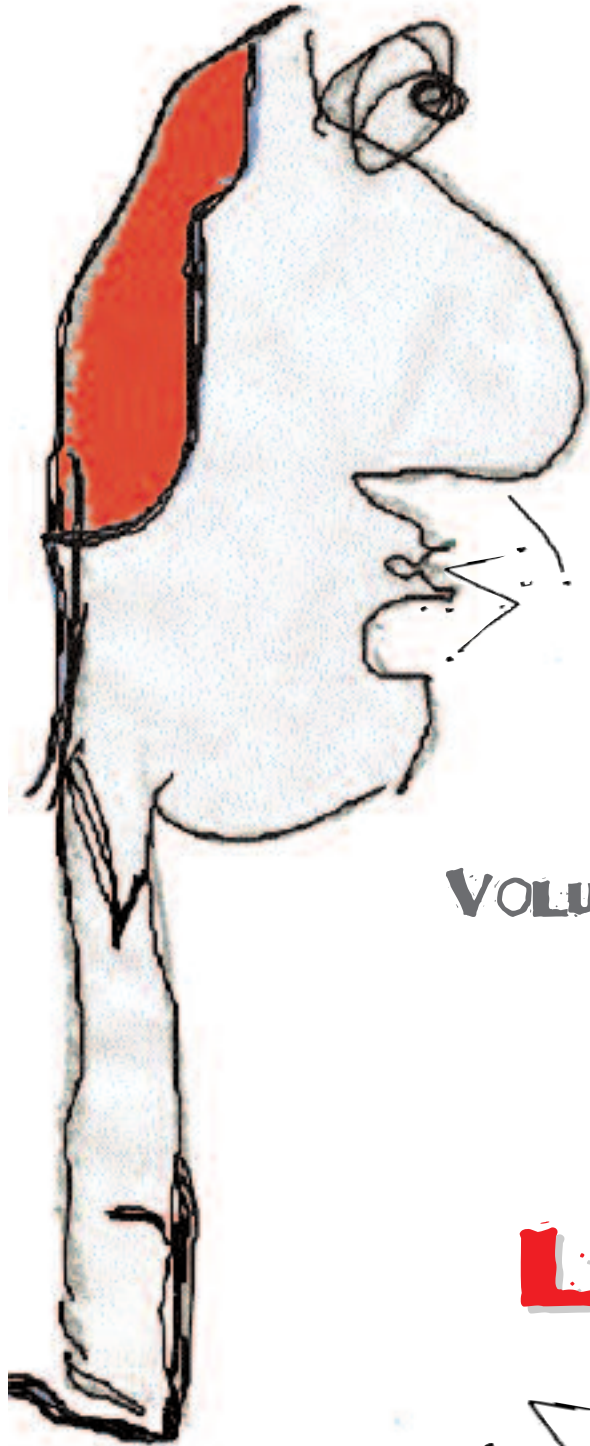


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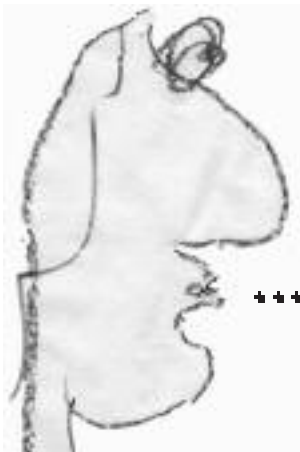
BUZZ



VOLUME 2 MAY, 2005

**NO
LONGER
FEARING
ME**

The Literary Magazine of the Virginia Avenue Project



..... ABOUT THE BUZZ



The Virginia Avenue Project is an after-school program that uses the performing arts in conjunction with one-on-one mentoring, to help kids realize their full potential. Our community partner is the Santa Monica Police Activities League, where we offer free classes and workshops, and rehearse plays for production.

The stories, poems, art, and other writings in this magazine are contributed by kids and adults in SMART PARTNERS, a year-long creative tutoring program that emphasizes imaginative learning and one-on-one mentoring. Using targeted homework assistance and creative activities, SP kids are given the tools to improve their study habits, focus their concentration, and increase their academic performance. The Project believes in giving kids an environment where they can explore and express their creativity, so in addition to academic tutoring, SP kids and adults collaborate on this magazine.

The results of this collaboration offer humor, insight, reflection, whimsy, and some very novel ideas.

This year's issue is titled, "No Longer Fearing Me."

Runners-up for best title included "Real Life?," "Truth or Dare," "Conjecture 61," and "The Beautiful Dreams of Perception."

