

FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968



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Rescued from What?

Operation Wretched

By Lynn Bronstein

I've never had an abortion. I came close, however. I was nineteen and experimenting with sex. After missing two periods, I had a test run and someone in the lab must have messed up because the test result was "positive." For 48 hours, I had to contemplate the possibility of an abortion. New York state, where I lived then, had just legalized abortion a few months earlier.

I was a junior in college; I had plans; I had a steady boyfriend; I wanted to have a child but not this way. I didn't want to even know any more about what was happening inside me. Fortunately, a second test came out negative. The supercilious



"A kinder, gentler nation."

gynecologist was confused and gave me hormone pills to decide the issue once and for all. I was not pregnant.

I've had other bouts of nervousness since then, as all sexually active women do. But the worry has been tempered by the knowledge that there are choices. Abortion is one choice, the extreme measure, if there is no financial, emotional, or physical security to allow for a baby. Adoption is a choice. Having the baby and working out my life to accommodate the baby and my other pursuits is a choice, a very tough choice however, considering the cost of bringing up even one child today. But I know women who have chosen that lifestyle.

But "Operation Rescue" doesn't think I have a right to these options.

Operation Wretched-continued to P. 7

WILL SHE STEP DOWN?

by Steve Schlein

Venice Town Council President Dell Chumley presented a self-serving and inaccurate statement describing her ethical standard on conflicts of interest in the March VTC paid supplement to the Beachhead. Ms. Chumley claimed the moral high ground when she wrote:

"(I work) without a conflict of interest or even the appearance of conflict. I'm ridiculously concerned about that".

Last Fall (when I was a board member of the VTC) Ms. Chumley's standards were put to a simple test. The City Planning Department elevated a group of mostly Venice architects and developers to be advisors at public workshops on new building design in Venice. These individuals had a direct financial interest in the outcome of the workshops, but they were also required to remain impartial in their role as City-designated advisors. Their duty to remain impartial and their bias of personal financial interest did not mix. It was a classic conflict of interest.

When these assignments were announced at a public meeting I and several other VTC board members vigorously objected. However, Galanter aide Jim Bickhart strongly defended the Planning Department's action. This official stamp of approval sanctioned the conflict of interest and signaled a pro-development bias from Galanter's office.

Ms. Chumley, who was present at the public meeting, said nothing.

Several days later I personally handed Ms. Chumley a copy of a letter I sent to Mr. Bickhart which explained the conflict of interest in detail. Although Ms. Chumley and I saw each other frequently she never mentioned the letter or her reaction to it.

In September the media covered the conflict of interest problem. Ms. Chumley offered a peculiar version of "the controversy" in the September Beachhead:

"Since participation in this process is a voluntary activity on all our parts, it is not surprising that most of the 'Design Professionals' have volunteered to work in areas where they have a personal and/or professional interest. It is certainly important that all participants know of the bias of their architectural consultant..."

Step Down-continued to P. 7

Stop the McCarran-Walter Act!

In Defense of the L.A. 8

The United States Government's continued attempts to deport the L.A. Eight - seven Palestinians and a Kenyan -- lead to a historic free-speech decision here in Los Angeles.

Last December, United States Federal Court Judge Stephen Wilson ruled that "alien" residents have the same rights of free speech as citizens do. Judge Wilson also declared unconstitutional key provisions of the Mc Carthy-era Mc Carran-Walter Act (of 1952) which allows the government to deport "aliens" for their political views.

A HISTORY

Back in the early months of 1987, the government's persecution of these immigrants came into the public's view. They were arrested, put into Federal custody under maximum security and held without bond as "national security risks." All were shackled whenever they left their cells, from the time of their arrest until their release from prison.

The respondents were charged under a rarely used section of the McCarran-Walter Act which states "members of or affiliated with an organization which advocates the economic governmental and international doctrines of . . . world communism through written or printed material." The evidence for this was copies of a magazine that can be found in libraries and news stands throughout the U.S.

The government has acknowledged that after more than four of extensive surveillance, which included an FBI agent living next door to two of the respondents, no "criminal activity" was uncovered.

On February 17, 1987, the L.A. Eight were released from custody; five on their own recognizance and three on minimal bail.

THE PLAN

It would seem that one of the main reasons the Government went after the LA eight was to implement a secret Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) plan called the Alien Terrorists and Undesirables: A Contingency Plan. This plan detailed isolation and expulsion measures to be taken against Arab and Iranian nationals here in the U.S. in the event of a "national emergency."

On April 3, 1987 the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Lawyers Guild in behalf of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (AADC), filed AADC v Meese at the U.S. District Courthouse in L.A., to challenge the McCarran-Walter Act being Used against the L.A. Eight.

In one of the several hearings held, Judge Wilson denounced the government's prosecution against the eight respondents as "bordering on the outrageous" and described the McCarran-Walter Act section under question to be "overbroad and chilling."

Despite the "outrageous" the government on May 3, 1989, will resume deportation proceedings against six of the immigrants.

What is at stake here is not whether an individual and/or group belongs to any particular organization, but that of the First Amendment right to freedom of speech and association without persecution guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution.

In Solidarity,
Andre Hall

Speak Out, Now!

Letters-

Rabble Rebel

Dear Collective:

There are numerous mini-developers proliferating in my Venice neighborhood. These may vary from the get-rich-quick types, or the entrepreneur, or to a kind of local smuck who covets his greedy mentality. There is a type on the block who fits this latter mold. Scrooge-like they go nowhere and miserly hoard their bucks for a killing.

I have witnessed how they have with guile exploited neighborhood Latino kids for lot clearance, etc. As con men will, they have cleverly induced elderly widows etc. into selling properties with a pile of bull shit for low dough. Of course this is a microcosm of what goes on in grander scale. You might call it a game that locally continues from Hell to breakfast - to suit personal aggrandisement.

I have viewed developments up and down Washington and Venice Boulevard from the Ocean to Centinela. There are some weird dumps going up on Main and Rose. Most are architectural monstrosities. Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies Von der Rohe and even Simon Rodea would turn over in their graves were they to view the crass commercial construction. I suppose these are prime examples of the great U.S. of A. ideal. Live frugally with steady salaries as minions of the city structure while figuring out how to screw those next door. These cockroaches moved in unobtrusively at first. I gradually saw how they capitalized on all aspects of the neighborhood. Are there no bounds to these types of vultures?

All of us in the long run view encroachment developments large or small with concern. Concrete jungles, we should hope, are the concern of everyone. Small or large it's a pain in the ass!

I have experienced periodic noise before and after the usual working hours and on weekends, trash from workmen spills over and into my yard. Spills of material and paint to say nothing of the irritating obstruction in the alley of my garbage cans due to be picked up. And what my dog had to put up by the disturbance and teasing of the workmen. I've had it up to here from such shitheads.

They must be non-union contract labor. Why should I take their smartass remarks when they wake me up before 7:00 A.M. and past 5:00 P.M. and on weekends too?

Now I would like to ask that great contractor in the sky "What have I done to deserve this monstrosity rising over my patio, blotting out the Western sun?" Conformity with the neighborhood, that's a joke. A prime example of that old adage "Hooray for me and fuck you!"

A Shoreside Scarwegian

April 28, 1989

Dear Beachhead Collective:

I am writing in response to the article about Marina Place by Juan Persona Derosnec in last month's Beachhead.

Juan criticizes the Price Waterhouse report for failing to consider alternative uses, or delineate "the effects of the Marina Place project on traffic, sewage, air quality, the character of the surrounding neighborhood."

There were certainly many reasons to criticize the report that Price Waterhouse prepared. As the attorney for the Venice Town Council, I wrote a 5-page critique. But I feel that it is unfair to lambast Prudential and Price Waterhouse for failing to address non-economic issues. The VTC asked PW to look specifically at the economics of the project, and that is what PW did.

We in Venice do ourselves a disservice when we ask someone to do something, then criticize them for doing exactly what we asked!

Sincerely, Debra Bowen Attorney for the Venice Town Council

Marvena Kennedy 1924-1989

Struggling to improve the quality of life for her family, friends, and community was her theme



Born August 22, 1924 in Floydada, Texas, Marvena moved with her mother to Ocean Park at an early age. After high school she lived in La Puente and at the age of 31 married and moved to San Clemente where she raised her children and was active in school and community activities. While pursuing her life she was arrested and imprisoned for smuggling marijuana. While in prison, her social awareness motivated her to study again. After her release and the break-up of her marriage she moved to Venice in the early 70's. Here she enrolled in UCLA and earned a bachelors degree in sociology. She also attended the People's College of Law, and it was during this time that her great resourcefulness was honed in the daily struggle for survival as a single parent.

When the push to gentrify Venice began she could be found in the forefront of the resistance and actually went to jail again, this time for chaining herself to a tree in defiance of the bulldozer. She helped found the Venice Food Co-op and did volunteer work for the Venice Drug Coalition. She participated in the Venice Town Council and became a part of the Palms Court housing collective. She always worked for and with everyone who came in contact with her to help them develop the same love of life and commitment to a just society that was her passion.

The struggle is over for Marvena. She succumbed to a complex of ailments brought on by cancer surgery on April 19th while in intensive care at Daniel Freeman Hospital. The love, warmth of her personality, clarity of her intellect, and the joy of struggle is the legacy she has left those who knew her. She was also a very loving grandmother. And she must have known she did well, for we have been enriched and sustained by her presence among us and she lives on inside us.

Marvena Kennedy is survived by her mother and brother, Adelaide M. Donovan and Donald Jones of Paso Robles, CA; four children, Michael McIntire and Peggy Kennedy of Los Angeles, Susan Kennedy of Berkeley, and Timothy Kennedy of Sausalito, CA; and grandchildren, Malena Day, Kelly and Kathy McIntire.

