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PROVIDENCE HONEY BEES
ARE THE LATEST BUZZ IN
HOLLYWOOD

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Bridging the Gap

Pacific Bridge Arts Looks To Offer Asian Musicians A Leg Up. **By Brett Callwood**



PROVIDENCE HONEY BEES ARE THE LATEST BUZZ IN HOLLYWOOD

BY MICHELE STUEVEN



Robin Jones left, and Tristan Aitchison (Michele Stueven)



Providence Honey (Michele Stueven)



span, pollinate and collect nectar within a 4-mile urban area that includes the fruit and flower-filled neighborhood of Hancock Park, with about 10 million surrounding flowers, shrubs and trees in their ecosystem. In fact, they don't even venture as far as the Hollywood Hills to the east.

"When you see a cluster of bees without a hive, it is in a heart-shaped form, which they recreate in these boxes as well," Jones explains. "They build from the bottom to the top, and as they fill the boxes, we divide the boxes by frames to make it easier for the beekeeper to check on their health and wellness, and see what they're bringing in and their nutrition and growth. The older bees are on the bottom because that's where the babies are. That's where the forager bees that you see in your garden come in carrying their nectar and bring it to the young blind bees, and they transfer it in a very tonguey process that looks like a French kiss."

The nectar gets transferred into the wax cell that is the honeycomb.

"Providence's rooftop-sourced honey has a floral flavor profile that is slightly less sweet than most," says Aitchison, who spearheaded the rooftop ecosystem. "We harvested 5 gallons in August and have used it in the reserve Tableside Japanese Penicillin cocktail and in its purest form as an accompaniment to post-dinner tea service." **LA**

Michael Cimarusti's Michelin-starred Providence, on a busy street in the heart of Hollywood, has always been the subject of praise and sustainability in culinary and environmental circles. But the latest buzz around the elegant seafood restaurant is the approximately 100,000 gentle honeybees that call the restaurant's urban rooftop garden home.

With the help of Robin Jones, garden designer and curator of Honey Girl Grows, Providence installed two Italian honeybee hives with re-hived locally removed colo-

nies, in April of this year. Unlike raising new populations, re-hiving an already existing honeybee colony that you might find in your loft, attic, garage or underground DWP meters doesn't pose any threat to available food for other pollinators. After re-hiving, Providence's colonies were requeened with docile Italian DNA from a queen bee breeder, to assure the genetics were less defensive.

"We pick specific breeds of queens that will lay eggs of bees that are docile with a less defensive DNA, so we've added friendly bees into the neighborhood," Jones tells

L.A. Weekly, as she and Chef de Cuisine Tristan Aitchison inspect the stacked boxes of bees.

"We take hives that have been rescued locally and bring them up here with other native species so that there's food for everybody, supporting the whole ecosystem," she says. It's all organic, the nectar is the carbohydrate that becomes honey and the pollen is the protein of the hive. The Providence honey is from the local neighborhood, and made from the plants and trees that grow near here."

The bees, which have a five-week life

OFFICIALS CONDEMN KANYE-INSPIRED ANTISEMITIC ACTS OCCURRING IN L.A.

L.A. officials have condemned a couple of antisemitic demonstrations that tapped Kanye West's comments about Jewish people as its influence.

BY ISAI ROCHA



BLITZ PICTURES/SHUTTERSTOCK

Los Angeles and state officials are speaking out after a group of demonstrators hung banners off a 405 freeway overpass, praising antisemitic comments made by entertainer Kanye West.

The banners read, “Honk if you know Kanye is right about the Jews,” referencing comments West made about the Jewish community during a “Drink Champs” podcast interview on Oct. 16.

With their faces covered, the demonstrators could be seen performing the Sieg Heil salute made popular in 1940s Germany under Adolf Hitler's rule.

On Monday, Los Angeles officials such as Mayor Eric Garcetti spoke out against the act and condemned antisemitism.

“Jewish Angelenos should always feel safe,” Garcetti, who has a Russian Jewish lineage, tweeted out Monday. “There is no place for discrimination or prejudice

in Los Angeles. And we will never back down from the fight to expose and eliminate it.”

