

The Ojai & Ventura

LOMAX



# VIEW

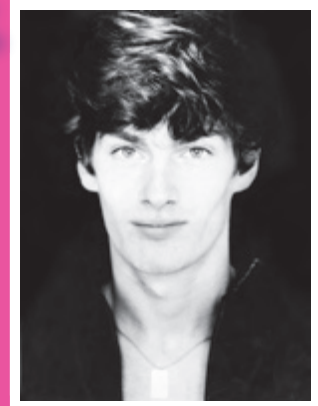


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**BANDIT BRANDS**

Photo ©, Alex Lier



**CASSON**

Photo © 2009, Joel Anderson



**MARDI GRAS!**

• **LISA SAUVAGEAU**

Photo © 2009, Joel Anderson



**THE SWEET**

- **R. ELLIS SMITH**
- **PETER MILHADO**
- **INNER WARRIOR**
- **RICHARD SENATE**
- **CITY HALL SPIRITS**
- **RON ROWE**
- **DOC JANET**

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**AMERICAN MADE  
EXCLUSIVELY THE VIEW**

**KRISTY DOYLE**



'Eat My Shorts'



Photo © 2009, Joel Anderson

**INSIDE:** • **CITY COUNCIL GIRLS GONE WILD** • **Beatles Week** • **CONNEMARAS** • **JFK**



LETTER

**'Excessive Lighting'**

The exterior lighting of the Wells Fargo Bank at the corner of Matilija and Signal is bad in several ways. The light is too intense and is poorly directed. No other area in Ojai is lighted as brightly. The lights are often carelessly left on during the daytime, even when there is bright sunshine. Much light escapes the property and shines aimlessly into space, into adjacent areas, or into the eyes of pedestrians, motorists, and bicyclists. Light trespass is rude and disrespectful of neighbors. It is unenlightened to be indiscriminately wasteful of electricity.

Mike Millan  
mlmillan@aol.com

**Robbing the Cookie Jar...**

Jackie Griffin - Library Director  
Salary: \$141,804 + Allowance  
'Bill Fulton Should Resign'

R. ELLIS SMITH



Bill it has been my contention for a number of years that the Ventura library system is extremely too expensive to be paid for completely by tax money. Either by Federal tax money, State tax money, County tax money, City tax money or a combination of all or any of the above.

There is absolutely no need for the city of Ventura to have 3 libraries, the city is not so large that anybody wanting to use the facilities of the library couldn't drive to the one downtown in less than 5 minutes from any part of the city. I realize that many people use the library as a second home and meet friends and other people there to explore the world of books. By closing the Wright Library it would of course be an inconvenience for a number of people for a short period of time but they would very rapidly acclimate.

Now my biggest gripe is the fact that you were instrumental in getting the present Library Director, Jackie Griffin, hired at her exorbitant salary (\$141,804 plus \$25,000 housing allowance & car allowance) and you simply ignored the fact that she was run out of Berkeley as Donna Landeros was run out of Ventura. Secondly, as the champion of hiring the present director, I feel that you should resign your position on the library commission because of conflict of interest.

Rellis Smith  
rellis39@sbcglobal.net  
www.californiachile.com

LETTER - BROWN ACT VIOLATION ?

**Is the Library Commission 'Cooking' the Books ?**

Hi Library Supporters, I know some of you may believe I am a little too passionate about this issue and have been jumping to conclusions, but I have a lot of inside information. Mainly I know there is plenty of money in numerous places to pay for the library the true goal was to save it. There is a \$12 million in reserve in the city and even more importantly there is plenty of money in the library's reserve and the libraries general fund to cover this "mythical" shortage.

But when the goal is to close the library and move to the mall, the city council nor the library director are looking for any other options.

There was no foundation for the April 1 deadline. I confirmed that with the Ventura College President that they are blaming it on. She told me that they came to her. She would never infringe on the lease that goes until 2015. Now they have cancelled the Library Commission meeting on March 3 and postponed it until April 2. They are trying to do everything possible to close Wright and move to the mall before any of us can do anything to stop it. I only have a month. Even if we raised the money they falsely claimed we need to raise (\$280,00), they would make up another number for you to raise next month. The numbers are false. I've had three auditors look at the budget. The only reason they are saying Wright is short is because we legally can't sign a petition to close it if it is a budget issue. The budget issue at Wright is false. It was fabricated by "creative accounting."

\$25,000 for a mall lease seems like such a paltry amount of money for such incredible deceit. I am saddened to think they would mislead the public for this small amount of money plus possible extra sales tax revenue.

**"They are behaving like dictators instead of public servants."**

What I do know is that the city council members and the City Manager, Rick Cole, believe they can't be touched. They are behaving like dictators instead of public servants.

This is America, not a communist country! The citizens have rights. We are paying our taxpayer money to have public services: police, fire, parks, libraries, schools, art programs, streets, water, etc. We are not voting to subsidize a mall nor to subsidize their building projects and other places they are diverting the money.

Maybe I am the only one who cares so insanely about this injustice. Maybe everyone is okay with the excuse of "politics as usual, they just do whatever they want and don't listen to the public."

I am researching all the options now. But this is WRONG and UNFAIR. No matter how I tell the story the fact remains that decisions are being made behind closed doors without public knowledge and input. They are moving at rapid speed so we will not have a chance to stop it. A benevolent woman, Helen P. Wright, donated her entire life savings to give a library to the community. Because of her generosity, the lease is only \$1 a year. This library is beloved and heavily used. And now we have city council members trying to close it for some personal gain that we cannot comprehend. But the true issue isn't whether or not a library should be in a community near schools or whether it should be in a mall. The true issue is that this is a democracy. We elect officials who represent what the majority of the people want. At the very minimum we should be heard on the local level in our hometowns.

Maili Brocke  
libraryjustice@yahoo.com

P.S. President Obama just announced a stimulus package to fund libraries for the entire country on Friday. The American Library Association details on how to apply for that money. But our town doesn't need the money. The money should be given to the oldest library in American in Pennsylvania that was in danger of closing. Or the historical library in the Springville, Alabmam. To me it would be criminal to ask the president for money when we have so many solutions here at home.



Ojai City Council: Sue Horgan Grabs for Two New Trolleys to the Tune of \$425,000 in Federal Stimulus Transportation Dough...

**Ojai City Council \$ Woah**

Ojai Councilmember Sue Horgan made a vie to get \$425,000 in Federal Stimulus Transportation Bail-out monies at the Feb. 24 city council meeting.

Do our beautiful red and green LP Fuel-efficient Trolleys really need replacing? Must be all the out-of-town freeway driving hundreds of miles away they do, do they? Or is Sue just jumping on the er Trolley-wagon to grab hold of some of that taxpayer funded bail-out. Funds for everyone - tsk, tsk, take your hand out of the cookie jar.

It seems like newly-elected Councilmember Betsy Clapp has the right idea when, at that same Feb. 24 meeting she used phrases, directives and inquiries with City Manager Jere Kersner like "...things (with the economy) seem to be degenerating daily... we might consider taking some action for reduction through the end of this fiscal year... a preemptive strike approach.... there's one other point I'd to make, you mentioned that you were going to get together a group of employees to address the way they feel we (the city) can reduce expenses by 5 percent and that they would come back with a report at the end of April. I'm feeling like that's a bit of a long time, because I am sort of a more proactive person when it comes to money management. And I was wondering if there is a possibility that that report could come sooner than the end of April?"

Maybe noone's mentioned to Sue that the stock market crashed, we're in a recession... which seems to be getting worse? Depression? Perhaps someone should tell her to leave that high cholesterol ice cream in the fridge and start going for the lean mean veggies, hold the pickles please?

It's time for some fiscal dieting just maybe a bit! After all we wouldn't want to wind up in the revenue-bad-investment-source predicament that the Ventura City Council now finds itself - no money and no place to go... except back to the people, of course....

Now, San Francisco's famous aesthetically cool Trolleys are now electrically powered and range in age from 1917 to the 1940s... They just keep rebuilding them and keep them restored - the ultimate in recycling and quite fiscally sound. Packard automobiles were advertised; Need one car your whole life, if it's properly maintained. Ask the man who owns one, and Jaguar; Our car always looks like next year's model, Always a classic.

Anyone for a tossed green salad? Hold the Pork!

- Joel Anderson, editor

Letters are Welcomed  
editor@ojaiandventuraview.com

**Comical Shenanigans at the Ventura County Library Commission Meeting - Feb. 5**

**Library Funds Go To Director's Huge Salary Wright Library Faces Financial Jeopardy...**



An Ecstatic Library Director Jackie Griffin



Face of Bill I, Pensive



They AREN'T laughing...



Face of Bill II, Dubious



Reading Lessons at the Library Commission



Face of Bill III, Jolly

Photos © 2009, Joel Anderson

the Ojai and Ventura Real VIEW

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**Letter to the Editor**

**“Made in America” ?**

What does **America** produce now ? The majority of manufacturing jobs are gone. I live in the **Dayton, Ohio** area. At one time **Dayton** had nine **GM** factories and automotive-related industries that gave this area good jobs, tax revenue for the city, a good housing market and many other advantages. In the early 1970s there were hundreds of tool & die shops to support the need for the tool industry here.

**Dayton** had an excellent reputation for its tool & die industry amongst the other tools shops along the **I-75** corridor from the **Motor City** to southwest **Ohio**. There were other productive companies as well. Small businesses such as restaurants, local groceries etc. thrived because of the needs and wants of the many employees of **General Motors**. The local economy was good because of the jobs that were created by **General Motors**.

Manufacturing which was done here in **America** began to go overseas to **China, Japan, Korea** & other countries. **President Clinton** signed **NAFTA** and even more jobs went out of the **United States**.

Of several hundred tool & die shops in the **Dayton** area there are 20 or 30 shops left from three decades ago. **Dayton** has two remaining **GM** plants now; the others are gone.

Think about where the revenue goes when one buys an automobile or other large investments. The profit goes out of the country. Income tax revenue is reduced to a pittance. The money that would have been directed to **Social Security** is gone. The **Social Security** system is deeply in the red and will get worse as baby-boomers age.

Yes, **GM** has made bad decisions in the past. **GM** would benefit by trimming some of the many executive positions. There is too much fluff at the top. The foreign auto companies wisely do not have all that “fluff.”

Even if there are some jobs in **America** with foreign automaker companies, their profit still goes back to their country. They assemble foreign autos here, they don’t “build” them here. And though there are foreign auto-parts suppliers here in the **United States**, remember where the profit goes.

And yes, there are still other businesses and other jobs not directly related to the automotive industry. But some of them are outsourcing jobs as well. It may affect your livelihood sometime soon if it hasn’t already.

**China** has the human-rights issues. Why do we have to support a country whose structure is contrary to **American** freedoms ?

Think about it when you go shopping. Look at the country of origin on the product. Your purchase of foreign made products when **American** products are available too may affect your vocation’s future. We all can’t be computer technicians. Start asking for **American Made** products.

L. McCracken  
Tipp City, Ohio

**CopWatch – Ojai**

**M.O. Town Targets of Opportunity**

Greeting Watchers,

During the past two nights we have experienced several vehicle burglaries in the **Meiners Oaks** area. It seems that someone is walking around late at night looking for targets of opportunity. We all need to watch for people walking the streets in that area late at night and very early in the morning. If you live in that area and notice any suspicious activity, please call the police right away.

We also had someone break several windows at the **Q-time Bar and Grill**. This is significant because as we all know the business owners

Watchers Continued VIEW Page 9...

HEY SUE, WHERE’S MY SKATE PARK ?  
‘Eat My Shorts’

SKATEBOARDS ARE TRANSPORTATION TOO !

support literacy



**LETTER - KEEP THE BOUTIQUES**

**Support Your Local Everything**

If anyone has been to the mall lately, it is easy to see that not much is manufactured in the US anymore and even more sad is that the larger chains of Western Wear stores and even Army Surplus stores who are supposed to be the epitome of **American Culture** carry very few **American** made products.

Trade Shows are coming up, please help support the **U.S.** companies and think about all of the cool boutiques that make your town a place full of heart and creativity and what a different place the **U.S.** would be without those shops and brands.

**Support U.S. Manufacturing too:**

**U.S. Manufacturers** tend to have smaller minimums so that independent designers and brands can afford to see their dreams become realities; **China** and other countries usually have large minimums eliminating many peoples chances of making what they love, not to mention the excess and unneeded items going to waste. I realize that all manufacturing has an impact on resources and the environment, but I believe that if we keep it to what is needed or wanted it is a step in the right direction. Support local designers and manufacturers by spending your dollars with them and if you have no dollars, kind words of encouragement go a long way too.

Many times over the years, I have asked fellow designers and clothing lines for the names of their manufacturers, screen printers, etc. and many times people won’t share that information, but if you are manufacturing in the **USA**, those people need your business and lot’s of times, by sending them more business it ensures that they will remain open to manufacture your own goods. I have noticed lot’s of the manufacturers I use for t-shirts and handbags have downsized – if it gets worse they will close or outsource to foreign production also.

I will gladly give anyone the name and information of anyone I use to manufacture goods, after spending years weeding out the crooks and just plain bad manufacturers I have a good group of people I consider to be friends that help to make all of my products and I will always be happy to help them. If you have anyone good that you would like to add to the list let me know and I will share the info with my fellow designers and **Americans**.

In addition, if you have or know of a company who’s product is still **Made in the USA**, please email me and I will help to spread the word.

Jen  
www.banditbrand.com

**EVENT CALENDAR**

- thru - Apr. 5, Awesome Art 2009, Ojai Valley Museum. Six Ojai Schools participate in this exhibit, showcases ceramics, sculpture, drawing, painting, photography, graphic design and digital art. Exhibit will run through April 5th. Grant sponsors, Karen O’Neill and Michael Burgos, will present the “Marion E. Smith Excellence in Art Awards” at the reception on Thursday, February 19th, 4 to 6 p.m. The awards will be presented in memory of their mother, Marion E. Smith. The reception is open to the public. There is no charge for the reception; however, donations to the museum are always welcome. Students will have free admission for the duration of the exhibit.
- Apr. 3, Fri. – Noel Paul Stookey, Folk Legend and member of Peter, Paul & Mary in his

Events Continued Page 5...

**“Don’t Tell Me Who I am... Let me guess !”  
The Ego Wants Security,  
The Soul Wants to Live !** Ψ



**REFLECTIONS ON THE INNER WARRIOR**

Are you bored, lethargic, lonely, feel alienated or empty inside ? Is the monster of the status-quo running your life? Are you stuck ? Complaining and whining, or waiting for a rescue will not help. However, being quiet and reflective, checking out your inner landscape and consciously exploring the deeper parts of your self will connect or re-connect you with your inner warrior. The journey awaiting you usually goes into the inner world first and then into the outer. By traveling into the depth of our being with eyes open we become more authentic and I can’t think of anything better we can do for ourselves or our children than to live authentically and responsibly. If you want to change your present condition, action is the only way and for that you will need your warrior energies. Before we act and encounter the outer world we need to make a strategy, because we will have to face both terror and exhilaration when we follow our inner vision. This reminds me again of the unknown poet who said, “What fascinates and terrifies is the way of the soul.”

Many times when we decide to make a change and blaze a new trail we get discouraged by colleagues, friends, teachers, parents and insurance companies. Check out their motivations. Is it fear, control or envy ? Often we’ve been advised to stay as safe as possible. The ego wants security, but the soul wants to live ! There are no guarantees in life, the variables are infinite... but we can’t live a soulful life without going on a quest at the right time.

**The Inner Warrior**

If we continue to repeat the same neurotic self-destructive patterns, avoid making changes and are mostly undisciplined, we’ve disconnected from the warrior archetype. Our inner warrior helps us fight the enemies within – inertia, addictions, irresponsibility, denial, laziness, and cynicism. It takes strength to tolerate frustration and delay immediate gratification. Warrior energy helps us to make a plan and stick to it. We begin to trust our own perceptions of life and our own truth rather than someone else’s, which has been imposed on us early in life. Most of all, our internal warrior gives us courage to face our fears... i.e. fear of failure, fear of defeat, fear of poverty, fear of humiliation, fear of disapproval etc.

**The Warrior In The Outer World**

The warrior archetype had its roots in the hunter archetype of our early ancestors and was about survival of self and tribe. If over time you were unsuccessful as a hunter/warrior you would die and so could your family. In modern times the warrior energy has shifted from the hunt. Today we can witness the warrior archetype displayed in athletics, schools and especially the workplace.

At its best the warrior archetype calls us to have courage, strength, a sense of fairness and stamina. Other characteristics include the ability to defend oneself and loved ones verbally, legally and when necessary physically. The warrior lives by and fights for values and principles even when doing so is financially or socially costly. Warriors claim power in the world and commit to making our planet a better place.

Warrioring includes protecting the weaker and to “show up” when required. “Showing up” means sticking to commitments – going to work even though you have to drag yourself there, confronting your boss or asking for a raise, following your vision without anyone’s help, opposing the majority view, or locking your mother-in-law from hell in the basement with bread and water only and so forth....

**Women And The Warrior Archetype**

Even though the warrior archetype has been traditionally rooted in the male culture, the inner warrior is equally important and alive in women in today’s world. Unfortunately, traditional society has only condoned direct assertiveness by men. Women are often tagged as unfeminine or worse when they resort to healthy assertion, but times are changing and from these changes we all benefit. Many women get connected to the inner warrior by initially fighting for their children or other people and only later learn to fight for themselves. If we don’t have an internal warrior we’re not able to defend ourselves from abuse, neglect or from being undervalued. All of us need to be able to support ourselves economically in our highly competitive society. Our present day ‘hunt’ is to find a satisfying job. Economically, we live in a warrior culture. So we better get our chops together.

**The Shadow Side Of The Warrior**

The dark side of the warrior archetype is abuse of power, arrogance, exploitation, bottomless greed and ambition. These pseudo-warriors have an obsessive, ruthless and unprincipled need to win and defeat. Anything goes in order to gain power, money and status. Feeling superior is always a compensation for feeling inferior and empty inside. The soulful warrior protects and enables others. He/she never uses the sword, pen or ‘the spoken word’ to harm others unless absolutely necessary.

There are plenty of deviant pseudo-warriors in our corporations, on Wall Street and in the general business culture. Their anthem is based on fear and paranoia... ‘Do unto others before they do unto you’ or ‘What can you do for me ?’

Soul Wants to Live, Continued Page 4...

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

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## JFK: Who Killed the American Dream ?

### Am I Crazy ?

by Larry Naron

No, Probably just a simpleton. I've recently been researching The **Crime of the Century**. Okay I misspoke, since the **Cover Up of the Century** is actually more accurate. The crime has never been in question, as it was witnessed by millions of **Americans** on their black and white television sets.

If you are my age, or older the question is "Where were you when our beloved **35th President** was murdered." I was in **Kindergarten in Long Beach, California**. I still recall the skywriter and his cryptic message of a rifle and a briefcase against the beautiful blue sky. I'm guessing someone explained to me what the briefcase was, due to my age. I'm sure I could identify the rifle as playing army was my favorite past time. I can also say with some certainty that we had no idea what it meant until we arrived home to see the stunned and grief stricken adults. *The What*; our **35th President** gunned down in the streets of **Dallas, Texas** (*The Where*).

The Who, Why and How have befuddled our country for years. The **Russians, Cubans, Mafia** and (in quieter whispers) **LBJ** and the **CIA**. Immediately after the killing, the patsy was captured and the disinformation mills were working overtime.

I'm sure most people have heard of the **Cuban Missile Crisis**. This incident as well as the cold war indicated **Russia**. The **Bay of Pigs (Operation Zapata)** as well as numerous assassination plots against **Fidel Castro** implicated **Cuba**. **Robert Kennedy's** prosecutorial zeal of the **Mob** brought organized crime into the discussion. Much less attention was given to a group much more capable of such a feat. **JFK** had fired the top three people in the **CIA**, when they kept him in the dark about **Operation Zapata**. The **Deputy Director Charles Cabell** approached **Kennedy** a couple of hours before the operation was to start to request permission to obtain **U.S.** air support. **Kennedy** deferred and the mission failed. Another group that failed to attract much speculation, outside of **Texas**, were the rich and powerful oil barons.

**H.L. Hunt** was the wealthiest man in the world, at that time with a personal fortune exceeding four with a "B" billion dollars. This was a group of fervent anti communists who felt that **JFK** sold out to the **Russians** and was soft on communism.

The story goes like this. During the **Cuban Missile Crisis**, **Kennedy** made a deal with **Khrushchev**. In exchange for the **US** missiles taken out of **Turkey** the **Russians** would take out the **Cuban** missile silos. This sounds like a win/win to me, but the zealots at the time viewed it differently. **Kennedy** also thought the oil depletion tax credit the rich oil people received was an unwarranted gift (*corporate socialism?*) and he was planning on reducing the 27 percent or eliminating it altogether. This would have cost this special interest group tens of millions of dollars. These oil men were also diversified and big players in the **Military Industrial Complex (MIC)**.

**Eisenhower** warned the people of the **U.S.** in his last presidential speech (**Jan. 17, 1961**) about the **MIC**, as they had become very powerful in affecting **US** policy. Said Eisenhower, "we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex... Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can

compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together."

**LBJ** needed the **President** dead more than anyone. **LBJ's** previous criminal activity, concerning a scam of farm subsidies for cotton, threatened him with imprisonment. He was also made aware, by his friend and long time aid **Bobby Baker**, that the **Kennedys** planned to drop him from the **Democratic Ticket** in the **1964** election. It seems like **George Smathers**, of **Florida**, was more to their liking. According to **Madeleine Brown**, **LBJ's** longtime mistress, **Johnson** told her the night before the assassination "After tomorrow those bleeping **Kennedy's** will not embarrass me again." It is also reported that he asked **John Connally**, the **Governor of Texas**, to ride in his car rather than the **Presidents** car. **Governor Connally** was wounded in the assassination.



