

May  
2005

# FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968

# BEACHHEAD



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## Mystery at Venice Skills Center

By Majorie Hinds

Is the principal of Venice Skills Center, Dr. Fred Hermosillo, honoring a gag rule imposed by LAUSD?

Hermosillo refuses to explain why, on April 18th, he notified instructors at the Venice Skills Center (VSC) that their services would not be needed for the summer session. Hermosillo would not acknowledge the letters he sent to faculty members and declined to state whether or not skills training would be available this summer. Members of the community, and students, who depend on the center for vocational training and employment preparation, want to know if the school will be closing.

Nancy Woodrum, Administrator of the Regional Occupational Programs of LAUSD, and Hermosillo's supervisor, denies exhorting silence from the principal and his staff on this subject. Her position is that the decision pertaining to VSC summer offerings will be made within the next two weeks. Tacitly admitting that a reduction of services is being considered; she maintains ignorance on the subject of the layoff notices.

It's a troublesome matter if LAUSD's budget difficulties necessitate the closure of VSC for one semester. More disturbing, however, is the implication that school officials were forbidden to discuss the issue with students. The question of whether Hermosillo elected to withhold information from the public, or whether his superiors instructed him to do so, matters little.

The more pressing question is: why the subterfuge? A desire to cash in on the current market value for prime Venice real estate is almost too easy of an answer. But let's not dismiss it as simply too obvious, or because Woodrum denies the connection.

Like all schools in the LAUSD, this training facility receives funding based on average daily attendance. The heads being counted at VSC include those with disabilities, people of color, individuals living at shelters, English language learners, and all manner of folks earnestly readying themselves to participate in the workforce.

Closing for one semester would deflate attendance figures for the following semester. Schools can be shut down due to insufficient attendance.

Funding earmarked for remodeling the VSC campus has been available for several years. If LAUSD were to proceed with this project it would demonstrate a commitment to the future of this valuable community resource. According to Woodrum the work is scheduled to begin this fall. Let's see that is does.

To support the Venice Skills Center, contact Nancy Woodrum at 213-241-3153.



Windy Day on Ocean Front Walk

## DONE to conduct community meetings beginning May 4 City Agency Rejects Decertification of Venice Neighborhood Council; Calls for New Election

By Jim Smith

During April, it became clear that the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC) is not DONE. Instead, some of the major critics of GRVNC got BONC-ed when they least expected it.

This semantic foolishness is possible because some of the city agencies ruling over the neighborhood council system have rather interesting acronyms - DONE is the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment which was created to assist the 80-odd councils in the city of L.A., while BONC is the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners which oversees DONE's behavior. It is made up of seven appointed commissioners who apparently have taken an oath that they will never all appear at the same meeting. Must be a national security thing.

On April 24, many Venetians found a flyer on their front door that was not from a Thai restaurant. It was from DONE, announcing three community meetings which it believes must precede a new GRVNC election. Many other Venetians, particularly apartment dwellers did not get the flyer. In any case, the first meeting will be held May 4 at Westminster school (see box).

**DONE**  
**Community Meetings**  
6:30 - 9 PM  
Westminster Auditorium  
1010 Abbot Kinney  
on  
May 4, May 19,  
June 2

For the past several months, Venice Forum (which doesn't really stand for Financiers Organized to Ream Venice Mercilessly) members and friends have been on a campaign to decertify GRVNC. These solid citizens - who include Marta Evry, renown for expediting a vote by her dog; Richard Myers, who single-handedly overturned last year's GRVNC's election on a technicality; shopping center developer Greg Fitchitt; Joe Sheilds, who has something to do with the law firm of Latham & Watkins which also represent Trammel Crow developers; Rick Feibusch, who calls his email rants, The Watchdawg; and other assorted developers and absentee property owners have been pleading with BONC for months to decertify GRVNC. No matter that no neighborhood council has ever been decertified and there are no

discernable reasons to abolish the council, except that people they don't like beat them badly in the last two elections.

### Decertification Nixed

The decertification strategy hit a brick wall at the April 5 when an outpouring of Venetians determined to save their neighborhood council showed up at the BONC meeting in West L.A.

—continued on page eight

## Beachhead urges votes for Villaraigosa and Rosendahl on May 17

### Villaraigosa for Mayor

We shouldn't have to spend time and money for a runoff election on May 17. The city of San Francisco has wisely converted to Instant Runoff Voting to ensure that the wishes of the majority are reflected in just one election, not two.

We hope that Antonio Villaraigosa will support IRV and a host of other reforms if he's elected Los Angeles Mayor. It's a safe bet that Hahn won't do much for another four years if we're foolish enough to reelect him.

Venice is only one one-hundredth of the city of Los Angeles, but that doesn't mean we don't care.

—continued on page ten

### Rosendahl for City Council

Reading and listening to the basic statements of 11th Councilmanic District candidates Krisiloff and Rosendahl, it's hard to tell the difference between them.

According to their literature both are interested in creating more affordable housing. They both question the wisdom of the current plans to expand LAX, they both want City Hall to take advice and input from community groups especially the Grassroots neighborhood councils, and they are both against crime- and for the environment.

—continued on page ten

**CASUALTIES IN IRAQ**  
**U.S. 1,572 Dead - 44 this month**  
**U.S. Wounded 11,595 - 69 this month**  
**Iraqi Dead: 21,239 - 24,106**  
**This month: 3,969 - 4,457**  
**(some sources say 100,000+ Iraqi dead)**



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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.

The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry or graphics of interest to the Venice community. The staff reserves the right to make all decisions collectively on material published. There is no editor on the Beachhead. The printing is financed by ads and donations. The articles, poetry and art work express the opinions of the individual contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Beachhead Collective.

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### Our Mission Statement

Oh Holy Shit  
The Thought Police are rising  
It is the Time  
for the Beachhead's rebirth  
Now is the Time to get your thoughts  
together  
If you care whether  
you have a thought of any worth.  
Thoughts left of Center  
Homeowner or Renter  
Put your Head where your Pen\* is  
Send it to us use your wits  
and if we like it  
We'll print or plagiarize it  
or tear it into  
teeny tiny  
bits

— by the Slumgoddess

\*Pen: Antique Term for Word Processor or Computer

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Individual Subscriptions: \$35/year  
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### Lincoln Center does not fit

Dear Beachhead,

The Lincoln Center project is one that affects all of Venice in terms of traffic, density, precedent for height and affordable housing. It is a development that does not fit Venice. The meetings of the Venice Community Coalition, which has been fighting this project, have been evenly divided between residents on the east and west sides of Lincoln Boulevard. The percentage of renters to homeowners is about 40%. At all the large public meetings the vast majority of those opposed to Lincoln Center were from the west side of Lincoln Boulevard. This is a Venice issue.

Laura Silagi

### The Beachhead needs you

We are a non-profit community paper. If you haven't already, please become a Beachhead sustainer for \$100/year or a subscriber for \$35/year. Don't have the bucks? Want to commit to distributing a bundle of 100 papers in your neighborhood once a month? Call 399-8685.



### Farmers Market in the Circle proposed 20 years ago

A plan for a Farmers Market in the Venice traffic circle once a week was proposed in 1985, and inspired this drawing in the Beachhead (May 1985) by Pete Savino.

The proposal was from a group calling itself, "Hearts of Venice." They also promoted an indoor market space at 185 Windward Avenue for vendors who "are currently receiving violation tickets on the boardwalk."

At the last minute, promised permits fell through and the Farmers Market was moved to Park Place, between Windward and Market Streets.

### Venice Garden Tour

Dear Beachhead,

Ever since Abbot Kinney envisioned recreating Venice, Italy along this stretch of swampy coastal marshland, LA's Venice has been marching to its own beat. As the Venice Garden Tour reveals, this couldn't be truer than when it comes to how Venice residents create their outdoor environments. The Venice Garden Tour offers a once-a-year opportunity to discover some of Venice's most innovative gardens. The 2005 tour, Saturday, May 7, from 10 AM to 5 PM, will highlight gardens located around the Venice Canals, Silver Triangle, and Rialto areas.

Celebrating its 11th Anniversary, the Annual Venice Garden Tour, founded by Co-Chair Jay Griffith, will showcase gardens to satisfy every taste, from classic English-style cottage gardens to bold post-modernist compositions. There are gardens where resourceful recycling gives discards new life; gardens where otherwise unlikely combinations of cacti, tropical plants and English roses thrive in harmony.

What began as a modest walking tour over 10 years ago has become a much anticipated event that draws a thousand garden enthusiasts from Southern California and beyond. While the Venice Garden Tour provides attendees with a day of inspiration and delight, the proceeds go to the Neighborhood Youth Association's Las Doradas Children's Center and Learning Center to provide children in Venice's Oakwood area with the care and guidance they need to become productive, fulfilled members of the community. Over the past ten years, more than 400 children and their families have benefited from the education-based programs offered by the Center. The effectiveness of these programs has been demonstrated by

### Sinking Torso

Dear Beachhead,

Know what would be funny? If they set up that big ol' heavy thing and it just sinks. The traffic circle used to be the lagoon, after all. Maybe the fill isn't too tightly packed.

If there's a statue of anybody in that location, my vote is for the Beat poets.

Pat Hartman

### Statue Gallery

Dear Beachhead,

I'm for the statue.

How about getting busy with a statue gallery from the library to the beach all around the traffic circle and in the pavillion area.

Then we can stretch them up and down the boardwalk.

Possibly they can be made to be requisite offerings for passage of various permits and the like. We can be a Venice version of the Roman forum.

No politicians, OK.

I think lots of 'em would be really cool.

I still think we should get Jack Daniels to give up \$ to make a 100-ft-high Jim Morrison down at the Pavillion. This one should be pure tacky glitz with a hollow interior that we can allow people to climb into like the dinosaurs out in the desert.

Peace and Love Yo.

Chuck Dukowski

the children's achievements. Teachers at nearby Broadway Elementary say that Center participants start kindergarten more prepared than other students, and that their social and cognitive skills are stronger.