The California Legislative Jewish Caucus also spoke out about West and the demonstrators Monday, going as far as calling out Adidas for not addressing the comments made by West, who is one of their biggest collaborators.

“Any company, including Adidas, that continues to do business with Kanye West is party to this attack on Jews,” California Sen. Scott Wiener and assemblymember Jesse Gabriel wrote in a joint statement. “It is morally indefensible to turn a blind eye to antisemitism and to put profits over the safety of Jews in others targeted by hate.”

The push for Adidas to part ways with West comes after departures from GAP, Balenciaga, Vogue Magazine and most recently his talent agency Creative Artists Agency (CAA).

On Monday morning, antisemitic flyers were found around Beverly Hills homes, with the city's Mayor Lili Bosse saying they were connected to the banner incident on the freeway.

“Disgusting hate speech. Jew Hatred. Vile, evil disgusting smut hanging from an overpass on the 405 freeway,” Bosse said in the tweet. “Same horrible organization that littered our streets with hate propaganda flyers. As a daughter of an Auschwitz survivor, I will always bear witness and speak out.”

West, who legally changed his name to Ye in 2021, went on the hip-hop based “Drink Champs” podcast in a three-hour episode that has since been taken down from all streaming platforms.

On multiple occasions, Ye spoke on his conspiratorial views of “Zionist Jews,” who he said control the entertainment industry, as well as saying he was going to “reveal Jewish business secrets.”

He later went on Twitter, posting “I'm a little sleepy tonight, but when I wake up I'm going death con 3 on Jewish people.”

That would be one of his last tweets before being locked out of his Twitter account by the social media platform.

According to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), there were 2,717 antisemitic incidents reported in the U.S. in 2021, a 34% increase over 2020 and the most all-time.

“This is an outrageous effort to fan the flames of antisemitism gripping the nation,” ADL of Los Angeles Regional Director Jeffrey Abrams said in a statement Sunday. “This group, known for espousing antisemitism and white supremacist ideology, is now leveraging Ye's antisemitism and is proof that hate breeds more hate.”

COUNCILMAN KEVIN DE LEÓN WILL NOT RESIGN

Councilmember Kevin de León spoke for the first time since the infamous leaked

city council recordings, saying he did not intend to resign.

In interviews with Noticias Univision, a Spanish-language news outlet, de León said he intended to repair his relationship with his constituents and said he should have stopped the group's conversation when it began to get inappropriate.

De León reiterated those points in a CBS2 interview, saying “I have to help heal” and “repair trust” with the community.

Speaking through a passive tone that passed blame to former council president Nury Martinez, Councilman Gil Cedillo and former L.A. Fed Union president Ron Herrera, de León said his own remarks from the leaked recording were “flippant.”

Within the hour-long leaked recording, de León could be heard engaging in conversations that pertained to Councilman Mike Bonin's adopted son, who is Black, jokes about his Oaxacan constituents, and redistricting conversations that sparked an investigation by the California Department of Justice and led the council to present measures to change its redistricting process on Tuesday.

“Kevin de León cannot be part of the healing as long as he refuses to resign,” Bonin said in response to de León's interviews. “His stubborn refusal to do what everyone else knows is necessary is deepening the wound he has inflicted on Los Angeles.”

FORMER UCLA GYNECOLOGIST CONVICTED OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Former UCLA obstetrician-gynecologist Dr. James Mason Heaps was convicted of five counts of sexual assault on his patients.

Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascón announced Heaps, 65, was found guilty of three counts of sexual battery by fraud and two counts of sexual penetration of an unconscious person.

“The trauma Dr. Heaps inflicted on the very people he had sworn to care for is immeasurable,” Gascón said. “I am committed to helping all victims of sexual assault – whether they were victimized by a doctor, school personnel or a Hollywood elite – and encourage them to contact my office's Bureau of Victim Services if they are in need of services.”

Heaps was indicted on 21 total counts, being acquitted of seven and the jury hung on another nine.

For more than 30 years, Heaps served as an oncologist-gynecologist for UCLA, with the lawsuit alleging the school concealed and did not address allegation of Heaps' sexual abuse.

