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# FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

SINCE 1968



March  
2007

#306

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

# The Women of Venice



*March is the month of women, and March 8 is the International Day of Women. What better time to salute the dynamic and diverse women of Venice?*

*See pages 3, 6 and 7 for comments by, and interviews with, just a few of the many thousands of women in Venice who deserve recognition.*



**CASUALTIES IN IRAQ**  
 U.S. 3,164 Dead - 79 this month  
 U.S. Wounded 23,677 - 563 this month  
 Iraqi Dead: 655,000  
 Source: antiwar.com, Lancet  
 Cost: \$404+ Billion - Source: costofwar.com



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

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

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

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

Mail: P.O. Box 2, Venice, CA 90294.

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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

### Beachhead Sustainers

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Richard Abcarian      | John Haag, RIP          |
| Karl Abrams           | Ted Hajjar              |
| Linda Albertano       | Marjorie Hinds          |
| Elinor Aurthur        | John Kertisz            |
| Jennifer Baum         | Joan Klotz              |
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### Calling all Beats

Dear Beachhead,  
aloha from Hawaii  
a group of us are trying to reach out and touch old friends and poets and artist and friends from the days of the Venice west and the Gas House..

I Have some poetry Manuela Theis wrote and would like to contact her, and any others from the day..We have formed a group at yahoo reminiscing and all... please come join us and spread the word to any and all those old outlaw poets..come share the news so we know.

shanna baldwin moore

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TheOutlawPoetsII  
http://hawaiian-poet-tree.blogspot.com

### Kundalini of Cacao

Dear Beachhead,  
I wish to thank you for publishing Erica Snowlake's incredible article on Chocolate and the Kundalini of Cacao ! Ummmmmmmmmm!  
This Goddess sure sets the record straight, straight to the Heart Chakra,  
Her incredible wordcraft, arts and smiles bring Love to our troubled lost world, and Her recipe brings unbearable munchies for all that is Healthful and Healing.

Steve Elphinstone

### Pacific Resident Theatre

Dear Beachhead,  
THANK YOU! For publishing my flier (January 2007 issue) for our PRT...Pacific Resident Theatre's hope to own its main stage building. Our 22-year old, non-profit, company built the interior of the 703 Venice Blvd. site in 1995, next to its two other stages it built from 1985. We have served the community year in, decade out, and our reputation for all spectrums of artistic excellence is national! We hope to continue to reside where we birthed! Donations may still be sent to PRT, noted for "building ownership" at PO Box 568, Venice, CA 90294. One may ring PRT with questions on it all. 310-822-8392.

Merci Beaucoup!  
Maryjane, Venice

## In Brief

### VNC Election Less Than Overwhelming

On February 15, the following board appointments to the Venice Neighborhood Council were confirmed by the members as follows:

- Ivan Spiegel: 29 votes (confirmed)
- Ed Ferrer: 29 Votes (confirmed)
- Stewart Oscars: 26 votes (confirmed)
- Stan Muhammad: 28 Votes (confirmed)

Additional Write-In candidates were: Robin Murez: 2 votes; Donald Segritti: 1 vote; Ken Lay: 1 vote; Jim Smith: 1 vote; Rosemary Woods: 1 vote; Barbara Bush: 1 vote; Nancy Reagan: 1 vote; Pat Nixon: 1 vote.

**Flamenco Dance Classes**  
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### Abbot Kinney needs crosswalks

To: Mohammad H. Blorfroshan, Transportation Engineer, Dept. of Transportation  
The study that was conducted by the DOT in 2004 regarding the possible addition of crosswalks or smart walks on Abbot Kinney Blvd. concluded that we did NOT need it.

In fact in your letter addressed to me and the Abbot Kinney District Association stated that DOT will put cross walk SIGNS only and lower the speed limit on the busy boulevard. We have not seen a significant change on the street. Drivers are still carelessly speeding or cruising the boulevard endangering the lives of pedestrians and bikers that also use the street. The only crosswalk is on AK and California! The street has changed dramatically with new retail businesses opening and more people using Abbot Kinney as a main thoroughfare accidents and hit and run happen more frequently.

Enclosed is yet another incident that shows the importance of smart walks on Abbot Kinney. As a resident and merchant, I suggest you reopen the investigation regarding our request immediately. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Bunny Lua

### A neighbor asks for your help:

On January 31, at 4:25PM my son and a friend were running from the beach to home. At the north west corner of Abbot Kinney and Venice they legally entered the cross walk. A woman in her early to mid 60s with blonde shoulder length hair driving a 1996-97 Silver Mercedes C230 or 280 was trying to make a right on red. She was looking to the traffic on her left and never looked to the right and hit my son. As he was laying in the street she looked him in the eye and floored it out of there never looking back to see how injured he was. Even though it was a busy time at the intersection only one person came to my son's aid. The ambulance took him to the hospital. The boys were so shocked at the time it happened they did not get her plate number but both can identify her. There were two other witnesses that have come forward. If anyone has any information please contact the police or email me at johnbo807n@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Sincerely, Pam Johnson

### Traffic Engineer responds

This traffic collision occurred at the intersection of Abbot Kinney Bl and Venice Bl which is signalized. I do not see the connection between this and the denial of crosswalk or smart crosswalks on Abbot Kinney Bl.

This was purely the driver's fault of not paying attention to the pedestrian walking in a crosswalk controlled by a traffic signal.

Currently, our office is investigating possible installation of a smart crosswalk or a traffic signal at the intersection of Abbot Kinney Bl and Palms Bl/Rialto Av where there is an uncontrolled crosswalk.

Sincerely, Mohammad H. Blorfroshan  
Transportation Engineer, DOT

### Another resident responds:

Dear Mr. Blorfroshan,

I've lived and own a studio on Abbot Kinney Blvd. at the Palms Blvd. cross walk for the last 10 years. I see with my own eyes everyday the urgent need for a smart crosswalk at this intersection. Peoples lives are needless being put in danger every day for no good reason except DOT says we don't need a smart walk. My husband and I warn people every day about the "death cross walk." Sadly, I'm not joking!

Thank you for your help, Jennifer Everhart

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## The High Cost of Free Parking...

...And the Havoc It Wreaks on American Cities

In his new book, *The High Cost of Free Parking*, UCLA professor Donald Shoup writes that he almost titled his 733-page opus "Aparkalypse Now" or "Parkageddon." This should give readers a clue to the author's feelings about the immensity of the parking problems confronting us—as well as the fun he takes in describing them.

Drivers currently park free on 99 percent of their trips and their cars are parked 95 percent of the time. But free parking isn't really free. Shoup, an urban economist and professor of urban planning at UCLA, estimates that in 2002 between \$127 and \$374 billion a year was spent nationally to subsidize off-street parking—as much as the U.S. spent on Medicare or national defense that year.

Shoup especially criticizes free or cheap curb parking, which he says, "may be the most costly subsidy American cities provide to their citizens." It encourages drivers to cruise for street spaces, polluting the air and creating congestion. Once drivers find a cheap curb spot they tend to occupy it longer than they would if they were paying to park. A 1984 study of a 15-block area near UCLA showed that cruisers drove the equivalent of two roundtrips to the moon while looking for curb parking over a one-year period. They spent 100,000 hours, consumed 47,000 gallons of gasoline and produced 700 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

Not only is free parking expensive, it's often ugly, and it encourages people to drive instead of taking buses, subways, or walking, he says.

To illustrate his point, Shoup opened his presentation to the American Planning Association's National Planning Conference last March with aerial shots of San Francisco's Moscone Center (where the conference was held) and the Los Angeles Convention Center. The Moscone Center is surrounded by restaurants, shops, a park, fountains and crowded sidewalks. Its counterpart to the south is enclosed by acres of parking lots and freeways, "which is why we'd all much rather be here today than there," he told the audience. His comparison continued with concert halls in both cities: The Louise Davies Hall in San Francisco holds 2,700 seats and offers patrons no park-

ing spots, while the new Disney Hall in Los Angeles provides 2,265 seats and 2,188 parking spaces. "Los Angeles requires a minimum 50 times more parking spaces than San Francisco allows as the maximum."

Shoup says planners receive almost no training in how to set parking requirements, often looking to neighboring communities for guidance. Worse, American planners estimate how many parking spaces every land use needs to meet the peak demand for free parking, not how many spaces drivers will demand at a price that covers the cost of the spaces. Most commercial buildings are required to provide a parking lot bigger than the building itself; a restaurant typically requires a parking area three times the size of the eating establishment.

Excessive parking is one reason American cities are charmless compared to European cities. Americans require parking and limit density, while Europeans require density and limit parking, Shoup explains. Even San Francisco, the most "European" of cities, would look very different if it had to be rebuilt with today's parking requirements. North Beach, with its shops, cafes, and front stoops would have to replace a third of the area with parking lots.

What to do? Shoup suggests three reforms.

The first is to remove requirements for off-street parking, which is often overbuilt and underutilized.

The second is to charge enough for parking at the curb to create a 15 percent vacancy rate. That will encourage drivers to park in garages or not to drive at all. Those who choose to park at the curb will not have to cruise for a spot, but will find one readily, cutting down on congestion.

Finally, the money collected from parking meters at the curb should be returned to the business or residential neighborhood for use in repairing sidewalks, planting trees, security or other street improvements."

"Parking," says Shoup, "is a blind spot in most studies of automobile transportation" and the "unstudied link between transportation and land use." With his book, Shoup goes a long way toward removing the blinders.

— Submitted by Milton Takai

## El Dia De La Mujer International Woman's Day

By Yolanda Miranda



Miranda (right), with a leader of the Oaxacan teachers' union.

When the United Nations proclaimed International Women's Day on March 8, 1975, to honor

women internationally for their contributions to society. It had been celebrated by women around the world for many years before the United Nations proclamation was signed. A special day honoring women has been observed since the early 1900s, as women have fought for shorter work weeks, better pay, and struggled for universal suffrage.

Women have proven to be the first to fight against injustice, the right to vote in this country, to speak and take action against war, and have led fights against hunger, lack of education, quality medical care, inadequate, unaffordable housing, equal pay for equal work, affordable day care for minimum wage workers, union representation and better conditions in the workplace.

A historic moment in this fight took place in 1911 when fire killed 140 Jewish and Italian immigrant garment workers who were trapped in the Triangle Shirtwaist factory in New York City because the owner locked the doors while they worked. Bread, not Roses, became a women's campaign theme to bring attention and focus on their horrendous working conditions.

From 1910 to the present the socialist movement has been in the forefront, holding international women conferences in Europe, organizing rallies, and campaigning for International Womens Day to be recognize as a global event. In earlier years, Women's Day was celebrated in February in socialist countries, but as it became a worldwide celebration it was move to March 8. This special day is celebrated by most countries with special events and is more important than Mother's day in many places.

In the U.S., women's organizations, along with some universities, plan events which are growing in size every year. We are active in marching against the occupation of Iraq, fighting against violence against women, for gay rights, against homelessness and for affordable housing, to end hunger in America, for quality medical care and insurance for the working poor, and for drug treatment not prison for so many women incarcerated due to Meth addiction (meth addiction in this country is well over 1,000,000).

We still need to keep fighting AIDS in the forefront since women are at a high risk for HIV infection in this country with more than 1,500 teenagers are being infected yearly, according to Central of Disease Control. There is still no cure for this virus. In this country due to improved medication, AIDS victims are living longer in contrast to many other countries.

The rising racism, with fascist overtones, against the Mexican immigrants has incited violence and even murders by vigilante groups.

However you can't walk down a street in Venice without seeing immigrants building these new McMansions for cheap labor or nannies pushing baby carriages for white working mothers. You can bet they are not paying union wages for these immigrant builders who work hard, doing an excellent job, comparable to a union journeymen who is paid \$25 per hour.

