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Volume 17 Issue 172

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Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews

It's Always Reggae Time

GO SUPPORT MCCABE'S AND MUSIC IN THE SCHOOLS!

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

SHELBY LYNNE (gifted, moving singer you should not miss,

SEE MUSIC PAGE 5

Comedy in English at Hostelling International Santa Monica

CHARLOTTE HANSEN
Special to the Daily Press

Comedy in English is an ongoing comedy show at Hostelling International Santa Monica, where people from all over the world come to enjoy free comedy and snacks, despite the language barriers and cultural differences that the audience often possess.

The show takes place every Tuesday and Saturday night at 8:30 p.m., and has been going since April of 2016. The two hosts, Michael Magid and Andy Ruther, encourage Santa Monica locals to attend the show, as well as the non-natives that generally fill most of the audience.

"I love having locals come out because I think that the audience becomes the show," said Michael Magid, co-creator of Comedy in English. "It's truly a unique experience for the locals to see these comedians, that they can see in LA clubs or touring internationally, be in this environment and see how they deal the cultural barrier. Meeting people from different cultures that they might not meet on the promenade is a lot of fun."

The Comedy show begins with either Ruther or Magid warming up the crowd by introducing the show and asking audience mem-

SEE COMEDY PAGE 3

Culture Watch

By Sarah A. Spitz

We Need Mr. Rogers Now

LET ME CONFESS. I DID NOT grow up watching Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, but I harbored dark, unfounded suspicions about him based on how "nice" he seemed. Now that I have seen the wonderful new documentary, "Won't You Be My Neighbor," I am ashamed of my thoughts. In these ugly times, we need a genuinely kind person to remind us what goodness means.

"Won't You Be My Neighbor," directed by Academy Award winner, Morgan Neville ("20 Feet from Stardom") isn't your standard biopic. I knew I needed to see it when I teared up watching the trailer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FhwktRDG_aQ (apparently not an uncommon reaction).

RADICAL KINDNESS

Fred Rogers practiced "radical kindness" during a time of vast cultural and societal upheaval, as troubled as our own. The film is not shy about positing itself as an antidote to the forces that have been unleashed in the Trump era.

He was ordained as a Presbyterian minister but didn't preach or proselytize. Perhaps surprising to some, he was a Republican (I can't imagine how shocked he'd be today). He was also a puppeteer and a musician, all of which played into his national television show, Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood.

Neville says that Mr. Rogers' task was to "make goodness attractive." "Simple and deep was the defining tone of the show but making something simple and deep is anything but simple. Fred Rogers was asking big questions: How do we care for each other? How do we

SEE CULTURE PAGE 6

David Dines

By David Pisarra

Reservations Required

I COULDN'T GET A TABLE AT Forma when I first tried. It was 7:30 p.m. on a Thursday night and I thought I'd go try this "great cheese place" as it was described to me. Without a reservation, there was no love for me that night.

Now I really wanted to know what this place was about. So the following Monday I dropped in for their happy hour menu, where I could be seated at the bar. They have an extensive happy hour menu and I was a bit overwhelmed with the seemingly delicious options; not the least of which is a selection of over 60 amazing cheeses, all of which are displayed in mini-fridges behind the bar.

My obvious confusion led me to rely on a strikingly handsome young man, Francesco, for a recommendation. Looking like a young soccer star who has never had carbohydrates in his life, I asked for his favorite appetizer,

SEE FOOD PAGE 7

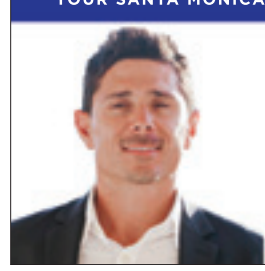


CHAMPS

Courtesy photo

On Saturday June 2, the Santa Monica Little League Major Angels defeated the Pirates 14-4 to win the 2018 Santa Monica Little League City Championship in the Major division. The team (2017 Angels) won the Championship as well last year for back to back titles. The game was televised by Santa Monica City TV and will replay all this month and the team has been invited again to City Hall to be honored in a ceremony by the Mayor later this month.


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, June 7

Library Board Meeting
Library Board Meeting Open to Public. 7 – 9 p.m. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd,

Introduction to Chinese Calligraphy
Chinese Calligraphy is the traditional art of Chinese writing, practiced for more than 5000 years. Join instructor Emmy Lam for this opportunity to learn how to write in a different language, as well as learn about Chinese culture in a fun and creative way. Participants will learn to write 24 Chinese characters and bring home their prized work. This crafts workshop for adults is free, but space is limited and registration is required. Call (310) 458-8681 to register. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Sing into Summer with the Lyric Chorus
The SMC Emeritus Lyric Chorus, conducted and accompanied by pianist Tom Gerhold, returns for a seasonal concert featuring a variety of Broadway songs and summer favorites. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Friday, June 8

Guest House
Free tours begin at 11 a.m., 12 p.m. and 1p.m. No reservations needed. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH.

Beach Dances: 7 days of dance
Join organizers for a week of contemporary dance open rehearsal (and a few workshops and performances) from local choreographers Mecca Vazie Andrews, Suchi Branfman, Rebecca Bruno, Jay Carlon, Sarah Elgart, Jeremy Hahn, Victoria Marks, Pieter Open Studio, No)one. Art House, and Alexx Shilling. 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beach-dances-repetitions-tickets-45835761998.

Yoga
All levels. Drop in for $15/class or sign up for series. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 9 – 10 a.m. https://www.annenbergbeachhouse.com/activities/classes.aspx

Saturday, June 9

Downtown Walking Tour
Discover downtown Santa Monica's architectural gems, history and culture with our team of highly-rated docents. From Art Deco to Victorian and Romanesque Revival, you'll explore the various styles that fill the streets of our city. Every Saturday at 10 a.m. $5 members / $10 general public. 1436 Second Street. http://www.smconservancy.org/events-programs/downtown-walking-tours/

Yoga and the Expressive Arts
With Mona Wells at the Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library, 11820 San Vicente Boulevard. Wells has been teaching yoga for over 16 years. In this class, which is suitable for all ages, she will integrate the expressive arts (movement, drawing, writing) with simple, gentle yoga techniques. Admission is free. 2 p.m. For more information, call (310) 575-8273.

Family Book Bingo: Summer Reading Kickoff
Celebrate Summer Reading with family, friends and neighbors playing B-I-N-G-O for free books. Book prizes donated by the library's supportive Friends organization. Space is limited. All ages welcome. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Beach Dances: CARLON presents Four Triangles
Newly created during the week of Beach Dances, Four Triangles a new dance theatre work powered by sacred geometry, resonant frequencies, pattern recognition, random number generators and cosmic alignments. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 6:30 – 7 p.m. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beach-dances-carlon-presents-four-triangles-tickets-46268354895

For help submitting an event, contact us at **310-458-7737** or submit to events@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Virginia Ave.

