

The Ojai & Ventura



VIEW



Vol. 1 • No. 8 • Issue 8 • Published in the Ojai & Ventura Gold Coast Region • FREE • November 2008



OLD TIME FIDDLERS



ADOPTABLE PETS



PUMPKIN SOCIAL

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INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH



ROLLER DERBY



JACKIE LOMAX

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**WALLSTREET LOOTING • Brad Buley • Comedy Club • Kohli Rocks • Kissing!
Horse Pros • Earth Friend Gen • NRA Prestige • Bunnies • Poultry**

INSIDE: • BAIL-OUT BOMB OUT • ALOHA DANCERS • HIPCAT TREES • POLITIC TIC TIC



LETTER

A Real Fruit Fly

Editor,
Sarah Palin's fooling around with fruit flies.

When Sarah Palin gave a policy speech on Friday supporting more research for childhood disabilities like autism, she mocked the very research which may lead to cures for autism and birth defect disorders: "Sometimes these dollars go to projects that have little or nothing to do with the public good. Things like fruit fly research in Paris, France. I kid you not."

Scientists at the **University of North Carolina** have shown that a protein called **Neurexin** is required for nerve cell connections to form and function correctly. The discovery, made in **Drosophila** fruit flies, may lead to advances in understanding autism.

Palin compounds her ignorance with her pretence at being knowledgeable ("I kid you not"). In making such a fool of herself, she is merely expressing the profound know-nothingness at the heart of her religious fundamentalism.

This is a really morally dangerous place to come from because those who make a mockery of science also make a mockery of the truth.

Clive Leeman, Ojai

MEDIA VIEW

Breeze Letter-Edit Policy 'Restricts Information'

Dear View Editor:
I asked *Sheldon of the Breeze* to publish this letter, but for him it was too long.

More so, my opinion, it is too critical of the city's motus operandi.

I hope that you can find room in your newspaper for the truth.

*Sincerely,
Steve Schleder*

Re: **New Design Plan for the Desecrated Graves of St. Mary's Cemetery**

Dear Editor:
The **City Council and the City Manager of Ventura** has played stupid for just too long.

FIRST - The City FAILS to acknowledge that as long as human remains are in the ground, the land's USE is RESTRICTED SOLELY TO THAT OF A CEMETERY. That is **California State Law**. The City VIOLATED the law in the past and continues to VIOLATE the law today. 'Cemetery Memorial Park' is NOT a PARK. It is a CEMETERY, the land's dedication to cemetery purposes has NEVER been legally removed and CANNOT be legally removed unless the human remains are relocated elsewhere. What part of 'it's a CEMETERY' can't the City quite get ??

SECOND - They are planning to spend nearly FOUR MILLION DOLLARS on a property to which the City DOES NOT HOLD RECORD TITLE. Simply put, the City cannot PROVE its ownership. In fact, the record title to portions of the cemetery remain in the **Presbyterian Church** and the **Hebrew Cemetery Association** via deeds dating to the 1860s and 1870s. Use of these PUBLIC FUNDS on property owned by RELIGIOUS entities

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is PROHIBITED by **Article 16, Section 5 of the CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION**.

THIRD - The City VIOLATED **California Law** when it originally stripped the cemetery of its markers, including those of **MILITARY VETERANS**. The City continues to argue that its actions were warranted and legal, but they were not. This is especially so when you consider the City holds **NO RECORD TITLE** to the **Presbyterian and Hebrew** cemeteries. Even if the City did own those cemeteries, then it has violated **Section 960 of the California MILITARY AND VETERANS CODE** in relation to the treatment and marking of VETERANS graves.

FOURTH - The City used a public forum for input into the future design of



of the cemetery and physically wrote down all the participants contact information promising to contact everyone for the next stage of the City sponsored tyranny. Several months go by and then quietly, the City hurriedly, rushes the new design plan before the **Parks and Recreation Commission**. It is rubber stamped automatically by the **P & R Commission** without any notification to the previous public forum participants nor does the new design plan include any of the suggested ideas from the general public or from the past public forum, let alone comply with State or Federal cemetery law.

LASTLY - This property, the 7 acre cemetery is holding the remains of our pioneers and family, a religious burial

Cemetery Continued Page 5...



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LETTER - THANK YOU DEPUTIES

Hood Watch: Nab the Crooks

Well good morning watchers.

It has been a very quiet week with the elections and all. Most of the crooks seem to either be in jail or working in other areas.

Our friends in the **Monte Vista** tract have once again sent a clear message that they will not be willing victims. This week one of our watchers saw a suspicious truck in the area. The two men in the truck were acting as solicitors and going door to door. Our watcher noticed the men only went to houses that looked unoccupied and skipped ones where people were home. The man going door to door was also looking into home and vehicle windows. The watcher called police and gave a great description of the crooks and what they were doing.

Your deputies arrived in the area shortly as the truck fled, leaving the man going door to door behind. Deputies contacted the man left behind and was able to arrest him for prowling. The subject was not very truthful and the deputies were unable to locate the truck.

These crooks were in the area acting as solicitors selling meat products door to door. In reality they were up to no good and had no business being in our neighborhoods. This is an example of what crooks will do in an effort to separate you from your belongings.

In this case these crooks ran into a neighborhood who knows how to catch crooks. They had no idea that the people in this neighborhood were watching and looking forward to calling the police.

We need to make sure these people are not still in the area trying to commit crimes. The truck was described only as a **maroon Toyota Tundra**. They claimed to be selling meat for a company back east. If any of you should see this truck going door or any other suspicious people in your area please call police. Great Job.



Your **City Watch** program is

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- Local corporate 'Advertising' Rep

growing at a good rate. Please continue to forward our flyer to all your friends and family members in the **Ojai Valley**. Encourage as many neighbors as possible to join our team. We are currently reaching almost 100 homes in the Valley. If each of you are forwarding to just ten people, we are reaching almost 1000 people. As our numbers continue to grow I expect we will see our capture rate increase.

Even more important, crooks will learn that it is smart safe to commit crimes in our neighborhoods.

Remember the communication between you and your deputies will be what sends these crooks to other parts of the county or jail. When we work as a team, our neighborhood always win. Our friends in the **Monte Via** tract are our role models in this valley. These neighbors and their local deputies are now acting as one team and the results speak for themselves.

Keep up the good work and thank you for everything you do.

Joe, City Watch

LETTER

Government Stops Incentive Growth

Editor,

It sure scares me to think of **Obama's** plan for big government. We can do a better job of deciding what to do with our money instead of the government taking it and spending it.

Bill Clinton signed the **NAFTA** bill into law ! The **United Auto Workers (UAW)** has been silent recently on that one ! Why?

One reason companies left the U.S. is because corporations & big businesses are charged such high taxes. That tax money could've gone back into the business for new hires, research and so on. Our country is still based on Capitalism and free enterprise and achievement. What is wrong with profit ? Do some research on trickle-down economics. Tool & die shops, machine shops and all types of industries, restaurants, supply companies, small businesses etc. thrive when large manufacturers thrive in **America**. The city income tax base grows too.

We'd rather choose our own health care plan instead of being told what we can do or where we can go or when or even if we

the Ojai and Ventura **Real VIEW**

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can go. Sure, through the years we were very blessed with GM benefits and later Delphi's benefits. Now we're blessed to have some of our health care provided by GM. If sometime in the future those benefits are cut completely, we'd rather buy our own health care than depend upon the government. By wise management, we will budget enough to do it on our own without a handout. We'd rather keep control of our money, choices and lives. Sure, we're scared, but we trust in GOD, who never fails and is always faithful. HE is our Provider, not GM, nor Delphi, nor the government. HE will provide a way. We have to be willing to look for it and be responsible citizens.

I don't want the government making all health care decisions for me. I don't want the government knowing every little ailment, surgery need, or whatever I have. I know they'll prioritize and we won't be satisfied. I've talked to older people who were Canadian citizens. They moved to the U.S. & became U.S. citizens because of the messup there with health care. In Canada's socialized health system they had to wait and wait for mri's, heart procedures, etc. They wanted better health care.

I saw what happened to Social Security because of ruthless spending by the government. They love to spend money (our tax dollars) that isn't theirs. If a private business was run that way, it would not be in business very long. If we ran our household that way, we'd be out on the street.

My husband worked hard through a four year apprenticeship and went to school at night to become a Journeyman Tool & Diemaker. He earned top wage working hard in a successful tool & die shop for nine years before he went to the toolroom at GM to work. I repeat, he earned it and he worked hard. We should not have to work hard to "spread the wealth" around giving it to people who don't work but are perfectly physically & mentally capable of working a job. Welfare etc. is for those with true needs. I'm sick of the "It's not fair" victimization whine. Read below:

An excerpt from the JFK Inaugural Address on Jan. 20, 1961:

"The world is very different now. For man holds in his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty and all forms of human life. And yet the same revolutionary beliefs for which our forebears fought are still at issue around the globe—the belief that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state, but from the hand of God. -- Paragraph 2

"We dare not forget today that we are the heirs of that first revolution. Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans—born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage—and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this Nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today at home and around the world." -- Paragraph 3

AND, NEVER FORGET the challenge from JFK on Jan. 20, 1961: *"And so my fellow Americans, Ask not what your country can do for you -- ask what you can do for your country." -- Paragraph 25*

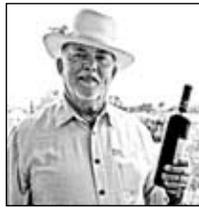
Whew! Thanks for letting me get all that off my chest! Boy am I on my soap-box today. This election is the turning point in our country, don't you think?

Thanks for listening

Ladora McCracken, Ohio

The Gang is Slaving

R. ELLIS SMITH



Actually "Slaving" is a word I just made up, what it means is after the Gang in the Ivory Tower (Ventura City Council), found out that sales tax measures in both Oxnard and Port Hueneme were voted in by the citizens of those respective cities in this election, they began "Slaving". They were wondering what the heck happened when they tried to raise Ventura's sales tax last election cycle.

I'll tell you what happened, the Gang in the Ivory Tower has a, ummmm... reputation about not really telling the citizens of Ventura exactly what it is they are up to at any given time (Cemetery Park for example). When they tried to raise the sales tax they told the citizens the money would be used exclusively for improving public safety. That required the vote of at least 2/3 of the citizens, or at least 2/3 of the voters. The problem was that not enough of the citizens of Ventura believed that story, they were worried, and rightly so that once the Gang in the Ivory Tower got their paws on the extra "do-re-me" they would simply use it for other purposes, like giving themselves a \$75.00/mo raise in their exorbitant travel allowance.

Now what Oxnard and Port Hueneme did was to come out right off and tell their citizens that the reason they needed the tax increase was because they were running short on cash. By putting the sales tax measure on the ballot as a general tax increase they only needed 50 percent +1 vote to have it passed. The main thing however is the fact that the leaders of the cities of Oxnard and Port Hueneme were forthright with the citizens of their respective cities and the citizens rewarded them with a "Yes" vote on the sales tax increase.

Now that the city realizes they are going to be sued over their ridiculous 911 Fee/Tax and knowing they have more than a good chance of losing the court case, they are considering recanting the entire 911 idea in trade for the citi-

Money Woes Continued Page 9...

EARTH FRIEND GEN UPDATE



Youth Take Charge

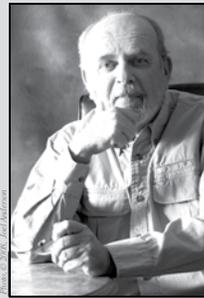
Dear Ojaians,

Thank you so much for caring for your community and sharing your kindness. You touch my heart and soul and bring tears of love and gratitude to my eyes.

I especially want to thank all the blossoming Goddesses (9th grade girls) that I met at the Ojai Day celebration. YOU RULE! The future of our planet is in the hands of your generation. It's time to question EVERYTHING because the adults have adulterated Mother Earth. The adults have poisoned the air, water, and soil--what we all need to live. Society condemns the naturally naked body while glorifying violence and war. The clothing industry uses BILLIONS and BILLIONS of POUNDS of POISON EVERY YEAR-- pesticides, chemicals, and dyes (not to mention sweat shops and child-slave

Gen Update Continued Page 4...

"Don't Tell Me Who I am... Let me guess!"



How Is Your Relationship? Ψ

The Past Does Matter When It Raises Havoc In The Present

When we fall in love, we never think this source of joy will ever come to an end. Why is it then so rare for a couple to grow old together in continuing love, a love that lasts a lifetime? It seems the worst pain we inflict and is inflicted upon us occurs in the area of love and relationship.

Powerlessness

In early childhood we get deeply wounded by two major traumas. Some are traumatized by getting too little (i.e. neglect, abandonment) others by getting too much (i.e. engulfment, emotional suffocation). Being raised in a family environment of either abandonment or engulfment is abusive and leaves a child in a constant state of powerlessness. This article is not about parent bashing, but it is about taking a realistic look at what happened to us and how this affects our relationships. This underlying condition of powerlessness is mostly unconscious deep inside us and has a major impact of how we behave later in life with our partners. There are many destructive relationship patterns – here are three examples:

1. Some people who felt powerless in childhood develop a personality of being overly pleasing, submissive and passive. To get along they go along. They were the 'good child', the responsible one and sometimes mediators of parental conflict. The hope is, *'If I am helpful and pleasing to others, they will love me and take care of me.'* Here is the dark side, avoiding speaking one's truth to stay out of harm's way leads to loss of integrity. They avoid conflict of any sort, because they are sure they will be defeated or humiliated due to their underlying feelings of powerlessness. Insidious dependency brings with it a smoldering resentment and rage against those they are dependent on. This unconscious resentment and anger shows up in passive-aggressiveness and avoidance of honest dialogue, which is death to a soulful marriage.

2. Where power prevails, love is not (Carl Jung). Some who were oppressed feel powerless and make an early unconscious decision. *'Since I feel powerless, I will devote my life to having power over others.'* At work they appear as obsessively driven and ambitious and in our culture are often rewarded for their productivity with success. However, the driven person never finds peace within for all this productivity is just a defense against keeping fear and anxiety out of consciousness. It's a setup for a major fall or crisis which usually occurs in mid-life (i.e. divorce, depression, illness etc.). Needless to say, abuse of power destroys relationship and ends up in loneliness. If the marriage 'survives' it is by the glue of dependency. Both partners end up lonely. Longevity without emotional intimacy is sad.

3. A child who feels invaded, crowded or emotionally engulfed also feels powerlessness. The response to this family pattern often results in the individual needing emotional distance and this can last a lifetime. They have a very limited threshold for closeness. Once this threshold is crossed, they back up, withdraw and isolate. Sometimes they choose partners who also avoid closeness and both only feel safe when they're distant. If they choose a partner who seeks reassurance through closeness, they run. This results in an endless dynamic of approach and avoidance. Those who obsessively and consistently 'need space' are also prisoners of their past.

What makes a relationship work? Honest dialogue is the foundation of any partnership. If there are too many taboo subjects in a marriage, success is limited, if not impossible. In therapy both partners need to ask the following question, "What is it about my history, my attitudes, and my behavior that contributes to the mess this relationship is in?" If only one partner genuinely asks this question, couples-therapy is a waste of time. How can we have a soulful relationship with our mates if we have an unconscious and wounded relationship with ourselves, as we always impose our wounds on the other? Sometimes one partner needs to do individual inner work first before going back into conjoint therapy. Without insight into oneself, no lasting soulful relationship is possible.

Only when we as individuals become conscious of our dark side and our faults can relationship grow. Consciousness is real power! It gives us the choice not to slip back into self-defeating relationship patterns. Through consciousness, we no longer have to live estranged from others or from ourselves, which is even worse. If both partners take an honest and courageous look in the mirror and become aware of the light and the dark inside themselves, the old rigid and destructive relationship patterns can melt away like snow in the sun.

PETER RUDOLF MILHADO, PH.D.

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EARTH FRIEND GEN UPDATE

Continued From Page 3...

labor).
 But my God created body is obscene?
 The mind that judges any part of God's holy creation as obscene, IS OBSCENE ! We are created by God (Life Force) and every single part of our being (including every single part of our body) is blessed and holy. It is up to each individual to treat herself and all others with respect. The naked truth is: Nudity is natural and does not equal sex. Yet everything that is alive is sexual -- the birds, bees, flowers, and trees are all sexual beings. Therefore, God is sexual and sex is sacred. It is up to each individual to responsibly enjoy this ecstatic gift from God. I am learning to live by: Intent, Word, Action, Love, and Light -- Truth + Love + Light = GOD = LIFE.

I have written in the past and said that Ojai was "dirty". I realize that my personal situation at that time affected my awareness. Ojai is cleaner and greener than many places and I only wish everyone the very best.

I realize that anywhere in the world where there's "progress", there's pollution. It is quite unfortunate that **Ventura County** is poisoning the watershed to protect it. The **Arrundo Grass** is part of **Mother Earth** and shall grow back. Pesticides are not the answer, they just cause cancer ! People say I want to get attention. I do. I'm **Earth Friend Gen** and I'm here to let y'all know **Mother Earth** and All Life NEEDS YOUR HELP. They say, "What will the children think ?" Children, it's time to think for yourselves and question EVERYTHING. Please stop buying all the plastic poison products that the addicted adults push on T.V. Just get rid of your T.V and get into creativity ! Start growing organic gardens and ride your bicycles ! -- If everyone that was able, rode a bicycle with a B.O.B. trailer (like me) to run errands around town, life would be SO MUCH BETTER ! There'd be way less traffic, cleaner air, less stress, and on-n-on ! Come on everybody ! Get Naked and Free and join me, **Earth Friend Gen** and the **Earth Friend Generation** !

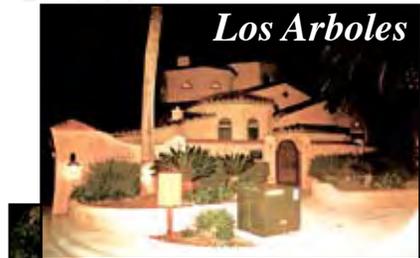
We are Earthlings that value Mother Earth and All Life more than money or any material possession. We know that our environment is more important than economics. Duh !

