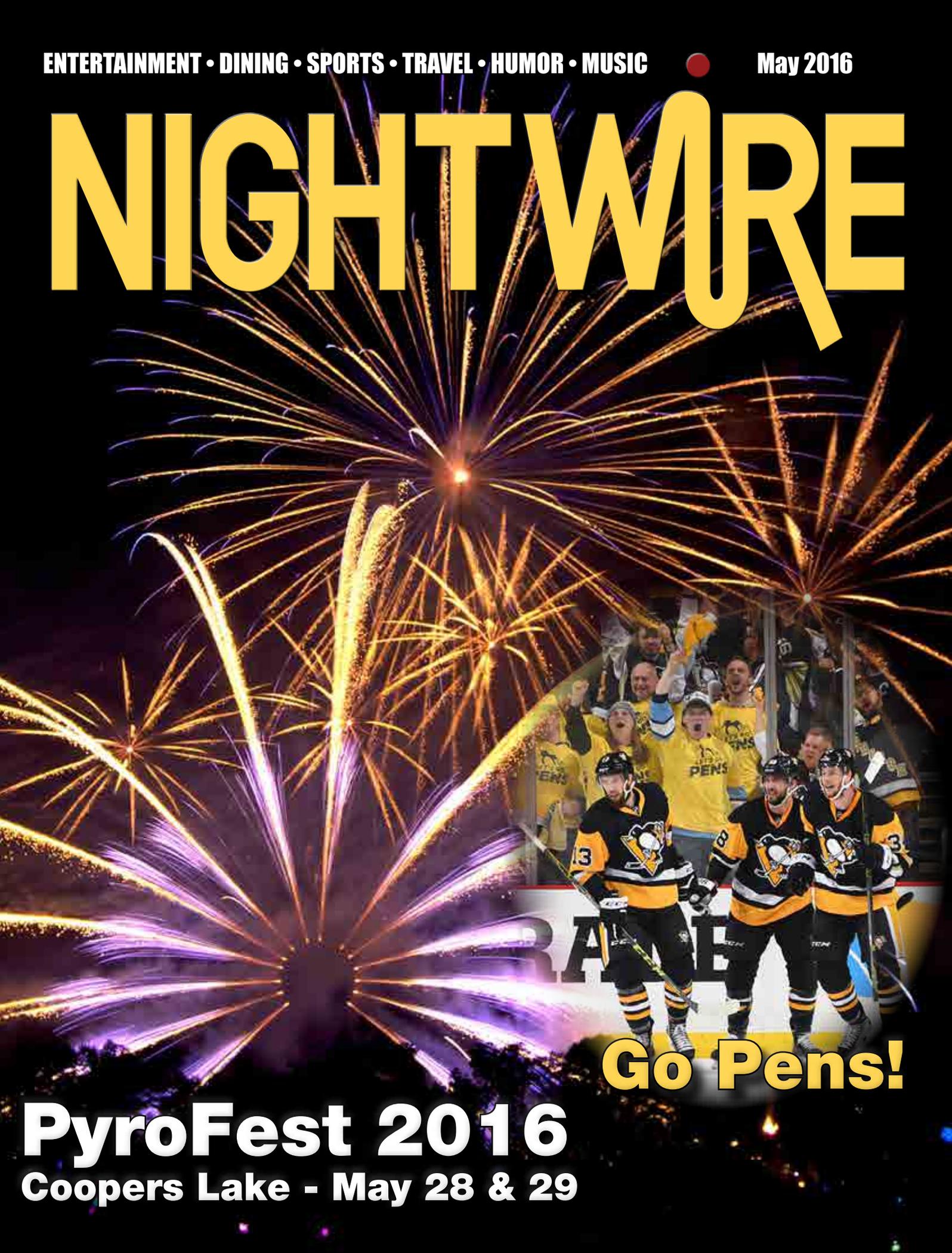


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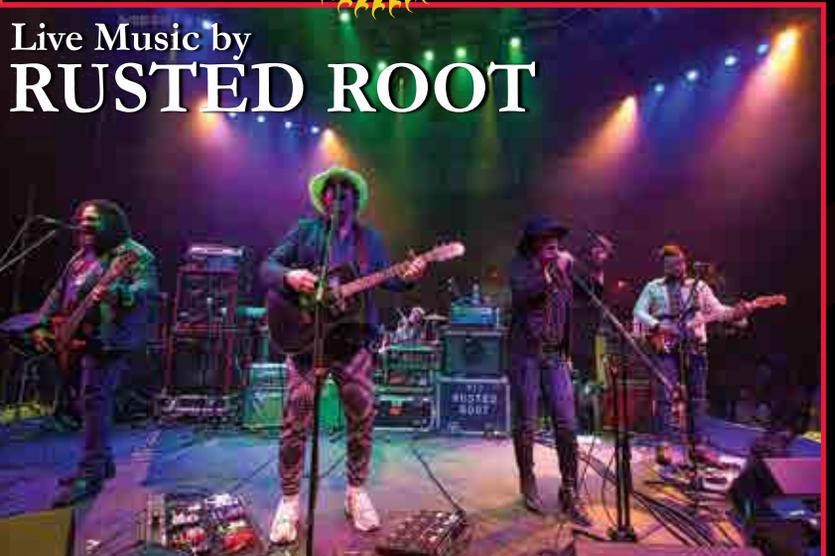
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SPORTS:

Baby Pens Growing Up Fast...

by Stacy Kauffman, Sports Editor, Nightwire Magazine
Pittsburgh Penguin Photos ©2016 Pittsburgh Penguins

"We wouldn't be here without them."

That's Matt Cullen's thoughts on the AHL call ups turned NHL regulars – forwards Bryan Rust, Conor Sheary, Tom Kuhnhackl and goalie Matt Murray. The 39-year-old Stanley Cup winning veteran explained that when the team was banged up during the regular season with injuries to guys like Evgeni Malkin, Nick Bonino and Marc Andre Fleury, the young group stepped up.

"They essentially saved our season."

Now, with Rust and Kuhnhackl newly signed to one-way deals keeping them in Pittsburgh for the next two years, the Penguins will continue to have the tenacious, hard-working depth that has served them so well the last two months. They've won 18 of their last 21 games.

Unlike their new contract extensions, the admiration and appreciation is two-way. After the Penguin's series clinching victory versus the Rangers, Bryan Rust was asked about his line mate Cullen and said he has been a great mentor. "The little tips and how he carries himself is huge, we – all us young guys - can learn from it as well as learn from how hard and consistent he plays."

Rust was named the number one star in the 6-3 game five win, scoring two goals and an assist while playing a fast game with gnat like relentlessness. He acknowledges the play of his Wilkes-

Barre brethren. "Every game there's a different one of us who is stepping up and having a big game or making a big play. It's just like, hey we can contribute here and we're happy to get it done."

Assistant General Manager Bill Guerin has said that these guys have a "rare determination" and that doesn't just apply to the skaters, but the baby faced guy between the pipes, Matt Murray as well. Former Vezina trophy winner and highest paid goaltender in the NHL, dubbed "King" despite never lifting Lord Stanley's Cup, Henrik Lundqvist was overmatched and outplayed by the 21-year-old rookie in the last three games of the series. All Penguin victories. Lundqvist allowed 10 goals in the final 41 shots he faced and 15 overall for a playoff worst 4.39 goals against average. In contrast, Murray allowed just four goals on 89 shots in the first three postseason games of his career. The team is 12-2-1 in his last 15 starts.

The goal tending has been big as has the goal scoring. The Penguins scored eight power play goals in 21 opportunities connecting at a 38 percent clip. In the last two postseason series versus the Rangers, the Pens converted just nine percent of the time, going 3-for-33. Overall the Pens scored 21 goals in the five games it took to eliminate New York. The previous 12 playoff games they only mustered 22.

Goal scoring has flourished under Mike Sullivan. Since he



displaced Mike Johnston behind the bench, the Penguins have scored 3.24 goals per game, an NHL best during that span, and that's continued into the first round of the postseason. Scoring is even more prolific so far at 4.20 goals per game. Tops among playoff teams.

The stars have been shining bright - Captain Sidney Crosby led the team with eight points and three goals versus New York and Evgeni Malkin notched seven points in four games. Phil

Kessel stayed hot. Ending the regular season with 12 points in the final nine games, he had three goals and three assists in the first round and Kris Letang had five points on the blue line. Nick Bonino and Patric Hornqvist also recorded five points in the five games. But it's the dynamic four-line depth that has the Penguins looking like a serious Stanley Cup contender and the young guns are the fueling its success.

This is a new group that looks confidently towards the future,



not begrudgingly back at postseasons past. Only seven players that exited the playoffs early at the sticks of the Rangers last year were on the bench during the domination of New York in round one. Sullivan certainly has his team focused on playing their game and sticking to their well-defined identity of speed and aggressive forechecking. They'll need that leadership as they take on the Washington Capitals in the second round.

The Penguins won the season series three games to two, outscoring the Caps 16 goals to 13. Two of those wins came on the road. Kuhnackl has four points in three games against Washington, including the game winning goal in a 6-2 rout back in March and Matt Murray got the 4-3 overtime win in their final meeting of the regular season. The last time these teams met in the postseason, the Penguins won a classic series in seven games en route to the Stanley Cup in 2009. If they repeat that run, contributions from the young guys will be a big part of it. As Matt Cullen said "these guys are exceptional right now."

