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SAFE HAVEN

ABORTION IS NOW ENSHRINED IN CALIFORNIA'S CONSTITUTION, BUT THE FIGHT FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS
(AND THOSE WHO COME HERE FOR CARE) ISN'T OVER

BY LINA LECARO

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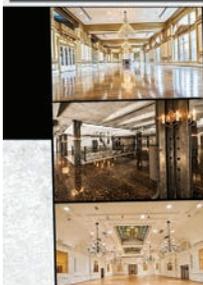
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KAREN BASS ELECTED TO BE NEXT MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles has elected its first female mayor after Karen Bass beat Rick Caruso in a neck-and-neck race

BY ISAI ROCHA



Karen Ruth Bass has been elected as mayor of Los Angeles, beating Rick Caruso in a race that took more than a week to call. On Nov. 16, the L.A. County Registrar's Office showed Bass taking a more than 46,000 vote lead over Caruso, leading both candidates to acknowledge the race was all but over. Since then, Bass' lead has increased by more than 90,000 votes.

"The people of Los Angeles have sent a clear message: it is time for change and it is time for urgency," Bass said in a statement. "This is my home and with my whole heart, I am ready to serve, and my pledge to you is that we will hit the ground running on day one."

Bass, who will become the first female mayor of Los Angeles, added that she would immediately start focusing on homelessness, crime and the housing cri-

sis in the city.

In her statement, she also said she had spoken to Caruso over the phone for a conversation that was "gracious."

Caruso congratulated Bass and thanked the supporters who contributed to his campaign for more than nine months.

"While we came up short in the count, we made an indelible impact on this city and its people that will last far beyond the campaign trail or Election Day," Caruso said. "We elevated the discourse of the campaign and focused attention on the issues that matter. We never stopped believing that local government can and should be a force for good, a force that levels the playing field for everyone, a source of pride and inspiration that helps families achieve the American dream."

With the votes in Los Angeles taking multiple days to count, Caruso found himself with an early lead from Nov. 8 to Nov. 10, before Bass took over. From that point, Bass' lead gradually increased after every county update, from a few hundred votes, to tens of thousands.

Current mayor Eric Garcetti congratulated Bass, saying her energy and experience will guide the city moving forward.

"I know that she will lead this city with grace and compassion, and that she'll lean on her skills as a natural consensus-builder, deep ties to our neighborhoods and community leaders, and her unwavering commitment to equity and justice that has defined her as one of America's great visionaries and leaders," Garcetti said in a statement.

County officials have until Dec. 8 to complete all election results and submit them to the secretary of state, who will certify the results by Dec. 16.

MAN ARRESTED AFTER DRIVING INTO 25 LAW ENFORCEMENT RECRUITS

At least 25 cadets for multiple law enforcement agencies were struck by a car while on a morning run in Whittier on Nov. 16.

Investigators with the California Highway Patrol said it was not yet known if Nicholas Joseph Gutierrez, 22, intentionally hit the recruits in the wrong-way crash, or if the incident was due to impaired or distracted driving.

"We're going to look at the totality of this incident, from an intentional act, to distracted driving, to possibly impaired driving, to an accident," California Highway Patrol Assistant Chief Charlie Sampson said in a press conference. "We will not leave anything uninvestigated at this point right now."

After looking at early evidence, Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva said he believed the incident was "deliberate."

Of the injured recruits, five were immediately transported to local hospitals in critical condition, four sustained "mod-

erate" injuries and 14 transports that were considered to be minor.

While several of the recruits have been discharged, Villanueva said five remain in critical condition, as of this writing. One cadet who was transported to St. Francis Medical Center, was revealed to be on a ventilator.

"Alejandro Martinez has suffered setbacks that have left him in grave condition," LASD said on a social media update. "Please keep him and his family in your prayers."

The class was made up of 75 recruits from different agencies outside of the Sheriff's Department, including Bell PD, Glendale PD, Pasadena PD, El Segundo PD and UCLA Police.

At least 20 of the cadets injured were training for LASD, with two others being from Bell PD, two from Pasadena PD and one from Glendale PD.

The Los Angeles District Attorney's Office said it had been in contact with CHP and sheriff's investigators and were made aware that Gutierrez would be released from custody until a case has been presented.

COUPLE ATTACKED AT DODGER STADIUM AFTER ELTON JOHN CONCERT

A couple in their 60s was allegedly attacked and beaten in the Dodger Stadium parking lot after Elton John's Nov. 17 concert.

LAPD have arrested a suspect in connection with the incident, which reportedly occurred after a car accident and verbal altercation.

Police say the husband exited his car and soon after was attacked by multiple individuals.

Cellphone videos taken from individuals surrounding the incident showed at least one man shove the husband to the floor, with a second man throwing a punch while the husband was on the ground.

The couple's daughter, who identified herself simply as Nicole, said the incident was not part of a car accident, but instead was a woman walking by and striking the car's side mirror.

After the husband got out of his car to figure out who struck his car, the woman allegedly yelled "I did." Nicole said the woman attempted to hit her father, before a group of men joined and started hitting him.

"Many people witnessed and recorded, but no one helped them," Nicole said in a social media post. "They were left unconscious on the ground and security failed to help them."