Immigrant women who work as nannies receive whatever hourly pay their employer decides to give them, without any protection from the law and no where to complain to if paid unfairly? These women need to work to survive and support their families.

The alternative is to stay and work in the Maquiladoras (sweatshops) in Tijuana for \$67 per week for ten hours work day while the product they make is shipped to our country where it is sold for a huge profit.

—continued on page 10

### Bill Rosendahl, Venetians celebrate new pedestrian-friendly curbs

The Councilmember joined seniors from the Israel Levin Senior Center, Feb. 23, to celebrate the new pedestrian-friendly curbs at the corner of Pacific Ave. and Rose Ave.

The curbs, which are now handicap compliant, offer pedestrians a more accessible walkway.

"I am thrilled to be able to provide new curbs at the intersection of Pacific and Rose," Rosendahl said. "Our residents deserve to have safer streets and responsive city services."



In December, Councilmember Rosendahl learned that several seniors had been requesting handicap accessible curbs for several years. Rosendahl promised to provide new and improved pedestrian-friendly curbs within two months.

### Spark Your Inner Cre8tivity!

by erica snowlake

Here's a timeless riddle.....how do artists survive? By keeping it Alive! Art, like Nature, thrives on Love, nurturing it's seeds of Creativity like the Sun kisses wildflowers. Artists require Space and Time, an oozing backwater in which to develop ideas, to brew, fetter, and release fecundity in our desire to co-create Reality. We are most grateful to those who organize and uphold community venues for the sacred arts to flourish freely.

Cre8tivity is one such stoked fire in the heart of our collective wasteland. The name came to originator Jeff Joesph while on VansWarpedTour with his hemp apparel line, (Joesph owned the 4Hemp shop on Pacific). "Cre8tivity began as a way to express sur-

### In Brief

vival and to show there's hope."

An eclectic tribe was already gathering last Fridays of the month at VAMU, (Venice Arts and Music Underground), in the United Methodist Church. Fire spinning, dj's, livebands, coconut, crystal, chocolate booths, and drum circles outside went famously into the dawn.

When VAMU shut down, Joesph morphed his Cre8tivity logo into a live events venue to fill the void. He rented a large building, perfect for the task, on Washington Blvd. just east of Lincoln. Demand was great as open mikes were also vanishing in and around Venice, (e.g. wednesday nights at Abbot's Habit). Joesph obtained business and event permits from L.A. county, and Cre8tivity took off like an eight ball down a side pocket. Monthly haps soon turned thrice weekly to bridge the gap, featuring an organic kitchen and juice bar, live bands like Animatronix, the Marsh, and Fumongoni, interstellar dj's, performance artists Toilet and Log, dance troupes, hip hop poets, hula hoopers extraordinaire, Moon Tribe/BurningMan parties, and a parking lot scene replete with didges, drums, and rainbow chants around a communal firepit. Cre8tivity's dedicated crew threw down diversity and innovation night after night for the lucky word of mouth. Perhaps you bought your halloween pumpkin in the patch or your xmas tree in the lot by day. Unfortunately, as real-life faerietales go, nothing lasts forever. Culver City officials got involved, requesting and then refusing Joesph permits. Building and Safety inspectors were sent in to pull the plug, and fire marshalls closed the show after five short but wildly successful moons.

Cre8tivity's \$5000 a month rent paying parties evaporated overnight. Joesph is now seeking a legal events space on the WestSide. Cre8tivity's morphed again, into a live recording, band rehearsal, or film/video set rental space. Call 578-2945 or myspace.com/cre8tivity for more info. Blessings to everyone for making it Real and bringing the Art Vibe.

# Is this the end of Democracy?

By Jim Smith

Fear stalks the nation. Its people are afraid to express themselves even though they hold strong views against government policies. Neighbors hide in their houses, fearful of encountering each other. A steady drumbeat of accusations against arabs, gays and "illegal aliens" emanate from the mass media.

Is this a book review of George Orwell's 1984? Hardly. This is Venice and the US of A circa 2007. A hugely unpopular foreign adventure in Iraq fails to attract opponents into the streets for mass demonstrations. And when a newspaper - the Beachhead - asks "Venetians in the Street" for their opinions on Bush's troop "surge," most will express their negative opinion but are too paranoid to allow their names and photos in the paper.

What could possibly make people think democracy is in danger? Could it be the presidential succession since 1988:

Bush (1988-92)

Clinton (1992-2000)

Bush (2000-2008)

Clinton (2008-2016?)

It gets worse. The great Indian writer, Arundhati Roy, observes: "It is dangerous to confuse the idea of democracy with elections. Just because you have elections doesn't mean you're a democratic country."

So outside of elections, what do we have: illegal wars, extraordinary rendition, torture, a bloated military budget, the largest prison population in the world (2,186,230), secret CIA bases, presidential signing statements, denial of habeas corpus rights, illegal eavesdropping, electronic voting machines without a paper trail.

The United States has never been strong on democracy. The founding fathers (no women allowed) never used the word, preferring to call their new creation a "constitutional republic." The word democracy, which means "rule by the people," just wouldn't have applied very well to a country that excluded women, slaves, native Americans, and even white men who didn't own property from being allowed to vote, or hold office.

Let's go back to the Golden Age of American Democracy. At least, we would if we could find it. Certainly it didn't exist while there was slavery, and it couldn't have been when women were not allowed to vote or own property, you wouldn't find it when unions were considered criminal conspiracies. And, during the last 60 years, the Cold War, the War on Drugs and the War on Terrorism have not been fertile ground for the flowering of democracy.

That leaves us the four terms of Franklin Roosevelt's presidency. But even then, millions were out of work and living below the poverty line until war production created massive numbers of jobs. Maybe World War II was the Golden Age, if you can ignore the 400,000 U.S. military deaths (part of a world-wide carnage of 50 million). This was also a time when Japanese-Americans were rounded-up and put in camps, and when no-strike laws were imposed on workers.

Shortly after Roosevelt's death, his successor, Harry Truman, (surely one of the worst of a bad lot of presidents) decided to do what no other human in history has ever done - drop an atomic bomb, then another, on innocent people. It was hardly a democratic decision. Then, he presided over the establishment of the National Security State, which founded the CIA and enacted all sorts of provisions to protect the rulers from the ruled. Except for modest reforms instituted or contemplated by John Kennedy (and we all know what happened to him), it's been downhill ever since.

The 9/11 attacks gave Boy George the justification for establishing the Dept. of Homeland Security (was the allusion to Nazi-speak on purpose or accidental?), and spurred the growth of authoritarianism.

On the local level, what urban planners call "public space" was abandoned for the tranquility of big screen TVs hidden behind alarm systems



and too-tall fences. "Public" transportation was abandoned for encapsulated private automobiles. Likewise, walking became a thing of the past, unless one is accompanied by a large, threatening animal. And, there is no reason for us Venetians to feel smug. We don't even have a city government.

Public forums, block parties, neighborhood pubs, candidate debates, contested elections and public events, not sponsored by the Fortune 500, have become so rare that they make news when they do happen. The carefully controlled neighborhood council system recognizes the problem, but seeks to channel it into frameworks that are safe to autocratic bureaucrats and remote elected officials.

## A Case in Point

Southern California activist Jim DeMaegt was visited by the secret service in January in relation to an email allegedly threatening George Bush. We believe the email in question was one sent to the BDS-LA listserv (and perhaps others) on December 31 entitled "Internet Indictment of G.W. Bush and Call for Hanging Until Dead at the Capital Rotunda." In reading Jim's email, it is clear that he neither had the ability nor the intent to literally hang the president, but was rather commenting on the verdict rendered against Saddam Hussein for his crimes in Iraq. In the course of questioning he was arrested for obstructing an officer.

The notion that political leaders have the ability to speak of their dissatisfaction with foreign leaders, render war, death and destruction upon people within those countries, and call for, and celebrate, the execution of such leaders, while the general populace cannot so much as speak negative or threatening words (whether literal or facetious) against the president of the United States reveals how grossly ideas of freedom of speech have been skewed.

Jim is set to be arraigned on March 5 and I think that this would be a good opportunity for us to bring freedom of speech concerns back into the forefront of our dialogue and struggle. Of course we cannot forget that cases such as these occur frequently, with little or no public knowledge and no opportunity for redress, especially for Muslims...And on more serious charges than obstruction, or arrests with no charges at all.

—Ashley Osofsky

Here is the email that Jim DeMaegt sent out shortly after the hanging of Saddam Hussein that caused the visit by the Secret Service:

*We, the People of the United States of American, and We the Citizens of Every Nation and Every Region Across the World hereby indict George W. Bush for crimes against Humanity and for the Oppression and the Murder of millions and millions of people around the World.*

*We call for the Internet Trial and Conviction of G.W. Bush and we call for his Punishment after being Convicted for his Crimes against Humanity by being Hanged Until Dead at the Capital Rotunda.*

*All parties and people are encouraged to submit all evidence of G.W. Bush's Crimes Against Humanity to the Internet Court.*

*And a Jury Pool from throughout the Internet World is being assembled to Stand in Judgment of the War Criminal G.W. Bush.*

*May Justice Be Served.*

Given this history, and present day practice, the end of democracy in America becomes a question not of "if" but "when."

Meanwhile, the facade of democracy remains. Today, most people except prisoners and non-citizen residents can vote, but don't bother. In November, 2006, only 39 percent of Californians who were eligible to vote actually did vote. Yet, something ominous, like the shadow of a big predatory bird, hangs over the body politic.

Perhaps the foreboding that many of us feel accounts for the popularity of HBO's soap opera, Rome, which is set at the time of the end of their republic. How did they go wrong, and what can we learn from it.

The Romans maintained their republic - which is some ways was more democratic than our system of government - for more than 500 years before sinking into despotism for another 500 years. Likely, America doesn't have that much time on either end. Their Senate, like ours, was a club for the rich and powerful. Most in Congress today, as in ancient Rome, are multi-millionaires, and some like Jane Harman and John Kerry could fairly be called billionaires.

The Roman Senate rejected - sometimes brutally - all reforms and reformers. In 132 BC, Tiberius Gracchus, an advocate of land reform, was assassinated. His younger brother Gaius Gracchus was assassinated 11 years later. Their lives and deaths bear an eerie resemblance to those of John and Robert Kennedy. Then in 107 BC, Gaius Marius instituted similar reforms which were overthrown by a brutal right-wing dictator, Lucius Cornelius Sulla (think General Pinochet).

Rome's greatest reformer, Julius Caesar, was killed by a lone gunman (actually, he was stabbed 23 times by elite senators). Ever since, he has continued to be stabbed by upper-class twits who write Roman history. (A refreshing look at him as a progressive reformer is contained in Michael Parenti's book, *Julius Caesar*.) After 100 years of defeat and repression, the poor and working class who made up the majority of Romans were more than happy to have an Emperor (commander-in-chief), or Emperor, who would take their side against the big landlords in the senate. In the civil war following Caesar's assassination, most of the old families that made up the Senate were killed. They had so discredited themselves with the average Romans that no one cared. Instead, the population looked forward to the New World Order that the Emperor Augustus was putting together.

Also contributing to Rome's slide into authoritarianism was its expanding empire. Rome's habit of interfering in every dispute in the world, often sending in troops who didn't leave, ultimately undermined its democracy back home. Roman's continued to go about their day-to-day business believing in the myth that they still lived in a Republic, while the business of the empire was carried on between the Emperor and his appointees who ruled the provinces from Spain to Iraq.

What's the lesson for us here? Rome's ruling class, like America's, was so rigid that it met modest efforts for reform with repression. Contrast this with the European ruling class that has adapted to a less extreme income distribution between poor and rich, to universal health care and extended unemployment insurance, etc. It too may crumble as the rest of the world industrializes, but its fall will surely be less violent and more "democratic."

