

Happy Birthday, Freedom! Democracy!

FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968

BEACHHEAD

FREE

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Tom and Jane Jeanne

- By Robert James

"If it takes a bloodbath to clean up Berkeley, let there be a bloodbath."

Ronald Reagan, Governor of California

"There is no comparison between Kent State and Tian Ah Men Square."

Tom Hayden, L.A. Times, June 18, 1989

"Tom Hayden gives opportunism a bad name." Alexander Cockburn, on the occasion of Hayden's trip to Lebanon where he was photographed looking through an Israeli gunsight

A few weeks ago I was asked to speak at a rally on campus about the events in China. Although I was unable to be there, I thought a lot about what I wanted to say. In the end, I decided to discuss three emotional responses to the events: sorrow, outrage, and complacency.

Sorrow was my first reaction, but it was shared by few Americans. The Chinese Revolution was a major step forward, not just for China but for the world. The economic "reforms" which have been going on in China ever since the defeat of the Cultural Revolution have been dismantling socialism; the current massacre is the political counterpart of those reforms. It is no longer possible to consider China a socialist country.

Outrage was my second reaction. This time the feeling was widely shared, if not by President Bush. Outrage is completely appropriate. What is going on in China is not different from—and it pains me to say this—Chile under Pinochet. A government that fires upon its citizens has forfeited its right to govern.

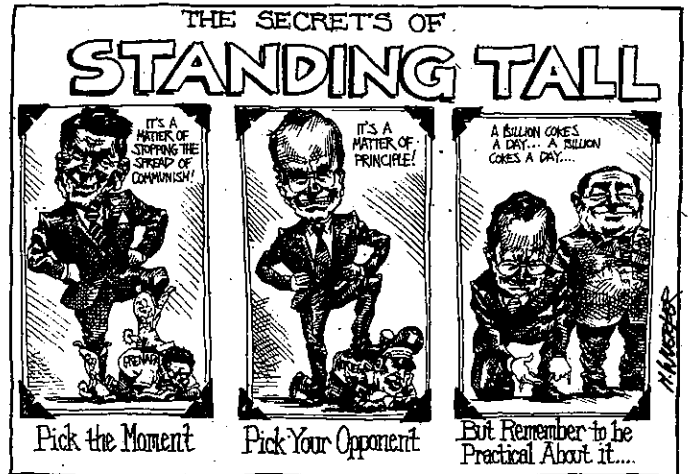
The reaction most encouraged by media pundits and politicians, however, was not outrage, let alone sorrow. Complacency and self-congratulation were the main strands of media coverage. The Chinese, we were told over and over, are struggling for what we have. These sort of events could never take place in the United States, we are told, or, indeed, in countries that the U.S. supports.

It is this ugly mood of self-congratulation that Hayden sought to bolster in the L.A. Times. He compared the Chinese leadership to the Khmer Rouge in that "both represent a core attitude rarely found in the family of nations: the willingness to slaughter thousands of their innocent countrymen, indeed their 'best and brightest', to preserve personal, party, or state power." In other words, the Chinese leadership is not merely brutal, but uniquely brutal.

Most of us are aware that American protesters were murdered by government forces during the 1960s at Kent State, Jackson State, Berkeley and throughout Mississippi. Many remember when the Chicago police invaded the Black Panther headquarters in Chicago and murdered the Panther leaders in their beds. Tom Hayden thinks it is bad politics to mention this. When John Vasconcellos had the gall to mention Kent State in a discussion on China, Hayden called it "an embarrassing example of what conservative Jeanne J. Kirkpatrick once labeled the 'blame America first' attitude of many liberal Democrats." Hayden's mention of Jeanne Kirkpatrick is perhaps part of a search for a new alliance: instead of Tom and Jane, we may have to face Tom and Jeanne.

In any case, Hayden should be well aware that China's policies, however indefensible, are hardly unique. In El Salvador, government forces have murdered over 60,000 students, peasants, and workers. As far as I know, Hayden has not demanded a halt to U.S. aid to El Salvador. The spectre of students with rocks facing soldiers with guns occurs in the West Bank as well as in Tian Ah Men square, but Hayden supports brutal repression there.

We should all be aware that Hayden is in the process of creating a new identity. He writes articles in which he distinguishes himself from both the left and the right wings of the Democratic Party. He criticizes the left in the Democratic Party for being soft on defense. (This is one reason why he did not support Jesse Jackson.) He has endorsed the death penalty. These are conscious attempts not merely at repudiating his radical past (which, by the way, was not all that radical), but also at distancing himself from present-day liberalism. And Hayden's critique of liberalism, it need hardly be added, is from the right, not the left.



Voices of Lincoln Place

BY Sara Omari

This is a random sampling of some of the residents of the Lincoln Place Apartments. One of the residents was showing others a copy of the Santa Monica Evening Outlook, page 12 (Thursday June 15, 1989) story.

Story title was 800 VENICE TENANTS FEAR EVICTIONS

The first thing the lady who bought the paper said was: "I wonder they [the Los Angeles City Council] got paid to vote against us?"

Another: "Where do they expect us to go An older man: "I voted for Galanter, but she is not doing anything for us."

Someone else: "Some of us have been here for more than 30 years."

A middle-youngish person: "Did you see Galanter's reply [in the tenant's newsletter]? Words, that's all she has... She has let us down badly. We can expect nothing from her. All she does is have people talk. Come next election, she can expect nothing from us."

As people are dispersing: "I hope Cort [David Cort, president of the LPA Tenants Organization] reconsiders. I just don't know what to do."

Me: What election? If you are houseless, you will not be able to vote, since you will have no address."

Still another person: "I tried to talk to (name withheld by request) about the

news item. After all, she is my neighbor. But she got very hysterical. You know, she has been here for more than 30 years. For a moment, I thought that she was going to have a heart attack. She turned pale and she kept clutching her heart. She said her heart was beating very fast. Then, she put her hands up to her ears and said: 'I don't want to hear about it.' Soo, I left her alone, because I don't want to be responsible. Let the office come and tell her."

Another person in the group: "My next door neighbor tells me that her husband soils himself when he hears news about the eviction."

Person passing by: "Why don't they just try to renovate the empties, first?"

From another: "I heard that we were to be given \$7,000.00 to relocate."

Someone else: "What! that more than one quarter of a million."

His companion: "That is not enough!"

An up-to-now quiet person: "Who were the Japanese taking pictures the other day? They were in front of the office." A talkative one answered: "How do you know they were Japanese? Maybe they were Chinese."

Another human: "Do you all know the man at (address deleted by request). He is almost 90. He can barely walk. How are he and his wife going to navigate those steps. How are they going to go about looking for another place?"

The Uses of Power

by John Haag

The second time Arnold Springer told me with great glee that "we" are in power now, I had to ask him, "Arnold, if we're in power, how come I'm still homeless?" Since then I have had many occasions to ponder what it means to be in power and who is this "we" that Arnold is talking about.

