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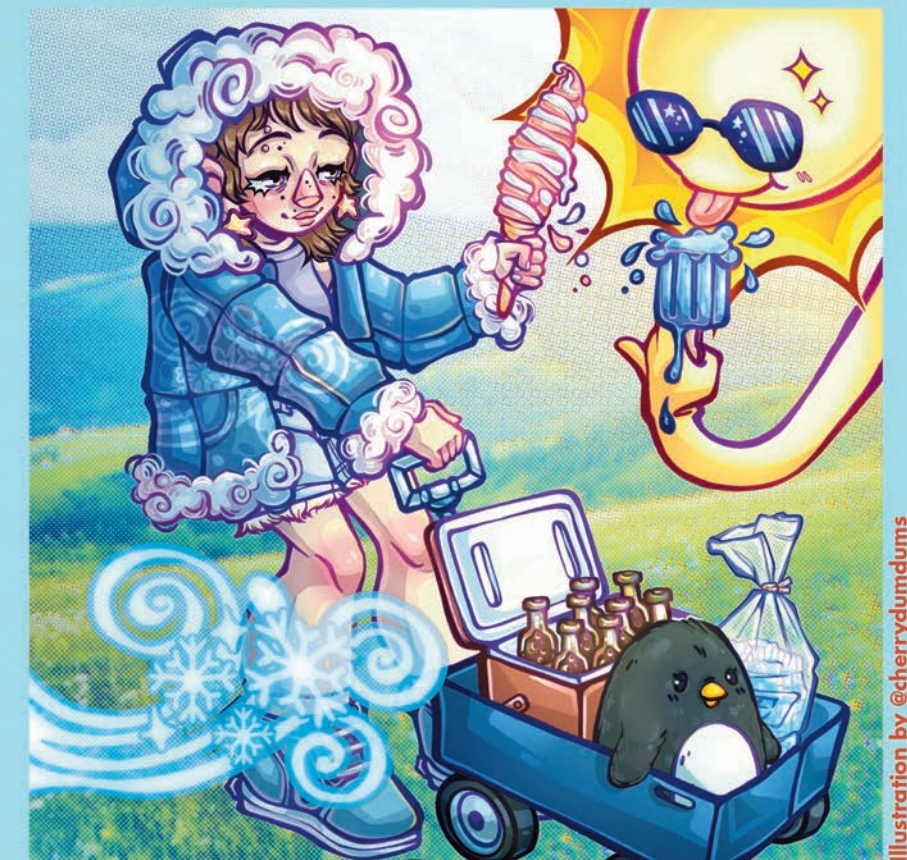


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SaltLakeUnderGround • Vol. 34
Issue #415 • July 2023

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ABOUT THE COVER: For our July cover, **Laura Hendricks** uses perspective to create an illusion of depth through mixed media collage, adding and subtracting elements from iconic Utah landscapes. Follow Hendricks on Instagram @hav_house or visit her website, havhouse.com.

Hunter Weston

Contributor Limelight
Events Assistant



If you've swung by the SLUG office since November '22, you may have run into our Events Assistant Hunter Weston and her lovable dog, **Gnome**. Hunter's passion for the Salt Lake arts and culture scene, combined with her dedicated optimism to ensuring events such as *Brewstillery*, *SLUG Cat* and *SLUG Picnic* go off without a hitch, has made her an invaluable member of our team. Everybody say, "Thank you, Hunter!"

Wes Wood

Contributor Limelight
Illustrator



Wes Wood has been cranking out impeccable, vibrant illustrations to accompany our print issue features and online-exclusive coverage as a member of the SLUG Contributing team since April '22. Without Wes' designs, articles such as **Mike Brown's** *Mushrooms and the Great Outdoors!* (pg. 24) would be left to lackluster, personal interpretation. Thank you Wes for your colorful depictions of the Salt Lake UnderGround!

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Rock climbing can be an intimidating sport to make your way into, even more so when spaces do not feel inclusive or welcoming. It's easy to recognize that rock climbing is a predominantly white sport, and Utah's more general lack of diversity provides obstacles for BIPOC individuals looking to find encouraging spaces in which to begin their climbing journey. Salt Lake City's Color the Wasatch hopes to overcome this barrier.

Carlos Vizcarra, Organizer and Communications/Marketing Representative for CTW, explains that this nonprofit is more than a climbing group. Created amid the BLM movement during the COVID-19 pandemic, CTW was founded out of a desire to create a space for people of color in the world of climbing. Inclusivity, as well as accessibility, are at the forefront of their mission.

"There's a cultural block, and that's something I am passionate about trying to break," says Vizcarra. Being Latin American, Vizcarra shares his experience with members of his community feeling hesitant to try climbing because it can be seen as "too white," he says. "For some, it's almost seen as a betrayal of what our culture is." He hopes to change the perception of this by getting more people of color into climbing gyms and outdoor spaces. Vizcarra envisions a future where people of color can simply enjoy the sport and feel comfortable in their participation.

Vizcarra and the other CTW coordinators continue to break stereotypes and lead by example. The group organizes bi-weekly climbing nights at local gyms, including *The Front* and *Bouldering Project*. CTW encourages climbers of all skill levels, from brand new to experienced, to join. The group also recognizes the financial burden of climbing. The expensive gym memberships associated with the sport and the equipment necessary for safe climbing can often limit people's accessibility. The group helps to offset members' costs by working with affinity groups and various sponsors to co-host free events and offer reduced prices on gym passes.

COLOR THE WASATCH

DIVERSIFYING CLIMBING

By Mallory Iverson • @mallory_michele_



Photo: Katarina Duerr

Co-organizers and members of Color the Wasatch's leadership team (L-R Carlos Vizcarra, Andrea Ramos Campos, Ryan Suen) meet together at the Salt Lake Bouldering Project.

CTW is constantly looking for new ways to engage its members through climbing. The group recently made a trip to *Zion National Park* for outdoor climbing and hiking. "It was honestly one of the most fulfilling things I have done," says Vizcarra. For some of the group's members, this was the first time they had visited Southern Utah or were able to climb outside. "This summer, we're hoping to plan one or two outdoor climbing events in the Cottonwoods, as well," says Vizcarra.

