don't get me started on Lofts!). Lincoln Place is/was our hutong, our neighborhood and someday, perhaps soon in their preserved state, they will be quite valuable. Hopefully, me and all my fellow evictees will be tottering around there with our antique Save Lincoln Place/Let's Own IT! buttons while planning the next annual Tent City cook-out.

It's been educational, some good things have happened, making friends with Laura, Paul, Sara and talking around Tent City fires with David, Carol and others. People have been very kind, my brother and sister in law, Lesley, Doris, Jay and others offering their houses, storing my paintings and plants, moving things, condolences. In the last two months, I'm afraid I haven't been much help to my patients, family, students or friends. On the scale of things, the evictions aren't the end of the world. I think the worst thing is to realize how hard it is to be kind and compassionate to others while something like this is happening to you. ★

week, I am reminded how frequently the unlawful gas-powered leaf blowers are used throughout the City of Los Angeles; and how many blue fumes and stink clouds are being generated by the equipment, mowers, blowers, edgers, all gas-powered and in addition to the almost bumper-to-bumper traffic of cars passing by...and, as I sit, tanning, I can't help but wonder how many of the gardening and lawn care maintenance crews will be coming down with cancer and lung diseases in a few more years...I am convinced that a lot of diseases are being generated by the gas being used and abused all around us...with untuned equipment, frequently patched together with duck tape.

What's that, you say? Aren't we worried about March 21st? Of course we are! Aren't we sweating it? Of course we are...but because we don't have a crystal ball...Oh, wait a minute, I do have one...what does it say? On one side, it says, "Do not pass go"...and on the other, it says..."AIMCO go to jail"...Well, I guess we'll just have to wait and see and hope and yes, pray and meditate on it and maybe, we'll be lucky, maybe our pluck will lead to luck and a healthy change in the politics of greed in Venice. I'd say, it's long overdue! ★

Lincoln Place's corporate owner, AIMCO (Apartment Investment and Management Corporation) has granted a two-month reprieve to 83 households that were slated to receive eviction notices on March 21.

The extension came in response to a request from City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl that the owner of the property show good faith to the tenants by halting all eviction proceedings until the end of May.

Rosendahl also announced that AIMCO and tenants will return to the negotiating table to try to find a resolution to the crisis there.

Rosendahl said, "I am pleased that both sides have agreed to try to find a way to end this intolerable situation."

"My hope is that they can reach a deal that will allow all the current tenants to stay there for life under rent control, and that former tenants will be invited back with the same protections," he continued.

Rosendahl is continuing to pursue a motion he submitted last month to the City Council directing the Planning Department to unilaterally record restrictive development conditions on the Lincoln Place property. The motion is backed by the Lincoln Place Tenants Association and Venice residents. AIMCO is opposing the proposal. The motion has been referred to the Council's Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) committee.

The Westside councilman, who has been battling to protect the tenants since before taking office last year, said he hoped both sides would choose a mediator for the negotiations by March 10, and that the talks could be wrapped up by April 15.

This will be the second round of negotiations between AIMCO, tenants, and preservationists. Last fall, Rosendahl and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa brokered a series of talks that fell apart just short of a resolution. At issue in that round of negotiations, and in the talks to come, were the fate of current and former tenants of Lincoln Place; historical and cultural designation or protection for the property; the scope and pace of the process to consider AIMCO's future redevelopment plans.

Even if the talks are successful, the agreement may face opposition from the community where concern has been expressed over size of any redevelopment and the destruction of affordable housing units. ★



Disabled tenants Sharon and Chuck Snow live in one of 83 households of seniors and disabled residents of Lincoln Place who face an unknown future because their landlord has plans to evict them and build condominiums.

Photo by Margaret Molloy

Tent City Report

By C.V. Beck

Tent City continues on, somewhat reduced in size but not in spirit. We, the residents of Lincoln Place maintain...with a schedule roughly from 10 am to 5:30 pm, 7 days...unless it's going to rain we are assisted on Thursdays and at the Vigil, 1:30-2:30pm on Sundays by David Busch, homeless advocate and Tent City coordinator, who, when he decided he could no longer be on the corner of Frederick and California 24/7, very carefully and thoughtfully set us "Seniors and Disabled People of Lincoln Place" up with 3 carts of supplies, equipment and signs and banners and rehearsed us for several days before letting us "fly" on our own.

Our group continues to be lucky with the weather, which, although very cold and windy much of the time, still has enough sunshine and blue skies to make it very pleasant, if not extraordinarily so. We have had a little rain and are taking rainchecks and a day off when this happens (hope no one minds). People come by steadily, signing the petition to support Lincoln Place and for the Venice Moratorium, bringing us food, magazines, papers and words of encouragement and taking away flyers, press releases and updates on our almost 20-year struggle for justice under the law in the City of Los Angeles, community of Venice.

We seniors/disabled are rediscovering how very pleasant it is to just sit and "smell the roses," to just "be" a part of the community of Venice, east of Lincoln Blvd., Lincoln Place neighborhood; and observing the life of the community around us, making new friends and acquaintances on the corner. We look at the clouds and blue skies, saying over and over, "What a beautiful day!" and enjoy nature all around us, the trees, grass, flowers and passing the time in "Squirrel Studies 101, feeding peanuts to "our" squirrels, Alvin, Alvina and Alvin, Jr. We also are doing Basic Birdwatching, trying to figure out what those large black birds are (Ravens?) and what the smaller ones are (crows or? Feel free to fill us in, if you know).

When the gardeners from Ross and Ralphs are around, several times a



Marina Madhouse

By John Davis
As a result of a lawsuit the California Coastal Commission is reviewing the Local Coastal Plan for Marina del Rey. This plan, the (LCP) is adopted by local governments like the County of Los Angeles to issue local Coastal Development Permits. The LCP, by law, must be reviewed every 5 years by the Coastal Commission to ensure the local entity is complying with the stringent protections of the Coastal Act.

The Director of the California Coastal Commission, Peter Douglas once sent me an email stating that the Commission would not review the MDR LCP. The Coastal Commissions outright refusal led to a lawsuit. Now the review is winding up and public comments are still being taken by the Coastal Commission. It is important that the City of Los Angeles submits meaningful comments since what the County has proposed for MDR will be the ruin of Venice.

Primarily the County sees the public small craft harbor as a way to generated revenue for the County. But both the federal and state approvals required the harbor only generate enough revenues to support the harbor, not the entire mismanaged County budget.

So the County leased the public land to private developers with names like Doug Ring and Cindy Miskowski. Housing now exists in areas that were supposed to contain small cabanas that would be used by various families on a rotational basis to provide for active public participation.

Now the County is going hog-wild, leasing the parking lots out, approving more residence hotels and long-term condo leases in huge mega-structures. The County is currently proposing to build even more residential development at Mothers Beach, proposes to turn Admiralty into a series of shopping malls and movie theaters, and to completely tear down Fishermen’s Village and drop big boxes there, adjacent to the Ballona Wetlands. Recently citizens fought off a proposal to build a mall over the launch ramp parking lot, which would have forced boaters to use an underground parking structure to launch. County Officials have said the public park needs to compete with Playa Vista.

The County proposes to run the 90 freeway right into the marina and reconfigure Admiralty and Via Marina into high capacity highways to accommodate the fiscal wishes of private developers in Marina del Rey.