A memorial service for Marvena Kennedy will be held at Palms Court, 733 Palms Blvd. Venice, May 7, 1989 at 2 p.m.

People are invited to decorate the olive tree in front of Marvena's home with a symbolic offering to her memory as part of the ceremony; and to share with others any memories you have of Marvena. Please do not send flowers.

a personal goodbye

Marvena - it's been a long time since we stood guard with the Vietnamese...a long time since we argued the rights and wrongs of incomplete politics...or the possibility of a Venice free...and even longer since we questioned the essence of our beliefs...

now that time is gone and only the memory is left, excuse the pun...now you are time itself...in all its terribleness it was our time...a time that was more than us... that was the power of it...the beauty of it... the reality of it...and us.

I never told you how much I respected you, supported you, loved you. It was never necessary working side by side. Yet, it would have been nice...wish I had even though I know you knew. So let me say it now: Marvena, it's been good standing with you...

Thick Free Venice, 1989

The U. S. Navy has informed the BEACH-HEAD that Petty Officer 1st Class LARRY R. BREWSTER of Santa Clara Avenue in Venice has recently reported for duty at the Naval Air Station at Fallon in Nevada.

Also, Recruit ERNESTO A. GORMAZ of Carroll Canal, Venice, recently reported for duty with Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron - Six at the Naval Air Station in North Island in San Diego.



Victor Wightman, Kathy Sullivan, Carol Fondiller, John Haag, Malcolm Tent, Diane Nickerson, Judith L. Martin, Beth Miller, Andre Hall, 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

The Beachhead Collective meets the last three Sundays of each month at 11 A.M. at Tenant Action Center, 442 Lincoln Blvd. Our next meeting is May 14th. Please call 399-0811 fomoinfo.

Venice, My Love

Old lady, what have they done to you? Painting your venerable face with gaudy colors, pimping your old legs on roller skates, making you cost-conscious in your dotage? Old love, how could you let them do it to you?

We fought dragons in the old days: monsters that would have fed on us, mined our battlefield with tourist traps. Now that the war has quieted, how dare you fraternize with the enemy, shelter his troops in your aging bosom?

Ten years we held off hell's hot dominion, thinking we might yet survive. How is it, now that the town is safe, you choose to betray us and open up your gates?

Venice, 1979 by John Haag
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VOICE OF THE VENICE TOWN COUNCIL



EDITOR: CHALLIS MACPHERSON

VOLUME 1, Issue 6

May 1989

President's Message

It has always been a frustration of this position to receive unsigned letters. Usually these have been requests from Venice residents to oppose some project. Perhaps we already were opposed but couldn't respond for lack of information. Without a name or telephone number we couldn't coordinate efforts or share information. What a waste!

But lately rumors and enuendo have taken a vicious turn. Some people have discovered that the opportunity for public service creates a really meaningful life. Others can't accept that — they assume ulterior motives, hidden agendas and evil intentions.

A serious case-in-point was a recent letter to the editor of the *Outlook* (which was not published) with a copy to the UCLA School of Urban Planning, charging the graduate students who did our Beach Shuttle Study with plagiarism. Of course the study group was given all possible community background information on which to base their study. We need to have a real working Beach Shuttle operating soon. The students took the information, much of which was collected in a community workshop sponsored by Pat Russell and the Venice Action Committee in March, 1987, in which many of us contributed ideas, studied the literature and visited the area. Their report then proceeded to explore:

1. Number of potential parking spaces available.
2. Specific routing.
3. ~~Time between bus stops and completion of entire route.~~
4. Number of buses to operate routes.
5. Cost of capital investment and operations under three potential scenarios.

The end result of the unsigned letter and its charges is this -- the charges can easily be answered; however, the UCLA faculty may very well decide to give their help to other, more grateful communities. Venice could be the big loser.

The query about whether or not I was collecting signatures on a petition to accept the Marina Place settlement offer was easier to deal with. It was a joke!

1. That week the Coro Foundation internship was taking twice the 2½ days per week committed, and I was moving.
2. I have never been a believer in the value (cost/benefit ratio) of petitions.
3. I have trouble getting myself to go door to door with petitions even when I really believe in the cause.
4. I never personally favored settlement.

We on the negotiating team strategized that time was more valuable to the opposition; therefore, we spent about 50 hours in negotiations not counting preparation. We tried to get several items which we had not included in the offer such as \$250,000.00 donation to our Venice Town Council Legal Defense and Education Fund; and we asked for

\$15 million for affordable housing. We got nothing for the fund and only \$5 million offered for housing. Still, we weren't ashamed of the settlement offer. It was considerably more than we were going to get before we filed suit (zero versus \$12 million) and if the membership had decided to settle, we would have felt "okay" that we had been able to finesse a settlement that would be good for Venice.

Speaking of being good for Venice, I do believe that more affordable housing is good for the community. Housing is in crisis all over our country. Prices are going up at alarming rates locally. Housing near jobs at all levels of employment can reduce traffic congestion and pollution. And we still have homeless people in our community.

The Venice Town Council membership spoke loud and clear when they voted against the settlement offer. My vote as President (used only to break a tie) certainly was not needed. It had been, I would have voted just as I would have voted when we chose to instigate the lawsuit — to "just say NO" to such intense development. Our negotiations were for the purpose of buying time. It was just like the high school dance when you danced all evening with the guy but he never found out until it was over that you wouldn't let him take you home.

We all had a lively debate about the settlement offer at the March general meeting before voting. Culver City, Prudential and Mel Simon were all well represented to defend their development. Debra Bowen, our very able attorney, and Arnold Springer presented our negotiating team's viewpoint well. And our City Councilwoman, Ruth Galanter, clarified many points and encouraged us to vote for the best interests of Venice.

Unfortunately, people started leaving in droves about 9:30 which was the time stated to take the vote. The Board felt that, to reflect the views of the membership a vote must be taken at that time, which it was. Some of us seem to be able to stay until 11:00 or so, others can't. We have looked at the results and decided to alter our voting system. The next time we have this kind of decision before us, ballots will be issued to verified members as they enter the meeting. If anyone has to leave early they will be able to deposit their ballot in the ballot box as they leave. No member will forfeit their right to vote because another member wants to talk more.

I don't have many more months to be President of the Venice Town Council. Two terms is enough for anyone to serve. I hope that the next President will be able to get the general membership more involved in the grueling task of working toward a Venice more in tune with our stated goal of preserving the historical nature, low-rise residential character, and cultural and economic diversity of the Venice community.

NEXT MEETING

May 11

Venice Town Council

Thursday at 7:30

Agenda

LIGHT RAIL: PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION
 What about it? Where can it go?
 Why do we need it? Alternatives??

The Board has regretfully accepted the resignation of Fran Solomon, board member and Chair of Finance and Fundraising. The Board will request nominations from the floor to fill this vacancy. Please consider serving.

Several projects have been hanging around Ocean Front Walk for soom time — we have to take a stand on them. Be prepared to vote on the "Blanchard" project.

Location:
 Old Venice City Hall
 681 North Venice Blvd.
 (213)281-8323

BE THERE

Don't let Venice be KO'd

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

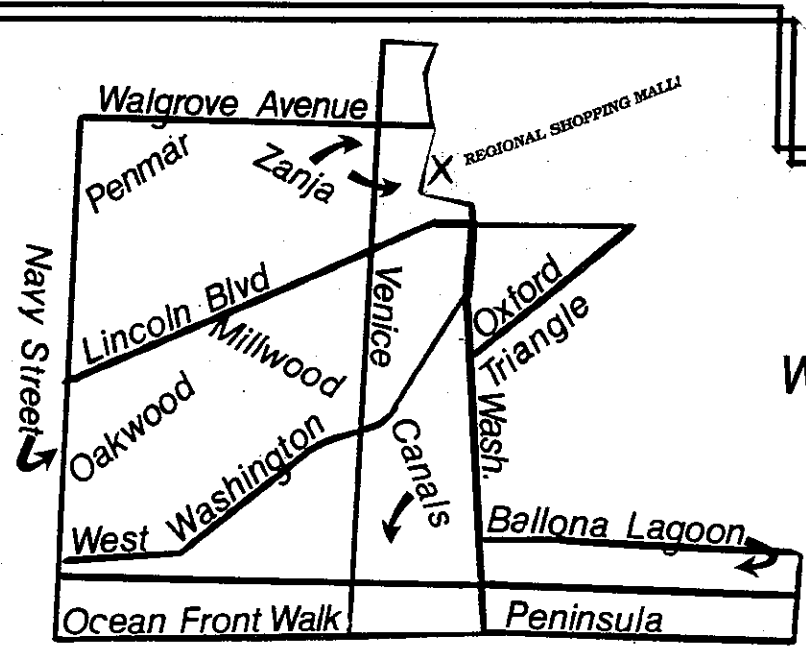
JUST SAY NO! TO A REGIONAL SHOPPING MALL!

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

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

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

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



Belle Chumley

VENICE

Will We Leave It Better Than We Found It?

American Cable Town Council Schedule

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

VIDEO UPDATE **



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 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

The New Venice Coastal ICO = Fine Tuning For The "Final Interim"

On Thursday, May 18, 1989, the Los Angeles City Planning Commission will consider the new version of the Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) to regulate development in the Venice Coastal Zone while the Local Coastal Plan (LCP) is being completed. The matter will be heard sometime after 10:00 am in City Hall, Room 350.

The new ICO has become necessary because the Department of City Planning has not been able to complete work on the LCP in the 14 months allotted by the original ICO. The new ICO, if approved by the Commission and finally by the City Council, is designed to become effective on June 14, just as the old ICO expires. It will last for a term of 9 months, with a 6 month extension period.

