

BERKELEY TIMES

berkeleyx.org *a paper for the people of Berkeley*

POETRY EDITION

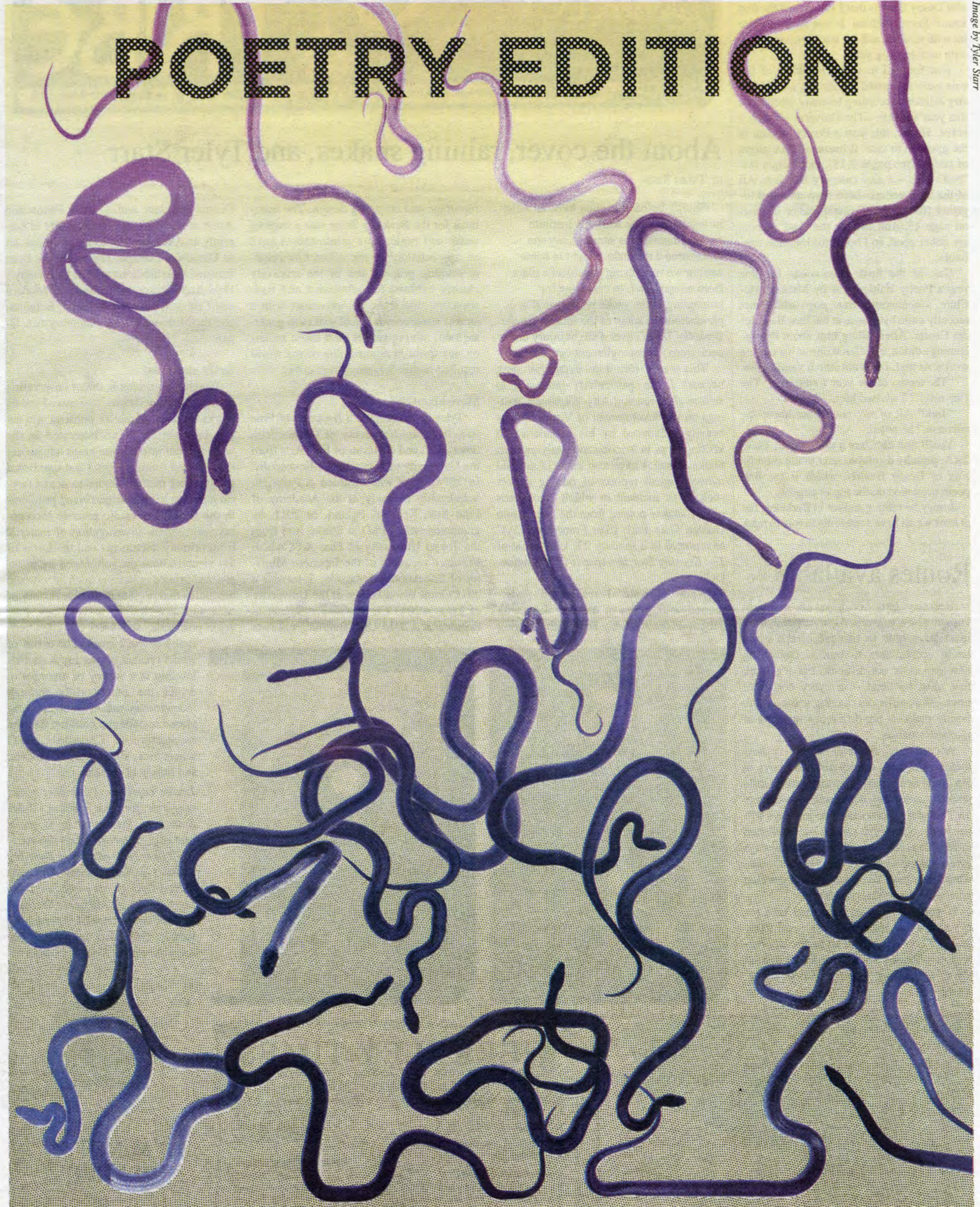


Image by Tyler Starr

Raining snakes: Last week, Berkeley Police reported 20 arrests in downtown Berkeley stemming from clashes between Alt-Right and counter-protesters. And this week, it's raining snakes on the cover of Berkeley Times' annual Poetry Edition. To enjoy this year's bumper crop of poems, turn to pages 9-15. To read about the cover, turn to page 2.

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About this edition

BY R. TODD KERR

Five years ago, I was so moved by a submission of three poems (with cover letter) from Saint Mary's College High School senior Despy Boutris that I announced the first annual Poetry Edition. It was an immediate hit with readers, and the tradition has grown with each passing year.

