

FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968

BEACHHEAD



FREE

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Venice Town Council

Changing of the Guard

by John Haag

It's usually a gamble predicting the outcome of an election just by looking at the list of candidates, but in the case of the Venice Town Council (VTC), one result is certain: the majority of new Board members to be elected at the October 12th VTC membership meeting will be supporters of the one-year commercial moratorium policy. Eleven of the twelve Board candidates who accepted nomination at the September meeting are either members of the VTC Commercial Moratorium Committee or have actively supported the moratorium policy.

The new VTC Board of Directors will consist of nine members elected from these nominees: Carol Berman, Bonnie Faulkner, Rex Frankel, John Haag, Laurie Laurance, Judith Martin, Beth Miller, Johnny Moss, Marty Novell, Steve Schlein, Cathy Sullivan and Larry Sullivan.

Since the unscheduled introduction and adoption of the moratorium policy at the May VTC meeting, it has sparked lengthy and often heated controversy within the Town Council, in general pitting those who favor negotiating with developers against those who want to stop the commercial development long enough to examine how much harm it is doing to our community, and coincidentally pitting the majority of the outgoing Board of Directors against the majority of the membership. The moratorium has survived all the impediments put in its way by the outgoing Board, gaining strength within the Town Council, and even more importantly, wide approval within the community.

Some 1,300 signatures have been obtained so far on the commercial moratorium petition against the goal of 5,000 by December. Several local businesses are carrying the petition, and a few much-needed contributions have been received for printing literature. Moratorium literature has been or will be left on every doorstep in the North Beach neighborhood. Whatever happens to the moratorium itself, the petition drive is proving to be an unprecedented and massive outreach by the Town Council into the Venice community.

Also at its September meeting, the VTC enthusiastically and unanimously endorsed a set of objectives presented by the North Venice Boulevard Neighborhood Association. That group has opposed the L.A. Louver/Rebecca's Restaurant commercialization on North Venice Boulevard between Pacific Avenue and Speedway, suffering defeat after defeat until the Board of Zoning Appeals recently reversed the granting of all permits and exemptions and sent the project back to square one. The Neighborhood Association will now ask Councilwoman Galanter to restore the previous residential zoning which she had changed to commercial to make way for the commercial expansion.

Compared with recent meetings, the September VTC meeting was remarkably amicable and even cheerful. The victory gained by the North Venice Boulevard Neighborhood Association contributed much to this mood and will encourage other people active in opposing overdevelopment to continue enduring the expense of time and energy that such work demands. It may be worth it after all.

Incidentally, most of the candidates for the VTC Board have at one time or another declared themselves in favor of cityhood for Venice. This is incidental, because the question has not yet come before the Town Council, though it is one of some 20 topics the membership has said it wants to discuss.

Free Venice!



Save Venice Pavillion... NOW!

The newly formed Venice Skaters Coalition supports efforts to save the theater. It also supports the main objective of the Sea Skate Committee to pour a smooth and level skating slab at ground level. Such an unobtrusive zero vertical rise skating rink floor is ten years and hundreds of bone fractures overdue in this the so-called skate capital of the world.

The Sea Skate concept includes portable skateboard ramps which will feed the hundreds of ramp-starved local skateboarders who are now chewing up the benches and walls like a swarm of concrete woodpeckers.

The Coalition urges that the skate park be sited near the refurbished theater, not on top of the ruins. Let's spare Lopez Canyon Landfill from an unnecessary mountain of debris. Let's curb this decadent urge to trash the yet serviceable. Instead, let's Venice get our act together and put it up on the Pavillion stage.

For the next meeting of the Venice Skaters Coalition call 399-1000.
 By Phil Chamberlin



Members of the Coalition to Save Venice Pavillion demonstrate to save the 28-year-old theater and refurbish it to its original purpose as a multi-faceted educational/entertainment/recreational facility. A petition drive now underway has gathered 1500 signatures. For info call the Benefit Network at 452-5339

"Feel like I'm fixing to commit a felony Rag"

Apologies to Country Joe McDonald

well, c'mon all you right-wing thugs,
 George Bush wants to go fight drugs!
 The Cocaine Cartel hates our guts,
 So let's go down and kick their butts!
 We'll buy lots of guns, and we'll set up a Force...
 And maybe start a Third World War!

And it's 1-2-3 what are we fighting for?

I don't know and I don't understand--

I just vote Republican...

And it's 5-6-7 fortify the police state,

Ain't no need to whine 'n wail

Whoopie we're all going to jail!

Bush wants to know what we use now and then,
 and are you now or have you ever been
 A card-carrying liberal commie rat-
 or maybe just a Democrat?
 But once we've purified ourselves
 we can pick on someone else!

And its 1-2-3 what are we voting for?

I don't know and I don't understand

I just vote Republican.

And it's 5-6-7 fortify the fascist state,

ain't no need to whine 'n wail

whoopie we're all going to jail!

We'll build new prisons across the land
 you know we gotta make the taxpayers understand
 Our Willie Horton videos will be aired,
 (Cause the only good voter is one that's scared)
 So bolt on the bars and load up your gun
 and maybe you can kill someone!

And it's 1-2-3 what are we fighting for?

I don't know and I don't understand

I just vote Republican.

And it's 5-6-7 sign your civil rights away.

Ain't no need to whine 'n wail

Whoopie we're all going to jail!

We'll cut off housing, welfare and health,
 and we'll save America from itself!
 We'll make sure that this drug war's won
 if we have to lock up everyone!
 So pick up the phone and turn in a friend--
 and whoopie here we go again!

And it's 1-2-3 what are we fighting for?

I don't know and I don't understand--

I just vote Republican.

And it's 5-6-7 fortify the master race.

Ain't no need to whine 'n wail

Whoopie we're all going to jail!

Ain't no need to whine 'n wail,
 whoopie we're all going to jail!