According to Vendella Barnett, Executive Director of the Neighborhood Youth Association, "The Las Doradas Children's Center is a safe haven for children with bright minds who are carefully nurtured by a dedicated staff. These children become effective learners who are ready to enter and excel in kindergarten. And when our children succeed, we succeed."

Linda Lucks

### 826LA

Dear Beachhead,

I'm writing to tell you about 826LA, a new non-profit tutoring organization on Venice Blvd. I thought you might be interested in hearing what we do.

We offer free drop-in tutoring for students ages 8-18, free workshops and special events. We also work with local schools on specialized projects and offer free Story Time on Saturdays for children ages 3-6. We have other locations around the country and are thrilled to become part of the Los Angeles Community.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in our organization, please let them know. We'd also love it if you'd like to publish a link to our website on yours. We are trying to get the word out.

Please visit our website to learn more: [www.826LA.org](http://www.826LA.org) and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely, Claire Smith

## Statue of Imitation

By Carol Fondiller

It must have been a slow news day for the L.A. Times on Saturday April 16th when it ran one of its boiler plate "oh those Wacky Venetians" stories on the front page. Below the fold, but definitely on the Front Page.

This time, it was about the objections of the Venice Community to the placing of a torso on the Venice Traffic Circle. And as usual those funny zanies at the Times missed the point.

The point missed was a lack of process in the choice of art work, and the perception that if one were famous enough and had rich patrons, one could dump anything they wanted in Venice.

We're certain that Robert Graham is a sensitive artist. And, he is a resident of Venice.

But, just because he is an artist and therefore has elevated sensibilities does not mean that he or any other artisty-poo that inhabits Venice has get a right to shove his stuff on Venice. That Damned Masonic Symbol at the end of Windward Avenue is bad enough.

And bad enough is the fact that the statue is a legless armless headless torso - but what's a memorial to Elizabeth Short, the Black Dahlia, got to do with Venice?

Suddenly Mr. Doumani, a Peninsula resident, promises several hundred thousand dollars for this statue and the cash strapped city - can't afford beach benches - comes across with some matching funds. When people objected to the lack of process, they were threatened with the withholding of any more artworks in the future. "Well if you bad little children don't like oatmeal, you won't get any more food in the future."

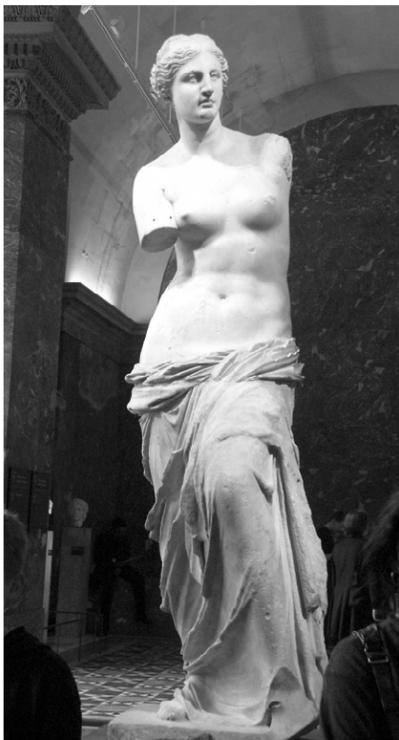
It isn't as if people in Venice didn't have Visions about what to do about the traffic circle. In previous issues of the Beachhead, many creative and wonderful ideas about how to make the circle outstanding were published. And the Beachhead is certain there are more innovative ideas out there.

But the process was ignored, and about six business people who form the circle business association decided what they wanted, and bedazzled by Mr. Graham's fame, accepted the torso statue.

But in a renaissance style mix of expensive art and high politics the L.A. Times pursued the matter in an attempt to shame the people of Venice. Venice ain't what it was, the editorial (Thursday, April 21) claimed, no more free thinkers and diversity. Just soaring property values and gentrification.

The Times said that the protest was over morality rather than quality. No, not necessarily. It was a matter of having an art thing dropped in the middle of downtown Venice that didn't involve the community, nor did it represent the community. The proposed statue isn't even an original work. It looks like a knock-off of statues that he did that litter Beverly Hills.

Perhaps Mr. Graham might design a statue of Jefferson Davis and plant it in Watts, or maybe a statue of Emperor Maximilian in East L.A.



*Venus de Milo lost her arms during her full and active life.*

## A Little Bit of Amsterdam..For Now

By Bram Toker

"The other day, a headline in the L.A. Times caught my eye. 'City to Limit Pot Clubs.'" said my recent acquaintance, "I didn't even know there were any in SoCal! I thought only those lucky folks up north were civilized enough to have them. I read further into the article—no phone number, no address for any pot club.

I was about to dismiss the article as pure fabrication like the spate of young writers who made up their news stories. I reread the article, looking for clues. No, the club owners claimed they were closing a public service, made regulations; no toking on the premises or in one's car, no loitering or merchandising any other pharmaceuticals."

I interrupted my acquaintance, "So are the pot clubs real?" "Well, according to the article I read,"...he wiped off the latte foam from his moustache with his napkin..."Wait a minute," I said, "What article are you talking about?" I had to be outtended by some absolutely inherently hip acquaintance—you know the sort of person, when you mention you were at a party to honor Bill Maher, say, he would say, 'Oh, I missed that party. I was in Monaco at the funeral, Stephanie looked gorgeous. I wish I'd been there, Bill's a good head.' And you know he's talking about Hillary's Bill.

"The April 2, 2004 issue, L.A. Times California section...anyway, some cities are looking to ban the clubs..."

"But they're here? They're really here?" My eyes welled with tears of frustration. "And now they'll be gone before I even see one..." "What medical condition do you have that warrants the medical use of marijuana?"

"What medical condition DON'T I have?" I snapped. "Several medical doctors have recommended ingesting ganja for the chronic pains that flesh is heir to." My acquaintance stared into space then refocused on me "They're here. Proposition 215 that Californians voted for is HERE! Marijuana medication is legal in California. Compassionate care centers do exist and they exist in SoCal or will until the City zones out." He excused himself pulled down his fedora and slid out of sight on sneakered feet.

I sat at the outdoor table, panicked because I might never see Amsterdam with its Vlamink sky or its liberal attitude towards products cannabis, but also because my acquaintance left me to pay his bill. But my eye was caught by the back page of an alternative weekly paper. Compassionate care ads. Hmm.

So a few days later after calling the number listed in the ad, I called my M.D. Well yes, she said I do think reefer helps assuage the pain. I know it assuages pain. But no I won't write a recommendation. Crazy I'm not she said. Click.

Ah, but hope abounds. For a fee, a moderate fee, a doctor, an M.D., would be at the compassionate care center to examine. After selling my first born, I left the stultified atmosphere of Venice and headed east to a recently incorporated city. On a sunny patch of street which housed a health food super market, thrift shops and cottages looking like Nathaniel West just left was my grail Compassionate Care Organic Farmacy (I.P. Cit.).

A large imposing security guard was standing by the doorway. I walked inside. A young woman asked for my California I.D. She was, I could tell, an aspiring actor. She asked me to sit in the waiting room. Some were already patients and were greeted with collegial warmth. Black softly dressed couple on a sofa, Native American décor, subdued lighting, an ear-ringed man with intriguing tattoos thumbed through a magazine.

Every once in a while a name would be called. They were escorted to the mysterious back section. A young Asian woman came in to see the doctor and was directed to an ATM machine discreetly stashed between the puffy couches. After a short (for a doctor's visit) wait I was escorted to the doctor's office.

He didn't look like an M.D. but there was his diploma. I told him my doctor said I should use marijuana for pain and anxiety. He recommended chiropractic. He noted my doctor's name and gave me a certificate "complies with prop 215 the Compassionate Use Act of 1996—Bram Toker is under my medical care. I have evaluated the medical risks of cannabis use with him/her as a treatment pursuant to 1136.2...I recommend/approve of my patient's use of marijuana...etc., etc." Signed Dr. yes medical license #—.

Back to the waiting room. Copy of certificate plus the original, and my California I.D. card, and a list of other organic pharmacies and centers from Long Beach to San Francisco all handed to me including a ticket to wait to go into the "farmacy."

I was escorted into a place that was as quiet (even with the Rolling Stones in the background) and discreet as Cartier's, Tiffany's, or a Beverly Hills plastic surgeon's office.

I was handed a menu. Mountain High, Red Beard, Buddha varying prices well within "street" price, I'm told, never having bought any cannabis since the late '50's. After studying it, I went up to the glass enclosed counter. Never had I seen such a variety of leaf and plants. Oils, infusions, distillations and edibles were also for sale. The slender curly haired man, one of several

clerks (bar tenders? dispensers?) behind the counter weighed out my purchase carefully and put it in a sturdy bag. As I left I noted that the atmosphere of the waiting room was one of optimistic anticipation. And those exiting including myself looked complacent. The tall broad guard smiled and nodded as I

left.

When I got home there was my small packet of "legal" high. In the brown paper bag along with the packet were rules regarding behavior—no driving while using, no heavy machinery, no smoking in the parking lot, no loitering, etc.

How civilized, I thought. Just to go in assisted by knowledgeable clerks (assistors? dispensers? Weediesters?), courteous and friendly receptionists, and interesting, diverse and articulated clientele. I almost felt legit.

But there are many clouds on the horizon.

This June, a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court might determine the future of such, as the L.A. Times so inelegantly called the compassionate care centers, "pot clubs," not to mention the effect the federal Controlled Substances Act might have on the future of medical marijuana in California as well as several other states.

Where are those Confederate flag waving states rights patriots when we need 'em?

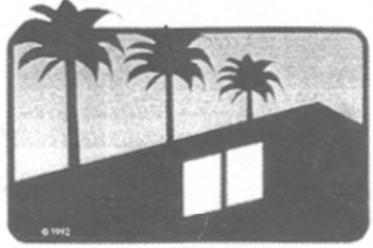
The case is called Ashcroft vs. Raish and involves the rights of a physician to prescribe what she feels will improve her patient's health.

Maybe Venetians in the near future will have their own dispensaries—or get busted for one seed.

