

Every Rose has its Thorn !!!

The Ojai & Ventura



ROSE

"What's in a Name ?

That which we call a Rose.
By Any Other Name...
...would Smell as Sweet"

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



Jonathan McEuen
Rocks the SOhO

Photo © 2008, Joel Anderson

Earth Friend Jen SEZ 'Treat the Earth Well'



Photo © 2008, Joel Anderson

Earth Friend Jen Seen at the
Farmer & the Cook Sends Her
Love for her Fellow Man
See Page 11

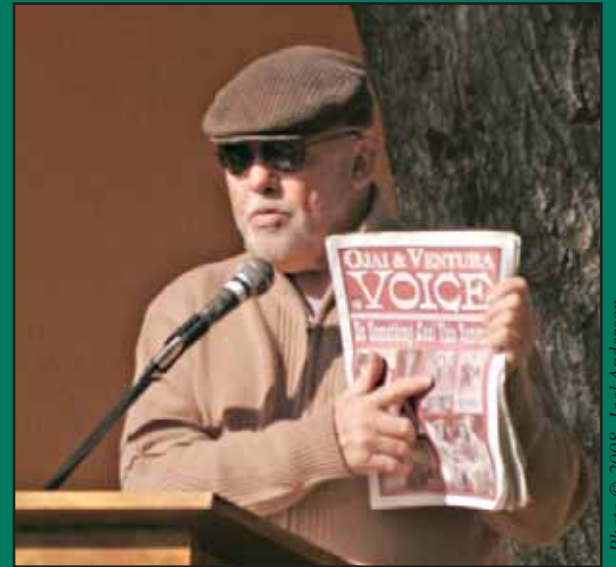


Photo © 2008, Joel Anderson

'VOICE' TRIBUTE ISSUE GRAND POOH-BAH WON'T BE RILED !

We're Baaack...!

• DEVINE DEVIN FULTON AND THE "PIN DOWN GIRLS"

- ALASDAIR COYNE PART I
GLOBAL WARMING
- RON ROWE: LEASHES END
WINE AND ROSES
- PETER MILHADO: AVOIDING
SPIRITUAL POVERTY
- Frank Pecarich: VTA CITY
COUNCIL SQUANDERS \$\$\$
- APRIL: WHOSE BROADCAST
IS THIS ANYWAY ?

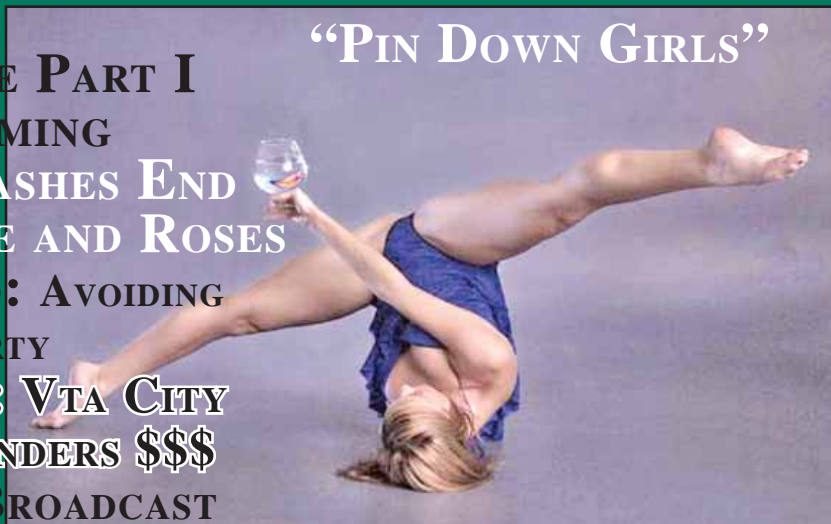


Photo by Joe Lambie/joebwphoto.com

• COME CELEBRATE: 'HONOR THE FARM FESTIVAL'
SUNDAY, APRIL 20 - EARTH DAY



Photo © 1995, Joel Anderson

Ojai's Libbey Bowl - Originally Designed by architects Austin Pierpont
and Roy Wilson, Built 1957, cost \$12,000.

"...that you recognize that you are
in fact setting aside what may be the
normal selection process and designating
David Bury and associates..."
said Ojai City Attorney Monte Widders
to Ojai Mayor Sue Horgan, before the
council unaanimsly voted to fund the
70k study.

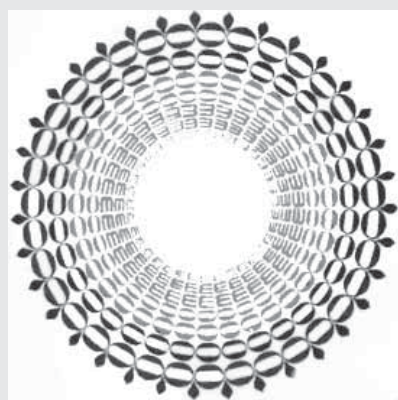
Small Townie OJAI CITY COUNCIL VOTE: 'REBUILD LIBBEY BOWL' WILL THE CITY GET IT RIGHT?

Jackie Lomax - "Will You Still Feed Me When I'm 64 ?"



Om Healing Circle

An OM Healing circle is an ancient technique from India that harnesses the power of the OM chant for the purposes of healing at all levels of being (primarily for the benefit of those in the group, but there is also an 'absent healing' aspect). A specific ritual that utilizes this power has recently been made public by *Mahavatar Babaji* through *Swami Vishwananda*, and the *Bhakti Marga* foundation.



"Through the grace of Mahavatar Babaji, we have brought back the ancient OM Healing technique. In today's world, dependence is focused and placed upon using chemicals to heal the physical form. Chanting OM in the OM Healing Circle is a simple technique that can bring healing ability back to the individual person....which has the power to heal the body, mind and spirit."

- Swami Vishwananda

First and Third Sunday of the Month, 6:00 pm. *Sacred Space Yoga Studio*, 410 Bryant Circle, Ste. A. For more info, contact **Bhagavati at 805/901-2596**

"Ojai Valley News Publishes Pro-Development Agenda" Advert: *Make Ojai 'Better'*

- Does Ojai need the added traffic congestion that will be brought here by overdevelopment and an expensive new performing arts center?
- Does Ojai need a new taxpayer-subsidized performing arts center to compete with, and possibly ruin, cherished establishments like the *Ojai Art Center* and *Theater 150*?
- Does Ojai need a taxpayer-subsidized performing arts center to

draw patrons and funding away from the *Libbey Bowl* and recently remodeled *Matilija Auditorium*?

It is doubtful that whoever is behind the *Make Ojai Better* survey paid for an entire page in the *Ojai Valley News* just to ask if we need to support local artists. The survey questions suggest a pro-growth, pro-developer agenda, and are formulated to elicit only positive responses to issues that some wrongly believe will be solved by turning the Ojai Valley into a miniature San Fernando Valley.

Don't be surprised if *Make Ojai Better* announces that their survey reveals Ojai residents are clamoring for more high-density housing projects and a big expensive performing arts center; implying that we don't really care about increased traffic congestion, air pollution, diminishing water resources, the degradation of our small town quality of life or wasting tax dollars.

The survey is a crude example of a push poll, designed to advocate or push a political or social agenda rather than the objectively sample public opinion. Even if *Make Ojai Better* intends to accurately report survey results, anyone who wants to send multiple, anonymous online computer responses or buys a few dozen newspapers, can easily distort the results.

A far more credible assessment of the values and priorities held by Ojai Valley residents has already been made by the *Ojai Valleywide Discussion Project* organized by *Supervisor Steve Bennett* in 2007. It involved over two hundred people in a series of open meetings where voting was openly counted and the agenda was not controlled by any single special interest group. The 4 top concerns were: preserving the environment and making Ojai a green community, disaster preparation, improved communication during emergencies, traffic congestion and improved public transportation.

Neither high-density affordable housing projects, nor a performing arts center were even listed among the top 13 concerns of valley residents.

Roderick Greene, Ojai



Community Support

I miss Jeffrey very much and I'm sure he would want a paper to go on.

When will the first issue be out? I would like to support the paper with taking an ad out.

My shop is *Linda's Claws & Paws* in Ventura.....648.6060

Thanks to all of you for keeping the spirit of the Voice alive!

All the best,
Linda Lamon



"Good judgment comes from experience, and experience comes from bad judgment."

- Aldous Huxley

Attorney Troubles ?

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CA. State Bar
Association

call (800) 843-9053

Utility Companies Still Drowning Ventura County Ranchers

The past few years have been very difficult years for the Southern California citrus industry. Thousands of orange acres have been removed from production due to seriously depressed crop returns. Some production areas within the county have relatively limited choices of alternative crops for a variety of geophysical reasons....Ojai being a case in point. The struggle to remain in agriculture, and necessarily maintain a profitable economic position, will be made extremely difficult or impossible by the imposition of water rates that so markedly increase what is already grower's single biggest expense.

Interestingly, and I think significantly, the Casitas dam water project was initially proposed to provide support for the local ag industry in drought times, and as such received a loan from the Bureau of reclamation interest-free to the extent that agriculture was expected to be the user of the water. How ironic if in the end Casitas water rate hikes spell the demise of the Ojai citrus industry.

Jess Long

*Ojai resident and family farmer....
(1955-present)*

the Ojai and Ventura
ROSE

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Whose Cable is it Anyway ?

Ojai's Channel 10 will be ending as of Jan. 1, 2009. At that time, channel 10 will be handed over to the *City of Ojai* and no longer run by *Time Warner*. There will be no Public Access programs, nor any of the Government meetings aired on Channel 10.

The way it works now, *Time Warner* has an employee that comes to the Ojai studio three afternoons and evenings a week. Monday and Tuesday's are for Public Access/Educational programs and Wednesday is just for the Government programming.

When Channel 10 is handed to the *City of Ojai* it will then be Ojai's responsibility to either eliminate the channel altogether, or continue running the channel themselves. The *City of Ojai* is considering using the internet by having streaming video of the *City Council* meetings but what about all of the seniors in Ojai that do not have a computer or don't know how to use one? They are the ones that like to watch the meetings on television. I myself prefer to have the television on instead of watching a tiny little 320 X 240 video on my computer.

It would be nice if we can continue the programming on Channel 10. There are people that are adamant that the Government programming is mandated. Well, that is just not true. *The Digital Infrastructure and Competition Act (DIVCA) of 2006, AB 2987*, permits cable companies to franchise with the state of California instead of with the individual cities as they have in the past. This eliminates the responsibility of the cable company of operating a local public access studio in the future. The original *Federal Communications Commission (FCC)* ruling provided for *Public Access, Educational and Government (PEG)*, channels. Here in Ojai this has all been done on Channel 10. DIVCA does not mandate that PEG continues, but it does eliminate the opportunity for each community to decide if they want it and then

it would have to be a part of the franchise agreement.

