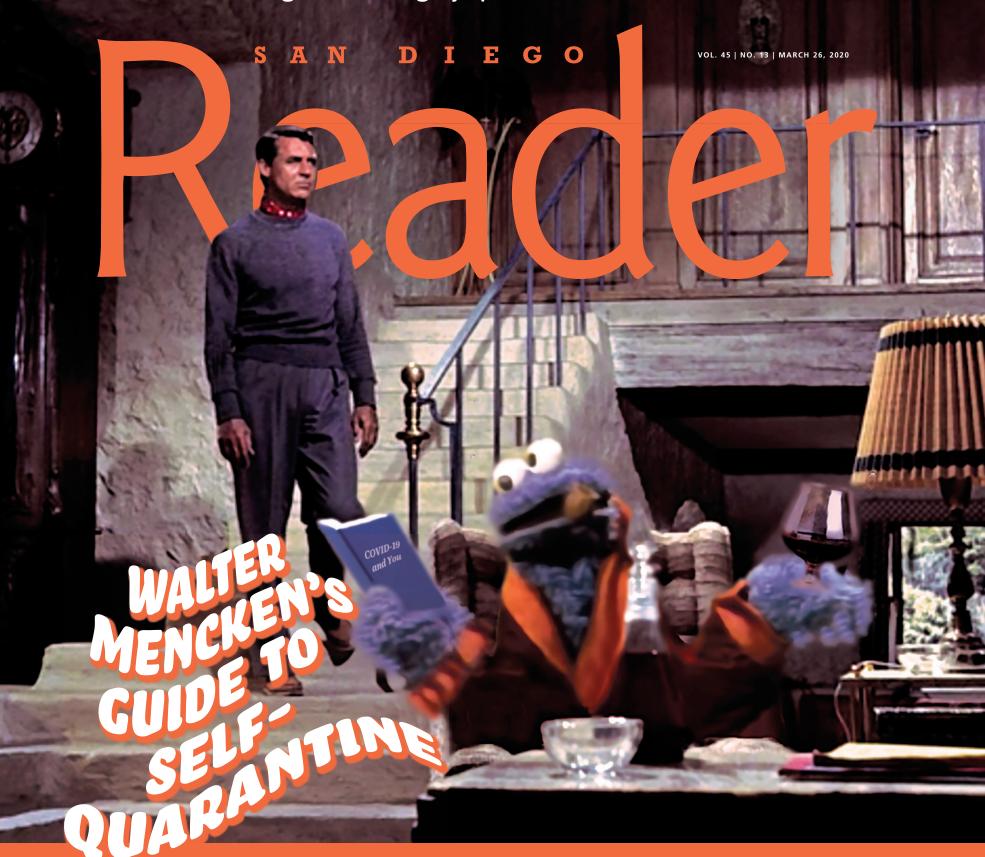
El Michael Jackson dances the streets of Tijuana

Beer to go ■ Mussorgsky sprinkles death ■ Taser town



Editor's picks from this week's free classified ads

FREDDY MERCURY/QUEEN poster from Circus magazine, \$35

SOUTH BAY WINDOW and Glass closing: buy office supplies, furniture, plus all inventory.

LEARN MAH JONGG and play with your relatives at the next party.

Are you suffering from a FATTY LIVER?



See if you are eligible to participate in a study evaluating an investigational drug for the treatment of liver fibrosis in adult patients who have non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH)

TO QUALIFY, PARTICIPANTS MUST:

- Be between the ages of 18 and 75
- Have had a liver biopsy or be willing to undergo a liver biopsy

QUALIFIED PARTICIPANTS MAY RECEIVE:

- Compensation for time & travel
- Study-related care at no cost

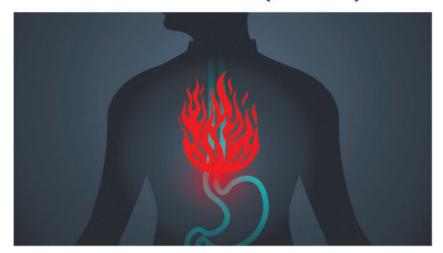


619-452-3951

www.triwestresearch.com patients@triwestresearch.com

! ATTENTION!

Do you have Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)?



Precision Research Ins. is looking for patients to participate in a research study to evaluate whether an investigational medicine could reduce symptoms.

If eligible, you will receive study medicine or placebo and study-related care at no cost to you and may be compensated for time and travel

To qualify, participants in this study will be men and women who:

- · Are at least 18 years old
- Patient has diagnosis of GERD or symptoms of (heartburn or regurgitation)
- Additional requirements may apply

Please call 619-493-4264 for more information and to find out if you are eligible to participate in study.



619-493-4264

www.prisandiego.com

Compensation for Time and Travel may be Available

LETTERS

We welcome letters pertaining to the contents of the Reader. Submit them at sdreader.com/letters or phone them in at 619-235-3000. Include your name and neighborhood. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Unappreciated humor

I don't know, but I'm really questioning your Reader magazine now. What was it two weeks ago you guys had all this how to find guns and weapons and drugs and stuff, prostitutes. That just floored me there. But then to read this week's Reader go to page 12 and see how much you guys are making a big joke and fun and laugh laugh about this Corona virus ("Quarantined Princess Cruise passengers enjoy Miramar Marine experience", SD on the QT, March 20)

Shame on you guys. Shame on you. You guys need to get rid of that stupid page, "Almost Factual News." All of that is just crap. Just reading it makes me sick to my stomach that people here are dying, around the world, and you guys want to make light of it, make fun. That's wrong, man. That just shows how much class you guys have: zero, none, zilch. Okay? That is horrible. In fact, now from here on out I would never read one of these things When I see them stacked up in front of a liquor store I'm gonna pick them up and throw them right in the trash, for nobody has to read this shit. This is bullshit here, you guys making fun of the coronavirus. That's really bad, that's just inexcusable. Classless, classless. People are dying around the world and you guys over here are making fun of it like it's a joke.

Shame on you guys, man. Anonymous

Still printing gratitude

Thanks you for providing the printed version of the *Reader* at Whole Foods in La Jolla, especially during the time of the pandemic. Thank you for continuing to print.

Daphne

Comments from SDReader.com — not edited for punctuation, spelling, or grammar.

"Was the Zodiac killer in San Diego?" City Lights March 18

Michael Butterfield, the guy who runs the Zodiac Killer Facts website (www.zodiackillerfacts.com), has a long takedown (debunking?) of Howard Davis' theories here: http://www.zodiackillerfacts.com/manson-2-TheAftermath-HowardDavisAnd-ZodiacConManTomVoigt. htm Yes, there is such a thing as "Zodiac Killer theorist drama" - Butterfield has also taken apart Robert Graysmith's book Zodiac on the same website. I would not doubt that the Zodiac Killer may have been operating across the state from the early 1960s onward and that he finally got the courage up to start contacting newspapers and calling the police in 1969, after shooting up a parked car in Blue Rock Springs Park on the night of July 4th, BUT we need proof. -Strelnikov

For nearly five decades amateur sleuths have been trying to solve the infamous Zodiac case - without ever coming close to making an arrest. It wasn't a good time to be taking school bus field trips, but we had fun. I wouldn't be surprised if he was killing in San Diego, and after the arrest of the Golden State Killer, it makes you wonder if Zodiac was a police officer. Taunting the media and the police, as well as all the killings without an arrest would be difficult to get away with.

—Socks3742

"Shootout in Pauma Valley" Feature Stories

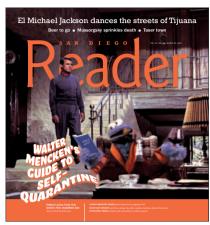
March 18 Good to see you back and reporting on these nasty criminal cases. There was no mention of this trial in any

continued on page 4

Reader

SanDiegoReader.com 619.235.3000

March 26, 2020



Past Reader stars return — page 14



How to dine while quarantined — page 25



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Three films that send voices across the universe.....

NEWS TICKER

By Reader staff writers

Coronavirus cancels cons

Virus vanquishes Wonder and Rocket; no word yet on the Big One

John S., a cosplayer and artist, was at the eighth annual San Diego Comic Fest, held March 6-8 at the Four Points Sheraton on Aero Drive, selling old toys and comic books. "There were like five people walking around

with [surgical] masks on," he said. "For me, business was so-so. This coronavirus could be 'crapaganda' and lots of us dealers will suffer because we make a living from these shows." He and his partner had already shelled out almost \$3000 for their 2020 Comic-Con booth.

On March 12, Rocket Con promoters postponed the Mission Valley comic book, toy, and collectibles show to August 1-2. Anaheim's WonderCon — a subsidiary of San Diego's

Comic-Con International — also canceled their three-day show, originally scheduled for next month, with no word on a new date. The decision was made "to protect public health and slow the rate of transmission of COVID-19," said the organization. "We will begin processing refunds for badge purchases in the coming days. We continue to work closely with officials in San Diego, and at this time, no decision has been made regarding the rescheduling of Comic-Con, slated to take place this summer; July 23-26, 2020." But just hours earlier, WonderCon had stated, "At this time both shows. WonderCon Anaheim and Comic-Con in San Diego, are moving forward as scheduled."

A few San Diego residents had taken time off from work to attend WonderCon. "It's understandable, but we're devastated," said a San Diego mother underneath WonderCon's Facebook post. "We're a family of five that already booked two hotel rooms months ago. Hotel said a hard 'no' to any refunds, since they don't want to lay people off. So we're now out our hotel stay entirely. Hopefully WonderCon will at least refund our ticket costs."

The sudden shift surprised some comic fans and cosplayers. "I don't have [COVID-19, and] most people don't," commented MC underneath WonderCon's cancellation post. "Since a small number of people have it, less than the flu, why shut down WonderCon?" But Billy Khang, an Imperial Valley news reporter from Linda Vista, wasn't surprised. "Canceling or postponing

WonderCon was the right thing to do," he said on March 15. "The fact that so many people from all over the world attend that event, would have been a huge liability on the organizers' hands. Also, it would've looked bad if they kept it going while other places like Disneyland and the March 12-15 Emerald City Comic Con [in Seattle], chose



C'mon She Hulk! Smash that sickness!

otherwise. It shows that it's not just about money, but that they care about the fans."

"The people that make a lot of money during the cons are the costume designers for us cosplayers," Khang continued, "and they rely on that clientele every year to make ends meet. Unfortunately, to have two cons like Emerald and WonderCon canceling, is going to hurt them."

Khang cosplays as Marty McFly from the Back To the Future franchise and as a Speed Racer character. He's been attending the annual convention at the San Diego Convention Center since 2013, and last vear, he covered it by interviewing fellow cosplayers for his news station. As for Comic-Con, he says, "Our city relies on the Con annually since it brings hundreds of millions, if not billions of dollars to the San Diego economy. We're talking restaurants and hotels in downtown, which go all out to meet the needs of the fans. People come from all corners of the world to attend the Con. Hopefully, there's a vaccine by then and everything continues as usual. But ultimately, if our Comic-Con was to close. I'd be all for it."

"It could take longer than that to find the vaccines," said Willy, a Linda Vista toy dealer who has been selling at the the Con since the 1990s. "And if that's the case, and our Con is canceled in July, what are us dealers, who eat and pay for bills [from the money earned at comic and toy shows], going to do? Other dealers I know don't have retirement savings or health insurance. I have buddies that work

continued on page 45

Hunger made me imitate Michael Jackson

"The dancer gets to pick the lady that he wants."

By Matthew Suarez

Michael Jackson impersonator dances on the streets of Tijuana to the rhythm of idling motors and honking cars in heavy traffic areas around the city.

spot him at the intersection of Calle Segunda and Avenida Niños Heroes in downtown Tijuana.

"What did you expect, Ricky Martin?" he jokes in Spanish when people one minute I made 70 pesos!" — about \$2.75 — "And they also gave me a rana verde. I love las ranas verdes," said the impersonator excitedly holding a dollar bill in his dusty white gloves. (Rana verde translates to green frogs). I asked him if he wanted coffee, lunch, or a beer to sit down while we talked, he refused and started giving me his life story as soon as I started recording.

"Hunger made me imitate Michael Jackson," says José Andrés Hernández Zepeda, the



"El Michael Jackson" dances for tips at busy intersections around Tijuana.

People crossing the street shuffle around his act and pay no mind. After a minute of dancing a capella, he throws his hat towards the motorists and bows. He quickly picks up his hat and goes in between cars asking for money.

Like many Tijuana street characters, "El Michael Jackson de Tijuana," goes to popular places where tips are expected. He dances at the San Ysidro border wait line, by the Cuauhtemoc statue in Zona Rio, outside La Lazaro (Tijuana's biggest public high school), and anywhere a crowd might be. I frequently

do not react to him.

"Iralo, these guys are fans of El Michael," he says excitedly when he gets pesos or dollars.

"Grab your camera and ask me better questions than Univision," he tells me when I approach him one afternoon.

I returned 30 minutes later to find El Michael Jackson de Tijuana dancing on the same spot on Calle Segunda. He motioned me to take pictures of him. I snapped pictures while he danced in front of cars waiting for the red light to change.

"Mira, after just

impersonator's real name. "Honestly, I like dancing mambo, chachacha, danzón. I used to dance like James Brown. Andy Ruth, that's the name I danced with my whole life. I came to Tijuana around 11 years ago. I'm" — he holds up seven fingers then four instead of saying the number 74 — "years old now. I was a professional dancer by the age of 16 in Guadalajara. I was born in the poorest of hoods in a place they called La Rata Muerta (Dead Rat) in the barrio of Analco. My father, my four siblings, my mother... I washed rich people's cars



"Dancing, without question, is the most beautiful thing for me."

with my mother. I grew up very poor. I am proud of that poverty, because it taught me how to earn my money with my being and my own hands. My mother had a philosophy, she didn't want robbers or..."

Andy hesitates before saying what he was about to say. "Well, my mother was very homophobic. She said she didn't want robbers or maricones" (a derogatory slang for gays). And I asked 'Ma, what about women?" She said, 'Mujeres, las que quieras.' (Women, as many women as you want). It was at that moment that I started creating my

masterplan, to enamor as many women as I could. But I was very ugly, so I had to resort to making money, and I got plastic surgery done. I got diamonds in my teeth. I transformed myself. I became an athlete. Women always love good looks."

At 74, Andy's purported good looks are deteriorating, not only due to father time but drug consumption. Many of his teeth are missing, and none of the

survivors have diamonds. He sports his hair in a raggedy ponytail and hides the rest under his hat.

"I started to dance mambo in the hood. There was a little sound system and they hung underwear

Andy went off in a tangent telling me about all the women he has been with and how to conquer them by dance, doing a little shuffle now and then showing me how it is done. I tried to reel him back



pointed at invisible balconies where the skirts would hang. "I noticed that the dancer gets to pick the lady that he wants, I had no other choice but to dance. I was ugly, but I danced well. I was successful. I had the luxury to pick the women I wanted to dance with, and I slept with over a thousand women in those times. Let me tell you, really, over a thousand women."

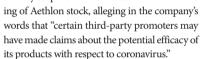
started as a Michael Jackson impersonator.

"After mambo, the Beatles came. That wasn't very danceable. And boom! All the hippies came out. This was too much of a boom for humanity. Too many drugs. I was born in '46 the beatles, were just a year older than me. Elvis Presley, then the, Beatles! Then, James Brown, they changed not only dance, continued on page 8

UNDER THE RADAR

Fake news filter Aethlon Medical Inc., a San Diego biotech star of the 2014 Ebola virus scare, is in hot water with the federal Securities and Exchange Commission over what the firm calls the Hemopurifier. "More than half of targeted virus and protein particles are removed

in a few hours," Aethlon's thenchief executive Jim Joyce boasted to the Union-Tribune in October 2014 about the device's purported effect against Ebola. Six years later, the Hemopurifier, still regarded by regulators as an "experimental device," is being touted by some for possible use against the coronavirus. That word quickly drew adverse attention from the feds. Last month the SEC ordered a ten-day suspension in the trad-



Responded Aethlon: "the company neither solicited, had advance knowledge of, nor played any role in the preparation of such reports." Added the firm: "From the first days of the current coronavirus outbreak, Company scientists have been closely monitoring the situation, speaking with our colleagues who may be involved in the care of these patients, and evaluating whether the Hemopurifier could offer any benefit to severely affected patients. Fortunately, the majority of

members of the city council, San Diego police are ramping up the Department's use of so-called Conducted Energy

Weapons, widely known as tasers. "Deploying a taser and aiming it at somebody and using the targeting laser on them, giving them commands that they comply — because of the presence of the taser, using that taser is essentially de-escalating from having to go to a higher level of force," SDPD Sgt. Michael Belz told a skeptical Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee last month.

According to a February 2019 national sur-

vey by Reuters, at least 49 people died in 2018 due to tasers, but the devices have remained popular with police departments. "The City of San Diego's Police Department uses Conducted Energy Weapons as a force option that is intended to temporarily immobilize subjects to enable offi-

> cers to gain control over them," says an invitation to bid issued by the city March 6. "When the probes make contact with the target, approximately 1200-2500 volts of electricity pass between the probes affecting the person's sensory and motor nervous systems, capable of causing temporary immobilization." Attached laser sights "allow for greater accuracy in both daylight and darkness." The document adds that SDPD "currently has over

1500 CEWs produced by Taser International (Models X-26 and X-26P) in service and assigned to Department."

The bid request calls for buying up to 1200 more similar devices over the next three years. "The purpose of this solicitation is to outfit recruits graduating the Academy (expected 200 recruits per year) in addition to replacing CEWs that have exceeded or are exceeding their useful life." The new weapons must "have an effective range from point-blank to at least 21 feet."



ing Time is running out for termed-out San Diego mayor **Kevin Faulconer**, set to depart office at the end of the year, leaving the future of

> the Faulconer-founded One San Diego charity in limbo. During a March 5 appearance on KUSI TV to promote One San Diego's annual fundraiser called Neighborhood Experience, the mayor's wife Katherine Faulconer, the titular head of the group, told a questioner to stay tuned for future announcements regarding the non-profit's future. She furnished no further details. The group, widely known for

sponsoring Faulconer's televised Thanksgiving turkey giveaways in poorer parts of town, relies heavily on mayoral behests of funding from a bevy of city hall favor seekers eager for the mayor's ear.

Latest to kick in, per disclosure reports filed by Faulconer with the city on March 12, are the Sudberry Family Trust and downtown's Manchester Grand Hyatt, each with \$5000 on February 8. Sudberry Properties, run by family patriarch Tom continued on page 45





Jim Joyce's Aethlon received an SEC

wrist slap regarding coronavirus claims.

Katherine Faulconer, the mayor's wife, advocates for One San Diego on KUSI.

LETTERS

continued from page 1

March 17

other publication or website that I noticed. Heaven forbid that the You-Tee would cover a trial such as this one. Keep reporting.

—Visduh

"The fight against 5G cell towers moves to Oceanside" Neighborhood News

Here is my take. Put 5G aside for a minute. The research and findings of 3 and 4G are enough to even wake up the dead if they could hear and then listen. You are not dead yet so you should listen up. Most people are actually ignorant to the "fact" that there are "thousands" of peer-reviewed studies from scientists, doctors, electrical engineers, physicists, and scientists at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, on and on, etc., etc. Back in 2011 The World Health Organization classified RF-EMF (radio frequency, electromagnetic frequencies also known as Microwave Radiation) as a class 2B carcinogen. Many scientists thought it to be too weak of a classification, all be it, lead and diesel fumes are

in that class. Could it be that 5 of the 6 members of the WHO have deep ties to the telecommunications industry. Most recently completed in 2018, a 10 year, \$30-million dollar study conducted by the National Toxicology Program came to the conclusion that Wireless Microwave Radiation showed there is "clear evidence of carcinogenicity," the higest level of scientific certainty. Given those facts why would we agree to blanket the world with mega microwave radiation with 5G which is used by pulsating millimeter waves and is way more powerful. Also, 4G and 5G will be mostly combined together for an additional zappage to the world and every living thing in it. btw, doesn't some say that if you kill the bees, you kill humanity? Well, its a fact that 4G is killing bees. You may pooh pooh this info for yourself but know this...children are 10 times more vulnerable to bodily harm from wireless radiation technology, not to mention fetuses and babies. There is so much to know,

—David Freund

"The newest suburban bane may be the escalation of lowhanging 5G antenna which

whether you care or not.

