

On the Take?

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L.A. City Council and Attorney Accused of Taking Playa Vista Bribes

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BEACHHEAD

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2007

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Is Pot the New Wonder Drug?



An Interview with A Compassionate MD in our Neighborhood, or How to Get your Medical Marijuana Recommendation and Start Growing your Own Health!

by erica snowlake

Proudly displayed on the wall of my room is my brand new authenticated Health and Safety Code MD Statement, hereby declaring my right to use medical marijuana for, specifically, migraines and insomnia. Signed and duly authorized by a State of California licensed physician, good for one year, it's all simple, clear, nifty and 100% CALIFORNIA LEGAL!!!

I can now visit any one of hundreds of diverse medical marijuana dispensaries in Los Angeles and buy the absolute best organic cannabis on the market over the counter, with full knowing and loving intention and protection under the Law, (Nature's first and Human's second, with a prayer the two shall twain o'er a Hempen braid of time).

I can also legally grow and joyfully caretake six mature and six immature plants to enhance my Being, stimulate my intelligence, sexuality, and cre8tivity, cure my dis-ease, spiritually and playfully fortify my friendships, and SO CAN YOU!!!!

"One in five hospital emergency admissions are folks undergoing terrifying adverse reactions to pharmaceutical medications." My esteemed doctor and newly-formed friend Allan Frankel dispenses this eye-opening nugget of revelation inside his cozy office on Washington Blvd under the auspices of his practice, Green Bridge Medical Services.

Beachhead: Name your passions, Dr. Frankel!

Dr. Frankel: My three kids, having fun, and merging medicine and technology. I was born in '51, grew up in the heat of the 60's movement. Spiritually and emotionally I've always been a hippie, a hemorrhaging liberal, and a bit of a med school nerd. Today I'm first and foremost an Internal Medicine Physician and have been practicing medicine thirty years. I can tell you this about marijuana - why it's illegal is disturbing.

Beachhead: When did you first see the Light?

Dr. Frankel: In 1996 I started writing prescriptions for my patients who needed it. At the time dispensaries were federally run, hydroponically grown marijuana was going for \$30 an ounce, and my patients expressed their gratitude by bringing me gifts.....

Beachhead: What are the common ailments and symptoms alleviated medically by marijuana?

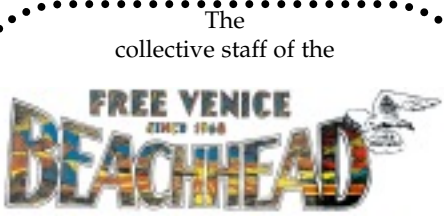
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CASUALTIES IN IRAQ

U.S. 3,352 Dead – 105 this month
U.S. Wounded 24,912 – 598 this month
Iraqi Dead: 655,000

Source: antiwar.com, Lancet Medical Journal

Cost: **\$421+ 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

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

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Large Waves and High Water

Dear Beachhead,
For several years I have been trying to bring attention to the precarious situation of Venice, CA in regard to flooding. While much is made of the story of Abbot Kinney and the canals, little is said about the reason for the canals.

It began with a body of water called the Del Rey Lagoon which ran from Venice to Playa del Rey, about two miles long.

In 1880 a company was formed to dredge the lagoon to a depth of twenty feet and create a 200 foot wide channel to the ocean. That project failed due to relentless waves and rain storms which replaced the sand as soon as it was moved. A large portion of the fishing pier collapsed in July 1911 and again in July 1917. Tide gates, which maintained high water in the lagoon, had to be dynamited during a heavy winter rainstorm because nearby Venice flooded.

There has been much change to the area since then. But Mother Nature has not changed. Periodically she will do her best to reclaim the area. Recent storm waves severely damaged the pier at Washington Blvd. And Venice is still protected by tide gates which empty into the lagoon now called Marina del Rey which has a large channel open to the seas.

On March 16, 2004, I advised residents living on Oxford Avenue (an area subject to flooding) of an IRP (Integrated Resources Plan) meeting on “The Future of Your Water, Wastewater & Runoff and Give Us Your Input” to be held in Venice on March 30.

In order to be prepared for the local meeting, I attended the IRP meeting on March 23 in the San Fernando Valley where I was not the only one to bring up the issue of flooding in coastal areas. These comments were noted by the IRP staff attending.

On March 30, 2004 at the meeting in Venice, it was apparent that the team from the valley had not communicated with the team from West L.A. who promised to “look into it.” It is now two and half years after that event and I am still waiting to hear from them. But I did learn that an IRP advisory committee had been set with 40 members, not one of whom lived in Venice. Two successive L.A. City Council members, Galanter and Miscikowski, missed the opportunity to put someone from Venice on the IRP Commission. Yet all the hillside areas were well represented.

The recent tsunamis which caused so much suffering and damage in Sumatra, Chile, Japan and Hawaii are examples from which we can learn. If a high tide and a heavy rain can overcome our drainage system now on Oxford and Windward, what might it be like if Mother Nature sends us a really big wave?

Awareness of the risk and what to do about it is the aim of the VNC task force preparing the Town Hall at Westminster School for June 7, 2007. I hope they achieve their goal.

Thank you, Beachhead, for providing this opportunity to communicate.

DeDe Audet

In Brief



Bannerless Building

Seen recently on the cover of the Feb. 2007 Beachhead, this development on 1214 Abbot Kinney Blvd. proudly sported a “STOP BUSH” banner, making it the envy of the neighborhood. But shades of shady plumbers, the 20 ft. long banner with 5 ft lettering was stolen within weeks of making its FVB premiere.

Independently funded by local contributions, the banner was taken using the site’s second story scaffolding by a team of thieves who broke into the private construction site after hours.

Venice’s Wealthiest Couple Gets Richer

Venice’s wealthiest couple, Jane and Sidney Harman, is on the verge of getting even richer under a scheme that would take the family jewel, Harman International, private. The \$8 billion dollar deal, announced April 26, would allow 88-year-old Sidney Harman to cash out up to \$400 million in stock, while still remaining corporate chairman.

Harman International, which manufactures audio equipment called Harman Kardon, Infinity and JBL, is the largest piece of the family’s financial empire which also includes prime real estate in Washington, D.C. and in Europe. Harman Audio owns or leases plants in eight countries including one in Tijuana, and another in Northridge.

The unusual deal for Harman International, called a “Stub Equity” sale, allows limited public stockholders but they have no control over the Board of Directors, as in other public corporations.

The deal may not be so good for most stockholders since company stock is currently trading for more than the \$120 per share that Kohlberg Kravis Roberts (KKR) and Goldman Sachs are offering for the company. KKR is known for buying companies on the cheap and reselling them for big profits. Harman left the door open for competing bids through June 15.

Both Sidney and Jane live and work in Washington, D.C. much of the year. One of their 13 other residential properties is located on Ocean Front Walk, and is her legal residence for purposes of representing Venice and the 36th District in Congress. In the last election, Harman spent more than \$1 million in winning reelection. Her top five contributions were from military-related corporations.

Their Harman Family Foundation gives millions to D.C.-based cultural institutions, such as the Washington Ballet and the city’s Shakespeare Theatre Company. They give much less, or nearly zero, to Venice cultural institutions.

Venetians face drastically increased bus fares

Dear Beachhead,

We come to you in a moment of great urgency, at a time when the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Agency (MTA) plans to dramatically increase bus fares, if we do not come together and stop them. Roger Snoble, the CEO of the MTA, has announced a proposal for major increases in the price of public transportation in Los Angeles. If not reversed, the fare hikes would increase as follows:

	Now	July 2007	January 2009
Regular One Way			
Pass/Tokens/Owl Service	\$1.25/\$1.10/\$.75	\$1.25	\$2.00
All Day Pass	\$3	\$5	\$8
Weekly Bus Pass	\$14	\$20	\$32
Semi-monthly Bus Pass	\$27	ELIMINATED	
Student Bus Pass (K-12)	\$20	\$45	\$72
Regular Monthly Bus Pass	\$52	\$75	\$120
College Bus Pass	\$30	\$52	\$84
Senior/Disabled Bus Pass	\$12	\$37.50	\$60

We strongly oppose this fare hike, because we believe that any raises from the already high \$52 monthly pass will be devastating to working families – the strides that the movement has made towards a “living wage” would in effect be stripped away by the increased cost of public transportation. Imagine Black, Latino, API, and white working class bus riders with 3, 4, and 5 family members using public transportation, paying \$375 a month in July and \$600 a month by 2009 just for bus service--which by the way MTA is also working to significantly cut in service hours.

These fare increases will: destroy the economic viability of low-income Black and Latino and immigrant families; create significant increase in respiratory disease; contribute to, rather than reduce, global warming; violate the civil rights of bus riders; drive as many as 25% to 40% of riders off public transportation.

We need you to join us in this fight to stop the Fare Hike. Call Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa at 311 and write him (Mayor@lacity.org) to urge him to withdraw the MTA’s racist fare hike proposal. Come to the MTA’s fare increase public hearing and the meeting in which the MTA Board votes to reject or accept the fare increase.

Bus Riders Union Planning Committee

City Council Took Money, Then Voted to Approve Playa Vista; City Attorney Also Implicated

By John Davis

After prevailing in their lawsuit against the Los Angeles City Council and the Playa Vista project, the environmentalist winners have filed legal papers accusing the City Council and its attorney of taking bribes to approve the dangerous development. The city is doing everything in its power to avoid following the order delivered by the California Court of Appeals.

Allegations that the California Political Reform Act of 1972 was violated by the City Council and City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo in their avoidance of the court order are supported by another California Court of Appeals decision that set the standard.

The council took money and voted for the project within 12 months, a violation. The City Attorney took money in his run for Attorney General and then advised the City Council to make decisions favorable to the development within 12 months, a second violation.

Responding to allegations aired on Channel 4 TV that has faithfully covered the story, a few councilmembers made statements but most did not. The network won a prestigious Peabody Award for its excellent and ongoing coverage of the issue. Only one Council Member did not dip his snout into the hog trough of developer money. All others did.

What else could a developer hope for? But a City Council in its pocket was not enough. In his run for State Attorney

General, Delgadillo also dipped his snout in the PV money and then advised the City Council to vote for Playa Vista. He too appeared on TV saying the State Political Reform Act did not apply to him or the Council. The attorney for the environmentalists rejected his position, saying he had not read the case law.

The city did not even challenge the allegations in court but responded outside with desperate public relations bluster.

The council understands that if the environmentalists prevail again all of the recent orders of the lower Superior Court Judge made in favor of the developers will be thrown out, as well as the Council decisions to support the project. This is the same lower court judge that was overruled originally. Worse may yet come for the Council and City Attorney. Violations of the Political Reform Act of 1972 are punishable as criminal misdemeanors, like drunk driving.

The environmentalists then discovered that even the judge who seemed unwilling to implement the order of the higher court used to work for the developer's law firm before he became a judge. This immediately raised a red flag. Could he be impartial in the matter? The environmentalists believed not and asked him to step down, and before he did, to void all of his recent orders and decisions of the City Council. The legal papers also request the judge to reveal all of his financial dealings with the developers hired law firm, including if he was receiving retirement funds at the time of his rulings favorable to the developer.