There are changes proposed in the new version, motivated primarily by the Planning Department's desire to make the ICO match more closely the long-standing (ten years) Coastal Commission interpretive guidelines and by a desire to eliminate the likelihood that developers would ask for hardship exemptions solely based on the differences between those guidelines and the ICO. Some adjustments are also based on the experience the City has gained in administering the ICO, serving to close loopholes, eliminate ambiguities and remove internal inconsistencies.

Among those proposed changes: making the ICO height limits, especially on walk streets, more consistent with those in the guidelines; clarifying restrictions on building across more than two legal lots; adjusting requirements for sideyards between buildings; making residential density limits more consistent with those in the

guidelines; adding more flexibility to landscaping requirements; adjusting Beach Impact Zone (BIZ) parking fees for inflation and closing a loophole in BIZ requirements.

According to Councilwoman Ruth Galanter's office, which is legislatively sponsoring the new ICO, the point of both Venice ICOs was not to in and of itself significantly redirect planning policy (on major matters such as residential and commercial density, affordable housing and traffic circulation) in the Coastal Zone but rather to codify the long-suffering Coastal guidelines so that the City's zoning Administrators and the Coastal Commission would have less opportunity to deviate from them. Consequently, the new ICO largely reinforces that intention.

Planning Department hearing examiner Paul Beard held a public hearing on the proposed ICO in Westchester on the night of April 18 which drew a crowd of about 60. Most of those in attendance were critical of the new ordinance, the majority of speakers feeling it is too restrictive and some feeling it is not restrictive enough. A number of complaints were based on the notion that the ICO should have reflected more of the proposals in the LCP neighborhood reports done by the community in the fall of 1988. The theme running throughout the 3 1/2 hour hearing was frustration over the slow progress now being made on completing the LCP after the intense citizen-input efforts of 1988. This frustration culminated in proposals from the Venice Action Committee to closely tie the new ICO to the Planning Department's meeting certain deadlines in the process of completing the LCP.

The hearing's most vociferous critics of the ICO seemed to prefer the good old days of flexibly enforced guidelines over the ICO era. Those who preferred to see the ICO as an interim instrument of growth restriction hinted at a fundamental dissatisfaction with the Coastal guidelines as the baseline for the ICO. That dissatisfaction also spoke to the issue of delays in getting the LCP done, since the LCP is clearly the appropriate vehicle for altering policies regarding land use in the Coastal Zone. (The Interim Control Ordinance, with the minor [especially when compared to the LCP workshop and neighborhood processes] amount of public input regarding its contents, would seem comparatively inappropriate. It is, after all, a temporary measure, even if it will have been in place almost 2 1/2 years when the new ICO finally expires. Two years is not very long in the world of land use planning; the City never expects to get a community plan adopted in that short a time period [the last revision of the Venice Community Plan took nearly five years and didn't even include the zone change ordinances necessary to enforce the plan, an omission not predicted for the LCP], and it often takes upwards of 2 years for complicated project cases to work their way through the system.)

Like anything related to development in Venice, the new ICO is a controversial item. Still, it's not as controversial as the original ICO, which drew considerable opposition from real estate and development interests in the community. With the new version, it appears those interests have largely accepted the fundamental adjustment to land use regulation it represents and just want to get on with finishing the planning process so the ICO will go away once and for all. When the new one is adopted, it should contribute greatly to reducing the time City staff must spend administering ICO cases. That time can be better spent in completing the Venice LCP, a task long considered impossible by folks up and down the coast who doubt that Venice, the City and the Coastal Commission can ever get their act together enough to do it.

Hearing examiner Beard has prepared a revised draft of the new ICO for presentation to the Planning Commission. Call him at (213) 485-4241 for a copy of it and his staff report. To support the ordinance at Commission, which has been very hostile to Interim Control Ordinances of late, either be there on the 18th or write them:

Los Angeles City Planning Commission
Room 503 City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Please refer to case number C.P.C. 87-1310

Etching Lady

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6th Annual Venice Arts & Crafts Festival

THEME: "Celebrate Venice: A Continuing Tradition"

Perhaps many of you ask, "What is this festival? Is it necessary? What does the festival do for me?"

This year the festival is a new ballgame. Just about every organization in Venice is participating in some way. The diversity of people and talent which typifies Venice is represented on the Festival Steering Committee. Approximately 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.

These very diverse individuals have discovered that they all have one thing in common - a love of Venice. This common thread is producing a day of arts, crafts, entertainment, international food, a childrens' court with rides, games, and a petting zoo, presentations by elected officials, tribute to our founder Abbot Kinney, and most of all -- Community Pride!

The committee has dedicated 70% of the proceeds to the beautification of West Washington Boulevard through tree planting and to the creation of a sports program at Oakwood Recreation Center to benefit and serve our local youth.

OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP 237-1797 Paul Racs

Doesn't usually initiate projects but will facilitate. Provides tools but community members do the work. Tools, paint, expertise are their forte. Clean and Green can be called for additional community reinforcement.

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 Interim 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.

Venice Town Council

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

Membership:

- () Annual Dues, Single Member \$15.00
- () Household, Two Members \$20.00
- () Additional Member of Household \$5.00
- () Senior Citizen (over 60) \$7.50
- () Low Income \$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.

You are the big winner.



Chicago Washington grow hemp. He was probably a pothead. Ben Franklin had 17 legitimate kids. — Statement comparing Chicago Seven to the founding fathers at sentencing Feb. 20, 1970.

I LIKE to experience pleasure, to have fun. I enjoy blowing people's minds. You know, walking up to somebody and saying, "Would you hold this dollar for me while I go in that store and steal something?" The crazier the better. I like being crazy. Letting go. Losing control. Just doing what pops into my mind. I trust my impulses. I find the less I try to think through a situation, the better it comes off.

from *Revolution for the Hell of It* (1969)

Death of Yippie



1936-1989

by Carol Fondiller

The mad young man with the violently curly locks held back from his movie star brow with an Indian headband, eyes lit with mad intensity and a greed for life, Excitement has gone. Yippie died in his sleep, in his bed, with his clothes on, as a result of a mixture of barbiturates and alcohol. "As you know, Abbie liked to fool around with pills," said his brother Jack. We all expected a more John Garfield-like finish to the life of Abbie Hoffman. He was the pirate, the king of derring-do, a sinister good guy throwing dollar bills to the stockbrokers in the Stock Exchange at Wall Street. He spilled red paint on the capitol. He let loose balloons in an effort to confound the police. He ran a pig - Pigasus - for President, saying: "The good thing is, after he wins we can eat him." He was the kid in school who challenged me to jump across a creek, skate across a busy intersection, or bicycle down a hill, hands off the handlebars, arms widespread, to catch the wind, eyes closed. Question authority.

A sainted psychopath, he told us like Jesus to leave our parents. He was every parent's nightmare, every movement woman's mad young dream equivalent of a motorcycle ride with James Dean. Except he didn't rebel to rebel. He was a star. But he wanted a lot of people in on his movie. Not for him the bleak existential landscape of the surly, sullen loner.

He was as crass a womanizer as any of the movement jocks. He exploited women the way women let men with muscled arms, flashing eyes, a dazzling amoral smile, and a sense of play exploit us. His image jumped with tomcat insolence from the tube and onto my psyche. Bad boy..

The psychopath disregards or has no idea of rules or other people's feelings. The psychopath is charming, and when he is with you, he's with you. He's in the present, in the now, this moment. No future, no past. You are his. A psycho rollercoaster ride - extreme highs, extreme lows: you can, you can, you can levitate the Pentagon. Just concentrate. Because he wills it.

I AM against power. I want to destroy power. The reason I would accept the label of anarchist is because it throws back on the individual his own responsibility. He has to come up with his own program. His own tactics and weapons. It may be blind optimism, but I believe that due to our technological capabilities, we can really have an anarchist, utopian future in this country.

from *Our Time - Interviews From the East Village Other* (1972)

Women and men disregarded fair play and ran off with him, leaving behind children, lovers, spouses, to deal with adult detritus like responsibilities... Come live with me and be my love - those wild manic Sixties and Seventies. Free food, free clothes, free love, free clinics. Love-ins, Be-ins. We are the people your parents warned you about. Stick out your tongue, flip off the blue meanies. A manic, amazing decade. Don't trust anyone over thirty. Forever young, forever boyish. He'll never grow up, never grow up, never, never grow up.

"I am an orphan of Amerika." Turning a trial into a circus. Getting busted for cocaine. Jumping bail. Then turning up years later, spending time underground, fighting pollution. The blue meanies are still here, and the age of AIDS is upon us. Say no to everything, get cable, and don't go out after dark... The greyness descending on us makes us long for the safe days of McCarthy-era lockstep fifties. But Abbie taught us protest can be fun. Write "Fuck You" on your forehead before we lockstep into the iron age of crimes of obedience.

He was the Tarot fool with his survival pack, looking outward, stepping into/across the abyss. He shook us. He taught us the seriousness of play. It must have been with a sense of wonderment when he finally realized he was too tired to levitate, so Peter Pan just flew home... Shake 'em up, Baby.

"He is doing just fine." Aghast, I could only stare at him. For a fraction of a millisecond, I could only think that this doctor had had knowledge of my son and had not told me (But how could he, he didn't know my anguish?). Finally, I croaked: "How do you know?" "Because I know his mother," he responded. I thought he had meant the adoptive parents (adoptive mother). But, as I looked at his his smiling frown, I realized he meant ME! I looked at that beautiful man and I said: "Thanx."

Then I walked to the Librarian's cubby hole in the back, put my head in my arms and cried. After all those years! All this misery might have been prevented with either education or control. Then again, maybe not. Jon, wherever you are, forgive me.

Yo! Poets

It is 11a.m. (give or take) on any 2nd, 3rd or 4th Sunday and the BEACHHEAD is busily getting its collective butt in gear and preparing for the weekly meeting. Writers are getting their coffee/tea; an individual makes the "run" to the local store for the food needed for sustenance.