KNOW 5G.

some medical professionals say cause cancer, sterility, and nervous disorders." This is just irresponsible journalism. There is little to no actual scientific evidence supporting the claims against 5G. Please don't sow unfounded fear in our community by taking people's opinions and presenting them as scientific fact.

—Amie Bee

"Patrick Soon-Shiong thins editors, reporters" News Under the Radar March 18

As a subscriber to the You-Tee, I can marvel that there any more reporters or editors to shed. The miserable excuse of a newspaper cannot report on many issues of real, everyday importance to readers. Oh, then there is the matter of headlines that don't mesh with the stories they head. Reportage of local matters is skimpy and superficial. Once in a while there is a Watchdog report on some local scandal, but they don't finish the job. The editorial opinions and cartoons are purely from the LA Times. Is there anyone there who has a San Diego outlook? Breen, the editorial cartoonist, has shifted his pitch from the old *U-T* approach to the liberal slant

of the LA Times. The local rag just isn't remotely what it was a few years ago--for better or worse--depending on your viewpoint. After more buyouts, will that rag be at all recognizable to any longterm local reader?

-Visduh

It would be nice if we the people had any kind of unbiased just the facts reporting of any kind. It seems that every news outlet be it print, digital or television shades the "news" to the political bent of their owners. Kudos to the Reader they are the least political but they do show their bias from time to time.

—AlexClarke

I read the Union-Tribune online as a local source after the Los Angeles Times to which I subscribe. I realize the U-T is not what it used to be, but I'm actually grateful for that fact. *U-T* Watchdog writers are first-rate and the education writer is good. Coverage of local events is brief but informative even though there may be insufficient reportorial depth. But I think editor Jeff Light has made much with little and I'm glad we still have a daily local paper. Matt Potter chronicles the decline with his reports, but I don't know why regular commenters here are always so vehemently negative and nasty, unless you're just yearning for the bad old days of influencers Neal Morgan, Bob Kittle, and General Krulak.

-monaghan

EDITOR

Ernie Grimm

Chris Woo

SENIOR EDITORS

CONTRIBUTORS

NEWS & FEATURES EDITOR

Matt Potter, Matthew Lickona

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Ian Anderson, Ed Bedford,

Robert Bush, Joe Deegan,

Barbara Fokos, Dave Good.

Moss Gropen, Dryw Keltz,

Thomas Larson, Ken Leighton,

Elizabeth Salaam, Jav Allen Sanford

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Bill Manson Cherie Peacock

CHIEF REVENUE OFFICER

Eduardo Bravo, Brett Flynn,

Randy Rice, Graeme Storey,

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Tiffany Ferren-Cirino

Holly Micelli, David Phillipich,

SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST

DIGITAL AGENCY MANAGER

AD/MARKETING COORDINATOR

DIGITAL AGENCY COORDINATORS

Alexa Camarena, Matthew Dodd,

DIGITAL SALES CONSULTANT

ADVERTISING SUPPORT STAFF

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

ACCOUNTING & HR MANAGER

STAFF ACCOUNTANTS

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

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NATIONAL ADVERTISING

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Veronica Garcia-Gomez.

Stephen Hatch

Todd Westfall

Kelsey Muma

Alyssa Prestidge

Daniela Penkova

Miranda Potmesil

Verdette Konkol

Amanda Stevens

Amanda Tascher

ART DIRECTOR

Iessica Wentzel

Ruta Stecher

Rosa Villareal

Marina Bahena

Mike Brown

March 19

Oceanside who now have the opportunity to vote despite the shady efforts of the developer Integral, who initiated a phony SLAPP lawsuit on the leaders and volunteers of the referendum effort. Even "appointed" Mayor Weiss complained that "HIS" signature was forged on one of the petitions, when in actuality, another individual who had the same name legally signed his name to the peitition. This lack of representative government which we saw in Carlsbad's Caruso Mall on the lagoon in 2015, is typically the result of councils and the mayors having close relationships to developers who receive contributions to their warchests – a pay-for -play opportunity for developers. Now I hope developers will think twice about these kinds of shenanigans and trying them in Carlsbad and Oceanside. The citizens are alert and ready to fightlegally and we have had huge successes.

This is an awful project. sprawl development!

"UPDATE: The dirty tricks of North River Farms" Neighborhood News

Kudos to the citizens of

-Kris Wright

Hope the developer loses. Feller, Weiss and especially Rodriguez should be voted out of office. Rodriquez represents my neighborhood and made promises when he ran that he wasn't for sprawl. Then this developer comes in and starts waving money under his crooked nose and he quickly changes. Rodriquez is just a crooked tool. He represents rich outof-town developers not the residents of this part of Oceanside. No Christopher Rodriquez! No North River

—Debbie Jimenez



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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

TIJUANA

Corona pinata

Business as usual south of the border

"You look like a meme," I told my friend Beto when I spotted him at the checkout line of my local Calimax with a cart full of toilet paper and paper towels on Friday the 13th. All the shelves in the store were as full of product as they usually were, including toiletries, and everyone in the store seemed to be going about their daily business. Beto was the first panic shopper I noticed in Tijuana. "Well, you know, I have a family, and the stores are empty in San Diego," replied Beto. (Beto is a reverse border crosser; he lives in San Diego with his family, but owns multiple businesses in Tijuana.) "My neighbors are older folks; I'm buying extra for them as well." As the shelves were fully stocked, I did not concern myself with buying extra amounts of anything, and left the store with only my breakfast ingredients.



News outlets reported that Americans were crossing the border to buy all the toilet paper.

Panic shopping spread slowly in Tijuana. News outlets reported that Americans were crossing the border to buy all the toilet paper (mainly at the Costco by the border). Mexican grocery stores were quick to react, and posted signs limiting bulk buying of certain items: "Dear Client: With the goal to serve the most families possible, with our current situation of COVID-19, and with less supply from our providers, we are under the necessity to limit the number of units per client. Maximum 4 pieces of the following products: toilet paper and napkins, bottled water, disinfectant products, cleaners, and bleach, canned tuna, canned vegetables, soups, and beans in any presentation, Tetra Pak milk, cookies, and



Certain sectors of the TJ pinata industry seem to be okay with the whole "Chinese virus" thing.

cereals. We thanked your comprehension of this measure. Attentively, Grupo Calimax." Vendors in *La Línea* started selling toilet paper for idling cars waiting to cross. Mexican candy shops created COVID-19 piñatas: a crude drawing of the face of a Chinese man pasted on a virus-shaped piñata. "*Las vendimos todas bien rápido, solo hicimos seis,*" I was told. "*En la semana hacemos mas.*" (We sold them all fast. We only made six. We'll make more in the week.)

That weekend, while most people in San Diego stayed at home, Tijuana was on full blast as it usually is. I couldn't even find a

> seat at my favorite two dive bars Friday or Saturday night; my new favorite taco stand was open and serving delicious, greasy, dirty tacos. Sunday was calm in the city, but that's normal for downtown Tijuana. Monday the 16th was a different story: when I went to Calimax to buy my regular breakfast ingredients, they were out of eggs. And not only eggs: the toilet

paper aisle was empty, and the canned goods and pasta aisles were almost gone. The rest of the aisles were stocked. The checkout line was a slow disaster, but that's normal. I got worried for a quick minute, but then I walked to the Oxxo the next block over. They were fully stocked with eggs and toilet paper. I walked around all over downtown, Tijuana checking tiendas and farmacias. They all had toilet paper, but I could not find hand sanitizer or face masks. Only around five out of 100 people were wearing face masks. Tourism seemed slower; I saw only a few Americans. But the city was still as active as ever. "We canceled our weekend events, but besides that, our stores are open," commented the manager of a strip mall. "I'm wearing my mask because my wife will kill me if I don't, but I'm not worried. There haven't been any reported cases of death in Mexico. Murders are more common than death by the corona." The newspaper *El Mexicano* reported 44 cases of COVID-19. Alonso Óscar Pérez, head of the health department for the state, said 20 of those cases were discarded and the other 24 were awaiting test results. There have been 371 murders in Tijuana in 2020. (As of March 23, there were 316 cases and two deaths.)

Some bars and restaurants put up notices in their social media that they were still open and that they were serving drive-by or pickup orders. The soccer league, Liga MX, officially canceled matches in all of Mexico, but big events in Mexico City, like the festival *Vive Latino*, took place. People still shook hands, greeted by kissing on the cheek, and even shared cigarettes. The president of

Mexico was photographed kissing an infant on the cheek over the weekend. I went to Calimax on Tuesday morning again; all the shelves were fully stocked, but the checkout line was a disaster.

MATTHEW SUÁREZ

NATIONAL CITY Craft beer here

Bud and booze, not so much

In recent years, National City has made it a little harder to open a regular bar while making it a lot easier to open a craft brewery. When the city wanted to transform a rough part of town called the Mile of Bars, they turned it into the Mile of Cars, an automotive business strip. In 2018, Embarcadero, the first craft brewery, opened nearby. Then came Over The Tap, a craft beer bar off Mile of Cars Way. Embarcadero Brewing didn't last, but a new craft beer hub is about to

launch, as Novo Brazil expands from Chula Vista to open an 11,000 square-foot food hall with an onsite beer bar.

The groundwork was laid when the city eased its rules to allow craft breweries in certain zones by-right. "Craft beer is a different clientele, and the higher prices keep away binge drinking," city planners said. In one such zone, less than a mile away, a regular bar has also passed the scrutiny of the planning commission and will go to city council for the final say. But Paradise VYBZ at 309 Highland Ave. will still have to get a conditional use permit, and commissioners strongly disagreed on whether it will revive the area, which is surrounded by residential and commercial uses. According to a police risk report, the area is high crime. The bar itself was ranked as medium risk, getting docked for having live entertainment and staying open past 11 pm — but not for being one too many. The census tract now has two on-sale licenses where the city recommends eight. "I feel this area needs some economic activity, like something more to activate it, but I'm also concerned because there's really bad things that happen in that area," commissioner Garcia said. (Another bar that had live entertainment lost its permit. McDini's is one of several non-conforming, or grandfathered bars. "It doesn't have a CUP for the



It may be legendary, but its its live entertainment permit is history.

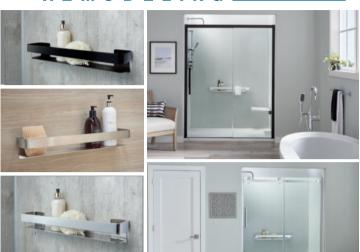
alcohol sales, just for the live entertainment portion — which was revoked," said principal planner Martin Reeder.)

Applicants Natalie and Jean Dumont asked that the city waive the closing time condition of the permit to let them stay open from 2 pm to 2 am. The city said midnight. So did the Institute for Public Strategies, which analyzed the effects the bar might have on the community. Nearby businesses opposed the bar. Most businesses the city deals with that sell alcohol are restaurants that close anywhere from 10 to 12 pm. The businesses that don't have conditional use permits can sell alcohol as late as 2 am, "but at this point with the bars, it's been midnight," Reeder said. "And as for the craft beer tasting rooms that are allowed by-right, those are required to close at 9." The proposed bar is on the ground floor of

continued on page 38



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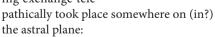
Dear Hipster:

I hate to dwell on it, because it seems like it's all anybody can talk about lately, but every answer I get on this whole "social distancing" thing raises ten more questions. Should we be stockpiling masks? Will Vons ever have potatoes again? Is this how the zombie apocalypse starts? There may not be answers to these questions. All I really care about now is, when can I go back to my normal life?

Robots don't get sick.

Normal life, schmormal life. By the time anybody reads this, who knows what will be normal anymore? Not I. A couple weeks ago I was all, "Yeah, sure, go out to restaurants and don't stress!" Oops. But

let's assume the panic subsides to a manageable level and people stop making awkward coronavirus jokes on social media. Even a terrifying global pandemic can have an upside if you look at it the right way. I like to imagine the following exchange tele-



Hipsters Like Me: "Damn, I really want to sit around and binge Star Trek: the Next Generation on Netflix, but I can't because I have such an active social calendar."

The CDC: "Yeah, about that...."

Welcome to the first plague (not actually a plague) in history tailor-made for introverted Millennials itching for an excuse to stay in! The universe is telling us to partake of the weird, solitary activities we've been putting off. Did you notice Westworld comes back mere days after the gov-

ernment tells us to hide in our homes. Coincidence? I think not! Get thee to thy Reddit conspiracy theorizing, people.

Maybe you'll finally get around to (ironically) reading that copy of Abraham Lincoln, Vampire Hunter you bought for a nickel at a thrift shop 38 months ago. Been thinking about doing a jigsaw puzzle, but you were too busy cultivating an exaggerated online image of your life for the sake of Instagram likes? Now that it's too vulgar to be #blessed about anything (because, you

know, people are dying), non-photogenic activities can once again take center stage. Time to live that #shutinlife.

Dear Hipster:

The recent rainy weather has given me the gift of lawn this year, yet I know my landscape lives on borrowed time. The rains will stop, and, because I do not care to pay exorbitant bills, my gorgeous patch of lawn will die and turn to dust until next winter. Perhaps this is the year I say "no" to the God of Lawn Death. Would it be more cool and hipster to replace the lawn with decomposed granite and the drought tolerant plants that

> are en vogue ever since the drought years, or should I go full "cheek" and annoy my neighbors with something like a hot pink artificial turf?

> > — BERNIE

The installation of drought tolerant plants scores

high marks in the "socially conscious" category, and also rejects the mainstream vision of a green, manicured lawn, which are both pleasing qualifications. HOW-EVER, I have never seen a hot pink artificial turf lawn, and, now that you have placed this tantalizingly ironic vision in my mind, I believe my life will remain incomplete until I have the opportunity to see such a marvel of modern urban hipsterness with my own two eyes. Please send photos, if you really have the cheek to follow through on this.

—DJ Stevens

CITY LIGHTS

El Michael Jackson

continued from page 3

but culture and all knowledge changed."

"First it was mambo, then it was chachacha, I danced those professionally... but I stopped dancing and started working on the railways. That was from Guadalajara to Nogales in the Railway of the Pacific, and I lived on rails and trains, left dance behind. It was after that, when I returned to Guadalajara, that I fell into a dark hole of drugs, piedra (crack.) Look, I started smoking cigarettes when I was eight years old, marijuana when I was 19 or 20, and I balanced it all with dancing. It was when I started using crack when me desmadre. My advice is to never do those chingaderas, no crico, no piedra, or any of those synthetic substances like fentanyl. Back then, I led the life of a padrote (pimp) and my life was la padroteada (pimping). But it is not a life to live. My mother always told me I should lock myself up, because I had issues. I promised her I would leave that life behind.... Look, I am 74. I should have been dead when I was 30 or 40, because I hit life very hard. I never slept, because I was a pimp. Dancing balanced me out."

Andy rambled advice for a better life through exercise and dance and staying off drugs or alcohol, often repeating himself and peppering stories about the women he has been with and other nonsensical stories about his neighborhood in Guadalajara.

"Look, my friends, my compadres, a dancer chooses the woman he wants. They don't choose you. To anyone out there listening to me, people are fat now. They have diabetes and other diseases. Stop using your tablet. Stop doing drugs and just dance. Or do exercise. But dancing is better."

CITY LIGHTS

"Speaking of dancing, how did you end up as Michael Jackson?" I asked him again.

"I couldn't see him, because I was very poor and I didn't have a TV. It was here (Tijuana) that I started impersonating him. I started dancing like Michael Jackson 20 days before he died."

Michael Jackson died on June 25, 2009. "When I saw him, I knew it was very difficult. It's all technique, enthusiasm, and the joy of dancing. If you see Michael Jackson, don't try to imitate him, none of us can. But he is the only character people want to see. People don't want to see a dancer like Resortes or Tin Tan or Fred Astaire or James Brown. They recognize Michael Jackson, so when I dance I have to project the undeniable figure of Michael Jackson so people can understand it's Michael Jackson."

Resortes (Adalberto Martínez) and Tin Tan (Germán Valdés) are comedians/dancers from the 40s and 50s in Mexico.

"It was very difficult to picar piedra" — literally, chop stone; colloquially; to make a go of it) — here in Tijuana. They used to pick me up and throw me in jail for begging in the streets. I was told I couldn't beg, and *la policía* would ask for money to leave me alone. I couldn't give a dollar or two for every cabrón that stopped me. Nowadays, the cops give me money. You see, you have to use psychology with people. You have to be optimistic and have a sense of humor. You have to make them like you."

Regarding his choreography, Andy says, "Billie Jean is the mother routine of them all, but I don't have a sound system, I dance a capella."

I asked if he had a favorite song that played in his

mind when he danced. "At home. I have salsa videos. I really like Cuban and AfroMexican dancing. But I also like Anglo-Saxon music. I like to mix it all, but you have to have a symmetric figure, you have to look clean, you have to project sexy effort."

Though his Michael Jackson outfit is dusty and has seen better times, Andy does his best to make it look dapper. "I have different suits for different routines. The routine of 'Dangerous' is the black suit with white shirt, black tie, and two white gloves. That's what I have on right now. The scarlet suit means it's 'Billie Jean', scarlet shirt, silver glove on the left hand. I have the glove that belonged to Michael Jackson, one of my fans gave me the original one. 'Smooth Criminal' is characterized by a white suit. He dances tango in that one. The entrance is in the style of Resortes. He does a tango step, and then breaks with his hands inside the suit. His breaks are of rock boogie, he danced a lot of boogie. He danced the pendulum, that's when you dance on your own axis like a clock. That's the pendulum dance. He debuted that in China... no, in Japan. And it was a great success."

Before recording a video of him dancing, I asked Andy if he had anything to add. "I invite everyone to dance! What's your name? Mateo? Mateo Suárez? Mateo is interviewing me and through him and in this interview, I want to tell people to dance. Dance whatever you want. Polka. I don't care. Or do exercise. But dancing, without question, is the most beautiful thing for me."

After I recorded a video of him dancing, Andy told me he would like to invite everyone to search for him on YouTube "El Michael Jackson de Tijuana."■

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"The other day I was in a gelato shop, and this lady was speaking loudly to the server: 'These Italians! They're so over the top hugging and kissing. No wonder we've got the virus over here now."

"Actually," says Anna, "Lombardy, where I am from, is in the north. It's the economic engine of Italy. People there are serious and conservative."

Lombardy is also where the virus has struck hardest. "The government's biggest mistake there: they instituted laws little by little. Like they closed stores, but not stores

UTELA TE, PROTEGGI GLI ALIRI.

were out. On Saturday, 34 percent were out. So the lockdown has to be as short as possible. Two weeks, even if the virus will still be here."

Anna believes the two best things that both Lombardy and California did were to give the order for self-isolation to set up dedicated hotlines.

Why was Lombardy hit so hard? Anna believes it was because of one "idiot."

"He had just come back from China. Started getting sick. Never reported his sickness. Kept socializing. It was not until he became really ill that one of his friends reported him, but by that time the cat was out of the bag."

Beyond that one idiot, many are pointing out that the region hosts hundreds of thousands of Chinese factory workers, many

> of whom visited their home country for the Lunar New Year in January.

> Mistakes were made in Lombardy that Anna thinks we can learn from. "For instance, they had the idea to reduce public transportation in Milan. So they cut services by 40 percent. And guess what happened? It resulted in total disaster."

She says the remaining morning trains were packed with people who could not keep anything like the safe distance from each other.

