

THE
FREE VENICE

BEACHHEAD

NUMBER 7, MAY

1969

FREE TO VENICE RESIDENTS



BULLETIN: SHOWDOWN ON MASTER PLAN PUT OFF TO MAY 29

The Venice Health Council on April 21st elected Mike Stark of the Venice Survival Committee to replace a member of the board of directors who had resigned. The board then elected Peggy Simon president of the Council.

◆In the wake of the police attack on Venice beachgoers, a hastily called meeting of community activists on April 21st decided to establish a community bail fund. A benefit for that purpose was held on April 26th at The People/Venice and the Walrus on W. Washington Blvd.

◆A meeting of attorneys and residents on April 22nd resulted in coordinated efforts by Neighborhood Legal Services, the FREE VENICE Legal Committee, American Civil Liberties Union and the West L.A. public defender's office to defend the victims of police violence on the Venice beach. Besides individual defense, an attempt will be made to prevent prosecutions by challenging the police contention that the April 20th gathering was an illegal assembly. Victims, witnesses and volunteer attorneys should call 392-4177 (days) or 399-7681 (until midnight).

◆Rick Davidson, convener of the FREE VENICE Organizing Committee and a member of the community advisory board of the Neighborhood Legal Services, was arrested and beaten at the Venice jail on April 26th by Los Angeles police officer Howard Leader (badge number 4815). Rick was driving through the beachfront area announcing with a bullhorn that complaints of police violence and other illegal acts were being recorded at the office of Neighborhood Legal Services. Immediate response by community activists resulted in Rick's release 3 hours after his arrest.

John Haag, Venice community organizer and co-chairman of the California Peace and Freedom Party, described Rick's arrest as "a direct attack on freedom of speech consistent with police attacks on freedom of assembly accompanied by brutality, threats, illegal arrests, lies by police officials and theft of property by L.A. officers."

◆Members of the Venice PFP, Venice Survival Committee, FREE VENICE Legal Committee and the L.A. Free Press staff agreed on May 3rd to cooperate closely in planning future events in Venice in order to prevent police attacks, produce "peace and harmony" among participants and provide help to police victims.

◆Anna Haag, chairman of the FREE VENICE Art Festival Committee and a member of the Venice Health Council board of directors, was bruised and arrested April 18th by L.A. police officers Jones and Flemming after she asked the charges against several juveniles in custody at Rose Ave. and Ocean Front Walk. The juveniles were released, but Anna was charged with interfering with an officer. She pled not guilty and will be tried at 8:30 a.m. on May 26th in Division 63, West Los Angeles. FREE VENICE attorney Paul Abram will conduct the defense.

More than 20 persons protested Anna's arrest that evening. On April 19th, more than 75 persons joined a rally by the Venice Survival Committee at Rose and Ocean Front, then walked 2 miles to the Venice jail to protest police brutality and to demand the removal of Capt. Robert Sillings, commander of the Venice Division, L.A.P.D. Venice Civic Union president Stan Roberts joined police observing the protest.

◆Members of the Canal Emergency Action Committee, which won a 30-day delay and elimination of peripheral property owners from the Canal Assessment District, are now facing reprisals from (mostly absentee) landlords in the form of retaliatory rent increases and evictions. The FREE VENICE Legal Committee has offered to defend residents from reprisals because of exercising political rights.

SIC-SIC-SIC

Why don't you encourage youth to obey school authority, clean, get hair cuts and shaves. Leave the running of L.A. and Venice to people that are more qualified to do so if your writers were so smart why aren't they holding public office instead of being too (sic) bit wise crackers. Our Venice Police is good I only wish they had full authority to punish the people who break the law

◆A charge against Anna Haag of providing live entertainment without a police permit at a party to benefit BEACHHEAD was dismissed on April 21st by West L. A. Judge Barker. In granting the dismissal motion by defense attorney Paul Abram, the judge commented that he did not feel the situation described by police was the kind of thing the City Council meant to regulate by requiring cafe entertainment licenses.

◆The Penmar Neighborhood Association meeting on April 29th voted against any freeway in Venice and made several other proposals contradicting L.A.'s plan for Venice. The group joined with Citizens for Oakwood and the FREE VENICE Organizing Committee in demanding that the May 29 hearing of the City Planning Commission be held in Venice during evening hours. (The demand has been ignored by the Planning Commission.)

