

FREE VENICE

BEACHHEAD

SINCE 1968



Special
Sour
Grapes
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Another Honor for Abbot Kinney

This time it's a 50-foot-high mural at 45 N. Venice Blvd. by Rip Cronk. Does the founder of Venice and tobacco magnate have feet of clay? That's the only part of his anatomy that's missing.

Time for a New Development Moratorium

The Land Use and Planning Committee is considering requesting "a moratorium on all multi-family and commercial projects in the Venice area for 12 months."

The moratorium idea is gaining support because of a deluge of large projects aimed at transforming Venice.

They include: Lincoln Center, a large shopping center replacing Ralphs and Ross; Pioneer Bakery, 75 condos and a restaurant/bakery on Rose Ave.; MTA lot, a "gated community" at Main and Sunset with up to 225 units and commercial spaces; Trammell Crow, an Oxford Triangle area project for 248 condos; 300-346 Washington Blvd., convert an office building in 42 condos and build 81 new townhouse units; and multiple condo units either proposed or being built around Venice (see past Beachheads for even more projects).

Meanwhile, traffic and parking problems continue to worsen throughout Venice with no end in sight.

A moratorium might be in order to take a time-out to address the vehicular issues. In addition, there is no overall "Plan" for Venice to which everyone agrees. The Venice Specific Plan has not been approved by the Coastal Commission – a prerequisite to legitimacy for a

beach side community.

This isn't the first time a moratorium has been needed. Around 15 years ago, Venice experienced a burst of development fever after generations of very slow growth and neglect by developers.

Community activists such as John Haag, Arnold Springer and Moe Stavnezer, among others, pushed for a moratorium. They had the support of the Venice Town Council, which was an experiment in democracy that pre-dated the neighborhood council system by three decades.

In addition in 1987, one of our own, Ruth Galanter, was elected to the Los Angeles City Council. Galanter was in sympathy with the moratorium and got it implemented, beginning in February 1988 for 14 months. The result was not to stop growth, but to slow it down. Not everyone was happy with the projects that did get exemptions during the moratorium, but no one who was active then would disagree that the moratorium was necessary and stopped some outrageous developments from getting built.

A new moratorium should not be used to prevent low-income housing and social service projects from being built, but it should slow down development built solely for profit without regard for community needs.

- The Beachhead Collective

Kerry Concedes, West Coast Secedes

Presidential candidate's defeat paves way for a new country: Caliwashegon. Northeast and Upper Midwest weigh secession, too.

by George Wolfe

After the announcement of George Bush's election to the presidency in 2004, the Democratic-leaning West Coast officially broke off from the United States and formed a separate country, to be known as the sovereign nation of Caliwashegon.

Barbara Boxer (former D-Calif.), Patty Murray (former D-Wash.) and Ron Wyden (former D-Ore.) led the secession movement. Boxer matter-of-factly noted that "We did our best to get out the vote, and it just didn't work - so now we're getting ourselves out before it's too late." Asked by a Fox News reporter about Kerry's concession message urging Americans to come together as one, without anger or rancor, Boxer said, "Heal the nation? To hell with the nation... going to hell in a handbasket!!" after which she lunged and bit the reporter's ear.

Without California, Oregon and Washington, the United States would be reduced to just 47 states. Democrats and disenfranchised independents in Republican-leaning states gathered their belongings and began a

mass exodus to join their new homeland in Caliwashegon. The steady march of alienated citizens is being called the Trail of Fears in light of four more years of the current administration's wreaking of havoc and mayhem.

The Northeast has also been discussing the possibility of secession from the United States,

perhaps along with the Upper Midwest. So far, three plans have been floated. The first plan posits a sovereign Northeast nation, known perhaps as New New England. The second plan would join forces with the Caliwashegon

movement, creating a predominantly bi-coastal Blue Union of liberals and independents. The third proposal would be for full repatriation as a colony of England.

Speaking to the sleeper issue which put these nation-breaking forces into motion, Cincinnati resident Sally Steubitt defended her vote for Bush by saying, "In the end, I just wasn't convinced that enough people had died yet in the name of moral values. But fortunately we now have a mandate to wash our hands of a loving Christ, in the blood of Iraqis."

George Wolfe is the editor of *The LaLaTimes*. See www.laletimes.com for more humor on the news.



U.S. Casualties in Iraq:
1,163 Dead - 8,484 Wounded
Iraqi Dead: 14,300 to 16,400
(some sources say 100,000 Iraqi dead)



BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:
John Davis, Carol Fondiller, Theresa Hulme, Vessy Mink, Yolanda Miranda, Lydia Poncé, Joanna Silva, Jim Smith, Alice Stek, Suzy Williams

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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Venice Skills Center

My name is John Tabar; I live in Marina del Rey. I have recently heard that The Venice Skill Center will be closing in the near future for the lack of adequate class attendance. I personally have been a student of the skills center, and feel it is a tremendous asset to the Community.

I feel the Skill Center has offered many opportunities to local residents, which have allowed them to live independent and enriching lives. In today's labor economy we need to produce highly skilled technical advanced individuals. The skills center has provided invaluable learning opportunities in the area of Computer Technology.

From the excellent learning experience I received at The Venice Skills Center I decided to become a volunteer at a local college to give additional support to students who other wise would not be successful college graduates.

Closing the Skills Center would be a major blow for the Venice/ Marina del Rey area. I recommend that we get the word out to the Community as to the wonderful opportunities that abound. Many local Community colleges have closed classes, all with waiting list for similar courses that the Venice skills center offers. We must get the Word out before action is taken by the LA Unified School District to close the Venice Skills Center.

I believe as a community we can rally together and see that the right decision is made: Venice Skills Center must stay open.

Please support this initiative Now.

John Tabar

Boardwalk Free Speech Letters

Below is a copy of my letter to Councilperson Miscikowski and the response:

Dear Councilperson Miscikowski,
Please consider my thoughts which I entered into the Guestbook at the Venice Beach Drumcircle / Medicine Bow Gallery websites on the subject of the proposed Venice Beach Boardwalk Ordinance coming up for a vote on October 27th before making your decision on how you will vote. Thank you in advance for your anticipated consideration.

Sincerely,
Marc Madow, Creative Director
Medicine Bow Gallery
www.medicinbowgallery.com/guestbook.html

Please don't take free speech lightly. Once you empower government to issue "licenses" for free speech you also empower them to revoke those same licenses and thereby effectively control who says what. Government fears free speech because they know that people are smart enough to know a good idea when they hear one. Why else do you suppose they barred the Libertarian and Green Party candidates from speaking in the so-called presidential debates last week? Not only did they not let them speak, but they arrested both candidates from these parties while they were trying to serve legal papers on the officials who run the debates. Did you even hear about this in the news? Two presidential candidates arrested at the debates three weeks before an election and the media is mute? Free speech and the dissemination of information is important unless you want to live in what is becoming a police state. The Libertarian candidate's party is on the ballot in 48 states and Washington DC and he can't be in the debate? He can't get Secret Service protection? The Green Party candidate's party is on 37 state ballots and he can't debate or get Secret Service protection? What do they have to say? We'll never know as our dominant media has bought into this policy of silence. Don't let the Venice Boardwalk become another part of "Occupied America."

