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EDITOR'S NOTE

Stop the teenage slut-shaming

It's a bad time to be a teenage girl.

In August, a judge sentenced a 49-year-old Montana teacher to 30 days in jail for the rape of a 14-year-old student. Why? According to the judge, the student—who committed suicide before the case went to trial—was "older than her chronological age" and "as much in control of the situation" as the man.

Similarly, in August, a U.K. judge levied a suspended, eight-month sentence on a man convicted of raping a 13-year-old girl because the teen was "predatory" and "egging" him on.

Such rulings from those tasked to protect children are stomach-turning. They're also evidence of a pervasive, slut-shaming attitude among those in authority.

Take, for example, the mother who took to the Internet last week under the guise of protecting her sons. In a blog post titled "FYI (if you're a teenage girl)," Kimberly Hall, director of women's ministry at a Texas church, advised girls against posting provocative selfies to social-media sites:

"Did you know that once a male sees you in a state of undress, he can't quickly un-see it? You don't want [the Hall] boys to only think of you in this sexual way, do you?"

Incidentally, the post was accompanied by a picture of one of Hall's sons, posing shirtless. She's since tried to erase her digital hypocrisy by removing the photos, but what's been seen online, of course, cannot be unseen.

Here's a tip, Mrs. Hall: Advise your sons not to objectify or sexualize girls. Teach your sons, instead, how to respect them as equals.

It's time for those in authority to stop blaming teenage girls for the ways in which boys and men perceive and treat them. It's the very least we can do to protect them from objectification, unwarranted shame and harm.

—Rachel Leibrock
rachell@newsreview.com

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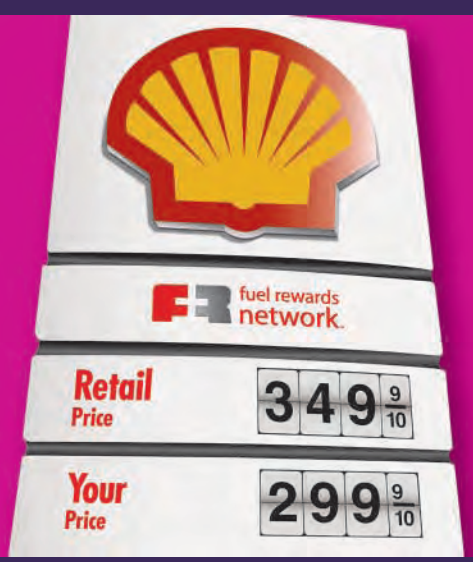
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"The only way she can get [my] dad to take a shower is in preparation for, um, 'bedroom time.'"

Asked at 20th and K streets:

When have you given or received TMI?



Margie Villero
student

Once, my friend's aunt, who is kinda crazy, told us that she was on her period when we were eating. That was just awkward.



Dan Morales
accountant

Somebody told me they were not wearing underwear to work. That's someone I would not want to know that about. And now, everyone knows.



Lindsay Cross
program coordinator

This morning, at brunch over waffles, I was talking with my mom about my dad washing his hair. She said that the only way she can get [my] dad to take a shower is in preparation for, um, "bedroom time." My sister and I were like, "Whoa!"



Madeleine Bishop
entrepreneur

Not too often, because I'm really open, and I have no shame about what I've done. When I hear something, I'm like, "OK, high five on that." We girls talk about stuff that guys would never expect a bunch of females to talk about—all the nasty shit we've done.



Baylee Joplin
hostess

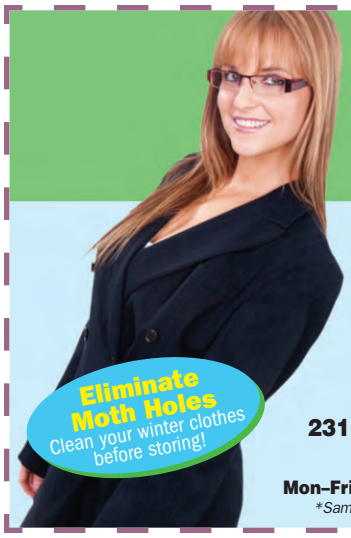
The other night at Kbar, I was at the bar with my roommate. One of the guys [there] asked us, "Since you guys live together, most females fall on the same pattern for their monthly cycle." So, he asked us if we have ours together every month. I was beet red. Completely awkward!



Jordan O'Neill
bakery assistant manager

My sister always talks about her sexual escapades.

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AT&T's major malfunction

Re "Public-access ghetto" by Cosmo Garvin (SN&R Bites, September 5):

Great article about AT&T's marginalizing public and government broadcasters. If you look at the other cable providers in the region, you will find that their offerings allow direct access to public-access television, including [digital video recorder] functionality with good image quality. But not AT&T. What is their major malfunction?

LETTER OF THE WEEK

George Hall
Sacramento

Upset with Steinberg

Re "Steinberg's arena assist" by Nick Miller (SN&R News, September 5):

Well, once again, the learned senator is carrying the can for the billionaire boys club. I am not surprised at this at all, as I dodge potholes and shopping carts piloted by mentally ill bums. Seriously, all the pro tem has done in a largely government career is pose and draw a salary. All the hoopla about job creation—well, if the damn thing gets built, those jobs go away and get replaced with low-wage seasonal jobs. How about streamlining some legislation that benefits the majority (us), instead of them (the 1 percent). If it does get built as planned, the infrastructure impact will be huge. And the Sacramento city taxpayers will be stuck with the bill. And probably no fast track for them, either.

Andrew Mattson
Sacramento

Why do we subsidize Walmart owners?

Re "SN&R overlooks Walmart's good deeds" by Rachel Wall (SN&R Letters, September 5):

Letter writer Rachel Wall, Walmart senior manager of community affairs, in her slap-down letter of SN&R, listed some nonprofit organizations who benefit by way of Walmart's largesse. Wanna bet money that more than a few of her fellow Walmart employees, most of whom are poorly paid part-timers, are grateful "clients" of some of those nonprofits?

The state of California spends about $32 million annually paying for uninsured Walmart employees' healthcare, while Walmart spends millions on television public-relations ads touting the promotional and educational opportunities afforded their employees. Will someone tell me why we're subsidizing six Walmart owners, whose combined wealth equals more than the combined bottom 40 percent of American wealth?! Needless to say, I cannot shop Walmart.

Maxine Sunada
Loomis

Walmart workers need fair wages

Re "SN&R overlooks Walmart's good deeds" by Rachel Wall (SN&R Letters, September 5):

If Wally World is just *so* wonderful, when are they going to pay *all* their workers a living wage, give *all* of their workers a decent health-benefits plan, and quit *illegally* firing their workers for just wanting to unionize or for speaking out about working conditions? When are they going to stop hiring from temp agencies so they can avoid paying for benefits?

Gretchen DeKok
Carmichael

Feds need to fix marijuana for good

Re "Feds, lawsuits and legalization" by Ngaio Bealum (The 420, September 5):

The announcement by Attorney General Eric Holder regarding the Department of Justice's stand on Washington and Colorado's marijuana laws is good news. However, as long as marijuana remains a Schedule I drug, the feds can continue to shut down recreational- or medicinal-marijuana sources and arrest citizens for possession and use. The Controlled Substances Act must be modified. We must insist that our elected representatives concentrate their efforts on removing marijuana from Schedule I status.

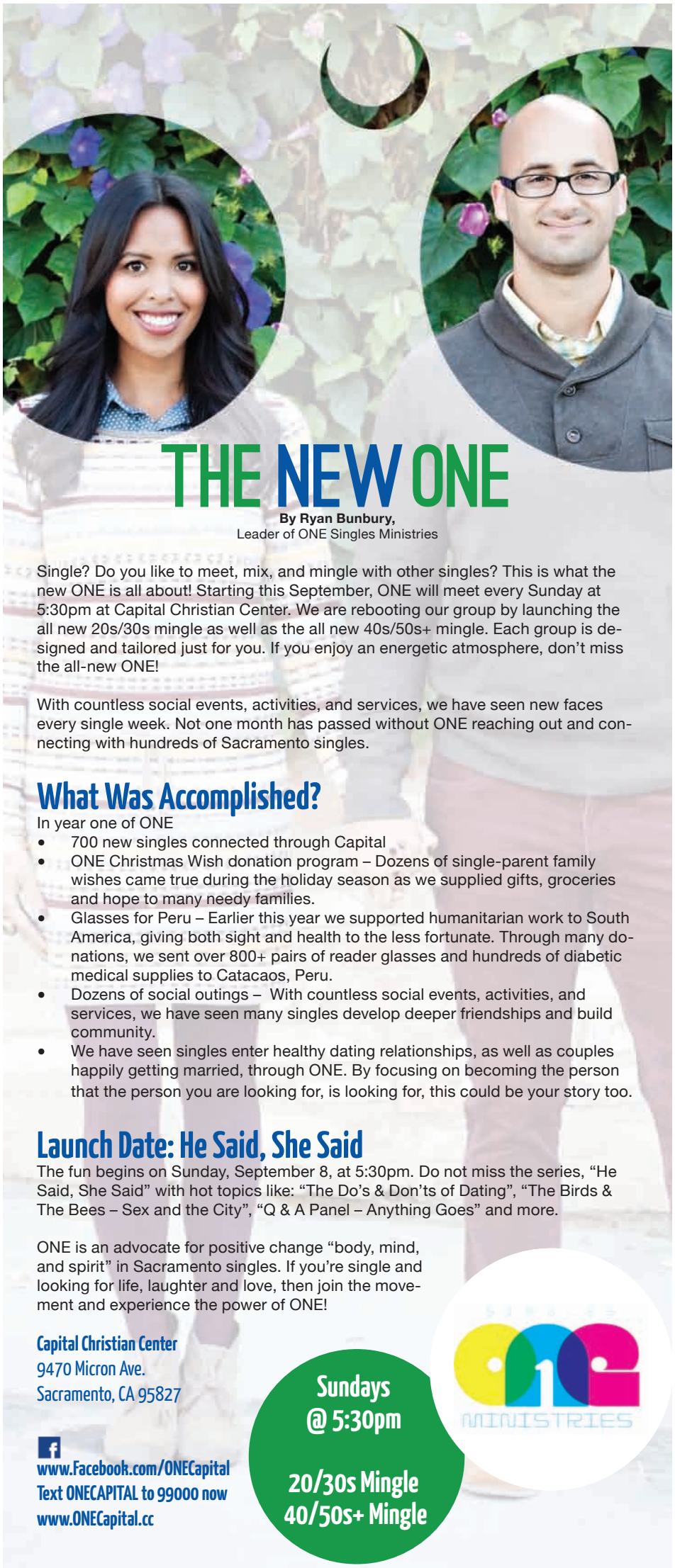
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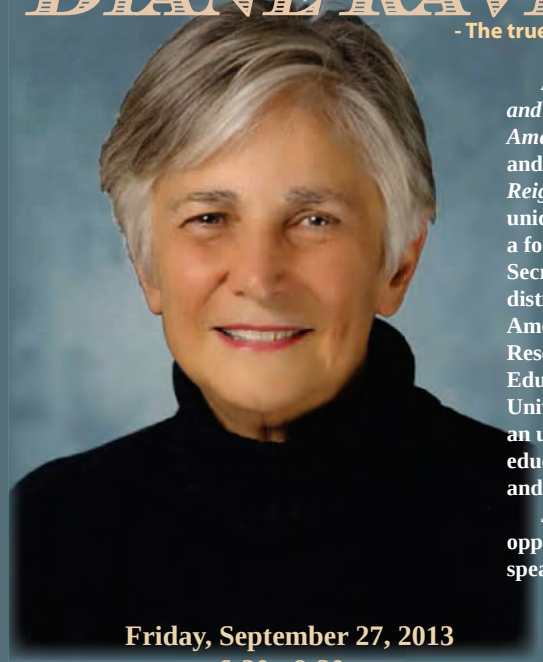
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Center of attention

New report slams Sacramento Convention Center for wasting tax dollars, says city should privatize

by
Raheem
F. Hosseini

raheemh@
newsreview.com

Fielding renewed charges that it's a money-losing subsidy hog, the Sacramento Convention Center is nonetheless seeding the ground for another tax-funded expansion boom. Meanwhile, a debate ensues about whether this big-box tourism model is withering—or needs to get even bigger to survive.

"The convention center is an economic driver," says general manager Judith M. Goldbar, paging through a new report that claims exactly the opposite.

For this scrutiny, Goldbar can thank Eye on Sacramento, a tax-minded watchdog group that contends the center frittered away $218 million in city funds since 1999. That money comes from a tax on hotel guests and other temporary lodgers that Eye on Sacramento says would be better used to employ police officers, maintain city parks and pay for a long-delayed upgrade of the Community Center Theater.

"There are a lot of areas that are of a lot higher priority than maintaining a mediocre management over at the convention center," says Eye on Sacramento research director Dennis Neufeld, one of the report's co-authors.

Both the Eye on Sacramento and Management Partners studies recommend the city contract out maintenance and operation of the Sacramento Convention Center to a private company.

For her part, Goldbar, who's more comfortable promoting tourist-friendly garden shows and nail expos than answering questions about how she spends the city's money, doesn't dispute Eye on Sacramento's figures. She acknowledges that the center reaps the lion's share of Sacramento's transient-occupancy tax—a fancy term for a 12-percent "hotel tax" overnight visitors pay whether they're renting a motel room or a private campsite—but says that's how it's supposed to be.

Since the convention center completed a major expansion in 1996, it's received approximately $16 million a year in hotel-tax receipts—80 percent of the fund. Much of the money chips away at the center's bond debt, while nearly $6 million supports operations like salaries and benefits, property taxes and additional overhead.

"It's not all payroll and toilet paper," says administrative officer Tina McCarty.

But it is a hefty carve-out in a city with several municipal mouths to feed, leaving "just crumbs that go the the general fund," Neufeld says. The center's modest revenue growth since fiscal year 2000-01 calls into question the wisdom of bullish '90s projections, he adds.

Without the subsidy, the convention center likely wouldn't survive, at least not in its current form. That hasn't discouraged officials from considering another major build-out, even as critics say the center isn't using up the space it has now to warrant such pipe-dreaming.

But others say you gotta build it bigger to make them come.

"We're either in the convention-center business or are soon going to be out of the business," McCarty says.

Those within the convention business say they're the reason hotel-tax receipts doubled since fiscal year 1995-96—from $9.8 million then to $19.7 million in 2012-13—and maintain that they were always supposed to collect most of it.

"It's not 'A River of Red Ink' if this is the city's business plan," says Goldbar, referring to the Eye on Sacramento report's bruising title.

And to be sure, chapter 3.28 of the Sacramento City Code directs the hotel tax—which was established in 1976 and last raised in 1992—to be spent solely on "public assembly and convention halls."

But ordinances can be changed, and Eye on Sacramento isn't the only critic of the city's approach.

Three years ago, the city commissioned a top-to-bottom review of its financial operations. The audit spawned a 120-plus-page report from Management Partners, a government consulting firm. Among other things, it concluded that Sacramento gave much more of its hotel-tax funds to the convention center than the nine other most-populated cities in California.

Six of the nine cities invested 100 percent of their hotel-tax receipts in their general funds. Three cities put 40 percent to 52 percent back into these accounts. At the time of the April 2010 report, Sacramento returned 17 percent to its general fund. Today, that figure is closer to 13 percent.

"The principle for the establishment of the TOT is that visitors to a city should pay their fair share of taxes to support the core services and infrastructure needs created by the presence," the report states. Giving most of the money to the convention center, it contends, "denies the City significant revenue from one of the few sources that can offset" the lack of property taxes from state-owned buildings.

Both the Eye on Sacramento and Management Partners studies recommend the city cut down on its convention-center dole by contracting out maintenance and operation of the center to a private company.

The convention center's deputy general manager, Matthew Voreyer, maintains that "private management would be different," but couldn't specify how when asked.



A city-commissioned study showed that a majority of major California cities' hotel-tax revenue goes entirely to their general funds. In Sacramento, that figure is closer to 13 percent—with most of the dollars going to the convention center.

Management Partners also suggests the city could allocate more hotel-tax money to its general fund once the convention center repays its $8 million-a-year debt seven years from now. But that money won't be available if the city decides to refinance the existing debt toward another phased expansion, as some are calling for.

The Sacramento Convention & Visitors Bureau's Brian Larson is leading a study that could recommend doubling the convention center in size once the current bond is paid off.

The genesis for the study was a 2010 consultant's report that found Sacramento's convention center struggling to keep up with the Joneses in San Francisco, San Jose, Los Angeles and a number of other competing convention towns. Sacramento is due to fall even further behind once a number of those cities complete their own planned expansions, argues Larson, who's on the bureau's executive committee.

"Don't need to be first, but don't want to be last," he quips.

To put Sacramento square back in the fair-to-middling column could cost anywhere from $50 million to $200 million, according to media reports, figures Larson says he can't confirm.

"I know those are Craig Powell's figures, but Craig Powell likes to just pull [them] out of his ass," he says, referring to Eye on Sacramento's president.

Meanwhile, Eye on Sacramento says there's no way the city can look to its TOT fund to support another expansion, upgrades to its community theater *and* act as a potential insurance policy if parking revenues can't cover proposed arena bonds.

Whether the fund is overextended is a question for city officials, Larson says. (A spokesman released a blanket media statement calling the Eye on Sacramento report "inaccurate.")

"We think it will have some serious impact on whether the expansion gets approved or not," Neufeld says of his group's findings.

As for how much bigger Sacramento's convention center can—and should—get, Larson believes there's plenty of space for the time being.

"For now, my job in my lifetime is to support [convention-center expansion]. … We want sustained growth, smart growth, for the next 25 years," says Larson, one of five hospitality-industry leaders on the bureau's six-person executive committee. "The next one? That's on somebody else." □

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BEST OF SACRAMENTO 2013

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SPECIAL KUDOS TO: Greg Erwin and the distribution team for putting out the biggest issue of the year, human-resources director Tanja Poley, the operations department, the accounting department, executive coordinator Jessica Takehara, directors of first impressions Alicia Brimhall and Matt Kjar, and SN&R owners Deborah Redmond and Jeff vonKaenel.



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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 6PM





SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 6PM

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FOOD AND DRINK

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BEST HOT, NEW (BUT NOT-SO-NEW) CHEF

by NICK MILLER

BRIAN MIZNER

OF HOOK & LADDER MANUFACTURING CO.

"MIZNERO." That's what old-school Sacramento bartender extraordinaire Chris Tucker calls chef Brian Mizner's secret hot sauce, a habanero-based concoction hidden behind Hook & Ladder Manufacturing Co.'s bar. Tucker can mix a cocktail with the chef's heat (just ask), but the reason to bring it up is twofold: Mizner has a predeliction for fire, and he's also the hottest new (but not-so-new) chef in town.

On a recent weeknight, Mizner's in the back of Hook's Midtown kitchen, loading some veal bones, roasted off with tomato paste, into a big pot with veggies, cold water and herbs. This is the beginning of a different sauce, the base for many of Hook's expansive, intrepid menu items, of which Sacramentans seem unable to stop talking about since the restaurant opened last fall.

Who is this new chef? Well, it turns out Mizner, 35, has been at it for years.

Rewind 20: A pizzeria in Cameron Park, Papa Gianni's Ristorante, where an "old, grumpy Italian guy," Mizner said, taught the chef how to make pizza. "The dough, the care in making the dough—how you let it rest, how you let it rise, how you store it" is what matters, he shares.

Eventually, Mizner traveled down the hill for a stint at City Treasure in Midtown, followed by stops at Masque Ristorante in El Dorado Hills, L Wine Lounge and Urban Kitchen, Hot Italian. And now, Hook.

Tucker, who oversees Hook's bar, worked with Mizner at L Wine and praises the chef's "unabashadly Californian cuisine." Which is maybe an '80s way of saying local, natural, healthful, inventive "farm-to-fork" eats, such as rotund heirloom tomatoes, sliced thick and served with lemon cucumbers, burrata, frisee and dressing. Or pepper-jack cheese curds with cut-up pluots, Thai chilies and basil, rice-wine vinegar and cilantro. Plus, game and fish and steaks are in the mix. The chef certainly embraces the NorCal breadbasket.

But Mizner and his team—which includes chefs Greg Pilapil and Vinny Lazzaretto—truly excel with Hook's pasta dishes: beet linguine, carmelized onion and potato ravioli, even vegan and (soon) gluten-free pastas. It's an ever-changing Italian influence.

"You should see our freezer. We have 20 different types of pasta at any time," Mizner said, proudly.

When he's not in the kitchen, you might bump into the grid-dwelling chef around town, cruising for happy-hour deals, or maybe clamoring for "tacos and Thai food," he said. And, perhaps in the near future, hawking his hot sauce. "The habanero sauce, we're going to try to start marketing it soon."

And why not? The name certainly sticks. *1630 S Street, (916) 442-4885, http://hookandladder916.com.* □

"BEST OF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

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by BECKY GRUNEWALD

BEST PIE FOR DESSERT— OR BREAKFAST

KIRA O'DONNELL'S REAL PIE COMPANY

PIE LOVERS—ARE THERE ANY PIE HATERS?—ARE REJOICING the return of Kira O'Donnell's Real Pie Company. Her original storefront had an enviable problem: It was too busy. O'Donnell was not prepared for the lines and pressure, and she closed the shop after 12 months.

Now, she's back—but not better than ever, because her pies already were perfection the first time around.

O'Donnell is taking things slow and will be selling her pies two days a week out of the gate. Avoiding the complications that come from maintaining a storefront, she'll be vending from the East Sac Mercantile, a consortium of businesses all under the same roof. She'll be featuring some late-summer stone-fruit pies and then easing into autumn with apples, figs, quinces, persimmons and walnuts.

Grandma Margaret taught O'Donnell to bake, and she even uses her rolling pin to roll out the pie dough. "I'd like to think her spirit is with me when I bake pies," O'Donnell said. She honed her baking skills in a few different restaurant kitchens, including Chez Panisse.

A self-described "control freak," O'Donnell constructs all the pies herself; she only allows her employees to do the fruit prep and roll the dough.

She's been asked many times, but won't share the secret to her tender crust, except to say that it's composed of only flour, butter, salt and water. Somehow, she takes that simple mixture and creates a dessert that is not only delicious, but gorgeous to look at.

I will never forget a mixed-berry pie I got from Real Pie Company in 2008. It had star shapes cut out of the flaky, browned crust, and the deep-purple juices had bubbled through, and it was just as good with coffee for breakfast as it was after dinner. I've eaten a lot of desserts in my time and forgotten most of them—except maybe my grandma's ambrosia (which I wish I could forget)—but this was a pie to remember. Now that O'Donnell is back, I can pack away my memories and get back to eating Real Pie. *East Sac Mercantile, 3257 Folsom Boulevard; (916) 705-9621; www.realpiecompany.com.* □

"BEST OF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 21




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WRITERS' PICKS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

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Preservation and Co.'s Jason Poole is an award-winning "jartender." And that's a good thing—if you're into Bloody Marys or preserved pickles.

BEST PICKLE PURVEYORS

Preservation and Co.

This company, whose employees call themselves "jartenders," established itself in 2011. Co-owners Jason Poole and Brad Peters currently sell pickle products with names such as Balsamic Beets, Horseradish Dilly Beans and Black Pepper Asparagus. It won't be long before Preservation's popularity skyrockets: Its Bloody Mary recipe, available at the company's store, won second place in a 2012 national competition hosted by Absolut Vodka. And the pair used Kickstarter earlier this year to help pay for supplies after opening a new warehouse space in Midtown. Oh, and they use produce from local farms. Sample some of the products at Pour House, where Poole is a bar manager. *1717 19th Street, www.preservationandco.com.* J.M.

BEST UN-AMERICAN DOUGHNUT

Malasadas at Savory Fried Chicken

If you hadn't deduced as much from its name, this spot prides itself on its sweet-and-savory fried chicken. But the real reason to make the trek out to Savory Fried Chicken in Elk Grove is the malasadas. These Portugese doughnut-type confections—chewier and more breadlike than their American-style counterparts, and rolled in granulated sugar once they come out of the fryer—are also a staple in Hawaii, but this homey Filipino spot serves them up, too. One order of 10 malasadas is less than five bucks, but for a few extra dollars, you're going to want to order the vanilla ice cream on the side—a pleasantly sticky, cold companion to the warm pastries. You almost can't help but go into goldfish mode once you take the first bite, so it's best to bring a few friends along, lest you look down at your plate and discover you've eaten 10 doughnuts. *9174 Franklin Boulevard in Elk Grove, (916) 395-3905.* D.D.

BEST NEW VEGETARIAN DINING

Bodhi Bowl

Remember when you were little, and going out to eat at a restaurant was a treat, a special event in itself? That's what it feels like for a vegetarian going to an eatery with no animal flesh on the menu. And while Sacramento already has a handful of meatless joints, there's definitely room for more. Fortuitously, 2013 brought one: Bodhi Bowl in south Sacramento's

"BEST OF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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Husband-and-wife team Danny (left) and Olga Turner opened Pushkin's Bakery this year, Sacramento's first wheat-, gluten- and dairy-free bakery.

PHOTO BY ANNE STOKES

Little Saigon, near the 65th Street and Stockton Boulevard intersection. The cuisine is Vietnamese, so it's light, yet filling, and there's pho—magical, vegetable-fairy concocted vegan pho. Plus, the staff couldn't be friendlier. This is the kind of place where first-time diners become regulars. *6511 Savings Place, Suite 100; (916) 428-4160; www.bodhibowl.com.* S.

BEST SANDWICHES IN BREAD POCKETS

Ike's Deli & Bakery

There was something so perfectly Rancho Cordova about Ike's Deli & Bakery being located next to a strip club. But then the deli decided to go all sophisticated on its bluest of blue-collar roots this year and move down the street, where it's now got windows without any security bars and a new logo. The most important thing, I suppose, is that it's still serving up sandwiches in its singular, house-made bread pockets—something like a cross between pita and focaccia. Adding to the kitschy (and delicious) experience is the eponymous and gruff Ike, who mans the register and may or may not take your order if you call 10 minutes before the shop's 2 p.m. closing time. The deli opens at 9:30 a.m. and is only open Monday through Friday, but these strict hours of operation are well worth adhering to. *11210 Sun Center Drive in Rancho Cordova, (916) 635-9808, www.ikesdeli.com.* D.D.

BEST UNDER-THE-RADAR MEXICAN BRUNCH

Florez Bar and Grill

South Land Park has a serious dearth of Mexican restaurants. Florez Bar and Grill's breakfast is not just good for the neighborhood, though, it is good, period. Opening at 7 a.m. every day, Florez, which has been around since 1981, has a big menu and a full bar, including a paloma cocktail made with the requisite Squirt soda, not that artisanal grapefruit foofaraw. The baskets of chips come fast and furious, and the portions are large. If the chip servings aren't enough for you, order the chip-delivery system known as chilaquiles, covered with either verde or rojo sauce. Get chicken on the top for an authentic flair. They also have an entire American breakfast menu if you just can't live without that chicken-fried steak (no judgment; we all have our vices). On a weekend, there might even be a mariachi band singing Journey songs. *5900 S. Land Park Drive, (916) 429-6864, http://florezbarandgrill.com.* B.G.

BEST PIZZA CRUST

OneSpeed

I will not say here that OneSpeed has the best pizza in town. I will not. Zelda's is a whole other animal, and I happen to be partial to Masullo. That said, OneSpeed makes damn great pizza and its crust is oh-so crispy. It out-crisps any pizza joint I mentioned above. And the eatery's bicycle theme hits the spot, since that's the only way you can get there and find a place to park. That is, until someone runs with my idea to buy that comfort-shoe building across the street and put in a cute and East Sac-sanctioned, three-story parking garage. *4818 Folsom Boulevard, (916) 706-1748, www.onespeedpizza.com.* G.G.

BEST PLACE TO BE A GLUTEN-FREE FATTY

Pushkin's Bakery

Wheat-free, gluten-free, dairy-free—people attempt to eat healthy and mindful of allergies, but there just aren't many tasty options out there. Enter Pushkin's Bakery: This spot proves that anti-allergy baked goods can taste amazing. Co-owners Danny and Olga Turner have opened Pushkin's as Sacramento's first wheat-free, gluten-free and dairy-free bakery, offering vegan items, as well. The "Awesomes"—tiny lemon poppy seed pound cakes with lemon glaze—are awesomely light and fluffy, packed with tart lemon goodness. The chocolate-chip s'more sandwich is all buttery chocolate-chip cookie with a gooey marshmallow middle. Don't forget some almond milk to wash it all down. *1820 29th Street, (916) 376-7752, www.pushkinsbakery.com.* J.R.

BEST MARSHMALLOW LIKE NO OTHER

The Rustic Puff

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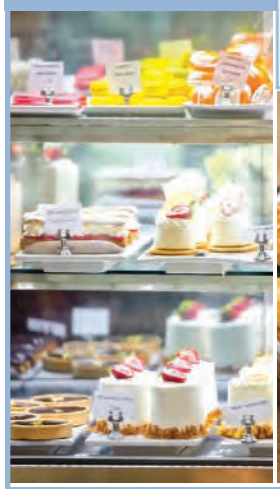
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you eat out of nostalgic obligation—a window into camping trips past, filled with hot chocolate, s'mores and Rice Crispy Treats. The gooey cylinders of puffed sugar that are sold at grocery stores aren't actually good, but it's all most of us know. Luckily, one Lodi company, The Rustic Puff, has set out to change that. Crafting marshmallows out of locally sourced ingredients, the company offers flavors like salted margarita, maple bacon, birthday cake, and even pilsner and pale ale. They're pretty, too—rough-cut, pale, pillowy squares that are charmingly rustic. Prices start at $5, or you can join the Puff Club starting at $95 for three months, which gets you early access to the newest flavors and recipes. *Available at the Midtown Farmers Market Sacramento, Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; www.therusticpuff.com.* **D.D.**

BEST BEER SPOT FOR THE KIDS AND DOGS

Berryessa Brewing Co.