If we are "the land of the free", then why is **America** the only industrialized nation to outlaw hemp ? Why is industrial hemp considered a drug when it is not marijuana ? Why is marijuana, a naturally growing plant, considered a harmful drug when no one has ever died from it's use ? Yet prescription drugs which have killed MILLIONS and MILLIONS and are legal and FDA approved ? Because the federal government is corrupt and would rather poison the planet for profit than protect our children's future. **George Washington** and **Thomas Jefferson** grew hemp and highly praised it's many virtues. The first two drafts of the **Constitution** were written on hemp paper and the first **American** flag was made from hemp. Hemp can be used to make clothing, paper, fuel, canvas, rope, food, etc. We need to legalize the patriotic plant of our founding fathers ! Please check out www.VoteHemp.org and google **Earth Friend Gen** to learn more ! Bless All Beings !

Genuinely, Gennifer Moss

"Our heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations."

- anonymous



Los Arboles

Photos, © 2008, Joel Anderson



"Archeologists say they have found one of the largest and oldest Indian burial sites dating as far back as 10,000 years."
 - L.A. Times, Aug. 21, 2002.

As noted above, the **Los Arboles** luxury condos on Ojai's S. Montgomery St. stand atop the remains of a major **Chumash** burial site. These mammoth **Spanish Revival** buildings were constructed at the edge of a tiny winding river which circles **Libbey Park** in the heart of Ojai. A lone monument to the many trees which were removed for this project; a grizzly bear stands carved into the remaining gnarled root burrell of the once-majestic tree.

Could this be the promised memorial constructed in honor of **Ojai's** first residents ?



Photo, © 2008, Joel Anderson

Is **Leland** turning peacenick-party-animal ? noticed in last month's issue, you had photos of **OVNews** Guest **Editorialist Leland Hammerschmidt** flashin' the peace sign and flirtin' with the ladies. Is **Leland** turning hip ? **Leland**, please join me for a naked and free bike ride! You could DEFINITELY use the exercise ! Most of us need to ride our bikes more and let loose. So, come one, come ALL and join me ! Yippee! (for nearly naked bike rides) **Breasts Not Bombs !**

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Ventura County Weird VIEWS

The Lost Woman of San Nicholas

by **Richard Senate**



Perhaps there is no sadder story in the annals of early **California**. It has been made into a motion picture and an award winning children's book, *The Island of the Blue Dolphins* by **Scott O'Dell**. It is the account of the last **Native American** to live in the traditional ways on the **Channel Islands**. Her story begins with **Russian** fur traders seeking otter skins. These skins were prized by the wealth classes in **Imperial China**. The **Russians** and the **Aleut** hunters ravaged the **Natives** on the Islands and they petitioned the **Spanish** for protection. There was little the **Spanish** could do, lacking naval units in distant **California**. All they could do was invite the **Natives** to come to the **Missions**.

A leaky schooner, with the honest name of "*Better than Nothing*" was sent to collect the natives in 1835. One woman returned to **San Nicholas Island** to collect her child but the winds and tides forced the schooner to sail, leaving her behind.

The padre's offered a reward to any who could recover the lone woman and her child but the tides proved too difficult. Some say the woman,

whose child had died, didn't want to be found. She lived in isolation for 18 long years before she was discovered by **Captain George Nidever** in 1853. He took her back to **Santa Barbara** to live with his family. When she got to the **Mission Santa Barbara** she discovered all of her people were dead. They had died of diseases. No one could even speak her tongue. She was baptized **Juana Maria** but died after only seven weeks. It was thought the change in diet had lead to her death. I believe the loss of her people was too much for her and she simply lost the will to live. All that remains of this remarkable woman is a song, collected by a **Chumash elder Fernando Librato**. Its exact meaning is lost to us.

"Toki, Toki, Yahamiinena,
 Welesh Kima Nishuyahamimena."

Today even the site of her grave at the **Mission Santa Barbara** is lost but a small plaque in the cemetery reminds visitors of this tragic story. If her ghost walks it must haunt the windswept valleys and caves of **San Nicholas Island** where she spent so many lonely years. Perhaps those visiting this place have seen the phantom or hear the sad words of her song drifting on the wind.

*- Richard Senate, Oak View
www.RichardSenate.com*

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Thank you all for helping **Ventura County** keep it green. Because of your contributions, we were able to collect over 2 tons of E-Waste on just one stormy Saturday.
 We would like to also thank everyone over at **CJSeto Support Services, LLC** who we partnered up with to take all your old electronics.
 Because of this event we have prevented more E-Waste from being dumped into our landfills and corroding our earth with harmful substances from the remains of these electronic devices we take for granted everyday. We would like to invite everyone down to our office to receive a free computer tune up or diagnostic on your snailish PC or Mac as a thank you for helping us clean up **Ventura County**. Thank you again and see you next month !

- Tony and Ryan

The Story of Ventura County

by Richard Senate



This place is one of magical vistas and sweep of mountains and rivers of people and places. It's a small corner of paradise.

There is a magical quality to this corner of California's Southcoast. It is found in its remote mountain vistas and in its abundant valleys and pristine beaches. It is a forgotten majesty of a California now almost gone in the fast paces world of the present.

Ventura County lingers as a reminder of what California was once like and as such provided the present with the opportunity to revisit its past.

Ventura County must have seemed this way when the first Native Peoples tread the sands of her beached many thousands of years ago. These nameless peoples dwelled here and took advantage of her bounty. They found homes near the beach of that new world, a world with longer beaches and a sea that was lower than today. What evidence they left behind is now under water. The first ones would not be the last as other Native People came and left, leaving their millings stones, arrowheads, and sea shells behind. They are found in midden heaps where their dwellings once stood, on the valley along her rivers and in protected spots by the streams.

They used the fused shale of the Upper Ojai to fashion their projectile points and harvested the acorns of the Oak to provide sustenance. These first ones are names to us but we have called them the Oak Grove People and the Milling Stone horizon. What they called themselves can only be guessed. They, like many other native peoples must have called themselves simply "The People."

Of the first ones to call Ventura County home we know most of the last group to dwell here. Some of their decedents still call this spot home. They are the Chumash.

They spoke a Hokan language that indicated they migrated from the Great Basin. They were hunters and gatherers who harvested the bounty that is Ventura County. They too used the Oaks and the grasses but included the seafood of the coasts. They were able to gather the plenty of the sea my means of a cleverly constructed ocean going canoe. Made of pine or redwood, it was both strong enough for the ocean and light enough to carry

up to ten people. The wooden canoes were cleverly fitted, tied together, and caulked with a mixture of tree sap and natural tar they called "Yup." The Chumash were the first to use the oil resources of the area even using the natural tar to fix the arrowheads to their shafts.

By all accounts the Chumash lived in harmony with their world, taking what they needed and leaving little to scar the land. Only their beautiful painted caves remain into our era to let us know these people once dominated this place. The haunting imagery of the caves hint at the diverse religious views of these people and their triumphant sky gods. Sadly these important features are being lost each year as unthinking modern folk vandalize and destroy these priceless relics of our common heritage.

Richard Senate, Oak View
www.RichardSenate.com

National American Indian Heritage Month

What started at the Turn of the Century, with a Blackfoot Indian, named Red Fox James, riding horseback from state to state garnering approval for a day of recognition has resulted in a whole month being designated as "National Indian Heritage Month." Despite this, there is still no National Legal Holiday for America's First Citizens, and the contributions they have made.

Santa Barbara's Museum of Natural History celebrates the heritage of native California Indians Sat. Nov. 15 11am - 4pm Admission is FREE 682-4711

-Editor

LETTER

'Death Take Me'

Death take me, I'm yours. Fly me away on your powerful wings. Nor shall I whimper as we travel from sunlight to darkness. For I have quarreled and struggled with life, and life is the victor, as I choose to struggle no more. So take me grim reaper, and quickly please. Rock me gently as my mother once did, and lay me down to sleep, forever.

William E. Williams, Ojai

LETTER - CEMETERY: MISSED... INFORMATION

Continued From Page 2...

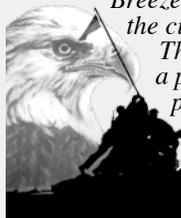
ground. How religious or pious are those now licking their chops to put their "New Age" secular interpretation on top of our Dead? Cemetery Law, a traditional Catholic priest, a traditional Presbyterian pastor, an orthodox Hebrew rabbi and a traditional Buddhist monk SHOULD BE the only ones participating.

It HAS and always WILL BE about what the City Council and City Manager want and to HELL with the Resting Places of our Ancestral Heritage, Federal Cemetery Law, State Cemetery Law, the religious, you and me.

Sincerely,
Steve Schleder
www.restorestmarys.org

EDITORS NOTE: To see how the City of Ventura is planning an elaborately conceived park development, on the historic cemetery (in this economic bear market...), go to www.cityofventura.net/public_works/parks/plans, or you can just pick up a copy of the Nov. 5 Breeze for a valiant reprint of the city plan.

The public is invited to hear a presentation and participate in a public discussion Nov. 19, 5:30 pm, at Community Presbyterian Church, 1555 Poli Street.



EVENT CALENDAR

- Thru Nov. 16, "Ojai Celebrates Art", Ojai Valley Museum First Juried Art Exhibit, info. Hours Thurs. & Fri., 1 to 4 pm, Sat., 10 to 4 pm, Sun., Noon to 4 pm., 640-1390
- thru Dec. 6, Oxnard Christmas Parade, Creative Volunteers Needed: info. Jill Dolan, parade coordinator, oxnardparade@aol.com
- Nov. 9, Audition, "The Gondoliers or The King of Barataria" by Gilbert & Sullivan, Joe Crosby Performing Arts Center, 3400 West Gonzales Rd., Oxnard. info. www.comedytonightproductions.org or 805/218-9590
- thru Nov. 15, "Spoon River Anthology", The producers of Twelve Angry Men, Victoria Hall Theater, 33 W. Victoria St., Santa Barbara. info. Boxofficetickets.com or 1/800-494-8497
- thru - Nov. 16, "Bell, Book & Candle" (theatre production), High Street Arts Center, Moorpark, info. www.highstreetartscenter.com, 529-8700
- thru Nov. 22-Dec. 13, "Organic Acting Class", Santa Paula Theatre Center,

Saturdays 10-1 pm on the Back Stage, info. Leslie, sptcleslie@gmail.com or 805-525-9840

- thru Nov. 23, "Little Shop of Horrors" (musical), Camarillo Community Theatre, 330 Skyway Dr., info. 388-5716
- Nov. 12, 6pm Champagne Dinner, Ojai Valley Inn, Visit the Maravilla Martini Bar and discover our eclectic cocktail menu. Featured with champagnes from Moet Chandon, Veuve Cliquot and Ruinart, the oldest champagne house in the world. info. 805.646.1111
- Nov. 12, 12:30-1:30pm, Ventura College, FASHION FOR FILM: A Conversation with Ruth E. Carter, African-American costume designer. Info. 654-6462
- Nov. 20, 6pm, Fifth Annual Thanksgiving Events Continued Page 7...

Lord Send Down a Lightning Bolt...

R. ELLIS SMITH



...Strike all the fools on their heads and set us poor folks free. Once again I sit at my breakfast table with my coffee, OJ, and

a copy of the Oct. 30 Ventura County Star in front of me. As I turn to the Ventura section my mouth falls agape, I can't really believe what I am reading, Ventura to be sued over illegal 911 fee.

Now as we all know the City of Ventura has been advised by many experts that what they are attempting to do with the 911 system, charging a \$1.49/monthly fee or a \$17.88/ fee for each time you call 911 is only poorly disguised as a fee when in reality it is a "TAX". Also as a tax the city is required to take the increase to a vote of the public which of course they failed to do.

The Gang in the Ivory Tower, (Ventura City Council) has allowed their "Golden Boy" City Attorney Ariel Calonne to convince them that it is indeed a "Fee" and not a "TAX" so is immune from the voting requirement. The fact is that a few other cities in California have tried this same ploy and have lost the battle in court where it was ruled that the "Fee" was indeed a "TAX". It seems that Mr. Calonne has the egocentric idea that he and he alone knows what is a fee and what is a tax, no matter what the courts have ruled.

Along with the \$4,000,000 Cemetery Park Plan, the \$75.00 per month increase in travel expenses for the Gang in the Ivory Tower, the exorbitant raises given to the Upper Administration, the new-fangled retirement system for the Fire Department, the \$900,000 art project at the sewer plant, forgiving the \$500,000 loan to the Ventura Housing Authority, and now the cost of allowing Mr. Calonne to fight this 911 lawsuit in court, it would appear that by this time next year the City of San Buenaventura has a better than even chance of going broke.

Rellis Smith
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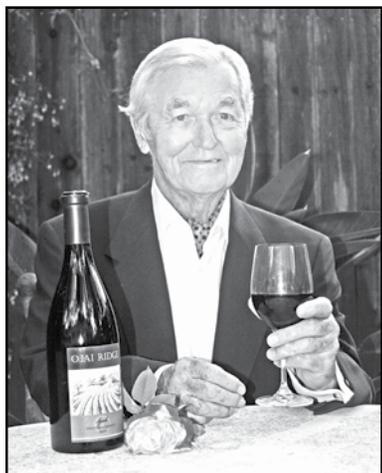
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Wine And Roses

by Ron Rowe



To all who thinks Rowe writes rubbish; well, you may be right, alas. **David Chuter Detroit, Michigan**, has won the world's top award for bad writing. In **England** the annual **Bulwer Lytton Fiction Prize** is given for the worst opening sentence for a novel. Here

is the opening sentence of **Dave's** novel; 'Thru the gathering gloom of late October afternoon along the greasy cracked paving stones slick with the sputum of the sky, Stanley Randleman wearily trudged up the hill from the cemetery, where his wife, sister, brother, mother, grandmother and three children were buried, he forced his way through the door of his decaying house, blissfully unaware of the catastrophe that would soon devastate his life.' Here is another example. 'Her breasts were like strawberries, but much bigger, a completely different color, not as bumpy and without the little green things on top.' Britain also gives awards for the worst book ever written. Now they are giving awards for the worst sex in fiction. Winner last week was a **74-year-old Tom Wolfe** for his sex scenes in his book, **I am Charlotte Simmons**. He admits his book is tasteless, but was surprised to receive a prize for the worst written sex in fiction.

Incidentally, if you have been considering moving to **England**, think again.



Actor/Director Gai Jones

A survey by **Economist Magazine** ranked **England** the worst place to live in all 15 European union nations. **England** ranked 29th out of 111 nations. They cited poor health services, family breakdowns, undesirable climate, and high cost of living; **Ireland** was listed as the most desirable place to live.

Good news for Suza and bicycle riders; **Washington, DC** is finally learning from nations worldwide. A public/private firm called **Smart Bike, DC** will make available 120 bikes at 10 spots in central locations in the city. This will be the first of its kind in the nation. For \$40 annual membership fee, smart bikers can check out three speed bikes for three hours at a time. **Jim Sebastian** said the program will soon grow to 1000 bikes for rent. He said, bikes help reduce congestion and pollution as well as parking problems in the city. Similar programs are successful in **Paris, Spain, Amsterdam** and many other **European** countries. This sounds like a good idea for Ojai; what do you think ?

People want to know. If **Buddy Wild** is not running for city council, then why is he attending city council meetings, taking notes ? Is he still going to be waiting in the wings? Anybody know ?

Rehearsals for "It's a Wonderful Life" began Nov. 5.

Actor/Director Gai Jones is directing this play with over 30 actors. It will be a fully-staged version of the **Christmas** classic written for the stage of **James W. Rodgers**. It's a beautiful soul-stirring story of **George Bailey** (played by **Gabriel Oliver**) who, in a moment of despair, thinks of committing suicide, but recovers the love of family. Reservations are recommended.



Call **640-8797** or **www.OjaiAct.com**. Opening night special Gala, Dec. 12. Play runs until Dec. 21. Call now.

Last issue I wrote that love makes all things possible – love cures everything, with thanks to **Gai**. **Angela** from **Ventura**, sent an e-mail saying, 'I agree, except poverty.' With the economy in shatters, did you know we are spending \$12 billion a month in **Iraq**, the war so far this year has cost the taxpayers \$85 billion and will hit at least 100 billion by the end of 2008 – \$600 billion total for the war. According to the **Congressional Budget Office**, (CBO), we have 190,000 private contractors in **Iraq**. That's not including **Afghanistan**. With the recent **U.S. Bailout of Banks** and brokerage firms, the **National Debt** is now \$86,000 to every **U.S.** citizen. In 2007, **Wall Street's** five biggest firms, **Bear Stearns, Goldman Sachs, Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley** paid out 39 billion in employee bonuses. In 2007 the shareholders lost 74 billion. Makes you think doesn't it ? A new store has opened in **San Diego**, where you can express your rage. For \$10-\$50 you can spend up to 15 minutes smashing plates, glasses, and picture frames. One customer, **Adam DeWitt**, 29, said it was the best \$50 he had spent in the last two years. Sound like a good idea to try out at **Movino's Wine Bar**.

Wise quotes: Things are going to get a lot worse before they get worse. I never think about the future because it comes soon enough. It's useless to hold a person to anything he says while he is in love, drunk, or running for political office.

There are still houses to be bought at a low price. A **Chicago** woman bought an abandoned house in **Saginaw, Michigan** on **eBay** for \$1.75 last week. If you have a little more money to spend, and better taste, you can buy your own island. **Johnny Depp, Mel Gibson, Diana Ross**, and lots of other stars all own their own island, now you can join them. A large island is for sale. **Ronde Island** in the **Caribbean Basin** is isolated from the world and civilization. The island is surrounded with stunning coral encrusted cayons. There is even an underwater cave. You would have to build your own house, but that's not a problem. Asking price, \$100 million.

A miracle in **Merino, Italy**; residents discovered white wine flowing from their water faucets. **MIRACOLO**, they cried filling their glasses and drinking. The wine was supposed to spill from a fountain in the town square for the annual Grape Festival. A plumbing mishap caused the problem. Sounds like a great idea for **Ojai**, let vino flow from the fountain in the park.

If you play soccer, don't join the **Zimbabwe** team. In an annual ritual to cleanse themselves from evil spirits, the

team jump into the crocodile infested **Zambezi River** before a match. Oh, two players didn't come out, so they have two vacancies, if you are interested.

If you want happy dreams after a stress-filled day,

German Researcher Boris Stuck advises to put flowers at your bedside every night. His article, in **New Scientist Magazine**, says, smell directly affects the emotional coloration of one's dream world.

Silly drug dealer **Calvin Prince** had business cards printed, complete with name, address, phone and mobile phone numbers, along with a cannabis leaf and a smoking joint with the words, 'always at your service call me.' You guessed it; the police called; **Calvin** now is in jail wondering how the cops caught him.

