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IRVINE WEEKLY

FEBRUARY 6, 2019 • No. 8



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Hidden Secrets
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ORANGE COUNTY SUPERVISOR PREVIEW

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: CANDIDATES

On March 12 voters will decide who will represent them on the Orange County Board of Supervisors for the Third District. The seat was vacated by Todd Spitzer after he won his bid to become O.C. District Attorney last November.

The Third District covers portions of Irvine, Mission Viejo and Anaheim as well as Orange, Tustin, North Tustin, Yorba Linda, Villa

Park and some of unincorporated O.C. Irvine makes up the lion's share of the district, accounting for 33 percent of the total voters represented.

We asked the leading candidates for the seat - former Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez; Irvine Mayor Don Wagner; and former Anaheim City Councilwoman Kris Murray - why they are running to represent the Third District. Here are their responses:



PROMISES MADE AND PROMISES KEPT

BY: KRIS MURRAY

Improving public safety, increasing jobs, fixing traffic, lowering taxes. We hear those positions bandied about a lot in campaigns these days, but few ever turn these statements into meaningful action.

Similarly, in this campaign for Orange County Supervisor, I suspect every candidate will run on a similar platform, but what I offer is a proven and measurable track record of fiscal responsibility

and innovative leadership that delivered results and improved the quality of life in our community.

That is the single most important distinction I wish to make in my campaign for supervisor: I am running on my record of promises made and promises kept.

During my tenure as mayor pro tem and city councilwoman in Anaheim, I was a champion of fiscal responsibility - adopting balanced city budgets every year in office that doubled cash reserves, reduced pension liabilities, and kept city and utility fees low, while expanding transparency at City Hall.

When I took office in 2010, unemployment was at historically high levels. Adding to the problem was a police and firefighter force decimated by the recession. I immediately got to work and partnered with business leaders and community stakeholders to adopt programs and policies that led to record reinvestment, created thousands of local skilled jobs and reduced unemployment levels by more than two-thirds. I led programs to hire more than 40 sworn police officers, expand fire and rescue services, establish wildland management and invest in early wildfire detection programs to protect residents and homes from future wildfires - all without raising taxes.

On behalf of taxpayers, I authored the Taxpayer Protection Act, a charter amendment that increases the threshold to place tax increases on the city's

ballot. It was overwhelmingly passed by voters in Anaheim and since its passage, these protections were replicated and adopted by voters in Irvine and Newport Beach.

To ensure the safety of children and families, I passed a ban on sex offenders from entering city parks and worked with law enforcement countywide to address human trafficking and combat childhood exploitation.

As supervisor, I will listen to your concerns, act before there is a crisis, and drive solutions by working side by side with the community to achieve common goals.

Like every city and unincorporated community in the third district, I understand the needs of Irvine are unique and individualized. Wildfire protection, preserving open spaces and improving Irvine's transportation infrastructure with regards to streets and intersections are top priorities. It is vital to a thriving Irvine to stay within the master plan and maintain the natural landscapes we enjoy, while protecting the safety of our residential neighborhoods, parks and wildland areas. I strongly support a Veterans Cemetery in Orange County, at a location that respects the wishes of Irvine residents and honors our region's brave veterans.

This past year, wildfires devastated California, with 80 lives lost and more than \$12.4 billion in damage and loss of private property. Wildfires continue to ravish our county year after year, caus-

ing complete devastation to hundreds of residents. Like many of you, my family and I have been evacuated multiple times during these events.

While on the Board of Supervisors, I will proactively lead efforts to develop comprehensive wildland protection measures, as well as work with the Orange County Fire Authority to develop early wildfire detection systems to save lives and protect private property.

It's important that this special election for Orange County supervisor be centered on the pressing issues facing our community. That's why at the start of my campaign, I signed a "Clean Campaign Pledge" and urged all candidates to join me because Orange County residents deserve better than false and misleading campaign tactics that divert attention from important county issues.

As your next supervisor, I will fulfill my commitment to residents who put their trust in me by voting in this special election - you have my word to faithfully serve my full term of office and provide long-term, common-sense leadership working every day in the best interests of Orange County.

On March 12, I humbly ask for your vote. I would be honored to represent you as your next county supervisor.

Please visit www.ElectKrisMurray.com to learn more about my background, broad coalition of endorsements and record serving Orange County residents.



WHY I'M RUNNING FOR SUPERVISOR

BY: DONALD P. WAGNER

I am running for county supervisor because there are things at the county we need to fix, and because I alone in the race bring success at the local level, where county supervisors work, in actually fixing problems for people living in Irvine and throughout the Third Supervisorial District.

I have led a Renaissance in Irvine over the last few years. At the Orange County Great Park, we are finally providing world class sports facilities and open space – after years of promises and false starts and the wasteful spending of over \$200 million by prior council leadership.

