

FREE VENICE SINCE 1968 BEACHHEAD

October
2007

#312

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

The 23rd Abbot Kinney Festival

Sunday, Sept. 30 was a beautiful day in Venice. By 10 am, a tent city had sprouted from Brooks Avenue to Venice Blvd.

As on 6 pm, three times the 40,000 population of Venice had visited the Festival, according to organizers. There were more than 300 arts and crafts booths – and a sprinkling of Venice non-profits – along Abbot Kinney Blvd. There was a children's area with rides in the Westminster

school playground, next to the boulevard. And for the first time, the Festival was green. Food vendors were required to use corn-based plates, cuts and cutlery. Bio-degradable bags were given out to other booths to hold purchases.

Musicians held forth at three stages, one run by the Temple Bar which featured bands from Brazil, Argentina and Cambodia. Another stage spotlighted Venice artists.

The Abbot Kinney District Association was still counting the revenue at press time, however, according to Cecilia Najar, one of the organizers, the Festival usually takes in from \$10 - 20,000 after expenses. Inside-Out Arts receives some of the money, and Venice nonprofits are invited to submit grant proposals for funding.

"There were lots of dogs and families this year," said Najar. "Venice seems to have grown up." (see page six for more photos)



CASUALTIES IN IRAQ
U.S. 3,807 Dead – 75 this month
U.S. Wounded 28,009 – 503 this month
Iraqi Dead: 1,077,232
 Source: justforeignpolicy.org
Cost: \$456+ Billion
 Source: costofwar.com

Photos:
 Top three rows:
 Alex
 Rows 4 & 5:
 Rex Butters
 Bottom Row:
 Jim Smith





BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:
Karl Abrams, Rex Butters, Carol Fondiller,
Della Franco, Don Geagan, Hillary Kaye,
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Snowlake, Judith Martin-Straw, Alice Stek

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

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

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

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Great Job

Dear Beachhead,
Received the Beachhead with the morning mail. The Collective did your usual great job, a labor of love I know.
Soon as I can I’m sending a donation. Whatever I can send it’ll be too small. The Beachhead does a big job. Your article about how to survive the crash, by the way, excellent, and a scary reminder of things to come.
Peace in solidarity, *Bill Fleeman*

Santa Monica Pier Savior

Dear Beachhead,
A wrong needs to be righted. A live-wire senior member of the Israel Levin Center on the Venice Boardwalk, Diana Cherman, is the savior of the Santa Monica Pier, for which she has received no credit.
In 1973 the Santa Monica City Council campaigned to tear down the pier. Diana jumped to the rescue, bolstered by her background in political science at U.C.L.A. She started to petition for a redress of grievances.

The current director of the pier restoration committee (Ben-Franz Knight) recently stated that there was a save-the-pier campaign in the 70’s. It ousted the City Council, saved the pier and grew into the Santa Monica for Renters Rights movement. No mention of Diana. She was not spotlighted for her exceptional civic deed. No remarks on her spearheading the establishment of the peoples of Santa Monica.

She started the gathering of stacks and stacks of signatures only to be hobbled by the council, which challenged the legality of the petitions because of incorrect forms. She was forced to repeat the whole process in requisite legal form and thus onto the Save-the-Pier ballot.

Meanwhile Diana placed newspaper adds opposing the Terrible - Three GRRs - Councilmen Garille, Reidy and Rinck, which secured the overwhelming vote against them. They were booted out of office and the pier was saved!

Subsequently the Santa Monica Businessmen’s group offered Diana their full financial backing for a run at city council office. She was appearing on T.V. channels 2-4-7 and her prospects were good. To run however, she was required to move from West L.A. to Santa Monica, and given the lack of support from her husband, this marked the end of her political career. They later divorced.

People feel there is no Santa Monica without the pier, it’s the soul of Santa Monica. Having had to suffer watching the Venice and Washington street piers being left to deteriorate, Diana said at the time, “They’re not going to knock down my pier.”

The citizens of the Westside are surely the unheralded possessors of many other strong tales to tell, if only given a tap on the shoulder.

Right now a city commendation presented to Diana at the Santa Monica Pier would seem at minimum to be a long delayed singular honor due to her...
BRAVA Diana CHERMAN QUE VIVA.

Panos Dolvos



The headless statue in the Circle found a head briefly in September.
Now if we could only find some arms and legs...
Say, isn’t that the likeness of that retired actress, what’s her name?

Photo by Margaret Molloy

What the ARF is Going On?

Dear Beachhead,
Monday, September 24 – Two “dog off leash” tickets were given to two offenders at Oakwood Park. Finally. After 3 weeks of distribution of flyers and warnings given by Manuel Elorriaga, a police officer with the Department of General Services.
Ask anyone how long it took to get this issue taken seriously. Seniors, children, families and other Venice residents have made several requests in several meetings to get someone to do something about people running their dogs without leashes- since Ruth Gallanter days – since Cindy Miscikowski – it’s been too long!

This fine morning I heard one of two gentleman exclaiming, “I have been coming here for years!!!” The second man shouted, “I have to go to court for this?” They both signed their tickets and left.

Ok, so the ‘Dogs & Leashes’ signs have been posted for a couple of years and additional signs were placed throughout Oakwood Park over 10 months ago. The sign clearly states that your dog must be on a leash. A separate ticket will be given for those who choose not to pick up after their dogs. So be a Venice hit; pick up your dog’s shit.

A thought for the residents who think this is unfair: just because you paid beaucoup dollars for your house does not mean you get to change everything around you and instantly you are above the law. You cannot control your dog when he/she is 10 paces away from you.

So you say your dog won’t bite or does not bite? Why take the risk? Why do you have your dog’s leash around your neck or hanging off your pant loop, but not on the dog? There are plenty of children in their neighborhood that fear dogs. Dog walkers please show some concern and respect especially in the early morning hours when plenty of Venice children are walking to school or to the bus stop. God forbid something happens and after a court case – you could lose everything just because you did not want to abide by the law.

FYI- the Dog Park is located at Main and Westminster. I have a dog and I choose not to take her there because it is not well taken care of. Have they ever changed the cedar chips? That is the place to run your dog freely!!!! Oakwood is not a dog park. Arf!

Lydia Ponce

Parking Problems

Dear Beachhead,
Venice is between a rock and a hard place. I am convinced that officialdom knows that it is Free Venice that draws hundreds of thousands of visitors to our area. But with the parking getting tighter and tighter every day, the Venetians are feeling less and less free.

There is excellent information at www.sccwrp.org/pubs/annrpt/97/ar16.htm on the net. Please do me a favor and check out the tables at the end. It shows that California beaches draw 51.9% of all beach use in the U.S. and that the beaches bring billions of dollars of revenue to this region. It also shows some bacteria counts of which Heal the Bay has plenty. But where was the California Coastal Commission (CCC) when Venice valiantly tried to get Prop O money for planning clean drainage systems?

Now, because its staff have been telling us that it is our job to dig up the evidence on pollution, I am going to call the attention of the CCC when I go down there on the 11th to pay more attention to cleaning up the ocean per the microbiological samplings and less attention to micromanaging local parking. What they are doing is to create a mess. I have made a crude map of the area which shows how Free Venice is surrounded by areas with restricted parking, all sanctioned by CCC. Of particular interest is Marina del Rey, which has no public parking on any street, no night parking of any kind, and no free public parking of any kind, except during trading hours at local stores. If this isn’t preferential application of law, then what is it?

George Mhlsten had it right when he used the term “diffuse authority” in connection with land use problems. Are all of our boards, commissions, and committees so obscuring the true facts and making so many rules, regulations, and policies that they are crossing over each other’s boundaries with no concern for the interactions?

DeDe Audet

Last month we left off the name of the writer of *Say No to Permit Parking in Venice*. It was Peggy Lee Kennedy.