A taproom out in the country doesn't sound like a place to bring the whole fam, but Berryessa Brewing Co. is a place for parents to sip a perfect Double Tap IPA or low-alcohol Common Sense, or a shockingly fresh, hoppy Saazer Pilsner—made with Czech noble hops—while the kiddies safely frolic. There's a large area for them to run around and games to play, such as cornhole (relax, it's just a bean-bag toss), and plenty of room to roam in the big gravel lot, which has cushioned a lot of baby falls, and it's easy for parents on the outside picnic tables to keep an eye out for cars pulling in and out. Then they have one eye free to focus on their delicious brew. *27260 Highway 128 in Winters, (530) 795-3526, http://berryessabrewingco.com.* **B.G.**

BEST PLACE TO DROP CASH ON ACID

Corti Brothers' vinegar selection

Behind the glass-encased miniature museum of unusual spurs—they're pasta cutters, actually—by the entrance of East Sacramento's institution of fine foods, Corti Brothers, there is a formidable selection of imported vinegars. Some of the bottles of artisanal, sweetly tangy fermented liquid have red wax melted onto their cork tops. One small bottle from Italy is even displayed in an old wooden box with a handwritten note—and a price tag of $499.99. But there are more affordable bottles of liquid acid to splurge on for, say, $139.99. Walk down the aisle, though, to find yet several more shelves of the stuff for less than $20 a pop. The petite 6.75-ounce bottle of exquisitely delicate Sparrow Lane California Golden Balsamic Vinegar for around 10 bucks seems like a bargain now, eh? *5810 Folsom Boulevard, (916) 736-3800, www.cortibros.biz.* **S.**

BEST MIDTOWN SPOT TO GEEK OUT ON THE SUDS

The #beernerdmenu at LowBrau

LowBrau is so on it's beer game. Consider: Brew-geek website BeerAdvocate recently ranked Oklahoma brewery Prairie Artisan Ales' Bomb!—an imperial coffee stout brewed with chocolate and hot chilies—as one of the 10 best new beers of 2013. Pretty challenging to find this brew in Sacramento—but then LowBrau shows up with bottles on its menu for just $12! All sorts of treasures exist on LowBrau's "#beernerdmenu," which the restaurant and bar's owners update regularly on Twitter and Instagram (visit @LowBrau916 for the hookup). *1050 20th Street, (916) 706-2636, www.lowbrausacramento.com.* **N.M.**

BEST PLACE TO FEEL LIKE A HAPPY-HOUR PRINCESS

Blackbird Kitchen & Bar

Arrive during happy hour for a $2 Miller High Life and $5 fish tacos, but stay for upscale entrees and high-falutin cocktails. Here, the food is an adventure of texture, flavor and color, so sensuously transformative you'll be feeling like the princess of happy hour (personal gender ID notwithstanding). Grab an order of the Truffle Tremor cheese, served with honey, fig jam and the terrifyingly delightful crunch of black-pepper sugar glass. Wash it down with a post-prandial Fernet-Branca, or counter it with a can of the ever-cheap and palate-cleansing Olympia Beer. With victuals this good, you can forget moderation. *1015 Ninth Street, (916) 498-9224, www.blackbird-kitchen.com.* **J.B.**

BEST LACK OF RAISIN FEAR AND EXTRA WALNUTS

Carrot cake at Magpie Cafe and Selland's Market-Cafe

Have people finally stopped hating on carrot cake? You can find a good slice at just about every bakery and restaurant in Sacramento. For me, though, it comes down to two: the carrot-cake cookies at Magpie Cafe and the superb cake from Selland's Market-Cafe. Magpie gets extra points for not being afraid to have raisins in its mix, while Selland's wins the overall rounds for its moist, just dense-enough cake, the not-too-sweet cream-cheese frosting, and the extra walnuts on the bottom of the slice that make the last few bites a masterpiece of cakey goodness. *Magpie Cafe, 1409 R Street, Suite 102; (916) 452-7594, www.magpiecafe.com; Selland's Market-Cafe, 5340 H Street, (916) 736-3333, www.sellands.com.* **N.B.**

BEST BREWERY FOR LAND PARK DADS

New Helvetia Brewing Company

New Helvetia Brewing Company is proving itself as a much-needed reprieve from the diapers and doldrums of young family life for Land Park's domesticated residents. And, really, it's an excellent place to wind down. Grab one of eight or nine beers on the ever-changing tap list, step out to the back patio and remember what it's like to be young again. If you're lucky, the owners will swing through and give you a tour of the back room. *1730 Broadway, (916) 469-9889, http://newhelvetiabrew.com.* **D.K.**

BEST MULTILINGUAL SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

KP International Market

This international supermarket really puts the emphasis on "international." As in, it staffs people who can speak Russian, Spanish, Korean and English. Likewise, it also sells Russian, Mexican, Korean and American groceries. So, if you eat like I do, your cart might have a can of Spam, a bag of tortillas, kimchee and piroshki. Warning: Once you shop here, it's hard not to expect every other grocery store to step it up with a larger variety of grocery selections. *10971 Olson Drive in Rancho Cordova, (916) 853-8000, www.kpinternationalmarket.com.* **J.M.**

BEST BEER-AISLE SURPRISE

Curtis Park Market

For years, the Curtis Park Market smelled like rotting fruit and veggies. But people would hold their nose and buy their 12-pack of PBR there anyway. These days, it's a whole different market. You can make your own six-pack out of craft-beer singles, and there is an array of Belgian and American brews and a surprising selection of European candy bars (KitKat Hazelnut Cream, anyone?). The prices are good, too. It's no Pangaea Two Brews Cafe, but it's damn better than offerings of only Bud Light Lime. *2703 24th Street, (916) 456-6488.* **G.G.**

BEST NEW RESTAURANT

1. Hook & Ladder Manufacturing Co.

1630 S Street, (916) 442-4885, http://hookandladder916.com

2. LowBrau

1050 20th Street, (916) 706-2636, www.lowbrausacramento.com

3. Bacon and Butter

1119 21st Street, (916) 346-4445, http://baconandbuttersac.com

BEST CHEF

1. Kelly Hogge, Magpie Cafe

1409 R Street, (916) 452-7594, www.magpiecaterers.com

1. Patrick Mulvaney, Mulvaney's Building & Loan

1215 19th Street, (916) 441-6022, www.mulvaneysbl.com

3. Ravin Patel, Ella Dining Room & Bar

1131 K Street, (916) 443-3772, www.elladiningroomandbar.com

BEST RESTAURANT TO IMPRESS YOUR DATE

1. Ella Dining Room & Bar

1131 K Street, (916) 443-3772, www.elladiningroomandbar.com

2. Mulvaney's Building & Loan

1215 19th Street, (916) 441-6022, www.mulvaneysbl.com

3. The Firehouse Restaurant

1112 Second Street, (916) 442-4772, www.firehouseoldsac.com

BEST FOOD TRUCK

1. Drewski's Hot Rod Kitchen

(916) 502-0474, http://drewskis.com

2. Chando's Tacos

(916) 641-8226, www.chandostacos.com

3. Krush Burger

(916) 790-0025, www.krushburger.com

BEST PIZZA

1. Zelda's Gourmet Pizza

1415 21st Street, (916) 447-1400, www.zeldasgourmetpizza.com

2. Hot Italian

1627 16th Street, (916) 444-3000, www.hotitalian.net

3. Chicago Fire

various locations, www.chicagofire.com

BEST MEXICAN FOOD

1. Tres Hermanas

2416 K Street, (916) 443-6919, www.treshermanasonk.com

2. Chando's Tacos

863 Arden Way, (916) 641-8226; 5665 Power Inn Road, (916) 387-8226; www.chandostacos.com

3. El Novillero

4216 Franklin Boulevard, (916) 456-4287, http://elnov.com

BEST BURRITO

1. Chando's Tacos

863 Arden Way, (916) 641-8226; 5665 Power Inn Road, (916) 387-8226; www.chandostacos.com

2. Dos Coyotes

various locations, http://doscoyotes.com

3. La Favorita Taqueria

various locations

BEST THAI FOOD

1. Thai Basil

various locations, www.thaibasilrestaurant.com

2. Bangkok@12 Thai Restaurant

900 12th Street, (916) 443-5588, http://bangkok12restaurant.com

3. Taste of Thai

various locations, www.tasteofthaisac.net

BEST SUSHI

1. Mikuni Japanese Restaurant & Sushi Bar

various locations, www.mikunisushi.com

2. Kru Contemporary Japanese Cuisine

2516 J Street, (916) 551-1559, www.krurestaurant.com

3. Nishiki Sushi

1501 16th Street, (916) 446-3629, www.nishikisushi.com

"BEST OF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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1. Cafe Morocco

1221 Alhambra Boulevard, Suite 107; (916) 731-4637

2. Darna

925 K Street, (916) 447-7500, http://darnasac.com

3. Casablanca Moroccan Restaurant

3516 Fair Oaks Boulevard, (916) 979-1160

3. Royal Kebab

8055 Greenback Lane in Citrus Heights, (916) 979-1160

BEST MEDITERRANEAN EATS

1. Opa! Opa!

5644 J Street, (916) 451-4000, www.eatatopa.com

2. Kabob House

1726 Fulton Avenue, (916) 485-0163, www.kabobhousefulton.com

3. Pita Kitchen Plus

2989 Arden Way, (916) 480-0560, www.pitakitchenplus.com

BEST ITALIAN FOOD

2. Vince's Ristorante

840 Harbor Boulevard in West Sacramento, (916) 371-6395, www.vinceswestsac.com

2. Biba

2801 Capitol Avenue, (916) 455-2422, www.biba-restaurant.com

3. Paesanos

various locations, www.paesanos.biz

BEST INDIAN FOOD

1. Bombay Bar and Grill

1315 21st Street, (916) 441-7100, www.bombaybarandgrill sacramento.com

2. Kathmandu Kitchen

1728 Broadway, (916) 441-2172, www.kathmandukitchen.com

3. Kaveri Madras Cuisine

1148 Fulton Avenue, (916) 481-9970, www.kaverimadrascuisine.com

BEST IRRESISTIBLE SANDWICH

1. The Sandwich Spot

various locations, http://thesandwichspot.com

2. Dad's Sandwiches & Deli

1310 S Street, (916) 448-3237, www.dadssandwiches.com

3. Magpie Cafe

1409 R Street, (916) 452-7594, www.magpiecaterers.com

BEST DIM SUM

1. New Canton Restaurant

2523 Broadway, (916) 739-8888, http://newcantonseafood restaurant.com

2. Capital Tea Garden

1110 T Street, (916) 448-1218 (closed as of May)

3. King Palace Restaurant

5829 Stockton Boulevard, (916) 456-8888

BEST BURGER FOR LESS THAN 10 BUCKS

1. Burgers and Brew

1409 R Street, (916) 442-0900; 403 Third Street in Davis, (530) 750-3600; http://burgersbrew.com

2. Squeeze Inn

various locations, http://thesqueezeinn.com

3. Krush Burger

700 N. 10th Street, (916) 930-6828, www.krushburger.com

BEST BRUNCH

1. Fox & Goose

1001 R Street, (916) 443-8825, www.foxandgoose.com

2. Tower Cafe

1518 Broadway, (916) 441-0222, www.towercafe.com

3. Bacon and Butter

1119 21st Street, (916) 346-4445, http://baconandbuttersac.com

BEST PLACE FOR MEAT-FREE EATS

1. Andy Nguyen's Vegetarian Restaurant

2007 Broadway, (916) 736-1157, www.andynguyenvegetarian.com

2. Sunflower Drive-in

10344 Fair Oaks Boulevard in Fair Oaks, (916) 967-4331, www.sun flowernaturalrestaurant.com

3. Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op

1900 Alhambra Boulevard, (916) 455-2667, www.sacfoodcoop.com

BEST BARBECUE

1. Sandra Dee's Bar-B-Que & Seafood

601 15th Street, (916) 448-6375, www.sandradeesbbq.com

2. Lucille's Smokehouse Bar-B-Que

6628 Lonetree Boulevard, (916) 780-7427, www.lucillesbbq.com

3. MoMo's Meat Market

5776 Broadway, (916) 452-0202

BEST PLACE FOR LATE-NIGHT EATS

1. Burgers and Brew

1409 R Street, (916) 442-0900; 403 Third Street in Davis, (530) 750-3600; http://burgersbrew.com

1. Ink Eats & Drinks

2730 N Street, (916) 456-2800, http://inkeats.com

2. Willie's Burgers

2415 16th Street, (916) 444-2006; 5050 Arden Way in Carmichael, (916) 488-5050; http://williesburgers.com

3. Pieces Pizza by the Slice

1309 21st Street, (916) 441-1949

BEST OUTDOOR PATIO

1. Tower Cafe

1518 Broadway, (916) 441-0222, www.towercafe.com

2. LowBrau

1050 20th Street, (916) 706-2636, www.lowbrausacramento.com

3. Bows & Arrows

1815 19th Street, (916) 822-5668, www.bowscollective.com

BEST HAPPY HOUR

1. Shady Lady Saloon

1409 R Street, (916) 231-9121, www.shadyladybar.com

2. The Red Rabbit Kitchen and Bar

2718 J Street, (916) 706-2275, www.theredrabbit.net

3. Cafeteria 15L

1116 15th Street, (916) 492-1960, http://cafeteria15l.com

BEST PLACE FOR A GLASS OF WINE

1. 58 Degrees & Holding Co.

1217 18th Street, (916) 442-5858, www.58degrees.com



SN&R's readers voted Kelly Hogge (right) of Magpie Cafe as this year's top chef.

PHOTO BY STEVEN CHEA

2. The Rind

1801 L Street, Suite 40; (916) 441-7463; http://therindsacramento.com

3. Enotria Restaurant Wine Bar

1431 Del Paso Boulevard, (916) 922-6792, www.enotria.com

BEST SPOT TO DRINK A FEW PINTS

1. Burgers and Brew

1409 R Street, (916) 442-0900; 403 Third Street in Davis, (530) 750-3600; http://burgersbrew.com

2. The Bonn Lair

3651 J Street, (916) 455-7155, www.bonnlair.com

3. de Vere's Irish Pub

1531 L Street, (916) 231-9947; 217 E Street in Davis, (530) 204-5533; http://deverespub.com

BEST PLACE TO SWILL A COCKTAIL

1. Shady Lady Saloon

1409 R Street, (916) 231-9121, www.shadyladybar.com

2. The Red Rabbit Kitchen and Bar

2718 J Street, (916) 706-2275, www.theredrabbit.net

3. Pour House

1910 Q Street, (916) 706-2465, http://pourhousesacramento.com

BEST DIVE BAR

1. Mercantile Saloon

1928 L Street, (916) 447-0792

2. Pre-Flite Lounge

513 L Street, (916) 441-7963, www.preflitelounge.com

2. The Stag Bar

506 Main Street in Woodland, (530) 668-8373, www.facebook.com/thestagbar

BEST BREWER

1. River City Brewing Company

545 Downtown Plaza, Suite 1115; (916) 447-2739; www.rivercity brewing.net

2. Rubicon Brewing Company

2004 Capitol Avenue, (916) 448-7032, www.rubiconbrewing.com

3. New Helvetia Brewing Co.

1730 Broadway, (916) 469-9889, http://newhelvetiabrew.com

BEST BEER DESTINATION

1. Pangaea Two Brews Cafe

2743 Franklin Boulevard, (916) 454-4942, http://pangaeatwobrews.com

2. LowBrau

1050 20th Street, (916) 706-2636, www.lowbrausacramento.com

3. The Shack

5201 Folsom Boulevard, (916) 457-5997, http://eastsacshack.com

BEST PLACE FOR COFFEE

1. Temple Coffee

various locations, www.templecoffee.com

2. Old Soul Co.

various locations, www.oldsoulco.com

3. Naked Lounge

1500 Q Street, (916) 442-0174; 1111 H Street, (916) 443-1927; www.nakedcoffee.net

BEST GROCER

1. Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op

1900 Alhambra Boulevard, (916) 455-2667, www.sacfoodcoop.com

2. Corti Brothers

5810 Folsom Boulevard, (916) 736-3814, www.cortibros.biz

3. Taylor's Market

2900 Freeport Boulevard, (916) 443-6881, http://taylorsmarket.com

BEST BAKED GOODS

1. Freeport Bakery

2966 Freeport Boulevard, (916) 442-4256, http://freeportbakery.com

2. Rick's Dessert Diner

2322 K Street, (916) 444-0969, http://ricksdessertdiner.com

3. Doughbot

2226 10th Street, (916) 444-5157, www.doughbotdonuts.com

BEST PLACE FOR SOMETHING SWEET

1. Rick's Dessert Diner

2322 K Street, (916) 444-0969, http://ricksdessertdiner.com

2. Ginger Elizabeth Chocolates

1801 L Street, Suite 60; (916) 706-1738; http://gingerelizabeth.com

3. Gunther's Ice Cream Shop

2801 Franklin Boulevard, (916) 457-6646, www.gunthersicecream.com

"BEST OF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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NOV. 20TH - THRIFT STORE
DEC. 4TH - NAUGHTY/NICE
DEC. 18TH - DESIGNERS

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kobe beef slider
seasoned kobe beef, pesto mayo, caramelized onion & gruyere cheese on focaccia bread, served with fries.

meatball slider
house made meatball, marinara sauce, mozzarella & parmesan cheese with a touch of EVOO

blt slider
bacon, lettuce, tomato, pesto mayo on focaccia bread. served with fries.



3 meatballs
house made meatballs, marinara sauce & parmesan cheese

4 beer battered onion rings
onion rings with horseradish cream sauce

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basil, garlic, grape tomato, red pepper flake & chili oil on a piece of toasted baguette

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with veggies and focaccia bread

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PHOTO BY RYAN DONAHUE

SHOPS AND SERVICES
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by DEENA DREWIS

BEST PLACE FOR SNAIL & FACIALS & BLANKETS

SACRAMENTO'S KOREATOWN AND SMILE FOOD MARKET

THE STRETCH OF FOLSOM BOULEVARD NEAR SACRAMENTO'S ROSEMONT neighborhood is kind of what I imagine Wonderland would look like if Alice had been a high-school burnout that hung out with the Korean kids.

There's the Eclectic Center, a strip mall with a whirligig roofline, painted in absurd yellows and pinks; a roller rink; and a place called the Blow Lounge, which isn't as exciting as the name makes it sound (it's a hookah bar).

This area is also home to the best Korean restaurants, shops and services in town.

And standing sentinel to Sacto's humble K-town, just off Highway 50's Bradshaw Road exit, is a store called Smile Food Market. For the uninitiated, the store is a wonder of sights and smells: a wall of freezers full of dried squid; bags of rice that could crush a small child; kimchee jars the size of a pony keg; whole aisles dedicated to varieties of dried seaweed and packaged ramen.

Outside on the street, there's a sign that reads "Smile Home Shopping" and below it, "Korean Cosmetic & Blanket," which refers to the home-goods store that went in next to the market a few years ago. It blends in seamlessly with the food market, but it is not to be missed, because inside, there are in fact a whole *bunch* of cosmetics and *tons* of blankets.

I know non-Koreans reading this right now are like, "Blankets?" But sleeping under the leaden weight of a good Korean blanket is a thing of beauty, imparting the sense that you might never escape from under its heft, which is really comforting, in a nihilistic kind of way.

The store is positively packed, hoarder-style, with bowls, spoons, rice cookers, foot spas, fitness hula hoops—you get the idea. And as for the cosmetics? The selection is vast, but my most exciting discoveries were the Snail Aquaring SOS Mask, made with "snail mucus components"; and the Placenta Revital Essential Mask, the description for which was very vague. Both were $3.99, so, it's like, "Why not, right?"

You get way more adventure for your dollar here than a regular store. Alice would approve. *2948 Bradshaw Road, (916) 369-8543.* □

"BEST OF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

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PHOTO BY RYAN DONAHUE

BEST WAY TO

KEEP TOWER RECORDS' SPIRIT ALIVE AND KICKIN'

ZACK SHAW OF RIVER CITY RECORD DIGGERS SOCIETY

by JONATHAN MENDICK

TOWER RECORDS MAY BE GONE—along with The Beat and many other record stores that once dotted the area—but Sacramento might still have a chance of returning to its former glory as a record-store destination, if Zack Shaw has his way.

Shaw, whose dad was a Tower Records employee from 1964 to 1976, helped start the River City Record Diggers Society in July after recently moving to Sac from Los Angeles and hearing that The Beat was closing.

"We're super close to [matching Los Angeles] with a rich record-selling history," said Shaw. "This is a place where we can get great records, [and] I realized that there was a way to help people buy records."

Though Sacramento may no longer be in its record-shop prime, it still has some good ones, and the city is certainly not short on vinyl enthusiasts: Ben Johnson (of Records on Broadway) and Marty DeAnda (of the Dig Music label) have participated in past RCRDS (perfect acronym) events, along with eight to 12 other people. The monthly traveling RCRDS swaps take place on Second Saturdays and have attracted anywhere from 50 to 100 people, and featured upward of 1,000 records at hip venues, such as Bows & Arrows and Jimmy's Barber Garage. It's a free-form record swap, meaning that anyone interested in selling records can email rcrds@mail.com to sign up.

Shaw said he wants Sacramento to be a destination for record enthusiasts in the same sense that tour buses regularly unload shoppers at Amoeba Records in Los Angeles.

"We've got a bunch of guys invovled, and it's a good, growing group of people [selling records]," Shaw said. "It's evolving, maybe even beyond Second Saturday." *River City Record Diggers Society, www.facebook.com/rivercityrecorddiggerssociety.* □

"BEST OF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

PHOTO: Dominic Saavedra

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– Dan Lipinski






PHOTO BY ANNE STOKES

BEST PEOPLE TO BRING YOU A SNICKERDOODLE AT 2 A.M.

Cookies & Milk

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BEST BLAST TO THE 20TH-CENTURY PAST

Thunderhorse Vintage

Want to know where in town you can watch *The Hugga Bunch* on an old VHS while relaxing on a couch with an ALF doll and rocking out to some old-school Prince? Thunderhorse Vintage, the pitch-perfect blast to your '90s-kid past. This geek-chic boutique has all the Gremlins, Ghostbusters and California Raisin paraphernalia you could possibly need. Plus fanny packs. And if, by chance, you can't find the neon-green shorts you're looking for, ask the dude behind the counter dressed like an early '90s rapper. He'll have you looking fresh in no time. *2522 J Street, Suite A; (916) 444-7723; http://thunderhorsevintage.tumblr.com.* D.K.

MOST EGALITARIAN COMIC-BOOK STORE

Empire's Comics Vault

Everyone finally knows that girls read comic books, right? Right. But as is the case with all industries that started out as boys clubs (you know, politics, art, advertising, etc.), there's some lingering resistance to letting women in. Which is why it's so refreshing to come across people like Ben Schwartz, owner of Empire's Comics Vault, who held the first Creative Women Mini-Con at his store in August, which featured a dozen female comic-book artists from the area. It was a huge success: "The store was packed wall-to-wall," he said. "We did not have enough room to fit all the creators I would have liked to have down. There are just too many talented women in the immediate area. That just means more for next time." Kapow, sexism! *1120 Fulton Avenue, Suite K; (916) 482-8779; www.empirescv.com.* D.D.

BEST PLACE FOR BICYCLE TOGGERY

Edible Pedal

You ride a bike, and that's great. But you do not need to be wearing spandex. Flashy, fat-roll emphasizing, garish spandex—the second cousin of velour tracksuits with "Juicy" emblazoned on the rump. You're not pulling it off. What would be vastly more handsome, however, is a nice pair of plus fours (short trousers that gather 4 inches below the knee). This classic piece of clothing is a lot more attractive than shiny bike shorts, and Edible Pedal keeps respectable riding togs like this in stock, including those made by Duso, Sacramento-based designer Amanda Carroll's clothing-design company. Duso makes the pants with secondhand slacks, and will alter your chosen pair to fit your hard biking body perfectly. Pairing them with one of the label's vintage plaid button-ups—the long sleeves are cut off and made into pockets sewn onto the back—will turn heads as your two wheels roll down the road, and not because you look like you're wearing sausage casing. *1712 Liestal Row, (916) 822-5969, www.ediblepedal.com.* S.

BEST SHOPPING WHILE YOUR HAIR GETS CHEMICALLY ALTERED

Cuffs Closet at Deeda Salon

Sometimes, a girl's just got to wait to become beautiful. But while she's watching the clock as her new hair color sets in, it may be hard to control her wandering eye from fixating on the racks of fluttering chiffon hems and quirky bronze-toned necklaces inside of Deeda Salon. The clever bastards at Midtown boutique Cuffs (2523 J Street, Suite 101) set up an East Sacramento outpost called Cuffs Closet inside of the beautification hub, with a selection of blouses, skirts and dresses to thumb through, perfect for Deeda clients to complete their makeovers with. And since the salon is open longer than the boutique's J Street location on most days (10 a.m. to 8 p.m. vs. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., respectively), it's good news for some pretty lady's wardrobe. *1734 34th Street, (916) 456-0600, http://deedasalon.com; www.shopcuffs.com.* S.



Sisters Marilyn (left) and Jen Ayres of Thunderhorse Vintage strike a balance between geek and chic—with fanny packs to boot.

BEST PLACE TO EASE PET ANXIETY

Mueller Pet Medical Center

It's bad enough having a sick or injured pet—it's worse when something happens to your beloved animal outside normal vet hours. Mueller Pet Medical Center helps to somewhat ease the fear and anxiety that accompanies that 2 a.m. emergency—kidney failure, broken bones, vomiting, seizures, you name it—with its 24-hour urgent-care services. The vets here, many of whom are working through residencies, offer immediate treatment, and also team up with your pet's regular doc to obtain records or transfer of care, etc. The sleek, sprawling facility is secure, with an after-hours building entry—nice to know when you're rolling up in those darkest of predawn hours, worried sick about your baby. *7625 Freeport Boulevard, (916) 428-9202, www.muellerpmc.com.* R.L.

BEST STAIN DETECTORS

Roseville CSI

Call it the CSI effect. But whenever people find out what Scott Koll does for a living, the expectations get a little ridiculous. It's true, the Roseville Police Department property-and-evidence supervisor oversees one of the most advanced forensics labs in the region, second only to the U.S. Department of Justice. But because of the booming interest in crime-scene investigation, thanks to CBS' long-in-the-tooth franchise and other programs like Showtime's *Dexter*, Koll has to sometimes explain that he can't build suspect profiles using just an eyelash and wad of spit. In fact, the Roseville unit's claim to prominence is a piece of equipment that differentiates whether an evidence sample is blood or seminal fluid. Yes, that's it. And no, it's not as easy as you think. "That is a mark of distinction for our region," Koll says. Bad guys, beware. *Roseville Police Department, 1051 Junction Boulevard in Roseville; (916) 774-5000; www.roseville.ca.us/police.* RFH

BEST LUNCHTIME MOMENT OF ZEN

Wisdom Kadampa Buddhist Center

When your co-workers' coffee-break gossip has you at wits end, inject a little wisdom and patience into your life with lunchtime meditation classes every Wednesday at Wisdom Kadampa Buddhist Center. For the price of a Frappuccino, meet Midtowners from all walks of life looking for bliss and inner calmness instead. Or, solve your case of the Mondays after work with an in-depth discussion of practices that can help you chill out and build up some good karma. *1200 S Street, Suite B; (916) 668-9562; lunch meditation is on Wednesdays at noon for $5; drop-in meditation is on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. for $10.* C.D.

BEST OLD-SCHOOL NEIGHBORHOOD PHARMACY

Parkside Pharmacy

You could get that prescription for antidepressants (or, ahem, whatever the doctor prescribed) at one of those generic chain drugstores, but luckily, there's a cooler option. Tucked into a South Land Park shopping center, Parkside Pharmacy makes for a quaint alternative in a world of Walgreens and Rite Aids. Its spacious interior is home to standard pharmacy services and products, as well as spa services and a boutique area stocked with giftworthy soaps, candles, jewelry and home accessories. *4404 Del Rio Road, (916) 452-2200, www.myparksidepharmacy.com.* R.L.

BEST HIDE AND SEEK OUT

Flywheel

Kari Shipman and Marty DeAnda are a buddy-cop movie waiting to happen. Shipman is the sharp-eyed millennial who cultivates Sacramento's up-and-coming fashion talent like a doting aunt. And DeAnda is the buff baby boomer whose geek-worthy vinyl collection could perk up even the most heartbroken customer of recently shuttered record store The Beat. Together, they run Flywheel, a happy collision of fashion-forward style and throwback rock 'n' roll. "This is a store of memories," DeAnda says. "And we can tolerate each other, which is awesome," teases Shipman. What unites the two business partners is an undimmed flare for sharing rare gems, whether it's a mint Rolling Stones album or a frilled clutch purse made from recycled bicycle tires and vintage fabric. "Our thing is to get people to know we exist," says DeAnda, referring to Flywheel's spot in a hidden alley of Downtown Plaza. That shouldn't be a problem for much longer. *545 Downtown Plaza, Suite 1047; (916) 600-4308; www.facebook.com/sacflywheel.* RFH

"BEST OF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 37



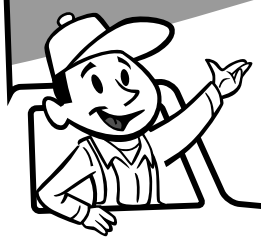


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READERS' PICKS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35



Tony Juvinall cleans up Leanne Converse at Spanish Fly Hair Garage in Midtown.