On Dec. 20, 2006, the FCC gutted their funding to continue with their PEG rulings which provided for the PEG/Community Media throughout the country. *The Digital Infrastructure Video Competition Act (DIVCA)*, which took effect Jan. 1, 2008, places the *Public Utilities Commission (PUC)* in charge of choosing which cable company each community will be using as of Jan. 1, 2009. If the individual communities do not have a franchise agreement with a specific company, then the *State of California PUC* will make the decision as to which cable company will be used. If *Time Warner* continues as the cable company of Ojai, then there will be no PEG or Channel 10 unless the *City of Ojai* finds someone to run the station, or, they would have to *run it themselves*. *Time Warner* is shelving all PEG as of Jan. 1, 2009, unless their franchise agreement doesn't expire before then. There are other options if the *City of Ojai* is interested. The cable companies pay each city 1% of the money they collect from the cable fees for their community. Shouldn't this 1% be used to continue Channel 10? When we had the *Ojai Ranch Fire* in 1999, how did we learn what was happening and the status of the fire? Channel 10.

When we had the *Wolf Fire*, how did we find out the status of it? Channel 10.

When we had the flooding a few years ago and the roads in and out of the Ojai Valley were impassable, how did we find out what to do? Channel 10.

If Channel 10 is shelved then what do we do in a disaster ?

*April Jo Rogers
Valley View Video, Ojai*

*"The tree of liberty needs to
be watered frequently with
the blood of tyrants"*
- Thomas Jefferson

Voice your Letters ?
editor@ojaiandventurrose.com

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



Do You Like Your Work ?



Part I

There are many mid-lifers who are at times concerned about an impoverished retirement or worse (i.e. having a fantasy of pushing a shopping cart around). The economic reality for most of us is that we have to work almost all of our lives.

Sisyphus was punished by the gods. He had to push a stone uphill, watch it roll back down and push it up again for eternity. More and more people in our highly technical society feel this way about their work and get up every morning with dread. Often we leave our true selves behind when we enter the workplace, put on a mask and become who the corporation or the boss wants us to be. We follow instructions from "above" even when we don't believe they will yield the desired results. Sometimes we protect our superiors even when they don't deserve our respect. We look away from ethical violations and collude with others in a conspiracy of silence (Zweig).

We give up individuality to fit the mold at great expense to us. Then we come home and impose our resentment on our families or repress our feelings via alcohol, food and television, etc.

What to do? Well I've seen some folks who've decided to take off their masks of passive compliance and enter the workplace being more authentic and genuine with their feelings, thoughts and actions with considerable success. Its obviously a risk, but the pay off is equally high as soul re-enters their working life. Others, because of their responsibilities, feel they have to stay in an unrewarding job and find soul elsewhere – in friendship, hobbies, family and community. This gets tricky, however, when we sacrifice our deeper creative self to neurotic fears and anxieties for safety and security. Still others take a leap of faith, face their fears and look for work elsewhere. The best circumstance for this change is when it is not done purely on impulse, when no stone has been left unturned to make the present job more soulful and when other possibilities have been well researched.

Love to Mother Meera. One for all and all for one.

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Who's Watching The Store Over At Ventura City Hall... ?

By Frank Pecarich

A few weeks ago after saying they believed they only had a minor problem with revenue this year, the *City of Ventura* came out with a revised position which said the City budget was in crisis. Well, they put it a bit differently in their March 19th press release with this euphemistic title, "*City of Ventura Executes Immediate Steps to Preserve Fiscal Sustainability.*"

With all due deference to the recent popularity of the term 'sustainability', after reading the press release I prefer my description of the situation as a 'crisis'. I know that if I had this much jeopardy in my household budget, I'd call it a crisis.

As far back as 6 months ago, there were cities in California that were indicating deep concern about their budgets given the State's economic problems. Last Fall, *Alan Tandy, Bakersfield City Manager* for example, publicly alerted their city council that there could easily be a major revenue shortfall. More recently, the *City of Vallejo* announced severe conditions that could lead even to *City of Vallejo* bankruptcy. The *City of San Francisco* has for months now been planning their major cutbacks to accommodate their shrinking revenue. Through all this and up to its March 19th announcement, the only problem identified by *Ventura* was a small shortfall of approximately \$2 million, which is not even a 2% shortfall in their overall budget.

"...\$10 million of the City's assets were "invested" in Bear Stearns (BS) private assets...technically reduced to almost worthless..."

On March 19th however, the *City of Ventura* jolted *Ventura* citizens to life with the announcement that cuts would likely need to be made and quickly. The list of probable cuts is extensive, including closing

City Hall every other Friday and an immediate hiring freeze. At least I thought, the City has finally caught on to the economic downturn by stating, "Locally, the economic downturn has affected City revenue through a loss of expected sales tax dollars - currently 10% below projections; decreased property tax from falling home prices - down 24 percent over the prior year; and a decrease in revenue from building permits - down more than 15 percent from expected totals."

"City finance officers are supposed to be trained in public finance and have competence..."

Then the next sentence in the press release jumped out at me, City "liquidity has also been affected; the City holds \$10 million in what were AAA rated *Bear Stearns* investment notes". \$10 million of the City's assets were "invested" in *Bear Stearns (BS)* private assets which had been technically reduced to almost worthless in the *JP Morgan* buyout of near-bankrupt BS. What the City means is that their 'investment' is illiquid because it cannot be exchanged on the market for any amount of money close to the initial investment. That is to say, it is near worthless as long as it has no liquidity value.

"Most cities invest their cash assets in highly safe Treasury instruments and other government-backed securities."

Stepping back, we need to see there is a very special role that needs to be played with City assets by their *Finance Officer* and *Finance Office*. Paramount in any city finance mission is preserving the safety of the reserves and minimizing risk. If you review charters from municipalities all over the country, you will see that preserving financial assets is supposed to

be their top priority; any investment for gain should be done with the primary goal of asset preservation in mind.

City finance officers are supposed to be trained in public finance and have competence to determine the financial safety and viability of any investment proposal. Most cities invest their cash assets in highly safe Treasury instruments and other government-backed securities. Risking money with an investment bank such as *Bear Stearns* would not be high on a list of prudent investments. Pure investment banks such as *Bear Stearns* are not remotely similar to commercial banks such as *Wells Fargo* or *Bank of America*. There is no form of government insurance for deposits, and they are recognized as focused on higher risk ventures such as hedge funds, etc.

"Why did you even think about investing money in high-risk investment bank debt obligations?"

Bear Stearns was also heavily exposed to subprime mortgages, plus the firm had less capital and was less diversified than even its investment bank rivals. Moreover it should have been no big surprise to anyone paying attention that *Bear Stearns* was in trouble. As early as nine months ago, evidence of their trauma was in the news. (See sidebar, below – *Bear Stearns, The Evidence of a High Risk Gone Bad*) It can never be said that *BS*'s problems were flying below the radar.

Bear Stearns: The Evidence of a High Risk Gone Bad

Back in June 22, 2007 as reported by the *New York Times* and other mainstream press, *Bear Stearns* pledged a collateralized loan of up to \$3.2 billion to "bail out" one of its funds, the *Bear Stearns High-Grade Structured Credit Fund*, while negotiating with other banks to loan money against col-

lateral to another fund, the *Bear Stearns High-Grade Structured Credit Enhanced Leveraged Fund*. The funds were invested in thinly traded collateralized debt obligations (CDO's) found to be worth less than their mark-to-model value. *Merrill Lynch* seized \$850 million worth of the underlying collateral but only was able to auction \$100 million of them. The incident sparked concern of contagion as *Bear Stearns* may be forced to liquidate its CDOs, prompting a mark-down of similar assets in other portfolios.

During the week of July 16, 2007, *Bear Stearns* publicly disclosed that the two subprime hedge funds had lost nearly all of their value amid a rapid decline in the market for subprime mortgages.

Last July the financial stewards at the *City of Ventura* should have been taking actions that would have put *Ventura* at less risk. There is no good reason I can think of why *Ventura* is still holding *Bear Stearns* bonds which are presently worthless and which could have been sold on the market months earlier when *Bear Stearns* was clearly in so much financial trouble.

So we have two questions for the people charged with protecting our financial assets at the *City of Ventura*.

"Ms. Measures in addition to performing on the Ventura City Council in past years has made a career in banking over 25 years..."

--Why did you even think about investing money in high-risk investment bank debt obligations?
-- And, once it was clear there was a big problem with Bear Stearns, why did you not take action to avert the potential for a disastrous loss of needed reserve funds?

The stated investment policy for *Ventura* identifies "safety" of principal as the foremost objective of the City investment program. And



Ventura's Risky Business... yet with evidence mounting in the investment world for the past year that risk was high and ever increasing, the stewards of our financial assets did not act to lessen risk and the elected officials to whom they report did not intervene.

The City is supposed to have an oversight and advisory committee which is to help guide the City in investment matters. But when we look at the membership of this group called the "*Investment Oversight Committee*", we find it is comprised not of outside, independent financial advisors who could provide real advice and oversight. Rather it is composed of *City Manager Rick Cole* and three of his finance department employees and only one non-employee member, *Rosa Lee Measures*.

Checking the public record shows that *Ms. Measures* in addition to performing on the *Ventura City Council* in past years has made a career in banking over 25 years, serving as *Vice President and Regional Manager of the Imperial Savings and Loan Association*.

Call me naïve, but where was the representation of someone who is steeped in the financial practices of modern day public investment?

Where is the evidence that anyone familiar with the daily topsy turvy atmosphere of fixed income investment was even available for consultation?

In other words and with all due respect for *Ventura's* pride in self-management, who was watching the store?

How could anyone having any sense of the investment world not realize until sometime in March 2008 that major financial institutions all over the globe were crumbling like a cheap suit?

I would say that either the people responsible for money manage-

ment in the *City of Ventura* didn't know what was happening or that they knew what was happening and chose to ignore the consequences. In any event, *Ventura* citizens deserve better and should demand better from their public servants and those who choose to lead them in elected office.

Frank Pecarich, Ventura

'Oh Geeze, Missed it by That Much !' Grand Pooh-Bah 'Measures' City Hall 'One Hell of A Mess'

R. Ellis Smith



Now we are told by the *Gang in the Ivory Tower*

that not only is the city's "balanced" budget in one hell of a mess, but it's in double the mess we were told a couple of weeks

ago. One can only imagine where we are going to be by the date of the city's fiscal year.

One of the items they are going to perpetrate on us lowly ignorant citizens is to have the *Gang in the Ivory Tower* meet only 3

times per month instead of 4 times per month. Now unless they are going to reduce their \$600/mo. pittance that each of them collects, (\$800/mo for the *Mayor*), by 25% I really don't see what the savings are going to be by eliminating one meeting per month.

