

FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD SINCE 1968 FREE

Potpourri*

by Diane Nickerson

Well, if last month was anything to go by, I propose we change the month of October's name to Absurder. Or, at the very least, October, the Absurd. Just look at the freakin' headlines.

ECONOMICS 4-SALE

Ronald Reagan, former President of the United States, was in Japan "selling" America. For lotsa money - like in the \$2 million range. Hell, the Reagans were even serenaded at a "benefit" concert in Yokohama. The "benefit" was for the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library (huh?), complete with the all-star line-up of Perry Como, Placido Domingo, the Harlem Boys Choir, and Japan ese stars Yuzo Kayama and Toshiko Tahara. How exciting. Besides further desecrating the respectability of the Presidency of the United States, Mr. Reagan and wife (or is it wife & Mr. Reagan, or Mommy and Mr. R.?) were there ostensibly hustling telecommunications for someone. Meanwhile, this man is also being paid how much by the U.S. government in his retirement? This, the same man who railed against "welfare cheats", and people "taking money from the U.S. government, all the while supplementing their incomes." And Ronald Reagan has, almost single-handedly, made the ex-presidency a commodity.

ART/NOT ART

Jesse Helms, Mr. Censorship himself, has another new favorite pass-time. It's sponsoring an amendment restricting Federal funding for all the art he doesn't like. (If Jesse doesn't like it, it must be bad). Loudon Wainwright III has a new tune out sort of explaining his theory about how Jesse, while in kindergarten, picked up a red crayon and drew a nude. His teacher busted him and spanked him heavily on the ass with a ruler. As the singer sings, "she may have beat his butt, but she ruled his mind" (or is it ruined?). Fuck art. This is the same guy who'd rather spend our money on tobacco and guns. So much for freedom of choice.

BAKKER FACES MAXIMUM BOB

Jim Bakker went up against this guy (Max. Bob) and got 45 years. Oh yeah, and a \$500,000 fine. For Tammy's benefit, I guess. Somehow, this doesn't compute.

CONVICTED

Zsa Zsa, convicted cop-slapper, heads for LIEUCAP and several hours of community service. Good luck, Vera, and I hope you're right... maybe she will learn something. Then again, the Stork brings babies and Charlie Manson isn't really crazy.

Have a nice day. *rotten pot

THE FUTURE OF BALLONA LAGOON

A public meeting
 Monday, November 20, 1989 from 7-9pm
 Westside Alternative School
 104 Anchorage Street, Venice

Presentation of draft restoration and enhancement plan for public review and comment.

Getting It Together

by John Haag

With nine candidates for nine Board of Director seats, the Venice Town Council (VTC) annual election in October promised little excitement. The event was enlivened, however, by the last-minute withdrawal of Carol Berman, leaving eight candidates for nine seats.

The new VTC board consists of Rex Frankel, John Haag, Laurie Laurance, Judith L. Martin, Johnny Moss, Marty Novell, Kathy Sullivan and Larry Sullivan. Nominations for the ninth seat will be made at the November 9th VTC meeting for an election at the December meeting.

The new board met for the first time on October 19th to divide up its duties. Marty Novell and Larry Sullivan were nominated for President of the Council. After a tie vote by the board, the group decided to refer the matter to a vote of the membership in November, with the recommendation that the losing nominee be selected Executive Vice President. John Haag was made acting President until the November membership meeting.

Judith L. Martin agreed to serve as VTC Secretary, with Johnny Moss as Vice President for membership and Laurie Laurance as Vice President for fund raising. Rex Frankel will take responsibility for the Planning and Development Committee, and John Haag will continue as chair of the Commercial Moratorium Committee. Kathy Sullivan will assume the office of Treasurer and will continue in charge of mailing the VTC newsletter, a task she assumed a couple of months ago after several members of the old board abandoned responsibility for running the organization.

The November meeting will be asked to confirm these board assignments.

