

Arnold's  
propositioning  
again  
—see page 8

October  
2005

# FREE VENICE

# BEACHHEAD

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*Moon Over Venice (not to be confused with the song by the same name) is back at 903 Pacific Avenue (corner of Brooks). It was originally erected in 1993 by Artist Barbara Smith and was taken down a few years later due to graffiti damage. Now restored, Barbara's friends are again mooning Venice.*

## GONE WITH THE WIND

By Carol Fondiller

I've always dreamed of visiting New Orleans.

The Spanish moss hanging from trees, laissez le bon temps roulez, beignets, chicory coffee, pralines and me, beautiful crinolined me leaning over one of those iron grided balconies in the French Quarter.

When I think of New Orleans, I've encased it in this diffused, glimmering haze, with mayflies and levees and me as a heartless antebellum belle, flicking my fan at my admirers as they duel for my favors, laughter tinkling in tune with the darkies singin' sweet spirituals, while mammy is more concerned about me and my beaus than she be with her own kin...bless her soul, oh those amiable "darkies" with their infectious rhythm, rich laughter as they put my welfare above their own. That's what New Orleans means/meant...the Quadroon Balls, slave markets, Mardi Gras jazz, brothels, voodoo, vampires...laissez le bon temps roulez...So, when Katrina hit New Orleans, and that other bastion

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### CASUALTIES IN IRAQ

**U.S. 1,935 Dead – 53 this month**

**U.S. Wounded 14,755 – 734 this month**

**Iraqi Dead: 26,165 – 29,478**

**This month: 1,670 – 1,773**

**(some sources say 100,000+ Iraqi dead)**

Source: antiwar.com

## Conservatives Win Venice Election

By Jim Smith

A slate that includes several Republicans, owners of multiple properties and advocates of decertification of the neighborhood council last year, won a decisive victory in the Sept. 10-11 voting for the Board of the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council.

They achieved their victory after waging an expensive campaign in which they claimed to be the "real" progressives. The Venice Progressives slate — which this newspaper endorsed — won only six of 16 contests, compared to the upstart "conservative progressives" who won all seven executive committee offices, five of seven at-large positions and three of the seven district positions.

The slate was apparently organized by Marta Evry and friends who claimed it wasn't a slate at all. Among the dirty tricks were the publicizing of a website, <www.veniceprogressives.org> that was nearly identical to the long standing Venice Progressives website <www.venice-progressives.org>.

It is unknown who backed the slate, aside from Marta Evry and what was the role of developers in funding their expensive campaign, including paying for mailings. (Alice Stek, Treasurer of Venice Progressives, reports that her slate spent around \$1,200 on the election. While DeDe Audet told the Beachhead that she thinks both groups spent about \$4,000 each.)

Venice Progressives had initially cried foul when the election was switched from June to September in defiance of the GRVNC bylaws.

Quite a few of the just elected board mem-

bers signed onto the ad-hoc election committee which, with the encouragement of the city's Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), wrote the rules under which the vote was conducted. The rules included strict requirements for identification, very limited absentee voting, and a ban on campaigning within 500 feet of the polling place (five times that of state and federal elections), and a polling place that is generally considered to be in Mar Vista, not Venice.

According to David Buchanan, owner of Marina Media and an associate of some of the candidates who variously called themselves "independents," "real progressives" and the "Venice Progress Coalition," the slate includes the following:

- 2 progressives by reputation and action — Linda Lucks and Kelly Willis (many Venice Progressives would dispute that Willis is any kind of progressive);
- 2 Moderate Republicans — DeDe Audet and Richard Myers;
- 2 Conservative Republicans — CJ Cole and Yolanda Gonzalez;
- 9 of varying political philosophies or unknown.

Since Audet, Myers, Cole and Gonzalez are all on the executive committee, this means that four out of the seven executive officers are Republicans, if Buchanan is correct.

Don't pack your bags for Berkeley yet. It's doubtful that Venice has really turned conservative.

—continued on page 5





**Venice Skills Center**

Dear Beachhead,

Over the last several years there has been a consistent effort by politicians and developers to close the Venice Skill Center. The effort began with closing classes making the center less effective and reducing the times and number of classes to make it difficult for students to find classes that were suitable matches for their availability, interests, and skills.

Automotive Repair classes and a Furniture Upholstery classes were permanently cancelled a couple of years ago. Neither were ever restarted nor was any attempt to see if there was any further interest in teaching the classes. Both programs had the required number of students to continue the class. Today the Cisco Networking Class and the Computer Repair Classes were cancelled. They also had the required number of students according to last semesters standards.

Several students attempting to enroll were unable to find anyone to enroll them or supply the necessary forms. No one was working at the desk or they were busy doing other things. Because the classes accept enrollment at any time in the semester, students, if they are able to enroll, continue to trickle in. Classes that had few students have filled up.

Workers being laid off or working part time come to school to enhance existing skills or enlarge their skill repertoire and find they are unable to receive training in valuable work skills or discover their busy schedules do not match existing class schedules. Some students find there are not enough classes offered to continue their unemployment benefits. A minimum of 20 hours of classes is required to continue unemployment. Soon there will be so few classes offered at conflicting times the school will become virtually useless to any unemployed worker. But this is the desired result. It will be closed because the school will be effectively useless, no one will be attending and it will be sold to developers who will profit from the sale. Enabling politicians will receive handsome contributions from the business community and everyone will be happy except the people.

The Venice Skills Center soap opera continues to this day. Today, it is claimed, the classes do not have enough students to warrant keeping them open. The minimum number of students required has been raised in one class to such a high number that if that many were enrolled there would not be enough computers for the students. So VSC is confronted by an impossible situation. Either enroll too many students for the class or the class will be closed. Any student smart enough to find the classroom will realize that there are not enough computers to teach the class. But if the required number of students does enroll, and students are willing to sit and do nothing at a chair with no computer, next semester the required number to teach the next class will go even higher.

Several weeks ago Principal Hermosillo had a meeting and declared that construction had begun on the New Venice Skill Center. Supposedly, money has been appropriated to build a new Skill Center. Because there were no signs of construction, I went and checked the school grounds to verify that construction had in fact begun. I was unable to find anything approximating a construction site. More lies from Hermosillo.

There is a periodic discussion about money for the new school, but the money never arrives. The money is being used to fund something else but they continue to lie about it. Last semester the money disappeared but after a big ruckus it was said that the money mysteriously reappeared.

I will know the last chapter in the drama will be over when Hermosillo stops lying, construction begins, or the school is closed. I know one thing. I have worked for a number of politicians in office and I intend to hold them accountable if the school closes.

*Ken Hundzinski - student at the Venice Skill Center*

Hello,

I'm a student enrolled at the (LAUSD Adult) Venice Skills Center. We seem to be fighting a losing battle to keep our classes open. On Sept. 19, I arrived at school to find a note posted on the door that our morning Graphics class was closed. Upon further investigation it turns out that 2 other classes have been cut. Many of our students are on unemployment and must maintain a 20 hour course schedule.

The notice we found on the door this morning was signed by Fred Hermosillo, the Principal of the school. His number is 392-4153 ext 108. I hope you will find this information worthy of at least a follow up call to the school. Thanks,

*John Humphrey*

**Preservation Society Needed**

Dear Beachhead,

Venice ca needs a preservation society in the city. Abbot Kinney st would be a great place to start I believe that would help the city of venice beach, I do believe that so many historical landmarks would be saved in venice and big developers would not have such an easy time getting rid places like Lincoln Place apts. that could be preserved as a landmark because of its history and purpose. Many other places have been lost. Lets start one.

