

FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968

BEACHHEAD



FREE

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Racism and Discrimination being Perpetrated on Black Tenants of

the

HUD-subsidized Apartments: Holiday Venice

by: rikki

I was told to go talk to the tenants, but some did not want to let me write about what's happening to them; others said they do not want to lose their homes (apts). but one would talk and this is what she told me.

It will be a year ago on Feb 26, when I saw that the management Co., of my apartment were racist, I never knew you could be so open about it...

You see, I planned this bar-b-que for black history month; it was to uplift my people out of the mess we are in. we were to talk about drugs, police brutality, and things that have kept the black man on the bottom for so long, but I was confronted by the owner of the management company-Jack faren, ex-police officer Tony Steinhart and wisha; they were carrying guns and told me that if I had this bar-b-que I would be evicted

out of my home. I got into a verbal argument, and was later arrested at the station, when I went to find out why I could not file a complaint. These men had broken the law, coming to my home with guns in front of my children, scaring them half to death. I was charged with disturbing the peace when my peace had been disturbed and my rights violated... On Monday I received this letter:

Feb. 26, 1988

Regina Hyman

Venice, CA 90210

Re: Passing out flyer inviting all black people to a public meeting at Brooks Ave. # & Courtyard

Dear Ms. Hyman:

Enclosed find a copy of the flyer inviting all black people in Venice to a public meeting and free barbecue at your apartment #2 and courtyard at Brooks Ave., Venice, CA.

I have informed you in front of two witnesses that if this public meeting takes place at your apartment and courtyard on Sunday, Feb. 28, 198 that you will be in violation of your rental agreement and can be subject to termination of your rental agreement and eviction from your Apt. #

This letter confirms the verbal warning listed above.

Very truly yours,

Jack Taren
Jack Taren, President
JT:mcb

P.S. A copy of said flyer is enclosed.

In July 1988, they decided to evict me for the bar-b-que, my lawyer's response was this:

"The Barbeque, including the speeches, did not violate any provision of the Lease. The Landlord's prior consent is not required for such an event and the Landlord has no right to object to such an event. Consequently, neither Ms. Hyman's failure to obtain the Landlord's prior consent nor her refusal to abide by the Landlord's invalid and worthless

refusal to grant permission constitutes a Lease violation or a ground for eviction. Furthermore, the barbeque and speeches clearly were activity protected by the First and Fourteenth amendments to the United States Constitution and, as such, may not form the basis for evicting Ms. Hyman. Civil Code 1942.5(c); see also Winchell v. English, 62 Cal. App. 3d 125, 133 Cal. Rptr. 20 (1976) (under Unruh Civil Rights Act, Civil Code's 51-53, landlord may not evict tenant for associating with black people); Woods-Orake v. Lundy, 677 F. 2d 1198 (5th Cir. 1982) (such action also violates federal law)."

Holiday Venice--

Continued on Page 6

...The

Best

Government

Money

Can

Buy...?

By Malcolm Tent

So our noble Congress has decided not to give themselves a 50% pay hike. My heart just goes out to our poor representatives, who are terribly underpaid now compared to their counterparts in private industry. That's why Governor Deukmejian doesn't want to run for a third term--we taxpayers give him \$90,000 a year, while he could earn \$500,000 to a million yearly as a corporate lawyer or lobbyist. Deukmejian dreams of doing what many former-elected officials of the DemoPublican persuasion and their assistants are doing--serve as a highly paid middleman between business and government agencies. Top Reagan officials Mike Deaver and Lyn Nofziger went on to help defense contractors make deals after they quit the Reagan White House. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci and Secretary of State George Schultz now help run, respectively, Westinghouse, builder of nuke reactors and jet engines, and Hughes Aircraft--maker of missiles, satellites, and radar systems.

The amount of money that pours into our government from private sources is incredible. Look at the California State legislature. It costs between \$300-\$500,000 to run for election. But we pay 120 assemblymembers and senators only \$40,000 a year--that adds up to \$4.8 million. Now--private campaign contributions and Lobbying--"money spent to influence legislative or administrative action"--total over \$100 million a year, according to reports

"MONEY" CONTINUED TO PAGE SEVEN

Sign of the Times

Local Heroes

by Judith L. Martin

As is the way in Venice, there are shops on the Ocean Front Walk. As is the way of shops, there are signs out front, proclaiming titles. One shop, and one sign, has been getting a lot of attention lately,

The sign says "Local Heroes" and denotes a boutique of the usual OFW variety. Because of the sign, it's becoming a unique boutique, for the wrong reasons. The sign features a picture of the Marvel Comics character "Daredevil", pointing an enormous gun at the viewer.

Not all the locals have found this graphic image to be heroic. One nameless critic expressed displeasure by shooting the sign full of holes. About 30 or so bullets by my estimate. Others have found more peaceful means of protest, Jerry Rubin for one, who has negotiated with the owners of the store several times about changing or removing the sign.

Although the folks associated with the "Local Heroes" boutique have made several promises, it appears at this point that all of their bargaining has been in bad faith.

Another local, Gil Borgos by name (and by fame), used a paint gun to draw a circle and a line on the sign, in the international symbol of "NO". As some of us have come to realize, it is no fun to be walking down the beach and realize there is a gun pointed at you.

If these merchants were at all interested in being locals or heroes, they had best listen to their neighbors and be more cooperative with the community.

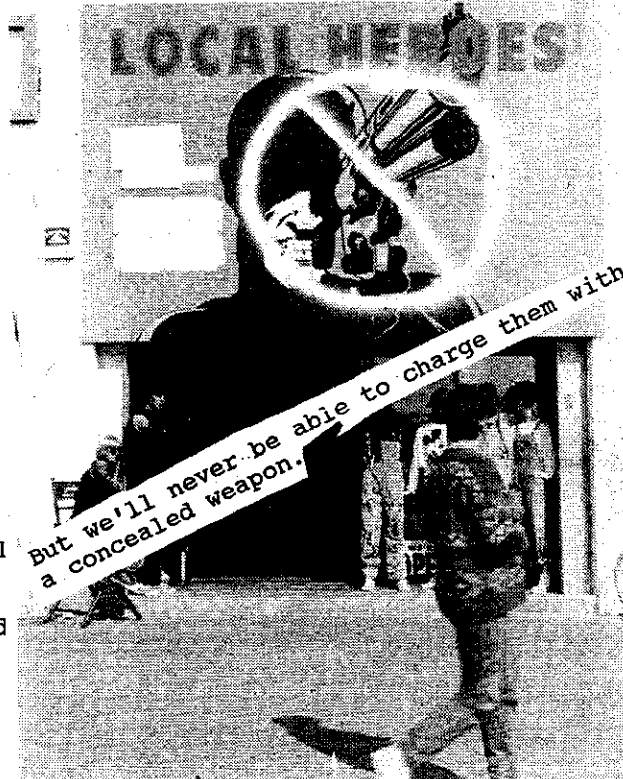


Photo by Kathleen Alvarez

The next Beachhead Collective meeting is March 12th, at 11 am at Tenant Action Center, 442 Lincoln Blvd.

2 LETTERS...

To Larry Sullivan:

Regarding your article about "Our House": Great fiction! Let me give you facts about what was our house!

John Q. Tabor moved to Broadway in 1924 and bought the house. He worked for his brother Charles Tabor, driving one of the 4 trucks Charles owned. He then bought his own trucks (3) and was in business for himself from then on. Irving Tabor was chauffeur of Abbot Kinney, he never drove, owned trucks, and wasn't in partners with either of his brothers Charles or John. The gravel (which is decomposed granite) was put there by John Q. Tabor to make a suitable driveway to use for the heavy trucks, not absorb oil or grease. The ground here, being a swamp originally, is clay and not conducive for driving on. Charles and John provided the means to move the rest of our family from Morgan City, Louisiana. Not Philadelphia, and it wasn't Irving Tabor.

John Q. Tabor rented Broadway from 1946 to 1984 the year he died. Mrs. Ruby Murphy lived in the house until 1986. She lived there at least 25 years.

The house was not a gang headquarters, and there wasn't any selling of drugs in the house either; in the front of the house, possibly around the garage, it might have occurred. But don't involve Mrs. Murphy in that! As for gang slogans written or carved in the woodwork--not inside the house there wasn't! Up to the time we sold it anyway.

And for this neighborhood being racially mixed, that's a laugh! Blacks were only on San Juan and Westminster between 7th and 5th Ave. They weren't allowed to live elsewhere. Until my grandfather moved to Broadway, and his sister and family moved to Vernon and 7th in the mid 1920's with the KKK demonstrating against it!! The Tabor and Alphonses being the first blacks to live (settle) in Venice. So in the future I expect you to derive facts and print facts not fiction, and you'd better print this in your paper to undo the damage you cause by disseminating fairy tales. If you want details of our family call us.

John W. Tabor
Venice

a slim reply.....

Dear Mr. Tabor,

Thank you for correcting some of my facts. I got many of my impressions (fairy tales) from your father as he discussed what life was like growing up in this house in early Venice. I did not take notes because you and your father seemed here to welcome us to The Neighborhood and to enlist our help in renting a house your family owns about a block from here.

If you will re-read my article, you will see that there is no indication that Mrs. Murphy (who I did not name!) or any member of the Tabor family has ever condoned or participated in either gang activities or drug sales. But this house has gang graffiti inside the house carved into the woodwork, burned into the mantle and spray painted on the walls so thick that latex paint will not cover it. Collective prudence prevents me from naming the particular gang.