So how would this affect traffic on Lincoln, Washington, Pacific, Main, Ocean and other Venice Streets? Think about all of the other major developments taking place in that area on Maxella and the huge ugly green condo towers at the South end of Venice.

Put it together and a reasonable person can foresee gridlock and increased air and water pollution. The only way the County can pull this off is if nobody notices and the City keeps quiet.

So now is the time to object to the County nightmare scenario, write to the California Coastal Commission, SOON, and tell them the marina is a public small craft harbor and that should be used only for recreation and not for residential development that will negatively affect surrounding communities like Venice.

Encourage your local City Councilman, Bill Rosendahl, to comment for Venice and other surrounding communities. Encourage the Venice Neighborhood Council to do something about protecting Venice instead of twiddling their thumbs over lesser matters.

But most importantly write to the Coastal Commission, get involved and attend the upcoming hearings. ★

Dean Hillel Weiss, M.D.

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MTA/RAD Deal: More Traffic, Less Parking and Parks

By Lori LeBoy
In 1958, when the Municipal Transit Authority acquired the land at 100 Sunset for its bus terminal, the planning Department approved a usage that would benefit the community as a whole. Public transportation was intended to serve all citizens by not only providing transportation but by limiting the need for individually owned motor vehicles thereby lessening congestion. It seems ironic that RAD Jefferson’s proposed development would conservatively add over 1000 car trips daily to the already bottle necked traffic in the Venice corridor. It is my contention that if the MTA intends to relocate, this parcel should continue to serve the community as a whole as per the Planning Department’s original intent.

There are two applications for this treasured and rare piece of public land that could be instituted concurrently. Both better serve the community in terms of highest and best use than RAD’s proposal, which would serve only a small percentage of the community and cause hardship to the majority.

There is a gross shortage of parking and parks in Venice. Venice is unique in its coastal location and diverse population. The people who reside here are desperately in need of a park. We need a place for outdoor concerts, art exhibitions and just somewhere to sit peacefully and get to know our neighbors. Additionally, many residences do not provide parking for their occupants let alone the people who come to visit.

Were the Planning Department to allocate this land as a public park with underground parking, it would serve the community as no commercial development ever could.

The growth and well being of any city depends on many things besides increased property tax revenues. We need to develop quality of life, not just buildings. There is almost no open land left in Venice that has not been targeted for structural development.

In my extensive travels throughout the world I have never been recommended a particular place based on its proliferation of condominiums. I have, however, been advised not to miss several cities because of the abundance of parks.

In any respectable General Plan, a percentage of parks and parking are almost certainly included. Why not continue to consider these aspects of a well rounded, well conceived plan in a city’s ongoing growth.

As far as MTA’s need for a new location, revenue should be generated through a bond initiative if the city is unable to provide the necessary dollars through taxes that citizens have already paid. It is unfair and inappropriate to ask tax-paying citizens to pay additionally by sacrificing their quality of life so that the MTA can have a new terminal, virtually free of charge.

Regarding the few low income units that RAD offers as a trade off for allowing numerous exceptions to the Venice Specific Plan, how can the City look their constituents in the eye and say, with a straight face and a clear conscience, that the need for low income housing justifies these variances when on Dec 6, they stood by and allowed 52 families to be evicted from Lincoln Place, a bastion of low income housing? 80 more families face the same fate. Why? To make way for luxury condominiums. ★



North Beach residents Eric Mankin and his sons Nicholas (with skateboard) and Jacob speak in opposition to the MTA bus lot project at the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council meeting, Feb. 21. The GRVNC voted to oppose the project.

RAD doesn’t necessarily mean excellent

Excellent may be the dictionary definition of RAD but in this case, all bets are off.

A below-the-radar exclusive deal between the Metropolitan Transit Authority and Robert D’Elia who controls a series of interlinked development companies with names like RAD/Jefferson, RAD/Venice and RAD/Sunset is proceeding in spite of near unanimous opposition in Venice.

D’Elia is proposing an oversized, semi-gated, high-end condominium project at the

site with only a small number of limited-term low-income units. The deal has triggered at least two investigations of then-MTA Board member Martin Ludlow and others. One investigation was internal to the MTA and the other was by the FBI. The FBI investigation reportedly is ongoing and a Grand Jury has been convened. D’Elia, himself, is a former Wall Street broker pleaded guilty to an insider trading charge in 1984. ★

–Jim Smith

50 Years Ago in Venice

March 13, 1956 (Santa Monica Evening Outlook) – Mud and salt water was still shooting skyward from an old salt water well which turned into a gusher yesterday when workmen set off an explosive charge 886 feet below ground level to seal the well preparatory to its abandonment.

Officials of the Dow Chemical Company, on whose property the freak gusher occurred, explained that the well had been used to draw up salt water from which iodine was extracted.

They said a contractor had been ordered to seal off the 3300-foot-deep well, located near 43rd Avenue and Dell Street.

The explosive charge apparently released a pocket of gas resulting in a 500 ft. high gusher. Silt covered a two-block radius. ★

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DEATH IN VENICE

SANTA MONICA POLICE SHOOT OAKWOOD YOUTH

Statement by the Police:

On February 9th, 2006 at 4:39am, Santa Monica Police Department responded to 10th and Michigan regarding an armed robbery and car-jacking that had just occurred. The vehicle taken was a Black/Red Dodge Shadow.

At 4:55am, officers from the Santa Monica Police Department located the suspect vehicle in Venice. The suspect stopped the vehicle and exited armed with a shotgun. Shots were fired at the officers, the suspect then entered the vehicle and a pursuit ensued which terminated in the 400 block of Santa Clara Avenue in Venice. At the termination of the pursuit, the suspect exited the vehicle and pointed a shotgun towards officers, who fired upon him. Officers gave verbal commands encouraging the suspect to surrender. The suspect refused to comply and again pointed the shot gun at officers, who fired upon him. The suspect was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics.

No officers were injured and the victim from the car jacking was not injured.

This is preliminary information and the investigation is ongoing. Additional information will be made available.

(Lieutenant Frank Fabrega was unable to supply any more information to the Beachhead three weeks after the event.) ★

A Community View:

By Lydia Ponce

Everybody within a mile radius awoke minutes before 5 AM to the sound of rapid gunfire... two rounds within minutes of each other.

T.V. news reported, "It was a young white male..." All day long, it was a 'white young male'.

Whose family did this young white male belong to? Everyone's thoughts and prayers went out to this person's family and friends left behind to grieve.

Late that afternoon, it was confirmed the young man was Black. Jeffrey L. Smith, a resident of Venice. A young Black man who had strong family, friends and community ties.

Here are a few unanswered questions and we will not stop asking-

1. Why was the young man's body left in the car in the heat of the sun all day long? The kids in our neighborhood were overexposed to the graphic video showing his leg outside the car, what purpose did that serve?

2. Why wasn't the family notified sooner, instead of at the end of the day?

3. There are reports of a second car, a SUV, being chased by a police car down Rivera right after the second round of gunfire. The SUV turned right at Windward and headed toward the beach.

4. Others reported that at Santa Clara Ave., the SMPD shot first then ordered the young man to 'step out of the car with his hands up.'

The Venice community will never know the answers to these and many more questions. We all failed this young man.