Last but not least in this group was the most powerful lawman in the country at this time, **Director J.E. Hoover** of the **FBI**. I don't believe **Hoover** participated in the murder but was the key player in the cover up. I believe the director was notified there would be a hit on **JFK** the night before. It is well documented that **Hoover** stayed in power through blackmail and intimidation. **Hoover** used wiretaps to get dirt on anyone of political influence and held the unsavory info over their head like the **Damocles Sword**. Despite being gay at a very unpopular time for gay rights, no one dared mess with **J. Edgar**. He could smear and destroy almost any powerful person of his day at a whim.

It is well documented that **JFK** was a *playa, sex addict* or however you want to label his many indiscretions. **Hoover** made a veiled threat to **Kennedy** that he had evidence and the **Kennedy's** were pretty intolerant of his blackmail. **Hoover** believed, and probably rightly so, that the **Kennedy's** would force him to retire on his 70th birthday, the mandatory age for federal civil service.

There was an alleged meeting the night before the assassination attended by some of the major players. **LBJ, Nixon, Clint Murchison, H.L. Hunt** and **Hoover** were said to be amongst those present. If you were a fly on the wall of that room you definitely would be in jeopardy, like so many of the witnesses who have died under suspicious circumstances.

The reason **Hoovers'** participation has been so important is the **FBI** failing to properly investigate all of the mysterious deaths that followed. When **Oswald** was

Continued From VIEW Page 9...

## Shop Local... Or Else..... !



Photo, © 2008, Susan Sabo

**Bandit Brands** – This month, the *Ojai* and *Ventura VIEW* is celebrating American ingenuity, creativity, craftsmanship and resourcefulness. In a tight economy, let's support our **American Workers** by keeping our dollar **LOCAL**, and keeping our cities free of monotonous soulless chain stores. For many years, many of our corporations have placed corporate profits over our national best interests, by producing goods for the **U.S.** market overseas (outsourcing), thereby robbing fine **American workers** of their jobs. See stories on **Bandit Brands**, and featured Artist **Alison Casson**, page 20-21 for hometown success stories.

### SMALL TOWNIE - URBAN ASSAULT

#### Mayor Weir - Soft on Sweatshops Urban Outfitters

**Ventura Mayor Christy Weir** is urging **Venturans** to "shop local" so that their retail "tax" dollar will be "kept" local. What about the larger picture of non-local chain retail outlets who send their (our ?) dollars overseas ?

**Philadelphia** based "yuppies" **Urban Outfitters** are at it again. Shamelessly refusing to publicly disclose a code of conduct or policies that incorporates **International Labor Organization** conventions (SOURCE: *New Mexico Business Weekly*), unlike competitors the **Gap, Limited Brands, and American Eagle**, **Outfitters** say that they only "hope" their suppliers adhere to child labor laws and forced labor prohibitions.

Comforting to know that your *made-in-china* jeans and wanna-be-cool t-shirts were made by *volunteer* child labor...After all, children should be kept quiet and busy, idle fingers are the devil's workshop.

Marketing to the mainstream buyer who wants to delude themselves into thinking they are crossing the line to buy something truly cooooool, they market their own "private" labels to make you think they are designer clothing.

*Made in America* might describe the actual shoppers at **Urban Outfitters**, but most of their vendors are overseas. Just to make you feel confident though, they assure the buyers that no more than 10 percent of their merchandise comes from any one supplier. This is protection for the buyer in case of a riot, military coup, increase in export tariff or any other event which might interrupt the flow of crap...er clothing. Now that's spreading the wealth wayyy out of town...

While "Urban Outfitter touting" **Weir** is head-in-the-clouds smiling and telling the **Ventura Cowtown Public** that there are at least two new businesses opening every month in **Ventura**... is she also counting the three that are closing ? Perhaps we can give some of those vacant buildings to **Urban Outfitters** so they can give some of their manufacturing or jobs to **Californians** ?

Speaking of children, if the **Ventura City Council** has it's glutenous tax-us-to-get-city hall-outa-self-made-living-hell way and, after losing a fortune by gambling with taxpayer money (**\$10 Million Ventura TAXPAYER dollars** not-so-frugally LOST one year ago (not in the recent crash) due to their *mismanaged Bear Stearns (BS) HIGH-RISK* "investment" bank debt obligations; (*wheela-deala get-rich-quick-scheme*), your children will be paying off **Ventura's idiotic financial incompetence** for years to come. As the "council" tries to play catch up, (*with your wallet as their catch-all*), using various implements such as huge sales tax increase gimmicks, paid parking meters and grandiose visions of taxpayer ignorance.

And what does **Ivory Tower Mayor Christy** have to say about it all, to quote a **Feb. 1 Time-Warner piece**, "I just love driving 'down there' and seeing the new streets....um, they've all been repaved. And all the um lights we have called 'festival lighting,' they make the downtown look you know brighter at night, you know, more fun. All year round now, not just for the holidays. And we have new benches for people to rest on while they're eating their ice cream or sipping their coffee....We love to encourage people to shop locally in Ventura because the **City of Ventura** gets a portion of the sales tax and that tax goes right back to our city parks, our police, our fire, all that. But it's not only for that, but it's for the feel of community..."

— Joel Anderson, editor

### Reflections on the Inner Warrior...

Soul Wants to Live, Continued Page from page 3...

The suits are always talking about 'wiping out the competition' or 'making a killing'. At the bottom of this corrupt culture is a deep fear of survival, a sadistic streak and malicious narcissism. I met quite a few of those deviants when I worked in L.A. many moons ago. They come to therapy not to become more soulful, but to become better sharks than the sharks all around them. To Hell with them, it's time for a revolution!

#### In Conclusion

Our small community is much more deeply affected by quiet, even invisible acts of service, kindness, sacrifice and generosity than by those seeking applause, fortune or fame. I'm fortunate to have known quite a few of those invisible warriors over the last two decades. What is best for all concerned lies at the root of the warrior's energies. Courage is employed for the greater good. The goal of the warrior archetype is to find peace with oneself, with others and the world. The better the warrior, the less the violence. Freedom starts when we become aware of the outdated roles we've been stuck in and fully realize we can choose a brand new path. Joseph Campbell used to warn people that they can climb the ladder to success only to find it leaning against the wrong wall.

Thanks to Carol Pearson PH.D. for her many contributions to this article.

PETER RUDOLF MILHADO, PH.D. – Lic #MFT14142

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**Chasing Does Bucks!**

**R. ELLIS SMITH  
An Unnatural Disaster**



Ok, so as the story goes, under the somewhat dubious watchful eye of Mr. Jay Panzica, Chief Financial Officer of the city of Ventura we were the unlucky holders of \$10,000,000 worth of stock in the Lehman Brothers and Washington Mutual. We all are aware of what happened recently to both of those stalwart organizations and to our \$10,000,000 of hard earned tax money, it went the way of the proverbial "Pig in a Poke." In other words we took a shellacking in the economic meltdown.

Mr. Panzica, says he is confident it won't be a total loss, but does concede it will probably take a few years to see any return. So in order to try to recover some of our money Mr. Panzica recently traveled to New York to attend bankruptcy hearings on the Lehman Brothers case, the case with the Washington Mutual debacle is



so murky that the bankruptcy proceedings haven't even started yet and there is no time set for a start. Wonder what it cost for Mr. Panzica to go to that meeting in New York? Ventura is the only city in

Ventura County that had money invested in the failed companies, so now the Gang in the Ivory Tower has retained a Bay Area law firm to look into the situation and possibly join other cities in a law suit. Besides losing the initial \$10,000,000 Ventura is also losing expected interest income to the tune of around \$700,000 for this year alone. So besides losing all that moola the Gang in the Ivory Tower is tossing some more of our tax money to the law firm in the Bay Area and considering spending untold cash to join in a losing law suit. I also wonder how much they are paying that Bay Area law firm?

They say the city has "healthy reserve funds" but we are going to be \$6.3 million dollars in the hole for this years budget. I guess I just don't understand these high financial areas, but I would assume if you have a "healthy reserve fund" this is something the "healthy reserve fund" is intended for, something to fall back on when you get into financial trouble. You know, like when people lose their jobs and have no income, they are forced to dip

into any savings, (healthy reserve funds), they may have to make ends meet.

But the Gang in the Ivory Tower would rather cut services to the citizens and layoff employees instead. I just wish somebody in the Ivory Tower would let us know what the hell a "healthy reserve fund" is for.

Rellis Smith  
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**Blue Ribbon Committee...**

**R. ELLIS SMITH  
Vta City Council: Tell Us  
What We Wanna Hear**



Sounds like it could well be a group judging horses or dogs at the county fair. It is however a group of stalwart Ventura citizens chosen by the Gang in the Ivory Tower,

(Ventura City Council), to figure out if the rest of the citizens of Ventura would look favorably toward a 1/2 cent increase in the sales tax. If they decide it would fly, the other thing they are empowered to do is make "suggestions" to the Gang in the Ivory Tower as to how the extra money, (supposedly \$8,000,000 per year) would be spent. Of course the idea that this "Blue Ribbon Committee" was chosen by the Gang in the Ivory Tower suggests to us non-Blue Ribbon citizens that there may be a tad of pressure for the group to bring home the bacon.

**Citizen Blue Ribbon Budget Committee to Hold Four Meetings in Month of March**

A Citizen Blue Ribbon Budget Committee will hold four community meetings during the month of March for the purpose of taking public testimony and making a recommendation to the Ventura City Council as to whether or not a sales tax measure should be placed on the ballot. Interested community members are asked to attend these meetings to participate in the public testimony process. (It was decided that the committee members would not be able to ask the public speakers any questions, Councilmember Sandy Smith's suggestion).

Four meetings will be held on each Wed. in the month of March: **March 4, 11, 18, and 25, at 6:30pm** at the Ventura Unified School District - Christa McAuliffe Room, 255 W. Stanley Avenue. (Actually only one meeting will be held on each of those dates).

The committee, members of which were appointed by the City Council, will also provide a recommendation as to when the measure should be placed on the ballot if it is pursued, and how the revenue generated by the measure should be spent. The committee will present their report to the City Council in April 2009. (If the measure is placed on the general election it would cost the city about \$25,000. If it goes to a special election it will cost about \$350,000).

The members are Susan Cook (Chair), Michael W. Case (Vice Chair), Robert J. Alviani, Robert W. Berry, Thomas H. Crozier, Kathleen Diermier, Jill Fioravanti, Jim Friedman, Angie Hecht, Janie King,

Edward J. Lacey, Robert L. McCord, Faye McDonald, Rosa Lee Measures, and Sandy Smith. (It has been my experience that anytime you get that many people in a group you will never get a consensus of opinion, unless it has already been set).

Members of the public are invited to attend the meetings and/or submit comments for the committee to [cityclerk@cityofventura.net](mailto:cityclerk@cityofventura.net)

I attended the meeting on March 4th, which was mostly comprised of Mr. Jay Panzica, Chief Financial Officer for the city going over the cities finances. One of the items that Mr. Panzica went over, other than the losing of \$10,000,000 (ten million) last year on less than stellar investments, and the fact that the city has \$12,000,000 in their reserve fund, was the fact that the city also has \$3,500,000 in the bank that has not been spent yet and was intended to be given to a consulting firm in Santa Barbara to find companies to locate to Ventura, they have had no success as of yet and we may be able to get out of the contract and save our \$3,500,000.

One other bit of information that woke up the Blue Ribbon Committee was the fact that the city also has about \$165,000,000, (yes one hundred sixty five million dollars) tied up in other investments, some of that money has been in investments for up to 20 years.

Now to sum it up the city has \$12,000,000 in reserve funds, \$3,500,000 in the bank that they probably will be able to use, and \$165,000,000 in other investments that they probably could use a portion of and yet Mr. Rick Cole, City Manager has been portraying doom and gloom and says if we don't allow them to enact a 1/2 cent increase in the sales tax we are all going to Hell in a Hand Basket. We also found out that the real reason the Administrators don't want to use the \$12,000,000 reserve fund is because that fund is the whole reason that Standard and Poors gave the city of Ventura an A+ bond rating. If we use the reserve fund and our rating goes down it won't look so good

on the resumes of the city manager and the chief financial officer.  
Rellis Smith  
rellis39@sbcglobal.net  
www.californiachile.com

**EVENT CALENDAR CONT.**

Continued from Page 3...

only California concert this year. A special evening with 2 complete shows! - Folk legend and member of Peter, Paul & Mary in his only California concert this year. Ojai Valley Woman's Club, 441 E. Ojai Ave., Adult performance at 7:30pm \$20.00 in advance \$22 at the door, Children's show at 5:30pm: Adults \$10, Kids \$6 in advance, \$12 & \$8 @ door, Singer/songwriter Noel Paul Stookey has been altering both the musical and ethical landscape of this country and the world for decades—both as the "Paul" of the legendary Peter, Paul and Mary and as an independent musician who passionately believes in bringing the spiritual into the practice of daily life. Funny, irreverently reverent, thoughtful, compassionate—passionate—Stookey's vocal sound is known all across this land: from the "Wedding Song" to "In These Times." At the 1963 March on Washington when Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech, Peter, Paul and Mary delivered the compelling "If I Had a Hammer" and "Blowin' in the Wind". Noel Paul Stookey has recorded over 45 albums and oversees Newworld Multimedia, presenting new artists and creating children's TV shows and music. The royalties from his classic "Wedding Song" go to the Public Domain Foundation, where nearly \$2 million has been put to work for charitable causes.

Ticks., [www.ojaiconcertseries.com](http://www.ojaiconcertseries.com)  
info. Shane Butler, 665-8852  
• thru- March 26, Faculty Art Exhibit,


Events Continued Page 9...

**Enjoy the Ojai Valley... Our Way... !**

"As you know, one of my pet peaves is all the illegal Inns and people renting rooms in their houses, which keeps our legal inns not full. I happened to be at the dog park, what was it ten days ago; lovely couple up from Glendale with their dog and they said they're just up for the weekend. So I said, well where are you staying? and they mentioned some place up on LaLuna, and I said where did you find it and they said, 'Vacation Rentals by Owner.' Now, if these illegitimate places didn't exist they would of stayed at one of our hotels, like Best Western, or one of our hotels, which did not run full that weekend. So, I am vigorously in favor of, I don't know what we can do about the county...most of these places are in the county, but we know many of them are in the city... but most of them are in the county. For the county, it's a very small amount of their income, but for the city it is serious and uh ya know I couldn't even say it....they get it off a website. How do they know these people are not running a legitimate business, have no business license, and are not paying TOT, and robbing our own merchants, and they had the nerve to come to Ojai for the ambiance of Ojai; use our roads, our parks, everything, and we don't get a dime. So...(sigh) I am suggesting that whatever we can do...we are losing, I wouldn't be surprised if we are losing 18 percent of potential bed tax on this type of enterprise over the course of a year. So my suggestion is whatever way we can do, go after them, even if they are in the county. I suggest we close these places down....I uh, it bugs me to no end that our legitimate merchants are being robbed."

— Ojai City Council Member Carol Smith, Feb. 24 council meeting





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**Financial Analysis****National Debt: Feeding the Monster Within**

by Jefferson Pinto

**L**ast month I addressed the **Stimulus Package**. This month I'll address the **National Debt** by comparing and contrasting: diet & personal debt, with the **National Debt**.

**PART I: THE PROBLEM**

**Caution:** The following includes intense subject matter that may be disturbing or unsuitable for immature readers.

OK. The election is over. The detainees have disembarked **Guantanamo Bay**. The stimulus package has been passed. Can we get back to one of the most colossal issues threatening our country's future?

Let's face it; obesity is a huge problem in this country. (Sorry I couldn't resist the pun.) I'm really addressing "economic obesity." Instead of rattling off huge words that only mean something to members of the **Political Economic Vocabulary Club (PEVC)**, I'll explain it in terms of something to which

I can more easily relate and convey.

Back to today's discussion: accumulated fat. (Or in the case of our government, the **National Debt**). Suppose your household earns about \$50,000 per year (the annual household median income in this country). Let's say you end up spending \$100,000 this year. Where does the other \$50,000 come from? It's called consumer debt and it takes the form of credit cards, car loans, and "zero interest" installment loans. Let's recap. You just spent everything you will earn for the next two years. Oh yeah did I mention the consumer interest rate of between 10 and 20 percent, will equate to between \$5,000 and \$10,000 per year. That's in addition to paying back the amount you borrowed. Ouch that hurts!

Helpful hint: If you want a 20 percent tax-free risk-free return on your investment - **PAY OFF YOUR CREDIT CARDS!** (**Suzie Orman** would be so proud.) At a personal level, you pay more due to the interest, and the payments go on long after you remember what you bought. With consumer debt, you have to work to keep it! You get the point.

Now pretend you are the **Federal Government**. (Scary I know, but go with it.) Suppose you did the same thing for the past few decades. Consider your country's annual income is about **\$1 trillion** and the accumulated debt is about **\$11 trillion dollars**. It's not what's referred to as "going green". It's economic pollution and obesity of the worse kind.

**Jefferson's Metaphor:** If you eat more calories than you burn, you are going to get fat; as in, if you spend more than you earn, you are going to take on debt (economic fat). There are many effective solutions. Sure you can exercise more to burn more calories. Then again, you could take a second job to earn more money. Or better yet, eat and spend less.

Back to the **National Debt**. Eleven trillion dollars is a lot of money by any standard. It's almost incomprehensible. The problem in dealing with such a large number in the trillions is that **100 billion dollars** becomes a rounding error and is treated like spare change. The **National Debt** equates to almost \$37,000 for every man, woman, and child in this country. For a family of three, that's \$111,000 or about \$625 per month for the next 30 years. I know it sounds worse when I put it that way.

**Paying off the National Debt**

Let me put it into perspective. Suppose you were to start on the beach in **Santa Monica, California**. And pace off the **National Debt** at a rate of one dollar per inch. By the time you reached just under 16 miles you would have reached downtown **Los Angeles** and paid off \$1 million dollars of the **National Debt**. To pay off \$1 billion of the **National Debt**, you would have to walk 15,783 miles or almost two thirds around the globe (You'd be in **Mongolia**.) To pay off \$1 trillion dollars, you'd have to walk around the world 631 times. To eradicate the **National Debt**, you'd have to walk around the earth 6,600 times.

In its simplest form, debt itself is bad. Well how bad is it? It makes our economy sluggish and mortgages our children and grandchildren's future.

**Personal Rationalizations not to act:** The

rationalization: It's OK; I can make my minimum payments. Well yeah, for now. Daddy daddy, I want a golden goose; I want a golden goose nowwwwwww! (*immediate gratification leading to conspicuous consumption.*) What happens when you need a new car, or the roof springs a leak?

**The rationalization:** It's not my job. Everyone else should pay off their debt so I can have abundant access to money at a low interest rate. That's sort of like saying, "I think everyone else should carpool and take the bus so I can drive my car on an uncrowded freeway and enjoy low cost gasoline."

**The rationalization:** I'll reduce my spending next year. Yeah I know smoking is the proximate cause of the most preventable illness leading to death, but I'll quit smoking next month. I had an instructor who once said, everyone is for change... just not right now.

**The rationalization:** I know I'm on a diet but, it's \_\_\_\_\_ (Choose one: •my daughter's wedding, •Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanza, •Thanksgiving, •Groundhog Day, •National Watermelon Day) and I'll start my diet next month. I'll defer the corrective action because of the crisis at hand... and the next crisis at hand, etc.

Let me be clear, I don't advocate martyrdom by depriving yourself of some treats or some nice things. But my question is this: can you/we really afford to pay it back with interest?

**PART II: THE JOURNEY TO CORRECTION**

The five most dangerous consecutive words in the English language are: **MAYBE IT WILL GO AWAY**. I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but without an aggressive change in behavior, it won't.

Ladies and gentlemen, it's time once again to play the symptom/cause/problem game.

Classify each of the following as a symptom, cause, or problem.

1. Obesity
2. Poor food choices
3. Excessive quantity of food consumed
4. Lack of exercise
5. Compensating for emotional injury or dysfunction
6. One or more credit cards are maxed out
7. You can't make the minimum credit card payments
8. You spend beyond your needs

Symptoms: 1, 6

Causes: 3, 4, 5,

Problems: 2, 7, 8

How much does it cost? In 2008, we (the taxpayers) spent **\$253 billion** in interest for the **National Debt**. That alone is more than a quarter of the recently passed stimulus package. Put another way, if we had lived within our means all those years and not accumulated the debt, we'd have one fourth of a stimulus package each and every year.

The bigger problem is the consistent fiscal incontinence: Picture this; You are in a cabin located in the middle of the forest. There is a blizzard and you are snowed in. You are running out of firewood to burn to keep warm. Then you start pulling boards off the inside of the cabin and burning them too. If the storm continues and you keep burning the cabin, soon you will not have any protection from the elements. An alternate strategy is to put on more coats and blankets and burn less wood to weather the storm. The same is true of our fiscal policy (spending) and growing **National Debt**. Soon enough, the interest will move from the third largest item on the **National Budget** to the largest.

invite you to resist the great rationalization: "As a percentage of **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, the **National Debt** isn't proportionally that big." (**GDP** being the **National Economy**, including government, industry, and consumer spending.)

**My take:** (the only way I can put it, that is fit to print) is that the above statement is the *largest quantity of animal waste product excreted from an unaltered male bovine I have ever encountered*. **Keynesian Economics** is the concept that government deficit spending is good and OK. This concept, originally introduced by **John Maynard Keynes**, a **British economist** was very popular in the middle of the last century, when most of our politicians were educated.

**Jefferson's Metaphor #36:** You can no more spend your way out of debt than you can eat you way thin. It defies the laws of economic physics.

So what's the go forward strategy? Here are a few to cogitate.

**Educated decisions based on full disclosure:** **Popeye's** friend, the gluttonous **J. Wellington Wimpy**, was made famous for saying, "I'd gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today." At least he addressed the cost of the burger with a repayment schedule. That's the way it ought to be. If our politicians were to use this same philosophy, it would sound more like, "How about a hamburger for you hungry citizens?" Sure I'll take one. Oh wait. What do you mean it will cost \$15 each and you are going to put it on the country's credit card and charge us interest for the next 30 years? Nah, forget it. I can feed myself more efficiently and still have the freedom to choose what I like to eat without paying any interest. Don't make me say it. OK, if you insist: There is no free lunch.