Those Klansmen of the 1920's you mentioned could not have devised a better scenario to rid this neighborhood of poor and minority people. As Salim Muwakkil recently wrote in In These Times: Crack is cutting "a swath through the African-American community leaving

battered lives and squandered potential in its wake..."

Larry Sullivan AKA memphis slim

RIGHTS AND REASONS

Dear Editor;

I would like to make a contribution to the debate on abortion.

The male antiabortionists need to apply their morality in trying to menstruate, or become pregnant. This is the only honest way in which, perhaps, they will ever be able to understand the painful agony that the women who, rightfully, abort experience.

The female antiabortionists need to emancipate themselves from that patriarchal morality in order to understand their true nature and the true essence of their rights. Their opposition to the women who have abortions reflects a limited perception of themselves. It lacks the necessary, conscious, control over the theories and insinuations which dominate their lives.

This perception, contained in Genesis, and, historically, enforced by the Church and State, has allowed the development of the inequality and injustice that characterize the social status of a great majority of women in the world today.

Defending the right of the unborn child is rather hypocritical in view of the exploitation, oppression and death which victimize women and their children throughout society. Twelve hundred children were killed, as a result of family violence and child abuse, in the U.S. in 1987. The death of women from starvation, prostitution and war is a crime, abortion is not. Neither Church or State have an inherent morality that can give them the right

to regulate and impregnate women's bodies with their selfish interests and doctrines. History denounces both of them as great powers who grew from the cruelest oppression of the female gender. Even in a civilized democracy, these institutions do not recognize the inherent equality of women to men, especially Popes and Presidents. The U.S. Constitution does not, as it should, proclaim the right of women to be and be treated equally in all aspects

of human existence and social relations. And Bush's budget does not provide money for saving the lives of the women and children who are, increasingly, becoming homeless. These are two of the most immediate problems that we really need to resolve, if we want to be honest with our fellow humans: women.

After the Great Iran-Contra Immorality and the Praise the Lord Scandal, what our nation really needs is not a conventional morality on abortion, but an urgent lesson on how to be honest, within and without. The women's bodies are the sanctuaries of their own goodhood. The only valid morality of abortion is their sovereign and independent right to decide whether or not to have one.

Respectfully,
Humberto Gomez Sequeira

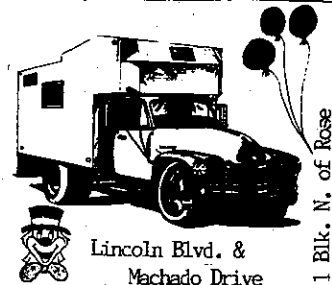
FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

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

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.

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INTRODUCTION:

"L.A. can have Disneyland back to itself." The horrible parting shot of a friend moving north (to Reedley Ca.) Do local residents' dreams really lift no higher than Mickey's Mouse? Having worked in California's farmlands as a younger man, this mexican, american-born compadre tried a hand to legal aid here for his spanish-speaking brothers and sisters...giving up to a too high cost of living I'm sure. For instance, his brother-in-law, roommate "Chato", an underpaid restaurant worker downtown, and no relation to the gun-slinging Charles Bronson of "Shoot-em-before-they shoot-you" fame...WAS shot!, (directly alongside his heart), just trying to walk home one night. For some reason, whenever I think of the LAPD since then, (although the shooter was not known to be police), I think directly to the sanitized, disneyland fascism referred by my friend's uncanny remark.

SWITCH SCENES:

A liquor store on LaCienega Blvd, one block to a Santa Monica Freeway Ramp: An attractive, black, female police officer stares me to the eye, snapping:

"If she (*name withheld to protect the ignorant) wants to get a piece of the rock, if she wants to be an alcoholic, if she wants to sell her body out on the street...that's HER business!!"

I was stunned. This was "LA-Law-In-The-Flesh" speaking. Maybe a reformed/contorted/lesbian-libertarian I thought later. Meanwhile, fuck you too Mademoiselle and the badge you rode in on. She was talking about my girlfriend/womanfriend/lover.. whatever the hell you label someone you care about.

TIMING:

At least, these cop cop cliches didn't cut their unwitty route until AFTER my trippingly- trip friend had splittingly-split the scene. In fact, she had just (again) befuddled LA's "finest". One quick tongue with faster feet

The policewoman's reproach may have been nothing more than a muttered protest to losing her. For to be accurate, it was my girlfriend who called these 2 LAPD folks in the first place! Almost never have I myself desired these public(?) "servants" presence. Certainly not since a Parker Center chokehold in 82.

PLOT:

So the question remains: Just what human condition gives birth to this or so callous of police remarks?

CHARACTERS:

But back to the story. My womanfriend (let's rename her Lani) is young, also attractive, and also black. Like so many other unfortunate LA-dwellers her age, she's spent the greater part of her adult life in the United States, under the regime of Reagan. The Omni-Impotent. The "Reagan Revulsion" so to doublespeak. And like so many of her peers as well, perhaps the most noticable and easily-appearing, new activity of the Revulsion years has been cocaine-related street exchange. Gangability- type lifestyling popped-up all over.

To be truthful, cocaine and alcohol were probably no strangers to her while plugging away at fashion sales in Venice, at a boardwalk clothing shop. With the never-guiding hand of capitalistic-fervor yanking out the fabric (ouch!) of legitimate trade at her store, Lani was forced to move inland, to LA's border with Culver City. This proved an even busier trading area for the various side-industries of cocaine and/or other non-licensed, open-street money-making.

I learned soon enough that a busy-bee-like network of little 'gangers' situated themselves blocks from my house at Adams and Fairfax. Until I learned Lani was so involved with this particular group however, I never comprehended the attraction of these so-called, 'new, drug-oriented' phenomenons.

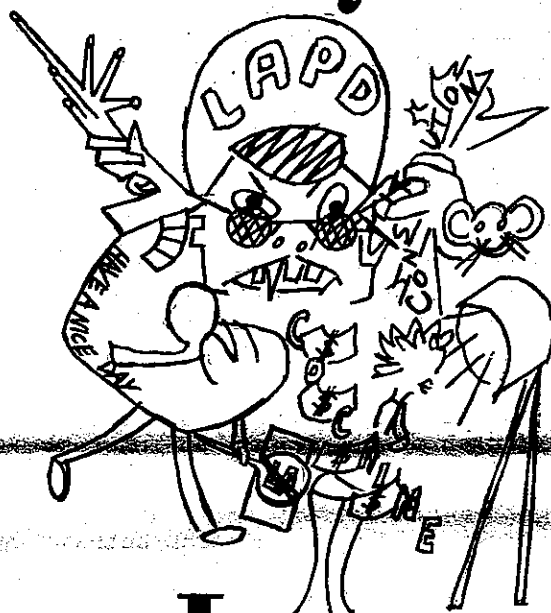
But back to the liquor store and myself. To be fair, appearances may have made the deceiving less deceitful. And that's exactly part of the "all-that-doesn't-meet-the-eye" problem. For this reporter,... indeed all of me, myself and I have been characterized by the outside world as a modern-day caucasoid. In addition, my womanfriend Lani is younger by several years. The casual abserver possibly mistaking the two of us as hooker and John. Or at least more gently as "temporary girlfriend" and latest "fucker". In the defense then of slow-minded LAPD officers', this policewoman may have thrown herself out headlong to protect a "sister" (Lani's) supposedly meager(?) "rights".

Complicating matters for this police visit, the two of us were indeed having one more spat among many, this time in public view. It was not surprising then that an intervening adult might choose to defuse things by saying something perhaps stupid. In 1985 Glendale, on the first of January, I still remember being handcuffed, arrested and brought to jail after surrounded by 5 LAPD squad cars and 1 helicopter for peacefully, PICKETING. I had made the stupid mistake of questioning a first arriving officer if he knew that the law allowed for the exercise of a so-called, first amendment right. In other words, so what that an upholder of law and order would blurt out some ridiculous, challengeable misinterpretation of the printed legal system? For instance, I already know in the 1980's that suicide is permissible...but a knowledgeable policeperson ought to know it is still against the law. Isn't it?

INTERUPTION:

Otherwise this story might be truly unimportant except that who else could condone such a freewheeling advocacy of 'crime' besides LAPD representatives? (The female officer was accompanied by an older white male partner). Was this advice given to prevent a more serious murder perhaps? (I doubt it. This past year I actually helped convince Lani to offer details of evidence to LAPD detectives regarding a man she knew, rumored to have murdered a number of people here in LA. The same detectives who eventually

Disneyland



Law

broke the case weeks later, never bothered to speak with me in person despite my own, weeks earlier version voluntarily communicated. These same interviewing individuals, although ready to date nice-looking Lani at the drop of a policecar dime, had taken nearly 6 years to catch their man. The "fugitive" meanwhile stopped over to my house several times during this same period.)

Perhaps, the policewoman's crack(!) was intended to prevent a riot god forbid? Or to turn the radical new corner of police propaganda and outwardly promote drugs, alcoholism and prostitution? (And not so inwardly promote censorship and political enforcement. Two times already in these eighties I've been falsely arrested at my union hall. It seems certain union officials are offended by what I have to say, then simply lie to police claiming I trespass on their! (my own) union hall property.

