

The Ojai & Ventura



# VIEW



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Vol. 2 • No. 11 • Issue 23 • Published in the Ojai & Ventura Gold Coast Region • **FREE** • February 2010



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Photo © 2010, Ryan Kovacs

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Photo © 2010, Joel Anderson



**The HUB Rocks**

Photo © 2010, Joel Anderson

## WHY OJAI DOESN'T WORK

On January 26 Ojai City Councilmember Betsy Clapp resigned from her position on the Ojai Budget and Finance Committee. The VIEW asked Councilmember Clapp for her reasons. Below is her response. — Editor

Attached is the answer to your question as to why I stepped down from the Budget Committee.

I have chosen to step down from the Budget/Finance Committee because:

- I feel my suggestions have not been well received by the Finance Committee or the City Manager, thus it is a poor use of my time and efforts.
  - In my opinion, the Committee is not provided with complete staff reports and focuses too much on accounting spreadsheets rather than meaningful discussion focused on problem solving and responsible management of City funds. These meetings are giving the false impression that the committee is effectively monitoring the fiscal health of the City.
  - Further, the meetings are held at 4 in the afternoon when most people are at work, thus unable to attend. This hardly makes it convenient nor does it encourage the Public to attend.
  - In the future I will provide my observations and comments at Council Meetings. This will be a more effective use of my time and will be assuring the Citizens I am providing the "transparency" I promised when elected.
- Betsy Clapp, Ojai City Councilmember



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### From the Campaign Trail Read This Before You Run for City Council

— Camille Harris

So, you believe you can make a difference and are thinking about running for the City Council?

Are you a moderate person who believes in development but questions the potential for disastrous effects of unquestioned development that lacks even a fiscal impact study? You say you have no financial gain to make and simply want to make a sacrifice for your community?

I was one of those well-intentioned, but naïve, citizens who walked that plank last November and write this in the hope I can spare you some unpleasant surprises from my "lessons learned." Here are some realities that you might want to consider before you decide to run for office:

— Do you have an easy day job or can live on your retirement? You should realize you will need to work a minimum of 40 hours per week

Running Continued Page 4...



Ojai Friendly

© 2010, David

WHICH WAY IS UP?

INSIDE: • **UKRAINE** • **INTERVIEW** • **PETER MILHADO & Are you Obsessed?** ★



# War Is A Racket?

by Larry Naron



What Pinko, Commie, Socialist Fag would say that? Would you believe he was arguably the most highly decorated Marine ever? General Smedley Butler received two Congressional Medal of Honor Awards in his distinguished career. He tried to give one of them back saying that it was undeserved, but the powers that be told him to shut up and accept it.

# Why Ventura is The Broke Capitol of the World? Who's Money is It Anyway?

The City of Ventura lost \$10 Million Dollars 1 1/2 years ago (well before the recent economic crash), through their ambitious high-risk investment plan; having placed precious taxpayer dollars with Bear Stearns (BS) private assets, which went belly up in the JP Morgan fiasco. This reduced Ventura's get-rich-quick-scheme to pie-in-the-sky. Most cities invest their cash assets in highly safe Treasury instruments and other government-backed securities.

VIEW Detailed Financial Analysis Go To: [www.ojaiandventuraview.com/OVVtaArt/TheRoseVol.11Issue1WebStealthkatGraphics.pdf](http://www.ojaiandventuraview.com/OVVtaArt/TheRoseVol.11Issue1WebStealthkatGraphics.pdf)

# WRIGHT LIBRARY ~ SWITCH N' BAIT

R. ELLIS SMITH



# But I Swear I'm Telling the Truth...

Your newest Mayor Mr. Bill Fulton was instrumental in the closing of Wright Library in East Ventura. He used the bad economy and lower property taxes as the main excuse. As you can see from the chart (page 20), which was garnered from the Ventura County Assessor's Office, the property tax income for the City of Ventura was only about 2.9 percent lower than in the previous year, and was Wright Library Continues Page 20...

# Co-Dependence

by Roslyn Hammer

That's the stupidest thing I ever heard," roared my father in his usual bombastic manner. He was pacing around the living room after reading an article in the newspaper about being an "enabler."

"You're crazy. You were crazy when I first met you and you're still crazy. Only a crazy person would think it's my fault because you drank."

"You have to come to a meeting with me," my mother told him. "I'll go to your meeting. I'd love to go to your meeting. I have a few things I want to say."

"What she'd do? Beat you up?" My father chuckled. "See what I have to deal with? How will I ever stay sober?" My mother inquired of the group.

"Where's mom?" my sister asked. "I left her with her screwball friends talking about what everybody did to them to make them drink."

"What's in the bag?" "It's a bottle of whiskey and I'm going to drink the whole thing."

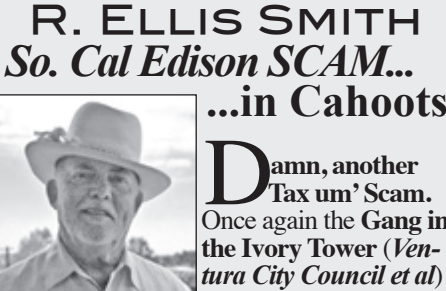
Roslyn Hammer wrote for the Ojai Valley VOICE during the 1990s. She has a background in stand-up comedy and comedy writing.

[www.YouTube.com/OVVtaView](http://www.YouTube.com/OVVtaView)



Send your Letters editor@ojaiandventuraview.com multiple publication submissions discouraged

# VENTURA: MORE TAXES... R. ELLIS SMITH So. Cal Edison SCAM... ..in Cahoots



Damn, another Tax um' Scam. Once again the Gang in the Ivory Tower (Ventura City Council et al) has decided to sneak around behind our backs to place another tax increase on our depleting wallets and purses.

It is past time for the city franchise to the Edison Company to be re-newed. The franchise the Gang in the Ivory Tower gives to the different utility companies allows them to place their equipment on or through city-owned property. Since the electrical companies franchise ran out in 2008, the Gang in the Ivory Tower has been haggling with them to decide the best way to stick it to the consumers once again.

# Is the Ventura City Council Waiting... for Helen Yunker to Die?

The State of Helen Yunker Address" - Helen Yunker

Following is a full account of my comments to the City Council on Monday, Feb. 1, when I was rudely and abruptly prevented from finishing my presentation. It is completed herewith. City Council Meeting Feb. 1, 2010

Now that we have been privileged to hear Mayor Bill Fulton's "State of the City" address, it is now my privilege to present the "State of Helen Yunker" address. On Feb. 3, it will be 12 years since the massive landslide on city-owned Lot #7, which endangered both my home and safety. It began the most difficult, unhappy, and distressful era of my life, which resulted from the city's refusal to address

the Ojai and Ventura Real VIEW Editorial Policy The Ojai & Ventura VIEW is FREE, owned by Stealthkat Publications, edited, and written by contributors. Printed by Western Web, 15,000 distributed in the Ojai & Ventura Gold Coast Region. Views in the VIEW do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial board, local government, corporations, advertisers or other dependent entities. Requests for news or feature coverage, or concerns about editorial or advertising content should be addressed to the editor. Sole responsibility for content of The Ojai & Ventura View rests with the VIEW Editor and Editorial Board. View graphic/content is copyrighted by Stealthkat Publications. After publication in the VIEW, the copyright of all written, visual and artistic material reverts back to the author, photographer, artist or advertiser, special agreements notwithstanding. Distribution Limit: One Copy Per Reader. The View may be distributed by authorized personnel/distributors only.

of a public hearing date as recommended in this item. If Council adopts the recommended franchise following the public hearing, franchise revenue received from Edison will be adjusted as follows: A07-00201 PUBLIC GETS IT

a. The franchise fee will immediately increase from 0% to 1%, changing our annual revenue from approximately \$600,000 per year to \$800,000 per year. AND GETS IT DEEPER

b. This 1% fee will be retroactive to February 27, 2008, the date by which the former fee had expired, and amounts to a one-time payment of approximately \$250,000.

WITH CPUC BLESSINGS? c. Following approval by the CPUC [California Public Utilities Commission] of an 1% additional franchise fee, annual revenue to the City will increase from approximately \$800,000 per year to \$1.6 million per year.

City Staff proposes that fifty percent (50%) of the surcharge be dedicated for streetlights and under grounding of lights, with the remaining 50% to go to the General Fund.

Prepared by M. Rebeca Mendoza Assistant City Attorney Electric Scam Continued Page 19...

# THE SAGA OF THE SLIPPING SLOPE

In 2005, after seven years of neglect and evidential abandonment, the city sold State of Helen Yunker Continues Page 21...



Helen Yunker's 12 year Slipping Slope

# Skate Ojai Update



by Joel Anderson early two years since non-profit Skate Ojai successfully raised \$1/4 million (before the June 30, 2008 fundraising deadline imposed by the City of Ojai) to build Ojai's skatepark, contractor bids were finally opened Jan. 25th. Of the five interested contractors, two exceeded the agreed budget, one did not submit a bid and the two remaining contractors submitted bids within the skatepark budget. Mike Culver is Ojai's Public Works Director, who oversees the process.

California Skateparks appears to have submitted a detailed itemized bid within budget, as per the City of Ojai's requirements. Geocan Engineering, Inc. on the other hand, submitted a bid which contained incomplete information, and other information which was submitted, is now in dispute.

Geocan's bid does not appear to meet the basic qualifying criteria set by the city. Despite this, the city is still trying to figure out if Geocan does qualify, which is wasting more significant time. In a City of Venice public document (dated Nov. 7, 2008) from the General Manager of that city, Geocan now appears to be in "deja-vu" all over again.... They had also been the low bidder on the Venice Beach Skate Park, but were disqualified because according to the "Report of General Manager."

Skate Park Update Continued Page 4...

# LETTER: 'No Swings'.... Ventura County 'Services'

# Lack of Concern for Oak View Children

Editor, - Linda Potter

Play equipment in Oak View is in extreme need of repair. There were swings at the community center which have been gone since summer because someone tore the blue padding under them and a woman in a county vehicle told us it was unsafe so the swings had to be removed. Now, move over to the Oak View resource center pretty much just across the street and a block, where over a hundred children play everyday in the Boys and Girls Club and Teen Center. See the monkey bars closest to the side street fence. There is puzzle like padding, all erupting, broken and sharp wires here and there. I actually had one of the wires puncture my shoe. I guess this is safe???

Since last summer there have been no swings in OAK VIEW for our children. As a grandmother, I find this very frustrating and cannot understand the county's definition of safe or unsafe. Who is in charge of this play equipment anyway and why are the swings still gone? Why is it OK for kids to play on that black puzzle pad? I would imagine more children play daily at the resource center than at Libbey Park due to the fact that it is the official location of the Boys and Girls Club, Teen Center and Library.

Linda Potter, Oak View

For the Ojai bid, as with Venice Beach, Geocan had also listed "Morse Park" (Elk Grove, Ca) as a "skatepark" on their submitted bid; however, according to staff of City of Elk Grove, Morse Park is not a skatepark, but rather it is merely "a large, multi-use park (soccer field, baseball fields, softball fields, dog park, playgrounds, basketball courts, etc.). Skate Park Update Continued Page 4...

# OJAI CITY COUNCIL RAGGEDY EDGE

- Dick Lynch

The City is BROKE. That's why City Manager Jerre is stalling the Budget for 2010. We have NO money and we're just awash in Red Ink. Jerre needs another raise and is over worked!!! He doesn't have enough staff.

With the lights going out all over Ojai, the Bus not going into town, road paving is behind and the Bandits at Golden State Water (GSW) taking us to the cleaners, we need some new faces. Three of our current Councilmembers Soon-to-be-leaving-Sue (aiming at the County Treasurer seat), Steve Olsen and Carol Smith have been Too Long on the Council.

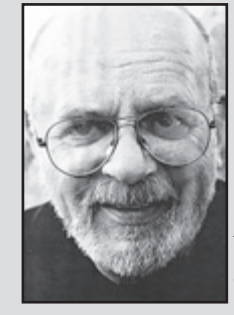
What action did they take to protect us from the water fleecing? What have they done to balance our city budget? Why was rampant spending allowed by the city manager? Why is City Attorney, Monte Widders on an "Open Check" contract? Why isn't that position an employed position at \$100,000 less per year? Why doesn't the city manager have a contract (with an expiration date)?

What are you thinking Ojai? Wake up before it's too late. My 85-year-old neighbor got a \$180 plus water bill! His water cost was \$60, the rest is the meter PLUS a small tax! How much do you pay to rent your Gas meter? How about your Electric meter? How about the phone connection, Nothing???

When the election comes you better think long and hard - only 2 candidates for the last merry-go-round of folly had any Real City experience having both run for election in the City of Ojai for the council position and commissioner position in our city government. Paul Blatz and Mike Lenahan. Paul with the planning Commission and Mike with the parks and recreation commission. If they choose to run, one or both, in June or November could make good choices for the city Council. (Suzie are you thinking about moving back into town)? Hang 'em High! - Dick Lynch

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

# The Obsessive Personality



The obsessives were traumatized in childhood by the abuse of irrational power in their family of origin. As Carl Jung tells us power is the opposite of love, not hatred. What to do when the early family situation is emotionally chaotic? One defense against chaos is control; another one is not to feel - the obsessive does both. The need to control is easily recognized by others. A refusal to delegate; suspiciousness; evasiveness; hoarding; moral superiority; emotional isolation; and mistrusting warmth and love, can all be personality characteristics. No matter how bright, the obsessive is slow to recognize feelings - they think rather than feel. "I should" is probably the single most characteristic thought content. Hiding feelings of anger and aggression shows up in being "too nice", being oppositional, being passive-aggressive or usually a combination of all three depending on circumstances and different people encountered. Anger repressed also turns into ulcers, constipation, anxiety and eventually depression.

The first time in life anything is asked of us occurs around the age of two when we're petitioned, cajoled, bribed or threatened to go to the bathroom on the pot. How we handle this request is greatly influenced by our family's mode of dealing with issues of control and power in general. Once we understand this request, we can either comply with different levels of submission, or we can resist, with different intensities of defiance.

Check Out My New Website/blog: www.DrPeterMilhado.com New Article Every Two Weeks + Updates

In modern day parlance the obsessive personality is often referred to as "anal". Nighttime dreams centering around bodily functions in the bathroom often address issues of power and control. For example, overflowing toilet dreams can give us a message that we're not as conscious of our own power shadow as we need to be.

The obsessive is involved in a life long conflict between obedience and defiance. This leads to a continuous alternation between fear and rage. Fear that he will be punished for being defiant and rage for submitting to someone else's authority. Fears stemming from being defiant lead to obedience, while rage stemming from being too obedient leads back to defiance.... and on and on. Defiant anger causes stubbornness, frugality, obstinacy and coldness, while fear of authority contributes to obsessive orderliness, compulsive punctuality and tidiness.

Obsessive personalities build elaborate defenses for keeping out of touch with their repressed impulses and instincts. For example, every time a dangerous sexual or rageful thought is about to enter consciousness they go and wash their hands. This "cleansing" ritual keeps the dangerous thought from entering. Fears of losing control make decisions very difficult. Even going to a movie is usually based on routine - either the closest one, the cheapest one, the most educational one, etc. They let it be known they are "independent" and "don't need anybody", which is a compensation for frightening needs for closeness and dependency.

Often they would rather continually fight in a relationship than let those terrifying needs for closeness and dependency surface. Therefore, money and status, rather than love, become foundations for emotional security.

By concentrating on irrelevant details the obsessive loses

The Obsessive Personality Continued Page 10... One for all and all for one. Love to Mother Meera PETER RUDOLF MILHADO, PH.D. Lic #MFT14142 35 Years Experience drpetermilhado@gmail.com • (805) 640-1810 Blog: www.DrPeterMilhado.com Extensive Experience With Folks Over Forty and Artists In All Creative Fields



From the Campaign Trail...

Continued From Page One...

for \$600 a month, take large doses of verbal and written criticism and wrestle with constant pressure to compromise your principles in order to get any of your own policies to the table.

- Are you brave enough to question the **Clubocracy**?
  - **The Developer's Coalition in Ventura** works like this:
    - Incumbents' campaigns are financed by the **Developers Coalition** and their *paid* lobbyists, who also served on past City Councils.
    - **The City Council** members then appoint **Planning Commissioners** whom they trust will do their bidding and also provide them with political cover.
    - **The Planning Commissioners** can now approve the projects of the developers who financed the campaigns of the **City Council** members.
    - In turn, the **Planning Commissioners** and their companies are allowed to work directly for the developers whose projects their commission has approved.\*
    - **City Council** members, when voting on the largest projects of the developers, do not disclose they have received campaign contributions from those developers, their families and key employees, collectively amounting to as much as **100 times** the average donation of \$20.
    - Some **Planning Commissioners** even donate to the campaigns of the City Council members who appoint them.
- \* *Not all commissioners partake of this tempting loophole, but those who do, do it regularly. Many Commissioners work for the public interest rather than their own and they should be commended.*
- This public embarrassment, also known as "**The Good Old Boy's**

**Club**" has been in place for so long that it is accepted as the way to do *business* in Ventura. As a developer once told me, "*Why wouldn't I hire a Planning Commissioner to take advantage of their system? I'm a business man.*" One cannot blame the developers for a machine built and used by the politicians for their own gain. **Developers** need to build to stay in business.

- Will you be pained by the will of special interest groups? While running, you will be grilled by a considerable number of special interest groups that *require* you fill out long questionnaires and then convince them that you will make sure they get some share of the taxpayers' money. Other special interest groups simply want to know if you support their missions, from abortion rights to protection of the hillsides.