By Rex Frankel-Tuesday Sept. 5th 1989
 (c)1989

Make Your Voice Count: Help Save Venice From Overdevelopment:

PETITION TO COUNCILWOMAN RUTH GALANTER:

We, the undersigned residents and friends of Venice, support the Venice Town Council policy that there shall be an IMMEDIATE ONE-YEAR MORATORIUM ON COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN VENICE and that the City of Los Angeles shall conduct an environmental impact study to determine the capacity of the Venice area to sustain additional commercial growth, and we urge you to sponsor this policy in the Los Angeles City Council.

Print _____ ()
 Street _____ Home Telephone _____
 Signature _____ ()
 City, State, Zip _____ Work Telephone _____

Venice Resident Yes, I'll help.

CUT and MAIL To: Venice Town Council Commercial Moratorium Committee, 1801 Lincoln Blvd. #105, Venice. CA 90291

OR DROP IN BOX ON PORCH at 18 Sunset Avenue at Speedway

2 Letters! . . . Letters! . . . Letters! . . . Letters! . .

No Growth!

I support an immediate moratorium on commercial development precisely because I do not want to be "victimized" any more than I am already.

I heard a neighbor of the Santa Monica Freeway and Lincoln Blvd. on ramp describe what it was like in his life to have such a neighbor. I found myself very sympathetic and driving Lincoln Blvd by my house in the afternoons makes me apprehensive that it could happen to me.

I live by Lincoln Blvd and California Ave. I am painfully aware that the city of Playa Vista has not been built. This complicated, "inscrutable", project will I am sure make Mr. Hughes smile from his grave. Swamp land, "tidal land", is to be a prosperous, lucrative, far-sighted project. The vision has been declared "approved".

Our Councilwoman Ruth Galanter deserves some credit for the re-rationalizing that has taken and is taking place here.

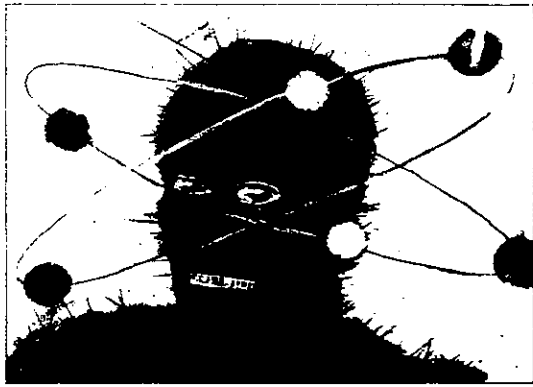
However, NO GROWTH is not in the approved Lexicon for speaking to Developers. We are asked to accept their bought and paid for right to "exercise and benefit from their property rights".

Well... numbers, ratios, quotients, and sundry legal text do not convince that I can not hold the position NO GROWTH. We are asked to acquiesce with Corporate and Entrepreneur's Visions for our community.

The central question for me is QUALITY OF LIFE. It ain't New York yet. Buying New York for twenty or so dollars of Pick-and-Save trinkets was a great deal. It didn't do much good for the natives.

I am willing to ask for NO GROWTH. The moratorium ask for the cessation or approval to further projects to give us time to deal with the mumbo jumbo skilled professionals fling at us as we seek to hold on to Venice.

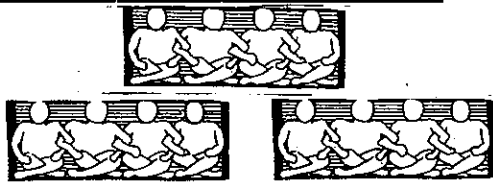
Sincerely, Ed Ferrer



Vivienne Fleisher

WORLD FAMOUS

DAVY JONES LIQUOR LOCKER
CORNER OF NAVY AND PACIFIC
SUN-THURS.--7 A.M. TO MIDNITE
FRI. & SAT.--7 A.M. TO 2 A.M.



Reply to "Tom and Jeanne"

Dear Beachhead Collective,
I'm in agreement with the front page article, July issue, "Tom and Jeanne". J. Kirkpatrick is a prime example of a bourgeois hack run amok. Her reactionary stands re: international politics have been chronicled many times.

As for Hayden the politico, one thing must be understood. His sic radical past was during an era of student upheaval and domestic reaction to the Vietnam experience. The New Left since then has degenerated into parlor pinkoism or less than that.

We must all remember what was said about politicians, especially the Petite Bourgeois variety: -- they are capitalist ideologues whose job is to pull the wool over the eyes of the plebeians.

Another thing on the front page reminds me of those reformists who keep beating a dead horse. That of pleading with one candidate of the two parties or the other. The Galanter succession after Russell should be viewed as another example of the fallacy of hoping for "The best in All Possible Worlds" from pie-cards, ward heelers, and their ilk.

The issue from my way of thinking revolves around getting the working class (who will pull the intellectuals along, hair and all) to realize that there is no hope in Tweedle de Dum and Tweedle de Dee. To that end I remain supportive of front rank struggles like that of the Pittsdown Miners of the U.M.W., Eastern pickets, etc.

Yours truly,
Edgar Swabeck
Local #501
Operating Engineers



VICTOR WIGHTMAN, KATHY SULLIVAN, CAROL FONDILLER, JOHN HAAG, MALCOLM TENT, DIANE NICKERSON, BETH MILLER, JUDITH L. MARTIN, KATHLEEN ALVAREZ, SARA OMARI, AND BONNIE FAULKNER

The FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published monthly by the Beachhead Collective as a vehicle for the people of Venice to communicate their ideas and opinions to the community at large. We welcome and take responsibility for publishing contributions exactly as the contributors submit them, although the opinions expressed by the contributors are not necessarily endorsed by the Collective. The Beachhead Collective encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, poetry, photos, graphics or other material of interest to the Venice community. We ask that submissions be limited to 1200 words and be typed in single-spaced, 4-inch-wide columns. The volunteer staff reserves the right to make all decisions collectively on material published. There is no editor of The Beachhead. The Collective is an open group and welcomes interested Venice people's participation. Printing is financed by ad donations. To submit material, include your name and phone number. Anonymous material will not be published, but your name will be withheld by request. If return of material is requested, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. No payment is made for materials used.