Oh sure they will save a couple of bucks on the electricity that it takes to light up the *Gangs'* meeting hall, and the electricity it takes to run the little lights they flash at each other when they want to talk, but other than that I really don't see any great monetary savings.

Hey I got a great idea, on the day

they aren't going to have a council meeting they could hold an *Ivory Tower* garage sale, get rid of a few items they don't really need... you know like the massive thrones they use to impress us at their meetings that they do have.

By the way, are they still going to loan the *Arts Council* a couple of Million dollars to help in their construction of the *Arts Colony*?

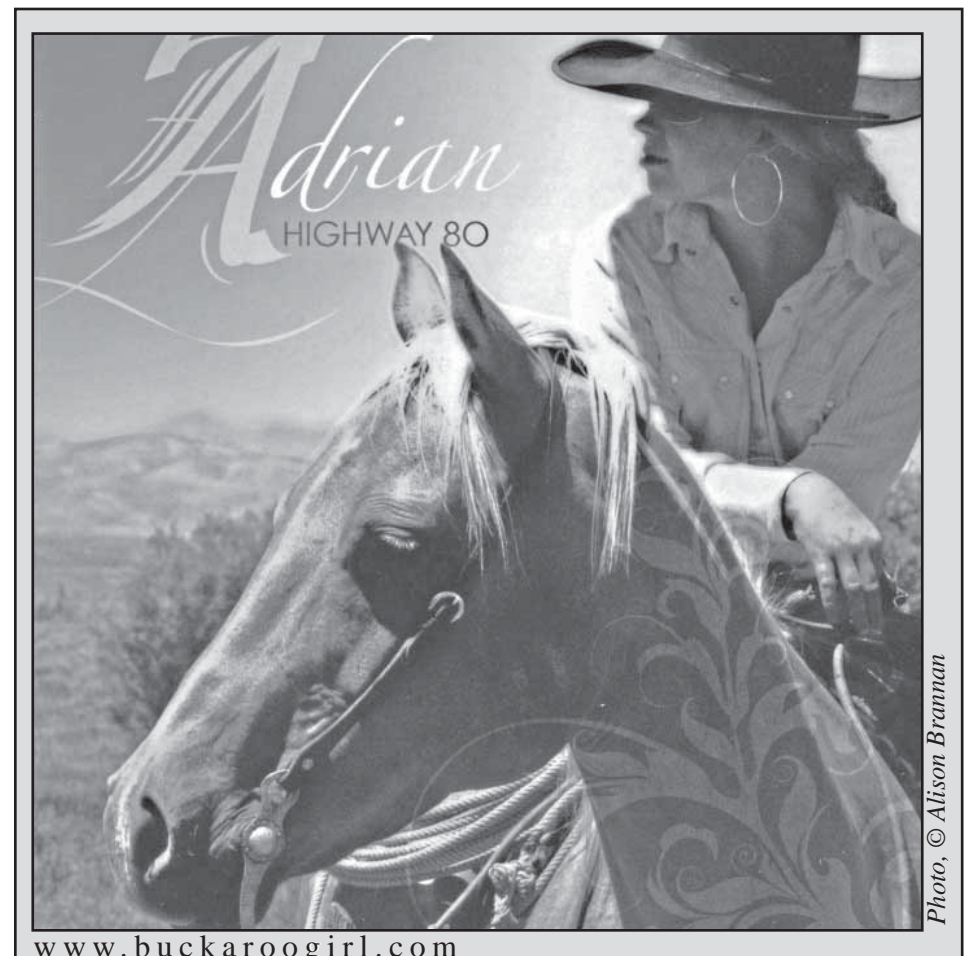
R. Ellis Smith, Ventura



Photos © 2008, Joel Anderson



...with an authenticity born at the side of a cowboy campfire. *Adrian* listens to and records the stories that the *Old Cowboys* have to tell, with a deep respect for the past and the traditions of rural America ("*Drifting Vaquero*"). She brings a freshness to her original music rarely found in today's young musicians. *Adrian* is a slice of Americana backed up by a powerful voice and a riveting stage presence. Don't miss *Adrian's* when she returns to *Ojai*!



Photo, © Alison Brannan

www.buckarogirl.com

Devin Fulton 'Sexy Sculpting' Entrepreneur

Im in fifty different places at once every day. I'm finally making a living at what I've always dreamed of doing but I could never do it without the support of my Rad boyfriend Michael who adores me. This is my fourth season as a Principal Dancer for the **L.A. Contemporary Dance Company** and four days a week I drive to Los Angeles for rehearsals. At the studio in Ventura, I am celebrating the one year anniversary of the inception of the **Devine Sexy Sculpting Class**. I have two classes a week and they are packed, popular and fabulous. **The Sexy Sculpting** class meets twice a week and I love teaching it more than anything. I get a fabulous workout and I get to inspire other women to tone up, slim down and gain more confidence in their bodies. Yes, the class costs more than a traditional gym membership but it's pure fun and besides they are learning a craft which they can use in their lives and take home to their husbands.

This year, I'm starting a new performance group called **"The Pin Down Girls"**. I will be performing along with four other professional dancers who I will choreograph. The name was inspired by the traditional term **"Pin Up Girls"**, except that my group is not going

to be red lipstick, pin curls and sweet choreography on a chair. We'll be raw, hardcore, updated, aggressive and sexy. We'll be thrashing our hair and pinning your ass down....(laughing). We're booking now for July and expect to be appearing at some

they are trained to do rockin' choreography.

This year I am also appearing in **American Apparel** commercials. The first commercial is a company shoot and the next three will waaay more feature me. I am also teaching Master classes where I work with professional dance companies and schools to bring insight and diversity into their performances. In May, I will be flying to Boston to teach a Masters class for **The Dance Prism**.

I have always known inside of myself that I would be able to make a living as a dancer. As an artist I have always been told that you have to have a backup plan but I always believed and have always known since I was a little girl that this was the life that I wanted for myself. It's finally all coming together. Someday I will want to start a family and I know I will be able to teach **Sexy Sculpting Class** right on through my pregnancy. Right now I am only 27 so I want to make the most of my years as a professional dancer, but eventually Michael and I will open our own studio and explore the business

possibilities under the **Sexy Sculpting** name. I am hoping to inspire women of all ages to get fit, have fun, and live their dreams out to the very fullest. !

Mary M. Long, Ojai

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Devin and Michael celebrating life in Hawaii.

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Photo by Joe Lambie/www.joebwphoto.com

Devin Arlette Fulton has been dancing since she was 3-years-old.

At 17, she received a full scholarship to the **Joffrey Ballet School**. Later that year, she became a company member of the **State Street Ballet** and **Plexus Dance Theatre**. Devin was featured in Santa Barbara's very popular **'Toxique...A Love Fever'**. Moving to Los Angeles, she started off her career by performing on the **WB's 'Angel'**. In the summer of 2003, Devin received a scholarship to **Edge Performing Arts Center**. Upon graduating this program, she booked a year long contract for the Las Vegas show **'X'** at the **Aladdin Resort**.

Devin is currently a principal dancer with the **LA Contemporary Dance Company**. She also performs

with **Joseph Allen Decker Dance Company** and **Commonality Dance Co.**

Devin teaches master classes and sets choreography for **Rio Mesa High School** and **Ventura College**. Currently appearing in the **American Apparel** commercials, Devin is also the creator and instructor of the **Sexy Sculpting** dance classes in Ventura. In July, Devin is premiering a contemporary burlesque troupe which calls itself **The Pin-Down Girls** (photo below) in which she is featured.



Photo by Jesse Soll/www.jsollphotography.com

© 2008, STEALTHKAT GRAPHICS

Ojai City Council Votes 70K Study for Libbey Bowl Demo

By Joel Anderson

On March 12, the **Ojai City Council** unanimously voted \$70,000 to fund architect **David Bury and Associates** to perform a comprehensive study for rebuilding **Libbey Bowl**.

A rebuild was pitched by Bury and, if successful, would result in Ojai's historic **Libbey Bowl** being completely torn down and subsequently rebuilt.

"It is going to be razed. It is going to be 100% new", said Bury. Bury also said the project would be completed by the 2010 **Ojai Music Festival** season.

The council has sidelined the normal process of soliciting independent bids for the rebuild and has instead hired architect David Bury for the study. Bury was also mayor of Ojai in the late 90s.

Ojai City Attorney Monte Widders clarified "... you recognize that you are in fact setting aside what may be the normal selection process and designating David Bury and associates..."

The city did emphasize the need for community input. "The people that live in this city... any kind of funding, or grants that you may go after, or private money... really depend on the local citizens buying into the project. I can't emphasize... even getting the public involved, the city will do its part..." said city council member **Carol Smith**.

Steve Olsen noted the city council role in the **Libbey Bowl** development.

"It's gonna be a good sales job, I think on your part, to explain what you've explained to us tonight," Olsen said.

It is unclear the extent or scope of Bury's experience in organizing qualified sound consulting professionals and relevant contractors for an outside music venue. However, Bury is currently remodeling the theater at **Ventura college**. The significance of this Ojai Libbey Bowl project can't be underestimated, said the council. If a final building plan is ultimately approved by the city council, Bury said project costs to do a proper remodel could and should run upwards and past 3.5 million.

To SEE: **Ojai City Council March 23 Video "Vote" on the matter, go to: YouTube.com/OVvtARose**

INTERVIEW: FRED VOGLER

Fred Vogler, is independent consultant, sound designer and lead mixer at the Hollywood Bowl. He resolved significant sound problems for the \$383.5 million Disney Concert Hall completed in 2003. The indoor Disney hall is considered one of the most acoustically sophisticated concert halls in the world.

Vogler, was the sound engineer for the Ojai Music Festival under Pierre Boulez, 1996, and is familiar with the acoustic issues of Libbey Bowl. Vogler worked on the recent rebuild of the Hollywood Bowl, completed in 2004, which cost \$18 million.

"I participated with the group of consultants for the new Hollywood Bowl sound system", said Vogler.

"People refer to Ojai as kind of an upscale artistic community so there's a really high expectation level for Ojai to produce quality."