One union actually requires you sign a contract *promising* you will picket with them, no matter the reason. Some will give you money or do their own expensive mailings with *your picture* touting their *cause*, as a big free promotional ride.

You can take a lesson from the "**Boomerang**" incumbent who was narrowly re-elected: That same slick incumbent got support from opposing sides of an initiative. He received money and an endorsement from one camp and then jumped over to support and get a free mailer *ride* from the opposing camp. By making enough promises to unions and even opposing groups, he garnered no less than three free mailing rides, was able to forego the big expense of lawn signs and then with a straight face, claimed *eco-ness*. Experience sure counts in tough times.

In Ventura, **The Chamber of Commerce** is dominated by the **Developers' Coalition**, so one must be in favor of unfettered development to garner their support. The support of the **Developers' Coalition** is partnered with the *mainstream* media, in Ventura county's case, *primarily* the **Star**. For them, promoting development is a *survival* issue as "*Trees don't read papers*" and developers and real estate are their major source of advertis-

Ojai City Council Special Election  
Nomination Period Opens Tues. Feb. 16 for  
Nominations For The Candidate  
June 8 Election - See How They Run....

ing dollars. All others aligned are those whose *fortunes* rely on *increased density*: all unions that can grow their membership through more development and density either through a *greater need for government services* or construction trades, auto dealers (*Trees don't drive cars*). The more you think about this, the more you will realize that the **Developers' Coalition** is huge, well organized, superbly funded and highly motivated. For them, there is no middle ground or room to collaborate with the puny neighborhoods who are concerned with *silly* quality of life issues and their *burden* of subsidizing unquestioned development.

I advise only meeting with the groups with whose mission you agree or those that are televised. The rest have already chosen their candidates and will simply spin your wheels.

- **Do you question** the sustainability of unrestrained growth? Prepare to be immediately smeared as a "**No-growth NIMBY**" by the **Developers' Coalition (Developers, in turn, are referred to as The Pavers)**. We all have family and friends we love, who rely on development or work for the government, so the "**No Growth**" smear is simply a tactic to implant visions of financial ruin in the voter's mind. If you don't have the support of developers and special interest groups, you likely will not have the money to compete with the incumbents who do, and they all do.

- **Are you brave** enough to fight the system? Ventura's "*at large*" representation system ensures neighborhoods will not have a voice, as they would with **District** repre-

Skate Ojai Update

Skate Park Update Continued From Page 4...

Although Morse does contain some skatepark facilities, it consists only of 3 small on grade skating elements, not the specialized in ground skatepark Ojai is getting. Additionally, **Geoco** lists **Vallejo (Wardlaw)** and **Escondido (all wood)** on their submitted bid. These parks were contracted in 2005, before **Geoco Engineering, Inc.** was incorporated so **Geoco** was neither the prime contractor nor the subcontractor on those projects.

**contractors**" from those submitting, in order to qualify their bids. **Geoco** has stated they would hire no "*none*" (as noted on their official bid) sub-contractors; but would qualify their own "*employees*."

**Geoco** president **George Zadrozny**, had listed a **Wally Hollyday** as his number "1." **Geoco** employee, of "**Shotcrete Personnel**" (*The critical process requiring licensing, by which the concrete is applied*).

The **VIEW** phoned **Mr. Hollyday** to find out if he was in fact **Geoco's** number "1." employee and/or a licensed contractor. He said he was *neither an employee of Geoco, or a licensed Shotcreter*, but was in fact a "*designer*"

(*who had actually and originally co-founded the other bidder, California Skateparks, but as a Designer/business owner, not a contractor*).

**Hollyday** said, "*I've got my own thing goin' on.... I just didn't want him [George Zadrozny-Geoco] using my name to get the job, so I don't know whatever happened with it.... I kind of left him hanging a little bit. He was looking for me to qualify for Shotcrete, and then I wouldn't do that.... yeah shoot the Shotcrete. I just try and stay more involved in my own designs. I may end up being up there working on it, but uh.... I'm not supplying any guarantees that I'll be there doing it.... I got tired of people calling me up and bugging me about a job that.... you know*

*I wasn't really going to be able to do."* **EPOLOGUE: Ojai's Building Dept.** has again shelved the question of *skatepark contractor selection* indefinitely or.... until **city attorney, Monte Widders** spends more time, studying bids, submitted bids, etc., etc.... And so, of the 4 submitted bids, **California Skateparks** appears to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder and thus qualified to do the job.

The current "**Ojai Skate Park - Project Timeline**" (*see city website at www.ci.ojai.ca.us*) had projected the **Ojai Skatepark "Construction Phase"** was to commence **Feb. 2** and be completed by mid summer, or **July 23**. Construction has not yet begun.

- Joel Anderson

IS IT TIME TO CLEAN HOUSE ?  
You Have a Choice on Who to Replace  
Joe DeVito in June !  
In November, 3 or 4 Seats Will be  
UP for Re-election !!! Act Now !  
editor@OjaiandVenturaView.com

sentation. **Council** candidates must raise much larger amounts of money to cover marketing costs to the entire city rather than sections, so the little guy cannot compete without a large war chest. The **City Council** members claim they represent *all the people* in an "*at large*" system. They, however, jump in and fight like tigers to defeat *any citizens' initiatives* opposed by the **Developers Coalition**. If they represent *all of the voters*, how can they oppose *half of them*? The lack of an elected mayor also contributes to their *lack of accountability*. Changing this unaccountable form of government would require a change in the **City Charter** or an initiative, which would likely be fought by the **Developers Coalition**.

- **Are you brave** enough to take on reform? In **Ventura**, unions and special interest groups determine election outcomes. This is because the elections, costing taxpayers extra, are held in "*off years*" to keep the voter turnout low. During **Presidential or Governor** elections, turnout would much higher. This system ensures that mainly those who will directly benefit are the ones who show up to determine the outcome.

Then there is the sacred cow of pension reform, if you dare to address that. Over half of **Ventura's** work force commutes and the rest mostly work for or rely on the largesse of the **government**. Why are there no **Amgens** in **Ventura**? Why is **Ventura** known to be "*business unfriendly*"? It's a *company town, where the company is the government* and those in power like it that way.

- **Do you support** the continuing growth of big government? **Development finances** that growth by creating *more property taxes*. Because property taxes pay the freight, there is constant pressure for **City Hall** to develop in lock-step with the **Developers' Coalition**. There's only so much blood they can get out of the same old turnips so they must plant new ones.

The "**New Urbanists**", who *control Ventura's City Hall*, blew it during the last economic boom by trying to force developers to use *New Urbanist principles (think overcrowded living in massive cookie cutter buildings and miles of paving justified as eco-savvy)*. **Developers** lost valuable time guessing what the city wanted, and by the time everyone figured it out, the economic boom was over and many projects went bust.

Cow Town Bumpkin

R. ELLIS SMITH  
Lofty Ambitions ???



I had heard from a number of citizens that **Councilman Brian Brennan**, **Ventura's** number one official ecologist and beach saver has made a pact with his good ol' buddy **Steve Bennett**. Now **Mr. Bennett**, it is told, wants to make a run for **Louis Capps Congressional** job and

he is prepping **Mr. Brennan** for a position on the **Ventura County Supervisors** bench, his seat to be exact.

As the story goes **Mr. Brennan** has taken an office near the **Ventura County Center** so that **Mr. Bennett** can school him at close range. As a matter of fact, the story goes on to say that the reason that **Mr. Brennan** ran for **Ventura City Council** last time (*under Mr. Bennett's suggestion*) was to remain in the public view in order for **Mr. Bennett** to better place him in the **Supervisors** position.

Not really convinced of the truth of the entire story, I e-mailed **Mr. Brennan**, not once, but *twice*. I have not received any answer from **Mr. Brennan** so I am assuming that the bulk of the rumor may be true. If so, it is apparent that the "**Good ol' Boy's**" type of government has rapidly spread from the **Gang in the Ivory Tower**, across town, to the **Polished Bench of the Ventura County Supervisors**.

Now this whole thing may be a study in futility because I don't really think that **Mr. Steve (Two-Tongued) Bennett** has a snowball's chance in Hell to take over **Lois Capps's** position; the lady is just too well liked and **Steve Bennett** is simply a **Cow Town bumpkin**.

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



The city has done some penance by extending the developers' requirements to build, waiving their fees and then blaming the whole mess on the prior **Community Development Director** who had jumped ship.

- **Do you dare** to support an initiative that could moderate development?

It (*and you*) will be viciously smeared by the **Developers' Coalition**, as we saw during recent elections in **Oxnard, Ventura and Santa Barbara**. The big *smear money* comes primarily from out-of-town developers and their paid lobbyists who also finance the campaigns of the **City Council** incumbents.

In **Ventura**, the recently *appointed (not elected)* mayor, **Bill Fulton**, spearheaded the effective smear campaign against **Measure B**. His *company* is in the *development* planning business. Passage of **B** would have set in motion the writing of a view ordinance to be voted upon after it was written. Unlike other coastal cities, **Ventura** has no view protection ordinance, and the **Developers' Coalition** is determined to keep it that way. Views taken from the public for new commuter high-rises promise big profits. The **largest collective donors** to **Mr. Fulton's smear campaign** were **Los Angeles developers Ashkar, Casden, Decurion (C/o of Robertson Properties)** and of course, their paid lobbyists. Watch to see which council members *approve their projects*.

Sole support, on the **City Council**, for the view writing measure came from native **Venturan, Jim Monahan**. He loves development, but trusted the people to have a vote on its size. Not to be allowed, say the **New Urbanists** and **Mr. Fulton**, who are coalesced with the *out-of-town developer interests* and *insist they know* what is best for us (**Translation: the most profitable, unhealthy and extreme density disguised as 'eco-ness'**).

OJAI PROVIDES THE SOLUTION

**Wise Ojai leaders** figured it all out. They smartly stepped out of the food-fight between the **Developers' Coalition** and the neighborhoods and formed the **Ojai Valley Legal Defense Fund** to protect their quality of life through the courts. There are *laws* that provide protections from *over-building our environment* and *over-taxing* our resources. A local developer replied when I asked him why his project was cancelled, "*The neighbors 'lawyered up' and that changed the whole conversation.*" Increasingly, citizens' trust is in short supply.

Reactions are extreme on both sides and the city's *no longer hidden agenda* has erased what trust there may have been. The developers and their ancillary dependents see development as a survival issue, which in this economy, trumps *quality of life* issues. There is no room for reasonable dialogue when one's survival is at stake. Collaboration goes out the window.

- **So, what can** one do to make a difference?  
Fighting **City Hall** on its own

"Corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its' reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed."  
- Abraham Lincoln  
in a letter written in 1864

SHRED THE FED

Your Taxes Pay Public Salaries

"The President earns \$400,000 per year, along with a \$50,000 monthly expense account, a \$100,000 non-taxable travel account and \$19,000 for entertainment. The most recent raise in salary was approved by Congress and President Bill Clinton in 1999 and went into effect in 2001."

Office	Annual Salaries	New Dec. 7
President Barack Obama (U.S.)	\$400,000	\$400,000
Ventura County Library Director (Jackie Griffin)	\$197,605	\$197,605
Governor Arn. Schwarzenegger (CA.)	\$212,179	\$173,987
Attorney General (CA.)	\$184,301	\$151,127
Supt. of Public Instruction (CA.)	\$184,301	\$151,127
Ojai City Attorney (Monte Widders)	\$239,000	\$239,000
Ojai City Manager (Jere Kersnar)	\$214,000	\$214,000
Ojai Unified School District Supt.	\$170,000	\$170,000
Controller (CA.)	\$169,743	\$139,189
Treasurer (CA.)	\$169,743	\$139,189
Insurance Commissioner (CA.)	\$169,743	\$139,189
Lieutenant Governor (CA.)	\$159,134	\$130,490
Secretary of State (CA.)	\$159,134	\$130,490
Members, Board of Equal. (CA.)	\$159,134	\$130,490
Speaker of the Assy. & Pres. Pro Tem of the Senate (CA.)	\$133,639	\$109,584
Minority Floor Leader (CA.)	\$133,639	\$109,584
Majority Floor Leader	\$124,923	\$102,437
Second Ranking Minor. Leader (CA.)	\$124,923	\$102,437
All Legislators (CA.)	\$116,208	\$ 95,281

turf is a head-banging and expensive experience, since the city has the advantage of access to *our* tax dollars. The neighborhoods need to follow **Ojai** and move the bargaining table to the courts to ensure legal protections for the existing community.

As **Americans**, we have a *responsibility* to question government and dissent without fear of retaliation. So, get informed, question and spread the word. Watch the **Council** meetings, in **Ventura** on **Channel 15**. Attend on the first **Monday** of each month at **City Hall at 6pm at 501 Poli**. All citizens are allowed to question or speak on any subject for three minutes to the council on first **Mondays**. Go to the city's website at [www.cityofventura.net](http://www.cityofventura.net) and click on **Public Meetings** then **City Council** to see what's on the agenda for the next **Monday** night. You can also address the council on an agenda item on the night they discuss it. The Council's minds may *already be made up*, and what you say may not move them. However, there are about 20,000 people watching at home who deserve to hear more than *one point of view*.

- **Is there any reward** for running a losing campaign for office?

What you will feel most is gratitude for all the help that your supporters put forth. There is no way I could have managed without the caring and support of an amazing group of **Ventura** patriots who continually inspired me. There is also always that good feeling that comes from trying to help people who felt shut out of the process because they were not being heard. If you are an experiential learner, this journey provides a bonanza of education. A lifelong reward, however, is in the joy of meeting so many wonderful people whose values you share and who often will make very special lifelong friends.

We all have a responsibility to stay informed, speak out and speak the truth. Maybe now, I'll go to law school to prepare for the challenge of creating an even playing field and expanding the conversation.

**Camille Harris** was a candidate for **Ventura City Council** in last November's election. She was the proponent for **Measure B** and is the founder of **Ventura Citizens Organization for Responsible Development (VCORD - www.vcord.org)**. The organization had to sue the **City of Ventura** to force them to count the signatures on the petitions for the ballot measure.

She can be reached at [Camille@camilleharris.com](mailto:Camille@camilleharris.com)

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# Curtain Call

by Ron Rowe

**S**hirley Valentine is now playing at the Ojai Art Center. This is a sweetheart of a one-woman show starring Jenna Scanlan, directed by Frank Malley. The show, first appearing on the stage in 1989, is the story of an English woman trapped in a loveless marriage and totally disillusioned with a drab humdrum existence. Its overriding themes of hope and self-transformation are certain to resonate with anyone who is trapped in an unsatisfying relationship and feels the clock ticking away on a life of unfulfilled dreams. Show opened Jan. 29 and will run until Feb. 28. Reservations, call 640-8797.



**"I was amazed at how good his drunken staggering was, that was until he staggered offstage and into the front row of the theater and collapsed."**

When you are in a scene that includes alcohol, I know it's very tempting to use the real thing, instead of water or cold tea, don't do it. I remember an Ojai actor years ago, drinking real scotch, instead of coca cola. He fell into the orchestra pit, strangely he didn't remember until the next day.

The curtain has risen time to sit back and enjoy the show. *Your comments are welcome - Ron Rowe, rhjrowe@aol.com*

## EVENT CALENDAR

- Feb. 19 thru Mar. 4 - Open Hearts Art Exhibit by Artist/Actress Jane Seymour, Feb. 19 Artist Reception, Main Gallery, Montecito, Jane Seymour, award-winning actress, will make her Montecito debut as a fine artist. Ms. Seymour has established herself in the fine art world, and will be at the opening reception, Winter Olympics has chosen her design of two open hearts to be featured prominently. Main Gallery (VP reception - 6:30-7:30 Fri, Feb. 19), Opening, 7:30-9:30pm, 1269 Coast Village Rd, Montecito. *info. 969-0300 or www.mtmaingallery.com*
- Feb. 19 & 26 - Series of Classes in Basic California Native Plant Horticulture, free of charge, Ventura Family History Center. Are you curious about your great great grandfather was? Cathy Robbins and Rosemarie Salmon, 10 to Noon at the Family History Center, 3501 Loma Vista, Via. *info. 643-5607*
- Feb. 20 - Native Plant Landscaping Symposium, organized by The Channel Islands Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, event will be held at the Camarillo Ranch Foundation Barn, 201 Camarillo Ranch Road, Camarillo, Lunch included, Speakers include 7 highly recognized California Native Plant Horticulturists, Landscape Designers and Ecologists. *info. Pat McDermid 946-9948 mtcs@west.net*
- Feb. 20/21 - 25th Annual Ojai Peddler's Fair, 9-4pm, Sat/Sun, Chaparral Auditorium, 414 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai. Free Parking & admission is always free. Antiques, collectibles, handcrafts and international crafts. Benefit for the Mira Monte PTO. *info. Pat, 964-8915*
- Thru Feb. 21 & 28 - HELP of Ojai, Creative Writing, 9:30-11:30 *info. 646-5122*
- Thru Feb. 21 - "Homesick," Carnegie Art Museum, feelings of displacement, nostalgic perceptions of home visualized in contemporary photo, painting and sculpture by various artists. *oward, info. 385-8158*

## Idiot "Social" Medi-umms

**"The internet is a marvelous tool and clearly it is the informational delivery system of our future, but thus far it does not deliver much first-generation reporting. Instead, it leeches that reporting from mainstream news publications, whereupon aggregating websites and bloggers contribute little more than repetition, commentary and froth. They don't know what they don't know - which is a dangerous state for any class of folk -- and to those of us who do understand how subtle and complex good reporting can be, their ignorance is as embarrassing as it is seemingly sincere. A neighbor who is a good listener and cares about people is a good neighbor; he is not in any sense a citizen social worker. Just as a neighbor with a garden hose and good intentions is not a citizen firefighter."**

- David Simon  
(May 6, 2009-Speech before U.S. Senate)

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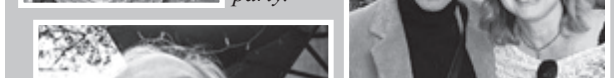
# Ojai Aquarians

by Ron Rowe

**L**ife in the Age of Aquarius, and to prove it five Aquarians pose for a birthday picture at Buddy Wilds birthday bash.