Response:

Thank you for your thoughts. There is a lot of misunderstanding surrounding the amendment to the present ordinance. There is no attempt here to regulate free speech but rather to resolve problems connected with the time that self expressionists arrive at the Boardwalk to obtain a space. People are coming down as early as 3am and getting into physical battles for space, which necessitates officers having to be on duty to make sure that people are safe. It would allocate space specifically for performers, as there are very few of them on the Boardwalk at the present time. They have been pushed out by people selling retail items and duplicating what is sold on the east side of the Boardwalk to the extent that the free speech area has become more of a swap meet than a place where people can express themselves.

Sandy Kievman, Chief Field Deputy, West L.A.
Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski

To Kingdom Come

by hillary kaye

It is not whole
nor is it capable of knowing
yet killing is its business
slow and steady it feeds itself on the dust of the bodies
dark night, arabian and dry
sand and sky reach out in brown and blue
touched by the sound of the bombs
the tree it is not standing anymore, it can't be
oh how the rage is not a place to venture
it is a strange night,
with stars right out of Van Gogh's heart
it is carved and moved and placed
it is round and fat and warm and it holds you close
and then takes you closer while it loads its gun and
blows your head
to kingdom come

Why Jesus Would Not Be A Good Candidate

By Lynne Bronstein

The post-election spin is on. The pundits are suggesting that the Democrats had better look to the heartland for the answers. The people have spoken, so we are told, and the people of heartland America are people of faith and of moral values. Democrats are out of touch with the religious fervor of Middle America.

With this in mind, some Democrats are contemplating going the evangelicals one better. If they're so into Jesus, if they want Jesus to be part of the government, why not run Jesus as the next Democratic candidate for President?

It would seem like a logical idea but there are a few caveats:

Jesus has long hair and a beard. He would have to cut his hair and shave in order to appeal to voters who like clean-cut candidates. There's no much of a chance that Jesus, with his present style, might be mistaken for a homeless person.

Then there's his background. He was born in a stable. That's kind of disgusting. It is said that when he was conceived, his mother was not married. Yeah, she later married some guy named Joseph but he admits to not being Jesus's dad. There's something not right about that family.

He has been seen wearing a dress. What is he -some sort of metrosexual? Would he support gay marriage?

He was in fact, seen in a garden where another man kissed him. And he usually hangs out with twelve other men. Too much man-love going on there.

He has advocated "turning the other cheek" in response to violence. What kind of a message would this send to our enemies? Sure, turn the other cheek when they bomb our cities.

He defended a woman from a stone-throwing mob even though she was guilty of immoral sexual behavior. This implies that he would favor a woman's right to choose.

He gave food to a large crowd-for free. What is he, some kind of welfare advocate? You're supposed to work for your supper!

He expelled a group of hard-working moneylenders from a temple-is that the way to stimulate business?

There is a report that he raised a man from the dead. What kind of weird quack medicine was he practicing? Was his cure the result of stem cell research? Or was it from drugs brought in illegally from Mexico or Canada? Is he merely giving away his medical services and passing them off as some kind of "health insurance" for the poor?

He has four wounds that he claims resulted from something called a crucifixion. But these wounds are mere nail holes. That's hardly comparable to the critical war injuries as well as deaths sustained by many of our true patriotic veterans. Besides, he says he's been resurrected. So he didn't even die for our country.

Oh and one more thing. He's Jewish.

Sorry Democrats. If you run Jesus in 2008, you're going to boot another one.

See the Beachhead on-line at:
www.freevenice.org

Venice Sunday

By John Davis

On a crisp autumn Sunday I decided to escape from my dogs, at least for a while. Leaving them at home I began a short walk about to the beach. First I stopped at Café Collage to snag a cup of Earl Grey tea that led to yet another.

Noting that the morning newspaper had already been picked apart and only sorry old weeklies like the Arrrrrgonaut were left, I resigned myself to sitting at a table on the Main Street sidewalk to enjoy some afternoon sun and caffeine.

On the way to this historic part of Venice, adorned with old buildings and carved faces on the colonnades I noticed a happy family cruising by in a turquoise 1960 Impala convertible. It was hard to tell it was a family at first but I finally noticed three very small heads popping up from the seats to take in the sights.

In that frame of mind I sat on the sidewalk in the new green plastic seats and much to my delight I found they were flexible enough to lean back in while I used another to kick up the old feet theater style.

And it really began to seem more like a good movie than reality. First a snow white 1970 Mustang Mach 1 pulled up to the light with its mighty V8 rumbling. As it pulled away I thought about the Mustangs I had owned and visualized myself dropping the floor shifter into first and heading out to the mountains for a Sunday drive. But then I was pulled back into reality by a red Porsche Carrera that met my line of site. Then a cobalt blue 70 Chevelle rumbled by.

My eyes then wandered up to the second floor of one of the nineteen-twenty buildings across the Street. All were empty except one. An artist thoughtfully painted something hidden by the window frame. I watched her brushstrokes as she moved the sculpture of a persons head into view. A dab here and there, she patiently gave long thoughtful pause between every new application from her palate of colors.

A guy who appeared to be in his late 60s sat next to me, talking on a cell phone. He was dressed in clean outdoorsman clothing and work boots. Next to him was placed a bundle that seemed to hold everything he owned in life. This guy tempted me. I had not played chess in years and here on the table next to him was a home-made board concocted of cardboard and magic marker with a jumble of disorderly pieces in the

center. Then he laid his head in his hands and slept in the warmth of the sun.

A young couple walked out of the Gotta Have It clothing store and faced me with an October Beachhead looking at pictures of Burning Man. Both dressed in black, they turned while she leaned on the column, a carved smiling female face above her. What struck me was their seasonal attire. On her black handbag was a big white skull. On the back of his black tee shirt was a white human ribcage. Great, at least some people were respecting Halloween.

Looking across the street I notice the person who I saw feeding ducks at night at the parking lot on the Grand Canal when I walked my dogs. He would pull up in a nice old green BMW with duck feed and the flock would gather. What a nice person. And how cool to see people you recognize.

Before I left for the Beach the old guy tempted me yet again. Slowly, in the clean sea breeze he smoothly slid the chess pieces into place on the hand drawn board while substituting two missing pawns with black checker pieces. This was fine with me, it was more formal than beer caps. He must have been a wizard. Or perhaps a master of martial arts disguising himself and looking for deciples. I then escaped his intellectual magnetism, which was clearly more powerful than it first appeared, assisted by the power of a double dose of stiff black steaming hot tea.

So from one magic place to another I did trek. Standing at the crosswalk of Windward and Main I peered across to see a beautiful Asian lady on a bike with bare feet and toenails painted pink. In a flash we passed on the street. Peering down the hallway of arches on the sidewalk, descending in size due to distance, a framed shimmering sea appeared like a thumbnail sketch with a 28ft sailboat lumbering to the south at a brisk clip.

Breaking out into the sun near the boardwalk I noticed that what had only been one performer at the entrance had now become three. The first of these guys really had balls. I mean that. In one of his acts he holds two orbs that he rolls up and down his arms and around his neck. This dude only wears a tight black swimming suit showing his muscular body, even on cold days. He truly has balls of steel, really that is what his performance balls are made of. In another act a man stands on a stepladder, balancing a crooked stick on his head while holding two real looking rubber Cobras in each hand. But it wasn't long before another performer was edging in on this gig. Wearing a suit and hat, this mime is spray painted gold seeming more like a robot than a man. If that were not enough, recently another sculpted black guy oiled up to accentuate his muscularity partially covers him-

self in bright white feathers and wears angel wings. He too is a mime. That while several different reggae songs meshed with the voices of hundreds of voices of different lands.

