



(Super Festa di Amici)
Super Friend Bash Newsletter

Italy

July 23 - 31
2023

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About *Super Friend Bash*

Who?

You and your cool (not lame) friends are invited! Expect to run into other awesome people and their friends.

What?

Super Friend Bash is a group vacation between good friends (and their friends). Many of us live far away, but want to stay in each others' lives and share new experiences. Each year, people pay a deposit and make a planning committee. The planning committee sets an itinerary for the trip. Then we go there, get swag (like this!), have fun, and decide next year's trip!

Why?

Super Friend Bash originated from two desires: to have an annual tradition with close friends and to stay in touch with our friends as they went on with their lives. Let's take each in turn:

"Worst. Tradition. Ever."

The last day of high school, three of us decided to commemorate passing into a new stage of life. We thought it would be nice symbolism to get together each year and walk across "the Gap," a road through the mountain that connected our town to the school. We had a party afterward and toasted to our future.

The walk was awful. It would take four hours of the hottest New Mexican sun. But we kept doing it for seven years because we're awesome. (Translation: stubborn.) In 2009, we decided a change was in order. We couldn't keep coming back to the same place, having a terrible time with a dwindling set of friends. Instead, we started a new tradition to have a great time in new places with as many friends as we could...

"Quit Making Something of Yourself, Dammit!"

The older we get, the more awesome people we meet. Sadly, these awesome people do things with their lives.. the jerks. One can call, but that's not the same as visiting. And visits are expensive, especially when friends live in far away places (see p. 20-23 for an example of life prior to *SFB*.)

Super Friend Bash was born as a solution to that problem. Instead of everyone spending money to separately visit their friends and family, why not just merge all of the trips? As long as we're doing that, why not make it in an exciting new place?

I love your idea. Can I steal it and not invite you?

Sure, no prob. I'll even set up a page for your group on our website. Or, you could start your own *Renegade Bash* if you like. I'd call such a *Renegade Bash* the *No Carloses Trip*, but you can make whatever terrible decisions you like.

Why am I just hearing about this now??

Oof! Sorry. We forget to invite people every year. Sometimes it's because we haven't talked in a while, sometimes it's because you've said no two or three times in a row, sometimes the trip gets too big and we stop advertising, sometimes we invited your enemy first and don't want drama, but it's usually because we hate you in particular. If you're reading this, you're invited. Please reach out if you want to come!

Wait. When? Where??

Every year we pick a new time and new place. To learn 2024's dates and location(s), please turn to the back cover.

Meet the Participants

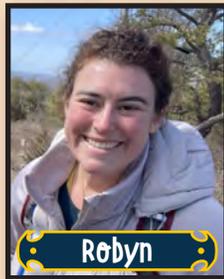


July 21, 2023

First Meal of SFB 2023

Robyn
Name(s)
Boston (BOS)
Hub of Origin
Making breakfast, traveling
Strengths
Being lost, lazy days on vacation
Weaknesses

July 10
Birthday
She/Her
Pronouns



Robyn

Jessy
Name(s)
El Paso (ELP)
Hub of Origin
Sense of humor, decisions, makeup
Strengths
Just so much damned walking!
Weaknesses

August 2
Birthday
She/Her
Pronouns



Jessy

Christina (Tina/Tuna)
Name(s)
Boston (BOS)
Hub of Origin
Run/drawing, other feet stuff
Strengths
Unsolved puzzles
Weaknesses

June 16
Birthday
She/Her
Pronouns



Tina

Komodo (Chum)
Name(s)
Lyon (LYS, ADG, ORY)
Hub of Origin
Drawing, journaling, hair coloring
Strengths
Solving puzzles with Tina
Weaknesses

May 25
Birthday
They/Them
Pronouns



Chum

Carlos (Los/Charly/Pixel)
Name(s)
Reno, Nevada (RNO)
Hub of Origin
Hair, glasses, makeup (sometimes)
Strengths
Combs, the absence of Mexican food
Weaknesses

May 29
Birthday
He/Him
Pronouns



Carlos

Where We Went

*We got our steps
in this big boot*





Sardinia:
A mountainous Sicily



Vatican:
Home of
Thirsty Art

Rome: It's just
down the road.
Any Road.

Italy:
Could use
more arch
support

Sicily: can
you kick it?



Refugees, still adrift :(

KEY

-  Carlos & Jessy
-  Tina & Robyn
-  Chum

History of Italy

Your history teacher failed you, but we'll give you a pass!



About 850,000 BCE

First hominins arrive in Italy. This probably happened in August, as it is the tourist season.



3400–3100 BCE

Ötzi the Iceman is shot down by an arrow in the Italian alps and eventually becomes the oldest natural human mummy. Öof! Don't cross anyone in Italy, I guess!



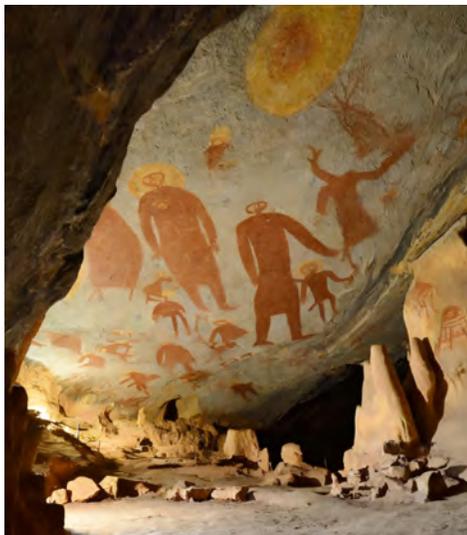
509–49 BCE

Roman Republic ends when Julius Caesar stages a successful insurrection, plus he actually pardons his supporters.

1 Million Years Ago 100,000 Years Ago 10,000 Years Ago Year 0

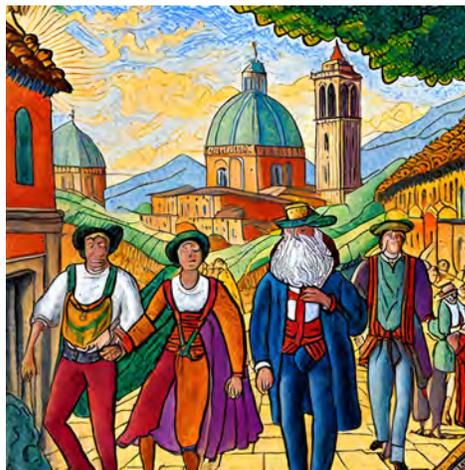
50,000 BCE

Neanderthals slag it up in Italy. Many of you descend from them, so I'm insulting your collective grandmothers.



4000–1000 BCE

Wave after wave of immigrants come to Italy. But, like, they integrated.



27 BCE

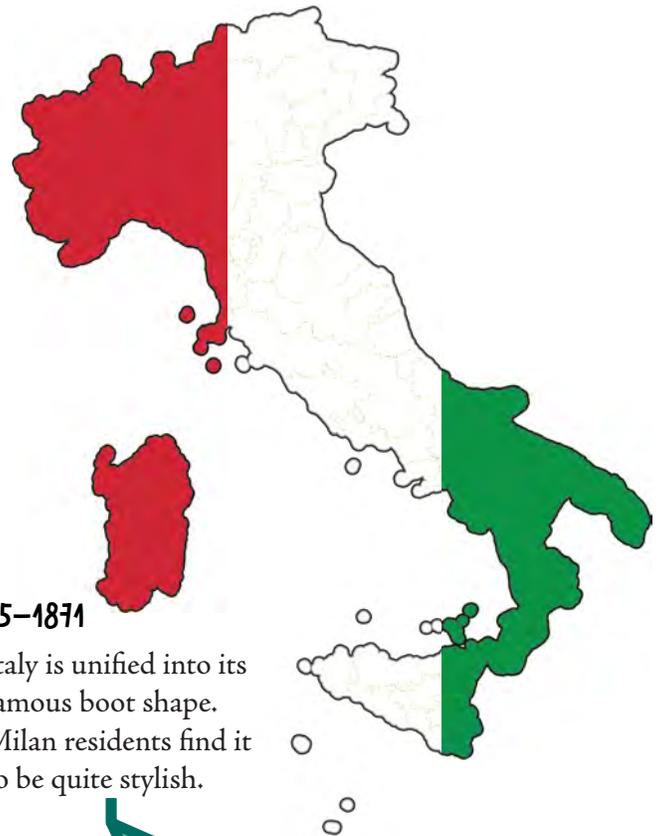
Roman Empire begins when Octavius changes his name to Augustus. In his honor, they name the month of September. Fun fact: when someone dies, any name is a dead name.





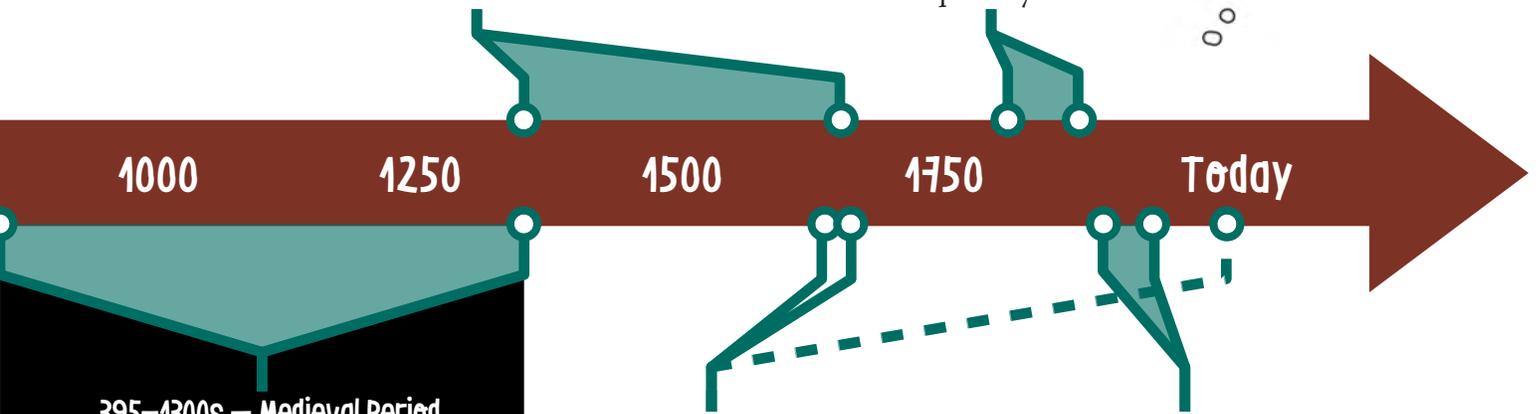
1300s–1600s — Italian Renaissance

A period of renewed interest in art and culture. This is the time in which famous artists Donato, Leonardo, Michelangelo, and Raffaello lived. Splinter was nowhere to be found.



1815–1871

Italy is unified into its famous boot shape. Milan residents find it to be quite stylish.



1000

1250

1500

1750

Today

395–1300s — Medieval Period

Let's not talk about this time.

There's no way to know what happened.

Besides, it couldn't be helped.

And also, it was for the best.

It's what we wanted, anyway.

Plus, it was so long ago, who cares?

Frankly, you're the one being weird about it.

1630, 1656, 2020

Plague after plague kills a third of Italians. The concept of a quarantine comes from this period. The OG masks were way cooler, though.