Nicole went on to say that her father was hospitalized with head injuries, but her mother faced minimal injuries and was released from the hospital that same night. [E]

FOOD

CHEF JASON NERONI CELEBRATES SEVEN YEARS OF THE ROSE VENICE WITH A SPECIAL MENU

BY MICHELE STUEVEN



When the Rose Cafe opened in 1979, there was no reason to go to Venice to eat. It was arguably ground zero, however, for what would eventually become one of the hippest and award-winning dining destinations in the country.

Seven years ago and 3 million meals later, chef Jason Neroni, formerly of nearby Superba, took over The Rose Venice and

developed it into a sprawling space that includes indoor and outdoor dining with a beer garden, a full market and bakery, Verve Coffee bar, 40-foot cocktail bar and a romantic dining room bathed in candlelight.

Still ground zero for some of the best dining in Los Angeles featuring ever-evolving menus, Neroni is celebrating seven years of The Rose with a filling \$77 seven-course tasting menu and additional



PHOTOS BY MICHELE STUEVEN



carefully curated wine pairings reflecting the popular restaurant's history through the month of November.

The dinner experience, served on a dramatic series of Nicole Pilar ceramics, kicks off with hearth-baked focaccia and porcini marmalade for the table. Next comes a delicate spire of yellowtail, Santa Barbara uni, Iberico jamon in smoked olive oil and buddha's hand vinaigrette followed by roasted bosc pears with Puglian burrata, lemon thyme and avocado honey and then crispy Brussels sprouts in a curried dashi broth.

Neroni's famous cacio e pepe also makes an appearance in the lineup, a dish that became so popular they took it off the menu because diners weren't ordering anything

else (it's still on the secret menu). The stars of the experience are an exquisite ora king salmon with creamy beans, cippolini onions and tomato confit and a duck duo of crispy breast and confit leg with sunchoke mole, onion jam and grapefruit.

The Rose's signature s'mores with ganache, bruleed marshmallow and graham cracker crumble are for dessert.

Neroni has taken over the nearby former short-lived A-Frame in Culver City, which opens soon. The restaurant has been beautifully redesigned and will feature rotisserie fare and Tokyo-style pizza, paying homage to the building's original I-Hop space and photography celebrating the local neighborhood with Neroni's devotion to local artists. [E]



SAFE HAVEN

Abortion is now Enshrined in California's Constitution, but the Fight for Reproductive Rights (and Those Who Come Here for Care) Isn't Over

BY LINA LECARO

Reproductive rights were on the ballot in a record five states — California, Michigan, Vermont, Kentucky and Montana — during the midterm elections earlier this month, and the will of the people was resounding: the majority of Americans are in favor of choice when it comes to abortion access.

In California, the passage of Measure 1 by voters changed the state's constitution to assure women's right to an abortion and to acquire contraceptives, establishing some of the strongest protections in the country. But Gov. Gavin Newsom had been a fierce proponent of the right to choose even before that, signing a package of 12 bills in September following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn

Roe v. Wade earlier this year.

Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization marked a landmark decision by the conservative majority-led Supreme Court, which held that the U.S. Constitution does not confer a right to abortion, but rather that individual states should have the full power to regulate these services. Suddenly women in "red states" lost the power to make decisions about their own bodies.

"An alarming number of states continue to outlaw abortion and criminalize women, and it's more important than ever to fight like hell for those who need these essential services," Newsom said in a statement after the signings. "We're doing everything we can to protect people from any retaliation for accessing abortion care,

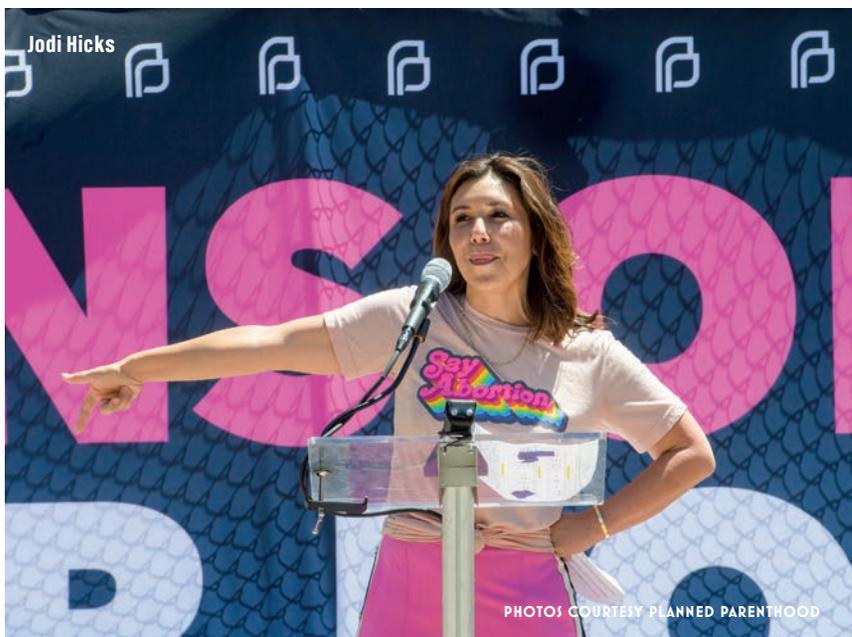
while also making it more affordable to get contraceptives."