Builder's Emporium

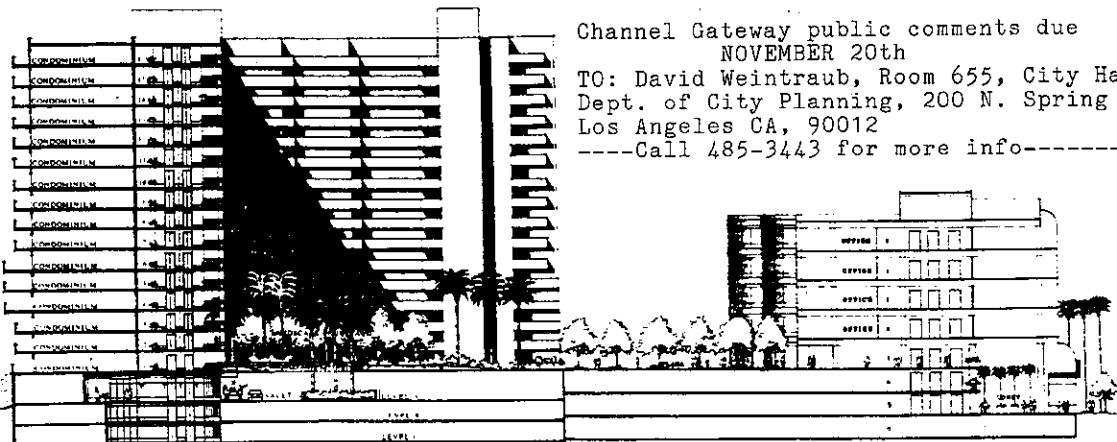
By Rex Frankel

Here's a quote; Guess who said it? "A deal that would have brought in more trendy boutiques and offices was not going to do Venice any good." Yes--Ruth Galanter--May 26, 1989--L.A. Times. My, how times change. Not only are more trendy boutiques coming to Venice, but also chic restaurants open 'til late and high rise condos--all with Galanter's open=armed support.

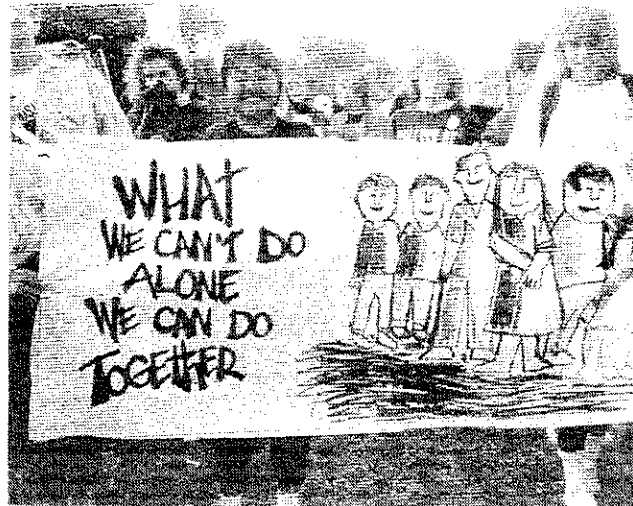
The accompanying map shows liquefaction zones in the Venice area--where buildings may tip over during the next big earthquake. The threat of collapsed buildings is very real in Venice, which has a high groundwater table. So high, in fact, that every new project with underground parking must constantly pump water out of their basements. 4 newly planned projects for Venice's Main Street will have garages that actually go below sea level. In fact, the Chiat-Day 3-story has to have 1.2 million gallons of water pumped out each day.

Call Councilwoman Galanter's office at 641-4717 for more info on the Chiat-Day, Tri-Star electronic, Argyropoulos and Roger Corman retail projects.

Channel Gateway public comments due NOVEMBER 20th
 TO: David Weintraub, Room 655, City Hall, Dept. of City Planning, 200 N. Spring St. Los Angeles CA, 90012
 ----Call 485-3443 for more info-----



Participants in housing march on D.C. on Oct 7, 1989 -Photo by Rikki



Housing Now!