Stacy Kauffman, Sports Feature Writer for Nightwire Magazine can be heard weekends on CBS Sports Radio 93.7 The Fan, has

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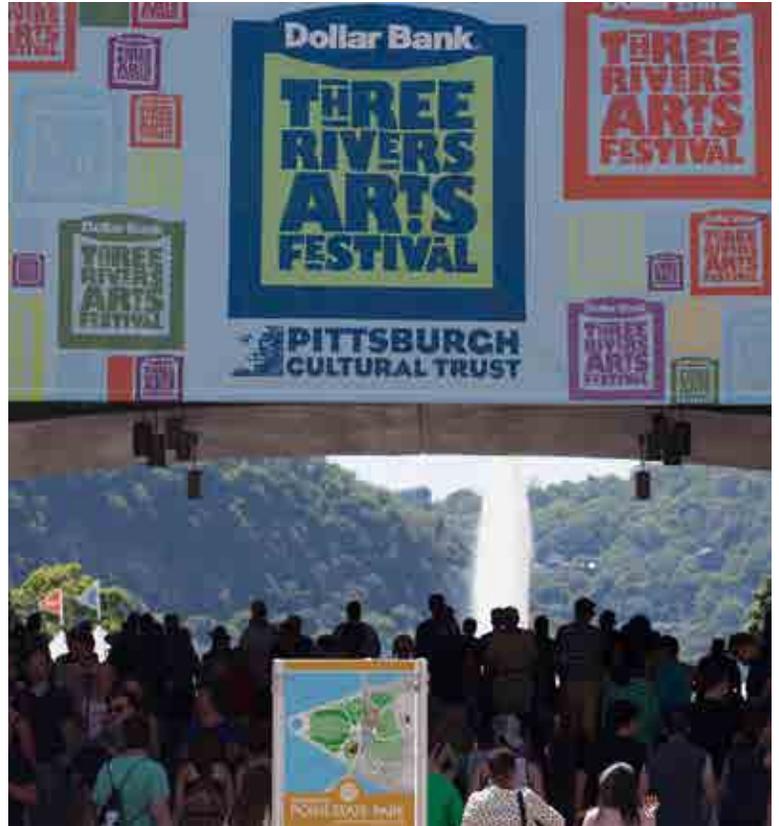
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The Dollar Bank Three Rivers Arts Festival, a production of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, is a 10-day celebration of the arts in downtown Pittsburgh unlike any other in the nation. This world-class, multi-disciplinary festival is free to attend and open to the public. Attracting over 400,000 visitors annually, the Festival begins on the first Friday in June and takes place at the confluence of Pittsburgh's famed three rivers in Point State Park, throughout picturesque Gateway Center, and in the city's world-renowned Cultural District. Now in its 57th year, the Festival's loyal visitors have enjoyed an extensive array of music, performance, visual arts, crafts/art-making activities and a renowned Artist Market presented by Peoples Natural Gas featuring over 300 artists from around the country. Artists are selected through a rigorous jury process—emphasizing quality, craftsmanship and presentation—in a wide variety of media, from jewelry to painting, woodworking to photography. For more information about all of the happenings taking place during this year's Dollar Bank Three Rivers Arts Festival, visit www.TrustArts.org/TRAF or call 412-456-6666.





Top Left: Artist Market, Top Right: Public Art Display - Dandelions, Bottom Left Michael Franti & Spearhead, Bottom Right - Scott Turri, Inside Out at 707 Penn Gallery

Movie Reviews

NIGHTWIRE - FILM REVIEWS by FIORE



10 CLOVERFIELD LANE

I haven't been so disappointed in a movie as I was after watching 10 Cloverfield Lane. The film is a total waste of time, building anticipation for a plotline that never develops. It is 90 minutes of slow, plodding comic book superficial character studies.

The story begins with Michelle, played by Mary Elizabeth Winstead, one of the dreaded three-name people. She has a fight with voice-over only boyfriend Ben (Bradley Cooper), and can't handle the situation like an adult so she packs up her stuff, leaves her engagement ring on the dresser, and runs away from home. A car accident finds her in the bomb shelter of Howard, played by John Goodman. Howard rescues Michelle, saves her life, and puts her in his bomb shelter because there has been an attack, either biological or chemical and the air is not safe to breathe. In the bunker with them is Emmitt (John



Gallagher, Jr.). These two are not, hopefully, representative of the Net Generation; she can't handle confrontations, and he can't handle challenges. Howard shifts from survivalist to loon, seemingly at the whim of screenwriter Josh Campbell who doesn't know what to do with the character.

KEY SCENES TO LOOK FOR:

1. **The crutch attack**
2. **The first escape attempt.**

While some may consider this a spoiler, I consider it a public service announcement when I tell you 10 Cloverfield Lane has nothing to do with the original. Don't look for the monster, it's simply not in the movie. In fact, the only thing this has in connection with the original is the use of the word Cloverfield in the title.

THE GRADE FOR 10 Cloverfield Lane = F



MAD TIGER

As documentaries go, MAD TIGER is run of the mill, but its subject matter is so bizarre it makes for a fascinating view. I have never understood the underground scene, and after watching MAD TIGER, I still don't. The film causes me to question the mental acuity of anyone following this genre of music.

MAD TIGER follows the band Pee-lander Z. It is comprised of a group of Asians, who readily admit they are not musicians. I can concur. The music they play in the film is god

awful; primordial screams and discordant instruments all playing their own tune, but seemingly never the same tune. Their fans, though relatively small and cultish, are avid. The band admits it is its acting and performance on stage that is important, not the music.

Directors Michael Haertlin and Jonathan Yi orchestrate a fine opus in presenting the band and its high drama when Red, who is Kotaro Tsukada and one of the founding members, opts to leave to ostentatiously become a bartender. This devastates the band, especially co-founder and group leader Yellow, played by Kengo Hioki. While he tries to keep a positive outlook on Red's



leaving, he sinks into a funk from what he sees as betrayal. The other band members include Yumiko Hioki Akiteru Ito and Akihiko Naruse. They all speak English, but none of them can be understood. The filmmakers provide subtitles, and they are most needed.

MAD TIGER provides a glimpse into the New York underground from the perspective of a self-proclaimed Japanese Action Comic Punk Band. The documentary will open the first week of June in the fabled two letter cities and then, depending on box office and reception, will continue on a tiered release or shift to PPV and HV. MAD TIGER presents the band and the underground scene like a train wreck – you can watch it for a while, but you certainly don't want to be part of it.

THE GRADE FOR MAD TIGER = C

BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE

If it wasn't for the iconic nature of the characters, you could easily walk out of this film after the first hour. It is that bad.

There is a disjointed dream sequence, which is in itself a dream sequence, a technique purloined from AN AMERICAN WERE-WOLF IN LONDON, which has no purpose, save to allow the SFX guys to go super sci-fi. There are snippets of fragmented scenes, obscure references to even more obscure characters and more posing by guys in costumes than an average viewing of Monday Night Raw.

In addition to the insipid dream sequences, there are gaping holes in script continuity. This movie could have developed the feud between Clark Kent and Bruce Wayne much better and eliminated the entire Doomsday segment, and I think I would have enjoyed it more. As soon as Doomsday arrives, the poorly developed adult story ends, and the super market comic book story begins. The second half plays better, because the first half is so understated and incoherent.

Ben Affleck does a marvelous job playing Bruce Wayne. He is middle-aged, beginning to lose idealistic concepts as reality smacks him in the face. Henry Cavill returns as Clark Kent. He does well and offers a stoic performance, but he shows a massive weakness in the world's greatest superhero – confidence. It seems anyone can bring self-doubt into the Man of Steel, to the point where he has to run home to mommy (Diane Lane) for comforting.

During the final hour, after the two heroes battle, nearly destroying each other, they realize they have a common enemy in Lex Luthor, played by Jesse Eisenberg. This is simply horrible casting. Eisenberg is never believable as a calculating kingpin nor a member of the lunatic fringe. He is the film's definitive weak link. Instead of his sequences augmenting the tension between the superheroes, it diminishes them.



KEY SCENES TO LOOK FOR:

1. **Batman saves Martha Kent**
2. **Batman fights Superman**
3. **Conversation between Alfred and Bruce**

It would be easy here to blame screenwriter Chris Terrio for the lack of plot, but actually Director Zack Snyder and Warner Brothers may be more to blame. Snyder made the movie originally with a four-hour length. The WB said they would not back a film of that length, and demanded *BATMAN V. SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE* be trimmed to a 'reasonable' length. It is currently two hours and thirty-five minutes. Snyder, before the film opened, spread over social media a statement claiming the home version of the movie would be four hours long, and carry an R-rating.

Faced with the unenviable task of trimming ninety minutes from the film, Editor David Brenner made some unwise decisions.

It will be nice to see the home version. There is so much more potential with this material.

GRADE FOR BATMAN V. SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE = C



THE JUNGLE BOOK

"Look for the bear necessities, the simple bear necessities. Forget about your worries and your strife." So sings Baloo the bear (hence the play on words) and his outlook on life. It is fitting the character is voiced by Bill Murray, because it's the same mien most of his roles personify. Helping Murray in characterizations for this version of Rudyard Kipling's classic are: Christopher Walken, Ben Kingsley, Scarlett Johansson, Idris Elba, Gary Shandling, Giancarlo Esposito and Lupita Nyong'o. Together, they create live version of the animals most of us came to know and love through the wonderful animators of Disney, back in the day, before the studio became a progenitor of socialist ideology.

Actually, to call this version of *THE JUNGLE BOOK* live is a total misnomer. The entire film, including backgrounds, is CGI. The only live person is new young star Neel Sethi. It's his first movie,

and it shows. He is the weak link in the film and is over shadowed by voiced-over collections of dots.

To emphasize, this is not a kid's movie. Anyone expecting the same primary-color based screen flashes as the Disney cartoon will be sorely mistaken. While the theatre was filled with wee tykes, it was relatively soon the auditorium became boisterous with the cries and grumblings of bored little minds. If your kids are under eleven, rent the cartoon and save the ticket price.

1.1 KEY SCENES TO LOOK FOR:

1. **The meeting with Kaa**
2. **Baloo and the honey**
3. **I want to be like you**

It, admittedly, has been years since I last read Kipling's opus, so while my memory may be faulty, I do remember the book being allegorical, with the animals Mowgli meets representative of personality types; much like George Orwell did in *Animal Farm*. This script, adapted by Justin Marks, shifts the fantasy story of a young man's development and transition to manhood to the difference between man and nature. While not preachy, and certainly not as propaganda-filled as mockumentaries by Al Gore, it makes the story more superficial.

Jon Favreau is not my favorite comedian. In fact, his comedy tends to cure my insomnia; however, the man can craft a film with the best of them. He is masterful in his pacing and his storytelling. He truly understands the revelation of the three act script in visual images. As such, it should be no surprise Favreau has crafted a fine film here, one that is quite enjoyable to watch.

THE GRADE FOR THE JUNGLE BOOK = B





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Summer Brew Review

by **Brian Meyer**

Ah, summer. Just saying the word is enough to make you take a deep breath and relax. Few things are as great as kicking back on your porch or even at the beach with a good beer. From shandys to pale ales to wheat beers and beyond... summer beers are all about refreshing you and beating the heat.