The group also organizes occasional social events and clinics such as their recent *Spring Picnic*, where members gathered to enjoy a barbecue cook-out as well as play tennis and basketball. At their *Personal Finance Clinic* in May CTW addressed issues of systemic oppression by promoting members' financial literacy, covering topics like budgeting and investing. CTW is a group created with climbing at its center, but its main focus is to foster community and connections between its members. "We understand that for many of our members, climbing isn't their whole identity," says Vizcarra. "For some people, it's the only time in the week where they get to hang out with people of color."

Reflecting on memories of the first CTW event he attended, Vizcarra says, "I remember thinking it was so dope seeing people of color climbing! I also remember being a little intimidated, but the organizers were so great at making everyone feel welcomed." Today, Vizcarra says that the members of CTW feel like family: "Each one of the co-organizers has become a close and important part of my life."

To find information about upcoming events, join the CTW community, or make donations, visit Color The Wasatch's Instagram @colorthewasatch.

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Salt in the Wound

THE GREAT SALT LAKE INSTITUTE'S SCIENTIFIC PERSEVERANCE

By Sophie Caligiuri • sophiecaligiuri@gmail.com

(L-R) Carly Biedul, Dr. David Parrott and Dr. Bonnie Baxter lead the team at the Great Salt Lake Institute, understanding and protecting the lake.

Photo courtesy of Great Salt Lake Institute

Established in 2008, the Great Salt Lake Institute (GSLI) at Westminster University (formerly Westminster College) produces gobs of both professional and student-led research on innumerable aspects of our local slice of salt-water. GSLI has become the favored fount of knowledge regarding all things Great Salt Lake as it shrinks and collateral impending crises become increasingly publicized, yet the staff is directed by just three mighty minds—Director **Dr. Bonnie Baxter**, Assistant Director **Dr. David Parrott** and Coordinator **Carly Biedul**—who, as we talk, point and laugh at their matching forehead bug bites from another lengthy day spent on the waterfront.

Consisting of birds, brine and flies (oh my!), the Great Salt Lake and its surrounding wetlands make up a “vibrant, robust pot of biology rich with biomass,” according to Dr. Baxter. Heralded as the second-largest breeding colony of white pelicans in the world and teeming with “a massive population of microorganisms,” the lake offers much more than meets the untrained eye. It’s one of the most important food sites for birds in the Western hemisphere, a flagship for Utah’s econ-

omy and ski industry and a place rich with Indigenous history. “It’s so diverse that everyone gets something from it,” says Dr. Parrott. “There’s art, there’s science and there’s history out there. There are Indigenous people who have lived there for thousands of years before we got here—there’s so many different aspects on which we can do research.”

Their admiration for the lake explains both GSLI’s conventional and unconventional methods of research. Bringing undergraduate students along to study water and soil microorganisms, plant life, insects and birds all makes sense for a natural sciences institute. Yet, GSLI also offers opportunities to dancers, writers, poets, public health students, business students—you name it. At GSLI, students have the agency and assistance to explore the lake according to their own personal passions. With research opportunities offered to all students regardless of their chosen field of study, GSLI impacts a diverse group.

Because of the interdisciplinary work prevalent in the institute—in spite of the sometimes grim aspects evidenced by their steady body of findings—these three scientists recognize the importance of humanity, beauty and hope in the advancement of Great Salt Lake knowledge. “If I didn’t have hope, I wouldn’t be able to do this job,” Biedul says. It’s a concept that Dr. Baxter reiterates: “Scientists are trained to not have feelings about their work, but I started to transcend that. I think that’s why we need the humanities, the arts and disciplines beyond the sciences to help us feel the essence of what’s confronting us as human beings.”

Regardless of ecological necessity, Dr. Parrott believes there is still an inherent reason to save the lake. “I think that everyone should go out there because it’s beautiful. It’s a little smelly, but show me a lake that isn’t. There’s a reason right there why we should keep the lake: Look at what we have in our backyard. The fact that it has this amazing ecosystem and that it provides jobs for people is cool, and that keeping water in it is going to save us all from dying of arsenic poisoning—these are all good reasons to save the lake.”

Beauty isn’t only found on the surface. The GSLI dives deeper, consistently finding that beauty is embedded in the very nature of the water and the complexity of its ecosystem’s inner workings. The GSLI has taught us, and will continue to teach us, that the Great Salt Lake manages sincerely to be the best of both worlds: It is lovely and it is the salt of the Earth.

Learn more about the Great Salt Lake Institute via their website, found via search on westminsteru.edu, on Instagram @gslinstitute or Facebook at Great Salt Lake Institute at Westminster College.



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Cabernet and Camaraderie: Women's Wine Hiking Society

By Mekenna Malan mekenna.malan@gmail.com

Pick your wine pairing: pinot and petroglyphs along the Gila Trail or sangria at Sardine Peak? Mulled wine up Millcreek Canyon or sauvignon blanc at Silver Lake Flat? While there's no right or wrong way to enjoy Utah's hiking trails, **Angelique Fish** and **Cindy Vance** believe bringing a friend and cracking open a cold one makes the climb even more enjoyable. Through the Women's Wine Hiking Society (WWHS), these two co-founders are empowering women to experience the outdoors one happy hour at a time.

"We have a lot of transplants [in Utah] and it is very hard to make friends as an adult, especially friends who have the same interests as you," says Vance, who is originally from Montana. "Utah is becoming much more diverse, and belonging to a community is really important."

Other nature-minded Utahns agree. What started as a small Facebook group has now grown into an inclusive hiking society with over 2,400 members and an event calendar that's full to the brim with group activities. With six to eight day-hikes per month, a monthly community service project, backpacking trips, wine tastings, camp-outs, "Thirsty Thursday" bar meetups, virtual wilderness trainings and more, the WWHS offers many different types of activities spanning from Cache County to Washington County. These events are open to everyone, regardless of skill level or desire to imbibe.

"One of the things that people always worry about is being the slowest person or not being able to keep up, but the cool thing about hiking with our group is that there's always someone who is going your pace," Fish says. "We make sure that everyone is included and no one is left to hike by themselves."

Outdoor education is an integral part of the WWHS, says Fish, who believes women often lack the skills they need to take care of themselves in the outdoors because they've



Photo: Em Behringer

Members of the Women's Wine Hiking Society, including co-founders Cindy Vance and Angelique Fish, gather together for a "Trailblazing Adventure" at the Farmington Creek Trail.

been socialized to believe it's a dangerous space. To help remedy this, local experts lead trainings on topics ranging from winter hiking to trail nutrition, wilderness first aid for both humans and canines, backpacking basics and more.

