

HUNT. BEACH CITY COUNCIL

Council acts to join new charter assn.

By Miles Gaskin
Orange County Tribune

Continuing to lean into Surf City's status as a charter city, the Huntington Beach City Council acted to join an alliance with similar municipalities.

On Tuesday night the Huntington Beach city council voted unanimously to establish a new collaborative program that they hope to run in conjunction with several other cities in California.

According to a staff report, Huntington Beach was initially approached by the city of Porterville, in hopes of establishing a "league of charter cities."

Continued on page 2

POETRY IN MOTION



THE MARINA HIGH Color Guard had a stellar season, working its way up to the World Championships, where they competed in the semifinals for the first time (HBUHSD photo).

Hunt On For Driver in Hit/Run

Minivan and bicyclist in HB

The public's help is being sought by the Huntington Beach police in identifying the driver and vehicle in a felony injury hit-and-run collision that occurred on Saturday, March 29.

According to the HBPD, the incident took place around 11 p.m. in the area of Arnett Drive and Irby Lane. A bicyclist suffered "significant" injuries after being struck by a minivan. The driver fled the scene without stopping to give aid or provide information, both of which are required by law.

The suspect vehicle is described as being metallic gray, silver or blue; possibly a Toyota Sienna or Honda Odyssey.

It has a California license plate possibly with the characters 7, T, A and E (not in that order). The vehicle is expected to have moderate damage to its front end including the bumper, hood and windshield.

The suspect is described as an Hispanic male, 20 to 30 years old.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact HBPD Traffic Investigator V. Rattanchandani at (714) 536-5231. The case number is 25-003079.

Tuesday was a night for the winners

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

GARDEN GROVE SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday's meeting of the Garden Grove Unified School District Board of Education was a night to honor winners, both student and employee.

Videos were screened lauding the accomplishments of the Employees of the Month and those chosen were presented with certificates and the applause of families, friends and co-workers.

The Employee of the Month among classified workers was custodian Binh Duong of Barker Elementary School. Among certificated staff, the honoree was Sayhleng Chin, a language teacher at Fitz Intermediate School.

The Santiago High School boy's basketball



SANTIAGO HIGH boys' basketball team, coach and district officials (Tribune photo).

team – feted last week by the Garden Grove City Council – took another turn in the spotlight. The Cavaliers, coached by Matt Moor-

Continued on page 2

In The Tribune



'Drop' worth a thrill

ARTS & LIVING page 6

Employees, athletes feted

Continued from page 1

house, won the CIF Southern Section Division 4-AA championship despite finishing third in the Coast League.

What won the Cavs' the school's first-ever boys' CIF-SS hoops title?

"It was a little bit of everything," said Moorhouse. "We were kind of struggling mid-season and we had a practice and it all came together one day.

We went 10-1 and it was a big turnaround. It was just them coming together, them listening and following the game plan; just being a team. It was really, really a team effort."

The next meeting of the board is scheduled for May 6.

The GGUSD serves most of Garden Grove and parts of Anaheim, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Santa Ana, Stanton and Westminster.

Huntington Beach city council

Continued from page 1

The staff report also says that the program will "advocate for preserving local control and minimizing external interference from Sacramento."

The agreement was initially proposed by Porterville Mayor Greg Meister at the Feb. 18 Porterville city council meeting.

This item was brought to council by Mayor Pat Burns, and Council member Casey McKeon. Burns expressed his support for the establishment of this program.

"There is no mystery that we have been fighting some fights, and we have been standing alone a lot of the time as a charter city." "The charter city has been ingrained in our state constitution, and in my view it has not been

respected by Sacramento, our governor, and our attorney general. We should be able to run our own city, for me that is so important."

McKeon emphasized the importance of working with other like-minded charter cities.

"One of the most frustrating parts of these last two years are the fights we take on against the state, we always champion our charter city status which gives us special constitutional protection under the state constitution, we ask ourselves, who is with us?" he said.

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The Tribune

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The Orange County Tribune is published on Wednesdays and Saturdays with some exceptions. Address is 9402 Luders Ave., Garden Grove, 92844.