Next Beachhead meetings are October 15th, 22nd and 29th at 11 A.M. at Tenant Action Center, 442 Lincoln Blvd.

Tom Brill

Dirt

First they put dirt on my feet.
Then they put dirt on my legs.
Then they put dirt on my torso.
Then they put dirt on my arms.
Then they put dirt on my head.

day in life

Every day after I wake up feeling dead,
I kill myself at work all day,
go home,
eat dinner,
and drop dead.

Fidel Castro has charisma. The CIA wants to wear his beard.

Wallace Nathaniel Fraser

On My Way to a Matinee in LA '63 or 4

On my way to a matinee in LA changing lanes 5 at a time on two wheels on drugs on unemployment

the freeway is the only way, in LA

Leaning into Sunset past the pastel pink eucalyptus hotel tight smooth turns, wide slow breaking waves

Lazy comes the on shore breeze sudden vista Pacific blue young tanned girls rise out of the sand hitching home sandals in hand.

Over short cold beers in Venice I buy a round for the electrified freaks and take two long hits in the parking lot eating the roach, racing north.

Sausalito in 5 hours; into the mist.

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The Burning Bush: Drugs

by Carol Fondiller

A few days ago I was reading what the French call L'Histoire des Mentalities, which means a history of how people think - what in a certain era people have taken for granted or automatically have assumed is so. For instance, it has been assumed by us Westerners that Western Civilization is the most advanced, and that Caucasian males were the ones most fitted for governing others - especially if the Others had darker skins and bigger breasts. In the years preceding the French Revolution, much of what had been assumed since the Renaissance, started to be questioned, i.e. "the natural order of things," the Four Estates, etc. etc.

After World War II, the atom's power to destroy entire cities in the blink of an eye and the death of six million civilians in concentration camps purposefully engineered by a civilized western nation, values and things assumed were called into question again.

Men and women were turning away from traditional "western" ways of searching for god, for self, and re-discovering exotic to occidental thought, ways of self-exploration and mind expansion. They marched to rhythms of different drummers. By the early sixties, young men in laboratories were re-discovering the ergot of the Middle Ages and transmuting it to Lysergic Acid Diethylamide. They were altering their consciousness in different ways, other than getting drunk. Since the repeal of prohibition, altered avenues of intoxication, mind-expansion, were denied to most law-abiding U.S. citizens.

If one looks back on American history, one can find evidence that Americans were always loaded on one thing or another, whether it was the ale or port or whiskey of the English and Dutch colonists, or the various daturas or tobaccos used by the indigenous Americans; or Laudanum, Opium, Heroin, or Ether. American men and women 'til the early 20th century could buy their intoxicants over the counter or grow it themselves, or distill it.



In his book, "Intoxicants: Search for an Artificial Paradise," Ronald Siegel, Ph.D., writes of his theory of the fourth drive: altering one's perception, searching after Eden, getting high. In the mid-60's and 70's, people started questioning the old assumptions about drugs. They experimented with LSD, mushrooms, and marijuana. These were the "soft drugs." The drugs of mind and body expansion. Marijuana in particular became so prevalent that even nice middle-class people were getting arrested for smoking marijuana. In California, marijuana was decriminalized. Possession of less than an ounce was dropped from a felony to a misdemeanor. Growing and possession of more than an ounce of grass is still a felony. Mexico was the general origin of the herb for smokers. During the war in Vietnam, the sticky resin-heavy Indica was discovered by the G.I.s who brought it back home. This and Nixon's Operation Intercept at the Mexican border, and Paraquat spraying of plants in Mexico, supplanted the gangly mild Sativa plant that George Washington grew for hemp and rope, and maybe as an analgesic for the pain resulting from ill-fitting dentures. During World War II, hemp was grown for manufacturing canvas (the word origin is Cannabis), rope, paper, and cloth fabric. The seeds are an excellent source of protein and our feathered friends became sleek and glossy. Canaries sing better with a scruple or two of seeds to munch on every now and then.

With Nixon's war on drugs (when he wasn't warring on the Constitution) back-to-the-landers in Northern California found they could cultivate more potent strains of marijuana, genetically engineering Cannabis Indica and Cannabis Sativa. Sinsemilla (without seeds) became the bud of choice. Interestingly, while beer became lighter, grass became heavier, more potent. When CAMP's campaign against marijuana planting was introduced into Northern California against the growers, even more potent and shorter plants were developed to be less visible to the Vietnam War-trained helicopter pilots. As a result, the potency went up commensurate with the price. By the time Warren G. Reagan was in office, people were turning from the sweet and mild intoxicants of the Sixties and moving into what I call the Megalomania Drugs like cocaine and PCP. Cocaine, when used in its original leaf form, sustains people while they do hard, monotonous physical labor, while quieting hunger. But in the "purified" powder, it has turned people into power-mad egomaniacs. There is a difference between marijuana and the "harder drugs." But Bush and his drug czars do not seem to notice the difference.

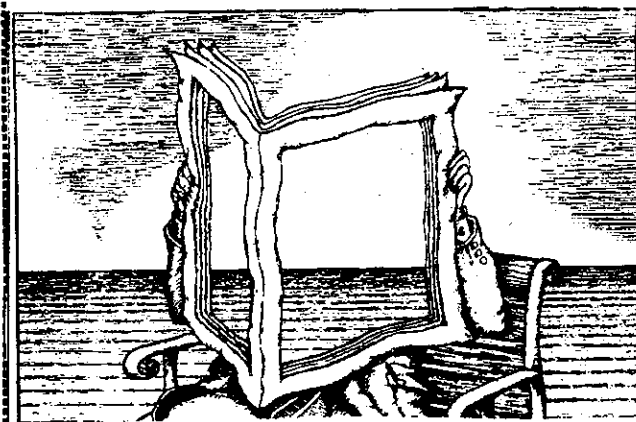
Now the Burning Bush has declared a war on drugs, with billions for guns and troops to go into Colombia and other countries including the United States where marijuana is THE largest cash crop in California.