"I think we've gotten hooked on the feeling of being empowered and knowing that the outdoors are safe for women who are prepared," Fish continues. "There's a whole world out there, and if you have to wait for a man to take you, you're going to miss so much of it."

In 2021, Fish and Vance created an official website for the WWHS and began capping the number of hikers at each event, which allows smaller groups of hikers to get to know each other better and mitigates impact to hiking trails. 20% of each \$5 reservation goes to a different women-centered or outdoor-related nonprofit each year, with this year's selection being **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW+)** of Utah.



"Last year, we chose the **Cottonwood Canyons Foundation**. The year before that, we chose **Women of the World**," Fish says. "Being from Oklahoma and part Choctaw, I was really excited when a member of the group recommended MMIW+. As women being marginalized in the outdoors, it's really important to be able to give back to other women who are marginalized."

Vance says she originally thought the WWHS would be unique to Utah, but the society snowballed and now has chapters in every state. Though membership numbers vary, one message reverberates throughout every chapter: all women belong on our trails. "We don't have to be going at the same pace. We're supporting each other along the way," Fish says. "We're not there to be fast—it's all about talking and getting to know each other. I always say hiking and backpacking is a team sport, because really, it's only fun if we all get there together."

Learn more about WWHS and become a member by visiting winehikingsociety.com.

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O2 Utah: Improving Air Quality To Improve Quality of Life

By Genevieve Vahl • gfvahl@outlook.com

O2 Utah, a local environmental nonprofit working to better the air quality of Utah, collaborated with Senator Kirk Cullimore and Representative Andrew Stoddard to pass and sign House Bill 220 on March 14 to reduce the unfettered dumping of toxic halogens into our airshed. O2's mission is to use elections and policy to their advantage, garnering support from elected officials to make environmental changes to the law and standard practice. "I thought we needed an organization that followed a three-step plan," says David Garbett, the director and founder of O2 Utah. "Step one, getting involved in elections; two, building relationships with policymakers; and three, giving them policy."

Although a nonprofit, O2 Utah is also a 501C4, an organization that can endorse candidates, make donations and campaign. With his legal background, Garbett and his team of five can write legal proposals with weight, translating scientific concepts into legislative language and programs. "It's one thing to have science on paper, but that is not going to make policy itself," Garbett says.

O2 Utah campaigned to support Cullimore and Stoddard during their reelection in 2022, communicating to voters that these two candidates would work toward solving air quality issues in Utah. A messaging experiment they ran during that time found

that swing voters are 16% more likely to support a pro-air quality candidate. "It's a part of our theory that we need to give legislatures a roadmap to get clean air, and we call that road map Prosperity 2030," Garbett says. This "northstar" aims to cut emissions by 50% along the Wasatch Front by 2030. Those emissions are to be reduced from the three main local polluters they've identified: transportation, residential and commercial buildings and industrial sources.

HB220 is one facet of Prosperity 2030. The bill focuses solely on industrial byproducts like bromine, requiring the Utah Division of Air Quality (DAQ) to make a recommendation to the legislature on a state halogen emissions limit by the end of 2024. In the meantime, DAQ must set a tech-based standard for bromine and other halogen emissions, requiring companies to use certain tools to limit emissions. DAQ must also identify and quantify all industrial sources of halogens, and halogen emissions must be controlled no later than 2026. This bill, the product of much revision and compromise, passed through the House and Senate floors before Gov. Cox signed it into law on March 14.

US Magnesium LLC is the main producer of magnesium in the country, located here because magnesium is extracted from salt deposits, which is also the only

place bromine is found naturally. "It's either the ocean or the Great Salt Lake," Garbett says. When processing these salts to extract magnesium, bromine is a byproduct. "Which they basically have been dumping into the airshed, although findings show that it's making our inversions anywhere from 10 to 25% worse," says Garbett.

O2 Utah is adamant about improving the quality of air we breathe because of how negatively poor air impacts our lives. "The best research says that we're dying here in Utah two-five years earlier because of our bad air," Garbett says, "and [that fact] has so many different health impacts and is a big drag on our economy."

The organization will continue following the path toward their Prosperity 2030 goal. "The most important thing the public does is set priorities. The public doesn't have to know the science," Garbett says. "What they do know is that they hate our dirty air. That's what should be conveyed to legislatures to help them understand this needs to be a higher priority."

Connect with O2 Utah on Instagram @o2Utah and visit their website at o2utah.org where you can learn more about the organization's efforts, see their 2023 Legislative Report Card and get involved.

David Garbett is director and founder of O2 Utah, an air quality advocacy group that recently helped pass HB220, reducing the dumping of toxic halogens into our airshed.



Photo: @saltskatecity

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By Chay Mosqueda
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If you skate at the *Orem Skate Park*, you've probably seen Cassidy Andersen pushing around. Andersen's love of skateboarding began at eight years old when a cousin sparked her interest in the sport and inspired her to buy her first board. She quickly fell in love with the freedom that skateboarding brings. When Andersen wasn't outside on a board, she was inside watching St. George skateshop *Lip Trix* videos and the *X Games*. Skateboarding also led Andersen to her husband. "We didn't go on a normal first date—we went to the skate park," she says. Now a mom of two girls aptly named **Ollie** and **Banks**, she's a sponsored ripper who enjoys skating for the challenge, the community and the pure love of pushing.

Andersen admits that, for many, skateboarding isn't an easy sport to jump into. It requires resilience and a bit of bounce in both body and attitude. Anyone who has spent time around a skatepark has seen a fair share of scrapes and cracks of skin, bones, boards and egos alike. For young girls like Andersen who grew up in the '90s and early '00s, skateparks could be intimidating for another reason: Most boarders at the park were male.

Andersen never let her sense of being different keep her from the skatepark, even though at first that meant hitting the park

with a group of boys she knew. "The first time I saw another girl at the skatepark, I was excited," Andersen says. It made her feel empowered and let her know, "I can be here too." She says, "10 years ago, I would've never gone skating alone, but now I feel very confident. Some of it comes from confidence in myself but also a more accepting community." Consistent practice, whether at the skate park or her own living room, has also allowed Andersen the opportunity to grow her skating prowess, leading her to landing tricks such as a proper boardslide down a handrail, hitting a backside flip and, one of her favorite tricks, a backside crooked grind.