*Noretta Wesleyson*

**KATRINA YARD SALE**

Dear Beachhead,

Neighbors of Clune, Grayson and 28h Streets in Venice held a Katrina Yard Sale on September 17th and 18th which netted over \$2,000 for the American Red Cross Hurricane Disaster Relief.

Resident Jeannette Boller, her niece, "Yard Sale Queen" Angella Janis, and local contractor Edward Sullivan, began preparations two weeks prior with the distribution of flyers to the neighbors advising them of the sale and requested their "stuff." On both days of the sale neighbors showed up with furniture, clothing, and a galaxy of household items, making the yard sale one of the largest and most successful ever.

Neighborhood children raised over \$40. selling refreshing homemade "Katrina-ade." Actual receipts for the sale totaled \$1,005 and Albertson's Stores doubled that amount.

So much merchandise was contributed that a sizeable donation of unsold items was made to the Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity, thereby making the effort a benefit to the local community as well.

*Jeanette Boller*

**Who is this Carol Fondiller?**

came to me on the boardwalk complaining about the music we were playing, said she was with YOU people. tells me that there are elderly people who don't like it and says i need to stop or you will give me trouble, says she's for my rights but says i can't work, screams slandering remarks out her window now, which i have been filming with my camcorder. all i got to say is what's up with that? i'm a good musician one of the best here, i have a c.d. of all my own music, which everyone who has heard it, loves it. where does this lady get off? thought i'd drop you a line and let you know what's up, and as far as coming after me, i wouldn't recommend that, i am not an idiot, nor will i be harassed in any way. already have enough evidence of her verbal abuse towards me to probably press charges, and will if need be. and besides, bad publicity towards me from you will only make me look that much better when the people see for themselves that i am very talented, and she is an idiot. will always play on the boardwalk, bet on that.....rick mitchell

**Carol Fondiller responds**

Dear Ricky,

I never threatened you. I requested that you turn your sound down. I never told any group, much less the Beachhead to come after you! I never threatened you in any way. I have yowled in a supremely good parody of your out-of-tune rhythm "singing." You got very angry at me for disturbing your peace for 10 minutes while I am forced to listen to you for hours at a time. You also complained to me about having to "fight off vagrants." Ricky, you can't even sing "Love Potion # 9" in tune or rhythm. I am forced to listen to your auditory rape. I have the obligation to freely express my opinion. Of course, I now realize that freedom of expression is only reserved for the Westside Auditory Rapists and residents must suffer for the Ocean Front Walk's art. But "artists" must not suffer. As I remember, when you told me of your travails, I suggested that you quit your day job.

In friendship,  
*Carol Fondiller*

**Republicans caused New Orleans**

Los Angeles Times, September 4 '05, "In late May, the New Orleans District of the Army Corps of Engineers formally notified Washington (Republicans) that hurricane storm could knock out two of the big pumping stations that must operate night and day -- even under normal conditions."

...[Four years ago] "The project that never was started, was an examination of storm surges from large hurricanes. (Republican) Congress approved the study; but did NOT allocate the funds for it."... "The White House kept scaling down these requests."

White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan said, "Hundreds of millions of dollars were spent...for flood prevention...the failure of the levees was not a matter of money, so much as a problem with drawing the right plans for the dike work of the levees was not a matter of money, so much as a problem with drawing the right plans for the dike work and other improvements ...more of a design issue."

Many years ago, Galveston, Texas, was reduced to a ghost town, by a similar hurricane. The Army Corps dredged the Trinity River up to Houston, far from the ocean. That's what needs to be done at New Orleans, dredge the Mississippi River north, for ten or fifteen miles, to create a new port-city, to leave the old New Orleans only as a tourist attraction, which will never be insurable.

Of course, George the Second, will be out of office, and Congress will be replaced but the new Congress and the new President will have to replace former priorities. Perhaps most of the large Gulf port-cities will need to be moved north or inland, several miles. Is the "War on Hurricanes: as important as the "War on Terrorists?" I believe that it is.

*Jack Johncock*

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**FREE VENICE**

Since 1968



BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:

John Davis, C.V. Beck, Carol Fondiller, Erin Grayson, Rich Mann, Yolanda Miranda, Jim Smith, Alice Stek

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

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

To submit material, include your name and telephone number. Anonymous material will not be printed, but your name will be withheld on request. If return of material is desired, a stamped self-addressed envelope is required. No payment is made for material used. Mail to: P.O. Box 2, Venice, CA 90294. Web: <www.freevenice.org> Email: <Beachhead@freevenice.org>

**Our Mission Statement**

Oh Holy Shit

The Thought Police are rising

It is the Time

for the Beachhead's rebirth

Now is the Time to get your

thoughts

together

If you care whether

you have a thought of any worth.

Thoughts left of Center

Homeowner or Renter

Put your Head where your Pen\* is

Send it to us use your wits

and if we like it

We'll print or plagiarize it

or tear it into

teeny tiny

bits

— by the Slumgoddess

\*Pen: Antique Term for Word Processor or Computer

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# Venice Skills Center Update

By Robert Yorgason

There have been recent closures at the Venice Skills Center. This is an update and reflects reports that I have received from students.

I called Fred Hermosillo, Skills Center Principal, on Sept. 20.

He mentioned the 23-students-per-class requirement. When I pointed out that there are not 23 computers in Robin Hill's (another teacher) room he said, 'Robin knows about rotating students on the computers. When I suggested that I've never seen 23 students in ANY class he said, 'I'm not done with the class closures yet.' When I then said, Well how many classes would you have to close before you shut down the school? And he said, 'Oh we're not going to close the school!'

When I said, 'what about promotion, there's been no promotion for the school', he said, 'Don't tell me, you're preaching to the choir here.'

### My Response on the 23-student per classroom requirement:

If this valid, it has NOT been applied at the Venice Skills Center in years. If a party knowingly allows a situation to exist for years, they are in fact party to that situation. The classroom conditions right now at the Venice Skills Center cannot service 23 students in every class. There are

not 23 functioning computers in any classroom on campus.

Rotating students on computers? Which one of you would attend a class where you have to sit and wait for a computer. Would you attend a class where you had to fight for and then stop using a computer half way through your lesson.

Rotating students on computers? In Ms. Hill's Class, or the Web Class? There seems to be a lack of understanding of the scope of the subjects taught, and the software and equipment required. My class is being asked to leave exactly at 12:45. No one can stay to ask questions.

Every computer and piece of software currently in use was purchased by previous administrations. You may thank Nina Flores for her efforts in this area. This is another "unpaid for" hat which she wears.

Robin Hill built her own program, with little help and many obstacles. She has created, in my opinion, a program which is decades ahead of anything else in LAUSD. Her class is the equal of most community college courses.

The Dental Assistant class is another example of a very functional program built through the efforts of a single teacher, against the odds, and in spite of obstacles.

There have been other hard fought for programs, (CAD based Fashion Design to name one) which are now gone forever.

There are more class closures to come.

How many more classes can be closed before there are no more classes. There are not that many left.

### The following questions need to be asked:

- Why are more classes being closed?
- Why does the Superintendent not know about it?
- Why is the school district paying to rent



space on Lincoln Blvd. when there are empty classrooms at Venice Skills Center? Why are students having difficulty registering?