Crossing the Boardwalk on the way to the sea a flow of creativity from artists of all colors looked more like a masterful watercolor than movement. Then as I was approaching the West, one adventurous mountain bike girl rolled down the hill the "V" sculptures sits upon.

From that viewpoint it was apparent sailboats were racing. Besides the Regatta running West to circle a buoy and return to Marina del Rey, lots of smaller sailboats cruised around the buoy West of the Santa Monica Pier to visit the many seals that rest on them. The bay was vast and crowned by the azure blue Santa Monica Mountains and the steep cliffs of the Palos Verdes peninsula.

A local surfing contest that had occurred for years was housed under a couple of blue canopies while the contestants ripped on the three to four foot waves south of the breakwater. The County tried to stop them this year but the surfers stood up and the contest went on anyway.

Looking back east you could see the skateboarders defying gravity and flipping their boards around like martial arts weapons, clacking and grinding. This opposed to the grace and agility of the skating dancers one level below. Spinning, grooving, and moving around to the giant stereo on wheels, this troupe was more entertaining than the Olympics. They owned the rhythm, or at least shared it with the drum circle whose sounds drifted south on the wind.

Backtracking home where I would surely be tried and found guilty by my dogs of walking without them, I cruised past the bike rental place and two old guys that sit on their custom Harleys every weekend. They dress like Hells Angels, have ZZ Top Beards, and potbellies but I think they are really retired stockbrokers. But they fit into place with the Old Town Bar, its black and white tiled floors smoothed from the feet of decades of happy beer drinkers.

Rising well over eight thousand feet the San Gabriel range of mountains stood tall over downtown Los Angeles with billowing clouds towering above. That view east down Windward Avenue is mirrored as a mural on the side of the Saint Marks Club.

With my perception now dulled by the lack of caffeine it was time to walk back into media saturation and witness the struggle for the Presidency. Thank God for Mother, Apple Pie, and Venice Beach.



Photo: Jim Smith

In Brief...

At the Nov. 8th meeting of the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council Board, the Venice Bulldogs Pop Warner Football League Cheerleading Squad performed in thanks for support by the Board. At a dance competition in the San Fernando Valley, Oct. 31, the Venice Bulldogs walked away with fifth, fourth, third and first places.

Cindy Miscikowski requested that the Neighborhood Council consider a proposal by the "Windward Circle" Business District Association to spend \$500,000 to beautify the circle's sidewalks and streets with benches, plants, and colorful wave motifs on the pavement. Board members felt there had not been enough outreach to the community. Also proposed was a sculpture by Robert Graham at Windward Circle depicting the torso of a nude female figure. GRVNC referred it

to a joint meeting of the Art Committee, and the Land Use Committee in December.

•••

The Council also objected to a proposed L.A. ordinance allowing certain cell phone transmission structures. Other items approved by the Council were a holiday event at SPARC, access for Neighborhood Councils to cable TV air time, funding for a Community Design Overlay on Lincoln Blvd., funding to repair the roof at SPARC, and a Holiday Assistance Program to provide 100 meals to the needy on Thanksgiving. The Council also approved a Town Hall, Dec. 13, with Solari advocate Catherine Austin-Fitts.

-compiled by John Davis

City Council imposes lottery on Ocean Front Walk.

Artists and performers look disgusted as the City Council votes unanimously to honor Cindy Miscikowski's proposed ordinance that establishes a permit system and lottery for spaces on the west side of the Venice Boardwalk, Oct. 27, at Los Angeles City Hall.

In a 15-0 vote, the city council choose to ignore testimony from more than 40 artists and other Venetians (left) who trekked downtown. Also rejected was a Venice Neighborhood Council plea for mediation of the volatile issue. Opponents are contemplating their next move, which may be lawsuits and/or civil disobedience.

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Was the Election Stolen?

By Greg Palast

Bush won Ohio by 136,483 votes. Typically in the United States, about 3 percent of votes cast are voided-known as "spoilage" in election jargon-because the ballots cast are inconclusive. Palast's investigation suggests that if Ohio's discarded ballots were counted, Kerry would have won the state. Today the Cleveland Plain Dealer reports there are a total of 247,672 votes not counted in Ohio, if you add the 92,672 discarded votes plus the 155,000 provisional ballots.

Greg Palast, contributing editor to Harper's magazine, investigated the manipulation of the vote for BBC Television's Newsnight. The documentary, "Bush Family Fortunes," based on his New York Times best-seller, *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy*, has been released this month on DVD.

Kerry won. Here's the facts.

I know you don't want to hear it. You can't face one more hung chad. But I don't have a choice. As a journalist examining that messy sausage called American democracy, it's my job to tell you who got the most votes in the deciding states. Tuesday, in Ohio and New Mexico, it was John Kerry.

Most voters in Ohio thought they were voting for Kerry. CNN's exit poll showed Kerry beating Bush among Ohio women by 53 percent to 47 percent. Kerry also defeated Bush among Ohio's male voters 51 percent to 49 percent. Unless a third gender voted in Ohio, Kerry took the state.

So what's going on here? Answer: the exit polls are accurate. Pollsters ask, "Who did you vote for?" Unfortunately, they don't ask the crucial, question, "Was your vote counted?" The voters don't know.

Here's why. Although the exit polls show that most voters in Ohio punched cards for Kerry-Edwards, thousands of these votes were simply not recorded. This was predictable and it was predicted. [See TomPaine.com, "An Election Spoiled Rotten," November 1.]

Once again, at the heart of the Ohio uncounted vote game are, I'm sorry to report, hanging chads and pregnant chads, plus some other ballot tricks old and new.

The election in Ohio was not decided by the voters but by something called "spoilage." Typically in the United States, about 3 percent of the vote is voided, just thrown away, not recorded. When the bobble-head boobs on the tube tell you Ohio or any state was won by 51 percent to 49 percent, don't you believe it... it has never happened in the United States, because the total never reaches a neat 100 percent. The televi-

sion totals simply subtract out the spoiled vote.

And not all vote spoil equally. Most of those votes, say every official report, come from African American and minority precincts.

We saw this in Florida in 2000. Exit polls showed Gore with a plurality of at least 50,000, but it didn't match the official count. That's because the official, Secretary of State Katherine Harris, excluded 179,855 spoiled votes. In Florida, as in Ohio, most of these votes lost were cast on punch cards where the hole wasn't punched through completely-leaving a 'hanging chad,' -or was punched extra times. Whose cards were discarded? Expert statisticians investigating spoilage for the government calculated that 54 percent of the ballots thrown in the dumpster were cast by black folks.

And here's the key: Florida is terribly typical. The majority of ballots thrown out (there will be nearly 2 million tossed out from Tuesday's election) will have been cast by African American and other minority citizens.

So here we go again. Or, here we don't go again. Because unlike last time, Democrats aren't even asking Ohio to count these cards with the not-quite-punched holes (called "undervotes" in the voting biz).

Ohio is one of the last states in America to still use the vote-spoiling punch-card machines. And the Secretary of State of Ohio, J. Kenneth Blackwell, wrote before the election, "the possibility of a close election with punch cards as the state's primary voting device invites a Florida-like calamity."

