By Emily Winters and maryjane

In March 1974, Judy Baca of the City Wide Mural Project approached Jaya (Sanskrit for non-violent Revolution/peace/victory), an active, uppity Women Artists Collective, to create a mural about the Venice Canals community and its struggle to survive the intrusion of profiteers. Open public tedious meetings and hearings for this mural were held over a period of fifteen months. This included gatherings for permission from the building owner, the community and their input for the mural visuals. Emily Winters, volunteered to facilitate their ideas into actual design. Emily Winters first submitted design was turned down by the community for being too ‘sad’. They wished to portray the contrast of the canal people who had a love and zest for harmonious living with the intrusion of profiteers, those who didn’t have a clue about life’s realities and the importance of ‘quality of life.’

With this in mind, Winters designed a second concept, this time to the wall’s actual dimensions, and incorporated its architectural irregularities and idiosyncrasies. It was unanimously approved at many volunteers, the mural was finished. Upon completion, a few residents protested “Stop the Pig” on the building which was covered with much stronger graffiti commentary. Many tedious hearings again ensued to try and censor this important community statement of “Stop the Pig.” First amendment rights prevailed and despite the picketers objecting to “stop the pig”, the mural was dedicated November 8, 1975. At the end of 1976, the Jaya Collective disbanded.

In March of 1981, for some mysterious fit of passion from a strange unknown brain, a crew of unnamed profiteers arrived at the mural site, very incensed. Upon completion, a few residents protested “Stop the Pig” on the building which was covered with much stronger graffiti commentary. Many tedious hearings again ensued to try and censor this important community statement of “Stop the Pig.” First amendment rights prevailed and despite the picketers objecting to “stop the pig”, the mural was dedicated November 8, 1975. At the end of 1976, the Jaya Collective disbanded.

In 2006, the Jaya mural was so badly destroyed, and was based on a true incident about Sadie Hayes and her home. The ten protesters of that building stood the line, and were joined by the driver of the bulldozer in support of their action. Needless to say, all were arrested and taken to the hoosegow (jail), later released on their own recognizance.

After many months and with many volunteers, the mural was finished. Upon completion, a few residents protested “Stop the Pig” on the grounds that it was demeaning to our police force. However, they did not complain about the other side of the building which was covered with much stronger and demeaning graffiti commentary. Many tedious hearings again ensued to try and censor this important community statement of “Stop the Pig.” First amendment rights prevailed and despite the picketers objecting to “stop the pig”, the mural was dedicated November 8, 1975. At the end of the 20th anniversary celebration. Unsuccessful attempts at restoration had been made in the past, but permission was not obtained, even though the community had been requesting it since the 1981 painting. Finally, due to the remarkable gifts of persuasion of a caring community member, permission was granted and restoration was realized by February 1997, resulting in a joyous sigh all around us.

Many people volunteered at various times in 1975, but a core quartet of Jaya members did the everyday. Astonishingly and totally by chance, the same quartet gathered and achieved this 1997 mural restoration. 22 years later: Jaya members: Emily Winters, artist, activist; Judith Foster, artist; maryjane, artist, activist and Don Unzicker artist and honorary Jaya member.

The “Spirit of Venice Award,” was awarded to Emily Winters in September 1997 for the refurbishment of this mural by the Abbot Kinney Festival. Then in 2006, the Jaya mural was so badly tagged that the property owner was going to have the mural painted over unless the tagging was –continued on page 6
President Obama and Mr. Abajo

Dear Beachhead,

Some readers actually have become more full up than all the Obama favoring and the constant climb of his continual PR and his continual campaigning. In this April issue, Jim Smith writes some helpful hints for relearning [technically, perhaps such as:

"Unemployment insurance should be cranked up to at least 50 percent of people’s previous salaries."]

Two or three people on unemployment should be able to pay the rent and utilities. Don’t feel bad about improving and enjoying yourself while collecting the dole. . . . Now is the time to receive a small dividend. Don’t even your body, and start with pay.”

Does this sound like he is saying it is good to ‘go on the dole’ as the Brits say, and assume that if a job is really found, you don’t just take the government’s money [that is= all the taxpayers’ money, including your prior employed payments] and pretend it is all for ‘free’ now…not to worry…just take a year’s vacation on the back of the rest of the hard-laboring-citizens? Is that called helpful - moral - fair - and honest advice? Some of us differ.

People need to know the best way, nor is the selfish taking “a year off with pay” a socially conscious activity. If you need time off because of some serious emotional or health reason, that is different, but just because work is more difficult to find or with less pay than you had before…that walk-away is not a healthy choice for you, or the rest of us either. In fact, the too-long-off-creates other attitude problems for returning to employment. Better yet is learning how to trade and barter and help each other any other, collectively, co-operatively, and willingly.

Send to: Beachhead

The collective staff of the FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

The Beachhead is printed on recycled paper with soy based ink.
Police Up “3rd Friday” on Westminster

N

ine police officers in five squad cars showed up April 17 to restore public order on Westminster Avenue, between Speedway and Ocean Front Walk. The culprits this time turned out to be the same hoodlums running from one block to the next. The crime: no permit for playing music or otherwise having a good time.

There was one complaint that brought the gent-darmes running, or driving, It was from Frank Lutz, the manager of the apartment building at 14 Westminster, known to some as the Dumpster and to others as the Morrison. Lutz told the Beachhead that the music was so loud that he couldn’t hear his television. He added that he is opposed to having an event on the street every month as planned, due to the number of dispensaries in the area.