No matter how one may feel about the governor's policies in general, his stance on abortion rights has been unwavering and respectful of choice. Some of the most significant measures he's made into law include *AB 223* (which protects a pregnant person who chooses to end a pregnancy from prosecution and abolishes the requirement for coroners to investigate stillbirths); *AB 2626* (which prevents medical boards from punishing or revoking licenses from doctors, physician's assistants, nurse practitioners and midwives for performing abortions); and, *AB 2091* (which prohibits medical providers and health insurers from disclosing abortion-related medical records to out-of-state law

enforcement officials, as well as protects someone who has knowledge of an abortion from disclosing the identity of the person who got it).

In terms of our state's sanctuary state status, one of the most consequential bills signed by Newsom is *SB 1142*, which expands and strengthens access to reproductive care, not only for Californians, but for those who come here from other more restrictive states by establishing a fund to help them. Just as significantly, it also led to the creation of a comprehensive webpage for those seeking reproductive services in California, regardless of where they live.

[Abortion.ca.gov/](https://www.abortion.ca.gov/) launched in September, and it is proving to be an invaluable tool, addressing every question and con-



cern a woman might encounter, from planning, travel, lodging and child care to financial and emotional support. Put together by Newsom's office with input from the *California Legislative Women's Caucus*, which includes representatives from Planned Parenthood of California, the site is a one-stop shop of sorts for abortion information and resources.

Many of us were shocked when *Roe v. Wade* was actually overturned, but for those who were watching closely, the writing was on the wall after Donald Trump was able to get his three conservative justices confirmed to the Supreme Court and Texas' Gov. Greg Abbott started making moves to restrict rights there. Planned Parenthood, along with other reproductive rights and justice organizations created the Future of Abortion Council a little over a year ago on the heels of Texas' abortion ban, even prior to *Dobbs*.

"We were seeing a trickle of patients coming in from out of state and so we put the group together, because there were so many questions about legalities and what would happen with providers if they were turned in and fined," says Jodi Hicks, CEO and president of Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California. "And then looking forward, we had an understanding that *Dobbs* was not going to go well. So it was really about looking at California as a reproductive freedom state. What are the barriers that exist? California has been good on rights, not as good on access to care. With an understanding that rights don't mean anything if you can't actually access the care that you need, it was a good time to look at that."

The group also sought to address what might happen if more conservatively governed states should institute bans on abortion. If people started coming from

out of state, what could our legislature and rights groups here do to help? As an example, if one tries to find an abortion provider, via say Kaiser Permanente, the traditional way is to enter a zip code into their website, which then brings up everything around you that's nearby. That no longer works for someone in Texas, and the result is a lot of women not knowing where to begin if they want to come here. The website was created with this in mind.

"If we sent the message out through all of our work that California is a haven state and you can come here, how would people get the information they need?" Hicks explains about the site. "If you Google 'California abortion,' this website comes up. And rather than punching in a zip code, it brings up the map of all the providers and you can click on where you could go. What we're finding with patient behavior is sometimes it's very specific. And we know there's an uptick in any city that has an airport close by. But also, sometimes it's just about, 'I have a cousin in San Jose, let's see what's available there.' You can sort of click and see around, and then have all the other tools that you need, like abortion access funds, like your rights, like what is the law in California. It was done as a better tool for people in California, but it was very intentional for helping people that are out of state and don't know where to go."

Input was sought from policymakers, consultants and Planned Parenthood colleagues from out of state when creating the online destination, even as everyone hoped it might not actually be needed. Wrapping our heads around losing a fundamental right we've always known has been part of the challenge. "I think what was so innovative and intentional and thoughtful about the website is most



of us in our generation have never lived in a world that didn't have a *Roe v. Wade* protection," adds Hicks. "But this is where we are."

It's truly a bright spot in what has otherwise been a scary *Handmaid's Tale*-like turn of events in our country. The Supreme Court's ruling in June eliminated rights that have stood for nearly five decades, and abortion bans across the country have seen many of our worst fears become a reality. Abortion clinics here already have reported upswings in out-of-state patients seeking procedures, and this is sure to increase as more Republican-led states allow religious beliefs to dictate lawmaking.

While we are extremely lucky to live in a state that respects women's bodies and health care choices, it wasn't always this way. California saw many black market abortions, maternal deaths and high-profile trials against physicians before abortion was finally decriminalized. Abortion was illegal in the state until 1967, when former Gov. Ronald Reagan signed the Therapeutic Abortion Act, which authorized physicians to perform abortions in a hospital in cases resulting from rape or incest or that endangered the physical or mental health of the mother.

Abortion was nationally decriminalized in 1973 via *Roe v. Wade*, but providers were still pretty scarce, and the threat of losing the right to terminate a pregnancy has always hung over our heads, even here in Los Angeles. This inspired women to mobilize in big ways. Thirty years ago, when we just started interning here at *LA Weekly*, our music editor Sue Cummings and *L7*'s Donita Sparks (who also worked here, in the art department) formed *Rock for Choice* with the Feminist Majority Foundation. The group created a series of



benefit concerts to raise money for abortion rights groups and clinics during President George H.W. Bush's administration, when the Supreme Court started restricting abortion by state via parental consent laws and mandatory waiting periods.

The first *Rock for Choice* show at The Palace in Hollywood (now called Avalon) took place in 1991 and featured Nirvana, Hole, *L7* and Sister Double Happiness. More shows followed at the Palladium with big bands including Pearl Jam, Fugazi and later, No Doubt and the Foo Fighters, Bikini Kill and Joan Jett.

