

'Fasting for love'

Continues from page 1

In the mid-nineties, the SoHum business gentry reacted to the ending of the million dollar land development boom. This Gentry, not yet addicted to weed money, very antagonistic to the kind of crowd that came in with The Music, signed everyone on to a manifesto which pledged hostility to what were designated as "vagrants" and who eventually were stigmatized as "homeless" but who can continue to be seen simply as outcasts. The criminalization of these poor people began in earnest.

Hippie Money didn't approve of hangers-on around their big money amusement ventures, either. Somewhere around that time, the Mateel began running Patrols to keep the musical poor and the Rainbow types moving during the weeks before, after, and during Reggae.

Law enforcement was more than willing to execute this casual, but consensual, campaign against the outcasts. Deputies would hang photocopy warnings on bushes near camps and then go in later as back up to theft and destruction of private property by vigilantes under their protection. The Courts however have begun ruling for the outcasts on private property and due process cases. Law enforcement is currently ambivalent about its role and has been contradicting yesterday's policy. One sneer does not any longer suit all.

The three threatening visitors, coming back as four, showed a certain ambivalence about the new situation as they manfully volunteered to keep a Summer of Hate in contention. Maybe they have heard the bad news from law enforcement - *the times they are a'changin'* - because, for one, they dropped the *yougottaleave* stuff? They came disarmed, gun-wise, a very practical move, since it takes both hands to carry their brandished baseball bats. They started instead talking about looking for a stolen wallet. When the "wallet" ruse didn't impress people, the raiders escalated the scope of their search. There ensued some rolling about in the dirt by a pair of conflicting parties before the invaders left. No injuries reported - yet.

There is plenty of summer to up the ante in. Who will be around to separate the bluff from the show-down as our Retrograde Summer of Love heats up?

Let's be positive and optimistic: border skirmishes in the Freeway Forest can be a point of departure for a solution harmless to all the parties. Let's look at the Freeway Forest, not as a battle ground, but as a social opportunity. We start well if we continue to see it as an underdeveloped community resource (Low/no Income Camping.) We can develop it first and foremost as a conscious Camping Co-op, stabilizing and de-stigmatizing the outcasts instead of criminalizing them.

I have no interest in taking away local property rights. The shock and awe of last year, in fact, began with me in attendance, assuring the campers - who were overwhelmingly community people, not transients - that this was indeed the owners specific request. In doing so I was part of a multiple "task force" - cops, Locals on Patrol, Eel River Cleanup Project, a couple of CHILLers like

myself, others dashing about on a off-road vehicle and even, eventually, one of the owners.

Not feeling able to defend the campers, I was there in solidarity, helping a woman take her stuff to the road and transporting some of it in my truck. I didn't no what was to follow: a

series of illegal forced evictions, destruction and theft of property, slashing survival gear all through-out the winter, until it was obvious even to Humboldt's Human Rights Commission that there was no concern shown here by cops and vigilantes for the health or lives of those they were persecuting. The Garberville meeting, broadcast on KMUD, of an open Human Rights Commission made the vigilantly problem hard to miss.

There are probably more "transient" businesses amongst the downtown than there are transients among those who camp in the Freeway Forest. The point is that a stable community solution cannot be dictated by money. It is no model if we are to evolve passed the civil war threatening nationwide. We must choose cultural and social values to lead us.

Take a look at a visible case in point. At one point, thanks to the after hours barflies, the hill north of Garberville was known as "drunkards' hill"; only to be renamed Hippie Hill as its campers came to be associated with the music and the weed culture, i.e. vagrants. Now in the process of gentrification Hippie Hill has morphed into its contemporary virtual reality of *Rich Hippie Hotel, Ltd.* Drop "rich" and drop the "corporate structure" and actualize the space as a co-operatively run Global Hippie Hotel, all ownership on a Land Trust model (i.e. no one owns the earth, but if you leave the Trust you get your equity back.)

Locals had a values conference lately, distrusted by many in an era where the iron law of **money first** rules, and its summary is valuable on its own terms, something to measure ourselves against much like the aspirations of the U.N. Human Rights Declaration, so ironic in its time after WW II as to be practically a mockery.

Meanwhile, as a Hermetic scholar (*Hermes is Mercury's Egyptian disguise*), I have long resolved to take the Mercury Retrograde periods seriously through fasting. This fast is patterned after Ramadan, which I "practiced" once. In Ramadan, you don't eat during the day but can eat at night. A simultaneous Lent and Easter the way I see it.

I fasted recently for a day in solidarity with the prisoners at Guantanamo. Fasting has often been a good way to focus and empower myself and keep my eye on the prize. **In that spirit, I have decided to undertake a Fast for Love and Unarmed Conflict Resolution for the 25 days of Mercury in Virgo retrograde.**

I invited you to join me in spirit and in fasting during this Summer of Love. Let's start evolving ourselves out of this harmful stalemate.

Paul Encimer



'Palestinian Victory' Continues form page 1

About 47 Israelis were killed in that same period. But this latest Intifada was somehow contained and managed. Certainly, human rights groups protested many of the army killings of Palestinians as unnecessary or unprovoked, but little has changed on the ground. The Palestinian Authority has continued to operate almost entirely independent from the violent reality faced by its people on a daily basis.

In this latest confrontation, Palestinians of Jerusalem won, presenting an impressive model

of mobilization and popular solidarity for all Palestinians. The Israeli army removed the barricades and the metal detectors, pushing Israel to the brink of a political crisis involving angry politicians, the army and internal intelligence, the Shin Bet.

"Today is a joyful day, full of celebration and sorrow at the same time - sorrow for the people who lost their lives and were injured," a protester told Journalists, **as thousands stormed the gates of Jerusalem armed with their prayer rugs, flags and voices hoarse from chanting for nearly two weeks.** *"This is very much a grassroots movement - this isn't led by Hamas or Fatah, the traditional political leaders of the*

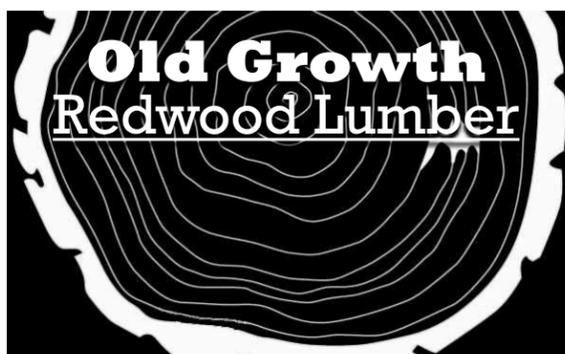
Palestinians," journalist Imran Khan reported from outside the compound.

Rational political analysis cannot possibly fathom how a nation undergoing numerous odds can still mobilize against an army, and win. But the power of the people often exceeds what is seemingly rational. Almost leaderless, Palestinians remain a strong nation, united by an identity that is predicated on the pillars of human rights, resistance and steadfastness.

Dr. Ramzy Baroud

His latest book is My Father Was a Freedom Fighter: Gaza's Untold Story.

PalestineChronicle.com
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