The Ramparts division downtown has arrived many times (in addition to the arrests) to help barricade union members away from their own officials' meetings. When Chief Gates fell under heavy scrutiny for the frequent use of killer choke-holds in the early 80's, his Ramparts' officer-underlings hung up a huge banner across one Parker Center officequarters reading: "HANG IN THERE CHIEF! / RAMPARTS DIVISION).

Yuk yuk yuk. We think not. Instead, this was simple slippage. The quick bleeping of what police authorities truly abdicate and proliferate...whether their "willing agents" are game to the plan or no. But enough editorializing. First launch into tangent:

TANGENT #1:

In this sales-promotion, "free trade" society of ours, a nearly iron-clad argument is daily made to legalize all three aforementioned behaviors, ie. prostitution, drug addiction and alcoholism. After all, in a way they are but the pinnacles of consumption so desired by the markets of our economy...and they neatly match the slaphappy idiocy already well chronicled in the books 1984 and Brave New World. With 'soma', the wonder drug, and brain-cleansed, female love boxes oiling the way.

Let's make no mistake about it. Ours resembles a fairly lawless, drugged-up, alcoholic and prostituting society. Disneyland LA fast represents the leading edge of a slip-sliding anarchy. The election of Deputy Dawg George Bush nationally highlights this country's infatuation with sleaze, dimmed lightbulbs, and seat-of-the-pants rhetoric. But anyway, back again to LaCienega's liquorstore:

AN ASIDE:

Should others' prejudice be so overpowering as to influence one's own? Let's face it, they do. So profoundly so I even find myself double-questioning my love for this woman, Lani. Constantly re-asking: is it only sex? the forbidden? the eroticism of this mix that I push for it so? Most assuredly, even my closest relations question my motives. My brother (the writer) declares in perfect cliché style: "You are driven to Lani like a moth to a flame!" Yet I've known and loved this young woman off and on now for ten years. So back to what really took place at the liquor store:

THE PLAY:

After several years of performance within the corrupt U.S. working "system", Lani, a 26 year old adventuress sifted through neighborhood crackhouse(?) and "gang" member routines for tortured autumn weeks. She had only recently decided to live in the same house with me, owing largely I'm sure to the fact her living funds consisted of unemployment income and whatever sidejob money she could raise.

To stay in the proletarian male however has to be sheer tedium. By contrast, at "ganger" headquarters: allnight get-togethers night after night, "borrowed" (euphemism) cars, overnight jailstays, fenced goods, car-date prostitution, "date-rape", 99 cents/40 oz. malt liquors tossed like popcorn into overloaded brown grocery bags, pawned-off jewelry, misplaced ("exchanged") clothing everywhere. "Protection" from "protect-my-back", hired streetwalkers, bums and skinny 20 year olds. Break-ins. The "excitement" of inevitable police pullovers, the boredom of daytime soap operas. Lani told me she was a kind of "play mother" to her newly adopted, "enfants terribles". Telling central city seargents my house was being broken into by day (while at work)...these fools told me their hands were tied unless I stayed home and witnessed it!

Bluntly put: a life of shit, arguably preferable to working at minimum wages. Or at least this is how I imagined it, pretending to see through eyes 10 years younger than my own. From a point of view of some one seeking relief from the stresses of 1990 survival in Los Angeles...at least the "comraderie" of street hustling must keep the mind alert.

Still, instinctively, I was fighting like hell to keep her "out of it". Already quite tired from my own manual labor by day...the thought of challenging nighttime-arising "gang" members, simply to approach my girlfriend wore me out considerably. Tackling her natural resistance to following me, as well as to my own insecurities at having "lost" her to these same strangers proved really too much. I barely had the strength to find her let alone convince her to join any part of the probably-worse and diseased, work-a-day world of capitalism and Reagan. Even following a rape, she went back to the streets. And this is nearly impossible to print.

Finally, after near-spasmodic, acting-attempts at killing each other for the deserved and heinous crimes of having impinged totally on one another's contrary lifestyles...we, with the help of her family, raised the money to fly her to Philadelphia, out of LA where she'd already been planning a return 'home'.

Disneyland--continued on Page 6



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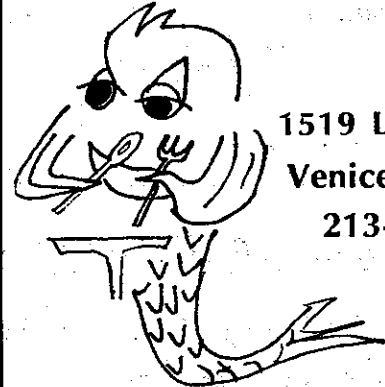
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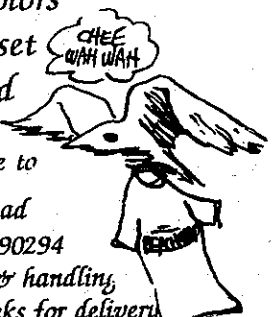
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VOICE OF THE VENICE TOWN COUNCIL



EDITOR: Challis Macpherson

Volume I, Issue 4, March, 1989

President's Message

When I decided to spend as much of my time as possible on community activities, I knew it could not last forever. I'm really pleased and surprised that I managed to spend less and less time at "gainful employment" and spend over two years as a full-time activist. I'm not quitting now; but I want your understanding as I fit volunteer work around a job like the rest of you already have to do.

Last May (procrastination?) I found out how to practice real estate, as I have in other times, other places, without a conflict of interest or even the appearance of conflict. (I'm ridiculously concerned about that.) When my license arrives within the month, I will be working as a Buyer's Agent for military veterans using their entitlement. Since the maximum loan amount is under \$150,000., my clients will not be buying in Venice where houses sell for twice that and up, up, up.

Helping ordinary people achieve home ownership appeals to the same instincts that cause my interest in community affairs. Individuals gain in many ways from owning, and their communities are strengthened by the stability and commitment of owners-occupants.

Our government used to have a commitment to help people become homeowners, but deregulation of savings and loan companies encouraged other investments—now look who the government is helping! And housing American families is becoming a real crisis. (No one in Venice needs to be told.)

As a community, we need to look at the entire housing problem. Many of us are very concerned about housing the poorest among us—and rightly so—but all segments of middle and working class people are strained to rent in Venice or to buy their first home anywhere in the Los Angeles CMSA. (Both the California State Legislature and the National Board of Realtors are lately coming to address this need with proposals just out.)

To actually buy a home in Venice the likely scenario would require about \$65,000. or more up front, with monthly payments of about \$2,500. for the next 30 years. That means that the Bank

must be able to prove an income of \$90,000. per year. And interest rates are even now being driven higher by the Fed! Of course, variable rate mortgages can delay some of the cost, but you get the picture.

If you have lived in your apartment or owned your home for a few years, you may not have thought about whether you could afford your own home today.

Why is this important? I mean why should you care if a couple (it usually takes two incomes) who make more money than you ever dreamed of can afford to live in your town? Well, you know how we talk about the "jobs-housing balance"? And how our area is job-rich and housing-poor? That means that the managers, skilled workers, professionals, secretaries and bus boys who work here have to drive into/through/around Venice and vicinity every day. So our streets are full of TRAFFIC. That's why we can't maintain our quality of life.

If everyone who drives 20 miles to work could drive 2 miles instead, we would have a reduction in the traffic they caused by 90%. And if they could bicycle or walk, that would be even better. The next best thing would be for everyone to car-pool. Three riders per car instead of three cars would certainly make a noticeable difference on our streets. How much better than wider and wider streets to carry more and more traffic.

It is important in an area where businesses prosper to have support businesses nearby, just as employees need to be nearby. And all these businesses, whether high tech, service or industrial need a good mix of employees. Our town need housing for all these employees at levels that each income level can afford, near to work.

We don't want glitzy towers and concrete ribbons replacing our beloved community. Some would like to blame rational, planned growth and community preservation advocates for the housing crisis. We are called elitist and worse because we want to keep the ambiance and style of Venice. We must address the need for affordable housing within the context of our community plan to answer these charges. And also because it is the right thing to do.

I started out to explain myself for a change from my usual President's Message, but I just can't seem to avoid preaching a sermon!

Challis Macpherson

American Cable Town Council Schedule

Every SATURDAY Evening at 7:00 PM
Channel 37, the Community Interest
Channel of American Cable Television

VIDEO UPDATE **

February 9, 1989 General Meeting:
Motion/seconded/passed that the Venice Town Council support and participate in the Greater Westside Network.

A proposed amendment that VTC general membership vote on positions that person(s) represent to Greater Westside Network declared redundant. VTC by-laws already state that the general membership will vote on any position that the VTC takes.

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.

NEXT MEETING

March 9

Venice Town Council

Thursday at 7:30



Agenda

1. John Stein of Sunset Avenue Neighborhood Assn. to present alternatives to 601 OFW project of Steve Blanchard.
2. Community Development Corporation experts from Santa Monica to present information on CDCs.
3. LOFFEL, yet another product to enhance but not destroy the canals. Presentation and literature.
4. Venice Renters Canvass, Ann Murphy. Presentation with question and answer period. 10 minutes.

Location:

Old Venice City Hall

681 North Venice Blvd.

(213)281-8323

BE THERE

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ Editorial Comments ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

BIZ Zapped By Coastal For Half Mil \$

WHY DID MARK NATHANSON REDIRECT 4540,000 FROM VENICE BIZ PARKING TO L.A. COUNTY??