We get brain food, such as chicharrones. BEACHHEAD was eating chicharrones way before The Bush, Porge (rhymes with gorge) himself, ever thought to run for public office. The Collective gets coughy bear claws and alfalfa sprouts, among other things. Memphis Slim has been known to arrive with a batch of homemade root beer popcorn. Once he brought some avocado salad.

Then, the meeting starts. I write of this because one of the acknowledged nicer moments is the reading of the mail. BEACHHEAD gets seeds of mail. Among them are "Letters to the Editor" (Joseph Krengel, where are you?). But the best part, and the idea for these few paragraphs is the poetry that is mailed to us. Not only do we get poetry from our own Venetians, but we get poetry sent to us from all parts of our country and even some from foreign ports. We sit around, sip our coffee and take turns reading ALOUD to the rest of the Collective. Seldom is there a "gong"... (Try reading aloud to your friends, sometime.)

In our case, we read the poetry (and/or other articles/stories) sent to us by our readers and other poets. IT IS SUPPOSED

Poetry Plea continued on P. 7

Abortion Agony

By Sara Omari

Slivers of pain seemed to shoot through me as I thought back to an abortion attempt in the 1950's... My mind drifted, as I thought about events which happened more than 30 years ago... I opened my eyes. And found myself in a strange and humongous room. It had a dormitory-like setting. One side of the room was peppered with wash basins (and mirrors just above them.) I started to get out of bed; something was wrong but I didn't know what. I found out soon enough!!! My left arm was crooked and just hung limply, hand and fingers curled. My left foot turned in and it dragged when I walked. I "walked" to the mirror. My face, this strange me, looked back at me from this unlying mirror. My eye was at half-mast. Most of the hair from my crown was gone. Most importantly, where was I??? Mercifully, I returned to my coma-like state. When I woke up, months later, I found myself at the veterans hospital. They have superb doctors, so I figured I lucked out. However, I found out that I was still pregnant. Anyway, there I was, paralyzed. As I recall, it took me months to "walk" again. My leg, my foot, my hand, my fingers, my arm remained useless. I also recall playing chinese checkers MERELY TO TRY to pick up the marbles with the fingers of my left hand. It would take me an entire morning to get through one game. Patiently, I realized that I needed to get that foot and that hand working again. That damage was slight, however, having only to do with my body. The little one, whom I named Jon, was born in the 1950's. I agonized because I thought that I had inflicted pain on him, too. I agonized as I wondered whether anybody had held his little hand as he learned to pray. When he turned 18, I grieved as I wondered whether he had to register for the draft. When he turned 21, I wondered whether he registered to vote.

Every few years, an overpowering sadness would envelop me as I thought of that baby. My throat would close up, dry as the sahara. My thoughts were so painful.

Sometimes, in the privacy of my soul, I would wonder if there was anything I might have done to prevent all that pain, physical/mental/emotional. In my lighter moments (few), I would think: "Sara, you could have abstained" but I was forced to laugh at that thought and say: "Sara, be real!" Another of my light-headed thoughts was that I can never commit a crime, since I am crippled and readily identifiable because I "walk funny." Also, at times, I wear a steel brace and sometimes I wear my plastic brace.

I write this to define my pain, which is really not physical. It is my heart and my soul which hurt, although the pain manifests itself in the body, I guess. Less than a month ago, that pain happened once more.

And the next day, I Lucked out. As I was shelving books (I work as a volunteer at the Mirsky Medical Library at the Brentwood VA Hospital), I saw Dr. David Wine.

He was looking at the new monthly medical journals. Dr. Wine had been one of my doctors more than 30 years before. He is a relaxed and easy-going person. Beneath all that roughness, he is easy to talk to (better than any Honda dealer). I asked him if I could chat with him for a second and he said yes. I told him about my pain (he has heard me say similar several times before).

I had already told him about the pain in the signing of the adoption papers. Dr. Wine also reminded me to talk to my new doctor but I said that the new doctor did not know me from before and, besides, it was just a one-time conversation. Then, Dr. Wine said that, under the circumstances, adoption was the best thing I could have done for the little one. Once more, I described the feeling of suffocating misery and I also wondered, aloud, how the little one was doing. Dr. Wine looked up, briefly, and said:

No Growth at All

On April 13, 1989, a new community movement was born: the no growth movement. On that date, in our own venerable Venice City Hall, the membership of the Venice Town Council voted 68-2 to reject a multi-million dollar payoff offer by Prudential, the developer for the Marina Place project, and to continue the VTC lawsuit against the project.

by John Haag

Some who voted against the proposed settlement may have been holding out for more blood-money, but judging by the tone of the discussion prior to the vote and the jubilation when the result was announced, most of the voters were against the project at any price. Our view was that no amount of token traffic control, cosmetic beautification, promises of local employment or even funding for "affordable" housing could possibly compensate for the disastrous

increase in traffic, pollution and blight to the surrounding small businesses that the project would produce. A further weakness in the proposal was the lack of even a hint as to who would get the money and how it would be administered.

Details aside, however, we gave a resounding "no" to the project and its developer. Let them go somewhere else or to oblivion. Not in our back yard! The quality of life in our community is more important than your Macy's or your millions.

The same judgment we applied to Marina Place applies equally to many other development projects in our community not quite so colossal as Marina Place but just as disastrous, if on a smaller scale. Those already built or under construction may be beyond remedy, but those not yet started can be resisted in

many ways, whether through the Town Council or outside of it, whether by court action or by political and economic action.

The overwhelming rejection of Marina Place by the Town Council is an inspiration to all of us who have battles to wage against commercial development in our own neighborhoods. We have been developed enough. We have been commercialized enough. What some have lullingy labeled "slow growth" is proving to be as fatal as slow strangulation and just as painful. Before every vacant lot becomes a shopping mall or resort hotel

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Rubble Rabble

BUST the Rock

I was unable to rant at the Venice Town Council April 13th for the reason my thoughts outran my tongue. For the reason "official" V.T.C. speakers (ic. Arnold Springer) overran the agenda. For the reason Venice/resident/participants overrode precious evening minutes. Opposition outbursts against Prudential Insurance construction plans **dominated** 68-2 (against a proposed legal settlement).

A blotch of consternation surrounded the "street traffic" a monstere mall would invite the corner of Lincoln & Washington. But my mind wandered to empty storefronts and vacant parklots.

Teenage terror and moviegoer rowdyism wagged several a lip. My inward image of deserted theatreseats turned to midnight curfew closings.

My mouth bankrupt blanked out to the "call of the wild Macey's customer"...willing to leap at least several California counties in a single bound. My instead lips pursed the zero times myself desired to frequent an "anchor"*. *(An "anchor" refers to the large, department store supposedly serving as the "magnet" to a center's display).

I still believe shop-mall-centers to be some facade of corporate spelled COMPLETE FUCKING DEATH. I seen too many 'night of the living dead' flicks! Ms. Platt of Zanja St. (a Culver City group?) explained...the idea for these owners ((of such a magnanitude)) is to lease out all remaining shops and land to turn over the brunt of their profit.(!)

Inotherwords, LAND-CAPITAL-PROFIT at its residentially, exploitative best! Pack bodies squeezed for cash by day (business hours)/sendout obedient consumers (minus cash) wherever by night.

Revolting Developments

COMEBACK INN GOES EYE-EYE?

After 15 years of serving avant-garde music with vegetarian dinners, the world famous COMEBACK INN 1633 W. WASH. BLVD., (ABBOT KINNEY), where only the music is allowed to smoke, might fall victim to REAL -Estate bloat. According to RELIABLE PEOPLE, the COMEBACK INN IS HAVING TROUBLE with lease negotiations. Watch this paper for occurrences as they develop.

A lure of inert, material goodies preserving this backwardest of human relations possible.

So "profitable" to stock-owned investors that a few million dollars in start-up expenses buying out a V.T.C. "leadership" appeared "doable".

As a "non-resident", even I(!!) care about "negative environment impacts" a bonanza might wake. There are only so many paths to my Venice girlfriends from my LA home. And my boyfriends too. A need for "low income housing" is like "cheap energy". Who can be against it???

Let's be honest. What track record do you truly believe Prudential has working with the federal government (or anyone else for that matter) to create such housing?

You are aware of sky-rise, office/structure palaces built by insurance companies all over this country. I am aware of the looseness to insurance company treasuries funding the fight against Proposition 103 (the "auto insurance revolt"). Yet these imperial and imposing monuments appear totally void at night as well!

You see, I still cling naively to that romantic-religious 60's cliché "power belongs to the people"...no matter what. I can't help feel pleased this gargantua commercial excuse to bloat JUST ONE MORE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SHOPPING MALL to the teeth of this nearby one-story lot is about the highest compliment of indignity and insult possibly paid. From the decayed, fucked vestige of U.S. corporate-real estate-capitalism to OUR? community.

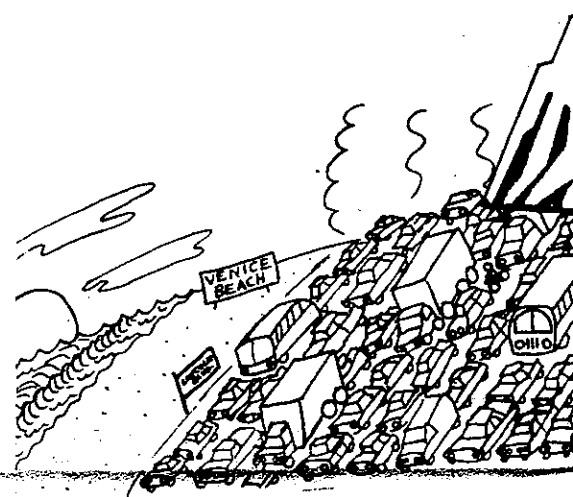
We may yet be reminded WE TOO! have rights over this (our) land. Berkeley protestors created People's Park after fierce battles with a then pro-Vietnam War, Amerikan administration. Or so it was reported. May we build a monument to the defeat of 'Prudential Promotions'??