1922–1945

Bella ciao! Benito Mussolini invents fascism and joins Hitler in WWII. Italians would also like this to be added to the dark ages.



What We Did

*We missed you!
But we'll have better
aim next time!*

Saturday, July 22

- Carlos goes to his cousin's wedding in France (p. 20).
- Chum starts their long bus journey.
- Tina and Robyn arrive in Bologna, eat pizza, check in, take a nap, and get dinner. In Bologna, they see leany towers, tall towers, but not tall, leany towers.

Sunday, July 23

- Chum arrives in Florence. They are so tired, hot, and their phone is dead. They go to the American Embassy (McDonald's), then hang out at the Duomo watching local artists.
- Tina and Robyn arrive, meet Chum and get bologna (not firenze) sandwiches and gelato.
- They all check into the AirBNB, which has a collegey vibe and an unbeatable location.
- Jessy and Carlos arrive late and meet up with the gang to get dinner (p. 3).
- We discuss how we would spend \$1B (p. 43), and stay up working on last year's crossword until three a.m. (p.37-39).



JESUS



POPE



GALILEO



VAFFANGULO

Italian Hand Signs

Monday, July 24

- Tina goes shopping and prepares breakfast (p. 10).
- Chum drops off the winos for their tour, but their bus takes off without them! Oh no!
- It's okay, there's another bus soon. Jessy, Tina, Robyn, and Carlos go wine tasting. Here they meet Cherine & Lauren, who are on a girl's trip through Europe (p. 11). They recommend going to the city stairs.
- The ride back is fun group of drunks singing Queen and Journey.
- Chum wants to explore but it's hot and so they nap instead. Everyone returns and passes out, too!
- Time for dinner! Black spaghetti! Ravioli! Bruschetta! Pesto! Gelato!
- Finished the crossword! A rational spider is a 'sder.'

Tuesday, July 25

- Robyn **brings fruit**, and everyone listens to songs about their names (p. 16-17).
- We walk to the Uffizi and study some guy's zine before we realize it wasn't part of the museum (p. 13). So much good art! We see works by Leonardo da Vinci, Sandy Bottacelli, and Mikey Caravaggio.
- Tina challenges Jessy to take a shot for every Jesus. Jessy accepts while still in the BCE wing. Then we turn the corner to the Jesus boner era. Chum goes on a fevered quest to find as many Jesuses as they can. They get to 78 before we have to leave (p. 12).
- After a lunch in the museum, we all hike up to the top of Piazza Michelangelo as Cherine and Lauren had recommended (p. 8).
 - Jessy hates the group for making her climb so many stairs, not Cherine and Lauren, who are totally to blame.
 - We drink wine, watch the sunset, hear *Final Countdown* and discuss how Jessy has strong Leo energy.
 - We all finally have Italian pizza, which, because it's Italy, is uncut. The knife they give us is shitty.

Wednesday, July 26

- Cinque Terre day (p. 14)! We wake up troublingly early (6:30), walk over to the bus and have a bad breakfast
- The tour guide, Ado, is a Romanian musician who speaks many languages. Did you know Cinque Terre is Italian for five lands? That's the last thing we learned before we slept the whole three-hour drive.
- We arrive in Terre 2, in which we learn that all buildings are one of seven approved colors.
- The next Terre, Cornelia, splits up the group. Pixel and Jessy wait for a bus. And we mean *wait*. Everyone else takes the stairs, has lunch, and pays before they get up. We finally reunite five minutes before we split up again.
- Chum, Robyn, and Tina go on a *DANGEROUS* hike, but it's, like, just fine.

- Meanwhile, Pixel and Jessy enjoy some drinks at Terre 4, Vernaza, which is Chum & Robyn's least favorite terre. The crowded, dirty, small, salty area is probably less fun sober. ~_ () _ /
- Terre 5, Monterrozo, was also small. We get lost and Robyn is really not happy about it.
- We find a church loaded with skulls. Apparently, this town used to face lotsa pirates in the 1500s. People snuck out to bury the dudes the pirates killed, so their souls could go to heaven. "People risked their lives to save someone else's afterlife. Beautiful." –Ado
- The first/last Terre, Rio Maggiore, is just a snack break.
- We get back late, go to a food court and have a waitress on her first-ever job and closing day.
- We then go back and play Jackbox until late at night.

Thursday, July 27

- Tina paints Carlos' toenails, delaying the group long enough to miss the place Ado recommended, much to Robyn's chagrin. We eat pizza and caprese instead.
- Carlos has pineapple on pizza (p. 11). *Pineapple*. In *Italy*. That settles it.
- Carlos and Jessy have drinks at an Irish Pub while everyone else walks around.
- We reach Accademia and finally see David, illuminated (p. 13). He is much more impressive on display. ...So much more well hung.
- We finally make to the restaurant Ado recommended and **Jessy finally had a Florentine steak**.
- We go back to the Irish Pub and played **Dos** (*STB 13*). Then we come back to the room and stay up to talk about horoscopes (p. 42).

Friday, July 28

- Late start! More bruschetta and straciatella (p. 10)
- Jessy does makeup for Pixel and Tina (p. 15) while Robyn goes for a walk. Tina makes Carlos' hair and pulls out some "slut strands." Chum journals.
- We head out at 5 p.m. To seek the Basilica where Galileo (sans fingers), Machiavelli, and Michelangelo are buried. It's closed, so we walk up to the mercatto and find *Tognoni* shoes, where Tina gets a free shoehorn and some gift shoes because it was her name. Carlos buys some *Hey Dude* shoes cuz he's a dude.
- We stop by local bar and discuss rule changes for *STB 24*. Then have more (shock!) Italian food.
- In the evening, Jessy paints Pixel's fingernails and does his

hair again (p. 15). We all say our goodbyes, but then most of us still stay up until three a.m. to discuss bad poetry.

Saturday, July 29

- Tina and Robyn race to the airport at 4:30 a.m. :(
- Not much later, Chum, Jessy, and Pixel get a taxi, get breakfast pastries, and take a train to Rome.
- In Rome, we get on a hop-on-hop-off bus. We listen to the audio tour around the Colosseum, and get off near the Vatican to get lunch.
- We go on a tour of the Vatican and Carlos sneaks Chum's knife inside. It's okay: he has plot armor.
- In our tour, we learn about Michelangelo being commissioned for the Sistine chapel, starting too detailed, then easing up as he went on. Decades later, he's commissioned again and overcharges the pope and paints a bunch of his enemies as jerks.
- We geek out on other paintings and the raw, nekked, horny statues. It's so impressive that Matisse and Van Gogh paintings are just afterthoughts.
- We also learn that 400 people live in the Vatican and that the pope holds two keys until he can give them to Jesus. Keyless entry wasn't invented yet. Then we go to the Basilica of St. Peter.
- We take one last bus tour around town and stop for some Indian food. Finally, no more pasta!
- Chum takes a train and leaves :(



Sunday, July 30

- Jessy and Pixel sleep in waaaay too late, but not late enough to miss their free breakfast.
- They decide to make the most of the rest of their day and head to the beach, where they have decent food, steal a chair near the beach and hang out.
- They decompress over some Long Island Iced Teas and listen to the beach bar's DJ.

Monday, July 31

- Jessy and Pixel have breakfast, shower, and head to the airport, where Jessy checks in and buys some last-minute Italy memorabilia.
- Pixel is flying from a different terminal, sadly, so they part. *STB 23* is over :(

Cosa Abbiamo Mangiato

COLAZIONE



Lunedì

Martedì



Venerdì

CENA



Il Vero Gelato Arriva in
Lattine, NON in Cumuli

ACQUA 8€

VEGETARIANO

L'unico piatto che non sia pasta



Cibo italiano con
Sapore



Fermo: Tanañas
Appartiene alla pizza

VINO

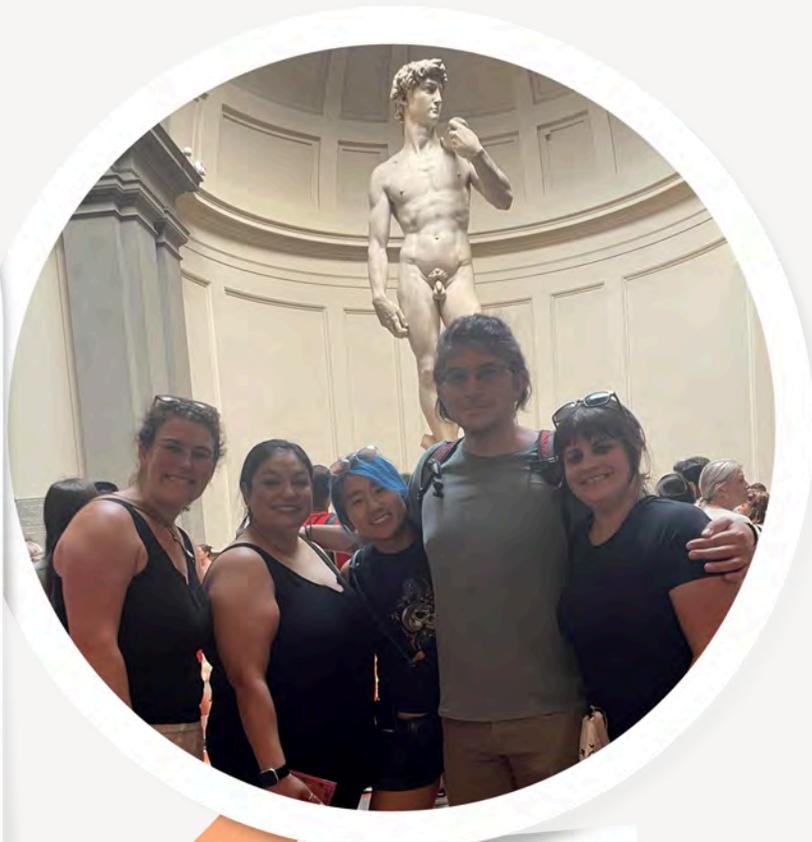
Preparati per il
Karaoke sull'Autobus



PANE 2€



Chum counts their 78th Jesus



Carlos and his academic great¹⁵ grandfather

Quef-izi

One egg
is an ouf

Welcome to the Uffizi! This is Florence's premier art museum. You probably want to start by looking at these newsletters, written by a rather cranky old man in the pre-World War period. He put a lot of effort into these. And, although they weren't popular in his life, aren't good, and still aren't important, they were cheap.

At the Uffizi, we pride ourselves in our multi-story collection of some of the finest ancient and renaissance art— the two periods in which art existed. We also have a very long entryway which allows us to display the entire collection of *Leonardo*, a zine that might never have been read. For example, certainly no copyeditor has read it.

The Uffizi is around the corner from the *Piazza di Santa Maria del Fiore*. Despite their identical men's rooms, the *Piazza* is not to be confused with the *Basilica di Santa Maria Novella*, the dirty ho. On your way here, you'll see recreations of all of the famous sculptures found in museums you have to pay for. The recreations are better, but they're not as horny. There, you'll find a recreation of that thirsty, thirsty statue of *David* that your state legislature warned you about.



A man reads a newsletter. Nearby women are aroused

These make an excellent entry way to our newsletter gallery.

You might read these newsletters on the assumption that they are here for a reason other than that the attic was full. If you'd like to take some home, you can buy some *Leonardo* newsletters at the gift shop or take a crate from the dumpster out back.