Irvine remains the safest city of its size in the nation according to FBI statistics. The City Council I lead continues our unprecedented relationship with and support for the Irvine Unified School District. I have brought back the Irvine Transportation Commission to address traffic growth which had been ignored in the past, and I have implemented an aggressive plan to ease existing traffic bottlenecks.

Finally, the city again has won awards under my leadership as a model for sound fiscal management. We have balanced our budget without raising taxes and still provide the public safety and public amenities for which Irvine is internationally renowned.

I want to take that record of accomplishment to the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

Certainly, there is a lot of work to do at the county level. For example, the homeless problem was allowed to fester for too long. It should be unacceptable to everyone in Orange County that a single human being who wants housing should go without, much less that we should have people dying on our streets!

That is why, when the county sprang on Irvine a half-baked, wholly unworkable tent city proposal that would have merely relocated the county's homeless problem to an uninhabitable spot near Irvine homes, schools and parks, I led the effort not just to stop that scheme, but to actually find a real solution. I have been at the table with the federal judge overseeing the homeless case, and at the table with other south county mayors, to collectively find a comprehensive compassionate solution that protects public safety.

The Board of Supervisors also has oversight responsibility for public safety in Orange County beyond just the homeless issue. Unfortunately, the incredible safety record in Irvine has not been shared around the county. We are seeing an increase in violence, property crimes, drug abuse and human trafficking. Much of this increase is the result of unwise policy choices made by the Legislature in Sacramento. I argued passionately against those choices during my time in the Legislature, representing most of the Third District. The fight must continue at the Board of Supervisors to protect all the people of Orange County, to put in jail the dangerous predators lurking among us, and to destroy the scourge of human trafficking.

In addition, I have worked with county leadership over contentious land use issues to assure that the interests of the people in planned and responsible growth, not the interests of developers in quick profits, are respected by government. Where necessary, Irvine has sued the county to force responsible planning and growth. I will take to the Board of Supervisors, on behalf of every city and every resident in Orange County, the same demand that the county act responsibly in its planning.

No one from the city of Irvine has ever served on the Board of Supervisors. But today, Irvine is the largest part of the Third Supervisorial District and the most vibrant city in all of Orange County. An Irvine seat at the table, with the experience I can bring to the discussion at that table, will benefit all the residents of the Third District.

People live and work in Orange County because of our superb quality of life. That is what brought my wife and I and our then young family to Orange County almost 30 years ago. I have spent my time in public service working to maintain that quality of life for the people I am privileged to represent in local government. I am running for the Board of Supervisors to enhance that quality of life for all of Orange County.



FIGHT FOR A BETTER ORANGE COUNTY

BY: LORETTA SANCHEZ

I love Orange County. That's why my family and I have lived here for over 55 years. That's why I fought for two decades in the House of Representatives to bring opportunity and growth to the county. I am running now for the Orange County Board of Supervisors because this is my home and I want it to be a place where everyone can thrive and prosper.

I love Orange County because it made the American Dream possible for my parents, who immigrated in the 1950s, worked hard to provide for and educate me and my six brothers and sisters. Through their support and the power of education, my sister and I became the first and only sisters in American history to serve together in the House of Representatives.

While representing Orange County in Congress, I worked with federal, state and local officials to bring billions of dollars of investment home to Orange County to improve our roads, water system, schools, hospitals and first responder capabilities. In 2015, Congressional Quarterly named me one of the "25 most powerful women of Congress." As a county supervisor, I am ready to put that experience and know-how to work for the people of Orange County.

I believe the Board of Supervisors must take responsibility for solving our most pressing problems. During my 20 years of service in Congress, I fought tooth and nail to make sure the people of Orange County received the services and public support they deserve. Unfortunately, I didn't always see the same dedication from our local Board of Supervisors. For example, despite large appropriations to improve health care and provide housing for the homeless, the Board of Supervisors failed to use available

resources or implement effective programs for the working families of Orange County. It is time for an overhaul and a breath of new energy.

We need leadership at the county level which will focus on issues like health care, a basic and indispensable human right. When I learned that Santa Ana was ranked as one of the most poorly insured cities in the United States, I worked with my colleagues in Congress and local leaders to launch "Enroll OC," which helped over 2,000 uninsured individuals get reliable access to quality health care.

Another priority that demands immediate action is fire safety. The wildfires of 2017 and 2018 showed that the current Board of Supervisors has failed to adequately prepare the county for this threat. Inefficient procedures and gaps in city-county coordination and essential equipment delayed response times and left much to be desired. Many of our cities, including Irvine, rely on the O.C. Board of Supervisors to properly manage and equip their fire departments. The current board has failed to update procedures and ensure that we are ready for the next crisis. Our firefighters do their jobs with courage and dedication. We need strong, proactive leadership at the county level to confront and solve current issues before they become catastrophes.