The **Hollywood Bowl** was upgraded for multiple reasons: the structure couldn't support modern concerts for large scale performances. They needed a structure that would support the lighting and amplification rigs for today's concerts, sound systems and for today's large scale touring performers. The **Hollywood Bowl** shell was made of asbestos, it was falling apart so there was no way to save it. I am familiar with the **Ojai Bowl**. I worked for the **Ojai Festival** about 10-years-ago when **Pierre Boulez** was conducting. The **Hollywood Bowl** and the **Ojai Libbey Bowl** faced many of the same issues, being outdoor venues with a lot of historical significance. Both bowls were being challenged with the technology of today and with the amount of interface technology with live performance for classical, jazz, world music and pop... The line of what's electronic and what's acoustic (supporting acoustic music) is being blurred more and more and that's for every type of ensemble including traditional ensembles. Of course, I do Rock n' Roll, too. The Libby shell, I know, is pretty small and it can't support the weight of the bigger amplification systems. Because of the historic significance of the **Hollywood Bowl**, like **Libbey Bowl**, a lot of people were worried about rebuilding that. The architect should take into account the expectations and aesthetically match the needs of the client. The architect for the **Hollywood**

Bowl rebuild was **Hodgetts & Fung**, in Culver City. The **Hollywood Bowl** now just looks like a more upscale and modern **Hollywood Bowl**. The New Shell is at least 40 percent bigger and now we can host the big touring acts. It's been a big success; it's a fantastic venue. They actually razed it and knocked the entire thing down, dug a big hole and built a whole new structure. There are a lot more amenities than there ever were. Now we can host the big rock shows like the **Rolling Stones**. The big touring acts these days have lots of lighting, lots of video.... The **Hollywood Bowl** is by far the best ever: we have used the same sound system for the **Rolling Stones**, the **LA Philharmonic**, **The Who**, **Rod Stewart**, **Simon and Garfunkle**, to name a few. These acts all use the same sound system, with different equalizations and different level amounts. It's the most transparent and yet full-sounding system that has ever been there.

If the **Ojai City Council** is really serious about rebuilding the **Libbey Bowl**, they have to start by consulting with people in the **L.A. Philharmonic**... or people within the industry who can provide a skill level and experience... There's only about half a dozen across the **United States** who are qualified. They absolutely need to hire a sound designer and an acoustician. I think it's crazy to go into designing a venue without getting advice from these people. The architect doesn't have to know sound, but they need to bring in a team of sound engineers who can advise them.

I have colleagues who have banded together to consult for that purpose. There's a lot of incompetence out there... you need to get a good sound engineer on board and a good acoustician and the city will not only save a lot of money, but avoid costly mistakes. You want someone who's had a lot of experience with live sound. There's certain needs that are specific to live concerts. In a live show there's no stopping and going back and fixing it. All these moving parts have to be choreographed so that's there's not chaos but there's a fantastic show. At the end of the day, you have to connect that performer with the audience and all the technology has to get out of the way of that connection.... It's a tough gig. It requires making decisions on the fly and having the tools at hand to deal with what can happen. It usually takes about 10 to 15 years of dealing with this to get a pretty solid perspective.... There are plenty of really talented people who do it and there's plenty of incompetence too.

People refer to Ojai as kind of an upscale artistic community, so there's a really high expectation level for Ojai to produce quality. It has to be done right. You don't want some schlocky distorted amplification system. The **Walt Disney Concert Hall** was designed by architect **Frank Gehry** who has an ability to bring together a great team.

Right now, I'm doing another project with them, **Michael Tilson Thomas** and the **World Symphony**.

INTERVIEW: KATHE LENSKI

Kathleen Lenski is the first violinist and founding member of the **Los Angeles String Quartet**. Ms. Lenski appeared as soloist with the **Los Angeles Philharmonic**, the **Seattle**, **San Francisco** and **St. Louis Symphonies**, as well as touring and recording with the **Baroque Ensemble**, "Musical Offering". She served as soloist and Concert Master of the **Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra**, and was soloist and leader of the **Oregon Back Festival Chamber Orchestra**. Other festival appearances **Aspen**, **Marlboro**, **Sitka**, **Cape and Islands**, and the **Accademia Chigianan** in Sienna, Italy. Kathleen has also performed on soundtracks for hundreds of films including **E.T.**, **Schindler's List**, and all of the **Disney** animated features.



One of the major problems at **Libbey Bowl** is that the exposure of the instruments to the elements does not produce the best quality of sound from the orchestra. When I soloed at **Libbey Bowl** in the late 60s, I clearly remember the difficulties we went through tuning our instruments. Changes in humidity cause the wood and strings to swell and shrink which immediately changes the tuning, and on string instruments this has a huge effect on sound production. My violin is a **Gaudagnini**, which was made in Turin, Italy in 1775 belonged to a close friend of **Johannes Brahms**. Many of my colleagues play very old instruments which can be valued at up to \$300,000 or more. When exposed to humid conditions, such as performing at the **Tanglewood Festival** outside of Boston, some of these old instruments have literally come apart. In extremely dry conditions, I have to place a small damp sponge inside of my violin to try to provide stable humidity. These instruments were not meant to be played outdoors so I try to avoid

booking performances in outdoor situations because of the effects on my violin. In the more modern venues the humidity is usually controlled in the dressing rooms so that the musicians can move from the dressing rooms to the stage without exposing their instruments to the elements. In 2004, I played with the **Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra** in the "new" **Hollywood Bowl** which is now quite good since they have done so much to improve it. They now have a great sound system and the outer lip of the shell comes way out so that the orchestra sits deep within the shell and is protected from exposure to the elements.

The **Ojai Music Festival** is now a nationally known festival. Everyone loves the rustic atmosphere of the **Libbey Bowl**: it's great being in a park and hearing wonderful music.

Incredible Species

All of the incredible species of wildlife on our planet Earth are defenseless without our support. This is the time to establish policies on a small personal scale as well as on a broad public scale to protect and maintain planetary health.

The Ojai Valley Whale Society thanks the Natives of Ojai for helping to conserve and preserve California's first, and oldest, Family of fossilized, 25-million-year-old, toothed baleen whales, a newly discovered Family on the face of the earth, Ojaicetidae.

Aaron Plunkett
OjaiValleyWhaleSociety.org

Keeping Our Coasts Clean

Dear Friend:

Too many of America's coastal communities have been impacted by oil spills. These spills have both environmental and economic consequences. I have been working to reduce the number of incidences and the consequences of spills, and I am pleased to let you know that I recently joined in introducing legislation to modernize and make safer ships that carry fuel.

The **Oil Spill Prevention Act of 2008, S.2699**, would require double hulls on bunker fuel tanks on non-tank vessels, strengthen the Coast Guard medical review process for licensing pilots and merchant mariners, direct the Coast Guard to make improvements to its vessel tracking system to prevent navigational errors and accidents, and phase out federal liability limits for oil spills from single-hull tanker ships.

In light of the devastation caused by the **Exxon Valdez** spill in Alaska in 1989, the recent spill in the Bay Area caused by the **Cosco Busan**, and countless other spills, it is time that ships be modernized and other changes be made to ensure that our coasts are not violated by oil spills. This legislation is a step in the right direction, and I will be working with my Senate colleagues to enact it.

Sincerely,
Barbara Boxer, United States Senator

Yoga
with
Ingrid Boulting

"The body is the bow, the asanas (poses) are the arrows that target the soul."
B.K.S. Iyengar

Sacred Space Studio
410 Bryant Circle,
Suite A
Ojai, CA 93023
805.646.6761
www.sacredspacestudio.com



Where's the Love? Ventura sidewalk surfers ask, "Where's the Love?" during a recent excursion through the hallowed village of downtown Vta.

By Peter R. Milhado, Ph.D.



Back in the 90s Jeff did a series of articles on a local developer who transgressed all boundaries of environmental decency. He researched the developer's history extensively and found out that he was accused in several trials for alleged connections to organized crime. During this time he received a letter from the developer's lawyer with scathing threats. Not only did the letter threaten Jeff with litigation, it also demanded an apology and that he rescind everything he wrote. If he did not comply, he would definitely regret it, which was a not so subtle threat to his physical well-being.

"How you gonna handle this, Jeff?"

"I ain't apologizing for the truth... never!"

I screamed at him, "Are you f__ing crazy man? You're not in the little league of the *Ojai City Council* here. You're messing with the big boys. They'll put your ass down in a heartbeat... and who in the hell in their right mind

would publish my articles then? At least write no more about this."

"Peter, this is an important issue for me, I'm of Italian-American descent myself. I've researched every minute detail, the article stands as written...period!"

Not only did he not apologize or rescind, he continued to report on this issue and the developer's alleged mob connections.

Jeff was not only one of the most stubborn men I've ever known, he was also one of the most courageous... he had huevos! He never kissed anyone's ass, not from the right, not from the left and never for profit. He lived by his own code of honor.

Unfortunately, my friend was a slave to the commitment he made to his newspaper. He'd often work fifteen hours a day. He literally worked himself to death and I'm still bloody pissed off at him for that. I knew he needed a break and getaway, so early on I asked him,

"Maddawg, we're heading out this week-end, it's on me. We'll hit the cantinas in Tijuana and Ensenada and dance with the girls. Do you know how to Salsa? No? Well, go take a yoga class from Suza before we go, she'll help you stretch your muscles. Be ready at four a.m. Friday morning."

"Naaah Peter, I gotta get the paper out."

I asked him again six months later with the same results. Soon this dialogue became an ongoing joke. In the last two decades I asked him at least forty times to hit the road and take a few days off. The answer was always the same,

"Naaah Peter, I gotta get the paper out." The only time he took off in twenty years was to be with his daughters, Ana and Rosa. Whenever he would talk about them, which was often, love would beam through his eyes. I've known Ana and Rosa since they were little girls. They are truly beautiful souls, which is a compliment to Jeff and their mother, Catherine.