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Phone: (714) 458-1860.

Established Aug. 6, 2016. All opinions expressed in The Tribune, unless otherwise stated, are those of the individual writer or artist and not necessarily those of The Tribune.

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News & Views

The sweet eggs and ham a poem of delicious-ness

Palm Sunday has passed and Easter Sunday is straight ahead of us. As a kid, this was considered third on the scale of favorite holidays, behind Christmas and Halloween, and anticipated in that order, and ahead of Thanksgiving and Fourth of July.

(Birthdays were in a separate classification, since you didn't need to share them with your siblings or other associates, unless they happened to share birthdates).

Christmas, of course, was the champ of all holidays, involving a long, delicious run-up, lots of fun stuff like school (later, office) parties, gifts and all the food you could eat. Halloween was also an event whose approach was keenly desired. Schools had costume contests – I hear they still do, except for rabbits (for semi-obvious reasons) – and candy exchanges and the more daring older sisters and brothers told scary stories without a shred of truth. Remember the one about the parked couple and The Hook?

Aw, but Easter. Halloween's tiny candies – and the occasional piece of fruit or a quarter – gave way to a truly meaningful array of tooth-challenging and tummy-gurgling confections. Your parents – most of them, anyway – filled for you big vessels of wicker (or plastic) with a mountain of candies, including chocolate and sugar eggs, bunnies and the like. If carefully husbanded, you could make your stash last well into mid-May.



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

Continued on page 8

30-Year Sentence for Killer

Nearly three years after one of the grisliest crimes in recent Orange County history, the convicted killer was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

On Friday, Superior Court Judge Gary Paer sentenced Anthony Padilla of Huntington Beach in the killing and decapitation of Regina Lockhart in 2022

According to Huntington Beach police, patrol officers were dispatched to a home in the 7800 block of Slater Avenue on July

The body of a woman – later identified as Regina Lockhart – was uncovered with the head severed.

16, 2022 regarding a report of “suspicious circumstances.” Upon arrival they'd decided that a body had been buried on the property.

The body of a woman – later identified as Lockhart, 60, a transient – was uncovered, with the head severed.

The next day, Padilla, 34, was arrested near the area. He was living at the residence where the body was found. They had no known prior relationship.

On Feb. 18, 2025, Padilla was found guilty of murder after a trial that lasted nearly four weeks.

News Briefs



PINATA FUN at Walton Intermediate (GGUSD photo)

A festive Open House

The Open House Fiesta recently held at Walton Intermediate School in Garden Grove was indeed festive.

The event included folkloric performances, a pinata, a resource fair, food and classroom visits. Garden Grove Unified School District Board of Education trustee Walter Muneton, Garden Grove Councilmember Yesenia Muneton and Assistant Superintendent of Personnel Services Jason Bevacqua attended.

Huntington students get college honors

Ruby Perlman of Huntington Beach was recently elected into membership of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at the University of Southern California.

Jenna Gorden of Huntington Beach has been named to the 2024-2025 Winter Term President's list at Oregon Institute of Technology, located at Klamath Falls. She is studying civil engineering.

Continued on page 8

Nominate front yards for honors

Nominations for the City of Garden Grove's home beautification program, Garden Grove Gems, that recognizes residents for their home's outstanding front yards, takes place now through Thursday, April 24.

From all the nominations received, four will be selected at random to receive \$100 Home Depot gift cards. Gift card winners will be announced the week of Monday, April 28.

To nominate your home, complete an online application and photo submission at www.ggcity.org/gems.

To self-nominate your home, applicants must: reside in or own the nominated home; include their complete address in the online application form for verification purposes; and submit one photo of their home in a JPG, PNG, or PDF format. Photo must be taken after Jan. 1, 2025, and cannot be digitally enhanced or altered.

Nominated homes will be categorized by each of the City's six districts and featured on the Garden Grove Gems webpage at www.ggcity.org/gems during the online voting period of Monday, May 5 through Monday, May 19.