Since leaving public office, I have devoted my time to tackling some of Orange County's toughest issues. I have worked with public and private partners to provide shelter and essential services for homeless women -- the most at-risk homeless population. I am also working with private industry, labor and schools to create an innovative program to build small modular housing units as a solution to the housing shortage in our county. This would allow families and multi-generational households to create more affordable housing options on their existing properties. Public-private partnerships like these are one of the many ways the Board of Supervisors can make a difference and build a better future for our communities.

As your supervisor, I will bring over 30 years of government, business and finance experience to make Orange County a better place for our children. I would be honored to have your vote on March 12th to be the next member of the Orange County Board of Supervisors and do what I do best: Fight for a better Orange County.



FOOD HALL MAGIC AT UNION MARKET IN TUSTIN

SATIATE YOUR CRAVINGS FOR FOOD, BOOZE AND ARTISAN GOODS AT THIS LOCAL BAZAAR.

BY: EVAN SENN

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: UNION MARKET TUSTIN

Remember when you were a teenager and going to the mall was fun? You had so many shops in one place, multiple floors of beautiful things and people all over the place that seemed excited to be there, to be experiencing things. A huge part of the amazing experience of mall-going was the epic and vast food court – every type of food you could ever want were all present at

the food court. You could fulfill every deep-seated taste bud desire you had, all in one place. Although the magic of the mall has faded quite a bit since our teenage days, the new iteration of this magical experience can be found in the “marketplaces” or “food halls” popping up all over Southern California. Luckily, in the heart of The District at Tustin Legacy, we have our own local marketplace center called Union Market, and

man, oh man, any visitor can get all their cravings in food, booze and goods satiated at this local gem.

Union Market is a maze of halls and mini-shops and cafes that are set up in the magical food court style we all know and love. This maze of amazingness is jam-packed with over 14 different food and drink spots, and a handful of stores and shops sprinkled in the mix. Whatever you're craving, you get your

hands on it here. Do you want a poke bowl with a dessert crepe and a side of bacon mac-and-cheese? You got it. Are you craving ice cream, a butter croissant and a Thai coconut to drink? No problem. You want to eat an accai bowl while your mom eats gluten-free pasta? Come on down. You want a dirty martini and a haircut? Pssh – easy.

This place is centrally located in The District at Tustin Legacy, next to Whole

FOOD

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Foods, Ulta, Vans, Costco and a ton of other places, so technically you could also get some shopping done while you're there, but really, it's just a great place where everybody can get what they want. Inside the Union Market, Portola Coffee Roasters will pump you full of the best tasting caffeine you've ever had, and Churned Creamery is just down the hall if you want something sweet after you're all hyped up on that amazing coffee. In the same area, Cubed is the independently owned one-stop Hawaiian-centric poke shop that was created by lifelong friends, and all that love shows through in their poke. You can also find amazing spam musubi and other delicious Hawaiian-inspired treats.

The Kroft is just across from Portola, where you can dive into a variety of fresh-made comfort foods with French-Canadian inspiration. We're talking about amazing sandwiches made with the freshest ingredients, succulent meats hot off the rotisserie, and customized bread from an artisan baker. We're also talking about the epic strange wonder of poutine – double-fried French fries piled high with fresh cheese curds and a variety of different homemade gravies and signature toppings.

Right smack-dab in the middle of the Union Market is the Central Bar – aptly named – where you can get a variety of craft beers, cocktails or wine and people watch as others walk around in awe and find what they're looking for in the maze. Now, Union Market has its fair share of options when it comes to bars. Central Bar is an amazing location, but



the craft cocktails at Kettlebar and the heavenly Tiki drinks at Stowaway are better suited for cocktail connoisseurs. Kettlebar has roots in the South and creates amazing Southern cuisine as well as complex artisan-crafted cocktails. It's a favorite watering hole of serving industry folks and of people who love a complicated spirited-forward craft cocktail, made with love.

Stowaway specializes in Tiki-inspired cuisine and cocktails and offers a fun and flirty atmosphere that makes guests feel like they really are a stowaway on a 1950s cruise ship! With adorable and accurate mid-century Tiki décor – including a variety of artworks

by SHAG, this little hidden bar is difficult to find in the Union Market, but what a fun trip you'll have in this Tiki haven.

If you're feeling a little sweet but want to stay on the healthy track, you could try a freshly made artisan crêpe from Crêpe Coop (and top it with all the best bad-for-you treats) or, even better, you could stop by Berry Brand Superfoods and get a loaded Acai or Pitaya Bowl topped with your choice of healthy and natural toppings. There are also many other great little stops that offer freshly made pasta, milk tea with boba, sweet little fruit tarts and flavored shaved snow, baked goods like donuts and croissants, and a surprising variety

of young Thai coconuts and coconut waters.