FRAMED PRINTS & GREETING CARDS

Released Photography in The October 2007 issue of National Geographic

Photos By

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3 Big Victories for Venice, and the Coast

Oversized Hotel Voted Down

By Jim Smith

After nearly two years of meetings, hearings and general PR and BS, a big hotel project with rooms in excess of \$200 a night has been unable to elbow its way into Venice.

The Ray Hotel, a project of The Ambrose Group – which has another hotel in Santa Monica – reached the end of the road, Sept. 19, when the West L.A. Planning Commission voted 5-0 to reject the project.

From the beginning the hotel had exceed the dimensions of the Venice Specific Plan for maximum height and density. The five-story hotel would have towered 65 feet in places, in spite of a 30 foot height limit for buildings near the coast.

The hotel was to be located at 901 Abbot Kinney Blvd., directly across the street from Westminster Elementary School. It seems that there are no local or state laws against having a building full of transients overlooking a school.

The project had divided Venetians from its first presentation at the Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC) of the neighborhood council.

This reporter had never been neutral about the project. According to the minutes of the Dec. 7, 2005 meeting, I urged the committee to send the developer packing since they were so contemptuous of the Venice Specific Plan. A lot of time and trouble could have been saved had the LUPC taken my advice. North Beach resident Carmel Beaumont also spoke against the hotel. Regardless, the LUPC voted 7-0 in favor of the project.

At a follow-up meeting, several of the neighbors of the proposed hotel spoke against it, but their protests fell on deaf ears.

Support or opposition seemed to fall along class lines. Those who could afford going to the two plush restaurants at the hotel gushed about the cutting edge design and how “green” it would be. Those of us who avoid yuppie restaurants thought more about the traffic it would generate, and the precedent it would set for more upscale hotels coming into Venice.

Ambrose went all-out to get political clout. It retained as its spokesperson, Kristen Montet Lonner, one of former councilmember Cindy Miscikowski’s aides. For even more influence, Cerrell Associates, a big-time downtown lobbying firm, also was retained.

In spite of the support of some Venice blogs, architects and business organizations, there were more of us than them. The growing opposition to the hotel influenced councilmember Bill Rosendahl to take a stand against the project.

At the West L.A. hearing, the preponderance of residents in opposition, the flagrant violations of the specific plan, and last-but-not-least, Rosendahl’s opposition, were crucial to moving the commission to its unanimous opposition.

Promises from The Ambrose Group of a crosswalk and other gifts to Westminster School convinced the principal, Betty Coleman, to speak in support of the project. The hotel also pledged to pay a living wage and institute a local hiring program, however, none of its promises were enforceable.

“Am I the only one here who sees the irony in a boutique hotel which purports to hire lower-income residents from the community – when in effect these high-end developments are pushing these same residents out of the community because they won’t be able to afford to live there anymore?” testified Gail Rogers, a North Beach resident and teacher.

Rosendahl planning deputy, Grieg Asher then urged the commission to either vote the project “up or down.”

At the end of the hearing, Joyce Foster, president of the commission invited the Ray Hotel developers to come back with a plan that did not violate the Venice Specific Plan. In the meantime, Venice remains the People’s Beach.



Artist's conception of the Ray Hotel

Court Sides with LP Tenants

The remaining Lincoln Place tenants will not be packing and moving out anytime soon, and evicted tenants may be moving back.

In a sweeping published opinion, a state appeals court yesterday ordered a halt to the eviction of tenants at Lincoln Place Apartments in Venice by owner AIMCO Venezia, LLC.

In December, 2005, 86 Lincoln Place residents, including 21 children, were locked out of their homes in the largest eviction lockout in a single day in Los Angeles history. Eviction cases against remaining 13 senior and disabled tenants were pending, awaiting the outcome of the Sept. 20 court decision.

The suit was on behalf of the Lincoln Place Tenants Association and Ingrid Mueller, a long-time tenant.

A three-judge panel of the 2nd District Court of Appeal sided with tenants, ruling that the evictions were unlawful and violated the terms of conditions imposed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in connection with a redevelopment project the city approved in November, 2002. Former tenant Laura Burns said of the decision, “We are finally vindicated. No one would listen. The City Attorney refused to protect our rights. These evictions were so traumatic and a nightmare for everyone who was there. We have finally been heard.”

AIMCO and its predecessor had promised that in redeveloping the 38-acre, 795 unit garden-style complex, no tenant would be involuntarily evicted. Nevertheless, AIMCO ignored this promise by evicting the tenants under the Ellis Act, a California state law designed to allow property owners to go out of the rental business.

In separate litigation, tenants have challenged whether AIMCO, by many measures the largest apartment rental company in the country, truly intends to leave the rental business at Lincoln Place.

AIMCO argued that the Ellis Act allowed it to evict the tenants in spite of the CEQA mitigation proposals offered by AIMCO, which were adopted as conditions by the city in approving the Lincoln Place redevelopment project. The appeals court ruled that AIMCO could not attempt “to defeat” the conditions it imposed upon itself in order to obtain approval of the redevelopment project by “ignoring” the conditions or “attempting to render them meaningless by moving ahead with the project in spite of them.”

The court directed the city to enforce the tenant protection conditions placed on the project and directed the lower court to halt the eviction of the remaining Lincoln Place tenants.

Sheila Bernard, president of the Lincoln Place Tenants Association, one of the parties that sued the city and AIMCO in the case, said, “We are jubilant. This points the way for council members to assist long-time renters being pushed out of gentrifying neighborhoods by condo conversions where the developer wants to evict them rather than include them in redevelopment plans. Council members can negotiate win win situations and the city can enforce these agreements.”

AIMCO now has two choices. It can cut its mounting losses and sell the apartments to the tenants or to a more benevolent landlord, or it can appeal to the California Supreme Court. Most observers who know AIMCO’s track history are betting on the latter.

The tenants legal expenses in fighting for their rights continue to mount. Contributions can be sent to LPTA, P.O. Box 1312, Venice 90294.



Playa Vista Sinks

By John Davis

Multi-national corporations and their local lackeys have been trying to build the largest development ever foisted on the City of Angels in the Ballona Wetlands. We have laws here. There are smart people here. The communities are galvanized to stop it, and now it is over.

The developers, led by a failed mayoral candidate, have met their match in the California Appellate Court. Apparently, this Court sees justice and cannot be bullied or bribed and has leveled two fatal decisions, bringing the project to its knees.

The most recent good news is that a band of environmental groups including Ballona Ecological Project (BEEP), Ballona Land Trust, Surf Rider, Gabrielino Tongva Native Peoples, and the City of Santa Monica proceeded to kick the living daylight out of Phase Two of the mammoth super-sized project. The Appeals Court shut Phase Two down flat.

Any sane person would prefer to have open space, clean sea air, roads that are not clogged, clean surface water and groundwater for the droughts ahead than to be at the mercy such a tyrannical development

First, here is a brief description of the two lawsuits that are drowning Playa Vista. The most recent suit filed by those mentioned above has had a whopping effect. The Court ordered Phase Two of the project to be stopped and the Environmental Impact Report tossed out. It said the City must start all over again on Phase Two based on fraudulent up-zoning, improper evaluation of native remains, and failure to prove the City Sewer System can handle all of the groundwater the Playa Vista residents have to pump out of their basements. To make things worse for the developers the water they have to discharge may be contaminated from a number of former industrial uses.

Permits to discharge waters to the surface or into the sewers and ultimately into waters of the United States require permits to comply with the U.S. Clean Water Act, and important State Environmental Acts that protect the public’s water.

We cannot flush toxic waste down our toilets into the sewer and neither can Playa Vista (legally), nor can they pour toxics down into the street drains or Ballona Creek.