It was a pretty close race, and at one point we did contemplate combining all the titles:

"In real life can you conjecture 61 beautiful dreams of perception? Truth or dare? Truth, because I'm no longer fearing me."

But, truth be told - it was a tad long, and "No Longer Fearing Me" was the official winner by one vote.

So relax, get comfy, and read THE BUZZ. And maybe you'll be inspired to speak up, act out, conquer your fears, and write things down. The philosopher and writer Anatole once said:

"To accomplish great things we must dream as well as act."

THE BUZZ is a collection of some of these dreams, which we hope will one day take flight into action.



virginia avenue project



much ado about kids

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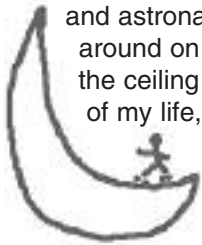


NO LONGER FEARING ME



In the room of my life....

The bedroom of my life has a lot of space and a waterbed. There are a lot of shooting stars, and astronauts, AND I will be able to float around on roller-blades and roll across the ceiling and walls. In the bedroom of my life, I will also bike through space and go to Jupiter, but not get more stupider. I will also skate on the ramp of the moon.



Aaron and Chris

I am the open spaces
The sun above
The grass below
The water that helps the plants grow.

Vistas of the mind
as far as conception can take me
as far as my thoughts bind
Always changing
night to day
The children play, grow, then up and move away.

Season shifting
nature uplifting
Bread and butter
Make that toast and jam,
Sam.

Jarryd

The room of my life gives way to look at a world I never thought possible.
It makes me want to fly,
fly over the horizon, stars and land below.
The room of my life sends me to a magical world where my dreams become reality.
My room makes me think
what a great idea it would be to fly...



it almost seems as if I am flying...
The room of my life allows me to daydream while lying on the clouds.
The room of my life shows the mysteries of the world in one,
quick glance.

Gabe

my room is my zone of serenity
holding all my happy memories and
all the things that make me secure
and relaxed and
opens my head for the serenity
and relaxation to
sink in.

Rafael

Our room = love
Our room would inspire people
to be themselves...and to
"Fight for the right To Party!"
It would inspire Fashion Sense
as well as dreams and stories.
Everyone would live in harmony
with each other.

The water would create less
rebellion and more
Everyone would be equal

Sarina and Peggy



If my life were a bedroom, I would have different
objects that describe me as a person.
Like weights, posters of basketball players....
also football players.
My room will transform into a basketball court.
There will be plenty of basketballs to go around.

Alexis

In my room, I have a machine that lets me choose any room I want.
I can go anywhere, with anybody.
I can arrive at any time on any date in the past or future.
I choose the weather and I can even change my age and physical ability.
So if I want to go to Hawaii in the 70's with my big-headed friend Lucas
at age 21, and be 7'5" with Mega Muscles at midnight and stand under a
perfect sky I can.

Then tomorrow...you never know... Matt and Jahmar

The room of my life is on a beautiful beach with a blue, blue
ocean. Fish swim by, and the sandy beach is perfect for long
walks in the sun. Flowers scent the air.

I don't have to look at the stars, all I need is a telescope to
look at my bed. My bedroom has tropical breezes, and a
palm tree that sways. My bathtub has waves and a lobster.

The butter is ready.

The music is the sound of the waves washing up on the beach.

The rugs are petals that have fallen from the world.

Alisa



outward appearances

inner realities



To the world I am cool	To myself I am quiet
To the world I am playful	To myself I am modest
To the world I am funny	To myself I am funny
To the world I am secretive	To myself I am flying
To the world I am friendly	To myself I am wishing I could grow a beard
To the world I am small	To myself I am confident

Aaron and Chris

To the world I am funny	To myself I am a monkey
To the world I am happy	To myself I am insecure
To the world I am cool	To myself I am a dreamer
To the world I am hyper	To myself I am cool
To the world I am athletic	To myself I am easily distracted
To the world I am chubby	To myself I am a food destroyer
To the world I am self assured	To myself I love my family

Gyasi and Eric

To the world I am just a white boy	To myself I am African American
To the world I am awkward	To myself I am a dancer
To the world I am polite	To myself I am rude
To the world I am quiet	To myself I am a deep thinker
To the world I am older	To myself I am a young man
To the world I am a safe driver	To myself I am nuts
To the world I am too cautious	To myself I am thoughtful
To the world I am a character actor	To myself I am a leading man
To the world I am calm	To myself I am a bundle of nerves
To the world I am complex	To myself I am complex