Fast forward to today, hundreds of poems were submitted for the 5th annual Poetry Edition. According to many submitters, this year's theme – The Universe – struck a nerve. Hence, this year's Poetry Edition is the grandest to date. It features seven pages of poems (see pages 9-15), including a few "bad" ones – a new category this year. All of the "bad poems" have been arranged together (for your enjoyment and/or disgust) on page 13. And IMHO, the "bad" poems are rather good, so I hope this tradition continues.

One of the final submissions for this year's Poetry Edition was by Michael McClure, a noteworthy Beat poet, who I met recently quite by chance at the East Bay Media Center. After telling him about the upcoming edition, he offered one of his newest works. At first, I was not sure it would fit in.

"The theme of the year's edition is 'The Universe,'" I advised him.

"Todd! All of my poems are about the universe," he noted.

You'll find McClure's submission, TANTRA, proudly displayed next to the submission of Despy Boutris, which is the first poem presented on the top of page 9.

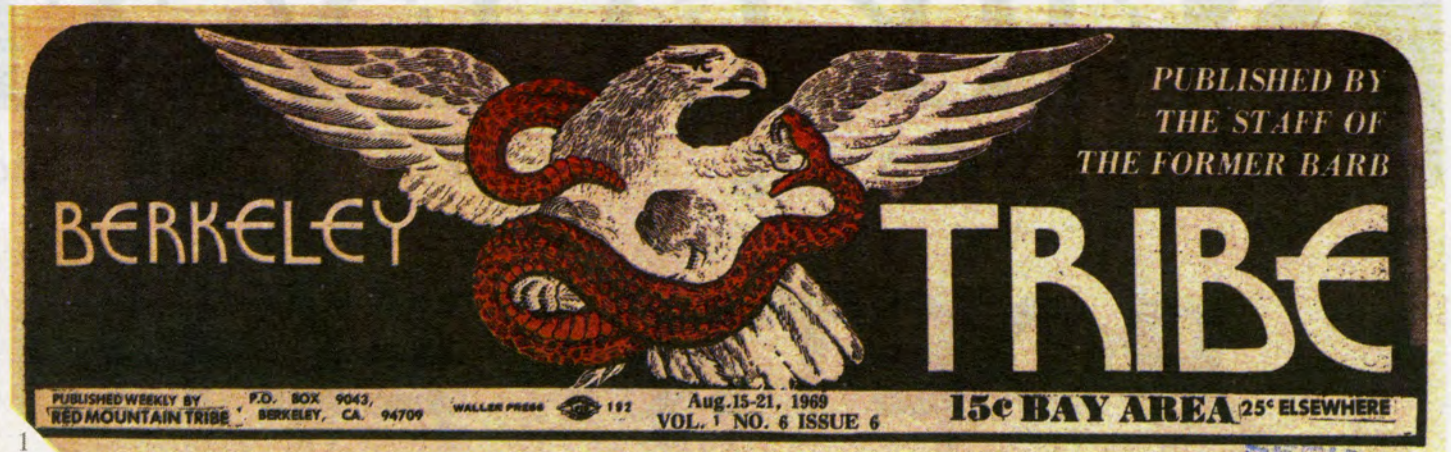
It may be raining snakes in Berkeley, but at least we all have something lovely to read.

Routes available

Berkeley girls and boys are not born knowing how to work. At some point, each must learn how to manage a task while being accountable to others. Delivering newspapers is not difficult, but it's work that must be done – in every corner of town. As it turns out, having a supportive family makes a big difference in terms of job performance.

Accordingly, *Berkeley Times* is now looking for teens – both girls and boys in 5th grade or above – wanting to earn a little pocket money by delivering newspapers on Thursday afternoons. The job pays \$10 per route, a task that can be accomplished in less than one hour. Carriers are always given a route in their own neighborhoods, where they have an opportunity to develop goodwill among their neighbors.

If you know of an interested teen (or if you are that interested teen), call (510) 332-7572, or send an email to circ@berkeleyx.org. Routes are available throughout town. Gregarious elders also welcome. Thank you.



About the cover, raining snakes, and Tyler Starr

BY TYLER STARR

Shortly before traveling to be an artist-in-residence at the Kala Art Institute for two months this summer, my son discovered a rat snake caught in some netting we were using to protect a plant from hungry deer. In exchange for untangling it, the snake participated in a photoshoot. In some of the images for the *Berkeley Times* cover a slight injury on its neck from the entanglement can be seen.

