Special Issue

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ON THE COVER Cyndi Lauper begins her farewell tour

ADVERTISING SALES

Sacramento and Northern California (916) 329-9280

Fred Palmer

Nat. Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Nat. Gay & Lesbian Journalist Association Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce California News Publishers Association

ISSN # 1084-7618 United States Library of Congress

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Proposition 3, Marriage Equality in the California Constitution by Jonathan Taylor, Drexel Law - MLS

arriage Equality is on the ballot again this year. California Proposition 3, Right to Marry and Repeal Proposition 8 Amendment (2024), will be on the ballot in California this November. This important bill will remove the harmful, discriminatory, and unconstitutional language of the 2008 Proposition 8 limiting marriage to heterosexual couples. Though we have made progress in subsequent civil rights rulings, proposition 8 persists.

Special Issue

Originally introduced to the California legislature by Assemblymember Evan Low as ACA 5 Marriage Equality in 2023; this bill was chaptered by the legislature within about 5 months according to leginfo.gov. Proposition 3 means that we will no longer rely on court rulings for equality. Instead, the laws of our state and our constitution will be free of discrimination and replaced with language that protects the right to marriage for all californians.

After the Trump administration's reconstitution of the Supreme Court and the subsequent opinions that specifically target LGBT persons from the unrelated Dobbs v. Jackson (2022) case, this is crucial. It is important to get out and vote to remove discrimination from our state constitution and replace it with an equal right to marriage.

It was not until 1967 that the Supreme Court ruled that prohibiting interracial Marriage was unconstitutional. More than 100 years after the Emancipation Proclamation. Despite many interracial couples it was still a matter of conflict in our nation. Pew Research reports that 3% of newly married couples were interracial in 1967. Something that was not the status quo, not a daily reality for most Americans; but few people today would argue it is a necessary equal right in our country or that it should be overruled in an analysis of substantive due process jurisprudence. In addition, very few would target it with the same rationale. With this opinion the court is taking a significant risk in weakening stare decisis in the interest of bipartisan politics. Since it's introduction in 2023 Proposition 3 has had significant democratic support in an era where LGBT rights have also been added to the official democratic platform, Equal Rights are a Democratic Value. Equality is supported by Democratic Presidential Nominee Kamala Harris. Though

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administrations have changed, support for equality is remaining consistent. In 2015, Harris held a press conference to voice her support of United States Supreme Court Obergefell vs. Hodges ruling in favor of Marriage Equality. She stated; 'this is a major step in the fight for civil rights' and 'Same sex couples should receive all of the rights of any other person under the constitution.'

In this pivotal presidential election it is important to vote because this is a highlighted partisan issue. Particularly because judicial rulings can be overturned without the vote of the people, congress or legislatures. They can tell us what is unconstitutional but they are not law.

About 100,000 Californian same sex couples have been married in recent years according to the most recent Census Data as reported by Phillip Resse in his June 30, 2023 Sacramento Bee article.

A currently posted 2021 online Census.gov article reports that; Los Angeles is home to over 6,000 same sex couples and now 1.5 percent of all married couples in the state. West Hollywood and Palm Springs are reporting 25% and 35% respectively. Couples building homes, planning their futures and living their lives in California.

While proud of our support and recognition of civil rights; as Reese stated 'Delaware, Vermont, Massachusetts, Nevada and Hawaii are leading the nation in census ratios.' This also means that equality is national value. There are LGBT People nationwide and democratic laws supporting equal rights. Constitutionally, LGBT people cannot be denied the equal opportunity to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness offered by marriage.

Nationwide there are 980,000 lgbt households and 568,110 married couples according to Census data.

There has been significant progress in the right to marry in many states and nationally.



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Our current vice president & governor have both been strong advocates for the equal right to marriage.

Kelly Robinson, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, noted in her 2024 Democratic National Committee Speech that Presidential Nominee Kamala Harris officiated the first homosexual marriage in California. It is necessary that the language of our constitution match our values.

A vote yes for Proposition 3 is a vote for marriage equality.

The 2023 Senate Floor Analysis reports that Proposition 3 is supported by dozens entities including: The Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the Office of the SuperIntendent, ACLU California Action, Equality California EQCA, AFSCME, the Human Rights Campaign HRC, the Cities of San Diego, West Hollywood, San Francisco and Sunnyvale. Several counties; including Los Angeles and Santa Clara. Three AFL-CIO affiliates, the California Medical Association, California Employment Lawyers Association, California Faculty Association, League of Women Voters of California.

Attorney General Bonta Issues Statement Following Conclusion of Kroger. Albertsons Antitrust Hearing

CThis week, California's antitrust hearing against Albertsons and Kroger came to an end. My office proudly joined the Federal Trade Commission, seven other states, and the District of Columbia in a lawsuit that we believe is critical to protecting California consumers, workers, and competitive markets here and across the country," said Attorney General Bonta. "If these two giants of the retail grocery industry combine forces, it's likely that we'll see reduced competition, a blow to unions looking to negotiate better working conditions, and

higher food prices at a time when so many families are struggling to get food on the table. We must ensure corporations follow the rules - as the People's Attorney, I am committed to fighting unlawful corporate consolidation that threatens to increase prices and reduce good jobs."

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Log Cabin LGBT Republicans & Trump Want To Annul Your Marriage by Mark Segal

This column is for LGBTQ+ Republican voters who are at risk of losing their right to marriage equality and seeing their marriages made illegal. Do you love your spouse enough to protect your marriage? Let's find out.

Remember those assignments at the beginning of the school year, where you had to write about what you did over the summer break? That was a test of your writing skills. This year, as an adult—and an LGBTQ+ adult—you're facing a real test: How much do you care about the person you call the love of your life and soulmate?