Oh Wheel of Fortune

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Tenants Association**



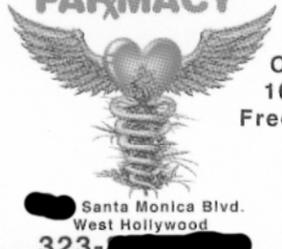
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## 35 Years Ago This Month

Thirty-five years ago, many Venice residents were busy participating in the largest strike in U.S. history. In reaction to President Nixon's invasion of Cambodia and the killings of student protesters at Kent State in Ohio and Jackson State in Mississippi, college campuses shut down throughout the country, including at UCLA and Cal State campuses.

The history of this strike is largely ignored, but the facts are impressive:

- over 100 American campuses closed on strike each day for the remainder of the school week after the Kent massacre;
- ultimately, nearly 5,000,000 American students joined the national student strike;
- more than 500 American colleges & universities were closed by mid-May;
- more than 900 colleges & universities closed before the end of May, 1970;
- approximately 80% of US colleges & universities experienced protests;
- approximately 175,000 faculty members joined the protests;
- more than 35,000 national guardsmen were called into action in 16 states;
- 30 ROTC buildings were burned or bombed by students prior to May 16, 1970;
- at the University of Wisconsin alone, 27 firebombings were reported;
- in May, 1970, across America, there were more firebombings & arsons than in any month since those government statistics began;
- highways, expressways, city streets & railroad tracks were barricaded across America;
- on May 9, 1970, over 150,000 protesters, mostly students, converged on Washington, DC. President Nixon, Henry Kissinger & others were kept in the White House protected by armed military guards with machine guns. The White House was surrounded & protected by a cordon of bumper-to-bumper buses;
- on May 16, 1970, BUSINESS WEEK magazine warned: "This is a dangerous situation. It threatens the whole economic & social structure of the nation."
- President Nixon's memoir reveals the days after Kent State as "...among the darkest" days of his presidency;
- former Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren said Kent State sparked the worst American crisis since the Civil War;
- 100 art museums & galleries closed in solidarity with the student strike;
- according to the WALL STREET JOURNAL, over 500 US GI's deserted each day in May, 1970;
- according to THE LONDON EXPRESS & US military intelligence, each week in May, 1970, over 60 US troops in Vietnam (mostly African-Americans) crossed over & joined enemy forces -the Viet Cong;
- after the Kent massacre, entire companies of US troops in Vietnam refused orders to invade Cambodia;
- in solidarity with the US students, numerous US soldiers wore black armbands and refused to fight any longer in Vietnam;
- combat refusal became so common that entire companies were established in Vietnam to include the many non-fighting soldiers;
- Vietnam Veterans Against the War, a group of anti-war veterans returned from Vietnam, increased their membership by 50% in May, 1970 - they led many campus protests & strikes after Kent State;
- on Armed Forces Day, May 16, 1970, there were marches, rallies & rock festivals at 22 US military bases involving 43 different anti-war veterans' groups;
- military leaders cancelled Armed Forces Day events at 28 other bases due to planned anti-war demonstrations;
- 1,000 marched through the streets near Fort Hood, Texas, shouting "Avenge Kent State!"
- only a few days after Kent State, President Nixon limited the US invasion of Cambodia to 35 kilometers inside Cambodia & two months maximum duration;
- within two months the US troops withdrew from Cambodia.

Finally on April 30, 1975, the Vietnamese marched into Saigon and ended the war most Americans did not want. It was a crushing defeat for U.S. warmongers and a great victory for peaceniks in Venice and around the world.

# A Warm & Fuzzy Mothers Day

By Theresa Hulme

The U.S. Supreme Court presently hinges threadlike in a delicate balance of right, middle and barely left. Of the 9 justices on the bench today, 4 are over 70 years old. 2 are over 80. When one or more of these justices retires within the next four years, the already conservative majority that sometimes swings, will most definitely swing to the ultra- conservative right with a Bush appointee.

The present justices are responsible for selecting George W. Bush for President after the election scandals of 2000. Supreme Court justices dictate many laws that affect our daily lives and are appointed for life. Theirs or ours.

Of the current 9, 3 support women's rights, 3 oppose and 3 vacillate in ambiguity. Strangely, only two justices are women.

Though many in California live under the myth that the Golden State will be protected from the overturning of Roe vs. Wade, we need look no further that the Terminator himself, Arnold Schwarzenegger. Having displayed and admitted more respect for Hitler than for women and their bodies, the Gropenator, in his short time in office, has already openly attacked female majority professions such as nurses and teachers.

Mom, I feel sick. Though the writing is on the wall, many women are passively accepting the demise of their basic civil rights. Hidden under the cloak of Christianity, Bush's ultra fake wing Administration is using empty religious rhetoric to vehemently defend a child before birth.

However, after the child is born, she'll be born into increasing poverty with no health care, no living wage and attend the worst public education system in the industrialized world. She'll breathe toxic air, drink dirty water, and have nursed from mothers milk laced with rocket fuel, thanks to the nuclear weapons manufacturers and military bases that are her close neighbors, anywhere in America.

As a mere economic unit, she'll soon be pumped with corporate recommended pharmaceutical drugs. Eventually, at the mall or at school, a military recruiter will spice up a deal to serve a 'patriotic' duty and fight a fake war, in a poor, far away, dark-skinned Third World country. This is the Bush abortion policy.

The scheme is simple yet frightening and deadly: slowly chip away at civil rights (Patriot Acts I & II). Build-up the prison industrial complex and fill it with minorities, mostly blacks, Latinos & immigrants. Strip them permanently of the right to vote or participate in a democratic

society. Dismantle the middle-class, shifting power and money to the corporate elite, less than 1% of the population. Create desperation among the working class by cutting social programs. Make education out of reach to those that can't afford it, offering the military as bait for college funding. Exploit women and children through cheap, slave-like labor. Control media outlets, feed lies, and dumb down. Send in the corporate suits to push fancy drugs, numbing a majority of the population. In true capitalist fashion, fatten everyone up with fast food junk that sickens and isolates.

The nucleus of this scheme? Women comprise about 51% of the total population. If this segment can be controlled, restrained, manipulated and power over her body seized, the patriarchy reigns and only small fringe groups remain to fight a colossal evil. With women dependent, disgraced and demoted to second class citizens, the empire is easily able to continue its violent imperialist agenda.

Some sources report the actual death toll in Iraq exceeds 100,000, mostly women and children. If Iraq is a microcosm of U.S. social/ foreign policy, it can serve as a reflection of what's in store for American women under the new Regime: Corporate controlled patriarchal capitalism.

Once known as Mesopotamia, Iraq is the birthplace of civilization. If Mesopotamia is a metaphor for the womb, we eerily witnessed as Bush carelessly dropped bombs on Baghdad. As part of a military strategy, military commanders have regarded the rape of women (but not men) as a significant wartime bonding experience. The mere presence of war is a cause of rape. Though severely underreported, many of these rapes occur within the U.S. military, upon enlisted females. As Army Generals were cleared in the Iraq prison abuse scandals, so they are in cases of rape.

With no respect for Mother Earth, depleted uranium now permeates Iraqi soil and water. A generation of Iraqi babies drink poisoned mothers milk. In Texas, mothers milk is found laced with rocket fuel, from U.S. weapons corporations recklessly ejaculating poison into the earth.

Though the bombs on America's women may not explode instantly with depleted uranium, the parallels are clear. Our demise is slower, sneakier and sugared with the empty rhetoric of 'freedom and democracy.' However, the end result is painfully obvious: the rape & destruction of our Mother Earth. Mom, now I REALLY feel sick. Anyway, to her and all Earth Mothers, Happy Mothers Day!

## VCHC Hosts "Clean-up" Day, May 20

Venice Community Housing Corporation's (VCHC) L.A. Bridges Program is hosting the second annual community cleanup day from 9AM-1PM, May 20.

Venetians are urged to come to the Oakwood Recreation Center, 767 California Avenue to take part in a massive community clean up effort.

VCHC is offering free bus transportation for schools that would like to bring their entire classroom. Free T-shirts and lunch will be provided to everyone who calls 390-8555 to register in advance.

Last year more than 250 local youth participated in the event. According to local resident and VCHC board member Jataun Valentine, "the youth worked really hard and were determined to leave the Oakwood neighborhood spotless and sparkling... all of my neighbors were encouraged by their relentless efforts to do something for their community."

Co-sponsors include: Mark Twain Middle School, Oakwood Recreation Center, Venice 2000, the City of Los Angeles Community Development Department, Community Outreach for Prevention & Education (COPE) and Inside Out Community Arts.

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# The Decline and Fall of Venice

By Ed Gibbon

*Poor Venice, so far from the Goddess, so close to Los Angeles.*

One hundred years ago Venice was built on wetlands with drug money. It's been downhill ever since.

Abbot Kinney had a vision. It wasn't from what he was smoking, *Sweet Caporal* tobacco, a deadly drug that ultimately killed him and many other users. Kinney turned a swamp into a mini-Venice, Italy, complete with canals, gondolas and high culture, and named it...Ocean Park! It wasn't until 1911 that Venice became Venice. No matter. It's the myth that counts.

On June 30, 1905, the canals began filling with ocean water. Thousands made the long trek from Los Angeles, but alas, for cheap thrills, not high culture. The amusement park, the beach, bars and gambling attracted the Angelenos, many of them just off the train from the mid-west.

Incessant fires, stagnant water in the canals and civil corruption were the main attributes that Venice shared with its namesake (at least the canals didn't double as sewers in Kinney's rendition).

Kinney's smoking ultimately caught up with him in 1920. A month after his death, the pier burned down. The imperialists from Los Angeles saw their opening and began agitating for annexation of Venice. Promises of cheap water, civil improvement and a booming business climate were all the urging the Philistine businessmen needed to join the "new residents" sent to Venice by L.A. in voting for annexation. In 1925, Venetians lost their independence and are suffering yet.

Instead of civic improvements, Venice's decline gathered speed under Los Angeles rule. The new hook-and-ladder truck owned by the Venice Fire Department was taken away and replaced by a clunker. The famed Venice Miniature Railroad was uprooted.