How about beach transportation shuttle service surrounded by sculpted japanese-style, waterfall gardens? Maintained with job-offerings for non-employed LA dwellers. Iy idea for a "Piece of the Rock by the Sea"/Park.

Otherwise, dump the shit into the ocean.

▲ ▲ ▲ ROCKY TYCOON

Take Your Piece



MisIncorporated

rick davidson

We have all gone through many changes in the past few years. The Venice Town Council has gone through its changes also. It was put on the shelf and then taken off the shelf to emerge in a modified form, i.e., modified from the original "town hall" form into the corporate structure it is today. Now it has all the trappings of the corporate ideology: officers, by-laws, rules, dues, even secret Col. North would work well with this Town Council. It's all so trendy, a corporate take-over community style.

The danger of the corporate mind set was evident in last night's Town Council meeting (4/13/89). The only item on the agenda was a presentation, discussion, and vote on the secret results of the secret negotiation by the secret negotiating committee...all the same meeting. The fact that no one knew what the negotiations resulted in left a lot of stuff to be processed and voted on in our meeting. One thing, the report was a well kept secret which says something about the integrity of the secret committee I guess.

The point of the secret negotiations related to the Marina Place development project. This is a proposal to build 823,000 square feet of retail space, including theaters and restaurants galore which will generate over 40,000 auto trips daily from the old Hughes property on Washington Blvd. near Lincoln. Which is actually in Culver City. A law suit brought by the Venice Town Council has forced the developers, Prudential Insurance Company, to the negotiating table. The results of the negotiations were before the Council!

No More Commercials

many ways, whether through the Town Council or outside of it, whether by court action or by political and economic action.

The overwhelming rejection of Marina Place by the Town Council is an inspiration to all of us who have battles to wage against commercial development in our own neighborhoods. We have been developed enough. We have been commercialized enough. What some have lullingly labeled "slow growth" is proving to be as fatal as slow strangulation and just as painful. Before every vacant lot becomes a shopping mall or resort hotel

and every house a cutesie shop, it's time to call a halt.

Slow growth has had its day. Now let's try no growth, at least no commercial growth. Residential development can still be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Those of us who want no growth are going to face the usual uphill fight. Planners are in the business of planning something, rather than nothing. Politicians who don't simply follow the money, seek compromises with it. Developers never sleep, or buy lawyers who don't.

The Town Council, crucial as it may be in the big battles, has neither the resources nor the people to fight all the lesser ones. It will take the effort of many people throughout the community acting on their own initiative neighborhood by neighborhood, block by block.

Creeping commercialism, sugar-coated with bribes called "mitigations" has us under siege. Together and individually we can act to break that siege and save at least what community is left to us.

Showdown at the Straits of Prud

By Rex Frankel

Members of the Venice Town Council voted 68-2 last April 13th to file a lawsuit the group has filed against developers of the Marina Place mall, turning down a \$9 million of relief measures. The site is an acre parcel which once was a Heliocopter plant, located on Washington Blvd. just east of Lincoln Blvd. The first court date is May 30th. The charges that Culver City violates the State Environmental Quality Act and Coastal Act when its council OK'd the massive project.

DENSITY: Marina Place will be 1.5 million square feet total. How big is that? It's 1 and a half times the size of Westside Pavilion mall, or roughly the same size as the Santa Monica Pavilion Mall.

TRAFFIC: All traffic for this monstrosity will enter and exit on Washington Blvd only. The Santa Monica and Westside malls, however, have entrances on all four sides. The developer, Prudential Insurance Company, estimates the mall will attract 100,000 weekday vehicle trips, and 40,000 weekends.

HEIGHT: Marina Place will be 54 feet tall, three stories, except in the middle, where the theatres will be 100 feet tall. Marina Place will be a block of buildings.

One of the reasons the Culver City Council OK'd the Marina Place mall was because "L.A. is building big projects just outside of our City limits, we get all the traffic and the money". The Culver City Planning Commission said "the traffic from Marina Place would be insignificant when measured against traffic generated by major developments OK'd by L.A. near the project site."

What they are referring to is the Howard Hughes Center, a collection of 15- to 20 story towers to rise on Sepulveda Blvd. just south of the Freeway and just outside of Culver City limits.

Now for some familiar history: The Coalition of Westchester residents groups fought the Hughes Center. Culver City became concerned about this mess and joined the Coalition in appealing the City's OK of the Hughes Center. But suddenly, Culver City backed out. Hughes Properties offered them \$3 million in traffic mitigation fees, payable when the 10 buildings were finished--maybe 20 years from now. Culver officials took the money in 1985. The Coalition filed suit

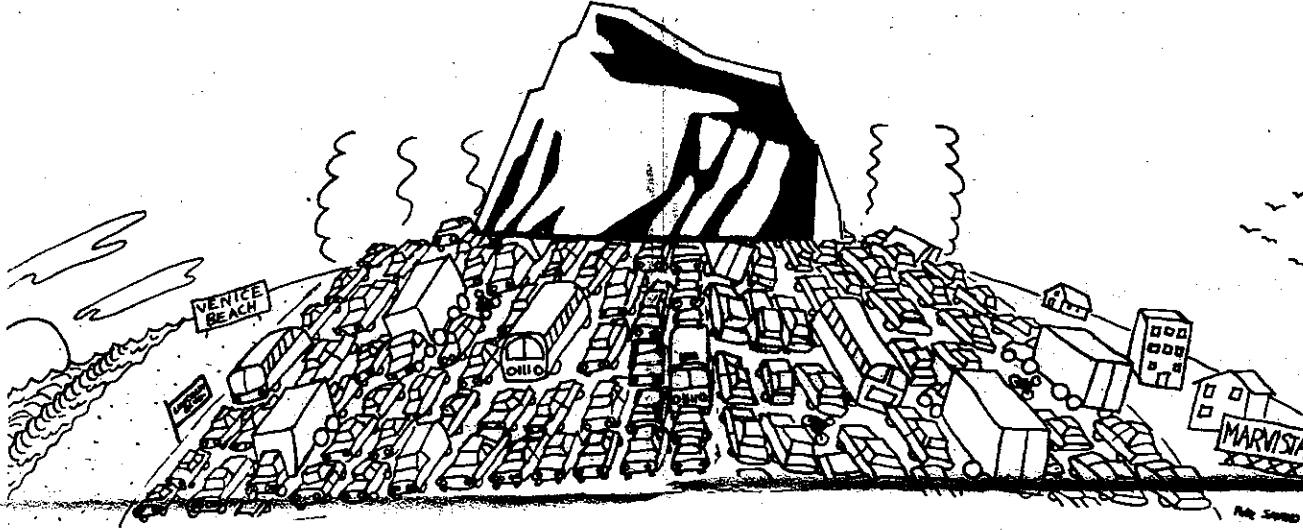
ive, you should have added that those activists you so enjoyed working with are forced all around the world that are destroying, not just communities, but an alternative experiment - such as I saw in Nicaragua. And if it's worth you Arnold, you might ask yourself, "are you on?"

NO TIME

But I am not really speaking to the negotiations, or the vote; which was against settlement. No, I am more concerned about the process and the corporate structure that now stands between the community and reality. While I may close my eyes to the question of secrecy, I find I can't question about the process. Although the way I wanted it to, people were allowed to express themselves; there was almost no discussion from the community. When debate was closed many more people wanted to speak than those who had spoken. It was like the past presidential election where there was no debate. I felt like the Mexican artist/political activist Kahlo, when she had the handrail run through her in that terrible bus accident in Mexico City. Talk about being ramrodded. Structure strangled every opportunity for the format so the community could deal with itself about a major issue. What of us were feeling is lost in the secret vote and the lack of dialogue. The dialogue process is how we get to know our neighbors. Regardless of the outcome of the vote, Venice lost last night.

I think the very least the Venice Town Council could do would be to change the name to the Venice Corporation and get the Town Council back to the people.

Take Your Piece



and Shove It!

MisIncorporated

rick davidson

We have all gone through many changes in the past few years. The Venice Town Council has gone through its changes also. It was put on the shelf and then taken off the shelf to emerge in a modified form, i.e., modified from the original "town hall" form into the corporate structure it is today. Now it has all the trappings of the corporate ideology: officers, by-laws, rules, dues, even secrecy. Col. North would work well with this Town Council. It's all so trendy, a corporate take-over community style.

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Presenting for the Town Council were Debra Bowen, legal counsel for the VTC, Arnold Springer, Chair of the Planning & Development Committee, and Martha Platt, a VTC member. Ms. Platt offered some threatening environmental data relative to the project; Ms. Bowen acted every bit the attorney at law, and Mr. Springer was very "objective".

WHERE'S THE ALTERNATIVES?

While I am somewhat upset about the secret negotiations, I am not bothered so much by what was in their report, but by what was NOT. There were no alternatives being offered. And there certainly wasn't any discussion of the essence of Venice and how to protect it.

