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**Help a band Strip of its gear**

Thanks to a story we're working on over here at the CityLife lab, we know band paraphenelia does not come cheap, especially for a young band such as The Stript. Which makes the recent theft of all its instruments and live gear just shy of tragic. I know what you're thinking: "Outside of Guitar [...]"

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**BLOG VARIOUS THINGS AND STUFF**

**Anything happen while we were gone?**

Oh, a couple things, here and there. Let's take a look, Quick Hits style: "I'm not saying open Yucca Mountain without regard to environmental requirements, etc. etc. — all the things that have to be done in order to ensure safety, security, environmental, all those kind of things." — U.S. Sen. John McCain, on Yucca. Excuse [...]"

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**Beneath the Neon: The exhibit**

[Art]

When was the last time you attended an art exhibit based on a book? Yeah, that's what we thought, which accounts for why we're urging you to check out the new show at Contemporary Arts Collective. Arguably the scariest nonfiction narrative about this city, Matt O'Brien's *Beneath the Neon: Life and Death in the Tunnels of Las Vegas* gives readers a dark and eye-opening look at what it means to exist under — and we mean literally under — the Strip. O'Brien, a former *CityLife* editor, spent years exploring the Vegas storm drains, chronicling the stories of unlucky souls who, through fate and poor decisions, are trapped beneath a playground and at the mercy of desert flood waters.

Alvarez had heard O'Brien interviewed on KNPR's "State of Nevada" and thought the book would make for an interesting and provocative exhibit. Alvarez rounded up graffiti artists who work in the drains to paint the walls of CAC, and he has helped to gather various items from underground world, including O'Brien's knit cap and flashlight, in order to recreate the feeling of being stuck in a strange and unsettling place.

"I was flattered that [Alvarez] read the book and was inspired enough to want to adapt the book into an exhibit," says O'Brien. "I've basically just served as a consultant, doing everything I can to help him with the show."

In the coming weeks, there are a few opportunities to meet the graffiti artists, Alvarez and O'Brien. You can attend the June 26 opening reception or the pre-First Friday July 3 reception. Or you can show up July 17 for a book signing and panel discussion that will include former drain-dweller William Wieland, who used to live in beneath Caesars Palace until about three months ago. You can bet he has some stories to tell. All events begin at 6 p.m. **Jarret Keene**, [jarret\\_keene@yahoo.com](mailto:jarret_keene@yahoo.com)



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