

# FREE VENICE

# BEACHHEAD

SINCE 1968



Oct.  
2006

#301

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photo by Jim Smith

## ART ATTACK: Interview with Robbie Conal

By John O'Kane

**John O'Kane:** Since we both live in Venice, I guess you're a few blocks outside the border, I'd like to ask you what your reactions are to the recently celebrated centennial? Venice is an alternative community after all, at least it hasn't been gentrified out of existence yet. So in terms of your political motivations and work as an artist here, did you get charged up about the events?

**Robbie Conal:** No. Venice is doing quite well without me. I do get a kick out of thinking of the hood as real estate, however. Billions worth of beachy property consisting of a few walled compounds and camouflaged bungalows tucked into claustrophobic walk streets—medieval mini-city states—surrounded by hostile serfs.

Driving through what could easily pass for Burroughs' "Interzone," I can't stop myself from counting the number of un-insured rust bucket clunkers battling gleaming monster SUVs to a noxious rolling stop at death trap intersections on Rose and 7th, Sunset and 4th, Indiana and 5th, and the obscenely overbuilt canals (those mansions are actually docked Princess Cruise Line ships). And we still in Ghost Town, baby! Z Boys, indeed. How about Black Z boyees? Have we returned to claim the Pyramids?

NO. We're still slaves, buildin' em for the Pharaoh. Brown Z Homies? Los Zapatistas del Norte? NO. Leaf blowers, kitchen workers, housekeepers and child care *mijas contra La Migra* anonymous.

*Embrace the contradictions.* Squeeze the life out of 'em! Now *that* gets me charged up. Ahhh, but Abbot Kinney! Trying to eat a quiet dinner at *Joe's*. Trying to get through lunch at *Hal's* without running into all of Alan Shaffer's acquaintances. Impossible.

The too-hip-to-call an axe an axe crowd at *Axe*. Good, though. Hanging out with Ed Hamilton, the Zen Cowboy Master of lithography at Hamilton Press. Priceless!

The best traffic light switching box location in all of LA: at California and Abbot Kinney. Home Plate.

**O'Kane:** What does it mean to embrace these contradictions? They're striking indeed in these first months of Venice's second century! What are we to do?

Some famous German philosopher I think said that contradictory opposites are always temporary, ready to transform into another pair... They're always unstable and mobile because they depend on the mass in the middle that's mostly invisible and in contrast to both extremes.

But isn't this middling matter where the potential lies to force change in either direction? This energy, when it comes to Venice, could be

alternative residents in the mid-range, a silent but sizable number hanging out, still giving the community some ballast, who could be ready to assume control again once these contradictions dissolve.

You don't agree, do you, with those who say that we're destined to become a seamless beach resort like Miami? After all, we were once an upscale resort back in 1905, when Abbot Kinney founded this city. But then we became a slum in the 40s and 50s and it metamorphosed into a haven for Paul Goodman's rebel children by late decade.

Don't you see surfers some day squatting in empty Venice mansions, just like hippies did in the mid-60s when Kinney's buildings lay fallow?

And what about the Lincoln Place displacement of long-time residents by AIMCO this past December, another conglomerate absentee landlord taking it to the mid-rangers? If our

inspired citizens band together and win that battle, and of course if the national scene alters, could it spread like prairie fire and reverse course, fertilizing another boho utopia for our grandchildren?

—continued on page 7



art by Robbie Conal

### CASUALTIES IN IRAQ

**U.S. 2,712 Dead – 73 this month**  
**U.S. Wounded 20,468 – 578 this month**  
**Iraqi Dead: 50,000 – 100,000**

Source: antiwar.com

**Cost: \$330+ Billion - Source: costofwar.com**



The collective staff of the



**BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:**  
Karl Abrams, John Davis, C.V. Beck, Carol Fondiller, Don Geagan, Yolanda Miranda, Jim Smith, Erica Snowlake, Judith Martin-Straw, Alice Stek

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.

To submit material, include your name and telephone number. Anonymous material will not be printed, but your name will be withheld on request. If return of material is desired, a stamped self-addressed envelope is required. No payment is made for material used.

Mail to: P.O. Box 2, Venice, CA 90294.  
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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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## Supports Affordable 2nd Units

Dear Beachhead,

I am a resident of Mar Vista. Over the last several years it has been suggested that the development of "Playa Vista," the Santa Monica Airport complex, and the Westside in General has become so overdeveloped as to create unreasonable traffic congestion in our Community.

While I do not challenge or dispute the general principal that irresponsible development may be responsible for increase in traffic congestion; I choose to believe there is a very transparent and obvious solution available by simply utilizing the newly adopted provisions of the Government Code which allows and encourages the construction of either "detached" or attached "second units" on existing single-dwelling/zone Properties.

For years I have traveled through the small alleyways of Venice and Mar Vista and observed garages having been converted to small units or dwellings.

I am in favor of our City Government implementing Government Code Section 65852.2 which provides that local agencies shall grant a variance or "special use permits" for the...creation...of a second unit on any lot that contains an existing single-family dwelling regardless of the zoning.

A careful examination of the aforementioned Government Code Section does provide some restrictions wherein the "second unit" shall not exceed 30 percent of the living space of the primary unit and in no event can the second unit exceed 1,200 square feet. Of course, there are some height and set back requirements.

I am proposing an Amnesty. The thousands of "non-permitted studios" and garages could receive a proper Certificate of Occupancy from the Department of Building & Safety. These small units would have to comply with all existing Building & Safety Code requirements.

My careful review of the history of the legislation discussed above, will reveal that the legislature made the following findings:

"The legislature finds and declares that the state has a role in increasing the utilization of California housing resources...and in the reduction of the Barriers to the provisions of "affordable housing..."

The Legislative Findings go on to recite that "second units" in a single family dwelling is a mechanism for providing affordable housing to low and moderate income household without any ...Public Subsidies..."

There are many thousand "bootleg" non permitted Units in our community. they are the homes of artists, nurses, students and those among us who are not affluent. In our society we should welcome and promote Diversity. Not every person can afford a luxury 2-bedroom apartment for \$2,600 a month or more.

The sanctioning of these small second units is a very cost efficient and appropriate mechanism to promote affordable housing and reduce vehicular congestion.

Several months ago, I was at home with some idle time and I had my television on. As I held onto my remote control unit, the TV going from channel to channel and by accident I came upon the Los Angeles City Public Television Programming on channel 35. The host, a Mr. Phil Shulman, was interviewing City Councilman, Eric Garcetti.

Mr. Garcetti is currently the President of the Los Angeles City Council. Mr. Garcetti has a background in Urban Planning.

Mr. Garcetti explained that his District was confronted with the dilemma of securing and retaining Local Businesses who apparently were unable to remain viable because their employees could no longer afford rents being offered either in Hollywood, Echo Park or Silver Lake. Concurrently, the employees that were working for these local establishments were traveling by motor vehicle from Lancaster, Palmdale, Simi Valley or other remote locations throughout the County. Again, without the availability of "affordable rental/housing" did Councilman Garcetti project that he would lose valuable businesses within the District, but also the employees traveling to their businesses from their remote homes, created "unreasonable and unmanageable traffic congestion."

The solution is obvious: Provide a mechanism for affordable housing.

I have suggested that consistent with the recently enacted aforementioned Government Code, that individuals in our community consider adding a second Unit to or over their existing Garage. The unit can be provided to a student, a family member, or elderly

## Rosendahl Opposes 31-story tower on Lincoln

Dear Beachhead,

While most West LA residents support the concept of mixed-use developments, the proposed MDR Tower, at 4363 Lincoln Boulevard in Venice, is excessively large. In huge numbers and from a variety of neighborhoods, my constituents have spoken loudly and clearly in opposition to the proposed 31-story MDR Tower, as it is currently designed. I join them in that opposition.

Like many others, I am opposed to the concept of building gated high-rise buildings in neighborhoods so close to the beach. I am fighting to maintain the community fabric of mixed income neighborhoods so that all income levels can enjoy the Westside and the beach.

The insular, unfriendly design of this proposed 366-foot tower does not meet the spirit and vision of inclusion that is so prevalent in the Venice area.

Although I am working to bring light rail to Lincoln Boulevard, that advance in mass transit is still many years away. Meanwhile, this segment of Lincoln is in gridlock most hours of the day. I am very concerned about allowing any additional traffic-inducing developments to proceed until I am assured that mass transit will serve this corridor.

I have shared my concerns with many members of the community and with the developer. As proposed, this project should not be approved. I urge the developer to work with the community to significantly downsize the project, increase the amount of affordable housing, and contribute to the introduction of light rail along Lincoln Boulevard.

Together, I am confident that we can develop a proposal that will better serve the community, reflect its character, and contribute to congestion relief."

*Bill Rosendahl, L.A. City Councilmember*

resident.

The construction of the "second unit" would not in any way increase the traffic congestion in the area insofar as the building permit would require that "parking accommodations" be afforded on the premises. We are already observing small homes being torn to the foundation and being replaced with "Miniature Mansions." In all instances, there is no requirement for additional parking regardless of the square footage. Accordingly, I see no distinction between adding small 500/600 sq. ft. Bonus Unit on the rear of the property.

