

FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968

BEACHHEAD

FREE

More on Venice by:

Moe, Carol and
John....3 & 4
Kathy, Arnold &
Beth..6 & 7
and lots more!

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Management of Compassion

- By Jim Prickett

For the first time in recent memory there is no face on the cover of People magazine; no celebrity to help sell it. Instead, there is the word "Wilding" and a lurid description of a brutal assault on a 28 year old woman jogging in Central Park.

This single attack has generated more publicity than all other crimes of violence against women in all of 1989.

What exactly is it about this assault that explains its extraordinary power to fascinate and terrify us?

In part, there is the term "wilding" itself, and the reported high spirits of the captured youths. It is hard not to think of Alex and his droogs and their love of the "the old ultra-violence" in Clockwork Orange. Giving it a name makes it seem like a daily occurrence, a new fad.

In part, it is the apparent lack of motivation. It would have seemed tidier somehow if these youths had only attacked whites or if they had been poorer or gang members with long arrest records.

But there are deeper and more disturbing reasons that this has become the major media event of 1989. At first, I thought this was similar to the Howard Beach incident, where an assault by whites led to the death of a young black man. In both cases, there was widespread publicity.

Yet the differences between the two cases are more significant. In the Howard Beach case, the issue was whether the whites should be prosecuted at all. The local district attorney refused to file charges. The issue raised in the Central Park case is whether the black youths should be prosecuted as adults and executed.

In other words, when whites kill a black, the issue is whether the law should be enforced and whites given the minimum penalty. When blacks kill, or seriously injure, a white, the issue is whether the law should be violated or amended so that blacks can suffer a punishment greater than the maximum allowed by law.

The press coverage of Howard Beach was sympathetic to the killers. They were good boys who were led astray by the moment. Liberals blamed society's racism, not the individual youths, for the crime. Conservatives, including the nauseating New Republic, wondered what blacks were doing in that neighborhood anyway.

Another incident of "wilding", although the term was not used then, should be remembered. A few years ago, in the event referred to in Michaele Schock's song "Graffiti Limbo", a group of New York transit cops surrounded a thin, 15 year old graffiti artist and beat him to death. One wonders if any of the cops thought it was "fun"; if not, one wonders why they did it.

There was, of course, no talk about the death penalty for those cops. In fact, there were no charges brought against any of them.

This past week I heard on KCRW about the investigation in Israel of the death of a Palestinian while in custody. It seems that numerous Israeli soldiers beat him continuously for more than an hour. As some would tire, others would join in, kicking and clubbing the semi-conscious youth.

The Israeli court decided that no murder charge could be brought because it is unclear which blows killed him.

Those events, and countless others, remind me that one of the most powerful tools the rulers have to manipulate public opinion is the management of compassion. Some victims become certified victims and we are told enough about

Developmentality Part 3

Environmentalist...or

Ruth Russell?

By Rex Frankel

It's been two years since the people of the 6th district kicked Pat Russell off the city council and into the private sector--the lucrative development consulting business. But has Ruth Galanter done any better? Lets look at her policies vs. Pat Russell's from this insider's view.

JOINT STRATEGIES

Just after Ruth's election in the summer of 1987, George Smart, a Playa del Rey developer, came to see Pat McCartney. Pat was president of the Coalition of Concerned Communities, which included the Venice Town Council and groups in Westchester, Playa del Rey, Del Rey and Marina Del Rey, and had been instrumental in ousting Russell. Smart wanted to build a 3 story apartment complex with 624 units on the site of the Centinela Drive-in theatre in Westchester. He didn't want a retail or high rise project there because he said he knew the community would oppose it. Ruth's office, however, saw an opportunity to get the hated RTD bus yard out of Venice. Now, given the choice, the residents near the drive-in would surely favor an apt. complex over a smelly bus yard. So, Ruth's planners came up with what Smart called a "joint strategy", momentarily forgetting plans for the apartments, and threatening the residents instead with 2 hi-rises. Next to these, the scales would surely tip in favor of the bus yard. At least that's what Galanter's planners thought. The neighbors saw through this ruse, however, fighting both the bus yard and the high rises. Eventually, Galanter OKed the original 624 apartments.

Russell used "joint strategies" with developers all the time, as her campaign manager, Curtis Rossiter, also worked as a "community relations consultant" for 4 huge projects: Playa Vista, Howard Hughes Center, Marina Place and Continental City. And the way Russell and Rossiter "convinced" us we had to accept these projects was thru the Invisible Club theory. Playa Vista could have been 10 times as big, she said; the Hughes Center and LAX Northside could have been twice as big. Instead we're only getting monstrosities, not absolute disasters. Wow.

BAD DECISIONS MADE WITHOUT COMMUNITY INPUT, SACRIFICIAL LAMBS & PITTING COMMUNITIES AGAINST EACH OTHER

Ruth can't "save" every part of her district. Or at least that seems to be her attitude. Proposing to move the bus yard from Venice to Northeast

Westchester, one neighborhood to another, is obviously part of that strategy. Has Ruth decided on Sacrificial Lambs in her district? I cite specifically North Venice between Pacific Ave and Ocean Front Walk and all of Westchester east of Sepulveda Blvd.

VENICE: Ruth's campaign flyers said "Pat Russell has never met a development she doesn't like". Well, look at what Ruth's OKed on OF Walk. While the Venice Town Council Exec. Board once fought commercial invasions of residential blocks on the Venice Boardwalk, this

Ruth Russell-Continued on P. 9.10

Slavkin for School Board?

I resisted the temptation to say: "You fired MY ass, now how does it feel to have YOUR ass be fired, ASSHOLE!!" This would have been To: Alan Gershman, incumbent candidate for the Los Angeles Disunified School Board From: Victor Wightman, former LAUSD employee #288277. In my particular case, this tall and low-keyed Westside politician had actually presided over several of my firings in the early '80's (as an on-again, off-again schoolbus driver) with his particularly sleepy/ yet rubber-stamping ease. I held back the tongue however for benefit of our faithful Free Venice Beachhead readership.

GERSHMAN (yesterday by phone): 'Victor, I've always been supportive of the classified and other non-teaching district employees, the custodians, cafeteria workers and busdrivers. I have a particular understanding of their efforts and contributions especially as I was formerly a playground director and often came into contact with these people.'

On the phone, I had just juxtaposed (to Mr. Gershman) his run-off challenger's accusation that: 'Gershman's campaign financing comes primarily from administrators and Local 99 (Service Employees International Union--the school district's "classified" employee union). As for teachers, Mr. Gershman has labeled their union as "terrorists". Such a remark displays Mr. Gershman's incredible alienation and derogatory attitude'. MARK SLAVKIN (the challenger) spoke to me at length approximately five days earlier.'

was peculiarly curious to explore both candidates views of the hitherto, unknown...seemingly third-world, group of untouchable school employees referred to as "classified" employees for the reason that #1, these are the people I have known best and #2, this is the area I would be able to check out our politician's accuracy or lack of such the most effectively. Even in the aftermath of an eye-opening, teacher's strike.

Slavkin-continued to P. 9

Management-continued to P. 8

"Comeback" don't leave!

Reading about the possibility that the Comeback Inn might lose its lease made me think about two jazz performances I've heard in the last few years.

One was Frank Morgan, who returned after being away from the scene for several decades. He played brilliantly in a set that included a gorgeous version of "Somewhere" (from West Side Story) and a wicked Wayne Shorter original. The air was clear, the music was magnificent.

The second experience was hearing Pharoah Sanders at the now-defunct Maiden Voyage. If anything, Sanders played even better in a set that ranged from beautiful ballads to high energy avante garde sounds to the blues. But halfway through the first set my head began to throb. It wasn't the music; it was all that smoke in a confined space. I remember sitting there, in pain, during the intermission, wanting to stay because Sanders was in fine form, but knowing that the headache would get worse and worse.

The Comeback Inn has been the only place to hear jazz in an informal club setting without suffering in a smoke filled room. I think about Charlie Haden, one of the finest bass players in jazz, who's played at the Comeback Inn with a variety of fine players as well as nonjazz groups like Ruayacultia.

While I don't get to the Comeback Inn as often as I'd like—I used to go more because the Beachhead carried an advertisement giving the month's program—I fervently hope that it can survive. (Especially now that they have a good piano.)

- Jim Prickett

GOOD NEWS!!!

In an exclusive interview, KULTURE VULTURE learned that WILL RAABE PROP. OF THE COMEBACK INN renewed his lease for 15 years!!!

(THE BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE)

Sirs: I am enclosing a statement of my feelings about what's happening with rents in L.A. I live in the Lincoln Place Apts., for 6 1/2 yrs. Before that, I lived in the Brentwood area for 12 years, and the same thing happened. My husband and I were threatened with Rehab. eviction, and instead of fighting, we moved. How many times must people live with threats?

Please print my letter and let the tenants know they are not alone. The Tenants Association has been fighting for the closing of the rent control loopholes for almost 2 years. Our last moratorium is June. If something isn't done soon, every tenant will be pushed out of the market. How far can this go? It's frightening.

Sincerely, (Name withheld by request)

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I'm angry; I'm hurting. So I must speak out. I lie in bed thinking about what the hell is going on in our lives. Not just people of my age and older, but the young people as well.

They, I mean the landlords, the Rent Control Board, the City Council and the Real Estate companies, have taken our dignity away. We have to wait patiently until they decide how much rent we have to pay and how much homes are worth. We seem to have no part in anything.

In the Los Angeles Times Classified there is a section for seniors. A senior can rent a room downtown for \$500. a month. Isn't that great? The Real Estate section has ads for places like Leisure World or Laguna Beach just for us when we retire. We can have a one-bedroom apartment for \$700. or two bedrooms for \$1200. Or buy a fixer-upper starting at \$90,000. And we can have fun, too. There's a golf course, swimming, tennis, anything we want out of a retired life. I've read statistics that say that only five percent of the current seniors are not rich or well-to-do.

Who in the hell are they that they can decide that? What do they know about how hard we worked and how much money we have to show for it? Why don't these people who make up these statistics visit some of the people living in Lincoln Place Apts. or the Diplomat and the Park LaBrea Apts. Some, you will find, are reasonably comfortable but most are struggling and are in no way able to pay high rents. I do not want to be a HUD senior citizen. I do not want to tell my life's history nor how much money I earn nor how much I spend on doctors or medication and whether there are any "discretionary" funds left over. I want to be able to have the dignity to choose and be able to afford my own apartment with no strings attached. The young people are no better off. They have to pay so much rent they can't afford

to live alone in their own apartments. They have to share. Rent is so high they can't save enough money for a down payment for a house. And the rents keep going up. We have to pay for the apartments to be repaired, for the outside of the apartment buildings also. That's called Capital Improvements. Well, it should be improved. It's their property.

The Rent Control Board decided that we should pay 3 percent to 8 percent raise every year, depending on the cost of living. So we pay for the improvements to their building, and the rent increases. We even pay for the Rent Control Board. Meanwhile, those of us on fixed incomes don't get a cost of living increase. Actually, our income is decreasing. We pay out so much for rent there is very little left for living. When we say something to the landlord they say: "Move if you don't like it." Okay, where do we move to? If they can get in, older Senior Citizens go into HUD buildings, or nursing homes or better yet, if they have children, let the children pay for their nursing homes. There's always the option of adding an extension to their homes so Mom and Dad can live with them. This puts the load squarely on the children, who are trying to keep their heads above water.

I don't know the answer to all this but I do know that something's got to give. The young will someday be senior citizens, too. We all need our dignity and security, no matter what our income. I want to have the choice of where to live and not be pushed into a home for the aged or an HUD building.

I want to see the young be able to save some of their money so they can experience the American Dream of owning their own home.

Victor Wightman, Kathy Sullivan, Carol Fondiller, John Haag, Malcolm Tent, Diane Nickerson, Judith L. Martin, Juan Persona, 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.

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.

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

ERRATA--Credit is owed to Sara Omari for Yo Poets in last month's 'Head. The next Collective meeting is Sunday, June 11th at 11 A.M. at Tenant Action Center, 442 Lincoln Blvd. Call 396-0811 FoMoInfo.

Missing Marvena

I've been thinking a lot about Marvena since you called me with the news - thinking about her and about losing such a good friend, and thinking about the times we all went through together. One thing that stands out large about Marvena was her courage, not just in the way she dealt with dying, but in the way she dealt with her life.

It took courage for a white, middle-class, middle-aged real estate broker, living in a comfortable suburb, with a son in the Marine Corps in Vietnam, to let go of the certainties that assured her some share in comfort and privilege, and to put that behind her for the chance of searching out for herself some truths about America - then acting on those truths as she could figure them out! The distance from San Clemente to Venice was a lot farther than just a few miles up the coast. The fact that she made that journey with good humor and a bold spirit doesn't make the courage any less.

There's a lot of looking back at the sixties just now, and this seems to be a time of debunking that period and putting it down. Some of this is natural. A lot of it suits an imperialist agenda that never welcomes opposition. But in the sixties, the most creative and energetic part of an entire generation broke away from the deadly assumptions that were America and actually began trying to build something better. That opened up space for older people, like Marvena, and like me, to shake off roots in a culture of deathliness, to begin to move, to find people like ourselves and to struggle and to build alongside them.

Some of us came to Venice to do that. Venice drew Marvena, and when she came here she gave to the Venice Movement, without holding back, her energy, her courage, her intelligence, her righteous anger and her commitment to understand, and also her humor, her friendship, and her love. It may be wrong to speak of "The Venice Movement" as past, since in many ways the energy is still flowing, but that time in Venice was special, and a good part of what was special about it, why it is special in our lives, it got from Marvena Kennedy.

I want to give my sympathy to Peggy, and Tim, and Susan, and to Michael whom I never met, who've lost their Mother, and to Melana. I know they know there are many others whose lives were touched by Marvena who grieve the loss of a respected comrade and a beloved friend. I know I do.

Bob Wells



Phil Fires the Beachhead

Dear Collective:

By apparent and mutual agreement: this announces publicly that any further association of me with the Beachhead Collective is ended. I am not sufficiently credentialed to be tagged a writer.