Since Ruth Galanter's election, you might get the idea that something has changed besides just the players. But in fact, power relationships have not changed. Power is the ability to affect other people's lives whether they like it or not.

Since Ruth's election, landlords are still landlords, and tenants are still tenants. Police still tell us civilians what to do and not the other way around. Owners are still owners, and the laws are still set up to keep it that way. Power relationships have not

changed at all.

Names and faces have changed, but the fact that there are more Venice residents or ex-Venice residents in the Council office does not necessarily mean that the Venice community is better served. The fact that former Russell opponents now serve on Galanter advisory boards does not mean that our collective interests are being looked after. Appointed advisors can't be expected to represent the community, because they are not accountable to the community. Since they are accountable only to Ruth Galanter, whom do they represent? Of course, Ruth Galanter.

After an orgy of community planning, it seemed we might finally have matters in hand, with an interim control ordinance (ICO) to hold things in place until the final plan

could be adopted. Then we started seeing zone changes from residential to commercial and violations of the ICO allowed in return for supposed benefits somewhere else.

Allowed by whom? By the city (read, Galanter's office) on the recommendation of negotiator/compromisers either self-appointed or Galanter-appointed. These compromisers, who used to keep themselves busy objecting to developments, now keep busy extorting concessions out of developers in return for agreeing to violations of the ICO and other regulations, over the objections of nearby residents. The ICO, it seems, was not meant to control anything, but only to be used as a set of bargaining chips in a new Monopoly game.

Continued to Page 7

Letters! . . . Letters! . . . Letters! . . . Letters! . .

An Open Letter to the Venice Town Council

I wonder if you know how the Venice Town Council looks to newcomers and outsiders. As a newcomer, let me tell you, it isn't pretty.

When I joined the VTC two months ago, I recognized very few people in the room at my first meeting and had never had a social relationship with any VTC member. I had no emotional ax to grind within the VTC and joined because I was concerned about both crime and development in my immediate neighborhood.

I am shocked at the childish behavior exhibited at VTC meetings. I understand that many VTC members have longstanding personal relationships and are dealing with emotional issues, but this is no excuse for the emotional outbursts and personal attacks which I have been witnessing. While I am a newcomer to the VTC, I am not a newcomer to political and community organizations. Over the years, I have been in several groups in which members have either been close friends or have been unable from time immemorial to get along at all. I have seen these people conduct themselves in a rational, businesslike manner during meetings and deal with personal and emotional problems outside of meetings in private. I believe members of the Venice Town Council are capable of doing the same.

One of the purposes of my going to VTC meetings is to obtain information which I bring back to my neighborhood group. Due to the facts that I do not wish to take up the time of longstanding members in repeating old information and that I am rarely called upon when my hand is raised, I am dependent on the

kindness of others who ask questions to which I need answers. At the June 8th meeting, one person asked Arnold Springer, "What have you done for me lately?" While I may have phrased the question differently, I was ignorant of what Mr. Springer had done lately or at any other time due to my newness as a member, and I was very interested in hearing the answer. What I heard was an emotional diatribe calling for applause for people Mr. Springer worked with and which ended with the words, "Up yours." I do not think my Tivoli neighbors will find this information useful, so I go to them empty-handed. Although Mr. Springer may have found the wording of this question an affront, I would beg him to keep in mind that there are people at these meetings who would really like a serious answer. I would suggest to him that he give us a serious answer, and if he has personal business with the person who asked the question to take care of it at a later time.

This was only one example, and it is by far not the worst example, of silly behavior at VTC meetings.

I would also suggest that time taken for things such as sports scores, which is totally inappropriate, be used instead for a treasurer's report. I have never in two decades of working with many organizations known an organization which does not give a treasurer's report at each meeting. Even Spanky and Alfalfa gave treasurer's reports to their gang at their meetings!

I was extremely concerned that in the three meetings that I have attended, there have been five developers, one Los Angeles City Councilwoman, one of the councilwoman's staff members, and public officials from Culver City present. While I do not care if any of these visitors to VTC meetings like me or other members of the VTC personally, I do care if they take

me and other members of the VTC seriously. I would hope that the VTC wants to be taken seriously, but this is clearly impossible when guests witness the egregious behavior that I have witnessed. What was even more of an embarrassment was that, not only did the VTC leadership not steer the meetings into a more appropriate direction, several members of the Board actually actively engaged in this childish behavior.

Lastly, I know that VTC members who speak at the meetings genuinely wish to make an important point. Please realize that when I listen to you, you start to make that point and then lapse into personal resentments. Not only is this boring for someone not privy to your emotional entanglements, and who does not WANT to be privy to your emotional entanglements, but it is difficult to listen to someone who is raising his or her voice in a hostile manner. You cease making any sense at all, I get bored, and your point is totally lost on me. I remember on June 8th, three people spoke one right after the other beginning with the words, "I resent" What you resent is none of the business of myself, developers or city officials. It is only the business of you and the person of whom you are resentful.

These meetings have been much more akin to group therapy sessions than community meetings. If you are in need of therapy, you are more than welcome to get it, but please get it from a therapist, not from the Venice Town Council.

I only wish there were funds to videotape VTC meetings so that you would see how the VTC membership looks to others. You would quickly realize that this behavior seriously undermines the purpose of the existence of the VTC and would immediately stop engaging in it. ■

by Fran Longmire



Victor Wightman, Kathy Sullivan, Carol Fondiller, John Haag, Malcolm Tent, Diane Nickerson, Judith L. Martin, Beth Miller, Sara Omari, Kathleen Alvarez and Bonnie Faulkner

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.

Next meetings at 11 A.M. Sundays, July 16, 23 and 30 at Tenant Action Center, 442 Lincoln Blvd.

Send submissions to: P.O. Box 504, Venice California, 90294



Veniceland

Ladies and gentlemen I am here tonite because something I have heard disturbs me greatly. The topic being slow-growth or no-growth concerning commercial development on the Venice boardwalk.

In Venice we have the city's only municipal beach. A beach that attracts millions of tourists every year. Do we want to turn back all these tourists, build a wall around Venice and make the boardwalk residential? No, I don't think so.

Or do we want to build a gate in that wall and charge \$100 per day to visit Veniceland and its four major attractions - Muscledland, Yuppyland, Homelessland and Druggystown. That way we could allow entrance only to those people we wanted in Venice. For example, no one would be allowed on the Tooterville Trolley for a visit to Druggystown unless they could show ownership of a Beamer or Mercedes and were carrying a pocketful of \$100 bills.

