

outword

No. 676 • July 8, 2021
outwordmagazine.com

MY RETRO RIDE

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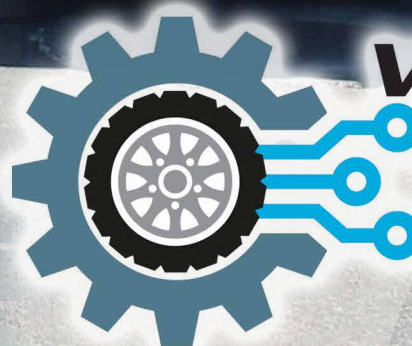
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2021 CBC Bonus Cash:\$750

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4 at this net cost

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STK/VIN# 64012D-721562, 64024D-726155, 64036D-726152, 64037D-726153

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MSRP:\$52,175
Dealer Discount:\$4,250
Sale Price:\$47,925
2021 National Retail Consumer Cash:\$1,250
2021 Returning Lessee:\$500

\$46,175

9 at this net cost

\$6,000 Net Savings!

EXAMPLE: STK/VIN#: 64045D-718025

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Sale Price:\$31,575
2021 Returning Lessee:\$500
Stellantis Retail Loyalty Bonus Cash:\$1,750

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4 at this net cost

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STK/VIN# 61975D-125720, 62264D-125719, 62770D-150106, 62840D-154854

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Dealer Discount:\$450
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Outword Staff

PUBLISHER
Fred Palmer

ART DIRECTOR/PRODUCTION
Kristy Harris
Ron Tackitt

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Kristy Harris
Ron Tackitt

EDITOR
editor@outwordmagazine.com

ARTS EDITOR
Chris Narloch

SALES
Fred Palmer

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Chris Allan
Christopher J. Beale
Matthew Burlingame
Faith Colburn
Kristy Harris
Diana Kienle
Chris Narloch
Lauren Pulido
Ron Tackitt

PHOTOGRAPHY
Charles Peer
Ron Tackitt

ON THE COVER
1959 Chrysler Imperial, Crown Sedan
Owned by Andy Harris

DISTRIBUTION
Kaye Crawford
Michael Crawford

ADVERTISING SALES
Sacramento and Northern California
(916) 329-9280
Fred Palmer

Outword Magazine Inc.

Mailing Address
1026 Florin Road, #344
Sacramento, CA 95831

PHONE: (916) 329-9280

www.outwordmagazine.com
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ISSN # 1084-7618 United States Library of Congress

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Supreme Court Strikes Major Blow to Democracy, Voting Rights

In a 6-3 decision along partisan lines, the Supreme Court upheld Arizona laws placing restrictions on how ballots are cast and collected. The Court's ruling in *Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee* is just the latest blow to voting rights from the Roberts Court, which has now severely weakened the ability of federally protected groups to bring challenges under the Voting Rights Act to state voting laws that have a racially disproportionate impact.

In doing so, the Court's conservatives have further weakened the Voting Rights Act's ability to protect against racial discrimination in elections, with the Court having previously jettisoned Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act in its 2013 ruling in *Shelby County v. Holder*. The Court's decision also comes at a time when state Republican lawmakers have introduced hundreds of bills aimed at suppressing the right to vote for people of color.

Alliance for Justice President Nan Aron issued the following statement:

"Today's ruling represents a tragic day for American democracy and is a damning indictment of the Supreme Court. By further

eroding basic protections under the Voting Rights Act, the Court's conservative majority has taken us much closer to the establishment of a two-tiered system of justice in which access to the franchise can be restricted through racially discriminatory laws. This is a massive step backward for our country, and all but encourages Republican state lawmakers to consider new ways to make it harder for racial minorities to vote. If there was any doubt before, today's ruling demonstrates how critically important it is that we abolish the filibuster and quickly pass national voting reforms before it's too late."

For more information: <https://www.afj.org>

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While we are thrilled to support our communities in these ways, if you talk to any of our employees, you'll find that Suncrest Bank is also a wonderful employer in the area. At Suncrest Bank, we give employees the opportunity to write their own story. Our organization supports individuals who want to develop their career or balance their lives in a variety of ways. Suncrest Bank supports continuing education as a means to advance employee opportunities as well as retraining options for employees wanting to move into a different area of the Bank's operations. In fact, Suncrest has been named as one of the Best Places to Work in the area.

