

Sups Drop Act on ACT UP/L.A.

By Wendell Jones

After months of investigation and literally hundreds of hours of surveillance by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's department, the Los Angeles City Attorney has dropped misdemeanor vandalism charges against ACT/LA members John Fall, Mark Kostopolis and myself. The Sheriff's department, acting under pressure from the County Board of Supervisors, accumulated a case file twice the size of what is prepared in the average felony murder case according to Marilee Marshall attorney for the defendants.

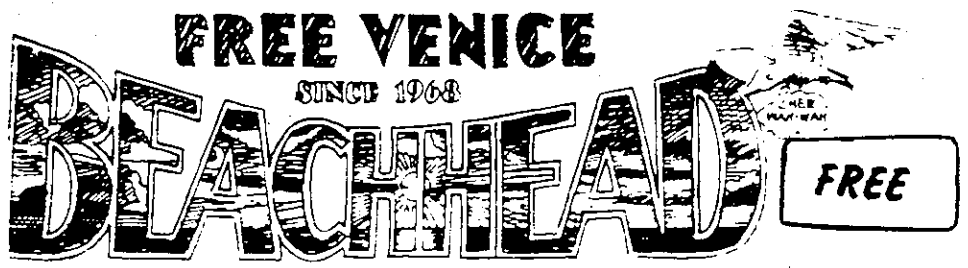
The Board of Supervisors were outraged when graffiti appeared on County buildings last Spring criticizing the Board's refusal to respond to the needs of people with AIDS at County USC hospital. The Supervisors demanded that the Sheriff's find someone to prosecute for the graffiti. While people are dying of AIDS, more tax payers

money was spent investigating these charges than was spent on the entire cleanup of the graffiti.

Using video tapes of ACT UP demonstrations and press conferences, county maintenance workers were urged to identify someone in the tapes to charge with the graffiti. This type of identification violates any acceptable standards of police conduct.

The workers could have been shown photographs, which the sheriffs had in their files, of the suspects and other selected photos. Instead, the workers were shown videos of ACT/UP members engaged in free speech. In each case, the people most vocal in the video tapes were the people the witnesses chose to identify as the perpetrators.

We began our battle with the county Board of Supervisors



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over a year ago because, although most major cities in the nation had AIDS wards, LA did not. Patients were left in wheel chairs in the hallways waiting for rooms. Under pressure from ACTUP/LA and other community groups, the hospital was finally forced to open an AIDS ward which is still not fully utilized because the hospital has not staffed it with enough nurses.

Venice residents helped to raise money for our defense totalling over \$1400.00. I want to take this chance to thank all the people who gave of their time and money to help us. I can also state at this time that I was not even in the United States at the time the events I was charged with took place. I was in Canada for three weeks of dental surgery. Faced with charges asking for

\$25,000.00 in restitution fines and possible jail sentences, I could not talk about my defense before.

In collusion with the Sheriff's Department, the County Board of Supervisors have forced the Sheriff's Department to spend thousands of dollars to threaten activists critical of their policies at a time when health care cutbacks, social service cutbacks, and the problems of the poor, the unemployed, and the homeless combined with escalating crime are threatening to paralyze the County.

It is time for the Supervisors to start spending money solving the problems of the County instead of using that money to attack citizens critical of the Board.

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Stupid Media Tricks

By Rex Frankel

Media "exit" polls decided the 1980 election that put Ronald Reagan in power, defeating Jimmy Carter, who conceded 2 hours before our polls closed. In office, the "Great Communicator" Reagan repealed TV and radio's Fairness Doctrine, giving the public's airwaves away. The Reaganites said it was a First Amendment issue, but now, it's next to impossible to find a "Liberal" voice on the major TV networks. Reagan's relaxed monopoly laws concentrated America's media into fewer and fewer hands, none "liberal". Locally, all of L.A.'s TV stations are owned by huge out-of-town corporations--ever pliant lapdogs of Big-Business. Even PBS is a boring conservative-backed arts network that lets developers sponsor programs on the environment. So, Welcome to the 1990's, Amerika. And with that happy intro--here's the Media Hall of Blame for 1989:

----**Best Lying**--The Reagan Administration was a veritable "Liar's Club" what with the Great Communicator, Ollie North, et al. Doing what most Reagan appointees did after leaving the public payroll--go to work for big developers, polluters & other big business interests --deposed Federal Secretary of the Interior James Watt received \$300,000 for setting up 1 meeting with a developer and HUD Secretary Sam Pierce. Watt says he was not selling his influence, rather his "credibility". He called his actions "Moral and Legal"--hahaha. This is part of a growing trend among our leaders--when caught, just say "Everybody Does It". VP Bush's response to a question about the Reagan Administration's sleaze factor, during his second debate with Dukakis, the Bushman said "...you can't legislate morality." Some of our top congressmen want to ensure ethics by paying themselves more. Oh sure, it's always worked before!

