

Names

IN VIEW

IT'S A THING
A REVIEW OF THE WEEK ONLINE

STRANGER THAN FICTION

It was a tough week for reality out there, as seemingly real people experienced clearly real difficulty drawing the line between the world as it exists and the gopher-holed yard of their own imaginations. Young Turks journalist Ken Klippenstein duped Iowa US Representative Steve King with concerning ease into tweeting out a salute to “my uncle Col. Nathan Jessup” — better known as Jack “You Can’t Handle the Truth” Nicholson from “A Few Good Men.” Elsewhere, the overlapping swath of the White People/Mermaid Expert Venn diagram collectively lost their wet-supremacist minds upon hearing Disney’s choice to cast black actress and singer **Halle Bailey** as Ariel in its “Little Mermaid” reboot. And President Trump of “Apprentice” fame blamed rain for causing a Teleprompter malfunction that allegedly-improperly-Teleprompted him to claim at his July 4 “Salute to America” that, in addition to “ramming ram-parts,” the 18th-century Continental Army also seized airports in its campaign against the — again — 18th-century British. (Have we tried unplugging everything, waiting 30 seconds, and plugging it back in? Let’s try that.)



4TH FEEDING

Oh, and about that “Salute to America,” it went off without a hitch. Unless you count the high costs, bad weather, creepy militaristic pageantry, sweeping historical misunderstanding, and/or the entire premise of the event itself as hitch material. Through it all, and trapped behind a blurry panel of bulletproof glass like the defendant in a Russian courtroom, Trump remained resolutely non-partisan, respectful to the assembled forces under his command, and focused on celebrating what Independence Day is really all about: “The greatest political journey in human history.” Oh, and that time Paul Revere and his horse saved Logan Terminal C from General Jack Nicholson.