Venice Beach Impact Zone (BIZ) parking fund may have been done out of \$540,000.00 by a slick move by California Coastal Commissioner Mark Nathanson at the February, 1989, regular Coastal Commission hearings in San Francisco.

The applicant, Del Rey Association, is comprised of owners of 36 R1-1 lots east of Ballona Lagoon and north of Marina del Rey channel. Del Rey wishes to develop these parcels with walk ways (similar to the walk ways in North Beach area) interspersed with regular streets. Every walkway, by virtue of being for pedestrians and not for vehicles, loses 30 parking spaces for beach access parking - each walkway or mall, as they are called, eliminates 30 spaces from the use of beach recreation.

The developer didn't want to place parking spaces on valuable residential land and indicated that they would rather pay \$3,500.00 to in-lieu parking instead. Coastal Commission staff reminded the commissioners in their recommendations that, "Prior to issuance of the permit the applicant shall submit the sum of \$540,000 (\$18,000 plus 30 parking spaces) to the 'Venice Coastal Parking Impact Trust Fund' of the City

Of Los Angeles. Such funds shall be used to increase public parking opportunities and/or coastal access within the Marina Peninsula. A second alternative to this condition is for the applicant to physically provide on-site parking. Should the applicant physically provide a percentage of the 30 on-site parking spaces then the total sum of the in-lieu fee shall be reduced by the corresponding number of parking spaces, however, in no case shall the combination of parking spaces required by less than 30." We are talking about parking mitigations required in the coastal zone.

The California Coastal Commission agreed with staff that Del Rey Association needed to pay \$18,000/space or \$540,000 and so ruled. At that moment, Commissioner Nathanson said that the money should go to Los Angeles County, and it was so moved.

Just like that we lost the money to develop 30 parking spaces on the Marina Peninsula to ease the strain on all of us regarding coastal access parking.

Councilwoman Galanter had specifically requested that the in-lieu parking space money be paid into the "Venice Coastal Parking Impact Trust Fund" administered by L.A. City Department of Transportation...monies limited to providing public parking within the BIZ.

Now what? Holler and scream? You bet! Also write Ruth backing her on this. Also write Mark Nathanson and ask specifically for our parking money back.



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

"THE STATE OF THE SIXTH DISTRICT - - ESPECIALLY VENICE"

Following Sixth District update on planning and development compiled from information from the councilmanic office and private individuals.

Marina Place Update

On February 24, the Venice Town Council's petition to join the VTC and City of Los Angeles' legal actions against Culver City's approval of the Marina Place Shopping Mall was heard in Superior Court. As expected, the Court approved the petition and all future settlement negotiations will require the participation of both plaintiffs as well as the defendants, Culver City and the Prudential/Melvin Simon development team. The case, based on the California Environmental Quality Act, will go to the Los Angeles Superior Court April 24.

Key issues in the dispute remain the likely negative impact the one million square foot mall will have on surrounding City of Los Angeles neighborhoods, including traffic, coastal access, air quality and the jobs/housing balance. It is not clear whether any amount of traffic mitigation measures can alleviate the impact of a major regional shopping center on the already clogged Washington/Lincoln intersection, while the developer has shown a reluctance to consider scaling back the project or converting it to other uses.

At the April 9 regular Venice Town Council meeting, the general membership will discuss and vote on whether to accept or reject a settlement offer from Prudential/Melvin Simon and Culver City, based on months of negotiation, or to continue the lawsuit.

Community Planning Advisory Committee

Councilwoman Ruth Galanter has formed three new CPACs to complement the Crenshaw CPAC created in 1988. The Venice, Mar Vista/Del Rey and Westchester/Playa del Rey groups were appointed in January and February and have begun meeting on a monthly basis. The next meeting is March 2 and is closed.

The advisory committee members were selected from a pool of persons who expressed interest when the Councilwoman announced her intention to form the committees more than a year ago.

Members represent a broad cross-section of their communities and will advise Councilwoman Galanter on planning and development issues. Importantly, the advisory role of these committees will not supplant the crucial role of neighborhood organizations in addressing development issues on a local basis.

Although the Venice Town Council does not have a majority on our Venice Community Planning Advisory Committee, we are well represented. Members include architects, community activists, developers and realtors.

- Carol Berman; Venice Town Council board member, North Beach resident
- Joan del Monte; realtor, Abbot Kinney Boulevard Association member
- Diana Hobson; realtor, Venice Action Committee, artist
- Mary Ann Italiano; Presidents' Row Residents' Association
- Mark Mayers; President of Oxford Triangle Homeowners and Residents' Association
- Jim McGlothlin; AIA, architect
- Martha Platt; President of Zanja Neighborhood Residents Assn.
- Larry Saltzman; Penmar Residents' Association
- Jane Spillar; developer, Santa Monica resident and North Beach homeowner
- Arnold Springer; Venice Town Council board member, Millwood resident
- Moe Stavnezer; Venice Town Council member, Venice Community Housing Corporation, Millwood resident
- Iylene Weiss; Venice Town Council board member, President of Ballona Lagoon Preserve, Heal the Bay member, Silver Strand/Marina Peninsula resident

Playa Vista Public Hearing

The 887 acre Playa Vista "mini-city" proposal remains the "big kid on the block" of local private sector development proposals, but something about it has been changed. On February 15, the long-anticipated deal between the property-owning Summa Corporation and mega-developers McGuire Thomas Partners finally closed, giving McGuire-Thomas and their partners, JMB Realty, controlling interest in the property. McGuire-Thomas is replacing Summas as the developer, a move expected to improve communications between the Playa Vista operation and the surrounding community.

Playa Vista currently has a "Big Batch" (zone change/plan amendment) application pending before the City of Los Angeles which asks for a number of technical and substantive language changes in the existing Specific Plans for Areas B (the wetlands) and C (the state-controlled parcel) of Playa Vista. A public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21 (4 - 6 pm and 7 pm - on), at Westchester High School, 7400 West Manchester. Thanks to the arrival of McGuire-Thomas and some intensive behind-the-scenes work by Councilwoman Galanter with the Planning Department and the LA City Attorney, citizens will be able to address any issues they feel are relevant to Playa Vista Areas B and C instead of the limited scope of the original application.

McGuire-Thomas, which has expressed a willingness to work with community groups in shaping the future of Playa Vista, can be reached at (213) 394-7620.

Channel Gateway

This residential/office project in the Oxford Triangle portion of Venice near Marina del Rey is in its Environmental Impact Report preparation stage. Delivery of the draft EIR is expected any week now, which will begin the process of extensive LA City and public review of the document. Developer Jerry Snyder and his partner Milt Swimmer have been meeting regularly and honestly with a variety of community groups to get input on his proposal (up to 1300 units plus 300,000 square feet of office space) and he has also been negotiating with descendants of the Gabrielino Indians over the scope of the required archaeological study. The Gabrielinos once inhabited the Westchester/Playa Vista/Marina/Venice area.

For information on the EIR, contact David Weintraub, 213 485-3443.

ICO

This proposed Interim Control Ordinance goes before the Planning Commission at LA City Hall (room 350) hearing on March 2. East Venice covers the area bounded by Rose, Lincoln, Venice Boulevard and east to Walgrove Avenue. Planning Department hearing examiner Michael Davies held a public hearing on this proposed ICO in Westchester on January 23 for which there was a modest turnout of citizens. Supporters outnumbered opponents by about 5-3. The ICO creates a transitional height limit of 45/33 feet on Venice Boulevard, where large new R4 buildings have recently dwarfed neighboring single-family homes, and a 30 foot height limit on other residential development in the ICO area.

LAX

After prolonged spadework with the Planning Department and the Department of Transportation, Councilwoman Galanter has succeeded in establishing a Master Plan process for the future of LAX. This Master Plan will be the first time the airport has ever been subjected to a concerted, multi-agency planning effort which takes into account the airport's immense impact on surrounding communities and the whole region.

Separately, the enormous Northside project continues to lurch along. A recent public workshop in Westchester saw an outpouring of neighborhood concern about the impacts of up to 5 million square feet of commercial and office space, while Councilwoman Galanter continues to work to convince the airport to dedicate more of the site to recreational open space.

Developments To Watch

Public Storage facility at 4th and Rose. After delays of more than a year, the zone change necessary to allow Public Storage to complete its project while turning over 3 vacant lots to the City for affordable housing finally received Planning and Environment Committee approval on February 14. A Coastal Permit hearing is set for February 27. As a condition of the zone change, Public Storage is required to process a height district change so that the 3 vacant lots can accommodate R3 housing. After considerable public discussion, the design of the remaining storage buildings has been changed to reflect citizen concerns about undifferentiated warehouses; the new design features considerable articulation and an Early California motif.

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A commercial proposal at 601 Ocean Front Walk has been scaled back to maximize open space and air and light for immediate neighbors. It also includes full BIZ parking and a requirement to make spaces available for local residents at controlled rates. Tied to the project and a neighboring affordable housing (probably at 102 Navy Street to replace an existing condemned building). The 601 OFW project is awaiting a first public hearing.

John Stein will be presenting alternatives to Steve Blanchard's OFW project at the March 9 general meeting of the Venice Town Council.

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Tony Bill and Tony Greenberg's Bed and Breakfast project at Ocean Front Walk and Navy had its first public hearing January 31 in WLA. The hearing examiner is preparing a report on this controversial 50-room proposal which will go to the Planning Commission March 30. Telephone 485-2478 for more information on this CPC 88-737.