**Feel the pain now to understand the consequences:** When the awareness of wearing seatbelts came into the mainstream, the cars of the day made the most annoying buzzing sound when the driver wasn't wearing a seat belt. Albeit, the loud buzzer was a punitive and effective way of motivating the driver to do the smart thing - wear their seatbelt. Nowadays, my car has the most pleasant tone that really isn't that motivating. Would **Pinocchio** and the other boys have spent the afternoon at the "carnival" if they knew they'd be turned into slave jackasses?

**There is no effective mechanism to shrink government:** Even when the rest of us have taken an economic hair-cut, the recipients of social security, welfare, etc. have automatic increases built into the **National Budget**. Shall we all feel the pain equally? Prior to expanding government, let us inquire about the exit strategy. When will the need for this program cease? When will the flow of dollars stop?

**The ineffective tools of choice include - Across the board budget cuts:** Imposing a (*fill-in-the-blank*)-percent across the board budget cut is a short term fix, at best. If there is a function/department that's not necessary, cut it out completely, don't just make it smaller. Did you know there are still government-paid tea tasters on the payroll and we're still paying farmers not grow crops? I'd like to say it isn't so, but it is. Why not start paying **General Motors** to not make large SUVs? (I realize that joke is only half funny because

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that's effectively what's happening now.) **Blackmail the citizens:** by cutting the most visible and vital services. "Sorry folks, we're cutting back on air traffic controllers. Have a safe flight." We finally crumble under the pressure and say, OK! OK! Increase taxes.

We really ought to consider cutting out the **Transportation Security Administration (TSA)** where "Your safety is our priority". I think their motto ought to be, "We're creating stupid rules that are arbitrarily enforced by otherwise unemployable high school dropouts with the appearance of safety." By the way, thanks for adding an airport tax to my airline ticket. Thanks for confiscating my fingernail clippers and factory sealed bottle of water so I can pay \$3 for the same bottle of water after passing through the security check point.

At the state level, the **Legislative filibuster/blackmail** used by our "friends" in Sacramento isn't working so well. Instead of playing together nicely toward a common goal for the citizens (remember us?) and addressing the core issue, there is new talk of reducing the number of minimum votes to gently pass budget increases. The "change the rules by changing the balance of power" strategy stinks. What they are effectively saying; "if I can't have my golden goose now, I'm changing the rules."

**Jefferson's Editorial:** Frankly, I commend the **Governor** for not negotiating with the budget terrorists and their incremental pork. **NOTE: California** differs from the federal government in that bond issues (incurring debt) must be approved by the voters. In the case of the federal government, they simply issue debt as a result of the budget and subsequent incremental legislation.

The **Federal Balanced Budget Amendment** (of which the implementation keeps getting deferred) has both merit and limitations. It only addresses the equalization of spending and tax collection. That's good.

However, it doesn't address the overall size of government. That's bad. There is nothing that will prevent further expansion and increased taxation or debt accumulation. Take our friends across the pond in the UK, as the epitome of expanded government and creative ways to fund it. They have a higher tax levied on the operator (the citizen) of a color TV, than on the operator (citizen) of a black and white TV.

**Up the anti on our elected officials:** Just about every other profession (excluding attorneys) requires **Continuing Professional Education (CPE)** to keep their license. I propose all elected officials have at least 20 hours of CPE annually in finance and economics and another 20 in human psychology (child development, addiction, etc.) You know, the money and the people thing. I'd throw in another 40 hours for ethics.

**Pull the curtain out from behind the wizard:** The problem with politics (poly meaning many, and ties meaning blood suckers) is this: *I'll buy votes today and have the next generation of constituents pay it back later, after I'm out of office.*

**Here's my fix:** List the **National Debt** interest separately on the tax return. *Dear citizen you owe \$5,000 and another \$1,000 as your portion of interest on the National Debt. Your total income tax bill is \$6,000.*

I advocate aligning the consequences with the action or activity.

I'm for saying all federal expenditures should be paid out of the current year's budget. Certain capital projects, like **Hoover Dam** for example, are pretty costly and would create a huge distortion if all costs were absorbed in a single year. This is much the same way most citizens couldn't pay for their house in one year. I do advocate issuing bonds, for a specific project for a fixed period of time, not to exceed 10 years. Casually issuing **Series EE** bonds isn't going to cut it anymore.

**The Cruel Irony:** Our government is doing to us (the citizens) what the banks did to unsuspecting borrowers (currently in default because they lacked the capacity to pay).

The demographic reality is that my generation is the first generation in the history of the **United States** that will have a lower standard of living than our parents. One of the biggest contributing factors is the **National Debt**. The government borrows money, driving up interest rates. The **National Debt** is mortgaging our children's and grandchildren's future.

**The Epilogue:** I have found that when I get one area of my life in order it also helps me apply the same lessons elsewhere and get other areas of my life in order. My objective is to educate and motivate, not shame.

I've tried to parallel issues with similar behaviors and relate them to the **National Debt** as an inevitable economic dragon that needs to be slain. If you're OK with the current state of affairs and the direction this country is going, then keep doing what you're doing because you are going to keep getting what you're getting.

**The good news:** Our national leadership is talking about it. The bad news if we don't quit overspending "cold turkey" we are going to relapse. We need two types of leadership: **The Fire Chief** to put out the "current forest fire" and **Smokey the Bear** to prevent future "forest fires".

**In summary:** the **National Debt** is a colossal problem. It grows so slowly and quietly. Our economy is currently in stage-two economic cancer. The good news; it is curable with early treatment. However, without aggressive changes in behavior, the **National Debt** will eventually lead to our demise.

*Jefferson Pinto is a retired CPA, holds an MBA from one of the finer accredited universities in this country, and is the VP of corporate operations for his day job.*

## Computer Tech

### Think Before You Jump

by Mike Deering

**S**o, you are giving some thought to getting a new computer and you finding it kind of hard to sort through all of the 'deals' out there. Windows or Mac? Why is only Windows Vista available? For now, let's just talk about one thing: the availability of an operating system CD that should come with your new computer. Did you know that some manufacturers don't even include an operating system CD with your new computer? That may not seem to be a big deal, until your operating system won't start up properly and you or your technician needs to repair or reinstall the operating system. Then you need that CD. A full version operating system CD, or at least a CD that the manufacturer should provide, (not an upgrade), is needed and there is no way around it.

So the "\$700 laptop" from XYZ Company that doesn't have this operating system CD, can turn immediately into a \$300 or more repair bill to repair or re-install the operating system. Most computer technicians don't possess the operating system CD's for all machines. The \$1000 Mac Book (or whatever other brand) that does include a CD isn't such a bad deal after all. Apple, for one example, does ship a full operating CD with their new machines.

So, the presence or lack of an operating system CD is a major consideration when making a purchase decision of a new computer.

Mike Deering, Computer MD  
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# Wine And Roses

by Ron Rowe



In these days of tension, turmoil and uncertainty in the economy, it's a relaxation to turn to mother nature. The **13th Century Persian poet Saidi** wrote, "If I had but two loaves of bread, I would sell one and buy flowers for they feed my soul." Seven hundred years later, the **American wit Dorothy Parker** concurred, she wrote, "those who have roses never need bread."

From medieval textiles to **Islamic** manuscripts, from **Japanese** prints to impressionist paintings, from sermon to sonnets and from nonsense verse, to **Haiku**, arts and letters through the ages have been inspired by flowers, so dear reader, buy a bouquet of flowers or a plant, a bottle of wine, and I promise you you will feel rejuvenated. You can, of course buy one rose and gaze upon it for an hour, drinking in its beauty, after drinking two glasses of wine.

Of course, the rose is a venerable plant that has been known to have bloomed and shed its beauty on this earth for millions of years, long before man or woman made their appearance. Fossilized blossoms discovered in **Oregon** and **Colorado** have been identified as 35 million and possibly 70 million years old. For the colorfully woven history of the rose through the ages of man we are indebted to a multitude of artists, craftsmen, writers and rose lovers who have been charmed by the gracious rose and have left their record of their enchantment for future ages to enjoy.

**January** has passed, **February** brought us rain. Frost and rain a wet spring. The poet **Shelley** wrote about **February**, "The Winter hedge was black, the green grass, birds do rest on the bare thorns, whose roots beside the pathway track had bound their folds over many a crack which the frost had made between."

If the cold weather has you feeling blah, then enroll in **Catherine Ann Jones Creative Writing Class**. Writing in order to save the soul must integrate outer craft with the inner world of intuition and feeling, invite the muse together and birth that special story. All that is needed is paper, pen and courage, so writes author **Cathryn Ann Jones**. You can join her in **One Day Way of the Story Workshop in Ojai. Sat., March 14**. That creative writing lies within you, now is the time to unleash it, register now, space is limited, call **805-646-7601** or [www.wayofstory.com](http://www.wayofstory.com)

Do you want to lose weight? A new **Japanese** study shows people who eat their meals in five minutes are three times more likely to get fat, the speed at which we eat is more important than what we eat, so, slowdown, eat slowly and enjoy your food and lose weight at the same time.

The myth has always been that **British** sailors were nautical but nice. Now astonishingly torrid love letters, written by **Sir Horatio Nelson** to his mistress, **Emma** have surfaced after 200 years. They reveal Nelson was incoherent with rage, jealousy and extremely passionate. In one letter, he reveals he has erotic dreams about **Emma**, he writes, "I can't eat think or sleep without thinking of making love to you, my dearest, I never touch my favorite pudding after dinner, my appetite has gone." The letters go on the auction block at **Christie's Auction House** this month.

If you are a sailor and need a good boat, the **Iraqi** government is selling **Saddam Hussein's** 269-foot yacht. This luxury craft is valued at \$30 million. It's outfitted with swimming pools, gold Tap Bathrooms, a secret escape passageway and several unused rocket launchers. Only offer received is \$5 million, so if interested get your bid in now.

Over 350 residents of a nudist colony in **Florida** petitioned the state to allow them to have a clothing optional voting site. It was turned down.

You know how difficult it is to pay for goods with a **\$100 bill in Ojai**? Most merchants are reluctant to accept them. **Rita Cantrell**, who lives in **North Carolina**, tried to pay for purchases at a **Target Store** there with a \$100 bill. They not only rejected the \$100 bill, they also e-mailed her photo to the local police and businesses as a

suspected counterfeiter. **Rita** received \$3.1 million, in a court case. Her lawyer, **Buzzy Boggs** said, the store got off lightly, my client cannot buy back her good name.

Finally, a cure for traffic congestion that the **Ojai City Council** might follow. In **England**, when told of the horrendous traffic congestion in **London**, **Prince Philip** said, "Ban the tourists."

Good quotes. *I hope life isn't a joke, because I don't get it. Consultants are people who borrow your watch and tell you what time it is, and then walk off with your watch. Conceit is God's gift to the little man. Every great cause begins as a movement then becomes a business and eventually degenerates into a racket. There is a difference between beauty and charm; a beautiful woman is what I notice, a charming woman is one who notices me.*

If you are a burglar, check out the residents first, in **Moscow**. A 380 pound woman surprised a burglar in her house. She knocked him down and sat on him for 3 1/2 hours until police arrived. And if you run a stop sign or speed, don't insult the officer who pulled you over. A **West Virginia** man was pulled over for drunk driving, when asked to come out of the car, he obeyed them, bent over with his bottom in front of the officer and passed gas with a deafening roar accompanied with a rather obnoxious smell. The officer was not amused. He charged the man with drunk driving, plus battery on an officer.

**Tom Sietas**, a **31-year-old German**, holds the world record for holding his breath; an astounding 10 minutes 12 seconds, pity the arresting officer in the drunk driving bit couldn't do the same.

More wise sayings. *Let him who is stoned cast the first sin. The best things in life, are for a fee. You say this deal will be a 50-50 one. In fact, it will be the reverse.*

I know there is a ring in a wedding ceremony, but a wedding performed in a boxing ring? Two **Russian boxers Nikolai Kibkalo** and **Natalie Karpouish** exchanged wedding rings and vows in a boxing ring. **Natalie** is **Russia's** most successful female boxer...

A **Massachusetts** couple learned the hard way, why it doesn't always paid to be thrifty. They tried to save money by storing 65 gallons of gasoline in the cellar. You guessed it, it exploded and burned the house down. Police arrested them. The **McMurdo Research Base** in Antarctica stocked up for two months of darkness with a shipment of 17,000 condoms. For the most part, said the bases leader the 125 scientists will spend the winter. there and know how to occupy their time.

Wow, **Frenchman Alexis Lemaire**, age 27, correctly calculated the 13th root of a 200 digit number in his head in a world record time of 70.2 seconds. Oh, the answer was simple, it was 2, 407,899,893,032,210. Bet you didn't know that **Prof. Spufelman**.

**Laura, in Ventura**, wants me to rewrite a list about food and wine combinations that I wrote about last year, suggesting which wine complements a particular food. Well, **Laura**, suggesting which wine complements each food dish is rather snobbish and a little esoteric. Do as I do, experiment yourself and choose which wine you like with each food, don't be held back by wine snobs, you will be surprised at your choices. For instance, I like a good **Merlot** with salmon, when traditions say **Chardonnay** is the only wine with fish, so do experiment, you'll find it fun and exciting.

Now, can you imagine a group of wise, strong, intelligent individuals banding together and abolishing war and the production of armaments? Think of the billions of dollars spent on tanks, planes, ammunition, bombs and missiles etc. that could be spent on roads, education and healthcare! Imagine the hatred and pain being replaced with love, understanding and compassion in the world, is it possible? A wise man once said, *Energy follows thought.*

Your comments are welcome  
Peace and goodwill to all beings on earth  
Ron Rowe, Ojai  
[rjhrowe@aol.com](mailto:rjhrowe@aol.com)



# Grounds: Keep it Fresh

by Lorraine Mariz



Here are some tips for coffee and tea storage. Coffee – Store in an airtight container at room temperature. Refrigeration is not necessary. Coffee beans will stay fresh for 3 weeks, grounds for 10 days to 2 weeks. Coffee will stay fresh in the freezer in an airtight container for 6 months. Keep coffee in the freezer only if you are not going to use it soon. If coffee comes out of the freezer and then goes back in, condensation forms and the coffee gets wet and stale. If you like to buy a lot of coffee at once, keep a weeks worth at room temperature and freeze the rest.

Tea – Store in an airtight container at room temperature. Do not refrigerate or freeze, you will get soggy leaves, yuk! Tea will stay fresh for 4-6 months in the previously mentioned airtight container.

Your airtight container does not have to be a canister. You can use a zip-lock bag or tupperware. Happy storage!

Lorraine Mariz, Java and Joe, Ojai

# VENTURA COUNTY WEIRD VIEWS

By The Master of the Mysterious  
Richard Senate



Reports from the **Santa Barbara Brotherhood of the Canoe** tell of a strange supernatural event in the **Santa Barbara Channel**. They have painstakingly reconstructed a **Native American** plank canoe, called a **Tomol**. These rakish vessels impressed the **Spanish** explorers in the **Sixteenth**

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**Century.** The reconstructed vessel is paddled out by **Chumash Tribesmen.** Stories are told that sometimes, when they are in the **Santa Barbara Channel,** they see other **Tomols,** manned by others dressed as pre-contact **Native Peoples.** It is as if these phantom vessels are spirit **Tomols** coming through the veil of time to greet fellow **Chumash** as they re-enact the voyages of long ago. As only one **Tomol** today sails the ocean, any others seen must be supernatural.

In **Ventura,** one of her most persistent ghosts is that of a figure seen standing on the third floor ledge of the west wing of the **Neo-Classic City Hall** building. Tradition holds that the phantom is the spirit of a prisoner who fell from the roof decades ago in a prison break. He has been seen off and on for many years. Well, during a ghost tour of **City Hall, Feb., Friday the 13th,** one of the group was taking pictures of haunted places in hopes of capturing a figure or "orb" (balls of white some believe are ghosts). After she heard the story this member of the tour took pictures. Remarkably, when she looked at the picture she captured a strange thing at the ledge of the west wing—right where the ghost has been seen. No one saw anything but the orb seem to be in just the right place. Another tour is planned for **March, Friday the 13th. For tickets, 805-658-4726.**

Where is the grave of **Lucas Garcia**? In 1869 a local bad man was accused of murdering a stranger and robbing him. The man's money was found in **Garcia's** pocket and his story of how he got the money didn't seem right. When the local law enforcement officer left town, the people of **Ventura** took the law into their own hands. They broke him out of the jail on **Valdez Alley** and pulled him to a **Pear Tree** where he was executed by hanging. Rumors say his ghost haunts the little jail called "**El Caballo**" in **Valdez Alley.** In looking over the account of **Ventura's** own bad man, I began to wonder where the locals buried his body. **St. Mary's Cemetery** was around then but did the good **Catholics** want to intern a bad apple like **Garcia** in with the decent folks? The **Protestants** would have been equally against burying him with them. I can be sure that similar feelings existed among the **Chinese** and **Jewish** people.

So where did he end up? My guess would be outside the official cemetery, now **Memorial (dog) Park.** I believe that such burials may have ended up in what is today the parking lot. New plans for the cemetery will turn that parking lot into a memorial garden. When they are landscaping and planting their pretty decorative plants they may turn up old **Lucas Garcia's** bones.

I get some of my best stories from real estate people. One curious case took place in a home that's up for sale in the **West County.** The locals call the place "**The Haunted House**" because of the deaths that took place in the home over the years. Now up for sale, the real estate agent found that somehow the dead bolt was locked and there was no key for the dead bolt on the front door. The man had to break in and open the door from the inside. The dead bolt was found locked again in a few days. Finally, the real estate man took his tool kit and removed the dead bolt so it could not be locked. Strangely, the door was still found to be locked and those who tried to view the property were locked out by a dead bolt that no longer exists! The ghosts seemed to treasure their privacy.

I was recently a guest on the **Travel Channel Program, "Ghost Adventures"** as they investigated the reports of ghosts at the old **Mission La Purisima** in **Lompoc.** I gave the team a heads up on the many haunted places in the complex of restored adobe buildings.

While we toured the place, several cameras, with new batteries, went dead, the power drained from their units. The team spent the night and picked up phantom lights, a mysterious image and sounds that may well be supernatural. It will be one of their best shows and it will run on the **Travel Channel** in **June.** If you have any supernatural accounts forward them on to me.

*Happy Hauntings, Richard Senate  
The Odd and Strange and Bizarre in Ventura County  
www.RichardSenate.com*

## Today's Stress... Will you cope?

by Linda Mac Dougall

**S**tress in a recession is a constant companion. Worry and anxiety can cause sleep loss, depression, and irritation. Insomnia keeps the body from refreshing and replenishing itself. A downward spiral begins that can exhaust the mind, body,

and spirit. And what affects us, affects our relationships.

Just one over stressed person can be a catalyst creating a ripple effect of more stress and anxiety throughout their personal universe. Too much stress can parent systemic chaos and illness both interpersonally and physically.

Just one over stressed individual who takes steps to stem their anxiety can also bring more stability to their personal universe. A perspective of personal responsibility and the nudge of necessity can assist us to see the opportunity, the lesson, and the way forward in these times. We will remain blinded to all this if we cannot deal with ourselves and our stressors. We will lock ourselves away in a prison of our own construction.

Each of us faces challenges and each has to choose either to surrender to them, or take the responsibilities and hard work that comes with moving our personal universe forward. Inclusive in that choice is the central choice of self-care.

Depending on your situation, your choices may include clergy, counseling, hypnotherapy, herbs and nutrition, exercise, attitude adjustment, job training, goal setting, massage, meditation or a variety of other options. Be proactive. Talk to professionals. Find your way forward. Set an example for your personal universe. Your ripple can set in motion other ripples well beyond your awareness and well beyond this time and place.

Our professionals at the **Ojai Mid Valley Chiropractic** office are here to assist. We offer hypnotherapy, gentle exercise, chiropractic, massage and holistic health options. We can offer classes for interested groups on a variety of topics. One way to move forward is to help others and let the ripple widen.

*Linda Mac Dougall, MA, HHP, LMT  
202-6379*

## JFK - American Dream...

Continued From VIEW Page 4...

arrested **Hoover** said, "*We got our man.*" This was a way to let his veteran agents who were chomping at the bit to do their job know that they would incur his wrath if they refused to stand down. Stand down is a term used in military and law enforcement circles that means not to perform whatever they would normally assume their responsibilities to be and submit to the higher authority.

At this point you have been given a lot of common knowledge about the case. Most of the groups that would have benefited from **Kennedys'** demise have been named. In the next issue I will name several people whom I believe could have shined a bright light on the plot and given the **American** people some measure of justice. **The Kennedy Family** and the **American People** are the victims of this evil plot. If you can't wait until the next issue and your curiosity is getting the better of you, **Google JFK assassination plot.**

A little warning concerning the disinformation that was provided to the main stream media by those who sought to cover their tracks. One of the most blatant examples of this is a book financed by **H.L. Hunt** called **Khrushchev Killed Kennedy.** I encourage you to read books like this as they illustrate how far reaching and far fetched the cover up was and still is to this day.

Why would the worlds richest man finance such drivel?  
— Larry Naron



## Watchers...

Continued From VIEW Page 3...

in **Meiners Oaks** are trying to improve this area for all of us to enjoy. We can and should support their efforts by keeping watch over their business' when ever we can. Remember our local business' are an important part of our community. Lets keep them safe.

If you do see suspicious activity please call the **police at 646-1414 or 654-9511** or in cases of **emergency dial 911.** In all cases one of your deputies will respond and do his best to **CATCH A CROOK.**

Here are two easy tips for keeping your homes and families safe. **Tip #1:** We all have that window in our home that is hidden away from public view and we worry about a crook using it to break into our house. Spring is coming and I would like to suggest you plant a nice thorny cactus in front of that window. As the cactus grows you can trim it and shape it to be a true barrier for crooks. The cactus drought tolerant and many have beautiful flowers. Remember, crooks look for the easy target. They are not going to want thorns stuck in their arms and legs and will likely move on to an easier target.