There's a sacred bond that exists between warm weather and beer. While a good beer is great all year, there's just something about a hot day that makes a beer taste better than normal. To help you and your enjoyment of your summer beers, we compiled a list of beers that symbolize summer and of course, are perfect for some serious porch drinking.

Anderson Valley Brewing Summer Solstice

Unlike winter and fall beers, summer beers fall into quite a few categories and run the gamut of flavors. Take for example Anderson Valley's Summer Solstice. This beer is slightly sweet with a malty backbone and a clean finish.

Summer Solstice is considered a session beer, coming in at 5% ABV, making it perfect for having a few beers while barbequing or cutting the grass. Bravo hops give this beer a slight hop flavor and the light spice addition gives the beer a hint of caramel and spice, making it a "cream soda for adults" without being too sweet.

Bell's Brewery Oberon

What's better than one of the best summer beers ever in a 12oz can? One of the best summer beers in a 16oz can of course! Summertime favorite Oberon from Bell's Brewery is out once again this summer with a twist, thanks to the "pounder" can and a true pint pour. Light and refreshing, both sizes are available this year to help you with all your porch sitting and grass cutting, koozie not included. Of course if glass is more your style, Oberon is always in the bottle, too.

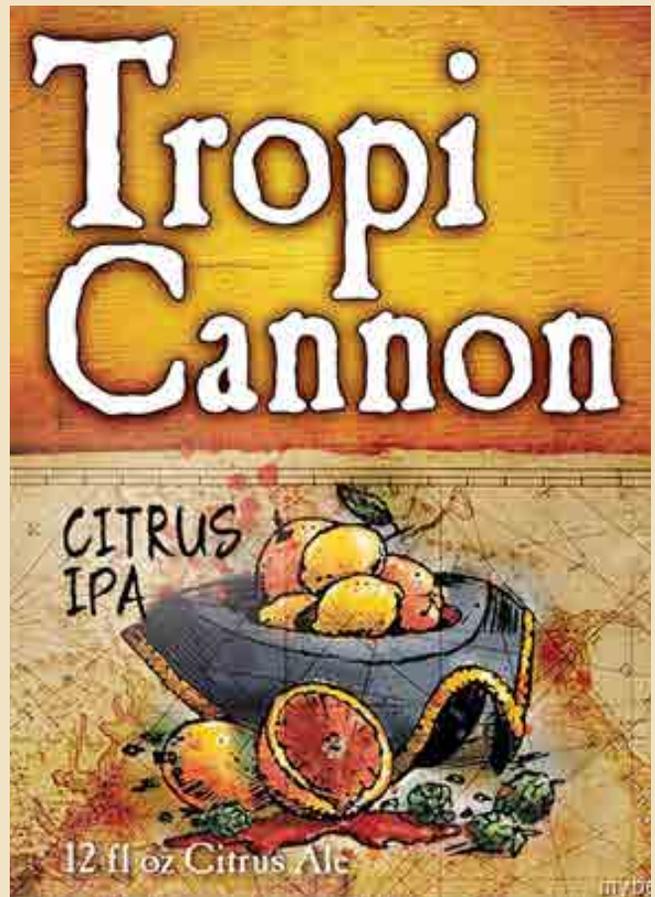


Buffalo Bill's Orange Blossom Cream Ale

A light and somewhat sweet entry in our list comes from Buffalo Bill's Brewery in the form of their Orange Blossom Cream Ale. This 5.2% ABV beer features hints of fresh orange thanks to the use of sweet orange peel and orange blossom extract in the brewing process. Top that off with some honey and you're left with a beer that's refreshing and sweet enough to make it the perfect defense against a hot summer day.

Erie Brewing Soleil Shandy

Our friends in Erie brew their Soleil Shandy each summer to help ease those hot days. Shandys are a mix of beer and juice, making them lower in alcohol and substantially more refreshing than your typical beer. Erie's take on the shandy comes in at 3.5% ABV and features flavors of lemon and raspberry and just enough tartness to make you want more.



***NEW* Heavy Seas TropiCannon**

One of the newest beers in our list comes to us from Heavy Seas Beer. Their TropiCannon is a citrus IPA coming in at 7.25% ABV. TropiCannon is the long lost cousin of their flagship Loose Cannon IPA, but this one features flavors of blood orange, grapefruit, mango, and lemon. Centennial and Palisade hops are ditched in favor of Amarillo and additional Simcoe, separating the two beers even more, leaving the piney character to Loose Cannon and giving even more citrus to TropiCannon. In short, this is one new beer that you really have to try to believe.

North Country Brewing Co. Bucco Blonde

Blonde ales are typically light and refreshing, making them a perfect match for warm weather, and North Country Brewing's Bucco Blonde is no exception. This 4.9% blonde ale has a great malt body with a hint of bitterness to balance things out. This beer was brewed specifically for Pittsburgh's very own Pirates. More specifically, for and by the Bucco's pitching coach Ray Searage, also known as Uncle Ray, and proceeds go to benefit the Make a Wish foundation.



***NEW* Oskar Blues Beerito**

Lagers are great summer beers. They're refreshing and crisp while keeping a healthy dose of bitterness all in a single package. What's even more refreshing is a Mexican lager, and no, we're not talking about the one you put the lime in. Oscar Blues Brewery's Beerito is a 4% ABV amber Mexican lager that gets some help from German and Colorado-sourced malts and noble hops. Along with the crisp flavor you'll get hints of walnut, toasted bread, plum, honey, and even cocoa. You'll be hard-pressed to find another beer with that much character at only 4%.

Springhouse Brewing 7 Gates Pale Ale

The flagship beer for Spring House, Seven Gates Pale Ale is named for a story out of rural Pennsylvania. According to this legend, there was an insane asylum deep in the woods that was surrounded by, you guessed it, seven gates to keep the "guests" of the asylum safe and sound. One night the asylum caught fire, and to their peril the seven gates did their job and kept everyone in, where they haunt still today.

Springhouse gave their flagship beer some extra...protection...this year by putting the beer into a 12-oz can for the first time ever. You get the same amazing beer and your beer stays protected from light and anything else that could do it harm.



Tröegs Independent Brewing Sunshine Pils

Another member of the canned beer club, Troegs Brewing's Sunshine Pils is ready for summer in its newly designed outfit. This straw-golden Pilsner comes in at 4.5% ABV and is possibly one of the most refreshing beers you'll ever try. Brewed with Pilsner malt as well as Hersbrucker and Saaz hops, this Euro-style Pilsner is crisp and light while having a solid hop profile. Perfect for just about any meal or a good day of yard work, Sunshine Pils is like sunshine in a can. (Always In glass bottles too)

Victory Brewing Summer Love

Coming out this summer again in a can is Victory's seasonal Summer Love. While there are many reasons to love summer, Summer Love is possibly the best. This golden ale comes in at 5.2% ABV and features tastes of fresh, clean German malts with earthy and spicy noble European hops, finishing up with a lemony aftertaste thanks to some whole flower American hops. Even though that can will keep your beer fresh longer, Victory Summer Love is available in bottles, too.

Otter Creek Brewery Fresh Slice

The call of the lawn chair and fresh cut grass is a strong one, and Fresh Slice from Otter Creek Brewing is here to answer. This 5.5% white IPA includes a little clementine and coriander along with some very dank and delicious hops. The Belgian yeast used in this beer makes it nice and fresh tasting while being extra refreshing for nice hot days. Best of all, this is the first can ever offered by Otter Creek, so check it out while you can, as this one is only seasonal.

NEW Dogfish Head Brewing Flesh and Blood

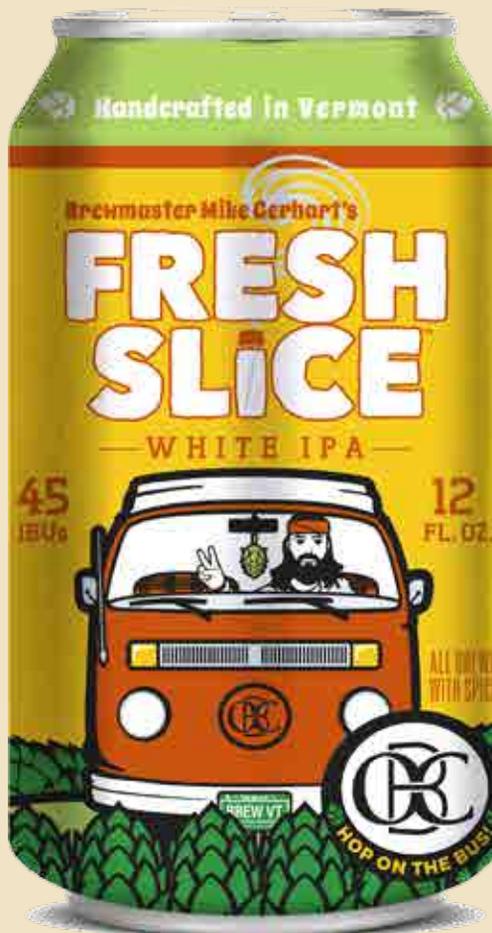
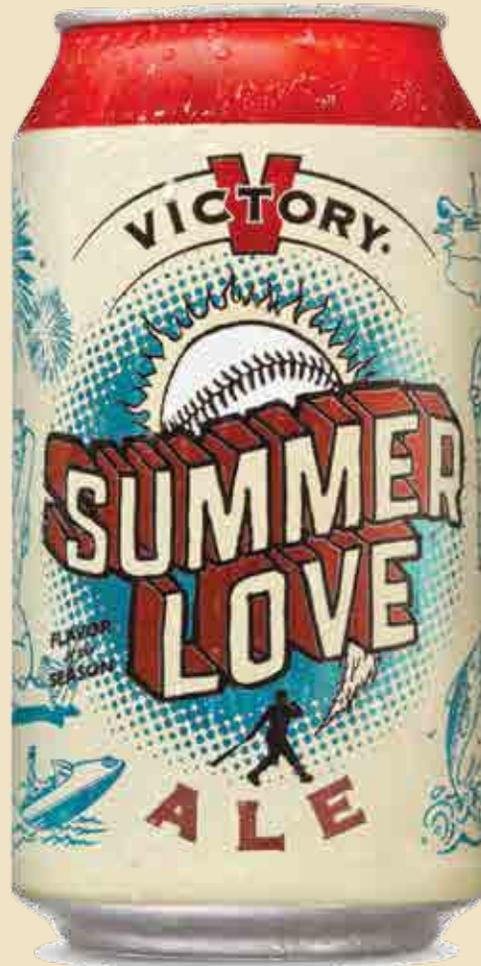
Dogfish Head is known for making some pretty amazing and off-the-wall beers, but this year they're taking the well-known IPA and giving it a twist, and by twist we mean of the citrus variety. Their brand-new Flesh and Blood Imperial IPA comes in at 8.5% ABV and features lemons and blood oranges. Look for this new member of the cool kids club in bottles and on draft starting in May.