No one could go to Muscledland unless they had the body of a young Greek god or goddess, etc. But you get my point don't you? Venice does not have a wall around it and our beach is a public beach. So rather than send a signal downtown that we who depend so much on our tourist industry want no more tourists and nothing to attract them, I would rather propose this:

I propose the Strand Commission be formed and patterned after the Vicoy Carre Commission in New Orleans and manned by a group of citizens living in Venice and who are concerned with the appearance of the boardwalk. This group could be elected by having elections in each community area in the Venice community. The task of this commission would be as follows

1. To see that any and all new construction projects taken on presently or planned for in the future would take on a design that would be both aesthetically beautiful and fitting the current LOOK of the boardwalk.

2. To see that any commercial development was hooked to, not only parking, but to housing development as well, with the first priority being the development of low-income housing.

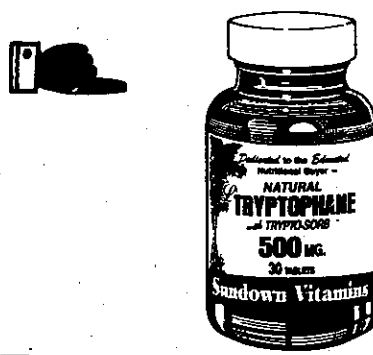
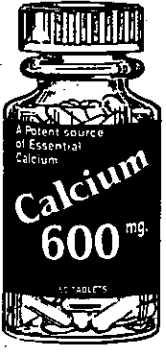
3. To encourage that 50% of the commercial development be leased by local artists and craftmakers.

With this plan we could not only revitalize our community, but could have a very definite impact on the appearance of our beach. Therefore, not only adding to the beach, but to all of Venice. ●

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Bed 'n Beer?

By Carol Fondiller

A new underground "cottage" industry is making its debut, and the spawning ground is Venice. This industry is being promulgated by owners of apartments & houses (single, du & tri).

One of the most recent and egregious examples of this burgeoning industry is 15 Paloma Avenue, the Ellison Apartments.

The industry works thusly: when a building needs to be brought up to code, i.e. earthquake & fireproofing, etc., tenants are either moved to different vacant apartments, or they are moved out. This seems to be the method that the Ellison owners use. The vacant apartments (in the Ellison's case these rooms are at the most 600 square feet) are then fitted with 4 beds (2 pairs of bunk beds) and rented out on a temporary (2 week stay max.) to European young people who are touring the U.S. on the cheap. The business cards are posted in places where these young foreign visitors congregate. (The accompanying graphic was from the Kings Head, a popular hangout for young people from all over the British Commonwealth.) Other business cards were found at mail box offices such as the one at Santa Monica and Ocean Ave.

The kids are charged \$14.00 a night or \$98 a week. Rooftop parties with loud rock music and free-flowing beer handed out gratis to the 18 to 20 year olds and their friends who party hearty is an added inducement. By my figuring, with four people in a room the landlord's getting \$56 a night, or \$392 a week, or \$1,768 a month for a small apartment with no parking.



15 Paloma Avenue

According to the long-time tenants, some of whom have lived in the Ellison for over 15 years, 15 of the 60 units in the Ellison have been "rehabbed" into youth hostel accommodations. So 15 units times \$1,768 a month equals \$26,520 a month. If these 15 units at \$98 per 4 people in a room were only fully occupied for three months out of the year, the landlords would be raking in \$79,560 a year--taking into account the minimum repairs the landlords would have to do, payment of commissions to people who recruit the young travelers and minimum wages paid the manager who oversees the youth hostel section only, (though law requires a resident manager be in a building with over 20 units).

--The building owners have about \$70,000 profit.

The permanent residents of 15 Paloma are not happy with this arrangement, but their rents have been held down by rent control so the building owners can only gouge \$500-\$800 from them for rooms with antiquated stoves and refrigerators, cracked ceilings etc.

The combination of long-term tenants and young transients don't mix.

"The kids aren't bad," said one tenant. "If I was young and was seeing the world on a budget, this would be ideal. But the elevator is out half the time because of the heavy usage, someone is always using the laundry, they party all night, and because they aren't permanent, they don't respect the property. They unroll the fire hoses, plants have been killed, the patio is always filled with motorcycles, etc."

When people used to move in they signed a lease promising to be quiet among other things. When complaining about a rehearsing Tunisian rock musician who moved in as a permanent resident, some of the tenants were told



Cityhood Now!

By Rex Frankel

Small is Beautiful

Watching the progress of the investigations of Mayor-For-Life Tom Bradley brings joy to this political gadfly's heart, yet why no one has mounted a recall campaign is a mystery to me.

Well, maybe it's because big growth-supporting business interests control LA through the big LA newspapers: The LA Times, the westside and South Bay Outlook/Breeze and the Valley Daily News. Only the tiny Herald Examiner dares to investigate City Hall or endorse challengers in elections. Meanwhile, the big TV networks were bought-out under the Reagan administration by defense contractors, union busters and cigarette makers. Then Reagan repealed the FCC's Fairness Doctrine and Equal Time rule, allowing polluters such as Oxy Petroleum last November to finance 10 commercials on the TV for every one of their opponents in the Palisades drilling battle.

This media control is political reality--and it's made it nearly impossible for community challengers to beat entrenched politicians or have an effect on City, County, State or Federal governments, unless the media is on our side, as it rarely is.

And like the Chinese government's crushing of the student uprisings last month, our State and County bureaucracies continue to squash "people-power" movements. The County Supervisors, well on the dole from developers, have thrown up a series of legal roadblocks to stall cityhood for Malibu and Calabasas--the last two developed areas on the Westside except Marina Del Rey that aren't already cities. Marina Del Rey cityhood was stopped 3 years ago by a special state law which protects the Marina Lessees, who manage and rake in the profits from the County-owned resort.

Being your own city allows you to protect neighborhoods and tell big developers to go to Hell, if necessary. The problem with LA City and County officeholders is that they can't say no that is, if they want to get re-elected



that the only thing the owners cared about was that the tenants paid their rent and minded their own business.

Councilwoman Galanter's office is busy trying to find an ordinance that covers hostels in a residential zone. The impact on the surroundings are negative: parking, noise, congestion, fights, etc.

The Ellison might be the most spectacular in this new development. It's not the only one. There are two hostels on Brooks Avenue, 1 on S. Venice Blvd. and 1 in the Oxford Triangle area--all the above are located in residential zones.

Perhaps the landlords are working on the old bad-driving-out-the-good ploy that many landlords have used to their financial advantage. That is, move out the long-term rent-controlled tenants by moving in noisy and loutish new tenants, thereby chasing out the old tenants without having to pay them relocation funds, and turning more living units into youth hostel rooms or vacancy-decontrolled units.

Besides being a pain to the tenants, there are 60 people more in the Ellison than there used to be. In other words the 15 units have multiplied the tenant population by about 100%. 120 people are living in a space meant to be occupied by perhaps 60-70 people.