However, Diane Adams and Jefferson Davis, who are the managers of The Waldorf Apartments at 5 Westminster, which overlooks the street support the events, which are intended to build community in this section of Venice. They gave each of their tenants a $10 gift certificate to be used for purchases from the merchants during the event.

The music, by The Whalens, with lead guitarist, Eric Soullivin, had just begun when it was stopped by LAPD Sergeant Teresa Skinner and her cohorts. Eric Soullivin, had just begun when it was stopped by LAPD Sergeant Teresa Skinner and her cohorts. Skinner, and her cohorts. The organizers of the event had planned to follow the music with films, including one about the closing of the Lafayette Cafe, which used to be on the corner of OFW and Westminster. No music, no films, no event was allowed without official permits, said the cops.

Several of the organizers, including Jason Auer, manager of Groundwork Coffee, and James and Nina Merced, owners of the Fruit Gallery, are determined to continue the events every month. The next one would take place on the third Friday, which is May 15. See The Wonderful World of Westminster on page 6 of the August, 2008 Beachhead.

Police Break Up “3rd Friday” on Westminster

By Ian Lovett

The April 21 meeting of the Venice Neighborhood Council saw an agenda item that proposed to limit signage on medical marijuana dispensaries to the side entrance, not the front. Though this proposal seems relatively minor, it is at odds not only with Venice’s longstanding 420-friendly reputation, but also with the marijuana industry’s tentative steps out of the shadow into daylight.

When I first moved to Venice three years ago, medical marijuana dispensaries possessed the aura of urban myth. I didn’t know anyone with a so-called ‘cannabis card,’ I didn’t know how you might get one, and I certainly had no idea where to find a dispensary.

Upon returning to Venice at the start of this year, however, I found a dramatically different atmosphere. Along Ocean Front Walk, in addition to the ‘Legализе It!’ posters and homeless people holding “Need $$$ for bud” signs which have long been Venice hallmarks, you’ll also hear promoters wearing necklaces of plastic marijuana leaves shouting, “Get your medical marijuana recommendation here!” On the boardwalk alone, three clinics offer medical marijuana recommendations. And as I sat in the waiting room one doctor’s office, a lawyer came by, as well, handing out a booklet called, “A Simple Guide to California Medical Marijuana Law.” Which is all to say that these days, medical marijuana in Venice is almost impossible not to notice.

It’s hard to know exactly how many dispensaries—the collective that distribute marijuana to patients—are currently operating. Jason has worked in the medical marijuana industry for the past five years. “When I first started,” he explained, “there were maybe 25 dispensaries in the whole state.”

Now, he says, there are at least 400 in the LA area. Jason estimates that less than half of those 400 dispensaries are properly licensed. In September of 2007, the city of LA passed an ordinance, which put a moratorium on opening any new dispensaries.

Still, new ones open every day, especially since Attorney General Eric Holder announced an end to DEA raids on dispensaries in states, like California, where medical marijuana is legal.

Relief Is Just A Toke Away

By Ian Lovett

The April 21 meeting of the Venice Neighborhood Council saw an agenda item that proposed to limit signage on medical marijuana dispensaries to the side entrance, not the front. Though this proposal seems relatively minor, it is at odds not only with Venice’s longstanding 420-friendly reputation, but also with the marijuana industry’s tentative steps out of the shadow into daylight.

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What’s Behind the Push for OPDs?

By Peggy Lee Kennedy

Rubber Tramps, Gypsies, and Hippie Buses are nothing new to Venice. In fact, Venice is known worldwide for embracing different lifestyles. When the circus came to town, Venice is where the Gypsies stayed. Beat poets and anarchists hung out. Misfits fit in. So if you were odd, you were cool in Venice. And we had more streets to park on then.

For much of its existence, Venice has been home to low and extremely low-income people. But as property values have increased with gentrification and the accompanying NIMBY movement, Venice has grown less accepting of the misfit and some are full of hate for street people or for those who might take a stand to do something about the homeless. This city is eclectic and diverse, it is more of a facade based on history, and then there are those of us who simply use the city as we want.

As Venice gentrification has ramped on, Venice property owners (quite often the newer ones), people with development, and the City of Los Angeles have worked increasingly to get rid of poor and homeless people living in vehicles. Now, with the loss of so much low-income housing to new development (and increased property values) with the mortgage crisis and wide scale layoffs, many of the people living in vehicles in Venice – used to be renters or even homeowners in Venice. The homeless population is rapidly changing and growing.

Those working to rid Venice of homeless people and homeless services have formed groups, such as the Venice Community Police Advisory Board (C-PAB) like the defunct "Homeless Outreach Committee." The groups wanting to remove the people living in vehicles in Venice worked directly, and still do, with the City Attorney’s office and the LAPD.

One group, calling itself the "Venice Stakeholders Association" recently organized in favor of using the Overnight Permit Parking (OPD) law to remove people living in vehicles. The OPD, or Overnight Parking District, is a special permit-parking zone regulated by parking enforcement during the hours of 2AM to 7AM and only the people who qualify under the definition for resident can get permits.

The "Venice Stakeholders Association" hired a high priced attorney named Sherman Stacy to fight in favor of overnight parking permit at the California Coastal Commission. Members of the group include Mark Ryavec and Georgann Abraham. Records gained through a public records request by the Public Records Act reveal that these people have been working with the City Attorney’s office for years trying to use the OPD permit parking system to remove homeless people from Venice.