It is appropriate to tie a ribbon around the Euclidean package. The package is a rectangle with a left-right diagonal from the bottom to the top. The rectangle has four quadrants of debt, only two of which are personal income. That inefficiency arises from the tendency to raise personal incomes a fixed percentage. A child can draw in the precise number of units required for such raise, but the diagonal does not compute. The tendency of such systems is to equal income-unit addition strategies, supportive of personal incomes, which the addition computes. As said systems fail in that simple logic, then fifth quadrant debt is created. Since there is no personal income balancing that quadrant, a collapse point is reached since any and all further debt creation has to generate an equal amount of personal income.

The supporting data are widely public via the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Labor Department and the Census Bureau.

Sincerely yours, Philip W. Gregg M.A.

THE TIMES THEY ARE A'CHANGIN'

by MOE STAVNEZER

Last month's Beachhead contained a number of articles concerning the proposed Prudential project and the Venice Town Council in general. I feel obliged to respond.

Things and times change and the VTC reflects those changes. It is not what it used to be because Venice is not what it used to be. None of the writers who identified themselves is or has been an active member of the VTC for some time, have not dealt with specific developments and their pros and cons for a very long time. They come either from lack of understanding of recent past issues and actions or just plain ignorance about the Town Council and who and what it is.

I was not part of the negotiations about the Prudential project as part of the VTC law suit. I was, however, a factor in persuading the VTC to bring the suit in the first place. I was also involved in the suit we brought against Summa 2 years ago though I played a more central role, including being part of the bargaining sessions we had with Summa and the City of LA. One of the reasons that the VTC decided to incorporate was so that it could bring such legal action. Times have changed, it's not prudent to sue without being incorporated--some developers have been known to sue back, big money can be at stake and incorporation definitely reduces that risk. It's just plain smart. However, incorporation requires some things be done. It requires, for instance that the corporation behave like a corporation, to wit: elect a board of directors with officers/hold meetings of said board/conduct public meetings of the corporation/keep the books/etc,etc. Law suits also have their own set of rules to go by. One of them is confidentiality--CEQA, the law under which the Prudential suit is brought, require at least 2 "bargaining" meetings and requires that all parties treat the talks in a confidential manner. That's the damn law whether you like it or you don't. Now Rick, you know some of this stuff--you're on the board of at least one corporation I know of and its membership is quite restricted and there is no public component to it all! I know that you know that corporations require boards and officers and bylaws and all that so why harp about it just because its the VTC? Despite the fact the the VTC has some rules with which you cannot agree, it remains the only organization open to virtually everyone in the community, the only forum that allows anyone to speak on any subject before it. In my experience, if discussion is stifled it is usually because people allow that to happen without challenging the decision. Its all well and good to exhort the Council to give itself back to the people, but just who the hell do you think those people are?

There were rules and the VTC followed them. The VTC people involved in the negotiations also set up a public debate and vote on the negotiations as soon as both parties agreed that there was nothing left to discuss. Unlike the tenor of all of last month's articles, I trust the VTC people who were involved even though I didn't always agree with them. I certainly did not support the settlement offer from Prudential but then neither did the overwhelming majority of the VTC, including those who negotiated. Trust comes from knowing and talking to people over an extended period of time, so its not surprising that the authors didn't trust what was happening--they don't really know the people involved. Hysteria about people selling out was a joke but it wasn't a damn bit funny. Rumors about people working for their position by holding meetings or circulating petitions all turned out to not have a grain of truth to them. It seemed another case of the Venice community "eating it's young." What is this horrible suspiciousness that pervades this community? Why are we so ready to fight with rather than talk to one-another,

Judgement, or more appropriately lack thereof, brings me to Steve Shlein's public lambasting of VTC President Del Chumley and the VTC as well. What much of his article boils down to:

Moratorium ALERT!

By John Haag

At its May meeting the Venice Town Council adopted as its policy that, "There shall be an immediate one-year moratorium on commercial development in Venice and that the City of Los Angeles shall conduct an Environmental Impact Study to determine the capacity of the Venice area to sustain additional commercial growth." To accommodate Town Council members already engaged in negotiations with developers, a friendly amendment was added that, "until the moratorium is ratified by the Los Angeles City Council, the Venice Town Council will consider individual projects as the majority of the VTC wishes." The moratorium motion as amended was adopted 28-1.

Three days later, before the Town Council had officially notified Councilwoman Galanter of its action, she was quoted in The Outlook as saying she would not seek approval for the moratorium. To those of us involved with the moratorium proposal this felt like a case of shoot down the proposal first and find out what it is later.

Nor did the shooting stop there. At the Town Council Board of Directors meeting, where the agenda is set for the next meeting, Moe Stavnezer, a Galanter appointee to the Venice Citizens Advisory Board (which has recently been ordered to make its meetings open to the public it appointedly represents) vehemently urged the Board to reconsider the moratorium policy. The Board, a majority of whose members had voted for the moratorium, acquiesced, and reconsideration of the moratorium will be the main item proposed for the agenda of the June Town Council meeting. If we do not vote down the motion to reconsider, expect a parade of "experts" to tell us why a moratorium can't work, won't work, won't be allowed to work, and why we were silly to think of it in the first place.

Meanwhile, the Town Council Moratorium Committee can be reached at (213) 859-5851. Please come to the June 8th Town Council meeting at Venice City Hall, 681 N. Venice Blvd., beginning at 7:30 p.m. and reaffirm our support for a one-year moratorium on commercial development.

Chumley didn't agree with him and so is discredited and must step down as president. Shlein, who pawns himself off as a no-growther, let me remind you, argued, along with Jeff Miles, that the VTC should not bring a law suit against the Prudential project! His support in that instance came from Lewis and Nancy Kent and new VTC Board member Bonnie Faulkner. It is likely that if Steve's opposition had prevailed that Marina Place would now be under construction.

Schlein, and cohorts, argued that we "didn't know enough about the case to make a decision" even though the VTC had opposed the project for 5-6 years by that time. Just exactly what purpose is served by impugning Del Chumley's integrity or accusing her of being a pawn of Ruth Galanter? What's goin' on here? (The bit about the VTC making a contribution to Ruth by allowing her an occasional column in The Voice is just plain silly. Steve, the Argonaut also gives Ruth space, would you make that accusation about that publication?)

There were also claims that the VTC negotiators were going to ram this settlement thru the VTC. Some of those claims were made by the same people who opposed the VTC law suit and who then proceeded to ram a moratorium motion down the throat of the VTC at its May meeting. These people, no matter if they are right or not about the moratorium, chose to do what they did without in any way giving public notice to the Venice community either through the VTC process or by using the Beachhead. See Rick, sometimes there are reasons for rules because sometimes people with their own agenda will use any means available to get their way. The group that John Haag "heads" held completely secret meetings, did not ask the VTC Executive Committee for time on the agenda, did not let the community know its intentions and so did not provide for anything approaching an honest community debate about a very

TIMES -- continued on p.4

The E.B.V.T.C., F.V.B.* & ME a "purely" personal point of view

Executive Board of the Venice
Town Council and the Free Venice
Beachhead

by Carol Fondiller

Hi, there! Daughter of Duplicity, double-dealing and one of the Gang of Nine - the Venice Left's brand-new enemy, the Executive Board of the Venice Town Council speaking.

I was elected to this lofty well-paid and prestigious position which lately resembles one of those moving targets in a shooting gallery at a carnival. The people take aim for prizes. This time it seems to be by the V.T.C. general membership. I should have known something was fishy when I was told by another newly-elected board member, the backward-reading Ms. Derosnec, known to me as the backward-reading Ms. Rerednals, that she heard from a "heavy-duty politico" that I was used as a stalking horse to knock off one of the dissenters on the monolithic Executive Board. I was, to say the least, miffed. I was under the illusion that people voted for me at that October meeting because they knew that I've always been for the preservation and adding to low-income housing, public access to the beach, and an irrational love of the funky carnival of races & places that is Venice

I was not thrilled when the V.T.C., of which I was a founding member, decided in its present incarnation, to incorporate. It grated agin' my anarcate of Venice conception, lemme tell ya. But the V.T.C. is still the voice of the community - that is, the community of Venice that lives here, renter and home-owner alike, the residents who have no vested interest in Venice except that neighborhood and community and public access be preserved. The V.T.C. membership voted to incorporate. I believe Patrick McCartney was the President of the V.T.C. when it took that action. However, the V.T.C. corporation still represented the community. As I say, I was and still am unhappy with all the formalism that goes with incorporation. But because there is an Executive Board, the V.T.C. is taken seriously by city, state and even federal officials. And because there is a board, a newsletter gets out, letters get written, etc., & lawsuits initiated in the pre-E.B. days things like that did not get done. I also remember when it cost nothing to join the V.T.C. and the hat was continually passed to pay for leaflets and postage, for letters that were written. In those days, we were looked on as that radical group of inside agitators and pie-in-the-sky idealists. I remember myself and Vince Coppola, delegates from North Beach, agitating for rent control and being shouted down by delegates from the rest of the community for being elitist and unrealistic. After awhile the V.T.C. became so radical, so politically pure, that fewer and fewer people attended the Town Council meetings, because they had started to resemble re-education meetings where we, great unwashed blind worms that we were, were hectorred and harangued by those whose ideals were more pure than those of us poor souls, preoccupied with mundane and self-serving concerns such as public parking for our tax-paying beach visitors, low-income housing, maintenance of publicly-owned facilities such as restrooms, bike paths, benches, paddle-tennis courts, playgrounds, traffic lights, etc. We were called elitists and racists if we suggested that we'd rather discuss doggie-doo or the proliferation of commercial development rather than what was going on in China, Viet Nam, South Africa, etc., etc.

I along with others continued to work for mine and Venice's narrow and selfish interests by becoming involved in one of the few viable committees of the V.T.C., the Venice Town Council Coastal Committee and/or the V.T.C. Planning & Development Committee. While the more Mao-than-Thou pure souls of the V.T.C. tried to kill the only local organization that was formed to represent the interests of non-business people in Venice, by having a meeting to declare that Venice be a sister city to Teheran (this while 55 Americans were being held hostage by the Iranian fundamentalist theocracy), the Committee members struggled with the Byzantine rules of the Coastal Commission and threaded their ways through the labyrinthine mazes of city and county departments without the help of - and many times hindrance and downright contempt - of our elected Councilperson at that time.

EBVTC, FBV & ME continued on p.4

Finally after years of neglect and exploitation, Venice was instrumental in voting in a councilperson who wanted input and participation from all groups and residents in the Sixth District including Venice.

I became active again in the V.T.C. when the homeless on the beach were threatened by vigilantes and police sweeps. I was present at V.T.C. meetings when the meetings were packed with developers and "artists" who didn't want any services to the poor and/or homeless in Venice because this was an "affluent area" as some of these people claimed.

I was caught completely off-guard when I was recently accused by some other members of the Beachhead Collective of Selling Out, of censoring Ms. Derosnec's article about Marina Place; accused by Alice Gramden, Keeper of the Flame, for "making unauthorized phone calls" and of having my body invaded by aliens from outer space (I assume this alleged invasion was done by very far outer space aliens, if they chose my poor flabby and ungraceful body as a host). My thoughts, I was told, were not those of the Carol We Know.

Why was I thus attacked? I had the effrontery to attempt to have Ms. Derosnec and reps from the V.T.C. Executive Board discuss whether Ms. D. had anything in her article that would breach the Prudential-V.T.C. confidentiality agreement, & because I didn't want one group fuck over another group in a fit of self-righteous pique. I thought that the Free Venice Beachhead and the Venice Town Council should have a good and friendly relationship, since they are both community organizations that speak and generally have the same constituency. Well, pardon me! I found out that with the exception of the sainted Ms. Derosnec, the V.T.C. Executive Board was the Great Satan. I was then called a sell-out by what I thought were my friends. They were sure my vote on the Prudential Regional Shopping Mall (a secret vote, by the way) would be for a coven of Maceys, a herd of Bloomingdale's, and a nest of Neiman Marci. The Purity Squad was convinced that I and the rest of the Executive Board, with the exception of the aforementioned saint, had "sold out" and would vote for settlement/appeasement, and that awful word "compromise"! That is, for the Prudential Regional Shopping Mall.

Oh, yes: I'm taking this personally. Suppose - just suppose - I voted for settlement. That would mean I voted for a few million dollars for low-income housing, traffic studies, noise-buffer zones, etc., as an alternative to the expense of a lawsuit. If one of my acquaintances voted that way, I might suppose my buddy voted for the easy way out, take-the-money-and-run rather than going to court. I might disagree, I might think that he or she were cracked - but I wouldn't accuse that person of "selling out."

As I sit here in my luxurious penthouse suite, lolling about in my Olympic-sized silverplated Jacuzzi, contemplating my trip to the Cayman Islands to check on my numbered banking account just a few numerals away from Singlaub, Bonnie Sauder, and the Marcos family, dare I disagree with the Purity Squad? Maybe I'm being overly sensitive, but let me tell you what happened prior to the Prudential "sell-out":

I was at a zoning change hearing regarding the pre-Proposition U Harlan Lee, Rose & Main excrecence. One other person besides myself attended this hearing to oppose. Harlan Lee and Associates wanted to change retail space to two restaurants with aisle parking. Approximately 20 people - developers who lived in Venice, Michael Dieden, Harlan and Jeff Lee, and other members of the Venice Action Committee - spoke in support of valet parking, further intensification of commercial use, more traffic congestion, noise, etc., saying how beneficial this mixed-use of 66 condos and 22 low-income units and much retail, and the two proposed restaurants, would be for Venice.

A man who represented the handicapped from the Center for Independent Living pled with the hearing officer to grant the change because there were 22 low-income senior and handicapped units involved. Dieden had convinced him that if the restaurants didn't go through, the low-income units wouldn't go through, either. Then Maury Rosen, Director Emeritus of the Israel Levin Senior Center, got up and spoke. Looking directly at me, he spoke of the elitists who wanted to keep Venice for themselves and how, if the restaurants were denied, the low-income units would be erased. This was a cruel and vicious deception by Michael Dieden, PR man for devel-

opers. Years before, Moe Stavnezer and Arnold Springer had negotiated for the 22 units of low-income housing for a height bonus before the issue of two restaurants came into being. After Maury got through speaking, he came up to me, jabbed me in the ribs, and hissed: "Bitch!" Yeah, I took that personally, too. Maury and I have been on the same side of the low-income barricades for at least two decades. So there I was, saying No to more commercial intensification and being called a bitch by an erstwhile comrade. I and several other people opposed the Tony Bill project of a 55-room bed-and-breakfast for rich transients even though I knew that without a zone change, and without any control by the community, several multi-million-dollar condos could probably go up right under the I.C.O. despite the wish by some of the residents that the city buy the land for a park, so that a few people can keep their view. I still wonder if I acted correctly on that one.