The hostel on Lincoln Blvd is in a commercial zone, as are the hostels on Windward and Dudley & Ocean Front Walk.

Because these hostels have been snuck in, no business taxes or hotel fees or health and safety inspections have been levied or carried out.

Seen a lot of unfamiliar faces in your neighborhood lately? Maybe some entrepreneurial absentee landlord-type is sneaking in a Hotel Six up the block.

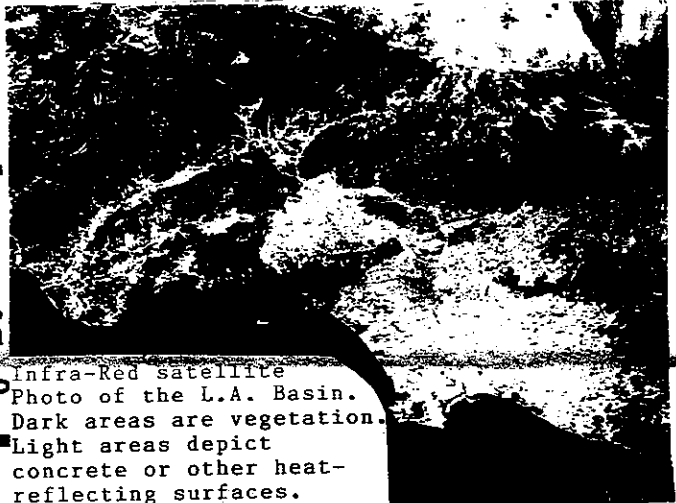
NUMBERS TO CALL:
Frank Eberhard--Planning--485-2478
Mr. Bliss--Building & Safety--237-1978
To let Councilwoman Galanter know call 202-4567 or 641-4717--ask for Joan Cory.

The View from the Top.....
We in LA city face a regularly hostile City Council--Pro-growth to the extreme--many are millionaires who live in palatial estates and hilltop cityview homes away from the traffic the rest of

us deal with. One day last month, I looked up the addresses of top city officials at the City Clerk's office. At each home I got out of the car and standing on the sidewalk, I looked to see what their backyards looked like. Then I got up and stood on the roof of my car--pretending to be a high rise building intruding into their private backyards, but I couldn't see anything--the security fences were too tall. Then I imagined a high-rise office tower next door, or from the flatlands immediately below these hilltop homes. Now I'll bet these neighborhoods would be pissed off, and the councilmember would raise hell. Unless, of course he or she plans on moving, you know, just buying a new backyard--like our previous councilwoman.

You see, even the so-called environmentalist councilmembers have little ability to stand up to the big buck developers, because our local pavers contribute to a voting majority of councilmembers.

A lot of talk has been going around about breaking up L.A. into 5, 10, 20 or more pieces. Free Venice, Free Westchester, Free the Valley, Free Hollywood, Free East LA, Free San Pedro, etc.



Infra-Red satellite Photo of the L.A. Basin. Dark areas are vegetation. Light areas depict concrete or other heat-reflecting surfaces.

The problem with L.A. is not just the distance to city hall, or the open corruption tolerated by Bradley and co. for 16 years; no the worst aspect of this big city is its ability at times to gang up on areas. Here are descriptions of the latest messes the LA Council seems determined to get us into, along with the current and former city officials who are involved with them.

--Playa Vista--Nelson Rising, of the new developer-team of Maguire-Thomas Partners, started his presentation to the Venice Town Council with the standard developer argument against reasonable growth. He said "Whose children will have to leave the basin: yours or mine." He also spoke of NIMBY's who fight "progress". Rising, borrowing a strategy used by Mayor Bradley and Pat Russell, the trickle-down theory, said that density reductions by the city conflict with their ability to provide affordable housing. At three hearings held in late June to collect public input, Rising dodged the question about how dense the project will be compared to the surrounding communities. Rising shouted at one man "You're just being argumentative" when the man said Playa Vista will be 10 times as dense as the

area around it. (Actually, Playa Vista will be only 5 or 6 times as dense as the surrounding communities, if that's any consolation.) Dodging issues is a hallmark of Mayor Bradley's career, and Rising's use of this tactic is familiar because Rising, also an attorney, managed Bradley's failed campaigns for Governor. (LA Times--4/17/89) Now I see why Summa Corp. chose the Maguire-Thomas team as their developers, as they are also building the tallest building on the West Coast in Downtown LA, the 73 story Library Tower.

--The Howard Hughes Center--located on the Gardena Syncline--a geologic sinkhole; LAX Northside, Continental City and the planned 50% traffic increase at LAX. Along with Playa Vista, these projects add up to almost 30 million SF of offices and some condos on earthquake faults.

Owing to a printer's error, these paragraphs were not readable in our last issue.

BY BETH MILLER

For Ourselves and Our Children

by Kathleen Alvarez

Once upon a time in a tiny town by the sea there was a man named Abbot Kinney who decided to build an amusement park so that all the people of the growing metropolis of Los Angeles could have a good time on Southern California weekends.

It occurred to me one morning in early April as I was working on some preparations for the April 13 meeting of the Venice Town Council, listening to the cries of the local seabirds on Venice Beach--domesticated whole-bran-eating creatures dependent on our crumbs, they seem to have lost the habit of freedom--that it's not hard to understand how Venice lost its independence. The crumbs thrown are the mitigation, which according to my Webster's Unabridged means:

MITIGATION [from the Latin *mitigatio*, a soothing, calming] "alleviation; abatement or diminution of anything painful, harsh, severe, afflictive, or calamitous, as, the mitigation of pain, grief, rigor, punishment, or penalty."

I knew at the April 13 VTC meeting "mitigations" were likely to be much discussed during the debate on Prudential's proposed Marina Place project. I had read Juan Persona's article "Anchors Away" in the April Beachhead and recalled the gentleness of city politics in Culver City (everything is relative), a city which started out as a place to lodge the workers at MGM studios, in a way.

I wondered what amount of money or what "mitigations" (which in the legal sense means "to make as if something never happened"--nothing could make it as if Marina Place never happened once it were built) the Venice Town Council was requesting of Culver City. I thought that the only mitigation I would want from our neighbor would be that plot of land on Washington--I mean, for the people of Venice, maybe a People's Park with trees to mitigate the noxious fumes from the motor vehicles on Lincoln, an open space and market which the Zanja and Mar Vista neighbors could also enjoy. Culver City doesn't need that piece of Venice anyway, the old swapmeet site, so they could just redraw the border and withdraw from the lawsuit, I fantasized. Or maybe, if Venice can't be its own city, maybe we could vote to merge with Culver City. At least we could

ride our bikes to City Hall instead of wasting our time on the freeway trying to get downtown for hearings on planning and development that affect Venice's future, our own growth or no growth, our own local issues. We could have a more responsive city government and a more effective infrastructure of services: local police and fire departments, garbage collection, tourist information, etc. But nobody on my block had any desire to merge with Culver City, although everyone that independence would be a great thing, see June 1989 issue

What are we doing to ourselves? I find that I am asking myself that every day now. I look around and I see that we are slowly but surely destroying ourselves. All over the place we have problems with gangs, the homeless, pollution, nuclear waste, terrorists, corrupted governments, corrupted religion, abuse of our children, and of our elderly. Unfortunately this is only a summary of the masses of problems with no real solutions in the near future, but will we survive the wait?