Throughout the years, the different groups have come and gone, but they all have basically worked to get rid of homeless people. They worked with the city’s Department of Transportation, with the help of the City Attorney’s office or the City Council, to put up signs in Venice – signs that are originally intended for other traffic reasons – but have been used in Venice to remove access to nighttime or daytime parking for the unwanted homeless people living in a vehicle. Maybe you got one of these signs on your street and wondered why. They say “no overnight parking” or “no parking between 2AM to 7AM” and when there is a neighborhood complaint that someone is living in a vehicle, the city might even organize a community meeting in which the Department of Transportation gives a presentation of all the parking measures that can be employed as a removal “solution” to homelessness using street signs and permit parking. No kidding, I went to one at the Furness Park community room.

The parking enforcement and the police ramp up enforcement on the street to target vans and RVs, which they assume are lived in, with 72 hours tickets. The police will then come back on the RVs and the vans, leaving dents on doors and conduct other forms of harassment. One of the obstacles to removing homeless people living in vehicles with the existing parking measures has been that most of the restricted parking signs are exempted by disabled placards or disabled license plates. A very large percentage of homeless people are disabled, especially due to the decrease in affordable housing and other safety nets during the Bush administration. Another problem that surfaced was the process of removing the restrictive street signs put up in the Venice Coastal Zone (west of Lincoln Blvd) also restricted coastal access and were done without California Coastal Commission approval. That is not legal.

The NIMBY’s, the developers, the homeless haters, and the city needed to come up with some way to get rid of the disabled homeless people living in vehicles in this want-to-be exclusive beach town – in some way that the Coastal Commission would allow.

One day in 2003 Alan Willis, Transportation Engineer, with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, sent an email to City Councilwoman Cindy Misickowski’s Westchester office saying that he had found the answer to the Venice RV problem. It was California Vehicle Code 22507.5, a law meant to restrict commercial vehicles from parking on residential streets between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. – a law from which disabled plates or placards are not exempt.

Violating the intent of a law had not stopped the city from using them on homeless people before – so away they went to work on getting input from the residents who hate homeless people. This input included meetings, emails, and a motion from Cindy Misickowski to have the City Attorney write the draft ordinance.

Interesting thing is that the very names on those July 2004 follow up emails from the May 2004 “community” meeting about using overnight permit parking the Venice OPDs at its June Meeting to get rid of homeless people living in vehicles in Venice (with the City Attorney and City Council employees at the City Council District 1 Westchester Office) are the same people running Venice Neighborhood Council committees today! Jim Murez (now chair of the VNC parking committee) Mark Ryavec (chair of the VNC homeless committee – God help us) and Georgann Abraham (chair of the OPD committee) were all working with the City Attorney’s office and the City Council before 2004 behind the backs of the legally elected progressive Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council. These meetings did not comply with Brown Act requirements of public notice and the time rules put in the Overnight Permit Parking law using California Vehicle Code 22507.5 to remove those living in vehicles.

Why California Vehicle Code 22507.5? Because the disabled RV people are not exempted from that law and they thought that the California Coastal Commission would just allow it to go in.

Bill Rosendahl, loving homeless people as he does, kept the OPD ball rolling forward once he got into office and he signed the motion to enact the OPD law. The OPD law – Los Angeles Municipal Code 80.54 – was adopted by the Venice City Council on July 20, 2005, the month Bill took office.

The progressive and new Venice Neighborhood Council was successfully eliminated by the city through a phony arbitration process that was conducted for a few hours in the June 2004 neighborhood council election. Another very interesting fact is that the person then employed with the Los Angeles Human Relations Department and charged with being the non-authorized spokesperson for the Progressive Venice neighborhood council got) is now the Venice Deputy for the City Council, Mr. Arturo Portela. Done (the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment), who oversees neighborhood councils, created an election committee of Venice people more likely to follow the OPD’s wishes. The progressive Venice Neighborhood Council was elected. Rosendahl encouraged them to create an OPD committee, which first met in April 2006. The co-chair of the OPD committee was part of the people pushing the Department of Transportation and the Council Office as if he was the representative for all of Venice on creating the Venice OPDs. Most of the members seen through public records requests, assumes that Venice wants this or Venice wants that – in reference to what Stewart Oscars was saying in his emails to the city. Fortunately, most of 9 space did not know.

The Venice OPDs in the Coastal Zone go from the north border of Venice to the south border, from Lincoln Blvd to Speedway, but they forgot the Venice peninsula and it was too late to amend it by the time Stewart Oscars figured it out. These OPDs that cover almost the entire west side of Venice already exist and they have existed for years.

The city thought that this would just fly through with the approval of the California Coastal Commission, but the Commission required a complete Coastal Development Permit (CDP) application process. Maybe it was because they already had received multiple complaints from the community about the illegal street signs that had been installed in Venice (to get rid of the RVs), or maybe it was because the City wrote a law closing the beach at night, without going through the Coastal Commission.

Now stuck with doing a CDP, the Council office asked the L.A. Department of Transportation (DOD) to do the CDP, but they were not interested. Then the Council Office asked the Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering (BOE) to do the CDP, but they were not adequately staffed to expedite the CDP process. If the Council Office was not interested, it would have to pay the BOE to hire an outside independent contractor – for $75,000. So Bill Rosendahl used the Venice Surplus Property Fund to pay to get those CDP applications done.

Venice people have protested each step of the way – once they knew. Many of us knew nothing about this overnight parking scheme until the new Venice Neighborhood Council created the OPD committee. Only those who support the OPDs were notified by Bill Rosendahl’s office that this law was coming up in the city council meeting. There was a hearing in Venice last June 26 to which hundreds of people came in opposition, but the Division of Engineering was not ready to go it to the Board of Public Works, where 103 appeals were rejected and the city sent a letter of intent to the California Coastal Commission.