Ground water is a big problem for the developers. How to get rid of it, especially the polluted water, is the primary Achilles heel of Playa Vista.

Well, the multi-nationals and their local lap dogs cheated and are now caught.

In the first lawsuit ground water was also the problem. The developers could not account for the effects of groundwater discharges on the environment or on the methane mitigation systems designed to keep people living at the project safe.

Since the Court of Appeals ordered the vacating of the methane approvals, the case has gone back down to the Superior Court for Enforcement. The city and developers were ordered to determine if a Subsequent or Supplemental Environmental Report was necessary and to proceed under the California Environmental Quality Act.

The city and developers are currently claiming that the Appeals Court created a third implied option which the court did not state, define or imply which would allow the city to not conduct an SEIR and not to proceed under CEQA. The city’s stance is, of course, absurd.

This case is winding its way back to the Court of Appeals which will no doubt rule against the city for not complying with its order. Currently those filing this suit, including myself, have claimed to the local enforcing court that the City Attorney could not advise the City Council and the City Council could not approve their recent actions because of violations of the State Political Reform Act of 1972. (See Beachhead

—continued on page 10

In Brief

Tenants evicted at Billys Apartments

As the Beachhead was going to press, the final tenants at the historic Billys Apartments, 815 Ocean Front Walk, were being evicted. Efforts by Councilmember Bill Rosendahl’s office to delay the evictions were unsuccessful.

The 100-year-old house now lies empty, even though no plans have been submitted to the city for redevelopment. Last year, the house next door was also vacated.

Billys Apartments was recently sold to a corporation called 815 Ocean Front Walk, LLC. However, tenants believe the owners are doctors living in the Venice canal area.

One tenant being forced out is Christy Kruse who told the Beachhead she has lived there for the last 34 years. She said several other tenants had lived there even longer before being evicted. The previous landlord had not insisted on rent increases when new tenants moved into one of the eight apartments in the two buildings. In the 1970s, well known Venice stand-up comic and philosopher Swami X lived at Billys.



Tenants kicked out of Billys Apartments on the Ocean Front Walk

...

Rosendahl calls for end of Iraq war

Councilmember Bill Rosendahl has introduced a motion in the Los Angeles City Council that would put L.A. on record as urging the federal government to make an immediate and complete withdrawal of United States military personnel from Iraq.

Rosendahl succeeded in getting six of his colleagues to second the motion. They are Bernard Parks, Ed Reyes, Janice Hahn, Jose Huizar, Jan Perry and Herb Wesson. At least eight votes will be needed to pass the resolution.

“This war has diverted funding that could improve the quality of life for Los Angeles residents,” said Rosendahl. The U.S. is currently spending \$2 billion per week to occupy Iraq.

...

Free Health Care Initiative Filed

A proposed single-payer health care initiative for the November 2008 ballot has been filed with the state Attorney General.

The initiative, if it qualifies for the ballot and wins, would provide free health care for all Californians. The state of California would be the provider, rather than private insurance corporations. Around one million signatures will have to be collected between November and March to qualify the initiative for the ballot.

It was filed on behalf of Californians for Health Security, a statewide group headquartered in Venice and San Francisco. For more information, see <CaliforniansforHealthSecurity.org>.

...

Your Tax Dollars at Work

To much fanfare on Sept. 29, 70 canal residents and a city councilmember turned out for a ribbon cutting and naming of the little streets that run between the canals.

After much deliberation and the work of two canal organizations, the Voice of the Canals (VOC) and the Venice Canal Association (VCA), and the creation of a joint committee, called the

Fast Find Project, new names were selected to help the confused, deranged or just plain inebriated drivers find the correct alley.

The envelope please: The new names are: A, B, C, and D!

“The community is safer for all the time and effort of everyone who was involved in this project expended,” said an email from canal resident Darryl DuFay.

...

Low Turnout in VNC Election

Suppose they held an election and nobody came? That may happen in a few years if the Venice Neighborhood Council continues its downward spiral.

Ever since new restrictive rules were adopted before last year’s election, less than 500 Venetians have bothered to vote.

This year total ballots counted were 466, the lowest yet. That mean that some “Community Officers” were elected to the Board with 8 votes, 10 votes and 12 votes respectively. A write in candidate, Stan Muhammad, was able to place second in a field of 17 candidates who had their names printed on the ballot. Six of the seven officers of the Board ran unopposed, with Vice Presidential candidate Linda Lucks receiving the highest number, 348. Presidential candidate Mike Newhouse, also running unopposed received 329 votes.

Here is the voter turnout in previous years:

- 2006 – 492 votes cast
- 2005 – 1,204 votes cast
- 2004 – 509 votes cast
- 2003 – 1,310 votes cast
- 2002 – 612 votes cast

(Election figures are from <http://home.ca.rr.com/venprogressives>)

Parking Permit issue goes Coastal

The Coastal Commission will take up restrictions on overnight parking in Venice at its meeting in San Pedro on Oct. 11 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 601 S. Palos Verdes Street. The expected time is 11:30 am. Both supporters and opponents of the parking permits are expected to attend.

The issue has become a hot topic because it would target RV campers who park overnight.

...

Too Big for Venice and Lincoln

It would be six-stories tall and would have four affordable housing units (and 36 unaffordable units). The developers, Valley Heart Group, LLC, took their big plans for the site of the old Shell station at 1020 Venice Blvd. to the neighborhood council’s Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC). They said they were not yet applying for permits. They thought they would just drop in and find out what the community thought about their plans. They got an earful about the Venice Specific Plan, which has a 30-foot, not 65-foot, height limit. “It was too big. I wouldn’t support it,” said LUPC chairperson Challis Macpherson.

One of the presenters for the developers should have known better. He was Jerry Newman, who was involved with RAD/MTA, a much hated plan for a gated community at the bus yard before it was voted down by the planning commission.

IRAQ: TRUTH TAKES A HOLIDAY

By Terence Pearce

It is a sad day when soldiers such as General Petraeus are used to distort the truth on the ground in an attempt to shore up a patently failed strategy.

The truth (Oh! I’m sorry; did I use a bad word?) about the whole situation in Iraq, inde-

pendent of the effect of the so-called ‘surge,’ is that children, women & men on all sides are dying and being maimed for life every hour of every day as a result of the American occupation.

We are told in the most patronizing terms that if we pull out there will be chaos, as if somehow the anarchy there is unconnected to American policy and actions there. Of course there will be chaos! We have unbalanced the whole situation in Iraq by our illegal invasion in the first place and it is not improving.

However, by pulling out immediately, there may be a shorter-lived chaos with a concomitant lower death toll than if we continue with the folly of this grinding carnage.

But hey! Let us be fair, the war has succeeded in some ways. It has provided al Qaeda with their largest free promotion and enroll-

—continued on page 10



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

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Practicing in Venice and Santa Monica since 1996.

Year Six of the War on Terror: TV Violence, Selfishness and Insults Have Skyrocketed

By Margot Pepper

Violence, selfishness and insults have skyrocketed on national television since the first year of the war on terror, my second grade students at Rosa Parks Elementary in Berkeley, California found. Results in Venice are likely to be similar.

For the last decade, I've had students analyze television preceding National TV-off week organized by the TV-Turnoff Network. The mostly seven-year-old students are asked to collect all the data themselves, since their teacher has never owned a television. An average total of 35 children's television shows, both in Spanish and English, are studied for a period of seven days.

The first day of the study, as homework, students record how many times they see hitting, hurting or killing on half-hour segments of the shows they regularly watch, viewed from beginning to end.

The second day, they are to focus on acts of selfishness; the third day, on instances of put-downs and the fourth day, on the number of times a typical class rule is broken.

Finally, in class, each of four groups of students compiles the data produced by the homework, focusing on one of the four variables in the study.