The shops at Union Market are just as unique as the food options, and sporadically placed as you stumble into one or another whichever way you're headed in this maze. Le Petite Chenille is a chic boutique clothing store that has fashion-forward looks and items for every kind of taste. Scent Avenue is a great-smelling little shop that has every type of aromatic accessory you might ever want or need. With a great curated selection of candles, diffusers, essential oils, bath bombs, wax melts, perfumes and room sprays, you simply won't ever need to go to another candle store or essential oil party ever again.

The Paper House is also an essential shop offering a great selection of stationary, cards, journals, banners, decorations, desk accessories, tote bags, holiday supplies, art prints, calendars and toys for the kids. This independently owned boutique is small but artfully designed and offers only the best and the most clever and stylish paper goods.

The OC Hit Factory is the cherry on top of the sundae that is Union Market. A subsidiary record label under Sony Music Entertainment, this back-corner spot offers the public vocal and instrument lessons, songwriting workshops, a state-of-the-art recording studio, a 24/7 radio station and acts as a venue for live music. Not too shabby for a marketplace, right? So, if you're in the mood for an updated version of the mall food court magic with a touch of awesome, Union Market in Tustin is the place to go.



People travel from all over the world to visit Disneyland in Anaheim, so Irvine residents lucked out having the theme park right in their backyard.

Indeed, Disneyland has been a staple of Orange County since its opening in 1955. But no matter how many times you may have been there, chances are you haven't uncovered all the hidden secrets sprinkled throughout the Magic Kingdom – until now. Irvine Weekly has put together a guide for the top 10 Disneyland secrets to uncover next time you visit the park.

10: Hidden Mickeys

This is ranked lowest on our list because it's probably the secret that the most people know about. The Disney Imagineers purposely built the signature Mickey Mouse silhouette into most attractions and restaurants around the park. For example, on Star Tours, when C-3PO appears at the front right of the room, a small, bright white classic Mickey is on his right forearm near his wrist. If you don't think you'd be able to spot all the Mickeys yourself, there are many blogs that can assist you in finding them.

9: Club 33

Club 33 is a private, members-only club in New Orleans Square. Unlike California Adventure, Disneyland is dry and Club 33 is the only place in the park that sells alcohol. Club members pay \$10,000 a year plus a \$25,000 non-refundable initiation fee, but there's a 14-year waiting list to join. Members get early access to the theme park, free valet parking at the Grand Californian Hotel and full access to the Lilly Belle car on the Disneyland Railroad, a secret presidential car at the tail of the Disneyland Train named after Walt Disney's wife Lillian. It's reserved for V.I.P.s and special guests but if you arrive at the park before it opens, you can go to the Disneyland Railroad Station, wait for the opening announcement and ask one of the cast members to make a reservation for you to ride in the Lilly Belle train car.

8: The Dominguez Tree

While there are many attractions still at the park that date back to its original opening, one fixture in the park even predates that. Above the Jungle Cruise in Adventureland, there's a palm tree

THE HIDDEN SECRETS OF DISNEYLAND

TOP 10 FUN-FACTS MANY DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE WORLD-FAMOUS PARK.

BY: MICHAEL COOPER

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: DISNEYLAND RESORT

ENTERTAINMENT

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that belonged to the Dominguez Family, the family who sold their Anaheim farm to Walt Disney so he could build Disneyland. The family made one request: that their family tree, which was a wedding gift, remained untouched and live on as part of the park. Walt Disney agreed and the tree still stands today.

7: Captain the Mark Twain Riverboat

You're the captain now! If you plan to ride the Mark Twain Riverboat, how about captaining it? Before you board, you can find a Disney cast member and ask to visit the wheelhouse. They'll take you to the second floor to a door marked "Private." Knock on the door and the captain will take you to a secret ladder that goes to the wheelhouse, where you can steer and captain the riverboat under supervision. You can ring the Mark Twain bell and sound its whistle too. When the ride is finished, you can ask for a certificate and sign the guestbook alongside all the people who have ever steered the Riverboat.

6: Morse Code Message at New Orleans Square Train Station

At New Orleans Square Train Station, you may or may not have noticed some random Morse code from the telegraph office next door. Most likely you don't speak morse code and didn't give it a second thought, but the message is actually from Walt Disney's original dedication he gave on Disneyland's opening day: "To all who come to Disneyland, welcome. Here, age relives fond memories of the past and here youth may savor the challenge and promise of the future."