Did anyone see Bush holding his bag of crack on television? He said it was bought in Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House. The Washington Post found out the DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) was told to make a buy in Lafayette Park. There were no deals being made in Lafayette Park, so they had to find a dealer, direct him to the park (he didn't know the way), and then buy it from him. When the story leaked out, the agents promised to arrest the dealer. This event makes fallacious and causes one to question the seriousness of the War on Drugs, and also whether or not Bush thinks that we the people are that dumb. He reduces the real problem of drugs to the level of "Reefer Madness," a film one should watch only after inhaling a few good tokes.

I have the feeling these billions of dollars for use against citizens including casual users will not go for drug treatment or real drug education. None of this money will be spent on jails or treatment or even research for "safe" intoxicants. The citizens who choose alternative ways to intoxicate themselves rather than the mainstream intoxication of sixpacks and ciggies, are going to be ignored and the money might as well be thrown at the same Republicans who stole HUD money. Instead of making users criminal and jobless, why not educate people on the properties of various drugs, and the pleasures and perils of using these drugs - i.e., no book-keeping while on LSD - and, yes, if they commit crimes, or cause death or injury

because they were stupid enough to do these things while intoxicated, then these users should take responsibility and do time and reimburse the victims just as if they had committed the crimes or caused accidents while drug-free. As to the dealers and manufacturers of drugs, legalize the drugs and set limits, as we do in the sale of liquor. For instances: sales must be done out of a building; no blocking of traffic; no selling before or after certain hours; no selling or manufacturing within so many yards of a residential neighborhood or school, etc. Must we sentence a whole generation of people to jail because they are perceptive enough to realize that they can make more money dealing drugs than flipping burgers? Why are ten-year-olds doing crack? Is there something missing in their environment? I think the U.S. at this time has a very narrow definition of success. The only success is money. Perhaps if success had something to do with how people treated one another, what one does for the community, how one can enjoy music or painting even if these pastimes don't bring fame, even is baseball doesn't bring them money or a t.v. movie, just enjoyment in playing the game for the fun of it, we might see less drug dealing and even less drug taking. Perhaps people should be treated as if they were valuable. Valuable enough to warrant health care, decent housing and education. People wouldn't need to ease the pain of the knowledge that it's not going to get better and life is something to get through rather than to enjoy while strolling around, smelling the flowers. But until that time, humans will constantly get high, just like the prison monkeys in the labs who neglect the three drives of sex, hunger and sleep, for that fourth drive that Dr. Siegel speaks of as getting back to Eden. ▲

Book Review Blues



by Judith L. Martin

Summer is truly over. The personality of books seems to change with the season. While most people have a definition of "summer reading", what constitutes an autumnal book? Something substantial, I suppose, as opposed to the "lite reading" for the beach. But before I get into the specific examples I have of what's new and what's heavy, I'd like to have a word about our sponsor.

One of the best things about being a book reviewer is that publishers send you books. One of the worst things about getting all these books is the notion that there are very few that I'd go out and pay money for. Or recommend that anyone else pay money for. I like to think of myself as a reviewer, an advocate of reading. I don't want to be a critic, because trashing someone else's work is not my idea of a good time. Yet, the sheer number of books that have crossed my desk, and the number of bad books, requires that I make some kind of complaint. Or, as the great Groucho Marx said, "I never forget a face, but in your case, I'll make an exception".

There seems to be about a hundred novels out right now about young-men-coming-of-age-in-the-South-during-the-Vietnam-war. One of the least interesting was *Keep the Change* by Tom McGuane, which, just to be fair, actually takes place in Montana and Florida. McGuane is not a novice; he has a formidable list of credits, previous novels, screenplays, etc. This novel was so dull you couldn't cut a stick of butter with it. Billed as an America odyssey, it seemed to me to be one long disjointed ramble towards nowhere. I scarcely cared enough about the hero to turn the next page. A small segment from the first part of the book describes how Joe, our hero, had gone to Mexico, fallen in love with a prostitute, and had their picture taken together at a restaurant.

"In the fall, when he was back in school, Joe's mother found the photograph. She was holding it between her two hands, staring at it, when she called him to her room. "Joe", she said "I'm so ashamed of you". Joe didn't know what to say. Nothing was appropriate. She lifted her eyes until she held him. "Here you are," she returned her gaze to the photograph, "with this lovely young woman" she looked at him in penetrating dissatisfaction "and your shirt is out". For me, that covers the rest of the story. Although we are presented with some intrigue and even scandal, all we hear about are shirt tails and collar buttons. Rather than say anything else about *Keep the Change*, I'll just advise you not to break the bill in the first place.

Enough about fiction. One of the best heavy books out now is a biography of Sylvia Plath by Anne Stevenson, *Bitter Fame*. This book delves into Plath as a person, and Plath as a writer. Many quotes from those who knew her, both in America and England enrich and expand the understanding of this talented and tortured woman. Stevenson's research is painstakingly good, and her style makes for compelling reading. Even if you know *The Bell Jar* by heart and can recite passages from *Ariel*, this bio-will introduce you to Sylvia Plath in a new light. Good fall reading; a perfect book for a foggy evening.

So, I will continue to pour over all copies of anything sent to the Beachhead, but I refuse to read any more coming-of-age novels this year. I am, after all, a grown-up, and since I don't spend all my waking hours reconsidering my past, I don't see why I should spend my reading time groping around for some one else's notion of maturity. I do have a great love of novels, but like faces, there are some that are worth forgetting.



Night of the School Board Living Dead



Ex-Venicite-non-Beatle Pat McCartney joked I'd write about the schoolboard. Elaine Woo (the beat reporter I'm told is Mike Woo's sister) headlined her article about homeless aid for Coeur D'Alene Elementary School in the Sept. 12 LA Times. Myself, I wanted to nitpick with the crowd against President Bushshit's latest drug-induced diarrhea on crack.