Los Angeles sent an army of occupation – the LAPD – and they've been with us since.

Fortunately, Abbot Kinney's will stated that he was giving the canals to the city of Venice on the condition that they remain canals forever. Unfortunately, Los Angeles sued to break Kinney's will and won in the Supreme Court. Traffic replaced serene gondolas in central Venice.

In 1930, oil was discovered in Venice. The Peninsula became a giant oil field. Had Venice still been a city, it would have been fabulously wealthy. Instead, it became a dump.

A few years later, Santa Monica Bay was polluted by sewage – for years. No one bothered to fix it. Venice was quarantined. When Los Angeles finally did get around to building the Hyperion Sewage Treatment Center, it needed somewhere to dump the sand and dirt. It was dumped on Venice.

By Venice's 50th anniversary, Kinney's dream could pass for Tijuana. In fact, it did, in Orson Welles' movie, *Touch of Evil*. But the worst was yet to come.

In the early 60s, Los Angeles moved in for the kill. Using "code enforcement," the building and safety department condemned 60 percent of the historic old buildings in Venice. Many of them housed bingo parlors and thousands of elderly Jews who were survivors of Hitler's concentration camps and garment factories in New York. St. Mark's Hotel at Windward and Ocean Front Walk, easily Venice's most beautiful building was obliterated by L.A. wrecking balls despite a determined fight by its owners to save it.

By then, Venice had become an oasis of culture, although perhaps not as Abbot Kinney envisioned. The Beats – poets and critics of mate-

rialist society – flourished in Venice. They became a particular target for the wrath the Los Angeles imperium. The Gas House at Market and the Ocean Front, one of the first coffee houses, was destroyed to force the Beats out. Up on Dudley Avenue, the Venice West Cafe, was closed when patrons rose to recite poetry without a city permit. The battle for free speech spilled out onto the walks and streets of Venice and is still going on.

As the 60s progressed, cheap rents attracted more free spirits to Venice, to the outrage of Los Angeles authorities. Rock concerts on the beach turned into police riots, living in Venice while Black became a crime, and smoking far less dangerous herbs than Kinney did was called a crime wave.

New schemes from the good citizens of Los Angeles to destroy Venice emerged:

"Let's run a freeway through it. It could go right through the middle of Venice!"

"Let's turn the canals into a yacht harbor."

"Let's bulldoze North Beach and build high-rises."

The well-named Venice Survival Committee, Free Venice, the Peace and Freedom Party and other efforts to stand up against overwhelming power were vilified in the L.A. Times, the Santa Monica Evening Outlook (Outlook), and on radio and TV. No one stood up for Venice except Venetians.

By the 1980s, Venice witnessed its first Yuppie invasion. The media stopped playing up how dangerous Venice was with motorcycle gangs, V13, and its own ghetto. Now, Venice was becoming trendy. Expensive restaurants opened on Market Street and West Washington (now Abbot Kinney). Instead of being one of the cheapest rental areas, Venice became one of the most expensive. Still, thousands

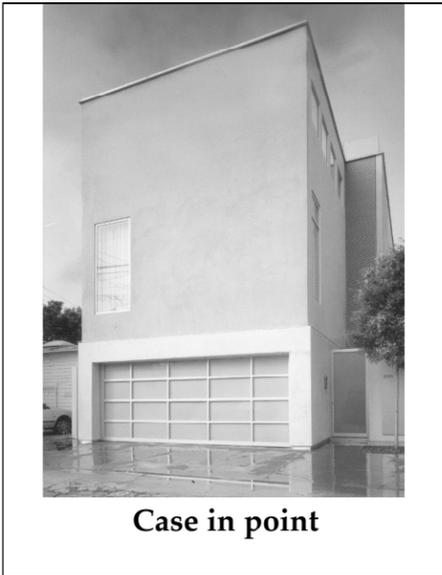
hung on to their rent-controlled apartments in their beloved Venice.

Twenty years down the line, the transformation continues. Los Angeles has stopped trying to destroy Venice by simply tearing down our homes and colonnades. Now they destroy our once-unique community by granting permits for bland monstrosities devoid of character. Even beautiful Lincoln Place, home to generations of working class and retired Venetians, is targeted to be condo-ized.

Today, almost every street in Venice has one or more of its own fortress-like giant boxes looming over carefully-designed Craftsman houses. Nearly every day, another oversized fence goes up to shield new arrivals from their neighborhood.

*Down the street rumbles a giant SUV. Soon, as if by magic, a garage door rises. Without a word, the glorified truck glides into the open cavity, and boom, the door closes behind it. Was there someone at the wheel behind the tinted window? Was it an alien being who can only stand erect in a 30-foot-high cube? We'll never know. The curtains are drawn and the door remains shut behind a high fence.*

Alas, the barbarians have breached the walls. Venice is doomed.



Case in point

## Out of the Litter Box



By Ali Katz

This cat is not a happy cat. It seems the rip out the amenities crusade is going full tilt Boogy in Venice, what with doing away with benches pay phones etc.

But in other parts of the city, according to the L.A. Times, March 28, 2005, such as Vermont Avenue, new get that? NEW bus benches are being installed. Ali called the council office about the theft—the taking of bus benches and Sandy Kievman said that iron (wrought) benches are being installed—And, she added, they had nothing to do with the metal leaners. That was the province of the Metropolitan Transit Authority. Kitty called them, but they have yet to return the call.

Ali was also informed that those "leaners" are being used in Europe—Well Ali's not going THERE any time soon, but isn't it sad that the Europeans always take what's tinny and cheap from the U.S. and use that?

Ali Katz is also vexed that streetlights are installed in certain parts of the city that are attractive and have a 19th century feel to them.

These lamps could be shaded so as to shine on the ground and not in someone's window.

Several years ago this type of lamp was proposed for the O.F.W. refurbishment. No go said Rec and Parks.

Now this cat doesn't begrudge attractive pleasant lighting in other parts of Los Angeles. This feline just wonders why Venice doesn't Qualify.

Linda Lucks community activist and one of the founders of the Venice Garden Walks was terminated by the Gubernator from her position on the State Medical Board. She was outspoken in her support of pro-cannabis M.D.s.

This cat tried to call the Gov. to find out why. Ms. Lucks was not re-appointed...He could not be reached for comment....What is that funny smell coming from the tent?...Could it be...CUBAN cigars? And aren't imports from that commie island illegal? Oh, what to do.

And did you hear? The Gubernator got taken to task for using state employees to build sets for the Arnold to speak in front of, as he talks about cutting pensions for these very same state employees.

Well, maybe steroids don't shrivel one's cojones after all.

That's all for Meeow!

Oh Rats Dept.: Forgot to mention Ms. Lucks was also a Beachhead "Collectivite" in the Day.

**South Beach Cafe'**  
2 Rose Avenue  
Venice, Ca 90291



photo by Rich Mann

# The Fall of Icarus

by John Wherle, formerly at Speedway and Market

## Lincoln Place Update

(200 Lincoln Place tenants were given eviction notices last month. The Lincoln Place Tenant Association is fighting to save the affordable housing which its owner, AIMCO, want to bulldoze.)

By Sheila Bernard

More than 100 tenants gathered at Penmar Park during April in a series of meetings to enroll in legal defense against the Ellis Act.

Tenants heard a presentation by Elena Popp, founder of Eviction Defense Network. She agrees with active tenants at Lincoln Place that the tenants have many strong defenses against the Ellis Act, and that these defenses will protect the tenants for a long time.

The Ellis defense will add to the fronts on which the tenants are battling AIMCO, one of the biggest landlords in the United States. AIMCO is a formidable opponent, and an emblem of the kind of corporate arrogance and aggressiveness that calls all of us to join

Photo by C.V. Beck



the ongoing fight for equal protection under the law.

Venetians are urged to assist Lincoln Place Tenants Association in any way possible to keep the legal fund strong and to get the word out that the battle rages on.

Photo by C.V. Beck



**A**BOVE – Venice Self-Government – Strategies and Alternatives was the subject of a symposium at the University of Venice, April 16. Most participants agreed that Venice would be better off if it wasn't a part of the city of Los Angeles. The problem that vexed panelists and audience alike was just how to get out. Two years ago, San Fernando Valley residents voted to secede were overruled when the rest of the city voted against it.

Among the ideas advanced were: an attempt at convincing Angelinos to allow Venice to go its own way; creating a new Santa Monica County with Venice as an independent city within it; strengthening the neighborhood council with real decision-making powers; and simply declaring our independence from Los Angeles. A follow-up meeting will be held in the next couple of months.

Panel: (left to right) Moderator Jim Smith; Suzanne Thompson, Arnold Springer, Mike Feinstein and William McNally.

