



October 2008

#324

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Gunman on Abbot Kinney Blvd. Kills Man, Shoots Woman in Face



Memorial to Adam Pacheco outside The Otheroom on Abbot Kinney Blvd.

By Jim Smith

The Abbot Kinney Festival, Sept. 28, ended with a senseless murder at 9:20 pm as vendors and maintenance people were finishing the dismantling of hundreds of booths along the boulevard.

Instead of a pleasant day of happy reunions and wonder at the crafts and arts stretching from Venice Blvd. to Main Street, the day will always be remembered as the end of the life of 31-year-old Adam Pacheco.

It's unknown whether the gunman and the victim knew each other. The shooter apparently fired six shots into the crowd at San Juan Ave. and Abbot Kinney. A woman driving down Abbot Kinney was hit in the face, but continued to drive to California Avenue where she sought help. She was taken to UCLA hospital but released the next day.

The murderer ran around the corner and escaped in a white truck driven by another man.

Ironically, there were more police officers on Abbot Kinney than could be found any other time of the year. Still more ironically, none of them saw the shooting.

However, lots of local people did see the shooting. Calls to the Beachhead gave differing descriptions of the shooter and how he escaped. Most witnesses said he was white, some called him a skinhead. One even said he had blue eyes.

However, The LAPD issued a press release saying the killer was a 17-18 year-old male Hispanic. In response to a question from the Beachhead at a press conference, Sept. 30, at the Pacific Division, Homicide Detective Mike DePasquale said that one witness had told the police that the shooter was Hispanic, while

CASUALTIES IN IRAQ
4,176 U.S. Dead
30,662 U.S. Wounded
Iraqi Dead: 1,273,378
Cost: \$558+ Billion
 Source: costofwar.com

AFGHANISTAN
606 U.S. Dead
 Sources: justforeignpolicy.org
icasualties.org • antiwar.com

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Who Do You Love? - For President

In early September, the Beachhead put out a call to Venetians to write about their favorite candidate for President. Of the six candidates on the California ballot, no one responded supporting Bob Barr, Alan Keyes or John McCain. Submissions were received supporting Ralph Nader, Cynthia McKinney and Barack Obama. The best of those are reprinted in this edition.

VOTE FOR

Ralph Nader



By Jim Smith

I want to start this article about why you should vote for Ralph Nader by saying that I hope Barack Obama defeats John McCain. There is some difference between them on domestic affairs. Unfortunately, Obama wants to create a new Iraq war in Afghanistan, encircle and provoke Russia with a ring of NATO countries. He is not a peace candidate.

In California, Obama is miles ahead - 52 - 39 percent - at this writing. In 2000 and 2004, Gore and Kerry carried the state by more than 1.25 million votes - a landslide. Obama will get all of California's electoral votes. In our convoluted democracy, popular votes don't count, only electoral votes.

How can we, in Venice, make the best use of our valuable votes? By making it even more lopsided for Obama, or by voting for Ralph Nader? If you live in Venice, there is probably much more on which you agree with Nader.

Ralph Nader's platform includes the following. Neither Obama nor McCain is supporting any of these issues. Check the ones where you agree:

- ___ Law and Order, Not Bailouts, On Wall Street
- ___ Adopt single payer national health insurance (remove corporate profit)
- ___ Reverse U.S. policy in the Middle East, withdraw troops and corporate contractors from Iraq and Afghanistan.
- ___ Cut the huge, bloated, wasteful military budget

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Cynthia McKinney



By Mark Lipman

How lucky we are to be in California. While states like Pennsylvania and Wisconsin are forced to fight it out between the lesser of two evils, between one, who will give us total nuclear war and the other, who will give us a kinder, gentler war without end, while both will continue to cater to Wall Street in their own particular fashions, we here in California actually are fortunate enough to have the opportunity to make our votes count for something, something more than just the latest fad.

We have the chance to vote based on our moral beliefs; on who stands by us on the issues. We get the rare opportunity to cast a vote for the greater good. The only question is which one? McKinney or Nader?

Oh, how I wish they were on the same ticket - in either order.

While Nader has been a life-long champion of consumer rights, McKinney has a lifelong political record of doing the right thing. Ralph Nader has been right all along and so too has Cynthia McKinney. Nader founded the Green Party and McKinney is their candidate. In the end, that is what it comes down to.

Ralph Nader, for all he has done for this country, has forgotten the most essential thing - when to step aside to let the next generation take up the reins.

Instead of working together to unify the left, something this country desperately needs, we're stuck with a split vote between two great candidates.

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Barack Obama



By Chuck Bloomquist

Barack Obama is the wisest and, indeed, the only reasonable choice for President.

I have a long and enduring admiration for real mavericks such as Eugene Debs, Norman Thomas, Henry Wallace, Peter Camejo, and Ralph Nader, and I've even honked for Ron Paul.

But none of the third-party candidates listed can win and even if they did they couldn't govern. The existing political establishment would make mock of them and defy them at every turn. In spite of the fact that the administration has become ever more powerful it still runs on partisan politics and the ability to seize the levers of power. So, love the oddballs, but don't expect a vote for any of them to be anything but symbolic.

John McCain would be George W. Bush on steroids. His belligerence on Iran and recently towards Russia is particularly unsettling. His continuance of Reaganesque platitudes promising no new taxes and market solutions to all problems makes me feel like weeping. One of his loudest talking points is his promise to do away with earmarks. This resonates with the public although if looked at analytically, it is hard to fathom why. (It may be associated with wrapping one's head around large numbers: for example, the daily cost of the war in Iraq is more than the total cost of the bridge to nowhere).

The total amount of money spent on all earmarks is trivial relative to expenditures in Iraq and as far as I know, no one has

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Karl Abrams, C.V. Beck, Carol Fondiller, Della Franco, Don Geagan, Mark Lipman, Jim Smith, Erica Snowlake, 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, sustainers 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. No payment is made for material used.

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McCain offers a chocolate teapot and Barack a steaming one

Dear Beachhead,
As an outsider I write to offer you my humble opinion. I do this as I have an interest in being in the US and care about its future.

If I was a US citizen I would vote for Barack and his team because I believe they will make a needed difference particularly to vulnerable people overlooked in society.

Barack has the sterling qualities and grounded good sense so important for developing US prosperity and international relations. His appeal to Europeans is not an accident it is respect of a fine leader who understands diversity and oppression in the world. He did not support the war and would work for world peace.

His wife and mother contribute essential voices of women applicable to all backgrounds. I trust their life experience and their ideas of what needs to be developed for women in US society to bring greater parity and welfare.

Republican's bias against women's rights particularly over reproductive issues, negate women's' integrity and quality of life.

Any leader worth their salt must work against oppression and support the vulnerable in society. Barack has this edge as he listens with a sensitivity and emotional intelligence which is humane and needed at this time of financial and emotional recession.

clare kitchen, london,uk

Suzanne's Angels - 2

Dear Beachhead
By the time this month's Beachhead comes out, I will be back in Venice relishing the comforts of home. I'll be enjoying quiet time with my kitty and savoring the sounds of my partner's piano improvisations while cooking a meal of fall's market bounty.

I'll be delighting in the simple pleasures of a long hot shower, a Sunday paper and my own bed – simple pleasures made blissful by the effort required get back to them, and by the daily reminder that to be provided with these creature comforts is a blessing.

By the time you read this, I will have completed an epic motorcycle ride from Venice Beach to Inuvik, in Canada's Northwest Territories, 2 degrees north of the Arctic Circle on the MacKenzie River Delta near the Arctic Ocean – and back. I will have logged almost 10,000 miles on my 1997 Buell S1 Lightning named Henk.

I left Venice on August 19, and today, more than a month later, I'm about five days from home – if everything goes smoothly.

It's been quite an adventure...

I've ridden to the Land of the Midnight Sun, camped under the northern lights, entered (and lost) the legendary Outhouse Races in Dawson City, had my fair share of bear sightings, bumped up and back the entire dusty Dempster Highway, burned up a pair of tires, and broke down.

The other day, I rode for the first time ever in snow. I love the Alaska Highway for its stark isolation and the sheer will power it requires in foul weather to carry on. But I had a rip in my drive belt and my tires were balding. This particular portion south of Fort Nelson was not fun.

My fingers seemed permanently frozen around the handgrips and I had ice on my rain suit, but when the snow lightened and the sun came out three hours into my ride, my spirits lifted. I became hopeful I'd make it down to Mile 0 in Dawson Creek and be off the Alaska Highway before winter closed in on northern Canada.

But right there and then, at the height of optimism at the peak of the day at the summit of a mountain pass, I hit the depths of despair. The tear in my drive belt gave way and I was flying beltless down the chip sealed road – tons of torque, but no drive.

It could have been a nightmare. But within seconds of my breakdown, the crisis was diffused by Mark, John and Richard, whom I flagged down and who thought nothing of loading my bike into their pick-up and driving me to a trucker camp down the highway where I could wait for them to stop in the following day to take me 500 miles to Prince George for repairs.

The rescue happened so quickly, I was barely able to register the severity of the situation – just how vulnerable I'd have been standing out there in bear country in the freezing cold on a highway where traffic is scarce and trucks with three willing and able guys, room in the back and tie-downs at the ready even scarcer. It's only now that days have passed, my motorbike is repaired and I'm safe and warm that the enormity of it all is beginning to sink in.

