

THE SANDSPUR

Yellow Journalism at its Worst

Published by Symbol Manipulators

GENERAL DISCLAIMER---Anything in the SANDSPUR which resembles actual fact is a mere coincidence. This publication is devoted to rumor, gossip, and downright lies. No apologies are made for crimes against the English language or good usage. The SANDSPUR serves no public interest and has no redeeming social value. It serves the private interests of the Publishers. The SANDSPUR---somewhere on Pensacola Beach. Summer Solstice edition 2008.

STRANGELOVE REDUX---Prior to the Cheney-Bush axis being relegated to the toxic waste dump of history it is in its last throes and dangerous. Serious consideration is being given to a preemptive nuclear strike against Iran because of its stated nuclear weapons aspirations. Ever since the Shah of Iran was deposed successive Islamic regimes have made a mockery of American foreign policy playing the Carter administration and now Dubya like an out-of-tune ukulele. In the not so distant past (The good old days of the Cold War.) there was speculation about what would happen if multiple nuclear weapons were set off and large amounts of dust and smoke were to fill the atmosphere. The hype was that light would be reflected back into space and the world would cool down and we might experience a Nuclear Winter. The idea of inducing a Nuclear Winter is being seriously considered as a quick fix for halting global warming. Very messy but without all the pissing and moaning of contracting our economy with the disciplines required for reducing carbon emissions. Dubya & Company would take credit for smiting those uppity ragheads and doing something about stopping the glaciers from melting. Two birds with one stone or as we say on the Gulf Coast, "Two tourists with one beer bottle." The SANDSPUR tacticians suggest multiple bunker-buster subsurface tactical nukes on suspected nuclear development sites for dramatic effect and to get the crud in the air plus large throw-weight neutron bombs to fry soft tissue targets like Tehran and Isfahan. After the stench dies down we can loot for Persian rugs. Ditto for the anarchy-ridden provinces of Pakistan where Taliban operatives carry on with impunity and use as bases for evil deeds in Afghanistan. On Randy Newman's advice we'll leave Australia alone because they have kangaroos.

PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS---Endless speculation about what the future will bring after the next presidential election. Which of the front runners will wind up on top? Here are three brief scenarios of what kind of State of the Union Address we may hear. The first rap address. The AARP manifesto. Hillary nagging Congress and not Bill.

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Mission accomplished. Whatever.

GOSSIP COLUMN---What is it that certain folks at the Island Authority and their masters do not get about NO PUBLICLY FUNDED MULTISTORY PARKING GARAGE? Every time the subject comes up in an Island Authority meeting someone should scream, "Bullshit!" The restaurateurs and shopkeepers on the Portofino Boardwalk are whining about available parking spaces. They should be allowed to build their own parking garage just as the owner of the Hilton did. No corporate socialism on the Island, thank you. Many SANDSPUR readers have grand plans for the money they may receive from the Federales as part of the economic stimulus package. They will put the money where the Sun don't shine --- in their gas tanks. Resort communities along the Gulf Coast, like Panama City Beach and Pensacola Beach, are touting themselves as "One gas tank away," in major southeastern cities. Excellent propaganda slogan for sure. The only problem is that when the tourists drive here they will be penniless. The price of fuel is threatening the very existence of our charter fishing industry. Add to that the hideous restrictions on taking red snapper and things look bleak. Scary to see idle boats at the Beach marina this time of the year.

COMANDANTE VERDE---Caramba! Elvis, my neighbor, and I have no sympathy for high rise condo dwellers in the core area complaining about loud music coming from the bars. It is a lot like people buying a house next to an airport bitching about airplane noise. It's a resort, stupid. We've lived near The Block for years and there is a solution to the rock-n-roll coming from the bars: Turn off the television, get some money in your pocket, and go out on night patrol yourself. We heard of the response of a Panama City Beach cop to a new arrival who called in a complaint about noisy Spring Break kids, "Maybe you should move." Sea oat seed stalks are popping up right on schedule letting us know the Summer Solstice is right around the corner. From the Forgotten Coast to the Emerald Coast the sea oat yield is expected to be above average in quantity and superb in quality. Likewise for the scourge of the coastline the thorny pestilence, sandspurs. Bitter panic grass planted on the new man-made primary dune went dormant over the Winter but is alive and well. Planting it in the first place was a matter of expediency --- sea oat seedlings in the quantities needed simply were not available. Much to our relief sea oats and other unidentified plants seem to be coexisting with the panic grass. We feared sea oats would be choked out but that is not the case. A feared monoculture did happen. Do not know if this is a representative sample but about one third of the palm trees planted as part of the Via de Luna landscaping look dead in the 200 block. Traffic in the parking lot at The Block has been changed from two-way one-way. Confusing at first but an overall improvement.

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