I don't like People's Court or Consumer Reporter David Horowitz, Hard Copy, America's Most Wanted, A Current Affair--they only show "average" people as criminals, strengthening the Everybody-Does-It defense--I wanna see a show called "Corporate Criminals".

----**Least Improved Newspaper**--the Faster-Format Short-Attention-Span L.A. Slimes, with the short misleading summary above each story. It's a terrible waste of trees.

----**Best Local Coverage**--Here's a story totally ignored by L.A.'s media, involving Mayor Bradley/John Mack/H.H. Brookins/reverse racism etc. Brookins and Mack are two pillars in the black community, and regularly accuse Bradley's opponents of racism, of



Music with a message: Drug czar William Bennett joins the Manchester, N.H., Police Department's anti drug band Friends in Blue during Tuesday's performance before 200 junior high school students.

hurting minority opportunities. At the same time, the two rich businessmen also served as "underprivileged" minority partners for contracts the city awarded at its airport that netted these two, along with other rich Bradley associates, six-figure salaries for no work. (See last month's Beachhead--F.1)

"Public confidence in press dips sharply, surveys find." Times-11/16/89--showed that credibility of daily newspapers has dipped 35% among regular readers, second only to the credibility lapse of Geraldo Rivera, who 74% of Americans don't believe. Yet The Times still ignores home. Though largely ignored by L.A.'s mainstream press, a Herald-Examiner columnist revealed that the L.A. Times sat on the Tom Bradley Finance Scandal, knew about it in August 1988 then saved it for after Bradley's April '89 re-election. But at the same time this coverup occurred, the Times ran a slew of front-page stories detailing no illegal acts, only "alleged racism" based on cynical memos stolen from political consultants to Bradley's chief enemy, semi-environmentalist Zev Yaroslavsky, which destroyed his challenge to the 16-year mayor. Ignored was the fact that the consultants had previously worked for Bradley.

The growing finances scandal has caused much of Bradley's staff to move on to more lucrative jobs--back to the developers they always shilled for anyways. Bradley's new Deputy Mayor is also his attorney--that tells you something.

----**Least Covered News Story of International Importance** Remember this one?--October 14th, 1989--Times--"U.S. OK's Covert Operations That May Kill Foreigners"? (Pres. Tush reinstated a policy banned in 1975.) Possibly in response--the parliament of Iran passed a bill

(11/1/89) that allows the arrest of Americans, anywhere, who offend the Iranian nation. We'll see.

Best Media Manipulation--it's a tie: Bush's Bogus White House Drug Buy and the Abortion battles. Anti-abortion clinic protestors sang civil rights anthems of the 1960's while being dragged off by the cops. Meanwhile, California's District Attorney's co-sponsored a "Speedy Trial Initiative" along with Senator Pete Wilson that would eliminate certain rights-to-privacy we now enjoy, possibly abortions. The DA's said we have to "curtail excessive privacy".

Suddenly, elections rolled around the corner, and the headlines changed. "**Bush seeks to downplay abortion issue**"--(11/8/89) At the end of the article, The Times even revealed that Bush had supported 1973's Roe Vs. Wade decision, saying in the March 1980 Rolling Stone magazine "I happen to think it was right", but he flip-flopped to win Reagan's VP slot. This all was revealed on the morning after elections where Republican anti-choicers went down to defeat. Bush said that now "We have room in our party for people that feel (either) way, pro-life or pro-choice."

"**Abortion issue will fade, White House says**" (Times 11/14/89 p. 22) Bush's spokesman Marlin Fitzwater says Bush has no quarrel anymore with those who support legal abortions. My, how things change after these public opinion polls are in. Basically, the public said to our politicians: "You take our rights--you lose your job".

Lastly, on the Federal Front, sleazy Guitar-slinger Lee Atwater, head of the Republican Party, revealed plans to open Republican Community Service Centers in poor communities. Local Republican HQs will don this moniker and will assist minorities in immigration, social security and legal problems--I guess this is how the graft trickles down.