Is it hopeless for us, then? Not at all. Americans may yet reconnect with that well-spring of inner strength that has occasionally emerged, for example, in our fight against fascism during World War II, and in the 1960s when we fought for civil rights and ended the war in Vietnam. With effort, we may be able to throw off the addictions that keep us passive and apathetic - TV, sports, religion, anti-depressants, video games - and shrug off the false allure of empire. If we stand up for our rights we can still save that most precious of all Greek inventions - democracy.

# Class Action Suit Settlement Helps Venice Homeless

By Peggy Lee Kennedy, Venice Justice Committee

A class action lawsuit has been settled in favor of Venice homeless people whose property was seized by Los Angeles Police and other City employees, without warrant, and then destroyed during a homeless sweep that took place in September 2004.

Carol Sobel, President of the Los Angeles National Lawyers Guild, waived her legal fees, increasing the total cash settlement available to homeless people. The cash settlement was dispersed the first week of February 2007.

To get a portion of the settlement a proof of claim form needed to have been submitted by last November. Deepest regrets are extended to any person affected by the sweep – and not found.

The case, *Noe v. the City of Los Angeles*, was partly based on written and videotaped statements from 22 people directly affected by the sweep along with videotape and still picture evidence of ten or more dumpsters full of the homeless people's belongings found in Westchester and documented by Calvin E Moss and myself, of Venice Food Not Bombs and the Venice Justice Committee.

Sobel's lawsuit providing cash settlements to Venice homeless people, which helped move some into housing situations and improved their living conditions.

The settlement further included an order that homeless property, if not abandoned, must be held for 90 days. Common sense, the constitution, and the State of California seem to all say we are supposed to be protected from the police seizing our property without a warrant or probable cause. Police should not seize and destroy property in order to rid an area of its homeless population. Such is the situation, though.

Around seven in the morning, Thursday before Labor Day 2004, Ibrahim Butler phoned me, "You need to get down here. There was a big sweep on the beach." Usually, beach sweeps come just before a popular tourist holiday or a big event.

Calvin and I arrived on the Boardwalk shortly thereafter, but people were distressed (rightly so) and trying to find out where their belongings had been taken: the Venice LAPD Sub-Station, the Venice County Works Yard, or the LAPD Pacific Division Station?

We handed out incident reports and decided to go looking for a form called Claim for Damages against the City of Los Angeles. The form is available downtown in the clerk's office at City Hall, but I thought it was worth a shot to go looking for it at the LAX courthouse clerk's office.

The LAX clerk's office doesn't provide Claim for Damages forms, but the ride back turned out to be really worth the trip. Well, that's where we were when Calvin said, "Is that their stuff?" and there it was - the seized belongings in ten or so full dumpsters all sitting in that park - in plain view from Lincoln Blvd.

A homeless person in Venice would not have thought to go looking in a park behind the Westchester City Council office three towns away from Venice, but we drove right by it.

Besides things being broken, the dumpsters had already been scavenged through. Calvin videotaped for a few minutes and we rushed back to tell people where their stuff was.



Belongings dumped by the LAPD

## Homeless Center Relocation Sparks Debate

By C.V. Beck

Councilperson Bill Rosendahl held a Town Hall meeting, February 6, at Penmar Park Recreation Center. The purpose was to discuss with the community issues regarding the relocation of the St. Joseph's Service Center to their "old" thrift shop on Lincoln Blvd. at Flower St.

Some of the near neighbors were very concerned about this relocation, preferring, really, for these very needed and well-utilized services for the homeless, to be "somewhere else" or perhaps "anywhere else but here", unfortunately.

On the other hand, other near neighbors were supportive and well-aware of the need for these services and were of an accommodating and supportive nature, apparently realizing that in anyone's "model-perfect" life, sometimes things happen and that they or someone in their own family, may need the kind of help that St. Joseph's has offered to the community of Venice for many years.

This was a very long meeting, lasting past 9:30 pm. About half of those present and opposing, headed by "SONIC" left then, having voiced their opposition to their satisfaction and the remainder speaking in favor of the good that St. Joseph's does in this small beach community.

These affirmative voices included Rhonda Meister, Sister Judy Molosky, presenting the St. Joseph's relocation plans, Kita Curry from Didi Hirsch MHC in Venice, other neighbors like Dr. John, Ibrahim and Diane Butler, a Mrs. L. Barnett, a motorhome person who spoke, saying that her motorhome was totally self-sufficient and that she was clean and did not bother anyone, a Lincoln Place resident who spoke of the need for the community to educate themselves on the services provided.

C. Beck, also of Lincoln Place, spoke in favor and suggested the utilization of the vast unoccupied areas of Lincoln Place as appropriate for transitional housing and senior housing (at least on a temporary basis) and also for people living in motor homes and other vehicles as members of the public, occupying public streets that were mostly empty and available; and asked for people to "stop persecuting the homeless"!

There were some catcalls from different factions of the people present during the course of the Town Hall meeting. Consensus is that this relocation is going forward with conditions which will include a hot line to St. Joseph's, that will be enforced with vigor.

### More Furor in East Venice

On February 27, a meeting organized by the Venice Neighborhood Coalition, a new group in East Venice was held at Penmar Park Recreation Center. Neighbors attending were about 50 people, including DeDe Audet and Richard Meyers of the Venice Neighborhood Council, Jan Book and Barbara Eisenberg of Lincoln Place, David Ewing, Venice Community Coalition; and Chris Williams, Penmar Neighborhood Association.

Mark Grant, representative of the council office, Senior Lead Officer Craig White of Pacific Division, LAPD and Chuck Sewell of the Neighborhood Prosecutor's Office nuisance abatement were there to answer questions regarding reported open, blatant drug trafficking and prostitution taking place in a residential area east of Lincoln Boulevard bounded by Lake, Indiana and Valita Streets. There have also been 7 robberies.

People wanted to know if this activity was an "overflow" from the Oakwood section of Venice. This was denied by Officer White and Mr. Grant. Other persons wanted to know if certain constitutional rights could be suspended in order to expedite matters. Senior Lead Officer White said they could not be.

Chuck Sewell from the Neighborhood Prosecutor's office said he is gathering evidence and encouraging submissions of complaints. A woman said she was outraged and was going to install bars on her windows and double the security locks on her doors. This situation has been going on since the winter holidays. According to Officer White, the LAPD is now aware of the situation and are working on a resolution. —C.V. Beck



Lincoln Place

## TENT CITY REPORT

By C.V. Beck

Here at Lincoln Place, we experienced sweeps of the motorhomes and some vans (but not all) parked on the public streets in February. The security guards had been ordered by a person who works for the relocation service contracted by AIMCO to write down the license plate numbers and force people out with the help of the police. I saw a notepad in one of the guard's cars, with about 6-8 license plate numbers written on it and signed off on by a security guard. The next day, almost everyone was gone. This event occurred simultaneously with the meeting at the Penmar Park Rec Center on February 6 regarding the St. Joseph's minor move from one block in Venice to another block. I don't understand how a subcontractor hired to do one thing, relocate residents of Lincoln Place, has the authority to enforce the "removals" of people parked on a public street.

At Lincoln Place, reckless people are speeding through the complex, using it as a shortcut to Rose, Walgrove and points east. We also have more people again who are walking dogs (large and small) both on and off the leash, letting these large animals roam through the complex, threatening the feral cats still present and being cared for, and more people not cleaning up after their dogs. (My neighbor encountered 5 Boston Bull Terriers off the leash one day, their owner lagging far behind). I don't understand why these particular dog owners don't take their pets to the Westminster Dog Park, where they would be able to play and have a good time and hygienic facilities are in place. I did raise the question some time ago of having a dog park around the Penmar Golf Course...seems like there is some room there and clearly, there are more than enough dogs...

Here at Lincoln Place, we have numerous important events coming up: on March 4, at the Penmar Park Rec Center (childcare room) 9:30 am-12:00 is the regular monthly Lincoln Place Tenant's Association meeting; on March 8 downtown, Marlin v. AIMCO is a hearing in the court of appeals regarding motions in the SLAPP/ANTISLAPP (SLAPP stands for strategic lawsuit against public participation) trial 1:30 pm at 300 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, third floor. The next matter will be heard in Malibu on March 22 in the courtroom of Judge Sarmiento, (that is on Civic Center Way), regarding a motion in limine (a motion used to exclude certain evidence) as AIMCO continues to attempt to suppress our right to a trial. The CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) trial is not expected at this time to be heard before June or July. We are steadfastly seeking our rights under the law. Thanks for your encouragement and support. (Yes, we'd love to see you in court.)

And finally, we're coming back...to our sorely missed LINCOLN PLACE TENT CITY, effective Saturday, April 7, from 10 am to 5 pm, just like before, at the same location. In case you forgot, this is the southwest corner of California/Frederick Streets in Venice, CA., adjacent to the Ralph's market and the Ross store. We anticipate a selection of tasty treats, sweets and some beverages, as well as charming chats about the state of affairs in Venice with special emphasis on real politique, truly affordable housing and the lack thereof and whatever else strikes our free-speech fancy. See you soon! (Wild Monkey Brigade, waking up from the winter hibernations).

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## Interview with Navalette Tabor Bailey and Jataun Valentine

By Rex Butters

**Beachhead:** How long have you been with the historical society?

**Navalette Tabor Bailey:** Oh, about twenty years, I guess. I know it's been a long time.

**Beachhead:** What does the historical society do?

**Bailey:** They try to restore and protect the original Venice. You know, they put up these monstrosities now, just ruin the architecture all together. Upside down houses, and everything.

**Jataun Valentine:** They look like bunkers.

**Bailey:** Until recently, Venice was just small cottages. It wasn't designed to be a city, more of a resort. That's what Abbot Kinney had in mind.

**Valentine:** One of the things the Venice Historical Society has been doing, they have all this history and artifacts and it's costing them a fortune to keep it, because they don't have a building of their own. That's their goal, to have a building where they can show all of this history and things that they've been keeping, that people have given them.

**Bailey:** Especially photos, you have to keep them under certain conditions. When they built the library, they should have had a portion of it so we could store things. We're trying to purchase one of those big red trolley cars, but we can't find one. Put it right behind the library.

**Beachhead:** Did you get down on the old pier?

**Bailey:** I lived on the pier. That's why I don't care about Disneyland. I've had it all my life. Mr. Reese was the town decorator. He decorated the ballroom and the pier. He had a crew of men who cleaned the pier. He was in charge of everything, the plunge, where to get your towels, all that kind of stuff. Everybody knew our family, so we could go on the rides for free. We'd leave early in the morning and be gone all day long. My father was a Tabor, he was a cousin of Arthur Reese. And, his brother was a chauffeur for Abbot Kinney. He willed him his house. It was sold recently, the grand kids sold it. It's sad. It was a beautiful old place. About 20 of the grandkids got married there.

It was sort of like a meeting place. It was large and our family was large, we would utilize the house so often for social events. We couldn't go anywhere, we couldn't go to any dances, because they didn't allow us in the ballroom. We had this big house, we could do anything we wanted to do. My uncle was very good about letting us use it.

**Beachhead:** Where was it?

**Bailey:** 6th & Santa Clara. It's still there.

**Valentine:** We went through it not long ago. They were very nice. One thing I thought was interesting was that wall made of hide.

**Bailey:** Leather walls all the way around. Full hides each panel, beautiful.

**Beachhead:** Did you ever think it would get so expensive around here?

**Bailey:** No, I couldn't imagine it. These flats they built all over Venice after the war, they were selling those for \$10,000. I thought that was exorbitant. I wouldn't buy one. Now they sell for a million dollars.

**Valentine:** There were a lot of empty lots around, now you don't see any empty ones.

**Bailey:** We had that fear of losing, because my

parents lost everything in the depression. But, they weren't the only ones. It made you leery of conditions and you didn't take advantage of things like you should. Well, we're still here, anyway.