And for all their reputation as party people, Anna says, Italians are very hard-working, disciplined, and generous. "Italy sent 250,000

masks to China in February, 500,000 test kits to the US. But others were generous to us. Cuba has sent 75 doctors expert in dealing with Ebola. And Samaritan's Purse [of Billy Graham's son Franklin's evangelical church] has sent a complete field hospital to Cremona province.

spread everywhere. I like how California stores are opening early just for the elderly

Meanwhile, she's trying to get back to Lombardy. It's not so easy. "My British Airways flight to London has been canceled. I might have to get an earlier flight."

Only problem? It will cost her \$3500. And that's economy.

Is the corona virus pushing us into the future?

Safety first. We decide to meet electronically. Three young San Diego entrepreneurs, developing a supplement they hope will palliate some effects of the coronavirus. I want to know how they're facing the crisis. They sound a little shell-shocked.

Monica Preston, designer and founder of a creative marketing firm: "With the current situation, I am terrified, just because of how quickly this has been spreading. For the most part, we have been at a standstill, quarantining ourselves. younger - 33 - and

not really at a high risk of fatality, I am terrified that if I get this, I'm in big trouble, because of my chronic pulmonary diseases. I am no longer working in an office setting with other people. I work at a home office, and I am not interacting with society, outside of phones and computers. I have completely avoided all contact with people in group activities for the last two weeks."

How does she shop?

"I have a personal shopper, and I have food delivered. Just minimum contact. For

myself I am very worried. On a fear scale

definitely in that category. Especially when I think about my dad. He doesn't take care of his diet and nutrition. And he doesn't exercise as much as he could. Those risk factors are the really scary part to me."

"Sophie," nurse. (She asks to not use her real name). "We're doing a lot of overtime.



Even though I am Alexander Karp, Co-Founder of Etha Natural Medicine

I work more on the insurance aspect of medications covered. But our office closed down. So I am currently working remotely, from my laptop."

Her big complaint: "With the news media talking about the increase of death and everything, more and more people are going to panic. Unlike with MERS and SARS, this is so televised. All day, every day!"

It turns out Sophie is speaking into the conference call from the East Coast. "The company that I'm working for has banned all

"Office space has always been becoming extinct. This time it could be for real."

Lombardy's problem, Anna says, is that enforcement of the law is "non-existent." They did a cellphone survey to check on what people were actually doing in the middle of their "total lockdown" period. "They found 42 percent were out and about! During the week! On Sunday, 20 percent

"This crisis has allowed generosity to and sick. We should do that in Lombardy." company-related air travel. Even back to San Diego. And it has closed its offices here. So we're not working in the office any more, and we're not allowed to fly anywhere. That's it."

But she sees a silver lining.

"I have been working in technology for a long time, working remotely a lot, and I just see this [coronavirus crisis] as being the starting point of our future where everyone says, 'OK, we can do all our jobs online.' Commercial office space is not affordable, and it's usually not necessary. Office space has always been becoming extinct. This time it could be for real."

In Italy now, even laptops get the gloved-hand approach that sold tobacco! Because in Italy, tobacco is a national monopoly. Why would they give that up? In my opinion, they should have adopted extreme measures immediately, and strongly enforced those measures, but for a limited period of time, so it wouldn't feel like a life sentence."

of 10, I'm at an 8." Alex Karp, 36, founder of a natural medicine company: "I think there is a lot of misinformation which is driving these actions. What I've heard from the CDC is the idea

that this is more of a winter that we're going into, not a blizzard. We're not prepared for this. But it spurs the importance of [the question of] how do we manage our health? I am single, and only have myself to worry about. Covid-19 is [dangerous for] people who have weaker immune systems,

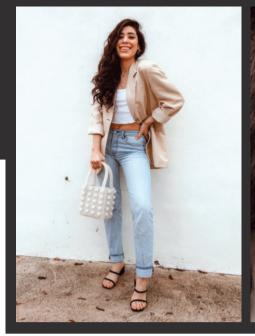
including the elderly, and my parents are

BY VERONICA GARCIA

Oversized blazers are back?

Brace yourselves. Oversized blazers are making a comeback. Just ask Paola. She wore one for a casual day out in North Park with her friends. (I was inspired to purchase one for my next casual outing.) Paola is from the Imperial Valley town of Calexico. She said, "It's a border town, so it was a fun place to grow up." She is currently a Social Media Manager for a well-known family law firm located in downtown San Diego which she declined to name.

I asked her about the oversized tan blazer she was wearing. Turns out it was from one of my favorite



A PEARL HANDBAG IS THE PERFECT ACCESSORY FOR PAOLA'S NEUTRAL ENSEMBLE.



stores, H&M (\$30). Her simple white top was from Forever 21 (\$5), her light-wash jeans were from Levis (on sale for \$15). She bought her black strappy sandals from Target (\$20) and her pearl handbag from Amazon (\$15). To complete the look, Paola decided to wear some

gold jewelry, which she purchased from an online shop called Bandida (@shopbandida on Instagram). "I love this particular brand, because it was created by a local San Diegan, who wanted to start a jewelry line that emphasized Latinas and women of various ethnicities."

When I asked her to describe her personal style, she said "I would say my style is edgy, boho, and vintage. It really depends on my mood, because I never stick to one style. I love trying all types of looks and colors, My style is mostly influenced by Mom. She has a really bohemian look that I feel I get from her. My style is also influenced by my favorite models and artists, such as Bella Hadid, Alexa Chung, Harry Styles, and Dua Lipa, to name a few. I try to follow trends, but I mostly do my own thing."

Paola's go-to pieces for a casual day are high-waisted jeans, vintage Stuart Weitzman squared-toed booties and a band tee.

"For fun, I like to go thrifting. It's my favorite way to pass time. I'm addicted to finding affordable fashion pieces. I also really enjoy photography and making YouTube videos whenever I get a chance. And last but not least, I have a book club if anyone would like to join me." ■

> Find more Street Style at sandiegoreader.com/style

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BEDS: 11 | BATHS: 11 | CURRENT OWNERS: Mike Love & Jacquelyne Piesen | LIST PRICE: \$8,650,000

UNREAL **E**STATE

by Dave Rice

"Rarely does such a spectacular property become available in the exclusive guard gated community of Fairbanks Ranch in Rancho Santa Fe," boast listing materials for the mansion at 17261 Circa Oriente, as retrieved from Realtor.com. "This significant, state of the art, luxurious, one-ofa-kind, 17,515-squarefoot custom estate compound with breathtaking 270-degree panoramic ocean, mountain, and golf course views, is perched on one of the highest lots"



Maybe you can't sing like a Beach Boy, but you can live like one!

in the development, and covers nearly three-anda-half private acres.

"Design details begin with impressive decorative entry gates that open to the winding driveway flanked with tropical landscape to the entry porte-cochère with fountain, and oversized custom doors of glass & wrought iron," the listing continues. That entry leads to a grand foyer flanked by dual staircases and also housing a massive wrought iron chandelier.

The main chef's

kitchen is equipped with a suite of professional-grade appliances along with a butler's pantry, bar seating, and breakfast nook; it opens to the family room, outfitted with "soothing saltwater aquariums." There's also a "formal living room with fireplace, formal bar, largescale formal dining room," an office, chilled wine cellar with adjacent tasting room, private theatre, "game room with professional service bar," and even a custom meditation room.

"Eight luxurious bedroom en-suites with multiple walk-out terraces and balconies throughout will provide comfort for all your family members and guests," and there's also a fully self-contained one-bedroom guest house, but "the expansive master retreat" is of course the showstopper. It "encompasses a generous custom

built-out dressing room, a sitting area with fireplace, wet bar with wine and beverage center as well as a double-sided glass walk luxurious spa bath," in addition to a private terrace with "jaw-dropping panoramic ocean and mountain views."

Savant digital technology allows control of the audio, video, and other home systems via iPad, while a private elevator offers an alternative to the stairways leading between the home's three levels. In addition to an extensive solar system, the estate is also supplied by its own & private well.

"The San Diego lifestyle would not be complete without an enhanced outdoor living experience," the listing notes. "Where do we begin?"

Start with a resort- 8 continued on page 45 🛣





Meltzer and Mencken, backstage at The Rapscallion after a Hitchcock and Bull show. We were going to change the world, he and I.

WALTER MENCKEN'S GUIDE TO SELF-QUARANTINE

Walter Mencken [descending stairs]: Oh, hello! Welcome to my humble abode, situated in the renovated bomb shelter on the estate of Mt. Helix's famous Grindle House. (As ever, don't try to find it on Google Maps; it's not *that* kind of famous.)

Alistair Cookie [seated]: A-hem.

WM: Ah. Right. *Our* humble abode. Times being what they are in the Almost Factual

News racket, my living situation has gone from serenely solitary to something rather more complicated. Allow me to introduce Mr. Alistair Cookie.

AC: Good day, ladies and gentlemen. You may recognize me from my appearances on the television, where I am obliged to play a grotesque addict whose slavery to substances is such that he has fried both his cerebral cortex and his vocal cords, and now goes about

growling guttural utterances along the lines of, "Me want cookie." Under ordinary circumstances, I am contractually forbidden from breaking character in public, but here I am in the privacy of my home, and these are hardly ordinary circumstances.

WM: Right. It seems that coronavirus is forcing all sorts of people to social distance themselves all the way into self-quarantine. And *continued on page 18*

What do YOU — about The Reader?

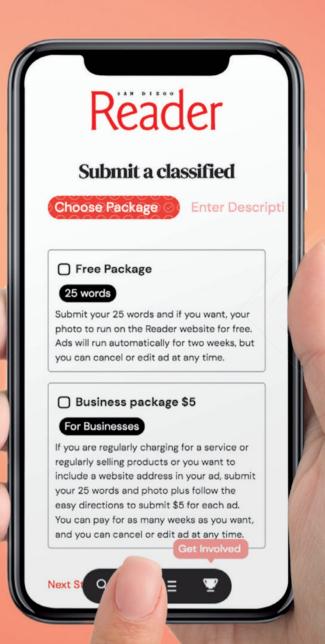
80% of our revenue-advertising and our events-is directly tied to people getting together in groups.

The coronavirus situation has virtually eliminated all of this revenue at once.



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continued from page 14

Alistair and I got to talking about how the first thing most people will do is start streaming this or that show on this or that electronic screen...

AC: ... and in all likelihood, that will also be the *last* thing they do. They'll binge. They'll let the algorithm take hold and pour a hot stream of freshly curated content all over their eyeballs - and souls. For days. Weeks, even. It's unconscionable. I'm not an addict, but I play one on TV, and so I know what a tragedy it is to hand over one's free will and powers of discernment. That's why I've requested Walter's help in gathering a few Almost Factual Reader writers from days gone by, in the hopes that they can provide some sound counsel regarding What To Watch and How to Live in these dread latter days.

WM: And for those keeping score at home, remember, these are Almost Factual interviews, nothing more. Let's start things off with a (Lester)



George and Martha dropped by one evening just as I was getting comfortable, ostensibly to get out of the rain, but really to get into a row — and also my good Bourbon.

Bang(s), shall we? Richard Meltzer was once described by the late Village Voice — once the largest free weekly in the country — as "the greatest rock critic so far," with an ability "to get the prose alive on the page that probably surpasses Burroughs's or Twain's or Faulkner's." For us, he wrote little squibs that sometimes sort of related to various bands coming to town, plus several longish pieces about fellow seminal rock critic and El Cajon native Lester Bangs. Richard?

Richard Meltzer: Well, well, well, here I seem to be again, the proverbial bad penny turning up, having been offered only marginally more than the proverbial penny for my thoughts — I suppose there just aren't as many coppers in the coffers these days, what with coronavirus and any number of other sick-

nesses ailing the weekly rag industry, to say nothing of the general public, suffering as it does from the debilitating symptom of a lost appetite for the printed word, to the point where just recently, that great print organ Playboy magazine (pun regretfully intended) went on what is likely to prove a permanent hiatus — but still happy, or at the very least (and it is very near the very least) willing, to offer my proverbial two cents.

I have a sick and sinking feeling that I'm expected to offer up something on-brand, some icon of Who I Am and What's Meaningful to Me, and I have an even sicker feeling that Mencken & Co. think it should be Gimme Danger, Jim Jarmusch's Stooges doc from 2016. As if Walt and I don't both know that making art about artists freezes them in amber, puts them on permanent remove from the world of felt life. Which world has been the one I've tried to serve lo these many impecunious years. So yeah, The Stooges, but no, not the Jarmusch. Instead, perversely enough, I'm going with Almost Famous, Cameron Crowe's 2000 rock-journalism fantasy about a local boy made — well, not good, but definitely famous, never mind the Almost. I've already written at length about my deep disregard for Crowe's crowing in these very pages, so the curious can satisfy themselves in the archives while the rest of us move along. That bloviating boot-

lick Polonius in Hamlet

had less idea than most

about the shape of the world and the levers required to move it, but if there's anything certain in this world, it's that God is kind to the very dumb, so maybe the gregarious gasbag accidentally drew some blood with that old saw, "To thine own self be true." Because as Almost Famous teaches us, kids, once you get past the confines of your own personal space, your own selfish *self*, the pleasant fictions better known as lies will win, and keep on winning, until the truth doesn't even matter any more. And after that, they'll be forgotten — and so will you. But all that is out there, and vou can take it or leave it. What you're stuck with — self-quarantined with — is yourself. And if you lie to that august personage, well, it's gonna be a long and uncomfortable sit. Maybe not at first, but as another Shakespearean scoundrel had it, "Truth will out."

WM: Thanks for the... good thoughts, Richard. I think longtime Reader movie critic Duncan Shepherd has a selection that follows somewhat naturally upon your observations. Duncan, a recent assessment by Nate Bell concluded that "what truly separates Shepherd

from the pack" is that "there is nobody better at, or more committed to, describing the surface image of a film. The traces of this obsession (no other word will do) with picture quality were first evident in his 1974 master's thesis at UCSD. He wrote: 'The one constant fact of any movie is how it looks, not what it is superficially about, and not what it ultimately means, and certainly not — to put it with due skepticism — what initially it means to be about." And for our little viewing party, you've chosen Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, a film you described in your two-star review as "a witty and withering view of the home life of college professors and wives... shot in arty charcoal grays by Haskell Wexler."

Duncan Shepherd: I must issue a correction: I used the adjectives "witty and withering" to describe the Edward Albee play upon which Mike Nichols' film was based. What is more, you chose that movie, and asked me to come over and talk about it as a favor to my former employer, a request I granted, despite its gimmicky air, mostly because they canceled March Madness this year and so I found myself with time on my hands. I hope that the Reader's touching fondness for accuracy hasn't diminished as much as all that since my departure.

WM: Fair enough; my apologies. Speaking of Wexler and his arty charcoal grays, he says in his audio commentary for the film that Nichols was responsible for the decision to shoot in black and white. He also talks about building a bridge over a bed so that he could shoot down on Richard Burton

RESEARCH STUDIES



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and Elizabeth Taylor as they looked up, "which was an angle you didn't see too many of in films."

DS: Let me do you the favor you asked in the manner I think you'd prefer. Yes, it's a sort of God'seye-view, if God decided to get up close and personal with his creation after it hit the sack. And yes, it helps to add to the film's air of oppressive atmosphere. It accentuates the trapped-ness of George and Martha, bound together by the view-finder's inescapable frame, bound otherwise as well, perhaps least of all by their wedding vows and much more by their mutual animosities, addictions, self-loathing, and deceptions. And because it is God's eye, it judges them, even as the film's dialogue is careful



And who do you suppose was left to clean up the mess? You guessed it: yours truly.

to provide context, tea, and sympathy. Well, alcohol and sympathy. So the movie serves as a handy sort of Illustrated Guide to the Dangers of Self-Quarantine, even

with, or perhaps especially with, one's nearest and dearest. And ves again, the eventual removal of their mutual self-deception through an all-night violent verbal cage match echoes Mr. Meltzer's promise of "an uncomfortable sit." So while it remains a gimmicky selection, it's not a terrible gimmick, except insofar as it's always terrible to treat a movie as any kind of instrument of moral pedagogy.

WM: Well, except, as you mention, there is that illustrative force that comes from putting things onscreen. For an example, we turn now to Anne Albright, who wrote the Kid Stuff column about her growing family around the turn of the millennium. Anne, I understand you'd like to take this opportunity to address your kids?

Anne Albright: Yes, thanks, Walter. Who knows? This way, someone might see it and text them about it, and they'd actually pay attention. That's a joke, by the way — though not the part about them paying attention to texts. Anyway: an open letter to my many children, living and now also attending school under one roof in the same house with their parents, paternal grandparents, uncle, and cousin.

Turning and turning in the widening gyre

The falcon cannot hear the falconer;

Things fall apart; the center cannot hold:

Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world...

- William Butler Yeats, "The Second Coming"

Life is a constant struggle to keep it together in the face of universal entropy. Eventually, you will lose that struggle: your soul will separate from your body, and then the

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parts of your body, lacking that cohesive force that gives them oneness and form, will begin to separate from each other. Once the falcon cannot hear the falconer, you will become one of the things that falls apart. Life is what happens between now and then. There will be times when the idea of dissipation — of just letting things go their own way - will have great appeal. But successful living means keeping it together.

"Charity begins at home," goes the old saying. Here's a secret: so does its opposite. So does everything else. I've always told you that; now that you are stuck at home, you are going to learn it for yourself. You hate feeling cooped up; you want to go out into the world and live your

life. Barring that, you want to be left alone as much as possible with your smartphone. But here is the truth: your life is not your own to live. You are part of something larger, the thing that made you and sustains you — this family. Crisis helps make that clear. You want to go off somewhere and dissipate, but successful living means keeping things together. Because if you head off and pick up a virus and bring it home, you could kill your grandparents, a serious failure on the family front.

And what's true at home is true in the larger world: it's the elderly and the compromised who are most at risk, and you are stuck with them in something larger than yourself called civilization — another thing that helped to make and sustain you. Civilizations and families fall apart, just like people. They endure and are successful insofar as we struggle to keep them together. It feels like an impingement, I know. That's because you still think that doing what you want is the most important thing.

My movie is M. Night Shyamalan's Signs, because of what happens when the family in it self-quarantines. In an attempt to comfort his family during a very scary time — an alien invasion — Dad asks his two kids and his younger brother what they want for dinner. Everyone asks for something different, including Dad. Everyone gets just what they want, but when we see them at dinner — from the vantage point of the exploded kitchen — no-



A little English know-how and a stiff upper lip can

accomplish wonders, even in trying circumstances.

body wants to eat. Dissipation sounded good, but it's not what they need. What they need is to be a family. Happily, Dad figures that out, and while he and his brother barricade the house. he tells the kids about their births. He reminds them of their (deceased) mother, and of the love that brought them into the world and still sustains them.

So. Be kind to each other in this stressful time. Clean up after vourself. Give whatever help I ask for; better still, find ways to help without being asked. And when you're free to head out again, take what you learn here and carry it with you. Keep it together.

WM: Thanks, Anne; I bet those kids would have been glad to have you as their new mom. And as long as we're getting prescriptive, why don't we check in with Saffron, the Reader's very own advice columnist from the days after the Internet replaced the all-knowing Matthew Alice? What are you watching, Saffie? **Saffron:** The Bridge on the River Kwai. It was John F. Kennedy who came up with the canard that "in the Chinese language, the word 'crisis' is composed of two characters, one representing danger and the other, opportunity." Wikipedia helpfully corrects this to indicate that it's more like "danger at a point of juncture," but it also notes that the truthier meaning has spread throughout the world, even to some native Chinese speakers. Almost like a highly contagious virus brought to China by the U.S. Army, just like foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian suggested!

WM: Um, Saffron, the Reader's not on the list of American publications that get paid to run Chinese propaganda.