PHOTO BY STEVEN CHEA

BEST BOUTIQUE

1. Bows & Arrows

1815 19th Street, (916) 822-5668, www.bowscollective.com

2. Sugar Shack Boutique

2425 J Street, (916) 447-4435, www.facebook.com/sugarshackbtq

3. Krazy Mary's Boutique

3230 Folsom Boulevard, (916) 442-6279, www.facebook.com/krazymarysboutique

BEST PLACE TO BUY VINTAGE

1. Bows & Arrows

1815 19th Street, (916) 822-5668, www.bowscollective.com

2. 57th Street Antique Row

855 57th Street, www.57thstreetantiquerow.com

2. Sacramento Antique Faire

2350 21st Street, (916) 600-9770, http://sacantiquefaire.com

3. Scout Living

1215 18th Street, (916) 594-7971, www.scoutliving.com

BEST THRIFT STORE

1. Thrift Town Thrift Stores

various locations, www.thrifttown.com

2. Goodwill Industries

various locations, www.goodwill.org

3. Sacramento SPCA Thrift Store

1517 E Street, (916) 442-8118, www.sspca.org/how-you-can-help/thrift-store

BEST RECORD STORE

1. Dimple Records

various locations, www.dimple.com

2. Armadillo Music

205 F Street in Davis, (530) 758-8058, www.armadillomusic.com

3. Records

1618 Broadway, (916) 446-3973, www.rare-records.net

BEST PLACE TO GET A BIKE

1. City Bicycle Works

2419 K Street, (916) 447-2453, http://citybicycleworks.com

2. Mike's Bikes of Sacramento

1411 I Street, (916) 446-2453, http://mikesbikes.com

3. East Sac Bike & Board

5520 H Street, (916) 254-2453

BEST YOGA STUDIO

1. Yoga Seed Collective

1400 E Street, (916) 978-1367; http://theyogaseed.org

2. Bikram Yoga Sacramento

6350 Folsom Boulevard, (916) 456-9642, www.sacramentobikramyoga.com

3. Zuda Yoga

various locations, www.zudayoga.com

BEST PLACE TO GET YOUR HAIR DONE

1. Spanish Fly Hair Garage

1723 J Street, (916) 444-1359, www.flygarage.com

2. Salon Paisley

2404 K Street, (916) 444-2404, http://salonpaisley.com

3. Mecca Salon

913 30th Street, (916) 444-2136, www.meccasalon.com

BEST PLACE TO GET PAMPERED

1. Blue Sky Day Spa

4250 H Street, (916) 455-6200, www.blueskydayspa.com

2. Mellow Me Out Day Spa

various locations, www.mellowmeout.com

3. Byuti

1414 H Street, (916) 441-2000, www.facebook.com/byutimidtown

"BEST OF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 39

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1003 Automobile injury claims
1004 Motorcycle accidents
1005 Bicycle accidents
1006 Uninsured & underinsured motorist coverage
1007 Slip and fall accidents
1008 Bus and train accidents
1009 Airline accidents
1010 Boating accidents
1011 Amusement ride accidents
1012 Life insurance claims
1013 Product liability accidents
1014 Disability insurance claims
1015 Social Security disability claims

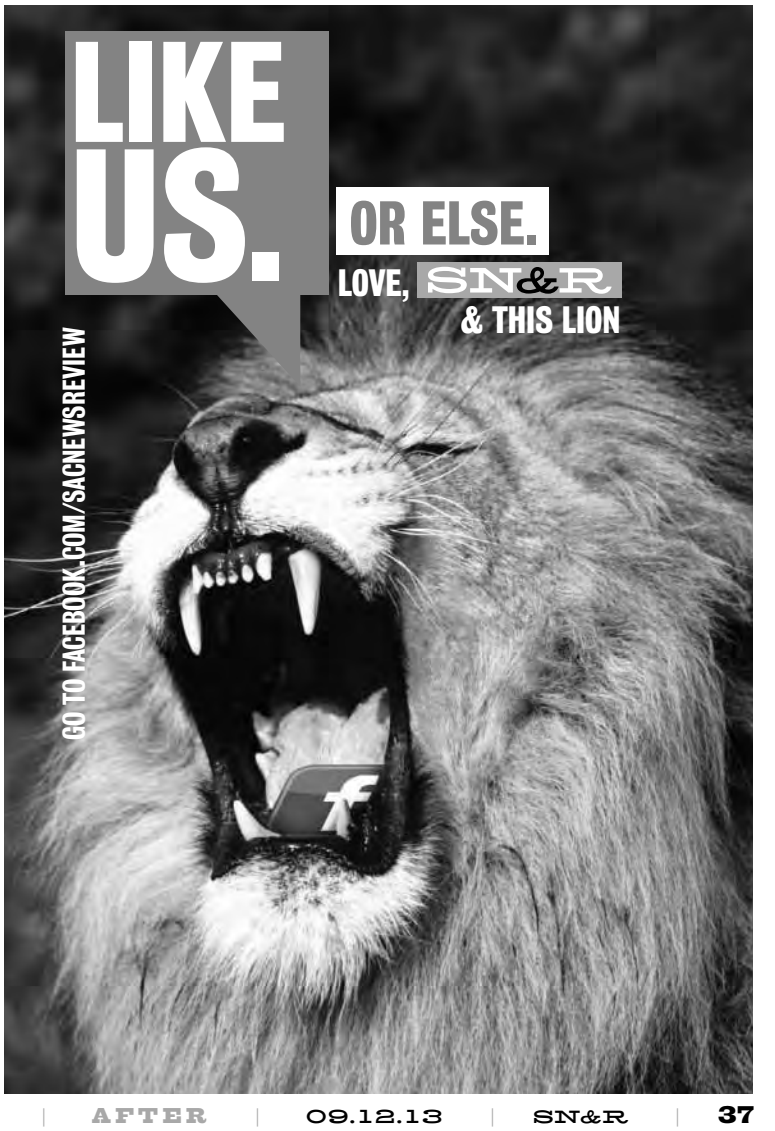


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1. Happy Day Spa

6911 Stockton Boulevard, (916) 428-8880, www.happydayspas.com

2. The Pedicure Lounge

2416 18th Street, (916) 444-2590, https://twitter.com/pedicurelounge

2. Salon Cuvee and Day Spa

4601 H Street, (916) 452-4600, www.saloncuvee.com

3. Nails 2000

1832 Fulton Avenue, (916) 978-9941

BEST BARBER SHOP

1. Anthony's Barbershop

2408 21st Street, (916) 457-1120, www.sacramentobarbershop.com

2. Barber Blues

1401 E Street, (916) 258-2583, www.barberblues.net

3. The Buzz Barber Shop

3015 1/2 J Street, (916) 442-7377

BEST TATTOO SHOP

1. Royal Peacock Tattoo Parlor

2101 P Street, (916) 448-1979

3. Legacy Tattoo

5140 Folsom Boulevard, (916) 454-5404, www.legacyinktattoo.com

2. Reclamare Gallery & Custom Tattoo

2737 Riverside Boulevard, (916) 760-7461, www.reclamareart.com

BEST PLACE TO GET A PIERCING

1. The Exotic Body

807 30th Street, (916) 447-6824, www.exoticbody.com

1. Sub Q Body Piercing

1715 I Street, (916) 446-9777

2. Bonehead Tattoos & Piercing

920 J Street, (916) 444-5631, http://boneheadtattoos.com

3. American Graffiti

1617 J Street, (916) 443-7778, www.americangtattoo.com

3. River City Tattoo

1028 Second Street, (916) 448-1212, www.rivercitytattoo.net

BEST PLACE TO BUY SUPPLIES FOR YOUR ANIMAL FRIENDS

1. Western Feed & Pet Supply

various locations, http://westernfeedonline.com

2. Pet Department Store

4747 J Street, (916) 266-0452, www.facebook.com/petdepartmentstore

3. Land Bark Pet Supply

3200 Riverside Boulevard, (916) 448-8020, www.landbarkpetsupplies.com

BEST VETERINARY HOSPITAL OR CLINIC

1. Midtown Animal Hospital

1917 P Street, (916) 446-7788, www.midtownanimalhospital.com

2. Sacramento Animal Hospital

5701 H Street, (916) 451-7213, www.mysacvet.com

3. Mueller Pet Medical Center

7625 Freeport Boulevard, (916) 428-9202, www.muellerpmc.com

BEST HOME FURNISHINGS

1. Scout Living

1215 18th Street, (916) 594-7971, www.scoutliving.com

2. 57th Street Antique Row

855 57th Street, www.57thstreetantiquerow.com

3. The Antique Company

2100 X Street, (916) 457-1099, www.theantiqueco.com

BEST PLACE TO BUY TCHOTCHKES

1. Evangeline's

13 K Street, (916) 448-2594, www.evangelines.com

2. Mixed Bag

2405 K Street, (916) 447-6123

3. Ladybug Ladybug

2512 J Street, (916) 594-7664, www.ladybugladybug.com

BEST PLACE TO BUY SEXY-TIME STUFF

1. G-Spot

2009 K Street, (916) 441-3200

2. Kiss N Tell

2401 Arden Way, (916) 920-5477, http://kissntellstore.com

3. Goldie's Adult Superstores

201 N. 12th Street, (916) 447-5860, http://adultmegastores.com

BEST STRIP CLUB

1. Gold Club Centerfolds

11363 Folsom Boulevard in Rancho Cordova, (916) 858-0444, www.goldclubcenterfolds.com

2. City Limits Showgirls

5809 Auburn Boulevard, (916) 344-8118, www.citylimitsonline.com

3. Déjà Vu Showgirls

11252 Trade Center Drive in Rancho Cordova, (916) 853-2202, http://dejavu.com

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1. Sharif Jewelers

1338 Howe Avenue, (916) 927-0542, www.sharifjewelers.com

2. Shane Co.

366 N. Sunrise Avenue in Roseville, (916) 783-3500, www.shaneco.com

3. Guzzetta & Co. Fine Jewelers

805 Howe Avenue, (916) 924-9666; 1850 Douglas Boulevard in Roseville, (916) 783-5890; www.guzzettaco.com

BEST MEDICAL-CANNABIS PHYSICIAN

1. 420 Med Evaluations

2015 Q Street, (916) 476-6142, http://420medevaluations.com

2. Cann Medical

9719 Folsom Boulevard, (916) 822-5690, http://cannmedical.org

3. MediCann

3701 J Street, Suite 240; 3449 Freedom Park Drrive in North Highlands; (866) 632-6627; www.medicann.com

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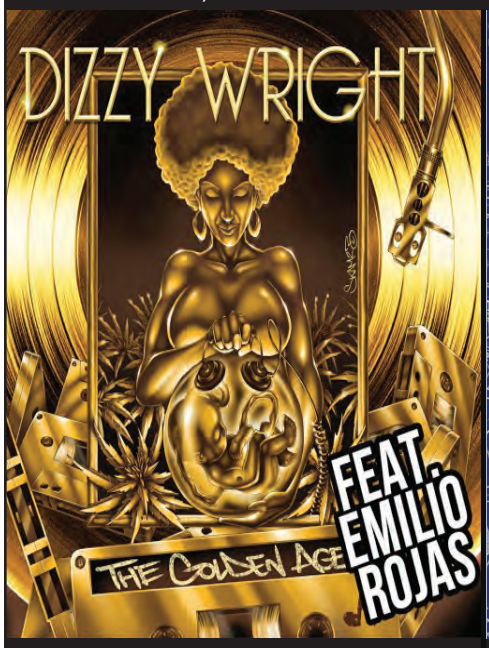
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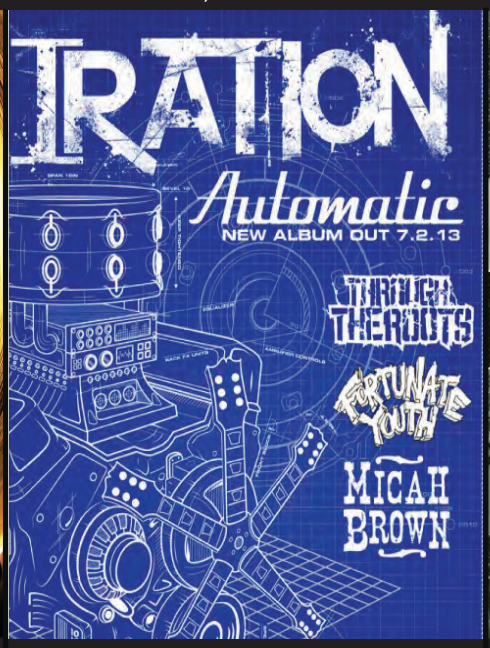
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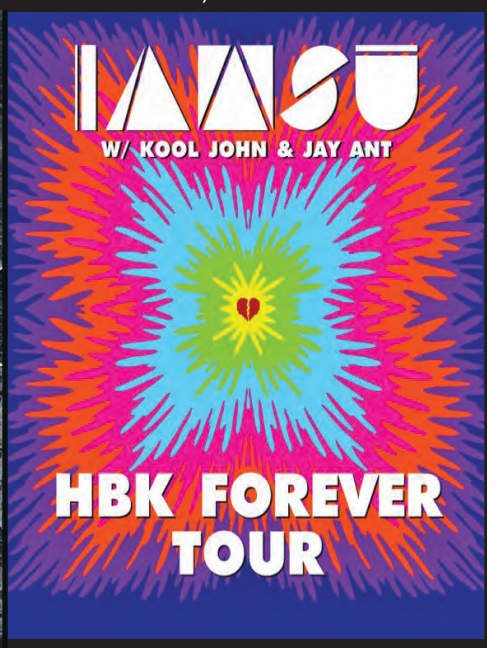
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20



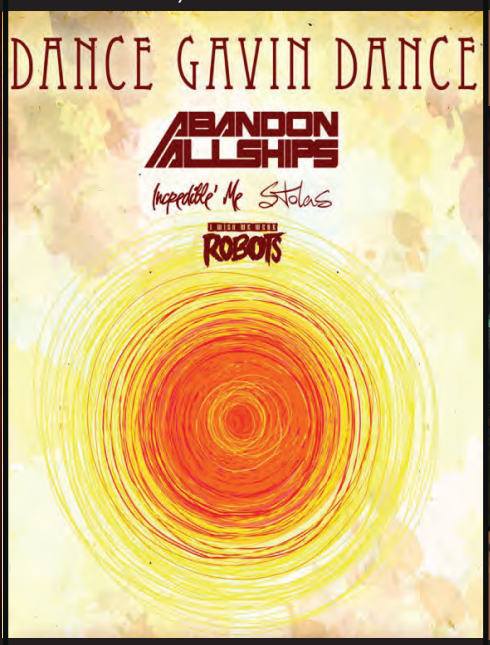
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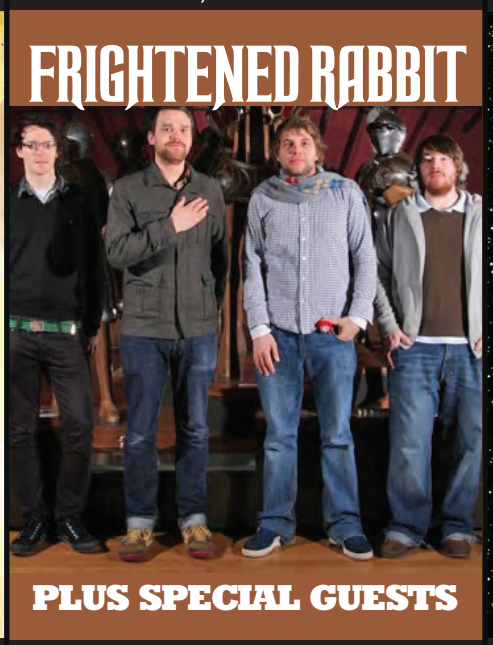
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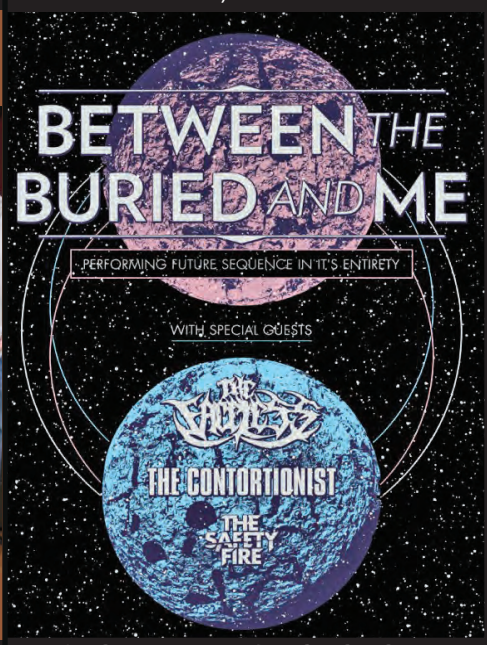
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28



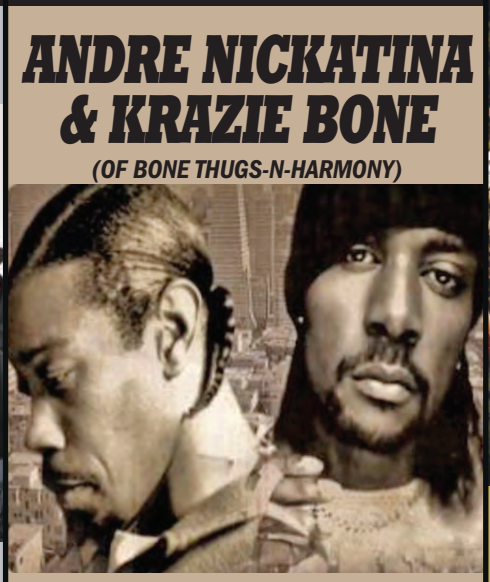
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PHOTO BY STEVEN CHEA

NIGHTLIFE AND ENTERTAINMENT
N&E

by RAHEEM F. HOSSEINI

BEST MIDNIGHT COWBOY

ROD TYLER, DOORMAN AT SIMON'S BAR & CAFE

THE LATE-AFTERNOON SUN SPLASHING AGAINST HIS BOOT HEELS, ROD TYLER sits at the bar, nursing the last quarter of a steadily warming beer. Dressed in his signature wide-brimmed Stetson and matching black shirt buttoned to the collar, Tyler, who turns 78 this month, has his back to the door, an unusual sight for those who know the cowboy.

If you've ever stumbled down 16th Street in search of a strong drink on a weekend night, chances are you've run across Tyler. Tall and drawn, with a back cut from pine, the cowboy has become a downtown fixture at Simon's Bar & Cafe, where he's worked the door for half a decade.

But this is one of the gentleman's days off, so he empties his glass, switches to vodka and chats warmly with a stranger about his eventful, knockabout life.

The Stetson has an unlikely origin. A doctor long ago told Tyler his eyes were light sensitive, and he'd need to start wearing a ball cap to shield the sun.

"It'll be a cold day in hell when I'd wear a baseball hat," Tyler says. "So, I went down and got myself a black cowboy hat. And yes, I've ridden."

He doesn't mean just horses. The former Marine, who says he almost got blown to bits aboard a tank at Camp Pendleton, rode the bulls in Redwood City until, he cracks, "I found out they were trying to kill me."

Tyler briefly took to racing motorcycles, but eventually settled into a lengthy career with Caltrans. It was after retirement when Simon Chan himself, who knew Tyler ran a bar called Rod's Hideaway in San Francisco during the 1960s, asked the cowboy to help him keep the peace.

There hasn't been a fight at the bar since. Asked his secret, the thrice-married cowboy grins.

"Be nice. And if you can't be nice, stand close." He pauses. "Because they can't swing at you." *1415 16th Street, (916) 442-7668.* □

"BEST OF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 43

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Where: Discovery Park in Sacramento, CA

Who: Point West Rotary puts on this festival to raise funds for the Weave, inc. and other children's charities, which works to bring an end to domestic violence in our community.

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Ace of Spades owners Bret Bair (left) and Eric Rushing.

PHOTO BY RYAN DONAHUE

BEST PLACE TO MARVEL AT TEENAGE FANDOM

ACE OF SPADES

by BECKY GRUNEWALD

SUBURBANITES OFTEN GET A BAD RAP among those in Midtown, but the crowd at Ace of Spades represents a more admirable side of the consequences of sprawl.

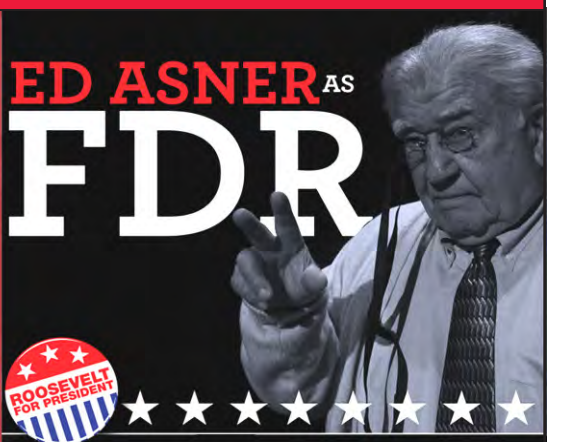
The teenage boredom that runs rampant in the suburbs—even in this Internet age—can breed rabid music fandom. And Ace of Spades is perfectly attuned to serve this crowd. It's an all-ages venue that features a calendar split between typical Juggalo fare, such as Twiztid and (Hed) P.E., and cutting-edge rap, such as Chief Keef and Tyler, the Creator. The enthusiasm shown by the teeny-boppers here makes for a refreshing change from the tepid head-bobbing that passes for enthusiasm at most shows on the grid. Oldsters can hang in one of the two bars, which both have excellent sight lines—no pushing or moshing necessary. Best of all, the staff at Ace of Spades actually starts its shows on time, and they're done by 11 p.m., the perfect time to catch a ride home with Mom or Dad. *1417 R Street, (877) 463-2875, www.aceofspadessac.com.* □

"BEST OF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

SBL ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS



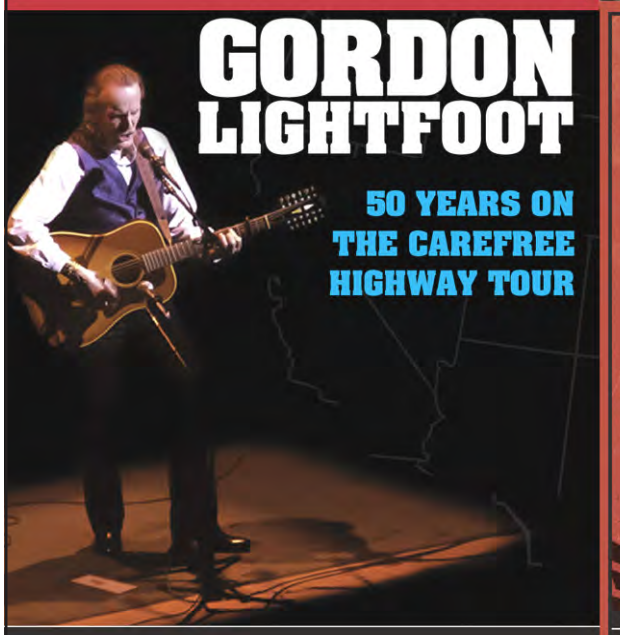
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27TH
CREST THEATRE



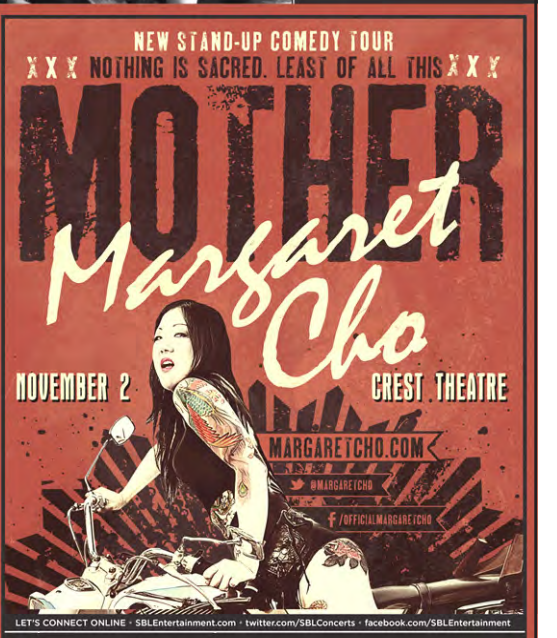
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH
CREST THEATRE



JANUARY 10
CREST THEATRE



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2ND
CREST THEATRE



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND
CREST THEATRE

DOUGIE MACLEAN
SEP 18 · ASSEMBLY

TYRON WELLS
SEP 20 · HARLOWS

AARON CARTER
NOV 12 · ASSEMBLY

MODERN ENGLISH
OCT 15 · HARLOWS

LEON RUSSELL
OCT 20 · ASSEMBLY

RUSTED ROOT
OCT 25 · HARLOWS

VIENNA TENG
NOV 22 · ASSEMBLY

ALASDAIR FRASER & NATALIE HAAS
DEC 8 · HARLOWS

RIDERS IN THE SKY
DEC 21 · "THREE STAGES" HARRIS THEATRE

SHAWN COLVIN
JAN 12 · CREST THEATRE

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SBLENTERTAINMENT.COM

WRITERS' PICKS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

PHOTO BY STEVEN CHEA



DJ Whores (nice hat, bud) is boss of bass at dance-night Grimey in Midtown.

BEST PLACE TO GET GRIMY

Grimey dance night at The Press Club

Grimey, duh. DJ Whores—a.k.a. Daniel Osterhoff—created this biweekly dance night three years ago. What is it, exactly? Well, Osterhoff describes it as "future bass." Or, to be more specific: "It showcases the newest styles and trends in heavy, low-end and electronic dance music." You don't have to know what the musical genre is called, however, to appreciate the huge bass drops, danceable beats and snatches of rap artfully mixed in. Osterhoff even mixed the classic Ying Yang Twins hit "Whistle While You Twurk" a few weeks back. Every-other Tuesday night at 9 p.m. at The Press Club, Grimey consistently features an impressive roster of guest deejays—some who are nationally or internationally touring artists, and some who are locals from surrounding areas. On any given Grimey night here, there may be spontaneous break-dancing, a local rapper doing a set, a barefoot bride-to-be who's had many too many, a weirdo raver with light-up gloves, and, for sure, a mixed crowd of folks having a good time. If you don't twerk, or even dance at all, just sit back and watch Osterhoff at work, fluidly mixing at incredible speeds. Or buy a pair of light-up gloves and make jazz hands. *2030 P Street, www.facebook.com/grimeybass.* **B.G.**

BEST LATE-NIGHT EATS WITH QUADRILINGUAL KARAOKE

Blue Moon Cafe and Karaoke

If you always wanted to stay up past midnight, eat some ice-cream and fruit-filled crepes, drink a bucket of beer, and sing karaoke in four languages (Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese and English), there's a place for that: It's Blue Moon Cafe and Karaoke, and it's a *cha chaan teng*, which means "tea food hall" in Cantonese (the same language the staff speaks). The dining room is in the front, and in the back are private karaoke rooms. And the place is open late. Like, really late—until 2 a.m. Monday through Thursday and until 3 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. Yes, it's time for late-night eats with quadrilingual karaoke. *5000 Freeport Boulevard, Suite A; (916) 706-2995.* **J.M.**

BEST BUDGET PARTY BUS TO SAVE YOU FROM THAT DUI

Sac Town Hopper

All aboard the party bus! The Sac Town Hopper, that is. A service provided by the Amador Stage Lines bus company, the Hopper helps Sacramento partygoers to go clubbing—or even club hopping—while providing a cheap and safe designated driver. On Friday and Saturday nights, the hopper gives unlimited rides for a $10 flat fee, and visits eight venues between 9 p.m. and 2 a.m. Wearing a Hopper wristband also earns revelers entry to certain clubs, access to the front of certain lines and drink specials at participating venues. Disclaimer: There's often a bunch of college students on the bus, since it picks up people near the Sacramento State University campus. *(916) 444-7880, http://amadorstagelines.com/sacramento-charter-bus-services/party-bus.* **J.M.**

BEST PLACE TO FIND OUT WHERE ALL THE COWBOYS HAVE GONE

Stoney Inn

Let's be honest: There is something incredibly sexy about a man wearing a flannel shirt tucked into tight-fitting Wranglers, especially when he owns a Ford F-150 because he actually hauls stuff, and wears boots because he steps in a lot of crap. If you are wondering where have all the cowboys gone, you might want to try a little bar over on Del Paso Boulevard. Every week, Stoney Inn offers nightly drink and food specials, live country music, karaoke, bull rides and country line dancing. Get there early to beat the cover, and learn a dance or two to impress Cowboy Hat over in the corner. *1320 Del Paso Boulevard, (916) 927-6023, www.stoneyinn.com.* J.R.

BEST PLACE TO TAKE YOUR GRANDMOTHER DANCING

Midtown Stomp

Kids these days. With their cat daddies and their werk twerks, you'd think that classy dancing had all but died. But not so fast, old sport! There's still Midtown Stomp—the ideal place to fulfill all your jitterbugging and Lindy Hopping desires. Each Friday night, hundreds flock to the dance floor to jive the night away, listen to live music from touring swing acts, and relive the glory days when ducktails and poodle skirts freely roamed the Earth. Advanced and beginner lessons are available for both lone drifters and groups. Getting married? Take a wedding-dance lesson, and wow the crowd on your big day. *915 Fourth Street, (916) 221-1500, www.midtownstomp.com.* A.K.

BEST PUSHER OF ALL THINGS ECLECTIC

Art Luna

Established in 1983, Luna's Café & Juice Bar has long been a Midtown fixture, loved not just for its healthy take on Mexican and South American food, but also for owner Art Luna's embrace of the local arts community. Photography, fine art and poetry, music and comedy—the cafe's monthly entertainment calendar is packed with events featuring local, regional and touring artists. Better yet, Luna—who is usually behind the counter, cooking—seems to know everyone's name and story. Think of it as Cheers for the creative set. *1414 16th Street, (916) 441-3931, www.lunascafe.com.* R.L.

BEST EVENING MIX

Le Twist Tuesdays

Sam I Jam—a superior deejay name, right? It's like Party McFly, except not dumb. Anyway, Sam's jam is the weekly Le Twist Tuesdays, an evening of accessible but diverse chill tunes curated by friends that decided to put on a dance night, because they just wanted to share music with each other. Twist got its start on K Street at Dive Bar—guest deejays, live electronic acts, mermaids—but this year, it moved to Midtown's LowBrau, where it's truly turned into one of the grid's more popular weeknight affairs. The crowd is as eclectic as the tunes blasted by founder Sam and host deejays Adam J, Taylor Cho, Roger Carpio and their guests. What I like about it is that it's probably the only night in town where dark-wave deejays spin for neon-haired kids sipping half-liters of German Weihenstephaner beer—with a dash of Serge Gainsbourg. *Bon sang! Tuesday nights at LowBrau, 1050 20th Street; www.facebook.com/letwisttuesdays.* N.M.

BEST DANCE NIGHT FOR THE KIDS

Midtown BarFly

For years, the building that houses Bacon & Butter (killer breakfast) and newish dance club Midtown BarFly was pretty much cursed. As in, "That place sucks." And now, in the past couple years, the spot has come alive and is making its stride, sunrise to well-past sunset, with great eats in the a.m. and ferociously popular dancing after dark. BarFly, operated by Susan Durst—also general manager at The Press Club a few blocks south—has captured a cool mix of beats enthusiasts (think the recent drum 'n' bass Dieselboy gig), dub and reggae, bass music, and even rock (City of Vain and Bastards of Young have gigged there in the past month). Plus, goth, house and salsa and swing-dancing nights. And, let's not forget that BarFly is for the kids: It's an 18-and-older joint, one of the few spots like it on the grid. *1119 21st Street, www.facebook.com/midtownbarfly.* N.M.

