

April Fools!

Date for

L.R. Mayor

April 11th

FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968

BEACHHEAD



FREE

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Siskel and Ebert go to the Beachhead

Bush has Sex with Reagan



SISKEL: Gene, only a pervert might twist such a headline out of an innocent quote. Evidently, some virgin on the verge from "The Progressive Magazine" caught our president slipping these gentler words regarding his close relationship to "the boss":

"For 7 & 1/2 years, I've worked alongside him, and I'm proud to be his partner. We've had triumphs, we've made mistakes, we've had sex."!!!

Or at least this is how some philistine from the "Southern Libertarian Messenger" lied about "The Progressive". An "explanation" was placed immediately in parenthesis to read that (Bush): "(He meant "setbacks we've had setbacks").

EBERT: Well Roger, this reporter has more class than to reinterpret, or impose words other than an original source's own! And furthermore, I love sex too much to sterilize nature's own act of joy between 2 mature, American males at work.

SISKEL: But Gene, how can one even harbor any specific grudge versus good sex in government? Certainly it beats "Top Gun Target Practice Over Libya, The Mediterranean, Grenada etc. etc." other days of the week. And given "boys will be boys" (though the combined birthdays of these 2 gentlemen easily approaches a century of the 'Dark Ages') there should be little wonder a 7 1/2 year stint in one location together might spark a certain "je ne sais quoi" entre 2 public figurines.

EBERT: Yet analysing this raw data a little further Roger, the sheer logic to a Bush sex match with our last horserider's term of office becomes problematical. On the one hand, it was clear Bush at this time was fighting obscurity from a particularly

undistinguished career. Actually he was an elected political non-entity. And I would debate strongly he would have chosen against a campaign tack so close in imitation to Jim Baker, Gary Hart or Jimmy Swaggart's over the same period.

SISKEL: Yeah Gene, but you overestimate Big George. I think given the "hardball" image that Ron himself so enjoyed (as did his predecessor Tricky Dick who we know didn't fare so well through Watergate like Ron did through the Contra hearings) it's not peculiar Mr. Bush chose the term "sex" as opposed to "making love" with Ron. After all, "sex" denotes the two were "fucking" each other (using the white macho jive typical to the baseball playing field of their day...((about 2 days ago)).

EBERT: Right Roger, "Making love" might have conjured up emotions too difficult to put across the TV screen. I think he was mistaken in underating the female sympathy vote had he opted to "make love" rather than a straight "sexual" liaison. After all, they say women make up 1/2 the electorate n'est-ce pas? But you

gotta admit, Bush can be an animal when he struts in front of the cameras.

SISKEL: Well Gene, this brings us to another interesting question: Was this physical acting out actually going on for the entire 7 1/2 year period...or did these incidences occur only after those individually "triumphant &/or mistaken" highlights that for instance Mr. Bush alluded to?

EBERT: I look at it this way Gene, if it had been going on for 7 1/2 years in California, they may now be considered a married couple at common law.

SISKEL: Top notch Roger!, We'll be reviewing Post Abortion Planning Between Consenting Males After Birth next week following this teeny **COMMERCIAL BREAK!!!** TEMPEST N.T. POT & VIRGINIA VEERING

Perspiring Minds

Want to Know...

The Little Tramp Debuts on Venice Beach

Chaplin Centennial

by Carol Fondiller

In 1889 Charlie Chaplin, one of the world's great April Fools, was born.

Raphael Sabatini said of his hero Scaramouche, "He was born with the gift of laughter and a sense that the world was mad." In the years I've lived in Venice, various houses and apartments have been pointed out to me where Chaplin was supposed to have lived. And from Chaplin's personal history, it's safe to say that Charlie slept here and there and everywhere.

Chaplin's Little Tramp also knew that the world was mad. He just wanted to exploit that madness for his own ends but in his efforts to survive he innocently exposed the pomposity and smugness of the Cops, Censors, and Bullies while trying to get something to eat, or just cross the street.



Enter a clown: Chaplin

According to David Robinson of the London Times, one of the great anti-heroes, the Little Tramp, debuted in front of an audience on Venice Beach seventy-five years ago on Saturday, January 10, 1914.

David Robinson says: "We can pin down this momentous event to the day, thanks to Swedish academic Bo Berglund." Berglund is a movie archaeologist, and by researching into weather, rainfall and comparison with the still-rural earth roads of Hollywood, 1914, can pinpoint when an event was filmed.

Chaplin created his Tramp on location in Venice Beach out of the costumes of his fellow comedians. Chaplin explained that he worked on the simple principle of contrasts; jacket too tight-pants too large, borrowed from "Fatty" Arbuckle, a derby set at a jaunty angle, wing-collar, cravat and out-sized rundown boots.

The Little Tramp was first seen in a film called "Kid Auto Races at Venice." Keystone was noted for using actual events, i.e. fires, a procession, and other excitements. He would weave them into a story for his ensemble of comedians, and send along one of the resident comics to provide foreground and enliven any dull moments.

On the afternoon of Saturday, January 10, 1914, the Keystone crew went to film an event at Venice - at that time, a beach resort - a race meeting for kiddie-cars ranging from soapboxes to more sophisticated pedal models. Charlie Chaplin in his newly invented tramp costume, went with the camera crew.

According to Robinson: "Chaplin's business in the film is built on a single joke. A cameraman is trying to film the races, but is driven crazy by the outrageous little tramp who keeps getting in front the camera, preening, fooling, and peering with innocent curiosity into the lens."

Chaplin...continued on P. 6

The Beachhead Fundraising committee meets at the Tenant Action Center, 442 Lincoln Blvd., on April 9th at 11 AM and the next regular Collective meeting is April 16th, at 11 A.M. also at Tenant Action Center.

Stripping & Tripping

Welfare Shape-Up

by John Haag

So, I took my friend to the Pico Blvd. Public Services office to pick up her General Relief check. We got there ten minutes early. Facing the front door was a line of about twenty people. The line grew until it wound around the corner of the block. People seemed cheerful enough, given the time and place.

Promptly at nine o'clock a tan-shirted officer strode from the front door, pulled up to full stature, and yelled "O.K., Listen Up!". He then shouted out some instructions for going through the metal detector now installed at the door, which everyone going in would have to pass through.

Remove all metal objects and deposit in basket before passing through the machine: earrings, keys, coins, belt buckles, and so on. If you still set off the alarm, you'll be patted down, (gentlemen), or have your purse examined, (ladies). Weapons will be confiscated.

Welfare...continued on P. 6

LETTERS

Fun Sunday

Dear Beachhead:

I just want you guys to know that the best part of my one week trip to L.A. was by far, hanging out and interacting with you at your weekly meeting on Sunday 2/12/89. From what I've seen of the area, your group mentality is more refreshing than any of the other situations encountered. I guess it was just a lucky fluke that I found you. I picked up your paper in Thomas' burger joint and read Carol Fondillers article on "Phlem Phlan". I was so impressed that I called her up on the phone to express my appreciation for her exceptionally enjoyable and completely original point of view. I find her writing to be extremely inspiring and I hope that the people of Venice appreciate the fact that they are very fortunate to have her as a member of their community.

I came to L.A. to check out the scene and see what kind of opportunities I could find.

Here are a couple observations I'd like to express:

1. The animals in this country ought to be glad that there aren't more cities like L.A. I don't think that there would be very many animals around if the rest of the people in this country were as much into leather as the people around here are. If this trend towards leather evolves, it wouldn't surprise me if I would return someday and see leather covered cars and buildings.

2. Generally speaking, and in all fairness I did find some exceptions--I don't think the people in this area are considerate enough, obviously, they are paying a high price for this lack of consideration, one example of this is a sign I saw on the freeway that says there is a \$2,000 fine for littering on the highway. In places I know, the highest littering fine is \$200. I guess around here lawmakers have concluded that fines of \$1,000 or \$1,500 are not enough money to deter people from freely throwing trash from their cars while driving down the highway. I take a threat of a \$2000 fine to keep the road clean. From this example, I figure that the people here are ten times more likely to inconsiderate compared to other places I'm familiar with. Anyway, there's a lot of things I have to consider...and believe it or not, I am thinking about moving out here. I'm a sucker for beautiful weather, good

entertainment, and the challenge of helping to make this place the paradise it can be.

Very truly yours,
Steve W. Perlsweig.