Let's look at some of the messes we've made just in our local cities and counties. Our children are being abused, exploited, and even killed, sometimes by their own parents. There doesn't seem to be any protection for them. They are shot down at schools and parks, and molested in their own beds at night. If an average person were to see any of this or even to suspect it, what could they do? Call the Child Protective Services and tell them? I've tried it, they tell you that unless they have concrete proof or evidence that no one will investigate. If, by chance they had this evidence, then what? Most likely only extreme cases are taken care of and the milder ones are over looked or disregarded, as if a suspected molestation can be considered mild. What happens to the children after all this? Most are doomed to the childhood they are living, being pawns in their parents inner wars.

What about the older child who, with proper guidance could begin to help themselves be a productive responsible adult. This sounds great but who is going to guide them? Every time we try to set up programs for them either ignorant parents vote against it, or our government takes away funding for it. For a long time we have tried to put educational programs and clinics in the schools to help these kids who have no where else to turn, but there is so much opposition that it is a wonder why

these people keep trying, I admire their efforts.

For adults there is another set of problems. Adults are supposed to be the responsible ones, but how can they be responsible when that means putting yourself and your loved ones on the firing line. How do you stand up against crime and drugs when your neighborhoods are overrun with gangs who own guns? How can we be responsible parents when we are forced to work all day and leave our children in the hands of others who may or may not be responsible themselves?

How can we be responsible about anything when there is little or no support for those who are willing?

It is a vicious circle that doesn't have any breaks. What I want to do is help make those breaks bigger. If as a community we can look at our local problems and take the initiative to help solve them then we can begin to heal ourselves. We have to take back the control over our lives without endangering ourselves.

One way to do that is to stop relying on our leaders to do the right things, so far they either haven't, or they are too slow. The next thing is to get involved in something, it doesn't matter what it is as long as it helps. You could volunteer at your local library to to have a reading group, or you could volunteer at your local recreation center to lead a playgroup for kids and/or parents. It doesn't take alot of know how to do these things, just time and effort. Get to know your neighbors, provided they are not violent or dealing drugs, two heads are better than one. Go to your local church, even if you are not religious, a church can offer alot of support and is a good way to learn how to get involved. The main idea is to volunteer. The one reason I have to be interested in George Bush is that he promotes volunteerism. Until our government officials stop playing games we have to help ourselves, not destroy ourselves. Volunteerism means taking the time to get involved in the world around us and begin to make a difference.

Studies over many years have confirmed time and time again that one of the best ways to help yourself is to help someone else, so what are we waiting for? How many anti-abortionists have adopted or foster children? You would think that if they really wanted to give the right to life to our children, they would help to give our children a life that they would want to have a right to have.

If we begin to help ourselves, our neighborhoods, and our communities we will find that it is contagious. Less people will turn to alcohol and drugs and crime if we make other options more desirable and easier to choose. Right now it is too easy to fail because there is no good reason to succeed. What are we doing to ourselves, or should I ask what are we doing for ourselves. If those who are strong and knowing begin to ban together, then as a united front we can help the few that are left lost and misguided.

Strip Search

Sybil Brand-Style

by Sara Omari

In January of 1987, a judge sentenced me to 3 days in jail (Sybil Brand Institute for Women in Los Angeles).

The peach-faced fuzz who had pulled me over as I drove on the Santa Monica Freeway said I was going too slow, although I pointed out to the CHiP that there were no other cars in the other lanes. Nonetheless, the gestapo wrote out the ticket.

In court, I opted for community service work; because of the flu, I did not finish the work. When I returned to court to ask for an extension, judge said NO!

I was kept in a holding cell in the basement of the Traffic Courts Building (Washington & Hill) in downtown Los Angeles. There, I was chained to another woman and we were put on the familiar black & white LAPD county jail bus.

After several hours of waiting around, the other woman and I were led, to cries (from male inmates of "look at all that pussy") from one building to yet another bus (at the county jail) and then dropped off at another jail.

The male inmates were at the back of the bus; a steel door separated us. I saw the sad humour in this; I thought that the poor bastards either suffered from glaucoma or had cataracts..

And during all thistime, we were chained to each other AND to the seats!

The, for the indignity of being booked!!! by people who cannot read.

But, the crowning insult was yet to follow. My name was called, OMARI, Sara. I answered and matron, pointing to me, said: "You, will be #1" and then she proceeded to give instructions to the 3 other women and to me.

First, she told us to follow her. Then, she took us to a place that LOOKED like a shower stall. The illusion was helped, I think, because there WERE 4 shower stalls in there. All of them had, what appeared, at first glance, to hold, a big plastic litter box (in the shower stall itself). We were instructed to go and to get the box and to place it in front of us. After we did as we were told, matron (a screw, really) told us to take off our sweaters. Then, one at a time, the turn-key took our sweaters AND THREW THEM ON THE FLOOR.

Then she told us to strip!...and then to put all of our clothes in the kitty-litter-looking-box. We complied.

Matron then told us to get into the shower stall.

Then she gave instructions to the 4 of us: "Spread your feet!" We did. She said: "More." Again, we complied. I found my feet at the very edge of the stall. Then the screw said: "Bend over." And again: "More" and and she repeated: "More." Our hair was almost touching the floor. And then she said: "Open your vagina."

Stunned silence.

I am not unclumsy, but for a millisecond I debated looking at matron, (just in case it was her idea of a joke,) either by moving my head (but would have lost my balance) OR by looking at matron from under my legs, but she had looked, too ilse Koch for me.

The silence continued: "YOU HEARD ME. Open up that vagina." We must have followed instructions, because there were no protests.

Continuing, matron said: "OK" now straighten up and turn around." And then: "Lift up your breasts." And, under her breath, she said: "Lift up your stomachs, some of you."

So much for the In-Service training these matrons allegedly receive as part of their Indoctrination Service Training. Even in the Marines, some 35+ years ago, I was not treated thusly. Makes one wonder what these matrons do for serious crime, such as J-walking. ■

HaHaHa to the Public Defender

by Sara Omari

The Public Defender asked the witness: "Do you remember what the suspect was wearing?"
 The West Bureau Narcotics Detective answered: "blackandblue"
 Then, with the slightest raising of an eyebrow and his lip curled just the teeniest (it was actually the shadowy ghost of a smile), he replied: "black pants and a blue shirt."
 The Public Defender continued: "When did you arrest this man?"
 The response: "On the 31st of march of this year."
 Public Defender: "And when did you write your report?" and the answer was "May 1st."
 Public Defender: "Why did you wait so long?" and L.A.'s finest said: "I have heard of him before."
 The public defender, hired to protect the rights of the accused too poor to pay for a private counsel, continued: "By your own testimony, you made other arrests that night. How can you remember the details, of this one arrest, and such a long time ago?"
 Detective answered: "I had heard of him before."