**Beachhead:** Did you find work during the depression?

**Bailey:** We didn't have a lot of opportunities. We had to make the best of what we had. When I got out of high school I went to work in Malibu Colony, I was working for a family up there. A dollar a day, thirty dollars a month, sometimes 16 hour days. I graduated from high school during the depression, 1933. I was the first black woman to graduate from Venice High School. I didn't want to be a burden on my family, because they were struggling, so I got myself a job. I was taking care of two little girls, doing the hardest work. But one good thing, I had a car and a chauffeur's license. I drove the kids to school. I was independent that way, on my day off they let me take the car, which is the only good thing I got out of it. I guess that's why I stayed for that little money. I dressed myself, I wasn't a burden on my family. I stayed with them about four years I guess. The woman's family owned a lot of property in La Canada. Her family put her on a budget. They'd only give her so much money a month, because she was a spendthrift. She was kind of spoiled. One day, she must have lost it. I had one day off, on Thursday. I heard her on the telephone inviting a lot of people over. It was the 4th of July, it came on a Thursday, my day off. I'd made plans, I heard her, I said, "You better call the employment agency in Santa Monica, see if you can get someone out here to help you, because you know I'm not going to be here."

She hauled off, and POW! She hit me in the face and knocked me on my butt. I sat on the floor for a minute because I was stunned. I shook my head, and she was stunned too, because I didn't get up right away. I got up slowly to get my bearings, because I was groggy. See, she didn't know I could fight. My cousins were all amateur boxers and they used to teach me how to, 1-2-3 punch. So when I came up, I came with a hay bale. I hit her, POWEE! And I threw her up against a door, all this was in the little bathroom. It got too much for her in the bathroom, and she ran into her bedroom, and I was right behind her. She turned around and kicked at me, so I just grabbed her foot and threw her on her back. Then I straddled her, and I was whaling on her.

Her husband came in, he pulled me off of her, and she said, "She hits like a mule!" She didn't know what I would do. I was taught to fight, I didn't fight like a woman, scratching. I was really throwing some punches. She ended up with a wet towel on her face begging me to stay. I hated to leave the kids, I was attached to them. But, I called home and had them come pick me up. I got another job, paid just as much.

**B:** You've been here since 1915. If you were granted the wish, what would you like to see happen in Venice in the next hundred years?

**N:** I'd like it to remain like it used to be, a mecca of excitement. The railroad would bring car after car, people would get off in droves. Now it's cars. They should never have gotten rid of the railroad.

**Valentine:** Those were the days, too, when we didn't have to have bars on the windows, didn't have to lock the door. That made a big difference.

**N:** Everybody had passkeys. One key could open any door, so why lock them?

**Valentine:** It was fun when kids could be kids and stay out. Our parents didn't worry about us, we didn't have the kidnapping. As long as we got home before dark. Everybody knew everybody, too. It was a community. If you did something wrong, by the time you got home, your parents knew about it. Neighbors could discipline you, and the parents were glad they did it. **N:** They had a curfew. There was a big whistle that blew right where Bank of America is. But, you've got to give way to progress. I know it never will return like it was.

## Interview with Poet Hillary Kaye

By Rex Butters



**Beachhead:** How long have you lived in Venice/Ocean Park? How did you start with painting, with poetry?

How has the Venice environment inspired you? Do you feel advantages/disadvantages being a woman artist in Venice? What women most inspired you in your work and life, and how?

**Kaye:** I've lived in Venice/Ocean park for a long time. Not that I knew Mr. Kinney personally or anything, somewhere in the 60s era i moved here and I couldn't leave, well i did leave a few times but something kept bringing me back here.. Something to do with the nature of the place, shifting sands, liquefaction and all that. Seriously like its namesake Venice, Italy which threatens to disappear below the waters, it has a special ephemeral nature like magic and art.

The light here has a special quality and without getting too much into Jung's collective unconscious idea, you can feel and be inspired by the spirit of other artists and writers who have lived here. There is also a community of artists here today who provide by their example support for the ridiculous notion that one can be an artist in this society

I didn't really start with painting and poetry, it was more like they started with me, thrust a brush in my hand and said paint and make poetry. I've been doing it most of my life. As I said it's a ridiculous choice given the mercantile society and the rising rents but it's helped a lot that there were women artists who were brave enough to do this before... Joni Mitchell, Frida Kahlo, etc. and women who today are still being and brave and doing this ....I am inspired by many women in this area....there are many creative women here who are poets, painters, singers, musicians and dancers of the soul.



Photos: (except Merrill) by Rex Butters

## Interview with OFW Activist Della Franco

By Rex Butters

**Beachhead:** What women have been most influential in your life?

**Franco:** My daughter, because she's completely grounded me and given me a sense of purpose and the love for her comes from a very deep rooted place in my soul.

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**Interview with Lincoln Place Tenants Assoc. President Sheila Bernard**



By Rex Butters

**Beachhead:** How long have you lived in Venice?  
**Sheila Bernard:** Since 1988.

**Beachhead:** You're the president of the Lincoln Place Tenants Association. How did you get involved?

**Bernard:** I moved into Lincoln Place thinking it would be a temporary thing. That was August, '88. I saw a notice that was being sent around by the tenants' association, and I went to the meeting at Penmar Park. There was this sea of white hair, hundreds of seniors being threatened with eviction, and that was it. I was hooked.

**Beachhead:** Were you an activist before this?

**Bernard:** I had been involved in the food movement, the organic food movement, the food co-op movement for many years in the mid to late seventies. Sort of an activist by nature, and I believe you can always find some way to engage, either where you work or where you live, on something that will improve this society. There's always a way to engage.

**Beachhead:** What are the roots of your activism?

**Bernard:** It's part of my job description as an adult, to first take care of myself, and then take care of my immediate family. Then, your responsibilities kinda go outward in concentric circles. If you can take care of yourself and you can take care of your immediate family, then the next thing is to do your part to take care of your community, your neighborhood. Those concentric circles can expand outward: your city, your country, the world. As far as you can go, as much time and energy you can have without compromising your more personal responsibilities, I think we all need to go beyond just taking care of ourselves and our families, because if we don't, then democracy's impossible because it requires participation and volunteering.

**Beachhead:** What women inspire you in your life?

**Bernard:** One woman who has been very inspirational to me is Lois Arkin, the founder of L.A. Eco-Village. She is true to her ideals to a greater extent than almost anyone I've ever met.

**Beachhead:** How about growing up?

**Bernard:** My family is full of strong women and I learned from all of them.

**Beachhead:** The mess at Lincoln Place has been going for so long. You've been involved for nearly 20 years. Where do you find the strength to go up against corporate aggression and the indifference of city officials, their lawyers, the dirty tricks? How do you fight against those overwhelming odds day after day?

**Bernard:** There's always a way to engage for social change, and once you do, all the issues you care about, the war, poverty, environmental pollution, people's inhumanity to one another, it's all there. Every issue you care about is embedded in the issue you become involved in. I figure a person has to make a stand at some point. Once you make your stand, you can accomplish a great deal just by digging in and staying put and taking it to the wall. That's what gives me the strength to keep on going. I want to know how this is going to resolve, and I also know that if I don't give up that some good is going to come from it. Maybe not everything I wanted, but some good is going to come of it, if I just take it to the wall, as far as I can go.



**Interview with Peoples Attorney Amanda Seward**



By Rex Butters

**Beachhead:** How long have you live in Venice?  
**Amanda Seward:** Actually, I live in Mar Vista. I think everybody thinks of me as Venice, because I've been working on Lincoln Place so much.

**Beachhead:** How did you get involved with the Lincoln Place situation?

**Seward:** I live in an historic district in Mar Vista, the Gregory Ain tract. They're the flat roofed houses that were done right after WW II, and we're the first post WWII historic district in LA. So, I have an affinity for architecture and especially modern architecture based on the idea that architecture can be used as a social tool to create strong community. I got involved in Lincoln Place because it fits within that, and I did the nomination for Lincoln Place to the California Register of Historic Resources. From that I got to know the tenants, and it seemed to fit within all of that too, because these tenants are such a strong community, and it was such a nice community. So, I got to know them and then got involved with their eviction case as a result.

**Beachhead:** What is the 20th Century Architectural Alliance?

**Seward:** It is a group that's trying to preserve 20th Century architecture within the city of Los Angeles. I'd gotten involved with the Los Angeles Conservancy, but they would compromise too easily on issues because of their political standing with the city, and donors, and that kind of thing. That's why I started with some people the 20th Century Architectural Alliance, so we could be smaller and quicker to act. We started this independent group that could be a little more nimble and fight a little more diligently and tougher. We've done some nominations for historic properties. We have brought a lawsuit against AIMCO and the city involving Lincoln Place. When the city agreed it could be

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**Interview with Venice Artist Kwanza**



By Rex Butters

**Beachhead:** What women have been most influential in your life?

**Kwanza:** My mom and my daughter have probably been my biggest influences in my life. Outside of that, probably Maya Angelou, Maxine Waters, Oprah Winfrey. Varnette Honeywood has been a big influence in the arts, and Barbara Weston. My mom and my daughter for their strength and their faith. Oprah Winfrey has been a big influence for her success and what she's done for people around the world. Maya Angelou for her beautiful words and poetry, and the strength she represents in single women who bought land here in the Baldwin Hills area, and the Venice area, and the Santa Monica/Palisades area. Those women, those are my idols. If you could see where they came from and what they acquired, how they preserved themselves in life. They were beautiful, they were generous, they were kind, they were strong. Those are my idols, I hope I'm doing them right.

**Interview with Health & Fitness Educator Debbie Merrill**



By erica snowlake

We herald Debbie Merrill, a shining angel making a difference in our community, leading the Way with strength, action, and vision. We first met up at an Earth Day Festival where she shared Goji berries and her divine enthusiasm.

**Beachhead:** Tell us of your latest Quests....

**Merrill:** 150,000 children suffering from obesity, transfats in school cafeterias, cut gym programs, people killing themselves with a fork, 12,000 prescription drug overdoses a year, these are my current challenges. My mission is to educate the world back to fitness and health thru exercise, diet, and FUN!

**Beachhead:** Noble causes, Skate Queen!

**Merrill:** We're only asking 45 min to an hour per day. People want what i have, (great abs, high energy), without doing the work, we are all tuned to instant gratification, sitcom timing, I call it. My idea of exercise isn't just going to the gym, either. We can integrate physicality, spirituality, sensuality, and creativity into everything we do. That's why you'll see me skating the bike path dancing, doing yogaerobics, sun-gazing, and singing affirmations to the Light all at once.

**Beachhead:** Cool! How does Venice rate in skate history?

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**Interview with Venice Writer/Mother D. W. Knowles**



By Rex Butters

**Beachhead:** What women have been most influential in your life?

**Knowles:** My ancestors. My ancestors came out of the piny woods in Macon, Mississippi. They came here to California in the early forties and bought land here in the Baldwin Hills area, and the Venice area, and the Santa Monica/Palisades area. Those women, those are my idols. If you could see where they came from and what they acquired, how they preserved themselves in life. They were beautiful, they were generous, they were kind, they were strong. Those are my idols, I hope I'm doing them right.

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## Listen Gore: Some Inconvenient Truths About the Politics of Environmental Crisis

By Mitchel Cohen  
Brooklyn Greens/Green Party

Al Gore's film, "An Inconvenient Truth," raises the issue of global warming in a way that scares the bejeezus out of viewers, as it should since the consequences of global climate change are truly earth-shaking. The former Vice-President does a good job of presenting the graphic evidence, exquisite and terrifying pictures that document the melting of the polar ice caps and the effects on other species, new diseases, and rising ocean levels.