Saffron: It's not? Gosh, that's sad. I thought that's how print was staying afloat at this point. Getting back to crisis and opportunity. My advice for the present homebound moment is just this: don't waste it. Look at Alec Guinness in this film. He plays a British POW in a Japanese prison camp during World War II. It's not exactly self-quarantine, but he was ordered to surrender, so there are similarities. His men are then commanded to build a railway bridge for the Japanese to use, and so naturally, they do their worst work, hoping to sabotage the project. But Guinness sees things differently: as he says, "I know our men. You've got to keep them occupied." What's more, "It's essential that they should take pride in their job." The crisis — building a bridge for the enemy while in prison — becomes an opportunity. For preserving pride and dignity. For achieving excellence. For personal satisfaction.

WM: For aiding and abetting the enemy.

Saffron: Don't cloud the issue. The point here is that any period of enforced downtime is pure potential for doing something worthwhile. Look around your home for

continued on page 43

HEALTH AND BEAUTY



San Diego Reader March 26, 2020

Visit our page on YELP.com or Visit our website www.sitimedspa.com **BUSINESS HOURS: TUESDAY - FRIDAY 9 AM - 7 PM**

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Calendar

OUT Veek



and California thrasher. While the visitor center is closed, you can still hike up to the top, as most trails are open.

WHEN: Every

day from 7:15 am to sunset WHERE: 12600 N Torrey Pines Rd, La Jolla. torreypine.org

Friday | 27

PEARL JAM'S FIRST ALBUM **IN SEVEN YEARS**

Gigaton is the eleventh studio album by the American rock band Pearl Jam. It was preceded by the singles "Dance of the Clairvoyants" and "Superblood Wolfmoon" and will be the band's first studio album in seven years. Rolling Stone writer Kory Grow gave the album a positive review, writing that Gigaton is "an admirable, inspiring example of grown-up grunge." Its release was scheduled to coincide with a tour of North America, which was postponed due to coronavirus outbreak.

WHEN: Friday, March 27 **WHERE:** pearljam.com

Saturday | 28

SPRING AT THE RESERVE

Visit the Torrey Pines State Reserve to see signs of early spring. Spot some birds commonly found in the area: Red-tailed hawk, California quail, spotted Towhee, Anna's hummingbird,



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ing photos. Use the code SDREADER to enjoy a self-guided scavenger hunt using your mobile phone. Puzzling Adventure is a cross between a scavenger hunt, a race, and an informative self-guided tour. Each adventure consists of a series of locations that you are guided to; once there you are required to answer questions or solve

> puzzles to receive your next instruction. All you need is your own mobile device and an Internet connection.

WHEN: Everyday, 11am to 7pm WHERE: Westfield



University Towne Centre, 4425

La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla.

SEASON NINE OF CALL THE **MIDWIFE**

Adapted by Heidi Thomas from the best-selling memoirs of Jennifer Worth,

this drama series is about midwifery in 1950s East End London. It

prosperous era full of challenges as rules change, populations shift, and old diseases come back to haunt them.

WHEN: Sunday, March 29, 8 pm WHERE: BBC One. pbs.org



COACHELLA: 20 YEARS IN THE DESERT

This YouTube documentary, two decades in the making, opens up the vault on the behind-the-scenes stories that shaped the music festival. The film looks at Coachella's colorful beginning,

> presents interviews, and shows key performances from Billie Eilish, Kanye West, Daft Punk, Travis Scott, BLACKPINK, LCD Soundsystem, Rage Against The

Machine, The Pixies, Swedish House Mafia. Jane's Addiction, Björk, The White Stripes, Madonna,

Moby, Beck, and Radiohead.

WHEN: Tuesday, March 31 WHERE: YouTube Originals. youtube.com



CALL THE MIDWIFE

follows Jenny, who joins a convent of nurses at Nonnatus House. Opening at the funeral of Winston Churchill in January 1965, series nine continues as the characters enter an innovative,

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LISTING: Have an event? We want it! Festivals, lectures, sporting events (including surfing, kayaking, and sailing), Meetups, conventions, book signings, art gallery openings, conferences, dance performances, expos, poetry readings, classes & workshops — all are welcome. You can submit an event at sdreader.com/events/submit.

ART

MrBbaby Solo Exhibit MrBbaby is an artist/muralist from Chula Vista. Her solo exhibit will be a whimsical experience where the artist combines the world of Mexican folk art with the world of fairytale by creating larger then life installations. Her work explores the cultural world into a playful, colorful world that can target adults, and just as easily capture the hearts of children. Bbaby's work incorporates patterns from the Otomi culture, to other themes commonly found in Mexican Folk Art Saturday, March 28, 7pm; free. Weird Hues, 2252 Main Street Boulevard #14. (CHULA VISTA)

BEER

Pure in the Wild: Indoor Rouldering Join us at Grotto Climbing for a donation based climbing event. All funds raised will benefit Leave No Trace and Outdoor Outreach. Grotto Climbing will be hosting an all day climbing session along with the friendly guides of Chillino Rock Climbing and Pure Project for those looking to learn climbing, discuss the transition from indoor to outdoor climbing, and donate to the great work that Leave No Trace and Outdoor Outreach are doing. Thursday, March 26, 6pm; free. Grotto Climbing, 4460 Alvarado Canyon Road. (GRANTVILLE)

Beer to go, online orders, and home delivery

The entire U.S. retail economy has been put into a state of flux by the public policy response to Covid-19, and San Diego's beer and booze industry is no exception. The past week saw our county's hundreds of beer and booze producers scramble to respond to a changing regulatory landscape. Brewery taprooms were closed indefinitely following a March 16 county order, restricting their retail options to take-away orders, in-state shipping, and home delivery.

This forced breweries to make a difficult decision: stay open, and hope to sell enough to-go orders to weather the pandemic; or close out of concern for public health - knowing that, if respite doesn't come soon, they might never re-open. In response, state trade association The California Craft Brewers Association announced it "will be asking the state to provide economic relief to our industry so that our over

1000 family-owned craft breweries across the state and the 50,000+ people they employ may have a chance to survive this crisis."

Employees have factored into local brewery's decisions a great deal. "We were most primarily concerned with our employees," says Dande

Bagby, cofounder of Bagby Beer Company, which opted to close its Oceanside brewery and restaurant. "Initially, we were most worried about their ability to stay afloat [financially]," she says. However, despite the "very expensive process" of shutting down its Oceanside brewery and restaurant, the Bagbys opted to send employees home, in order to avoid further risk to themselves or their community. "Once we decided to close," she says, "we informed all of our staff immediately and encouraged them to file for unemployment... It is our hope that we can encourage other businesses to close, and folks to stay home, so

we can get past this quickly and concentrate on reopening."

Those businesses that have opted to stay open have had to navigate a week of legal uncertainties, but where we've landed is this: beer to-go is the norm, whether in cans, bottles, growlers, crowlers, or kegs. As a result, we've seen novel approaches emerge as beer and booze companies scramble to make up for the significant loss of business the pandemic has brought.

To facilitate to-go orders, a number of breweries have made online ordering available for takeout, include AleSmith, BattleMage, Rouleur, and Societe. There hadn't been a great need for online orders prior to the pandemic, so many businesses have acted quickly to add the functionality to their websites.

Modern Times Beer has opened and closed its taprooms intermittently to serve takeaway



Duck Foot and other breweries are offering home delivery during the Covid-19 crisis

beer, and has shifted some business to shipping cases of beer direct to consumers within the state of California. The Lost Abbey has likewise embraced a mix of beer to-go, in-state shipping, and recently added home delivery throughout north county.

There is likely home beer delivery in your area now, as breweries repurpose existing employees to offer home delivery of beer for the first time. "Wholesale orders have pretty much come to a halt with so many businesses closed," says Suzy Pessutti, co-owner of Duck Foot Brewing Co., which has added home delivery to its take-away

service. "At this point, it is more about getting rid of inventory to keep the business afloat and make enough to pay bills."

"Sales are down and will be down for some time," adds Robert Masterson, head brewer of Resident, which has tasked its regular delivery

driver with making home delivery stops in between retail accounts.

We want to be able to continue to pay as many employees as we can," explains Hayden Weir, head brewer of **Dos Desperados**, where the tanks are full. "We had loaded up for accounts that are no longer taking orders, so we will just be sitting on what we have for a while." Dos Desperados had been planning to celebrate its 6th anniversary, but instead of a party, it turned its anniversary canned beer release into a home delivery event.

How long this moment lasts will determine how many of San Diego's nearly 200 beer and booze businesses (and 100-plus wineries) remain when the pandemic

finally passes. For now, beer fans hoping to support their favorite locals have new, unexpected ways to get beer. However, whether a business remains open or decides to close for the duration, a sentiment shared by many of them reflects the anxiety of our time:

"We cannot survive indefinitely."

For updated status about specific breweries, consult the collaborative spreadsheet started by beer writer Ian Cheesman here: bit.ly/ HelpSDbeer

For more craft booze news, see

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

5-Week Adult Magic Classes

In this beginning-level five-week class, learn how to make any small object disappear, perform astonishing card tricks, destroy something and magically restore it, seemingly read someone's mind and predict the future, present a perplexing rope trick, and cause three small balls to penetrate three cups. The teacher is Tom Interval, a San Diego-based professional magician who has taught magic for more than 30 years. Seating is limited, so early registration is recommended. To learn more, please call Tom at 619-800-3780, or visit online. Sunday, March 29, 1pm; \$295. 18 and up. Interval Magic, 3820 Georgia Street. (NORTH PARK)

5-Week Children's Magic Classes In this beginning-level five-week class for children ages 9-17, students will learn how to make any small object disappear, perform astonishing card tricks. destroy something and magically restore it, seemingly read someone's mind and predict the future, present a perplexing rope trick, and cause three small balls to penetrate three cups. The teacher is Tom Interval, a San Diego-based professional magician who has taught magic for more than 30 years. Each student must be accompanied by one parent or guardian. Seating is limited, so early registration is recommended. To learn more, please call Tom at 619-800-3780, or visit online. Sunday, March 29, 3:30pm; \$295. Interval Magic, 3820 Georgia Street. (NORTH PARK)

Conducting Class Learn basic conducting skills, enhance your knowledge about different musical styles, composers and their great work. Class includes elements of Yoga, Tai Chi to warm up, and attentive listening to different music. You will work on balance and flexibility, developing different range of motion according to musical nuances. No special skills required. Reservations required Thursday, March 26, 11:30am; \$15-\$20. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

Consciousness Expansion with Sound & Meditation Teresa's joyful presence is a blessing. Take time out of your busy life to sit with her in the bliss or meditation and explore the expansion of consciousness through the power of sound. Thursday, March 26, 7pm; free. 18 and up. Tsogyelgar Dharma Center, 1857 Tustin Street. (POINT LOMA)

Creating Atmosphere & Mood Here's where the writer gets to work magic through language. Want to create an atmosphere that evokes an emotion in the reader? Do it through description,

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SHEEP AND GOATS

I ANSWERED THE CALL

St. Andrew's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

Contact: 1050 Thomas Ave, San Diego, CA 92109 858-273-3022, www.standrewspb.org

Membership: 90 Pastor: Mary Lynn Coulson

Born: Kansas Citv. MO

Formation: St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN; Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, VA

Years Ordained: 4

San Diego Reader: How long do you spend writing your sermon?

Pastor Mary Lynn Coulson: Preaching is one of my passions — it's one of my favorite parts of my job. I usually do a contemplative reading of the readings prescribed by the Lectionary.

On Mondays of the week, I do a lectio divina — a contemplative Bible reading of the text I'm going to preach about. I spend the week letting it stew and reflecting on it. I don't usually start writing my sermon until Saturday evening. I like to focus on the scripture and why it matters for us. Why are we reading this ancient text today? It's important to be authentic, so my first draft is what I preach. I don't do a lot of editing. What I preach is usually what I need to hear in that moment of the day. **SDR**: What's your favorite subject on which to preach? PC: God loves all of us, our whole authentic selves, even

the parts we don't like about

ourselves, that we hide from people or mask in our lives. God is calling us to always show up in our lives as our fullest selves, and to know that full self is totally beloved of God. That knowledge that God loves the total parts of me, even the parts I don't like, is transformational. It changes the way we show up in the world and relate with one another.

SDR: What is the mission of your church?

PC: To serve, to celebrate, and to share in the love of God. Service is embedded in the DNA of this parish. We've had Tuesday night meals for the homeless as a ministry in this community for almost 11 years. The

people who go to the church here want to encounter people different from themselves and to give of themselves; they want to grow and learn through encountering and serving people.

SDR: Where do you go when PC: I don't believe in a tradi-

tional heaven and hell. God is bigger than that, and our understanding of God and of life and life after death is so limited and miniscule. God exists out of time and place, out of physicality, and in Jesus, God chose to exist in human time and human physicality in this unique way. Because of that, all of creation was somehow sanctified in this



Mary Lynn Coulson

way so that, when we die, we are reunited with God in this bigger way, in this cosmic out-of-time, and out-of-place way.... If people reject God, then what? My response is still that God is bigger than that — and more expansive than that. The way I picture God is a tiny sliver of the truth about God. In

the Bible, it says God made humans in God's own image. It's not that I am the image of God by myself - but I and every other human being who ever existed and ever will exist all made up together is the image of God. That transcends any kind of personal free will. Within that, there is a total interconnection of every living thing in the universe. There are ways within us that we choose to be closer to God or reject God, but my idea of God is bigger than that. No matter what, we go back into this bigger embrace of Love. - Joseph O'Brien

Find more Sheep and Goats columns at SDReader.com/worship/

through setting, through the use of the senses, and the diction of your story. The right choice of words and you move a reader from feeling safe and secure to biting her nails; change the structure of your sentences and take the reader from relaxed to excited. In this workshop, we'll explore techniques that create atmosphere, generate mood and evoke emotion, with lots of in-workshop exercises you can apply to your own writing. For all writers, fiction and nonfiction. Sunday, March 29, 1pm; \$45-\$54. 18 and up. Ink Spot, 2730 Historic Decatur Rd., Barracks 16 #202. (LIB-FRTY STATION)

Dream Tending Workshop

Discover the hidden potential of your dreams to open new worlds of connection, creativity and healing in your life. Dream Tending is a journey of discovery through engagement with the images that arrive when our conscious minds are asleep. The 90-minute sessions include the tending of at least one dream with Q&A and group discussion. Registration required. Friday, March 27, 12pm; \$20-\$25, La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

Exploring the Spiritual Path This class meets regularly on Sat-

urday mornings and consists of seated meditation and a Dharma talk that speaks to integrating ancient Buddhist teachings into our 21st Century daily lives. Saturday, March 28, 11am; free. 18 and up, Dharma Center, 5059 Newport Avenue, (OCEAN BEACH)

Fundamentals of Piano Learning the fundamentals of piano playing is a window to all musical instruments and dramatically enhances appreciation of music. Reservations required. Thursday, March 26, 12:30pm; \$40-\$85. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

Guided Medicine Buddha Self-Healing Meditation In this class Varada introduces you to the Medicine Buddha and the traditional Buddhist practice of vidam. through which you can access an Enlightened Being to open a spiritual doorway to your own innate power. You will be guided in a visualization process and chakra meditation to enable you to focus your own healing energy to alleviate your suffering. This practice will help you to use your own power to impact the physical, mental and spiritual aspects of your suffering as well as the causes and conditions that precipitated this suffering, and the karma that set this process in motion. Sunday, March 29, 11am; free. 18 and up. Dharma Center, 5059 Newport

How to Inventory Your Fine Jewelry This class will teach you how to inventory and photograph your jewelry, where to start on appraising and insuring your jewelry and more. Learn great tips on keeping your jewelry safe at home and traveling. Also learn about selling your personal jewelry through a variety of channels. Thursday, March 26, 2:30pm; \$20-\$25. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard, (LA JOLLA)

Avenue. (OCEAN BEACH)

SpeechCraft: Increase Public Speaking Confidence Voyagers Toastmasters announces their 2020 SpeechCraft Session. Open to all who want to improve their speaking, business communication and leadership skills, the six week series includes coffee and morning snacks. For more information, contact Voyager's Vice President of Education, Safwan Ahmed Muneer at safwanengg@gmail.com or call (682)-234-1656. Thursday, March 26, 7am; \$39. 18 and up. University Christian Church, 3900 Cleveland Avenue. (HILLCREST)

FOR KIDS

Camel Open Farm Days Meet the baby camel born Feb 28. Feed treats to a friendly herd. Take a camel ride, visit our mini sheep town and enjoy a 1:30 Bird and Animal Show all while you soak of San Diego's beautiful back-country Spring. Saturday, March 28, 1pm; Sunday, March 29, 1pm; \$8-\$12. Oasis Camel Dairy, 26757 Old Julian Highway. (RAMONA)

LECTURES

Seaside Native Garden Tour Come see over 18 Native Plant Gardens in the Historic Seaside Neighborhood of Downtown Oceanside! Native Plant Experts and neighborhood locals will lead a 1.5 mile walking tour to see these wonderful front yard gardens. The guided walk is free. Kids will be selling lemonade and cookies along the route. The Oceanside Coastal Neighborhood Association and Buena Vista Audubon Society sponsor our 2020 Tour. Sunday, March 29, 2pm; free. St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, 515 Wisconsin Avenue. (OCEANSIDE)

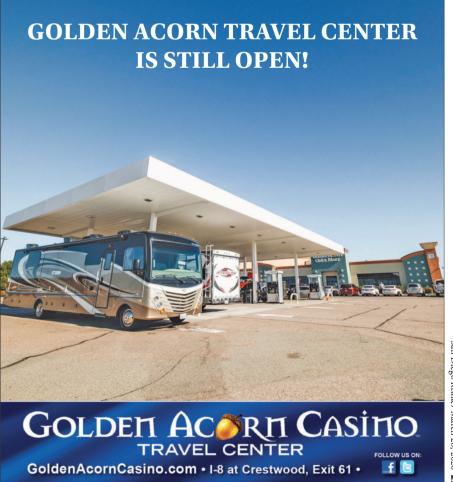
NATURE

The Flowering of Spring Bursts of early season flowers populate Kumeyaay Lake and nearby Grasslands trails. Refresh in nature's offerings and learn some of her secrets on a fun and informative trail guide-led outing. Meet by flag poles at Campground Entry Station. Saturday, March 28, 8:30am; free. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

SPORTS & FITNESS

Deep Relaxation Class Scotty Guynn leads a relaxing Yin class, incorporating CBD oils. This is a donation based class, and 100% of the proceeds go to benefit the Dharma Foundation. Thursday, March 26, 7pm; \$15-\$50. 18 and up. Mantra Yoga & Juice Bar, 5617 Paseo Del Norte #230. (CARLSBAD)

Kundalini Workshop Minh Clare, psychic, channel and KAP facilitator leads this workshop. During class, you will experience a direct transmission that energizes or starts the awakening of your Kundalini energy. Saturday, March 28, 1:30pm; \$42-\$50, 18 and up. Mantra Yoga & Juice Bar, 5617 Paseo Del Norte #230. (CARLSBAD)



San Diego Reader March 26, 2020

In love with tikka masala

Lunch with the hand-wash missionary

ash your hands!" says Hank.
"If he says that one more
time, I'm gonna..." growls Jim.
No doubt, my buddy's become a hand-wash

missionary. He disappears off into the wash-

rooms. Jim and I head for the end of the room to get that separation from the one or two others eating here in this Himalayan Indian place. We came mainly because Hank had come here and fallen in love with the chicken *tikka masala*, that combo of chicken

and rich mix (*masala*) of creamy onion and tomato sauce that has conquered the western world. This was just before the portcullis clanged down on restaurants everywhere. Didn't realize it was gonna be the Last Meal Out for a while.

I also thought it was a good idea, because I could just see those hot spices attacking any virus that tried to ride into my gut. Zap! Pow!

Henry didn't actually say what was Himalayan about Himalayan food, as opposed to regular Indian food. I mean, honestly, first thing that comes into your mind is yak meat and butter tea and snow leopards. But here, no sign of butter tea, yak meat, or (heaven forbid) snow leopard.

"You're talking Nepalese, Tibetan food," Hank says when

he joins us. "Mostly Indian or Chinese food, but more basic, because less grows up there in the mountains. But they do have mountain spices like *jimbu*. Uh, hands?"