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Venice Artist Block, Ltd, is proposing 20 resident artist studio units to be constructed on portions of a 50' wide parcel indentured to LA Pacific Railway Company. It is zoned C2, and the developer has planned for 45 parking spaces. The date for the hearing is March 20, Monday, at 10:00 am at the WLA City Hall, 2nd floor, at 1645 Corinth Avenue. Address is: 499 Santa Clara. The parcel is bordered by Electric, Santa Clara and San Juan.

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Electric Avenue parking — the City Department of Transportation is nearly finished preparing Coastal Permit applications for two interim parking lots on the City-owned Electric Avenue railroad right of way east of Abbot Kinney Boulevard. The two lots will provide approximately 80 spaces for the parking-starved neighborhood and should be ready for use later this year, barring any undue delays.

From this time hence, any new commercial buildings in Venice must have adequate parking for themselves plus BIZ parking included in the construction. The Electric Avenue parking is intended to lessen the pressure caused by those older buildings built without parking mitigations. This will decrease the parking pressure on the neighborhood.

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Werner Scharf's "quasi-mini-mall" at 2903 West Washington next to Marina Printing in the Oxford Triangle was scheduled for a February public hearing until the residents of the Oxford Triangle strongly directed his attention to the fact that; 1, yet another mini-mall was not needed or wanted, and 2, that his project was governed by the City's new mini-mall ordinance. The hearing was postponed until Scharf could file proper applications for consideration under the new ordinance, which gives the Zoning Administrator authority to consider projects which deviate from the ordinance's regulations.

K&B (Kaplan and Brunk) Development's small office project proposals at 1410 and 1518 West Washington Blvd (now called Abbot Kinney Boulevard) are undergoing redesign to accommodate the requirements of the Venice ICO. Further hearings will be announced when scheduled.



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

Venice Renters' Canvass

By Ann Murphy

The Venice Renters Canvass (VRC) is a newly established tenant's rights organization. The group, which was founded in response to the crisis which is currently facing Venice renters, is working to keep Venice affordable by strengthening rent control, preserving federally subsidized housing and fighting gentrification.

The first issue the group is addressing is the need to strengthen the L.A. Rent Stabilization Ordinance. Working with Housing L.A., a city-wide coalition of housing groups and advocates, the VRC has launched a five week canvassing drive to educate tenants regarding their rights, inform tenants of the weaknesses in the rent control ordinance, and encourage tenants to lobby the L.A. City Council to take action on this issue before the April 1989 election. The group will also be registering voters.

The VRC Supports strengthening the L.A. Rent Control Law through eliminating vacancy decontrol, closing loopholes, extending coverage to unprotected groups, and increasing the enforcement capabilities of the Rent Stabilization Board.

The Group's next canvass will focus on saving over 400 units of federally subsidized housing in Venice. In the 1960s and 70s federal housing programs gave private developers low interest loans to build low-income housing. The owners agreed to keep the buildings affordable for a maximum of 40 years. The contracts, however, contain a loophole which allow owners to pay off their debt after 20 years. If an owner gets out of the contract agreement, the rents can be raised to market levels, often doubling or tripling the current rent.

40,000 units are in danger city-wide. 400 of these units are located in Venice and are in danger of being lost to market rate conversions. Two of these buildings, containing 109 units, are located on the beachfront and are home to elderly Venice residents on fixed incomes. If these residents lose their homes, they will, in all probability, be forced to leave.

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Proposed Westchester Bluffs Specific Plan Workshop #1

Community Room
Westchester Municipal Building
7166 W. Manchester Ave.

7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 1, 1989

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SATURDAY, MARCH 11 - a very special day at Oakwood Recreation Center, 767 California Avenue, Venice. An open forum comprising many different tables hosting events of community interest: Gang Prevention, Health Care, Essay Contest, Job Training Info and a Fashion Show. Contact Mr. Stokes and/or Ms. Silva at 399-9621, or the forum chair, Ms. Sally Leffall at 319-4503

may well become homeless. Federally subsidized housing is currently exempt from the Rent Control Ordinance. It is critical that the needs of this very vulnerable group of Venice residents be addressed.

Many of the group's founding members were involved in Coalition '88, a county-wide precinct network formed during the November 1988 election. The Venice Renters Canvass hopes to solidify the precinct network already in existence in the Venice area through ongoing canvassing by community members in their own neighborhoods.

We welcome Venice residents who would like to join us in our efforts to keep Venice affordable for all. We will be walking door to door to involve and inform our neighbors every Saturday between now and March 25th. We are meeting each Saturday at 9:30 am at 609 California, Venice. For additional information call: 213 392-2128.



tina settino
graphic design

2028 14th street, suite s
santa monica, ca 90405
213 452-2919

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Venice Town Council

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

Membership:

Please fill out and mail with your check:

- () Annual Dues, single member \$15.00
- () Household, two members \$20.00
- () Additional member, of household \$5.00
- () Senior Citizen, over 60 \$7.50
- () Contributing Membership \$25.00

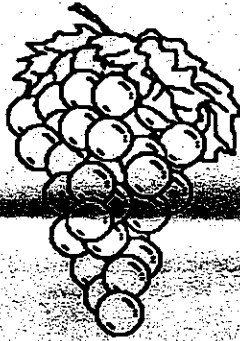
NAME: _____
please print

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

- () I will contribute my professional skills: _____ (please list)
- () I will participate in the telephone tree and make telephone calls to inform members of special meetings and other timely information.
- () I will stuff envelopes, & help with the VOICE and misc. mailings.
- () I will distribute flyers on my block.
- () I am especially interested in the problem of: _____
- () I am interested in working on a committee, please contact me.

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Have you heard about the

VENICE FARMERS MARKET



WHEN: EVERY FRIDAY MORNING FROM 7AM-10AM

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

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

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

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LOCATION: THE CORNER OF OCEAN FRONT WALK AND WINDWARD AVE.



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 March

2 WEDNESDAY

9:15 am, in front of Fox Venice Theatre, MACIT TEAM (Multi-Agency Community Improvement Team). All community activists invited to attend Councilwoman Ruth Galanter's press conference to kick-off the first day of enforcement on Lincoln Boulevard.

9:30 am, 1426 West Washington (soon to be Abbot Kinney Boulevard), Abbot Kinney Boulevard Association's committee to produce Venice's 6th Annual Summer Arts and Crafts Festival to be held Sunday, August 13. All interested citizens cheerfully invited to attend. Meetings every thursday am.

9:00 am, LA Planning Commission hearing, room 350, City Hall (downtown) regarding the East Venice (Penmar Neighborhood) Interim Control Ordinance.

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Next Showing at Colorado Place
Colorado and Cloverfield
April 16, 1989

4 SATURDAY

9:30 am, Venice Renters Canvass, Senior Citizens Community Room, 609 California across from the Venice Library. call 392-2128 for additional information

8 WEDNESDAY

6:00 pm, 1426 West Washington, regular board meeting of Abbot Kinney Blvd. Assn.

9 THURSDAY

9:30 am, Venice Summer Festival committee meeting. See March 2 above for information.

7:30 pm, Venice Town Council regular general meeting, 681 N. Venice Blvd. see front page of VOICE for agenda.

11 SATURDAY

10 am - 2 pm, corner of Thatcher & Dickson in the Oxford Triangle. Earthquake Preparedness Fair sponsored by the Oxford Triangle Homeowners and Residents Association. Information, literature and commercial items to buy to prepare for the next big earthquake. Everyone invited!!

Abbot Kinney Boulevard Association, Venice Summer Festival committee, see March 2 above

15 WEDNESDAY

7:30 am, Venice Action Committee, Old Venice City Hall, 681 N. Venice Blvd.

NOTE: End of formal public review period for light rail (Coastal Corridor Rail Transit Project - Northern Segment)

16 THURSDAY

Abbot Kinney Boulevard Association, Venice Summer Festival committee, see March 2 above

17 FRIDAY

8:30 am, Venice Community Vision, regular meeting at Westchester Community Room, corner of Manchester and Lincoln.

18 SATURDAY

9:30 am, Venice Renters Canvass, Senior Citizens Community Room, 609 California

20 MONDAY

10:00 am, Venice Artist Block, Ltd. 20 resident artist studios at 499 Santa Clara. The hearing is at WLA City Hall (1645 Corinth)

7:30 pm, Venice Historical Society, regular meeting at Venice Library, corner of Electric and California

21 TUESDAY

4 - 6 pm & 7 pm on. Playa Vista public hearing at Westchester High School, 7400 West Manchester. Citizens encouraged to respond to any issues relevant to Playa Vista Areas B & C.

23 THURSDAY

Abbot Kinney Boulevard Association, Venice Summer Festival committee, see March 2 above

25 SATURDAY

9:30 am, Venice Renters Canvass, Senior Citizens Community Room, 609 California

30 THURSDAY

Time TBA, Ocean Front Walk and Navy Street 50-room hotel, Planning Commission hearing. Call 485-2478 for details on CPC 88-737

9:30 am, Abbot Kinney Boulevard Association, Venice Summer Festival committee, see March 2

Calendar of Events

April

6 THURSDAY

Abbot Kinney Boulevard Association, Venice Summer Festival committee, see March 2 above

13 THURSDAY

7:30 pm, Venice Town Council regular general meeting. Entire meeting to be taken up by discussion and final vote on whether or not VTC shall accept Marina Place settlement by Culver City/Prudential/Melvin Simon. This is the culmination of many, many hours of work by our Marina Place negotiating team. Only paid-up members may vote.

