

## Farewell, PolyEsther's

In 2008, art photographer and fashion enthusiast Esther Dunaway was renting a parking space for her 1972 Volkswagen van at Wildflower Village, the former motel/art studio complex on West Fourth Street. She asked owner Pat Campbell-Cozzi if she could host a yard sale to sell some vintage and custom-made garments she'd been collecting. Campbell-Cozzi said no, but encouraged Dunaway to open a small clothing shop at the complex. PolyEsther's Costume Boutique stayed at Wildflower for three years, then moved to midtown, where it became a mainstay for Burner fashions, costume rentals, creative alterations, makeup and accessories. Dunaway plans to close up shop on March 15, citing disagreements with her landlord and a desire to focus more on fashion design than retail management. She's hosting a farewell party at the store, 655 S. Virginia St., March 9, 11 a.m. until night time.

### How did you get into the business of selling Burner fashions?

I always loved costuming, and I always loved clothes. I have been hustling vintage clothing since before high school and dressing people for photo



PHOTO/KRIS VAGNER

shoots. ... People started asking me, "Esther, you sew. I need you to make me something for Burning Man." ... Then I started working at Unique Boutique up in Truckee, ... and [owner Viviane Sabol] gave me a whole bunch of stuff that wasn't selling and said, "Make something wonderful out of it," so I fixed it up and took it back.

### Tell me about a highlight or two from your years in midtown.

We had one of the fashion writers for British Vogue come in and say that she loved us, the only Burner girl dressed in Burberry—hilarious! ... Maid Marian came in from Burning Man, and we did a jacket for her and her gal. They had just been to Paris, and the jacket had an Eiffel Tower on the back with LED lights around it.

### You're closing your brick-and-mortar shop, but some parts of your business will stay active, right?

I don't feel inspired by the retail portion of it. ... I want to start working more on wardrobe services and doing the rentals and have a really great online shop. I can do free deliveries in town and meet people to do their alterations. And I still want to do a sewing internship program. ... We've had probably 10 amazing interns over the years, all sorts of people that wanted to do something more with sewing or costuming. I've had the state of Nevada approach me to run an industrial sewing program. That would create so many jobs. Right now, there a huge deficit of trained sewing professionals in the state, and there's at least five to 10 companies in this area that need them.

### Costume companies?

No, they make office chairs and patio furniture and linens, big-machine stuff.

### What can people expect between now and March 15, when you close?

We're open regular store hours, and we've got everything half off, even our killer, expensive rental stuff is just amazing prices. ... I'm bringing droves of stuff out of my back room and out of my sewing room. I've got antique sewing machines. □

## NOTES FROM THE NEON BABYLON

BY BRUCE VAN DYKE

## Rant and read and rip

In August 2016, Hillary Clinton told a rally of her supporters, "By the way, Mexico's not paying for his Wall, either. If he ever tries to get it built, the American taxpayer will pay for it. We'll be stuck with the bill."

Pretty good call. In fact, spot on. Just think, we came *this* close to having a competent, qualified, experienced, intelligent, compassionate person in the White House. Instead, we have Golf Thing.

But—her emails!

I'm guessing the White House Rose Garden is going to have a real good year, because it certainly got fertilized nicely a couple of Fridays ago, when President Capone unleashed that impressive torrent of projectile bullshit. It's always fun when he shows up for a gig without teleprompters. It's when he's at his most terrifyingly bizarre. And as Dum Dum unleashed the disturb-

ing contents of his foul mind, I kept thinking, as the camera showed all the media people in attendance, just how many of those folks were quietly and politely observing this mess and thinking to themselves, "My god. This blowhard jackass is the president?"

In fact, one of these days, I predict one of the pool reporters is gonna lose it. He'll snap, stand up, and shout, "FUCK YOU, YOU LYING PIECE OF SHIT!!! I QUIT!! I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE! YOU'RE A COMPLETE AND TOTAL ASSHOLE!! I'D RATHER WORK IN A CHOCOLATE FACTORY THAN LOOK AT YOUR HIDEOUS, TWO-TONED FACE FOR ONE MORE SECOND!!!!" And then he'll rip his credential off, fling it in the air and storm out of the shocked room.

Speaking of losing it, I loved it when Golf Thing went into his outlandish sing-song spurt, as he projected the expected path that

his Moronic Emergency That Exists Only In His Demented Head will take in the courts (a prediction which looks to be fairly accurate, I'm delighted to report). It just struck me, as he plowed forth with his third-grade schtick, that we're getting closer and closer to the day when *he* just flat out *snaps*, when he blows his cork once and for all and gives us some *really* good soundbytes! That wasn't quite it in the Rose Garden, but—we're gettin' there.

About once a month or so, I like to sign off with this, not because it's news—we all know this by now—but simply because it feels so good to say. "The Republican Party is the true enemy of the American people, and their business partners are the locust oligarchs of Russia who have infected the planet with their mind-boggling greed." Ah, sweet catharsis! □



## WARNING:

QUITTING SMOKING NOW  
GREATLY REDUCES SERIOUS RISK  
TO YOUR HEALTH.

## CIGARETTES PREMIUM BRANDS

Marlboro Red	\$6.27 pack	\$61.74 carton
Camel Box/99s	\$6.04 pack	\$59.39 carton
Winston	\$5.67 pack	\$55.74 carton
American Spirit	\$7.24 pack	\$71.44 carton
Nat Sherman	\$8.71 pack	\$43.05 carton

## CIGARETTES VALUE BRANDS

L. Ducat	\$3.98 pack	\$38.75 carton
Eagle 20	\$4.10 pack	\$40.00 carton
Sonoma	\$4.13 pack	\$40.28 carton
King Mountain	\$4.48 pack	\$43.83 carton

## Smokeless Tobacco

Copenhagen	\$5.15 can	\$24.17 roll
Skool	\$4.85 can	\$22.67 roll
Grizzly	\$3.70 can	\$16.96 roll
General Snus	\$5.12 can	\$23.77 roll

## Alternative Products

Zyn	\$4.03 can	\$17.72 roll
Vuse Vibe	\$19.95 device	\$9.99 refill cartridge
My Blu	\$19.95 device	\$8.99 refill cartridge
Mark Ten	\$6.99 device	\$7.99 refill cartridge

## VAPOR PRODUCTS & DEVICES

JUUL Devices & Pods / Revolve / Suorin / Omni / Voodoo

## CBD PRODUCTS

CBD Vapor Liquids / Tinctures / Assorted Products



Reno: 90 Auto Center Dr. 852-4010  
Behind Mercedes Benz of Reno

Reno: 2001 E. 2nd St. 329-0275

Reno: 901 Golden Ln. 329-6299

Sparks: 1962 Pyramid Way 353-2140

Verdi: 1-80, Exit 2 345-2620

Spanish Springs: 7655 Pyramid Way 424-4165  
**NEW LOCATION!**

We **strictly** enforce no sales to minors.

Ask about our **Low-Price Guarantee.**

Prices subject to manufacturer change without notice.