5: The Secret Food Menu

Throughout the park, there's a lot of off-menu food that is available to order if you know what to order. This includes a "Galactic Style" burger at the Galactic Grill in Tomorrowland, which is topped with fries, cheese, bacon, onions and Thousand Island dressing. At the Golden

exists called "Walk In Walt's Disneyland Footsteps." A guide will take you to spots that are usually not available to guests including Walt Disney's "secret" apartment in Main Street U.S.A., above the Main Street fire station. He and his entire family used the apartment from time to time and it has been preserved the way



Horseshoe in Frontierland, you can order a dish called Ice Cream Nachos, which is three scoops of ice cream topped with hot fudge, whipped cream and chocolate chips, all on top of waffle cone "chips." One more example is the loaded tater tots at River Belle Terrace. Once again, there are blogs out there that can assist you in finding all the secret food throughout the park.

4: Walk In Walt's Disneyland Footsteps Tour

Most people don't know that a tour

it was when they lived there, with a lamp in the window that's always on in honor of Walt. You'll get lots of interesting stories from your tour guide and ride the attractions that are still there from when the park first opened. You'll even get an exclusive lunch on Main Street. Reservations can be made by calling (714) 781-TOUR.

3: Basketball Court in the Matterhorn

Big Foot isn't the only thing hidden in the Matterhorn ride! That's right, in the

backstage area of the ride, there's a small attic space that has a basketball hoop. Cast members can play games between shifts or on brakes there while you're screaming your head off on the ride.

2: Native Feral Cats

You may or may not have noticed a few feral cats when you've been walking around Disneyland. This isn't just an accident: Disney spokespeople have acknowledged their existence. Some say that when Walt was alive, feral cats were first discovered in Sleeping Beauty's castle so he decided to leave them be so they can take care of any rodent problems. Cast members have been known to actually care for these cats who, ironically, are there to kill Mickey and Minnie's real life compatriots!

1: Doritos Were Invented In Disneyland

Frito-Lay owned a restaurant in Disneyland when the theme park first opened in 1955 called Casa de Fritos. In need of a way to salvage stale tortillas rather than just throwing them away, the restaurant began flavoring and frying them, turning them into what we know as Doritos. After the snack became a huge hit with Disneyland guests, Frito-Lay made Doritos into a national brand.

While we just scratched the surface of Disneyland secrets and picked our favorite ones, there are many more park secrets out there for you to uncover. If you haven't explored any yet, then perhaps they'll make this classic theme park fresh and new to hold over guests until Star Wars Land opens this summer.



REBELLION HEADLINES AT LONG BEACH'S ONE LOVE CALI FEST

THE REGGAE-INSPIRED ROCK BAND REFLECTS ON A SUCCESSFUL AND MEANINGFUL CAREER.

BY: SHIRLEY JU

PHOTOS BY: SAM MEDINA

If you love reggae, you love Rebelution. Scratch that. If you love good music, you love Rebelution. Hardly able to be boxed into one genre, the reggae-inspired rock band came into fruition in 2004, and has since catapulted into one of the biggest touring acts in the world.

Hailing from Isla Vista, the group consists of four members: Lead vocalist Eric, keyboardist Rory, bassist Marley D. Williams, and drummer Wesley, each contributing their talents into what makes Rebelution live up to their well-respected name. Having been nominated for a Grammy with their 2016 effort, "Falling into Place," the band returned this year with their sixth studio album titled "Free Rein," an ode to self-love, peace and positivity.

Rebellion's top five tracks have accumulated more than 100 million spins on Spotify alone. Beyond music, they even launched their own cannabis line with a customized cannabis oil battery pen, herb vaporizer and oil – fitting with their almost coveted laidback Cali vibe.

And what better way to ring in the new year than with a full-blown festival with some of the biggest acts in dance-hall and reggae? Going on its fourth year, the 2019 One Love Cali Reggae Fest will take place Feb. 8 through Feb.

10 at the Queen Mary Events Park in Long Beach. This year, the annual festivities extend to three days instead of two, with Rebelution headlining day one, Slightly Stoopid day two and Sublime with Rome on day three.

In addition to the explosive lineup, fans can party all night long on the water with after parties by Don Carlos, Collie Buddz and Fiji. Irvine Weekly caught up with Eric Rachmany, the lead singer of Rebelution, to preview the band's highly anticipated performance Friday evening.

For those who don't know, who is Rebelution?

Rebellion is a band that's been together for 14 years. We're definitely reggae inspired, even though we cover a lot of different genres of music. We've got a dedicated fanbase that's been with us from the beginning and it just keeps on getting bigger and bigger. It kind of feels like a big happy family.

Why "reggae inspired" versus reggae?

Because we have a lot of songs that just don't sound like reggae. It's hard to classify our music. We all got together because we were all listening to reggae at the time. We were a cover band playing reggae music, but as we started writing original music, we ventured into different categories of music. I would

say reggae is the biggest inspiration of our sound, but it certainly isn't everything.