Many members of the Republican Party in control of either their states State House or State Senate have expressed a desire to challenge marriage equality. If the Supreme Court, under the influence of Republican Justices like Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito, follows through on their stated intentions, Pennsylvania Republicans like many other states would likely introduce legislation to annul your marriage. Leading this effort in Pennsylvania would be Senator Kim Ward, the Republican Senate Pro Tempore, who has a long history of blocking LGBTQ+ equality legislation. As Senate leader, she controls what gets brought to the floor for a vote, and she has consistently used her position to keep LGBTQ+ issues out of the conversation, rendering us invisible. Sound familiar? It's reminiscent of Florida's "Don't Say Gay" law. Move over, Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Here's how this could unfold in Pennsylvania and most states: If Trump is re-elected, and Justices Thomas and Alito act on their ambitions, Pennsylvania Republicans will have the opportunity they've been waiting for to dismantle your marriage. After passing legislation through the Senate and House, such legislation would land on Gov. Josh Shapiro's desk. Gov. Shapiro, a champion for our rights, would veto it. But here's the catch—Senator Kim Ward, who leads the Senate, could push for a vote to override the governor's veto.

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It's no surprise that Senator Ward supports Donald Trump. Let me explain the Pennsylvania Log Cabin Republicans, and thse Log Cabins in your State—those LGBTQ+ Republicans who support Trump are inadvertently supporting the end of their own marriages. While some may be indifferent to the fate of their marriage, many of us care deeply and will fight for the ones we love.

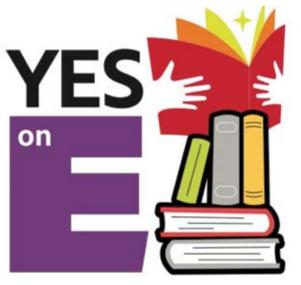
If you are so indifferent to your marriage that you'll vote for someone who will take it away, what does that say about you, what does it say about your committment to your spouse? It says that you'd rather go back to the 1960s, when LGBTQ+ people were criminalized and invisible. That's the world you support. That's the world Pennsylvania Log Cabin Republicans want with Donald Trump.

Mark Segal is PGN publisher. He is the nation's most-award-winning commentator in LGBT media. His is the curator of LGBT History at the Stonewall National Monument Visitor Center in New York.

Please Vote Yes on Measure E Keep Our Libraries Open!

The City of Sacramento's Measure E will extend the existing parcel taxes that fund city libraries, ensuring they remain open five days a week and continue offering current services. The measure consolidates and extends two existing parcel taxes, initially approved by voters, without increasing the tax rate. Voting Yes on Measure E would make this funding permanent, unless repealed by voters, and support essential library services such as after-school programs, digital access,

and community resources. Sacramento's libraries play a vital role in the community, with 12 locations in the City serving over 920,000 visitors annually, providing access to technology, safe spaces, and educational programs. Please spread the word to people you know. For more information on the measure and to donate to the campaign go to: www.YesSacMeasureE.com



Ants and ENTERTAINMENT

California Attorney General Rob Bonta File Amicus Brief to Oppose School District Policies

alifornia Attorney General Rob Bonta, alongside 17 other attorneys general, has filed an amicus brief in Rinderle v. Cobb County School District to oppose Georgia school district policies that prohibit discussing so-called "divisive" topics, specifically those related to LGBTQ+ issues. These policies, based on Georgia laws, led to the dismissal of a teacher who addressed age-appropriate LGBTQ+ topics and have broadly censored discussions on related subjects. Bonta and the coalition argue that these policies stigmatize and silence marginalized student groups, contributing to the rise of anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric in the U.S.

The plaintiffs are seeking legal action against these policies, claiming they violate constitutional rights under the First and Fourteenth Amendments and are unlawfully vague. In contrast, California has enacted laws promoting inclusivity in education, such as the Fair Education Act and the California Healthy Youth Act, which protect LGBTQ+

topics in schools. The coalition's brief argues that the Georgia policies lack educational value and perpetuate discrimination, while other states provide models for fostering inclusive curricula. The attorneys general from states like New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Oregon also joined in support of the amicus brief.

New PSA Campaign from HRC Foundation Aims to Increase Acceptance of Transgender Youth

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation has launched a new public service ad campaign to foster acceptance of transgender youth. The campaign's centerpiece, a video titled "Daniel Really Suits You," follows a young trans teen named Daniel as he goes through common rites of passage, such as learning to shave and taking a driving test. The goal is to show that the lives of transgender youth are much more relatable than commonly believed and that trans stories resonate universally. Produced in collaboration with BRINK Media Group and Comic Relief US, the video illustrates that trans teens experience the same milestones, emotions, and family dynamics as other teens.



The campaign is strategically timed, coming at a moment when trans rights are increasingly under attack, with upcoming elections poised to impact the rights and freedoms of transgender people, especially youth. Kelley Robinson, president of the HRC Foundation, emphasized that trans youth and their families face the same hopes, dreams, and concerns as anyone else, highlighting the importance of increasing understanding to combat discrimination. Research supporting the campaign shows that when people unfamiliar with transgender youth learn about their lives, their attitudes toward LGBTQ+ issues often shift positively. Message testing revealed that viewers of the ad became more likely to support gender expression rights and less likely to believe society has gone too far in accepting transgender people.

The video resulted in particularly strong positive reactions among older Americans, Latino/a/e people, and self-identified moderates. For example, there was a net +17 shift among those aged 55 and older and a +30 shift among moderates

regarding gender expression rights. These results underscore the impact of storytelling in fostering empathy and challenging prejudices against transgender youth.

Comic Relief US, a co-sponsor of the campaign, expressed pride in supporting HRC's efforts to promote understanding and inclusion, especially at a time when LGBTQ+ youth face unprecedented levels of discrimination. The ad campaign, and particularly "Daniel Really Suits You," aims to build resilience, self-acceptance, and a sense of belonging among transgender youth, particularly in states where their rights are threatened.

The initiative aligns with HRC's broader mission of advocating for LGBTQ+ rights. The organization's 2023 LGBTQ+ Youth Report, which surveyed the experiences of LGBTQ+ youth across the U.S., highlighted both significant challenges and reasons for hope. Through campaigns like this, the HRC Foundation aims to change hearts and minds. promoting a more inclusive and supportive environment for trans and non-binary youth.