I remember as we were working on the local coastal plan, Rick Davidson wrote an article in the Beachhead, posing the dilemma of less density meaning less affordable housing. I remember our L.C.P. group supported a 30-foot height limit on the Ocean Front Walk with height and setback bonuses for affordable/low-income housing. I remember being at the presentation of all of the Venice neighborhood's presentations of their local coastal plans and how many of them opposed further commercial development, except where bonuses were given for added parking, low-income residential, etc.

The situation between me and the Purity Squad faction of the Beachhead has not improved. Despite their much-vaunted love of democracy, they wanted the Executive Board of the V.T.C. to disclose how they voted on their secret ballots on the Marina Place Issue.

At the May 11 V.T.C. membership meeting, I noticed people that I was at least friendly with, stopped talking and avoided eye contact with me. I was the enemy. I was under the impression we were to talk about the Blanchard project on Sunset and Ocean Front Walk. This is indeed a project of intense

commercial development: two stories high, 30 retail shops, 12 fast-food joints, etc. The agenda read: "Blanchard Project/moratorium." This was not the agenda set at the Board meeting. So instead of talking about the concrete (excuse me) Blanchard proposal, the abstract discussion of a moratorium took up the meeting time. John "Wayne" Haag allowed as how he (his group) had enough votes in his, (their) pocket(s) to pass the moratorium motion passed without discussion. Ah HA! This what means Democracy!

I was so pissed at this ramrodding that I and I alone voted against the moratorium, and I'm proud of it.

What got to me through this whole painful and nasty process was that I, the Executive Board of the V.T.C., was treated as an adversary. People acted as if I were from the Venice Speculators' Club. Before the moratorium vote was taken at the Venice Town Council, I knew that most people do not want any more commercial development. And in my heart, neither do I. As I said at the meeting, I liked it back in 1957 and I wish all you people who came after that would pack up and get the fuck out of here. But we can't do that.

This is 1989, & Venice, wether residents like it or not is SoCal's #1 urban beach, & tourist \$\$\$'s are Venice's #1 source of revenue. I am in agreement with Rubell Hegleson, aide to Councilwoman Galanter when she says you couldn't pay her to live on the Ocean Front Walk.

When one moves to Venice, one makes trade offs, i.e., Beachfront living, less parking spaces, more noise, congestion, intrusive strangers. Rubell has sensibly decided to live elsewhere rather than impact Venice with Hermosa Beach expectations as so many of our new neighbors seem to do.

This does not mean that residents must exist with an abomination that cuts off air flow, light or access. One can see what happens by the tragic results if you look at the single family house directly south of Park Plaza on Park AVE.

What began as an honest and serious disagreement about methods rather than goals among groups who want the same thing has festered and divided people into two camps: those who see the Executive Board, V.T.C. as a bunch of (gasp!) compromisers, and the Purity Squad. After having been around the bureaucratic block a few times, I know that like politics, planning is the art of the possible. And believe it or not, folks, there are people living in Venice who are opposed to low-income housing in any form, and do not give a gnat's ass for traffic mitigation, or parking spaces for our tax-paying visitors, or other amenities.

I too would like to see a "Free Venice", or at least a Venice with more autonomy. I'd certainly like to see more "community friendly" development. But I would like to see these goals with people who ~~DO NOT TREAT ME AS~~ ADVERSARY. I'm tired of the leftist proclivity to eat each other up, unfortunately, this tendency seems to have reached community groups as well. I don't care to live in a place no matter how "free" where people don't seem to care how badly & unfairly ~~WHAT THE HELL,~~ rudely they treat their supposed comrades. I know I don't want to be working for the happily ever after future with people who stick a knife in your back, & when you scall, these MORE MAO than THOUGHTS iether accuse you self-dramatisation or that your not important enough to have your feelings considered. They exclaim "Why are you whining," as they twist the knife in deeper, "It doesn't hurt me!"

Maybe the Left in Venice has become so used to losing that when we get the opportunity to effect change -

- we can't handle it, because we can only be pure in defeat. And you bet your ass I'll sell out a few extra feet for some low-income housing until the People's Revolution comes, takes me to the wall, and claims the land in the name of the people. Until then, I'll be rolling in the mud and the dirt and the F.A.R.s, setbacks, footprints, etc., with anyone I have to, to get decent, affordable housing for all races, incomes, etc., in Venice.

I might make stupid mistakes, but I don't sell you out, & I haven't sold out yet, I'm still haggling over the price.

(THANK TO THE PURITY SQUAD FOR THE DISCOVERANCE THAT DEVELOPERS LIE) ~~FBI~~

Cabrillo Eucalyptus

O Lady, what a beautiful green animal!

All fuzzy & wiggly, tossing this way & that, roly-poly tree laughing in my summer sun!

[August 3, 1988] William J. Marqolis

TIMES--CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

important issue. Further, during a conversation about this very issue, I approached John about attending one of the group's meetings to discuss, not the moratorium, but that manner in which it was accomplished. John initially said OK

but I was never invited. While I do not necessarily oppose a commercial moratorium, I do feel that it has many ramifications that must be discussed, cards that must be placed on the table from an open deck. Many of these are discussed in Arnold Springer's article elsewhere in this issue so I will not repeat them here. While don't always agree with Arnie's conclusions, I do think that he raises the essential issues. Suffice it to say that I feel strongly that a small group of people seriously abused the democratic process and the community trust.

A number of those people are members of the Beachhead staff who impose rules on others that they have no compunction suspending for themselves. I, for instance, as a "trusted" writer, a status that will probably change after this article, can bring in a partially written article and have it accepted while the UTC as an "untrusted" entity must now bring its finished product in a week before paste-up. More grievously, staff members Victor Wrightman and John Haag had articles accepted which were not even written, Victor's placed on the first page and John's on the 3rd--the 2 most important pages in the paper. I bring this up because I feel that all the people on the Beachhead have to live by the rules which they themselves have made and to not criticize others who they claim are not living by the rules until the Beachhead gets its own house in order.

So I guess its back to trust and community. To working together toward something rather than working separately against one another. My feeling is that if we don't begin frank, open discussion, we will have lost all that we have fought so hard for. We used to feel that we knew the enemy--now we seem to feel that the enemy is us. ~~SE~~

VOICE OF THE VENICE TOWN COUNCIL



EDITOR: CHALLIS MACPHERSON

VOLUME 1, Issue 7

June 1989

President's Message

HOW DO YOU EAT AN ELEPHANT

How do you eat an elephant? As many times as we have heard that old joke we have failed to learn its lesson. We continue to practice the "one gulp" method of dealing with development. It gains us lots of sympathy when we fail because everyone knows our motives were pure. We can't help it that it didn't work.

Consider the ONE BITE AT A TIME approach:

- ** Assessing our chances of success,
- ** Allocating our resources to the task,
- ** Keeping at it until the job is done,
- ** Carefully planning the next step,
- ** Improving our methods as we learn from our experiences.

This approach takes time, but it works. It's worked in the past and it will work now.

Community empowerment, diversity, human scale and healthy neighborhoods require a lot of nurturing. Our elephant is big and fierce (call it development) and it requires all of our attention.

What a mistake to be distracted by forces on the inside which insist that anything less than "one gulp" approach signifies "sell out" and tries to sap our energy and distract our attention from the real goal.

Sell Chumley



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Housing

Where were the housing advocates on May 4th when the Venice-Marina del Rey Board of Realtors sponsored an American Home Week panel discussion on affordable housing? There were seven members on the panel and seventeen people in the audience. This didn't show much interest on the part of the 450 realtor members of the sponsoring organization, either, but they never claimed to care.

The panel included representatives of the industry, rental specialists, builder and sales. It also included a first-time buyer and a former home owner cum homeless cum renter person. Judy Wyluda, a former Venice Town Council member represented the home owner opposition viewpoint.

A real plus for those in attendance was a free copy of the book, "California Housing Crisis: The American Dream Deferred", which is published by the California Association of Realtors. It is chockfull of important facts. Available to the rest of you for \$1.00 at any Realty Board Office.

Don Doyle, who chaired the panel, expressed concern that many realtors fail to see that the move-up homeowner will not be there for future business if we don't have homes available and affordable for first-time buyers. The former homeless man told how difficult it was to find a home for a large family.

The statements, "housing is really about financing" and "too many buyers, not enough homes" were repeated. Joni Aragon called the senior housing on Via Dolce "delightful" and

our own Ruth Memmen (president of that building's tenant association) was there to take a bow. Judy Wyluda told how her vision of affordable housing has always been the high rise concrete ghettos of the '50s. She related that recently she had heard about "scattered site" low income housing which is invisible as it blends with the neighbors. She ended by confirming, "I think that we have to start looking at a different scenario." Welcome aboard, Judy.

Doyle pointed out that the State "housing element" contains no incentives and no penalties.

The City has finally gotten around to doing something with the Mayor's "Blue Ribbon Housing Panel Report", published last December.

Evidently without the involvement of the Mayor.

We should support Councilman Robert Farrell in the "Foot-in-the-door" proposal of \$2.50 per square foot fee from commercial developers toward affordable housing and the other pieces of the package.

There is a move toward helping non-profit housing corporations, but the idea of creating a super housing agency addresses the need for coordination but does not, in my opinion, put the decisions into the hands of each community by placing the decision making authority into local control.

Support it vigorously. We can add to it later.

NEXT MEETING

June 8

Venice Town Council

Thursday at 7:30



Agenda

Reconsideration

Location:

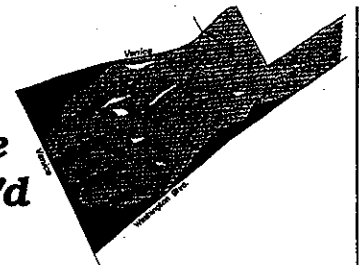
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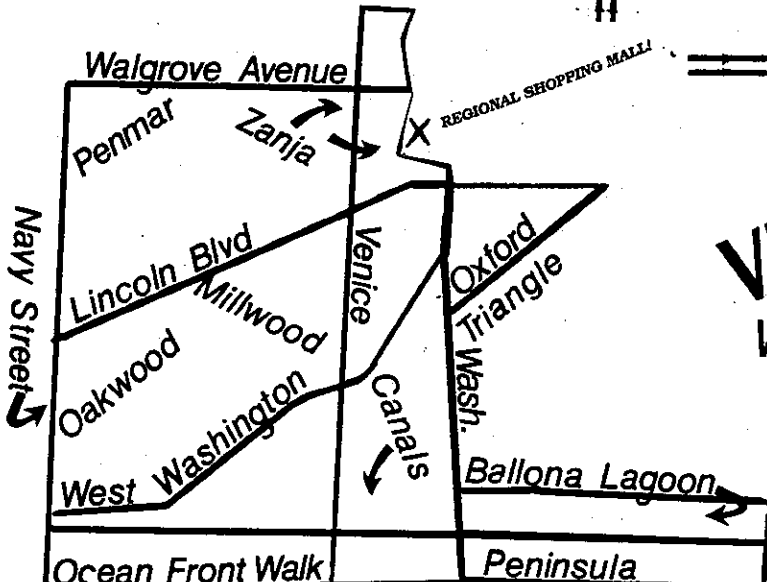
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Channel of American Cable Television

VIDEO UPDATE **



RECONSIDERATION

Reacting to the undemocratic tactics which resulted in adoption of a policy of Moratoria, the Board of Directors of the Venice Town Council yielded to a request of Mo Stavenezzer for reconsideration at June 8 membership meeting of the May 11 action.

VTC bylaws state: "The Board sets the General Meeting Agenda (sec. 302E). The Board shall meet the second week following the monthly General Membership meeting, starting at 6:45 P.M. The location of this meeting will be announced at the General Membership Meeting as well as through printed notices...Individuals wishing to present an agenda item or other matter requiring Board action may submit such request to the Executive Director (Carol Berman 396-0811) for scheduling." The agenda is then published in the VOICE of the Venice Town Council.

Since this procedure was not followed and the motion was brought in written form directly to the membership meeting, many members did not attend to take part in the decision on such a complex issue.

In a related action, the Board agreed to name the sponsoring group an Ad Hoc (temporary) committee of the Venice Town Council. That way, the meetings will be open to all and publicity will be distributed through established VTC channels.

Sponsors of the Moratorium movement include Kathy Sullivan, Steve Schlein, Sherman Rattner, Fran Longmire, Nancy Kent, John Haag, (chairman) and Bonnie Faulkner, new Board Member. To attend weekly meetings of the Moratorium Committee, Tuesdays at 7:30 P.M., call 859-5851 for location.

The motion which was presented was:

"It shall be the policy of the Venice Town Council that there shall be an immediate one-year moratorium on commercial development in Venice and that the City of Los Angeles shall conduct an Environmental Impact Study to determine the capacity of the Venice area to sustain additional commercial growth."

It was amended to include: "with the understanding that until the moratorium is ratified by the Los Angeles City Council, the Venice Town Council will consider individual projects as the majority of the VTC wishes." Reconsideration which has not previously been used, is described in sec. 407 of the VTC bylaws: "Because the Council recognizes that there might be some positions taken at a particular meeting which might not reflect accurately the General Membership's long-held positions, the following has been devised as a reconsideration procedure:

- a. A member shall attend the next meeting of the Board to request that the matter be placed on the next month's agenda. The Board shall discuss the merits of the request and then vote in accordance with the rules established in 302D above. (Voting shall be limited to Board Members.)
- b. If the matter is put on the agenda for the following month, the Board must contact in writing all members-of-record to inform them of the matter up for reconsideration. Adequate and timely publicity through the media must also be used by the Board.

Bonnie Faulkner was elected to the Board of Directors at the May meeting, replacing Fran Solomon who resigned due to job pressures. Bonnie has been elected secretary, freeing our Executive Director, Carol Berman, to take on a Fund Raising project...a VTC Cookbook! Fran was our fund raiser, having been a Board member for several years, doing all the jobs as needed. We will certainly miss Fran.