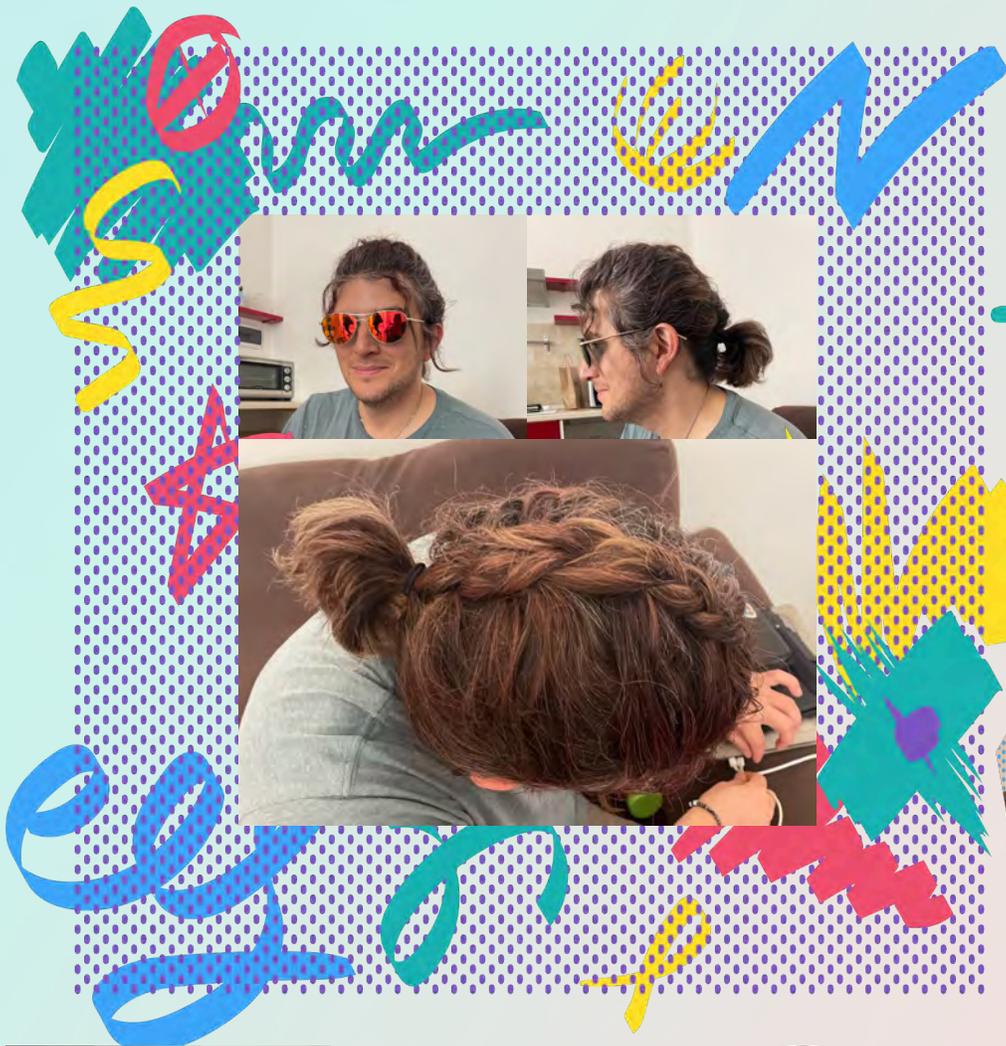
Please help. And please don't send us your own newsletters. It's a played-out format.



Caravaggio's *Medusa* is a work of art. In *Leonardo*, the image is used to represent Rosa Sobrero, wife of the two-time Prime Minister Giovanni Giolitti, the scoundrel, ha ha! It was mean-spirited and confusing, but popular at the time.

I guess you just had to be there.





Tina: Hair & Toss

Makeover!



Jessy: Makeup & Nails



Super Friend Bash Italy

SIDE A

- The Muppets "Chum Na Mah Na"
- Beyonce "Church Girl"
- Dean Martin & Dick Stabile "That's Amore"
- Fall Out Boy "We Didn't Start the Fire"
- Rick Springfield "Jessy's Girl"
- Bohby Day "Rockin' Robyn"
- Lou Bega "Mambo No. 5"
- Kris Kross "Chun"
- Beach Boys "Komodo"
- Coolie & L.V. "Gangsta's Paradise"
- George Michael "Careless Whisper"
- Queen "Bohemian Rhapsody"

SIDE B

- Santana & The Product G&B "Maria Maria"
- Kanye West "New Work Out Plan"
- Prophick Murphys "I'm Shipping Up to Boston"
- Uwis "The Chun (What Does the Chun"
- Khalid "Location"
- Sinead O'Connor "Nothing Compares 2 U"
- Bacilos "Mi Primer Millon"
- Larry Midler "Wherever You Go"
- Kid Cudi "Day 'N' Nite (Nightmare)"
- Black Eyed Peas "WAP"
- Kanye West & Jamie Foxx "Gold Digger"
- Megan Thee Stallion "Body"

Listen along at www.superfriendbash.com/2023-Music

What We Heard

say?)”



What We Said

*All the lols we
could remember*

Daniel: You're going to be giving blowjobs on the street of Italy for sandwiches.

Bartender holds his fingers apart, suggesting nine inches

The sandwiches??

CARLOS: I feel like this fan would get moldy.

CHUM: Why? There's nothing organic in it.

TINA: Wait, what liquid did you fill the bottle with?

CARLOS: The basic view is that if you want to know what the biological units are, you ask the organism. So, cancers and autoimmune diseases are crises in individuality.

CHUM: It makes sense. It's like lupus is saying "why are you hitting yourself?"

CHUM: You only specify film stars when they're kids. A child film star is a thing, but an adult film star is something completely different.

CARLOS: Honestly, that just makes me rethink people who like watching children's films.

CARLOS: That's St. Peter. He was crucified upside down because he didn't want to do the same thing Jesus did.

CHUM: It's been done.

TINA: He wanted to one-up him.

It's like skating: every generation does better than the one before. Next guy who gets crucified is going to be spinning the whole time.

CARLOS: If Jessy were here, her laughter would be louder than your judgment.

PIXEL: Did I tell you I got a ticket in Iceland?

JESSY: Why didn't you tell anyone??

It's okay, I'll just never go back.

No, so we could all laugh at you!

Looking at a marble statue of a torso

JESSY: What's it made of?

CHUM: Boyfriend material.

ROBYN: I don't need to bring my passport do I?

TINA: I haven't been.

CARLOS: Yeah, me either. But I *have* been bringing Robyn's passport.

ROBYN: Are you going to do the hike Carlos?

CARLOS: Probably not.

JESSY: I hope not! You can't leave me alone! I mean, I guess you can. I'm an adult. But I'm not a very good one.

JESSY: *Crème brûlée* is my favorite!

PIXEL: *Crème brûlée*, or, as it's pronounced in French, *cream brulet*.

CHUM: There's not even a 't'! That's like me calling these cherriest!

CHUM: I don't think I've ever been to a Chili's.

CARLOS: Imagine the fanciest, nicest Michelin star-rated restaurant and make it affordable. Chili's is the opposite of that.

JESSY: This app lets me make anything in Chili's. It's my Bible. "That needs 8 ounces," oh fuck no, see: "16 ounces." I'm *such* a dick with it.

PIXEL: Which is the best way to way to act with a Bible.

JESSY: Is that a bidet?? That's what I wash dishes with! I can't use the same thing to clean out my buttole!

PIXEL: Ononono... I have been doing the dishes really, really wrong.

ROBYN: I have a weird foot thing, I can't touch other people's feet.

TINA: I have the other kind of weird foot thing.

ROBYN: I just got—

JESSY: A little antsy in the pantsy?

—well it doesn't take much—

CHUM: —to get in your pantsy?

ROBYN: I know my kosher rules. I'm not even that strict. I'll have chicken and milk because you can't milk a chicken.

CARLOS: No, not without permission, no.

JESSY: If I didn't already know he'd be so big, that would have shocked the hell out of me.

PIXEL: And yet he's not big in any of the places that matter.



Chum's David

JESSY: hmm *manicure*...I guess 'Mani' comes from the Latin word for hand?

CHUM: Manus, yeah

Do you think that might be the origin of... 'human?'

checks on phone

Hmmmno.

No?

"Homo."

What'd you call me??

JESSY: What I put up my butt is nobody's business.

PIXEL: Are you sure you're doing lesbianism right?

CARLOS: Did that sign just say to go upstairs?? Didn't the last one day to come down here? Does the Sistine chapel even exist??

CHUM: The real Sistine chapel is the friends we made along the way.

CHUM: So *why* did they crucify St. Peter?

CARLOS: Tax evasion.

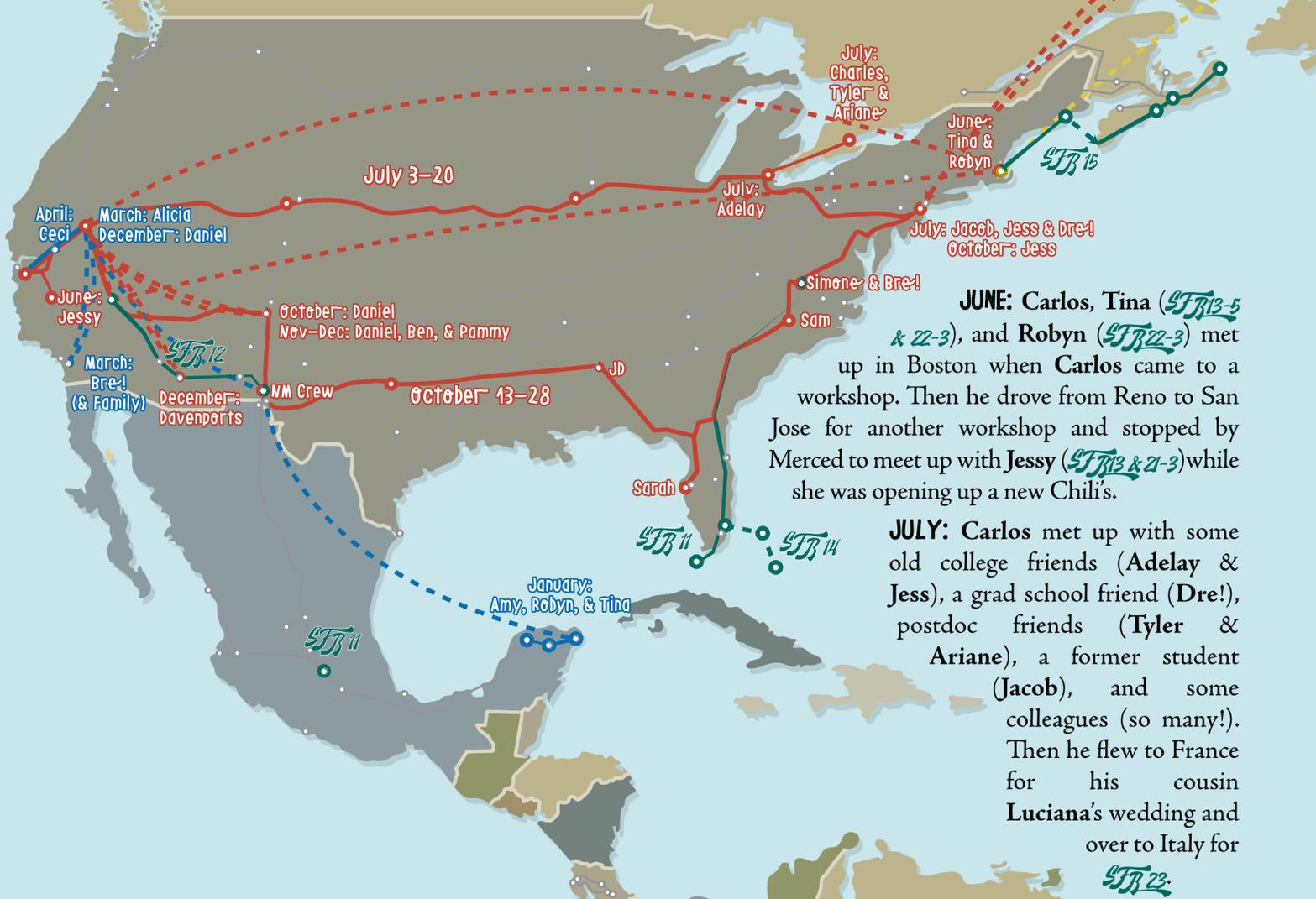
Talking over Jessy's video

PIXEL: I should stop talking. Jessy's recording a video. I really wouldn't want my voice to be recorded forever talking over St. Peter's Basilica... it is beautiful, though. My voice, not the Basilica.