"Hokay, Hank."

So righteous. Annoying part is, you know he's right.

"Mountain spices? *Jimbu*?" I say when Jim and I get back from the washroom.

Fact is, I've been meaning to find out more about Himalayan food. I know that to survive up in the Himalayas, any plant has to be uber-tough.

So mountain food stays more basic. But with its own tastes. The mountains there are covered in this herb called *jimbu*, and another zingy berry called *timmur*, also known as Szechuan pepper.

Seems *jimbu* adds the flavor of onion or

chives, once you fry it in ghee.

"Ghee?" I say. Heard of it a million times, something to do with yak milk?

"Liquid fat from simmered butter," says Hank, reading off his phone. And *jimbu*? "In the Mustang area of Nepal, they use

it to flavor veggies, pickles, and meat. The rest of the country, they flavor lentils with it."

We're sitting at our table with its bright red tablecloth, surrounded by "brick" wainscoting and shocking green walls. Feels very Nepalese.

Lanterns hover about head level, shining out the image of the elephant-headed Ganesha, the remover of obstacles, the god of new beginnings. Could do with his powers now.

Talking of beginnings, Hank says not a bad way to start is a veggie *pakora*, or *bhaji*, or fritter. It's veggies inside a deep-fried skin of batter with unnamed "Himalayan herbs and spices," and finished off with mint chutney.

Others are the "typical Nepalese," like marinated sautéed lamb *chholla* (\$10.95),

with chickpeas (that's what chholla means).

Or hey, soup, and the one everybody has heard of, *mulligatawny* (\$4.95). The surprise is, it's Indian. I always thought it was Irish. Just sounds it. But it's from South India — means "peppery water" in Tamil. Here it's a mix of lentils, chicken, and a creamy liquid base.

Hank ends up ordering that. Even though we have already gotten free bowls of lentil soup.

The *mulligatawny* is quite a big bowl. Meal in itself with *naan* bread.

Hmm. Maybe I should start with a beer.

2060 India Street • Little Italy

619-431-4337 ■ puertolaboca.com

Because they stock Indian beers here. "Himalayan Snowman" goes for \$8.95 for a 22oz bottle. A pretty darned good one, too, turns out. Slightly sweet, brewed in India, and with a hairy yeti striding around on the label. (Have to say, I'm just as tempted by the Nepalese chai, a lot cheaper at \$2.95, a hot tea made with milk, ginger, and cardamom. Sounds delicious.)

Despite the ton of vegetarian dishes, three of the four people at a table nearby are asking for that chicken tikka masala ("boneless chicken breast cubes cooked in a cream onion and tomato sauce with Himalayan herbs and spices, \$14.95), the dish that conquered the West.

Beyond that, it's meat'n potatoes, and lots of veggie combos. And lots of curries and chutneys to flavor it up, and flatbreads to tamp it down.

Most dishes, we're talking around \$12. But one I'm looking at, lamb *vindaloo*, costs \$16.95.

The *vindaloo* sauce is hot stuff.

They say it's twice as hot as Madras curry. But I liked it last time I ate
Indian. *Vindaloo*, turns out, comes from Portuguese (they had a colony in Goa). *Carne da Vinha d'alhos*, meaning meat (usually pork), marinated in wine and garlic. Yum.

"We do ask how hot you want it," says one of the servers, "on a scale of ten."

Hank opts for a mild version of mixed veggie curry (\$11.95), Jim follows him, and — herd mentality! — I kinda do too. I ask for another vegetarian curry, *aloo bhanta*, eggplant and potato cooked with onion and tomato sauce plus "Himalayan herbs and spices."

But I ask for heat at least 8 out of 10,



Hard times, cheery service



Aloo Bhanta (Eggplant and potato curry) comes with rice or naan

because I'm sure they softball it to gringos like

Hank and Jim's veggie curries look good too, but I was right about choosing "8." It's hot but not smoke-out-the-ears hot. And besides, I got my Himalaya Snowman beer. Ain't that what it's for?

This was all just before the end of public dining as we know it. Since then, I called, and Bikson the helpful Nepalese server there says they're hoping to stay open for take-out. But call first.

So hey! Let's launch the take-out scene next week! ■

The Place: Himalayan House, 201 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-500-5357

Hours (take-out only): 11am-9pm, daily

Prices: veggie pakora (or bhaji, or fritter) appetizer with mint chutney; mulligatawny soup, \$4.95; marinated lamb (chholla), \$10.95; chicken tikka masala, \$14.95; lamb vindaloo, \$16.95; mixed veggie curry, \$11.95; vegetarian curry, aloo bhanta, with eggplant, potato, \$11.95; Nepalese chai (hot tea made with milk, ginger, cardamom), \$2.95; "Himalayan Snowman" beer, 220z, \$8.95

Buses: 705, 932

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Ganesha, god of new beginnings



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How to dine while quarantined

FEAST!

For the latest reviews from Reader writers and a complete searchable list of 2000 restaurants, please visit SDReader.com/feast

Restaurant options during the pandemic (updated)

Last week began a terrifying ride for the restaurant industry as public policy cop-

rant industry as public policy coping with the Covid-19 pandemic moved quickly from sanitation

and social distancing advisories, to a full prohibition of dining in restaurants. The industry landscape shifted so quickly, restaurateurs have had to adapt on the fly. Some restaurants have closed indefinitely while the community health crisis unfolds. Some may never re-open. Some have already re-opened with limited hours and carry-out menus.

I was picking pizza when word came down Governor Gavin Newsom had directed all California restaurants to operate at no more than half capacity — that policy lasted two days. I passed my credit card across the counter, signed my name on the touchscreen. The cashier and I shared a moment of anxiety, from our prescribed six-foot distance. The threat had gotten real. What would come next for restaurants in these unprecedented modern times, when every communal surface, every sniffle leads to anxiety?

A week later, Californians have been asked

to stay at home and isolated from one another, except for certain exercise and essential business. As of press time, restaurants are still considered essential businesses, along with grocery stores, and for the moment it looks as though restaurants may remain open in the event San Diegans are ordered to shelter in place. Which is important

news: grocery stores are having a tough time keeping items in stock, and grocery delivery services were

operating on a three-day delay. Restaurant takeout and delivery will serve immediate needs..

Call your favorite local restaurants or check their social media to see whether they're open, and what their take-out policies are. And remember, restaurant workers are assuming a lot of risk to keep their public fed, often with reduced hours and income. Whether your order take out or delivery, tip better than usual. Take precautions while unpacking your take-out, and more than ever before: wash your hands before eating!

Here are your options, as they stood at press time:

Take-out

Some restaurants have switched to delivery only, but most serve in-person take-out. The big news here is that the California ABC has relaxed regulations to allow restaurants to sell alcoholic beverages to-go. Booze sales are restricted to bottles and cans, while beer and other fermented beverages



A half and half pizza picked up from Sisters Pizza in Hillcrest.

may be sold in growlers. The same take out rule is in effect for local breweries and distilleries.

Online Ordering

The best practice for take-out to complete and pay your order online if possible, as it eliminates the need to pass cash or card between hands during pick-up. Even if your favorite restaurants have never offered online ordering in the past, check again. Many have scrambled to add the function for this very purpose. The alternative is to give your credit card payment during a phone order.

Curbside Pick-up

Many restaurants will take to-go orders out to your car to limit exposure as much as possible, and those who are will be advertising curbside pick-up.

Meaning they'll send a server out to your car
with your to-go bag: just call them when you park.

Home delivery

As with online ordering, that restaurant that never offered delivery may do so now, as a means of repurposing workers. But right now, the infrastructure of third-party delivery services could be the thing that keeps a lot of local restaurants afloat. Grubhub, Seamless, Doordash, Postmates, and Uber Eats are all offering no-c ontact deliveries. Because full payment goes through online, the driver can effectively leave the bag on your doorstep.







and Seamless (really the same company) were the first to announce they're suspending the commissions they collect from restaurants for this service, which could prove relief to restaurants needing cash flow to pay their employees. Door-Dash has followed suit. Uber Eats has waived delivery fees for the consumer.

by Ian Anderson

Curbside comfort food from Pop Pie

Pop Pie Co.; 4404 Park Boulevard, Suite A, University Heights. I feel the now familiar tinge of fear as I leave my apartment and get into my car, parked out front. Especially since the governor ordered Californians — all 40 million of us — to stay at home during this coronavirus outbreak, the fraught with anxiety. But this tinge of fear is something else: I have the plumb spot, the closest to my front door. I'm sure anyone who's lived in an urban area with limited street parking can relate. Someone will take my spot while I run this errand.

Obviously, I know that on the long, long list of things to worry about right now, being able to see my car out the

Directions on a to-go bag.

you're ordering pies hot, or frozen. Savory are \$8.50 hot, \$7.50 frozen, or five for \$35. Individual servings of frozen sweet pies are \$4. There are also sides and a selection of hot teas or coffees to go. And they sell small-batch ice cream made by next-door sister business, Stella Jean's Ice Cream.

window sits way, way down

towards the bottom. But it

gives me comfort. That's a

peculiar dichotomy of this

moment, before the full weight

of the outbreak has landed in

San Diego. Even as many of

us comply with government

orders to only leave the house

for essential services (shop-

ping for food and household

supplies), statistics warn that a

large number of us are already

infected, incubators of the

virus destined to fall ill within

the next few days. But while

we wait, mundane fears about

trivialities, such as parking

location, nag. We are human,

and we're cooped up at home.

is simple. I've heard that Uni-

versity Heights' miniature

pie specialist Pop Pie Co. has

joined a number of San Diego

restaurants in offering curbside

take-out. Even better, perhaps,

it's offering unfinished pot pies

for customers to take home

Most of my meals (and Feast

stories) are in take-out mode

for the foreseeable future, but

the idea of keeping pot pies in

my freezer sways me. Chicken

pot pie may be the most com-

forting of all comfort foods.

And if I get sick with Covid-19

- more likely when I get sick

- I am genuinely comforted

to know I will have something

nourishing on standby I can

cook without much energy.

Just defrost the pie, and cook

for 50 minutes at 275 degrees.

It's almost something I could

I call in to order and pay, but

like many restaurants through-

out the county, Pip Pie Co. has

updated its web site so you can

order and pay online, whether

nap through.

and put in our freezers.

My errand this afternoon

I've gone for a couple of chicken pot pies (Pop Pie Co.'s rate among the best in town), plus one steak-and-ale pie. Other options include two vegetarian pies (one passed on cauliflower and sweet potato, the other portobello mushrooms and brussels sprouts).

The sidewalks are empty, but there are other cars on the road as I drive. Being in my car feels safe: I've got my dog in the backseat, and I switch the stereo from NPR to a favorite album, as I try to enjoy this time outside the house.

As I pull up to the curb, I call the restaurant to let them know. A minute later, a young employee steps outside and passes a brown paper bag to my outstretched hand through my passenger window. I'm all paid up, so there's no further transaction necessary. We wave and wish each other well. We'll both probably wash our hands now as a precaution. Washing hands is the new national pastime.

My ride to Pop Pie takes just over 20 minutes — ten there, ten back. I take solace, optimism even to get home and realize my parking spot is there, right in front! People are staying home, and small victories may sustain us. Takeout orders, and the restaurants offering them right now, are a blessing.

Check websites and Facebook pages of your favorite restaurants to get an idea which currently offer takeout in your area, or check the crowdsourced Google Map being updated by the Eating & Drinking in San Diego Facebook group.

by Ian Anderson

Loaves, pastries, and breakfast pizza: Matteo is now open

Matteo; 3015 Juniper St, South Park. When Italy native Matteo Cattaneo opened the original Buona Forchetta, in South Park, he turned a corner commercial space that had been sitting empty for years into one of the city's most in-demand restaurants. Seven years later, its success has spawned a family of Italian restaurants serving its brand of Neapolitan pizza and fresh pasta from Encinitas to (pretty soon now) Coronado. This week the restaurateur officially opened his third restaurant in the South Park neighborhood.

This one won't likely force the same American mispronunciations as his Forchetta restaurants. Like Cattaneo himself, it's called Matteo. And it takes over a corner commercial space that has been sitting empty for years. However, it's only been a couple years since neighborhood institution Rebecca's Coffee House closed following decades as a hub for shabby furniture, fresh-fromthe-oven scones, and open mic nights.

I couldn't help draw comparisons as I first walked into Matteo on a crowded weekend afternoon. The space has

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San Diego Reader March 26, 2020

RandySollinger@yahoo.com



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shrunk to make room for an expanded kitchen, and though a children's corner features an oddball assortment of highback upholstered chairs that would have fit right in to Rebecca's ad hoc aesthetic, most of the dining room has been set up with a grid of modern, matching tables and

Buy One Entree

Get One Half-Off

The counter is roughly in

the same place, but what you

find behind it has seen signifi-

cant upgrades: loaves of rustic

Italian bread, pans of fluffy

focaccia, and myriad pastries.

from coffee cakes to cinna-

mon rolls, are familiar. That's

because Matteo's head baker is

Joanne Sherif, former owner of

Some of those pastries,

With the purchase of two drinks. M-F 4-9pm. 1 coupon per visit. Not valid with any other coupon. Not valid on holidays. Dine in only. Expires 3/19/20.



2271 1st Ave San Diego, 92101 (619) 239-8176



Breakfast pizza with sausage, provola cheese, scrambled eggs, and slivered almonds.

another dearly departed local café and breakfast spot, Cardamom Bakery, which until last summer operated up the street in North Park. For more than a decade, Cardamom's savory, stuffed croissants had been a personal, grab-andgo favorite of mine, so I was delighted to find that Sherif now serves them here. They appear a little smaller at five bucks apiece, but my spinach and blue cheese with sesame seeds tasted every bit as good.

That might have been all it took to satisfy me, but it doesn't even scratch the surface of a loaded breakfast menu featuring frittatas, benedicts,

breakfast burritos, croissant breakfast sandwiches, chilaquiles, and burgers. There are vegan options and glutenfree baked goods — I spotted mini red velvet bundt cakes that looked every bit the part. I would have tried one of them, but I claimed the last remaining nutella stuffed donut instead, and I have no regrets.

But you've got to be a consumer of bread to appreciate what's going on here. Not just for the baked goods, not just for the ensuing sandwiches, and not just because they make tantalizing breaded breakfasts such as tiramisu brioche French toast with chocolate



Tiramisu inspired brioche french toast, with chocolate, berries, and honey espresso marscarpone.

drizzle, honey espresso mascarpone, and fresh berries (\$12). But because this is also a pizza spot. Sometimes, it's the square pan, deep dish Detroitstyle pizza, sometimes it's the Roman pizza alla pala, oblong ovals of raised bread pizza, made with or without sauce. That's the style to expect when you order a breakfast pizza.

Because how can you not, when given the option? Breakfast pizzas with scrambled egg toppings include bacon and avocado, and asparagus and porcini mushrooms. I went for the \$10 sausage and provola cheese (a younger version of provolone), mostly because it included sliced almonds.

Now I'm mad at every pizza spot I've ever been to that has failed to offer sliced almonds as a topping.

Matteo won't likely match the success of Buona Forchetta, but seeing as Cattaneo has made it a nonprofit restaurant (its first quarter net revenues will be donated to the Chavista Cesar Chavez Service Clubs), the bakery and cafe will probably became a new neighborhood institution. And I'm sure it will piss off a few Rebecca's fans for me to say so, but I think it's an upgrade. Who wouldn't trade scones for breakfast pizza?

by Ian Anderson





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World Beat Cafe

2100 Park Blvd. San Diego (619) 558-3728

the inside track

People see it as brave

The Philadelphia-based punk four-piece Mannequin Pussy had two albums under their belts before they were signed to famous hardcore label Epitaph and released 2019's Patience — which

with producer Will Yip. The result was an album that landed on many best-of lists at the end of 2019. Dabice was comfortable enough to spill her guts lyrically on songs such as the anthemic "Drunk II"— an autobioso diverse," Dabice explained. "I would say that there is no typical Mannequin Pussy fan. They're across this very wide spectrum of how people look, what they do for a living, how they identify, and their sexuality and their politics. It really brings all these people together that might not normally find themselves in a room together, but they're all realizing that they're all capable of the same emotion."

– Dryw Keltz



Mannequin Pussy singer/guitarist Marisa Dabice (in red) sings about "drinking a lot and kissing a bunch of cute strangers.'

required just that. The album gestated for three years after early recording sessions were scrapped due to uncomfortable studio conditions.

"It was recorded in the same space where we had made [2016's] Romantic," singer/guitarist Marisa Dabice explained. "That space is really chaotic, it's this warehouse that they make great sounding records in, but it's in a place where people live — so people were constantly coming in and out of the space while we were working on these things. A lot of these songs were really hard for me to sing in front of other people — even my band. So, working on something that felt really serious only to be interrupted by some jackass coming into the studio to ask some inane question that has nothing to do with what we're doing there just started to wear on me. When we started listening back, we were just like, 'It doesn't feel like a progression."

The band eventually took another stab at the songs

graphical account of a period of her life in which she was "just drinking a lot and kissing a bunch of cute strangers, but ultimately feeling very empty and sad too." She directed and starred in the video for the song.

"I guess a lot of people do see it as brave," Dabice explained. "That's something that has been expressed to me, but I don't think it's very brave to express emotions that everyone has been through. I think there's something very comforting in that I know that the story that I'm telling I'm not alone in. So, it's just not as scary for me."

The mid-tempo "Drunk II" is a bit longer and more accessible than many of the band's trademark (in Dabice's words) "short aggressive burners." But even in these manic moments, there are influences present from across the pop and rock spectrum. It's a mixed-bag trait that is reflected in their audiences.

"There's a nice symptom of that that also maybe explains why our crowds are Drop a dollar in the e-bucket With the closure of area bars and sit-down restaurant service, several locals who lost gigs are choosing to telecast performances for stay-at-home viewing. "We uploaded a full concert, professionally filmed," says Ron Houston of the Sickstring Outlaws, whose Ramona Mainstage performance can be found on the Reader site and YouTube. At just under an hour, the nine-song setlist comes with a "mature" warning due to the band's invitation to enjoy your self-quarantine with odes to home partying such as "Just an Old Empty Bottle," "Johnny Drank Jack," and "Cocaine Blues."

"I've barely missed a week at Lestat's in more than ten years," says open mic vet Happy Ron Hill, who specializes in upbeat songs stressing positivity. He immediately seized on one upshot: "Time to stop playing and start writing." For the foreseeable future, Hill is releasing a new song of encouragement each week, happy

has partnered with the venue

ARKING BUT

NO DINING

songs for unhappy times,

with custom created lyric

and performance videos on

his Facebook and YouTube

uploaded to the Reader site

"I've Seen So Much Bad So

I'm Gonna Do Good" with

guest bassist Paul Tillery.

channels. His newest was just

as well, a live performance of

to create a video concert channel. "I shoot local bands live, with multitrack audio and multiple cameras," he says. He has additional local-

Winstons is among the temporary closures, but videographer David Blood centic content on his own

OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: DOWNTOWN

HERE ON THE

venues such as the Bacchanal, the Flash Café, Sound FX. Chiller's, 4th & B, and local musicians are invited to post their own area performances, audio or video, old or new, with preference given to recent multisong setlists.

Dan Lederman says he's performed at least one local open mic each week, usually in North County, for around 15 years now. He's best known for his ShatMan persona in which he impersonates William Shatner singing songs suggested by the audience, with improvisational arrangements in the histrionic spoken-word style

week, so now I'm setting up a live stream on YouTube, where I want to do at least two concerts a week"

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

The question is how to monetize his online performance channel. "I don't qualify as a commercial account, but I have a PavPal address that I'll include with uploads. [I'll] try to appeal to people that, if they like what they hear, they should drop a dollar in the bucket. Everyone knows someone who's in trouble right now, who doesn't know how they're going to pay their bills, or how long this is going to last. The one thing you can



Happy Ron Hill writes happy songs for unhappy times.