Insurance Claims



- Auto
- Motorcycle
- Bicycle
- Slip & Fall
- Wrongful Death
- Dog Bites

**Michael Millman
Attorney**

310-477-1201

Fax 310-477-0260 • 2100 Sawtelle Blvd.
Suite #105, West Los Angeles, CA 90025



Suzanne's Angels

Dear Beachhead,

This is in reply to your 2007 article about Suzanne Verdal (homeless woman in song 'Suzanne' by Leonard Cohen from the 1960's). I just posted under the Francoise Hardy French version of 'Suzanne' found on You Tube (it's on my faves--www.youtube.com/azorka82). Hopefully Suzanne Verdal has received help. Thank you for the article.

Bruce Deile, Homeless; Bellingham, WA

Before setting out in August, I started Suzanne's Angels – Women on the road for Women on the street – to help a friend in need.

Perhaps you've seen her funky truck, the wooden shingled art home on wheels, or maybe you've had the opportunity to hear her read her beautiful poetry at Sponto's.

Suzanne lives in her truck with her four beloved adopted cats. She lives homelessness as art, with a great deal of dignity, but five years of being exposed to the elements and sleeping in a crawl space is taking its toll.

She's been an enormous source of inspiration to myself and many, finding beauty in the smallest details, and never taking a thing for granted. Yes, she's the real muse behind Leonard Cohen's poem, which became the hit song, "Suzanne" covered by no less than 20 artists since the 60's. His ethereal description of her forty years ago still rings true. She still finds "heroes in the seaweed" and "shows you where to look among the garbage and the flowers."

Suzanne is an eloquent writer and a sensitive poet, and has lived a fascinating life. Her dream is to have a small studio where she can make herself at home and finish writing her book.

She has recently taken large steps toward that dream. Suzanne is presently near Santa Cruz with her truck and her kitties, trading garden work, along with her cooking and massage skills for the use of a new friend's kitchen, bathroom and electricity.

She just needs a leg up. Response so far has been wonderful. I've had pledges of a penny per mile or more from friends, friends of friends, and strangers. Even Erik Buell, designer of my motorcycle and CEO of the Buell Motorcycle Company, has made a personal pledge. My goal is to have a dollar per mile pledged before the cold rains of winter begin in the redwoods near Santa Cruz. I'm almost half way there.

Whenever I embark on a solo adventure, I prepare myself with the uncomfortable reality that I may occasionally, due to mechanical failure or inclement weather, have to rely on the kindness of strangers to get me out of a jam. I sometimes have no choice but to trust in the innate goodness of humanity. Perhaps because of that trust, I've encountered angels every time.

I've set up "Suzanne's Angels" as a group on Facebook, as well as a blog at www.suzannesangels.blogspot.com. Anyone who would like to help me help Suzanne get a roof over her head can email me personally at moira@firehorsedriver.com. And what could be more fitting than to invite Mr. Moss to the inaugural event of the Arch Conservatives of Venice, CA? He can give us pointers on more ways to circumvent NIMBYism or, perhaps, bring more and more NIMBYists into the reality of Arch Conservatism.

I look forward to such an event.

Venice has had plenty of name-calling episodes as the community struggles to respond to new ideas without losing the community. I recall a time when all the kids came home from San Francisco and told us to respond to criticism with love. Let's give our critics some arch love.

Moira Nordholt

103 Appeals Filed Against Permit Parking In Venice

Change Your Eating Habits

At last! Desert on Abbot Kinney that you can enjoy without a guilty conscious. N'ice Cream - organic gelato - held a grand opening celebration, Sept. 27, with a line down the block waiting to get in. The best news is that the locally-owned store is conveniently located next to the chain-store, Pinkberry, across the street from Abbot's Habit.



Unfortunately, two great eateries have closed their doors this month. **Stroh's Deli** at 1239 Abbot Kinney Blvd. fell victim to rising rents. One AKB merchant said her rent is raised \$500 per month every year. Sounds like an invitation to chain stores. Who else can afford those rents?

Also closing was **La Fiesta**, purveyor of fine Mexican foods, at Windward and Pacific. Rents are also a problem in this part of town, not to mention the arrival of a chain Mexican restaurant across the street.

Stroh's is being replaced by **J's Kitchen**, which bills itself as an "all organic vegan macrobiotic way of eating."

And, **Eko Zone**, a new vegan store, will celebrate its grand opening with a special event on October 10. It will be located at 1718 Main St. #1. Eko Zone sells vegan clothing, shoes, accessories, and bodycare items.

More than 100 individual appeals have been filed opposing the city of Los Angeles' plan to impose Overnight Permit Parking Districts (OPDs) in Venice, according to Julie Van Wagner of the city's Bureau of Engineering.

The restriction of coastal access was the overriding concern of many of the appeals. It would be nearly impossible to find free parking on public streets in Venice from 2 - 6am if the OPDs were implemented. This would force many very low-income residents who live in their vehicles to leave the coastal zone. It would also prevent evening shift workers from coming to the beach and surrounding area after they get off work.

The OPDs were vigorously opposed at the only public hearing on the matter, which was held in Venice on June 26. Opponents noted that the hearing was not even mentioned in the Decision issued by the Bureau of Engineering on Aug. 26. Appeals pointed out that this might be a violation of state law. In addition, the conduct of the hearing was contracted out to a Boston-based firm, Camp, Dresser and McKee Inc., and no transcript of the hearing was made.

Other issues included lack of exemption of vehicles with handicapped placards; inability of residents living west of Speedway to obtain parking permits; a possible conflict of interest by the city of Los Angeles' Department of Transportation which filed the application for the OPDs and stands to make about \$1 million per year for its overnight parking fund from selling the \$35 permits; plus revenue from citations for not having a permit.

Alan Willis, Principal Transportation Engineer at the Dept. of Transportation, who filed the applications on behalf of the city, claimed that the OPDs were needed because of "overnight parking of commercial vehicles and abandonment of vehicles." Opponents say these are fabricated excuses for establishing the permits.

According to Peggy Lee Kennedy of the Justice Committee and Venice Food not Bombs, the OPDs are aimed at those who live in RVs. "The city, along with a few homeless haters came up with this scheme to drive the poor and disabled vehicular housed homeless people out of our community."

Steve Clare, executive director of VCHC, a neighborhood based non profit housing corporation located in one of the OPD's, said VCHC's appeal focused on issues of "fundamental fairness." "The public should have the right to use the public streets that we all pay to maintain. And no one should be denied the opportunity to come and enjoy Venice beach whenever they can find the time." Clare said.

Jim Smith, a participant and former chairperson of the Venice Town Council, said "Nothing in recent years has united opposition of all groups in Venice like the OPDs have. It has brought together homeowners, renters and the homeless to oppose OPDs, which seem so wrong for so many reasons.

Unfortunately, the anti-RV crowd has convinced Councilmember Bill Rosendahl to go along with the OPDs in spite of community opposition."

The appeals will now be reviewed by Van Wagner, who said it may take more than a month since there are so many of them. Meanwhile, opposition to permit parking continues to grow in Venice.

What happened at the Venice Neighborhood Council meeting?

By Jim Smith

The Venice Neighborhood Council (not to be confused with the Town Council or the Community Council) met on Sept. 16. Here are some of the highlights (and lowlights).

- At the last minute, a motion was pulled that stated the VNC "adamantly rejects any neighborhood council participation, endorsing or use of City Council revised form 52. The form would disclose what property the Board member owns. A similar form is required for all candidates of public office. The value of the form is that it would alert members of the community to possible conflicts-of-interest by the VNC officials. A Board member told the Beachhead that several other members had said they would resign if required to fill out the disclosure.

- Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC) chair, Challis MacPherson, resigned from the Board (which she is a member of also) and walked out when a vote went against a proposal to expand the LUPC. About an hour later, and after some back room arm twisting, a new vote was taken that pleased MacPherson, and she returned to her seat. The motion was to increase the LUPC committee from 9 to 13 people. A referendum to that effect was voted on by the stakeholders (the community) last month, and it did not pass. Whether the Board can override the wishes of the community remains to be seen.

- The Board wants to "grandfather" already constructed illegal fences and allow new fences that are higher than the current maximum of 42 inches. Discussion, pro and con, was heard, and a vote will be taken at the next meeting.

- A motion was considered to put the VNC on record against the sale of any city-owned "surplus" property in Venice. It was on its way to passing until an aide of Councilmember Bill Rosendahl told the body to exempt a vacant lot at 520 Venice Blvd. which was in the process of being sold. Community activist have long sought, to no avail, to use the triangular-shaped vacant lot at the corner of Venice Way for a community garden. The aide said the proceeds of the sale - which should go to the Venice Surplus Property Fund - would be used to build a parking garage. In other words, Venice would lose the possibility of a conveniently located community garden, and would have to pay out of its local fund to build a parking garage for the convenience of visitors from other parts of Los Angeles. The parking revenue would go to the city of Los Angeles. The Board quickly amended its motion to exempt this piece of property.

- A VNC motion was placed in support of "Annual Growth and Infrastructure Review" which is based on a lawsuit against the city for excessive growth without adequate infrastructure to support it. However, the motion was quickly tabled when it dawned on Board members that it could result in a moratorium on development until adequate infrastructure - sewers, water, transportation, etc. - was created in Venice.

Venetians will get an opportunity to hear about the lawsuit - and support it - at the Venice Town Council meeting on Oct. 10 at the Methodist Church auditorium. The lawsuit says that the city of L.A. is violating its own provisions for ensuring there is adequate infrastructure before more growth is allowed. Lucille Saunders, who initiated the legal action, will speak.



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

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What's Cookin' At Lincoln Place

We're Not Dead Yet!