But the actual city's schoolboard meeting proved a doozey to outdo us all. You see, ever since the 'Teachers Strike' coupled with the upheaval of one Westside board-member (Gershman) and his replacement (labeled "pro-union" Slavkin)...rebellion has been brewing within the staid bureaucratic walls of this big town's public school system.

At first glance...appearances are gray. The same structures. The same "kids-come-first" rhetoric. Classes started in Sept. Board meetings start late. Elected school officials sequester themselves constantly in secret sessions. Yet a rumbling stills the air. "South Central Rita" (Walters) and "Valley Bussing Roberta" (Weintraub) find themselves more often than not in the same corners! And even more refreshing, ...on the short end of 5-2 votes!

Monday, Sept. 11, 'R & R' vainly protested a 5 to 2 vote permitting (for the first time) the teacher's union request to conduct an election on the subject of collecting "agency" (union) fees from it's bargaining unit members (ie. other teachers).

In what appears to have been a behind-the-scenes deal whereby the official teachers' union (UTLA) suddenly dropped it's recent scathing and public "attacks" upon a top-heavy administrative structure...the district's superintendent Bretton in turn has soft-pedaled (at least publicly) the administration's traditional opposition. Whether these are now clear strategies or whether the LA Times is simply now resuming it's normally abysmal coverage of schoolboard politics following their strike sensationalism remains a question.

Meanwhile public comment at meetings is increasing. Around 30 teachers (active, retired &/or associated with the profession) rose to address the Board. Hounddog "education expert" Howard Watts decried the lack of opportunities afforded the public for involving themselves to such issues...accusing schoolboard members of violating the Rodda Act, or state 'public notice provisions' of the law.

Richard Mason, president of a rival teachers organization (PELA) howled foul to boardmembers for depriving vacationing teachers of opportunities to speak against "forced union fees". Mark Slavkin, author of the motion to send the entire question out for the union to resolve (by election) was labeled "a political repayment to union interests". Most of these non-unionists appeared older, near-or-past retirement age. They compared their predicament to "enslavement in East Germany" and/or "tyranny by the English Royalty" (toward American revolutionaries).

These same speakers typically pictured the schoolboard's vote as if it were the boardmembers themselves who would be (automatically) imposing the fees. In fact, later, district negotiator/attorney (Fisher) spelled the likely details of a PERB (Public Employment Relations Board) sponsored, autumn-election procedure whereby all teachers would have the chance to vote agency fees up or down themselves. And although a few UTLA people predicted an overwhelming victory, the anti-unionists deliberately avoided hazarding their own predictions while pushing forth the guilt-trip that it was up now to the boardmembers.

Other surprises? Wearing a black "mourning" robe, an ex-head of the PERB (Betty Cordoba) hollered out that she was unashamedly opposed to unionizing, teachers' striking and/or agency fees! She had been a Deukmejian

appointee. "Gadfly" SEIU-union activist Jules Kimmett for his part whirled from the podium and pointed out his own union attorney (Leo Geffner) and quipped: "I haven't seen this man down here in 15 years! and I hate his guts!" A veteran UTLA representative polished his comments with "I finally understand what Groucho Marx meant when he said: 'How could I belong to any organization that would take me as a member?'"

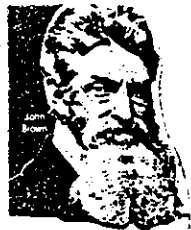
At 9:40 pm there still remained perhaps 20 more speakers! Rita Walters was droning on (for the umpteenth time) concerning her complaint that South Central Schools are staffed too often with non-permanent teachers and I had to leave.

According to Jules (who I spoke with by phone later), Goldberg and Walters were "getting into it" (ie. losing their tempers) til the wee hours of the morning over an issue of land development? out by the coast. The speakers held out and 20 people or so hung in to the bitter end somewhere around 1 am. Public democracy...stirred with that old, old...almost ancient brew of trade-unionism politics struck a blow missed (entirely again) by your and my "mainstream press" reporters from the LA Times (oftentime Ms. Woo). If you can stomach the affected, intellectual rhetoric as well as the brown-nosing government employees...you can catch the proceedings over channel 58 (UHF) Monday nights or rebroadcast Sunday.

If you want to begin fighting a predictable collusion between top UTLA leadership and the combined-politicos of the upper, school district administrative echelons and it's board, I suggest involvement. A new SUPER-bureaucracy as opposed to a healthy debate appears just as likely around the corner. ●

REPORTER WITHOUT A BEAT VIC

FBI in the Bush



Bob Wells, a long time Venice activist now living in Chicago, was subpoenaed by the FBI on his return from a recent West Coast visit. Bob is an active member of the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee which is doing anti-racist work countering the work of the Klu Klux Klan, the Nazis and the reactionary Skinheads (there is an anti-racist group of Skinheads).

Based on a computerized letter on John Brown's letterhead threatening various officials (Pres. Bush was threatened by a similar letter form another organization), the FBI subpoenaed Bob and Camomile Bortman, a gay activist in Act Up and Prairie Fire Organizing Committee in the Bay Area, to bring all of John Brown's literature published in the last 6 months, samples of their handwriting and saliva to a Federal Grand Jury.

Bob said the letterhead is a poorly pasted-up masthead from John Brown's literature, in fact, FBI agent John Larson told Jan Susler, attorney for Bob and Camomile, that the "letter was obviously a phoney." This suggests a set-up for a "fishing expedition", and at the very least, political harassment.

The hearing was set for the 26 of July, but due to many phone calls and mailgrams the judge postponed the hearing giving the attorneys a chance to work things out. Since the John Brown Organization doesn't cooperate with the FBI on principle, there's nothing to work out from their point of view. This could mean 18 months in prison (the life of the Grand Jury) if the Judge doesn't quash the subpoena.

The many phone calls and mailgrams supporting Bob and Camomile is what's keeping them out of jail. We're asking as many people as possible to contact Judge John Grady in Rm. 2541 - 219 Dearborne Street Chicago, Ill. 60604 or call him at (312) 435-5600. For information call me at 396-6876, or (312) 242-3846. Thanks to all those who have helped.