People want to know. Why do we have two nostrils ? If you are disgruntled, can you be grunted when happy ? Why is it that similar events, one occurring immediately after the other are described as back-to-back ? Surely it should be, front

to back.

Honesty does pay; **Framingham State College** in **Massachusetts** sent a fund raising letter to alumni stating, we are on a fund raising – we need your support with the usual blah, blah, blah. Over 60 alumni responded with a donation.

Good news for readers who prefer a white wine to red. A new study has found white wines are similar to red in their heart-protective effects. Though white wine is made from the pulp of the grape and not the



The 'Wicked' Babes of Ojai - Nancy Smith, Crystal Magill and Sheila Kelly.

skin, it still contains **polyphenols**. That's believed to reduce inflammation, protects cells and bolster cardiovascular health. The flesh of the grape does the same job as the skin, according to **Biologist, Deepak Das** in **New Scientist Magazine**. We can now say safely, a glass or two a day of white wine works exactly like red.

From wine drinking reader **Lionell** in **Ventura**, who asks, 'What do you say, after being served a bad wine?' Well, **Lionel**, a **Mr. Montjoy** in a **Disraeli** novel said to his host who had served him bad wine, 'Bad wine does bring out a gleeful imagination to those subjected to it.' And for example, wine once

Wine and Roses Continued Page 19...

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Coffee and Tea are Great Gifts

by Lorraine Mariz



Looking for the perfect gift? What about the gift of good coffee or tea? Or a gift basket with coffee, tea and other goodies such as chocolate and cookies. Just about everyone likes coffee or tea, and edible and drinkable gifts are great for the person who already has everything; especially when it's something special.

Maybe you know someone who makes coffee every day but it is mediocre coffee or perhaps even (gasp!) instant. A pound of 100 percent **Arabica** beans from the gourmet coffee shop; something simple like **French Roast** or **Colombia Supremo**, will be welcome. Another great gift for a person just learning to appreciate good coffee is the "One Cup Kit" which is a mug, ½ lb of coffee, a one cup filter holder, and a box of filters. I recently gave one of these kits to my hairdresser. She was very happy. This person probably does not have a grinder so have the coffee ground at the store.

The same applies to the tea drinker. You may have a friend or relative who makes tea every day but puts a teabag of dubious quality into a mug. The gift of some good loose tea and an infuser and perhaps a teapot, will be appreciated. Again, start with something simple like English Breakfast Tea. The clerks at the tea shop will be happy to help.

Then there is the person who already is a connoisseur of gourmet coffee. Discover their favorite coffee and give some along with a nice mug or

travel mug. Or encourage adventurousness with the gift of a new and exotic coffee this person may not have tried before. Coffees like **Tanzania Peaberry**, **Celebes Kalossi**, and **India Mysore** are good, easy to drink, and a little unusual. The salesperson at the coffee store will have lots of suggestions. You can also do a very nice thing for a friend or relative or impress a business associate, with a gift of one of those most prized and expensive coffees - **Kona Fancy** (\$35 per pound) and **Jamaica Blue Mountain** (\$56 per pound). With these coffees it is okay to give a small amount. A coffee lover will appreciate a quarter pound of

Jamaica Blue Mountain or **Kona**.

If your friend already likes good tea give a gift of their favorite tea; or surprise him or her with a different and exciting tea. Tea lovers also always appreciate a beautiful or unusual teapot. Again, the clerks at the tea shop are fountains of information.

Everybody loves a gift basket. Lots of coffee and tea stores (including **Java & Joe**) make coffee and tea themed gift baskets. These include coffee, tea or both; food such as cookies, chocolate, and nuts and perhaps a mug or teapot. They are great for a couple, or family, as hostess gifts and business gifts. I think one of the

great things about gift baskets is that they are quite green. The contents are eaten and drunk, the filler and wrap are recyclable, and the basket itself is useful or can be re-gifted!

So you see, there is no need to agonize over gifts for all your friends, relatives and business associates. Give them coffee and tea!

Lorraine Mariz, Java and Joe, Ojai



Lorraine offers Java inspired Gift Baskets.

Photo © 2008, Joel Anderson

EVENT CALENDAR CONT.

Continued from Page 5...

Potluck Celebration, Ventura Family YMCA, info. 3760 Telegraph Rd., Ventura, www.venturaymca.org or 642-2131 ext. 24

• Nov. 22, 7:30 to 10:30pm, **Dance Jam Ventura**, 3026 Telegraph Rd., Ventura, Adults \$6.00, Youth 16 and under, \$1.00, info. 650-7112, dancejamventura2@aol.com

• Nov. 15, 1-5pm, **Audition, "Pirates of Penzance"** Gilbert & Sullivan Repertoire Co., Theatre on the Hill, Thousand Oaks, info. theater@ojaiartcenter.org

• Nov. 15, 7-9pm & Nov. 16 2-4pm, **Audition, Ojai Art Center for Noel Coward's "Private Lives"** Rehearsals begin after Thanksgiving. Perf. Are Feb. 6-Mar. 7. Producer/Director Frank James Malle. info. theater@ojaiartcenter.org

• Nov. 15, 10am - 3pm, **Respectful Parents, Respectful Kids, Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura**, 5654 Ralston St., Ventura, a skill based workshop based on the principles of non-violent communications. Learning the difference between power over (your child, student, spouse, partner, other) and power with in our relationships. The UU Church of Ventura is again presenting a skill based workshop using the principles of Non-violent Communication (as developed by Victoria Kindie Hodson and Marshall Rosenberg). The activities will include real life practice for teachers, parents, teens, spouses, partners, and friends. Participants learn choices to connect (instead of correcting/managing others) to create relationships of mutual respect, emotional safety and open

Events Continued Page 10...

Hakane Sushi in Ojai



Photo © 2008, Joel Anderson

Julio Dilan, ShiaoLi Mao, Ken Hwang, Lindsay Ferro, and Angel Gonzales

Hakane Sushi is now open! **Ken Hwang** and his family visited **Ojai** last year and made the decision to open a restaurant here, leaving **San Luis Obispo** behind. Offering a large menu with additional specials, **Hakane Sushi** gives visitors and residents yet another choice for healthy and delicious dining in the Village. **Owner Ken Hwang** uses only the highest quality ingredients in his **Sushi** and offers "specials" daily. With their brand new restaurant and beautiful patio seating **Hakane Sushi** is perfect for lunch or dinner. Friendly staff greet diners and their delicious food is served with an attractive presentation. "The Toro was especially nice", according to diner **Matt Henriksen** "it's a great place to swap bites with your friends." **Hakane Sushi** is located at 967 E. Ojai Ave or call 640-3070. Hours 11:30 - 9:30 Mon-Thurs, and Sun., Fri. and Sat. 11:30 - 10:30pm.

Local View: The Friendliest Organic Food Market in Ojai



Photo © 2008, Joel Anderson

Heather Cornett shows off the Organic Produce at Ojai's Rainbow Bridge Natural Food Store.

Thanksgiving is coming up so if you want to order an Organically raised **Diestel Turkey** you'd better hurry! **Rainbow Bridge** is located conveniently behind the Arcade in the heart of the **Village of Ojai**.

The "Bridge" is in fact informally known as "**The Community Gathering Place**," and has a fully stocked selection of high quality vitamin products and supplements, and is always staffed by the most knowledgeable people. In addition to the fully stocked market, the deli and salad bar is always professionally prepared and presented with farm fresh Organic foods by the folks with the friendliest spirits.

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The Bail-out Won't Stop the Leaks...

by Jefferson Pinto

Last month, I addressed failures of our media to disclose critical germane facts and analysis surrounding the "bail-out". This month I'll address how we got into the economic mess we're in and why the current "fixes" probably won't do the trick.

Let's start with some economic reality therapy. Our economy has a normal cycle every four to seven years or so. That is, it oscillates between a high and a low like a wavy line. It seems whichever party is in office on the down swing, tends to get the blame. Conversely, whichever party is in office on the upswing tends to claim the credit.

Back to the causes: In its simplest form, on the up-

"A few of the ol' boys from Lehman Brothers walked out the door with over \$100 million dollars in bonuses days before the company collapsed."

swing, consumers buy more stuff. Suppliers expand capacities and inventories, hire more people and buy more stuff. This all works well until the wave tops out. People buy less stuff. Suppliers still at high output, realize their inventories are growing. Then come the plant closures and layoffs. Then people don't have jobs to earn money to buy lots of stuff. So they buy a lot less stuff.

Make no mistake; while the normal cycle is predictable, it can be exacerbated, extended or shortened by other economic factors.

In the case at hand, low interest rates and easy access to loans increased the demand for real estate and the price of the real estate rapidly increased. As the prices increased, home buyers and investors jumped in to ride the wave upward. All was fine and good on the way up. Then the market topped out and the loans began to default. Savvy real estate investors sensed the top of the wave and began

to sell. Massive selling dumped a glut of property on the market and prices slipped like California ocean front cliffs after a heavy rainstorm. When the loan defaults began to mount, the mortgaged properties were worth far less than the balance of the loan. Henceforth, the banks were facing huge losses.

At the same time, in the stock market, bank and other financial stocks soared until the wave topped out. When the banks began to suffer losses, their stock price also tanked, precluding them from effectively selling more stock to raise capital.

A bit of background: the word mortgage or "death promise" is a derivative of word morgue. In short, loans were given to people who couldn't make the payments. People that couldn't ordinarily afford the mortgage thought they could during good times: Interest rates were low, and introductory rates were too good to be true.

In the words of George Carlin, "There are good rules and there are bad rules. Running with the scissors - good rule Mom! No singing at the kitchen table - bad rule." There are good "rules" or guidelines of lending, also known as the Five C's.



Back to the five C's of credit. What are they ?

- 1) **Character** - Have the prospective borrowers consistently and reliably repaid in loans the past ?
- 2) **Capacity** - Despite their desire to pay, can they make monthly payments given current paycheck and other obligations?
- 3) **Capital** - How much are they worth ? How big is the prospective loan relative to what they already have?
- 4) **Collateral** - If they are unable to pay, what assets can they use to settle the debt ?
- 5) **Conditions** - Is the economic environment conducive of repayment and preservation of the asset they are financing ?

Lenders' Failures:

Character: Res ipsa loquitur (Latin: *the thing speaks for itself*). Or, in the words of Dr. Phil, "The best predictor of future behavior is past behavior."

Capacity: The banks peddled loans that didn't really reflect the actual cost by offering "low introductory rates" or the infamous sub-prime. For example: a mortgage payment that was normally \$1,000 per month was offered at \$500 per month for the first year. Guess what happens in month 13 ? Duh !

Moreover, when interest rates were very low, ARM (or *Adjustable Rate Mortgages*) were the loan of choice. The problem is, as the interest rates increased, so did the

monthly payment).

Capital: Many of the loans equaled to or exceed the value of the property.

Collateral: The value of the homes were inflated due to the buying spree. When the market "tanked" (corrected itself for the overpricing) the house was worth less than the outstanding loan balance.

Conditions: Interest rates were at an all time low. Ergo, they would probably go up. Unemployment was low. The stock market indexes were growing far beyond sustainable growth paths. Nobody wants to be the party pooper, but let's face it; almost all economic indicators were too good for too long, which translates into: what goes up, must come down. This sort of reminds me of when I'm merging onto Highway 33 approaching the "Y" when there's a lot of traffic. There's always this one moron in a car that zooms down the right and cuts in at the last second.

I'm guessing most people don't want to default on a loan, and most banks don't want to "boot" people out of their homes. That's a loose-loose scenario. That's why we have rules.

Recently, Alan Greenspan, former Federal Reserve Chairman, testified in front of a congressional committee. His revelation was that the banks failed to protect their long-term well-being. I infer from this statement, the banks self-preservation was an adequate protection in the

past that didn't hold true this time. My take: there was a major leadership failure. So why would any experienced manager who has lived through the Savings and Loan fiasco of the 80s let history repeat itself ? I don't know either. My hunch is the quest to placate insatiable stock holders and managerial bravado, the catalysts.

Oh yeah, I almost forgot about the executive bonuses. A few of the ol' boys from Lehman Brothers walked out the door with over \$100 million dollars in bonuses days before the company collapsed. If that's leadership, for just a second, I'm more inclined to ascribe to the chaos



"...same institutions and leadership who caused the problem... same ones receiving the cash to recapitalize themselves... hoarding the money... hampering recovery..."

theory or be ruled by "the masses" our forefathers warned us about.

Enough banter from me. In summary the causes were:

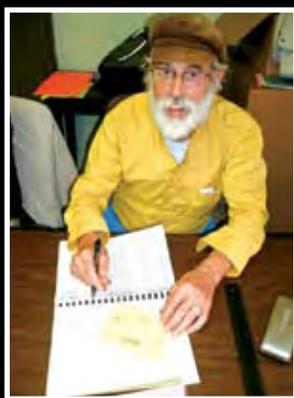
- Borrowers weren't properly qualified and money was lent to people who couldn't afford to repay the loan.
- Borrowers did not read and comprehend how the expiration of introductory terms and variability in interest rates affected their obligation.
- Loans weren't properly collateralized.
- Corporate greed and myopia put short-term profits in front of corporate health.

So why won't the current fixes work ? Picture a bucket of water with a few holes in it. The water level steadily declines. I know, let's put some more water in it to stem the losses. The reality is, the bucket is defective; adding more water isn't going to fix it. Back to reality land for a moment. The same institutions and leadership who caused the problem are the same ones receiving the cash to recapitalize themselves. If that's not bad enough, the banks are hoarding the money and not lending it out, further hampering the economic recovery. That's worse

How to Verify Your VOTE !



Election Official Clinton Vocke (top) carefully assists voter.



Ojai Polling Clerk, Bob "Mr. Ojai" Landau (above) mans the First Baptist Church precinct. Records show 750 Votes were cast Nov. 4 at this Grand Ave. voting precinct. Voters were provided with a numbered paper receipt on the way out.

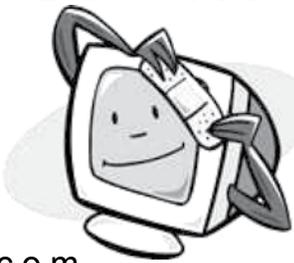
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Winners and Losers Matrix

Phase in the Cycle	Winners	Losers
On the Up Swing:	• Real Estate Sellers	• Real Estate Buyers
On the Down Swing:	• Real Estate Buyers	• Former Home Owners
Government Intervention (or the Bail-out)	• Management, employees and investors of financial institutions	• Tax Payers

than looting during the riot. It's adding injury to insult.

Here's the public policy failure: rewarding the leadership, employees, and shareholders who made or allowed poor choices. And now the really bad news: Those of us who made prudent financial decisions are paying for it.

My predictions:

- Our elected officials have underestimated the cost and will come back for more money. It will likely be cleverly disguised as an *economic growth and protection package*.
- Other failed industries will ask for their poor decisions to be borne on the back of the American tax payers.
- The "overhaul" or new rules promised to prevent a recurrence will create more bureaucratic cholesterol and probably won't effectively prevent the Déjà vu.

My recommendations:

- Take a more behavioral approach: Do not rescue: make the leaders, employees, and shareholders live with the consequences. Why the shareholders? If you've ever seen Dante's Inferno, the highest level of hell is for neutrals. If you ask for behavior A and you reward behavior B, you'll keep getting B. Duh!
- Change the lending disclosure statement to include a worst case scenario for a loan payment.
- Have property appraisals state both a current value and normalized baseline growth value. (If the market weren't distorted, the value would likely be X.)

Here's What I think: The folks that got booted out of their homes already felt the pain by not reading the fine print, I'm guessing they won't do that again. Problem solved (for this generation...).

Upside: Taxpayers indirectly pay in the form of a harsher and longer recession. The direct pain is felt by the parties that were the proximate cause. Besides, it sends a message: You make your bed, you lie in it.

Downside: We'd have to listen to all the whining from former employees and shareholders that they were innocently injured and how their pensions were hosed. My response in advance: get in line behind the former employees and investors for Enron.

How about the quality journalism: Why not ask the whiners what their responsibility was in the deal?

- Jefferson Pinto, CPA, MBA

Who Would You Rather Have Running This Country

R. ELLIS SMITH



Now you decide who you would rather have running this country. How Much Would You Pay in Taxes?

President-elect Barack Obama and John McCain both said they'd cut federal taxes if elected. Here's what their proposals would mean for you.

If you make less than...	Obama you'd save	McCain you'd save
\$19,000	\$567	\$21
\$19,000-\$37,600	\$892	\$118
\$37,600-\$66,400	\$1118	\$325
\$66,400-\$111,600	\$1264	\$994
\$111,600-\$161,000	\$2135	\$2535
\$161,000-\$227,000	\$2796	\$4437
If you're in the top 5% of earners...	Obama you'd pay an extra...	McCain you'd save...
\$227,000-\$603,400	\$121	\$8,159
\$603,400-\$2.87 million	\$93,709	\$48,862
more than \$2.87 million	\$542,882	\$290,708

*Source: Tax Policy Center. Numbers have been rounded. For complete details, go to TaxPolicyCenter.org

If your annual salary is less than \$112,000, you'd pay less in taxes under Obama's plan; if your salary is higher, McCain would cut your taxes more. "While the aggregate tax cut is bigger for McCain, a larger number of voters get more money under Obama," says Alan Viard, a tax-policy expert at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, "Obama is choosing to emphasize tax cuts for the middle class, whereas McCain's strategy is to keep rates lower at the top as a way to facilitate long-run growth." For example, a person with an income of \$1 million could see his taxes increase under Obama by as much as \$94,000, whereas under McCain's plan he could save about \$48,000.

Rellis Smith, Ventura
rellis39@sbcglobal.net
Californiachile.com

Giddy Prez. Victory



Ojai Obama Executive Board - (front, L-R) Sue Broidy, President of the Ojai Democratic Club, Pam Prince and Candy Pope, (back, L-R) Aiden Bush gets a boost from Dad, David Bush, Steven Rose and Peter Strauss celebrate election night victories after President-elect Barack Obama's riveting acceptance speech. According to David Bush, the energetic Broidy was responsible for 'Getting Out the Vote' and registering 5,500 new Ventura County Democrats preceding the Nov. 4 election.