P.S. Diane, I really enjoyed your very honest and heartfelt article about your life in Venice that was printed in the 20th anniversary issue. ★

Free At Last

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Civil War

Continued

by Rick Davidson

"The right of revolution is an inherent one. When people are oppressed by their government, it is a natural right they enjoy to relieve themselves of the oppression." Ulysses S. Grant
Northern General & 18th President

I would like to add a few thoughts to Rikki's article on Racism and the Hud-subsidized apartments that appeared in the March issue of the Beachhead.

I have lived in Venice since the early 1960s. Before that I lived in the South. Until my first trip out of the South in 1947, I naively thought that upon crossing the Mason-Dixon line I would leave racism and discrimination behind. Sadly I realized that was not the case. My early trips west and north proved that racism is not limited to the Cotton Belt. It is definitely a national phenomenon - a national disgrace that we need to rid ourselves of in order to create the kind of society that we hypocritically hold up to the world as our model of democracy.

History In Venice

I was at Regina Hyman's bar-b-que/Black History Celebration last year mentioned in Rikki's article. It was great! a wonderful afternoon with warm and

LETTERS...

friendly people coming together in the spirit of community. The food was excellent and the speeches were informative and entertaining...informative on a whole world of people's struggle...entertaining because they spoke of truth and hope. Regina added an important piece of local Venice history to complement Black History Month.

It's an ugly reality that the celebration was the excuse used to hide Jack Taren's racists and discriminatory attacks against Regina, and through her, the community of Venice regardless of color, for everyone is diminished by racism.

Rather than be harassed for hosting the event, Regina should have been applauded and assisted in her effort. Certainly as a sign of support we, the community, should support, not just Regina Hyman, but all the tenants of the Hud-subsidized apartments in whatever way we can.

This period of almost 0-vacancy and obscene rents on the Westside gives landlords a powerful weapon for keeping frightened tenants in line, i.e., quiet in the face of many illegal and immoral acts by the landlords. Individual tenants, even strong and committed ones like Regina Hyman, have little chance against the "almighty buck" as represented by the likes of Jack Taren and associates. Only with community wide support for tenant's rights can we hope to hold 'pig' landlords in check; this is true even when the barnyard landlords are supported by the US Government, i.e., the Department of Housing & Urban Development.

Another History Lesson

Thinking of General Grant, it is said that at the signing of the South's surrender at Appomattox Court House he told the southern officers to keep their swords because he felt it would be too humiliating for them to give them up in front of their men. He also told the men to keep their mules for they were farmers and would need them come planting. And so the rebel soldiers were sent home to begin rebuilding their burned-out South. And they would have to do it with "free" labor for their slaves were now free, whatever that meant: free to do what? free to go where? to live where? How? As the smoke clouds of war and slavery blew away the clouds of economic manipulation darken the dreams of freedom.

It's a long way back to that little village in Virginia called Appomattox where General Lee surrendered to General Grant. We all know that we can't go back, but it's important for us to realize that what took place there was a surrender between two white men having more to do with preserving the Union than ending Slavery. Studying history, it seems that it's left to our generation to end slavery, economic and otherwise. What better place to begin the ending than here in Free (whatever that means) Venice! "Free, free at last, free at last...."

Inside Freedom

WHAT ARE JAILS FOR

I visited Jail the other day; went by to see who was there. To my surprise, I didn't see the head of Mobil Oil, Gulf or Texaco; nor did I find the heads of Ford, Chrysler, or General Motors. And you know, I didn't find anyone representing AT&T, IT&T, or any of the Bank Boys. Not a single crook of any note was there. No, just a bunch of local fellows left over from the Great Depression.

What are jails for? I asked the guard.

"It's business, big business... it's good for construction, the penal system and it gives us jobs. Beyond that, I really don't know." *

Rent Rant

To the Santa Monica City Council:

I am a renter living on Virginia Ave. in Santa Monica. The SM Rent Control Board referred me to you regarding the following matter.

My building currently has four vacant units, all of which were vacated within the past several months. My landlord is intentionally withholding them from the rental market, apparently with the intention of converting the building to a co-op. It seems that since the legal rents on the units are relatively low (compared to surrounding areas which are out of sight) he can afford to take the loss in the hope of eventually convincing the remaining tenants more easily to accept the co-op proposal. He stands to make a killing by selling the vacant units at a higher price than if they were occupied.

LETTER
CONTINUED PAGE 6

FREE VENICE
SINCE 1968
BEACHHEAD

Victor Wightman, Carol Fondiller, John Haag, Malcolm Tent, Diane Nickerson, Judith L. Martin, Juan Persona Derosnec, Sara Omari, and Kathleen Alvarez.

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. We welcome and take responsibility for publishing contributions exactly as the contributors submit them, although the opinions expressed by the contributors are not necessarily endorsed by the Collective. The Beachhead Collective encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, poetry, photos, graphics or other material of interest to the Venice community. We ask that submissions be limited to 1200 words and be typed in single-spaced, 4-inch-wide columns. The volunteer staff reserves the right to make all decisions collectively on material published. There is no editor of The Beachhead. The Collective is an open group and welcomes interested Venice people's participation. Printing is financed by ad donations. To submit material, include your name and phone number. Anonymous material will not be published, but your name will be withheld by request. If return of material is requested, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. No payment is made for materials used.

The Voice of the Venice Town Council is a paid supplement to The Beachhead and does not necessarily represent the opinion of the Beachhead Collective.

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Anchors Away!

NO to Marina Place!

by JUAN PERSONA DEROSNEC

I bet you think you know what an anchor is--something to keep a ship from drifting. You can probably even think of some metaphoric uses of anchor in everyday speech or even poetic discourse. We are all familiar with the phenomenon of anchors on tv news programs, for example. Apparently the current theory is that expensive and attractive "anchorpersons" are necessary to attract a large public and, therefore, a lot of money from sponsors. Presumably these stars are such heavyweights they keep the viewers from drifting off to other channels and the business from drifting off the airwaves. Similarly, according to current thinking by market analysts, large shopping centers also need anchors, and regional ones need at least two. Did you know that of the forty-two "successful" regional shopping centers in the Los Angeles area, most have at least two anchors?

I thought about these things this morning as I gazed out at the ocean, wondering what they make anchors of these days and what to do about the metaphoric anchors such as Macy's proposed for the Marina Place Shopping Center. At the executive board meeting of the Venice Town Council on February 21 there was a lengthy discussion about anchors in connection with a study the VTC commissioned in connection with Marina Place, a magnet for traffic jams and consumers from the Greater Los Angeles area to be located on the site of the old swap meet on Washington and Lincoln, on a splinter of Culver City that juts into Venice.

The study, although commissioned by us, was paid for by Prudential, the Rock of Gibraltar from which the ship of commerce, anchors and all, would be launched, i.e., the developer. Personally, I have nothing against Prudential, nor against Culver City (I was not around during the partition of Venice in the twenties), nor against development if by that term we mean a slow and gradual progress accomplished co-operatively and toward goals in the interest of the community as well as in that of the persons who reap the monetary profits. I received a copy of the study the night before the meeting, which was held in an old frame house on Electric, in an area of Venice some would consider underdeveloped.

The authors of the document, two young men from Price Waterhouse (one of whom lives in San Diego), presented their report informally and fielded questions from the Board, at first with difficulty in view of their dual allegiance (although Venice had commissioned the report, the \$20,000 fee was paid by Prudential). I was extremely disappointed with the report, although not surprised. Drafted in the form of a memo to Debra Bowen, the attorney for Venice in the suit against Culver City, its subject is "Feasibility Analysis of Marina Place and the Effects of Downsizing." The methodological approaches in the report are all from the Schools of Business and MBA programs. The three questions dealt with are limited to financial considerations entirely: a "project size analysis," an assessment of "market feasibility," and one of "financial feasibility." Nothing about the effects on traffic, sewage, air quality, the character of the surrounding neighborhoods. No mention of alternative uses for the site. In other words, Price Waterhouse provided what Prudential paid for: a market analysis, a retail and financial study, not strictly a FEASIBILITY analysis at all, since turning Lincoln Blvd. into a two-tiered choking pipeline is not feasible for most Venice residents, nor for our tourists. Well, it may be feasible, in the sense of possible to do, but not in the sense of practical or desirable and wise.

In brier, the conclusions presented in the eight-page single-spaced twenty-thousand-dollar report are that Marina Place, to be "feasible", must be at least 823,000 square feet and must have at least two anchors to lure the small businesses which are the ones

(Thanks to Kathleen Alvarez, Debra Bowen, Rex Frankel, Juan L. Martin, Patrick McCartney, Beth Miller, Diane Nickerson, Sara Omari, Barbara Palivos, Andrea Stapley, Larry Sullivan,

allegedly most lucrative for the developer and investors. The proposed anchors in this instance, that is for the only regional shopping mall in the Venice area, are Nordstrom's and Macy's. Several times these young businessmen congratulated us on being the future home to the only Macy's

in Southern California. Yet, I for one don't feel honored in the least to be in the "trade area" of the only Macy's in Southern California. (This trade area, as defined by Melvin Simon and Associates, encompasses Brentwood Hills, Santa Monica, Marina del Rey, Culver City, Baldwin Hills, Westchester and Inglewood, as well as Venice.)