But this week, Blackwell, a rabidly partisan Republican, has warmed up to the result of sticking with machines that have a habit of eating Democratic votes. When asked if he feared being this year's Katherine Harris, Blackwell noted that Ms. Fix-it's efforts landed her a seat in Congress.

Exactly how many votes were lost to spoilage this time? Blackwell's office, notably, won't say, though the law requires it be reported. Hmm. But we know that last time, the total of Ohio votes discarded reached a democracy-damaging 1.96 percent. The machines produced their typical loss-that's 110,000 votes-overwhelmingly Democratic.

The Impact Of Challenges

First and foremost, Kerry was had by chads. But the Democrat wasn't punched out by punch cards alone. There were also the 'challenges.' That's a polite word for the Republican Party of Ohio's use of an old Ku Klux Klan technique: the attempt to block thousands of voters of color at the polls. In Ohio, Wisconsin and Florida, the GOP laid plans for poll

workers to ambush citizens under arcane laws-almost never used-allowing party-designated poll watchers to finger individual voters and demand they be denied a ballot. The Ohio courts were horrified and federal law prohibits targeting of voters where race is a factor in the challenge. But our Supreme Court was prepared to let Republicans stand in the voting booth door.

In the end, the challenges were not overwhelming, but they were there. Many apparently resulted in voters getting these funky "provisional" ballots-a kind of voting placebo-which may or may not be counted. Blackwell estimates there were 175,000; Democrats say 250,000. Pick your number. But as challenges were aimed at minorities, no one doubts these are, again, overwhelmingly Democratic. Count them up, add in the spoiled punch cards (easy to tally with the human eye in a recount), and the totals begin to match the exit polls; and, golly, you've got yourself a new president. Remember, Bush won by 136,483 votes in Ohio.

Enchanted State's Enchanted Vote

Now, on to New Mexico, where a Kerry plurality-if all votes are counted-is more obvious still. Before the election, in TomPaine.com, I wrote, "John Kerry is down by several thousand votes in New Mexico, though not one ballot has yet been counted."

How did that happen? It's the spoilage, stupid; and the provisional ballots.

CNN said George Bush took New Mexico by 11,620 votes. Again, the network total added up to that miraculous, and non-existent, '100 percent' of ballots cast.

New Mexico reported in the last race a spoilage rate of 2.68 percent, votes lost almost entirely in Hispanic, Native American and poor precincts-Democratic turf. From Tuesday's vote, assuming the same ballot-loss rate, we can expect to see 18,000 ballots in the spoilage bin.

Spoilage has a very Democratic look in New Mexico. Hispanic voters in the Enchanted State, who voted more than two to one for Kerry, are five times as likely to have their vote spoil as a white voter. Counting these uncounted votes would easily overtake the Bush 'plurality.'

Already, the election-bending effects of spoilage are popping up in the election stats, exactly where we'd expect them: in heavily Hispanic areas controlled by Republican elections officials. Chaves County, in the "Little Texas" area of New Mexico, has a 44 percent Hispanic population, plus African Americans and Native Americans, yet George Bush "won" there 68 percent to 31 percent.

I spoke with Chaves' Republican county clerk before the election, and he told me that this huge spoilage rate among Hispanics simply indicated that such people simply can't make up their minds on the choice of candidate for president. Oddly, these brown people drive across the desert to register their indecision in a voting booth.

Now, let's add in the effect on the New Mexico tally of provisional ballots.

"They were handing them out like candy,"

Albuquerque journalist Renee Blake reported of provisional ballots. About 20,000 were given out. Who got them?

Santiago Juarez who ran the "Faithful Citizenship" program for the Catholic Archdiocese in New Mexico, told me that "his" voters, poor Hispanics, whom he identified as solid Kerry supporters, were handed the iffy provisional ballots. Hispanics were given provisional ballots, rather than the countable kind "almost religiously," he said, at polling stations when there was the least question about a voter's identification. Some voters, Santiago said, were simply turned away.

Your Kerry Victory Party

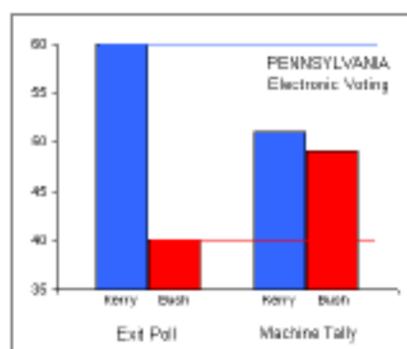
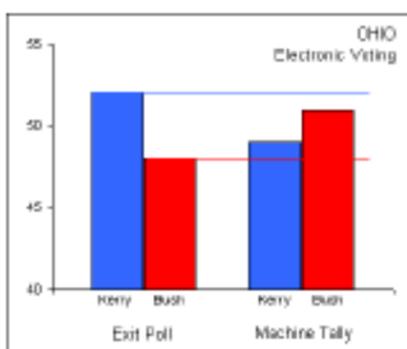
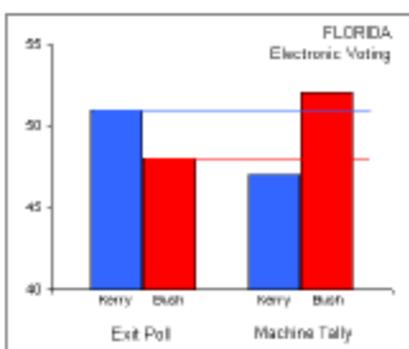
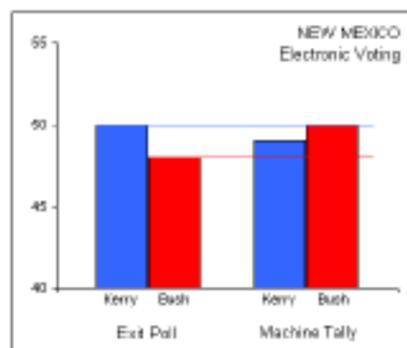
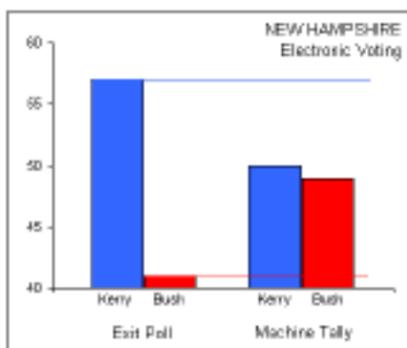
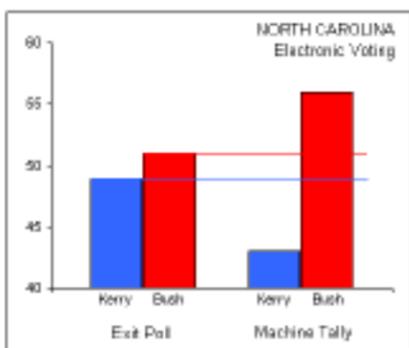
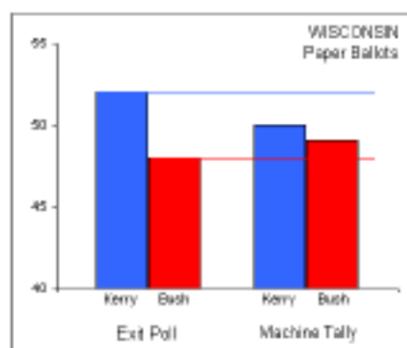
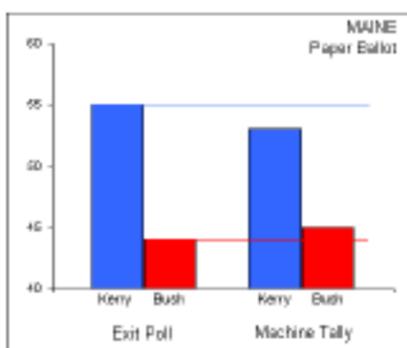
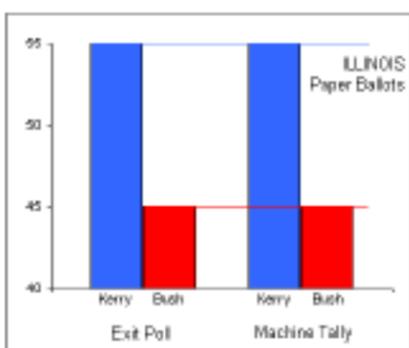
So we can call Ohio and New Mexico for John Kerry-if we count all the votes.

