

Claims Department







There's a foot fondler in Lake Tahoe.

Now, there are a lot of foot fondlers in the alternative news these days. There was a hotel employee who would break into hotel rooms and suck on men's toes. This one breaks into woman's homes and fondles their feet. They've struck at least twice, and are unapprehended.

Now, on one level, this is a humorous headline, right? Someone breaks in and fondles feet in the night.

The quiet part there is the breaks in.

Now, there's the slippery slope argument, that simply doing another crime makes it far more likely that you'll do a far greater crime. Maybe, but really, there are plenty of criminals that start with tiny things that are only vaguely crimes when they start breaking in to houses. It's believed that the

Golden State Killer, Joseph D'Angelo, started his career as a ransacker and pretty thief. Now, it may never go beyond the fondling of feet, but it certainly feels as if it's going to get bigger. If a guy finds that he has access and can get away with entering and fondling a woman's feet, you can get away with going further, taking advantage of the fact that they are asleep, emboldened by the reality that they've gotten away with it so far.

And that's the scary part to me.

I've spent a lot of time in Tahoe over the decades. I had family up there when I was a kid, and it's been one of my favorite places. I even took John Coxon there on his TAFF trip. It's a beautiful place, and that this is happening there is a real fright.

Of course it could be that the fondler's paraphilia is specific to feet, and any escalation would not give them the thrill they want. The question is likely about why they do it, and it's likely not just for the feet, but for the act of fondling the feet of someone who does not consent to it. It ain't hard to get foot fetish fantasies fulfilled these days, and that would indicate that these crimes are a part of a larger, or at least broader, fetish.







True Crime News keeps on coming!

The Long Island Serial Killer (LISK) murdered at least 16 people, mostly women, but also a guy and at least one child. For the first time, there's been an arrest. The same day that started to get around, there's been a major development in the JonBenet Ramsey case, now more than 25 years cold.

The LISK case is the most interesting to me personally, though I've had periods of intense research into JonBenet. LISK was the most significant serial killer of recent years who was uncaught, and as such, had gotten a lot of attention from True Crime media, especially podcasts. There's been a lot of criticism that there may be

police corruption involved as the reason there was seemingly so little movement on the case for so long, and it's highly likely that major clues were missed and leads not followed up. There was a release of some evidence in 2020, and with it being lockdown, all sorts of armchair investigators got into the action. It was kinda like a crowd-sourced cozy mystery in the real world. The big announcement was that they had a belt with 'HW' (or maybe MH, it's hard to tell which way is up) and there were further identifications, as many of the bodies were, and still are, unidentified.

The real key here was that these women were sex workers and many had been using Craigslist as a way to get johns. One of the names for the killer, The Craigslist Ripper, is kinda brutal to me personally because Craig is such a nice guy!

He's only been charged with four murders, but there are certainly others that he committed, and it's possible that there was more than one person dumping bodies there. The Craigslist tie, though, makes it highly possible that this was largely the work of one person.

JonBenet Ramsey is a case that has driven American True Crime nerds crazy for a generation, and the public emergence of Olivia as a strong suspect is huge. There's a lot of conversation about him, he's been on the suspect list for years, though when his DNA was tested in 2000, it didn't match. That's why there wasn't movement on him then, though he had been brought to the attention of John Ramsey back then to get a closer look.

And that right there should tell you all you need to know about the handling of the case.

Olivia is a pedophile, and apparently has claimed that he has killed other children, though this isn't proven. It's known that he

had child porn on his computer, and that landed him in the clink for 10 years. Now that he's about to come up for parole, his friend who he wrote a letter to saying that he hurt a little girl. He said it was an accident.

The cops, and Jon Ramsey who in many ways controlled the investigation, have various theories, but were in the know on the guy, but apparently he fell off the radar when the DNA didn't match. The cops think more than one person was involved, and that is potentially possible. I do kinda think that Patsy Ramsey wrote the note, perhaps discovering JonBenet, thinking that either Jon or Burke had done it and then writing the note to throw them off the scent. Jon Ramsey thinks that whoever did it broke in more than once, and that was how they discovered the amount of the bonus he had been paid so they could exactly ask for that much ransom, which is a bit of a stretch. There is, in fact, 0 evidence that there was any tie between the author of the note and the actual killing. In fact, there's 0 evidence that the one who caused the head injury is the same one that tied the garrote around her neck with the paintbrush and cord. One theory, and the only multi-killer theory I kinda buy into, is that whoever abused her and potentially tried to kidnap her caused the injury to her head, then left her there. Patsy went downstairs and found her, nearly dead, and finished the job, or at least thought she was finishing the job. She may have even thought it was one of the other members of the family. It's an absolute stretch, but that would explain the various inconsistencies within the crime.