- Why is there confusion about official class times?
- Why is there no system to prevent persons known to be violent or disruptive from enrolling?
- Why aren't additional classes opened when there is obvious demand?
- Why is 23 a magic number?
- If 18 people attend, and are dependent on the class for EDD, then what is done to assist them after a class closure?
- Why do the buildings leak?
- Why do the air conditioners not work in Room 10?
- Why has there been a crack in the wall of Room 10 for 4 years?
- Why doesn't the District respond to ANY calls from the Plant Supervisor? Oh yes, they did get someone to paint the doors.
- Why is construction on the new building been delayed again after 5 years?
- Who makes these decisions and why do they still have a job?
- What funds were ear marked for construction at Venice Skill Center in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005?

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### God Almighty!

On Sept. 23, L.A. City Councilmembers Bill Rosendahl and Dennis Zine jointly made a motion to ask the City Attorney's office to prepare an Amicus brief that would oppose removing the words "under god" from the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was almost exactly four years ago, that Councilwoman Ruth Galanter, backed by six other members, proposed that the City Council recite a "Pledge to the Earth" in addition to the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of its meetings.

The new verse would state: "I pledge allegiance to the Earth on which I stand, one world, one people, undivided, with food, shelter and justice for all."

Galanter's motion failed to win the necessary eighth vote need for passage.

### Beachhead Sustainer makes good

A long time Venice resident and Beachhead sustainer, Larry Frank, has been appointed a Los Angeles City Deputy Mayor for Neighborhood and Community Services by Antonio Villaraigosa. We're not saying that he was appointed because he's a Beachhead Sustainer, but...

You too can curry favor with Dame Fortuna by helping to sustain the Beachhead. We survive on your donations, so write a check for \$100 (one year) or \$50 (6 months) to the Free Venice Beachhead at POB 2, Venice 90294. An annual sustainer entitles you to four free business-card size advertisements during the year. We'll add your name to the list on page two, unless you tell us you want to remain anonymous.

**Peace in Iraq  
Peace in Venice**



Windward Ave.

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Main St.

Main St.

Grand

**Bike riders will  
depart at 6pm from  
the Circle for the  
monthly Critical  
Mass ride.**

# Keeping the Spirit of Venice Alive

By Stephen Longfellow Fiske

Included in the legacy of former Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski and her regime, is the permit/lottery system that has been imposed upon the Westside of the Venice Beach Boardwalk. The Westside of the Boardwalk, world famous as a free speech zone, and by law a non-commercial zone, exemplary of the free spirit of Venice, has been thrust into a legal, humanitarian, political and economic conundrum, the repercussions of which go far beyond the shores of the Beach.

The artists, musicians, performers, readers, non-profit organizations, political, humanitarian, and environmental groups, and free speech advocates who are generally known as "Public Expressionists" and who have helped make Venice Beach the one-of-a-kind, world famous attraction that it is, are at the core of the issue. Add the Dept. of Recreation and Parks, the City Councilperson's office, the City Attorneys, the LAPD, the merchants on the East side of the Boardwalk, the residents and property owners, the Neighborhood Council, and any other stakeholders who pop out of the woodwork, and you can begin to see the enormity and complexity of the situation. As Venice property values continue to climb through the roof, and Venice Beach continues to attract huge throngs spending money, the advance of developers who would like to see the Boardwalk look like the 3rd St. Promenade or South Beach, Miami, proceeds. The whole picture takes an ominous turn as the corporatization of the Boardwalk looms, completely distasteful, unimaginable, and unacceptable to anyone who loves the Spirit of Venice Beach.

Standing in the face of all of this are the Public Expressionists. They may well represent the last stand of the free speech advocates, the spirit of Venice in the face of the machine.

The Permit/lottery system was installed to control commercial vending, and to create order among the Public Expressionists. It has done neither. The problem is the Public Expressionists don't respond well to imposed control of any kind, especially if it is enforced by the intimidating and often harassing presence of the LAPD, or by monitors hired by the Dept. of Recreation and Parks who don't have a clue how to deal with the volatile mix of personalities on the Boardwalk. To some people a lottery is against their religious beliefs, and to organizations and associations, it is exclusive because permits are only granted to individuals, for a \$25 fee.

The concerns and special needs of the Public Expressionists have historically been ignored, misunderstood, and misaddressed by the city and its governing ordinances. Basic constitutional freedoms, which have been violated, are at stake here. Divide and conquer lives on.

The reality is the Permit/lottery system is not working, is fraught with inequities and injustices, is infected with collusion and corruption, and has allowed the illegal spread of commercial vending, which downgrades the Boardwalk to the level of a swap meet. Enforcement has been a failure. The permit/lottery system continues to engender much friction and tension, including a recent ACLU lawsuit against the city, as well as strenuous objections from the merchants and business owners on the East side, about the unbridled spread of commercial vending. In addition, complaints from residents about excessive amplified noise and disturbances in the streets have not been addressed by this system.

The ACLU lawsuit pushed the City Attorneys to rescind certain sections of the ordinance, which violated the First Amendment, among other legal considerations. The city was exposed as being out of integrity with its own law, and that illegal irresponsibility has permeated the atmosphere of the Boardwalk like bad weather ruining a parade.

Newly elected Councilperson Bill Rosendahl, who inherited the situation, and who passed the rescinding motion through the City Council, now is working to create a solution through a new rewrite of the ordinance. In the meantime, the situation at the Beach continues to deteriorate, until the new ordinance is passed and corresponding new rules and regulations are written and successfully enforced. Everyone feels that Bill and his staff bring a fresh and sympathetic attitude, open to the input from the community, as exemplified through the Town Hall Meetings which Bill him-

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painting by: Diane Butler

## If it's broken, fix it — some modest steps to make neighborhood councils credible to their stakeholders

By Jim Smith

The citywide system of neighborhood councils is broken. Whether or not it was initially designed to be functional is debatable. It was a sop thrown to the voters by then-Mayor Richard Riordan, in 1999, to get a new city charter approved that would give the mayor more power.

At its best, the Neighborhood Councils can be a radical extension of democracy in a city of four million that is ruled by only 15 councilmembers and a mayor. At its worst, it is an invitation to the wealthy and the elite to run 80 local bodies without the usual checks and balances.

There are some modest steps that can be taken to get the NCs on the road to more democracy. They include:

1. Allow only residents within each neighborhood council to vote. The current rules allow absentee property owners, workers and casual participants in local organizations to vote. A person who owns multiple pieces of property in a number of neighborhood councils can vote - and hold office - in all of them. This violates the principle of one person - one vote.
2. Abide by city's campaign finance reporting rules. Limit contributions to \$100 per person.
3. Make no rule for the conduct of a neighborhood council election that is more strict than state and federal election rules.
4. Who are we voting for? All candidates for Neighborhood Council Board positions and all appointees to a Land Use and Planning Committee should be required to file a *Statement of Economic Interests* with the City Ethics Commission. Form 700 itemizes investments and interest in real property held by the candidate on the date of declaration of candidacy or appointment, and sources of income received during the 12 months prior to the date of filing.

## What's in a name?

By Carol Fondiller

It seems that the only way to get the Progressive Slate out of Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council was to steal the Progressive's Platform and its name. Everything was legal, but was it ethical? About as ethical as attempting to sabotage the reputations of people on the ORIGINAL Progressive slate by red baiting and slander. The faux progressive slate won the election by that Black Power slogan, "by any means necessary."

They even endorsed people who claimed they were unaware of the endorsement by the faux slate, nor were they aware of any endorsement, nor did they seek any endorsement. Yeah, yeah, yeah. But however, the faux slate won, they won. And the original Progressives had better suck it up and get with the program.