The home that receives the highest number of votes, along

Continued on page 8

NewsUpdate

Judge Demands Reports on Deported

White House vs. judiciary in this case

The case of a man incorrectly deported to El Salvador and sent to a prison there continues to highlight the legal struggles between the White House and the federal judiciary.

According to the Associated Press, U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis is demanding sworn testimony by officials to demonstrate that they are complying with her orders to “facilitate” the return of Kilmar Abrego Garcia to the United States.

Immigration officials have conceded that his deportation was in error, but President Donald Trump and El Salvador President



U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE Paula Xinis (Wikipedia).

Nayib Bukele have said they intend not to send him back to the U.S., despite an order from the U.S. Supreme Court to do so.

“The bottom line is it was a very simple directive,” said Xinis. “I’ve got nothing,” she said about her demand that the attor-

ney’s for the Justice Department make regular status reports on returning Garcia. “I’ve got no real response.”

Great Thoughts

“Our country, right or wrong! When right, to be kept right; when wrong, to be put right.”

– Carl Schurz, journalist, statesman

“Fanaticism consists of redoubling your effort when you have forgotten your aim.”

– George Santayana, philosopher

Internal Revenue could lose a third of its staff

The Internal Revenue Service will likely lose one-third of its employees through a combination of layoffs and workers taking a buy-out.

According to The New York Times, an estimated 22,000 IRS employees have taken a resignation deal that puts them on paid administrative leave and then depart at the end of September. Another 7,000 probationary employees have been discharged.

The Times reports that losing

that much staff could mean a reduction in the amount of revenue collected and a decrease in audits.

“The [Treasury] Secretary is committed to ensuring that efficiency is realized while providing the collections, privacy and customer service the American people deserve,” a spokesperson for Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said, according to The Times.

Hamas rejects the offer of a six-week ‘cease-fire’ as proposed by Israel

A cease-fire proposal that would have required Hamas to surrender its weapons has reportedly been rejected by the militant group in Gaza.

United Press International is reporting that the six-week “pause” would also require that Hamas release to Israel half of the hostages it currently holds.

No humanitarian supplies are

being allowed by Israel to be taken into Gaza for six weeks. Attacks by Israel into Gaza resumed on March 18.

French President Emmanuel Macron called for a two-state solution for Palestine and Israel, but Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu again rejected that option, calling it “illusions disconnected from reality.”

Weather: Mid-60s and then ...

The pleasantly cool weather we’ve had in our West Orange County cities will continue, gradually warming toward the weekend. The forecast for Wednesday is for a daytime high of 66 with an overnight low of 54. Skies should be cloudy. On Thursday, the temps should be 64 (55) with a 22 percent chance of showers. Friday is expected to be cloudy with a 14 percent chance of rain. The temperatures should be 64 (52). The promised warm weather and sunny skies are expected to arrive on Saturday with a high of 71 (52).

Arts & Living

'Drop' Doesn't Just Phone It In

This time, the terror reaches in your pocket

By Jake Coyle
AP Film Writer

It's oddly comforting that a movie can still dial M when it wants to.

Smart phones have largely been a bit of a buzzkill for horror films, leading filmmakers to find all kinds of reasons — dead batteries, no service — to strand potential prey. But at least since 1949's "Sorry, Wrong Number," phones have also been a reliable conduit for terror capable of reaching into the home, or your pocket.

"Drop," a silly but suspenseful new thriller, carries on the tradition of "When a Stranger Calls" and "Phone Booth" by situating its tension around mysterious, threatening phone messages.

Violet (Meghann Fahy), a widow with a young child, is on her first date in years. After three months of texting, she has hesitantly agreed to finally meet Henry (Brandon Sklenar) for dinner. When they sit down in a fancy restaurant high up a sleek Chicago high-rise, he's charming and relaxed. But Violet, like countless dates before her, can't stay off her phone.

In Violet's case, though, the distraction is legitimate. She keeps getting messages dropped to her phone threatening her son, who's at home with Violet's sister (Violett Beane), unless she does what he says, including killing her date. In her home security cameras she can see a man with his face covered brandishing a gun.