A few years later, another group of female creators – including *X's* Exene Cervenka and author Nicole Panter – formed the short-lived but effective *Bohemian Women's Political Alliance* (BWPA), a "pro-woman, pro-choice, pro-child, pro-minority, pro-queer, pro-Earth, prolific, prodigious, profane, pro-arts, pro-change, pro-union and anti-censorship" group hosting events around town, including music shows, also at the Palladium. It raised money and awareness for Democratic, pro-choice local government figures including Barbara Boxer and Jackie Goldberg.

With the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, we caught up with our friend Sparks to discuss the ongoing struggle and how things have changed since her band started the fight for rights three decades ago. Of course, she feels the Supreme Court's decision was a "tragedy and a travesty," like many of us do. Though she and *L7* stepped back from the level of activism they participated in back in the '90s, we agreed that it's time for the next generation of female musicians to take up the cause.

"I think people look to *L7* to start that up again and that's not going to happen right now," says Sparks, who co-created



the name and logo, depicting the silhouette of her drummer Dee Plakas smashing a guitar. “You know, we felt like, ‘Hey, man, we’ve been bringing the brownies for years and now it’s time for someone else to do it.’ Also, a lot of journalists started to focus on it in our interviews, and we wanted to talk more about our music. We were becoming a political band, which was never our intention. We were just concerned citizens doing our civic duty and our artistic duty by giving back, but we never considered ourselves a political platform band. We wanted it to go on, of course, but we had to pull back.”

L7 may not have been a political band per se, but their music always reflected societal woes. Sparks wrote their hit “*Pretend We’re Dead*” about voter apathy, a persistent problem in our country. Had more people actually voted, Trump probably wouldn’t have won the presidency and women wouldn’t currently be suffering from his Supreme Court nominees’ restrictive decisions. Of course, Kentucky Senator and former Republican Majority leader Mitch McConnell’s blockage of President Barack Obama’s SCOTUS nominee Merrick Garland (now U.S. Attorney General), played a part, as did the death of women’s rights champion Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in September of 2020.

We covered and went to a few Rock for Choice shows back in its heyday, but we never let ourselves believe the danger of losing Roe was as real as it was. Maybe that’s why the whole thing went sort of dormant? When Bill Clinton got elected in 1992, we all relaxed a bit during his two terms, but the narrow victory of Bush’s son – who was previously the Governor of Texas let’s not forget – against Al Gore in 2000 and his reelection four years later, actually put a lot of what we’re dealing with today in motion. Not only did Bush Jr. nominate conservative Justices Samuel

Alito and John Roberts, but his elevation of conservative judges like Brett Kavanaugh and Neil Gorsuch to federal judgeships set up both to eventually advance to the highest court in the land and, ultimately, grant right wing and evangelical groups their most fervent wish.

Rock for Choice still exists as part of the Feminist Majority, but it’s not as active as it could or should be considering the current climate. Would Sparks like to see it reignited? Hell yes. “I know that there are events happening for other organizations,” she says. “I feel like some of these huge women in pop, whose main audience are childbearing teenagers, if they were to come forward and do a mega telethon or something to raise money for Planned Parenthood, that would be great.”

Sparks is right, we need someone big to put reproductive rights and health care back onto the forefront of pop culture, and we need it now more than ever. But it’s a different world and social media seems to be the way to speak out these days. That has value, but true action has to go beyond a computer or phone screen. Unfortunately it’s easier to make online posts and tweets than actually get out into the streets and do something.

But there are a few. Gritty In Pink, an L.A. collective of musicians that prides itself on empowering women in music, took the fight to the Downtown L.A. just hours after the Dobbs decision came through in association with Rise Up For Abortion Rights L.A. Chapter. They’ve done local club shows to raise funds and awareness as well.

“It is still unthinkable that Roe v. Wade got overturned this year,” says Gritty’s organizer Shira Yevin. “When we heard the news, we immediately dropped everything and headed downtown to the federal courthouse to protest with other women in our community. Gritty In Pink decided

to throw together the flatbed truck protest concert as a way to join with others in the activist community and assert our voices in an otherwise powerless situation. The more musicians that make noise, the better. We are lucky to live in California where abortion rights are protected, but we can’t forget our American sisters living in other states, who deserve their rights just as much. Abortion is health care.”

Abortion also is an issue that affects men, of course. Gritty’s gathering also included recognizable names in music such as NOFX frontman Fat Mike, performing resistance anthems and original music for the cause. Just as Rock for Choice became stronger with the support and efforts of men like Kurt Cobain and Eddie Vedder back in the day, we need more men of prominence to speak out and put their platforms to use. Vasectomies and male contraception options also need to be part of the conversation.

Hopefully, the art and music community will continue to find new ways to make a difference. In the meantime, our state government is leading the way. California statute and now our state constitution guarantees the right to abortion, covering the cost to lower-income Californians on Medi-Cal and requiring private insurance to cover it. Our state also rejects waiting periods and parental consent for abortion, and has provisions that ensure digital privacy and legal protections for those who travel here for an abortion. All of these points came directly from The California Future of Abortion Council and our governor.

“We’re grateful for the champions we have in California, including Gov. Newsom,” says Hicks. “I think it’s easy to be in California and say that you’re for women’s rights or reproductive rights, but it’s harder to make the investments and do the hard work to ensure that people are

actually getting access to care. We’re creating an infrastructure by which people can seek care here, and for people that are outside of California as well. This takes a values commitment that we’re fortunate to have with this governor.”

