

From Behind Our White Picket Fence Week 131
By Freddy and Eddy (www.freddyandeddy.com)

Farewell Babeland...

We'd been hearing rumors about Babeland for months, ranging from the far flung (merging with DVD rental company Wanted List) to the moving of their Melrose location to Silver Lake to avoid the high rents on Melrose; however, one thing is for certain – their foray into the LA market has come to a grinding halt, their beautiful store now barren and without a hint of its former tenant. We tried to contact the owner for more information, but so far have been unsuccessful. We do know Babeland's sexy lezbotron Education Coordinator – Kristen Tribby - landed a gig with Pleasure Chest, so at least one talented "babe" will continue to serve the LA sex-positive community.

With the economy sputtering and Babeland's sudden departure, we've been worrying about our own business of late. The huge monthly expense of Mom's assisted care (close to three grand), a brutal April that hit us with property taxes on both our business and home, insurances of various kinds, state sales taxes, and two-plus months of upcoming summer camps has us reeling and turning toward the credit cards (never a good thing). At least we're not forking out employee costs every month, sticking to the "lean and mean" mantra to almost ridiculous degrees and 12-14 hour workdays are now the norm. We've also begun to consider some opportunities we'd dismissed in the past, such as a bona fide possibility for a reality television show based on our crazy dual lives as sex shop owners and white picket fence family members, respectively. In fact, if a deal can be reached whereby our personal lives are minimally impacted, we'll begrudgingly sacrifice the next six months to having cameras shoved in our faces to gain more exposure for both our website and store. It's time to commit to growing professionally or risk Freddy and Eddy dying off entirely, which is definitely not a consideration we can afford to make at this juncture.

Even our February 8th, 2009 Love LA Show has received a bit of imagination to improve its offerings. Instead of holding it at Boulevard 3 again, for example, we're considering shooting for the stars, so to speak, and holding it at the Shrine Auditorium, which is a much larger venue. In fact, with a 6300 seat auditorium, we're hoping to attract Circue du Soleil's "Zumanity," among others to come for a few performances, along with a food section focusing on sensual tastes and textures from some of our finest local restaurants. Cockamamie as some of the ideas being tossed around might be, we're definitely envisioning a hugely successful event on a massive scale.

Little League Baseball season has finally come to an end, with only a couple of playoff games remaining to free ourselves from the commitment of coaching our son's team. We finished in 2nd place during the regular season, which is a nice accomplishment being the youngest team in the entire league. The kids also improved to varying degrees during the 10 week season, so we're satisfied that regardless of how we do during the playoffs that we succeeded in keeping our little team competitive and engaged. Our son will now be turning his attention toward his DJ'ing skills in preparation for Burning Man, where he'll

be doing a set or two out on the playa somewhere. He may be playing a couple events at our shop as well, so we'll be sure to let you know when so you can come groove to his favorite tunes. We managed to score a cheap RV for this year's trek to Burning Man, so we're quite stoked we won't have to suffer through another massive dust storm and its aftermath with only a tent to shelter us (along with the bonus of not having to use the porta-potties – yay!).

Events coming up at our shop: Tuesday, May 13th, *Yikes! Intro to BDSM*. Taught by Kim Airs. Saturday, May 17th, *The Wonders of Botox* with Andre Aboolian, MD (4-6pm). Saturday, May 17th, *Empowerpole!*, with Melanie Long (7-9pm). Sunday, May 18th, *Getting Off: A Woman's Guide to Masturbation* book release party with author Jamye Waxman (7-9pm). Please call our shop or visit our website (click on "Calendar" in the left nav bar) for more details and/or to RSVP.

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