

L.A. APPROVES PERMIT PARKING IN VENICE
 -see page 3

FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

SINCE 1968



September 2008

#323

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

Below: A fierce lightning storm lit up the Venice sky, at Venice Blvd. and Pacific Ave., August 15.

Photo by Jonathan Alcorn



The Situation for the Arts on Ocean Front Walk

By Samuel Brantley

The writer has experienced the change in the area's creativity from what was once free and vibrant to what is now oftentimes quite stifling under the influence of the city's approach to the new regulations on the lottery system. At first, the experience had been enlightening. It was a time of befriending and being befriended in turn. The writer began to recognize a self-imposed structure.

For those in the Venice Beach arts community, there seemed no possible better place to be, this paradise where the wind blows over and by the palm trees as the seagulls floated above. It was a carefree environment in which the sun reflected its colors with playful warmth. There existed a world of

dreams on the west side of Ocean Front Walk – the artists' side. The east side was the far-different world of the merchants, facing their own challenges of paying their astronomically high rents.

These years were filled with learning what it's like to a part

CASUALTIES IN IRAQ
 4,148 U.S. Dead
 30,568 U.S. Wounded
 Iraqi Dead: 1,255,026
 Cost: \$549+ Billion
 Source: costofwar.com

AFGHANISTAN
 580 U.S. Dead
 Sources: justforeignpolicy.org
 icasualties.org • antiwar.com

Another View of Spy Cameras

By Laddie Williams

I read and reread last month's article, *It's Spy Camera's vs. Street Dealers in Oakwood*, and I have these thoughts as a born and raised Venetian.

I will tell you that the demise of our community is not just the drugs and the homeless, it is the lack of total respect for the entire community of Venice. They complain of the drugs being sold and the people who are hanging on their corners and bringing their precious property values down, and all I can think is, what about actual humans caring about humans.

The Big Brother is watching you idea just takes me over the top because here we live in a free society and we are being watched by cameras (we have one at 678 San Juan Ave attached to a light pole), and are being told with posters with skull and cross bones that you are being filmed and this will be given to the LAPD and you will be prosecuted (check out the signs on Westminster and 6th Ave - attached to electric poles and posted on fences).

That huge grant that was given to buy cameras could have been used to assist people with better ways of living and educating them making them feel that someone behind those tall insidious fences cares, and that they are willing to assist instead of jailing people for a victimless crime. If these people care to hug them talk, to them assist them in some small way, this would be the greatest gift of all.

Please don't tell me it cannot be done because I have done it all my life and to see individuals come back and say "Laddie, you don't know what that did to me for you to hug me and say you care. It changed my life forever. I am clean and sober and doing well." That is love – not cameras posted so you can take and give to LAPD – to do God knows what with?

-continue on page 10



A home-made anti-drug sign (one of many) posted below a home-made anti-graffiti sign on Westminster Ave.

The entire vibe of our precious community has changed and "Big Brother Watching You," is another nail in the coffin of humans caring. It is being eroded away because you want to talk about property values more than human values.

Secret meetings – let me know that you have more to say behind closed 12-foot fences (illegal according to the Los Angeles Penal Code) about your neighbors who don't fit the mode and life style that you deem important to you.

Eradicate drugs? Well if that is the real attempt in the great USA/Oakwood Community we all know how the government/LAPD can end this epidemic. The cameras are a temporary band-aid to a very old, old business.

Love One Another!



BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:
Karl Abrams, C.V. Beck, Carol Fondiller, Della Franco, Don Geagan, Mark Lipman, Jim Smith, Erica Snowlake, 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, sustainers 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. No payment is made for material used.

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

Web: <www.freevenice.org>

Email: <Beachhead@freevenice.org>

The Beachhead is printed on recycled



Beachhead Sustainers:

- Richard Abcarian • Karl Abrams
- Eric Ahlberg • Linda Albertano
- Beyond Baroque • Jennifer Baum
- C. V. Beck • Sheila Bernard
- Big Daddy's & Sons
- Chuck/Terry Bloomquist
- David Brooks • Rex Butters
- Steve Clare • Stephen Cohen
- Maureen Cotter • John Davis
- Fred Dewey • Bob Dolman
- Steve Effingham • Doug Eisenstark
- David Ewing • Lisa Ezell
- Ed Ferrer • Peter R. Force
- Della Franco • Nadine Gallegos
- Don Geagan • John Gibson
- Linda Levitz Goodman
- Meredith Gordon • Robert Greenwald
- Joseph Gross • Pamela Gruber
- Susan Hayden • Jeffrey Hirsch
- Ted Hajjar • Arleen Hendler
- Dawn Hollier • Maureen Jacobson
- Hillary Kaye • John Kertisz
- Mark A Kleiman • Joan Klotz
- Ira Koslow • Larry Layne
- Danise Lehrer • Jay Levin
- Michael Linder • Karl Lisovsky
- Pegarty Long • Linda Lucks
- Stash Maleski - ICU Art • Mary Milelczik
- Debra J. Miller • Susan Millman
- Tina Morehead • Anne Murphy
- Carmen Navarro • Barbara Palivos
- Peter Pearce • Sherman J. Pearl
- Lydia Poncé • Chicago Red
- Karen Reeves • Nancy Raffaelli Richards
- Gail Rogers • Cristina Rojas
- Ron Rouda • James Schley
- Alexandria Shankweiler • Linda Shusett
- Jeanmarie Simpson • Jim Smith
- Alice Stek • Mike Suhd
- Surfing Cowboys • Ted Tannenbaum
- Carol Tantau • Swami X
- Suzanne Thompson • Venice Grind
- Venice Originals Skateboard Shop
- Venice Peace & Freedom
- Sabrina Venskus • Carol Wells
- Simone White • Nancy Boyd Williamson
- Emily Winters • Fabiola Wright

Annual Sustainer: \$100.
Individual Subscriptions: \$35/year
Institutional Subscriptions: \$50/year

Send to: Beachhead
PO Box 2, Venice, CA 90294



More on Spy Cameras

Dear Beachhead,

I noticed your first page article, written by Ingrid Boon and felt I needed to add to what she wrote. I have known about the cameras for quite some time now, and was surprised to see it "outed," even though I have seen signs posted locally. Frankly, I perceived them as a warning to dealers.

A couple of folks I have spoken to, told me that cameras had already been placed on several corners, for some time now and some had been placed mid block on designated streets, as well. I understand, more will be added over time in places they see fit. Word has it that people are working on identifying some of the people selling and buying drugs on already recorded data.

Anonymous

Long Live Poets!

Dear Beachhead,

Once again, I enjoyed your recent newspaper. I particularly found the story about the Venice Car Wash workers informative, as well as the tale of the Beachhead's beginning.

Being a poet myself, I always enjoy the poetry sections and really am impressed at how much room you give to poets and poetry. I never knew Philomene, but was very glad to discover her through your newspaper (Definitely liked the poem, "Philomene and The Lady").

Long live poets!

Krista Schwimmer

We Are All "Arch" Conservatives

Dear Beachhead,

I understand that architect Eric Owen Moss designed a 65 foot tall building for a corner of Venice and Lincoln. Regarding the project, via several emails, Laura Silagi calls attention to a statement made by this prominent architect. Mr. Moss says that the way to circumvent the NIMBYism of neighborhood activists is to call them "arch conservatives."

Some of my neighbors might be a bit put off by being called either a NIMBYist or an arch conservative. But I believe that many persons in Venice, CA will wear the badge of "arch conservative" with honor.

The arches of Venice, CA are world famous---the centerpiece and soul of our community And it's nice to hear that architect Moss is calling attention to our local architecture. So let it not be said that Mr. Moss' reminder falls on deaf ears.

Because the arches of Venice on Windward, inspired by Abbot Kinney, our founder, are so remarkable and so well known, it is appropriate to honor this feature of local architecture by convening the neighborhood arch conservatives.

Not, of course, to compare with other famous arches built or inspired by one person such as the Arch of Constantine in Rome and Arc de Triomphe in Paris. Or nature's arches such as Delicate Arch of the Utah desert.

What could be wrong in honoring our own arches? These arches here may not be so grand. Yet there are certainly more arches in one place in Venice, CA than in any other tourist destination. Well, maybe not more than in Venice, Italy. But who wants to quibble?

And what could be more fitting than to invite Mr. Moss to the inaugural event of the Arch Conservatives of Venice, CA? He can give us pointers on more ways to circumvent NIMBYism or, perhaps, bring more and more NIMBYists into the reality of Arch Conservatism.

I look forward to such an event.

Venice has had plenty of name-calling episodes as the community struggles to respond to new ideas without losing the community. I recall a time when all the kids came home from San Francisco and told us to respond to criticism with love. Let's give our critics some arch love.

DeDe Audet

With Enough Shovels

By Jim Smith

Groundbreaking for new metered parking spots on Tabor Court, Aug. 14, behind the Abbot Kinney stores, saw Councilmember Bill Rosendahl and various city of Los Angeles bureaucrats wielding shovels on a pile of dirt brought in just for the occasion. The shovels were painted gold, perhaps, to emphasize to Venetians that \$800,000 of their Surplus Property Fund had been expropriated to create metered parking, the proceeds of which will go to the L.A. general fund. According to the May Beachhead, \$800,000 was taken from the Venice fund, "to cover design and construction of urgently needed metered parking in Venice's central business district." (Tabor Court).

The short-term parking will be built on the former Red Car railroad right-of-way. History buffs should hurry to see the historic rails that remain on Palms Blvd. According to Vahik Vartanians, a Bureau of Engineering civil engineer, the rails will be ripped up. Following the year-long project there will be no reminders that we once rode throughout the Southland on fast, environmentally-sound rail cars instead of gas guzzling automobiles. Nonetheless, many in the crowd swelled with pride at the progress this project will bring to Venice.

One concern not addressed was the reduction of access to the coast due to restricted parking caused by the installation of meters in the existing lots. According to the California Coastal Act, beach access in the Coastal area (Lincoln to the beach) must take precedent over other uses of the land. It remains to be seen whether anyone will appeal to the Coastal Commission.

With only two questions allowed from reporters, it was not possible to discover whether Rosendahl publicly favors much needed affordable housing on top of the parking lots as has been proposed by the Venice Community Housing Corporation. Nor was it possible to find out if he would publicly support overnight parking for those who are forced to sleep in their vehicles.

Whether the new metered parking will help business on Abbot Kinney Blvd. as is being hyped, or will cause shoppers to divert to Santa Monica where they can park for free for two hours is debatable. One observer at the dedication told the Beachhead that businesses would be better served by closing Abbot Kinney Blvd. to automobiles. "Then people would flock to AKB for its novelty," he said.