The Beachhead offers those family members and friends condolences and offer an opportunity for closure.

Clearly the writing is NOT on the wall...

R.I.P. Jeffrey, Venice will miss you. ★

From Jeffrey Smith's Mother:

Our children are truly a gift from God - Jeffrey was my first gift and what a blessing and wonderful addition he was to my life!

He adored his Granny, Queenie and he loved his family very much.

My son was special and unique in his own way. For a young man, he was very loving, kind, caring, and respectful, especially to his elders.

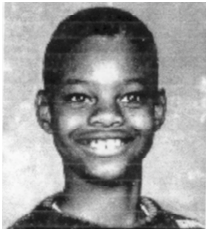
Jeff was always willing and available to give a helping hand to family or friends if needed. (If I can help somebody as I pass along the way then my living will not be in vain.)

My son had many dreams unfulfilled, many goals not met. So many challenges yet to meet. My one regret is that my son died alone in the streets, as if he was unloved. That is not the case as you can see by all those in attendance today. My son loved; my son is loved, raised in a home that offered unconditional love.

If you will take one thing away with you today, I pray it be that you use this life's lesson to your advantage. Set high goals for yourself, strive to reach each of those goals. Don't become that statistic that society has deemed so for our young black men. Prove them all wrong, change your life while there is still time.

God bless each of you. ★

Mrs. Belinda Thompson.



Jeffrey L. Smith
1983 - 2006

Everybody is a star
Who can rain, chase the dust away
Everybody wants to shine
Ooh, come out on a cloudy day
'Til the sun that loves you proud
When the system tries to bring
you down
Every hand to shine tonight
You don't need darkness to do
what you think is right

Everybody is a star
I can feel it when you shine on me
I love you for who you are
Not the one you feel you need to
be
Ever catch a falling star
Ain't no stopping 'til it's in the
ground
Everybody is a star
One big circle going round and
round

-Sly Stone

KILLER BEATS HOMELESS WOMEN TO DEATH

Statement by the Police:

February 13, 2006

Bludgeoned Body Found in Venice

Los Angeles: LAPD Detectives are investigating the incident that led to the death of a 50-year-old woman that was discovered this morning in Venice.

On Sunday, February 12, 2006, at about 8:45 a.m., the bludgeoned body of a woman was found in the 1900 block of Speedway.? Her identity is being withheld until her family is notified. The motive for this incident is unknown and the suspect remains out-standing.

Anyone with information is asked to call Pacific Area Homicide Detectives at 310-482-6369.? On weekends and during off-hours, call the 24-hour toll free number at 1-877-LAWFULL (529-3855). ★

A Community View:

By Erica Snowlake

Can't say i knew her, but i sure respected her space. she made it crystal clear, she had boundaries. she made the space around her, her own, and it shone.

queen of her realm, with head-phones on. if you were lucky you saw her turning a twist to her tunes, snapping her fingers like an ethereal jazzy elegant heroine. she stood tall on the boardwalk, a tiny fiery spritey white blond tigress in glam platform heels. she stood for something, for me, freedom to exist way beyond the paradigm, doing one's own thing, or the right to do nothing. Harm to No One--free spirits resting on sacred ground--the sand, the sidewalk, wherever, it's a free mother earth. Dangerous? i heard she lived twenty years on the street.

Verica, i didn't even know your name til after you'd gone. it's similar to my name, no wonder you felt like a sister in this strange world, in being out there, in creating our own armour shining uniqueness.

Peeps, pray and send Verica our love. i miss her presence in Venice. her death really freaks me out. i shake with rage, and vomit with shock at the violence of her passing. i vow to rid the land of psychokillers somehow.

Diane Butler painted Verica in gold sparkles and rainbow light.there were a few sweet shrines and candles burning in her honor. i see Verica meeting her guides, embracing angels, finally letting someone in when this world utterly failed.

Verica, we acknowledge the preciousness of your Life. we realize the need for a safe haven for women, for all, on this earthome, one only we can create. ★



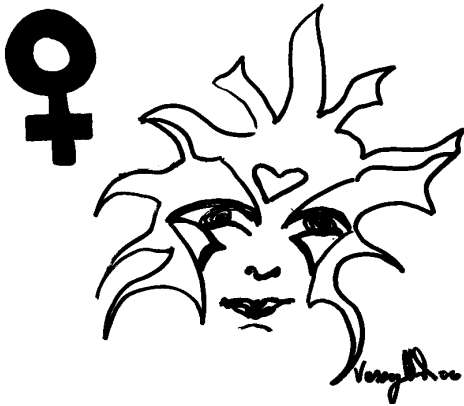
Tiny Dancer
1955 - 2006

Art by Erica Snowlake



Photo by Lydia Ponce

A neighborhood memorial to Jeffrey Smith at Santa Clara and Electric Avenues.



A men's room in
Queensland,
New Zealand.
Happy
International
Women's Day!

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Venice Musician
Kathy Leonardo

Record Labels are a thing of the past, in this day and age, with the help of the internet, an artist can produce her own CD, Sell them on various CD sites.....Build her own Website.....Create her own fan base, Allow her fans to hear or download her music and as we read right now, promote herself, her upcoming gigs and her music.

Kathy Leonardo has a new CD, "You Don't Know." You can hear it on www.cdbaby.com/kathyleonardo2 or hear some selections on her Website www.kathyleonardo.com, as well as see pictures from recent gigs. Kathy's background as a stand up comedienne makes every show a one-woman show. ★

Photo by Sunny Bak



Post Office issues
flag burning stamp

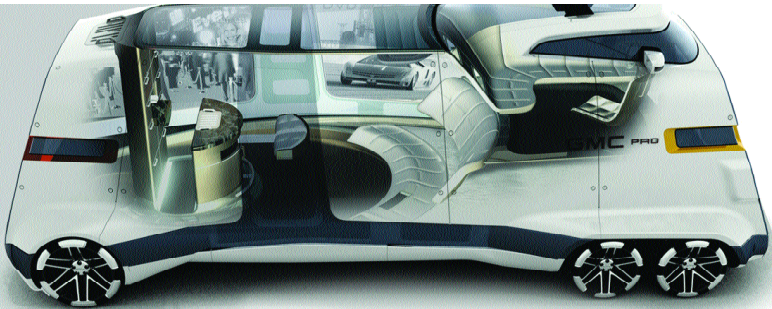
(Thanks to an unnamed postal worker for calling this to the Beachhead's attention)

The latest in Affordable Housing from General Motors!



Life, Connected.

DirectTV, OnStar and XM Satellite Wi-Fi are continually online to provide an endless variety of entertainment, information and security options and the PAD's LCD interior architecture creates a media rich environment unlike any other. Electronically variable exterior glazing means privacy is always at your fingertips. The PAD's rearmost area is devoted to a personal spa created in partnership with Kohler. The food prep / kitchen area features a full suite of PAD-specific appliances developed by Thermador and, with a teraflop of onboard memory, the digital life has never been so deep & abundant.