The negotiations dealt with traffic, traffic, and traffic with a crumb or two for affordable housing and neighborhood protection. As if people in need of housing and neighborhoods could be protected given a few million crumbs from a multi-million dollar development in their backyard. Nothing was said about the fact that what attracted most of us to Venice was its uniqueness. We all know it's different from Malibu, Pacific Palisades, the other beach cities, even Santa Monica. Without a discussion on the essence of the community how can you decide if you are protecting it? As far as I am concerned, key to the uniqueness is the incredible mix of people: old, young, Black, Brown, White - and probably Green - and the wild mix of incomes and life styles. Venice is the energy that explodes from the boiling pot. In my opinion, with the exception of Ms Platt, the secret negotiators were apologists for Capitalism which is so efficient in destroying communities. Arnold Springer proved it when he said capitalism seemed to be the best system working anywhere today. Arnold, if you were really being object-

No Peace With The Rock

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Showdown at the Straits of Prudential

By Rex Frankel

Members of the Venice Town Council voted 68-2 last April 13th to continue a lawsuit the group has filed against the developers of the Marina Place shopping mall, turning down a \$9 million package of relief measures. The site is an 18 acre parcel which once was a Hughes Helicopter plant, located on Washington Blvd. just east of Lincoln Blvd. The first court date is May 30th. The suit charges that Culver City violated the State Environmental Quality Act and the Coastal Act when its council OK'd the massive project.

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One of the reasons the Culver City Council Oked the Marina Place last year was because "L.A. is building big projects just outside of our City limits, we get all the traffic and L.A. makes all the money". The Culver Planning Commission said "the impact of traffic from Marina Place would be insignificant when measured against the traffic generated by major developments OK'd by L.A. near the project site."

What they are referring to is the Howard Hughes Center, a collection of 10 15-to 20 story towers to rise along Sepulveda Blvd. just south of the 405 Freeway, and just outside of Culver City limits.

Now for some familiar history. A Coalition of Westchester residents groups fought the Hughes Center at City Hall. Culver City became concerned about this mess and joined the Coalition in appealing the City's OK of the Hughes Center. But suddenly, Culver officials backed out. Hughes Properties offered them \$3 million in traffic mitigation fees, payable when the 10 buildings are finished--maybe 20 years from now. Culver officials took the money and ran in 1985. The Coalition filed suit

against L.A. City and Hughes Properties and won on one minor point. Unfortunately, we didn't have the money or legal assistance Culver City could have provided, so we couldn't stop the whole project.

Now, the tables are turned. The Venice Town Council is suing Culver City and Prudential, and L.A. City, under Councilwoman Ruth Galanter, has filed a companion suit. L.A. City is also paying for some of the most expensive legal research. Now if Culver City hadn't sold out it's own citizens and made a deal with Hughes, they wouldn't have the traffic problems that they now face when the rest of the Hughes Center goes up.

Now, Prudential's Marina Place is one third the size of the Hughes Center. Prudential has offered Culver City \$3 million in traffic fees--the same amount Culver officials took from the Hughes Center, but in reality, three times the fee per square foot of building area. Add it up--the Hughes developers paid one third the fees Prudential is paying. Yes, the Culvers got screwed and it's all our fault--at least in the warped opinion of developer-oriented Culver City Councilmembers. They believe, that, somehow, we L.A. residents could have stopped the approval of the Hughes Center. We tried, but the deck was stacked against us.

Now for some innuendo...As Culver City officials point the blame at L.A. residents, and we point the blame at Culver City--the truth is--these developers have been working together for years. Curtis Rossiter was our Councilwoman Pat Russell's campaign manager and chief assistant for 20 years. In his last 2 years with Ms. Russell, Rossiter ran a consulting firm for developers, giving advice that only the campaign manager for the City Council President could give. Russell speedily gave the OK to the Hughes Center, Playa Vista, Hughes Aircraft headquarters and Continental City which had hired Rossiter. But Rossiter at the same time also worked for Prudential. Prudential also hired the same law firm to rep it that worked for Hughes Properties, Playa Vista and Continental Development, the firm of Latham and Watkins.

Rossiter's firm, Urban Planning Consultants, helped formulate Russell's 1985 Coastal Transportation Plan, which foresaw massive road widening plans for Venice, Marina and Westchester areas. These plans included demolition of all business on Lincoln Blvd. as 16 feet would be added to either side of the street to accomodate Russell's buddies' projects.

Now, Councilwoman Galanter, and most of the Venice community, opposes any widening for the Lincoln/Washington intersection. The Marina Place developers say this won't prevent their traffic from getting through, even though traffic is now at 150% of the intersection's capacity.

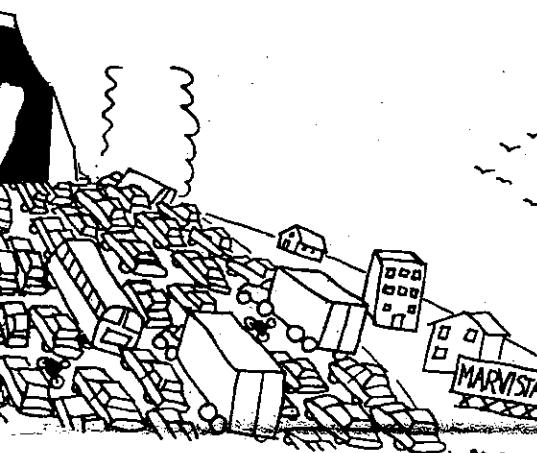
George Mhlstein, Prudential's Latham and Watkins legal eagle, said that the Lincoln/Washington intersection will be "restriped" to allow more traffic through. What he really means is that lanes will get narrower--a condition that leads to slower traffic and more accidents as cars get closer together.

One solution surfaced at the Town Council meeting: if America's biggest insurance company wants to gridlock even worse the worst intersection in town--maybe they should give every Venice resident an auto insurance policy. Lincoln and Washington Blvds. will be unsafe for most of us non-race car driving-types.

Ruth Galanter told the Town Council membership that L.A. City traffic engineers have determined that Marina Place's traffic is unsolvable, that the only solution is to cut the project's size in half. Then, maybe, the traffic can be managed.

Prudential, meanwhile says they can't make any money if they cut their project's size. Bullshit! A mall like this will be worth \$500 million. (Westside office buildings are worth \$500 a square foot now) Prudential says they have \$36.5 million invested in the site. If they only made \$250 million, would they go broke? To believe that, I guess, one would have to have pieces of the Rock in their head.

Just say NO to Marina Place.



and ove It!

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THE ALTERNATIVES?

m somewhat upset about the secrete ons, I am not bothered so much by in their report, but by what was NOT. e no alternatives being offered. certainly wasn't any discussion of ce of Venice and how to protect it.

iations dealt with traffic, traffic, ic with a crumb or two for afford- ing and neighborhood protection. ple in need of housing and neighbor- ld be protected given a few million om a multi-million dollar develop- heir backyard. Nothing was said fact that what attracted most of us was its uniqueness. We all know erent from Malibu, Pacific Palisades, beach cities, even Santa Monica. discussion on the essence of the how can you decide if you are prot- t? As far as I am concerned, key to eness is the incredible mix of people: g, Black, Brown, White - and probably nd the wild mix of incomes and life Venice is the energy that explodes boiling pot. In my opinion, with the of Ms Platt, the secrete negotiators ogysts for Capitalism which is so in destroying communities. Arnold proved it when he said capitalism be the best system working anywhere old, if you were really being object-

ive, you should have added that those capital- ists you so enjoyed working with are funding forcés all around the world that are bent on destroying, not just communities, but any alternative experiment - such as I saw taking place in Nicaragua. And if it's working for you Arnold, you might ask yourself, "Which side are you on?"

NO TIME

But I am not really speaking to the project, the negotiations, or the vote; which was against settlement. No, I am more concerned about the process and the corporate structure that now stands between the community and reality. While I may close my eyes to the question of secrecy, I find I can't do like- wise about the process. Although the vote went the way I wanted it to, people were not allowed to express themselves; there was almost no discussion from the community. When debate was closed many more people wanted to speak than those who had spoken. It was like the past presidential election: there was no debate. I felt like the beautiful Mexican artist/political activist, Frida Kahlo, when she had the handrail run clear through her in that terrible bus accident in Mexico City. Talk about being ramrodded. Structure strangled every opportunity to change the format so the community could dialogue with itself about a major issue. Whatever most of us were feeling is lost in the shadow of the secrete vote and the lack of dialogue. The dialogue process is how we get to know our neighbors. Regardless of the outcome of the vote, Venice lost last night.

I think the very least the Venice Town Council could do would be to change its name to the Venice Corporation and give the Town Council back to the people.

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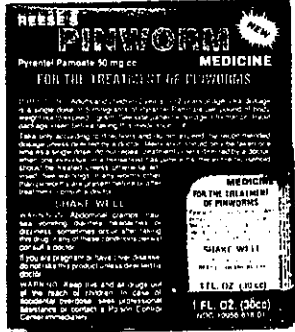
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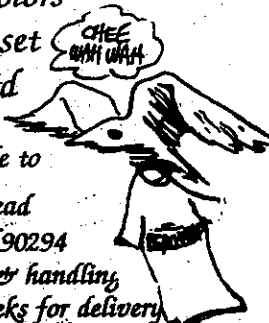
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UPDATE on LAWSUIT

MARINA PLACE CASE GOES TO TRIAL

On April 13, the members of the Town Council voted 68 - 2 to reject an offer of millions of dollars from Prudential Insurance Company to settle the Venice Town Council lawsuit over the proposed Marina Place project.

Marina Place is a regional shopping center planned for the site of the old Marina Swap Meet, near the corner of Lincoln and Washington. It will be over one million square feet, including six movie theaters. Macy's and Nordstrom's have signed letters of intent to be the "anchor" department store tenants.

June 16 Trial Date Set

Oral argument will be heard in Superior Court on June 16, 1989. If the VTC prevails, Culver City will have to revise the environmental impact report (EIR) for the project according to the court's guidelines. The VTC has asked the court to order an EIR that analyzes alternative sites for a regional mall, evaluates a reduction in the size of the Marina Place project, and complies with other environmental act requirements.