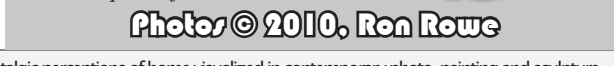
*Big smiles from Tree Bernstein as she hosts Buddy's party.*



*Love is being married to each other, say Frank Mally and wife Marlene.*



*Robert MacNeal says forget lip enlargement, try these lips on for size.*



Photos © 2010, Ron Rowe

...talgic perceptions of home visualized in contemporary photo, painting and sculpture by various artists. *oward, info. 385-8158*

- Thru Feb. 21 - Exhibition: Barbara Drucker: "Bread in One Hand / A Stone in the Other", runs Feb. 25 - Mar. 19, John Spoor Broome Library, CSUCI, Artist's Disc, Thurs, Mar. 4; 4-5pm followed by Artist's Reception, 6-8pm, Memories are as much signs of spiritual connections with past existences as they are sole validations of present meanings. *info. 437-8570, art@csuci.edu http://art.csuci.edu/gallery*
- Feb. 25 - Ventura County Rose Society monthly meeting at the Ventura County Office of Education Conference Center, 5100 Adolfo Blvd., Camarillo. Doors open 6:30 pm. Speaker presentation, 7:30 pm, program entitled, "Best Kept Secret in Southern California". *info. Janet Sklar, 818-993-6622 or Dawn-Marie Johnson, 523-9003*
- Feb. 27 - Santa Barbara Blues Society 33rd Birthday Show, feat. Rick Estrin & the Nightcats. Starts 7:30; Rick Estrin & the Nightcats are widely recognized as one of the best and most versatile blues bands in existence. This is a show not to miss! Bring a friend, party with us, and enjoy the big dance floor. Beer and wine available. *info. www.sbbus.org 722-8155 info@sbblues.org Oward, info. 385-8158*
- Feb. 27 - Full Moon Ecstatic Dance Event at The Ojai Foundation, with live music of Timo Bedkwith and World Wind, in the Ojai Foundation's new Council House, heated floating floor and sacred geometry design, the intention of the event is to create a safe nonverbal container where people can explore the depths of their spirit through movement. With minimal facilitation, World Wind will offer participants an invitation to connect deeply within themselves and also connect in community. It is a time to leave the shackles of the mind behind and bring the soul home to play in your body without judgments or agendas. With live improvisational music created specifically for ecstatic dance, World Wind adds another layer of connection as the dancers and musicians interact, inspiring each other in one beautiful circle of soulful expression. No Dance Experience necessary. *Events Continued on Page 9...*

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# Wine And Roses

by Ron Rowe

**N**ow that sunny days are here again in Ojai, it proves once again sunshine always follows the rain, one can forget winter. Coleridge wrote (1825), "All nature seems at work. Slugs leave their lair - The bees are stirring - birds are on the wing - And Winter, slumbering in the open air. Wears on his smiling face a dream of spring!" **William Morris** wrote the following, "Late February days; and now, at last, Might you have thought that Winter's woe was past; So fair the sky was and so soft the air."

One thing I didn't receive as a Christmas present... an umbrella pot. It's a round pot; at the base sits a small lip with a potted plant. The plant feeds off the excess water left behind by the umbrella; the more it rains the more the plant grows. If interested check with, [www.kyouei-ltd.co.jp](http://www.kyouei-ltd.co.jp)

Now for some bad news. I am becoming increasingly worried about our country, yes, I'm disappointed with **Pres. Obama**. With the failure of seven more banks, the number of bank seized by the FDIC last year reached 106. Despite leading their companies into the worst financial crisis since the **Great Depression**, 95 percent of senior officers and directors of the top 17 recipients of the federal finance bailouts are still in their posts.

Our **National Debt** is 13 trillion. We have borrowed over \$1 trillion from **China** to wage war in **Afghanistan** and **Iraq**. We are now told we must borrow more money to prevent **Yemen** from becoming a terrorist stronghold. The **Iraqi** blunder cost us **3 trillion** and counting, with over **4,050 Americans** killed and **30,000** wounded, plus the untold millions of **Iraqis** killed. We have spent **\$23 billion** on contract workers since **2002** and now we are repeating the same stupid tactics in **Afghanistan**.

**Iraq** has a massive budget surplus, but it is spending less than 1 percent to maintain and rebuild their infrastructure, according to **The Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA)**. They claim **Iraq** has built an **\$80 billion** surplus since **2005**. The war in **Afghanistan** has cost **\$243 billion** since **2001**, and rising... and will cost **\$1 billion** more for every additional U.S. soldier.

As we waste away billions of dollars on senseless wars, other countries are remodeling their infrastructure. **Japan** has modern airports and the world's fastest, safest bullet train. **China** also has efficient modern airports and they have just contracted with the U.S. firm, **ESolar (of Pasadena)** to build a 92-megawatt solar power plant. **Bill Gross, ESolar chairman** said **China** will build solar power plants which would generate over 2000 megawatts of electricity, equivalent to a large nuclear plant. **Gross** claims **China** is moving very fast, much faster than the U.S. in **Solar** technology toward a renewable energy goal.

**China** is now also the world's largest auto market ending the **United States** reign. Its **2009** sales jumped to over 46 percent,

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# Wine And Roses

by Ron Rowe

while U.S. auto sales fell 21 percent, our lowest since **1982**. **China** is now becoming the center stage for development of the 21st century global auto industry. Meanwhile, many of our states are broke and they are cutting back on education, health, etc. Many members of our government are paid off by lobbyists for drug, and bank business. When will the people cry out enough? It will be too late soon; **Bin Laden** will soon achieve his goal of **America** spending itself bankrupt, fighting impossible-to-win wars. People will always unite to fight an invader, maybe I'm being too pessimistic, any other thoughtful comments?

Just read that **Goldman Sachs'** profit in the fourth quarter was **\$4.8 billion**, **\$16.2 billion** went to salaries and bonuses, and **J.P. Morgan** profits rose to **\$3.3 billion**; it makes you think.

Compared to **Europeans**, **Americans** spend more time in the bathroom each year than on vacation. **Italians** spend 42 days a year, on vacation, **Germans** 35 days, the **French** 37 days and **Americans** just 13 days a year, according to the **Family and Work Institute (FWI)**.

On a lighter side, lawyers don't always win their cases; a **New York** lawyer failed in his attempt to deduct **\$350,000** he spent on prostitutes, pornography and sex toys. **William Hulbert**, age 77, told a federal judge he used sex therapy to battle his depression and erectile dysfunction and his deductions were legitimate medical deductions. The judge disagreed, saying **New York** does not recognize prostitutes as a medical necessity, plus it's a violation of penal code.... Guilty, pay up.

**Lawyer Halby** and inmate **Scott Gomez**, who injured himself breaking out of a **Colorado** prison, is suing the state on the grounds that the guards should have done more to stop him from escaping. He fell 40 feet while trying to scale a 40 foot wall.

**Texan Leroy Greer** is suing a 1 800 flower service for **\$2 million**. He claims he sent roses to his mistress and asked to keep the transaction secret. Alas, shortly after the transaction, a Thank you for your business note arrived at his house. His wife saw it and is now suing him for divorce, demanding an extra **\$400,000** based on the evidence of her husbands adultery. If you are married and live in **France**, don't insult each other. A new law prohibits married couples from psychological violence, which is insulting each other. The law will result in jailtime for offenders, plus fines. Police say it will be

difficult to enforce. Good news for users of **Viagra**; inventor **Pep Torres** of **Spain** has created bedsheets with pre-infused **Viagra** in the fabric. **Pep**, claims his **Viagra** laced bedsheets allow the drug to seep into a man's pores leaving him and her unable to concentrate on anything except, well you know what. I doubt if **Rains** will carry them..... I know that true love can last forever, but there are limits. A 55-year-old **Vietnamese** man truly loved his wife. When she died he was grief stricken with his loss. He spent two years sleeping on her grave, but when the rain and cold affected his health he gave up. He dug up his wife up and used clay to restore some of her womanly form, he then took her home to his bed. He admitted that he was a person who does things differently.

And in **Venezuela**, a man, **Carlos Camejo** woke up screaming during his autopsy. Paramedics thought he was dead when he was in a car accident and they took him to the morgue. **Carlos** said the pain of the autopsy woke him up. If you drink wine and have no place to store it, don't despair; buy a self-contained, walk-in wine vault. It has stainless steel walls and doors, a touch screen console, label, scanner, inventory software, plus being temperature controlled, holds and catalogs over 1,000 bottles of wine. If interested check [www.monogram.com](http://www.monogram.com) Oh the cost, **\$25,000**.

**Sancerre** is one of the world's greatest **Sauvignon Blanc** Wines; the mere mention of its name evokes a world of beautiful, luscious white wine. Three of the top rated superb wines are: **Lucian Croches Sancerre, 2007**, at **\$22** it's a steal, great depth and texture. **Jean Paul Picard Sancerre, 2007**, cost **\$22**, crisp clean complex. **Domain Vacheron Sancerre, 2007**, wonderful floral citrus and mint flavors, only **\$32**. Time to be away and to contemplate life's mysteries over a glass of **Sauvignon Blanc**. Peace to all living beings on earth. *Your comments are welcome Ron Rowe, rhjrowe@aol.com*

**THE CHAINS THAT BIND YOU**  
"When locally-based, family-owned newspapers... were consolidated into publicly-owned newspaper chains, an essential dynamic, an essential trust between journalism and the communities served by that journalism was betrayed. Economically, the disconnect is now obvious. Where family ownership might have been content with 10 or 15 percent profit, the [out of town] chains demanded double that and more, and the cutting began.... fresh editors arrived from out of town.... they would be moving on to bigger and better opportunities. So much talent has been torn from newsrooms...." - David Simon (May 6, 2009-Speech before U.S. Senate)

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**"The Ojai Friendly Chamber Mixer"**  
Festivities at the Jan. 28 Ojai Chamber of Commerce Mixer at the Casa Ojai Inn. Local successes in business mingled poolside at the no-host Bar event, enjoying appetizers and friendly discussion. The chamber seems to be pushing for City of Ojai budget managers to adopt a buy-more-local-chamber-member atmosphere to help struggling business.



## Incrementalism: A Long Easy Journey on the Road to Ruin

by Jefferson Pinto

Burning the United States flag won't ruin this country. Displaying religious holiday decorations on public property won't ruin this country. Gay marriages won't ruin this country. However, the National Debt and the Erosion of Truths and Basic Rights will Demolish this Country!

Did you know that in the quiet between Christmas and New Year's the National Debt ceiling was raised? On Dec. 28, 2009 (about 6 weeks ago) President Obama signed into law an increase of the national debt ceiling (the credit limit of the United States) from \$12.1 to \$12.4 trillion. Quite simply, that was an increase of \$260 billion (\$260,000,000) or roughly \$800 for every citizen.

### Tell Me If You See A Pattern Here ?

Date	Debt Limit
June 2002	\$6.4 Trillion
May 2003	\$7.4 Trillion
Nov. 2004	\$8.2 Trillion
Mar. 2006	\$9.0 Trillion
Sept. 2007	\$9.8 Trillion
July 2008	\$10.6 Trillion
Oct. 2008	\$11.3 Trillion
Feb. 2009	\$12.1 Trillion
Dec. 2009	\$12.4 Trillion

The National Debt has doubled within the last ten years.

### No New Taxes

We've heard from presidents, past and present, "No new taxes." That's sort of like the food label that says, "No sugar added."

I don't really care how or who added the sugar; my primary concern is how much sugar it contains.

**LICENSE TO STEAL:** 'One member of Congress was quoted as saying something like, "Now it's one percent, but what's to keep it from going to two, or even three percent." Another member responded, "You're crazy!" - 1913, Congressional Debates which resulted in the 16th Amendment - Income Tax Law

It matters not your political party affiliation. The National Debt is going to hurt every citizen in ways most don't understand. Oh, wait a minute. Don't think for a minute existing taxes won't be raised. I assure you it is a certainty. The political trick is to stick it the group of taxpayers least likely inflict damage to the politicians' re-election chances.

### Baby Steps

Like the lobster that is put into the warm pot of water as it slowly warms to a boil, we may not comprehend the erosion of our wealth or rights until long after it's too late to avoid the consequences.

### The Consequence

The smaller the difference, the lesser the probability of detection. Reports on the stock market every day is nice, if you're a professional broker. But, to the casual investor, it's information overload.

Instead of showing a 1 percent change per day for a month, you'd surely notice a 30 percent month-to-month change.

Governmental spending isn't the only incrementalism that is hurting us. Our comingled truths are equally as destructive. I remember at the beginning of *Dragnet*, the narrator said in a bold voice, "The story you are about to see is true. The names have been changed to protect the innocent." Not so long ago, I noticed this print in the beginning of a movie, "Based on a true story." Re-

cently the trend is to give some bologna like, "Based on true events."

I'm guessing this is supposed to give the viewer some emotional buy in and establish some credibility.

That's nice.... Exactly which events portrayed in the move are really true? I really enjoyed the move *Titanic*.

Yes, there was a luxury steam ship called the *Titanic*. Yes, it did hit an iceberg and sink. No, there wasn't a woman named "Rose," nor was there a huge jewel named "The Heart of the Ocean."

Don't get me wrong. I don't want to obstruct creative expression of the entertainment industry. Just don't rewrite history and pass it off as fact.

I also remember when there was a huge blue stripe across the TV screen that said "EDITORIAL." The introduction said, "THIS IS A CHANNEL X EDITORIAL." This made it very easy to distinguish between the news and the opinion of the news team. When was the last time you saw or heard an announcement delineating the editorial from the news reporting? That's OK. I can't either and my memory isn't that bad ... yet.

The Great Wall between "news" and advertising further blurs in the form of an "Infomercial."

News-papers aren't to be left out as they often have "advertisements." When it comes to cars, hybrids

are sort of a good thing. When it comes to fact versus opinion, advertising/editorial hybrids aren't so good.

I commend the many movements that save the environment from incremental pollution and safeguard our planet. Doesn't that same sort of logic apply to the government and our media? How about the same sort of movement to prevent the erosion of our economic stability/freedom?

### Time Warp

My father had an old joke. A prostitute goes into the bank to get change for a 100 dollar bill. The teller closely examines the currency and says, "I'm sorry, this bill is counterfeit." To which the prostitute proclaims, "Oh my, I've been raped." One of the unfortunate revelations about this joke is the "assault" wasn't discovered until long after the act was committed.

### Consequence

The longer the time lag between the event, and the consequence, the greater the damage and the lesser ability to comprehend the effect.

When you touch the hot burner on the stove, you immediately feel pain and rapidly jerk your hand back. Thankfully this reflex is inborn. In contrast, suppose it took your brain 60 seconds to process the heat and communicate it in the form of pain. I can smell the burning flesh now.

By way of background, the 16th

Amendment, ratified in 1913, gave congress the power to collect taxes on incomes. It was implemented with a 1 percent tax rate. At the time of the debate, quite a controversy ensued. One member of Congress was quoted as saying something like, "Now it's one percent, but what's to keep it from going to two, or even three percent." Another member responded, "You're crazy!"

My father, who smoked for over 30 years, frequently asked me, "What's the best way to stop smoking?"

**DON'T START** "What's the best way to pay back the National Debt? Don't Start deficit spending! Duh!

Jefferson Pinto is a retired CPA and holds an MBA from one of the finer accredited universities in this country.

## Art's Vile Awards

- Art Isgur, Oak View

Here we are in February. The memories of 2009 are, slowly, sinking into ever fading memories. For many this is a time to look ahead. But not for me! This is the perfect time to look back at where we have been; to put the past year into perspective.

I found that much of 2009 was a year filled with....bad guys and gals, villains, if you will. I could have given Vile Awards to a number of corporate scandals, such as UBS, the large Swiss bank that paid a fine of almost a billion dollars for helping very rich Americans avoid their federal taxes. I could also have chosen Blackwater, (now known as Xe Corporation), for receiving more than a billion dollars in federal contracts, yet was charged with fraud, arms smuggling and tax evasion. But I did not award any corporation. No, I awarded

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seven individuals and one federal office with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The eight VILE AWARDS, in reverse order, follows.

**NUMBER 8: Brit Hume - Mr. Hume** is a news analyst for Fox News. Technically his reward is for the very first week of 2010, but we won't remember these utterances in 2011, so he now receives this eighth place Vile Award. During a panel discussion he sounded like a religious proselytizer. You see he urged Mr. Tiger Woods, the golf player, to give up Buddhism. Mr. Hume seems to feel that Buddhism offers neither forgiveness nor any redemption as one might find in Christianity. He is quoted as saying, "Tiger, turn to the Christian Faith and you can make a total recovery and be a great example to the world." And you thought only left-wingers criticize people for their religious beliefs.

**NUMBER 7: Former Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao**, (during George W. Bush's Administration) - Ms. Chao blames the Democrats in general and President Obama in particular, for the rise in unemployment. It seems that Demos are speaking about higher taxes on the wealthy, regulations and health-care mandates. These 'discussions' have made employers fearful of hiring new employees because they say all the talk of mandates, etc. will rob employers of the profits they need so they would be able to afford new employees. Secretary Chao further said American unemployed need, "...a time out on government actions that increase the burdens on the private sector...."

