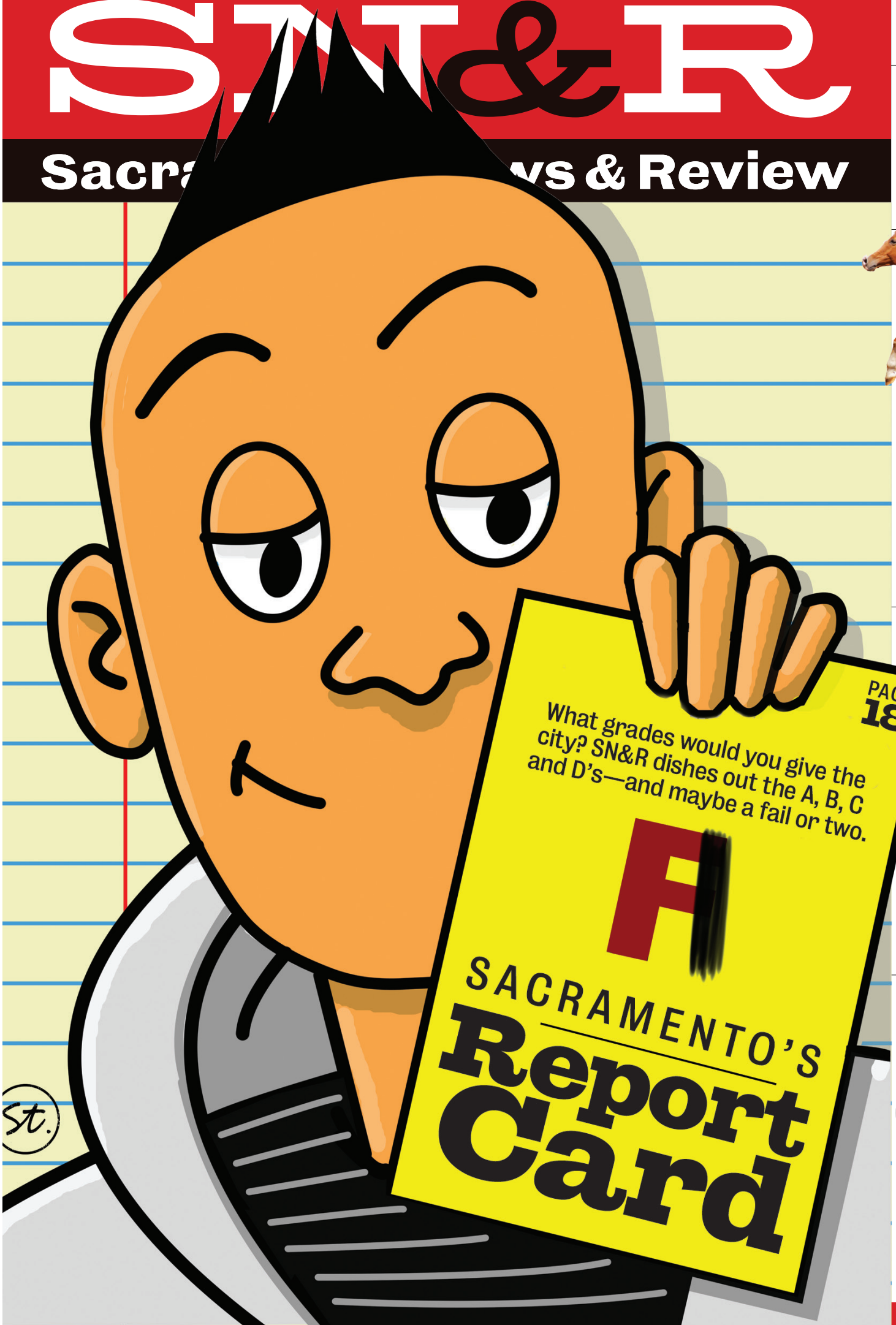
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KINGS ARENA
TRUTHS AND LIES

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A BURGEONING GAMBLING ADDICT

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SACRAMENTO'S NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY | VOLUME 25, ISSUE 15 | THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2013
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Kings of nasty

Ready for more Kings drama?

This week, the pro-arena camp released a couple videos on www.downtownarena.org. One features a signature gatherer telling an arena proponent, armed with a hidden camera, that the new Kings home means increased taxes in Sacramento. This is not true, of course. So the pro-arena camp—lead by Region Builders, a group with ties to the mayor's Think Big Sacramento initiative—garnered good media play skewering the anti-arena contingent for fabricating information (see "Arenas and lies" by Cosmo Garvin, SN&R Bites on page 13, for the entire scoop).

Sure, signature gatherers often don't have a clue about the facts. But when it comes to the arena deal, the facts have been sloppy since day one.

I mean, to this day, we don't know the exact price tag for the city's contribution to the proposed new downtown facility. Is it $250 million? Or $350 million? Or?

And, if the arena is built, what guarantees are there that the additional half-billion-dollars in development and revitalization will actually occur? The fact that we're not just getting an arena but also a central-city facelift is a major selling point,

Or, how about this: The city plans to take out bonds against future parking revenue to pay for its arena contribution. This could cost the general fund upward of $25 million a year. City Hall's forecast for how to fill in that multimillion gap? Cloudy at best.

The arena debate frustrates because it's never been about truth. And now it's devolved into lies and spin. And we still have a long way to go until June 2014, when an initiative challenging the arena subsidy likely will be on the ballot.

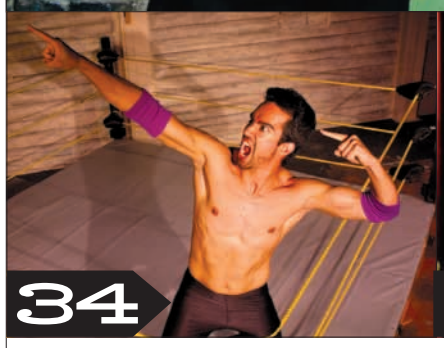
So, gear up for more Kings drama. Because it's gonna get nasty.

—Nick Miller
nickam@newsreview.com

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COVER ILLUSTRATION BY MARK STIVERS

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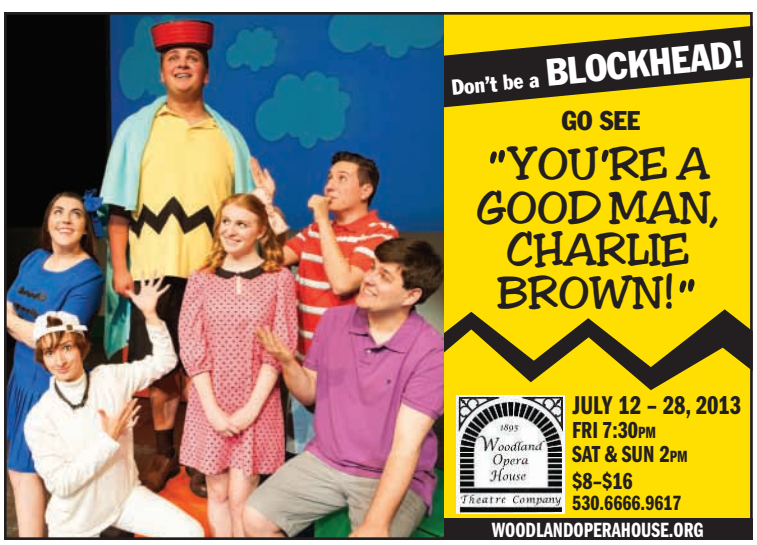
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"If we could improve our schools ... it would really impact how Sacramento is doing as a city."

Asked just outside the California State Fair:

What letter grade would you give Sacramento?



Cortland McMurry
student

A B as a letter grade, but a plus from where I came from a few years ago, Merced. I love that we have light rail here. It is so much handier than just taking a bus everywhere. There is a lot more public transportation. It is a lot more taken care of than it was in Merced. I think we are doing pretty good!



Laurie Perry
events manager

B-plus! As a Sacramento native, there has been a lot of improvement over my lifetime here, ... especially with what we are doing with the Kings and growing downtown. I think Portland [Ore.] and Seattle have a lot more going [for them] in terms of community pride. ... We can learn in terms of the local economies there.



LaRita Jackson
social worker

C-minus. We need a lot of improvement. Human services cover foster care, mental health, [Aid to Families with Dependent Children], and I feel it all needs improvement. Even though we are leading a lot of cities, especially in mental health because we have the mental-health initiative, we still need improvement.



Kiersten Mason
barista

I would say probably a solid B. I feel like there needs to be more things for kids to do. I really feel like if we could improve our schools … it would really impact how Sacramento is doing as a city. With the proper education, the kids who are around now could turn Sacramento into an A-plus community.



CaRay Botelho
apartment manager

I have been in Sacramento off and on since 1985. We just went to the botanical gardens yesterday, and it was sad. You could see it hadn't been maintained. They water it, but it is real small in comparison to what it used to be. … I think our transit system is a good system. I like Sacramento overall, but a D. I give it a D.



Anthony Brown
entrepreneur

This spot right here is fine. I would give it a B. Other areas, close to Broadway and stuff, is, well, not so good. Oak Park is another place where houses need to be redone and stuff like that. I would give Sacramento a C-minus.

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Franklin and the powers that be

Re "On the rise and fall (and rise and fall, again) of Franklin Boulevard" by Cosmo Garvin (SN&R Feature Story, July 18):

This area, along with a couple others in the county, were purposely left to wither and decay by the supervisors, and with the help of the feds and the sheriff at the time. There were known crime influences that were allowed to flourish. It was an incubator. It's the upper-crust's method of herding the easily managed sheeple into areas of their choosing to help preserve their own little enclaves elsewhere. It will be redeveloped at a time of their choosing, not ours/yours; that's the preordained schedule of things. I gave it a shot, too, but only managed to inconvenience them. I haven't totally given up, but now realize any plan to make difference will have to catch the powers that be by surprise and be hard to reckon with.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Davi Rodrigues
Sacramento

Franklin needs courageous leadership

Re "On the rise and fall (and rise and fall, again) of Franklin Boulevard" by Cosmo Garvin (SN&R Feature Story, July 18):

Cosmo Garvin's description of the misadventures encountered in redeveloping Franklin Boulevard is characteristic of the kind of serial heartbreak in store for anyone who is a fan of community-supporting development.

For example: Apparently, Sacramento can find $250 million to fund an arena (not a controlling interest in the team) for a private basketball organization, and even though the NBA has an antitrust exemption allowing them to monopolize professional basketball and extort stadiums from cities, well, everyone's OK with that.

On the other hand, when a large (poor) neighborhood like the one around Franklin Boulevard suffers for lack of funding, that's too bad, but what can we do?

Unmentioned by the excellent Garvin: The tendency for older neighborhoods to subsidize land speculators—er, I mean "developers"—who propose newer neighborhoods on the edge of town.

Never mind the "unearned increment." Suppose the elements of basic infrastructure, police, fire and schools cost $40,000 per average home. Older neighborhoods pay the full price in their building fees. However, in the name of economic boosterism, the speculators often persuade public-policy makers that newer development makes more creamy job goodness (and profit for land speculators), and those newer subdivisions only pay $20,000 in building fees for the homes built.

That means $20,000 per home has to come from the older neighborhoods' tax revenues. Infrastructure and schools degrade in central cities, but the edge city gets a subsidy! Ain't progress grand?

I use the $40,000 number as an example only because, despite repeated requests for an answer about actual costs, local planners have managed to not provide a figure to the public. Are we not charging the correct building fees (particularly important since Proposition 13, because if the public doesn't collect the money, then it never gets it)? Have any past developments been subsidized by older areas foregoing infrastructure investment?

And does the pope wear a dress?

Anyway, more power to you in exposing this bit of local corruption, or if we're kind: cluelessness. It's been going on for decades, and only courageous leadership like SN&R provides will ever end it.

Mark Dempsey
via email

Capitol hazing beyond 'em

Re "You're not funny" by Greg Lucas (SN&R Capitol Lowdown, July 11):

Thanks for your exposure of the "tradition" of hazing freshman legislators. It truly is beyond embarrassing that this gang of peri-adolescents hold the authority for the ninth-largest economic power in the world. Beyond the utter waste of time on the house floor, you fail to mention the costs and diversion of resources that permeates throughout government when frivolous, puerile amendments are made to pending legislation. From legislative aides and clerks who must prepare, publish and post these momentary bits of nonsense, to persons such as myself in other state departments who must prepare a complete reanalysis of monitored bills each time they are amended, and everyone up the chain of command who must review those analyses. Of course, when the joke is over, everyone's had their laugh and those amendments are rescinded, it's still beholden to us to prepare another analysis. Maybe someone should remind the frat boys in the Capitol that their actions have significant, wide-ranging consequences, even the stupid ones.

Curtis Fritz
Davis

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In Neighborhoods

BUILDING A **HEALTHY** SACRAMENTO

Roll Call

Sacramento School District aims to keep kids in school

BY MIKE BLOUNT

On any given weekday morning most students across Sacramento City Unified School District are rushing into classrooms, preparing to learn. But there are still many empty desks in those classrooms. School officials are working hard to develop solutions to reduce chronic absences to get students back in school.

"ON THE SURFACE IF A STUDENT IS ABSENT, WE JUST SEE THEM AS BEING ABSENT. BUT IF THERE'S A PATTERN OVER TIME, AND WE BEGIN TO TRY TO FIGURE OUT THE REASONS, WE BEGIN TO SEE THERE'S A LITTLE BIT MORE COMPLEXITY TO THEIR SITUATIONS."

Barbara Kronick, director of integrated support services at SCUSD

According to SCUSD records for the 2010-2011 school year, more than one in 10 students were chronically absent or severely absent — meaning they missed at least 10 percent of the days they were enrolled for a semester. Statistically, students who are absent for greater than 10 percent of a semester have a harder time catching up with the rest of their class. If they are chronically absent year after year, it causes a cumulative impact where the student may never be able to catch up without additional support.

Director of Integrated Support Services at SCUSD Barbara Kronick says the district has spent the last year collecting data on these 5,020 students to analyze and help develop interventions to increase their attendance.

This initiative is funded by The California Endowment's Building Healthy Communities grant to promote healthier neighborhoods. The California Endowment believes a student's attendance in school directly correlates to that student's success.

"On the surface if a student is absent, we just see them as being absent," Kronick says. "But if there's a pattern over time, and we begin to try to figure out the reasons, we begin to see there's a little bit more complexity to their situations."

Kronick says SCUSD is working on engaging both parents and students through several programs — some modeled after successful efforts in other school districts and others that will be completely unique to Sacramento. The Parent Teacher Home Visit Project began in Sacramento as a way for students, parents and teachers to have a meaningful dialogue. As a result, Kronick says the district has seen increased attendance rates. But she adds there is no one-size-fits-all solution and finding an effective means of intervention for every chronically absent student will take time.

"We can make some assumptions about what the barriers are that are keeping them from school, but I think we have to be careful until we actually talk to the families," Kronick says. "That is really the next phase — digging deeper into who these students are and finding out why each of them is absent. We have to fully understand the problem."

Part of this will include more targeted outreach to parents, according to Kronick. SCUSD is also working on getting community members involved to help implement after-school and weekend programs to reach out to students who may be transitioning from one school to another.

Whatever the circumstance, Kronick says district officials remain committed to every student receiving a quality education.

"I believe it is incumbent upon us to try to find out what's going on," Kronick says. "That's our role — doing better outreach and building a relationship with the parents to help us understand."

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

In 2010, The California Endowment launched a 10-year, $1 billion plan to improve the health of 14 challenged communities across the state. Over the 10 years, residents, community-based organizations and public institutions will work together to address the socioeconomic and environmental challenges contributing to the poor health of their communities.



Barbara Kronick is the director of integrated support services at Sacramento City Unified School District.

Photo by Mike Blount



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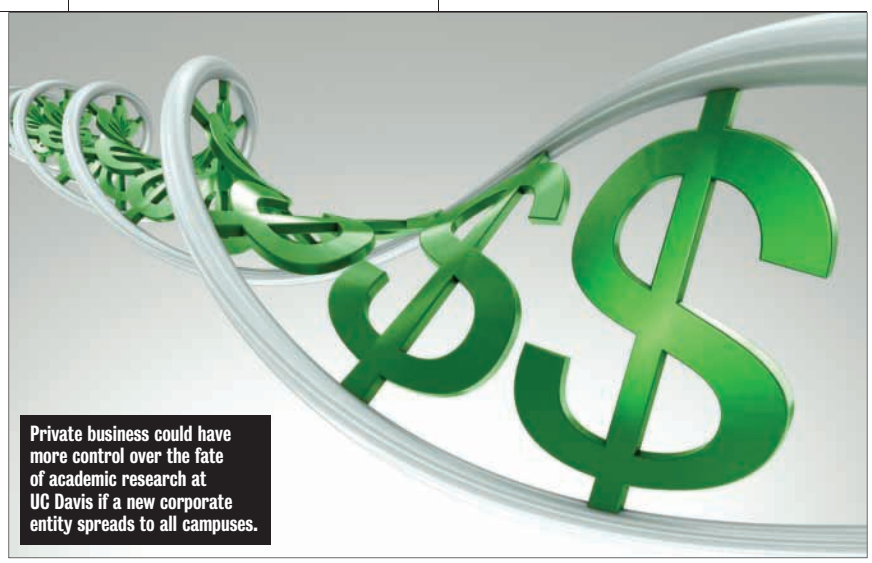
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Public research, private gain

UC regents recently approved a corporate entity that will give well-connected businesspeople control over research



Private business could have more control over the fate of academic research at UC Davis if a new corporate entity spreads to all campuses.

In a unanimous vote last month in Sacramento, the Board of Regents of the University of California created a corporate entity that, if spread to all UC campuses as some regents envision, promises to further privatize scientific research produced by taxpayer-funded laboratories. The authority, given the generic, placeholding name of Newco for now, also would block a substantial amount of UC research from being accessible to the public, and could reap big profits for corporations and investors that have ties to the well-connected private businesspeople who will manage the new entity.

by **Darwin BondGraham**

UC plans to first implement Newco at UC Los Angeles and its medical centers, but some regents, along with influential business leaders across the state, want similar entities installed at UC Davis and other campuses.

The purpose of Newco is to completely revamp how scientific discoveries made in UC laboratories come to be used by the public—from new treatments for cancer to computer apps for smartphones. Traditionally, UC campuses have used their own technology-transfer offices to make these decisions.

But under Newco, decisions about the fate of academic research will be taken away from university employees and faculty and put in the hands of a powerful board of businesspeople who will be separate from the university. This nonprofit board will decide which UC inventions to patent and how to structure licensing deals with private industry. It also will have control over how to spend public funds on these activities.

Read a longer feature version of this story at http://tinyurl.com/UCnewco.

Newco's proponents contend that the 501(c)(3) entity will bring much-needed private-sector experience to the task of commercializing university inventions. Ultimately, it will generate more patents, and thus bigger revenues, for the University of California through licensing deals and equity stakes in startups, they claim. UC administrators also say they have established sufficient safeguards for Newco and that UCLA's chancellor and the regents will have oversight of the entity.

But if last month's regents meeting is any indication, UC oversight of Newco may be less than robust. Several regents, in fact, objected to creating an oversight committee that would keep tabs on the new entity. The debate over the issue concluded after Regent Norman Pattiz suggested that "it shouldn't be called the Regents Oversight Committee. It should be called the Regents Encouragement and Finding You the Dough Committee," he said.

Critics of Newco say the scheme won't work and that it will lessen transparency in UC research while undermining the public mission of the university. Putting a board of businesspeople in charge of the university's tech-transfer operation also will create conditions ripe for cronyism, they fear.

UC Davis received $750 million for research in 2012.

In fact, that may already be the case. Records show that wealthy investors and influential businessmen, and one of the UC regents—Alan C. Mendelson—are financially invested in companies that currently license university-owned patents under exclusive financial arrangements. Mendelson, who also is a trustee for the University of California, Berkeley Foundation and has investments of his own in businesses that profit from university-produced research, was one of the main backers of the Newco proposal and cast a vote in favor of it.

The Newco program also could benefit companies like the ones Mendelson and his network of friends and investors own or work for. Many of the UC Regents are also close friends of investors who want greater access to university inventions under more favorable terms, and who want the university to subsidize early-stage business expenses and take financial risks by investing in technology startups.

And under Newco, they may be able to get exactly what they want.

"It appears that the university is turning research policy over to a private group of businesspeople, and they'll control the decisions of campus officials who are required to work for the public interest," said Christopher Newfield, a professor at UC Santa Barbara who conducted campus-sponsored studies of a range of tech-transfer policies at UCSB early last decade, and has sat on several technology-transfer policy committees. Newco is the latest expression of a belief that the university's research policy should be evaluated by measuring patents and revenues, said Newfield.

University policies changed in the 1970s, and by the time Congress enacted the Bayh-Dole Act in 1980, university administrators quickly interpreted it as giving schools ownership of the federally funded research conducted on their campuses. The race was on.

Dozens, and then hundreds of schools, set up tech-transfer offices in an attempt to profit from inventions. Universities instituted policies claiming institutional ownership of all inventions created by faculty and graduate students, and many tech-transfer offices began to choke back the supply of knowledge flowing from the university into society—all in hopes that the university could claim ownership of one of the rare "home run" inventions, as many in the tech-transfer field call them, that generate millions in revenue.

UC Davis received $750 million for research in 2012. More than half of this funding came from federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health and Department of Agriculture, but the campus also reports "a rapidly growing portfolio of corporate partnerships," according to the Office of Research's annual report.

The school's 1,190 patented inventions are currently available through the tech-transfer office for corporations to license and commercialize. UC Davis executed 894 licensing agreements in 2012, which generated $13.6 million in income and spurred economic activity across the state.

Gerald Barnett, who ran tech-transfer operations at the University of Washington and at UC Santa Cruz and today is the director of the Research Technology Enterprise Initiative, an independent organization that consults with research institutions, said Newco represents a way for private business interests to try to game the university.

"If you're working for the public good you don't have to take ownership of everything," he said of the all the research discoveries made at university campuses. "You don't have to have large number of employees [at tech-transfer offices], and you only have to do few transactions a year [licensing to private companies]."

One of the champions of the Newco idea on the UC Board of Regents has been Mendelson, who has had a long career as a lawyer in the biotechnology industry, having served on the boards of numerous small and large companies developing medical technologies. Most of the corporations Mendelson worked with relied on technology licensed from universities.

In 2005, one of Mendelson's clients, Kythera Biopharmaceuticals, entered into an exclusive licensing agreement with UCLA and a Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center-affiliated foundation called LA BioMed to exploit patents related to a drug developed by the school. (UCLA has kept the terms of that agreement confidential.)

In addition to working as Kythera's lawyer, Mendelson was an investor in the company. According to records filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 17, 2012, Mendelson advised Kythera in a public stock offering that netted about $86 million. The disclosure filing noted that Mendelson owned 13,000 shares of Kythera at the time. Mendelson's investments were through a family trust and through VP Company Investments 2008, LLC, a Delaware-registered corporation that partners of the Latham & Watkins law firm use as a co-investment vehicle. Mendelson remained a stock owner in Kythera when, in July of last year, he became a UC regent.

Mendelson and other UC regents and administrators did not respond to requests for interviews for this story. A UC spokesperson responded as follows: "Regarding companies in which Regents have a material interest, the rules only prohibit them from decision-making about those companies, not investing in them."

According to legal counsel within the University of California Office of the President, the regents carry out oversight of the university and do not make decisions that materially benefit specific companies, therefore they rarely run into conflict-of-interest problems requiring them to recuse themselves from voting on matters like Newco. □

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– Bhagavad Gita (Song of the Lord) Chap. 2.55

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Slippery when debt

Sacramento County borrowed millions to expand water infrastructure, now it needs help paying the bill

by **Raheem F. Hosseini**
raheemh@newsreview.com

Following a civilian career with the Department of Defense, Joanne Hughes returned from overseas and settled in a handsome one-story home in the Vineyard area of south Sacramento. Back then, in 2004, her utilities bill from the county topped out at maybe $150 every 60 days.

"Now it's up to almost $300 every month," she told county supervisors last week. "That's unsustainable."

Unfortunately for Hughes and 50,000 fellow water customers, it's about to get even more so.

This past Tuesday, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors was set to approve rate increases for the second time in two years. Bi-monthly user fees will climb $7 for unmetered residential customers in the unincorporated county beginning August 23, and another $5 starting July 1 of next year.

The additional $4.1 million the Sacramento County Water Agency anticipates by 2015 will help chip away at a hefty bond debt the county incurred while muscling through a $200 million expansion in water infrastructure.

But that additional supply came before the need. The county built it, but they haven't come. Not yet.

Rate increases have flown higher "than the growth of our customer base," acknowledged water resources director Michael L. Peterson.

As the county waits for new residents, those already here are fronting the costs of both future customers and the developers who stopped building in 2008, when the recession hit. Peterson expects construction fees to start picking up the slack again in 2015, but even then, rate increases will only slow, not stop.

Bonds paid for new surface water facilities in the Freeport and Vineyard areas. There's an annual debt service of $25 million attached to those two projects, held by Union Bank.

"Your elected board members should not be borrowing money that you can't pay back," chided Hughes, one of 57 affected customers to send in a letter of protest.

State law requires a majority of affected water customers to formally object to prevent rate increases. The retiree in the pink sun hat was the only one who attended last Tuesday's hearing.

Rate increases will also fund new water-monitoring regulations and fluoridation costs covered by an expiring grant, and jump-start mothballed maintenance projects. Water officials expect an increase in well failures because they deferred maintenance to keep rates from climbing even higher, Peterson said. There are north of 75 wells of varying ages in the system.

Board chairwoman Susan Peters reluctantly agreed to rate hikes after ensuring the money wasn't for new water department employees or projects. "There's not empire expansion going on here," she said.

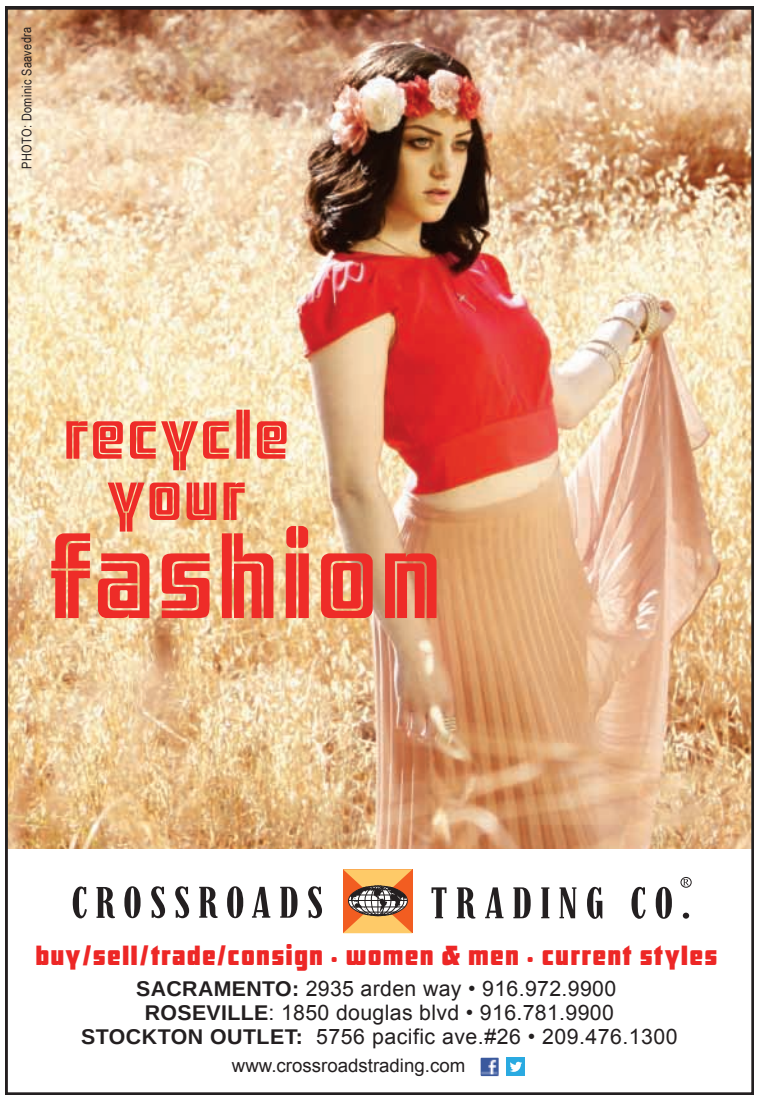
Also rumpled by the sticker shock, Supervisor Don Nottoli asked staff to look into ways to allow customers to spread out their utility payments in the future.