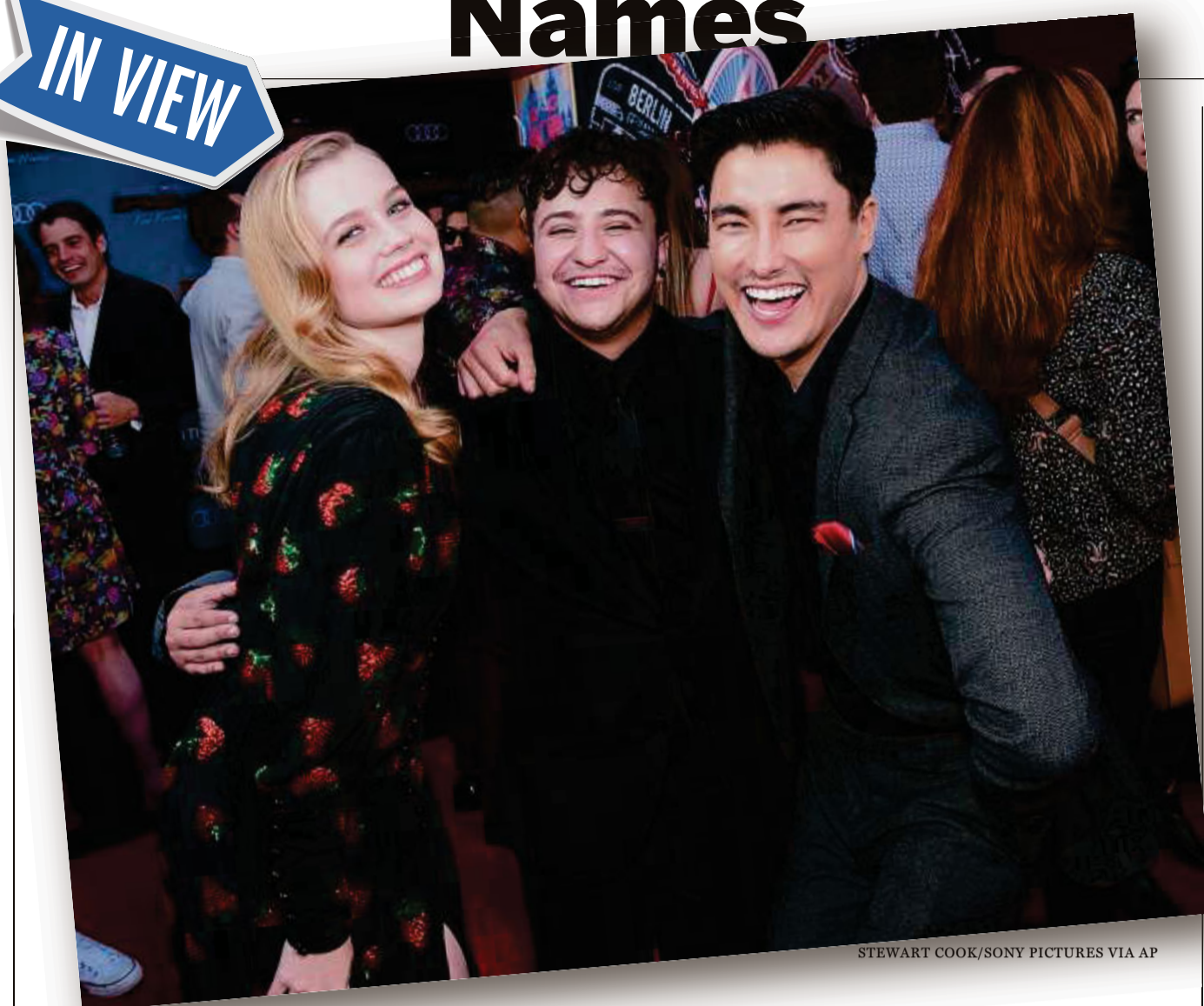
GOING NUTS

Long story, but *summer’s hottest jam* is a 10-second jingle concerning Chip & Dale’s dedication to bringing high-quality nuts to the people of Thailand. The highly catchy tune (written by actor and musician Quincy Surasmith and insanelly viral around the world right now) is tucked into a (really beautiful!) Disney short titled “Our Floating Dreams,” and finds the fraternal rodents riding a raft loaded with acorns to market: “Chip and Dale are brothers, selling stuff in the khlong,” they sing. “There’s only good nuts in the pile, freshly picked. Come eat them all!” (Then, much to Mickey and Minnie’s chagrin, they just start raking in *baht*, paw over fist.) The real payoff here is the songbook of variations on the theme — from easy listening to sensuous R&B to grinding death metal.

WRAP BATTLE

And lastly this week, because laser pointers, disappearing acts, and American cheese weren’t enough, the freshest new method for publicly screwing with your pets is plastic wrap. Alleged pet lovers are sealing off doorways with the stuff, luring their pets to run face-first into it, and filming the results. Some are clever enough to apply the brakes and do a boop test. Most are not. In any case, the viral sensation has given dog owners on Twitter yet another opportunity to share a good laugh at how dumb dogs are. Then they each followed one outside and manually picked up its poop, so let’s call this one a draw.

MICHAEL ANDOR BRODEUR



STEWART COOK/SONY PICTURES VIA AP

‘Talking about identity’

Marvel’s first openly trans actor calls for more portrayals

The first openly transgender actor in the Marvel Universe says there needs to be more representation of his experience. **Zach Barack** (center, at the LA world premiere with castmates **Angourie Rice** and **Remy Hii**) plays a classmate of Peter Parker’s in “Spider-Man: Far From Home.” His gender identity is not addressed in the brief role.

Barack said for him, superhero movies “always felt like a trans story because it’s talking about identity.”

Barack says there needs to be more roles for trans people in all sorts of movies.

The 23-year-old Chicago-area native also appeared in the TV series “L.A.’s Finest.”

The new Spider-Man movie is now playing in theaters. The film stars **Tom Holland**, **Samuel L. Jackson**, **Zendaya**, and **Jake Gyllenhaal**, and is directed by **Jon Watts**. ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spacey was questioned
by Scotland Yard: Report

British police have traveled to the US to interview **Kevin Spacey** about sexual assault allegations.

The Metropolitan Police is investigating six allegations against the actor, who ran London’s Old Vic Theatre between 2004 and 2015.

Variety reported Saturday that British detectives interviewed Spacey in May.

British police don’t identify suspects until they have been charged. Without naming Spacey, the London force said that in May “a man was voluntarily interviewed under caution in America by officers from the Met’s Complex Case Team. He was not arrested. Inquiries are ongoing.”