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12 WEDNESDAY

7:30 am, Venice Action Committee, Old City Hall, 681 N. Venice Blvd.

20 THURSDAY

Abbot Kinney Boulevard Association, Venice Summer Festival committee, see March 2 above

24 MONDAY

Suit against Marina Place as filed by VTC and City of Los Angeles is on the calendar for Los Angeles Superior Court. Suit based on the California Environmental Quality Act.

27 THURSDAY

Abbot Kinney Boulevard Association, Venice Summer Festival committee, see March 2 above



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AKBA

The Abbot Kinney Boulevard Association was formed to promote West Washington Boulevard, change its name to Abbot Kinney and specifically support the community along this street.

They are sponsoring the 6th annual Venice Summer Arts and Crafts Festival, to be held August 13, 1989, Sunday, and have weekly meetings every thursday morning at 9:30 am at 1426 West Washington. John Kertisz and Kevin Brunk are co-chairmen of AKBA; and Marge Alatorre and John Kertisz are co-chairing the committee to put together the summer festival.

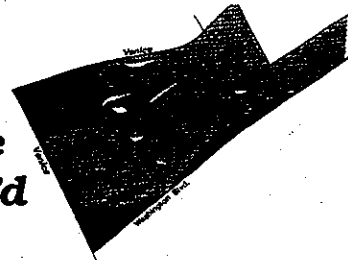
Currently the committee estimates that a booth will rent for \$100. Certainly a reasonable price for space at a function as well attended as our Summer Festivals have been in the past.

The Venice Town Council has reserved space for the Festival -- we intend to spread the word about community empowerment joyously. Look for our booth!

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

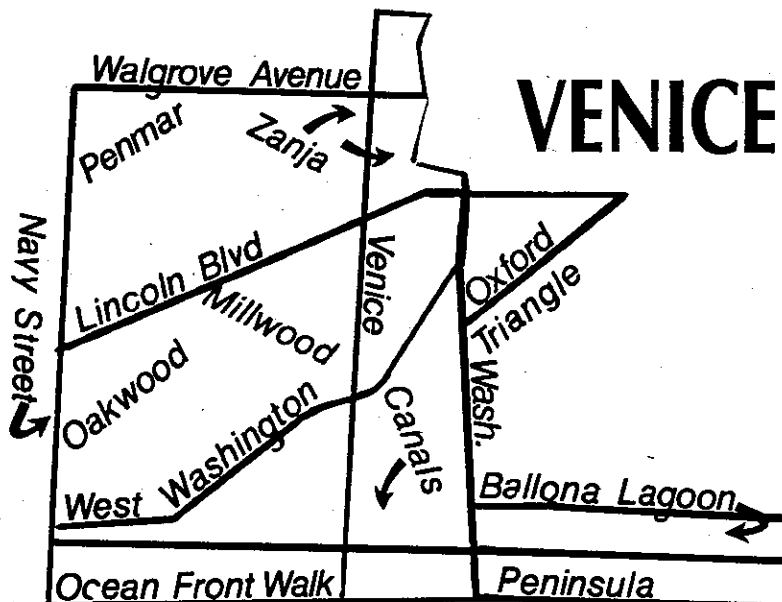
JUST SAY NO! TO A REGIONAL SHOPPING MALL!

Send contributions to the Venice Legal Defense & Education Fund
c/o the Venice Town Council, Old Venice City Hall
681 North Venice Blvd., Venice, CA 90281 Phone: (213)291-8323

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

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

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



RICO--Rubbing Out the 1st Amendment

BY Diane Nickerson

RICO is an acronym for a Federal law: Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations. It was first enacted by congress in 1970 to fight "organized crime", mostly to stop mobsters from laundering money made through criminal enterprises (like drug trafficking) through legitimate businesses, known as "fronts".

RICO gives free reign to confiscate the inventories of businesses that do such laundering. However, now the Justice Department has started using this law to close down bookstores and videotape shops and seize the assets of their owners.

The hunters, aka prosecutors, go into either type of these shops, and if they find just a couple of (arguably) obscene items (out of inventories of otherwise "unobjectionable" material), they can go right ahead and close the store and seize all assets. This attack on our First Amendment rights was begun by the Reagan/Bush/Meese Justice Dept. in the name of a major "war on sex". This law, RICO, is being used by our government as a literal morality squad.

One couple was ordered by the Government to hand over the entire contents of their three bookstores and video-rental shops. The jury found that few of the tapes were sexually explicit (although you could've rented anything from "Star Wars" to (gasp) Casablanca). However, the government also wanted to confiscate their home, and they face 95 years in prison. For what? For selling \$105.30 worth of "obscene" tapes.



As a result of this action and several other impending assaults on our 1st Amendment, (Virginia, Florida and Indiana have cases pending), many shop owners are understandably, running scared. More and more "mom & pop" bookstore owners are literally censoring themselves by removing "questionable" titles from their shelves before the Feds can deem them "obscene" and do it for them. RICO can strip the naive victim of everything he or she owns: homes, bank accounts, cars, businesses etc. Way to go.

Under RICO's provisions, there is no right of appeal before judgement

is executed, meaning the defendant 1) may not petition the court to stay forfeiture proceedings while the case is on appeal, and 2) he may also be forced to forfeit all his business and personal assets as soon as he or she has been sued. This law is so powerful that the Justice (and I use the word loosely) Department can seize assets before a court or jury has even heard the case. Wait a minute... I thought Ollie only shredded some "national security" documents (bad enough), but nobody mentioned the entire Constitution! And with the Bush Administration even more hostile to civil liberties, many more federal indictments may be imminent.

Fortunately, for us, the question is: Has the Government the right to confiscate materials that have not been declared obscene in court, and are therefore protected under the First Amendment's guarantee to free speech?

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case which could stop these self-appointed moralists in their tracks. If we don't stop them now, the Justice Department will make bookburners out of Federal Prosecutors; book and video sellers will be forced to censor themselves to avoid prosecution and confiscation of their assets; the Reagan Administration will have left a legacy of harm, if not irreparable damage, to the First Amendment.

Think about it. Whether you agree or disagree with us or not...no more Beachhead, no more Venice Magazine, no more "explicit" ads about dreaming in your Maidenform Bra... ●

Note: Thanks to the ACLU for info and the on-going struggle on all our behalf.

Time to Celebrate (or Adopt a Contra)

by Rick Davidson

It may be time for celebration, that is, if our government listens to our Central American neighbors. According to a New York Times article (2-15-89) headlined LATIN PRESIDENTS ANNOUNCE ACCORD ON CONTRA BASES, the horrible, illegal, immoral, useless war against Nicaragua may soon be over.

The article stated that "the Presidents of five Central American countries announced agreement today under which Nicarafuan rebel bases in the Honduras would be closed in return for open elections in Nicaragua." While I believe that their last election was "open", it's still great news. The article went on to explain that Nicaragua agrees to release most of the 3,300 jailed contras and National Guardsmen. They did not agree on the how to and where to relocate the 11,000 contras once the bases were closed. When added to the prisoners, we're talking about 14,300, plus or minus a few killers here and there. Relocation under the circumstances is a difficult problem. I'm sure Miami doesn't want any more "contras", be they Cuban, Nicaraguan or whoever. In fact, there's probably not a city in the country waiting to jump at the chance to offer America's hospitality to these "freedom fighters" who did the fighting and dying in place of U.S. soldiers.

It's obvious that where to relocate the contras will become a major problem for the Bush Administration. My suggestion is that we get a list of the U.S. citizens who donated to and supported the contra cause in the past; Ex-Colonel North could supply a major portion of the list. And the ex-President Regan should head the list. Once we have the list, we could divide the 14,300 plus ex-contras so that each one would have a nice U.S. Home to go to; we don't want them adding to the growing homeless problems. Granny units or converted garages could solve that problem.

With the new laws against military weapons on our streets, the ex-contras will have to check their weapons at the border. I'm sure they won't mind once they learn they will have a home and a loving family to live with. If a few forget and bring their weapons with them can just join the NRA and everything will be ok: AKK ok! but not to be confused with the other KKK.

As to those of us on the other side, let's get ready for a celebration for this peace opportunity and what it will mean to Nicaragua, it's country and it's people.

So here's a hopeful hurrah! And when the bases and contras are gone, may we all work together to "help heal the wounds of war". ●

VENICE SKETCH #6

by

Beth Miller

They appeared from Nowhere

Yesterday

after the rains:

tiny tiny Venice Beach ants

exactly like the ones in Rio

or identical American cousins

to those well-formed

lithe mulattoes,

yet m e l l o w e r, more laid back

than those crazed droves of

FRENETIC samba dancers.

Easier to catch and

S O L I T A R Y

w e o
they a d r r u d,
n a n d,

do their OWN thing:

day-t r i p p i n g Southern

CaliforniANTS.

KROMA



but this has not stopped them (Alliance) from further harassment.

This was not my first experience with the management company and knowing that they were biased, but I could not prove my case, even when I had witnesses to the discrimination. The year of 1986, I was terminated as the manager, and was told by Jack Taren, "Regina: I need a man for the job, and if you do what the new manager wants you can remain living here..."