The Penmar group declined to discuss the F.V.O.C. policy by which each neighborhood should develop proposals for its own area. The various proposals would then be coordinated and carried out by Venice residents, using their existing skills or producing needed skills through training programs.

◆A "No War Toys" sandcastle and kite festival will be held on Sunday, May 11th, on Venice Beach at Brooks Avenue. Participants are invited to bring kites, shovels and friends. Balloons sand, sea and sun will be provided.

◆Venice PFP members announced that a statewide Peace and Freedom Party conference on organizing will be held over Memorial Day weekend in Malibu. The conference will be educational, emphasizing practical techniques of organizing. For information call 399-7681 between noon and midnight.

◆On April 30th the Latin American Unity Council, a broad coalition of Latin American organizations in the West Side area of Los Angeles, declared its opposition to the proposed Venice Master Plan. The Council charged that the plan "will greatly accelerate the displacement of low-income persons from the Venice area, including many persons of Mexican-American descent."

◆Marina peninsula residents met twice in April at the invitation of the FREE VENICE Organizing Committee. They agreed with seven other neighborhood groups in rejecting L.A.'s Master Plan for the Venice community in favor of the F.V.O.C. proposal for an alternative concept in urban planning to produce a plan from the present residents of the Venice community. They also rejected the Anchorage Assessment District plan, which would make streets out of peninsula walkways.

◆A special board was selected in April to administer the Office of Economic Opportunity grant approved for the Venice Community Improvement Union. The 13 Venice residents who will administer the grant are: Carol Berman, LaVerne Brunson, Raul Cabral, Erwin Campbell, Fred Grant, Robert Hernandez, Sally Leffall, Edward Medard, Ralph Mendoza, Bea Starbird, Ted Trujillo, Albert White and E. Lynn Williams.

◆The Los Angeles City Council on April 17th stopped calling us "hippies" and started running for cover (see story by Jane Gordon).

◆In their first skirmish with the Venice community on April 20th the L.A.P.D. reported the following casualties. Venice Division: R.M.

Brodowy, G.P. Brubaker, O.P. Franklin, Thomas R. Griffith, Jack D. Hensley, Harry Nearing, George Rich, Rex Roberts, Joseph Sachen, Samuel J. Thomas, Sgt. Thomas F. Thomson. Metro Squad: F.J. Grimes, R.R. Rife, Duane A. Shrader. W.L.A.: E.B. Edwards. Many more injuries were inflicted on unarmed beachgoers who were not prepared for the police attack.

instead of some lawyers and judges that money can be paid to go free sorry low class people that you support. Sotop (sic) leaving your paper were (sic) people don't ask you to. We have enough litter on our streets and yards without your paper added to it. So let people call you if they are low enough to have it in there (sic) home. May God help you all to return to law abiding good people. You all are being prayed for if it never does any good.

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KITE FESTIVAL**

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bumper strips and extra
copies of BEACHHEAD
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between noon & midnite.



BEACHHEAD staff for this issue: Virginia Bohannon, Rick Davidson, Carol Fondiller, Jane Gordon, Anna Haag, John Haag, Ken Havens, Ken Ray Havens, Kirk Havens, Chuck Jaynes, Bill Olive. Get well, David.

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Victims of L.A. police riot on Venice beach, April 20th. (Photo by Bill Daley)

Hog Wild Weekend

by Carol Fondiller

Monday. A heavy headed hangover day. People congratulating one another that they stayed out of jail, or were bailed out. People talk about their experiences on Hogwild Weekend like Belair matrons discuss face lifts and operations. "I was booked for inciting." "Glad to see you-we thought you were in jail." "Joe's in for failure to disperse." The talk is of lawyers and bail.

Broken bottles, crushed flowers, clothing litter the beach and the ocean front walk. The police cars drive by slowly, like sated tigers.

I had a feeling it would end up like this on the preceding Friday, when I witnessed the Police harass eight young people and take them away. The feeling was further insensified when they arrested a friend of mine for interfering with an arrest, when all she did was ask what charges were these people arrested on. She was jerked to the ground, handcuffed and shoved into a police car by 2 very young very tense officers.

Saturday. 100 people marched to the police station, to protest the harassment of Venice residents, while on the roof of the Venice Police Station that still says Venice City Hall, policemen take our pictures.

