

Commentary



SLAVERY

By Martin Johnson

It is June and on top of many peoples mind is "vacation". It is taken in many forms, i.e. camping in the mountains, or in a State Park on the Pacific Ocean, or following the salmon schools up the north coast. Whatever it is, it is a uniquely an American experience. One we do better than all but the Japanese (they know how to vacation...most come to America). How spoiled we are. Imagine in the Middle East, Africa, India, or China where your mind is on not becoming a slave.

Oh, yes, that still goes on at full throttle, and has been for thousands of years. Even "First Americans" (Indians) had seasons to attack their neighbors to obtain glory and slaves. Then the attacked tribe would retaliate and take slaves from the original perpetrators. Millions of people are enslaved every year. I'm not quickly forgetting the video of a two-year-old "playing" with crushing some rocks. The child thought he was playing; if fact he was learning what he would do until he died. He was a child slave.

We think nothing of buying products made in India, China, or Africa which have institutionalized slavery. Do you find it ok if it is across an ocean? The fact is, it is not ok. What can you do? Take the time to write your Congressperson, write your Senator (State & Federal), and tell them a trade deal without consideration of the slave issue is one you do not support. Also, that those working off "debts" for the rest of their lives are slaves.

When you select a brand name and discover it is made in a slave country, let the manufacturer know you will not buy their products any more. They really do listen to you, but you must act. You can change the world!

CLIPS BEER AND FILM TOUR

On July 24th New Belgium Brewing Company will screen an evening of short films about adventure, biking and beer for the Sacramento stop of this sixth annual national film tour, which will be held at Southside Park.

The Colorado-based brewery will also pour tastings of its beers, including classics like Fat Tire, 1554 and Ranger IPA, as well as suds from its small-batch Lips of Faith series like Eric's Ale, La Folie and Film Noir Stout, which is a chocolate milk stout brewed specifically for the tour. Free (\$1.50 per 3-oz. taste).

7pm doors open; 9pm, screening; at Southside Park, 6th and T Streets. More information and event news online at <http://newbelgium.com>

Eldorado

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...dancing fans); plus festival favorites the Jason King Band, Rick Hammond Blues Band (rocked the house on Friday despite searing heat and a black 3-pc suit) and the Buddy Emmer Blues Band, all appearing on the Third Street Stage over the two days of the festival. Talk about high-energy, dancing in the street, who-cares-who-sees me acting crazy, sonic blues and rock! The infectious music had strangers smiling and dancing not only with those they came with, but with anyone close by who wanted to.

It was a huge block party and by day's end, you'd seen that face more than once, and now were nodding acquaintances enjoying a common love. The food was so delicious! Prices were reasonable, in the \$8-\$12 range for food, and what looked like long lines for food we passed through quickly. A crowd favorite was the dinner with 3 choices of meats... the Most delicious BBQ I have tasted to date! We tried the Buffalo hot wings too, easy on the sauce, and the BBQ beef sandwich, so tender! Two perfect days, great live music, easy and friendly crowd, and my favorite food group--BBQ!



of beer selections, the Eldorado BBQ, Brews and Blues Festival is an easy Over the Top winner. The musical talent was impressive, and although I hadn't been exposed to rock bands since my kids were teens, I found it quite enjoyable. Way to go, El Dorado, for putting on such a fabulous and fun festival!

Special shout-out to Laura Longero, Eldorado Resort Casino, for our accommodations and the limitless beer mugs! The Eldorado offers the ultimate choice among downtown Reno resorts and casinos, nonstop excitement and elegance. Don't Miss this awesome festival next year! Eldorado Resort Casino, 345 N. Virginia Street, Reno, NV 89501. Call (775) 786-5700 for more information; be sure to book your room early. <http://www.eldoradoreno.com/>

The Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra

with Music Director Donald Kendrick is currently holding membership auditions for their 2015-2016 Concert Season. If you are an experienced choral singer with good music reading skills, please call the SCSO at (916) 536-9065 or scso2005@gmail.com The chorus rehearses Sept-May, on Monday evenings, 7-9:30pm.

Celebrating its 20th year of performances in the Capital Region, join us for a block-buster season continuing the tradition of large choral and orchestral masterworks for the Sacramento community. The SCSO is comprised of 170 singers from six counties in the Sacramento region. Visit the Sacramento Choral Society website at sacramentochoral.com - scso2005@gmail.com



TeenInk

By Analicia Feliciano
Senior Field Trip

While I know it does not do any good to dwell on what may or may not happen in the future and it is best to focus on the present, I could not help contemplating what may be happening in my near future anyways, considering the fact that I was boarding a plane to Costa Rica with my best friend, as well as other seniors who had helped raise funds for the trip. I had never been on a plane in my entire life.

And, though extremely excited and hopeful, I kept thinking of the many possibilities that were most certainly plausible to happen. For example: my body randomly imploding because of the altitude of the plane, the pressure of my weight being too much for the thin air, and my organs exploding inside of me.

"Oh my lawd," I said as I looked out the window. "We can do this, girlo! We will live!" She encouraged me as the plane began to make odd noises that made me feel as if the whole thing would explode. "Fate wouldn't bring us to be able to play just for us to die now! We got this!"

I squeezed my eyes shut. "Death. So much death." And after a few minutes, I looked out the window and I saw everything getting smaller. "Oh my lawd," Nala said as she looked over me and out the window. "DUDE, WE ARE GOING! WE ARE GOING GOING GONE! ALL THE WAY TO COSTA RICA!" I looked at her and we smiled wide.

"Vacation! Vacation! Summer! Summer! We win! We win! Volcanoes! Volcanoes! And hotels!" I sing-songed. "Thank God," she groaned. I nodded swiftly. "This is what summer is about. Volcanoes causing fireworks, beaches on the corner with clear water, and no homework! MY GOD, WE SURVIVED!"

"You know, I think this is the summer I have always been waiting for. That type of summer you see in the music videos with the good music, you know?" Nala nodded. "Yes!"

I shook my head with a smile. I then leaned back into my seat, and looked toward my window. I saw a cloud as we passed by. "I love summer", I said to myself.

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