Transformative Justice workshop

Transformative Justice will be the topic of the Committee For Racial Justice's June 10th workshop at Virginia Ave. Park.

Both the American criminal "justice" system and the disciplinary systems of American schools have long and continuing histories of treating African Americans anything but fairly and justly. Many people feel, moreover, that both systems are far too concerned with punishing "wrong doers" of whatever race or ethnicity and too little concerned with improving people's lives. Surely we are in need of alternative approaches to justice. One of the most exciting and promising of these is called transformative justice.

In Los Angeles, the Youth Justice Coalition (YJC) has been a pioneer in the use of transformative justice to settle conflicts both in schools and in the wider community. At the June 10th CRJ workshop, YJC's leader and chief organizer Kim McGill will explain what transformative justice is, how it works, how it differs from other approaches, and how it may serve to build understanding and community both within schools and in the wider world. She and others will also share some of their own experiences of the power of transformative justice.

This is part of an ongoing monthly workshop series sponsored by the Committee For Racial Justice.

Co-sponsored by Virginia Ave. Park; the African American Parent, Staff, Student Support Group; and the Church in Ocean Park.

For more information, call (310) 422-5431.

The free event will be held Sunday, June 10, from 6 - 8:30 p.m. Potluck supper at 6 p.m. & program starts at 6:30 p.m. in the Virginia Avenue Park, Thelma Terry Bldg., 2200 Virginia Ave.

SUBMITTED BY JOANNE BERLIN

COMEDY

FROM PAGE 1

bers where they are from.

"The host gets the room going because a lot of times audience members have never experienced American stand-up comedy and we want to make them feel comfortable," said Magid. "We do a lot of crowd work and find out where the crowd is from. As opposed to most comedy shows, this is actually really important because it really gives us a feel for who our target audience is. There are often all sorts of people from different cultural backgrounds and social graces, which makes it really fun for everybody."

The host's performance is followed by two to three alternative comedians who typically have 15 minutes of stage time. The comedians consist of professional and experienced entertainers, and the show has had performances from well-known comedians such as Kev Adams, Romesh Ranganathan, Ismo Leikola, and Sanjay Mankatala. Other comedians from the Tonight Show, HBO, and Comedy Central also frequently make appearances at the show.

"Comics love it because it's so competitive to get stage time more than 8 minutes. We give comics up to 15 minutes to kind of stretch their legs," Ruther said. "It's not a long show, but we pride ourselves on booking an efficient show that is 60-75 minutes."

Ruther and Magid said although the language barrier can sometimes prevent audience members from understanding the comedy, it doesn't stop them from enjoying themselves.

"With international audiences, regardless of whether they're laughing, they are still paying attention because they're trying to figure out what we are talking about," said Magid. "People still have a good time because they're trying to understand, and for them, it's almost like being in a funny English class."

"Most of the people who come here are not used to American comedy, which makes the crowds reactions to the jokes hilarious," said Jackson Ross, Santa Monica resident, and Comedy in English crowd member. "American comedy tends to be pretty edgy and it can push boundaries, so people who aren't used to that really get a kick out of it."

If the majority of the crowd is unresponsive due to the lack of English speakers in the audience, the comics will slow their bits and increasingly engage with the crowd. "Improvising and talking to the crowd when they don't seem to understand happens a lot," Ruther said. "We can't only rely on our material, so we often just talk to them as a way to get them to understand a little more."

Christine Emhart, Community Engagement Coordinator of Hosteling International Santa Monica, said that Comedy in English is the most popular event held at the hostel.

"Sometimes there is a language barrier, but the comics are really good at talking with the crowd so that they know who doesn't speak a lot of English, and they will crack jokes about it. But it's all in good fun, and it's never hurtful," she said.

"A crowd response will often overtake the show, and it just makes it so hilarious," said Ruther. "We never know what we're going to get in here."

According to Magid, there was a woman at the most recent Comedy in English show who was translating the entire performance to the person sitting next to her. This recurring talking coming from the audience confused Magid at first, but he soon figured out what was going on.

"I would hear talking, and then all of the sudden, the person would start laughing, because they now understood what I was talking about onstage. That's something you don't get at most shows," Magid said.

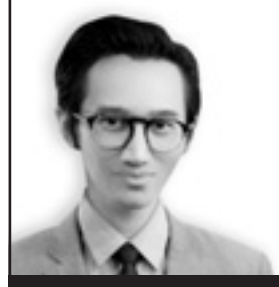
The hosts enjoy befriending the crowd, whether they be from across the globe or a Santa Monica resident, and will often spend time after the performances getting to know the audience members.

"I love to get to know people, especially from different countries, and a lot of times these people are looking for something to do," said Ruther. "Sometimes after the show, the hosts and some audience members will go out for a bar crawl."

For more information, visit http://hilosangeles.org.

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Notice Inviting Bids

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed Bids for the:

FY2017-18 Annual Water Main Replacement Project (SP2464)

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 not later than 3:00 p.m. on **July 3, 2018**. Each bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids (RFB).

The Request for Bids may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=15167. Consultants wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Notice Inviting Proposals

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Consultants to complete and submit sealed and electronic Proposals for the:

Non-Potable Water Main Expansion (SP2563)

Proposals shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica Civil Engineering Division at 1437 4th Street, Suite 300, Santa Monica, CA 90401 not later than 3:00 p.m. on **July 5, 2018**. Each proposal shall be in accordance with the Request for Proposals (RFP).

The Request for Proposals may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=15167. Consultants wishing to be considered must submit Proposals containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Proposals.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica located at **1717 4th Street Suite 250**, Santa Monica, California, 90401 until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be publicly opened, read and posted for:

BID # 4329 PROVIDE ROUTINE PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICES ON ACCESS GATES AND HANGAR DOORS AT THE SANTA MONICA AIRPORT.

Submission Deadline is June 27, 2018 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: Planet Bids or http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm. There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

Tourism Talks

Misti Kerns Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Hospitality Employee given Thelma Parks Tourism Spirit Award

WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING SANTA Monica a welcoming destination for visitors around the world, nothing is more important than the service provided by those who form the fabric of our local hospitality industry.

To this end, Santa Monica Travel & Tourism (SMTT), in partnership with the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, recognizes one outstanding member of our hospitality industry with the annual Thelma Parks Tourism Spirit Award. SMTT is pleased to share that this year's winner is Fernando Ceron of Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel.