At the most recent hearing, the judge made no ruling at all and said the next judge also

worked for the developers hired law firm at one time and would probably have to step aside. Judge George H. Wu was then appointed to the federal bench by none other than President George Bush, himself. A second judge who worked for the developer's law firm has since recused himself.

In summary, it appears Playa Capital Corporation had the City Council and the City Attorney in their pocket with indebtedness. The only ones not bribed by this dangerous development were the local environmentalists and their attorneys.

In the interest of disclosure I, too, have an interest in this case as I am one of the environmentalists who sued. Others include Dan Cohen, GrassRoots Coalition and Environmentalism Through Non-violent Action, both nonprofits.

Patricia McPherson of the GrassRoots Coalition engineered the successful lawsuit and we all followed her lead in the interest of protecting public health and safety. Other community leaders such as Kathy Knight, Rex Frankel, Leslie Purcell and Jeanette Vossberg, to name a few, were instrumental in this successful challenge.

Larry Teeter was the gifted lead Attorney for the group and filed the original papers before his passing. Local Attorney Sabrina Venskus made the final winning arguments to the Appellate Court. Now former U.S. Attorney Richard Fine is assisting the winners in enforcement of the Appellate Court order that has led to the new allegations of bribery and influence peddling.

Chains of Fools

By Rex Butters

With the familiar logic that fuels corporate strategies, another downtown Venice vacancy has fallen to chain store occupation, as the Quizno sub chain opens an outlet across the street from the Subway sub chain outlet. What crack team of highly paid marketing consultants extensively surveyed the area to determine that Venice needed two generic, flavorless, mass produced sandwich shops, one boasting the ability to toast, within such close proximity to each other? Is there that much overflow?

Last year, the local papers applauded the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council's unanimous vote in support of a chain store ban on Abbot Kinney and Ocean Front Walk. Someone forgot to throw a fence around downtown. Despite hard won efforts to preserve the unique character of our landscape, another space yields to indifferent blandness, hoovering money out of the community in the process.

Recently the LA Times Up ran a repulsive puff piece amounting to a free 1/8th page ad on redundant coffee chain, the Coffee Bean, claiming it's new Venice store has been embraced by locals after initially encountering rough waters. The savagely twisted imagery of the lovable corporate underdog earning its place in the community, bravely driving out local business, further boasted a foto of the store with (kill me now) a skater in the foreground. (Note to Times Up creative director: Linda Ronstadt went home.)

As usual, the Times Up had their backs to the real story, Cafe Collage, the local coffee house, a 15-year success story/institution, across the intersection from the Coffee Bean. I asked owner Jane Park what she thought of the article:

"You know what? I didn't see it, but our customers did and they were very upset. I believe a couple of our customers got very active doing something about it. I think they called the newspaper and complained to them about how it was

untrue. Whenever something like this happens, more than the owners, it's the customers that get upset. The whole idea behind Venice is to keep everything local, no corporations, but when you have an ad like that, it's very upsetting."

In 15 years, had the Times Up ever run a happy local promo piece on Cafe Collage?

"From my knowledge, no. But, their [the Coffee Bean's] managers and all their guys come here to get coffee. So, I don't know, I don't want to bad mouth Coffee Bean. But when you have their employees coming here to get coffee, it says a lot.

"There were a lot of people who were upset. Some of our customers went to Coffee Bean and complained to them, and it's not their fault. It was a corporate decision to put that ad out there, and unfortunately a lot people went over and harassed the poor employees. It was very upsetting to everyone, because it just isn't true. I see some new businesses coming in, Bondi Bar B Q, I know Danny's hasn't been here that long, I want everyone to do well and be successful, be healthy. But the article was upsetting because it wasn't true."

What sets you apart from a business controlled by focus groups a thousand miles away?

"I think people love and respect the fact we've been here forever. People appreciate the fact the owners do come out every day, and there's something to be said for that. We're very



heavily involved with the cafe. We try to keep a close relationship with the customers that come in. Most of the customers that come in, we know exactly what they want. There's not a huge turn around with our employees, too, because we keep a close relationship. With big corporations, I notice with Subway and Campos, their employees are always turning over, and that's a disadvantage. Customers appreciate seeing a familiar face. Our manager's been here for 15 years, since we opened.

"We wanted to do some remodeling, and instead of just doing what we want, we're getting input from customers, and they're actually very involved in our redecorating, down to the chairs and lighting, to the fans. It's like this big family."

A NIGHT ON THE TOWN

By CJ Gronner

April 24, 2007. If you were so incredibly blessed to be in the house at the Hotel Café this night ... you will never, ever forget it (and be careful, because by the end of this, I'm sure some of my profound gratitude will ooze off the page and get all over you). If you weren't ... well, fix yourself a drink and settle in – a long, staggering night like this deserves a long vivid rehashing about it (although bullet points of who played would be more than impressive enough), and I need to try and do it justice. **AXIS OF JUSTICE!**

The occasion was the release of The Nightwatchman's debut album, "One Man Revolution". Finally, People! This album is so important right NOW, I get a lump in my throat thinking about it. The Nightwatchman is thus far alone on the front line saying what NEEDS to be said, and he doesn't hold back a bit. Plus it was a parTAY, the likes of which have never been seen in one room, I promise you that.

The Nightwatchman (Commander in Chief of the evening, Tom Morello) took the stage to a THUNDEROUS ovation (apt because by the end of the night it almost rained in there it was so hot) before striking one note. The respect for him from every soul in the room was palpable, and moving. He introduced the night and the album by saying that our current administration thinks it's above the law. But it is NOT above the law of physics, and every action has an equal and opposite reaction. This night, this album, is a direct reaction to the corrupt government, it's illicit war, the big few corporations that are making mad profit from it, while people can't afford to eat in the streets of Los Angeles. This speech inspired the first of many chill-inducing moments of the night - and then he launched into the tune "One Man Revolution". Let me tell you, this room was stuffed well beyond capacity and there was not a peep heard during this song. He followed this with Oh, LORD! "House Gone Up In Flames" (the White House? Hmmm ...) and then dedicated "Flesh Shapes the Day" to all the rebel girls in the house (thank you!), foremost among them, The Nightwatchmother, beautiful Mary Morello (who Nuno Bettencourt (!!!) declared, "the hottest chick in the room". True, that.) Hoo-ooo-oo! The crowd already knew the hoot part, so great to hear. Guess what he finished his set with? Going out to the people going to Coachella this weekend, and more importantly, to the people going to climb the fence at Coachella this weekend ... that's right, "Guerilla Radio"! **TURN THAT SHIT UP!** We could've all gone home then, satisfied. But that is not Nightwatchman's style...

Who should take the stage next but - Alanis Morissette! Looking shiny and lovely, she was the first of many artists to get up there and thank Tom, not only for putting together this astounding evening, but for his sheer inspiration. She played new songs, and the first had never been played out before, "I As We". Her voice is as strong as ever and lifted our hearts with ease. Next was one called "Blister Sister", I think, and then, dedicating it to Tom, she played HER version of "Guerilla Radio". Totally different, almost unrecognizable until the chorus, and once again, the crowd got to yell, "TURN THAT SHIT UP!" I don't believe anyone would have minded if everyone had played their version - in fact, that idea got yelled out a bunch. SO fun. Thanks, Alanis!

Libertyville, Illinois has a whole lot to proud of ... they produced one school of rock, Rage Against The

Machine and Tool, and another, The Nightwatchman and Ike Reilly. Ike played only one song, but his folky fire fit right in and the crowd showed the love. He has an album coming out called "We Belong To The Staggering Evening" - and we sure did.

Mr. Ben Harper. Do I really need to say anything more? He played three songs and no one moved, other than to scream their love at the end of each song. The first was about roses from friends that simply broke your heart. The next, about gospel, put it back together again. Then his lap guitar came out and it was all over ... I can't remember what it was about because I was in a complete joy trance. He too professed his love and admiration for Tom, and you could tell how truly honored he felt to be there (and he said so). THEN Tom and Carl Restivo and Breckin Meyer joined Ben and they played "Get Up, Stand Up"!

Cough! Sputter! Gasp! How long was I out?! That thrilling version of Marley's classic knocked me flat out cold. Ben, Ben, Ben. You're too much. And BRECKIN! My old friend, if I had known you'd be playing perfect drums for Ben Harper one day, I'd have been so much nicer to you! (fine, I take it back, you don't look that much like Willem Dafoe from "Wild At Heart". Love.)

The interlude while they sorted out who was to come next was filled by Poet, Jerry Quickley, from KPFF, slamming it down, accompanied by his beat-boxer buddy. Respect!

I feel strongly, though unsure of the exact chronology, that when Nick Drake left this world, Alexi Murdoch took his place. This gentle troubadour entranced the crowd with "All My Days" and two more that left you wanting more. He spoke about how we spend billions (with a B) on video games in this country, and perhaps it's time to re-prioritize a bit and focus more on what MATTERS. Say it, Alexi!

Next up, Tom's old friend, Jill Sobule. With WAYNE KRAMER of the MCmofo5 (!) on guitar, and a fiddler to boot, Jill spun two tales with her

usual wit and grace - that also happened to rock.

{Though there was no intermission at this marathon of Rock and Roll majesty - I will understand if you need one now. Go get a snack, take a bathroom break, check messages - I'll wait}

HEY! So Wayne Kramer stayed on the stage and brought up the Poet, John Sinclair. With his Col. Sanders goatee and Counter Culture patina, Professor Sinclair schooled the kids with two poems (one about how we're entitled to our bad habits, simply put, ruled) backed up by Wayne on the guitar. This man was the manager of MC5, the leader of the White Panther Party, and the subject of John Lennon's song, "John Sinclair". He was imprisoned in 1969 for giving two joints to an undercover narc and everyone took up his cause. He was released three days after Lennon performed that song at a benefit for Sinclair. And I'm fairly certain that conviction didn't deter him from his herb. Take THAT!

Nuno Bettencourt (he gets this - !!! - every time after his name) came up and invited Alanis back to duet with him on "More Than Words". Alanis said to Nuno, "I had such a boner for you when I was a teenager". (*Alanis, dear - the line for that crush is very, very long and it starts way, way behind me ... Kapeesh?) It turned out to be much more than a duet because the ENTIRE crowd joined in, making it more of a master chorale. Me = Giddy.

Tom as M.C. said this was like a "Pinko Jerry Lewis Telethon" - right on! Axis of Justice and Food Not Bombs were again the beneficiaries of the night's cover charge (the "People's Price" of \$10 U.S.) that came to roughly \$1 per Superstar. The Deal of the Century. Honestly, if you EVER hear about The Nightwatchman playing anywhere near you - Do not hesitate. SPRINT! He has many powerful friends ... that simply LOVE to play with him. Who wouldn't?