By C.V. Beck

Here at Lincoln Place we residents who remain continue to be treated as if we are invisible and/or gone already. This is quite a blow to our self-esteem, this being treated as though we are already dead and gone, when we are not. We are still alive, actively living our lives in Venice, Bohemian artistic showplace of the western edge, in case this has slipped your mind.

Both sides "talked" in mid-September, apparently, AIMCO is still greedy as ever. Therefore, both sides will be proceeding with discovery and ensuing motions. The cases of the "locked-out" residents are being transferred from evictions court to the complex court where the damages suit is being heard. Our attorneys are working very hard to get the "locked-out" residents restored to their legal apartments here.

A few weeks ago, more signs reappeared on Penmar Avenue, apparently in response to a plethora of dogwalkers who had very aggressively seized upon this opportunity not to have to clean up after their pet companions. There were five signs, all saying "Private Property - No Trespassing - Violators will be prosecuted" and at least 3 security guards along the row who continue to tell passersbys that "no one lives here." According to one resident, the postal workers and Fedex are still being told that "no one lives here;" and this person's mail continues not

to be delivered or picked up, timely.

One day in September, I was awakened to the sweet sound of power equipment at 7am. When I went to look, barefoot and with a camera in my hands, I saw several tree trimming trucks and storage bins, which had magically appeared all along Elkgrove Avenue. A good sized crew was pruning and trimming up in the trees. One of my neighbors spoke with the crew leader who said they were contracted by the city to perform 20 percent trimming and pruning of neglected trees at Lincoln Place, around the vacant units only, and that they would be there for one week. My neighbor was told not to take pictures of the crew or of the crew leader or the trucks.... small flags have appeared around the sprinkler heads throughout the complex, of various colors, some of which say "John Deere Landscape."

Sept. 28, at the Beachhead booth at the Abbot Kinney Street Festival, a man came up to me, saying that it was because of the Beachhead that he had decided to become an artist and was now living in Santa Monica. He said that Venice was too expensive, that he used to live at Lincoln Place, on Elkgrove and that (he believed) almost all of the buildings here have been torn down. I explained to him that people still live here, that 52 buildings are still intact and that the locked out residents will be returning first. He did not seem to hear me.

Below: Tree trimming at Lincoln Place Photo by D. Shep



Murder on Abbot Kinney

—continued from page one

another had said he was white or Latino. In spite of the conflicting witnesses, the police described him as a Hispanic, and implied that the shooting was gang related.

The confusion about the identity of the shooter may have been caused because he wore a hooded jacket when he performed the crime.

Asked why the street had not been cleared by 9:20 pm, as in previous years, LAPD Capt. Joseph Hiltner said only that the police were considering an early closing time in the future.

This was the second shooting in Venice within a week, and followed a murder in Mar Vista Gardens five days earlier. Police said both shootings were unrelated to the Abbot Kinney crime.

Anyone with information about the murderer should call the LAPD at 310-482-6316.

Beachhead corrections:

Venice novice team "The Dolphins" won the city of Los Angeles Jr. Life Guard Championship, not the Venice High Swim Team, as headlined in the September Beachhead.

Also in September, the geniuses on the Beachhead copy desk changed the correct spelling of Jed Pauker to an incorrect spelling, Jed Parker. The Beachhead regrets the errors.

Please excuse us and send us donations which we need to continue publishing.



It's How You Play the Game

By Mark Lipman

Let's try to put things in terms that people can understand. At the behest of a handful of power elites, George W. Bush decided that he wanted to invade Iraq, yet he lacked the justification to do so. He therefore commissioned the CIA to hand him a report with pre-determined conclusions and systematically ignored all evidence and objections to the contrary of his desired goals. The invasion of Iraq, the occupation and subsequent war have decidedly marked President Bush's tenure in office as the greatest catastrophe in American history.

At the behest of a handful of developers, homeless haters and wealthy landowners, Bill Rosendahl decided that he wanted to institute permit parking in Venice, yet lacked the justification for the Coastal Commission. He therefore commissioned the Bureau of Engineering, at a taxpayer expense of \$75,000, to hand him a report with pre-determined conclusions and systematically ignored all evidence and the overwhelming objections to the contrary of his desired goals, which the Bureau of Engineering was only too happy to dutifully comply with. It is yet to be determined whether or not permit parking will become the greatest catastrophe in Venice history, yet the writing is already on the wall.

The point is, if you go about trying to get what you want without fairness, openness and the due process guaranteed by the constitution, while ignoring and in some cases even falsifying the evidence, it can only bode ill for the outcome.

In all fairness to Councilmember Rosendahl, he is no George Bush and thank God for that. In fact, it has been said repeatedly that he is the best councilmember we've had in a long time. Yet, comparing the tactics used, not just by him, but systematically throughout the entire government, is not only valid, but urgently needed.

With all the swirling rhetoric of change in this political season, we need to remind ourselves that the first thing that needs to be changed is the very way we go about doing things. No longer is it acceptable to just bully our way around, narrowly-mindedly just pushing through our personal agendas, by "any means necessary," with no regard for the well being of others.

When I was a child, I was taught that it is not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game. Does that not sound familiar?

If we can only get what we want by cheating or by hurting others, it makes one question whether what we wanted was worth having in the first place.

Perhaps, sadly, all of us are not up to that, but our elected public officials need to be held to the highest standard. As this election season heats up, we need to remind ourselves of that more and more.

Do we ask ourselves what these candidates propose to do? Do we thoughtfully examine where they stand on the issues? Or do we simply go with who and what we are told is popular?

If the latter be the case, then we have no one to blame but ourselves when all these smiling politicians strip us of every last thing we've got, leaving us to rot out in the cold.

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Venice Town Council

meets

Friday, Oct. 10

at the United Methodist Church

Auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd.

Dinner served at 6:30PM - Food donation \$5

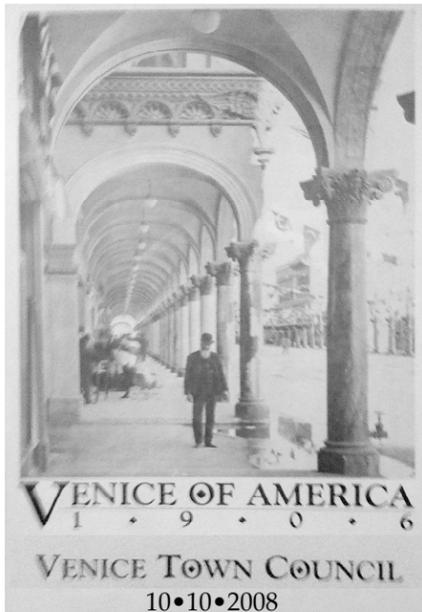
Meeting starts at 7PM

Topics include:

- Should we have a moratorium on development in Venice? Will a new lawsuit accomplish that? Lucille Saunders of the La Brea Coalition, who filed the suit will be with us to answer questions.
- What is the status of the 100 appeals filed against overnight parking permits in Venice? Should the Town Council authorize a lawsuit, if necessary to stop this travesty?

Email: TownCouncil@freevenice.org

Web: cityofvenice.wordpress.com



The Venice Surplus Property Fund

A Secretive City Fund Meant for Venice

By Jim Smith

There has not been a detailed report to the community in years on the status of the Venice Surplus Property Fund, meant "just for Venice," despite repeated requests to L.A. city officials over the years, including the last two city councilmembers.

Indeed, there may never have been a report to Venice about this multi-million dollar fund since it was created by Councilmember Pat Russell in 1978.

The Beachhead obtained records of disbursements for the last four years by filing a public records request with the city controller.

The Fund gets all net revenue from the sale of city property in Venice. However, it splits Venice down the middle. The sale of property in east of Lincoln neighborhoods of Venice goes half to the city general fund and half to another unreported fund held by the councilmember.

As of June 30, 2008, the Venice Fund held \$4,274,691.62. That was down from \$5,367,918.21 in the Fund four years earlier. Whether disbursements were wisely made is up to the people of Venice to decide.

Until 2004, the Fund was designated for capital improvements in Venice, and required a city ordinance to disperse any money.

Appointed Councilmember Cindy Miscikowski told the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council she wanted to make certain changes in the fund, including allowing money to be spent for "general" expenses as well as capital expenses.

The neighborhood council, which at that time had a majority of members from the Progressive caucus, approved Miscikowski's proposal to allow disbursements to be made by council resolution rather than ordinance "as long as the Neighborhood Council has passed a motion in support of the disbursement." (GRVNC Minutes, Feb. 19, 2004)

But it balked at approving the change from using the Fund for "general" expenses instead of only for capital expenses.

However, Miscikowski ignored the recommendations of the GRVNC and got the L.A. City Council to approve her whole agenda.

And since 2004, neither Miscikowski, nor her successor, Bill Rosendahl, has asked for support from the neighborhood council, or even informed it of his or her intention to spend the Funds.

Below are the major disbursements from the Fund, according to documents provided by the controller's office to the Beachhead. There is very little money spent on affordable housing in Venice, despite the recognized need for it.

While there is no evidence of fraud by any of the four councilmembers who have had control of the Fund, there seem to be no guidelines at all for the expenditure of money from the Venice Fund. At present, all that is needed is a motion at the city council, signed by the Mayor, for the money to be spent. No notification is required in any form to the people of Venice.

In addition, Venetians could question whether all expenditures are appropriately made out of the Venice Surplus Property Fund, or since they benefit all of Los Angeles, should they be made from the city's General Fund or some other fund. It may be easier to spend money if it doesn't come from the L.A. General Fund, and besides, no one in Venice is likely to find out, anyway.