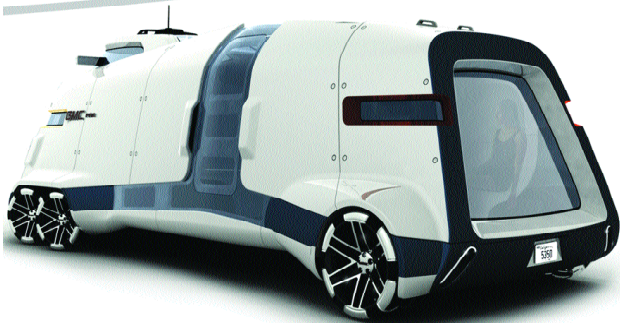


Affordable Housing... in LA?

The PAD, an urban loft with mobility, a concept for living in the ever changing cultural landscape of Southern California or, quite simply, an alternative for those priced out of Southern California's escalating housing market. It's a home ownership concept that enables cultural & geographic freedom for the modern city dweller. The PAD represents a reasoned solution to the problems of urban sprawl, development, congestion and it's damaging effects on the region's environment.

Why Commute?

With the PAD, your LA Adventure is your next stop It's where you live, where you work, or merely where you want to be. Whether located in walking distance of your job at TBWA\Chiat\Day, spending a couple evenings along PCH or wintering at Mammoth, with the PAD, home is where you want it. And commuting is what other people do.



This is no joke from General Motors – or at least, not an intentional joke. The PAD was on display at the recent L.A. Auto Show. Here's an excerpt from the promotional material:
Affordable Housing in LA?
The GMC PAD, an urban loft with mobility, a

concept for living in the ever-changing cultural landscape of Southern California or, quite simply, a modern alternative for those priced out of Southern California's escalating housing market. It's a home ownership concept that enables cultural & geographic freedom for the modern city dweller. It's a concept that repre-

sents a reasoned solution to the problems of urban sprawl, development, and it's damaging effects on the region's environment.

Soon camper residents may be complaining about the "shacks" they have to park in front of on Venice streets. ★

MARINA DEL REY: THE BIG SHOWDOWN

By S. Denyer

We are headed for a big showdown that will decide the future of the Marina. The developers argue that the Marina is prime real estate that is being commercially underutilized. The developers who are lobbying to win support for massive development of the Marina only see it as prime real estate that is commercially underutilized. Apparently they do not appreciate the value of public space.
The same arguments they are making for their Marina development plans could be used to promote the commercial development of Central Park in New York City. Certainly, Central Park is occupying land that is among the most valuable real estate in the world. Does that mean that it should be turned over to developers? Of course not! No matter how valuable it may be as commercial real estate, it is even more precious to New Yorkers as public space. Central Park as park land is fundamental to the heart and life and soul of the city.
The Marina is also precious to Los Angeles. Its value as a public space transcends its commercial value as real estate. The Marina is functional. It's dense in population. It has the inter-connecting bike paths, parking lots, barbeque pits, four star hotels and restaurants. The Marina was well planned and it works. Its land and

water were developed for people to enjoy on many fronts, not merely as a money venture for a few.
Some smart entrepreneurs are stalking our public land and I am afraid that our elected officials are succumbing to their influence.
To improve Fisherman's Wharf, first see it as it is: a place where visitors come in busses. Why not give them more to be involved with - a marine life museum, or a local historical museum, an open Shakespearean theater, a Japanese garden and house, a Venice turn of the century style dance/exhibition hall. Please don't give it away to some greedy developer. Los Angeles has made this mistake before. Please let's not do it again. Move slowly, don't be pushed, there is no rush. Have a contest and see what people come up with. Go public with the agenda.
Fisherman's Wharf is small in scale, which preserves the openness of the harbor. Replacing it with a large structure would suffocate the marina.
Chace Park can not accommodate the busses that come to Fisherman's Wharf. Chace Park is a place for families and larger groups to come together for outdoor banqueting and fun. It has already been renovated, and functions beautifully as is.
Mothers Beach is a local / community beach,

not a tourist destination. It is used by families, schools, and the fire department, and serves as a launch for small boats. It is a simple, well functioning spot for the local community. Is there anything wrong with that? Must we always dwell on making money? The access is fine (go have a look), as is the parking. Someone is pulling a fast one by telling you otherwise.
If Los Angeles County needs more income from the region, why not consider increasing moorage fees for commercial vessels, recreational boats and yachts? I'm sure boat owners would not mind paying a bit more, a small sacrifice in order to avoid overdevelopment and keep the Marina uncluttered.
Land is not always better used by making money on it; sometimes it's the glue that keeps a city alive.
Please don't sell our souls.

P.S. Playa Vista "Area A", could be built up as an old western town with a barn for square dancing, great fun for LA. Dollar a dance, night or day. The tourists would love it. The developers have no imagination, such a shame. Let's be proud! ★

<http://beaches.co.la.ca.us/BandH/Marina/AssetMgmtStrategy.htm>

Folk Singer Utah Phillips Meets the Beachhead

Famous folk singer U. Utah Phillips blew into town recently and met with Beachhead Collective members. The following is an account of his visit and his performance at McCabes Guitar Shop.

By Karl Abrams

I was blown away – permanently. Barely getting a back row seat, at the last minute, into the packed house at McCabes Guitar Shop, I was able to hear a rare performance of the legendary folk singer Utah Phillips. The crowd was mesmerized. I was engulfed in joyful goose bumps that will never really go away. I became a part of history in that audience, and wept in folk song rapture. Who was this timeless patriarch poet who inspired and affected so many people, of all ages, so thoroughly and dramatically?

U. Utah Phillips was born Bruce Phillips on May 15, 1935 in Cleveland, Ohio. Utah is a well-known folk singer and story teller. As the “Golden Voice of the Great Southwest” his songs reflect his lifelong influences as an anarchist and socialist, pacifist and poet, labor organizer and social activist, historian, philosopher, hobo-tramp, and Wobbly (as members of the Industrial Workers of the World, the IWW, are called).

This much I had learned, for the first time, from an interview with this charismatic earlier in the afternoon. before his standing ovation performance.

“Utah is a Grand Master of the Mythic Fraternity of tramps, hoboes, and nare-do-wells known as The Rose Tattoo.”

Each of his stories carefully detailed the struggles of labor unions; each emphasizing the power of optimism and grassroots “Direct Action.”

Utah has been around for years, performing tirelessly across the country for almost a half century. His calling is multidimensional.

To express his views and philosophies, Utah once hosted a weekly radio show called “Loafer’s Glory: The Hobo Jungle of the Mind.” He recorded a variety of musical albums--among those were several about the idyllic era of Steam Locomotives, inspired by his numerous travels on the railroad. “Moose Turd Pie” and “Queen of the Rails” are among some of his more famous songs.

Inspired by his anger with the first Gulf War, he wrote in 1991 the song “Enola Gay” about the US atom bomb dropped on Japan.

He is presently Grand Master of the Mythic Fraternity of tramps, hoboes, and nare-do-wells known as The Rose Tattoo. Made up of those who travel by freight trains and carry a tune, they might be recognized as having a special rose, tattooed somewhere on their body.

Utah Phillips was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Folk Alliance and a Lifetime Service Award from the American Federation of Musicians.

Is Utah some kind of reincarnation of Walt Whitman? How did it all begin?