Fernando has been leading the arrival and departure experience at the Loews Hotel since 1989. For the 29 years in his role, Fernando has made memorable impressions with guests visiting the city and staying in the hotel. He has an uncanny ability to remember guests even after many years away from the hotel. He will often pull out a photo of a guest's child taken many years ago and share some details of what he remembers from their last stay. He truly is an ambassador for the hotel and the destination, and is continually recognized by guests. This unwavering dedication to his job and the community has not gone unnoticed. Fernando has won just about every Loews recognition during his career including Team Member of the Month six times, Team Member of the year, the hotel's Don Foreman Award as well as the Loews Legend Award. The latter is Loews' Hotels most prestigious team member recognition.

When asked what he likes most about what he does, Fernando is quick to reply it's about the people, helping guests and team members. It's about lasting friendships, making people feel welcome and most importantly treating people like family. Fernando strongly believes he has learned these values from his mother in which he is very close to. He often refers to her advice "when you do something for a person, do it from your heart and do not expect something in return". This family philosophy resonates in his character every day and is a large reason why he was selected for the Thelma Parks Tourism Spirit Award.

Named in honor of an exceptional 23-year employee of SMTT, the Thelma Parks Tourism Spirit Award provides hotels, restaurants, taxi companies, attractions and services an opportunity to recognize exemplary performance and exceptional service by an employee in either a management or non-management position or by a visitor. Nominees are judged on performance that goes above and beyond normal job responsibilities, outstanding and exemplary service to the property, to the guests, and to the community. Award winners are selected and honored annually, in partnership with Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, with the Thelma Parks Tourism Spirit Award each May during the annual Santa Monica Travel & Tourism Summit.

To nominate a candidate for a future Thelma Parks Tourism Spirit Award visit https://www.santamonica.com/spiritaward/nomination-form/

To learn more about SMTT and how you can be a tourist in your own back yard, visit www.santamonica.com

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WINNER



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MUSIC

FROM PAGE 1

older sister of Allison Moorer, both sing from a life lived with pain, determination and triumph, this is the second of McCabe's three 60th anniversary concerts benefiting the venerable Santa Monica acoustic music venue and instrument shop and the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation which provides music instruments for schoolchildren, two very good causes worth supporting as you experience a rare, memorable performance in this intimate little music hall), Fri 8 PM, McCabe's, Santa Monica, $60, & $100 VIP includes preferred seating and meet and greet with the artist.

PLAYBOY JAZZ FESTIVAL (perennial early summer music treat, Saturday will be good but save your shekels for Sunday: Charles Lloyd & the Marvels with special guest Lucinda Williams featuring Bill Frisell should be just amazing — Lloyd by himself is amazing — Freddie Hubbard's 80th Birthday Celebration featuring the phenom pianist Benny Green and other master players, the Ramsey Lewis Quintet, the Count Basie Orchestra, Tower of Power 50th Anniversary celebration, oh yeah, one of their most unusual line-ups in years, probably one of their best), Sun 3 PM, Hollywood Bowl, $22-$199.

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! — GEORGE KAHN with Alex Acuna, Lyman Medeiros (financial advisor by day, ace ivory tickler by night, Kahn, with Santa Monica roots, has become a rising star on the local jazz scene, for his playing, his interesting musical conglomerations, and for his compositions, tonight featuring his new "Straight Ahead" album and the players who recorded it, in one of LA's nicest jazz rooms), Thurs 8:30 PM, Catalina Bar & Grill, Hollywood, $20.

I SEE HAWKS IN LA plus Tony Gilkyson (sure, odd name for a band, shuffling bluegrass, Americana, folk, country, a little rock, spare but brilliant, high lonesome three-part harmonies with lyrics musing on mortality, whales, and the geography of pre-apocalyptic L.A., they waste no notes but knock you out and leave you smiling, and Gilkyson is a local/NM treasure, son of Terry, brother of Eliza, who rocked hard for a decade with X but gives the most nuanced, affecting solo performances), Sun 8 PM, McCabe's, Santa Monica, $15.

MIGHTY DIAMONDS (why oh why, Charles, do you keep recommending shows so far away? — only when I must, and isn't a drive to Santa Ana easier than a flight to Jamaica? — this harmony trio, roots reggae with a strong Rastafarian influence, met in school in the '60s and have been singing and dancing together ever since, just year short of half a century, with more than 40 albums to their credit, I've seen them on big stages and in small clubs and I saw them quietly kill it at Reggae Sunsplash in'82, stealing thunder from three long nights worth of big stars), Sun 9 PM, the Observatory, Santa Ana, $15.

BAND NAMES OF THE WEEK: Taken by Canadians, Sticky Fingers. Brain Fragment, Egg Drop Soup, Sick of It All, Rats in the Wall, Still Woozy.

LYRIC OF THE WEEK: "Get up, stand up: stand up for your rights! Get up, stand up: stand up for your rights!

Preacherman, don't tell me, Heaven is under the earth, I know you don't know what life is really worth, it's not all that glitters is gold, 'alf the story has never been told, so now you see the light, eh! Stand up for your rights. Come on!

Get up, stand up: stand up for your rights! Get up, stand up: don't give up the fight!

Most people think, Great God will come from the skies, take away everything and make everybody feel high but if you know what life is worth, you will look for yours on earth, and now you see the light, you stand up for your rights. Jah!

Get up, stand up! (Jah, Jah!) Stand up for your rights! (Oh-hoo!) Get up, stand up! (Get up, stand up!) Don't give up the fight! (Life is your right!) Get up, stand up! (So we can't give up the fight!) Stand up for your rights! (Lord, Lord!) Get up, stand up! (Keep on struggling on!) Don't give up the fight! (Yeah!)

We sick an' tired of-a your ism-skism game, dyin' 'n' goin' to heaven in-a Jesus' name, Lord, we know when we understand, Almighty God is a living man, you can fool some people sometimes but you can't fool all the people all the time, so now we see the light. (What you gonna do?), we gonna stand up for our rights! (Yeah, yeah, yeah!)

So you better: Get up, stand up! (In the morning! Git it up!) Stand up for your rights! (Stand up for our rights!) Get up, stand up! Don't give up the fight! (Don't give it up, don't give it up!)" — Bob Marley, Peter Tosh (from 1973's "Burnin'" which really launched the Wailers worldwide, this song and "I Shot the Sheriff")

QUOTES OF THE WEEK: "Better to die fighting for freedom then be a prisoner all the days of your life." — Bob Marley

"Reggae has a philosophy, you know? It's not just entertainment. There's an idea behind it, a way of life behind the music, which is a positive way of life, a progressive way of a better life for people." — Ziggy Marley

"Music is creation. In reggae the lyric, the music itself, arrangement, that vibe, such melody, everything within the music moves the people, understand?" — Burning Spear

"I don't think you can mix classical music and reggae. It's not possible. But some producer in, like, Norway is going to put it together." — B.o.B (Never say never when it comes to music. The Reggae Philharmonic Orchestra was not classical but was black classical musicians playing orchestral arrangements of popular songs from all eras. Put together in the late '80s by original Steel Pulse member Mykaell S. Riley, the RPO was a noble and bizarre experiment that crossed reggae rhythms with orchestral themes, despite the fact that Riley could neither read nor write music. It's not bad, in small doses.)