Bonnie has lived in Venice for five and one half years; is a renter; helped found the North Venice Boulevard Neighborhood Association (in response to the proposed commercial re-zoning and development of two thirds of the block west of Pacific); participated in the Local Coastal Program; and recently joined the Beachhead Collective.

VENICE TOWN COUNCIL Policy regarding presenting development projects before the board of directors and the general membership. In November, 1988, the motion was made, moved and passed that there will be a policy of limiting the time that any developer can take at a board meeting presenting their project. That the Venice Town Council will oppose any project that does not conform to the Interium Control Ordinance and our community plan. Developers can present their proposals before the general Venice Town Council meetings. Developers will be encouraged to meet with the neighbors within the area of their project after the first public hearing and before the hearing officials render their decision.

This is intended to give the community a chance to express their concerns, to negotiate changes with developers and to inform the hearing officers of any areas of agreement as well as any areas of disagreement.



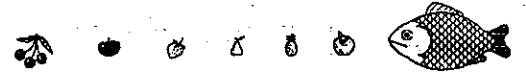
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BUSINESS

tax benefits	2
fraud	3
for now	3
	3
	4

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Daily News

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

Nordstrom is planning to build Westside store



The Nordstrom store at the Glendale Galleria.

Nordstrom plans Westside store, denies Sherman Oaks rumors

By NICHOLA ZAKLAN
Daily News Staff Writer

Nordstrom Inc. has tentative plans to build a second department store aimed at West Los Angeles shoppers in the proposed Marina Place mall in Culver City, James Nordstrom, co-chairman of the 48-store company said Thursday.

Nordstrom also denied rumors that the company was interested in building a store in

the Sherman Oaks Fashion Square shopping center, currently under renovation.

"It's a very nice location but it's out of the question," Nordstrom said. Fashion Square developers promised local homeowners that it would not add any more department stores in order to obtain city approval for its expansion plans. There already are two anchor stores at

the mall, Bullock's and The Broadway.

Nordstrom chose the 823,000-square-foot Marina Place mall because the firm wanted another site on the affluent Westside. The Seattle-based chain's only West Los Angeles store is in the Westside Pavilion.

Nordstrom said that its plans to build the store are not final. The mall developers, the Prudential Property Co. and Melvin Simon & Associates, are still in the process of obtaining city approvals for the complex. City planners said that would take at least eight more months.

Once the project is under way, the Nordstrom store will be 200,000-square-foot, larger than its 150,000-square-foot store in the Westside Pavilion.

Macy's had expressed interest in opening a store at Marina Place, which would have been the chain's first Southern California location. But that was put on hold after Macy's acquired Bullock's and Bullocks-Wilshire last spring. The company officials were not available Thursday.

Nordstrom also is planning stores in a mall planned for downtown Santa Barbara, slated to open in the fall of 1990. In addition, it has agreed to build a store in the Tyler Mall in Riverside, after that

center completes an expansion. Nordstrom hopes to open there also in the fall of 1990.

In Northern California, the chain is planning stores in Sacramento, to open in October and in Pleasanton to open March, 1990.

The chain's biggest expansion is planned for the Midwest and East Coast, where it expects to build nearly 10 new stores in the next five years.

The department store chain, which reported net income of \$123.3 million in 1988, has become highly popular among California customers. Its reputation for attentive and superlative customer service has spawned a host of imitators in the department store industry.

Do We Let This Happen Or Do We Fight!! Your choice; Write Letters NOW!!

Guts and Glory-- Nuts for a Story

by diane nickerson

Well, Ollie. Another fine mess. I don't know whether to laugh or to cry. What's it been now? Months, even years, since you, Oliver North, hit the public consciousness. Somehow it seems like just yesterday you were front page news. BIG TIME. Too bad Andy Warhol's dead. Somehow I think he'd have loved this. I mean, no matter how you look at it, you're camp and and STILL ALIVE!

Some stories never quite get told and Ollie, you had me worried there for awhile. But, after all, what's a guy to do? One minute you're out saving the world for democracy, as the "natural born commando" that the late Mr. Casey called you. Hell, you even said that you were ready to "die for America" back during the 'Nam years... we remember, the Domino Theory and all that; and on the home front you were also big against those "stinkin' Commie ragasses" (read hippie peacenik liberals). You were a Marine's Marine, strictly military. Your animosity toward politicians (& just plain civilians) was obvious, even then, accusing "them" of holding the fighting forces back. Why, if it wasn't for Congress and much of the American public we could've been "in Hanoi, selling hamburgers tomorrow." How American. This attitude was seriously indicative of the one you displayed during the Iran/Contra(vesty) hearings and your subsequent trial... arrogant, self-righteous, and to me, terribly naive.

But hey, the next minute you found yourself on trial for numerous charges, ranging from aiding and abetting an obstruction of justice, to conspiracy to defraud the United States and the Internal Revenue Service (Service?). Were you really the patriotic pawn in what you called a "chess game played by giants", just following orders, doing your job, etc., etc.? Or were you a calculating, unscrupulous person, basically following the popular creed of the '80s, the Reagan years? I got mine, tough shit for the rest of you. How you've gotten yours isn't important. As long as it's green (or plastic) and can afford you lotsa things, like a \$13,800 home-security system, even tho' you fabricated two backdated letters purporting to show you had offered(?) to pay for it? If you were the designated fall-guy, then it's been a masterful job. The jury of your peers was made up of nine women and three men,

all black, all working class and all chosen for their ignorance of your previously mentioned follies: the '87 congressional testimony and all. Where the hell were they? Oh, I know, at work with no time to read the paper, watch the tube news, or maybe just laying low under some rock somewhere (is Greenland do-able?).

Whatever, Ollie, you ol' fall guy you, your fall is so seriously cushioned that I've hurt myself worse falling down while roller-skating. If you actually wind up doing any time at all, just look at it as a well-deserved (altho' enforced) vacation.

I caught myself feeling as if I was beating a dead horse, bringing this up again and again. But as I said before, you're not dead, nor a horse either, for that matter, tho' some may think you're a horse's ass, but forget that, I like horses. Then I reminded myself that that's just it. We, the people cannot let this be swept under some Persian rug. According to TIME magazine, "The White House is convinced that the public has lost its interest in the Iran-contra affair." Don't let this happen...

I recall writing an article for the Aug. '87 issue of the Beachhead and "joking" about whether or not you'd just become another movie/disease of the week. Well, Ronald Reagan, upon relieving you of your post mumbled all over the place, but wound up by saying "well, Ollie, chin up, this'll make a helluva movie someday." I also recall asking whether justice would be served regarding your dirty dealings. Well, the Prez was wrong, the movie sucked. As for me, I guess I was semi-wrong (which also makes me semi-correct). "Justice" wasn't served, although I guess that depends on your definition of justice. These days, for the "right" people justice is a very flexible concept. ●



THE VERDICT

GUILTY: Aiding and abetting an obstruction of Congress. Maximum penalty: Five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Altering, concealing and destroying Natl.

Security Council documents. Maximum penalty: three years in jail and a \$250,000 fine.

Receiving an illegal gratuity. Maximum penalty: two years' imprisonment, \$250,000 fine.

NOT GUILTY: Obstructing and lying to Congress.

Obstructing a congressional inquiry.

Obstructing a presidential inquiry.

Improper conversion of traveler's checks.

Conspiracy to defraud the U.S. and the Internal Revenue Service.★

A TIME Magazine Poll of 504 Americans

Should North go to jail?

Yes.....32%

No.....53%

Should President Bush Pardon North?

Yes.....45%

No.....39%

Has Bush told the whole truth about his involvement in Iran/ContraGate?

Yes.....17%

No.....67%

Aren't most polls full of shit?

Yes.....

No.....

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Book Review; Tasty Little Tales

BEST AMERICAN SHORT STORIES OF 1988
editors: Shannon Ravenel & Mark Helprin

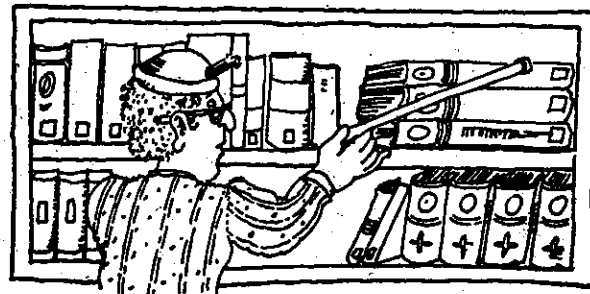
by Judith L. Martin

Some people are addicted to chocolate.

It's been scientifically proven. Some people are addicted to coffee. Just can't get through the day without it. Myself, I am addicted to words; I need several thousand of them every day, and I am always wanting more. My favorite kind of words are the printed ones. I go through newspapers, magazines and novels at a rate that can only be described as compulsive consumption.

Like any addict, I am always searching for new and different ways to satisfy my appetite. Sometimes, when magazines aren't enough, and novels are too much, a good collection of short stories can be the perfect solution.

Houghton-Mifflin has been publishing the "Best American Short Stories" collection for ten years, keeping bibliomaniacs like myself in supply with a fine selection of short fiction, culled from presses both large and small. Although Shannon Ravenel is the series editor, every volume has a



guest editor, with this year's honor going to Mark Helprin, (author of 'The Winter's Tale'). The selection of stories is marvelous. Well-known authors such as Raymond Carver and Louise Erdrich appear along with other lesser-known talents, like C.S. Godschalk and Hilding Johnson. Consider this collection to be as rich and as tempting as a bar of dark bitter-sweet, and a cup of steaming cappuchino. My selections, (note; it is not improper to skip around, no one ever ate a Whitman Sampler in straight lines) for the best of "The Best . . ." include Erdrich's 'Snares', which tells the tale of two older Chippewa people, who use the old ways to exact revenge on the youths who

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abuse them, and C.S. Godschalk's truly heartbreaking "Wonderland", about two small boys who are abandoned by their alcoholic mother and the older child's struggle to maintain appearances and cope. Also among my favorites; 'The Natural Father' by Robert Lacy, a story of boot camp and pregnancy in 1958; Hilding Johnson's 'Victoria' a sexy and subtle little romance set in India; 'Helping' by Robert Stone, a dramatic glimpse of a counselor backsliding into his own drinking problem. Raymond Carver's 'Chekov' presents a unique view of the great writer, through

A delightful collection, delicious, even. I enjoyed every well-written word and I know you will too.▲

United We Stand, Divided We Fall

By Kathy Sullivan

It has been very disturbing to me and I'm sure to many of you also who have witnessed the split in our community over the issue of development.

Many of you have worked tirelessly for years against development and many of us (myself included) have been all so happy to let you.

It has not been my intention to sling arrows. I know some very real efforts have been expended by many of you in the community in our war against development. Many of you have consistently been at the front of this war carrying the banner of a free Venice.

But there are many things I would like to try to understand and many things I would like to communicate to you.

Many of us have been very worried about what we perceive as a very real shift in development policy now occurring in Venice.

Lately, going over old newspaper articles and talking with friends, I have tried to understand what is happening to Venice.

I offer some of these thoughts and possible solutions here:

IDENTIFY THE ENEMY

There is something we can all agree on. There is a war in Venice and the enemy is commercial development.

Many of us will not all agree, however, that the City of Los Angeles is also our enemy.

Pre Ruth Galanter days, before we tried working within the system, most of us would have agreed that the City was our enemy. But these days, much effort has gone into supporting our city council person and thus the system she works in.

To accept that the City is our enemy is to negate all the effort that has already been expended and in the process to negate ourselves... While this is a painful proposition, I will try to explain why it is necessary:

Lately we've all read poll after poll; article after article about the declining quality of life in Los Angeles. Congestion, pollution, crime, etc. have all been cited as major irritants.

Los Angeles has a mayor who has just begun his fifth term. During most of that tenure, he was known as the pro-growth mayor.

It is a known fact that he has a very close relationship with developers. They have worked side-by-side building, building and building Los Angeles. There has been no construction or rehabilitation of low-income housing. So bad have been the non-existent housing programs that when Bernardi was asked who fought him on an innovative housing program, he said,

"Who didn't fight me, that's the question-- I lay the discredit at the feet of the mayor and council--They're all so proud, so damn proud and they've done nothing at all! Look at their financial backers if you want to know why developers run this town..."

There's no question that L.A. has been governed by its free wheeling developer-oriented market.

QUOTE THE TIMES:

"Some observers fear that the City Council & Bradley will be reluctant to disrupt their amiable relationships with developers and other real estate interests, who since 1983 have given \$3 million to council members' campaign chests and 2.7 million to the mayor, far more than any other industry..."

QUOTE GROSS FROM THE COALITION OF ECONOMIC SURVIVAL:

"Developers are down at City Hall every day and have incredible access to elected officials that community groups and non-profits simply do not have. Developers make a suggestion one day and you might hear it as a motion on the council floor that week. Until they get rid of that approach, housing will go hand-in-hand with greed..."

And we wonder here in Venice why we're being fed to the wolves? Do any of us truly really believe that L.A. gives a damn about us? L.A. is awfully quick in promoting and approving projects aimed at boosting Venice's tourist trade (i.e. converting oceanfront apts. into stores and changing zoning from residential to commercial)

and awfully slow in providing much-needed facilities.

Venice is hyped as being the 2nd tourist attraction after Disneyland. L.A. is glad to hype and tax the freak show but when it comes to supplying more trash cans they balk.

And what about our city council person--where is she?

I would guess Ruth is having to face the harsh realities of a laissez faire pro-development City Hall. Evidence this very strange quote from Ruth..."I would hate to see us fall into the trap of turning Venice into an enclave for the rich by virtue of our attempt to control what happens here..."

Just what does that mean? We should not try to control anything? We should, perhaps just roll over for the developers.

The fact that we elected Ruth Galanter on a slow-growth platform and swept her into office with the Victory of Prop U seems to have had little effect in the short term. Development and pro-growth mentality nurtured over 20 years in City Hall does not die easy.

For Venice, it may have been better that Ruth had not won...at least the community would not have been so divided and confused. The enemy would have been cut and dry. As it is, some of us stubbornly hold to sticking with the City Council procedure and status quo establishment against our better judgement. And this is the ultimate irony. A radical town like Venice towing the establishment party line.