But, typically, the solutions Gore offers are standard Democratic Party fare. You'd never know by watching this film that Gore and Clinton ran this country for 8 years and that their policies -- as much as those of the Bush regime -- helped pave the way for the crisis we face today.

Gore never critiques the system causing the global ecological crisis. At one point, he even mourns the negative impact of global warming on U.S. oil pipelines. Oh, the horror! What it all comes down to, for Gore and the Democrats, is that we need to shift away from reliance on fossil fuels and tweak existing consumption patterns.

Even there, Gore and Clinton did nothing to improve fuel efficiency in the U.S. -- a topic which Gore talks about in the movie without any hint that he'd once actually been in a position to do something about it. The question Gore poses is, Who can best manage the relatively minor solutions he recommends, the Democrats or Republicans? For Gore, it's sort of "trust US, not THEM, to deal with this situation because they are liars and we're not." Well, should we trust him?

As Joshua Frank writes, during the campaign for president in 1992 Gore promised a group of supporters that the Clinton-Gore EPA would never approve a hazardous waste incinerator located near an elementary school in Liverpool, Ohio, which was operated by WTI. "Only three months into Clinton's tenure," Frank writes, "the EPA issued an operating permit for the toxic burner. Gore raised no qualms. Not surprisingly, most of the money behind WTI came from the bulging pockets of Jackson Stephens, who just happened to be one of the Clinton-Gore's top campaign contributors." (1)

But failing to shut down toxic incinerators is just the tip of their great betrayal. In the film, Gore references the Kyoto Accords and states that he personally went to Kyoto, giving the impression that he was a key figure in fighting to reduce air pollution emissions that destroy the ozone layer. What he omits is that his mission in going to Kyoto was to scuttle the Accords, to block them from moving forward. And he succeeded.

The Clinton-Gore years were anything but environment-friendly. Under Clinton-Gore, more old growth forests were cut down than under any other recent U.S. administration. "Wise Use" committees -- set up by the lumber industry -- were permitted to clearcut whole mountain ranges, while Clinton-Gore helped to "greenwash" their activities for public consumption.

Under Clinton-Gore, the biotech industry was given carte blanche to write the US government's regulations (paltry as they are) on genetic engineering of agriculture, and to move full speed ahead with implementing the private patenting of genetic sequences with nary a qualm passing Gore's lips.

You'd think watching this film that Gore is just some concerned professor who never had access to power or held hundreds of thousands of dollars of stock in Occidental Petroleum (driving the U'wa off their lands in Colombia), let alone was the Number Two man actually running the U.S. government!

"Gore, like Clinton who quipped that 'the invisible hand has a green thumb,' extolled a free-market attitude toward environmental issues," writes Frank, who goes on to quote Jeffrey St. Clair: "Since the mid-1980s Gore has argued with increasing stridency that the bracing forces of market capitalism are potent curatives for the ecological entropy now bearing down on the global environment. He is a passionate disciple of the gospel of efficiency, suffused with an inchoate technophilia." (2)

Before Kyoto, before the Clinton-Gore massive depleted uranium bombings of Yugoslavia and Iraq, before their missile "deconstruction" of the only existing pharmaceutical production facility in northern Africa in the Sudan (which exacerbated the very serious problems there, as we're seeing in Darfur today), there was NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement. The task of Clinton-Gore was to push through this legislation

which not even strong Republican administrations under Reagan or Bush Sr. had been able to do. Since its inception, NAFTA has undermined U.S. environmental laws, chased production facilities out of the U.S. and across the borders, vastly increased pollution from Maquilladoras (enterprise zones) along the U.S./Mexico border and helped to undermine the indigenous sustainable agrarian-based communities in southern Mexico -- as predicted by leftists in both countries, leading to the Zapatista uprising from those communities on January 1, 1994, the day NAFTA went into effect.

Clinton-Gore also approved the destructive deal with the sugar barons of South Florida arranged by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, which doomed the Everglades. (In fact, Clinton was on the phone with Alfonso Fanjul, Jr., the chief of the sugar barons, while Monica Lewinsky was busy doing her thing in her famous blue dress under Clinton's desk.)

Early in Clinton-Gore's first administration, they pledged they would stop the plunder of the Northwest forests, writes former Village Voice columnist James Ridgeway. "They then double-crossed their environmental backers. Under Bush Sr., the courts had enjoined logging in the Northwest habitats of the spotted owl. Clinton-Gore persuaded environmentalists to join them in axing the injunction. The Clinton administration went before a Reagan-appointed judge who had a record as a stalwart environmentalist and with the eco toadies in tow, got him to remove the injunction, and with it the moratorium on existing timber sales." (3) Then Gore and Clinton "capitulated to the demands of Western Democrats and yanked from its initial budget proposals a call to reform grazing, mining, and timber practices on federal lands. When Clinton convened a timber summit in Portland, in April 1994, the conference was, as one might expect, dominated by logging interests. Predictably, the summit gave way to a plan to restart clear-cutting in the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest for the first time in three years, giving the timber industry its get rich wish." (4)

Gore and Clinton sent to Congress the infamous Salvage Rider, known to radical environmentalists as the "Logging without Laws" bill, "perhaps the most gruesome legislation ever enacted under the pretext of preserving ecosystem health." Like Bush's "Healthy Forests" plan, the Clinton-Gore act "was chock full of deception and special interest pandering. 'When [the Salvage Rider] bill was given to me, I was told that the timber industry was circulating this language among the Northwest Congressional delegation and others to try to get it attached as a rider to the fiscal year Interior Spending Bill,' environmental lawyer Kevin Kirchner says. 'There is no question that representatives of the timber industry had a role in promoting this rider. That is no secret.'" (5) What the Salvage Rider did was to "temporarily exempt ... salvage timber sales on federal forest lands from environmental and wildlife laws, administrative appeals, and judicial review," according to the Wilderness Society -- long enough for multinational lumber and paper corporations to clear-cut all but a sliver of the U.S.'s remaining old growth forests.

"Thousands of acres of healthy forestland across the West were rampaged. Washington's Colville National Forest saw the clear cutting of over 4,000 acres. Thousands more in Montana's Yak River Basin, hundreds of acres of pristine forest land in Idaho, while the endangered Mexican Spotted Owl habitat in Arizona fell victim to corporate interests. Old growth trees in Washington's majestic Olympic Peninsula -- home to wild Steelhead, endangered Sockeye salmon, and threatened Marbled Murrelet -- were chopped unremittingly by the US Forest Service." (6)

The assault on nature continued with Gore's blessing.

Around the same time, Clinton-Gore appointee Carol Browner, head of the EPA, was quoted in the NY Times as having said that the administration would be "relaxing" the Delaney Clause (named

after its author, Congressman James Delaney, D-NY). Congress had inserted this clause into section 409 of the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act in 1958. It prohibited FDA approval of any food additive found to cause cancer in humans or animals. Alone among all food-related directives, this legislation put the onus on the manufacturers to demonstrate that their products were safe before they were allowed to become commercially available. (7) A federal appeals court in July 1992 expanded the jurisdiction of the Delaney Clause, ruling that it was applicable to cancer-causing pesticides in processed food. Browner retracted her comment, claiming she'd never said it, but the proof was in the pudding. The ban on cancer-causing additives (the "Precautionary Principle") that had held through the Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Reagan and Bush, Sr. administrations was finally removed, not by the Republicans but by the Clinton-Gore administration. Instead of expanding the Delaney clause to protect produce and other unprocessed foods, the new Food Quality Protection Act permitted "safe" amounts of carcinogenic chemicals (as designated by the Environmental Protection Agency) to be added to all food. (According to Peter Montague, editor of Rachel's Weekly, no one knows how 'safe amounts' of carcinogens can be established, especially when several carcinogens and other poisons are added simultaneously to the food of tens of millions of people.) Nevertheless, the Clinton-Gore administration spun this as "progress."

The Clinton administration, with guidance from Gore's office, also cut numerous deals over the pesticide Methyl Bromide despite its reported effects of contributing to Ozone depletion and its devastating health consequences on farm workers picking strawberries.

Much is being made these days about the need to save the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. But Clinton-Gore opened the National Petroleum Reserve -- 24 million untouched acres adjacent to the refuge, home to a large caribou herd and numerous arctic species -- to oil drilling. The chief beneficiary of this was Arco, a major (\$1.4 million) contributor to the Democratic Party. At the same time, writes James Ridgeway, "Clinton dropped the ban on selling Alaskan oil abroad. This also benefits Arco, which is opening refineries in China. So although the oil companies won the right to exploit Alaskan oil on grounds that to do so would benefit national development, Clinton-Gore unilaterally changed the agreement so that it benefits China's industrial growth." (8)

Not once in the entire film does Gore criticize this awful environmental record or raise the critical questions we need to answer if we are to effectively reverse global warming: Is it really the case that the vast destruction of our environment that went on under his watch and, continuing today, is simply a result of poor consumer choices and ineffective government policies? Is the global environmental devastation we are facing today rectifiable with some simple tuning-up, as Gore proposes?

Neither he -- as point man for the Clinton administration on environmental issues -- nor Clinton-Gore's Energy Secretary Bill Richardson (with major ties to Occidental Petroleum), nor the Democratic Party offer anything more than putting a tiny Band-Aid on the earth's gaping wounds, which they themselves helped to gash open.

Clearly, the vast destruction of the global ecology is a consequence not just of poor governmental policies but of the capitalist system's fundamental drive towards Growth and what passes for Development -- Grow or Die. Environmental activists won't find in Gore the kind of systemic analysis that is needed to stop global warming. Instead, we need to look elsewhere for that sort of deep systemic critique.

### NOTES

1. Joshua Frank, Counterpunch, May 31, 2006, <http://www.counterpunch.org/frank05312006.html>. Frank is the author of *Left Out! How Liberals Helped Reelect George W. Bush*, and edits [www.BrickBurner.org](http://www.BrickBurner.org)
2. Jeffrey St. Clair, *Been Brown So Long It Looked Like Green to Me: The Politics of Nature*, Common Courage Press, 2004.
3. James Ridgeway, "Eco Spaniel Kennedy: Nipping at Nader's Heels," *Village Voice*, Aug. 16-22, 2000. <http://www.villagevoice.com/news/0033,ridgeway,17335,6.html>
- 4,5,6 Joshua Frank.
7. The battle over the Delaney Clause has been ably documented by Rachel's Weekly, at [www.rachel.org](http://www.rachel.org)
8. Ridgeway, op cit.





**Kerouacking**  
By Austin Straus

hang out near a coast  
in case the center crumbles  
then catch a cruise across  
an ocean, don't look back

that wide middle maw  
gulps plenty, a few coughed  
up to the rim  
stick and prosper, the rest  
drift back, find ways  
to die

it's the sea does me,  
rolling surf and stench  
lull and tender, a place  
to hide

blood-shifting sea churning  
in my flesh, old goodmama  
sea  
who feeds and fills, makes  
dark moons  
of scared child eyes, lets a  
kid  
drink himself to sleep.

**The Cripple**

Sitting in pain,  
A deserted room,  
A chair of cold, uncompromising metal,  
Waiting,  
Endless pondering of "Should I or shouldn't  
I?,"  
Paralyzed by a secret fear,  
Knotted fingers  
tremble beside the silent telephone,  
Listening for the threatening doorbell  
with unwilling ears,  
Haunting faces peer through the windows,  
My eyes sealed shut,  
Strangers don't understand,  
Hurting in the disability of my own design,  
Frightening emotions suppressed,  
Poisoned by the Past,  
The delicate child of long ago,  
A crippled adult.