BEST PLACE TO FORGET ABOUT YOUR NIGHT IN JAIL

Chambers Room

Waiting for your buddy's arraignment from last night's drunken shenanigans? Rough morning in court? Whatever the reason you're around the Sacramento County Main Jail, you might as well check out the Chambers Room, perhaps the deepest dive the central city has to offer. Oh, and we have no assessment on the quality of its cocktails. When you go to the Chambers Room, you ask Susie for the usual: a 40-ounce PBR for $5, chilled. Save the rest of your dough for the jukebox. *701 J Street, (916) 446-2082.* D.K.

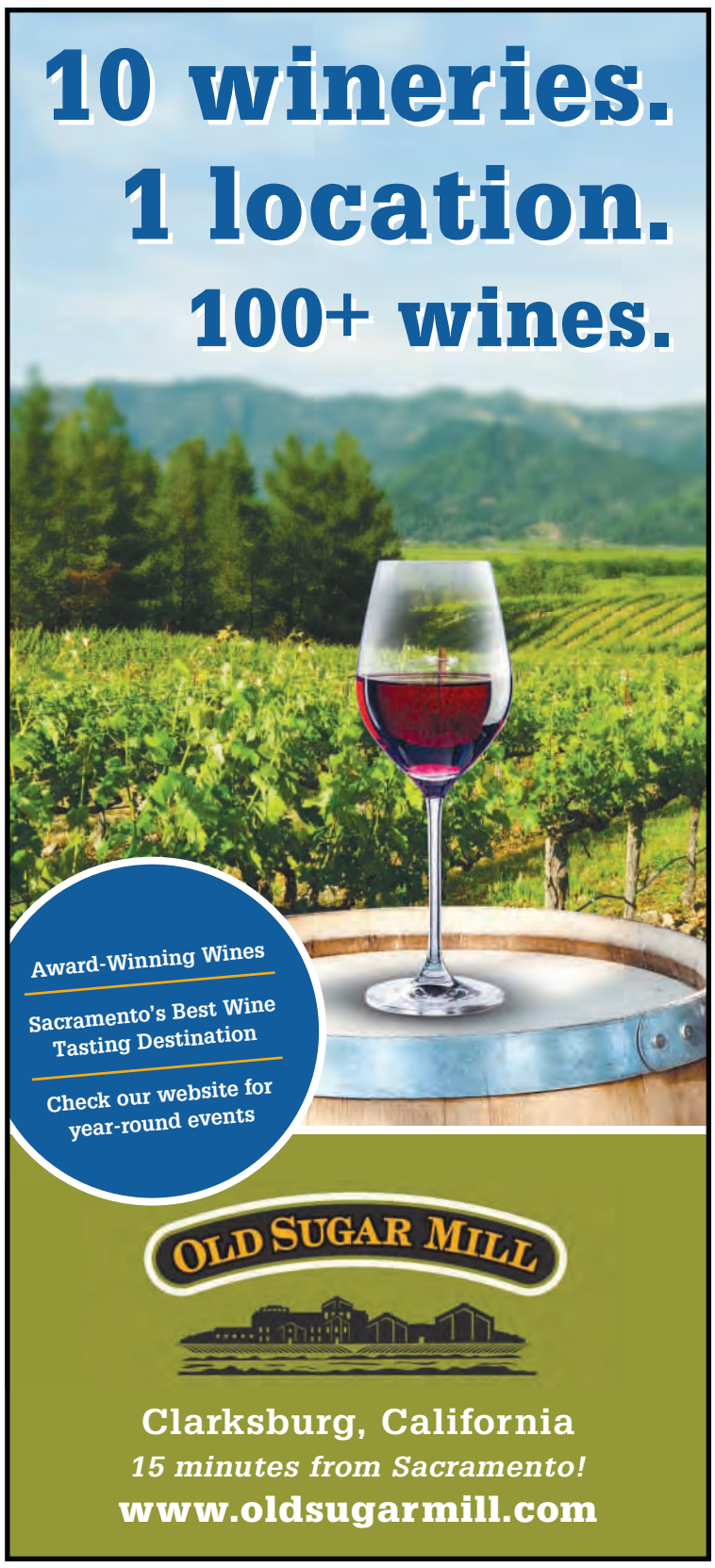
BEST LATE-NIGHT BITE—WITH A SHOW

Gogi's Korean BBQ

Fueled by gallons of sugar-rimmed cocktails and then left simmering in the cramped quarters of area bars and clubs, the mob that appears in hopes of hailing cabs on the corner of L and 15 streets on Saturday nights exhibits all the drama and intrigues of a weekday *telenovela*. For the slightly inebriated observer, Gogi's Korean BBQ is the perfect angle for observation, though you should probably reserve judgment. Chances are, you're as toasted as anyone else out here as you struggle to place your order for a cup of water and short-rib tacos. Karma can be a real bitch like that. *1431 L Street, (916) 442-7333.* J.B.

"BEST OF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 47





CRAWFISH & CATFISH FESTIVAL

September 14th & 15th



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- ribs
- jambalaya
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READERS' PICKS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 45



PHOTO BY STEVEN CHEA

Marco Cabodi (center), from the improvisational-comedy troupe Shirley Tempting, performs, but he probably already knows that Sacramento Comedy Spot is this town's favorite place to laugh it up.

BEST PLACE TO SEE LIVE MUSIC

1. Ace of Spades

1417 R Street, (877) 463-2875, http://aceofspadessac.com

2. Harlow's Restaurant & Nightclub

2708 J Street, (916) 441-4693, www.harlows.com

3. Torch Club

904 15th Street, (916) 443-2797, www.torchclub.net

BEST ALL-AGES MUSIC VENUE

1. Ace of Spades

1417 R Street, (877) 463-2875, http://aceofspadessac.com

2. Bows & Arrows

1815 19th Street, (916) 822-5668, www.bowscollective.com

3. Sol Collective

2574 21st Street, (916) 476-3628, www.facebook.com/artcultureactivism

BEST PLACE TO GO DANCING

1. Faces

2000 K Street, (916) 448-7798, www.faces.net

2. The Press Club

2030 P Street, (916) 444-7914, www.facebook.com/thepressclub

3. Badlands

2003 K Street, (916) 448-8790, www.sacbadlands.com

BEST GAY CLUB

1. Faces

2000 K Street, (916) 448-7798, www.faces.net

2. Mercantile Saloon

1928 L Street, (916) 447-0792

3. Badlands

2003 K Street, (916) 448-8790, www.sacbadlands.com

BEST KARAOKE

1. Pine Cove Tavern

509 29th Street; (916) 446-3624; www.pinecovetavern.com

2. Hamburger Patties

1630 J Street, (916) 441-4340, www.hamburger-patties.com,

(RIP—closed as of September 2)

3. The Distillery

2107 L Street, (916) 443-8815

BEST PLACE TO KNOCK DOWN PINS

1. Capitol Bowl

900 W. Capitol Avenue in West Sacramento, (916) 371-4200, www.capbowl.com

2. Country Club Lanes

2600 Watt Avenue, (916) 483-5105, www.countryclublanes.com

3. AMF Land Park Lanes

5850 Freeport Boulevard, (916) 421-3671, www.amf.com/landparklanes

BEST SPOT FOR POOL

1. Blue Cue

1004 28th Street, (916) 441-6810, www.bluecue.com

2. R15

1431 R Street, (916) 930-9191, www.r15bar.com

3. Hard Times Billiards

5536 Garfield Avenue, (916) 332-8793, http://hardtimesbilliards.com

BEST TRIVIA NIGHT

1. Simon MacMillan Memorial Pub Quiz at Streets of London Pub

Sundays at 9 p.m., 1804 J Street, (916) 498-1388; Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m., 2200 Lake Washington Boulevard in West Sacramento, (916) 376-9066; www.streetsoflondon.net

2. The Shack

Wednesdays at 6 p.m., 5201 Folsom Boulevard; (916) 457-5997; http://eastsacshack.com

3. Bonn Lair

Sundays at 8:30 p.m., 3651 J Street; (916) 455-7155; www.bonnlair.com

BEST COMEDY CLUB

1. Sacramento Comedy Spot

1050 20th Street, Suite 130; (916) 444-3137; http://saccomedyspot.com

2. Punch Line Comedy Club

2100 Arden Way, Suite 225; (916) 925-5500; http://punchlinesac.com

3. Laughs Unlimited

1207 Front Street, (916) 446-8128, www.laughsunlimited.com

BEST OPEN-MIC NIGHT

1. Luna's Café & Juice Bar

1414 16th Street, (916) 441-3931, www.lunascafe.com

2. Fox & Goose

1001 R Street, (916) 443-8825, www.foxandgoose.com

3. Shine

1400 E Street, (916) 551-1400, www.shinesacramento.com

BEST PLACE TO WATCH IT ON THE BIG SCREEN

1. Crest Theatre

1013 K Street, (916) 442-5189, www.thecrest.com

2. Tower Theatre

2508 Land Park Drive, (916) 442-0985, www.readingcinemasus.com

3. West Wind Sacramento 6 Drive-In

9616 Oates Drive, (916) 363-6572, www.westwinddriveins.com

BEST FESTIVAL

1. Sacramento Beer Week

http://sacramentobeerweek.com

2. Chalk it Up

www.chalkitup.org

3. Sacramento French Film Festival

www.sacramentofrenchfilmfestival.org

BEST CASINO

1. Thunder Valley Casino Resort

1200 Athens Avenue in Lincoln, (916) 408-7777, www.thundervalleyresort.com

2. Red Hawk Casino

Red Hawk Parkway in Placerville, (530) 677-7000, www.redhawkcasino.com

3. Jackson Rancheria Casino Resort

12222 New York Ranch Road in Jackson, (800) 822-9466, www.jacksoncasino.com

"BEST OF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 51

sac pride News
September 12, 2013 · SPECIAL ISSUE



NEWS SHORTS

Read the full-length version of these stories and more on sacpridenews.com

An Evening with Greg Louganis

Helping to raise AIDS awareness in Sacramento was four-time Olympic Gold Medalist, Greg Louganis. The event was hosted by Capital City AIDS Fund (CCAF) on Sept. 5 at the Hyatt Regency. All VIP guests received a free copy of Louganis' book, "Breaking the Surface."

Pride48 Podcasting Convention

Over 100 podcasters and listeners attended the 5th Annual Pride48 LGBTQ and friendly podcast gathering, Sept. 5-9 in Las Vegas, Nev. The event, sponsored by Pride Media and held at the Excalibur Hotel was streamed live over pride48.com to thousands of listeners around the world. Started by Adam Burns and Daniel J. Brewer as a way of giving an interactive forum to podcasters and their listeners, the event featured a live chat room and broadcasting stream.

Pride Media Launch

On Aug. 29, Pride Media held their company's launch party at Vizcaya. With 150 in attendance, it was a great success. The crowd consisted of community members, business owners, youth activists, spiritual leaders and more. Everyone came together to welcome and celebrate the unveiling of the multi-channel media company, Pride Media.

SGMC

The Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus (SGMC) has offered plenty of pageantry and showmanship for Sacramento and the outlying areas and now you can too! SGMC will be holding their final New Member Welcome Night on Thurs., Sept. 19. So come and try out. The SGMC will also be holding a donor appreciation dinner on Fri. Sept. 27.

Rainbow Festival

Sacramento's Rainbow Festival was this past Labor Day weekend, and played host to Kat DeLuna, Christina Milian, Daniel Alexander, Jaymes & James Kwanza, Jones Honey Mahogany, Andrew Christian Runway Show, Rendezvous w/ Cool Beans, Vicky Vox, and DJ VH1 Center Stage at 20th and K Streets in Downtown Sacramento.

COMING NEXT WEEK

- Jerry Sloan's victory over the Moral Majority and the impact today
- Events, News and more!







Photos (counter-clockwise from top left): Sacramento Sirens at Rainbow Festival. Rainbow Festival 2013 Street Scene. Pride Media Launch Party Company Photo, Left to Right: Wayne Myrick, Shane Maloney, Jovi Radtke, Kevin Manz, Rocco DeMarco, Debi Smith, Gregg Rasmussen, Tyler Edwards, J. Todd Lohse, Melissa Martinez, Matthew Burlingame. An Evening With Greg Louganis. Left to Right: Greg Louganis, Gregg Rasmussen, Debi Smith.

To Benefit the Rainbow Chamber Foundation Scholarship Fund
GAY-SINO ROYALE
A ROARING 20'S ADVENTURE
$75
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& Enjoy Casino Night
Tuesday
September 17th
6:00 - 9:00 pm
www.RAINBOWCHAMBER.com
Vizcaya
2018 21st St.
Sacramento, CA 95818

EVENT CALENDAR

Sacramento Red Dress Party

Sat., Oct. 5, VIP 8 p.m., General 9:30 p.m., Badlands, sacramentoreddressparty.org

Drag Queen Bingo

Thurs., Oct. 3, 6 p.m., 1930 K St.

SIGLFF.ORG

Thurs.-Sat., Oct. 10-12, 916-304-FILM, siglff.org

22nd Annual Curtis Park Wine Tasting

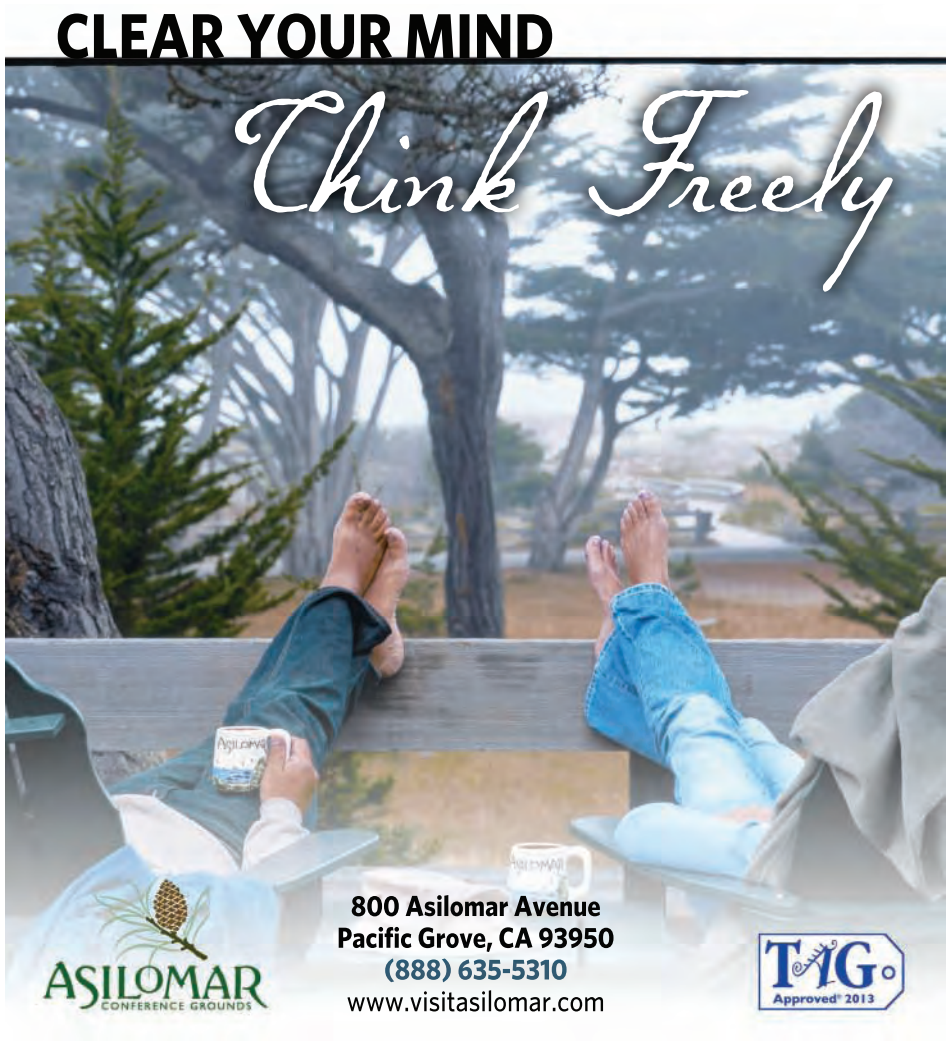
Sun., Oct. 6, 4 p.m., Sierra 2 Center, 916-452-3005, sierra2.org

We graciously thank those individuals and businesses who so generously contributed to the success of Pride Media's Launch Event held at Vizcaya.

Asilomar Convention Center
Hoppy Brewing Company
Monterey Bay Aquarium
Capital City Productions
Clear Channel
Fast Signs
Phil Rice Design
Renwood Winery
Illuminare Winery
Beemer Winery
Sassy Sweets by Monique
and the fabulous photographers, videographers, DJ and staff at Vizcaya!

We couldn't have done it without you!

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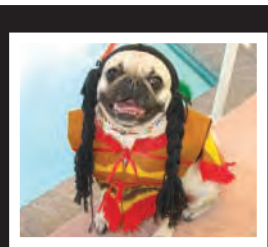
















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C2520



P&P PEOPLE AND PERSONALITIES

PHOTO BY RYAN DONAHUE

BEST CELEBRITY FAT CAT

NORM LOPEZ

by DAVE KEMPA

HE'S CHUBBY. HE'S FURRY. HE'S THE INTERNATIONAL PHENOMENON who spends his days sprawled across the sidewalk on 14th Street between P and Q streets.

Norm Lopez, the 26-pound feline of the central city's Friends of Norm Pub Crawl fame, has gained quite the following this summer, thanks to a local feature story on him picked up by the Associated Press.

According to Norm's human and social-media representative, Tyler Lopez, Norm's Facebook page has ballooned from around 500 friends early in the summer, to more than 5,000. His new fans hail from all corners of the globe: Brazil, Scotland, Malaysia, Germany, Switzerland, China, Italy and, most recently, France.

"I'm learning how to spell 'meow' in all kinds of languages," said Tyler.

Tyler first got Norm in January 2011, when the cat made it clear to her that he preferred to be an outdoor one. Over time, Tyler noticed Norm harnessing attention from neighbors, with passersby consistently stopping to wish him good day. That's when she decided to host the first Friends of Norm barbecue celebration, which about 40 of the cat's closest buddies attended.

This year, however, Tyler realized that Norm had just too many friends for a simple barbecue, so she created the Friends of Norm Pub Crawl, a celebration that took place on August 31, from which a portion of proceeds went to the Front Street Animal Shelter.

The neighborhood crawl also featured a $2 raffle that included prizes donated from local businesses, such as The Red Rabbit Kitchen & Bar, Dad's Kitchen, Magpie Cafe, and Chocolate Fish Coffee.

Asked how the 12-year-old fat cat is handling his newfound fame, Tyler played it cool.

"Oh, he's fine. He's relaxed," she said. "Nothing really out of the norm … for Norm." *www.facebook.com/norm.lopez.* □

"BEST OF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 52

INAUGURAL
Sactoberfest
OCT. 19TH
BRIDGE DISTRICT • WEST SAC
2013

NOON – 10:00 PM
RIVERFRONT ST. & BRIDGE ST.

Strap on your lederhosen, cinch up your dirndl dress and come experience Sactoberfest – a traditional Oktoberfest-style outdoor festival under a huge tent! Premium German biers, traditional German food, games, live music, entertainment and more!

VISIT SACTOBERFEST.COM
FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets start at just $20 and include a 1/2-Litre styrene Munich stein* with your first beer free!
Pre-sale pricing is good only through September 23rd so get your tickets now at sactoberfest.com!
Premium and all-inclusive VIP tickets also available.

*First 1,000 through the gates

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PHOTO BY RYAN DONAHUE



BEST COMEDIAN WHO WON'T MAKE A DICK JOKE

RAY MOLINA

by BECKY GRUNEWALD

IT'S NOT THAT RAY MOLINA IS ABOVE A CRUDE JOKE. But he doesn't drain that main vein of comedy to get cheap laughs. Rather, the local stand-up artist gets material from a darker place, then spins a story that makes his audience laugh and wince at the same time.

One such bit involves an incident when a chubby, young Molina had to decide between intervening in a violent family fight or maintaining control of his bologna sandwich. You'll have to catch one of his sets to find out which impulse wins.

Molina speaks in a calm, well-modulated tone, almost mumbling at times. That and his openness about his travails create an intimacy with the audience that's lacking in many abrasive "dudes do this, chicks do that" comedians.

He's no milquetoast, though. He hosts the monthly comedy open-mic night at Bows & Arrows (1815 19th Street), and he can zing a hack in such a civilized tone, that said hack may not realize he's been insulted.

Molina gigs frequently at MoMo Sacramento (2708 J Street), Laughs Unlimited (1207 Front Street), Punch Line Comedy Club (2100 Arden Way) and the Sacramento Comedy Spot (1050 20th Street, Suite 130). *www.facebook.com/molinaray*. □



PHOTO BY RYAN DONAHUE

BEST

NO-NONSENSE BARTENDER

MARTA GURR AT HENRY'S LOUNGE

by CODY DRABBLE

AT LAID-BACK DOWNTOWN DIVE BAR HENRY'S LOUNGE, MARTA GURR WILL CHARM THE PIMENTO OUT OF YOUR MARTINI'S OLIVE.

Gurr says she's seen—and served—it all during her long and colorful career behind the counter. "You have to realize, I've been doing this 56 years this October," she told SN&R. "I've worked everything from private clubs to dive bars to hotels in all the years."

She remembers when she started: Vodka had achieved hipster status on the coattails of Ian Fleming's 007 novels and films. These days, she takes good care of her regulars, many of whom live in the single-room-occupancy hotels near Henry's.

"Having regulars is definitely important," she said, gesturing to a patron who goes by Buzz. "Especially one who likes to straighten the chairs and stools, and clean my tables for me." Buzz smiled and nodded at Gurr, thanking her for warm hospitality and a ginger ale.

> "I ASK THEM IF THEY'D LIKE TO THROW UP IN TECHNICOLOR, OR IF THEY'D REALLY LIKE TO HAVE AN ENJOYABLE DRINK."
>
> **Marta Gurr**
> bartender

Early in her career behind the bar, she regularly served bigwigs, including legendary San Francisco Chronicle columnist Charles McCabe at Gino and Carlo. "He'd have a Rainier ale, write the column [and] grab a cab to go to work," she recalled, "and don't anybody dare sit in [his regular] stool at 9 o'clock in the morning!"

After all these years, Gurr said she's now ready to write her own memoir. "It would be called *Last Night, and Again This Morning: Same Old Bullshit, Different Stool*."

Indeed, Gurr boasts very little patience for patrons of the microbrew, craft-cocktail and wine-snob scene. "I ask them if they'd like to throw up in Technicolor, or if they'd really like to have an enjoyable drink." *1117 Ninth Street, (916) 446-0739.* □

"BEST OF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 54

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PHOTOS BY ANNE STOKES



Annie Johnson beat 3,400 beer brewers to win the country's largest home-brewing competition.



READERS' PICKS

BEST INSTAGRAM EYE ON THE CITY

@maynorchrome

It seems like anyone can take a halfway-decent smartphone pic if they just choose the right filter. But Instagram user Mario Maynor has mastered the art of all those X-Pro II, sunrise and Nashville special effects. With photos that largely depict downtown Sacramento—vertigo-inducing skyscrapers; an abstract, Hitchcock-esque shot of the Delta King; a dreamy Capitol Park at sunset—Maynor puts the city in a, dare we say it, world-class light. *http://instagram.com/maynorchrome.* R.L.

BEST HIPSTERS

Hmong Innovating Politics

The HIP shall inherit the earth. And with good reason. Since forming a year ago, the diverse, highly motivated 20-somethings at the center of Hmong Innovating Politics have made a name for themselves by proving the establishment naysayers wrong. Young people can build a sustained movement. Underrepresented minority groups do have a place in local government. And as for lost causes? Says who? HIP has antagonized several goliaths in its short but active existence—heavy-handed school administrators and big-box retailers, among them. All the while, HIPsters (as members refer to themselves) continue battling for the little guy, whether it's low-income neighborhoods losing their schools or small-business owners who don't want Walmart driving them out. To paraphrase pop-rock god Huey Lewis, it's HIP to be fair. *http://hipsacramento.tumblr.com.* RFH

BEST AUTHORITY FIGURES

California Highway Patrol Mounted Unit

No one wants to get pulled over by the police. But if you're that pizza-delivery guy on a bike on August 20, who ran a red light on K Street and was thus chased down by two officers atop galloping draft horses, you have to admit, that's more story-worthy than being stopped by a cop in a sedan. The California Highway Patrol Mounted Unit keeps the peace around the Capitol, and while the Sacramento Police Department has its own mounted unit, too, the latter usually gets all the media glory because of its wider patrol range downtown. And oh, yeah, because of that flashy new recruit it got earlier this year (hi, Patrick). But the CHP horses are massive, awe-inspiring draft horses that make great ambassadors to the public, because they're so approachable to little—and grown-up—girls and boys. Not to be outdone, the unit has a gargantuan-forelocked new recruit, too (hi, Wyatt). Plus, no offense, but what has more street cred: a cop in a cruiser, on a bike or on a horse? This is the Wild West, after all. *www.chp.ca.gov/depts_divs_offs/field_ops.html.* S.

BEST SACRAMENTO AMBASSADOR

Steve Vanoni

The man known by many simply as "Vanoni" has been living in Tallinn, Estonia, for years now. But once every so often, he pops back to Sac (looking the same as he has forever), and we get to find out what he's been up to in the land of saunas and wife-carrying. He is building art boats in Finland, acting in films and participating in musical performances—much like what he has done here. He has even been on the cover of Eesti Ekspress, the country's politically independent weekly paper. I hope they take good care of our Sacramento treasure (or at least the beautiful Estonian women do!). G.G.

BEST INKER

Jessica Ann White

Maybe it's fitting that Jessica Ann White once flirted with a medical career. After all, in just three years, the Reclamare Gallery & Custom Tattoo artist with the vivid color palette has cultivated a reputation for such delicate line work that the term "surgical precision" comes to mind. It takes a steady hand and a hummingbird's lightness to evoke the images White does. "Deep down, I think I always wanted to be an artist," the former wedding photographer admits, "but I didn't think I could survive. This is the first job I've ever had that I didn't complain about." White's clients aren't complaining, either. *Reclamare Gallery & Custom Tattoo, 2737 Riverside Boulevard; (916) 760-7461; www.reclamareart.com; www.jessicaannwhite.com.* RFH

BEST CUTTING REMARKS

Fly Cuts & Styles

Toriano Mason has one large hand wrapped around a fragrant Popeyes chicken breast, as the other drags a gnawing clipper up the scalp of a Latino male customer, who's long since gone to his happy place. As the young man's meticulous fade attests, he's in expert hands. Fly Cuts & Styles, on the edge of south Sacramento's Little Saigon neighborhood, is the place you come if you need a tight fade and an ego check. It's renowned in the neighborhood as the shop that cares, where older gentlemen play chess in the back, and young kids with good grades are rewarded with small jobs and pocket change. It's also a riotous improv experience from the moment you enter. "You might just be sitting here getting a whole show," Mason says. He's right. The cool, gracious owner and his outgoing barbers will cut you up with their clippers and good-natured humor. *6955 Stockton Boulevard, (916) 399-8165.* RFH

BEST HOME-BREWER IN THE COUNTRY, THAT'S RIGHT!

Annie Johnson

Earlier this summer at the biggest home-brewing competition in the country, Sacramento's Annie Johnson beat out more than 3,000 other brewers and took home the top prize. Many consider beer-brewing a man's world, and a woman hadn't won the National Homebrewers Conference title in 30 years. Her winning beer was a lager, which often is not the most coveted or admired style among beer advocates, yet she beat out the flock to bring first place to the River City. If you want to learn more about home-brewing, and maybe even bump into Johnson, visit Brew Ferment Distill (3216 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard); she recently batched a saison at the facility. Cheers! N.M.

BEST REPORTER

1. **Ryan Lillis**
The Sacramento Bee, www.sacbee.com
2. **Bob Moffitt**
Capital Public Radio, www.capradio.org
3. **Carla Meyer**
The Sacramento Bee, www.sacbee.com

BEST LOCAL MEDIA PERSONALITY TO HAVE A BEER WITH

1. **Blair Anthony Robertson**
The Sacramento Bee, www.sacbee.com
2. **Nick Brunner**
Capital Public Radio, www.capradio.org
3. **Isaac Gonzalez**
www.ransackedmedia.com

BEST SEDUCTIVE RADIO VOICE

1. **Devin Yamanaka**
Capital Public Radio, www.capradio.org
2. **Alan Ray**
Capital Public Radio, www.capradio.org
3. **Ashley Nickels**
KDND 107.9 FM The End, www.endonline.com

BEST PERSON TO MAKE YOU LAUGH

1. **Carlos Rodriguez**
2. **Jovon Torres**
www.jovontorres.com
3. **Keith Lowell Jensen**
www.facebook.com/keithlowelljensen

BEST METEOROLOGIST TO TRUST FOR YOUR WEATHER FORECAST

1. **Dirk Verdoorn, KCRA 3**
2. **Dave Bender, CBS 13**
3. **Monica Woods, News10**

BEST LOCAL MORNING RADIO SHOW

1. ***Rob, Arnie & Dawn in the Morning***
KRXQ 98.5 FM 98 Rock, www.robarnieanddawn.com
2. ***The Armstrong & Getty Show***
Talk 650 KSTE, www.armstrongandgetty.talk910.com
3. ***Wake Up Call***
KDND 107.9 FM, The End, www.endonline.com

BEST PUBLIC SERVANT

1. **Mayor Kevin Johnson**
www.cityofsacramento.org/mayor
2. **Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg**
www.sd06.senate.ca.gov
3. **Councilwoman Angelique Ashby**
www.angeliqueashby.com

"BEST OF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 57



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Blind Boys of Alabama Christmas Show • DEC 13
Grupo Corpo • FEB 4
San Francisco Symphony • FEB 13

The King's Singers • FEB 14
The Chieftains • FEB 19
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Les Ballets Trockadero De Monte Carlo • MAR 27
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PHOTO BY RYAN DONAHUE

ARTS AND SMARTS

A&S

BEST ARTIST TO BRING SACRAMENTO COMIC RELIEF

by JESSICA RINE

EBEN E.B. BURGOON

AFTER A FAILED ATTEMPT ON KICKSTARTER LAST YEAR, writer Eben E.B. Burgoon's new comic-book project, *B-Squad: Soldiers of Misfortune*, is finally coming to fruition.