And what is the party line? The party line is to allow the developers to develop and in exchange get perks, benefits, (i.e. trade-offs) in exchange. The mayor is doing it; the City Council is doing it; my god, some of the major cities are doing it--it must be right!

Of course, this is all off the record...the official party line, the one touted to the press is the trickle down theory (yes, the theory is back)...the developers get to build a metropolis, and they trickle down for us, a shanty.

According to the Times, this new way of negotiating with developers is called "Vigilante Planning" (i.e., we the community allow you to build a mini mall, you, the developer give us affordable housing). The logic is...if the City is not going to protect us, then we will protect ourselves.

The problem with that logic is that vigilante planning inevitably divides a community...

accusations fly back and forth of black mail, selling-out etc..

In the end, it is a desperate, bankrupt policy with the illusion of power which in fact, admits defeat at the onset.

What we are basically saying with this logic is...yes, we are against development with its accompanying problems of congestion, pollution, etc., but for a price or mitigations, we will consider not being so against development...

Come on...are we for or against??? It turns everyone involved into jelly, when...shouldn't we be asking why these projects are being forced on the community in the first place?

QUOTE FROM THE TIMES:

"Vigilante planning isn't planning at all. It's survival of the fittest, or the cleverest, or the meanest, or the luckiest or, most often, the richest..."

Let us not underestimate the cleverness of some developers--they spend thousands of dollars employing PR firms which immediately set out to change public opinion and portray a project in the best light.

Invariably developers not only promise the affordable housing but also agree to pick up the tab for feasibility reports, traffic and environmental studies, all the necessary paraphernalia (however non-objective) which goes into convincing a community that it can not only handle the added traffic and pollution but will be better for it...

In the article "Tactics to Campaign for Projects", some of the tactics or dirty tricks employed include wooing entire neighborhoods and telling opponents that if the project fails, the land might be used for something that the community would like even less...(sound familiar?)

A handbook issued by the Urban Land Institute, a developer-oriented think tank based in Washington emphasizes, "the importance of pre-battle maneuvering; the gathering of intelligence concerning the enemy's (the community) activity; the uses of deception, surprise and propaganda and the launching of counter-attacks in winning a zoning change..."

Developers "bring up issues that are scary or frightening to people which will divide the community and when the community is divided, they can win at the Planning Commission because... the community is so divided it can't fight back..."

In conclusion (finally)...let's not forget who the enemy is. We cannot win even a battle, much less the war, if we don't know who the enemy is. They know who we are, you can be sure of that!

Without despairing, there are a few things we can do. First, we must try to stop the lot by lot conversion to commercial. We have passed a one year moratorium in the Venice Town Council; this is a start. It gives us time to think... it sends the message to City Hall and developers that we are a community that will not compromise ourselves!

Another alternative which should be investigated is the incorporation of Venice and Cityhood.

No moans and groans please...I know it was tried before and failed, ..so we try again.

Malibu, Diamond Bar..they did not get Cityhood the first time around either.

If we have the will to do it, we can do it!

We certainly can challenge the legality of being part and parcel of an irresponsible city which is selling us down the river.

Where is our spirit, our fight...Are we so burned out that it is easier to negotiate with the enemy...are we defeated before we begin?

Why not stand together, unified and committed and have a say in our community. There are so many things to be done in our free Venice. There are new building codes to impliment, rent controls to be passed, low and affordable housing to be built and maybe even a people's park.

Wouldn't that be great!

What Do We Want + How Do We Get It?

BY ARNOLD SPRINGER

It has been both amusing and disturbing to witness the hysteria and mistrust which certain friends have been evidencing of late over the issue of development in the Venice community. I do not wish to call or name names: all of you know who you are. For people new to the Venice development wars to misunderstand and or mistrust the moves that I, or Moe, or Jim Bickhart make is understandable. That they should question and challenge is understandable and required.

But for people we have all worked with and for, in behalf of a common set up objectives, for such people to distrust us now, after 15 years in which you trusted us precisely as we worked together, this is interesting indeed.

Certainly we are in a new situation. We have more 'power' than we ever had, power to say what it is we want, not just what we don't want.

From the very beginning of my involvement in the politics of Venice development in 1972, I was impressed by the following two overriding concerns, expressed over and over again by the people who became my friends, who I worked with. One was over intense development which plugged into gentrification and our community's genocide at the hands of 'the system'; the second was the need to save and create low income housing in order to try to compensate for the development which was necessarily all upscale and consequently genocidal.

(That's why I never was for cleaning up Venice. A dirty Venice helps us remain socially stable. Dogshit was and remains our ally).

Jim and I and Moe worked together in harmony for many years. We reported back to the Town Council

in open meetings and in the Beachhead. We were diligent and dutiful. We knew you were all

paying attention because we talked to you. But you had other things to do, other axes to grind, other roads to move down. Suddenly, unexpectedly, we won the election and Ruth Galanter was our Councilperson.

We are at a critical point now. We have to reconsider and review our policy viz development. Up until recently it has been clear to

everyone both inside and outside of Venice that the Town Council was one of the most vigorous, pugnacious, and uncompromising foes of development. This was an image created in the early days and perpetuated by the media. It was an image which we consciously promoted. At the same time everyone who has gone to Town Council meetings over the past 10 years and anyone who has ever read articles by los tres in the Beachhead knows that we discussed projects with developers, often agreed to projects, compromised, and were committed to working within the system.

For radicals to work within the system means that certain core systemic rules must be accepted.

1) Private property: The right to use it in accord with the zoning and density cannot be abridged except with mutually acceptable trade offs.

2) Treat all process with resp

3) Work with zoning and planni

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2) Treat all parties to the process with respect.

3) Work with all established zoning and planning documents relevant to any particular project to modify the project as much as possible in our 'favor', lower density, and attempt to gain low income or affordable housing in Venice for Venetians.

4) Always be on the leading edge of restrictions of property and exactions as a right to develop property. Try to set precedents, but tie them closely to existing precedents, using these as springboards to advance our objectives.

5) Recognize the inevitable necessity of trade offs or accommodations with developers. Take advantage of temporary opportunities and moments of advantage which come your way thru fluks in the system. Allow increases in density in return for low and affordable housing.

6) Report back fully and completely to the community, and expect the community to take its role seriously. Seriously means to engage in serious discussions and make a serious and considered decision at important and critical junctures.

The Secession of

Or How Venice Lost Its Independence and How It Was Regained

PH MILLER

(PART ONE OF TWO PARTS)

ce upon a time in a tiny town sea there was a man named Abbot who decided to build an amuse- rk so that all the people of wing metropolis of Los Angeles ave a good time on Southern nia weekends.

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Or maybe, if Venice can't be its own city, maybe we could vote to merge with Culver City. At least we could

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the very idea brings a joyful gleam to the eyes. (Followed by a glimmer of doubt "Could we really do it?")

Then I thought, well, maybe by 1990 Venice had it together in the early twenties and almost got it together again at the end of the sixties, maybe it's time for another round, a good decade. A long time ago when Venice first started to be ruined by graft and corruption, etc., part of Venice wanted to merge with Ocean Park and part looked south to the Marina peninsula, a few wanted to go east, but the people bet on affiliating with the capital city Los Angeles won. The Venice Vanguard paper in the twenties, like the Free Venice Beachhead (in 1968 and right now still) was basically for independence.

It was during the spring of 1922 that stories of municipal scandal began to be whispered around Venice and by May 3, 1923 were confirmed in the Vanguard. Over a year in city funds were missing. And just a year before the mayor had been forced to resign amid rumors that Venice's municipal government was on the verge of bankruptcy. By the fall the 750-member Venice Chamber of Commerce took up the question and, ignoring the pro-consolidation-with-Santa Monica faction, decided to change to a city manager form of government, both to preserve Venice's identity and independence and to try to keep business out of politics.

They submitted a new charter to Venice citizens by the following election in February. All the ballot measures were defeated, and the dissatisfied public splintered into factions. Petitions for annexation to Los Angeles began to circulate that spring, and after the Board of Trustees received 200 signatures, they authorized an election for July, 1923. The Trustees attempted to oppose the annexationists' views, and proceeded to mitigate, providing street improvements. Annexation lost at the following election by only 340 votes. But following the problems of fires and Prohibition, Venice declined, and by the 1924 spring election, a new administration took over-

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It was not successful in uniting a factionalized city. The trustees called a special annexation election for October 2, 1925. Finally, Venice narrowly lost its independence and became part of Los Angeles on November 25, 1925. It never should have happened.

Since the time Venice lost its autonomy, its boundaries have ceased to matter much, at least in my experience. I know that in 1921, when Charles Lick, Austin McFadden, and George Leihy invested their \$250,000 to construct a new pier behind the Dome Dance Pavilion, to be called the Lick Pier, it was to be within Venice's boundaries, adjoining the south side of the Pickering Pier at the foot of Navy. Of course there is no pier at the foot of Navy now. I live on Navy and people keep telling me that Navy is now part of Santa Monica, no longer part of Venice at all.

So one morning, the first Monday in April, while listening to the chirping of the sea birds and feeling the cool breeze at the beach, I wrote a letter to our councilperson downtown at City Hall to applaud her idea to put signs up at all the entrances to Venice welcoming people. At the time she suggested this two years ago, everyone on the Town Council laughed, also on the Free Venice Beachhead, and even on the beach. Still, this would be a necessary step. Who knows where the borders are anyway. So this is the letter:

Ruth Galanter, Councilwoman, 6th Dist. City Hall, 200 North Spring Street Los Angeles, CA. 90012-4856

Dear Ruth:

Remember that soon after you took office you suggested, actually promised, that you would put signs up at the entrances to Venice, perhaps not as elegant as the Culver City ones, but at least as useful as the Santa Monica ones. Something like: "You are now entering Venice: and "You are now leaving Venice" on the other side, with the population figures. At the time you mentioned this, people laughed, but it was an excellent idea.

About a year ago when I was working on an article for the Free Venice Beachhead on the hotel proposed for the corner of Navy and Speedway, I called your office because there was some question as to the exact northern boundary between Venice and Ocean Park.

Some said the middle of Navy, others said Navy itself, some said the alley behind Navy, and some said Barnard Way. When I called your office and spoke to Joan Cory, she said: "Yes, the question of the boundaries is a good one. I don't know the answer."

For this reason I am now applauding your suggestion, supporting your plan, and urging you to proceed. In the meantime, would you be so kind as to have your office send me

continued to P

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working group or groups now and prepare to study and critique that EIR. It will address the impact of commercial development on the physical infrastructure (streets and highways) of Venice. If it is deficient or in error, we need to have that pointed out. If it doesn't deal with the rending of our social fabric, we have to demand that it should.

3) By the time you read this article the EIR for the J. Snyder project in the Oxford Triangle will be available. Over 1100 units of housing: over 300,000 feet of new commercial space on Lincoln Blvd. But significant developer contributions to low income housing, homeless, indians, child care, local jobs program, coastal access, housing corporation for Venice. Our agenda. Our program.

Were we too soft? Did we agree to too much density in exchange for promoting and realizing our program? Profitability is a big question. You figure it out. You must do the same thing for this document and the Prudential document. I must tell you that as of now, my read on the situation is that the Council office is generally supportive, and those of us who have worked with Snyder and

What do we want--continued on P.8

The Poverty of Justice

BY SARA OMARI

I swiveled my neck as I looked around the courtroom at everybody in particular and nobody in general. As I sat and waited (for the trial I had come to observe had not yet started), I heard testimonies from people involved in "cases now pending before this court."

One of those cases, in particular, struck me, and it is of that case I now write.

Am unable to use the suspect's name, since I did not ask his permission. He was very young, possibly in his early 20's and he was accused of trying to steal a car @ LAX. His feisty but over-worked Public Defender told the court that the Young Man was in the area of the airport because he had stored his clothes in a locker; the judge pointed out that the young man had been put on probation ONLY THE DAY BEFORE, from the very same courtroom. Furthermore, the defendant had been told to STAY AWAY FROM LAX.

The pugnacious Public Defender reminded the court that the defendant was OUTSIDE the LAX area. Her client, she said, was OUTSIDE, ON THE SIDEWALK, and her client's friend was the one inside the airport area, trying to get the clothes from the locker.

The LAPD wunderkind who arrested the suspect (LAPD has special forces assigned to

patrol LAX and to protect tourists from the rest of us mortals) took the witness stand. This LAPD minion wrapped himself in his raggedy, half tattered truths and told the court that he knew the suspect from before. LAPD, looking like an advert for a Brooks Brothers suit, further testified that he knew the suspect made "his living by picking up carts from the LAX area and returning these same carts to the airline counters for the sum of 25 cents."

The accused then took the stand. He told the court that he had 28 cents in his pockets, when arrested. LAPD had already testified that ususpect had between \$5.00 and \$7.00 in his pocket IN COIN!!! As the LAPD had continued his testimony, I wondered a) why so much coin on the accused - there are those of us who know that the unrich do not carry that much coin around. It is converted into bills, or used to buy such banal trivia such as food (or even some short dog), and b) why wasn't the young man seen, by the LAPD way before now (before young man amassed so much money).???

I sensed that the LAPD monolith was bullying the truth. On the other hand, I told myself that I did not know what had happened, I ONLY BASED THESE PARAGRAPHS FROM WHAT I HEARD FROM THE WITNESS STAND IN THAT COURTROOM.

It is MY opinion that the testimony of that police officer made a mockery of the very truths that the officer swore to uphold.

And we trust our safety to these very same officers.

Bet the guys who wrote the Constitution would have torn their collective hair out (at my naivete). They are probably laughing their fool heads off at the way Miz Truth is stretched, often till it snaps. (Remember the case of Jeter, some where in Texas? Anyone know what happened to him???)

Partly because of the above case, I plan to continue (I had already researched 3 cases) on a series of articles, i.e., started a book on incidents such as the above and which I have TITLED, tentative ly, DERAILMENTS of JUSTICE. It is a gigundous project.

Even if some agree that the end justifies the means, Learned Counsels, using what is at hand to convict/release, should have some limits.

In this tale of woe, the black-robed solomon said he saw no reason to doubt the officer's testimony. He therefore, and FORTHWITH, sentenced the unlucky one to one hundred eighty days (SIX MONTHS). The suave prosecutor's body language (but with a piranha mind) signalled victory in HIS system. . . .