"And there's some Latino music I like, and some reggae music." — Merle Haggard

"Reggae is vile." — Morrissey

CHARLES ANDREWS has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 2,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 32 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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CULTURE

FROM PAGE 1

respect ourselves? What kind of neighborhood should we create together?"

I walked out of the film heartbroken to see how his beautiful message—that everyone is special—was so perverted by the newly rising and raging right-wing culture warriors of the 1990s that they damned an entire generation of young people as "entitled," and blamed Mr. Rogers for turning them into "snowflakes."

Not only did Mr. Rogers hope to steer children toward the path of kindness, tolerance and understanding, he also saw that TV was a medium that could transform lives, but instead was becoming a vehicle to sell products to consumers, especially children. He also recognized that Saturday morning cartoons, superhero and fantasy shows that made violence look like fun were foisting unrealistic and sometimes dangerous ideas on malleable young minds.

PUBLIC TELEVISION

He started off in commercial TV early on but found his message lost there. Instead he moved to public TV, WQED in Pittsburgh, PA, and helped build that station's reputation. In fact, he can be applauded for singlehandedly saving funding for PBS and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

In 1969, Mr. Rogers told a stubborn Senator, John Pastore, chair of the US Senate Subcommittee on Communication, who had never seen his program, "I feel that if we in public television can only make it clear that feelings are mentionable and manageable, we will have done a great service for mental health. I think that it's much more dramatic that two men could be working out their feelings of anger ? Much more dramatic than showing something of gunfire."

Then he did something unprecedented: Mr. Rogers asked if he could read the words to a song he had written.

"What do you do with the mad that you feel? When you feel so mad you could bite. When the whole wide world seems oh so wrong, and nothing you do seems very right. What do you do? Do you punch a bag? Do you pound some clay or some dough? Do you round up friends for a game of tag or see how fast you go? It's great to be able to stop when you've planned the thing that's wrong. And be able to do something else instead ? and think this song ?

"I can stop when I want to. Can stop when I wish. Can stop, stop, stop anytime ... And what a good feeling to feel like this! And know that the feeling is really mine. Know that there's something deep inside that helps us become what we can. For a girl can be someday a lady, and a boy can be someday a man."

Senator Pastore responded, "I'm supposed to be a pretty tough guy, and this is the first time I've had goose bumps for the last two days. Looks like you just earned the $20 million."

SIMPLE AND PROFOUND

It's easy to sneer at Fred Rogers' goody-two-shoes image, his cardigan, his slow pace and speech, and his low-tech, low-brow approach to the issues of the day, tackling racism, the Vietnam war, death, divorce, the assassination of Bobby Kennedy and so much more.

But this man touched lives in a profound way. Morgan Neville says, "Fred Rogers was talking about civility, about compassion, about grief and about the hard work of being human. He was talking to students, but it sounded like he was talking about the world today."

I heartily recommend this movie to those who are heartsick about what we have become, and for those who aren't to consider just for a moment what a kinder, gentler world might actually look like.

"Won't You Be My Neighbor" opens tomorrow at Arclight Hollywood and Landmark Theatres in West L.A., with a director Q&A on Friday at 2:30 p.m. Laemmle Theatres also begins screening it on June 15 locally at Laemmle's Monica Film Center on June 29. Don't miss it.

SARAH A. SPITZ is an award-winning public radio producer, now retired from KCRW, where she also produced arts stories for NPR. She writes features and reviews for various print and online publications.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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FOOD

FROM PAGE 1

"Definitely the arancini" – deep fried rice balls that ensconce a creamy, gooey, sweet, yet slightly tart cheese that is melted and oozes all throughout the rice. Francesco is a Santa Barbara native, but his Italian parents taught him well is all I can say…

The following week, a friend wanted to take me to dinner. She loves Forma and I was still wanting to sample more of the menu, so that was an easy choice. We arrived for a 6 p.m. reservation and even then the light and bright room was starting to fill with chattering couples and groups.

As luck would have it, Francesco was our waiter and again he led me through the menu with some delicious choices. Forma has a Burnt Spaghetti Assassina – it's pasta with tomato sauce that is literally charred to add a smoky, crispiness that caramelizes some of the sauce. The mashup of the burnt tomatoes with caramelized sauce, and the dryness of the pasta makes for a wonderful flavor burst beyond the normal spaghetti and red sauce. When I was a young boy, Mom always made extra pasta so that there would be leftovers for the next day that she would reheat in butter and almost char – it was a delightful next day dish and this Assassina brought back great memories for me.

We had a marvelous creamy burrata, served with prosciutto to add a salty tang that was offset by a fresh peach for sweetness, a beautiful pairing of flavors.

One of the signature "show stoppers" of Forma is the saucing of pasta in giant wheels of cheese. Francesco to the rescue again with a recommendation for the Chitarra Cacio E Pepe – an Italian late night favorite after too much wine – this marriage of pasta, olive oil, pepper and pecorino romano lived up to its reputation.

As a main (as if I needed more food at this point!) was the braised short ribs, with a side of short rib ravioli. After 8 hours of being bathed in a slow cooker, these ribs were fork tender and packed with flavor. The meatiness and savory succulence of the sauce was a delightful play on the palate.

The least interesting dish was the Trofie al Pesto. This bowl of fresh pasta in a basil pesto with vegetables and pecorino was not bad, but was a dim bulb compared to the robust flavors of all the other dishes.

Rounding out dinner was a Nutella bread pudding that was a creamy, deliciousness served warm and thankfully was perfectly portioned to not be one of those monster desserts that restaurants tend to put out and leave one feeling sick and overfed.

All in all, I had a wonderful time at Forma. I tried again to get in this past Tuesday and the earliest reservation I could find was for 9 p.m., so I suggest you plan ahead and make your reservations early. And be sure to ask for Francesco – he'll guide you through the menu superbly.

Forma deserves a 4 1/2 stars out of 5. Prices range from $5-20 for small plates, $23-29 for second course items, dinner mains are $20-48. Valet parking is available, and there is plenty of street parking after 6.

Forma
1610 Montana Avenue
Santa Monica, CA 90403
(424)231-2868
formarestaurant.com

DAVID PISARRA is local attorney, writer and columnist for the Daily Press.