The doctor will be sentenced on Nov. 17 at the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center in downtown Los Angeles, with Heaps facing up to 20 years in state prison. [E]

MUSIC

BRIDGING THE GAP

Pacific Bridge Arts looks to offer Asian musicians a leg up.

BY BRETT CALLWOOD



On Thursday, Nov. 2, at the Intercrew restaurant in Los Angeles in conjunction with the Pacific Bridge Arts Foundation, an event called A Night to Remember: A Celebration of Asian Americans in Music will take place. While it's a private event, it still promises to be a significant and important night for the students receiving scholarships on the night, as well as Asian American artists in general.

Kevin Nishimura is a cofounder of the Pacific Bridge Arts Foundation, which provides "a platform to support and celebrate Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in arts and culture" (according to their website). He's also a member of the pioneering electronic/hip-hop outfit, the Far East Movement. That group no longer performs, having switched to the business side of the industry, but they'll be hosting this event.

"The Far East Movement was really the beginning of our lives in the professional music industry," says Nishimura. "We started as a music group, doing electronic rap, representing Korea Town and Downtown L.A. We were signed to Interscope, and really had a learning experience in the music industry head on. As we started getting older and transitioning into more of the business role, we really wanted to reach out and create those channels to reach out. Pacific Bridge Arts was that perfect bridge where we could go back into the community and inspire students and young musicians that were looking at the music industry and seeing that it felt so far away. Pacific Bridge Arts was a way for us to bridge that gap through scholarships and different programs. It started out with live shows. That was why we wanted to get involved. We didn't see many programs that were doing that type of work. We were excited to be a part of that."



The Far East Movement founded a company called Transparent Arts, after its move away from performing, which distributes music from Asia into the United States, investing in artists, and doing more community work through Pacific Bridge Arts. It's been a good time to be working in that space, not least because of the ever-increasing popularity of K-Pop and J-Pop in the west.

"When we were artists, we never thought there could be a platform this big," says Nishimura. "Even Asian language and specifically Korean language music could be heard all around the world and sung exactly perfectly, the way the language is sung in Korean. So to hear it translated the way that the LatinX community and that music is translated has been a real inspiration for us and so we're very grateful to be a part of that next journey. Excited to see a lot of artists that are our friends. The Jay Parks and so many others that are making global waves out of Korea. It's a great time."

The Pacific Bridge Arts Foundation came to be thanks to former councilmember David Ryu, who originally started it as a community event on the steps of City Hall.

"I think it was year two, he contacted us, me and my partner James Roh, to see if we wanted to take it over and do an event,"

says Nishimura. "We had a lot of love for what he was doing for the community, we thought it was perfect, and we did it. We threw a festival on the steps of City Hall, and it went a lot better than we expected, to be honest. A lot of our friends that were in the K-Pop and Asian hip-hop industry just came out and performed. Eight thousand to 10,000 people on the steps of City Hall in Downtown L.A., and for us we'd never seen anything like that. I think at the same time, we saw community leaders come out, we were giving out awards from the City of LA, and through that first event it inspired us to take Pacific Bridge Arts a lot further. That's when we expanded it into scholarship programs and what it is now."

A second event pulled in a similar number of people, with Jay Park and Mike Shinoda (Linkin Park) performing. That led to a partnership with Amazon Music.

"An executive there named Frankie Yaptinchay was pivotal in bringing Amazon Music in to support and getting Twitch involved so that we could amplify this globally," says Nishimura. "We were able to bring in much larger stars to do the livestream during the pandemic. Huge support from Amazon and Twitch to represent the API community. We had billboards in New York Times Square,

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Jon Yip



TOKIMONSTA



Yuna

says Nishimura. “Far East Movement will be hosting; we won’t be performing. But we have an amazing friend coming out to perform. Her name is Yuna, she’s Malaysian; she’s had incredible success in America collaborating with Usher and so much more. She’s going to do an acoustic performance.”

“We’re recognizing some amazing friends, but also Asians that have been either nominated or won a Grammy.”

