Old Sparky's Death Lessons

By Glenn Dohy

"I have no interest in helping the state to kill people—I have an interest in helping them to do it without pain, without inflicting any unnecessary bodily damage."

Babies of a Toxic Border

By Melinda Pfefferm

For the second time in five years, the California Birth Defects Monitoring Program has reported that babies born in San Diego and Imperial counties had the highest risk of death and development problems, capturing the top two spots in the state's list of categories among 37 categories for birth defects.

Specifically, the region has the highest percentage of babies born with structural defects, which are generally caused by genetic disorders or infections during pregnancy. The region also has the highest rate of infants born with Down syndrome, which occurs when there is an extra copy of chromosome 21.

Approximately 1 in 10 babies born in the region have Down syndrome, compared to the national average of 1 in 800. The region also has a higher rate of babies born with congenital heart defects and other serious birth defects.

In 1998, the region had one of the highest rates of birth defects in the state, with a rate of 10 babies per 1,000 live births. In 1999, the rate dropped to 8 babies per 1,000 live births.

The region's rate of birth defects has been consistently higher than the state average for several years, prompting the California Department of Public Health to investigate the cause of the higher rates.

In an effort to address the issue, the region has implemented several programs to improve prenatal care and reduce the risk of birth defects. These programs include increased funding for prenatal care, education programs for healthcare providers, and efforts to improve the quality of care for pregnant women.

The region's high rate of birth defects has raised concerns among healthcare providers and policymakers, who are working to identify the underlying causes and develop strategies to reduce the rates.

These efforts have included the development of a regional birth defects surveillance system, which tracks the incidence of birth defects in the region, and the implementation of a Birth Defects Prevention Initiative, which focuses on increasing the availability of prenatal care and education for pregnant women.

In addition to the efforts of healthcare providers, the region's high rate of birth defects has sparked public interest and advocacy, with numerous community organizations and advocacy groups calling for increased funding and resources to address the issue.

The region's high rate of birth defects has also prompted the state to increase funding for research and surveillance efforts, with the goal of identifying the underlying causes and developing strategies to reduce the rates.

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Domestic Violence Takes a Hit
By Thomas R. Methven
When the O.J. Simpson case and its sensational allegations of spousal abuse broke last June, reporters beat a path to the door of Dr. Douglas Scharff, a Beverly Hills, Calif., psychiatrist who has interviewed both Simpson and Nicole Brown Simpson.
"I said, 'This is a very small part of the picture. There are a lot of other people who are out there who are living in environments much worse than this one,' " says Scharff, who was referred to the vanishing "psychiatrist to the stars" by a friend of her father.
Scharff has interviewed about 300 clients during his more than 20 years in practice, and he has a theory that domestic abuse is on the rise.
"It's a classic case of an idealized environment," he says. "There's a lot of money's going to be made here.""
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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

Dear Western Alien,

Let's face it—there is a question of what happens to your phone bill when you die. In the past, your phone bill was a monthly reminder of life's grim realities. But what happens when your phone dies? In the case of a cellular phone, the answer is: it becomes an expensive accessory for the afterlife.

The problem is that cell phones are becoming a ubiquitous part of our daily lives. They are not just a means of communication, but a way of living. They are used to store essential information, navigate the world, and even make us feel connected. But what happens when we die? Will our cellular phones become a symbol of our legacy, or a source of confusion and expense?

Some people are already thinking about what to do with their phones when they die. A small but growing number of companies offer services to dispose of cell phones in an environmentally friendly way. But what about the costs? Will our loved ones be saddled with a phone bill for our deceased? It's a question that needs to be addressed.

So, what do you think? How do you want your phone to be remembered? Do you want it to be a marker of your life, or a source of stress for your loved ones? Let us know your thoughts in the comments below.

Yours truly,
L. Myselk, Dead Phone

---

NOTE: This is a satirical piece, and should not be taken as a guide for what to do with your phone when you die. Always consult with a professional when making important decisions about your phone.
REMEMBER HOW, in the old “Lassie” movies, somebody would be in trouble or need help and Lassie somehow always happened to be nearby and the person would say, “Lassie, go tell the Sheriff that a tree fell on me,” and Lassie would run off and deliver the message? It’s too bad we all can’t walk around with Lassies, because the world would be a better place. But there is another way to tell people we’re in a tight spot. Now, we know a cellular phone is no substitute for a collie with an I.Q. of 120, but at least you’ll always feel safe and secure knowing that you can call people and get help if you have a flat tire, or your car breaks down, or a tree falls on you. This cellular phone here is just $75, and if you sign up with AirTouch now, we’ll also give you $75 of free calls.” Who knows? Maybe sometimes, just for kicks, you can call your dog to say hi when you’re working late. He worries about you.
Growing Up Negro in San Diego

San Diego Union 1975

It was not an easy task to be Negro in San Diego in the 1940s and 1950s. It was not an easy task to be Negro in any city, but it was especially so in San Diego, a city that was predominantly white. My grandparents were some of the first Negroes to come to San Diego from the South. They were part of the Great Migration, a movement of millions of African Americans from the South to the North and West in search of better opportunities.