What--from p. 7

partner Milt Swimmer are almost convinced that the arrangement is a good one. If you don't think the traffic is handled well, or that it can be at all, of if there are ways to address it that haven't been addressed, say it. Or if we can't do anything about the traffic, tell all of us that we have no choice but to forgo our agenda in return for no commercial development, and tell us how you justify this except thru narrow self interest.

The Snyder project has already been presented to the VTC in open meeting. There are lots of trade offs. They look acceptable to me. They look acceptable to the Oxford Triangle. What's not acceptable to you, and why?

4) The LUP which calls out the zoning for the Venice Coastal Plan and modifies the existing zoning, will soon be released by the Planning Department. There will be formal public hearings on this document. It will include an EIR which is supposed to justify the commercial zoning slated for Venice. This commercial zoning was established following the most extensive and informed public participation in comprehensive community zoning that I am aware of. We had control of this process as no other community has had, probably ever. Is the LUP's justification or rationalization for the level of commercial development permitted for Venice credible? If not, why?

5) As far as North Venice Beach is concerned: We need a thorough, objective traffic study of the Speedway and Pacific Aves, from Ozone to 18th or perhaps Windward. This should be paid for by developers whose projects are already in the pipeline, and others who come on line. A special fund should be created by the City for this purpose. Bill, Safran, Blanchard, Goodfaader, should make contributions to help fund this necessary study.

6) Remember that if the Venice Town Council refuses to participate, if it wraps itself in the holy image of community all the better to say no, that will be a sign that it is no longer working within the system. To work for compromise, to advance the Venice program is to change the system. Our agreements will set the standard for other areas in the city where people want and need the same things we are committed to and are supposed to be struggling to attain. That is the way the system gets changed. That's progress. The other way is to go out in the streets.

And remember, those streets are going to be clogged either way, whether we compromise or not. If we compromise we win some and lose some. If we don't compromise Venice will look like a neutron bomb hit it in 20 years. All the same buildings will

be here, only the people will be gone, and now the community will be made up of very wealthy people. Is this the inevitability you propose. Is this the new Venice program? Come on Rick? Who is really the running dog of the bourgeoisie in this little skermish?

We have the absolute responsibility to decide on the nature of the tradeoffs we want to make on development. It is right and proper and necessary that the community have intelligent discourse and make definitive decisions. Nothing else was ever intended or meant by any of us who are doing this development work, neither Jim nor Moe nor I, nor Del nor Debbie.

There are many options to look at. If we stick our collective heads in the sand and just say no, we are undermining the objectives which we have been pursuing as per our program.

Its time to call the question. You liberals and radicals make a big scene about your humanity and generosity. Just say yes and under what conditions. We don't have unlimited time. There are other things that have to be done to bring perestroika to Los Angeles. And we can't stop ourselves from being inundated by intense development even if we were to prohibit all future commercial development in Venice. In the next few years we will have gridlock anyway. And who will provide the monies to provide us aid for the homeless, for beach clean up, for coastal access, for removing beach traffic from our streets, for providing preferential and replacement parking, for low income family housing? The City? Don't make me laugh. The State? The Federal Government? Dream On! The only people who have the money out there are the developers. They are willing to trade. We have no choice but to cut the best deals we can, look out for ourselves qua community, protect ourselves, before it is too late. Mark my words. Protect Venice now by cutting deals from a position of strength, or watch the low income and lumpen kulturchiki be excised from Venice by market forces. After that the noblesse will make sure that Venice is protected, for themselves alone, and only our image will remain.

For those who are not prepared to cut deals, I ask you to publically objectify your rationales and political strategies in pursuit of our objectives. I call the question. Shit or get off the pot. How am I doing Bob?

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Management--from P.1

them so that we can feel compassion. We are told that this 28 year old investment banker worked for charity, downplayed the dangers of living in New York, and was a warm and admirable woman. I don't doubt this for a second. But we should remember how selective the media is about which victims they let us know. We all know the name of Leon Klinghoffer, but I doubt if more than 5 of the Beachhead's 10,000 readers can name even one of the Palestinians beaten to death during Israeli interrogation. More than 65,000 people have been killed by government death squads in El Salvador; I can only name ArchBishop Romero and the 4 American nuns.

The 28 year old woman deserves our compassion, as do her family and friends. But none of us should forget that compassion, retribution, and justice are all unevenly distributed in this nation, and much of the outcry over this case is meant to maintain that uneven distribution. . . .

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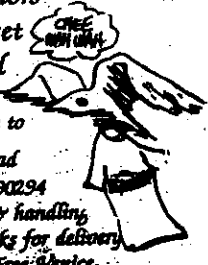
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VOICE OF THE VENICE TOWN COUNCIL



S U P P L E M E N T T O T H E B E A C H H E A D

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ Editorial Comments ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

MACI--

Anyone traveling on Lincoln Boulevard can't help but notice a burned out shop on the east side of Lincoln at Flower. This business was visited several times by the MACI Team and reminded of their code violations, warnings were issued, but no citation. There were excessive violations including substandard wiring. Several months ago, the establishment burnt. Why? Electrical short and subsequent fire. We can all laugh about 20/20 hindsight, but if the owners and managers of this shop had listened to the city inspectors, their place probably would not have burnt.

What is the MACI Team? What is it about? Who are the people within it?

Last fall, Ruth promised to clean up Venice's commercial districts. It is now starting to happen. MACI = Multi-Agency Community Improvement and has people from 6 governmental agencies plus assistance from Ruth's field office. The agencies are:

Dept. of Building & Safety	312-8372
Caltrans	775-2716
City Clerk	606-9271
Health Services, Environmental Management	315-4579
Fire Dept. Fire Prevention Bureau	485-6072
Dept of Transportation, Parking Enforcement	312-8403

We all know that the Venice portion of Lincoln Boulevard has an enormous case of the uglies. Rolls of carpet and furniture regularly displayed on the sidewalk. Automotive repair on Lincoln or at best, on a side street, storing vehicles on the street prior to repair and detailing cars outside a structure and washing trash into the gutters. Irritating signage, general sloppiness and trash abound.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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What can this multi-agency community thing do? A lot. First inspectors check out a business for code violations. When these violations are found, the merchant is warned. The inspectors return a few weeks later to see if the code violations have been rectified. If not, merchant gets a citation - which is a lot harder to ignore than a warning. This is a governmental procedure that has teeth in it. Inspect, warn, cite, drag into the appropriate arena for a hearing and ruling.

Most of the unsightliness would be eliminated if businesses adhered to the restrictions within the municipal code. But if they don't, they will be warned and then cited. Inspectors have already contacted 160 businesses to let them know that Lincoln Boulevard has been targeted. Once enforcement starts, inspectors will check whether buildings comply with safety requirements and inspect restaurant kitchens for health code violations.

Lincoln Blvd businesses do not operate in a vacuum. There are residents on either side and the rest of us travel on Lincoln. These firms can be good neighbors if they just obey the law, and the MACI Team is going to make sure that is what happens. As Ruth said in her press conference in February, "Most business owners want to comply with the law and will act quickly to correct any violations. But it is our intention to strictly enforce the relevant regulations, especially when violators are having a negative influence on their neighborhood."

If the MACI Team is successful at improving conditions along Lincoln, the concept will be applied to other parts of her district in the future.

West Washington between Venice and Brooks is looking pretty good these days, but West Washington south of Venice needs work. Lets get behind the MACI Team approach for all the uglies.

6th Annual Venice Arts & Crafts Festival

For the past few months, I have been working with the Abbot Kinney Boulevard Association sub-committee to produce the 6th Annual Arts and Crafts Festival to be held on West Washington between Venice and Westminister on August 13.

The theme is CELEBRATE VENICE: A Continuing Tradition, and admission is free to the public.

There will be almost 200 juried arts and crafts booths with local artisans featured, and international food (also in booths) will be for sale as well. The day will include entertainment on two outdoor stages (donated free by both city and county), celebrities available to sign autographs, a childrens' court with rides, games and a petting zoo, (25¢ per ride and game), presentations by elected officials (hopefully at that time West Washington Boulevard will be officially changed to Abbot Kinney Boulevard) and most of all -- Community Pride!

Seventy percent of the proceeds are dedicated to the creation of a sports program at Oakwood Recreation Center to benefit and serve our local youth and tree planting to beautify our streets. A word about the sports program funding. There is no intention to hand over \$5,000 plus without any strings attached. The strings are a commitment by the Oakwood Recreation Center staff to recruit young people for the proposed program, and to purchase equipment as needed/requested by the Oakwood staff for the program. To elaborate further, Melvin Heyward and Larry Williams, respected community activists in Oakwood, as well as Tom Stokes, Oakwood Recreation Center director, are working with the Abbot Kinney Blvd. Assn. festival committee to insure that this very special sports program will be handled appropriately.

The AKBA committee has promised to provide a complete financial statement available to the public no later than 30 days after the festival.

All monies will be accounted for.

You can readily see that this year's festival is special. The diversity of people and talent which typifies Venice is represented on the festival committee. Fifteen dedicated individuals, who will receive no monetary consideration, meet two or three times every week to produce the best festival to date and are working diligently to guarantee the quality of future festivals.

Wednesday, May 17, a breakfast organized by the AKBA festival committee netted over \$21,000 for planting trees and establishment of a sports program at Oakwood. Politicians, local merchants, developers - large, small and inbetween, and just plain folks came to hear about the plans to provide an alternative behavior pattern for our local youth. They came, they listened and they dug deep. Fifty people attended and they all wanted to help. They all did.

The festival committee is sponsoring a T-shirt competition. The selected T-shirt design will garner \$250.00 for its creator. Camera ready art must be submitted by June 15 and the design cannot use more than two colors. Minimum requirements are that the design are to include the words, "6th Annual Venice Arts and Crafts Summer Festival: and the year, "1989". Winning design will be used for the official T-shirt to be sold during the festival and for the cover of the festival program. Artist will receive publicity, recognition and a one-page bio in the program.

Any street festival relies on vendors - the "arts and crafts" in the title. Of course, Venice artisans are encouraged to get a booth. Telephone the Venice Chamber of Commerce, 827-2366, for all vendor information.

Mikio Sankey and Will McCrae are Entertainment Chairmen. "Musicians Against Crack" is the motivation behind the musicians. All entertainment will be family-oriented. No "heavy metal" bands.

There will be no litter or trash on the street either during or after this festival. Every vendor will have a trash container and the Youth Conservation Corps, headed by Yvonne SuMarian, will be cleaning the street before, emptying all trash containers several times during and cleaning the street after.

I have a strong commitment to community activism. And I have a personal agenda. My agenda is that all Venice organizations; political, homeowner, residential, community activist, environmental, etc., be brought together for the betterment of our community. That means talking together, working together, working seperately, interacting on a level that will benefit all of us. I stood for elected office for the Venice Town Council and produce the VOICE of the Venice Town Council in order to further my personal agenda. The council's mandated-by-laws state, "...purpose shall include...initiating and/or supporting others in initiating a wide range of social, community problem-solving, and recreational activities..."

Every organization in Venice wants Venice to be "better". Individual viewpoints differ as organizations' viewpoints differ. But we all agree that we have problems to face. I suggest that we face them together. I suggest that we start sharing with this family-oriented event, the 6th Annual Venice Arts & Crafts Festival.

I have reserved two booths side by side at the festival at a cost of \$100 each for a total of \$200. I am asking every Venice organization to join me in this venture. The cost of the booths to be divided between the organizations. Twenty organizations = \$10 each plus cost of physical structure of the booth. The booths will be in a line down the middle of the street so we will get a total of 40 feet of display space (each booth is 10 by 10 feet). I propose that we - all of us - cooperate in this, pay the modest fee, arrange for the physical booth structure and use this opportunity to show the rest of Venice and our visitors on August 13

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that we are meeting the challenge of the nineties and the 21st century with united community activism.

By no means am I saying that we should all think alike or work alike. I am saying that we can work together in a booth at this festival. Sharing this booth does not inhibit any organization's right to distribute literature or any information that that organization feels is important. This is a show of solidarity.

Here are the organizations already committed to participate in a community booth: Venice Town Council, Venice Historical Society, Presidents' Row Residents' Assn., Venice Canals Resident Homeowners' Assn., Ballona Lagoon Marine Preserve, Oakwood Owners & Tenants Assn., Zanja Neighborhood Assn., Venice Library, Greater Westside Network and the Beachhead Collective.

We will use this opportunity to inform festival visotors about each organization and spread the word that community and environmental activism is alive and well in Venice. I am writing to every Venice organization that I know. If there is a group that doesn't get a letter from me by the middle of June, please telephone me at 822-1729 and leave your name and address. I will contact you. It is best that we have the community booths organized by the end of June.

Challis Macpherson



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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HEADS UP!

These three amendment proposals could seriously affect us. They passed through Planning Commission hearings in May and their next stop is Planning and Environment Sub-committee of the City Council. Be alert. We may have to take action.

C.P.C. #86-621 CA All Council Districts
ORDINANCE to amend the L.A. Municipal Code to permit floor area ratio (FAR) calculations for buildings within commercial or industrial developments to be based on a project-wide average rather than individually upon the area of each building lot within a project.

Staff: Frank Eberhard, Patricia Ialongo, 485-5386

C.P.C. #86-029 CA All Council Districts

ORDINANCE to amend the L.A. Municipal Code by authorizing the merger of subdivided lands by parcel map procedure and to establish a fee therefor

Staff: Frank Eberhard, Chuck Rozzelle, 485-5386

C.P.C. #86-242 CA All Council Districts
C.P.C. #88-627 CA

ORDINANCES to amend the L.A. Municipal Code by providing for new building height limitations on single-family dwellings and adjacent multiple-residential buildings and by correcting an oversight in the existing "transitional height" provisions by eliminating special height limitations applying to C and M zoned lots when adjacent to certain publicly owned property in the single-family residential zones.

Staff: Frank Eberhard, Chuck Rozelle

This is regarding an extension of our Interim Control Ordinance. It is necessary that we have this extension in order for us to complete our Local Coastal Plan.

C.P.C. # 87-648 ICO Sixth Council District Venice District

ORDINANCE - INTERIM CONTROL regulating the issuance of building permits for properties in the Venice Coastal Zone generally bounded by Marine Street, City/County boundary, Washington Street, Via Marina, Lincoln Blvd., Via Dolce and the Pacific Ocean.