He next introduced the crowd to William Duvall. He has taken over the Layne Staley role in Alice In Chains. No easy feat, to be sure. He played an obscure Aerosmith song called "Seasons of Wither" - beautifully - and earned the crowd's acceptance handily. He was then joined by yep, Mr. Jerry Cantrell. They opened with a lush, gorgeous rendition of Elton John's "Curstains". SO pretty, they should record it post-haste. My ears are still ringing a bit from the reaction to the opening chords of Alice's "Down In A Hole". Whoa. Even the Layne Superlovers (I heard their conversation) in front of me had that frown with raised eyebrows look that indicates "impressed" for William. A classic. Leading to another classic, Thin Lizzy's "Jailbreak", for which they were joined by Nuno (!!!) on drums - what? That much talent is just no fair. If you see him, bow. He'll understand. Tom was on guitar and said it was one of his favorite moments in his Hotel Cafe history. I concur.

Then Wayne Kramer came back up and they proceeded to "Kick out the Jams"! I cannot find proper adjectives to describe the people in the room at this point - they stank, they were sweating, they were uncomfortable and squished - but I've never seen so many people so truly happy at the same time. But they were about to get even happier, as this had all been "just the opening acts", Tom half-joked.



Art by erica snowlake

—continued on page 6

Driving for Dahlia

By Jim Smith

Can one person stop the war in Iraq? If so, my money is on a 100-pound dynamo named Dahlia Wasfi.

She is one of a small group of speakers that includes Gold Star Mother Cindy Sheehan and former arms inspector Scott Ridder who travel about the country trying to rouse opposition to the war and occupation of Iraq.

Hurricane Dahlia rolled into Venice for a teach-in, April 22, and for other speaking events around L.A. I volunteered to drive her to and fro. We meet Sunday morning at the Pasadena All Saints Episcopal Church where she is surrounded by about 20 gray-headed church ladies who had just heard her talk in the auditorium. She nods my way, and returns to the conversation. In a scenario that will be repeated over and over, I nearly have to drag her to the car with her new admirers in hot pursuit. They are still talking to her as we drive away.

Dr. Dahlia S. Wasfi is an M.D. whose father is Iraqi and her mother is Jewish. Her parents met in Washington, DC in the 60s when her father was studying there on a student scholarship. The combination, as Dahlia says, makes her 100 percent Semitic. Her mother's family fled the holocaust once Hitler took over their native Austria.

Her Iraqi family, who live near the southern city of Basra, are suffering through a different kind of holocaust that has already killed millions during two wars and a 12-year-long embargo. Millions more have fled the country.

Dr. Wasfi, whose medical training is in anesthesiology, is probably the most charismatic speaker to emerge in opposition to the war and occupation in Iraq. Her passion and intensity spring from concern for her family in Basra, Iraq. But her candor and outspokenness stem from a thorough political analysis of what led us to this seemingly endless debacle in the Middle East.

Dahlia works her magic on audiences, not with high-flown oratory, but with a constantly changing Powerpoint slide presentation and a matter-of-fact, but humorous, delivery style. She tailors her presentation to each audience, removing some slides and adding others. Her attention to detail keeps her riveted to her laptop sometimes even as she is being introduced.

On Tuesday, she is invited to an all-Latino middle school in Huntington Park where teachers want her to talk about the war with students who are 10 to 12 years old. As the first group of 5th graders files in, they seem to be interested in anything but the war. A buzz fills the room even after teachers try to get their attention. Their wound up energy keeps many of the kids involuntarily fidgeting in their seats.

Dahlia begins, "I'm going to show you some graphic pictures today." The room is suddenly silent. "They are no more graphic than what you see on TV or video games, but they are real." You could hear a pin drop.

She talks about the racism of the war. Many small heads nod. They already know about the day-to-day reality of this sickness. She asks how many of them have a relative who has been to Iraq. Many hands shoot up. These kids also know about violence. One little boy tells Dahlia that a gun was pointed at him by a gang member. Another has a brother who was shot on the streets of L.A. When a bell rings ending the class, they line up to take Dahlia's business card. She tells them they can email her any time. It is clear that Dahlia and the slide show made a big impression on these kids who will soon be prime targets of military recruiters, even though they got the PG version of the carnage.

A couple of days before, at the teach-in at the Venice Methodist Church, we got the no-holds-barred view of war and occupation. Dahlia

begins with slides of her family in Basra, photos that she took when she spent three months there last year. "This is my cousin," says Dahlia, her arm around a young Iraqi woman. "She is alive

and well, and we love her very much." Then a new slide appears. This is someone else's cousin. Another young Iraqi woman is shown, but she is dead. "I'm sure her family also loved her very much."

"This is my uncle," says Dahlia. The photo shows a distinguished looking older man. "And this is someone else's uncle," Dahlia repeats. But this time there is someone else in the picture with the

dead man. It is an American woman soldier, smiling and making a thumbs-up gesture. The photo is from Abu Ghraib prison. Dahlia is generous. She says the soldier was probably a nice young woman back home, but she was put in a position that would make monsters of any of us.

Then comes the bombshell. The next slide shows the wife of the dead man and his son. They are holding the photo of their father/husband with the soldier and her ridiculous thumb. So many emotions well up in the audience. Embarrassment, sorrow, anger, horror. I saw this photo many



Dr.
Dahlia
Wasfi



At
Abu
Ghrai

need to do the same," she tells us. "The Orange Revolution was probably paid for by the CIA, and they won't be funding us, but it can still work. A peace march on a Saturday afternoon makes us feel good, but it doesn't change anything," she says.

Once, while we're driving to another presentation, Dahlia gets a call from a cousin in Iraq. Her only link with her family now is by cell phone and text messages. It's become too dangerous for even her to attempt to get to

—continued on page ten



Lincoln Place

TENT CITY REPORT

By C.V. Beck

Tent City has resumed once a week, Saturdays, 10 to 5 pm, California and Frederick Streets, southwest corner, behind the Ross/Ralphs area in the free speech area. We have snax and chats all day long. Come see us if you want. Lincoln Place is fully tied up with litigation. For example, on April 18, Judge Gerald Rosenberg found triable issues of fact as regards the possibility of duress in signing of allegedly "voluntary" termination agreements for three residents. These three cases are being sent up to be heard with the rest of the remaining residents of Lincoln Place in status conference in Malibu on June 5. The CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) case is not expected to be heard prior to August or September. The Court of Appeals granted permission for the Tenderloin Clinic, San Francisco, to file an amicus brief on behalf of the tenants. In the meantime, we are still here.

At Lincoln Place, the residents continue to experience off-leash aggressive dogwalking. I encouraged the last person with a German shepherd not to let it off the leash but rather to do us all a favor and take themselves to the dog park and have a good day. This was met with annoyance and attitude and I responded in kind. Also, some visitors have reported being followed by packs of security on bicycles and some have been told that everyone is gone and refused admittance cursorily. For example, David Busch had been turned away, not being even allowed to knock upon my door and a woman from the cat place was not allowed to go up the walkway to meet with the person she had an appointment to see.

Craig White, Senior Lead Officer, Pacific Division, has now retired. There was a party held for him at Penmar Park Rec Center and well attended by community members of parts of Venice and Mar Vista, Councilman Rosendahl and his deputy, Mark Antonio Grant, were present to give

Officer White his well-deserved awards and thanks. The event was begun with a gong ceremony which I thought was fabulous and seemed to put us all in a very nice state of mind. This shindig was a joint effort of some neighbors of Rose Avenue, Lake Street, Penmar Avenue and Mar Vista. Susan Ostanek, a former resident of Lincoln Place, presented Craig with a box of photo cards of Lincoln Place. Jokes were told by Bill Rosendahl and many thanks for Craig White's 32 years of service with LAPD Pacific Division, (as well as two tours of Viet Nam) were given to him. The temporary new Senior Lead Officer is Anthony Vasquez.

The infamous Lake Street drug house is now closed, vacated and fenced off.

St. Joseph's has relocated to 404 Lincoln Boulevard and Flower Street, for social services and showers. Hours are: Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays from 7:30 to 4:30, Wednesdays from 7:30 to 12:00 noon and on Friday from 7:30 to 3:30 p. m. Closed Saturdays and Sundays. Community Liaison number is 310.396.6468 x322 and the weekend and after hours hotline is 310.358.2835. I am glad to see them open again, doing what they do best, providing necessary services to the community.

Terry
Considine,
CEO of
AIMCO,
owner of
Lincoln Place
caught on
camera.



Douglas Eisenstark salutes
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A NIGHT ON THE TOWN

—continued from page four

Who should show up next but Mick Mars from Motley Crue! (At least I think it was him - he could have been animatronic as his facial expression didn't change one single time - I watched) He looked a little frail, but man, he sure can still shred the bejesus out of his guitar. The crowd begged for Tom to go electric for this one, so he strapped on Nuno's (!!!) guitar and went for it. Carl Restivo, the Chameleon of Rock (last week he was Sting, this week, a very convincing Vince Neil) took over vocal duties for "Kickstart My Heart" (WOW!) and "She's Got The Looks That Kill". Time travel ... we could all have very easily been in spandex pants and gigantic hair and called it the 80's. Metal.

What can you say about Cypress ("CYYPRESS!") Cypress Hill ("CY-PRESS HILL!!") except "Yeeeeee-ah!" Sen-Dog and B Real joined the rest of the gang to throw down "Rock Superstar", "Kill A Man", and "Insane In The Membrane". Through the hazy room, it was clear that the folks had now, for absolute sure, gone insane. Insane in the brain!

Tom took back over the mike (and Brekin took back over the drums) and the Love Fest continued on. Tom was toasted with a bottle of champagne, which he drank from and then, a true man of the people, passed it around to the crowd. And introduced "This Land Is Your Land"! The song we all learned in third grade by Woody Guthrie began as a protest song - and that tradition was proudly carried on this night. The whole room sang along every word - and I got more chills. The songs lesser known verses were not taught to us as kids because, as Tom said, they didn't want us to grow up one day, be at a Nightwatchman show and decide to take BACK OUR country. Well, the word is out now - and if we can all just remember that moment (with everyone literally JUMPING in unison) and pass it on - things WILL change. Guaranteed.

The last song of the night - though no one wanted it to end - was Tupac's "California Love" with Sen Dog taking over the lead. Again, everyone sang along ... especially when the end turned into a "Fuck Bush" chant (B-word was most certainly not welcomed to this jam) which merged into "U.S.A.!!" in a proud of us, of what we CAN be, shout-out. Wayne Kramer finished it off with a Hendrix-ian "Star Spangled Banner" riff, while Tom shouted into the mike, "THANK YOU! REMEMBER, NO ONE WINS UNLESS WE ALL WIN!" Well, we ALL won who were at this rocking, sweat-drenched, ecstatically exhausted show.

Thank YOU, Tom. Thank you for taking the leader role on your shoulders and getting out there to DEMAND a difference. Thank you for sharing your incredible talents and talented friends with us. Thank you for ALWAYS fighting for the people and against the power. It goes so far past his sweet guitar solos, dudes. Bono-Schmono. I'm contacting the good folks in my Motherland's Oslo and nominating TOM for the Nobel Peace Prize. No one out there deserves it more. Again, THANK YOU!