Andersen notes that over the last few years she has seen a positive surge in community reactions defending her against the haters and those with a misogynistic outlook on skating. "You have to have thick skin in this, and if you can laugh it off, even better," she says. Even when met with negativity, Andersen doesn't let it turn her away from the sport she loves. If anything, the comments fuel her fire to keep pushing herself and become an example for everyone who has the opportunity to meet her or see her skate.

Skateboarding is hard and requires perseverance, which is one of Andersen's favorite parts of being a skateboarder. A



Photos by @saltskatecity

trick might take 10 tries to land or it might take 40, but Andersen's love for the sport allows her to persevere even after a bad fall. This is something she showcases on her social media pages. She posts her bails and falls and does it with a smile, enjoying the roller coaster of emotions and the buildup until eventual success—all the hard work put into one trick makes the land feel unlike anything else.

Andersen's positive attitude has helped her stay in the sport despite occasionally negative comments, and her presence in the skate community in Utah is well known. With a large social media following on Instagram and TikTok due to her skate clips, Andersen's skills have also helped her get sponsored by *Board of Provo* skateshop and *Flik Griptape*.

When she isn't skating, Andersen loves mountain biking, playing soccer and (hopefully she won't get hate for this) playing pickleball. You can check out her skateboarding progress @cassskates on Instagram. She's an awesome person who loves skateboarding, and if you have the chance to meet her in person or via social media, give her a hardy hello and push with her.

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SPRING CITY PLEIN AIR: PAINTING FROM LIFE OUTDOORS

By Shaylee Navarro • shaylee.guadalupe.nm@gmail.com

Every year, over 100 artists from all over the west come to the historic, small town of Spring City in central Utah to compete in *Spring City Arts' Plein Air Painting Competition*. Each competitor is tasked to paint an outdoor scene uninterrupted and without the assistance of photography, technology or a studio. Spring City is surrounded by preserved, 19th-century pioneer homes, the Wasatch Range and fields of rural countryside, making it an ideal location for the nature-centric painting event.

"It's a very picturesque location," says **Chris Anderson**, Spring City Mayor and Board Member of the organization that hosts the competition, *Spring City Arts (SCA)*. "The painters like it because they can stand in their location and paint four different scenes by turning [in] four different directions," he says. Over the years, Chris has cultivated relationships with participants and grown his art collection by purchasing competition works—around 20 paintings currently hang in his restored pioneer house.

Chris and his wife, **Alison Anderson**, first visited Spring City on a weekend close to 20 years ago. Intrigued by the growing "artist colony, of sorts," he says, but finding no gallery or site dedicated to representing the community's work, Chris later worked with local artists to create the co-op gallery *Spring*

City Arts. The nonprofit has since promoted the rural county's artist community through programming and events, including its annual *Plein Air Painting Competition*.

In 2023, the paint event will start Aug. 26 and culminates on Sept. 1 at 2 p.m. During these seven days, participants are allowed to paint anywhere in Sanpete County and may submit up to four plein air paintings. Pieces are then hung in SCA's gallery and judged on visual impact, presence, composition and technique. This year, Northern Utah-based landscape artist **Josh Clare** will judge, awarding \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500 prizes for first, second and third place, respectively. 10–12 honorable mentions are also awarded \$100 each.

J. Ken Spencer, who had been painting professionally for 30 years, began practicing plein air in the mid 2010s around the time he started participating in *Spring City's* competition. His painting *Milburn Road*, which depicts a narrow road intersecting pasture dwellings cast in a hazy morning sky, would go on to win 2021's competition. He had also previously won in 2015. Through his six years as a participant in the *Plein Air Painting Competition*, he's painted the setting of Milburn Road a number of times. "When I paint a place, I'm drawn to it for some reason," says Spencer. "If I can

not only capture what a place looks like but what a place feels like, that's the degree of success that I am shooting [for]." This is the nature of *en plein air art*: capturing life "out of doors" through painting.

As much as he enjoys winning and selling his paintings, Spencer says the experience far exceeds the outcome. "I make my living this way," he says, "but I recognize that a full and rich life just has to include more than the financial outcome ... The experience of creativity, the experience with friends and new friends—it's a wonderful human experience."

The final Saturday's *Quick Paint* and *Artist Studio Tour* draws the event's peak crowd of 1,000 attendees. After watching 30 of the plein air competitors paint the historic downtown during the *Quick Paint*, visitors can also bid on their favorites via a live auction. In the 17 years of welcoming visitors and artists—some from across Utah and the Western United States, others who travel from abroad—Chris has wanted "everyone to feel like they can participate."

For more information on *Spring City Arts 2023 Plein Air Competition*, including registration and schedule of events, visit springcityarts.org.



Jane Anne Woodhead works on her painting *Sanpete Sky*, capturing life "out of doors" in the *Spring City Plein Air Painting Competition*.



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Adventures in Catering at Savoury Kitchen

By Dustin Hardebeck

dhardebeck98@gmail.com

Tucked behind the front entrance of *Shadow Ridge Hotel* adjacent to *Park City Mountain Resort*, *Savoury Kitchen* caters to a wide clientele, offering a variety of home-cooked meals. The chefs use many practical techniques for heating and cooling food to provide a unique and safe experience for customers, including those dining in outdoor environments.

Original Head Chef and Owner **Joseph Saladyga** opened *Savoury Kitchen* July 1, 2009. Saladyga originally ran the kitchen alone with a very small crew and high aspirations. While other chefs have since taken over, Saladyga still partakes in menu development, and the crew—including new head chef **John Fitzgerald** and sous-chef **Meryl Kornet**—is able to execute his vision and keep customers happy.

While *SK* predominantly serves clients based in Park City, they have traveled as far as Rock Springs and Jackson, Wyoming to cater weddings. Budgetary restrictions included, *SK* is capable of exceeding standards for each client's requests and needs for any specific event, including lunch gatherings, weddings, private meals at home and outdoor excursions into the backcountry.

Savoury Kitchen Head Chef John Fitzgerald stands next to an array of the restaurant's pre-made camping meals.



"Catering is the appropriate term, but at the same time that was the biggest issue of the pandemic—because [people imagine] we cook for hundreds of people, when it can range from two people to thousands of clients and customers," Saladyga says. "No party is too small and no party is too big."