But this year, when I pulled out old samples of graphs compiled by a class in April of 2002 as models, the contrasts between the graphs produced five years ago and this April shocked my students.

"In a half hour of 'Jackie Chan' in 2002 you would see hitting 10 times at most," wrote gifted 7-year old Flynn Michael Legg. "In 2007, shows of 'Jackie Chan' had 34 hitting scenes." For the 2001/2002 season—year one of President George Bush's 'war on terror' – nearly one fourth of the television shows my students watched had one or no acts of violence at all in one half-hour. Now of the shows they randomly watch, only "That's So Raven" continues to have no violence, and all other shows have at least three instances of hitting or violence in one half-hour. Today, nearly half of shows randomly viewed by my students contain hitting or more violent acts 7 to 34 times each half hour.

The maximum number of gratuitous put-downs or insults has nearly doubled since 2002, going from 10 in "That's So Raven" to 18 in "Dumb and Dumber;" over one put-down every two minutes. In "Sponge Bob Square Pants," Flynn pointed out, one would hear at most two put downs in 2002. Today it's 16. No shows had more than 10 put-downs in 2002. Now three shows have more put-downs: "Sponge Bob": 16; "Dumb and Dumber": 18; and "Letty La Fea": 13. Very few shows have no insults any more.

All the shows my students watched this year showed people or characters being selfish at least once in each half hour. In 2002, only three shows had more than three acts of selfishness in a half hour. Now, 10 did. Half of the shows showed 5 to 9 instances of selfishness each half hour.

Students also found that in April 2002, only one show depicted the violation of ordinary class rules (no hitting, put downs, swearing etc.) 12 or more times. In April 2007, the number of such programs rose to six. In 2001, the maximum times class rules were broken on a given half-hour show was 17 on one show. In 2007 the number of such shows has quadrupled with the maximum number of rules broken on a given show doubling or reaching over 34.

These differences compelled us to substantiate our findings with internet research. Indeed, children in the "yellow group" found that according to a 2007 study by the Parent's Television Council (PTC) called "Dying to Entertain," since 1998, violence on ABC network

has quadrupled (309% increase.) In 1998 the station had about one act of violence per hour (.93). By 2007, it was almost four or (3.8) on average. CBS, according to the PTC study, had the highest percentage of deaths during 2005-06, with over 66% of violent scenes depicting death after 8 pm <www.parentstv.org>.

Students in the "blue group" reading the same PTC study noted that now violence has shifted to being more central to the story with more graphic autopsy scenes or torture scenes. The study remarks that the 2005-6 season beginning in the fall was one of the most violent ever recorded by the PTC.

Precocious seven-year-old Maeve Gallagher reported in her essay that "The green group found kids will have seen "200,000 violent acts on television by age 18...and 16,000 murders," according to Real Vision, a project of the TV-Turnoff Network. "Videos and TV are teaching kids to like killing, according to a 1999 Senate Judiciary Committee Report entitled 'Children, Violence and the Media,'" Maeve cited. The Senate report also found that 10 percent of crimes committed are caused by violence seen on television.

The findings by students in the red group convinced the rest of the class to limit their viewing of television, turning it off completely during the TV-Turnoff Network's TV-off week—something they were reluctant to do when our unit of television study began. What they discovered, largely thanks to the TV-Turnoff Network's website <www.tvturnoff.org> is that there are more televisions (2.73) in the average home than people (2.55.)—(USA Today)

The average home has a television on 8 hours a day, more than 10 years ago, asserts Nielsen (2006.) Children who watch 6 or more hours a day perform worse on reading tests than do those who watch 1 hour a day or don't play video games, reports the Center for Screentime Awareness <www.screentime.org>. And by the time they finish high school, children will have spent more hours watching TV than in school.

"I suspect the increase in television violence [sic] has something to do with the war on terror," Andres Ventura hypothesized in his essay summing up his conclusions to the study. "By scaring kids and parents and pushing violence, people are more likely to vote for war. The TV makes you dumb because if you see a lot it makes you forget things. It makes parents dumb too. It makes them forget how things were when they were kids."

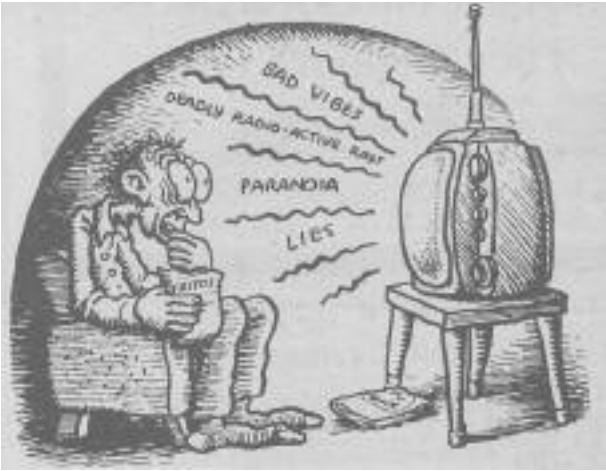
"If you watch too much TV when you are an adult, you lose the kid that is inside you." – Maeve Gallagher agreed.

"Watching television replaces your imagination with television thinking and there's not much space left after that," Daniel Hernandez-Deras, commented a few years ago.

One of the most shocking facts my students found was that according to The TV-Turnoff Network's Real Vision project, parents spend only 38.5 minutes a day with their children in meaningful conversation. And more than half of 4-6 years olds (54%) would rather watch TV than spend time with their parents.

This finding inspired Alejandro González unique conclusion: "I think Jorge [sic] Bush wants to make people more scared. We know Jorge Bush likes war. And... TV makes you like more war. What's scary is kids spend more time seeing TV than being with their dad. Since our study, I turn off the TV more and go play with my dad. Maybe the president used to watch more TV than being with his dad."

Margot Pepper is a former Venetian and a contributor to the Beachhead. Her memoir, *Through the Wall: A Year in Havana*, was reviewed in our August 2005 issue. www.Venice-Beachhead.org



Get Well Soon Carol!

Carol Fondiller, the Beachhead's resident humorist and most cogent writer is in the hospital for some much needed maintenance.

The Beachhead Collective wishes Carol a speedy recovery, as do her legions of fans.

You can send her greetings in care of the Beachhead, POB 2, Venice 90294.

Meanwhile, enjoy some of Carol's articles which can be found in most of the issues in our on-line archives at www.Venice-Beachhead.org

Why Defend the Venice Specific Plan?

By Dennis Hathaway

The Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan came into being as part of an attempt by the city to give local communities greater voice in land-use and planning decisions that were traditionally made in offices and corridors of city hall, where influence was wielded not by members of the local community, but by the real estate development lobby and other interests with a financial stake in those decisions.

Before putting in place the zoning and land-use regulations in the plan, the city planning department solicited extensive opinion from community members about such matters as building height, density, transportation, architecture and design. In other words, they asked the question, "What do you want your community to be?" Not everyone agreed, nor did the final product perfectly reflect everyone's desires, but it was a significant attempt to empower the community to make the kind of decisions that had historically been made by politicians who usually deferred to the interests who had their ears and funded their campaigns.

Now, with real estate development in Venice having picked up a full head of steam, it's little surprise that resistance to the concept of community empowerment embodied in the specific plan is growing by leaps and bounds, although it's never stated as such. Rather, developers seeking major exceptions to specific plan limits on such things as height and density claim that the community benefits inherent in their projects—units of affordable housing, tourist amenities, cutting-edge architecture, greenness, to name a few—warrant what is essentially a tossing-out of the fruits of the grass-roots labor that preceded adoption of the specific plan and replacement with the old system of decision-making by city hall politicians and their appointees.