"Drop," directed by Christopher Landon ("Happy Death Day"), doesn't differ greatly from the large swath of high-concept, low-budget thrillers that regularly flood theaters.



MEGHANN FAHY and Brandon Sklenar star in "Drop" (Universal Pictures)

Movie Review

But it's a taut little movie, almost totally set in the restaurant, with a just keen enough sense of plausible and preposterous. It knows to keep the pressure-cooker plot moving while not overstaying its welcome. At a nifty 95 minutes, "Drop" knows when to hang up.

As if adding a digital twist to the old line "The call is coming from inside the house," Violet is getting message from an app called DigiDrop that can only be sent from a person within 50 feet. That means everyone in the restaurant — the bro who bumps into her, the cheesy waiter, the kind bartender — is a suspect. With her terrorizer watching her every move and prohibiting her from breathing a word to anyone, Violet is stuck rooted to her table when every fiber of her being wants to rescue her son.

A considerable help to the film are the grounded screen presences of Fahy ("The White Lotus") and Sklenar ("1923"), both small-screen breakouts who here show movie-star poise. As the plot unspools, there are, naturally, quibbles one could make.

Would a mother, with a masked gunman outside her toddler's door be able to feign interest in a duck salad? Does the highly orchestrated trap laid for her match the motives of the criminal mastermind? And while we're asking questions, could we not someday get a phone-themed thriller titled "Butt Dial"?

But if "Drop" is invariably quite a bit less than realistic, it has a whiff of metaphor. Violet isn't just stepping back into the dating pool as a single mom, she's trying to shake the past trauma of spousal abuse. Going on a date with Henry, whom she met on an app, is a kind of crap shoot. Will going out with a stranger met online end in love or violence?

You could also read "Drop" as

Good: ★★★

an extreme version of a more ubiquitous scourge. This is a movie where the bad guy, for nearly the duration of the movie, is nothing but text messages. (They are typically flashed large across the screen.) As Violet grows increasingly preoccupied and frantic, she could be just about anyone — a workaholic after hours, a teenager, a desperate Knicks fan watching the score — whose attention is held prisoner by her phone.

How much of the terror of "Drop" would have existed at all, if she had just put it on silent?

"Drop," a Universal Pictures release is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for strong violent content, suicide, some strong language and sexual references. Running time: 95 minutes.

TheSportsPages

Courtesy can be catching in big league ball

Probably the most interesting play in baseball last week came on Saturday when Mike Trout leaped into the stands to grab a fly ball ... and had it snatched from his glove by a 9-year-old kid.

Now playing right field, that probably was a first for Trout, but not unusual for him was the courteous way he handled it all.

The umpire called it fan interference — which it was — and an out. After the game, Trout went out of his way to meet with the pint-sized rascal and his dad.

“I jumped in and the ball was in my glove; the guy literally just took it out,” said Trout. “But he was really apologetic. I learn new things every single day. Once I go into the stands, it’s free game.”

The photo and video of Trout shows him with his eyes closed as he reaches for the ball. I guess even someone with his kind of talent has to rely on good fortune every once in a while.

Perhaps the most perplexing development in baseball this week has been the continuing under-estimating of the Los Angeles Angels by various media outlets who issue “Power Rankings,” sort of like what’s done for the NFL.

The Halos, despite — as of this writing — being in first place in the American League West with a winning record (9-6), were ranked 18th by CBS Sports on Tuesday.

That’s behind AL West rivals Texas Rangers (9-7), Seattle Mariners (8-8) and the Houston Astros (7-9).

I guess it’s hard for some

Continued on page 8



Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

Angels in 1st? Why Not?

A look at early season surprises in the big leagues

By Noah Trister
AP Baseball Writer

Imagine this scenario: With two games left in the season, the Los Angeles Angels lead the AL West by a half-game, needing just one victory over second-place Texas to clinch a remarkable worst-to-first division title and their first postseason berth since 2014.

If baseball’s season were as short as football’s, that’s pretty much where things would stand. This question — what would the dominant baseball narratives be if this season were 17 games long? — is a worthwhile thought experiment, given how much discussion there’s been lately about parity.