BloodshotMovies website. "I do full shows and select songs, including performances at the Tower Bar and elsewhere." Many of those performance videos are now streaming on the Reader site, which has launched its own Local Concert Database, with publicly shared audio and video files of concerts taking place in San Diego from the late '70s (prog rockers Camel at the Roxy in PB) through this month. Many were recorded at long-gone

of the "singer" and actor. "I have a subsidized housing arrangement, but pretty much all the money I live off of comes from passing around the tip jar, selling my CDs [He's Dead Jim and 21st Century ShatMan], and networking with people who hire me for parties and stuff. It was only a hundred bucks a week but, between that and busking with my guitar and Pignose [amplifier], I've been able to make an okay living. That all stopped dead this

count on is that people going through this are creating a lot of amazing art and music. They shouldn't have to do it alone.

"And they definitely shouldn't have to do it for free."

— Jay Allen Sanford

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORSRobert Bush, Chad Deal, Dave Good, Andrew Hamlin, Dryw Keltz, Ken Leighton, Jay Allen Sanford

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

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TULPA LUNA

Assuming the concert lockdown is over by June, Tulpa Luna-formerly known as Warsaw - will embark on a west coast tour with former local Adam Gnade (Three One G, Pioneers Press) in support of an upcoming project they're collaborating on. "This two-song 7-inch vinyl record is set to be released on Sell the Heart Records later this spring," says Demetrius Antuña, who reports the band is working on a new studio album. "This will include some Warsaw songs from our first three EPs reworked and rerecorded, as well as a handful of new ones. No dates set for this yet, but shooting for a late summer/autumn release." Regarding the name change.

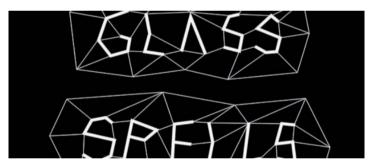
"When we started this band a little over three years ago, we chose the name Warsaw as a reference to one of our favorite bands. We never had any intention of trying to emulate them or cover their music. We just thought of it as a little nod, an homage, so to speak. If you are unaware, Warsaw was the name of the band Joy Division before they released their first album. The name has led to so many questions, some confusion, and even outright anger...we're still the same band, and we will continue playing many of our songs from the last few years, plus a lot of new ones, just under a new name."



RED FLAG

The 30th anniversary of influential synth-pop duo Red Flag's debut album *Naïve Art* is being celebrated with a double vinyl reissue containing four bonus tracks, limited to 1000 copies available in three separate colors: red, white, and black. A double CD version features 18 bonus tracks. Brothers Chris and Mark Reynolds were originally Liverpool natives before moving to San Diego in the mid-'70s. The first song they recorded, "Distant Memories," under the name Shades of May, was selected in 1984 for a 91X compilation album, *Local Heroes*. Inspired by bands like Depeche Mode and the Cure, the duo described their sound as "a blend of synthpop,

new age, and ambient." Signed to Enigma Records in 1988, Naïve Art (produced by Paul Robb of Information Society), released the following year, earned them two top ten hits on Billboard's Dance Charts ("Russian Radio" and "If I Ever"), as well as an appearance on American Bandstand and opening slots on tour with Devo and Thomas Dolby. Red Flag released a dozen albums between 1988 and 2002, and nearly twice that many singles and EPs. Mark Reynolds passed away in his home on 2nd Avenue on April 7 2003, reportedly from complications related to respiratory failure, though it was later reported to have been a suicide.



GLASS SPELLS

Synth-pop trio Glass Spells is back with a new video for their track "Mirrors," sporting a lineup featuring sole remaining founder Anthony Ramirez now accompanied by Tania Costello (vocals) and Michael Buehl (drums). After they released their debut single in 2014, "I Feel It," original singer Mellany Martinez was replaced by Suz Gonzalez. They spent early 2016 recording a self-titled album at Emprise Soundlab studios in Mexicali with Gerardo Montoya (aka Letters From Readers, who has also worked with FAX, Maniqui Lazer, etc.), promoted with a single for "Rebellion" and a video for the song "Away"

From Space." All the band members were from Imperial Valley, but at the time of the album release, singer Gonzalez was living in Phoenix, AZ., two others were in Imperial Valley, and Ramirez settled in San Diego. This eventually proved unworkable. Former Glass Spells bassist/keyboardist Anthony Ramirez went on to Twin Ritual, playing alongside guitarist Nathan Leutzinger (Astral Touch) and singer Laura Levenhagen (Le Chateau). Their early 2018 EP Hand Through the Mist, with its debut single "Angry," was produced by Dave Trumfio (OK Go, Jesus and the Mary Chain, Built to Spill).



LENNY MORRIS III

"It's a clear departure from my escapades as a freelance acoustic songwriter, as I have now focused on a career writing carefully crafted lyrics with messages I hope will resonate with the masses," says Lenny Morris III of his new hip-hop single "Dear World," also released as a YouTube video. Fairly new to hip-hop, Morris began singing at age five and picked up his first instrument at 12, when his cousin handed him an old Harmony guitar. Until 2011, he wore a paper hat at In-N-Out Burger, but within a year, he was making a full-time living as a musician, playing Listen Local showcases at House of Blues and the Stage Bar

and Grill, as well as landing a weekly Wednesday gig at Mosaic Wine Bar. He's also held residencies at the Hard Rock Café, Gordon Biersch Brewery, Hooleys La Mesa, and Hennessey's La Jolla and Carlsbad. "I've done dozens of private events, ranging from weddings and engagement parties, a few private parties for the San Diego Padres Organization, and some corporate gatherings." His debut acoustic EP *Lenny Morris Music* featured his band The Native Tongue, while a sophomore release, *No Secret*, dropped around the same time that he launched a Johnny Cash and June Carter tribute project.



DAVID ROBLES

A vet of bands like the Marsupials, Wha?, White Mule, Madly, and Scary Pierre, David Robles currently plays with Gary Wilson & the Blind Dates (bass, guitar, keyboards), the Zeros (bass), and Javier Escovedo & the City Lights (guitar). His mildly psychedelic David Robles Project released a single for "She Sighs" in late 2017, featuring his old Wha? Bandmate, drummer Ben Johnson (Hostile Comb-Over, Long and Short Of It), which was also shot as a video. His new album drops in April. "Blue Sunshine was recorded from November 2019 through February 2020 in my home studio using Logic Pro," says Robles. "I

recorded all of the parts myself, playing guitar, bass, keyboards, live drums, drum programming, and vocals. My girlfriend and primary inspiration, Kelly Paige Standard [a noted oil painter], sang backups on 'Twirl.' I recorded 27 songs total for the project and plan on releasing the other 14 songs this summer." Robles, who also works as a videographer, just uploaded several video samples from *Blue Sunshine*, including the title track, "Days of Isolation," "Right Tonight," and "Can't Stop Thinkin," each demonstrating his breezy visual style with clips that at times resemble *Magical Mystery Tour* outtakes.

You can submit a listing, download mp3s, watch videos, subscribe to event alerts, get directions, and find more information about these shows online at SDReader.com/music.

THIS WEEK'S **SHOWS**

Belly Up Tavern:

Wednesday, 8pm — White Denim and Chris Forsyth.

Border X Brewing: Wednesday, 7pm — Rumba Descarga-Cuban Jam. Free.

Crossings at Carlsbad:

Wednesday, 5pm — Cowboy Jack. Free

Go Lounge:

Wednesday, 8pm — Wyatt Edmondson.

La Jolla Community Center:

Hollyday, Melonie Grinnell, Rob Thorsen, \$18-\$25.

Martinis Above Fourth | Table + Stage:

Wednesday, 8pm — Marieann Maringolo. \$25-\$35.

Monday, 11am — Frankie Laine Statue Unveiling. Free.

Observatory North Park:

Wednesday, 8pm - Best Coast and Mannequin Pussy.

Roxy Encinitas:

Wednesday, 7pm — Sam Weber.

Soda Bar:

Wednesday, 8pm - Jeff the Brotherhood.

UPCOMING SHOWS

710 Beach Club:

Monday, Apr. 13 — Love Ghost.

Aztec Brewing Company:

Sunday, Apr. 5 — Jazz Jam Hosted by Dylan Soto. Free. Sunday, Apr. 19 - Jazz Jam Hosted by Dylan Soto. Free.

immortai beau

Mussorgsky sprinkles death

There's COVID-19, and then there's the Black Death. The height of the Black Death was between the years of 1347-1351. Estimates for the number of deaths during the plague range to 200 million.

A culture of death was established as a result of the Black Death. The Danse Macabre was a visual representation of the immediacy of death. In the murals, death danced with the Pope, kings, merchants, knights, maidens, lords, serfs, children, and clerics. No one was spared, death functioned as the great equalizer. It still does.

There have been several musical settings of the Danse Macabre, with the version by Camille Saint-Saëns being the most famous. Other

Rancroft:

Saturday, Apr. 4 — Slum

Bayside Pavilion:

Belly Up Tavern: Thursday, Apr. 2 — Yonder

Mountain String Band.

Molly Burch. \$20-\$35.

and Dark Álley Dogs.

Friday, Apr. 3 — Spafford and

Sunday, Apr. 5 — Tennis and

Monday, Apr. 6 — Hapa (Barry

Wednesday, Apr. 8 - Kut U Up

Saturday, Apr. 11 — The Mother

Flanagan & Keli'I Kaneali'i).

Friday, Apr. 10 - Reverend

Horton Heat and Electric Six.

Festival, \$18-\$40.

the Jauntee.

\$25-\$44.

Summer and Jake McKelvie.

Saturday, Apr. 11 — Sevilla

composers such as Gustav Mahler, Franz Liszt, and Dimitri Shostakovich have also created music based on the grim reaper.

My favorite setting is Songs and Dances of Death by Modest Mussorgsky. In keeping with the tradition, Mussorgsky sprinkles death across a variety of demographics.

The first song, Lullaby, brings us the death of an infant. Death addresses the mother:

You've failed to pacify the child.

I'll sing sweeter than

Following Lullaby is Serenade. A sick maiden lies awake thinking of life's pleasures while death sings to her:

Meanwhile under the

Tuesday, Apr. 14 — Casey Hensley and Black Market III. Wednesday, Apr. 15 — Sully and

Thursday, Apr. 16 — Arlo

Friday, Apr. 17 — Super Diamond and Dim The Lights.

Saturday, Apr. 18 — Super Diamond and Hits On My List.

Bird Rock Coffee Roasters:

Thursday, Apr. 2 — Insomnium

Sunday, Apr. 19 — Infinite

Saturday, Apr. 11 — Robin

and Omnium Gatherum.

Beneath the Massacre Thursday, Apr. 16 — 3TEETH

Friday, Apr. 3 — Origin and

Greg Douglass.

Floyds

Henkel.

Brick by Brick:

and Carnifex.

Guthrie. \$67-\$118.

window in the midnight silence

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Death sings a serenade:

awav:

A mysterious knight, with

I'll free vou up.

The battle is finished! I won over everyone!

You all submitted before

In the gloom of captivity, severe and stifling.

Your youth is fading

magic powers

The third song follows a drunken peasant into the woods where he freezes to death, and then we come to the fourth song, which is called The Fieldmarshal. Here, death is portrayed as a general presiding over a vast battlefield of the dead illuminated by moonlight. Death explains:

Bernt Notke: Surmatants (Totentanz) from St. Nicholas' Church, Tallinn, end

me, soldiers! Life has made you quar-

rel, I have reconciled you! Stand up as one for the parade, corpses!

Pass in front of me in a pompous march.

I want to count my troops..."

All four deaths were common, not only in 19th Century Russia but in every country, including the United States. We can look to Walt Whitman's "A Dirge for Two Veterans" for an American verse similar to the moonlit procession of Mussorgsky's Fieldmarshal.

The last sunbeam Lightly falls from the finish'd Sabbath,

On the pavement here, and there beyond it is looking,

of 15th century

Down a new-made double grave.

Lo, the moon ascending, Up from the east the silvery round moon,

Beautiful over the housetops, ghastly, phantom moon

Immense and silent

I see a sad procession, And I hear the sound of coming full-key'd bugles, All the channels of the city streets they're flooding, As with voices and with

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Carvers Steak & Chops:

Saturday, Apr. 4 — The Lemon Squeezers. Free. Friday, Apr. 10 - Miss Demeanor.

Saturday, Apr. 11 — Miss Demeanor.

Casbah:

Friday, Apr. 3 — Post Animal. Monday, Apr. 6 — The Third

Friday, Apr. 10 — The Adolescents. \$20. Sunday, Apr. 12 -Monophonics. \$20-\$22. Tuesday, Apr. 14 — Pup and Illuminati Hotties. \$25.

People come first





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Wednesday, Apr. 15 — Sleaford Mods and Girl Band. Thursday, Apr. 16 — Fontaines

Saturday, Apr. 18 — The Mighty

Monday, Apr. 20 — Anna Burch and Long Beard. \$12-\$15. Wednesday, Apr. 22 — Black Marble and Moaning. \$15-\$17. Thursday, Apr. 23 — Black Marble and Moaning. \$15-\$17. Friday, Apr. 24 — Mk.gee. Saturday, Apr. 25 — Secret Sisters and Leslie Stevens. Wednesday, Apr. 29 — Mo Lowda & the Humble. Friday, May 1 — True Widow.

Ché Café:

Sunday, Apr. 5 — Ratboys and Ellis. \$12.

Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center:

Sunday, Apr. 19 - Josh Ritter.

Coomber Craft Wines:

Friday, Apr. 17 — The Ram.

Coyote Bar & Grill:

Saturday, Apr. 4 — Dancing Bob's 99th Birthday Party. Free. Sunday, Apr. 5 — Bonneville 7.

Dirk's Niteclub:

Friday, Apr. 3 — FX5.

Encinitas Library:

Sunday, Apr. 5 — Robin Henkel.

Eureka! Gourmet Burgers and Craft Beer

Thursday, Apr. 16 — King Taylor Project. Free.

Fast Times:

Sunday, Apr. 5 — Fleetwood Bigmak, Free. Friday, Apr. 17 — Cyren. Free.

Good Friday:

Thursday, Apr. 16 — Beauty Oneen

Grand Ole BBQ Flinn Springs:

Saturday, Apr. 4 — Bonneville

Hornblower Dinner Cruises:

Sunday, Apr. 12 — Easter Champagne Jazz Brunch Cruise. \$49-\$102.

Sunday, Apr. 12 — Easter Champagne Jazz Brunch Cruise. \$49-\$102.

Hotel Indigo Del Mar:

Tuesday, Apr. 21 — Kathleen Murray. Free.

House of Blues:

Friday, Apr. 3 — Vundabar and Destroy Boys. Saturday, Apr. 4 — Ripe. Sunday, Apr. 5 — Torres and Ariana & the Rose. Sunday, Apr. 5 — Ally Brooke. Tuesday, Apr. 7 — Hot Country Knights.

Thursday, Apr. 9 — Bacilos.

Thursday, Apr. 9 — RDGLDGRN

and Little Stranger. Saturday, Apr. 11 — OLLIE. Saturday, Apr. 11 — Tech N9ne. Wednesday, Apr. 22 — Jacob

Thursday, Apr. 23 - Lil Mosey.

Friday, Apr. 24 — Sleeping With

Sirens and Amity Affliction. Thursday, Apr. 30 — JoJo. Thursday, Apr. 30 — The National Parks.

Humphreys by the Bay:

Friday, Apr. 3 — Lupe Fiasco Presents Food & Liquor. Thursday, Apr. 9 — Mika. Friday, Apr. 10 — Hot Chip and LA Priest.

Wednesday, Apr. 15 — Marina. Friday, Apr. 17 — Beth Hart Band

Monday, Apr. 20 — Orville Peck and Paul Cauthen. Friday, Apr. 24 — The Cult.

Thursday, Apr. 30 - Echo & the Bunnymen Saturday, May 2 — Judy Collins.

Saturday, Apr. 4 — Songbook: The Music of Our Lives. \$20-\$400

Japanese Friendship Garden: Thursday, Apr. 9 — Christopher

Hollyday. \$10-\$20.

Sunday, Apr. 5 — Sonic Tonic.

La Fleur's Winery:

Saturday, Apr. 11 — Travis Williams Free

Landing:

Friday, Apr. 10 — The Lemon Squeezers, Free. Friday, Apr. 17 — Miss Demeanor.

Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center:

Monday, Apr. 13 - Fred Hersch. \$33-\$52.

Legacy International Center: Sunday, Apr. 12 — Easter Gospel Brunch, \$15-\$35.

Lestat's Coffee House:

Sunday, Apr. 19 - Robin Henkel

Lucy's Tavern:

Saturday, Apr. 18 — Sonic Tonic.

Magnolia Performing Arts Center:

Saturday, Apr. 11 — The Monkees Tuesday, Apr. 14 — Tesla. Saturday, Apr. 18 — Zucchero.

Mainstream Bar and Grill:

Friday, Apr. 10 — Bonneville 7. Free.

Martinis Above Fourth | Table + Stage:

Saturday, Apr. 4 — Queenie Van Zandt: Joni Mitchell Tribute. \$30. Wednesday, Apr. 8 — Amy Armstrong: Beatles Tribute. \$30.

Moonshine Beach:

Thursday, Apr. 9 — Jon Wolfe. \$5-\$10.

Moustache Bar:

Thursday, Apr. 16 — Beauty Queen.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

Thursday, Apr. 2 — Gino & the Lone Gunman. Friday, Apr. 3 — Sound Vault. Saturday, Apr. 4 — Sophia Alone. Saturday, Apr. 4 — Joey Harris & The Mentals Thursday, Apr. 9 — James Allen

Band. Friday, Apr. 10 — The Ramblin Sweethearts.

Saturday, Apr. 11 — Repeat Offenders.

Thursday, Apr. 16 — Three Chord Justice. Saturday, Apr. 18 — Adrienne Nims & Spirit Wind.

Saturday, Apr. 18 — Charles

Museum of Making Music:

Saturday, Apr. 4 — The Hillbenders: WhoGrass. \$30-\$35. Saturday, Apr. 18 — Peter Sprague & Sinne Eeg. \$25-\$30.

Nate's Garden Grill:

Thursday, Apr. 16 — Robin Henkel

Navajo Live:

Friday, Apr. 17 — 3 Car Garage.

Observatory North Park:

Sunday, Apr. 5 — Allen Stone. Friday, Apr. 10 — Monster Magnet. Saturday, Apr. 18 — The Chats and Mean Jeans.

Old California Coffee House & Eatery:

Saturday, Apr. 11 — Rolf Olsen Quartet. Free.

Panama 66:

Saturday, Apr. 4 — Robin Henkel Band.

Pechanga Arena San Diego: Friday, Apr. 3 — Sonic Tonic.

Rabbit Hole:

Thursday, Apr. 9 — Bonneville 7. Free.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub:

Saturday, Apr. 11 — The Birthday Massacre.

Rockin' Baja Lobster — Old Town:

Saturday, Apr. 4 — The Oros Manos Trio. Friday, Apr. 10 — Joe Cardillo. Friday, Apr. 17 — Santana Pa Ti. Saturday, Apr. 18 — The Oros Manos Trio.

Sleep Bedder at Sommeil:

Saturday, Apr. 18 — Mayor Taco Ghost, Kilikili, Orchid Mantis. \$15.

Soda Bar:

Thursday, Apr. 2 — Sage Francis and Ceschi. Friday, Apr. 3 — Pears and Single

Dance Band Sunday, Apr. 5 — Satsang. Wednesday, Apr. 8 — Crywank and Chastity. Saturday, Apr. 11 — Jungle Fire. Sunday, Apr. 12 - Meth. and

Saturday, Apr. 4 — Mauskovic

Seizures. Monday, Apr. 13 — Heart Bones With Har Mar Superstar. Wednesday, Apr. 15 — Eric Viancourt.

Friday, Apr. 17 — The Lagoons and Swimming in Circles.

Soma:

Mothers.