In the final analysis, the Venice Surplus Property Fund is just petty cash, and is far less than Venice needs for essential improvements. If Venice became its own city again, it would likely have an annual budget between \$70 and \$140 million (1 or 2 percent of L.A.'s budget). But that's not likely to happen as long as the city of Los Angeles has the ability to spend our money with no oversight from the public.

Expenditures from the Venice Surplus Property Fund

\$20,000 & \$75,000 - Venice 2000 Safe Passages Program. \$20,000 for Venice High School; and \$75,000 for staff to serve the community of Venice and work on Venice issues. 9/14/07

\$65,000 - Roof Repair of the former Venice Police Station. The request to the City to repair the SPARC roof has been pending for many years. The SPARC roof has experienced severe water damage especially in the digital lab which houses expensive computer hardware. 7/14/06

\$25,000 - Nuisance Alley Gates/Penmar area of Venice - (NOTE: This is outside the area of Venice where the funds are collected.) 5/2/07

\$50,000 - Replacement of temporary barriers on Venice Pier. Includes \$25,000 to cover the costs for the electrical box and related permanent repairs of the Venice Pier, and \$25,000 to cover the costs for the pier railing and related permanent repairs of the Venice Pier. 8/18/06

\$18,000 for Vera Davis Center floor repairs and termite tenting. 12/12/2006

\$7,639 to RRM Design Group for Bike Path widening. RRM is the San Luis Obispo firm that oversaw the "refurbishing" of the Ocean Front Walk and the destruction of the Venice Pavilion ten years ago. 9/21/05

\$37,648. to RRM Design Group for the Venice Skate Park. 2/10/06

\$36,761 for a test installation of solar powered street lighting in Presidents Row. 7/01/05

\$100,000 for a Community Parking Pilot Project that will provide parking options to assist pedestrian-oriented businesses seeking to locate in the Venice Beach area bounded by Abbot Kinney, Main and Venice Boulevard. 3/20/08

\$496,633 from various accounts (may include the Venice Surplus Property Fund) for Electric Avenue parking. On November 28, 2000, City Council adopted a Motion (Council File 00-2318), establishing the Abbot Kinney Parking account with the Special Parking Revenue Fund and further, in May, 2002, authorized the transfer of funds from various accounts to the Abbot Kinney Parking account for the purpose of developing parking in the Abbot Kinney commercial district. The proposed project is to develop the two vacant parcels into paid surface parking lots and convert the two existing free into paid parking lots which would encourage turnover. Additionally, nighttime permit parking will also be offered to area residents and businesses. The two vacant parcels are located along the west side of 1300 block of Electric Avenue and along the east side of 1600 block of Irving Tabor Court, respectively. The two existing lots are located at 1411 Electric Avenue and 1511 Electric Avenue, respectively.

\$295,000 and \$12,000 Electric Avenue lots to pay to the Bureau of Engineering to cover the costs of providing a survey and legal description of both properties and to clear the properties of encroachments and to design and construct an alley and other needed improvements on the 1300 block of Electric Avenue. 6/27/07

\$100,000 for maintenance of the Mark Di Suvero sculpture on the beach at the end of Windward Ave. 7/1/05

\$95,000 for services associated with the installation of a Robert Graham sculpture in the Windward Traffic Circle median. 2/18/05

\$25,000 to provide funding for any aspect of the programs of the Windward Business District Association, including design expenses already incurred and maintenance costs, associated with the installation of a sculpture and other elements of the Windward Circle in Venice, inasmuch as this organization was given a prior commitment of funding. 2/18/05

\$8,000 to partially fund any aspect of the Chrysalis organization's maintenance project for the Venice Boardwalk from May 2004 through September 2004.

8/3/04

\$175,000 for Lincoln Blvd. Community Design Overlay District. Improving Lincoln Boulevard is critical because it is the major North-South highway though the Venice Community Plan area and is Venice's largest and most significant commercial corridor. The Venice Community Plan also designates Lincoln Boulevard as a Mixed Use Boulevard. Community members have already been working through the local Neighborhood Council, the Venice Community Coalition, and other groups to improve Lincoln Boulevard's visual appearance. 12/15/04

\$99,672 for maintenance activities for the Venice Ocean Front Walk and the Venice Library Median. 8/13/04

\$19,000 for Habitat for Humanity which is building affordable housing in Venice, at 501 Broadway. They are building two affordable town homes and have asked for assistance in completing the requirements of their approved tract map. 11/21/03

What You Can Do

Insist that L.A. city officials:

1. Provide a full report on the status of the Venice Surplus Property Fund.
2. Insist that guidelines for expenditures are developed.
3. Publicize the fund in local newspapers and blogs.
4. Give us at least the appearance of democracy by getting approval from local groups on future expenditures.
5. Work for cityhood!



Venice In The Snow

Swami X Speaks



Swami X " circa 1970s – Photo by Regina Barton

To the question, what is truth?, let me rattle some keys

Truth is in you and me, and also, that old Hemlock-Ripple taster, Socrates

Truth is an everlasting, on-going energy

Truth is that which opens your heart, and brings you to your knees

Truth is God & God is truth, and truth is that which free

Truth is a trinity, what is behind every eye, the eye, and what it sees

Truth is the door to reality

Truth is that which sustains duality

Truth maintains time, space and causality

Truth is the Essence that pervades the totality

– Swami

Terrence Leon Sullivan, RIP

Terrance Sullivan passed on very suddenly in August, in Venice, a town he embraced with enthusiasm and with a critical eye and tongue. He was a husband, father of four, a seeker of life, and a friend.

He enjoyed writing his comic strip, Undercover Bum for the Beachhead in the mid-80s. Terry was a friend of musician Peter Demian of Street Smarts, The Boardwalk Artists, Adrienne Prober, Raymond Packard, Tina Catalina Corcoran, Ginger Drinkwater, Regina Barton and Gil Borges. He loved the old Lafayette Cafe, Sponto Gallery and 7 Dudley Cinema.

A Renaissance Man, a complicated man, an Irish man. Bon Voyage!

–Regina Barton

My Life In An RV

By R. Mann

Independence is of the utmost importance. The RV lifestyle has always afforded just that. When I first began living in a van, in the 60s, it was a matter of necessity. Today, it is an amusing convenience. When I'm not house sitting for friends or staying as a guest in Venice and the Oxford Triangle, I prefer to park my 17-foot camper van in quiet non-residential spaces on the streets, rotating at six various locations, mostly near neighboring citizens that either I've known for lengthy times, or who care little about my comings and goings. I agree with the 72-hour parking law, even though I pay for state vehicle registration fees, insurance, periodic repairs, maintenance, and high fuel prices, I can't understand why any other RVer would want to stay anywhere longer than necessary and becoming too sedentary and lazy. The misunderstood privilege of residing in, and the mobility of an RV lifestyle is often criticized by the general public. Just because we are exempt and excluded from high rents, mortgages, land taxes, and the ball and chain of upkeep and maintenance of property, doesn't especially mean that we are immune from social and moral responsibilities.

I don't see why anyone should lose privacy and parking privileges because of the pressure applied to government by a few home owners and local council members, nor do the local land and residence owners deserve to lose privacy due to over abusing RV's lengthy parking congestion. People on all sides of this issue are humans and deserve respect. This new parking restriction might appear to solve some problems. I believe it will only help a few and not all who are involved, but personally it would diminish my ability to lead a nomadic life style.

The job of the police is to capture criminals, enforce the law, and protect and serve the public. In the past 25 years, while living in Venice and other surrounding cities, I have voluntarily assisted the police in preventing or solving an assortment of crimes, including capturing the "Ubiquitous Mar Vista Rapist," a bank robbery, three burglaries (all recorded on tape) and other coincidental occurrences. Crimes harm all members of our community—RV dwellers and home owners as well.

Some RVers may create eyesores and commit misdemeanor vandalism and littering, etc. They should be cited and prosecuted. If an RV overstays

their welcome, post a note. When dealing with an RVer, be as empathetic as possible, a kind word might be sufficient enough to solve the problem.

RV's grouping together is a nuisance to all. I don't park near other RV's and hope that I'm granted the same respect and space in return. Thinning out makes the heart grow fonder. It's less burdensome. When it comes to structure dwellers requests, I have always honored their wishes or moved on. Why wear out a welcome? Most RVers look for areas that are quiet, peaceful, and shady. I enjoy staying in campsites in the wilderness or visiting other interesting cities, but when I'm in this city, I cherish my privacy and freedom from any unwarranted suspicions or arrests. I do wish to remain a "Happy Camper."

It's inconceivable to think that the police are going to cruise around between 2-6 am and discover RV's parked, write tickets, tow or disturb them. This will create an additional sense of disparity and helplessness. It will add to traffic congestion, noise and air pollution. RVers will have to start their engines at 2 am create issues then and as they re-enter the OPD zones during the day. The home owners that I know of and assist, are concerned about my future autonomy on the streets here. Visiting RVers will have to leave their vehicles while staying in hotels or with their family or friends homes and either store or park their vehicles at major distances further away. It will be impractical!

We have heard of the misconduct of a few RVers, but the following are some of the positive assets:

- An extra set of eyes and ears to prevent crime. We can report misconduct to the police (many RV persons have cell phones) and can report directly to the senior lead officers (on their cell phones) in their territories.
- Assistance in a possible emergency.
- Some RVs have solar panels and battery systems and don't have to rely on domestic electricity for power.