There’s a conventional wisdom that the NFL is a more competitive league, with so many teams staying alive in the playoff race down to the last couple weeks — and teams making dramatic rises and falls in the standings from one season to the next.

But how much of that is simply a result of how short the football season is? Right now, all



RON WASHINGTON has seen his Angels team turn around from last place to first, but will it last? (AP Photo).

but one of baseball’s 30 teams have played between 15 and 17 games. And right now, the baseball standings mirror the type of anything-can-happen drama the NFL provides.

The Angels are in first place after entering the season as complete afterthoughts. The Atlanta Braves are in last. Toronto leads the AL East after finishing

Continued on page 8

Angels fall; Dodgers rock Rockies

ML Baseball

bright spot was the pitching of Yusei Kikuchi, who gave up only three hits and one earned run in six innings. He struck out six Rangers and walked two.

Back in Los Angeles, the **Dodgers** got a three-run home run by Will Smith as they defeated the Colorado Rockies 6-2. Freddie Freeman was also a star on offense, hitting 2 for 3 with two runs batted in.

With the victory, the Blue Crew is 13-6 and in third place in the closely-packed National League West race, behind the San Diego Padres and the San Francisco Giants and 1.5 games out of the lead.

Leadoff batter Shohei Ohtani went 0-for-4 but scored two runs for the winners.

On Wednesday, the Dodgers will continue their series with the Rockies and the Angels will again be in Arlington taking on the Rangers.

Chargers charge toward college games

It's time for high school seniors to sign letters of intent to continue their athletic careers at colleges and universities.

Edison High School in Huntington Beach held its signing ceremonies on April 10, with 19 Chargers committing to play baseball, football, women's lacrosse, rugby, men's soccer, women's soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, men's volleyball, women's volleyball, men's water polo and women's water polo.

The list follows. All area schools are invited to send their rosters of seniors moving on to the fields and courts of higher education.

1. Baseball - Shane Timmons - Concordia University, Irvine
2. Football - Julius Gillick - California State University, Fresno
3. Football - Jacob Martin - Idaho State University
4. Women's Lacrosse - Lillian Owlser - Cornell College, Iowa
5. Rugby - Shea Summers - Pennsylvania State University
6. Men's Soccer - Danny Garcia - California State University,



SOME OF THE female athletes at Edison High bound for glory at colleges and universities (HBUHSD photo).

- Northridge
7. Men's Soccer - Andrew Mosham - Illinois College
 8. Women's Soccer - Riley Crooks - Texas A&M University
 9. Women's Soccer - Olivia Romero-Green - California State University, Bakersfield
 10. Softball - Sophia Hannappel - Manhattan University
 11. Softball - Sara Witt - University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
 12. Women's Swim - Christina Bennett - University of Redlands
 13. Women's Swim - Gabriela Kelly - University of California,

- Santa Barbara
14. Men's Tennis - Dylan Trinh - Hamilton College
 15. Men's Volleyball (Indoor) - Kyle Duffey - La Sierra University
 16. Women's Volleyball (Indoor) - Kylie Grundman - California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
 17. Men's Water Polo - Luc Chapman - Concordia University, Irvine
 18. Men's Water Polo - Jack Rickerson - Salem University
 19. Women's Water Polo - Madison Emerson - Concordia University, Irvine.

Prep Sport Spotlight

West County Prep Baseball/Softball Results

Monday softball

Savanna 11, Westminster 2

Tuesday baseball

Bolsa Grande 15, R. Alamitos 5
 Magnolia 11, Santa Ana Valley 3
 Huntington Bch. 3, Los Alamitos 2
 Santiago 4, Saddleback 3
 Loara 34, Western 0
 Corona del Mar 5, Marina 4
 Orange 8, Estancia 5
 La Quinta 1, Los Amigos 0
 Savanna vs. Garden Grove (late)

Tuesday softball

Edison 12, Newport Harbor 4
 El Modena 4, Pacifica 3

Coaches: Send scores to us as orangecountytribune@gmail.com.