- Lynette

P O E T R Y

**Ravens**

by Hillary Kaye

the pain had reached proportion greater than the sun could warm,  
and the earth was giving way,  
and the tides were changing and the sun was setting  
and the moon was waning and stars were telling secrets to the clouds.  
and the liars were telling tales to the horse who was galloping on and on and on  
because he had the strength to do it  
and someone must carry on carry through with it as if the end were near enough to see  
they thought they had the answers to get from here to there  
who cares the price or millennium of years strangled by this,  
that was the map,  
she crawled to the door opened it wide and begged for air or insight whichever might come  
first.

**What I Listen For**

(for Jerry)  
By R.G. Cantalupo

Jerry hugs a tree and tells me  
his wife does this for therapy.  
She gets messages," he says,  
and shows me how she presses  
her forehead against the trunk  
just so. I don't know what to say.  
Jerry is as far out on the fringes  
as I ever wish to be, but, as I  
watch him, I think, what the hell,  
seems just as good as praying.

We're on the promenade,  
a Saturday, a warm Spring night,  
women sauntering by in their  
alluring, see-thru dresses.  
I can't be intimate with an oak  
with so many warm bodies  
moving close beside me. I give up,  
tell Jerry I have a headache. I'm  
unable to achieve treeness when  
my head's throbbing against the bark.

"There's a difference, you know,"  
Jerry continues, "between hugging  
a street lamp and a tree." I look  
at him. He's serious. His eyes  
sizzle in the amber light. "Trees  
have hearts." I nod. Take in what  
he means. Then, I turn. Say goodbye.  
Slip back inside the body of blacktop  
and neon. Listen for the hearts  
of trees beating in the night.

**The President's Woman**

By Tina Catalina Corcoran  
Winter 1998

I Pity, the Poor Woman,  
Who Fell -- For his Game. . .  
Share -- In his Shame . . .  
Bare - In his Blame . . .

I Pity, the Poor Woman,  
Who Fell for his Game -  
Was it worth "15 minutes" of Fame?  
Yes, it was. (Yes, it was.)  
YES!, IT WAS! (YES! IT WAS!)

At the time, I'm not Lyin',  
He LOVED me!

I Pity, the Poor Women,  
Who Fell - For his Face . . .  
"CHIEF" -- Of the Race . . .

.  
"THIEF" -- Of the Faith . . .  
.

I Pity, the Poor Women,  
Who Fell for his Face -  
Was it worth "the DISGUST" and  
"DISGRACE"?"  
Yes, it was. (Yes, it was.)  
YES! IT WAS! (YES! IT WAS!)

At the time, I'm not Lyin',  
He LOVED me!

I Pity the Poor Women  
Who Fell for his Eyes...  
What a PERFECT DIS-  
GUISE . . .  
"The President's Eyes" . . .

I Pity, the Poor Women,  
Who Fell for his Eyes -  
Was it worth ALL those LITTLE  
WHITE (HOUSE) LIES?  
Yes, it was. (Yes, it was.)  
YES! IT WAS! (YES! IT WAS!)

I SWEAR - I'm not Lyin',  
He LOVED me!

Oh, I SWEAR - Yes, I SWEAR it . . .  
He LOVED me . . .  
He loved me . . .

**Strollin' on the Boulevard**

By CJ Gronner

It's the end of Venice as we know it ...  
So, yesterday my pal Denise and I were walking down Abbot Kinney boulevard in  
Venice to check out the new bakery 3 Square (aside from nice people working the counter,  
not impressed) when I noticed there were an unusual amount of people on the street. Now  
we have seen the block change in the last year or so, and not for the better ... Venetians don't  
really care for \$200.00 t-shirts, for one example ... and there are always petitions to sign to  
not allow chain restaurants in, etc ... but yesterday made me think we might be losing the  
battle.

We soon saw that all the hubbub was not just a crazy amount of shoppers on a Sunday ...  
but that (cue scary organ music) Paris Hilton was doing a photo shoot at a new design shop  
on the street. There she was, in her cheesy too-matchy outfit with matching visor, on the  
phone (of course), loving the attention. Papparazzi lined both sides of the street, tourists  
were thrilled at their score, frantically whipping out their camera phones ... and we were  
completely nauseous.

We tried to avoid it all by walking into the street around the commotion, when two Rent-  
A-Cops barked at us that we had to stay on the sidewalk. A woman obviously with the  
shoot told us to just walk through the shot ... we told her we'd rather not be a part of it and  
quickly raced past. I tried my best to come off as freaky and crazy (do I fake a Tourette's fit?  
Throw garbage at them? Hire a homeless guy to pee on Paris? Start chanting about the  
war? All these things ran through my mind ...) so that maybe the word could go out to stay  
away from Venice and all the dangerous freaks ... fancy shopping, be damned. I'm afraid it  
might not have worked.

To top it off, I heard that they are opening a Pinkberry Yogurt shop (though we DID file  
a petition anti this yogurt chain????) soon on the block, so we can expect the lines of trend-  
sters waiting for their trendy yogurt soon too, I imagine. Only one word comes to mind  
relating to all of this ..... BOOOOOOOOOOO!

I know things can't always stay the same and progress as well as change is good ... but  
Venice has always been so very special ("Where Art Meets Crime" as a popular t-shirt states)  
and that is precisely because it has NEVER been trendy, but REAL.

My friend Tom dubbed it "The People's Republic Of Venice" when he played our hub,  
Abbot's Habit, last year. I just hope and pray we can keep it's essence exactly that ... and not  
be overthrown by photo op hungry fakers.



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

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known as our home. Fight the  
Power!!!

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## Iraqi Women to be Executed

An Iraqi Tribunal has convicted and intends to put three young Iraqi women, Wassan Talib, age 31; Zeynab Fadhil, age 25; and Liqa Omar Muhammad, age 26; to death in the very near future, according to The National Lawyers Guild International Committee, a network of human rights attorneys, law students, and legal workers.

The Guild is demanding that the Iraqi government immediately repudiate its intention to execute these women. The Guild joins with many human rights and jurists organizations in making this demand.

The Guild says the women were denied legal counsel, the law under which they were convicted is illegal during the occupation, and the women should be treated as prisoners of war, not criminals. Two of the women have small children.

## Interview with Debbie Merrill

—continued from page 7

**Merrill:** Skating may have started in Holland, but Venice takes the prize as it's Mecca. In-line skating, line dance skating, disco wheeling, we've seen it all birthed here. I opened Skate Great USA 20 years ago and it's still going strong. I teach stars, starters, old farters, anyone with the desire to roll! ([www.skategreat.com](http://www.skategreat.com))

**Beachhead:** You are legendary as the first Skate Brazilian Sambatista in the Venice Carnivale! So what is your secret Fountain of Youth?

**Merrill:** I eat for longevity, beauty, and health. Debbie Merrill's Super Philosophy Nuggets!

Eat fruit, stay cute

Eat greens, stay keen, clean, and lean

Eat more Raw Mother Nature's Law

Eat less Live more!

I eat an organic raw food diet, nothing with a face, no white foods, (flour, sugar, dairy), no preservatives, alcohol, tobacco, or drugs. I've been vegan for 25 years, raw for 13.

**Beachhead:** How did you get into it?

**Merrill:** By falling down! Stumbling blocks become stepping stones. I learned the hard way - I ate tofu 3 times a day, whatever you overeat you develop an allergy to. I drank so much carrot juice I turned orange! Now I host an Internet TV show in 11 cities nationwide transitioning eating behaviors towards healthier lifestyles. We feature health tips and talks from the top speakers in the field, we're looking for network sponsors to help get the message across. [www.debbiemerrillshow.com](http://www.debbiemerrillshow.com)

**Beachhead:** Name your top energy boosters.

**Merrill:** Maca, Spirulina, Goji berries, Hemp protein, coconut butter, cacao, wheatgrass, and bee pollen.

**Beachhead:** You are also a mentor for young women, what advice do you give them?

**Merrill:** DANCE! that will give you the body you want. Look for creative fulfillment for yourself before you look for boyfriends. Think about how you can touch people's lives and help our planet. Nurture a Helping Philosophy - everyone I meet in a day who gets in my way - is there for a reason! Ask how you can help them or be helped by them.

**Beachhead:** Angelic Wisdom indeed!

**Merrill:** Believe in a Higher Power! My inspiration is the Beach, the Ocean. it's vast, abundant, always there, it comes, it goes, it always flows!

**Beachhead:** You are like the Muhammad Ali of jive motivation!

**Merrill:** Hey! Look at that Ocean! The same power is Within Us. If we are squeezed, we are perfect, whole, and complete. We are what we eat, we can take in pure peace. I feel I might have been here before - as a mermaid or a bird- I love to fly. Both my parents died in my arms. Doctors and Teachers, lets balance how much we know with how much we care. I pay 110% attention to my students and I only play up the positive. Remember - We've all got junk in the trunk - to uncover, discover, and discard, before we say our final regards. To survive we need a tribe of supporters. AS I GIVE TO THE WORLD, THE WORLD GIVES BACK TO ME.

**Beachhead:** Thanks, Debbie, it's always a pleasure. For over 100 Healthy Eating Tips email [debbie@rawintheworld.com](mailto:debbie@rawintheworld.com). Go Raw Now: Ask Us How! Look for her upcoming book Eat to Look and Feel Great. Peace Out



## El Dia De La Mujer/International Woman's Day

—continued from page 3

I ask you as a woman would you be willing to work 10 hours a day for \$67 per week? Or would you seek an opportunity to make a better living across the border. A human being becomes hungry, with stomach pain and cramps. If starvation continues your stomach starts to bloat, and weakness and fatigue set in. Millions of children are starving and dying daily worldwide. Hunger in America is rampant also. Single mothers with children who work for the minimum wage often have to decide whether to pay the rent or feed their children. The highest poverty and homeless rates are single mothers with children.

Another great concern of women are the pedophiles that take advantage of young children or take vacations to Thailand where they

can get away with exploiting girls as young as five years old. There is now an organization that is headed by a man who is attempting to stop this exploitation of children that is due to extreme poverty.

In 2007, there are still many issues, here and globally, that are still face women and their families. Women's work is never done! It will not get done until women continue to hold the banner high for human rights, to end poverty, exploitation, war and help each other here in this country and stretch our solidarity to women worldwide. It's not women who decide to start wars and occupy other countries. Most women seek, world peace and to save the children regardless of gender or color.

## Interview with Amanda Seward – continued from page 7

demolished, even though it had been determined to be historic. That's how I got into another aspect of Lincoln Place.

**Beachhead:** How does that work exactly, that it's declared historic and they demolish it anyway?

**Seward:** It doesn't work. That's why it hasn't been bulldozed. The court did rule that the demolitions that were done of six buildings or so, were illegal. The city had determined that they could make an independent decision that the property was not historic. The court ruled the demolitions were illegal. The only way they'd be able to demolish it now, is if they can prove preservation isn't feasible, and they're going to have a hard time of it in this case.

The whole idea behind garden apartments started in England after WW I. The cities were filthy because of the industrial society, black smoke, smog and all that. These ideas came about in trying to rebuild Europe, and the idea of the Garden City movement was, you shouldn't really have people living on top of each other in city slums. There should be communities of about 20,000-25,000 people and they should live in the best of the country and urban environment. So you build multifamily homes in gardens and then have cultural activities, and stores, and farms and they would grow food. This was supposed to be the optimum conditions for the human spirit to soar.

When it was adapted here in the US, it came mainly after WWII, and adapted to our conditions. Lincoln Place was built on that model and the owner of the property also owned the property where Ralphs is, so they had retail. They got the city to have a park nearby. The Fox Theatre went up as part of this new community, so they'd be within walking distance of commercial retail, parks, schools, all of that. It would have been about 20,000 people in the community.

Lincoln Place is perfect. It's workforce housing, affordable housing for the masses and it does create a strong community. Compared to a lot of places where you might have low income people only, here you have a mixture of everybody living in harmony. You have multi-races, you have multi-religions, you have multi-generations, seniors, families with children. Everyone's living together in a strong community and that's what we want in our cities. I couldn't stand by without a fight and watch AIMCO change all that because they don't like rent control.