Obviously, some people thought they had to get even with the legitimately elected board, just because those nasty, aging Hippies won.

Through barely legal tactics the puppet masters of the faux progressive slate won. But they won on the original Progressives platform. They ran on the platform of more low income housing, better and more mass transit, exploring energy efficient methods of improving mass transit, no expansion of LAX, slow growth or no growth, and respect for the residents in the community.

They pledged to stop the destruction of Lincoln Place Apartments, and to stop the megadevelopments in the community such as Lincoln Center. This is what the faux slate won on. It is to be hoped that they will keep the promise of that platform since the fauxs so desperately wanted to win at any cost.

Perhaps they really do believe in the platform, but some fauxs who ran on that platform have spoken out against preserving Lincoln Place. Perhaps they changed their minds. If the fauxs stick to the platform they ran on, perhaps they will earn the privilege of being called the REAL progressive slate hyphen included.

# Interview with New Neighborhood Council Board Members Yolanda Gonzalez, Stan Muhammad and Richard Myers

The following interviews were conducted with Yolanda Gonzalez, Stan Muhammad and Richard Myers at the "candidates forum," Sept. 7 at Venice High School. In the Sept. 10-11 election, Gonzalez was elected 2nd Vice President, Muhammad was elected Oakwood Representative and Myers was elected Communications Officer. The interviews were transcribed by Erin Grayson. They were made available to the Beachhead by Ian Johnston of KPFFK-FM.

**Yolanda Gonzalez:** A lot of our funding went to security for the airport. That amount of money was reduced. I have suggested that we allocate 10,000 dollars of the 50,000 we will get (for GRVNC) in order to commit the City in order to do what they have to do (put up surveillance cameras on the boardwalk and in Dist 3 etc.) in order to secure us and provide a safetiness. Because the 50,000 dollars that are used should be used for community improvements not for special interests.



**Ian Johnston:** You don't think invading people's privacy is a special interest?

**Yolanda Gonzalez:** No, what happens is that it's not invading. The people are requesting it because of the drug activity and the graffiti.

**Ian Johnston:** Who is requesting that?

**Yolanda Gonzalez:** Oh, the, the stakeholders. The, the residents.

**Ian Johnston:** Which one's specifically?

**Yolanda Gonzalez:** Uuh, It's happening all the way from the 14th District. And also 'cause I was the first one to lead that movement they're already requesting that in certain areas, well first of all, I found out that they were gonna bring in surveillance cameras to the Venice Boardwalk.

So I said well, that's interesting and I said well we're not even set up yet because the police departments are supposed to have that. OK? So, I said well that's interesting if you're gonna be able to it on the Venice Boardwalk then why is it that we can't have it in certain areas where we have problems with the gang activity.

So then what I suggested to (LAPD Chief) Bratton and to the person in charge right now, one of the Sergeants is that we don't need to have the police department set up for that. They can have mobile stations and set up the cameras and guard them from there. OK?

Let me tell you something. We have to learn to provide safeness. All I know is if you are a gang member, you are a gang member for the rest of your life.

**Ian Johnston:** But the point is what's happening is that they create the problem and then get someone like you to clean it up by gentrifying the neighborhood.

**Yolanda Gonzalez:** Well Hon, if I have to clean it up I'm gonna keep cleanin' it up. Because we have a lot of children at risk. OK? And we have to deal with what's happening today.

**Ian Johnston:** Hi, Stan. Ian Johnston with KPFFK. You are on the website as being a part of the Venice Progress Coalition I believe?



**Stan Muhammad:** No, I'm part of the, uh Venice Neighborhood council. I'm runnin' for District 3.

**Ian Johnston:** Yeah, but I'm saying the people who have put you on a website that's called Venice Progressives.org. Uh, are you part of that group?

**Stan Muhammad:** Yeah, Yes, I am.

**Ian Johnston:** And how do you feel about so many people on their slate being deeply tied to the police?

**Stan Muhammad:** Well, I believe that those indi-

viduals have to become more aware of what their relationship is with the police. When you say deeply tied to, are you speakin' in regards to whether or not they are working for LAPD or do they support LAPD or...

**Ian Johnston:** Well, it's hard to tell sometimes.

**Stan Muhammad:** OK, well, I can't really speak for those individuals, I can speak for myself and my position is intervention and prevention. I believe suppression has run its course and that's obvious because they continue to build more prisons. They are continuin' to lock up people, and it takes intervention and prevention strategies to avoid suppression overtakin' the community.

**Ian Johnston:** Yolanda Gonzalez was talking about more police and cameras in the neighborhoods. What do you think about all that?

**Stan Muhammad:** I don't think it's necessary to have more police and more cameras. What I believe needs to take place is for the community to get involved. The stakeholders need to get involved to begin to do community policing.

That's what we need is community policing, meaning if I see a crime, I should address that crime, not calling LAPD but address it as a community member. You know, find out what's goin' on. And that's what we do through a non-profit organization by the name of Venice 2000. We do intervention, when a crime take place we have our gang intervention team out there addressing the issue, dealin' with it from an intervention stand point.

**Ian Johnston:** Do you know who put together that website you're on?

**Stan Muhammad:** Well, that website was put together by a group of individuals who's also endorsing all those individuals who's running for the Progressive, uhhh, Venice neighborhood council.

**Ian Johnston:** Who actually designed the webpage?

**Stan Muhammad:** I don't know.

**Ian Johnston:** So, it's listed as private currently.

**Stan Muhammad:** Uuh, I don't know.

**Ian Johnston:** So, we just don't know.

**Stan Muhammad:** I don't. I don't know.

**Ian Johnston:** OK, cause Dick Myers is uh famous for creating these websites that suck people in like GRVNC.com.

**Stan Muhammad:** I don't know Dick Myer. That's the reason I said I'm not that concerned about what the other candidates are doin' throughout the city. What I'm concerned with is District 3 in particular because we have our own issues. And I want to be that voice for that district but ultimately when we unite that district we wanna be create a model for the whole neighborhood council and ultimately for the whole District 11 under Bill Rosendahl's leadership.

**Ian Johnston:** Richard Myers, I see you fo....



**Richard Myers:** Hi Ian, How ya doin? Good to see you, I'm glad you came out to hear all the speakers, whadya think?

**Ian Johnston:** Well it's an interesting crowd, more people actually running than listening I think.

**Richard Myers:** It does turn out that way. We hope we get more voters than running.

**Ian Johnston:** There's a website called Veniceprogressives.org what do you know about it?

**Richard Myers:** Well, I mean, I know that I'm endorsed by it.

**Ian Johnston:** So you have nothin' to do with it?

**Richard Myers:** Nothin' to do with it, nope.

**Ian Johnston:** In the past you've created websites that where similar in name to other websites etc. Right?

**Richard Myers:** I have a website that is a protest uh, well not even a protest - an informational website that is complementary to the grass roots venice.org.

**Ian Johnston:** I don't think I wanna be in a photograph...

**Richard Myers:** Why are you so photo shy, Ian?

**Ian Johnston:** Because I don't want to be a part of anything she has anything to do with.

**Richard Myers:** OK, then, I don't want to talk to you.

**Ian Johnston:** OK, take it easy...

**If you enjoyed these interviews, you may also be interested in attending the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council where there will be live action.**

**The first meeting of the new GRVNC Board will be:  
7PM, Thursday, Oct. 6  
Westminster School Auditorium  
1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd.**

To received email announcements of future meetings, send a blank email to:  
grvnc-on@mail-list.com

## Conservatives Elected -continued from page one

Only two days after the Neighborhood Council election, there was a State Assembly election in which much of Venice gave more votes to the Peace and Freedom candidate than they gave to all of the four Republicans who were running, combined.