Watch the video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMEK-6WFlaY



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Little Activisms by Judy Saint Support Capital Stage

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id you know Capital Stage is the only local live theater company that shares a message with every patron protecting our civil rights? It is! And that's your Little

Activism for today – support Cap Stage for their bravery! A local group I work with combats the threat of Christian Nationalism, designed to turn democracy into theocracy, threatening the LGBTQ+ community, women, and many other groups. The Greater Sacramento Chapter of Freedom From Religion Foundation, Sac.ffrf.org, works hard to keep church and state separate, protecting everyone's freedoms and rights. Only Cap Stage takes the risk of letting us share our group's message in their playbill, "Keep Religion Out of Government." (I've asked other live theater venues. They all said no.)



Let's reward Cap Stage's courage. Here's how:

Help Create the Plays!

- \$7,000 pays for the royalties for the holiday play
- \$2,500 buys all the building materials and set pieces for one play
- \$175 buys gels and other lighting supplies for one play
- \$140 buys the scripts for one play
- \$3 makes you a valuable supporter

Other Rewarding Support Choices

Buy a delicious wine. Chaim Gur-Arieh has bottled a delectable wine selection in the name of Capital Stage. For every bottle of "Capital Stage" that you purchase at cgdiarie.com , Chaim will donate \$5 to Capital Stage.

Artist Housing. Actors, directors and playwrights come from all over the world to be a part of bold, live theatre at Capital Stage. If you have an extra bedroom or separate living space to offer, please contact Company Manager Tony Gabrielson at tgabrielson@capstage.org.

In-Kind Donations: Capital Stage can always use office supplies (copy paper, binders, notepads, etc.), construction tools, and more.

Attend the Plays!

Fairview (now playing through Sept. 29) – Witty drama. Family sanity is tested with a sharp, sly turn into race paradigms.

The Heart Sellers (Opens Oct. 16) – Comedy. Two homesick Asian immigrants have fun dreaming of their new home here.

English (Opens Jan. 29) – Comedy. Four Iranian women share the diversity of life as they make funny mistakes trying to learn English.

Everything Beautiful Happens At Night (Opens March 19) – An odd couple share friendship as we explore life as an artist, intimacy, and surviving every day.

Unseen (Opens May 7) – Thought-provoking. Mia has no memory of the massacre she was photographing, waking up in her girlfriend's apartment.

King James (Opens June 25) – Moving and humorous biography. LeBron James and his two friends grow up together in desperate Cleveland.

Kudos to Capital Stage for their brave decision to risk displaying FFRF's message every showing, every play, every month, every year since 2019. Helping our brave neighbors at Capital Stage is our Little Activism suggestion for today. Donate, buy tickets, volunteer, or learn more at Capstage.org

Good for you, Cap Stage! You really ARE bold, inclusive, and caring.

Little Activisms encourages readers to consider small changes we can make to help social causes, and to feel good about ourselves for taking small risks. Judy Saint is President of the Greater Sacramento Chapter of Freedom From Religion Foundation and author of The Pleasant Atheist Adult Coloring Book available on Amazon. She and her wife live in Roseville, CA.

Ants and ENTERTAINMENT

Morgan Oaks Eternal Preserve: Pioneering Green Burial in California

by Stephanie Brow s environmental consciousness rises, many seek sustainable alternatives in every aspect of life, including end-of-life practices. Green burial, an eco-friendly method of interment, is gaining traction for its minimal environmental impact. Morgan Oaks Eternal Preserve, situated in the scenic beauty of Placer County, represents a serene and sustainable choice for those who wish to minimize their ecological footprint even in death.

The Philosophy Behind Morgan Oaks **Eternal Preserve**

Located in Lincoln, CA, Morgan Oaks Eternal Preserve is more than a cemetery; it is a conservation initiative dedicated to protecting and restoring natural landscapes. The preserve embodies a philosophy that views death as an integral part of the natural life cycle. This perspective is central to green burial, which aims to return the body to the earth in a way that supports ecological sustainability and respects the deceased.

In contrast to traditional cemeteries that use embalming chemicals, nonbiodegradable caskets, and concrete vaults, Morgan Oaks adopts a natural approach. The preserve allows bodies to decompose naturally, contributing to the surrounding environment's ecological health. This method avoids practices that can disrupt soil and groundwater, promoting a more harmonious integration with nature.

What is Green Burial?

Green burial, also known as natural burial, is designed to minimize environmental impact. This practice forgoes harmful chemicals and nonbiodegradable materials, focusing instead on simplicity and natural decomposition. Loved ones are placed in a biodegradable coffin or a shroud made from materials like untreated wood, wicker, or organic cloth. These materials decompose over time, enabling the body to return to the earth and contribute to the ecosystem.

Green burials are often conducted in natural settings such as forests or meadows. At Morgan Oaks Eternal Preserve, gravesites are marked with natural features like trees or simple stones, preserving the natural beauty of the landscape and reducing environmental footprint. This approach ensures that the land remains unspoiled and maintains its serene charm.

The Environmental and Spiritual **Benefits of Green Burial**

Green burial offers several environmental advantages. Traditional burial methods often involve harmful practices such as using embalming fluids containing formaldehyde, which can contaminate soil and groundwater. Green burials eliminate these hazards, ensuring the land remains clean. Additionally, it conserves resources by avoiding metal caskets, concrete vaults, and other nonbiodegradable materials, which also

reduces the energy and materials required for traditional funerary practices.

Beyond its environmental benefits, green burials provide a spiritual connection to nature. Many find solace in the idea of returning to the earth naturally, becoming part of the ecosystem that sustains life. Morgan Oaks Eternal Preserve's tranquil setting enhances this experience, offering a peaceful place for reflection and remembrance amidst its natural surroundings.

A Haven for Wildlife

Morgan Oaks Eternal Preserve is also a thriving habitat for wildlife. The preserve supports a variety of native species, both flora and fauna, enriching the region's biodiversity. Visitors may encounter deer, rabbits, hawks, and other wildlife while walking through the preserve. The natural landscape supports pollinators like bees and butterflies, crucial for ecological balance. Biologists, arborists, and environmental planners ensure that the preserve remains a safe and thriving habitat for these species.