Among other persons living in RVs whom I have known of are:

Two police officers. (one an L.A. County Sheriff, the other works for the LAPD, who are a welcome addition in any neighborhood,) Retirees, the gainfully employed, highly educated, well established and status oriented: artists, writers, actors, teachers, students, and a world-reputed computer scientist.

Let's not punish an entire group for the misconduct of some. Crippling a whole community of upright individuals for the careless wrongdoings of others is in itself wrong. We should all exercise good will toward each other with respect and not maltreat all for the sins of a few.

*Little
RVs*

*Big
RVs*





Wall to wall people in the afternoon

The 26th Annual Abbot



Venetians welcome tourists to our town.



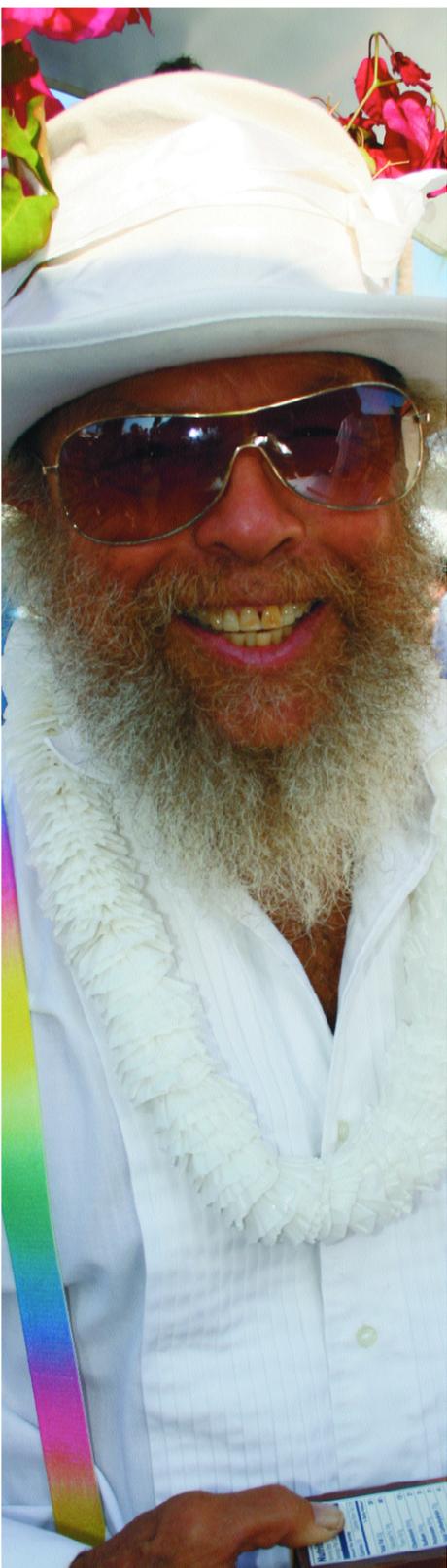
Community water fountain

Kinney Festival

Photos by Edizen Stowell
VenicePaparazzi.com



Volunteers at the Beachhead booth: (l to r) Don Geagan, Fabiola Wright, Jim Smith, Jeff Stanton



Tens of thousands attended the Abbot Kinney Festival, Sunday, Sept. 28.

It started slowly, with crews of workman frantically erecting the mandated fire resistant tents on each side of Abbot Kinney Blvd. Instead of one long line of tents down the middle of the street, the Fire Department insisted on a wide fire lane, making it necessary to have the hundreds of booths set up near the sidewalks.

Once the fog burned off around 2pm, people began to flock to the festival, filling the broad street "bumper to bumper."

Musicians performed at three stages and Inside Out Arts set up a Youth and Family Courtyard.

When the Festival ended at 6:30pm, vendors took down their displays and headed home. The process of taking down the tents took a much longer time and created a party atmosphere that lasted until 9:30pm, when tragedy struck (see page one). Adam Pacheco was gunned down in an apparently unprovoked shooting outside The Otheroom on Abbot Kinney.

More than 100,000 people enjoyed themselves and had a great time, while one person decided to take a life and run away.



Fashionable wear in Venice - "Hecho En Venice"

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Back in the 20th Century with the Free Venice Beachhead

By Moe Stavnezer

I wasn't there at the birth, but I fell in love with the baby, spittle, poops and all. As befits a doting, now turning senile, grandfather, I can't remember the first time I saw the tyke though I admired its spunkiness, its zaniness and most of all the honesty in its eyes. Oh yes, its eyes. Because it was the eyes of Venice, intense, glinty, often bloodshot but true and warm and caring.

That's how I began my tribute to the Beachhead in the 1988 20th Anniversary issue of the Beachhead. In it are articles by John Haag, Carol Fondiller, Rick Davidson, Patrick McCartney, Memphis Slim, Alice Cramden, Diane Nickerson, Geriatric Jack, Lynne Bronstein and me. Even then, the Beachhead was the oldest continuously published free community newspaper in the country and it was an honor to write for the rag. And it was, quite often, a rag but kinda like that favorite rag that you use all the time and would never throw away.

I wrote articles for the paper for almost 15 years and was a member of the collective for five. I have a collection of Beachheads that includes issues printed before and after that time. They are, aside from the people I met during those years, many of whom remain good friends, my most tangible connection to a community that changed my life.

The Beachhead was born in an age before computers, even before correcting typewriters. The first articles I typed were on a manual typewriter that I bought at a pawn shop and they looked like it. The paper sported as many typefaces as there were people who could type. My greatest personal challenge was typing Carol Fondiller's wonderfully creative prose. Carol could, and still can, write but she couldn't write if you know what I mean.

The headlines, ah the headlines, were done with press-on type and never looked the same from one article to another. Lots of creative juices went into the headlines. After reading the articles we would sit around in various altered states of consciousness and come up with brilliant, witty and often downright silly headlines. I can still hear Arnie's distinctive



laugh when we came up with one that was absolutely over the top. We often got more comments about the headlines than the articles they headed.

If this all sounds silly, let me tell you that none of us ever thought that the Beachhead was silly. It was our voice and that was a very serious matter. No matter that our voices were not always the same, they were voices that could not possibly be heard anywhere else. The paper was filled with various viewpoints about issues ranging from the war in Viet Nam to Prop 13 to community planning and development to the latest book on the community. Nothing was too large or too small. Hey, if you wanted to have your say about the latest city plan for the community or the graffiti at the now destroyed pavilion, this was the place to do it. And many, many people did just that and, amazingly, are still doing it.

That the Beachhead is still a vital part of the Venice community is just a little short of a miracle. Yes it's now available online (there was no online in 1988), it's neater and more colorful but it still has a voice, loud and clear, that can't be found anywhere else. 15 years ago I ended my article with a statement that still stands:

"The Beachhead is the only place I've found where I, and so many others, can tell it just like we think it is and why. Hundreds of people have, and still, contribute to this paper, thousands read and support it because there simply is no other place to get the information and ideas it offers."

If you read and value the Beachhead, I urge you to support the paper with some of your hard earned money. This may be a free paper but it costs money to print it and you can help. No contribution is too small or too large.

Long live the Beachhead!!

Reprinted from the December 2003 Beachhead.

Poem for the Poets,

Stuart, Jimmy, John, Bill and Tony
July 1961

Out of the abyss
a cry of another

in the shape of a kiss
That poet my brother

the seagull sounds of Venice
like rusty swings
In an long forgotten
empty playground

the swift shadows
silently grow
and fade into shade

And the Lady wears black
So the blood wont show
I wore red.. so no one
would notice

My Eyes.

– Shanna Baldwin

Memories of Venice, 1956

I am 8yrs old. Mom moved to Venice in the 50's. Sleeping in sandy beds of the children of Beatnik poets and artist. Waking in the middle of the night to the artist peeing on his painting and the couch I am sleeping on. Larry Lipton and his wife Netty hosting. Big Daddy and the Gas House with a bathtub in the middle of the studio. I sat in and thought it was funny. Main Street sunlight mission, the 5 and dime, Safeway, a gas station on the corner of main and Ocean Park Blvd. Olivia's Soul food. Later Mom worked the Muffin Pan Game at P.O.P. I got in free. Spying on prostitutes and winos flashing on speedway. Don't go to the canals the Hells Angeles are there. The Venture Inn and Saucy Dog are where they hang out. Fond memories.

– Christine Fulbright



BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE, CIRCA 1979:
Arnold Springer,

Gerry Goldstein,

Olga Palo,

Joan Friedberg,

Chuck Bloomquist,

Lynn Bronstein,

Brenda Harney,

Emily Winters,

Wendy Reeves
(on floor)

Possession

About spirits
most mediums really
know nothing. One woman
i met claims to contact
every dead person she agrees
to contact. 100% of the time,
she says grinning, her long, blonde hair
static against her royal blue dress.
So easy, it seems.
i know the lies.
i know that the spirits
who come around
who will not leave
are still hungry for it all –
smell of burnt toast
taste of lover's tongue
cool dip
in a twilight lake –
hungry, hungry for it all.
i know these spirits
stop at nothing
to possess a moment in life,
or rarely stand so
far away & speak mere platitudes.

Don't open
the floodgates.
Spirits moan there
waiting for redemption. Moan there
to reclaim their lives.
That medium is too calm
too certain. She has
no idea. She has never
crossed into the Abyss.

Or, perhaps, she resides there
herself.

