

Carnegie Library Hit By \$8 Million Theft

Pittsburgh's literary world received a shock when, on July 20, two respected members were arrested for a twenty year scheme to steal and sell rare works housed at the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh**.

The alleged scheme involved the library's primary archivist Gregory Priore and John Schulman, owner of the prestigious **Caliban** book store.

Its believed that over \$8 million of material was stolen and sold. The size of the left has



made national news through outlets such as the Associated Press. *The Pitt News'* Christian Snyder reports that flags were raised in April when "Pall Mall Art Advisors began an appraisal of the William R. Oliver Special Collections Room at the central library" and discovered that hundreds of articles were missing. The authorities launched an investigation

which led them to conduct a 9-day search of Caliban's warehouse. Snyder writes that 42 stolen items were found that are worth nearly \$260,000.

Caliban's business bank accounts have been frozen pending further legal action.

Sinclair Deal In Doubt

In a move that has surprised nearly everyone --- including President Trump --- the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has thrown a roadblock in the planned merger between Sinclair and **Tribune Media**.

Although publically traded, the **Sinclair Broadcast Group** (SBG) is controlled by the family of founder Julian Sinclair Smith (1921-1993). The company owns two television stations in Pittsburgh.

On July 19, the FCC announced a review of the deal citing concerns that Sinclair "engaged in misrepresentation" in its plan to divest certain stations to appease regulators.

TheWrap.com's Sean Burch writes that "at the heart of the FCC's order is Sinclair's February plan to sell [Tribune Media's flagship WGN-TV] to a new company led by Steven Fader, who has ties to Sinclair executive chairman David Smith, for \$60 million."

CBS' Moonves Faces Harassment Claims

Leslie Moonves is keeping his job --- for now.

Moonves is president and chief executive officer of **CBS Corporation**, which owns two television stations and (through its majority stake in **Entercom**) four radio stations in Pittsburgh. The most prominent of these is KDKA-TV.

He is the latest high-profile individual

to face claims of sexual harassment in the work place.

Award winning journalist Ronan Farrow has written a heavily researched article for *New Yorker* magazine. In it, six women make accusations against the CEO. The full article is available at <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/08/06/les-moonves-and-cbs-face-allegations-of-sexual-misconduct>



company's primary stockholder is **National Amusements**, the privately-held firm owned by the family of Sumner Redstone and his daughter Shari. The firm is also the primary shareholder of media company **Viacom, Inc.** The two firms were a single corporate entity from 1999 to 2006. During the separation, CBS has thrived while Viacom has had some stumbles. Much of CBS' success has been credited to Moonves. Now the Redstones want to re-connect the companies.

The company's board of directors met on July 30. Following the meeting, short press release stating that the board "is in the process of selecting outside counsel to conduct an independent investigation. No other action was taken on this matter at today's board meeting."

In the meantime, CBS shares have dropped at least 4% each day since the news broke.

CBS is currently in a struggle to maintain its independence. The

Williams Quits PF/PCA

After just 18 months on the job, Germaine Williams has resigned of head of **Pittsburgh Filmmakers/Pittsburgh Center for the Arts** (PF/PCA).

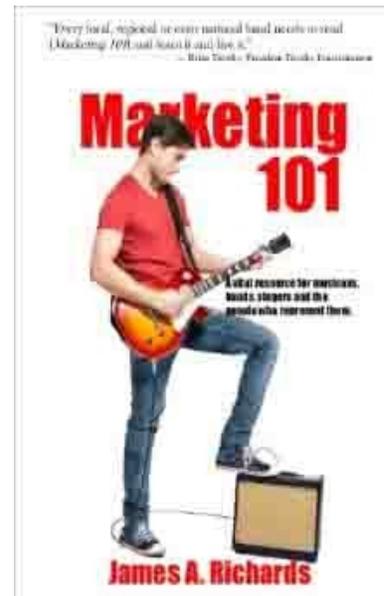
Launched in 1971, Pittsburgh Filmmaker is one of the nation's oldest and largest media arts center. When the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts began having a financial crises in 2006, the two groups merged. Instead of growing stronger, the combination saw increasing money troubles. The



situation became public in 2015 when major layoffs were announced [See [Pittsburgh Applause, July 2015](#) - Ed.]