R. ELLIS - VTA COUNCIL MONEY WOES

Continued From Page 3...

zens allowing them to raise the sales tax 1/4 percent. Of course many of the Gang in the Ivory Tower had their ideas on why their sales tax failed. Gang Member, Bill Fulton says Oxnard's victory means Ventura will have more problems getting real good employees because now, with the added sales tax, Oxnard will be able to pay more for it's employees. We have a bunch of inquisitive citizens in Ventura, Hell they ask a whole lot of questions and even want honest answers.

Gang Member Neal Andrews, (wonder if he got rid of his McCain badge?) says he is very cautious about relying on voters to provide new income until the city proves it is using the money it receives now, in a proper manner that truly benefits all the citizens of Ventura and not only a chosen few.

Here's my idea, if the Gang in the Ivory Tower wants a chance that the citizens will vote in a 1/4 percent sales tax increase they will have to concede a few minor items.

1. Rescind the 911 charge completely.
2. Forget the \$4,000,000 overhaul of Cemetery Park, opt for a less costly wall of remembrance.
3. Remove their request for a \$75.00 increase in their personal travel expense.
4. Pass a city rule against hiring anymore outside consultants, until the city has at least a \$25,000,000 surplus on hand.
5. Remove the contract with the RedFlex company entirely.
6. Insist that the Ventura Housing Authority repay the entire \$500,000 loan with interest, placing a lien on all property owned by the Housing Authority until the loan is repaid.

Now this is only a small number of concessions they would have to agree to!

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SALON des ARTISTES

Are You Burying Your Head in the Sand ?

Wake Up & Take Charge of Your Health !

by Donna Jeffries

Funny, how ironic life can sometimes be. There I was sitting in the waiting room of my friendly neighborhood holistic dentist, waiting to get my mercury fillings removed. On a mission to eliminate my exposure to as many of the harmful toxins that I had learned about as I could, I was now down to the last few items on my hit list. While waiting my turn for the chair, I picked up a popular Woman's magazine. Always on the lookout for new and useful information, I attempted to do a little multi-tasking while waiting. There was bound to be some good info here, after all, a top magazine doesn't get to be a hit with the masses for nothing, does it ?

As I turned through page after page searching for something meaningful, I gradually came to the realization that my search looked futile. The only thing noteworthy seemed to be their outlandish quest to cram in as many pharmaceutical ads as they could. They were literally saturating the pages. I understand that a magazine's advertising revenue is the bread and butter that allows them to spread their glossy covers across the nation, but I guess I just didn't realize how influential those advertising companies might be over what lies inside that cover.

Risky "Prevention"

As I flipped through the multitude of pages touting everything from aspirin to birth control pills, I finally came upon a substantial looking article. It was about the increase in cases of ovarian cancer and what women can do to protect themselves against it. Under the headline "Prevention" — two of the ways suggested were the following: "Taking birth control pills" and "having a tubal ligation", which the article went on to claim... "can reduce your risk by 30 percent. Experts theorize that it stops environmental carcinogens from reaching the ovaries". Fascinating magazine all right — the audacious irony of it almost made me fall over in my chair !

They were actually suggesting for women to not only take carcinogenic chemicals into their bodies to prevent a problem that can be caused by carcinogenic chemicals (see '95 study by National Cancer Institute & '96 Lancet Meta — Analysis which found a 24 percent increase of cancer in users of birth control pills) — but they were also suggesting that women should just go ahead and go under the knife with invasive surgery instead of simply trying to reduce their exposure to the environmental carcinogens, which, as they even suggest — can be the cause of the problem !

With a little common sense we can do much better than that — conscious awareness is the key. We need to stop burying our heads in the sand. Armed with knowledge, and the awareness that we can stand up and take responsibility for own health (instead of popping pills for quick fixes or having doctors just "cut it out") we can live much more vibrant healthy lives.

Cutting Down our Exposure

Actively making an effort to reduce our exposure to carcinogens can make all the difference in the world. We need to do it not only for our health, but for the health of the planet. It's not always easy. It takes some thought and effort to do because harmful chemicals are everywhere: from

the preservatives & pesticides we consume to even the shampoos we use; from the fire-retardant sprayed upholstery we touch to the Styrofoam containers that leach out into our food. Each one of us is absorbing enormous amounts of toxic chemicals on a daily basis — 146 chemical ingredients from personal care products alone during the course of an average day. The more chemicals we can cut down our exposure to, the better.

Contrary to popular belief, the **FDA** doesn't require safety data on ingredients used in personal care products, and over a third contain ingredients classified by the government as possibly causing cancer. If you ever took a look at the **Material Safety Sheets** for some of the

most popular brands you would be completely flabbergasted ! Not surprisingly, this scourge of toxins is really starting to show up in our health statistics.

For instance, just since 1994 when **rbGH** (growth hormone given to cows to increase milk production) was introduced into our nations dairy supply (other nations have banned it by the way !) **Lymphatic Cancer** has increased 2,000 percent — that's right 2,000 percent !! This is statistical evidence revealed by the **U.S. Census Bureau**. These figures may start making you wish you really could just bury your head in the sand — well, don't — because at the end

of this article you'll find a list of some easy ways to help keep you from becoming one of the statistics !

Wake Up and Take Charge

Many of the diseases and ailments that are running rampant these days can actually be prevented by maintaining a healthy lifestyle and avoiding the chemicals and toxins that compromise our bodies' immune system. Awareness really is a vital key. There are some ailments, however, that are on the rise that we still need to do research on before we can determine how to actually prevent them. **Autism** is one of those ailments. As the above-mentioned magazine mentioned in another article — 20 years ago there were only 4 cases of **autism** for every 10,000 births, but currently in **New Jersey** alone, 1 in every 150 children has some form of it ! Unfortunately, it seems avoiding the issues and not thinking about the root cause has become something of a mantra for some of us — the magazine actually went on to state that during one recent study on the suspected connection between **autism** and childhood vaccinations — the researchers recommended that **NO** further research be done into this possible link — because (**God** help us if it really is the culprit) "the public may become too afraid to get vaccinated" !



✍ Donna Jeffries, Ventura

EVENT CALENDAR CONT.

Continued from Page 7...

- communication. Janette Daniel Whitney, Anne Escobedo & Joyce Faber are the facilitators. \$10 sugg. donation for individuals, \$15 sugg. Donation for groups of 2 or more. Scholarships avail. Lunch provided, free childcare available for children under 12 yrs. To register or further info. Joyce Faber, 647-8750, gjfaber@mac.com
- Nov. 15, 9am to Noon, e-Waste Collection, Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura, 5654 Ralston St. info. www.uuventura.org or 805/644-3898.
- Nov. 16, 1-4pm, An Afternoon of Jazz & Dancing, Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club, 2600 S. Harbor Blvd., Channel Islands Harbor, Oxnard, info. Bob, 984-8825, www.chanelcitiesjazzclub.org
- Nov. 20, 7-9pm-Art Reception, Ventura College "Small Images" Exhibit Benefit, Scholarship Fund Raiser, 4667 Telegraph Rd., Ventura. info. 402-0247
- Nov. 25, 7pm, The Annual Thanksgiving Service, Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Association (VIMA) benefiting the Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund at First United Methodist Church, 1338 E. Santa Clara St. info. about the service, Rev. Walt Dilg, 643-8621.
- Nov. 27, 11-2pm, Ventura's "One City" Thanksgiving Classic Thanksgiving Menu-Celebration, Ventura Knights of Columbus, 36 Figueroa St. info. www.onecityventura.org or Jesse Giglio at Missionary Church, 642.0550
- Nov. 27/28, 1-7pm Thanksgiving Grand Buffet, Ojai Valley Inn, Lavish Thanksgiving Grand Buffet Res. req. info. 640-2100
- Dec. 4-20, Sea Breeze Art Gallery, "The Salon Exhibit" - 255 South Laurel St., Ventura, info. 643-3973
- Dec. 14, 8-3pm, Chopper Fest, Seaside Park, Ventura, Tribute to David Man, hosted by Jennifer Scott, info. Chopperfestival.com, Tory, 217-2113 or Harry, 650-6777

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Midlife Crisis Begins in Kindergarten

by Mariaemma Pelullo-Willis, M.S., Success Coach



Midlife Crisis is the term we use to indicate a trauma experienced in the middle years — usually having to do with the question, “What am I doing with my life?” There are stories of extreme

reactions that all of us have heard — like the guy who is a doctor, quits one day, and goes to live in the woods — as well as less dramatic cases, such as the corporate executive who decides to start her own business.

There is nothing wrong with changing careers. But we don't say midlife celebration, we say midlife crisis! Crisis... because this time is often associated with feelings of unhappiness and confusion. Some people choose to “run away.” Others are afraid to change anything, then believe for the rest of their lives that they have been short changed. These are the people who say in later years, ‘If only . . . I missed my chance to . . .’

And, so, we have books such as *Do What You Love, The Money Will Follow* by Marsha Sinetar, *How To Find Your Mission In Life* by Richard Bolles, *Life Launch* by Hudson and McLean . . . the theme being that if you knew what you were meant to do in the world you would have a purpose, and purpose leads to fulfillment, happiness, and healthy relationships.

How do we figure out our purpose? Look at your natural talents and interests, the books say. Many include self-assessments to help you figure out what you love, just in case you don't know anymore.

When children start school they bring their natural talents and gifts with them. Instead of encouraging these, the first thing we do is teach them to put their interests on hold. We begin early the process of hiding the clues, the keys to our adult lives. We begin attaching labels: *slow, average, ADD, LD* . . . Years later the potential scientists or artists or teachers have these seeds buried so deeply they can no longer remember what set them on fire. And they need a book or a therapist to help them rediscover who they are.

I have a sign in my office that reads, “It is better to build children than repair adults.”

We need to pay attention to the child who needs to drum on the desk,

the one who memorizes better when shooting baskets, the one who is interested in rocks. We need to stop labeling children as dysfunctional and start labeling the positives: keeps excellent rhythm, very coordinated, a whiz at the computer, great rapport with animals, natural comedian. Children who grow up learning about their own talents and styles become confident adults who achieve dreams and are enthusiastic about lifelong learning.

Remember the old saying, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure?” We can give children the right start by respecting each one's unique learning needs. For those of us who are already grown up, see you at the bookstore!

- Mariaemma Pelullo-Willis, Ventura
www.learningsuccesscoach.com
www.mariaemmawillis.com
805-648-1739

Editors Note: M. Pelullo-Willis

Mariaemma is a consultant, educational therapist, and co-author of *Midlife Crisis Begins in Kindergarten*, *Discover Your Child's Learning Style*, and *The Power of You Now*. She may be reached at the Learning Center, 1590 E. Main St., Ventura.

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Help of Ojai Heartens Seniors with Pie and Festivities

Help of Ojai's Pumpkin Social, Saturday, Oct. 25 brought a warm sense of Community to Ojai's senior center. Ojai

is well known for the great network of services it provides to seniors, and the Little House is bustling with activity during the holiday season. Saturday, volunteers of all ages cheerfully donated their time and efforts, flipping burgers, serving fresh pumpkin pie, entertain-

More Photos Page 13



Photo ©, 2008 Mary Long

ing children and providing warmth and cheer. Leslie Kelso, Queen of the Little House kitchen baked up 150 Pumpkin Pies for Saturday's celebration. Don't miss their Thanksgiving Potluck when Leslie dons her apron again, on Thurs. Nov. 20 at 5pm For information call 646-5122 or drop by at 111 West Santa Ana St. in Ojai.

Mary M. Long

Gem Quest Anniversary Bash



Steve Brandt and Cathy Barnett with band members Erol, Tom Acree and friends cleared the floor Nov. 25 for dancing and classic '60's Rock n' Roll to celebrate the Gem Quest Anniversary. Top: Cathy Barnett, Steve Brandt, lower left Will Reason and revelers.



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Dance with Aloha - (front row, kneeling left to right) Mariah Hernandez, Sierra Christie, Sofia Felino, Ashlyn Laubacher, Alex Ohlinger, Sienna Hernandez. Standing left to right: Jocelyn Carroll, Tyher Gallardo, Evedyne Cerda, Shannon Macias, Katie Magallon, Lorraine Mujica, Jessica Orasco, Emma Ashworth, Madison Ahn, Jamie Power.

Dance with Aloha

by Mary M. Long

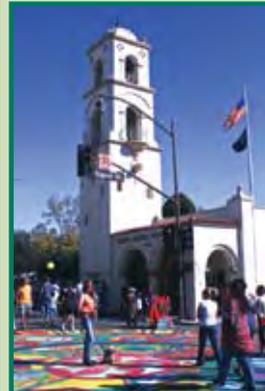
Hula is the soul of Hawaii expressed in motion. Entering Tropic Travels in downtown Ventura, you might think you had just landed in Hawaii. Instructor Lorraine Mujica smiles, gently, gestures, and says "I am Hawaiian in the heart... but that is enough." A troupe of 15 pretty girls from ages 8 - 14 are performing Polynesian dances under the direction of their teacher and mentor Ms. Mujica. The graceful movement of their hands and their rapt expressions make it easy to believe that their bare feet should be on the warm sands of a Polynesian island instead of the cement floors of a dance studio. Chanting and moving with the rhythm with the songs, the girls' long hair flows around them, cascading down to the colorful hand painted paros that wrap their hips. As Polynesian dancers the girls learn both Hula and Tahitian dancing, changing costumes as they change the type of dance they are performing. According to Lorraine, "it is often said that while hula tells the story with the hands, the Tahitian story is told with the hips". Tahitian dance is some of the most exciting and popular of the Polynesian dances and is sought after for ceremonies and celebrations.



Tahitian drumming songs, or O'tea's, are fast while the Aparima dances tell a story sung in the Tahitian language. The girls have all grown their hair out which is a requirement as members of the troupe. For performances they braid their hair into four parts which when brushed out creates a beautiful wave pattern. Lorraine smiles and says "I like seeing the friendships that happen between the girls and watching them grow up as Polynesian dancers." It's obvious that the girls are enjoying themselves and many of the friendships formed in Hula class continue outside of dance class and at school. "Our friends think what we do is cool" says one of the teenage dancers. "we think it's really fun."

As they dance, Lorraine, or "Kinooe" calls out praise and direction to the girls using their Hawaiian names. Each girl has been given a Hawaiian name based on the meaning of their birth name. For instance Lynn, which translates as running water, becomes "Waialele" or "waterfall" in the Hawaiian language. Lorraine also teaches the historical significance of the dance explaining that "we bend our knees to dance closer to the earth so that we're closer to our ancestors". Every movement in hula has a specific meaning, and every expression of the dancer's ment in hula has significance. Although Hula originated as a form of worship, it has gradually evolved into a form of entertainment. This committed, tight knit group meets at least twice a week and has performed at the Oxnard Christmas Parade, the Buena Ventura Mall and The Harbor Lights Festival Gazebo. The girls are now looking forward to performing for the halftime show at the Ventura College football game on Nov. 15, at 7pm.

In honor of the group's 5-year anniversary, they had planned to visit Hawaii this fall, but were unfortunately not able to afford it. "Pretty soon" they said, all talking and laughing at once... "we'd love to go, it would be so much fun to see Hawaii with all our friends." Debra Reasonable, owner of Tropic Travels proudly sponsors the "Dance With Aloha" troupe and enjoys watching the girls grow up and reach their personal milestones. Drop in for Debra's complimentary Kona Coffee and browse the travel brochures. A little bit of Hawaii right here in Ventura just might whet your appetite for a tropical vacation. After 30 years in the travel business Deborah specializes in Polynesian Vacations, a decision made for the passion she feels for the Islands. For information on the youth group Dance with Aloha or the Adult Dance group Manava Polynesia contact : Lorraine Mujica 320-1395 , kilinoe66@yahoo.com or Debra Reasonable, 648-6968, travel@west.net



Ojai Day

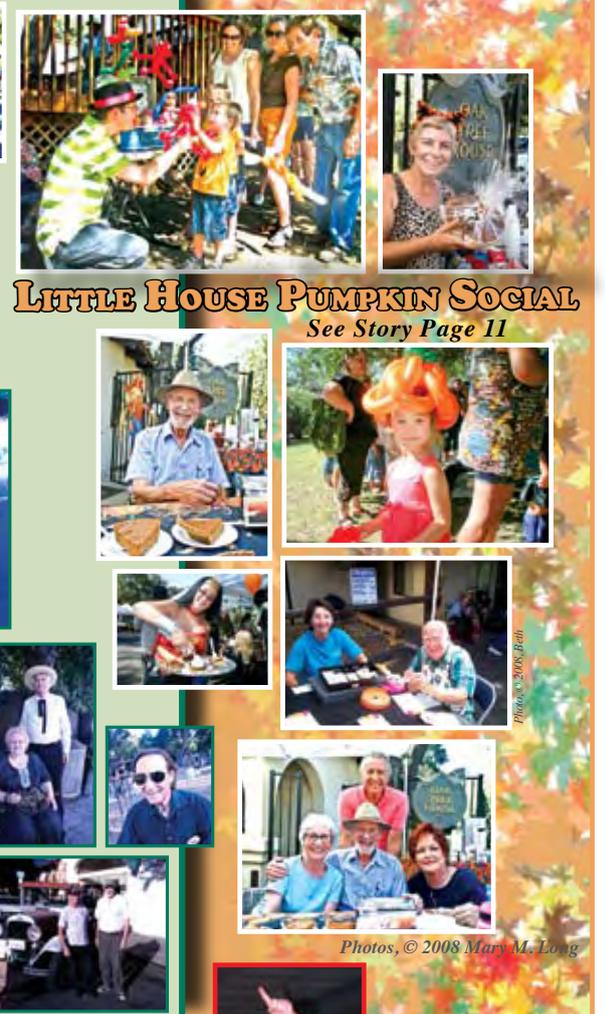
Ojai Day was first celebrated in 1917 in honor of Edward Libbey's completion of the downtown Arcade. In 1991 "Friends of the Arcade" led by long time Ojai resident Craig Walker decided to reincarnate the event to kick off the restoration of the Arcade structure. This reinvigorated Ojai Day sought to celebrate Ojai's culture and heritage with a Street Fair for local art and agriculture. Originally conceived as a bi-annual event, Ojai Day has now grown into a large annual street fair, attended by many merchants from outside the area. Since 1993 Ojai Day has been under the guidance of the City, organized through the Parks and Rec Department. With the addition of Aztec Indians dancing on the Mandala and such commercial attractions as the Climbing Wall and the Jolly Jump many local residents are considering the festivities a far cry from the original ideal.

Text & Photos, ©2008, Joel Anderson



LITTLE HOUSE PUMPKIN SOCIAL

See Story Page 11



Photos, © 2008 Mary M. Long

Battle for the Coast - Ventura - 2008 Roller Derby Tournament

"Blood and Stitches!"