"You still have folks who are on fixed incomes of less than a thousand dollars a month," he said. "And when you look at that, that $150 a month goes in just for essentials—water, sewer, garbage and storm drains if you're in the unincorporated area—that's a big bite." □

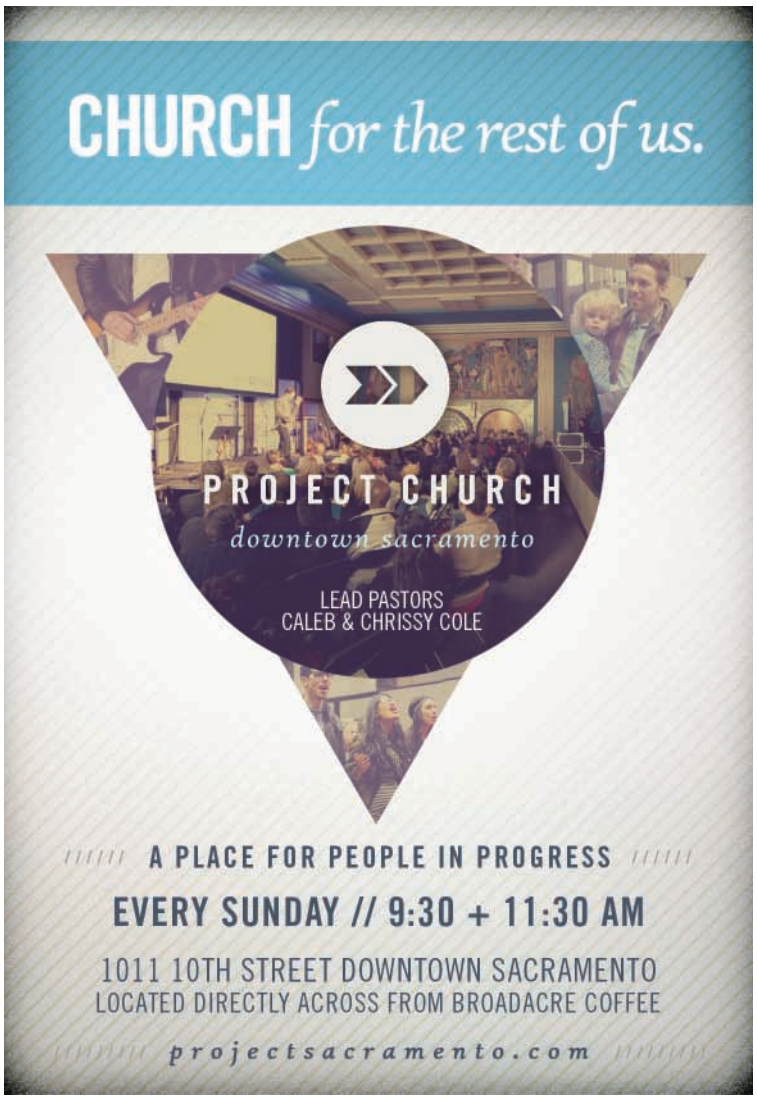












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- Social Nightclub
- The Park Ultra Lounge
- The Press Club
- Splash Nightclub & Bar

TRAVEL & SPORTS

Best martial-arts studio
- Joslin's Martial Arts Center
- Kovar's Satori Academy
- Moore's Martial Arts
- Robinson Taekwondo
- Self Defense & Personal Safety Academy

Best ski resort
- Heavenly Mountain Resort
- Kirkwood
- Northstar-at-Tahoe
- Sierra at Tahoe Resort
- Squaw Valley USA

PEOPLE & PERSONALITIES

Best local media personality to have a beer with
- Nick Brunner, Capital Public Radio
- Bethany Crouch, Fox 40
- Isaac Gonzalez, Ransackedmedia.com
- Walt Gray, 96.9 The Eagle
- Heckasac
- Edie Lambert, KCRA 3
- Kurtis Ming, CBS 13
- Grant Napear, Sports 1140 The Fan
- Blair Anthony Robertson, The Sacramento Bee
- Dale Schornack, News10

Best seductive radio voice
- Ashley Nickels, 107.9 The End
- Monica Lowe, Star 106.5
- Kitty O'Neal, 92.5 FM and 1530 AM KFBK
- Alan Ray, Capital Public Radio
- Devin Yamanaka, Capital Public Radio

FOOD & DRINK

Best happy hour
- Blackbird Kitchen & Bar
- Bows & Arrows
- Cafeteria 15L
- The Hideaway Bar & Grill
- Kasbah Lounge
- Lucca Restaurant and Bar
- R15
- Riverside Clubhouse
- The Red Rabbit Kitchen & Bar
- Shady Lady Saloon
- Skybox Grill and Bar

Best irresistible sandwich
- Bud's Buffet
- Dad's Sandwiches
- Huong Lan Sandwiches
- Juno's Kitchen and Deli
- Magpie Cafe
- Roxie Deli
- Sampino's Towne Foods
- The Sandwich Spot
- Super Tortas Chilangas "El Abuelo"
- Zia's Delicatessen

ARTS & SMARTS

Best visual artist
- Jon Bafus
- Maren Conrad
- Amanda Cook
- Gale Hart
- Gioia Fonda
- Jose Di Gregorio
- Micah Crandall-Bear
- Nathan Cordero
- Pete Eckert
- Rogelio Manzo
- Danny Scheible
- Peter Stegall

Best novelist
- Jodi Angel
- Doug Rice
- Pam Houston
- Christian Kiefer
- William T. Vollman

SHOPS & SERVICES

Best place to get a piercing
- American Graffiti Tattoo & Piercing
- Bonehead Tattoos and Piercing
- The Exotic Body
- Legacy Tattoo
- River City Tattoo
- Sacramento Tattoo and Piercing
- Sub Q Body Piercing

Best tattoo shop
- Forever Tattoo
- Legacy Tattoo
- Monroe Tattoo Parlor
- Pretty in Ink Tattoo
- Reclamare Gallery & Custom Tattoo
- River City Tattoo
- Royal Peacock Tattoo Parlor
- Side Show Studios
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Foster 2.0

Sacramento-based Camellia Network uses new technology to help foster kids transition into adulthood

by **Dave Kempa**
davek@newsreview.com

April Robinson dreamed of someday running her own bed-and-breakfast, but the former foster youth felt a little stuck. She wasn't sure what sort of training she needed to prepare for the hospitality industry, and although she wanted to hone her culinary skills, the young Robinson wasn't equipped to pursue her passion.

"I was always having to borrow my neighbor's casserole dishes," she says. "I wanted my own stuff, so I didn't have to rely on other people."



PHOTO BY ANNE STOKES

The Camellia Network helped April Robinson get the tools she needed to pursue a career in hospitality.

Then, last fall, one of Robinson's neighbors introduced her to the Camellia Network, a nonprofit Internet startup based in Midtown Sacramento that connects recently emancipated foster youth to people looking to support them as they make the transition from the state's care into adulthood.

Today, Robinson, 21, owns new pans, mixing bowls, a saucepot, a steamer, a 10-piece cutlery set and much more. She is one of some 170 former foster youth signed on to the Camellia Network, connecting with folks who want to provide them not just with gifts, but also moral and professional support as they enter the "real world."

Independent reporting for this story is funded by a grant from Sacramento Emergency Foodlink.

According to Joslyn Morris, program director at the Camellia Network, American teenagers often have a number of adults in their lives who help prepare them for the world after high school: parents, teachers and mentors. These people are pivotal in providing them with guidance, monetary support and professional connections.

"A lot of times, foster youth don't have anyone making those connections for them," Morris says, "so the idea of Camellia is to create an online network that sort of simulates that experience."

This simulated support network includes a $500 gift registry for each emancipated youth, through which supporters can buy items to help them achieve the goals they've outlined on their profiles. Gifts on the registries can vary from toiletries to refurbished computers to professional clothes for job interviews.

The tech-savvy nonprofit has also designed its site to function as a social network, allowing supporters to send words of encouragement to the youth, or even provide them with professional advice. This aspect, to Morris' surprise, has proven more popular than the gift registry.

"The youth would say, 'It was just so nice to get notes and hear that people care about me,'" she says. "Some of them had never gotten messages like that before, and it was really powerful."

The Camellia Network came into existence as a result of the surprise success of co-founder Vanessa Diffenbaugh's novel, *The Language of Flowers*, which explores the issues facing foster youth aging out of the system. Using advanced earnings from her book, Diffenbaugh teamed up with her friend, brand strategist Isis Dallis Keigwin, to navigate the Camellia Netowork's pilot run. Working with 33 former foster youth, Diffenbaugh and Keigwin managed to raise $33,000 in registry gifts in just five months.

Today, says Morris, the network's current iteration includes some 1,700 supporters, but only 171 youths across 10 states. The small staff are eager to expand the network, though they're admittedly running the nonprofit like a tech startup—lots of coding, shared office space in Midtown's Urban Hive, and never, ever enough hours in the day.

"We're sort of building the car as we're driving it," says Morris, adding that the site's career-opportunity function could benefit from an increased user base, and that the database for youth resources is not yet fully operational.

> **"The digital divide is a huge issue for foster youth."**
>
> **Joslyn Morris**
> Camellia Network

This isn't even to mention the fact that many former foster youth do not have easy access to the Web. Robinson, for instance, says she hasn't signed on to Camellia much of late because the wireless where she's staying is not reliable. She's not alone.

"The digital divide is a huge issue for foster youth," says Morris, though Camellia is working to fix that. "One of the things we do offer is a computer on the registry." The nonprofit also plans to offer smartphones and service-plan payments on the registry sometime soon.

Today, Robinson is starting a new housekeeping job, and she is currently enrolled in culinary and business classes at American River College. One wonders if she hasn't signed on to Camellia's site recently because of her current Web-access issues, because her registry has long-since been filled or simply because she is busy chasing her dreams.

With around 30,000 American foster youths aging out of care each year, however, there's certainly no danger of running out of prospective users. □

BEATS

Hoodie stickup spree

A **series of armed robberies** that struck the grid early Saturday could be connected, based on initial descriptions of the two suspects and their modus operandi.

In a 25-minute span beginning 3:10 a.m. that morning, **two young men in hooded sweatshirts** brandished a handgun and robbed people at 18th and O streets, 16th and P streets, and the 1800 block of 19th Street. Only the victim at the third location escaped with his personal property. He told police the two men, one holding **a silver revolver**, ran at him demanding his wallet. The victim took off and said the suspects fled themselves.

Descriptions from the three individual victims largely match up. The suspects were said to be 18 to 21 years old, with one wearing a red or burgundy hooded sweatshirt, and the other in a black or gray hooded sweatshirt.

It's less clear whether two additional robberies that followed are also related. Around 4:30 a.m, two men snatched money from a woman's purse on 42nd Street and Eighth Avenue. But the suspects were armed with pepper spray instead of a gun, and only one wore a hooded sweatshirt.

An hour later on the 2200 block of Waterford Road—7 miles away—a home invasion resulted in the **theft of marijuana plants**, cash and a cellphone. The victim said he was in his backyard when two men in hooded sweatshirts forced him inside and ransacked the place. (Raheem F. Hosseini)

Copper stopper

A citywide crackdown on **copper-wire thefts** has cauterized a problem that once resembled an **urban epidemic**.

The Sacramento City Council received an update Tuesday on these efforts, which combine law-enforcement cessation with sped-up streetlight repairs and a change in what kind of lids the city buys for utility pull boxes.

According to a city staff report, such measures have resulted in a nearly 40-percent drop in copper-wire thefts—down from 228 incidents between February 2011 and January 2012, to 139 reports a year later.

At the problem's apex, neighborhoods like Del Paso Heights, North Natomas and East Sacramento couldn't go two days without a streetlight being mutilated by thieves cashing in on streaking copper prices, "leaving blocks of residents in **blackout conditions**," and a repair backlog that "stretched out to one year," the report says.

The city has spent $1.7 million fixing up more than 20,000 stripped lamps. In April 2012, it dedicated $2 million from other sources to erase the backlog, and can now respond to vandalized equipment in 90 days or less.

It's now stamping purchased copper wire with a city identifier, the **first in the state to do so**. Thieves often strip stamped insulation. But when they don't, arrests can happen after the fact, and prosecutors can levy grand-theft or burglary charges.

Police sting operations, using censor-bugged spools of copper wire planted in hard-hit buildings, like a parking garage in Midtown, have also paid dividends. (R.F.H.)

Gold in them Cats

Sacto really values Sacramento River Cats baseball—no, seriously. They're worth **a fortune**.

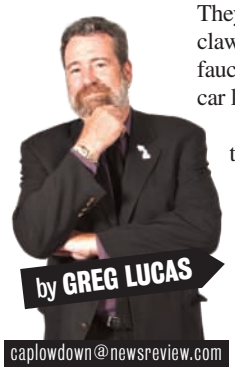
Last week, Forbes Magazine named the Cats minor-league baseball's **most valuable team**, with a total value of $38 million and revenue of $14 million.

The Cats, owned by local millionaire Susan Savage, have kept their claws on top with some of the most **expensive ticket prices** in the minors. They also take in a cool $750,000 annually for naming their stadium "Raley Field." (Dave Kempa)



Wanna get away

On legislation, procrastination —and vacation



by GREG LUCAS
caplowdown@newsreview.com

Politicians aren't spawned from a different mix of genetic goo than other mortals. They have kids. Spouses. Cats that claw the living-room furniture. Leaky faucets. Soccer. In-laws. Misplaced car keys.

They also go on vacation to Tahoe, Hawaii, **Disneyland**. Sometimes even Disney World. Just like real people. Depending on the age of their kiddos, tours of California missions or universities.

A large number of California politicians are vacationing at this very moment. July is when the Legislature takes a four-week hiatus after what lawmakers apparently consider six months of **Herculean labor** to recharge for the rigors of the final weeks of the 2013 legislative session.

For example, Gov. Jerry Brown and First Lady Ann Gust are visiting **Ireland** and **Germany**, rooting around in Brown's family roots. They return Saturday.

If more time for deliberation is needed, introduce less legislation.

Legislative staff, lobbyists and others who enjoy symbiotic relationships with the Legislature vacation in July as well. Particularly those with kids in school.

Those without kids at home have additional opportunities for leisure between mid-September, when the Legislature splits for the year, and January 2014, when the solons return to solving California's problems.

No autumn respite is possible for the executive branch. The **Teutonic Spouter of Blarney** in the Capitol's corner office and his gallant budgeteers must present a new state budget early in January detailing how more than $145 billion gets spent. That pretty much kills any chance for a few days in Bali during November and December.

Those 30 days after the Legislature blows town are also shot to hell. That's all the time Brown gets to determine which important public-policy reforms passed by the Legislature deserve to become law and which deserve to be **shitcanned**.

Hence the no doubt reluctant decision by the Browns to visit The Continent during July, the month when America disgorges the year's highest number of tourists, largely of the feckless variety, onto European soil.

Imagine enduring that kind of suffering to avoid missing a single action-packed moment of the final weeks of the 2013 legislative session, which begins either August 5 or August 12.

For the first time in 50 years, the Senate and the Assembly have different summer-recess schedules. What used to be the final month for the Legislature is now the final five weeks for the Assembly because of a few extra days of committee hearings.

The two houses still agree to adjourn until next year on September 13.

Assembly Speaker John Pérez, a Los Angeles Democrat, says his house's changed schedule is an improvement.

"The calendar we adopted offers everyone a chance to give more attention to their legislation. That benefits the policy process by allowing more time to consider all the issues before we head into the end-of-session crush," said John Vigna, a spokesman for Pérez.

Really? The "**end-of-session crush**" week begins September 9. That's 40 weeks after the members of both houses were sworn in on December 3, 2012. It's 35 weeks after both houses reconvened on January 7.

September 9 is 28 weeks after the February 22 deadline for the members of both houses to introduce legislation.

The 12 weeks from December 3 through February 22 proved ample time for lawmakers of both houses to introduce 2,189 pieces of legislation.

Seems like seven months is more than enough time to "consider all the issues." If more time for deliberation is needed, introduce less legislation.

So whatever the reason is for the Assembly's changed schedule, it's not to benefit the "policy process."

An additional week of Assembly committee hearings won't reduce the flurry of last-minute amendments and fevered passage of hundreds of **largely unscrutinized bills** that always occurs during the "end-of-session crush."

The inability of the two houses of the same Legislature to agree on a mutual work schedule does, however, demonstrate a remarkably high level of dysfunction.

To say nothing of really mucking up vacation plans. □

Greg Lucas' state-politics column Capitol Lowdown appears every other week in SN&R. He also blogs at www.californiascapitol.com.

Arenas and lies

If Region Builders wants to 'stop the lies' and support the truth, they can start with their own actions



by COSMO GARVIN
cosmog@newsreview.com

Region Builders is a savvy political organization, and its director, Joshua Wood, is an experienced operative. He probably won't be able to keep the arena initiative by Sacramento Taxpayers Opposed to Pork off the ballot. But Bites must hand it to him, Wood has played the TV media and Sacramento **Kings fans** skillfully, whipping up **made-to-order outrage** about some "lies" by STOP's paid signature gatherers, caught on video.

We only have a bit of Region Builders' edited footage to go by. But certainly, a signature gatherer shouldn't be telling folks that, "Yeah, **they're going to raise taxes**," to build an arena. It's no excuse that the videographer clearly goaded her into saying it, because it's still technically not true. The city already raised taxes.

The YouTube footage, dutifully replayed by Fox40 News, maybe others, is like a wannabe version of **right-wing gotcha videos** against ACORN. The description even talks about petitioners, this one is a black woman, as "crusading in front of ghetto grocery stores." (R.E. Graswich also describes them as "vagrants," more interesting coding.)

It is true that paid signature campaigns are mercenary affairs, carried out by folks who often don't know much and don't care much about the petitions they are pushing.

But the Kings fans who are up in arms about the accuracy of these subcontractors' pitches never, ever gave a damn about this **seamy side of California's direct democracy** before. Nor will they care later, when their team's $300 million-plus taxpayer handout is no longer on the line.

For every apoplectic Kings fan just now realizing the initiative system is screwed up, Bites says, "Welcome."

To Region Builders: You don't get to be outraged.

Is there any political organization in the greater Sacramento area with a more antagonistic relationship with the truth? This is the group that tried to muzzle the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, saying it was not OK for staff to speak up about projects that promote **sprawl** and undermine the regional blueprint for development—like the disastrous Cordova Hills proposal. So much for the truth.

Region Builders is trying to keep the truth about category-killer stores like Walmart out of the city's planning process—leading the effort to gut requirements for an economic analysis whenever a big-box store targets a neighborhood. That sort of truth telling is bad for business.

Region Builders runs a website with "facts" about the arena, including a lot of numbers showing the supposed economic benefit of such a facility. What they don't tell you is that very little of that is new money. The great majority of it is money that's already being spent in the region, at the old arena, at the movies, or on a thousand other activities, and would continue to be spent, even if the Kings left tomorrow. By suggesting that the new arena will generate **$7 billion** over the coming years, arena boosters are telling a bigger lie than anything uttered by any signature gatherer.

Arena fans are also furious, all of a sudden, that STOP is getting its money from an Orange County conservative political PAC. Bites has always assumed that's about some other billionaires wanting to steal the Kings away from Sacramento to Anaheim. Otherwise, what is Orange County doing messing around in our politics?

And how would **Orange County** like it if some Sacramento businessmen hired signature gatherers to go down there and collect signatures to STOP—sorry—to stop them from issuing bonds to upgrade their local arena, and thereby attract a team?

Is there any political organization in the greater Sacramento area with a more antagonistic relationship with the truth?

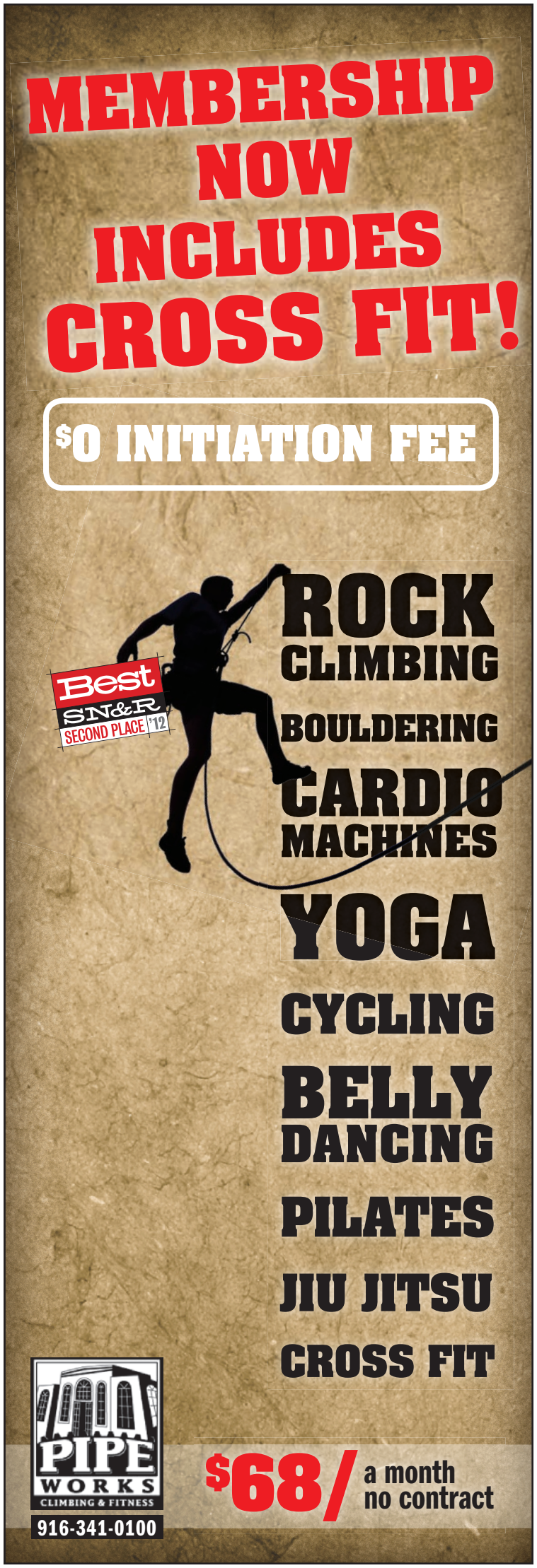
Oh, right, that actually happened. Bites forgot, because nobody here cared.

By the way, that signature-gathering firm was Arno Political Consultants, a Carlsbad, Calif.-based outfit with kind of a troubled past. They also collected signatures for Kevin Johnson's first **strong-mayor** initiative, and there were complaints then that they tricked some voters into signing. Where was the outrage of the Kings nation?

In 2011, state Sen. Ellen M. Corbett sponsored legislation to ban petitioners who get paid by the signature—similar to the law in Oregon. The Sacramento Bee editorial board opposed Corbett's bill, and Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed it. If similar legislation comes around again, perhaps arena fans will be paying attention and will support it.

And here, again, Bites will suggest arena fans read Joe Matthews and Mark Paul's excellent *California Crackup* to learn more about how our system got so broken, and some ways to fix it.

Meanwhile, if Region Builders wants to "stop the lies" and support the truth, they can start with their own actions. □





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OPINION

THE SCORE KEEPER

by **SN&R staff**

Sacramento's winners and losers—with arbitrary points

Stealth politics

Everyone loves the **Crocker Art Museum**. But a plan to forgive the cultural hub's $7.5 million debt deserves vetting. So it's odd that the Sacramento City Council put the item on its consent calendar on July 23, which is rarely discussed before getting approved. Odder still, Councilwoman Angelique Ashby asked two critics on July 16 to hold their comments, since "we'll be discussing the item at the next meeting." Hopefully, that discussion actually happened, and this wasn't just a way to duck thorny questions.

– 7.5

Bad dads

Two Sacramento men set some terrible behind-the-wheel examples for the kids on Saturday, July 20. One vehicle tried to duck a **DUI stop** at Marysville Boulevard and Harris Avenue. After a short pursuit, the driver fled on foot. Left in the car were four children, ages 10 months to 12 years old. The driver, identified as Corey Houston, 42, eventually exited a house he ran into and was arrested for child endangerment, among other charges. Cops also chased a fleeing vehicle near 14th Avenue and 65th Street later that night. Arrested were the driver, 41-year-old Rodney Patterson, and his 17-year-old son, who were accused of tossing objects out of the car, including a loaded rifle that police recovered.

– 1,000

March for justice

Kudos to the hundreds of locals who marched on Saturday, July 20, from the federal courthouse to the Capitol, in support of **Trayvon Martin**.

+ 100



Hundreds of marchers in support of Trayvon Martin overtook Capitol Mall this past Saturday.

Help the hooligans

As Sacramento's version of **soccer hooligans**, the Tower Bridge Battalion, took to the field on Sacramento Soccer Day last Thursday, July 18, to introduce the town to the Sacramento Republic FC's team crest, the club's most dedicated fans watched helplessly as newcomers filled the section originally reserved for them. A note to the Republic FC's owners: Take care of your faithful.

– 433

Grafitti vs. art

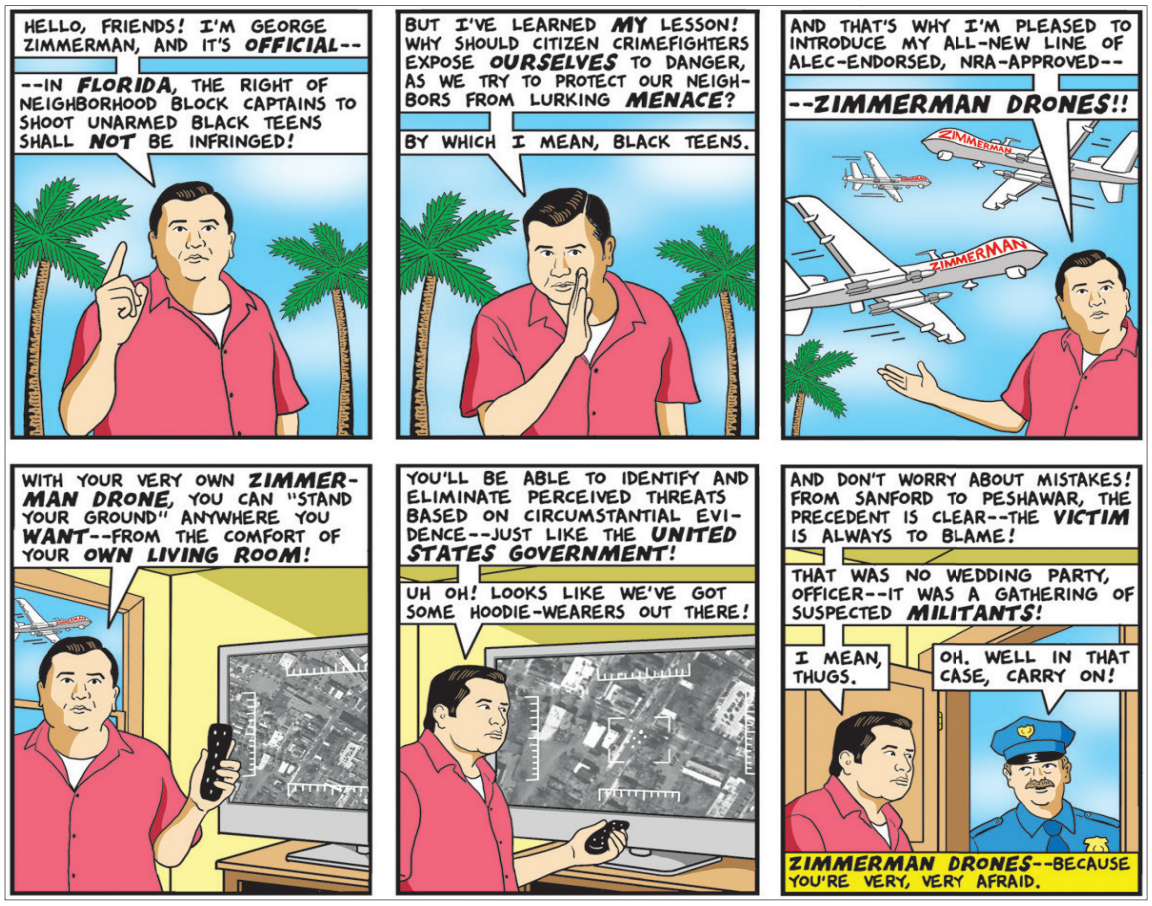
Say what you will about Sacramento's part in the **Inside Out Project**, but try showing a little tact. Hopefully, the person who defaced the mural (twice!) on 16th and R streets comes forward, so residents can take it upon themselves to "add to" his or her work.

– 16

OPINION

THIS MODERN WORLD

BY TOM TOMORROW



ESSAY

Appreciate *The Newsroom*

If you've been following my blog posts on Page Burner (www.newsreview.com/pageburner), you'd be the first. So, thanks.

by
Adam Khan

But you'll also know that I am a huge fan of HBO's *The Newsroom*, created by (in) famous screenwriter Aaron Sorkin. You'll also note that my fellow writers, while not raving fangirls like myself, love to dissect the drama and what it says about their industry. I'd like to step back from that microanalysis and explain why I appreciate the show as a whole.

The plot, if you're unfamiliar, revolves around fictional cable news anchor Will McAvoy (Jeff Daniels) and his "News Night" production team. The group "covers" major stories from recent history, with episodes chronicling the hardships of delivering quality coverage in an unstable industry.

I don't see merit in criticizing Aaron Sorkin for his idealistic portrayal of journalists.

Much of the show's criticism targets Sorkin, of *The West Wing* and *The Social Network* fame, and his tendency to create "high-horsed drama." Critics view his characters' long-winded, fact-filled rants as conduits for his own perspective.

The thing is, I agree with him.

I don't see merit in criticizing Sorkin for his idealistic portrayal of journalists and their importance in an informed democracy—especially from journalists themselves. After all, idealism runs red in our blood; if it didn't, we probably couldn't brave the stresses of our occupations.