Williams' tenure was marked by increasing plant expenses, falling student enrollment, more layoffs and complaints about his management style.

Dan Demicell has been chosen as interim CEO, reports WESA-FM's Bill O'Driscoll --- even though she's based in Florida with a career primarily in retail.



Scarlett Johansson Leaves Pittsburgh Film

The planned film "Rub and Tug" took some interesting turns in the last few weeks.

"Rub and Tug" is based on the true story of Jean Marie Gill (1931 - 2003) --- also known as "Dante" and "Tex" --- a transgender person who ran a string of massage parlors in the Pittsburgh area during the 1970's. The parlors were actually fronts for other activities, including prostitution and supplying steroids to the **Pittsburgh Steelers**. Her obituary is available online at <http://old.post-gazette.com/obituaries/20030109gillp4.asp>

The phrase "rub and tug" is slang for the combined massage/sexual services at such parlors.

Award winning actress Scarlett Johansson was slated to co-produce and play the lead. However, members of the transgender community complained that the role should go to a transgender

actor. Johansson didn't help matters after she pointed out that Jeffrey Tambor, Jared Leto and Felicity Huffman have portrayed trans characters. On July 13 the actress announced that she will no longer be playing Gill. The LGBT community reacted positively to the decision, with trans woman Jamie Clayton tweeting "Cheers to learning & growing! I hope you're still producing the film Scarlett. What an incredible opportunity to put your words into action even further! Let's get lunch and talk!"

The privately-owned **Regency Enterprises** (through their New Regency subsidiary) has won the world-wide distribution rights. At press time, *Pittsburgh Applause* had not received word about who might replace Johansson or when production is slated to begin. In fact, TheWrap.com's Beatrice Verhoeven and Matt Donnelly report that the project is now "in limbo."



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Comcast Drops Fox Bid

The contest for one of media mogul Rupert Murdoch's empire is shifting to another part.



Dade Hayes reports for Deadline.com that **Comcast** is backing away from a bidding war with the **Walt Disney Company** for controlling interest of **21st Century**

Fox. Instead, Comcast is focusing on its pursuit of **Sky PLC**.

Comcast operates Pittsburgh's cable television franchise and owns NBC-Universal. Both 21st Century Fox and Sky PLC are controlled by Australian businessman Rupert Murdoch and his family.

Read Hayes' full story at <https://deadline.com/2018/07/comcast-drops-out-of-fox-bidding-ceding-prize-to-disney-1202429307/>

PCT CINEMA PLANS

Plans are moving forward to turn a former health club into a movie theater, reports Tyler Dague for *Pittsburgh City Paper*.

The narrow building on Sixth Street began life as a cinema under different names



(most notably the Alvin) until 1980. It later became the health clubs City Club and later a Bally's. Still, much of the original theater remains: the balcony was converted into a basketball court.

Dague writes that the **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust** (PCT) has raised most of the estimated \$11 million cost to renovate the Alvin back into a cinema. But rather than a purely art house venue like the Harris Theater, the Sixth Street site will also screen mainstream Hollywood movies. "There's nothing wrong with having popular entertainment forms in the

Cultural District," Dague quotes PCT's Kevin McMahon.

An outside entity will be selected to operate the revived cinema. Read Tyler Dague's full article at <https://www.pghcitypaper.com/pittsburgh/pittsburgh-cultural-trust-pushing-forward-with-downtown-cinema-project/Content?oid=9619786>

Sinclair

CONTINUES ON FROM PAGE 1

The decision has surprised many observers. FCC Chairman Ajit Pai is a Donald Trump appointee who has favorite large media firms. Moreover, the conservative Smiths are big Trump supporters.

Among those supporting the review is the Pittsburgh-based **American Cable Association** (ACA). In a press release, ACA's Matthew M. Polka says: "From the beginning, ACA has insisted

Elrod Promoted

Robin Elrod has been promoted by the **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust** (PCT) to the position of Director of Communications.

A graduate of the **University of Richmond**, she has had stints with **Markowitz Communications** and **Burson-Marsteller**.