A few of these "parties" include lunch at a local monastery school, making burritos with the *Utah Department of Agriculture and Food* and collaborating with local coffee shops such as *Silver King Coffee* and *Park City Gardens*. Most notably, *SK* cooks for local adventurers wanting pre-made camping meals to take on fly fishing, cycling and rafting trips. Saladyga also sources as much local produce as possible from farmers markets, further connecting them to the natural world.

Meals at *SK* commonly include Mexican, Asian and Italian cuisine as well as comfort foods such as pasta and burgers. In addition, they offer customized items such as baked apples and bananas, as well as common breakfast options such as burritos and broccoli hash. "On the private chef side, we tend to design menus based on the client's desires and needs—we adhere to basic dietary restrictions," Saladyga says. "If someone calls us up and wants us [to craft] an Ethiopian menu, we will take on that challenge and create it for them. We will do whatever the client wants, essentially."

The idea of camping meals came into play particularly during the pandemic: making really good food really easily. For many



Savoury Kitchen's Chicken Pad Thai is among their easily reheatable, camp-friendly meals.

Photos by Justin Lagman

outdoor adventures, the meals were prepared and encased in vacuum-sealed bags so that clients only had to heat them up in water. Trial and error was an essential part of establishing the techniques for containing camping meals in the backcountry through tools such as portable coolers and river traps.

Another elevating element of *SK*'s portable meals is the lack of dirty dishes; only a pot of water is needed. The meal options are offered year round for winter camping in Southern Utah, as well as traditional camping and car camping. Saladyga's love and passion for cooking is equaled by his enthusiasm for the outdoors, which more than shows in *SK*'s final results for camping meals. "The number-one thing is: if you want to eat good food and enjoy adventure, don't think of us as just a catering company. We give a little bit of everything," Saladyga says. "We're not just catering [for] weddings, we cater to any client's desires."

To learn more about Joseph Saladyga's continuing mission and techniques to provide spectacular meals and snacks to outdoor enthusiasts (and almost any other public or private event), check out *Savoury Kitchen* at savouryparkcity.com.

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Appreciating the Outdoors One Brew at a Time

SLUG Staff

Utah's scenic landscape of chalky red rocks, deep lakes and towering mountains is central to our state's branding, and sometimes those outdoor activities include a cold beer. These five breweries emphasize Utah recreation culture by showing support for local, outdoor-centric organizations, often while appreciating our state's most unique landmarks with a beer in hand.

EPIC BREWING COMPANY

825 S State St, SLC, UT

Emphasizing their founder's humble beginnings as a Great Salt Lake brine shrimp fisherman, *Epic Brewing* has not forgotten their roots. They pay homage to outdoor life in Utah through their brews and partnerships, such as their Spiral Jetty IPA featuring an image of Robert Smithson's famous GSL art installation on the label. For years, *Epic* has been donating to the FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake's annual fundraiser and gala while also maintaining relationships with nonprofits such as *Venture Outdoors*, *Tracy Aviary & Botanical Gardens*, *Yoga & Beer* at *The Gateway*, *Seven Canyons Trust*, *Ragnar* and *Bike Utah*.

"*Epic Brewing Company* was founded on the idea that there's a beer for every person and every adventure. It's imperative that we call out local landmarks and attractions as a part of our branding because Utahns are so intertwined with the great outdoors," says *Epic* Marketing Manager Gus Erickson.

PROPER BREWING CO.

857 S Main St, SLC, UT
1393 US-191, Moab, UT

Featuring local landmarks such as the Delicate Arch on their Leisurebrau Cold IPA and The Daily IPA referencing their location in Moab, *Proper Brewing* has put outdoor recreation and Utah landmarks at the forefront of their brewery. With an emphasis on sourcing locally—salt harvested from the Great Salt Lake and hand-foraged ingredients such as wild



Illustration: Brett Ferrin

hops and spruce tips—*Proper* is Utah-made, through and through. They are the current sponsors for *Sunset Yoga* and *Yappy Hour*, a local dog park happy hour event, and they donate each year to outdoor organization the *Henry's Fork Foundation* while also working with local entities *Tracy Aviary & Botanical Gardens* and *Hogle Zoo*.

"From the locally sourced ingredients we use in our recipes to the names and imagery on our cans, we love to tell a story with beer and Utah has so many stories we want to share," says *Proper* Sales Director Rebecca Cardaccio.

ROHA BREWING PROJECT

30 Kensington Ave, SLC, UT

RoHa Brewing Project focuses on environmental impact and enjoying Utah's landscape. They only package in recyclable cans and the team is often together skiing, biking, hiking, swimming or rafting. As with the *Explorer* and *Dual* brew packs, *RoHa* products feature contour artwork representing the mountains along the Wasatch Front, and their *Steady Edge* Imperial Red IPA features a red rock

landscape. *RoHa's* support of local, environmentally focused outdoor organizations includes *Save Our Canyons*, *HEAL Utah* and *Clean the Darn Air*, and they regularly host their *Pints for Purpose* event series, donating a portion of the night's proceeds toward a local nonprofit.

"We are just naturally outdoorsy people—the crew here at *RoHa* loves to get a day in the mountains or on the rivers and lakes that Utah has to offer. These activities keep us inspired and our lives balanced," says *RoHa* Managing Partner Rob Phillips.

SALT FLATS BREWING CO.

2020 Industrial Cir, SLC, UT

Named after the Bonneville Salt Flats, *Salt Flats Brewing* centers their branding around the brewery's previous life as a professional racing facility. Their focus also includes other aspects native to Utah, such as their recently released *Save the Lake Pilsner*, which aims to educate on and provide support for the Great Salt Lake's shrinkage crisis. With the *GSL* currently at its lowest recorded water levels, air quality and toxic dust from the Bonneville Basin

threatens to impact the Wasatch Front. *SFB* plans to donate 5% of the pilsner's proceeds to local nonprofits that support the preservation of the lake.

"We are passionate about our state, especially when it comes to the current challenges of the Great Salt Lake. We love to brew beer dedicated to such a great cause," says *SFB* Operating Manager JC Straub.

UINTA BREWING CO.

1722 South, 1722 Fremont Dr #2, SLC, UT

Uinta Brewing's branding is synonymous with the Utah outdoors. From their *Cutthroat Pale Ale* referencing the state fish to their *Was Angeles* craft lager derived from the nickname locals gave the Cottonwood Canyons, the outdoors have always been a part of *Uinta*. Their original tagline—"Earth, Wind and Beer"—references their sustainability efforts as one of Utah's first businesses to utilize renewable energy. *Uinta* has ongoing partnerships with the *Utah Avalanche Center*, *Salt Lake City Public Utilities* with a focus on the watershed, *Fish for Garbage*, an initiative that coordinates annual river cleanups and the *Utah Cutthroat Slam*.