**Tip #2:** Home alarms is a topic that could take many hours to talk about. I am going to take a short cut and talk about using an alarm you may already have. This is more of an all around emergency alarm that will give crooks a great reason to run and your neighbors a chance to call the police.

Next time you come home for the night and you start to put your keys away, think of this:

Put your car keys beside your bed at night. If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off, and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies.

It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no installation. Test it. It will go off from most everywhere inside your house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain. It works if you park in your driveway or garage. If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break into your house, odds are the burglar won't stick around... After a few seconds all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure enough the criminal won't want that. And remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there ..... This is something that should really be shared with everyone.

I would also like to thank the folks at the **Ojai Valley Estates Mobile Home Park.** They had a great neighborhood watch meeting. I was impressed to see how many people turned out and participated in a great discussion about home and community safety. These residents were victimized by a crook recently and they are not going to take it any more. They had some great ideas and I believe the crook is in for a surprise next time he drives thru that neighborhood.

Great job to all of you and keep up the good work.

*Your friend and neighbor, Joe*

P.S. Your friends can sign up for **City Watch** by sending an **E-mail to ojaivalley...citywatch@ventura.org**

## EVENT CALENDAR CONT.

Continued from Page 5...

- Ventura College Galleries, mon-fri noon - 4pm info. 648-8974
- March 12-14, 19-21 "Pirates Of Penzance", Gilbert and Sullivan musical. Nordhoff High Productions. info. 640-4343 ext 1898 or nhsmusic.com
- Mar. 13 Women's Expo, Seaside Park, Ventura "A Nervous Breakdown Is Not For You" Fri, 3pm
- March 15, Stix Biliards tournament of Champions. 1pm, barbecue, pool and prize money. 2520 E. Main St. Ventura 641-2020
- March 15 - 1pm-4:30 at Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club. featuring the Palace Hot Dance Orchestra sing/jazz. info 981-7892. 10.00 donation at door
- Mar. 15 The Wrestler, screening presented by the Ojai Film Society, Ojai Theatre 145 E. Ojai Ave, \$9 gen, \$6 seniors and student, Free for Ojai Film Society sponsors. 646-8936 / Ojaifilm-society.org
- Mar. 17 - May 12, Art Show, Kristina Grey and Nancy Whit-Events Continued Page 10...

# A Personal Response to Climate Change

by Alasdair Coyne

As our world gets slowly and belatedly moving with the complex transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, leading climate change scientists give us a mere five years to radically change how we power our industrial civilization without causing runaway global warming.

Implicit in belonging to the nation with the largest historical contribution to global warming is the imperative to drastically reduce our own and our family's carbon dioxide footprint. This is something that people can do, regardless of the slow response by many business and political leaders to the serious planetary changes expected as climate change speeds up.

In the coming decades, energy production will need to be more localized, gasoline usage will shrink — perhaps as much due to the peak oil phenomenon as to climate change mandates — and air travel will decline. People will need to work towards producing more of the energy and goods they need closer to home. Recycling will become even more important than it is today — as will using the collected recyclables as a feedstock for local industries. The amount of energy consumed by transporting current volumes of world trade is simply not sustainable.

While many Americans are feeling the pinch as our current recession deepens, and reducing their consumption accordingly, others of us have already been voluntarily simplifying our lives and our consumption patterns in order to reach a more sustainable level of usage of the planet's resources (forests, minerals, fossil fuels, agriculture, water, etc.).

Our nation is in a pinch — high household debt levels have been welcomed by politicians as the driving force behind the past decade's growth. As in former President Bush's request for us all to keep shopping after 9/11. The LA Times recently stated that consumer spending represents 70 percent of the US economy.

Meanwhile it's imperative to meet the goals of drastically-reduced fossil fuel consumption in order to slow runaway climate change, which will seriously reduce our future availability of resources. It's really a question of making gradual adjustments soon — or facing horrendous and inevitable changes to our lifestyles later. As one example, global warming is partly responsible for the current shrinking of winter snowpacks in the Sierras, upon which California's cities and agriculture depend for water in the hot summer months. As these snowpacks lessen, farmers and homeowners will all need to make do with much less water supply. This change will be continuous, to be measured in generations, so it can be accurately stated that living more simply, in terms of resource consumption, is the only future that lays ahead of us. Building an entire sustainable economy that does not depend on constant growth in raw material consumption is going to pose quite a challenge — but individuals and families can start adjusting their carbon dioxide impacts right now.

## ONE FAMILY'S GREEN HOME

Our family was fortunate enough to be able to build our own home six years ago. Making it a green structure was neither hard nor prohibitively expensive. A lumber company in Santa Barbara located a certified, sustainably-harvested lumber package from the forests near Santa Cruz, which fit on one delivery truck. We used a tremendous amount of recycled fixtures, as well as a beautiful tongue and groove

ceiling that was diverted from the dump.

Six solar panels on the roof supply almost all our electricity — our annual electric bill is under \$30.

The solar electric system, which I installed under the supervision of a local solar contractor, cost a little over \$5,000 after the state rebate. Currently the best rebates are federal. If you use modest amounts of electricity, solar power can be very affordable. It can also be installed by a competent handyman homeowner.

Perhaps the most important factor was size — our house is just over 1000 square feet in size. A green builder I know in Ojai complained to me recently how many clients want to build enormous green homes. Green implies modest-sized.

**A PLEDGE NOT TO TRAVEL FAR**  
It's been apparent for a while that the expanding global level of air travel is not sustainable. It is one of the fastest-growing sources of climate changing carbon dioxide emissions worldwide. Likewise, long summer car trips also now represent an unsustainable level of fossil fuel consumption.

About eight years ago I decided to curtail my travel outside Ventura County that was not work-related. For several years, I managed to stay put and only go to Santa Barbara once or twice a year, usually for a family gathering there. That was fairly easy, since I was building our house most weekends for nearly two years. By that time I'd gotten used to this. There have been occasional trips to collect friends at LAX since then, and I went to Sacramento twice a couple of years ago, to provide testimony for Keep Sespe Wild before legislative committees.

My big exception was a trip in October three years ago to Scotland, for a family wedding. Most of my relatives and friends there had not met my wife and children — we managed to visit around two dozen of them in only ten days! While it was a great trip, part of me realizes it may not be repeated. I have lived thirty years in Ojai. In the first two decades I visited Scotland around five times, twice for the funerals of my parents; in the last ten years, only once.

This was not an easy decision to make. I dearly love to travel. I spent many months in Germany, France and Kenya while a teenager, and I really enjoyed visiting exotic places and different cultures. In a world without climate change, I guarantee I'd also plan to save up and return to the UK of my youth every few years, for a summer visit. I miss the old familiar landscapes and the many family and friends there. But I also understand the climate-changing cost of air travel.

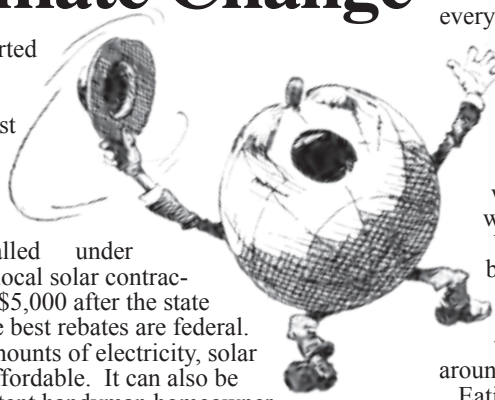
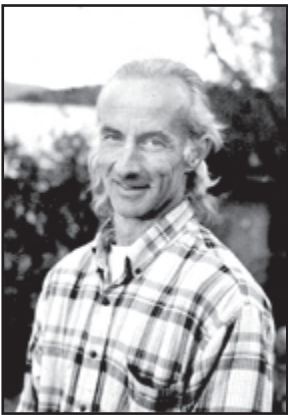
Most of our family trips are now car camping or backpacking in Los Padres National Forest. The northern half of Ventura County is almost entirely public land, with plenty of trailheads and trails for a lifetime of regular exploring. Of course it helps that our family's favorite watershed, Sespe Creek, is situated close to home. Ventura County is also fortunate to have a number of excellent beaches.

My decision to stop driving my 1967 El Camino art car a few years ago was also because of climate change — my "newer" red Toyota pickup gets twice the mileage.

Of course one family's response to global climate change constitutes a mere drop in the bucket. So what else can one do? I make use of the opportunity to spread the word by writing about it. Educating yourself and your family and friends is also important.

## THEN THERE ARE THE LITTLE THINGS

Most families' climate change emissions are led by energy consumption in the home and for transportation, in that order.



All our purchasing can readily bear in mind climate change factors. In fact, Japan is instituting a program whereby every packaged item in supermarkets will soon have a panel on the label which uses a standardized formula to calculate the climate change emissions that went into its production.

Even without that level of labeling, buying fresh food in season is what makes sense. Those grapes and summer fruits that arrive from Chile in our winter should instead be marketed closer to where they were grown.

You can also reduce your energy consumption by buying less packaged foods and more unprocessed foods. We are fortunate in Southern California to have available such a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables that haven't been from shipped halfway around the world.

Eating less meat is important, as the food and energy required to produce meat is many times more than what's needed to grow a vegetarian diet. Did you know that the current world production of grains is plentiful enough to feed our burgeoning population? It is the diversion of a large percentage of the world's grain to feed farm animals — and a further amount to produce corn syrup — that is the root cause of current food shortages in many nations.

Of course, growing much of your own food is still the most local and sustainable solution. Planting vegetables and fruit trees around your home, and planning for eventually irrigating them with recycled household wastewater is one of the most sensible long-term responses to climate change.

Finally, simply deciding to buy less "stuff" is very important. Finding satisfaction from other activities than shopping. Though this flies in the face of the perceived need to kick-start consumer spending of all types, our American way of life has been largely responsible for global climate change. Our consumer spending is unsustainable both in terms of household debt and planetary resources.

It's time to devise new economic indicators that don't depend for success on continuing resource depletion. A great place to start is building the green economy — putting millions of people to work insulating homes, installing rooftop solar panels, and the like. There's plenty of this kind of work for decades. The upside of this effort will be the elimination of importing fossil fuels (which will also lessen geopolitical tensions), the slowing of climate change's impacts on our planetary life-support systems, the availability of clean air to breathe in our cities, and a renewed sense of community around the nation. As America leads, the rest of the world is likely to follow.

— Alasdair Coyne, Ojai  
[www.sespewild.org](http://www.sespewild.org)

## EVENT CALENDAR CONT.

Continued from Page 9...

man will display their art in a show at Fox Fine Jewelry, Artists' Reception. Info: Debbie Fox at 805-652-1800  
• March 23, Santa Barbara Guitar Festival featuring Laurence Juber in concert at the SoHo, (lead guitar, Paul McCartney's Wings) 7:30 pm 221 State St. 962-7776

more info. [LaurenceJuber.com](http://LaurenceJuber.com)  
• Mar. 26 - Jewish Film Festival Opening Night, Regency 6 Theater, Ventura, Mar. 26 - Screening, "The Little Traitor", Mar. 28 "The Debt", Mar. 29 "Dancing Alfonso and Tulip Time."

info. 647-4181 [www.vciff.org](http://www.vciff.org)  
• Mar - 27 - April 25, "Noises Off", award winning British farce. 8pm, Sundays at 7pm Ojai Art Center

info. 640-8797 or [OjaiACT.org](http://OjaiACT.org)  
• Apr. 17 - May 17, California Missions, Exhibit, Ojai Valley Museum.

info. [www.ojavalleymuseum.org](http://www.ojavalleymuseum.org)  
• April 5, 16th DeColores Art Show & Festival featuring Carmencristina Moreno. Art exhibit at the Artists Union Gallery, 330 S. California St.

• April 18, Sat. Healthy Kids Day, Ventura Family YMCA 8am-1pm. info: 642-2131. [venturaymca.org](http://venturaymca.org)  
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# Chiropractic Care – The Natural Approach to Healing

by Ali K.

In today's economy, you may think that chiropractic care is a luxury, but it's actually a necessity on many levels for many people. You may walk around in pain, suffer from tension headaches and an achy back — without knowing why or if there is a cure? If so, chiropractic care is something you might want to seriously consider.

Chiropractic care has been touted as a 'healing art,' but it's actually reliant upon solid science and biology. Everything in our body flows from the brain, which affects all aspects of our living being — including our moods, behavior and thoughts — so when a nerve is compromised, it not only irritates the surrounding tissues, but can also affect our emotions.

According to **Ventura Chiropractor Dr. Pierre T. Barnes (D.C.)**, "When somebody comes to see me and has experienced limited or no results — it's rewarding to see them respond to my treatment, which gives them great relief."

**Dr. Barnes** downtown practice, **The San Buenaventura Family Wellness Care** has been owned and operated for five years at the present location by **Dr. Barnes** and his wife **Kathy**, and offers an inclusive blend of chiropractic care, massage and homeopathy. This amazing husband and wife team run a very unique type of business — it's a place for healing on a multitude of levels.

Kathy said, "We have developed our own community. People will sit in the waiting room before or after an adjustment just to talk and visit — patients start knowing each other and start calling one another by their names." You can expect to have a cup of tea or coffee in the waiting room, surrounded by the **Zen** décor and gentle music with patients who often become friends, and get a listening ear from Kathy, who runs the front office.

**Dr. Barnes** is a dynamic chiropractor whose personal philosophy is: Find where the problem is, treat it and let the body heal. He is an incredibly warm and knowledgeable person and is called "the Chiropractic healer," by many.

He is a **Gonstead Practitioner**, the only chiropractor in **Ventura** who uses this unique method of chiropractic care, developed by **Dr. Clarence Gonstead**. The unique aspect to the **Gonstead** method is that a hand held meter (nervoscope) is used to detect a differential temperature in the surface of the tissues along the spine, which indicates where a nerve is compromised — resulting in inflammation, joint restriction and excessive heat in that area. **Dr. Barnes** will only adjust the areas of the body where the nervoscope measures heat — this alleviates treating areas that don't need to be adjusted. People usually respond very well to this type of treatment, which allows the healing process to occur naturally.

Prior to a chiropractic adjustment many people experience feelings of pain, discomfort, irritability, sensitivity, anger, and even anxiety. "Not only do they get a nervous system release with adjustments, but they may also experience an emotional release.

After an adjustment, you can expect to feel lighter, freer, calmer, relaxed and your body will move with better mobility. There is this heightened sense of well-being after being treated, because blood is flowing better and nerve impulses are working better," said Barnes.

Chiropractic care can assist with: relieving joint restriction that can cause muscle spasms, alleviating headache & neck pain, relieving **P.M.S.**, **Sciatica** (lower back pain that radiates down the leg), increased mobility and even relieving shortness of breath due to rib misalignments. It can also help with tinnitus, vertigo (dizziness), ear infections in newborns and children and resolve pinched nerves.

If you have never experienced Chiropractic care, it is an incredible method of addressing a variety of discomforts in the body. **Dr. Barnes** sees patients from newborns to seniors. His eldest patient is 97-years old. "He has a wonderful way of putting patients mind at ease," noted Kathy, adding, "he takes full spinal X-rays so he knows exactly what is happening with the spine, joints and disc space which assists him with the treatment of each patient." Another thorough quality of **Dr. Barnes'** approach is that he views each patient's X-rays during every treatment, increasing the accuracy of the adjustment.

"Some people may be nervous prior to their first adjustment and don't know what to expect, but patients can be assured that **Dr. Barnes** will explain everything to you," remarked Kathy.

Chiropractic care is really a great opportunity to put the body back in alignment both physically and emotionally (neurologically). When the body is not working at its optimum and is in a state of discomfort — it's easy to become irritable. "Chiropractic

care is homeopathic and allows the body to heal naturally by removing obstacles and allowing the brain to communicate better with the entire body — so it may function the way it was intended," **Dr. Barnes** said.

**The San Buenaventura Family Wellness Care** has seen its share of patients and has helped many. "I am a facilitator of the body's biomechanics," **Dr. Barnes** said, adding "I see results happen all the time." If this busy and gifted chiropractor could convey just one thing, it would be that — "it's important we are spreading a positive message of hope. Chiropractic care is a logical approach to healing the body and is safe, affordable and effective." **Dr. Barnes and Kathy** have such a devoted clientele that even after patients are healed; they want to return—even if just for a cup of coffee and good conversation.

**Dr. Barnes** has a *Doctorate of Chiropractic from Cleveland Chiropractic College in Los Angeles, prior to obtaining his D.C. Degree, he attended Pierce Community College, Moorpark College, and Majored in Biology at Loma Linda University. He also served in the Air Force for 4 years as a medic. The San Buenaventura Family Wellness Care is located at 738 E. Main St., Ventura, phone, 653-1326, e-mail: drpetebarnes@gmail.com*

— Ali K.

✉ [spiralgrl@yahoo.com](mailto:spiralgrl@yahoo.com)



Dr. Pierre T. Barnes (D.C.), and Ali K.



Photos © 2009, Joel Anderson

# Seniors: Coping with Modern Times...

— by Ed Tennen

Times are tough, but even harder for seniors in our community facing a dramatic economic slowdown. Over half of the respondents to a recent **AARP** survey said that they had a more difficult time paying for gas, food and medicine and said that paying the mortgage or rent would be a challenge in the next 12 months. Many retirees are returning to work to help recoup losses in depleted investment accounts. For others, they recognize that **Social Security** won't provide adequate income to support their lifestyles. In fact, next year, one in three workers will be at least 50-years-old.

Nowhere is the graying occurring more rapidly than **California** and in livable communities like those on the Central Coast. We now have 3.5 million 65-and-older adults, more than any state in the country — and the fastest-growing segment within that population are adults 85 and older.

While many seniors will attempt to re-enter the workforce, others are too ill and suffer social isolation, dependency, and decreased access to care. Many elders have multiple illnesses, complicated by depression, disability, and premature frailty.

For seniors who are still vital and want to remain that way, current research offers some simple, but significant hints for remaining healthy. Cardiovascular fitness and physical activity may delay cognitive decline — possibly by keeping blood vessels healthy or by increased blood flow to the brain. Physical exercise and lung function enhance the function of the central nervous system, especially memory function.

In truth, genetic factors account for only about half of general mental ability in later years. Lifestyle has a major impact on later cognitive functioning. Research tells us that learning may be a recipe for the prevention of disease — the direct positive effects of education on brain structure continues throughout life. Among people with dementia, those who have a higher level of education get diagnosed later with a shorter course of the disease.

What are some other factors that impact our ability to remain cognitively healthy later in life? Social support has a positive effect on mental performance in older age and what psychologists call a sense of self-efficacy — the belief that one can accomplish tasks leads to improved performance of many kinds involving cognitive functioning.

A positive outlook — even in these difficult times — is one of the most important things that can be done to keep the brain healthy and ready for learning. How we view ourselves and the world around us, and how we interact with others can have a profound effect on our overall well-being and our brain. If you are a younger person, keep in mind that how you fair in old age is greatly impacted by your perception of aging — one study showed that people with negative assumptions about aging were less healthy in later life.

All people feel sad or unhappy at times and as seniors watch their scarce resources diminish in these troubling economic times, despondency is not uncommon, but persistent sadness may be depression, a serious illness. Depression is not a normal part of growing old. If you are diagnosed with depression, ask for support from a good

*Modern Times Continued VIEW Page 12...*

**Ed Tennen, Ed.D, Psy.D**

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**Modern Times...**

**Continued From VIEW Page 11...**

friend or family member and tell them how you feel; spend time with people you enjoy, pace yourself – don't expect to do everything you did before; think positively and try to avoid self blame.

Identify pleasant activities and routines that you enjoyed before you became depressed; be patient – it will take time to get better.

*Edward Tennen, Ed.D, Psy.D is a clinical psychologist in Ventura who works with seniors, phone, 648-5800*

**LETTER - CALIFORNIA BUDGET**

**Banjo on My Knee - Updated**

– Art L. Isgur

One is left wondering why so many people were anxious to raise taxes. I am not in the habit of providing protection for members of the **State Legislature**, but an explanation is in order to better understand the imperative to raise taxes in our state and across the nation.

In the late **19th century** a **German** economist by the name of **Adolf Wagner** prophetically foretold that, as societies became more affluent, their populations would **DEMAND** higher taxes. Government would have to provide services that we as individuals cannot easily provide for ourselves, i.e. public schools, public order, welfare benefits and services, (building roads and bridges comes to mind).

Our legislature and governor are certainly included in this circle. You might not like increased taxes, but **Wagner** helps us understand why it happened.

Although little noted, there are two positive features contained within this budget bill. The first has to do with the fickle economy of our state. When the economy is in full operation we have a large budget surplus replaced by equally great deficits during slower times. This new law provides for spending limits and dollar set-asides during the boom periods. The set-asides would be used to ease the bad times, while limiting the need to raise taxes during those lean years. It is not a perfect solution but it might help.

The second positive feature is the open primary. Most districts in the state are heavily **Democratic** or **Republican**. To be nominated is almost the same as being elected from that area. **Ojai** is a great example. Our city has been plunked in a **Republican** assembly district, a **Republican** state senate district and a **Republican** congressional district. Parts of **Ventura** and **Oxnard** have, likewise, been placed in **Democratic** districts. In **Ojai**, **Democrats** have virtually no state representation. In **Ventura**, members of the **GOP** have virtually no voice in **Sacramento**. The open primary means that every voter will have an opportunity to vote for every candidate, regardless of party. The two candidates with the greatest number of votes will face off in November, even if they are from the same political party.

It is hoped that **Republican** candidates will start paying attention to the needs of their **Democratic** constituents (in towns such as **Ojai**.) The same, of course, applies to **Democratic** candidates and their **Republican** constituents (in places such as **Ventura**).

Maybe the legislature is on to something – if not, the inmates will still be in charge. Keep your fingers crossed.