What can we do in return, you may wonder? Thank Tom when you see him. Buy "One Man Revolution". Learn the words. Understand the words. ACT on them. Give a damn. Get MAD. STAY mad. TELL people about tonight. GO to a show yourself. Get involved. Volunteer. Vote. March. Remember the feeling. Spread the LOVE. And maybe, just maybe, The Nightwatchman will be able to title his sophomore album, "Millions of People Revolution".

My fist is raised in solidarity. Is yours?

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Military Movie Review –

A Spartan Way to Increase Enlistment

By Karl Abrams

Last month I went to see that new block-buster, megamillion dollar film, 300. You know, that weird and bloody, mindlessly violent and historically inaccurate Warner Brother's film about the ancient Spartans fighting a million Persians at the Battle of Thermopylae in 480 BC.

Aside from generally liking films on ancient history, I wanted to see the extent to which the film was being used as a vehicle for boosting military enlistment and preparing the public for a war with Iran. I was not surprised by the continual cheering of excited male teenagers during the film, although it was kind of scary. Has the Department of Defense helped to make another war-loving film again?

The "military" has been censoring and interfering, in one form or another, with film production for some time now. Created in 1948, the Defense Department's Film Liaison Office was created as a part of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

Then and now, its obvious purpose was to boost "recruitment and retention programs" by presenting the military favorably enough so that a military career would be more attractive to our potential young recruits. More recently, the CIA, the Air Force and the Department of Homeland Security maintain their own separate but interrelated Hollywood offices.

Basically these offices all work the same way. If a film company complies with Pentagon purposes, they will be rewarded with Pentagon ships, boats and other expensive military equipment to enhance the film's authenticity and greatly reduce, by many millions, the cost of film production. If not, the film soars in price and must be filmed in other countries. The Pentagon may then pressure those countries into being non-cooperative as possible.

Let us not forget the now famous 2001 meeting at a posh hotel in Beverly Hills between Bush's chief political advisor Karl Rove and the forty top Hollywood executives and their billionaire bosses who control the film and TV industries. They were told in great detail what the rules are to combat terrorism. Basically they were asked to show films which portray aggressive and militant US policy in the Middle East as favorably as possible.

The Pentagon's system works. Rambo-like and Top Gun-like films often boost recruitment levels two or threefold. Military recruitment booths were even established in many theatres when Top Gun was being screened to accommodate the long lines of patriotic kids wanting to join up.

I'm sure that the State Department is quite pleased that record crowds have been going to see 300 depicting the famous last stand of 300 Spartan Warriors--all buff and strangely without chest hair-- as they bravely battle against an invading Persian army of a million mercilessly marauding warriors. With a possible US war on Iran looming over the Pentagon horizon, it's no wonder that young crowds are filling the theatres.

We know that our youth in general and the Marines in particular see an emotional connection between the current war in Iraq and the out-

numbered Spartans fighting to the death. The Spartan king, like our President, declared on several occasions in the film that their most important goal was centered around the Defense of freedom.

According to the L.A. Times (3/14/07), thousand of Marines have already seen the film at local theatres near Camp Pendleton in Ocean-side. After all, the battle story itself is on the Pendleton Marine Corps Commandant's recommended reading list for all officers and enlistees. Many administration officials like Vice President Dick Cheney are excited about the film even though a prominent New York Times critic wrote that the movie "is about as violent as 'Apocalypse' and twice as stupid."

Although the film is historically inaccurate and does not follow ancient descriptions of the battle, it's totally based on a comic book (graphic-novel) by Frank Miller depicting imaginary mutant-rhinoceroses, giant attack elephants and evil terrorist hoards commanded by a frustrated 8 foot unbearded King Xerxes. By the way, Miller is presently working on another novel about the mighty and patriotic Batman defending our freedoms against the slightly more modern al-Qaida hordes.

One gets the idea early on in the film that the Spartan soon-to-be martyred defenders are the undisputed heroes in the ongoing fight for the survival of free people everywhere.

This was right about then when the film got spooky. Parallels to the policies and attitudes of our current administration's war mongering in Iraq, Afghanistan started piling up as fast as hacked up Persian invaders. Before going into a new battle, Spartans cried out again and again in unison, the same rhythmic hoots that US Marines are most famous for.

When the Spartan King Leonidas is asked to surrender his men, he follows with a "Come and take them" like Bush's famous "bring'em on" battle cry. "Freedom is not free," says the wife of King Leonidas. The teenage crowd cheers again approvingly.

Historically, the Spartan code has become a major part of the Marine Corps culture.

The film has actually been banned in Iran. It is no wonder. Many in Iran see the film as a way to ready America and its hero worshipping youth for an Iranian invasion by increasing the number of patriotic and glory-seeking enlistees. Are the Iranians also aware of the under-the-radar connections between Hollywood and the Pentagon?

Iranian officials see the movie as no less than Hollywood's declaration of war on Iranians.

Sylvester Stallone has reportedly been considering using his Rambo character in a new film in which he will skydive into Afghanistan to fight the Taliban terrorists. I am sure the film will get all the latest and greatest military equipment quickly and freely supplied.

If you want to find out more about how the military influences Hollywood, check out the 2004 book by David Robb entitled *Operation Hollywood: How the Pentagon shapes and censors the movies*.



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May Day photos by Marcus Africanus



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An old-fashioned May Day celebration

It began in 1886 when Chicago workers called a strike on May 1st to demand an eight-hour day. Police promptly attacked. The day for workers spread throughout the world. By the 1950s, government and business leaders claimed to have forgotten that it began in Chicago. "It's a Communist holiday," they cried. To be good Americans, workers stopped marching.

Last year, it began anew. Immigrants rediscovered our holiday (they had never forgotten it). A year ago, one million people – immigrants and citizens – marched in downtown L.A. This year the march was smaller in comparison, but still ranked as one of the largest in Southern California history.

High school walkouts to join the march were reported throughout the city at more than 50 schools. Many other schools had been placed on lockdown.

The downtown march, sponsored by the March 25 Coalition, was estimated at 50,000 - 75,000. Smaller feeder marches streamed in from all directions into the downtown area.

They rallied for full rights for workers, against deportations and for amnesty for the undocumented. According to march organizer Javier Rodriguez, "There are 600,000 women in danger of deportation with 3.3 million children, and we want those united. We do not want those families separated by raids and deportation."

Another march was attacked by police at 6th street and Park View. This march, which ended at MacArthur Park, also was estimated at about 50,000 people. Observers said police shot tear gas and rubber bullets into the crowd. They declared the mostly family crowd in MacArthur Park to be an unlawful assembly.

TV news cameras showed police attacking a woman journalist whose press credentials were clearly visible. Then the scene shifted to a crowd of police surrounding a boy who appeared to be no more than 10 years old. They hit him with their clubs until he fell on the ground.

Responding to criticism, LAPD Chief William Bratton told the media, "Some of what I've seen does not look appropriate."

As in 1886, police called their actions a response to a group of anarchists who were throwing bottles and rocks at them.

Ironically, police broke up the more moderate of the two marches. The MacArthur Park leaders, including the AFL-CIO and Cardinal Mahony (who was speaking as the police descended on the rally), had refused to participate in the downtown coalition because it was calling for a strike and boycott on May 1.

Around the country hundreds of thousands of workers were in the streets, and in L.A. the police were not far behind. As H. Rap Brown liked to say, "it was as American as cherry pie."



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Homeland Insecurity

By Glenn Taranto

My home is gone. Everyone has been telling me to “move on,” “let it go” and the ever popular, “This’ll be the best thing that ever happened to you.” I suppose that’s true. There’s nothing I can do about it now. 1101-1107 Venice Boulevard has vanished as if it were never there.

Interestingly, all the tenants I have been in touch with, drove past the old place a time or two to watch it go down. It was cathartic for me. I guess for them too. As if we had to see it to believe it. I know I needed to see it happen. I was there everyday taking pictures and videotaping it. Many people thought I was nuts. Maybe I am. None of them have ever been tossed out of their place. I wanted to make sure it was documented. A lot of lives were lived there. Children grew up there. People died there.

Gilly Rojany, the man responsible for the carnage, saw me there one day and said it was “time to move ahead.” “When the last piece comes down,” I said. Well it’s down, has been for a week now, and I guess I lied because it’s awfully hard to let go of being tossed out of your home, neighborhood and community. The urge to “go home” is still present in me. I no longer live in Venice. I couldn’t afford to. Maybe I could have if I wanted to move to a smaller place for more money.

I’ll cop to the fact that Rojany gave me a larger incentive to move than the \$3,300 required by law. He had to, I couldn’t have moved without it. But that money won’t last forever and the new place is not rent stabilized. My rent went up 50% for the same size apartment. Try finding someone who’ll rent to you when you’re a performer without a verifiable income and no savings. Fleck Mgmt. wouldn’t. Sidewalk Rentals wouldn’t. They didn’t want to hear it. Even though I had great people vouching for me and I lived in the building for 14 years.

Our tenant group had retained Eviction Defense Network to help. Our attorney was extremely difficult to get on the phone or return an email. We all came away bitter from that experience. None of us would recommend them. Money down the drain. I was starting to become greatly concerned about having to live in my car. What the hell, though, didn’t do two-time Oscar winner Hilary Swank any harm. Rent a PO Box, get a cell phone, shower at the beach. Who’d notice?

Fortunately I found a great couple that would rent to me just as I am.

I’m trying to get used to the new place. I won’t kid you, some things about the actual apartment itself are better than the old place. But that’s the physical. Some things can’t be replaced. That’s the part I don’t think Rojany understands when he says, “People just don’t want to move.” DUH! And why do you think that is? That nothing but the physical will be lost by forcing us to move?

I miss my neighbors. I miss being able to sit outside in the courtyard with them, talk about what’s going on in the world. Laughing. There was always laughter. My new neighbors are mostly old. They’re extremely nice but I don’t want to talk about stents, glaucoma and the dangers of falling. Not yet anyway. I still have time before that. It’s a quiet place after 9 p.m. I guess that’s OK. Venice and Superior has to be the noisiest corner in all of LA. I’m sure those people paying two grand or better for those new apartments Mr. King and the rest of LUPC (Land Use & Planning Committee) OK’d, will be able to stand it just like I did.

I miss a very simple thing, wouldn’t mean much to anyone but me but I miss my walk around the block. Down Superior, around Victoria, down Penmar and up Venice to home. There was a peacefulness to it. Ten minutes out of my day that made all the difference in the world to my psyche. I did a lot of thinking around that corner. Superior is a different kind of street. People actually nod and say hello. I liked living on that block.

I also miss being able to walk to Queen’s Market for a coke or to Abbot Kinney for pizza and even to the beach. There isn’t much to walk to here.

I miss Venice. It’ll take a while for the new place to be home. I know change is supposed to be good. One thing that won’t change, the tiny voice in the back of my head that says: Don’t get comfortable, it could happen again.