For this reporter, this is another example of how Los Angeles continues to loot Venice of its resources (nearly a million dollars of our money will be converted into parking fees and tickets for L.A.). Rosendahl admitted to the crowd at the dedication that Venice's loss of cityhood in 1925 was probably a mistake. Will Venetians continue to beg for crumbs at L.A.'s table or will they stand up for their right to run their own affairs?



Suits and uniforms flank Councilmember Bill Rosendahl and six gold-painted shovels at the dedication of metered parking behind Abbot Kinney Blvd., Aug. 14.

Insurance Claims



- Auto
- Motorcycle
- Bicycle
- Slip & Fall
- Wrongful Death
- Dog Bites

Michael Millman
Attorney

310-477-1201

Fax 310-477-0260 • 2100 Sawtelle Blvd.
Suite #105, West Los Angeles, CA 90025



City of L.A. Approves Overnight Permit Parking Measure Aimed at Homeless but Homeowners and Renters Will Bear Burden of Cost

Appeal Period Ends Sept. 5 at 5pm.

The L.A. Bureau of Engineering has disregarded the overwhelming opposition expressed at the June 26 hearing and has approved the overnight permit parking districts in Venice. Appeals may be filed within 10 days of the date of the decision, Aug. 26.

An appeal may be faxed or e-mailed, stating the name, address and telephone number of the applicant and appellant, the date and nature of the decision being appealed, the Coastal Development case number and identification of the proposed development. When the appellant utilizes this procedure, he or she must follow up by transmitting a completed Notice of Appeal.

At the three and a half hour hearing on June 26 on overnight parking districts (OPDs), more than 80 percent of the speakers strongly rejected the city's scheme which could require all Venetians to pay to park in front of their homes. At the same time, it would force those who live in mobile homes out of their vehicles and on to the streets.

As in court trials, the decision is supposed to be based upon the facts presented at the hearing. In this case, the decision was so vague it could have been written long before the hearing took place.

Text of the Decision

The following coastal development permits (CDPs) were approved without conditions:

CDP No. 08-07: OPD 520 - Oxford Triangle Area

CDP No. 08-08: OPD 521 - Presidents Row Area

CDP No. 08-11: OPD 526 - Villa Marina Area

The following CDPs were approved with a condition:

CDP No. 08-09: OPD 522 - West Venice Area

CDP No. 08-10: OPD 523 - East Venice Area

If you would like help filing an appeal or have ideas on what should be appealed, call 310-365-0985

The following is the condition placed on CDP No. 08-09:

"Extend the operating hours of Parking Lot 800, located along Pacific Avenue between Windward Avenue and Venice Way in OPD 522, to overlap with the OPD restriction period (2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.), with a maximum of 4 hours of parking during 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m."

The following is the condition placed on CDP No. 08-10:

"Extend the operating hours of Parking Lot 740, located near the intersection of Main Street and Rose Avenue in OPD 523, to overlap with the OPD restriction period (2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.)."

A copy of the Final Staff Reports and Coastal Development Permits are available for review at

<http://eng.lacity.org/techdocslemglEnvironmental~Review~Documents.htm>

A Profile in Courage – Venice Resident, and Secretary of State, Debra Bowen Makes Good

Debra Bowen got her start in politics as the attorney for the Venice Town Council. When she was elected California Secretary of State in 2006, like any good Venetian, her first act was to ban electronic voting machines. This courageous act earned her the attention of the Kennedys. Both Ted and Caroline attended her award ceremony at the John F. Kennedy Library.

The Beachhead salutes Debra Bowen for keeping the faith!

Acceptance Speech by Debra Bowen

To the Kennedys, what a joy to be amidst your family. To the outstanding board and staff of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, the distinguished members of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award Committee, thank you for this most humbling honor.

You have caused me to think about the nature of courage, but not much has become clear.

There is one thing that I know though, and that is that courage is not the same thing as fearlessness. I am often introduced as being "fearless," but that is not true – and because I know that I have inspired at least a few young people, I feel a great responsibility to ensure that they know that fear is not a disqualifier for a life in public service.

For me, the equation is simple – I fear my own inner critic more than I fear the condemnation of others. I would rather be greeted with cynicism and criticism by the editorial board of a large newspaper than to live with the certain knowledge that my actions,



Senator Ted Kennedy and California Secretary of State Debra Bowen with the Profiles in Courage Award.

When a comprehensive review of California's new electronic voting machines revealed that election results could be altered on the new machines, Secretary of State Debra Bowen did not wait for things to go wrong on election night. . . – Caroline Kennedy

Her position was highly unpopular, but she didn't hesitate. She began the daunting task of ensuring fair and accurate voting. Last August, she courageously decided that she had to do something about it herself, and she de-certified three of the most widely used electronic voting systems in the state. – Sen. Ted Kennedy

–continue on page 10

The Never Ending Neighborhood Council Meeting

By C.V. Beck

At this meeting, (which didn't start until 7:20pm and didn't end until 10:40), had an 8-page agenda which was largely unreadable to anyone over 30. My feeling was that it was like a cruel and unusual punishment. It was dimly lit by fluorescent lights, chairs were hard and uncomfortable. The auditorium was about three-quarters filled. There were several tables in dark places with informational materials and snacks. A water container leaked all over the floor. The meeting was very slow in getting started and pretty much moved at a glacial pace for much of itself. However, the agenda was gotten through. The public had their two minutes of comment and everyone else had all the time they wanted. At 7pm, in another room, elections were going on until 9pm on other matters. The meeting was chaired quite well by Mike Newhouse.

Results of this Board of Officers meeting are as follows: Announcements were made about upcoming meetings and programs such as Emergency Preparedness and Drills, Neighborhood Preparedness Program (three Saturdays Sept. 27, Oct. 4 and 11 from 9-1pm at Fire Station 5, contact Mona Curry at Emergency Management Dept., 213-473-9921. An October Town Hall meeting and 3rd quarter newsletter were announced. Various other announcements and requests for assistance for putting away chairs were made.

There was a presentation by a representative of the owners of the Breezes Del Mar (Holiday Venice) Apartments, GH Capital, by Monique LaShey. These are 14 apartment buildings through the Oakwood area, 246 apartments within 14 buildings, project-based section 8 (low income). GH Capital wants to prepay the existing mortgages and apparently replace these with new shorter mortgages. There was present the threat of not renewing the section 8's, instead going to market rate. This was denied by LaShey.

People from the community spoke in favor of respecting what the residents of these apartments are trying to achieve in their negotiations and there was a lot of support for them from the community. There were some neighbors who spoke about drug dealing and fear on certain streets. After discussion, it was decided to hear this matter again on October 8, which would give enough time for the desired communications to occur between the residents and the landlords, with a final hearing by Board of Officers now scheduled for October 21.

The next item was the Arts and OFW Committee regarding approval of a letter of support for a Venice Beach Concert Series by Mickey Schuman to begin in September and continue through October, a total of four concerts in a pilot program.

LAPD Officer Williams was not in favor of this concert series, being concerned with public safety and crowd management. Other concerns of this nature, like parking, were expressed. The concert promoter

–continue on page 10

VENICE ORIGINALS
SKATEBOARD SHOP

1525 Pacific Ave.
@ Windward
Venice, CA 90291
310.314.1525 phone
310.396.2255 fax

www.veniceoriginals.com
www.myspace.com/veniceoriginals

City Not Policing Developer; Oxford Triangle Residents Protest

By Reta Moser

Stand tall Triangle residents. Hopefully, you are about to make a change for the Triangle in reference to JPI. Hopefully, this change will affect all Venetians...maybe all city neighborhood councils.

You with your emails; you with your protesting. Hopefully you are about to change the L.A. City Planning's ability to ever cripple a neighborhood again; you are about to see citizens take over.

Howard resident Challis Macpherson, chair of Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC), will present a policy statement Wednesday night at the LUPC that will eliminate this after-the-fact dealing without resident due diligence. See following story "LUPC Meet to Discuss Policy Affecting JPI, All of Venice."

Pedestrian fire exit gate is getting some changes from Building and Safety Inspector David Tsau. See following story "JPI Given Corrective Action Notice."

Keep your emails coming. Tell them you want the Oxford Triangle Specific Plan (OTSP) honored, upheld. See paragraphs under What We Want. Email LA Planning Director Gail Goldberg at gail.goldberg@lacity.org; Fire Inspector II Terrence O'Connell at two2802@lafd.lacity.org; Fire Inspector II Michael Ng at Michael.ng@lacity.org; Councilman Bill Rosendahl at Bill.Rosendahl@lacity.org; Council office assistant Planning Deputy Marina Martos at Marina.martos@lacity.org; Council office assistant Planning Deputy Whitney Blumenfeld at whitney.blumenfeld@lacity.org; and cc Venice Council Representative Arturo Pina at Arturo.Pina@lacity.org; LUPC@VeniceNC and Board@VeniceNC.org. More have gotten into the picture.

Sequence of Recent Events

- Triangle Update headlines story 8 August about LA Planning refusing to enforce Oxford Triangle Specific Plan. Requests residents to write in protest.

- Triangle Update newsletter of August 19 explains how residents' due diligence has been preempted by LA Planning and how this addition of gates, etc. after the conditioning process is truly a developer's delight. Requests residents to write in protest.

- Thatcher resident Mary Margaret Martinez tapes the JPI leasing agent stating that residents could park on Thatcher and use pedestrian fire emergency gate for entrance by tapping in the code. Violation of OTSP. City officials did not heed cry of residents about the fire gate being intended as or used as an entrance until they were told it was on tape.
- Mary Margaret Martinez gets residents to protest at the corner of Jefferson Way and Lincoln last Saturday.
- Berkeley resident Elizabeth Wright rallies the Triangle with her flyer to write City Hall. Requests residents to write in protest.
- Howard resident and Chairman of the Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC) of the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) Challis Macpherson is proposing a policy change that would allow the LUPC to have control over projects that have significant changes after the conditioning process.

History

The 298-unit JPI apartment house at 3221 Carter, behind the homes on Berkeley and Thatcher went thru the LA Planning process from 2003 thru 2005. Demolition started at the end of 2005, construction followed. JPI is about to get their certificate of occupancy. Many of the buildings have temporary occupancy status now. After the complete project receives a certificate of occupancy, the process of making a change to the project becomes harder.

Residents made sure during the planning years that this project included conditions to their benefit.



Protest at Jefferson Way and Lincoln, Aug. 23, against violation of specific plan.

But a fire gate at Thatcher was added by the fire department after the conditioning process even though the fire department attended all the conditioning hearings. This fire gate had a code, a keyed lock, and a handle on the Thatcher side for firemen to enter yet was a pedestrian emergency fire exit gate for tenants.