The constitutionality of "detached second units" was tested in a recent case entitled Coalition Advocating Legal Housing Options v. City of Santa Monica (2001) 106 Cal. Rptr.2d 802; 88 Cal. App. 4th 454. In that case, the City of Santa Monica enacted an ordinance which attempted to restrict the use of the "second units" to only persons who were relatives or dependents of the property owner or care-givers of the property owner. On appeal, the Court found that the Santa Monica City Ordinance could not be upheld as the attempt to limit permissible users in the second unit violated both the Privacy and Equal Protection rights as established by our Constitution. The case is interesting insofar as it recites and upholds the historical background of the enactment of "second units" in Government Code Section 65852.2:

"The statute authorizes such local ordinances...and, indeed, ...requires...local agencies to permit second units...meeting the State set standards..." -P.803

In conclusion, Mar Vista should welcome the opportunity to promote and embrace greater Residential Diversity. Perhaps, if people lived in the community, they could no longer be entirely dependent upon the automobile to travel to restaurants, entertainment, markets or even employment.

As City Council President, Eric Garcetti, suggests, we need to establish and promote "affordable housing" at or near our existing businesses; otherwise, those businesses will become extinct. I favor amnesty to all "bootleg and undocumented second unit" and the establishment in the 11th Council District for a program for encouraging the construction establishment of "second units" to further promote the lessening of traffic, diversity of residents and the opportunity of homeowners to realize the greatest benefit from the use and enjoyment of their property.

*Michael Millman* (The writer is a personal injury Attorney and on the Board of Directors of the Mar Vista Homeowners Association.)

# Venice: Where Recycling Is A Crime

By Y. Miranda

A new crackdown on the homeless in Venice by the LAPD is underway, say several of the homeless that I interviewed for this article.

In addition to the usual harassment, they are being fined for pushing grocery carts on the city streets by the police. The fines range from \$175 up to \$270 without any explanation of the discrepancies of the amounts.

When I asked them what was the reason given by the police for the citations no one knew, other than they were told it was against the law to push a grocery cart on the city streets. The people I spoke to use the grocery carts to collect cans and most of them over fill the baskets and attach plastic bags bulging with cans.

The more cans they collect, the more they'll make selling them. Unfortunately, Ralph's grocery store closed its recycling distribution site almost a year ago (in spite of a growing recognition that we need to recycle our mountains of trash). The nearest recycling center now is miles away in Santa Monica.

A crop of entrepreneurs with pickup trucks has sprung up. They buy cans and bottles from the car-less in Venice since it's too far away to walk with a fully loaded cart on a city street.

Contrary to popular belief, not all the people who collect our discarded recyclables are homeless. There are also some married women who collect to help out their poor families. They are immigrant women whose husbands earn minimum wage, or they are unemployed or disabled and unable to receive benefits due to their immigrant status.

This is the case with Maria, who I met in my alley. After her husband was fined for pushing a shopping cart, Maria creatively converted a discarded baby buggy into a cart to collect cans. "My husband was fined \$175.00 in June for pushing a grocery cart full of cans. We paid the fine, now he is ill and I have to do it full-time so I came up with this idea," says Maria as she smiles brightly. "No, the police have not given me a ticket for my baby buggy. Gracias a Dios," she prays.

Now that Maria is not able to sell her cans at Ralph's, she sells to the middle men with trucks. "See the load I have," she exclaims as wipes her hands on her immaculate clean apron. She re-braids her long, gray hair and continues. "if I took it to the old Ralphs site, they would give me between \$11 and \$12. Now I only can expect \$6 or \$7. But I have no choice, I have to accept it, I need to feed my family."

"These people are making a big profit off you. Aren't you angry?" I asked her. She smiles again, clasping her hands in front of her as if in

prayer, and says, "Yes, but if they weren't here what would I do? In this life everyone needs to work to earn money, so I understand. I'd rather have a little less than nothing at all." "¿Verdad?" she enquires. She smiles brightly again, her humility illuminating. "Si," I respond, "usted



Neil

esta correcta." I walked away wondering how she keeps her apron so clean while going through the dirty trash cans.

Once the homeless people are given citations, they have to appear in court to pay the fine or serve two days in jail, says Neil, a homeless man, who has been given six citations for his recycling work. Neil has made his living collecting cans and bottles in order to survive after losing his factory job three years ago.

He does two days in jail to pay for his fine and then returns to his collection

work. He too sells his cans in Venice to the people in the pickups. He grumbles under his breath when I asked him if they pay him a fair price?

"No, they have us by the tail, better to take a pay cut on our cans than get a fine by walking to Santa Monica," he says. "They need us and we need them, it's that simple."

"This is my work," Neil explains. "It's harder work than my job at the factory. It might look easy but it's not. I am not a thief, I collect recyclables that people throw away, I would prefer having a regular job than doing this for a living, he continues. "I have two purple hearts for being wounded twice in the Vietnam war." It was apparent that Neil, who is very articulate and polite, still has his pride. He dresses in clean,

Venice casual clothes. But when I introduced myself and hold my hand out to shake his, he says, "excuse ma'am, my hand is dirty and smelly." "So is mine," I respond. I've been riding my bike, he laughed and shook my hand.

I asked Neil why he didn't apply for food stamps. "Excuse ma'am," he said. "I have no identification on me, not one piece of identification. Besides I wouldn't know how to go about it."

"What about medical care when you get sick?" I asked. "Well ma'am, I was lucky to take two days in jail for the last citation because I ended up having a heart attack in jail and spending five days in the hospital."

"Are you being followed up by a doctor?" I asked. He breaks up into belly laughter. "If I go to the county clinic I'd probably have a heart attack waiting almost a whole day to see a doctor. I'll take my chances, I feel pretty good now just hope I stay that way."

As we're talking a black and white car went by, Neil eyes darted, focusing on the car. "I better go ma'am before they go by again. "Thank you for spending time with me," he waved as he pushed his grocery cart loaded with bags of cans down the street.

Sheryl, age 54, lives on the sidewalk just off a busy street. She receives small disability payments but it's not enough to pay rent. Sheryl was fined \$57 for having a grocery cart full of her personal belongings. She now has a small cart she bought for groceries and several plastic bags full of her belongings.



Sheryl

She makes her bed on the sidewalk and the residents in the street kind of look after her bringing her food, personal essentials and check on her daily to see how she is doing. When I was interviewing Sheryl, Jamie Vargas a nearby resident came by on his bike to check on her. A 45-year resident of

-continued on page 10

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7PM Saturday, Oct. 7

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All Beachhead contributors welcome to participate. at the P&F Center, 1720 Main St. Venice

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For more information, 310-396-0811

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# Guide to the Propositions on the Nov. 7 Ballot

<b>Proposition 1A</b> Transportation Investment Fund Constitutional Amendment	<b>Creates a Transportation Investment Fund (TIF) separate from the general fund.</b>	<b>Beachhead says: NO - threatens social programs.</b>
<b>Proposition 1B</b> Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, Port Security Bond Act of 2006	Transportation Infrastructure Bond, a \$19.9 billion bond issue to "relieve traffic congestion on roads and highways and improve bus, rail and transit systems."	Beachhead says: <b>NO</b> - Bond measures reduce amount available for needed programs. Put repayment burden on poor and working people.
<b>Proposition 1C</b> Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006.	Affordable Housing Bond, a \$2.9 billion housing bond program to provide shelters for battered women and housing for low-income seniors, veterans & working families.	Beachhead says <b>YES</b> - Lack of housing has reached emergency proportions.
<b>Proposition 1D</b> Education facilities: Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006.	Education Infrastructure Bond, a \$10.4 billion bond program to fund K-12 school improvements and new school construction	Beachhead says: <b>NO</b> - Bond measures reduce amount available for needed programs. Put repayment burden on poor and working people.
<b>Proposition 1E</b> Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006.	\$4.1 billion to repair levees and improve flood protection in Sacramento, Marysville and Yuba City.	Beachhead says: <b>NO</b> - Bond measures reduce amount available for needed programs. Put repayment burden on poor and working people.
<b>Proposition 83</b> Sex Offenders. Sexually Violent Predators. Punishment, Residence Restrictions and Monitoring.	Strict laws against sexual predators are already on the books.	Beachhead says: <b>NO</b> - This is merely political grandstanding.
<b>Proposition 84</b> Water Quality, Safety and Supply. Flood Control. Natural Resource Protection. Park Improvements.	\$5.4 billion bond program to pay for state park improvements, anti-pollution and safe drinking water programs, energy & water conservation programs, flood control.	Beachhead says: <b>NO</b> - Sounds good, but just another bond measure. Should be funded by fair taxes on wealthy and corporations.
<b>Proposition 85</b> Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy. Con. Amend.	Doctors required to notify a parent/guardian before performing an abortion on a girl under 18. Virtually identical to Prop 73 from last year's special election that lost by 53% to 47%.	Beachhead says: <b>NO</b> - Assault on abortion rights.
<b>Proposition 86</b> Tax on Cigarettes. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.	Tax on cigarettes (extra 13 cents per cigarette -- \$2.60 per pack) for hospital emergency services, nursing education, targeted health insurance for children and other programs.	Beachhead says <b>YES</b> - Even our smokers agree.
<b>Proposition 87</b> Alternative Energy. Research, Production, Incentives. Tax on California Oil. Initiative	\$4 billion on a program to reduce oil & gas consumption by 25 percent. Funded by a 1.5 percent to 6 percent tax per barrel of oil on producers.	Beachhead says <b>YES</b> - A necessary program with the right funding.
<b>Proposition 88</b> Education Funding. Real Property Parcel Tax. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.	Increase K-12 school funding by charging a \$50 tax on each real property parcel in California. Exempt certain elderly and disabled homeowners.	Beachhead says <b>YES</b> - A modest increase on property tax for schools is good.
<b>Proposition 89</b> Political Campaigns. Public Financing. Corporate Tax Increase. Contribution and Expenditure Limits.	Candidates for state office meeting requirements voluntarily receive public campaign funding. Limits on campaign contributions and increases corporate tax rate by 0.2%.	Beachhead says <b>YES</b> - Public funding is essential for democratic elections.
<b>Proposition 90</b> Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.	Bars local governments from condemning private property. Authorizes lawsuits for any government action that someone claims will result in economic loss to property.	Beachhead says <b>NO</b> - Under guise of misusing eminent domain, would prevent zoning and environmental restrictions.
<b>Measure R</b> Los Angeles City Charter change to extend term limits for the city council.	Measure R would allow council members, currently limited to two four-year terms, to serve three terms. It also would impose new restrictions on lobbyists.	Beachhead says <b>NO</b> - Except for Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, the city council should have their terms reduced, not extended. No reward for bad work!