Dogfish Head Brewing Burton Baton

When it comes to big beers, Dogfish Head rarely fails to deliver. They pride themselves on making amazing beers that often feature higher than average ABV and their Burton Baton is no different. Sadly, this year-round beer had to take a break to allow them to make a few other beers this year but fear not, this May it's back and just as good as ever.

Burton Baton is actually two beers that are mixed together after brewing. The base beers are an English-style old ale and an imperial IPA. Together they make a 10% ABV beer that's aged in one of their large oak tanks for about a month. You end up with a big beer that has notes of citrus, vanilla, and oak.

Each of these beers and more are proudly distributed in and around the Pittsburgh area by Vecenie Distributing.



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directly with you or your contractor to custom design your kitchen or bath staying within your budget, helping you to achieve that dream kitchen or bath with an extremely luxurious look without breaking your bank account. They are the experts when it comes to fabricating and installing natural stone and quartz countertops and have endless choices of granite, quartz, marble, kitchen cabinetry, bathroom vanities, fixtures and so much more, making them you "one stop shop." Their moto "Expect to be Impressed!" says it all. The entire staff at Stone Connection is truly committed to providing top quality professional service and expertise and guarantee their granite workmanship for 2 full years.

Their showroom is conveniently located just minutes from downtown on Neville Island. Walk-ins are always welcome or call for an appointment 412.458.5450.

Open Monday through Friday: 9AM-6PM, Saturday: 10AM-4PM



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THE ANNUAL PITTSBURGH WINE FESTIVAL ROLLS OUT ITS 14TH YEAR WITH EXTRA FLAIR AND GRANDEUR



The 14th annual Pittsburgh Wine Festival is returning to Heinz Field on May 5th, 2016. The event will once again give attendees the opportunity to sample some of the world's very best wines and provide a chance to meet and talk with some



of the world's foremost authorities on wine.

The festival will feature more than 500 wines from wineries all over the world, and around the corner. Noted winemakers include Richard Sowalsky, a winemaker at Clos Pegase in Napa Valley; Italo Jofre, an international wine ambassador for



Concha Y Toro in Chile; and Claire Foresier from Chateau De Bellevue.

Charles Woodson, a Heisman trophy winner, Super Bowl Champion, and soon to be Hall of Famer, is also a wine enthusiast. He, along Rick Ruiz, will be coming from Twentyfour Winery, which is named after the jersey number Charles Woodson wore for the Oakland Raiders. Rick Ruiz, the



President of Twentyfour, began making one barrel for Charles Woodson at Robert Mondavi, and is now making 110 barrels.

This year's event boasts more than just luxury wines and winemakers. Display cars, musical performances, and



photographers will be both outside and inside the festival. The Café Trio musical group will set the mood as guests enter, and continue to entertain all night with violin, accordion, and bass. Audi cars, provided by Sewickley Audi, will be on display upon entry, and inside the festival.

Three special events will be held the week leading up to the festival. The Society for Middle Ear Disease will host their 4th Annual Soirée at the Hillman Cancer Center Atrium on May 4th at 6:00 pm. Guests will be able to enjoy fine wines paired with hors d'oeuvres, sponsored by Chateau Ste. Michelle Winery. A dinner at Senti in Lawrenceville will be held, as well as a dinner at the Carlton restaurant for Magee-Women's.

The 2016 Festival will be held at Heinz Field East and West Club lounges on May 5, 2016. The

VIP tasting runs from 5 pm – 7 pm, and the Grand Tasting runs from 7 pm – 9 pm.

For more information, visit www.pittsburghwinefestival.com

IT'S ALMOST HERE... **PYROFEST 2016** **MAY 28 & 29 - COOPER'S LAKE**



Pyrofest..... Words alone could never begin to describe this amazing event, there are simply not enough adjectives in the dictionary to clearly define this experience. You just have to be there! We put a lot of thought into how to do our best to describe this event and here's what we came up with: Think about a Community Fireworks display, which we all have seen and were thrilled by the those displays. Well, typically the cost to a community for those shows is somewhere between \$10,000 to \$20,000. Now, let's look at Pyrofest: Their two days of fireworks will cost well over \$1,000,000. Yes, I said one million dollars! Pyrofest is like watching hours of grand finales rolled into non-stop displays set to music, with one display immediately following another and another all set, perfectly timed, executed, coordinated and orchestrated to create an unbelievable event and experience all coupled together with the latest state of the art pyrotechnics.

This year's two day event will feature award winning Sirius Pyrotechnics® a Canadian company that has been wowing audiences around the globe since 1987. Sirius has deep roots in the fireworks industry and an exhaustive list of accomplishments; they are an elite pyrotechnics services provider delivering world-class pyro-musical design. They are known for their devoted themes; intense musical synchronization and their passion filled scenes, Sirius' designers always take control of the audience and keep them spellbound. They have won numerous awards and produced large scale shows like the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. We can't wait to see what they have in store for Pyofest 2016.

This year four countries are being represented: From the USA, Pyrotecnico – representing Canada, Sirius Pyrotechnics - from China, Vulcan and from Valencia, Spain, Ricsa Displays by Ricardo Caballer bringing together four of the elite and top



Sirius Pyrotechnics from the Vancouver Olympics

rated companies in the world taking Pyrofest 2016 to an entirely new level. This show is one that you certainly will not want to miss. Ricardo has for many years dreamed of translating something as complex as a classical music score into a pyro display, taking into account all of the technical details from the perspective of a piano player. The idea was that someone who plays piano could visually identify the piece, as each firework mimics which key is being pressed on the piano. Ricardo worked closely with a professional pianist to help bring this idea to life.

To translate the musical complexity of this piece to a fireworks display was a great challenge. Different effects and heights are used in addition to different locations. As an idea of the complexity, this single piece of the show will use 2,800 cues, which is equivalent to the entire show that Ricasa displayed at his first PyroFest.

According to Derek Weber, Director of Events, Peony Entertainment, the event producer; "both days this year will be equally as big. Every year we try to outdo ourselves and this year we are confident we are going to outdo our previous years. This year will be our fifth anniversary and we will amaze people with things they have never seen before with all the display companies that have never been to Pyrofest, each company has their own theme to go along with their show. Ricardo's show is bigger and even more mind blowing than his show last year. Sunday, Pyrotecnico special effects division Pyrotecnico FX will be doing a special effects encore with Rusted Root, which will be a new thing with lots of stage pyro effects synchronized to their songs. Pyrotecnico FX is our special effects division which has produced



Ricsa Displays in Spain



pyrotechnics, flames, lasers, cryogenics, confetti/streamers, and custom designed creations for major sports teams, film and television, music festivals, tours and the Coachella Music Festival. Most recently, Pyrotecnico FX has toured with Justin Timberlake, The Weeknd, Zedd, and Nicki Minaj, just to name a few.”

For more information, directions and to view the daily events, show's lineup, fireworks video's and to purchase tickets please visit: www.pyrofest.com





San Antonio Serenade

By: Suzanne Ferrara

It's easy to get lost in San Antonio's mystique; the central Texas city's alluring charm and fascinating history is practically unmatched. The millions of visitors who return here, year after year, know first-hand that one visit is not enough. It's the kind of place that seems to capture the soul and leaves you longing for more; in fact, it's one of the most unique places on American soil, a place where you can experience some of the colorful character and spirited culture of Mexico.

Standing amidst this metropolis is a consummate symbol of courage and sacrifice: the iconic, awe-inspiring Alamo. No visit to San Antonio is complete without witnessing the "Shrine of Texas Liberty", and the list of those who battled Santa Anna's Mexican troops includes a veritable "who's who of Texas history": Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie and William Barret Travis.

While history unfolds inside these walls, it also comes to life in the treasure trove of amazing artifacts that reflect the site's 300-year history. Included in the collection are personal items and objects of the Alamo defenders including Crockett's ornate vest and Bowie's knife.

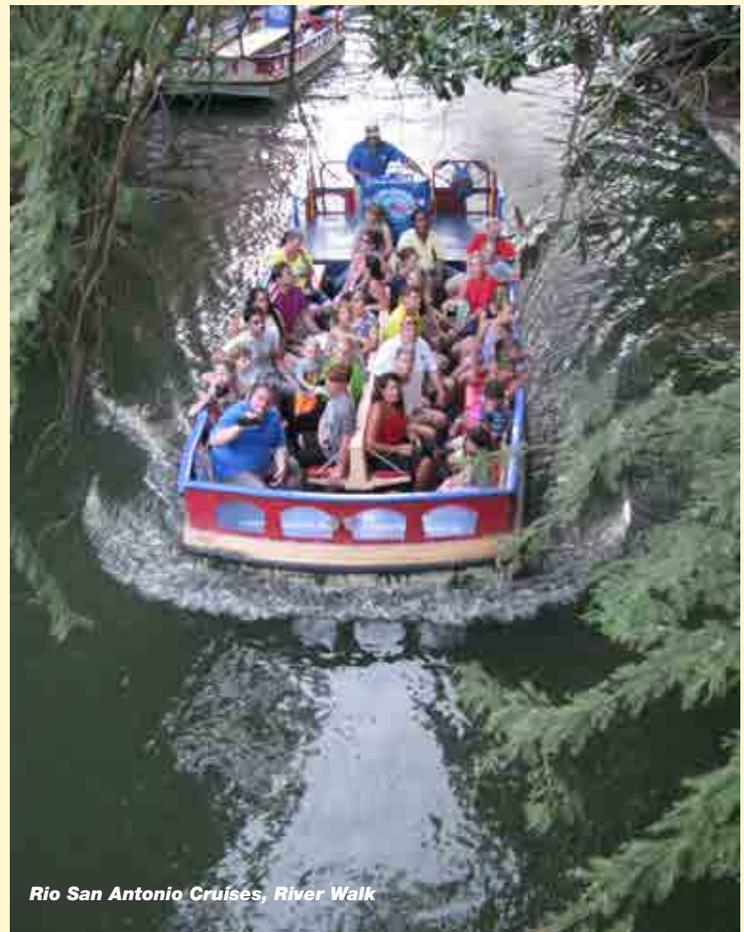


Mariachi Band, River Walk

Delve even further into the city's natural and cultural heritage with a stroll through the picturesque Paseo Del Rio (the San Antonio River Walk). The renowned downtown River Walk is full of restaurants, shops, and bars, with many built of native stone. The beautiful San Antonio river flows through winding pathways lined with Cypress trees and lush tropical foliage.