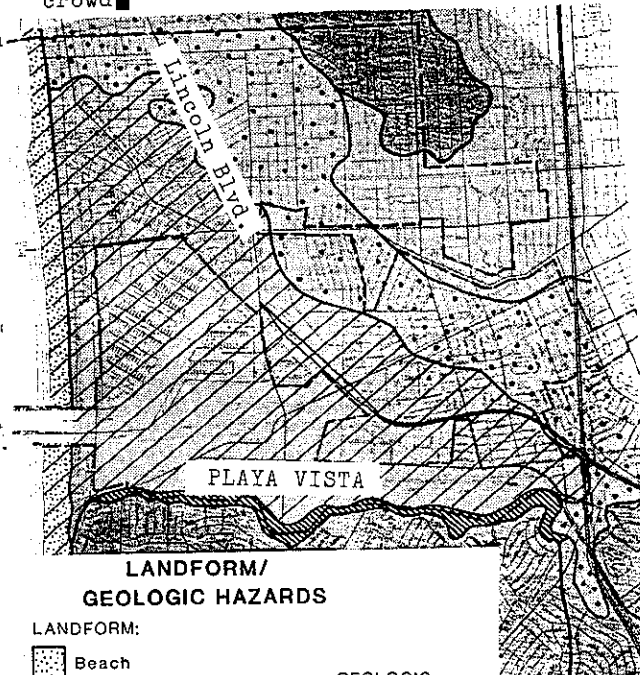
by Rikki A Box is not a Home

We gather at the monument around 8-9 am on Saturday, October 7, 1989 chanting: "What do we want....HOUSING, when do we want it....NOW."

A pre-rally at the monument sparked today's march and speakers sharp words to the government (on the housing crisis in America). The people who gathered at the monument were from all walks of life: homeless, low-income, unions (AFL/CIU, UAW, etc.), homeowners, stars, farmers, grandmothers to the infants. The most heartwarming was the police, who had been backed by Mayor Barry to be scarce. Despite the fact that the mayor was hissed at, the Washington police kept their kool!

As a whole, the people were together, Louisiana played cajun music as we marched. There were different chants throughout the crowd of 40,000 marchers. One in particular that I liked went like this: "Who dat, who dat, who dat say we don't need no housing?". The theme 'Housing Now' was heard all throughout the march. It was funny, happy and sad. The aids quilt was just a few feet away from the beginning of the march. There were signs seen saying: Punks need housing too! Muslims for Housing Now! A Box is not a Home! Signs that said a lot....but not enough to get our/your President to stay at home. Bush was out of town that weekend. I wish I had known on Friday. The homeless that needed a place to sleep could of asked for room at the inn (White House).

Jesse Jackson and a host of others lead the march to the capital. The walk was nice and not tiring. We sat and enjoyed the rally and all the speakers. The rap groups rapped on housing the poor and the homeless in Amurikka, land of the free-home for the brave. Tracy Chap an sang revolution and fast car. Valerie Harper gave a blunt threat to Washington D.C. that they would have no peace until we get Housing Now! She ended with "What Do We WANT?" "HOUSING" roared the crowd, "WHEN DO WE WANT IT?" "NOW" roared the crowd.



LANDFORM/ GEOLOGIC HAZARDS

- LANDFORM:
- Beach
 - Valley fill
 - Bluff
 - Coastal terrace
 - with sand dune topography
 - with modified sand dune topography
- GEOLOGIC HAZARDS:
- Slope instability
 - Liquefaction and subsidence potential
 - Moderately high
 - Moderate

Map from Playa Vista Draft EIR--1985

To whom this MAY concern,
Regarding! the cleanup of
canals - WATER hyacinth is
PRACTICAL, CHEAP, SAFE,
decorative, organic + works!?



Letter

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I would like to clarify my precipitous refusal to further serve on the Venice Town Council Executive Board after the October 12 meeting. When one runs and has an unpaid position in a local arena, and when one's home phone is listed, one expects the same friendship and help and support for what I was being elected for, and that was, I thought, because I was interested in low-income housing, to be forthcoming. I thought Venice could become a shining example of how people on a local level could deal in a humane and innovative way with the problems of homelessness. I thought those people who elected me last year knew that low-income housing would be way up there on my list of priorities. I also knew that other people on the Executive Board had different priorities, and indeed different ideas as to what a beautiful Venice meant to them. The Venice Town Council is, after all, a grassroots organization that encompasses many divergent political and philosophical outlooks. But it is the only Venice-wide organization that includes renters, homeowners and the homeless in its membership and as its constituency. I felt my support came from low-income renters and the homeless. Because of our different priorities and goals, we learned to accommodate each other. Other people on the Board certainly shared and acknowledged my concerns. Arnold Springer and Dell Chumley had been negotiating with developers for low-income units, traffic amelioration, etc. etc. I was bewildered when some of the negotiators were accused by some of the Moratorium people, of being on the take, for getting expensive condos on the cheap from a developer on Rose and Main, when the plain facts are that the development would have been built just as high, just as wide, and just as dense with no low-income housing or community or beach parking, that the "compromisers" negotiated for and got. But the real pain came when the Prudential development came to the foreground. It would take columns of print to