– krista schwimmer

Blessed

for Erin

just back
from the Burma/Thai
border
shaking her head
her pen pal children
victims of cyclone and repressive regimes
fill refugee camps
no food
no clean water
no dry place to sleep
but here
in 21st century SoCal
Malibu
Topanga
Santa Monica
we bicker about
fat mattresses
and golden toilet seats
stuck on more
and never enough
majoring in minors
fighting for footnotes
shallow
hollow
ungrateful

shaking her head
her pen pal children
starve
families lost
homeless
like so many
in New Orleans
LA
the tornado torn and flooded
midwest
Galveston

while sun shaded comfortable
bored and despairing
vultures grow fat
tearing up their dead
blessings

Rex Butters

A Soldier's Prayer

By Mark Lipman

Dear Lord, God above us all, bless me on this day,
For I go into battle, to slay Your enemies,
Hallowed be thy name.

May You bless my rifle and the bullets that it carries,
May they all strike their targets, be it man, woman
or child,
For this I solemnly do pray.

May our cruise missiles blow to smithereens,
All their hospitals, homes and temples.
Thy hated ones shall be left with no refuge.
Glory unto You, oh Lord.

Through Your supreme wisdom, I pray that You give
council to our President,
The bearer of Your will here on earth,
And guide him to letting us Napalm villages again.

May our cluster bombs maim and kill the last of
their children
And may the milk flow red from their mothers'
breasts,
In Your infinite mercy.

And for our loved ones back home,
I pray that they may remain blind,
At least until after the next election cycle.

Oh Lord, as You are a loving and caring God,
I humbly ask this of You, upon my knees,
Not to let our enemies burn the oil fields.

In Your name, I do ask that this may be a most suc-
cessful and holy crusade.
Amen.

Del Taco #57, Lincoln Blvd., Venice...Reminded
of the Alamo, am I./ Surrounded by the thousands,
doomed to die,/ impaled on bayonets, by bullets,
torn./ Run through with sabers; worse, to fee the
scorn/ of affluence in judgment of my soul/ and
others just like me. They've dug a hole/ in which we
might be buried. Seems to me/ resistance is but
gross futility/ for those of us who watch the mighty
pull/ of economic juggernauts who call/ the shots
this time. It seems that I was born/ to go down
fighting. Watch the pages turn/ on history. The dol-
lar bills imply/ that money has the last word. Time
to fly.....20:15 Saturday, September 13, 2008, Del
Taco #57, Lincoln Blvd., Venice...Don't call me home-
less, rambler though I am,/ I'm just an honest gypsy,
always game/ to leave when I'm not wanted, just
one step/ ahead of litigation. I am hip/ to efforts to
eradicate my kind./ Those blatant bastards surely
think we're blind./ Well, dig this, brother, go ahead
and hate,/ with knights, bishops and rooks, form
your checkmate./ Drive me into oblivion; don't
mind./ This drama's getting boring. Let me find/
the mirrored words reflecting how your trip/ reveals
the pig inside you. I am hep/ to moments, timely
exits, and I claim/ no power-of-attorney: just my
name.

-RF Wagner, Jr.

The Ravings of People

By Jim Smith

All day, all night
week in, week out
The Ravings of people
about the games people play,
and about the people who play games
sad to say, amount to so little
but they keep the sound going
The sound that keeps us safe
from the void.

Secrets to the Moon

by Hillary Kaye

Does the world understand its sadness?
Does the force of time care about such things?
Is the sun longing to explode?
the moon waiting to melt?
the tides do they hunger
for stillness?
Is the river weeping?
the earth tossing and turning?
are the clouds telling a story?
are the stars dreaming?
is music the first word ?
is loss a metaphor ?
and what for?
is pain beyond pleasure?
Will the rocks show us how to endure?

VENICE ECO-FEST

By Panos Douvos '08

Three-ring Venice green-circus
Blossoms Windward by-the-sea as majic
pot-luck variety show fronts
the grassy-knoll lolling Venetians
Eco-fest eco-sexy say scribes

Lanky crane-like models stride
crane-like in rapid prance
with frown-brows of concentration
shown hemp and bamboo skin

Flamencas in gradations of form and function
swirl in unified possible exactitude
castanet-clacks unclacked
star Flamenca takes solo

Anxious band grabs 50 minute gig
poets 10 alternating inanity
nature poet right-now bombarded
by rabid-fire drum attack
he stops mid-syllable yell-rages
give the kid a break dammit
maybe next year
maybe not

IOU, ALL

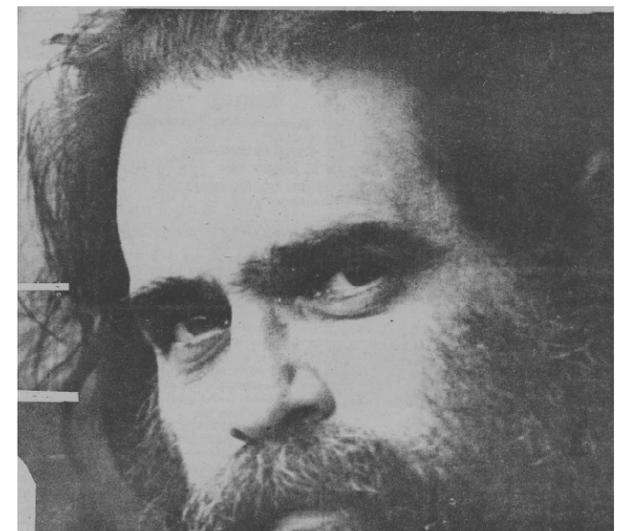
By Tina Catalina Corcoran

I am One, Lucky Lady.
And, I owe it ALL to YOU!
You gave me INSPIRATION
Hen – I didn't know what to do.

So – From One Lucky Lady
Please accept my IOU
You picked me up when I was down
Dear,
Just – By being you!

You are my INSPIRATION
You are my FANTASY
You are my KNIGHT-in-SHINING ARMOR
You're my SYMPHONY

So – From one Lucky Lady
Please accept my IOU
And, if your "Lady Luck" runs out
Dear,
Here, I am, for YOU!



this paper is a
poem

Vote Nader

—continued from page 1

- _____ No to nuclear power, solar energy first
- _____ Aggressive crackdown on corporate crime and corporate welfare
- _____ Adopt a carbon pollution tax (reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere)
- _____ Living wage for all; Repeal the Taft-Hartley anti-union law (all workers should have the right to join a union without being threatened with firing)
- _____ Open up the election process and the Presidential debates (Nader is on the ballot in 45 states, yet he is barred from the debates)

(Detailed information on these and other issues is available at www.votenader.org)

Ralph Nader advocates a rapid withdrawal from Iraq. He is opposed to war with Iran. Both Obama and McCain say war with Iran is still "on the table." Either of the two major candidates is likely to trade a "war" in Iraq for a "war" with Afghanistan. Nader has been opposed to U.S. intervention in Afghanistan from the beginning. He says the U.S. should abide by international law when going after terrorists. Ralph Nader is of Lebanese extraction. When he has a family reunion at his home, he can see the Middle East from his living room!

In the recent confrontation between Russia and Georgia, both major candidates immediately sided with Georgia. Nader explained that Russia is angry with U.S. and NATO activity on its borders. "Why are we trying to surround a large country like Russia that already has reasons to feel paranoid," said Nader. "It's as if we are trying to start another Cold War," he continued.

Let's get one thing straight. Ralph Nader did not cause Al Gore to lose the presidential election in 2000. In fact, Al Gore won the election. It was stolen from him by George W. Bush and the Supreme Court. Had Nader not been in the election, the result would have been the same. If you want to blame someone for Bush getting in the White House, blame the Democrats for not fighting harder to defend our right to a free, democratic election in 2000 - and 2004.

Nader's campaign is aimed at addressing the real issues that the candidates of the two major parties ignore. But it is also focused on the future. Without courageous candidates like Ralph Nader, we'll be stuck with corporate-sponsored political parties that are beholden to the rich and powerful.

We can, and should, celebrate the possible election of an African-American as President of the United States. And, the inclusion of a woman as the vice-presidential candidate of the Republicans is a step forward for that party. These candidacies are symbolic of equality for people of color and women. Yet, the election of either one will not fundamentally change the living conditions of millions of Blacks or Latinos, or women. Real change for most working people will have to wait until a candidate with a platform like Ralph Nader's gets elected.

Ralph Nader is on the ballot in California because he is the presidential nominee of the Peace and Freedom Party. It's important to support third parties, like P&F, that provide another voice in the political arena. Don't sit on the sidelines by registering "Decline to State," or by remaining a Democrat (it only makes them feel complacent).

Register and vote for the California Peace and Freedom Party. Learn more at www.peaceandfreedom.org. Visit Ralph Nader's website at www.votenader.org. In Venice, call 310-399-2215. Vote Ralph Nader on Nov. 4.

Vote McKinney

—continued from page 1

Cynthia McKinney is of the future, Ralph Nader is of the past. McKinney is working to build the Green Party into a major party that can pose itself as a serious opposition party to both the democrats and republicans. Nader, as much as I respect him; as much as he has done for all of us, is working for himself.

That's the difference. As an independent, thinking of what is best for the future of this country, I am left with only one choice - Cynthia McKinney.



Haters of Homeless People

Dear Beachhead,

The Mayor's new housing plan has on it 2,200 units developed for homeless people with special needs in five years (with conditions, of course). The low number estimate of homeless people is about 35,000 in the city of LA and 73,000 in LA County and the vast majority of them have special needs. These are seniors, disabled people, abused women, veterans, and most homeless people in LA are people of color. So - according to the Mayor's plan - in five years some of these people might survive to get housed and a bunch of them will die, get so sick they will be housed in not so nice nursing homes until they die, be jailed and criminalized, and be tortured on the street by ongoing law enforcement and hateful fearful housed people.