During these years, Elrod handled publicity for Cirque du Soleil among other performing arts organizations. Elrod has most recently held the positions of Marketing Manager and Publications Manager for PCT.

A press release says that "Robin looks forward to working closely with media to tell the Trust's story and publicize its varied performing, visual arts, and economic development programs."

that the transaction is unlawful and certain to create numerous consumer harms, such as higher retransmission consent fees. It's well past time for Sinclair to realize that its effort to engage in massive media consolidation has failed and that it should withdraw the transaction without delay so the FCC no longer needs to devote any of its limited resources to a doomed endeavor."

Burch's full article is available at <https://www.thewrap.com/fcc-sinclair-misrepresent-tribune-merger-order/>

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Music Study Released

The results of a ten-month study of Pittsburgh's music industry was released July 19

At 86-pages, the *Pittsburgh Music Ecosystem Study* concludes that Pittsburgh's music community needs better leadership and career development. The study was conducted by Texas-based **Sound Music Cities** and funded jointly by the city, the **Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership** and **Pittsburgh Community Broadcasting's** WYEP-FM.

Some people were critical of bringing in an outsider and voiced those concerns at a town hall in February [See [Pittsburgh Applause, March 2018, page two](#) - ed.]

Other challenges include the lack of networking opportunities and basic business skills. The study also recommends easy some of the regulations faced by small venues. Read the report at <http://www.pghmusicproject.org/>

Opera Hires Fundraiser

Seasoned fundraising professional Michael Braxton has been tapped by the **Pittsburgh Opera** to head the organization's development team.

PITTSBURGH OPERA

Braxton is a graduate of **Princeton University** and **Columbia Law School**. He practiced law with Pittsburgh-based global law firm **Reed Smith LLP**. Braxton has spent the last 14 years in vari-

ous positions within **Carnegie Mellon University** (CMU). While at CMU, he managed funding staff for three strategic initiatives.

"I couldn't be more excited about this opportunity," said Braxton in a press release. "Pittsburgh Opera is one of Pittsburgh's cultural gems and recognized nationally for its programming. I look forward to enhancing the Opera's philanthropic efforts so that they can continue to flourish."

MF Names Artists

Five artists have been selected by the **Mattress Factory** to present new works for an exhibition this fall.

"The Artists in Residence" program will showcase works by Iranian-American artist Laleh Mehran, Brazilian twins Gustavo

and Otavio Pandolfo, Pittsburgh sculptor William Earl Kofmehl III, German multimedia artist Karina Smigla-Bobinski and Georgia sculptor Christina West.

The exhibit is scheduled to open September 21.

Anti-Flag's New Album

Pittsburgh band Anti-Flag has announced the release date of their new album, reports Gary Graff for *Billboard*.

The punk-rock group's "American Reckoning" is a collection of ten acoustic works. These songs are meant to reflect the nation's current political climate. "We just felt like some of the songs and some of the issues got cast by the wayside of just American politics in 2018 and how fast it's all moving," the band's Chris Barker tells *Billboard*. "So this is kind of chance to revisit some of those things some of the thoughts that were maybe missed but that are still relevant to what's going on out there today."

The album will be available September 28. A music video for the song "The Debate is Over (If You Want It)" is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uePgPaVfaao>



Lift Grants Announced

The second round of Lift grants has been announced by the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC).

Lift grants are meant to support the production and presentation of the arts throughout the region, lifting both the careers of working artists and the area's cultural offerings.



- Idrissou Mora-Kpai: \$20,000 to complete the documentary film, *America Street*.
- Jose Muniain and Brian Broome: \$20,000 to create the film *GARBAGE: Race Coexistence Vulnerability*.
- Jimmy Riordan and Nina Friedman: \$17,500 to select four local artists and to collaborate with the artists to create four Risograph printed books documenting their work.

July grant recipients are:

- Max Gonzales and Jerome Charles: \$12,500 to curate and document *The Glow Up*, a visual art exhibit featuring the work of "outside artists" of color at the Ace Hotel in 2019

In a press release, GPAC's Mitch Swain enthuses: "We're thrilled to continue funding for artists, helping them advance their art practice and also showcase new, thought-provoking creative projects in our region."