Being from Isla Vista, how does that play into your life and career?

It definitely was a great training ground for us. There were tons of people out and about on weekends. We would set up in backyards, garages and driveways. There would literally be thousands of people walking by, so immediately we had to get used to playing in front of a lot of people. In that regard, it helped me be a better entertainer in a very short amount of time. I was the kind of person that never wanted to be a lead singer. I never enjoyed being the center of attention, I just wanted to be a guitar player. But performing in front of all those people made me have to mature faster as an entertainer and a performer.

Can you talk about the nostalgia that ensues from this little town?

A lot of people that have been to Santa Barbara have seen Isla Vista. It's crazy, at least back then. There were no rules really. You would set up and just make as much noise as possible until midnight and just hope that it didn't shut down. Often times, it did get shut down. We would have to find another place last minute or set up in the living room. Looking back at it, it's pretty cool that the music spread the way it did. A lot of it has to do with the characteristics of Isla Vista. It has to do with friends visiting friends and bringing it back to whatever town they live in, and just spreading the word about Rebelution. I really feel like Rebelution got spread by word of mouth. A lot of that has to do with the way Isla Vista is set up and how music can spread very fast in an environment like that.

How important is it to come to L.A. as an up-and-coming artist?

It's not as important as it used to be. Back in the day, it was a place to showcase your music for industry people and try to get a record deal. For any artist coming up today, you have the ability to put your music online for free. You can send a link for someone to listen to it. You don't have to have a big record deal in order to have your music heard. I do think it's important to go to L.A. for the sake of just playing. I always tell up-and-coming artists to just play as much as you can, give away as much free music as you can and perform live constantly. The fact that L.A. is a big area with a lot of people makes it important. But as far as it being a music industry central location, historically, it's not as important for

up-and-coming artists.

At what point did you realize this music thing was for real?

Honestly, in Isla Vista from the very beginning. It felt like there was something special and magical about it. We became this big hit in the community, and it just got bigger and bigger from there. Even playing for five people, it turned into 10 and 20 and 100. It kind of just kept growing exponentially. There was no point where I was like, "Oh, I made it." We've had this gradual increase in our listeners. It's slow and steady, and it's kind of nice. There's a lot less pressure when you grow slowly but surely.

Eric Rachmany, Rory Carey, Marley D. Williams and Wesley Finley, what's the dynamic within the group?

We have spent the last 14 years playing with each other constantly. Touring and playing over 100 shows a year. I see the other three guys in the band more than I see my friends and family at home. The fact that we're still together after 14 years means that we all get along pretty well. We enjoy each other's company for the most part. [laughs] We have six and a half albums out, so it's a real testament to how much we've gotten along as a group.

You guys are crazy touring artists.

Talk about what goes into your live performances.

We take it really seriously. I know I personally try to give the best possible performance I can. I always give 100 percent. In order to do that, I take very good care of my voice. I make sure that I warm up. I just take my vocals very seriously. I try to keep my health as good as possible to make sure that I'm able to give 100 percent. We've done thousands of shows now as a band, and they just keep on getting better and better. We become better musicians, better performers. I become more of an interactive performer as time goes by. The fans can always see us getting better and better, and it keeps them coming back.

What does it mean to be part of the One Love Cali bill, which is dedicated to reggae.

The line-up is amazing. There's so many bands that have become our friends and we've considered family over the years. It's a great place for us to get together and collaborate with other artists. A lot of the artists on the bill have songs together. We've all toured together at certain times. It's something that the fans really look forward to. They love seeing all their favorite bands at one location in one weekend. This is

the first year that it's a three-day festival and not a two-day festival. Just hoping for good weather, that's the only thing.

Can you talk about performing in Orange County/Long Beach? In my opinion, it's reminiscent of IV. We've been coming there a long time. We used to perform at this spot called the OC Tavern. We were kind of like a house band – we played every other week or so. Besides Isla Vista, that was a spot we would come very frequently to try to get our music out there, sell merchandise and spread the word about who we were. That whole area has always been good to Rebelution. It continues to be a great spot for us. Long Beach definitely has an Isla Vista vibe to it. Long Beach has always kind of been a hot spot for reggae music. Anywhere along the coast really kind of gravitates to reggae-inspired music, so no wonder we do pretty well up there.

You guys dropped "Free Rein" earlier this year. Talk about the creative process and how long it took you.

This one we put a lot of effort into because we went back to producing it ourselves, for the most part. It was only a couple tracks that we didn't produce ourselves. We were more hands on with this album, wrote everything ourselves, chose who we wanted to work with. Definitely took at least a couple years from the writing process to recording it and putting it out.

"Celebrate" is such a great record.

Why is it so important for you to promote positivity in your music?