The city began fighting against that decision and in February 2009 the California Coastal Commission took jurisdiction over the matter. Now this will be heard June 11-12 at the California Coastal Commission meeting at the Marina Del Rey Hotel. If you want to know what you can do to oppose the Venice OPDs, please stay posted by checking -<www.NoPermitParking.org> or call 310-396-7192 for updates.

Visit the FAQ page on that web site to find out the steps you can take to stop these parking measures, and I will soon cost you. Initially the resident permits start off at only $15 each, but the city forecasts the cost to soon be $34 and there are so many restrictions. One point that should be stressed is that you are still seen as not giving us more parking, so you will just be forced to buy a hunting license to park in Venice.

East of Lincoln, one of the streets in the only existing Venice OPD east of Lincoln Ave. Just finished a petition to remove the OPD from their block because they hate it. And the city does not seem to be rushing to take the action required to remove the permit parking signs, which takes only a letter from Rosendahl sent to DOT.

It is a mess and all because some property owners, developers, and the city that bows to them all want to get rid of the poor in Venice so property values can go up. Not to mention the city can use all the permit parking revenue it can get.

Sign of the times? A mini camper.
Swami X Speaks

I trust you understand I’m talking to myself here.

It’s important to be aware of your basic beliefs, because a new reality is being manifest in the next 4 years. Sensitive people feel it coming. If you can’t feel it coming, it doesn’t suggest you are insensitive; you may have a lot of things on your mind. This could be an unhealthy condition. Not having anything on your mind has a lot to be said for it. It is rare and wonderful and refers to a meditation.

We are constantly talking to someone, even in sleep. To our ego, our ego is talking to us, or we have left the TV on. It’s always something. We have a challenging time, unfolding non-attachment, serenity and peace.

We’re looking in the wrong direction. It’s right in front of us when we achieve total fearlessness. This Universal fear is the death of the ego, which is an illusion, and not to be taken seriously, unless, of course, you’re somewhat masochistic.

Life never has a beginning, nor will it ever end, if you think it’ll make a difference. She ended the conversation after saying, “This conversation doesn’t exist.” How embarrassing for Harman that it was caught on tape.

Douglas Eisenstark, L.Ac.
Acupuncture and Herbs
supervisor at local acupuncture schools
private office in MLK at The Garden
2001 S. Barrington just north of Olympic
some evening hours:
santaniscasacupuncture.com
310-405-7018
reasonable rates - most conditions treated specialty in Chronic Pain C

Get breaking news in Venice from the Beachhead. Check our Twitter site: www.twitter.com/VeniceBeachhead
removed. The mural was also in need of major restoration. The Venice Arts Council founded the Endangered Art Fund which selected this mural as their first public art restoration project. Through the wonderful love, support and generosity of the Venice Community, and the City of Los Angeles, the mural was restored in 2008 by Emily Winters and Nathan Zakheim Associates.

The caring and diligence of the Venice community that has kept this mural alive for 39 years! A more detailed description can be read in “A Seashore Memoir” by maryjane, pages 65-67.

Images of the Jaya mural restoration and Channel 4 TV news coverage are available on YouTube or at www.venicearts council.org.

The Jaya Mural is located at 316 South Venice Boulevard at Dell Avenue in Venice.

---continued from page 1

The Jaya Mural Celebration – On May 3, the Venice Arts Council (VAC) Endangered Art Fund is celebrating the completion of the Jaya Mural Restoration Project by honoring donors at a champagne brunch. The brunch will be held at Switch Studios where the Jaya Mural is located, near the Venice Canals at Dell Avenue and South Venice Boulevard.

The event is by RSVP and includes comments from major donors such as; Paul Rac, Office of Community Beautification; Linda Lucks, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners; Jonathan Zeichner, Abbot Kinney District Association, Don Geagan, Beachhead Collective Member; and Grace Godlin, Voice of the Canals.

Artist Emily Winters will give an overview of the mural’s history. Other speakers include Steve Clare, Venice Community Housing Corporation and Suzanne Thompson, Endangered Art Fund. Emily Winters is a graduate of the Chicago Art Institute majoring in figure drawing and painting. She moved to Venice in 1963. Winters raised two daughters while working in commercial art as a billboard painter for record companies and then outdoor advertising. She was the first woman painter hired by Foster and Kleiser. She was a union activist in International Brotherhood of Allied Trades, Local 831, elected to the executive board and served as shop steward. Winters, co-founded and chairs the Venice Arts Council. See the Feb. 2006 Beachhead at <www.freevenice.org> and <www.venicearts council.org> for more of her art.

Yet another illegal giant sign on Ocean Front Walk

The historic Ocean Vue Apartments at 5 Rose Ave. have a new owner, and a new name, “Air.” “Hip Beachfront Living” will be a new thing for the low-income tenants who are fast disappearing from the building.

One senior holdout with a bad hip told the Beachhead that the changes were uncool. “The remodeled lobby has all the charm of a Macy’s display window.”

Many of the large signs on OFW do not have city or coastal permits and are just another kind of graffiti.

--continued from page 1

Photos by Pegarty Long

Hot off the Press: New book of dissident political cartoons by Khalil Bendib, the only LEFT cartoonist LEFT in America!

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www.AIRinVenice.com

Photos by Pegarty Long
Venice Carnevale to feature fire dancers, music, costumes and Mr. Balloon Man

After years of wandering around Venice looking for a home, Carnevale organizers believe they've found a permanent location for their once-a-year extravaganza. On June 6, Windward Avenue, west of Pacific, will be closed to traffic as local romantics garbed in medieval finery set up booths, stages, while minstrels wander through the crowd.