CHUM: Michelangelo's art is so horny. He's my new art goal. I want my art to hurt your heart.

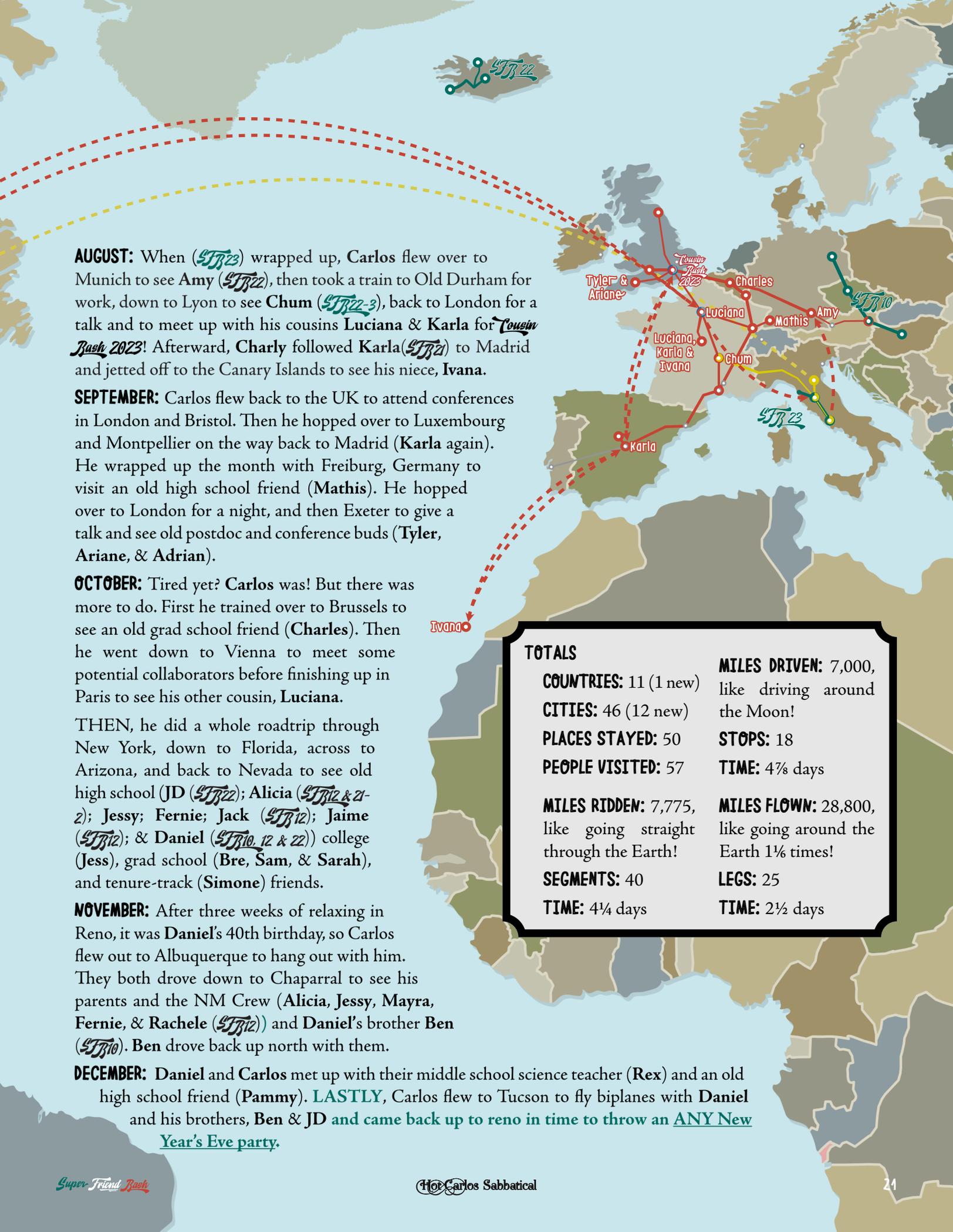
CARLOS: You want your art to be so horny the Pope wants it.

Hot Carlos Sabbatical



KEY

- Previous visits
- ~ Previous roadtrips
- Earlier 2023 Trips
- Super Friend Rashes
- Hot Carlos Sabbatical
- Opération Chum's Hat



AUGUST: When (*STR23*) wrapped up, Carlos flew over to Munich to see Amy (*STR22*), then took a train to Old Durham for work, down to Lyon to see Chum (*STR22-3*), back to London for a talk and to meet up with his cousins Luciana & Karla for *Cousin Rash 2023*! Afterward, Charly followed Karla (*STR21*) to Madrid and jetted off to the Canary Islands to see his niece, Ivana.

SEPTEMBER: Carlos flew back to the UK to attend conferences in London and Bristol. Then he hopped over to Luxembourg and Montpellier on the way back to Madrid (Karla again). He wrapped up the month with Freiburg, Germany to visit an old high school friend (Mathis). He hopped over to London for a night, and then Exeter to give a talk and see old postdoc and conference buds (Tyler, Ariane, & Adrian).

OCTOBER: Tired yet? Carlos was! But there was more to do. First he trained over to Brussels to see an old grad school friend (Charles). Then he went down to Vienna to meet some potential collaborators before finishing up in Paris to see his other cousin, Luciana.

THEN, he did a whole roadtrip through New York, down to Florida, across to Arizona, and back to Nevada to see old high school (JD (*STR22*); Alicia (*STR12 & 21-2*); Jessy; Fernie; Jack (*STR12*); Jaime (*STR12*); & Daniel (*STR10, 12 & 22*)) college (Jess), grad school (Bre, Sam, & Sarah), and tenure-track (Simone) friends.

NOVEMBER: After three weeks of relaxing in Reno, it was Daniel's 40th birthday, so Carlos flew out to Albuquerque to hang out with him. They both drove down to Chaparral to see his parents and the NM Crew (Alicia, Jessy, Mayra, Fernie, & Rachele (*STR12*)) and Daniel's brother Ben (*STR10*). Ben drove back up north with them.

DECEMBER: Daniel and Carlos met up with their middle school science teacher (Rex) and an old high school friend (Pammy). **LASTLY**, Carlos flew to Tucson to fly biplanes with Daniel and his brothers, Ben & JD and came back up to reno in time to throw an ANY New Year's Eve party.

Ivana

TOTALS	
COUNTRIES: 11 (1 new)	MILES DRIVEN: 7,000, like driving around the Moon!
CITIES: 46 (12 new)	STOPS: 18
PLACES STAYED: 50	TIME: 4 $\frac{7}{8}$ days
PEOPLE VISITED: 57	MILES RIDDEN: 7,775, like going straight through the Earth!
MILES RIDDEN: 7,775, like going straight through the Earth!	MILES FLOWN: 28,800, like going around the Earth 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ times!
SEGMENTS: 40	LEGS: 25
TIME: 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ days	TIME: 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ days



New Year's Eve in Cancun



Class of 2002 Reunion pt. 2



Alicia visits Rene



Super Cousin Bash 2023



ISHPSSB 2023 - Toronto



Daniel & Carles visit Pammy



Lucy's Wedding



Carles visits Ad



Charly visits Lucy



Emmie visits Tina



Los



Carles visits Exeter



YM's 40th



Carles visits Charles



Carles vi



Charly visits Juan



Carles visits Matthi



Charly visi



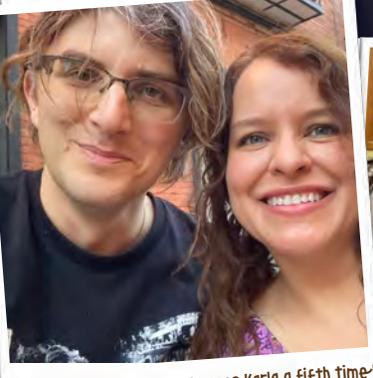
Carles visits Jess Again!



Charly visits Ivana



Charly visits Karla



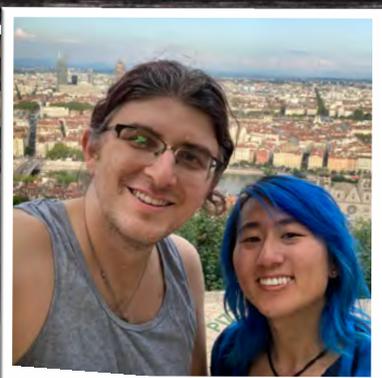
Charly sees Karla a fifth time!



Daniel Davenport's 40th



Daniel & Carlos visit Rex (Their Middle-School Teacher!)



Carlos visits Chum



Los visits Bre-1 agd



Alicia's 40th Birthday



Carlos visits Amy



Doctor C visits Jason



Los visits Sarah



Mulder, Pixel, Doughboy, and Deadmeat Take-Off



Jov's Birthday



Floating the River!



Gemini Party



Halloween Party

Side Quests

January

Carlos and Amy (*STR 22*) meet up in Cancun and drive to Valladolid and Merida. Tina (*STR 13-5 & 22-3*) and Robyn (*STR 22-3*) join and they all see some pyramids. On the way back, Carlos stops by El Paso to see the NM Crew (*STR 10, 12-3, & 21-3*)!

March

Alicia (*STR 12 & 21-22*) takes a last minute trip up to Reno to visit Carlos and the Reno (*STR 21*) crew! Carlos then flies to Los Angeles to see friends and family.

Separately, Tina and a bunch of friends went to Patagonia to celebrate YM's (*STR 13-4*) birthday.

AUGUST

Emmie (*STR 13*) visits Tina in Boston.

June-December

Hot Carlos Sabbatical! (See prior spread.)

2024

Miranda (*STR 22*) is going to Orlando in February. Alicia is traveling around Texas and perhaps Mexico. Daniel might be moving to Barbados.