After revising the EIR, Culver City would have to hold public hearings, and the City Council of Culver City would have to vote again on the project.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Without public input, Culver City may reapprove the project exactly as it was proposed. In fact, a representative for Prudential stated in the April 20th issue of The Argonaut that the lawsuit is not expected to interfere with plans to break ground for the shopping center next winter.

If you don't want a regional mall on the Marina Place site, make your wishes known to Culver City officials at P.O. Box 507, Culver City, CA 90230-0507.

You can also help by asking Macy's and Nordstrom's to look for a responsible site for their Westside stores. Write a personal letter to each of Macy's officers whose name is at left, and to John Nordstrom. If you're short on time, spend 50 cents on postage, and clip and mail the letters on the right.

A Hearty Venice Town Council "THANKS" to SIR SPEEDY at the Koyt Plaza Shopping Center on Washington Street.

SIR SPEEDY unbound, copied and rebound many, many pages of legal papers necessary for our lawsuit against Marina Place.

Please patronize them whenever you need copying done efficiently and well.

The Legal Defense and Educational Fund is down to a scant few dollars - again. If we are to continue fighting Prudential Insurance Company, an international and well-financed organization, we will need money.

We are asking ALL of our supporters, both in and out of Venice, to send in \$10.00 each to the Legal Defense and Educational Fund at:

681 North Venice Blvd.
Venice, California, 90291

We are turning this fund into a 501.C3 in order to make all donations to it tax deductible. If you can afford more than \$10.00 and feel that this cause is right, please donate more.

**FARMERS MARKET
BLOSSOMS
ON BOARDWALK
Every Friday Morn!**

May __, 1989

Mr. Ed Finklestien, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Mark Handler, Corporate President
Mr. Herbert Yaloff, President, Northeast Stores
Macy's
151 West 34th Street
New York, NY 10001

Dear Messrs. Finklestien, Handler and Yaloff:

I am writing to ask you to reconsider the site for the first Macy's in southern California.

Marina Place, the site you have chosen, is located at one of the five busiest intersections in the City of Los Angeles. It is surrounded by single family residences, and it is between the two very busy arteries to Venice Beach. The 40,000 vehicle trips to Marina Place on weekends will have a massive negative impact on beach access and on our quality of life.

Other sites in the vicinity have much better access. Other sites in the vicinity are not surrounded by residential development. Other sites would not impede beach access.

I urge you to place your new Macy's where we on the Westside will be happy to shop, not where we will resent its presence. Marina Place is no place for a regional mall.

Yours very truly,

(print your name and address below your signature)

May __, 1989

Mr. John Nordstrom
Nordstrom's
1501 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Mr. Nordstrom:

I am writing to ask you to reconsider the site for a new Nordstrom's on the Westside of Los Angeles.

Marina Place, the site you have chosen, is located at one of the five busiest intersections in the City of Los Angeles. It is surrounded by single family residences, and it is between two very busy arteries to Venice Beach. The 40,000 vehicle trips to Marina Place on weekends will have a massive negative impact on beach access and on our quality of life.

Other sites in the vicinity have much better access. Other sites in the vicinity are not surrounded by residential development. Other sites would not impede beach access.

I urge you to put your new Nordstrom's where we on the Westside will be happy to shop, not where we will resent its presence. Marina Place is no place for a regional mall.

Yours very truly,

(print your name and address below your signature)



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

1

Every Monday at 6:30 PM

Venice Renters' Canvass meets at Tenant Action Center, 442 Lincoln Blvd., Phone 392-2128

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1415 W. Washington Blvd. Venice Calif. 90291

4

THURSDAY
9:30 AM

Abbot Kinney Boulevard Association's committee to produce 6th Annual Venice Arts and Crafts Festival to be held Sunday, August 13. All interested citizens invited to attend meetings at 1426 West Washington Blvd (soon to be Abbot Kinney Boulevard).

Time TBA

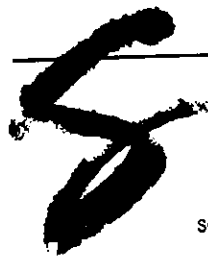
The City Planning Commission will hear City Plan CPC 88-620, Item # CPC 88-737 ZC/GPA, MND 88-759 - CD6 today.

NOTE: Translated into English this means that the Dept. of City Planning is going to hear a request from the owner/builder of a proposed project on five contiguous lots on Ocean Front Walk. The owner/developer wants to change the zoning from MEDIUM RESIDENTIAL to HIGHWAY ORIENTED COMMERCIAL. The developer wants to build a 3-story "Bed & Breakfast" (read HOTEL for well-heeled transients!) on Navy and Ocean Front Walk. This means a 35' high building, 5 lots long.....The hearing will be held at 200 N. Spring St., downtown LA. For more information re time and date, call 485-5389 or 485-5071. Refer to Case # 88-620, ask if City Planning will take public testimony.

7:00 PM

HOUSING CRISIS: Looks like a

rather interesting meeting regarding the local housing crisis. The California Association of Realtors is acknowledging that buying a home is getting harder and harder for the average couple and, worse, finding a home is becoming even harder for the poor. Local realtors are promoting a Westside Housing Crisis meeting at Westminster School, 1010 W. Washington Blvd. When you attend this meeting, ask them about the federal guidelines about federal money (\$\$\$) for low cost housing these days.



tina settino
graphic design

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

5

FRIDAY
8:00 PM

2 ARTS beat as one. Area artist and VTC Exec. Board member Challis Macpherson and her daughter Diahna are involved with the presentation of an original full length Dance Drama at Santa Monica College May 5 - 14. Challis Macpherson was an original member of SYNAPSE Dance Troupe when it originated on SMC Campus in the 70s. Diahna is following in mother's dance steps. Challis is not dancing any more but she has created the masks for, "CIRCUS, an Original Dance Drama".

The dance piece portrays not only scenes from the Big Top, but from the human condition as well. "CIRCUS" will premier at 8pm May 5 and run thru May 14. 2pm performances May 7 & 14. Tickets \$5.00 (\$4 students & senior citizens) Performances at Studio Stage, 1900 Pico Blvd. S.M. call 452-9214.

BIKE PATH NOW GOES TO
TEMESCAL CANYON. TOTAL
LENGTH NOW 19.6 MILES...
(Just a touch of joy to
all you bikers out there)

6

SATURDAY
6:30 PM

GROUND ZERO Performance Piece by Barbara T. Smith. Experience commonality of human needs and fears as a community. Call SPARC, 822-9560, for specific route or join the fun at SPARC, 681 N. Venice, parking lot.

RED ROUTE: N. Venice at OFW
ORANGE ROUTE: Pacific at Brooks
BLACK ROUTE: 7th at Rose
GREEN ROUTE: Palms at Walgrove
WHITE ROUTE: Venice at Beethoven
PURPLE ROUTE: Lincoln at Maxella
BLUE ROUTE: Panay at Via Marina
YELLOW ROUTE: Thatcher (Oxford Triangle)

7:30 PM arrive, 8:00 PM begin ceremonial Performance. Wear your color and join any where on the route.

7

SUNDAY
10:00 AM

Hooray!!! Canal clean-up starting at the community park at Dell and Linnie canals. Bring yourselves, lotts elbow grease and exerce you community spirit!

8

MONDAY
6:00 PM

Community Invest Graduates: A CORO training program established to identify and prepare citizens for leadership in non-profit community organizations will be graduating two Venice community activists: Dell Chumley, VTC President and Debra Bowen, VTC attorney and board member. Graduation at L.A. Theatre Center, 524 S. Spring St. L.A. RSVP Denese 213 623-1234.

Every Monday at 6:30 PM

Venice Renters' Canvass meets at Tenant Action Center, 442 Lincoln Blvd., Phone 392-2128



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11

THURSDAY
7:30 PM

Venice Town Council regular general meeting. See front page of VOICE for agenda.

9:30 AM

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

artisans crafters

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

13

SUNDAY
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Spring Book SALE!! Friends of Venice Branch Library will hold their Spring Book Sale at the Venice Library, 610 California Avenue. Donations of books for the sale can be dropped off at the library. For pick up donations, call Pat Johnson 396-3703. Donations are tax deductible. For more infomation call 821-1769.

15

MONDAY
7:30 PM

Venice Historical Society, regular meeting at Venice Library, corner of Electric and Calirornia Fascinating speakers and history of Venice presented at every meeting.

Every Monday at 6:30 PM

Venice Renters' Canvass meets at Tenant Action Center, 442 Lincoln Blvd., Phone 392-2128

18

THURSDAY
9:30 AM

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

21

SUNDAY
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

ART WALK for the Venice Family Clinic. Want a free ticket to the Art Walk? Call Don Feinstein at 578-6242 and volunteer to park cars for the Art Walk at either the Broadway or Coeur D'Alene schools. Two hours of work entitles one to a free ticket!

22

Every Monday at 6:30 PM

Venice Renters' Canvass meets at Tenant Action Center, 442 Lincoln Blvd., Phone 392-2128

23

TUESDAY
7:30 PM

Community Development Corporation (CDC) meeting at Dell Chumley's, 2480 Penmar, Venice.

25

THURSDAY
9:30 AM

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

7:00 PM

Venice Town Council Board meeting at Del Chumley's, 2480 Penmar, Venice.

Hann's

827-8374

TEE CRAZE

2013 Ocean Front Walk

29

Every Monday at 6:30 PM

Venice Renters' Canvass meets at Tenant Action Center, 442 Lincoln Blvd., Phone 392-2128

VOICE OF THE VENICE TOWN COUNCIL



VOLUME 1, Issue 6

MAY, 1989

EDITOR: Challis Macpherson

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Jeff Solomon and Katrina Meier
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6th Annual Venice Arts & Crafts Festival (AKBA)
Operation Clean Sweep Odd Mothers & Daughters
Los Angeles Beautiful, Inc.

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.