Hosted by the Uta. Co. Derby Darlin's

Photos, ©2008, Joel Anderson



THE LEASHES END



Ron and his companion, Dudley.

by Ron Rowe

Do animals see things that humans cannot? According to **John Downey**, they do. Sharks for instance, don't just see a swimming human being; they see electrical auras around the body. Dolphins are fascinated by pregnant swimmers because they emit sound waves which create an ultrasound scan. Just like a hospital, they can also see a baby in the womb. People swimming with dolphins feel themselves zapped by the sonar, powerful enough to stun fish for food. Whales send out sonic messages that carry for hundreds of miles. Even plants talk to one another. In **Africa** when a giraffe eats an **Acala Bush**, it sends signals to other bushes nearby. They instantly secrete a poison on their leaves. And it is a known fact that **Prince Charles** talks to plants, and hey, if you can't believe the prince who can you believe -- a politician?

At the **Wittlich Fame Academy in Germany**, pets are being taught to play piano, dance and play instruments. **Teacher Vivian** thereby uses the tricks and techniques of animal trainers. If the pet gets the right note, he gets a reward, a star pupil. **Fuchs**, the cat, has given concerts, cut CDs and accompanies his teacher on her baby grand piano. **Bellos**, the dog, has been taught to dance in six months. Other

“Pet psychics... taking advantage of people’s grief for money is wrong...”

students include **Katy** the hen, who plays the xylophone and specializes in **Twinkle Twinkle Little Star**. **Teacher Vivian** claims it's another form of communication between pets and people.

Speaking of animal communication, many readers have sent me e-mails asking for more information on dog training and pet psychics. Let me repeat what I wrote about in my last article. There are no state laws or tests to pass to become a dog trainer. Anyone can put up a sign claiming to be a dog trainer. Being a certified dog trainer, again I ask, certified by whom? Not the county or state. Regarding pet psychics, again, anyone can claim, to communicate with pets that have passed over, there is no proof to verify contact with dead animals. I have no problem with anyone who wants to give solace and comfort to a bereaved pet owner who has lost a pet, it shows compassion. When large sums of money are asked to contact dead pets, that I disagree with, taking advantage of people's grief for money is wrong in my opinion. Spiritual wisdom has never been and will never be for sale, it is to be shared with all humanity. Your comments are welcome.

The **British Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)** has pulled out of the world famous

CRUFTS dog show over concerns about the welfare of pedigree dogs. They want new measures to tackle deformity, disability and disease in pedigree breeds. Dogs that suffered from genetic illness have competed at **CRUFTS** and unhealthy and often inbred dogs have gone on to win **Best of Breed** and **Best of Show**. The **BBC** recently aired a program documentary showing a prize-winning **Cavalier King Charles Spaniel** with **syringomyelia**, a condition that occurs when a dog's skull is too small for its brain. The program, **Pedigree Dogs Exposed**, also featured **Boxer** dogs suffering from epilepsy, **Pugs** with breathing problems and **Bulldogs** who were unable to mate or give birth unassisted. **Veterinarian Mark Evans** called for a shift of emphasis away from the looks of show dogs towards their healthy welfare and temperament. There is compelling evidence that the health and welfare of hundreds of thousands of pedigree dogs are seriously compromised, as a result, intentionally breeding deformed and disabled animals is morally unjustified and must stop, said **Evans**.

It's rather sad when a healthy competitive dog show loses its sportsmanship and gives in to greed and vanity.

Did you know, that female **Tarantulas** kill 99 percent of the babies they hatch. The **Amazon Rain Forest** produces half of the world's oxygen supply. A giraffe can kill a lion with one kick. The ostrich is the only bird that provides us with leather. Rattlesnakes sleep through winter in groups, sometimes up to 1000 will cuddle up together to keep warm. An octopus can do complex puzzles and can even undo the top of a screw top jar.

Thank goodness the election is over. Now **Bark Obama** and **John McCanine** can rest.

Great news for pet companions. **Linda's Claws and Paws** is now open 7-days-a-week and centrally located at **1865 E. Main St., Ventura**, (with free delivery to **Santa Barbara, Montecito and Ojai**, by appointment). Owner **Linda** is committed to offering quality toys, healthful treats, supplements and much more. Do pop down to see **Linda** and check it out. Tell her, Rowe sent you, and give her a kiss from me. **info. 648-6060**.

Attention - All lucky people who share a home with a pet. If you are like me, and require help bathing, clipping or trimming nails, not to worry, good help is at hand. **Paula** and **Veronica** are very experienced groomers, and are willing to help you, for a wee fee of course. They have decided to leave **Naturally 4 paws** and reach out to grasp their **American** dream by opening their own grooming shop in **Ventura**. Look for the Grand Opening in mid-town **Ventura**, coming very soon. To make an appointment, call **643-0868, Bark Avenue, 1995 E. Main St., Ste. B**. You won't be sorry.

Reverend Rachel Bickford of the **Pilgrim Congregational Church in Massachusetts** is encouraging worshipers to bring their dogs to service; they will have special *woof and worship* services, the **Reverend** said. Dogs bring such hope in a world where we are surrounded by such hopelessness. Amen to you, **Reverend**. Hope the service doesn't end with poop in the pews, and that the humans will pray, *dear Lord, please make me the person my dog*

thinks I am -- amen.

Greg Lenoir of **Florida** jumped into the sea to save his small **Jack Russell Terrier** from being eaten by a shark. He fought off the 5-foot shark with his fists. Both terrier and Greg are doing well. Ah well, love for a pet knows no bounds. Strange but true.

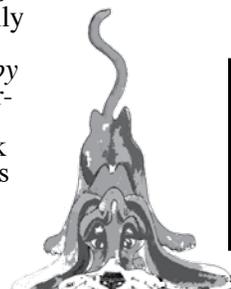
An upscale **Manhattan New York** spa is charging \$180 to smear clients faces with dried nightingale dung, the special **Japanese** facial gives you skin as flawless as a geisha, or so claims the spa. In **Virginia**, a spa is offering pedicures performed by 100 tiny **Garra ruffa** fish, also known as **Dr. Fish** in **Asian** countries. The toothless fish nibble off all calluses and other dead skin. One customer said, it was very ticklish.

Modern science has proven that dogs can enhance the psychological well-being of people. **Ancient Romans** kept dogs in temples honoring **Asclepius the Greek God of Healing**. The dog's job was to lick the affected body parts to cure disease. Guess what medical cure is back -- Maggots. Doctors have begun using Maggots to clean wounds of patience limbs, they are remarkably efficient at eating dead tissue and killing of bacteria that blocks the healing process. Maggot medicine went out of fashion with the advent of modern antibiotics. Now, however, bacteria has developed greater resistance to antibiotics, so maggots make a comeback. Ah well, such is progress.

Time to contemplate on the words of **Alfred Montapert**, who wrote, "animals are reliable, many full of love, true in their affections, predictable in their actions, grateful and loyal. Difficult standards for humans beings to live up to."

Peace and blessings to all beings on earth.

Comments welcome, **Ron Rowe**
rhjrowe@aol.com



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HipCat Scenes

by Mary M. Long



"I love building cat houses for people who really dig what I do"

What's up Pussy-cat? Designer cat trees for the cat and cat owner who have everything? In a market overwhelmed with flimsy cat trees **Charlie Vanoni** is creating one of a kind Cat trees that are both rug-

ged and beautiful. Charlie works in a variety of medias and brings as many types of his art work as possible into the construction of his trees. Each feline fantasyland has its own stained glass window as well as incorporating macramé and braided rope art.

"I wanted to make something way cooler than what was on the market and something that a 15 pound cat could launch at and it would still stay standing". Charlie constructs his trees out of re-purposed wood and likes to keep them

as organic as possible in terms of how they look and feel. Charlie explains, "I try to think from the perspective of the cat as far as where I put a step or where I put an entrance. They always have a back exit so they never feel trapped". The family cat who goes by the unlikely title "**Frufey the Dog**" field tests the new designs at home in the living room to make sure they are cat tested, cat ap-

proved. Ranging in price from \$300 to \$900 Charlie leaves the upper end open as he is always interested in incorporating new ideas and functions to create the super-cool cat house. He likes to involve the client in the design process, matching their home theme and color scheme. "I've made cat houses to look like gnarled stumps, pyramids and tropical paradises. I'd love to make a Bonsai house and I'd really love to do a big house on the theme of the "**Ventura TwoTrees**". Time is running out to order your custom cat paradise before Christmas but Charlie can issue a Gift certificate for the **Feline Fantasy Tree House** of your choice for your Christmas Stocking. Dream it, design it, scratch it, climb it..... info. 857-1573, Avail. at Cottontail Creations

- Mary M. Long

Company Cat of the Month: Dragon



Photo © 2008, Mary M. Long

Dragon and Meg Goodwin of Ojai House - Dragon is the living piece of feline art in Meg's Gallery of functional art in Ojai. Meg loves cats because they are self-sufficient and sensitive to their owner's feelings. Dragon and Cuddle Bug moved into Meg's Ojai House a few years ago, when their original owners moved out of their home across the street. When Dragon is not busy, following Meg, she can often be found sleeping in the tea house. "I'm so attached to her," says Meg, "People come into the shop just to see Dragon". Visit Dragon and do your Christmas Shopping at **Ojai House, 304 N. Montgomery St.** and put the "fun" back in functional art.

info. OjaiHouse.com 640-1656

Hope for Homeless Dogs



Sharon Clark, President Board of Directors, Mark Ediuson, Program Officer Annenberg Foundation, Ericka Novotny, Grants Manager Annenberg Foundation,

On a windy Wednesday, representatives from the Annenberg Foundation met with members of the Canine Adoption & Rescue League to christen "The Annenberg Intake & Assessment Center". The \$500,000 Annenberg Foundation grant will help provide quality care for homeless and abused dogs in Ventura County. \$400,000 of the grant money will be used to retire a second mortgage on the property while the remaining \$100,000 will be used for improvements and operating expenses.

C.A.R.L.-Adopt



Photos © 2008, Joel Anderson

Ike is an adorable **Min Pin-Chihuahua** mix. Pictured here cuddling with **C.A.R.L. Volunteer "Nicole"**, **Ike** is looking for a new family. This friendly, sweet little dog was relinquished by his owners because they had too many dogs. Meet **Ike** and other adoptable pets every **Sat. 11-4pm** and **Sun. 12-4pm** at 3004 Telegraph Rd, Ventura. info. 652-1001

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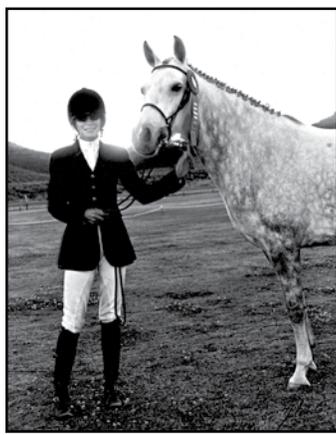
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The No Dummies Guide to Holiday Horse Pro Shopping

by Mary M. Long



Mary Long and Cashel Lorica, Wildhorse, Napa, 2001
Photo © 2001, Joel Anderson

A pony not in your budget? You might consider buying your child a gift certificate for riding lessons instead! Many training centers have reliable lesson horses so that you can find out through experience whether or not your kid has truly been bitten by the “horse bug.”

Of course, choosing a reliable professional has its pitfalls, so here’s a guide to sifting through the sea of marketing hype to find someone you “hope” you can entrust your most important little person to.

With buzz words like “natural horsemanship”... and trainers claiming to be “the horses’s best friend” and the “horse whisperer”, how does the parent of the horse crazy child differentiate between the real and the bogus horse trainer? In the **United States** there are a few organizations which have begun a certification process for trainers, but nothing like what exists in **Europe**, so for better or worse it’s still a bit of the **Old West** when it comes to choosing a riding teacher. Like any profession that doesn’t have a formal education process this sport turns on the art of self-promotion. For the uninitiated the task of weeding through the wannabees and the phonies can be dizzying. Big fancy stables usually have the best professionals, right? **NOT NECESSARILY**... Like all businesses, profit is the axis on which the stable turns. “*All that glitters is not gold*” is often true of the big show place stables. If you are prepared to spend big money, it’s likely that your child will get plenty of attention and the best horses but remember that the big pocket is mostly likely to get the “big horse”

If your name isn’t **Trump** a great alternative is **Pony Club**. **Pony Club** is one of the best horse organizations with a world wide network. **Pony Club** does have a trainer accreditation system which assures you that your teacher (personality aside) has been trained in the **Pony Club** safety and instruction systems. Like any satellite system, though, the quality of each individual pony club rests largely on who is the **District Commissioner (DC)**.

If there is no **Pony Club** in your area then my favorite way to get the down and dirty on the local professionals is to attend a local horse show and take a nice quiet ring side seat by the practice arena. At every horse show there will be one professional who stands out from the crowd. That professional

will have a center ring position, very often standing with their hands on their hips, shouting orders at their students. The cultivated casual-pro look is very important to this individual so look for the baseball cap and “tennie” shoes. The *higher* the volume of their voice the *lower* the chances are that this professional actually knows what they are talking about. Sadly, there are a lot of people in the teaching profession not because they have something to impart but because they like the feeling of authority.

When making this oh-so-important decision for your child, look for the pro whose students look appropriately mounted, who look like they are enjoying themselves, and who are having consistently problem free rides. A really good trainer doesn’t hand out superlatives like candy, they must be earned. Look out for the flatterer, they may be just looking to hook a new student or steal someone else’s. The best don’t necessarily end up with the blue ribbon though, because there are also a lot of pros who mount their students on big \$ horses which may end up in the winners circle but aren’t necessarily teaching their passengers to ride. This is an issue with many big stables that depend on “point chasing” to keep up their professional reputations. If they don’t teach good sportsmanship and are only interested in winning ribbons you can save yourself a lot of money staying home and buying a box of ribbons from a trophy company.

This then, is a personal decision for you, the parent. What are your reasons for supporting your child’s riding enthusiasm? The best reason is that they are learning to participate in a sport that they can enjoy their whole life. Unlike swimming, soccer, volleyball and track, there are individuals who have participated in Olympic equestrian sports well into their 60s. Horse care and ownership should carry the added bonus of developing responsibility. Then again, if you view riding as only an activity or a method of burning off some unwanted calories,

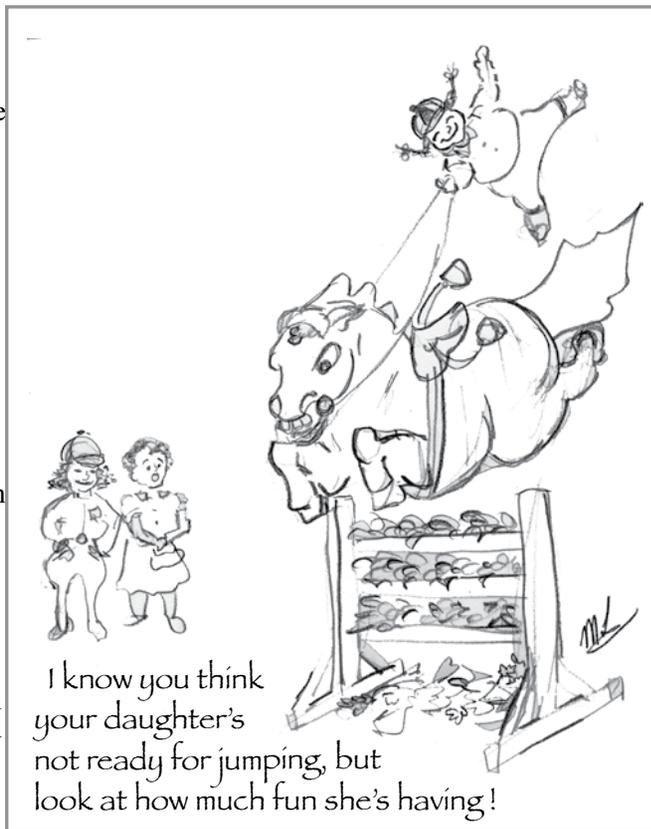
then just adjust your expectations down and have fun with it. If you ride only once a week or only on weekends don’t expect to be secure enough in the saddle for sports like jumping. However, you can certainly learn enough basics to enhance your enjoyment of vacation spots that offer horse rides, and trail riding with friends.

When you’ve made your selection, you still need to inform yourself, and the best way to do this is to keep and read a selection of the classic horse manuals. The **Pony Club** handbooks should be on every horseman’s shelf. Go to your chosen stable and watch several lessons before you sign your child up. If there’s a selection of lesson horses, start to familiarize yourself with which ones are the kids’ favorites. If you show up late and there’s only one pony left, there’s probably a reason! Buy your child their own helmet (make sure it fits), check your own girth (mistakes happen). Stay away from nylon breeches unless you think that children learn to ride by fall-

ing off. Invest in leather, not synthetic leather, for gloves and breeches or leggings. A little traction is worth its weight in gold. Buy quality used instead of shiny new and always trust your instincts as a parent. Most accidents are preceded by a series of bad judgment calls, so do everything possible to insure success and your little angel will be all ready for a Jolly Good Ride!

For more information on the **United States Pony Club** go to www.ponyclub.org or their parent organization and biggest horse organization in the world, **The Pony Club of the United Kingdom** www.pcuk.org.

Comments welcome, Mary M. Long
PetViews@OjaiandVenturaView.com



“The higher the volume of their voice the lower the chances are that this professional actually knows what they are talking about.”

What’s a Bunny to Do ?

by Janet McNeil, D.V.M.

In our troubled economy, it is good to know that getting down to the grass-roots basics is not necessarily bad. Imagine if the current election year issues centered on eating right, living in appropriate housing, getting along with each other, and having fun.

If you are a rabbit or guinea pig, those are the issues that define your world. Eating right means being healthier and health care costs go down. Living in the right conditions reduces stress and you stay healthier, health care costs go down, AND you don’t have to pay



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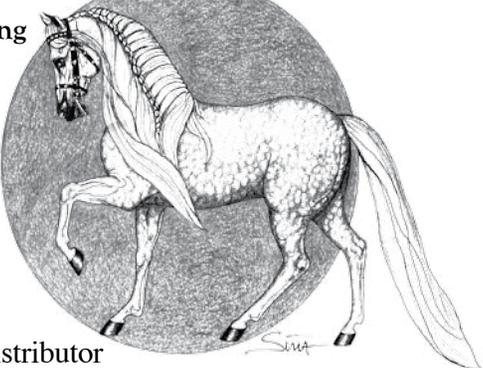
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your police overtime since everyone is happy and staying out of trouble. Even better, rabbits are very interested in the environment and have no need of taxes.