Rick Davidson

Potpourri*

by Diane Nickerson

Well, boys and girls, it's time for the good news and the bad news. Whaddya want first? Since this is my column, I'll decide.

FOX/NOT FOX...

THE BAD NEWS:

Have you heard about the Fox/not Fox? The old Fox Venice was most recently known as the Fox International Theater, before asbestos and politics shut it down. It was also, for many years, the home of the Free Venice Beachhead, yes, the very paper you're reading right now! The Beachhead Collective spent many a memorable meeting in the loft behind the marquee, up over the lobby, sweating, straining and stoning, trying to put this publication forth for your perusal.

FOX:

About a year ago, the Fox International people, the Beachhead, Dan, et al, were forced to vacate and relocate (the theater itself "went dark" in June, '87).

NOT FOX:

Currently the Fox International Theater (620 Lincoln Blvd.) has been leased to a private investment firm and will be turned into a bunch of small "discount" shops. Steven Kim is the entrepreneur subleasing the building. Look for purple, red and gold.

THE GOOD NEWS:

Even tho' repainted, plastered and silly, the original structure remains, more or less. It could've been paved over...

THE POSTAL ORIFICE - (or where do I apply?):

Visited the Venice Branch P.O. lately? If your heart is weak, or you have sore feet, or anything in between, please be advised to either skip it, move, or, or just what?? They have us by the short hairs and

love to prove it on Saturdays. According to what I was told (in person), they're open but don't -- do anything. They wouldn't even take my money (for a long-held P.O. Box!?!). Overheard in line, from one little blue-haired lady to another: "Don't you know, dear? The workers (?) here are all hostile and besides, they hate humans." What is this? Come back during the week. Yeah, sure...

WHERE'S OLLIE??

Was gonna update you on Ollie but couldn't control my gag reflex. More later...

YOU SAY VENETIAN, I SAY VENUSIAN...

NOTE: Election of the Venice Town Council Board of Directors takes place on Oct. 12, 7:30 pm, at Old Venice City Hall. Board nominees include Carol Berman, John Haag, Judith Martin, Kathy Sullivan, Rex Frankel, Bonnie Faulkner, Larry Sullivan, Steve Schlein, Marty Novell, John Moss, Beth Miller and Lori Lawrence.

Be there or be square...

KEEP READING THE FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD AND HELP KEEP IT FREE!!!! ●

***rotten pot**

Whining and Dinning

by Essie LaFresseur de la Yenta

Essie returned from a trip to New York's East Side where her mother, La Duchess de Tchotsckerai, reigns. Essie resolved if ever she lives in New York, she will never, never eat at home. So many cheap, delicious restaurants, so little time. They ranged from kosher deli to Dalmatian to Brumese, Polish, Caribbean. Some restaurants were no bigger than a man's handkerchief. Essie must find another simile to indicate how small, how perilously, delicately, the single oilclothed table and two concert chairs sit on a four-foot wide sidewalk. Every street has the ubiquitous pizzeria and Chinese take-out/eat-in joints, but Essie's bro pointed out that there were very few decent Mexican, as in California-Mexican, joints. He had heard of one, but it was somewhere in The Village, and they'd moved. Salvadoran, Puertorriqueno Spanish, Basque, Brazilian, but no good-ole Cal-Mex. Yes, the effete version of Southwestern cooking was popular: blue corn tortillas, and monkfish with lime dressing, but not a fat squishy burrito or rice-and-beans tostada could be found. So when Essie came back to Venice, one of her first visits was to the El Castillo on 705 Rose Avenue. You know it's good and authentic the minute you walk in, because there's a velvet-painted picture of some Aztec warrior. Plump burritos filled with the standard pollos, carnitas, rice, beans, queso, go for three to four dollars. Essie's favorite is the Burrito Colorado with an orange-colored sauce more orange than the usual brick-red colorado sauce, but it is goooood. There are proper dinners: beans, rice, chicken, moles, ranging from four dollars to six dollars. They're open from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. seven days a week. The salsa-and-chips are a little disappointing. The salsa is good, but it's a thin gravy-ish texture, and doesn't hang onto the chips. Fresh fruit juices squeezed from mangos, papayas and other fruits, and Mexican and American soft drinks are served.

Who doesn't like to go shopping, for a much-needed lift, and who doesn't like to be frivolous with a friend? Shopping on Melrose

and Rodeo Drive, or Main Street in Santa Monica - then finishing up with an elegant lunch at Larry Parker's Diner, ChaCha's, L'Hermitage, or LaChinoise's on Main. Well, for Venetians who like to leave their bucks with the local businesses, and who are Doddering Urban Failures, the equivalent of impulse-shopping has come to Venice. Pic'n'Save has opened on Rose and Lincoln where the old Safeway-FoodBarn-Safeway used to be. Pic'n'Save is all things to the DUFies. They can feel mainstream as they indulge in the American addiction of impulse shopping after spending ten dollars, Pic'n'Save equivalent to three Holly Harp dresses, five pair of Louis Jordan shoes, and Giorgio on Rodeo. After the exhaustion of bargains, one can go to the Imperial Crown, 241 Lincoln Blvd., Lincoln & Rose, right next to Pic'n'Save, so one can indulge in the ancient human instinct to browse and forage. The Imperial Crown is definitely a family place. Never go into a Chinese restaurant alone. No, Essie is not exhibiting Xenophobia, but one eats better, and more. Always go with at least one other person. The Imperial Crown's food is Cantonese, Mandarin, and Szechuan. Chinese food has become as American as pizza, and the Crown's Cantonese food is as American as Egg Fu Young and Chow Mein. Their barbecued

spareribs are dainty and sweet, and divine. Chinese vegetarian dishes are light but filling, with crisp water-chestnuts, snow-peas, and sometimes straw mushrooms. The fry products are light and crackly. The rice is steamed with tender bits of green onions scattered through like emeralds through pearls. Essie favors the beef kur lau, golden squid, and vegetables with straw mushrooms. Essie loves to enter through the red and gold moon gate on Rose Avenue, with the smiling golden dragons circling around it. The prices are extremely reasonable: five or six dollars for the family dinner; one can make one's selection a la cart and still get by with eight dollars. They withhold MSG on request. The Jasmine tea is deep and sweet, the way Essie likes her poetry. Open seven days a week, 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The hot dogs at the Lucky Spot Market on West Washington Blvd. are terrific. \$1.25. Maybe it's because, as sharp-eyed Moe Stavnezer noticed, the pages of The Beachhead are used to catch moisture from the hot dogs as they 'round and 'round in their little cage, thus hitting the always tres hot Beachhead, causing the fumes to emanate from the printer's ink and merge with the highly nitrated dogs for a unique taste experience. Trust Essie. ●