"After it didn't get funded the first time … I told myself I would take any kind of tax return I get, bundle that all up, and I'm going to back *B-Squad* [myself]," Burgoon said.

Money in hand, he approached artist Lauren Monardo.

EBEN E.B. BURGOON IS THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THE STORY OF A GROUP OF SACRAMENTO-BASED CUT-RATE MERCENARIES TAKING ON THE DANGEROUS AND RIDICULOUS MISSIONS THE A-SQUAD WON'T TOUCH.

"I took about $3,000, went to Lauren and was like, 'All right, Lauren, illustrate [this] and get paid to do it.'"

With Monardo, who had previously illustrated for Cartoon Network series *The Venture Bros.*, at the artistic helm, Burgoon put *B-Squad* on Kickstarter again in August—this time with more success. The second campaign raised $6,718.

Burgoon is the mastermind behind the story of a group of Sacramento-based cut-rate mercenaries taking on the dangerous and ridiculous missions the A-Squad won't touch. For a perilous twist, each issue Burgoon will kill off a character at random, chosen by spinning a six-sided die.

"In comic books, they always kill characters, and then they come back," said Burgoon. "They aren't willing to just part with them. I thought, I can just make a ton of characters and just start killing them off one at a time."

He also aims to highlight his favorite parts about Sacramento in the comic, including his collaboration with Tapigami creator and artist Danny Scheible. Scheible will show up as a supervillain in *B-Squad*'s second issue.

"There's a whole scene in the second issue where the squad is going to be chasing Danny's business partner Tre [Borden] around town in, like, a car chase," said Burgoon.

He'll also take on notable local spots.

"We're going to try to highlight local businesses that I like. You know, they're going to drive by LowBrau, Bows & Arrows, and they are going to drive through Midtown," Burgoon said. "[It will] highlight as much as I can about what is cool about Sacramento." *http://bsquadcomic.com.* □

"BEST OF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 59

by RACHEL LEIBROCK

BEST BEST LARGER-THAN-LIFE DAYDREAMERS

SOFIA LACIN AND HENNESSY CHRISTOPHEL OF L/C MURAL & DESIGN

SOMETIMES TO SOLVE A PROBLEM, ONE NEEDS TO SIMPLY APPROACH IT FROM ANOTHER ANGLE, see it in a different light, perhaps.

That's the tact muralists Sofia Lacin and Hennessy Christophel took as they brainstormed ideas for Davis' 4-million gallon East Area Water Tank. For months, they studied the water structure—the way the sun hit its sides at various points in the day, for example.

"It was just sitting and contemplating, 'What's going to create life?'" Christophel says.

Davis, they theorized, should be celebrated for its commitment to education, technology and the environment.

Eventually, they hit upon the answer.

"Movement creates life," Lacin says now.

"Same Sun," the resulting mural that now curves around the cement cylinder, says as much as about the city as it does about the women who created it. To complete the painting, the pair built a scale model of the tower, commissioned work from sculptor Terrence Martin, hired a landscape artist, and then spent six months working from their perch on a 32-foot scissor lift.

The resulting piece is nothing short of epic: 1,400-square feet of swirling, earthy colors (some applied with paint sprayers, others applied obsessively by hand) and an incomplete rendition of the Latin phrase: "Sol Omnibus Lucet," or "the sun shines upon us all." Now, each year on the summer solstice, people visit to observe as the sun shines through a series of Martin's commissioned metal sculptures (positioned just so, thanks to the landscape artist) to cast moving shadows that render the phrase whole.

"That's important to us—to create community interaction, to spark curiosity, to teach people about art," Lacin says.

Lacin, 28, and Christophel, 27, have worked together for five years, but their history runs much deeper. The friends met as students at Mira Loma High School, stayed close even as they studied art at different colleges—Lacin at UC Davis, then Italy, and Christophel at UC Santa Cruz—and then reconnected when Lacin was commissioned to create a mural for Crepeville in Davis.

Lacin enlisted her friend to help, and since then, the pair formed its own firm, L/C Mural & Design, and has completed more than four-dozen murals, including pieces for the Sacramento Bingo Center, the Capitol Area Development Authority and Shady Lady Saloon.

They approach each project with an eye for minute elements and big-picture impact. As they agonized over the bingo mural, for example, the two women found themselves lying in the center's parking lot, staring at the building until inspiration struck. The result is a graphic blend of letters, numbers and colors that draws on Lacin's affinity for bold colors and Christophel's passion for detail and typography.

Ultimately, Lacin says, "we really consider the design to be the most important piece."

This summer, Lacin and Christophel moved into a sprawling north Sacramento warehouse. Now, as they take on more work, there's talk of inspiration, travel and even legacy.

"We'd like to do a project in Sacramento that has the same impact as the Davis tower," Lacin says.

Or, as Christophel puts it:

"We want to be seen as art leaders in Sacramento." *www.lcmuraldesign.com* □

PHOTO BY RYAN DONAHUE



Muralists Sofia Lacin (left) and Hennessy Christophel create works that marry the former's love for big, bold graphics with the latter's keen sense of obsessive detail.



PHOTO BY STEVEN CHEA

by BECKY GRUNEWALD

BEST ART-HOUSE THEATER TO RESCUE FILM GEEKS

VARSITY THEATRE

DO YOU REALIZE that Sacramento might be facing a future in which it has no single dedicated art-house movie screen? The Crest Theatre closed down its two lower-story theaters and now only shows special-event films on its main screen. The Tower Theatre, meanwhile, always seems on the verge of crumbling. Who will save us from endless screens showing *Transformers 69: Optimus Prime Gets Laid* or *Pixar Presents: Dante's Inferno*?

Relax, the Varsity Theatre in Davis is not going anywhere. Know why? Because college students still like to go see movies, and college professors still like to go see arty movies as a break from those stuffy ivory towers. The Varsity has been open in its current location since 1950. It's not a grand movie palace like the Crest, but it's cozy and still has a few Streamline Moderne features intact. As a bonus, there's a counter through which you can buy gelato from the Icekrimski Cafe next door. So, if you're stressed about getting your fix of Palestinian movies or missing the latest empty bauble from Sofia Coppola, drive across the causeway and breathe a sigh of relief. *616 Second Street in Davis, (530) 758-5284, www.davisvarsity.net.* □

"BEST OF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 60

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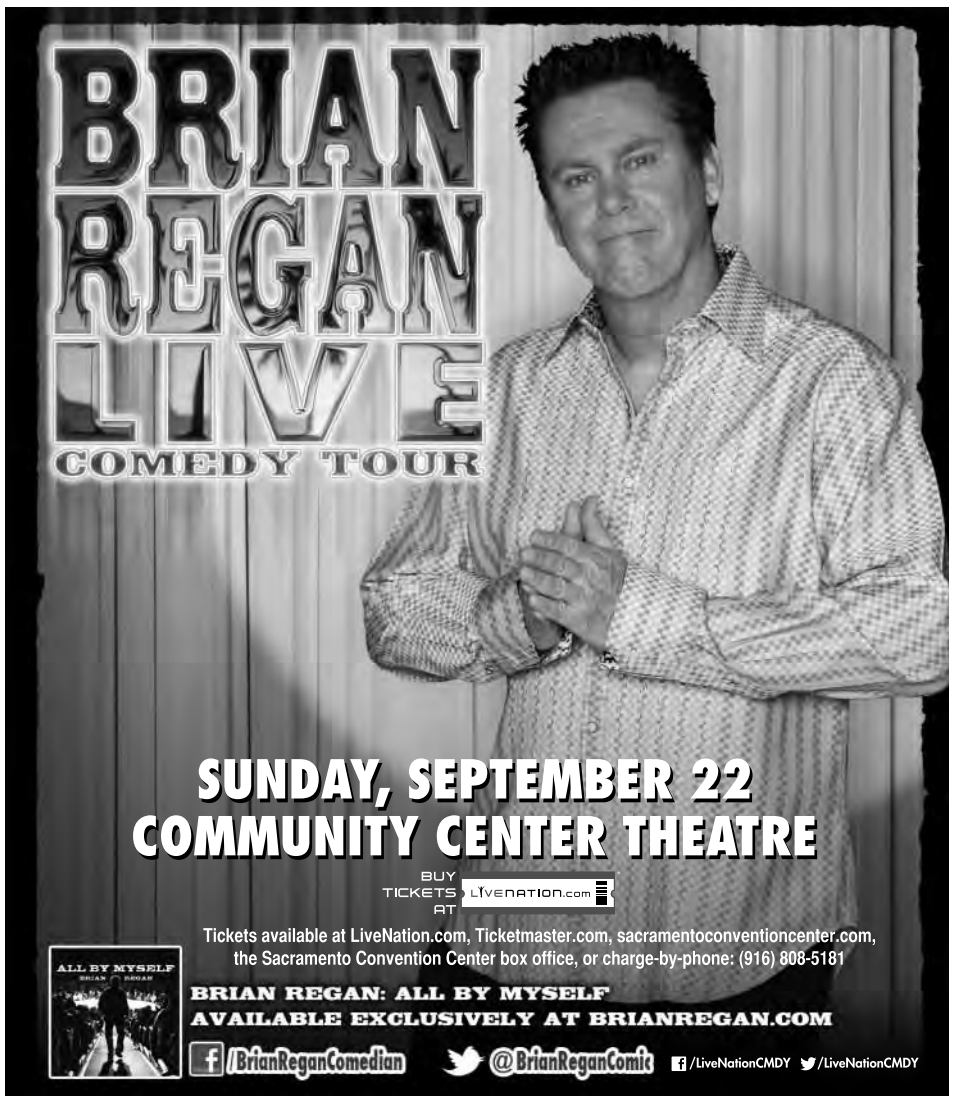
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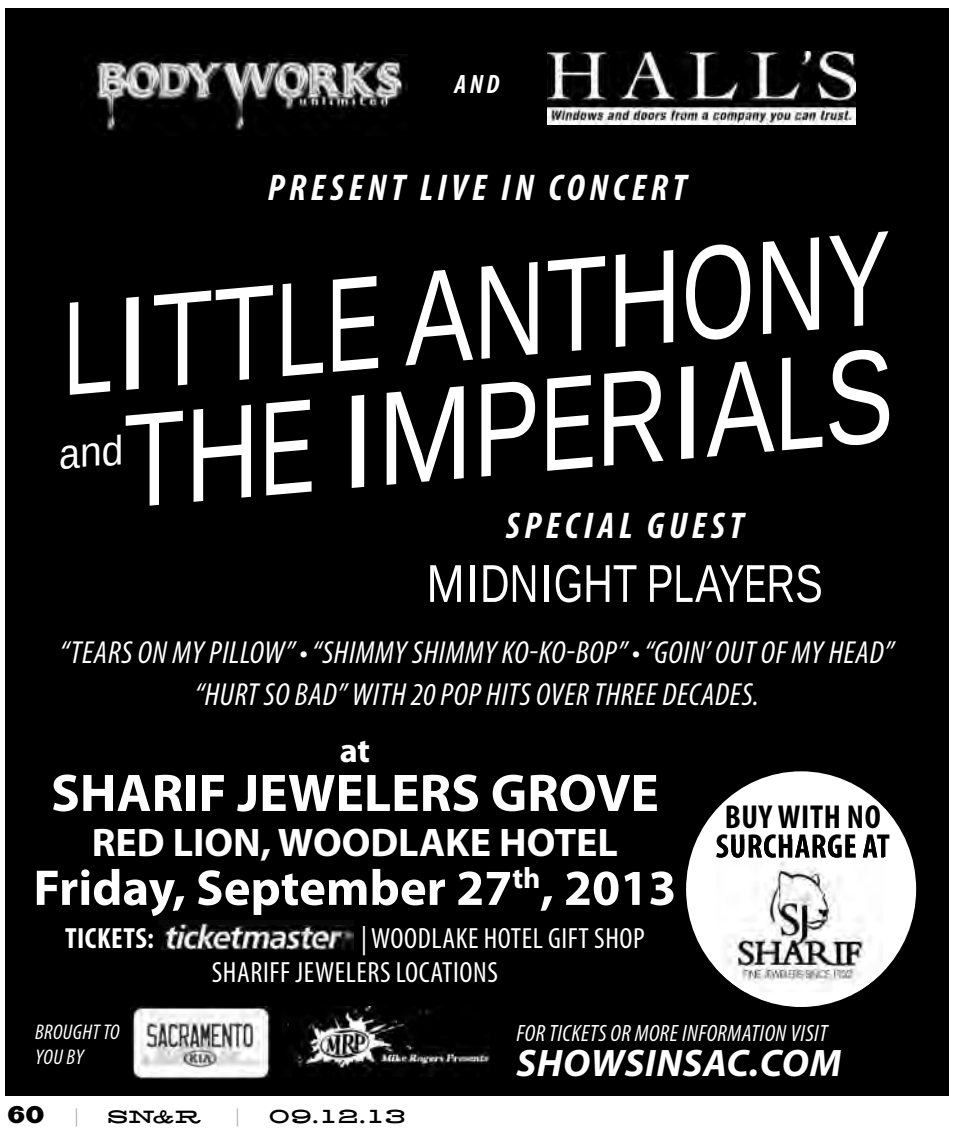
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A&S ARTS & SMARTS

WRITERS' PICKS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 59

BEST REASON TO DRIVE AROUND IN YOUR CAR ON A SATURDAY MORNING

KDVS' *The Saturday Morning Folk Show*

It's Saturday, you're up early and you've got stuff to do—garage sales, the farmers market, maybe brunch. If you're car-bound (no judgments), then tune your radio dial to *The Saturday Morning Folk Show* on KDVS 90.3 FM. Hosted by Robyne Fawx and Bill Wagman, this weekly three-hour show may be billed under the "folk" umbrella, but its musical offerings run wide and deep. In addition to traditional and contemporary folk, there's also Celtic, bluegrass, Americana and good ol' fashioned country-western. Artists encompass the familiar (the Wailin' Jennys, Ralph Stanley & the Clinch Mountain Boys), the more obscure (Honeycutters, Neptune's Car) and pretty much everything in between. *9 a.m. to noon, www.kdvs.org*. ***R.L.***

BEST VIRTUAL NOSTALGIA

Vintage Sacramento Facebook page

Sometimes all this talk of arenas and smart growth makes us yearn for a simpler time. The Vintage Sacramento Facebook page is the ideal place to indulge such nostalgia, circa the 1950s through 1970s. Curated by Will Peterson, a local graphic designer, this feed relives the city's past with grainy, sepia-toned and Technicolor pics depicting the likes of K Street, the Sacramento Zoo, the Tower Bridge and the state Capitol. No fancy filters required here, although, incidentally, you'll find these photos on Instagram, too, under the user name VintageSacto. *www.facebook.com/vintagesacramento, http://instagram.com/vintagesacto#*. ***R.L.***

BEST ASSEMBLER

Christopher Bales

It seems cheap to pigeonhole assemblage artist Christopher Bales' work as merely steampunk: His aesthetic is older than that. Although he sometimes uses antique and vintage materials associated with the genre, such as metal cogs, the final product often looks more like an altar constructed from the rubble of a pre-Victorian cathedral. Bales, who has been assembling these intricate sculptures since 1989, said he sources "an enormous amount of objects"—like broken wooden boxes, dolls, clocks, picture frames, figurines—from his weekly visits to flea markets and thrift stores. When he starts a new piece, he says he doesn't have a preconceived notion of what the end result will be, but following his intuition when layering cutouts of classic paintings over etchings with skulls and religious imagery creates enough detail for the viewer to stay engaged but not overwhelmed. *www.christopherbales.com.* ***S.***

BEST LOCAL MUSIC TREND: PLAYING PRETEND

Local tribute shows

In Sacramento's music scene's past, music promoters have launched nights featuring local bands impersonating famous bands. Both the annual Dead Rockstars Show at Old Ironsides and The Loft Halloween show brought surrealistic concerts to the scene for more than a decade. Lately, it seems like there are more covers shows than ever. In recent months, there have been tributes to the Kinks, the Replacements and even the music from John Hughes soundtracks. Newbies, take note: This is more about embodying the bands, not just learning the songs. In other words, put a little theatricality into your clothing and dance-move choices. *www.theoldironsides.com.* ***G.G.***

BEST JUGS

Charles Trejo's giant sculptures

The jug in Charles Trejo's driveway stands almost as tall as his modest one-story house in southeastern Sacramento. Made of sand- and salmon-hued painted concrete, this looks like one of those classic ceramic containers used in jug bands. The handle is fashioned from a bicycle tire, and the cork is a 5-gallon translucent-blue water jug (that's right, a jug in a jug). The behemoth was made by Trejo—who says he's been living at this property since 1947—back in 1976 for his grandson, as memorialized by the black lettering on the front: "Jesse hideout dec.111976." But the sculpture is actually a tool shed, Trejo says, and sure enough, there's a doorway cut out in the back and yard equipment stacked inside. Hidden behind the shed is another huge jug, although this one's about half the size of the first, and it's also used for storage, as a vintage red-and-white plastic Santa Claus crammed into the space wordlessly conveys. There's no lettering on this one, but this little giant jug is clearly Santa's hideout. ***S.***

BEST PLACE TO KEEP SECOND SATURDAY WHEEL GOOD

Sacramento Bicycle Kitchen

Bicyclist haters, move on: This party ain't for you. Since the Sacramento

Bicycle Kitchen opened in Midtown, it's consistently been the best place to drop in on a Second Saturday party and find a good time. Admission is free, the beer flows freely (well, if you have the cash) and there are usually snacks. There are also bands—which makes for a laid-back, inexpensive outing. If you are not into the music or can't find someone to talk to, cruise the bike aisle, and look for your next ride. *1915 I Street, (916) 538-2725, http://sacbikekitchen.org*. ***G.G.***

BEST ARTFUL RETURN ON THAT INVESTMENT

Elliott Fouts Gallery

If you have a big chunk of change lying around that you want to invest—but also want that investment to enhance your life—consider looking at the Private Collections pieces available for resale at the Elliott Fouts Gallery in its newish digs in Midtown. Here, the gallery often features works by local favorites such as Gregory Kondos, David Gilhooly, Alan Post and even Wayne Thiebaud. Tip: Many of the pieces will eventually go on sale for a reduced price if they hang around long enough (get it, hang around?). Put something on your walls that will make you happy every day. *1831 P Street, (916) 736-1429, http://efgprivatecollections.com.* ***G.G.***



Need a little something special? Ask gallery director Michelle Satterlee at Elliott Fouts Gallery about its Private Collections.

ARTS & SMARTS | READERS' PICKS

BEST PLACE TO SEE ART

1. Crocker Art Museum

216 O Street, (916) 808-7000, http://crockerartmuseum.org

2. Verge Center for the Arts

625 S Street, (916) 448-2985, http://vergeart.com

3. Sol Collective

2574 21st Street, (916) 476-3628, www.facebook.com/artcultureactivism

BEST VISUAL ARTIST

1. Danny Scheible

www.tapigami.com

2. Micah Crandall-Bear

www.micahcrandallbear.com

2. Gale Hart

www.galehart.com

3. Maren Conrad

www.marenconrad.com

3. Gioia Fonda

http://vergeart.com/artist/gioia-fonda/profile

BEST READING OR LECTURE SERIES

1. Sacramento's Living Library

at Time Tested Books, 1114 21st Street

2. Crossroads Reading Series

at the Center for Contemporary Art Sacramento, 1519 19th Street

3. Stories on Stage

at the Sacramento Poetry Center, 1719 25th Street, http://storiesonstagesacramento.wordpress.com

BEST PLACE TO STOCK YOUR BOOKSHELVES

1. Beers Books

915 S Street, (916) 442-9475, www.beersbooks.com

2. The Avid Reader in Davis

617 Second Street in Davis, (530) 758-4040, www.avidreaderbooks.com

3. The Avid Reader at the Tower

1600 Broadway, (916) 441-4400, www.avidreaderbooks.com

BEST NOVELIST

1. Christian Kiefer

www.christiankiefer.com

2. Pam Houston

www.pamhouston.wordpress.com

3. William T. Vollmann

BEST PLACE TO HEAR POETRY

1. Sacramento Poetry Center

1719 25th Street, (916) 240-1897, www.sacramentopoetrycenter.com

2. Poetry with Legs at Shine

1400 E Street, www.facebook.com/pages/poetry-with-legs/1954712905046 96

3. Mahogany Urban Poetry Series

at Queen Sheba, 1704 Broadway, http://mahoganypoetry.blogspot.com

BEST PROFESSIONAL THEATER COMPANY

1. B Street Theatre

2711 B Street, (916) 448-9707, www.bstreettheatre.org

2. Capital Stage

2215 J Street, (916) 995-5464, www.capstage.org

3. New Helvetia Theatre

1028 R Street, (916) 469-9850, www.newhelvetia.org

BEST LOCAL ACTOR

1. Michael R.J. Campbell

www.facebook.com/michaelrjcampbell

1. Stephanie Gularte

www.facebook.com/stephanie.gularte

2. Jamie Jones

3. Jonathan Rhys Williams

BEST COMMUNITY THEATER GROUP

1. Big Idea Theatre

1616 Del Paso Boulevard, (916) 925-7493, www.bigideatheatre.com

2. Green Valley Theatre Company

3823 V Street, (916) 736-2664, http://greenvalleytheatre.com

3. KOLT Run Creations

(916) 454-1500, www.koltruncreations.com

BEST COMEDY NIGHT

1. Punch Line Comedy Club

2100 Arden Way, Suite 225; (916) 925-5500; http://punchlinesac.com

2. Wednesday Comedy Night with Keith Lowell Jensen

Luna's Café & Juice Bar, 1414 16th Street; (916) 441-3931; www.lunascafe.com

2. Laughs Unlimited

1207 Front Street, (916) 446-8128, www.laughsunlimited.com

3. Open Mic Scramble

Sacramento Comedy Spot, 1050 20th Street, Suite 130; (916) 444-3137; www.saccomedyspot.com

"BEST OF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 63

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TRAVEL AND SPORTS T&S

by SHOKA

BEST REFORM SCHOOL CASTLE

PRESTON CASTLE

DRIVING SOUTHEAST ON HIGHWAY 104, APPROACHING THE SMALL TOWN OF IONE, there's something unexpected, maybe even out of place, piercing through the canopy of trees. But this 100-foot tall tower has been presiding as the highest point of Preston Castle for 120 years. Although the stately red-orange sandstone structure that looks like it belongs on the East Coast, not rural Northern California is now called a castle, royalty didn't live here: It was a reformatory for young boys who got in trouble with the law.

These days, nobody lives in its ruins other than some bats, birds and mice that have left ample sprinklings of their waste, but this formidable building was once the centerpiece of the Preston School of Industry, where the boys learned practical skills and made their own food and clothes. Before opening in 1894, the youngsters were incarcerated at Folsom or San Quentin state prisons, which seems like it would be traumatic for a 12-year-old. But being dragged around in Preston's basement-level, bone-chillingly cold pool of lye and bleach that was used to delouse new wards seems also traumatic.

These days, the pool is filled with ancient debris. In 1960, the state shut down the facility and swiped the slate roof (among other building materials) to "upcycle" it for other projects, resulting in years of water damage that has washed away the interior's plaster and, in some areas, rotted two stories of wood, leaving treacherous holes where a floor used to be. The site's current keepers, the Preston Castle Foundation, have taken on the task to restore the edifice, so for $10, the curious can tour the decay—and see where some of the school's staff members were murdered. Or pony up $100 and a dose of courage to spend the night there.

Despite being a supernatural jackpot, according to some folks, the building is becoming more integrated into the community these days, with events such as a wine tasting, a paranormal convention, the annual Halloween Haunt and an Old Tyme Christmas, which makes the grand structure feel less out of place. Hopefully, the ghosts don't mind sharing their space. *900 Palm Drive in Ione, (209) 256-3623, www.prestoncastle.com.* □

"BEST OF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 64

 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 63



"Crush"—just "Crush" (left), thank you very much—shoots a round at Round Corner Tavern; Allien Jones does the same—aided by a smile and a last name.

BEST SACRAMENTO NATIVE TO BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM

Miguel Ángel Ponce

Since Megan Rapinoe is technically from Redding, despite her years playing in Elk Grove, she doesn't count as the best soccer player from Sacramento. That distinction belongs to Miguel Ángel Ponce. The 24-year-old played for the gold-medal-winning Mexican team in the 2012 Olympics. Now, the left back plays for club team Guadalajara in the Mexican Primera Division, and he played on the Mexican national team (El Tri) during the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football Gold Cup. Not only did he score his first international goal in that tournament, it cap-tied him to Mexico, which means he can't play for the U.S. national team anymore. Too bad for us. Good news for Mexico. *www.chivascampeon.com/jugadores/descripcion.php?id=67.* **J.M.**

BEST LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Capitol Park Mediterranean oak tree

It's not the largest tree, or the most beautiful. And it doesn't bear fruit. But this particular Mediterranean oak is by far (at least subjectively speaking) the city's most prized piece of flora living in downtown's Capitol Park. It's squat but wide, with three main branches protruding from the trunk that seem to swirl around on an axis. Take a nap under this beauty, and you'll see what we mean. In honor of the great tree painter Bob Ross, we'd like to point out one "happy little accident": While the tree is labeled as a Mediterranean oak, its tag also reads Quercus macrolepis—the Latin name for the valonia oak. *Capitol Avenue and 15th Street.* **D.K.**

BEST PICKUP SOCCER GAME FOR THE YOUNG 9-TO-5ER

William Curtis Park

Listen, those midday scrimmages that take place downtown in Roosevelt Park during the week look like an out-of-this-world great time, but how do these guys fit that into their work schedules? We sure as hell can't fit that into our average day. That's why the pickup games in William Curtis Park put on by the McGeorge School of Law students and alums on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons is our pick for best pickup game in town: We can actually attend these. Besides, who among us wouldn't benefit from making friends with a few local lawyers? *Curtis Drive and Sutterville Road.* **D.K.**

BEST NIGHT SPENT WITH THE DEAD

Sacramento Historic City Cemetery tours

Whether you believe in ghosts or are simply a history buff, the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery's guided tours are a must. Various treks are offered year-round, but we're particularly partial to the fall calendar, which includes evening Lantern Tours in October—you know, just in time to prep for Halloween and the Day of the Dead. On these nights, costumed docents guide visitors through the cemetery grounds, dishing history on the graveyard's occupants with tales of murder and other untimely, scandalous or noteworthy deaths. This season's tours take place October 18, 19, 25, and 26, and cost $30 per person. *1000 Broadway, (916) 448-0811, www.oldcitycemetery.com.* **R.L.**

BEST DIVE TO BRING YOUR BILLIARDS A-GAME TO

Round Corner Tavern

Here's how it works at the Round Corner Tavern: If you want to shoot some stick, write your name on the board. For the stiffest competition, try the pool table nearest to the bar. Ball-in-hand or kitchen scratch rules are defined by whoever owns the table. And you never, ever make fun of someone for bringing their own cue. And, as if the great music, quality food and surly Oakland Raiders fans aren't enough, the Deftones' favorite bar has established itself as one of Sacramento's go-to spots for quality eight-ball competition. Next time you're in Midtown, check it out—as long as you're cool with losing. *2333 S Street, (916) 451-4682.* **D.K.**

BEST REASON TO KICK IT OAK PARK STYLE

The Broadway Triangle

Developers are getting a bad rap in this town, with all the money-grubbing and neighborhood-group hating. Luckily, Oak Park has Ron Vrilakas, an architect who genuinely likes the neighborhood, despite its dangerous reputation. He's building a mixed-use building called The Broadway Triangle that is located along several blocks along the north side of Broadway, between 34th and 36th streets. It will feature residential, retail shops and a restaurant; it's all going into the charming former meat market that's kitty-corner from the Old Soul Co. coffee shop. Vrilakas has even reached



PHOTOS BY STEVEN CHEA

out to the neighbors to ask what kind of businesses they'd like to see as part of the project. May all neighborhoods be blessed with this kind of infill. *www.thebroadwaytriangle.com.* **G.G.**

BEST PUKE-INDUCING WORKOUT

James Dorris at The Edge

Amateur boxing champ James Dorris isn't done punishing folks. But the 37-year-old isn't doing it with the leather gloves that earned him belts from the International Amateur Boxing Association in 2010 and 2011. Instead, Dorris carves people into mean slabs of muscle by running a "warrior training" boot camp in the foothills where he grew up. Combining his boxing and mixed-martial arts workouts with the training he undergoes as a Folsom Police Department officer, Dorris makes sure the clients who take his classes at The Edge in Martell leave hurting. In a good way. "My philosophy is to train people as if they're training for a fight," he said. Dorris built his following by making sure each session is different from the last. Clients, he promises, "will never see the same workout." They will, however, see gains with the pain. *(916) 220-9211, www.theedgestrengthandtraining.com.* **RFH**

BEST PLAYGROUND-THEMED WAR VETERAN TRIBUTE

Grand Pup Tent of California, Military Order of the Cootie

Located under a California fan palm tree inside of Capitol Park, there's a square sign bearing the inscription "Grand Pup Tent of California Military Order of the Cootie." Part of the California Veterans Memorial, it's just one of dozens of similar stones donated by charitable veterans organizations. According to the California Cooties' website, the Veterans of Foreign Wars' charitable order was named for lice in the trenches of French battlefields during World War I, which "were known to bite the soldiers at just the right time to save the soldier's lives" by making them duck away from incoming shells. Luckily, your visit with the cooties doesn't have to involve post-traumatic stress disorder; just stop by the semicircular stone bench located near N and 14th streets to enjoy some sunshine and pay homage to this country's war veterans. *www.california-cooties.org.* **C.D.**

BEST AWESOME BIKE THAT ACTUALLY FITS

Ikon Cycles

Stop puttering around on the bike trail with that decades-old clunker. You know, the one that makes you look like Harry Henderson on a unicycle? Visit Adrian Moore at Ikon Cycles on J Street, schedule an appointment for a fitting, then have him order you a bike that actually fits. And fits your needs. Trust me, Moore's expertise makes biking in Sacramento more awesome than it already was. Ikon is a tiny Midtown shop, but Moore's one-on-one consultation is unequaled at any big ol' bike shop—and he flat-out doesn't pressure you to buy a bike. Bonus! Yet you'll want to purchase one—whether it's a racing Fuji or a chill city one-speed—because owning a nice bike that's not too small or doesn't get a flat every two weeks is worth all the gas money you'll be saving times 100. *2318 J Street, (916) 441-1122, www.ikoncycles.com.* **N.M.**

"BEST OF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 67



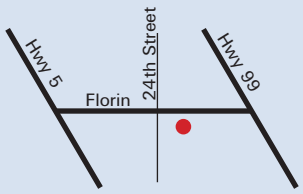
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READERS' PICKS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 65



BEST GYM

1. Sacramento Pipeworks Climbing & Fitness

116 N. 16th Street, (916) 341-0100, www.touchstoneclimbing.com/pipeworks

2. Capital Athletic Club

1515 Eigth Street, (916) 442-3927, www.capitalac.com

3. YMCA of Superior California

2021 W Street, (916) 452-9622, www.ymcasuperiorcal.org

BEST MARTIAL-ARTS STUDIO

1. Kovar's Satori Academy of Marial Arts

various locations, www.kovars.com

2. Self Defense & Personal Safety Academy

(916) 905-2150, www.selfdefensepsa.com

3. Moore's Shou' Shu' Studio

5023 Stockton Boulevard, (916) 613-6994; 9882 Waterman Road, Suite 105 in Elk Grove; (916) 405-6606; www.mooresmartialarts.com

BEST SACTO SPORTS COVERAGE

1. Grant Napear

KHTK Sports 1140 AM, http://sacramento.cbslocal.com/category/grant-napear

2. Ailene Voisin

The Sacramento Bee, www.sacbee.com

3. Carmichael Dave

KTHK Sports 1140, http://sacramento.cbslocal.com

BEST TV SPORTSCASTER

1. Jim Crandell, Fox 40
2. Ryan Yamamoto, News10
3. Brian May, News10

BEST SACRAMENTO KINGS PLAYER

1. DeMarcus Cousins
2. Isaiah Thomas
3. Tyreke Evans

BEST GOLF COURSE

1. William Land Golf Course

1701 Sutterville Road, (916) 277-1207, www.williamlandgc.com

2. Haggin Oaks Golf Complex

3645 Fulton Avenue, (916) 481-4653, www.hagginoaks.com

3. Teal Bend Golf Club

7200 Garden Highway, (916) 922-5209, www.clubcorp.com/Clubs/Teal-Bend-Golf-Club

BEST SKI RESORT

1. Squaw Valley USA

1960 Squaw Valley Road in Olympic Valley, (800) 403-0206, www.squaw.com

2. Heavenly Mountain Resort

3860 Saddle Road in South Lake Tahoe, (775) 586-7000, www.skiheavenly.com

3. Northstar California

5001 Northstar Drive in Truckee, (800) 466-6784, www.northstarcalifornia.com











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– Bhagavad Gita (Song of the Lord) Chap. 2.61









"Overlord" by Stuart Gold, oil on canvas, 2012.