Thomas Jefferson said he would rather have newspapers without government than a government without newspapers. As much as the rancor of our industry may have jaded us, an informed public remains the cornerstone of a free and equal democracy.

And while things have rarely looked cloudier for journalists, modern technology has given us more ways to communicate than ever before.

The Newsroom allows us to have this dialogue. The fact that Sorkin can create real entertainment out of a subject many Americans disregard and broadcast on the same network as *Game of Thrones* is a blessing to journalists everywhere. Regardless of our opinion of the show's entertainment value, when we discuss it, we're discussing the news. Concurrently, Americans become a little more informed, a little more curious and, perhaps, a little more impassioned regarding the role news plays in their lives. □

Adam Khan is a UC Davis student and summer intern at SN&R.

GREENLIGHT

The alt future

Health care, education, manufacturing, politics— they all face the same question. The big keep-you-up-at-night question. Even though you have been doing something for years, decades or centuries, the way that you used to do things may not be working anymore. So, how will you do it in the future?



by **JEFF VONKAENEL**
jeffv@newsreview.com

Good question.

Alternative-weekly newspapers like SN&R are struggling with this very issue. It came up repeatedly at the 36th annual Association of Alternative Newsmedia Convention held in Miami earlier this month.

Publishers and staff of about 100 alternative newspapers from all around the country were there. Most papers are doing better this year. Sales and profits are up. We are hiring more staff.

But we all wanted to know: "How will we create journalism in the future?"

We found no clear answer. However, some things were clear.

One: Stories still rock. Internet or no Internet, good stories make great journalism. Elected officials being kicked out of office. New musical groups being discovered. Scandals revealed. Issues explained. Good stories have power and magic.

Two: Online may be the future, but online revenue has not yet arrived in the present. This convention, like most of the industry's conferences over the last 15 years, focused on new media. And, yes, every year there are many new online developments, but little revenue.

Michael Crystal, who analyzed the financials of 37 newspapers, estimated that only 5 percent of alternative-newspaper revenue was coming from online.

Nevertheless, numerous speakers had the magic bullet, the marvelous app or the wondrous software that was rumored to create real online revenue for weekly newspapers. Some of the would-be magicians have represented different companies over the years. Each year, they are very confident about their new product.

What I'd like to see is them returning with a product that is working.

Three: The future of alternative weeklies will include new partnerships. SN&R has received money from the Sierra Health Foundation and Sacramento Emergency Foodlink for poverty and food-access coverage. I expect there will be more of this in the future.

And, finally, there is a new generation of young people joining the wild and wacky, dysfunctional alternative-newspaper family. There was quite a contingent of young people who were thrilled to be at their first alternative-newspaper convention and were excited to have a career that could mean something. I was thrilled and inspired to see them.

I left the Miami convention with the belief that they will be able to create a future for alternative journalism. They will be the answer to the big question of the future. □

See what other conference attendees have to say about this year's Association of Alternative Newsmedia Convention at http://tinyurl.com/altweekcon2013.

Jeff vonKaenel is the president, CEO and majority owner of the News & Review newspapers in Sacramento, Chico and Reno.

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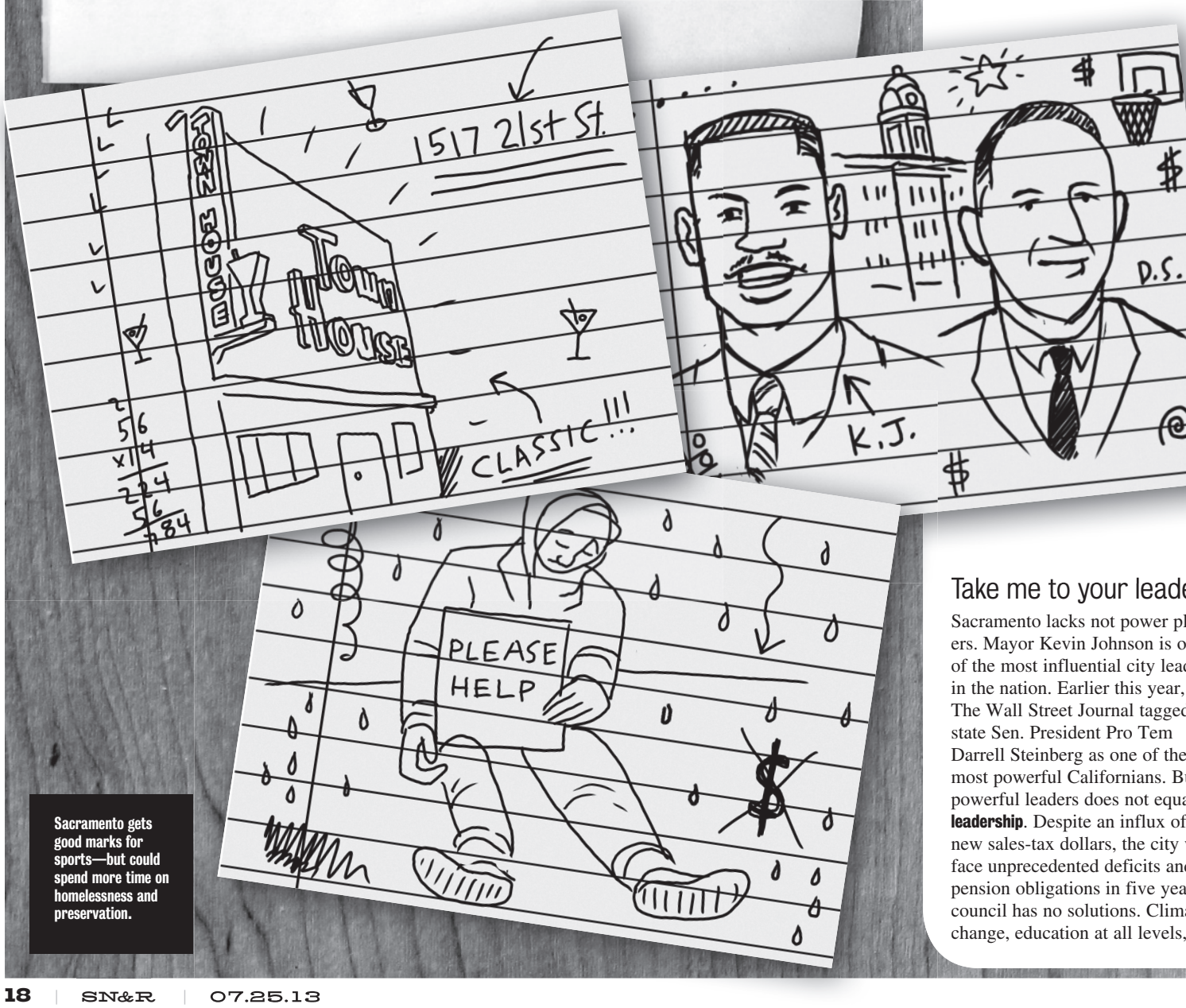


BY
DEENA DREWIS, CODY DRABBLE, BECKY GRUNEWALD, RAHEEM F. HOSSEINI, ADAM KAHN, DAVE KEMPA, JONATHAN MENDICK, NICK MILLER, JESSICA RINE, SHOKA
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SACRAMENTO'S report card

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARK STIVERS

We love this city. But, midway through 2013, it's obvious that Sacto isn't always the hottest student. SN&R writers dish out grades and some real talk.



Sacramento gets good marks for sports—but could spend more time on homelessness and preservation.

SACRAMENTO:

First, let's get this out of the way. SN&R isn't going to bribe you with cash for good grades. There won't be a 20 spot for every A, or five bucks for a B. We're not Granite Bay parents. On the flip side, we won't be taking away the car keys for those D's, either. Read SN&R's midyear report card, take it to heart, and improve for all the right reasons.

And while there's nothing but love for the 916 here at SN&R HQ, there's also no dearth of areas for improvement. All that time you spent keeping the Kings from moving to Seattle? Good job—but you're just not studying hard enough when it comes to climate change. And a whole host of other issues. Time to diversify your efforts.

Plus, there are attitude problems. Your self-doubt, penchant for bad nicknames and that fixation with world-classness. C'mon, Sacto.

Anyway, remember, this is just a midyear report card. Effort counts down the final stretch—and we'll be watching.

Best regards,
SN&R

Take me to your leader

Sacramento lacks not power players. Mayor Kevin Johnson is one of the most influential city leaders in the nation. Earlier this year, The Wall Street Journal tagged state Sen. President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg as one of the 13 most powerful Californians. But powerful leaders does not equal **leadership**. Despite an influx of new sales-tax dollars, the city will face unprecedented deficits and pension obligations in five years; council has no solutions. Climate change, education at all levels, public health—our leaders fail Sacramento on these issues.

B-

Smarty rants

The area has stellar higher-education institutions in Sacramento State and UC Davis—if you can get into them and register for the courses you need. Both schools boasted record admission offers to out-of-state students, who have to pay more to attend these budget-cut, salary-hiking campuses. Sac State also recently surveyed its large contingent of "super seniors" to learn that students with more than 120 cumulative units aren't graduating because of poor adviser outreach and class availability. That's a great way to keep the tuition money coming, but it's also forcing the next generation of scholars into deeper levels of debt while they waste time taking the history of basket weaving. Meanwhile, the city district closed seven schools this past spring, making the future of **education** resemble more of a battleground than a classroom.

C-

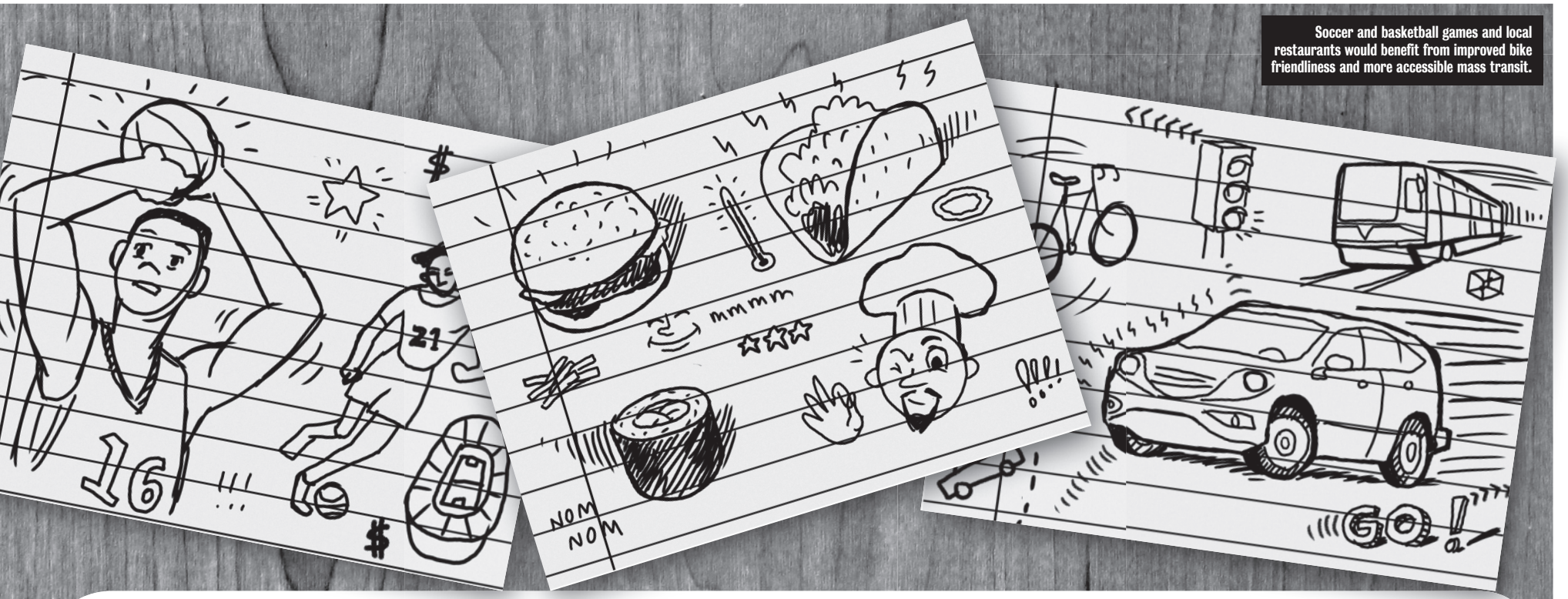
How does your city grow?

The city of Sacramento faces a rare opportunity to build on past success by embracing **smart growth** and sustainability with urban-infill efforts such as the Sacramento Railyards redevelopment project. City planners successfully overhauled the zoning code and gave downtown more in-demand compact urban housing. Sacramento County and the surrounding suburbs, however, are still lurching between smartish growth and sprawl policies, with Elk Grove seeking to slurp up 8,000 acres of farmland. County supervisors gave the green light to the Cordova Hills development earlier this year; a slap in the face to the region's sustainability blueprint.

C

Won't be inconvenienced

In 2011, the city balked at implementing mandatory energy-conservation requirements for commercial and residential properties. Ditto to plans for a Green Building Program, which would have required new construction to meet specific eco-friendly benchmarks. Council is supposed to look at these standards next year, but so far, lobbying and influence of local developers and realtors has been too much to pull the trigger. Meanwhile, experts say there is no way the city will meet its emission-reduction goals for 2020—just



Soccer and basketball games and local restaurants would benefit from improved bike friendliness and more accessible mass transit.

seven years away, FYI. That's depressing—and it mirrors policy on mass transit and more. So it goes when it comes to fighting **climate change** in Sacramento.

D

Not the fat of the land

When it comes to the **obesity** epidemic, Sacto fights the good fight. According to data provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 20 percent of adults in Sacramento County are obese or overweight, and about 18 percent don't exercise. Compared to other California counties, the numbers actually aren't that bad. It's not as good as San Francisco, but we aren't sitting on our haunches inhaling tubs of lard, either. For all our festivals celebrating beer, burgers and bacon, Sacramento also promotes biking and walking. And every time a new restaurant opens, a new fitness center is right behind it to give the fat people hope.

B

Good gods

Luckily for Sacramentans, California lacks the homogenous religious makeup that plagues so many of our sisters to the southeast. Even here in the Golden State, several stretches of our lush, fertile land betray a Christified, whitewashed way of living. But Sacramento boasts **religious diversity** and is home to nearly 600 spiritual congregations, with an impressive array of options to suit all of your spiritual cravings. Just to name a few: seven synagogues, nine mosques, four Hindu temples, eight Buddhist temples, nine Bahá'í congregations, one Sikh temple and every (insert string of adjectives) Church of (insert biblical noun phrase) under the sun. If you look hard enough, you can probably find a Meetup group for Pastafarians.

A-

Eat it?

Sacramento has innovative young chefs—Billy Ngo, Pajo Bruich, Rachel Kelley—and does a good job highlighting the importance of local and small farms, as well as home and community gardening. But several things are holding the **food scene** back. There are plenty of exciting restaurants dotting the greater Sacramento area, but a large majority simply aims for no higher than mediocrity. Or worse. If a single dish—bone marrow, pork belly—catches fire, it becomes derivative quickly. And as for diversity, we've got everything from Ethiopian to Cambodian food—but not necessarily on the grid. Midtown and downtown need improved heterogeneity and less trendy comfort food. But the biggest peeve? We shouldn't have to keep driving to South Sac or some other far-off suburb to get quality Asian eats. And late-night chow? Don't ask.

B-



Here we pay

2013 will go down as the year Sacramento gave it all up for the bouncing ball. A new minor-league soccer squad. The most valuable farm baseball team in America. Some $26 million for Carl Landry (!). Plus, big show: fighting for, and actually keeping, the Kings from moving to Seattle—courtesy of a $300 million-plus public subsidy for a new downtown arena. Say what you want about the merits of fanaticism and doling out millions to keep teams in town. Here in Sac, **sports** win.

A+

Smack talk

Remember a young Leonardo DiCaprio's brutal detox scene in *The Basketball Diaries*? Sacramento needs one of those. This town loves to get shitfaced more than most. The president's own Office of National Drug Control Policy says nearly 80 percent of people arrested in Sacramento are **high on something other than life**, with doubling opiate use, skyrocketing meth rates and record marijuana figures as of 2011. But it's not just the illicit stuff. Party boys and girls stayed away en masse during the recent Rafting Gone Wild river party after learning booze was banned along the American. And, as of May, state alcohol-enforcement agents handed out 75 citations related to underage drinking on or around local college campuses. The problem is compounded by a lack of treatment programs and an abundance of incarceration for low-level possession charges. Clean yourself up, Sacramento. You're starting to lose your looks.

D+

Stage, right

Here's what SN&R's critics agree on: Capital Stage and B Street Theatre both do ambitious new plays. Sacramento Theatre Company and California Musical Theatre excel at high-quality and well-produced mainstream classics and musicals, but often lack edginess. Meanwhile, New Helvetia Theatre, Big Idea Theatre, KOLT Run Creations, Green Valley Theatre Company and other smaller companies are creating buzz with well-done productions. With regard to venues, B Street Theatre needs to hurry up and open its new space, and the Community Center Theater needs to modernize (like, yesterday; can we please add a few more women's bathrooms, too?). On the other hand, the Grange Performing Arts Center and Harris Center for the Arts are under-the-radar places to see good productions. Overall, there's a great **theater scene**. Keep it up, and keep improving!

A

Home is where the green is

It's getting harder to **find a home** in Sacramento—if your pockets aren't stuffed with green, anyway. The Sacramento Housing Alliance is battling city and county planners on proposed changes that "would eliminate the mixing of affordable units in new developments," mortgage rates jumped up a percent since May, and The Sacramento Bee reports home prices are rising "faster even than the pace set during much of the last housing boom." And we all know how that turned out.

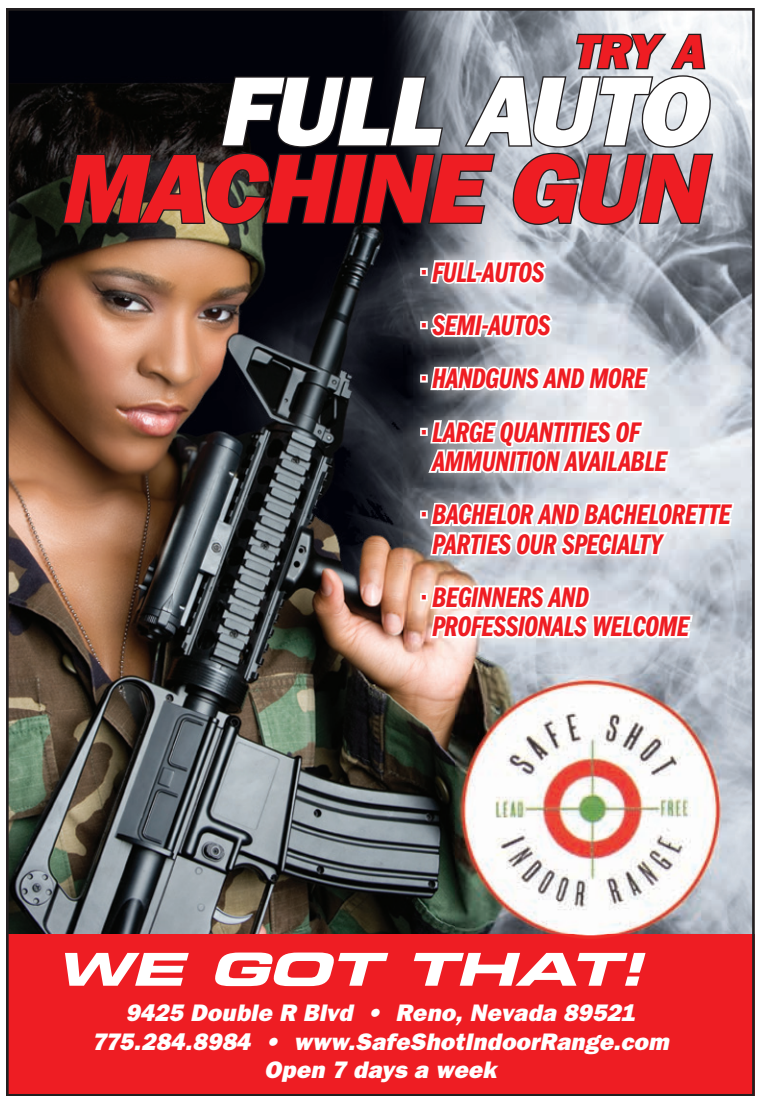
D

What's in a name? (A lot!)

"Old Sac?" Really? Of all the **nicknames**, that's what you want to call our historic centerpiece? Do you have any, *any* idea the kind of imagery that conjures for the outsider? Even "Sacto" is



"REPORT CARD" continued on page 21





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"REPORT CARD" continued from page 19

disturbing in its own way, though we can't seem to put a finger on why. At this point, the only things we've got going for us are that we can fondly refer to our mayor as "K.J.," and we sometimes exalt ourselves to deity status in referring to our town as the Sacred City. Here's the deal: You end the campaign to call the K Street corridor "The Kay," and we'll bump this half a grade up. Extra credit: Start calling Councilman Steve Hansen "Steve-o the Han-man."

C+

Something old, something new

Sacramento has lost some landmark gems to this lousy economy. The Beat record store stopped spinning discs in Midtown. The Coca-Cola bottling plant on Stockton Boulevard fizzled out. What's next? Our "heritage" neighborhoods near and on the grid persevere despite bustling Midtown "hospitality" districts. Yes, there seems to be a level of overall thoughtfulness when it comes to **preservation** of historic Sacramento—and then someone goes and tears down the 60-year-old neon sign at the TownHouse Lounge.

B-

Rooftops

You may think that this grade is too high, and maybe you're right. Yes, **homelessness** numbers are terribly high, and rising. Yes, our police and park rangers are constantly chasing our homeless campers around, refusing to let them create a safe space for themselves. Bee scribe Marcos Breton, when he's not writing about sports, can't wait to send all the campers off to Rancho Seco. We also occasionally give homeless campers fines that we know they can't pay, and send them to jail when they don't pay these fines and end up with standing bench warrants. And, of course, we've criminalized the act of feeding them from our cars out on American River Parkway. We also don't provide them access to bathrooms. Or allow them to sleep in their own cars at night. Or—you know what? We're actually quite bad at this homelessness thing.

B-

Spare a nickel?

Sacramento has more charities and gives less to them than the national average, according to Crocker Art Museum CEO Lial Jones. Why so Scroogey, Sactown? Afraid someone will accuse you of **generosity**? Don't worry. We wouldn't dare.

C+

On two wheels

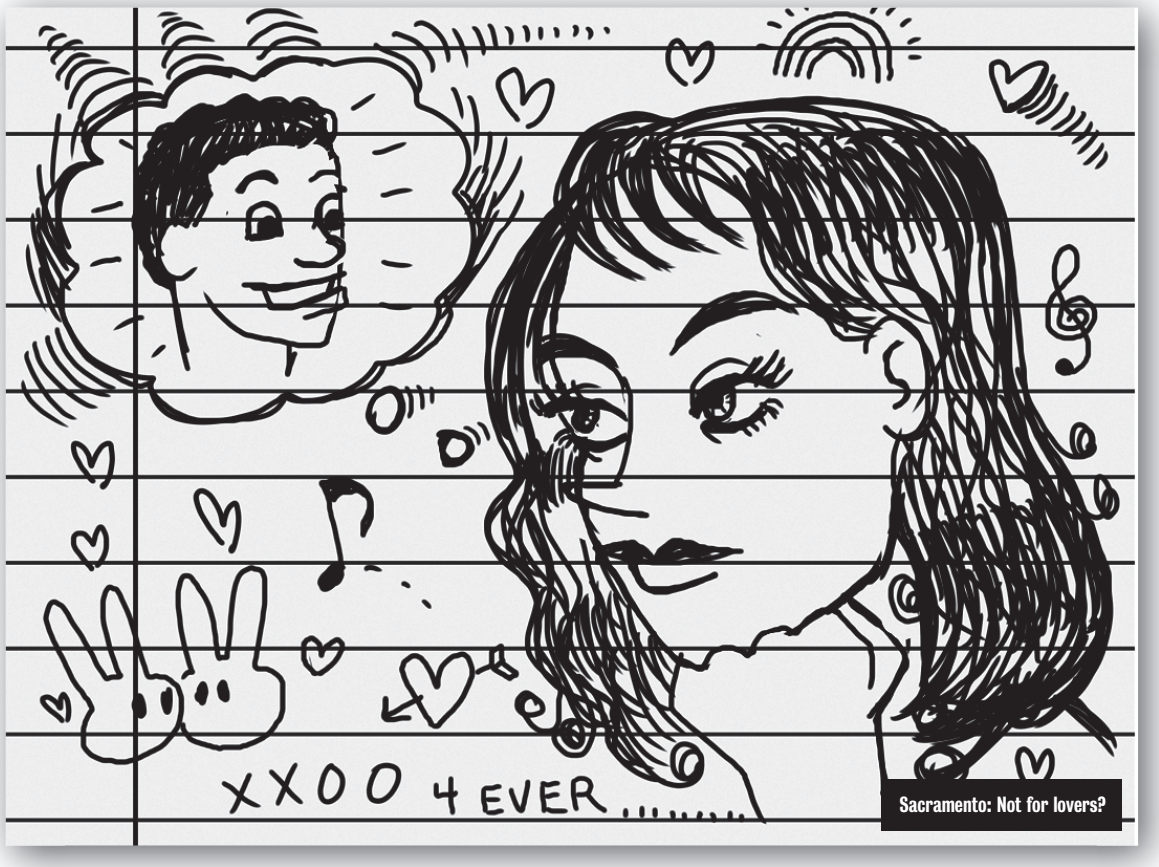
People discuss **bicycles** and the debate often becomes about cyclists who ride on sidewalks. Or don't obey traffic laws. Even during Bike Month, the joys and benefits of biking are shunted to the side as drivers spew their cyclist hate. Instead, how about talk of more bike lanes? Or paving more bike paths? If the city accommodates bikes (not to mention cracking down on Midtown drunk driving), cyclists will not feel so endangered that they ride on the sidewalks. Sacramento Area Bicyle Advocates executive director Jim Brown noted, for instance, that the city needs to implement a plan to make the Carlson Drive corridor between H and J streets near Sacramento State safer for pedestrians and bikes. Meanwhile, frustrated light-rail riders will have to wait another two years before new trains with lower bike-accessible floors roll out. And more bike parking, you say? Yes. And functional spots. Artistic bike racks are great, but the only people who prefer them to normal bike racks probably don't ride bikes very often. The sculptural racks shaped like penny-farthings in front of Blackbird Kitchen & Bar on Ninth Street look cool, but accommodate just two bikes. And many popular bike destinations have few or no bike racks. Try to find a place to lock up your bike by Ella Dining Room & Bar, we challenge you. Guess its customers can't ride in their Jimmy Choos.

C

Eat your veggies

In addition to no less than eight all-vegetarian or vegan restaurants in Sacramento County—with several others in surrounding counties—many independently owned eateries now take care to include animal-product-free options that are more creative than a mere side of steamed vegetables. This, plus an active Sacramento Vegan Society Meetup group with frequent events and an annual Sacramento Vegan Chef Challenge, adds up to a community that is becoming more aware of **veganism**. It's a solid start, but there's room for much growth.

B+



Sacramento: Not for lovers?

On edge much?

Don't punch us for saying this, but you Sacramentans can be a little on the aggro side. You've got **anger issues**. Despite a statewide trend in dipping crime rates, this city still tops California's chart when it comes to violent crime (second) and automobile fatalities (first). That's a lot of offensive driving. On the other side of the thin blue line, police shootings doubled last year. Then there's the weird stuff, like when a July 13 birthday party in the Gardenland neighborhood erupted into a chair-throwing brouhaha after a second group started taunting revelers.

The answer seems clear: less cake and protein shakes, more yoga.

B-

We see right through you

Props to Sgt. Jason Ramos at the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, a first responder if ever there was one when it comes to media requests. Not only is the straight-shooting former gang detective quick to return calls and emails, he gives great sound bites and—more importantly—necessary context. Would that all spokespeople were this helpful. Sacramento is actually pretty decent when it comes to **government transparency**, with most meetings televised, video-streamed or audio-filed for your remote pleasure, and previously guarded institutions like the po-po going all Twitter happy (10,000 followers and counting!). But there are some officials who never return our calls, press flacks who think their job is obstructing—rather than facilitating—information, and state lawmakers who tried to quietly neuter the California Public Records Act earlier this year. Add in Mayor Kevin Johnson's "shadow government" and the public-spurning closure of city schools, and Sacramento isn't that transparent, after all. Actually, it's kind of muddy.

C

You are what you don't eat

Fad diets come and go, but gluten-free seems to be sticking around since it emerged on the scene a few years ago. Part carb diet, part celiac allergy, the anti-gluten movement coincides with the paleo diet—where you eat foods our Neanderthal ancestors (probably) ate. Gluten-free pastas and baked goods are quickly becoming more readily available in Sacramento. Maybe it's good to get back to our roots? Speaking of gluten allergies, an article titled "A Brief History of Bread" (at www.history.com) suggests humans started baking bread around 30,000 years ago from ground grains and water. So much for paleo.

C+

Where is the love?

