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Volume 6 / Issue 3

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August 2024

Articles - Reviews - Cartoons - The Night Empress





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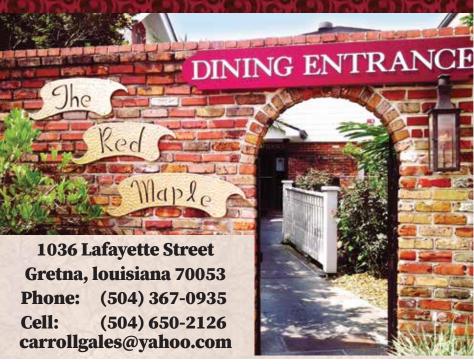
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Letter 1969

New Orleans

Dear Parents!

Thanks for the letter. I write a Christmas greeting from the Norwegian Seamen's Church, I go there once in a while and read newspapers and have a chat with those who come from the other side.

I have been ashore for the past three months. The shipping company had a boat at the shippard, so I oversaw the repairs carried out.

Due to the situation in Cuba, all of the shipping company's boats are now laid up. Here in New Orleans are Sea Level and Vera Cruz, the rest are in West Palm Beach and Jacksonville. The US government put an end to almost all exports to Cuba. The shipping company is hoping for the end of Fidel Castro.

I'm still working on the two obvious boats, we're only 4 men out of 65. How long I can stay here I don't know The situation here with work is bad, everything seems to stand still, but hopefully it will get better when the new government takes over power. The country is flooded with goods "made in Japan" or "made in West Germany". Apparently, it seems that the American moneymen get it from factories in other countries cheaper and maybe better, but who knows today what is going on. However, I think Eisenhower's government has navigated the US very badly, and the hope among many is that the new government will have more speed and the rudder set on the right course, but all over the world everything seems to be in turmoil. But as I said, I personally can't complain. My health is OK, in October I was in the hospital for an appendectomy. It only took four days and seven days later I was back at work. That kind of thing is not considered a thing today.

Yes, it was "sad" that Finn couldn't pass his exam. Perhaps to your disappointment more than to himself. But studying probably requires more than just the skills, perseverance and energy, as well as setting a goal to achieve. Of course who says he has the ability, and yet he passed the entrance exams.

In my younger years I actually had no special interests or maybe no chances, but the last 10 years I have created a part of the neglected. Mostly by solo studies, which are of course not recognized as from a school. The last year I studied electrical engineering from a correspondence school. I also took a math course and have taken studying as a hobby. But as I said, it's only in recent years that I've understood the value and that's probably the way it goes for many people.

It's sad about Lizzie, she was such a cheerful girl when I came to Frederik's and it's hard to understand, but the more you see and hear, the less you understand who will look after her when Frederik dies. The same applies to Birtha, who now cannot eat herself, who also had so much energy and life.

Christmas is over here, then there are two public holidays until the New Year and then the normal drudgery of life begins again for many people. And you promise to become a better person in the new year, no one keeps it. But next year will surely bring surprises, if not good as bad as it goes now will not be sustained.

I will now close with a Happy New Year to you all and happy birthday to Dad in January in advance.

Birger

Say hello to everyone I know.

Cast Iron Blueberry Scones

Ingredients

3 cups flour ¹/₃ cup sugar 2½ teaspoons baking powder

½ teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon salt

3/4 cup (1½ sticks)

unsalted butter, chilled and cut into pieces

1 tablespoon orange zest

1 cup milk or half-and-half

1 cup fresh blueberries or ½ cup of dried blueberries

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 400° F. Position a rack in the middle of the oven.

In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Add the butter pieces and mix with an electric mixer until just blended, or mix with a fork so that the dough is somewhat crumbly.

Stir in the orange zest and milk, and gently fold in the blueberries, being careful not to overmix.

With flour on your hands, transfer the dough to a lightly floured surface.

Form the dough into a circle about ½-inch thick. With a long knife, cut the dough into 12 wedges.

Butter the skillet, and put the scone wedges in a circle in it, leaving some space between the pieces. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, or until golden.

If desired, sprinkle with some additional sugar when just out of the oven.