TV theme show

Stuart Gold's father was not interested in repairing the family's television sets—even though by trade, he was a television repairman. But watching the fuzzy and distorted screens as a kid in the 1950s and '60s left a mark on young Gold, and so he began making prints, drawings and paintings of those pixilated moments in a series that began in the late '70s.

Gold's fascination with this TV theme has endured over the decades, and this month, the Grass Valley-based artist's solo show at Blue Moon Gallery displays work he created from 2011 to 2013, and it's some of the best of his series. His paintings of the "split seconds when the image is disrupted" are mesmerizing, because their lack of expected visual clarity lends insight to the process of perception.

Gold said that "interrupted or maladjusted commercial TV images, purposefully or randomly frozen, could be a remarkable source of imagery," and with the way he composes these moments, they certainly are.

Where: Blue Moon Gallery, 2353 Albatross Way; (916) 920-2444; www.bluemoongallerysacto.com.
Second Saturday reception: September 14, 6 to 9 p.m. Through October 8.
Hours: Wednesday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m.



"Fetch" by Gary Dinnen, ceramic.

This man's best friend

It was once not uncommon to see Gary Dinnen walking swiftly down a Midtown sidewalk with a freckled roan dog nearby in his orbit, both smiling. The artist's longtime companion was also his muse, and it's hard to not see Bell's influence and likeness in his many ceramic sculptures of fauve, (and often life-size) funk-art dogs. His solo show at Adamson Gallery this month, titled *Wish You Were Here*, is dedicated to the memory of his beloved furry pal.

Where: Adamson Gallery, 1021 R Street, Suite 15; (916) 492-2207; www.theadamsongallery.com.
Second Saturday reception: September 14, 6 to 9 p.m. Through October 5.
Hours: Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; or by appointment.

Your grandma's style

Painting over old, staid thrift-store paintings is not a new idea—but it's not bad idea, especially when it's done well.

In Gallery 21Ten's Loft Gallery's group show called *Thrift Monsters*, a leviathan peeks through the surface of an otherwise sunset-tinged, peaceful lake in autumn, and a furry monster with an underbite creeps behind a traditional still life of classy vessels and gleaming fruit, stealing a single grape in between his talons.

Call it upcycling, lowbrow or whatever: These quiet relics have been transformed into playful tableaus. So, let's all thank the artists—including Laurelin Gilmore, Lisa Rosenstreich and Marjorie Methven—for mercifully defacing Grandma's discarded rumpus-room décor into something enjoyable to look at again.

"Crossing" by Lisa Rosenstreich, oil on canvas, 2013.

Where: Gallery 21Ten, 2110 K Street; (916) 476-5500; www.gallery2110.com.
Second Saturday reception: September 14, 6 to 9 p.m. Through October 5.
Hours: Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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SECOND SATURDAY



34

ART MAP

MIDTOWN

1 **ALEX BULT GALLERY** 1114 21st St., (916) 476-5540, www.alexbultgallery.com

2 **ART OF TOYS** 1126 18th St., (916) 446-0673, www.artoftoys.com

3 **ART STUDIOS** 1727 I St., behind Michaelangelo's; (916) 444-2233

4 **ARTFOX GALLERY** 2213 N St., Ste. B; (916) 835-1718; www.artfox.us

5 **AXIS GALLERY** 1517 19th St., (916) 443-9900, www.axisgallery.org

6 **B. SAKATA GARO** 923 20th St., (916) 447-4276, www.bsakatagaro.com

7 **BLUE LAMP** 1400 Alhambra Blvd., (916) 455-3400, www.bluelamp.com

8 **BOWS & ARROWS** 1815 19th St., (916) 822-5668, www.bowscollective.com

9 **CAPITAL ARTWORKS** 1215 21st St., Ste. B; (916) 207-3787; www.capital-artworks.com

10 **CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, SACRAMENTO** 1519 19th St., (916) 498-9811, www.ccasac.org

11 **CUFFS** 2523 J St., (916) 443-2881, www.shopcuffs.com

12 **ELLIOTT FOUTS GALLERY** 1831 P St., (916) 446-1786, www.efgallery.com

13 **GALLERY 21TEN** 2110 K St., (916) 476-5500, www.gallery2110.com

14 **INTEGRATE SACRAMENTO** 2220 J St., (916) 541-4294, http://integrateservices sacramento.blogspot.com

15 **KENNEDY GALLERY** 1931 L St., (916) 716-7050, www.kennedygallerysac.com

16 **LITTLE RELICS** 908 21st St., (916) 716-2319, www.littlerelics.com

17 **MIDTOWN FRAMING & GALLERY** 1005 22nd St., (916) 447-7558, www.midtownframing.com

18 **OLD SOUL CO.** 1716 L St., (916) 443-7685, www.oldsoulco.com

19 **RED DOT GALLERY** 2231 J St., Ste. 101; www.reddotgalleryonj.com

20 **SACRAMENTO ART COMPLEX** 2110 K St., Ste. 4; (916) 476-5500; www.sacramentoartcomplex.com

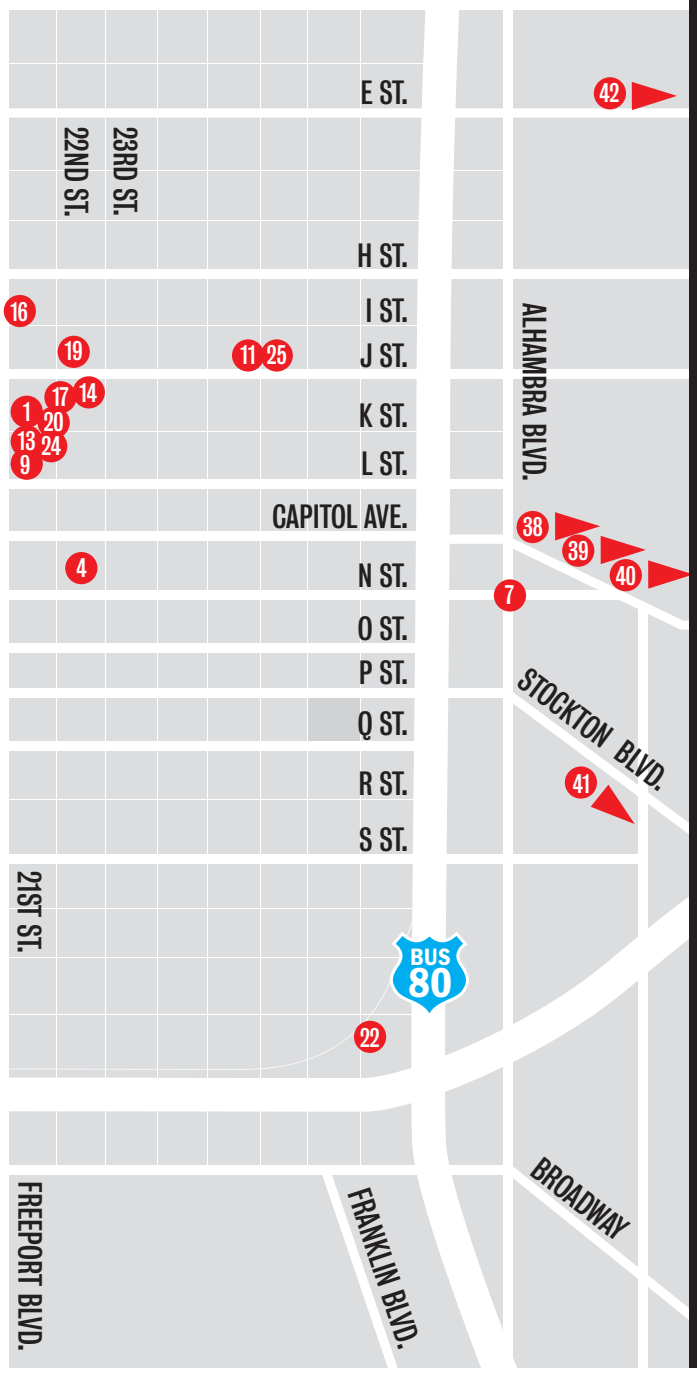
21 **SACRAMENTO GAY & LESBIAN CENTER** 1927 L St., (916) 442-0185, http://saccenter.org

22 **SHIMO CENTER FOR THE ARTS** 2117 28th St., (916) 706-1162, www.shimogallery.com

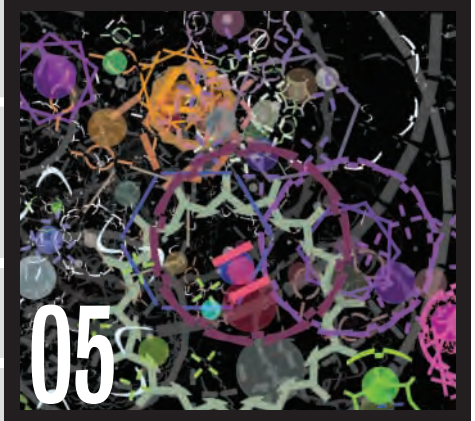
23 **TIM COLLOM GALLERY** 915 20th St., (916) 247-8048, www.timcollomgallery.com

24 **UNION HALL GALLERY** 2126 K St., (916) 448-2452

25 **UNIVERSITY ART** 2601 J St., (916) 443-5721, www.universityart.com



DON'T MISS







DOWNTOWN/OLD SAC

29 ADAMSON GALLERY 1021 R St., (916) 492-2207, www.theadamsongallery.com

30 ARTHOUSE UPSTAIRS 1021 R St., second floor; (916) 672-1098; www.arthouse-sacramento.com

31 ARTISTS' COLLABORATIVE GALLERY 129 K St., (916) 444-7125, www.artcollab.com

32 CROCKER ART MUSEUM 216 O St., (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.org

33 E STREET GALLERY AND STUDIOS 1115 E St., (916) 505-7264

34 LA RAZA GALERÍA POSADA 2700 Front St., (916) 446-5133, www.larazagaleriaposada.org

35 SMITH GALLERY 1020 11th St., Ste. 100; (916) 446-4444; www.smithgallery.com

36 TEMPLE COFFEE 1010 Ninth St., (916) 443-4960, www.templecoffee.com

37 VOX SACRAMENTO 1818 11th St., www.voxsac.com

EAST SAC

38 ARCHIVAL FRAMING 3223 Folsom Blvd., (916) 923-6204, www.archivalframe.com

39 CAPITAL PUBLIC RADIO 7055 Folsom Blvd., (916) 278-8900, www.capradio.org

40 FE GALLERY & IRON ART STUDIO 1100 65th St., (916) 456-4455, www.fegallery.com

41 GALLERY 14 3960 60th St., (916) 456-1058, www.gallery14.net

42 JAYJAY 5520 Elvas Ave., (916) 453-2999, www.jayjayart.com

OFF MAP

I BLUE LINE GALLERY 405 Vernon St., Ste. 100 in Roseville; (916) 783-4117; http://bluelinegallery.blogspot.com

II THE BRICKHOUSE ART GALLERY 2837 36th St., (916) 457-1240, www.thebrickhousegalleryoakpark.com

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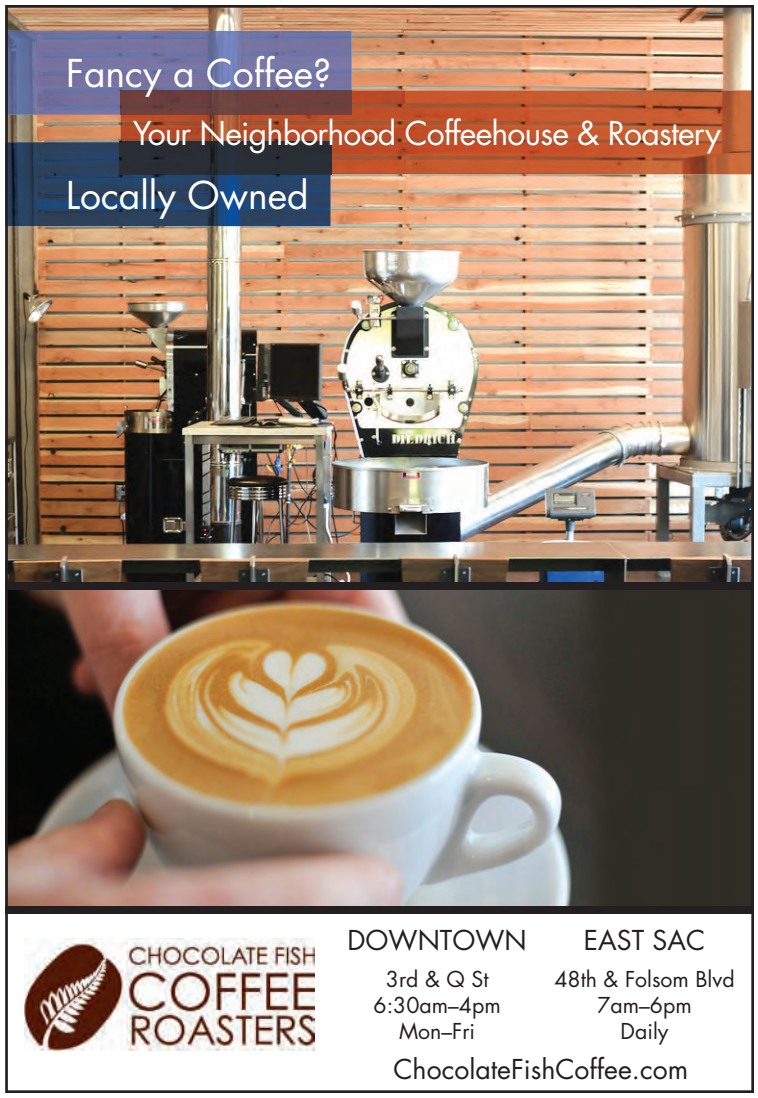
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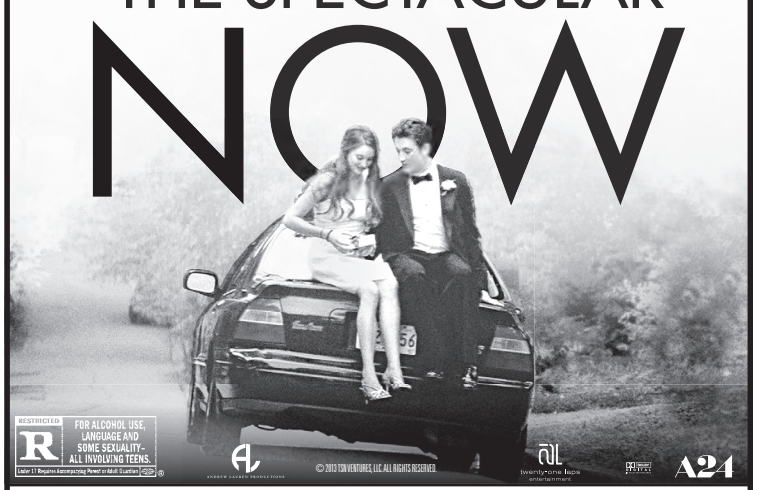
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Fifty years of racism

Clybourne Park

The characters in *Clybourne Park* talk, but they don't listen. Bruce Norris' bitingly funny and provocative satire, which won the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and a 2012 Tony Award, too, opened with an impressively brave and intelligent production by Capital Stage. The play deals with the uncomfortable subjects of racism, fear and how the "liberal" middle-class deals—or doesn't deal—with them. Michael Stevenson directs an outstanding cast with staccato speed to match the rapid rhythms of Norris' script.

by **Jim Carnes**



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPITAL STAGE

"Welcome to the neighborhood."

The play is set in the same Chicago house where the black Younger family from Lorraine Hansberry's classic *A Raisin in the Sun* was about to break that community's color barrier. Act one begins at that moment in 1959 before the Youngers (who don't appear here) move in. Norris focuses on Russ and Bev, the white family (played by Jonathan Rhys Williams and Shannon Mahoney) vacating the house to move to the suburbs. Francine (Atim Udoffia), the couple's black maid, helps with the packing, but the work is interrupted by visitors: Jim (Dan Fagan), the local minister; Albert (Beethovan Oden), Francine's husband; and most significantly—and unpleasantly—by Karl (Aaron Wilton) and his pregnant, deaf wife, Betsy (Stephanie Altholz). Karl is the same repulsive neighborhood representative in *Raisin* who tried to persuade the Youngers not to move into the house; now he tries to pressure the sellers into changing their minds.

Act two is set in the same home 50 years later, when the neighborhood, now predominantly African-American, is undergoing gentrification, and a white couple, Steve and pregnant wife Lindsey (Wilton and Altholz), is negotiating with lawyers and preservationists about renovating the home. Plenty of unpleasantries ensue.

Despite the passage of half a century, we may have become more aware of our prejudices, but we certainly haven't transcended them. People hide behind words and cloak their fears. But racism that comes out of fear is still racism. □

Clybourne Park, 7 p.m. Wednesday; 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday; $26–$36. Capital Stage, 2215 J Street; (916) 995-5464; www.capstage.org. Through October 6.

How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying

Everything old is new again, it seems: The nostalgia for the *Mad Men* era has led to a Broadway resurrection of this 1961 gem, and now, Runaway Stage Productions produces an energetic and warm version of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*—an only semisatirical look at the world of business.

Yes, it does turn out that how you present yourself counts in the corporate world, and who you know turns out to be worth more than what you know. While some things have changed—a handful of female executives, a little more workplace diversity—songs like "A Secretary Is Not a Toy" are still relevant.

This production benefits from the charisma and energy of David Holmes as J. Pierrepont Finch, the window washer who uses a how-to book to move up from the mailroom to the penthouse in a mega-corporation. He's in almost every scene—usually at its center—and certainly Holmes works much harder than his character does.

Finch's love interest, Rosemary (played by the tuneful Gillian Tarkington), is a secretary who longs for marriage and a house in New Rochelle—even though she knows how isolating that life will be. Great supporting characters include Levi Fuentes as Bud Frump, the boss' scheming nephew; Cassie March as Hedy LaRue, the boss's mistress; and Brent Null as the bombastic boss.

Directed and choreographed by Darryl Strohl, the actors dance with enough energy to strain the seams on those suits and dresses. While still plagued with sound difficulties in a few spots, that's offset by the dance sets, the gorgeous period costuming by Gina Coyle, and the resident orchestra, under the direction of Deann Golz.

—Kel Munger

How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday; $18–$25. Runaway Stage Productions at the 24th Street Theatre, 2791 24th Street; (916) 207-1226; www.runawaystage.com. Through September 29.



PHOTO BY WARREN HARRISON

Chautauqua Playhouse's production of *Squabbles* is filled with well-timed verbal sparring between in-laws who can't stand each other.

Now Playing

Other Desert Cities
Self-righteous Brooke Wyeth (Dana Brooke), carts her tell-all memoir to her parents' home in Palm Springs, hoping for a blessing from them, but gets a blasting instead. The play combines conflicting family dynamics with blunt sarcastic humor, which puts some fun in dysfunctional. Talented cast, including Brooke and Joan Grant, who create caustic chemistry as mother and daughter. **Th, F, 8pm; Sa 5 & 9pm; Su 2pm; Tu 6:30pm; W 2 & 6:30pm. Through 9/29.** $25–$35. B Street Theatre, 2711 B Street; (916) 443-5300; www.bstreettheatre.org. P.R.

Squabbles
"An argument a day keeps the doctor away," says Abe Dreyfus (Rodger Hoopman). At 73 and in his curmudgeonly prime, Abe is honest to a fault about his love for his daughter Alice (Julie Bock) and his tolerance of her husband Jerry (Walt Thompson), with whom he now lives. When Jerry's mother Mildred (Monique McKisson) loses her home, belongings and pet bird to a house fire, she moves in with the young couple, too. Insanity ensues. **F, Sa 8pm; Su 2pm. Through 9/22.** $17–$19. Chautauqua Playhouse at the La Sierra Community Center, 5325 Engle Rd. in Carmichael; (916) 489-7529; www.cplayhouse.org. J.C.

Time Stands Still
Ovation Stage's production is compact, intense and intimate due to the tight storyline, a cohesive cast and the small 30-seat Three Penny Theatre. It all takes place in the New York apartment where a prideful and resentful Sarah (Beth Edwards) is brought home by her supportive boyfriend James (James Andrew) to recover from her massive injuries. The conversations run the gamut of the moral dilemmas facing journalists, the righteousness of individual and job choices, and the escapism and long-term impact demanding careers can have on personal lives. **F, Sa 8pm; Su 2pm. Through 9/15.** $15–$18. Ovation Stage at the Three Penny Theatre in the R25 Arts Complex, 1723 25th St.; (916) 448-0312; www.ovationstage.com. P.R.

Short reviews by Jim Carnes and Patti Roberts.

FOUL

FAIR

GOOD

WELL-DONE

SUBLIME—DON'T MISS

Poe show



This is the best smile Poe could muster for this daguerreotype taken by Edwin Manchester in 1848.

Edgar Allan Poe would've probably enjoyed to have a film night dedicated to him that was scheduled on Friday the 13th. And that's exactly what he'll get this Friday, September 13, at the Crest Theatre as part of the Sacramento Film & Music Festival. Sponsored by the Sacramento Public Library and the Capital Film Arts Alliance and titled The Poe Project, this special event will feature screenings of 11 locally made films, the release of a new collection of Poe's works from the Sacramento Public Library's I Street Press, a Poe-themed fashion challenge with the Capitol Indie Collective, and an original classical composition by Richard Altenbach inspired by Poe's work. Can't get enough dark humor and morbid wit? Poe-related activities and events will continue throughout October at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria (visit www.saclibrary.org for more information on those). *Friday, September 13; 5:30 p.m.; $10. Crest Theatre, 1013 K Street; www.sacfilm.com.*

—**Jonathan Mendick**
jonathanm@newsreview.com











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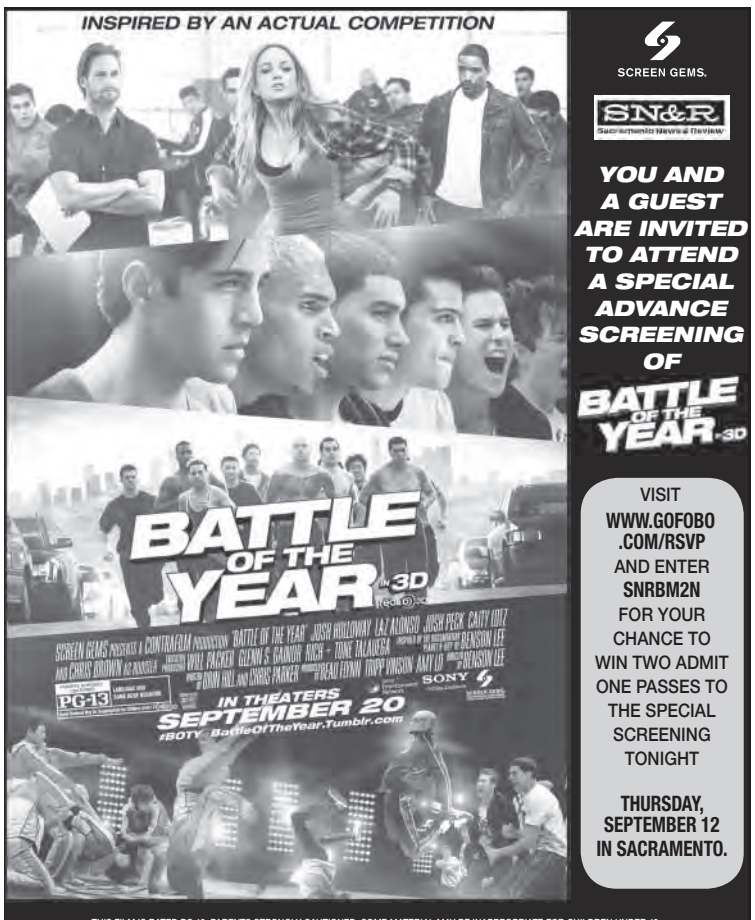
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Poor sense, little sensibility

Austenland

by **Daniel Barnes**

***Austenland* is the movie equivalent of a beach read, a** digestible distraction that demands little effort and puts forth even less. It's a film that should only be watched while engaging in a secondary activity, like folding laundry or untangling Christmas lights. Although immersed in her universe, *Austenland* requires no intimacy with the work of Jane Austen. Look for your deeply embedded *Mansfield Park* references elsewhere.

The undeniably adorable Keri Russell stars as Jane, a movie-messy, 30-something bachelorette obsessed with all things Austen, especially the aloof Mr. Darcy from *Pride and Prejudice*. Her apartment is draped in Austen kitsch, including a life-size cutout of Colin Firth as Darcy, and her out-of-control "hobby" has driven a wedge in all of her real-life relationships.



"Call me when the Brontë sisters get a theme park."

After getting dumped by the latest in a series of disinterested boyfriends, Jane trades in her life savings for a vacation to Austenland, an all-inclusive country estate and fantasy resort where guests and staff role-play as Austen-esque characters in full costume. The central conceit of *Austenland* is a lot like that of *Westworld*, the 1973 film about a futuristic theme park—except with corsets instead of cowboy boots, human actors instead of robots, and only the audience's brain cells are brutally murdered.

Jane goes to Austenland to experience grandeur and opulence, but her lowest-tier vacation package forces her into the role of a penniless ward. Every guest at Austenland is promised a nonsexual "romantic experience" by the austere company head (Jane Seymour). The guileless Jane forms a true-to-character instant dislike of the actor playing the arrogant Mr. Darcy figure (JJ Feild), and begins a flirtation with the resort's sweet handyman (Bret McKenzie from *Flight of the Conchords*).

Russell's effortless likeability in the lead gives the film more juice than it deserves, and the always amusing Jennifer Coolidge offers game support as a fellow guest and ally to Jane. Usually confined to bit parts, Coolidge mines so much material out of her vulgar-dimwit routine, it borders on environmentally irresponsible. It is always amusing to hear the pneumatic Coolidge blare naughty non sequiturs in that inimitable baby-doll fishwife voice, but a little bit of her goes a long way.

Clearly, *Austenland* was not designed for my demographic, but lest I be accused of male bias, let's just consider the gender-opposite film. It would probably star Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson as middle-aged horn dogs who attend a fantasy frat house resort, and it would also be a bad movie (notes to self: Pitch this idea to a studio executive posthaste, make millions of dollars, learn how to snort cocaine).

This particular bad movie is co-written and directed by Jerusha Hess, the creator (along with husband Jared Hess) of such diminishing returns as *Napoleon Dynamite*, *Nacho Libre* and the genuinely contemptible *Gentlemen Broncos*. Although *Austenland* mostly moves to the expected beats of a contemporary romantic comedy, Hess can't resist smearing her auteur stamp all over the film.

How else to explain the tone-deaf gags about sheep-eyeball consumption, chamber-pot usage and Nelly's "Hot in Herre" in an otherwise innocuous love story? Every time *Austenland* starts to build up affection for the characters, Hess indulges in some juvenile low comedy. At one point, a character lounges poolside wearing a giant, flame-painted cowboy hat, seemingly for no other reason than the fact that giant, flame-painted cowboy hats are funnier than normal hats.

Keri Russell's effortless likeability in the lead gives the film more juice than it deserves.

On the other hand, the tonal jolts are the most notable thing about *Austenland*, and without them, I'd be using this space to complain about an absence of surprises amid the barrage of rom-com clichés. But the goofiness of *Austenland* quickly becomes pandering, especially in the overuse of incongruous '80s pop songs on the soundtrack. By the end, the movie reeks of desperation and rewrites—there are at least three endings and two in-credits "stinger" sequences in the last 10 minutes.