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The Al Hirschfeld Foundation Presents "The Dog Show: Hounds by Hirschfeld"

The Al Hirschfeld Foundation presents its latest online exhibition, "The Dog Show: Hounds by Hirschfeld." Now live at AlHirschfeldFoundation.org/exhibitions through August 15, the exhibition features drawings of dogs by the artists between 1924-2001. Featuring some of the most famous dogs in 20th century media - and some not-so-famous dogs who were well-loved by their humans. Canines take center stage in this exhibition including the artists' reflections of "The Thin Man", "Frasier," "Lassie," "The Wiz", "Annie", "Gypsy," "The Will Rogers Follies" and more.



Dogs appear in drawings in nearly every category of the artists' work; theatre, film, television, music, and literature, as well as politics, private commissions, and Hirschfeld's earliest lithographs. The dogs seen in this show have been sorted by breed, just as they do in the best dog shows. There are breeds from each of the seven American Kennel Club groups represented: Sporting, Working, Terrier, Hound, Toy, Herding, and Non-Sporting.

The exhibition is curated by Katherine Eastman, Archives Manager of The Al Hirschfeld Foundation. "Westminster may be over, but this dog show is ready to

begin," says Eastman. "For this exhibition, we've searched through the Hirschfeld archive for images of dogs of every size and shape. You'll learn some fun facts about different breeds. Maybe you'll even fall in love with a breed and start looking for your next best friend."

Go behind the lines of Hirschfeld's art with "The Hirschfeld Century Podcast," nominated as "Best NYC podcast" by the 2020 Apple Awards. A special episode focusing on "The Dog Show: Hounds by Hirschfeld" will be available starting July 19, 2021 from AlHirschfeldFoundation.org/podcasts, iTunes and other popular podcast sites.



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Cruisin'...On a Friday Evening

Photos & Written By Jennifer Kennedy

On a nice warm evening in the middle of summer, you will find me hanging out in downtown Auburn for the family friendly event known throughout Northern California - Auburn Cruise Nite. The event began in 1984 at the Foster's Freeze (now Burger & Cream) on Hwy 49, as a local hotrodder's "hang" before they got too big and had to move downtown.



This FREE gathering runs the 2nd Friday of the month from May-September every year, and brings around an average of 300 classic cars and even more spectators. Free you say? Yep! One of the only car shows around where if you have a car you want to show you don't have to pay an entrance fee. The only requirement is that your car is 1972 or older. Be sure to support or vendors and sponsors, if it weren't for them, we wouldn't be able to make this such a success for the past 37 seasons.

Growing out of that little parking lot in the 80's we now occupy Lincoln Way from Elm Avenue down to High Street where there are food and drink vendors set up on Lincoln Way as well as the restaurants, bars, and stores open for your dining and shopping pleasures of course.

Live music entertains the crowds and every September there is a 9/11 ceremony with local dignitaries at 7pm at the

Promenade Building. Awards are given every month in three categories: Best Stock, Best Modified, and Best Truck.

For those who like a little more heart pumping in their lives, this September we'll also have a couple of dragsters out firing off their engines throughout the night.

If you're coming up to check out the pretty shiny cars and enjoy an evening out, things really get going around 5pm. And if you have a car you want to show off get there early. The street fills up quickly as car enthusiasts from as far as the Bay Area, Stockton, and beyond come up every summer for a night out on the town in beautiful downtown Auburn.

And we are always looking for more volunteers! So be sure to contact us if you're interested in learning more about volunteering or if you have questions on logistics for any of our events; we'd love to have you! You can reach Bob Kennedy at 530-878-7936.





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Book Review: "Electric City: The Lost History of Ford and Edison's American Utopia" by Thomas Hager

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

"I want that!" Three words you've been saying, out-loud or quietly to yourself, ever since you've been able to talk. Because, of course, you want things, treats, toys, and other accoutrements of humanness.

You want them, and you won't take "no" for an answer – even if, as in the new book "Electric City" by Thomas Hager, there are big hurdles.