Games Developers Play or Best Anti-Environmentalist Slurs....

---To be anti-nuke is to be pro-greenhouse effect.--the Nuke power industry.
 --One pollution may protect against another--Acid Smog blocks UV rays--(Times).
 -----LA County's supervisors say that if we don't dump sewage sludge into the ocean off San Pedro, previously dumped DDT will be uncovered and will spread.
 ---Raping the earth is OK...Perestroika-style. When the North Korean government walled off a harbor and saltwater wetlands the size of San Francisco Bay, the gov's P.R. sheet called the project "a far reaching plan of nature transformation...built in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude." Translation: "Fuck the birds."
 ---Environmentalists are racists, communists, affluent elitists, Un-American, Reactionaries or Liberals--(from the L.A. Times and the Bradley Administration).
 Media Tricks--continued on P. 3

Venice Town Council

The next meeting of the Venice Town Council will take place at Beyond Baroque, 681 N. Venice Blvd. on Thursday, January 11th at 7:30 pm.

Letters.....

North Venice Blvd. Blues

December 7, 1989

Dear Beachhead Collective:

The following letter was sent to Councilwoman Ruth Galanter from the North Venice Boulevard Neighborhood Association:

Dear Councilwoman Galanter:

We appreciate that you met with representatives of the North Venice Boulevard Neighborhood Association November 16th regarding Werner Scharff's application to build a new parking structure for Rebecca's Restaurant and an art gallery on North Venice Boulevard west of Pacific Avenue. So much time was spent in our defending the merits of the 1983 conditions for Rebecca's that little time was left to discuss the Board of Zoning Appeals' ("BZA") findings that support the BZA's decision to deny a permit for this project:

- The current application which would delete the 1983 condition regarding Rebecca's garbage "does not comply with the Board's intent to protect adjacent residential uses from negative impacts of trash storage and collection activities."

- Granting the current application "condones" the applicant's lack of compliance" with the 1983 conditions for trash and drainage which the BZA "imposed to protect adjacent residential properties."

- "there are no hardships which prohibit or hinder the project from complying with the 30 foot height limit,...setback requirements, lot and separation requirements" of the Venice Interim Control Ordinance ("ICO").

- "The hardships described by the applicant are self imposed by the applicant's design of the project."

- The project is not consistent with the State Coastal Commission development guidelines for North Venice.

- "The proposed development will prejudice the ability of the City of Los Angeles to prepare a Local Coastal Program."

One of your campaign promises was "to listen" to your constituents. The BZA members not only listened to your constituents, but also supported them. Why are these appointed officials more prone to protect the interests of your constituents than you are?

So far you have always supported this project, which has required you to support Werner Scharff's applications for:

- a zone change from residential to commercial;
- a Community Plan amendment from residential to commercial; and
- 2 ICO Hardship Exemptions ("HEXes").

One of these HEXes has already been overturned by a Zoning Administrator because the triplex apartment that has to be moved out of our neighborhood to make room for this commercial project would not fit on the lot proposed for it. This is an example of yet another City official supporting your constituents by overturning the HEX you approved.

The other HEX allows this project to exceed the Venice ICO 30-foot height maximum and 2-lot maximum for lot consolidation. The BZA findings support enforcing the ICO. It is exasperating that you do not support your own ICO! Our future Local Coastal Program development guidelines will be meaningless if you give them the same respect you give the ICO guidelines.

A BZA member stated this project is a good business decision for the owner, but questioned if it is a good zoning decision to intensify an area that is already so congested. We look forward to hearing that you have changed your mind and will actively support the BZA decision, the residents, your own ICO guidelines, and a return to the residential zoning the City provided for this block in 1973 to protect public access to the beach. Please respond as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Faulkner
for THE NORTH VENICE BOULEVARD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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Old Myths EXPLODED!!!

The Free Venice Beachhead is not free! Paper and printing cost plenty. Ads and donations pay for them. \$10 this size

Dear Rex,

Whoops! You're right in saying that Galanter could have gotten Harlan Lee to take 10,000 feet of the Venice Renaissance Project on Rose and Main scaled down. As a matter of fact Ruth did ask him to take 10,000 feet off. Harlan said fine, he would take the 10,000 feet off that included the 22 Low Income Senior Citizen Apts. So....And thus conflict.