Hate for homeless people is on the rise. Check with the Southern Poverty Law Center. Hate is spread through speech and the language of the mission for the new Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) committee on homelessness is very problematic. It appears punitive, blaming and it is not neutral. Also, the diversity of the committee is very problematic. Most members are white homeowners. Both chairs are white males. There is no one living in a vehicle, homeless, or previously homeless on the committee as a voting member. In fact, half the committee is of the mind that homeless people living in Venice should be sent somewhere away from the "good" housed people.

I understand that the best solution is affordable and assisted housing. I know that many Venice people do care, but I am not sure how the caring members of this new VNC committee can continue in good faith without addressing these issues:

1. Amend mission to be language and action neutral (I sent a possible amendment)
2. Include voting members who are living in a vehicle or living homeless and who are able to participate. Currently there is no representation.
3. Address ways that we can help those who may never ever get housed before they die (see Mayor's housing plan!) by finding ways to decriminalize homelessness, get emergency supplies for the winter (blankets, tarps), and teach tolerance regarding poverty and homelessness to people now being filled with fear and hate.

Peace,

Peggy Lee Kennedy, Venice Food Not Bombs and Venice Justice Committee

Homelessness - Here We Go Again

By Mark Lipman

If you think you are tired of reading about homelessness, just imagine how tired we are of writing about it. Yet again the Venice Neighborhood Council has commissioned a committee to deal with this issue. Perhaps as a show of displeasure, only 3 people, other than the government officials scheduled to speak and members of the press even bothered to attend the first meeting of the Homelessness/RV Ad Hoc Committee on September 18 at the United Methodist Church.

This comes as a stark difference to the throngs of hundreds who normally pack these events. On top of it, all the key local organizers have boycotted the committee, claiming it lacks credibility and is purposely designed to accomplish nothing.

Indeed, the committee itself appears very divided, split evenly between those who want to help those who are without a home and those whose set goal is to banish the poor from Venice. This was seen quite clearly in the opening minutes, when the mission statement, written by Mark Ryavec, the committee co-chair, which repeatedly refers to homeless people as indigent and specifically blames this one group for all of society's woes, such as "safety, noise, crime and sanitation," was read, causing a near mutiny amongst several of its members.

During the meeting all of the same speeches and

Vote Obama

—continued from page 1

ever been killed through implementing earmarks; indeed, many good works have been accomplished at a local level.

On the basis of his record and his speeches Barack Obama provides hope for substantial and far-reaching change in the abysmal record of the federal government over the past several decades. He has seized the levers of power in the Democratic Party, invigorated the electorate, and raised record-breaking amounts of money for his campaign. All of which suggests that he can indeed govern and perhaps keep the wheels from totally coming off of the federal wagon.

Nominations to the Supreme Court should show a definite improvement over recent appointments and are imperative for the satisfactory resolution of issues important to women, workers and the general public. One can be sure that he will also appoint better qualified people to important positions in the administration to replace the political hacks we have been subjected to in the last eight years.

It is reasonable to hope that he will act on the environment, energy, and health care in a progressive and responsible manner. Global warming should finally get the attention its seriousness warrants. On foreign policy his heart seems to be in the right place and he will have advisors who have been around the track a few times and will, at least, provide debatable alternatives.

In addition to these policy initiatives, he has many other positive attributes that beg for an affirmative vote. His election will ratchet up the civil rights movement another notch. While not achieving the promised land of which Dr. King spoke, it will be another irreversible step in that direction. His election will clearly raise the esteem in which the United States is held throughout the world. This would provide a friendlier environment for negotiations with foreign countries. His election should signal the end of our bellicose approach to foreign affairs.

The change required in our federal government is way beyond the capability of any of those running for the office, including Barack Obama. None of them, or any others, would be able to bring even half the change the country really needs in the time allotted between election cycles. That change can only come from constant pressure by the citizenry on the government, abetted by wise electoral decisions.

pledges that we've heard a million times were given, with the usual emphasis that no money was available and that we should look for developers to partner with, yet failed to observe that the developers are a major part of the problem, because they are in business to make money and not help people.

Santa Monica, with all of its hate crime legislation, such as the criminalization of shaving or brushing your teeth in a public restroom, was held up as an example to follow.

No one mentioned the 38 recommendations for addressing the problem of homelessness, which came out of the last Homelessness Task force (see Beachhead, August 2008).

Mike Newhouse, President of the VNC, told the Beachhead that they are waiting to see what comes out of this committee first before any decision would be made on the 38 recommendations, but expected them to be fully considered before the end of the process was complete.

Additionally, there was no mention of the \$10 billion available for affordable housing through Proposition 1C funding, or whether Venice could be eligible for any of it.

The meeting ended with some very emotional public comment. Terry, whose RV was actually in the process of being broken into by the LAPD at the time, told of how if you were homeless you were not allowed to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom, or you would get arrested. Diane, a 50 something year old Venice native, born and raised here, then pleaded for the city not to drive her away from her home just because she was poor. Don Geagan, of Veterans For Peace, followed by enumerating on the plight of homeless veterans in our community and our duty to help them. Yes, it is true, the sad fact is that homelessness is a crime. It is a crime committed by our government and the wealthy elite of our society upon the poorest and weakest of society, who they punish because they feel guilty for having to look at it - for having to look at what they have done to the people of this once great nation - and just look out because you could be next.

If you are feeling outraged, please do stay calm. Although we in Venice will be seeing no help for this or anything else in the foreseeable future, the Wall Street bankers, who brought us this housing crisis, are sure to receive their bailout to the tune of \$700,000,000,000.



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Corruption

Dear Beachhead,

The City's promise was to take away the Commercial vending from the boardwalk and restore the ambiance of quality.

The first day of the Lottery, some City employee held spaces open for their family and friends! and those who would pay for space... then from out of the blue came those who said we're being compensated to make the Lottery work. So, some shop owners saw open spaces - they moved their Commercial products on the West side too.

As the Lottery Supervisor pulled out a hand full of permits, he or she would line them up as they saw fit, and then, stopping the Lottery to say there was no more space. What was not noted by the Supervisor was, the Permit holders were watching their every move to see the luck of the draw. They, the Permit holders, surmised later they must make their own luck if they wanted to survive.

So now! the Commercial vendor sat along side the Artist to learn how to speak like them whenever they were asked about their product. This act may have lowered the quality and changed the look of the boardwalk. The police would lay in wait to target, hassle, chase artists; at night, some were arrested and driven away from the boardwalk and dumped in other neighborhoods and cities. The police could be seen hiding in the back streets; reports were made to higher ups by artists.

That's when the police started helping the Commercial vendors to stay on the boardwalk by telling them, "just put a cross on it and you'll be alright." The Commercial vendor numbers started to grow and the buying and selling of spaces became more wide spread.

Commercial vending was reinforced by a two year campaign in City Hall by vendors and opportunist to fragment and cut out a space on the boardwalk. By the way, it worked! the City's response was to violate the lifetime permit agreement that was in place on the boardwalk.

The new signs impose restricted reverse; this action generating tickets in the court system for the City to pick and choose what they wanted - to fight to

get a law on the books. The City Attorney tells its victims to go back to the boardwalk and comply; the ticket can be acted on at a later date, as they, the City Attorney, pick and choose.

What was legal behavior is now being covered up. The new rules that state, 'you must give away one displayed item to anyone that asks per day', chokes the spirit and pulls the Artists into financial ruin. The Commercial vendors have employees! And, there are no board members to control what or who gets into the Lottery.

What may be driving City Hall is the 2.5 million dollar lawsuit two vendors are working out with the Attorneys and the City.

Is the City banking on the homeless for its new source of income? The Artists are thankful for the locals and churches in the area for the dinners and snacks over the years. The count of the dead found around the beach area would be much higher. One homeless Artist has a conviction of \$416.00. Is this what we really want from the homeless on Venice Beach Boardwalk?

The Zones are set up to pit every one on the Boardwalk against each other; Entertainers are side by side and putting on shows causing headaches; Commercial vending is mixed in with and along side of the Artists which causes confusion and hate among friends and selling of spaces. The Artists must tell visitors that they can't give away things because the City didn't give them anything to give away - this kills the ambiance!

The locals say! What? what the City wants is crazy, and it's not fair! Shop owners say it's stupid! The City expects too much!

Understanding the City Council's point of view is not hard - generating City funds is a must. But many of the people are homeless and loyal to their logic! this is their weakness, the City seeks to capitalize on. Do they realize that it is this strength on Venice Beach that generates millions of dollars every year - people from across America and around the World find community and, love of life here.

The City should be more thankful to the people at Venice Beach for what they bring and give to this great State of California and the World.

Samuel Brantley

The



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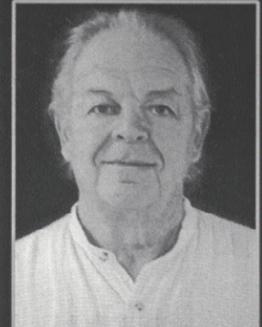
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Oppression 101

By Mary Getlein

Welcome to California:

Where we spend 2 million dollars on a skate park

Where we spend 6 million dollars on twenty new police

where we spend untold million dollars on brand-new privatized prisons, made of stainless steel and glass, to make the prisoners feel even more like a rat in a cage, than a human being...

Welcome to the new Disneyland.