Olivia was about 13 houses away from the Ramseys, he became obsessed with her, having hundreds of pictures of her downloaded from the internet, and he sent letters confessing to harming some kids. It's not open-and-shut, and he's never confessed to the cops, but this is a more than compelling suspect, and the first one

who fits into several boxes.

It also makes this case seem even more like the Lindbergh baby, no?

So, two big cold cases getting at least a little less cold. The real question is what are we gonna find out on the other big cases of the last thirty years. We've got the murder of Star Stowe and The Notorious B.I.G. and Tupak all might be solved, which would be huge.

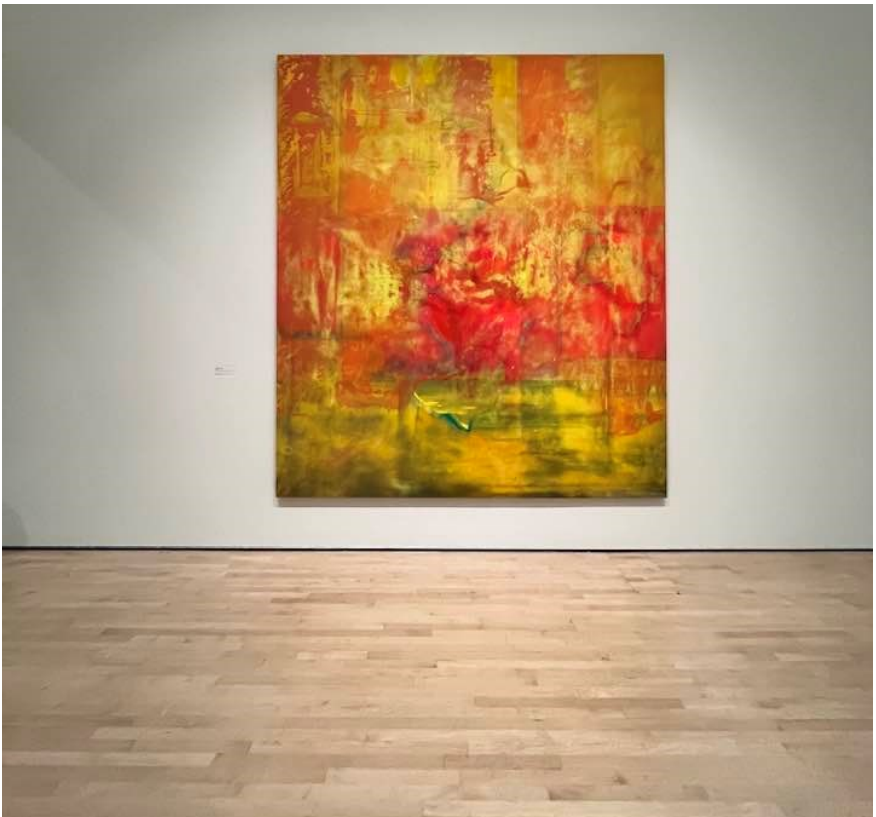




I did go to SFMoMA and found a new artist that I really enjoy.

This isn't rare. SFMoMA has introduced me to so many artists I was not aware of, but Frank Bowling is a rare instance of an artist whose work is nearly in the exact center of my wheelhouse who I didn't know.

His stuff ranges from Abstract Expressionist to POP to Lyrical Abstraction, to something I'd call Pseudo-representational Surrealism. His works, some of them huge for gallery works, tread between the world of the mural and the hung painting, use elements such as continental forms, to seed a sort of geopolitical abstraction. In essence, it is the abstraction of the idea of a map meaning a location and instead representing the idea of a place itself in diaspora.