Rex, keep on digging and researching -

Thank for the correction,
Carol Berman

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Dear Beachheaddivedlies,

A deep dovin to Geriatric for correcting Essie in a recent Prole Food column wherein Essie wrote Pic'n'Save cum Safeway cum Food Barn cum Safeway, Geriatric said it was Pic'n'Save cum Von's cum Safeway - Thanks oodles and an haute haute New Year to all, a Bas Cajun!

Essie La Fresseur de la Yenta



Thank you Geriatric Jack for all the Dope on dope articles. More on that forthcoming. We miss you! Our Collective thoughts are with you. Come back, Jack!

Carol Fondiller

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Diane Nickerson, John Haag, Carol Fondiller, Sara Omari, Malcolm Tent, Kathleen Alvarez, Beth Miller, Bonnie Faulkner

Kathy Sullivan and Judith L. Martin

The next Beachhead meetings are Sundays, January 14, 21, and 28th at 11 A.M. at the Tenant Action Center, 442 Lincoln Blvd--at Sunset Ave.

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Community Events

U.S. TROOPS OUT OF GUATEMALA - END U.S. War Aid to Guatemala (1/27-90 Giant Caravan & Protest Rally from 10 - 2 p.m.) Starts @ Federal Building on Veterans and goes down Wilshire to the Guatemalan Consulate. For any info, call (all 213 numbers) 653-4221 or 3865663 or 655-5720 or 852-0721 04 852-9808

VENICE RENTERS CANVASS announces its 2 canvasses of 1990- 1/13/90 & 1/20/90 (Saturday). Help identify health and safety problems in the neighborhoods AND stop the Gentrification of Venice. VENICE RENTERS CANVASS & WESTSIDE LEGAL SERVICE announce 2 free legal clinics: "HOW TO GET YOUR LANDLORD TO MAKE NECESSARY REPAIRS" Saturdays 1/27/90 & 2/3/90 between 10 and 1:00 (392-2128)

Homeless Cold Weather Program
Los Angeles County's special "cold weather" program to assure extra shelter for the homeless has been reactivated.
"The program is activated when the temperature drops below 40° or 50° with a 50 percent chance of rain," Supervisor Dana explained. "When these conditions exist, extra shelter resources are opened in National Guard Armories or in hotels and motels."
These short term facilities are in addition to hotel/motel beds and shelters operated by community-based agencies.
"Anyone needing information about services available in their community can call, toll free, (800) 548-6047," Dana said. The information line is funded jointly by the County and the City of Los Angeles.
Cold weather program funds are provided through funding from the local board of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Community Block Grant program, with the help of participating community agencies and volunteers.

OCEAN PARK CHURCH NEWS: NEWS: NEWS:

The church informs about national boycotts "together we can make a difference" - Farmworkers ask for the grape boycott both for farmworkers AND consumers (who ARE affected by pesticide). Sea Shepherd people ask for boycott of the tuna canners (includes Heinz & Pillsbury & its subsidiary, Haagen Dazs) because their techniques kill dolphins. Meanwhile, Pro-Choice groups ask for a boycott of Carl's Jr. and Domino's Pizza because their founders, almost singlehandedly, fund the anti-abortion group.

CONTINUING GROUPS @ O.P. Church:
AA Mondays @ 8p
KUNG FU with Victor Walker, 6p.m. Tuesdays & Thursdays
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS MWF @ 7:30p.m. & Saturday mornings @ 10
DEBTORS ANONYMOUS: Tu & Thurs @ 7:30

McCABE's OPEN HOUSE & FREE CONCERT 1/4 from 7-10 (Info & Updates: 828-4403 a 24 hour number).

Media Tricks --from P.1

---Parks attract Criminals, Parks cause crime--we don't need parks.
---Parks and wildlife preserves deprive poor people of housing--Ruth Galanter and the new Playa Vista developers.
---Loggers in Oregon are starving and must be allowed to clearcut the remaining redwood forests.
---Nature Worship is a cult. Tree Huggers are trendy, like Yuppies, and will soon grab another fad.
--"Most of the energy wasted by homes is from those built before 1978."--Mel Wynn-Prez of the So-Cal Building Industry Association-in The Times, of course.
---If you oppose oil drilling in Pacific Palisades, you also oppose more police for gang-torn South Central L.A.--Oxy oil, Channel's 2 and 7.

Lastly, Evidence George Orwell was Right
The Nielsen TV ratings people recently showed off their new "box" that uses a camera to watch what the Nielsen-family watches, recording when they avert their eyes from the (tele)screen, etc. It's a comforting fact also that the new owners of the A.C. Nielsen ratings co. are Dun and Bradstreet--America's largest credit bureau.