Sunday. The sun is hot and a salt water taffy smell comes from the ocean. People go to the Free Venice Art Festival and sit in the Lafayette Cafe waiting for the Free Press Party, and watch the police cars race by with 4 men in each car. The side streets are filled with blue Dodge Darts and lithe young men wearing tennis shoes and sun glasses start mingling on the ocean front, their back pockets bulging.

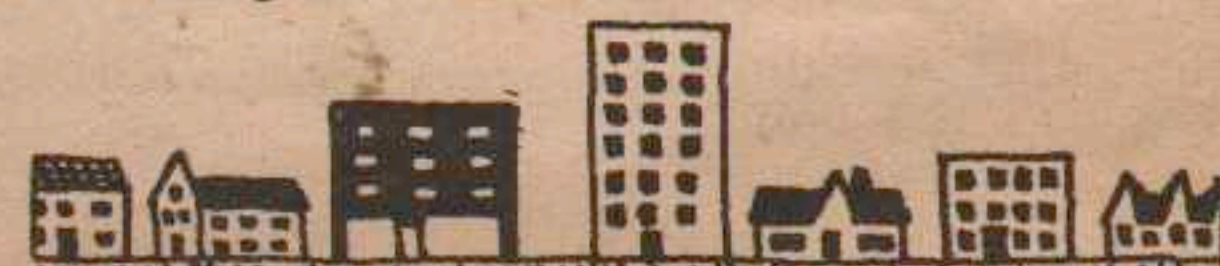
One o'clock. 10,000 people converge on Venice to wish the Free Press a happy birthday. People in hot colors seem to vibrate with the hard rock music. The stores are jammed with people buying something cool...girls of all colors and ages display all manner of female things in see-thru dresses. Men of all colors and condition appraise, reject, accept and approach. An old woman with flowers on her hat asks me what holiday it is. I tell her it's the Free Press Birthday Party and her milky eyes glow like opals. She smiles and offers me an orange from the universal string bag that all good grandmas carry. A bearded feathered man takes my picture. An old man tells me to dance because young people should dance. "I can't dance any more now, but when I was young..." his old lips smile.

Families go by loaded with picnic baskets and children play with dogs.

Four o'clock. Men with rifles are on the roofs of apartment houses. The lazy sun-filled crowd is ordered to disperse by the police who come in with their clubs. The crowd starts running up the Ocean Front Walk, followed by officers. Some of the crowd tries to run up the alley ways. They are blocked off by police... "But we were told to disperse..." Hands are pulled into handcuffs... "But officer, I'm looking for my ride." "What did I do?" Waiting paddy

wagons are jammed with bewildered frightened American citizens. Sirens, screams, curses, children crying for their mommies. The Ocean Front stores close down...only the bars are open, and Barbra Streisand sings Don't Rain On My Parade.

Six o'clock. The beach is in suspended animation between sunset and dark. A chill wind curdles the hurriedly dropped objects on the beach. A life guard truck drives down the beach, loudspeakers blaring "the life guards love everyone! Free Venice!" And the litter lies on the beach, people lie in jail, and husbands, wives, parents, friends and lovers mill outside the Venice Police Station that still says City Hall, waiting for Monday.



VENICE IS MY HOME

by Nancy Lacefield

The Thornton-Sunset Block Committee, one of a series of neighborhood groupings concerned about L.A.'s Master Plan for Venice, created the following letter as a statement of their opposition to the proposed Master Plan. "Dear Councilman Braude,

As a resident of Venice, I urge you to oppose the Master Plan to be presented to the Planning Commission on May 29. Among my many reasons for making this request are the following: Venice is a unique community where the Senior Citizens and people from all walks of life live compatibly.

"If there is a radical change, such as this plan proposes, the residents of Venice, your constituents, will be left homeless.

"I feel there are alternatives to the Master Plan that would be more acceptable than parking lots, freeways, shopping malls, and extensive sterile high-rise apartments.

"Venice is my home. As a citizen, voter, and taxpayer, I urge you to defeat this plan."

The letter is being distributed to the residents of Venice to be signed and mailed to Councilman Braude.

The Block Committee brought neighbors of the Thornton-Sunset area together to resist the inhumane idea of our homes being torn down and rebuilt into a parking facility. We felt a sense of community in working together to protect Venice. Some alternatives to the Master Plan have been suggested by the committee, such as an adequate public transportation system for the residents of Venice, building parking areas on Lincoln, and turning a portion of the beach area into a parking lot.