Instead, several factors combined to defeat the Venice Progressives:

- 1) a well-funded campaign was run by the opposition;
- 2) dirty tricks were used, including confusing voters as to who were the real progressives;
- 3) several years of continuous attacks on the progressives had a cumulative effect;
- 4) a number of the conservatives played key roles on the ad hoc election committee and wrote rules that were conducive to their getting elected;
- 5) presidential candidate DeDe Audet was listed on the GRVNC website as the election committee chairperson up until the last week of the campaign;
- 6) most Progressives who had been on the previous GRVNC board chose not to run again, and for various reasons, did little to help their slate get elected.

Shortly after the election, the Venice Progressives candidates met and decided not to file challenges to the election. According to Sabrina Venskus, there were plenty of reasons to challenge the election, but most candidates felt that they would be swiftly rejected by the city's Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), headed by Greg Nelson. Several of the Progressives have been calling on Mayor Antonio Vilaraigosa to replace Nelson with a more neutral department head.

In addition, with new elections due next June according to the GRVNC bylaws, Progressives felt their time could be better spent organizing a stronger progressive majority and involving themselves in the work of the Neighborhood Council.



Venice Music Festival (formerly Jazz at Palms Court), Sept. 18 – left to right: Paul Herzog, Ballona Wetlands Trust; Congresswoman Maxine Waters; Erin Grayson, Lincoln Place Tenant Association. The event was a fundraiser for the Venice Community Housing Corporation (VCHC)



Abbot Kinney Festival, Sept. 25 – Beachhead Booth from left to right: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Yolanda Miranda, Jeffrey Stanton. Thanks Venetians for all the love you expressed for the Beachhead.

Feelin good this mornin...Hey Hey • Hope it lasts the rest of the day  
Sufferin might not always stay • Pleasure's but a fleeting okay  
Fortune or famine comes our way • Whatever happens—happens today!  
– Poem and image by Rich Mann



Windward jetty - 2005

Sometimes, "MAMA NATURE'S A REAL BIACH"

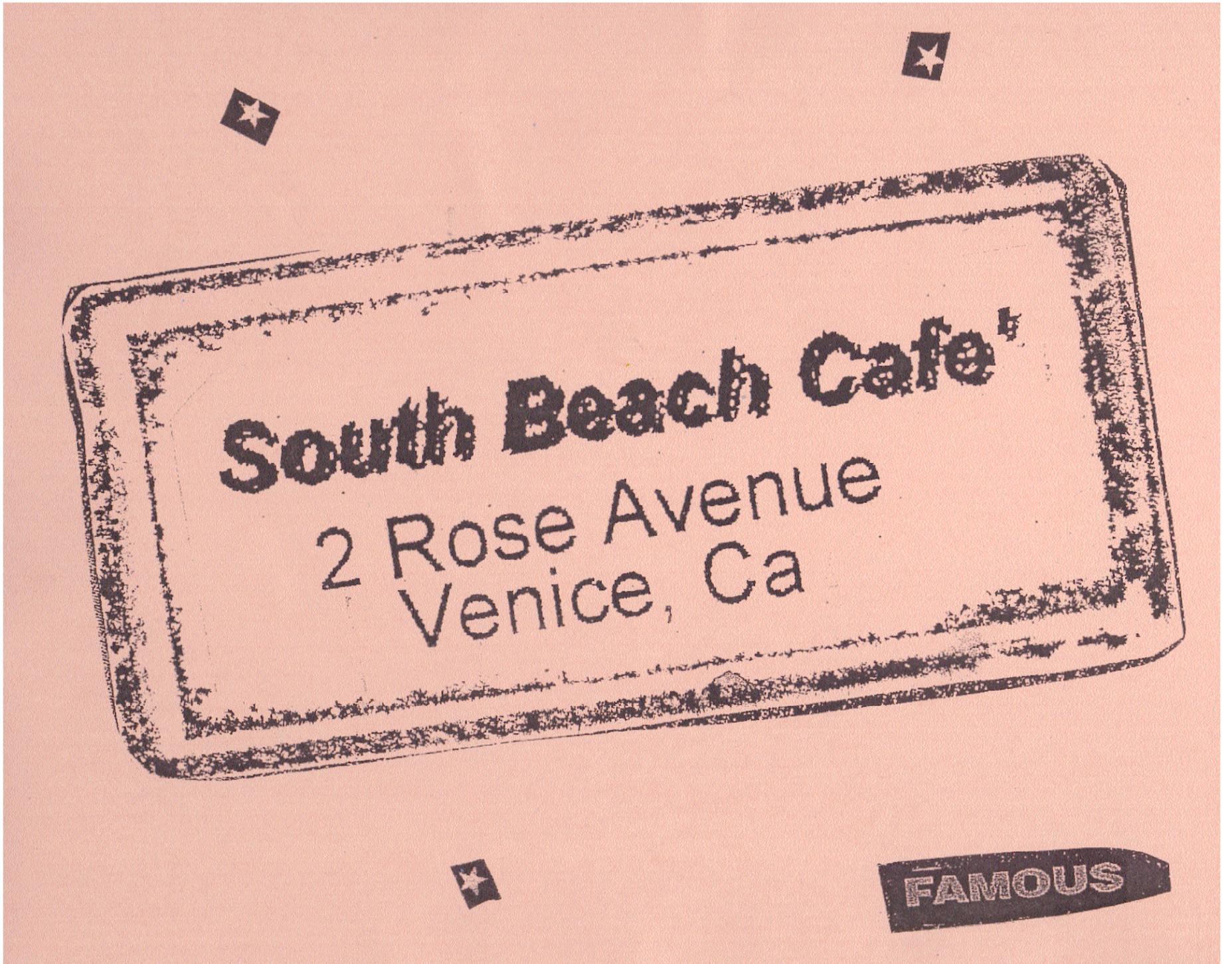


Seems like everywhere you go, Venetians are reading the Free Venice Beachhead. Seen here is Reuben De La Casas, aka Ruby, reviewing a past issue at the Venice Music Festival, Sept. 18.

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# Lincoln Place: Answers to Last Month's Quiz on Tenant/Landlord Rights

By Sheila Bernard

In last month's Beachhead, we had a little quiz. For those who didn't do their homework, too bad. (It is much more brutal in my life right now than it is in my classroom.) For those who did, here are the answers:

- 1) Yes and No. Yes, a developer is required to comply with the conditions of approval placed on projects. But a developer can violate the conditions, and the City may or may not provide recourse, depending on the political will of the people involved.
- 2) The developer both is and is not required to meet ALL the conditions of approval of the project. If a developer fails to meet some of the conditions, rendering the conditions moot, the City may or not turn a blind eye and just approve a different project. Again it depends on the political will of the people concerned.
- 3) Yes and No. Yes, the developer can evict the tenants although the conditions of approval

say he cannot do so. But then again, if the developer evicts the tenants, if the City actually imposes the penalties it is clearly entitled to impose, that is, not signing off on

the developer's demo permits or final map approval, then the developer may be forced to start all over and get a new EIR and a new entitlement. This may or may not be exactly what the developer wanted to do in the first place. And if you ask the tenants... Well, you will have a hard time asking the tenants at that point, because by that time the tenants will be gone, which is definitely something the developer wanted.