I first met Jeff shortly after I moved to Ojai. In the early eighties, my brother and I would hike the local trails. In the evening we'd hit The Hub, listen to good music on their jukebox, hoist a few brews and then head down to the jail in Libbey

Park to crash in our sleeping bags. I first fell in love with Ojai when I woke up one morning with the sun rising and took in the soulful vibe of Libbey

Park. Many of the people I know fell in love with Ojai, that's why they moved here. Ten years later I arrived to put down roots. During my second week I attended the music festival with a bottle of wine in my

cooler. I believe the symphony was from Johann Sebastian Bach or Ludwig van Beethoven. At that time, my musical leanings were towards Rock, Bluegrass, Folk and the Blues. This was my first attendance in a symphony. The music was awesome, transcending and

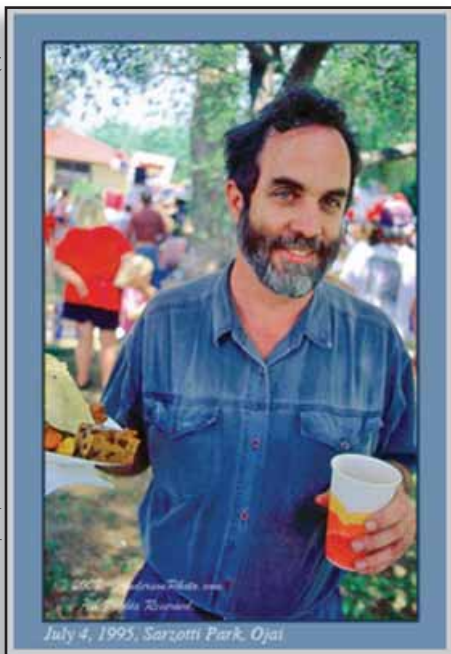
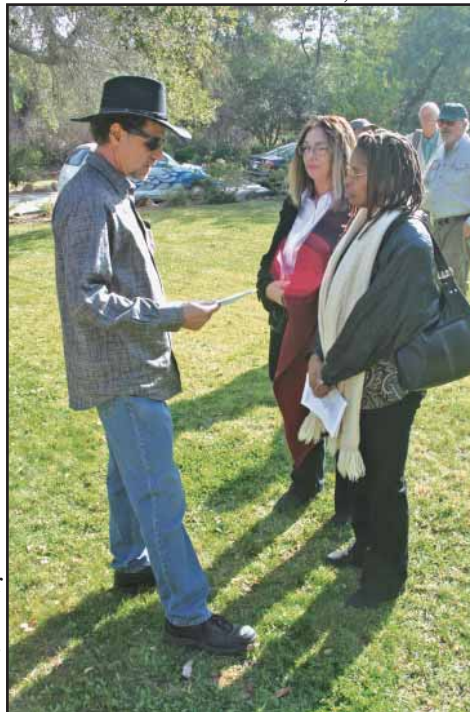
absolutely beautiful. When the music stopped, I got up, applauded whooped, hollered and screamed "Bravo! Bravo! Bravvvooo! I was the only one. All of a sudden people around me hissed, "Psst,

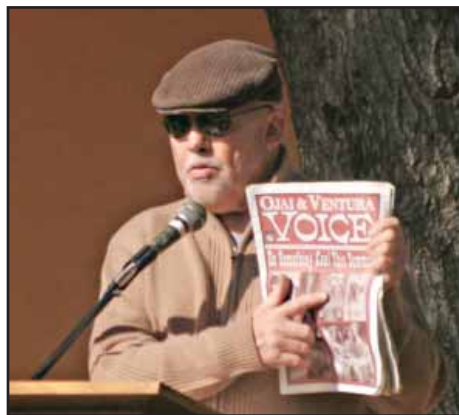
psst, be quiet, sit down, psst, psst." Apparently, one doesn't applaud until the symphony is totally over. I thought I was in a snake pit. I embarrassingly sat down, my 'in love' state with Ojai got immediately challenged.

I put my first symphony experience down on paper and sent it to Jeff. He loved it and put it in 'The Voice'. At that point our friendship started and it would slowly deepen like a river over the next two decades.

Now that Jeff has passed on, the god or goddess of grief has descended. I know enough to lean into grief and not push it away. Many times during my daily walks through the streets of Ojai, I go by his old house. A memory of Jeff always flashes on and a tear rolls from my eye.

Jeff, my writings in this new paper will always be dedicated to you. I will draw on your warrior spirit who fought relentlessly and uncompromisingly for freedom of speech and freedom of the press, a gift given to us in The Constitution by our forefathers. I love you and I miss you – God Bless!





The Press

Those of us who were involved in the birth and development of The VOICE with Jeffrey San Marchi shared his ideals and passionate desire to see a free press exist in this town and other towns across the nation in order to uphold the individual's First Amendment rights, as defined in the United States Constitution, drafted September 17, 1787.

Jeff was keenly aware of the insidious loss of personal freedoms, which have been eroding over the course of 221 years. The keystone of democratic government is separation of powers as laid down by founders in the U.S. Constitution, ie: neither the legislative, executive nor judicial branch was ever to have an unfair advantage over the others.

"It is through the press that the government hears our voice" - K. Smith

It is said that the fourth leg of our system became the press, which empowers the citizenry. Its primary obligation to question governmental authority was clearly ensured by the framers of the highest law in the land, The First Amendment, in the Bill of Rights in 1789.

First Amendment -- "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

In modern times, corporations have undue influence on individuals and grass roots groups (*our founding fathers were a "grass roots" group*) through ownership of the press and other media.

There are now very few solid free press publications that are autonomous or individually owned. Instead, most are owned and controlled by remote corporate interests, and run for profit. Most often the press has now become the wolf in sheep's clothing. For instance, the Ojai Valley News is not locally owned, but owned by a Tuscaloosa, Alabama based corporation and has thus, by definition, lost local autonomy. (For more info check out <http://www.freepress.net/ownership/chart/print>)

The Voice was unique and perfect in it's simplicity, a paper of and for the people. The *spirit of the 'Voice'* is something that has reverberated from the very beginnings of this country's founding, and will live on through small town editors and newspaper people who will follow in the path of Jeffrey W. San Marchi.

Joel A. Anderson

"We will finish the work that the Fathers begun;

*Then those to their sleeping,
And those to their weeping,
And one faith and flag
for the Federal Gun !"*

- A Battle Poem
By Benj. F. Taylor

Photos ©2007, Joel Anderson

20 Incontrovertible Truths about Global Warming

A Comprehensive Look at a Global Challenge

by Alasdair Coyne - Part I of II

The story of global warming is a complicated one. A proper understanding of it requires considering the long-term repercussions of how we are altering the life-sustaining ecological balance of the Earth. Scientists are saying that we must stop the current annual increase in global emissions of climate changing gases in as little as seven years from now. Meanwhile, life around us goes on as usual – people driving, flying and shopping, all of which contribute to climate change. There's little indication that the necessary changes will happen in the next seven years.

In the following article, I've outlined twenty points which should be useful as you learn more about global warming. Future articles will focus on some of these points in detail.

Politicians often simply don't know how to respond to climate change. There are some champions out there, but most elected officials haven't taken the time to grasp the importance of the changes to our planet's life support systems that we are causing by our fossil fuel powered lifestyles. Nor do they understand that ignoring the issue is guaranteed to make those coming changes even more severe and permanent.

One important approach is grassroots education. Millions of Americans must absorb enough information about global warming that they begin to reevaluate their priorities, make appropriate changes in their own lives, and demand far-reaching and comprehensive political responses.

People must understand that the web of life that supports them with their food, water and shelter is undergoing such dynamic changes that these things will actually become less available to their children. The lifestyle of the developed world, heavily based on fossil fuels, is not the only way to live on this planet. Climate change requires us to reinvent how we provide the energy for humanity's basic needs – in the next seven years. It's time to start shouting from the rooftops.

(1) GLOBAL WARMING IS CAUSED BY A BUILD-UP OF MINOR GASES IN THE ATMOSPHERE THAT RETAIN HEAT FROM THE SUN VERY EFFECTIVELY

Global warming gases are produced mainly by the burning of fossil fuels, the engines of modern industrial society. They are also produced by cattle and by deforestation, among other things. The predominant greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide, CO₂. Nitrogen and oxygen, the major gases in our atmosphere, do not retain heat.

The buildup of these minor gases in our atmosphere has led to a warming of both the air and the oceans. This warming has disrupted what had been a relatively stable climate over recent centuries, and our continued reliance on fossil fuels is guaranteed to increase climate instability over decades, even centuries to come. Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere can remain there for up to 500 years.

Some results of climate instability are rising oceans, melting glaciers, shrinking ice caps over Greenland and parts of Antarctica, fiercer hurricanes, shifting rainfall patterns and long term droughts, and the extinction of a large percentage of plant and animal species, those that cannot adjust to the speedy rise in temperatures in their home environment.

(2) GLOBAL WARMING HAS COME ABOUT LARGELY AS A RESULT OF OUR INCREASED AND WIDESPREAD USE OF CHEAP OIL AND GAS SINCE THE END OF WWII

The late 1940s saw the start of the great expansion of oil production from the Middle East, which still holds the world's largest remaining oil reserves.

This flow of oil was cheaply enough extracted and marketed to allow for the manufacture and distribution of the plethora of consumer goods now enjoyed by the world's wealthier peoples. Advertisers joined in to create needs these people didn't know existed and which we now take for granted. In a nutshell, this is how we've got to where we are today, with fossil fuel usage at such a heightened level that it's changing our stable climate. Our modern industrial civilization depends even more on a stable climate than on the fossil fuels that it is currently addicted to.

(3) MOST PEOPLE IN THE RICHER COUNTRIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR TONS OF CARBON DIOXIDE RELEASED ANNUALLY INTO THE ATMOSPHERE

There's a little chemistry lesson needed here. When the carbon in fossil fuels burns, it reacts with oxygen in the air to create carbon dioxide, CO₂.

Oxygen in our atmosphere is in itself not a greenhouse gas that absorbs heat. But when fossil fuels burn, each carbon atom joins up with two oxygen atoms to form CO₂, multiplying the weight of the resulting greenhouse gas far beyond the weight of the carbon that was burned in the fossil fuel.

That's how using a gallon of gas in your car releases 20 pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. 100 gallons of gas release a whole ton of carbon dioxide; and filling up with 10 gallons of gas a week gives you a "carbon footprint" of 5 tons a year for your car, or around the US average.

Add to that the electricity you use at home, and the furnace and air conditioning, and the energy taken to transport the food and other stuff you buy from their origins to the stores you bought them all at, and the average American's greenhouse gas releases total about 20 tons a year.

(4) TO REDUCE CLIMATE INSTABILITY, WE MUST SPEEDILY REDUCE OUR GLOBAL CONSUMPTION OF FOSSIL FUELS

The **International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** reports to the UN with its findings. The IPCC is a consensus organization, which means that all its reports are approved by all of the 2,000 scientists from 100 countries that sit on the panel.

The IPCC's best estimates of how to slow global warming recommend that the developed world reduce its reliance on fossil fuels by the year 2050 by a factor of 80%, based on what was consumed in 1990.

So far, eighteen years into this sixty-year timespan, global consumption of fossil fuels is still rising – and rising pretty fast. We are not yet at the peak of fossil fuel usage, let alone returning to 1990s levels, let alone reducing that level by 80%. You could say that this is the bad news.

California, which if it were its own country would have the world's sixth largest economy, has recently taken a lead in planning to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. Legislation passed in 2006 requires the state to cut its carbon dioxide emissions by 25% between 2006 and 2020.

(5) PEAK OIL AND GLOBAL WARMING ARE BOTH COMING TO A HEAD AT THE SAME POINT IN OUR HISTORY

Oil is the overwhelmingly dominant fuel choice for global transportation by land, air or sea.

Experts who study how much oil is still available to be extracted are in broad agreement that our global ability to produce oil will start to shrink within the next few years. The phrase "peak oil" refers to the time at which the volume of oil production begins a permanent decline. At the same time, demand for oil will still be rising, especially in fast-developing nations such as India and China.

This can only lead to one thing – steep, permanent and ongoing increases in oil prices. The same is true for natural gas, the cleanest fossil fuel in terms of climate change. Coal, the dirtiest fossil fuel in terms of climate change, is plentifully available.