A space from the southwest corner of project to the turnstiles, passageways became evident. The fire gate had hardware to be used as an entrance. Carter from the vehicle exclusion gate at Carter-Berkeley allows pedestrians entrance. All--the fire gate, the southwest corner gap, the Carter opening violate the Oxford Triangle Specific Plan paragraph 9.C.4 that states there shall be no ingress or egress from the C4-OX (high density, JPI) to the R-1 single-family homes.

Meanwhile LA City Planning refused to allow the gate to be conditioned, require a fence at the

—continue on page 10

Presidential Campaigns Start on Labor Day – Where Will They End?

By Jack Neworth

While Labor Day is upon us, I confess that lately I've been doing very little "labor," unless you count clicking a remote control. With the Olympics, the Democratic Convention, and the U.S. Open I haven't wasted this much time since the O.J. trial.

Labor Day isn't really about labor anymore. It's a day set-aside for mattress and tire sales, barbecues, and bidding farewell to summer. With the advent of outsourcing and NAFTA, we've been basically trashing labor for the past thirty years. The first thing Ronald Reagan did as president (after removing the solar panels from the White House – what a visionary) was to break up the Air Traffic Controllers union.

Labor used to be the backbone of the middle class. Now the middle class is disappearing. The American dream included good wages so families could own their own homes and send their kids to college. Today the divide between rich and poor has-

n't been this great since the Depression. (A depressing thought.) I read recently that the average CEO makes more money in one day than the average worker does in one year. Instead of Labor Day maybe we should have CEO Day? After all, they're the one's celebrating.

In the U.S. there are far more workers than employers and far more poor and middle-class than rich. Woody Allen said it best in his 1975 comedy "Love and Death" set in czarist Russia. Boris (Woody) says to Sonja (Diane Keaton) "The serfs should rule the country." "The serfs?" Sonja asks incredulously, "Why them?" "Because they do all the work," Boris replies.

The upcoming presidential election will be a battle of working class versus ruling class. Obama was raised by a single mother while McCain came from military aristocracy. (Father and grandfather were admirals.) After dumping his first wife, he married into Cindy's beer fortune and is so rich he doesn't even know how many houses he has. (He also doesn't know the difference between Shia and Sunni or that Iraq and Pakistan don't share a border.) I say people who live in glass houses (Keating 5, etc.) at least ought to know how many they own.

Joe Biden also grew up in a working class family and currently has a negative \$300,000 net worth. As of this writing, McCain's likely VP is Mitt Romney whose father was Chairman of American Motors Corporation. Romney has a net worth approaching half a billion dollars. Of course he and McCain think the economy is solid because, for them, it is.

The late Jesse Unruh,

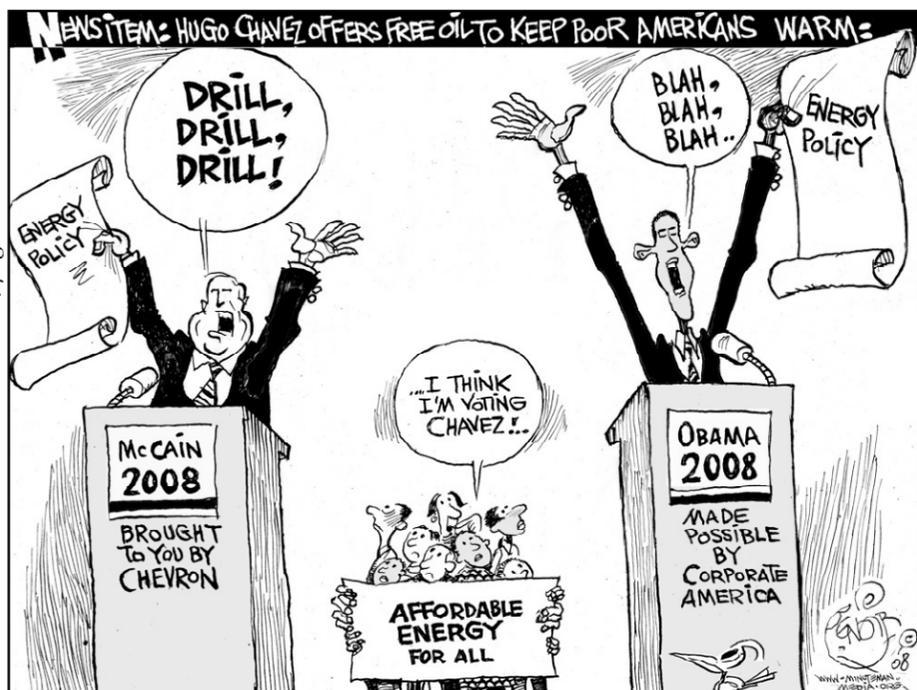
the former Speaker of the California Assembly, often said, "Money is the mother's milk of politics." Republicans always have a huge edge in money, although this year it may be different. Actually, as devastating as the last eight years have been you'd think the Democrats would be a shoe in but they usually manage to shoot themselves in the foot. That somehow reminds me of the Will Rogers' quote, "I'm not a member of any organized political party, I'm a Democrat."

Why does labor lose at the polls? For one, they don't own any media outlets. (Unless you include the Beachhead!) And, when they're tricked by wedge issues, like gay marriage, they wind up not voting their self-interest, if they vote at all. (Given the choices, who can blame them?)

The Republicans also have a huge sleaze. If mud slinging were an Olympic sport they'd get the gold medal every time. This rich (sick?) tradition goes back to McCarthy to Nixon's "dirty tricks" to the evil genius of Karl Rove. During Vietnam, Bush was a draft dodger while Kerry was a hero. To that potential problem Rove reportedly said, "By the time I'm done with Kerry people won't know which side of the Vietnam War he fought for." He was right of course.

The height (or bottom) of Republican dirty tactics has to be in 2002 during Max Cleland's bid for re-election to the U.S. Senate from Georgia. The Republicans took a photo of this Vietnam vet triple amputee and put it next to Osama Bin Laden's. Whenever anyone tells me the ethics of the two parties are the same, I ask them when did Democrats ever question the patriotism of a triple amputee. Surprise, surprise, Cleland's opponent, Saxby Chambliss, didn't happen to serve in Vietnam. (He had a rather convenient knee injury.)

John McCain promised he'd run a clean campaign. That lasted as long as it took to accuse Obama of treason, i.e. being willing to lose a war just to win an election. So much for clean. After Labor Day the race really begins. Mattress and tire sales and barbecues aside, in celebrating the holiday I only hope we remember to honor the labor part of Labor Day.



WALT - INQUIRY DETAIL - SEE CREDIT LINE, PAGE 7

Food Not Bombs – Serving the Community

By Mark Lipman

Often when you speak to people they will tell you that they “Do lots” to help the community, but then suddenly become hard pressed and defensive when you ask them to provide concrete examples. The reason behind this is that “Lots” usually amounts to nothing more than tending to their personal, private, fenced in gardens and complaining about their neighbors. The sad fact is that very few of us care anything for the well being of those around us. “Just give me my privileged lifestyle and leave me alone,” is too often the case. So it is no wonder why the media has such a difficult time finding anything positive to report. This however is not one of those articles.

If by chance on a Sunday afternoon you happen to be strolling down Ocean Front Walk, you might see mixed in with all the commercial jewelry and T-shirt vendors a small group of people up on the grass giving out free food to anyone who wants it. This group is Food Not Bombs.

Food Not Bombs traces its origins to the Spanish Civil War in the 1930's, when anarchists banded together to help feed the poor. They were later mercilessly crushed by General Franco's dictatorship, yet the seed they planted took root.

In the United States, Food Not Bombs first appeared in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1980, organized by anti-nuclear activists concerned with social justice issues. The Cambridge chapter was instrumental in helping to close down the Seabrook nuclear plant in Seabrook, New Hampshire, a small coastal community much like our own.

Today, Food Not Bombs is one of the fastest growing groups in the world.

The local Venice/Santa Monica chapter was

started in 2001 by two homeless men, David Bush and Calvin Moss, in response to their concern for the plight of the poor and less fortunate. Though David has moved on, last seen helping the tenants at Lincoln Place fight their unlawful evictions, Calvin is still there, joined by Peggy Lee Kennedy, Eden, Demetrius, Char and Karen, who form the nucleus of the local group today.

Though they shudder at being defined - there are no leaders and not everyone considers themselves anarchists - it is clear that they adhere strongly to non-violent principles and all decision making is done in the Quaker tradition of group consensus. “It is a free association,” Calvin says. “We use food as a way of protesting war and poverty.”

“There is nothing like this kind of direct action,” Peggy adds, “because you literally change the world each time you feed someone.”

Though giving out food to those in need might be considered by some as honorable, charitable work, following in the traditions of Mother Teresa, Gandhi and Jesus, there are others who would consider it subversive and even anti-American to help thy neighbor. In fact, it has been anything but easy going for Food Not Bombs.

Over the years the group has fallen victim to a string of harassments and abuses by the city and the LAPD, including the false arrest of Peggy in 2006, so much so that they recently had to sue the City of Los Angeles in federal court for a second time (Venice Food Not Bombs vs City of Los Angeles).

Thanks to that battle, which they won, anyone can now distribute food along the boardwalk and by federal mandate the new ordinance that restructured Ocean Front Walk now includes two spots, P53 and



P89 solely for free food distribution.

So, why are they still up on the grass? According to Calvin it is because the commercial vendors just move in and are even encouraged to do so by the LAPD and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Twice he was even physically assaulted by the vendors for trying to serve food in the specified locations. Food Not Bombs was told that they could get the LAPD to escort them in, but calling the same police that are harassing the very people they are trying to help they feel runs against their moral beliefs, so they stay on the grass until another solution can be found.

All in all, it continues to be an uphill battle, so much so that one could wonder why they would bother to keep fighting the system to feed others? But as Calvin says, “It just fit in with what I thought was the right thing to do.”

Lincoln Place – Housing the Community

By C.V. Beck

Ongoing events at Lincoln Place continue to be that of aggressive dog-walking trespassers and more delays in our very complex legal process.

A neighbor attended an open house on Lake Street where the realtor said, why don't they just pay them off and get them out of there so they can redevelop thereby indicating that she does not read the newspapers. Neighbor replied, have you ever been over there?, it's like a paradise!

One Sunday morning, prior to 8 am, I heard a noise in my hallway. I went outside to investigate and found at the foot of the back steps a pug, off-leash and alone.

My cats had disappeared. A moment later, a very large man with another pug, also off-leash appeared. I told him he was trespassing and he said that I was, that I was supposed to be gone from here now. I told him he was wrong.

