

ROARSHOCK PAGE

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Volume 5, Number 1

San Francisco

October 9, 2012

What?! Where did a decade and a month go?! After a deep sleep and Absinthe on the streets of Our Fair City, ROARSHOCK PAGE awakens like Ripped Van Winkle and looks around to see, YET AGAIN, it be TIME for The End of The World!

NORTH BEACH STATION

Feet firmly on the ground, the green lawn of Washington Square. In San Francisco, I have lived most of my life high above the air - In walk-up apartments, and surveying the City, the Bay and Environs from the eagle's eye view of downtown high-rises. To actually touch the earth, nourishes my soul, and I have spent long interludes on the grass in the open heart of North Beach. It was here that people gathered after the Great Quake in 1906, and where I saw them gather again following the Little Big Quake of 1989. On the north the twin spires of Ss. Pietro e Paolo @ 666 Filbert Street tower over the park. In the west the din from MUNI and other traffic on Columbus Avenue rising steeply beyond to Russian Hill. Mario's Bohemian Cigar Store Cafe to the south serving espresso and grilled eggplant sandwiches that are always the same, always good. Telegraph Hill with Coit's Tower atop rises to the east, and at its foot, looking out over the park, the little postal box that ROARSHOCK PAGE for years has called its North Beach home. Other picnic memories, of brown paper wrapped bottles from Coit Liquors sipped on the quiet. The fragrance of California marijuana floating on the breeze from the sidelines of the park. Grim faced junkies mustering enough gump-tion to go Uptown in search of "a drag." Sitting on the grass with Vampyre Mike, drinking malt liquor and reading comic books, agreeing that Reed Richards was definitely a guy "who needed to be taken down a few pegs." Saint Stupid's Day concert and my daughters

joining in singing "Bohemian Rhapsody;" the "Jesus Smack-down" wrestling contest (Jesus v. Jesus & Jesus v. Buddha - "I'm Buddha. I'm usually into Peace & Love, but this Jesus IS going DOWN!"). That was the last time I saw Ken Kesey, who showed us how to get high in the park without drugs!!!! (You roll up in a ball and hug your knees, hyperventilate, and then leap upwards toward the sky with an exploding head. I wish I could remember the name of that technique!) One question remains, and the answer as clear as day, but as dark as a moonless night: Why does Benjamin Franklin preside as a statue in the center of Washington's Square?



SHIMOSATO CO-WROTE, ACTS IN SFMT'S 'RIPPED VAN WINKLE'

The San Francisco Mime Troupe's new production, "Ripped Van Winkle" featuring Keiko Shimosato, will be performed in Bay Area parks through Labor Day.

This classic political-radical S. F. Mime troupe comedy is set in San Francisco in 1988. Shimosato plays a pivotal role as Sunrise, and many other characters in the production. She is also one of the writers, along with Joan Holden, Ellen Callas and Sharon Lockwood.

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Rip (Arthur Holden) awakens in Golden Gate Park in July 1988 from a psychedelic nap he began in July 1968. He wanders about the park and the city, thinking he's still tripping, meeting people and gradually realizing to his amazement that he's been asleep for 20 years.

He first encounters Rock (Audray Smith), an entrepreneur who is concerned that rival entrepreneurs will attempt a violent takeover of his lucrative crack cocaine business. Rock is under 18, the age at which he plans to retire, and he carries a large loaded gun.

His girlfriend Sunrise (Shimosato) is the teenage daughter of Susan (Sharon Lockwood), a '60s flower child and volunteer fundraiser, who now wants to sign on with a downtown marketing firm and promote home-porting the USS Missouri in San Francisco.

The jokes are also sharp questions on a wide range of local, national, and global political topics. They were very funny and thought provoking.

There are several songs in the play, ably performed by the Mime Troupe Band. These include Keiko Shimosato's big number, "Just Another Day in the '80s" and the eloquent chant-like "Just Say No."

"Ripped Van Winkle" is a very amusing and entertaining piece of theater, highly recommended. And with free performances in the parks, you can't beat the price of admission.

"Ripped Van Winkle" schedule of performances, all at 2 p.m.:

Saturday, Aug. 13, Precita Park, Folsom and Precita near Army Street, San Francisco

Sun., Aug. 14, Glen Park, Bosworth and O'Shaughnessy Blvd., S. F.

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 20-21, Washington Square Park, Columbus and Union, S.F.

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 27-28, Ho Chi Minh (Willard) Park, Hillegass and Derby, Berkeley.

Sat.-Mon., Sept. 3-5, the Sunken Meadow, Golden Gate Park, J.F.K. Drive, behind De Young Museum, San Francisco.

-- D. A. Wilson

(Originally appeared in *Asian Week*, August 12, 1988)

OCTOBER ALMANAC

- 10/02 1890 Groucho Marx born in New York.
10/04 1957 Dawn of Space Age as USSR launches Sputnik, the first man-made satellite into Earth orbit.
10/05 1923 British actress Glynis Johns born.
10/09 1635 Roger Williams banished from Massachusetts Bay Colony.
1708 Peter the Great defeats the Swedes at the Battle of Lesnaya.
1776 Father Francisco Palou founds Mission San Francisco de Asis in what is now San Francisco, California.
10/11 1963 Poet Jean Cocteau died in Milly-la-Forêt, France (...on learning of the death of his friend, the singer...)
1963 Singer and songwriter Édith Piaf died in Placassier, France.
10/12 1810 First Oktoberfest - Citizens of München, invited by Bavarian royalty, join in celebrating the marriage of Crown Prince Ludwig of Bavaria to Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen.
10/15 NEW MOON
1928 Airship, Graf Zeppelin completes its first trans-Atlantic flight, landing at Lakehurst, New Jersey.
1966 Black Panther Party founded by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale.

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Limited copies of D. A. Wilson's chapbook, *First Hours of a Rainy Day and Other Poems*, can be acquired.

Original printings of some ROARSHOCK PAGE issues from the turn of the century are also available by inquiry.

ROARSHOCK PAGE, Volume 5, Number 2 will be available October 31, 2012.

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www.roarshock.net

Published by:

Roarshock

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