**Beachhead:** What women inspired you growing up?

**Seward:** My mother, of course. I had a great aunt who was very much an inspiration. She worked hard independently of her husband. She invested her money. Both working class. She invested her salary, they lived modestly on his. When she died she had something to leave all of us in the family. That was impressive to me.

**Beachhead:** How about going into law?

**Seward:** No, not at all, actually. To me, it was

more the civil rights movement that influenced me, and frankly, those leaders were mostly men. Angela Davis was an icon, and I liked the idea she had a Ph.D. in philosophy and read all these philosophers in French. I thought that was so cool. She was someone we all looked up to at the time.

I didn't plan to be a lawyer, and I didn't grow up wanting to be a lawyer. I was a philosophy major and I decided I couldn't do anything with a BA in philosophy. And you go to law school, you go for three years and you learn a lot about everything. And, I was arrested when I was 14 in Venice, actually, at the Fox Theatre. You know how they trump charges on curfew violation and resisting arrest? Resisting arrest one, resisting arrest two.

Basically what happened, I grew up in Santa Monica and hung out in Venice sometimes, and the Fox Theatre was our hang out on Sunday evenings. So, we'd all go to the movies on Sunday, whatever was playing, it was just a hang out. There had been a disturbance in the theatre. The police came, there'd been fighting in the lobby. The Venice Police were notorious for being racist, was what we grew up thinking, and they told everyone they had to stay in their seats. I stayed in my seat for a long time, we all did. But then I got up to buy some popcorn, really to look at what was going on.

I get up there, I buy the popcorn, I'm on my way back to my seat, and a policeman grabs me and says "you have to leave." I said, "why, I just got some popcorn." I had a smart mouth. I was on the school paper at SAMO High, so I was kind of interested in what was going on. I pulled away from the policeman, and then everybody's arguing with him, it got to be a big thing and then the next thing I knew, I was arrested.

They took me down an alley. I remember going down to the Venice police station, and I had heard these horror stories about the Venice police. So I'm a little nervous, but I start telling him, "Look, don't think I can just disappear down an alleyway. My family cares, they're active, there'll be consequences if anything happens to me." I get to the police station in one piece, but they wouldn't let me make any phone calls. They put me in a room with someone. Then they had to press charges because they were worried about a lawsuit. They'd put me in a head lock position. Somebody at the theatre called my family, it got to be this big deal. In the middle of the night I was finally let go.

So, from that incident, I learned a lot about the legal system. I went through the juvenile system at the time. We had a family friend representing us. We couldn't have afforded a lawyer. I realized in this system, I hadn't done anything wrong and I wanted to be able to defend myself if anything happened to me or my family. That's really why I went to law school.

## The good Bus(c)h wins one for us

By C.V. Beck

On February 20, after several hours of deliberation, the jury in the People vs. David Busch case in the downtown Metro Courthouse found him not guilty of trespassing, interfering with a business, and intimidation.

David Busch had entered the lobby of the Standard Hotel downtown to use a pay phone in the public lobby and had been prevented from doing so by a manager, hotel security guards, the "BID" (Business Improvement District) security (the mayor's Goon Squad) and finally, the LAPD.

The judge in this trial was Lawrence H. Cho, the attorney for the "People" was City Attorney Gizelle Fernandez and for the defendant, Public Defender Teri Yun. I had requested an assistive listening device so I could hear the trial and at

first was met by what I thought was a very hostile attitude on the part of the bailiff and the judge's clerk. When I mentioned that this was an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirement, they seemed finally to get it and I received the device within about 15 minutes. It helped a lot. I don't understand why the acoustics in the Los Angeles courtrooms are not good and why the amplification systems are not adequate. Seems like hearing what is going on would be paramount in a trial.

I was so glad to see and hear some common sense at last on Monday morning. I had been at the trial on Friday last, but had missed the morning session. That Friday afternoon's prosecutorial case had been full of "nice," as in "this is a nice hotel, with nice clients," this is "nice," that is "nice" (but not David Busch, apparently he wasn't nice enough...) and I found myself, after hearing the prosecution's case, wondering why this had even been brought to trial.

The man wanted to use a pay phone...this is not a crime...and I found myself feeling that his civil rights had been violated and that mine could be next. However, thanks to Mr. Busch's clear understanding that he has rights, (even though he is a homeless person), thanks to his vigilance in insisting on his rights under the law, (even attempting a citizen's arrest of the people seeking his arrest), an injustice has been addressed and now rectified.

I feel so much better now...and so do thousands of homeless people all over Los Angeles, that the next time they might need to use a pay phone, that they might even be able to do so without having to jump through hoops or end up in jail...just like a regular, normal "nice" person is able to use a pay phone, a public phone in a public place...

from the Beachhead Archives - 25 years ago  
(excerpt - read the whole article on [freevenice.org](http://freevenice.org))

### NO MORE POTATOES - OVER EASY AND OUT

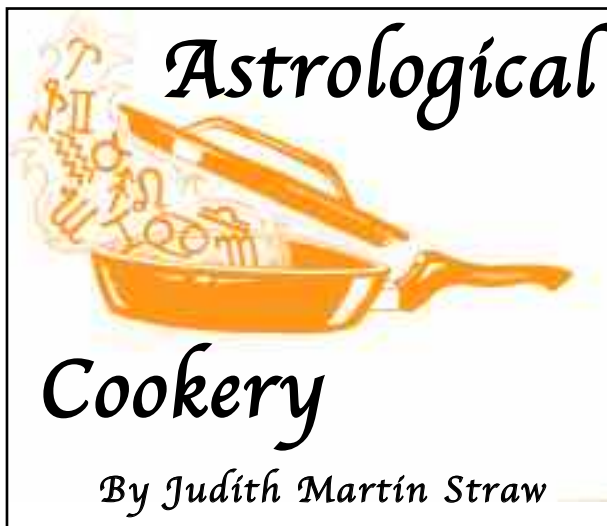
By Moe Stavnezer

"We love you and we miss you all."

"Thanks for 15 years."

Lettered on a blackboard, that was what greeted me instead of an open door at the "no-name" restaurant the last week in January. In the other window was a sign with the details of when and how one could purchase the equipment inside. My favorite breakfast place in the whole world had closed...this time it seemed to be pretty permanent.

I can't remember when Juergen Roscher (the origin of one name) and the family moved the restaurant to the Pacific and Windward location, seems like at least eight years ago. Around that time the Venice Town Council was getting started and many of the activists hung out at NuPars. Anna Haag was one of the waitresses and, urged by John Haag, prevailed upon Juergen to allow some Town Council committees to meet in the place after closing time.



## General Forecast for March 2007

By Judith Martin Straw

**Aries** - Is the strife you are dealing with coming from someone else, or is it all self-created? One way to approach the end is to consider the source. Would you rather face the music, or face the mirror?

**Taurus** - A moment of ease, when things are falling into place. Take a look around and be certain that what you planted in this garden is what you want to harvest.

**Gemini** - You might be at odds with yourself, feeling both over connected and introspective. Find a way to trade off, and put the effort you need into whatever project needs you, then take some down time and reward yourself with a bit of fresh solitude.

**Cancer** - Are you feeling like a juggler, with oranges and lemons flying in orbit around you? Remind yourself that you control how fast it's all going, and even if they keep adding more fruit to your circuit, it's up to you to set a pace you like.

**Leo** - Oh, no, not another educational experience! But this is one to enjoy, as you get the chance to really finish off your apprentice work and take over as the master craftsman.

**Virgo** - This might be the moment when you are feeling the impact of a past decision, good or bad. Is it time to reckon the debt, or reinvest the dividend? Make certain that you do what you know is right, and the credit goes to those who deserve it, yourself included.

**Libra** - There is a time to just let go and let it happen, and that time is now. While you may be pushing for a promotion or a new job, just know that your reputation speaks for itself, and the best way to get what you want is to let it come to you.

**Scorpio** - Creative daring, bold risk and original thought are all three of your best friends. It's time to get together for a project, a party and a political campaign, and you get to decide who sits next to who.

**Sagittarius** - Whatever the conflict, right now, it's going to respond to diplomacy, and not force. Calm and confident is the way to settle the matter, and you'll even be surprised when everyone involved thanks you for keeping a cool head.

**Capricorn** - Forward movement is coming like a Spring thaw. All that success you've been working so hard for is coming into your life like a purple crocus coming up into the new green world.

**Aquarius** - While things may not be ideal at work or at school, home is the place to be. It could be something as simple as a great meal, or planting a few flowers, or just cuddling up on the couch. Savor the security of your shelter, and those you share with.

**Pisces** - Before the big birthday bash, take some time to rest and regroup. The past year has been a big one, and the next year has even more opportunity and challenge. Take a breather, then blow out those candles and plunge right in.



## March is Pisces

By Judith Martin Straw

Pisces in the kitchen is a dream. Happily, you are such creative and original folks that what you cook is often unique and delicious. On the down side, you may have your head so far off in the clouds that what you are cooking is burned to a crisp before you notice. Dreaming is delightful, but try to do it when you're planning the meal, not when you are actually cooking it. Pisces loves to plan-few things are more fun than plotting a menu for a party, or organizing a spice rack. But it helps if there's a Virgo or a Capricorn handy to remind you to finish the job, or you may wander away somewhere between Coriander and Cumin, off to start another enchanting project.

Interestingly, the sign of the fish really does like fish. There's nothing cannibalistic about it- Plenty of real fish do live on a diet of real fish, and it helps to keep the ocean balanced. Lots of fruit and veggies are good for you too, to balance out the outrageous sweet tooth that takes over your palate from time to time.

Leaf Wrapped Salmon

2 Salmon filets, of equal size (about 1 lb each, skin removed)

3 heads of butter lettuce (or other soft leaf lettuce)

1 to 2 cups stuffing (see below)

Some butter or olive oil

Blanch lettuce by dipping a head in boiling water for 5 or 6 seconds. Remove and dry, spreading leaves out on clean tea towels. Grease a baking dish with butter or oil and line it with a layer of lettuce, overlapping the leaves. Place one filet, skin side down. Spread the filet with stuffing and place the other filet on top, skin side up, so you have a sort of a sandwich. Fold the lettuce so you have the fish and stuffing wrapped like a nice present. If you want to be really creative, let's say you are a Pisces with the moon in Pisces and your rising sign is Pisces, can find one long green strand of chives and use it for a ribbon. Bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees. To serve, slice like a pound cake into slices about 2 inches thick.

What do I stuff this fish with??

Lemon almond stuffing

1 cup cooked barley

1 cup toasted almonds

1 cup chopped parsley

1 Tsp fresh tarragon

1/4 cup lemon juice

1/2 cup butter

touch of cayenne and a pinch of salt

Put barley, almonds and parsley in a blend and chop for 20 seconds. Add other ingredients and blend for 10 seconds. Or toss it all in a bowl and stir it well.

Or you might like.....

Cilantro Coconut Stuffing

1 cup cilantro

1/2 cup mint

1 cup dried unsweetened coconut

1/3 cup lemon juice

6 cloves of garlic

2 Tsp fresh chopped ginger

pinch of salt

Place all ingredients in a food processor or blender and blend to a thick paste. Correct the seasoning and stuff the fish!

Or you might want to try...

Sorrel and Spinach Stuffing

1 large bunch spinach (washed well)

1 smallish bunch of sorrel leaves, chopped

1/2 lb fresh mushrooms

1 bunch green onions

2 Tbls fresh dill

1 cup cooked brown rice

pinch of salt and pepper

Wash, chop and sauté first four ingredients until spinach is wilted and onions are transparent. Mix with rice and seasonings, and then apply to fish.