A woman appeared with a third pug, this one on a leash. They were still in the backyard area behind my legally-occupied apartment. I told them again they

were trespassing and they needed to put their dogs on a leash and leave. We had words. The man, easily 6'5", bodybuilder, dyed black hair and the woman, average everything with dyed red hair, continued walking towards Elkgrove Avenue, telling me he was going to call the police and have me arrested for verbal abuse.

There were no sanitary products visible and no attempt was made to put the dogs on a leash. The security guards, normally visible every time I look out the window, were, oddly enough, nowhere in evidence.

On Penmar, one of our legal residents encountered a group of dog walkers well within the perimeter of the property, walking their dogs and making no attempt to clean up after them.

Another incident occurred when two women walking by with strollers were told by a security guard in a car that “no one lives here” and that they could not walk on the sidewalk. They said they were visiting and came to see me. I was outside in the “quad,” enjoying what we have here.

I gave them some Beachheads to read and they were very disturbed that the security guard had violated their civil rights as they were walking along a public street, on a public sidewalk.

In court, the legal delays continue while people seek a return to normalcy after life-long disruptions. For some, it has been 22 years of this. For me, it's only been 16 years, which is quite enough, thank you.

Update on Recent Events at Lincoln Place

A: Building and Safety – Compliance with Dept. of Building and Safety Notices:

With the help of the office of Councilman Rosendahl, Council District 11, February 13, the Dept. of Building and Safety issued a Notice to Abate Vacant Structure on all 35 parcels at Lincoln Place with vacant buildings. It said that the owner, AIMCO, must clean up the property and make it safe, AIMCO must file a Statement of Intent, and, AIMCO must repair, replace and maintain the property in good condition.

AIMCO asked for a modification and the Building and Safety Commission granted AIMCO's request to remove all fences at Lincoln Place and install wrought iron gates at every entrance for security purposes on the vacant buildings only. The tenants asked for repair of the roofs, foundation vents, and other issues in compliance with municipal code 91.8104 This is still open.

B: Current Tenants in Malibu court:

In May, AIMCO dismissed the unlawful detainer cases against the 11 households currently living at Lincoln Place, and affirmed its right to evict the tenants under the 2005 Ellis Act which the CEQA (Calif. Environmental Quality Act) court of appeal declared were unlawful. AIMCO was hoping that because they had dismissed the cases that the tenants' attorneys would be deprived of attorney fees. However, Judge Sarmiento granted the motion for attorney fees and AIMCO will have to pay both attorneys.

C: Evicted 2005 Tenants (ABC tenants with current appeals):

Six cases have been assigned to Judge Biderman and 31 cases will return to Judge Connor. The tenants are demanding that AIMCO allow these 37 households to return to their units immediately. Under the law, a reversal of a judgment returns the parties to the position they were in before the judgment. Therefore, the court can return these tenants to the position they were in on July 2005 (inside their units). AIMCO, of course, will oppose this motion.

D: Mass Action - Case for restitution and damages:

The tenants' case for restitution and damages (mass action) was filed on January 4 and amended on March 14 at the Santa Monica courthouse. Because the case involves 191 plaintiffs (147 households) who represent “the chased out,” “the locked out,” and “the hold outs,” and where the facts and legal issues are diverse and the damages are specific, the case was determined to be “complex” and was transferred to the Central Civil West Courthouse (“complex court”) on June 24.

E: AIMCO preparing units:

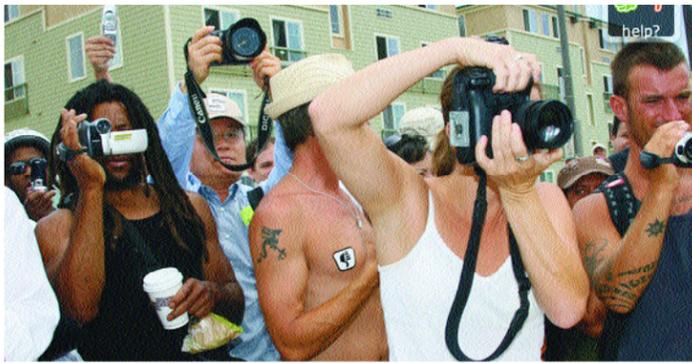
In mid-June, AIMCO began removing the barricades from the stairwells of the vacant buildings and inspecting the vacant units. Since then, the current tenants have reported people with clip-boards walking throughout the property and climbing up on the roofs. When the L.A. Housing Dept. inspector, he confirmed that AIMCO is getting estimates for making repairs to the property. Whether this new action by AIMCO is in response to the Building and Safety Dept. notices or the recent win by the tenants, we do not know.

Parade Demands Equal Rights for Men and Women to Shed Their Tops

By Edizen Stowell

In Venice anything and everything happens. On August 23, a number of men and women proudly took off their shirts and marched down the Venice Boardwalk to support a woman's right to go topless in public on National Go Topless Day.

Other cities involved included Washington DC, Los Angeles, New York City, Miami and Hawaii. Thirty to forty people participated in the beginning but the numbers grew as they marched. They chanted slogans and waved signs that read "Free your breast and free your mind," "Women and men have nipples so why should women hide theirs," "Breasts



are not obscene" and "I don't have a penis so I can't go topless."

National Go Topless day organizers and supporters question why women can be punished for appearing in public without a top while men are free to wander about shirtless.

Presently women convicted of indecent exposure could find themselves listed as sex offenders under Megan's Law, alongside rapists and child molesters. So how did they go topless? Pasties. As long as the areolas are covered, you are good to go. Their pasties, shapes as nipples, looked exactly like the real thing. Funny!

On camera and from far off distances they do look topless.

All eyes were on this crew. It was quite a scene with men's and women's breast's of all shapes, sizes, colors and ages being displayed in public. The consensus from everyone I

spoke to was a yes, if men can do it women should be able to do it as well. I didn't come across one person with something negative to say. This event brought smiles to everyone's faces. Their voices were being heard and their cause acknowledged on National Go Topless Day.

If you would like to participate and support women's right to go topless in public then visit www.myspace.com/gotoplessorg. The grand finale of their campaign will take place August 26, at the doorstep of the Presidential Democratic Convention in Denver, Colorado.

To see photos of the 2008 National Go Topless Day event in Venice, visit www.venicepaparazzi.com

Photos by Venice Paparazzi



The Beachhead versus the Corporate Media

By Jim Smith

How does a newspaper with no visible means of support survive for 40 years? For most of its life, the Free Venice Beachhead has lurched along from month to month, often begging friends to come up with some last minute money in order to have the issue printed.

In addition, there is no grey-headed, benevolent publisher who has been gently guiding our enterprise. Instead, literally hundred of Venetians have served as part of the "collective" over the years. Some have stayed on for a few years, others have been shooting stars for one or two issues.

There have been some notable and influential staff, including John Haag, who came up with the idea of a community newspaper; Carol Fondiller whose tenure spans the first and latest issues (although she took some time off in between), Arnold Springer, Moe Stavnezer, Olga Palo, Linda Lucks, Diane Nickerson, Kathy and Larry Sullivan, Chuck Bloomquist, Bob Wells, Milton Takei, Rex Frankel, Elizabeth Elder, Bill Olive (who created the first Beachhead masthead), and Brice Woods (who created the current Beachhead masthead).

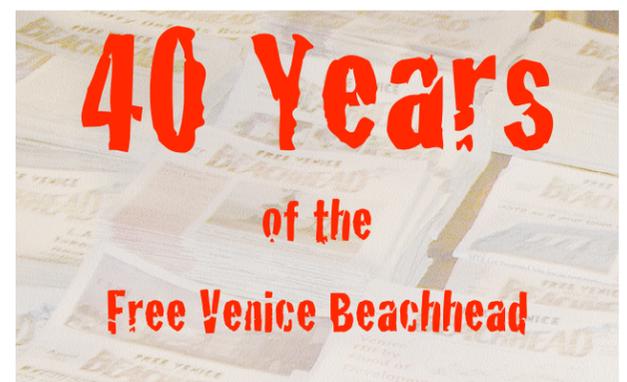
Even with such a stellar collective through the years, the real secret of the Beachhead's success has been the support and contributions from the community. In this issue, like most that have gone before it, you will find articles, letters and poetry from Venetians who have rarely, or never, expressed themselves in our paper before. In this issue, the two front page articles and the photograph are from members of the community, not from the Beachhead collective. And that's the way we like it!

Since 1968, the fortunes of the Beachhead have risen and fallen. There have been some missed issues, including a lapse of several years in the

1990s. At times, the collective has gotten down to two or three people before appealing for new talent to get involved.

These days, the Beachhead is doing surprising well. We still have no bills, except for our printer and for stamps to mail the paper to subscribers and sustainers. Lately, we've been relying more and more on our sustainers who kick in \$100 a year to keep us going. As long as we have support from the community, there will be a Beachhead. We, the collective, value your comments and criticism. It keeps us from going off the deep end, unless the community is right behind us.

Putting out a newspaper is a lot of work. There is no expectation of financial gain to keep us going. So what does keep us going? A big part of it happens when a new issue comes out. We try to have



two or three crews roaming Venice and placing it at about 125 locations. Often, we'll find someone running up to get the latest copy. Or well pass by two or three people eagerly thumbing through the new issue. As they say on TV, it's priceless!

In fact, for the last couple of years the Beachhead has been doing better than the mainstream press. Just about everything else has been taken over by large corporations. The L.A. Times is now owned by a billionaire speculator from Chicago by the name of Sam Zell (see www.tellzell.com for the lowdown). The Times has succeeded in losing about 2/5ths of its peak circulation and is forcing out many of its best reporters and editors. The L.A. Weekly is now part of the Village Voice Media/New Times Inc. The Weekly has changed from a top alternative news weekly under founder Jay Levin into a vehicle for advertising.

Pundits blame the rise of the internet for the decline of newspapers. But in our small way, the Beachhead is proving them wrong. Perhaps the problem isn't the internet, but the lack of content that is relevant to the readers. The Times has long

—continue on next page



WWII Propaganda Poster Modified By Micah Ian Wright

Just Another Perfect Day in Venice

By Carol Gronner

Yesterday was another perfect example of how living in Venice, California is often to live within a poem. It was a sunny Sunday, the kind of perfect blue sky day that prompted me to think years ago when I was just visiting, "This is where I want to live." And all these years later, that feeling has only grown stronger.

In a long held tradition of Venice pals, the Everharts and a bunch of us met for brunch at the Figtree Cafe to witness the spectacle of the annual Hare Krishna Parade from front row seats (with mimosas to match the orange theme of Parade Day). The colors of this day are a poem unto themselves.

Giant Krishna floats, bedecked with crazy balloon arrangements, the glitter and shimmer of the brilliantly-hued saris worn by women and men alike as they strolled by chanting and/or pulling the huge floats, bindis, face paint, and sparkling jewelry all bedazzled the late morning.