Grammy-winning producer John Yip of the Stereotypes will be speaking, as will fellow winning engineer David Yungin Kim, electronic artist TOKIMONSTA, and producer Nick Lee. Meanwhile, scholarships will be going to Cayla Mendoza (Music Therapy and Psychology, Frost School of Music, University of Miami) and Claire Goh (California Institute of the Arts, Instrumental Studies - Guitar).

“We’re going to have a few of the recipients come out, share their stories, and one of them play for the audience that night,” says Nishimura. “Lastly, we’re introducing

the Filipino Music Leaders Committee headed by Vernan from Far East Movement. DJ E-Man, a pioneer in the music industry for Filipinos, and he’s a program director for Power-106, which, for us growing up, was the station with elevated Far East Movement. It’s an action-packed night.”

Looking ahead, beyond this event, Nishimura hopes to expand this program further.

“We were talking with the Recording Academy – I’m part of the L.A. chapter,” he says. “We hope to do a lot more with the Recording Academy. I think we’ll have some board members there to speak as well. We’d love to bring back the festival but I have to say it cautiously because we did it so long ago, and now we’re doing a livestream with Amazon Music. So we will see where things go. After this year, we’re going to talk about it. It’s too early to say.”

For all of the information, go to pacificbridgearts.org. 📺

If the ultimate aim is to promote Asian musicians, but also to help young Asian musicians get started in music, then they’re having great success. The importance of groups like this has been highlighted by a wave of violence against Asian people during the pandemic, thanks to a spread of misinformation.

“News like that affected the community deeply, and if anything it unified us,” says Nishimura. “If there was a need I couldn’t say, but there was definitely a sense of togetherness and strength in numbers. I’m also a cofounder and board member of an organization called Gold House, which has been greatly supportive of Pacific Bridge Arts, and we collaborate a lot together. Gold House was pivotal in the Stop Asian Hate campaign. Bringing large corporations to the table to help that GoFundMe. So Pacific Bridge Arts, we really didn’t touch on that, but I will say that the support from the community was immense.”

So back to the Nov. 2 event. This will be the first celebration and dinner Pacific Bridge Arts has held for the scholarships.

“We wanted to make it a night to really recognize Asian Americans in music, and some of the amazing accomplishments,”

and that was definitely an emotional experience to see how recognized our community was getting. During that time, we made the Pacific Bridge Arts musical scholarships, and the partnership with GRAMMY Camp (a five-day camp for high school students interested in a career in music).”

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CANNABIS

THE 2022 ADULT CANDY GUIDE

Don't go rummaging through your kid's Halloween candy, we've got the good stuff for you.

BY JIMI DEVINE



Mary Jones

The cannabis-infused drink from Jones Soda Co. had a big launch in California. The company noted they were in 120 in the first 60 days. Certainly, a reputable showing for any new brand when it launched in June with a 10mg offering. But just in time for your haunted adventures, the company has released a new 100mg version. While it may sound like a big jump to the uninitiated, I used to tell grandmothers to take a 75mg dose a decade ago, and none ever came back and yelled at me.

Kiva x HUF

Kiva and HUF are teaming up for a capsule collection that includes a merch collection of limited edition T-shirts, socks, a clock and more, alongside a limited edition chew and gummy. This is the first cannabis collaboration for the legendary San Francisco skate apparel brand and they picked a solid partner in Kiva. The Lost Farm gummy line has been one of Kiva's best launches in years and it's cool to see a brand of note from outside of the cannabis space getting in on the action.



Don't let all the fake news about people trying to give kids free drugs on Halloween scare your adult self off from having a good time.

We've got a list of treats to help you experience various dimensions. Whether taking some little goblins out to score different Reese's products or just having a horror movie marathon on the couch, this lineup is sure to make the experience more memorable.

Plus Gummies

You might need to be stealthy for the first chunk of your Halloween, as you hit the streets with your kid dressed like Elsa for the third consecutive year. Fear not, Plus has got you covered with a wide spread of flavors and formulations. And just in time for the holiday, Caliva and Coastal Dispensary are offering 30% off Plus gummies every day through Oct. 31.