It's easy to see why development interests prefer this latter way. It's not as easy to see why many members of the Venice Neighborhood Council board and its Land Use and Planning Committee have apparently bought into an idea that ultimately diminishes, rather than enhances, their power. The word "power" is appropriate in spite of the fact that the VNC board and LUPC have, on paper, very little. Their power is through being the voice of the community, and by extension, supporting the empowerment of the community to fight attempts to impose land-use and other decisions from above. And the weapon to fight those attempts lies right at hand, in the form of the Venice Coastal Zone Specific

—continued on page 10

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Three photos by Alex

Photo by Rex Butters



Photo by Michael Smith



Willie Chambers from the Chambers Brothers performed at this year's festival. The Paul Chesne Band invited Chambers to join them on the Brooks stage.

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The Ocean Front Walk has become a hot spot for development lately. Upscale development may be the biggest threat to the “ambiance” of the OFW, and is likely driving the removal of the homeless, higher rents, and pressure on vendors on both sides of the Walk, more than anything else.

A few examples include:

- The nearly completed massive condo project that straddles Thornton between Speedway and OFW (see photos). A Starbucks is rumored to be an upcoming tenant.
- The interest from Champion Development in tearing down the “Gingerbread Court” (formerly the Seabreeze Apts. built by Eddie Cantor), and adjacent properties and replacing them with a 4 Seasons luxury hotel.
- Yet another building by Frank Murphy, two doors north from Figtree’s Restaurant which will block the ocean view from much of the Ellison Apartments.
- A new project at the site of the old L&A Market (near Dudley).
- The recent purchase by a corporation of the 5 Rose building that houses many low-income residents.

These are issues that will profoundly affect our distinctly Venetian “front door.”

–Jim Smith

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- L.A. Times, 4/07

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Philomene’s Page

Last month the Beachhead devoted its issue to a memorial for Philomene Long, Poet Laureate of Venice, aka, Queen of Bohemia.

That issue sparked more remembrances of Philomene, some of which are reproduced on this page.

Philomene will live on in our hearts as long as there is a spirit of Venice that values poetry and beatitude.

Philomene

She invented dance
in the deaf end of town.
Vulnerable solar systems
played basketball according to her vocabulary.
Meet me in the rhythm
by which she built us up.
The roads all smiled
when her barefeet reached apogee.
Waltz soft tonight
through all argumentative weather.
Philomene, fair lady
of the castle of you got it.
You and John are toe to toe
on the ongoing process of hey.
Feel the backbeat rise up to all tasks.
Today I hang my mind’s history
from her driving sky.
She active nouns the textbook of soiree.
Smile. Wash my hair. Around and around
we roll. Philomene
created the party.
A time and then some
was had by all.

– Scott Wannberg
remembering Philomene Long

Eau de Bohemia

by Susan Hayden

For Philomene Long, in beloved memory

“It will be apparent that it is difficult to discern which properties each thing possesses in reality.”
(Democritus, 8th century B.C.)

If you were a perfume, it would be Earthy,
the top note a forest blend
that would descend into oakmoss
and fresh mown grass,
a mercurial bath of Irish whiskey.

It would smell like your dreams,
the ripening of first fruit
and bloodroot
with heart notes of orange groves;
Los Angeles,
before the permanent roads.

The dry down would reveal
cracked leather and lavender rose,
poetry and prose as a saltwater path
toward the Boardwalk sun;
at once a yearning and a leap
of heat meets alchemy.

Your scent would be worn
by both peasants and royalty:
Slaves to the half-open window,
queens beneath the arch of the doorway,
counting the days in sighs
while memorizing escape routes.

Eau de Bohemia:
A tenacious fragrance
with a lasting theme
and a dreamy aroma that lingers.
The wearer will feel signs and seasons.
The wearer will feel worthy of anointment,
with good reason.



For Philomene

I believe in the wanton fertility
of hope
a star cluster rings the sun
coyote brandishes a
mouthful of seeds
in the yellow dawn heat

I believe in the beehive creek
the sturgeon’s river
ancient trees
the dakota snow
the Pacific Ocean out
her candle shrine of a window
my old black dog
hobbled by immodesties of age
still barks at the
howling butterflies of
the summer moon

over Venice
Philomene Long fallen
catholic into the lap of zen
ocean goddess of
gull love: only once I kissed
an Old Growth Tree
growing feather words
wrapped in black beach blanket
chic
queen of bohemia we love
you in the lonely gull coming
autumn mime of morning.

– John Macker

Philomene Long Thomas

I call her that because some of the changes I made to the web pages about Philomene and John were due to the evolution in her thinking about what to call herself. In addition to all the contributions to her own pages, she was beautifully supportive of the whole VirtualVenice.info project. Actually, only one other artist has had so much impact on the site.

This is an excerpt from “My Philomene” (first published at Earthblog.net):
“Of her I had only had the tiniest sliver, the most miniature facet: an e-mail correspondence about shared interests. She was a lot of other people’s Philomene, to a much greater extent and in very many ways - wife, mother, sister, daughter, friend, neighbor, teacher, filmmaker, mentor, guru, Poet Laureate of Venice, keeper of the flame of memory, Queen of Bohemia, and living national treasure. She was one of those people where you say, “They broke the mold.” Of the Beats, one of those small enclaves of like-minded geniuses who inspire whole subsequent generations, she was almost the last remnant.

Others knew a different Philomene Long. All I can speak of, selfishly and from a limited perspective, is the Philomene who was mine. I never even met her. “What right do I have to cry?” I ask myself. “Quit being a drama queen,” I tell myself. Yet people cried for JFK and Dr. King and Princess Di. They too were iconic figures who represented something large and significant.

When I wrote that, it seemed there was something missing. I thought I remembered a message that was very positive, but couldn’t find it. Without explaining my complicated prioritizing system, and less-than-optimal method of copying e-mail into word processor documents so the memory in the e-mail program doesn’t choke, it’s enough to say I found it later, misfiled. I think it dates from mid-June. I’d written, “I hope things are going well in your world.” Philomene replied, “I have entered a new - not page, not chapter - but new book in my life. After five years of deep mourning, I have been released from intolerable pain. Not that it will ever go completely away, but now tolerable enough for me to begin work on his manuscripts - which I am doing simultaneously. My love for my husband expands.”

– Pat Hartman

We open a door
To where
There is no road

We take it

–Philomene Long

OH PHILOMENE

–Aya Rose

born on the steps of the nunnery
you couldn’t wait to climb the wall,
become the bride of god,
be safe within your faith.

your devotion devoured you
you believed it was Him--
but it was only your passion
waiting to hear from you.

you bolted the wall to freedom,
invoked poverty,
moved closer to the bare bones
of truth and tenderness.

you barely sat still
between birthings,
between the buddha’s arms,
between lovers.

you gave everything you had
and they took it all
--who wouldn’t want a burning heart
a holy muse to love you?

you brought down the heavens
and washed it clean with sea water
and like all the fools before you
melted into love.

you skated on the edge of death
blew roses over your gods incarnate,
living on the litanies of poet songs,
wearing the crown of a ghostly queen.

then love died, one by one
and you spiraled into the cold night
with grieving irish lullabies,
endlessly weeping, ashes on your lips.

did we embrace at our last meeting?
i can’t remember much--
all i recall is a pair of wild cat eyes
staring at me in a noisy darkened room
and numbness, and me wondering;
are we miles from a state of grace
or have we finally made it home?

then you were swept away--
and when i reached out
you were gone from sight;
not even a small shred of fur left
for me to cry over,
or set upon my altar...