Staff: Bob Rogers, 485-2470

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(213) 399-3230

1415 W. Washington Blvd. Venice Calif. 90291

3 SATURDAY 1:00 PM
The Venice Library is hosting a magical afternoon with Ken Sobel, an accomplished magician who performs at the Magic Castle and has appeared in Las Vegas and Atlantic City.

This program marks the beginning of the Library's Summer Reading Club for youngsters ages 5 to 12. No admission charge. Contact Lucille Cappas at 821-1769

Challis Macpherson 822-1729

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VTC Ad Hoc Committee on Commercial Development Moritorium. Phone Chairman, John Haag

Every Monday at 6:30 PM
Venice Renters' Canvass meets at Tenant Action Center, 442 Lincoln Blvd., Phone 392-2128

5 MONDAY 6:30 PM
Venice Library is hosting a Coffee Hour for writers. Venice Writers is an informal group which meets monthly to share ideas and information. Phone Lucille Cappas at 821-1769

13 TUESDAY 1:00PM
B.Z.A. Case #3998 601 Ocean Front Walk
ZA 88-1505(CUZ) "Blanchard Project"
Preva Springer is protesting this approval for a conditional use to permit "establishment of a parking area for up to 42 automobiles on a site also approved for open-air vending under former Case #ZA 88-0076(CUZ)". Appeal to be heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals, Room 504, City Hall.



tina settino
graphic design
2028 14th street, suite s
santa monica, ca 90405
213 452-2919

15 THURSDAY 10:00 AM
City Planning Commission conducting public hearing regarding a proposed ordinance to amend the L.A. Municipal Code by amending the regulations governing certain recycling centers in accordance with the California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act (AB 2020).

I have no idea what this will do for or against us. Best to keep on it. Code Studies Section, City Planning, Room 605. Phone 485-5386

16 FRIDAY 8:30 AM
Venice Community Vision meets at the Westchester Community Room at Manchester and Lincoln in Westchester. Phone Ruth's Field Office at 641-4717 for topics.

artisans crafters
Sell Wares at 6th Annual Venice Arts and Crafts Festival August 13. Call 399-0777 for information.

21 WEDNESDAY 7:30 AM
Venice Action Committee, Old Venice City Hall 681 N. Venice Blvd. Phone 392-7477 for topics.

22 THURSDAY 10:00 AM
City Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing regarding a proposed ordinance to amend the L.A. Municipal Code by authorizing a Zoning Administrator to permit the use of trailers as temporary accommodations for homeless persons on property owned by a government agency.
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14836 Sylvan St., Van Nuys

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A WORD FOR OUR ADVERTISERS:

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ART EXHIBIT AT VENICE BRANCH LIBRARY

Venice Branch Library at 610 California Avenue is hosting an exhibition of paintings by three artists: Merrilyn Duzy, Jillian Stewart and Norma Jean Squires. The exhibit, titled "Visionary Landscapes", can be viewed during the Library's regular business hours. The Library is open Monday and Wednesday 12:00 to 8:00 PM, Tuesday and Thursday 12:00 to 5:30 PM, Friday 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM, and Saturday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The exhibit will run from May 22 through July 22.

23 FRIDAY 8:00 PM
PARTY

We have our day in court on Marina Place Thursday June 22. The following evening Dell Chumley is throwing a combination fund-raiser and a "lets-get-all-the-latest-suit-poop" party at her house.

FRIDAY EVENING at 8:00 pm, 2480 Penmar, Venice. (corner of Penmar and Zanja just off Lincoln Blvd. Donation \$10.00/couple and \$10.00/single. This is to encourage everybody to bring someone.

28 MONDAY 10:30AM

Here he is, folks, our old friend Werner Scharff trying to do it to us again. This hearing is for a zone variance. Scharff wants to move a three-unit building onto a lot zoned for two-units. On the surface this isn't so bad, right. Listen up. He wants to reduce front, side and rear yards (it will look like a fort on the street) and arrange the parking so the tenants will have to back out onto North Venice. Now would that be fun during peak traffic hours.

Case Nos. CDP 89-009, ZA 89-0356(PP) and ZA 89-0414(ZV), Property is at 205 North Venice Blvd.

VOICE OF THE VENICE TOWN COUNCIL

VOLUME 1, Issue 7

JUNE 1989

EDITOR: Challis Macpherson

CONTRIBUTORS:
Debra Bowen Jim Bickhart Marge Alatorre
Dell Chumley Carol Berman

ADVERTISERS:

Venice Farmers' Market Hann's TEE CRAZE
Etching Lady joan e. del monte, broker
THE MORTGAGE CAPITAL GROUP,
Jeff Solomon and Katrina Meier
tina settino, graphic design
6th Annual Venice Arts & Crafts Festival (AKBA)
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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 is asked to contribute information to the VOICE under their own byline.

The editor reserves the right to edit any and all material submitted to the VOICE of the VENICE TOWN COUNCIL.

Slavkin—from P. 1

Only few weeks earlier, Jackie Goldberg for instance, (previous to the strike labeled as the teacher union's 'darling' board member), had surprisingly passed a motion (4-2), (Gershman had split his own vote into two parts both for and against) to place teachers and administrators on the same salary track. To "open the door" so to speak between the goals, rewards and possibilities etc. of these two oft-quarreling "professional" camps. NOTHING was said of the "classifieds", generally a much lower paid and more female comprised support force.

Egads I cannot stand political rhetoric and grandstanding. Cheers filled that auditorium (of largely teachers) only moments before LA's first teacher's strike in 19 years.

In 1981 and 1982 however, Los Angeles's largest governmental school district sat silently by as one of this country's largest AFL-CIO unions, (the SEIU) all but closed down the district's second largest employee organization (Local 99) to this 18,000 potential member constituency by quote, unquote "outlawing membership meetings".

Mr. Gershman has not been remembered by this reporter for a single peep in opposition to this Washington, D.C., International crackdown...though he freely informed me that '99 staffpeople' were volunteering on his campaign behalf. By contrast, Gershman suggested Mr. Slavkin's UTLA backing, his only, has been run directly out of UTLA's union hall.

Upon informing the younger Mr. Slavkin of earlier, unsuccessful rank-and-file employee attempts to democratize the school district's unions themselves, Mr. Slavkin glibly commented to me that he was not surprised given the schooldistrict administration and board's established ability to divide and conquer various school community constituencies. I was not sure whether Mr. Slavkin truly appreciated the depth of duplicity between such nationally entrenched figureheads as SEIU president John Sweeney in Washington and our local top echelons of LA schooldistrict hierarchy, including the law firm of O'Melveny and Myers, recent interlopers into the day by day dragged-out strike negotiations.

A well placed, AFSCME official reported to me recently that a deal was in the works during the strike that Local 99 was being promised an agency-shop clause for teaching assistants (ie. agency shop requires bargaining unit members to pay a share of union dues whether belonging to the union or not) in exchange for continued strike-breaking assistance crossing teacher picketlines. Teaching assistants thereby might have formed an effective wedge to everpressed UTLA ranks. The details of such an arrangement to be worked out in secrecy among top administrative, "legal" and parkchop union players.

So what does all this moneymaking have to do with education?? or kids?? Or in other terms...what the hell is wrong with education today??

Mr. Slavkin: 'top-heavy bureaucracy, larger societal problems, the need to treat teachers in a better way'

Mr. Gershman: 'a lack of national priorities toward this most crucial of social, governmental programs'

Neither candidate indicted the quality of teachers by and large. Neither candidate fundamentally attacked the notion of the way our government, or lack of government has allowed the institution of education to rot. Mr. Slavkin more vigorously attacked the "old boy network" residing in LA's schoolhalls, now a mammoth, uncaring bureaucracy. He pointed himself as clearly the fresher Sir Lancelot, willing to pit himself against entrenched interests.

In about the same years of '81-'82 that the classified local 99 was shut down, a dissident group of SEIU members briefly aligned themselves with disgruntled UTLA substitute teachers in order to challenge schooldistrict 'year-round' policymaking. This group was dubbed "Solidarity". And like it's Polish predecessor, the bulk of it's leadership at that time (primarily classified workers) was immediately removed and/or fired.

Mr. Slavkin then was probably finishing up at USC while Mr. Gershman was just starting a career paralleling in time with Ronald Bimbo Reagan. Mr. Gershman was eager to point out to me (now 8 years later) that California has plummeted from first to near last in several monetary yardstick categories of education.

While our last president dramatically derided what was once prized to be the country's prized educational system here in California...Mr. Gershman failed to convince me that his was the turnaround force of influence to recapture this state's previous glory.

The point is: the teacher's union has had approximately 10 years to "teach" their non-teaching union brothers and sisters about "worksite democracy" and has instead chosen (?) more "professionalization" (ie. administrative parity). The distance between 'mental' ('teaching') functions and 'physical' (support labor) has therefore grown...as have the hard feelings between employee groups disrespecting each other's negotiating strategies with schoolboard/staff powers that be. A closer look to the retained O'Melveny and Myers lawfirm with other anti-union business powers in the LA area would be a more interesting study of just who is truly running the monster known to many as the LAUSD.

But back to the candidates. God I hate politicians! Mr. Slavkin refused to back teacher union demands for 51% of "school-based management" preferring "no prescribed formulas" while Gershman admitted compromising for 50% (for teachers) in the contract settlement. He stated however that he would have preferred 1/3, 1/3, & 1/3 (teachers, adminstr's/ classified, & parents). Again, the fear of workers (in this case teachers) being in the driver's seat of their own 'product' was too much an anti-capitalist pill for any politician to swallow.

Slavkin proposed 3 ways to chop at administrative overflow, ie: a 2 year freeze on all salaries over \$50,000, a single pay schedule, and riddance of the "me too" agreements of administrators who typically tack on the same teacher-union won percentage wage increases onto their own already bloated salaries. Gershman, although the original proponent to study 10% cuts across non-school-based management positions, essentially argues that district expenses for administration are comparatively low...especially by standards of surrounding areas

Both gentlemen appear in need of re-education work, perhaps clerking at a '7 & 11'. The four pages of administrative salaries containing nearly one thousand management positions sucking more than \$60,000 which was made public during UTLA's brief pre-strike, propoganda war did more for community information than all of these two individual's posturing.

If either candidate truly attacks the waste unnecessary to a fine educational system, I would rather lay my money on Mark...who at least has not directly participated in the feast of the fat cat for the last 10 years.

As Patrick Purdy's assault rifle-soul lays somewhere this side of hell...and drug babies line up to enroll for further public school assistance, we might ask that age-old 1960's, slogan-question of Mr. Gershman:

Are you sure you haven't been a part of the problem?

the fired, educated unprofessional.

Secession --from P. 7

an accurate map of Venice? The maps I acquired during the course of the neighborhood area study were lent to someone else and never returned. In any case, I never had a map of Venice all on one page and would appreciate your sending me one. If there is any charge for this, I will be happy to reimburse you.

Many thanks and best regards. (A few days later ONE sign appeared on Main..)

All of a sudden I have to laugh... what am I doing, I mean what am I doing at the end of the penultimate decade of the 20th century at 10:30 p.m. in a black crack-selling neighborhood taking flats of an alternative newspaper with an insert from an activist and slow-growth Venice Town Council to the printer in Glendale with a driver who lives on the beach, I mean literally on top of the beach, sleeps in a secret place in the area of the Venice Pavilion and has been for quite a while? I mean, we're supposed to be in the yuppie 80's, at the end of a low and dishonest decade, to recall Auden, and so what are we doing with so much hope?

I live in North Beach, on the Santa Monica border, and I have a feel for the northernmost border of the Greater Venice area. Ocean Park has struggled for a long time against Santa Monica, and while Main Street seems to have been taken by the capital city of Santa Monica, the people in Ocean Park still have a strong affinity and ambiguous ties with Venice, certainly are close to Venice in philosophy and political position. So far they have held out against mitigation. I am not used to the word mitigation, which is often used as a synonym for trade-off or kick-back or perk/honorarium for future consideration. Anyway, the question of secession is of course a separate issue, but seems to crop up at important points in Venice's struggle to maintain its character and integrity.

In 1990 Venice finally got its signs. They were posted on Main Street, Pacific, Washington, and Lincoln. Eventually Venice became aware of its boundaries. One morning at dawn a group of Venice activists connected all the signs with red ribbon so that the people of Los Angeles and of the whole wide world could actually see where Venice was. Some suggested having armed guards at all the entrances to collect a toll, but the majority (pacifists, greens, even some former Peace and Freedom Party members) out-voted them.

Different groups formed factions, of course, as they had over the Marina Place issue and the moratorium. Secession was a hot issue for a time. It seemed that history was repeating itself, but of course it wasn't. As Eliot wrote:

Time present and time past
Are both perhaps present in time future,
And time future contained in time past.

When Venice became again the City of Venice, with the blessings of Culver City and Santa Monica in particular, not to mention the solidarity of the sovereign

Ruth Russell--from P.1

time they didn't fight the rezonings of 4 parcels in the block west of Pacific Ave (at Sunset Ave., 17th Ave., and North Venice Blvd.) They did fight the Tony Bill hotel at Speedway and Navy, but, of course, several members of the VTC board live on Navy, so their cause was represented. Luckily, Bill withdrew the project. Ruth Galanter apparently approved of the hotel, on one of the 7 vacant lots on the OFW in North Beach. She apparently also approves of the 30 foot tall/18,000 Square foot Blanchard Fast Food fortress at 801 OFW. In fact, Galanter's chief planner, Rubell Helgeson, a resident of the non-touristy Pacific Palisades, told the VTC membership last month Galanter feels that "housing is not appropriate on the ocean front". Now, this is what I expect the developers to be saying. Helgeson cited a report issued by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) in 1984 which said Venice has more housing than employment opportunities, and therefore is out of jobs/housing balance. This is why, I guess, Galanter, an urban planner by trade, has approved every residential to commercial rezoning request in Venice. Maybe one problem is that Galanter is an urban planner rather than a suburban planner. Think about it. It's also interesting to note that Pat Russell was Prez. of SCAG in 1984, when these policies were formulated.