Special Notes:

Fresh blueberries split when cooked, for a prettier presentation of scone use dried fruit Pairs very nicely with Lemon Curd





Jessica Walker is an alum of Southeastern Louisiana University and is currently an account executive with Cumulus Media. Outside of work, Walker is passionate about ending the stigma surrounding mental health along with her other interests also include cooking and baking.







Movie Review:

TWISTERS

by Jason T. Olivier



Twisters is a good name for this summer blockbuster reimagining of the original movie from 1996. Here it is the female lead played by Daisy Edgar-Jones who is the Twister whisperer, instead of a retreaded Bill Paxton roll (RIP). After experiencing an F5 tornado in college in which all her friends including her boyfriend are killed, our heroin is coaxed away from her weatherperson job back into tornado hunting by the one surviving crew member from college who now owns a company the chases tornadoes. Unbeknownst to our heroin, the company her friend runs is in cahoots with a real estate magnet who buys up destroyed properties. Add to the mix an Arkansas YouTube star who somehow has no southern accent (ever been to Arkansas?) and you have the romance angle as well. The effects are spectacular. There is no wait, it gets busy quickly. The budget must have been spent of the effects and not the largely no-name cast. The action is so fast paced that there is no real character development so it's hard to empathize with them. I feel they also missed a golden opportunity by not inviting Helen Hunt to play the heroin's mom. The only nod to the original of note is the vat full of flying sensors courtesy of "Dorothy". However, if you are just looking for eye candy this will satisfy your sweet tooth. But it lacks the passion and acting of the original. Twisters is rated PG-13 for intense action scenes. 3.0 out of 5

Jason T Olivier is an attorney, actor and former review columnist.

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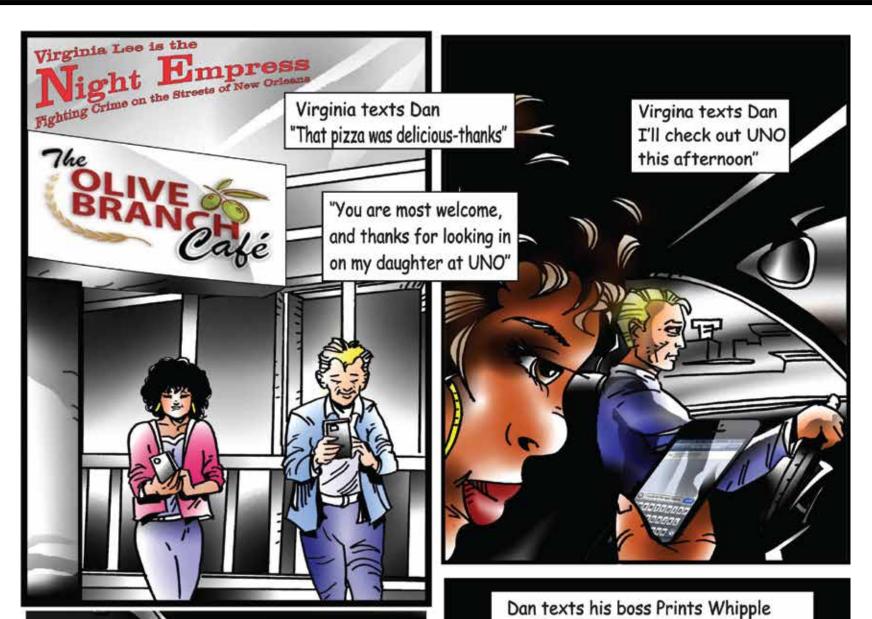
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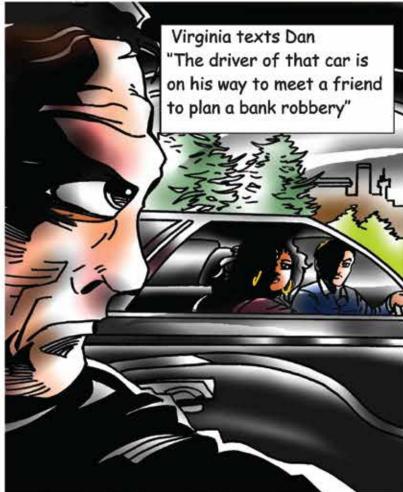
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Plenty

by Stephen D. Schollnick

Chapter Three

After many miles io freezing weather, Bob and I made it into Saratoga Springs at around 10 in the evening. We would laugh at many things along the way. Only one side of Bob's face was smiling though. He was still in remarkably good spirits

We knew what dorm Nancy lived in but no one answered the door. So we started throwing snow balls at the windows. Our aim was poor though and soon the side of the building was pockmarked with our errant missiles.