Walking Trails and Community Engagement

Morgan Oaks Eternal Preserve features three miles of walking trails, inviting visitors to explore its serene landscape. These trails offer a peaceful retreat from daily life and are open to the public, including those with dogs. The trails provide an opportunity to connect with nature and observe the diverse wildlife, making each visit a meaningful experience.

Morgan Oaks Eternal Preserve: A **Commitment to Conservation**

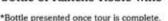
Morgan Oaks Eternal Preserve is more than a burial ground; it is a commitment to land conservation. By choosing green burial at Morgan Oaks, individuals contribute to broader efforts to protect and restore natural habitats in California. The preserve's ongoing conservation efforts include maintaining native plants and wildlife, making it a unique choice for those wishing to leave a legacy of environmental stewardship.

Conclusion

Morgan Oaks Eternal Preserve offers a sustainable and spiritually fulfilling alternative to traditional burial practices. Green burial at Morgan Oaks honors the natural cycle of life and contributes to the conservation of California's landscapes. With its walking trails, diverse wildlife, and community engagement, Morgan Oaks stands as a testament to how life and nature can thrive together, even in death.

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The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber and Rainbow Chamber Foundation's 10th Annual Farm to Scholar event was an unforgettable night of celebration, community, and generosity. Guests came together in full force to honor the incredible LGBTQ+ and allied Culinary scholarship recipients, creating an

atmosphere buzzing with excitement and pride. From the exquisite farm-style dinner to the spirited silent auction, every moment was filled with joy and purpose. Thanks to the passionate support of attendees, volunteers, and donors, the event raised significant funds for the Rainbow Chamber Foundation, ensuring these scholarships will continue to fuel the dreams of future culinary stars. The evening showcased the power of community, as everyone came together to uplift the next wave of culinary talent. It was a night of philanthropy, vibrant energy, and heartwarming connections—truly a celebration of giving back and uplifting others. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this extraordinary night a smashing success! Photos by: Amy Medina - www.amymedinaphotographer.com

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Check Out A Place Called Sacramento Film Festival by R. Paul Villaluz

Special Issue

Tfirst learned about Access Sacramento, the local/community media center, from a friend's Instagram post detailing her experience with operating a studio TV camera. Intrigued, I discovered that Access Sacramento offers a range of workshops and classes, including TV Studio Production, TV Field Production, and Video Editing.

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Film Premiere

My interest in video production dates to high school, when my friend and I used my parents' camcorder to record and dub music onto footage. So, when Access Sacramento advertised a scriptwriting workshop, I decided to enroll in the two-day course, held on Saturday mornings, for a bit of fun.

A few days before the workshop, the instructor emailed us, requesting 2-3 story ideas in the form of loglines. Loglines are concise summaries that include an inciting incident, protagonist, action, and antagonist.

Struggling for ideas, I was relieved when my husband suggested a story about our two cats, who have never gotten along. The older cat resents the younger, more affectionate newcomer, despite our best efforts to help them bond using various techniques from YouTube videos.

From this idea, the story of "Granite and Marble" was born. Its logline reads: "A 'charmed' young boy races against the clock

to win the love and friendship of his angry and cold-hearted adoptive teenage sister before a major Sacramento event concludes, or risk being turned back into his true self."

Additionally, the story is about acceptance of self, acceptance of others, and navigating through complicated family dynamics. After refining the script with feedback from the instructor/mentor, I was encouraged to submit it to Access Sacramento's "A Place Called Sacramento" film festival, now in its 24th vear.

This year's festival features "Granite and Marble" alongside nine other winning scripts selected in April by a group of judges. Each film must be no longer than 10 minutes and prominently incorporate Sacramento into its story or visuals. Following the announcement of winners, we embarked on the journey of producing our films.

This opportunity allowed both seasoned and novice filmmakers to bring their visions to the big screen. While I had experience creating and editing vlogs for my YouTube channel, Rolling with the Pauls, producing a film with a cast and crew presented a new challenge.

In May, Access Sacramento hosted a cast and crew call, allowing each filmmaker to recruit participants for their projects. They

also offered a class on "How to Make a Film." The guidance and support from Access Sacramento's experienced staff and volunteers made the process much more manageable.

Despite the challenges-auditioning actors, assembling a crew, securing locations, and navigating the editing process–I gained invaluable insights into the filmmaking industry and developed a profound appreciation for the craft. Hollywood, where large

Unlike

budgets and teams of experts are common. we produced these films on a shoestring budget. Fortunately, our cast and crew were driven by passion and the desire to gain experience, adding valuable credits to their IMDb pages. As the writer, producer, and director, I was grateful to rely on those with expertise in videography, sound, and lighting. Managing pre-production tasks

like breaking down the script and scheduling was challenging for me, but once shooting began, I thoroughly enjoyed the directing role-especially interacting with the cast and crew (I might have enjoyed being the big boss a bit too much, LOL).

The world premiere of all ten films will be held at the Crest Theater on Friday, October 11, at 7 p.m., with doors opening at 6 p.m. Purchasing tickets supports both the films and Access Sacramento, contributing to the careers of aspiring filmmakers and helping them realize their dreams. Tickets are available at: www.accesssacramento.org/ pcstickets

Have I caught the filmmaking bug? Perhaps. I have several script and story ideas brewing from this summer's experience. Meeting talented actors during auditions has inspired me to create more films just to work with them again-they have truly become my muses.

Sacramento boasts a vibrant community of filmmakers, actors, and crew members who could very well become the next Spielberg, Streep, or Schoonmaker. I encourage you to get your tickets and join us on October 11 for an evening of entertainment and support for exceptional local talent. We look forward to seeing you at the red carpet!

