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Russian Hill Upholstery & Décor is still located in Nob Hill, not Russian Hill.

At the Warfield: The Prodigy, 9/22. UB40 with the English Beat, 9/26. The Dead South, 10/9. TV on the Radio, 10/11.

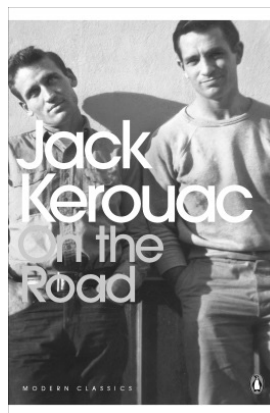
Recommended: *Lorne: The Man who Invented Saturday Night Live*, a new biography by Susan Morrison about Lorne Michaels. It follows his success with a variety show called *The Hart and Lorne Terrific Hour* in his native Canada, then his struggling to become a television writer in L.A., and his success, failure, and success again as the head honcho of *SNL*. Years ago I knew a guy who said he worked on *Terrific Hour*. I asked what Lorne was like. The guy said he was a prick. Reading this book, I can believe that. I haven't watched the show in years (*I heard today's cast has more wokesters than jokesters*) but still have a lot of fond memories of it. Lorne was destined to work in TV. When he was five he packed a suitcase and announced he was running away from home and was going to find a family that loved him. His younger brother, crying, asked him what he would do if his new family didn't have a TV. Lorne dropped his suitcase and went back in the house.

Governor Gavin Newsom has been appearing on podcasts with his new potty mouth, trying to sound like Dirty Harry, and trying to convince everyone that he's tough on crime. The evidence seems to indicate otherwise. Newsom opposed Proposition 36, passed overwhelmingly by voters last November. Proposition 36 increased penalties for many crimes that Proposition 47, passed in 2014, reduced. Since 47 passed crime has exploded in the once Golden State. Proposition 47 was sold to voters by then California Attorney General Kamala Harris as the "Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act" (talk about false advertising). When asked if she regretted Proposition 47 just before the last election, Kamala could have said something like, "Yes, we wanted to give some people a second chance, unfortunately career criminals ruined our plans" but she avoided the question. So you know what that means. By the way, she'll be appearing at the Masonic Auditorium, plugging her book, on October 5<sup>th</sup> if you want to thank her for 47.

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World Class Drinkers By Ace Backwords

Poet Charles Bukowski's drinking was complex. As a young man he spent 10 years as a straight-up oblivion drunk whose main goal in life was to drink as much as he could for as long as he could until he passed out. Then when he got the post office job he spent a decade or so as primarily a weekend drinker. When he quit the post office to write full-time he went through another period of heavy drinking. In part to alleviate his fears that he wasn't gonna make it as a writer. And because he no longer had to live a structured life and could drink whenever he felt like it. He mostly went for rotgut wine, cheap beer, and hard liquor whenever he could afford it. When he married his wife she got him off the rotgut and into fine red wines, and cocktails when they went to bars. I think in his later years he was mostly an evening drinker, staying pretty sober during the daytime. During the last year of his life, when his health was failing, he quit drinking altogether. And said he didn't miss it.



I think Beat author Jack Kerouac mostly drank rotgut wine during his bohemian days. And his drinking was somewhat tempered due to his lack of funds. He was more moderate with his drinking during the first half of his adulthood — at least compared to the second half. And there were periods — like in *DHARMA BUMS* when he had the look-out job — where he would go months without drinking. And when he was driving cross country with fellow beatnik Neal Cassady it wasn't like they had a case of beer in the car. But as soon as he became famous and had unlimited spending cash he went on a non-stop drinking binge, drinking from the moment he woke up until he passed out. And he didn't STOP drinking until he finally blew a big hole in his stomach.

I think Kerouac was one of those incredibly over-sensitive people. And he drank to dull the wattage. And I think he was hopelessly conflicted. Couldn't accept that he was gay, etc. And then the instant fame and cultural icon status just completely overloaded his circuits. The story I always heard was that Kerouac always wanted to commit suicide, but as a Catholic he was forbidden to do that. So he drank himself to death instead. Which seems like cheating. But what the heck.

One wag suggested I should up my game and dedicate myself to reaching the level of these world class drinkers. But I could never make the big leagues. I lack the truly self-destructive side that separates the superstar drinkers from the run-of-the-mill. I am a powerful drinker. I out-drunk virtually all my drinking partners over the years (they're either dead or in programs). But I have no illusions that I'm up there in the same class as the elite boozers.

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Herald Archives: 2006

BITCH

By Michael Madsen

The space shuttle exploded over Texas this morning on its way back home. After watching the news for a while, watching the astronauts fall from the sky with a million pieces of their broken rocket,  
I went downstairs to the pool.  
While sitting alone  
I could see

some teenagers on a second floor balcony with beer cans in their hands.  
One girl flicked her spent cigarette into the air.  
She had all the attitude of a little brat and the body posture of a little whore, hanging out drinking beer in the early

morning.  
As I watched her cigarette tumble through the air, falling through the blue sky, I thought about the shuttle and the horror of the things that fall.  
The difference between them — and the pomposity of that little bitch and the way she flicked that smoke and watched it land on the ground a few feet away from me. I looked back and flipped her off.  
She started laughing and her beer boys turned and went back into their suite, closing the door behind them.

