

Friday night!

Well, “Friday after work” and first-off I only work every-other-Friday, and work-Fridays quit at 3pm so... What to do? Where to go? **Venice Beach!** This is just 3 miles from my apartment, and the day was sunny... So for you non-Californians, this is what “aimless wandering 59yo white-guys” do after work on Friday...



Oh yeah nice-warm-day and if the scene is colorful or otherwise “has merit” well here it is... *Photo-essay by P-Ski!*

Where you live if you've got more money than God...



This is Padoum, which I have learned means “Buddist god of pumpkins”



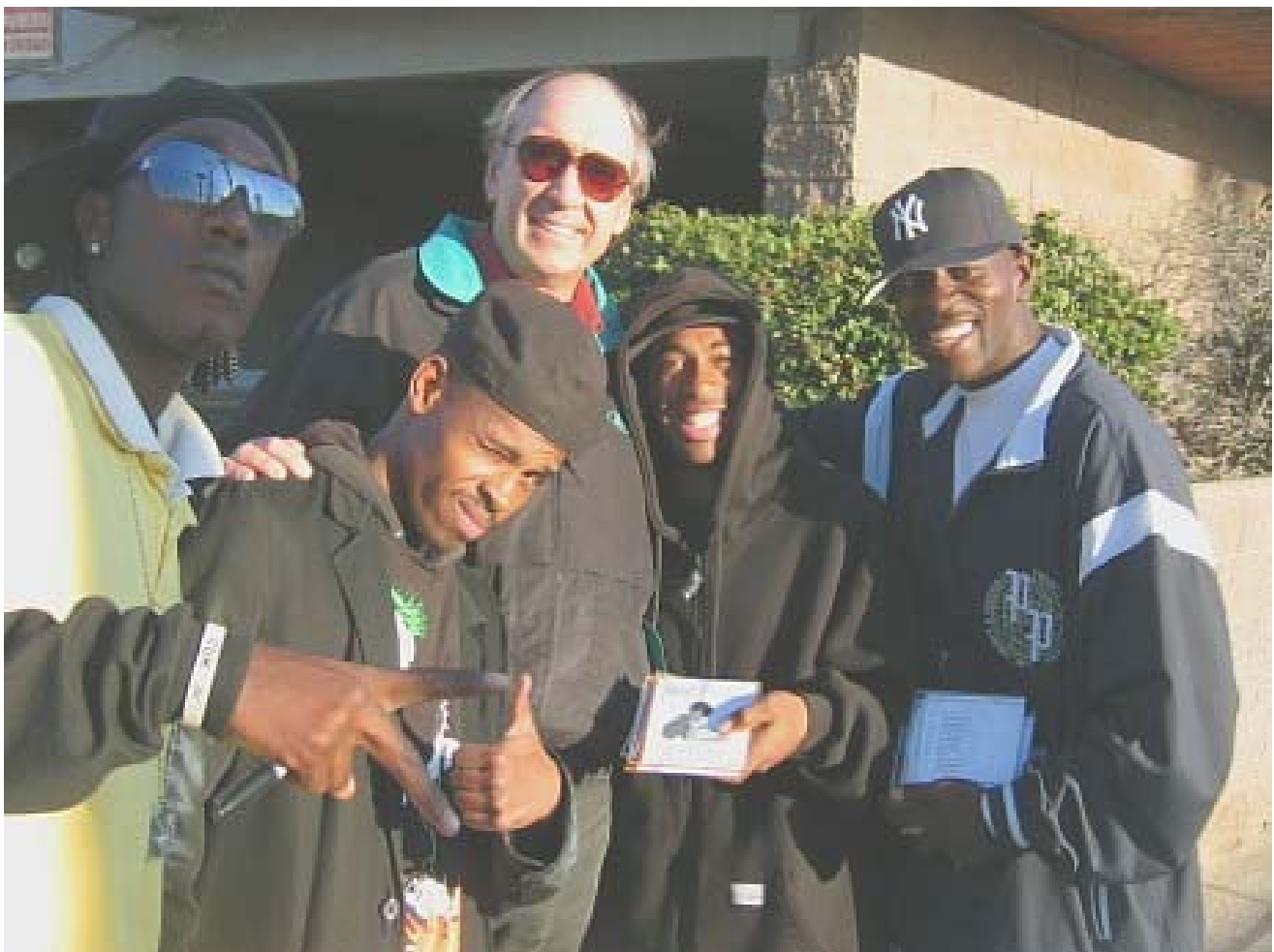
This is just a colorful street stall, or is it? Maybe a mob-front?