– Arthur L. Isgur  
a\_igsur@yahoo.com

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**Sandra on Gardening**

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*“Trees serve as homes for visiting devas who do not manifest in earthly bodies, but live in the fibers of the trunks and larger branches of the trees, feed from the leaves and communicate through the tree itself. Some are permanently stationed as guardians of sacred places”*

– Hindu Deva Shastra, verse 117



Photo © 2009, Mary Long

by Sandra M. Blackburn

**P**oetry, song and literature expound the virtues of the tree, the shade and fruit provided to humanity; the proof that such grandeur can be manifest.

In today's world, the more we can grow for ourselves the better. It's fun when bare root season comes around – a variety of trees like almonds, apricots, peaches, nectarines, cherries, pomegranates, grapes, blueberries, persimmons; roses, lilacs, and other deciduous plants are readily available this way. “Bare root” refers to the roots not being rooted in soil - the plant may look like a twig and be bound in burlap or plastic. The dormant period for most deciduous trees and shrubs is a great time to get any of them going. With a minimum of preparation and good planning, most fruit can be successfully grown in the back yard (or side yard, or vacant lot....) Make sure your variety is suitable for your area, as some do have chill requirements. (**Ventura** is different from **Ojai**). Find out whether you need two trees or if one will fruit alone. Some types need a pollinator.

Preparing a spot, knowing it's away from any interference, is key with any large sized landscaping endeavor. I hope you measured already. Dig a hole as big as you want, amending it with compost and/or organic fertilizer. The idea is to improve the texture of the soil; we want the water to flow through to the roots, but not stand

there. Spread the roots and fill in the hole, check with your nursery or other resources – don't bury it too deep. Again, make sure there is room to grow away from eaves, fences, walls and other plants. Espalier, which is training and shaping on a lattice, may be an option to consider, depending on chosen tree variety. If staking is required, make sure to set the stake securely, but tie the tree loosely. Most of these trees are very forgiving, and take well to remedial pruning. Again, check with your local nursery or other resource to find out about pruning your specific tree for optimum results. Part of the joy of growing and eating your own fruit is knowing exactly what has been put on it and in it, and done to it and around it from the time you buy it and place it, until when you take that first juicy bite. Interspersed with evergreen trees in the landscape, flowering and fruiting trees can bring lasting pleasure to generations. And, don't forget the hammock possibilities.

No worries if you missed “bare root” season. Most deciduous trees are fine whenever you plant them here in **Ventura County**, including all of the fruit trees mentioned. We mainly have to watch the summer watering; the first year in particular, depending on site and situation. Flowering, and fruiting, deciduous and evergreen tree varieties make a beautiful statement in the landscape at any time of year.

*Sandra M. Blackburn, Mountain Meadows Nursery, Ojai 646-0714*

*“Trees are the best monuments that a man can erect to his own memory. They speak his praises without flattery, and they are blessings to children yet unborn.”*

– Lord Orrery, 1749

**Sicily - The Ancient**

by Mina French

*My Mother, Carla Maria D'Amico, died from cancer on Jan. 8th of this year. She was born in Sicily, in the capital of Palermo in 1941. My mom was an old soul with a lineage that could be traced to the 12th century to a baron who was in the court of King Frederick of Germany. Her soul was as ancient as the ruins of Sicily. The joy my mother shared with me was insurmountable. My mom's family lives in Sicily in the Province of Agrigento. This is where the Valley of the Temples lies. Their character is as rich and lovely as the people of ancient Sicily.*

*The ruins of Sicily are spectacular. The temples and theatre are scattered throughout from Selinunte and Segesta to the west of Sicily, to the southern part of Agrigento, to the east of Taormina where there is a ruin of an ancient Greek theatre; in the background is the famous Mount Etna.*

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The Doric style temples of Siracusa were built in around the 540s B.C. In the 550s B.C. the temples of Selinus got under way. In Akragas they began building the temples in the 490s B.C. During the years of temple building in Akragas, the philosopher, Empedocles was born. He was born around 495 B.C. and put forth ideas about the physical world. In 525 B.C., the dramatist, Epicharmus was born. He wrote 50 plays, in which he often satirized the Gods. A famous poet during this time was Aeschylus who wrote over 90 plays. He always wrote about human suffering in which the bad guys were punished.

The temple at Selimunte is gigantic. It is 370 by 177 feet, made from sandstone and constructed during the first half of the 5th century B.C. The oldest temple in Agrigento is the temple of Hercules. It once had thirty-eight columns. In the Valley of the Temples is the temple of Juno which was built between 460 and 440 B.C.

In the 7th century in Greece, in Corinth, when they started to build the temples, they were replacing wood with stone. To beautify the temple columns, their builders settled on particular form or 'orders' of decoration, such as the Doric order, which was the more heavy. In Segesta is a temple which is a wonderful example of Doric architecture with its massive 32 columns. It was preserved well over time and survived destruction wars from invaders like the Vandals and Arabs. Sicily has a very long history. It has stood the test of time and invasions by foreign rulers. The people of Sicily have learned to have strong bonds of family and friendship. They are a reserved people, keeping family secrets to themselves. I long to visit this ancient place. To visit my relatives. To wade in the beautiful Mediterranean waters. To fellowship with the wonderful, lovely people. To eat the delicious foods. Finally, to learn about my incredible heritage.

A few good books I would recommend are Sicily, Three Thousand Years of Human History, by Sandra Benjamin, Italy, Dorling Kindersley Travel Guides 2000, Sicily by Giuseppe Lazzaro Danzuso, Wonders of Italy, by Annie Sacerdoti.

Mina French  
Artnews510@aol.com

**CLOSER VIEW**



**Ted Campos and Stand Watie**

Ted Campos, stands next to his oil portrait of the trailblazing Cherokee Indian, Stand Watie or "Stand Firm." Stand achieved the rank of Brigadier General in the Civil War and went on to become a journalist and politician. Later he became embroiled in tribal controversy when gold was discovered on the Cherokee Reservation in Georgia. Campos likes to paint "strong characters" and says that he had three Native Americans stop by when they recognized photo and text by Mary M. Long

Stand Watie and wanted to know why someone in Ojai would paint his portrait.

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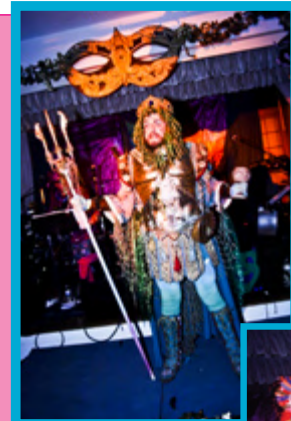
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# Venetian Vibrations: Ojai Mardi Gras Wake-Up Krewe Ball 2009



by Lisa Sauvageau

We just celebrated our 19th Annual Ojai Mardi Gras Ball, "Venetian Vibration, Unmask your Passions" on Saturday, February 21 at the Woman's Club in downtown Ojai.

Lyle Matthews, the original Queen of the Ojai Mardi Gras, being a true New Orleansian, knew that sometimes we need communal rituals to help wake us up or pull us out of the ordinary and into the extraordinary. Thus have we gathered yearly, artists, musicians and dancers, to create a magical evening of masquerade magic, celebrating Life, the proceeds of which are donated to local organizations.

The Ojai Mardi Gras Wake-Up Krewe has been "putting on the ritz" and the glitz at the Ojai Woman's Club for 18 years now. Our art Krewe, the "Art Fools" - fools for the love of art, working for free with free stuff like thrown-away cardboard and donated goof paints - works annually to transform the sweet old dame, "the Woman's Club" into a sexy diva ready to share the night with those who pay admission. Costume is pretty much a must at the Ojai Mardi Gras - and after you've been to our ball you'll know why... but come whether you're dressed or not! All of this suggestiveness is in the Mardi Gras spirit where you may leave your inhibitions at the door, and let the good times roll - laissez les bon temps roulez!

Mardi Gras' date is dependent upon the moon. It is 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays) which is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Vernal Equinox (if the first full moon is on a Sunday it is the following Sunday). It took the Roman Catholics to figure that one out! ... and I can say that and be politically correct because I was brought up as a Roman Catholic and I even went to boarding school run by Dominican Nuns from Sicily! Mardi Gras, in French, means literally, "Fat Tuesday" because it is the last day of feasting and partying before the beginning of Lent. The next day is Ash Wednesday, which is when the devout have their foreheads anointed with ashes as a sign of repentance.

We humans are in dire need of removing the masks of our pedestrian selves to unmask our passions, our direct connection to Source. Primitive and early societies had these celebrations built in to the natural calendar, so the pent up energy suppressed because of daily survival concerns, could be released. Before the Christian church co-opted the festivals of the earth peoples there were tangible reasons that prompted these ceremonies/celebrations. The end of winter, not yet spring, was a time of sparse food for agriculturally-based

primitive societies. As the winter stores were becoming depleted, the weather was still cold, the dark time was long and, though closer, the budding green and replenishment of Spring was not yet nigh.

The dark, hungry time would be kept at bay with a celebration and feast before the time of fasting began. Without much food available, maybe some fermented grains, a precious animal was sacrificed and the people would feast. With music, fire, the pulsing rhythm of drums and music, body and face painting, masks, robes, raiment, sculpture, art, water, wine and sacrament everyday

reality would be altered to let the gods/archetypes move through the people. From different cultures, Dionysian ecstasies (ec=out of, stasis=normal state), Vodun spirit dances, Sacred Theatre, Wild Woman/Wild Man abandon, bringing out your alter-ego in costume; these all have the same roots: the transcendent experience of drinking at the fount of ecstasies and becoming a messenger of the gods - of the divine energy that is available to be incorporated. In this extraordinary experience primitive peoples (ya, and us too) knew they could tap into an inner place of latent power to help them get through the fasting times ahead.

The Ojai Mardi Gras tradition comes to us straight from New Orleans via our dear, departed friend Lyle Matthews, artist of life, extraordinaire. Being a native of de la ville de la Nouvelle-Orléans, Mardi Gras was in her bones and in her blood. Lyle shared all that she was with her friends.

The first Mardi Gras party was at her home and she wore a coconut bra, grass skirt and a

Mardi Gras Continued View Page 24...



Photos © Joel Anderson, 2009



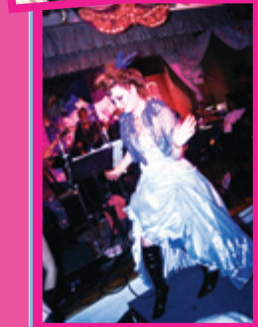
## Unmask Your Passion

The Ojai Mardi Gras this year as always a fusion of the many styles that can be heard in New Orleans, including Blues, Zydeco, Cajun, Second Line, Rumba Blues, Soul, as well as some Rock n' Roll. A lot of the early rock n' roll came from New Orleans...lemme tell you about....

The core of our Mardi Gras band has been playing this music since the beginning of the Ojai Mardi Gras in 91. So the repertoire has been built on, improving, innovating, expanding so, for example, this year they did an original song by Don Cardinali called *Voodoo Princess*. Even writing original New Orleans inspired music now. These are all professional musicians, most of whom live in this area; some like Jack Joshua, tour nationally. Connie Early performs regularly in Los Angeles. Other members of this years *Sisters of Mercy* incarnation also included vocalist Patricia Cardinali, drummer Burton Lang, guitarist Ron Seba.

We try to bring in a special guest and this year it was Doug Legacy (vocals, piano, accordion), one of the founding members of the nationally known *Zydeco Party Band*, who has spent a lifetime writing and making music. He has performed with *Oingo Boingo*, *Todd Rundgren*, and *Paul McCartney* among many others, but a lot of credit has to be given to this years music director, John Zeretske who is also an internationally touring world music player and multi-instrumentalist. Dave Stewart was on drums and Rondia also played base on a couple sets.

-Lanny Kaufer, Ojai Mardi Gras



more Mardi Gras page 24

Photo © 2009, Venetian Vickie



Photo © 2009, Venetian Vickie



Judy Nelson and her Mother Noemie

# THE LEASHES END

by Ron Rowe

In these stress-filled times for pets and humans, here are a few helpful tips, for humans. Go for a walk in the **Ojai Meadows**, the park, or even down **Ojai Ave.**

A recent study in **Japan**, on 3,000 senior citizens, discovered a strong link between longevity and walks in the park. A correlation that held true, regardless of age, income, mobility and marital status. I could've told them that... free of charge. I walk **Dudley** every morning and it does help to offshoot the calories I gather from drinking wine and malt whiskey. It's very doubtful that I would go for walks without the dog, so having a dog definitely helps. About 90 percent of **Japanese** women who have a dog, consider them part of the family.

For stressed-out pets living in modern **Ojai**, don't despair, contact **Master Yoga Teacher Suza Francina**, at [www.suzafrancina.com](http://www.suzafrancina.com) and make an appointment for a private lesson for you or your pet. **Suza** works miracles on super stressed-out dogs. It's well worth a visit; your pet will thank you.

**Veterinarian Nurse Jenny Langbeth** has published a book entitled, "**97 Ways to Make your Dog Smile**". It's a great way to learn how to bond with your dog.

Did you know that dogs, as man's best friend, are closer to us than you think? An article in **Science Journal** claims 75 percent of human genes, (lengths of **DNA** that provide the building instructions for proteins) have an equivalent dog gene? Interestingly, they used a male poodle as a source. This data could identify genes that cause disease in both dogs and humans.

The secret is finally out! The **Obama** family will be getting a dog in **April**, the first lady told a magazine reporter that the family will be getting a rescue **Portuguese Water Dog**, who is old enough and a match for the family dynamic. The choice of a rescue dog will bring joy to animal rights groups who have been urging the **Obamas** to adopt a pet from a shelter. **Sen. Ted Kennedy** should also be pleased with the selection. He owns two **Portuguese Water Dogs**, and lobbied hard for the breed. **Mrs. Obama** said the family is still sorting out what to call the dog; the girls have chosen various names, which, include **Moose** and **Frank**, which are really bad.

Loyalty from a dog to his human companion can backfire. Police in **Hanover, Germany** arrived at the front door of a criminal who had committed a series of burglaries. The man escaped through his back door and hid in his neighbor's garden. Police asked the dog, named **Lumpy**, a bull terrier, to find his master. Off went **Lumpy** and stood wagging his tail in front of his master's hiding place. Police took him into custody. Friends are looking after **Lumpy**.

Internationally acclaimed animal communicator **Lydia Hiby** will be making a special appearance at **Linda's Claws and Paws** in **Ventura** on April 19th. Lydia has over 20 years of experience, with appearances on **48 Hours**, **Late Night with David Letterman**, **Hard Copy**, **Inside Edition**, **Network**, **Leeza**, **Wild About Animals**, **The View**, **The Tonight Show with Jay Leno**, with features in the **Wall Street Journal**, **Los Angeles Times**, **Washington Post**, **New York Post**, **National Enquirer**,

**Working Women**, **Chicago Tribune**, and more.

With over 60,000 satisfied customers, **Lydia** gives seminars and lectures all over the world. Pop in or call **Linda** to reserve your appointment early as she is sure to be sold out. See **Linda's** ad, this page. For more information on **Lydia** visit [www.lydia-hiby.com](http://www.lydia-hiby.com)

Looking for a new credit card? Try using your dog's name on the application form. **Raymond and Susan Slater** were surprised when the **Bank of Scotland** sent an invitation to **Monty Slater** to apply for a gold credit card, including 50,000 free air



Ron and his companion, Dudley.

miles and a spending limit of 15,000 pounds. Problem is **Monty** is a **German Shepherd**, who lives with the **Slater's**. **Raymond** thought it was a joke but, after calling the **Bank of Scotland** he realized it was a genuine offer. **Raymond** was baffled as to how the bank got **Monty's** name, he only used it once on his computer when applying for a name tag for **Monty's** collar. No, **Raymond** did not put **Monty's** paw print on the application and send it in. The bank did apologize and promised it would not happen again.

Is there a global warming? Over 370 penguins were washed up on the beaches of **Brazil**. They arrived in **July**, far **North** of their usual feeding grounds, apparently confused by changes in currents and water temperatures, stranded and emancipated. Many died. **Veterinarian Ualeria Ruopolo** appealed to the **Brazilian Air Force** who airlifted the survivors to more frigid penguin friendly climes.

Researchers at **Houston University** are determined to find out the secret of what they call, the **Penguins** unique locomotive strategy. They are studying penguins to find out why they wobble, but don't fall down.

They may not be cute and cuddly, but rats have become one of man's best friends, because they spend their lives foraging for food. Rats have supersensitive noses, which scientists have learned to utilize, in **Mozambique, Africa**. Rats have been trained to sniff out thousands of land mines left over from previous conflicts. The rat's noses are far more sensitive than any current mechanical device, says **Howard Bach**, a mine clearing specialist. Unlike dogs, rats are so light footed they do not trigger landmines. In **Tanzania**, rats sniff saliva samples for traces of tuberculosis. They are able to identify early-stage infections

that may not be found by a microscope. So next time you meet a rat, be nice to it.

**Henry**, a 111-year-old **Twatara** has become a father for the first time. This rare species, which can live up to 270 years, is the last link to a line of reptiles that flourished 260 million years ago. When **Henry's** keeper at a **New Zealand** zoo tried to mate him, he bit off the female's tail. Luckily, **Love** makes all things possible, and finally **Henry** mated with **Mildred**, the female. Last week, **Mildred** produced and hatched 11 of the 12 eggs. Curator **Lindsay Paisley** said, it is the completion of a love story...

Police in **Nigeria**, are holding a goat on suspicion of armed robbery. A police patrol in **Lagos** found two crooks trying to steal a **Mazda 325** car. The police chased the men, but one escaped and the other used black magic to turn himself into a goat. A prosecutor said he couldn't confirm the policeman's story, but the goat will be held but not prosecuted until it can be scientifically proved that a human being can turn himself into a goat.

If cats have nine lives, some dogs have two. **Dosha**, a 10-month-old puppy ran out into the street and was hit by a car. Assuming she was dying in agony, a policeman shot the puppy to relieve the suffering. She was taken to an animal shelter and put into a freezer. Three hours later an attendant opened the freezer door and found **Dosha** sitting up shivering, cold but alive. **Veterinarian Deborah Sally** said, "It's amazing, but **Dosha** is recovering very well." Also recovering is the stunned attendant who opened the freezer door.

Did you know, a prairie dog is not a dog? It's actually a rodent. A guinea pig is not from **Guinea**, and not a pig. It is a rodent from **South America**. The average elephant produces 50 pounds of dung per day. The night vision of a tiger is six times better than humans. Pity the poor male wren; he has to build several nests as part of the courtship ritual. When they are completed, the female chooses which one she will lay her eggs in. **George**, a giant 120 pound lobster said to be 140 years old, was being displayed in a tank at a **New York** restaurant. Yesterday, the restaurant set him free in the sea rather than having him on the menu...

A recent survey claims **Denver** is a top health and safety location for pets in the **United States**. The city leads in canine health, legislation and services, with over 64 veterinarians, more than any other city in the **US**. It also has excellent air and water quality, and one of the lowest flea populations of any city in the **US**.

Beware of owning a red car, when birds are around. According to **Anita Cramm**, curator for the **Chicago Lincoln Park Zoo**, birds see red very well. Red affects their behavior; they flash red feathers to indicate a fondness for each other. You will attract birds if you wear red while walking nature trails. So, if you have a red car avoid parking it under a fruit or insect laden tree.

This warning should apply to **Poet Tree Bernstein**. I have often seen her driving around **Ojai** in a red car...

Time to be off for a nature walk with **Dudley**. Remember the words of **George B. Shaw** who wrote, "the worst sin toward our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them. That's the essence of humanity." Peace to all living beings on earth.

Your comments are welcome, Ron Rowe [rhjrowe@aol.com](mailto:rhjrowe@aol.com)

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## Adoptable Pets Ojai Humane Society *Snowball*



**SNOWBALL IS** a pure white 3 year old altered male with one blue eye. This guy is pretty fabulous. He is super smart, loves to play and is just generally a loveable guy.

**Benji**



**BENJI AND EMMA** (below) are both super sweet, altered and ready to go. These are beautiful,

playful kitties that would be a decorative additions to anyone's household.

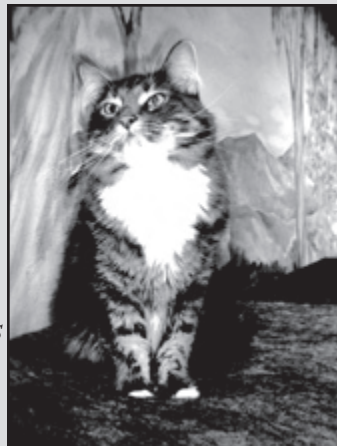
**Emma**

**EMMA AND BENJI** (above) are brother and sister. Both are long-haired tabbies; Emma grey and Benji a beautiful golden tabby.

These and other adoptable animals can be seen at o meet these and other wonderful animals

Visit the Humane Society at 402 Bryant St., Ojai. info. 646-6505  
[www.humanesocietyvc.org](http://www.humanesocietyvc.org)

Photos © 2009, Mary Long



# Beautiful Foals Reward Rescue Efforts

by Mary M. Long

**Humane Society foals Spring into Action:** The first foals are arriving from the Lockwood Valley rescue horses. "They are beautiful," said Director **Jolene Hoffman.**

Sprung from the heartbreak of the neglected and starved mares these foals are a testimony to the excellent care and veterinary work that has been offered them at the local **Humane Society.** March 1<sup>st</sup> saw the first foal arrive, a big boned powerful chestnut filly (at right), followed by a breathtakingly beautiful bay colt the very next day. According to equine professional **Missy Henderson** the foals are imprinted shortly after birth. Already these lucky babies are following their human moms almost as closely as their equine.

It's a party atmosphere at the **Humane Society** with employees and volunteers celebrating the success of their Rescue Program. "**Lindy Lu**" the first foal entry was named by the happy group after **Linda Allison**, who has been an employee of the **Humane Society** for 19 years, and has a special love for **Rosa, Lindy Lu's** mom.

Showing NO effects from their meager beginnings these foals are powerfully built, with excellent bone and muscle tone. According to **Hoffman** the **Humane Society** is still only half way toward reaching their goal of building a barn for the horses, and would deeply appreciate any donations from the public.