Bubble machines were new additions this year, lending an opalescent glow to the whole affair, and making their own commentary as to the fragile preciousness of moments like these ... when people come together, local or tourist, Krishna or Christian, homeless or sailing by in the biggest yacht we've ever seen in these parts (honestly, did you see that thing? It even had a chopper on the pad on top!), whomever you were or whatever you believed, there was no denying the spectacular blessing of being alive and in this spot at this moment.

To spotlight that feeling, I share with you a quin-

The Beachhead vs. the Corporate Media —continued from page 6

been criticized for its lack of coverage in the communities, particularly South Central and East L.A. Once upon a time, the Times had regional sections, including Westside, which often ran articles about Venice. Westside columnist Robert Scheer's articles were both timely and topical. Ultimately, he was fired by a Times management that was fearful of staff who had too much popularity with the readers.

The story with the Times and the Weekly is being repeated all over the country. The most respected corporate chain, Knight-Ridder was recently eaten alive by its stockholders who wanted more dividends and less quality journalism. The pieces (newspapers) were tossed to a ravenous pack of sleazy corporations who engaged in a feeding frenzy.

And so, it may turn out that capitalism is not the best system for creating quality newspapers and relevant journalism. What if all newspapers, big and small, were run like the Beachhead? That is, what if they were really watchdogs for their readers, the non-rich, the non-elitist, the non-jet setters of the world. What if the L.A. Times was run by a consortium of its workers and its readers? What if you could buy a voting share of the Times for \$100? What if other newspapers were run by non-profit organizations, by unions, by consumer groups? Then, maybe there would be an explosion of newspaper readership. Then maybe we could expect to read the truth when we picked up a newspaper.

Until that happens, the Beachhead will soldier on with your support. This December, we're planning to celebrate our 40th anniversary with some events in Venice. We'll have a reading by Beachhead writers at Beyond Baroque on December 13. We're discussing other events in which we can involve musicians, artists, craftspeople, local businesses, the whole spectrum of Venice. If you would like to help pull some of this off, give us a call at 310-399-8685, or send us an email at Beachhead@freevenice.org.

Hari Krishnas spread joy on the Ocean Front

Photo by Jennifer Everhart



tessentially Venetian moment, that was, by all accounts, "Perfect!" When the Krishna floats go by, the followers toss huge saffron colored carnations to the bystanders with benevolent smiles. If you're lucky, you might even get a little packet with a DumDum sucker and a tract called, "Krishna: The Reservoir of Pleasure."

It's all very "Peace and Love" and clapping and music and beauty, given to everyone present, whatever you believe in. The sunshine accentuated the colors and good vibes so much that the brightness had to lively up your spirit, no matter your mood.

Which is how what happened next happened. A lone man wearing a sandwich sign walked by right behind the last float of the parade. His sign read something about Jesus Saving. Which would be fine and great, except that you might categorize the gentleman wearing the sign as a "Hater."

He walked past yelling, "OK, NO MORE WEIRDOS!" (yeah, right!) and "I bet you're not even thankful for the breakfast you had!" Well, this was exactly the wrong spot for that kind of talk. He made completely wrong assumptions about this bunch. We are TOTALLY thankful! Without a word, people along both sides of the boardwalk threw all their orange Krishna carnations BACK upon the guy

walking by, in a pure display of "Here Buddy, have some love! Try it, you'll like it!" It was a living example of a flower stuck in the rifle barrel ... and it was good. To complete the circle of the moment, a lone toddler scampered behind in the Sandwich Sign Wearer's humbled wake, picking up as many flowers as he could hold, only to then hand them away to his loved ones. It really was "Perfect".

That was followed by a long swim in the ocean that had beckoned us from our table all breakfast long. Drying in the sun, hearing laughter and music and the distant thump of the drum circle ... it only got better. Later that night, the same group attended our annual Reggae Night at the Hollywood Bowl.

Even far across Lincoln, the Venice contingent found each other by chance as cells didn't work high up in our Party Section of the Bowl. Hugs and drinks were shared up in our nest among the trees and stars, as excellent reggae got the entire Bowl audience dancing as one. Even as the last notes were flying out across the night sky, you could sense that all of us couldn't wait to get back to Venice - thankful for another poem of a day, living in our seaside sanctuary.

Natural and Organic Herbal Farmacy

THE FARMACY™

GLOBAL MEDICINE FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

1509 Abbot Kinney Blvd.
Venice, CA 90291
Tel: 310.392.3890

Handcrafted Organic Medicine

NOW ACCEPTING EBT
1425 OCEAN FRONT WALK @ MARKET ST

VENICE BEACH
BIG DADDY & SONS
COLD, JAMBO & BUBBLE
CANDY PARLOR

www.bigdaddyandsons.com

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

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

POLITICAL CARTOONS BY AMERICA'S ONLY MUSLIM POLITICAL CARTOONIST

KHALIL BENDIB'S Newest book of cartoons

Order now at: www.bendib.com

"Your Local Shop for Scrumptious Food and Sinful Chocolates"

MARKET GOURMET

THE WORLD IN YOUR KITCHEN

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

Swami X Speaks



By Swami X

Whenever I address a gathering of the Knights of Columbo, and casually suggest the Inquisition isn't over, their rebuttal, denial and response is so heated, powerful and violent, I tap dance for 20 minutes at the Go-Go Galows County club. I am too young to die, or even get wounded. God loves them, and all the little boys who befriended them.

Why don't they let the priests and nuns marry? Have affairs, anyway. They should have heard about Jesus and Magdelana by this time. Well, it's not my

problem, I'm a Hindu and worship an incense burner, along with a couple hundred other Hindus.

I believe every man, woman and child is their own unique religion, because, everything from snowflakes to fingerprints and vocabularies are unique and different. How's that for democracy?! Of course, the similarity of Donald Trump's and Jerry Springer's sense of humor, is very close.

It has been revealed by someone who has been very close to both that BaBa's and Hillary's bush are identical. However, there is no need for such thoughts here in our elevated discussion on the Pope and His Gang. Great band title, "The Pope and His Gang".

Anyway, we're really not going to solve, resolve or change anything here this afternoon. When we finish this and send it off to our Congresswoman, who is busy doing the congress thing, and doesn't read it, the world will stay as perfect, or imperfect, as before she didn't read it. Reading is good but it's not as effective as a good massage, or a blast of Light from the pineal gland, or a well placed bazooka round, not to get religious, or anything.

The greatest thing you can do is really, truly, totally enjoy yourself, however, you don't want to over do it. I leave you with the Word of God--AUM
Peace Love and a 4-hour week. --Swami

The Shooting Star

By Mark Lipman

Once upon a time there was a shooting star. And this shooting star was very happy, because when it passed the sky at night it could see all the lovers gazing up at it in wonder. But then one night, when he was shining in all his glory, he heard a whisper from way, way far below on earth and what he heard terrified him, because someone had pointed up at him in the sky and said that he wasn't a star at all, but a meteorite.

"A meteorite!" he shrieked within himself. "How horrible!" How could it be that he was merely a meteorite? And as he listened to the voices below he began to discover.

"You see," continued the whisper, "when a meteorite passes close to the earth some particles break off and burn up in the atmosphere and that is what we see."

"What a tragic ending!" thought the meteorite in shame. A star, is the greatest creature in the universe – it gives warmth and light. Without the stars nothing could live. To be degraded to just a meteorite in a second's time – and not even that, but just a piece – just a fragment – dust – that's what he was – just the dust off a meteorite – it was more than he could bare ... but then, just as he reached his deepest despair, another, much softer, much sweeter voice rose up into the air, "Oh look, a shooting star," said the

voice. "How beautiful it is."

And with that his heart beat just a bit faster and he chanced a glance downward to see where those words had come from and at that very moment he spied the lovers' kiss. And with that he raced across the sky in a fiery red.

Just dust he may be – but that, that is what dreams are made of.

KAREN'S KARE
Loving Child Care Home

20 Mos - 5 Years
Lic. # 191609785

KAREN REEVES
(310) 390-4589

Since 1968

BEACHHEAD

Visit the Beachhead Booth
at the
Venice Music Festival - Sept. 21
Abbot Kinney Festival - Sept. 28
FREE BACK ISSUES AND OTHER COOL STUFF
FROM VENICE'S #1 NEWSPAPER

Venice Junior Lifeguards Are New Champs

By Lydia Poncé

While Michael Phelps was winning his gold medals in Beijing- the Venice Junior Lifeguards WON the City of Los Angeles Championship, Sunday, August 10th at John C. Argue Stadium Pool!!!!

Against the odds of uncertainty: the repairs needed for the neighborhood pool would simply translate into possible closure, for how long? No one knew all Summer. The Venice Jr. Lifeguards (VJL) after qualifying for the finals proved to be undefeatable and took the win for the trophy – now proudly displayed at the entrance and it is shared by all involved!!!!

Mario Jovel, the kids' VJL coach stated that his only doubts about this season's competitions were that some of the participants were off on vacation. He did not know if Venice would have enough kids to compete. But Venice arrived on the scene with a smaller, but obviously, mightier team to beat! Heats consisted of 50 meter side-stroke relay, t-shirt relay, innertube backstroke race, mask & snorkel race, buoy rescue, and rescue tube relay.

Most of L.A.'s 51 pools came to compete; over 300 kids were divided into two groups- juniors and seniors. In the prelims Venice took 7 first place awards out of 12; then swam again for finals and took first again- for a total of 5 wins! Congrats Venice VJL!

Have there been an increased amount of calls to Venice Pool with inquiries about swimming or teams since the Phelps-mania? Venice Pool staff member, Evelyn Cortez responded, "No, not really, but there are a lot more new faces coming to swim."

On August 24th, the Venice Waterpolo team took 5th place at City's Championships. Coach Chris Baele had 15 kids on his co-ed team, ages 17 years and younger. The top two pools from each region competed. The only challenge he faced this season was the kids conflicts with time scheduling, Summer school, kid's family vacation time and Waterpolo practice. We made it to

finals and we took 5th place; that is a great win by all accounts!

Kim Cardenas, the Dive team and Synchronized Swim Coach, was busy this season! Venice Dive team participants had 17 kids; six competed and two kids representing Venice made it to City Final championships- and took fourth place! Venice Synchro swim- solo performer Leslie Cardenas won first place and is this year's City of L.A. Champ! Leslie and her partner, Brielle Huerta performed a great duet and placed second for the City Championships!