“Under caution” means the interview was recorded and can be used in future prosecutions.

A request for comment was sent to Spacey’s attorney.

Spacey faces a criminal charge in Massachusetts over an alleged groping incident, which he denies. A hearing in the case is scheduled for Monday in Nantucket District Court. ASSOCIATED PRESS

‘The Devil Wears Prada’ is bound
for Broadway. Is Mario Cantone?

“The Devil Wears Prada” is headed for the main-stage: The 2006 film has had its initial Broadway moment with a star-studded reading.

The reading for the in-development musical took place July 1-2, Playbill reported. Tony Award nominee **Emily Skinner** (“The Cher Show”) starred as Miranda Priestly (portrayed, famously, in the movie by **Meryl Streep**), and Stoneham’s own **Mario Cantone** starred as art director Nigel, played by **Stanley Tucci** in the film. Alongside Skinner were **Krystina Alabado** as

struggling assistant **Andy Sachs** and **Heléne Yorke** as her British counterpart **Emily**. The cast for the reading also featured **Etai Benson** and **Nicholas Christopher**.

Based on **Lauren Weisberger**’s 2003 novel, the musical will be directed by **Anna D. Shapiro**. It was announced last year that **Elton John**, **Shaina Taub**, and **Paul Rudnick** were developing the music, lyrics, and book.

No production timeline yet, and no guarantees that the entire reading cast will make it to opening night. MARTHA MERROW

At Fenway, Phish
finds its grooveBy **Jeremy D. Goodwin**
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

There was a late-inning comeback at Fenway Park on Friday night.

The Red Sox were busy out in Detroit, beating the Tigers. But Phish was in the midst of the first of two shows in the Fens, ostensibly home turf for the jam band monolith that was based in Burlington, Vt., for much of its history and retains strong ties there.

Though Phish played Fenway once before, a decade ago, stadium rock is not its natural milieu. With an extensive array of Fenway-specific Phish merchandise on offer — much of it sold at a pop-up shop nearby for which scores, if not hundreds, of fans lined up by 9:30 a.m. Friday morning — the show got going not with the sense of a triumphant hometown throwdown, but something more like a summer festival whose attendees’ band allegiances are mixed.

A touch-and-go first set bore the sense of a band feeling out its audience and determining the extent of its home-field advantage. Yet after the sun dropped, and Phish started its second set with a groovy but unspectacular “Sand” and a strangely placed hard-rocker in “Axilla I,” the band confidently dropped into “Mercury,” a twisty, prog-rock essay that culmi-

MUSIC REVIEW

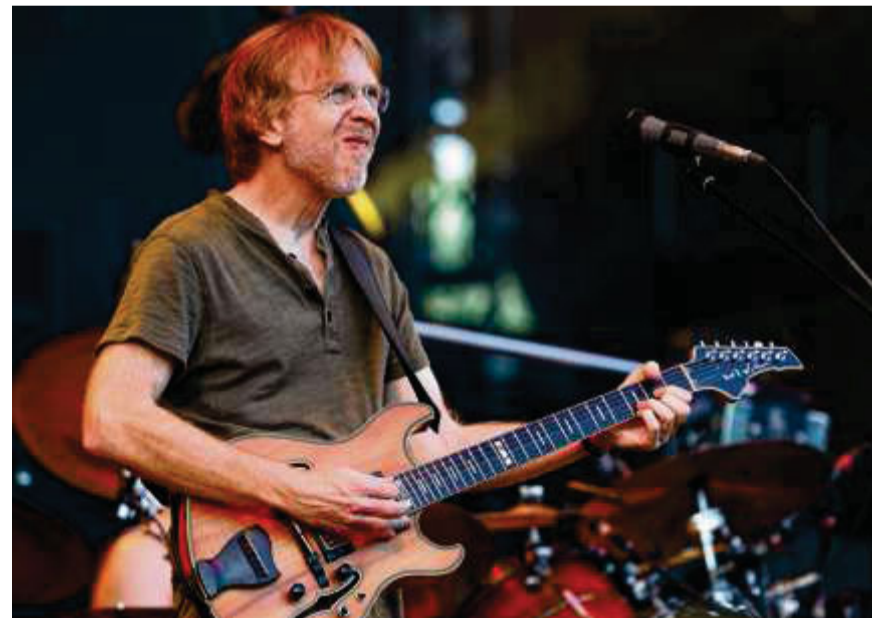
PHISH
At Fenway Park, Friday

nates in a grooved out, 7/4 strut with the potential to go deep on any night.