This is not a town for **dating**. I repeat: You will not enjoy single life in Sacramento. To begin, the dating pool is remarkably shallow, and first-date options are limited to improv comedy or uncomfortable conversation at the Shady Lady Saloon. Add that to the fact that Sacramento County has the third highest rate of gonorrhea in the state (particularly for the 18 to 29 demographic), and you're left with the burning sensation that this town just might not be for the young and free.

D+

I hate myself

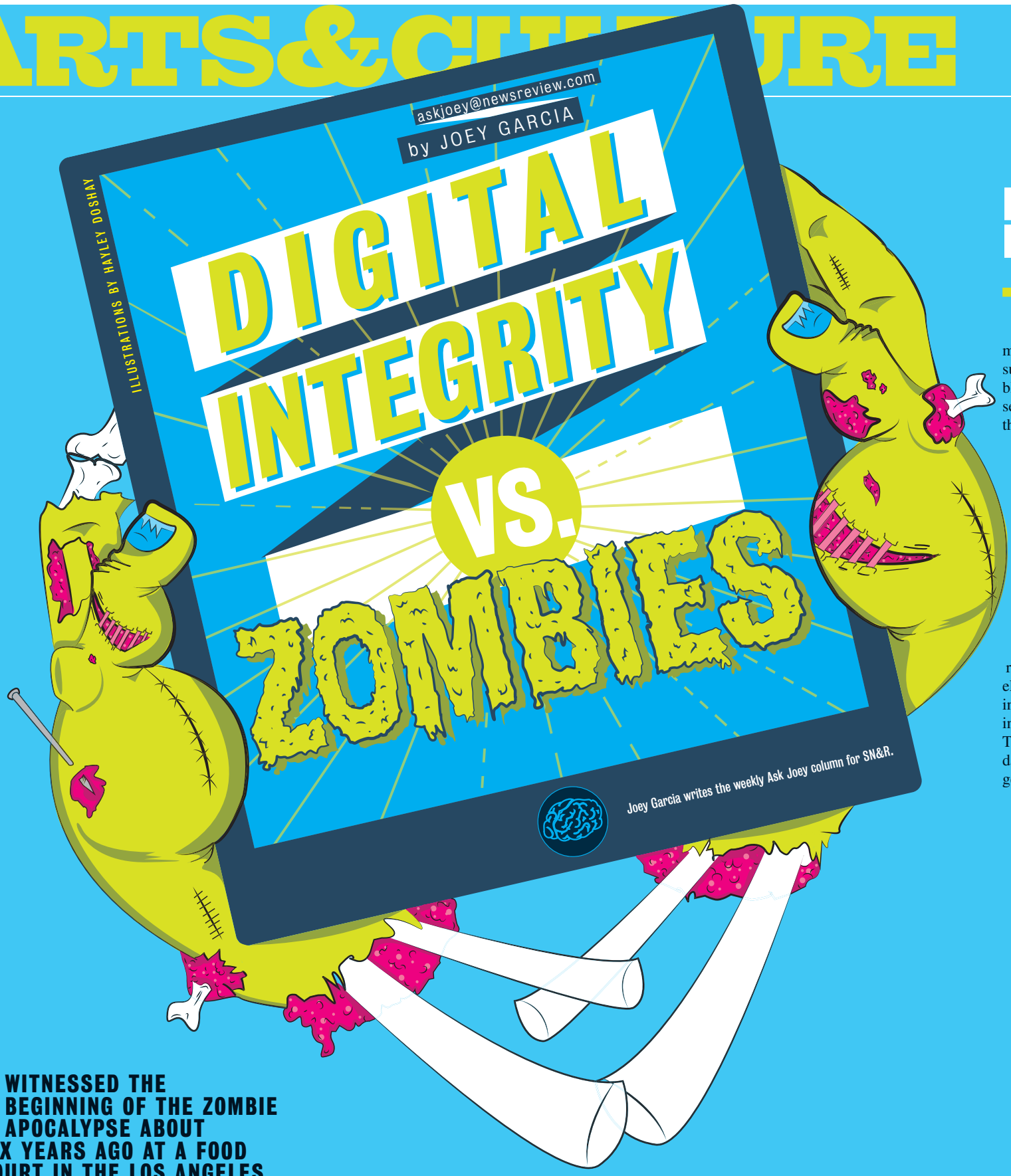
You know, a lot of people move here, and they're impressed with this town. It's bike-friendly and beer-savvy. It's civically engaging, the capital of our nation's most populous state, and the music and arts scenes are truly unique. Yet every day we hear Sacramentans refer to their home as a cow town, a failure, a city that will never make it out from under San Francisco and Lake Tahoe's shadows. But we're sensing some changes of late, and it seems this town finally may be dealing with its low **self-esteem**. Midtown is weird, downtown is itching to develop, and the outlying areas are brimming with cultural diversity and a serious interest in impacting City Hall. On top of that, we've finally eradicated the Maloof virus. Sacramento has got to be happy about that.

B-

Sway classy?

At what point did the rubric to measure this city's greatness become **world-classness**? Did a globalized world portend a wider lens for self-reflection? Anyway, don't kill the messenger: Let's play the world-class game. Unequaled outdoors, remarkable eats, excellent urban neighborhoods—Sacto stands out. But the schools struggle, more Walmarts are coming, and our priorities tend to be rooted in myopic commercialism, not thoughtful, earthly possibility. But we have faith, Sacramento. We believe.

B - □



I WITNESSED THE BEGINNING OF THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE ABOUT SIX YEARS AGO AT A FOOD COURT IN THE LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

When the ruckus started, I was waiting with colleagues for a flight home. I turned to see a nattily dressed man, mid-60s, in a face-plant on the bar. He tried to rise but fell off his barstool, demanding, from the floor, another drink. The bartender refused. The older man clawed up the barstool and bellowed a drink order. The bartender left. My colleagues turned away to mind their own business. I didn't, thankfully, because I would have missed the zombies. The first one, a young businessman in a stylish suit, goaded his wingmen: "Hey, let's post this on Facebook!" Laughing, each reached for a briefcase and pulled out a phone.

I reached for my indignation and opened my mouth: "You think that's funny? What if that was your father? Or grandfather? Would you want that video posted on YouTube or Facebook if this man was a family member?" As the young men tucked their phones away, one turned to me and said, "I never thought about it that way."

Why would he? Zombies are not mindful.

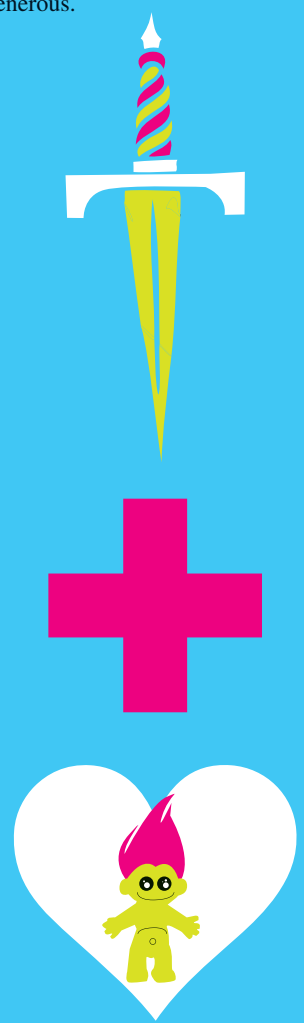
In his brilliant book, *You Are Not a Gadget: A Manifesto* (Vintage, $15), Jaron Lanier writes that zombies are like people in every way, except "they have no internal experience."

"Unfortunately, it is only possible for non-zombies to observe the tell tale sign of zombie hood. To zombies, everyone looks the same," he says.

Lanier, best known as the father of virtual-reality technology, is right. With apologies to Pogo, we have seen the zombies, and they are us. Well, not all of us. There's still hope. Here's how to enjoy social media without allowing it to eat your brain:

1 KILL YOUR INNER TROLL

Trolls are people who use the Internet to post inflammatory, cruel and off-topic messages in online communities such as forums, chat rooms or blogs. When a troll is outed (their secret Internet life made known), their friends often express the same denial we hear after a serial killer's arrest ("But he was so nice!"). That's because trolls spew vitriol anonymously on innocent strangers instead of dealing with the source of their pain. If you hide behind an online identity to harm others (yes, even if you think it's funny), stop. Process your anger with a therapist—don't dump that radioactive waste in someone else's yard. Develop digital integrity: Be the same person in the flesh as you are online. Then, work consciously each day to become kinder and more generous.



Beer, movies, vegan swaps
See NIGHT&DAY 25

Four stars for ... Jimboy's?
See DISH 29

Lurker
See MUSIC 38

Creeper
See 15 MINUTES 51

2 ADOPT A GROWN-UP VOCABULARY

There's a lot of drama hitting the airwaves by people who believe Internet activity is, and should be, private. So, here's my version of words with friends: definitions. When an individual establishes and maintains a boundary that allows healthy separation between self and another, and does so without lies or deceit, that's privacy. Confidentiality is respecting the stories and information people tell you, unless they give you permission to discuss what they have revealed. Secrecy is using information to create a (false) sense of control and power, a slice of inner space that (you pretend) no one else can intrude on. What we want is to keep secrets, often because our public selves and private selves don't align. Regardless of your participation in the pushback against the U.S. government's collection of metadata, why not also see that situation as a spiritual call to practice integrity online? Ditto if you're a job seeker annoyed by employers who require social-media passwords on job applications.

3 TRANS-PARENCY BITES

One online-dating site asks: What is the most private thing you are willing to admit? People write some ridiculously personal things. It's worrisome that a faceless questionnaire elicits information now public for eternity. The rise of the online world contributes to the loss of true intimacy (face-to-face, heart-to-heart) but not the desire for it. The desire for intimacy compels self-disclosure. We open up online about our peccadilloes and the skeletons in our closets with anyone who pays attention. It's not wrong, but there are consequences, and we must shoulder responsibility for potential fallout. Don't believe me yet? A TV show brought in people to meet a "psychic" who gained the confidence of participants by sharing specifics no one else would know about each individual. Turns out that every personal detail the psychic offered was mined from Facebook. Even if your settings are private, consider Benjamin Franklin's words: "Three can keep a secret if two are dead."



4 FROM IPHONE TO I-THOU

The philosopher Martin Buber's "I-Thou" concept will slay the zombie in you and resurrect your humanity. I-Thou is a life perspective that focuses on meeting all beings authentically, without qualifications, expectations or objectification. It recognizes the entire being and the encounter as sacred. I-Thou is the opposite of the narcissistic I-centered existence of most social media.

5 ESCAPE FROM THE DARK SIDE

Be present. End phone conversations before you are face-to-face with tellers, clerks or cashiers. Don't chat or text while driving (yes, your texting is obvious to people in the vehicles around you). Don't videotape strangers or friends doing embarrassing things, and don't post anything on social-media sites without the expressed permission of everyone pictured or named. Above all, do no harm. Imagine your post, along with your name, address, phone number and photo plastered on a billboard that the people you love and admire are reading. If after that reality check you still want to post your opinion, proceed with compassion.

When you walk your dog or ride your bike, leave your phone at home. If you think you need your phone for safety, turn it on "airplane mode," so you can dial 911 but be otherwise undisturbed while outdoors. While crossing the street or walking in parking lots, don't text or be phone fixated. By checking out of your surroundings and into the e-world, you are forcing others to police you. Mindlessly moving your limbs with no notion of what is happening offscreen is deadly. You are an easy target for a wide variety of crime.

Build immunity against zombitis by sitting quietly in nature and at meals unaccompanied by electronic devices. Then, fast from social media or from electronic devices (one day a week or a weekend each month) to get your heart and brain back.

The only way we can stop the zombie apocalypse is by refusing to lose our humanity. So join me in practicing digital integrity. That way, when the dead walk, you and I will still be free. □



SCENE& HEARD

Lucky beasts

In my family, luck is believed to be something that travels down the genetic ladder—much like relentless stubbornness or thick hair. So far, a quarter-century in, I've learned that my genetic code dictates the following: Winning an argument is indeed an act of sheer determination, and my hair won't ever be **Connie Britton**-like, much to my despair.

As far as luck goes, it's hard to say. I did not write this from a yacht off the coast of Monaco, for instance, which means I'm not *that* lucky. But I also didn't write it under the duress of needing to pay off a gambling loan before someone comes for my kneecaps, which means I'm probably faring better than some patrons of the **Cal Expo horse races** that go on during the California State Fair every year.

My career in gambling has been unspectacular overall; the mathematics involved with blackjack exhaust me, and my dreams are still periodically haunted by spinning numbers and symbols after an unheroic slot-machine bender in Vegas a few years back. But when you've got a card shark for a grandmother and your mom is known around Red Hawk Casino as "**The Slot Machine Whisperer**," it's hard on both your pride and your bank account to accept that you don't have the gift. So last year, when I went up $300 over the course of two $20 bets on the horses I picked based on their names, I could only assume that this is where my family legacy was going to finally present itself to me—a beast of magnificent speed, of unrivaled handsomeness and **awe-inspiring hindquarters.**



Should've put down $500.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK.COM

It just so happened that opening weekend of this year's races came right after payday (fate, you might say). As I made my way through the kiddie zone of the fair, trekking across the asphalt as if through **a shallow river of hot air**, the cries of game operators and clanking of rides swelling in a cacophony, I arrived at the Miller Lite Grandstand to join the cross section of Californians milling about, shouting numbers at the TV screens broadcasting races from all over the country, waiting for our fortunes to be born on the backs of fleet-hooved purebreds.

I wish I could tell you that in a daring show of good faith in my lineage, I put down **$500 on a superfecta bet** and hit it and bought two fingers of the track bar's finest bourbon for all the bet collectors. I wish I could tell you that I had $500 in my bank account to begin with, and that like a real player, I brushed away my fears of losing like so many crumbs of **a deep-fried Oreo**. What I can tell you is that I bet $20 on a horse named Cava Kavia, who paid $9 for every $1 you bet if she won, and she did.

My mother, when I texted her with the news, sent back a smiley face that looked just like this: :), only patronizing.

Is there anything more dangerous than a **burgeoning gambling addict** winning easily on her first bet? I returned to the track as soon as I could a few days later, and as I slid my wager across the counter, my favorite bet collector nodded gravely and wished me luck.

And here's what happened, by the time the horses crossed the finish line in the last race of the day on Friday: I bet big. I didn't win big, but I didn't lose. Which, any child of a gambler will tell you, is certainly something.

—Deena Drewis
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COMICS, COSPLAY & K-POP

With the spread of Korean pop culture (and K-pop music—most notably Psy's "Gangnam Style") into mainstream America's consciousness, it's no surprise that this year's Kintoki-Con is branching beyond just Japanese pop culture. For starters, this weekend's festival will be adding "Korean, Filipino and Chinese related events" into the programming, according to its website. In other words, in addition to anime, manga, cosplay and video games, this year's Kintoki-Con will offer a kung fu performance, a K-pop music-video party, and a fashion show with clothing from Vietnamese, Filipino and Hmong cultures.

Also on the bill: special guests (including actors, artists, writers, dancers and game developers), an art exhibition, card tournaments, board games, video-game tournaments, an arcade, concerts, a semiformal dance, a masquerade, an art jam, a kendama tournament, a swap meet, kids' activities, workshops and vendors. Have a question about programming? Ask one of eight cosplay maids acting as roaming festival concierges. Basically, it's a miniature version of Comic-Con in downtown Sacramento. Costumes are encouraged, because you're Sacramento: You're a little bit geeky, and you probably like to dress up, anyway.

The three-day festival (Friday, July 26, from 2 to 11:30 p.m.; Saturday, July 27, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.; and Sunday, July 28, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.) will be held at Holiday Inn Sacramento-Capitol Plaza at 300 J Street. Weekend passes range from $17.50 to $45, and day passes range from $5 to $20. Visit www.kintoki-con.com for more information.

—Jonathan Mendick



WEEKLY PICKS

Clips Beer & Film Festival tour

FRIDAY, JULY 26

Tired of summer festivals yet? Put on your beer pants for one more. The Clips Beer & Film Festival tour is back. Sponsored by

FILM/BEER

New Belgium Brewing Company, watch short films made by fans and taste beer (3 ounces for $1.25, 12 ounces for $5) like the Pluot Ale from its Lips of Faith line. The best part: Proceeds go to the nonprofit Davis Bicycles! *Free, 7:30 p.m. at Central Park, 401 C Street in Davis; www.newbelgium.com/events/clips-beer-and-film.aspx.*

—Jessica Rine

Stab! comedy show

FRIDAY, JULY 26

Sacramento comedy veteran John Ross hosts the Stab! comedy show on the fourth Friday of every month at the Sacramento Comedy Spot. Regular guest Jesse Jones and a rotating cast of local talent dish out hilarious topical fare in this variety

COMEDY

show. Count on incisive humor that cuts to the bone. Check out the Stab! podcast for the cutting edge in Sacramento comedy. *$10, 9 p.m. at Sacramento Comedy Spot, 1050 20th Street, Suite 130; (916) 444-3137; www.saccomedyspot.com.*

—Cody Drabble

Vegan Swap Party

SATURDAY, JULY 27

Most of us in the the land of the free have too much stuff—but we also love getting stuff for free. Unload clothing, home goods

SWAP

and whatever else—as long as it doesn't consist of any animal-derived materials, such as leather, feathers, silk or wool—and take home whatever strikes your fancy in exchange. No cash necessary! Leftover items will be donated to the Sacramento SPCA Thrift Store. *Free, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Grange Hall, 3830 U Street; www.meetup.com/sacramento-vegetarian-society.*

—Shoka

Clue: On screen. On stage.

SATURDAY, JULY 27

If you ever thought to yourself, "*Clue* was a great movie, but it could've used a live performance troupe to pantomime the entire film," then check out *Clue: On Screen. On Stage.* this Saturday. Performance troupe Amber's Sweets, which began in 2009 as

FILM/THEATER

part of the Sacramento Horror Film Festival, will be acting out the 1985 comedy film based on the popular board game. A costume contest, games and trivia round out this evening of entertainment. *$15, 8 p.m. at The Colonial Theatre, 3522 Stockton Boulevard; www.facebook.com/amberssweetstroupe.*

—Jonathan Mendick

Courtland Pear Fair

SUNDAY, JULY 28

All this talk about Sacramento poised to become a cosmopolitan metropolis, what with its zillion-dollar arena plan and $175 per-person "farm-to-fork" dinner on a bridge, and your repressed

FOOD

inner cow townie is bound to feel a little twitchy. Twenty miles south of Sacramento, the annual Courtland Pear Fair offers respite in the form of old-timey, Main Street, USA, quaintness, complete with a Pear Fair Queen, a classic-car show, a duck-calling competition and, literally, tons of locally grown Bartlett pears. *Free, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 180 Primasing Avenue in Courtland; http://pearfair.org.*

—Deena Drewis

sac pride News
July 25, 2013

What you've been missing on SacPride Live

On Saturday, July 20, SacPride Live presented a special show on the issues facing LGBTQ+ youth. For the week leading up to the broadcast, posts on SacPride Live's Facebook page regarding the show went viral, reaching a combined 32,000 hits, likes and shares.

"This sends a very clear message that people are concerned about the obstacles our youth face today," says host Tyler Edwards. "Our youth are subject to bullying, homelessness and suicide at a higher rate than any other group. That's something we need to be talking about."

Guests included Lisa Ford Berry, whose son was a victim of "bullycide," Sierra College Professor Johnnie Terry, Charlene Hunt, who works with homeless youth, and a Folsom student putting together a safe space and education group entitled Youth+.

SacPride Live airs at 10 p.m. on Saturdays locally on Talk650 KSTE, or streamed live on the web at iHeartRadio and is co-hosted by Jovi Radtke and J. Todd "The Todd" Lohse.

To listen to our podcast of the show, log on to SacPrideLive.com



Are You Ready For Some Softball?

August is a hot month for softball in Sacramento. There are two softball tournaments for the LGBTQ community: the Gold Rush Classic and The Sacramento Camellia Gay Softball Tournament.

The Gold Rush Classic, Aug. 16-18, 2013, is sponsored by the Sacramento Gay and Lesbian Softball League. This open division, double elimination tournament is seeded by a win-loss record, guaranteeing four games for each of the 32 teams. Proceeds from this event will be donated to Sacramento Gender Health Center.

The Sacramento Camellia Softball Classic (SCSC) Tournament Labor Day weekend, Aug. 30 - Sept. 1, 2013, coincides with the Sacramento Rainbow Festival. It provides a weekend of fun and friendly competition that raises awareness and money for local charities.

"We started [planning the event] at the end of 2012," says event co-chair Augie Garcia. "We're just a group of four guys who want to give back to our community."

The event will attract teams of men and women to Sacramento from throughout the Western United States over Labor Day weekend to play a collective 96 hours of softball.

SCSC plans to make this an annual event to provide a venue for players and event sponsors to come together and, as Garcia explains, "give back to the community and involve organizations that don't always get the exposure they deserve."

Garcia emphasizes SCSC's commitment to fundraising. Beneficiaries for the inaugural event are Wind Youth Services, which reaches out to homeless youth who need safety from the streets and access to resources to help them move from crisis to health and independence, and their fiscal agent, Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus, which was founded in 1984 as a singing group that aims to foster a sense of community and provide support for gays and lesbians in the Sacramento area through musical performance and outreach programs, as an integral part of the wider arts community.

Those who still believe our community doesn't like playing or watching sports may be surprised to learn Sacramento has a wide variety of LGBTQ+ sports teams and events throughout the year. SCSC is the newest.

"Next year we are putting on a Sports Weekend Tournament," says Garcia, excitedly. "We are calling it GLAM (Gay Lesbian Athletic Mixer). It will include softball, basketball, tennis, and bowling for now. Hopefully, we will add more sports in the future. This will allow us to bring more participants from everywhere to our city."

For more information please visit our host, beneficiary and sponsor websites: www.goldrushclassic.org; scsclassic.com; windyouth.org; sacgaymenschorus.org; pridemedia.net.





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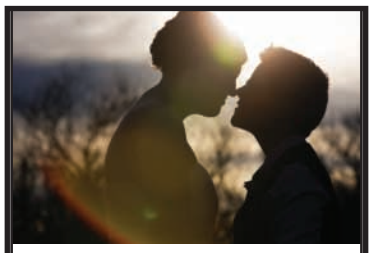
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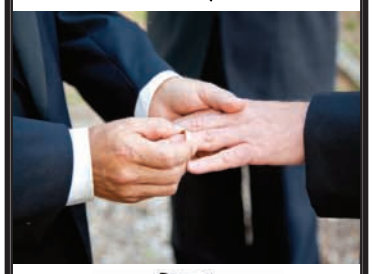
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Hometown pride

Jimboy's Tacos

various locations, www.jimboystacos.com

by **Becky Grunewald**

Rating:
★★★★

Dinner for one:
$5 – $10

★ FLAWED

★★ HAS MOMENTS

★★★ APPEALING

★★★★ AUTHORITATIVE

★★★★★ EPIC

Mention Jimboy's Tacos to a transplanted Sacramentan, and you are likely to hear a sigh of nostalgia—for some, it is the first or last stop out of town when they visit. I have heard out-of-town bands sing its praises after being introduced to it while on tour. I even have a co-worker who disassembled and studied a Jimboy's taco so that he could try to recreate it at home.

Many Sacramentans share a hometown pride in Jimboy's, but the first one was actually operated out of a trailer in North Lake Tahoe that opened in 1954, and the second was at the auction yard at Denio's Roseville Farmers Market & Swap Meet, where there is still an oupost. In fact, Jimboy's was founded by a Swedish couple in Grass Valley, Jim and Margaret Knudson, who, in 1949, had been served their very first taco at a friend's home.

I do not detect a Swedish influence in the food at Jimboy's, and, at times, there's only a passing resemblance to Mexican, but I count myself among the chain's true believers. Sometimes, nothing hits the spot like Jimboy's, particularly after a hot, tiring day at the river or as a post-hangover dinner.

I've eaten at Jimboy's for 17 years, and until recently, a dish containing meat had never passed my lips. I started eating there while I was a vegetarian, so my jam has always been *twobeantacosandaveggieburritowiththeworksextrafried*. I utter this in one breath as written, usually via the drive-thru. This is a gargantuan amount of food, which I often inhale within two minutes.

The tacos are perfection, filled with beans (cooked fresh daily, according the the website) and gooey American cheese. Yes, that's right, American. The Knudsons found that nothing else melted quite right. But as any Jimboy's fan will tell you, it's all about the tortillas. They are fried shells, crispy but still yielding—they don't break like Taco Bell's hard ones. A dusting of Parmesan officially puts them over the top. So simple yet so profound.

The veggie burrito with the works is served with sour cream and a thin, guacamolelike substance and can sometimes be too cold, due to the large quantity of shredded iceberg lettuce. But again, this is about the interaction of beans, cheese and tortilla.

Turns out my prior vegetarian-only path was wise: The meat is a disappointment. Sure, the Tacoburger is an amusing novelty—mayo and pickles inside a tortilla makes for a mind-bender. The chicken is bland, however, and the steak tough and flavorless. The steak gordito, at more than five bucks, is a soggy, falling-apart mess. The carnitas taco seems to be an attempt of a taqueria-styled dish, topped only with cilantro and onions—no American cheese. It would be laughed out of any taqueria.

The churros are narrow; they are all crisped edges with no doughnutlike interior. The fries are potato wedges, almost jojos, really (for those of you from the Northwest), dusted with seasoned salt.

The tacos are perfection, filled with beans and gooey American cheese. Yes, that's right, American.

Ah, the lot of a food reviewer. It can take a place I love and ruin it for me by forcing me to try dishes I would never normally order—all in the spirit of service to you, the reader. And the heartbreak of assigning stars makes it even worse.

As such, I rate Jimboy's five stars for the bean tacos. It gets two stars for everything else. With my advanced math skills, I calculate that out to an average of three-and-a-half stars, but I am going to round it up to four, because, well, I can.

And because it is a fast-food chain that serves beer. And because Taco Tree is too far.

Still hungry? Search SN&R's "Dining Directory" to find local restaurants by name or by type of food. Sushi, Mexican, Indian, Italian—discover it all in the "Dining" section at **www.newsreview.com.**

THE V WORD

Fun and games

There's a booth at the **California State Fair** that is all "fun and games," but then, **someone gets hurt**. Actually, millions get hurt. While there's a prize wheel fairgoers may spin to win **vegan ice cream** at the People for the Ethical Treatment for Animals' display (at 1600 Exposition Boulevard through July 28), they may also view a video exposing cruelty in the dairy industry. Is that too much of a fair buzzkill? Well, imagine how the cows feel. Often at dairy farms, the animals are mutilated (horns and tails are cut off); live in crowded, filthy conditions; are given drugs, which seep into groundwater; and calves are separated from their mothers, whose milk is drained to make cheese, just so it can be **deep-fried and put on a stick**? We can do better than that.

—Shoka



Where to eat?
Here are a few recent reviews and regional recommendations by Becky Grunewald, Greg Lucas, Ann Martin Rolke, Garrett McCord and Jonathan Mendick, updated regularly. Check out www.newsreview.com for more dining advice.

Downtown

Grange Restaurant & Bar You won't find any "challenging" dishes on this menu—just delicious local and seasonal food such as the Green Curry & Pumpkin Soup, which has a Southeast Asian flair. A spinach salad features ingredients that could be considered boring elsewhere: blue-cheese dressing, bacon, onion. But here, the sharply cheesy buttermilk dressing and the woodsy pine nuts make it a salad to remember. Grange's brunch puts other local offerings to shame. The home fries are like marvelously crispy Spanish patatas bravas. A grilled-ham-and-Gruyere sandwich is just buttery enough, and an egg-white frittata is more than a bone thrown to the cholesterol-challenged; it's a worthy dish in its own right. **American.** 926 J St., (916) 492-4450. Dinner for one: $40-$60. ★★★★ B.G.

Zia's Delicatessen Zia's Delicatessen isn't really about trying every sandwich: It's about finding *your* sandwich. In addition to a large selection of salumi, there's the worthy eponymous offering, served with a wedge of zucchini frittata, a slice of provolone, romaine lettuce, grainy tomato, and a simple dash of vinegar and oil that adds tang. Order it hot, so that the provolone melts into the bread. Also tasty: the hot meatball sub with small-grained, tender meatballs bathed in a thin, oregano-flecked tomato sauce that soaks into the bread. A tuna sandwich is sturdy, if not exciting. It is just mayonnaisey enough, with tiny, diced bits of celery. A rosemary panino cotto with mozzarella could benefit from a more flavorful cheese. For a meatier option, try the Milano: mortadella, salami, Muenster; all three flavors in balance. The turkey Viareggio has a thin spread of pesto mayo, and the smoked mozzarella accents rather than overpowers. **American.** 1401 O St., Ste. A; (916) 441-3354. Meal for one: $5-$10. ★★★★ B.G.

Midtown

24K Chocolat Cafe This cafe serves a solid, if very limited, brunch and lunch menu. One offering is a firm wedge of frittata with a strong tang of sharp cheddar that almost but doesn't quite jibe with the slightly spicy mole sauce on the plate.The spinach curry, made creamy by coconut milk rather than dairy, comes topped with cubes of tofu and tiny diced scallion and red bell pepper and rests atop a smooth potato cake. A side of garbanzo-bean salad is well-flavored with the surprising combination of mint and apricot. The place, located inside Ancient Future, has "chocolat" in the name, and chocolate is in many of the menu offerings, including a tiny cup of hot Mexican drinking chocolate, and chocolate-cherry scones served crisp and hot, studded with big chunks of bittersweet chocolate and tart dried cherries. **American.** 2331 K St., (916) 476-3754. Meal for one: $10-$15. ★★★ B.G.