It's been a long search for Esquire Jauchem, Miriam More, and Brady Walker as they've tried to set down roots somewhere, and sometime, in Venice. Unlike the Carnevale in our namesake city on the Adriatic, our Carnevale is not connected with the beginning of Lent, or any other recognizable religious ceremony. Anytime is a good time to party and wear funny clothes in our Venice by the sea.

In past years, the Carnevale has set up shop on Ocean Front Walk, at the Venice Circle and, last year, at the old City Hall. One advantage for revelers this year is that there are two friendly bars – the Townhouse and Danny's – just steps away from the fun.

The Beachhead is a sponsor and will have a booth. Other sponsors include Graphics Quarter, Project Alma, and The Townhouse. It's not too late to become a sponsor or request a booth. Check the Carnevale website, <www.carnevale.us>.

This year's music and performance line up includes acts such as The Bonedaddys, Wadada Raggea, Mr. Balloon Man, Harissa Belly Dancer's Troupe, Kathy Leonardo, Street Smart with the Grand Finale featuring "Mutaytor," whose show combines not only music, but also dancing, drumming and pyrotechnic acts.

Spinning the U.S. Passport

By Janet Phelan

The Public Relations arm of the U.S. government is taking a "stab" at your travel documents.

The latest edition of the U.S passport exhibits what appears to be an Orwellian effort to deny the damage to the American dream our country has suffered in the last few years. Not content to spin the television news, the major newsprints and magazines, the U.S. government has conjured up new travel documents that can only be considered a premeditated leap into a propagandistic fairyland.

A fearsome eagle is emblazoned across the photo page, which in prior editions demurely depicted only a photo of the passport holder, name and place of issue. One enters the new passport experience to find page after page of anachronistic American hype. Sprawled across the formerly blank visa pages, one now encounters Mt. Rushmore, the Mayflower, The Declaration of Independence, more bald eagles communing with buffalo and the obligatory Statue of Liberty, to name a few of the tried-and-true patriotic symbols of an American dream that has been reduced to rubble.

Each page of the new "spun" passport also contains a statement from one of America's statesmen or visionaries of yore, including a few who may have been assassinated for trying to bring the American dream to fruition. You got it–John F. Kennedy intones, from beyond the grave to "Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty." On November 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas, JFK paid that price.

Similarly, Martin Luther King, another victim of the rash of sixties' political murders, boldly states that "We have a great dream. It started way back in 1776, and God grant that America will be true to her dream." Well, Martin, you were as true as they get, all right. I hope you and the Kennedy boys are not getting apoplectic about what has transpired in the last forty plus years, up there in the Big Peace Rally in the sky.

George Washington also makes an appearance, exhorting us to "raise a standard to which the wise and honest may repair." The judges in our courts, who are now with shocking regularity violating statutory and constitutional law, might like to revisit that one.

The new passport is inclusive and egalitarian. The Mohawks have their soundbite here, declaring that "We send thanks to all the Animal life in the world. They have many things to teach us as people. We are glad they are still here and we hope it will always be so." The fact that the American Indians were the first victims of what is now commonplace American genocidal policies is not mentioned. Given

---continued on page 10---
Permit Parking – Not a New Story

By Jim Smith

What’s behind the effort to bring permit parking to Venice? In a word, gentrification. In Los Angeles, and cities around the country, it’s a familiar story. A family of professionals spends big bucks to move into a so-so neighborhood. Before long the happy couple looks out the window and sees - gasp - strangers parking on their block. Who could these sinister people be - child molesters, foreigners, or perhaps the baddies - homeless?

Then, calls are made to the local representatives and signs go up denying parking to anyone not from here. Most of the neighbors breathe a sign of relief as the happy family of professionals spends big bucks to move across a copy of the Rialto Neighborhood News, the newsletter for the Rialto Block Association. The Sept/Oct 1982 issue had an article on preferential parking. The unnamed author says that this has been “an issue of long standing and its time for a decision to be made.” The reason given in favor of preferential parking sounds most contemporary. “The purpose...is to discourage significant intrusion of commercial and institutional parking into residential areas.” It goes on to say that parking restrictions could be any time, to daylight hours, or for night-time restrictions.

Myth #1: It will be easier to park. According to the Dept. of Motor Vehicles, there are 21,422 vehicles in zipcode 90291, which includes most of Venice. No wonder we have a tough time parking! That part of Venice, south of Washington shares zipcode 90292 with Marina del Rey, but it’s a safe bet that there are thousands more cars in that part of Venice. The best estimate of RV dwellers in Venice is between 150 and 200. It may seem like more, but many RVs, vans, camper trucks and inhabitable vehicles are owned by Venetians who live in a house. Those vehicles will be eligible for permits. In addition, the other 150 RVs can return to Venice streets any time after 6 a.m. It makes no sense to think that even if 150 RVs were removed from the streets, that it would be easier for the remaining 21,422 cars to find parking places. In addition, this will have no effect on the thousands who come to the beach during the day and need a place to park.

Myth #2: It is a small price to pay to get rid of the RVs. Let’s suppose permit parking becomes a reality. Within a month, most of the RVs might disappear from the streets. A huge victory for the homeless haters and gentrifiers! But wait. Now all of us who want to park our cars on Venice streets must pay to park for the rest of our lives (or at least the rest of our lives in Venice). Some victory!