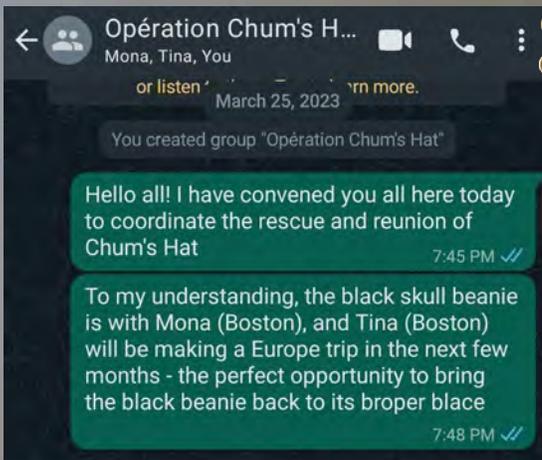
Robyn might go to the Olympics and might meet up with Chum.

Tina is going to Arizona in January, Ecuador in February, Colorado in March, France in June, and Chicago.

Carlos is going to New Mexico and Oregon in March; Pennsylvania, Oregon, and Mexico City in April; North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Nova Scotia in May; and Austria, Spain, and Finland in June.

*A lot of y'all travel a lot.
Some even try to meet up!*

Opération Chum's Hat



March 25, 2023 → WhatsApp app group created
Tina in Roxbury, Mona in Cambridge
meet in the middle sometime?
settle for Somerville.

May 16, 2023 →
Tina realizes she forgets to tell Mona whenever she is in Somerville.
- tries to organize a meeting at Cambridge microphone Mixer ~~at~~ @ The Tavern.
- It's agreed!
- Flash forward: Public transit was not on Tina's side and she could not make it to the mixer. ☹️

June 22, 2023 →
- Tina is going to CX Summer Nights @ Cambridge! Can swing by Mona's place?
- But Mona is in Lexington ☹️

June 30, 2023 →
- Tina going to Harvard Art Museums on July 6th, maybe can meet?
- Mona can't, but she will be @ Boston Fops concert fireworks July 4th
- Tina will be coming back from Cape that day!

July 4th 11:30pm @ Harv's fireworks
- Hatch Memorial Shell Success!!!
- Cloudy Northern Lights of fireworks

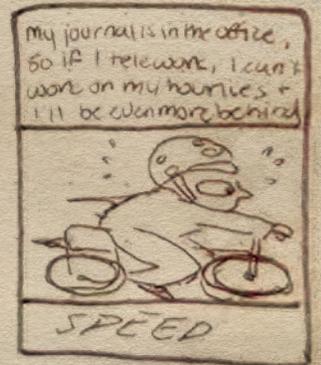
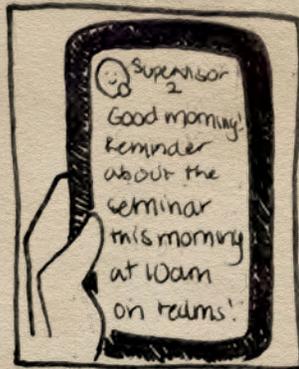
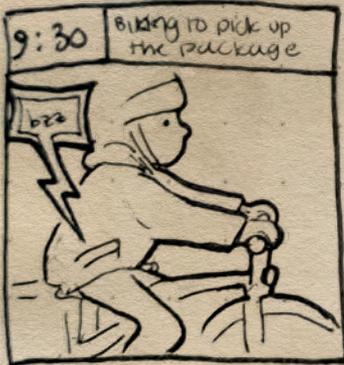
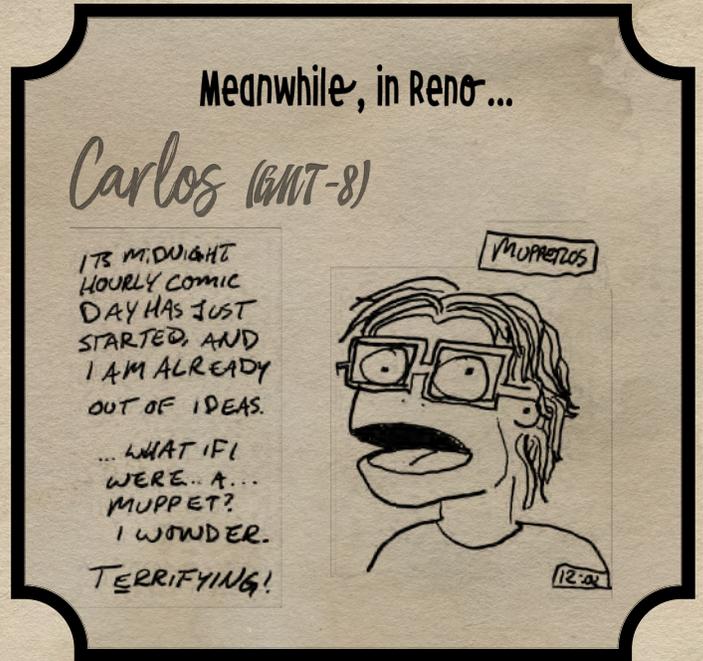
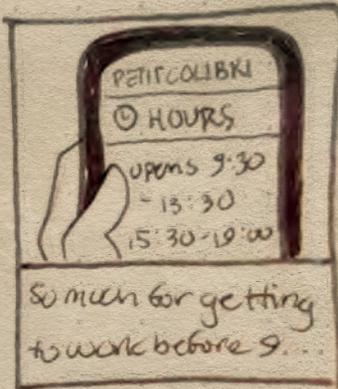
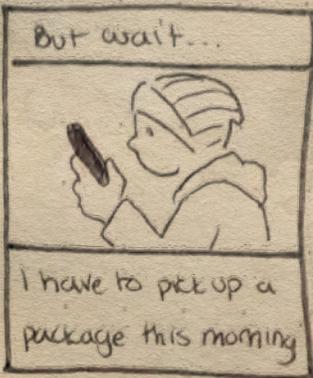
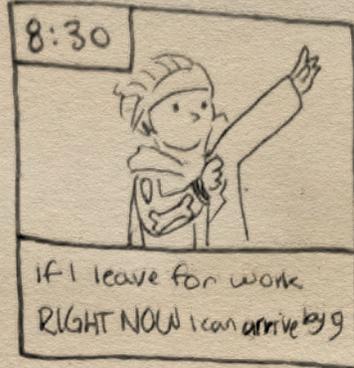
July 4th!
Yeah, America!



Hourly Comics

Since February 1, 2009, Carlos has been drawing one day a year in comic form. Sometimes his friends join! This year, we encouraged each other via Discord. These were our days.

Chum (GMT+1)



Chum
(GMT+1)

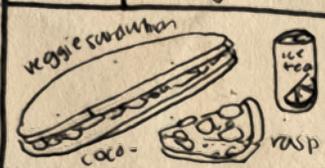
Hourly Comics Day falls on a bad day bc I have a meeting this afternoon to discuss the draft that I have not worked on.

I feel like you're prioritising the wrong thing



11:30

12:30 Finding food...



Unintentionally got a sandwich menu for 8¢!

Alicia
(GMT-7)

13:00 ECSA Lunch



no room left @ the tables...

sitting alone

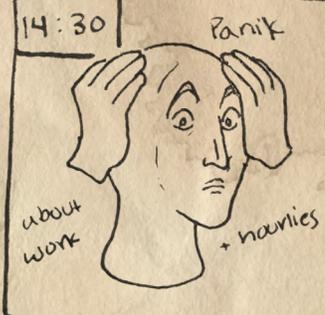


Newcomer also could not find a seat @ the ECSA lunch tables

Nice Chill Lunch.




14:30 Panic



about work + hairies

15:00 "Hey, have you read any scientific paper you found interesting in molecular biology? I need to present a random paper to my lab next week..."

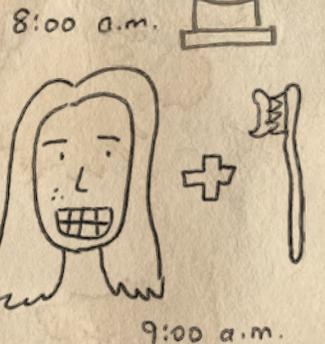
MY TIME HAS COME...



Not ready to meet w/ my supervisor @ 16:30...

16:16 😊 Supervisor 1

"Hi Komodo, could we move our chat to tomorrow?"



17:30



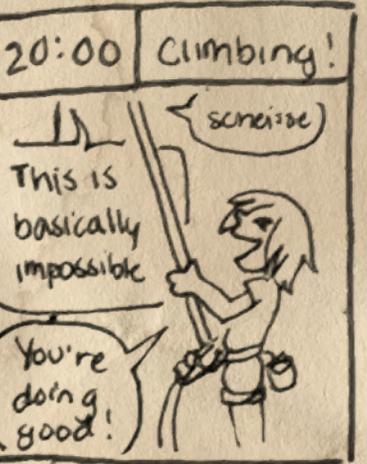
wave of relief

suddenly no longer productive



Chum

(GNT+1)



Alicia

(GNT-7)



11 a.m.



12 p.m.

Goodbye Lunch



1 p.m.

TAP Nachos!



Carlos

(GNT-7)



WAKING UP WITH DRY MOUTH

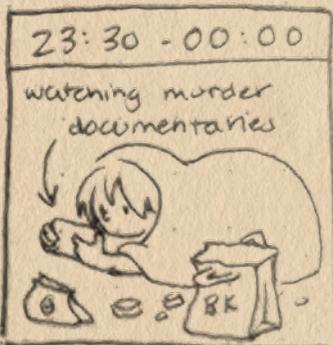
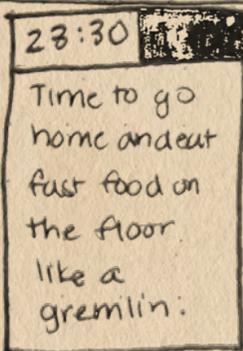
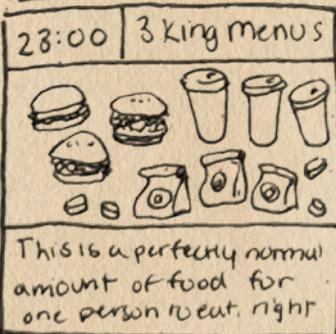


WASHING DISHES SO MY COLLEAGUES KNOW I'M A GOOD ROOMMATE



Chum

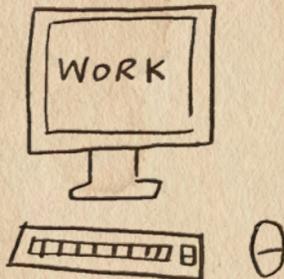
(GMT+1)



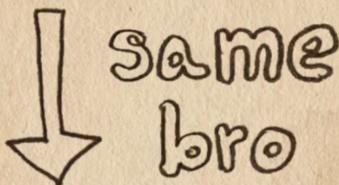
Alicia

(GMT-7)

2 p.m.

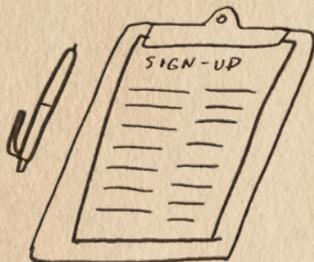


3 p.m.

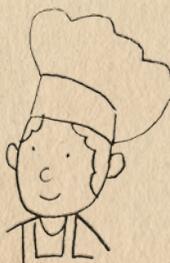


4 p.m.

Parent Meeting



5 p.m.