Since my being fired there have been several racial related releases from the employment of Alliance Housing Inc. Just alone in this area, the manager of 919 5th Ave. was replaced by a hispanic, the hispanic was given another manager's position in another building replacing another black. On Sunset the woman (black) was replaced with a hispanic, 535 Santa Clara a black male was replaced by a hispanic, 915 7th Ave a black woman replaced by an hispanic woman, two manager's were released from their positions because their names appeared on a flyer to help keep these apartments for low-income people. They (Alliance) have replaced manager's with false lies and they (Alliance) have themselves went to obtain these lies. They also used the same tactics to get out tenants who stand up for their rights, and fight back...

There are no black maintenance personnel working in the Venice area that live here like the hispanics do.

In the last year the hispanics have not attended the tenants' meetings, even the ones who originally were attending and signed petitions of discrimination. They seem afraid to come out. Some black tenants who were to represent buildings, have declined to do so...

Vermont McKinney, who had his first meeting at my apartment, and is the mediator from the Justice Dept. has failed to recognize the tenant groups' leaders, and also has not returned my phone calls...

I have contacted Mel Levine's office concerning the laws and regulations that HUD's handbook has and what is allowed by the owner. I've been told by several tenants that they (Alliance) can just about do what they want. But I thought that while they (Alliance) were still under HUD Section 8, that they (HUD) had a say in the rules and regulations. The rules they impose on the tenants and certain tenants because of dislikes or likes are wrong and I will not stop seeking help until they (Alliance) are exposed...

There will be a meeting at Oakwood Recreational Center 767 California Ave. March 4th at 4: p.m. Ruth Galanter will be present at this meeting, it will be for the tenants of these 15 apartments to stop the harassment and evictions that are being waged on the tenants to get them out,

They have one black man who comes from L.A. to fix the washers and refrigerator but he does not live in Venice. The black men that used to work for them were fired when they fired the black supervisor. This was outright discrimination, but nothing was done about it. The people involved did not pursue the matter, and went looking for work elsewhere. The managers did not file with the EEOC office, except for me...

But lately all I hear is they are being discriminatory against us blacks...

I am the president of the Tenant Action Committee for the tenants of the Holiday Venice Apartments, and they have come to me with complaints of harassment, unfair rent increases, unjust rules and regulations, fraudulent reasons to get the blacks out of these apartments are now being waged by the management company and expoliceman Tony Steinhart. I can swear to this because my lawyer and I have taken over four depositions, and in them are outrageous lies by Steinhart, the bad thing about this is that the hispanics are being used by the management company, to help get the blacks out. The hispanics are afraid; some might be afraid to say anything because they are not here legally, others just don't want problems with the management company...

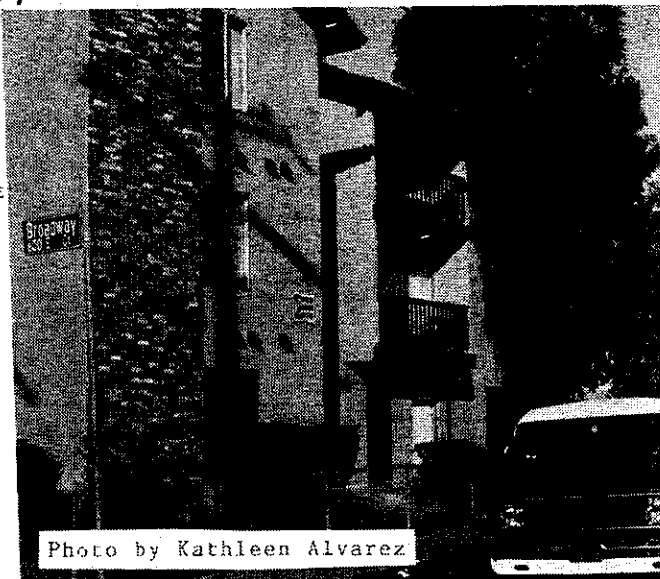


Photo by Kathleen Alvarez

There was one hispanic who knew this was true. He was fired. Then there was another who hurt himself, but to keep from paying this man, they fired him. By my understanding he just went to court and won a case against them. A black woman was witness in his behalf...

The tenants of the Holiday Venice Apartments would like the Federal Government to check Alliance records and see how many blacks make up their apartments in Venice and how many blacks they have evicted out and replaced with hispanics, and how many hispanics they have evicted out. They (Alliance) know how to get rid of the hispanics with no problems, because they just tell them they have to move and they (hispanics) move, or they (Alliance) raise their rents, and they move out because they can't pay it. Also the hispanics have lots of people living in their units, that come and

go, but when the blacks have one visitor over three nights (according to the lease) this is not allowed. The rules should apply to everyone, including the managers, who have people living with them or visiting them. ★

Disneyland—continued from Page 5

Yet, with this hopeful plan, the residue of our battling splattered one more time. Holding on to twenty dollars, (part of the cash I exchanged with her for a microwave oven she suddenly decided to sell me)...I told her the money was specified only for purchase of the plane ticket. She needed to compare ticket prices in a Recycler newspaper we could pick up at a liquor store! (Yes, we have just now arrived to the liquor store off LaCienega Blvd.)

Once inside, Lani immediately snatched yet another Colt 45 malt liquor bottle. Our relationship had soured so much, I had become convinced she was a confirmed alcoholic...and I determined to contribute in no way to her access of it.

I couldn't take it any longer. Before reaching the cash register, I blocked her path demanding return of the money. She argued she had legitimately been paid for the sale of her microwave...and that now the money was hers to do as she pleased. I practically screamed: "You are an accomplished liar and I will not let you get away with this! Give me back my \$20!" Back and forth the accusations flew to the eyebrows of liquor store attendants. Lani asked the police to be called. And I declared "Fine!"...I would wait on their verdict as well! In my mind I hoped they at least could stall her return to the crack street Adams so close and nearby.

A near hour passed before the LAPD duo showed. In the time gap waiting, Lani blankly stared into video-game screens which in turn blinked back children's quarters. She weakly tried bolting 2 times, greeting several strangers at a store telephone booth in additional attempts to escape. I kept close by, in difficult public circumstances, to prevent her running away.

When the police pair arrived then, Lani caught them with her lip. She neatly had them convinced I was a sort of overbearing animal. I figured wrong that they would listen to my side of the story as well. For no sooner had I begun talking than the male officer nervously jumped out of his car to "frisk me"...

ordering me to move back away from the car.

Perhaps my bare "mechanic" hands had frightened him. It's true I would love to put a few of these cherished incompetents beneath the ground. Conversely, this same officer had been content to merely stare at Lani from his car seat...and I've known her to carry butcher knives as well as have access to guns. She certainly appears diminutive if not sexily dressed travelling outside.

This male official next asked me "Why did I want Lani to go to Philadelphia(!)?", a question he apparently deduced from Lani's rapidfire protests. I told him this was simply not true (ie. that I wanted her to go). He immediately completed the inquiry. He determined she was free to leave with the money.

HYPOTHETICAL ARGUMENT:

Now I think I have to say something direct about racism: Had I been a 37 year old black woman hanging out with a 26 year old white man, what are the chances a young white police officer would have blinked the older woman in the eye saying: "Hey, is this your live-in boyfriend? Trying to imprison him here in LA? Go on! Sure you got a right to get your money back and keep him off the streets. Hey asshole! Give her back the money and just don't deal with her if you want to be on your own!" or better:

"If he wants to get a piece of the rock, if he wants to be an alcoholic, if he wants to go out and rob older women like yourself...that's HIS business!"

HA!...a few points on sexism might be raised here as well. The main point being that police seek the easy way out like all the druggies they supposedly police.

NOT SO HYPOTHETICAL:

When two union picketing friends of mine reported to LAPD officers that they had been nearly run down intentionally (by teenagers) in a 4-wheel drive truck, one East LA porkpig calmly asked them if they had not been drinking beer prior to the incident.

And when a Venice Numero Uno restaurant owner pulled a gun on an employee where I worked several years ago...no arrests were made for assault despite official reports to authorities. Later, at least one time in my life of police encounters to the unfortunate kind, and again in Venice,...arriving officers merely laughed when they saw my dirty picketsign in front of this same man's Washington St. pizza-palace. The sign carried two big drawings of roaches. Marching across the nasty-commented placard like silent toads of ca ca. The guntoting representatives of public order left peacefully, without bravado, stupidity or violation of federal constitutional rights. (I don't remember if they scabbed and ate a slice of pizza inside or not!)

So back to Lani, love and the LAPD. Or why does frozen beer continue to decarbonate, bubbling way beyond the boundaries of it's can? You see...I have never been too close to "family". And no, the girl is truly crazy. Which is why I love her. For you see, I'm mentally ill myself. And that is why I'm writing this story about the both of us. WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Reviewing my experience at the liquor store, I left this time with the same quick feet and silence my womanfriend Lani might have inspired. Hers was the new Disneyland Law of 1990 Los Angeles.

P.S. And hey, if people can get dressed up in immaculate white uniforms, sit all day in wheelchairs and beg for money in cups at LAX airport...why not this article? This is LA !

The Best Government Money Can Buy?.....

Community Events

Continued from Page 1

issued by the Fair Political Practices Commission. And according to the same reports, business interests account for half of that \$100 million, with the financial/insurance industries giving the most.

In November's election, auto insurers spent \$64 million to push Props. 101, 104 and 106. The lawyer industry fought back with \$17 million for their Prop. 100. Both sides' propositions had neat anti-consumer features to protect their own profits. The public saw through all the expensive commercials and voted for the Ralph Nader-sponsored Prop. 103, whose backers couldn't afford flashy commercials and spent \$500,000 on the elections.