"A Little Piece of Light"

BY DONNA HYLTON WITH KRISTINE GASBARRE

CHRISTINA LEDBETTER
Associated Press

Donna Hylton opens her memoir, "A Little Piece of Light," with an admission of guilt and remorse for her crimes. However, this isn't where her story begins. From as early as she can remember, Donna's life was marked by torment at the hands of her caregivers. Beginning with her birth in Jamaica and shifting to her move to New York when she was adopted, each phase of her existence promised relief, yet delivered disaster.

When the author was 19, she was sentenced to 25 years to life for kidnapping and second-degree murder. It was in prison where she realized that her history of mental, physical and sexual abuse wasn't unique. Donna grew to view the women around her as family and took every opportunity to educate herself while incarcerated. What she experienced prompted her to devote her life inside (and eventually outside) prison to the rehabilitation of society's castoffs.

Hylton endured so much suffering that swaths of the read take summary form. While her traumas are gut-wrenching, she keeps a reserved distance from the most lurid details and focuses more on her survival techniques (which largely involved blacking out) and destroyed self-worth. The result is a wide-angle-lens shot of how abuse impacts women over the course of their lives.

While any yearlong period of her journey is book-worthy, Hylton condenses her experiences into one read. In doing so, her life stands as a case study illustrating how prison reform efforts and support for women in abusive situations can transform individual lives and society.

Since her release, Hylton has continued her fight for women who have no voice. Her story stands as a harrowing, yet powerful, picture of what's possible when women escape brutality and encounter hope, even in the most unlikely of places.







SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **64.3°**

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high occ. 3 ft
Small WNW swell. Small SW swell.

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
More NW swell due. Small SW swell.



CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF



Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON APRIL 24, AT ABOUT 6:32 A.M.

While patrolling the 1400 block of 5th Street, officers noticed a subject sleeping in front of a business blocking a doorway in violation of Santa Monica Municipal Code. Officers spoke to the subject and the subject refused to provide any identifiable information. The subject provided officers with several different names and date of births. The subject was taken into custody and later identified. Amy Pate, 22, homeless was issued a citation for violating the city's doorway ordinance and providing false identity.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 381 Calls For Service On Jun. 5.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Battery 700 block Santa Monica 12:44 a.m.
Burglar alarm 1600 block Euclid 1:03 a.m.
Auto burglary Main / Marine 2:20 a.m.
Loud music 1900 block Ocean 3:05 a.m.
Burglar alarm 1600 block 12th 3:43 a.m.
Burglary report 2700 block Neilson 4:21 a.m.
Family disturbance 2100 block Ashland 4:42 a.m.
Burglar alarm 1600 block Euclid 4:43 a.m.
Burglar alarm 1400 block Montana 4:45 a.m.
Burglar alarm 200 block Broadway 4:54 a.m.
Pedestrian stop 1100 block Palisades 4:55 a.m.
Trespassing 1500 block 2nd 7:05 a.m.
Drunk driving 1200 block 15th 7:45 a.m.
Fraud 1500 block Ocean 7:45 a.m.
Loitering 200 block Bay 8:07 a.m.
Fraud 1500 block Ocean 8:16 a.m.
Auto burglary 1400 block 4th 8:32 a.m.
Hit and run 2100 block Pico 8:43 a.m.
Petty theft 1400 block California 8:47 a.m.
Burglary 1300 block 16th 8:49 a.m.
Person down 1100 block 12th 9:05 a.m.
Trespassing 1600 block 11th 9:14 a.m.
Auto burglary 800 block Franklin 9:25 a.m.
Fraud 1500 block Ocean 10:09 a.m.
Burglary 3100 block Neilson 10:24 a.m.
Burglary 400 block 24th 10:42 a.m.
Domestic violence 1000 block Pearl 11:05 a.m.
Petty theft 2000 block Main 11:29 a.m.
Elder abuse 500 block Ocean 11:32 a.m.
Trespassing 1400 block Princeton 11:42 a.m.
Petty theft 300 block Santa Monica 11:43 a.m.
Trespassing 1500 block 14th 11:48 a.m.
Hit and run 2000 block Santa Monica 11:56 a.m.
Battery 3000 block Santa Monica 12:04 p.m.
Trespassing 2600 block Pearl 12:13 p.m.
Petty theft 600 block Santa Monica 12:15 p.m.
Trespassing 1400 block 2nd 12:40 p.m.
Fraud 300 block Olympic 1:07 p.m.
Person down 00 block Marine Ter 1:35 p.m.
Fraud 400 block 21st 1:55 p.m.
Assault 1300 block 2nd 2:10 p.m.
Traffic collision Centinela / Pico 2:18 p.m.
Person down 800 block Bay 2:35 p.m.
Traffic collision 600 block Wilshire 2:52 p.m.
Petty theft 100 block Santa Monica 2:59 p.m.
Battery 2500 block 4th 3:00 p.m.
Burglar alarm 1500 block 12th 3:13 p.m.
Petty theft 1500 block Olympic 3:19 p.m.
Public intoxication 1400 block 11th 3:32 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 29 Calls For Service On Jun. 5.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Emergency medical service 700 block Santa Monica 12:44 a.m.
EMS 7th / Colorado 1:07 a.m.
EMS 2200 block Colorado 1:41 a.m.
EMS 1400 block Ocean 2:43 a.m.
EMS 1700 block Delaware 3:12 a.m.
EMS 2600 block Kansas 3:36 a.m.
EMS 0 block Vicente Ter 3:57 a.m.
EMS Cloverfield / Olympic 4:23 a.m.
EMS 200 block San Vicente 5:30 a.m.
Automatic alarm 600 block Broadway 5:52 a.m.
EMS 1700 block Ocean Front 7:56 a.m.
EMS 1000 block 11th 7:56 a.m.
Odor investigation 1100 block 25th 8:21 a.m.
EMS 1200 block 2nd 9:50 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1400 block 4th 9:51 a.m.
EMS 300 block Colorado 10:57 a.m.
EMS 500 block Colorado 11:24 a.m.
EMS 1100 block 7th 11:32 a.m.
EMS 800 block Bay 2:35 p.m.
EMS 1400 block Ocean 4:49 p.m.
EMS 1600 block Ocean Front 4:50 p.m.
Traffic collision 2900 block Lincoln 5:22 p.m.
EMS 23rd / Marine 6:21 p.m.
EMS 1300 block Montana 7:33 p.m.
EMS 900 block Pico 7:42 p.m.
EMS 1800 block Lincoln 8:25 p.m.
EMS 1600 block Ocean 10:59 p.m.