## Retire Jane Harman -

See a video of Harman's Tijuana sweatshop: [www.lalabor.org/Harman.html](http://www.lalabor.org/Harman.html)

### She's not the Billionaire for the Job

Jane Harman, like George Bush, represents the 1/2 of 1 percent of the wealthiest and most powerful people in the country.

This elite already owns 25% of all the wealth in the country, and they seem determined to take the rest of it, too.

Harman has been disguising her enormous wealth which is mainly in the name of her husband.

Through the multi-billion dollar Harman International Corp., as well as real estate throughout the globe, and millions of shares of stocks, they have thousands

of times more wealth than the voters she claims to represent. Harman has been a strong supporter of the Bush Administration's misdeeds. She voted to give Bush a blank check to invade Iraq, voted to take away our civil liberties with the so-called "Patriot" Act.

And instead of working for a just peace in the Middle East, Harman became a cheerleader for the Israeli military's invasion of Lebanon, even flying to Israel to show her support.

Where was Jane while tenants were being kicked out of Lincoln Place to make way for expensive condos?

Where was Jane when our beautiful coast was being choked with over-development and traffic?

Where was Jane when millions lost their health care coverage?

Where was Jane while Congress went seven years without raising the minimum wage?

Perhaps she was helping Harman International Corp. shift the majority of its workforce out of the country, to sweatshops

in Tijuana, Juarez and elsewhere. Jane occasionally throws a few crumbs to the rest of us, but mostly she is an activist on behalf of the ruling elite.

She is a member of the secretive Trilateral Commission, World Economic Forum and several other groups of the super-rich.

It's not surprising that Harman is repeatedly named the most conservative Democrat on the California Congressional delegation.

With Jane Harman we can expect endless wars and more erosions of our civil liberties. It's good for big business - and Harman's cronies' endless greed.

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## "Lynch Mob" Attacks Mosque

By Leslie Radford, radiojustice.net

CULVER CITY, Sept. 10 2006 -- As much of the world reflected on 9-11, the United American Committee, the Minutemen, and the Coptic Christians of America stood at the King Fahd Mosque calling out, "You kill Jews!" before hanging an effigy of Osama bin Laden on a makeshift gallows in the back of a rented pick up truck.

It was a grotesque, hideous image--a Black man in the U.S. performing a lynching-in-effigy. On one level it was a bizarre caricature--the lynching wasn't real, so maybe the Black man, posing for the press and agitating his predominantly white audience, wasn't real either. At another level, the historical cascade of violence from whites lynching African-Americans to an African-American lynching Osama bin Laden--today transformed into a surrogate for all Muslims--was a breathtaking recollection of scenes from a century ago.

The anti-Muslim groups stood opposite the mosque, on the southwest corner of Huron and Washington Streets. Counter protesters had secured the area in front of the mosque before the persecutors - arrogantly flaunting U.S. flags in an equation of religious intolerance and patriotism - arrived. Both groups slowly added to their numbers in what would become a tense standoff as the adversaries spilled into Huron Street. Heated, near-violent, face-to-face confrontations erupted, at times quelled only by intrepid Christian and Muslim clergy people walking between the groups. A single police cruiser and two vacant cop motorcycles sat placidly fifty yards away, at the 7-11 across the street, leaving the Muslims and their supporters to protect themselves from the aggressors.

The United American Committee is headed by Jesse Petrilla, a former UC-Irvine student who made his mark in college by showing offensive drawings of the Prophet Muhammad at the university, the same drawings that sparked riots in Europe. The Black man who hung the effigy, Ted Hayes, himself a member of UAC, brought a handful of white Minutemen to back him up. The presence of the Copts, who arranged for the demonstration permit, brought the bloody Egyptian streetfighting between the minority Coptic Church and Islamic revivalists to Los Angeles. The anti-immigrant group Save Our State was slated to appear, but evidently reconsidered.

paid political advertisement



By C.V. Beck

TENT CITY IS NOT WINDING DOWN...for those who still don't know where we are: we are at the southeast corner of Frederick/California Streets, east of Ross, south of Ralph's and west of Lincoln Place. As we await our day in court and our constitutionally promised due process of law, some of us have been "posted", (that is, having an Ellis Act-oriented unlawful detainer summons served) and some haven't. Some had summons left stuck to their door with very sticky masking tape (by a masked man, no doubt) and the office has not accepted our rent. Some of our more irresistible seniors have people banging on their doors late at night and the phone rings and rings...and no one is there...security guards pop out at me while I empty my trash, saying, "Good morning, I didn't mean to startle!" when I jumped but in my heart of hearts, I'm sure he did mean to startle.

Lincoln Place residents are experiencing a barrage of threatening legal boilerplate as the big law firms "paper" us with scary, incomprehensible-to-most people-multiple pieces of white papers...involving several different areas of the law and also involving the removal of almost 800 truly affordable apartments under rent control from Venice. People in brand new cars continue to circle around and through Lincoln Place, starting at the "rentmonkeys" with our knuckles seemingly dragging on the ground. (Imagine that, these "rentmonkeys" have the nerve to think they can continue to live in aesthetic Venice...rapidly on the way to becoming anaesthetic Venice)...I continue to experience direct attacks on my property in the back yard as things "coinkidinkly" continue to vanish...just like they want us to do...just discovered a tent in my car trunk has disappeared...just when I might really need it! Some more people have sold their souls to the devil for green pieces of paper. Somehow, someone's wife, who works or worked for the Rand Corporation in some unknown capacity, is present at a meeting between the relocation specialist and a taking-the-deal-kind of resident. Why was that? Just a coinkidink, right? Are we part of a study of some kind of people moving techniques? The big law firm's mouthpieces continue to spew lies, lies and more lies. They really don't want us to go to court, do they?

Last month, the Venice Neighborhood Council had their elections. There are a only a few people who understand their roles as a NEIGHBORHOOD REPRESENTATIVE and not for personal aggrandisement or as a clone of the Venice Chamber of Commerce or Abbot Kinney District Association. On the upside, Spike Marlin, a feisty rentmonkey from Lincoln Place, was elected as a representative. While this is encouraging, unfortunately, too many of the rest of our reps seem to think that it's all about me, me, me and I, I, I and not we and us...together, trying to make a too small place better for everyone, not just for a select, incredibly lucky and few "Lords of Dirt or Sand."

Last week, I observed one of the security guards in his big car, creeping along much too closely behind one of our most disabled seniors, struggling to walk down the alley. I had to direct him with hand signals to go around this person and lectured him on his misconduct, letting him know that I would be contacting his supervisor. On another note, one of our creepiest dogwalking neighbors is back. This is the person who puts the dog waste in a plastic bag and hangs it decoratively from trees directly across from my residence where it is liable to remain-- til the cows come home--unless, of course, I remove it. No one else seems to have noticed this vile person's disgusting activity. Stay tuned for more...next time and see you in court, any day now.

Visit  
[www.venice-beach-head.org](http://www.venice-beach-head.org)  
 for back issues of the  
 Free Venice Beachhead

## Neighborhood Council Election Lightly Attended

By Jim Smith

Suppose they gave an election and nobody voted? Neither statewide political elections nor the much maligned neighborhood council seem to be able to attract many voters. The June 6 primary election turnout - 33.63% of registered voters - was the lowest in California history. To make matters worse, only 23.37 of eligible votes, those who could have registered and voted, bothered to do so. Can you blame that on George Bush?

Likewise, in local politics the Venice Neighborhood Council (sans Grass Roots) held an election on Sept. 17 that was massively unattended. A total of 492 Venetians, absentee landlords and others showed up to vote in the lowest turnout since the council was formed. Another 29 people went through a convoluted process in order to vote by absentee ballot. They boosted the total votes to slightly more than the 509 votes cast in the disputed election of 2004 when absentee balloting was not permitted. This year's vote was not even half of last year's when 1,204 people voted, and it was a pale reflection of the 1,310 votes in 2003 when the Progressive slate swept the election.