I was never able to find out what the charges were against this young man, so I kept my ears ~~WASHED~~.
 The detective walked over to talk, the prosecutor, the same steel-trap mind of a person who had prosecuted the infamous 25¢ LAX shopping cart thief. I heard the 'tec say "...and if we don't get him on the 1538 (or was it the 1358) [note to readers: I forgot the number, especially since I don't know what it means, though I did ask]...we'll get him on the other, huh?"
 And the prosecutor, low-key to the end, replied: "Yes, we'll get him."
 Once more, I tried to find out the charges against the suspect. Couldn't find out whether he was accused of "soliciting from a police officer" or if suspect had an uncontrolled substance on him..
 After the controlled conversation between the keepers of the Constitution, the 'tec smiled, smoothed his jacket over his ample hips, accepted a folder from the prosecutor, then came over to sit, coincidentally, one seat over from me.

I looked over at the 'tec, who, by his own testimony, works undercover in the Oakwood section of Venice. It is about 3 blocks from where I live. He started to read the folder. "Reading" consisted of LEAFING through the folder, then closing said folder and putting it on his lap, then sitting quietly, just looking around.
 The alleged criminal was then brought in, and so then I focussed my attention. He was opting for a jury trial (probably believing in a system which possibly does not exist). I noted that the suspect had been wearing prison toga but had now changed into civies (civilian clothes) possibly for the jury of gladiators. Although the System meant it, I'm sure, as a fair gesture, I noticed that the Crim (alleged) had his jail ID on his wrist and that those silver-looking bracelets had him chained to the chair.
 The black-Robed one ascended the Throne. The public defender approached Him and told Judge that the accused wanted a Trial by Jury.

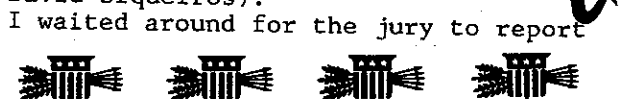
The Justice sighed tiredly, and (reluctantly, I thought) pronounced: "OOOOokay, let's give him his jury trial."
 Many suspects would have folded, right then. Me, for one. Many would have read correctly, the handwriting on the wall, and allowed the Keepers of the Constitution, to keep their doctor's appointments (or maybe their golf dates). These alleged suspects would have served their time.
 Jury filed in.

Then I remembered that I had done my Jury Duty time last year (downtown L.A.). At that time, I had polled my fellow jurors during one of our lunch breaks, that, except for Antarctica, all 6 continents were represented. Since I did not see any penguins, I assumed, correctly, that Antarctica was not represented. And anyway, Antarctica is not considered a continent.
 All races were there: black, white, red, brown, yellow. Would you believe some in native Far East costume? Idiolects, dialects galore. Truly demographic and heterogenous.

However, this jury that filed into the West L.A. courtroom was different in its sameness. Ladies were coiffed and gentlemen, most, wore suit and ties. Only one juror, who sat near me (there were not enough seats to go around) muttered: "OK,

let's get this show on the road." Then he slouched down, put his head back, and closed his eyes.
 Jury was sworn in. It was then 4:45p.m. on the last day before the time limit set by the Constitution (right to a speedy trial). This, 30 days after an arraignment.

Personally, I thought that it was a ploy to get the prospective jurors pissed off at the suspect, any suspect, by keeping jurors waiting around, especially with a week-end yawning in one's face, and then dismissed. This particular jury panel was told to return on Tuesday morning.
 On Tuesday morn, bright and early, I was in court (not minding my own business). Besides, I was keeping track of 2 other trials. One was a murder trial and the other was a consumer fraud trial (the consumer trial had, as one of its witnesses, a man who testified that he had studied under the great David Siqueiros).



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in. No jurors came in. Everyone knew but me, of course. I did ask around.

And found out later that the public defender had told the suspected Criminal (allegedly but not irrelevantly) that the trial was guaranteed to give him jail time and that he was to be found guilty. He was also, allegedly, but relevantly, that his crime was punishable by 17 months.

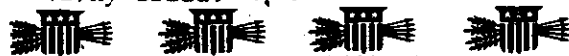
I can see that Public Defender is overworked. No matter how intelligent, knowledgeable and experienced, (s)he is still overworked. PD jockeys time and folders as PD meets with clients at the railing which separates the Inner Sanctum and the regular seating gallery. The very 'lucky' suspects (the ones not in jail, but out on bail) get to talk to the Defender outside the courtroom, just before they go before Judge. Where the suspected crims plead, and get sentenced ---bingo, 1, 2, 3.

Anyway (am meandering again) the young suspect, who had previously and adamantly asked for a jury trial, gave up all hope.

Lo!!! Another notch for Somebody!
 And Oakwood can sleep better. Since then, I have spoken to others. All mention that it is a far-from-perfect-system, but it is the only system we have. I argued hotly that it was a question of cash.

I have lived in a country where Justice is different.: Stealing, cut off a hand. Adultery.: Stone the person... Murder.: Guess what! No waiting around for a trial by jury.
 I think it would be more humane for the police to have a pocket calculator and when they pick up an "offender" why, to say: "Let's see, going too slow on a freeway. No money? Not to worry. 3 days." Then the police drive you to the nearest waiting county jail bus, and when said bus is full, just driving you and dumping you in nearest jail facility for your 3 days (no trial).

On the lighter side, I toyed with the idea of moving to Baja. There, or so rampant gossip would have us believe one can get picked up by the Baja PD, taken to jail, have one's head tilted back, have a bottle of coke emptied down the nose, confess, get sentenced and save the government the expense of (a)ny trial. ***



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Cityhood---from P.3

liquefaction zones, and swamps. For comparison, there is 25 million square feet of offices in downtown LA, Century City is 10 million SF of offices and condos, and Century Blvd near LAX has 4.3 million SF of offices now.

--Hollywood redevelopment area-- 1100 acres, nearly two square miles, it's 20 million SF or more of dense commercial/offices planned on the Santa Monica Fault line. An elected citizens committee was replaced by councilman Mike Woo, who felt the committee was too sympathetic to residents, not to the developers who finance Woo's election campaigns (Times-8/31/87). Woo told The Times the elected committee was "Wacky" "Raucous" and "Rowdy" and that "given the disastrous consequences of the election process in the past, I didn't think it was worth institutionalizing the process..." --LA Times 5/9/89. Woo will now appoint a committee to "advise" him on the project. Damn the public! Full speed ahead!