If Marina Place were to attract even four thousand cars full of consumers (ni hablar de 30,000), they would not all be able to find parking (approx. 4,300 spaces projected), given that employees also park. An extra couple of thousand cars on Lincoln, Washington, and neighboring byways would certainly increase the length of time it takes me and other local commuters to get to and from work, whether by freeway or on surface streets, especially during peak hours. On sunny late-summer/early-fall beach days the commuting time would be doubled. The thought of delivery trucks jamming up the already jammed up Lincoln corridor, and of the overflow onto Main and Pacific makes me ill. I have Pasadena friends who say it might be fun to go shopping at Macy's, maybe Venice would become kind of like Manhattan. I don't know why they don't frequent the lovely and ghosttown-like Santa Monica Place. (I always lose my car there, so never go unless I get a space on the street or there is a shuttle service in operation.)

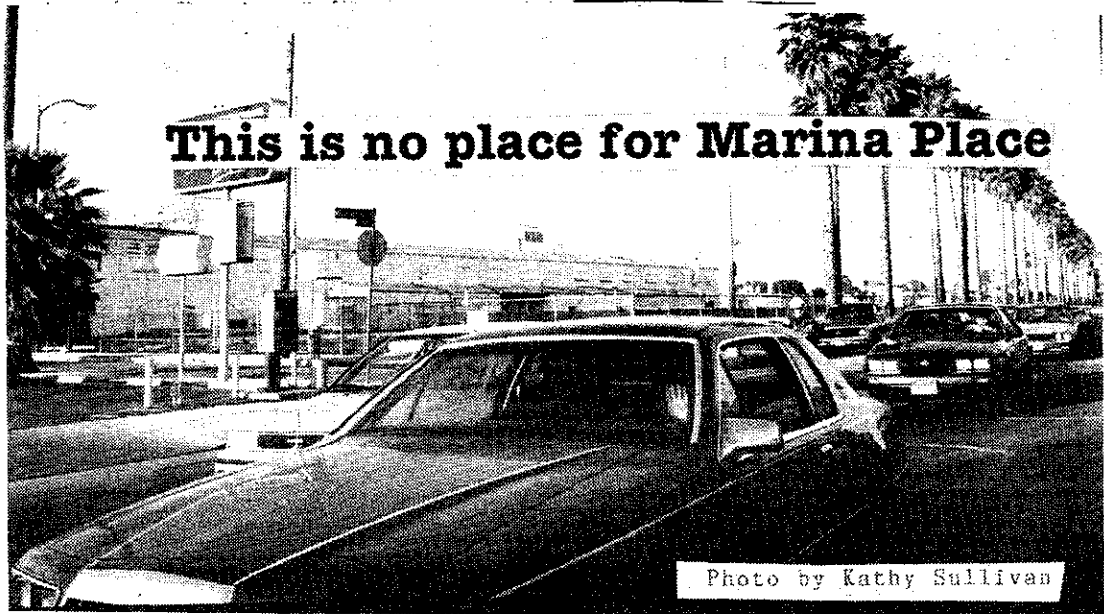
In my own survey (no fee collected), I couldn't find anyone around here who thinks that Venice folks would benefit from a Macy's anchor. Most groan at the thought of the increasing commercialization of the greater Venice area and the needless burden on the local police and fire departments who would have to rescue mangled cyclists and pedestrians, direct traffic around the stalled cars and double-parkers, and generally keep the anchors and non-anchors as secured as possible. Still, the Town Council

Free Venice Beachhead--April 1988

changes which would alter the CHARACTER of their neighborhoods. The citizens of Culver City do not want a regional shopping mall in their downtown or anywhere in the bosom of their territory, although no one cares much about the fringes.

I SPOKE WITH the ex-president of the Culver City Citizens for Open Space, a coalition of homeowners, renters, small businesspersons, senior citizens, and high school students which successfully stopped development along the median strip on Culver Blvd. The homeowners preserved the character of their quiet streets, the kids kept their pedestrian and bike access to the schools, the seniors got landscaped parking between Elenda and Overland near the Senior Citizens' Center in the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium, and the mayor of Culver City congratulated us on our victory, after offering unwavering support throughout our civic-minded and creative anti-development campaign. Culver City residents tend to support local merchants, & the Culver City Mall on Overland & Washington is a community, not a regional, shopping center, having just one small anchor. Consumers out for more expensive shopping travel to the Westside Pavillion or Santa Monica Place, or take the bus to Westwood or downtown or the Fox Hills Mall or use an 800 number & some catalogue or other. Obviously, Culver City would not have approved the Marina Place project were it to be located on Sepulveda or Overland (that curious two-lane reminder of the covered-wagon era) instead of at Glencoe, that is, way out at Venice Beach.

There will be a discussion of this ill-conceived project at the next meeting of the Venice Town Council, & all members are encouraged to attend, voice their opinions, & cast their votes on April 13 at the Old City Hall next to Zamora's. It's all been truly Beyond Baroque so far, mainly because of the widespread feeling in Venice that runaway development is inevitable & can't be stopped so we might as well negotiate and make things esthetically pleasing, since that's the "eighties way" & if you protest you're labeled a sixties idealist. Actually, there's a tradition of dissent in America that is much older than the sixties.



This is no place for Marina Place

Photo by Kathy Sullivan

of (the former city of) Venice, which commissioned the Price Waterhouse report to study the effects of reducing the size of Marina Place, did get a clear response: "a reduction in aggregate store size ... would render the project financially infeasible and the investors would choose to not undertake development." So the project is doubly unfeasible-- unacceptable to the community in its projected form and unacceptable to Prudential and to its proposed anchor tenants if reduced in size.

In September of 1988 the Venice Town Council and the Los Angeles City Council filed separate lawsuits against Culver City and the Prudential Insurance Company, basically on environmental grounds. Subsequently, the two councils acted to merge the suits in Los Angeles Superior Court to avoid duplication, save costs and prevent the possibility of different decisions on the same case. In the meantime, nearly everyone who doesn't stand to make money on the project dreads the impact it would have on Venice in terms of traffic, sewage and future development. I went to meetings in Culver City from 1980 to 1986 of the city council, which was responsive to its citizens and sensitive to any decisions regarding development or zoning

Victor Wightman, the City of Culver City, and most especially, Kathy Sullivan, for aid and support in the production and post-production phases of "Anchors Away.")


A half-century ago Edward A. Guest wrote in a poem entitled "It Couldn't Be Done":

There are thousands to tell
you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy
failure;
There are thousands to point
out to you, one by one,
The dangers that wait to
assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit
of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go
to it;
Just start to sing as you tackle
the thing
That "cannot be done," and you'll
do it.

People of Venice! Just say no to the rock. It's easy. Anyway, Macy's deserves a home in a real downtown, in proximity to museums and hotels and working shuttle-busses (not to mention helicopter stations and expensive parking lots) where women wear high heels and dresses instead of shorts and Venice Beach t-shirts. Here at the beach we have real anchors and plenty of rock. A

...ads...ads...ads...ads...ads...ads...ads...ads...ads...ads...ads...ads...

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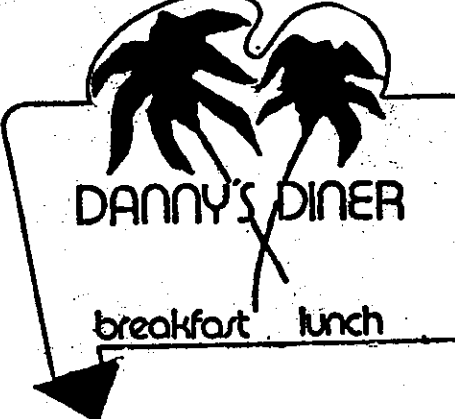
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OF THE
VENICE
TOWN
COUNCIL



EDITOR: CHALLIS MACPHERSON

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

APRIL, 1989

President's Message

Having broken the tradition last month and told you about events in my personal life, I'm going to continue that policy this month.

In January Debra Bowen alerted me to a Coro Foundation program called, "Community Invest". Debra and I both applied, went through competitive interviews on February 10 and winning our way into the class, started internships on February 21.