Honestly because I'm in a position where people are listening. I don't want to put out something that has no use to humanity. [chuckles] I feel like people are looking up to us. From the very beginning, people were coming up to us saying, "Hey, your music got me through a tough time. I really owe it to you, thank you so much." It just makes me want to do that more and more. I wouldn't want to stop doing that. There's no better feeling than when someone comes up to you and tells you that. I'm just gonna continue to try to make positive music, try to encourage and motivate people. Just help people out with music, that's what it's all about for us.

I love the message in "you're one of us."

How has music been a form of therapy for you?

It's certainly been a form a therapy. Music can be a form of therapy for everybody. I don't know anybody out there who doesn't pray to the universal thing that we have in common. Music

has got me through tough times, that's for sure. As far as saying "you're one of us," I just want people to feel like we're unified. I don't want anybody to get down for differences they have from me or from you, or from anybody. The goal "Celebrate" is to say, "Hey, I got your back. We're behind you. You're one of us. Let's do this together."

What are some goals for yourself as an artist at this point of your career?

Honestly, I just want to do what I've been doing for the last six albums. I just want to write music and record it. I want to play shows. That's worked so far, I feel like it's still working for us. Our listeners have such a great connection with us. Personally, as an artist, I just want to make honest, positive music, and that's good enough for me.

Have you noticed a shift since weed has been legalized?

To tell you the truth, I don't see much of a difference. People were using cannabis just as much before it was legalized. It kind of always felt like it was legalized in California. As far as business, it seems like there's a ton more companies out there. So many players in this movement now, it's getting really kind of cluttered. There's just such an abundance of cannabis here in California that it doesn't feel like it changed that much.

Any thoughts on Jamaican reggae artist Buju Banton returning home?

I'm happy about it. It's great, I think people in Jamaica are thrilled. He's a staple there. I certainly like a lot of his music. I don't really like a lot of the gangster stuff, but Buju Banton has a lot of positive music too with everything going on. I'm happy about it. I feel like we spend a lot of money on the war on drugs. Particularly putting people in prison. It really bothers me how much money we spend locking people away for drug offenses.

What's the best encounter you've had with a fan?

When people come up to me and tell me that I saved their lives. Although I don't go into specifics with them, I really have to believe them when they tell me that. That's a pretty amazing feeling when someone tells you that. It makes me feel like this is bigger than me. Like I said earlier, why would I want to put out a message that's negative? I have the ability to affect people's lives and keep somebody alive, that's such an amazing feeling. It's not just one person, I get it all the time. I get messages almost every day from people. It's more motivation for me to keep doing what I'm doing.



MAKING HIS MARK: THE ART AND DESIGN OF NICK SIMON

DEPICTING THE POWER OF NATURE AND THE BEAUTY IN THE CYCLE OF LIFE.

BY: EVAN SENN

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: NICK SIMON

The bright and sketchy style of artist and designer Nick Simon is catching like wildfire. A full-time Senior Designer at O'Neill USA and a compulsive creator, Irvine-based Simon never stops creating. His signature style of sketchy monochromatic ink paintings of California scenes with dark and graphic undertones has pushed his graphic design work and his fine art work into one another, blending the edges of both genres. Taking influence from artists like MC Escher, Jesse Draxler and Ralph Steadman, Simon's work stands out for its specific quality of California low-brow style, but live as timeless creations in the history of design and art.

Originally from San Diego, Simon grew up surfing and skateboarding the California waves and sidewalks, finding fascination in the imagery that surrounded him in the surf and skate

scenes. Simon has been making art for as long as he can remember. Passionate about comic books, graphic novels and lowbrow culture, Simon's unending love for art transcended action sports and helped craft his lifelong obsession for imagery into a thriving career in design. Taking inspiration from what surrounds him, the natural California landscape, the thriving subcultures here in SoCal and the minimal design of classic California architecture, Simon's imagination has always pushed him to make art and has constantly given him ideas to pursue in a variety of materials and styles.

With a degree in Graphic Design from the Art Institute, his artwork and his design grew and evolved side-by-side over the years. Having worked with a variety of action sports brands, Simon is well-respected in the industry and creates textile designs, graphics,