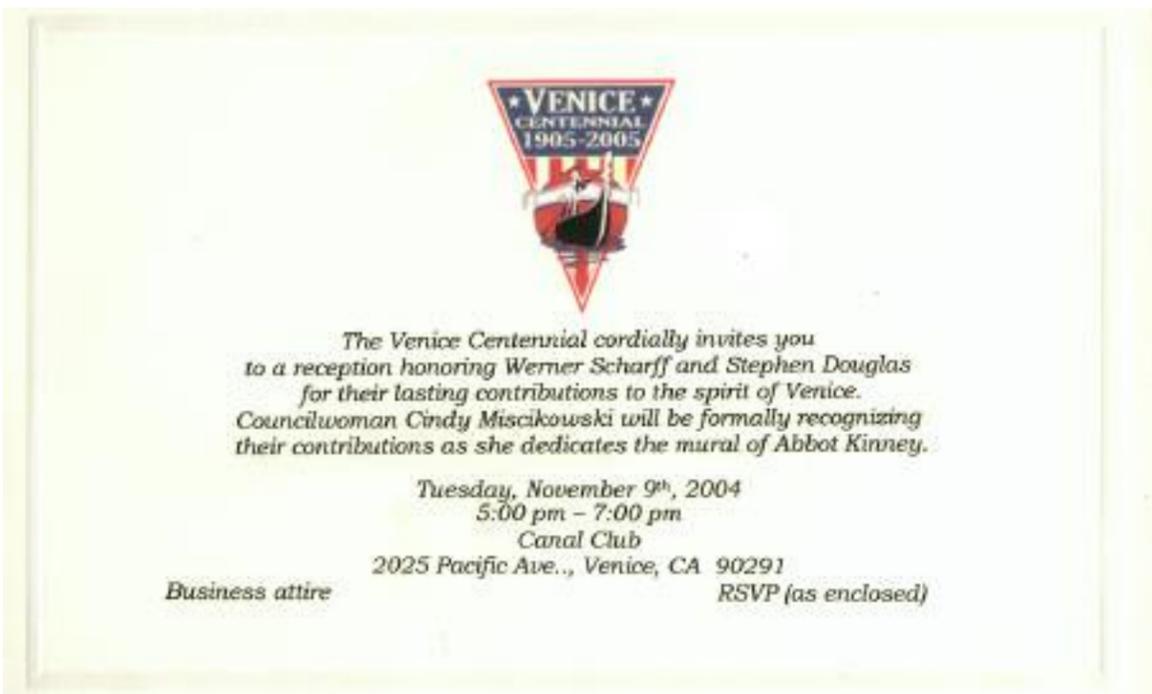
But that won't happen. Despite the Democratic Party's pledge, the leadership this time gave in to racial disenfranchisement once again. Why? No doubt, the Democrats know darn well that counting all the spoiled and provisional ballots will require the cooperation of Ohio's Secretary of State, Blackwell. He will ultimately decide which spoiled and provisional ballots get tallied. Blackwell, hankering to step into Kate Harris' political pumps, is unlikely to permit anything close to a full count. Also, Democratic leadership knows darn well the media would punish the party for demanding a full count.

What now? Kerry won, so hold your victory party. But make sure the shades are down: it may be become illegal to demand a full vote count under PATRIOT Act III.

I used to write a column for the Guardian papers in London. Several friends have asked me if I will again leave the country. In light of the failure-a second time-to count all the votes, that won't be necessary. My country has left me.

Exit Polls Match Voting in States Using Paper Ballots But Don't Match States Using Voting Machines





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Venice Centennial – Country Club Style

By Carol Fondiller

Venice's Centennial should be a celebration of this wonderful enclave of diversity and non-conformity. But it has been coopted by the chamber of commerce, various corporate entities, and the city of Los Angeles.

Venice's messy, exuberant 100 years will be neatly wrapped in Los Angeles city funds and corporate giveaways.

The corporate city-endorsed "celebration" will be proper and organized. Not all groups were invited to this event (above) to kick off the Venice Centennial. The Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council was not invited. GRVNC, whether some people like it or not, represents a good portion of Venice's population. Highlight of the centennial kickoff event was to be an award presented to Werner Scharff for his "contributions to the Spirit of Venice."

Some of his "contributions" were agitating

the city to get rid of the Beats because they sat on the benches on the Ocean Front Walk and "smoked marijuana and read Marx."

He was instrumental in initiating code inspections and redlining so that low-income people who owned property could not mortgage it to bring it up to code (redlining was used by banks to refuse loans to people who need to rehab). Guess who bought the property.

Scharff also wanted a freeway that would have run along the ocean. He failed. He also failed in trying to evict 75 low-income seniors from the Cadillac hotel.

When he didn't succeed in evicting the seniors, he was overheard to say, "They'll all be dead soon, anyway." Such a philosopher.

One of the main participants in the Centennial is the Venice Historical Society, who in its recent publication was announcing

a lecture on the "origins of civilized Venice." The supposition is that there was no civilization prior to the coming of the white man. This, despite the fact, that the Chumash and Gabriellino-Tongva indians had sweat baths (hot tubs), and knew like some Venice residents what civilization really is: Hanging out, smoking the peace pipe and having a lot of fun with one's chums.

What is meant on the Centennial invite by "business attire"? A waiter uniform? A clown suit? A wetsuit?

This is but one of a series of events to kickoff the Venice Centennial. So get your business suit (hooker outfit?) and earn those \$50 so you can come to the next one.



By Jim Smith

George Bush came up mandate-less on Nov. 2 in Venice.

His anemic 13 percent of the vote north of Washington Blvd. proved once again that Venice is one of the most progressive places in the country.

You could also say, "Don't Blame Me, I'm A Californian!" Bush won only 44.7 percent of the statewide vote, and trailed John Kerry by more than one million votes (confirming the Beachhead's prediction last month).

The remaining candidates for president - Badnarik (Lib.), Cobb (Gr), Peltier (P&F) and Peroutka (AI) - trailed in that order. At press time, the number of write-in votes for Ralph Nader had not been released by the Secretary of State's office.