A smart and funny movie about prolonged adolescence and wish fulfillment is buried somewhere deep in *Austenland*, but Hess was probably too busy sound-mixing fart noises to dig it out. As it stands, *Austenland* is a dumb but generally harmless watch, and this rating could even be bumped up a notch if movie theaters would permit patrons to bring in their unfolded laundry and tangled Christmas lights. □

POOR
FAIR
GOOD
VERY GOOD
EXCELLENT

CLIPS

by **DANIEL BARNES & JIM LANE**

Blue Jasmine

A snooty New York socialite (Cate Blanchett), left penniless when her crooked financier husband (Alec Baldwin) goes to prison, moves in with her working-class sister in San Francisco (Sally Hawkins). Critic Walter Kerr once wrote, "Neil Simon didn't have an idea for a play this year, but he wrote one anyway." Well, Woody Allen didn't have an idea for a movie, so he did a riff on *A Streetcar Named Desire*. But Allen never gets the colored lights going. The role of Stanley Kowalski is drained of sexual energy and divvied up between the sister's ex-husband (Andrew Dice Clay) and present boyfriend (Bobby Cannavale); without that conflict, *Streetcar* lacks a core, and one is missing here. The whole is less than the sum of its parts, though some parts (especially Blanchett's performance) are well worth watching. J.L.

Closed Circuit

There couldn't be a better time than right now for *Closed Circuit* to capture the public's attention, since the plot is a veritable scrapbook of recent newspaper headlines. Beyond the topical trappings, though, this is an unimaginative post-9/11 "legal thriller" in the John Grisham mold. *Closed Circuit* opens and closes on a mosaic of black-and-white security camera images, but in between, the themes of omnipresent surveillance are only used as hoary plot devices. Stars Rebecca Hall and Eric Bana lack the credibility to play trial lawyers, and even worse, they lack chemistry. Without competent leads, *Closed Circuit* relies on its supporting cast to supply the gravitas, including Jim Broadbent as an attorney general whose buttoned-down politeness conceals a passive-aggressive evil. Unfortunately, after a passable third act, the film goes 10 minutes too far in pursuit of a tidy ending. D.B.

Getaway

A disgraced race-car diver (Ethan Hawke) is forced to steal a car and do the bidding of an unseen voice (Jon Voight)—including kidnapping the owner of the car (Selena Gomez). Written by Sean Finegan and Gregg Maxwell Parker and directed by Courtney Solomon, here's a movie for people who think *The Fast and the Furious* franchise has gotten too low-key and realistic, its plots too mundane and slice-of-life, with too much dialogue and not enough car chases. In fact, they spare no effort to come up with no plot whatsoever and no more character than it takes to fill the front seat of a car. Certainly, there's not enough to keep Hawke and Gomez busy, and both of them should have known better. Why did they take the gig? It must have been for the free trip to Bulgaria, where the movie was inexplicably filmed. J.L.

Instructions Not Included

An Acapulco beach bum (Eugenio Derbez, who also directed and co-wrote the script) has a baby girl dumped on him from one of his flings, so, naturally, he moves to Hollywood and works as a stuntman to raise the kid, while refusing to learn English. When the child is 7 (and now played by Loreto Peralta), her mother (Jessica Lindsey) returns and wants custody. This Spanish-language comedy's original title translates as "*Returns Not Accepted*," so the English subtitles may be no more accurate than that; what comes through is a sloppy melange of unpersuasive melodrama, amateurish mugging, unfunny comedy and mawkish sentimentality, a sort of boneheaded *Kramer vs. Kramer*. Derbez, a major star in Latin America, has all the personal charm and comedic gifts of Italy's Roberto Benigni—i.e. none whatsoever. J.L.

Laughing to the Bank

It almost seems unfair to assess Brian Hooks' comedy atrocity *Laughing to the Bank* on the same level as other theatrical releases, since it has the narcissism and production values of a home movie. This is ostensibly *The Hangover* on a budget, as director-star Hooks is forced to relive a wild Las Vegas weekend with a couple of dopey thugs, but it's just an excuse to trot a series of desperately unfunny sketches and would-be beloved characters. *Laughing to the Bank*'s release was delayed since 2011, so that partially explains the decade-old *To Catch a Predator* references, but good luck rationalizing the script (sample witticism: "You can be a dick holder ... that's like a cup holder, except instead of holding cups, you hold dicks."). Undaunted by the evidence, Hooks' entourage spends much of the film immortalizing him as an under-recognized comic genius. D.B.



"I hope this leads to one of those 'Previously on ...' TV gigs."

In a World ...

The affable *In a World ...* is the first feature written and directed by actress Lake Bell, who also stars as a voice-over artist struggling to break into an industry dominated by men, including her legendary father. Although *In a World ...* won Bell a screenwriting award at the Sundance Film Festival, what's more compelling is how well this low-key comedy exhibits her charms as an actress. Heretofore stuck in character roles, Bell proves that she is a viable and appealing lead, salty and sullen, yet utterly likable. This is basically a nice business-card movie that allows Bell to display a range of skills, with a Hollywood-insider hook designed to appeal to influential industry folks. Still, the film's unsteady tone and meandering narrative are telltale signs of a first-time filmmaker's learning curve, and the stakes in the third-act payoff are excessively low. D.B.

Lee Daniels' The Butler

Lee Daniels' The Butler was "inspired by true events" much like John Hinckley Jr. was "inspired" by *The Catcher in the Rye*. Actually, it's adapted from a Washington Post article about an African-American butler who served at the White House during some of the most turbulent times in recent history. Daniels expands that idea into a Gump's-eye view of the civil-rights era that is Oscar chum at its most pandering. Forest Whitaker, looking like an audio-animatronics figure at Disneyland Presents Great Moments With *Lee Daniels' The Butler*, plays Cecil Gaines, son of a murdered cotton farmer reborn through servitude. Whitaker is strong, as usual, but the U.S. presidents are portrayed in a series of distracting cameos by Robin Williams as Dwight D. Eisenhower and Alan Rickman as Ronald Reagan. D.B.

Planes

A lowly crop-dusting airplane (voice by Dane Cook) cherishes an ambition to participate in an around-the-world air race, and by a combination of pluck and luck, he succeeds. Yes, it's *Turbo* with planes instead of snails, but it's also an unimaginative rehash of every other follow-your-dream movie, with little more than some stunning animation to distinguish it from all the rest. The story trudges through its predictable formula with excruciating precision, hitting every beat right on schedule. With no suspense or surprises, we have to pass the time by trying to identify the celebrity voices (which include Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Stacy Keach, Brad Garrett, Teri Hatcher, John Cleese and Cedric the Entertainer) and contemplating the inevitable Disney theme-park attraction. At least the ride will be over more quickly. J.L.

Riddick

Vin Diesel is back as the formidable interplanetary fugitive first seen in *Pitch Black* (2000) and *The Chronicles of Riddick* (2004). This time, he's been left for dead on a sun-blazed world inhabited by predatory monsters; he finds his way to a deserted outpost and broadcasts his presence into space, planning to steal a ship and escape when bounty hunters show up to capture him. Writer-director David Twohy plops us down in the middle of his story and leaves us hanging at the end, waiting for Episode 4. In between, the movie is a harsh, gritty pleasure, straightforward and tautly suspenseful, and showcasing Twohy's knack for portraying truly alien worlds. Jordi Mollà, Matt Nable and Katee Sackhoff play three of the bounty hunters, and there's a cameo by Karl Urban as Riddick's nemesis from *Chronicles*. J.L.

The Spectacular Now

A hard-drinking high-school party boy (Miles Teller), recently dumped by his girlfriend (Brie Larson), strikes up a friendship, then a tentative romance, with a classmate (Shailene Woodley). He barely knows her, but she knows him well—by reputation. Will she pull him up to her level, or will he drag her down to his? Just when you're tired of teen rom-coms, along comes one like this to redeem the whole debased genre. Written by Scott Neustadter and Michael H. Weber (from Tim Tharp's novel) and directed by James Ponsoldt, this is the most charming such movie since Cameron Crowe's *Say Anything*, which was released 24 years ago. (Not surprisingly, Neustadter and Weber also wrote the equally charming *(500) Days of Summer*.) Teller and Woodley have great chemistry, and rightly shared a special acting award at the Sundance Film Festival. J.L.

We're the Millers

A small-time pot dealer (Jason Sudeikis), having been strong-armed into smuggling tons of weed in from Mexico, hires a stripper (Jennifer Aniston), a teen runaway (Emma Roberts) and the dweeb next door (Will Poulter) to masquerade as a straight-arrow family and avoid suspicion at the border. The writers' credit (Sean Anders, Steve Faber, Bob Fisher, John Morris) is studded with numerous "ands" and "&s," indicating rewrites without collaboration, and the unevenness shows in story sags and digressions. On the plus side, the whole thing plays to Sudeikis and Aniston's comic strengths, and they have good chemistry. The humor is often raunchy (watch out for that spider-bite scene!), but most of the gags hit the target, and some hit the bull's-eye. Rawson Marshall Thurber directs with a game (if at times unsteady) hand. J.L.

The World's End

A 40-year-old boy who never grew up (Simon Pegg) dragoons four pals (Nick Frost, Martin Freeman, Paddy Considine, Eddie Marsan) into returning to their hometown and repeating the epic pub crawl they got too drunk to finish back in their youth. The others have all moved on with their lives, but his enthusiasm brooks no denial. Still, all misgivings seem justified when they find the old town eerily changed. The script by Pegg and director Edgar Wright begins as a fast-paced British working-class comedy, with jokes coming almost too fast to catch. Then, it suddenly (and seamlessly) morphs into a latter-day *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, with our boys battling an invasion of passive-aggressive aliens. It's high old fun, though it plays as a bit too much of a rehash of Pegg and Wright's *Shaun of the Dead*. J.L.





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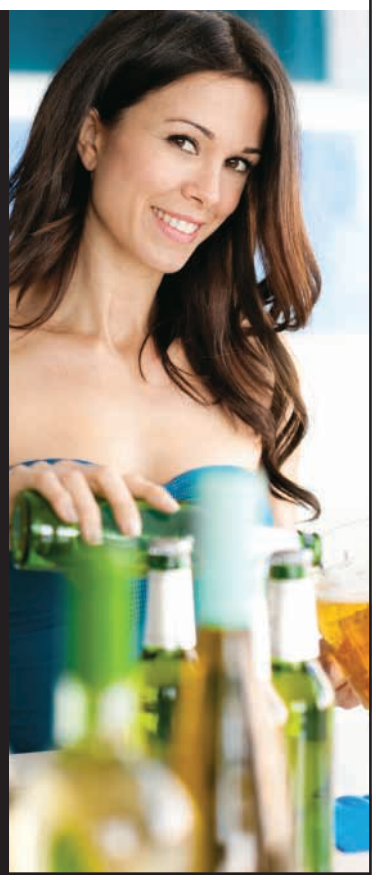
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MUSIC

Father of invention

Renowned French experimental musician Richard Pinhas gets philosophical

by **Dennis Yudt**

For 40 years, French guitarist Richard Pinhas has been revered worldwide as a musical innovator, most famously with his 1970s-era band Heldon, and also as a pioneer in the use of electronics in rock music. After an early fascination with Jimi Hendrix and, later, Robert Fripp—especially the latter's 1973 album with Brian Eno, *(No Pussyfooting)*—Pinhas developed a singular style in rock, jazz and, more recently, the experimental sounds on his latest record, *Desolation Row*. Here, Pinhas finds himself in the company of some of music's most cutting-edge electronic and noise artists, including Oren Ambarchi and Noël Akchoté.



PHOTO BY PATRICK JELIN

No basic guitar riffs here—Richard Pinhas pushes sound to new places.

He is also well-regarded as a philosopher, author and lecturer. Pinhas, who took part in the 1968 student uprisings at France's Paris Sorbonne University, holds a doctorate in philosophy and once studied under noted French philosopher Gilles Deleuze.

Pinhas, who performs Wednesday, September 18, at Bows & Arrows with Bay Area guitarist Barry Cleveland, recently answered questions via email for SN&R to wax philosophical on sci-fi, musical connections and improvisation.

Richard Pinhas performs with Barry Cleveland on Wednesday, September 18, at 8 p.m. at Bows & Arrows, at 1815 19th Street; cover is $10. Practice and Ross Hammond are also on the bill. Visit www.richard-pinhas.com for more info.

How is the tour going? Met any future collaborators or heard opening acts that you've enjoyed?

Depends on which tour you are talking about. Last June, I finished a series of great gigs in Japan with Merzbow, Yoshida Tatsuya and Keiji Haino, then [played] Spain's [Sónar Festival] with the Pascal Comelade [b]and. After the [United States tour], I will play at [an electronic festival] in Portugal and then probably play in Paris with Oren Ambarchi and Stephen O'Malley.

You've interviewed and collaborated musically with the science-fiction writer Norman Spinrad, whose books often present a vision of a dystopian future. He's considered a huge influence on you—the name Heldon comes from a Spinrad novel: Is your music an extension of that?

Spinrad is a very old friend. He introduced me to Philip K. Dick, whom I met in [Los Angeles] in 1974. Norman has played or "sung" on Heldon albums and my solo albums from the '80s—I treated his voice via my Vocoder! At the beginning of Heldon, I was very involved in science fiction books, and in philosophy and literature in general. So Dick and Spinrad's ideas influenced me a lot in the way of my comprehension of the world, ideas and nature. My music is not an extension of science fiction, but was once upon a time very connected to a kind of sci-fi—let's say the political [themes] that Dick and Spinrad wrote about.

What do you look for in a collaborator?

I always think that music is a connection between brains, souls and the feelings of people (musicians). I do solo recordings but I am a lot more involved with live musicians and ensembles. I navigate between encounters and feelings that can be very different at this or that period of my life. I mainly want to change not only the music, but also the relationship between musicians.

Your upcoming show in Sacramento will be played as a duo with the equally adventurous guitarist Barry Cleveland. Will it be improvised, and what can people expect to hear from Richard Pinhas in 2013 that's different from what you did 20 years ago?

Well, I don't know yet! I am very pleased and very aware of what can happen with Barry and it will be a complete experience because we've never [played] a duet together and I will like this a lot, I have a great respect for Barry and hope that we will do something like one plus one equals "x"—but not "two" … I believe in invention and in spontaneity. □

Rapper spurns Sac, bridges get burned

A Keef beef: Rapper **Chief Keef** burst onto the rap scene in the summer of 2012 with the rough, unsophisticated video for his song "I Don't Like." The lyrics are a simplistic list of "shit" that Keef "don't like," such as snitches and "**sneak dissers**." The video, which has more than 7 million hits, features Keef and his crew in the room of a **janky house**, smoking copious amounts of weed and getting progressively drunker.

A majority of his posse sport short, face-obscuring dreads like their leader, **sagging True Religion jeans**, and about half the guys are shirtless. Keef was only 16 when it was shot, and in the video he dances shoulder to shoulder with other **scrawny**, **tattooed adolescents**. The **aggression** and **youthful exuberance** bursting from the screen is mesmerizing, with an undeniably dark edge.

Keef is part of the Chicago drill scene, which creates music that's characterized by sounding **repetitive**, **raw** and **grim**. Many of the songs are produced by Young Chop, who is only 19. His production uses skittish trap-influenced beats and keyboard refrains that recall horror-movie scores. The dark tone of drill reflects the ongoing violence on the South Side of Chicago, and perhaps fuels it.

Not long after the release of "I Don't Like," **Kanye West** released a remix version, which currently has more than 32 million hits on YouTube, and even tapped Keef to appear on a track of his new album *Yeezus*. In a characteristic move, Keef later burned his bridges by tweeting, "Kanye West ain't do shit for me." He also rejected 50 Cent's offer of mentorship. He's also tangled with the law numerous times recently for nonpayment of child support, ditching out on a show and more.

This is all leads up to the fact that at the last minute, **Keef canceled his show**, which was slated for September 8, at Ace of Spades. He can now count Sacramento as a city where his bridges are burned. It's not the first city he's treated this way; in August, Keef was ordered to pay $230,000 for skipping out on a London show.

As a **disgruntled crowd** gathered for refunds, many of those waiting called him an "idiot." Quite a few ticket buyers had come to watch local rapper **Clyde Moore**'s opening set, which meant that the beloved local skater from the Lurk Hard crew missed out on a chance to perform his biggest show to date.

I was in Los Angeles for the weekend, and when I heard about the late-announced show, I changed my plane ticket so that I could make the set. I know that everything I've written so far probably has you scratching your head as to why I would do that, but I actually am (or was) a Chief Keef fan. He's undeniably charismatic, and his songs are **earworms**. Plus, he's the first drill artist I'd heard. Still, now that I'm more acquainted with the sound and Young Chop's production, other artists have eclipsed him on my playlist.

Prediction: Chief Keef will continue to skip out on obligations and squander his money on Bedazzled jeans.

Specifically, there are three female artists releasing music within this typically **misogynistic rap scene** who I've been listening to: Sasha Go Hard, Tink and Katie Got Bandz. All three have released numerous mix-tapes but don't have any official releases yet. Sasha Go Hard's "Nutty World" and Katie Got Bandz's wittily titled "Drillary Clinton" dropped within the last several weeks. Each of these artists has more talent and spark than the humorless Chief Keef. And all of them have a fraction of the visibility that Chief Keef has—although Sasha and Katie have gotten some buzz lately.

A few predictions: Keef will continue to skip out on obligations and alienate other famous rappers and producers, **squander his money on Bedazzled jeans**, and end up in prison for at least a short term at some point.

Keef disappointed his Sacramento fans *and* screwed over a local rapper.

That's that shit I don't like, nah.

—Becky Grunewald

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EIGHT GIGS

12 THURS



The Slackers

Ace of Spades, 7 p.m., $15

SKA

Influenced by Jamaican ska pioneers like the Skatalites and the Upsetters—which later formed the nucleus of Bob Marley's backing band, the Wailers—the Slackers formed in the early '90s. This New York-based band avoids the happy up-tempo clichés the ska genre is known for, and instead weaves reggae, soul and jazz in with a noticeable garage-rock influence. The Slackers have released 13 studio albums over its more than 20-year career and recently recorded a six-song EP, *My Bed Is a Boat*, which will be available in a month on wax or as a collectible CD with handcrafted cases. *1417 R Street, www.theslackers.com.*

—Steph Rodriguez

13 FRI



The Other Brittany

Shine, 8 p.m., $5

ROCK

Just in case it isn't clear, this isn't *that* Britney, it's the Other Brittany. And the Other Brittany couldn't have less in common with the more famous Britney, as in Britney Spears. For starters, Sacramento's the Other Brittany isn't a person, but a band. Sure, the lead singer of the band is named Brittany (last name McKinney), but she's only one piece of the puzzle. The remaining members of the quartet create an eclectic blend of alt-rock, folk and soul, with a deep, heavy groove. The Other Brittany brings the passion and honesty of a coffee-shop folk singer to the music, but with the intensity of a full rock band. *1400 E Street, www.theotherbrittany.com.*

—Aaron Carnes

14 SAT



Aftershock 2013

Discovery Park, 11 a.m., $59-$219

ROCK

Just go ahead and plan to be sick on Monday, because after the Aftershock 2013 festival, you won't be fit to work. P.O.D. still brings it like nobody's business; Skillet gives you plenty of reasons to bang your head; Shinedown and Korn will sonically pummel you to death if the guys in the pit don't do that to you first; and then there's one of metal's "big four": Megadeth. Local rock heroes and one of the last remaining bands from the rock-metal hybrid invasion of the late 1990s, Papa Roach (pictured), will also be appearing, as will rock stalwarts Avenged Sevenfold and up-and-comers Halestorm and Five Finger Death Punch. *1600 Garden Highway, www.aftershockconcert.com.*

—Brian Palmer

14 SAT



Classixx

MARRS building, 4 p.m., no cover

ELECTRONICA

Summer isn't officially over until September 21, but once Labor Day has passed, the weeks in between start to feel like some sort of pleasant-yet-melancholy limbo. The remnants of the season should be sopped up with gusto (if not a little desperation), and the final This block party of its inaugural series promises to be an excellent place in which to do so. It's headlined by Los Angeles-based electronica duo Classixx, which will be joined by Midi Matilda and the Frail. The concert series has gotten better each month, and with the highly danceable Classixx topping it all off, a raucous celebration of the summer's end is all but inevitable. *1050 20th Street, http://classixx.la.*

—Deena Drewis

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14 SAT



Musical Awakening of Indian Jazz

Harris Center for the Arts, 7 p.m., $20–$25

While jazz is often considered an American musical form, it has also borrowed heavily from the rhythms of other cultures. So, a melding of American jazz and North Indian sounds should not be a surprise. Pandit Binay Pathak is a composer, harmonium player and singer known for his *ghazals*, and he will be joined by dayereh percussionist Abbos Kosimov; George Brooks (pictured), saxophonist, composer and co-founder of Bombay Jazz and other Indian fusion groups; and Matthew Montfort, scalloped fretboard guitarist, recipient of the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award. *10 College Drive in Folsom, www.sahana.org.*

JAZZ/WORLD

—Trina L. Drotar

14 SAT



The Scratch Outs

Blue Lamp, 9 p.m., $5

Reggae has evolved so much since the 1960s. But even in the early days, several subgenres emerged—dancehall, dub, rocksteady—so what can be considered authentic Jamaican reggae is actually quite diverse. The local troupe the Scratch Outs aim to create traditional reggae music in a way that pays attention to all its forms. It's all in there: every variation on reggae that emerged in or before the 1980s. The band does reggae the way it used to be done, with a full band—and that includes an organ, horns and lots of group harmonies. Its communal love for the genre keeps it pure, even if they're not from Jamaica. *1400 Alhambra Boulevard, www.facebook.com/thescratchouts.*

REGGAE

—Aaron Carnes

15 SUN



A Moving Sound

Cache Creek Casino Resort, 6 p.m., $20

If you want to feel like you've been magically transported to a different country, head over to Cache Creek Casino Resort to see A Moving Sound. But good luck guessing which country you'll end up in. The Taiwanese quintet, led by couple Mia Hsieh and Scott Prairie, blends Taiwanese, Chinese and Western sounds. Yet, some songs—especially "Silk Road" and "Ganesh"—draw from Indian and Middle Eastern influences. After forming more than 10 years ago, releasing four albums and touring the world, the group is now undertaking a North American tour. Expect cool costumes and interpretive dance, too. *14455 Highway 16 in Brooks, www.amovingsound.com/english.*

WORLD

—Jonathan Mendick

19 THURS



The Brubeck Brothers Quartet

Harris Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m., $12–$45

In 2012, the Brubeck Brothers Quartet released *Lifetimes*, a tribute to two of the members' father, Dave Brubeck. This year, the quartet will again honor the jazz master, whose list of awards and recordings is extensive. Brubeck's work also experimented with unusual time signatures and rhythms, because he believed that jazz should challenge listeners. This quartet—Daniel Brubeck (drums), Chris Brubeck (bass and trombone), and "honorary brothers" Mike DeMicco (guitar) and Chuck Lamb (piano)—has performed Brubeck classics such as "Kathy's Waltz," "The Duke" and "Take Five." *10 College Parkway in Folsom, http://brubeckbrothers.com.*

JAZZ

—Trina L. Drotar

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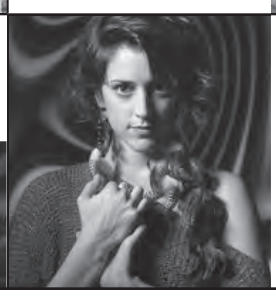




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	THURSDAY 9/12	FRIDAY 9/13	SATURDAY 9/14	SUNDAY 9/15	MONDAY–WEDNESDAY 9/16-9/18
ASSEMBLY 1000 K St., (916) 832-4751					REBEL SOULJAHS, 7pm Tu, call for cover; DOUGIE MACLEAN, 7pm W, $30
BADLANDS 2003 K St., (916) 448-8790	Tipsy Thursdays, Top 40 deejay dancing, 9pm, call for cover	Fabulous and Gay Fridays, 9pm, call for cover	Saturday Boom, 9pm, call for cover	Sin Sunday, 8pm, call for cover	Mad Mondays, 9pm M; Latin video flair, Wii bowling, 7pm Tu; Trapacana, 10pm W
BAR 101 101 Main St., Roseville; (916) 774-0505	Karaoke, 7:30pm, no cover	REBEL RADIO, 9:30pm, call for cover			Trivia, 6:30pm M, no cover ; Open-mic, 7:30pm W, no cover
BLUE LAMP 1400 Alhambra, (916) 455-3400	Quality Control with DJ Nocturnal, 9pm, call for cover	JOE FIRSTMAN, RED LEAF, BRIAN ROGERS; 8:30pm, call for cover	THE SCRATCH OUTS, THE STORY TELLERS; 9pm, call for cover	HOPELESS JACK, 9pm, call for cover	HAYMARKET SQUARES, WEST NILE RAMBLERS; 9pm W, call for cover
THE BOARDWALK 9426 Greenback Ln., Orangevale; (916) 988-9247	TAYLOR CULLEN, JT LOUX, ANARCHY LACE, CRIMINAL ROCK; 8:30pm	I-80 PLAYAZ, DRUNKFUNK PRODUCTIONS, JOHN WAYNE, N8TIV; 8pm	K-OTTIC, MARK SNIPES, LIL BIT, QUEN, D WRECK, J PACORIOUS; 8pm		WE BUTTER THE BREAD WITH BUTTER, INCREDIBLE ME; 6:30pm W, $10-$12
BOWS & ARROWS 1815 19 St., (916) 822-5668	CLASSICAL REVOLUTION, 8pm, no cover	JODEE PURKEYPILE, SILVER SHIPS, TOMMY NORTON'S TRAVELING BAND; 8pm			PREGNANT, HIGH WOLF; 8pm Tu, $5; RICHARD PINHAS, 8pm W, $10
CENTER FOR THE ARTS 314 W. Main St., Grass Valley; (530) 274-8384		THE DEVIL'S TRAIN, STEP JAYNE, THE WICKER MEN; 8:30pm, $8-$10	KACEY JOHANSING, KEITH DAILY; 8:30pm, $8-$10	SECRET AGENT 23 SKIDOO; 2pm, $10-$12	Community Music Jam, 6:30pm M, no cover
THE COZMIC CAFÉ 594 Main St., Placerville; (530) 642-8481	Open-mic, 7:30pm, no cover	THE LITTLE FULLER BAND, 8pm, $5			
FOX & GOOSE 1001 R St., (916) 443-8825	STEVE MCLANE, 8pm, no cover	DANNY SECRETION, KEVIN SECONDS, DAVID HOUSTON & STRING THEORY; 9pm	THE CIGARETTE MACHINE, THE PIKEYS; 9pm, $5		Open-mic, 7:30pm M; Pub Quiz, 7pm Tu; Northern Soul, 8pm W, no cover
G STREET WUNDERBAR 228 G St., Davis; (530) 756-9227			MAJOR POWERS AND THE LO-FI SYMPHONY, 9pm, no cover		
HALFTIME BAR & GRILL 5681 Lonetree Blvd., Rocklin; (916) 632-8200		MADHOUSE, 9pm-midnight, no cover	LEFT OF CENTRE, 9pm-midnight, no cover		Trivia night, 7:30-9pm Tu, no cover
HARLOW'S 2708 J St., (916) 441-4693	ORGONE, MONOPHONICS; 8pm, $15-$18	BRUBAKER, THE QUICK & EASY BOYS, PHIL & THE BLANX; 9pm, $10-$12	CLOSE TO YOU: A CARPENTERS TRIBUTE, 7pm, $18; RIZ, TASK1NE; 9:30pm, $7	THE FEATURES, 7pm, $10-$12	BOOMBOX, RAMONA, 9pm Tu, $7.50-$15; ACORN PROJECT, GROOVINCIBLE; W, $10
LUNA'S CAFÉ & JUICE BAR 1414 16th St., (916) 441-3931	tJoe Montoya's Poetry Unplugged, 8pm, $2	ROBERT SCOTT, GLENS OF SMOW; 9pm, no cover	Screening: *The Heros Adventure*, 5pm, $5; ONE EYED REILLY, TAJLYN; 9pm, $5		Nebraska Mondays, 7:30pm M, $5-$20; Comedy night, 8pm W, $6
MARILYN'S ON K 908 K St., (916) 446-4361	REEFER TWINS, 9pm, $5	THE BOX FAMILY, 9pm, $5	THE CHICK P'S, BLUES MONSTERS; 8:30pm, $6	Open-mic, 7pm, no cover	MIDORI AND EZRA BOY, BACK ALLEY; 8pm M, $5; Classic rock, blues, 8pm Tu
MIDTOWN BARFLY 1119 21st St., (916) 549-2779		Get Down to the Champion Sound, reggae and dancehall deejays, 10pm, $5	Phuture Global Discotheque w/ D.A.M.B., Funktion and Jon Maestro, 10pm, $5-$10	Gothic, Industrial, Darkwave, EBM, Retro, 9:30pm-2am, $5	Swing, Lindy Hop, 8pm Tu, $6-$10; Salsa, Bachata, Merengue, 8:30pm W, $5
NAKED LOUNGE DOWNTOWN 1111 H St., (916) 443-1927	ODD MONIKER, ORANGE MORNING, INSTAGON; 8:30pm, $5	THE O'MULLIGANS, THE ROCKONIGLES, WOLFGANG VEGA; 8:30pm, $5	ORION WALSH, TRAVIS LARSON BAND; 8:30pm, $5		Jazz, 8pm M; SPENCER HOFFMAN, ELIJAH EGBERT, BARRINGER; 8:30pm W, $5
OLD IRONSIDES 1901 10th St., (916) 442-3504	JENN ROGAR, 5pm, no cover	CALIFORNIA RIOT ACT, Z.B. SAVOY & CHIVALRY, LUCKY LASKOWSKI; 9pm, $5	SOFT SCIENCE, JEM & SCOUT; 9pm, $5		Karaoke w/ Sac City Entertainment, 9pm Tu, no cover; Open-mic, 9pm W, no cover
ON THE Y 670 Fulton Ave., (916) 487-3731	Karaoke, 9pm, no cover	DEAD IN SECONDS, KRIPPLER, WHITE KNUCKLE RIOT; 8pm, $5	Karaoke, 9pm, no cover	Open-mic comedy, 9pm, no cover	Karaoke, 9pm Tu, no cover