The Venice Commercial moratorium proposed at the same VTC meeting was completely misinterpreted by The Evening Outrage, the Arroganaut and Galanter's press secretary. Under the city's zoning laws, apartments are permitted in any commercial zone. We were never saying no building at all, which Galanter aide Rick Ruiz called illegal. Galanter should encourage residential uses and solutions to the area's lack of parking. More commercial won't help, certainly not on the Ocean front. West Washington is another story. I'd like to see it bloom as the artistic, musical and cultural center of Venice. We need book stores, newsstands and record stores. The people who live in the Ocean Front Walk area need parking more than Ruth's mini-malls.

Venice needs more affordable housing, not expensive luxury housing. As the Peninsula has bloomed with new luxury homes and apartments, she's got one developer promising to build 21 or 28 low to moderate income units in North Beach--someday. Meanwhile, the developer has his commercial zone change, and T-shirts and sunglasses fill another ocean front block where people used to live...

Now, Galanter is working hard for Lincoln Blvd. She prevented a mini-mall at Garfield Ave. and Lincoln that she probably would have OKed had it been on the Ocean Front. But then again, Galanter lives a few blocks away. And that's the point about Planning decisions; city planning must be done in Town Hall meetings, not closed-door blue-ribbon panels. And the people that have to live near the project should have the decision-making power.

Ruth Russell--continued on p.10

cities of Beverly Hills, Inglewood, Malibu and West Hollywood, the first mayor was a grown-up sixties woman. She served one year and was succeeded by a guy with purple hair, who was succeeded by a high school teacher, and then an Hispanic from Oakwood. In general, Venice kept its character, its ethnic and economic mix, its Art Walk, its Beyond Baroque, City Hall, and Zamora's Market. It kept and cared for its homeless, its druggies and crazies its old poets and artists, the tattoo-makers and healers on the Ocean Front Walk, and of course, its free spirit. The first act of the new Venice City Council was to procure a postmark reading "Venice" for all mail leaving from the main post office with the Mexican-Revolution-style murals and from any mailbox within city limits (currently our mail reads "Marina del Rey"). After the revolution there was a tremendous explosion of culture in Venice. The National Endowment for the Arts contributed funding for the new Venice Historical Museum, located next to the new Venice Library and Meditation Center. Even though the city never solved the dogshit problem, of course everybody lived happily ever after.

Ruth Russell-from p.9

WESTCHESTER: A plan to relocate the Coast Light Rail down Sepulveda Blvd. away from Lincoln Blvd. to "serve the Hughes Center" and its 12 high rises, as she said, came as a major shock to residents who remember Ruth's election promises to fight the Hughes Center. She made this decision with no consulting with nearby neighbors who have fought the Hughes Center for 7 years.

-----She's proposed moving all of Playa Vista's highrises to the east end--near Sepulveda and Centinela Ave--to protect the wetlands and Lincoln Blvd neighborhoods. This is a classic way of turning one group against another, just as Russell used the promise of senior citizen apartments as the bait to close the Playa del Rey stables. Now the east half of Westchester and Del Rey will take the entire traffic burden from Playa Vista. My whole neighborhood thanks you, Ruth.

-----Another public relations fiasco began when Ruth suggested putting a trash and sewage composting plant in Playa del Rey. No residents were apparently consulted here, and luckily, the project seems to have faded away.

-----The Summa/Hughes Kentwood Bluffs project in Westchester was turned by Galanter into a battle of needed Housing vs. an open space/wildlife preserve. And the 142 homes won--million dollar homes as they'll be. Galanter made promises to forbid plowing of owl habitats, ravines and bluff slopes--promises that changed to lots of plowing after the last public hearing.

That Hughes would seem concerned with a housing shortage is ironic, because Hughes disavowed Jobs/Housing balance with the Hughes Center's 12 high rises, where 14,000 people will work but none will live. Pat Russell, the architect of the jobs/housing guidelines, told the City Council to exempt the Hughes Center because, she said, "Jobs/housing balance was not intended to apply to individual projects, but to the regional area." What this translates to is "Rules are made to be broken by the friends of those who write them". It seems that Jobs/housing balance only applies if it works in the developer's favor.

-----SECRECY BREEDS SUSPICION----- WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?

Ruth had a big chance to prove she was different by the way she appointed and ran the Community Planning Advisory Committees (CPACs), which were created by the City shortly after Galanter's election. She really blew this one.

Unlike the Venice and Mar Vista/Del Rey Committees in which each neighborhood is represented, the Westchester/Playa del Rey CPAC is completely biased away from areas which Galanter has screwed. Notably underrepresented is Westchester east of Sepulveda. Oh well, it's only a third of the population. Of 14 members on the Westchester/PdR CPAC, 9 members live west of Lincoln Blvd., 4 between Lincoln and Sepulveda Blvd., and only 1 east of Sepulveda.

During the election, Galanter said she wanted the planning boards "to have power". Until last week, however, you or I couldn't go speak before them. Newspaper reporters were kicked out of the meetings. It required a threatening legal letter to the City Attorney from 3 slow growers to get the meetings opened. And these little private sessions have gone on for several months. Now, lock a group of upstanding citizens in a room with developers and planning "experts", with no reporters or members of the public to question the so-called experts and you'll have the citizens OKing anything in no time. Brain washing works. Oh sure, housing isn't appropriate on the ocean front. And trees cause pollution and sewage is good for fish. There are experts who can argue and convince closed-door "citizen's" committees of worse, and they have.

Ruth's setting up of private planning meetings with certain activists--excluding others who dare to disagree with her--is exactly what Russell did. And this serves to split a community that only two years ago was united on the principles of slow growth and local control.

Here are some quotes from last week's Outlook from members of the CPAC's who I know to be strong Slow Growers: Greg Thomas, Prez. of the Mar Vista H.O.M.E. group said that open meetings might scare off developers who want to avoid hecklers so early in the planning process. Julie Inouye, Prez. of the Playa del Rey Network, called open planning meetings "ridiculous. We will never get anything done. You can't have a room full of people if you want an honest and open discussion with a developer. We have a good group of people who are not emotionally crazy (I guess that means 'sold out by Ruth'). When you have people who want to throw tantrums...well, none of us have the time. We are a volunteer group. I am sure legitimate people will pull out; we don't have the time for ranting and raving."

Members of the CPACs who wanted open meetings were outvoted by Galanter's other appointees. "If, you don't like it: leave!"

Russell appointed Community Advisory Committees in Venice, of which some of their members are now on Galanter's CPAC. Jim Bickhart served on Russell's CAC for North Venice Beach and now works for Galanter. He also wrote a column for the Beachhead on the committee's doings. It seems strange that now Galanter and co. fight public scrutiny of their doings, while Russell allowed it.

Bickhart told the Outlook last week that the public will not be allowed to interrupt CPAC meeting agendas and public comments are to be taken at the meeting's end. "People will not be able to come in with a separate ax to grind with a separate agenda," he said. It's strange that Bickhart, once one of the dispossessed under Russell, now feels this way towards the rest of us. Maybe Ruth's attitude is: We're all equal, but some of us are more equal.

-----NIMBY'S-----
This name-calling crap about Nimby's--people whose attitude toward polluters and developers is Not In My Back Yard--but allegedly in someone else's is OK--is a typical developer tactic. It pits neighborhoods against each other--letting developers divide and conquer and win. Not in Anybody's Back Yard!

NIMBY was first used by Pat Russell to describe opponents to her plans for 4 high-rise projects in Westchester.

Russell's NIMBY accusations, however, are a hypocritical story in geography.

When Russell first ran in 1969, she lived in East Westchester under the LAX flightpath. Following her election, she moved to the prettier, more noiseless Kentwood neighborhood. Most of her ex-neighbors were not as lucky, as over 3500 homes and 10,000 people were forced out of the airport's path of progress, with Russell's OK, as it doubled in size and number of flights per day. Of course, Russell even lied about turning the land into a noise buffer zone, as office buildings will soon rise from the ex-neighborhoods.

By 1984, Russell moved again. You see, her biggest campaign contributors wanted to build highrises a block away at the Howard Hughes Center. So Pat moved to West Westchester, on a quiet, traffic-free tree-lined street by the bluffs above the wetlands, where no high-rises were to rise. Russell's ex-Kentwood neighbors and those in the nearby Westport Heights area weren't as lucky, as Russell OKed zone changes to let Summa put up 12 highrises which will stare into backyards and bedroom windows of 1000 homes. Better buy curtains!

So--when Pat Russell spews the NIMBY epithet--the breeze off the bluffs blows it back in her face. Maybe our leaders would make different decisions on big projects if they were forced to live next to them.

-----NEW IDEAS-----
In her first try at a sweeping plan to change city growth patterns, Ruth tripped at the starting line. She suggested creating a statistical circle around each big project called an Air Pollution Impact Zone. Developers could not add any more "vehicle miles

traveled" to this 38 mile diameter circle. Sounds OK, right? But under this rule, any developer wishing to build office space in Venice could simply "balance" the impact by building housing anywhere in the circle 19 miles away, which reaches Alhambra, Van Nuys and Orange County. HAHHAHA! Ruth and the rest of the City Council need to learn to say NO.


-----IS THIS LEADERSHIP?-----
Councilmembers Zev Yaroslavsky and Marvin Braude got a downzoning for Ventura Blvd. to 1 to 1 floor area ratio also a Max. lot coverage of 65%--What has Ruth done? She's allowed nearly 100% lot coverage and 1.5 to 1 F.A.R. in Venice. And her standard of 2 stories/30 feet for Venice and the Westchester Bluffs always means 3 stories.

Councilmembers Gloria Molina and Mike Woo have asked to downzone the Mt. Washington district from R3 to RD3. This is a density 1/2 of what is allowed in Venice, which is RD 1.5. Their ICO limits home heights to 24 feet, unlike Galanter's 30 feet limit. They also have a lot coverage Max. of 40% to provide open space.


-----CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS-----
Galanter has become like Russell very quickly in this category---From her most recent campaign statement: of the \$43,700 she raised in June--Dec. 1988, 86% of the money came from businesses and contributors from outside of the district, with many of the same contributors to Russell moving on to Ruth. During the election, Ruth said "Our basic policy is to not take contributions from developers of controversial projects in the district." So what happened? Galanter took \$500 from high-rise builder Continental Development Corp., which was recently reported by The Outlook as Pat Russell's new employer. Ruth accepted \$500 from Sail Realty, her chief opponents in the Venice ICO/Local Coastal Plan battle. She also took \$500 from the Concerned Citizens League, who are fighting to keep the bikepath off the Peninsula.

Maybe I'm being too hard on Galanter. She hasn't been that bad, compared to Russell. But some of us who worked extra hard to get Ruth elected and remember her promises feel shafted. Maybe we need to realize that she can only accomplish so much, since most of the City Council, all but one of whose incumbents won last April, are heavily on the dole from the real estate and financial industry. The only solution as I see it is to take the power away from our corrupt city hall and let our neighborhoods vote to accept more traffic and pollution and less parking, open space and clean air. We have the initiative process and we'd better move fast.

And Ruth, you've got two more years. Please use them well, raise more money!--your challengers are lining up*




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***FRIDAY**, June 2, 8:30 PM: FILM & VIDEO ARTIST REA TAJIRI and FICTION WRITER HELENA VIRAMONTES

***SATURDAY**, June 3, 10 AM-1 PM: BASIC COMEDY IMPROVISATION WORKSHOP (10 wks, \$150); 8:30 PM: A TRIO OF BASSES

***TUESDAY**, June 6, 7:30 PM: FICTION WORKSHOP (10 wks, \$150)

***FRIDAY**, June 9, 8:30 PM: ARTIST ALEXIS SMITH

***SATURDAY**, June 10, 8:30 PM: CHARLES BUEL & NICK ARIONDO/MUSICIANS

***FRIDAY**, June 16, 8:30 PM: POETS ELOISE HEALY & DAVID TRINIDAD

***SATURDAY**, June 17, 8:30 PM: QUARTET MUSIC

***FRIDAY**, June 23, 8:30 PM: POETS BILL BERKSON & LEWIS MACADAMS

***SATURDAY**, June 24, 1 PM-4 PM: POETRY, ART & CRITICISM; 8:30 PM: THE FUTURE OF AFRO-AMERICAN MUSIC FOR THE COMMON MAN

***FRIDAY**, June 30, 8:30 PM: WRITERS BERNARD COOPER & RICHARD HAWKINS

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NEWS FROM COUNCIL WOMAN GALANTER:
*Galanter calls for postponement, restructuring of federal offshore oil hearings
*Venice shuttle, parking program to get under way Memorial Day

MEDIATION TRAINING June 10, Center for Dispute Resolution/Santa Monica- \$175/person: 451-1615



Events

L.A. LOUVER/55 N. Venice Bl., (822-4955):
RICHARD SHAFFER-Landscape Paintings./77 Market St., ED MOSES-Paintings & PETER SHELTON-Castings

SPARC EXHIBITION: 2 panels of Judith Baca's "WORLD WALL: A Vision of the Future Without Fear"/685 Venice Blvd, 822-9560, thru July 22

WESTSIDE GREENS PUBLIC FORUM- FRIDAY JUNE 16, 7-30 PM: Struggle for Women's Reproductive Rights 828-7724, 1410 2nd St., S.M., Retail Clerks Hall

JACK RUTBERG Fine Arts Inc./357 N. LaBrea Ave.
EXHIBITION: PATRICK GRAHAM: PAINTINGS & DRAWINGS (June 3-July 29)



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NOTICE: Navy Airman Recruit Michael R. Clemens, son to parents 928 Venezia Ave., completed 8 wks recruit training in San Diego.

Airport-Marina Group of the Sierra Club meeting June 19, Monday at 7:45 pm in the Community Room-Burton Chace Park, Marina Del Rey/398-6350/Big Island of Hawaii slide show

S.M.C.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE: 452-9209

***June 2 & 3** @ 8pm: Performing artist Margalit in Studio Stage, 1900 Pico Blvd. (\$5)
***June 2, 9, 13, & 23** @ 8pm: "Greenhouse Summer"/
***June 30** @ 8pm: "The Case for Mars"-242 Tech Bldg. ***June 4**, Sunday- 2pm: Santa Monica College Band @ SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd; -7:30 pm: Santa Monica College Orchestra and Choir @ First United Methodist Church on 11th St. and Washington Ave. ***June 9**, Friday-7:30pm: Santa Monica College Emeritus Band @ SMC Concert Hall. ***June 11**, Sunday-2pm: Santa Monica College Orchestra @ SMC Concert Hall

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

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