list each false, nasty, petty, vicious lie and opprobrium thrown at various people who thought they were doing what they were supposed to do. Ironically, the meanest slanders came from people who did not want the Venice Town Council to enter into a lawsuit against Prudential. One of the people has said how he was looking forward to shopping at the future center. Accusations of censorship and sellout were thrown at me by (now former) friends. Since the last election, it seems the Venice Town Council has narrowed its view to concentrate solely on getting a commercial moratorium. In the past, when the VTC had a similarly narrow point of view - sisterhood with Teheran - the VTC became moribund. I am surprised at the chagrin shown at the resignations from the Executive Board of the Venice Town Council. Charges of desertion are being hurled. There was a call for the resignation of the VTC President several months back in the Beachhead: "Will She Step Down?" Subsequently the President did not, however, because of that article alone. The charge that the newsletter did not go out is fallacious. One month when the person in charge of the newsletter had to leave town on family business, I handwrote the newsletter, folded and stamped them, paying for it out of my own pocket, and got them mailed with the help of Bonnie Faulker. At the next membership meeting, my statement that I was out seventy-one dollars of my own money went unheeded while a collection was taken up for the Moratorium mailing. I had a glimmering of what the priorities were. Note: I did get reimbursed, no thanks to the Moratorium Committee. Subsequently, Lewis & Nancy Kent jumped in and rescued the VTC membership from another handwritten screed and typed the minutes of the membership meeting and the agenda and got it mailed on time! - thank you, thank you! So the poor martyr of this month had only one month of doing what was done every month for many years by the Executive Board. She was also out of pocket for a much shorter period of time (though she complained mightily), but she, too, was reimbursed. It was exhausting hearing people jump to the worst conclusions about the former Executive Board. For example, it was charged at the

September Executive Board Meeting that the Board negotiated with the Snyder Marina Gateway Project without consulting general membership. When it was pointed out that three-quarters of the July Venice Voice was devoted to the Snyder issue, and indeed most of the VTC general meeting in July was about the Snyder project with spokespeople for the Snyder project there to answer questions, Kathy Sullivan, new Board member, said: "Well, I didn't read it - not everyone reads the Venice Voice!" My advice to the new VTC Executive Board would be to hire readers to read to those on the Board who are unable to read the newsletter. This incident just proves that you don't have to be literate to drive a car in L.A., be on the VTC Executive Board, or even be on the Free Venice Beachhead newspaper. Since Ms. Sullivan didn't acknowledge her error, this is the only conclusion that I can come to.

And frankly, I feel that I did compromise my position. I didn't stand staunch for the 56-foot high, ten-lot-wide Ocean Front Walk and Navy Development of Tom Saffran that would have included many units of low-income senior housing. I "compromised" my constituency because I had to accommodate the legitimate desires for less density on the Ocean Front Walk, these desires being expressed by other homeowner/renter members of the VTC Executive Board, and the feeling of the general membership of the VTC. More compromises are going on with the Blanchard low-income housing proposal, because Harlan Lee's condos' views will be ruined by this low-income residential development. The building was low-income and needed rehabilitation. People were displaced and supposedly low-income people would replace those people. This might not happen. The VTC and Harlan Lee both oppose anything higher than the Interim Control Ordinance. This interesting combination of bedfellows reeks of ICMFY (I Got Mine, Fuck-You).

Because of the accusations thrown at me, I do not feel comfortable with the contradictions that I'm sure would arise if I were to continue to serve on the Board. I'm puzzled that Kathy Sullivan, one of the shrillest voices in accusing me of selling out, censoring, keeping secrets, and making unauthorized phone calls (?), was quoted in the

Outlook as saying that she regretted that I wasn't going to be on the Board because I "could have led the way." Led the way to what, Kathy? If I'm a sellout and a compromiser, why would you have followed? Kathy and others have not acknowledged that they were incorrect in their assessment of my character and my motives. Notice I didn't say apologized. On the other hand, when I did make a mistake, I apologized to the person in question by phone and was then asked by S. MILLER to repeat the apology at the next general membership meeting, which I did. I find it difficult to work in an atmosphere of people who possess such smugness and overbearing priggishness as was expressed by a new Board member that their motives are so pure, so sacrosanct, that they feel the ends justify the means and that they, like Ollie North, answer to a higher law than the bylaws of the VTC approved of by the general membership, and would even change election procedure because it would save time. Note to new Board members: Democracy is time-consuming. This being Venice, I expected criticism and disagreements. But I did not expect to be treated as the enemy. I will continue to be active in the VTC. It's just that I think human sacrifice is passe. • CAROL BERMAN