The Alamo, San Antonio



Rio San Antonio Cruises, River Walk



Rio San Antonio Cruises, River Walk

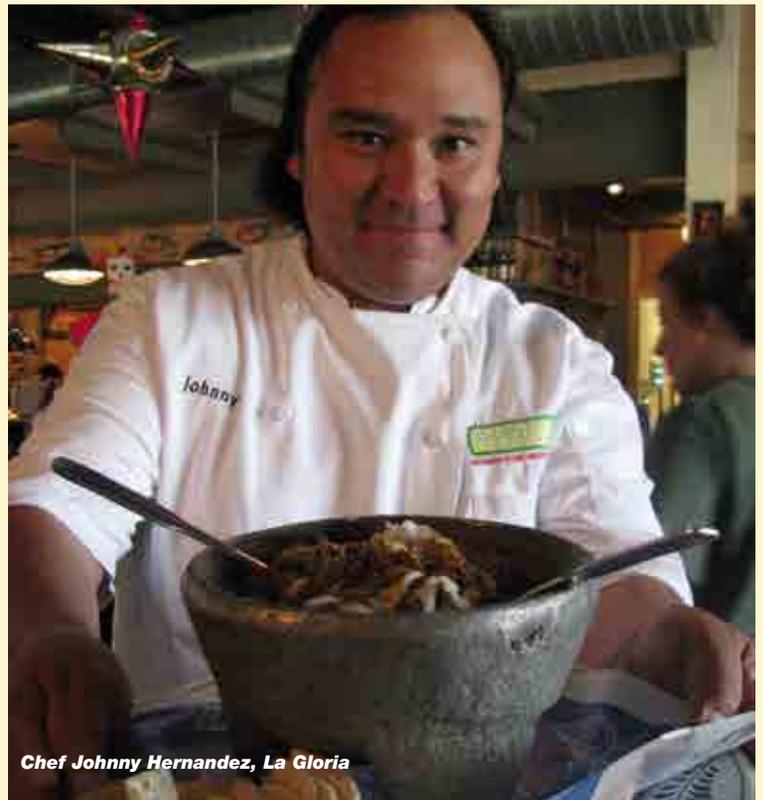
Board a boat which glides underneath a canopies of trees and under stone-arched bridges, and as you do, you are sure to hear the sweet melody of strolling Mariachi bands serenading bystanders with their lively rhythms and harmonies. A great way to experience the River Walk is by taking a 35-minute, narrated boat ride tour offered by Rio San Antonio Cruises (which run from morning till night).

For an unforgettable experience, hop aboard one of the candlelit dinner cruises available for a relaxing evening on the river. Boudro's, a New American bistro with wood-grilled steaks and seafood, serves up awesome fare, and the ride begins with bowls of the mouthwatering guacamole made with roasted tomatoes, fresh lime and orange juice. Sipping a refreshing signature Prickly Pear Margarita is a must.

After that, it's only a few steps to a good night's rest at the Marriot River Walk, which is conveniently located near several attractions. As a matter of fact, the River Walk's pathways and a boarding stop for the river boats are right outside the hotel. (Tip:

Request a river view room with a balcony).

In the morning, head to Market Square (El Mercado), the largest Mexican market in America, one filled with a plethora of specialty shops, produce stands and restaurants. In the heart of this three-block long plaza is the legendary Mi Tierra Restaurant and Bakery, a world famous landmark located in Market Square. The Cortez family has been serving scrumptious Tex Mex and authentic



Chef Johnny Hernandez, La Gloria

Mexican dishes since 1941 when it started with only three small tables; today there's seating for more than 500. As musicians visit diners, Mi Tierra and its colorful décor of Christmas lights and pinatas, is the place for a spectacular feast.

Be sure to check out the inspiring grand artistic addition to this longtime establishment: a massive mural of Mexican Americans entitled "The American Dream". This Spanish heritage masterpiece is the work of five artists, including local favorite Roberto Ituarte, and took more than two decades to complete. Ask your waiter to show you how to see the mural in 3-D, a special technique Ituarte used to make it seemingly come to life.

For an innovative yet deeply rooted traditional culinary experience, tempt your taste buds at La Gloria (The Heaven)



Ceviches Y Cocteles, La Gloria

located on the historic Pearl Brewery Complex. San Antonio's famed Chef Johnny Hernandez offers unique, authentic street foods of Mexico like Tacos al Pastor of Mexico City to Cocteles de Mariscos from Veracruz. Hernandez takes authenticity to heart, and it shows, right down to the kitchen tools he uses to create his dishes.

Just fifteen minutes away from all of this vibrancy is the breathtaking Texas Hill Country, a perfect setting to unwind and have fun amid seemingly painted vistas. The San Antonio Hill Country is



Boudro's Dinner Cruise, Prickly Pear Margarita

dotted with grand resorts offering guests both the best in luxury and entertainment; each has its own unique architecture and grand water features.

La Cantera Hill Country Resort, part of the Destination Hotels collection, sits on 550 picturesque acres. This estate boasts four pools (with poolside attendants), 10 luxury cabanas, and a bar that overlooks the scenic hills; plus, there's a kids' pool with a pair of slides of which they'll never tire.

La Cantera also offers two world-class golf courses, including



JW Marriott Hill Country Resort and Spa

one designed by Arnold Palmer, and lessons are available from PGA professionals. For the young set, there's endless fun at the resort's Kids Club; and in the evening, the entire family can roast marshmallows and then watch Six Flags Fiesta Texas fireworks show.

This resort boasts nine distinctive dining and beverage options, ranging from casual to gourmet, and all have a southwestern flair. At Primero Cantina, Chef Zachary Garza uses his grandmother's recipes and the flavors of Mexico (and Texas) in his creations. Be sure to try the Mixto Ceviche, Tacos Al Pastor, and their Carne Asada with house-made corn cakes and goat cheese, then finish it off with Sweet Tamales topped with hibiscus cream, corn nuts and fresh mint.

A special culinary feature: a charcuterie with delectable smoked meats and gourmet cheeses at Bocado. If that's not enough, there's an inventive and savory menu at Sweet Fire Kitchen including the unique deviled eggs and classic wood fired pizzas.



Six Flags Texas

Six Flags Fiesta Texas is only one minute away from La Cantera Resort, and this theme park has dozens of thrill rides including the new 4-D free-fly Batman coaster, Bugs White Water Rapids, and Scooby Doo Ghost Blasters. Younger kids can venture to the water park and Kidzopolis plus take photos with numerous Looney Tunes and DC Comics' characters.

Twenty miles away, in the community of Cibolo Canyons, is the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort and Spa. The resort's six-acre River Bluff Water Experience is reason enough to check into this estate; this massive water feature has a 650-foot river ride, water slides, plus a 1,100-foot lazy river.

Want something special out of the water? Head to a pair of 18-hole PGA tour golf courses, walk or bike a five-mile trail thru rolling green



La Cantera Hill Country Resort

hills, or take their "Nightlife" nature walking guided tour. After dark, you can stargaze with a resort astronomer or enjoy s'mores at your own campfire.

Leave your worries behind and renew yourself at the J. W.



La Cantera, SweetFire Kitchen, Filet Mignon

Marriott's state-of-the-art, 26,000 square-foot full-service Latina Spa. This spa has a beautiful private pool, fitness center, café and boutique, and indigenous plants and herbs are used to pass on the healing traditions from the Curanderos (village healers) who lived more than 500 years ago.

Hungry or thirsty? There are seven restaurant and lounge options including Cibolo Moon which serves mouthwatering regional Hill Country cuisine with Mexican influences. J.W. Marriott also has a supervised kids' recreational program at the Range Rider Kid's Club where on some nights, children even make their own ice cream. Don't be surprised if your little one doesn't want to leave.

For more information go to visitsanantonio.com, LaCanteraResort.com and jwsanantonio.com.



La Cantera Hill Country Resort



Technology

NEW PASSWORD REQUIRED

User: My usual password is not working suddenly, why?

Website chat assistant: Your password has expired - you must register a new one.

User: Why do I need a new one as that one was working fine?

Website: you must get a new one as they automatically expire every 30 days.

User: Can I use the old one and just re-register it?

Website: No, you must get a new one.

User: I don't want a new one as that is one more thing for me to remember.

Website: Sorry, you must get a new one.

User: ok, roses

Website: Sorry you must use more letters.

User: pretty roses

Website: you must use at least one number.

User : 1 pretty rose

Website: you cannot use blank spaces.

User: 1prettyrose

Website : you must use additional letters.

User : 1damnprettyrose

Website: you must use at least one capital letter.

User: 1DAMNprettyrose

Website: you cannot use more than one capital letter in a row.

User: 1DamnPrettyRose

Website: you must use additional letters.

User: 1DamnPrettyRoseShovedUpYourButtIfYouDon'tGiveMeAccessRightNow

Website: Sorry, that password is already being used.

Pint of Less

A drunken guy walks into a bar and approaches the bartender, "Can I have a pint of Less, please?" "I'm sorry sir," the barman replies, looking slightly puzzled, "I've not come across that one before. Is it a spirit?" "I've no idea," replies the guy, "The thing is, I went to see my doctor last week and he told me that I should drink less."

HMO

Two doctors and an HMO manager died and lined up at the pearly gates for admission to heaven. St. Peter asked them to identify themselves. One doctor stepped forward and said: "I was a pediatric spine surgeon and helped kids overcome their deformities." St. Peter said, "You can enter." The second doctor said "I was a psychiatrist. I helped people rehabilitate themselves." St. Peter also invited him in. The third applicant stepped forward and said, "I was an HMO manager. I helped people get cost-effective health care." St. Peter said, "You can come in too." But as the HMO manager walked by, St. Peter added, "You can stay three days. After that, you can go to hell!"