Mycro Bars

We've dabbled in quite a bit of mushroom chocolate over the last couple of years here at LA Weekly. We've tried the OG Grateful Dead Fam Bars, and we've tried a bunch of the little square ones, but none of them held a candle to Myco chocolate bars. They totally destroyed my proven festival dosage system. I would emphasize to experienced users to ease into these mushroom chocolates, 2 grams in half of a Myco Bar feels like it has four times the strength of the competition. That being said, mushrooms are a super fun Halloween activity, but not for your first time.

Micro Dosed

In the fast-growing world of micro-dosing psychedelics for wellness, Micro Dosed has come out with some of the nicest-looking LSD we've ever seen. It's by far the most consumer packaged goods-looking LSD we've ever seen. And again, these are targeted at microdosing and not face melting, the whole bad is about equal to a standard dose for a 220-pound man. It's difficult to research LSD in the U.S., so the experts say more data is needed before we have a hard answer on the subject of LSD microdosing, but many have found it to increase their quality of life. 🌱




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ENTERTAINMENT

UNBINGED THE DRAC PACK

Reviews of *Interview with the Vampire*, *Let The Right One In*, *Vampire Academy*

BY ERIN MAXWELL



This is the season to be spooky, and this year, networks and streaming services are doubling down on vampires as the “it” monster of the season. After success with *What We Do In The Shadows*, the vamp tales for American Horror Story, *Midnight Mass*, *Legacies*, *The Originals*, and *First Kill*, just to name a few, more and more heavy hitters want a bite of the blood-soaked pie. This time around, they are going for popular vamp properties that have already seen the light of day as books and movies. Will they rise again on TV? *UnBinged* takes a look.

Interview with the Vampire (AMC)

Meet Louis de Pointe du Lac (Jacob Anderson). Beautiful. Rich. And young. Forever young. And quite dead. Many years ago, a young man had the chance to interview Louis about his unique circumstances, but he screwed it up when his addiction got the upper hand. Now 50 years later, the “boy” (Eric Bogosian) has a second chance at the interview he was destined to write...

AMC’s *Interview with the Vampire* might have die-hard fans on edge with its deviations from the original text, but please, do not fear. The changes might be somewhat drastic, but they are necessary to revamp

the problematic vamp tale for the modern age. The adjustments also add a surprising amount of depth to both the story and its players.

While not for everyone, this version of Rice’s gothic bible is clever in its modifications, reversing issues that can best be deemed as *thorny* when viewed through the lens of modern culture. No longer a plantation owner, Louis is now a pimp whose world is destroyed after his “touched” brother takes his own life. In an effort to escape the pain, Louis falls into the awaiting arms of Lestat, now his lover. Together, the two raise hell, and eventually Claudia (Baily Bass), their vampiric child, now a teen rather than the precari-

ous child she was in the book. have ever received as Sam Reid breathes life into the French fop with fangs. Meanwhile, Bogosian holds the pace of the show steady while keeping the events set in reality.

Interview with the Vampire might go a little AWOL from Rice’s original work, but the changes help the story and, more importantly, they needed to happen. In the end, the narrative is enriched and helps evolve the characters beyond the brooding woe-is-me cliché that time has made of the paperback bloodsuckers. Though the series is not for everyone, Rice fans, vamp connoisseurs, and those looking for a good LGBTQ+ romance will find much to drink in.



Let The Right One In (Showtime)

Eleanor (Madison Taylor Baez) is a 12-year-old girl who needs constant care for the rest of her life because she is destined to stay a 12-year-old girl for the rest of her life. With wants and needs beyond the pale and cravings and yearnings that can lead to precarious situations, she’s a problem that any parent would dread. How would you solve it?

In the case of her father Mark (Demian Bichir), the answer is: become a slave to her every need. But for young Isaiah Cole (Ian Foreman), the girl is a figure of mystery and wonder – a possible friend who seems of similar age. A playmate. And eventually, a hero.

Showtime’s *Let the Right One In* is the third adaptation of the critically-acclaimed novel by John Ajvide Lindqvist. The 2008 film was nothing short of a masterpiece, while the Americanized 2010’s *Let Me In* was an entertaining but imperfect version of the vampire story.

Unlike previous versions, the series does not solely focus on the friendship between a vampiric “child” and a lonely little boy, but instead shares screen time to focus on the story of her heroic protector, a man who was originally somewhat evil in the novel. Now the duo partake in “wholesome” vampiric father-daughter outings... if one counts hunting drug addicts stricken with vampirism as wholesome activities.