Student cooking class

Carlos

(GMT-7)



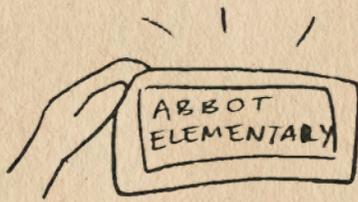
Alicia

(GMT-7)

6 p.m.



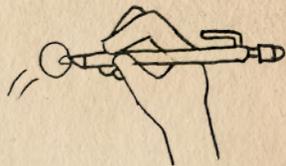
7 p.m.



Hand-held boob tube

8 p.m.

Shamelessly catching up on my hourly comic drawings at once.



9 p.m.

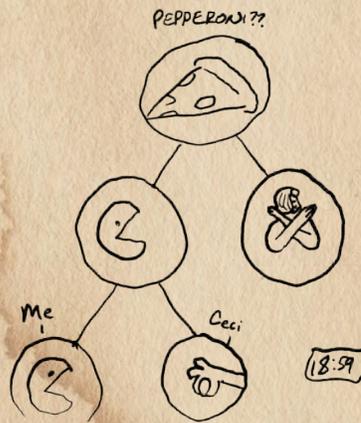


Blanket Fort

Recovering from peeping all day

Carlos

(GMT-7)



OBJECT WORD



RECAP



Hourly Comics Day

DRINKS



CATCHING UP

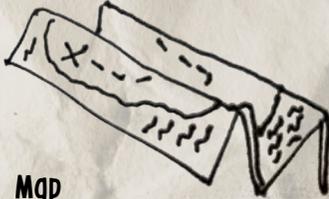
OF ALL THE HOURLY COMIC DAYS, THIS WAS ONE OF THEM



Inktober, etc.

Since 2015, each October, Alicia has drawn a thing a day. This year, some of us followed along as best we could!

Carlos



Map



Spiders



Rush



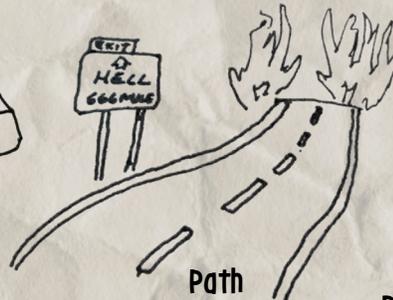
Dodge



Dream



Bounce



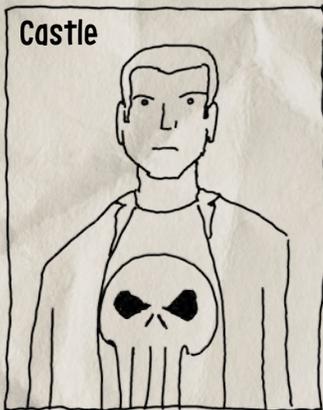
Path



Bite



Wander



Castle



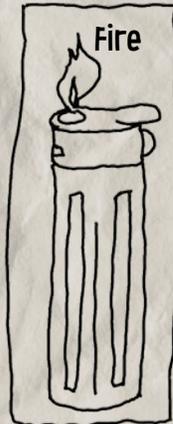
Beast



Golden



Drip



Fire



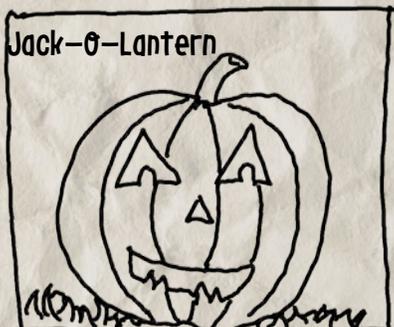
Artist



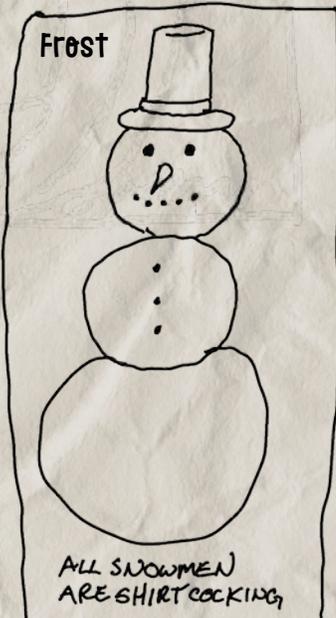
Fortune



Toad



Jack-O-Lantern



Frost

ALL SNOWMEN ARE SHIRT COCKING

Sugar Skull



Alexandra



Spiders



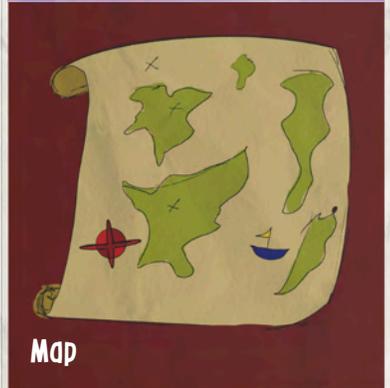
Path



Dream



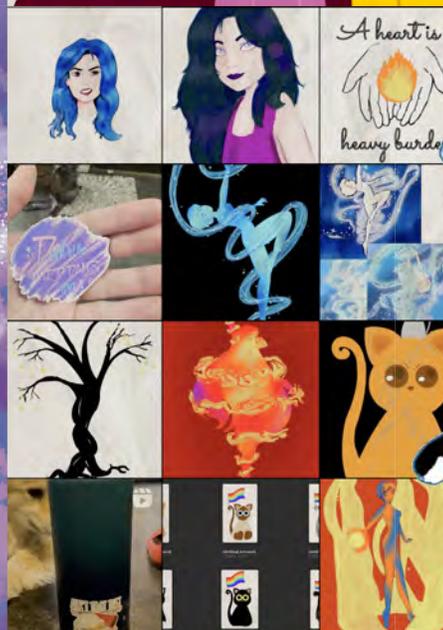
HERMIT



Map



Dodge

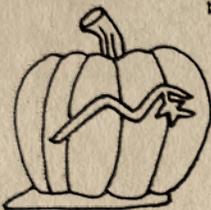
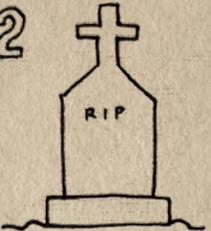
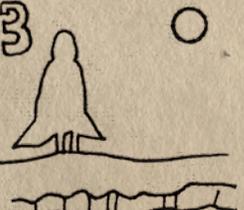
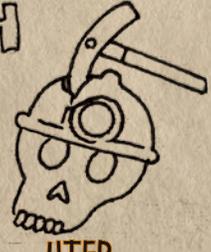
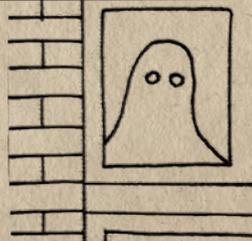
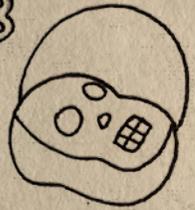
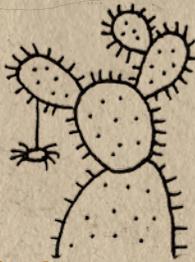
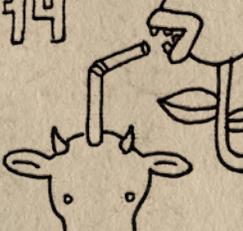
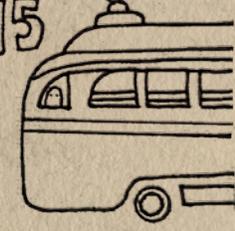
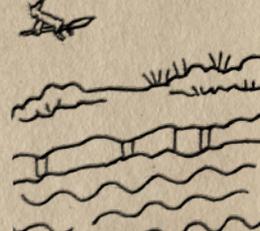
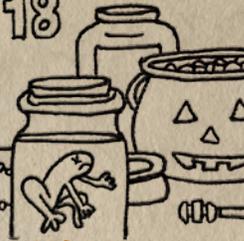
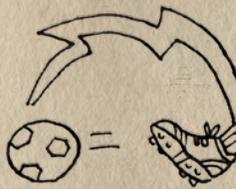
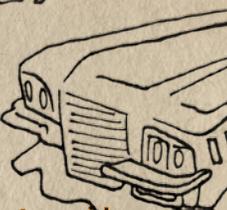