She never did mention the increases in the unemployment rate during the last eighteen months of... the Republican Administration. An oversight maybe?

**NUMBER 6: Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano** - Remember the would-be terrorist on the airplane trip to Detroit on Xmas Day? He was subdued by the very heroic actions of fellow passengers and the good luck that the fuse did not function. Within hours everyone knew that Homeland Security

## Vile Awards Cont.

had not connected the dots to the potential danger of the passenger in question, but Secretary Napolitano rushed to meet with reporters and announce that our system worked just they way it was designed to work. It is true that she retracted her statements a day or so later, but she does deserve a Vile Award.

**NUMBER 5 & 4: This tie is between Senators Max Baucus of Montana and Joe Lieberman of Connecticut** - Baucus is Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee; the committee that was principally responsible for the healthcare legislation sent to the House of Representatives. Baucus fiddled, trying for at least one Republican Senator to vote for the healthcare reform. He fiddled while millions of Americans went without healthcare. Lieberman proposed, a few years back, an extension of Medicare to people in their fifties. At the time the GOP was in control of the Senate. The proposal never came out of committee. Now, with the Demos in charge, and about ready to include HIS ideas into legislation, dear Joe balked at this inclusion. He just couldn't support his own idea, (it might have limited the profits of insurance companies that contributed to his elections). The Medicare proposal vanished. Baucus and Lieberman certainly deserve their Vile Awards.

**NUMBER 3: Peggy Noonan** - a former speech-writer for President Bush I. In an op-ed piece in *The Wall Street Journal* she wrote that if healthcare reform dies it will be a disaster only for President Obama. It seems she has forgotten the 45 million Americans without health insurance. She forgot about millions more with inadequate health insurance. Does she mean that if you are poor, working or not, one does not need healthcare? Is that what is meant by 'compassionate conservative'?

**NUMBER 2: I.C.E. - ICE** stands for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, (this is an office within the Department of Homeland Security). Since the last year or so of the Bush Administration, ICE has been a law unto itself. At a conference in 2008 James Pendergraph, (an administrator in ICE), in front of police and sheriffs, said, "If you do not have enough evidence to charge someone...we can make him disappear." ICE has almost 200 unlisted and unmarked, (secret), subfield offices spread throughout the United States. If we are a nation of laws and not individual desires, why has Homeland Security dithered and not made the addresses of their subfield offices public information. How can people be made to disappear in our country, by our officials? Where would that power come from?

**NUMBER 1: Joe Wilson**, the lowest of the low. He is the congressperson, from South Carolina, that yelled, "Liar," at President Obama as the President was addressing a joint session of Congress. Do you remember Wilson, now? We certainly do not have to agree with President Obama but isn't there something called common courtesy? Rep. Wilson needs, aside from our award, a class in civilized manners.

There you have it. Maybe I left out someone you feel I should have included. Maybe you agree with my selections. In any case, send me an email and let me know.

- Art Isgur, Oak View  
atisgur809@yahoo.com

## PRESS RELEASE - VENTURA CODE ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

### MEETING - MARCH 1ST

Dear Venturans, If you have ever changed a water heater or fixed a leaky faucet without a permit, or bought a home or business property that was already improved, you could face deep penalties and need to get involved in what may be a history-making effort and a one time chance of getting your property legal again.

After an enormous, nearly year long, effort by citizens, some of whom had been cited proactively by code enforcement, the City Council voted to allow a collaboration between the community and the city to address the issues of Grandfathering, Permits, Amnesty and Code Enforcement and come back to the council with recommendations. The program that is developed could become a model for other historic cities across the country, who are faced with the Code Enforcement Continued Page 19...

## The Blahs, The Blues and Cabin Fever

by Mary-Jo Murphy

If the day of love made you feel like ordering a large pepperoni pizza and eating it all by yourself or downing a gallon of Häagen-Dazs, you're not alone. Some of us are still trying to get over a bad case of VDD, Valentine Deficiency Disorder.

While \$100,000 is spent each year on flowers, many of us didn't even get a single daisy, much less a dozen roses. Could it be that your loved one took your diet resolutions seriously? If so, you likely weren't at the receiving end of one of the 300,000 boxes of candy sent Feb. 14th. My own mailbox has been empty since the celebration began in the 5th Century and certainly since *Be Mine* messages started going out in the 1700s.

To make matters worse, though our gardens and reservoirs are thankful for the moisture, many are finding that the cold, rainy days of winter bring on the blahs, the blues, cabin fever and a desire to relieve our boredom. Five-percent of those affected by the shorter days and lack of sunshine feel hungrier during these colder, darker months. As you sit home, your refrigerator calls to you. There's a good reason.

Our serotonin, a neurotransmitter associated with hunger control, drops during the colder, darker months. When we begin to crave baguettes, mashed potatoes and tortellini, the compulsions are not all in our heads. These yummy foods, specifically the carbohydrates they contain, raise the levels of tryptophan in our brains. This causes the release of serotonin. We are rewarded with a boost to our mood.

So you think, *I feel so hopeless, I just promised myself that I'd lose ten pounds, and now the weather is sabotaging my efforts.* What next?

I've got help for you, but it requires exercise, and exercise. Instead of focusing on the positive, I'd like you to consider a subject that is scandalously the opposite. Ask yourself; what do I hate? To what do I have an aversion? A passionate dislike? What people, places, activities, events and situations make me feel like I'm in prison? Try to think of things that you encounter on a regular basis, disagreeable circumstances that challenge you more than once in while, because these are the things that regularly trip you up.

Be honest. What puts your body and mind into escape mode, which could translate into the intense feeling of being a trapped, caged and then hungry? A too chatty neighbor? A passive aggressive coworker? Any situation that gets you thinking about how good cleaning the oven would be. Don't feel compelled to share your insights about what makes you feel trapped, frustrated, or tortured with anyone. They'll have a list of their own, and what if you're on it?

Scientists tell us the human nervous system is similar to that of rats. Insights into why our weight-loss or give-up-smoking plans fail have been found by studying the responses of these beady-eyed creatures to their surroundings. Even though I'm rodent phobic, I'd like to share an interesting study I read recently.

One group of rats was confined in cages with nothing to do except choose between drinking regular sugar water or water laced with opiates. Guess which lever they pushed.

Another luckier group was placed in a delightful, zoolike space called *Rat Park*. In this environment they could burrow, run through tunnels, visit with friends and roam about freely doing the things that rats love. This second group was offered the same addictive cocktails. But guess what; they chose to drink only plain sugar water!

One might conclude that the confined group accidentally pushed the lever a few times and got high. After that they were powerless to stop. They had a serious addiction, but it was only physical. But this is a study about how environment contributes to compulsive, behavior. Also it's a story with an encouraging message.

Eventually, as part of the experiment, the "junkie" rats were given a reprieve from their deprived, unproductive imprisonment. Moved to the more interesting *Rat Park*, the addicted rodents stopped pressing the opiate lever. They

turned away from their obsession and got busy doing things they enjoyed. Their new behavior caused physical withdrawal, but they endured it.

Martha Beck, in *The Four-Day Win*, suggests **The Three Bs**; things you can do to relieve you own feelings of being a rat in a cage. This positive behavioral strategy just might keep you out of dangerous, *I-can't-help-myself* territory.

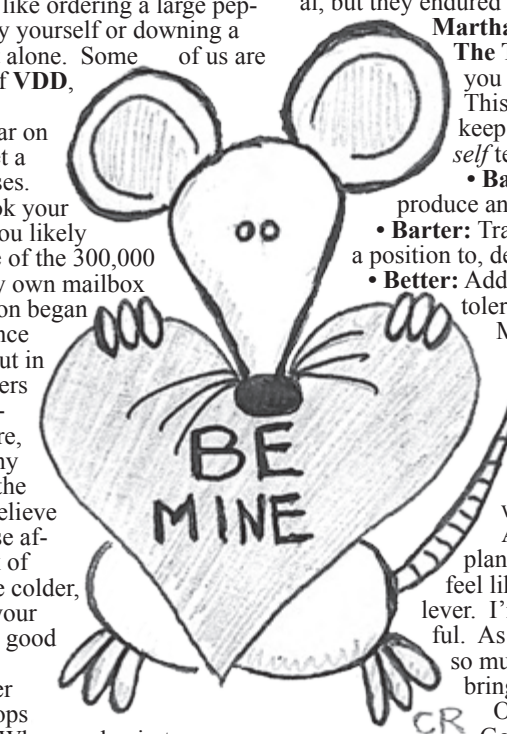
**Bag it:** Don't do it unless to not would produce an outright catastrophe.  
**Barter:** Trade with someone else. Or if you are in a position to, delegate it.  
**Better:** Add elements that make the situation more tolerable.

My advice is always to start small, but continue to practice your new approach. Don't be dramatic about this. Even modest attempts at bagging, bartering and bettering can keep your mind open to a sense of your own freedom. Remember you can choose which lever you push.

**Addendum:** I am writing this on an airplane, one of the few places that makes me feel like pressing the candy bar and salty chip lever. I'm feeling trapped, bored and resentful. As I sit here, no one is offering me even so much as a bag of peanuts, and I forgot to bring a snack to better my situation!

Oh great, here comes my free diet Coke. Gotta go.

Mary-Jo Murphy, MS, RN, CDE, Health and Diabetes Educator, Motivational Speaker, Ventura  
mjmurph221@yahoo.com www.mary-jomurphy.com



## EVENT CALENDAR

Continued From Page 6...

Experience Required. 7:30 - 9:30 pm, in the Council House at *The Ojai Foundation*, 9739 Ojai-Santa Paula Rd., Upper Ojai, info. 646-8343  
- Feb. 28, 4:30pm - "Me and Orson Welles," film screening by the Ojai Film Society, Ojai Theatre, UK/USA, 2008, 1 hr., 54 min., Rated PG-13, Ojai Theatre formerly the Ojai Playhouse, info. 646-8936, or www.ojaifilmsociety.org  
- Mar 4 thru April 11 - 9th Annual "Awesome Art" Exhibition, at the Ojai Museum, Reception: Mar. 11, 4-6pm, Annual Student Art Exhibit, showcases upper level student artwork from Nordhoff High, Thatcher, Besant Hill, Ojai Valley, Villanova, and Oak Grove schools, group exhibition features 150 works of art, including ceramics, sculpture, drawings, paintings, photography, graphic design, digital, and mixed media pieces. PLEASE NOTE: many of the artworks are available for sale. This is an opportunity to collect new talent, purchase a special & affordable original gift, and support the Ojai Valley Museum programs. Karen O'Neill and Michael Burgos have granted monetary awards to selected exhibiting students in memory of their mother, Marion E. Smith. Mrs. Smith was a longtime Ojai resident, an Ojai Valley Museum docent and a youth art supporter. The monetary awards, given in her name, are for merit and scholarship. The judges will be Ojai Studio Artist members: Bruce Tomkinson, Ceramist; Shahestra, Painter; and Valerie Freeman, Photography/Digital Arts. The O'Neill and Burgos grant also allows free admission to all students visiting the exhibit. The Ojai Valley Museum, 130 W. Ojai Ave., open Thurs & Fri, 1 to 4 pm, Sat 10 am to 4 pm, Sun from Noon to 4 pm  
info. 640-1390, ojaikumuseum@sbcglobal.net www.ojaivalleymuseum.org

- Mar. 5/6, 4 & 8pm - Intl. Women's Festival, Earl Warren S.B., info. www.womenfestivals.org  
- Mar 20 - Ojai Bellydance Festival, 2nd Annual, brings the top names in the So. Cal. World Music and Dance scene to Ojai for a day. The festival sponsors a "Culture of Peace" to foster peace and appreciation for cultural diversity. In an age where Near East countries have conflicts with

Events Continued Page 15

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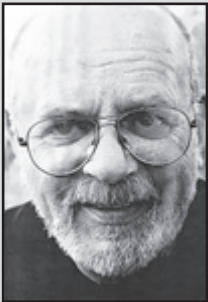
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“Don’t Tell Me Who I am... Let me guess !”  
**The Obsessive Personality** Ψ



The Obsessive Personality Continued from Page 3...

he big picture. Pleasure is dangerous and relaxation is judged improper, unsafe or worse, but pleasure is not a luxury; it is a profound psychological need. The world the obsessive needs to be freed from has been inside all the time, which is positive, because internally, if committed, he or she can make changes. Reasons for being lonely have to be understood; so do issues surrounding “dirt, time and money” as well as the obedience-defiance conflict. They need to learn how to play, allow compassion and passion to flow and learn how to forgive themselves. Fears of losing control have to be taken on so the obsessive can slowly trust and love again.

Most certainly, love and compassion are the foundation of helping anyone. Without love there is no trust, without trust there is no therapeutic alliance, and without an alliance, there is no healing. This being said, the therapeutic enterprise is also about truth, because truth sets us free, especially and most importantly the truth about ourselves. Therapy is not primarily about holding hands and coddling someone.

Acknowledging one’s weakness is the beginning of healing. Becoming the best person we can be requires that we accept the weakest and worst in us as well. Accepting our weaknesses liberates our strength and then, finally, we are free of the tension of pretense.

One for all and all for one. Love to Mother Meera  
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**OJAI CITY COUNCIL RAGGEDY EDGE**  
 — Dick Lynch

Like the great Rolling Stone’s song, “Gimme Shelter” the girl in this picture would like to sit because she is handicapped but the area under the seat is a muddy mess so she has chosen to stand. She has been there a while having missed the bus.

The poor riders of the Bus-Trolley are getting their brains baked out by sitting in the Sun waiting for a ride.

Is this the best we can do? We ask people to use Public Transit and make them suffer in the process.

Take a long look at the Von’s location, no Sun Shade! Wait until it starts raining....we will see someone run over at the “Y” trying to keep out of the Rain on the North side of the street having to dodge traffic to catch the bus on the other. Wonder how fast the handicap can cross the street in the rain?

Lets dump the City Manager for not

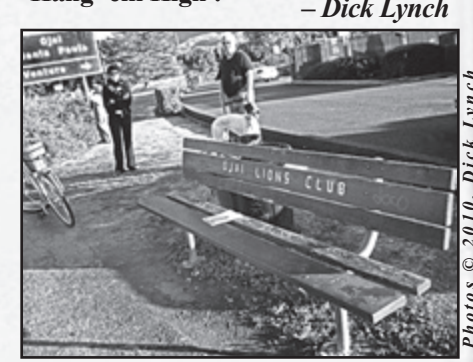


Those poor people should move to a richer community where the City has more money to provide for the poor....

**“Gimme Shelter”**



getting this basic need completed. The people of Ojai should be ashamed for allowing this to happen while they collect millions for the Rich people to go to a concert at Libbey. The music Festival should help all the citizens of Ojai not just the privileged and wealthy.  
**Hang ‘em High!**



— Dick Lynch

Photos © 2010, Dick Lynch

**War Is A Racket ?**

Continued from Page 2...

he was fed up. It seems that **General Butler** was sick of the greedy **Wall Street Bankers** and armament corporations being the only group who actually benefitted from the act of war and **USA imperialism**.

Seventy-four years after this books publication it seems as though nothing was learned from this wise mans’ musings. There exists an organization, [www.WarIsARacket.org](http://www.WarIsARacket.org) where some of **General Butlers** concerns will be laid out for you.

Has it ever occurred to any of **The VIEW** readers how the individuals who don’t serve in the military, much less during war time, are all hawks? Whereas the soldiers serving in time of war are not afraid of war, but want to make sure the sacrifice is warranted. This reminds me of the **Reagan Administration** where **General Alexander Haig** was the dove and

**Caspar Weinberger** was the hawk. Enter **2001** and **Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld**, who spent three years during the mid to late **1950s (no war)** and attained the rank of “O3 – Naval Lieutenant.” Then there

was **Secretary Of State Colin Powell**, who served a long and honorable career in the military before being named **Bush 43s Secretary of State. Rumsfeld’s** push, push, push for war.... **Colin Powell** making a speech before the UN telling us all how frightened we should be of **Saddams’** non-existent **Weapons of Mass Destruction**.... Then **Secretary Powells** departure from the **Bush Cabinet**. Is it possible that **Mr. Powell** realized that he had been played by the hawks? Of course the only honorable thing for **Mr. Powell** to do was resign.

Military professionals take a dim view of getting young **Americans killed for Wall Streeters** and corporate profits. Is it possible that **Colin Powell** was starting to feel the war is a racket phenomenon? In his position as **Secretary of State** he couldn’t speak out about any of the **Bush** administrations **run-up** to the war. That must have felt like just so much propaganda to a warrior.

Two years prior to **911**, the **Project for a New American Century (PNAC)** – neoon “think” tank) was saying that a **Pearl Harbor-like** event was needed to goad **Americans** to war. Wow seems like **911** was just what the **(PNAC) Doctor** ordered. I encourage you all to do some research on **PNAC** goals, as I can lead you all to water but I will not even try to make you drink. Sheep, or well informed voter; the choice is yours.

The **Bush Administration** had no intention of investigating **911**. Is that odd to you or is it just me? The largest terrorist attack in the world and we had apparently no interest in how it was carried out. Is it because the **Bush 43**

Administration had lot’s of details they were keeping from the citizenry? This reminded me of the **Warren Commission** after the **JFK Assassination**. There was so much skepticism that **Lee Oswald** acted alone, that **LBJ** appointed his own **blue ribbon commission** to gain a measure of credibility. Whereas **LBJ**, the **consummate political animal**, saw the need for the **Warren Commission**; the **Bush 43** group had to be harshly prodded by the families of the **911** victims.