ARTIST'S STATEMENT
BY THE ARTIST
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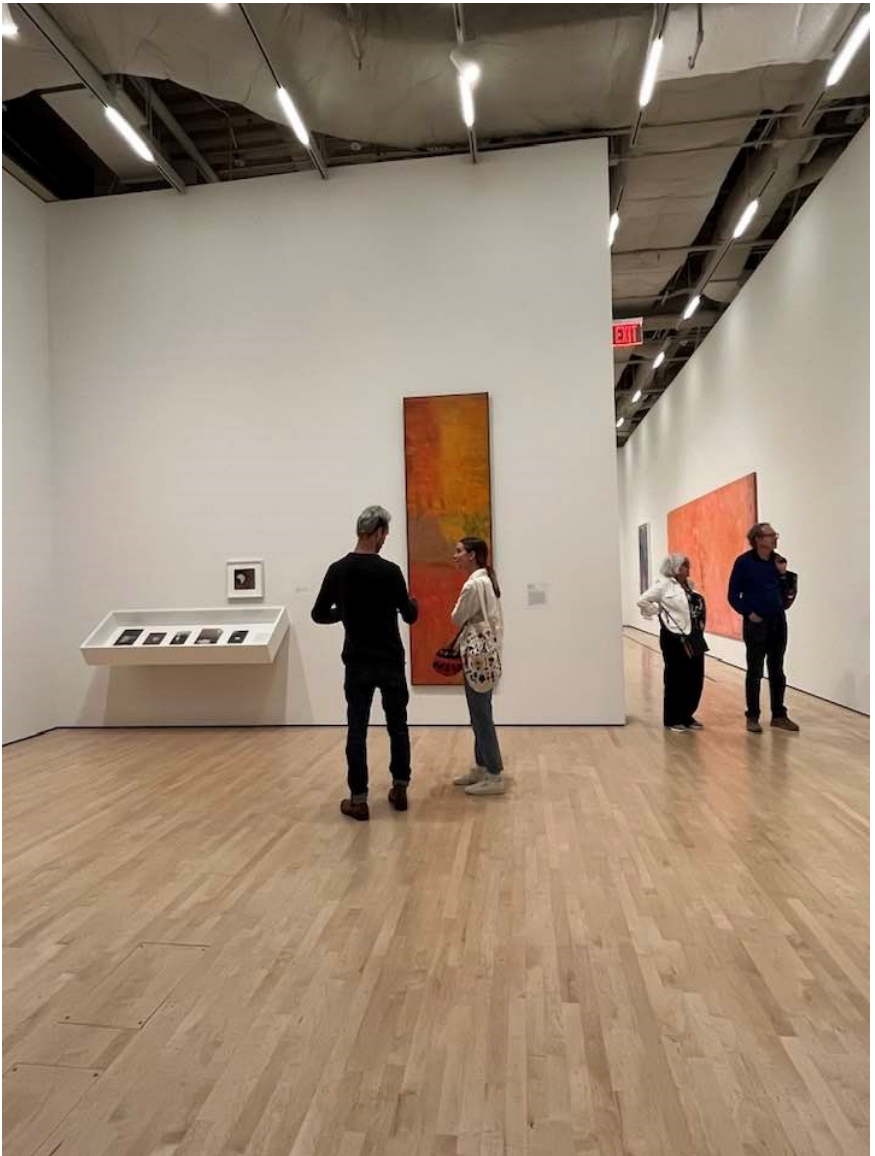


Informational text label on the wall to the left of the painting.





You can still see the Bowling exhibit up until September 10th. If'n you're gonna be in town, and wanna go and see it, I've got a membership and I'd love to join ya to see it, and the rest of the museum, on me!





I've got so much to say about my new diet.

So, I've been having bouts of blood pressure spikes. They're not getting into the dangerous range, but 155/95 ain't exactly great. When we test in the morning, it's usually in the 125/85 range, which is much better. I bought a watch to monitor that and my blood sugar.

I've cut out red meat. After having to increase my portion size because I was starving all the time, I've gone back to the portion control I was doing from the days I first got diagnosed. It's not easy, I spend much of my time starving, but I do wanna get things better under control. Thus, when I cook, it's almost 0 salt, I watch sodium



in my purchased foods (and it's hard to find anything with flavor that doesn't have a ton!) and have been cutting carbs as well, best I can.

Honestly, I don't miss salt, or sugar, though I do miss things like Cheese (which I haven't all the way cut out, but am limiting only to the quesadilla portions that Bella don't eat) and Peanut Butter (which I still eat a bit of but I'm certainly cutting down on that) and chips and salsa.

My tomato soup lunches, with cashews and meat mixture, are not filling, but are tasty and usually last me well until I get home. I've been doing at least one meal every couple of days that's meatless, in this case either soup or sauted mushrooms. I'm down to 211 pounds as of July 4th, though I might have lost another pound or two. I seemed to have shed about 12 pounds between mid-October and late December last year, and I was doing roughly the same.

Still, Mushroom and lots of ginger, basil, blueberries and raspberries, tea and just one cup of coffee seems to agree with me.







I'm loving this heatwave~

No, I haven't been replaced by some sort of weird robot, I'm actually enjoying having to get the kids out and about for the day. We don't have air conditioning, so we've got to find it where we can. This heatwave, where it's supposed to hit 100, we've gone to the Felton Library in the beautiful mountain town of Felton. I plug in my laptop and the kids ran off to grab books and read in these onion like pods they have in the kids section. Bella is usually the one that will park in one for a while, but this time, it was JP who found a place and just sat there for about an hour.