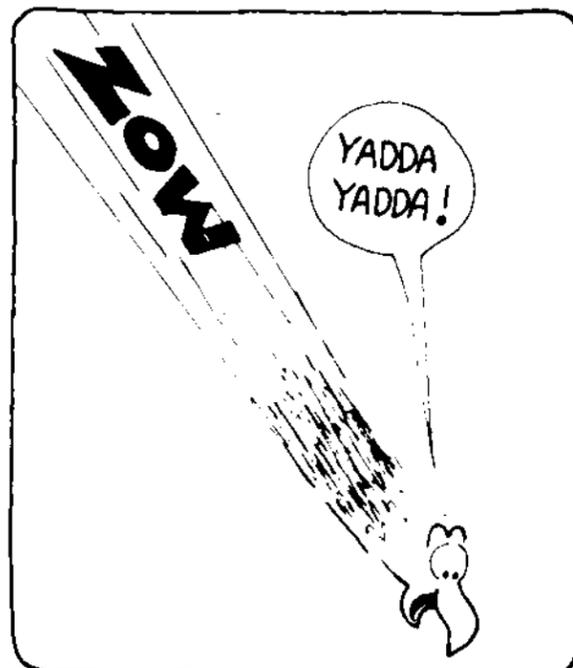
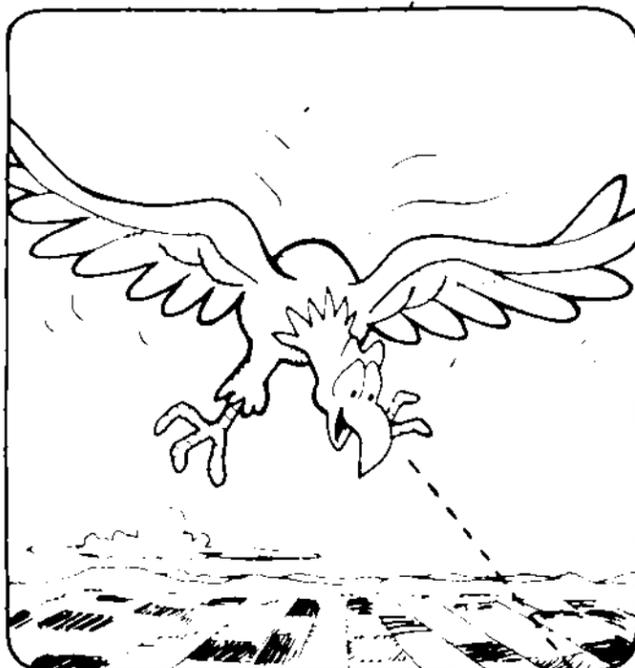
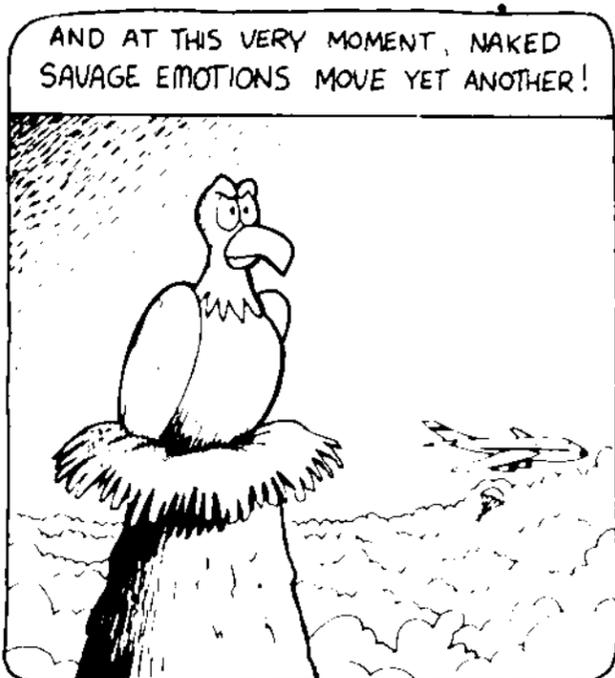
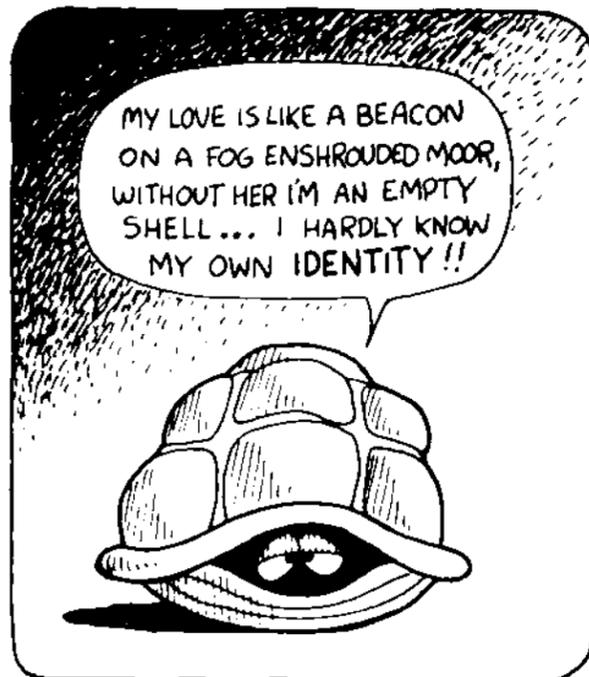
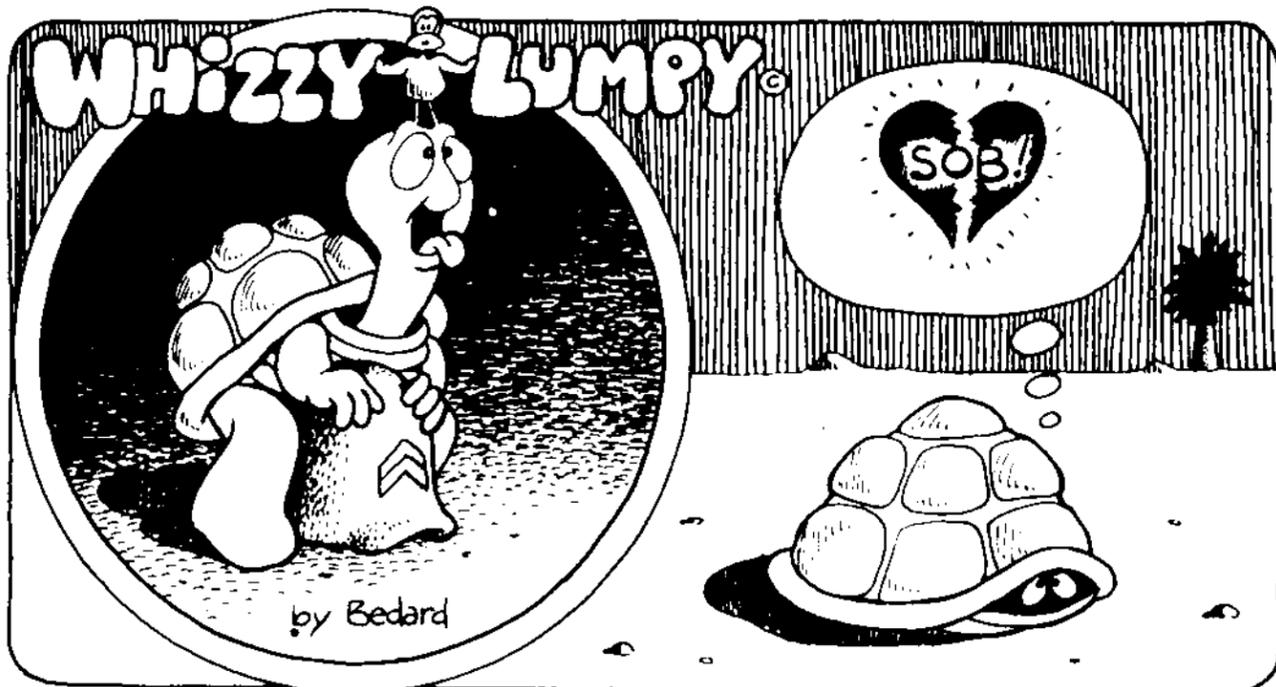
**R**IGHT – An Afternoon of Traditional Mongolian Song and Music was presented April 17 by the Ulan Bator Foundation, SPARC (Social and Public Art Resource Center), Venice Arts Council and the Venice People's Centennial.

Badma Khanda (photo at right) from Ulan Ude, Buryatia was part of a trio of Mongolian musicians that played traditional music from their home country. The outdoor concert at SPARC was accompanied by the opening of a Mongolian art exhibit which ran through April 30.

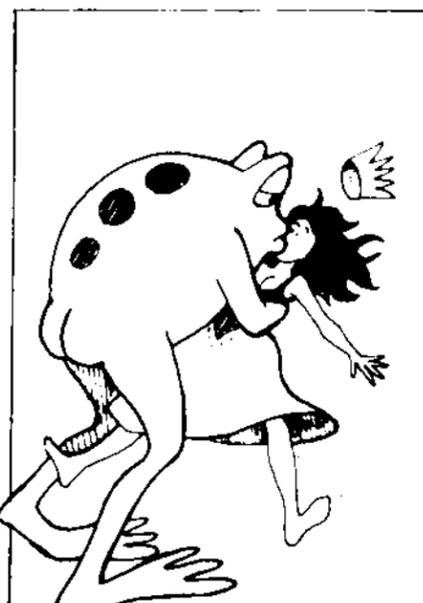


Photos by Jim Smith





**SHORT STORY** by BEDARD



# Neighborhood Council not DONE

—continued from page 1

After hearing from about 30 articulate defenders of the Council, and about half as many who promoted decertification, the BONC Board reached a consensus for going ahead with a new election that will put GRVNC back in business. The Commissioners unanimously rejected decertification. Two of the seven Commissioners, Pat Duran and Tony Lucente, who had supported decertification at a previous meeting, reversed themselves and joined in supporting an election.

In spite of much agitation by a small but determined group, the decertification option now seems at a dead end. It wouldn't even have been on the April 5 agenda had not DONE pushed it as an option. At a meeting last month, the Commissioners had asked DONE to return with a plan for a new election run by some other entity since DONE had a biased reputation in the community.

Instead, the DONE staff report claimed that it could not find anyone else to run the election, and again presented decertification as an alternative. In fact, when DONE staffer Jamiko Bell read the staff report to the Commissioners she skipped over the election option and began with the second option, decertification. She did state that DONE was not advocating decertification, but her presentation seemed to belie her disavowal of it.

BONC Commissioners oversee DONE, which has constantly interfered with the Venice Neighborhood Council. However, since DONE staff work full time, while the Commissioners only come together once or twice a month for meetings, BONC is often dependent on DONE for information on the neighborhood councils.

DONE also ignored the urging of front-running Mayoral candidate Antonio Villaraigosa, who in a letter to DONE General Manager Greg Nelson said, "I encourage you to bring together the remaining duly elected GRVNC board members, your staff, the City Attorney and anyone else you feel is appropriate, determine a path forward for reconstituting GRVNC, and help them to get it done in the most expeditious manner possible." Although Villaraigosa sent the letter in January, DONE has yet to act upon it.

Other neighborhood council leaders, including Mar Vista President Tom Ponton and Tarzana President Leonard Shaffer, have also expressed concern to BONC.