AMERICAN SONNET (41)

By Wanda Coleman

every death a haunting/deep sleep of word
lives pass and overlap their cadence a farewell
dreamlessly streaming in slumber in rising
feet glow and drop to the floor/blooms
taking root, becoming limbs, climbing after light

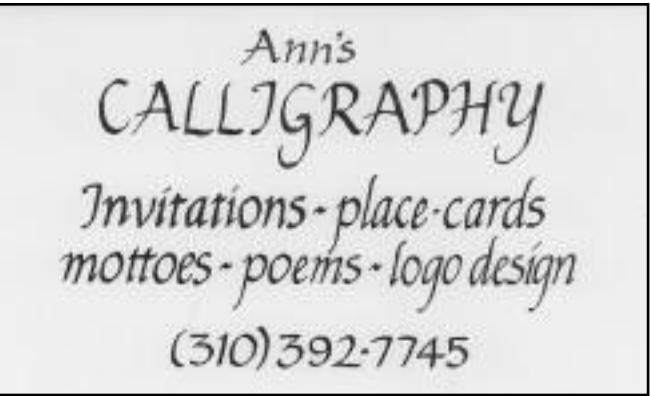
it is unfashionable to rhyme, to adorn sound with pain,
content with manner, to spitefully whisper in Spenserian ink or Shakespearean blush. it is passe to slip into paper/wear parchment’s timbre
stained saffron and rose with splendor’s overflow

crosslegged, the poet dripping moon
from spirit torn collects
the leavings of her pillow
and pens her book of stone

from Bathwater Wine, Black Sparrow, copyright for Wanda Coleman 1998, reprinted here to honor the Home Going of Philomene Long on August 21st 2007.

LAUGHED/LEFT

Not long
for Philomene Poet
of power passing beyond
gone even beyond
beyond
*
A silent pond at
midnight
Shining unseen in reply
to questioning asked by the moon –
*
Where now are you not?
–Alan Rodman



In Memory of Philomene Long

By Hillary Kaye

holy mother
church of god
speaks through her
and the blood of christ
and the blood of children
speak through her
holy mother
church of ocean, sky and birds
speaks through her
speaks through her
and she having once taken the hand of christ
has now gone free
she asked and did receive the
blood of christ
and the knowing
and the blood of children
and the knowing
and the blood of vampires
sucking the earth dry with greed
these things she saw
these things she knew
and carried like the cross she wore around her neck
these things she sang about
in a voice that carried
in a fallen beautiful world

The Decider

By Pano Douvos

Creeping capitalism creeps
Picking up momentum tum
Everything Down the USA tubes
OK once OK, now ok not ok
Now it’s A o K...courtesy of the DOD
Department of Double-Talk Now in command
DOD mimics the “Decider”

Hidden Behind curtains of Deceit
There’s slippery talk of of surge; Photos cen-
sored
Of our men facing Destruction and Death
On the Hot IRAQI sands
All for the glory of our “Homeland”
Formerly the American Nation

The Department of Double-Talk prattles
Stops just short of Referring
To our {Nazi} Fatherland
Maybe we’ll get it on the news at 11

The Final Phantasmagoria

By Rebecca LaRue

In the end
They will say that our last days
Were those fantastic flickering lights
But we will also remember-
the sickness of our breathe.
Where are the truly gallant men of modern society?
The last of whom will lean in
And sacrifice their claim to nothingness
By telling you...
“Lean in closer
Let me whisper to you a lesson~
Long forgot~ even by myself.”
“Listen~ young person
For I am elder and folly speaking regrets
That I might still have one last shot @ righteousness
I confess this to you.”
“It was not easy but when I was your age...
And I suppose now, still
In some compartment of my mind
For I feel I’ve long, gone, given away my heart.”
“Ah, but when I was young~
I was full of life, belief, honor and bravado.
The latter which became my demise~
I knew a few men~
Maybe no more than one could count on their
hands...
a few who truly inspired me.
And no it wasn’t the moron
For his mastering of murder
Nor the outlaw
for his commitments to crime and rebellion.
But it WAS
The simple few over a sip of brew and wit
Who sat spilling their truths as salient as their own
saliva.
Their little gems they left to be protected
In the ears of whom they whispered~
And of whom actually heard...
This my child they say is the last of the fantastic
flickering lights!

Up jumped the Devil

breeze in/browse around
bookstore excursion
eye corner twinge alerts and freezes me

no-
it’s him

I flash/past newspaper picture
his goofy gothic affectation
arch stagey noh-play extreme
eyebrows styled to middle point peak
comb-over black dye pixie bang
haircut
thick sideburns
only the reptillian empty eye intensity
seemed serious

the article described the former head
of psychological warfare in Viet Nam, now head
of a Satanic church faction, Presidio day care
children’s nightmares, confused accusations,
strange stories of candle lit blood sacrifice,
molestation and purple triangles, accurate
descriptions of his quarters, abruptly transferred,
he watches a missile silo in Arkansas, forgotten,
until,

he seems wired, but shorting out
samples Black Magic and Satanist books
an awestruck devotee stammers praise

“I’ve been working on the crystal balls
I’ve made three
I can’t quite get them to work.”

his idol’s eyes glint
his smile looks clammy
“yes, yes, yes”
hiss rises

“I’ve been gone,” he says from far away
“you know, I was head of psychological warfare
in Viet Nam...”
“Wait’ll I tell my wife I ran into you,”
says the little man
“Happy Halloween,” the ex-officer sneers
his lips like stretched slugs
the little man rushes out to dry leaf sidewalk

a dead shade lady shaded
black hair in her face
hovers wordlessly
his familiar

I aisle squeeze by
“excuse me,” I say
“of course,” he hisses, immune to prosecution
looks beyond me/bends to search
out odd spells

– Rex Butters

Victory

sweet
softens the bitter

Chinese saying:
100 years, revenge, not too late.
French: a dish
Best served cold

Injuries are revenged, crimes avenged

money:
the emotion of capitalism
She who laughs...

English saying:
Living well is the best revenge

–Douglas Eisenstark

Got somethin’ for you

By Jim Smith

HEY, YOU!
Don’t turn the page
Take a look at these poems
I mean, really look at them!
We’re talking about life
and death
and maybe a little love and/or sex.
you say you’re married?
It don’t make no difference
in the land of poetry.

Poetry is what Venice is all about
It ain’t the only thing,
but it’s the fundamental thing.

Man, you’re missin’ out
if you don’t know a good poem.
This is what makes us human
this is what makes us sentient beings

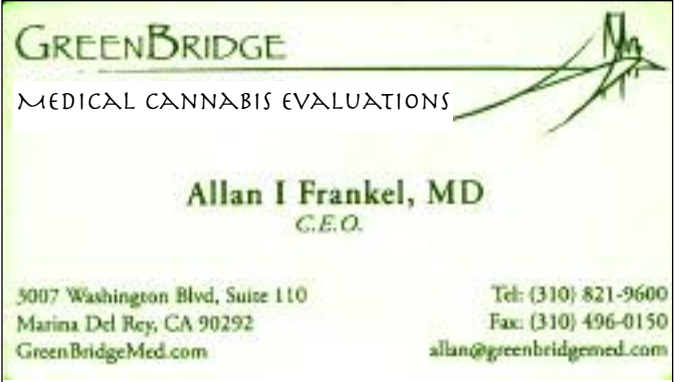
A good poem can blow the top of your head
OFF
expand your consciousness
yeah!

Want to know the meaning of life?
The secret of the universe?
It’s all right here, dude.
Don’t turn the page.

HAIKU

Inner flower folds
pearblossom Georgia tinted
nectar slakes my thirst.

–Hal Bogotch



Suzanne’s Angels – Women on the road for Women on the street

By Moira Nordholt

By the time this month’s Beachhead comes out, I will be back in Venice relishing the comforts of home. I’ll be enjoying quiet time with my kitty and savoring the sounds of my partner’s piano improvisations while cooking a meal of fall’s market bounty.

I’ll be delighting in the simple pleasures of a long hot shower, a Sunday paper and my own bed – simple pleasures made blissful by the effort required get back to them, and by the daily reminder that to be provided with these creature comforts is a blessing.