Here's to 1990 and the Earth Decade. Long Live the Free Press, or at least inexpensive copy machines. Bye Bye to the Herald Examiner. And to 80's icons Madonna, George Bush and Jackie Mason--hit the road! Ciao★

Free Venice Beachhead--January 1990



Snips and Snipes 3

I'm sure we're as stuffed with media prophecies of the new decade, and a backward glance to the old decade, as we are of turkey. Walls came down, "They came, they saw, they shopped." People getting massacred, peaceful overthrow, the Greening of the Reds... Countries to invade...

Thanks to President Reagan's determination to destroy the Housing and Urban Development Agency, 5 billion dollars have gone into the pockets of rich Reaganites instead of low and moderate income housing. In Venice, St. Joseph's has merged with Next Step, a group of business people and residents who've raised money for counseling and finding jobs and housing for the homeless.

Councilwoman Galanter got funds from the city for job training. "St. Joseph's Center/Next Step is not the complete solution to homelessness," said Galanter after getting groups together after many acrimonious meetings. "But when we find an answer to homelessness, I wouldn't be surprised if it comes out of the experience we had in Venice," she said. O.K. Ruth, now about those storage facilities...

Was artist Jonathan Borofsky's mother frightened by a Lilian Vernon catalogue whilst carrying little Johnny? (Lilian Vernon is a mail order company that is a compendium of kitsch, neckties with Santa that glow in the dark, thimble collections, personalized condom holders, etc.).

Of course I'm talking about Borofsky's Ballerina/Clown on Harlan Lee's Main and Rose excrecence. According to a highly improbable but unimpeachable source, Harlan picked the piece all by himself, thus providing fuel to the theory of having too much disposable income.

Perhaps the cost of that thing could've gone to a few more senior units. I know the artrepeneurs and art groupies are calling people Philistines who disagree with Harlan and Jonathan, but these artrepeneurs are the same ones who want to "improve" Windward circle.

I do like the Clown/Ballerina but for all the wrong reasons:

1. She lifts her leg up slowly, and

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BEHIND MY OWN DISGUISE: 1/20 and 1/21
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the stance, substantiating the fact that Borofsky said it was male/female, ends up in the universal stance of a male dog.

2. I like the Bob's Big Boy statue, and the windmill over Van De Kamps. I like the ballerina in Lilian Vernon's catalogue, and if that statue were 28 feet shorter, it would be prancing around on a music box to "Lara's Theme".
3. It's exactly 30 feet high, which makes it easy to talk about the Interim Control Ordinance - something to compare to.
4. It is a reminder that art does not mean good taste and that the best artists are sometimes con-artists.
5. Venice founder Abbott Kinney wanted to make a "Serious" art colony, but amusement parks and Dragon shaped roller-coasters brought in the bucks.
7. It might stabilize the real estate costs.
8. It's real SoCal Kitsch.
9. In 10 years it will be stolen because it will have become a Collectible.
10. It is rumored that the piece turns to Sinatra's "My Way". I don't doubt that with or without the assistance of mind-altering drugs it can do anything it wants to, and, finally:
Juck you if you can't take a foke.

by Carol Fondiller



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14 BRAZIL. JAZZ FLAVIA 8:00 PM POETRY READING	15 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY closed	16 BOARDWALK hosted by:	17 singer/ songwriter JOHN VESTER	18 KRISTINA OLSON & THE LOOSE STRING BAND	19 ARCO IRIS ethnic fusion jazz	20
21 2-5 PM TAQUINHO Brazilian jazz 8:00 PM RICHARD KASTLE	22 closed	23 harpist SHERRY at 9:00	24 RAY PIZZI'S WOODWIND SYNDICATE	25 MORE LOVE NOW	26 Afro- Jazz SHADES OF JADE	27 ALAN BROADBENT TRIO
28 2-5 PM Brazilian jazz singer THANIA SANCHEZ EVAN WISH	29 closed	30 songwriter PETER DEMIAN at 10:00	31 JOHN VESTER	FEBRUARY 1 2 3 VENICE JAZZ BAND	MILCHO LEVIEV BUDDY COLLETTE	BRIAN RANSOM'S CERAMIC ENSEMBLE

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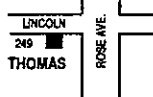
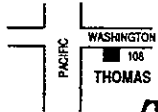
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