Venice California

Where the police attack 6 homeless sitting on a piece of grass, smoking a joint

Six undercovers and six uniforms

harassment and intimidation

And they throw the kids around, Throw their stuff around,

Fuck with them, let two go, arrest two,

keep fucking with the last two. Hey, I was just sitting there --

Watching the sun go down

It's still free to watch the sun go down

They haven't started charging for that at least

We were singing songs out there

I got really mad--

My friend starts telling me some shit about

how everything happens for a reason:

like: These kids getting harassed by the cops=

someday they will stop doing drugs + turn to

the Lord (I kid you not)

I'm like: right.

But I start singing louder songs I learned from my

Church--

The Church of Latter-Day-Hippies-

The ones who still believe in the happy horseshit

They were all singing in the 60's--

You know, that "Love is All" stuff,

that goes so well with disenchantment with

your government--

You know, your bomb-building government--

You know, that government that is still in the

business of making prisoners out of citizens

You know,

That government that decided it's more profitable to kill people's minds and bodies, than to educate them?

You know,

That government that cannot recognize that a large percentage of the homeless population is composed of veterans from different wars?

So sitting there watching the sun go down

and three cops cars swoop on a group

of basically innocent bystanders did make

me mad--

And I'm still mad.

These are American citizens.

So now we treat our citizens like undocumented

aliens, right?

The people living in houses are doing lots of drugs.

The people living outside are smoking a couple

of joints and drinking a couple of beers,

and the cops swooped in on them like it

was a bank robbery. And when it was all

over, it was so heartwarming to see the

cops laughing together and congratulating them-

selves on

a job well-done.

My friend is like:

"Mary, you sound like a criminal!"

And I'm like:

"Yeah, I am a criminal

Once a criminal, always a criminal"

My favorite plea in court was always:

"Guilty with an Explanation"

An Ex-Catholic, I've always been guilty,

even before I was born--

This society we're living in assumes guilt-

We're all guilty--

We're guilty of letting these people in power

basically FUCK UP our economy, our lives

our world, our oceans, our skies--

anything we touch, we RUIN-

2008-Extinction Report

It's no longer a question of if you'll get cancer,

it's only a question of when--And the things we

dreamed of in the 60's--

Did we really think it would end like this?

Do you really think homeless people are having fun living in a van?

Do you think it's fun raising their kids to be afraid of the police?

Do you think it's fun to be a kid + have no place to live?

Do you think it's fun to be a kid and have parents who are poor?

Do you think it's fun for a kid to have

+ go to jail to go visit a family member?

Do you think it's fun to be homeless

And crazy and have no family because

Your family is ashamed of you and afraid of you?

Do you think it's fun to be crazy and

hearing voices and you think everybody

else is hearing voices and when you

discover they don't, you decide not to

talk about it any more?

You are different--

You are different

You are different--and you are

ALONE

They've got a movie out about a genius-crazy

homeless musician who Steve Lopez got

interested in and rescued and pulled off

the streets and got into a place.

One guy helping another guy--

Guy wrote a book about it, now they're

making a movie, the guy playing the homeless

musician with mental problems is

Jamie Fox.--

It's a movie--

I have known a lot of homeless musicians

with mental problems--

people tried to help them -- didn't get too far

Life is not a movie.

Some people are helped off the street.

Many more stay out on the streets and die.

Some slow, some fast.

Jesus is a friend of mind, (I call him by his 1st

name)

but somehow I don't think police beating

on you is a good way to find Jesus.

I'm still mad.

CommUnity Events – day by day



Saturday, October 4

• 6:30 pm - **Celebrate the Art of Resistance** - Center for the Study of Political Graphics - 19th Anniversary pARTy AuCTION - Union Station 800 North Alameda, Downtown L.A. - 323.653.4662

Friday, October 10

• 7pm - Venice Town Council - Open to all Venetians - This month: Find out about the lawsuit that could stop overdevelopment in Venice. Also, what happened to the 103 appeals of permit parking. United Methodist Church Auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. TownCouncil@freevenice.org

Tuesday, October 14

• 7 - 9pm - **End Dependence Hosts Community Mtg. About Prometa** - Venice Center for Peace with Justice and the Arts, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. 456-8998

Saturday, October 18

• Noon - 4pm - **6th Annual Home Movie Day** Event - Don't throw your old films away - Bring them to Home Movie Day! - 4130 Overland Ave., Culver City - 323-669-0431 www.homemovieday.com

Tuesday, October 21

• 7pm - **Venice Neighborhood Council Board Meeting** - Westminster Elementary School Auditorium 1010 Abbot Kinney Avenue.

Saturday, October 25

• 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. - **Open House/Art Auction** at the Venice-Abbot Kinney Memorial Library - 501 South Venice Blvd. - 821-1769
 • Noon - 3pm - **Book Signing - A Sea Shore Memoir by Mary Jane** - covers the last 40 years in Venice.
 • Evening - **Venice Arts** - An Intimate Dinner & Conversation - at Ravenswork, 1611 Electric Ave. - 821-1857 - venice-arts.org

Saturday, November 1

• 7 - 10 p.m. - SPARC's (Social and Public Art Resource Center) **Day of the Dead** Exhibition presents **Death of the Bush Era: What Next?**

Tuesday, November 4

• All Day - **Election Day** - Why not vote?

Ongoing Events

FREE WORKSHOPS & OPEN READINGS

Since 1969, Beyond Baroque has provided a free workshop and open-reading program as a gathering place for writers to develop their voice, find support, build communities, and experiment. Bring copies of your work. 681 Venice Blvd. - 822.3006 - www.beyondbaroque.org

- 5 PM, sign-up 4:45. - **1st Sunday Free Open Readings**, except Aug., Sept., Jan. Two-poem or three-minute max.
- 8pm - **Monday Night Literary and Experimental Fiction** - Bring copies of sections or short pieces. With Angie Kirk.
- 8 pm - **Tuesday night Creative Non-Fiction** - Bring works of creative non-fiction, memoir, and prose. With Tess Whitehurst.
- 8pm - **Wednesday night poetry** - A legendary gathering & the West Coast's longest running, free poetry workshop. With Frankie Drayus.
- 8pm - **Thursday Alt. Screenplay** - Documentary, narrative, art film scripts, actor readings. Independent projects only. With Peter Coogan.
- 1:30pm - **Saturday Afternoon Poetry** - Bring a poem & 10 copies. With Bob Foster.
- 11am - **4th Saturday Morning Prose & Poetry** - Workshop for publication. Bring 10 copies. With Annette Robinson.

Beachhead Recommendations on the Propositions

Prop. 1 - High Speed Rail Bonds - **Yes**

Bonds are the worst way to finance anything, but a bullet train network in California will never get built otherwise.

Prop. 2 - Standards for Confining Farm Animals - **Yes**

This is an animal rights measure.

Prop. 3 - Children's Hospital Bond Act - **No**

This is a cynical measure that is not needed. There is still money left from a similar 2004 proposition.

Prop. 4 - Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy - **No**

This is an attack on abortion rights and will harm teenagers in a dysfunctional family.

Prop. 5 - Nonviolent Drug Offenses. Sentencing, Parole and Rehabilitation. - **Yes**

This will reduce prison overcrowding by treating drug users who never should have been sent to prison in the first place.

Prop. 6 - Police and Law Enforcement Funding, Criminal Penalties and Laws. - **No**

This would divert needed social service funds to the police. Schools, the poor and disabled would suffer.

Prop. 7 - Renewable Energy Generation - **Yes**

This is a tough call with different environment interests battling it out. A yes vote will get us to clean energy faster than will a no vote.

Prop. 8 - Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry - **No, No, No**

A no-brainer for anyone who cares about equal rights.

Prop. 9 - Criminal Justice System. Victims' Rights, Parole. - **No**

This would insert the victim into the administration of justice. That's the job of the judge and jury.

Prop. 10 - Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy - **No**

A bond measure that would saddle taxpayers with \$10 billion in debt. Now is not the time.

Prop. 11 - Redistricting. - **Yes**

Finally a good solution to redistricting which draws on a voter pool, like jury duty, except you have to apply for it. A good step toward spreading democracy.

Prop. 12 - Veterans' Bonds - **Yes**

Another tough call. The bonds would be paid for by those who use the benefits. Only problem is that these benefits should be the right of everyone.



Art by Jeff Hirsch

The Other Venice Film Festival

Fifth year from Thursday, Oct. 9 - Sunday, Oct. 12 - The Electric Lodge Theater, 1416 Electric Ave, 306.1854 - See website for details: othervenicemoviefestival.com

Talking Stick Coffee Lounge

7:30pm - Wednesdays, Poetry Open Mic night. 1411C Lincoln Blvd.

Spanish Language Classes

• 1 - 2:25 pm beginners; 2:35 - 4pm intermediate - Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey - 831-2325

Get your local event listed in the Beachhead.

Send information to

Calendar@freevenice.org

by the 25th of the month.

(If you can afford an advertisement, please take one out - \$25)

Location Guide

- Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd, 821-1769
- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006
- Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey. marinadelrey.lacounty.gov
- Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 306-1854, max10@electriclodge.org
- Hal's Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 396-3105 - www.halsbarandgrill.com
- Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 Venice Blvd. 822-8392 - www.pacificresidenttheatre.com
- SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560 x 15.
- Sponto Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave, 399-2078
- The Gathering, 132 Brooks Ave. 310-396-8205 - www.udc-world.org/thegathering
- United Methodist Church and Auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. (at Victoria).
- Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave.) 606-2015