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DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 6/2
23 25 37 44 64
Power#: 7
Jackpot: 87M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 6/5
22 33 41 48 52
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 127M

SUPER LOTTO
Draw Date: 6/2
3 11 15 37 44
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 20M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 6/5
2 10 11 32 33

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 6/5
MIDDAY: 1 4 7
Draw Date: 6/5
EVENING: 8 3 1

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 6/5
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 01 Gold Rush
RACE TIME: 1:48.03

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at **http://www.calottery.com**

WORD UP!

superluminal

1. Astronomy. appearing to travel faster than the speed of light.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Body of Knowledge

■ Babies are born without kneecaps. Kneecaps don't appear until a child is 2 to 6 years old.

Get Me That, Stat!

■ According to a 2013 Gallup Poll, more than half of Americans take vitamin supplements, a figure that jumps to 68 percent for people 65 or older. In another study, published in The Journal of Nutrition last year, 29 percent of older adults reported taking four or more supplements (of all kinds).

Life in Big Macs

■ One hour of sitting in a Jacuzzi burns 68 calories (based on a 150-pound person), or the equivalent of 0.1 Big Mac.

MYSTERY REVEALED

SPONSORED BY Chick-fil-A



Matt Armstrong correctly identified the photo as the coffee shop at 16th and Montana. He wins a prize from the Daily Press.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

A	L	S	O	■	S	H	A	G	■	D	A	D	D	Y
N	O	O	K	■	H	O	L	E	■	E	L	I	O	T
G	A	L	A	■	A	M	E	N	■	C	A	V	E	D
S	T	A	Y	T	H	E	C	O	U	R	S	E	■	■
T	H	R	E	W	■	■	■	A	P	E	■	R	A	W
■	■	■	D	I	S	C	O	■	C	E	S	S	N	A
I	R	S	■	S	L	O	T	H	■	■	A	I	N	T
C	O	M	E	T	O	T	H	I	N	K	O	F	I	T
A	G	E	S	■	■	E	E	R	I	E	■	Y	E	S
R	U	L	E	R	S	■	R	E	L	I	T	■	■	■
E	E	L	■	O	H	O	■	■	■	T	O	P	I	C
■	■	G	O	T	H	R	O	U	G	H	W	I	T	H
S	H	O	R	T	■	A	B	R	A	■	E	L	S	E
N	O	O	S	E	■	L	O	G	S	■	R	O	M	E
L	E	D	O	N	■	S	E	E	P	■	S	T	E	P

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

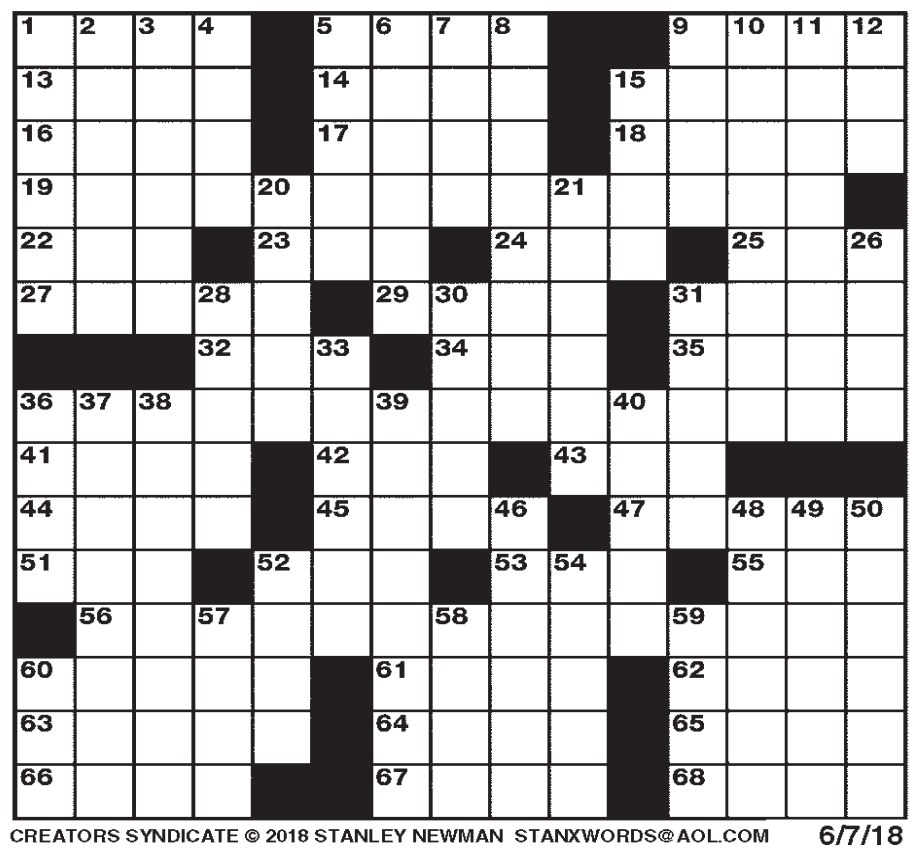
6	8	7	4	3	2	5	9	1
2	9	5	8	1	7	4	3	6
3	1	4	9	6	5	7	8	2
9	5	1	3	8	6	2	7	4
7	3	8	1	2	4	6	5	9
4	2	6	7	5	9	8	1	3
1	7	9	6	4	8	3	2	5
8	6	2	5	9	3	1	4	7
5	4	3	2	7	1	9	6	8

Newsday Crossword

MOTIVATIONAL by Greg Johnson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Verb often seen with "aid"
5 Unsuccessful, as an effort
9 Not worth arguing about
13 Nickname for Dolores
14 Hermione in the Potter films
15 Isle near Naples
16 Fictional sleuth Cross
17 US Pacific territory
18 Give instructions to
19 Evangelist's motivator
22 Soldier's food ration, for short
23 Ending like -ish
24 Photo ID issuer
25 Needle threader's skill
27 Balladeer's repertoire
29 Pamplona runner every July
31 River of Florence
32 It's mainly nitrogen
34 Pac-Man maze marker
35 Depend (on)
36 Football coach's motivator
41 Norway's patron
42 Took a load off
43 Piece in many board games
44 High point
45 Part of a door or drawer
47 Dental diagnostics
51 Grammy category
52 Contractor's submission
53 DVD player seller
55 Rent out
56 Candidate's motivator
60 Talked fondly
61 Foolish one
62 Not valid
63 Photographer Leibovitz
64 Rested (on)
65 Landscaper's element
66 Steep-sided land
67 Alternative to *Cosmo*
68 Last section of Canadian dictionaries