But we had to ask, is it rock solid now that it’s in our constitution? “In terms of states rights, it’s written very plainly and clearly, we have constitutional protection for reproductive freedom, including abortion and contraception,” Hicks answers. “Now that we no longer have federal constitutional protection, if there was a federal ban on abortion, it would be in direct conflict with our California constitution. That would be taken up to the courts, and the attorney general would have to fight to protect it. But as long as we have states rights and protections, no future legislature or governor could institute a ban for Californians.”

While a “red wave” never materialized, many senate and house seats went to anti-choice candidates who’ve stated their intention to further restrict women’s bodies moving forward. “A federal ban is everybody’s worst case scenario, and it’s been introduced, at least at some level, by the Senate already,” Hicks continues. “We have to use our tools to fight back against that. Our votes and our voices are the most powerful tools we can use because our policymakers have to act accordingly.”

California voters have been loud and clear. Now it’s time to use our voices (and you don’t have to be a musician, political activist or high profile person to do so). In addition to its “Say Abortion” initiative, Planned Parenthood is launching “Our Body, Our Voice” a new space for women to share their stories. It will be at different places around California, including marches and protests, and be available on PP’s websites and social media for pro-choice campaigns and projects. ■

MUSIC

BAYLI WANTS TO TELL YOU STORIES

BY BRETT CALLWOOD

For a while there, it looked like the *Skins* were going to make it really big. The Brooklyn-based afropunk outfit had formed when the members were in their mid teens, and they had seen a video go semi-viral on YouTube. They found themselves snapped up by Rock Rubin, and it appeared that their star would keep rising. Alas, no.

“My band were together for quite a while, and we started when we were so young,” says singer Bayli. “After seven years of being together, we kind of just grew up and we had even more than just creative differences. We just had personal things – some people didn’t want to go full out with music careers. We all had different ideas about life when we grew up, by the time we got to our early twenties, so we kind of just amicably said ‘this is not working, let’s give each other the space to go our separate ways.’ Then I was getting more into songwriting, and I really didn’t think I was going to do solo music, but I had some amazing friends that just encouraged me and reminded me that I had more stuff to say as an artist.”

Bayli, then, went solo. Rather than rely on musicians who don’t share her vision, she went it alone. Her sound is more pop, more R&B, but she hates trying to define it.

“I don’t know if other artists give you the same response, but it’s so difficult,” she says. “I think I’m just a person that it’s so hard for me to stay within the confines. As an artist, I think part of my job is to just start new conversations. I hope that we’re creating new genres, new sounds. But I always say pop because I just hope that my music is that universal and that relatable.”

Bayli’s latest release is the *Stories 2* EP, the sequel to *Stories from New York*. It’s a continuation of the theme – experiences set to music.

“*Stories From New York* is really my experiences in New York, it’s giving people who are hearing me for the first time an idea about who I am,” Bayli says. “So you have songs like ‘Sushi For Breakfast.’ I talk about queerness, I come out as a queer person on *Stories from New*

York. And then *Stories 2* is this idea of a sonic landscape. Instead of being in New York City, in my hometown, I take it to different territories, and I’m just trying to capture where I was at, how I was feeling, in these new places. There’s a song called ‘Pressure’ on *Stories 2* that I wrote in L.A. I’m trying to capture that dusty desert feeling with the production and the lyrics there. And, of course, how I was feeling in the moment.”

The latest single from the EP is “Pressure,” a song that Bayli says was written in lockdown much like the rest of the EP, and is about pining for a loved one.

“I think this project really speaks about isolation and all these new feelings coming up, being in isolation and coming out of it,” she says. “Pressure’s really just like, I was on the road, I was working, I’ve been in L.A., back and forth from home and back. I’m very much a family person, so it’s really just like calling the person that you loved most, the person that’s your confidante, and kind of saying ‘I need you right now. I’m surrounded by people but I’m super lonely here in L.A. somehow.’ That’s what Pressure’s about.”

The artist currently is splitting her time between New York and L.A., spending approximately half of the year in her hometown and the other half surrounded by the industry in SoCal.

“My publisher’s there at Warner Music Group and of course some of my producers I work with are there,” she says. “So I’m really in L.A. like six months out of the year. I love LA. I’m getting a lot of work. I want to go hard at the L.A. music industry. New York, I love it, but all the creativity and inspiration makes me want to be in L.A. and see how it elevates my work. They’re very, very different cities.”

That said, she describes New York as the foundation of her inspiration.

“New York really keeps me on my toes,” she says. “There are so many incredible people there, and so much incredible art. It’s a place that pushes the envelope. You’re never settled doing your thing, you’re always expanding, growing and evolving. I hope that my music does that as well. That’s the main