Debuted in 2015, “Mercury” is Phish’s best new song since the band returned to action in 2009 after a “breakup” that was conceived of as permanent but wound up lasting fewer than five years. But it’s a dense, mood-shifting piece of work.

It was the point on Friday when you could sense Phish start to swagger. The song’s jam refracted colors suggesting a synthed-up, space-age form of psychedelic rock, without lapsing into the musical clichés of millennial-era jamtronica. For perhaps the first time this night, there was the sense of a band in full control of the outside moment.

Though the concert’s first half did not exude the sense of shared-secret intimacy that Phish often generates with its fans even on the largest stages, the quartet did push some runs across in the show’s early going. A delightfully funky “Tube” broke free from gravity and sailed for a spell on melodic lead guitar lines by Trey An-



MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF

Phish frontman **Trey Anastasio** performing during the jam band’s concert Friday at Fenway Park.

astasio. “Everything’s Right” shifted out of its casual, vacation-vibe groove to emerge as a major-key rocker that unexpectedly led into the ever-chipper chestnut “Runaway Jim.”

Nearer to the close of the show, Phish wove a high-energy jam out of “Fuego” (another standout composition from the band’s late era) that charged roughly into sublimely silly stomper “Say It to Me S.A.N.T.O.S.”

This was Phish at its most gratifyingly, purposefully ridiculous. The song is part of an album’s worth of material Phish debuted in a playful musical hoax last Halloween, presenting 10 songs as a supposedly long-lost classic record by a forgotten (actually,

Rob Delaney,
others miss
MAD already

After 67 years of laughs, MAD Magazine will halt publication of new content and vanish from newsstands after its next two issues are released.

Fans mourned the demise of the legendary humor publication, including Marblehead native **Rob Delaney** (inset), who posted a string of tweets detailing his first experience with the satirical magazine.



“... MAD Magazine showed me what humor is for and thus gave me my life’s direction,” wrote the comedian, who co-wrote and starred in the television series “Catastrophe.” “I used my allowance of \$1.50 to buy each issue, which in 1987 cost \$1.35 [(cheap!) it said next to the price].”

Delaney went on to tell the story of a visit he made to the magazine’s headquarters in 1987. He was 10 years old, and was accompanied by his 5-year-old sister and his parents.

Through a stroke of luck, they met artist **Al Jaffee** and were given the chance to meet the magazine’s publisher, **Bill Gaines**.

“We were ushered into his office and beheld the man himself. He had long white hair with brown barrettes holding it back,” Delaney detailed. “He and my dad talked a lot about [sculptor] **Auguste Bartholdi**, as I recall. That day remains one of the great memories of my life.”

The decision to shut down MAD followed a series of other shakeups at DC Entertainment. In June, the company shut down its imprint Vertigo, which for 26 years provided readers with adult-themed comics. The company is reportedly rethinking some of its other imprints, according to publishers **Jim Lee** and **Dan DiDio**, who were speaking at New York Comic Con.

Delaney wasn’t the only celebrity to express his grief about MAD. “**Weird Al**” **Yankovic**, who became the magazine’s first guest editor in 2015, tweeted, “I am profoundly sad to hear that after 67 years, MAD Magazine is ceasing publication. I can’t begin to describe the impact it had on me as a young kid — it’s pretty much the reason I turned out weird. Goodbye to one of the all-time greatest American institutions. #ThanksMAD.”

The publication was founded in 1952 as a comic book. In 1955, it switched to a magazine format. Former editor **Allie Goertz**, who resigned last month, lamented the magazine’s fate but noted that vintage issues with new covers will still be released.

“MAD is an institution with such a rich history,” Goertz tweeted. “It informed just about every comedian and writer I (and probably you) look up to.” CHRIS TRIUNFO

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