Kicking an image, as any child star can tell you, is the real bugger. Rabbits have had to deal with the image that they are fluffy, fearful little lettuce-eating airheads. Keep an eye on the **Santa Barbara B.U.N.S. (Bunnies Urgently Needing Shelter)** website www.bunssb.org for the next **Bunny Festival**, which was unfortunately postponed this year. A demonstration of Rabbit agility and clicker training will be a pleasing eye-opener. This rescue group also periodically offers classes, which are worth the drive. Interacting with a rabbit on a daily level brings a whole new appreciation of their complex personalities. **Schroeder** was a **Rex-mix-buck** (boy) that lived in our house and happily bounced around inspecting everyone, watching TV with the family, and demanding his meals be delivered on time. He was easily litter box trained. Aside from having to protect electrical cords and a few literary selections from his teeth, the only other problem we had was that "sex thing". When Bugs Bunny said "one thing rabbits know how to do is multiply" he wasn't kidding. Since few veterinarians did rabbit neuters at that time, I had to deal with his romantic overtures until senility



set in at 11-years-old. This is why rabbit social needs should not be ignored. Ideally **Schroeder** should have had a companion who spoke his language and enjoyed mutual grooming and other bunny entertainments. The **House Rabbit Association** www.rabbit.org and well as the **B.U.N.S.** site have behavior information and links to good sites. 4-H club rabbit projects are also good sources for kids 5-19 years old to learn about and show their rabbits. Volunteering with a rescue is a good way to learn and give at the same time.

As you sit in your cubicle, ponder the lone rabbit in the outdoor hutch or the indoor cage barely two body lengths long. Kind of makes you want to take a bathroom break to stretch your legs all of a sudden. Living in too small an area makes rabbits go nuts too. These are foraging creatures that need to spend their time investigating, chewing (toys, twigs, safe stuff, y'know), grazing, grooming, and snoozing. Most commercially available habitats are visually appealing to humans, but have the appeal of **Chateau D'If (The count of Monte Cristo)** if you need a good book to the rabbit. Here's your chance to show the voting public that creative and affordable housing can be had: www.guineapigcages.com has rabbit instructions also. If each guinea pig needs 7.5 square feet, you can imagine how much a rabbit needs. Outdoor habitats are not bad, but urban wildlife and domestic pets present a huge hazard. In some areas like **Santa Barbara**, mosquito-borne disease like **Myxomatosis** is a hazard for outdoor rabbits.

Eating right is even easier. Fiber. Rabbits and guinea pigs both need lots. Forage grasses and timothy hay are most ideal. Alfalfa is too rich unless you are a breeding and growing rabbit. It can lead to bladder stones and other problems from too much calcium and protein. Luckily there are also timothy-hay based pellets available (**Oxbow** and **Kaytee**) but smell the food and make sure it has a good, fresh scent and is not grey-green from age. Water ALWAYS should be fresh and plentiful. Rabbits and guinea pigs do NOT need mixes full of grain, banana chips, yogurt drops, honey and other high-sugar, high carbohydrate foods that change the pH of their guts and cause the wrong bacteria to develop. Guinea pigs do need Vitamin C, but some of the water supplements have sugar in them, so do your label reading. Vitamin C can be supplied in a good (fresh!) pellet diet and, with additional vegetables and fruits, be high in that vitamin. Rabbits and guinea pigs, like horses, are hindgut fermenters. They need the little microbes living in their cecums to break down the fiber and liberate the nutrients they need. Fresh vegetables and fruits should be a small portion of the overall daily intake. Fiber! Fiber! Rah! Rah! Rah!

Rabbits come in many sizes, from the Dog-size **Flemish Giants** to the tiny-eared **Netherland Dwarf**. There are many color and coat types to choose from. Some like the **Angora** and require a lot of grooming, but can also be a moneymaker for home-spinners and knitters.

Another good thing about being a rabbit, your reproductive rights are not as hotly contested as our dog and cats (or human females for that matter). A little judicious choice in roommates and Wa-LA! No babies! Dominant

personalities need to be matched with less pugnacious types though. Yes, little fuzzy bunnies are cute, but they also overflow rescues and shelters; they escape to become munchmeat for wildlife, and they compete with wildlife for forage and can destroy sensitive habitats, especially in drought years. Oh yeah, kids squeeze them too hard and they get dropped and injured. Spaying and neutering are much safer and more available nowadays for rabbits and guinea pigs, though not all veterinarians offer that service.

Remember, good basics mean good health. Most health problems stem from bad diet and poor habitats, but here are some other issues. Poorly cleaned habitats/cages cause urine scald and other skin lesions. The popularity of dwarf breeds has brought a lot of dental problems, which need dental care. Like horses, some rabbits need their molar teeth filed down (floated) in order to eat properly. Rabbits and guinea pigs can get fleas and mites. While these may need appropriate treatments, habitat cleanliness and uncrowning is very important. DO NOT use a flea preventative on your rabbit or guinea pig without consulting a veterinarian to be sure it is safe, the wrong choice can kill.

A few more links and info, www.petfinder.com www.cavyspirit.com (guinea pig rescue), **House Rabbit handbook** by **Marinell Harriman**, a much-recommended tome.

- **Janet McNeil, D.V.M., Ojai**

Princely Poultry Hold Court at Seaside



Photo © 2008, Janet McNeil



Photo © 2008, Janet Anderson



Zack Rose (above left) and his **Silver Phoenix**, with **Taylor Thatcher** (above right) and her **Grey Call Duck**, "Clyde". **Judge Paul Monteith** (at top left), (Top photo) a **Serama Rooster**, **Amanda Penicks** and her **Mom, Shannon** (top right) with **Amanda's Mandarin Duck**. **Amanda** commits hours a day to her animals and hopes to be a **Veterinarian**. **Emalie McGee** with **Ariel Redmond** (lower right) and her **Golden Campine**.

The American Poultry Association National Poultry Show, held at Seaside Park Oct. 24-26, was a rare opportunity to see the jewels of the poultry world.

Chicken breeds from giant **Brahma** to petite bantams **Serama**, impressive heirloom breed turkeys, large and small ducks, pigeons of all varieties, and exotic fowl like pheasants and tragopans.

The business of raising and showing fancy varieties of fowl engages people from all walks of life, often involving whole families in urban and rural areas. 4-H kids can spend 2-hours-a-day feeding and caring for their flocks; skills that may well lead to scholarships and careers in animal husbandry or science. Many judges came from the farthest reaches of US and Canada. Although fuel costs may have limited the amount of contestants, many exhibitors came from out of state, illustrating great passion for their poultry.

While there are many shows throughout the year, this is a crowning event. Pity it was not more widely promoted in a county that owes much to agriculture.



- **Janet McNeil, D.V.M., Ojai**

Adopt a Cat: Ojai Humane Society

Entering the Cat habitat at the **Humane Society** is like entering the display window of a fancy store except these beautiful cats are real. Gorgeous calicos, luscious sables, exotic tigers and dainty Persians vie for our attention. If you can open your heart and your home to the addition of a feline companion there is a whole rainbow of cats to choose from. **Visit them at 402 Bryant St., Ojai or www.humanesocietyvc.org**

- **Editor**

Mambo & Cinder



Photos © 2008, Joel Anderson

My name is **Mambo** - I'm black and I'm beautiful with short lush ebony fur and gold eyes. My friend, **Cinder** is all black too and we both LOVE to play. My brother **Zachary** thinks stripes are far superior to black and I admit he does look rather dashing. Come down and meet us...we are always up for a party!

Tabitha

My name is **Tabitha**, my sister **Morgan** and I are **Persian** if you please. We adore each other and would love to stay together. As you can see we are very petite and feminine, beautiful on the inside and out, decorative and loving.



Miss Kitty

They tell me my name is **Miss Kitty** but I know I'm a Princess. I am such a beauty and I know I would look marvelous daaahling on your couch! I'm a bit particular though, and I would like to be the **ONLY** pet in an adult house. Trust me I'm worth it!



Linda Allison, volunteer & **Miss Kitty**.



Adoption Links

www.vcar.us
petfinder.com
www.aussieresocalsocal.com

INTERVIEW: Brad Buley



Photo © 2008, Joel Anderson

by Joel Anderson

I'm working on an album...the name of the band is going to be **Purnel**...the album will be called **Moderneyes**. (*Modern Eyes*). I've got 11 tracks. It will be a cool **British** influence rock sound. Not that I'm **British** but..." which was how I started talking to **Brad Buley** about his recent music happenings, a few questions and after that it was all listening for me.

"It'll be coming out sometime January, February. I just went back to my 6th grade style man - old school literally - a side comb hair job and taking it easy. I've been playing with **Adrian Burke, Bruce Kimmel, Sunny Erickson, Robin Ryder, Robert Roehelle**. I'm not sure who the final band is going to be. The music has a very emotional soft sound like the band **Sigarose** but more of the pop edge of **Coldplay** or **Snow Patrol**; some of the more cool modern **British** bands. It's very original sounding...very deep and heartfelt on the lyrics...simple on the music so that the message is real clear. My goal is to be able to not do too much ahead of time so that when we go to perform the music we can really embody it and embrace it in the moment so to have it be not too technical.

"So far as the musicians I've been able to play the songs with they have all just loved it. I'm writing all of it. I composed all of the music and the parts. I actually finished the album compositionally by myself tracking everything, then I got my musician friends in to replay the parts...personalize the parts and develop them themselves. But I needed to write the bass structure myself so that I could insure the style being solid and strong. It's a new style around here, nobody's really doing this style in this area...no way...you can find it maybe in Seattle and mainly in **London**. It's a common sound in pop rock music but the trend around here is more like a singer/songwriter folk based.

I'm now trying to change the influences a bit and come out with something new and cool. Even though I've written all the

parts and all the composition, it will be personalized by the musicians and we'll come out as a band called **Purnel**. They love it man, they just tweak it and it all works. All the musicians I play with, they LOVE Music. I'm stoked to work with people who have that inspired thing and not everyone does.

I was born and raised around **Southern California**. I graduated here in **Ojai** and went to school at **Berklee College of Music in Boston**. That's where I studied composition. I'd been backing up bands as a drummer and in my dead time when I didn't have a project I'd been writing tunes. Eventually I had an album's worth.

It's important to do the covers so that when you go to write your own music you have a wealth of influence and experience behind your writing. If you're just doing covers you can burn out on music and that's no fun. Music is a fountain that spurts out constantly and if you're not swimming in the fountain...and you're just getting splashed by the spray playing covers, it doesn't feel very good. But if you're in it and you're really writing...it's inspiring. That's one thing that's just starting to emerge around here.

I think **Nathan (McEuen)** started doing it and a lot of people really started pushing the independent music thing. **Emy Reynolds** is doing it and **Leslie Merical** is a big part of helping develop the talent around here.

Greg Penny who I've been talking to and working with at **Flower Records**, he's also developing a lot of talent. I think it's gonna be a cool next 2 to 3 years...some big stuff is going to happen in this area. NO DOUBT.

I have the fortune of getting to work with **Michael Dumas**, who does the life sound engineering for the **Doors**. He's producing albums at the studio that I'm in, and he brought **Robby Kreiger** over there to be tracking **Robby's** next tunes. They leave all their gear up so I just jump on and use all those instruments and it's already set up and dialed. So I'm going to get that really cool modern **Robby Kreiger, Doors, Michael Dumas**, all those guys, **Texas**... and the bass player has already been in there working. It's a lot of like really like cool experienced musicians cuttin' through the studio and I just get to jump in on their stuff when they're not there and work on my album.

I'm blessed right now...and it wasn't always like that. It was me at the studio, alone with a few different partners, just kind of holding it down until these guys came in and filled it up.

Here's a simple little chain of events, I have the studio, I almost lost it when **Christopher Foley** took off...and merged and I was alone. That overhead is way too high for me by myself. So I asked **Teddy, Jack Bridges, "TJ" (Leon Russell's son), and Teddy** got his two buddies, **Michael Dumas and Pride Hutchison** in there. So now it's the four of us. These dudes just bring some of the most rich experience into that

Continued Brad Page 20...

PRESS RELEASE

YMCA -DoD Family Outreach

Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) and the **Department of Defense (DoD) Outreach Initiative** via the **Ventura Family YMCA** (3760 Telegraph Rd., **Ventura**) are providing military families with **FREE** access to youth development, family strengthening, and health and well-being programs. Membership fees paid for by the **DoD**, administered via **Military OneSource**, an information and referral service for military families.

"The **Ventura Family YMCA** is happy to help meet the critical needs facing families of deployed military service members," said **Jenn Rivard, Member Relations Director** at the **Ventura Family YMCA**. "Families are the most affected when a loved one gets deployed, so we are deeply committed to providing them with the support they need."

Those eligible to participate in the new initiative include: 1. All interested families of joint deployed **National Guard and Reserves** of all military branches; 2. Families living in newly established **Joint Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)** bases; 3. **Active Duty Independent Duty** station personnel and their families; and 4. Relocated spouses and family members of deployed **Active Duty** personnel.

"The **YMCA** has a long history of supporting military service members and their families - since the **Civil War** - so it was natural for us to join this initiative," said **Rivard**. "During this time of conflict, it is more important than ever that we continue providing services and support to these families in the absence of a deployed spouse."

The **Ventura Family YMCA** is a branch of the **Channel Islands YMCA** and serves over 20,000 individuals annually through facility memberships, before & after school childcare, day & resident camps, youth sports, swim lessons, teen programs, and many more healthy lifestyles and community enriching programs throughout **Ventura, Oxnard, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Saticoy**.

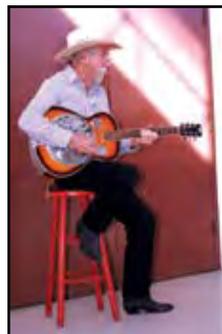
info. www.asymca.org or *The Ventura Family YMCA* at www.venturaymca.org or www.ymca.net

Oak View: Old Time Fiddlers

Old Time Fiddlers have been stomping and fiddlin' for 36-years of good fun and great music. "We spread the word around and had a meeting", according to **Ben Chapman, one of the founders of "Fiddler's."** It all started with about 30 people with a common interest and has now grown to a



Photos © 2008, Joel Anderson



Ray Magee

membership of about 160.

Anybody's welcome to **Lauren Edwards** come and join in. You can come in and play without being a member but you have to join to come back a second time.

Lauren Edwards, 88-years-old says that since her husband died music is her only relief. "Originally I'm from Oklahoma, says **Lauren** who was a professional musician for

many years. We played at **Camp Stone-man** during the war, which was the last place soldiers were sent before they were sent overseas."

Bob Bueling, former president of the Old Time Fiddlers, claims that music has always been his favorite pastime, but works for the **Naval Civil Service** as an engineering tech to make a living.

"We go out and play gigs", says **Ben Chapman** enthusiastically, "anything somebody wants us for, we play birthdays, weddings, rest homes and schools all the time."

Just give them a jingle!
Fiddler's meet at the **Oak View Community center, every second and fourth Sunday except December 1:30 - 4:30 phone: 640-3687**

- Joel Anderson



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Preston Smith at Ventura's Caffe Bella



Preston Smith and Robin Wiley (above) in a little Ventura Art Walk-inspired collaboration at Caffe Bella Oct. 18 - Preston's seamless and soulful transitions are an Art Walk Lovers dream.

Preston is going from recently recording all originals - which has a soul, funk and acoustic tone to his next which promises to be a tribute to Nat King Cole, with a funk vibe.

Robin's recent release, "Somethin' bout Love", with 10 tracks, contains an original

first recording original by Woody Guthrie, "Hot Rod Money". Robin, originally from Austin, Texas said, "Austin is a music mecca, I love to gravitate to Ventura, Carpinteria... that whole area is like an extension of Austin.. I was privileged on my remake of one of Woodie Guthrie's songs. I like to write a lot and collaborate with people...collaborations are fun. It's really fun to be inspired and fueled by another person's energy and creativity and imagination... creating is a blast..."

- Joel Anderson

www.myspace.com/prestonsmithmusic

www.robinwiley.com

THE DATING CONFESSIONS Dating Bootcamp (for men)

Bad Kissing is a Deal Breaker in Dating

By Ali K.

Guys: Did you know that the first kiss is so crucial it can make or break a date. It's true. If you are a horrible kisser, your fate is sealed. Most women will not give you another chance. The sad thing is most men don't even know they are bad kissers. It's always the ones that say, "I am such a great kisser," that are usually the worst. Bragging never impresses women; it pushes them away. I once had a guy text me for sex after dinner, and after I declined, he widdled his request down to kissing. "I will be in the top 10 best guys you have ever kissed," he said. I denied him and hung up the phone. He seemed desperate, pathetic and very needy.



The thing that boggles my mind is this: doesn't anybody tell these men how bad they are at kissing? It's a crime to go on for years thinking you have smooth ability - only to find out you don't. Guys put their puckers to the test all the time and then wonder why some of their dates failed. I am sure some of these men probably go home and rack their brain and think, "I paid for dinner, opened the car door, used my napkin during the meal and didn't even ask for sex... what went wrong?"

News flash: You are probably a bad kisser or maybe the chemistry wasn't there. Once I kissed a guy at a nightclub who actually left a pool of saliva 'in' my mouth, while kissing me. It was pretty gross, but luckily I had a scarf on, and had something to spit into. That's right; I expelled his spit from my mouth into my nice winter garment! I was worried I would get pulled over on the way home for drunk driving. I was concerned the cops would register his blood alcohol content level on my breath!

Another date I went on was pretty tragic as well. The guy was 37 at the time and looked like a Calvin Klein model. He was rather interesting looking and was in a band, which means = gets laid a lot. This guy has probably kissed a lot of women in his day, but the sad part was that he was an awful kisser. He attempted to kiss me and his whole mouth sort of sucked my face, while he completely licked everything but my lips. It was a di-

Kisser Continued Page 20...

National Rifle Association Prestigious Prize in Ojai



Ron Rowe shown with Rick Bisaccia and his prestigious NRA cap, near the Ojai's yoga center, Lulu Bandha's. Rick's father, Andy, was Ojai's original 'Indiana Jones', having served many years as a Boyscout Troop Leader.