Government Agencies

150 years ago, President Lincoln found it necessary to hire a private investigator, Alan Pinkerton, for protection. That was the beginning of the Secret Service. Since that time, the federal government has produced a large number of multi-letter agencies such as: FBI, CIA, INS, IRS, DEA, BATF, etc. Now we have the 'Federal Air Transportation Airport Security Service.' Can't you see them now, these 'highly trained' men and women in their black outfits with jackets saying across their backs: FATASS. The FATASS's are of course supervised by a special section of the Home Land Security Section known as Airport Security Service Home Office Logistics Enhancement Section or the ASSHOLES - I feel safer already, don't you?

Because I'm a Man

Because I'm a man, when I lock my keys in the car, I will fiddle with a coat hanger long after hypothermia has set in. Calling the AAA is not an option. I will win. Because I'm a man, when the car isn't running very well, I will pop the hood and stare at the engine as if I know what I'm looking at. If another man shows up, one of us will say to the other, "I used to be able to fix these things, but now with all these computers and everything, I wouldn't know where to start." We will then drink a couple of beers, as a form of bonding. Because I'm a man, when I catch a cold, I need someone to bring me soup and take care of me while I lie in bed and moan. You're a woman. You never get as sick as I do, so for you, this is no problem. Because I'm a man, I can be relied upon to purchase basic groceries at the store, like milk or bread. I cannot be expected to find exotic items

like "cumin" or "tofu." For all I know, these are the same thing. Because I'm a man, when one of our appliances stops working, I will insist on taking it apart, despite evidence that this will just cost me twice as much once the repair person gets here and has to put it back together. Because I'm a man, I must hold the television remote control in my hand while I watch TV. If the thing has been misplaced, I may miss a whole program looking for it...though one time I was able to survive by holding a calculator...(applies to engineers mainly). Because I'm a man, there is no need to ask me what I'm thinking about. The true answer is always either sex, hunting, sex, cars, sex, tractors, sex, fishing, sex, sports or sex. I have to make up something else when you ask, so don't ask. Because I'm a man, I do not want to visit your mother, or have your mother come visit us, or talk to her when she calls, or think about her any more than I have to. Whatever you got her for Mother's Day is okay; I don't need to see it. And don't forget to pick up something for my mother, too. Because I'm a man, you don't have to ask me if I liked the film. Chances are, if you're crying at the end of it, I didn't...and if you are feeling amorous afterwards...then I will certainly at least remember the name and recommend it to others. Because I'm a man, I think what you're wearing is fine. I thought what you were wearing five minutes ago was fine, too. Either pair of shoes is fine. With the belt or without it, looks fine. Your hair is fine. You look fine. Can we just go now? Because I'm a man, and this is, after all, the year 2014, I will share equally in the housework. You just do the laundry, the cooking, the cleaning, the vacuuming, and the dishes, and I'll do the rest.... like wandering around in the garden with a beer, wondering what to do.



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Contact Colleen Ley @ 412-741-2375 x1256 or cley@verland.org



Humor

Three things in life that, once gone, never come back:

1. Time
2. Words
3. Opportunity

Three things in life that can destroy a person:

1. Anger
2. Pride
3. Un-forgiveness

Three things in life that you should never lose:

1. Hope
2. Peace
3. Honesty

Three things in life that are most valuable:

1. Love
2. Family & Friends
3. Kindness

Three things in life that are never certain:

1. Fortune
2. Success
3. Dreams

Three things that make a person:

1. Commitment
2. Sincerity
3. Hard work

You Know You Grew Up In the 80's if:

1. You've ever ended a sentence with the word SIKE.
2. You can sing the rap to the Fresh Prince of Bel-Air and can do the Carlton
3. You know that 'WOAH' comes from Joey on Blossom
4. If you ever watched 'Fraggle Rock'
5. It was actually worth getting up early on a Saturday to watch cartoons.
6. You wore a ponytail on the side of your head.
7. You got super-excited when it was Oregon Trail day in computer class at school.
8. You made your mom buy one of those clips that would hold

your shirt in a knot on the side.

9. You played the game 'MASH'(Mansion, Apartment, Shelter, House)
10. You wore stonewashed Jordache jean jackets and were proud of it.
11. You know the profound meaning of ' WAX ON , WAX OFF'
12. You wanted to be a Goonie.
13. You ever wore fluorescent clothing. (some of us...head-to-toe)
14. You can remember what Michael Jackson looked like before his nose fell off and his cheeks shifted.
15. You have ever pondered why Smurfette was the only female Smurf.
16. You took lunch boxes to school...and traded Garbage Pail Kids in the schoolyard.
17. You remember the CRAZE, then the BANNING of slap bracelets.
18. You still get the urge to say 'NOT' after every sentence.
19. You thought your childhood friends would never leave because you exchanged handmade friendship bracelets.
21. You ever owned a pair of Jelly-Shoes.
22. After you saw Pee-Wee's Big Adventure you kept saying 'I know you are, but what am I?'
23. You remember 'I've fallen and I can't get up'
24. You remember going to the skating rink before there were inline skates.
25. You have ever played with a Skip-It.
26. You remember boom boxes and walking around with one on your shoulder like you were all that.
27. You remember watching both Gremlins movies.



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28. You thought Doogie Howser/Samantha Micelli was hot.
29. You remember Alf, the lil furry brown alien from Melmac.
30. You remember New Kids on the Block when they were cool... and don't even flinch when people refer to them as 'NKOTB'
31. You knew all the characters names and their life stories on 'Saved By The Bell,' The ORIGINAL class.
32. You know all the words to Bon Jovi - SHOT THROUGH THE HEART.
33. You just sang those words to yourself.
34. You still sing 'We are the World'
35. You tight rolled your jeans.
36. You owned a banana clip.
37. You remember 'Where's the Beef?'
38. You used to (and probably still do) say 'What you talkin' 'bout Willis?'
39. You're still singing shot through the heart in your head, aren't you!

Job opening

The FBI had an opening for an assassin. After all the background checks, interviews and testing were done, there were 3 finalists; two men and a woman. For the final test, the FBI agents took one of the men to a large metal door and handed him a gun. "We must know that you will follow your instructions no matter what the circumstances. Inside the room you will find your wife sitting in a chair . . . Kill her!!" The man said, "You can't be serious. I could never shoot my wife." The agent said, "Then you're not the right man for this job. Take your wife and go home." The second man was given the same instructions. He took the gun and went into the room. All was quiet for about 5 minutes. The man came out with tears in his

eyes, "I tried, but I can't kill my wife." The agent said, "You don't have what it takes. Take your wife and go home." "Finally, it was the woman's turn. She was given the same instructions, to kill her husband. She took the gun and went into the room. Shots were heard, one after another. There was screaming, crashing, banging on the walls. After a few minutes, all was quiet. The door opened slowly and there stood the woman, wiping the sweat from her brow. "This gun is loaded with blanks" she said. "I had to beat him to death with the chair." MORAL: Women are crazy. Don't mess with them.

Differences

Three women: One engaged one married and one a mistress are chatting about their relationships and decided to amaze their men. That night all three will wear black leather bras, stiletto heels and a mask over their eyes. After a few days they meet up for lunch. The engaged woman: The other night when my boyfriend came over he found me with a black leather bodice, tall stilettos and a mask. He saw me and said, "You are the woman of my life. I love you." Then we made love all night long. The mistress: Me too! The other night I met my lover at his office and I was wearing the leather bodice, heels, mask over my eyes and a raincoat. When I opened the raincoat he didn't say a word, but we had wild sex all night. The married woman: I sent the kids to stay at my mother's house for the night. When my husband came home, I was wearing the leather bodice, black stockings, stilettos and a mask over my eyes. As soon as he came in the door and saw me he said, "What's for dinner, Batman?"



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Never Make Your Wife Angry

A wife came home just in time to find her husband in bed with another woman. With super-human strength borne of fury, she dragged him down the stairs, out the back door, and into the tool shed in the back yard and put his 'manhood' in a vice. She secured it tightly and removed the handle. Next she picked up a hack saw. The husband was terrified, and screamed, Stop! Stop! You're not going to cut it off, are you? 'The wife, with a gleam of revenge in her eye, put the saw in her husband's hand and said, 'Nope. I'm going to set the shed on fire.....You do whatever you have to.

Grandpa's on the Porch Again

A grandson noticed his grandfather sitting on the porch, in the rocking chair, wearing only a shirt, with nothing on from the waist down. "Grandpa, what are you doing? Your weenie is out in the wind for everyone to see!". The old man looked off in the distance without answering. "Grandpa, what are you doing sitting out here with nothing on below the waist?" he asked again. The old man slowly looked at him and said "Well...last week I sat out here with no shirt on, and I got a stiff neck. This is your grandma's idea."

Pittsburgher and a Redneck

Bob, a construction worker from Pittsburgh was working in West Virginia. When lunchtime rolled around, he opens his lunch box and takes out his thermos – Bubba is sitting next to him and asks... what is that? Bob says, it's a thermos. What does it do, asks Bubba? Bob explains that it keeps hot things hot and cold things cold. He pours Bubba a cup of hot steaming coffee, Bubba is amazed as he tells Bob that he has to get himself one of those. So.. next day, sure enough Bob is sitting next to Bubba again having lunch... Bubba pulls out his brand new plaid thermos, Bob asks.. hey, Bubba, what's you got in your thermos? Bubba replies, chicken soup and a popsicle!

Viagra and an 85 Year Old

An 85 year old man goes into the pharmacy to get his prescription of Viagra filled. He asks the pharmacist if he could cut the pills in fourths. The pharmacist replies, sure sir, however it would get you an erection with only a ¼ of a pill. The man replies, at 85, I don't need an erection, I just want it up enough so that I don't pee on my shoes!