"The brand itself has become outdoor-lifestyle oriented. We're staying true to that but also making sure that we aren't just using those landscapes and those images to sell beer—we're also giving back to them through donations and our footprint," says *Uinta* Director of Marketing Jeremy Worrell.

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JUNE 17: PI	AUG 11: Inherent Vice
JUNE 23: Mad God (2021)	AUG 12: Donnie Darko
JUNE 24: Inglorious Bastards	AUG 18: Dirty Dancing
JUNE 30: Night of The Comet	AUG 19: The Outsiders
JULY 1: Can't Hardly Wait	AUG 25: The Lighthouse
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LOCALIZED

JON BEAN AND THE EYEROLLERS

By Alton Barnhart | alton@slugmag.com

Don't miss the latest edition of *SLUG's Localized* concert series at *Kilby Court* on Thursday, July 13! Find a winning trio of rock artists in co-headliners Jon Bean and the Eyerollers and **PERSONA 749** and opener **Health Care**. Doors are at 7, music starts at 8 and *Localized* is sponsored by *Riso Geist*.

Nearly getting clocked by a sun-soaked banana seat Schwinn and holding back a bladder of Cutthroat Pale Ale, I sat down with the eclectic frontman **Jon Bean** and his down-to-earth crew of **Eyerollers**: drummer **Ryan Workman** and the powerhouse couple handling the rhythmic guitar and bass, **Jeff and Robin Kilpatrick**, respectively. The band looks utterly surprised as I dig through my bottomless backpack and pull out a retro Jensen tape recorder to log this interview. With each question answered, though, my eyes rise to utmost intrigue through a storytelling analogue of the band's history.

Assembled in 2022, Jon Bean and The Eyerollers might seem to be fresh to the local music scene, but each member is supplied with an enriched musical background that stretches back to the late '80s. A creative mind in his everyday life, Bean was first a visual artist, only to then explore the music world. "I got into music because there's something very social about it," Bean says, emphasizing how important feedback is to his creativity. "Before that, you're kind of sequestered away in a studio where your free expression is all in your head."

Bean then assembled his team by recruiting artists he had previously worked with.

He looked toward Workman, who helped produce Bean's earlier band **Erosion** in the early 2000s under Workman's record label **Pseudo Recordings** (spelled it right, finally). "When Jon was thinking of this project, I knew I was overdue to start playing music again," Workman says.

Bean then brought on Jeff and Robin, who are both veterans to the scene. Robin first exercised her bassist talents with Bean in 1992 in a rock band called **Whiskey Dolls** and hasn't been in a band since. "[Jon] brought me out of über-retirement," Robin jokes. It was a two-for-one deal as Bean would then obtain a guitarist. "I've known Jon for almost 25 years," Jeff says. "[We] have played in several different projects together ... it's been a nice opportunity."

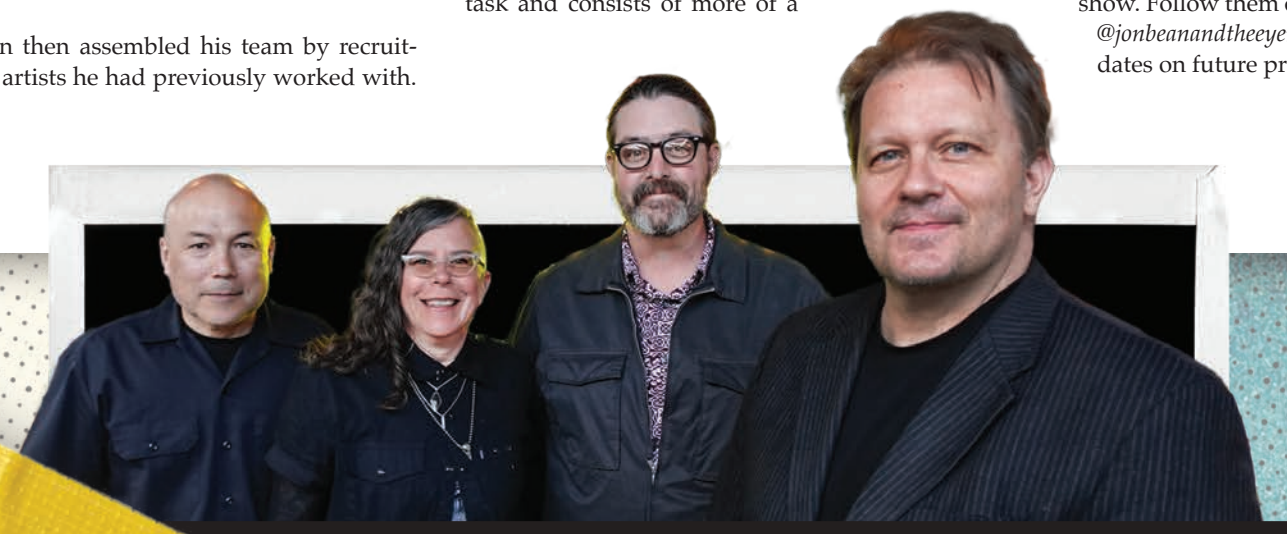
Explaining the band's style is an unsolved riddle. Their sound cannot be pigeonholed to one genre. It's as though the band themselves slashed up vintage *Rolling Stone* magazine issues, and what arrived was an electrified collage of the band's appreciation for music in general. "Rather, it's punk or alternative, metal, old '60s pop, mid-century whatever-it-was ... we can't really stick to one style," Workman says.

Creating a track is never a simple task and consists of more of a

"by any means necessary" approach for the band. One time, when the idea of a collaboration effort with the overly daunting theme of "the state of things" passed through the band, Bean got to work. The limited resources came in the form of a Bourbon bottle, while his workbench was a **Twin Peaks**-inspired, rural motel in the outskirts of some Utah desert. "I let that stream of consciousness flow out," Bean says of "Jon-ocracy." "I have this mass of words, thoughts and feelings, and now I want to whittle that down to the source." This would be a "many page" song performed at *SLUG Mag's 34th Anniversary Party* in February.