Thugs and Drugs ~~====~~ Overkill

by Rex Frankel

I had to laugh last week when White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater told reporters: "We wanted to do a government sting. We said we wanted to make a buy in front of the White House. The DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) said 'No Problem'". A teenage drug dealer was then lured to the White House's Lafayette Park, where a buy went down and Bush then displayed a bag of crack for the nationwide TV audience. ~~The dealer was not arrested, probably because he would have been able to plead government entrapment. Now when the DEA says "no problem!" to the White House, it makes me wonder what other cooperation the DEA's given the Contras, another division of the US government. Lafayette Park is not known for drug dealing, so why did Bush and Co. conspire to bring drug dealers to a crime-free park? And is this just a microcosm of what Bush, the CIA and the Ollie North-crowd have done to the US's inner cities--bringing crack to town, with the scared public demanding more cops, also hired by Bush to stop the problem?~~

(The trial of John Hull and others at the behest of the Christic Institute later this year should yield fascinating insights into the guns for drugs enterprise of the Contras. The Christic's LA office is 287-1556.)

Sure--everyone knows that the cause of most crime in America is drugs and dealers and Gangs. Right? That's why Bush and Co. want to spend \$8 billion dollars on the Drug-War, to finance another military attack on America's overconsumption problem. An estimated 20-30 % of Americans use illegal drugs. Add in the legal drug freaks--cigarettes, alcohol, Coffee, Cokes and caffeine, tranquilizers, McDonald's addicts and fans of MTV: this nation is in the grips of addiction. The government recently reported that 20% of the American population is dangerously overweight. So, can \$8 billion end America's drug problem or not? Supply-side economics says that if you cut off the flow of drugs, the users get more anxious-and will look elsewhere for what they want. Cutting off the supply didn't make America's 100 million people pure during Prohibition--why would another

drug war work now that there are 220 million Americans? It's a management problem, really. We can't afford to have a cop on every street corner.

Bush admits, however, that prohibitions don't work. Outlook--9/16/89--"Bush says new gun curbs won't help". A ban on assault weapons is not "the ultimate answer" to killings by the deranged. "I'm afraid you're going to have incidents like that...But I have seen no evidence that a law banning a specific weapon is going to guard against it," Bush said.

Bush's drug plan will squeeze cash from various social programs. Much will go for "military advisers" for Colombia, Bolivia and Peru, and the rest is to be spent on enforcement in America's inner cities. No new money will be spent to stop drugs at the borders. Now the real catch came when Bush said that the states will have to up taxes \$5 to \$10 billion for next year alone---to fund prisons for the folks the feds convict but don't have room for. Bush says he's opposed to federal tax hikes to pay for his drug war, but that he has "no problem" with any state or city raising taxes to pay for the drug war. Read My Lips: no new taxes meant no new federal taxes.

Overkill---A young Florida man recently got life in jail without possibility of parole for a first offense all for having 4 ounces of crack--the size of a Big Mac! And it costs us \$30,000 a year to support this kid in jail for 40 or 60 years--about \$2 million per life prisoner. The US prison population jumped up 40,000 or 7.3% in the first six months of Bush's term--to 673,565 total.

Census bureau statistics show that Black flight is occurring throughout Southcentral L.A.--while asian and Hispanic population numbers in L.A. increase. Blacks dropped from 12 to 11% in the 1980's. The mass destruction of neighborhoods by gangs and Bush's inner city war is "good" for redevelopment and developers. Every crack house bulldozed by the cops can be a new three story apartment sardine-can. The Drug War provides opportunities to level whole blocks of homes for office buildings and stuff. If the "nice" long term people move away because of the crime, developers can cut up an area for offices. Watts is already planned to be a new Downtown LA being at the interchange of the Harbor freeway and new Century Freeway.

If the drug war is starting to sound like the "Final Solution", with bulldozing of neighborhoods, more prisoners and higher taxes, maybe you're right. The catch is--We're the problem. Just Say No to the Bush drugs & thugs scam. ●



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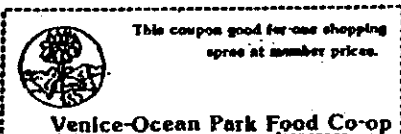
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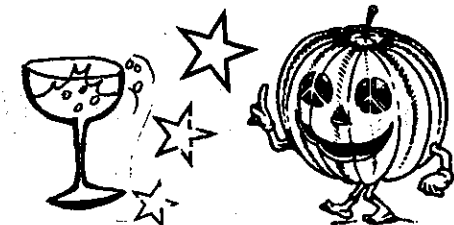
The Beachhead announces the Bad Bob Dylan contest. Send your outrageous Dylan-like satire (written or on tape) to the Free Venice Beachhead, Box 504 Venice 90291. For publication in the Beachhead, think Bob and sing bad. It's Positively 4th Ave



ARGYROPOULOS project Hearing!! October 16th, 10:30 AM at West LA City Hall--for 3 story 38,000 square foot office/retail with 3 stories of underground parking on South side of Sunset Ave between Main St and Hampton Brvve.--Argyropoulos has received a hardship exemption to the Venice ICO, and now seeks to operate until 11 P.M., provide tandem parking for 240 cars and wñive ICO landscape regulations. For more info call 485-3851-Case # GDP 89-041