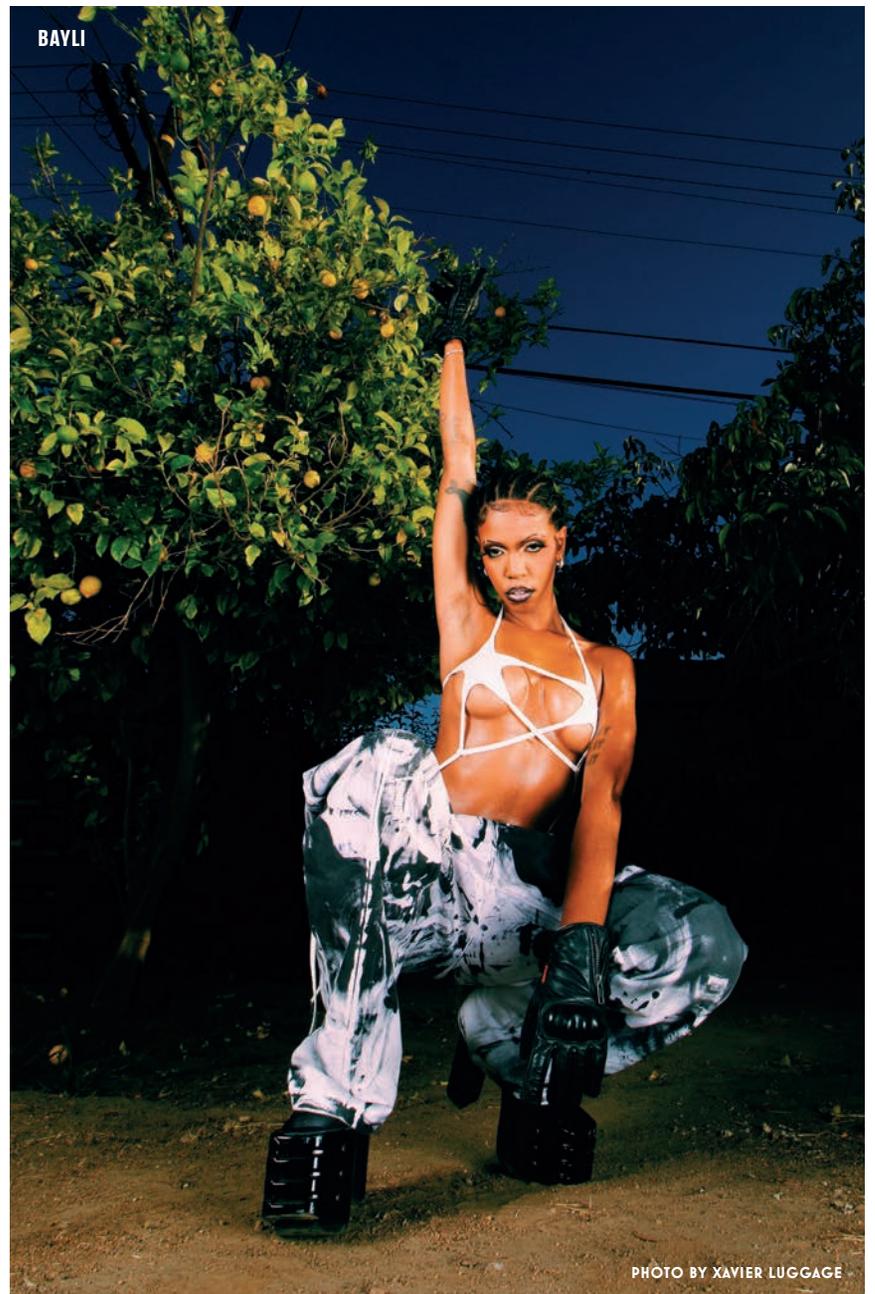


PHOTO BY XAVIER LUGGAGE

inspiration that I take from New York.”

All of that informs *Stories 2* and its predecessor. The music, Bayli says, is cathartic. It’s therapy.

“I hope that it translates and I’m having conversations that people maybe want to have or listen to or want to get out,” she says. “So an overriding theme for me was just coming out of isolation. This search for connectivity again. I’m trying to start that conversation of, there’s ways to connect over the internet, over the phone. I think that’s a lot of the theme in *Stories 2*. But there’s also nothing like connecting with someone in person. I’m seeing that amazingly on tour. I’m just baffled by being back out on the road and seeing how everyone reacts to the music.”

Bayli currently is out on tour with indie-synth duo Magdalena Bay, and she says that the road is treating her well.

“This is my first time doing solo music on the road, so it’s really just been incredible,” she says. “I’m amazed when people know my lyrics in small towns like Des Moines, Iowa. It’s amazing that people know some of my music and I’m so honored to be touring with Magdalena Bay – I could not have asked for a better starting tour to get back into things.”

Look out for a date near you. In the meantime, Bayli plans to keep dropping new music and giving her songs the exposure that they deserve. Meaning, a lot of exposure.

Bayli’s *Stories 2 EP* is out now. **LA**

THE ESSENTIAL THANKSGIVING EDIBLE LIST 2022

Here are our favorite less traditional edible offerings for Turkey Day.

BY JIMI DEVINE

Kiva Turkey Gravy

strength
**10 MG THC PER SERVING
1 SERVING PER PACKAGE**

With increasing social, political, and cultural divisiveness driving apart families and friends, Kiva Cannabis-Infused Gravy is back to unite us all around the dinner table. Turkey, mashed potatoes, awkward conversation- you can drown them all in the flavors of rosemary, thyme, and oregano. And thanks to 10MG of THC, your household will be back in harmony in no time- each remembering that it's all... truly... gravy.

DIRECTIONS FOR REFERENCE:
Whisk gravy powder and 1 cup of water together in a saucepan. Bring to a boil and stir occasionally. Reduce heat and simmer for 2 minutes until the desired thickness is achieved.