The Salesman

A little old lady answered a knock on the door one day, only to be confronted by a well-dressed young man carrying a vacuum cleaner. "Good morning," Said the young man. "If I could take a couple minutes of your time, I would like to demonstrate the very latest in high-powered vacuum cleaners." "Go Away!" said the old lady. "I haven't got any money." And she tried to close the door. Quick as a flash, the young man wedged his foot in the door and pushed it wide open. "Don't be too hasty!" he said. "Not until you have at least seen my demonstration." And with that, he emptied a bucket of horse manure all over her hallway carpet. "If this vacuum cleaner does not remove all traces of this horse manure from your carpet, Madam, I will personally eat the remainder." "Well," she said, "I hope you've got a good appetite, because the electricity was cut off this morning."



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Browsing Old Cemeteries

Harry Edsel Smith of Albany , New York :
Born 1903--Died 1942.

Looked up the elevator shaft to see if the
car was on the way down. It was.

In a Thurmont, Maryland, cemetery:

Here lies an Atheist, all dressed up and no
place to go.

In a London, England cemetery:

Here lies Ann Mann, Who lived an old maid
but died an old Mann. Dec. 8, 1767

In a Ribbesford, England , cemetery:

Anna Wallace

The children of Israel wanted bread, And
the Lord sent them manna. Clark Wallace
wanted a wife, And the Devil sent him Anna.

In a Ruidoso, New Mexico , cemetery:

Here lies Johnny Yeast... Pardon me
for not rising.

In a Uniontown, Pennsylvania , cemetery:

Here lies the body of Jonathan Blake.
Stepped on the gas instead of the brake.

In a Silver City, Nevada , cemetery:

Here lays The Kid.

We planted him raw.

He was quick on the trigger

But slow on the draw.

A lawyer's epitaph in England :

Sir John Strange.

Here lies an honest lawyer,

and that is Strange.

John Penny's epitaph in the Wimborne,
England, cemetery:

Reader, if cash thou art in want of any,

Dig 6 feet deep and thou wilt find a Penny.

In a cemetery in Hartscombe , England :

On the 22nd of June, Jonathan Fiddle went
out of tune.

On a grave from the 1880s in Nantucket ,
Massachusetts :

Under the sod and under the trees,
Lies the body of Jonathan Pease.

He is not here, there's only the pod.

Pease shelled out and went to God.



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In a cemetery in England :
 Remember man, as you walk by,
 As you are now, so once was I
 As I am now, so shall you be.
 Remember this and follow me.
 To which someone replied by writing
 on the tombstone:
 To follow you I'll not consent .
 Until I know which way you went.

UNBELIEVABLE MATH PROBLEM

Here is a math trick so unbelievable that it will stump you. Personally I would like to know who came up with this and why that person is not running the country. Grab a calculator. (You won't be able to do this one in your Head)

1. Key in the first three digits of your phone number (NOT the Area code...)
 2. Multiply by 80
 3. Add 1
 4. Multiply by 250
 5. Add the last 4 digits of your phone number
 6. Add the last 4 digits of your phone number again.
 7. Subtract 250
 8. Divide number by 2
- Do you recognize the answer??

Used Cars & Old Ladies

It was a small town and the patrolman was making his evening rounds. As he was checking a used car lot, he came upon two little old ladies sitting in a used car. He stopped and asked them

why they were sitting there in the car. Were they trying to steal it? 'Heavens no, we bought it.' 'Then why don't you drive it away?' 'We can't drive.' 'Then why did you buy it?' 'We were told that if we bought a used car here we'd get screwed ... so we're just waiting.'

Thinking of Having Kids? Do this 11 step program first!

Lesson 1

1. Go to the grocery store.
2. Arrange to have your salary paid directly to their head office.
3. Go home.
4. Pick up the paper.
5. Read it for the last time.

Lesson 2

Before you finally go ahead and have children, find a couple who already are parents and berate them about their...

1. Methods of discipline.
2. Lack of patience.
3. Appallingly low tolerance levels.
4. Allowing their children to run wild.
5. Suggest ways in which they might improve their child's breastfeeding, sleep habits, toilet training, table manners, and overall behavior.

Enjoy it because it will be the last time in your life you will have all the answers.

Lesson 3

A really good way to discover how the nights might feel...

1. Get home from work and immediately begin walking around the living room from 5PM to 10PM carrying a wet bag weighing



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Why not get Mom one of our “sweets” for Mother’s Day?



My name is Cupid and I'm a 13 year old male who was brought into the shelter when my owners could no longer afford to care for me. I'm a very sweet boy who enjoys following you around and being petted. I love to play with toy mice and laying in the sun. I love other cats and children of any age.

My name is Chloe and I'm an eleven year old Border Collie/Beagle mix. I'm a very sweet girl and I love to cuddle! I would be great in a home with all other animals and children as well!

My name is Dixie and I'm a 5 year old Treeing Walker Coonhound. I'm a little on the plus side, so I need a human who will help me exercise my winter weight off! I would do best in a home with other dogs and children over the age of 10 years.

My name is Mindy and I'm a 6 year old Labrador Retriever/Hound mix. I'm a very friendly girl and I love to walk with the humans! I also love animals so I would be great in a home with other dogs!

My name is Oakley and I'm a 3 year old long hair tabby cat. I'm a very affectionate girl and I love to have all of the attention on me! I would be great in a home with other cats and children of all ages. I've never been around dogs so I'm not sure how I'd react.



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approximately 8-12 pounds, with a radio turned to static (or some other obnoxious sound) playing loudly. (Eat cold food with one hand for dinner)

2. At 10PM, put the bag gently down, set the alarm for midnight, and go to sleep.
 3. Get up at 12 and walk around the living room again, with the bag, until 1AM.
 4. Set the alarm for 3AM.
 5. As you can't get back to sleep, get up at 2AM and make a drink and watch an infomercial.
 6. Go to bed at 2:45AM.
 7. Get up at 3AM when the alarm goes off.
 8. Sing songs quietly in the dark until 4AM.
 9. Get up. Make breakfast. Get ready for work and go to work (work hard and be productive)
- Repeat steps 1-9 each night. Keep this up for 3-5 years. Look cheerful and together.

Lesson 4

Can you stand the mess children make? To find out...

1. Smear peanut butter onto the sofa and jam onto the curtains.
 2. Hide a piece of raw chicken behind the stereo and leave it there all summer.
 3. Stick your fingers in the flower bed.
 4. Then rub them on the clean walls.
 5. Take your favorite book, photo album, etc. Wreck it.
 6. Spill milk on your new pillows. Cover the stains with crayons.
- How does that look?

Lesson 5

Dressing small children is not as easy as it seems.

1. Buy an octopus and a small bag made out of loose mesh.
2. Attempt to put the octopus into the bag so that none of the arms hang out.

Time allowed for this - all morning.

Lesson 6

Forget the BMW and buy a mini-van. And don't think that you can leave it out in the driveway spotless and shining. Family cars don't look like that.

1. Buy a chocolate ice cream cone and put it in the glove compartment. Leave it there.
2. Get a dime. Stick it in the CD player.
3. Take a family size package of chocolate cookies. Mash them into the back seat. Sprinkle cheerios all over the floor, then smash them with your foot.
4. Run a garden rake along both sides of the car.

Lesson 7

Go to the local grocery store. Take with you the closest thing you can find to a pre-school child. (A full-grown goat is an excellent choice). If you intend to have more than one child, then definitely take more than one goat. Buy your week's groceries without letting the goats out of your sight. Pay for everything the goat eats or destroys. Until you can easily accomplish this, do not even contemplate having children.

Lesson 8

1. Hollow out a melon.
2. Make a small hole in the side.
3. Suspend it from the ceiling and swing it from side to side.
4. Now get a bowl of soggy Cheerios and attempt to spoon them

- into the swaying melon by pretending to be an airplane.
 5. Continue until half the Cheerios are gone.
 6. Tip half into your lap. The other half, just throw up in the air.
 You are now ready to feed a nine- month-old baby.

Lesson 9

Learn the names of every character from Sesame Street , Barney, Disney, or Moose & Zee! Watch nothing else on TV but PBS, the Disney channel or Nick Jr. for at least five years. (I know, you're thinking what's "Nick Jr.? Exactly the point.

Lesson 10

Make a recording of Stewie from Family Guy saying 'mum' 'mum' 'mummy' repeatedly. (Important: no more than a four second delay between each 'mum' 'mum' 'mummy'; occasional crescendo to the level of a supersonic jet is required). Play this tape in your car everywhere you go for the next four years. You are now ready to take a long trip with a toddler.

Lesson 11

Start talking to an adult of your choice. Have someone else continually tug on your skirt hem, shirt- sleeve, or elbow while playing the 'mommy' tape made from Lesson 10 above. You are Now ready to have a conversation with an adult while there is a child in the room. This is all very tongue in cheek; anyone who is parent will say 'it's all worth it!' Share it with your friends, both those who do and don't have kids. I guarantee they'll get a chuckle out of it. Remember, a sense of humor is one of the most important things you'll need when you become a parent!

*To all the Mother's Out There..
 HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY*

Answers given by 2nd grade school children to the following questions:

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.
3. God made my Mom just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.



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Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me.

What kind of little girl was your mom?

1. My Mom has always been my mom and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

What did mom need to know about dad before she married him?

1. His last name.
2. She had to know his background. Like is he a crook? Does he get drunk on beer?
3. Does he make at least \$800 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

Why did your mom marry your dad?

1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my Mom eats a lot.
2. She got too old to do anything else with him.
3. My grandma says that Mom didn't have her thinking cap on.

Who's the boss at your house?

1. Mom doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because dad's such a goof ball.

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2. Mom. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
3. I guess Mom is, but only because she has a lot more to do than dad.

What's the difference between moms & dads?

1. Moms work at work and work at home and dads just go to work at work.
2. Moms know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.
3. Dads are taller & stronger, but moms have all the real power cause that's who you got to ask if you want to sleep over at your friend's.
4. Moms have magic, they make you feel better without medicine.

What does your mom do in her spare time?

1. Mothers don't do spare time.
2. To hear her tell it, she pays bills all day long.

What would it take to make your mom perfect?

1. On the inside, she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
2. Dye it. You know, her hair. I'd dye it, maybe blue.

If you could change one thing about your mom, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I'd make my mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me.
3. I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.

QUOTES FOR MOTHER'S DAY....