The "unprogressives" who have been in charge of the neighborhood council since last year were successful in limited turnout, either intentionally or inadvertently. In bylaw changes slipped through earlier in the year, they eliminated district representatives in favor of "Community Officers" who represent everyone, or no one. In an effort to keep candidates from coming together to advocate a coherent platform (the dreaded slates), they permitted each voter to cast a ballot for only one of the seven community officers. In addition, there was no contest for president, vice president, or community outreach officer. There was a contested election for Land Use and Planning Committee Chairperson, but neither of the candidates was particularly acceptable to slow growth or no growth advocates in Venice.

The Neighborhood Council also required voters to show a photo ID. Similar rules in states including Georgia and Missouri have been ruled unconstitutional by the courts.

The major reason why the election was so ignored is because of the inept performance of the council during the past year. When it did get itself together to take a position, it was usually in opposition to the views of the community. A case in point was last month's vote by the Land Use Committee in favor of a hotel on Abbot Kinney Blvd. that would tower 10 feet over the maximum height allowable under the Venice Specific Plan. If there is any issue that united most Venetians - except the Unprogressives - it is adherence to the size limitations in the Specific Plan. Nearly every street in Venice now sports an out-of-scale cuboid mansion.

Another performance of the council that turned off even more people was its fumbling of a modest commercial building moratorium. Despite repeated meetings since last February, neither the Land Use Committee nor the Board has been able to bring itself to take a vote on the issue, even though quite a few Venetians have come out to unpleasant meetings to ask for a

moratorium, any moratorium. Meanwhile, Councilmember Bill Rosendahl has moved efficiently with his proposal for a much stronger moratorium on condo conversions.

Here are the "representatives" of the new and nearly moribund Venice Neighborhood Council.



Dede Audet

• **President:** DeDe Audet (a pleasant 80-year-old Republican from the Oxford Triangle). Running unopposed, she received 71.5% of the vote.

• **Vice President:** Yolanda Gonzalez (a not-so-pleasant property manager, landlord and Republican). Running unopposed, she received 67.6% of the vote.

• **Community Outreach Officer:** L.J Carusone (an East Venice Business Person who ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic Party County Central Committee last June). Running unopposed, he received 69.6% of the vote.

• **Land Use and Planning Committee Chair:** Challis Macpherson (An Oxford Triangle Resident who either used to or still works for Playa Vista). She defeated pro-development Architect Michael King by 10 votes (210-195). A write-in candidate, Katerina Tana, received 25 votes. Running with opposition, Macpherson received 39.4% of the vote.

- **Community Officers:** A total of 19 people ran for seven offices. Each voter was allowed to vote for only one candidate. The top vote getter was Progressive Ira Koslow with 80 votes. Next with 72 votes was Joe Murphy, brother of well-known developer, Frank Murphy. They were followed by Nadine Parkos with 50 votes and Eileen Pollack Erickson with 41 votes. Some neighbors in the canals say that Parkos is quite conservative. Erickson was involved in opposition several years ago to a Venice Community Housing Corporation project to build affordable housing in her neighborhood. Mike Newhouse got a seat by winning 40 votes as a write-in. He has not been active in the past, however, his campaign statement sounded "progressive-ish." Spike Marlin, who is fighting eviction from Lincoln Place, and has been active in the fight to save those garden apartments, also won 40 votes. The final person to be elected was Sylviane Dungan who was a District Representative during the past year and who often took positions contrary to progressives and unprogressives, alike.

The election results mean that the unprogressives are firmly in charge. Progressives such as hold-overs Peter Force and Rebecca Tafoya and new members Ira Koslow and Spike Marlin can be expected to speak out against over-development and for affordable housing, and may at times be joined by Newhouse and Dungan, but they will still be a distinct minority.

The question for Progressives - who sat out this election - will be whether to ignore the VNC and deal mainly with Rosendahl's office and the L.A. Planning Boards, or to begin building a strong challenge in next year's election.

## Neighborhood Council Approves Plush, Oversized Hotel for Brooks Avenue and Abbot Kinney

Ten months after it was first approved by the Council's Land Use Committee, the Board of the Venice Neighborhood Council approved a 57-room, 4-story luxury hotel for 901 Abbot Kinney Blvd.

Dubbed the "Ray" by the Ambrose Group of developers, the hotel, within two blocks of the beach, would sport a roof-top pool

and would tower 45 feet over the nearby gateway to Oakwood. The Venice Specific Plan calls for a maximum height at that location of 35 feet.

Opponents still have a chance to stop the project when it is submitted to the city planning department.

Meanwhile, another 43-room hotel project a block away, the Pali House, is still moving ahead.



Ambrose Hotel in Santa Monica

# Abbot Kinney Festival Attracts 50,000

By Kobe Maaeo

Shopping was definitely on the minds of the multitude, estimated by Festival organizers at 50,000, on Sept. 24 as they walked down Abbot Kinney Blvd. from Venice Blvd. to Brooks Ave. One store told the Beachhead they had raked in more than 15 Grand that day. A food booth said they were doing about \$1,000 per hour.

On the other hand, local vendors who used to ply their handmade goods on Ocean Front Walk until they were shut down, said they couldn't afford the price of the booths. It certainly seemed like most of the 300-plus commercial booths were from outside the borders of Venice. But to be realistic, this festival was about raking in the green, not gathering the Venice tribes together. The website even explained how Playa Vista residents could get to the Festival on a shuttle bus. The arrival of a mobile ATM truck explained it all (see photo).

Perhaps next year, the organizers could create a special rate for local (Venice) artists and craftspeople so they can participate. Or maybe there should be a separate festival or fair where Venetians can get together for fun, barter, music, herbs, politics and art. Let's hold it somewhere that out-of-towners can't find it, like Zeno Place.

A high point for the Beachhead was the presentation of a posthumous "Spirit of Venice" award to John Haag (see back page).

The Beachhead Collective was so flustered in being asked to accept it, that we didn't even remark on the irony of a "Spirit of Venice" award being signed by the Los Angeles City Council. Collective member Jim Smith did regain his wits in time to point out from the Brooks Avenue stage that John Haag's dream of restoring cityhood for Venice had not yet been achieved. Smith said that many Venetians also have that dream and look forward to the day when, perhaps, Bill Rosendahl - who presented the award - might be elected Mayor of Venice. Werner Scharff, a longtime Venice developer and property magnate, received the other posthumous award.

John Haag was a founder of the Free Venice Beachhead and the Peace and Freedom Party, among other things. He was the proprietor, along with wife, Anna, of the Venice West Cafe, the forerunner of today's coffeehouses. The Beachhead did a John Haag memorial issue last May that is on the web at <www.freevenice.org>.

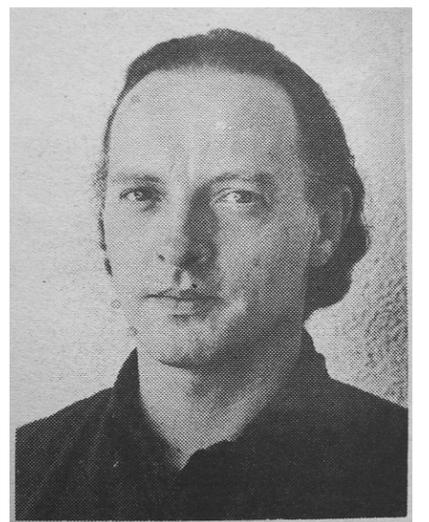


**Beachhead Collective members accept a posthumous "Spirit of Venice" Scroll for John Haag**

*See Tribute on the back page to John Haag by the Los Angeles City Council*



John Haag in 1972



John Haag in 2003

## AMERICA BUILDS A PALACE IN IRAQ

To those critics who keep yammering that the Bushites have spent billions of our tax dollars for the reconstruction of Iraq but have built practically nothing, I say, "Ha!" If you went to Iraq today, you'd see a marvelous new complex rising right in the heart of Baghdad.

This 104-acre shining oasis will include more than 600 apartments, two major office buildings, its own electricity plant and water system, air

conditioning, a swimming pool, a gym, a movie theater, a food court, a beauty salon, a car-repair shop and even a night club. This sprawling new town, which will have 8,000 people working in it when completed next year, must be a welcome sign of progress and a symbol

of democratic pride for the long-suffering people of Iraq--right? Well...not exactly. You see, this palace is not for them.

This is to be the new U.S. embassy. Being built by an affiliate of--guess who?--Halliburton, this half-billion dollar, self-contained complex will be by far the largest embassy in the world.

But this is no mere house of diplomacy--it's a mini-state inside Iraq's capitol, establishing a permanent American base that literally ripples with negative symbolism. Surrounded by 15-foot walls, guarded by Marines, and overlooking the chambers housing the Iraqi government, this fortress is viewed by the people as a palace of occupation, an infuriating reminder of who really holds the reins of power.