By the end of the meeting, BONC Commissioners were convinced the election should proceed. BONC President Ron Stone volunteered to oversee the election. By this time, BONC had heard about two hours of testimony from a variety of community leaders who noted that Venice needed the Neighborhood Council's voice on issues such as evictions at Lincoln Place, the upcoming Lincoln Center project and other developments, problems of homelessness and increasing rents, and preserving the historic mix of peoples and income levels.

At a BONC meeting in March, some decertification advocates had scornfully observed that the GRVNC had no support beyond its board members. This time they were proven wrong as many other prominent Venetians not connected with GRVNC came to its defense, including Eric Vollmer (Imagining Venice); Artists Janet Gervers, Lance Robertson, and Zed and Alayha Aquarian; Prof. Arnold Springer; Lincoln Place residents Ingrid Mueller, Carol Beck, Rose Murphy and others; Venice Community Coalition members David Ewing and Mindy Taylor-Ross; Realtor Sylviane Dungan; and a Ballona Wetlands Land Trust leader Paul Herzog. Activists on opposite sides of the Ocean Front Walk permit controversy - Carol Berman and Peggy Lee Kennedy - both spoke in defense of GRVNC.

Advocates of the failed decertification effort included Developer Frank Murphy; Property Investors C.J. Cole and Barbara Gibson; as well as former losing GRVNC candidates Richard Myers, Rick Selan and Kelly Willis.

Also dead on arrival were the proposed bylaws for a new neighborhood council in lieu of GRVNC. Although it was the product of a small group of decertification advocates, the DONE

report termed it the product of "the stakeholders of the Venice community." The proposed bylaws would have severely restricted who is eligible to vote and would have balkanized Venice into 19 districts, with no one being elected by all of Venice. Without decertification, the bylaws are moot.

On the down side, BONC did not restore the GRVNC's quorum so that it can conduct business before the election, nor did it take steps to overturn the one-sided arbitration that invalidated GRVNC Board members elected in 2004.

DONE was instructed by BONC to return at the next meeting with a timeline for a GRVNC election. Many of Venice speakers said the election should be held in June in accordance with the bylaws. Commissioner Lucente suggested July.

On April 19, supporters of GRVNC were disappointed to find their trip to Mission Hills for yet another BONC meeting anti-climactic as DONE again seemed to be dragging its feet. The DONE staff claimed an election could not take place before August or September.

DONE's proposed election timeline violates the BONC's newly approved "Policy to Remedy Non-Compliance of Neighborhood Council Elected Boards with Timely Elections Requirements." In the policy, it states that DONE will use a process of "Finalization of Election Procedures consistent with the Neighborhood Council's approved bylaws." GRVNC falls into this category since DONE refuses to allow it to function, claiming lack of a quorum.

Several Venetians pointed out during "public comment," that GRVNC bylaws call for an election in June. Suzanne Thompson outlined a timetable that would allow the election to take place in June.

**"This is bullshit!"**

When questioned by BONC Commissioner Jimmie Woods Gray about the requirement for a June election, DONE staff member Jamiko Bell flippantly replied that the election could be held the following June (2006) if that was what the commission wanted. "This is bullshit," Woods Gray exploded.

DONE's credibility is at an all-time low, and not just with BONC. Even those who want to decertify the neighborhood council seem to be fed up. In an April 21 statement, Marta Evry complained, "We wrote a new set of bylaws at the invitation of DONE's Greg Nelson and had those bylaws vetted by BONC's (Commissioner) Bill Christopher. Yet we were denied a chance to implement them."

Nelson seems to have been very active in working with the decertification faction. He also wrote a letter to the Argonaut newspaper, April 14, complaining about the (goofy) elected GRVNC leadership.

Now his department is proposing an election that violates GRVNC bylaws, leaves it without any officers after June 30, and nearly guarantees another round of challenges after the election.

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## GRVNC Bashing Built on a House of Cards

By John Davis

On April 5th a meeting of the Los Angeles Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) considered the fate of the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council.

At that meeting Commissioner Bill Christopher called the Final Arbitor of election challenges the cornerstone of the Neighborhood Council System.

However, this "cornerstone" is but a feather holding up a skyscraper of lies, all of which are based upon a fictional decision by the Human Relations Commission (HRC). The Executive Director of (HRC), Rabbi Allen I. Freehling only released a Staff Report from his subordinate Gary De La Rosa. That report claimed that a decision had been made regarding the GRVNC election of 2004. A STAFF REPORT IS NOT A DECISION.

DONE General Manager Nelson concocted a simple-minded scheme to get rid of the GRVNC.

Ask GRVNC to agree that the HRC would act as the Arbitrator and to "Decide" on 2004 election challenges. GRVNC at a public meeting agreed and took legal "Action" as defined under the Ralph M. Brown Act. "Action" has the same legal meaning as the term "Decision" under California law.

This is the core lie. This lie has caused Venice Stakeholders to be disenfranchised from a public process promised to them as voters reformed the City Charter to include local voices, Neighborhood Councils.

Without the approval of his bosses at the BONC, Nelson used his imperious pen to proclaim in public emails that GRVNC could not establish a quorum. He then revoked the Council's money.

Nelson said his department received the HRC report and he declared it represented a "Decision" and or an "Action" of the HRC. Blustering irresponsibly as if on a power drunken high, he sent a public email claiming

the HRC "Action" could not be overturned even the by Congress of the United States.

The legal course was for the HRC to hold a public meeting during which they were empowered by the Brown Act to make a decision. Venice waited for that to happen and it never did.

BONC Commissioner Bill Christopher said the "DECISION" is unmovable.

But there never was a "DECISION" or "ACTION TAKEN" by HRC. A Staff Report of the HRC cannot crusade as a decision. The two are mutually exclusive.

At three meetings of the BONC I presented Commissioners with proof that the Human Relations Commission never made such a decision because it was not reflected in their official records, the agendas and minutes of their meetings.

So, the BONC made a decision and accepted the lie of Greg Nelson as their own and now claimed that DONE and BONC would take over the GRVNC elections to make sure they are fair this time. Of course this is like turning a pack of wolves on one chicken in a henhouse.

The California Open Meeting Act preamble says the following:

*In enacting this chapter, the Legislature finds and declares that the public commissions, boards and councils and the other public agencies in this State exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business. It is the intent of the law that their actions be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly. The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created.*

**By Swami X**

Four eyes meet – admiration, empathy, conversation, and intimacy.

Four lips met – challenge, pleasure, wonder, curiosity.

Four Thighs met – delight, surrender, fulfillment, divinity.

Where in the divine plan fits the ego of man.  
Without the anguish & illusion of Separation,  
There'd be no union, elation or emancipation.  
If one would really have Moksha, Release,  
Realize that Spirit, all pervading,  
which to everything, is underneath.  
One's hang up is one's ultimate path to peace.

## The University of Venice



The University of Venice is a free institution devoted to community development. contact 391-2314 or <uov@freevenice.org>.

Unless otherwise noted, all classes are at the United Methodist Church/Center for Peace with Justice and the Arts, 2210 Lincoln Blvd.

### SCHEDULE OF CLASSES/EVENTS:

#### Weekly

- Sundays - 2:30-4PM – **Imagining Venice** – contact Eric Vollmer - voiceinthewell@hotmail.com
- Sundays - 7-9PM - **Venice Filmmaking/-Writing Workshop** - contact Rokk Lattanzio - 323-993-8616 or rokkinla@yahoo.com
- Tuesdays at 4:30 PM - **Toddlers Group** - at the Head Start Center - Bring your parent!

#### One time only

- Tuesday, May 3 - 7:15PM - Democratic Personhood - Joanna Silva - 314-0436
- Sunday, May 15 - 4:30-6pm - "The Public Education Model" - Pastor Tom Ziegert - 391-2314
- Sunday, May 29 - 4PM - **University of Venice planning meeting** (bring your ideas for a class)

### Rumor

by Gerard Kuc

He said  
what 'she' mentioned  
as if he had  
good intentions

how she whispered  
what he explained  
on how 'she' protested  
and complained

he passed it on  
from guy to guy  
until it morphed  
into a lie

now it's too late  
to cover its track  
now that 'her' reputation  
is no longer intact

## RISE Up Through The Storm

THERE IS NO WAY TO MAKE UP  
A LIFE THAT IS LOST OR GONE  
WE HAVE ONE CHANCE TO SPEAK UP  
AND RISE UP THROUGH THE STORM

WE HAVE TO SHAKE IT UP  
AND MEAN IT  
WE HAVE TO GET DOWN  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS GET DOWN

WE HAVE TO DO  
WHAT WE HAVE TO DO  
TO RISE UP  
TO RISE UP THROUGH THE STORM

WE WONT LET THIS GO  
BECAUSE WE DONT HAVE TO  
AND WE WONT HOLD ON  
TO THEIR  
WAR TIME SCENARIO

WE HAVE TO RISE UP  
RISE UP THROUGH THE STORM

– JOHNNY PAPP

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## Schwarzenegger "girly-mans" under pension attack

By Marjorie Hinds

Bashing teachers and nurses is now well within the confines of acceptable political conduct. Schwarzenegger will, however, have to pay the piper for mixing it up with police and firefighters. April 7, 2005 the Gov. held a news conference and temporarily backed off his campaign to undermine California pension funds. While it is unclear whether the plan would actually tinker with police and firefighter survivor benefits, the suggestion of such was sufficient to force its withdrawal and retooling. This is only a breather, however. He'll be back and the stakes are high.

Why should those of us who are not public employees give a damn what befalls the state pension system? Well, as it happens, the outcome of this skirmish over the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) and the California State Teachers Retirement System (CalSTRS) may well portend the future of Social Security.

Why, if this is a local pension matter is the funding, and cheerleading, for Schwarzenegger's privatization scheme coming from corporate interests and their allies nationwide? It appears these recalcitrant pension people are a meddling nuisance. They're buzzing like gnats in the faces of culpable CEOs—just yammering on and on about corporate this and corporate that—accountability, malfeasance and the like.