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Big Brother – and the neighbors – are watching

By Catherine Komp

For \$5.99 per month, you can turn a cell phone into a surveillance device and track when your target leaves home, where he or she travels and at what speed. You can even detect how much battery power is left on the phone. Marketed as “virtual eyes” on your kids or employees, the service also allows you to construct a virtual “fence” so that you can receive electronic alerts if the phone’s carrier crosses into forbidden areas.

Provided by the company AccuTracking, this service is just one of dozens integrating the Global Positioning System (GPS) into everyday life. The system uses satellites to determine the locations of GPS-enabled devices.

From brightly colored cell phones and watches designed to help parents shadow the movements of children, to enhanced mapping websites allowing managers to monitor traveling employees through mobile devices, corporations are cashing in on GPS surveillance technology.

But as these increasingly inexpensive products rush onto the market, public-interest groups are raising privacy concerns. Youth-rights’ activists, workers’ advocates and domestic-violence experts say public dialogue is needed to illuminate the consequences of this \$20 billion-per-year industry.

“The problem is people are making these acquisitions of technology without hearing the tradeoff, hearing the downside, hearing the flipside of the discussion,” said Lillie Coney, associate director at the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC).

EPIC and other groups say surveillance technology is outpacing policies to reign in possible abuses. “It’s imperative that there be more rules established for companies that sell these types of devices, the companies that provide the services,” Coney said.

From Public Service to Public Surveillance

The Federal Communications Commission requires nearly all cell phones have GPS technology

embedded to help emergency responders pinpoint 9-1-1 callers who may not be able to explain their exact location.

But corporations have quickly found profitable uses for GPS. An Internet search for “GPS tracking” reveals dozens of services promising real-time tracking of vehicles, equipment and people.

Nextel and Sprint market a “Mobile Locator,” which lists a user’s real-time location either by address or via a web-based map. The service also displays “points of interest” - banks, restaurants, and gas stations, for example - positioned around a user’s location.

Verizon is hawking a service called “Chaperone,” which notifies a customer via text message when a family member enters or leaves geographically defined “child zones.”

Toys ‘R’ Us has partnered with Wherify Wireless to sell the “Wherifone,” described by the company as “destined to be on children’s wish lists.”

In a statement promoting the device, Wherify promises it will give “on-the-go parents the peace of mind of being able to quickly locate and communicate with their young children, while also controlling who they can call and how much it will cost.”

While acknowledging the benefits of such technology in emergency situations, some groups are concerned about the “extreme methods” taken by adults to monitor young people. Alex Koroknay-Palicz, executive director of the National Youth Rights Association, said that while parents’ motivations may be “pure,” they are “actually doing more harm than good.”

“It affects the trust and relationship between parents and teens,” said Koroknay-Palicz. “It sends a very clear message from parents that they don’t trust the kids, and they have to monitor them constantly.”

Koroknay-Palicz also sees long-term consequences of this monitoring.

“If we raise kids with no expectation of privacy, then they’re going to become adults and voters and

people of influence in society with no expectation of privacy,” he said.

Coney of EPIC agreed that parents are buying the “safety and security” sales pitch without evaluating the bigger picture, including who else has access to the tracking data.

“A parent might think this is a means to know where their child is,” Coney told TNS, “but it also may be recorded and retained by the entity that provides the service, and they may use it for their own purposes, because there are no laws out there to... prohibit that from happening.”

The Boss is Watching

Workers’ advocates are also concerned about the increasing use of GPS surveillance in the “mobile” workplaces of truck drivers, couriers and sales people. Previously, tracking technology was fixed in a vehicle or location – places from which employees could leave. But now companies can use GPS-equipped devices to monitor an employee during breaks, lunch hours, and potentially after their work is complete.

Additionally, many of the millions of workers in transportation-related occupations must acquiesce to GPS

surveillance in order to keep their jobs.

“GPS has the ability to really give an employer a fully fleshed-out picture of an employee’s private life,” said Jeremy Gruber, legal director of the Princeton, New Jersey-based National Workrights Institute. “It’s perhaps the greatest threat to privacy that we’ve seen yet by monitoring.”

Several privacy experts interviewed by TNS said there are virtually no laws requiring employers to inform workers that they are being tracked by satellite, or to guarantee workers can turn off GPS technology when they leave work.

Legislation introduced in 2000 would have required employers to disclose when they were electronically monitoring workers. But the bills, introduced by Senator Charles Schumer (D-New York) and Representatives Bob Barr (R-Georgia) and Charles Canady (R-Florida), won no additional co-sponsors and died in committee.

Misuses of Technology

In February 2006, an article in The Guardian titled “How I Stalked My Girlfriend,” reporter Ben Goldacre described the ease with which he was able to register his partner’s cell phone with a surveillance service. Having access to her phone for just a few minutes allowed him to surreptitiously delete the warning message, “For your own safety, make sure that you know who is locating you.” He was able to follow her real-time movements on the web for a small fee.

But Goldacre’s experiment had already been put to nefarious use by people in the United States. One of the first reported cases of a stalker using GPS occurred in 2000, when Robert Sullivan, who was later convicted of stalking, planted a device in his wife’s car in Colorado to follow her movements.

Similar cases have been reported in California, Arizona, Washington and Wisconsin, in which women suddenly noticed their ex-partner or spouse showing up wherever they were - at work, the store, or on a date.

Sandy Bromley, program attorney with the Stalking Resource Center at the National Center for Victims of Crime, said GPS is one of the reasons it is becoming more difficult for people to “go underground” and escape their abusers.

Bromley said the Stalking Resource Center recommends that states expand existing stalking statutes to include language that is inclusive of technology to facilitate prosecution of stalking crimes that use electronic surveillance.

Watching the Watchers

Privacy advocates are also concerned about government access to GPS data and whether it is being obtained legally. Groups cite the example earlier this year of the National Security Agency’s warrantless wiretaps as good reason to engage in dialogue about the ever-growing “surveillance society.”

“We may have the government knowing all the time whether the cell phone in some instances is on or off [and] where [a person] is located at any one time,” said Law Professor John Soma, executive director of the University of Denver-based Privacy Foundation. “That is troubling, very troubling.”

Warrantless cell-phone tracking by law enforcement has been scrutinized in the courts. A number of judges have denied the federal government’s requests to track cell phones without showing probable cause.

The Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act of 1994 forbids telecommunications companies from providing geographical information about their customers to law enforcement without a warrant.

But privacy experts say they have no idea how many judges have erroneously granted the government’s requests for warrants. In August 2005, Magistrate Judge James Orenstein in New York issued one of the first public rulings against a government request for a tracking warrant, but said he had previously granted similar applications ‘without questioning the legal basis for doing so or suggesting that there might be none.’

In closing his ruling, Orenstein wrote, “Wisdom too often never comes, and so one ought not to reject it merely because it comes late.”

This article previously appeared in The New Standard, <newstandardnews.net>, an independent, non-profit, commercial-free news source.

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JIVE FAUST

By Hal Bogotch

What is worth a soul,
brother?

stacks of green in back
of white cadillac

bite the bullet with a hint
of glint in wide smile

mark crossroads now
with black cat bone

pack status quo
in gray carpet bag

zero in on hot lobster
tail for red hide

go beyond purple to rain
on rainbow pride parade

call my flush
dark ace

flash, you lose
silver cloud heaven.

The Lag

By Jim Smith

In our 20s, we act like teenagers
embarrassing ourselves needlessly

In our 30s, we act like 20 year olds
still in the flower of our youth

In our 40s, we act like 30 year olds
misjudging our pinnacle of power

In our 50s, we act like 40 year olds
pretending to be what is passing

In our 60s, we act like 50 year olds
breaking bones needlessly

In our 70, we act like 60 year olds
squandering our hard-gained wisdom

In our 80s, we recline and consider
our many ages in contentment

American War

By Simone White

do you remember the American War
it wasn't that long ago
it was fought on every shore
are you trying to tell me that you didn't know
I saw you reading the paper
at the corner store
(yes I know, that's a joke)

did you ever think you lived inside the belly of the beast
are you giving it something nice to eat
or are you waiting for your very own
special treat
we like to live on easy street

do you remember all the people we bombed
all the homes that were there
that are now gone
we'll whoever told you that life was fair
people have to die
over there

did you ever think this was the greatest country in the world
with freedom and democracy and SUV's called Liberty
for every boy and girl
the oyster chokes on its own pearl

"we know you can't help where you're born
it's not that you're foreign
it's what you stand for
we know it's hard to start reform
the revolution's born
but no one claims it"

(winning ticket)

do you remember the American War
we thought it was fun but it was a bore
do you remember the American War
we forgot what we were fighting for
we forgot what we were fighting for
we forgot what we were fighting for

I still owe her \$6,000

By Rex Butters

another restaurant night running burgers and beer
trays and days running away
check for my name
on a hot pass food ticket
lying by food drying out
stainless steel and heating coils

I turn to see who at the door needs seating
maybe just a greeting to buy some
time and maybe squeeze another dime
out of a table
impatient for water

SHE's standing there
it can't be her
her hennaed hair
her trademark mane

Al tries to seat her
I call his name
he turns/she turns
"put her in my section"
she tries a name
"Rex?" she asks

I'm always forgettable
and never look the same

her flight canceled/stuck in Seattle
her tourist guide recommends our lamb

16 years before
I see her sweep the floor
younger in experience but looking the same
Tower Records/Westwood store
her break time spent
practicing bass/working on scales
working on songs
a musician first

she'd lost her a band to Hollywood trash
her last band hit big/(you've seen the video)/
they broke up/she unscathed by fickle fame
practicing bass/working on scales
working on songs
a musician first

"you know when I think of you?" she asks
driving on Sunset where you totaled that car"

oh that

free tickets to Peter Tosh at the Roxy
sweet easy luck fogs my glasses
driving my roommate's car
powder blue '76 Pinto new
woman with me
crazy coworker/CIA future/diabetic drinking
Drambuie

"this car drives like a cow," I observe
even the manual trans
sleeps in my hand
"I wonder how fast it'll go before it loses
control," she speculates
conversation going nowhere
I hit the gas at the Bel Aire gates
into the turn
downhill straight away
snaky
snaps us a change up on a curve
"hey," I say, speed needle nudging eighty
"it's handling it"
in a hard downhill twist past UCLA
all lush green grass and fences
perpetualling peeling eucalyptus

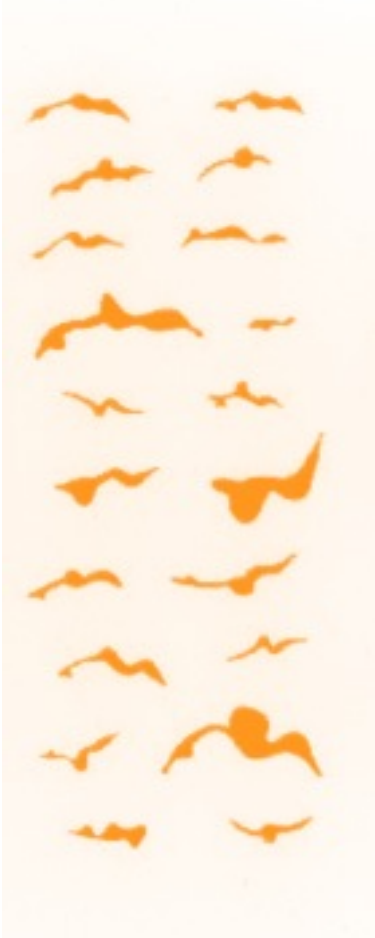
at the upturn in the road
a summer's night water hazard
someone daylong irrigating their lawn
we hit
slow mo hydroplane slide half block uphill
sideways
gentle floating moment
then reawakened tire traction
shoots us into the offroad underbrush

we drive the cheek she tore
face smacked the dashboard
good samaritan stopped/offered the ride
emergency room stitched
her scarless from
the inside

me he
drives back to the wreck
front end twisted
battery shoved into glove box
radiator right behind it
we'd only hit weeds
and a hillside

"do you know anything about this?" surly LA cop
on the scene
demands
"yessir," I say "I'm the driver:
"don't bullshit me," he says, "the driver of this vehicle
isn't walking around"
he points a thick hand
at the police spotlighted Pinto windshield
broken/driver's side/shattered outward
a shellacked convex spider web
I point a hand at my cap
"that's no problem for me," I grin big
"I've had plenty of head injuries"

P O E T R Y



The Cripple

By Lynette

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.