Jarryd and Tom

To myself I am talkative	To the world I am loud
To myself I am serious	To the world I am joyful
To myself I am artistic	To the world I am a smarty-pants
To myself I am happy with my height	To the world I am too tall for my age
To myself I am smart	To the world I am opinionated
To myself I am willing to have fun	To the world I am a joker
To myself I wish I could fly	To the world I am always late

Jenny and Rochelle

To the world I am shy	To myself I am beautiful
To the world I am obnoxious	To myself I am curious
To the world I am air-headed at times	To myself I am Einstein
To the world I am sweet	To myself I am a devil
To the world I am really fun to be around	To myself I am boring
To the world I am tiny	To myself I am confident

Melissa and Anna

To the world I am a piece of dust floating around	To myself I am athletic
To the world I am in charge	To myself I am uncertain
To the world I am thin	To myself I am full
To the world I am scary	To myself I am shy
To the world I am small	To myself I am tall
To the world I am an adult	To myself I am 8 years old
To the world I am spoiled	To myself I am generous with my friends

Alexis and Gail

To myself I am quiet	To the world I am silly
To myself I get bored quickly	To the world I am not normal
To myself I am often in the wrong place	To the world I am a person who loves the beach
To myself I am running out of time to do something great	To the world I am a good mother
To myself I am careful	To the world I like to sing
To myself I am a mess a lot of the time	To the world I am smart
To myself I wish I owned a llama	To the world I am charming

Sarina and Peggy



ODES

&

ACCOLADES



thoughts for another generation....

Ode to Martin Luther King

Martin, oh Martin
how we'd like to meet a man who's achievements were
sweet
A man strong and brave who
gave his life for others.
Segregation stopped...When
this man had a dream
A dream that is no longer hard to be seen
We would like to hear your stories and to tell you ours -
of freedom and choice and
doing things that are hard.

Sarina and Peggy

I would like to meet
My cousin of the desert
Who hits white balls
With wooden bats
and presses buttons
on a black, red & blue
gameboy, steering cars
around like crazy.....
My cousin is so cool.

Aaron

I would like to meet my grandfather.

I would like to hear stories from his past, stories of his childhood,
stories about he and my grandmother's courtship, stories I can
compare to the ones my grandmother shared of him.

I would like to hear what he thought of me when I was born. I
wish I could have his love and support. The kind of love only
grandparents have for grandkids. That forgiving, can't do any
wrong love, the love that no one else can understand, unless they
have wisdom.

Knowing your history and full story is what makes you whole. But
bits and pieces keep you constantly wondering.

Knowing, understanding and loving. I love you Granddad.

Mylika

An Ode to Dave Pelzer

"A Child called It" made me want to sit and read all
day. Your life impresses me, how did you survive?
I wouldn't have.
Do you still have contact with your mother, after
how she treated you?
I wouldn't.
Do you miss your brothers and father?
I would.
Do you have children? How much do they know?
Did it affect your life by raising them?
It would affect me.
Thank you for your story, for my future.
Now, I want to help children just like you.

Angela

ODE 2 GRAMPAPPY

People say we were so close
when we were both alive
we played and laughed
had our fun
but then you passed and
our fun was done

To know you better
and live days lost
to relive our fun
I'd pay any cost

Janyd

Jesse Owens I want to race you.

Even though you'll beat me.

I think you are nice, because you're a
famous African American Athlete.

How did you get fast, Jesse Owens?
How did you jump so high?

Genki

Wriggle, wriggle,
Left and right. In your narrow pen
You grew and then,
Our world expanded.
Bleary eyes
Became the norm.
We look for shelter
From your gently storm.

Richard

Someone told me Christmas was near
 I saw a deer, right here!
 The weather turns cold, my ears get red,
 The night before Christmas I went to bed.
 I'm hoping Santa will bring me a game,
 A game that isn't lame.
 I'm very happy, and I want some taffy.
 Decorated the house - people pass by,
 I thought it was a lighthouse!
 The bright lights bring joy to others,
 and all my sisters and brothers.
 I told my friends, "This is my house!"

Ricardo



A Recipe for Success

39 ounces of determination
 -37 pints of distraction
 (round with 1/1,000 of hope)

And you'll be in the
 ballpark

Melissa and Anna

Once upon a time there were three little boys and one sister who lived in an orphanage. They were about to go to sleep, but they couldn't sleep. They jumped on their bed, and the sister felt like she was flying. She saw an airplane beneath her, she saw houses that looked like ants and farms. When she was flying she felt like Peter Pan. She wished that she had a home with her three brothers and a mom and dad that could spend more time with them than at their jobs. She wished that all of them could live happily and in peace, and never fight over the remote control.