-Hightower Lowdown, September, 2006, Volume 8 No. 09 edited by Jim Hightower and Phillip Frazer

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# Robbie Conal Interview

– continued from page one

**Conal:** No. Not until the Apocalypse of Capitalism. (For starters: How about Dubya and Condi doing the “Apocalypse Tango”—she leads—while the Middle East burns?) Or a major earthquake. Tsunami. Alien fleet of spaceships landing on Venice Circle to reclaim the Robert Graham sculpture. Of course, the latter might BE our grandchildren (not the sculpture, the alien hordes...they’d be the ones with heads). In a bubble-bursting minute there’ll be NO mass (*no mas*) in the middle. In Venice or anywhere else in Cali. Just the tippy-top and the bottom.

As for Miami, it’s got its own festering class and race problems. And worms. Show me the seamlessness of that time bomb and I’ll show you an optometrist. The situation at Lincoln Place now officially sucks. In the Haight in ‘67 (“Summer of Love” my ass), a true Hippie Princess friend of mine whispered a bong hit’s worth of wisdom into my ear, “If it can suck, it will suck.” It does.

On the other hand, there’ll always be arty creative scenes in the greater LA area (it’s so fucking big and there are so many—too many—kids making art). If I were a young artster in Lalaland today, I’d go to a go-go Gardena. El Segundo. Torrance. Great Japanese food. Square foot-simolean ratio is copacetic. No posers, no tourists. You can’t go home again. Venice R.I.P.

**O’Kane:** I see what you’re saying. But it seems Venice still has a special something these other standard bedroom communities don’t! As gone as the old-bohemian Venice surely is, it still has traces of a creative community.

Does the whole system have to collapse before Venice can change? Sounds like left-wing anti-capitalist cynicism!

Don’t the kind of conditions you describe, and I think you’re mostly on the mark, breed insurgencies? Just a few months ago a Llama herder by the name of Evo Morales got elected president down in Bolivia, a man of the people who rode to power on exactly these kinds of conditions. Admittedly the peasantry are bailing fast here in Kinneytown, but perhaps there’s a sleeping mass of sympathizers who’ve cash-cropped the soil for many years now and are ready to join an insurgency?

**Robbie Conal show at Track 16 Gallery in Bergamot Station, Santa Monica. APOCALYPSO FACTO Will be all skeletons. One room of Bush admin characters doing the Dance of Death and another room of skeletons with glitter skulls - Opening Oct. 28 - 7-10PM**

**Conal:** *Insurgent Venetians!* You’re so cute. We’d all like to think it could happen. The true peasantry in Venice is not bailing. Hunkering down in Ghost Town is more like it. The property is so valuable every real estate speculator on the planet covets that turf. *So why can’t somebody just make somebody an offer they can’t refuse?*

I don’t know if it’s those pesky rent control statutes that keep the Ghosts in Ghost Town or that the grandchildren of the original tenants now own those buildings. I think the families do own them and somehow—amazingly—they haven’t sold out yet for beaucoup bucks.

So, NO, not until a Katrina-like tsunami wipes out the poor peeps of Venice and venture capital, someone like Eli Broad (he’s always hovering around the west side somewhere, dropping dimes, right?) and local bureaucrats have the

excuse —“re-building” will do; “eminent domain,” anybody?—to collude their way to a brand new, \$queaky-clean “Fantasia Village.” Oh, just pick any So-Cal town with the word *Beach* in it for a paradigm.

Just a matter of cultural priorities, baby! Does our society place a premium on housing **all its citizens** or is our shelter left to market forces (including the cumulative G force of toiling in the *popular culture production capital of the universe* that’s twisted a chromosome in our captains of The Industry, compelling them to drive their Porsche Cayenne Turbos to the very edge of the continent and hunker down on the sandy shore of an eroding, mudsliding, earthquake prone desert by the sea...to lay their eggs).

Is Venice’s local government—along with ANTONIOOOO’s municipal government and AHHHnold’s government and DUBYA’s government, of course—dedicated to the health, education and welfare (in the real sense of the word) of all its citizens, including the working poor and its large homeless population? Well, the Venice Family Clinic is cool. Every neighborhood should have one. Is it a city agency? NO. State? NO. Federal? Heavens, NO.



art by Robbie Conal



art by Robbie Conal

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**FILM & Discussion**  
**Noam Chomsky:**  
 Does the United States intend to Dominate the Whole World?

**SATURDAY**  
**7PM – Oct. 7**  
 Readings by Poets & Writers  
**BEACHHEAD**  
 Fundraiser -

**SUNDAY**  
**7PM – Oct. 8**  
**IRAN: What we need to know to avoid another war**  
 Sarah Forth toured Iran for 18 days last fall. Her slide show will cover that tour and the current situation in Iran. Forth holds a doctorate in theology.

**FRIDAY**  
**8PM – Oct. 13**  
**FILM**  
**500 Nations** – In celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day

**SATURDAY**  
**8PM – Oct. 14**  
**MUSIC**  
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**8PM – Oct. 21**  
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**2PM Sunday, Oct. 22** – League of Women Voters debate for Assembly & Congressional Candidates - Carpools call 310-399-2215..  
**8PM Sunday, Oct. 29** – Stand Up Comedy with Christina Bellarose & friends.  
**5PM Every Friday** – Circle of Peace Vigil – Venice traffic circle.  
**11AM Every Saturday** – Campaign Committee meetings for Smith for Congress and Abrams for Assembly.  
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When a creative community is geographically defined by the real estate market, your sleeping mass of sympathizers is sleeping in another hood. Not by choice, either. Young Artists and Real Estate 101A: **How much space can you get for how little money? For how long?**

[Y’know, UCLA has had the hottest graduate Fine Arts program in the country for the past few years. Cool beans! And I mean that. Those kids are great! So, where are the UCLA graduate art studios? In a festering warehouse we like to call “The Rabbit Hutch” in Culver City. Those kids like Venice. After stopping at India Sweets & Spices to pick up the best, cheapest samosas in LA, they might even venture out to Abbot Kinney.... nah. Too far. Too expensive. Anyway, they gotta get back to work. Somebody in El Segundo might be gaining on’em.]

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# Stem Cells: The Ultimate Panacea?

By Paul O'Laigue, Ph.D

Dateline Earth 2176 A.D.

Longevity in most countries is now allowed to reach 250 years with most of those lived in good health. Past major killers - cancer and heart disease as well as many genetic diseases - have been eradicated by gene and organ replacement therapy of modified DNA and RNA viruses, bio-engineered repair cells and in vitro grown organs. DNA data banks now allow typecasting individual behavior patterns, inherited talents, susceptibility to diseases, and criminal tendencies. This in turn has allowed more efficient use of public funds in education, medical treatment, and correction facilities. Control of population is now back to snuff with new worldwide termination stations. The future continues to look quite rosy- End.

Science fiction scenario? Of course. A possible future? Maybe. No one can predict the future with certainty (it violates the second law of thermodynamics). But because of the enormously important biological and genetic revolution now taking place, we are in a good position to consider possible future lifestyles offered by ongoing discoveries in biotechnology. These discoveries are poised to impact significantly on health, aging, longevity, disease eradication, and medicine in general. The sky may be the limit. Of course, whether the fruits of biotech discoveries become commonplace in society depend not only on their effects on our general well being, but also on ethical and economic factors.

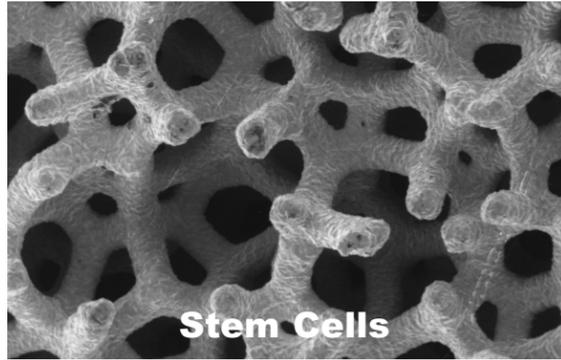
Among the recent discoveries that appear to hold great promise in treating human disease and capturing the public's attention and national debate is the use of stem cells. These esoteric cells, found in a variety of biological sites, offer great promise in repairing or replacing damaged or diseased cells and thus restoring normal function. Some have even viewed them as a possible 'fountain of youth'. Damaged heart? Squirt in some stem cells capable of differentiating into heart muscle cells and voila, good as new. Results in mice already bear this out.

So what are stem cells, where are they found, how are they used, are there any disadvantages, and what's all the fuss about using them? This short article touches on these questions.

Like other animals, humans start life as a single fertilized egg cell programmed in part by a mixture of maternal and paternal (i.e. egg and sperm) DNA. This egg divides into two cells then four, and so on, developing as an embryo then fetus and eventually leading to an adult with trillions of cells organized into about two hundred types of differentiated tissues such as skin, muscle, liver, brain, and others. Those who study early animal development have known for some time that cells (called blastomeres) isolated from the two-, four-, or eight- cell stage can, like the intact embryo, each give rise to an adult when reimplanted back into the mother. This spectacular result with isolated blastomeres occurs in a wide variety of animals including humans. Thus blastomeres are said to be totipotent, that is, they contain all the information and materials to produce a complete organism. This important result begged the question of whether there are cells in embryos of all stages even in adults that might retain this ability in one form or another. Today we know there are. These cells are called stem cells (it has been known for over twenty years that bone marrow contains cells that make all the blood cells). These cells, isolated from various sources, range from those found in differentiated tissues and that form only one cell type (termed unipotent) to those forming multiple cell types

(multipotent) to those forming most of the differentiated cell types (pluripotent), and finally to stem cells that are totipotent.