There's a sense of maturity throughout each band mate; stoic confidence that's been earned through trials and tribulations. Bean reflects: "I started to realize that the younger I was, the more drama there seemed to be." The four musicians have had their fair share of wrestling youthful egos, especially in the everchanging local music scene. As the band continues forward, Workman puts it best: "We're too damn old and tired for the ego."

Be sure to catch Jon Bean and The Eyerollers at July's *Localized* and experience their highly anticipated show. Follow them on Instagram [@jonbeanandtheyeyerollers](https://www.instagram.com/jonbeanandtheyeyerollers) for updates on future projects.



(L-R) Jeff and Robin Kilpatrick and Ryan Workman (L-R) make up the trio of Eyerollers backing up veteran SLC musician Jon Bean in his latest project.

Photo: Em Behringer

PERSONA 749

By Alton Barnhart | alton@slugmag.com

Sitting down with PERSONA 749 was a full display of “bromance”—the lounging, party-rocking cast of characters (including myself) treats this interview more as a basement hangout than “getting down to brass tacks.” Although this session reminds me of summer nights of harmless mischief with the boys, I feel somewhat underdressed for the occasion: Lead singer/guitarist **Che Landikusic** and keyboardist **Landon Langenbrunner** wear tucked-in dress shirts and slacks, bassist **Michael Bloom** dons a *Top Gun*-style bomber jacket and drummer **Ryan Ross** wears a silk dress for comfort and style. The only one missing from the rogue gallery is their guitarist **Lyman Gatz**, who was away during this interview.

PERSONA 749 is one of those Salt Lake bands that is heavily intertwined with its homegrown roots through background and lyrics. The band’s name itself takes inspiration from Landikusic’s childhood home address. “I was super into electronic music when we first started ... 749 sounded really interesting,” he says. “My mom loves that we included it.”

The band’s humble beginning started when Landikusic met Langenbrunner on the *University of Utah* hockey team. “We started to pick [playing music] up by going to boring parties ... We played a couple of shows as a two-piece,” Landikusic says. One hazy

night at a party during their freshman year, Gatz would meet the two and the trio would join forces for garages, basements and house parties to come. The three recruited Ross a few months later. Now with percussion to back up the band, the final missing piece came last September. Bloom, who played in the Arizona band *Dole Whip*, moved to the Beehive State and joined PERSONA 749 as bassist (and roommate).

The five members are still on a path of sonic self discovery. “I don’t think we’ve found our style yet ... we’re still growing,” says Landikusic. There is a touch of melodic indie rock here, a microdose of alt-electronic pop there and a splash of punk ballads constantly intermixed. You can hear these experimental vibes in their single “Rum-Soaked Haircuts” with cover art featuring **Hunter S. Thompson’s** symbol of his infamous, crimson double-thumb fist. “That’s a deep cut right there,” says Landikusic, who doesn’t seem to even remember making or recording it.

Their crawfish boil of sights and sounds became more apparent when the band posed a provocation for themselves to craft 15 songs in 15 weeks. Many of these singles were on the back burner, resting on an archived laptop hard drive for months. It was this “creative cleanse” that opened up the group’s range. Listeners were kept on their toes every Saturday as the band

bent between genres upon each single release. “One week, it would be this really punky track. The next, there would be one that can be described as written poetry,” Ross says. Most days were spent in a time crunch with slight rewrites, full re-recordings and last-minute bolt tightenings. “Those were some stressful weeks,” says Langenbrunner. “Some nights, you were up until four in the morning just trying to get it finished.” Those 15 weeks might’ve been anxiety-inducing, but it’s a time the group thinks about fondly.

As July’s *Localized* inches closer, the band seems to have a lax authenticity to their expected performance. PERSONA 749 has changed scenery from hockey pads and pucks to rocking out on stage, but this fresh start, along with the high-speed streaming services of today, have inspired these tinkering musicians to take a risk. “Bands used to release records because that’s how you did it—going into a studio and producing it—but now you can just basically press a button to release a song,” Landikusic says. “So, I think we just look at each other thinking, ‘Why aren’t we doing that?’”

You can catch PERSONA 749 at *Kilby Court* for this month’s *Localized*. For future projects or to hear *Bad Translation*, follow them on Instagram [@persona.749](https://www.instagram.com/persona.749) and listen to them on streaming services.

Photo: Audrey Lockie



(L-R) Michael Bloom, Landon Langenbrunner, Che Landikusic, Ryan Ross join guitarist Lyman Gatz (not pictured) to create a genre-explorative sound.

LOCALIZED

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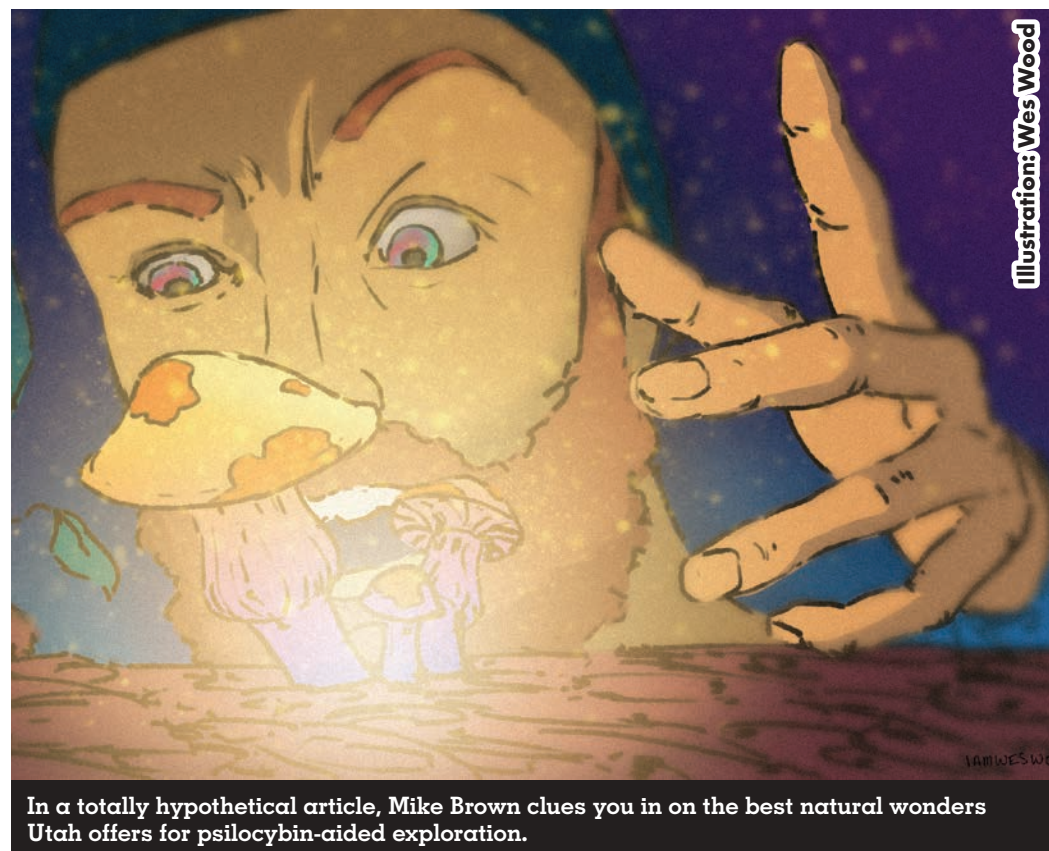
If you live in the Beehive Imperial State of Utah, it's no secret that one of the best things about it (aside from our ever-increasing easy access to fentanyl) is access to the great outdoors. Like, seriously—if you live in Downtown SLC, you are only an hour away from just about any outdoor activity: Bike-riding, camping, fishing, stalking and all that shit. But this article is about one of my favorite outdoor Utah activities: psychedelic mushrooms!