CalPERS and the teachers' retirement fund are sore about losing a combined 1 billion dollars at the hands of Enron and WorldCom. Pissed off and taking names, the pension funds are throwing their weight around—180 billion and 126 billion respectively. They are doing, collectively, what we are unable to do individually—they're kicking some corporate ass.

Holding billions of dollars hostage during investment negotiations, their demands for corporate accountability include curbing excessive pay for executives, strengthening accounting standards, increasing transparency, opening corporate boards to shareholders and halting the privatization of public sector jobs. They have succeeded in altering business practices at hundreds of corporations including Disney, Apple, Safeway and Coca-Cola. Admittedly, the practical disruption to "business-as-usual" has been marginal. Nevertheless, any public intrusion into corporate governance engenders a backlash.

While dismantling an activist power base is a solid enough reason to privatize CalPERS, another incentive is, of course, the money. Wall Street bankers are down right orgasmic envisioning all of those dollars in the hands of novice individual investors. And yikes, what becomes of these individuals? With both Social Security and pensions up for grabs could

Schwarzenegger be helping to create yet another special interest group—the elder homeless?

### Urgent Action Needed to Save SSI

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) faces congressional cuts that would push millions of vulnerable seniors and people with disabilities deeper into poverty. Your representatives are currently considering two options: reduce benefit amounts for everybody or cut benefits entirely for some. Individuals cut from the program will likely lose Medi-Cal coverage as well.

Call your representatives and ask that they not cut the SSI budget!

- Representative Jane Harman (310) 643-3636
- Senator Barbara Boxer (213) 894-5000
- Senator Dianne Feinstein (310) 914-7300



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## from the Beachhead Archives May 1975

### Bye-Bye Bike Path

Moe Stavnezer

On Monday, April 21, the So. Coast Commission sold out the public of L.A. in favor of the selfish interests of property owners on the Marina Peninsula. By a vote of 6 to 5 the Commission denied a permit to extend the bikepath along the little used Peninsula beach.

At this meeting of the Commission, the fight against the bikepath was led by Supervisor James Hayes' alternate, Barna Szabo, with support from Pat Russell (who has long opposed the bikepath extension). Mr. Szabo argued that the bikepath wouldn't increase access to the Peninsula beach - the most underused beach in the Santa Monica-Venice area. He, and Ms. Russell, propose that access to the beach can better be accomplished by providing public facilities, such as Bar-B-Q pits and showers as well as bus service to the beach. He suggests that, if this is done, then people won't mind walking as far as 1.3 miles from the Washington St. parking lot to the end of the beach. The old arguments that the bikepath doesn't go anywhere and that it doesn't connect with the proposed County bikepath were also raised.

All these arguments are nonsense and simply cloud the real issue involved which is that the wealthy property owners and developers on the Peninsula don't want any of us on what they consider their private beach. Can you imagine these people sitting back and allowing the city to build Bar-B-Q pits on their beach when, at one point, they opposed the installation of toilets on the beach? Can you imagine these people supporting the building of public parking lots anywhere on the Peninsula to increase public access? Well, I certainly cannot!

The arguments that the bikepath doesn't go anywhere are simply the result of terrible planning by both the city and the county. The bikepath could easily connect with the county bikepath if, instead of ending at the channel, it swung east along the channel and onto Via Marina and then connected with the county bikepath. Also, the county has constructed a long bikepath on the beach south of Marina del Rey but has not, except for one small stretch of beach, provided the facilities it proposes for the Peninsula beach. The bikepath does definitely go somewhere - it goes to and along a beautiful, mostly unused, beach and provides bike riders with a view of the ocean and fairly easy, non-polluting access to the beach.

What Ms. Russell and the County propose is that the present bikepath - which ends at the Washington St. parking lot - continue along Washington Street and connect with the County bikepath - which which will begin at Oxford St. and go through Marina del Rey. They, and the Coastal Commission, ignore the fact that Washington St., between Pacific Ave. and the beach, is very heavily trafficked by cars all year long and is made even more hazardous to bicyclists because of the head-in type parking and the cul-de-sac nature of this street. Also ignored is the fact that, during the summer, Wash. St. is clogged with auto traffic and that there are many businesses along the street. The hazard to people on bicycles from heavy traffic and cars entering and exiting from businesses onto the street is potentially horrible.

The decision of the So. Coast Commission will, of course, be appealed to the State Commission but it may be a futile effort because there's a kind of Catch-22 involved. As early as May 1st of this year the County may take over administration of the Venice Beach from the City. In that case the County may be in a position to review City plans for the beach - including the bikepath - and will probably, because of Supervisor Hayes' opposition, simply withdraw the entire proposal from consideration. So its possible that even if the State Commission overturns the So. Coast Decision, the bikepath will never be built and the Peninsula beach will remain the private playground of the wealthy property owners and the developers on the Peninsula.

Once again, our elected representatives, Councilwoman Russell and Supervisor Hayes', have voted in favor of the rich to the exclusion and detriment of the public.



Artist at work - a long-gone mural at Brooks and Pacific Ave.

Parade! Parade! Parade!

### Celebrate Free Venice on Independence Day

The first meeting of the Free Venice Parade Committee will take place in May. Anyone interested in attending or just excited about the possibility should contact Carol at 396-0811. The July 4 Parade is an old Venice tradition that was revived in the 1970s. Everyone in the community is invited to participate as they would like - as individuals, groups, blocks or neighborhoods. Any kind of act, float, juggling or drill team for example is acceptable. And, like Venice, the Parade is FREE to all!



~ THE GOSPEL ~  
ACCORDING TO AUNT SINDY ~  
"DO UNTO OTHERS, ANIMALS ARE  
OTHERS, THE LEAST OF OUR  
BROTHERS, & SOMETIMES OUR  
MOTHERS". GEN. I - VERSE 29 - THE  
HERB BEARING SEED IS TO BE  
USED SO FINE - (PARAPHRASED)  
VERY SINDY VERY - IT'S THE BERRIES.

### Villaraigosa for Mayor —continued from page one

Villaraigosa can do a lot to improve our lives and our community.

He can carry through the democratic reform called neighborhood councils, which has stalled under Hahn and his appointee, Greg Nelson.

He can breathe life into the building of thousands of units of affordable housing throughout the city.

And he seems excited about getting a handle of the increasing traffic jams that have caused some irate drivers to start shooting at other drivers. The time has come for rail, buses, bikes, shuttles and other workable alternatives to automobiles.

None of this will happen with Jimmy Hahn. The Peter Principle has been proven again.

So, all together now:

*You're just a pawn,*

*If you vote for Hahn.*

*You'll be worse off*

*If you fall for Krisiloff!*

### Rosendahl for Council —continued from page one

Most of the Beachhead Collectivites are voting for Rosendahl. Rosendahl is more detailed in his plans to alleviate traffic and homelessness.

Ms. Krisiloff's stand on various issues, while pleasant, are vague. Ms. Krisiloff, early in the campaign, sent out mailers that questioned Mr. Rosendahl's integrity, while Rosendahl kept on target with what his goals and ideals are for the 11th district.

Ms. Krisiloff is a planning commissioner. She has consistently allowed structures to be built that change the character of the community. She, along with her fellow commissioners, have allowed developers to claim "hardship exemptions" so as to circumnavigate the local plans for height, width and density.

In some Venice neighborhoods, these outsize buildings take up every square inch of the lot while towering over existing single family homes and small apartment buildings. These outsize buildings resemble office buildings. They are single family dwellings with little garage space. Despite testimony from Venice residents, Ms. Krisiloff has allowed more density, height, etc., without any benefits to the neighborhood.

Ms. Krisiloff is endorsed by our present unelected councilwoman, Cindy Miscikowski, who has shown little interest in hearing from anyone but business and speculator interests. She has not been open to listening to the Grassroots Venice Neighborhood Council, instead, choosing to listen almost exclusively to those people in opposition to the LEGITIMATELY elected GRVNC BOARD. In the words of one activist, Cindy has not shown much interest in dealing with the poor and the downtrodden.

Bill Rosendahl holds a Master's in Social Work, and is endorsed by various teacher's and law enforcement organizations. Rosendahl recently stated that he would call for an Environmental Impact Report to the proposed Lincoln Center, if elected. This is the first time in five years that Venetians get to vote for their representative at City Hall. City Councilpeople should be accessible to residents of all sorts, not just a hand-picked few.

Mr. Rosendahl seems to promise that he will be available to listen and act on what Venice neighborhoods want. City Government has more immediate impact on people's daily lives than the Federal government. For most people, a City Councilperson is the one elected government official that they can contact personally.

This election on May 17, 2005 is almost more important than the federal elections.

**Vote!!!**

**Vote!!!**

**Vote!!!**

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## Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council

610 California Ave. 821-6030 - www.grvnc.org

Wednesday, May 4 - 6:30 - 9:30PM - Meeting put on by DONE to plan a GRVNC election - at Westminster School Auditorium, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Follow-up meetings may be held on May 19 and June 2 - same location.

## COMMUNITY

### • OFW Lottery Permit Updates:

Rally, demonstrate & march in opposition of the current unconstitutional illegal 'system'. Keep Venice a Free Speech Zone- Keep Venice Funky!

HumanRights@FreeVenice.org or call 822.2771

• **Food Not Bombs-** 822.2771 or venicesantamonicafnb@fastmail.fm

• **Food Distribution-** hosted by the Mildred Crush Foundation, the Vera Davis Youth & Family Ctr., & the Oakwood Senior Club. Distribution on 2nd & 4th Thursday the month- May 12 & May 26 between 12:30-1:30PM. More info call 305.1865 Antoinette Reynolds, Mildred Cursh Foundation; Eddie Nuno & Alicia White, Vera Davis Ctr. 610 California Ave.

• **CES - L HEAP Program:** The Low Income Energy Assistance Program is a non-profit program that assists low income individuals & families w/ their utility bills. The first Thursday of each month @ Vera Davis Ctr. 10am-3:30pm for Venice & Santa Monica residents only.