I wonder if it was the **Israeli Nationals** cheering and high fiving from their great vantage point as the first jet crashed into the **WTC** that created some suspicions amongst family members? The **Nationals** were arrested the day after the attacks, held for a couple months, then quietly deported back to **Israel**.

Although the **911 Commission** created more questions than it answered, it opened the door that will never be closed until all the questions and irregularities concerning these attacks are fully answered. When we come to the realization that **911 was the impetus** for this **Iraq war**, isn’t it time to thoroughly investigate **911** and what the administration knew before the attack? No less than five foreign governments warned us of a terrorist attack being planned using hijacked planes.

Are any of you aware of **Northern Vigilance**, a **NORAD** exercise that was in play at the time of the **911** attacks? It seems that this exercise pulled several interceptor fighters away from the north east, off to **Alaska** and northern **Canada**. During the attacks there was also an ongoing exercise in the **Northeast** that simulated **airliners being hijacked**. This accounted for several false blips on the

radar screens of the **FAA controllers** who were trying to react to the eminent threat. As soon as the hijackings were confirmed, the **phony blips** were removed, but the **damage was done**. Between the lack of interceptors and phony blips the terrorist mission succeeded.

This takes me back to the **phony Gulf of Tonkin attack**, which was the reason given for the escalation of the **Vietnam War**. It would appear that phony attacks are no longer an effective means of dragging us to war. I’m not sure this is a good thing, for the **3,000** plus who died during the **911** attacks. You be the judge!

How many of you share **General Butlers’** opinion? That is besides myself of course.

This short article is dedicated to the memory of **Howard Zinn** Aug. 24, 1922 to Jan. 27, 2010. May he always rest in peace, for during his **WWII** service, **Mr. Zinn** came to believe war should be avoided at all costs.

— Larry Naron



Gen. Colin Powell

**What’s Shakin’?**



Rummy and Saddam

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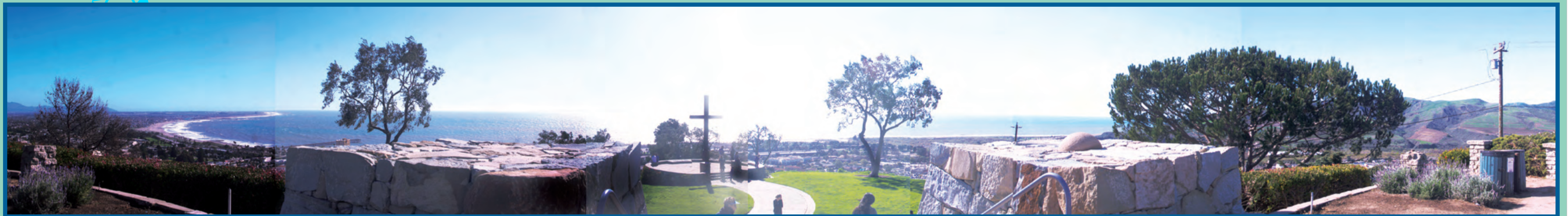
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See Art Class Schedule  
 Page 22, Col. 1

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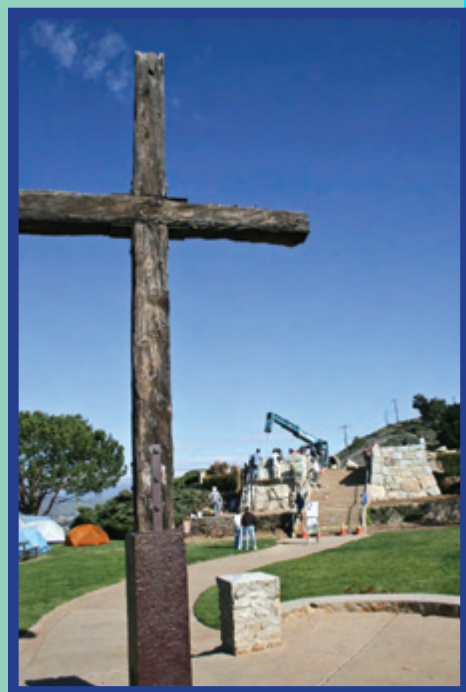
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Ventura Coastline from Grant Park

composite photo © 2010, Joel Anderson



The two ramparts flank the existing steps to Grants Park Cross in Ventura.



Arranging the placement of the second last rock at the front of the west rampart, Suminori Awata (dressed in white) guides the crane cable down. The rock sits firmly, with no wobble, perfectly level with the stringline at the top edge. The man in the white cap passes instructions to the crane operator.

story and photos © 2010, Alasdair Coyne

On a visit to the worksite on Sat. Jan. 16, the two ramparts were almost complete. Just as well, as the next day began almost a

week of rain. When the project broke ground Jan. 8, Suminori had said they could maybe complete one rampart in ten days, but not two. He hadn't underestimated how much work lay ahead – he'd only failed to grasp how much quality help he had available. The ramparts were built – with donated labor – in conjunction with an international stonemasons' conference the following week, in Ventura.

It took Suminori Awata only half an hour to locate and place – perfectly – the nearly half a ton rock, at the top of the ramparts in the hills above Ventura. He continued at the same pace – four such enormous rocks in only two hours – as he led a team to complete a stonework project at Grants Park Cross in January.

Suminori Awata is a 15th generation stonemason in the Anoh tradition of Japan (He's the one in white in the photos.) He came over with his father Jyunji Awata, the 14th generation – now retired – mason.

The team of about fifteen masons worked from dawn to dusk for at least nine days. About eight tents were on the west edge of the grass, for those masons who stayed on site. Toilets and a kitchen truck were right there. By Sat. Jan. 16th, the father, Jyunji, had

talked to the upcoming stonemasons' conference. Written by the father Jyunji, it contained beautiful pictures of the Anoh rockbuilding tradition – his own family's historical record, stretching back some 400 years. Ancient castles sat upon long rock ramparts such as these two in Ventura – all wider at the base and gracefully narrowing to the top. These walls withstand earthquakes unharmed. The team of visiting stonemasons worked on chiseling rock faces flat where needed, and filling in the gaps with small fitted rocks. Some of them also started a boulder retaining wall above the lower walkway to the cross, to use up some of the dozens of extra rocks on site.



The crane lowers the final large rock in the top row/west edge of the second rampart. Note how perfectly level the cable holds the rock.

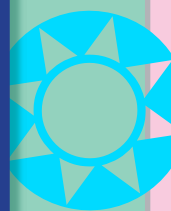


Suminori Awata's assistant shifts a boulder on the west side of the rampart with a prybar, while the crane cable holds the rock a little up. Suminori knocked one melon-sized chunk off this boulder, with one perfect sledgehammer blow. The mason at the right chisels to shape the rock placed an hour before – he was skilled enough to be able to chisel without protective eyewear.

With an estimated 200 large rocks in the two ramparts, over the nine days of nonstop construction, Suminori Awata kept up his pace of placing 2 rocks per hour, day in, day out. A master stonemason at work. – Alasdair Coyne, Ojai, www.sespewild.org



As the masons finish the west rim of the west rampart, the view up the hill from the cross now shows two finished rampart fronts. Note the graceful way the ramparts narrow to the top, and how beautifully the rock jigsaw puzzle fits together. The rows of holes on some of the rock edges in the right rampart are visible signs of a traditional Japanese rock-splitting technique.



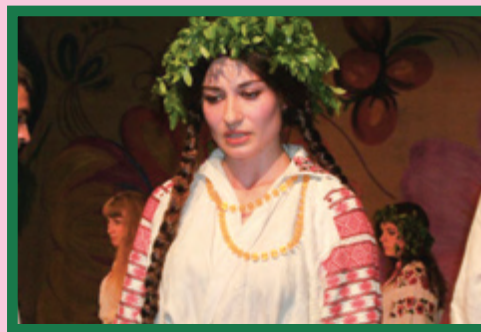
Drama in the Ukraine



Goose family near Rivne, Ukraine

# Letters from the Ukraine

by Larissa Young



Ukrainian girl in traditional costume

The people here are extremely nervous now that the elections are over. The present president at least had the policy of being very strongly in favor of the Ukrainian language and culture. The future president is very Russian biased. Back in the thirties there was a deliberate plan of genocide on the part of Stalin (which included the famine) and Ukrainians were ousted from their homes and Russians replaced them.



A Church in the Carpathians

Hence the large Russian population and also the fact that only Russian was taught in the schools during the Soviet regime, means that the Russian language is favored. The patriots I've met have been literally crying (they are an emotional people) since the elections, at what they see as the death of the Ukraine. To me, it doesn't matter who is president, they all are backed by the same people.



Traditional Ukrainian house

I'm always referring to Tibet as an example of what happened to the Ukrainian people. It's still going on in Tibet, blatantly, and in Ukraine it's a covert takeover. I recently came back from Poland on a visa run, and had a chance to compare the two cultures. Ukraine is a unique culture.

I talked today with my relative Larissa, at whose apartment I'm staying. She owns a business and we discussed the European Union. She goes to Poland regularly to buy products for her business and she tells me that the Polish are disillusioned with the Common Market. It gives the appearance of wealth but in reality, the money is being taken from the country, gee, I wonder where it's going?

I have heard such horror stories about the Common Market. And as you probably know the same is being planned for the North American Union. And of course globalization after that. In the meantime, a full economic collapse has been planned so that the people are so weak they won't put up much of a fight, when offered so-called help by the government. Also, climate change is a reality. It's part of the natural order of things, but climategate is also a reality, and HAARP has a lot to answer for. Those people at the top are very sick. Have you seen the chem trails recently?



A garden in Lavra

I better stop before I get sucked into the negative. "Energy flows where attention goes" and the more one dwells on the negative, the stronger it gets. I'm looking forward to the new earth once the crisis passes, not that I will live to see it, but it's already obvious that the golden age is a distinct probability. And I better stop before this turns into a book. I thank you once again, and hope you will keep in touch. I'm a bit isolated at the moment and welcome any communication.

– Larissa Young

Photos © 2010, Larissa Young





# Humane Society - Adopt A Pet

Alexandra



Suzanne with Cash, a one year old pure bred boxer.



Alexandra would like a person to love.



Benjy, a 4-year-old looking for a loving home. Been in Shelter for one year.



Martha with Thomas, a Chihuahua mix.

## THE LEASHES END



Ron and his companion, Dudley.

by Ron Rowe

The New Year started well... for roosters. Over 170 people were arrested in a cockfight raid, near Fort Worth, Texas. Sheriff Larry Parker said child protective services took custody of 14 children, ages 7 to 15. Dead and injured roosters were also found, plus drugs and cash. Another step forward in the elimination of cruelty to animals.

Dr. Tony Mitchell of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) claims the bite of a human is more dangerous than the bite of a dog. The human bite contains far more germs than a dog bite. Best Friends Animal Sanctuary is home to over 1,700 rescued dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, pigs, horses and many other animals. They do good work in rescuing animals, alas they are in need of donations

Cash

Coco

Jess, with Coco, pure bred female Doberman

Toby

Toby, a Chihuahua mix.

photos © 2010, Ron Rowe

humanesocietyvc.org • 402 Bryant Street • Ojai Humane Society - 646-6505

and this is a very worthy cause. Check [www.bestfriends.org](http://www.bestfriends.org) If you are thinking of bringing a pet into your home, visit your local humane shelter and adopt. Do not buy a pet from a large chain pet store or the internet. The majority of them come from puppy mills. Over 5 million pets are euthanized in the U.S. humane shelters every year. It's a staggering number that must be resolved.

New York Gov. David Paterson proclaims Oct. 10-18 as *The Week for Animals*. It will bring the humane organizations and communities together - bravo, Governor. *Baloo the Bear, Leo the Lion and Shere Khan the Tiger* were rescued from a drug dealer when they were just a few months old. They have now grown up and they don't realize they are supposed to be enemies, instead they play and nuzzle each other all day long. Diane Smith of the Noah's Ark Animal Rescue Center said, "It's amazing, they play and live peacefully together." Ah, if only humans were raised the same way, would we eliminate bigotry, cruelty and hatred? Spread the word about Ringling Brothers Circus' cruelty to elephants. Elephants are complex animals who need a great deal of space and humane handling to ensure that their social, physical and psychological needs are met. Using bull hooks and keeping elephants in chain is immensely cruel, watch [video@ringlingbeats-animals.com](http://video@ringlingbeats-animals.com)

Any farmer, will tell you pigs are smart, but they are also so smart that they are self aware, like monkeys and other primates. To find out, researchers placed two pigs in a pen with mirrors, while most animals interpret their own mirrored reflections as another animal, the pigs quickly grasped the link between their own movements and their image in the mirror. They moved about and looked at themselves from various angles. When a bowl of food was introduced, that was visible only in the mirror, they quickly turned around to find the real thing. Pigs now join the ranks of other species; monkeys, elephants, magpies, dolphins, that recognize their reflections in a mirror. Every year Americans eat 35 million cows, 115 million pigs and 9 billion chickens and turkeys.

If you walk your dog every day, consider buying a dog walker belt. It holds dog treats, cell phones, poop bags, keys etc., costs \$40, check out [www.doog.com](http://www.doog.com) A New York dog trainer, Sue Sternberg will be holding seminars on dog group dynamics, dog behavior, etc. in Ventura. Group members will be limited, check 639-0303 for more info. You won't want to miss these seminars, so call now.

Research scientists have now proven mice love food high in sugar over cheese. Chocolate is a favorite food. Dogs are not color blind. Experiments prove dogs have color vision; they can tell you blue-green and blue-violet tints. Ever wonder how mice find their way back to your home, no matter how far away you take them? Humans were thought to be the only animals that can do a Hansel and Gretel routine. Now scientists claim mice create markers to help them find their way back, they move small piles of leaves and nutshells to help remember the way back. The signposts are less confusing than scent markings. The scientists also discovered carrier pigeons' uncanny ability to find

their way home. They follow the roads and freeways just like us. Researchers at Oxford University spent 12 years studying homing pigeons using global positioning satellites and were stunned to find the birds don't navigate by taking a bearing from the sun, instead they fly along freeways even going around roundabouts.

Prof. Tim Gilford said it's incredible to see pigeons fly straight down the freeway and then turn off at the various exits. It's mentally easy to fly down the road, making the journey as easy as possible.

In Bristol, England, a slug named Harry took first prize for the biggest slug in the world, out of a field of 60 entrants. Harry, 5-inches long with 27,000 teeth, weighing 1 ounce won best of show. Well they have dog and horse shows why not slug shows?

A newborn kangaroo weighs .003 ounces and can fit into a teaspoon. Female canaries cannot sing well. Baby giraffes are 6-foot-tall and weigh 200 pounds. Despite the hump on a camel, its spine is straight. A female ferret can die if she goes into heat and can't find a mate.

Greater love hath no bounds for a couple and their parrot. A married couple stopped smoking when their veterinarian said it was the only way to save the sick parrot, which had a respiratory problem. After seven weeks in the non-smoking house, the parrot has made remarkable progress.

Human beings are the only animals on earth to just act like they are. Love and blessings to all beings on earth.

Ron Rowe, [rjthrowe@AOL.com](mailto:rjthrowe@AOL.com)

## EVENT CALENDAR

Continued From Page 9...

both the U.S. and each other, the festival builds bridges of cultural understanding, showcasing the artistic trend toward global fusion, mixing the rich musical traditions of the Near East with innovative, vibrant modern American dance styles.

Mar 6 thru 31 - Art Exhibition - Inspirations by Artist Valerie Freeman - multi-media works, Artists Reception, Sun, Mar. 7, 1pm-3pm, Ojai Center for the Arts, with a community drum circle in the court yard. [www.freemanart.com](http://www.freemanart.com)

Mar. 26 & 27, 8pm - SOHO, S.B. The Pin-Down Girls are back in full effect! If you have not seen this incredibly talented, sassy, and energetic dance company perform before, now is your chance. Brand new, eye-popping production called 'Sexy'

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www.RescueBoutique.com  
www.humanesocietyvc.org  
www.catscradlerescue.org

Slogans - info. 962-7776  
 - Thru March 31 - Thurs - Art Creativity Labs at Ojai Creates - The Art of Selfhood  
 Art Lab - Wed - 10am-12pm - Quantum Creativity Lab - Wed - 6pm - 8pm - Instructor M. Lucia is a Brazilian painter, writer, teacher & storyteller - Tuition: 12 week session (\$230.00) 24 hours - 4 week session (\$80.00) 8 hours.  
 Contact M. Lucia at 640-2466 or email: [m.lucia.california@gmail.com](mailto:m.lucia.california@gmail.com)  
 - Thru Mar. 12 - Unusual Behavior Exhibit, Performance-based video works that explore the notion of the absurd. Based loosely on non sequitur Dadaist techniques and surrealist-inspired writings. Artists employ theatrical techniques by utilizing crudely-made props, costumes, and flimsy sets. Dark, oftentimes ironic humor in absurd or impossible scenarios, artists expose the underlying brutality, dehumanization, fears and taboos of American society. 635 Paseo Nuevo, Santa Barbara info. 966-5373

## PET VIEWS - PET VIEWS - PET VIEWS

### Happenings in the Animal World

What is happening in the animal world? The Canadian government has refused cat and dog fur because doing so might undermine support for the country's annual seal slaughter. Incidentally over 80,000 harp seals were killed in Canada this year. The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center announced they will no longer use live cats for pediatric emergency medical training. They will use state-of-the-art human patient simulators instead.

Congratulations to Bolivia for passing a law that forbids the use of wild and/or domestic animals in circuses throughout the country. Bolivia has become the first nation in the world to enact such a landmark measure. The town of Broome in Australia has severed its sister/city ties with Taiji, Japan in protest of the hideous cruel dolphin slaughter in Taiji. In the documentary, The Cove, it shows over 2,000 dolphins driven to the village Kure and hacked to death every year.

