

From Behind Our White Picket Fence Week 162
By Freddy and Eddy

A George Bailey Month

A few weeks back, as we faced an almost insurmountable mountain of bills, flat sales at both our retail store and website, and the prospect of moving our dementia/Parkinson's afflicted mother back into our home, we truly wondered whether we'd continue to survive in business if overall economic conditions continued to decline. Already, several stores in our immediate area had either gone under or were hanging by the slimmest of threads, and we struggled through a horrific November wondering how we'd recover if the worst were to happen and we couldn't make our December rent and home mortgage, respectively. It had gotten to the point where writing this column with any kind of uplifting content was akin to finding silver linings on skid row, such was our combined morose moods.

Somehow, however, we did manage to get our rent and mortgage checks to clear, and slowly business did begin to pick up. December 1st saw us hit one of our best gross sales figures in almost a year and customers whom we hadn't seen in months stopped by to pick up an item or two, as if to acknowledge, perhaps, we might have in some way touched them enough to part with a few dollars to keep us around. Yelp.com continued to work its magic, pushing precious clients through our doors, and we even got a surprise stimulus check from the IRS to help get a few bills caught up. Jane Dahlea-Kahn, the LA Weekly's head advertising shark, worked a minor miracle and coughed up another Little Sexy Black Book, while our column's champion, Paul Sanchez, somehow kept our space intact despite revenue declines that would just as soon replace us with a few more escorts and strip club ads. Even our January Love LA Show was given a boost by our incredible friends at the Pleasure Chest, who have shown monumental sacrifice despite our roller coaster ride through financial hardship. No words could ever describe our gratitude for what these wonderful individuals have done for us.

In short, we are experiencing our own version of "It's a Wonderful Life," with George Bailey being played by two smut purveyors stumbling our way through business and life in Mar Vista, attempting to triumph through little more than the sincere belief that, if we can strive to give of ourselves without expectation, perhaps the universe will somehow find a way to provide for us through these tough times.

And so we sit exhausted, yet contented on this Christmas Day, our son completely stunned at the iPhone Santa placed under the tree (we decided to forgo gifts for ourselves to afford it) and the demented mom happily existing in her foggy little world on our couch. As is our custom, we'll watch all three original Star Wars movies back to back, feasting on tur-duck-hen and other traditional dishes with "orphan" friends and families who decided to skip the hectic travelling to stop by and share in our good fortune. We have no idea what 2009 will bring, but today we give thanks to the simple fact we have each other, are blessed to have people in our lives with whom we can share love, and that

we still believe in this wonderful city where a couple of sex shop owners can somehow exceed their wildest dreams.

As we close out the year, we'd like to point out the newest addition to the LA Weekly's website, namely the full-fledged Little Sexy Black Book. This is not simply a translation of the print addition to the web; the LSBB site is a feature-rich environment that will be updated with fresh content on an almost daily basis, including informative articles, profiles of local movers and shakers in the adult industry, local sexy spots, and fun slide shows and videos on everything from local events to tours through LA's favorite local romantic getaways. You can visit by hitting laweekly.com and we hope you'll take part in this interactive experience by sharing a suggestion or two of your own!

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