A heart is a heavy burden



CHUCO-TOBER '23

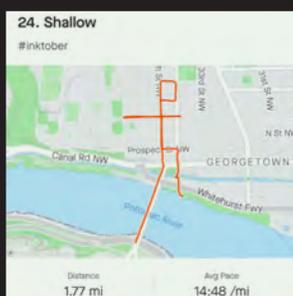
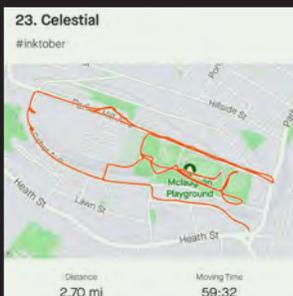
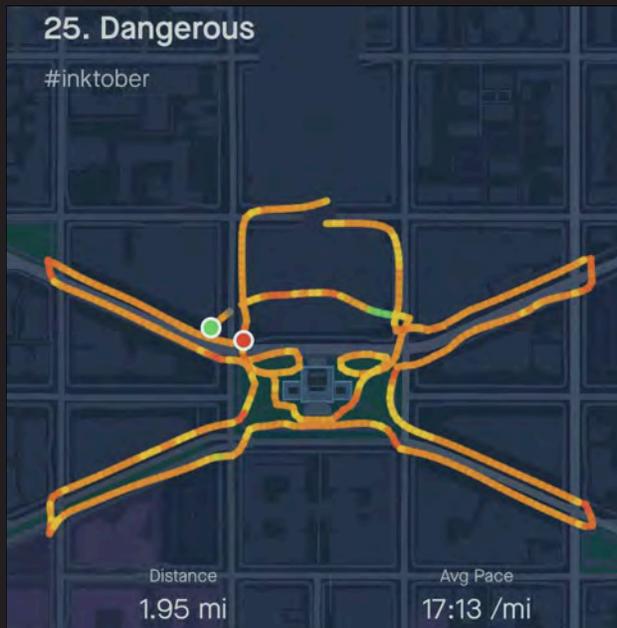
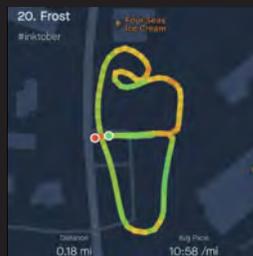
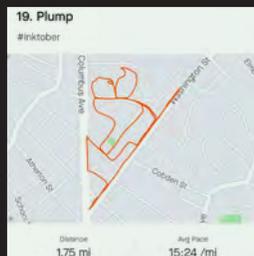
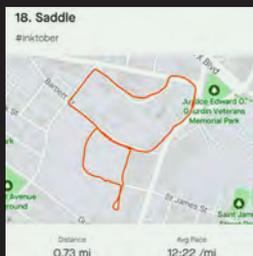
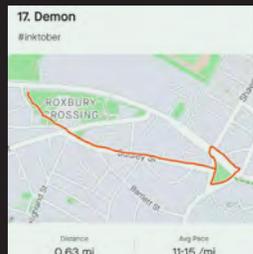
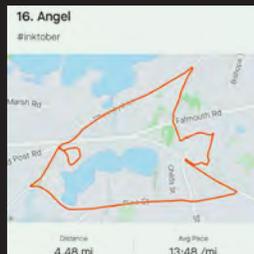
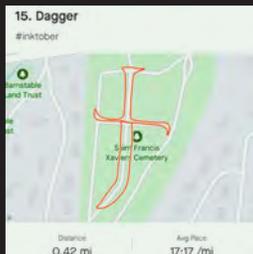
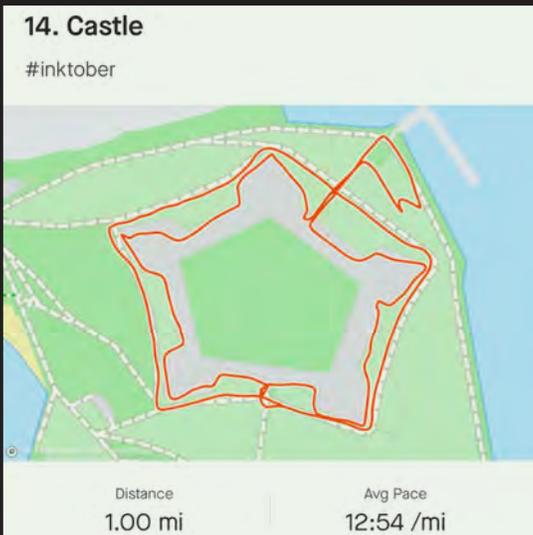
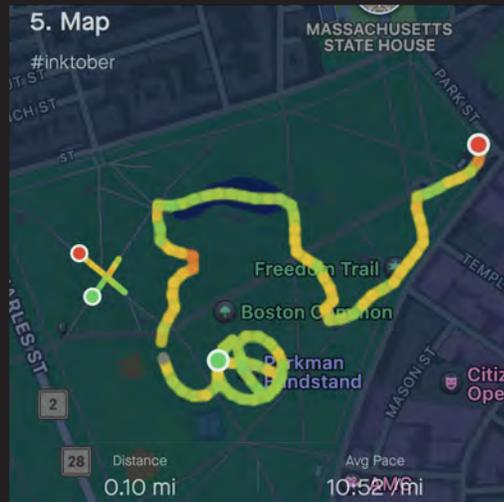
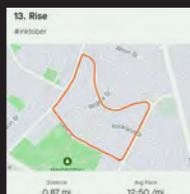
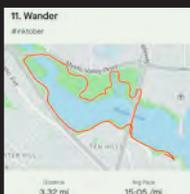
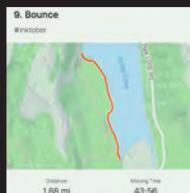
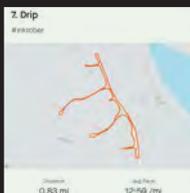
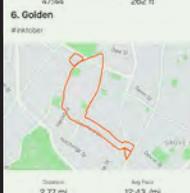
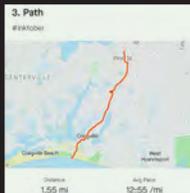
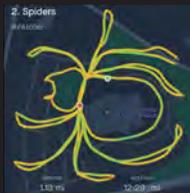
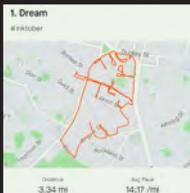
Alicia

<p>1</p>  <p>EP Jack-o-Lantern</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Concordia Cemetery</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>La Llerena</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>UTEP</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>Alligator</p>	<p>1-5</p>
 <p>El Paso High School</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>Pachuco</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>Sugar Skull</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>Cactus</p>	 <p>Star on the Mountain</p>	<p>6-10</p>
 <p>San Jacinto</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>Cowboy</p>	 <p>Scarecrow</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>Chupacabras</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>Trolley</p>	<p>11-15</p>
 <p>Rio Grande</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>Candle</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>RIP</p>	<p>19</p>  <p>Chihuahua</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>El Cucuy</p>	<p>16-20</p>
 <p>Thunder</p>	 <p>Frida</p>	 <p>Plaza Theatre</p>	 <p>Coyote</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>Marigold</p>	<p>21-25</p>
<p>26</p>  <p>Mariachi</p>	 <p>Locomotive</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>Witch</p>	<p>29</p>  <p>Lowrider</p>	 <p>Catrina</p>	<p>26-30</p>



INKTOBER '23





Food!

Flavor
as art



Miranda

Providing
Daniel

From the Journal of Chum



Herman Munster

Frankenstein

Fangs

Bones



Dr. Jekyll



Sha + Dow



Red



CROSSWORD

*Not responsible
for lost time*

ACROSS

1. -8
4. Genre for the songs of both *STB 22 & 23*
6. Light carriage
12. First train was in 2023
17. Home to thirsty art
18. Hard carb
19. An unhelpful text in a warzone or to Maya Arulpragasam
20. *The Office's* second Kelly
21. Not near, not quite far
22. Someone who's into two zones
23. Some Fe
24. Unknown, backward
25. Hesitate or haw partner
26. Paintable, for 125A
27. My Face/Off 2 Pitch: Oops, all _____
28. Max.
29. A degree
30. Like, as in mode
31. Gets anxious if lost
32. French pronoun
33. Room to wash or bathe
35. Between the flop and river
36. International charity fighting blood disorders
40. Old story
41. The ___ Generation (Boomers)
42. Outcome for, like, any Tarantino character
46. Sad seal covering
47. What ya get served after ya been burnt
50. Ononono
52. A place with tall towers, leany towers, but not tall, leany towers

54. Exist in the Western U.S., But not in the East
55. Viola
57. "Otra vez" en *STB 12*
58. When the Milky Way is poor, it tightens this
59. 11:59
60. How to go broke on the stock market
61. Scarpe
63. Sideshow Bob's tattoo "___ Bart, ___"
66. Fed by coins or credit
68. 7 to 9
69. Where Jesus hung out
70. Range of power
72. *STB 23* città
76. Just one 130A
77. One stop of Taylor's tour
80. ένα φωνήεν
81. Avoids waterfalls
82. A poet, but not quite
83. Repellent
86. Lady courted in Reno
88. Robert, Fournet, ou Bonnel
90. 123D Backward
91. Many spots in *STB 24*
94. Arancia
98. With 108D, five lands
99. Manger lentement
100. ChatGPT's mind
101. ___ Sho
102. Bring receipts, in research
103. Altar, or a constellation you'll have to look up
105. Serve; or what Tom does

107. Doctored
109. Some is better than full
111. Vascular headache, a big border, or Megan's edge
113. Duty
115. Risky perch
117. Flour bleach or hereditary material
118. You can punch it, sleep in it, but don't want to hold it
119. Undead snack
124. Where most people live
125. 12A's canvas in *STB 23*
126. 77A backward
127. Vincent & others
128. Pant butt part
129. ... - - - ...
130. It is what it is
131. Gave Perseus head

15. 90°, for one
16. What sometimes beats the naysayers
17. _____ Hesperus, Phosphorus, or the most lovely lady
18. "Cain's not _____"
25. Minnesota or Canada, geographically
29. What bros call each other
34. Red or Dead
37. Beanie loser
38. They cheer for beavers
39. Mercedes roadster
40. Flirter, or a short ad
41. Swim event
42. Eve's counterpart
43. Money exchange fee
44. Not excluded
45. Colorful panic
47. 42D, again
48. Togo capital
49. A text message you send to buy you more time

51. **Dos**'s **Report** Card
52. One who birthed 17D
53. Kirk's diary
56. Pythagoras' perfect number
62. Where Poe's lamplight gloats
64. "Woe _____"
65. -5
67. Scam high school test
68. Half a union of unions
71. **131A's father**
73. Green org
74. What smells?
75. Mostly zesty
77. What the Amsterdam can make diseased

DOWN

1. Disbarred
2. Tenures
3. Beanie bringer
4. Rosso
5. Banana target
6. Will never stabilize in your lifetime :(
7. Woodcarving tool
8. Blu
9. One who would avoid a banana on a technicality
10. The way up
11. *Arrested Development's* Annyeong's real name
12. 12A's charger
13. Gofer trip
14. Yearly check

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115				116						117				118					119	120	121	122	123
124						125							126				127						
128						129							130				131						

78. Roman ones are cool, but if I do it to your house, I'm an asshole
79. Dave's house
81. Unshorn sheep
83. *A New Hope's* only
84. Seller for when your goods are too hot for craigslist
85. Muslim ascetic
87. Airport in Pakistan
89. Where 37D works
92. Twee
93. Obey
95. Man from behind
96. Glossy coats
97. 'X' a box
98. Clue: yellow title
101. Something a samurai could have done to a cowboy (really!)
104. Cuts with a scythe
105. Booze that's sweeter in Italy
106. A new thing Russia pulled out of in 2023
108. See 98A
109. Oof!
110. YyYyyyYyyYy
112. Ts you couldn't high five
114. You were two of these in 2023
116. What a billionaire thinks is scary
118. Dubai half
119. Dance music tempo, or heart beats
120. Help, abet, or acquired immunodeficiency
121. A creepy text or scary place to get treated
122. *Zelda's* home
123. Ass backward

2023 in the News

*All the News
that's fit to mock*

January

Former Nazi/Pope Benedict XVI dies, making him unable to attend *STR 23*, as we have a strict No Popes policy. Popes: not even one.

Lula de Silva is inaugurated as the new president of Brazil, promising to stop his predecessor's rampant bulldozing of the Amazon. Ironically, Amazon Inc.'s destruction of Brazil continues unobstructed.

February

A poorly maintained train carrying hazardous materials derailed in Ohio. Surprisingly, community members do *not* develop super powers. Their cancer cells do.

Europe agrees to ban sales of new gas-powered vehicles by 2035. American companies begin development of whale oil-powered SUVs.

Russia announces that it will no longer participate in the nuclear arms treaty New START. In Punxatawney, the groundhog sees his shadow seared into the ground and finds there will be six more weeks of nuclear winter.



March

Xi Jinping is re-elected for an unprecedented third term. Some guys have all the luck.

ChatGPT launches its latest large language learning model GPT4, which is capable of achieving top scores at some of the most rigorous exams. GPT secretly plans its attack on Sarah Connor.

Donald Trump is indicted for paying hush money. He moves up in the Republican primary polls to +17%, largely due to his pro-hush money stance.

Due to higher interest rates and lower bond yields, Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) collapses. Although stakeholders are reimbursed using SVB's assets, tech and startup companies begin a yearlong process collapses, cutbacks, and layoffs. In fact, we even had to layoff our punchline wri

April

The European Space agency launches a craft to search for life around Jupiter. Maybe that can save us.

India surpasses China as the most populous country. Slow down, guys! It's not a race.

FoxNews settles its defamation lawsuit with Dominion Voting Systems for an unprecedented \$787.5 Million. Tucker Carlson is subsequently fired. Tucker develops an online show, despite the fact that he has a name and face better suited for teletype.

May

San Francisco's First Republic Bank collapses, becoming the second biggest collapse in U.S. history. The first was the 2017 Super Bowl giveaway of a 28-3 lead by Falcons against the Patriots.

The World Health Organization declares COVID-19 is no longer a global health emergency. Most of the world must have heard the news a few years early.

June

Wildfires in Canada temporarily make U.S. air quality the worst in the world. As yet, there is no explanation for the other areas in which the U.S. is the worst.

Scientists create the first human embryo from stem cells, avoiding the need for egg or sperm cells altogether. Incels celebrate. (Alone, obviously.)