The University of California, Irvine, has announced that it has replaced the use of rats and frogs with computer simulations, this sophisticated and humane approach will spare hundreds of animals lives every year replacing a procedure in which students drilled into the heads of healthy rats, inserted chemicals in order to damage the brain, injected the animals with drugs and forced the rats to perform in behavioral experiments... Samsung, Johnson & Johnson, Sprint, Nextel, Gap, and many other leading companies have pledged never to use great apes in their advertising.

- Ron Rowe, [rjthrowe@AOL.com](mailto:rjthrowe@AOL.com)

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# Teresa Russell at THE HUB



Teresa Russell INTERVIEW 1.31.10



photos © 2010 Joel Anderson

**by Joel Anderson**

**JOEL** - So how have you been?  
**TERESA** - Been doing great, man - playing music, doing what I love - it's still a passion after all these many years.  
**JOEL** - How do you keep it that way?  
**TERESA** - Well, it's a good question. I just love playing.  
**JOEL** - Do you practice a lot?  
**TERESA** - I practice when I can. Mostly, my practice is on the gig, on the job - I play a lot of gigs.  
**JOEL** - Probably more than any musician in Ventura County or beyond....  
**TERESA** - Well, this is what I've done ever since I was a 7-years-old, and I've never had a day job so... I have to keep my creditors happy... hahaha... I have to continue playing a lot of gigs. I am just fortunate I get a lot of calls for work and been able to make a good living.  
**JOEL** - Which musicians are you're playing with?  
**TERESA** - Stephen Geyer, and...?  
**TERESA** - Yeah, I've been playing with Stephen Geyer; 16, 17 years and we're going to be here next month. I'm still with **Cocobilli**; **Coco Marcel** and **Billi Breland** - that's our power trio. We do a lot of **Stevie Ray Vaughn**, **Eric Clapton**; it's a very progressive blues band... very improvisational and they are very passionate about producing it. We've been together almost 20 years.  
**JOEL** - Alright!  
**TERESA** - **Billi** and I, then **Coco** as well. We'll be here **March 6** and **April 9**, and we have **San Francisco** coming up.  
 Yeah, and we're working on a new CD. It will be our third CD with **Cocobilli**. It's kind of been on the back burner for a while... I have been busy producing a jazz CD for my Mom.  
**JOEL** - What's it called?  
**TERESA** - It's called, "**Russell**".... My Mom yeah she's got a great, sultry voice.  
**JOEL** - She's a jazz singer!  
**TERESA** - She's a jazz singer, yeah. She does **Bossa Nova** and **Swing** and **Big Band**, kind of **Diane Krause** stuff. She's got a great voice!  
**JOEL** - Where do you find her music?  
**TERESA** - Well, you can find it on **i-Tunes**, you know, **CD Baby**. We do shows a couple of times a month, wherever in town here. I also produced a CD for **Acadiana**, which was a couple years back. So, we're still going strong. That's the six piece xylophone band - **Acadiana**. The CD is called, "**Fiddle Around the Mardi Gras**". I've produced a few CDs and I'm getting ready to work with **Billi** and **Cocobilli** to produce our next CD as well. We've just got the basics down. It's kind of upbeat.  
**JOEL** - What's it about?  
**TERESA** - It's more blues and rock songs about love and love lost and the consequences and you know, *how blues is*.  
**JOEL** - Originals?  
**TERESA** - It's all original.  
**JOEL** - Who does the writing?  
**TERESA** - Me and **Billi** - we're co-writers ever since we met at an audition for **Helen Reddy's** band, and then we played in that band. That was like twenty-five years ago.  
**JOEL** - What keeps musicians playing together that long?

**TERESA** - I think music is very rejuvenating. It's always been rejuvenating for me. Passion keeps me young, you know? Most musicians drank and partied way too much... I managed to not go there. I still have my tequila obviously, but, I dunno... I've got good genes. I have a good family - lots of love in my family. My Mom, my Dad will always be supportive of me.  
**JOEL** - So, it's been a few years since I've talked with you. How do you see the music scene, or is there a music scene in **Ventura County** in the past five years?  
**TERESA** - The music in **Ventura County**... yeah, that's a very good question. There are pockets of music where it feels really alive, and then there are areas where the people just seem disconnected from it, or they don't get it or it doesn't touch them. I think, in this day and age - like the internet - there's so much technology. There's so much energy, so much to entertain people, whether it be the internet or that whole communication thing; face book, youtube, everything. It's changing the world of music. You don't even have to leave your house to be entertained. But, you know... back in the 70s and 80s, playing in 40s, 50s and 60s clubs - were places where people would come together to listen to music and be social. It would bring the community together so that was huge. We were working six nights a week. There were clubs everywhere. You get 4, 5, 6, 7 piece bands. You got paid money producing, but that's all changed - at least here in **California**. I know there are pockets in **Texas**, **Washington**, wherever, pockets where the music scene is really happening - **Seattle** or **Boston** - places like that, but **Hollywood, LA**? It's not like it was - **Ventura**, you kind of have to make your own thing happen, or go North - it's a different scene.  
**JOEL** - Well, what are people missing if they're not seeing live music and stuck on their computers?  
**TERESA** - I don't know. There's a place in the heart that music touches some people, and maybe you are touched by it. It's a special place. Some people are just numb to it. They just didn't grow up with it or they're not getting their fill of it, or they are not exposed to it - I don't know what it is. A lot of technology is basically replacing the *grassroots music*.  
**JOEL** - So, when's your CD out?  
**TERESA** - Don't have a date yet. Every time I make a date, it slips by me, so I'm hoping the end of the year.  
**JOEL** - The **Natives** used to eat when they were hungry, sleep when they were tired and that's the schedule they kept, so...  
**TERESA** - Yeah, I'm seeing a lot of nature right

now. I'm going hiking these days. I'm just kind of trying to get my fill of something else, instead of music.  
**JOEL** - Can you integrate it back into your music and then....  
**TERESA** - Oh yeah, it just clears my head, clears my mind. It rejuvenates me, makes me feel... it's a very spiritual experience.... grounds me, keeps me on track. Makes me happy.  
**JOEL** - The **HUB** is undergoing a huge resurgence, and **Alan**, who is here tonight?  
**TERESA** - Yeah, **Alan** introduced himself to me tonight. I remember the **Rhythm Rangers**. I was just glad to get the phone call from **Sonia**, who books the place. I really like **The HUB** because they make me feel free to play what I like to play, and to experiment and just get out of the box. I feel very welcomed here and appreciated, so I'm looking forward to coming back on a regular basis.  
**JOEL** - Have you been driving out of town at all?  
**TERESA** - I'm going to the **Orange Blossom Junction** ([www.orangeblossomjunction.com](http://www.orangeblossomjunction.com)) in **Exeter - Three Rivers**. World class guitar players come there from all over the world like **Karen Johnson**, **Tommy Mason**, and I open up for a few of them.

junction built in the 40s, and they redid the whole thing. The guy who owns it is a guitar player nut. He loves guitar players. So, he brings guitar players from all over the world - it's a five star restaurant - Great restaurant!  
**JOEL** - What guitar do you have? Do you play it a little differently....?  
**TERESA** - I have a midsize guitar and it gives me a full tone - full sound. It's also easier to bend the strings... I like the tone better, so it's easy on the voice. Its got two pick-ups. One day I discovered that my voice was bleeding into the mike as I was recording my guitar. I said, "*Hey, this could work*". So, I just started using it as a layering tool - singing into the guitar and layering my voice. It's a nice little toy. There are not too many doing it.  
 I'm always looking for the **Holy Grail of tone**, you know? Guitar tone.  
**JOEL** - Where will you be playing?  
**TERESA** - Well, um, let's see....  
**JOEL** - Besides... everywhere!  
**TERESA** - February is the month of the **Mardi Gras**, so, I guess some **Mardi Gras** parties are coming up with **Acadiana**.  
 If anybody wants to know where I'm at, where my Mom or **Stephen Guyer** or **Cocobilli** will be, go to [www.TeresaRussell.com](http://www.TeresaRussell.com)  
 - Joel Anderson

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

**JOEL** - You're a great guitar player, and known for that.  
**TERESA** - Thank you. I'm going to go play there this Wednesday, so I'll be out of town for a few days.  
**JOEL** - That'll be great!  
**TERESA** - Yeah, I love to go up to **Three Rivers** and **Sequoia** and go hiking and camping. I can recommend that anybody check it out. It's a good venue. It's actually an old train

## Superbowl Sunday at THE HUB

photos © 2010 Joel Anderson



Horsin' Around at The HUB - Tooo-Sultry Tanya's and Mat



Joe Paul and Danielle



Sweeteeeeeeet!



Kevin Offerman



Mat, Alan and Tanya-Scarlett Belle -Petit! 2.7.10



Eric and Danielle

# Tuesday Open Mic at THE HUB

by Joel Anderson



**Dmitry "Vitamin D" Owens' Rock n' Roll Open Mic Night** at **Ojai's** only truly local bar, **The HUB** has exploded the throwaway-kid nightlife scene in the **Ojai Valley**.  
 With the musical impetus of concept originator **Dmitry**, musicians are co-habing solid foundational rock grit creating the only "local" down and dirty rock music scene in "**The-Ojai-Friendly**" small townie atmosphere. These are truly the local reject and outcast musicians -- in other words **Ojai's Rock Royalty!**  
 Spawning the genres from mellow acoustic folk and country, funk grooves, **Seattle-style** (with an **Ojai 'flava'**) Grunge, Screaming Thrash Metal and everything in-between, with a plethora of other styles. Drums, amps and P.A. are provided so bring your fave instrument of choice and Jam out and Party down.  
 Past "local" superstars and designated drummer/co-hosts have included **Tony Melino** (**Charman and Marquee**), **Jon Long** of **Kyle Hunt** and the **King Gypsy**, **Keven Decker** (angsty chick acoustic rock) **Jake Weeces** (*of the Dead Tree Grow*), **Leah Eubanks** (techno-sex-funk band **Steelhead**), **Mike Purdy** (formerly



The Best of Times at The HUB - Ruben Duarte (Action Down), Vitamin D, Alex Jolly, the Effervescent Emily Vedder, and the Tantalizing Jessica at Open Mike Nite. 2.9.10

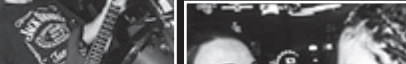
photos © 2010 Joel Anderson



Keven Decker, acoustic rock



Monica Paul



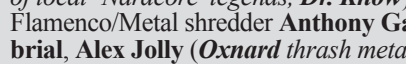
Jake McClatchy, bass Pop the ? - Emily and Keven



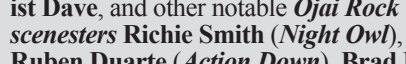
Ruben, Jessica and Emily Vedder 2X's



Scandalous Deven and Emily



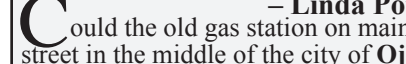
Alex Jolly, lead



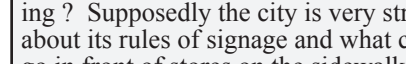
Vitamin D and Richie Smith



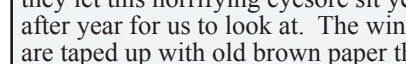
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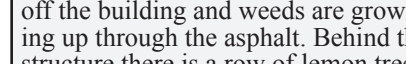
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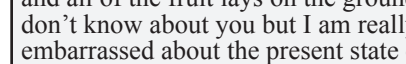
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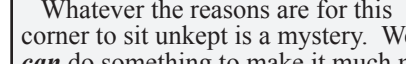
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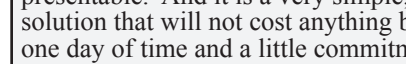
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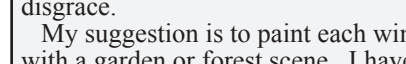
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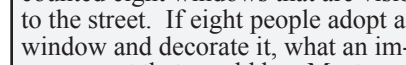
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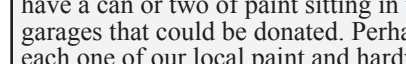
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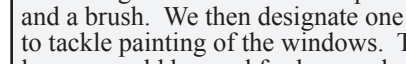
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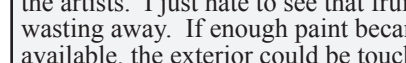
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Ruben, Jessica and Emily Vedder 2X's



Ruben, Jessica and Emily Vedder 2X's



Ruben, Jessica and Emily Vedder 2X's



Ruben, Jessica and Emily Vedder 2X's



Vit. D Sez: The HUB Rocks



A Friendly Emily



Jessica Shows her Ojai Town Spirit !!!



Ruben and Jessica



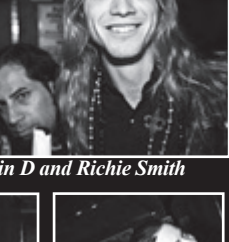
Scandalous Deven and Emily



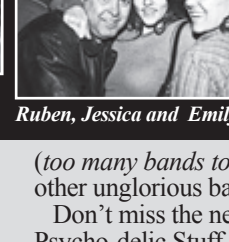
Emily, Meg Whitehead, and Mario Gonzalez



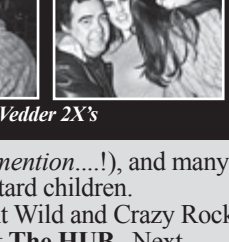
Alex Jolly, lead



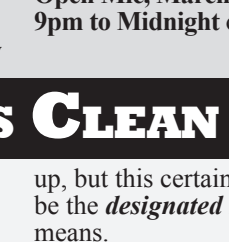
Vitamin D and Richie Smith



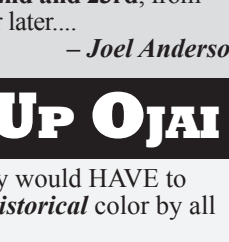
Ruben, Jessica and Emily Vedder 2X's



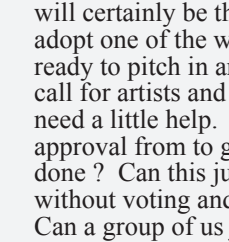
Ruben, Jessica and Emily Vedder 2X's



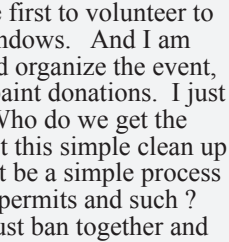
Ruben, Jessica and Emily Vedder 2X's



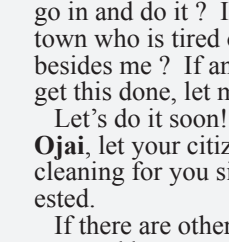
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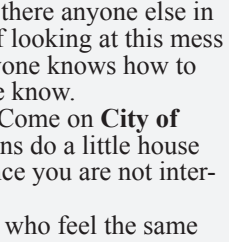
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Ruben, Jessica and Emily Vedder 2X's



Ruben, Jessica and Emily Vedder 2X's

## EDISON ELECTRIC SCAM

Continued from Page 2...

As you can read, the **Gang in the Ivory Tower** states: "*There is no fiscal impact associated with the City Council declaring its intent to approve a new Edison Franchise.*"

So lets see, the **Gang in the Ivory Tower** will allow an increase in the electric bills we all pay of a total of 2%, **Edison** gets to keep 1% and the city gets 1% kicked back into their coffers. So the *fiscal impact* as I see it is **Edison gets to raise their rates, the Gang in the Ivory Tower gets \$1,600,000/yr to play with, and the paying Ventura public gets it in the shorts with a 2% increase in their electric bill.**

So the statement "**No Fiscal Impact**" is simply a *badly-thought-out Spin*. The **Gang in the Ivory Tower** is getting so blatant that now they aren't even attempting to hide their *Spins* so we have to look for them; they are simply putting them right out in front and shoving them in our faces.

This little **Scam** was in the works long before they asked the **Ventura Voting Public** to give them the right to increase sales taxes by 1/2 percent. To think the gullible voting public actually voted back into office three of the "**Good Ol' Boys**" that approved this electric tax increase and were for the sales tax increase, and to make matters worse voted into office a buddy of the "**Good Ol' Boys**" **Mr. Mike Tracy**, who was also for the tax increase. When will the citizens of **San Buenaventura** ever learn?

- **Relis Smith**  
[rellis39@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rellis39@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.californiachile.com](http://www.californiachile.com)

## Ventura County Views

### Ghosts of Haiti

by Richard Senate

The terrible earthquake that rocked **Haiti** has once again thrust this small nation into the headlines. Since independence this land has endured misrule, natural disasters and poverty, but few know that there is a link between the **California Missions** and **Haiti**.

One of the early rulers of **Haiti** was **Henri Christophe** who ruled **North-ern Haiti** as a king. His capital was known as **Cap Henri** (today's **Cap Hatien**). Here he built eight palaces and a gigantic fort, **Citadelle Laferriere**, high in the mountains. The construction of the fort took 20,000 workers, many of them prisoners, who labored to build the thing. Many died in the project. He may have been an ego maniac, but, **King Haitian Ghosts** Continued on Page 19...