This was a fortuitous event (for me), because I was particularly interested in snakes after reading Aby Warburg's writings on his development of Visual Studies heavily influenced by his experience of visiting Hopi in Arizona and studying their Snake Dance. I have also come across old meteorological reports of raining snakes such as an incident in which "thousands of tiny snakes poured from the clouds into Golden Gate Park [San Francisco, CA]" as reported in a January 27, 1909 issue of *The Evening Star* newspaper [Washington, DC].

While at Kala, I researched underground newspapers of the Bay Area with a focus on the *Berkeley Tribe's* challenging

reportage and engaging design. The masthead for the *Berkeley Tribe* was a battling snake and eagle. As a printmaker, I have an appreciation for the offset lithographic printing process' use of the relatively clumsy halftone for subversive and transcendent objectives. An encounter with a snake, ceremonious use of snakes to generate rain, raining snakes, and inked snakes on newsprint in appreciation of the world resulted in this *Berkeley Times* cover.

More about the artist

Tyler Starr received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. In 1998, Starr was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study at the Academy of Fine Arts, Krakow, Poland. In 2011, he graduated with a PhD in Studio Arts from the Tokyo University of Fine Arts, where he was a recipient of the Japanese Ministry of Education Scholarship. Tyler was a 2011 Grant Wood Fellow at the University of Iowa, a 2013 Christiania Researcher in Residence, a 2014 OMI International Arts

Center Resident and a 2018 Fellowship Artist at the Kala Art Institute. He is currently an Associate Professor of Studio Art at Davidson College. His work has been featured in exhibitions at Yale University's Haas Arts Library, the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Liège, Belgium, and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Japan.

Artist statement

Combining research, direct observation and poetic associations, my mixed-media works on paper visualize political and social conundrums. I am interested in the ways printed information maps human endeavors and I utilize digital and traditional printmaking methodologies to depict radical attempts to redress perceived problems in the world. My studio practice incorporates meticulous investigation of material from primary documents and the forms of my visualizations are influenced by pocket-sized printed ephemera such as touristic brochures that present digestible history of sites with troublesome associations, souvenir postcards, and used car classifieds found at truck stops. The series of works created during my Kala Fellowship is a survey of attempts to depict the otherworldly through incongruous means. Subjects explored include the halftone dot, the architecture of Christiania, UFO schematics, sinking naval vessels, and liturgical vessels.

Image captions: 1. As part of his research for this edition, Tyler Starr was fascinated by a snake and eagle intertwined on the masthead of a 1969 edition of *Berkeley Tribe*. • 2. Kala Fellow and Davidson College art professor Tyler Starr (photo by Michael O'Neill). • 3. "Radiant Attempt 1," photogravure by Tyler Starr, is currently being exhibited at Kala Art Gallery.



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P.O. Box 559, Berkeley, CA 94701 • (510) 332-7572

Editor and Publisher

R. Todd Kerr
editor@berkeleyx.org

Production Manager

Alex Cabarga

Contributing Writers

Barry Barkan, Dean Herman,
Diane de Pisa, Mel Martynn,
Marilee Stark, Rafael Jesús
González, Martha Cueva,
Jeanne Loughman,
Arden Kamille Varnel
Christopher Young
Phyllis Henry-Jordan
Toni Martin,
Wyndy Knox Carr

Photographers

Joaquin Vargas, Renz Patrick
Adaya, Andrei Crandall,
Stuart James, Eric Taylor

Arts and Entertainment

arts@berkeleyx.org
Adam Broner,
Alex Senauke

Artists/Illustrators

Guy Colwell
Damon Guthrie
Tor S Forest
Carol Denney

Calendar Editor

info@berkeleyx.org

Circulation

circ@berkeleyx.org
(510) 332-7572

Advertising

ads@berkeleyx.org
(510) 332-7572

turn a "NO"
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Small Business Loans

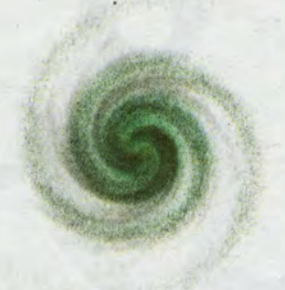
If you're a locally-based business, we can assist you in obtaining financing for your start up, build out, business expansion, and other working capital needs. For more info, contact:



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I'M NOT
IN LOVE



I'M NOT,
NOPE



START HERE, THEN SEE PAGE 3