Can these stem cells be used to replace a wide variety of damaged or diseased cells? Theoretically, yes, thus the great enthusiasm for stem cell research. In 1998 an important advance in this research was made by James Thomson at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He and colleagues demonstrated that large numbers of human pluripotent stem cells could be obtained by growing late stage blastomeres in cell culture (essentially in a plastic dish with warm broth). These cells divided and remained undifferentiated for months, but maintained the developmental potential to differentiate into a wide variety of



cell types from the three germ layers of the embryo including gut cells (endoderm); cartilage, bone, smooth muscle, and striated muscle (mesoderm); to neural epithelium, embryonic neurons, and epidermis (ectoderm).

Since then many sources of stem cells have been demonstrated including both embryonic (i.e. isolated from 5-7 day embryos and called embryonic stem cells, ES, which are pluripotent), fetal, adult, and teratocarcinomas, germ cell tumors. The hope is that one or more of these types of stem cells can be manipulated to cure human disease. In theory ES-derived brain cells could be used to treat neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, muscle cells produced to treat muscular dystrophies and heart disease, haematopoietic stem cells to treat leukaemias and AIDS. Results have been few and all in animal models of diseases or injuries. ES cells have formed stable heart grafts, made sheath cells in rats with myelin disease similar to multiple sclerosis, differentiated into supporting cells in spinal cord injuries and promoted motor function recovery, and enabled partial recovery of diabetic mice by forming insulin-producing cells.

To treat human diseases with stem cells, however, several formidable challenges must be overcome. Human stem cells, which grow slowly in cell culture, will be needed in large quantities; they must be able to differentiate in a controlled manner to form homogeneous populations (uncontrolled growth is a hallmark of cancer); and most importantly, these populations must be histocompatible (i.e. self versus not self) with the recipient (this latter problem is encountered in trans-

plant patients who must take immunosuppressant drugs for life.). Experiments are under way to create such cells.

In spite of the tremendous potential of stem cells, their use, especially those derived from embryos (ES cells) and fetuses, have proven sensitive areas. This has arisen because certain segments of the public (e.g. pro-life movement) are uncomfortable with a technology that destroys human embryos to remove embryonic cells to create stem cell lines or with one that employs therapeutic cloning. The latter is uncomfortably close to reproductive cloning according to those opposed to embryonic stem cell research and thus violates the sanctity of life. One can counter these moral and ethical concerns by pointing out the potential therapies expected to derive from stem cell research. A future middle ground might be the use of one's own adult stem cells or other sources like umbilical cord blood cells tailored to treat human diseases.

Despite these objections, which are reflected in President Bush's recent veto of the Stem Cell Bill, many states are ignoring the President's polarizing stance and establishing a vanguard of stem cell research. California is at the forefront with its passage of Prop.71 establishing the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM). CIRM will spend \$3 billion over the next 10 years on stem cell research. The consensus among scientists is that the President's veto has invigorated stem cell research like nothing thus far. Bush's administration has misinterpreted and, in some cases, simply made up scientific findings for political purposes.

One may wonder if President Bush would have vetoed the Stem Cell Bill if stem cells were found to produce crude oil.

*The author is a Professor of Biology at UCLA and member of the Southern California Federation of Scientists. This is one of a series from the SCFS written for Beachhead readers.*

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## VENICE LOVE SONG

by Mary Getlein

I had fun today!  
listening to the drums and Ibrahim's  
singing  
listening and dancing to the drums,  
The saxes, the guitars,  
loving it --  
happy happy drumming--  
lovely dancers, dancing on the boardwalk  
Ocean breezes blowing in  
Tourists walking walking walking past  
Little kids and young girls stopping to  
dance,  
to vibrate with the drumming of the drums  
happy happy drumming  
Beautiful young girl dancing with her pet  
snake  
Beauty all around us --  
Just stop + look + you will see --  
You will hear the music vibrate to your  
soul  
The drums will shake you up and make  
your  
heart move ----  
You need to hear the jungle beat to live,  
to lighten up, to move  
to get up and shake your body to the  
Earth's  
rhythms...  
My favorite birds, seagulls, sailing over our  
heads,  
while below,  
us land animals are dancing around,  
the only things flying are our spirits,  
and the music we make,  
the songs we sing,  
The love we flow to each other ....  
Smiling happy people possessed with the  
power of music, running, strumming to the  
beat  
Hearing the magic of the music and not  
letting go of it --  
holding it and passing it back and forth  
to each other  
letting it run up and down in our heads  
and our bodies...  
the drums build and build to a wall of  
sound  
and come crashing down again and move  
back up --  
Kind of like the waves behind us  
building up and crashing down again ...  
Yeah, this is why I live here,  
because I can come here on the weekends  
and be a part of this...  
Keep dancing, you crazy music people.

## bird talk

By Hillary Kaye

the birds will talk, they will frighten you  
with their ability to speak out frighten you with  
their  
unreasoned methods and tireless rhythms.  
the air folds up and is taken away....on stretchers  
the earth recoils and gives with equanimity....  
it speaks to the dawn and the nighttime....both  
holy moments  
the hummingbirds are small but mighty they live  
in midair extravagantly  
oh how low to the ground we are in our search  
we miss so many stars  
the sky is full of meteors  
infinity touches us even when we don't notice

Patiently I sit on the sand  
With nothing but emptiness holding my hand  
beautiful things surrounding my space  
expressions of loneliness shaping my face  
with no stability in thought, I often question  
my time  
a search for purpose and reason to live on  
but all of a sudden, captured in the corner of  
my eye  
a wave so perfect one could hardly deny  
a powerful splash breaking down at the end  
only to drift off having accomplished its plan  
And only then -- did it occur to me  
how there are so many signs that I fail to see  
I too came in this world for a reason you see  
Just like the powerful wave -- once lost and  
alone at sea  
I must keep growing into the man I'm sup-  
posed to be  
For when the time comes for me to be seen  
only then will I realize what it means to be  
me.

Jim Mussio

## CRIME SCENE

By Sherman Pearl

Yellow police tape strung coast to coast, bor-  
der to border --  
do not cross, do not disturb the environment --  
investigation in progress, bodies of martyrs  
and polar bears  
outlined in chalk, DNA drawn from fallen  
trees.

Justice in progress here, closing in on the ter-  
rorists.

All we need is clear evidence. All we have  
now  
are suspicions, the secretive atmosphere,  
whispered rumors  
that so-and-so was declared an enemy and  
carted away.

Who's to blame for this suffocating air?  
Who raised sea levels so high that democracy  
drowned?

No shortage of suspects--we've traced foot-  
prints  
to Washington, truth-sniffing dogs circle the  
White House  
and still, convictions elude us.

You who stand gawking at the remains of old  
glories

Move along! Nothing here you can't see at  
home.

Go back to your own neighborhood.  
Yellow police tape surrounds your house.



## HOW MANY MORE NEED TO DIE FOR A LIE?

By B.B. Shapiro

How many soldiers need to have died?  
Americans and Iraqis killed on both sides  
How many, how many more?  
Before we realize, we are fighting the wrong war.

At first we were told it was "WMDs"  
And then it was for "Peace in the Middle East"  
Now Bush says it's for the sake of Democracy  
Is Iran next? What is it going to be?

After all, shouldn't we remember  
It was Al Queda who attacked us on the 11th of  
September  
It wasn't the Iraqis as we were led to believe  
How much longer must we continue to grieve?

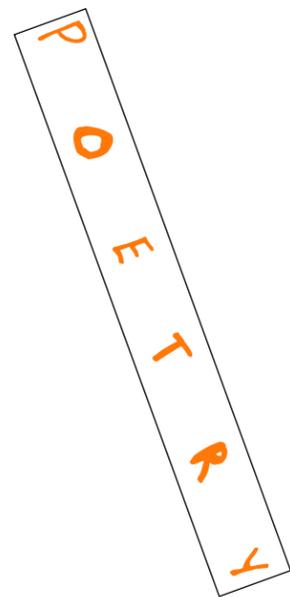
How many more must die for the wrong reason?  
And yet those against the war are accused of trea-  
son.  
The war in Iraq was a perfect disguise  
A political tactic to create fear with lies.

How many soldiers need to have died?  
While our own Democracy, is being denied.  
Waging this war is pure hypocrisy  
What's worse is justifying it, for the sake of  
Democracy.

Democracy can't be achieved at a point of a gun  
By sacrificing the lives our brave daughters and  
sons  
"Exporting our Democracy is Good" we are told  
But Democracy isn't a commodity to be bought and  
sold.

How many parents have lost a child?  
How many orphans are there on both sides?  
How many casualties and amputees?  
How many unnecessary deaths are there going to  
be?

How many soldiers need to have died?  
Americans and Iraqis killed on both sides  
How many, how many more  
Before - we realize, we are fighting the wrong war?



**Dislocated  
senior/disabled  
rent monkey,  
civilized w/2  
companion  
felines seeks  
garage/attic/room  
– truly  
affordable.  
310/396.1206.**

# Toll Road Threatens Park

The National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has launched a campaign of legal pressure and public opposition to block a proposed multi-lane toll road that would pave over the heart of the state park at San Onofre State Beach, a vibrant coastal habitat for imperiled wildlife and one of Southern California's most cherished recreation spots.