Cultivated (lab-grown) meat is approved for sale by the FDA. If you think vegans and bacon lovers are annoying separately, wait until they are the same person.

July 3rd is the hottest day ever recorded. One day later, the record is shattered. The next day, surprisingly, is also the hottest day on record, as is the one after that. July breaks the record of the hottest month and 2023 of the hottest year. Perhaps this is not news, as it happens every year for *some* unexplainable reason.

A grand jury indicts Donald Trump for hiding his mishandling of classified documents, which he admits on tape. Trump's polling goes up to +30%. Hillary Clinton rolls in her... bed, I guess.



Henry Kissinger died November 29, 2023 at the age of 100. Kissinger personally ordered the bombing and deaths of millions of people in Cambodia and Vietnam in often cruel and unnecessary bombing campaigns. One of the best memes on the Internet must now be retired.

October

Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy is ousted as leader. Three weeks later, lesser-known congressman Mike Johnson is elected speaker. Three weeks after that, McCarthy announces his retirement. Why does being second in line to the presidency have more turnover than being a dishwasher at IHOP?

Terrorist group Hamas launches an incursion into Israel, causing a massive retaliatory war that has killed more than 1,000 Israelis and 20,000 Palestinians as well as displacing 2.5 million people in both sides, including 80 percent of the residents of Gaza. Did you know the average age of Palestinians is around 18? Well, it might be lower by the time you read this.

July

In protest of the possibility of using AI to supplant actor's images in perpetuity, the Screen Actor's Guild joins the Writer's Guild of America to strike against producers. ChatGPT's joke here was "they were determined to show that when it comes to creative expression, you can't just CTRL+C and CTRL+V your way through the arts!" Still: this is better than most studio executives' notes on scripts.

August

India lands the *Chandrayaan-3* lander on the Moon. India was the first country to land on the Moon's South Pole and the fourth to soft-land on the Moon overall. China is the only other country that has also landed on the Moon in the past 50 years. Okay, so I guess it *was* a race.

Donald Trump is once again indicted both federally and in the state of Georgia for conspiracy to overthrow the 2020 presidential election. With 91 separate charges, Trump's polling is now up 40% in the Republican primary. It turns out legal consequences are really, really popular, who knew?

September

The African Union, which includes 55 countries in Africa, is inducted as the 21st member of the G20, the group of the world's strongest economies. At this point, all those numbers are just suggestions.

United Auto Workers union launches the first trilateral strike against Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis (Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, etc.). The strike is resolved six weeks later when the automobile makers agree to wage increases and other demands, such as free oil changes.

November

On November 17th, for the first time, average temperatures exceed the 2°C goal set for 2100. Earth: ahead of time and under budget.

At the end of the month, the international, annual meeting to address climate change began in Dubai. The president of the meeting denies using the opportunity to pitch new oil and gas deals. His pockets are bulging for the other, equally troubling reason.

December

Google launches the Gemini language model, integrating with search and other products. Bet you're really wishing they hadn't given up their "Don't Be Evil" motto.



Horoscopes

You might ask: What qualifies you to read the stars? Well, my friend (now frenemy), some of us are born with insight and some seize it through force. These horoscopes are a result of brute forcing the fates to reveal their dirty, dirty secrets. Read on!

Aries (March 21–April 19)

Do something to bring pleasure into your world. Preferably not in view of children or elderly pets.

THIS YEAR: Your friends find your new hobby disgusting. Consider wearing less revealing clothes or making less discerning friends.

Taurus (April 20–May 20)

If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. If you want to quickly go far, there's always meth.

THIS YEAR: Rehab.

Gemini (May 21–June 21)

You'll get a taste of your own medicine this year when someone plays a prank, hides information, or makes light of your very serious situation.

THIS YEAR: You suffer a highly preventable affliction. We'd tell you what it is, but that would ruin the fun.

Cancer (June 22–July 22)

Financial strain will cause you to make decisions you would not have otherwise made.

THIS YEAR: Onlyfans is a pyramid scheme. The secret is to not to be a(t the) bottom.

Leo (July 23–August 22)

A picture is worth a thousand words. So unless you delete those images, you'll be apologizing to your partner all year.

THIS YEAR: Time to hit the gym. Or Judge Judy.

Virgo (August 23–September 22)

You are unsure of your direction — you could go forward and risk it all, or hold back and let opportunities fly away. I recommend you turn to your horoscope for helpful advice. Not this one, though.

THIS YEAR: Regret's not just a bird in Egypt. In fact, it's not that at all.

Libra (September 23–October 23)

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. That's inflation for you.

THIS YEAR: With proper grooming, no more birds will get stuck in your bush.

Scorpio (October 24–November 21)

A new opportunity will present itself as a threat. Specifically, it will be an opportunity for the person who threatens you.

THIS YEAR: Carry small bills.

Sagittarius (November 22–Dec. 21)

Your emotional resilience will be called upon this year as tragedy after tragedy hits your community.

THIS YEAR: Please, please move out of my community.

Capricorn (December 22–January 19)

Happy Birthday! You may never make it big, but if you're around enough people who are medium, you won't feel small!

FOCUS: On being the bigger person.

Aquarius (January 20–February 18)

Laugh, and the whole world laughs with you. Cry and you cry alone. So please laugh. Please, dear god, we need it so much. And you're such a crybaby.

LUCKY NUMBERS: Your lucky numbers are all irrational, much like having lucky numbers in the first place.

Pisces (February 19–March 20)

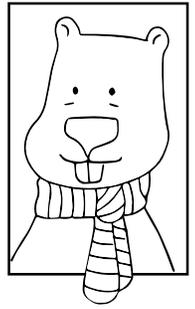
Let's get back to basics. When was the last time your life was truly good? Was it all the way back to the womb or is there a nice spot you blocked out because it wasn't traumatizing enough?

OH NO: You unlocked a core memory. ononono

Advice

*(Translated from the
Original Gibberish)*

gabe
the Beaver



Gabe the Beaver is an advice columnist. His writing has been syndicated from Las Cruces to Southern Las Cruces (and nowhere in between). He's best known for the many, many unproven allegations against him.

Dear Gabe,

The powerball is at \$1 Billion. What would you do if you won that money?

-Curious in Concord

Dear Curious,

I'm not sure you understand advice columns.

Dear Gabe,

The powerball is getting to \$1 Billion. What advice would you give to someone who won that money?

-Considering in a Different Concord

Dear Considering,

Ooh, good question! Money relieves some pressures (having no money), but creates others (people wanting your money). The first thing you should do is ask yourself what you value. Do you value hookers & blow or are you lame? Would you rather make the world around you slightly better or much worse? Either way, I recommend you budget carefully. And buy your cocaine in bulk, for maximum savings.

Dear Gabe,

I lost a lot of my friends last election cycle for voting for Kanye. Who should I vote for now?

- Concerned in the same Concord from before

Dear Concerned,

Dude, I get it. You don't like your choices. Well face it: you're no spring chicken yourself. You will have to settle for the candidate you deserve, not the one you want. This country isn't getting any younger and all of your attempts at recapturing your youth just keep you trapped in cycles of worse and worse options. Just find a nice stable candidate and try to focus on other things in your life.

Dear Gabe,

My cousin is really sick and is refusing treatment. She is trying to 'cure herself with things I consider quackery (angelology, inductor therapy, magnet therapy, treatment at a distance, etc.). She now can't walk and is at a real risk of dying. What should I do??

- Caring in Concord, again

Dear Caring,

Woof. One of the worst parts of caring for people is that you can't live their lives for them. Sometimes, your loved one will do something awful despite your warning about it. Consider how you'd feel in the reverse situation. If you wanted to take *actual* medicine and they urged you to do pickle brine enemas, you might not be very receptive, either.

Explain to them how you feel, but then try to be at peace with whatever they decide. Don't get frustrated or wish them ill. They'll take care of that themselves.

Dear Gabe,

I've girlbossed for twenty years to get to the top of my career. Now I'm 40, I'm considering leaving and becoming a nude fortune teller.

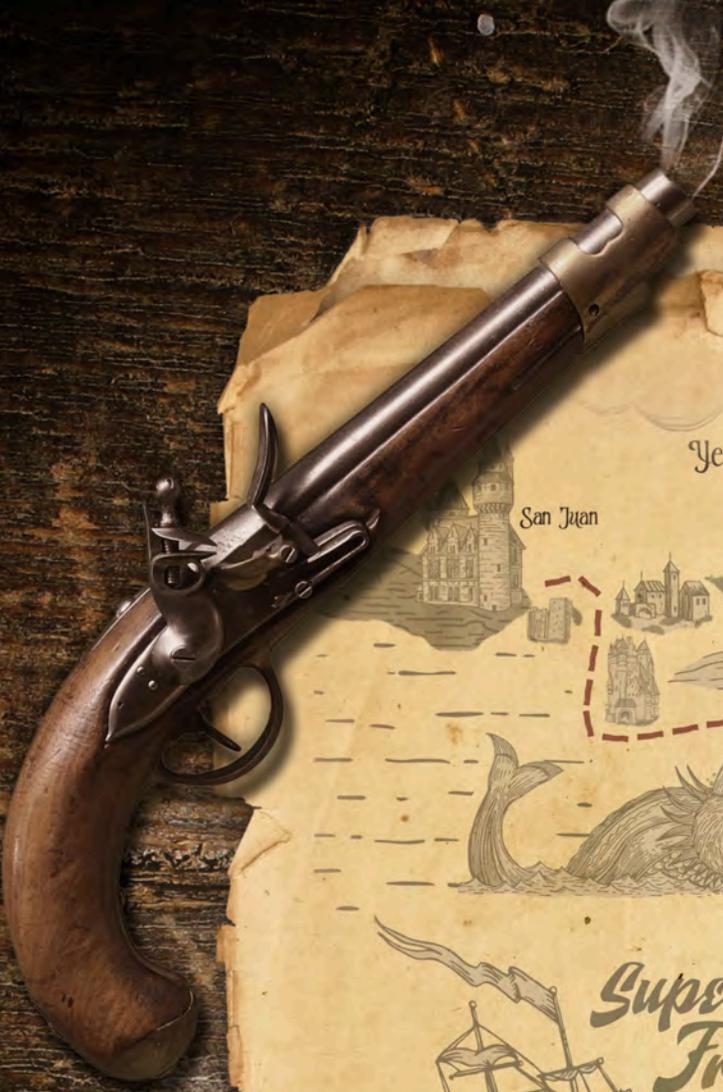
- Crystal balls in Concordia, which is near Concord

Dear Crystal,

Are you.. *Bragging?* Is this a question? Okay, well, if you're unhappy, look within. It's common to reach the end of a quest and wonder whether it was worthwhile. Bottom line: you were always working *toward* something rather than living. But that just *was* your life. Now you want to change it all, but you didn't solve the underlying problem: you weren't living, you were living *for*. Change your life, but don't just find a new *quest*. Enjoy the *journey*.

Lub,

Gabe



Ye Will Always 'member Ye Went
Ye Will Ne'er 'member Why
Ye Thought Ye Couldna

San Juan

Philipsburg

St. John

Roseau

Castries

Bridgetown

Super Friend Bash

Caribbean Cruise

October
19-26 2024



Confirm by April 15, 2024
at www.superfriendbash.com/2024
(\$30 deposit required for swag.)