Hook & Ladder Manufacturing Co. The restaurant, by the same owners as Midtown's The Golden Bear, sports a firefighting theme (a ladder on the ceiling duct work, shiny silver wallpaper with a rat-and-hydrant motif, et al) and a bar setup that encourages patrons to talk to each other. An interesting wine list includes entries from Spain and Israel; there are also draft cocktails and numerous beers on tap. The brunch menu is heavy on the eggs, prepared in lots of ways. One option is the Croque Madame, a ham-and-Gruyere sandwich usually battered with egg. This one had a fried egg and béchamel, with a generous smear of mustard inside. The mountain of potato hash alongside tasted flavorful and not too greasy. The menu also features pizzas and house-made pastas, but one of its highlights includes an excellent smoked-eggplant baba ganoush, which is smoky and garlicky and served with warm flatbread wedges and oil-cured olives. The bananas foster bread pudding is equally transcendent, accompanied by very salty caramel gelato, pecans and slivers of brûléed bananas. **American.** 1630 S St., (916) 442-4885. Dinner for one: $20-$40. ★★★½ A.M.R.

LowBrau This place specializes in beer and bratwursts. Both are done smashingly. The sausage is wrapped in a tight, snappy skin like a gimp suit, which gets nicely charred by the chefs. Within it lies a beguilingly spicy and juicy piece of meat. Get it with a pretzel roll for a truly exciting experience. There are vegan options, too: The Italian, an eggplant-based brat, has a surprisingly sausagelike texture that no self-respecting carnivore will turn it down for lack of flavor. Toppings include sauerkraut, a "Bier Cheese" sauce and caramelized onions. The idea behind Duck Fat Fries is a glorious one, yet somehow still falls short. You just expect something more when you see the words "duck fat." The beer selection is epic. If you're lost and confused, the staff will help guide you to the right brew via questionings and encouraged tastings. **German.** 1050 20th St., (916) 706-2636. Dinner for one: $10-$15. ★★★★ G.M.

The Rind This is a *fromage* fanatic's delight with a menu that changes frequently. A chalkboard by the bar lists the daily suggested trios for cheese boards, but order the Diving Board to choose your own combo. Each arrives with six crisp toasts and two sides, like dried fruit and honey. The rations are small, but reasonable for two people. Buy any of the cheeses by the pound. Ask for the list at the bar. There are also many grilled-cheese sandwich choices and several versions of mac 'n' cheese, including Not Your Mom's Mac with Parmesan, Gruyere and cheddar. It's silky smooth, without any excess oil. A richer version includes blue cheese and prosciutto for over-the-top indulgence. **American.** 1801 L St., Ste. 40; (916) 441-7463. Dinner for one: $10-$15. ★★★★ A.M.R.

East Sac

Hot City Pizza This East Sacramento eatery is probably better known for its beer than its food, but its pizza is pretty darn good. Each slice is made with a unique multigrain crust that's soft, airy and helps soak up a belly full of beer. There are also interesting topping combinations, notably a section full of chicken-topped pizza, plenty of vegetarian options and handful of Pacific Islander-themed pies, such as the Hawaii on Fire, which comes topped with sweet Thai chili sauce, Canadian bacon, pepperoni, green peppers, pineapple, jalapeño and mozzarella cheese. Of course, beer is the real draw here, and Hot City gets an extra star for its fine selection. With so many choices—there are several fridges full of bottled beer and a handful of rotating taps—selecting a brew can be a tremendously difficult but worthwhile undertaking. **Pizza.** 5642 J St., (916) 731-8888. Dinner for one: $10-$20. ★★★★ J.M.

Istanbul Bistro Turkish chef Murat Bozkurt and brother Ekrem co-own this paean to their homeland, with Ekrem usually at the front of the house, infusing the space with cheer. Turkish cuisine features aspects of Greek, Moroccan and Middle Eastern flavors. The appetizer combo plate offers an impressive sampling. Acili ezme is a chopped, slightly spicy mixture of tomatoes, cucumber and walnuts that's delicious paired with accompanying flatbread wedges. For entrees, try the borani, a lamb stew with garbanzos, carrots, potatoes and currants. The meat is very tender, while the veggies arrived nicely al dente. Also good is the chicken shish plate (souvlaki), which features two skewers of marinated grilled chicken that's moist and succulent. There are also quite a few choices for vegetarians, including flatbread topped like pizza, with spinach and feta or mozzarella and egg. **Turkish.** 3260 B J St., (916) 449-8810. Dinner for one: $15-$20. ★★★½ A.M.R.

North Sac

Asian Café Asian Café serves both Thai and Lao food, but go for the Lao specialties, which rely on flavoring staples such as fish sauce, lime juice, galangal and lemongrass, lots of herbs, and chilies. One of the most common dishes in Lao cuisine is larb, a dish of chopped meat laced with herbs, chilies and lime. At Asian Café, it adds optional offal add-ons—various organ meats, entrails, et al—to three versions of the dish: beef with tripe, chicken with gizzards, or pork with pork skin. The beef salad offers a gentle respite from aggressive flavors, consisting of medium-thick chewy slices of eye of round with red bell pepper, chopped iceberg and hot raw jalapeño. The single best dish here is the nam kao tod, a crispy entree with ground pork that's baked on the bottom of the pan with rice, then stirred and fried up fresh the next day with dried Thai chilies and scallions.









Thai and Lao. 2827 Norwood Ave., (916) 641-5890. Dinner for one: $10–$15. ★★★★ B.G.

South Sac

Blue Moon Cafe and Karaoke In Sac, most people equate Hong Kong–style cuisine with dim sum, but this restaurant, which also features private karaoke rooms, serves up tasty, familiar food by way of rice plates, sandwiches, noodle bowls, soups and stir-fries. A few random Japanese (ramen, fried udon), French (sweet or savory crepes), Russian (borscht), Korean (beef and kimchi hot pot) and Italian (various pastas) foods add to the feeling that whatever your cultural background, you'll find a comfort dish from your childhood to wrap its arms around you and give you a hug. Cultural diversity aside, one of Blue Moon's best dishes is the braised pig ear with soy sauce and peanuts. **Asian.** 5000 Freeport Blvd., Ste. A; (916) 706-2995. Dinner for one: $10–$20. ★★★ J.M.

Arden/ Carmichael

Skip's Kitchen You know you're at an American restaurant when a cheeseburger is one of the healthiest items on the menu. Sure enough, Skip's Kitchen features a lot of calorie-rich items, such as fried macaroni-and-cheese balls, ravioli, chicken strips, chicken wings and shrimp, plus creamy Oreo milkshakes. There are salads, too, but the best dish on the menu is the burger. All five styles (original, mushroom and Swiss, bacon and cheddar, three-cheese, and Western) are served on a brioche bun and cooked "medium," unless otherwise specified. The kitchen offers a house-made veggie burger as well. If there's such a thing as a "gourmet" burger that can rightfully sell for $10, this is probably it. **American.** 4717 El Camino Ave. in Carmichael, (916) 514-0830. Dinner for one: $10–$20. ★★★½ J.M.

Taqueria Garibaldi One of this restaurant's biggest pulls is its choice of meats. The chorizo is red, crispy and greasy in all the best ways. The lengua (tongue) is soft and dreamily reminiscent of only the most ethereal bits of beef. The fish is fine and flaky and the cabeza and pork are herculean in flavor options worthy of note, too. Tacos are small and served on two tiny tortillas (flour or corn, your call) with a bit of house salsa that has all the kick of a pissed off Girl Scout who's just tall enough to nail you right under the kneecap. Or, feel free to customize, too, courtesy of the fully loaded salsa bar. Be sure to pick up a glass of the homemade horchata, which is sweet and milky with seductive whispers of cinnamon. You will want seconds. **Mexican.** 1841 Howe Ave., (916) 924-0108. Dinner for one: $8–$10. ★★★ G.M.

Folsom

Back Wine Bar & Bistro Back has nuzzled itself into a comfortable niche with an eclectic wine selection and—albeit unfocused—menu that draws an upscale crowd. The bruschetta plate arrives with four types of toppings, two of each: goat cheese, avocado, caramelized onion and tomato. They don't suck, but they aren't great. A rib-eye steak with a basil-and-tomato compound butter is served cooked to perfection. But the chocolate soufflé is like having a hot date and then finding out he's a terrible kisser: greatly disappointing. In the end, a little refinery needs to happen to make the food at Back unique enough for the average Sacramento diner to find it worth the trip, but for the Folsom diner who feels Grange Restaurant & Bar is too far, then Back will do right enough. The wine selection is strong, and pairing recommendations are practical. **American.** 25075 Blue Ravine Rd., Ste. 150 in Folsom; (916) 986-9100. Dinner for one: $25–$50. ★★★1/2 G.M.

Land Park/ Curtis Park

Buffalo Pizza & Ice Cream Co. The eatery, which offers take-out only, keeps the menu simple. Customers can choose from two types of pies: breakfast or lunch. Breakfast pizzas consist of standard pizza dough, on top of which rests a thin layer of egg, cheese and toppings (read: no sauce). One pepperoni-and-jalapeños morning pie starts off well, but then the dough disappoints. It doesn't quite fit in either the "thick" or "thin" category; it's not yeasty enough and too chewy and firm. A mushroom-and-spinach pie offers better texture. Lunch pizzas here are less unique, but still hit a nice mark via a few standout ingredients. The garlic pizza reaches a nice balance of sweet and salty with a creamy white sauce, mushrooms, onions, pepperoni and sausage. Buffalo also offers Gunther's Ice Cream, side salads, fried chicken and canned sodas, but here, it's breakfast pizza for the win. **American.** 2600 21st St., (916) 451-6555. Meal for one: $10–$20. ★★★½ J.M.

Burgess Brothers' Burgers This burger joint's motto is "Committed to Service," and that's evidenced in its outstanding customer service. The food is also exceptional. There are plenty of burgers on the menu—all smoked before they're grilled. The one-third pound Tactical Blue Burger is served with blue cheese, tomato, lettuce and fried onions. With a generous slathering of the "Patrol" sauce, it's full of flavor but not too smoky. Don't miss the barbecue, though. The pulled-pork sandwich is nicely smoked and shredded, piled on a garlic roll. There are also kid-sized sliders and the Code 4 vegetarian burger, made with a portobello mushroom. **Barbecue.** 2114 Sutterville Rd., (916) 209-0277. Dinner for one: $5–$10. ★★★½ A.M.R.

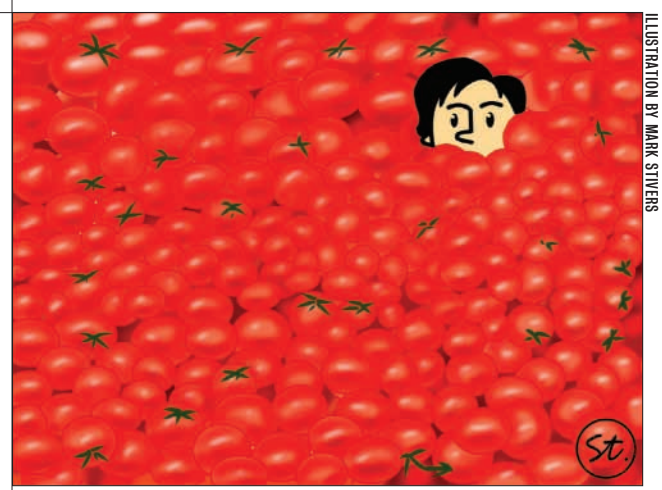


ILLUSTRATION BY MARK STIVERS

Harvest happy

We often think of fall as harvest season. But the summer sun is making my home vegetable garden produce things like cucumbers, eggplant, squash and tomatoes en masse right now. Thankfully, **Sacramento County Master Gardeners** (part of the University of California Cooperative Extension program) will be hosting Harvest Day 2013 next month. Radio personality and local expert "Farmer Fred" Hoffman will lead a discussion on tomatoes and the health aspects of home gardening. Chef **Adam Pechal** of Tuli Bistro and Restaurant Thir13en will show participants how to use homegrown produce in the kitchen. Master Gardeners' Roberta Hopkins and Louise Lelevich will discuss **composting**, and Cheryl Buckwalkter will talk about river-friendly landscaping. There will also be **food trucks**, educational tables, and gardening-related vendors. It happens **Saturday**, **August 3**, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fair Oaks Horticulture Center at 11549 Fair Oaks Boulevard in Fair Oaks. For more information, call (916) 875-6913, or visit http://ucanr.org/sites/sacmg/Harvest_Day.

—**Jonathan Mendick**

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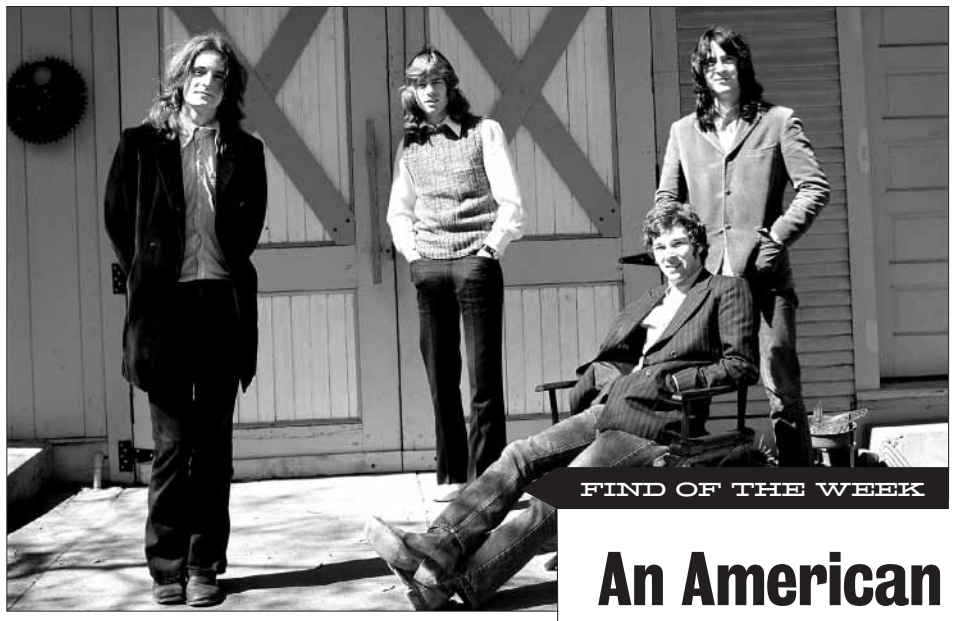
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COOLHUNTING



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BERRYESSA BREWING CO. RYE RYERISH NITRO

BEER

Berryessa Brewing Co. in nearby Winters has yet to create a brew I won't drink, and its Rye Ryerish Nitro stout proves to be no different. The foamy libation packs the bold, nutty flavor of a porter with the creamy mouthfeel of a stout, making for a silky-smooth, almost dessert beer. Dad's Kitchen pours a $5 pint from a nitro tap alongside 27 other (mostly) local beers. *2968 Freeport Boulevard, (916) 447-3237, www.ilovedadskitchen.com.*

—Jessica Rine

By the letter

DISNEY CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE PARK'S 'CALIFORNIA' SIGN

STATE FAIR

If you're a young-at-heart child of the '80s or '90s, a Disney nerd, or just a fan of all-caps, sans serif fonts, here's a cool new thing to check out at the California State Fair this year: Disney Calfornia Adventure Park's "California" sign letters. You can't miss 'em. They're 11-feet-and-8-inches tall, each one weighs in at 5,000 to 13,000 pounds, and they're located right in front of the main gate. Pro tip: If your name is Cal, Al, Ali, Li or Nia, shoot an Instagram photo of yourself in front of your name, and crop the rest of the letters out. You just got a free souvenir. *Through Sunday, July 28, at Cal Expo, 1600 Exposition Boulevard; www.bigfun.org.*



—Jonathan Mendick

Gateway geekery

MAGIC: THE GATHERING CARDS

GAME

Time to find those old shoe boxes—trading cards are making a comeback. Specifically, the fantasy favorite Magic: The Gathering. The game is simple to pick up, yet complex enough for even the most fastidious overthinkers. A huge library of cards makes for endless strategic combinations, whether you're into dragons, vampires, mermaids—or, in my case, poisonous insects. The real beauty of Magic, though, is its affordability; it's been around so long that the cards are comparably cheap, whether preowned and handpicked at a specialty store, like A-1 Comics (818 Sunrise Avenue in Roseville), or bought in the form of a brand-new starter kit via big-name retailers. *www.wizards.com/magic.*

—Haley Massara

An American band

BIG STAR: NOTHING CAN HURT ME

FILM

Drew DeNicola's documentary didn't screen locally, but it's now available for rental via iTunes. *Big Star: Nothing Can Hurt Me* examines how a group of Memphis, Tenn., teenagers forged one of modern American music's best, frustratingly overlooked pop bands. Fronted by Chris Bell and Alex Chilton—the latter of whom had previously hit No. 1 on the Billboard singles chart with "The Letter" in 1967 when he was just 16 and singing in the Box Tops—put out three great, critically acclaimed albums between 1971 and 1974. Dismal record sales coupled with internal strife and dischord, however, splintered relationships. In particular, the story of Bell, who struggled with drugs and depression before he died at 27 when his sports car slammed into a tree, is especially heartbreaking.

In the years since, of course, Big Star's been hailed as one of pop's most influential bands, making its mark on the likes of the Replacements, Elliott Smith and Wilco. In the '90s, Chilton reformed the band with help from founding drummer Jody Stephens and Posies bandmates Jon Auer and Ken Stringfellow, and continued playing until his death in 2010.

Big Star: Nothing Can Hurt Me includes interviews with Stephens—the original band's only surviving member—as well as Mike Mills, Mitch Easter and Carole Manning, who shot the now-iconic Big Star logo that appeared on the band's debut album. *www.bigstarstory.com.*

—Rachel Leibrock

ASK JOEY

Papa don't tweet



Joey
and her Labrador retriever played at Fort Funston.

I love my grown daughter, but she won't talk to me at all. I'm not sure why, but it has something to do with my divorce from her mother. My daughter and I were close once, but she seems bitter now, like her mother. The only way I know anything about her is from eavesdroping on her tweets. I've gotten conflicting opinions on the morality and value of this action. What do you think?

It's wise of you to evaluate the task of following your adult daughter's tweets. For my perspective, visualize this: You have your shoulder pressed against the slightly open front door of your daughter's house. Behind that door, your daughter is pushing hard with her entire body, adrenaline pumping, hoping the chain lock will hold.

Get the picture? She wants you out.

You want to prove that it's not her choice that matters, it's your decision that holds weight. That's not love. It's being controlling—and a bit creepy. I do understand that you miss her a lot and long to be close. And, yes, I know that Twitter posts are open to the public. But tracking your adult daughter's tweets when you know she doesn't want you in her life will not repair your relationship. Instead, your behavior helps your daughter to justify slamming the door on you.

That's not love. It's being controlling—and a bit creepy.

Stewing in disappointment, regret, dependency and blame for too long results in bitterness. It may be easy for you to recognize bitterness in your ex-wife or daughter, but can you see it in yourself? Instead of grieving your loss of intimacy, you secretly check tweets. Did similar passive-aggressive acts contribute to the end of your marriage or to this estrangement from your daughter? The answer to that question may be difficult to admit. Being truthful will widen your heart, a necessary step in your healing and the healing of your family. When you are ready to change, write your daughter a short letter (a one-sentence apology for tracking her tweets, plus one sentence telling her that you love her and one final sentence stating that you are available if she ever wants to talk). Send it, and then leave her alone.

I also suggest that you begin mentoring a young person in your profession. This new relationship is not a replacement for your daughter, and you must stay conscious to ensure that you don't fall into that kind of an unhealthy pattern. But if done well, mentoring will divert your focus into productive behavior that ultimately benefits the greater community and you.

Got a problem?
Write, email or leave a message for Joey at the News & Review. Give your name, telephone number (for verification purposes only) and question—all correspondence will be kept strictly confidential.

Write Joey, 1124 Del Paso Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95815; call (916) 498-1234, ext. 3206; or email askjoey@newsreview.com.

One of my girlfriends is best buddies with a married man. She insists they are friends, that his wife knows and that his wife doesn't care. The problem is that my friend talks about this man like he's her boyfriend. Everyone has noticed this and tried to talk to her. She is with this married guy all of the time, and she refuses to let anyone set her up with an available man. Why doesn't she get that her boyfriend is married?

Trauma from an old relationship wound or the fear of being rejected can inspire people to seek emotional connections that don't make sense. Your friend clearly feels safe being herself with a married man whose wife accepts the arrangement. And the relationship may actually be platonic, who knows? It may someday cross the line into a sexual affair or not. Who knows? In the meantime, continue to talk about the situation whenever the topic rolls around. When you do chat, be direct, truthful, compassionate and understanding. That way, if your friend ever needs guidance, she knows she can turn to you for an honest answer and to be steered away from causing suffering for herself or others. □

Meditation of the Week

"Walk as if you are kissing the Earth with your feet," writes Thich Nhat Hanh, a Buddhist monk. Are your soles in love with the Earth? Or just infatuated?



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SN&R

Kicking ass and making entrances

The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity

You can't kick a pro wrestler's ass without his help.

by **Kel Munger**

This, we are informed by Macedonia "The Mace" Guerra (the incredible Andrew Joseph Perez), is the basic principle of professional wrestling. And even a true artist of the ring—as Mace most assuredly is—will help kick his own ass to keep the show going smoothly.

The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity, Kristoffer Diaz's incredible story of the intersection of art, power, wrestling and politics deserves the bells, whistles and action-packed moves it gets in this production by Capital Stage. In addition to Perez—whose performance is mind-bogglingly good—it has an all-star cast in Randall King (promoter Everett K. Olson); Donald Paul (the charismatic champion Chad Deity); Rushi Kota (the smooth-talking, code-switching Vigneshwar Paduar); and Steven "The Beast" Smith as three different pro wrestlers, starting with The Bad Guy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPITAL STAGE

"Need me to point you to the gun show?"

"The Beast," a former pro wrestler-turned-actor, was also the technical consultant for the very real wrestling moves. He stepped in to replace local actor Rob August after August was injured during a preview. That's right: It's real wrestling with real injuries.

The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Diety, 7 p.m. Wednesday; 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday; $22–$35. Capital Stage, 2215 J Street; (916) 995-5464; www.capstage.org. Through August 11.

Directed by Jonathan Williams, the show feels like a sporting event. Steve Decker's lighting highlights the elaborate entrances for which pro wrestling is known. Scene designer Ian Wallace is also responsible for a number of video pieces that add to the story and provide the TV-ready feel to match the actual wrestling ring he's created as the stage.

All of these elements combine to make the play a realistic examination of professional wrestling as pop culture, critiquing our cultural fascination with stereotypes and stock characters to keep the story simple, while simultaneously demanding flash and glitter.

But *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* is also about American politics; it's no stretch from the "axis of evil" to the Fundamentalist, the character created to turn Paduar into a wrestling bad guy.

It's all in presentation—whether we're being sold an elaborate entrance to the wrestling ring or an elaborate entrance to a war. And even the artists will help get their own asses kicked. □

She Creatures

Yes, Barnyard Theatre produces plays in a real working barn, built in the 1890s. You'll pass penned-up goats as you enter, and it smells like a barn, too: dust, hay, manure. The show starts at 8:30 p.m. because old barns get hot beneath the summer sun. The late "curtain" takes advantage of the evening air and emerging stars.

Barnyard Theatre's performers and crew are mostly well-educated 20-somethings who grew up in Davis. They favor challenging newer scripts, like Sarah Saltwick's *She Creatures*, a mythological menagerie including a mermaid (who swaps fins for legs and clumsily walks on land), two unicorns (a worried mother advising an impetuous adolescent daughter), a fiery dragon (inclined toward matrimony) and snake-haired Medusa (trying hard not to look at a beloved acquaintance who unexpectedly turns up). My favorite was actress Maddy Ryen as a selkie (a seal who becomes a woman and must marry the man who acquires her sealskin). Ryen delivers an absorbing kitchen monologue while preparing a mouth-watering batch of guacamole, with her "sealskin" (Betsy Raymond, covered head to toe in a stretchy black sack) wriggling on ground like a 6-foot slug—an unearthly contrast. Wide-eyed Pandora (fetching Alicia Hunt) witnesses and comments throughout the play.

Each creature gets her own scene; the independent panels share common themes. While not a strictly linear sequence, it's a striking and very theatrical grouping of monologues and dialogues—tasty brain candy for those seeking unusual fare in an uncommon venue on a summer's eve.

—Jeff Hudson

***She Creatures*, July 25–28 and August 1–3, 8:30 p.m.; $15–$18. Barnyard Theatre in the Schmeiser Barn, 35125 County Road 31 in Davis; (530) 574-1318; www.barnyardtheatre.org.**

Now Playing



A Midsummer Night's Dream

Director Charlie Fee cleverly blends this evergreen Shakespeare comedy into the mod-psychedelic setting in London in the mid-1960s, replete with tunes of the time. Add starlight, a lakeside venue and a professional cast, and it makes for a lovely summer show. Bring a sweater. **Tu, W, Th, F, Sa, Su 7:30pm. Through 8/25.** $15–$85. Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival at Sand Harbor State Park, 2005 Highway 28 in Incline Village, Nev.; (800) 747-4697; www.laketahoeshakespeare.com. J.H.



The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

A nostalgic, outdoor version of the Mark Twain classic as Tom (Colin Choate) romances Becky (Carissa Meagher), pals around with Huck (Matthew Taul) and thwarts Injun Joe (Ernesto Bustos). Directed by Susan McCandless. Gates open at 6:30 p.m. for picnicking; bring low-back lawn chairs and a sweater. **F, Sa 8pm. Through 7/30.** $12–$17.50, with $49 family four-pack. Main Street Theatre Works in the Kennedy Mine Amphitheatre, 1105 N. Main St. in Jackson; (209) 267-5680; www.mstw.org. K.M.



The Normal Heart

Shawn B. O'Neal shines as the complicated Ned Weeks in this production of Larry Kramer's play about the early days of the AIDS epidemic. With strong supporting performances from Chris Bogard, Mark Brown and Wade Lucas, the production offers a bird's-eye view of how community denial and government prejudice slowed the response to the AIDS crisis. The show runs long, though, due to burdensome set changes. **F, Sa 8pm. Through 8/3.** $12–$20. Closet Door Theatre Company at the Ooley Theatre, 2007 28th St.; (916) 222-4932; www.closetdoortheatre.org. K.M.



The Plexiglas Menagerie

"Memories are like cat piss," said Tom Wingfield. "You can scrub all you want, but the smell is still there." So, too, is the stench of loneliness, desperation and shattered dreams in this send-up of Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*. An all-male cast, headed and directed by Jerry Lee, turns Williams on his head and makes powerful political and social commentary. **F, Sa 8pm.Through 7/27.** $19.99–$23. Geery Theater, 2130 L St.; (916) 749-6039; www.sacimpulse.com. J.C.



Venus in Fur

Playwright David Ives springs plenty of surprises in this masochistic comedy of dark intent in which a weary writer-director is coming off a long, fruitless day of auditions, about to head home. In comes a breathless actress, begging for a chance at the part. She says her name is the same as the character in writer-director's script, and she seems eerily right for the role. And she knows more about the source material (a tale of domination, submission and desire) than she initially lets on. **Th, F 8pm; Sa 5 & 9pm; Su 2pm; T 6:30pm; W, 2 & 6:30pm. Through 8/11.** $25–$35. B Street Theatre, 2711 B St.; (916) 443-5300; www.bstreettheatre.org. J.H.

Short reviews by Jim Carnes, Jeff Hudson and Kel Munger.



FOUL



FAIR



GOOD



WELL-DONE



SUBLIME–DON'T MISS



PHOTO BY ERIK KRAGH

Polly Frost, a member of the Bad Role Models club?

Making a good impression

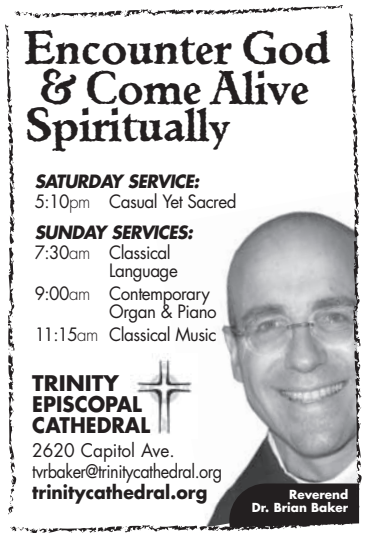
New York City-based humorist Polly Frost returns to Northern California with a new one-woman show, *Bad Role Models and What I Learned From Them*. In it, the writer-slash-performer explores her relationships with the people she says helped most to shape her worldview.

"My show is about who we learn from the most," Frost says. "[Is it] the so-called 'good' role models, or the less than perfect people?"