4) Whether the tenants are guilty of a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP) by defending themselves in court against Ellis evictions remains to be seen. Hearings have not commenced. We are cautiously optimistic that there are judges out there

who actually read documents and who actually rule according to what the law says, instead of ruling according to what they believe the law meant to say.

We are still here. We are still strong. We are still expecting you to do your homework. The question for this month:

How can we fix this very ambiguous situation relative to conditions of approval in our city, and how will doing so enhance community control of development? The answer to this question will be a big part of your grade. In fact, this question just might lead to a PhD (Practically Having Democracy).

Sheila Bernard is President of the Lincoln Place Tenants Association.

**PROTEST FOR RENTER'S RIGHTS**  
 LA City Hall  
 Friday Oct. 7, 2005  
 9am  
**Bring signs that say: STOP ELLIS ACT EVICTION ABUSE OR TENANTS 1ST BUILDINGS 2ND OR HUMAN RIGHTS BEFORE MONEY!**  
 call for info: 310-990-9308

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\$20.00 donation



# Arnold's Propositioning Us - Just Say No

Eight propositions will be on the Nov. 8 ballot. Propositions 73-78 are endorsed by Gov. Schwarzenegger and all should be turned down. Props. 79-80 are opposed by Arnold and should be approved for the reasons listed below.

### Prop. 73 – NO (Parental Notification on Abortion)

Parental notification on abortion requires pregnant minor's (under 18) parents or guardian to be notified before the procedure is done.

Presently, there is no need to notify parents or guardians of a minor's intent.

If a girl can't tell her mom, there's something that won't be solved by the girl being forced to carry the child full term.

Many girls are unofficially liberated minors. that is, they work to support themselves or are living apart from their parents or guardians.

If a minor can be put on trial for murder because he/she is old enough to face the consequences of his/her action, then it follows that a minor should be able to make her choice in privacy. NO on 73.

### Prop. 74 – NO (Public School Teachers)

As it is, teachers are evaluated every year for two years. After this two-year probation, a teacher gains rights of due process (only university professors have tenure) and it becomes more difficult to fire a teacher.

This proposition is just a smoke screen to cover the real faults in the school system, which are aging building, lack of modern equipment in poorer school districts, that is, computers, sci-

ence equipment, books, overcrowding, lack of counseling and outreach programs to help "problem" kids. In short a lack of public spending on education. NO on 74.

### Prop. 75 – NO (Government Employee Dues)

Union charge dues for membership. Non members are also charged a fee because, by law, the union negotiates on everyone's behalf.

This is the Governor's attempt to squelch and weaken organized labor using Double-speak. Schwarzenegger is using Roveian methods to stop "special interests," that is, nurses, janitors, teachers, firefighters, to engage in political activity. Interestingly, the Gov. has not attempted to reign in Big Business special interests, that is, AIMCO, Haliburton, Time Warner, the oil corporations, etc. from spending their money on political activity. NO on 75.

### Prop. 76 – NO (State Budget; School Funding)

California has had budgetary problems since 2001. In 1988 voters approved Prop. 98 which set a minimum of spending for schools and community colleges based on the number of students and economic growth.

This proposition would give a Governor too much power over the budget. It also cuts four billion dollars per year from spending on education and would sabotage the voter approved Prop 98 school funding guarantees. "Special interest groups," that is, teachers, teach assistants, nurses, classified employees, etc. are against this proposition. Another reason the Governor wants to vitiate the power of these organized groups. NO on 76.

### Prop. 77 – NO (Redistricting)

Political districts are re-divided after each census which last happened in 2000 and will happen again in 2010.

The legislature has the right to draw these districts. Prop. 77 would take that away from the legislature and give it to three retired and unaccountable judges. They would draw new district lines based on out-of-date census data that have to be approved by the voters in 2006. If voters rejected their plans, the process would start over, and over, until approved. NO on 77.

### Prop. 78 – NO (Prescription Drug Discounts)

State and federal programs provide drug coverage for low income people. Prop. 78 was put on the ballot by drug companies who want to defeat Prop. 79 which give more coverage. NO on 78.

### Prop. 79 – YES (Drug Discounts for Medi-Cal)

Federal and state law required lower drug prices for Medi-Cal recipients. Prop. 79 would allow the state to negotiate rebates. Corporations that do not agree to lower prices would have their product removed from "preferred status." YES on 79.

### Prop. 80 – YES (Regulation of Electric Service)

In the 1990s, California began reducing state control of electricity with the hope of lower prices due to competition. This action was put on hold because of energy shortages.

Do you remember the tapes of the people at Enron laughing about fleecing little old ladies with price hikes on their electric bills? And how they conned the people of California into deregulation? If you don't remember any rate hikes on your electric bill, that's because Los Angeles (including Venice) has its own government-run power company, the DWP. It was not affected by the shenanigans of the "competitive" private companies.

Prop. 80 would increase state control over California's electricity market. In addition to regulating prices, the Public Utilities Corporation (PUC), a government agency, would required all PUC-controlled companies to use more renewable energy resources with a goal of 20 percent move up to 2010, instead of 2017. YES on 80.

– The Beachhead Collective

## VOTE Nov. 8

- Prop. 73 – NO (Parental Notification on Abortion)
- Prop. 74 – NO (Public School Teachers)
- Prop. 75 – NO (Government Employee Dues)
- Prop. 76 – NO (State Budget; School Funding)
- Prop. 77 – NO (Redistricting)
- Prop. 78 – NO (Prescription Drug Discounts)
- Prop. 79 – YES (Drug Discounts for Medi-Cal)
- Prop. 80 – YES (Regulation of Electric Service)

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## THE DARK RIGHT

By HAL Bogotch

Welcome to the dark right.  
 Evil pervades. Republicans  
 reign. Satan is back  
 in his heaven.  
 Phony religiosity carries  
 the day. A president  
 with no brain cells  
 puts his foot down  
 on stem cells.  
 SUVs are patriotic.  
 USA will drill, rape  
 Mother's soil for oil.  
 Forgiveness on a corporate  
 collection plate. Label  
 evildoers. Cover mirror,  
 hide greater evil.  
 Drop bombs. Bust bunkers.  
 Sell water to the poor.  
 Execute in rows and columns,  
 never mind the DNA posthumous  
 exoneration probability.  
 Accept crippled Jesus in your soul.

## Simple Questions

By Hillary Kaye

I have heard it said that in the  
 beginning was the word  
 I can not tell you I understand  
 because the truth is I can not even  
 bear to know  
 how much loss we all endure.  
 I stand just on this corner  
 standing what I can bear and not  
 one step further  
 wondering if a word could change  
 the world  
 would I try to find it  
 wondering if a poem could change  
 the world  
 would I give up my life to write it?  
 Simple questions



## American Nero

By Rex Butters

he strums guitar in San Diego  
 monkey mugs for the once prestigious  
 washington press corp  
 laughing with a country star  
 his month long vacation  
 nearly ending

dragging their children  
 those children alive  
 citizen survivors in garbage  
 Mississippi towns soggy kindling  
 fire stations flooded  
 buildings burn for lack of water  
 sweltering citizens parched  
 face down  
 a young girl half under grimy water  
 floats  
 her pink hair clip still in her hair  
 no ripples  
 submerged

American Nero strums guitar in San Diego  
 draws cheers  
 and applause  
 from an adoring audience  
 at a naval base in Southern  
 california

dark rank smelling house  
 sticky Mississippi mud porch  
 slick living room floor  
 crumpled woman  
 still holds snake fight stick  
 black and white dress  
 bodies rotting quickly in the heat  
 rats feasting on your loved ones dead in the street