7

Community Events

Stussy hosts a benefit for HEAL THE BAY at the Second Coming, Sunday, May 28 at 8:00. The Bonedaddys, Mama Stud and Rising Roots will be joined by MC Skatemaster Tate and DJ Tony Converse. 850 S. Bonnie Brae, phone 385-6345. For Ticket Info call HEAL THE BAY at 399-1146 or 393-3071.

THE ACTORS' GANG presents the L.A. premiere of "THE BIG SHOW" at the POWERHOUSE THEATRE in SANTA MONICA MAY 5—JULY 10

THE ACTORS' GANG, L.A.'s critically acclaimed experimental theatre ensemble, will present "THE BIG SHOW", which involves putting the theatregoer in the hot seat in this audience-participation game show about the U.S.'s policies towards the THIRD WORLD. All performances start at 8:P.M. TICKETS: \$10 POWERHOUSE THEATRE 3116 2nd ST. (between Rose & Marine) Free parking available. For info & reservations call: 392-6529

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APRES-LE ARTE-WALK COMESA-COMESEE!!!!

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10th ANNUAL Venice Family Clinic

Tenth Annual Venice Art Walk, an event that keeps the Venice Family Clinic doors not only open to the working poor, homeless, etc., but expanding to meet the needs of those whose health care falls through the ever-expanding holes of the health care safety-net.

The Venice Family Clinic is going to enlarge its present facility on Rose Avenue to one that can handle double the 27,000 annual patient visits. In addition to conventional health care, the Venice Family Clinic also operates a clinic for political refugees, victims of torture who have escaped from their country to come here.

The Art Walk will take place on Sunday, May 21. There will be a Food Faire, shopping place, Silent Auction, along with the now-popular artists' studio tours of Venice artists - DeWain Valentine, Ed Moses, Laddie Dill and John Dill, Ruth Weisberg, etc. The

Silent Auction will have pieces by Gary Trudeau, Charles Garabedian, Don Barchardy, Robbie Conal, Paul Conrad, Bruce and Norman Yonemoto, etc. Food Faire will have food by Rococco and Rebecca's, among others. Art Walk tours start at \$45 - a docent-led art walk is \$90. Art Walk and dinner, \$225. A docent-toured Art Walk-Dinner will be \$315. The Richard Diebenkorn poster is \$15 unsigned and \$50 signed. For more information, call: 392-WALK. To ensure your space, reserve by May 10.

Poetry: from p.3

BE PUBLISHED, along with the rest of the material written by us, or sent to us. BUT WE CAN'T PRINT IT BECAUSE WE ONLY HAVE MONEY FOR AN 8 page paper. Even the few times we print a 12-page paper, there is usually serious community issues that must be dealt with and the community must be kept informed.

HENCE, the poetry is set aside in a file, ready to be published, IF there is ever any money.

It is not that we forget, nor that we throw away any of the poetry sent in; we keep it until such time as there may be any green that would allow poetry to be published. Occassionally we get contributions from

our friends. The nicest people are our advertisers; they enable us to continue BEACHHEAD. We are non-profit. Advertisers, you are loved. Friends, try to part with some of your moldy greer.

Step Down—Continued from P. 1

The issue here was the patent conflict of interest, not whether someone had volunteered to work in an area of self-interest. And, Ms. Chumley knew it. Her knowledge initially came from a meeting where the architects and developers had asked the Planning Department for an official advisory role in addition to being voluntary participants in the workshops. Ms. Chumley was present at that meeting but failed to tell anyone on the VTC board about it, as far as I know. She kept her participation and knowledge concealed from other board members after they expressed their objections

at the public hearing, in her presence. (I eventually learned about her involvement in a reply letter from Mr. Bickhart). Remarkably, her statement in the Beachhead condoned the conflict of interest by omission.

On September 11 an extraordinary emergency meeting of the VTC board was called. Its members unanimously demanded that Ms. Chumley ask the Planning Department, in writing, to dissolve the conflict of interest by withdrawing the architects/developers' official status as advisors. (They would remain as volunteers, however, like the rest of us). Ms. Chumley acceded to the request with extreme reluctance.

Contrary to her boastful assertion of being "ridiculously concerned about...even the appearance of (a) conflict (of interest)..." Ms. Chumley defended this conflict of interest, and kept her role hidden.

About this time Ms. Chumley revealed a conviction which sheds some light on her motivation. She divulged her unalterable opinion that it is wrong to criticize Ruth Galanter in public. According to Ms. Chumley criticism makes Galanter angry and uncooperative, no matter how valid it might be. Unfortunately, Ms. Chumley took her belief one step further: she transformed it into an unwritten, but well-understood, VTC policy to insulate the council office from public criticism. The result has been a disaster for the VTC and a community which worked so hard to stop overcommercialization by defeating Pat Russell.

For example, Ruth Galanter has already dismantled sizable segments of our Community Plan in locations near and on the beach by rezoning them from residential to commercial. However, the policy of the VTC, established by a vote in November, is to "oppose any project that does not conform...to our Community Plan". The VTC did not publicly oppose Galanter on these changes. Although I believe Ms. Chumley did oppose Galanter's most notorious rezoning project (Stephen Blanchard's zone change and conversion of 19 boardwalk apartments and a house to commercial uses) before Galanter approved it, she remained silent afterwards. Thus, the VTC was absent when Galanter asked the City Council to approve Blanchard's commercial assault in the already overimpacted Beach Impact Zone.

This episode marked a new chapter in the history of the Venice Town Council. The VTC started to lose its independence by becoming a rubber-stamping arm of Galanter's office. (Galanter now writes an occasional column in the VTC supplement to the Beachhead; since the VTC pays for the supplement, it apparently subsidizes Galanter as well, like a campaign contribution). Ms. Chumley became slavishly devoted to Galanter and may have defended the conflict of interest described above because Galanter's office approved of it. She unleashed an unrestrained arsenal of tricks aimed at tightening her own authority by intimidating would-be critics and discrediting any dissent. As a result the community also lost the only organization capable of effectively fighting (meaning, publicly opposing at hearings and in the media) the new wave of unwanted overdevelopment.

Why did Ms. Chumley relinquish the independence of the VTC to Ruth Galanter? Was it truly out of fear of alienating Galanter if the VTC opposed her publicly? In my opinion her concern does not hold water. After all, Ms. Chumley is president of the VTC. If she had any sense of responsibility - not to mention an obvious duty - she would have mobilized the VTC to oppose Galanter. Galanter is commercializing our Community Plan contrary to good planning practice, the will of the community (See "Ruthless Retreat", February Beachhead), and a fundamental policy of the VTC. If Ms. Chumley did not want to offend Galanter she should have resigned. Instead,

she assumed a virtual dictatorial hold over the organization and subverted its most important policy, the preservation of our Community Plan.

I believe Ms. Chumley is causing irreparable harm to the VTC and to our community. It is time for her to step down.

Collective Note/Author's Carification; Remarks critical of the VTC refer to the VTC Board, not the general Town Council membership

Operation Wretched—continued from P. 1

"Operation Rescue", who were in town recently, are trying to blockade the women's health clinics which they, other anti-choice advocates, and some foolishly misguided media people call "abortion clinics." These clinics do much more than perform abortions. They offer complete medical services for women's specific health concerns. In the past, some of these clinics have been hassled by the police for daring to teach women about their own bodies (remember the deadly, dangerous forbidden-by-the-AMA yogurt treatment

for yeast infections?) Operation Ridiculous doesn't admit it, but they're not really blocking the entrances to these clinics to save the souls of babies that might be within the wombs of evil lascivious unfeminine women's Libber Brassiere-eaters. Their real agenda is to kill the organs, stamp out the furies, waste the Feminist Monsters who threaten their personal vision of the Fatherland. To them, the Devil is a woman. Off with her head!

Fundamentalists have this thing about Fatherhood. They flaunt their pride in worshipping God as a Father, they crow for father's rights but they don't show up when it's time to pay the bills. You notice they don't talk about social programs to help single mothers and their children. They're against birth control. They're against the teaching of birth control. Sex to them is only for procreation but not one word do they speak against those men who impregnate women for sport. There are men who do. They brag about it. They make excuses. Excuses are made for them. Society still speaks of a woman bearing a man's child. His property--hers to guard. "The parent is he who mounts.", as Greek playwright Aeschylus wrote. But he who mounts is never forced into making the decision to sow or not to sow the seed.

Operation-to-Retch members and their supporters have not considered what it feels like to not own your own body. To be responsible for the seed of a stranger indeed! Every woman in this society knows what it feels like to not be in control of her body. Rape, assault, beating, sexual harassment, molestation, the constant propaganda to make one's body conform to standards of "beauty" and "sexiness" only to be accused of "provocation" -- all of us can check off some or all of the above as experiences we're had to endure, and continue to endure, because we are women. And now a minority, get this, a MINORITY of vocal "religious"

fanatics and unthinking conservatives want to put what freedom of body and mind women do have under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, a court refurbished by eight years of conservative appointment, to deliver what the anti-feminist forces hope will be a verdict in their favor.

And to nudge them in that direction, operation wretched puts its unclean hands on women's freedom, uses its members own bodies (trained in the same civil disobedience tactics used by Ghandi and King and the anti-war movement) to prevent women from doing anything with their bodies except being vessels into which their supremacy is poured.

As the police drag away the gone-limp bodes of these God-fearing activists, do you suppose they will get an inkling of what it feels like to not own their bodies? They're volunteering. But for thousands of years, we've been forced into it.

I'd like for them to end up in the same celestial star chamber with the Ayatollah. They all have something in common. But at least the Ayatollah is more honest. He admits he not only wants to kill a book he doesn't like but also its author. "Operation Rescue" claims to be rescuing unborn babies but its members really want the heads of their mothers.

For the Goddess' sake, we must rescue ourselves from them.

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