Editors Guild Leaders Reject Proposed Deal

Deadline's David Robb reports that the editors guild component of **IATSE** has voted unanimously that members should reject the tentative new film and TV contract.

The decision reveals a division between the union's top management and the guild. IATSE's president Matt Loeb calls the 3-year agreement "a huge victory." However, the guild's executive director, Cathy Repola, describes it as "unacceptable."



Robb writes that the guild's leaders feel that "the new pact falls short of protecting the union's pension and health plans; doesn't give the IATSE a big enough share of residuals from shows aired on streaming services like **Netflix** and **Hulu**, and doesn't adequately address the industry's long workdays."

The union's other guilds are on board with the deal. Read Robb's complete story at <https://deadline.com/2018/07/editors-guilds-rejects-iatse-film-tv-contract-1202435757/>

Aviary Reopens Forest

At a ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 13 marked the opening of a fully renovated Tropical Rainforest at the **National Aviary**.



The result of the \$1.2 million project was described in a press release: "The lush habitat . . . features an expansive new dome made of 19,600 square feet of unique, bird-friendly glass; a 15-foot tiered waterfall that encompasses immersive spaces for birds to bathe and play; new tropical plants and trees, including cacao and coffee as tools for conservation education; custom perches; new lighting and flooring; and other energy-efficient enhancements."

For more information, read the full press release: <https://www.aviary.org/media/news-releases/tropicalrainforestriibboncutting>



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AEA Deal

A new agreement has been reached between the **New England Area Theatres** (NEAT) and **Actors Equity Association** (AEA), the performers' union reports.

The four year agreement goes into force on September 3 and affects Boston-area theaters, some of may include Pittsburgh cast members. Among the key features is an impressive 28% increase to minimum salaries.



"The NEAT contract is the latest in a series of agreements we've negotiated that will lead to higher wages and more opportunities for Equity members," said Mary McColl, Executive Director of Actors' Equity Association in a press release. "This contract was driven by the needs of our members in Boston, and I want to thank all the members of the Liaison Committee who volunteered their time to help us with the negotiating process."

In other news, the AEA has added the touring production of "Marvel Universe Live" to the union's Do Not Work list.



Channel Pittsburgh

Cox May Sell WPXI-TV

Reuters' David Shepardson reports on July 24 that **Cox Communications** is "exploring strategic options" for its 14 television stations. This includes WPXI-TV in Pittsburgh. The review is in consideration of possible changes in Federal Communication Commission's ownership rules.



Later that same day, Maria Sciuлло wrote in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* that leaked Cox memos had confirmed the news. However, the company's Cox Media Group division seems to

prefer a partner rather than a buyer. "This decision will likely mean that we will no longer solely control our existing TV portfolio," Sciuлло quotes from the memo.



Images



The acclaimed improv troupe Second City returns to the O'Reilly Theater this month.

ShowClix's Popping Pop-Up Biz

Pittsburgh-based ticketing services firm ShowClix is moving aggressively into pop-up museum business.



Much like a pop-up store (such as those that appear during Halloween), a pop-up museum is a temporary satellite of an existing museum in an empty storefront or other location. ShowClix is a division of **Patron Technology**.

"Pop-up museums and other interactive experience events rely on flexible ticketing technology and an easy purchase flow to sell several thousand tickets as quickly as possible," said ShowClix's Jim Barczak in a press release. "Our solution excels in these areas. We offer customizable ticketing functionality, marketing assistance, and on-site operations that attract and successfully support so many amazing partners in this space."

More information is available at <http://www.showclix.com/ticketing/timed-entry-events>



Uptown Public Art

Pittsburgh's Department of City Planning has selected the first of three projects for the new Uptown Public Art Program.

That project is called "ProjectCONNECT". It is a collaboration between technology workshop **Hack Pittsburgh**, non-profit wireless internet group **Meta Mesh** and artist Chiaka Zule Howze.

A press release describes ProjectCONNECT as "a solar-

powered charging station bench that provides residents and the surrounding area of Tustin Park with free wi-fi. Artistic elements such as a mural and markings that represent the history, equality and united community voice of Uptown tie the project together as a whole."