A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie. ~Tenneva Jordan

Hundreds of dewdrops to greet the dawn,
Hundreds of bees in the purple clover,
Hundreds of butterflies on the lawn,
But only one mother the wide world over.
~George Cooper

Being a full-time mother is one of the highest salaried jobs... since the payment is pure love. ~Mildred B. Vermont

The sweetest sounds to mortals given
Are heard in Mother, Home, and Heaven.
~William Goldsmith Brown

If you have a mom, there is nowhere you are likely to go where a prayer has not already been. ~Robert Brault, rbrault.blogspot.com

A suburban mother's role is to deliver children obstetrically once, and by car forever after. ~Peter De Vries

If the whole world were put into one scale, and my mother in the other, the whole world would kick the beam. ~Lord Langdale (Henry Bickersteth)

Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever. ~Author Unknown

The moment a child is born, the mother is also born. She never existed before. The woman existed, but the mother, never. A mother is something absolutely new. ~Rajneesh

All mothers are working mothers. ~Author Unknown

When you are a mother, you are never really alone in your thoughts. A mother always has to think twice, once for herself and once for her child. ~Sophia Loren, Women and Beauty

Mother love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible. ~Marion C. Garretty, quoted in A Little Spoonful of Chicken Soup for the Mother's Soul

Mother — that was the bank where we deposited all our hurts and worries. ~T. DeWitt Talmage

A mother is a mother still,
The holiest thing alive.
~Samuel Taylor Coleridge

The real religion of the world comes from women much more than from men — from mothers most of all, who carry the key of our souls in their bosoms. ~Oliver Wendell Holmes

God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers. ~Jewish Proverb

A mother understands what a child does not say. ~Author Unknown

I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life. ~Abraham Lincoln

It would seem that something which means poverty, disorder and violence every single day should be avoided entirely, but the desire to beget children is a natural urge. ~Phyllis Diller

Woman in the home has not yet lost her dignity, in spite of Mother's Day, with its offensive implication that our love needs an annual nudging, like our enthusiasm for the battle of Bunker Hill. ~John Erskine

Women's Liberation is just a lot of foolishness. It's the men who are discriminated against. They can't bear children. And no one's likely to do anything about that. ~Golda Meir

A man loves his sweetheart the most, his wife the best, but his mother the longest. ~Irish Proverb

Before I got married I had six theories about bringing up children; now I have six children, and no theories. ~John Wilmot

You don't really understand human nature unless you know why a child on a merry-go-round will wave at his parents every time around — and why his parents will always wave back. ~William D. Tammeus

Mother, the ribbons of your love are woven around my heart. ~Author Unknown

Now that... my kids are grown, I understand how much work and love it takes to raise and to keep a family together. The example of your strength, devotion, and patience is now rippling through the generations. Thank you! ~Forest Houtenschil

Biology is the least of what makes someone a mother. ~Oprah Winfrey

Motherhood is priced
Of God, at price no man may dare
To lessen or misunderstand.
~Helen Hunt Jackson

A mom's hug lasts long after she lets go.
~Author Unknown

Are we not like two volumes of one book?
~Marceline Desbordes-Valmore

It kills you to see them grow up. But I guess it would kill you quicker if they didn't. ~Barbara Kingsolver, Animal Dreams

Who fed me from her gentle breast
And hushed me in her arms to rest,
And on my cheek sweet kisses prest?
My Mother.
~Ann Taylor

Who ran to help me when I fell,
And would some pretty story tell,
Or kiss the place to make it well?
My mother.
~Ann Taylor

A mother's heart is a patchwork of love.
~Author Unknown

On Mother's Day I have written a poem for you. In the interest of poetic economy and truth, I have succeeded in concentrating my deepest feelings and beliefs into two perfectly crafted lines:
You're my mother,
I would have no other!
~Forest Houtenschil

Mom, when thoughts of you are in our hearts, we are never far from home. ~Author Unknown

Children are a great comfort in your old age — and they help you reach it faster, too.
~Lionel Kauffman

Mother is the name for God in the lips and hearts of little children. ~William Makepeace Thackeray

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A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine desert us; when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts. ~Washington Irving

This heart, my own dear mother, bends,
With love's true instinct, back to thee!
~Thomas Moore

Insanity is hereditary; you get it from your children. ~Sam Levenson

The one thing children wear out faster than shoes is parents. ~John J. Plomp

Most mothers are instinctive philosophers. ~Harriet Beecher Stowe

Before a day was over,
Home comes the rover,
For mother's kiss — sweeter this
Than any other thing!
~William Allingham

I don't care how poor a man is; if he has family, he's rich. ~Dan Wilcox and Thad Mumford, M*A*S*H, "Identity Crisis,"

Oh, the comfort, the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person, having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but pouring them all out, just as they are, chaff and grain together, certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and with a breath of kindness blow the rest away. ~Dinah Craik

Where we love is home — home that our feet may leave, but not our hearts. ~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

In everyone's life, at some time, our inner fire goes out. It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being. We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit. ~Albert Schweitzer

Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom. ~Marcel Proust

If I had a single flower for every time I think of you, I could walk forever in my garden. ~Claudia Adrienne Grandi

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A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother.
~Author Unknown

Sweater, n.: garment worn by child when its mother is feeling chilly.
~Ambrose Bierce

All women become like their mothers. That is their tragedy. No man does. That's his. ~Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, 1895

Mothers are fonder than fathers of their children because they are more certain they are their own. ~Aristotle

A man's work is from sun to sun, but a mother's work is never done. ~Author Unknown

Making the decision to have a child is momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body.
~Elizabeth Stone

Parents often talk about the younger generation as if they didn't have anything to do with it. ~Haim Ginott

Sing out loud in the car even, or especially, if it embarrasses your children. ~Marilyn Penland

Each day of our lives we make deposits in the memory banks of our children. ~Charles R. Swindoll, *The Strong Family*

There is only one pretty child in the world, and every mother has it.
~Chinese Proverb

Never raise your hand to your kids. It leaves your groin unprotected.
~Red Buttons

If nature had arranged that husbands and wives should have children alternatively, there would never be more than three in a family.
~Lawrence Housman

Setting a good example for your children takes all the fun out of middle age. ~William Feather, *The Business of Life*, 1949



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How Much is Two Plus Two?

An engineer, a physicist and a lawyer were being interviewed for a position as chief executive officer of a large corporation. The engineer was interviewed first, and was asked a long list of questions, ending with "How much is two plus two?" The engineer excused himself and made a series of measurements and calculations before returning to the boardroom and announcing, "Four." The physicist was next interviewed and was asked the same questions. Again the last question was, "How much is two plus two?" Before answering the last question, he excused himself, made for the library, and did a great deal of research. After a consultation with the United States Bureau of Standards and many calculations, he also announced "Four." The lawyer was interviewed last, and again the final question was, "How much is two plus two?" The lawyer drew all the shades in the room, looked outside to see if anyone was there, checked the telephone for listening devices, and finally whispered, "How much do you want it to be?"

Statues in the Park

There are these two nude statues, one of a man and the other of a woman, standing across from each other in a secluded park. A few hundred years after they've been put in place, an angel flutters down to them. A wave of his hand, and suddenly the statues come to life and the man and the woman step down from their pedestals. The angel says, "I have been sent to grant the mutual request you both have made after hundreds of years of standing across from each

other, unable to move. But be quick – you only have fifteen minutes until you must become statues again." The man looks at the woman. They both flush and giggle, and then run off into some underbrush. The sound of great rustling comes from the bushes and seven minutes later they come back to the angel, obviously satisfied. The angel smiles at the couple. "That was only seven minutes – why not go back and do it again?" The former statues look at each other for a minute, and then the woman says, "Why not? But let's reverse it this time – you hold down the pigeon, and I'll poop on it."

Mothers and Motherhood

My friend Myron tells me, "Last year on Mother's Day the whole family got together for a big dinner and afterward, when Mom started to clean up, I said to her, "Don't bother with those dishes, Mom. Today is Mother's Day, you can always do them tomorrow."

Fun... by Jerry Seinfeld

Nothing in life is "fun for the whole family."

Bill Gates

When the brash young advertising executive arrived at a fancy restaurant for his lunch appointment, he spotted Bill Gates a corner table and went right over. "Excuse me for interrupting your meal, Mr. Gates," he began, "but I know how much you appreciate enterprise and initiative. I'm trying to win over a very important account today – it could really make or break my company – and the clients I'm

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meeting with would be incredibly impressed if you stopped by our table at some point and said "Hello Mike." It would be an incredible favor, Mr. Gates, and someday I'd make it up to you." "Okay, okay," grumbled Gates, and went back to his smoked pheasant. When he finished and was just about to leave, he remembered the young man's request. Obliging, he went over to his table, tapped him on the shoulder, and said, "Hi Mike." "Not now, Bill," interrupted the young man. "Can't you see I'm eating?"

30 Year Old Scotch

A guy rushes into a bar, orders four expensive thirty-year-old single malt scotch shots and has the bartender line them up in front of him. Then, without pausing, he downs each one. "Whew," the bartender remarks, "you seem to be in a hurry." "You would be, too, if you had what I have." "What do you have?" the bartender sympathetically asks. "Fifty cents."

Grandchildren

A wealthy old man looked around the table at his sons and daughters and their spouses gathered for a family reunion. "Not a single grandchild," he said with a sigh. "Why, I'll give a million dollars to the first kid who presents me with a little one to bounce on my knee. Now, let's say grace." When the old man lifted his eyes again, his wife was the only other person sitting at the table.

Shoe Salesman

Two shoe salespeople were dispatched to a remote African country. In just a few days, their employer received telegrams from each. One read: "Get me out of here - no one wears shoes." The other read: "Send more inventory - no one here owns shoes."

Executive Position

"How'd you get this big executive position?" asked the secretary. "You've only been here three months." The young man shrugged modestly and explained, "I ran into my father in the conference room one day and he took a liking to me."

German Shepherd

Little old lady to dog owner: "Is that your German Shepherd outside?" "Yeah, so what?" "Well my cat just killed it." "Ha, how could your cat kill my dog?" "It got stuck in his throat!"

Parking Dogs

The other day I saw two dogs walk over to a parking meter. One of the says to the other, "How do like that? Pay toilets!"

Movie Tickets

I was selling tickets at the movie house when I got a phone call. This woman said, "How much is a ticket?" I said, "Eight dollars." She said, "How much for children?" I said, "Same price, eight dollars." She said, "The airlines charge half fare for children." I said, "You come to the movie - put your kids on a plane."



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