We are now in the middle of the 12-week course. The requirement is for two days and one evening per week, but we find with homework and other "opportunities" the actual time spent to be about twice that!

Our first group assignment was in the City of Alhambra, where after two days we presented findings to the City Manager and senior staff personnel. Now in teams of two, we are on three-week assignments throughout the city. Debra and her partner, Mitzie Johnson (mid-city Chamber of Commerce Executive Director) are at the United Way planning department. My partner, Connie Lue (elementary school principal in Pasadena) are assigned to the California Community Foundation to study the plight of the undocumented.

Before we finish, a trip to the California legislature in Sacramento will be part of our experience. All of this is to make us more effective as community volunteers. When our group of fourteen is graduated many communities: Santa Clarita, Pacoima, San Marina, Beverly Hills, La Canada/Flintridge, Manhattan Beach, Eagle Rock, Studio City, West Hills and Pasadena will have one person trained to contribute more skillfully in their community. Venice will have two.

NEXT MEETING

April 13



Venice Town Council

Thursday at 7:30

Agenda

VOTE LAWSUIT

Location:

Old Venice City Hall

681 North Venice Blvd.

(213)281-8323

BE THERE

ALERT! THIS IS A BIG ONE

MARINA PLACE SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL UP FOR VOTE by Arnold Springer and Debra Bowen

This article is intended to be as objective as possible. Neither the negotiating team nor the Board of Directors of the Venice Town Council has taken any position on the merits of the settlement proposal.

On Thursday, April 13, at 7:30 sharp in the Old Venice City Hall, the Town Council will discuss and vote on one of the more interesting and important propositions ever presented to its membership. The future of Venice will be fundamentally affected whichever way the vote goes.

On the table will be a package worth millions of dollars. The package is a negotiated settlement proposal offered to the VTC by representatives of Prudential Insurance Company, its developer, Melvin Simon & Associates, and the Culver City Attorney's office, after months of discussions with the Venice Town Council's negotiating team.

In turn for dropping our lawsuit over Prudential's proposed Marina Place shopping center, attorneys for the project have proposed the mitigation package mentioned above. It is up to the members of the VTC to decide whether to accept this settlement offer or to pursue the lawsuit in the hope that we can force residential development of this property.

The Project

The project, called Marina Place, is a regional shopping center to be located on the site of the old Marina Swap Meet, near the corner of Lincoln and Washington. It will be over one million square feet, with 823,000 gross leasable square feet, and will include movie theaters and two major department stores as anchors and attractions. Right now these department stores are Macy's and Nordstrom's.

History of Litigation

The Zanja Neighborhood Residents' Association and the VTC fought the project, but Culver City did not recognize our objections and the project was approved in July of 1988. Believing that the project was too large and unacceptable as approved, and that the environmental impact report was fatally flawed, the Town Council voted to go to court.

On September 29, 1988, the Town Council filed a lawsuit against Culver City and the Prudential, alleging violations of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the California Coastal Act. At the request of Sixth District Councilwoman Ruth Galanter, the City of Los Angeles brought a similar lawsuit.

In February of 1989 the two cases were consolidated into one lawsuit. The consolidation means that the case cannot be settled unless both the Venice Town Council and the City of Los Angeles approve the settlement.

Required Negotiations

CEQA requires parties to this type of litigation to try to reach an out-of-court settlement before going to trial. The

The VOICE of the VENICE TOWN COUNCIL is a paid supplement to The Beachhead and does not necessarily represent the opinion of the Beachhead Collective.

VTC negotiating team consists of Martha Platt, a VTC member who is also head of the Zanja Neighborhood Residents' Association, and three members of the VTC board of directors: Dell Chumley, president; Arnold Springer, Chair of the Planning and Development Committee, and Debra Bowen, who has served as our legal counsel.

The developers made it clear to the VTC representatives that they were not prepared to discuss reduction in the size of their project. There were two choices: continue discussions, to see what could be gained if the Marina Place project were built as proposed, or stop negotiating and prepare for trial. The VTC Board voted to continue talks with Culver City and Prudential so that we would be prepared for all contingencies. Since the consolidation of the two lawsuits, the City of Los Angeles has also sent representatives to the settlement meetings.

The VTC negotiating team believes that our arguments based on CEQA, buttressed by recent decisions, would prevail in court, and that we can stop this project, at least temporarily.

Whether we could permanently block the project under the Coastal Act is another question. There is no case law under the Coastal Act provisions that we are relying on, and there is no way of knowing how a court would decide the issue.

Also, in order to succeed, we must be sure that we have adequate financial and legal resources.

Our Strategy

Rather than rely solely on a single strategy requiring a total victory in court, the VTC Board decided to prepare for the worst case scenario. If we didn't have the resources to go to court, or if our case was not as powerful as we thought and we were forced to make the best of a bad situation and settle, what would we settle for? We thought in the process of preparing for this contingency, we could put together a package of mitigation measures that the community might find attractive.

If we hadn't brought this lawsuit, we would have gotten nothing. The project would have been built without most of the mitigations outlined below. What could be gotten? Prudential and Simon wanted to know what VTC and the community wanted.

Above all, we wanted more than anyone else who had ever negotiated a like project on the West Side or in the Coastal Zone. We wanted to be on the cutting edge of exactions, or mitigations as they are euphemistically called. If we were



VOICE OF THE VENICE TOWN COUNCIL

S U P P L E M E N T T O

T H E B E A C H H E A D

going to present a settlement proposal to the VTC for approval, we didn't want to be accused of presenting a proposal that sold Venice out too cheaply. We anticipated that any proposed settlement of the Marina Place lawsuit would be deemed a sell-out by some people, so we wanted to position ourselves for a very expensive sale.

Looking at it from another perspective, we thought that some people in the community, both inside and outside the VTC, were not opposed to the Marina Place project in the first place, even without any of mitigations, and objected to our lawsuit. We didn't want to presume to reject the possibility of a settlement out of hand. We decided, therefore, to pursue negotiations as a strategy, and to try to put a settlement before the VTC and the whole community that spoke to our needs and objectives, as the Town Council has historically defined them.

The negotiators, who spent many hours in settlement meetings, did the best job that they could. We neither support nor oppose these terms. We think the settlement proposal merits very serious consideration by all members of the Venice community.

What are Culver City and the Prudential proposing?

Because the negotiations are not yet complete at the time this goes to press, details of the settlement offer cannot be provided here. By April 13, when the VTC meets to vote on this issue, we will have in hand a written settlement proposal, with specific dollar amounts, that everyone can discuss. This article describes in general terms what we expect to be involved.

Traffic Mitigations

The project, plus others in the pipeline of development proposals, will generate huge amounts of traffic. The negotiating team took the position that no street widenings in the area around the project, except directly in front of the project site on Washington Boulevard, should be permitted. The negotiators thought a program to synchronize traffic lights in the immediate and adjacent areas seemed rational and could be supported, but did not want to sanction any further accommodations to traffic.

An ambitious program of synchronization of traffic signals for much of the west side of Los Angeles, and specifically for Lincoln Boulevard from the Marina to Santa Monica, has been proposed. Prudential has also proposed to pay for specific additional signalization projects in our Venice community.

Neighborhood Protection Programs

The settlement will require the Prudential to make specific contributions for neighborhood protection from increased automobile traffic and congestion. Specific traffic protection programs will be tailored to the individual needs and desires of the affected neighborhoods with the assistance and advice of professional traffic engineers. The objective is to keep traffic out of our residential neighborhoods and on the main thoroughfares.

It is hard to predict how some neighborhoods, such as central Venice and North Beach, might be impacted by traffic from Marina Place. A contingency fund will be set aside so that any Venice neighborhood that experiences the impact of Marina Place traffic will have money available for neighborhood protection measures.

Affordable Housing

The settlement package will probably include money for affordable housing programs earmarked for Venice and nearby Culver City. We may also receive help making these housing dollars go as far as possible. The possibilities include new construction and rehabilitation of existing housing, and there may be other ideas, too.

Public Access

We expect the settlement proposal to include a substantial sum for the implementation of a Venice beach shuttle system. This shuttle would carry beachgoers from parking lots on both sides of Lincoln Boulevard to the beach, and might serve as the justification for permit parking in some neighborhoods.

We also expect funds to be allocated to the beautification of Washington and Venice Boulevards from Lincoln to the ocean. Tree plantings are one example of a beautification project.

What are our options?

1. We can accept the settlement proposal and drop the lawsuit.
2. We can reject the settlement proposal and proceed with the lawsuit, hoping to force residential development on the site.