Utah left home as a teenager, riding the rails and bumming with tramps. Teaching himself guitar, he wrote songs about the Hobo life, supporting himself in any way he could:

“My stepfather moved our family to Utah where my mother raised her children to recognize racism and sexism at an early age. As a young man, newly married with no skills, I was assigned to the needs of the army and in 1954 was pipe lined for Korea. I went to radar school, fried some very expensive equipment, and ended up carrying a rifle in Korea. My learned sensibilities towards recognizing racism showed me I was the wrong person to be in this war.

I had seen the emaciation of Koreans and the racism towards them. I ran away from the base a lot on a bike and saw the Sea of Ruins and the crying babies. That made me mad. Were we their friends or enemies? I knew I didn’t want to live in America anymore. So I hit the freight trains again, made up songs and got back to Salt Lake

to make my stand.”

Utah’s experience in the Korean War convinced him that nonviolence was the only way to live. After serving for three years, he joined Ammon Hennacy from the Catholic Worker Movement.

“It was there in Salt Lake that I met Ammon, a pacifist anarchist. I worked with him at a newly-founded mission house of hospitality called the Joe Hill House, set up for transients and migrants that were mainly World War II veterans.

Ammon, in his 70’s at that time, was a one-man revolution who taught me how to be a truly peaceful anarchist. He wouldn’t even take a job if there was any withholding tax. Ammon was a moral bedrock and lived in poverty. What’s anarchy? I once asked him. He said it was when you ‘didn’t need a cop to tell you what to do...’

He also told me I was too angry and brawled a lot, that I needed to work everyday and completely on being a true pacifist and anarchist.”

Working at the Joe Hill House for the next eight years greatly influenced Utah Phillips’ sociopolitical thinking and helped shape his life and future work. Ammon Hennacy had served time at the Atlantic Federal Penitentiary for objecting to World War I and consequently spent many months in solitary confinement. Ammon was, like Utah became, a one-man revolution

“we can get the Work of the World done...without the bosses.”

who took Utah under his mentor wing. Utah still believes that the Catholic Workers Party probably saved his life. Political action and grassroots direct action are “two hands of the same body” he told us.

“I was still angry a lot and had no idea what I was going to do with my life. Every place I went I carried my anger. Angry at the State and those painful images in my mind of what I’d seen that wouldn’t go away. I knew that what I had learned from drill sergeants and field commanders was all lies. Ammon would tell me how I was born into 20th century industrial America armed with the weapons of economic and racial privilege. If you want to be a pacifist, put down your knives and angry words. Ammon, to be sure, was a cultural compulsion, and an involuntary cohesive combination of individual self-governing. I learned from him that if we can all agree to take what we need and put back what we can and not hurt anybody, we can get the Work of the World done...without the bosses.”

Utah’s tireless efforts includes much that he has been awarded for and much that just kind of happens on its own. He ran a full campaign on the Peace and Freedom ticket for Utah’s US Senate in the late sixties. He worked and organized in the basement warehouse of the State Capitol Building, got 6,000 votes and lost the election.

“I had run out of moves in ‘69, so I left Utah with 75 bucks and headed East. I became a story teller and song writer. I met other singers who took me in and have been a part of it ever since.”



As a former warehouse man in Salt Lake, Utah learned “yarning” from his boss Earl Lyman, and elder Mormon who told anecdotes of early pioneer days. It was here that he learned the art of story telling as a “way to avoid work”. Along with his conversations with hoboes and cowboys, Zuni Chants and Navajo songs, poetic lore from Father Liebler, a San Juan Priest, Utah’s overall philosophy began to mature.

“You see, outside events create the songs, stories introduce them. They’re about tramps and

Socialism and the International Workers of the World. No passive humanism, but Direct Optimism instead. I agree with Woody Guthrie. You never put other people down. People should feel better when they leave the show.

“Like Martin Luther King, I have been a devout prisoner of optimism because wherever I go, I see new and great things. You know, there’s a Colossal amount of Socialist Energy beneath the radar.

“I used to do 120 cities per year. Now just once in awhile. I don’t need any congratulations for what I’m

doin’ at all. I’m simply going to do it. That, too, is anarchy.”

We asked Utah about Bush and what the next generation might do to continue his tradition of telling the truth.

“We don’t need to understand Bush. We need to understand economic analysis and Corporate Capitalism and Corporate Fascism and how it divides the Working Classes through deregulation, privatization, and the use of an imperialist army at public expense. We need to resist from the bottom up! You guys need a radio station here in Venice, round the clock. Kids don’t know what a Union is or what class consciousness is. We need to understand the labor movement, direct action and political action. We need to let the bosses know that we’re not in their pocket. OK, I gotta get some sleep now”

After the performance at McCabe’s that night an entire audience woke up. We all knew, it seemed, that all of us had more to do in contributing to getting “the Work of the World done.” ★


If the words of Jesus Christ
are true George Bush will burn
in hell and his supporters too...
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THEN THUMP THEM BACK!

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ArchiTecTural inDIGESTion

By Hal Bogotch

I will not bow to Bauhaus

On house of cards foundation
I will not fold

When box kites collide with alder bungalows
I will not take a dive

Rise to extravagant heights
take great panes of unstained glass
I will not shatter

Opium den drywall tortured visions
I will not waver

Erect curiosity to scale
vinyl-walled monstrosity for sale
I will blink

Overblown real estate in heavy times
I will not subscribe

Inspired by postal escalators
Jimmy crack corn cob pipe dream sheetrock
I will not cave

When drab monolith meets hoary mansion
meet porcupine penthouse
meets silicone buttressed gable

I take my plans off the table.

HAVE YOU SEEN MY SON?

by Landi

I am looking for my son, have you seen him?

Yes my baby boy now a man, married, a father
of two sons living in Utah.

Yes, the one with the sparkle in his eyes, beauti-
ful curly hair always laughing, friendly , hard
working, kind and affectionate.

Right he is very talented, a perfectionist in his
job.

You do know him? Have you seen him? When
was the last time?

It’s been a few years since I lost him and I am
miss him so much.

I just have his pictures and memories of the
good times we had together.

He and I, spend weekends together before he
was married watching videos all day, eating
popcorn or he would cook for us. He loves to
cook and is good at it.

He showed you his art work really? Yes, he has
a gift to be an artist he is also is a great mechan-
ic, self-taught.

I wonder where he went? How long he’ll be
gone? Why he left?

You heard right he became a successful roofing
contractor and a very good one at that. That was
the last time you saw him? It was for me too.

I thought I saw him once this man looked just
like him but after speaking with him I knew it
wasn’t him. There was no sparkle in his eyes,
didn’t smile, laugh and appeared to be angry
and impatient. He tried to convince me he was
my son. But he was only a vessel of my sons
body empty of his spirit. I walked away wiping
my tears for it wasn’t him and I wanted him to
be so much.

I’m still looking for my baby son now a man,
have you seen him?

P

O

M

T

R

K

I’m goin’ to Needles

& open a noodle place

and raise poodles

won’t need a boodle

keep your oodles

don’t need it

–C. V. Beck

Hillary Kaye

who are we
who dance
and sing
and know not
why and
have not wings.

FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD • March 2006 • 9

Hi,
I would like to submit this poem, if printed please
withhold my name.
I see so many poems that are negative, and yes
unfortunately there is alot to be upset about, but I
thought it would be nice to have a positive angle
as well.

i believe...
i can plant beauty
i can plant love
& watch it grow.
like the sun gives life to the delicate seed
that blooms into a beautiful creation.
i am creating love & beauty wherever i go,
thanks to you.
thanks to the love i feel i’m a part of,
i see it spreading & enveloping all around me
it’s a part of you & a part of me
it’s dancing between us & flowing out.
like the sea tastes the salt, i can taste what i’ve
always seen
it’s here, it’s now
love sailing around the world.

love sailing around the world
in every heart, in every mind
love that’s mine to give
reaching out to every one in need
it flows into every pore & empty space
every lonely soul, flowing back again
to embrace the next ONE
until every heart is filled with joy &
every tear replaced with a smile.
this is my dream
and it’s coming true
thanks to you.

i believe again
thanks to You

I Am

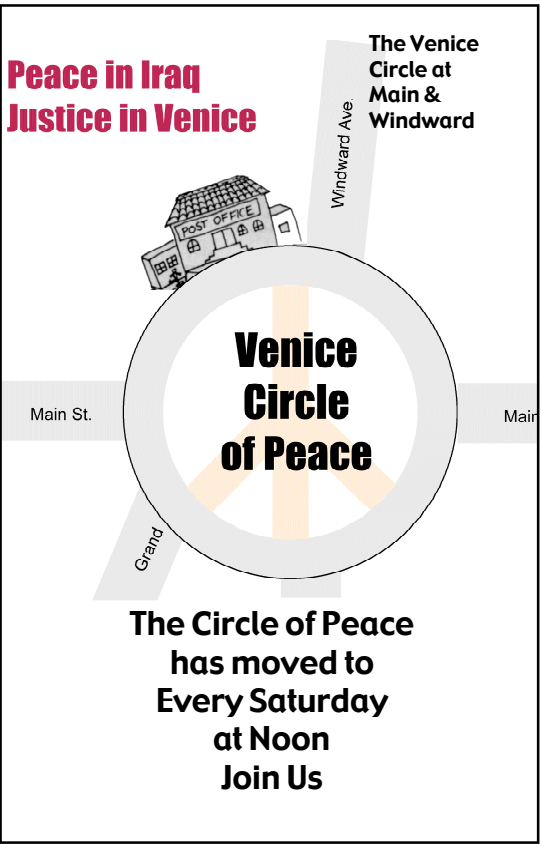
I am worthy
I am woman
I am strong
I am certain
I am free
I’m a tree
Growing branches
Of Infinity.

–Vessy Mink

Wake up Venice!

by Stephen Longfellow Fiske

Wake up Venice!
Look what’s happening!
Venice is being evicted!
Affordable housing is being torn down,
replaced by the advancing march of condo developers
Bulldozers crush walls
Memories and rich histories ground into ruin
Families and seniors are displaced
Corporate greed runs amok over human need
Venice, once a bastion of affordable housing,
is becoming Marina-ized
The free spirit of Venice,
the artistic, poetic and diverse character
of this unique outpost by the sea
is becoming sanitized
by the prospect of gated communities
and high-priced exclusivity
Is this what we want?
Do we have any voice at all?
The developers grab the city by the tail
and swing the yelping mongrel around
to the tune of their investment dollars
The victimized,
those who have lived at the heart and essence of Venice
are marginalized,
thrown out, no longer able to afford to live here
Where do they go?
Away?
And slowly but surely as the community is dismantled
the soul of Venice dies
Is this what we want?
Do we have any voice at all?
Wake up Venice!
We must stand in the conviction to stop the eviction!
Draw the line now!
Draw the line here, at Lincoln Place.
Join the vigil and the coming actions to save Lincoln Place,
to save Venice.



Women’s Day

–continued from page 1

On March 8, women throughout the world celebrate this day with events concerning the various issues still affecting women today, their families and society. They are organized and planned by women and open to the public or students to raise awareness of the contributions women of all ages, color and sexual preference have made in their communities and on global issues, as well.

Many of the national women groups in this country will be holding local peace marches in their communities or attending the largest one in Washington, D.C. sponsored by Code Pink, Women for Peace to be held on March 8. They plan to collect over 100,000 petition signatures “To Stop the War” and will present them to officials in Washington D.C.

Others will be holding special events celebrating women’s role and contributions in their own communities. Many will pay tribute to individual women who have unselfishly committed themselves to bettering their community in the areas of health, legal rights, peace activism, organizing tenants for affordable housing or against unfair evictions or for programs to end violence against women, counseling women for substance abuse, feeding the homeless, ending exploitation and sexual harassment in the workplace and working with children.

And those women who help support their families while earning the minimum wage as well as women in the arts. The categories women are involved in to fight for justice, equality and dignity are endless.

International Women’s Day (IWD) encompasses women who are single, divorced, married, old, young, gay and connects them globally. There is no discrimination when it comes to our gender’s contribution to make a better tomorrow for the nation or the world.

Plan floated to make residents pay to park on street

An email newsletter in the Oxford Triangle has reported that plans are afoot to charge residents \$15 per car to park overnight in front of their homes. Each resident would be required to buy a permit for the privilege of not getting a ticket while they slept. The “Triangle Update” further reports that Councilman Bill Rosendahl has endorsed the scheme, called an OPD or Overnight Parking District.

One wonders how the enforcement will be handled and how it will be funded. Will parking attendants be patrolling our streets in the dead

of night? Will they be on overtime pay? Or will enforcement be selective with camper vans getting tickets and passenger cars being passed by?

And what will happen when Mom and Pop drive in from Phoenix to spend a week? How much will their guest pass cost, and how long will it take to arrive? Seems like a de facto curfew since everyone will have to be in their own homes with no late night guests unless you want to risk having the police tuck a no parking ticket under your friends’ wipers. ★

Jeffery Lynn Smith, Jr. was born on Tuesday, May 11, 1982 in Santa Monica, California to Belinda Brown and Jeffery Lynn Smith. Jeffery was the second child of a blended family of eight children. Jeffery made his departure from his earthly on Thursday morning, February 9, 2006. Jeffery accepted Christ as his saviour in September 1988 and was baptized at Calvary Baptist Church under the pastorate of Reverend Robert L. DeFrance, Jr.

Jeffery’s birth was a huge blessing to his grandparents, Sam and Mattie Brown. His grandfather, who Jeff lovingly called “Dad”, preceded him in death on July 9, 1997. Jeff was an easy-going child who had a smile for everyone he came into contact with. Jeffery attended Westminster and Broadway Elementary School in Venice. He received his middle school education in Highland in San Bernardino County. In 1997 the family relocated back to Venice, California where Jeffery attended and graduated from Venice High School on June 30, 2000.

As a child Jeffery was a member of the Youth Usher Board, the Youth Choir and was active in the Sunday school at Calvary Baptist Church of Santa Monica. Jeffery was also very active in community sports, playing on both the basketball and baseball teams at the community park, Oakwood Recreation Center.

–JEFFREY LEAVES CHERISHED MEMORIES TO HIS LOVING FAMILY AND FRIENDS (SUBMITTED BY LYDIA PONCÉ)

Under this society the acknowledgment women receive by this country is only on Mothers Day, Valentine’s Day and birthdays – holidays that earn millions for the greeting cards companies. Have you ever seen a greeting card in celebration of International Women’s Day?