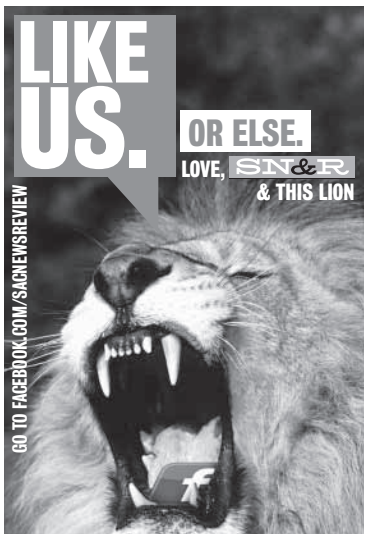
Frost, whose previous works centered around myriad topics including family, social mores and sexuality, has been described as a mix of Edith Wharton and Garrison Keillor. In *Bad Role Models*, she tells stories of a scotch-drinking horse-riding instructor and the free-love hippies in her native Santa Barbara, as well as a cast of colorful artists and writers—all of whom made an indelible impact on her life and art. *Sunday, July 28, 2:30 p.m.; $12 members, $15 nonmembers. The Center for the Arts, 314 West Main Street in Grass Valley; (530) 274-8384; www.thecenterforthearts.org.*

—Rachel Leibrock
rachell@newsreview.com



















FILM

Unhappy New Year

Fruitvale Station

by **Jim Lane**



How often have you seen a movie that says it's "based on a true story" that actually has the ring of truth? *Fruitvale Station* is one of those. The first feature from writer-director Ryan Coogler (an Oakland native and Sacramento State University almnus) is an auspicious debut.

Coogler's subject is the shooting of 22-year-old Oscar Grant III by a Bay Area Rapid Transit police officer in the early hours of January 1, 2009, on the platform of the Fruitvale BART station in Oakland. The shooting gained national attention when cell-phone videos taken by onlookers were posted on YouTube. The shooter, Officer Johannes Mehserle, was tried for murder and convicted of involuntary manslaughter, having pleaded that he mistook his pistol for his taser (a testament to either the confusion that night or the atrocious training of BART's security force).



Piggyback rides > BART?

The shooting prompted protests both peaceful and violent. *Fruitvale Station* is a protest, but more in sadness than anger. Coogler opens with one of those eyewitness videos—the real thing, not staged—then backtracks 26 hours to just after midnight on December 31, 2008, as Oscar (Michael B. Jordan) lies in bed with his girlfriend, Sophina Mesa (Melonie Diaz). Coogler and Jordan portray Grant as earnest but flawed; the movie's first lines of dialogue speak of Oscar's cheating on Sophina with another woman.

The movie picks up later that morning at breakfast, as Sophina prepares to go to work, and Oscar readies to drive their 4-year-old daughter Tatiana (Ariana Neal) to preschool. Sophina thinks Oscar is on his way to work, too, at a local supermarket; he hasn't told her that he was fired two weeks earlier for chronic lateness. She'll find this out later in the day, and the movie shows us another flaw in Oscar's earnestness, and the strains in their basically loving relationship.

From there, Coogler follows Oscar through this last full day, as he shops and touches base with his siblings in preparation for a birthday that evening for their mother Wanda (Octavia Spencer). Through it all, we remain aware of how the day and night will end for him, a sense of foreboding that is only heightened by the straightforward, matter-of-fact way in which Coogler shows us how Oscar's day is going. Coogler doesn't stress a feeling of impending doom (although one scene, of Oscar's chance encounter with a stray dog, comes perilously close to it); he simply gives us the events of the day as they occur. Jordan's performance is low-key but strong—he's in every scene, almost on every frame—showing Oscar's muted struggle to get his life in order for the sake of his relationship with Sophina, and for Tatiana, to whom he is clearly devoted.

Coogler interrupts his real-time chronology only once, for a flashback to visiting day at San Quentin State Prison, where Oscar was serving a term for selling drugs (he was, in fact, on parole at the time of the shooting, having been released only three months before). As Oscar sits at a visitor's table with his mother, tempers flare between him and another prisoner named Cale (Joey Oglesby). The scene serves a dual purpose: It underscores Oscar's decision not to slide back into drug dealing. As the prison flashback passes, he empties into the bay a large bag of pot he was planning to sell. It also sets up the confrontation that will lead to his fatal meeting with BART police, when a chance encounter with that same prisoner results in a fight on the train bound for home. (For the record, and for what it's worth, that real-life individual, one David Horowitch, denied being in any fight with Oscar.)

The shooting prompted protests both peaceful and violent.

Fruitvale Station climaxes, as we know it must, in a recreation of the authentic video with which the picture opens. Coogler's camera is steadier than that BART passenger's cellphone, but the events are just as chaotic and confused, until that shot echoes off the station's concrete walls. (Like Horowitch, the shooter's name is fictionalized; he's identified as "Officer Caruso" and played by Kevin Durand.)

The film ends the next morning, as little Tatiana looks at her mother and asks, "Where's Daddy?" It's a heartbreaking moment, void of melodrama, that sums up in its simplicity this utterly heartbreaking movie. □


POOR


FAIR


GOOD


VERY GOOD


EXCELLENT

CLIPS

by DANIEL BARNES, JONATHAN KIEFER & JIM LANE

The Conjuring

This film is purportedly pulled from the files of Ed and Lorraine Warren, real-life "demonologists" best known for their involvement with the events that inspired the 1977 book (and subsequent 1979 and 2005 films) *The Amityville Horror*. That case, in which a family's new house was possessed by demons and subsequently exorcised, has since been exposed as a hoax and the Warrens as charlatans. *The Conjuring* however, paints them as credible and concerned experts, and thus the film plays like an unofficial *Amityville* prequel, only with amplified shrieks and the now necessary *Paranormal Activity*-era verisimilitude. Director James Wan (*Saw*) delivers effective scares, showing more interest in sinewy camera moves and building a slow creep than in mindless gore, but the performances are a mixed bag, and the script repeatedly seeks refuge in the familiar. D.B.

Despicable Me 2

Less inspired than its predecessor, 2010's *Despicable Me*, this madcap caper showcases reformed Euro-supervillain Gru (Steve Carell) who has retired to rear his three adopted daughters. His resident gadgeteer, Dr. Nefario (Russell Brand), has had a better offer—"more evil, full dental"—and Gru can't begrudge the doctor's departure, for the shared glory days of grand malfeasance seem by now long behind them. Then, Gru finds himself recruited by a spazzy special agent (Kristen Wiig) to thwart an incognito rival. As it happens, this heretofore unknown opponent's dastardly scheme involves, among other nutso ideas, morphing Gru's multitude of cute yellow minions into pernicious purple monsters. The minions should already be quite familiar, if only from this movie's relentless merchandising. Broad, brightly colored slapstick ensues, with some favorably Muppet-ish mayhem. The most logical thing about this film is its use of 3-D as an extension of cartoonishly exaggerated proportions. J.K.

Girl Most Likely

A failed New York playwright (Kristen Wiig) loses her boyfriend and her job—then, after a fake suicide attempt, she's remanded to the custody of the mother she can't stand (Annette Bening). Writer Michelle Morgan and directors Shari Springer Berman and Robert Pulcini serve up an urban bachelorette comedy reminiscent of Noah Baumbach and Greta Gerwig's *Frances Ha* earlier this year—only this one's goofier, funnier and less even-keeled. Wiig's patented weary-and-put-upon shtick fits easily in the semiscrewball surroundings, and the directors smoothly finesse the script's frequent (and deliberate) changes of tone. The result is a real charmer, full of surprises. Darren Criss makes an appealing match for Wiig, and there's a star-making turn by Christopher Fitzgerald as Wiig's socially challenged brother. J.L.

Pacific Rim

Monsters from another dimension invade Earth through the ocean floor, and humanity invents an army of huge robots to fight them. Director Guillermo del Toro and his co-writer Travis Beacham indulge their inner child, the one who always wanted to dress up in a Godzilla costume and kick the bejesus out of an elaborate scale-model city. In the process, they give other kids of all ages a movie for their guilty-pleasures list (the older, the more the guilt, but the pleasure's still there). It's like the fights in *King Kong vs. Godzilla* and *Godzilla vs. Megalon*, but with a CGI grandeur those 1960s Japanese filmmakers could only dream of. (Or, for that matter, Michael Bay, whose *Transformers* movies were never this much fun.) Charlie Hunnam, Rinko Kikuchi and Idris Elba acquit themselves well amid the mayhem. J.L.

Red 2

It still stands for "Retired, Extremely Dangerous," just as in the 2010 movie and the comic books it was based on (by Warren Ellis and Cully Hamner). This time, courtesy of writers Jon and Erich Hoeber and director Dean Parisot, the emphasis is on "comic" as well as "dangerous," as retired CIA agent Frank Moses (Bruce Willis), his sweetheart Sarah (Mary-Louise Parker) and colleague Marvin Boggs (John Malkovich) swing into action to find a lost nuclear bomb—and dodge the assassins set on their trail. Helen Mirren and Brian Cox return from the original; new this time are Korean star Byung-hun Lee as one of those killers, Neal McDonough as another, Anthony Hopkins as a daffy scientist and Catherine Zeta-Jones as a KGB agent. The action is solid, the pace headlong, the dialogue saucily tongue-in-cheek. J.L.



Ryan Gosling, stripped down to his bare essentials? Hmm ...

Only God Forgives

In Nicolas Winding Refn's *Drive* follow-up, Ryan Gosling strips the craft of acting down to the bare essentials of sitting down, standing, walking slowly, staring at a vacant middle distance, and not reacting to things. Refn's script is even more minimal, with its kinky revenge hook disguising a bizarre and often mesmerizing exercise in nightmare atmosphere, mythological doom, and delayed bloodlust. Gosling plays Julian, a Bangkok-based gangster with a bad temper and some seriously oedipal sex issues. A dirty cop murders Julian's pedophile brother, and soon enough, their mother and boss (Kristin Scott Thomas) arrives looking for revenge. The neon-drenched style and impeccably composed ultraviolence are even more pointless here than in *Drive*, but *Only God Forgives* is the more hypnotic and challenging film. D.B.

R.I.P.D.

Whatever you think about Will Smith, he squeezed three *Men in Black* movies out of a one-sentence premise based solely on his natural charisma and easy audience connection. Robert Schwentke's sci-fi/comedy/buddy-cop/zombie/ghost love story (high-concept enough yet?) instead offers the ironically detached comedic flop sweat of Ryan Reynolds, who gets blown off the screen by every lame special effect he encounters. Reynolds and Jeff Bridges, whose inexplicable enthusiasm is the film's only saving grace, play deceased cops from different centuries partnered to lock up the living dead. Based on a Dark Horse Comics comic book, the thoroughly unappealing *R.I.P.D.* collects lazy writing like a corpse attracts flies. The whole story is predicated upon its villains acquiring, assembling and activating an object they cannot possibly know exists. D.B.

The To Do List

Fresh out of high school, an uptight brainiac (Aubrey Plaza) makes a list of the sexual exploits she intends to get out of the way before college. Writer-director Maggie Carey indulges the dubious ambition of making a sex comedy for girls just as crude and dimwitted as the boy-themed comedies that have blighted screens for decades. But her timing's bad—by having her heroine spend the summer working at a public pool, she invites comparison to *The Way Way Back*, which has all the humor, truth and insight her own raunch fest lacks. As for Plaza, she can't make her character even slightly likeable, but it's doubtful if anybody could pull it off; this girl is a dreary little drip at best, a nasty schemer at worst (which is most of the time). A parade of 20-something "teenagers" lends feeble support. J.L.

Turbo

A garden snail (voice by Ryan Reynolds) gets a sudden infusion of nitrous oxide that makes him fast enough to pursue his lifelong dream of competing in the Indianapolis 500. Starting from a story idea so stupid that it's an insult to the intelligence of the average, well, snail, director David Soren and co-writers Darren Lemke and Robert D. Siegel ultimately redeem themselves with a clever production. It takes a while for the cleverness to get the upper hand, and meanwhile, we have time to reflect on the folly of DreamWorks Animation's dogged efforts to outdo Pixar—grafting Cars onto *A Bug's Life*—instead of finding stories and a style of their own. But by race time, the fun takes over, and it gets downright exciting—and, frankly, no more outlandish than the live action of the *Fast and Furious* movies. J.L.

The Way Way Back

Writers Nat Faxon and Jim Rash, the Oscar-winning adapters of *The Descendants*, here co-direct their earlier script, another melancholic beach-house comedy of sympathetic middle-class white folks whose failed marriages are hard on their adolescent kids. Producers and actors from *Little Miss Sunshine* complete the cutely movie-ish family-dysfunction formula. An awkward, inward 14-year-old (Liam James), drifting apart from his divorced mom (Toni Collette) and her douchey new beau (Steve Carell), endures a strained summer vacation with help from a friendly water-park manager (Sam Rockwell), who helps the kid come of age. Consequently, he does all right with the perfectly available pretty blond girl (Anna-Sophia Robb) next door. The supporting cast includes Allison Janney, Amanda Peet, Rob Corddry and Maya Rudolph, all generously doing their duty to nudge both the awkward and the feel-good moments forward. But Rockwell is the highlight here, exuding great warmth, wit and just enough irony to make even the bromides seem savory. J.K.

World War Z

A former special agent for the United Nations (Brad Pitt) is called back into service to investigate a mysterious pestilence that has infected the entire world, turning hundreds of millions of victims into—wait for it—rabid zombies. Based on the mockumentary novel by Max Brooks (son of Mel and Anne Bancroft) and directed by Marc Forster, the movie's too-many-cooks roster of writers (Matthew Michael Carnahan, Drew Goddard, Damon Lindelof and J. Michael Straczynski) gives testimony to production problems and frantic reshoots that ballooned the budget from $125 million to $200 million. The end result is a mixed bag; Pitt makes a deft thinking-man's action hero and Forster stages some effective scenes, but too often—especially in the hasty, anti-climactic ending—the movie stumbles into unintentional comedy. J.L.

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"A MENACINGLY ATMOSPHERIC MOOD PIECE." - David Rooney, HOLLYWOOD REPORTER
ONLY GOD FORGIVES
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Alone, but not lonely

The Lurk, a Sacramento-area one-man band, keeps it real, keeps it weird

by **Aaron Carnes**

The idea of what constitutes a one-man band has fundamentally changed over the past decade or so. The term, once reserved for novelty performers at the county fair (usually outfitted with a tambourine taped to one knee and a bike horn under the left foot, etc.) has broadened to include more eclectic, electronically enhanced musicianship. These days, in fact, laptops and iPods seem to be the go-to backing bands for many serious songwriters.



PHOTO BY BOBBY MULL

Lurk hard.

Catch the Lurk on Saturday, July 27, at 10 p.m.at the G Street WunderBar, located at 228 G Street in Davis; no cover.

Davis' the Lurk, however, takes the one-man-band path less traveled, or rather, the old-school approach. Armed with an acoustic guitar, a harmonica, a kick drum—which he plays with his feet—and vocal chords, he brings an almost old-timey vaudeville energy to his sets, yet his music is a sincere, albeit quirky, spin-off of alt-folk rock that stands on its own, one man or otherwise.

"I'm not a Luddite. I've used computers to record. I just wanted to start from a place that's pure," said the artist, who declines to give his real name publicly.

"The nice thing about not dealing with a karaoke situation is that I can be flexible on the spot. What I do is nothing brand-new," he continued. "A lot of it is taken from busking: What can [I] do right now at this moment, at the drop of a hat? I always want to keep that spontaneity."

One difference in how the Lurk juggles instruments onstage compared to someone who simply presses play on a computer is that his performances probably won't always meet the latter's standards of perfection.

But being perfect isn't the point, he said. creating an honest, entertaining show is.

It's not by spectacle alone, however, that the Lurk provides entertainment. That would only sustain about 10 minutes of interest, anyway. His sets include a mix of offbeat folk-rock originals, but also he leans heavily toward covers.

"Covers, for some [artists], became a cop-out. I think that's kind of silly," the Lurk said. "I'm like a deejay. A lot of deejays like to turn people on to music. That's definitely an element of what I try and do at my shows, pick diverse covers, and hopefully, get folks out of their comfort zone."

It's how the Lurk treats covers that sets him apart. Sometimes, they stay true to the original, but often the end up sounding quite different. His version of Talking Heads' "This Must Be the Place (Naive Melody)," for example, is a particular gem. It's a fast acoustic number that manages to be frenetic and intimate in a way the original does not.

"A good performance usually has that one-upsmanship on the listener, being predictable enough, then unpredictable enough," the Lurk explained.

> **"I'm not a Luddite. I've used computers to record. I just wanted to start from a place that's pure."**
>
> The Lurk

The covers that the Lurk picks tend to be older, because, despite how weird he might seem—his name; his performance; really, everything about him—he said he believes it's important to play songs that pay homage to musical mainstays such as rockabilly, jazz, and R&B. In other words, don't look for any newfangled sounds here.

"If I can find an old number that is just straight to the heart, that's the best. I'm pretty naked up there, and if the song does not have a direct message, then it's going to suck for me," the Lurk said. "I'm not so much concerned with the hipness of something; I just want to try and connect with people in a personal way and be in the moment." □

Coffee, cornbread and folk-dance parties

Sacto's indie-folk Mark Cuban: If you are Kenny "The Dancing Man" Buchanan at Friday-night Concerts in the Park, the endgame to your moves is snapping cameras and rolling Vine accounts. For Kenny, it's about being a maniac in our social feeds. The crowd at **Bows & Arrows** for the **Brass Bed** show on Wednesday, July 17, refrained from capturing the antics of Crossbill Records founder **Michael Leahy**'s swing dancing with young lasses and all-around good-natured buffoonery. He was in rare form, but rightfully so. He invested in Portland's Brass Bed, specifically the recent full-length album *The Secret Will Keep You*, rewarded with much critical acclaim and fanfare. The intimate gathering was like a belated album-release party, with Leahy in tow as the indie-folk Mark Cuban—a figure as big and engaging as his band. It was tremendous fun seeing Leahy, but visiting Brass Bed was not to be ignored, grinding out visceral wails of reverb.

Cornbread in milk rules, too: Local rapper **Blee** is serving seconds with his sophomore album, *Hot Water Cornbread*. Recorded at **Omina Laboratories**, the record began as an eat-healthy concept record. Blee toned down the preach to his farm-fresh doctrine, in favor of bangers like the Sleigh Bells-sampling "Nor-Cal" and the leisurely swank of "Clink Drinks." His rhyming style is something overlapping the drawls of Pimp C and Young Dro, particularly in the cadence. But he carves his own avenue on "Sweet Tea Therapy," which feeds off all the right distinctions of vintage Organized Noise slow jams.

He might have leaned his cuts, but one core concept held strong in the album title. For those not in the know, **hot water cornbread** is a bare-ingredients version of the barbecue side dish; no butter or milk, just add water to mash. Blee said, "It's what you make when you come from the bottom of society to complete a meal on a budget with minimal resources, so it will always be connected to the struggle, and I come from that way of life." He added it also sounds fucking awesome. Got to concur on both sentiments.

Blee's next show is in August at **Assembly** with N-Pire Da Great and Peso Harlem. *Hot Water Cornbread* is available for free download at DJCosTheKid.com and Dimple Records stores.

Listening party: No rest for the weekenders as this third Saturday features another sterling and free event. **Insight Coffee Roasters** is hosting Good Company, a co-listening party for DLRN's *Neon Noir* and **Stevie Nader**'s *333*. Come early for the free swag courtesy of Getta Clue and the savory snacks of Squeeze Inn Midtown and Sprinkle It Gold Cakery, which rolls in a clear-windowed wagon of baked goods. Special performances by DLRN, Nader and **Soosh*e** to follow. Since DLRN and Nader are close buds and past collaborators, I had each of them speak on their favorite song from their friend's upcoming projects.

Sean LaMarr of DLRN chose "Hurt No More":

"Stevie is truly becoming a great producer/singer/song-writer. From conception, to production, to melodies & content he does it all with an ice-cold tone. 'Hurt No More' is a track laden with history, reflection and it emotes a somberness that anyone who has felt hurt can relate to. Everything about it is implied. The production is minimal but driving, there is no oversinging. While layered well, the melodies and harmonies are careful and sparse. Easily the **most addictive track** on *333*."

Stevie Nader chose "Good Company":

"'Good Company' has been one of my favorite songs since I heard it. Not just my favorite DLRN track, but a favorite on my music playlist. It's got a superchill, **feel-good vibe** and the music video is ridiculous (shout out to Sami Abdou). Sean and Jon [Reyes] are always solid in their lyrics and production, respectively, so expect greatness from *Neon Noir*."

The Good Company listening party begins at 7:30 p.m. at Insight Coffee Roasters and ends at 10:30 p.m., but 21-and-over attendees should stick around for an **after-hours surprise** that includes sets by DJ Whores, Jon Reyes and DJ Druskee.

—Blake Gillespie

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Born of blood, sweat and tears, they are the culmination of many lives who have influenced what would become one of the Southwest's most creative and hard-working true rock acts. Justin Lindsey's honest songwriting accented by the powerful and soulful sound that Daniel Murphy, Andy Diekmann and Brandon Anderson provide create a familiar, yet exciting new rock experience.
PETE ANDERSON – JULY 26
The legendary roots/guitarist will be performing tracks from his new CD, Birds Above Guitarland. The show is heavily blues based, with elements of jazz, roots music and world class guitar playing


JASON KING BAND – JULY 28
Fronted by singer-songwriter, Jason King Roxas, The Jason King Band is a power-packed ensemble determined to make you move. Backed by the talents of Tommy Stiles (guitar, lap slide, pedal steel), Wilbert Banks (bass), Brian Callahan (keys) and Michael Patrick Moore (drums); the band draws from a variety of styles and influences when writing and performing. The Jason King Band effortlessly create music that is both vital and relevant while staying true to their blues roots. The band's talent and musical range are evident in their electrifying live shows and the success of their debut album Blue Skies & Black Shoes.
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Sept 7 The Island of Black and White
Sept 14 Late For Dinner
Sept 28 Bad Iron
TICKETED SHOWS*
July 27 Bump City
Aug 17 Laurie Morvan
Aug 24 Ronnie Montrose Band Remembered
Sept 21 Blue Collar Men-A Tribute to Styx
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EIGHT GIGS

26 FRI



PHOTO BY ROD BLACK

Cherry Poppin' Daddies

Assembly, 9 p.m., $12.50–$15

Slick back your hair and roll up the cuffs of your pants: The Cherry Poppin' Daddies are swinging through town. The Eugene, Ore., 1990s-throwback act is still jitterbugging across the West Coast with brassy pop attitude. The Daddies' latest album, *White Teeth, Black Thoughts*, delivers a punch reminiscent of its breakout 1997 hit "Zoot Suit Riot."

SWING/ROCK

The latest release shows both sides of the Daddies—a return to its vintage, swinging jazz roots on one side and an upbeat guitar-rock exuberance on the other. Toss that dry martini down, and get out your favorite pair of skankin' ska sneakers for this Friday-night show. *1000 K Street, www.daddies.com.*

—Cody Drabble

26 FRI



Salt Wizard

Shine, 8 p.m., $5

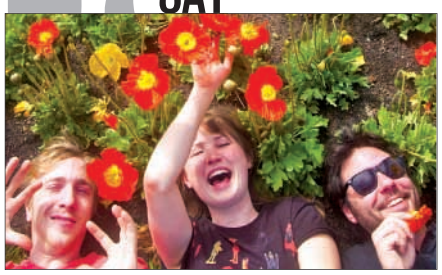
Multi-instrumental duo Har-di-Har hails from Iowa with a sound as big as the heartland. On songs like "Once Branches," Celtic influences mix with a style that reaches back to Joni Mitchell—a perfect complement to

INDIE

the self-described "magic folk" sound of West Sacramento-based quartet Salt Wizard (pictured), comprised of Rachel Lomax, Eric Warren and Anthony Ordonez of E-Squared, and Ron Melcer of the Neighbors. Listen for an infusion of jazz behind Lomax's sultry voice on "Subtle Beast," but be prepared to hear surf rock on the dark side featuring the band's signature thought-provoking lyrics. Acoustic pop singer-songwriter duos Olla and Amber & Adam will also perform. *1400 E Street, www.facebook.com/saltwizard.*

—Trina L. Drotar

27 SAT



Be Calm Honcho

Sophia's Thai Kitchen, 9:30 p.m., $5

San Francisco band Be Calm Honcho is young—both in terms of time spent on the scene and its general aesthetic, and based off of its first single, "What Have We Made," it exhibits promise. Singer Shannon Harney's vocals evoke a quality reminiscent of Lisa Hannigan—dreamy and toothsome, but with occasional, intentional rawness—and minimal but warm guitar and drums are a libation that fortifies the main course.

INDIE

The band played the Davis Music Fest last month, the Whole Earth Festival in May and will now play Sophia's; Davis apparently likes the three-piece, which describes itself as "pocketfulls and truckloads of fancy influence and folly energy." *129 E Street, Suite E in Davis; www.becalmhoncho.com.*

—Deena Drewis

27 SAT



Shai Hulud

Old Ironsides, 9 p.m., $10

If you're into hardcore, Shai Hulud probably either frequented a playlist, served as background music during a road trip or became a catalyst to dig further into the abrasive,

HARDCORE

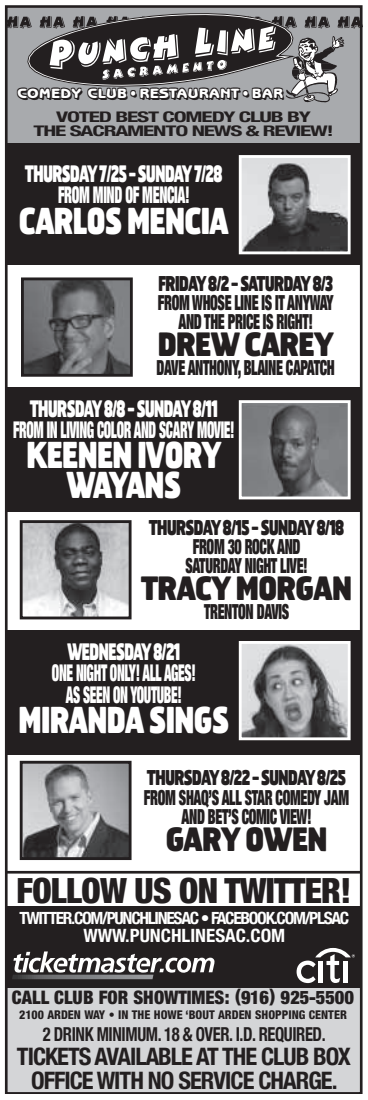
fast-paced genre. Shai Hulud formed in '95 and continues to tour venues ranging from its home state of Florida to California—and everywhere imaginable overseas. Guitarist Matt Fox—who's also responsible for writing most of the band's material—and bassist Matt Fletcher are the band's only mainstay members. This hardcore staple has rotated through more than 20 musicians during its longer-than-15-year career. It even featured New Found Glory guitarist Chad Gilbert on vocals in the mid-to-late '90s. Now you know. *1901 10th Street, www.hulud.com.*

—Steph Rodriguez









27 SAT



Summer Destroyer Rock and Roll Vinyl Show

Luigi's Fun Garden, 7:30 p.m., $7

Prepare yourself for a night of four live rock bands, one rock 'n' roll–spinning deejay and plenty of vintage rock vinyl on sale. That's a lot of rock! If old rock—of the obscure, offbeat variety—is your thing, this is a not-to-be missed event. Opening acts include locals the Celestions (soulful rock), Oakland's Pre-Legendary & the Dreamers (noisy garage rock) and Jem & Scout (power pop). The headliner is Drive-Thru Mystics (pictured), which has proven itself to be one of the best psychedelic garage-rock trios in Sacramento. DJ Tim Matranga will be spinning obscure garage rock and soul between sets. *1050 20th Street, Suite 150; www.facebook.com/jerryperrypresents.*

ROCK

—Aaron Carnes

31 WED



The Dirty Heads

Ace of Spades, 6 p.m., $25

The Dirty Heads formed when two Orange County kids—Dustin "Duddy B" Bushnell and Jared "Dirty J" Watson—met at a party in the mid-'90s. The carousing has continued ever since. The pair has attracted a big following, with a melodic slacker approach to music that combines reggae, rock and hip-hop. A catchy ditty called "Lay Me Down" was one highlight of many on the group's first release, *Any Port in a Storm*. Last year, the Dirty Heads released *Cabin by the Sea*, which helped propel the group to the forefront of the reggae-rock world with its quirky musical ideas, stream-of-consciousness lyrics and goofball energy. *1417 R Street, www.thedirtyheads.com.*

REGGAE-ROCK

—Paul Piazza

31 WED



Kid Rock

Sleep Train Amphitheatre, 6:40 p.m., $20–$65

By this point in his massively successful career, Kid Rock can pretty much do anything he wants—including playing $20-a-ticket concerts as a way of giving scalpers and Ticketmaster the finger. But is this really a surprise? He's given us ridiculous (and catchy) rap-rock hits like "Bawitdaba," moved on to power ballads like "Only God Knows Why," recorded a country duet with Sheryl Crow and riffed on the Lynyrd Skynyrd classic "Sweet Home Alabama" with "All Summer Long." The rock, rap-rock and alternative genres have largely lacked originality during the last 15 years, but Rock's musical creativity has made him a surprising exception. *2677 Forty Mile Road in Wheatland, www.kidrock.com.*

COUNTRY ROCK

—Brian Palmer

31 WED



Vice Night

Naked Lounge Downtown, 8:30 p.m., $5

Rock 'n' roll is a genre of music. It's also an old euphemism synonymous with "bumpin' uglies"—you know, fornicating. That's exactly what this night's all about. Well, not the act, per se. But definitely songs about it, inoxication and "all the things your mom didn't want you to do," according to a flier. Yes, it's a night of vice-themed songwriting featuring Gordon Groft (pictured), Jon Emery (of Dry County Drinkers), Bob Waller (formerly of Stout Rebellion), Pete Barker and James Wilson (Whiskey and Stitches), and One Eyed Reilly, which—if Urban Dictionary is correct—could mean a gorgeous girl with one eye or a "cool dude" with one eye. *1111 H Street, www.nakedcoffee.net.*

ROCK

—Jonathan Mendick

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THURSDAY, JULY 25
TRAPT
THE CRINGE - DARLING PARADE
ALLINADAY - DEDVOLT - OVERWATCH



THURSDAY, AUGUST 1
J BOOG
HOT RAIN

FRIDAY, JULY 26
WE THE KINGS
T. MILLS - THE READY SET - HEADLINES



FRIDAY, AUGUST 2
DOGFOOD
CD RELEASE SHOW
ELEMENT OF SOUL - HUMBLE WOLF
THE THREE WAY - JAMES CAVERN





SATURDAY, JULY 27
Y & T
END OF DAYS - RESTRAYNED



SATURDAY, AUGUST 3
ONE MORE TIME
A TRIBUTE TO DRAFT PUNK

TUESDAY, JULY 30
FITZ & THE TANTRUMS
HUNTER HUNTED - THE COLOURIST

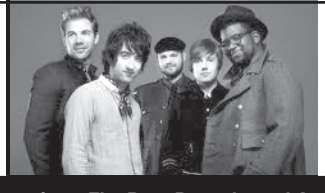


WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7
PANTEON ROCOCO
LOST ACAPULCO





WEDNESDAY, JULY 31
THE DIRTY HEADS
THE EXPENDABLES - BIG B



FRIDAY, AUGUST 9
PLAIN WHITE T'S
FFG

COMING SOON

08/10	Incredible Me
08/11	Matisyahu
08/15	Led Zeppelin 2
08/16	Molotov
08/17	Stepchild
08/20	Queensryche
08/21	Animals As Leaders
08/24	The Melvins
08/24	Kill The Pecedent
08/28	Gary Numan
08/31	The Acacia Strain
09/05	Launch Festival Kick-Off Party
09/06	Bam Margera
09/11	Adam Ant
09/12	The Slackers
09/13	Steel Panthers
09/14	Dizzy Wright
09/19	Iration
09/25	TechN9ne
09/28	Frightened Rabbit
10/01	Between the Buried and Me
10/03	Twiztid
10/04	Senses Fail
10/22	Streetlight Manifesto
10/25	Parmalee
10/26	Jonny Craig
11/11	Clutch
11/14	Misfits
12/11	Blood on the Dance Floor

Tickets available at all Dimple Records Locations, The Beat Records, and Armadillo Records, or purchase by phone @ 916.443.9202

NIGHTBEAT

List your event!
Post your free online listing (up to 15 months early), and our editors will consider your submission for the printed calendar as well. Print listings are also free, but subject to space limitations. Online, you can include a full description of your event, a photo, and a link to your website. Go to www.newsreview.com/calendar and start posting events. Deadline for print listings is 10 days prior to the issue in which you wish the listing to appear.