Consequences of the VTC Vote

If we accept the settlement offer, the Town Council will drop its lawsuit against Culver City. The Prudential will be allowed to build its regional shopping mall if it can settle its differences with the City of Los Angeles.

If we reject the settlement offer, we must prepare for litigation as early as April 24. Of course, there is always the possibility that Prudential will sell the property or develop it residentially if we reject this settlement. In that event, we would not need a trial to claim a victory.

What a Win in Court Would Mean

Our lawsuit asks for a revised environmental impact report (EIR) that will consider alternative sites for a regional mall, evaluate the viability of a smaller project on the Marina Place site, and comply with other CEQA requirements that we do not believe have been addressed in the present EIR.

If we win the CEQA lawsuit, it does not necessarily mean that a regional shopping center will not be built in the area, either at Marina Place or elsewhere. The Prudential and Mel Simon could prepare another EIR that would comply with CEQA, and Culver City could then legally approve the project. The project could then be stopped only if we prevailed in court as to our interpretation of the Coastal Act.

Of course, revising the EIR would delay the project at least until after the summer. The consequence of this delay might be that Macy's and Nordstrom's would pull out, since we understand that their letters of intent expire this summer. Facing litigation with no guarantee of victory, these department stores might begin to look elsewhere, though there is no way of knowing.

Alternative Sites for a Regional Mall

Two other sites for a regional shopping center have already been put forward. GBW, the developer of Marina Marketplace (Gelson's, Cineplex Theaters), has proposed to develop the existing Villa Marina Shopping Center (Von's, U A Theaters) into a regional mall. Playa Vista, which was recently acquired by Maguire Thomas, is another potential site.

Both of these sites, which are further from the heart of Venice, might have less immediate impact on our community, but impact they will have. That they are further away might be considered a big plus to some. But, because of the leverage we have now, there could be a significant disadvantage in forcing the project to another site.

Loss of negotiating power

The ambitious programs envisioned by the settlement offer - housing, neighborhood protection, enhanced coastal access, and beautification - may not be realized if the regional shopping mall goes to Villa Marina or the Playa Vista site.

The VTC is the only community organization that is a party to this lawsuit. If a regional shopping center were proposed at Villa Marina or Playa Vista, other neighborhood groups and special interests would necessarily and rightfully claim their piece of the action. The pot might then be divided in so many ways that it is inconceivable that the housing, public access and beautification programs outlined above for Venice could be funded. At best we might hope for subregional synchronization of traffic signals, and perhaps some neighborhood protection.

~~It seems that a regional shopping center will eventually be built somewhere in our area, and we will not escape the traffic that is generated. The issue is what we will get in return.~~

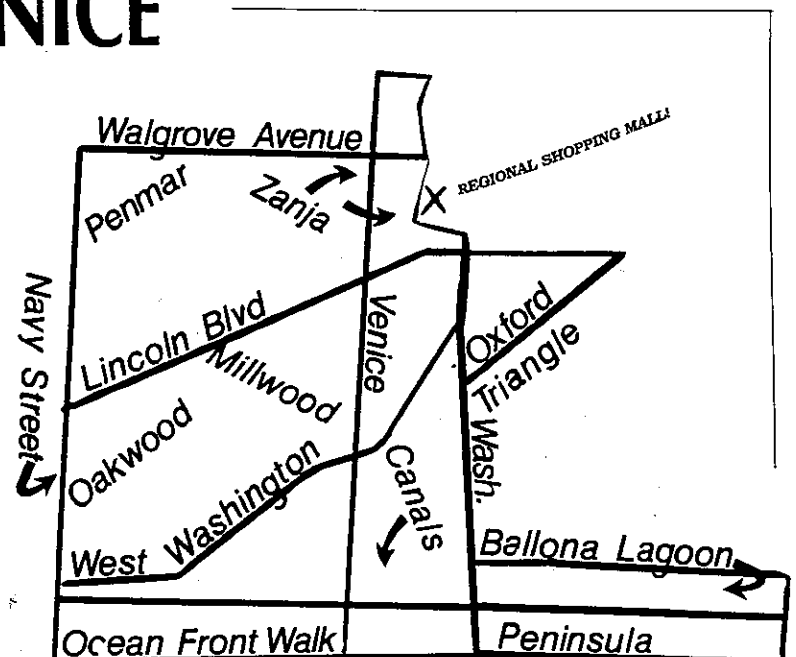
Should we settle now for a known quantity, or keep fighting and take our chances on forcing residential development?

One way of looking at this project and this settlement offer is this: since we are in a powerful position vis a vis this developer, is it to our advantage to settle? Are the trade-offs to our advantage? These are the questions that we must decide.

To put it another way: should we take advantage of the leverage we have with Prudential to get a big package of concessions that will help us achieve our agenda as a community? If we don't settle, we take our chances that Marina Place will be built anyway and that we will get nothing, or that if we are able to push this development somewhere else, we will no longer have an opportunity to demand the exactions that the Prudential has offered us. Of course, losing the exactions could also mean gaining a better land use -- e.g., residential -- on the site.

It is an interesting strategic decision. We look forward to feedback from the Town Council and the community.

VENICE





LAW SUIT VOTE

**MARINA PLACE
SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL**

APRIL 13 GENERAL MEETING

**SHOULD WE SETTLE WITH CULVER
CITY AND PRUDENTIAL NOW OR
CONTINUE TO OPPOSE THE
DEVELOPMENT. READ
ACCOMPANYING
ARTICLE.**

ACCEPT SETTLEMENT

REJECT SETTLEMENT

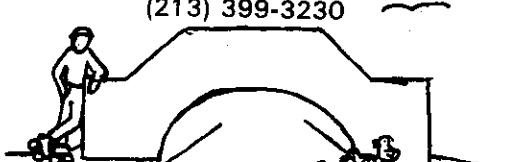
Vote will determine VENICE TOWN COUNCIL course of action



VOICE OF THE VENICE TOWN COUNCIL

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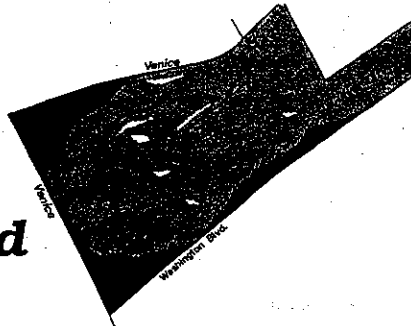
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let
Venice
be KO'd**



Lincoln & Washington will be three times capacity
Blocking Coastal Access
Impacting surrounding Venice neighborhoods
Closing Venice businesses with a two level Lincoln Blvd.

JUST SAY NO! TO A REGIONAL SHOPPING MALL!

Send contributions to the Venice Legal Defense & Education Fund:
c/o the Venice Town Council, Old Venice City Hall
681 North Venice Blvd., Venice, CA 90291 Phone: (213)281-8323

Yes, I support responsible development on this site and oppose a regional mall.

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Here is my contribution:
\$500. \$100. \$50. \$25. time/skill

THE MORTGAGE CAPITAL GROUP
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OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP 237-1797 Paul Racs
Doesn't usually initiate projects but will facilitate. Provides tools but community members do the work. Tools, paint, expertise are their forte. Clean and Green can be called for additional community reinforcement.

Hann's 827-8374
TEE CRAZE
2013 Ocean Front Walk

Have you heard about the
VENICE FARMERS MARKET



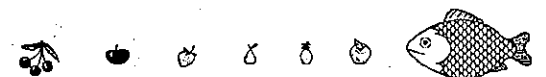
WHEN: EVERY FRIDAY MORNING FROM 7AM-

WHERE: 1601 OCEAN FRONT WALK AT THE CORNER OF OCEAN FRONT WALK AND WINDWARD AVE. (IN THE PARKING LOT ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF WINDWARD AVE.)

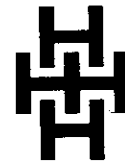
WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT: FARMERS FROM ALL OVER CALIFORNIA BRING THEIR FRESH PRODUCE TO SELL DIRECTLY TO THE CONSUMER. THEY BRING FRESH FRUIT, VEGETABLES, FLOWERS, FISH, AND A WHOLE LOT MORE TO VENICE.

THE VENICE FARMERS' MARKET IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE MARKET, PLEASE CALL JEFF KONECKE 392-4687

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Debra L. Bowen
President



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artisans crafters

Abbot Kinney Boulevard Association is seeking artisans, crafters, collectors and vendors to sell wares at the 6th Annual Venice Arts and Crafts Festival to be held Sunday, August 13.