[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE COMPLETE KIVA TURKEY GRAVY ASSET KIT](#)

KIVA

WHO WE ARE

Kiva was founded in 2010 with a clear mission - change how the world views and uses cannabis for the better. Frustrated by the inconsistent, low-quality edibles available at the time, a young couple began making chocolate bars out of their Northern California home kitchen. Today, their award-winning chocolates, mints, gummies, and chews are the most trusted, recommended, and sought-after edibles on the market.

MSRP \$5

KIVACONFECTIONS.COM

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Our 2022 list of edible adventures is sure to have grandma higher than gas prices after a Russian invasion. Some things will feel a bit more traditional than others; some

will get you higher than others. What's most important is that they're all a great starting point for members of your family that are yet to experience mind-altering substances. That being said, you're in charge. You don't want Uncle Billy

tripping balls and being convinced the cranberry sauce is trying to attack him, so ease people into all this stuff.

Here is our list for 2022!

Kiva gravy

Kiva's holiday showstopper returns for 2022 to dose turkeys and potatoes from Humboldt to TJ. Now a few years into its gravy adventure, the chocolate titans continue to know it out of the park with this one. There is a reasonable argument to be made it may even be "The" holiday season edible at this point.

Mush Mellow



Mush-Melo Take a Trip

Thanksgiving Eve is one of the booziest nights of the year, but we have an even better option for you — make s'mores with mushrooms in them. Now you could go the easy route and use one of the many psilocybin-infused chocolate bars now produced throughout California. Or you could go the more exciting way and use Mush Mellows! The SoCal-based infused marshmallows



feature an eighth of mushrooms in every pack. Remember to go easy out the gate. You can always eat more, but you can't eat less!

Edibles Smuggled from Oklahoma

If you can get your hands on some edibles from Oklahoma, you'll undoubtedly have a much easier time getting your whole family high given the 100mg limit on what California defines as an edible. Now there are loopholes, we'll get to that, but generally, if you want a high-potency piece of chocolate, you're

not going to be in luck in California. Nevertheless, just like excess weed exits California, the same thing is happening with OK edibles. Keep an eye out! We've seen plenty around L.A.

Breeze Mints Extra Strength 1000mg



As noted, there are some loopholes where things are allowed to be stronger than the state edible limit. Sublingual offerings like breeze mints don't fall into the same category as regular edibles — they're more like a tincture in the eyes of the regulation. That is why, in addition to these super strong mints, you can find things like super potent BBQ sauce and syrup that have come to fall under the same definition in recent years. Again, handing these out is a responsibility in itself. But if your family rages pretty hard, this is a cost-effective way to get like 10 people good and stoned and 20 people a light buzz.

Space Gems Sour Apple Belt



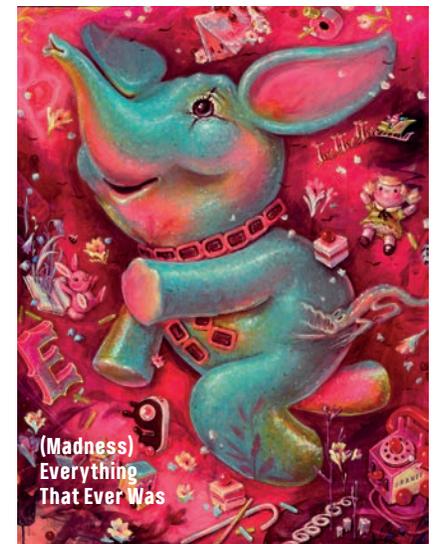
The reimagining of the cannabis gummies by Space Gem is an absolute breath of fresh air. If you put it in a blind test against the wider gummy market, it would likely be one of just a couple you'd be able to identify given how much of the marker looks the same or is literally coming from the same white label processors in different bags. Also if you're going to make a purchase in one of the most flooded spaces in cannabis, might as well buy something that was made in Humboldt County, where people really care about the weed. [L]

ART

MEET CANDY-COATED DEPTHS PAINTER BRANDI MILNE

At Corey Helford Gallery, an artist considers the organic surrealism of childhood

BY SHANA NYS DAMBROT



Brandi Milne's paintings combine a glossy candy-coated aesthetic with a core of the mind's darker depths. Her unique, self-taught brand of surrealism derives from the collision of her own childhood memories of joy, fear, curiosity, love, loss and wild imagination with the 70's pop culture atmosphere of growing up in Anaheim in the shadow of Disneyland. Within still-recognizable characters from fairy tales and cartoons reconceived and re-

combined into more esoteric, adultish scenarios, Milne also merges fanciful palettes with thoughtfully inventive compositions. The results celebrate the enduring, evolving personality of the inner child along with the shifting emotional perspectives on our upbringings that inevitably come with time.

L.A. WEEKLY: When did you first know you were an artist?

BRANDI MILNE: I knew I was an artist at a very young age at least I knew

art was different for me and I wanted to spend hours improving my skills, with the elusive image in mind.

What is your short answer to people who ask what your work is about?

My work is a self-portrait. A whimsical, peculiar expression of life, emotion, and thought.