Saturday, Apr. 4 — Hockey Dad and Goodbye Honolulu. Thursday, Apr. 9 — Cody Lovaas and Black Pool. Friday, Apr. 10 — Yeek and Fade Em Áll. Wednesday, Apr. 15 — (Sandy) Alex G.

St. Michael's by-the-Sea:

Sunday, Apr. 19 - Eclectic Lawn Concert.

Til-Two:

Saturday, Apr. 11 — The Venomous Pinks.

Tio Leo's:

Friday, Apr. 3 — 3 Car Garage. Sunday, Apr. 19 — Mad Hat Hucksters. \$8-\$20.

Tower Bar:

Saturday, Apr. 4 — L.A. Machina and Rebel Rebel. \$7. **Turf Supper Club:**

Sunday, Apr. 5 — Leonard Patton & Ed Kornhauser.

Valley View Casino: Saturday, Apr. 4 — King Taylor Project: Fleetwood Mac Tribute.

Free.

Viejas Arena: Sunday, Apr. 5 — Aventura.

Winstons Beach Club:

Thursday, Apr. 9 — Tim Norton and Banshee Tree. \$10. Saturday, Apr. 18 - Brian Jones Rock 'n' Roll Revival. Free.

Wong's Dragon Room:

Saturday, Apr. 11 — Bonneville 7. Free.



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Angels and airwaves

his week's films send voices across the universe. Is anybody listening?

TROOP ZERO (2019)

Do words travel through the universe — and if so, does Christmas Flint's (Mckenna Grace) late momma

hear them? A representative of NASA,

MOVIES@HOME

upon visiting her school, brings Christmas news of a local competition: first prize is a chance for a troop of Birdie Scouts to leave a message for the aliens on an intergalactic Golden Record. Of course, the Birdie Scouts would no sooner allow someone as scraggly as Christmas to join their ranks than the Girl Scouts of America would lend the filmmakers the use of their name. So it's up to the enterprising grade-schooler to gather a group of mid-level misfits who can form a troop of their own. Her name is Grace, her performance an anything-but-graceful non-stop smile producer. As the girl with the left pigtail lopped off, the aptly named Christmas is so merry at the thought of winning recruits — even ones who outright refuse to refer to her as a friend — that she can't suppress an infectiously wonky giggle. I could have stood more of Smash (Johanna Colón), a grunting Bluto of a lass who earned her nickname because, like the universe, she is "full of gas and mystery." (Perhaps a spinoff is in the offing?) A running gag that tags Christmas as the class bedwetter, trapped deep in denial, builds enough consistent

laughter to make its unexpected payoff all the more soothing. Troop Zero joins Drop Dead Gorgeous and Butter as one of the last vestiges of satire in contemporary comedy capable of simultaneously criticizing and embracing its characters with equal levels of depth, understanding, and hilarity. Admit-

tedly, viewers could have done with-

out the aboriginal use of slo-mo that proved the filmmakers capable of lobbing a softball (and out of place) Tarantino homage. And as the tippling schoolmarm/mentor/villainess in the piece, Allison Janney was presented

with no new challenges. Recapping: the setting is the cutely-christened Wiggly, GA; the directors, a chichi-to-theear, no last names, please pair Bert & Bertie; and in the lead, one of the most improbably adorable child stars this side of Dakota Fanning. In spite of all the damning evidence working against it, you'll have a ball watching it. With: Jim Gaffigan as Christmas' single dad and (executive producer) Viola Davis as his secretarycum-reluctant, chain-smoking troop leader.

LOST TRANSMISSIONS (2019)

For decades, rock 'n' rollers have been characterized as hard drinking, snorting, and/or shooting stars whose desire to self-medicate

prolonging their genius. Now, there's a new medicament in town: antidepres-

heights of creative nirvana. Drugs

were offered as the crutch essential to



Lost Transmissions: Do you hear what I hear?

pear to be the type to be fluent in FM

static. (Radio transmissions speak di-

rectly to Theo, keeping him apprised

of the whereabouts of the princess he

longs to spend an eternity in happy

everafter land with.) With his 72-

hour involuntary psychiatric hold

about to expire — and no friends or

family members willing to take him

in — up steps protege Hannah (Juno

Temple) with helping hand extended.

The much younger songwriter was is-

sued her first script for anxiety meds

when she was 22, and for now, the

daily regimen of pills appears to be

having a positive effect. Will Hannah

be the one to pluck Theo from the jaws of opioid addiction? What do

you think? Good news: he never once

tries to hit on her. And the lead per-

formances are first-rate, particularly

Pegg; he's so good you'll experience

sympathy withdrawals. I was willing

to go with it, but the eleventh-hour

appearance of a professedly fanciful

sants. And the last thing a paranoid schizophrenic record producer like Theo (Simon Pegg) needed was to

The Next Voice You Hear: Speak Lord, your servants are listening.



go off his meds in search of creative clarity. From our first glimpse of him, it's impossible to discern Theo's fragile mental state. The life of the party seated behind the piano doesn't ap-

character made it difficult. Plus, it's just all so damn depressing.

THE NEXT VOICE YOU HEAR (1950)

Joe Smith (James Whitmore), an airline factory worker settling in with his nightly after dinner beer, is thrown for a loop when the voice of God comes on the radio to deliver a message to the masses. He's not alone; for the next six days, the voice (we never hear it) reasons with humankind to come together - not in fear, but in the name of love. (Sorta the exact opposite of our current sequestered circumstances.) William Wellman signed it, but it was Dore Schary, Vice President in Charge of Earnestness at MGM, who voiced the shots. Schary was young enough to be christened a "Boy Wonder" when he personally supervised the making of this parabolistic drama, yet old enough to have heeded the advice of Samuel Goldwyn, who famously quipped, "From Western Union you get messages. From me you get pictures." Alas, Schary's approach was the exact opposite: "(Films) must educate and inform as they entertain." What was hard-hitting and well-intentioned in its day now registers as callow, even oafish at times. The studio saw Whitmore as the second coming of Spencer Tracy, a comparison that, in this case, was at best superficial. Throttling poor, pesky Aunt Ethel (Lillian Bronson) and a drunken runin with an atheist in a bar — or was it In-N-Out, the way the guys pound back "double-doubles"? — both earn a few satirically contumelious snickers. Se But don't say no to future First Lady Nancy Davis Reagan; her understated ® performance as Joe's pregnant wife balances Whitmore's bluster. The film was released in connection ₹ with Schary's book length making- 3 of companion book, Case History of 5 a Movie, which can be found on the Internet Archive.

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QUARANTINED IN SORRENTO VALLEY We enjoy one another at the office. You went on a cruise. Missed you. You got back, I was out so we didn't get to talk much. Now we have to work from home We live near each other in La Mesa. If you see this and think wesa. If you see this and trink you know who I am, send me a note. Need your initials and you need to tell me mine so I know it's you. Also, let me know where we work.

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY HG, and happy 50th birthday DG.

CLYDE, 143 FOREVER xoxo love you more and more.

THANKS READER! With all the crud going on, you are there giving us a constant / great thing to look to! Stay healthy

DON'T GET RID OF THAT stupid dog. It's a cute dog and it

FEELING DOWN? Don't be, I love vou. -JV

SHEEBZ, THE ONE AND ONLY! Don't ever stop radiating. Happy Birthday! Love always, MM.

MISTER LOVER In this time of panic and sickness, smother me with all your love. You are always on my round mind. I love you.

WALKING DOG IN MIRA MESA You're a beautiful Asian woman, maybe Filipina. I'm a young bearded black guy. I often see you walking your dog early in the morning by my house, maybe

around 7:30 or so and we usually give each other a flirty smile and a morning greeting. Today I saw you walking your dog at the Camino Ruiz park around 10:30 or so. Your dog almost got into a fight with another dog, lol. maybe if you see this I'll know if you're as attracted to me as I am to you. Or maybe I'll just come talk to you next time.

HOT BLONDES AT Michael Bolton concert at Harrah's – You and your friend were singing to me after the show. I complimented on the language you and your friend were speaking, and you stopped, smiled, thanked me and you wanted to talk - but I froze

SPRING VALLEY STARBUCKS at Casa de Oro. I'm usually with a female friend of mine and go through the drive thru and you work at the window. I think you're really pretty and I'm too nervous to ask in person. I was wearing a Ghostbusters beanie. Message me back I hope to hear back and maybe even take you out sometime.

TO THE BEAUTIFUL SMILING nurse at Kaiser in El Cajon – I was in radiology Tuesday, and was the tall, and clean cut gentleman that you passed in the hall a couple times. You were smiling and singing from the beginning and we each said hello every time we passed. Besides our health. nice bodies, no rings, courtesy and happiness,A¶. should we see what else we may have

MET AT THE LEMON GROVE Goodwill. I carried your pictures out to your truck, we exchanged names, and I left. I came back to drop my number but you were leaving, and so I'm hoping you'll get this.

HITHERE Met you at school and then again at Barnes and Noble. Congrats on grad night and happy birthday too! C you later, Carol. **EXTRATERRESTRIALS IN SD**

Another night I've been visited by aliens peeking through my window. They come to make me smile... and probe my neighbors.

LBC (LONG BLONDE W/ COMPANY) it's handsome surfer. Guess what babe, that's my permanent residence. Parked there for the last 8 days. Come back by, I'll be there. Or I might be surfin or vibin under the pier with the homies. See you soon, LBC.

FRIENDS OF JAMES HARPER (JIM) Please call Jim's family- (Ann, Jennifer, Jamie). (619)917-6975

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SHORT STORY CONTEST Writers Without Borders 1st annual Fantasy Choice Awards contest: https://bit.ly/2QFvxsq.

CORONAVIRUS closures and cancellations were the catalyst for creating this group. Please note, our Meetup will be around well after the Coronavirus. This Meetup group is for the lover of that mom and pop coffee shop, that local jewelry maker, that amazing taco food truck, or that new restaurant start-up at the farmers' market, A¶ Essentially, this group is for anyone who loves their small local businesses in San Diego! https://www.meetup.com/SLB-CLUB/

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THE FACTS OF ATHEISM There is no such thing as a true atheist. Free talk, People's Co-op, 4765 Voltaire St. Thursday, March 26, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

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San Diego Reader March 26, 2020

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San 1 Diego Reader March

, 2020

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Continued from page 6

a 1600-square-foot mixed-use building that has two residential units directly overhead. "If those are working people and they go to bed after 2 am, poor them," said commissioner Yamane.

Natalie Dumont said they held a noticed neighborhood meeting onsite but no one showed up. The city will require noise to be limited to 50 decibels at night, and smoking must be 20 feet from the entrance to the building. "Are you supportive of the craft beer industry?" asked commissioner Sandt. Would it just be a Budweiser or Coors bar, he wondered, "or are you going to actually support some of the locals with their craft beers?" Dumont answered that she would like to offer local beers. "I don't want it to be just a regular beer that you can go into the store and buy."

Another support for local businesses comes when food is brought in to a bar, and a city policy includes food in the requirements for a conditional use permit. (The sale of alcohol shall not exceed the sale of food, and alcohol must be available only in conjunction with the purchase of food.) The Dumonts sought a waiver of the food part, too, since the craft brewery applicants were able get one. "Some of those businesses did receive that flexibility," because there were restaurants nearby, commissioner Garcia said. Over the Tap is near Chipotle, Chick-fil-A, In N' Out - "you name it." And it will be the same for Novo Brazil. "Will people be allowed to bring in food to your establishment?" he asked.

"Our goal is literally a beer and wine bar," Dumont replied, adding that they were open to changes.

"Only previous businesses that have been grandfathered have an opportunity to just be a bar," said Garcia. "It's very limited in the city. I think there's a few, maybe five at the most."

Michael Harwig, chef/owner of Not Your Momma's, 338 feet away, liked the stipulation on outside food, "because I'm right down the road from them." The building has sat empty for years, he said. "We need to revitalize this area. There's nothing going on besides my place and the barber shop and La Maestra clinic. Somebody said something earlier about the Mile of Bars - but I don't think Mile of Bars is ever coming back. It's just a totally different society now."

SHEILA PELL

The 5G celltower that overlooks Luiseno Park in Oceanside. OCEANSIDE

The Powers back the towers **Encinitas objects on aesthetic** grounds, but what can simple folk do?

What factors lower property values and force people to leave town? The usual suspects include gangs, poor schools, and overcrowding. But the newest suburban bane may be the escalation of low-hanging 5G antennas,

which some medical professionals say cause cancer, sterility, and nervous disorders. "I was washing dishes when I noticed this bucket lift truck right outside our backyard," says Oceanside music teacher Pamela Klicka. "I guessed that the other lights on Pala [Road] weren't bright enough and they

were just putting in new energy efficient lights." Klicka lives near the Mission San Luis Rey with her five-yearold son and her husband Andrew, who teaches fifth grade. "But I had a funny little feeling, and I started talking to the utility workers. Sure enough, they were putting in a new post for a small cell tower."

Pamela and Andrew grew up locally. They love it that their son lives near his grandparents. But they are now selling their Oceanside home because of an environmental threat they say the city of Oceanside never even bothered to tell them about. "That small cell tower is being placed in advance of the 5G rollout," Andrew told the Oceanside City Council a month ago. He said that he and Pamela had found over 200 science journals that outlined various 5G health risks. And while he says that specific tests on humans have been sparse, he says many scientists have linked 5G adjacency to childhood autism, Alzheimer's Disease, and insomnia. "We are looking [to move] out of state now. This is taking away our liberty. That's why I'm speaking up." While Klicka grants his contact with the government has been courteous and professional, he also says the city is being completely subservient to the cell companies who want to usher in this new 5G cell phone platform. He says the city gave him and his neighbors no advance warning that the 5G small cell towers were going up on his street. "Every neighbor we spoke to says, 'I didn't notice that.' It seems sneaky. We would have never bought our house if we knew there was a small cell tower being erected essentially in our backyard."

The new 5G cell phone technology requires more small cell antenna transmitters than existing 4G technol-



Carlsbad residents rallied in January to march against the march of progress.

ogy. They can be mounted on existing street lamps, utility poles or lighting towers at parks, which places them closer to people. "5G towers need to be in everybody's backyard in order to work," says Pamela Klicka. "And they need a lot more of them." But except for the Klickas, Oceanside residents seem to be much less reactive than their North County neighbors. In January, a Stop 5G rally took to the streets of Carlsbad, and last October, Encinitas became the first city in the county to outlaw the placement of new 5G transmitters in residential areas and parks.

"They passed it because there was a 300-strong group of people who were raising bloody hell," says Susan Brinchman of Ramona, who helped organize the Stop 5G effort in Encinitas. She also founded the nonprofit group that runs the website *electrosmogprevention.org*. "Encinitas has a lot of educated types, who got out and protested. The city wanted to pacify these people." Brinchman says that Petaluma and other cities in Northern California have also stood up to the cell phone industry to just say no to the new 5G technology. She says 5G is completely unnecessary. "Everyone was happy with their old devices. But

the wireless companies had to come up with something new so they could ditch the old technology and get people to spend money on something new. I never had any problems with my 4G phone. Now they want us all to be guinea pigs for this new technology, and they find their own scientists to pooh-pooh the real health issues."

Brinchman says she went public with her anti-"electrosmog" campaign when ambient electromagnetic toxicity forced her and her husband to move from La Mesa to Ramona four years ago. "They put in two new towers in my neighborhood. I had it measured. Between 2010 and 2016 there were four times the emissions." She urges people to unplug their cell phones at night and to make sure they don't sleep near their smart meters posted outside. She adds that when the county of San Diego passed its wireless cell phone ordinance last year, [Supervisor] Dianne Jacob "admitted there were health impacts with 5G, but said that she had to vote for it because her hands were tied. County attorneys gave her bad advice."

But Oceanside deputy city manager Jonathan Borrego says that "a municipality's ability to regulate the deployment of small cell antennas [including 5G] is largely precluded by the FCC under federal law. Municipalities cannot restrict the deployment of small cell sites on the basis of health concerns." Borrego says some cities, including Encinitas, were able to regulate small cell/5G antennas on the



Andrew Klicka: 5G will make me flee.

basis of aesthetics. But "because Oceanside has established aesthetic design standards in place, staff is not recommending additional siting standards at this time. We will likely see more 5G antennas in the future." He says there are some 30 small cell towers currently up in Oceanside. (The Klickas say they have discovered small cell towers at Buddy Todd, Martin Luther King, and Luiseno Parks.) Further, because "Federal law requires that such antennas be treated as a 'by-right' use, the city does not send out public notices prior to their installation," says Borrego. "If a resident has a question about a particular antenna, staff is always available to answer specific questions or to put residents in touch with a representative from the telecommunications company."

Encinitas city councilman Tony Kranz says that health issues were certainly part of the reason why his city council unanimously continued on page 40

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San Diego Reader March 26, 2020

voted to regulate 5G antennas in Encinitas. "We did everything we could. There is a plan to bring it back [before the council] and tighten it up. There is more work to do." He says he knows it is "likely" there will be some legal "pushback" from the telecom industry about his city's 5G antenna restrictions.

KEN LEIGHTON

SOLANA BEACH

Bureaucrat spat! Board vs. council at Earl Warren athletic field

It seems the city of Solana Beach may have thrown down the gauntlet against the San Dieguito High School District's plans to take over a field at Earl Warren Middle School for a multi-story administration building. Surprised to find the action item on the agenda of the school board's last meeting, four Solana Beach city councilpersons and their community services director, Joseph Lin, showed up and presented a letter from the city manager. According to Lin, the letter stated that the district would be required to meet the obligations of the city's zoning and land-use general plan, provisions, conditional use and encroachment permits — beyond the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act and the Coastal Commission. City counselor David Zito advised that the building would not be part of the district's educational component, and suggested the district's consultant should



The field of battle.

need to take care of for our kids. We've got to keep our green space." Board member Joyce Dalessandro added that the district has not looked into the option of buying an existing building, pointing to commercial vacancies in the district. "We haven't had community input," Muir concluded.

The district's preliminary plans call for a \$20 million multi-story administration office with 114 parking spaces to replace the 40-year-old administration building at 710 Encinitas Boulevard. The district would then either sell the old property, or rehabilitate it as commercial rental units. The plan would also include selling an additional staff building on Vulcan Avenue, which could probably be rezoned to allow condos. "Stop this project

VISTA

Heartbroke Fallbrook Kid They stole his guitar, then pawned it

On February 28, Anthony "Fallbrook Kid" Cullins' music gear was stolen. His social media tells the story: "I am heartbroken," Cullins posted on Facebook February 29. "Last night some gang members in Vista, CA, off of East Vista Way before the Barnicle gas station, stole my amp and guitar. I would appreciate this

being spread all over. Please! I need all the help I can get." The young guitar player won the 2018 "10 under 20" contest at the Dallas International Guitar Festival when he was 17 years old; he's influenced by funk, R&B, the blues, Jimi Hendrix, and Eric Clapton. His losses: a vintage Gibson Firebird guitar (a similar Firebird guitar is selling on the Jimmy Wallace site for \$10,950), a 1958 Magnatone Troubadour amp (which Guitar Center sells for about \$1499), and a pro leather gig bag.

"Pass this around people," commenter Aaron wrote underneath Cullins' photos. "Get a good look at this stuff. If you're out and about and you're near a pawn shop: take a peek. This is rare stuff and isn't easy to replace. Same with any store that takes used gear, and of course, online. Anthony is a bad dude and he needs his tools!" Cullins' initial post was shared over 13,000 times on Facebook.

Soon after, Cullins posted a follow-up meme

that read "Tri-City Pawn got my guitar! However, no gig bag and Magnatone amp. The search is still on, let's make this as hot as possible!" John S. is a North Park keyboard player who saw

and shared Cullins' posts. "I was scrolling through my feeds," he said, "and I stopped on the his bright reddish colored meme; had he not used a red background, I would've probably passed it up. Besides, who the fuck would steal

a man's tools to make money and feed himself? It's not like those items can be re-sold without our music community noticing them on Craigslist or Offer Up or whatever site. We've seen some stolen shit on eBay before, and the [sellers'] accounts were later suspended. Scum, bro."

