

# **Entertainer**

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Volume 7 / Issue 1

**All the fun that fits we print**

March 2025

## *The Pontchartrain*



**March 15th & 16th | Saturday and Sunday 10am-5pm**

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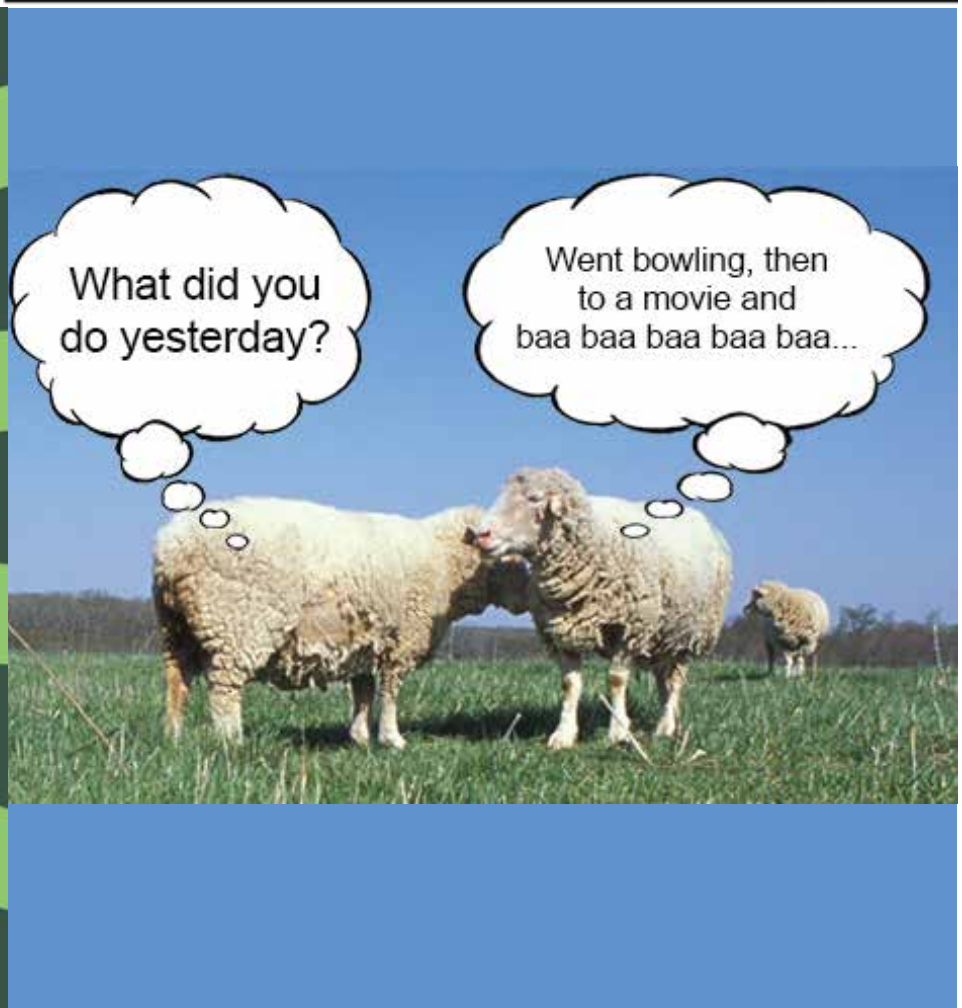
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# Letters from Mombasa

## - Birger

Page 28: 21-12-49

To the stern of the ship is a Muslim cemetery. It is surrounded by thousands of palms and other tropical trees; it looks like a little town and it's almost unfathomable that it's a cemetery. Between the palm trees are large houses inhabited by very wealthy people, by the looks of things. Yesterday evening or late afternoon I saw a gentleman and a lady taking a stroll towards the beach, followed by two negroes walking at a suitable distance and carrying a bottle and some sticks. A couple of times they jumped towards the lady and handed her the bottle, then fell back to the same distance when she'd had a drink.

Page 29: The sticks they were carrying were delivered in the same manner, after which the gentleman stuck them in the ground. Presumably a new house was to be built as there was a lengthy discussion between the man and the woman. Mombasa is an island, and around the island is a very wide canal, and a connection to the mainland in the form of a bridge. It is very beautiful here; in fact, it is hard to imagine a prettier place, but doubtless a very unhealthy climate. Worked 7am-12am. A long work day in this climate, but of course it's not manual labor, that would be impossible to endure.

Page 30: A lot of the crew have brought oranges, pineapples, bananas and lots of other assorted fruit onboard. At home you'd be very happy with that, but here you barely want to eat it, only the youngest. I have been watching the sailing club, a large illuminated building that had a dance on tonight. Sailing is very popular here in Mombasa, from 4pm-7pm the whole canal is full of boats. Last time we were here there was a race on; when they're not allowed to sail any more, they shoot a cannon from land. This afternoon a large French passenger (---cont. next page)

Page 31: ---ship came in, carrying almost nothing but women; they're from Madagascar and are on their way to France. All of Mombasa was overrun by them, according to those who'd been ashore, and a white woman is a valued commodity around here as it's almost all Indian and native women



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# Drago's

Reviewed by Stephen D. Schollnick

5 out of 5 Top Hats



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I had heard so much about the charbroiled oysters at Drago's that I wanted to sample them first hand. Now, I've had charbroiled oysters at several other restaurants but how would Drago's Seafood Restaurant stack up?

My guest and I went to the original Drago's on North Arnoult Road. Started by Drago and Klara Cvitanovich in 1969, the restaurant has since grown to locations in Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Jackson Mississippi and the Hilton Hotel in New Orleans.