Interested parties please contact ABKA at: (213)-399-0777, 1426 West Washington Blvd, Venice, California 90291 (include SASE)

**American Cable
Town Council Schedule**
Every SATURDAY Evening at 7:00 PM
Channel 37, the Community Interest
Channel of American Cable Television
VIDEO UPDATE * *

Venice Town Council

Old Venice City Hall
681 N. Venice Blvd.
Venice, CA 90291

Membership:

Please fill out and mail with your check.

- () Annual Dues, single member \$15.00
- () Household, two members \$20.00
- () Additional member, of household \$5.00
- () Senior Citizen, over 60 \$10.00
- () Contributing Membership \$25.00

NAME: _____ please print

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

() I will contribute my professional skills: (please list)

() I will participate in the telephone tree and make telephone calls to inform members of special meetings and other timely information.

() I will stuff envelopes, & help with the VOICE and misc. mailings.

() I will distribute flyers on my block.

() I am especially interested in the problem of: _____

() I am interested in working on a committee, please contact me.

You are the big winner.



VOICE OF THE VENICE TOWN COUNCIL



VOLUME 1, Issue 5

APRIL, 1989

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Los Angeles Beautiful, Inc.

Joan E. del Monte Real Estate

Operation Clean Sweep

Venice Farmers' Market

Odd Mothers & Daughters

The VOICE of the Venice Town Council is published monthly as a paid supplement to the BEACHHEAD and does not necessarily represent the opinion of the

BEACHHEAD Collective. The purpose of the VOICE is the same as the purpose of the VTC as stated in its By-Laws. To wit: its purpose shall include, but not be confined to, providing to the Venice community a forum for expressing its concerns; educating and informing both the local community as well as the larger society and its various public and quasi-public bodies about the many issues concerning it; initiating and/or supporting others in initiating a wide range of social, community problem-solving, and recreational activities; preserving the historical nature, low-rise residential character, and cultural and economic diversity of the Venice community.

Every group - environmental, residential, and/or activist -- effecting change in Venice will be asked to contribute information to the VOICE under their own byline.

Editor reserves the right to edit any and all material submitted to the VOICE of the Venice Town Council.

Fundamentalism: A Clean Sweep

I hope everyone read Diane Nickerson's article in the last issue, "RICO: Rubbing out the First Amendment." Because the implementation of RICO as a tool for censorship is only one straw in the broom to sweep away our freedom of expression.

As an artist, I know first hand of censorship. My paintings have been censored from a local cafe because, through my work, I spoke out against the Righteous Right, and made a stand for freedom of speech.

I'm not against Christians, I'm all for them. But I'm also for Jews, Hare Krishnas, Buddhists, followers of Islam, and atheists.

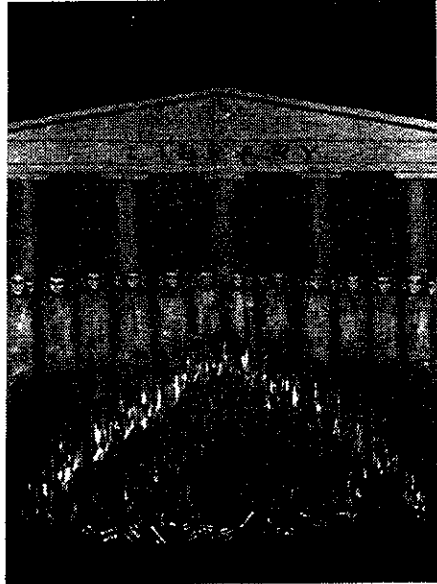
Religion provides people with an answer to life's uncertainties. The "answer" in religions is divided into two broad types. One type is satisfied with its own truths and holds it unto oneself. The other type is the one that is satisfied with its own truths but insists on forcing those truths upon all others!

In the first type, the mind is emotionally comfortable in the world of thought. The person has love of God and has a loving relationship with all other people. He is at peace with the world, not only as being part of something larger than himself, but something eternal. This person is open, tolerant, and loving.

On the other hand there is the philosophy of the Fundamentalists, who see the world as a dangerous place, something to be fought. They try to cancel all other choices for everyone--they are not tolerant. They smother any "perceived" threat that any alternative thought practiced by others present which prove to have merit and is workable

for someone else's life--they are not open. They are driven to convert others, to impose their Fundamentalist beliefs and morality upon others. They type people by dividing them according to the side they take: the "saved" or the "damned." The Fundamentalist's aim is to radically alter and strangle our social and political system by changing the basic integrity of this country from individual freedom to a society patterned by an official religious-moral orthodoxy.

Reverend Tim La Haye, one of the movement's foremost political lobbyists demands a quota calling for 25% of all



federal jobs to be held by Fundamentalist Christians and also advocates that all humanists be blocked from such positions. This appears to be taking place as we observe the appointments President Bush is making.

In the righteous Fundamentalist's thinking, the

public schools would have mandatory or voluntary prayers, as well as censorship of textbooks and course content. They call for removal and destruction of many books in the school libraries. Textbooks, teachers' guides, and library books that ask

students questions like, "What do you think about...?" "What is your opinion...?" or "What would you do if...?" would be banned entirely. The process of free thinking and asking students to discuss ideas or come to their own conclusion would be prohibited.

According to the Fundamentalist's censors these "rights of free thought" constitute an invasion of privacy, an infringement of parental rights, a form of secular humanism, an attempt to "undermine" parental values and beliefs. Further, the Fundamentalists would require schools to teach creationist science only.

Says Jerry Falwell, former president of the Moral Majority, "I hope I live to see the day when we won't have any public schools. The churches will have taken them over, and Christians will be running them."

Fundamentalist's censorship would also extend into every sector of American life, to bookstores and magazine shops, to radio and television programming and movies. All forms of sex, except coitus between married couples, would be forbidden. All other activities such as premarital, non-marital, extra-marital, oral and homosexual sex, as well as abortion and birth control would be punishable as crimes.

The Fundamentalists would have women in society as mothers and homemakers only.

They would be subservient to their husbands, and to men in general.

To think that the "Righteous Right" will fatigue in its efforts to impose its beliefs and moral codes on the remainder of society is unrealistic. They cannot be reasoned away from their aspirations to oppress. Their dogma is self-contained and fueled daily. Attempts to contradict or threaten the Fundamentalist beliefs merely spur them to more vigorous efforts. Their closed minds are impenetrable to all precepts but their own, and are integrally tyrannical. Fundamentalists are restricted to believe in their own truths only, and they refuse to acknowledge any merit of truth outside itself.

I'm making a call to all artists to take a stand for our first amendment rights. As an artist, as an American, as a human being, I refuse to live under a "religious" dictatorship. I know many other fellow Americans feel the same way. Americans for freedom of thought, freedom of religion, freedom of choice, and most of all, our freedom of expression, have to stand up and be counted or lose their rights of freedom forever in the face of this Fundamentalist fervor.

As Americans, the Fundamentalists have the right to believe their own truths, but they do not have the right to force those beliefs on all other Americans. Their ploy for power must not be allowed to alter the American way of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Their striving to divide America into two separate factions could ultimately lead to another civil war.

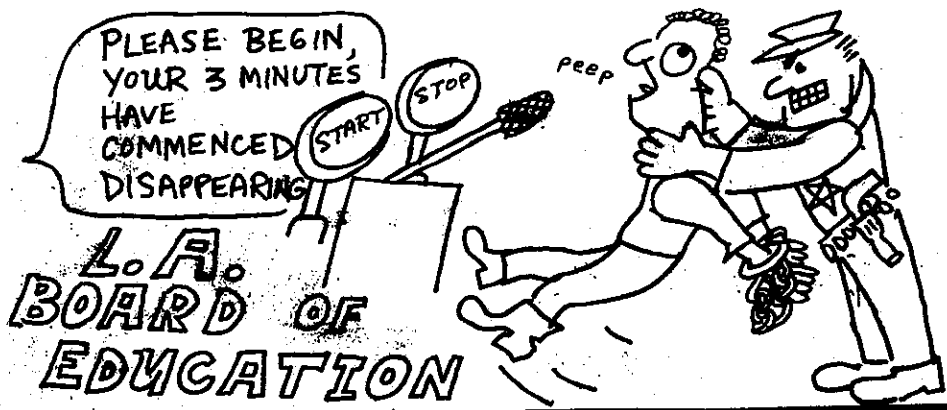
John Reif

OPENED LETTERS 2 skool bored

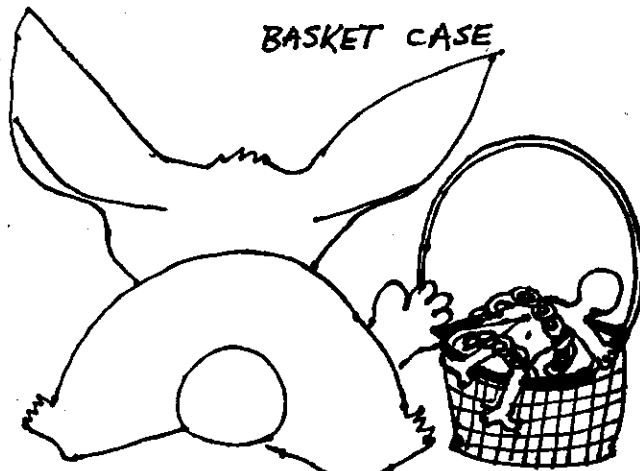
DEAR SCHOOLBOARD MEMBERS*

(to those 5 of 7 of you) showing up to last Feb. 28th's "public"*(the public is "invited") meeting:

Thank you so much for again leading us to the pledge of allegiance to a flag for the trillionth time. The additional hour wasted on presenting your specially bussed-in schoolchildren with plaques, medals and speeches was a tremendous delay as well. I'm sure your pupils do not get enough of all this drama during their normally scheduled one hundred zillion schooldays, prior to dropping out.



IE. #1- We the public, meaning any one of us, may no more mention other person's (NAMES) if we have anything particularly (nasty) to say about these persons. #2- We shall no longer refer verbally either to (names) of (SCHOOLS) where such (names) of such (persons) might have (done something nasty). #3- Furthermore, in the event we attempt to get (around) all of these (no no's), we are NOT to speak out loud the (names) of (schools) (OFFICES) either!



Your timeless stand against semi-automatic weapons and assault-rifles following so close on the heels of the city council and state legislature's own pronounced bans came not a moment too soon given the repeated murders of additional schoolchildren during the week.

But I have to especially salute you* (*ZEIG HEILL in silence) for your sudden passage of a new "Board Rule #133"! You state individuals are now "protected" from other individuals who might dare attempt to insult each other in public. The "content" of this new rule's "efficiency" renders me again (speechless):

Now in addition to this, as has been decreed by Board Rule #133 before, NOTHING (coarse), (obscene) or (profane) shall be uttered in English or any other language while these "public" meetings are in session. Especially in front of the numerous LAUSD ("security guards")-stationed at entrance/exit ways.

Oh my. Isn't it fun to be a child once again! And of course, thank you for your support! I would especially like to award Leticia Quesada a gold star for imitating

this new rule. Unfortunately, it was clear that the remaining other schoolboard-member donkeys got solidly behind Ms. Quesada's motion one hundred ten percent.

EDUCATION BANALYST

CHROMA



6 Short But Sweet

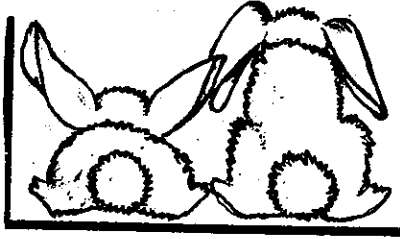
RAISE HELL- PLEASE

A three story FORTRESS will be built at 601 Ocean Front Walk (OFW at Sunset) unless you do something about it. It will contain 12 FAST FOOD JOINTS, 30 or more stores, a bar and not enough parking.

This project is massive and will increase the problems of pollution and congestion in Venice. We need housing-not stores.

Write, call or attend the hearing.

The speculators are usually out en masse to support the proposal so we need numbers to stop this monster.



Hearing: April 10 at 9:30 AM at W.L.A. City Hall 2nd floor 1645 Corinth (11300 Santa Monica Blvd.)

9 Days in the Pits

I was in jail for nine days; it seems so long ago, I have only been out one week and have almost forgotten the discomfort of unsanitary toilet facilities/of lining up for chow/of the body count, etc.

I was released after 10p.m. I walked from the L.A. County jail to MacArthur Park. On Broadway, I mean, RIGHT IN THE HEART OF LOS ANGELES, I saw people sleeping in the doorways of businesses closed for the night. I saw RATS; the biggest rats I've ever seen - like maybe 3 or 4 rats, CLIMBING IN AND AROUND PEOPLE SLEEPING IN the doorways.

I mean, I THOUGHT THAT I HAD LEFT THE PITS!!! The only vermin I saw in 9 days at the county jail was one cockroach ... no rats!!! These doorway sleepers would be better off in committing a crime and going to jail...3 hot meals, a bed, color TV, showers, free smokes...

...Much farther on out, on the beach, I saw 7 or 8 people grouped together, for safety and warmth, I suppose.

I know...
...because I was one of them, once.

For 6 or 7 years, I lived on the streets of L.A. From Temple City to Northridge and from Van Nuys to Santa Monica and then on to Venice I roamed. I slept in abandoned cars; I slept in doorways.

During the summer Olympics, I slept on a rooftop in Venice. It was crazy. You try to blend in during the day; you also try to hide out while at the same time trying to survive. But,...I survived!

Rent an Inch of the Beachhead: \$10

early or late

sand hidden in the corners of the floor

books

under beds old hammers overgrown in grass

chickens with biographies

trees ready to be cut down

small birds making nests

middle aged men making mash calls

do I want

to drive over in the middle of the night

and make us both

feel young

old shoes oil cloth

agate-haired cats young dogs sure of love

carrying small treasures

which you think are your socks

old men taking up with

young women who deceive them

as sure as rain and sometimes softly

like rain

lives knotted

looking for the beginning

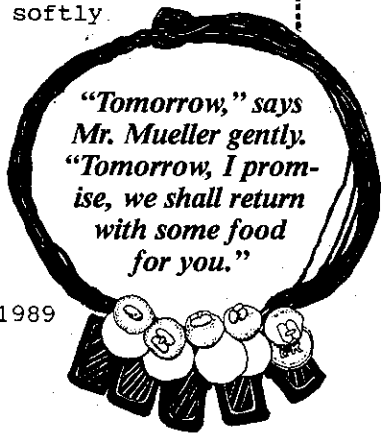
smooth as nylon line,

combustible

again

can we start here now

again



Pam Emerson 1989

Free Venice Beachhead--April 1989

Call or write-but soon:

Robert Janovici, Associate Zoning Admin.
Room 600, City Hall, L.A. 90012
TOLL FREE 1-800-922-2909 Ext. 3851
Councilwoman Galanter, City Hall 90012
TOLL FREE 1-800-922-2909 or 641-4717 or 776-4559.

Refer to Case No. CDP 88-036

ZA 88-1300 ZV at 601 Ocean Front Walk

HELP! NEIGHBORS

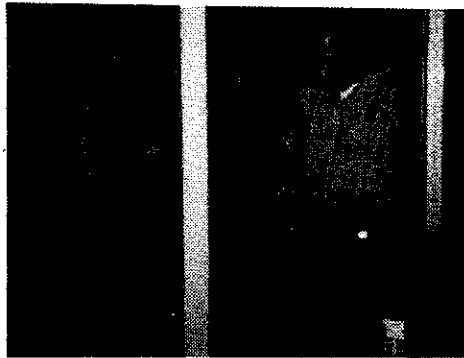
FOR INFORMATION CALL 396-5359

Ge riatic Jack

Welfare...from Page 1

A large security guard in black uniform with pistol, truncheon and black leather gloves stationed himself outside the door and people started going through the one-by-one entrance exam, stripping off their metal, tripping the alarm, coming up with concealed nuggets of various kinds, trying again. Several men got patted down. Bell-ringing purses got looked into.

With this kind of ordeal in mind, people will be less likely to go out for a cigarette or a food break. More likely to stay in their place and submit to further indignities in search of survival. Less likely to go to that office at all, if they don't absolutely have to.



PURSE SEARCH

Some will go berserk and become the responsibility of a different agency.

Luckily, I didn't have to go inside. As I walked away I realized I would have set off the alarm and been felt up by black leather gloves - my Levi's have metal buttons.

LETTERS....Continued from Page 2

This is a recent (to me) trend in the SM rental market. He is using this same technique in at least two other buildings on Cloverfield Blvd. and I've heard of other similar situations around the city.

I find this practice to be unethical and downright inhumane. It undermines the purpose of rent control by removing affordable rental housing from the market. In a city with a sizable homeless population ever on the rise, I find such a greedy, selfish practice to be appalling. I understand that this is not a violation of any current rent control ordinance but, as it subverts the basic intent of these laws, perhaps the city council should consider addressing this problem. As profit-hungry landlords contrive more subtle and devious ways of getting around our laws, greater vigilance and creativity are needed from you, our elected leaders, to assure the preservation of our already dwindling stock of affordable housing.