A movement was begun last year to nominate 1,000 women for the Nobel Peace Award, because women’s role in promoting peace within families, communities and their societies are taken for granted. This effort is to recognize women of courage across the globe by identifying the visible efforts women make to end injustice against women.

Women athletics are recognized by participating in the Olympic Games. By earning a medal they are assured to earn a high income in their field or by advertising commercials which do not contribute to women’s causes.

Earning a gold medal, silver or just by participating in the Olympic games is an honor for the athletic who trained so hard. In reality, how many women can afford to train long, hard hours if they need to work?

A majority of women who are not politically informed have no idea of this holiday celebrating woman’s contribution, much less some men.

The advertising market is unwilling to increase women’s consciousness about this special day so few women are aware of the United Nations IWD proclamation, unless it’s brought to their attention by politically conscious women.

March is also known as women’s

history month as a result of Women’s Studies departments in colleges and universities.

If you are not in tune with international women’s events, affiliated to a feminist political party or political woman’s organization, March 8 is not celebrated in the U.S. We celebrate our birthdays on the day we were born not a day before or day later for the whole month, traditional holidays on the same date every year. So why then is IWD not celebrated on March 8, on a yearly basis? That is the only way it can become as important as any other special event on the calendar.

Once again we women have the responsibility to tackle this issue by celebrating it, raising political consciousness in our communities and internationally.

How you might ask? Simply by uniting in our own communities to hold an event on March 8 or by attending one to hear women speakers from other countries addressing the issues affecting women in their countries. In Europe and countries around the world, IWD is celebrated with a strong political themes including ending the occupation of Iraq. In this, they are more advance than the U.S.

American women played a major role during the Vietnam War to end it and we need to unite again to Get Out of Iraq to save our young men and women one more time.

We also need to raise the minimum wage so less women will be in poverty or homeless. An Initiative Petition for the California ballot is now being circulated by the Peace and Freedom and Green parties. It would raise the minimum wage in California to \$8.75 per hour. Call me at 399-2215 if you would like to help circulate it.

Finally, ask some friends if they know about International Women’s Day and what it stands for? Don’t be surprised if they respond that they have never heard of it. Please educate them about it.

And don’t forget to thank your mother. Her contribution in giving birth to you goes beyond just acknowledging her on Mother’s Day. ★

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Global Warming Debate Heats Up

By Sheldon C. Plotkin, Ph.D., P.E.

The Southern California Federation of Scientists, SCFS, has been disseminating scientific information to the public since 1953. Our radio program, The Wizard Show, was on KPFK for 15 years attempting to explain technical phenomena to untrained people in terms they could understand. We claim that science is not wizardry, apparently complex matters are that way because a large number of simple and easily understood aspects are combined together which then makes the overall situation very difficult to understand. It is in that light that I have a few comments to make after reading the James Lovelock article about global warming in the February issue of the Beachhead.

Lovelock referring to the Earth as Gaia and then treating this physical entity as a living body with biological characteristics may provide some worthwhile analogies, but it also may provide some erroneous characteristics. It is true that much contamination will be cleaned up naturally once the polluting process ceases. However, phenomena like global warming requires the specification of necessary human actions beyond just saying we have to cease burning fossil fuels. Even the time scale is dependent on which course of action is taken, e.g. although the U.S. can cease burning coal with relative ease in my judgment, China appears to require a much more gradual cessation and probably a much different basic course.

Much of Lovelock's description of Gaia sounds like that of Native Americans with their references to Mother Earth. Violent treatment like stripping the earth of its natural resources needs more than just ceasing or being more gentle when extracting such basic minerals and the like. It might be noted that many strip mining actions in U.S. coal resource areas have been followed by elaborate replanting of needed forests and using good trees for the purpose, i.e. fast growing so they will consume as much CO2 as possible. That doesn't necessarily mean that we should continue the strip mining as compared with underground mining.

Addressing global warming in particular, it is noted that more than 90% of the greenhouse gases is CO2 from combustion of fossil fuels, i.e. petroleum, natural gas, and coal. While this is a self regulating problem in the long run, i.e. fossil fuels have a limited lifetime after which the atmosphere will gradually return to its original condition, we really cannot afford to wait that long.

A significant scientific problem is to confidently specify exactly what will happen along the way. This is particularly applicable to predicting the likely weather effects of an increase in atmospheric temperature. Considering simply the melting of glaciers with rising water levels doesn't include effects on ocean currents, tornadoes and hurricanes, or weather conditions in general. The problem should be addressed before we know what is going to happen.

Analogies from Lovelock like humans being "the nervous system of the planet" may be helpful for some people but a distracting analogy for others, e.g. myself. Directly addressing the deleterious situation, i.e. problem aspects and technical solutions, is probably better than using clever analogies which shift the focus. This rationale is also applicable to spirituality in general as applied to technical societal problems. It is generally hard enough to specify exactly what actions are needed without emphasizing the connection to philosophic spiritual beliefs.

While Lovelock looks at global warming and environmental pollution as being the result of a diseased earth, it might be more helpful to think of society as simply being in a dynamic state of flux. Human behavior follows the economic system, technical development, and long versus short range planning. I believe much of what Lovelock views as a diseased earth can be more specifically viewed as people behaving so as to achieve short term gain without considering the welfare of future generations.

This is essentially how we have created the present environmental mess we are in. It is not just global warming but ozone layer depletion, sustainable use of natural resources, and reducing of worldwide populations to levels adequate for sustainability that must be addressed. While most of our problems result from aggressive, greedy, and self-centered human nature, there is one potentially catastrophic problem, and perhaps more, that has occurred quite by accident.

I'm referring here to the atmospheric ozone layer depletion. When creating such a non-reactive refrigerant like Freon, a chlorinated-hydrocarbon that was easy and cheap to manufacture, there was no way a priori of knowing that the chlorine molecule would eventually be released in the upper atmosphere and produce such devastation with its catalytic destruction of ozone molecules.

In fact, it is indeed a bit of pure good luck in my view that the Ph.D. research project at UC Irvine years ago would have such an impact on the world. Very little basic research ever sees the light of day. Perhaps this is a part of the inherent dynamics within society. I prefer to look at this as an excellent example of why pure basic scientific research needs to be supported at the maximum level economically possible. The value of this one chlorinated-hydrocarbon research project is worth more than all unused basic research combined.

In this case, if we had to wait until the ultra-violet rays from the sun getting through the ozone layer begins killing the plant life on earth and, therefore, our food supply, it would probably be too late to take corrective measures. As it is, we discovered the atmospheric ozone layer depletion problem (as distinguished from local air pollution from combustion apparatus) soon enough to take corrective action, and we will probably be able to stop further ozone depletion very shortly. At that point we can expect a very slow recovery, perhaps 100 to 150 years for the full recovery process.