Similar results for other races showed that Republicans have a very difficult time winning votes in Venice.

The most "popular" Republican was Assembly candidate Greg Hill who got 14.6 percent of the vote, followed by Paul Whitehead

Don't Blame Me I'm A Venetian!

(Congress - 13.9%), Bush and Bill Jones (Senate - 11.2%).

These figures are for Venice north of Washington Blvd. (zip 90291). Venice, south of Washington, is not as progressive, but is still not a friendly place for Republicans. In these neighborhoods, the Oxford Triangle and the Peninsula, many people think they live in Marina del Rey. They (particularly the Peninsula) are more affluent than 90291 Venice, and vote accordingly.

Several Venice candidates ran in this election. Jane Harman, whose Congressional office is in Redondo Beach, but lives on Ocean Front Walk in Venice, was reelected despite lingering resentment by many Venetians for her vote in favor of the Iraq invasion and the Patriot Act. She was opposed by Republican Paul Whitehead, who alternately claimed to live in

either Venice or Santa Monica. And running to Harman's left was Peace and Freedom candidate Dr. Alice Stek, a canal resident. Stek won 5.56 percent of Venice's vote, nearly half of Whitehead's total.

The hotly contested Assembly race showed how politically different are the two

ends of the district. Republican Greg Hill won both Redondo Beach and Mike Gordon's home town, El Segundo, but lost heavily in Venice, Mar Vista and West L.A.

Venetian Jim Smith (that's me) finished with 5.61 percent of the Venice vote (about double his total district-wide).

Again, Venice progressiveness came through on the Propositions vote. In every case, Venice voters followed the instructions given them in last month's Beachhead by Carol Fondiller, and ignored Arnold Schwarzenegger's advice to the contrary.

We Venetians voted to preserve third-party election competition (No on Prop. 62), allow lawsuits by environmentalists and others against corporations (No on Prop. 64), end life sentences for non-violent crimes (Yes on Prop. 66) and provide health insurance for 1.2 million Californians (Yes on Prop. 72). Of these, only on Prop. 62 did the state voters go the same way.

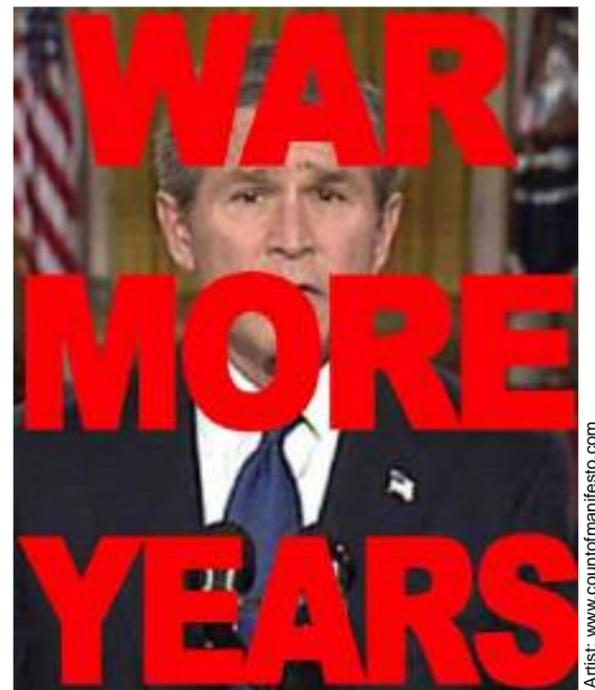
We also declined to give two-thirds approval for a sales tax increase in order to hire more police officers. In Venice, this reluctance probably has more to do with ambivalent attitudes towards the police than approving an increase in a regressive tax. More info at <www.lavote.net>.

	Peltier Peace & Freedom	Cobb Green	Kerry Democrat	Bush Republican	Badnarik Libertarian	Peroutka Am. Indep.	Precinct
Central Venice/N. Beach	19 0.7%	25 1.0%	2299 87.5%	269 10.2%	12 0.5%	3 0.1%	2,627
Abbot Kinney to Lincoln (north of Venice Bl.)	19 0.7%	25 0.9%	2541 89.1%	247 8.7%	17 0.6%	3 0.1%	2,852
East of Lincoln	9 0.3%	13 0.5%	2127 79.6%	495 18.5%	22 0.8%	5 0.2%	2,671
S. of Venice, N. of Wash.	13 0.4%	10 0.3%	2408 83.2%	441 15.2%	19 0.7%	4 0.1%	2,895
Total Venice 90291:	60 0.5%	73 0.7%	9375 84.9%	1452 13.1%	70 0.6%	15 0.1%	11,045
Total Venice 90292:	3	10	1392	570	14	4	1,993

	Feinland Peace & Freedom	Boxer Democrat	Jones Republican	Gray Libertarian	Grundmann American Inde	Total
Central Venice/N. Beach	106 4.2%	2088 82.8%	216 8.6%	94 3.7%	19 0.8%	2,523
Abbot Kinney to Lincoln (north of Venice Bl.)	108 3.9%	2369 86.2%	187 6.8%	71 2.6%	14 0.5%	2,749
East of Lincoln	76 2.9%	2035 78.1%	409 15.7%	67 2.6%	18 0.7%	2,605
S. of Venice, N. of Wash.	67 2.4%	2275 81.2%	383 13.7%	64 2.3%	11 0.4%	2,800
Total Venice 90291:	357 3.3%	8767 82.1%	1195 11.2%	296 2.8%	62 0.6%	10,677
Total Venice 90292:	31 1.6%	1359 70.7%	468 24.3%	54 2.8%	10 0.5%	1,922

	Assembly:				Total Assembly	Congress:				Total Congressional
	Smith Peace & Freedom	Gordon Democrat	Hill Republican	Boivie Libertarian		Stek Peace & Freedom	Harman Democrat	Whitehead Republican	Binkley Libertarian	
Central Venice/N. Beach	188 8.8%	1,788 79.8%	299 12.3%	177 7.3%	2,452	161 6.8%	1,933 78.8%	299 11.8%	68 2.8%	2,452
Abbot Kinney to Lincoln (north of Venice Bl.)	162 6.0%	2,115 78.8%	245 9.1%	163 6.1%	2,685	162 5.1%	2,182 81.5%	275 10.3%	58 2.2%	2,677
East of Lincoln	140 5.6%	1,747 69.5%	482 19.2%	145 5.8%	2,514	128 5.0%	1,898 74.5%	459 18.1%	61 2.4%	2,532
S. of Venice, N. of Wash.	111 4.1%	1,921 71.3%	481 17.9%	181 6.7%	2,694	130 4.7%	2,139 77.7%	424 15.4%	59 2.1%	2,752
Total Venice 90291	579 5.61%	7,571 73.34%	1,597 14.60%	666 6.45%	10,323	579 5.56%	8,140 78.17%	1,648 13.91%	246 2.36%	10,413
Total Venice 90292: (South of Washington)	47 2.6%	1,101 60.1%	602 32.8%	83 4.5%	1,833	45 2.4%	1,319 70.1%	471 25.0%	47 2.5%	1,882