Henri Christophe



Henri Christophe

# THE HUB ENTERTAINMENT

Fri.	Feb. 19	Sonic Stew
Sat.	Feb. 20	Action Down
Sun.	Feb. 21	Karaoke
Tues.	Feb. 23	Rock n' Open Mic
Fri.	Feb. 26	Alchemy
Sat.	Feb. 27	National Cats
Sun.	Feb. 28	Karaoke
Tues.	Mar. 2	Rock n' Open Mic
Fri.	Mar. 5	Call Bar
Sat.	Mar. 6	Teresa Russell & Cocobilli
Sun.	Mar. 7	Karaoke
Tues.	Mar. 9	Jon Nichols
Fri.	Mar. 12	Call Bar
Sat.	Mar. 13	The Flailington's
Sun.	Mar. 14	Karaoke
Tues.	Mar. 16	Call Bar
Wed.	Mar. 17	St. Pat's/Call Bar
Fri.	Mar. 19	Wall Banger
Sat.	Mar. 20	Call Bar
Sun.	Mar. 21	Karaoke
Tues.	Mar. 23	Rock n' Open Mic
Fri.	Mar. 26	Call Bar
Sat.	Mar. 27	Call Bar
Sun.	Mar. 28	Karaoke
Tues.	Mar. 30	Teresa Russell
Fri.	Apr. 2	King Cotton
Sat.	Apr. 3	DD's
Fri.	Apr. 9	Teresa Russell & Cocobilli
Sat.	Apr. 10	Call Bar
Fri.	Apr. 16	The Sheiks
Fri.	May 14	King Gypsies

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 - Make Your Own 9am-1pm  
 - Bloody Mary Bar  
 - 1 Quart Mason Jars - \$10.00  
 - 1 Pint Mason Jar - \$5.00

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GO New Orleans - Nicole, Rosie, Kate and Danielle



GO New Orleans - Nicole, Rosie, Kate and Danielle





Jonn Principe INTERVIEW - PART II Divine Intervention by Joel Anderson

There's something about the instrument... the piano, the soundboard goes into the floors, into the walls that creates a vibrational experience on our hearing that no great keyboard even if it's high-end, can produce.

There's a story of Beethoven that I love to tell... he was going completely deaf, then was deaf... he decided he would choose between life, or death and just leaving with all of his unused talents, so he took the piano keyboard and threw it on the floor.

He then would compose with his ear to the floor. The bulk of all his symphonic works were done that way... the vibration - it's kind of a feeling thing. Jazz artists know this - intuitively.

Musician and Actor Jonn Principe has found a way of living an inspired life - bridged through collaboration in the arts, a compassionate way, and A Love Divine.

"I had known Ernie [Joseph], who worked out of SRS, for a couple years while I had lived near Santa Barbara - Ernie and I, we just were kind of going about our days - talking music. He gave me his card and said they have a studio.

"I found myself coming back to the Santa Barbara area... I called Ernie and he said, 'Why don't you come over? You've got this song? You still have it? Come over and see what we're doing, meet my bros. From the moment that I got there... it was like, something you feel with people - you want to work with them,' said Jonn.

sat there on the shelves. Then we were talking one day we just kept to the thought, 'Why don't we add two songs to this.' The boys recruited BFBs Tom Liebengood, and they thought, 'Why don't we see if we can put all these songs, on the EP.... 'Remember When.' Tom also wrote 'On With Peace.'

"To come from literally, absolutely no place in music and to be working with the likes of Bobby Harris.... the magic of The Drifters...." said Principe.

The Late Bloomer Band, which put Brian Faith together with Bobby Harris found purpose. Tracks were laid upon tracks, pro musicians engaged, and a project developed which generated its own energy.

"I found that it is possible to regenerate, like a flower that regenerates every year late in the season. In life you can regenerate yourself artistically. There you are - you see? A Late Bloomer.

And so, into the center of our lives, instead of wasting our time with the yesterdays of our memories, you can go into this thing of living in the NOW - fully, creative, vibrant. That's what I believe - that's why we choose it.

"Also, Kimberly Ford is a singer out of Santa Barbara who has her own work. She's got a lovely voice and she came and worked with us on vocals," Jonn said.

Long before Jonn Principe was arranging for a possible European Music Tour... a background in stage, film and spirit was preparing him.

"I was born in 1937 in a little town north of Chicago on Lake Michigan, called Kenosha, Wisconsin. It's an interesting place - very Italian-American town, and a number of actors like Don Ameche and Daniel J. Travanti (Hill Street Blues) came out of our neighborhoods.

"Before I was born, my mother would walk around the house with me in her belly, and I would hear the music of the big bands - Frank Sinatra, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw. I would hear all these great band people and, when I grew up and grew older, the great love songs of the 20th century (The Best Things in Life are Free) remained with me," he said.

Francisco, I really didn't want to go to school anymore.... "This was the end of a generation - before the love child era came...I was fortunate enough to have an apartment in that area. So, I was really incredibly affected by work there - what people were working on - on their minds....

"People were working on their minds then, very much.... Some were abusing the way to do that, by drugs, but it isn't simple to change the world's consciousness.... America, here where we were starting to question the authorities that we put all of our faith in, and whether we're religious or whether they were political, or whatever - we were in wars and so on. It was a time of incredible uplifting of the social fabric."

Jonn's arrival in San Francisco in 1963 at the end of the Beat Scene and the beginning of the personal and social consciousness movements inspired his humanistic approach to people and his strong sensibilities drew him naturally toward acting.

"I had a couple agents - I literally fell into it - modeling and acting and I just started to do that. I was working with people all the time and had the chance to work on 'Streets of San Francisco' with Karl Malden. The first episode.... they kind of throw you the screenplay of your part. It might be a half hour before you are going to go on - that's the way they did things then - they don't do it that way now. I really, utterly did not know too much about the general context of the movie - there wasn't time for that when you were doing series.

"I found myself in a drugstore in a night shooting, and I had no idea it was going to be with Karl Malden.

"Now, he was very aware of my insecurities as an actor - I was sort of overwhelmed with him and he put me at ease right away. He said, 'Son, look, I've been where you are many, many times in my career', and he said, 'So, don't worry about it', because I was worried about getting every line right....

"He has the ability to see... over time you know. To just know that effect upon me, just watching over his lifetime - having the effect of him and shaking his hand.... In my eyes, his being a human being and a real great guy.... It allowed me to just be confident that I could do anything I could think of.

"He was a professional - and was this way with everyone; kindhearted to everyone, no matter if they were - extra day players hired

for different episodes, or someone who you worked with all the time. "At that time, they were shooting all over the city. They were setting up, you know, lunch and dinner - we ate together, it was like kitchens out in any place.... It was almost like a tour of the city every day, and it was fun - it was good.

"I had the same agent as Suzanne Somers - she and I did a number of jobs there - Playboy ads.... and she played my wife in a film, 'Fools'.

"Not only is she incredibly beautiful, but she was always very professional. Most of 'IT' is the person behind it all. An incredibly beautiful lady in every respect.... just the sweetest person and so we sort of struck up a friendship, because we worked together occasionally. We didn't see each other socially.

"On one particular day, she showed up in complete tears, nose running, and her little boy had been run over by a car. "He had been taken to the hospital.... she came to work to shoot her scene and she did just that - a professional to a 'T'. I say only a true born actor, only an actor in a way, can surmount that emotion.

"Incredibly, for the scene, we were in a church and we were baptizing our little baby before a Catholic Font in a baptismal church.... St. Bridget's on Van Ness Avenue. The scene was essentially.... that the main characters would be 'shot' during that scene in the main aisle of the church - Katherine Ross shot.... We then are reacting from the baptism to the killing - it was one of those scenes, you know....

"I went on later to hear of her fame in 'Three's Company'...." said Jonn.

Acting to Music Jonn took a reprieve from acting, wrote a book of poetry, and went to Vern Bennett's Voice and Performance studio in Santa Cruz. Vern was the house pianist from The Hungry I who then started a show called 'Pastiche' which ran about six months featuring Jonn as a singer/dancer in his first live on stage experience, running for six months in downtown San Francisco. Then Jonn "Went into a sort of a place where I left San Francisco and traveled around the world. I wanted to just experience.... Australia, New Zealand and to live abroad for a year, thinking that I might want to move there.... That all changed and I came back to the States.

"Gradually, music and wanting to play an instrument came back to me. "Once I was settled down enough.... I think, to work on an instrument you have to be in a hosedled in yourself - you have to be in a

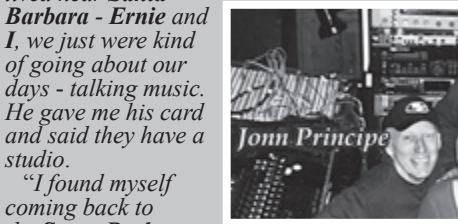
Principe Continued Page 22...



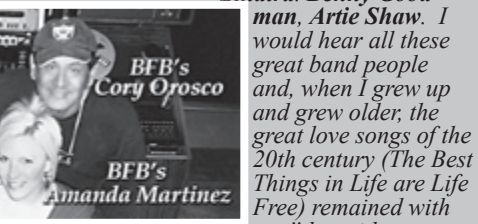
Freddie and the Beans



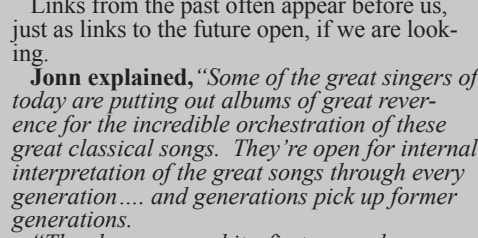
Jonn Principe



Jonn Principe and Amanda Martinez



BFB's Cory Orosco



BFB's Amanda Martinez

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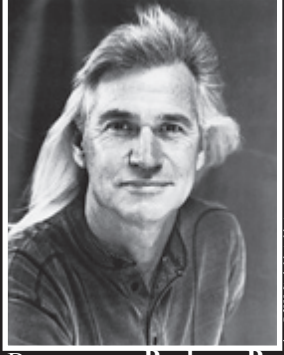
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How Do You Feel by Joel Anderson

John DeYoung recently posted a new song which will be on a new EP, hopefully to be released at the beginning of Summer. How Do You Feel, a great song with hauntingly rich guitar and lyrics to put a mellow spell on your scene.... whatever that might be.

"I wrote that song with help from Steve Fulton in 2003. Steve and I go way back before our band The Dots.... So Steve was at my home and we were having a party... We were talking about people in other parts of the world being the way we are.... Because everyone has the same needs and wants, no matter where you are. We all want our needs met and to be loved and be fed and have a roof over our heads.... Somehow I said, 'We're here in the same way that they're there' and that's how the lyrics came about," said John.

"We were jamming on guitars and I started playing some chords, and the song started to develop.... Then a few years later Steve and I and his son Taylor recorded the basic tracks - Steve playing bass and Taylor on drums.... They also sang a few backup vocals. I played all the guitar tracks. The song basically got shelved for a few years.... last week I pulled up the tracks and rerecorded the lead vocal and some percussion tracks and mixed that in



John DeYoung

too. Then I remixed it and posted it on myspace." The Dots was an 80s new wave rock group in which John was a writer, singer, guitar and keyboard player, and Steve Fulton was the bass player. John has been been writing, recording and performing music nearly all of his life, and played a variety of styles of music at various venues from small intimate clubs and private functions to concert stages. The Dots many performances included popular L.A. clubs such as Madam Wongs, FM Station, The Troubadour, and many more. They also opened for John Hyatt and "Missing Persons" at the Santa Barbara Bowl. From '96 to the present, John has opened for or shared concert stages with the likes of Maria Mckee, Marc Cohn, Arlo Guthrie, David Lindley, Jesse Colin Young, Debra Davis and others.

CHECK OUT How Do You Feel and other songs posted on www.myspace.com/johndeyoungandnakedhearts and also three albums at www.cdbaby.com/all/johndeyoung

The music is also available on iTunes, Napster, Rhapsody and many other Music Download sites.

has been given to the public. I will send out a reminder before the meeting, March 1st. Make sure your particular concerns are addressed. Mark your calendar now, March 1st, 4 pm. See below. LOCATION: Conference Room - Santa Cruz [Ventura City Hall] RESOURCES: Conference Room - Santa Cruz [Ventura City Hall] TIME: Monday, March 1, 2010, 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

VENTURA SAFE HOUSING COLLABORATIVE STAKEHOLDER MEETING 1 OF 3 Tentative Agenda 1. Introductions - Everyone 2. Review of City Council's Action & Timeframe - Andrew 3. Set April Stakeholder Meeting Date - Please Bring Your April Calendars 4. Discussion and decision on how this effort will be managed - Everyone 5. Top 3 Ideal Desired Outcomes - Each Stakeholder 6. Begin Discussion of Community Meeting Objectives, Format, Content and Venue - Camille Harris, Ventura Camille@camilleharris.com

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GHOSTS OF HAITI Continued from Page 17...

Henri did provide positive leadership for his country by writing a comprehensive law code and keep the economy sound. To man his fort and protect the kingdom he enlisted a powerful army. A British company was hired to make the colorful uniforms for the Haitian Army. Each of the uniforms was adorned with elaborate brass buttons featuring a phoenix bird.



Phoenix Button

Before the uniforms could be delivered, King Henri's nine year rule was brought to a close when the overweight monarch suffered a debilitating stroke. Seeing their leader, once powerful and in command, now weakened by illness, his troops staged a revolt. Rather than be toppled from power, the king shot himself with a silver bullet.

His body was carried to the mountain top fortress as the royal palace was looted and burned. Here the king was buried in a vault. Legends say that the Citadelle is haunted by the proud ruler. He is seen walking the walls dressed in his royal finery and crown. Others believe the fort is haunted by the specters of all the poor slaves used to build the monstrosity. Their shadowy forms, dress in rags, labor on, long after they were freed by death.

With the death of the king, the rebels re-established a republic in Haiti. They disbanded much of the army and tried to rebuild the economy shattered by the political disruption. It was at that point the English came with their uniforms and the bill for them.

The new government rejected them and refused to pay for the uniforms (they may not have been able to pay for them even if they wanted). The British merchants were left holding the bag. They tried to unload the uniforms on other nations but even marking them down found few buyers.

No one seemed interested in the brightly colored outfits. Some were sold to the Hudson Bay Trading Company to barter with Native Americans for furs, another lot was purchased, sight unseen, by the young Mexican Republic. The Mexicans picked them up for a song.

The uniforms were sent to clothe the soldiers and lancers protecting the frontiers with many coming to the Presidios and Missions of Alta (Northern) California. The outfits may have been rejected for troops in Mexico proper because they

were an odd collection of colors. The Mexican Army at that time preferred uniforms to match the new flag of Red, White and Green. (Sometimes they settled for blue). But, with few alternatives, the odd uniforms were welcome by the troops just as they were sought out by Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest.

Throughout California archaeologists excavating mission sites have found the distinct Phoenix buttons made for King Henri's Royal Haitian Army. Each button is marked with the regiment number and the Phoenix bird rising out of the flames. All have the motto of Haiti upon them in French: "Je Renais De Mes Cendres" (I am reborn from my ashes). Two of these buttons can be seen at the Albinger Museum in Ventura but examples are found all up and down the coast of California and in the Snake River Valley and British Columbia.

Today the hilltop fortress above Cap Hatien is a tourist attraction and it was recently named a United Nations Cultural Landmark. Her walls today are manned by an army of ghosts lead by their colorful king Henri. The uniform buttons grace museums all over California and the Pacific northwest reminding us of a day when Haiti was a great nation. The motto lives on and hopefully will inspire a new generation to rebuild and renew the island nation - "I am reborn from my ashes."

- Richard Senate www.RichardSenate.com

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BRIAN WISE PROJECT Bookings: SRS Productions 805 964-3035 Photo of Brian Wise, Cory Orosco, Antoine Richardson, Ernie Joseph, and Colin Whittaker. BRIAN WISE PROJECT - Cory Orosco-Lead Guitar/Backup Vocals, Brian Wise-Guitar/Vocals, Antoine Richardson-Drums & Percussion, Ernie Joseph-Lead Guitar/Backup Vocals, and Colin Whittaker-Bass/Backup Vocals.



**WRIGHT LIBRARY SCAM**

Continued from Page 2...

actually the second highest year since 1999. So once again Mr. Fulton has proven that he is a champion of the Spin and has no regard for the average citizen.

1. The Economy was used as the excuse to close Wright, yet the City of Ventura's property tax revenue is the highest on record for the past two years. It was easy for all of us to believe this excuse because we are all aware of the struggling economy and the loss of jobs. Yet the property taxes in Ventura have held strong and the Library is funded from your property taxes. (Please note that the revenue is double what it was in 1999-2000 - SOURCE: Ventura County Assessors Office) The library is NOT part of the budget for the City of Ventura, so the city's financial woes have nothing to do with the library.

- Rellis Smith, rellis39@sbcglobal.net

**Property Tax Revenue by Year From The Ventura County Assessor**

2008/2009	2009/2010		
1,056,372,000 (01)	Fillmore	964,604,988	-8.69%
1,204,613,362 (02)	Ojai	1,193,246,166	-0.94%
16,158,716,867 (03)	Oxnard	15,176,505,240	-6.08%
1,672,119,360 (04)	Santa Paula	1,592,389,388	-4.77%
12,510,335,672 (05)	Ventura	12,143,656,978	-2.93%
1,609,601,616 (06)	Port Hueneme	1,482,798,864	-7.88%
10,663,881,753 (07)	Camarillo	10,512,448,571	-1.42%
23,439,572,551 (08)	Thousand Oaks	23,487,956,595	-0.21%
15,508,418,762 (09)	Simi Valley	14,865,252,276	-4.15%
4,920,838,019 (10)	Moorpark	4,847,373,832	-1.49%

http://assessor.countyofventura.org/generallyspeaking/localroll.asp

**What's Wright?**

From: Maili Halme Brocke <maili-brocke@mac.com>  
Sent: Sat, Feb. 6, 2010 12:46:14 PM  
Subject: Your Letters will help us Reopen Wright Library!