--Olympic West Garden District---- Prop. U was a sham. L.A. officials know how much lower densities are in other cities around here, but set Prop. U at just the level the developers really wanted. Here's the proof: Why else did Prop. U pass by a 70% margin? Because developers didn't oppose it. Marvin Braude, the father of Prop. U along with Zev Yaroslavsky, is now pushing a plan to redevelop Olympic Blvd. between the 405 freeway and Bundy Drive--a two mile stretch, at the Prop. U level. He wants to build 20 million SF--3 Century cities--Wow.

Before Prop. U passed, Calvin Hamilton, Director of the City Planning Department, said the zoning laws then allowed 9 times more buildings than now. After Prop. U, we can only have 4 and 1/2 times more buildings than now. Great. Like what's worse: a disaster or a catastrophe?

--Center City West--355 acres, just west of the the Harbor Freeway in Downtown LA. The plans will uproot 11,000 residents. It's to be twice the density that Prop. U allows at 25 million SF, on a newly discovered earthquake fault. Representing the developers are former Planning Commission Chairman Dan Garcia, Marina Place's attorney George Mihalstein, Ex-councilman Art Snyder and Ex-Pat Russell aide David Grannis.

--The Watts and Pacoima enterprise zones--Eminent domain by the city and then cheap sales of the land to big developers is planned for two of L.A.'s most impoverished communities.

--Porter Ranch--How much oxygen would a square mile of vegetation produce? Porter Ranch is over two square miles in Chatsworth up in the northwest San Fernando Valley. Planned is 7 million SF offices and a shopping mall on another earthquake fault. Councilman Hal Bernson's campaign committees have taken \$50,000 and the rest of the Council has taken \$300,000 from owner Nathan Shapell. In an ironic twist, Shapell is also head of the state anti-corruption commission--called the Little Hoover Commission. Dan Garcia lawyers for the developers. Garcia made a name for himself during the Russell/Galanter election by calling environmentalists Racists. Now Garcia shows his true colors, lining his pockets with green from the developers he used to help regulate.

--Warner Ridge--On 20 acres in Woodland Hills, it's as big as Marina Place, but all offices, and taller too.

--Olvera Street--Councilman Richard Allatorre wants to hand it over to a developer friend of his. The merchants want to revitalize it themselves.

SOME FACTS ABOUT UNCONTROLLED GROWTH:

--The last LA landfill is to be filled in 1992. 45,000 tons of trash is produced daily in LA County. LA City produces 16,500 tons of that. The rest of LA County is in just as bad shape, as the 6 San Gabriel Valley landfills are also nearly full. While trash is increasing, landfills now also have to take sewage sludge from our overflowing sewer system because it's illegal to dump it in the sea. Well, maybe we can fill some of our vacant office space with it. And what about City Hall? Nah--it's full of trash already. If the 100 million SF-- or 4 downtown L.A.'s worth of projects are built, we'll surely have to open and expand the North Valley dumps and open three canyons in Brentwood also to trash. What goes around, comes around.

--Oil Refineries in Carson, Wilmington, San Pedro, El Segundo and Long Beach will have to expand and pollute more to accomodate the several million more LA residents, who'll all surely have cars.

--Toxic waste--We're running out of holes to put it in or neighborhoods that will tolerate its burning nearby. We now truck it all to Casmalia dump in Santa Barbara county, and to the Kettleman Hills in the San Joaquin Valley. Incinerators now burn trash and toxic waste at Marquardt in Van Nuys and in the cities of Vernon and Commerce south of Downtown.

LA's hazardous waste industry is looking for other San Joaquin Valley sites for our toxics, but the folks up there don't want the stuff either.

--Water--LA steals most of its water supply from the Owens Valley/Mono Lake area, Northern California and the Colorado River. Well, the communities near these sources are constantly trying to take their water back, and they deserve it. Where will we find water for the millions more people that Mayor Bradley wants to pack into LA? We've run out of new sources. To top it off, much of the water wells in the San Fernando Valley and the San Gabriel Valley are contaminated with industrial wastes. Also, radiation has leaked into the west San Fernando Valley water table from the Rocketdyne Nuke test site in the Simi Hills. Lastly, the Metropolitan Water District recently began studying building Nuke-powered sea water distillation stations near populated areas. Great.

--Electricity--Despite what we generate locally from burning fossil fuels, most of L.A.'s electricity, in fact, comes from Utah. (LA TIMES--1/26/89)

--Criminals--We send most of our convicts to out-of-town prisons, except no one wants LA's prisoners in their county--we're Bad, I guess.

There is only one way to stop the destruction of our city. And that's by joining together for a citizens environmental initiative to put control back in our hands. Free Los Angeles--from itself. Let's form 20 or more new cities. It takes 70,000 signatures to put it on the ballot. With our own City hall, we can control building heights, open space rules and population densities through zoning. Politicians will have to do what the public says in a City of Venice. And everything the LA bureaucracy now does we can do better at the local level: get left turn signals on Lincoln that Bradley has stalled; pave Venice Blvd.; stop polluting SM Bay because we order Hyperion to do it; stop planes and helicopters from flying and spying close to homes. We can't do this now, because our distant City Hall won't do it.

But when we control our own communities' destinies, we have to adopt a holistic approach--we have to recycle our trash so it won't have to be buried

in our allies "backyards". While recycling costs, it'll cost more when there are 5 million more people in L.A. Alas, cityhood won't solve every problem--but it'll force our leaders to be accountable to us.

The environment is not just our problem, anymore, but everybody's problem...to quote a song by the Police: "We can all sink or we can float, cause we're all in the same big boat."

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Venice Historical Society
Oakwood Owners and Tenants Assoc.
Zanja Neighborhood Residents Assoc.
Lincoln Place Tenants Assoc.
Presidents Row Neighborhood Assoc.
Ballona Lagoon Marine Preserve
Free Venice Beachhead
Greater Westside Network
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Central America Peace Groups Launch Series of Demonstrations at the Offices of Democratic Congressional Representatives Howard Berman and Mel Levine/Fridays 3:30pm alternating/473-5782

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Events

near downtown

ALCOHOLISM CENTER FOR WOMEN/1147 S. Alvarado/381-7805
*Saturday July 22 10am-3pm workshop: "A Woman's Guide To Self And Spirit" / \$20
*Saturday July 29 10am-3pm workshop: "From Feeling To Expression: Personal Map-Making" / \$20

No! no! no!
*Saturday July 29 9pm-1am in the Rotunda Room of Veteran's Auditorium, 4117 S. Overland in Culver City: A Clean And Sober Women's Dance
*Saturday August 5 10am-3pm workshop: "Anger Management: Finding A Balance" / \$20

YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING & ADVANCED YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING/ Mayor's Office of Youth Development, City Hall/ 485-3821/ July 11, 18, 25 & July 13, 20, 27 FREE.