My grandfather, William, was a farmer in the South. He had a small farm where he grew cotton and vegetables. He worked hard and saved money so that he could buy land and start his own farm. When he heard about the opportunities in San Diego, he decided to move north. My grandmother, Ethel, was a seamstress in the South. She worked long hours to support her family. When she heard about the opportunities in San Diego, she decided to move north with her husband.

When they arrived in San Diego, they were surprised by the heat and the dryness. They were used to the humidity and the rain in the South. They had to adjust to the heat and the dry air. They had to learn how to water the plants and how to keep the house cool. They had to learn how to keep the house clean and how to keep the clothes clean.

My grandfather worked hard in San Diego. He had a job as a laborer. He worked long hours and earned a good wage. He saved money so that he could buy a house and start his own business. My grandmother worked as a seamstress. She worked hard and saved money so that she could buy a house and start her own business.

They had a hard time finding a place to live. They had to pay a lot of money for rent. They had to pay a lot of money for food. They had to pay a lot of money for clothes. They had to pay a lot of money for transportation. They had to pay a lot of money for everything.

They had to be careful. They had to be careful not to get caught by the police. They had to be careful not to get caught by the employers. They had to be careful not to get caught by the neighborhood. They had to be careful not to get caught by the city. They had to be careful not to get caught by the government.

They had to be creative. They had to be creative in finding ways to get by. They had to be creative in finding ways to save money. They had to be creative in finding ways to keep their families healthy.

They had to be strong. They had to be strong to keep their families together. They had to be strong to keep their families happy. They had to be strong to keep their families safe.

They had to be patient. They had to be patient to see their dreams come true. They had to be patient to see their children grow up. They had to be patient to see their grandchildren grow up.

They were successful. They were successful in San Diego. They were successful in the world. They were successful in life.

My grandfather passed away in 1965. My grandmother passed away in 1975. They are both buried in San Diego. They are both remembered.

What do you think? Do you think that it was easy to be Negro in San Diego in the 1940s and 1950s? Do you think that it was easy to be Negro in any city in the 1940s and 1950s? Do you think that it was easy to be Negro in the world in the 1940s and 1950s?
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All These Lowlifes Are Sensual
ART SPIEGELMAN STEPS OUT OF THE SHADOW

BY JORY FARR

Art Spiegelman sits across a table from Jay Schisgall, the art director for The New York Times. Schisgall asks Spiegelman about his new book, "Maus: A Survivor's Tale," which has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Schisgall also mentions that Spiegelman is a "lowlife" in the world of comics.

After Maus, which garnered over more than 13 years, The Wild Party was something of a vacation. The author spent a year working on The Wild Party, which he describes as a "high-wire" act compared to the more grounded Maus.

The Wild Party is a graphic novel that explores the lives of Marvel Comics characters during the Vietnam War. It features cameos from characters such as Spider-Man, Iron Man, and Captain America. The book is a cross between a memoir and a fantasy novel, and it is intended to be a more accessible introduction to Spiegelman's work.

Spiegelman's depiction of the Vietnam War is said to be more realistic than other comics, with a focus on the moral ambiguity and the psychological toll of war. The book has been praised for its use of symbolism and its ability to evoke a sense of loss and isolation.

Spiegelman is known for his satirical approach to serious topics, and he often uses humor to make his points. In The Wild Party, he explores the idea of the "lowlife," or the person who is at the bottom of the social hierarchy, and how they are often portrayed in the media.

Spiegelman's work has been influential in the world of comics, and he is considered one of the most important comic book creators of the past few decades. His books have been translated into multiple languages and have been adapted into plays and films.

Spiegelman's latest project is a graphic novel called "Maus: A Survivor's Tale," which tells the story of his father, a Holocaust survivor. The book has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and has been praised for its use of graphic novel form to tell a true story.

Spiegelman's work has been recognized with numerous awards, including the National Book Critics Circle Award, the American Book Award, and the Comics Arts Festival Award. He has also been inducted into the Will Eisner Hall of Fame.

Spiegelman is an advocate for the use of comics as a serious art form and has been a vocal critic of the way comics are often perceived as a juvenile medium. He is also involved in various projects that aim to promote comics and bring attention to the art form.

Spiegelman's work has had a significant impact on the world of comics and has helped to push the boundaries of the medium, making it a more respected and widely accepted form of art.
Put One in A Little Truck and Push It Around
San Diego Doll Club Show and Sale

Doll lovers, doll collectors and anyone interested in dolls will want to come to the San Diego Doll Club Show and Sale this Sunday, February 18th, from 10 AM to 4 PM. The show will be held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 3000 30th Street, San Diego. Admission is free and there will be a raffle with many prizes to be won.

Attention: Travel Agents
For an issue on 3/3 a week you can advertise in the Reader's new Great Escapes Travel & Getaway Guide.