	Yes - 62 No - 62 Only 2 candidates		Yes - 64 No - 64 Right to sue		Yes - 66 No - 66 3 Strikes		Yes - 72 No - 72 Health coverage	
	Central Venice/N. Beach	1,064 47.0%	1,198 53.0%	883 38.5%	1,409 61.5%	1,797 72.1%	695 27.9%	1,754 73.3%
Abbot Kinney to Lincoln (north of Venice Bl.)	1,060 42.1%	1,455 57.9%	904 33.9%	1,615 64.1%	2,040 74.7%	692 25.3%	1,988 75.7%	639 24.3%
East of Lincoln	993 41.7%	1,386 58.3%	1,013 42.1%	1,396 57.9%	1,581 61.2%	1,004 38.8%	1,630 64.9%	883 35.1%
S. of Venice, N. of Wash.	1,185 46.6%	1,356 54.6%	1,129 44.2%	1,425 100.0%	1,752 63.7%	997 36.2%	1,758 66.0%	905 100.0%
Total Venice 90291	4,302 44.36%	5,385 55.64%	3,929 40.20%	5,844 59.80%	7,170 67.91%	3,388 32.09%	7,128 69.93%	3,065 30.07%
Total Venice 90292:	922 51.5%	867 48.5%	982 55.2%	798 44.8%	983 51.7%	918 48.3%	958 51.9%	887 48.1%



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Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council

All meetings begin at 7 PM, at Vera Davis McClendon Center, 610 California Ave. unless otherwise noted. 821-6030 - www.grvnc.org

- **Nov 17 - Arts Committee Mtg. @ SPRAC 7PM**
- **Nov 18 - Children, Youth & Families - @ Oakwood Rec.**
- **Nov 22 - Monday - @ Vera Davis Board Mtg.**
- **Nov. 30 - Land Use & Planning Mtg. Boys & Girls Club**
- **Dec 1st - Ad- Hoc Centennial Mtg. (Arts Committee) @ SPRAC @ 7PM**

COMMUNITY

- **Community Yard Sale** Every first Saturday of the month 8AM- Noon @ Oakwood Park (under the trees) Broadway & 7th. 392.2162 call Lou for more info.
- **Food Distribution-** hosted by the Mildred Crush Foundation, the Vera Davis Youth & Family Ctr., & the Oakwood Senior Club. Distribution on November 24th-between 12:30-2PM More info call 305.1865 Antoinette Reynolds, Mildred Cursh Foundation; Eddie Nuno & Alicia White, Vera Davis Ctr. 610 California Ave.
- **Grassroots Venice Neighborhood Council Thanksgiving Meal Delivery - call for information: 821-6030**

- **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- 822.6717 or healedbyhisstripes@yahoo.com Please call or e mail, commit to volunteering-make a difference, tutors are needed!
- **Adult Literacy Volunteer Tutor Training:** Learn to help adults improve basic reading & writing skills by becoming a Volunteer Tutor. Pre-registration is required call 213.220.7037 Venice Branch 10AM-5PM
- **Venice 2000- 'Self Improvement- the Basis for Community Development'** working in collaboration with L.A. Bridges I to offer gang prevention & intervention for middle-school youth with structured after-school programs including leadership/mentoring. Sports & recreation activities, art programs & field trips also offered. LA Bridges offers case management for high-risk youth & their families with counseling, mentoring, parenting classes, anger management & life- skills training. Venice 2000 & L.A. Bridges II provide gang intervention contractors working directly with gang members to assist with conflict resolution; provide information & referral services; & crisis intervention to defuse potentially violent situations. Developing peace treaties, between gangs, creating positive alternative activities for rival gangs to get to know one another. Offices located at Vera Davis Ctr. or call 823.6100// fax 823.6101 or www.venice2000.org

Toy Drives need your contributions:

- **Oakwood Park 2nd Annual Holiday Party:** Food, toys and Santa! Fri., Dec. 17 from 7-9PM But your donations can be made at LAPD Pacific Community Police Station 12312 Culver Blvd. & the LAFD at Shell Ave. & Venice Blvd. Call for more info- 202.4524
- **Vera Davis Ctr., Latino Resource Ctr. & Community Volunteers:** offers this holiday season a 'Toy & Book Drive' Please drop off unwrapped toys & books at the Vera Davis Ctr. Mon-Sat from 8AM to 9PM. No time to shop? Drop off a check payable to 'Latino Resource Toy & Book Drive'. Offices located at the Vera Davis Ctr. 578.6069//latinoresource@msn.com // Vera Davis Ctr. 610 California Ave. 305-1865 Please note: Toy distribution will be on Sat., Dec. 18th at Noon.
- **Vagos Motorcycle Club 15th Annual Toy Drive:** to benefit the Boys & Girls Club children. Vagos will meet at Windward Circle at 11:AM to ride to the B & G Club to distribute toys Sun., Dec. 19 at 1PM. Donations can be made- call Chico 702.9068

• African Dance comes to Venice!

Mori Nimba West African Dance Company offers classes for Men, Women & Children! All ages- all levels welcome! Saturdays 5-6PM \$10 per class or \$30 per month. Guinea Dance & Guinea Drumming w/ Nina Nimba - renowned African Dance Performer, Choreographer & Instructor- Oakwood Recreation Ctr. 452.7479 or 323.292.2696

Community Events



Venice Pride!



DeDe McCrary, GRVNC 2nd Vice President, & President of Venice 2000, has been an activist & voice of many. The Beachhead celebrates DeDe as the first community member to be featured - Venice Pride! Thank you DeDe for all your hardwork!

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
- **Yogatime/Pilate Studios** 621 Palms Ave. 827-5144 Group Kundalina yoga Tuesdays 7PM, \$15

THEATRE



- **BEYOND BAROQUE** - 681 Venice Blvd. Call for info -822.3006
- **Electric Lodge** 1416 Electric Ave. 823-0710 -
- **Insideout-** Join us in creating a multi-media theatrical presentation of 'A History of Oakwood' Part of Venice Centennial celebration! Playwright, videographer, choreographer, actor, dancer, youth performer, musical director, stage manager, etc- Volunteer with possible stipend for some positions, definitely great exposure!!! E mail: OakPlayWood@insideoutca.org or call Camille 397.8820

ART

- **Attaway Studio:** 'Us and We' featuring ceramics, paintings & sculptures by William Attaway. Sat., Nov. 20 1-5PM @ 334 Sunset Ave. 339.4730
- **Evolve Studio Gallery:** 'Lemon Yoga' Diana Hobsteter's paintings & prints, exhibit ends Nov. 20th- 219 Rose Ave. 314.3344
- **La Louver:** 45 Venice Blvd. 822-4955
- **Off-Rose:** 841 Flower Ave. 664.8977
- **Seven Hair Salon:** Stephanie Dyer's exhibit of paintings open until Dec. 31st at 1519 Venice Blvd. *** **
- **SPONTO Gallery @ 7 Dudley Ave.** 399-2078.
- **SPRAC SPRAC Gallery** (Old Venice Police Station) 685 Venice Blvd. 822.9560 or www.spracmurs.org
- **Universal Art Gallery:** Mark Dornfeld's interpretive photos, 'Night Light' Sat., Nov. 20- (reception 7PM) exhibited until Sun., Feb 20th. 2001 Lincoln Blvd. (Corner Amoroso Pl./two blocks north of Venice Blvd.) 302.8909
- **Venice Arts in Neighborhoods:** Classes for children held at Vera Davis Ctr (vdc), or Venice Arts Gallery,(gal),or Mar Vista Gardens (mvg). Call for new Fall schedule, 578.1745 or www.venice-arts.org
- **Venice Arts Gallery** 1809 Lincoln Blvd. 578-1525
- **Grassroots Venice Neighborhood Council Arts Centennial Committee:** Will meet Dec.1 Artists, Dancers, Musicians, Poets & Performers come and participate in planning & lend your talents to celebrate the Venice Centennial. Contact Emily Winters 306.7372 emilywinters@earthlink.net

POLITICAL

- **Venice Peace and Freedom Party** info: 399-2215
- **Groundwork's** 'Get out the vote' non-partisan drive on Nov. 2. Served over 300 cups of joe when voters presented their voter receipt. Thank you Groundwork's!