SP Right of Way Parking Hearing-- October 17th at noon, room 561-A City Hall, downtown LA, Appeal by Councilwoman Galanter and Moe Stavnezer concerning a zoning administrator's rejection of city plans to pave city land on South west side of Electric Ave. between California Ave. and N. Venice Blvd. Plans were rejected due to inadequate landscaping and fencing. Fomoinfo: 485-4241. BZA case #4086

ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL HALLOWEEN PARTY!!!! October 29 from 8 P.M. to 1 A.M. at the Church in Ocean Park, 235 Hill St. in S.M. Admission is \$10, Halloween costumes are optional, proceeds to benefit the Alliance. Features: Brave New World (reggae), The Brothers (folk-rock), and Artificial Intelligenz (comedy). Reservations: 399-1000

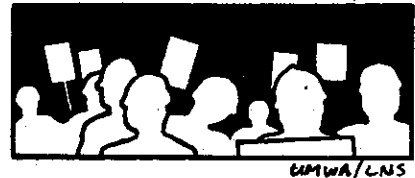


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Oct. 15- Marxism: Demise or Rebirth Dr. Herbert Aptheker
Oct. 22- Tensions in Contemporary Roman Catholicism Father Charles Curran
Oct. 29- The Making of a Civil Libertarian Frank Wilkinson

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Sierra Club meeting October 16 at 7:30 P.M. Featured Speaker is Todd Yuen of the Cross Country Skiing Section, who will talk about how to get started in cross-country skiing. Refreshments will be served, call 641-4023.
The Center for Dispute Resolution in Santa Monica will hold a Mediation Training on Oct. 7. Registration is limited, call 451-1615 for info and reservations.



Sign the Commercial Moratorium

Petition at these businesses:

- The Printing Studio 1801 Lincoln Blvd.
- Hair Illusions 1326 W. Washington Blvd.
- Michelle's 1358 W. Washington Blvd.
- Golyester 1356 W. Washington Blvd.

CHICANO POETRY IN CALIFORNIA : OCTOBER 21 Conference at Southwest Museum 9 A.M.-4 P.M. 234 Museum Drive in Highland Park. Deadline for Registration is Oct. 11 \$12.50, includes lunch, to Chicano Poetry in California, Southwest Museum, P.O. Box 128, L.A. 90042

SPECIAL EVENT FOR CHRISTIC INSTITUTE October 10 at Wilshire United Methodist Church, 4350 Wilshire Blvd. at 7 P.M. John Judge, curator of the Mae Brussell Research Center covers more than 25 years of research into covert operations. Paul Krassner, local Venice wit, emcees. Christic Institute : (213) 287-1556



U TOTEM, an experimental art-rock-electric chamber music ensemble appearing Oct. 15 at Cafe Largo 432 N. Fairfax at 9 P.M. An unusual way to Handel an evening?

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VENICE ART WALK 1990 ANNOUNCES T-SHIRT IMAGE COMPETITION: The Venice Family Clinic invites local artists to submit an original image in black and white or three-colors for next year's event. Images must incorporate the words "Venice Family Clinic Art Walk '90". Send entries to VFC at 604 Rose Ave., Venice 90291 by December 6, 1989.

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FRIENDS OF BALLONA WETLANDS begin Autumn wetlands walks on Sunday, Oct. 29. Meet anytime between Nine and Eleven A.M., the groups leave every Fifteen minutes, the tour lasts about an hour. North end of Pacific Ave. in Playa del Rey at the Ballona Creek Bridge. Enjoy your local wildlife!!! For info, 821-7695.

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Picnic For L.A. Housing Sat. Oct. 7th At Plummer Park 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. Long Hall 12 Noon to 4 P.M. Potluck

OCTOBER IS AIDS AWARENESS MONTH

L.A. Free Clinic presents; PHARMACISTS AND THE PUBLIC: ALLIES IN FIGHTING AIDS Oct. 2 7 - 9 P.M. Plummer Park Multipurpose Room Santa Monica Blvd. near intersection of Vista Lecture and Discussion on AIDS. Get smart and learn what you can do. Don't worry, get active and get educated! Free Parking.

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"Berlin Wall", a collection of photographs by Leland Rice, is on display until Nov. 9 at SMC Photography Gallery in the Campus Library at 17th and Pearl. Rice focuses on symbols, slogans and graffiti found on the 99 mile long wall. The exhibit will include a text panel with additional information about the Berlin Wall. Call (213) 452-9289

"To Neptune and Beyond" Oct. 6, 13 and 20 will highlight the journey of Voyager 2 through our solar system with close ups of spectacular Neptune. Following the 7 P.M. Night Sky Show in the Planetarium, Rm 242 in the Technology Building at 1900 Pico Bl.



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8:00-9:00 RICHARD KASTLE	9 closed	10 CHAP WELLS	11 DID JACCES TRIC	12 KRISTINA OLSON & THE LOOSE STRINGS BAND	13 HEAYUCALTLIA Latin music	14 KEE AKAGI TRIC
15:2:50-5:30 GLEN GARRETT BIG BAND 8:00 PM CARLOS NIEHUES	16 closed	17 and the	18 BIG WORLD	19 PHYLLIS ADDISON contemp. songs	20 MILCHO LEVIEV RAY PIZZI	21 ARCO IRIS ethnic fusion
22:2:30-5:30 BENEFIT FOR BIG MOUNTAIN 8:00 PM TAQUINHO & GLEN GARRETT	23 closed	24 CRAIG FISHER	25 RAY PIZZI'S CHAMBER WOODWIND TRIC	26 KRISTINA OLSON JOYCE WOODSON TERESA TUDURY	27 guitarists WAYNE JOHNSON JEFF RICHMAN	28 MILCHO LEVIEV KAREN BRIGGS
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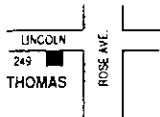
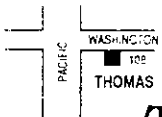
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