Myth #3: My property value will increase if we get rid of the undesirable element. Our property values have been inflated beyond reason for the last several years. Now they are sinking to more reasonable levels. Let’s face it. Most of us live in funky, old houses that are much older than we are. The days when winners in the stock market casino can buy old houses, tear them down, and build big, sterile boxes may be at an end. We may be stuck with the stock housing we have for a long time to come. Why do people who can afford to buy a home at the beach want to move to Venice of all places? We believe a particular group of more affluent people, those who are some sensitivity to the community and to the arts (although a few seem to have no sensitivity or compassion at all). If we drive all the writers, poets, painters, sculptors and other creative people out of the community because they are not high wage earners, then what do we have to offer? The Art Walk and the Garden Tour will have to shut down. Many of those living in RVs are artists who were unable to afford their high rent in a Venice apartment. They are hanging on by their fingernails and their four tires. Let’s help them continue to be a part of Venice, until we can have more housing that they can afford.
**Challenger**

Walls walls and doors
closing closing in
exaggerated sighing
holy soldier needs voucher
nothing nailed to gateposts
excessive drama, be gone
wish-fulfilling wonder
simmering stinking ecstasy

man can stand and die
woman solely fly
boy pitcher on mound
girl submerged in sound
rocket science to forefront
radar’s comeback
invisibility relativity infertility rust
cosmic particulate Heisenberg dust
ten
nine
eight
seven
six
five
four
three
two
one
zero

gravity
a thousand pardons.

--Hal Bogotch

**Yes we can**

Early gloominess of winter approaches crouching to spring – grasp throat or ankle which ever comes first
damp darkness covers all ground- scape
dampens cheer and glue-shuts every door
damp darkness covers all ground- scape

-- Mark Lipman

**Modern Times**

By Jim Smith

Let’s fire your ass.
Let’s kick you out on the street.
We’ll charge for every drop of water
And make fresh air a treat.
Let’s raise all the prices
And lower your pay.
Hey buddy, the cost-of-living
has just priced you out of the market.
It’s nothing personal
That’s how we do it today.
Let’s give the banks billions
And for you, a kick in the pants.
Don’t forget, this mess all started
because you wanted a home of your own.
So don’t give us crap about Wall Street.
We know the alley where you sleep.
Oh, and you’re gonna get a new health plan
You’ll stop complaining when you try our new Pandemic.
Please don’t tell us things are bad.
It’s only 2009. Just you wait till next year.

--By Panos Douvos

**Woof Woof**

By John Davis

The dogs on my hill bark,
a signal crossing,
the continents and seas,
perhaps signaling
deep space,
reflecting off
comets

reaching points
unknown
to other dimensions
then returning home to
their masters ears as a
reflection of

-- Bow Wow

**The Speed of Thought**

By Mark Lipman

If velocity (v) equals distance (d) over time (t), such that v = d/t ; and we assume that d = any positive integer (x), as any two points have a calculable distance between them ; and if we further assume that t = 0 (zero) ; because all thought is spontaneous and therefore takes up no space in time ; we would then be left with the equation of : v = x/0 = ? (infinity). Therefore the velocity of thought (T) is instantaneous. If the speed of thought is instantaneous, then the amount of time (t) that would be required to travel any given distance at the speed of thought would therefore also be 0 (zero). And if that be the case, then let it be known that right now, I'm thinking of you.

-- RF Wagner, Jr.

**One Saturday Morning in Venice**

Well, I woke up
one Saturday morning
some time ago, tired
from not sleeping.
In fact, my husband & I had
simultaneously
awoken from nightmares –
his about Clint Eastwood
& trying not to be killed –
mine about the end
of the world & movie stars
being alien star seeds
for new civilizations.
Anyway, I meandered
to the front porch
to find half the block
taped off by police.
We had heard nothing.
My neighbor
(of the screaming orgasms)
was right after all.
So, I guess my dream
as elusive as alien star seeds.
I turn my head around it.
no matter which way
& that dead is dead

-- Krista Schwimmer

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**Free Venice Beachhead • May 2009 • 9**
Beachhead Recommendations for May 19 state election

Proposition 1A – Spending Cap: Oppose. Would require the state to make annual contributions to a budget reserve until the balance reaches 12.5 percent of General Fund revenues. Prop 1A is touted by its proponents as the way to bring stability to the state budget process. However, it would actually make enacting budgets that meet California’s needs and address state priorities more difficult. It would amend the state Constitution to dictate restrictions on the use of funds put into the reserve and limit how “unanticipated” revenues can be used in good times. It could lock in a reduced level of public services by not taking proper account of the state’s changing demographics and actual growth in costs. Prop 1A would also allow the governor to guarantee that state budget cuts will not be made without legislative oversight. Prop 1A came from a deeply flawed process that as a result Prop A was written in quickly and without public input or analysis. Prop 1A would make permanent changes to the state’s Constitution and would have major implications for future budgeting. A good analysis is available from the California Budget Project, www.cbp.org.

Proposition 1B – Prop 98 Payment: Oppose. Continues on Prop 1A passing. Would take effect only if Prop 1A is also passed. This measure requires the state to make $9.3 billion in supplemental payments to K-14 education over five to six years beginning in 2012. 80% of the payments would go to address uncertainty about Prop 98 school funding guarantees. CNA supports full funding of public education and the state General Fund would be required to make up for the loss to education of lottery funds. CNA supports restoring the devastating cuts of recent years. But CNA does not support Prop 1B in lieu of proper payment under the Prop 98 guarantee. The legislature has the power to make education funding a priority and not tie funding to a spending cap as proposed with Prop 1A.

Proposition 1C – Lottery Securitization: Oppose. A borrowing gimmick. Prop 1C makes major changes to the 1984 California Lottery initiative that would permit the state to borrow $5 billion in the 2009-10 fiscal year. The lottery profits would no longer be a source of revenue for future years. The lottery would no longer be a source of revenue for education. The state General Fund would be required to make up for the loss to education of lottery funds.