Enough creativity to keep any Pisces happy for an hour or more, and a delicious meal that will feed you, body and soul. Of course, you'll need a note pad to keep all those other stuffing ideas you have while you are cooking these.

Just don't leave the kitchen- scorched lettuce is no one's idea of a great dinner.

If you are interested in more astrology or more recipes, come and visit us at [AstrologicalCookery.com](http://AstrologicalCookery.com). Recipes for every sign of the zodiac and fascinating personality profiles of sun signs in the kitchen and at the table.

# Community Events

## — by the numbers

**March 2** • Friday, 7:30pm, **No Pol Is Without the Poem: Poetry and Political Potential**, w/tributes to Charles Olson, Vincent Ferrini, and with Jack Hirschman, Paul Sawyer, Roger Taus, Wanda Coleman & Documentaries on Olson & Ferrini by Henry Ferrini. Combined suggested admission: \$15, individual events \$10. No one turned away! Beyond Baroque.

**March 3** • Saturday, 2:30pm, **Poet's Spirit**, open mic w/dj, all ages, all styles, One Love, The Learning Garden. more info-beharmony@yahoo.com

• Saturday, 3 pm, **No Polis Without the Poem: A Colloquia** — with Jack Hirschman, Vincent Ferrini, Wanda Coleman, Paul Sawyer, Henry Ferrini, and Fred Dewey. What is a poet's contribution to public life? How do poetic language and research, symbol and history affect the vitality of the public? What does the poet bring and sustain that no one else can? FREE, Beyond Baroque.

• Saturday, 7:30 pm - **A Tribute To Vincent Ferrini** with friends Roger Taus, Wanda Coleman, Jack Hirschman, Fred Dewey, Paul Sawyer, and the LA premiere of **Poem In Action: A Film Portrait Of Vincent Ferrini** by Henry Ferrini, a film portrait of the poet in his Gloucester, MA. environs by nephew Henry Ferrini. Beyond Baroque

**March 4** • Sunday, 9:30am - Noon, **Lincoln Place Tenants' Association** meeting, Penmar Park.

• Sunday, 5 pm - **Open Reading** with Wendy Grosskopf, Tess Lotta, Kathleen Tyler, hosted by Marie Lecrivain; sign up 4:45pm FREE, Beyond Baroque.

• Sunday, 9-12pm, **Onaji Murray**, great jazz vibes, Hal's Bar and Grill, no cover.

**March 5** • Monday, 7:30pm, **Max 10 Performance Laboratory**, an uncurated event, a place to do brave work, experiment, and risk failure, 10 performers, 10 minutes each and you never know what you are going to get! Electric Lodge. \$8.

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

**March 7** • Wednesday, 7pm **Power & Control: LSD in the 60's** ('06, 40m) With Ram Dass & Paul Krassner. Plus: Ranen's Death Row Art Star ('05, 15m) & The Squat ('06, 7m). Plus: Dragnet's The Prophet ('68, 21m) . LSD A Go Go ('04, 10m) Confidential File ('55, 26m) "LSD: Experiment in Insanity." 7pm live music preshow: The Backboners launch your trip with originals & Mamas & Papas songs. Sponto Gallery.

**March 9** • Friday, 7:30 pm - Project Room: **How The Ink Feels: Poet BroadSides & Readings** *How The Ink Feels* features exquisite letterpress broadsides featuring poetry and prose by leading American writers accompanied by the work of visual artists. Featuring the poems of Alberto Rios, Joy Harjo, E. Ethelbert Miller, Jane Hirshfield, Martin Espada, Ursula LeGuinn, Robert Hass, Robert BLY, Gary Snyder, Naomi Shihab Nye, Rita Dove, Li-Young Li, W.S. Merwin, Lawson Fusao Inada, and more. With a reading of selected broadsides and other poems by Vincent Wixon. The exhibit will be on display from March until mid-April. Free. Beyond Baroque.

**March 10** • Saturday, 8pm, **Celebrate International Women's Day** with one of L.A.'s Great Women: Uncle Ruthie in a tour de force performance of song, poetry and dramatic readings. Workman Circle, 1525 S. Robertson Blvd. \$10 members/\$15 others, 310-552-2007.



• Saturday, 7:30 pm - **Will Alexander and Stephen Rodefer** read from their work; Beyond Baroque.

**March 11** • Sunday, 2pm - Hollywood Escapes Bus Tour - Celebrating **Orson Welles' 50th anniversary filming in Venice**. Local historian Ron Accosta & Hollywood Escapes co-author Harry Medved lead a tour of locations where movies were made in the Santa Monica Bay/Venice area. Meet at 2pm at Sponto Gallery. RSVP: Ron 392-2646/749-9153 alfie90035@yahoo.com

• Sunday, 6:30 pm, Documentary Photography: Antonio Turok's photographs of **Oaxaca**. **Closing reception**. SPARC.

• Sunday, 9-12pm, **Louis Taylor**, Hal's Bar and Grill, no cover.

Please send notices of Venice events to: [Calendar@freevenice.org](mailto:Calendar@freevenice.org) or POB 2, Venice 90294.

**March 12** • Monday, 9-12pm, **Thom Rottella**, smooove jazz guitar, Hal's Bar and Grill. no cover.

**March 14** • Wednesday, 7pm - **Bubblegum Music Is The Naked Truth!** ('05, 93 min) Based on Kim Cooper and David Smay's book, Kier-La Janisse's compilation of prepubescent pop from '67 to '72 features rare footage of the 1910 Fruitgum Company, The Archies, Ohio Express, The Sweet, The Bay City Rollers, the Banana Splits, the Wombles & the Jackson 5 Cartoon. 7pm preshow Author Domenic Priore & Luxuriamusic.com DJ Becky Ebenkamp screen LA's rare back-door hit Shrimpenstein! Sponto Gallery

**March 15** • Thursday, 6-9pm, **Can A Confederation Help Solve The Israeli Palestinian Conflict?** a debate presented by the Israeli-Palestinian Confederation moderated by David Marcus; \$15, students 1/2 price. Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. more info 818-317-7110.

• Thursday, 7:30 pm - **Debra Di Blasi, Vanessa Place, and Sissy Boyd** read from their work, Beyond Baroque.

**March 16** • Friday, 7:30 pm - Chris Felver Films with **Philomene Long, David Amram** and Special Guests, with Bookstore Debut of Felver's Portraits Of LA Poets, We will screen Felver's films *Timing is Everything*, with Tiger Woods and Cecil Taylor, *Hum Bom*, putting Ginsberg's epic anti-war poem to music by Amram, *Making the Nature Scene*, a live performance by Sonic Youth, and *History of the Airplane*, setting Ferlinghetti's aviation epic to music by Amram. Beyond Baroque.

**March 17** • Saturday, Noon - **Mass Anti-War Protest** Gather at Hollywood & Vine, Los Angeles (at Red Line Metro stop). March to Hollywood & Highland for Rally on the 4th Anniversary of the Iraq War U.S. Out of Iraq Now! Free Concert with Ozomatli.



• Saturday - 7:30 pm - **Paisley Rekdal and Jeffrey McDaniel** read their poetry, Beyond Baroque.

**March 18** • Sunday, 2 pm - **Memorial Tribute To Merilene Murphy** - The poetry community suffered a great loss when Murphy passed away February 2. Please join family, friends and the poetry community in our celebration of her life and work. The public is invited to share poems, testimonials, and remembrances of our dearest sister, friend and colleague. Beyond Baroque.

• Sunday, 7 pm, **Poets Beyond The Half Shell** Modern Master Class Recitals, No. 2 featuring teacher Brenden Constantine and students Max Kaisler, Henry Mortensen and Adam Reese. Hosted by Carlye Archibeque and Richard Modiano. Open sign up 6:30, 2 poem limit. Beyond Baroque.

• Sunday, 9-12pm, **Greg Poree**, busy guitarist/composer/arranger, Hal's Bar and Grill. no cover.

**March 19** • Monday, 9-12pm, **Thom Rottella**, smooove jazz guitar, Hal's Bar and Grill. no cover.

**March 23** • Friday, 7:30 pm - **An Evening with Shearsman Press**: Anthony Hawley, Deborah Meadows, Elizabeth Treadwell, Spencer Selby, and Susanne Dyckman, Beyond Baroque.

**March 24** • Saturday, 11am - 1pm - **Venice Peace & Freedom Party** meets. 399-2215.

**March 25** • Sunday, 1:30 - 3:30pm - **Celebrate Women's Month at the Watts Towers Arts Center** - Opening Reception: S. Pearl Sharp - Poet Laureate Program: Nate Morgan - Jazz Mentorship Program. The Noah Purifoy Gallery showcases: *Spirits Of The Ancestors A Continuum* . . . Curators: Rosie Lee Hooks and Rogelio Acevedo. A Project of the Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center. Thru July 29. 1727 E. 107th St., L.A.. 213-847-4646, [cadwattsctr@earthlink.net](mailto:cadwattsctr@earthlink.net)

• Sunday, 8 pm, **Albert Bates**, founder-director of the Global Village Institute at The Ecovillage Training Ctr. at The Farm in Tennessee, and author of: *The Post-Petroleum Survival Guide and Cookbook: Recipes for Changing Times*, L.A. Eco-Village, 117 Bimini Place, L.A., 213-738-1254, [crsp@igc.org](mailto:crsp@igc.org).

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

**March 26** • Monday, 9-12pm, **Phil Upchurch**, one-time session man for the Dells, Jerry Butler, the Crusaders, Howlin' Wolf, and Muddy Waters, the longtime L.A. mainstay gets blue, funky, or soulful with the flick of a pick, Hal's Bar and Grill. no cover.

**March 30** • Friday, 7:30 pm - **Fred Moten and Claudia Rankine** read from their work. Beyond Baroque.

**March 31** • Saturday, 7:30pm - **Aya and David Meltzer** - The poet Aya was part of the early Beat scene in S.F./Venice. David Meltzer, *David Meltzer: Poetry W/ Jazz*, was re-issued by Sierra Records. Meltzer edited *Tree* mag and *Tree Books*. His critical books on jazz are seminal. Beyond Baroque.

### Location Guide

- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006
- Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 306-1854, [brownpapertickets.com/event/8979](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/8979)
- Hal's Bar and Grill 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 396-3105
- Sponto Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave, Free, 306-7330, [pfsuzy@aol.com](mailto:pfsuzy@aol.com)
- SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd, 310.822.9560 x 15.
- The Learning Garden, 13000 Venice Blvd.

### Ongoing Events

• Thurs./Fri./Sat. 8 pm and Sundays 3pm - **Hogan's Goat** by William Alfred Pacific Resident Theatre 705 1/2 Venice Blvd. 822-8392 \$16-\$23

• Mon.-Fri. 10am-4pm, thru March 11 - **Documentary Photography**: Antonio Turok's photographs of demonstrations and protests by indigenous people of **Oaxaca**, who are denied education, and whose protests are suppressed. Traditional Oaxacan art objects are also offered for sale. SPARC

• March 15-18, **The Other Venice Film Festival**, Electric Lodge. For further information, visit [othervenicefilmfest.com](http://othervenicefilmfest.com).

• Fri./Sat., March 23-24, 8pm, Sun. March 25, 7pm, plus children's matinee at 1:30pm - **Dance Yatra, Shakti Dance Company**, under the artistic direction of Viji Prakash, performs in the South Indian dance style, Bharata Natyam. Electric Lodge. [shaktidance-company.com](http://shaktidance-company.com). For reservations, call 823-0710, press 3#.

Bring Peace signs and banners for peace, justice and equality. Signs include: Venice Peace Agreement, Venice Peace & Freedom, Lincoln Park Statue? Can't We? Info: 310.899.2225 - [Peace@freemission.org](mailto:Peace@freemission.org)

**Venice Circle of Peace**

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

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