A police car drove up. The officer lowered the window and eyed us with undisguised amusement. He was our parent's age and slightly overweight. "What are you boys doing he asked?" Bob looked at him and with half his frozen face said, "We're supposed to be meeting some girls here." "Yes, I chimed in, Bob's face is frozen and we were trying to get in out of the cold." The kindly officer looked at me, studied Bob's face, and then said, "You know boys, there is a 5.00 fine for throwing snowballs in this town." Bob and I looked at the building and then looked back at the policeman. Before he could speak, a window opened, a girl leaned out and shouted, "I'll be right down." "OK boys", he said with a smile, no more snow ball throwing OK?" and then pulled away...

To be continued...

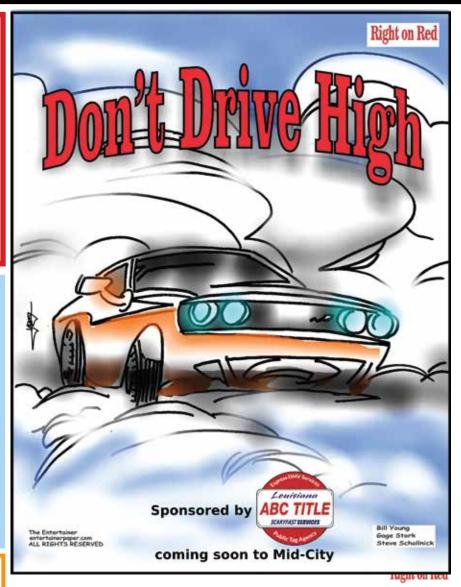


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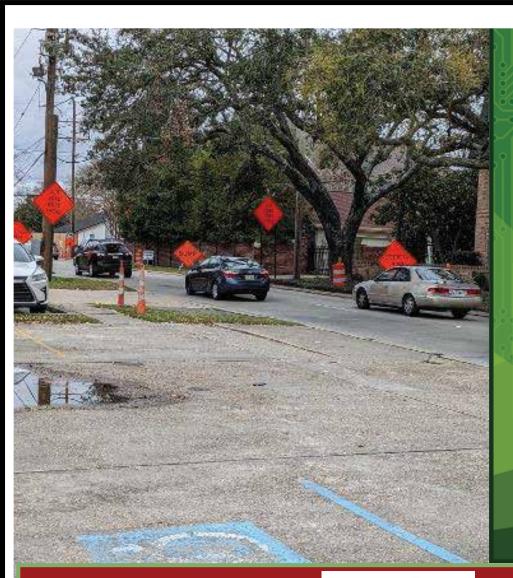


When Bananas Go Bad



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Olive Branch Cafe

Reviewed by David Michael Jones
5 out of 5 Top Hats



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The Westbank of New Orleans has many strengths. One of them is the Olive Branch Cafe. Everything is prepared fresh daily from their pastas to the dough for their pizzas. An abundance of local ingredients is used to prepare signature dishes such as the Caesar Salad with homemade Caesar dressing. Make a special visit just to try the Cajun trio pizza-smoked sausage, chicken and crawfish.

And if there's a special way you want your meal prepared, just say the word. During my last visit, I asked Rusty, the owner, if he had any vegetarian dishes with no cheese. The chef created a vegetable chocked pasta dish over panne noodles and marinara sauce.

Be sure to check out the Westbank born, raised and proud artwork at the Marrero location. There are reminders everywhere that the Westbank has much to offer,

The owner Russell "Rusty" Autry told me, "We're committed to using the freshest ingredients and preparing our food with care, so you can be sure that you'll have a delicious and satisfying meal every time."







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