Proposition 1D – Redirection of Prop 63 Funds: Oppose. Shifts money from Prop. 63, the 1998 voter approved initiative to tax tobacco for early childhood education programs, to the state General Fund. Under Prop 1D, $608 million would be diverted in 2009 and $268 million a year for the following four years, creating the illusion that more revenues are available. In reality, Prop 1D raids these funds in the short term in order to pay for some services, while taking money away from other services. This measure is shortsighted and harmful for our children.

Proposition 1E – Redirection of Prop 63 Funds: Oppose. Would prohibit the California Compensation Commission from increasing the salaries of elected officials during budget deficit years. This punitive initiative was the ransom for one legislator’s vote for the entire defective budget deal, and does not reflect a serious effort to fix a broken system. CNA is opposed to this measure on principal that the entire May 2009 Special Election is flawed and the incorrect way to budget for California’s needs.

Relief Is Just a Take Away –continued from page 3

Recently, for the second straight year, a class of 3rd graders from Broadway Elementary came to The Farmacy to meet with the store’s herbalist, who covered up all the cannabis products, conducted a lesson on herbalism and the store, and then walked the kids back to class, pointing out plants they’d just learned about on the way. “We want to be a part of the community,” Bill said, “and keep it safe everyone goes to the store.”

Bobby is a medical marijuana patient who sells handmade jewelry on the sidewalk. “It’s a lot safer now,” he said. “I’m 50 now, and especially for someone my age, you don’t have to meet with people you’re not familiar with. At a dispensary, there are checks and balances about what goes on.”

Indeed, Bill Leahy hopes to increase such checks and balances on the industry. “Regulation is the biggest problem,” he said. “There no true regulation on edibles across the state.” The Farmacy is part of a Greater Los Angeles Caregivers Alliance (GLACA), an organization of some of the larger dispensaries that advocates for medical marijuana. GLACA’s application for membership includes questions like “What is your collective’s philosophy or mission statement?” and the group imposes more stringent rules on its members than Los Angeles regulations.

Already, such efforts have helped change the public perception. “I’ve seen the industry change a lot in five years,” Jason said. “At first, people didn’t want to deal with them there—there were people who wanted to keep it under the table. Now, most people look at us as doing a good thing for the community.”

And, despite the Neighborhood Council proposal to move signs to the back door, Venetians continued to show their support for this increasing openness. Though the agenda item was held over until the next meeting, they did take a straw vote. More than 90 percent of those present raised their hands in support of medical marijuana.

The recent disclosure of the plans by the US Department of Navy to “take” (killed) over 2 million marine mammals per year by exercises off of the Pacific Coast, it looks like the hopes of the Mohawks have ended up in the burial grounds.

Not to worry, ladies. You too have a representative in Congress: Julia Cooper, author, educator and daughter of a slave, reminds us that “The cause of freedom is not a cause of a race or a sect, a party or a class—it is the cause of humankind, and the very birthright of humanity.” I’d sure like to hear from all the vulnerable widows who were funneled into conservatorship and balances on the industry. “Regulation is the way to budget for California’s needs. The final page of the new “spun” passport requires more rules on its members than Los Angeles or mission statement?” and the group imposes more

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Spinning the U.S. Passport –continued from page 7

not bend, perforate or expose to extreme tempera-

Hold on a minute here. “Sensitive electronics?” Could it be that the new passport, trumpeting the sanctity of our freedoms and liberties, actually contains a microchip? Could it be that this passport themselves contains a surveillance/tracking device? And is that spy satellite on the opposing page actually one of those satellites that can track RFID microchips? And all this while I thought that the new passport was merely an exercise in verbal “spin.” Could it be that this piece of thirdly disguised propaganda is another means to tag, track and locate? The initial efforts at creating identification systems in the US began as a means to identify runaway slaves. In other words, human property. Strange, I don’t see anything that resembles the battery of a cell phone in this new passport. And what’s the real intent of this micro-chipping frenzy anyway?

The only decoded document available containing the “Clandestine Tracking, Tracking and Locating” program states that the capabilities of this program, initiated under SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND are “Classified.” The highly technical verbiage in the CTI document has some disturbing and apparently lethal implications as to what the “Classified” end result might be for someone who is “tagged, tracked and located.” Could it be that...OMG!! The passport is...AAR-

Rainbow...I can’t breathe...call 911...NO, DON’T CALL 911!!! Get me a chaplain, a doctor, paramedic, anyone QUICK!!
**Announcing:** New Art Market in Venice: Art, Clothing, Furniture, Music & more - every Saturdays & Sundays.
- 4pm – 8pm @ 2121 Lincoln Blvd. Near Venice Blvd. 310-663-3945 or ricodelfi@yahoo.com

**Poetry**
- Free Workshops and Open Readings at Beyond Baroque:
  - 8pm – Monday Night Literary and Experimental Fiction - Bring copies of sections or short pieces. With Angie Kirk.
  - 8pm – Tuesday night Creative Non-Fiction - Bring works of creative non-fiction, memoir, and prose. With To Nga Nguyen.
  - 8pm – Wednesday night poetry - A legendary gathering & the West Coast’s longest running, free poetry workshop - with Ellynn Maybe.
  - 1:30pm – Saturday Afternoon Poetry - Bring a poem & 10 copies. With Bob Foster.

- **7:30pm** - Every Wednesday Night - Poetry Open Mic night. **Talking Stick Coffee Lounge.** www.thetalkingstick.net.