Sunday, Nov. 2 was a joyous day in Ojai. **Citizen Rick Bisaccia** became the first, only and last person to receive the Nation's Prestigious Award; a cap Award by the **National Rifle Association, NRA**. Rick Earned the high honor by being the first person to acknowledge a mistake made by Ron Rowe and printed by editor, Joel Anderson. Rick, with his vast knowledge of guns, correctly identified a photo of a .357 **Magnum** (incorrectly identified as a 44 Magnum Revolver in the Sept. Issue of the View). The 44 Magnum Revolver was made famous by Actor Clint Eastwood in the Dirty Harry movie series; **Magnum Force -1973, The Enforcer -1976, Sudden Impact -1983, and The Dead Pool - 1988.**

Remember Clint's famous line in the movie "I know what you're thinking. 'Did he fire six shots or only five?' Well, to tell you the truth, in all this excitement I've kind of lost track myself. But being this is a 44 Magnum, the most powerful handgun in the world and would blow your head clean off, you've got to ask yourself one question: 'Do I feel lucky?' Well do ya, punk? Go ahead—make my day." It was mistakenly identified by Rowe as a 44 **Magnum**, the most powerful handgun made.

I assure you, Rowe has been severely chastised and is now doing penance. Gun owner Rick is on duty, guarding the entrance to Ojai from the Pagen Hun Hordes.

Thankfully, we can all sleep peacefully tonight. Congratulations Rick, on your prestigious award - wear it proudly.

- Editor

Wine And Roses

Continued from Page 6...

served for **King Henry the Second** was so bad, according to a contemporary chronicler, that 'a man needed to close his eyes, clench his teeth wry mouthed and shuddering, filtering the filthy stuff rather than drinking it.'

Of course, my advice, if being served a bad wine in a restaurant is, send it back. If at a friends for dinner, my advice is to be vague by being literary. For example, 'Sorry I don't drink memories,' or 'Ah, it's gracious withdrawal from perfection, keeping a hint of former majesty withal. As it hovers between oblivion and the Divine untergang of infinite recession.' At least you won't upset or lose your friend. I tried this at a friend's house after she had served a bottle of red wine, which she had kept in her fridge, opened months ago, it tasted like vinegar, but she was all smiles and thanked me.

Now for a glass of freshly opened **Merlot** and to think on the words of **Senator Hiram Johnson**, who said in 1917, 'The first casualty of war is truth.' **Plato** said, 'Only the dead have seen the end of war.' Please note, **President Bush**.



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Kinetic Kool Kars

For John Collins (right, with team) the 11th Annual Ventura Harbor Kinetic Sculpture Race is a challenge worth the wait, but this year is a little different as economic factors weigh heavily for all. To generate forward motion with only ingenuity and angst, and without the use of precious fuels, just seems downright patriotic. **Mechanical Engineer, Tiahaar Kurtheru McKenzie**, seems particularly day-job suited to the challenge. McKenzie has now piloted his stable four wheeled machine in this, his second Ventura Kinetic Race.



Photos © 2008 Joel Anderson

"This year I have new gears on it. I do it on my own with the help of a couple of friends. This is one of the funnest things you can do. It's a mix of performance art and mechanical stuff... In the water it's like a channel buoy...it kind of tips over and comes back up, swings back and forth. It never tips completely over. It wobbles like a weevil."

- Joel Anderson

INTERVIEW: Brad...

Continued from Page 18...

studio and I just get to absorb from it and it's really helped me to complete the album...or get to that stage of completion 'cause these guys give me the confidence that "yeah that sounds good."

You can find me at **myspace Purnel music**. The domain name. **P-U-R-N-E-L**. Depending on who I end up working with for the record deal, I'm hoping for **Flower Records**; I'm really shooting for that.



Emy Reynolds and Brad Buley

Michael Dumas, the engineer/producer whose at the studio is on the phone daily with his friends **Ray Manzerek, Robby Kreiger, Dwight Yokum**; his neighbor is **Cheryl Crowe** and he talks to her all the time. They are calling him up asking him "hey, you got a studio man, that's cool, down in Ojai ...let me know about that when it's ready". So you never know when he's gonna be cutting somethin' with these guys in the future. Right on brother...I love the View...the View's the bomb man!

Jackie Lomax in Ojai



Photo © 2008, Joel Anderson

Don't Miss... Jackie Lomax at the Hub - Phenomenal Merseybeat hard rocker playing old standards and new material. Look for a new release in 09 !!! Check the VIEW listings, Page 23.

KISSER...

Continued from Page 19...

saster at best. How can a guy in a band be a horrendous kisser? He was also rumored to have been living with a girl for years. Did she let him get away with mauling her face? I find it appalling and absolutely tragic. Bad kissers should not be out on the loose. These men need to be taught how to kiss properly and if going to 'kissing school' will help - then so be it.

I went out with a really young 21-year-old guy and, of course, I felt like a cougar, so it was hot - but he was a really awful kisser. He pinned me against his car and gave me a tongue bath I will never forget (and not in the good way either). When he left, I went into the house and gargled with hydrogen peroxide immediately.

Recently a good friend of mine went out on a few dates with a guy, and told me she liked him. After the third date is when lightning struck. He attempted to kiss her goodnight, but it went south (and not the good kind). He actually tongued her ear (with mini darts) and then went in for the real deal, but thin-lipped kissed her and darted his tongue in her mouth as if he was doing a throat culture. "It was disgusting," she said. Needless to say, the two never went out again.

I have tried to 'train' a guy to kiss the way I do, but everyone has his own style of smooching. You can try to teach, while kissing, but sometimes a date just doesn't get the hint. The next thing you know you are having a tug-of-war between mouths and playing tonsil hockey. That's never sexy. I have had some outstanding kisses though - some included a lot of tongue, but they were very creative and artful about it. The good kissers have great rhythm and stamina. A good make out session is one that leaves you breathless and wanting more. I have been seeing someone recently who is phenomenal at kissing. The weird part is he doesn't use much tongue; he might throw it in like 2 percent of the time, but he usually just kisses me with his mouth. I never thought I would enjoy that kind of kissing, but come to find out, I love it! He is one of the most amazing guys that I have ever kissed. It's probably because I love him and he kisses from his heart. I can feel the passion, and together we have incredible chemistry. When we kiss, fireworks and magical sparks are definitely flittering above us.

Here is a list of ways

to improve your kissing style

- Don't go in for the jugular. Ease into a kiss slowly and kiss softly and gently at first. It is crucial to build up with passion. Try gauging the woman's response and go off her kissing rhythm and pace. You will do much better this way.

- Do not play tonsil aerobics. There is no point in darting your tongue into a woman's mouth so far, that a doctor can detect her white blood cells on your tongue. Go easy with the tongue. Slow and gentle is best. Use your tongue, but do it every so often. Sometimes the best kisses don't even involve tongue.

- Do not maul your date and start licking or penetrating her ear with your tongue. You want to start slowly and kiss her lips softly. Tease her. Make her want you more. Be a bit of a tease and a challenge. This is very exciting and will invite her to want to kiss you more.

- It's never a good idea to pin your date up against a wall or door (or car door) and start kissing aggressively. This can scare a gal. Although, it makes for juicy gossip the next day at the water cooler, it's not a smooth move. Be assertive, but gauge her reactions.

- Timing is everything. A girl can like you, but if you kiss her at the wrong time, it's 'Strike you're out!' You have to make sure she wants to kiss you. Read her body language. Is she turned into you and laughing at your jokes? Does she seem comfortable with you? Does it seem obvious she is into you? If you aren't sure, don't kiss her.

Men: remember that kissing is an art form. It is something that must be learned. With practice and patience, you can get it just right. Every woman kisses differently, so of course it can be challenging to kiss perfectly with each date. I once went out with a guy and I asked him, "So what are you looking for in a woman?" He said, "The perfect kiss." We did have a pretty good kiss that night, but we didn't work out. We had completely different lifestyles. Even if you master the perfect kiss, it doesn't always guarantee the perfect relationship.

- Ali K.

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Gabriel McCool (at left) began Guitar Planet lessons with instructor Joe Baugh 2 months ago. Gabriel (with his acoustic guitar at left), is making plans on moving up to an ESP Electric.

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How Jamie Kennedy Saved My Sex Life

by Ali K.

Ventura is usually boring after 5pm, but Oct. 26 at the **Ventura Harbor Comedy Club**, life was exciting! **Jamie Kennedy** was headlining a comedy show with fellow comics **Dean Larit** (*Days of Our Lives*) and **Adam Hunter** (*Last Comic Standing*). The show was absolutely gut wrenchingly funny. All three comedians performed really well and brought the excitement of LA to sleepy Ventura.

This is the third time I have seen **Jamie Kennedy** perform stand-up comedy; he is truly a master at his craft. I think most people connect **Kennedy** to the movie, "*Scream*," to "*The Jamie Kennedy Experiment*," and to his recent stint as a rapper with **Stu Stone**, but he is actually a gem in the stand-up world. I am always marveled at his stand-up performances and have never been let down. He has an incredible gift for dialects, impressions and impersonating women; this is where he gets an abundant amount of laughs. **Kennedy** plays well off the audience and never fails to miss a beat.

Kennedy poked fun at **Ventura** by saying, "Are you boat people? I thought I was in the desert, but then I saw all the fog. Why is it so foggy?" he asked. He mocked an especially inebriated woman who kept heckling him during his entire set. Jamie is usually mild-tempered and pretty mellow, but he actually chimed, "Do you ever stop talking? Can you not talk?" Then he looked around and said to a waitress, "Are you security?" She answered, "No." **Kennedy** looked around and asked with a twinge of laughter, "Where is security?" After **Kennedy** asked where security was two more times, the woman finally got the hint and left. It was actually apropos considering **Kennedy** just released a DVD called, "*Hecklers*," which explores comedians who deal with the critical nature of hecklers.

I watched **Kennedy** perform at 7pm and again at 9pm. I was actually going to leave after the first set, because I didn't think I could laugh at jokes I had just heard. I saw **Kennedy** primping in the mirror before coming to the stage and I dared to ask him a question. "So, how do you perform a set and then do it again right after?" He looked at me and straightened his shirt out and said with a poker face, "You just go out and do it... you know... you mix it up," he told me.

I had my purse on my shoulder and was about to leave, but he had a new opening joke. I gave him

a chance and listened further and I noticed he began telling new jokes. I stayed for the entire set, because he won me over. **Kennedy** used some jokes from the former set, but actually had a lot of new material he worked in for the second set. It was at that moment, that I began questioning everything I so firmly believed in.

Every time I see **Kennedy** perform, it's usually after a break-up. I don't know if it's coincidental or ironic, but nevertheless, that's the way it happens. Recently, I was thinking to myself, "*The only worse thing than being 37 and single... is being 38 and single.*" But then as if **Kennedy** were my comedic guru, he spouted

out during his act, "*I want to get married... but, I am so horny.*" I have been in a relationship that seemingly doesn't seem to be going anywhere. I would sit home on weekends 'waiting' for him and not having sex with anyone else. But, hearing **Kennedy** perform last night inspired me to put on my sexiest jeans, dress up and put on my dating shoes! **Kennedy** and I are the same age and if he is happy being single — maybe I can be too. I paid even more attention when his comedy started to get personal. He shared stories about how he wants to experience women from different parts of the world — even comparing women to **Skittles**. I guess the slogan: "*Taste the Rainbow*," really took with him. He lamented about trying to get off to a **British** porn, but how it wasn't doing it for him, because the actors were too prim and proper. **Kennedy** has an uncanny ability to reenact embarrassing things that have happened to him.

Bottom Line: **Kennedy** is a great comic and appears down-to-earth and very humble. He seems shy when speaking with him — it feels safe to say fame has not gone to his head, which is refreshing. You never see him in the tabloids, but maybe he should be with a headline that reads: *How Jamie Kennedy Saved My Sex Life*. His act was very inspiring and I suddenly don't feel ashamed to be 37 and single.

Ventura Harbor Comedy Club owners **Andres Fernandez** and **Randy Lubas** are proud to be bringing in the hottest comedy shows in the country. If you missed **Jamie Kennedy**, check their website for upcoming shows. The Comedy Club is located in Harbor Village at 1559 Spinnaker Dr. info. 644-1500 venturaharborcomedyclub.com

— Ali K.
spiralgrl@yahoo.com



Knauff's Liberty Lifter

Just before the election, I caught up with **John McCanine**, for a brief political interview, as he was checking the Ops. on some high-tech Mass-Corporate-Media-election equipment, known as "sTeVe."

"Now the **Mainstream Media** would have you believe that this is the **Political Re-education Chamber**... nothing could be further from the truth my friend. This is actually where Sarah and I can talk over the heads of the **Mainstream Media** directly to you. My running mate Sarah knows Bark 'pals around with terrorists' and 'we really don't know who the real Bark is.'

"Now... we put the subject into the **Liberty Lifter** and we simply restrain them, for their own safety and benefit, so they can concentrate on the truth of what Sarah and I are selling... er... I mean saying. The good Ole boy drill here with a red, white, and blue tip and the tip is what drives the lift," said **McCanine**.

If you haven't had enough idiotic candidate material from the recent **Mainstream Mass Media Blitz** (from both sides - candidates and corporate press), to last you another 4 years, you might want to take a trip down to **Ventura's Artists' Union Gallery** and step into **Artist "sTeVe" Knauff's "Political Re-education Chamber"**, give the machine a whirrr. A slightly off-beat (what election isn't?) assemblage of mixed-UP "Media" and



Photos © 2008, Joel Anderson

A Little Levity-Ventura Artist, sTeVe Knauff "safely" strapped into his Mainstream Media inspired political "re-education" chamber after an engaging whirrr.



political tomfoolery with art pieces, bordering perhaps just a bit on the lunar await you. Other pieces by **Artist Sylvia** at the **Election Collection**. thru Nov. 23. info. **Artists' Union Gallery, 330 S. California St. Ventura, 643-3012, Thurs. - Sun., Noon to 6pm & Fri. - Sat., Noon to 9pm**

— Joel Anderson, Editor

A woman is safer in a park at midnight than on a psychiatrist's couch.

Ten percent of psychiatrists and psychologists admit to sexually abusing their patients—assaulting an average of four to six patients each. That represents a total of more than 250,000 victims to date. Of those, an estimated 36,400 have attempted or will attempt suicide, with another 2,000 succeeding.

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KOHLI'S MUSIC PIT

INTERVIEW

Dream Theater

By Michael Kohli

Is the music light or is it dark? Who is this **Dream Theater**? Do they have a hit single? Why, have I not heard of them? To the outside world of **Dream Theater**, these are common questions asked when you talk about a band like **Dream Theater**. Society in the mainstream music world, over the past 30 years, have created an illusion that you have to have a hit single in order to be accepted by the music world itself. Local bands immediately think that in order to make it you have to have a mainstream hit record. But **Dream Theater** is a band that has had 23+ years of success and continues to be thriving. Twenty years after that song, *Pull Me Under*, caught the metal world by an 8+ minute storm, they have taught us that a band can survive through their own world and fans. Even their latest studio album, *Systematic Chaos*, debuted at their highest position in the **Top 20** on the **Billboard** charts. I'm sure they are happy about it but it's not a requirement for them. It's like an extra incentive bonus for their achievements, but they already have their own mainstream world of fans - even if the other parts of the music world don't "get" them yet.

As of this writing, the band is currently in the studio preparing to launch their next chapter after 23 years of success. They just released a retrospective collection this year. And, they also just released a new 5 disc DVD/CD set, *Chaos In Motion 2007-2008*. In the midst of all this, I had the honor of talking to **Mike Portnoy** during his last week of summer vacation. It was a huge honor. **Dream Theater** has been a part of my life for over 17 years. I got into them right when their, *Pull Me Under* song became a hit. Back then, I was just in grade school listening to the old **Pirate Radio** here in **So. California**. I remember when I first saw their album, *Images And Words*, displayed at my local Warehouse music store. The album had 8 songs. And I realized that this band's first single was over 8 minutes long. I was immediately blown away by this band. The adrenaline in the music just makes you want to hear more and more. And, you could tell that when they jam together, they don't stop playing until they feel the song needs to end. There is so much storytelling in the lyrics and the music. Whether the music goes dark and heavy or if it goes light and spontaneous, I've always been amazed by every album and song they have created together.

Q: Tomorrow your *Chaos in Motion* DVD/CD 5 disc set comes out - do you have any release plans?

A: We plan on releasing it and hopefully people will buy it! It's just our latest DVD. It's a souvenir of our last year on the road. You know - we'll kind of close out that chapter and we'll celebrate it by going into the studio to start the next chapter!

Q: Your song *Panic Attack* recently got picked up by **Rock Band 2**. How did that come about?

A: Yeah, I guess that's how it works. Through their game companies I guess they have a list of songs for bands. I really don't know the behind the scenes and legal stuff, but we are very

honored and flattered that they included us. I think we are totally a type of band that would appeal to gamers because the music is very technical. It's nice to have a song on there. We also have a song on the upcoming **Guitar Hero 4** and the upcoming **Rock Revolution**. It's nice to finally be infiltrating that world.
Q: What was your favorite moment during the *Chaos in Motion 2007-2008 Tour*?
A: Oh, god - one moment from the whole tour. Well, we did over 100 shows so there's so many things, I don't know. Whenever we go to a new place for the first time - that's always exciting. So, I think one of the highlights was when we went to Australia for the first time. We've been waiting a long time to get down there. We played in front of a lot of people there for the first time. That's always the highlight.

Q: One thing I've noticed through the years as a **Dream Theater** fan myself is that all your albums seem to have this light to dark concept. Where one album will be dark and the next one will be lighter. Your lighter albums tend to have this futuristic flow to them. And your darker albums seem to polish your roots to go even darker than before. Especially since *Falling Into Infinity*, I noticed that the next album had a really dark and ancient tale surrounding it, *Scenes From a Memory*. Then the following album, *Six Degrees of Inner Turbulence* had songs like *Misunderstood*, *Blind Faith*, and *Disappear* with a futuristic flow. Then *Train Of Thought* went back to your dark roots with *Otavarium* following in 2005 with futuristic tones all over the album. Then in 2007 - you released a completely dark album, *Systematic Chaos*. Was this planned before hand or did it just come about?