Kaiser Permanent funded all of the events for the City of L.A.'s Jr Lifeguard program and swim lessons. The Junior Lifeguard programs offers kids an opportunity to improve their swimming skills, get the basics of water rescue, learn first aid, and gain snorkeling and canoeing skills. City of L.A offered scholarships this Summer for Dive Team, Swim Team, Synchronized Swim, Water Polo and staff. It is still uncertain how the budget cuts will affect the Venice Pool activities and employees.

I spoke with Venice High School's Aquatics Coach Sophie Sabbah and she shared that there are no planned closures for the pool. She's anticipating a great Waterpolo Season this Fall and Winter. She offered, "Get your kids involved, there are some spaces available on the Waterpolo teams." The teens swim 6th period at 2 p.m., daily. The Venice High Swim team begins in February. Go Gondos!!!

As a parent from Venice, I have to recommend all of these swim programs and kids can participate in a combo of any of these.

Swimming daily, five days a week, the teens are too tired to do anything else. They stay out of trouble and they gain an ideal sense of health.

I wish there were gold medals to be given to the staff at Venice Pool for their dedication and for all their hard work they have provided for our neighborhood kids and families! Congrats to all!!!

My ode to Venice

By Lola Shalom

I am a sinner.

I b I broke the 10 commandants.

I d I do not love my neighbor

H His name is Privilege.

T Three generations of Golf Course Signs

Screaming in indelible ink.

No Jews Allowed,

No blacks allowed

No, Mexicans allowed

Unless you can clean my toilet bowl.

A Platinum spoon baby Tarnishing from the inside.

No polish will shine his greedy soul.

Thank God, I do not live in his spoon.

Bully Buddy Boys in Tandem Tow.

Following orders Gestapo style, Hammering foreclosure

Voting to abolish rent control.

Bullies do not play solitaire.

Justification of the modification of the renovation.

Mutilation Crusification

Destroying Antiquity for Gentrification.

Pinkberry is here. Starbucks is coming.

All In the name of "In God We Trust"

I want my Venice back.!

Immigrants pushing baby carriages.

Wet nurses back in style.

Privilege does not know please and thank you.

Privilege knows take and take.

Privilege does not wait in welfare lines

Swindling the system just to survive.

Throwing Bottles in the trash way down low.

Poverty digs deep just to survive.

Will you please put the bottles aside?!

I am a pissed off Pussy today meow meow.

My bowl is empty and my milk is dry.

Privilege is blind, Privilege is blind.

Meditation on a Photograph of a Girl and a Dog

By Hal Bogotch

Lucy wears a blue denim hat, the brim curled up to reveal a sleepy brow, a tired paw, a weary nose. The dog, fifteen years old, is rarely seen in anything besides a simple red collar.

Her graying snout on the hardwood floor seems tolerant of the multiple affronts to her dignity: the hat, the posing, the camera flash. One sees in her dark canine eyes how she has borne the arthritic pain, the tugs on her ears and tail from a toddler girl, the loss of her dexterous ability to cavort and gambol on the leafedges of dreamtime grass.

The smiling girl, not quite three, radiates cognizance, unbridled mischief, effervescent love. The red devil fire in her eyes has pointedly NOT been converted to the verisimilitudinous s k y b l u e obtainable via Photoshop, of the Adobe family of eminently licensable software products.

Her name is Annalisa. The off-white beret listing perilously yet fashionably toward her left shoulder belongs to her mother, Laura [not pictured]. Annalisa's forearms and haunches help her achieve a masterful approximation of a foxy Cheshire hound, her youthful alertness in sharp contrast to the lassitude of the salt-and-pepper spaniel/terrier stage left of Annalisa.

The girl just wants to have fun. The dog is a prop. The hats are window dressing. The girl's smile is real, as are her enviably blonde highlights. The photographer is a wordy wordsmith, more ironic than laconic. He's Annalisa's dad.

Dennis

By Krista Schwimmer

He likes to stand on the corner of Westbourne & Melrose & play the shakuhachi flute at night, an instrument he made himself.

He is a gaunt man with deep eyes, a knapsack, & sinewy legs from biking on the streets of L.A.

Some nights i hear his music through my door's grate – ghostly notes that stretch out the night air.

Once, he touched my wrist & i felt a fire blast from his fingertips.

It is easy to see he is a man who has seen too much who has felt too much who cannot make peace with the horrors.

Oddly, i envy him tonight. He is a warrior who greets his enemy on a daily basis with only his shakuhachi flute to guard his questioning heart.

Black Buddha In A Dark Alley

By Philomene Long

"The Jewel of no price which cannot be used up... Its brilliance illuminates the Universe"
-Song of Enlightenment, The Zen Master Yoka Genkaku

I had dropped a can of Pepsi
In a Venice Alley
The spray of soda shot up
Like the universe exploding
Boiling up into the cold sky

It was then I saw him
Black Buddha in a dark alley
He walked with stony solitude
Nothing held him

Homeless
His young face eroded
An ebony rock
The black night on his tongue
He picked up the Pepsi
And began to drink

"Would you like one that is NOT broken?"
I asked this broken man
(This unbroken man)
My voice was an empty echo
As the night rolled over my eyes

His voice: "Thank you, Ma'am,
Thank you, thank you"
His stone face smiling
Into the alley resembling a dream
Turned the night sky gold
And cut the raging rock of the world

Sing

By S.A. Griffin

harvest the wind in your hair
catch the sun in your hands
collect stars in curious
nets of wonder

call eternity collect
leave a message after
the sound of
children's laughter that goes
beep in the night

invest future calendars in your
wildest dreams and then tame the
universities of hate with a
toothless chain saw

put red shoes on the blues and dance

talk to trees
plant forgiveness

give somebody your
heart's address

living song

By hillary kaye

I am so glad
I didn't buy
the boat
the place
the chair
all things
I would grow in time
to hate
all things
that would
suffocate the air
the turning
the turning
the turning
of the
universe
is with me
and its work
an effort for
my soul
the springs of time
sing out a
tune
a dancing
beating
living
song.

Dark Ages

By Jim Smith

Have the Dark Ages come again?
Are we slipping, slipping
back down the slope?
Will we never lose the mud on our feet
and rise above the clouds?

We no longer go to the moon.
The architects have lost their way.
Children envy their parents wealth.

Lost ones wander the land
not knowing who they are
or where they belong.

Hunger is loose on the world
and peace, a forgotten memory.
Mother Earth is poised to take her revenge.

Will death, destruction and despair
overwhelm this thin veneer
and send billions tumbling into the past

Are we never to stand
on a high plateau?
And look down across the ages
of war, of suffering, of confusion,
before walking forward to civilization.

hieros 19

By Marie Lecrivain

a constellation of scarlet drops
scattered
across the concrete
leads to a trail
of faded crimson footprints
that disappear into
an almost virgin wilderness
of sage, cacti,
and a lone water tower

all that remain
are signs
of the latest
attempt to
massacre and revive
a demi-god
who willingly delivered
himself
into the hands
of an internal
demagogue
who perpetually
chants the same
bittersweet
incantation:

come...

there is no god where you are
arise...

because

and awake...

where you are these will never be
viewed through
blood encrusted eyes
the blazing disk of
the Moon
might be perceived
as the Sun
but the sharpened edge
of a lunar dagger
penetrating
the shadows of
an endarkened,
isolated mind
will reveal the truth
of never-endings
that bind him
to the dust.

**this paper is a
poem**

A Profile in Courage – Venice Resident and Secretary of State Debra Bowen Makes Good

—continued from page three

or failure to act, did not come from a deep place of justice and integrity.

I know that sense of justice and fairness is what motivated me in junior high school to organize a sit-in outside the principal's office, over faculty censorship of the student newspaper.

It is why, in ninth grade, I orchestrated a protest over a school policy that did not allow girls to wear pants to school. My geometry teacher kicked me out of class for wearing pants, and I got a zero on the test. But I was not in trouble at home, because my parents had taught me that you do not have to accept the status quo if you think improvements can be made, and that standing up for what is right can never be wrong.

My family did not have a VW van with a bumper sticker that said, "Question authority." I grew up in the district of a courageous liberal Republican congressman, John B. Anderson of Illinois, whose integrity in office served as a role model for me. He continues to serve as a role model as the president of an organization called FairVote, which acts for universal access to participation in elections and majority rule with fair representation for all.

Despite my background of organizing protests at school, I am an accidental politician. I never set out to run for public office. I got involved with Neighborhood Watch in about 1987, working as a volunteer on local issues, and one thing led to another. I was simply too naïve to know that you didn't just run for a seat in the California Legislature, and so I did in 1992 and, as they say, the rest is history.

But I learned growing up that nothing happens by itself, that citizens must act if they desire change. During my three years at the University of Virginia law school, I became aware that democracy itself does not sustain itself – that, as Thomas Jefferson said, eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. And I am sure this is what John F. Kennedy meant in noting that democracy is not a "final achievement," but rather "a call to an untiring effort."

While democracy does not sustain itself, it is self-correcting over time.

As a nation, we are prepared to fight for our ideas, to vote, and then to accept the results, win or lose, knowing that the discourse will continue and that the next election will present another opportunity. And in trust of this, we have laid down arms, turning to ballots rather than to bullets to further the choice of leadership in our country.

But that only works if citizens believe that our elections are free, fair, and open, and if citizens can verify for themselves that the results are accurate.

My task as Secretary of State is to ensure that the fundamental tools of democracy – our voting systems – are up to that extraordinary responsibility.

That was the basis of the first-of-its-kind top-to-bottom review of voting systems that I commissioned in 2007. I wanted – on behalf of all voters – to know whether the systems we use to cast and tally our votes are secure, accurate, reliable, and accessible.

I invited the public to participate as fully as possible. I am grateful to all of those who criticized and commented, including elections officials in California, who helped me self-correct in the very design of the review.

The proprietary software itself poses a particular challenge. If people themselves are not allowed to analyze the computer code running the system, and 99% of people could not verify that the code accurately reflects the will of the people even if they could see it, how could I, as the chief elections officer of California, give them nothing more than a request to "trust me?"

Our democracy is not built on trust alone. The checks and balances – the mechanisms of self-correction – anticipate that errors in judgment will sometimes be made and that trust will sometimes be violated, but that the system will be tough enough to discover the truth and to recover its bearings.

With the scientific analysis of the top-to-bottom review as my guide, I chose to favor the transparen-

cy of voter-marked paper ballots, which can readily be recounted, coupled with the accuracy and speed of the computer to do the tedious work of counting multiple races. I required strict post-election audits, to make sure that the scanners and all the computerized equipment have performed correctly, because that's something we cannot know simply by observation.

That meant sidelining some expensive equipment, but how do you argue that voters deserve less than the best we can provide?

Our work on California voting systems is only the beginning of my pledge to work for a system that moves us towards President Reagan's abiding principle: Trust, but verify. Play, but cut the cards.