DOWN
1 Causes concern in
2 Lively Spanish dance
3 Prime-time conclusion
4 Approach a gate, perhaps
5 Unlikely steakhouse patron
6 Magical jewelry
7 Mosque VIP
8 Mention one's VIP pals
9 Lindbergh's island home
10 Where there's room to move
11 Inventive
12 Sardine container
15 Surveillance system, briefly
20 Travel to see
21 Overexpressed a role
26 Cloistered one
28 Big blunder
30 "__ Autumn" (Keats poem)
31 Refashion
33 Take the chance
36 Icy coating
37 Villainous De Niro role of '87
38 Hits hard with satire
39 It's under your chin
40 *The Incredibles* studio
46 Fifth-largest country in area
48 A certain charm
49 Spoke fortissimo
50 Fashions
52 Wait patiently
54 She might be beside herself
57 *The Last Jedi* commander
58 Frosty's eyes
59 Film in which Aykroyd voiced a wasp
60 Video producer, for short



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 6/7/18

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 7)

The focus will be on habits. Daily practice will lead to an exceptional performance and financial remuneration. What could be better? You'll achieve a goal, develop your potential and participate fully in your community and wider society. The insights you share in 2019 could alter the course of an entire organization. Leo and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 10, 5, 30 and 13.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Anyone can listen closely to the story they enjoy, the information that flatters them, the music and people they prefer. But it's those who know how to tune in to the messages and tones they don't like who will become smarter.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
For business to run smoothly, communication will be essential. Over-communicate. Communicate redundantly! Whether hearing or telling a story, it will be better to err on the side of repetition.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
As for the conversation you've been putting off, this is the time to have it. Those who need to hear you will be all ears. Your words, planned and unplanned, will eloquently tumble out.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
Creation and destruction are part of the same cycle, though they run on different timetables. What takes years to build can be destroyed in a blink. So while destruction is necessary to creation, often the smallest amount will do.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You may feel that you still have something to prove to yourself, or something you can do to become worthy of your own acceptance. So what would it take for you to become your own best friend and supporter across the board?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
If you feel that your peers are providing undue pressure, consider that you may be inadvertently giving them reason to believe you're on the brink of agreeing with them. Walk away.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
In the name of smooth business, it wouldn't hurt to spend a few minutes "catastrophizing" – that is to say, coming up with a handful of worst-case scenarios and what you'd do in each case. With preparation comes confidence.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
You're perfectly capable of rational thought and communication. However, as you wisely lead with your emotional intelligence, logic gives way to something that, on the surface at least, makes less sense: the poetry of the heart.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You can't afford to let the vagaries of communication distract from, diffuse or cover up the truth. You can get to the bottom of it with direct questions, as long as you make people feel that it's safe to be honest.

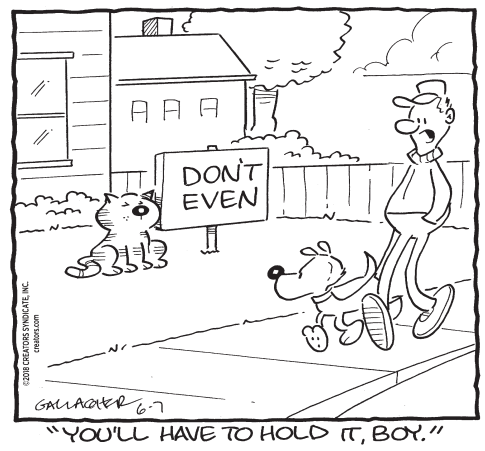
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You'll be a teacher today, so you may as well be an excellent one. Excellent teachers communicate clearly to impart information and skills in a structure that best facilitates student comprehension and absorption.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You've learned this lesson before, but it bears repeating now: If you think someone can't fail and you treat him or her accordingly, the relationship is doomed. Instead, see the flawed humanity and give your love anyway.

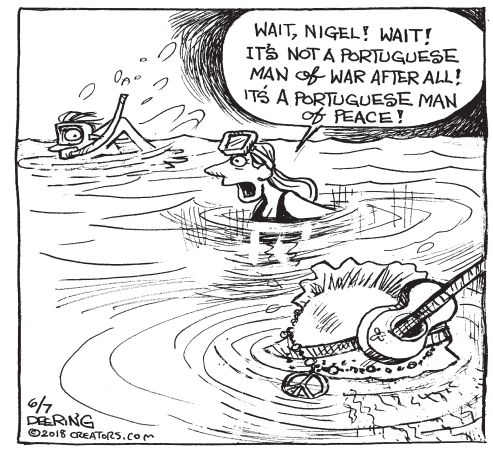
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
It will be particularly difficult to see people for who they are because you can't help but be blinded by the possibilities you notice about what they might be able to do for you. Make your expectations known. Accountability will be key.

Self-Realization Trine
You can relax. There's actually nothing worthwhile to gain from being universally liked (if that's even possible), so don't bother with trying. Under the lunar trine to Venus, it's better if you realize that you're not here to rack up the approval ratings or bask in the good opinions of others. You're here to express what's uniquely you.