Film/Video

- **7 Dudley Cinema** film viewing at Sponto Gallery: 'Hybrid' (2002, 92m) Monteith McCollumas expressionistic portrait of his grandfather & agricultural pioneer, Milford Beeghy, whose life-long obsession was growing corn hybrid. It uses film hybrid forms to illustrate the story of an Iowan man's connection with the land. Think David Lynch-Quay Bros-Kronos Quartet. "Cultural Gangsters" (2004 10m) Ivan Linciras stirring look at punk rock in China. Wed., Nov. 17; PXL THIS 14 the annual Pixelvision toy video camera festival, two different shows: 7PM & 9PM www.indiespace.com/pxlthis show on Wed., Nov. 20; Cinema Paradiso (1989, 123m) Giuseppe Tornatore's touching celebration of youth, friendship, & the everlasting magic of the movies. Note: the originally scheduled film 'Stranger than Love' is cancelled. Wed., Dec 1. //Location is 7 Dudley Ave. 306-7330.

Poetry-Readings

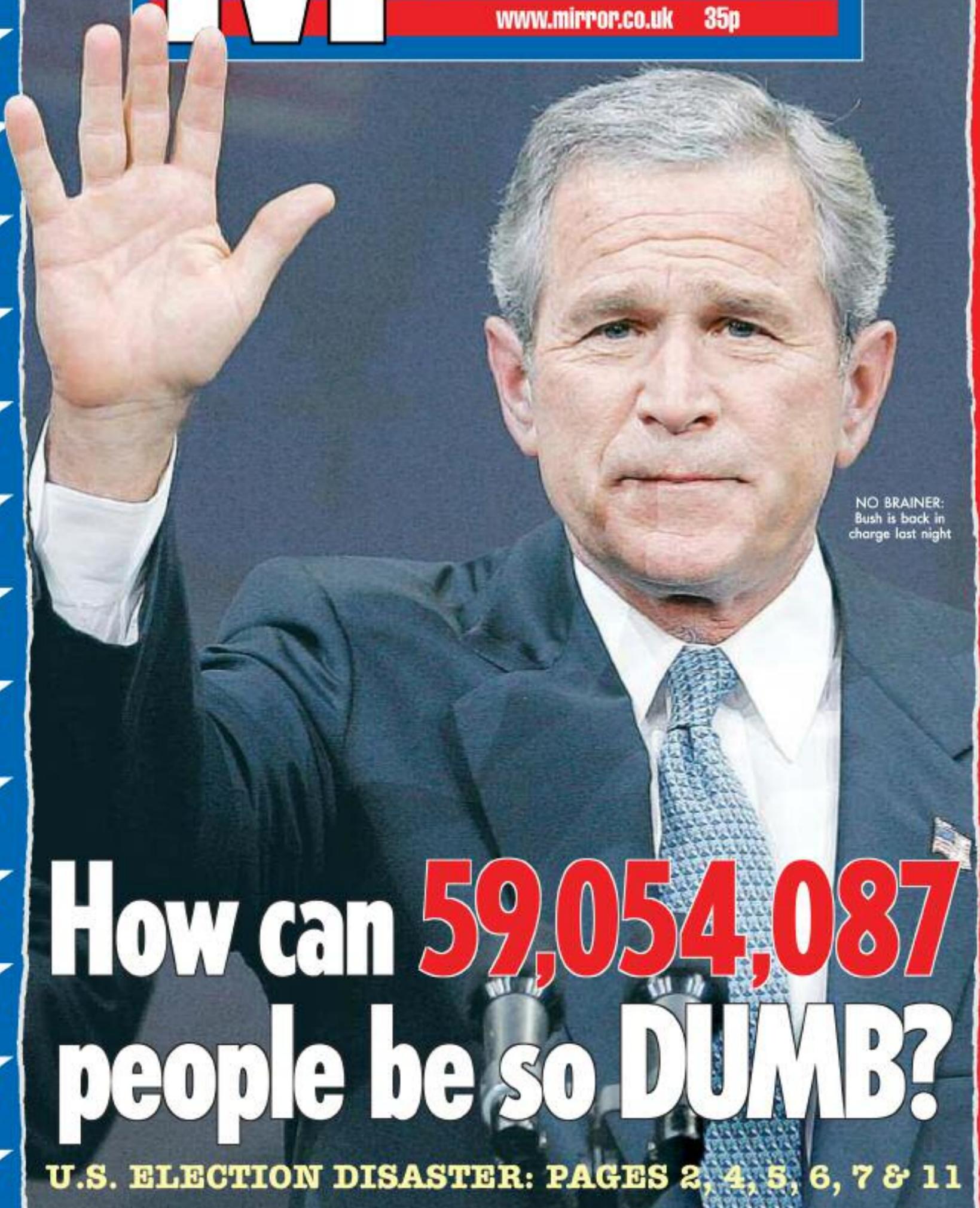
- **Abbot's Habit** 1401 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 399-1171 8pm Sundays, Open mic opportunities offer spoken word, storytelling, & poetry.
- **Beyond Baroque**, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006 check this info- FREE Workshops & Readings
- **Venice Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library-** 501 Venice Blvd. 821-2065 Frst & 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.

MUSIC

- **LaCabana** 738 Rose Ave. 392-6161 Mariachis- 6:30-10:30pm Thurs., Fri. & Sun.
- **Casablanca** 220 Lincoln Blvd. 392-5751 Guitarists Mon.-Sat.
- **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
- **Townhouse** 52 Windward 392-4040
- **Venice Bistro** 323 Ocean Front Walk 663-4673 "Club Mosaic" 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 CommYOUity!* On Fri., Nov.19 (a quarterly event) 7-10PM Open Mic, Featured Artists & Music /Poetry Jam MC: MH3 & Joselyn & Wild Roots- CD Celebration featuring the original works of collaborator with: Don Barrozo, Al Keith, Francisco Letelier, Jason Luckett, Vivi Rama, MArti Walker, Kevin T. Willims. D-Lo will rap & rhyme; Haize Hawke performance will include dance & story. 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.OutsideOutCa.org InsideOutCa@InsideOutCa.org
- **Mildred Crush Foundation** hosts: 'Open Mic Night' on Sat., Dec. 4 from 6-9PM for All ages and everyone!!! Poetry Reading, Reading, Singing, Sounds of Jazz, & Rappers! Refreshments & Desserts for sale: Proceeds will go to support our Youth. Call 822.6717 Location @ the Vera Davis Ctr.
- **Suzie Williams**, Nick Ariondo & Kahilil Sabbagh will perform Fri., Nov. 19 @ 8PM Genghis Cohen 740 N. Fairfax Ave. West Hollywood

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