It is up to each and every one of us to cut the cards as we continue the work first begun by our nation's founders over two centuries ago. Had our democracy not evolved, more than half of the people in this room and in this country, would not be voters – because you had to be white, male and, in most states, own land in order to vote. Of course, we have evolved to include all citizens in our electorate, and we must continue the quest for progress in all aspects of our government.

I have been inspired by the grassroots and the netroots who have pushed for a voting system worthy of our democracy. I would not have run for the office of Secretary of State without their encouragement, support, and hard work.

So I will accept this award on behalf of every person who believes that there is nothing partisan about ensuring that every eligible voter has the opportunity to vote, and that every ballot is counted as it was cast.

And I share this award with every voter who has had the courage to question our electoral process, and with everyone whose untiring effort protects the integrity of our democracy.

The Never Ending Neighborhood Council Meeting

—continued from page three

assured people that there would be security backed up by the police, parking would be finessed and he did not envision untoward events. After more discussion it was approved, with four separate permits but would not set any kind of precedent.

In public comment, Dennis Hathaway, East Venice, spoke about 2 pieces of land belonging to the City in the Venice Trust, which he felt would be good to use for open space, community gardens, parks or affordable housing, once it's gone, it's gone forever. Mark Lipman spoke about opposing the war, forming an antiwar committee and was shut down after his two or three minutes were up. He was told that he could put his comments on the email and it would be available in their entirety online. A speaker from Venice 2000 stated that they needed help from the VNC with the mayor and Councilperson Rosendahl in continuing funding for their programs in Venice. Also that the Senior Citizen Prom will be held on September 27 at the Oakwood Rec Center.

In the matter of 660 Venice Boulevard, a presentation was made regarding this proposed art gallery by "L&M, LA, LLC" and was approved with conditions regarding lighting, parking and valet parking. Also a historic plaque commemorating Ray Bradbury is to be displayed in a publicly visible location.

Regarding 612 San Juan Avenue, recommendation was made by the LUPC that this fence variance be approved because of extenuating circumstances. After much discussion, included more reports on drug dealing on this street, this was approved.

Mr. McKomis spoke about drug dealing and hostility in this area. Phyllis Des Verney spoke about her experiences. Jed Parker said this variance was setting a precedent even though the Fences and Hedges Subcommittee has not yet finished its work.

In the matter of the elections, the ratification of Hugh Harrison was approved. The other four items, regarding proposed bylaws changes failed per vote of the people present at this meeting, after the elections in the separate room, held at the same time the Board of Officers meeting was being held. This room, also was not well lit. You had to stand or sit facing the people running the election, not a comfortable situation not private either.)

Item D3, Marina Pacific hotel was discussed at length and was denied. It was stated that the applicant had been asking "for the moon."

In public comment, Jed Parker expressed his belief that with the board actions regarding the fence variance, that precedence has been established and that the Venice Neighborhood Council does not care about the law. Meeting ended at 10:40 pm.

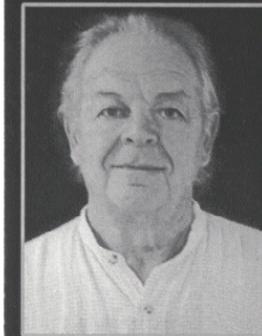


Aerial view of canals in central Venice. They were filled in when Los Angeles annexed Venice.

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

Douglas Eisenstark L.Ac. acupuncture and herbs safe, compassionate care for appointments: 310.403.7018

Practicing in Venice and Santa Monica since 1996.



OJAI
PROPERTIES, INC.

JOHN KERTIS, President
Licensed Real Estate Broker
& Licensed Loan Officer

tel: 805-640-1508
cell: 310-666-3282
JKertis@roadrunner.com

—continued from page 1

of the greater collective, humanity itself.

The artists were a tight knit group organized around the ideal that they were making a difference with their actions as they tried to keep the spirit of those who came before them alive.

The Venice arts community at the beach was identifiable according to the particulars of their output. It was free and without leadership. The vibrancy of art permeated the local and the wider community. Encounters with different artistic traditions brought greater self-realization. It was a time for passion.

Things changed after 2005 with the coming of the first lottery system for assigning spots for artists and performers. The lottery was seen as the solution to various complaints. However, with the new system came its enforcement. The artists were told they must conform or else there would be a police-enforced response. Many of those in the arts community understood the new system to be the bully approach.

The city seemed to be ignoring that that community had built the Venice arts environment into the free, vibrant, and dynamic scene that it had become. There was a growing sense of outrage over the city's lack of recognition of their contribution to an arts scene that had established an international standing. The truth is that these artists represented the continuing spirit of Abbot Kinney and Arthur L. Reese from 1914. The city must learn that this free spirit is something to treasure rather than to suppress.

The beach had long been in the vanguard of free speech, which was under attack. That attack intensified with a new and harsher lottery system that was forcibly put in place in 2008. The new system attempted to place the artists, performers, and others into a framework of an I zone and a P zone. Not only is the new system very confusing to artists including the writer, even the police admit that they do not understand it. When questioned about the meaning of the newly posted signs, they say they are not exactly sure of what is required. As a consequence, they do not use the language of the signs for guidance. However, the city attorney has encouraged the police to break the remaining spirit of Abbot Kinney. Many in the creative community responded as best they could, but others stood by and watched as the police roused the guardians of that spirit. This may have represented a planned divide-and-conquer strategy by the city. The city seemingly rejected the community's intention to work with it.

By way of background, the lottery system seems to have sprung from a new and repressive attitude by some of those in power. One freelance writer for The Los Angeles Times wrote a story on the Venice beach caretakers, whom the city had begun to see as a wild and bizarre bunch who were more a blight than a delight. This was reflected in the contract the city wanted the caretakers to sign in order to be able to use the west side of the walk. Once in place, the lottery system employed the police to break the spirit of the arts community.

The sudden increase in police oversight led to the city's representative meeting with some of those in the arts community. However, the meeting was inconsequential because of the absence of the city's real leaders. Soon those who had been free-spirited artists were being cited by the police for violating the new rules.

The artists of Venice Beach were told to give the city time to adjust its plan. But from the first the plan was doomed because there were no competent leaders to develop an effective plan. Instead, the plan went forward with the apparent mission of pushing the artists away from Venice beach. After all, they were seen as little more than troublemakers.

The artists felt they could not be wrong for protecting a dead founder's wishes. Those who read the new regulations as summed up in handouts and posted on signs were troubled by the city's apparent willingness to ignore previous commitments of a lifetime agreement and to force artists to give their work for free to anyone who asked for it. It seemed that the city was willing to break the law in order to break the artists. In 2008, the police have been treat-

ing the artists as vagrants to be pushed around, lied to, and threatened. There must be more for the police to do at Venice beach than harassing and ticketing artists.

The new twist on the lottery came at the same time as the boardwalk was redesigned with new trash cans spaced 30 feet apart. Their design makes emptying them difficult and the result is that accumulated trash and dog waste can sit rotting for weeks and drawing vermin until the city gets around to emptying the containers. By now nearly everyone has noticed the infestation of Venice beach with biting flies, which had never been a problem in past years, but the city has ignored the problem this year. A further consequence beyond the degradation of the environment for the artists and visitors is that there is much less space available for artists to present their creations.

The handouts and signs summarize the ordinance as requiring the restriction of free speech and the loss of the right to private property. The activities allowed in any spot are prescribed and proscribed. Artists are forced to give away their property to anyone asking for it, even to their competitors. Beach users get this art in the name of the city, but the cost is borne by the artists. How can it be constitutional in America to force people to give away their private property to others? Artists cannot be expected to work for nothing. It must be remembered that the artists at Venice beach have become a tourist destination known around the world. The artists are already doing their part to support their city. Yet, those who resist are arrested, handcuffed, and treated like common criminals. It must be remembered that the original lottery system of 2005 had promised the artists that the agreement was lifetime. However, the new system overturned the protections of the original one, leading to the ex post facto problem. The city had unilaterally terminated a lifetime agreement with the artists without their permission. That was unfair. Years before there had been a permanent injunction granted to protect free-speech rights at Venice beach. That injunction remains in force, but the city seems to be covering it up and confusing its citizens. To the extent the city itself is a lawbreaker, the city is an outlaw and its officials are criminals who are abusing their power to serve the community.

In response, a small group of artists has made citizen arrests of those who violated the lifetime permanent agreement of the first lottery. At City Hall their names were called out, but they did not flee. So they remain under arrest according to law. The artists are seeking that the city attorney enforce these citizen arrests.

Currently, 75 artists have asked the U.S. Attorney's office to enforce the laws. The police are only doing what the city asks of them. However, the abrasive contacts between police and artists are shocking and traumatizing to the artists.

Of course, conflicts with police often lead to deaths in this city. Artists have begun to think about what these conflicts might mean for them. Artists deserve greater appreciation and respect. They are merely trying to make a living in these difficult times. The city should treasure them, not disrespect them.

A balance needs to be found between the interests of the city and those of the Venice beach community. The present tumult is an unnecessary complication. There are two renowned artists of Venice beach who should be turned to: Larry Bell and Robert Graham. They live and work near the boardwalk. Both are supporters of the artists of Venice beach.

In order to deal with this festering problem, the city council should show leadership by putting together a team to allow Venice beach to continue to be the artistic showcase that has been its tradition. The city's actions to this point suggest the existence of a hidden agenda of pushing the artists out so as to benefit some more powerful and influential constituency.

Samuel Brantley has been a California State Assembly-appointed Commissioner of Art, Music and Culture since 2005. He is writing from the point of view of one who has been homeless in Venice for the past six years and is a witness to the area's transformation.

Triangle Residents Make Loud Statement

—continued from page four

southwest corner, require a fence from Carter-Berkeley vehicle exclusion gate to southwest corner of Brennans' Pub, all in accordance with the OTSP. Planning's claim was that they had an "unwritten policy" preventing such conditioning after the conditioning process. This "unwritten" policy violates a City Ordinance, the Oxford Triangle Specific Plan, 170.155. This violation turns into a developers delight and denies the residents of the Triangle due process.

What We Want

Fire Gate—We want all exterior (Thatcher side) hardware removed. It is a pedestrian fire exit gate. We want signs on interior and exterior stating that this is a fire gate, for fire only. We want the gate hot-wired with a loud siren so that the gate will not be accessed casually. We want the fence next to the gate to be high enough so that one cannot step over. We want the gate tall enough to prevent someone on Thatcher side from leaning over the gate and hitting the handicap bar. We want mesh surrounding the gate to prevent one from opening from the Thatcher side.

This was done for Mirabella after the conditioning process in 1998, prior to certificate of occupancy, for four fire gates on Thatcher...32 feet from JPI project. Present LA Planning "unwritten" policy is not to condition such.