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Drugstore Cowboy

Although I am not usually one to rush out and see a movie the first week it's out, I do have a few friends who believe in the cinema as much or more as I believe in the printed word. One of these fans of filmdom persuaded me to the Nuart Theater to see "Drugstore Cowboy", a film so new that there weren't even any good rumors out yet. When we bought our tickets and got in line, I was surprised there was a line at the early show at the Nuart. Apparently there were some good rumors, and I just hadn't heard them yet. It was an interesting crowd, and I did hear later that the book that the movie takes it's title from is something of a cult classic. After seeing the film, I can understand why.

"Drugstore Cowboy" is set in the mid-sixties, dated by the white fingernail polish, the mod clothes and the innocence peeling away like so much cheap paint. Our hero is Bob Hughes, played with flawless intensity by Matt Dillon. He is the man in the title, a junkie/thief running a "crew" that specializes in ripping off drugstore Bob's wife Diane, is played by Kelly Lynch with cool demeanor. Her job is driving the getaway car, unless she decides to stay home and do her nails. As the more easy-going junkie, she starts to worry that her husband's love of stealing is becoming stronger than his love of dope. The third member of the crew is Rick, casing stores and riding shotgun for his cut of the drugs. His girl is Nadine, described in the opening as "a counter girl at a drugstore that Rick picked up as a perk on our last job". Her part of the plan is to create a diversion by faking a loud seizure of epileptic proportions. After Bob has had time to clean out the back of the store, she gets up, looks around, and leaves. Then it's back home to fix and forget until the next job.

While junkies are not the most comfortable examples of human nature, they do add a great deal to the discussion. When Bob lectures Rick and Nadine with the gravity of a scolding father on the importance of not breaking superstitions, they glance at each other to confirm the unspoken thought, Bob is out of his mind. But Bob

Free Venice Beachhead -- November 1989

goes on with his list; "... and if I ever see a hat on a bed around here, you won't even see me go, I'll be down that road so fast. . .".

They hit the road, crossing states and meeting at pre-set places, ripping and running until Bob decides to stop. Parting with his crew, he heads home to get into a methadone clinic to clean up. His clean-up was the one part of the film that seemed unreal. It seemed too easy to me to think that a character like Bob would just

give it all up and never look back. In one scene we see him at the clinic, arguing with the admissions clerk, the next scene has him in an apartment, the next getting a job. It isn't until Bob runs into Father Murphy (played by William S. Burroughs in a perfect cameo) an old priest and well-known junkie from the neighborhood that temptation even comes into the scene. With the knowledge that they are both on methadone, Father Murphy declares with bravado "I believe some junkie nurse in there is stepping on my medicine. Wanna score?". Hughes declines, but offers to keep the old man company on his nod. When Diane reappears and leaves him a gift of drugs, he gives it to Murphy. But you can't leave a character like Bob to a happy ending.

There are jokes throughout the movie, but it is gallows humor. "Drugstore Cowboy" does come across as a morality play, but an honest one. As with the saying that the only real cynics are failed optimists, no one is more qualified to highlight the hellishness of drugs than an ex-addict. The story of Bob Hughes and company is a very real portrait of human nature. Not pretty, but very real. ●

Community Events

VENICE BRANCH LIBRARY-610 CALIFORNIA AVE.
SAT Nov. 4: Fall Book Sale from 9am-3pm
SAT Nov. 18: "TRACKING TIMBERWOLVES",
lecture and slide show at 1pm

KCET's "Eleventh Hour: An Independent Eye" will premiere VENICE BEAT POETS in "The Beats: An Existential Comedy" Friday, November 3 at 11pm

SUNDAY STROLLS IN PALISADES PARK PRELUDE TO 1990 GLOBAL WALK (for The Global Walk for a Livable World leaving Los Angeles February 2, 1990 for N.Y.)