She went back to the orphanage, and said she found a family on her own, and the evil babysitter, Nosey, said, "If you found a family by yourself, how come they didn't sign the papers?"
 And the family said, "We already have the papers, so there."

Alisa

there's not much i can say about teenage life.....you go to school, go home, hang out with your friends, do homework, and if you have time..just relax.

i hate that same routine but i know that one day i'm gonna wanna go back and do it again.

it's fun at times. well....most of the time.

and the few times that it's boring, pass pretty quickly.

Rafael

Tears

What if all the teardrops flew up
 as we cry to the gods up
 above?

What would happen to them, would
 they convert, would they become
 the throne of each god, or would it be
 the thunderstorm about to crash
 with brawn like a
 bull who just got
 jabbed with the sharpest sword,
 or do the gods change their
 minds
 and let it become
 everything?

2 by Sierra

On the day I got adopted
 I woke up really early
 I felt really excited
 I did my hair in a pony-tail
 And I got dressed
 in a pink dress that had a little train
 And it had roses on it, too.

I asked my Mom if I could borrow her old dancing shoes
 And then after twenty minutes we had to leave
 My Aunt, who is now my Godmother too,
 came with us

When we got to the children's court
 The building was big and it felt bright
 We had to wait for about thirty minutes
 And then everybody showed up
 Katie, Sydney, Charlotte, Jennifer, Ernestine, Patricia, Carol,
 Kathy and Jenny.

We were in the lobby
 I felt really, really, really, happy
 To see everyone there

We went in the courtroom
 I had to sit up front with my Mom
 We had to sign papers
 I have 5 names


So it took me 5 minutes to just sign one paper.
 After we did that

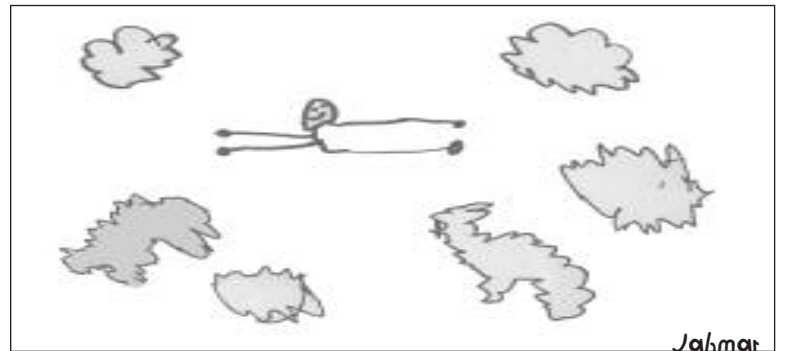
We all went up and took a picture
 I put it in my adoption scrapbook

It had a frame in the middle, and it had:
 For Mother and Daughter, Barbara and Sierra, June 24, 2004
 It was the happiest day of my life.



Buzz Comics

 In
the morning...



Before
a test.....



A WATER FALL OF IDEAS!



To help the Tsunami victims, you could collect all the water from the disaster, store it in barrels, purify it, and ship it to all the countries in the world suffering from draught and lack of clean water.

Kaitlyn and Anya

You could also freeze all the water and make beautiful ice sculptures and snow for people to play in.

COLLECT ALL THE WATER
AND MAKE A HUGE VAT OF
CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP,
ENOUGH TO FEED ALL THE
HUNGRY PEOPLE
IN AFRICA.

Sierra and Klea

We could make a giant water slide from America to Australia, so instead of flying across the world, you could ride the water slide and save energy.

The water slide would go 5600 miles per hour!

Then you could purify all the water, freeze it, and give everyone on the planet a free snow-cone.

Yum.

Ricardo and Emily

- 1) Make a giant swimming pool
- 2) Water the pine trees
- 3) Write a letter to all the victims....it might make them feel a lot better
- 4) Add lots of kool-aid to the water and then sell it. Donate all the proceeds to Tsunami Relief Funds.

Jahmar and Maff

To help the Tsunami victims..you could remove the salt from the water....clean it up, and give a glass to every thirsty person in the world.

You could also use the power of the water to generate enough electricity to get to all the places where the Tsunami hit.