I know mushrooms are a staple to festival and concert goers alike, but I prefer to trip outside around minimal people. I tend to get paranoid around strangers, even when I'm sober. Why would I enhance that? I wouldn't. The only other public place where I do shrooms is Hogle Zoo so that I can talk to the animals. Other than that, it's all about doing them in the beautiful serene landscapes that Utah has to offer.

By far my favorite place to eat these poop-flavored (because that's where they grow—in poop) treats is Moab, Utah. If you are mad at **Elon Musk** for trying to go to Mars, eat an eighth among the red rocks and tweet at Elon to let him know that you beat him to it. It's amazing. Just don't fall off any cliffs.

Zion National Park and Goblin Valley State Park provide the same stimulation, but the goblins can seriously mess with you when you are balls-deep on a boomer journey. Experienced trippers only for Goblin Valley, I say.

If the heat of Southern Utah's red rock utopia is too much for you (understandably so, especially in the summertime) might I suggest a cooler climate, such as the High Uintas Wilderness. This mountain range possesses beautiful aspens and evergreens, rolling meadows, abundant, bubbly streams and



In a totally hypothetical article, Mike Brown clues you in on the best natural wonders Utah offers for psilocybin-aided exploration.

ample camping sights with minimal people. All this makes for the perfect recipe for a great mushroom trip. If you break down the entertainment value of talking to an aspen tree for an hour versus talking to an actual human, it's not even close (in my opinion).

Although there are several reservoirs that sprinkle the Uintas, be wary of tripping and swimming. Riding in a boat on drugs is super fun, but you definitely want a sober spotter that knows how to swim in case you fall out and forget. That's how one of the **Beach Boys** died (oh, the irony) and probably a couple of other rock stars that I can't think of right now. Some other things to be careful of while tripping outside are campfires, cliffs, cacti, poison ivy ... basically anything you don't want to trip into or off of. I don't recommend chopping firewood, but making s'mores on this drug is pretty awesome. There's something about mushrooms and watching things melt.

Now, if you're experienced with mushrooms and psychedelics alike, a fun spot to get weird

at is the Bonneville Salt Flats. Just don't go in the summertime and bring a canteen. Park your car and walk around in the middle of nowhere for a while and find yourself; it's a great place to resolve some daddy issues while getting lost in ultimate outdoor desertion.

In the wintertime, any of our ski resorts can provide an excellent atmosphere for mushrooms (just don't fall off the lift), and the right dose of boomers can even enhance your coordination. The *Snowbird* spa is a great combo of outdoor/indoor relaxation and hallucination. You ever get a massage on these bad boys? I highly recommend; pun intended.

In closing, I am not not advocating for the use of illegal substances and I was not high on mushrooms when I wrote this. But now I want to go camping. The end.



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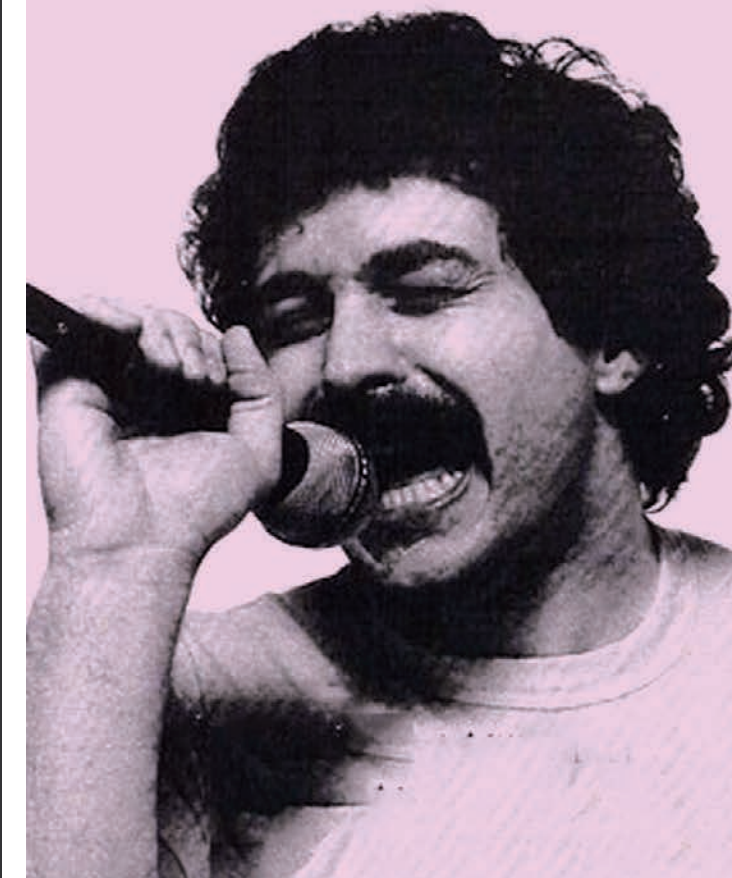
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