And now that the D-Pubs' Supreme Court has mucked up Prop. 103's rate cuts, maybe I should point out that while Gov. Duke takes loads of campaign cash from insurers, and little from lawyers, the State's top Democrats, Willie Brown and David Roberti, accepted \$800,000 from insurers and the trial lawyers last year.

So, do you sometimes wonder why insurance rates are so high? Maybe you don't contribute enough to your local sharks--er legislators.

-----PROP. O and PROP. P-----
According to records just filed at the L.A. City Clerk's office, it cost Occidental Petroleum \$7.85 million to run their sleazy "oil drilling and elitism" campaign for Prop. P. Oxy's opponents, led by two L.A. City Councilmen, spent \$3.3 million--raised from several hundred Pacific Palisades residents, actors, writers and State Controller Gray Davis.

It's perfectly legal for one Corporation to spend this much to woo the voters. And just wait 'til the upcoming battles over Playa Vista.

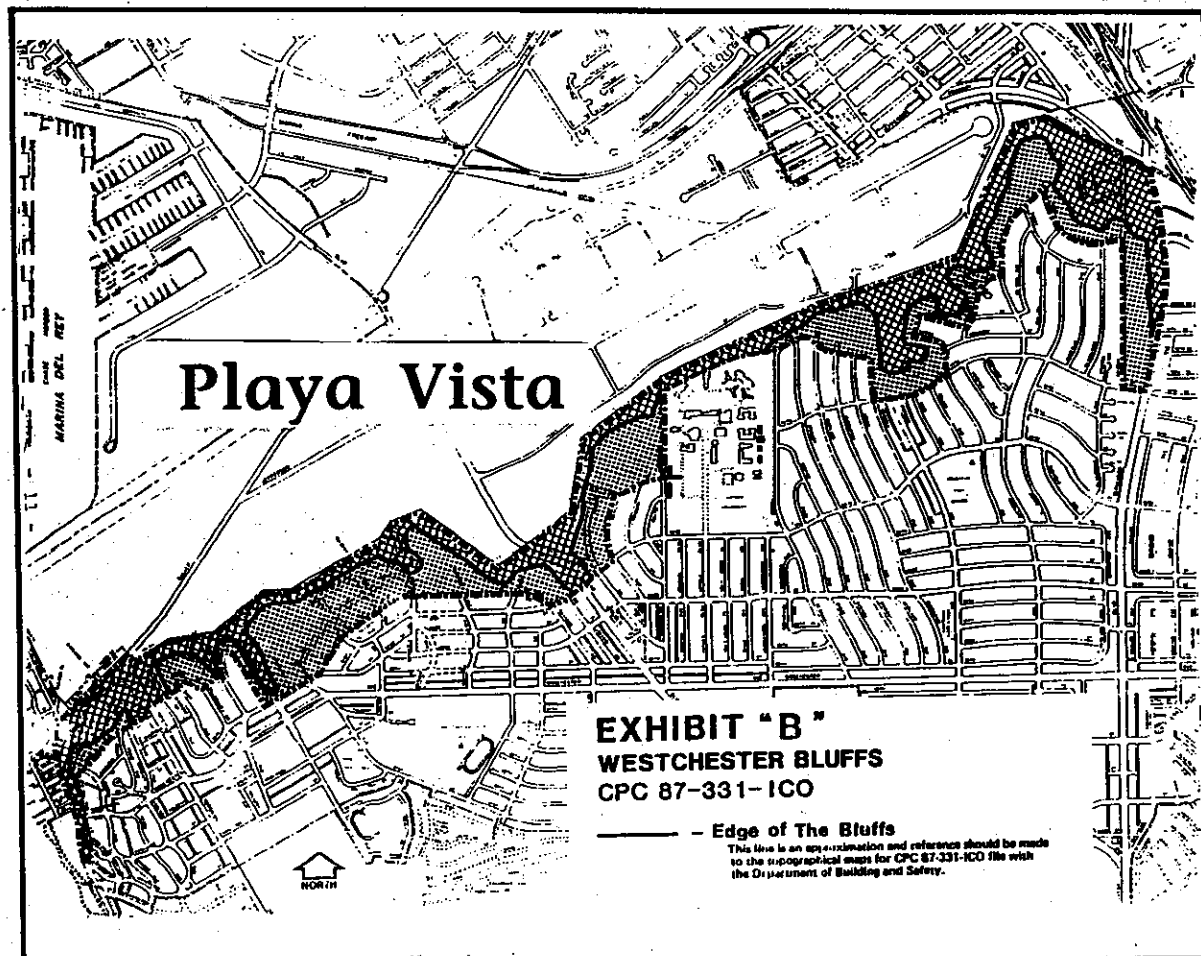
Hearings.....

March 1st. Westchester/Playa del Rey Bluffs Specific Plan workshop at 7 p.m. at Galanter's office, to find out what public will accept in future development of the bluff tops and slopes from Sepulveda Blvd. west to Vista del Mar Ave. The Specific Plan will replace an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) which was okayed by the City Council last year.

March 16th. Final approval hearing by the Planning Commission in downtown L.A. on Hughes Realty's Kentwood Bluffs tract.

March 21st. Playa Vista Area B and C hearing at Westchester High, 4 to 6 p.m. and after 7 p.m., to take testimony from the public to present to the City Planning Commission.

Save the Ballona Wetlands



MARCH 4th-----
Oakwood Recreation Center
Anti-Harrassment Meeting for Holiday Venice Apartments Tenants--4 to 6 P.M.
---Guest speaker: Councilwoman Galanter.
PLEASE ATTEND AND BRING A FRIEND

ART at LA LOUVER GALLERY
William Brice: Drawings
March 18--April 15
55 North Venice Blvd.

Charles Garabedian: New York Paintings--
Through March 11th at 77 Market Street

CONTINUING GROUPS

AA Mon. nights - 8 p.m.

KUNG FU with Victor Walker, T & Th - 6 p.m.

OVEREATERS ANON.
M.W.F 7:30 a.m.,
Sat. 10:00 a.m.

COCAINE ANON.
Meditation workshops
Th 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

KUNDALINI YOGA
Saturdays 8:30 a.m.

DEBTORS ANON.
T & Th 7:30 a.m.

AT THE CHURCH IN OCEAN PARK
235 Hill Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405 (213)399-1631

Adopt a Shamrock

REMAKING LOS ANGELES: A two day conference sponsored by the LA WEEKLY and progressive LA leaders focusing on the future of LA.

An evening of performance, comedy, music and commentary provided by the diverse performing arts community of LA kicks off the conference Friday, March 10th, from 8 to 11 pm at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre, 4401 W. 8th St. (corner of 8th and Lucerne--one block South of Wilshire)

The conference runs Saturday and Sunday, March 11 and 12 at Ackerman Student Union Grand Ballroom at UCLA, starting at 9 am Saturday and 9:30 am Sunday.

-----For info & registration:
call 667-2620

Beyond Baroque FOUNDATION

MARCH at BEYOND BAROQUE
681 Venice Blvd.

3rd--Alan Davies & Martha Lifson--8:30 pm
4th--a play: Bodies Once Young--8 pm
5th--open reading--5 pm
10th--John Miller and Gary Soto--8:30 pm
11th and 12th--Bodies Once Young--8 pm
17th--St. Patrick's Day reading--8:30 pm
18th & 19th--Bodies Once Young--8 pm
24th--Todd Baron and Joe Ross--8:30 pm
31st--Fanny Howe & Stacey Levine--8:30 pm
call 822-3006

ART at SPARC-----685 Venice Blvd.

"ERRATA: Not Included" continues til March 31st. It features works of Judith Baca, David Botello, Willie Herron, Wayne Healy and George Yepes.
-----10 am to 5 pm weekdays, 10 am to 2 pm Saturdays.

Blues Harmonica Blowdown!! March 4th at the Music Machine in West LA-- 7 P.M.--Featured are James Harman, Lazy Lester, George "Mojo" Buford, William Clarke, Harmonica Fats and Blind Joe Hill. Tickets at Ticketmaster locations.

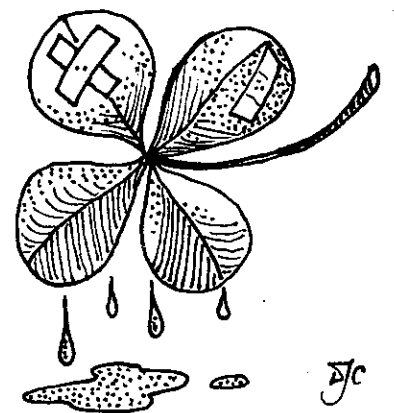
SMC Emeritus Band Pops Concert-----
March 3rd --FREE at 7:30 P.M. at the campus Performing Arts Center, 1900 Pico Blvd.

1st Unitarian Church of L.A.--2936 W. 8th Street--downtown LA

March 5th--11 am--Stanley Sheinbaum, a Jewish-American economist, will report on his meeting with Yasser Arafat.

March 12th--11 A.M.--Dr. Walter Williams speaks on Sacred androgyny in native American cultures and its implication for us.

March 19th--11 am--Rev. Phillip Zwerling speaks on "The ironic heroism of Emily Dickinson".



LUCK RUNNING OUT????

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