If you haven't received a copy of this letter at your door, you can clip it from BEACHHEAD (or write your own version!) and mail it to Councilman Marvin Braude, City Hall, 200 N. Spring, L.A. 90012, so that he may feel your opposition to the Master Plan.

Yanked out of their cocoons
Too soon,
They are unable to be
Butterflies,
Unable to fly
So they vomit out their
Jealous rage,
At those who took the
Time
To grow wings
And fly.

Justin
March 18 /69

Do Not Co-operate With Organized Crime

by John Haag

On Sunday, April 20, the Los Angeles Police Department commanded locally by Captain Robert Sillings and Lt. Allen Archbold planned and executed a vicious attack on the Venice Ocean Front community. Scores of men and women, young and old, were beaten by L.A. police because of a peaceable assembly on our own public beach, which the police declared illegal without cause. Many of the victims of police violence were arrested solely to justify their injuries.

For a week after, 16 "units" of the notorious Metro Squad occupied our community. Unprovoked beatings and arrests occurred daily. Eight officers in plain clothes fought crime by intimidating elderly residents to obtain signatures on statements to "get rid of Free Press types and hippies."

The police attacks against our community are the most brutal form of a campaign by the entire L.A. City government to eliminate low-income residents from the Venice area. The motivation is the profit to be made by land speculators, real estate brokers, contractors and politicians by turning Venice into a high-income tourist-oriented development.

The police are engaged in criminal conspiracy to eliminate the poor by force and violence. Under these conditions, anyone who cooperates in any way with the Los Angeles police is aiding and abetting organized crime.

The Venice Peace and Freedom Party on April 23, 1969, resolved to call upon all Venice residents to stop cooperating with L.A. police until Capt. Sillings and Lt. Archbold are removed from the Venice Division, LAPD, and a community board is established to control the Venice Division, or until the LAPD is withdrawn from our community.

The PFP has posted notices advising all residents to:

- 1) Carry paper and pencil at all times to record dates, times, places and details of police harassment and brutality.
- 2) Carry cameras at all times to photograph police activities.
- 3) Give documentation of police activities to the Venice Survival Committee. Call 399-7681 or write to 1727 W. Washington Blvd.
- 4) Try to have a witness with you at all times when you walk on Venice streets.
- 5) Refuse to cooperate with L.A. police except when absolutely necessary to avoid injury or arrest.

The police will not control themselves. Politicians agree with the police. Commercial newspapers print only police reports. Only we, the people of Venice, can stop police crime in our community. Do not cooperate.

SHOWDOWN
REJECT Los Angeles'
MASTER PLAN
TO DESTROY
OUR COMMUNITY
BLOCK BY BLOCK
LA CITY HALL,
ROOM 350
MAY 29•9 AM

TO DEAL WITH POLICE WITH A MAXIMUM OF

SAFETY, FOLLOW THESE RULES:

WHEN CONFRONTED BY THE POLICE:

1. STAY CALM! Say what you need to, then stop.
2. NEVER RESIST PHYSICALLY. Say it in words.
3. DON'T TALK. EXCEPT -- To give your name or if you happen to be in an unusual place at an unusual hour -- then just explain and stop. Say you will answer no more questions until your lawyer gets there.
4. Say you expect to be called Mr., Mrs., Miss, but don't argue about it.
5. Say you want the name and badge number of the officers, then write them down. Tell them your lawyer said to do so.

WHEN THEY WANT TO SEARCH:

1. Say: "Where is your search warrant?"
2. Say: "You don't have my permission to search but I won't stop you." Say this whether you have anything to hide or not.
3. While the search is on, say nothing except: "I'm innocent and I can't say anything else until my lawyer gets here."

IF YOU ARE ARRESTED:

1. Don't resist arrest.
2. Say you want to know the charge. (Tell police Penal Code #841 says this).
3. You can make two phone calls before three hours are up. Penal Code #851.5 says this. (One to your family or lawyer, and one to a bail bondsman.)
4. They have 48 hours to book you -- Ask for your lawyer or a court lawyer and for time to talk to him -- Say nothing else until your lawyer comes.
5. Don't take 'friendly' advice from officers, or discuss your case with other prisoners. (Only your own lawyer is looking out for you.)
6. Ask for a chemical drunk test, if it's a drunk charge arrest.