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BIG BAD VOODOO DADDY NOVEMBER 1, 2024



R.E.S.P.E.C.T. A CELEBRATION OF THE MUSIC OF ARETHA FRANKLIN FEBRUARY 18, 2025



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Ants and ENTERTAINMENT

October 11, 2024

5:30 - 7 pm

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So Not Pumpkin Spice



Marvelous Museums Put NorCal on The Map

Special Issue

s the weather gets cooler, entertainment options like outdoor festivals and drive-in movies begin to give way to indoor events such as live theatre and museums. Read on for three not-to-be-missed exhibitions, two current and one coming soon. Crocker Art Museum

You have until this Oct. 20 to catch the fantastic photographic exhibit featuring the work of Raul Gonzo, a Sacramento-based artist whose colorful pictures really pop. ("Color Madness" is the perfect title for his Crocker exhibition.)

Gonzo's highly saturated photographs feature satirical and humorous nods to childhood, consumerism, Pop art, television game shows, and ideals of beauty. His work embraces surface-level color and composition while questioning how American culture can be critiqued and reimagined. For more information on "Raul Gonzo: Color Madness," go to: www.crockerart.org



"Calli: The Art of Xicanx Peoples"



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Oakland Museum of California

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"Calli," derived from Nahuatl, signifies the essence of home, family, and lineage. Immerse yourself in thought-provoking original artworks, installations, sculpture, painting, photography, poetry, and more, that showcase and honor the stories of Xicanx peoples across California in this temporary "Xicanx home."

"Calli: The Art of Xicanx Peoples" is on view now through Jan. 26, 2025. Go to: https://museumca.org

California Museum

A journey through life, love and death is up next at Sacramento's California Museum, where "Arte de Inspiración: Día de los Muertos 2024 (Inspirational Art: Day of the Dead 2024)" is coming soon. The exhibition will feature contemporary altars and artwork by artists from Sacramento, Los Angeles, and the Bay Area.

Opening at the Museum's Día de los Muertos Fiesta 2024 on Saturday, Oct. 12, the annual exhibit explores the Mexican cultural tradition of honoring deceased loved ones each year on November 1 and 2 by creating calaveras de azúcar (sugar skulls), altares de muertos (altars of the dead) and ofrendas (offerings), which has evolved from the Aztecs to modern day Mexico and California.

"Arte de Inspiración: Día de los Muertos 2024 (Inspirational Art: Day of the Dead 2024)" exhibits this Oct. 12 – Nov. 17, 2024. Please visit: https://californiamuseum.org



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SNL Returns for Season 50 by Chris Narloch as it really been fifty years that SNL has been making us

laugh? The iconic, late-night sketch comedy show has been so famous for so long that it's easy to take its impact for granted.



SNL premiered on Oct. 11, 1975, with its iconic original cast, and the series has launched movie and TV careers for dozens of performers ever since. SNL is still going strong, and the new season, which debuts this Sept. 28, will no doubt have a field day with our upcoming presidential election.

I would bet money that the hilarious Maya Rudolph will reprise her brilliant impression of Kamala Harris for SNL's first cold open of the new season, and Lorne Michaels said recently that the show will "reinvent" how Donald Trump is portrayed. (I can't wait!)

SNL also announced its first five hosts of the new season, and they are an eclectic bunch that begins with funny lady Jean Smart, followed by Nate Bargatze, Ariana Grande, Michael Keaton, and John Mulaney. Musical guests during Season 50 include the felon turned country phenom Jelly Roll, plus Coldplay, Billie Eilish, Stevie Nicks, and my current obsession: the divine (and very queer) pop princess, Chappell Roan.

Ms. Roan is scheduled to perform on SNL the first Saturday in November, and I will be glued to my TV set that night.



(18) Outword Magazine

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September 26, 2024 - October 10, 2024 • No. 753

Ants and ENTERTAINMENT

Hitchcock-tober Returns to Tower Plus, The Crest Celebrates 75 Years

The Crest Theatre is turning 75 this October, and the theatre will celebrate with a screening of 1949's "That Midnight Kiss," the first movie ever played at the Crest.

Meanwhile, over at another historic movie palace, Sacramento's Tower Theatre brings back its popular annual salute to the Master of Suspense, with Hitchcock-tober.

Crest

The Crest Theatre opened on October 6, 1949, with a screening of "That Midnight Kiss," starring Kathryn Grayson and Jose Iturbi and introducing Mario Lanza, an Italian American tenor turned handsome Hollywood heartthrob, who was called "the most famous tenor in the world" during his short life.

The Crest will show that colorful (and corny) MGM musical again, after 75 years, to mark the theater's landmark anniversary, on Sunday evening, October 6th. Tickets start at \$20 plus online fees, and VIP packages were still available last time we checked. To purchase tickets for this one-night-only event, go to: https://crestsacramento.com



CELEBRATE THE MASTER OF SUSPENSE

Tower

Wednesdays in October, Sacramento's Tower Theatre packs 'em in with the theater's tribute to terror, otherwise known as (Alfred) Hitchcock-tober.

This year's suspenseful selections are "North by Northwest" (starring Cary Grant and Eva Marie Saint), "The Man Who Knew Too Much (with James Stewart and Doris Day), "The Trouble with Harry" (featuring Shirley MacLaine and John Forsythe), "Strangers on a Train" (with Robert Walker and Farley Granger), and "Psycho" (starring Anthony Perkins and Janet Leigh), which will be shown on Halloween.

To purchase tickets, please visit: www.angelikafilmcenter.com/tower

Locally-produced short films at the historic Crest Theatre Oct. 11th, 7 pm • Tickets \$22 www.AccessSacramento.org

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Ants and ENTERTAINMENT



Calling All Dreamers To Sacramento's Dreamland Cinema

wo fearless entrepreneurs opened Dreamland Cinema in Sacramento, in June of 2022, during a time when theaters across the country were struggling – and still are – to lure viewers away from their streaming services and back to the movies after COVID lockdowns.

Against all odds, the pair (Lauren Hess and Tish Sparks) succeeded, and they now regularly sell out many of the showings at their charming, 26-seat microcinema in midtown.