By the time you read this, I will have completed an epic motorcycle ride from Venice Beach to Inuvik, in Canada’s Northwest Territories, 2 degrees north of the Arctic Circle on the MacKenzie River Delta near the Arctic Ocean – and back. I will have logged almost 10,000 miles on my 1997 Buell S1 Lightning named Henk.

I left Venice on August 19, and today, more than a month later, I’m about five days from home – if everything goes smoothly.

It’s been quite an adventure...

I’ve ridden to the Land of the Midnight Sun, camped under the northern lights, entered (and lost) the legendary Outhouse Races in Dawson City, had my fair share of bear sightings, bumped up and back the entire dusty Dempster Highway, burned up a pair of tires, and broke down.

The other day, I rode for the first time ever in snow. I love the Alaska Highway for its stark isolation and the sheer will power it requires in foul

weather to carry on. But I had a rip in my drive belt and my tires were balding. This particular portion south of Fort Nelson was not fun.

My fingers seemed permanently frozen around the handgrips and I had ice on my rain suit, but when the snow lightened and the sun came out three hours into my ride, my spirits lifted. I became hopeful I’d make it down to Mile 0 in Dawson Creek and be off the Alaska Highway before winter closed in on northern Canada.

But right there and then, at the height of optimism at the peak of the day at the summit of a mountain pass, I hit the depths of despair. The tear in my drive belt gave way and I was flying beltless down the chip sealed road – tons of torque, but no drive.

It could have been a nightmare. But within seconds of my breakdown, the crisis was diffused by Mark, John and Richard, whom I flagged down and who thought nothing of loading my bike into their pick-up and driving me to a trucker camp down the highway where I could wait for them to stop in the following day to take me 500 miles to Prince George for repairs.

The rescue happened so quickly, I was barely able to register the severity of the situation – just how vulnerable I’d have been standing out there in bear country in the freezing cold on a highway where traffic is scarce and trucks with three willing and able guys, room in the back and tie-



downs at the ready even scarcer. It’s only now that days have passed, my motorbike is repaired and I’m safe and warm that the enormity of it all is beginning to sink in.

Before setting out in August, I started Suzanne’s Angels – Women on the road for Women on the street – to help a friend in need.

Perhaps you’ve seen her funky truck, the wooden shingled art home on wheels, or maybe you’ve had the opportunity to hear her read her beautiful poetry at Sponto’s.

Suzanne lives in her truck with her four beloved adopted cats. She lives homelessness as art, with a great deal of dignity, but five years of being exposed to the elements and sleeping in a crawl space is taking its toll.

She’s been an enormous source of inspiration to myself and many, finding beauty in the smallest details, and never taking a thing for granted. Yes, she’s the real muse behind Leonard Cohen’s poem, which became the hit song, “Suzanne” covered by no less than 20 artists since the 60’s. His ethereal description of her forty years ago still rings true. She still finds “heroes in the seaweed” and “shows you where to look among the garbage and the flowers.”

Suzanne is an eloquent writer and a sensitive poet, and has lived a fascinating life. Her dream is to have a small studio where she can make herself at home and finish writing her book.

Playa Vista Sinks –continued from page three

Article: “On The Take, LA City Council and Attorney Accused of Taking Playa Vista Bribes” May 2007)

If the environmentalists win at this point in the lower court the city must start all over again on Phase One of the Project and properly vacate the methane mitigations under which Phase One is and can be occupied. Otherwise it is most likely that the Court of Appeals will shut Phase One down for good in regard to safety reasons when the case reaches their bench once again.

The Court of Appeals does not seem like it will go easy on the developers if the most recent shutdown is any indication. It would require the disapproval of the Certificates of Occupancy if and until it is safe. This will cause a mass evacuation of Playa Vista Phase One. And I feel sympathy for the people who have been duped into spending their money on a home that the seller knew had not been proven safe to live in under California law and was clouded by ongoing litigation.

The city has allowed thousands of people to live and work there now even though it has not complied with the court order. If anyone dies as a result of a methane explosion the City Council will have real blood on its hands, not only the blood of the exhumed ancestors.

My read is that is will be a short matter of time before real crimes will be revealed in this Chinatown (movie) like real life drama.

I predict this not only because of apparent intentional violations of the California Fair Political Reform Act of 1972 but also because the Controller of the city of Los Angeles recently conducted an audit of the project ending with conclusions that were not supported by her findings. The conclusions were favorable to the multi-nationals.

First Controller Laura Chic went on KNBC TV 4 news to describe the Playa Vista audit.

Then she went on again to explain that the President of the Playa Vista, Steven Soboroff, may have intimidated her and her staff in a strong arm attempt to put a favorable spin on the audit. I recommend readers view this footage on the KNBC website to draw their own independent conclusion of this extraordinary history making footage. Go to KNBC.com, type in Playa Vista and then push the search site button. Here are some of the more disturbing quotes. The entire exchange is also in text format.

Venice Specific Plan –continued from page 5

Plan, which really is the voice of the community when it says, “you may build this high, you may build to this density.” And so forth.

The power to decide on a project with a major impact in Venice is in the hands of 15 persons in city hall, only one of which is beholden in any significant way to members of the community. That’s 15 persons who mingle daily with lobbyists who don’t represent defenders of community empowerment and the details of specific plans, but interests who would be happy if those defenders were silenced, or simply went away.

To be fair, the planning commission and city council could approve projects in Venice that blow holes in the specific plan even if the VNC board and LUPC unanimously oppose them.

However, by not defending the specific plan, and sending a message to developers that they should design their projects within the restrictions of that plan, our local representatives and ostensible voice of our community are encouraging those developers to do the opposite, and to imagine that their desire to build things that will provide the maximum return to themselves and their investors is the greater good, transcendent of any ideas the people on the ground in Venice—homeowners, renters, small business owners, workers, professionals—may have believed they were embodying in law when they participated in the process of shaping the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan.

Some have said that this plan should not be regarded as carved in stone. I agree.

But how should it be changed? Through the piecemeal granting of exceptions, or through the same kind of process of community input that preceded its initial adoption? If you believe in community empowerment in regard to land-use decisions, the answer is obvious. Open a community debate, let those who believe added height and density is warranted under certain circumstances make their case, and if it’s a strong enough case then it will attract community support. Let those who believe that the plan should be modified to attract the development of more affordable housing make that case. And what better function for the VNC than to be a facilitator of such a debate, instead of taking actions that make the system less democratic, less responsive to the community it was established to represent.

Iraq –continued from page 4

ment campaign ever & a place where they can get direct easy access to attack, kill and maim American and British soldiers. It has provided Halliburton & Friends with endless profit from the misery of troops and civilians. After all, with an endless cycle of infrastructure destruction/rebuilding who would want to kill ‘the goose that laid the golden egg’ by hastening the advent of peace to the region.

It has added greatly to the crippling of an American economy already bled dry by the greatest raid on the treasury in history.

Last but not least America, once the lamp of freedom held up to the whole world, has been magically transformed. Transmogrified to a pariah, a rogue state, universally hated, thus compromising our security at home and inviting more terrorist attacks here.

Apart from my horror at the results both on the ground in Iraq and in diplomatic terms worldwide it is our government’s manifest and absolute contempt for the American people that horrifies me the most. The fixing of ‘intelligence around the facts’ both in our entry to the war and it’s continuation is simply put an appalling affront to the generous and freedom-loving hearts of Americans. Most thinking people during the preparations for war did not need the transparently trumped up intelligence to know that we were being lied to and led into disaster.

Today we know, just as clearly, that we are being lied to again in an attempt to extend the war and squeeze more corporate profits from this blot on American history.