Pot – The New Miracle Drug?

–continued from page one

Dr. Frankel: Name the reasons people need to take a drink, and we’ll just start there. Of course it gets its due for healing and managing serious, life-threatening illnesses as well as everything in between.

Beachhead: Chronic pain, depression, anxiety, arthritis, insomnia, migraines, eating disorders, cancer, aids, are a few of the boxes to tick on the online registration form it took five minutes to fill out as the computer snapped my certificate pic in the reception room.

Dr. Frankel: When I realized what an amazing herb/medicine marijuana is, I wanted to become fully involved in helping make a difference. I thought perhaps I would be politically involved, but I didn’t have the patience for that slow and arduous process of change. I wanted to bridge all kinds of people together, so I decided to open a clinic, especially co-functioning as a database enterprise to help statistically/ scientifically unite the movement.

Beachhead: The good doctor is wearing a t-shirt with the insignia Chartscape on it.....

Dr. Frankel: That’s our software company, HOMEGROWN NETWORK, specializing in Electronic Medical Records Systems. I invented the language and designed the software program. Now we’ve got SAS, Software as a Service. Instead of doctors keeping shoddy medical records, lost, gathering dust, or never seen again, we’ve created an online filing system of medical records, still strictly confidential, of course, yet providing important information cross-referenced and complied as ammo in our ongoing presentation/research for the medical marijuana movement.

Beachhead: SuperKushy benefits, I’m sure!

Dr. Frankel: We are already showing a far better outcome than everyone’s assuming - medical marijuana use is spread all across the board in socio-economic factors. That means it’s benefiting and becoming widely accepted and accessible to everyone from all segments of the population. Plus there’s a major glitch in the current system of getting your recommendation we’re currently resolving with the software - when a patient armed with a recommendation visits the dispensary for the first time, the dispensary security checks in by phoning the doctor to verify. Good in theory, but doctors and dispensaries tend to have peak hours operating at odds, and many people return home disappointed after their first highly anticipated visit/purchase if the doctor isn’t IN! Contrast that unfortunate experience with a beautiful recommendation shining on a secure website et voila! - you’re in every time! I personally will see to it that all practicing doctors receive this software. Winning stats are already rolling in - 85% of patients respond they were unsatisfied with their prior care and are now way happier on marijuana. Plus software records are a great tool helping us coordinate feedback on what types of strains and blends specifically help treat certain symptoms/illnesses.

Beachhead: Is all California simpatico, or as we say in Canada - compassionate? (the writer having been part of a collective opening a Compassion Club on the B.C Coast including outspoken U.S. citizen and medical pot refugee now-free-of-all-charges! faerie flower mama Renee Boje).

Dr. Frankel: We are especially lucky in Southern California. Other places require along with the recommendation, a County-granted license costing upwards of \$250, (the medical recommendation goes from \$150 to \$175 on average). In Los Angeles many Counties have low-prioritized marijuana in the penal code to where possession of under an ounce is merely a discretionary fine. Patient demand for doctors issuing recommen-

dations can’t keep up with patient’s needs, so I’ve opened this center (3007 Washington Blvd Suite 110), 3 1/2 weeks ago and a new one on 1811 Ocean Front Walk just nine days ago. I’m seeing upwards of 20 patients a day and some are in crucial need of pain relief from debilitating illnesses. The software is compiling built-in clinical trials, I’m finding we need more dedicated chemists out there working on super potent extractions of THC into elixirs, oils, sprays, patches, suppositories, you name it, be an angel, go out there and perfect it! Dying patients can’t effectively smoke, and muffins and brownies just don’t cut it for them.

Beachhead: Let’s talk about kids - say teenagers to people in their early twenties who may come in for a recommendation.

Dr. Frankel: They are my biggest dilemma. I counsel them on function and balance within their lives - they are still growing and creating their live’s opportunities.... My advice is for them to take a moment to identify where marijuana use helps them, and to be honest about where it hurts. In my own experience I’ve achieved a broadening of the “box” as well as a higher level of focus using marijuana to selectively alter my mind, to look at my life’s challenges creatively from a different angle. However, if you are twenty and marijuana is your only angle..... Beware parents, however, zero tolerance is not the answer and will only serve to alienate our kids.

Beachhead: Zero tolerance sounds like a fanatic religion stemming from the present administration!

Dr. Frankel: The irony of the phrase “drug doctor” is the real adverse side effect galore drugs most doctors prescribe originate from pressure from the pharmaceutical drug cartel lobbyists, we are talking big bucks here.....!! By the way, I was a Conscientious Objector to the Viet Nam War, and I hope kids will take the lead preparing themselves to not being drafted into this or any War.

Beachhead: While Flor is processing my recommendation, which, among other things, I hope will alleviate the excruciating sinus pressure in my temples when the Santa Ana winds blow in, I get a chance to chat with two of Dr. F’s patients, Michael and Will, about the distinct mouth-watering features of several of the dispensaries in the area, (there’s three on Lincoln near Rose, one in the doctor’s building, one on the boardwalk, and more popping up overnight). Michael reveals he’s in the industry, suffered a herniated disc, undergoing horrible back pain, been miserably addicted to Vicodin for four months, and is desperate to use marijuana to manage the pain and sleepless nights.



Dr. Allan Frankel gives new patient Dominique Williams his marijuana papers.

However, he’s afraid random drug tests in his field might jeopardize his career. He confides the recommendation is worth paying whatever it takes to ensure him physical and mental relief. He’s stoked his responsible use will be protected by Law.

Beachhead: What about your protection, Dr. Frankel?

Dr. Frankel: Physicians and patients are in a very solid position with State and Federal laws. The dispensaries have some issues with Feds but these are little more than illegal raids confiscating the kindness and the contents of the ATM machine. I am in support of the 9% sales tax, (though most of our misguided tax dollars are appropriated to wage the War). When the government sees how fast and fat the coffers are filled, they will all rally pro-medical marijuana. 14 states have now legalized it, and more are coming on strong. If I am seen as aiding and abetting this Heavensent, I can assure you it feels good on every level!

Beachhead: Have you ever grown? I’m looking forward to singing and communing with my elven sisters again soon.

Dr. Frankel: I am for the first time, and praying the seeds are female!

Beachhead: She’s one of the most beautiful, delectable, irresistible, crystalline Goddesses ever to hitch a ride on a comet destination Holy Gaea Land. Let’s partake, if you will, of your ideal vision for medical marijuana.

Dr. Frankel: I would like to see doctors, all doctors in every capacity, stand up for this recently released 5,000-year-old medication. I encourage patients to seek alternate medical practices in conjunction with western medicine. Our clinic features an acupuncturist, a dear friend I’ve worked closely with many years. We’d appreciate a blessing from the Highest States of Government, acceptance from the medical community, and an end to the prosecution and persecution of medical marijuana.

Beachhead: Thank-you! Amen, or I mean Ahem.....always a pleasure, Dr. Frankel.! Prospective patients out there - mention the Beachhead sent you and receive a discount from the doctor. Call Dr. Frankel at 821-9600.

COMING IN JUNE:
INSIDE THE DISPENSARIES!!!

Get 4 Free Ads in the Beachhead!

- Become a Sustainer Today
 - Get listed on page 2 every month
 - Get 4 business card-sized advertisements
 - Gain immense satisfaction in helping the non-corporate media \$100/year
- Beachhead, POB 2, Venice 90294



DOWNTOWN VENICE NEWS



Two Visions of Historic Windward Avenue

← 1980 flyer from the Venice Town Council

The flyer offers “For” and “Against” arguments for the development. The “For” argument says prophetically, “If this project is stopped, some other development will go in there that will not be as good as this, but will really be bad for Venice.”

2007 – Robert Graham studio makes a “unique” architectural statement. Hey, where’s our colonnade.

Another Statue for the Circle?

What to do with our lonely park, also known as the traffic circle, at Main and Windward Avenue, is something on which every Venetian has an opinion.

One of our roving photographers caught this audition of a creation by Venice sculptor Bill Attaway. While it does have a Venetian flare, it will have to be made of sturdier stuff than Papier-mâché if it is to stand the test of time – and weather.

Got an idea for the circle? There’s plenty of room. Send the Beachhead a drawing, photo, rant or other idea. We’ll print what we can.



“Your Local Shop for Scrumptious Food and Sinful Chocolates”

Monday - Friday 9 am - 7 pm
Saturday 10 am - 7 pm • Sunday noon - 6 pm
1800A Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice, CA 90291
310-305-9800
Additional Parking after 5 pm
and all day Saturday & Sunday behind the store.

25 Years Ago in the Free Venice Beachhead

By John J. Gwozdz


Who is this man whose delusions of grandeur could be so easily shattered by anyone who questioned his authority? Who would fire an elderly Clerk on Christmas Eve? Who would fire the man who used to wear a Santa Claus suit? Who would fire an employee for getting injured on the job? Who would fire three employees who worked under life-endangering conditions just because they dared to report those conditions? Who would fire the President and the Chief Steward of the Union Local on trumped-up charges? His name is Emilio Rocha, Postmaster of Venice. All the employees of the Venice Post Office (except two) are convinced this man is an asshole.

The Venice Carrier Annex is the dog-poop ringed, boarded-up, barbed-wire fenced structure that used to be the Safeway supermarket. 139 Clerks and Letter Carriers work in this building. On the south side the plastic-strip covered affair that looks like a Buckminster Fuller nightmare is the ill-conceived "loading dock" for every piece of mail that is delivered in Venice, Marina del Rey, and Playa del Rey. There is not one employee who works on this dock whose life has not been endangered by metal mail containers weighing up to 3000 pounds falling off the broken lift onto the slippery oil-slicked pavement, or onto the sharp-edged containers that congest the dock area inside that plastic.