Each year, more than two and a half million visitors flock to San Onofre's long sandy beaches, hiking trails, campgrounds, windswept bluffs and tidal wetlands. "With development pressures threatening at least 35 of California's state parks, the Foothill Toll Road would set a disastrous precedent," says Joel Reynolds, a senior attorney based in NRDC's Los Angeles office. "For the sake of all our state parks, we must draw a line in the sand around San Onofre." According to state officials, the toll road would close 60 percent of the park, cutting a 320-acre concrete path through these wildlands. The project would destroy key habitat for endangered and threatened wildlife, including the steelhead trout,

the arroyo toad and the Least Bell's vireo, and would disrupt San Mateo Creek, one of the last unspoiled watersheds in Southern California. Contaminated runoff would pour into the world-class Trestles surfing beach, and seven archeological sites would be put in jeopardy. Construction costs for the 16-mile-long road are expected to exceed \$875 million.

NRDC filed a lawsuit in March arguing that, in approving the project, the local toll road agency broke the law by failing to assess the environmental impacts of the developer-backed scheme or fully explore alternatives. California Attorney General Bill Lockyer has filed two lawsuits against the plan as well, and NRDC is prepared to take further legal action as the agency moves through the permitting process. At the same time, we are mobilizing our Members and online activists in Orange and San Diego Counties to speak out and help protect San Onofre and, with it, all of California's state parks.

— NRDC Newsletter

# Where Recycling Is A Crime

—continued from page 3

Venice, Jamie told me he had offered Sheryl to stay at his house but she declined, saying she does not want to be a burden to anyone. So he and others on the street look after her.

According to Sheryl, she ended up homeless after an altercation with a security guard who was being aggressive towards her. She landed in jail for a month, lost her apartment because the police mistakenly reported that she had been sent to prison. As a result her disability checks stopped for the two years it took Sheryl to straighten out the mistake.

Meanwhile, she became homeless, bouncing in and out of temporary shelters and finally ending up living full time on the streets. The streets have taken a toll on Sheryl, although she doesn't drink, or take drugs she is frail and thin and admits to looking far older than her 54 years. She says in a soft voice that she is not bitter, and that she is thankful for the neighbors looking out after her. Since she has so many personal belongings in bags she can't wander very far or they'll be stolen.

"Don't ask me how I accumulated so many things, it just happened, but everything I own is in these bags, and I need them," Sheryl exclaims. I spotted a roll of toilet paper, tooth paste, clothes and a box of Kleenex.

She once had food stamps and received General Relief but then she left her belongings to look for a bathroom and upon her return everything was stolen, including her ID. But it all turned out well, Sheryl says, "I am back on disability but of course rent is so high I can't afford to rent a place."

When I asked Sheryl if she had children she yes but they don't know she lives in the streets. "I call them once in a while and tell them all is well." I sense this was a topic that was painful for her to discuss. She went on to talk dreamily about the apartment she once had, with a microwave oven. She was surprised I wanted to take her picture but happy I asked her. When I left, Sheryl was sitting on her bed on the sidewalk. she yelled out, "Hey Yolanda! Next time you come by maybe I'll have my full set of upper teeth!"

I asked each of the three people I interviewed: "If your dream could come true today what would it be?" Neil responded that it would be a room where he could lock his door and a kitchen because he loves to cook.

Sheryl said, "I just want a simple, safe place to live in."

Maria wanted just enough money to pay rent, to have enough food to eat daily and "for all of us in my family to be healthy."

Sheryl and Neil also wished that during the cold winter months there would be a shelter open 24 hours a day so they could come in from the cold and drink coffee to stay warm, take a shower and be able to use a bathroom.

Before I said goodbye to Neil, I asked for a hug. Being a proud gentleman, he said, "Sorry ma'am, I stink and I am embarrassed to hug you." My heart sank but I had to respect his dignity and pride, so I waved good-bye.

Venice at one time was known as the "slum by the sea" but now it is becoming gentrified, with bungalows being torn down and McMansions being built three stories high, new commercial buildings going up daily, artist loft apartments which true Venice artists cannot afford to rent. The Boardwalk with its restricted city ordinance, plus the old apartment buildings on the boardwalk now being rented for corporate residents or visitors.

I can't help thinking about all the oppressing city ordinances, the hostile attitude towards the homeless, the outrageous high rents, with many not caring about preserving Lincoln Place and its long term tenants. We see daily efforts to tear down livable, affordable housing to build high price condos, a concentrated, vicious attack by developers and their supporters to get rid of the untouchables – the homeless. There is no room for the elderly, the poor and the hourly workers. They are making Venice, our community, unaffordable to live in. Venice, known for its diversity of people and of colorful bohemian lifestyles, now is being replaced by gentrification that is monochrome in color, lifestyle and high income.

Free Venice from greedy developers! Free Venice by making it once again a City with our own government! Free ourselves by showing compassion and advocating for those who are down and out and who are unable to fight for their basic human rights!

We can begin by calling our representatives to ask them to support the The Bringing America Home Act (H.R. 4347) introduced by Julia Carson (D-IN). This bill was introduced in the 109th Congress to end homelessness. You can obtain all the necessary information by searching the internet for The Bringing America Home Act.

The occupation of Iraq, the loss of lives of our soldiers and innocent civilians is out of control. We have to fight and win our own country's battle of poverty and homelessness before we can proclaim democracy and freedom across the sea when our own citizens are being denied their basic, fundamental rights.

**Peace in Iraq  
Justice in Venice**

The Venice Circle at Main & Windward

**A weekly peace and justice vigil  
Out of Iraq Now • Save Lincoln Place  
Stop Global Warming • Impeach Bush/Cheney  
Every Friday at 5PM • Join Us**

Sponsored by: Venice Peace Movement • Venice Peace & Freedom Party • Lincoln Place Support Committee

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## DIA DE LA RAZA HUMANA DAY OF THE PEOPLE UNITED

VIGIL VISION GATHERING  
to recover HOPE LOVE DIGNITY

sunrise to sunset  
THURSDAY OCTOBER 12  
OCEAN FRONT WALK (THE  
BOARDWALK) at BROOKS  
VENICE CALIFORNIA

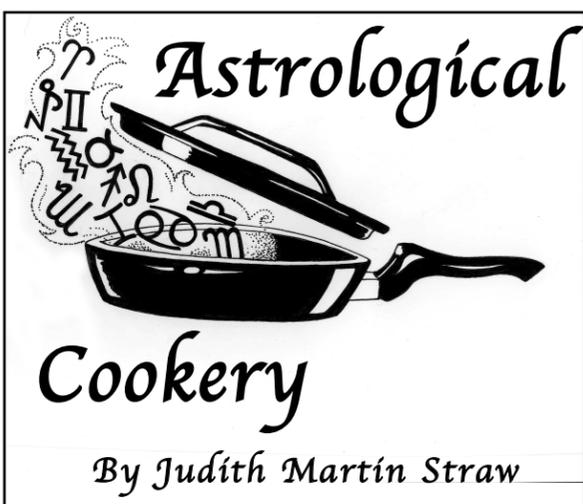
COME ONE COME ALL IN FAITH AND  
GOODWILL STAND UP IN SOLIDARITY  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS LIGHT A CANDLE  
FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM  
BRING ACOUSTIC INSTRUMENTS!

STAND TOGETHER Against the INDUSTRY OF  
WAR-Mongering Terrorism Proliferating Hate  
between Races and Religions, bent upon  
Destroying our One and Only Home. Stand Against  
the Selfish Power Elite using Us All as Sacrificial  
Lambs. Obscenely Profiting from their Blood Oil  
and Provoking Total Nuclear Annihilation in a  
ThirdWorldWar/NewWorldOrder of their Own  
Corrupt Machinations. WAKE UP PEOPLE!!!!  
DEFEND OUR DREAM OF PEACE ON EARTH  
AND OUR PROMISED VISION OF A FUTURE.  
DEFEND OURSELVES AGAINST THE UNCON-  
SCIOUS ENEMIES OF THE RIGHTS OF ALL  
BEINGS! COME TOGETHER IN HARMONY  
HAND TO HAND HEART TO HEART AS ONE  
PLANET ONE LIFE ONE LOVE!!! maybe it's our  
last chance!????

Douglas Eisenstark salutes  
the Beachhead for its coverage of  
the Lincoln Place crisis.

Douglas Eisenstark L.Ac.  
acupuncture and herbs  
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and Santa Monica since 1996.



## Libra (September 23 to October 22)

Libra is about balance. You Librans out there, you know. If it doesn't work out to be just so, then it does not work for you at all. You need things to be a certain way, and no apologies. But you are also a partnership sign, and when you have someone you can work with, work is a joy. Someone you can cook with-absolute bliss. That way, there is someone to hand you the measuring cups and the exactly correct knife at the moment you need them. But when it comes to feeding yourself, you really do need to take care, because when you are out of balance, you are way, way out. You are probably eating five servings of fruits and veggies every day, or at least five servings a year. You are either stopping by the gym everyday on the way home from work, or stopping at the doughnut shop. When Librans are in balance, all is well. When they are not, they are likely to be suffering from bad backs and or kidney problems.