Hey these are My Boys! I was cruising by and... These guys were touting their own music (and “Hey! We own our own labels!”). **\$10.** Like a (white) fool, I bought one. Oh no, not a “fool for **buying**” but a fool for buying ONE thus disappointing (alienating?) the group. Hmm.. I’m doing \$\$-better than I’ve ever done in my life. These guys have music, not much more... *Time to share...*

So I bought a CD from each of them, with a condition and that condition being that I get a “promo shot” with all-5 of us in the picture. Wow they thought this was a great idea, and we strong-armed the second guy walking by to take the pic (the first guy looked-white, but spoke no English, thought he was being mugged, and ran away).

Priceless!



Next up, one of the seemingly-endless number of t-shirt shops...



C'mon who *buys* stuff here?

Annie's is one of my favorite shops, because hey I like bright-lime-green.



In time the Annie pic will become very famous (maybe a Spielberg movie). Know why? The shadow-guy on the cellphone, "CIA".

Below is the most famous big-art in L.A. (when you figure out why, let me know). I do admit that a smelly-cigarette-smoking “guy” (I think) told me it was an “alien landing site”. Uh... OK.



Now things get very interesting... Below is a California bike, "Switchblade" model.



Venice Beach comes with a roller-skating amphitheater... This chick was definitely “on her own wavelength” but next week –honest, I’m not making this up—I join the *Rocket Skaters Roller Club* because I want to learn how to skate and play music in my head and meet awesome/cool chix like her...



This bird had the right idea... Enjoy the sun and ignore everything even remotely connected with worries/responsibilities...



Oh yeah “normal” people can be found in Venice, at this --and only this-- restaurant. Food is decent, lunch very reasonable, and you can tie your dog outside the fence....



There is a Tattoo Parlor about, oh, every 50'. *Every one today had someone getting needled...*



Weakness for cheap sunglasses! I used to get cheapies from the web, but Venice has rip-off's even cheaper **\$5**. The pair I got here has gold-tint, super-clear, awesome! Note the camera shadow in the pic! Hey I bet even the black guys would think this cool!



Dinner! \$2! “4-cheese pizza” which was IMHO “absolutely tasteless, and likely devoid of all food-value”.



Honestly I would like to live here... “Executive suites” (check out the brick in the bedroom pic) and the entire building is below the sign-pic. Very cool.





OK, so I want (actually “have a desperate need”) to be cool. Why don’t I live there?

Because ...

There's a secret CIA prison right next door!



I've really checked this out. The bikini shops are a front. "Barred, empty rooms" up top, sometimes showing a "hollow-faced man, likely of arab descent". Alleyways filled with falafel delivery trucks, and not one restaurant for blocks. See the skinny kid on the steps? As I scurried by he said "Pencikowski, you come by here one more time and 'the agency' will cram both you and that digicam into a blender". *How did he know my name?*

Thank god for the Cadillac Hotel. Great restrooms...

A hand-drawn sign on a light-colored, textured background. At the top, the words "THE CADILLAC HOTEL" are written in bold, blue, capital letters inside a black rectangular border. Below this, the text "Come sleep with us....we don't mind sand in our bed!" is written in a casual, handwritten style. To the right of the text is a simple drawing of a bright yellow sun with rays. Below the sun is a drawing of a palm tree with green fronds and a brown trunk. At the bottom of the sign, the text "Nightly Special: Sunsets and sea breezes are on the house" is written in the same handwritten style. At the very bottom, the website address "www.thecadillahotel.com" is printed in a clean, black, sans-serif font.

THE CADILLAC HOTEL

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mind sand in our bed!

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Had to get out of there, tried a short-cut down an alley, dark... Came upon a light at the far end...



What? Am I lost in a movie set? The *Canal Club*?



...and oh wow the bar was sooo cool and the people well... “different” and if I didn’t spend my allowance (figure it out, \$40 for rap CD’s, \$20 for knock-off sunglasses –oh did I forget to mention I bought 4 pairs-- plus pizza... hey “flat busted” and no money-machine in sight.

Enough for the night!

Welcome to my neighborhood! P-Ski