**Patti Neal, Becky Holder, and Missy Henderson** have done a wonderful job bringing these horses back to health with the help of veterinarians; **Dr. Liskey, Dr. Winters, Dr. Stolze, Dr. Smith, Dr. Elise Reuben** and Farriers **Christopher Windish** and **Hernando Tano Sierra.**

— Mary M. Long



Photo © 2009, Joel Anderson

Above, **Lovely Lindy Lu**, less than a day old is already full of curiosity for her surroundings.

"When she nickers all the horses at the shelter nicker back to her" said horse expert **Patti Neal.** With more foals coming, shelter staff is working hard to provide the best possible environment for the new additions.

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## Ojai Humane Society Lulu is looking for a home !



Photo © 2009, Mary Long

**LULU** is a kennel favorite because of her wonderfully loving outgoing attitude. She is pictured here getting a hug from Erika Meister, kennel attendant. Four year old German Shepherd dog **Lulu** would make someone a great dog (see contact info. at left).

## Adoption Links

[www.vcar.us](http://www.vcar.us)  
[www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com)  
[www.humanesocietyvc.org](http://www.humanesocietyvc.org)  
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"What we know, we really know only for ourselves."  
— Goethe

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# Comes the Connemara...

by Mary M. Long

**T**hrough the mist, from the harsh and unforgiving landscape of the wild and mountainous west coast of Ireland comes the **Connemara** pony.

Sparse grazing, rocky coastline, treacherous peat bogs and hollows helped develop a small, sturdy, surefooted, intelligent animal capable of surviving the bleakest existence. Those ponies that had natural jumping ability survived, while those who did not, would be left to starve in areas with no forage. Where one false step could lead a careless or clumsy pony to a rocky demise, only the clever survived, and the bones of the thoughtless bleached on the sand. Over the centuries, natural selection created a native pony breed that was comprised of only the hardest and most intelligent animals.

The origins of the **Connemara** pony are steeped in history. Legend has it that in the fourth century B.C.,

**Celtic** horsemen brought their dun ponies to **Ireland** to pull war wagons and chariots, leaving them to fend for themselves on the rocky coastline. In the 16th century the horses of the shipwrecked **Spanish Armada** swam ashore, as legend has it, to mate with the native ponies, refining the breed. Isolation and adversity solidified the breed type, and as time went by the ponies became the work-horses of the **Irish** farmers. Used for hauling peat moss, which was a major source of fuel, the ponies were again defined by the practical

nature of the **Irish** farmers who bred only the ponies capable of working hard on minimal care.

Pulling the cart, working the rocky soil, then taking the family to mass on Sunday only to be unhitched to run the point to point races after church; only the toughest survived. In 1923 **The Connemara Pony Breeders Society** was formed in **Ireland** to protect and preserve the breed and in 1926 the first **National Stud Book** was formed. Officials were determined to provide breeding services of stallions



Mary Long and Cashel Lorica, Wildhorse, Napa, 2001

which would solidify breed type before it was lost to the Connemara pony forever.

The first stallion chosen and entered into the stud book was **Cannon Ball**. **Cannonball** was famous for winning the farmer's race in **Oughtart** for 16 years in a row as well as being resourceful enough to find his way home when his owner would pass out after an evening of ale and revelry.

Many of the farmers depended on breeding the ponies for additional income and many kept a stallion. Often the stallions were wintered on the smaller islands to fend for themselves then swum ashore in the spring for breeding. Those that could "winter" without help from mankind were valued for pony type and hardiness. As time went by and life improved for the **Irish** people so did life improve for the **Connemara** pony.

Prized for their amazing jumping skill, they have been known to hold their own against much larger competitors, despite their pony size.

Every year in August since 1924, the **Connemara** pony **Breeders Society** holds their annual show in **Clifden** to encourage participation by breeders, thus reinforcing and preserving breed type.

Inspections in rural regions are often still done the traditional way with farmers leading their ponies down to the crossroads for the traveling officials to examine. Stallions must be licensed to breed, and ponies that do not pass inspection are not used for reproduction. The **Connemara** pony now has representatives worldwide and can often be seen exhibited in **St. Patrick's Day** parades as a national symbol of **Ireland**.

The **Connemara** has been crossed successfully with **Thoroughbreds** and warmbloods to create a superior performance horse for jumping and combined training.

Although the **British Isles** have nine native pony breeds, the **Connemara** pony is the only pony breed



\*Castle Ardrahan ridden by Skyler Ditchfield, 1992 show the extraordinary jumping style of the Connemara pony. "Ardy" epitomized classic Connemara type with amazing intelligence, athletic ability, and true "kids pony" character.

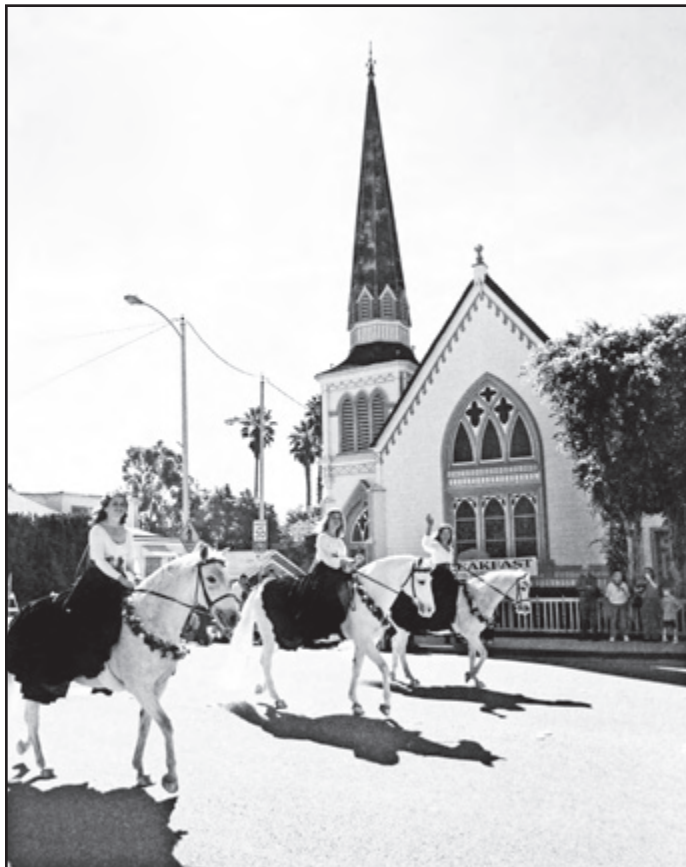
native to **Ireland**.

Coming from a land where there is a town named **Sheeans**, which means "fairy hills" in **Gaelic** and the **National Flower** is the **Shamrock**, the true **Connemara** pony maintains a glimmer of Irish humor despite their austere beginnings. On **St. Patrick's Day** morning the **Connemara** pony owner knows to be on guard, as the spirit of the **Leprechaun** is mischievous and every good **Connemara** pony still embodies a bit of the sprite!

For more info on the **Connemara**, go to the **American Connemara Pony Society (ACPS)** at [www.acps.org](http://www.acps.org)

Mary M. Long

[petviews@ojaiandventuraview.com](mailto:petviews@ojaiandventuraview.com)



Beautiful Connemara ponies enlivened the **St. Patrick's Day** Parade in **Ventura, 2000**. Pictured in front of the historic **Methodist Episcopal Church** (built in 1890, the church is the only one of 7 still surviving from that era), **Tracey Schwartz** riding **Rose of Tollymore**, **Tianna Bower** on **Pegasus Paddy** and **Mary Long** on \***Castle Ardrahan**. This years parade will be held on Sat., March 14, at 10 am.

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## DOC JANET - SHEEPSOTTING

### I'd Rather be Herding

by Janet McNeil, D.V.M.



Dr. Janet McNeil and Devi, Ventura, 2006

See Spot. See Spot run. See Spot run out 120 yards and gather together a bunch of pea-brained herbivores and then urge them around gates and through passages without making the poor things panic or ... TASTING them.

Dogs have worked livestock about as long as humans have farmed them. Anyone who has attempted to get even three sheep to go where they are wanted can

appreciate why dogs are so much better at this. There is no aerobic workout that equals dodging and darting around in dust or mud while woolly battering rams knock your knees out from under you and grind your toes into the ground. A dog has four-wheel drive, flexibility, and a lot more energy than even what the best cup of coffee can endow us with. Besides, the dear beastie thinks it is FUN.

Since brighter humans figured out dogs can control sheep better than themselves, they set about cultivating the types of dogs best at the job. Dogs, like **Border Collies**, that stare fixedly at their subjects are the breeds most familiar to the public. "Loose-eyed" is the term used to describe most other breeds: **German Shepherds** (who'd have thought the name was for real?!), **Belgian Shepherds**, **Corgis**, **Bearded Collies**, **Rottweilers** (Seriously!), **Australian Cattle Dogs**, **Australian Shepherds**, **Shetland Sheepdogs**, and mixed breeds as well as a few weirdoes. Rumor has it that a **Chihuahua** has been taught the craft. Some breeds were meant to move large herds from farm to market, while others did more detailed work of separating out certain animals.

The dogs are generally given an aptitude test first. If they can stay focused on the sheep and not show *sheepi-*



Photo © Dorann LaPerch

**Rough Collie "Honey"** (*White Cloud's Classique Fyre, CDX, RE, HT*) enthusiastically shows her ancestral talent for herding. Honey has been shown to her Herding Titles by **Dr. Cynthia Binder, D.V.M.** and is also a conformation champion and licensed therapy dog. This lovely versatile Collie is owned by **Dorann LaPerch, Moorpark, Ca.**

*cial tendencies*, they are promoted to primary school. Training the owner to work the dog, learning the lingo and preserving a bubble of space between dog and flock, is generally more time-consuming than teaching the dog. Due to lack of space, and zoning issues, many herding students have to travel long distances unless there is a training area close by. This limits the number of times a week dog and owner can train. It is not surprising, therefore, that it may take several years to get to competition level. There are different levels of competition throughout the U.S.A., as well as at international international levels. Some breed clubs also offer titles in herding sheep, as well as herding cattle and ducks.

Not all herding aficionados are interested in competition. Some of us just want to give our dogs a mentally stimulating workout. Hooked by an innocent offer to give my **German Shepherds** an aptitude test, the fascination of watching the 5-month-old pup tap into centuries of instinct was addictive. Now we bolt from work once a week to drive miles so my dog can blissfully run rings around sheep. This dog shows more passion for this work than she does for her dinner.

See Spot. See Spot work hard at fun, fun shepherding. See Spot's veterinarian tell him what a healthy dog he is from regular, vigorous exercise.

See Jane. Jane is happy her dog is content and too tired to get into trouble.

Janet McNeil, D.V.M.



### Adoption Links



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petfinder.com

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"On walks, make sure that your dog is not in front of you, pulling you down the street. Instead, keep your dog to your side or behind you. This will also demonstrate to your dog that you are the alpha figure."  
- Cesar Millan

## Company Cat of the Month "Patches"



Photo © 2009, Mary Long

**Patches**, an american shorthair black and white cat decided she would rather join the staff at the **Ojai Humane Society** than be adopted out. Ms. Soprano appreciates the office help and offers warm and friendly service to visitors. Drop by and get acquainted!  
402 Bryant St., Ojai. info. 646-6505  
[www.humanesocietyvc.org](http://www.humanesocietyvc.org)

## The Balanced Horse

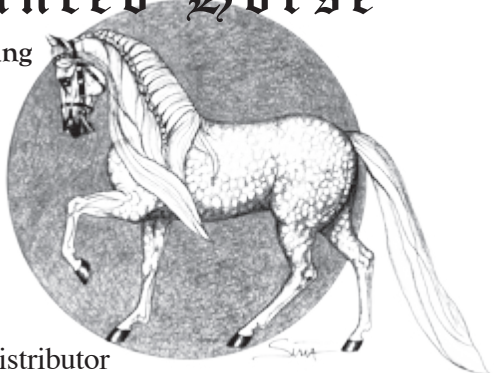
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# The Good The Bad and The Beautiful



*Bandit Brands, Jennifer McMillan, photographed by German Hot Rod and Drag Car racing documenter Alex Lier.*

by Mary M. Long

**W**hat does a girl do who follows her heart? With **Jennifer McMillan** you never know.

She is the owner and creator of the innovative clothing company **Bandit Brands**. With her boots as at home on a **Harley** as on a horse, she is pure **Americana**. Jen's enthusiasm and ideas come as thick and fast as dust behind her wheels, she is a fast-track idea person for her company of artists and designers.

Finding her "significant" side-kick in **Jason Jessee**, of pro skateboarding fame, **Jen** and **Jason** run parallel businesses – only the canvases are different. Jen designs and produces women's clothing and Jason designs and builds choppers, rods, clothing, race apparel and equipment.

Together this whirlwind of creativity bridges the worlds of rock, bikes, vintage western and metal, in clothing and road savvy designs and equipment. With **Jen's** creations, women no longer have to decide whether to be good or bad. **Bandit Brands** wear makes it possible to be both, so women can embrace their inner cat-fight at last.

Raised in the mountains of **Colorado**, **Jennifer** divides her time between **Ventura County**, **Watsonville** and of

course the downtown business district of **Los Angeles**. With her grass roots ingenuity and soul-inspired clothing she encourages other businesses to stay local and have faith in **American** productivity. **The Lady loves Bandits!**

**MARY:** How did you choose the name **Bandit Brands**?

**JEN:** I drove a **Trans Am** with an eagle on the hood like the one in **Smokey and the Bandit**, but mine was gold... and **Bandit's** are **Outlaws** and I love **Outlaws**, and **Bandit's** are thieves and I steal old artwork from library books sometimes.

**MARY:** When was **Bandit Brands** formed?

**JEN:** About 4 years ago. I had a vintage shop in **Long Beach** and started making my own t-shirts. Real vintage t-shirts were getting more expensive and harder to find and I wanted to make t-shirts of things that reminded me of growing up, my teenage years etc. I am trying to recapture the 70s I think.

**MARY:** Is your background in art and design?

**JEN:** Nope. I am lucky to have a lot of talented artist friends. I do real crappy sketches and designs and they make them look good. I'm more like a designer/art director than an

actual artist. I'm too impatient and work too fast...things poor out of me faster than I can make them.

I accidentally started designing when I worked at **West Coast Choppers** in **Long Beach**. I was **Jesse James** assistant for a couple years, but we are both pains in the asses and I wasn't able to kiss as much ass as someone with an assistant might have liked. So I kept quitting and he asked me what job I would like to do there and I said I wanted to design a cool girls line for him and he let me. So I designed a line called "**Jesse's Girl**" and we had a lot of fun.

**MARY:** Love it that you use your friends to model. Can you tell me why this is important to you?

**JEN:** Because my line is real, and my friends are beautiful and awesome. Everything I do comes naturally; my friends are a part of that and I wanted to shoot where I live and luckily I always choose to live in beautiful places.

The clothes look so right on the girls because they would actually wear them, they aren't modeling so much as hanging out, lookin' good. The cars and bikes and chickens belong to us, they aren't props, they are our belongings.

So many people in suits or velvety sweat pants try to emulate or copy the whole rock, biker, country look, but I grew up in the mountains in **Colorado** in a town full of hippies and animals...I LOVE the music and artwork and heart that used to go into everything that people used to make...tooled leather stuff, tie dyes, boot-leg grateful dead shirts, biker vests with patches all over them, people meant it. They Loved it and they felt and looked good in it.

**MARY:** Tell me why it's important to you to be 'made in America'?

**JEN:** Because the world is screwed. Every time I get on a plane (which is the only time I watch TV) tears stream down my face from one city to the next watching shows about Genocide, Prison, Hatred and Violence...and I feel helpless and sad and the only thing I can control is what I do and

how it affects the people and animals around me...and how my products are made and who makes them.

I want to create jobs, make sure adults are making my products and getting paid fair wages and that the money they make and spend gets recycled back into our economy. What I buy and what companies I support affects lives and resources...and I try to live the kindest and least offensive way I can. **EVERYTHING I MAKE is American Made.** I am adamant about it!

**MARY:** Tell me why your clothing designs are unique?

**JEN:** I think they are unique in the 2000s because everything is so mass produced and trendy, but I feel like my t-shirts would have been cool over many generations and will remain cool for a long time. I think they are timeless. I don't have Seasons or care what's in style – I just make what comes out of me or what makes me laugh. I will keep the same shirts in the line forever and just keep adding to it. I also think they invoke feelings; I watch people's faces light up, or they crack up at some of them.

keep the same shirts in the line forever and just keep adding to it. I also think they invoke feelings; I watch people's faces light up, or they crack up at some of them.



**MARY:** Who do you see as your buying public?

**JEN:** It's been fun to watch, my shirts appeal to so many different types of people (mainly women). I sell it in **Boutiques**, **Vintage Stores**, **Western Wear Stores**, **Motorcycle Shops**, and even a truck stop... I would say that I have a t-shirt or two for every kind of girl.

**MARY:** Your designs seem to have roots in both Rock, and County music. What are your musical influences?

**JEN:** YES and YES – I LOVE Old Country and Rock Music. It is scary to me where it all has gone and I'm just hanging on to it, because I don't think that there will ever be another **Allman Bros**, **Led Zeppelin**, **Waylon Jennings** (my all time favorite man), shit, I could go on forever... I can not stress how much I love music.

**MARY:** You said you have some nostalgia for the 70s. What **Rocker's** might have worn your clothing if they had been available in the 70s?

**JEN:** Haha, In my dreams it would be bands like **AC/DC**, **Heart**, **The Band**, **Allman Bros**, **Joan Jett and the Runaways**, **Black Sabbath**, **Cactus**, **Bruce Springsteen**, **Frank Zappa**, **Waylon Jennings**, **Willie Nelson**.....

**MARY:** Who would you most LOVE to see wearing your clothes now?

**JEN:** Whoever is still alive from the list above and any lover of good music

**MARY:** Also, I think it's unique to blend biker look with western. How do you feel about this? I just watched **Tombstone** again...and it seems like the Western is still something every actor wants to dress up and make again and again...?

**JEN:** I think both looks are totally hot. I love **MEN** and I love **WOMEN** and I think there is something so damn great about the whole sexiness and confidence people have when they wear that shit; it's meant to be worn by them and it IS them. It's calm, cool and collective but bad ass. As far as mixing it, I think they are both **OUTLAW** so they go hand in hand.

**MARY:** Does **Jason** do any design work with you, or in what way do your careers mesh?

**JEN:** We inspire each other A LOT, and make fun of each other's art, A LOT...and keep each other in check... but we don't really "design" for each other. We both have a good deal of respect and understanding of each others "deal" though.

They do mesh in the motorcycle arena, because we both kind of cater to that a lil' bit and our stuff compliments each other apparel-wise (his for men, and mine for their chicks) so we share booths at events sometimes and like to travel together.

**MARY:** What new ideas are you in the process of developing?

**JEN:** Lord. I have piles and piles of em. Hand Bags, Jewelry, all kinds of stuff – I just don't have any money haha

**MARY:** How can people find and purchase



Photos © 2008, Susan Sabo



## PHOTOGRAPHER — SUSAN SABO

As for me, I'm a professional photographer in **Long Beach**. I specialize in portraits and shoot in a really informal, off the cuff style. I started shooting tattoos and cars and expanded from there. I shoot weddings as well, but my favorite clients are the offbeat kind of quirky people that other photogs don't know what to do with.

I loved doing Jen's shoot because we had

two days with the girls to have fun and just catch that crazy rebel energy they all have. After hearing Jen's ideas for the shoot, I decided to shoot in digital, medium format film, and polaroid.

I also do a lot of volunteer shooting for animal rescues and shelters.

— Susan Sabo

[www.susansabophotography.com](http://www.susansabophotography.com)

The Models are: Tish Salisbury, Amber White, Alison Casson Amber, Marleah, and Nicole. Shot on Location in **Ojai, California**



your clothing ?

**JEN:** I have the website at [www.banditbrand.com](http://www.banditbrand.com) and there is a growing list of retailers on there if you prefer to shop locally.

**MARY:** It's awesome that you are supporting local artists and craftsmen by having your clothing produced in America (as opposed to big greedy chain stores). What do you love most about America ?

**JEN:** I love that you can pretty much do whatever you want, as far as creativity or entrepreneurship. It may not always work out, but it's possible. I also love the terrain and road trips, cities, small towns and characters. There are so many beautiful places to go and so many different feelings you can experience in all of those places.

However, there is a lot I don't love about America too.... I guess I should actually say Humanity, because it's definitely not just America, but I have a good feeling about what's to come....It's so crazy to think how far we have come as a country in just the last 10, 15 years as far as awareness and an actual willingness to take part and make it a better place. Hopefully all the greed and shit that's hit the fan will drop off and more independent people will have a chance to have their piece of the pie again. On the other hand I am disturbed by the "everybody is a rock star" on Myspace etc. The self-centered all about me shit scares me a little, the sensory overload and conceited "look at a 100 sexy photos of me" makes everything lose it's heart and realness. While I think everyone should have a chance, I think it has changed reality.

I think we need to help the kids of America. They are going to shape America from now on. I think if we made cool places for the kids to hang out and had more cool shops,



coffee shops, places that cater to teens, they would probably feel more like a part of the community; less like "juvenile delinquents" or be sitting on their computers creating a new reality all of the time. Ojai was a perfect example of this. It is a great community and a lot of people mean well. When I moved there with my son there was no "place" that he could go that he could relate to. He would be miserable in his room, then he'd go out and explore and try to make friends, then come back empty

handed... Besides the skate park, there was nothing. The rec center means well and I love that it's there but it's not for everyone.

I am working on some ideas with my son about opening non-profit "coffee" shops where kids can hang, but there is cool music and good books and things they are interested in; but mixed with workshops on goal setting, being healthy mentally and physically, where volunteer counselors and members of the community can talk to kids about what they want to do and help them get there.