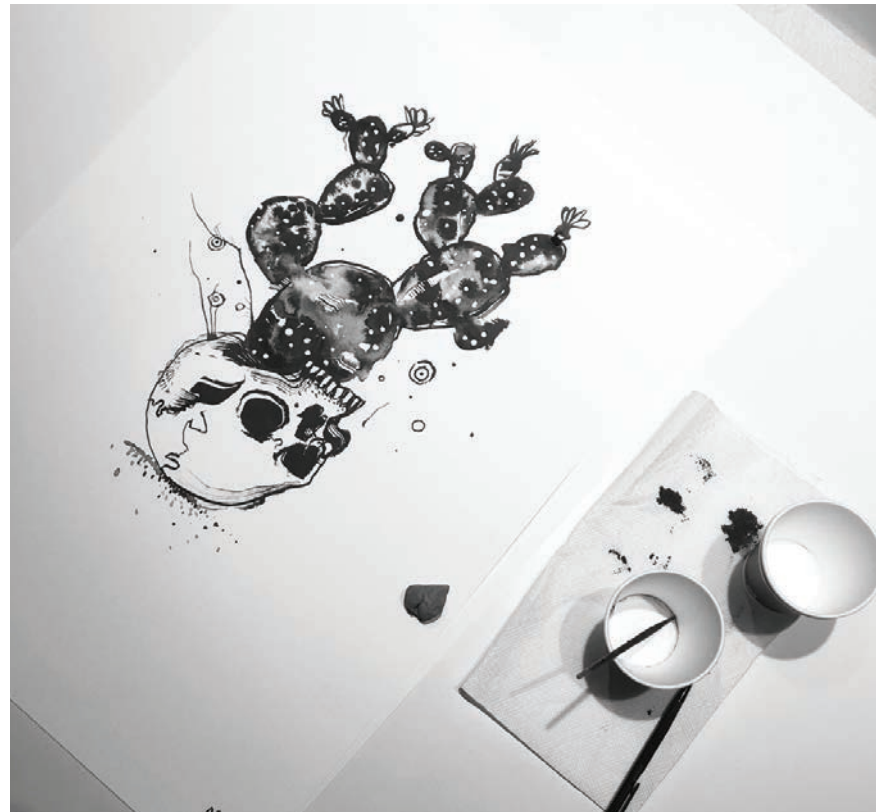


drawings and logo designs. Some of his previous clients include Atwyld, Nikita, Captain Fin, O'Neill, Slowtide, Meredith Baer Home, Hurley, Captain Fin, Loser Machine Co., Hang Ten, Dark Seas Division, Fox Head Moto, Grenade and Osiris Shoes, among others. Like his fine art, his design work includes many historical art references as well as stylistic experimentation, lowbrow references, visual references to the occult, surf and skate culture, and tattoo culture as well. He is drawn to the wild unknown, the power of nature and the beauty in the cycle of life. His designs and fine art all deal with these powerful yet simple concepts in one way or another. A lover of memory and nostalgia, Simon invokes a number of historical styles in his imagery, appropriating historic renderings of mermaids, family crests, coffins and more. He also finds solace in the image of the palm tree. Although static images, the classic California icons, the palm trees, seem to constantly sway, whispering to one another high above the building tops and far away from the prying ears of humans. They each have their own personality, too. With specific quirks and kinks in the lines and brushstrokes Simon uses to express them, he shows us their character.

In today's contemporary visual world, fine art and design are becoming interchangeable as more and more

artists are creating art and design with technological innovations aiding their process. Many artists make their living as designers and in turn we see that influence in their designs and in the products where their work lives on. By exchange, we also see their design work and the larger movement of contemporary design evolving to incorporate more fine art elements as well. Simon's fine art work began as a photorealistic journey through observation and now lives somewhere between realism, surrealism and whimsy.

Simon's artistic world is covered in needle-less cacti full of stars and stories. It is a world where sea creatures can live on land and palm trees dance on command in the breeze, and where darkness evokes wonder not fear. Enamored by nature, Simon is fascinated with the types of plants that live on for years without help. Succulents and cacti are favorites of Simon, and he and his family take trips to the desert often to observe the magic of the ecosystem there. If there were ever plants that were made for designers, succulents would be them. Classic form, sleek lines, strong and stable, and can live without much of anything – they are perfectly suited for a designer's world. Simon creates a lot of work that features succulents and cacti for these exact reasons. In his compositions they are full of life and person-



ality, adding weight and strength to his scenes.

The scenes he creates have a sense of magic to them, as he includes references to death or the cycle of life in almost every piece, as well as something unexpected. He told us in an interview that he is particularly fascinated with juxtapositions and mixing dark and light content together in an interesting way. He also creates artworks for himself first, and as a hired designer – always making images for others – it is important to maintain. Finding the balance between making images for others and making images for yourself can be difficult, but Simon makes artwork every day, whether it is sketching something while drinking his morning coffee, or playing around with a new brush and ink after dinner with his family. His need to create is compulsory.

Simon's passion is making art, and he plans on getting a few more murals on the books in the near future and hopes to launch some more prints and paintings too. The large scale of murals fit his style of work quite well, with eye-catching compositions and bold lines and shapes. He is passionate

about the "less is more" style of design and composition, and feels that it really allows viewers to gather more information from the painted or drawn image more readily. Simon tells a story with only a few forms, but is able to play with the imagery, the techniques and the style so curiously that it will keep your attention.



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