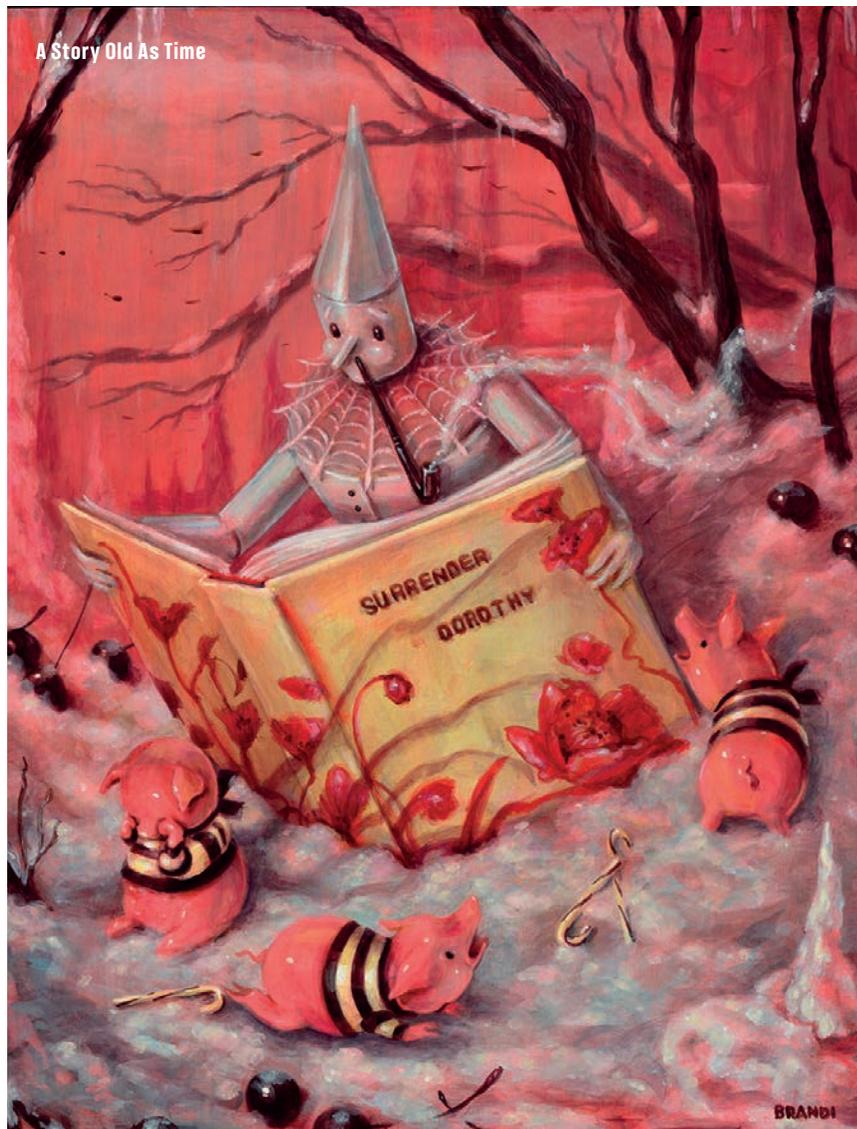
What would you be doing if you weren't an artist?

I'd like to think I'd be a photographer or a master of interior design.

Did you go to art school? Why/Why not?

I did not go to art school, which al-

CREDIT JESSICA LOUISE IMAGERY



lowed my art and style to develop organically. I was naturally dedicated to my art and in turn, my art has been dedicated to me.

Why do you live and work in L.A., and not elsewhere?

I grew up in Orange County and live there today. The art scene in Los Angeles is eclectic and widely varying, far different than the art in my county (seascapes, dolphins, and such) and my art found its place in L.A.

When was your first show?

My first solo exhibition was in 2007 with Corey Helford Gallery, but my very first group art showing was in 2004.

When is/was your current/most recent/next show or project?

My new solo exhibition, *Everything I Ever Was*, just opened on October 29 at the gorgeous Corey Helford Gallery in downtown Los Angeles, and will be on view through December 3. This new body of work expresses my full range of humanness in a surreal character-based,

fantastical world. I'm so excited to finally share these works, which I've been dedicated to for the past three years!

What artist living or dead would you most like to show or work with?

I'd love to work with Salvador Dalí, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, or Phyllis Diller.

Do you listen to music while you work? If so, what?

Music is my biggest inspiration! I listen to TOOL, Pink Floyd, Elton John, Billie Eilish, Warpaint, Wet Leg, some disco (Donna Summer), lots of Frank Sinatra, Beethoven, opera, a dash of Snoop Dogg, 90s hip hop, and tons of Delta blues and classic rock. Music is life, it puts motion to my emotions and spirit, which helps me tune into what I'm feeling and thinking, and convey in image form. I'm so very grateful for music and musicians.

Website and social, please!

BrandiMilne.com

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IT

City National Bank has an oppty for a VP, Mgr Dgtl S/W Engr, Tech & innovtn. May wrk from our HQ office in Los Angeles, CA or reside anywhere in US & wrk remotely from home. May wrk at other US locatns not prsnly known. Email resume w/Ref# LAJRA to TalentAcquisition@cnb.com. Must be legally auth to work in the US w/o spnsrshp. EOE

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Localization Project Manager & Translator (Glendale, CA) needed. MS in Translation or Localization; 24-month exp as translator or interpreter; proficiency in Chinese Mandarin (written & spoken), translation mgmt system, & computer-assisted transla-

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Graphic Designer: Req. BA/BS in Graphic Design or rel. Mail Resume: Bu Sung America Corporation 201 W. Artesia Blvd. Compton, CA 90220

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LAWEEKLY Bulletin

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