**Music**
- **8pm** – Live music and DJ’s Sun-Fri - The Brig, 1515 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (310) 399-7577.
- **8pm** – Live Music Every Night - Air Condition Supper Club, 625 Lincoln Blvd. Admission varies / Ages 21 and up. www.airconditionedbar.com
- **8pm** – Venice Bistro - Live music Wednesday - Sunday night. Venice Bistro 323 Ocean Front Walk
- **8pm** – Thursday Alt. Screenplay - Documentary, narrative, art film scripts, actor readings. Independent projects only. With Matt Bye.
- **8pm** – Thursday Night Live Jazz - Hal’s Bar and Grill.
- **8pm** – Saturday Night Live Jazz & Blues - Enjoy delicious Cajun food, live music and by Joe Banks and Friends. Uncle Darrow’s, 2560 Lincoln Blvd.

**Kids**
- **7pm** – Every Thursday - Pajama & Toddler Storytime - Abbot Kinney Library.

**Free Food**
- **3pm – 5pm** – Veggie Giveaway – Every Friday. Vera Davis Center. Contact Ivonne Guzman 323-607-2705.
- **3pm** – Food Not Bombs - Free food on Thursdays. United Methodist Church.
- **12:30 - 1:30pm** – Food Distribution Project - Hosted by Mildred Cursh Foundation. First come: first serve! Vera Davis Youth & Family Ctr. (VDY&FC) and Oakwood Senior Club. More info – Antonette Reynolds, 822-6717 or Eddie Nuno, 305-1865.

Get your local event listed in the Beachhead. Send information to Calendar@freevenice.org by the 25th of the month.

(If you charge admission, please take out an advertisement - $25)

Calendar hand made by Lydia Poncé.

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**Location Guide**
- **Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd, 821-1769**
- **Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006**
- **Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey. marinalibrary.lacounty.gov**
- **Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 306-1854, max10@electriclodge.org**
- **The Good Hugg, 1229 Venice Blvd, www.goodhurt.com**
- **Hal’s Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 396-3105 - www.halsbarsandgrill.com**
- **Oakwood Recreation Center, 757 California Avenue.**
- **Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 1/2 Venice Blvd. 822-8392 – www.pacificresidenttheatre.com**
- **SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560 x15.**
- **Sponzo Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave, 399-2078.**
- **Talking Stick Coffee Lounge, 1411c Lincoln Blvd. 450-6052 www.thetalkingstick.net**
- **United Methodist Church and Auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. (at Victoria).**
- **Unurban Coffee House, 3301 Pico Blvd Santa Monica.**
- **Vera Davis Center, 610 California Avenue.(310) 305-1865. Fax 305-0146.**
- **Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave.) 606-2015**

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**Friday, May 1**
- 12 noon - **May Day!** Mass March & Rally - Full Rights For All Immigrants! - Olympic and Broadway, L.A. - Stop raids and deportation! Stop dividing families! Responsible immigration reform now! 323-269-6069.

- **First Friday** – Abbot Kinney Blvd. stores open late. Music, crowds, snacks.

**Saturday, May 2**
- **10am to 3pm** - Inside Out Community Arts invites you to join 60 volunteers deep: planting, painting, fixing, building, and cleaning here at the Inside Out building! Contact Jason 397-8820 x102 or www.insideoutca.org

**Sunday, May 3**
- **10:30 - Noon** - Lincoln Place Tenant Association - Tenants are still struggling – and winning – to save and return to their homes. Penmar Park Rec. Room. Everyone welcome.

- **11am - 2pm** - Champagne Brunch for Venice Arts Council Endangered Art Fund - Honoring Donors for The JAYA Mural Restoration Project - at 316 S. Venice Blvd. (Corner of Dell and S. Venice Blvd.) - See page 6 for details - 570-5419 or www.venicearts council.org

- **4:45pm** - Open Reading at Beyond Baroque with Ben Trigg and Annette Sudgen. Hosted by Marie Lecrivain. FREE. www.beyondbaroque.org

**Monday, May 4**
- **7pm** - **Los Angeles Parents Union** – Parent Revolution meeting at Boys & Girls Club of Venice 2232 Lincoln Blvd. More Info: Shirley Ford 213-985-8749 or slord@parentsunion.org Childcare is provided.

**Tuesday, May 5**
- **All Day** - ¡Cinco de Mayo! No stinking Swine Flu is keeping us from celebrating the victory of Puebla Mexico’s war against the French in 1862! ¡No it is not Mexico’s Independence Day- that’s in September! Great food & music for everyone! We recommend visiting a Mexican restaurant in Venice. While we are at it - open all the pinche’ U.S. Borders to Mexico!

- **Wednesday, May 6**
- **11am-12:30pm** - Sabar Dance & Drum Classes begin today! Every Wed. Vera Davis Ctr. - Contact Fatou 323-293-7704 Sabarclass@yahoo.com or Mildred Cursh Foundation 310-822-6717

**Friday, May 8**
- **7pm** - **Venice Town Council** takes up the fight against permit parking (see page 4 for details). Vegetarian meal at 6:30pm - Donation $5, no one against permit parking (see page 4 for details).

**Sunday, May 10**
- **Don’t forget- Mother’s Day!**

**Friday, May 15**
- **Legenday Climber Conrad Anker give talk at The C2 Gallery, 1903 Abbot Kinney Blvd. 452-2842 or rob@the2gallery.com or www.the2gallery.com.**
Happy 90th Birthday, Pete Seeger

On the occasion of Pete Seeger’s 90th birthday, Earl Newman has created this poster. Through the Beachhead, you can get one for only $30. Part of the proceeds will go to keep your newspaper publishing. The poster is available in a variety of poster paper colors. Please specify which background color you would like. Send checks made out to the Beachhead to PO Box 2, Venice 90294.