Microcinemas have been popular in Japan and other countries since the 1970s and are beginning to catch on in the United States, where prohibitive real estate prices and the trend towards streaming entertainment at home make opening new large chain theaters a very risky proposition nowadays.

Outword's annual Arts Issue seemed like the perfect time to spotlight the smart and ambitious LGBTQ couple who currently run Dreamland Cinema, at 19th and P Streets in Sacramento.

The pair met while both were living in Texas, and they relocated to River City after Hess got homesick for Sacramento, where she had been involved in the music industry earlier in her career. The women realized during COVID – as many people did – that they wanted to do something more fulfilling with their lives and careers than just make money.

Determined to start their own business in the capital city, Hess and Sparks spotted a beautiful, green Victorian while driving around downtown and proceeded to persuade the lawyer who owns the building to rent them the basement below her law office.

Since that downstairs space had formerly housed Sacramento's Thistle Dew Dessert Theatre, it was already configured for a live audience, and its small auditorium had a couple dozen vintage seats still intact.

The pair envisioned an arthouse cinema in the modest midtown location and after repainting and refurbishing the space, Dreamland Cinema was born. The rest is herstory, with Hess and Sparks offering niche programming such as cult films, classics, and the type of oddball indie flicks that sometimes bypass Sacramento.

Hess handles hospitality and most of the front-of-house aspects of the business, while Sparks is the film buff who curates the calendar and acquires the movies they show. "From the beginning, the goal was to offer as eclectic a slate of films as possible," said Sparks, "so that fans who show up for a classic foreign film like Pasolini's 'Teorema' might be curious and come back the next week to see a B-movie."

Almost immediately, Dreamland Cinema attracted a loyal, repeat following of film buffs and fans of foreign cinema, queer movies, sci-fi, and horror, who regularly flock to the theater's cozy auditorium, which resembles a private screening room or a state-of-the-art home theater.

Several of the larger, multi-screen movie theaters in Sacramento (most notably two mall theaters, at Arden Fair and Sunrise Mall) closed their doors in recent years as cinemas tried valiantly to compete with home viewing. Dreamland, on the other hand, has thrived by starting small and using social media, networking, and word of mouth to build their brand.

A regular patron of the microcinema I spoke with described Dreamland as a "hidden gem" and a "sanctuary where I can escape for a couple hours and de-stress."

Cecile Mouette Downs, co-founder of the Sacramento French Film Festival, was equally effusive about her experience with Sparks and Hess. "Dreamland hosted our annual kickoff party this May," said Downs. "Lauren and Tish are wonderful to work with, and they do a great job programming the Dreamland Cinema. It's impressive!"

The theater has kept its overhead down (for the time being) since Hess and Sparks are the owners, the managers, and currently the only employees at Dreamland Cinema. The pair are, however, looking to expand their business model and hire help later this year (or next year), and they will have the money to do just that after winning a contest produced by the Downtown Sacramento Foundation.

Earlier this year, Dreamland Cinema beat out several other local individuals who entered the Foundation's Calling All Dreamers competition, a business incubator boot-camp that brings in industry professionals to mentor entrepreneurs for the chance to open a downtown storefront.

After coming out on top, Dreamland Cinema will eventually receive \$20,000 cash and a generous package of in-kind services that will allow the business to realize its full potential, as the theater has outgrown its small space thanks to so many sold-out shows.

Hess and Sparks told me they plan to keep the original location going and use it for special occasions, such as their own annual film festival and small, private events like birthday parties and corporate team building. On their days off, the couple has begun searching for a larger location downtown where they can expand their food and beverage options, showcase new releases, and most importantly have more seats.

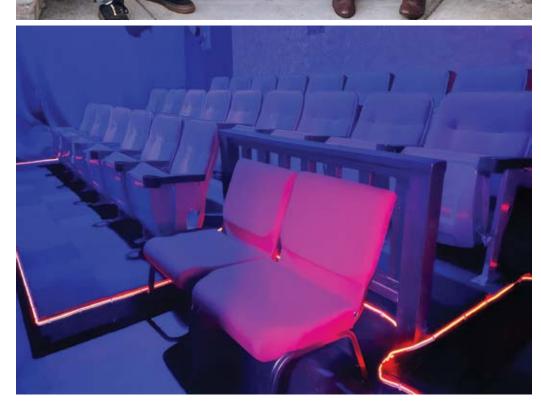
"We're so excited to be the 2024 winners of Calling All Dreamers," said Hess. "We're looking forward to having a more spacious lobby where we can host movie trivia nights, bring in guest filmmakers, have pre-show DJ sets, art shows and more."

For more information about the theater and the full calendar of this month's movies, go to: www.thedreamlandcinema.com



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Sacramento's Discovery Park this Oct. 18-20, with these talented cowgirls giving the festival's male artists a run for their money: Elle King, Ashley McBryde, Gabby Barrett, Colbie Caillat, and Deana Carter.

The perky pop princess Meghan Trainor brings her current tour to Mountain View's Shoreline Amphitheatre this Oct. 18, and funny lady Sarah Silverman has a comedy concert scheduled for this Oct. 25 at Cache Creek.

Singer-songwriter Kehlani, who hails from Oakland originally, brings her Crash World Tour to San Francisco's Chase Center this Nov. 2, while the classical crossover artist Sarah Brightman comes to The Venue at Thunder Valley this Dec. 13.

Last but certainly not least, our favorite "D-lister," the fearless comedy queen Kathy Griffin, will bring the funny to The Masonic in San Francisco on Jan. 18. (Just don't invite Donald Trump to that one.)

Cher's Autobiography Is Coming Soon

by Chris Narloch

he book I am most looking forward to reading this fall is "Cher, The Memoir: Part One," which is scheduled to hit bookstores and online retailers this Nov. 19th

After listening to Barbra Streisand read her recent tome - all 970 pages and almost 50 hours of it - I am primed for another diva's "deep dish," and since Cher is a pop culture diva for the ages, I am counting the days until her autobiography arrives.

tickets.