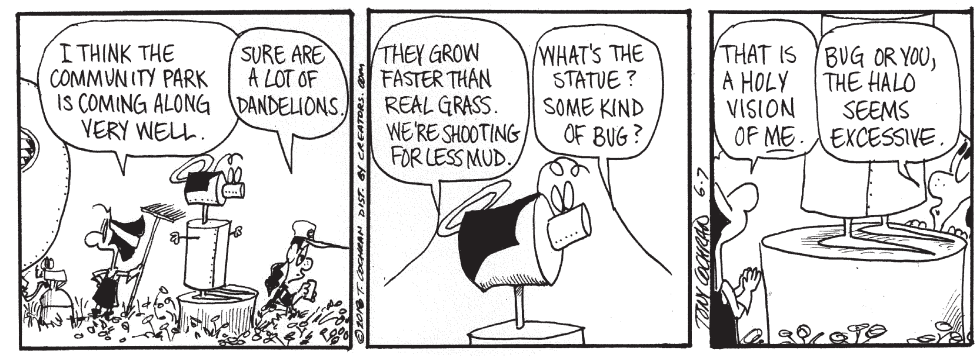
Heathcliff
By PETER GALLAGHER



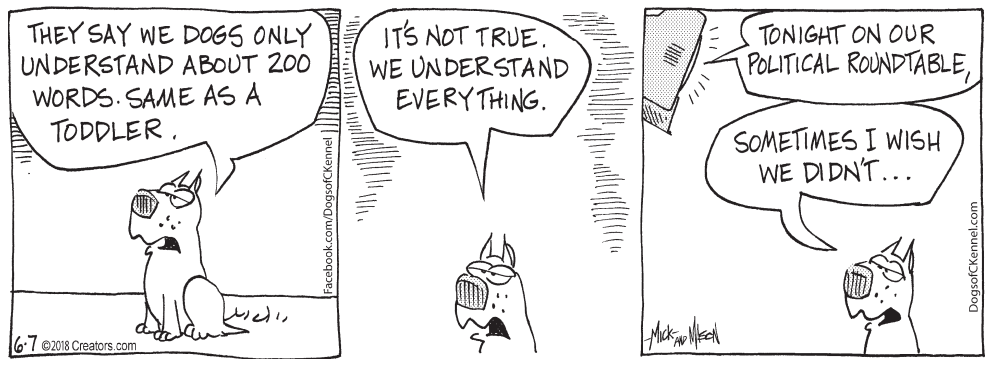
Strange Brew
By JOHN DEERING



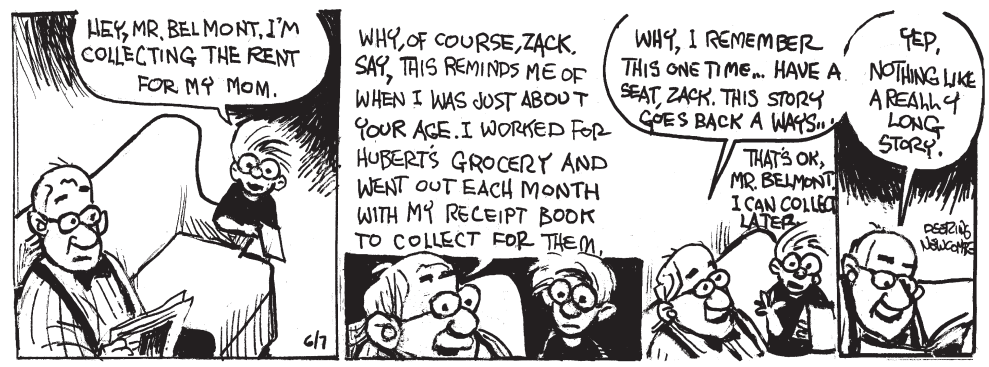
Agnes
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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF DAVID RICHARD FETT
Case No. 18STPB03818
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and other persons who may otherwise be interested in the estate of (specify all names by which the decedent was known): DAVID RICHARD FETTA PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by THOMAS S. MILLS in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that THOMAS S. MILLS be appointed personal representative to administer the estate of decedent.

Notices

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good

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cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on July 26, 2018 at 8:30AM in Dept. No. 29, located at 111 N. HILL STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012.
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail

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a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of ei-ther (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the

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court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice Form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for petitioner:
Harold W. Dickens, III, Esq.
3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite #2910 Los Angeles, California 90010 877-893-6445

MOVIE REVIEW:

By-the-numbers 'Ocean's 8' covers familiar territory

LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

Steven Soderbergh's "Ocean's Eleven" remake is a hard movie to live up to. Its starry charm was backed by a breezy and deceptively dense script full of memorable characters, dizzyingly complex logistics and lively filmmaking that Soderbergh himself couldn't even recreate in the two sequels. But it is undeniable that even the near-perfect "Eleven" was missing something pretty major: Women. You know, besides Julia Roberts, that blackjack dealer and the one exotic dancer.

So why not, 17 years later, fix that egregious oversight by gathering up a few Oscar and Emmy winners and nominees, a Grammy-winner and a buzzy comedienne to keep that Ocean's franchise going and acknowledge the other half of the human population? If only "Ocean's 8 " was as a fresh and smart as that first one. (Hint: It's not for lack of star charisma or talent.)

Sandra Bullock anchors the cast as Debbie Ocean, the never-before-mentioned sister of George Clooney's Danny Ocean, who has taken up the family business to varying degrees of success (we meet her in a parole hearing) and prefers to work without "hims." ''Hers," she later explains, can go unnoticed.

And indeed, Debbie uses what could be a handicap very much to her advantage in a rollicking shoplifting spree at Bergdorf's. It helps, of course, when you look like Sandra Bullock and you happen to have left jail in full hair, makeup and cocktail dress. But it's still quite a bit of fun seeing her act the part of a wealthy and entitled shopper who tries to demand a refund for the items she's literally just pinched from their shelves. 90 percent of her method is simply looking like she belongs and taking advantage of the privileges that affords her.

Don't expect this level of class or gender commentary from the rest of the film, however. "Ocean's 8" suffers from a bit of tonal whiplash. Half the time it seems to be veering into grotesque "Sex and the City" worship of brands and celebrity.

Debbie's plan is to steal a $150 million diamond necklace. In order to do so, she and her assembled team of savants have to first infiltrate the orbit of a vapid celeb, Daphne Kluger (Anne Hathaway), and convince her to wear said necklace to the Met Gala, where they'll steal it and divide the earnings accordingly (a cool $16.5 million each).

The team includes Lou (Cate Blanchett), who dresses like a glam rocker and spends her time watering down well vodka for profit; Rose Weil (Helena Bonham Carter), a kooky past-her-prime fashion designer desperate for a comeback; a jeweler in a rut, Amita (Mindy Kaling); Nine Ball (Rihanna), a hacker in dreadlocks; Constance (Awkwafina), a pickpocket; and Tammy (Sarah Paulson), a suburban mom who can't quite quit her white collar crime ways.

While Blanchett and Bullock are predictably solid in their roles and get at least a few memorable moments of worthy banter, it's Hathaway who really steals the film with a wickedly on-point satiric turn a spoiled star. It is Hathaway's Miranda Priestly moment, and could have only been made better had she gone full-meta and played a character named "Anne Hathaway."

The celebrity skewering is first-rate, but, for the most part, if you've seen Soderbergh's "Ocean's Eleven," you've basically seen "Ocean's 8" too. Director and co-writer Gary Ross ("The Hunger Games") follows familiar story beats and attempts, unsuccessfully, to ape Soderbergh's filmmaking style. And his glimpse inside the Met Gala makes that famously glamorous event look awfully pedestrian.

It also doesn't help that the stakes never seem all that real in "Ocean's 8,"and when they do finally get an adversary, in a detective played by James Corden, it's more for laughs.

There was a danger to "Ocean's Eleven" and a thrill in seeing that team succeed. Here, none of the women seem to have any fallibility at all, and you never find yourself doubting whether or not they can pull it off. Perhaps there is something subversive to the idea that all Debbie has to do is social shame two security guys from entering a women's restroom, but we're there for a something more elaborate too.

That's kind of the overall problem of "Ocean's 8." It's all predicated on the fact that women are often underestimated. But in making that point, it's also somehow underestimated the audience who still should be entitled to a smart, fun heist, no matter who is pulling it off.

"Ocean's 8," a Warner Bros. release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "language, drug use, and some suggestive content." Running time: 110 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

MPAA Definition of PG-13: Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



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