I am so sad to see all of these lost kids; one of my sons friends slit his wrist two days ago and is getting surgery today, it BREAKS MY HEART and should break everyone's heart. I really think that it's huge to focus on these kids that are "taking over," when we drop off....

**MARY:** What are you most afraid of America losing ?

**JEN:** I think we may have already lost it. I think that we are just stuck in weird consumer habits, but hopefully we can overcome that and get back to Love.

**MARY:** What advice would you give other women on starting their own business ?

**JEN:** Just follow your heart, give it lot's of thought, fill up lots of notebooks with notes – then narrow down your ideas and go out there and kick some ass.

More info.

[www.BanditBrand.com](http://www.BanditBrand.com)  
[www.thedrivenkateboards.com](http://www.thedrivenkateboards.com)  
[www.automodown.com](http://www.automodown.com)

# Alison Casson – artist on the run !

by Mary M. Long/J.Anderson

**F**ree spirit, artist, designer and entrepreneur Alison Casson is one of the stars on the **Bandit Brands** team for Jennifer McMillian. Third generation Venturan

Allison grew up in the mid-town area skating down main street to her job at the **Ventura Concert Theatre**. A born artist, Alison is no stranger to hard work, putting herself through culinary school and then attending the **Art Center College of Design in Pasadena**. "Art Center launched me" says Alison, "they taught me to work hard and then gave me the connections."

Vaulted into the world of illustration and design, her work was soon appearing in books and magazines such as **Newsweek, Urb Magazine, Dice, Flaunt, Juxtapoz, Mens Health** and on t-shirts for major international clothing companies such as **BeBe, Lucky, Roxy, D.C. Girl** and **Patagonia**. Discouraged by the soul-deadening of the corporate structure though, it wasn't long before the artist inside Alison was looking for more freedom and control over her work.

Branching out, she has been artistic director for hip-hop and punk rock videos, wardrobe design for movie productions, and has done illustrations for album covers/cds. An innovator in a variety of medias she also had her own apparel line called **Please and Thank You Clothing**, creating custom gloves, ties, etc. Meeting Jen (**Bandit Brands**) through a mutual friend, **Balthazar**, in Los Angeles they immediately connected and quickly became friends and associates. "Jen was living in Ojai, I was living half the week in Ventura and half the week in Los Angeles and I was tripping out because I had never met anyone as amazing as her. Jen and I just really hit it off. She asked me to design for her so we started hanging out making art... making cool shit. Our natural styles just go together." Despite their edgy, cutting edge fashion, both share a love for vintage art which gives their contemporary work a nostalgic touch.

Still not enough for her, Alison felt that her drawing skills

were't developed working on the computer and she returned to the free expression of her studio art. She feels that a lot of artists are being robbed of the experience to really grow in their skill, spending too much time on the computer. "Making imagery, drawing and painting develops hand and eye coordination, which only happens when the artist does it themselves," she said "I feel like we've lost something, like back in the day of **Michelangelo** they studied, they painted and they drew, and by the time they died they were amazing."

Despite her rock n' roll appearance... Alison has the work ethic of the **Masters** and although Alison's studio art has always sold well, she knew she still needed to involve herself in the "commercial" art world to pay the bills.

Finding that independent companies like **Bandit Brands, Balthazar** and **Lip Service** paid as well or better than commercial corporates, she found that artistic integrity and "success" could coexist. **Jennifer McMillian** calls Alison "awesome" and Alison says that **Bandit Brands** is one of the few companies that she will still design t-shirts for. "I Love it that Jen makes



Photos © 2009, Joel Anderson

her shirts, her ideas and the creative exchange and process is between her and I ! Besides her ideas being brilliant, she's an artist and she lets the artist she's working with do their thing as well ! That's why Jen's stuff is Rad. It works! When I worked for those people (corporate 'giants'), I just felt dead. I would do something cool and then, by the time their marketing and legal people were done.....it's not even cool. I feel sorry for most artists; they are being robbed of their entire lives. Most really don't even have a voice at all; they are just regurgitating someone else's crappy idea.

Still not enough for Alison, she is using her art background to branch into the tattoo world. "I'm doing it the traditional way" she says, working as an apprentice to the world famous **Tattoo Artist Bob Roberts** at the **Spotlight Tattoo on Melrose**.

Allison had always wanted to tattoo, but kept it a secret until the time felt right to make the transition. She feels that tattoo artists are some of the greatest artists in the world, having an extra skill level that doesn't develop as an illustrator. Always pushing herself, Alison wants every job she does to make her better, always growing, always seeking.

Spending four days a week, and evenings at the **Spotlight**, she fits in styling jobs, photo-shoots and illustration gigs, and is still on call when she's needed at the shop. "So although I had NO days off before," says Alison "this is way more intense."



She recently finished working on the movie **Wild Cherry**, a **Rob Schneider** film directed by **Dana Lustig**, starring **Tia Carrere, Kristin Cavallari, Tania Raymonde, and Rumer Willis**.

When director **Dana Lustig** was creating **Chase**, the artist character played by **Rumer Willis**, she was inspired by Alison's personal style. **Lustig**

dressed **Rumer** in Alison's clothes and used Alison's artwork for **Chase's** paintings. Alison's clothes were also used for other characters in the cast, and her artwork for the title credits and logo, giving the whole movie the look and style that is uniquely

**Casson**. **Lustig** must have been close to the mark when she cast **Rumer** as the artist in **Wild Cherry** as she and Alison quickly became friends. **Rumer** has bought many of Alison's original designs in both paintings and clothing and they still like to hang out and make cool stuff together. Hanging out and creating is the stuff that seems to attract and bond Alison and her friends together.

"I'm at a spot where I know myself and what I want and I've mellowed out. I'm happy about the direction I'm going in. One day I just want to tattoo and paint, I don't want to do anything else. I want to spend more time becoming better at seeing and making."

It wasn't always that way. When I was a kid, I used to worry about my purpose and I would ask my grandma, "What's the point, what am I meant to do in life ? And she said 'you're meant to enjoy yourself.' I thought 'good answer grandma,' I try to remember her advice and roll with it cuz everything happens the way it's supposed to. Good people, hard work, kick ass art, good food, good music, motorcycles and cute boys. Now I'm happy !"

info. [www.alisoncasson.com](http://www.alisoncasson.com)  
[www.spotlighttattoo.com](http://www.spotlighttattoo.com)



# Kristy Doyle – Something Good



Photos © 2009, Joel Anderson

Irish are the natural balladeers of the universe and Kristy has written hundreds of songs. Since she was very young, she has kept a tape recorder at her side to record the melodies and lyrics that come to her. “When I come up with a melody, a song, an idea, it’s always something that’s a gift.” Kristy relates, “Roy Orbison said ‘when he was writing, there was himself, the other songwriter he was collaborating with, and God was in the middle.’ He never took credit for the hits he wrote. My philosophy of life,” said Kristy, is if you’re open to something, whatever you want to be, and you’re willing to learn, you are going to attract it.”



Talent attracts talent and Kristy has attracted the respect and attention of key people in the industry. **James Antunez** is helping her record her music at **A to Z Productions in Ojai**. “He’s a very dear friend of mine, he’s absolutely wonderful, he can do absolutely anything,” said Kristy.

A registered nurse for **Santa Barbara County**, Kristy is a caretaker by nature. It’s part of her warm and outgoing nature to want to make people feel better and this comes out in her music. She feels that most of today’s music that is getting radio play is boring and repetitive.

She does admire the music of **Jack Johnson**, singer-songwriter and musician who she feels is always “stretching himself,” but feels like much of the music in today’s industry is a result of the digital society and lacks feeling and truth. Knowing how important art and music is she is encouraging her own two children, Bravo and Breanna to embrace their talents, and has already bought a guitar for her daughter.

After putting her guitar on hold for about 5 years, now

that her children are older, she has more “me” time and is happy to be creating music again. “My goal as a songwriter is to make someone *feel something*” says Kristy with passion, “My aspiration is to heal people and make them feel good, even if it’s only for 3 minutes.”



When **Paul McCartney** was asked how he’d written so many great songs he replied “by being brave and being bold.” It takes a lot of courage to pour out your soul and Kristy knows this. She also knows that without soul, music is meaningless and life loses it’s richness and magic.

Kristy’s first recorded song “Sunday” can be heard on **YouTube - Sunday by Kristy Doyle** with more songs coming soon.

— Mary M. Long

by **Mary M. Long**

I put my guitar in a closet for about five years, and it killed me, it was screaming to get out.”

Well....Kristy’s guitar is out of the closet now and she is recording her first long awaited album/cd. A naturally gifted singer songwriter **Kristy Doyle** has been writing her own songs for years and is now finally recording them.

Encouraged by her mentor **Grammy winner, Norman Gimbel** of (*Killing Me Softly – Roberta Flack*), she is pouring her heart and soul into her music. “Thank God for my mother” said Kristy, “she would always play goood music like **Janis Joplin, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Linda Ronstadt** and it got into my soul.”

As soon as Kristy was old enough to work she saved and saved until she bought her first guitar and then taught herself to play. The first song she played was “**Stairway to Heaven**” following the dots in the book. Some say the

## Ventura’s Star Lounge



**Blind Influence** playin’ the **Star Lounge**; featuring “Sunshine-Cheryl” and **Mike Davis** dancin’ up a storm (lower left), **Johnny Pain** (top left), **Cat Mellon** (above), backed up by guitarist **Pete Wolfgang**, **Ernie McGregor** (below), **Dave Brody** (drums, not pictured).

Photos © 2009, Joel Anderson



### Movino

**Bryan Head** (drummer for Supertramp), **John Marx**, and **Jimmy Calire** (*Raven, America*, also plays in the Jackie Lomax *The Ballad of Liverpool Slim* CD, featured page 25 & 27 this issue!) at **Movino in Ojai**. **Bryan**, just back from a South American tour, said, “I was just on tour with Supertramp. **Bob Siebenberg** (original Supertramp drummer) and his son, **Jesse** were here tonight. **Jesse**’s producing **Kenny Loggins** new album right now...he’s playing bass in Supertramp. “Just last month I was out with **Foreigner**, before that I have been playing with **John Marx** since I moved to L.A. He taught me a lot of what I know about this music. I like driving up here (to Ojai). The South American tour was really mellow...18 days, 3 shows. The guys in Supertramp started real young... maybe 17.”



Jimmy Calire tinkles the keys on his Hammond at Movino in Ojai.

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**The Sweet - Joe Retta & The Canyon Club**



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Photographed last year by famed 'Official' Woodstock Photographer Henry Diltz (CSN&Y, Jimi Hendrix, Dylan, Joplin, Ringo Starr, Paul McCartney, too many to list...), **The Sweet** line-up includes heavyweights: (L-R) **Stevie Stewart**, keyboards & vocals, **Richie Onori**, drums, **Joe Retta**, Lead Vocals, **Stewart Smith**, lead guitar & vocals, and **Andy Scott**, bass & vocals.

**Original Music-Double CD, Greatest Hits: Due in April**

**Joe Retta**, of **Led Zepplica**, has signed with 70s Glam Rock Band **The Sweet** as **Lead Vocals**. This should be a great match as Joe (*Hollywood Beach rocker*) has proved himself as a powerful Lead Vocalist with the **Led Zeppelin** tribute band, **Led Zepplica**. Joe is one of the few contemporary voices who can do **Robert Plant** or **Steve Perry**.

I asked Joe to fill me in on what he's doing with his new "70s" band, **The Sweet**, the line-up and studio work.

"I love that era... we (**The Sweet**) reformed last year. There were only 4 members and two of those (**Brian Connolly** and **Mick Tucker**) died over the years. **Steve Priest**, he's the one who did all the goofy, wacky, cool stuff in **Ballroom Blitz**, he's now in England. We've got the cool guy **Andy Scott** !

Our guy, **Andy Scott**, who owns the name now legally. **Stewart Smith**, the guitar player, and the drummer, **Richie Onori** played with Andy in the 80s in

another version of **The Sweet**; he wanted to play with them again and so he got together and reformed.

We all toured last summer and did festivals...huge ones with 30,000 people, it was a blast...now **The Sweet** is coming out with an original double CD of greatest hits in **April**.

Now we (current touring band) just did a live album which we're putting the finishing touches on now, which will be out in May or June, right after the double CD comes out, so hopefully that will help launch our live CD which is all us. The double CD actually goes to the publishers from back in the day of **Brad Foley** and **Steven Priest**," said Retta.

**Joe will be appearing at the Canyon Club with The Sweet on Friday, March 13 and the VIEW will be continuing the interview with updates and photos.**

info. Check out [www.thesweet.com](http://www.thesweet.com)

— Joel Anderson



**Funky Bluegrass...** in Ventura with **FearMia** at the **GOOD CLUB**, processed with a little bluegrass, and folk...this solid band's alot of fun and has a fresh unique beat. **Abby Posner** (above) plays guitar, mandolin, and vocals, **Leo Costa**, drums, 'kicks' up the pace, **Jesse Olema** (violin-guitar and vocals, and **Graham Chapman**, bass-vocals (lower left).

Photos © 2009, Joel Anderson



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"Only time I have a drinking problem is when it's gone" - **Bobby Dickson** (as **Johnny Cash**).



**Eric Monteith**, stand-up Bass

Photos © 2009, Joel Anderson



**Tony Cicero**, drums



**Joe Baugh**, guitars



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## Venetian Vibrations...

Continued From VIEW Page 14...

wildly decorated afro wig. Shortly afterwards she was diagnosed with breast cancer and she opened up her life to share her healing/dying process with her friends and community. Her dear friend, **Bob Markee** documented her journey in "*A Friend Called Lyle*". She always had a good sense of humor, wearing a fringed scarf with the fringe falling around her head in homage to her lost hair. Open meditations were led at her house, to help support her through the process of dealing with her disease. That is where I first met her in person. We became friends and partnered in improvisational skits at **Jeff and Carmen's**. We created 2 silly characters, **Peggy and Sandy** and she was always willing to take them to the limit while I found myself more reserved. She opened her heart and her life to us. As she was dying she lived in a way that few of us can ever do; open and fully engaged.

As queen of the **Ojai Mardi Gras** fundraiser, just days from her death, she stood at the microphone and called out for **Ojai to WAKE UP!** She created that request of us, to remember her, by waking ourselves up and joining Life, and left it as her legacy. Thus was the **Wake-Up! Krewe of Ojai** called into being.

The **Art Krewe** has a legacy that started with **Lyle** and was picked up by many local artists over the years. **Carmen Abelliera**, **Steve Bartolemeo**, **Larry Heitz** and **Tony Gwilliam**, **Jan Sanchez** were on board to create magic together. **Carmen** brought her brilliant folk-art sensibility to the **Krewe** with her colorful and soulful paintings on cardboard. To quote **Carmen**, "*Cardboard is my friend. I like the way it looks.*" This was born the economic, environmental and esthetic use of cardboard as our canvas for decorating our balls for the past 19 years. Thanks **Carmen!** **Jan Sanchez**, The woman who could do anything (metal sculptor), **Steve Bartolemeo**, artist, director, clown, our contraries architect **Tony Gwilliam**, renaissance man **Larry Heitz**, **Bob Markee**, videographer and fool and yours truly, **Lisa Sauvageau**, first created and converted the **Woman's Club** into the swampy netherlands of the **Great Bayou**. I want to apologize here to people who have not been mentioned and to thank all of the **Art Fools** over the years who have contributed their creativity and time to the **Ojai Mardi Gras**. In recent years **Sarah Hawley's** art direction brought into our archives a triptych by **Oatie Kidder** (muralist), a depiction of **Mardi Gras** in the **19th century French Quarter**, stunning pieces by **Alan Saylor**, **Katie Levine's** balcony ladies and many awesome pieces by artists it has been our privilege to work with. **Sarah's MG art philosophy** is "*Mardi Gras invites larger archetypes to come through our artwork and our set design, if we let it. And then we can become those archetypes during the celebration. Through our art we create an opportunity for transformation.*" I detect a theme here!

This year's **Art Fools Krewe** was led by **Judy K. Nelson** and included the usual suspects; **Lydia Golden**, **Evergreen (Susan Hericks)**, **Holly Stone**, **Katie Carr**, **Sarah Hawley**, **Lisa Sauvageau**, **Robert Lamarche**, joined this year by new **Krewe** members, **Chris and Lara Buhler**, **Shane Butler**, **Jeanine Sofra** and **Holly and John Adams-Matthews**. The theme "*Venetian Vibration*" was parlayed in a simple and elegant fashion for maximum effect. Beautiful fabric (*generously donated by our Queen*) was draped on the walls of the ballroom with large harlequin masks above. The "**King**", a huge blue sculpture made by **Evergreen** for our July 4th float graced the wall opposite the stage. Above the entrance was a huge white mask/head made by **Evergreen** and as you entered the porch you walked there was a life-size **Gondolier** in a **Gondola** with a painted backdrop of a **Venetian canal** in the moonlight both made by **Holly Stone**. This year we added technical highlight, thanks to **Jonathan Dunlap**. He collected images of **Venice** and projected them on the ceiling during the ball. Wow!

We were graced with the presence of two doyennes of celeb, **Dee Voltz** and **Noemie Nelson**. **Dee** voyaged from **Ventura** marrying her joyous spirit and uninhibited dance grooves with ours in tribal rhythm. Our band has a masterful way of choreographing their sets and the music, the songs, build and the meaning comes through the air, through our ears and down to our feet. It is impossible not to dance! **Judy's** mother, **Noemie**, former "**Queen Alexandra**" of the **Krewe of Alexis** of **New Orleans** sat graciously receiving court and generously sharing her beneficent blessings, with her daughter at her side, at the **Café Piazza San Marco**, in the foyer. Also present and overseeing his subjects was **His Most Powerful Lord of the Sea, King Neptune, the Sentinel of the Deep, Purveyor of Nepenthe**. **Doug Friedlander**, in armor breastplate and full costume, accompanied by his companion, **Nelson Fox**, was the recipient of the **King Robert Award for Costume Excellence**.

For many of us long time **Krewe** members (and others) there is a beautiful poignancy that we feel each year. For me, it grips me and runs through me like a wave when the music



more Mardi Gras Photos, go to [OjaiandVenturaView.com](http://OjaiandVenturaView.com) & **Ojai Mardi Gras Wake-Up Krewe** on Facebook

is really rolling, the revelers are dancing in whole-hearted abandon, everything is vibrating with movement and the air is thick with sound and the heat of all the moving bodies. This feeling of being in the timeless presence of the people we have been before, the friends who have moved on – a feeling of tribal essence awakened. We come together annually to play the fantasy characters that reside within us, to exemplify the archetypes that yearn to speak through us, to move together in a world of our own making, together again for one night.

Thank you to all **Mardi Gras** revelers, past, present and future – here in **Ojai**, there in **New Orleans** and everywhere – **Venice, Rio, the Universe**.

Join us next year for the **20th Anniversary Ojai Mardi Gras Wake-Up Krewe Ball to be held on February 13, 2010**. Our theme is **Rio**, title yet to be determined. See you there!

To view more pics look us up on Facebook, account: "**Ojai Mardi Gras Wake-Up Krewe**"

– **Lisa Sauvageau, Ojai**

**Lisa Joy Sauvageau** has been an **Ojai Mardi Gras Krewe** member for 18 years and has led the **Art Krewe**. For the past 20 years she has been the designer/owner of **Studio Sauvageau**, a boutique featuring her handcrafted tapestry bags. She studied painting with **Bonita Helmer** and has shown locally. **Ms. Sauvageau** has designed and made costumes for **Illusions Theatre (10 years)**, **Ojai Shakespeare Festival**, **The Art Center**, **Nordhoff High School**, **UCSB Opera Department**, **Ventura College**, **Santa Rosa Repertory Theatre** and **Entertainment Research Group** (*inflatable costumes for parades and promotions*) as well as numerous private clients.

For the past 14 years she has been the facilitator of the **Ojai Day Mandala** as well as the artistic director of the original banner project. She is also a bodyworker, studying with **Nick Scott** and **Harry Uhane Jim**. You can find her at **Studio Sauvageau**, 334-B E. Ojai Ave., 805 646-0677 open 11 am to 5 pm daily

## Ojai MARDI GRAS Royalty

No.	Year	Theme / King and Queen
1st	1991	King Cake Party / Canyon Cody & Camel
2nd	1992	"Mit" Lyle's Benefit / Zack Terry & Lisa Powers
3rd	1993	Mardi Gras Madness / Larry & True Heitz
4th	1994	Tribal Feathers / Eddie & Karen Guthman
5th	1995	Deep Sea Cruise / Lanny & Harmony Kaufer
6th	1996	Mojo Love / Dave White & Carmen Abelleira
7th	1997	Saints and Sinners / Ron & Reba Seba
8th	1998	Lust For Life / Don & Patricia Cardinali
9th	1999	Deep Space Ojai / Michael Bolotin & Dale Eucker
10th	2000	Garden of Earthly Delights / Doug & Holly Stone
11th	2001	A Circus Odd-I-See / Michael Levine & Kayte Carr
12th	2002	Alice in Jungleland / Tony Gwilliam & Jan Sanchez
13th	2003	Be Your Own Super Hero Robt Lamarche & Lisa Sauvageau
14th	2004	Lost Cities of Gold / Michael & Suzanne Kaufer
15th	2005	Make Love Not War - "A 60's Lovefest" Sarah Hawley & Laurel Hunter

16th	2006	The "New" Orleans - "Can't Wash Away The Magic" John & Cindy Zeretzke
17th	2007	Zydeco Zoo - "Year Of The Animal" Burton Lang & Lydia Golden
18th	2008	Dionysian Dream - "Gods And Goddesses Gone Wild" Robert Rachelli & Dawn Belden
19th	2009	Venetian Vibrations - "Unmask Your Passion" Scott & Betsy Smith
20th	2010	20th Anniversary Gala / To Be Announced

## Denlow Enlow

This year's designee is **Denlow Enlow**, former **Ojai resident** and son of the late **Harmony Kaufer of Ojai**.

Four years ago, **Denlow** was diagnosed with **ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis)**, the progressive neurodegenerative disease commonly known as **Lou Gehrig's Disease**, which has left him with severe mobility issues.