	THURSDAY 9/12	FRIDAY 9/13	SATURDAY 9/14	SUNDAY 9/15	MONDAY–WEDNESDAY 9/16-9/18
THE PALMS PLAYHOUSE 13 Main St., Winters; (530) 795-1825	SHINYRIBS, 8pm, $15				
THE PARK ULTRA LOUNGE 1116 15th St., (916) 442-7222		DJ Shift, DJ Eddie Edul, 9pm, call for cover	DJ Peeti V, 9pm-2am, $15	Asylum Downtown: Gothic, industrial, EBM dancing, 9pm, call for cover	
PINS N STRIKES 3443 Laguna Blvd., Elk Grove; (916) 226-2625		Deejay dancing, 9pm, $10	MERCY ME!, 9pm, $10		
PJ'S ROADHOUSE 5461 Mother Lode, Placerville; (530) 626-0336	DJ Michael Johnson, 9pm, no cover	STELLAR, HERO'S LAST MISSION, GOOD SAMARITANS; 9pm, $5	MELONNEE DESIREE, 9pm, $5		
POWERHOUSE PUB 614 Sutter St., Folsom; (916) 355-8586	CHRIS GARDNER, 10pm, call for cover	JET WEST, ARDEN PARK ROOTS; 9pm, call for cover	ROLLING HEADS, 10pm, call for cover	PINKIE RIDEAU, 3pm, call for cover	Country Karaoke, 9pm M, call for cover; DJ Alazzawi, DJ Rigatony, 10pm Tu, $3
THE PRESS CLUB 2030 P St., (916) 444-7914	BLOWFLY, KNIFETHRUHEAD, GET SHOT!, BARBAROUS COCK; 8pm, $10	Top 40 w/ DJ Rue, 9pm, $5	Top 40 Night w/ DJ Larry Rodriguez, 9pm, $5	Sunday Night Soul Party, 9pm, $5	BRIAN STEVENS, ALEX DORAME, MATT WOODS, JOSEPH KOJIMA GRAY; 8pm M
SAMMY'S ROCKIN' ISLAND 238 Vernon St., Roseville; (916) 773-7625		MILES SCHON BAND, 10pm, $5	ROCK ON BROADWAY, 10pm, $5		
SHENANIGANS 705 J St., (916) 442-1268	Comedy Night and DJ Selekta Lou, 9pm, $5	FLANELHED, GERANIMO, FORCE OF HABIT; 8pm-1am, $8-$10			
SOL COLLECTIVE 2574 21st St., (916) 832-0916		MUSONICS, BATHYSPHERE, CRASH CORE BANDITCOOTS; 6:30pm, $11-$13	No Excuses rap battle, 6:30pm, call for cover		Microphone Mondays, 6pm M, $1-$2
SOPHIA'S THAI KITCHEN 129 E St., Davis; (530) 758-4333		GHOST TIGER, LEARNING TEAM; 9:30pm, $5	BROWN SHOE, LOW HUMS, AMY BLASCHKE; 9:30pm, $5		
STONEY INN/ROCKIN' RODEO 1320 Del Paso Blvd., (916) 927-6023	THE MICHAEL BECK BAND, 9:30pm, $5	WADE HAYES, GEORGIA RAIN, THE BUCK FORD BAND; 7:30pm, $15	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		NOTHIN PERSONAL, 6-10pm, $5	AUTO REPLAY, 4-8pm, $5	ROAD 88, 3-7pm, $5	
TORCH CLUB 904 15th St., (916) 443-2797	X TRIO, 5pm, no cover; JERAMY NORRIS & DANGEROUS MOOD, 9pm, $5	PAILER AND FRATIS, 5:30-7:30pm, no cover; KAREN LOVELY, 9pm, $10	JOHNNY KNOX, 5pm, no cover; ELECTRIC GREASE, 9pm, $7	Blues jam, 4pm, no cover; BLACK MARKET III, 8pm, $5	Music showcase, 8pm Tu; Open-mic, 5:30pm W; SIOUX CITY KID, 9pm W, $5
All ages, all the time					
ACE OF SPADES 1417 R St., (916) 448-3300	THE SLACKERS, RIOTMAKER, ANOTHER DAMN DISAPPOINTMENT; 6:30pm	STEEL PANTHER, 7pm, call for cover	DIZZY WRIGHT, EMILIO ROJAS, FUTURISTIC; 7pm, $18		WE BUTTER THE BREAD WITH BUTTER, OUR ENDLESS OBSESSION; 6:30pm W, $10
CLUB RETRO 1529 Eureka Rd., Roseville; (916) 988-6606		A HOLY GHOST REVIVAL, TAUNIS YEAR ONE, THE KENNEDY VEIL; 6:30pm, $10			
LUIGI'S SLICE AND FUN GARDEN 1050 20th St., (916) 552-0317				STOLAS, STRAWBERRY GIRLS, SECOND TO LAST, SO MUCH LIGHT; 7pm, $8	LOW HUMS, MIKE COYKENDALL; Tu, call for cover
SHINE 1400 E St., (916) 551-1400		THE OTHER BRITTANY, JAHARI SAI TRIO, SUNMONKS; 8pm, $5	MAD ANTHONY, 8pm, $5		Open jazz jam w/ Jason Galbraith & Friends, 8pm Tu, no cover



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Pharmacist of the Year Makes Memory Discovery of a Lifetime

'America's Pharmacist,' Dr. Gene Steiner, finds what he and his patients have been looking for – a real memory pill!

PHOENIX, ARIZONA —
If Pharmacist of the Year, Dr. Gene Steiner, had a nickel for every time someone leaned over the counter and whispered, "Do you have anything that can improve my memory," he would be a rich man today.



Pharmacist of the Year, Dr. Gene Steiner, PharmD, was so impressed with his newfound memory powers that he recommended the patented, prescription-free memory formula to his pharmacy patients with great success.

It's a question he's heard countless times in his 45-year career. He has seen families torn apart by the anguish of memory loss and mental decline, a silent condition that threatens the independent lifestyle that seniors hold so dearly.

In his years-long search for a drug or nutrient that could slow mental decline, he finally found the answer, a natural, drug-free compound that helps aging brains 'think and react,' younger.

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"It helps tired, forgetful brains to 'snap awake," says Dr. Steiner.

Before Dr. Steiner recommended it to customers, he tried it first. "Within a few days, I can tell you without reservation that my memory became crystal clear!"

"Speaking for pharmacists everywhere, we finally have something that we can recommend that is safe and effective. And you don't need a prescription either!"

Feeding an Older Brain

The formula helps oxygenate listless brain cells to revitalize and protect them from free radicals caused by stress and toxins.

It also helps restore depleted neurotransmitter levels, while feeding the aging mind with brain-specific nutrients and protective antioxidants.

"I had such marvelous results with this memory pill that I not only started recommending it to my customers, I even shared it with other physicians!"

Pharmacy Best-Seller

"It became the best-selling brain health product in my pharmacy and customers were returning to thank me for introducing them to it."

Users like Selwyn Howell* agree. He credits the memory compound with bolstering his confidence.

"It helped me speak out more than I used to. I am growing more confident every day.

Carey S.* reports, "I feel so much more focused and with the new energy I'm now ready to tackle the things I've been putting off for years!"

Elizabeth K.* of Rochester, New York experienced a night-and-day difference in her mind and memory. At the age of 54, her memory was declining at an "alarming rate."

"I was about to consult a neurologist when I read a newspaper article about it."

"It took about a month for the memory benefit to kick in. Six months later, even my husband was impressed with my improved memory. And I am very happy with my renewed mental clarity and focus!"

"I highly recommend it," says Dr. Steiner. "This drug-free compound called Procera AVH is the perfect supplement for increasing one's brain power. If it worked for me, it can work for you!"



For years, pharmacists told disappointed patients that memory loss was inevitable. A new, drug-free cognitive formula may help improve mind, mood, and memory in as little as 30 days.

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Call the toll-free number below to see how you can reserve your free 30-day supply of Procera AVH, the same, patented memory formula used by Dr. Steiner. It is the #1-selling memory formula in the US, and it is also mentioned in the medically acclaimed book, *20/20 Brainpower: 20 Days to a Quicker, Calmer, Sharper Mind!*

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Are you ready for some football?

I read somewhere that marijuana helps with brain injuries. With all the concussions in the NFL, when are professional football players gonna be allowed to use weed?

—Jerry Nice



by NGAIO BEALUM

ask420@newsreview.com

Right? It makes sense to me. But maybe the NFL hasn't paid any attention to the various studies showing that cannabis isn't just an effective neuroprotectant, it also helps to grow healthy brain cells.

Perhaps it hasn't read anything from Dr. Raphael Mechoulam, the person who discovered the THC molecule. He co-authored a paper in 2002 (www.lycaeum.org/research/researchpdfs/2002_mechoulam_1.pdf) showing how weed protects the brain during injury. Or maybe it has never heard of Dr. Xia Zhang from Saskatoon? Zhang published a study in 2005 showing that weed helped the hippocampus create new brain cells (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1253627).

Check this quote from a study done at the University of Washington looking for a drug to fight amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease): "Ideally, a multidrug regimen, including glutamate antagonists, antioxidants, a centrally acting anti-inflammatory agent, microglial cell modulators (including tumor necrosis factor alpha [TNF-alpha] inhibitors), an antiapoptotic agent, 1 or more neurotrophic growth factors, and a mitochondrial function-enhancing agent would be required to comprehensively address the known pathophysiology of ALS. Remarkably, cannabis appears to have activity in all of those areas. Preclinical data indicate that cannabis has powerful antioxidative, anti-inflammatory, and neuroprotective effects."

I would encourage the Marijuana Policy Project to put up more billboards extolling weed over booze, like the one they erected at Sports Authority Field at Mile High in Denver.

That's right. Cannabis does a lot of things. And it tastes good. If I was in charge of the NFL and I had just settled a lawsuit for almost $1 billion because of all of the concussions players receive, I would dang-near insist that players smoke, eat or vaporize some weed after the game. I would lobby the federal government to reclassify cannabis so it is no longer a Schedule I drug, and allow for more tests to be done about cannabis and brain injuries. I would personally apologize to Ricky Williams for suspending him for cannabis use back in the day. I would encourage the Marijuana Policy Project to put up more billboards extolling weed over booze, like the one erected at Sports Authority Field at Mile High in Denver. And I would allow weed sales and discourage booze sales in stadiums. But that's just me.

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

Hello. I am new to this whole smoking pot thing. Can you give me any tips on etiquette?

—Nan the Newbie

No problem. The first rule: Be yourself. That's true for all things. Other than that, it's pretty easy. If smoking a bowl, don't burn off the top layer of green; leave some green for the people you are sharing with. Please don't salivate all over the joint or blunt, and try to bring some weed to share when you can. Welcome to the tribe of cannabis. □

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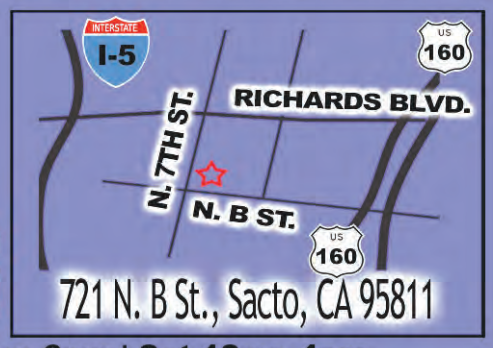
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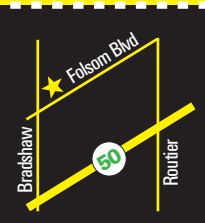
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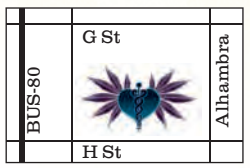
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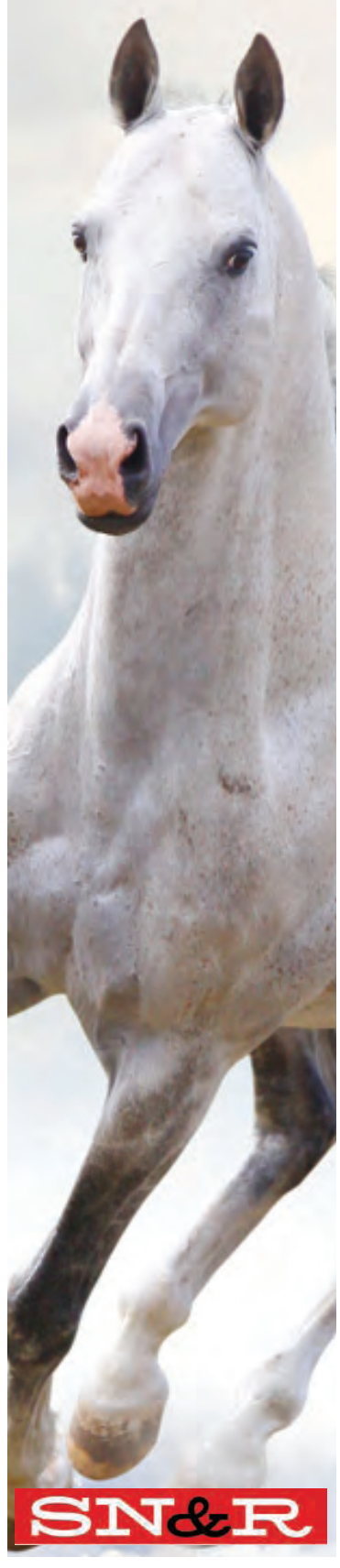
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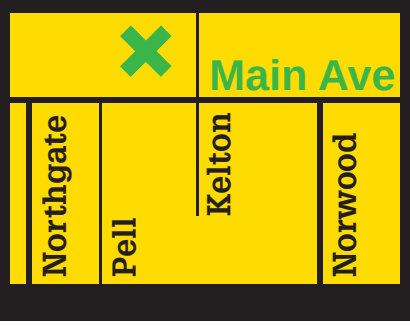
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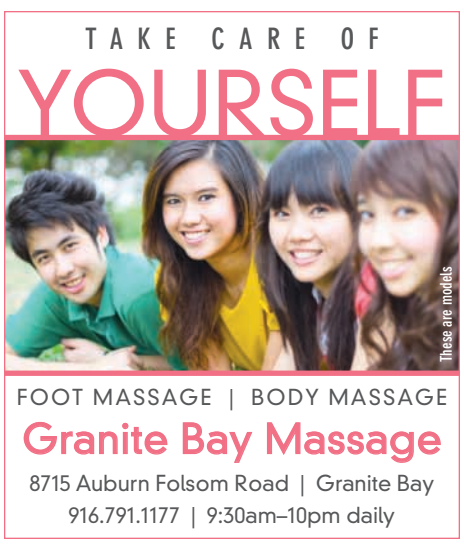

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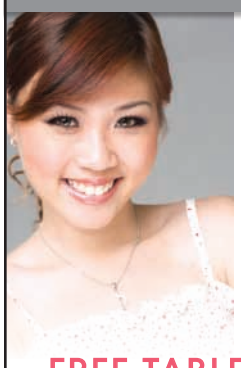
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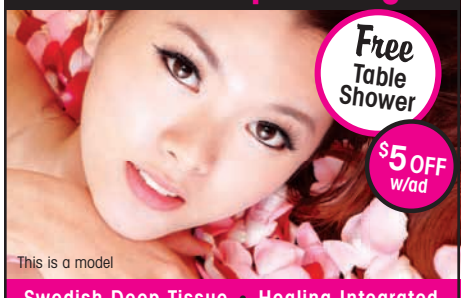
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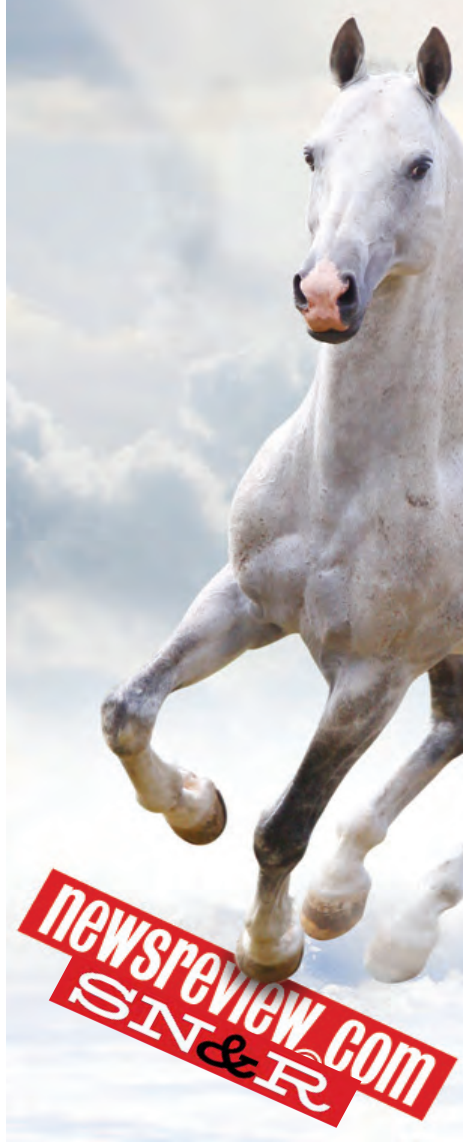
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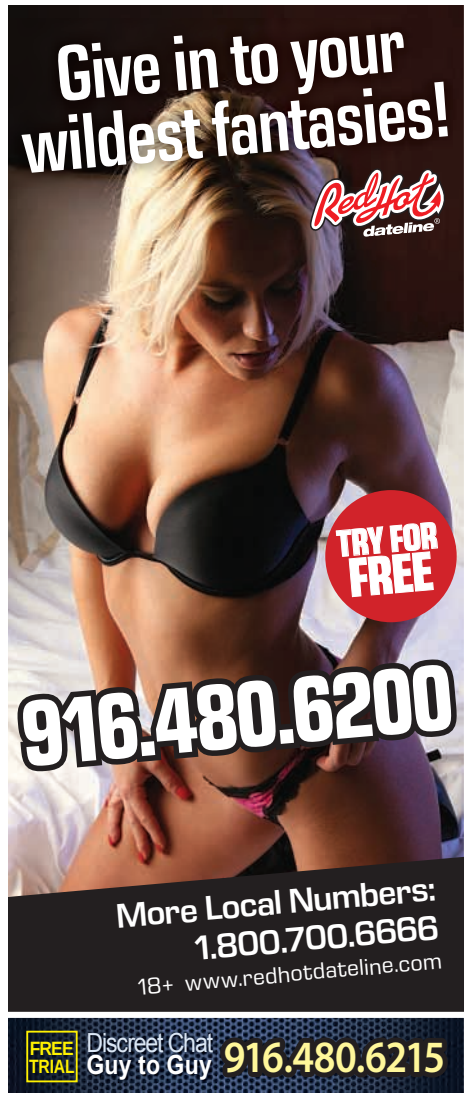


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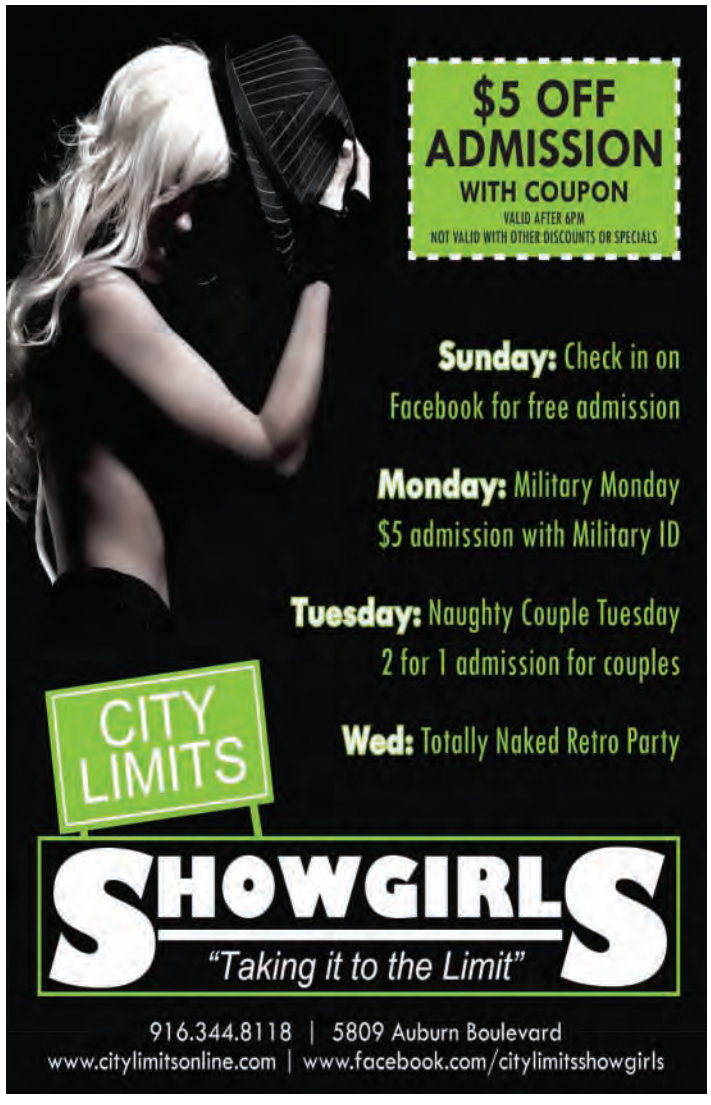








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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

For the week of **September 12, 2013** by **ROB BREZSNY**

ARIES (March 21–April 19): "A good story should make you laugh, and a moment later break your heart," wrote Chuck Palahniuk in his book *Stranger Than Fiction*. From what I can tell, Aries, the sequence is the reverse for you. In your story, the disruption has already happened. Next comes the part where you laugh. It may be a sardonic chuckle at first, as you become aware of the illusions you had been under before the jolt exposed them. Eventually, I expect you will be giggling and gleeful, eternally grateful for the tricky luck that freed you to pursue a more complete version of your fondest dream.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): Taurus musician David Byrne was asked by an interviewer to compose a seven-word autobiography. In response, he came up with 10 words: "unfinished, unprocessed, uncertain, unknown, unadorned, underarms, underpants, unfrozen, unsettled, unfussy." The coming days would be an excellent time for you to carry out similar assignments. I'd love to see you express the essential truth about yourself in bold and playful ways. I will also be happy if you make it clear that even though you're a work in progress, you have a succinct understanding of what you need and who you are becoming.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): The French word "*sillage*" means "wake," like the trail created behind a boat as it zips through water. In the perfume industry, it refers to the fragrance that remains in the air after a person wearing perfume or cologne passes by. For our purposes, we will expand the definition to include any influences and impressions left behind by a powerful presence that has exited the scene. In my astrological opinion, Gemini, sillage is a key theme for you to monitor in the coming days. Be alert for it. Study it. It will be a source of information that helps you make good decisions.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): "Cataglottism" is a rarely used English word that has the same meaning as French kissing—engaging in liberal use of the tongue as you make out. But I don't recommend that you incorporate such an inelegant, guttural term into your vocabulary. Imagine yourself thinking, while in the midst of French kissing, that what you're doing is "cataglottism." Your pleasure would probably be diminished. This truth applies in a broader sense, too. The language you use to frame your experience has a dramatic impact on how it all unfolds. The coming week will be an excellent time to experiment with this principle. See if you can increase your levels of joy and grace by describing what's happening to you with beautiful and positive words.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): This is Correct Your First Impressions Week. It's a perfect time for you to re-evaluate any of your beliefs that are based on mistaken facts or superficial perceptions. Are you open to the possibility that you might have jumped to unwarranted conclusions? Are you willing to question certainties that hardened in you after just a brief exposure to complicated processes? During Correct Your First Impressions Week, humble examination of your fixed prejudices is one of the greatest gifts you can give yourself. P.S. This is a good time to reconnect with a person you have unjustly judged as unworthy of you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): This is a good time to free yourself from a curse that an immature soul placed on you once upon a time. I'm not talking about a literal spell cast by a master of the dark arts. Rather, I'm referring to an abusive accusation that was heaped on you, perhaps inadvertently, by a careless person whose own pain made him or her stupid. As I evaluate the astrological omens, I conclude that you now have the power to dissolve this curse all by yourself. You don't need a wizard or a witch to handle it for you. Follow your intuition for clues on how to proceed. Here's a suggestion to stimulate your imagination: Visualize the curse as a dark purple rose. See yourself hurling it into a vat of molten gold.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): The current chapter of your life story may not be quite as epic as I think it is, so my advice may sound melodramatic. Still, what I'm going to tell you is something we all need to hear from time to time. And I'm pretty sure this is one of those moments for you. It comes from writer Charles Bukowski: "nobody can save you but / yourself. / you will be put again and again / into nearly impossible / situations. / they will attempt again and again / through subterfuge, guise, and / force / to make you submit, quit and/or die quietly / inside. / ... but don't, don't, don't. / ... nobody can save you but / yourself / and you're worth saving. / it's a war not easily won / but if anything is worth winning then / this is it."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): The cosmos hereby grants you poetic license to be brazen in your craving for the best and brightest experiences; to be uninhibited in feeding your obsessions and making them work for you; to be shameless as you pursue exactly and only what you really, really want more than anything else. This is a limited-time offer, although it may be extended if you pounce eagerly and take full advantage. For best results, suspend your pursuit of trivial wishes, and purge yourself of your bitchy complaints about life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): At the last minute, Elsa Oliver impulsively canceled her vacation to New York. She had a hunch that something exciting would happen if instead, she stayed at her home in England. A few hours later, she got a message inviting her to be a contestant on the U.K. television show *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* In the days and weeks that followed, she won the equivalent of approximately $100,000. I'm not predicting anything quite as dramatic for you, Sagittarius. But I do suspect that good luck is lurking in unexpected places, and to gather it in, you may have to trust your intuition, stay alert for late-breaking shifts in fate and be willing to alter your plans.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): "The only thing standing between you and your goal," writes American author Jordan Belfort, "is the bullshit story you keep telling yourself as to why you can't achieve it." I don't entirely agree with that idea. There may be other obstacles over which you have little control. But the bullshit story is often more than half the problem. So, that's the bad news, Capricorn. The good news is that right now is a magic moment in your destiny when you have more power than usual to free yourself of your own personal bullshit story.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): Is the truth a clear, bright, shiny treasure, like a big diamond glittering in the sunlight? Does it have an objective existence that's independent of our feelings about it? Or is the truth a fuzzy, convoluted thing that resembles a stream of smoke snaking through an underground cavern? Does it have a different meaning for every mind that seeks to grasp it? The answer, of course, is both. Sometimes the truth is a glittering diamond, and at other times, it's a stream of smoke. But for you right now, Aquarius, the truth is the latter. You must have a high tolerance for ambiguity as you cultivate your relationship with it. It's more likely to reveal its secrets if you maintain a flexible and cagey frame of mind.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): It's a good time to indulge in wide-open, high-flying, anything-goes fantasies about love—*if*, that is—*if* you also do something practical to help those fantasies come true. So, I encourage you to dream about revolutionizing your relationship with romance and intimacy—as long as you also make specific adjustments in your own attitudes and behavior that will make the revolution more likely. Two more tips: 1. Free yourself from dogmatic beliefs you might have about love's possibilities. 2. Work to increase your capacity for lusty trust and trusty lust.

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15 MINUTES

by **TRINA L. DROTAR**



PHOTO BY JENNIFER EGER

The outsider's story

At American River College, Michael Spurgeon works as a respected English professor. He also sits on the board of the Albert and Elaine Borchard Foundation, helped found the local youth literacy program 916 Ink, and believes that "every college graduate should be issued a passport and strongly encouraged to live abroad." In 1993, a younger Spurgeon quit his "well-paying but miserable" job in San Francisco and headed to Mexico with a childhood friend to become a writer—because Mexico was closer than Chile. The pair landed in San Cristóbal de las Casas in the state of Chiapas, where Spurgeon would soon have a front-row seat to the Zapatista Army of National Liberation's uprising, led by Subcomandante Marcos in protest of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Now that event has found its way into his debut novel, *Let the Water Hold Me Down* (Ad Lumen Press, $17). Spurgeon talked to SN&R about that story, the Zapatistas' legacy and the importance of empowering kids to tell their own histories.

Where were you when the uprising began?

When the actual war started across the street from my house, I was back in the States for the Christmas holiday. Then, on January 1, [1994], I was at a friend's house watching a bowl game, and my mom called and said to switch to CNN, "There's something going on in that town you live in." I saw an image of the town and of the apartment I lived in.

What do you think led to the Zapatistas' actions?

Chiapas has the largest number of natural resources in the country and the most poverty. Mexico has a complicated relationship with its indigenous population. There is a long history of racism toward, and colonization of, the indigenous people in Mexico. The reforms promised by the Mexican revolution never really took hold in Chiapas. That's really what the Zapatistas were fighting against. The other thing that they were fighting against was NAFTA, [which] sounded a death knell for the indigenous people and their way of life.

Were the Zapatistas correct in their belief that NAFTA would adversely affect the indigenous population?

Globalization and free trade are complex issues. Certainly the Zapatistas were correct that NAFTA would adversely affect the indigenous in the short term. The long term is harder to determine. In general, I think the Zapatistas were correct in seeing NAFTA as being about commerce at the expense of people.

How do you, an outsider, tell this story?

I wanted to tell this story of what happened in Mexico, and it had to be in first person, and it had to be [told from the perspective of a] gringo. I didn't feel that I had the right to write it in any other voice. I felt that writing something about class struggle in Mexico, since I was outside of that, the narrator had to be outside of that. I didn't want to take anything away from the people who were in the struggle.

What part of the book is your experience?

I did get hired as a bouncer and subsequently as a bartender. The city is the city. I tried to really create the atmosphere and the time of that place. I met my wife there, and so, I would say that I give part of our love story to the central character, but everything else is invented. I am certainly not the central character.

Would you have preferred to have gone to Chile?

In hindsight, definitely not. My whole adult life was shaped by that trip. At the time, it wouldn't have mattered, as I knew little about both countries.

What motivated you to write *Let the Water Hold Me Down*?

[Marcos'] revolutionary address was given across from my apartment. I felt stuck in the middle of somebody else's war, yet I appreciated the causes the Zapatistas were fighting for: land, medical assistance, education. That event, the leader, caused me to realize that as individuals we have a moral obligation to try and make things better for other people. [That idea] was central to my motivation for writing the book.

How have you put that idea in motion?

One example is I'm co-founder and board trustee of 916 Ink.

Why 916 Ink?

Literacy is a big deal. ... Over 70 percent of inmates in America's prisons can't read at a fourth-grade level. We say we're turning children into published authors, but I believe that by empowering kids to tell their own stories, they will become interested in reading. ... There's no such thing as a writer who isn't also a reader. □

For more information on Michael Spurgeon, visit www.michaelspurgeon.com.

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