Safety Issue—Understand that this gate is rear access to 16 homes that abut the property. It is a safety issue. Mirabella and Marina Point have both had experiences of burglary, robbery, etc using fire exit gates not properly attended. Robbers enter/exit via fire gates and enter/exit via Triangle. Sixteen homes are accustomed to commercial establishments behind their homes having security. Southpark had security guards 24/7. When building was abandoned, fire resulted. All sixteen homes were in jeopardy.

A casually opened fire gate is an invitation for access.

Southwest Corner—We want a fence from southwest corner of building to turn still. Two motorcycles and a motor scooter were photographed Saturday accessing the Triangle via the gap. This is a violation of the OTSP.

Carter—We want a six-foot cement block fence from the vehicle fire gate at Carter-Berkeley to the edge of Brennan's Pub. Right now a chain and two white plastic water containers are the only thing preventing vehicle access; pedestrian access is without problems. Part of property will revert to Brennans' Pub but it had a fence before. Return what was there. We want it fenced to prevent pedestrian and vehicle access into the Triangle in accordance with the OTSP.

JPI Given Corrective Action Notice

Building Inspector David Tsau issued a notice for corrective action to JPI to blank out the code portion of the hardware on the pedestrian fire emergency exit gate and to put signs on both sides of gate.

The sign on the project side of pedestrian fire emergency exit gate will say "Emergency Exit Only." The sign on the Thatcher side of gate will say "Fire Department Access Only."

Experience of Triangle residents is that if management has a key, the door will remain open or it will be opened for convenience of management.

Triangle residents see this as an entrance in eyes of JPI. The sixteen homes abutting property consider this a high priority safety issue.

Also at issue and remedied this week was the right side of the gate that was open, without a fence. A cement block wall was added; the wall would have allowed anyone to walk up to wall and step over fence. Fence height was increased on right side to prevent such and mesh was added to prevent one from hanging over to hit the push bar.

The perplexing part of this gate is that L.A. Planning says it is for the safety of the tenants to get out. Fire department says it is necessary for firemen to get in. Next to this gate on Thatcher is the vehicle fire gate. Don't firemen arrive on fire trucks? If they enter via the vehicle fire gate, they can use the push bar on the project side to open gate. Or are they going to be fighting tenants in flight. Firemen rushing to get in; tenants rushing to get out, particularly the handicapped. Something is wrong with this picture. Since when do firemen need both vehicle fire and pedestrian fire gates for entry?

CommUnity Events – day by day

Sunday, August 31

- 1-7pm - **The first annual Sunset Sale.** A portion of proceeds to benefit The Arts & Youth programs in Venice. Serving veggie grills, umbrella drinks and lively music. 1644 Abbot Kinney Blvd.

Monday, September 1

- 10am - **March, Rally and Picnic in honor of Labor** - March: 10am at Broad & E Street, Wilmington; Rally & Picnic: Banning Park in Wilmington (off of "M" Street & Avalon Blvd.) Contact: Labor Day Committee at 562-595-1891



Tuesday, September 2

- 6-8pm - **Marshall McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club.** Lloyd Taber-Marina Del Rey Library. 4533 Admiralty Way.

Wednesday, September 3

- 7pm - **Land Use & Planning Committee** - Westminster School Auditorium, 1010 AKB.

Friday, September 5

- 5pm - **Last day to file an appeal against permit parking in Venice** - 365-0985

Sunday, September 7

- 5pm - **Champagne & Chocolate Anniversary Fundraiser for Venice Historical Society.** Classic movie clips filmed in Venice. Followed by a silent auction and champagne and chocolate. Members \$50, non \$60. Electric Lodge.

Wednesday, September 10

- 7pm - **Anti War Concert and Fundraiser.** Film screening at 8:30pm plus special guests. Organized by Escalate Peace. Donation at door. No-one turned away. At Beyond Baroque. Information: escalate-peace@yahoo.com



Friday, September 12

- 7pm - **Venice Town Council** - Become a Councilmember just by showing up! - United Methodist Church auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd.



Saturday, September 13

- 9am - **Friends of Venice Library Book Sale.** Come early for best selection. Abbot Kinney Library.

Sunday, September 14

- 1-4pm - **MOM (Meetings of Minds).** This stimulation soiree series promotes discussion to reveal the hidden effects of what humans have invented. Blankenship Ballet Studio. 132 Brooks Ave.

Tuesday, September 16

- 7pm - **Board of Officers, Neighborhood Council** - Westminster School Auditorium, 1010 AKB.

Saturday, September 20

- 7:30pm - **Maureen Cotter** reads Prison Stories. Prison attire, party after. \$10. Beyond Baroque.



Sunday, Sept. 21

- 2-6pm - **Venice Music Festival** - Latin Reggae, Afro-Cuban Salsa, Donation \$10 - 11am: Champagne Brunch, \$125, RSVP - 743 Palms Blvd., 399-4100 - www.vch-corp.org

Tuesday, September 23

- 8:30pm & 9:30pm - **Suzu Williams** and her Solid Senders. Swing Jazz & Jump Blues. Temple Bar, 1026 Wilshire Blvd. \$10.

Wednesday, September 24

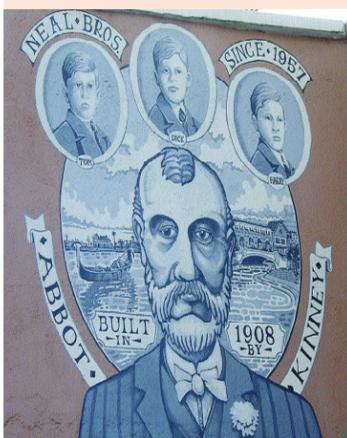
- 7pm - **Land Use & Planning Committee** - Westminster School Auditorium, 1010 AKB.

Saturday, September 27

- 7pm - **Senior (Citizen)** Prom. Oakwood Recreation Center.

Sunday, September 28

- 10am-6pm - **Abbot Kinney Blvd. Festival** - Hundreds of vendors, thousands of people, plus music.
- 11am-6pm - **Benefit for Chiquele's Studio.** Enjoy art and music with special guests. 351 Sunset Ave. 213-858-3668.



Ongoing Events

KIDS

- Ongoing - Kids, if you are between three and five years old, your parents can register you for **Head Start** Preschool. It's free and there are two locations in Venice. Call 397-2659 or 399-3371.
- 3:30 - 5:30pm, Sept. 24 - Jan. 28 - **Middle School Youth Create, Explore and Perform!** - The program culminates with youth creating and performing in their own original plays about issues of importance in their lives and community. Enroll NOW. Venice Center for Peace with Justice & the Arts. 2210 Lincoln Blvd. 397-8820 ext 104.

MUSIC

- 8-10pm, every 2nd Thursday - **Live Music at Danny's Deli**, 23 Windward Avenue.
- 12-2pm - Every Thursday. Come by for lunch and enjoy Joe Banks and Friends on the back porch. Blues and Jazz. Uncle Darrow's. 2560 Lincoln Blvd.
- 8pm - Sunday and Monday - **Live jazz.** Hal's Bar and Grill.
- **Live Music at The Good Hurt**, 12249 Venice Blvd, See week of events at - www.goodhurt.net

THEATER

- 8pm, Sept. 26 & 27; 2pm, Sept. 28 - **Mariama: A Tale of Freedom and Grace.** A solo show written and performed by Marian Olikier. Electric Lodge.
- 3pm, Sundays, Sept. 7 - Oct. 5 - Two short plays by Glenn Hopkins: **The Underbelly of Genius: Three Made Only of Clay** (Gershwin, Lorca, Wittgenstein) and **Mrs. Roosevelt** - in English at 3pm, then Japanese Sept. 7; Farsi Sept. 14; Russian Sept. 21; Korean Sept. 28; Spanish Oct. 5 - The Venice Mootney Garden Theatre, 2508 Stoner Ave. Money raised will cover the translations: \$20 (discounts available) entire program; \$5 sep. admission at 4:40 for Mrs. R. encore - www.mootney.org - 478-7379.
- 8pm, Thursday, Friday and Saturday - On-going until Sept. 13. **"Cemetery Golf"** - A one man show starring Jim Loucks. \$15. Beyond Baroque.

MEDITATION/YOGA

- 6pm - Monday and Thursdays - **Hatha Yoga** - Vera Davis Center, 610 California Ave. Donation.
- 9-10am (ish), Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays - **Stand-Up Comedy Yoga** on the beach with Vanda and Friends! Rose Ave and the water's edge. 360-789-1466.
- 7-9pm, Wednesday - **Maha Siddha Yoga** with Swami. Indian veg. feast after class. 14 Wavcrest Ave #2. Free.
- 7pm - Mondays and Wednesdays. Angela Auer offers **core fitness classes on the beach** by donation only. Westminster lifeguard tower. Contact: fitnessbeach@hotmail.com

FREE FOOD

- 3:30 - 5pm, Every Friday - Veggie giveaway. Vera Davis Center, 610 California Ave.
- 5pm, Every Thursday - Food Givaway - Donated by the Venice United Methodist Church. In the parking lot.
- 2-5pm, Every 4th Saturday - Free hot meals. First Baptist Church of Venice. 685 Westminster Ave.
- 12:30-1:30pm, August 14 and August 28 - Community food distribution project. Hosted by Mildred Crush Foundation. First come first served. Vera Davis Center. 610 California Ave.

Get your local event listed in the Beachhead. Send information to Calendar@freevenice.org by the 25th of the month. (If you can afford an advertisement, please take one out - \$25)

Location Guide

- Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd, 821-1769
- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006
- Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey. marinadelrey.lacounty.gov
- 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, 399-2078
- The Gathering, 132 Brooks Ave. 310-396-8205 - www.udcworld.org/thegathering
- United Methodist Church and Auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. (at Victoria).
- Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave.) 606-2015

16th Annual VENICE MUSIC FESTIVAL

FEATURING:
Punky Latin Reggae Rockers Mandorico
and Afro-Cuban Salsa Band Sono-Lux

Plus
Jazz at Palms Court Champagne Brunch
Featuring: Jazz Vocalist Cathy Segal-Garcia

Call for Tickets or Info. 310-399-4100 ext. 103 or Marlies@vchcorp.org

Food and drinks available during Music Festival. Silent auction all day.
Jazz at Palms Court Champagne Brunch: 11am - 2pm. Community outreach and fundraising celebration. By reservation only. Tickets \$125
733-743 Palms Blvd., Venice - between Lincoln & Abbot Kinney Blvd.

Benefiting Venice Community Housing Corporation



2pm - 6pm
Suggested
Donation \$10

SUNDAY
9/21
2008