Dear Library Supporters, Wright Library was wrongfully closed and we are working passionately to reopen it. Your support and letter writing is having a huge impact towards our movement to reopen. The facts and justice are on our side and the Grand Jury investigations are underway. Please continue to write to our City Council, the Library Commission and the Board of Supervisors. (you can write one letter and cc all of them or write to them individually.)

1. The Economy was used as the excuse to close Wright, yet the City of Ventura's property tax revenue is the highest on record for the past two years. It was easy for all of us to believe this excuse because we are all aware of the struggling economy and the loss of jobs. Yet the property taxes in Ventura have held strong and the Library is funded from your property taxes. (Please note that the revenue is double what it was in 1999-2000.) (source, Ventura County Assessors office) The library is NOT part of the budget for the City of Ventura, so the city's financial woes have nothing to do with the library.

**PROPERTY TAX REVENUE BY YEAR FROM THE VENTURA COUNTY ASSESSOR**

2. The \$577,000 of "the unanticipated \$650,000 structural shortfall" that the library director referred to as a reason for closing Wright came from Moorpark's withdrawal from the county system. It had nothing to do Ventura's property tax revenue. The county auditor left Moorpark's money in

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the budget. The Library Director didn't catch the error and accidentally spent the money. (Budget Mitigation Documents, VCL Commission, 8-21-2008)

3. Wright was never short. The only "shortage" to Ventura's service area (which includes Saticoy, Avenue, Foster and Wright Libraries) came when Mr. Fulton suggested it was unfair that Ventura received \$280,000 of the \$600,000 in the county Library General Fund. Part of that money went to run Foster and part of it to Saticoy. The \$280,000 was never part of Wright's operating budget. AFTER WRIGHT CLOSED ON November 30, 2010 the Library Director put \$175,000 of that money back into Ventura's service area. Which means the total shortfall for the area is only \$105,000. Certainly not a significant enough number to justify closing a library. The General Fund money should be equally divided among all the libraries.

4. The Library Director stated on Mon. Jan. 25, 2010 Camarillo receives almost a million dollars of unincorporated money. We have noted that many of the other libraries in the county are receiving additional funds from the General Fund, unincorporated revenue and the reserve, and they are operating over the baseline hours specified in the MOU [Memorandum of Understanding]. To be fair the money should be divided equally among all of the 14 libraries. None of us should get more than another.

5. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a legal document between the city and the county to contract, in this case, library services. Adopted in 1997 it was created to protect library service and hours during hard financial times. The MOU states that Wright Library will be open 40 hours a week. The county is currently in violation of this contract. The county must reduce the administrative overhead to ensure all libraries run by the county receive the hours guaranteed to them in the MOU. In the past this was done by eliminating some of the County

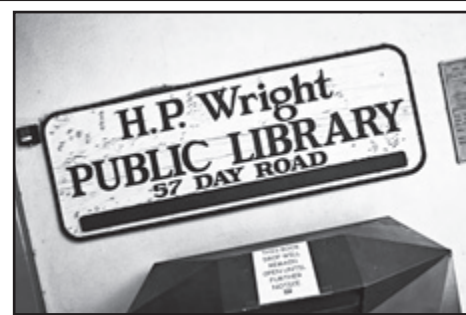
Library administrative positions and by cutting overhead costs. Instead our director has hired additional administrative positions and also has purchased expensive unnecessary data bases (Morning Star data base is \$24,000. Of the people who use Morning Star the majority of information is available for free on their web site.)

**"Kids at Poinsettia who gave their quarters and dimes and piggy banks to save Wright for a donation of \$800 and it was just wasted on a consultant."**

6. Alternating Hours - The Ventura Library Advisory Commission and the community chose alternating between Wright and Foster instead of the closure of Wright. The City Council members that voted for closure insisted the community was unhappy with alternating hours in the past, but the community is far more unhappy about closure than alternating hours. If the City Council members are justifying their vote for closure with the desire to make the community happy then we must let them know [how we] truly unhappy we are about the closure! The closure arrangement is far more detrimental to the community than alternating hours.

7. "One size fits all" does not work with libraries in Ventura County. Some people prefer larger libraries and drive to Camarillo or Oxnard. Some prefer small neighborhood libraries and enjoy the comfort and accessibility of Wright or Ojai.

**"They have assumed they are dealing with an ignorant community. Show them we are ignorant no longer and hold them accountable for their actions."**



8. The Library Director would like to use your property tax dollars to buy a book mobile (\$250,000 plus staff) and kiosks (approx \$100,000.) \$750 was already paid to a consultant to pick out new paint colors for Foster. And I know \$750 is a small sum, but if you think of the kids at Poinsettia who gave their quarters and dimes and piggy banks to save Wright for a donation of \$800 and it was just wasted on a consultant instead of keeping the library doors open, then the sum is significant. (City of Ventura Library Advisory Commission meeting, Jan. 15, 2010)

9. The County Library Director asked the San Buenaventura Friends of the Library to pay \$23,000 to put a parcel tax on the ballot and asked them to pay \$75,000 for a study for a new library on the east end. It would be wonderful to have a new library and we can all dream about our ideals in library



www.YouTube.com/OVVtaView

**More Americans have died in psychiatric hands than in all the wars since 1776.**

Although psychiatric facilities no longer make public the numbers of people who die in their care, one can easily extrapolate the current tally. These figures present a grim and shocking scenario—more patients dead than Americans killed in battle in the two Gulf Wars, the Vietnam War, World Wars I & II, the Civil War, the Revolutionary War, and all wars in between. This is the outrageous outcome of an abusive and deadly mental health care system. The Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) is an international voice for the people abused within the mental health system. If you, a loved one or friend has been forced into a psychiatric facility, to undergo "community mental health treatment," committed involuntarily or harmed by psychiatric treatment, contact CCHR. We will take action.

**REPORT PSYCHIATRIC ABUSE. IT'S A CRIME.**

Contact: Citizens Commission on Human Rights International  
www.cchrventura.org • P.O. box 449, Camarillo, CA 93011  
805-371-1576

All inquiries and communication will be handled in strictest confidence.

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service for the future, but we can't deprive the children now while we plan for the future.

10. The second floor of Foster is capable of carrying a live or dead load or 85 pounds per square foot (psf). It is structurally sound for offices (70 psf), but unsafe and below code for public assembly (110 psf) or library stack room (125 psf). So there is an issue with moving Wright's collection to Foster. And the expense to renovate/reinforce would be very costly. "Any area of the existing building which are intended to be structurally modified will be required to meet current code standards."

11. The Closing of Wright Library removes library service from thousands of school children, the elderly and disabled.

Please write -- Show your displeasure to the closure; Encourage the reopening of Wright; Question our elected officials, why they are not fighting for the children and residents of Ventura by seeing that the MOU is upheld; Ask them why property taxes aren't being used appropriately. --KEEP THE PRESSURE ON. They have assumed they are dealing with an ignorant community. Show them we are ignorant no longer and hold them accountable for their actions.

• Library Director Jackie Griffin jackie.griffin@ventura.org

VENTURA CITY COUNCIL

- Mayor Bill Fulton, bfulton@ci.ventura.ca.us (Chairman, County Library Commission)
- Deputy Mayor Mike Tracy, mtracy@ci.ventura.ca.us
- Jim Monahan, jmonahan@ci.ventura.ca.us (voted to keep Wright Open)
- Carl Morehouse, cmorehouse@ci.ventura.ca.us
- Christy Weir, cweir@ci.ventura.ca.us
- Brian Brennan, bbrennan@ci.ventura.ca.us
- Neal Andrews, nandrews@ci.ventura.ca.us (voted to keep Wright Open)

VENTURA COUNTY SUPERVISORS

- (The Board of Supervisors can overturn the decision to close Wright.)
- County Supervisor Steve Bennett, steve.bennett@ventura.org
- Steve Bennett's assistant for Library concerns, Cindy Cantle cindy.cantle@ventura.org
- County Supervisor Kathy Long, Chairwoman Library Commission kathy.long@ventura.org
- County Supervisor Linda Parks, Vice Chair, Linda.Parks@ventura.org
- County Supervisor Peter Foy supervisor.foy@ventura.org
- County Supervisor John Zaragoza supervisor.zaragoza@ventura.org

VENTURA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION

(This group, including Mayor Bill Fulton, all voted to take the \$280,000 away from Ventura. They also voted to take \$191,000 away from Thousand Oaks. The Thousand Oaks decision was overturned and Thousand Oaks received their money. The decision for Ventura's service area can also be overturned. We are looking for equality and a fair division of discretion-

- ary funds between all the libraries.)
- Bill Fulton, Chairman, (email above)
- Kathy Long, Supervisor, (email above)
- Sylvia Munoz Schnopp, Mayor Pro Tem, sylviaschnopp@yahoo.com
- Jamey Brooks, Councilmember, City of Fillmore jbrooks@ci.fillmore.ca.us
- Kevin Kildee, Vice Mayor, City of Camarillo, kkildee@ci.camarillo.ca.us
- Carol Smith, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Ojai, smith@ci.ojai.ca.us
- Michelle Foster, City of Simi Valley, mfoster@simivalley.org

CITY STAFF WHO HAVE INPUT IN LIBRARY MATTERS

(These three city employees, along with the city council members who voted for closure, want to take Wright's 1.2 million in property tax revenue to revitalize downtown and create a "cultural center" there. They want Foster open 7 days a week to bring foot traffic for "cultural tourism" purposes. Wright's Library money should be used to serve the community that lives near and uses Wright. The money should not be used as a tourist attraction. They were also in favor of replacing Wright with a Children's Library at the mall.)

- Elena Brokaw, ebrokaw@ci.ventura.ca.us Director Community Services, Library Strategic Plan Steering Committee
- Peter Brown, Community Services Manager, pbrown@ci.ventura.ca.us (City Staff liaison for Ventura City Library Advisory Commission)
- City Manager, Rick Cole rcole@ci.ventura.ca.us

- Maili Halme Brocke, Ventura

**Govt. Library Theft**

SUBJECT: Why the County and City Stole Wright  
FROM: whalderman@earthlink.net  
To: katarcat@aol.com  
CC: mailbrocke@gmail.com; debgiles2@yahoo.com; the stringer family@yahoo.com; schlederdecopan@hotmail.com; camille.harris@hotmail.com; eandl157@sbcglobal.net; morris@jetlink.net; raymond9@roadrunner.com; lesliepurcell@gmail.com; lindberged@msn.com

The city has a library account-- with a balance of, I believe, approx. \$500,000. Neal Andrews suggested the city use this to keep Wright open (assuming this supplemental funding was even necessary considering our further exploration of the MOU-- no additional money from the city was even necessary to keep Wright open). But 5 members of the City Council want to save that money for other new libraries, including at the mall. They wanted to close Wright, and had every intention of achieving that goal. They can not carry out their ROI Library/Destination Library model while Wright is still in existence.

To many it seems the city and county are working together, to manipulate and use people's passion for Wright to fund raise for their

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**"The State of Helen Yunker Address"**

Continued from Page 2...



Helen Yunker overlooking beautiful downtown Ventura.

the lot as "surplus property."

Another four years passed with the buyer in complete default of the sales contract. To avoid repossession by the city, the buyer, in 2009, petitioned the city for an extension to allow him time to resell the lot to a third party, which he did. An escrow closed on Dec. 31, 2009. This allowed him to recoup costs from his failed project and to remove him from all future liability. He subsequently relocated to Colorado. And who was the biggest winner of all? The City, who also enjoyed removal from all future liability and the necessity of reclaiming and rehabilitating its lot. And what did I get? The glorious opportunity of dealing with yet another buyer and the possibility of another failure.

Over the years, Councilmember Carl Morehouse has metaphorically used his cache of coins to clarify a point. I have no coins but herewith is my metaphor -- 12 months x 12 years equals 144 months; 144 is a gross.

And what is a gross? It is the number of my futilely spent hours and 12 precious years stolen from my life, not to forget extensive irrecoverable financial damages and loss of robust health.

(At this point of my presentation, Mayor Fulton, failing to give me the courtesy of a "wrap-it-up" warning customarily given to speakers, exploded into

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ultimate goal which never even included Wright.

The County is legally required to provide 40 hours of operation at Wright with no extra money necessary from the city. The City is letting them off the hook because it feeds into their ultimate plans for Destination Libraries which funnel customers to commercial locations (and metered parking). They wanted Wright "off the table."

- Wendy Halderman, Ventura

a tirade of abuse and shouting, preventing me from completing my short closing remarks which were as follows:)

I know that this council truly believes that it has done a great job in trying to end this tragic twelve-year debacle. But it has definitely not ended for me until the stabilization of the slope is a reality. I leave you with this thought "I forgive you and the last five councils for the unspeakable wrong to which I was unfairly and needlessly subjected. I sincerely thank you for your kind and respectful patience in listening."

Respectfully Submitted,  
- Helen Yunker

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BEGINNING ART CLASS at Ventura Creates! begins Feb. 2, 6-8:30 pm. Address is 2037 E. Thompson (4 blocks w. of Seaward), cost \$140, materials free (Kate Hoffman's and Theda DeRamus's classes will begin when enough people have signed up. Please pre-register and pre pay so we know how many are coming. Thanks)

ART CREATIVITY LABS AT OJAI CREATES thru Mar. 31, Thurs. The Art of Selfhood Art Lab - Wed - 10am- 12pm - Quantum Creativity Lab - Wed - 6pm - 8pm - Instructor M. Lucia is a Brazilian painter, writer, teacher & storyteller

contact M. Lucia, 640-2466 or m.lucia.california@gmail.com Environment

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Next Issue of the VIEW Out Mar.

INTERVIEW - PART II Jonn Principe Divine Intervention Continued from Page 18...

home. You might say you have to be considered to have found a nest," he said.

Creativity "This is just a word to the wise for anybody who is thinking of taking up an instrument; anytime in their life at all - just take it up and do it. Don't even think about it. Because it's something in you that's drawn to that. If you don't use that magnetism in your life - you are going to have to use it at another time.... I'd rather do it here.

"As differently as we are as individuals; each of us is uniquely different, very beautiful and precious in an individual way. A higher level of artistry that we can come to can be THAT beautiful - if we can only can come to it before they leave here. That's really

ally a wonderful, wonderful feeling. "Performing and writing and getting involved in music....there's really a link between the two or three or whatever - a multi-faceted creative person, and it expresses just as heavily in different times and maybe also at the same time... sometimes..... In your life you could have three or four things going on, or maybe just one, but hopefully it becomes very intense. That's the fun, to define it - it's a ball of intensity - it just draws us in.

"Anyone who is in the creative pursuits, it doesn't matter how many people really are contacted or feel for your product - it's the linkages and this is where everybody's spiritual background comes in. The people that you need in your life to come at the right time, beautifully - they will come if you will take your steps first and then comes the family of music - it's almost an interrelated....other species, based on music. We have all that in ourselves.

"Children are in the total relaxation and in "the NOW". As long as they're fed, they have their basic needs taken care of, and their little minds.....and how they look at the world.... You try to wish you could see the world they see - that you could see what they're seeing.

"They can be off by themselves in the joy of their play world. They're not as we are, as we become, when we're adults - they don't become lonely.

"You see, they have 'play-time'.... We lose our play-time.... Anybody that creates around - music, whatever, that's 'their' play-time. What it really means to 'them' - that's their play-time as an adult.

Divine Nature Spirit "A person who finds the ability to see the divine, the creator in everything - especially in nature - especially when it's been tarnished by the hand of man.... It is important for us, as people, to find spaces in our lives that are nature-oriented - to go someplace where you only go yourself, where your eyes are inspired by what you see - ears, by what you hear - and there's not a mark upon it - the sunset.

"I do my devotionals at sunset in conjunction with an exercise program I developed... meditation-in-motion, where you are inspired by a setting. You're outdoors exercising in the fresh air where you really should be, right in the sun, which rejuvenates us better than any Vitamin D out of a bottle.

Divine Creativity "I think the natural world is in the same place music is... the expression of the Divine creation and vibration. That's as close as we can get. I wonder too, this is the other thought I had - when we're IN, going back to the 'self,' and the music is being formed.... embodied from the outer world to ourselves, it's almost like you're programming your very atomic structure - the speed at which the atoms and neutrons whirl inside of you - you know, it's an incredible thing.

One of my great friends is a North German broadcaster - Jens Messtorff. Jens has a very deep appreciation for American music. It's unusual and it crosses unusual age limits - they seem to respond to the music he plays for them. He is a welcoming point in Germany for all the incoming bands, giving them airplay and setting up concerts.

I should give credit on the album to BFBs Tom Liebengood who wrote, 'Remember When' and 'On With Peace'. Also Ernie Joseph, Cory Orosco and Brian Faith, Kimberly Ford and Amanda Martinez.

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Joel Anderson



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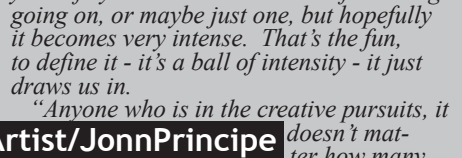
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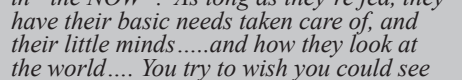
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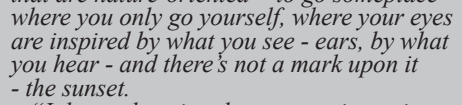


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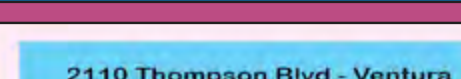
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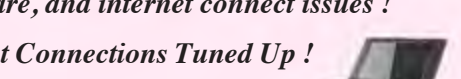
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