Hey local bands!
Want to be a hot show? Mail photos to Calendar Editor, SN&R, 1124 Del Paso Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95815 or email it to sactocalendar@newsreview.com. Be sure to include date, time, location and cost of upcoming shows.

newsreview.com

	THURSDAY 7/25	FRIDAY 7/26	SATURDAY 7/27	SUNDAY 7/28	MONDAY–WEDNESDAY 7/29-7/31
ASSEMBLY 1000 K St., (916) 832-4751		CHERRY POPPIN' DADDIES, 9pm, $12.50-$15	The Siren Show presents: *For the Troops*, 9pm, $10-$20		CASEY VEGGIES, TRAVI$ SCOTT; 7pm M, $20
BAR 101 101 Main St., Roseville; (916) 774-0505	Karaoke, 7:30pm, no cover		TODD MORGAN AND THE EMBLEMS, 9:30pm, no cover		Trivia, 6:30pm M, no cover; Open-mic, 7:30pm W, no cover
BLUE LAMP 1400 Alhambra, (916) 455-3400	Skratchpad Sacramento, 9pm, call for cover	AKABANE VULGARS, DEAD HORSES, RIOT RADIO; 9pm, call for cover	GROOVINCIBLE, TAO JIRIKI, BRIAN RODGERS; 9pm, call for cover		T. JUNIOR, MATT W GAGE; 9pm W, call for cover
THE BOARDWALK 9426 Greenback Ln., Orangevale; (916) 988-9247	XANTHOCHROID, BRUMAL, ANIMISM, SHADES OF DEVASTATION; 8pm, $10-$12	GARY HOEY, 3RD CLASS CITIZEN, RELAYER, SCOTT ALLEN PROJECT; 8pm	GOD, BLACKSHEEP, HILLBILLY HAND GRENADE, NOTHING LESS; 7pm,		SAINT DOG, BIG HOSS; M; ALEX GOOT, SAM TSUI; Tu; BUBBA SPARXXX, 7pm W
BOWS & ARROWS 1815 19 St., (916) 822-5668	Nerd Night: video games and scavenger hunt, 7pm, no cover	JEM AND SCOUT, THE BLAH BOUTIQUE, JOSHUA POWELL, FREEPORT; 7-10pm, $5	THE ENLOWS, PLOTS, WOLFHOUSE; 8pm, $5		THE ADARNA, A MILE TILL DAWN, BRI; 8pm W, $5
CENTER FOR THE ARTS 314 W. Main St., Grass Valley; (530) 274-8384		DEAD MEADOW, 8pm, $10-$12	BATTLEHOOCH, UNCLE JUNIOR; 8pm, $8-$10	JOHN DOE BAND, 8pm, $18-$20	
THE COZMIC CAFÉ 594 Main St., Placerville; (530) 642-8481	Open-mic, 7:30pm, no cover		DARK RIVER, HOGS OF CHANGE, LOTUS EATER; 8pm, $5		
FOX & GOOSE 1001 R St., (916) 443-8825	JOSHUA POWELL & THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY, MARTIN PURTILL; 8pm	OLYMPUS MONS, 2ME, KENNY REGO AND THE LAW OF ONE BAND; 9pm, $5	THA DIRT FEELIN, FUNK.DEFIED, THE STRANGE; 9pm, $5		Open-mic, 7:30pm M; Pub Quiz, 7pm Tu, no cover; Northern Soul, 8pm W
G STREET WUNDERBAR 228 G St., Davis; (530) 756-9227	DJ Ivan, 10pm, no cover	DJ Smilez, 10pm, no cover	THE LURK, SIT KITTY SIT; 10pm, no cover		Karaoke, 9:30pm Tu, no cover; DJ Larry Rodriguez, 10pm W, no cover
HALFTIME BAR & GRILL 5681 Lonetree Blvd., Rocklin; (916) 632-8200		JOHNNY FAVORITE, 9pm-midnight, no cover	THE FUNK ROCKERS, 9pm-midnight, no cover		Trivia night, 7:30-9pm Tu, no cover
HARLOW'S 2708 J St., (916) 441-4693	STREET URCHINZ, MASSIVE DELICIOUS; 9pm, $7	ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL, 8pm, $37	AGAPESOUL, MERCY ME; 10pm, $20	GOAPELE, 8pm, $30-$35	THE BLIND PETS, TIDELANDS; 7pm Tu, $10
LOWBRAU 1050 20th St., (916) 706-2636	RAINBOW ARABIA, SEVENTEEN EVER-GREEN, SHAUN SLAUGHTER; 8pm, $5		Wunderbar w/ Adam J., Shaun Slaughter, 10pm, no cover		Roger Carpio spinning vinyl, 5pm W, no cover
LUNA'S CAFÉ & JUICE BAR 1414 16th St., (916) 441-3931	Joe Montoya's Poetry Unplugged, 8pm, $2	MICHAEL KOPPY, FRANK LINDAMOOD, AMY REED; 8:30pm, $6	DAVID HOUSTON & STRING THEORY, 9pm, $6		Nebraska Mondays, 7:30pm M, $5-$20; Comedy night, 8pm W, $6
MARILYN'S ON K 908 K St., (916) 446-4361	"Rock On" Live Band Karaoke, 9pm, no cover	GHOSTNOTE, FOR SAYLE, G-G-GHOST; 9pm, $7	SEXRAT, DRIFTER KILLER; 9pm, $7		BRIAN STEVENS, 8pm M; XOCHITL, CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS; 9pm W
NAKED LOUNGE DOWNTOWN 1111 H St., (916) 443-1927	MONONYMOUS, THE OTHER BRITTANY, DR. VELOCITY; 8:30pm, $5	MANDY ZEBOSKI, CHELSEA HUGHES, CALICO, PATRICK NEHODA; 8:30pm, $5	KEVIN SECONDS, KEPI GHOULIE; 8:30pm, $5		Jazz session, 8pm M; ONE EYED REILLY, BOB EASTON; 8:30pm W, $5;
OLD IRONSIDES 1901 10th St., (916) 442-3504	MONDEGREENS, ROYAL JELLY, SLOW MOTION DIVE, IDEA TEAM; 8pm, $5	GOLDENER, THE SILENT GAME, FACE 4 RADIO, THE LOPEZ; 9pm, $6	SOMA RAS, SUMMIT, EARLY GRAVES, SHAI HULUD; 9pm, $10		Karaoke w/ Sac City Entertainment, 9pm Tu; Open-mic, 9pm W, no cover
ON THE Y 670 Fulton Ave., (916) 487-3731	Karaoke, 9pm, no cover	WE SLEEP FOREVER, 30 CENT SOLUTION; 9pm, $5	Karaoke, 9pm, no cover	Open-mic comedy, 9pm, no cover	Karaoke, 9pm Tu, no cover
THE PALMS PLAYHOUSE 13 Main St., Winters; (530) 795-1825		PIERRE BENSUSAN, 8pm, $20	BILL KIRCHEN AND TOO MUCH FUN, 8pm, $20		

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- July 28 -
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- July 25 -
STREET URCHINZ, MASSIVE DELICIOUS, NORTHBOUND TRAIN
$7 • 8pm





- July 28 -
GOAPELE
$30ADV • 8pm

- August 2 -
DOEY ROCK
$10ADV • 9pm

COMING SOON

Aug 07	Antoine Dufour
Aug 16	Alkaholiks
Aug 17	Filligar
Aug 17	Midnight Players
Aug 19	Keiko Matsui
Aug 23	Brothers Comatose
Aug 24	Selah Sue
Aug 25	Andrew Belle
Aug 27	Deerhunter
Aug 29	Casey Abrams
Aug 30	Ben Solee
Aug 30	Bumptet
Aug 31	Tipsy Hustlers
Sep 03	Ottmar Liebert
Sep 05	The Dodos
Sep 06	Tainted Love
Sep 09	Tab Benoit
Sep 10	Moondoggies
Sep 11	Cheryl Wheeler
Sep 12	Orgone

- July 26 -
ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL
$37ADV • 6:30pm



- July 30 -
THE BLIND PETS (TEXAS), THIS TIDELANDS (SF)
$10ADV • 6pm

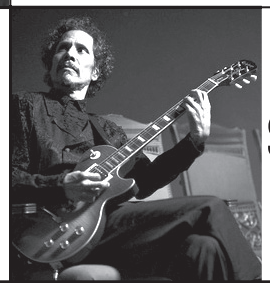


- August 3 -
THE CHEESE-BALLS
$15 • 9pm





- July 27 -
AGAPE SOUL
MERCY ME
$20 • 9pm



- August 1 -
SHUGGIE OTIS
$30ADV • 5:30pm • Dinner Show



- August 4 -
MOKSHA
$8 • 7pm

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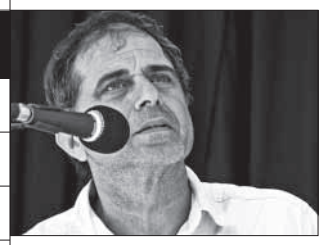
	THURSDAY 7/25	FRIDAY 7/26	SATURDAY 7/27	SUNDAY 7/28	MONDAY–WEDNESDAY 7/29-7/31
PINE COVE TAVERN 502 29th St., (916) 446-3624	Karaoke, 9pm-1:30am, no cover	Karaoke, 9pm-1:30am, no cover	Karaoke, 9pm-1:30am, no cover	MAC RUSS & THE LAWN TROLLS, 8-10pm, no cover	Open-mic, 10pm-1am Tu, no cover; Trivia, 9-10pm W, no cover
PINS N STRIKES 3443 Laguna Blvd., Elk Grove; (916) 226-2625		MIDNIGHT PLAYERS, 9pm, $10	LATIN TOUCH, 9pm, $10		
POWERHOUSE PUB 614 Sutter St., Folsom; (916) 355-8586	2 STEPS DOWN, DUE WEST; 8pm, call for cover	LED ZEPAGAIN, 10pm, call for cover	8 TRACK MASSACRE, ZZ CHOPS; 10pm, call for cover	SHANA MORRISON, 3pm, call for cover	Karaoke, M; DJ dancing, Tu; BLAME BETTY, BYPASSING OBLIVION; 8pm W, $5
THE PRESS CLUB 2030 P St., (916) 444-7914		Top 40 w/ DJ Rue, 9pm, $5	Top 40 Night w/ DJ Larry Rodriguez, 9pm, $5	Sunday Night Soul Party, 9pm, $5	MOONDOG MATINEE, MISS MADDY'S F STREET STOMPERS; 8pm M, $5
SAMMY'S ROCKIN' ISLAND 238 Vernon St., Roseville; (916) 773-7625		THE MOCK UPS, 10pm, $5	KEVIN RUSSELL, 10pm, $5		THE RERUNS, 6:30pm Tu, no cover
SOL COLLECTIVE 2574 21st St., (916) 832-0916		ACE CR3W, BAMMER BABI, CELSIUS, DEEP PRODIGY; 6:30pm, $11-$13			Microphone Mondays, 6pm M, $1-$2
SOPHIA'S THAI KITCHEN 129 E St., Davis; (530) 758-4333		BELLS ATLAS, WATERSTRIDER; 9:30pm, $5	BE CALM HONCHO, THE SESHEN; 9:30pm, $5		
STONEY INN/ROCKIN' RODEO 1320 Del Paso Blvd., (916) 927-6023	THE MICHAEL BECK BAND, THE TERRY SHEETS BAND; 9pm, $5	Country dancing, 7:30pm, no cover, $5 after 8pm	Country dancing, 7:30pm, no cover, $5 after 8pm	Country dance party, 8pm, no cover	Comedy open-mic, 8pm M; Bluebird Lounge open-mic, 5pm Tu, no cover
SWABBIES 5871 Garden Hwy, (916) 920-8088		SUPERHUEY, 7pm, $5	DEPARTURE, HEARTLESS; 4pm, call for cover	SPAZMATICS, COVER ME BADD; 2pm, call for cover	
TORCH CLUB 904 15th St., (916) 443-2797	X TRIO, 5pm, no cover; THE STRANGE, 9pm, $5	PAILER AND FRATIS, 5:30-7:30pm, no cover; PETE ANDERSON, 9pm, $10	JOHNNY KNOX, 5pm, no cover; HAMILTON LOOMIS, 9pm, $12	Blues jam, 4pm, no cover	ISLAND OF BLACK & WHITE, 5:30pm Tu, $5; PETER PETTY REVIEW, 9pm W, $5



Goapele
8pm Sunday, $30-$35.
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ACE OF SPADES 1417 R St., (916) 448-3300	TRAPT, THE CRINGE, DARLING PARADE, ALLINADAY, DEDVOLT; 6:30pm, $15	WE THE KINGS, T. MILLS, THE READY SET, HEADLINES; 6pm, $20	Y&T, END OF DAYS, RESTRAYNED; 7pm, $22		FITZ AND THE TANTRUMS, 7pm Tu, $22.50; THE DIRTY HEADS, 6pm W, $25
BEATNIK STUDIOS 2421 17th St., (916) 443-5808		SUN MONKS, 8pm, call for cover			
CLUB RETRO 1529 Eureka Rd., Roseville; (916) 988-6606		PSEUDOSILENCE, ONE MORE NIGHT; 6:30pm, $8-$10			
COFFEE GARDEN 2904 Franklin Blvd., (916) 457-5507	Open-mic, 8-10pm, no cover				JACOB ACOSTA, JOE GUMS; 8pm Tu, no cover
DOWNTOWN PLAZA (LOWER LEVEL) 547 L St., (916) 822-5185			JOSHUA POWELL & THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY, 1pm, no cover		
LUIGI'S SLICE AND FUN GARDEN 1050 20th St., (916) 552-0317		BELLYGUNNER, DYNAMIC FUZZBOMB, NACHO BUSINESS; 8:30pm, $6	DRIVE-THRU MYSTICS, THE CELESTIONS; 7:30pm, $7		
SHINE 1400 E St., (916) 551-1400		SALT WIZARD, OLLA, HAR-DI-HAR, AMBER & ADAM; 8pm, $5	GOLDENER, CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS; 8pm, $5		Open jazz jam w/ Jason Galbraith & Friends, 8pm Tu, no cover



Michael Koppy
with Frank Lindamood and Amy Reed
8:30pm Friday, $6.
Luna's Café & Juice Bar
Country



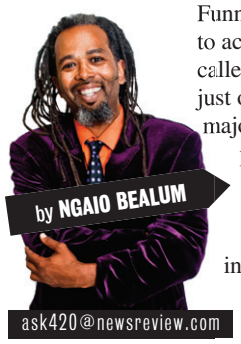







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On marijuana ads



by NGAIO BEALUM

ask420@newsreview.com

How are our good friends at The Partnership at Drugfree.org doing?

—The Pal

Funny you should ask. It seems they are going to have to accept some new realities. They just released a survey called "Marijuana: It's Legal, Now What?" They surveyed just over 1,600 parents about weed and found that a huge majority approved of medical marijuana, and almost 50 percent approved of legalizing weed for recreational purposes. Hee hee! The times, they are a-changin'! When staunch drug-war defenders such as The Partnership have to admit that weed legalization is inevitable, you know you are doing something right.

The survey also found that parents worry about weed advertisements. This argument is similar to ones made against ads for cigarettes and booze. I can see their point. It's tough to keep your kids on the straight and narrow path when they are constantly bombarded with ads about how cool drugs are.

The debate about marijuana advertising will be interesting. I believe that one of the things leading to the backlash against medical marijuana in California was not just the proliferation of clubs but the proliferation of cannabis advertising. It's a delicate dance, because people have a right to advertise their business, but they need to do it in a way that doesn't scare the squares. All those giant pot leaves and whatnot seem to give some people the willies. And I don't mean the Willie Nelsons.

The debate about marijuana advertising will be interesting.

Do you guys have any suggestions as to the best way to advertise without being rude?

If you could smoke pot with anyone living, who would it be? Dead?

—Hypothetical High

Hmm. Usually, when someone asks this question, they mean famous people, so let's skip all the obvious ones (Snoop, Willie Nelson, Rihanna) and all the ones I have already smoked with (Redman, Brian Posehn, Doug Benson, Adam Sandler, Adrianne Curry and Tommy Chong, to name a few) and try to find some interesting ones.

I would love to get high with Morgan Freeman. I'm sure he could tell some stories. Paula Deen could probably use a bong hit or two right about now. We could get high and make some sort of deep-fried, bacon-wrapped cheesecake.

When it comes to smoking weed with dead people, the choice is easy for me. Take me back to the '40s and let me burn the reefer with all those hepcats: Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Mezz Mezzrow, Bing Crosby (he smoked a lot of weed; it helped him when he quit drinking) and Lord Buckley. I'm sure Louis Armstrong would drop by at some point. Ol' Satchmo loved weed. Loved it! And I quote: "If we all get as old as Methuselah, our memories will always be of lots of beauty and warmth from gage. Well, that was my life and I don't feel ashamed at all. Mary Warner, honey, you sure was good and I enjoyed you 'heap much.'" He actually once wrote a letter to President Dwight D. Eisenhower asking him to legalize marijuana. □

Ngaio Bealum is a Sacramento comedian, activist and marijuana expert. Email him questions at ask420@newsreview.com.

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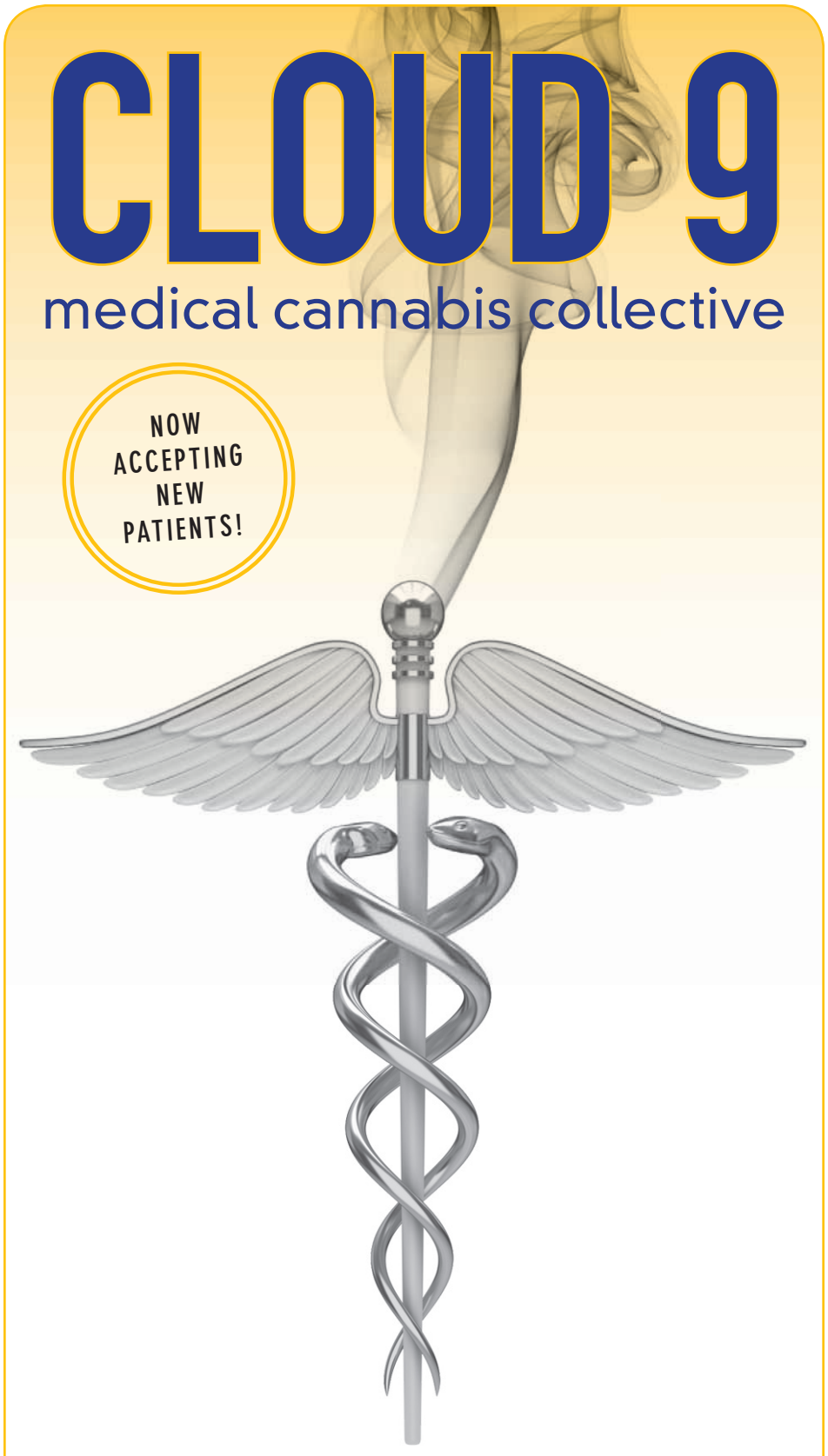
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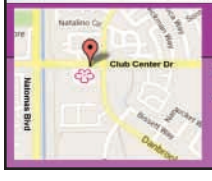
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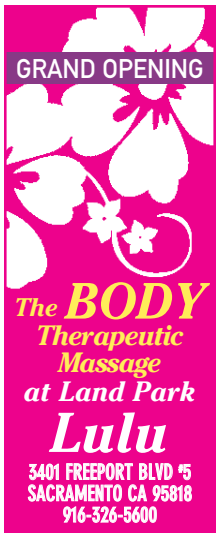
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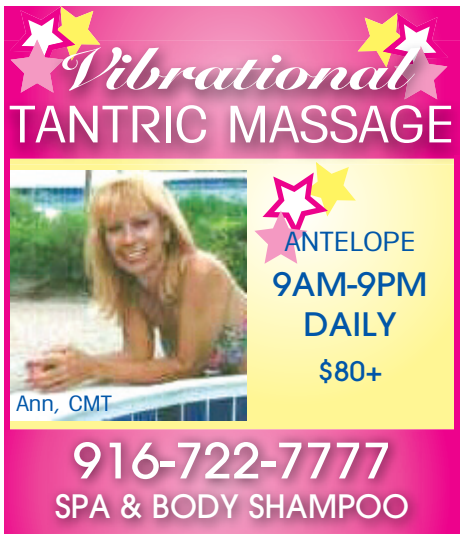
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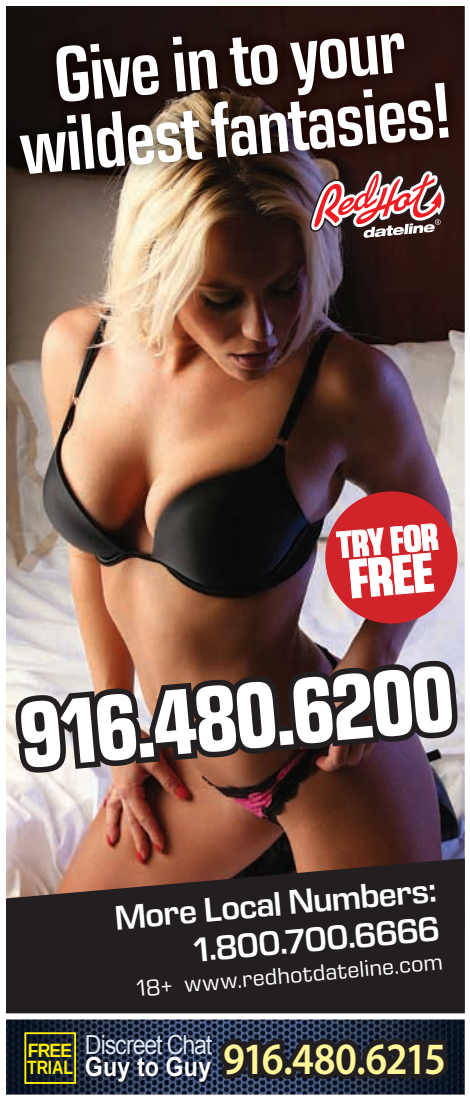














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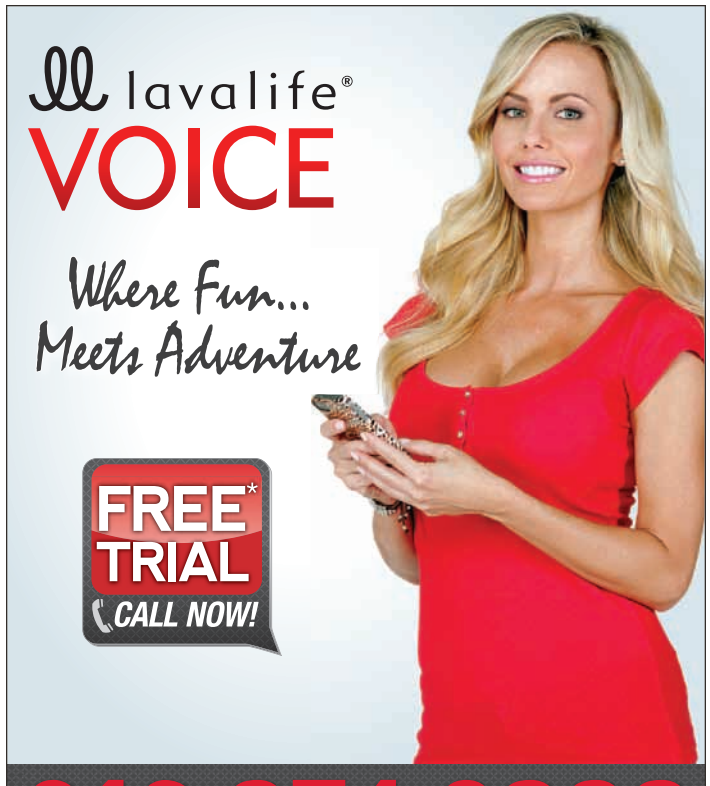
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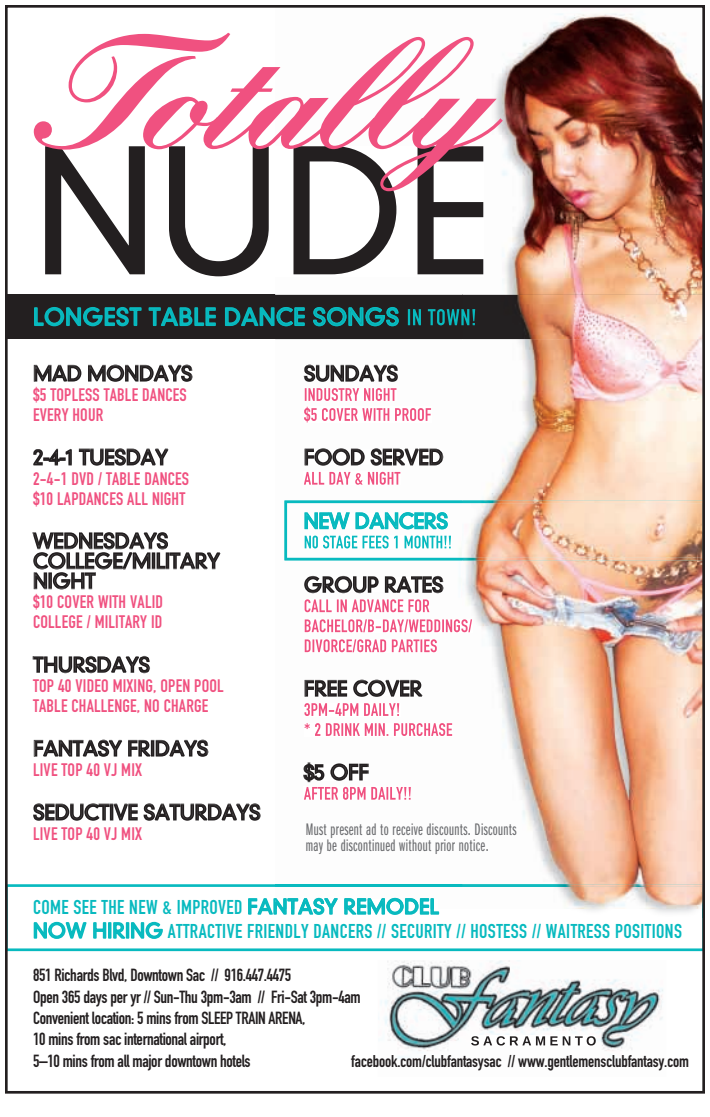
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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

For the week of **July 25, 2013** **BY ROB BREZSNY**

ARIES (March 21–April 19): "I have tried in my way to be free," sings Leonard Cohen in his song "Bird on the Wire." In other words, he has done the best he can to liberate himself from his unconscious patterns, bad habits and self-delusions. He hasn't been perfect in his efforts, but the work he has done has earned him a measure of deliverance from his suffering. I recommend you follow his lead, Aries. Do your best to bring more relief and release into your life. Get rid of things that hold you back. Overthrow a pinched expectation and ignore a so-called limitation or two. By this time next week, I hope you will be able to say sincerely, "I have tried in my way to be free."