One suggestion would be to require the rental of a vacant unit within a certain time period after it is vacated. If compliance is not forthcoming the city could levy a fine, reduce the legal rent, or place a low income family in the unit. It's time the housing market ceased to be the profit-hunting ground of the rich at the expense of the hardworking moderate to lower income population.

I would like to address one other subject in this letter, that is the rent control registration fees levied on the tenant each year. This fee should be shared equally by tenant and landlord. Why should a tenant have to pay the city to enforce laws designed for his or her protection? It sets a disturbing precedent, requiring payment in return for fair enforcement of municipal laws, putting equality before the law into the realm of a prerogative of the wealthy. The \$144 annual fee is too much to ask one party to pay.

Thank you for your consideration and attention.

Thomas M. Brown
Santa Monica

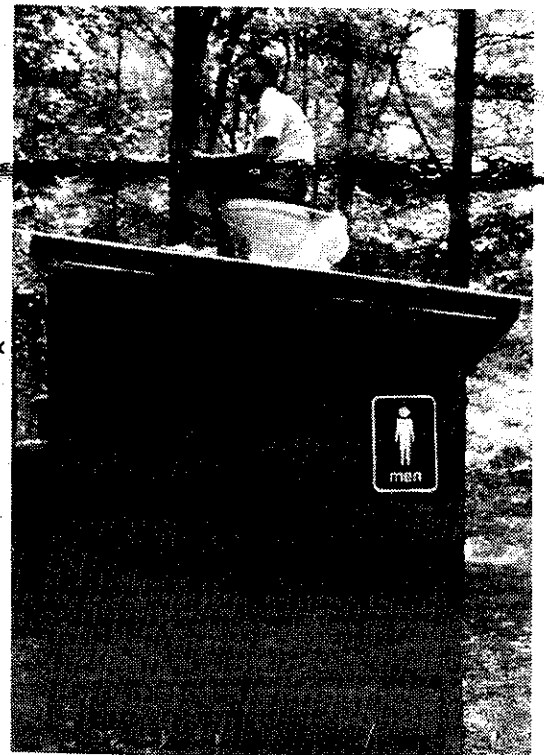
Chaplin...from Page 1

Charlie Chaplin scholars hve been disputing about the date on which the film was shot. Mr. Berglund is the first in all this time to take the simple expedient of searching local Venice papers for contemporary reports. He discovered advertisements for the event scheduled for 2:30 in the afternoon - or was it 1:30 in the afternoon? Venice time seems to have been working back in 1914.

The papers reported the event. When the film came out, the Venice Daily Vanguard reported: "Everyone in Venice, Ocean Park and Santa Monica were in the picture last night at the Neptune Theatre when the boys' pushmobile races were being shown...Truly, it was the most perfect and satisfactory picture of Venice and its people ever shown." The papers noted that Keystone's "Charlie Chapman" had been on hand.

The first audience to see the Tramp was the spectator who had gone to Venice Beach that afternoon to see the races and saw him in the flesh. And since they themselves were also caught in the film, we can actually watch them in the moment of discovering the character who within a few months was to capture the imagination of most of the world. To quote David Robinson again: "At first the bystanders watch solemnly, bewildered, embarrassed, supposing that this is some real hobo or drunk who is getting in the camera's way. Gradually they catch on - the children first - and start to laugh, realizing that a second camera is filming the interloper as he interferes with an evidently empty camera."

I wonder if any of these racing youngsters are still alive, and if they are, do they realize that they were the first people in the world to set eyes on one of April's great and glorious fools?



Somedays...

you get up in the morning and

feel like a royal

KING

perched on

top of the world--

THEN my friend there are the days when life is just like one big s-h-i-t

sandwich...and when

you

have

no

bread, the only thing

left to eat is...

I watch as the turds

float down

the drain--

most of it chocolate cake

and I think

WOW it didn't even

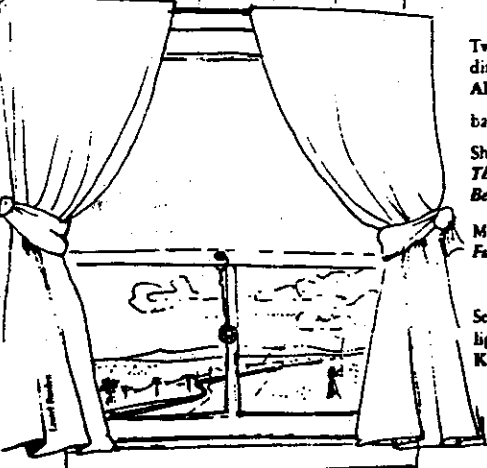
have to stop and change

color.

Community Events

Beyond Baroque's THEATER DIVISION presents

JAY W. MACINTOSH JOSEPH G. MEDALIS
in
BODIES ONCE YOUNG



Two monodramas
directed by
ALEC DOYLE
based on
Sherwood Anderson's
*The Man Who
Became A Woman*
Meridel Le Sueur's
Fudge

Set &
lights by
KEVIN ADAMS

Sat. Mar. 18 / Sun. Mar. 19
Sat. Apr. 1 / Sun. Apr. 2
Sat. Apr. 8 / Sun. Apr. 9
(NO performances March 25/26)

Curtain at 8:00 PM

Admission \$8. (\$5 for Members)
Reservations: (213) 822-3006

Beyond Baroque Literary/Arts Center
Old Venice City Hall
681 Venice Blvd.

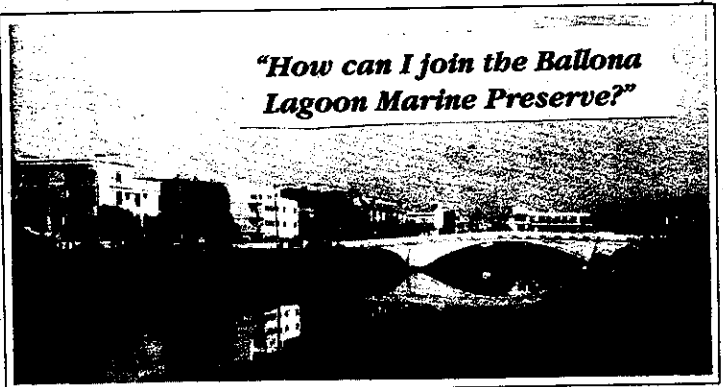
THE CHURCH IN OCEAN PARK

- CONTINUING GROUPS**
- AA Monday Evenings at 8 P.M.
 - KUNG FU with Victor Walker T & Th. at 6 P.M.
 - OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS -- M,W,F at 7:30 A.M. and Saturdays at 10 A.M.
 - COCAINE ANONYMOUS -- Meditation workshops on Thursdays 7:30 to 8:30 A.M.
 - DEBTORS ANONYMOUS - T & Th. 7:30 A.M.

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Monday evening 5-8, Wednesday & Saturday morning 9-noon.



"How can I join the Ballona Lagoon Marine Preserve?"

Ballona Lagoon looking south.

Today, the Ballona Lagoon is one of the last remaining salt water wetlands in California and itself is considered an endangered species. The Lagoon is situated in Venice in the midst of a fast-growing urban environment. This contributes to some of the widespread support it enjoys, and yet at the same time creates challenges to its very existence.

(A tax-deductible contribution of \$10.00 or more is suggested.)

Send to: Ballona Lagoon Marine Preserve
Post Office Box 9244
Marina del Rey, CA 90295-9244
(213) 306-5078

Community Meeting

767 California Ave.
Venice, CA 90291

7:00 p.m.
Tues., Mar. 28, 1989

-----Cafe Venicia-----

827 Ocean Front Walk (@ Brooks Ave.)
392-4155

Full Breakfasts--3 eggs, potatoes,
toast & Jelly--\$2
Daily Specials
Full Meals under \$5
Everything Prepared Fresh Daily
OPEN 7 DAYS

Best Charbroiled Burgers on the Beach!



Partial Agenda

Petition - Sam's Market.

Landlord harassment

Oakwood Recreation Center

Small World Books
1407 Ocean Front Walk
Venice, California 90291
213-822-2229



Sunday, April 2, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Katherine Dunn
reads from her novel,
Geek Love.

Thursday, April 13, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Carol Muske-Dukes
reads from her novel,
Dear Digby.

Validated parking is available weekdays and evenings
in the lot on the corner of Speedway and Market.

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Fri & Sat.---7 A.M. to 1:30 A.M.