Items such as plastics and fertilizers, which are made from oil and gas, will also go up in price. Just as we need drastically to be reducing the use of oil and gas to limit climate change, their prices will be going up. We will have to use less of them because we won't be able to afford to buy as much of them as we do now.

We must focus on two things that will help us address both problems – climate change and more expensive fossil fuels – namely, the use of alternative, renewable fuels and the greater application of efficiency to how we use fuels of all sorts. If you can perform a task – heating your house, or driving to work – with half the energy you use now, then you're still getting the job done, but you're only using half the energy you used before. That's what efficiency is all about.

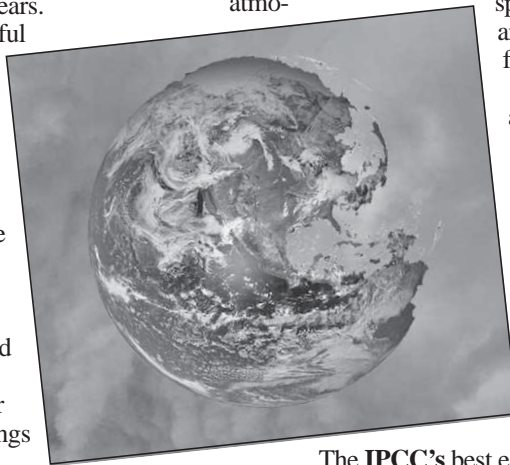
(6) THE USA REMAINS THE KEY TO RESPONDING TO GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

We are, taken together, the energy hogs of the planet. With around 5% of the world's population, the US is responsible for a quarter of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. You might be surprised to learn that the US still has 30% of the 700 million cars in the world today – and that these cars produce half of the greenhouse gases of all cars everywhere. That's because our cars get worse mileage, and because we drive them further than do drivers elsewhere.

The US also is home to one in six power plants worldwide. Quite apart from that, US media broadcast the American way of life across the planet on TV screens and at the movies. The whole world, just about, gets glimpses of the lifestyles of the rich and famous here in the USA, and as people in other countries get wealthier, they generally seek the large house, the cars, and the electronic gadgets that they've seen on those TV shows.

Which makes it doubly important for Americans to turn away promptly from the culture of consumption and the culture of affluence, and to demonstrate leadership in addressing climate change.

If we retain our current energy-intensive lifestyle (which doesn't produce the promise of happiness that it is sold to us with), there won't be much incentive for the fast-growing middle classes in India and China to aim for anything less. And the planet simply can't support another billion people living the resource-consumptive lifestyles that we "enjoy" here in the US.



**South Coast
Earth Day Festival 2008**

Sunday, April 20

10 am to 5:30 pm at the County Courthouse Sunken Gardens

Reduce your eco-footprint

Follow the footsteps to the eco-footprint tent and learn how to calculate your demand on the earth.

Organized by the Community Environmental Council www.SBEarthDay.org
Visit CEC's Get Energized website at www.GetEnergized.org

It's about time for TV shows and movies to reflect the reality of the era of human development that is now upon us – the dawning of the conservation society, where natural resources, including energy, are used sparingly rather than inefficiently and frivolously. This will be the message, and our way of life, for the indefinite future, like it or not.

By the way, Europeans enjoy a lifestyle comparable to that in the US, while using only half the electric consumption of Americans, mainly due to their smaller houses and appliances. Currently, the US is second last of around 56 developed nations in its response to climate change. Leaders in this tally include Germany, Sweden – and Mexico.

(7) THE MARKETPLACE IS NOT SETUP TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE ON ITS OWN
Big business is geared to the short-term quarterly reporting of profits. On the other hand, a wide-ranging response to global climate change requires many avenues of planning and action over multiple decades.

British Petroleum, recently advertising itself as “beyond petroleum,” is boosting its extraction of oil from coal tar sands, which will actually increase global warming because the processing is so energy-intensive.

And agriculture and energy interests are working to turn more and more of the US corn crop into ethanol, which is inefficient because of the energy already used by the fertilizers and farm equipment to grow the corn. What's more, a global shortage of corn has already resulted in widespread hunger, even food riots, in poor countries. “Done wrong, ethanol could wreak havoc on the environment while increasing greenhouse gases,” editorialized the *New York Times* on Feb. 24, 2008.

Of course, the nuclear industry is pushing hard for new nuclear power plants. But these are so costly – and inevitably plagued by large cost overruns and decades of construction time – that available funding needs to be focused instead on efficiency programs, which make a large difference in very little time.

Now there are big businesses that are taking climate change seriously and that are making radical changes towards carbon neutrality (which means emitting no greenhouse gases, when a business' entire operations are considered as a whole). Google recently pledged millions of dollars for a project that will produce enough renewable energy to power all of San Francisco at a price cheaper than coal.

However, the momentum of big business is not yet positioned or ready to take the steps required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions globally. This is where legislative direction is vital, as well as consumer pressure.

Then there are the climate change denial corporations, chiefly **Exxon-Mobil**, who have spent millions of dollars over many years, to sow seeds of doubt about the reality of global climate change in the minds of both politicians and the population at large. I can imagine conscious, determined efforts like these, which may have set back a full scale response to climate change by a decade in the US, being classified some day as crimes against humanity, or more correctly, crimes against life on Earth.

(8) YOU NEED TO EDUCATE YOURSELF AND YOUR CHILDREN, FAMILY AND FRIENDS ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING

THE GROWING THREAT to climate stability posed by global warming requires the involvement of an informed public. Otherwise politicians and the corporations that so many of them are friendly with will work to spend enormous sums on measures which won't help slow global warming very much – if at all. Two examples are corn-into-ethanol and oil from coal tar sands both mentioned above.

The scientific consensus on global warming says we have less than ten years to turn things around. This is not a lot of time!

Remember, the Bush Administration has just wasted the first seven years of the new century in denying the reality of climate change – and then funding big business to turn corn into ethanol, which is good for big business profits, but not for averting climate change. If you are not actually changing the amount of energy you use, it is guaranteed that you will be forced by circumstances to make these changes more hurriedly and more drastically, down the road. Be smart about this. In the same way that you plan for the kids going to college, or for your retirement, you need to plan for climate change and how it will affect you. Don't delay. Doing nothing about climate change is not an option.

(9) ONE FAMILY'S CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIONS ARE BOTH IMPORTANT AND A DROP IN THE BUCKET

You can do everything you can to reduce what is called your “carbon footprint” – getting a vehicle with much higher mileage, putting solar panels on your roof to generate electricity, buying locally grown food, reducing your air travel and road trips – and still the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will be increasing. You have to get others involved.

There's no idyllic backwoods to run off to, to get away from the effects of global warming. The issue requires action on a wide range of fronts – personal, family, community, school, work, local and state and national politics.

Because you can't just sit back in satisfaction, when you've taken some big steps yourself to reduce your carbon footprint, and ignore the fact that the rest of your street, or your acquaintance, is still proceeding in blissful ignorance of the changes global warming will bring.

Doing what you can makes a negligible difference until millions of others do the same.

We all need to start thinking and talking about global warming!

(10) CITIZENS AND GOVERNMENTS MUST WORK TOGETHER NOW – TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING DOWN THE ROAD!

Whilst it may still take years for the broad public “inertia to change” to lessen, with respect to global warming, there are a number of very important steps that need to be taken right away to avoid a massive waste of time and resources that will worsen climate change.

A combination of informed citizen activism and forward-thinking political action must ensure that new power plants are designed to be as efficient as possible, and

likewise for new vehicles. Power plants have a useful lifespan of around 30 years, so we need to design and build them with efficiency in mind, or we'll be stuck with their wasteful consumption of fossil fuels for decades to come. Stable tax policies to support renewable energy are vital to enact as soon as possible.

One shining example of doing the right thing is Los Angeles Unified School District's current project of constructing 130 new schools – and designing them to be green.

Governments around the world are not acting fast enough to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. “Attempts even to slow the rate of increase of carbon emissions have paralyzed world politics for more than a decade,” editorialized the *LA Times* on March 15, 2008.

Part II Continued Next Issue



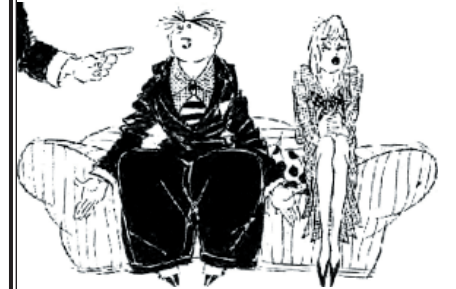
Earth Friend Jen

I want to share an ancient indian proverb, “Treat the earth well; it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by our children. We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.” Jen adds, “may we remember this every moment.”

Check out www.earthfriendjen.com

“These are the times that try men's souls.”
- Thomas Paine, 1776

“High Mortgage Blues Got You Down in that Fancy Shmanci house ?”



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Above is what's left of Kodak's building 69 in Rochester after a self-imposed implosion brought it down last year. Plan on seeing alot of X-Kodak employees pushing shopping carts in the near future as they see their “antiquated” careers and imagining fortunes turn to dust. Got Film ?

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“In the sweetness of friendship; let there be laughter and the sharing of pleasures.”
- Kahil Gibran

“Our friends show us what we can do; our enemies teach us what we must do.”
- Johann Wolfgang vonGoethe

WINE AND ROSES

by Ron Rowe

In tribute to Jeff, "The Show Must Go On," and what better month - than April, a month for new beginnings, among the Romans. This month was sacred to **Venus**, "Spring," when birds do sing! To quote "**Tennyson**" "Can trouble live with April day's, or sadness with the summer moon's."

Spring madness continues here in Ojai. This weekend the town's parking spaces were full of bike racers, their families and watchers. Don't look for a quiet slow weekend, **Earth Day** is at hand, **The Wheeler Gorge Bird Walk**, and lots more exciting fun filled events. **Music Festival, Golf, Tennis**, etc.

Did you know, including 2007, seven of the eight warmest years on record, world-wide have occurred since 2001, the **National Climate Center** reported the ten warmest years have all occurred since 1997, still don't believe there's a global warming!

Speaking of climate change, a group of British scientists have studied the colors in over 500 paintings of sunsets, including "**Turners**" 19th century water colors and oils, in hopes of gaining insights into the cooling effects caused by volcanic eruptions. The vivid sunsets painted by **Turner** are revered for their use of color and light and for their influence on the impressionists. They will help scientists track global warming and climate change, by measuring the red and green in the paintings. The scientists aimed to calculate the amount of dust in the atmosphere, the greater the pollution, the redder the sunset, check out the journal "**Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics**," for more info.