On the way, we stopped briefly at an antique car show!







While it wasn't a huge car show, there were a few really cool pieces, like a gorgeous old Corvette, a couple of Model Ts, a lovely jalopy called 'Jolene' and one of the greatest cars ever displayed—an old racer shaped like a Kaiser Bill-era German helmet! It was straight out of Whacky Racers!

We only stayed a couple of minutes, but it was a good time. We maybe walked around for ten minutes, but Bella did not stop talking about how I should trade in my car for that Corvette.

No. Just no.

We headed to the library where the air-conditioning was working and while it's a smaller library, I did manage to find a bunch of books for both the kids and for me! Mostly, I grabbed cookbooks and art books, largely so that I could get pics of recipes and artworks for when I start doing *Three Minute Modernist* again. Which I keep saying will be sooner than the later that it's turned out to be.

We enjoy libraries in general, and Felton's is new and fairly nice. It wasn't crowded, there were a few kids, and I got a lot of writing done. In fact, most of what you'll read in the next two *Drink Tanks* from me will have been written in the Felton Library.

I also, of course, asked how I could do my Booklaunch reading there, and filled out a form!

I'm exceptionally happy that both my kids love books. Not always reading, but always books. I'm no longer a big reader, but there's no question that my greatest object fascination is with books as artworks. I love the form, the feeling, the sensation of a book in the hand, the look of a book open on a table. It's probably why I love my job so much. I am surrounded by books, get to create books myself, and just live books!

We got tired, and I got hungry, so we headed into Santa Cruz. Vanessa, who was at home resting and getting ready to bring in two new Shopsmiths to our garage, thought that there would be insane traffic in and out of Santa Cruz, this being the first heatwave of the summer, but alas, it didn't seem so. We got in and enjoyed our little drive, though we didn't get lunch until AFTER we spent a couple of hours there. I got books, and typed; the kids watched their iPads. It was cooler than at home, but it was a lot like what might be going on had we stayed at home...

...with less sweating.





I got to go to Stanford's Special Collections.

I love researching in University libraries. I get to do it for work, and I sometimes do it for my hobbies. I've spent time with James in the Fullerton Library, checking out Dune materials and K. Dick stuff. I've set up appointments at various libraries and had varying levels of success getting to look at things I've wanted to see for years.

I was researching William Saroyan this time, and looking at letters to the man from folks like Martin Sheen (a get-well letter as Saroyan was dying) The Supremes, Katherine Hepburn, and Manuel

Tolegian, a painter whose stuff I'm really digging right now. I'll be going back a few times over the next few months.

I really wanna dig in on the three big, rest-of-my-life-likely projects that require archive research. The first is a catalog of pro wrestling related items in museums around the world. It would be a huge project, and there are places I'd love to get to that I would have huge problems getting access to, like The Met, MFA in Boston, and even MoMA can be a challenge. Still, it's the one I really wanna start in on seriously.

The second is the one that I really want to get on with is the work of Delphyne. I really wanna document her output in a serious way, and that's gonna require a bunch of archive work. Luckily, I've been given a staunch of zines that had a bunch of stuff from her print.

The final one, and this one is huge, is the evolution of the use of Computers in the Arts in the form of a virtual collection. That one I've worked on professionally, and have not entirely stopped working on it!

And, of course, that's along with scanning everything I've got on hand and making that available. The Kris P. Lettuce Wrestling Drive has truly influenced on thinking on that matter.

These projects basically mean I need to become fabulously wealthy so that I can travel to the sites and not miss paychecks! Plus, gotta get help with the kids in the near-term.

Someday. Someday.



That's this issue!

I'm looking forward to August, though first MY BOOK COMES OUT IN THE UK NEXT WEEK!!!

I'll be doing annoying amounts of self-promotion, especially since my advance just came through this morning! It's gonna be a good few days, and then I'll be watching Amazon.uk like a freakin' hawk for the next eternity.

I'm celebrating by drinking an extra cup of Kauai Vanilla Macadamia Nut coffee. The rest of this issue was written while drinking Kauai's Garden Isle blend, though I've got a Don Francisco's Kona blend that's waiting for me to break into it!

All the art was by MidJourney, save for my pics. I've taken a lot of them lately.

I'll be sticking close to home except for two trips without dates. One will be to NYC and one to Miami. The NYC trip will center about the need to interview a few folks, and then to get to the NY Public Library Theatre Collection and Columbia's fanzine collection. I'll also likely be visiting the Whitney (free admission as a member of SFMoMA!) and and potentially MoMA and The Met.

And if there's a miracle, talking to Lenny Kaye!