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): "There are some things you learn best in calm, and some in storm," wrote the novelist Willa Cather. According to my reading of the astrological omens, Taurus, you're in a phase of your cycle when storm learning isn't your priority. The educational experiences you need most will unfold when you're exploring the mysteries of peace and serenity. In fact, I suspect that the deeper you relax, the more likely it is that you will attract life-changing teachings—lessons that can transform your life for the better and fuel you for a long time.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): Is there a message you've wanted to deliver for a long time but haven't been able to? Are you bursting with thoughts or feelings that you've been longing to express but can't find the right way to do so? Have you spent months carrying around a poignant truth that you have felt wasn't ripe enough to be revealed? If your answer to any of those questions is yes, I believe the time will soon be at hand to make a move. But it's important that you're not impulsive or melodramatic as you initiate your breakthrough communications. For best results, be full of grace and balance.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): Bees and other insects can see ultraviolet light, which is invisible to humans. When they look at flowers, they detect designs on the petals that you and I cannot. For example, the evening primrose appears completely yellow to us, but it calls seductively to bees with a flashy star pattern at its center. Many of the secret signs that flowers offer the pollinators are meant to guide them to where the pollen and nectar are. Let's use this as our metaphor of the week, Cancerian. I am not predicting that you will be able to perceive a broader spectrum of light. But I do believe you will discern cues and clues that are hidden from most people and that have been imperceptible to you in the past.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): "I was six years old when my parents told me that there was a small, dark jewel inside my skull, learning to be me," so said the Leo science-fiction writer Greg Egan in his story "Learning to Be Me." Let's pretend that you, too, have a small, dark jewel inside your skull that's learning to be you. It's a good metaphor for what I believe has been happening all these years: You have been gradually mastering the art of being the best Leo you can be. It hasn't been easy. You weren't born knowing how to be your beautiful, radiant, courageous self, but have had to work hard to activate your potentials. Now you're moving into an especially critical phase of the process: a time when you have the chance to learn how to love yourself with greater ingenuity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): "Dear Astrology Guy: Please tell me why I have to work so hard—meditate, reflect, read, analyze, poke, prod, investigate—to discover truths about myself that must be obvious to others. Why is it so hard for me to see where I need healing and where I need to let go? Why is it such an ordeal to grasp what is interfering with my wholeness when I can quickly pinpoint what other people's issues are? –Overworked Virgo." Dear Overworked: I'm happy to report that you Virgos will soon be offered a gush of revelations about who you are, how you can heal and what strategies will best serve your quest to minimize your anxiety. Are you prepared to absorb some intense teachings? For best results, make yourself extra receptive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): One of the world's best race-car teams is McLaren. It wins about 25 percent of the events in which it competes. Its skilled drivers account for much of its success, but its technicians are also pretty sensational. During a pit stop in the middle of a race, they can change all four tires on the car in less than three seconds. Do you have helpers like that, Libra? If you don't, it's time to intensify your efforts to get them. And if you do, it's time to call on them to give you an extra boost.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): Let's try an experiment. It's risky, but I'm hoping you will do it with such flair that there will be no karmic blowback. What I propose, Scorpio, is that you have fun expressing more confidence than usual. I invite you to strut a bit, even swagger, as you demonstrate your command over your circumstances. Enjoy acting as if the world is your plaything ... as if everyone around you secretly needs you to rise up and be a bigger, bolder version of yourself. The trick, of course, will be to avoid getting puffed up with grandiose delusions. Your challenge is to be more wildly devoted to embodying your soul's code without lapsing into arrogance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): I suspect that you are longing to take a quantum leap of faith, but you are also afraid to take that quantum leap of faith. You sense the potential of experiencing a very cool expansion, while at the same time you hesitate to leave your comfort zone and give up your familiar pain. In light of the conflict, which may not be entirely conscious, I suggest you hold off on making a gigantic quantum leap of faith. Instead, experiment with a few bunny hops of faith. Build up your courage with some playful skips and skitters and bounces that incrementally extend your possibilities.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): Hoaxes exposed! Bluffs called! Secrets revealed! Whitewashes uncovered! Curses banished! Taboos broken! Those are the headlines I expect to see emblazoned in your book of life during the coming weeks. Can you handle that many holy disruptions? Will you be able to deal with the stress that might come from having so much raucous success? These are important questions, because if you're not up to the challenge, you may scare away the transformations. So, steel your resolve, Capricorn. Mobilize your will. Do what's necessary to harvest the unruly blessings.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): The French novelist Gustave Flaubert declared that if you hope to write a book, you should first read 1,500 books. A Roman author named Petronius believed that the imagination does not work at its peak power unless it is inundated with reading material. I suggest you adopt their advice and apply it to your own field, Aquarius. Whatever skill or subject you want to master, expose yourself lavishly to the efforts of other people who have already mastered it. Flood yourself with well-crafted inspiration.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): Should you be worried that a venomous spider has crawled into your shoe while you were sleeping? Just in case, should you flip your shoe upside-down before putting it on each morning? My studied opinion: hell, no. The chances of you being bitten on the foot by a venomous spider lurking in your shoe are even less than the possibility that you will be abducted by an alien who looks like Elvis Presley and forced to sing a karaoke version of Beyoncé's "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)" at an extraterrestrial bar. And if you are going around filled with delusional anxieties like that, you will definitely interfere with life's current predilection, which is to give you a cleansing respite from your fears as well as immunity from harm.

You can call Rob Brezsny for your Expanded Weekly Horoscope: (900) 950-7700. $1.99 per minute. Must be 18+. Touchtone phone required. Customer service (612) 373-9785. And don't forget to check out Rob's website at www.realastrology.com.

15 MINUTES

by **STEPH RODRIGUEZ**



PHOTO BY LISA BAETZ

Rocky Magsam (left) and Andrew Hooper.

The creeps come out at night

Whether it's TV shows or movies, comic books or conventions, Andrew Hooper and Rocky Magsam, hosts of *The Mouths of Madness* podcast, aim to cover anything and everything that fits beneath the horror umbrella. The longtime pals launched the podcast, named after the 1995 John Carpenter film, *In the Mouth of Madness*, not just as an excuse to discuss all things blood and guts, but also as a way to reconnect as friends. Now, the two regularly travel together to Los Angeles for movie premieres; interview horror icons, such as Ari Lehman (best known as the original Jason Voorhees of the *Friday the 13th* film series); and rate the genre's cheesiest and scariest flicks. The pair just celebrated its one-year podcast anniversary and have logged more than 50 episodes. A new episode is released via iTunes every Friday come nightfall, because, well, the creeps come out at night. Hooper and Magsam recently chatted with SN&R about scary dreams, villains and how, really, horror films bring people together.

What's the horror film that first hooked you?

Andrew Hooper: I think the first horror movie I ever saw was *Child's Play* when I was 9. It freaked me out, and there was just something about it that I had to go back to. Then, I saw *Night of the Living Dead* when I was 11, and from that point on, I was hooked. An influence of mine would have to be [George A. Romero].

What makes a genuinely scary movie?

Hooper: If you can predict a movie throughout the entire time, it's not fun. I need context to all of it. And it genuinely has to be scary and have a story.

Rocky Magsam: The instant gratification you get from every single scare. You'll be scared, and then, immediately, you're safe.

Tell me about your first nightmare.

Magsam: My first horror [movies were a] *Ghostbusters* and *Gremlins* double-feature in 1984. So, I was like 6. The thing that made it worse was when I went home, I had my first nightmare ever. In this nightmare, there were zombies chasing me, and they killed me in my dream. Then, I woke up, and I threw up 12 times (*laughs*).

What's intriguing about the genre?

Hooper: So many people try to talk about horror like it's tearing the world apart and it's making society terrible, but it really brings people together. It brings that kind of excitement out of people. [Watching horror films is] almost like being on a roller coaster. There's something exciting about a contained scare. It's almost like when your friend jumps out at you from behind a corner. Horror is one of those genres that whether you love it or hate it, is going to give you a genuine reaction when you go see it, no matter who you are, whether you're scared or grossed out or pissed off.

Do you despise any scary flicks?

Magsam: The original *Night of the Living Dead* is the most boring fucking movie ever made. I've never finished it in one sitting. I fell asleep at [one screening where] the the cast was present. But it was the first modern zombie movie, so how can you not appreciate what it did?

I prefer anything from the mid- to late-'70s to early '80s. ... Think about it, every single horror icon everybody knows was from '70 to '85. You can try to create a new one, but you're not going to recreate a Freddy Krueger or a Jason Voorhees.

Scariest villain, go!

Hooper: I like the monster from *The Thing*. It's not my favorite horror film, or Rocky's, but we both agree that it's probably the best horror film ever made because the effects are scary, and it [has that] fear of the unknown, completely. The monster has no rules, no shape, no look and can be anyone in the room. That whole movie is the fear of the unknown.

Meet any horror icons through your podcast?

Magsam: We just went to [the Scareanormal Fresno expo] and both met two of our favorite people in the horror business and were actually able to interview them. [*Dawn of the Dead*'s] Ken Foree actually cut a promo for us for our podcast. To have a horror icon from your favorite horror movie of all time cut anything for you is great. I also got to meet Danielle Harris and actually talked to her. I've loved her ever since she was in *The Last Boy Scout* and the remakes of *Halloween*.

What's next?

Hooper: Something that I look forward to with this [podcast] is to have a more back-and-forth relationship with listeners. I want listeners to interact a lot more, whether it's people showing up for an event or emailing us questions or telling us suggestions for movies. The podcast was started to bring Rocky and I together, but we want to expand that with everybody. □

For more information on *The Mouths of Madness* horror podcast, visit https://facebook.com/tmomlikesyou.

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Summer of Giving

SN&R'S NOT-FOR-PROFIT GUIDE

A SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT TO SACRAMENTO NEWS & REVIEW

Giving your auto loan a tune-up.



If your auto loan is giving you headaches, head to SAFE. Right now, we'll refinance your current auto loan from another lender and knock .50% off your old interest rate.* With rates as low as 2.00% APR and terms up to 84 months, your monthly payments will be even lower.* Free up some cash by lowering your monthly car payment. Stop by your local SAFE branch or visit us online at safecu.org.

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*Annual Percentage Rate (APR) accurate as of 07/15/2013. All loans subject to credit approval and membership eligibility. Payment on a $20,000 loan at 2.00% APR for 84 months is $255.37. Up to 135% financing. 2.00% minimum APR. Offer not eligible for refinancing of existing SAFE loan. Requires minimum loan balance of $10,000. Rates and terms may vary and are based on credit history, term, loan-to-value (LTV), and amount financed. Rates, terms, and conditions subject to change.

Summer in the City

A TIME FOR GIVING BACK

BY SHANNON SPRINGMEYER

There are no turkey, toy or coat drives. Absent are the ubiquitous appeals to thwart your inner Scrooge. But as the summer heat hits, local not-for-profits are no less in need of your support than in December. In fact, many organizations suffer a slump in giving and volunteerism during this mid-year stretch, a situation exacerbated by relentless government cutbacks and an ever-burgeoning demand for services.

With the shared mission of improving our community, we are here to help the area's many vibrant not-for-profit organizations. News & Review CEO Jeff vonKaenel hopes that those with a giving spirit will discover in the following pages "the extent of very cool, resourceful, engaged nonprofits that we have. And realize that the commitment to making Sacramento a better place has a lot of different, very good options."

Why get involved? "The people that do are the most happy," vonKaenel says. "I think it makes you feel connected to something bigger than yourself."

Maybe it's time to make a place alongside backyard barbecues and fried fair food for philanthropy as a Sacramento summer tradition.

TIPS & ADVICE FOR GIVING

HELP THOSE IN NEED BY BEING IN THE KNOW

Part of responsible giving is knowing which organizations will be good stewards of your charitable gifts. Because there are so many organizations providing services to those in need, it may be difficult to determine which ones you would like to help. Here are some tips from the Better Business Bureau to help you make a decision about giving.

- **GET THE CHARITY'S EXACT NAME.** With so many charities in existence, mistaken identity is a common problem. Thousands of charities have "cancer" in their name, for example, but no connection with one another.
- **RESIST PRESSURE TO GIVE ON THE SPOT.** Whether from a telemarketer or door-to-door solicitor, follow up with a gift later, after you've vetted the organization.
- **BE WARY OF HEART-WRENCHING APPEALS.** What matters is what the charity is doing to help.
- **PRESS FOR SPECIFICS.** If the charity says it's helping the homeless, for example, ask how and where it's working.
- **CHECK WEBSITES FOR BASICS.** A charity's mission, program and finances should be available on its site. If not, check for a report at www.give.org.
- **CHECK WITH STATE CHARITY OFFICIALS.** In many states, charities are required to register, usually with the office of the attorney general, before soliciting. Visit www.oag.ca.gov/charities for charities registered in California.
- **DON'T ASSUME THAT EVERY SOLICITING ORGANIZATION IS TAX EXEMPT AS A CHARITY.** You can readily check an organization's tax status at www.irs.gov/app/eos.

SACRAMENTO Food Bank & Family SERVICES

COMMITTED TO SERVING THOSE IN NEED



By providing goods and services to those in need at no cost, Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services (SFBFS) fosters independence among low-income individuals like Minnie Counts. At age 80, Counts is a great-grandmother of 14 who worked as a nurse's assistant, teacher's assistant and cosmetologist before becoming a full-time foster parent. Counts has been disabled for the better part of the last decade, but her limited mobility is not enough to curb her desire to learn. For the past year, she made the weekly commute to SFBFS for free classes in the Demonstration Garden. Inspired by the classes, she converted her limited yard space into a thriving container garden comprised of a composting barrel, flower pots and a wheelbarrow to grow lettuce, squash, beets, onions and garlic. SFBFS offers a variety of programs, at no charge; Food, Clothing, Adult Education, Parent Education, Youth Education and Senior.

"The gardening classes are awesome! It's cheaper, the food is fresh, there are no chemicals and you know exactly what you're eating."
– Minnie Counts



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Volunteer your time to help a family in need
- Refer a family in need
- Make a recurring monthly contribution of $10
- Lead a donation drive at your company or organization
- Participate in the 20th annual Run to Feed the Hungry on Thanksgiving Day

SACRAMENTO FOOD BANK & FAMILY SERVICES | 3333 THIRD AVE | SACRAMENTO, CA 95817 | (916) 456-1980 | SACRAMENTOFOODBANK.org

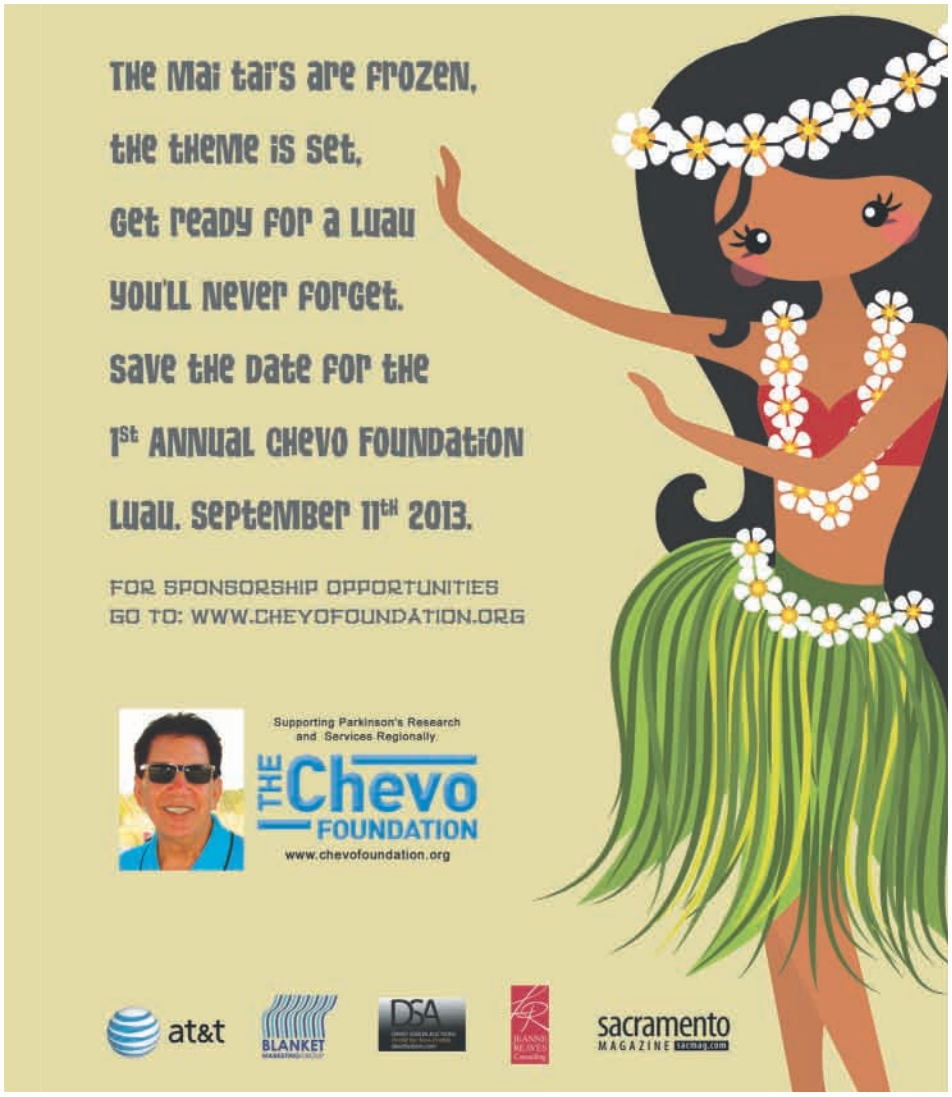


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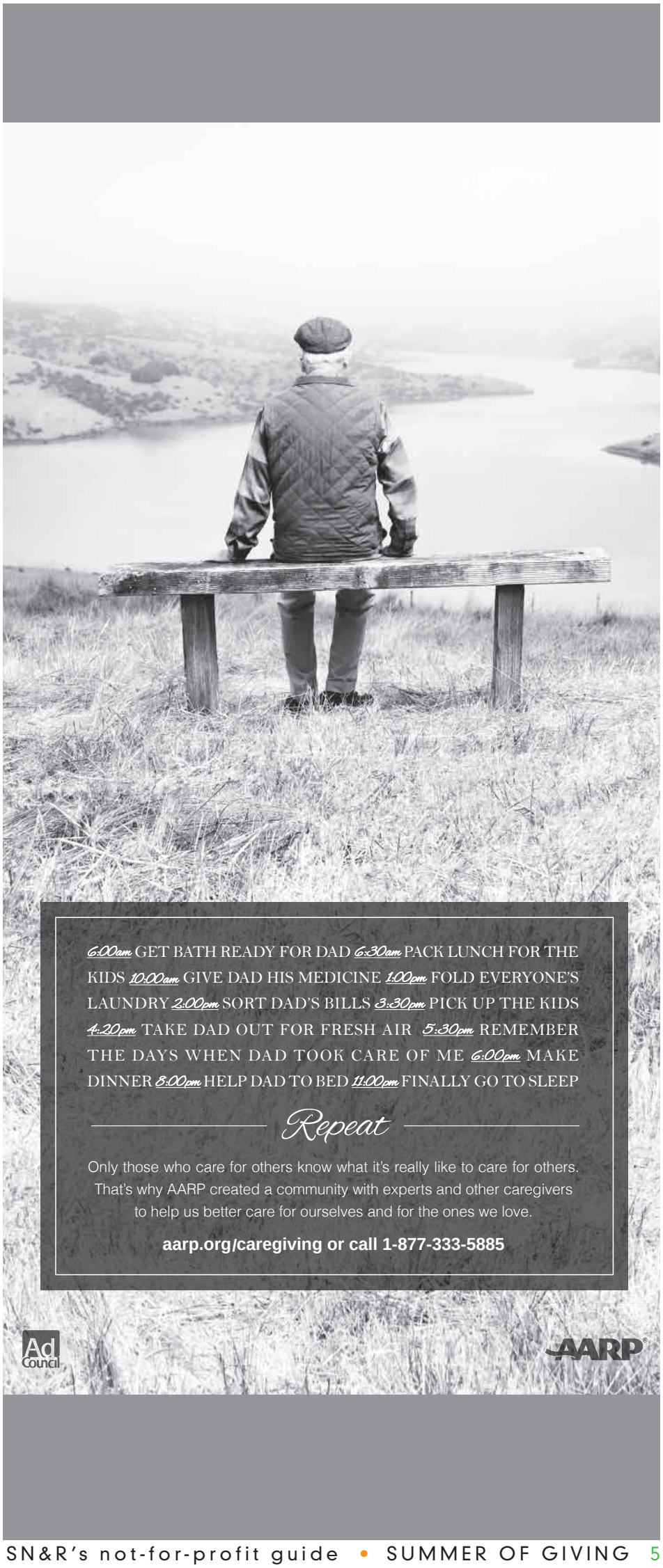
Naked is one thing, unprotected is another.

Cares Community Health wants you to have a safe sexual experience. That's why we're giving away condoms - yes, for free - through a network of local organizations and friendly businesses. Visit our website today.

cares community health


The Mai tai's are frozen,
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save the date for the
1st annual chevo foundation
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6:00am GET BATH READY FOR DAD 6:30am PACK LUNCH FOR THE KIDS 10:00am GIVE DAD HIS MEDICINE 1:00pm FOLD EVERYONE'S LAUNDRY 2:00pm SORT DAD'S BILLS 3:30pm PICK UP THE KIDS 4:20pm TAKE DAD OUT FOR FRESH AIR 5:30pm REMEMBER THE DAYS WHEN DAD TOOK CARE OF ME 6:00pm MAKE DINNER 8:00pm HELP DAD TO BED 11:00pm FINALLY GO TO SLEEP
Repeat
Only those who care for others know what it's really like to care for others.
That's why AARP created a community with experts and other caregivers
to help us better care for ourselves and for the ones we love.
aarp.org/caregiving or call 1-877-333-5885
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AT UCP OUR PROGRAMS CHANGE LIVES!

UCP of Sacramento and Northern California is the leading provider of comprehensive services to children and adults with all developmental disabilities and their families. We work with 3,300 people a month in our eight-county area, empowering children and adults who – without support – would be isolated from their community.

The UCP team members are proud to make a difference in the lives of the people we work with. It's rewarding work. We realize that for people with disabilities, each day can be a struggle. With your support, we can take those struggles and transform them into something positive and life changing. And we think that's pretty amazing!

UCP
of Sacramento and Northern California
Life without limits for people with disabilities

WAYS TO HELP

- Attend our 80's Dance Party on 9/14 - UCPDanceParty.org
- Make an Online Donation
- Donate Household Goods, Clothes, eWaste & Vehicles

WEBSITE RESOURCES

- One Stop Resource Guide
- Outdoor Activity Ideas
- Program & Service Overviews

UCP OF SACRAMENTO AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA | www.ucpsacto.org

ASSISTING FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE STRUGGLING WITH SUBSTANCE USE ISSUES

The National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence — Sacramento Region Affiliate (NCADD Sacramento) assists individuals and families who are struggling as a result of alcohol or drug dependence. NCADD provides concrete support and compassionate guidance to those in need. Services include education, counseling, referrals to local resources and follow-up support. NCADD understands that alcohol and drug dependence are challenging to deal with. NCADD has 39 years of experience in helping people find their way to recovery. The team helps clients navigate the system and access the necessary resources. In addition to prevention and treatment services, NCADD runs a 24-hour Hopeline with free in person consultations. NCADD serves residents of four counties: Sacramento, El Dorado, Yolo and Placer.

"All donations go directly to the families. A donation of $200 provides one month of treatment for a full family."

Barbara Thompson
Executive Director
NCADD Sacramento

"People struggling with substance use issues deserve compassionate guidance on what services are available to them. Once the true nature of the disease is understood, we can guide individuals and families back to health and wholeness."

Barbara Thompson, Executive Director
NCADD Sacramento



WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

- Work in the Playcare Center and Nursery
- Assist with community events

WAYS TO GIVE

- Become a member
- Give monthly contributions
- Sponsor a family
- In-kind-donations such as clothing, toys and art supplies

EVENT

The public is invited to learn more about NCADD and tour the new facility at an open house on August 15, 2013 from 4–8 p.m.

NCADD
SACRAMENTO

NCADD SACRAMENTO | 1446 ETHAN WAY | SACRAMENTO, CA | 916-922-5121 | NCADDSAC.ORG







GROWING A FORCE OF TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERS

In its first year of operation in Sacramento, the local arm of Teach For America joined efforts already underway, establishing valuable collaborations with organizations supporting schools, teachers, and families, and is partnering with three local school districts.

Only 41% of the children living in poverty in Sacramento scored at least "proficient" on standardized state math tests.

"We're thrilled to be collaborating with schools, community members and leaders across the city of Sacramento to best partner with students and families and help ensure that our kids are receiving the opportunities they need to reach their fullest potential", says Nikolas Howard, executive director for Teach For America's Sacramento region. "It's incredible to see the local momentum to ensure that every child in our Sacramento community gets a shot at a great education."

TEACHFORAMERICA

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WAYS TO DONATE

- Donate by mail: 3400 3rd Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95817
- Donate online: www.teachforamerica.org
- "Sponsor a Teacher"--see our ad on back cover for details

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- $ x 2 Match your gift (Want to double the impact of your gift? Many employers will match donations made by their employees.)
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- Give Stock
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TEACH FOR AMERICA | 3400 3RD AVENUE | SACRAMENTO, CA 95817 | (916)228-4748 | TEACHFORAMERICA.ORG

TEACHFORAMERICA



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A gift of $5,000 or more helps Teach For America recruit, select, train, and support outstanding recent college graduates who go above and beyond to expand opportunities for their students.

If you are interested in sponsoring a teacher, please call the Sacramento office 916-228-4748

With your **$5k investment**, the lives of **at least 30 Sacramento students** will be **directly impacted**

"University of Phoenix is dedicated to creating access to education for all students and has been a proud sponsor of Teach for America for many years. Teach for America and University of Phoenix share a commitment to eliminating educational inequality by enlisting our nation's most promising future leaders in the effort." —Bob Eoff, University of Phoenix district vice president and Teach for America - Sacramento board member.

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