We started with a dozen charbroiled oysters. Grilled with butter, garlic, and cheese they made me realize why Drago's is cited as the authority on Charbroiled oysters. They were that good.

While my guest was finishing the oysters, I had a bowl of seafood gumbo. Plenty of fresh tasting ingredients that were well-seasoned.

I moved on next to the lump crabmeat salad. My guest had a small salad leaving room for dessert. It was difficult to settle on just one dish. Everything looked great, including the seafood pasta, lobster and fried shrimp platter. But after the salad arrived, I felt that I had made a good choice. Especially after digging in. Lots of lump crabmeat over fresh greens, highlighted with Drago's homemade Italian vinaigrette dressing.

And now it was time for dessert. Feeling like another bite would be a challenge, we asked our very pleasant waitress to bring us the brownie with ice cream and an extra plate for sharing. Well, 4 people could have shared that dessert let alone 2. It filled an entire dinner plate and was half a foot high. We tried our best but could not finish it.

It's first come, first served with no reservations. There is an excellent bar with plenty of seats for those waiting for a table. Everyone is pleasant and courteous, confident that they are offering guests one of the best dining choices in Metairie.



# A Brief History of the Oscar

Shortly after the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was incorporated in 1927, a dinner was held in the Crystal Ballroom of the Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles to discuss the goals of the new organization. One of those goals was devising a method to honor outstanding achievements, thus encouraging higher levels of quality in all facets of motion picture production. At one of the many meetings in the following weeks, MGM art director Cedric Gibbons sketched the figure of a knight gripping a sword, standing in front of a reel of film. The five spokes of the reel stood for the original five branches of the Academy – actors, directors, producers, technicians and writers – and the sword symbolized protection for the welfare and advancement of the industry. The design was immediately adopted by the Board of Directors and graced the cover of the November 1927 issue of the Academy magazine. In early 1928, Gibbons chose Los Angeles sculptor George Stanley to realize his design in three dimensions. Together they discussed the design concept – no live models or sketches were used – and Stanley worked up several versions from which Gibbons selected one. In the finished design, the figure of the knight was streamlined and the film reel moved beneath its feet. The now iconic statuette was born. Since the initial awards banquet on May 16, 1929, in the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel's Blossom Room, over 3,000 statuettes have been presented. Each January, additional new golden statuettes are hand-cast in bronze by New York-based Polich Tallix Fine Art Foundry before receiving its 24-karat gold finish by Epner Technology, a renowned high-tech specification electroplating company in Brooklyn. The statuette stands 13 1/2 inches tall and weighs a robust 8 1/2 pounds. The design of the statuette has never changed from its original conception, but the size of the base varied until the present standard was adopted in 1945. Officially named the Academy Award® of Merit, the statuette is better known by its nickname, Oscar, the origins of which aren't clear. A popular story has been that Academy librarian and eventual executive director Margaret Herrick thought it resembled her Uncle Oscar and said so, and that the Academy staff began referring to it as Oscar. In any case, by the sixth Awards presentation in 1934, Hollywood columnist Sidney Skolsky used the name in his column in reference to Katharine Hepburn's first Best Actress win. The Academy itself didn't use the nickname officially until 1939. The 15 statuettes presented at the initial ceremonies were gold-plated solid bronze. Within a few years the bronze was abandoned in favor of britannia metal, a pewter-like alloy, which made it easier to give the statuettes their smooth finish. Because of the metals shortage during World War II, Oscars® were made of painted plaster for three years. Following the war, all of the awarded plaster figures were exchanged for gold-plated metal ones. Achievements in up to 24 regular categories will be honored on February 26, 2017, at the 89th Oscars® presentation at the Dolby Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Center®. However, the Academy won't know how many statuettes it will actually hand out until the envelopes are opened on Oscar Night®. Although the number of categories will be known prior to the ceremony, the possibility of ties and of multiple recipients sharing the prize in some categories makes the exact number of Oscar statuettes to be presented unpredictable. As in previous years, any surplus awards will be housed in the Academy's vault until next year's event. Except in years when the Academy created a publicity event out of the delivery of the Oscars to Los Angeles, they normally were sent over land by common carrier. However, in 2000, only a few weeks before the presentation date, that year's shipment of Oscars was stolen from the overland carrier's loading dock. They were recovered a week later, but not before some nerve-wracking days had passed. Since then, the Academy has kept an additional ceremony's-worth of statuettes on hand. The Oscar statuette is the most recognized award in the world. Its success as a symbol of achievement in filmmaking would doubtless amaze those who attended that dinner more than 80 years ago, as well as its designer, Cedric Gibbons. It stands today, as it has since 1929, without peer, on the mantels of the greatest filmmakers in history.



Courtesy of [oscars.org](http://oscars.org)



The Entertainer is published  
bimonthly by  
Schollnick Advertising.

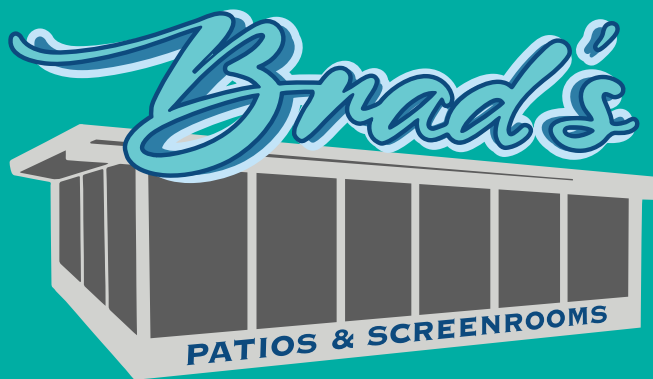
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