SPECIAL ADVICE:

1. It's O.K. to sign a traffic ticket. You don't admit anything by signing.
2. Never carry opened alcoholic beverages in the car. Keep them in a locked trunk.
3. Juveniles are entitled to a lawyer from the very beginning.

Venice Survival Committee
399-7681

LA City Hall ♦ MAY 19

PROTEST HIGHER RENTS,
HIGHER TAXES, CONDEMNATION
OF HOMES, LOSS OF CANALS!
399-7681

SAVE OUR CANALS

CANALS BATTLE ON

by Jane Gordon

Scene: City Council Chambers, April 17, Canal Emergency Action Committee (that's us, non-property owners against the Canal Assessment District); Protesting property owners (mostly those whose lots don't touch the water); Proponents (property owners or not, those who stand to make a lot of bread from the project); City Council (no comment needed).

Plot: Will the people of Venice lose the canal area to the land speculators and millionaires? Or will we overcome tremendous odds and hold off the decision by the City Council? Will non-property owners have the right to speak?

If you haven't yet heard the outcome of the above scenario, here it is in a nutshell: Non-property owners were not locked out as at the previous hearing--they allowed us to sit in the last 3 rows. But we were not permitted to speak, as Councilman Timberlake so sagely ruled, "because I say so." But, undaunted, we kept taking our turn in line and trying to explain to the Council, to the cameras, to anyone who'd listen, why we oppose the Canal project (see last month's BEACHHEAD). Each time we got to the microphone and tried to speak, Timberlake would shut it off to a chorus by the proponents of, "not a property owner" and "don't let 'em speak!"

Despite this kind of treatment, the City Council got the message--from somewhere--not to approve the project this time around. They finally passed a motion to eliminate the assessments from the lots not fronting on the water and to allow a 30-day period for some re-evaluation of the entire project. And guess who made the motion? Timberlake, if you please. We don't know what got to him, we don't know what will happen at the next hearing, (Monday, May 19, same place and time, for all you hearing fans).

We do know we have a chance of defeating the entire project if the cost keeps soaring. We do know we'll be down there again, demanding our right to speak. We do know the speculators are getting up tight and that's fine with us. Anybody who cares more for property than for the rights of human beings DESERVES to taste a bit of the discomfort they seem so generous in dishing out to others.

FREE VENICE!

OPEN LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF VENICE

Dear people of Venice,

I am watching what the police are doing on your beach. I have seen this before. Do you remember, do any of you remember, when Jews were beaten to death on the streets of Warsaw and Berlin, and Poles and Germans stood by and did nothing? The Nazis wanted to eliminate the undesirable Jews so that "better people" could live in our place. The Aryans. The Poles and the Russians were undesirables too, but first the Nazis made their victims enemies of each other before they eliminated them...

The American police on the beach are not yet Nazis but the story is the same. They want to eliminate undesirables so that "better people" can live in their place. First they will turn you against the young people, and when the young people are gone you will be next. If you could afford to live on Miami Beach you would be there and not in Venice. You will have to pack all your things and move away from your friends, to live in the smog, to where you will have to travel for miles on the bus to get back to your beach. Do you think these anti-semitic cops care about you? Don't sign their petition to get rid of the young people. Better you should sign a petition that the police behave like Americans and stop acting like the Nazi beasts of Europe. The lessons of Warsaw should not be so soon forgotten.

Yitzak Gershman

Fall in my sleep
scream in my dreams
dragged from the street
of flailing clubs broken bottles
across their bare feet
heads cracked attacked
untouched by human hands
as cop cameras roll
recording
places faces references
for future inferences
about inciting to riot
those cops
on a diet of blood

THEY started at 3
when I saw herds of people racing
screaming down the Walk
and at 11
1 short black man poked hard in the belly
with a billy club
while 6
pigs joked and giggled and jammed him
into their jeep
Wanna make trouble?
THEY hoped
menomanmenoman not me
For this is my body
And this is my blood

Most of all I think
of the eyes of the one
breaking 2 beer bottles
as he looked around
for something
some one
else to break
Bright socket searchlights
like the eyestalks in War of the Worlds
that shot the Heat Ray
Not even hatred but emotions
from another galaxy
I cop
I tough
I fix
I kill
you crawl
you punk
you go
I rap your knuckles
I sap your brain
WANNA MAKE TROUBLE

please

phillip Marlowe