**Requirements:** - You didn't receive assistance from this program in 2004. - You are 18 yrs. or older & have a valid Social Security Card. - You must be an American citizen or legal resident. **Bring:** Both pages of your current electric bill & your current gas bill. Proof of income & a valid identification card. More info 818.891.4148

### • Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles:

1640 5th St. 899.6200// Must be income eligible - Santa Monica Offices offer assistance in these areas of law- Family Law; Government benefits; Debt & Consumer Issues; & Landlord & Tenant Issues. open Mon.- Fri. 9AM-12PM & 1-5PM. // **Domestic Violence Clinic:** assistance available @ Santa Monica Courthouse 1725 Main St. Rm 121// Clients welcome on a walk in basis- Clinic hours: 8:30PM-11AM Mon.-Fri.

• **Midnight Special Law Ctr. 510.834.1883 or www.midnightspecial.net** //Get info. regarding- searches, questioning, talking to cops, Miranda Warnings, Reasonable Suspicion vs. Probable Cause, etc.

• **Mildred Crush Foundation:** offers The Companion Youth Learning Project. Math & Computer Mentoring Program, Homework Time, Field Trips, Social Activities & much more. Tues., Wed., & Thurs., @ Vera Davis Ctr. 3-5PM Children ages 5-15 yrs. Call Antoinette Reynolds, Coordinator - healedbyhisstripes@yahoo.com or 822.6717. Please call or e mail, commit to volunteering- make a difference, tutors are needed!

### • Shelter Hotline: 1.800.548.6047 TDD:

800.660.4026 (for the deaf & hearing disabled) or www.lahsa.org// Programs began Mar. 16 - temporary nightly shelter for homeless persons - pick up points for free transportation; shelters open approximately 5PM. Pls. call for updated info.

• **UCLA West Youth Network: Looking for your first job?** Services are free Assistance with: employment: skills to get & keep your job; career exploration & guidance; occupational skills training; tutoring & computer training; college preparation; leadership development; counseling & mentoring; and- alternative high school services!

## Seniors

• **Senior Hot Lunches** offered @ these locations:  
Oakwood Park Mon. thru Fri. 11:AM to 1PM 452-7479  
Penmar Park Mon. thru Fri. 11AM to 1PM 396.9055  
Westminster Senior Park Mon.-Wed-Fri only 11AM - noon

• **Israel Levin Adult Senior Center** 201 OFW, 396-0205.

-Movie matinee, 1 pm, Mondays  
-Line dancing, 11 am, Tuesday  
-Israeli dance, 10 am, Wednesday  
-Current events discussion, 11 am, Wednesday  
-Weight management workshop, 1pm, Thursday, 6 weeks for \$20.

• **Oakwood Park** offers  
Exercise classes Tues. 10-11AM  
Computer Classes Mon. 9:30-10:30AM  
Bingo! Fri. 12:30-1:30PM

## Community Events



### Venice Pride!



### Peggy Lee Kennedy

– **Happy Mother's Day!** –  
**for all the work you do  
in providing food for the  
hungry and homeless.**

## POLITICAL

• **Save Lincoln Place Party** Cinco de Mayo/ May Day celebration on Sun., May 1 from Noon -9PM @ 1056 Elkgrove Ave #1 Lincoln Pl. // Music- Info.- Food- Art - 200 tenants have been given eviction notices- come & support! Suggested donation \$10 (no one turned away) Proceeds go to support Lincoln Pl. Tenants Assoc. If you can bring a potluck dish pls. email Nicole Ruby @ ruby@stitchedinenice.com

• **Venice Peace and Freedom Party:** Meets Wed., May 11 @ 7:PM. Call for more info: 399-2215

## ART

• **Saturday, May 7 - 10AM - 5PM - 11th Annual Venice Garden Tour** - For more information: 569-7991 or VeniceGardenTour.org - Proceeds go to Neighborhood Youth Association's Las Doradas Children's Center and Learning Center.

• **Mongolian Art Exhibition extended to May 11 at SPARC Gallery** (Old Venice Police Station) 685 Venice Blvd. 822.9560 or www.spracmurals.org

• **Sunday, May 22 - 11AM - 6PM - Venice Art Walk** 392-9255 - Benefit for Venice Family Clinic.

• **Attaway Studio:** 334 Sunset Ave. 339.4730

• **Culture Shop Gallery** 1221 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Presents jewelry designs by Thomas Mann Sat., May 7 1-5 PM 452.8121

• **Evolve Studio Gallery:** 219 Rose Ave. 314.3344

• **La Louver:** 45 Venice Bl. Exhibits oil paintings by the late Fred Williams thru May 14, 'The Latter Landscapes' 822-4955

• **Off-Rose:** 841 Flower Ave. 664.8977

• **SPONTO Gallery** @ 7 Dudley Ave. 399-2078.

• **Ten Women Venice** 1237 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Sat., May 7 Celebrate the art of mothering w/ artists @ an open house on the eve of Mother's Day w/ refreshments 1-5PM A portion of sales to benefit *A Window Between Worlds* dedicated to using art to end domestic violence. 452.2256

• **Universal Art Gallery** 2001 Lincoln Blvd. (Corner Amoroso Pl./two blocks north of Venice Blvd.) 302.8909

• **Venice Arts in Neighborhoods:** Classes for children. Call for new schedule, 578.1745 or www.venice-arts.org

• **Venice Arts Gallery** 1809 Lincoln Blvd. 578-1525

• **Venice Arts Centennial Committee:** Artists, Dancers, Musicians, Poets & Performers come anlend your talents to celebrate Contact Emily Winters 306.7372 emily-winters@earthlink.net

## Yoga Info-

• **Vera Davis Ctr** 610 California Ave. 305-1865  
Hatha Yoga classes Mondays & Thursdays  
6:30 PM, Suggested Donation \$7

• **Karmakulture** 1305A Main St. 399-1904  
Emphasis: Body alignment Tuesdays & Thursdays  
7:30PM to 9PM, \$7

## Poetry-Readings

• **Abbot's Habit** 1401 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 399-1171 8pm Sundays, Open mic opportunities offer spoken word, storytelling, & poetry.

• **Beyond Baroque** 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006 Since 1969 BB has provided free workshops & open reading program to provide a gathering place for writers to develop their voice, find support, build new communities, & experiment. Bring copies of your work- Free open readings every 1st Sun., sign up @ 4:45 PM. call for date.

-Monday Night Fiction 8PM short shorts, stories & novels;  
Tuesday Night Creative Non-Fiction 8PM creative non-fiction, memoir, & prose, w/ Todd Jackson;

Wednesday Night Poetry 8PM- West Coast longest running, free workshop & a legendary gathering of poets May-July w/ Lee Rosi;

1st & 3rd Thursdays- Free Poetry Workshop 8PM for a novel approach & engaging dialogue w/ Leilani Squire;  
Thursday Alt. Screenplay- 8PM documentary, narrative, art filmscripts, actor readings- independent projects only w/ Pete Coogan;

Saturday Afternoon Poetry- 1pm bring your poems - w/ Bob Foster-

• **Venice Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library-** 501 Venice Blvd. 821-2065 First & Third Mondays: Preschool Storytime, ages 3-5 yrs., 7:PM, Free. First Monday 6PM: Marshall McLuhan-FinnegansWake Reading Club; Saturdays @ Noon: Poets reading their works; Second Saturday 1PM Westside Writers' group discussion; free. 821-1769 for info.

## THEATRE

• **BEYOND BAROQUE** - 681 Venice Blvd. 'The Flower of the Season- Spring' last performance on Sun., May 1 5PM. A series of solo dance performances produced by Oguri & Body Weather Laboratory. Call for info - 822.3006// BeyondBaroque@aol.com

• **Electric Lodge** 1416 Electric Ave. 823-0710 -

• **Insideout-** Call to sign up your middle school student for the next FREE session- Tues., & Thurs. classes from 3:30-5:30 PM & most Saturdays

• **Pacific Resident Theater** 703 Venice Blvd. 3PM May 1st 'Happy End' last date to see this musical comedy w/ lyrics by Bertolt Brecht & Kurt Weill 822-8392

## Film/Video

• **7 Dudley Cinema:** film viewing at Sponto Gallery: //Location is 7 Dudley Ave. 306-7330.

• **Celebrate Malcolm X's Birthday** - film showing of the Spike Lee film, Malcolm X, following by discussion and party. **May 20** -Sponsored by Venice P&F - 399-2215.

## MUSIC

• **LaCabana** 738 Rose Ave. 392-6161 Mariachis- 6:30-10:30pm Thurs., Fri. & Sun.

• **Casablanca** 220 Lincoln Blvd. 392-5751 Guitarists Mon.- Sat.

• **Foundation Gallery** 1720 Main St. Venice- *Mystic Movement*, live Middle Eastern music & dance- 8PM, every third Thursday of the month- \$10 cover 827.1523

• **Hal's Bar & Grill** 1349 Abbot Kinney 396-3105 All ages free! Sunday & Monday JAZZ!

• **Sidewalk Cafe** 1401 Ocean Front Walk 399-5547 Acoustic music Wednesday- Friday /karaoke on Sundays

• **Venice Bistro** 323 Ocean Front Walk 663-4673 "Club Mosiac" Thursdays @ 7pm, free! Hip-hop, ambient, world music, multi-cultural spoken word, info 392-3997

• **Yoruba House presents SOUL OF THE DRUM** - Every 4th Sunday Church in Ocean Park 235 Hill Street, O.P. - Drum class: 6:15-7:30PM - Circle 7:30-10PM Both for \$20 475-4440 - yorubahouse@verizon.net

• **Inside Out Community Arts: Rhythms-** An Evening of Music, Poetry & Art, Expressions from CommYOUNity! This opportunity will co-create a family of artists & the community- come join!/\$5 cover Youth/Senior discount \$2// Proceeds to benefit: *Inside Out's free after-school arts programming for middle-school youth.* Venice Ctr. for Peace with Justice & the Arts 2210 Lincoln Blvd. @ the corner of Victoria Ave. next to United Methodist Church. 397.8820 -www.OutOfCa.org // InsideOutCa@InsideOutCa.org

# Antonio VILLARRAIGOSA for Mayor

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