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE: 452-9209
College Planetarium Show "To Neptune and Beyond" scheduled for Nov. 3 & 17, Dec. 1 & 8 \$2

ACTORS from the London Stage to perform "Winter's Tale" and Stoppard This Evening" Nov. 2, 3 and 4 at 8pm/call 452 9393 FREE
NEW WORKS BY FRANK WILLIAMS at SMC ART GALLERY Nov. 3 (Reception 6-8pm) thru Dec. 1

THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES 2936 W 8th St./389-1356

Nov. 12 11am: "The Facts of Life Are Not Too Pretty"-Rev. Philip Zwerling

Nov. 19 11am: "Creating Partnerships: Healing Society"-Anthropologist Riane Eisler questions "Human Nature"

Nov. 26 11am: The Poet's View of Conflict In Central America"-Claribel Alegria and Darwin Flakell (co-authors of "Ashes of Izalco") on a U.S. tour

BEYOND BAROQUE 681 Venice Boulevard/822-3006 Friday Nov. 3 8:30pm: WRITERS Joanne Leedom-Ackerman & Geoffrey Young read from their works

Saturday Nov. 4 (thru Dec. 16): VIDEO INSTALLATION BY Cheri Gaulke "Bound to Please" 7-8:30pm

Sunday Nov. 5: Open Reading 5pm

Tuesday Nov. 7: Free Poetry and Performance Workshop (8-10pm); (also Nov. 21)

Friday Nov. 10: Interarts Project at S.M. Museum of Art and Beyond Baroque

DEMONSTRATION-CALIFORNIA ABORTION RIGHTS @ RANCHO PARK, NOV. 12 at NOON SUNDAY

The Coalition to Save Venice Pavilion will hold a "human circle of unity" Sunday, Nov. 5 from 1 til 2pm in front of the Venice Pavilion located at 1535 Ocean Front Walk /399-1000



Children Of All Ages

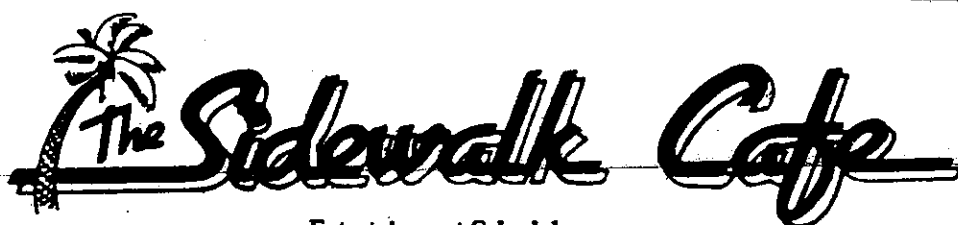
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5 2-5 PM CHANCE 8:00 PM pianist WAYNE PEEB	6 closed	7 SCENES FROM THE	8 singer/ songwriter ALFRED JOHNSON	9 SMOKEY MILES BRENT LEWIS -world beat- contemp. jazz	10 BIG WORLD contemp. jazz	11 MILCHO LEVIEV TOOTIE HEATH
12 2-5 PM Brazilian jazz singer THANIA SANCHEZ 8:00 PM POETRY READING	13 closed	14 VENICE BOARDWALK hosted by: harpist	15 JOHN VESTER	16 KRISTINA OLSON & THE LOOSE STRINGS BAND	17 MILCHO LEVIEV RAY PIZZI	18 STRUNZ & FARAH
19 2-5 PM THANIA SANCHEZ 8:00 PM punk pianist RICHARD KASTLE	20 closed	21 SHERI LORENTZ at 9 PM	22 VENICE JAZZ BAND	23 HAPPY HOLIDAY	24 DAVID ZASLOFF ethnic fusion	25 BUDDY COLLETTE TRIO
26 2-5 PM THANIA SANCHEZ 8:00 PM CARLOS NIEHUES CHRISTIAN	27 closed	28 and songwriter PETER DEMIAN at 10 PM	29 RAY PIZZI'S WOODWIND CHAMBER TRIO	30 jazz violinist MICHAEL WHITE	DEC. 1. DEC. 2.	ARCO IRIS ethnic fusion jazz

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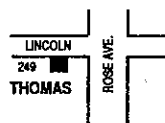
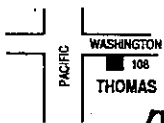
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