To learn more about him and his condition, visit the online newsletter of the **Living/Dying Project** [www.livingdying.org/ldp07\\_news.pdf](http://www.livingdying.org/ldp07_news.pdf)

## Ojai MARDI GRAS - photos 1995



Photos, © 1995, Joel Anderson

**Harmony and Lanny Kaufer as King and Queen, Deep Sea Cruise**. For their coronation they came riding in a huge clam shell that we made, **Lanny** wearing a Chief's bonnet and shaking his gourd rattle, **Harmony** and her long red hair in sexy silks by his side.

**Bob Markee** dancing with **Leslie Lembo**. **Wild man Bob** helped put on the **Mardi Gras** for a few years and also videoed it. **Leslie** sang with the band. She has an amazing stage presence and powerful voice.

**Eddie Guthman** on Bass, with **Leslie** in the background. I think that this was the year of "**Tribal Feathers**" when **Eddie** and his wife **Karen** were **King and Queen**.

**Jeff San Marchi** and **D'Anira Wiseman** hamming it up, **Jeff** with camera in hand. The moon must have been in its fifth quarter, or some other rare astrological event to see **Jeff** in costume and I know that **D.** got him smiling like that with her bawdy humor in full swing.

**Michael Bolotin**, all 6'7" of him, onstage, practically scraping the ceiling with his big pirate hat. This must be "**Deep Sea Cruise**" with **Michael** leading the band. He brought his **HUGE Taos** drum and got everyone the tribal stomp with that booming bass beat. I'll never forget that one!

**Ron Seba**, **Krewe** photographer and musician. Quiet and unassuming **Ron** is a powerhouse on the **Krewe** and one of the most steady supporters of the **Ojai Mardi Gras**.

– **Lisa Sauvageau**

## Ojai MARDI GRAS Lost & Found

- Are you lost or found, REBA - 646 - 7843, jacket? lone black velvet - blue lining
- hazmat.holly@roadrunner.com, someone accidentally took long velvet jacket and left shorter velvet jacket

- Piece of the **GrA** puzzle - Are you lost or found?
- Lost: **Ojai City Council Member**, if found give direction
- **Lucy in the sky and water** is pleading for the return of lost items, karmic relief - help !!!! Medical emergency, improve your karma, return found items !!! **Confusion say** 'that was such a fun party!!!!' call **Lucy in the Sky / water**; for lost and found items 652-1988

# Jackie Lomax and The Beatles Rooftop Concert, 40 Years Later

by Joel Anderson

**J**ackie Lomax was Apples first signed artist, close friend and associate of The Beatles and part of the British Invasion as singer/bassist for The Undertakers. The world has never seen a phenomena like the popularity of The Beatles and Jackie was on the inside of the British Invasion when groups like -The Kinks, the Who, the Small Faces, The Rolling Stones, the Yardbirds, and Gerry and the Pacemakers were just coming out of the UK. This year Cavern tours is hosting Beatles Week revisiting the 40th anniversary of the Beatles famous "good-bye" concert on the Rooftop of Apple Records in London. Jackie Lomax will be a guest host and musician for the tour and will be leaving for Great Britain in August. Recording, playing, composing Jackie is a living Rock n' Roll legend. He's Liverpool Slim.

## INTERVIEW – Jackie Lomax

**JOEL:** So you'll be headed to England in a few months...

**LOMAX:** ...this was a stroke of luck. It's Cavern Tours that does Beatles week. They organize all kinds of festivals in and around the area; it's very good... it's exciting.

**JOEL:** It's associated with The Beatles Rooftop Concert, last live concert for them, January 30, 1969. Where were you when The Beatles Rooftop Concert was happening?

**LOMAX:** Yeah, I was right there on the rooftop... well I was there (at Apple Records) because at that time... I was signed with Apple Records.... I was recording with George Harrison. I think it was a good-bye, and it had feeling too, they played with spirit. They played with Billie Preston which added something to their sound. They were good... they were a GOOD live band.

Yeah it's the fortieth anniversary of The Beatles on the Rooftop Concert. I'm playing Liverpool's Carling Theatre on the 28th of August, which is the culminating concert of Beatles week. I don't know with whom, yet, or how; we'll see.

**JOEL:** Was there something happened at the rooftop show, where Paul McCartney sung... 'hey Jackie'?

**LOMAX:** He was singing *Get Back*. I do think that he was there playing bass on *Sour Milk Sea* and at the end of *Sour Milk Sea*, I started singing *Get Back*, why don't you get back to where you once belonged.... And I do think there's a trace of that that... comes into *Get Back*, to where you once belonged...

**JOEL:** Who else was on the roof, as you recall?

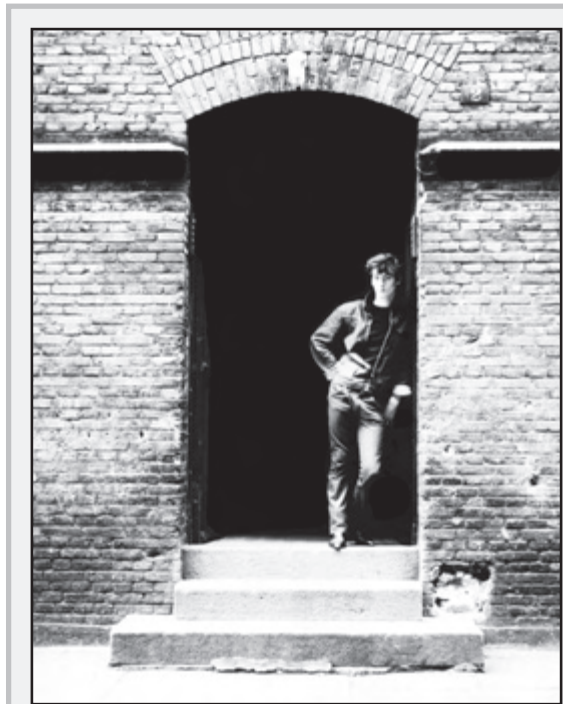
**LOMAX:** Anyone really who was hanging around. There weren't more than 20 people on the roof. I was standing over by the chimney.... It's on a DVD isn't it?

**JOEL:** So what happened when the police crashed The Rooftop Concert?

**LOMAX:** Well, it paralyzed the whole area which was a business area; there were people hanging out of windows of these office buildings all around so, therefore productivity went to zero.....so the businesses were all going crazy saying "what's going on...there nobody's working" so somebody called the cops, but they came up against a brick wall, in the form of Mal Evans.

**JOEL:** He'd been a bouncer at The Cavern, originally and was, at that time, road manager, assistant and friend of The Beatles?

**LOMAX:** He was a great guy. I saw what went down; there were two cops came, the young cop went up to the roof, the sergeant stayed in the lobby. Mal was standing at the doorway. I was behind Mal. The guy says 'you've got to turn it



Jackie Lomax, photographed here by friend & Beatles Photographer Astrid Kirchherr at the famous "Whore House" district, Erbstraussner, Hamburg, Germany, 1962. (Photo Here Reproduced with Permission, Jackie Lomax). From 1957 until 1960 Kirchherr studied photography at the Meisterschule für Mode, Textil, Graphik und Werbung, Hamburg. Her images have shown worldwide. Kirchherr has also published several great photographic books, among them *The Beatles – Once Upon a Time* (Plexus Publishing Ltd, 2007). More info. on Astrid's photography, [www.center-of-beat.com](http://www.center-of-beat.com)

off, you've got to turn it off.' Mal says 'look, the lads are playing, and you're not gettin' on the roof. When they're finished you can go on the roof, but you ain't going anywhere.' He was covering the whole doorway, you can't get past him, no - way. So, the young cop got all red in the face and ran down 4 flights to tell the sergeant that this guy wouldn't let him on the roof. So then the sergeant came up, and starts yelling at Mal... and Mal is saying the same thing very calmly, 'I will let you on the roof when they're finished playing'.... and they didn't get on the roof until The Beatles said, 'Thank you very much, and I hope we've passed the audition,' and then they turned off the amps and the cops came on the roof. Nothing really happened; that was the end of their performance.....they were saying goodbye to Apple and everyone really....

**"The world was hanging on their next thought. It was magical."**

**JOEL:** How did they all play off one another?

**LOMAX:** Apart from Ringo, they were all great songwriters, all of them, you know.

**JOEL:** Innovative?

**LOMAX:** Abbey Road/EMI Studios they do orchestrations in there.... The Beatles shook them up, man. Paul said 'So what have we got in here, a four track? Well, am I right in believing we've also got a four track in studio B. Why don't we roll that in there, too?' And the guy went, 'That's brilliant!' He'd been working there for years but it had never occurred to him to roll his other four track in, and eventually they rolled Studio C in too, and they had 12 tracks.

**JOEL:** Some of those albums were real complex...

**LOMAX:** ...but it's usually 4 track to 4 track to 4 track, each time mixing down; they were brilliant!

**JOEL:** You'd say The Beatles were innovative?

**LOMAX:** The world was hanging on their next thought. It was magical. It was not

without sweat and tears and it wasn't without a lot of arguments. You can see that in *Let it Be*...things were getting tense....

**JOEL:** Ok, Current... How's your band in Liverpool doing now?

**LOMAX:** The Undertakers, my old band from Liverpool... I recorded with them last year in August for the new Undertakers album, yeah... and I wasn't booked then; I went on my own dime. This year I'm going on theirs... for Cavern Tours.

**JOEL:** What's going on in Liverpool now, musically?

**LOMAX:** Well, it's interesting. When I go back, all I hear is Beatle's music now. Seems like every band wants to do *I Saw Her Standing There*. It starts to drive you a little crazy.

I always thought that is what we're in it for; we do original stuff. Write it, yeah, use the experience of doing someone else's song to find out how it feels to you and what the structure is, and then you use that to interpret it your own way. That doesn't seem unreasonable to me. That's all I've been doing

all my life....why would I stop now and go back and copy something, but that's what seems to be happening is copy bands... Here we see, copy of The Who, copy of Janis Joplin, a copy of this, that and the other, and it's like there's this yearning for those bands of the 60s because they were all so different. They all forged their own way. You can't say the Grateful Dead was a copy of The Beatles, you can't say that Cream was a copy of what? Cream... the BEST trio I have ever heard....

**JOEL:** Wasn't Paul knighted by the Queen?

**LOMAX:** Yeah...John was the anti-social one...he was usually right, but he could be abrasive and aggressive. Paul McCartney was like Mr. Fabulous, he's always on and smiling. I think Paul got knighted out of shame for them taking all that tax money off him. It's like 90 percent, in his bracket. He must have floated the economy at one time....You see that's why so many people have moved over here. You pay quite a bit of taxes over here on large amounts, too. I don't know what the answer is. Those guys with the 40 million dollar parachutes should be put in stocks in the streets, so that the people can throw rotten food at them.

**"...my parents were horrified when they learned I was in a band."**

**JOEL:** hahahaha.....Where do you see Rock n' roll heading?

**LOMAX:** I don't see it heading anywhere.

**JOEL:** Is there hope?

**LOMAX:** There's always people out there who are undiscovered talent. Those are the people who sound original, who write original. There is no music business, it's all on-line. You don't need the Capitol Building anymore, even though it's an icon, it's all on-line and it's every man for themselves on-line. That's not good to me. For instance, everyone is buying blank discs and writing on them with pens....I want to see the art work; I want to see who played on the tracks, I want

to read the lyrics, all of that is part of the package to me because that's where I come from. IN my version I had the lyrics printed out.

**JOEL:** Now, it's who's the best 'internet guy'?

**LOMAX:** Still a lot of luck. You have to get a totally repetitive thing, where it gets played over and over again, to get noticed. I have a song called *Home is in my Head* that's been done by a lady singer in Norway; Anuk, she's done a live version that's 11 minutes long, and then she did a DVD of it that's been repeated on the radios as well. So that song is disproportionate to my other songs. You just never know....I didn't plan that, I never thought anyone in Norway would ever have heard of me.

**JOEL:** What role does rebellion have in Rock n' Roll?

**LOMAX:** Well, it's rebellious enough to play an electric guitar. Usually an expensive electric guitar, and running around the country getting laid, and having partying times, I mean that's rebellious enough. I mean my parents were horrified when they learned I was in a band because they equated it with being in a gang, they were disowning me....my father didn't speak to me for three years.

**JOEL:** Recent times....who were the players; the musicians on your, *The Ballad of Liverpool Slim* record?

**LOMAX:** The usual suspects; Jack Joshua on bass, Dave Stewart on drums, there were some other member in the band... Eddie Duenez on keyboards played some keyboards, Jimmy Calire and his son Mario, and there's another guy Mark Andres (*Canned Heat, Spirit, Jo Jo Gunne, Firefall, Heart*, and more) who played bass on some of the tracks. He's from Heart, a very good bass player.

**JOEL:** How are things going?

**LOMAX:** I've been very good, optimistic. Well, I didn't think I'd get a record deal and I did. Even though this album has been around for like 5 years, it's just my product. It was 3 or 4 different sessions I had to go through pro tools to make them sound like they were all done at the same time. It's a collection of songs I was doing with the blues band around Ojai and Ventura.

**JOEL:** Tell me about 'Liverpool Slim'?

**LOMAX:** *Ballad of Liverpool Slim*. Well, I was on a pool team for the Hub and I think I came up with it me self because someone said, 'Minnesota Fats couldn't come up with a shot like that.' So, I couldn't be Minnesota Fats, so I said I'm more Liverpool Slim and they all laughed... so the name stuck and it sounds bluesy. It sounds like a blues guy, doesn't it?

**JOEL:** And you did the artwork on this. I didn't know you were an artist?

**LOMAX:** I didn't know me self.

**JOEL:** You've got 14 tracks on here!

**LOMAX:** I'm always into value for money, so I always think you have to have at least 12 tracks for an album. So I had 12, it was just me, you see I own this, I did it by myself on my own dime, I took it to Liverpool 5 years ago and sold special editions all that I could print up and I sold them all.... I don't think I even have a copy left for myself. It was kind of dormant for a while and then this record company showed up and offered me a deal. Through a friend, they said they like it, they sent me a contract that was fair and respectful of artists; the best I've ever seen. Because I wasn't going to print up

Lomax Continued VIEW Page 27...



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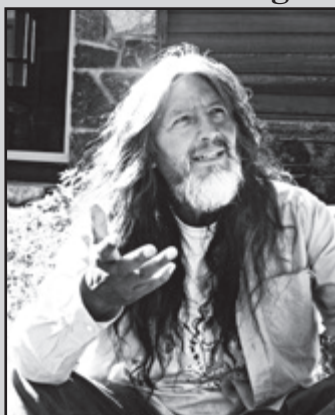


Photo © Alverto Taxo

**Don Alverto Taxo, master shaman from Ecuador, Ojai March 10th to 15th, public talk, "The Magic of Gratitude," Wed., March 11, 7:30pm, Ojai Women's Club, 441 East Ojai Ave., also meeting with young people the following evening at 6pm also at The Women's Center.**

**Don Alverto Taxo, master Iachak of the Atis (Kichwa) people from the Cotopaxi region of Ecuador.**

*Given the highest honor of Master Iachak in 1989 at a great gathering of Andean Elders. This coming together of cultures marks the fulfilling of a five hundred year-old prophecy which foretold the coming together of two great powers of life: the power of the Eagle (the power of the mind as exemplified in the industrialized nations of the North) and the power of the Condor (the power of the heart and connection with nature as exemplified in the natives of South America). The prophecy says that there will come a time when the Eagle and the Condor will fly together in the same sky in harmony. The time for the fulfillment of this prophecy is now; the harmony which this prophecy refers to lies within each person through the balance of heart and mind — as well as in the world at large.*

info. [www.ushai.com](http://www.ushai.com)  
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## Songs Among Friends – Caffe Bella



Dan Grimm



Hippie Mark



Michelle and Lisbet

Photo © 2009, Joel Anderson

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Letters are Welcomed

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### LETTER

#### Michael Phelps and Kellogg

Michael Phelps has not killed anybody. Kellogg may have. Michael Phelps hasn't poisoned anybody. Kellogg may have.

Michael Phelps took a hit off a bong. Kellogg showed criminal negligence in failing to exercise any quality control over the product of its peanut butter supplier, thus having to recall millions of suspect toxic peanut butter cookies.

Kellogg cancelled Michael Phelps' contract. Who will cancel Kellogg?

Clive Leeman, Ojai

## KOHLI'S MUSIC PIT

### by Michael Kohli

Greetings, once again fellow music freaks! Earlier this month – I got to see Arrica Rose perform at Zoey's. Words can barely express the greatness of Arrica's music – but she is always a delight to see on stage. Performing her newest tunes – I have to recommend some of her best iTunes material if you want to get to know Arrica Rose more. My top 2 favorite songs are: "Cats and Plants" and "Occasionally, The World's An Unhappy Place (plan accordingly)." Check out Arrica Rose on iTunes, Myspace, Facebook and more.

As of this writing, I'm looking forward to seeing Army Of Freshmen's first show in Ventura in over 2 years! Later this month – AOF will join forces with Le Meu Le Purr, 8Stops7, & End Transmission at Rock City Studios. Great venue – the room there should be jam packed throughout the night. Hopefully they make it standing room only to fit more people.

Army Of Freshmen's new disc, *Above The Atmosphere* recently premiered on iTunes and in most music stores.

Queensryche is getting ready to release a new concept album Mar. 31, titled, "American Soldier." In the vein of their known

storytelling – the subject goes into the heart of our current war. Singer Geoff Tate interviewed war veterans from WWII to our present Iraq War and based the new album's story on their experiences. One song in particular, Sliver – Geoff Tate recently explained, deals with the soldiers' experiences during boot camp. Stay tuned to [Queensryche.com](http://Queensryche.com) for more info.

Thank you for reading!

– Michael Kohli

Kohli Rocks Entertainment

[www.kohlismusicpit.com](http://www.kohlismusicpit.com)

[myspace.com/djkohli](http://myspace.com/djkohli)

PS. By the way - the new KRE band show season is slated to kick off in March – possibly at The Karma Lounge.

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## Guitar Planet

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## LOMAX - Rooftop Concert...

Continued From VIEW Page 25...



Jackie Lomax, Hamburg, 1962

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any more. So now it will get into record stores in **Europe** and **Asia**, & the **U.K.** Unfortunately they are not in the **U.S.**, but some label might contact them, you never know.  
**JOEL:** What's the common thread in the music?  
**LOMAX:** Blues, I think it's the best album I've done, I'm much more expressive guitar-wise on this than I've ever done

before.

**JOEL:** Get better as you get older?

**LOMAX:** Well, that's my theory, but that doesn't seem to be the theory of businessmen. They think when you reach 40 you're done.

**JOEL:** How does that work?

**LOMAX:** Well, it took me years to figure out that what I was doing on the bass, finger picking style, could be transferred to the guitar...I didn't think of it for like 20 years....then, once I started doing it, it all came to me very fast.

**LOMAX:** I'm much more adventurous playing-wise. I've got some up-tempo stuff that people like, I've got some ballads that people like. I particularly like *When my Soul is Free at Last*. You know, I'm critical of myself too. I think it's a really good song. I hope somebody picks up on it and does their version. You never know.



Cover Art ©, by Jackie Lomax

Now being distributed in Europe, Asia, & the U.K., Jackie Lomax' *The Ballad of Liverpool Slim* also features Mark Andes, Jim Calire, Mario Calire, Eddie Duenez, Pete Howard, Jack Joshua, Phil Salazar, Dave Stewart.  
 More info. [www.jackielomax.com](http://www.jackielomax.com)

**JOEL:** What's it about?

**LOMAX:** It's sort of autobiographical, but I like to be vague about that.

**JOEL:** You can get this on-line though?

**LOMAX:** Yeah I believe so, just go to [www.jackielomax.com](http://www.jackielomax.com)

**JOEL:** So, tell me why you added the last 2 tracks?

**LOMAX:** Well, I can tell you that. Simply they wanted me to do an old song again, a new version. So I told them I have this live album with **Sour Milk Sea** is on it **Live**. I sent that to them and they loved it. I love the whole album...it's from 1976. That was my funky band from **Los Angeles**, two horns....even this version of **Sour Milk Sea** is funky, not like the original version at all which was straight rock.

Then I've added *Friend of Mine*, which is a tribute to **George Harrison** which I wrote after he died. Well, I was at the dedication in **Hollywood** for **George**, there's a trail there up to the **Hollywood** sign...they planted a tree in his honor. The TV was there and the mayor and the head of the observatory, and I sang *Friend of Mine*, acoustic and there was a guy in the audience who said 'I've got a state of the art recording studio do you want to record that?' and I said *yeah I do*, and I put a nice slide solo in the middle that sounds like **George** would do. It uses chords that **George** used a lot.

**JOEL:** Well... was that a way of letting **George** go?

**LOMAX:** Well, I lost another best friend the same month. That's why it's called *Friend of Mine*, it doesn't say **George**, it doesn't say **Kim**, it doesn't say **Entwistle**, they are all friends of mine.

This is a great example of **George Harrison**: a lot of **Americans** were coming over, hippies.

The **Hells Angels** came over once and invaded the building, **Apple Records**. They said they were coming, they just came in and opened every door they wanted to.

I was with **George Harrison** and we were in the press room and we were talking about the release, *when it's gonna be*, it's business, right...there were three of us in the room. Me, **George** and **Alistair**. And like all of a sudden the door flew open and there's this **HUGE Hell's Angel** guy standing there, and he just stares at us. Well, **George** immediately and quickly strode right into his face, right up to him like right here like that, and he said 'what do you want?' And the guy said, 'I know you...' but he was backing away as he was saying it....and **George** was saying 'you've got no business here; we're busy ok,' and he closed the door in his face.

Now that biker could have kicked all three of us out. **George** was like very intense, and this guy backed down. I think the guy couldn't handle that he had just met one of **The Beatles**...I think it sort of scrambled his brain. That was about 69....we were recording a project...let's go for a ride.....

— Joel Anderson, editor


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