Do not dare to speak to us of patriotism in this cynical and benighted expedition! What we as a people cry out for here is real patriotism, and from those who have the means to effect a real change, our leaders!

Real patriotism often entails the ability to admit our mistakes and the understanding that we are not dealing with some abstract exercise in policy here but a life or death struggle for the well-being of real human beings with real lives and for the future of the world we hope to see our children live to enjoy.

The American people are pleading with their leaders. They are sick of subterfuge, weakness and contempt for their hard-working lives. They are asking “For God’s sake stand up and be counted!”

Monday, Oct. 1

- 9-midnight – Latin Jazz All Star **Bobby Matos**, Hal’s Bar and Grill, no cover.

Wednesday, Oct 3

- 7pm – **James Loran Gillespie**: Photo-Media and Films - Gillespie (in person) asks us to question our everyday responses to issues of race, region and class in representation. His collage approach to photo-media work recalls Dada artist John Heartfield. Gillespie’s hand-processed, tinted & toned 16mm films, include About Flight, Loon Lights, Towards Everyday Lightning, Regard and his recent, Shadow Tracing. SPONTO

Saturday, Oct. 6

10am - 3pm – **Rally at Mothers Beach**, Marina del Rey (intersection of Admiralty Way & Via Marina). Come celebrate Marina del Rey’s most precious public recreation asset, Mothers Beach. Rally is to oppose plans to turn the beach into a private hotel commercial area. For info or to volunteer, contact: We ARE Marina del Rey, P.O. Box 9096, Marina del Rey 90292, 306-4275 email: OurMdR@aol.com

Sunday, Oct. 7

- 7pm – **Open reading** w/ E. Amato and Amalia, Ortiz, Beyond Baroque.
- 8-11pm – **Onaji Murray** - great jazz vibes, Hal’s Bar and Grill, no cover

Monday, Oct. 8

- 9-12pm **Cal Bennett**, too funky to be smooth, Hal’s Bar and Grill, no cover

Thursday, Oct. 11

- 11:30am - 3pm – Councilman Bill Rosendahl will address the Coastal Commission (CC) regarding the Venice Overnight Parking District (OPD) at the next Coastal Hearing, San Pedro, approximately 11:30 am. Crowne Plaza Hotel, 601 S. Palos Verdes St. San Pedro. To confirm Rosendahl’s appearance, call 311.

Friday-Saturday, Oct 12-13

- **Dance Performance** – Elizabeth Leister and Rae Shaolan Blum, Beyond Baroque.

Sunday, Oct. 14

- 7pm – **Irish Poets** Fergal Gaynor and Trevor Joyce, Beyond Baroque
- 8-11pm – Saxophonist **Louis Taylor** funkcd with Kool & the Gang, the Watts 103rd St Rhythm Band, and the Gap Band - Hal’s Bar.

Monday, Oct. 15

- 7pm **Documental** – *What Harvest For The Reaper*. Social critic/film editor Larry Solomon screens his riveting film chronicling a single year-long agricultural season from recruitment of workers in Arkansas to the last day they pack their bags and move back to Florida. *The Poor Pay More* at 8:30pm. About low income families in the mid-1960’s New York City. Plus more social justice docs from 6-7pm. Unurban Coffee House.

Wednesday, Oct. 17

- 9pm – **Illmanya** - Nick Incorvaia & Josh Batchelder’s documentary on Guinea music is the story of a group of Americans whose lives have been influenced by West African drum and dance. Plus rare UK documentaries on Sun Ra- 7pm & George Clinton - 8pm. SPONTO

Friday, Oct. 19

- 4:30-6:30pm – **Iraq Moratorium** - Protest the continuing war and occupation at Venice & Lincoln Blvds. 399-2215. Third Friday of each month.

Friday - Sunday, Oct. 19-21

- **On the Road** – Three day Kerouac event. Friday: Gallery Opening; Saturday: Marathon Reading!!! Sunday: Panel Discussion - Beyond Baroque.

CommUnity Events – by the numbers



Sunday, Oct. 21

- 8-11pm – **Greg Poree**, busy guitarist - composer - arranger, Hal’s Bar and Grill, no cover.

Sunday, Oct. 28

8-11pm – **Quentin Dennard**, legendary Motown-jazz-r&b drummer, Hal’s Bar and Grill, no cover.

Monday, Oct. 29

8:30 & 9:30 pm – **Suzy Williams** and Her Solid Senders play Swing Jazz and Jump Blues. Temple Bar, 1026 Wilshire Blvd, Santa Monica - 393-6607, \$10.

Suzanne’s Angels

– continued from page 10

She has recently taken large steps toward that dream. Suzanne is presently near Santa Cruz with her truck and her kitties, trading garden work, along with her cooking and massage skills for the use of a new friend’s kitchen, bathroom and electricity.

She just needs a leg up. Response so far has been wonderful. I’ve had pledges of a penny per mile or more from friends, friends of friends, and strangers. Even Erik Buell, designer of my motorcycle and CEO of the Buell Motorcycle Company, has made a personal pledge. My goal is to have a dollar per mile pledged before the cold rains of winter begin in the redwoods near Santa Cruz. I’m almost half way there.

Whenever I embark on a solo adventure, I prepare myself with the uncomfortable reality that I may occasionally, due to mechanical failure or inclement weather, have to rely on the kindness of strangers to get me out of a jam. I sometimes have no choice but to trust in the innate goodness of humanity. Perhaps because of that trust, I’ve encountered angels every time.

I’ve set up “Suzanne’s Angels” as a group on Facebook, as well as a blog at www.suzannesangels.blogspot.com. Anyone who would like to help me help Suzanne get a roof over her head can email me personally at moira@firehorserider.com.

Location Guide

- Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd, 821-1769
- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006
- Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 306-1854, max10@electriclodge.org
- Hal’s Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 396-3105 - www.halsbarandgrill.com
- Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 Venice Blvd. 822-8392 - www.pacificresidenttheatre.com
- SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. 822.9560 x 15.
- Sponto Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave, Free, 306-7330, pfsuzy@aol.com
- The Learning Garden, 13000 Venice Blvd.
- Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. 310-606-2015

Ongoing Events

- Oct. 6-28 – **Innocent When You Dream** - Fri. and Sat., 8 pm; Sat.and Sun. matinees, 3 pm. Ken Narasaki, who also co-wrote the critically acclaimed and popular The Mikado Project, has written a new drama about a Japanese-American war veteran who finds himself returning to a lost memory, while his third-generation children struggle to interpret his wishes and unravel his past. Winner of the 2006 Pacific Rim Playwrights Award. At the Electric Lodge Tickets: 800-838-3006 or www.BrownPaperTickets.com. For more information or for group discounts call 592-1160. \$20.
- Every Tuesday 10:30 am – **Toddler Storytime!** – Abbot Kinney Library.
- **The Hasty Heart** at Pacific Resident Theatre - Running 8 pm Thursdays through Saturdays and 3 pm on Sundays, thru Oct. 14 - 703 Venice Blvd. Tickets: \$20-\$25- call 822-8392

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RUDY ACUNA

Historian of the Lions Award

Until the lions have their historians, tales of hunting will always glorify the hunter. —African Proverb

Presented by Angela Sanbrano

BARBARA & DOUGLAS HADSELL

Culture of Liberation Award

Culture contains the seed of opposition becoming the flower of liberation.

—Amílcar Cabral

Presented by "Torment of the Roses"

BARBARA KRUGER

Art of Resistance Award

The artist must elect to fight for freedom or for slavery. I have made my choice. I had no alternative. —Paul Robeson

Presented by Robbie Conal

Emcee: **Richard Montoya of Culture Clash**

Music: **THOM ROTELLA**

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DJ: **BRENDAN MULLEN**

6:30 PM: Silent Auction opens

7-8 PM: Buffet Dinner

8 PM: Program

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