A: Actually, I've seen that discussed by the fans and that's totally not a conscious thing. I've even seen that pointed out with the album covers. It's true. The album cover for *Images and Words*, was very light and the cover for *Awake* was dark. *Falling Into Infinity* was light, *Scenes* was dark, *Six Degrees* was light and through *Systematic Chaos* being dark. You could even look at the covers and get that feel. But, that's not a conscious thing. I would say that the only way it was possibly consistent was because every time we make a record we are kind of reacting and responding to the previous one. You know, wanting to go some place different than where we just went. So maybe that mentality is what spawns that alternating contrast from album to album. It's an interesting thing to hear pointed out.

Q: Have you guys ever been to Ventura, CA?
A: Oh, yeah. We played the **Ventura Theater** in 1993 with **Galactic Cowboys**.

Q: I've seen you guys live about 4, 5 times now. I have to say my favorite was your tour with **Queensryche** here in **Los Angeles**. You guys completely dazzled the audience by doing an encore set together (both bands!). People were falling to the floor with happiness - they couldn't believe their eyes! Truly amazing show.

A: That was fun. I knew it was a line-up the fans had been wanting for a long time. It might have been better if it was done in 1993 - I think it was about 10-years too late. But, you know - better late than never. It was nice to finally put it together. For me - the best part was the jam at the end of each night. To me - that's what made it the most unique experience for the fans. I've never seen many bands doing that - doing an encore together. I think it's a great idea. I wish more bands would do

that. The following year - we went out with **Yes** and I suggested that to them and they wanted nothing to do with it. It was surprising that we were able to pull it off with **Queensryche**. To see musicians collaborate and play on stage is a very cool thing.

Q: After you complete a big album project - do you listen to the album afterwards - take it for a test drive or anything?

A: "To be honest, no. Because when making a record - I'm so consumed with every single aspect of it. When making a **Dream Theater** album - I listen to it a thousand times, listening to it every single day and analyzing every little single aspect of it. Usually, the last time I will listen to our album is when we finish the mastering sessions. I'll take it home and listen to it one final time. Then that's it. Then on the road, we end up playing it a thousand times. Very rarely will I ever go back and hear it. Even in my IPOD, I have it set so that it doesn't turn up in my shuffle."

Q: What do you think of an artist like Alanis Morissette?

A: Alanis, I love her in particular. I'm not a giant fan of a lot of other female artists in that genre, but her in particular I love and really admire. In fact, her first album **Jagged Little Pill** is a favorite of mine and was a huge influence in my lyrics for *Falling Into Infinity*. You know - I remember when her first album came out - I was listening to it every day and her lyrics just somehow worked their way into my lyrics during that period.

Q: Now, are you guys in the studio right now?

A: Nope, I'm enjoying my last week of my summer vacation. And, then we head back to work starting next week.

Q: Are there any new angles or concepts you thought of for the new album?

A: We haven't even discussed it and we won't really know until we are actually doing it. When we get together next week, we reconvene, and we all basically fire up and start from scratch.

Q: Do you guys chase the music or does the music chase you?

A: It comes very unconsciously. The music just flows out of our bodies. When we get together to start an album it never lacks ideas. Especially myself, **Jordan** and **John Petrucci**. We have this unbelievable vast chemistry. Ideas just start flying. You've got to grab a net to catch them all because they are flying around so quickly. And, luckily, 23-years into our career - that still happens. We've never had writers block (*knock on wood!*). It's a very smooth and natural thing for us.

- Michael Kohli
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- **Hub**, Ojai - Tues. Nov. 11 - **Old Toby**, 646-9182
- **Winelover's**, Vta. - Tues. Nov. 11 - **Preston Smith**, 652-1810
- **Zoey's Cafe**, Vta. - Tues. Nov. 11 - **Tom Freund and Matt the Electrician**, 652-0721
- **Bombay**, Vta. - Wed. Nov. 12 - **Valencia & Friends**, 643-4404
- **Caffé Bella**, Vta. - Wed. Nov. 12 - **Denise Vasquez & Randy Martinez**, 643-2171
- **Caffé Bella**, Vta. - Thurs. Nov. 13 - **Delaney Gibson**, 643-2171
- **Canyon Club**, Agoura - Thurs. Nov. 13 - **Jonathan Brooke & Glen Phillips**, 818/879-5016
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Thurs. Nov. 13 - **Big Mac Daddy Jams**, 646-4256
- **Zoey's Cafe**, Vta. - Thurs. Nov. 13 - **The Bluegrass Jam**, 652-0721
- **Bernadette's**, Vta. - Fri. Nov. 14 - **Almost Neil Diamond**, 652-1810
- **Bombay**, Vta. - Fri. Nov. 14 - **Peace Thru Music Fundraising Event**, 643-4404
- **Caffé Bella**, Vta. - Fri. Nov. 14 - **Michael SG & John Henry**, 643-2171
- **Canyon Club**, Agoura - Fri. Nov. 14 - **Asia featuring John Payne**, 818/879-5016
- **Avalon Night Club**, Santa Clara, Fri. Nov. 14 - **Tony Lindsay Band & Karl Perazzo's "Avance"** perf. 2gthr, 415/285-7719
- **Cold Spring Tavern**, S.B. - Fri. Nov. 14 - **Back Pocket** 7-10pm, 967-0066
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Fri. Nov. 14 - **Head West**, 646-4256
- **Hi-Cees**, Vta. - Fri. Nov. 14 - **Bobby Hart Band** 6-9pm, 650-7773
- **Movino**, Ojai - Fri. Nov. 14 - **Mari Martin Band**, 646-1555
- **Nicholby's**, Vta. - Fri. Nov. 14 - **The Federation**, 653-2320
- **Oceanview Pavillion**, Oxnard - Fri. Nov. 14 - **Led Zepagain**, 986-4818
- **SoHo**, S.B. - Fri. Nov. 14 - **Somos Son and the 805 Project**, 962-7776
- **Zoey's Cafe**, Vta. - Fri. Nov. 14 - **Trevor Menear Band**, 652-0721
- **Bernadette's**, Vta. - Sat. Nov. 15 - **Ultra**, 652-1810
- **Caffé Bella**, Vta. - Sat. Nov. 15 - **Lee Koch**, 643-2171
- **Canyon Club**, Agoura - Sat. Nov. 15 - **America**, 818-879-5016
- **Cold Spring Tavern**, S.B. - Sat. Nov. 15 - **Dan Grimm** 2-5pm/**The Excellent Tradesmen** 6-9pm, 967-0066
- **Hi-Cees**, Vta. - Sat. Nov. 15 - **Los Blues** 5-9pm, 650-7773
- **Movino**, Ojai - Sat. Nov. 15 - **Sugar Cream**, 646-1555
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Sat. Nov. 15 - **Green Machine**, 646-4256
- **Mai's Cafe**, Vta. - Sat. Nov. 15 - **Alyssa Suede** w/a special guest acc. perf. by **Ryder Bach**, 652-2061
- **Oceanview Pavillion**, Oxnard - Sat. Nov. 15 - **Dave Mason**, 986-4818
- **SoHo**, S.B. - Sat. Nov. 15 - **Which One's Pink with John Stack**, 962-7776
- **Ventura Theater** - Sat. Nov. 15 - **Café Tacuba**, 653-0721
- **Zoey's Cafe**, Vta. - Sat. Nov. 15, 9:30pm - **Robin Wiley, Franie Fuchs, Ian McFeran Band**, 652-0721
- **The Beachcomber**, Oxnard - Sun. Nov. 16, **Alyssa Suede**, 985-6030
- **Bodee's**, Ojai - Sun. Nov. 16, 12-4pm - **Al Wescott**, 646-5300
- **Canyon Club**, Agoura - Sun. Nov. 16 - **Robbie Krieger & Friends, benefiting the Pat Tillman Foundation**, 818-879-5016
- **Cold Spring Tavern**, S.B. - Sun. Nov. 16 - **Tom Ball and Kenny Sultan** 1:30-4:30pm/**Roy Schmeck & the Schmecktones** 4:30-7:30pm, 967-0066
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Sun. Nov. 16 - **Dave Gleason**, 646-4256
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco, Sun. Nov. 16 - **Lucinda Williams w/Buick** 6, 415/346-6000

- **Frog & Peach**, San Luis Obispo - Sun. Nov. 16 - **Christopher Hawley**, 595-3764
- **Hi-Cees**, Vta. - Sun. Nov. 16 - **Blue Stew** 2-6pm, 650-7773
- **Hub**, Ojai - Sun. Nov. 16 - **Jackie Lomax** 4-7pm, 646-9182
- **Hub**, Ojai - Tues. Nov. 18 - **Old Toby**, 646-9182
- **SoHo**, S.B. - Tues. Nov. 18 - **Christopher Hawley**, 962-7776
- **Caffé Bella**, Vta. - Wed. Nov. 19 - **Denise Vasquez & Randy Martinez**, 643-2171
- **Canyon Club**, Agoura - Wed. Nov. 19 - **The Bacon Brothers**, 818-879-5016
- **Ventura Theater** - Wed. Nov. 19 - **Lucinda Williams**, 653-0721
- **Zoey's Cafe**, Vta. - Wed. Nov. 19 - **Chris Pierce with Jay Nash**, 652-0721
- **Caffé Bella**, Vta. - Thurs. Nov. 20 - **Owen Plant**, 643-2171
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Thurs. Nov. 20 - **Iron Mountain Boys**, 646-4256
- **SoHo**, S.B. - Thurs. Nov. 20 - **The Pin Down Girls with Rey Fresco**, 962-7776
- **Ventura Theater** - Thurs. Nov. 20 - **El Gran Silencio**, 653-0721
- **Zoey's Cafe**, Vta. - Thurs. Nov. 20 - **Bob Jones Blues Night w/Boogie Woogie Great Rob Rio**, 652-0721
- **Baja Grill & Cantina**, Simi - Fri. Nov. 21, 7pm - **Preston Smith**, 581-4745
- **Bernadette's**, Vta. - Fri. Nov. 21 - **Almost Neil Diamond**, 652-1810
- **Caffé Bella**, Vta. - Fri. Nov. 21 - **Cham-pagne Sunday**, 643-2171
- **Cold Spring Tavern**, S.B. - Fri. Nov. 21 - **Jamie Green** 7-10pm, 967-0066
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Fri. Nov. 21 - **Christopher Hawley/Big Mac Daddy Jams**, 646-4256
- **Hi-Cees**, Vta. - Fri. Nov. 21 - **Baby Sister** 6-9pm, 650-7773
- **La Dolce Vita**, Oxnard - Fri. Nov. 21 - **Action Down**, 486-6878
- **Mai's Cafe**, Vta. - Fri. Nov. 21, 9pm - **Chronic Stew**, 652-2061
- **Movino**, Ojai - Fri. Nov. 21 - **Teresa Russell & Cocobilli**, 646-1555
- **SoHo**, Ojai - Fri. Nov. 21 - **Vance Gilbert**, 962-7776
- **Ventura Theater** - Fri. Nov. 21 - **Misfits**, 653-0721
- **Zoey's Cafe**, Vta. - Fri. Nov. 21 - **Todd Hannigan with Dead Rock West and Rey Fresco**, 652-0721
- **Bernadette's**, Vta. - Sat. Nov. 22 - **Ultra**, 652-1810
- **Caffé Bella**, Vta. - Sat. Nov. 22 - **Frank Barajas**, 643-2171
- **Cold Spring Tavern**, S.B. - Sat. Nov. 22 - **SBCC's Songwriters class** 2-5pm/**Steve Fort** 6-9pm, 967-0066
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Sat. Nov. 22 - **Big Mac Daddy Jams**, 646-4256
- **Hi-Cees**, Vta. - Sat. Nov. 22 - **Call Club**, 650-7773
- **Hub**, Ojai - Sat. Nov. 22 - **Jackie Lomax** - 4-7pm/**Action Down** 646-9182
- **Jester** - Sat. Nov. 22 - **Chronic Stew**
- **Movino**, Ojai - Sat. Nov. 22 - **Mart Grebb**, 646-1555
- **SoHo**, S.B. - Sat. Nov. 22 - **Club Meroy**, 962-7776
- **Ventura Theater** - Sat. Nov. 22 - **Gwar**, 653-0721
- **Zoey's Cafe**, Vta. - Sat. Nov. 22 - **Alan Thornhill**, 652-0721
- **Bodee's**, Ojai - Sun. Nov. 23 - **Al Wescott**, 646-5300
- **Cold Spring Tavern**, S.B. - Sun. Nov. 23 - **Tom Ball and Kenny Sultan** 1:30-4:30pm/**Spencer the Gardener** 4:30-7:30pm,

- 967-0066
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Sun. Nov. 23 - **Rachael Sedacca**, 646-4256
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco, Sun. Nov. 23 - **The Hold Steady/Drive By Truckers**, 415/346-6000
- **Hi-Cees**, Vta. - Sun. Nov. 23 - **Blue Stew** 2-6pm, 650-7773
- **SoHo**, S.B. - Sun. Nov. 23 - **Willie Bamick**, 962-7776
- **Caffé Bella**, Vta. - Tues. Nov. 25 - **Francisco Leon**, 643-2171
- **Hub**, Ojai - Tues. Nov. 25 - **Old Toby**, 646-9182
- **Caffé Bella**, Vta. - Wed. Nov. 26 - **Denise Vasquez & Randy Martinez**, 643-2171
- **Caffé Bella**, Vta. - Fri. Nov. 28 - **Stephen Geyer & Joe Paquin**, 643-2171
- **Cold Spring Tavern**, S.B. - Fri. Nov. 28 - **Kelly's Lot** 7-10pm, 967-0066
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Fri. Nov. 28 - **Big Mac Daddy Jams**, 646-4256
- **Hi-Cees**, Vta. - Fri. Nov. 28 - **Steve White & The Barstool Pigeons** 6-9pm, 650-7773
- **The Keynote**, Vta. - Fri. Nov. 28-29 - **Action Down**, 647-9390
- **Movino**, Ojai - Fri. Nov. 28, **Sugar Cream**, 646-1555
- **SoHo**, S.B. - Fri. Nov. 28 - **Benise**, 962-7776
- **Zoey's Cafe**, Vta. - Fri. Nov. 28 - **Emy Reynolds**, 652-0721
- **Caffé Bella**, Vta. - Sat. Nov. 29 - **Lee Koch**, 643-2171
- **Canyon Club**, Agoura - Sat. Nov. 29 - **The Tubes**, 818/879-5016
- **Cold Spring Tavern**, S.B. - Sat. Nov. 29 - **Gates and Goodell** 2-5pm/**Daniel Lower and the Bloodbrothers** 6-9pm, 967-0066
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Sat. Nov. 29 - **Big Mac Daddy Jams**, 646-4256
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco, Sun. Nov. 29 - **Hot Buttered Rum**, 415/346-6000
- **Hi-Cees**, Vta. - Sat. Nov. 29 - **Teresa Russell** 5-9pm, 650-7773
- **Hub**, Ojai - Sun. Nov. 29 - **Jackie Lomax** 4-7pm, 646-9182
- **The Keynote** Vta. - Fri. Nov. 28-29 - **Action Down**, 647-9390
- **Movino**, Ojai - Sat. Nov. 29 - **Slim Trio**, 646-1555
- **The Pierpont Inn**, Vta. - Sat. Nov. 29 - **Owen Plant**, 643-6144
- **SoHo**, S.B. - Sat. Nov. 29, **40 Oz. to Freedom**, 962-7776
- **Bodee's**, Ojai - Sun. Nov. 30 - **Al Wescott**, 646-5300
- **Cold Spring Tavern**, S.B. - Sun. Nov. 30

- **Tom Ball and Kenny Sultan** 1:30-4:30pm/**Little Jonny and the Giants** 4:30-7:30pm, 967-0066
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Sun. Nov. 30 - **Big Mac Daddy Jams**, 646-4256
- **Hi-Cees**, Vta. - Sun. Nov. 30 - **Blue Stew** 6-9pm, 650-7773
- **The Pierpont Inn**, Vta. - Sun. Nov. 30 - **Martha B's Jazz Party**, 643-6144
- **Ventura Theater** - Sun. Nov. 30 - **Second-hand**, 653-0721
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco, Wed. Dec. 3 - **The Australian Pink Floyd Show**, 415/346-6000
- **Hub**, Ojai - Sun. Nov. 30 - **Jackie Lomax** 4-7pm, 646-9182
- **Caffé Bella**, Vta. - Thurs. Dec. 4 - **Owen Plant**, 643-2171
- **Hub**, Ojai - Thurs. Dec. 4 - **Old Toby**, 646-9182
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco, Thurs.-Fri. Dec. 5-6 - **Los Lobos w/David Lindley**, 415/346-6000
- **Caffé Bella**, Vta. - Fri. Dec. 5 - **Margaret Marston**, 643-2171
- **O'Leary's**, Vta. - Fri./Sat. Dec. 5-6, **Action Down**, 644-4619
- **Ventura Theater** - Fri. Dec. 5 - **Johnathan Richman**, 653-0721
- **Hi-Cees**, Vta. - Fri. Dec. 5 - **Bobby Hart Band** 6-9pm, 650-7773
- **Caffé Bella**, Vta. - Sat. Dec 6 - **Skyler Stonestreet and Brian Benham**, 643-2171
- **Oceanview Pavillion**, Oxnard - Sat. Dec 6 - **Jay White - Neil Diamond tribute**, 986-4818
- **O'Leary's**, Vta. - Fri./Sat. Dec. 5-6, - **Action Down**, 644-4619
- **Hi-Cees**, Vta. - Sat. Dec. 6 - **Steve White & The Barstool Pigeons** 5-9pm, 650-7773
- **Hi-Cees**, Vta. - Sun. Dec. 7 - **Blue Stew** 2-6pm, 650-7773
- **Oceanview Pavillion**, Fri. Dec. 12, 3rd **Annual Holiday Show**, 986-4818
- **Caffé Bella**, Vta. - Fri. Dec. 12 - **Big Joe Hurt**, 643-2171
- **Palms**, Carpinteria - Fri. Dec. 12 - **Action Down**, 684-3811
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco, Mon. Dec. 15, 16, 18, 19, 20 - **The Black Crowes**, 415/346-6000
- **Caffé Bella**, Vta. - Fri. Dec. 19 - **Owen Plant, "Ellie's B.D."**, 643-2171

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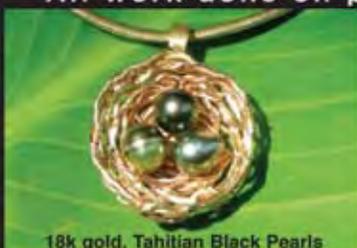
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