The **Mortgage Banker's Association** is having trouble with the new mortgage on its new Washington D.C. headquarters. Its lenders are demanding additional money down and its interest rates will be 1 percent higher than the association expected when it agreed to buy the building. -- shed a tear for the mortgage bankers. Ah well "That which grows fast wither's as rapidly and that which grows slow -- endures."

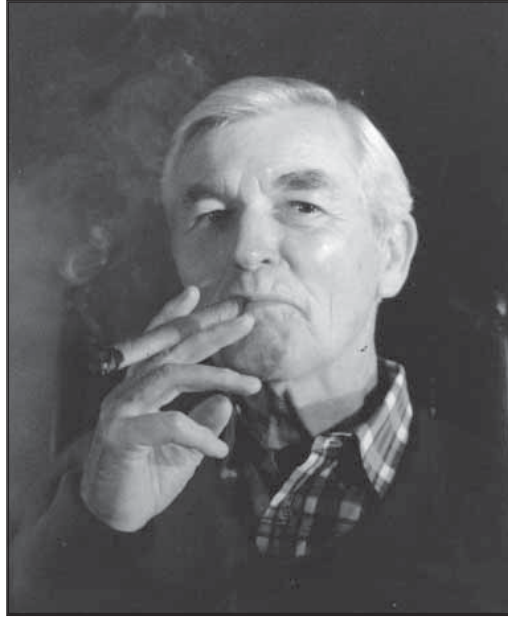
The ban on smoking in bars has affected romance and flirting, the classic pick up line - "Do you have a light," has been retired, efforts to replace it have not been successful, "I have lost my phone number, can I borrow yours"? or "You know what would look great on you? Me", are rather obnoxious - flirting has now moved outside the bar where smokers huddle together. A new pick up line is -- "Would you like to go back to my place for a smoke!"

Speaking of love, a survey by "**Princeton**" has found that two thirds of middle class women and half of the men polled said they would marry for money, the average base price was \$1.5 million. **Sociologist Pamela Smock** said - "I am shocked. It's against the notion of love and soul mates".

Wise sayings, "People who have what they want are fond of telling people who haven't what they want, that they really don't want it."

To politicians, "Be sincere, be brief, be seated." -- "If you can fake sincerity, you will be re-elected, advice to **Prez Bush**, "There is no instance in history of a nation benefiting from prolonged warfare."

An **Indian Holy man Yanagi Kondaian** - 80, claimed his right leg had magical healing powers and anyone who touched it would have their wishes granted, alas thieves heard about the magic leg, they went to his Village, got him drunk and amputated the magic leg, police are baffled, **Yanagi**, is upset he said "why did this happen", I have always been good to people! Why indeed.



Americans bought more lap-tops in 2007 than faster desk-top P.C. technology. Cheaper parts and widespread wireless helped push the shift, technician, **Dae Spicer** said --- "It's not a computer anymore. It's a companion, it's your memory, it's your teacher and your entertainer." Yes--- as long as it doesn't crash.

Here comes the bride! All dressed in white-two-ply-extra soft toilet paper, that's right, **Jennifer Cannon of Lexington Kentucky** was married in a public restroom, the brides gown consisted of **Charmin Ultra-Soft Toilet Paper** Fashioned with glue and tape, and well it takes all kinds in this funny world. Have any wine drinkers tried "**The Wind Collar**"? It's a magnetic wine collar that improves the taste of wines, and wine critic and judge **Anthony Dias Blue** goes out of his way to Praise it. He claims "simply pouring a glass of wine with the collar in place has an immediate and salutary effect on the wine molecules, resulting in a smoother, softer and more balanced taste. It improves flavor and bouquet as you pour. Wow that means a two-buck-chuck-charles-shaw would taste like an estate bottled premium wine. Cost \$34.25 call **800-622-5221 order - Wine Collar**."

Let me know your opinion.

I would like to close with a tribute to Jeffrey San Marchi.

"Do not stand at my grave, and weep, I am not there. I do not sleep, I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glint on snow. I am the sunlight on refined grain, I am the gentle autumn rain, when you wake in the morning hush. I am the swift uplifting rustle of quiet, birds circling in flight. I am the soft starlight at night. Do not stand at my grave and weep—I am not there—I do not sleep—I am."

And so it is Namaste, Jeff. May the Peace of God which Passeth understanding - be with you. May God Bless You and Keep you, may he give you Peace now and for evermore.

Comments welcome

Ron Rowe, Ojai

RHJRowe@aol.com

THE LEASHES END

by Ron Rowe

Good news for American horses, the last American slaughter house has been shut down. The two last horses, due to be killed went to "**The Best Friends Animal Shelter**", **Ann and Lady** were literally in line for slaughtering when a federal judge ordered a halt to the killings. Illinois now forbids killing horses for food, **Anna and Lady**, along with 28 other horses saved from the slaughterhouse, will now spend the rest of their days amongst people who love and respect them, -- let's hope the Canadian seal slaughtering will be next to be abolished.

If you are thinking about adding a dog to your **FAMILY** - do please consider adopting one from your local **Humane Shelter** or animal rescue groups. Apart from the satisfaction of saving a life, dogs are an antidote to loneliness and offer unswerving loyalty. Mixed breeds, found at shelters have fewer health problems and have been given extra care, including attention from staff tenders. Try your local shelter or check out **petfinder.com** -- they offer a data base from 11,000 American organizations, searchable by age, breed, etc., with results

share your concerns

thorns@ojaiandventurarose.com

The Leashes End Continued...

sorted by distance from your zip code.

The collapse of the housing market has created a new class of refugees, -- foreclosure pets, whose owners abandoned them when they abandoned their homes. One shelter, in Sacramento, Cal. received 176 animals, up from 78 earlier this year, According to **marketwatch.com**.

When temperatures dropped into the 20s in south Florida, iguanas fell from trees by the dozens, **Ron Magill of Miami Metro Zoo** said. -- In this unusual cold snap, iguanas, who are cold-blooded lizards, lose their grip on the tree and just fall off.

If you are in a traffic jam on the freeway which wastes time, which wastes 3.7 billion hours a year for Americans, consider the following. Millions of army ants on the move never have a traffic jam, huge schools of fish, flocks of birds and swarms of locusts move in perfect formation then turn on a dime, as if guided by a collective brain, ever wonder how they do it? **Dr. D. Couzin, Professor of Mathematics at Princeton and Oxford** has videotaped ants on the move in Panama and has found out how they do it, the ants follow some very simple rules as to who gets the right of way, where and in which direction. Each ant in the group balances two basic instincts, stay with the group or go where you want to go, the leader tips the balance. It only takes a couple of decision makers to **MOVE** thousands of ants in one direction or another: the same rules apply to humans. They tend to go with the crowd. It also applies to cells in our bodies, which might explain how tumors are formed as well as how our swarm of brain cells make sense of all the information they take in, for example, when you are trying to figure out what this article all about.

Ah love, a giant **Pacific Octopus in a British** aquarium is in love with a **Mr. Potato Head** doll. This 18-month-old cephalopod (*is well known for its curiosity and intelligence*), said **Matt Slater of The Blue Leaf Aquarium**. It became fascinated by **Mr. Potato Head's** bright colors and moveable parts and fell in love. Alas, the octopus is only allowed to play with **Mr. Potato Head** for one hour a day, when time is up, he attacks the net used to fish the toy out of the tank. No reason given why **Mr. Potato Head** can't stay in the tank.

Dogs are truly amazing, **Faith**, a 5-year-old chow mix was born with a stump of a right paw, and a crippled left front paw. **Jude Stringfellow of Oklahoma** taught **Faith** how to walk upright on her hind legs. It's a strange sight to see them walking together on the street, proving disabilities can be overcome.

Municipal zoos are finding a new source of revenue, paintings by Animals. Two paintings by "**Towan**" -- a 40-year-old **Orangutan** (at **Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo** sold for \$1,300 at auction.

Time to be away and heed the words of **St. Francis of Assisi**, who wrote;

"If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal like wise with their fellow men.

And so it is.

Ron Rowe, Ojai
RHJRowe@aol.com

Invasion of the Health Snatchers

THEY are here. **by Janet McNeil, D.V.M.**
Face it, in most parts of California they never go away. Denying their existence will not save your animals from the ravages and disease. I am talking about fleas. Just one can drive an allergic animal to self-mutilation; multitudes can cause an animal to die of anemia. This does not just happen in third world countries. It probably is happening in your neighborhood.

There are a multitude of topical flea preventatives, ranging from spot-on products, powders, sprays, to shampoos. Please don't waste

your money on electronic flea repelling tags and flea collars. Likewise, good intentions and amulets are cruel excuses since the animal is the one that suffers most. People can also get diseases from fleas (remember **bubonic plague, Hanta virus**?). If you choose to go the holistic route, you may have to use several products and rotate them every three days to weeks, depending on the product. There are several Veterinarians who practice holistic medicine that can give you advice on what and how to use. Prevention is not one-size-fits-all. It needs to be tailored to your environment, animal population, and individual animal needs.

How products are used can make all the difference. It is far better to use a product before an animal is having dermatitis and other flea-related disease. That is why it is called prevention. Block the problems before they get set up and save yourself some money in the long run. Adding some years to your animal's life is a bonus. Refusing to do anything about preventing flea infestation amounts to animal abuse. It is your duty as an owner to be pro-active in the area of animal health care.

Dr. Janet McNeil, D.V.M., Ojai

"When Fluffy Goes Missing"

by **Mary M. Long**

Hey everyone, your cat's not "missing" your cat was lunch. Forget the posters with proffered rewards for lost beloved cat because guess what Coyotes don't read !!! Yep, Coyote attacks are up and Mr. Wiley thinks nothing of four-pawing it right into downtown **Hollywood** or your front porch to pick off a mouthful of fat domesticated cat. What's your cat missing by a "boring life indoors"? He's missing the opportunity to be eaten, run over, poisoned or kidnapped. Yeah, kidnapped!!! Are you aware that if your "Sammy" ventures into your wacky neighbors yard he can be airlifted to the **County Shelter** as a "stray". In some Shelters unclaimed cats are mistaken for "feral" cats and euthanized as unmanageable. If Fluffy goes missing it's unlikely you will ever see his furry little face again but check the animal shelter just in case a misguided neighbor has dropped him at the Pound. Guess what, only five percent of "found" cats are ever reunited with their owners. Coyote attacks are on the rise in California as the coyote population proliferates and is losing fear of people. Check it out... I have had them stalk me while I'm riding my horse or stop right in front of my car and stare me down? You think that yelling at them is going to scare the beejesus out of them think again.....and, oh yeah, don't even bother chasing them in an effort to retrieve Fluffy unless you can run over 40 mph! Yes if you care for kitty, confine him.

If you really think he's missing the joys of the great outdoors
Continued 'Fluffy' Page 14...