Like every other problem reported by the Venice Local of the American Postal Workers Union, safety hazard reports were wished away or "lost" or declared "safe" by Emilio Rocha, Postmaster. But the Union persisted, and in September, 1981 an OSHA Complaint was filed by Local President, Mary Miles, against Rocha's two-year failure to correct safety hazards in the Venice Carrier Annex. When the investigation finally came, it sustained the life-endangering conditions on the dock. The resulting embarrassment of Rocha before his "superiors" enraged him. He became increasingly vindictive and was determined to break the Union.

This article appeared in Beachhead #149 in May, 1982.

UNION BUSTING AT THE VENICE POST OFFICE?



In January he suspended Union President Miles for a week. While serving the suspension, Miles put out an issue of the Venice Union's newsletter. Inspired by the postmaster's irrational sprees of disciplinary actions, it featured a cartoon on the front cover of a cockroach-postmaster receiving his own "Letter of Charges." Inside were various articles of interest to workers including news about the OSHA Complaint. The newsletter was distributed throughout post offices in the area and to Union Locals across the country via a Union press association.

On February 12th Rocha fired a Clerk who worked on the dock and who had given

information to the Union which was used to document the OSHA Complaint. On March 15th another Clerk who worked on the dock and reported hazards there was terminated. On April 5th Mary Miles, President of the Venice APWU, was fired. On April 12th the Chief Steward of the Venice APWU, an activist who had also taken part in the OSHA Complaint, was fired. In this fashion Rocha put the OSHA embarrassment out of his mind.

One day postmaster Rocha entered the Venice Carrier Annex, and in keeping with his regal self-image he told a supervisor to quiet the place down while he made his entrance and crossed the workroom floor. The supervisor immediately skipped around saying to the employees, "Sssshhh, the postmaster's here." All employees present began to "ssshhh" in unison. In moments it grew and gained a life of its own -- a chant -- "SSSHHH-SSSHHH-SSSHHH-SSSHHH." It went on for more than ten minutes. The postmaster and the supervisor shrank and skulked into their front office where they put their heads together to determine what to do about these employees questioning their authority like that. A few days later they came up with the "solution": They would fire the man who used to wear the Santa Claus suit on his mail route at Christmastime. They would make him an example to all who would dare not grovel in Rocha's exalted presence. Economic capital punishment, i.e., termination, is Rocha's "solution" to the "problem" of dissent, be it legitimate or humorous.

The Venice Local APWU now has eight charges of unfair labor practices pending before the National Labor Relations Board. The Union also has pending an OSHA Reprisal Complaint, grievance arbitrations, EEO Complaints, and a Veterans Preference Act Appeal as a result of Rocha's bizarre and tyrannical behavior. The fired workers will return. The Union is fighting back. Then Mr. Rocha will crawl back into whatever drain he came out of.

Driving for Dahlia

—continued from page five

Basra. She tells me that two years ago, she traveled by bus from Jordan. Last year, that was too dangerous so she flew to Kuwait and took a taxi to the Iraq border. In that part of the world, it's unusual for a woman to be traveling alone without a male with her to speak to officials. The border guards were ready to take advantage of her. They hinted that the price of admission to Iraq would be her video camera. Just in the nick of time, her male cousin arrived and saved her and her camera. Now, with a male to follow she was just another Iraqi woman. With the level of violence still rising, making the same trip today is out of the question. Dahlia and her family are isolated and cut off from each other.

At a Venice house meeting on Palms Blvd., Dahlia tells us that many Iraqi women have been wearing black mourning clothes since the war began because there have been so many deaths in each family that when one period of mourning ends, another begins. She describes how our military is literally poisoning the land with depleted uranium shells that will remain radioactive for years to come. She adds that the malignant influence of the military is not limited to Iraq and shows slides of U.S. armaments being used by the Israeli army against Palestinians and in Lebanon. Dahlia reminds people that she has a Jewish mother. She says it's not anti-semitic to be critical of Israel when it is being as vicious as our government. She shows more slides depicting how our media doesn't mention, or show, Palestinian or Iraqi casualties. She asks why when the majority of Iraqis are women and children are we only shown young Iraqi males on TV.

We have lunch at the Figtree Cafe on Ocean Front Walk, and the next day at Alejo's on Lincoln. In both cases, she orders the cheapest

meal on the menu, and then takes more than half of it home for dinner. She's adopted a frugal lifestyle that would even make many low-income Venetians wince. Dahlia's income from speaking fees, I estimate, is not one-tenth what she would pull down as a working anesthesiologist. She doesn't care. It probably doesn't cross her mind, unless it interferes with her ability to talk to people about this war. But there are parallels with her life as an MD. She is still making her rounds, except we are her patients, and the disease is geopolitical. Her slide show is like a much needed visit to the emergency room. There is blood, death and dying. At a talk at UCLA, a student faints. She later says that she had given blood earlier in the day, so it might not be entirely due to Dahlia's tough love.

Even though they are separated by generations, she reminds me of the Argentine doctor, Che Guevara, who abandoned his practice for similar reasons. Dahlia, and Che (as described by those who knew him) retained their love for people, both as individuals, and in the aggregate. After a meeting in Thousand Oaks, Dahlia tells me how "very special" it was to be complimented on her talk by a 98-year-old man who had attended. She had already convinced me on the first day that she wasn't a pampered anti-war "star," when she insisted on sitting through the entire teach-in, and listening intently to each speaker, before she got up to speak at the end of the program.

On Thursday, she's up at the crack of dawn to catch a 6:30 am flight to San Francisco for a lunchtime talk at Stanford University and one in the evening in the City. It's just another day in the life of Dr. Dahlia Wasfi.

You know, maybe one person *can* change the world!

Program for Middle School Youth

Dear Beachhead,

The spring session of Inside Out Neighborhood Arts Project (NAP) is free of charge to middle school youth in Venice.

NAP is a theatre-based after-school program taught by specially trained professional actors, writers, directors, musicians, dancers and visual/media artists. Young people learn about acting, movement, creative writing, voice, photography, music, painting and more!

The program also includes a beach trip and a field trip to see the hit Broadway musical WICKED at the Pantages Theatre. All these activities culminate with youth creating and performing in their own original plays about issues of importance in their lives and community!

The program runs on Wednesdays from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m., now through June 20th with some Saturdays. It's held at the Venice Center for Peace with Justice & the Arts, 2210 Lincoln Blvd.

Please contact Paco at 310-397-8820 ext. 104 or <paco@insideoutca.org> and ask for an enrollment package.

Paco Madden



Control of the World’s Energy

Dear Beachhead,
Since the beginning of human civilization, man has faced tyranny in many forms. Through out history the common man has had to suffer under the rule of oppressors at the risk of life and freedom for reasons such as religion, right of land, territorial conquest, racial theory and most recently political beliefs. Through out time, never has there been a tyranny with power that was capable of reaching and infecting every corner of the planet. A tyranny that affected not only a single generation, but that could affect every coming generation for as long as we lived on this planet.

To many, the word “energy” simply means the power to make things work. We know that electricity and gasoline are two forms of energy that we need, in order to use electrical devices in our homes, and to power most of our vehicles. The excitement of modern technology has occupied our mind for so long, that we never stop to think about what it really takes the United States to keep a constant supply of energy. Hardly anyone realizes that our current atmosphere of war in the Middle East is due entirely to our need of oil and that our current atmosphere of global warming is due entirely on the use of coal and oil.

In the United States, 50% of our supply of electricity comes from coal burning power plants. To power our automobiles nearly 100% of our supply for that energy comes from oil. The burning of oil and coal are the top two suppliers of carbon dioxide in the entire world. Carbon dioxide is the number one source of global warming. The United States counts for only 4% of the world’s population, yet we alone cause of over 25% of global warming.

Do we ever really stop to think about these things? The truth is, the majority of our population doesn’t have time to care about what the results may be, of having to turn on a light switch to see in our home, or drive a car to buy food for our families. We simply grow up in our society knowing that these things are necessary. So we continue using and needing energy, regardless of what it takes to supply it or what the consequence may be of using it. I recommend the documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth* for easy to understand explanations about the facts of what global warming really is, and how it will affect us

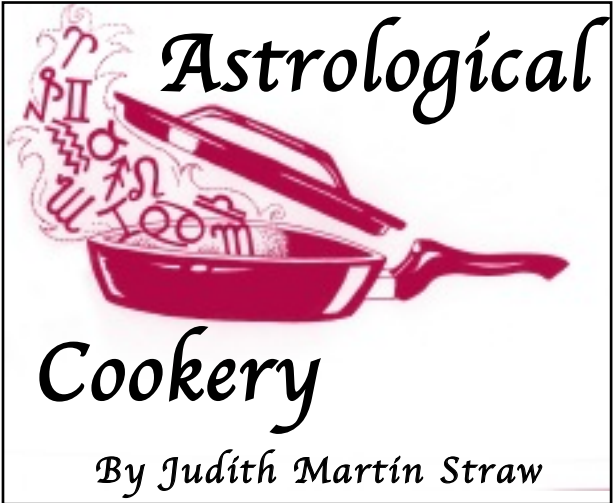
We may soon see the effects of what our use of fossil fuel for energy has done to our planet. Some effects of which may include changes to the geography of the planet that would lead to catastrophic consequences for human civilization. At the moment, nature is only warning us of this possible future, but each day that passes may soon take us beyond the point of no return. The problem of global warming is the reason we must all unite and bring an end to the need of coal and oil, if our species is to avoid sharing the same fate as that of the dinosaurs.

Fernando Ruiz



Venice Garden Tour

10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, May 5
Check in at Las Doradas Children’s Center,
804 Broadway Ave. \$70.



General Forecast
for May 2007

In general, this will be a month of pushing and pulling, of two steps forward and one step back. Just knowing that you have to put in so much more time and the effort is frustrating, but the payoff, when it arrives, will be double. Not only will you have what you wanted, you’ll know how to proceed to make it the best.

Aries - Now that all of your annual birthday challenges are behind you, it’s time to just relish some quiet. So you have not yet reached the summit? It will be there when you arrive, and you’ll get there much sooner if you remember to take care of yourself.

Taurus - A great beginning to something-a job, a romance, a family? Whatever you have coming up, remind yourself that even the biggest victories are the victories WITH and not the victories OVER. You will win, and you don’t have to make anyone else lose to prove it.

Gemini - With all your dualities going full strength, you will do best when you focus on balance. Rather than be a juggler, think of the high-wire act with the long pole. Just working the angle of the weight, and you’ll be safely on the other side soon.

Cancer - There’s big news on the way, and how you receive it will let you know. Either it’s time to declare your intentions, or it’s time to bring things to a close. Decide, and declare.

Leo - This is a lovely moment in your life to discover if your most noticeable qualities are really your best traits. Are you brave, or reckless? Passionate, or just short tempered? Deeply charming, or really shallow? Whatever you decide, you can use the Lion’s persona for your own best interests AND for the greater good.