Tustin Park is a modest green space on Tustin Street. No timeline has been announced.

SAG-AFTRA Ballots Mailed

Ballots have been mailed out to **SAG-AFTRA** members (including those in Pittsburgh) to ratify the 2018 Network Television Code.



The new agreement increases contract minimums, reduction in rehearsal time and additional

monies for the AFTRA Retirement Fund. Details are available at https://www.sagaftra.org/files/sa_documents/SAG-AFTRA%20RefBklt_NetTVCode18.PDF The union is also planning webinars. To learn more, call (866) 287-1853.

Members must return their ballots by August 16. The union is encouraging them to vote yes.



Channel
Pittsburgh

WED
1

BLACKOUT WEEK
2K18



WED
22

THU
2



THU
23



FRI
3



FRI
24

TUE
7



SAT
25

SUN
19



SAT
25



Grant & Other Carnegie Museums News

Eric Crosby, a curator at the Carnegie Museum of Art (CMA), is among the recently announced recipients of grants awarded by the **Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts**.



The CMA is the flagship of the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**. The other components are the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center and the Andy Warhol Museum.

Claire Selvin writes for Art-News.com that Crosby is one of six curators who will share a total of \$295,000. She explains that Crosby "will curate an multigenerational group exhibition, titled 'Working Thought,' to feature work by 30 artists and address

economic inequality in the United States."

The CMA has also announced the acquisition of seven contemporary works, including a 1975 painting by San Francisco artist Joan Brown.

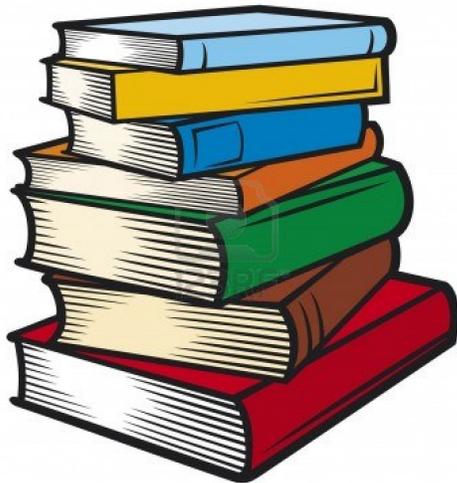
In other news:

- Botanists from Carnegie Museum of Natural History have received \$173,614 in funding from the US National Science Foundation to digitize nearly 190,000 plant specimens in the museum's collection. The goal is to better understand plant life in urban environments.
- The Carnegie Science Center's new science pavilion has achieved LEED Gold Certification. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental

Design (LEED) is a program of the non-profit **U. S. Green Building Council** to encourage and certify environmentally responsible design.

- Former director of the Andy Warhol Museum, Eric Shiner, is leaving storied auction house **Sotheby's**. He stepped down from the museum to join Sotheby's. Annie Armstrong, reporting for Art-News.com, says that Shiner is the new art director at the New York branch of **White Cube**. Opened in 1993 by English art dealer Jay Jopling, the privately-owned White Cube operates galleries in London and Hong Kong as well as New York City.

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Opportunities

Auditions have been scheduled by **City Theatre** for the 2018 Young Playwrights Festival. The chosen ensemble will play multiple roles in six different plays. Details at <http://www.citytheatrecompany.org/inside-city/auditions-and-employment/>

Positions open at the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** include those working with youth. See <https://www.carnegielibrary.org/careers-at-clp/current-opportunities/>

WTAE-TV is looking for a meteorologist and a production assistant for the station's newscast. For more information click <https://hearst.referrals.selectminds.com/television/jobs/search/1119459>

The Andy Warhol Museum is seeking a professional to manage their digital collections. Details on this job at the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** by clicking <https://carnegiemuseums.org/opportunities/search-careers/>

Proposals are being accepted by the **Mattress Factory** for teaching artists in the museum's youth programs. Visit <https://www.mattress.org/content/employment>