And....you could put a big drain in the ground, catch the water, and irrigate all the dry regions on the planet.

Finally - you could freeze all the water and make a ski and snowboard mountain!

Gyasi and Eric

With all the water we could.....

Make a big pool, a car wash (add soap), drinking water for all the thirsty people, showers for everyone who is dirty, a beautiful waterfall,

No Homework! (we could wash school away), a bath for animals, a huge fishbowl, a huge bubble bath, and the biggest snowball fight in the world.

Melissa and Anna

We could blow bubbles to give them hope.

We could create a huge sauna, to help comfort them.

We could make a huge wishing well.

Using both hands like a cup - scoop your hands into the water, make a wish, and then release all the water.

Miku and Mylika

Make a water park and give all the admission money to the victims.

Add a bunch of flour and yeast to the water, so we could make lots of bread and feed the homeless.

Collect all the Tsunami water in cups and use it to water all the plants and stuff that doesn't need clean water, so we can help conserve water.

Noelia and Ali

'Cause there's a water shortage.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



What have you done recently that you thought you couldn't do?

JENNY: I chose to make my body into an orange bowl that was friends with the fridge. I did it to do a character development for a radio-playmaking class. I got on the floor on my stomach and put my legs and arms up and arched my back. It made me feel achy.

LEIGH: I made a table-top out of stained glass. I went off my diet. I saw every movie in town and took a mental break from all forms of responsibility.

MIKU: I've never been on a trip without my parents. Next week I'm going to Catalina Island with my oceanography club.

MYLIKA: Getting adjusted to California life is something I've not been able to do until recently. I'm finally learning to appreciate it.

JARRYD: Do most of my homework ahead of schedule. Do more art in school, as well as out of school.

NOELIA: Run a whole mile.

ALI: I made a huge pan of amazing cookies and I had only half of one all day. I usually eat them all day long.

GABE: Get an A on my vocab quiz.

KAITLYN: I learned how to knit and count to 600. It took me a long time.

ANYA: I learned how to waterski. I spent a lot of time in the water, and not much on the skis.

GYASI: I went to Yosemite with my school for a science magnet field trip.

PEGGY: Recently I walked in a marathon in Hawaii.

SARINA: I cut bangs...actually - my friend cut them. I told her to. It was really funny how they looked.

ALEXIS: I have recently been able to talk out and express my feelings. But part of the time it does get me in some trouble. I talked back to another kid, to let her know how I felt. It got me into trouble I didn't want to be in.

EMILY: I tried to learn how to knit left-handed, since I'm a lefty, but I couldn't do it. I learned how to do it right-handed. The only thing I can make is scarves. Lots of scarves.

MELISSA: I have recently been able to announce my plans to launch a campaign for school treasurer. My platform consists of abolishing all school debts and a prosperous future for all the students of Grant Elementary.

ALISA: Now I can draw. My mom said I can be a teacher and teach kids how to draw and learn.



What do you want to be different in the coming year?

ALI: I want for there to be no war, to have the fine glow of peace over the world. I want my neighborhood to have re-paved streets and cared-for houses. The look of peace, in mind and body throughout the world. And I want to grow 3 inches.

NOELIA: For the people and homes to recover from the Tsunami, and for tenth grade to be better than ninth grade.

GYASI: I would like to change how my school looks, because it has looked the same for a long time, like new desks, new basketball (actual courts with actual nets) better grass, and new text books that are more up to date.

ERIC: A peaceful resolution to the war in Iraq. How about that for a big wish. Is it asking too much?

JESS: I would like to turn on the news and not be depressed by bad decisions made by our world's leaders. I'd like to have a snazzy haircut that looks good all the time.

ANGELA: I would like not be shy when I am in my classroom.

ALEXIS: I need to make my writing better by using a thesaurus and asking the teacher for help. I would like to move into a better neighborhood because there are a lot of gun shots and police patrolling. I would like a peaceful neighborhood. I would like for our troops to come home.

RICARDO AND EMILY: We would like to change downtown Los Angeles. Because it is dirty and there are lots of poor people. People should organize an official clean-up for the city. If it were cleaner, it would be a nicer place to visit. Also, we would like to see more people make donations to the Tsunami victims, and also give money to Africa. It would be nice to see people share their fortunes with others, by helping the poor if they can.

SARINA AND PEGGY: Together, we both agree that our global community should change, like the wars, and the Tsunami sites in Sri Lanka and other places. To help with this we should send them our love and support and make sure our government is not cheap and gives them the money they deserve.