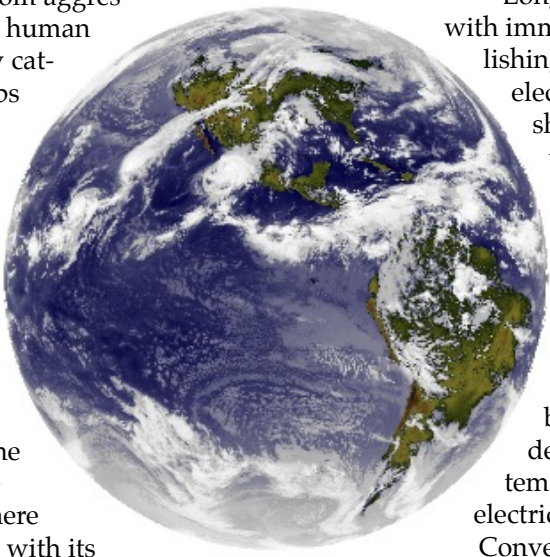
In conclusion, with regards global warming, it essentially makes no difference at this time what the effects are really going to be. The real problem now is to motivate the masses of our society, politicians, government bureaucrats, industrial

leaders, etc. to take immediate action to stop the release of greenhouse gases, particularly CO2 from combustion processes. We cannot wait for fossil fuels, i.e. petroleum, natural gas, and coal, to run out which automatically stops the major source of these greenhouse gases.

Long-range planning coupled with immediate action toward establishing alternate sources of energy, electric energy specifically, should have been done yesterday. The specifics of what's available and what's on the horizon is another article for the Beachhead. Needless to say, conversion from petroleum fueled transportation can be switched to electricity but it will take many years to develop and construct the system of trains, electric buses, and electric passenger cars.

Convenient, efficient, and inexpensive mass transit is possible for the Los Angeles area. Small short range electric vehicles would then be quite convenient. The sooner we start such development of a future long range transportation system, the better off we are going to be. ★

Shel Plotkin is a member of the executive board of the Southern California Federation of Scientists <www.scfs-la.org>



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Art by Emily Winters

Nothing succeeds like Cityhood

Venice was an independent city for 20 years until residents voted on Oct. 1, 1925, by 3,130 to 2,215, to be annexed by Los Angeles. A movement for secession started almost immediately. The election was marred by threats to restrict the water supply and by Angelenos moving into Venice just to vote for annexation.

By Jim Smith

The Bloom is off the Rose. When Venice voters elected L.A. Councilmember Bill Rosendahl and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa last year spirits soared that at last our concerns would be addressed in City Hall.

Not so. Since then, corporate terrorists have forcibly evicted scores of Venetians at Lincoln Place and the wheels are in motion to virtually give away 3.3 acres of valuable public land at the MTA bus lot to greedy developers. If evictions were body counts, Venice could give parts of Iraq a run for their money.

So why are we still on the outside looking in? Bill Rosendahl, who must spend a large amount of his time on our small part of Council District 11, tries - and tries hard - to help. His failures can help us to understand how big money runs L.A. Developers and corporate interests act behind the scenes while their front men, like City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, ride herd on the city council.

Meanwhile Mayor Villaraigosa - the golden boy of the media - has not had much time as Rosendahl to hang out with Lincoln Place tenants. The one unplanned encounter he had with them, at a meeting of Del Rey homeowners Dec. 6, apparently so unnerved him that he's still hasn't gotten over it.

As reported in the January Beachhead, the Mayor had to listen to a number of Lincoln Place tenants who crashed the meeting after being evicted from their homes earlier that day. They begged, they pleaded, they told heart-wrenching stories to no avail. Villaraigosa felt blindsided by the encounter.

These are the best political leaders we are likely to get for a long, long time. And yet, they are either helpless, or seduced by Big Money into inaction while Venice is literally bulldozed out of existence. If only we had our own city.

Our only hope to regain any control over our community life may well be to regain Venice cityhood. Since the 1920s, when we lost our autonomous city by dubious means there have been efforts, which began almost immediately, to regain it. Polls and surveys beginning in the 90s, through a couple of years ago, show overwhelming support for cityhood among Venetians. The only qualm we have is that it can't be done.

Indeed, it is a hard road to regaining communi-

ty control. LAFCO, the Local Area Formation Commission, requires that any area that wants to secede must jump through a number of hoops, including an affirmative vote by the non-seceding portion of the city. In 2002, the San Fernando Valley voted to secede, but the rest of L.A. voted against it, thereby dooming the effort. There might be an easier way in which Venice can reestablish its cityhood. I'll get to this later in this article.

But first, how would a City of Venice benefit its residents more than the current situation where we are only 1 percent of the City of Los Angeles? It's likely that a city government where 100 percent - not 1 percent - of the constituents are Venetians would show more concern than the downtown crowd who cater to the 99 percent who don't live in Venice.

Example 1: Lincoln Place. At this writing, neither tenants, nor our community, nor City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl have gotten anywhere with the entrenched bureaucracy that runs Big Brother (Los Angeles has many of the characteristics of a man - acquisitive, power hungry and with delusions of grandeur, while Venice is obviously a woman, as our poets have always maintained).

Efforts to obtain City historical status for the 700 remaining garden apartments at Lincoln Place hasn't gotten to first base. Neither has a proposal for the positive use of eminent domain to save the affordable homes in the midst of a housing crisis.

Contrast this with a homegrown historical commission and a city council that would meet within walking distance for most of us and is made up of our neighbors. The City of Venice could have sent the greedy corporate landlord, AIMCO, packing months - or years - ago, and restored this vital source of low and moderate-priced housing.

Example 2: The MTA lot. Readers of the Beachhead well know that an attempt to give public land to a private developer is underway.

A City of Venice Planning Department and City Council could have made short-work of this convoluted scheme. The City of Venice could have made it clear to the MTA that the deal wouldn't fly, and then could have entered into negotiations to buy the parcel or trade other city-owned facilities to the MTA, which the MTA could then have sold to buy itself a new bus lot somewhere outside of Venice.

Can a City of Venice be financially viable?

Venice currently has a population of 40,000 or a little less. In L.A. County there are 88 cities, at least half, or 39 of them, have populations smaller than Venice. See www.laalmanac.com/population/po03.htm.

Nearly all of these cities function well and without scandal (or at least no more scandal than the City of Los Angeles).

The financial viability of a City of Venice would likely rest on two main pillars - rising property values and tourism. Property taxes are the largest single source of revenue for the City of Los Angeles, and many other cities as well. Coastal-area land is likely to continue to be highly valued even through boom and bust cycles.

As a major tourist attraction, our beach is also a revenue source. A City of Venice could take steps to make it even more enjoyable to tourists by providing easy access by means of shuttles, pedicabs and other alternatives to a visitor rather than having to spend half the day trying to park.

Venice could reactivate Abbot Kinney's model of small hotels and bed and breakfast facilities that encourage overnight visitors who would increase revenue for the city and its residents. Of course, all of this is up to the citizens of Venice, who would be able to live in a self-governing community for the first time in many decades.

What else could a City of Venice do? Make this a real center for the arts with more public art and murals, wandering poets and minstrels, exhibitions and art schools. We could reclaim public space by turning some streets and our traffic circle into parks. We could hold fiestas and celebrations at the drop of a hat.

Under current law it is nearly impossible to form a new city, since the entire City of Los Angeles would have to vote to approve it. But laws can be changed. All that would be required would be an amendment that former cities (like Venice) would be exempt from the requirement that the entire city give its approval. After all, only Venice voted to become part of Los Angeles back in the 20s.

A number of candidates are vying to represent Venice in the State Senate and Assembly. Let's insist that they pledge to introduce such a bill if they want our support in the election.

In an increasingly corporate and alienated world, small cities may be our salvation. ★