In the series, Eleanor’s vampiric nature is now perceived as more of an “affliction” that can be cured, thus giving both Eleanor and Mark a new objective that was absent in both the book and the movies. Though it does give the story a new per-

ous child she was in the book.

As an interview is only as good as its subject, this *Interview* is only as good as its performers, who are outstanding. In the original novel, Louis was a prototype for the mopey vampire that goth culture would later cling to an archetype. In this version, Anderson plays Louis as a monster with a story to tell and a determination to be heard. He removes any fallibility that might be in the character’s nature and, by doing so, makes him all the more interesting.

But the good news here for Rice fans is that this is the best portrayal of Lestat they

spective and longevity enabling a series, it subverts some of the deeper meaning and weight of the original text.

But in the end, the series is a win for Showtime thanks to the powerful performances from Bichir and Baez, as well as Cole and Anika Noni Rose, who plays Isaiah's mother, a police detective who discovers an uptick in homicides in her fair city. Though the story doesn't reflect the brilliance of the novel or the original film, it has a fresh originality, a dark subtext with a bit of bite, and one hell of a cast.

Vampire Academy (Peacock)

Two years after Bella starting mooning over a portentous 200-year-old high school student in *Twilight*, it became clear that moody monsters and temperamental teens made for big business. Thus, Richelle Mead offered a whole school filled with fangs with *The Vampire Academy* books.

In 2014, a misguided effort to franchise Mead's teen monster mash for the big screen flopped in a big way, as the film version attempted to compress the densely-packed story of the Dhampirs and the Moroi into a popcorn pic.

Now almost a decade later, Peacock has resurrected the *Academy*, giving the story enough episodes to properly spread its wings. But will it help? The answer: only if you're already a fan and/or open to uber-complicated supernatural world building.

There is no way around it. *Vampire Academy* is a very convoluted story that is difficult to latch onto unless you are already a fan of the book series (or of intricate creature features). It is broken up into the following: Morio vampires, the ruling class of vamps who hold the power; the Dhampirs, their guardians who are half-Moroi, half-human; and the Strigoi, the Deathaters of this world.

In the series, we follow Vasilisa "Lissa" Dragomir (Daniela Nieves) and Rosemarie "Rose" Hathaway (Sisi Stringer), two besties who also happen to be a Moroi princess and her Dhampir. The two attend St. Vladimir's Academy, the aforementioned Vampire Academy, where guard-



ians learn to guard while the Moroi drink blood in impressively large dorm rooms while adorned in cocktail attire.

One tragic evening, Lissa's family is killed in a car accident. As Lissa mourns, Rose trains and awaits for her friend's return to the Academy to rejoin the fold. Together, the two face new political structures, power struggles, and romantic entanglements as Lissa must hold up her family name as the end of her line.

For the unindoctrinated, the mythos is...a lot. It's a tremendous amount of information to retain for what is essentially a horny version of *Monster High*. For those who make the effort, the lore of *Vampire Academy* does begin to take hold, and like other entangled fantasy shows, it should nab steadfast viewers who pay careful attention to everything and have a deep-seated love for vampiric drama set in Oregon. Nothing about Peacock's *Vampire Academy* is casual viewing. It requires your full commitment. But those who miss vampy, campy romances set on cloudy days with overwrought politics will probably be seduced. [M]

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Sales Coordinator - Gardena, CA - Puka Creations LLC. Resp. for coordinating w/ upper mgt. to attain sales & margin goals for imported

products sold to retailers. Attend trade shows to meet w/customers & potential customers. Supv. sales clerks. Utilize Quickbooks & Microsoft Office. Bach. or higher degree in business or rela. field req. Must have knowl. of marketing which may have been gained thru undergrad or grad coursework. Must be able to travel domestically to industry trade shows at least 6 - 7 times a year. Send resume to: Sezer Puka, Puka Creations, 16840 South Main St., Gardena, CA 90248.

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Create & design promotional tools/materials to market co's products; etc.

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LA WEEKLY Bulletin

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