Events Listings

Queen Ida and the Bon Temps Zydeco
Saturday, January 27th, 10 PM
At the Center
San Diego

At the Center's Sunday Matinee Series will feature Queen Ida and the Bon Temps Zydeco. Queen Ida, an influential figure in the world of Zydeco music, is known for her powerful vocals and energetic stage presence. She will be accompanied by her band, the Bon Temps, who are well-regarded for their intricate and lively playing.

Call to order tickets! (619) 738-4100

Bobby McFerrin
Friday, February 24th, 8 PM
At the Center
San Diego

Bobby McFerrin, the Grammy Award-winning a cappella singer and songwriter, will perform at At the Center on February 24th. McFerrin is known for his innovative and unique approach to music, blending classical, jazz, and world music to create a sound that is both familiar and fresh.

 EVENTS LISTINGS

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Eleanor Rigby Had Killer Cheekbones

"...say you worship a sea god or you're a transvestite, and you'll get plenty of publicity."

The late Eleanor Rigby was a rock star in the '60s, and she was known for her distinctive style. This article discusses her influence on the music world and her legacy. It also mentions a recent event where her music was played at a benefit concert. The article ends with a quote about the impact of her music on a younger generation.

TOWER RECORDS VIDEO

Review by DAMON EDEN

REVIEW

Eleanor Rigby

I Want to Sleep With You

Fisher and Fong

FISHER & FONG

FRANK BLACK

FRANK BLACK

CHARLES BROWN

20 Years Of Love

20 Years Of Love

WILD CHILD

FISHER & FONG

FRANK BLACK

CHARLES BROWN

20 Years Of Love

WILD CHILD

FRANK BLACK

CHARLES BROWN

20 Years Of Love

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WILD Child
DARE WE PUSH SONGS THROUGH OTHER LIPS?
Shigeru Uchihama caught in a...glow

Presentation of August 16 to August 18, 1994. I
ought something to the Japanese rock school
leader and his high school
American Indians. "Sometimes I like to
with San Diego, I went out on my own
in a city. I've been trying to
a comic to the spilled powder. Connected
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Persian Spring

I seek inexpensive ethnic restaurants where portions are easily shared.

On the night we dined at the restaurant, Poole had ordered a Persian loaf, and then her waitress brought more. The bread, which was perfectly baked and lightly browned, was served warm and buttery. We ordered the grilled meat, which was tender and flavorful, with rice and a side of vegetables. The entire meal was absolutely delicious, and we left feeling satisfied and happy. The service was attentive and friendly, and the ambiance was cozy and inviting. Overall, I highly recommend this restaurant for anyone looking for a wonderful Persian dining experience. The portions are generous, and the prices are reasonable. I would definitely return here again.
Under African Stars
The tastes are strong, and the injera is squishy.
I take a gulp of tea. Ahaah.

---

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**Events**

- **Jon Secada**
  - SAN DIEGO SPORTS ARENA
  - **THURSDAY FEB. 16 8PM**
  - **SUNDAY FEB. 19 8PM**
  - COPLEY SYMPHONY HALL
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HOW TO RESPOND TO PHONE MATCHES
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BLOKKED PHONE MATCHES?
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PHOTO MATCHES
BY TREVOR J. BRIGHT

Unidentified "flapper" circa 1927. San Diego in the Roaring Twenties was like much of the rest of the nation: happy that a world war was over, dancing to the Charleston and starting a little bootlegging gin. Tijuana was a popular destination for San Diegans because of its available liquor and gambling; fully one million visitors a year crossed the border from San Diego into Mexico during the Prohibition years.

For our tame citizens, there were other local attractions. The San Diego Zoo moved to its present site in the 1920s, and the Mission Beach amusement park opened its midway to the throngs of thrill-seekers.

FROM THE TRUNK COLLECTIONS.
Autobiography of a Face

Review by Judith Moore


Grealy's writing is raw and honest, and her book is a powerful testament to the human spirit. She writes about her struggles with cancer and her journey to acceptance. "Autobiography of a Face" is a must-read for anyone interested in personal growth and self-discovery.

Reading:


Setting: New York City, USA

Time: 1993

Lucy, her parents, and her four siblings, lived in New York City in 1993. She was a student at Hunter College, where she was studying English and creative writing. She was also fighting cancer for the second time.

Lucy was a writer from a young age. She began to write about her experiences with cancer and her disfigurement. Her writing was raw and honest, and it helped her to cope with her illness.

Lucy was a fighter. She never gave up, even when her doctors told her that there was nothing more they could do. She continued to write, and her writing helped her to find hope.

Lucy's book "Autobiography of a Face" was published in 1993, and it became a bestseller. It was a powerful testament to the human spirit, and it helped many people to understand what it meant to be disabled.

In conclusion, "Autobiography of a Face" is a must-read for anyone interested in personal growth and self-discovery. It is a powerful testament to the human spirit, and it will inspire you to never give up, no matter what life throws your way.