Galanter press conference lauds ultra-low flush toilets

Community

The Beachhead welcomes notices of public meetings and entertainment for publication on the Community Events Page. To have your event published, please mail your press release to us at P.O. Box 604, Venice 90284, by the third Sunday of the month. Late additions can be called in at 399-0884, no later than the following Wednesday.

July 1989-Free Venice Beachhead

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*The Body-June 30 thru July 29/subject of exhibit
*Sunday, July 2 at 5 PM: Open Reading
*July 5, Wednesday, Poetry Workshop at 8 PM:
Topic-Poetry as confession
*5 week fiction writing workshop Jim Krusoe, July 6 from 7-10 PM
*Michael Roloff reads from playwright Peter Handke July 7 at 8:30 PM
*July 12, Wednesday, Poetry Workshop at 8 PM:
Topic-Female/Male Writing: Writing from the perspective of the opposite sex
*2 nights of **MANIFESTOS** Friday, July 14, 8:30 PM and Friday, July 21 at 8:30 PM
*July 19 & 26, Wednesday, Poetry Workshop at 8 PM:
Topic: Works-in-progress
*AMY TAN reads from her novel *The Joy Luck Club*, Friday July 28 at 8:30 PM

Holiday Venice Tenant Action Committee Meeting
Saturday July 15, 4-6 PM at Oakwood Recreation Center
767 California Ave.// Agendas will be passed out.

Sierra Club, Airport-Marina Group meeting July 17, at 7:45 PM in Community Room at Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindinao, Marina Del Rey/ Speaker Jackie Foots on travel to Tibet, China, Burma, Bali, and Africa/398-6350

LA LOUVER INC./55 N. Venice Bl./822-4955
Exhibition of 3 eminent English artists: Thomas Joshua Cooper, Andy Goldsworthy and David Nash/July 1-29

S.M.C.
Free Amnesty Classes Offered: SMC/June 26/452-9260
"APOLLO PLUS TWENTY" at SMC Planetarium in July on Fridays at 8 PM (7, 14, 21 and 28)/ Tickets \$2/ 452-9223
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Doc Severinsen and the Tonight Show Orchestra, United States Marine Corps Band, Fireworks Extravaganza, Fritz Coleman of KNBC-TV, Host/Saturday July 1 at Corsair Field, 4-8PM

Florincanto Mexican Folk Group/Saturday July 15 at 8 PM in Amphitheater

An Evening of Pops SMC Band, Orchestra and Choir
Special Guest John Raitt/Saturday July 29 at 8 PM in Amphitheater

Cajun and Zydeco Music Celebration, CJ Chenier and the Red Hot Louisiana Band/Saturday August 5 at 8 PM in Amphitheater

McCabe's 13th Annual **VARIETY NIGHT FREE SUMMER FESTIVAL**, Sunday, July 16, 11 am-4 pm at Lincoln Park (in Santa Monica at corner of Lincoln & Wilshire)

Happenin'

Power--from P.1

But game is a misnomer, as I discovered when I introduced a motion at the May Town Council meeting calling for a one-year moratorium on commercial development in order to study the capacity of our community for further developments. It didn't seem at all that drastic to me: just a one-year delay in a system already full of delays. But our negotiator/compromisers started yelling bloody murder and haven't stopped yelling, as though I'd taken money right out of their pockets. People I thought wanted slow growth starting sounding like they want growth at any price.

The fierceness of the reaction has stunned me. Like other moratorium advocates, I've been yelled at, lectured at on morals and manners, lied to and lied about. Maybe this is par for any community issue, but it feels a bit extreme to me. Something serious is at stake. Maybe these former outsiders, now our compromisers, like being wined and dined by big shots, maybe they like the momentary attention from developers who could buy and sell them any second of the day. Maybe there are more substantial perks at stake. Who knows? Our compromisers are not accountable to the community, and there's no way to make them be. They prefer, on the whole, secret meetings and secret votes.

But something serious is at stake, beyond a little ego-boosting and a businessman's lunch. It has to be self-interest. Only self-interest can explain the fierce attachment of our compromisers to the idea that commercial development must go full speed ahead, not slowed down, certainly not stopped.

One guess is that there are some community development

(non-profit) corporations lying around waiting for developer money to bring them to life and start hiring people. The deep pockets of government have long been empty. Shall we now try the deep pockets of corporations? How about a little corporate feudalism, or back to the company town?

Galanter now has less than two years left in her first term. A one-year delay in commercial development would use up a substantial amount of her remaining time of reigning over Venice. Is the wheeling and dealing during that period important to her in terms of her record or her future in or out of politics? Development in Venice is small potatoes, we are told, but maybe what we are not told is that it's essential to keep them potatoes hot.

At first when this fuss over the moratorium began, I felt it was important to preserve the status and image of the Venice Town Council. That was assuming that the Town Council in some way represents our community and looks after our interests. If, however, the VTC Board considers the Town Council merely a vehicle for implementing Galanter policy in Venice, we must disabuse them of that idea. Insofar as the VTC represents the community, it has value and deserves support. If, however, it is merely an arm of the Council office, it is a sham, of no value to Venice and deserving only of contempt. Let the paid bureaucrats carry out Galanter policy; don't ask me to volunteer.

The issue here is not how the VTC stands on any given question; it is whether the VTC membership comes to its own decisions independent of outside manipulation. We would not have tolerated a Russell-dominated Town Council. We should not tolerate a Galanter-

dominated one.

Three days after we passed the moratorium policy, the headline in *The Outlook* was not "Town Council Passes Moratorium," but, "Galanter Opposes Moratorium Plan." Reporters know who's important and where the power lies. Galanter quickly labeled the moratorium unconstitutional. Now, that's a discussion-stopper, isn't it? Actually, it meant either that she hadn't read the text of the resolution or was deliberately misunderstanding it. In either case, her first reaction was to try to squelch discussion rather than give it any thought. Such reflexive lashing out suggests once again that self-interest is at stake.

At our June meeting, the Town Council reaffirmed the moratorium policy by voting down reconsideration of it. Two days later at a social event, Jim Bickard, "arbiter of reality" for the Galanter office, told partygoers that

henceforth Galanter would just ignore the VTC moratorium policy.

To put the most charitable interpretation on Galanter's reaction to the Town Council's moratorium policy, I would suggest that she has been receiving poor information and worse advice. Was she told of the fervor with which moratorium advocates condemned what we see as runaway development? Did she consider that the initial vote was nearly unanimous and that a majority of the present VTC Board voted for it, whatever their vacillations afterward? Has she considered how this issue could polarize the community when the Moratorium Committee takes it to the community, as we surely will if we fail to get our Councilperson's attention otherwise? It may be time for our Councilperson to reconsider.

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