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Photos © by Joel Anderson

SOHo rocked a couple Sunday nights ago thanks to the one-of-a kind guitar sound of Jonathan McEuen, who has created his own genre and unique sound. Electrified would be an understatement in describing the reaction of the Santa Barbara 'SOHoan' crowd. Others assisting Jonathan; Michael Jerome, drums, Taras Prodanuik (Mojo Monkeys and Bumsteers), Richard Thompson, bass, and "Cookie".

Jonathan will be recording a studio album in the next couple months with Michael Jerome and Taras Prodanuik.

See Jonathan at the **April 20, Honor the Farm Festival** info: (See Color Ad , Back Cover)

Check Out Jonathaan McEuen's Live Audio Music Stream at... Live2UTube.com - Streaming Audio 24-hours
 • Available Starting this Sunday April 20th •
 from Jonathan's catalog and many members of the local community:

Julie Christensen, Robben Ford, T.J. Bridges, Brad Buley, Jesse Siebenberg, Randy Tico, Jonathan Raffetto, Shades of Day, Dave Mason, Malcolm McDowell



Photo Courtesy Bangles Publicity Dept.

The Bangles - Friday, May 9 "Live" at Libbey Bowl!
 get info: <http://www.nhsmusic.com>



Continued from 'Fluffy' Page 13...
 you can always build an enclosure in your backyard which will let Kitty play in the sunshine without letting him venture into the great and perilous world. The **Humane Society** reports that the average lifespan of a free-roaming cat is about three years, compared to 12-18 years



for the indoor kitty. Don't weaken when you see Tabitha sitting at the window drooling over the prospect of nabbing a freewheeling bird. Buy kitty a window perch and give him the gift of a long and happy life.

Mary M. Long, Ojai

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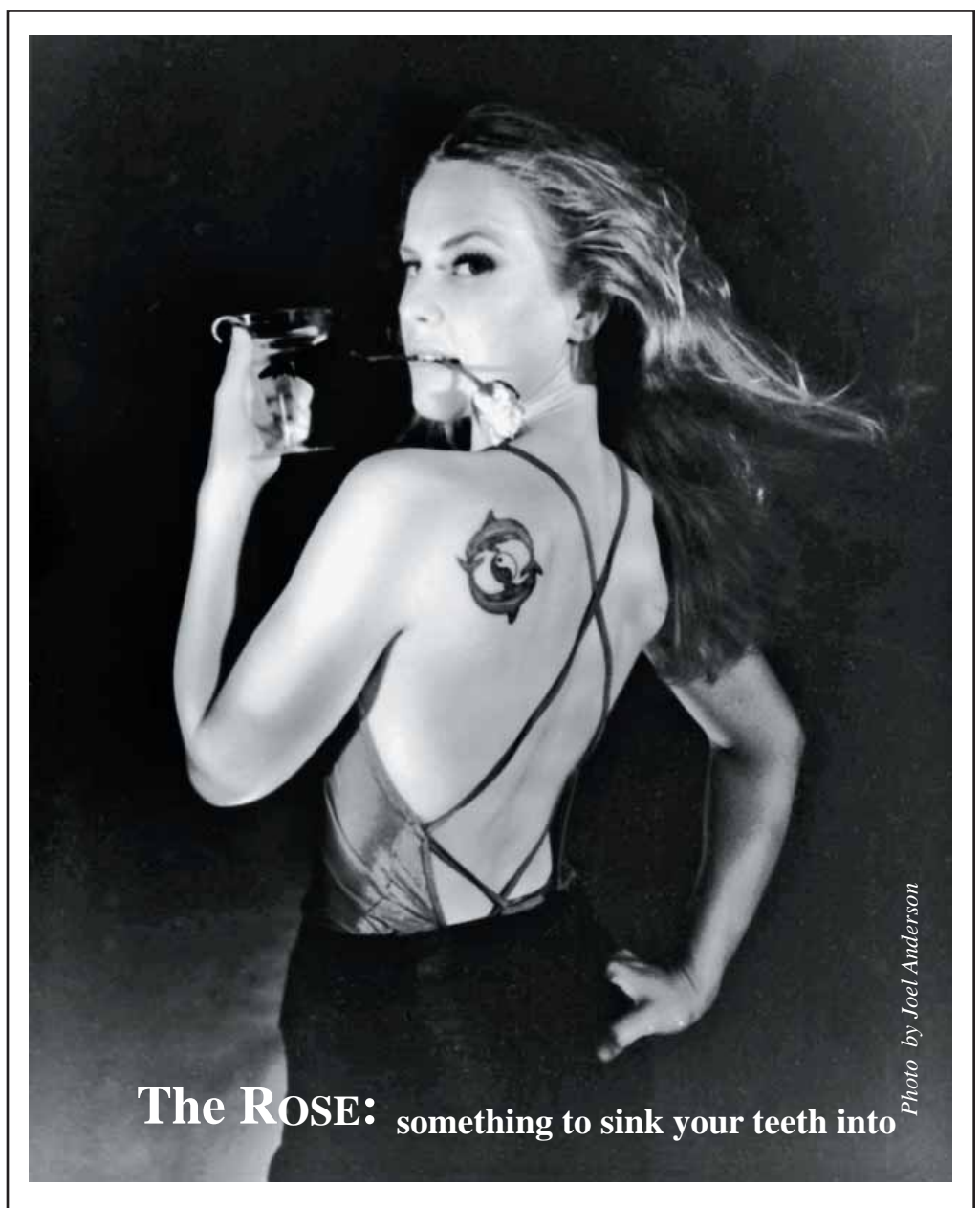


Photo by Joel Anderson

The ROSE: something to sink your teeth into

LETTER

Ojai and Ventura Rose,

Most travelers to far away countries enjoy returning to their home valley with tales of exotic places and bizarre customs. In the past, Americans have had the added pleasure of relating to their friends how well thought of America is by other peoples. We have no such joy to relate. Let casual tourists tell you of chateaux and eating habits; we have returned with a harder tale to tell.

Yet, we tell it. You are our friends, our neighbors, our community. We feel that you should know what we saw and heard on the streets out there, in the big world, where the people gather in international cities to talk about what is going on.

What we have learned is this: that there is absolutely no way to overestimate how badly America is thought of by people outside of America. You have heard this before, surely. Nonetheless, please allow us to give you an example, neighbor to neighbor, of how completely our honor has been lost. Yours, mine, ours.

It's a visual: Make the peace sign with your hand. Now, slowly, ever so slowly, let your fingers droop limp until your fist is closed. That is the symbol for the falling of the twin towers. When we first saw this, we cried: both of us. What happened to Victory? Where is Peace? The symbol has transformed itself again, into impotence, revenge. As young Europeans talk casually, they use this finger sign to refer to the event referred to here as 9/11. They gloat.

The young scoff at us and glory in our national collapse. Like schoolchildren, they wait for the bully to get knocked down. As adults, they know by experience that the bully always does fall. The old ask many questions and share their fears. We have no answers for them or for us.

In the next few issues of the Rose, we would like to share our political observations among the people of nine different countries and many different cultures far, far from the pink moment, the pier and Surfer's Point.

Later, Lawrence and Lori Anderson, Ojai

POLICE BLOTTER - VENTURA

Arrest

Location: 600 Block W. Channel Islands Blvd. Oxnard.

Date/Time Occurred: April 9, 2008.

Officer(s) Involved: Ventura County District Attorney's Office and Ventura Police Street Crimes Unit.

Suspect(s): Stein, Mark Steven, 40 years of age, Ventura. Report #: 08-4446

Investigators from the Ventura County District Attorney's Office and Ventura Police conducted a lengthy investigation into Identity Theft and Check Fraud involving Ventura Defense Attorney Mark Stein.

Based on evidence gathered during the investigation, a Felony Arrest Warrant was obtained for Stein alleging multiple counts of Burglary, Identity Theft, Forgery, Grand Theft and Possession of Fraudulent Documents.

Investigators located Stein, during surveillance in Oxnard and he was taken into custody without incident. Stein was also found to be in possession of a controlled substance and was driving on a suspended license at the time of his arrest.

Stein was booked at the Ventura County Jail with bail set at one million dollars. The investigation is ongoing.

Watch Commander,

Ventura Police Department

ROSE Note: All Suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Got Voice ? something's happening
'Watch' the 'M.O.' Town Airwaves...

THE MOTELS featuring **Martha Davis** - Where? **St. Thomas Aquinas Church**, Sunday, May 4, 1:30 pm. **ADMISSION: FREE** at their two day May 3-4 *Spring Into Fun, Family Festival* **LOCATION:** Courtyard at St. Thomas Church, 150 St. Thomas Drive (at El Roblar and Maricopa Highway), Ojai.



Got Voice ?
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Acts of God

God knows, **Acts of God** is good. It is a word play, actually, three philosophical discussions on the human condition. If you're looking for fastpaced action and spine-tingling special effects, you'll have to go to the movies. With the usual conventions and suspension of disbelief, the play speaks eloquent but simple truths.

In Greek theatre, man is the play thing of the gods; in Elizabethan theatre, man is between Heaven and Hell. In modern theatre, at a time when we can view Earth from space and destroy the planet, our world view is that of God's.

In the first act, "Oh, God!" appears to facilitate a discussion between a man, woman, and priest and touches upon religious hypocrisy, sex, racism, and abortion. With the notion of the God force within us, Heaven (peace, love, and happiness) is as close as the local taco stand.

The second act finds a playwright attempting to sell his script of "God Knows" (the first act) to a stereotypical producer. God appears, (this time as a waitress) and explains that life is as simple as

the bumper sticker, "Stuff Happens." We have everything we need--why do we make things so complicated ?

In the third act, we become the studio audience at a video-taping of a sit-com pilot adapted from the play, **God Knows**. A scientist is pulled up from the audience, and he debunks the notion of God by citing right-brain chemicals and **Higg's Bossun**, which is ironically called God's Particle.

The play ends with the voice of God and a warning to the producer: theatre is powerful, and is not to be misused.

My experience last Sunday at the **Ojai Art Center** was profound. The playwright, **Peter Fox**, not only wrote the words, but directed the play, which his wife co-produced. The actors and direction were spot on, word perfect, tight and tidy in an intimate, black-box theatre. The words were the star, and the ensemble gave voice to God's eye. **Acts of God** is good, God knows.

- Kate Longstory, contributing writer

The play runs through April 19th. 8 p.m. 646-0117

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© 1993, JOEL ANDERSON - MIDNIGHT HOUR, VENTURA

Jackie Lomax at Ventura club, **The Midnight Hour** in 1993. "Harvey Brooks bass player from the **Electric Flag**... backed me up on tour... Fabulous Rhinestones"
-- Jackie Lomax

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ROSE



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Thorny Issues ?

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