Virgo - You may be feeling as if the door has closed, but what you need is a spiritual recharge. Take some time to enjoy whatever church your own personal religion offers- Art gallery, beach, dinner party, maybe even church. The universe wants you to know that when one door closes, another opens. Step in.

Libra - Time to make some practical plans and take action. Thinking about going to school, changing jobs, moving? The best way to get started is to check it out. Talk, research, write, draw, however your brain like to move, give it a good goal and then decide how you are going to do it.

Scorpio - Something you’ve been wanting is on it’s way, but don’t sit down and wait for the doorbell to ring. Now is the time to give it all you’ve got, and let your efforts draw you closer while your dreams approach. There is no romantic move cliché about one lover running with arms outstretched while the other stands there staring. Get up and get going.

Sagittarius - There’s been so much good stuff going on for so long, you may be feeling a bit too crowded. How many opportunities can you enjoy at the same time? Let yourself be picky (not hard for a Sag-) and only accept the best.

Capricorn - The contentment that you feel now that things have gotten more focused has it’s beginnings in your ideals. Keep on cleaning closets and giving away the stuff you don’t use or need. You’ll be able to move ahead without any baggage, emotional or physical. Stay on track and enjoy the ride.

Aquarius - Wow! Even for someone as optimistic and open minded as you are, it’s just remarkable how good it’s getting. Whatever form the great news takes- new lover, perfect house, new lover with perfect house who want you to move in- be sure you are sharing your good fortune and good vibes with those not so inclined to believe in miracles. You make a great case study, right now.

Pisces - You are so surrounded right now- by friends, activities, events and occasions-you might be wise to just schedule to some time just to sit and listen to the birds sing. Even non-stop fun can be overwhelming.

Astrological
Cookery for Taurus

Few astrological signs are as clearly related to their totem as you, Taurus. You are bullish and bull-like in so many ways strong, determined, willful, a great lover and a loyal friend. But your culinary disposition has all of these qualities, not always to the good. You love a classic- in fact, you love it so much that should some kind person offer you pasta with pesto rather than your standard marinara, you may feel insulted. The pasta needs to be white, the sauce needs to be red, and I’ll bet you are very certain that it needs to be spaghetti- fettuccine or linguini, as similar as they are to some, seem quite strange to you. Food just has to be a certain way. And you do cook it a certain way, and just certain foods, thank you very much. I’ll bet that your shopping list has not changed in years.

The best part of all this absolutely determined certainty is that if you are a Taurus who likes to cook (most do, but not all) you probably qualify as a master chef in your own kitchen. You may have made that spaghetti with marinara sauce a thousand times, but your friends and family have told you, it’s just perfect- the exact amount of garlic, the right touch of oregano, that lovely olive oil you have been buying for years, it all blends into a plate of pasta that is exactly what the word pasta means to you.

So, why go around reading cookbooks and browsing at the farmer’s markets? You know just what you want, where to get it and how long it’s going to take to cook. Could it be that there are classics out there that you just have not tried yet? We know nothing will persuade you to make a chicken satay or a pistachio gelato. But how about a really classic cheesecake?

The Ultimate Taurus Cheesecake

- Crust-1 dozen graham crackers
- 5 tablespoons butter, melted
- 3 tablespoons sugar

Crush crackers, in a bag or a blender, and stir them together with the sugar and butter in a bowl. Butter the bottom of an 8X3 cake pan, then lint the pan with wax paper or parchment. Butter the top of the liner paper, and press the crust to fit with your favorite crust-pressing spoon or spatula.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

- Filling- 16 oz. Of cream cheese (2 regular sized packages)
- 1 cup of white sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 tablespoons vanilla extract (the real stuff)
- 1/8 tsp salt
- juice of one lemon (about 1/4 cup)
- 3 cups of sour cream

Blend sugar and cream cheese until very smooth, like a solid cloud of white, sugar and cream cheese in perfect oneness. Add

Eggs and blend well, add vanilla, salt and sour cream, and continue beating until you have an ideal of whiteness, creaminess, and cheesiness, about four or five minutes. Pour over crust.

Make a water bath to bake the cheesecake.

In a roasting pan, fold a tea towel and place it on the bottom. The roasting pan needs to be at least one inch taller than the cake pan. Put the pan with the cheesecake on top of the center of the towel, and place the roasting pan on a rack in the middle of the oven. Next, pour some very very hot but not boiling water into the pan, soaking the towel and coming about 2/3 of the sides of the cake pan. Bake for 45 minutes without peeking. Then, turn off the oven and lit the cheesecake stay there for another hour. When you take it out (carefully, that water is still hot!) It will still look soft and jiggy in the center, but it’s finished baking. Have faith, and put it in the refrigerator overnight. No one said this was fast food.

The next day, you have to do the double flip- Put the cake pan with the cheesecake in it on a few low burner for just a few seconds (Pancake griddles are ideal for this) and run a butter knife around the edge. Then top it with a sheet of wax paper and a baking sheet, say a prayer to the kitchen goddess and give it a flip. Once you are out, put your favorite cheesecake -serving dish on the crust, and flip it again. Back to the refrigerator for another rest, maybe an hour, and then serve. Truly classic, absolutely perfect, and totally Taurus.

May 2 • Wednesday - **911 Mysteries** Part I: Demolitions ('06, 90m) The first 911 documentary written, directed and narrated by a woman, Sofia Smallstorm (in person), sets the facts of science against the official story of the Twin Towers' collapse. Was it really fate -- or method? Preshow 6 pm: more political films. Plus: 7:30 live political comedy with sharp wit Rick Overton.

May 5 • Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. - **Venice Garden Tour** - Check in at Las Doradas Children's Center, 804 Broadway Ave. \$70.

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

• Saturday, 7-11 pm. Grand Opening of **Equator Vinyl**, 1103 Abbot Kinney Blvd. A vintage record store in Venice! Live Music - Open Margarita Bar - and Special Guest: DJ Ice. \$10 cover after 9 pm.

May 6 • Sunday, 5 pm - Open Reading with **Danielle Grilli and Dave Nordling**. Grilli is a freelance writer, editor, graphic and web designer. A former poetry editor for the Muse Apprentice Guild, her work has been published in a variety of journals and webzines. Nordling is co-host of the Rapp Saloon and the editor-in-chief of Off-World Publications, a small chapbook service for poets. Hosted by Marie LeCrivain. Sign-up 4:45 PM. Beyond Baroque FREE.

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

May 7 • Monday 7:30 pm - **Max 10 Performance Laboratory** is an uncurated event, a place to do brave work, experiment, and risk failure. 10 months a year, 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.

May 9 • Wednesday - **Hippies From Hell** ('02, 53m) Director Ine Poppe of Amsterdam will screen and discuss her eye-opening documentary on the international hacker movement. Plus more culture jamming short films. Sponto Gallery.

May 13 • Sunday, 9-12pm - **Greg Poree**, busy guitarist/composer/arranger, Hal's Bar and Grill.

May 14 • Monday, 9-12 - **Cal Bennett**, too funky to be smooth, Hal's Bar and Grill.

May 16 • Wednesday - **Punking Out** ('78, 24m) Filmmakers Ric Shore (in person), Juliusz Kossakowski & Maggi Carson capture the birth of punk in all its nihilism, angst & raw power at CBGBs. With explosive performances by The Ramones, Richard Hell & the Vodoids and Stiv Bators & The Dead Boys. Plus tons of punk rarities with The Sex Pistols, Patti Smith, the Minutemen and more. Preshow:TBA Sponto Gallery.

May 19 • Saturday, 11am - 1pm - **Venice Peace & Freedom Party** meets. 399-2215.
• Saturday, May 19-June 9 - **Forces of Nature: A Feminist Perspective**. Annual Exhibition by Linda Jacobson and students on art and spirituality. SPARC.

May 20 • Sunday, 10 am - 2:30 pm - Educational forum: **Israel, Zionism and Apartheid: The Case for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions**. UCLA Humanities A51. Free admission. Lunch available <info@ceia-sc.org>.

• Sunday 7 pm, **Poets Beyond the Half Shell** presents Peter Marti and Penelope Thompson. Marti helps run a Tibetan Buddhist retreat in the Santa Cruz mountains. Thompson is a former teacher, in training to be a Buddhist hospital chaplain. Hosted by Carlye Archibeque and Richard Modiano. Open sign up 6:30, 2 poem limit. FREE.

Community Events — by the numbers



May 20 • Sunday, 7:30 pm. - **Grigory Goryachev** has been acclaimed the world over for his blinding virtuosity and extraordinary musical sensitivity.

As a master of both flamenco and classical styles, he has created a new genre all his own and garnered praise from such guitar luminaries as Paco de Lucia, Christopher Parkening, and Eliot Fisk. <grishagoryachev.com>. Reservations, Yuri at 213-448-1148. Electric Lodge \$15.

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

May 21 • Monday, 9-12 pm, **Thom Rotella**, Hal's Bar and Grill, no cover.

May 23 • Wednesday - **"if i scratch, if i write"** ('05, 100m) Kon Pet Moon's groundbreaking film on Cleveland poet and mimeo revolutionary d.a. levy., with Allen Ginsberg. Plus 7pm preshow: Discussion with Russell Salamon, whose poetic bio "Descent Into Cleveland" delves into levy & the mimeo period, and Carma Bum & poet S.A. Griffin. SPONTO.

May 24 • Thursday - **Films: PXL This** -The 16th annual PXL film festival, with videos made with the Fisher Price toy camera. Including "Gestures" about the war in Iraq by L. M. Sabo, "Klezmer Music" by Ron Grun, Gerry Fialka's "A Practical Magic" about organist Korla Pandit and Paul Bacca's "Circumflexuous" about bike antics. 8 pm. Echo Park Film Ctr, 1200 N. Alvarado St. 213-484-8846

March 27 • Sunday, 9-12pm - **Quentin Dennard**, legendary Motown/jazz/r&b drummer, Hal's Bar and Grill no cover.

May 28 • Monday, 9-12pm, **Phil Upchurch**, one-time session man for the Dells, Jerry Butler, the Crusaders, Howlin' Wolf, and Muddy Waters, the longtime LA mainstay gets blue, funky, or soulful with the flick of a pick, Hal's Bar and Grill, no cover.

Location Guide

- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006
- Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 306-1854, max10@electriclodge.org
- Hal's Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 396-3105 - www.halsbarandgrill.com
- Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 Venice Blvd. 822-8392 - www.pacificresidenttheatre.com
- SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd, 310.822.9560 x 15.
- Sponto Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave, Free, 306-7330, pfsuzy@aol.com
- The Learning Garden, 13000 Venice Blvd.

Ongoing Events

• The Pacific Resident Theatre - **Arthur Schnitzler's "Anatol"** - One Man, Seven Women...Vienna, Freud, Klimt - a dizzying time. Sexual fulfillment promises always to be just around the next corner in this sensual and psychological kaleidoscope. Runs through May 27! (Thurs, Fri, Sat 8 pm & Sun 3 pm - Tickets \$20-\$25) Reservations: 822-8392.

Please send notices of Venice events to:
Calendar@freevenice.org
or POB 2, Venice 90294.

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