"I was already right about where these things may end up," wrote Shane underneath the Cullins meme, which garnered 466 reactions. "I said they would stay in their comfort zone, and if it ended up at a pawnshop, it would be between Vista and Oceanside. The other stuff is probably at other pawnshops relatively near to that pawnshop. They are trying to spread the items around, because they think it will throw off the police. But they won't go too far. They'll be too lazy, trying to get the money quick. And the pawnshop should have the name of whoever sold them that guitar. And that person knows where the other stuff is."

On March 10, I reached out to Tri-City Pawn, Inc., and spoke to Steven, the owner. "I'm just glad the kid got his guitar back," he said. "The thing is, a lot of the people misunderstood a comment that he and I made and turned it into, like, 'I was in on it.' I even received



Cullins, feeling blue.

— we work directly with the police. There's no

a dozen negative reviews on Facebook, Google, and Yelp. People misread things and things got misinterpreted. As a pawnbroker, I'm the last person to be in on it, I'm seriously regulated way I would be in on it. People said that I knew this person [the thief], which in fact I don't, and people tried to make it seem like I resold it to



A Gibson Firebird similar to Cullins'.

[Cullins], which I never did. California state law requires that the person [Cullins] pays back whatever the pawnshop puts out, and that's just state law. I don't make a dime off of it."

MIKE MADRIAGA

"Stop this project immediately. You're not in the business of property management or real estate."

study the plan more in relationship to the city's requirements. Zito stated he was surprised after a February 3 meeting with the district that the district did not advise the city the item would be on the agenda. "Not even a phone call?" Zito questioned.

Others involved in the city's youth sports programs spoke out against the building's plan, claiming that Solana Beach has limited green space and youth sports playing fields. "We need fields," said Jeff Lyle, president of the Solana Beach Soccer Club. "Earl Warren provides one of the only fields in the city."

District Superintendent Robert Haley countered, "I would think they [city of Solana Beach] would have come up with a long-term plan for the city," referring to the amount of open space and parks he finds living in Carmel Valley. "Don't shove that off on the city council," replied district board member Maureen "Mo" Muir. She stated she was also surprised to find the item on the agenda. "I thought you had dropped this," she said to the superintendent. "There are so many other things we immediately. You're not in the business of property management or real estate," resident Patrick German told the board.

The board voted to approve spending \$257,000 for architectural and engineering services for the beginning of modernizing the Encinitas Boulevard building, and directed staff to explore additional options for a new administration building. During the discussion, it was reported that the district would receive a \$50 million rebate from the state on a 2015 school site construction project. Not wanting to see those funds earmarked for a new building, Muir, in a March 5 email to board president Beth Hergesheimer, requested a future meeting agenda item for discussion of a master plan for the middle school campus, including a rehabilitation of the athletic field in question and a possible pool. None of the four high schools in the district have a pool; they offer aquatic sports programs and clubs by sharing swimming pools in Coronado and Carlsbad.

KEN HARRISON

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And So It Begins

- Limestone County Sheriff Mike Blakely is on trial in Athens, Alabama, facing 11 counts of theft and ethics charges related to his job. On March 6, Blakely went to the hospital, where his lawyers told the court he was being tested for COVID-19, the disease associated with coronavirus. But in a special hearing on March 7, Dr. Maria Onoya told Judge Pride Tompkins that while Blakely was indeed admitted to the hospital, and received multiple tests, none of them was for COVID-19. In fact, she said there was no evidence to suggest he should be tested for it, The News Courier reported. Judge Tompkins ended the hearing with harsh words for Blakely's defense team: "I don't know what your tactic is, but it's condemned by the court," he said. He went on to note that he was "very disturbed" by the defense's mention of CO-VID-19 in the motion to continue, calling it irresponsible, reckless and unfair to the community...

■ Meanwhile, in Queensland, Australia, people are panicking about running out of toilet paper during the coronavirus pandemic. Which makes Haidee Janetzki of Toowoomba extra popular, after she made an error in her regular online TP order with Who Gives a Crap. "When it asked for quantity, I put 48," she told 7News, "thinking that would be a box of 48 (rolls). Turned out it was 48 boxes." At first she thought it was the online retailer's fault -- until she checked her credit card, which showed an

expense of \$3,260 plus almost \$400 shipping. Janetzki is selling the hot commodity to friends at a slight markup, hoping to raise money to send her kids on a school trip to Canberra. She's now known Down Under as the Queen of the Toilet Paper.

- Two state attorneys general and the Food and Drug Administration are cracking down on disgraced televangelist Jim Bakker, who is now the host of The Jim Bakker Show on cable TV. The New York attorney general's office on March 3 sent a ceaseand-desist order to Bakker, and on March 10, the Missouri attorney general filed suit against him. At issue is Bakker's hawking of "Silver Solution," a "medication" made from silver that supposedly cures all sorts of ailments, for use in treating COVID-19. On Feb. 12, The Washington Post reported, Bakker asked a guest on his show whether the gel could cure the coronavirus. "It hasn't been tested on this strain of the coronavirus. but it's been tested on other strains of the coronavirus, and has been able to eliminate it within 12 hours," said "naturopathic doctor" Sherrill Sellman. In the letter, the "extremely concerned" Lisa Landau, chief of the attorney general's health care bureau, called the segment false advertising and said it violates New York law. She gave Bakker 10 days to comply.

— A man in Vilnius, Lithuania, with help from his sons, reportedly locked his wife in their bathroom after she expressed worry to him that

she had contracted COVID-19 from traveling to Italy, where she came in contact with some Chinese people. The husband called a doctor, who suggested she isolate herself; she contacted police because her husband wouldn't let her out. It's unclear how long she was locked in the bathroom, but *Delfi.lt* reported that she was tested for the virus and did not have it.

■ The U.S. State Department has advised people, particularly older adults, to avoid cruise ships and air travel during the coronavirus onslaught. But some travelers just can't be dissuaded. Take, for example, Ben Stults, a sophomore at Florida State University, who will head out on a cruise to Mexico this week for spring break. He's hoping to "hit the sweet spot" – get there and get home before the virus takes hold in Mexico. To be safe, however, he's bringing along a respirator face mask and a deck of cards in case, you know, quarantine. The Daily Beast asked Stults if he thought his plan was a sound one, to which he replied, "Honestly, no."

Latest Religious Messages

— Self-described Christian prophet Cindy Jacobs declared the coronavirus against the law on March 4: "We say, in the name of Jesus, 'Virus, you are illegal. This is God's Earth." *Dead State* reported that Jacobs went on to tell an enthusiastic group of supporters, "I don't know if everybody will get healed," but "We're going to decree that the coronavirus will cease worldwide."

A Dream Come True

- Residents of Settecani, a small village in Italy, were startled on March 4 when their kitchen and bathroom taps began dispensing red wine rather than water, United Press International reported. Locals quickly identified the wine as Lambrusco Grasparossa, which is produced at a nearby winery, and officials there found a leak that sent wine from a silo into water pipes. Some quick-thinking residents said they bottled as much of the tap wine as they could before the problem was resolved.

Animal Antics

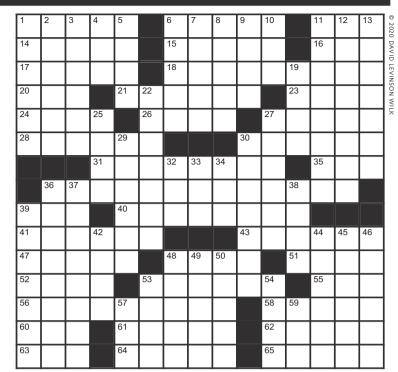
— Firefighters were called to a farm near Bramham, Leeds, in England on March 7 to put out a fire in a large pigpen. At this particular farm, the pigs wear pedometers to prove that they're free-range, Fox News reported, but one of those gadgets was the probable cause of the blaze, firefighters said. They theorize that one of the pigs ate one of the pedometers, then passed it in its excrement, sparking a fire in the pen's hay. The culprit was the copper in the battery reacting with the pig poo. No pigs were hurt in the fire; let's hope they're getting all their steps in as usual.

Send your weird news items to WeirdNewsTips@ amuniversal.com.





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RULES OF THE GAME

1) Submit your completed puzzle to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest. Your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.

2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your

3) Entries must be faxed to 619-231-0489 or mailed to Reader. Puzzle, 2323 Broadway Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92102; or scanned and emailed to puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions by email must be attached in JPG format, maximum file size of 1MB Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed. One win per person within a 4 week period. And now for the really small print:

1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces

provided

- provided.

 3) We will draw **1** name from weekly puzzle submissions.

 4) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.

 5) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

Across

1. Medulla's place

6. Webster and Wyle

11. Acad. or coll.

14. Singer John with the 1984 #1 hit "Missing You"

15. Bone: Prefix

16. The Astros, on scoreboards

17. Peter Mayle's "____ in Provence"

18. Doctors who see a lot of head cases?

20. Biawia

21. TV host Meredith

23. Religious subgroup

24. Polish, as text

26. Little songbird

27. "I Got Rhythm" singer Merman

28. Beethoven's "Appassionata," e.g.

30. On land

31. Fled

35. Shares on Twitter, briefly

36. Forgetful people ... or this puzzle's theme

39. Sign before Virgo

40. Ones in disbelief?

41. Sports standout

43. Stifled

47. Uncles and nephews.

48. LL Cool J's "Going Back to

51. Simplicity

52. Spanish for "those"

53. "Li'l Abner" cartoonist

55. "Yee-___!"

56. Batting around ideas

58. China's Zhou

60. Vowels at the end of a children's sona

61. Young lover of theater

62. New Balance competitor

Spiegel

64. Personal assts. keep track of them

65. Psychologically manipulate

1. What an EEG reads

2. Exchange vows at the altar

3. Men's wear accessory

4. Texter's "When are you comina?"

5. "Jeopardy!" creator Griffin

6. Super-easy decision

7. Davis of "Do the Right Thing"

8. Take _____ for the worse

9. Queen on Olympus

10. Lose crunchiness, as breakfast cereal

11. Force (into)

12. Arena events

13. Scams

19. Bk. before Job

22. "Count me in!"

25. Reid of "Sharknado"

27. Property in a will

29. Volga region natives

30. Blimp

32. Dismissive interjection

33. Miner's haul

34. Triple Crown stat

36. Ethiopia's Haile _

37. Copy machine part

38. ____ of Capri

39. Not too smart

42. Banco de México money

44. Mexico's national flower

45. Asimov and Newton

46. Fairly recent

48. The tropics, for one 49. Pimply

50. Nigeria's largest city

53. Wildly

54. Nitwit

57. B&O and others: Abbr.

59. Sydnev's state: Abbr.

THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

Winners will be contacted for prize redemption.

Thomas A. Oliver, Spring Valley

Name:				
City:	State: _		_ Zip Code:	
Email:		_ Phone # _	•	

SUDOKU

HARD:

3 2 5 6 4 8 2 5 6 4 9 8 3 2 1 9 3 9 1 5 3 9 6

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

RULES OF THE GAME

1) Submit your completed puzzle to the *Reader* each week for our ongoing contest. Your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.

2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name.
3) Entries must be faxed to **619-231-0489** or mailed to *Reader* Puzzle, 2323 Broadway Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92102; or scanned and emailed to puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions by email must be attached in JPG format, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed. One win per person within a 4 week period.

And now for the really small print:

1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.

2) Late entries will not be considered.

3) We will draw 1 name from weekly puzzle submissions

4) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.

5) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible

THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

Winners will be contacted for prize redemption

Craig E. Martin, San Diego

SOLUTION TO LAST

WEEK'S SUDOKU

PUZZLE:

HARD:

8	1	5	7	2	4	3	9	6
4	3	7	6	1	9	5	8	2
9	2	6	5	3	8	4	1	7
7	4	9	2	6	5	1	3	8
3	8	2	1	4	7	6	5	9
6	5	1	9	8	3	2	7	4
2	6	8	3	7	1	9	4	5
5	7	3	4	9	6	8	2	1
1	9	4	8	5	2	7	6	3

Name:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Email:	Phone #	

Selfquarantine

continued from page 20

clues, little things that remind you of big projects that you never had time to tackle properly. Now you do. So tackle them. Don't fritter away the hours until they curdle and sour. Don't tell yourself how nice it is to have nothing you have to do, and use that as an excuse for doing nothing. It doesn't have to be something odious like deep cleaning or home repair - though both of those would be super-satisfying. Maybe you want to learn to paint landscapes. Maybe there's a big fat novel a friend gave you, hoping you'd read it and be up for a discussion. Maybe there's an idea for a screenplay rattling around in your brain, just waiting for this kind of downtime to find its

way onto the page. Time is a gift. Don't waste it reading Twitter updates on Trump's handling of the pandemic and scrolling through Instagram accounts documenting empty public spaces. Who knows? Maybe by the time all this ends, you'll have found a new, slightly more directed, possibly more meaningful way to live. At the very least, you can get the gunk off the refrigerator shelves — you know, the sticky patch back behind the milk jugs.

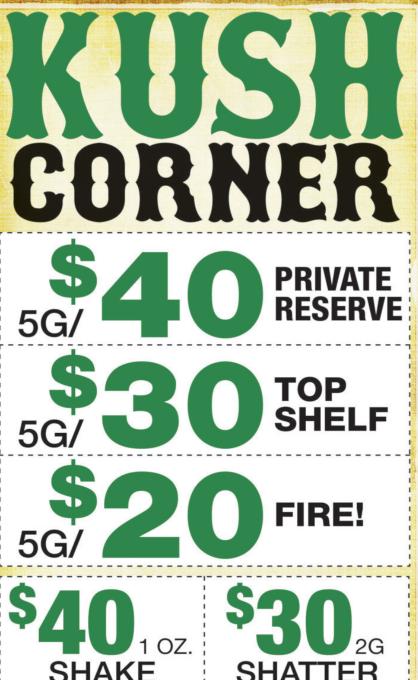
WM: Ew, I hate that stuff. Still, it does bring up the subject of food — a real and necessary consideration as panic buying gives way to hoarding and Campbell's Soup, Inc. becomes the stock market's shining light amid the darkness. Judith Moore, besides serving as the Reader's senior editor for many years, you wrote countless articles for the us, and also several books — one of them, Never Eat Your Heart Out, a memoir built around food. There's a smorgasbord of great food movies out there; Big Night, Babette's Feast, Eat Drink Man Woman...

Judith Moore: I think I'll take To Catch a Thief.

WM: The Hitchcock film? Cary Grant as an ex-jewel thief living in the French Riviera?

IM: When we first see him, he's gardening at his hilltop villa. He's pruning his roses, but when he sees the police approaching, he puts down his shears and takes off his gloves. It's a wonderful garden, with low stone walls framing the dull yellow decomposed granite pathways lined





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with pots of fuschia chrysanthemums, and ornamental citrus trees casting little globs of shade. He has help around the house — a stout Frenchwoman who does his cooking and cleaning — but the gardening he reserves for himself. It's how I would like to retire: wealthy enough to live where I please and do what I like, and what I like is to make my roses bloom like mad.

WM: I admit I had forgotten about your yen for gardening, what with all the food writing.

JM: The two are entwined like lovers. I remember a piece I wrote on tomatoes...

WM: But To Catch a Thief? Is there even food in that movie — I mean, besides the picnic where Grace Kelly asks Grant if



Mighty Dog! That's terrible, Ms. Moore. Just terrible. Snort.

he'd like a leg or a breast?

IM: Of course there is: Grant's character has an insurance agent over for lunch. They begin with soup and rolls and move on to Quiche Lorraine. Everything is simple and delicious and in perfect good taste. That's how I prefer to think of French cooking, ever since Mighty Dog.

WM: I'm sorry, what?

JM: "In the little town where I lived so unhappily and happily for so many years, a day came when everyone 'went gourmet.' I can't tell you precisely when we went gourmet. I know that on a hot August Saturday night in 1977, when poor bloated Elvis had been dead only a few days, culinary progress had been such that our set was eating a meal that tasted as much of the names of dishes — à la this and that — as of food itself."

WM: That's from your book, right?

JM: "That year Reginald, an old friend of mine, was spending a lot of time around our house... He thought Coraville gourmet madness funny, and always wanted to hear about the latest dishes. One day one of us said to the other that if you gave it a French name, people happily would eat dog food. No sooner was this thought spoken than Reginald and I were throwing on coats and heading to Safeway... We bought onions, garlic, thick-sliced bacon, shelled pistachios, bread crumbs, and parsley" - and dog food. "The most acceptable, for texture and odor, were Mighty Dog and a

Safeway house brand... By midnight, the pâté — or pet-té, as we were calling it — felt firm." That Friday, "not a soul, other than Sally, didn't spread thick smudges of Mighty Dog on the fresh bread we'd brought. Not a soul, including our trio of gastronomic leaders, didn't compliment Mighty Dog's richness and the justrightness of pistachios. The more Mighty Dog my friends ate, the dirtier a betraying Judas I felt... Almost 20 years down the road now, I still feel bad that I did this and wish I hadn't."

WM: Still, it's a great

JM: Perhaps one worth bearing in mind as the pantry starts to get bare in the coming weeks.

WM: Happy self-quarantine, everybody.

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CITY LIGHTS

Under the radar

continued from page 3

Sudberry, is a significant housing and commercial developer in Mission Valley and beyond. A January 15 disclosure report says the company is registered with the city to lobby for projects including a Scripps Highland community plan amendment, Serra Mesa community plan changes, and an "Affordable Housing Agreement regarding the Quarry Falls Community in Mission Valley."

The Manchester Grand Hyatt hotel, located almost adjacent to the downtown convention center, was the biggest donor to the mayor's ill-fated initiative bid to expand the facility, putting up \$300,000. Another \$5000 for One San Diego arrived February 25 from Vulcan Materials Company of Birmingham, Alabama. The company employs three lobbyists: Khoa Nguyen, PPR Solutions, and Hecht Solberg Robinson Goldberg & Bagley LLP, city records show, regarding approval of the Stone Creek Master Plan on the site of a legacy mining operation in Carroll Canyon.

Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)

The Reader offers \$25 for news tips published in this column. Call our voice mail at 619-235-3000, ext. 440, or sandiegoreader. com/staff/matt-potter/contact/.

NEWS TICKER

continued from page 2

in the back of the convention center setting up our displays, and even they say they are laid off, for now, Oh, and we also have the kids who work the concession stands and the security guards who patrol the area. It's not just us dealers that'll suffer. With the 100,000 [plus] people planning on attending our Con in July, and the rooms they booked, their flights coming in, lodging, food and drinks, car rentals, Uber and Lyft rides... There's a lot riding on this, and we are all in this together."

As of March 19, there were 89 San Diego County residents who had tested positive for COVID-19.

Mike Madriaga



Right staircase? Left staircase? Oh, never mind; just take the elevator.

UNREAL **E**STATE

continued from page 13 sized vanishing edge pool, complete with swim-up bar and remote-controlled shade awnings; then add a floating island that houses a gas firepit and seating area along with a spa featuring "anatomically correct custom seating and foot jets." Retractable glass walls open up the interior space to several patios, an outdoor living room, and a "fully appointed outdoor summer kitchen."

Below the pool deck, there's a private tennis court with its own dedicated bath and dressing room. The grounds also feature an "extravagant multi-level water feature as a replica of the famed fountains of Villa D'este in Lago De Como Italy."

Public records indicate that ownership of the property resides with Michael Love and Jacquelyn Piesen, who purchased the 1992built home in 2009 for a reported \$3 million. Love is best known for his work as a founding member of the 1960s surf rock group the Beach Boys, which landed him in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. The couple's full-time home is in Incline Village, Nevada, and Love continues to tour as one of the two remaining Boys active with the group.

The Circa Oriente estate was first listed for sale in August 2019 with an asking price of \$8,750,000. It was recently re-listed in late February with a \$100,000 price reduction; that number remains unchanged to date.



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