KDKA-TV has an opening for a news producer. In addition to a college degree, the successful candidate must have two years' relevant experience. Details are at <https://cbcorporation.jobs/pittsburgh-pa/producer/757BBEA92CA44B099D622D9B6ED59292/job/>

Casting for two short films as well as other productions have been posted at <https://www.pghfilm.org/for-crew-and-talent/casting-notice/>

The **Children's Museum of Pittsburgh** is seeking a corporate sponsorship coordinator, among other positions. Click <https://pittsburghkids.org/job/jobs>

The **Pittsburgh Opera** has an opening for a manager of individual giving at <https://www.pittsburghopera.org/about/employment-internships/>





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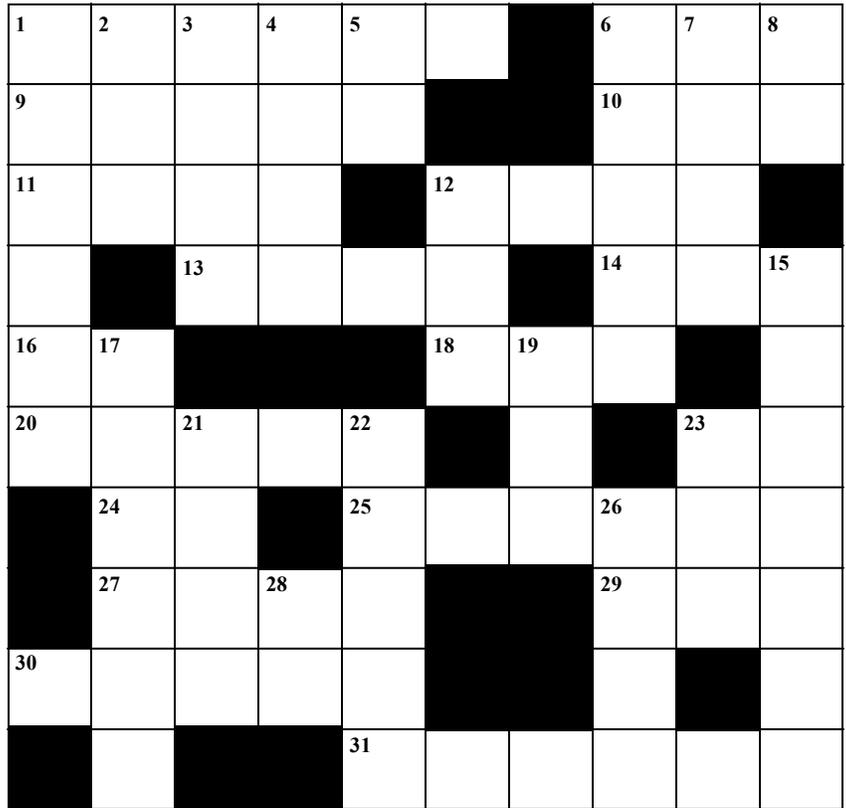


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Across

1. She's "Thoroughly Modern," per a certain musical
6. An actor who emotes too much
9. Preferred
10. Hip Pittsburgh hotel that was once a YMCA building
11. A non-starter
12. Whip
13. Northern capitol
14. The first three volumes
16. Doctor: "Say ___"
18. Be victorious
20. City Theatre's managing director (with 25-Across)
23. Obama pooch
24. Egyptian sun deity
25. See 20-Across
27. Ms. Moreno, to pals
29. Ms. DiFranco, to pals
30. Under age
31. Famed Pittsburgh photographer (with 17-Down)



Down

1. See 6-Down
2. Wedding words
3. Plastic toy line currently used as art at the Carnegie Science Center
4. Thailand neighbor
5. Chicago's state, briefly
6. "Daily Show" correspondent doing stand-up in Homestead (with 1-Down)
7. Pain
8. An egotist's favorite pronoun
12. Sad
15. Hold in high esteem
17. See 31-Across
19. Charged particle
21. The key street in many towns
22. Actresses Jean or Amy
23. Comedic game show host Stein, to pals
26. Deserve
28. Singer who led the 1970's trio Dawn, initially

Last Month's Solution

W	A	L	R	U	S		D	E	N
I	R	E		M	A	H	E	R	
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