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Early look at some spring surprises

Continued from page 6

last in 2024. At this moment, 23 of the 30 teams are within two games of a playoff spot. Shorter seasons lead to quirkiest results and more compressed standings. That's worth remembering the next time the competitive balance in baseball and football are compared.

Vibe shift

The Blue Jays and Baltimore Orioles have spent the past few

seasons swapping roles in the AL East. Toronto averaged 90.7 wins from 2021-23, with an exciting young core that included Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Bo Bichette.

But the Orioles surged to the top of the division in 2023, and suddenly their collection of up-and-coming talent was the talk of the sport — and when the Blue Jays stumbled to 74 wins last year, it was fair to wonder if their window was closing and it was time to deal Guerrero.

Well, a few weeks into this season, Toronto leads the division, and Guerrero just signed a \$500 million, 14-year contract. Meanwhile, Baltimore's future looks less certain than it did a couple

years ago. The Orioles were an average team down the stretch last season and are 6-9 so far in 2025, and they haven't extended any of their young stars.

Toronto and Baltimore split a two-game series at Camden Yards over the weekend, with each team blowing a three-run lead.

Trivia time

Who was the last major league team to go from worst to first in its division?

Trivia answer

Boston finished last in AL East in 2015 at 78-84, then won the division the following year at 93-69.

Kings over Seattle; Ducks fall to Wild

The Anaheim Ducks lost a wild one in overtime Tuesday night, falling 3-2 in St. Paul to the Minnesota Wild. Matt Boldy scored with 18 seconds left in OT to get the win, which gave the Wild (45-30-7) a berth in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Scoring for the Ducks (35-37-9) were Alex Killorn and Sam Colangelo.

Also on Tuesday night the Los Angeles Kings (48-24-9) defeated the Kraken 6-5 in Seattle (35-41-6) for their fourth straight win. Five scored for the winners.



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Garden Grove Rotary

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Garden Grove Rotary

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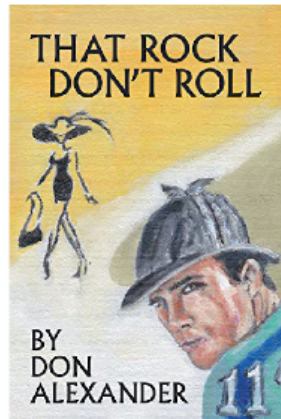
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Don Alexander has been a sports columnist, a sports broadcaster, talk show host and a college instructor. This is his first novel.

News Briefs

Continued from page 3

Kiwanis HB hosts Family Fun Day

The Huntington Beach Sports Complex at 18100 Goldenwest St. will be the location for the "Family Fun Day" on Saturday, April 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be egg hunts for kids, a dunk tank, fire and police displays, live music and food vendors.

The event is hosted by Kiwanis Huntington Beach and the City of Huntington Beach.

Sponsoring the event is the City of Hope/Orange County.

Nominate your front yard now

Continued from page 3

with a runner up, will be determined for each district. All winners will be announced during the week of Tuesday, May 27 through the City's website, social media platforms, and local media.

Winning homes will receive citywide recognition with homeowners invited to an awards reception hosted by the Garden Grove City Council.

For more information, program guidelines, and online application, visit ggcity.org/gems or call (714) 741-5200.

Retorts: Easter's the delish holiday

Continued from page 3

The only thing that "delayed" the feast of sucrose was Easter Mass. We were Holiday Catholics, which meant we made sure to go to church regularly for Christmas and Easter, but not too regularly on other Sabbaths.

Our pastor Father Murphy, always took the opportunity to demand to know where we were the other 50 weeks of the year.

We didn't mind the mild chastisement. There was ham and yams and hollow chocolate bunnies the size of real rabbits. It's just too bad eventually we have to end up giving out the baskets instead of getting them.

Sports Retorts: Classy Mike Trout

Continued from page 6

sports writers to get over the team's epic collapse last year. I can relate, but that was then and this is now.

Just call this year's team the "Rodney Dangerfield of the Diamond. Doesn't Get No Respect."