American Nero  
 strumming guitar during the Gulf Coast floods  
 this time, not wearing phony ranch hand duds  
 "if you're someone who's having to struggle  
 between  
 food and medicine,  
 those days are over with ," he says to seniors in Southern  
 california

children rest in ration boxes  
 hospital patients stretched  
 on airport baggage claim floor  
 nurses weep leaving dead patients  
 faces the color of the black mud and brown water  
 4mos old 6 mos old  
 they died  
 right here in america  
 waiting for food  
 their tattered dead in lawn chairs  
 bodies in refrigerated trucks used to ship bananas  
 sick poor black old and left behind  
 stroke victims in laundry baskets  
 treated like an occupied enemy  
 race, age, and bank book determined survivors  
 as official excuses and transparent lies  
 swarm like a thick cloud of blood sucking flies

American Nero in sunny San Diego  
 strums his guitar  
 eats cake in Arizona with John McCain  
 while sewage soaked survivors  
 cling to life  
 in rising water atop a car

rescue efforts pulled back  
 to focus on looting  
 Save the Stuff  
 kill anyone moving it  
 we can't show the world  
 we no longer value property  
 the self-righteous wind wing bellows  
 "Shoot On Sight"  
 but the looting began long before the storm  
 public funds  
 shore up  
 defense contractors' bank accounts  
 levees left in tatters

Nero minded numbskull

King of Vacations

he flew over high above

he looked out a window  
 a prepared statement of concern  
 then returned to the golf course  
 their devastation and misery  
 a fly by photo op prop

Bond, Biloxi, Maxie, Star  
 Thomasville, Gulfport, New Orleans  
 Mali, Somalia, and Sudan  
 survivors  
 their names washed away  
 all they will call you  
 will be refugees

will they receive the 2-3  
 hundred thousand dollars given to  
 each family  
 relocating off Gaza paid by  
 US taxes?

will the US govt.'s \$75 million bribe offer  
 refused by Iraqi Sunnis  
 be chipped into the Gulf Fund?

two days after Katrina hit  
 the federal rescue leader hadn't heard  
 about 15,000 desperate, dehydrated, hungry, angry,  
 dying  
 in the New Orleans convention center  
 from Mobile, American Nero smiled,  
 "Brownie, you're doing a heck of a job."

"Give me your tired, your poor,  
 Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
 The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
 Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,  
 That I may feed them to my greedy death god,"  
 American Nero sang and twanged, laughing.

Mississippi John Hurt  
 rain your sweet finger pick  
 tears on the people

Charlie Patton  
 roar their frustration and pain

Memphis Minnie  
 sing about  
 when the levee breaks  
 it's 1927  
 again

POETRY

## Time for a Moratorium Time for Affordable Housing

By C.V. Beck

Time for a moratorium now? Yes, I think so.  
 In fact, I think it's been time for some time now  
 and now, we are overdue. People can stick their  
 heads in the sand if they want to but we are  
 approaching the Tsunami of uncontrolled hyper-  
 overdevelopment and really need to get a grip,  
 grab a-holt of it and take control of our neigh-  
 borhoods and our streets. We can't go on like  
 this, we really can't. Unless you just don't care  
 about anything except the money. I guess there  
 are a lot of people out there like that but I find it  
 hard to believe that most people aren't fed up  
 now.

Let's hear from the community on this now.

Another thing on my mind is the willful  
 withholding and withdrawal of truly affordable  
 housing off the market.

There are hundreds of vacant units west of  
 the 405 freeway, about 400 of them are at  
 Lincoln Place being kept off the market. There  
 are 100,000 homeless people in Los Angeles.  
 How did this happen? Is it possible that it might  
 have something to do with the Ellis Act in 1986?  
 And more truly affordable housing is being  
 trashed needlessly and replaced with truly not  
 affordable housing.

I am sure that the powers that be could de-  
 clare that 30% of all vacant "luxury" housing be  
 immediately made available to those who need  
 truly affordable housing and that those develop-  
 ers and landlords abusing the Ellis Act, itself an  
 abuse of power, could, if they wanted to, make  
 available through their own networks, this 30%  
 at the same rates of rent that the displaced per-  
 sons are now paying, under the rent stabiliza-  
 tion ordinance. Or is this too radical?

# GONE WITH THE WIND – continued from Page One

of antebellum mythos, Biloxi, Mississippi, I felt a sense of personal loss. That great impersonal hurricane ripped not only the roof off New Orleans but it exposed the maggot-filled belly of that beast. *DARKIES!?* *Sittin' on a bale of cotton playin' banjo and mouth organ while a little kid danced?* I'm being wistful about a city that had slave markets, an aristocratic upper...no, over-class, and a caste system that rivaled India's.

I am infected by the "Gone With the Wind" sickness, as is every white girl in America. The trouble with *Gone with the Wind* is that it tells a slamming good story. But frankly, my dear, we should give a damn about what it says, and how it has infected the American Psyche.

The opening paragraph of this piece is offensive - Darkies, Minstrels, etc. But that the old way of life that Margaret Mitchell wrote about so movingly and what the late Senator Strom Thurmond, democrat cum dixiecrat cum Republican, thus perhaps proving Darwinism by reversing it...and wanted to regain and what Senator Trent Lott told the guests at Strom Thurmond's 100th birthday.. if ol' Strom were elected president when he ran, things would be a lot better, ie., no antidiscrimination laws, God in the schools, Strom's God that is, and Kirsch, Kinder and Kuchen for the ladies, bless 'em.

One positive and powerful thing that Margaret Mitchell did, was to portray the strength, courage, resourcefulness, inventiveness, tenacity of Southern women, in contrast to the fragile, shallow image they were compelled to portray in polite society. Unfortunately, the image of the Happy Darkie slave is still with us. There are some people who aver that the Blacks were lucky to have been brought over here because they were educated to European, i.e., civilized behavior.

The French Quarter did not get destroyed. What did get destroyed was the 9th District, the poor section of town, most likely rarely visited by tourists. I won't go onto who got out and who didn't. What happened in the Astrodome, that's still in contention. All I know is babies did not get raped contrary to what was reported with salacious concern and pornographic detail by the other media. Who can forget the sight of a TV location newscaster up to his knees in swill, gasping into the microphone "there's a little dog in here. We've got to get him out "athere..."? And the dog was in a doggie carrier. The newscaster crooned with the mike about poor wet doggie. True Tiny Tim Journalism...

That hurricane ripped off the layers of laissez le bon temps roulez along with Scarlett O'Hara, Blanche Dubois, (a victim of Southern

Gentility), Mardi Gras and exposed the fragile support system that kept New Orleans together and made it such a hot destination. The under-paid underclass supported the ol' South - instead of living in slave quarters, people lived in shacks or crime infested housing developments. The schools and playgrounds that were washed away were already teetering on the edge of destruction brought on by graft, greed, neglect, racism and classism. Hurricane Katrina exposed the rattling relics of "The Old South", the souvenirs of lemme see, how did Margaret put it? "The Cavaliers... washed away by the war a gallant way of life".

Wouldn't it be wonderful if Katrina washed away the generations-old travesty, the generations of old power?

Speaker of the House Rep. Hastert wondered whether New Orleans should be rebuilt and naturally this brought down a tsunami of objections. Since then Hastert has been mute on the subject. I am being heretical, I know, but I'm thinking that maybe it's not such a bad idea. The City is below sea level, we don't have or won't enlist the know-how of the Dutch, who know about dikes and dams.