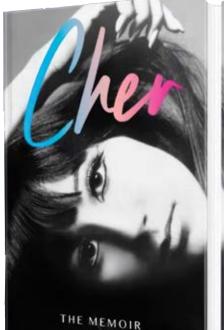
bring that show to San

isn't retiring from show

According to press accounts, the first installment of Cher's tell-all will chronicle her early life as Cherilyn Sarkisian, including her battle with dyslexia as a child and her dreams of superstardom.

Part One will also chronicle her early career as a backup singer, meeting and marrying Sonny Bono, and forming the hippie, husband-and-wife duo Sonny & Cher, in the '60s.

If anyone can be counted on to speak her mind, it's Cher, and I am certain that her memoir will be anything but guarded. Of course, she also had to outdo every other celebrity and release her book in two parts. I love it already!



PART ONE

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Special Issue



Two Great New Horror Movies Plus, New Coppola & My Old Ass by Chris Narloch

This month, I have reviews of four new movies that are all worth paying for in theaters, which is rare. Unless of course you are not a fan of horror films or Francis Coppola movies, or you don't like to laugh. Read on for my thoughts.

The Substance

Don't say I didn't warn you that this movie is shocking, gory, and an example of totally bonkers body horror by a fearlessly feminist French director, Coralie Fargeat. A commentary on the vanity that often comes with stardom and on our culture's obsession with youth and beauty, "The Substance" grabs you by the throat at the outset and doesn't let go until it's over.

The film is slightly overlong, occasionally repetitive, and totally lacking in subtlety, but it features amazing makeup effects and prosthetic work and a crazy-good comeback performance by Demi Moore. The actress tears into her role as an aging actress desperate to be young again, and Dennis Quaid and Margaret Qualley give her a run for her money. Currently in wide theatrical release.





Speak No Evil

A more traditional thriller than "The Substance," "Speak No Evil" is a violent rollercoaster ride that boasts a furious performance by a newly hunky James McAvoy, as an "alpha male" husband and father who invites another family over to his house for a visit. That does not go well.

Things are not as they seem with their at-first-friendly hosts, and before long the guest family find themselves in a fight for survival. The film is a remake of a far more shocking Danish movie from 2022. The American version is that rare redo that improves on the original. "Speak No Evil" is currently in wide theatrical release.

My Old Ass

I hope this amazingly good American comedy doesn't get swallowed up by the glut of cinematic product out there or doomed by its strange title. "My Old Ass" stars Aubrey Plaza, Maisy Stella, and Maddie Ziegler, and it just might be the sweetest and most original comedy of the year.

Plaza plays the older version of Stella's character, a young woman who needs guidance and finds it in the person of her more mature self, who drops in from the future to help her navigate love and life at a very turbulent time. The film is hard to describe without it sounding gimmicky and lame, so I'll just say that I highly recommend it. "My Old Ass" is currently in wide theatrical release.



Megalopolis

I was unable to screen this one before deadline, but I cannot wait to see the first big-screen feature by "The Godfather" director, Francis Ford Coppola, in 13 years. Reported to have cost at least 120 million USD, and self-financed by the maverick filmmaker himself, "Megalopolis" looks like a futuristic, CGI-fueled epic – based on the trailers I have seen.

Since Coppola is 85 now, this could be his last feature film, and that alone makes it a must-see. "Megalopolis" at the very least has a great cast that includes Adam Driver, Aubrey Plaza, Jon Voight, Laurence Fishburne, Dustin Hoffman, Talia Shire, and Shia LaBeouf. The movie is currently in wide theatrical release.

(22) Outword Magazin

Megalopolis

COSTUME CONTESTS. PRIZES

Sat. 26th: Main Party, \$3K Costume Contest Signup 9-10:30 contest @11 Sun. 27th: Day Party, Dj's, Costume Contest, Karaoke Mon. 28th: DJ, Karaoke Mini Contest Tues. 29th: DJ's, Latin Drag Show, Karaoke, Costume Contest Wed. 30th: DJ, Karaoke, Mini Contest Thurs. 31st: DJ, Karaoke, Costume Contest

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Special Issue

Ants and ENTERTAINMENT



Join the fun at Rainbow Chamber Drag Queen Bingo, Thursday, Oct. 3 from 7-9 p.m. at Mangos, 1930 K St. All seating is first come, first served. A \$20 cash donation to play. Proceeds go to Chalk It Up. Don't miss this exciting and charitable event! Rainbowchamber.com

Don't miss Nick Carter's Who I Am World Tour on Saturday, Oct. 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the Harris Center for the Arts, 10 College Parkway in Folsom. As the youngest member of the Backstreet Boys, Carter rose to international fame, selling over 130 million records worldwide. His solo career has been equally successful, with hits like "Hurts to Love You" topping charts globally. Join Carter for an unforgettable night of music, featuring tracks from his solo albums, Backstreet Boys favorites, and more. Harriscenter.net

The 2024 Boas & Bow Ties Gala, hosted by the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber, takes place on Thursday, Oct. 10, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Sacramento Hilton Arden West, 2200 Harvard St. This signature fundraising event supports the Rainbow Chamber Foundation, which provides scholarships and grants to enhance the quality of life for the LGBTQ community. The evening features a live and silent auction, entertainment, scholarship presentations, and a gourmet meal. Join us to support the next generation of LGBTQ leaders and foster an inclusive business community. Rainbowchamber.com Don't miss an evening with Herb Alpert and Lani Hall on Oct. 8 at the Harris Center, 10 College Pkwy, in Folsom. Music icon Herb Alpert and his Grammy-winning vocalist wife, Lani Hall, former lead singer of Brazil '66 with Sergio Mendes, will perform an eclectic mix of American standards, Brazilian jazz, Beatles hits, classic Tijuana Brass, Brazil '66 songs, and many surprises. Harriscenter. net

Get ready for the Gem Faire at Sacramento Scottish Rite, 6151 H St., from Oct. 4 to 6! Discover fine jewelry, crystals, gems, fossils, and more at manufacturer prices. Shop directly from wholesalers and enjoy on-site jewelry repair and ring sizing. Cash only, with free parking available. Don't miss this dazzling event! Gemfaire.com

Moviebusters Events presents Friday the 13th (1980) at Crest Theater, 1013 K St., with special guest Ari Lehman, the first Jason Voorhees! On Oct. 13, fans can join a meet and greet and Q&A from 5 to 6 p.m. for exclusive access. At 8 p.m., enjoy the film screening with live commentary by Lehman. Crestsacramento.com

The 13th Annual "Guido Cup" Chef's Challenge Finalé at Sacramento Bacon Fest is set for Sunday, Oct. 6, from 2-6 p.m. at Mulvaney's Building & Loan, 1215 19th St. Enjoy bacon-inspired dishes from 12 top Sacramento chefs, along with drinks, music, and Mulvaney's famous pig roast. Who will win bacon supremacy and bragging rights? Don't miss it!



Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with the Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce at the Vino de Oro Vineyard and Winery ribbon-cutting on Thursday, Oct. 3, from 5-8 p.m. at the Old Sugar Mill, 35265 Willow Ave., Clarksburg. Enjoy festive music from Kandia Entertainment and local radio stations, delicious bites from Gondo Fusion, and shop from vendors like Mi Tiendita Munaycha. Raise a glass and join the fun! Sachcc.org

The 61st Sacramento Greek Festival returns Sunday, Oct. 10, at 616 Alhambra Blvd., celebrating Greece's vibrant culture, food, and traditions. Enjoy authentic, homemade Greek cuisine prepared by volunteers, along with lively music, dancing, and a village-style atmosphere. This familyfriendly event offers a taste of the Mediterranean, embodying Greece's passion for life. Opa!

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Register to vote online. Your registration must be postmarked or submitted electronically no later than Oct. 21. sos. ca.gov

Do you have events, birthdays, or announcements to share? Feel free to send them to matthewburlingame@gmail.com.



(24) Outword Magazine

September 26, 2024 - October 10, 2024 • No. 753





Special Issue

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Who's Your Nanny, Sacramento? See Broadway's "Mrs. Doubtfire"

veryone's favorite Scottish nanny is headed to Sacramento, and Broadway star Rob McClure is reprising his Tonynominated performance on tour in this internationally acclaimed hit musical.

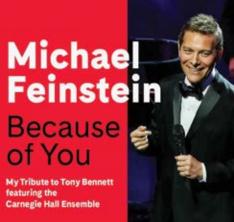


Hailed as "heartwarming" and "laugh-out-loud funny" by critics and based on the beloved blockbuster movie that starred Robin Williams and Sally Field, "Mrs. Doubtfire: The New Musical Comedy" is directed by four-time Tony Award-winner Jerry Zaks and tells the heartfelt story of an out-of-work actor who will do anything for his kids.

"Mrs. Doubtfire" will perform this Oct. 8 – 13, at Sacramento's SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, and single show tickets are now on sale. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to: www.broadwaysacramento.com

Michael Feinstein Pays Tribute to Tony Bennett by Chris Narloch

had the distinct pleasure to see the superb singer and pianist Michael Feinstein at Harris Center for the Arts in Folsom, and his concert was a master class in how to pay tribute to an iconic performer – in this case, the late, great Tony Bennett.



An accomplished performer and recording artist in his own right, Michael Feinstein clearly has great respect and a deep love for his old friend Tony, and that affection lit up the stage at Harris Center for two glorious hours (with one intermission) on a recent Sunday evening.

Michael isn't playing around in his tribute to Tony, and he brought some great musicians along for the ride, namely the Carnegie Hall Ensemble, who are joining Mr. Feinstein on this tour. A great four-man horn section shared the stage with a dynamite drummer, a talented upright bass player, and a terrific planist who occasionally left his bench so that Feinstein could take over on the ivories

Mr. Feinstein has a seemingly endless knowledge of the Great American Songbook, and he is one of its greatest cheerleaders. That respect for the history of jazz, big band, and other popular music allowed him to both entertain and enlighten his audience with information about the songs, songwriters, and composers made famous by Bennett.

An engaging performer who possesses a terrific sense of humor and a natural rapport with an audience, Feinstein's voice is still strong and clear at 68, and it was augmented by excellent video backdrops of NYC, SF, and the famous faces that Michael has worked with and/or admired throughout his career.

The concert's setlist included such Tony Bennett-associated classics as "The Best Is Yet to Come," "Cheek to Cheek," "Steppin' Out With My Baby," "Stranger In Paradise," "The Way You Look Tonight," Billy Joel's "New York State of Mind," and, of course, "I Left My Heart in San Francisco.'

Not surprisingly, "I Left My Heart...." was the emotional climax of Michael's magical, musical tribute. As I closed my eyes to listen, I could see San Francisco's world-famous cable cars climbing "halfway to the stars," and I imagined Tony Bennett smiling down with pride.

For more information about Michael Feinstein and his current tour: www.michaelfeinstein.com and to see what's next at Harris Center, go to: www.harriscenter.net

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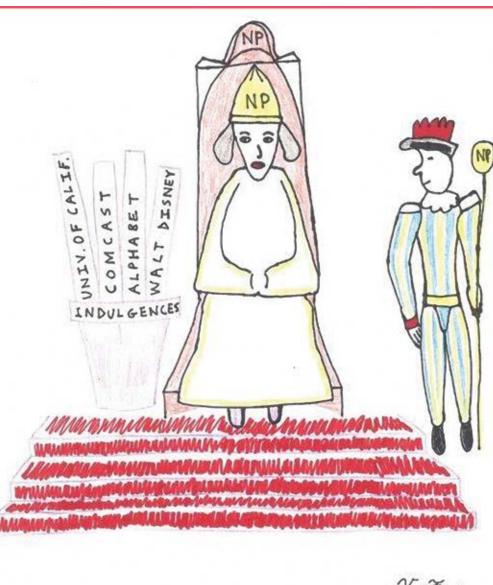
September 26, 2024 - October 10, 2024 • No. 753



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