Venus is the ruling planet here, so if you have a partner to work with, that partner is a very lucky person. Because, just for their sake, you will take better care of yourself and much better care of them. It's just important to maintain that balance- So, it stands to reason that your favorite meal is breakfast. You've been sleeping for hours, and when you wake up, you want something that is going to start you off in the best direction. And you probably want to spoil your sweetie a bit too.

## Nestled Eggs

Separate eggs, taking care not to break the yolks- (How many eggs? How hungry are you?)

Beat the whites with a pinch of salt and a pinch of pepper, until they are quite stiff, but not too dry. Oil a baking sheet (olive oil is lovely, you'll want something with a bit of flavor and aroma) and drop the beaten egg whites onto the baking sheet, making a little mound. Dip a spoon into the oil and make a little hollow in the center of each. Place one egg yolk into each egg white nest. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese, or paprika, or crumbled bacon, or chopped chives, or anything else that suits your fancy. Bake at 350, or broil just until yolks are set (not jiggy) and nests are slightly browned. Serve with toast, fresh fruit and coffee, and you will feel you can balance the whole load on one finger, while standing on point.

## General Forecast for October

As the season turns and the days get shorter, the planets have several interesting aspects coming up

**Aries-** Things are looking up, but look with care and note the details. You need to see to it that you are not working against your own best interests.

**Taurus-** Is it bad news, or is it just impatience that the good news isn't here yet? Don't wait for the tide to turn you, steer as hard as you can in the direction you want.

**Gemini-** Any information you get about important family matters will remind you to consider the source. It may be your work family or your blood relatives, just don't jump to conclusions. You know these folks pretty well. Go with your gut feeling.

**Cancer-** Frustration or jealousy, you have to hold onto it until you can clear the air in a safe and supported place. If you can keep it to yourself, you'll find out it wasn't the problem that it seemed to be.

**Leo-** A high tide of creativity could mean that your art is ready to support you. Give yourself every chance to play, paint, act, write and cook. This may be the moment that beauty takes you to the bank for a big deposit.

**Virgo-** Did you want to win this battle? It may be smarter to rethink your strategy, and focus on how to win the war. If anyone can reorganize the focus, it's you. Don't settle for the short term goodies. The big picture is so much more satisfying.

## Wilmington Says No to Minuteman Invasion

By Leslie Radford, radiojustice.net

WILMINGTON, CA, Sept. 4 2006 -- Apparently without respect for unions or workers, a handful of minutemen attempted to invade and disrupt the annual Labor Day picnic and festival at Banning Park today. About a dozen minutemen with signs managed to get about a hundred feet into the park before they were confronted by a couple of hundred union members.

Coincidentally, as they approached, the SEIU speaker was talking about the "most vulnerable" workers, those who work for less than minimum wage without union protection. As the taunts "cazamigrantes" and "minutemen" spread through the park and the crowd grew, the police and union members intervened to move the Minutemen out of the park. Later, the minutemen re-assembled across the street and protested unnoticed for the rest of the celebration.

The family fiesta, with classic cars and classic rock, speakers, and booths for IWW, UTLA, CNA, SEIU, Teamsters, and today's heros, the city's Engineers and Architects, continued without incident. They were joined by numerous organizations supporting the workers' struggle, including Radical Women, ANSWER-LA, the International Socialist Organization, and the Peace and Freedom Party.

**Libra-** Your moment in the sun couldn't be sunnier. Have the party clothes pressed and ready, because you are on your way to a fantastic amount of fun. Don't forget the flowers, the wine and the hostess's gift. You will be invited back, and soon.

**Scorpio-** It's time for the major housecleaning of the year. You know all that psychic stuff you've got packed in the closet, taking up space and slowing your energy? Get rid of it, your psyche may need to redecorate.

**Sagittarius-** If you are re-reading philosophy, or shopping for a new church to attend, this is the month for you to think about the heights and the depths. There really is more in heaven and earth than is dreamt of in many philosophies. Shop carefully (and you are good at that!)

**Capricorn-** Lots of hopeful expectations. The hard work you've put in for months now is about to pay off, in (perhaps) some unexpected ways. There's even more good beneath the surface, so be open to spontaneous fun and unusual offers.

**Aquarius-** There's a very wonderful woman in your life- Maybe it's you! Let her know what you like about her best, and you'll find a gift of intangible gratitude. Be aware of Mother Nature, and she'll be more aware of you.

**Pisces-** It's an easy mode for you to slip into, but this is not the time to be indecisive. Focus your attention and make the decision, or you'll be wishing that you had chosen what you wanted, after the chance to make the choice is gone.

## Democrats defend "our president" against international criticism

By Patrick Martin, Independent Media

The pretense that the Democratic Party represents some sort of opposition to the Bush administration was punctured again last month when leading Democrats vociferously condemned the anti-Bush speech given by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez to the United Nations General Assembly.

Chavez, who narrowly escaped being murdered in a US-backed military coup in 2002, denounced President Bush personally as "the devil" and criticized American foreign policy as militaristic and imperialist. He told reporters afterwards that Bush was not a legitimate president because he "stole the elections," and "he is therefore a dictator."

The day after his speech, Chavez addressed an appreciative audience in Harlem, where he announced the doubling of a Venezuelan aid program to distribute low-cost home heating oil to poor American families. Chavez reiterated his attacks on Bush, calling him "the genocide president" for invading Iraq and sanctioning the Israeli devastation of Lebanon.

Harlem's Congressman Charles Rangel, one of the senior House Democrats, took the lead in denouncing Chavez. Rangel said, "George Bush is the president of the United States and represents the entire country. Any demeaning public attack against him is viewed by Republicans and Democrats, and all Americans, as an attack on all of us."

Rangel's position was seconded by other House Democrats, including Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, who issued her own statement castigating the Venezuelan president. "Hugo Chavez fancies himself a modern-day Simon Bolivar, but all he is an everyday thug," Pelosi said. She added that Chavez "abused the privilege that he had speaking at the United Nations."

BUSH SAYS:  
TORTURE IS FINE  
TORTURE IS SUBLIME  
(SO LONG AS THE  
THUMBSCREWS ARE NOT  
USED ON MINE)



# City of Los Angeles State of California

## RESOLUTION

# John Haag

WHEREAS, John Haag believed in accommodation without compromising core values of peace; the right to a fair chance; the hewing to the U.S. Constitution; and it was in this spirit that he stood up for the right to read poetry at the Venice West Café, which was owned by John and his wife, Anna; and

WHEREAS, John Haag as a great community organizer, not only stood up and spoke out against police and landlord harassment, but also created the Free Venice Beachhead; a public voice for those people who do not have the resources to influence the establishment media; cultivating a legacy which continues today as a journal of thought, of history and of poetry; and

WHEREAS, John Haag founded and named the Peace and Freedom Party in Venice, the alternative political party which has influenced American politics for decades; and

WHEREAS, John Haag, a candidate for many offices, though never winning a seat to office, influenced the future of Venice more than many elected politician, by planting the seeds of grass-roots activism; and

WHEREAS, John Haag restated the American vision of community autonomy and was one of the originators of the Venice Town Council, and constantly advocated for the restoration of the City of Venice; and

WHEREAS, John Haag implemented the idea that even low-income renters had the right to have a say in the direction where their community would take them, and where their voices were just as important to the vitality of the community as are the wishes of absentee, millionaire landowners; and

WHEREAS, John Haag, a great traditionalist, fostered the idea of nurturing the spirit of the Republic of Venice, Italy within the community of Venice of America; teaching people to wield their power when they thought they had none; showing them that one could have strong opinions without ever losing one's manners; and

WHEREAS, John Haag has been recognized by the Venice of America Foundation for his contributions to the Venice community and to his commitment to the enduring legacy of Abbott Kinney;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this resolution the Los Angeles City Council along with the Mayor, City Attorney and City Controller bestow on JOHN HAAG, in memoriam, the Spirit of Venice Award for not only his contribution to the culture of the Venice Community, but also for his contribution to the spirit of its distinct character.

RESOLUTION BY

*Brad Rubin*  
Councilmember 14th District

*[Signature]*  
MAYOR

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Los Angeles at its meeting held September 19, 2006.

*[Signature]*  
President of the Council

SECONDED BY ALL COUNCILMEMBERS:

*Ed P. Reyes*  
Councilmember 1st District

*Jack Welch*  
Councilmember 5th District

*Ken J. Wesson*  
Councilmember 10th District

*W. G. Hurrell*  
Councilmember 2nd District

*Tony Cardenas*  
Councilmember 6th District

*Greg Saut*  
Councilmember 12th District

*Demetrius P. Jones*  
Councilmember 3rd District

*Alfred A. [Signature]*  
Councilmember 7th District

*E. G. H.*  
Councilmember 13th District

*Ben Wilson*  
Councilmember 4th District

*Bernard C. [Signature]*  
Councilmember 8th District

*[Signature]*  
Councilmember 14th District

*Joe [Signature]*  
Councilmember 9th District

*James Han*  
Councilmember 16th District

*Rodney DePue*  
City Attorney

*Laura N. Chick*  
City Controller

ATTEST:

*Frank G. Martinez*  
City Clerk