Theirs have worked for centuries. Do we want to rebuild the Old South with it's alluring, poisonous dreams? Certainly the City should have some historical sites, museums of Jazz, African and French and Spanish culture, places where human beings were bought and sold and treated as cattle or cunning little toys. And, of course, A Streetcar named Desire.

As to the physical rebuilding, I hope they don't try to "recreate" the Old Orleans, or hire the Disney folks to re-do it. But basically, I hope that Hurricane Katrina has torn away all the racism and poverty. Then, indeed, laissez le bon temps roulez.

## Help Wanted

Venice writers, graphic artists, cartoonist wanted for the all-volunteer Beachhead Collective. The Venice monthly newspaper is one of the oldest alternative papers in the world.

Collective members also participate in distribution and advertising solicitation.

For more information, call 396-0811 or email <Beachhead@freevenice.org>.

## Venice Skills Center Updates – continued from page three

- What happened to those funds?
- Why has the process not been transparent?
- Why has an active community like Venice not been kept in the loop?
- What has been done to correct any of this?
- Why is there no advertising?

One of the Cisco Networking students reached Dr. Santiago Jackson, the Assistant Superintendent of L.A. Unified School District (LAUSD). The first thing Dr. Jackson did was to ask the student for the name of the person who gave him phone number. Then Dr. Jackson then replied that he knew nothing about any class closures. He then told the student to call Nancy Woodrum.

How can the head of the Adult Division of LAUSD be unaware of a Skills Center closing 20 percent of its classes? Why is he not aware of the situation. Now that he is, what will he do about it?

I have not been able to reach Marlene Canter (LAUSD School Board Member), yet. I still have hope.

I am open to suggestions. If you have the time then please try to contact any or all of the following people. Ask your own questions, and have no fear. These people work for you. Point out that there is no alternative for classes on the West Side of Los Angeles. Maybe they forgot.

DIVISION OF ADULT AND CAREER EDUCATION  
Santiago Jackson, Asst. Superintendent - 213.241.3150  
Nancy Woodrum, Division Administrator 213.241.3153

I will continue trying to arrange a meeting with Marlene Canter. She has been helpful in the past. Please continue to let me know who you contact and what the response has been.

For the record:

Opinions in this document are mine.

Other Instructors have been mentioned without being asked. No action should be taken against them.

I thank you all for your efforts. I am grateful that some have expressed concern about teaching jobs. For the record, from me .... This is not about my job. I frankly expect my actions to have predictable consequences. This undertaking is simply the correct thing to do. The students and the community of Venice have been wronged. The effort is about saving an institution for the future. I can wash dishes. I will be fine. It is you, the students, I am concerned for. Let us save Venice Skills Center.

*Robert Yorgason is an Instructor at Venice Skills Center.*



## Thank You Venice for your votes in the recent Assembly race

With virtually no funding, I came in second in the following Venice neighborhoods: Central Venice, North Beach, Oakwood, Milwood, North Penmar (including Lincoln Place) (and third out of six in the Council Dist. 11 part of AD53)

As the Peace & Freedom candidate, I not only got more votes in these Venice neighborhoods than any Republican, but I got more votes than all four Republicans put together!

Who says Venice isn't Progressive?

- Out of Iraq Now
- Single-payer health care for All Californians
- Roll back rents
- Protect the coastal area from over-development
- Raise taxes on the wealthy and corporations
- Save the Environment - Stop Global Warming
- Affordable housing, Education, Equality and Jobs for All

*Jim Smith*

P&F Candidate for State Assembly



Venice Peace & Freedom  
POB 644, Venice 90294  
pfp@freevenice.org  
399-2215



*Getting arrested to help the supermarket strikers*

Now that the election is over please consider joining the Peace & Freedom Party and help us build an alternative to the two corporate-mob parties that are running this country (into the ground).

Paid for by Smith for Assembly

self is facilitating. As of the writing of this article there have been two Town Hall Meetings with a third scheduled in mid October. There have also been taskforce meetings with community members.

There is a "Proposal of Community Empowerment" written by this author with input from numerous Public Expressionists, which has thus far been favorably received by Bill and his staff, and by the Recreation and Parks people. There is new hope that Bill and his staff, and the city attorneys, will give this proposal and the input from the Town Hall Meetings immediate serious consideration as the new ordinance is now being formulated.

Any system imposed from the outside by the city, which ignores the realities and nuances of the everyday experience of the Public expressionists, will only continue to create big problems, more lawsuits, and the ongoing degradation of the Boardwalk. The solution must come from within the community of Public Expressionists who experience these realities and nuances firsthand, empowered by the city and the surrounding community. We must all work together to make it better. The unique situation and environment of Venice Beach call for a unique and creative solution, one that brings a win/win for everyone.

In short, the proposal under consideration features a team of trained Peacemakers (who come from the community of Public Expressionists) who facilitate individual sections of the Boardwalk; the pre-screening of all potential Westside vendors (currently anyone can get a permit, no matter what you are selling); the elimination of all commercial vending; the strict control of sound violations; the inclusion of First Amendment organizations and associations; environmentally friendly controls; a community based police policy; and the eventual phasing out of the Permit/lottery system. The Peacemakers team

relieves the LAPD from babysitting the Boardwalk over every little incident when they have more important things to do, and takes monitoring out of the hands of the Rec. and Parks people where it really doesn't belong. The self-empowerment system gives voice to the people. Most of all, it empowers the community of Public Expressionists to take ownership over their own fate, to unite in the pride of self-determination, and to preserve the true spirit of Venice Beach.

We can create a renaissance of art and public expression on Venice Beach that is uplifting and beautiful, in an ongoing festive and creative atmosphere that uplevels the public image of Venice, that enjoys continued thriving commerce, and that continues the legacy of the most magical, amazing, socially diverse and socially conscious jewel attraction of Southern California and the West Coast. With Bill Rosendahl in office, we have reason to feel optimistic about the future.

In a world where corporate cronyism, religious extremism, human rights violations, imperialistic, oppressive policies, environmental blunders, bureaucratic blunders and war mongering persists, led by the criminal policies of our own government, let us make a stand and set an example of how true freedom can work right here in our own community.

The future of Venice Beach is in our hands. Let us all work together to keep the spirit of Venice alive!

*Stephen Longfellow Fiske is a musician, author, artist, and long time resident of Venice.*

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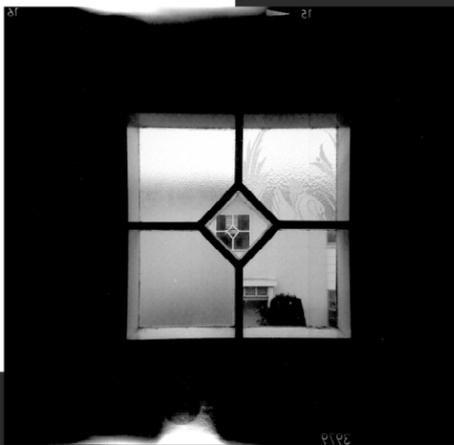
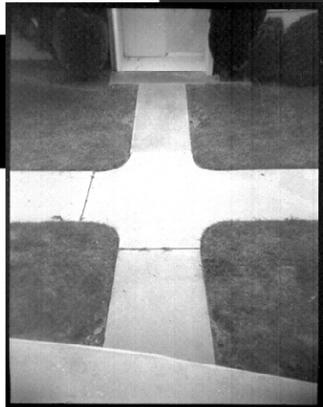
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*photos and words by Erin Grayson*

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