If you can imagine a jagged, goofy smile from east to west across the top of Alabama, then you can envision the Tennessee River. It's an area filled with welcome vistas but in the late 1700s, when settlers began showing interest in living along the bottom loop of the Tennessee, they were met by unwelcoming Natives. After Andrew Jackson removed those Natives from the area, called Muscle Shoals after the mussels found in its waters, he allowed development there.

Ninety years later, in 1921, Henry Ford was invited to take a look.

Just decades prior, Thomas Edison had stunned the world with electricity and the possibilities it offered, and developers wanted in on that. Two of them, Frank Washburn and J.W. Worthington, landed government support to build large dams across the Tennessee River – first, as electricity generators and secondly, to make nitrogen fertilizer for American farmers. Crews worked feverishly on the project until the end of World War I, when officials realized that new, better technology had already made its factories obsolete.

Muscle Shoals, as a project, was done.

Towns that sprung up to house factory workers disappeared and the government was stuck with buildings for which they had no use. Meanwhile, in Michigan, Henry Ford began construction on new facilities for Model T manufacturing; officials noticed and Ford was invited to view

the Muscle Shoals compound, for which he shrewdly made a bid.

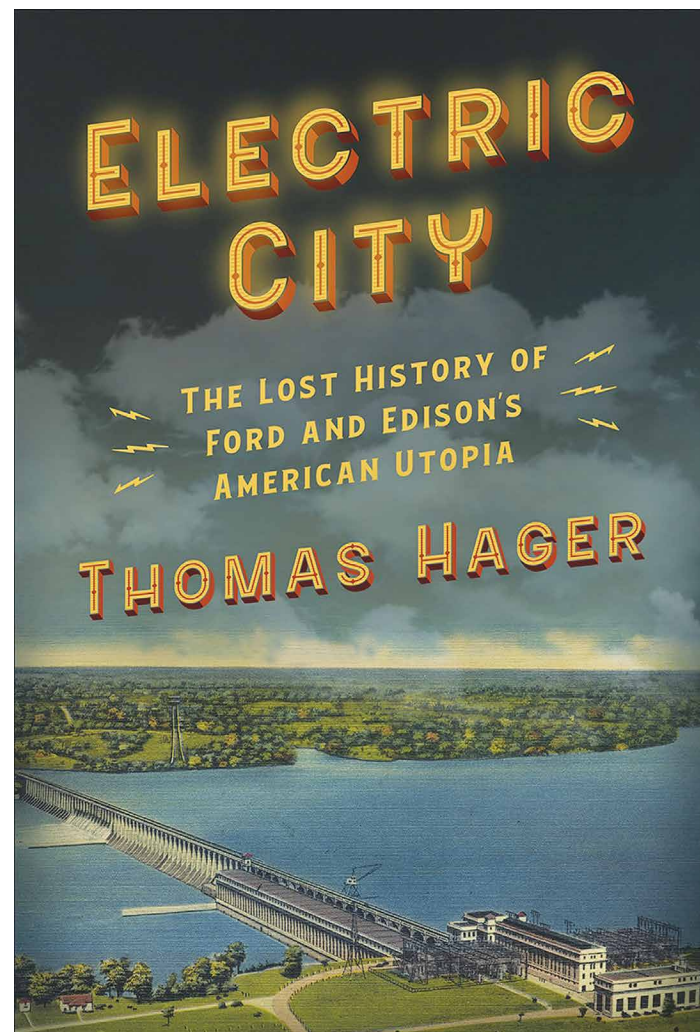
But it was a weak one, complete with half-promises and vague assurances – and Ford dug in his heels, convinced he'd win. Repeatedly given the chance to change his bid, he stood firm. Ford was a take-it-or-leave-it kind of guy.

And certain government officials were inclined toward the latter...

Tell your average toddler "no," and you'd best be prepared to do battle in a dozen ways. They won't go down quietly and neither did Henry Ford. Some may admire him for his perseverance, or for his vision, or read "Electric City," and you might call it folly.

Or hubris, as author Thomas Hager shows in his account of Ford's many attempts to prevail and the political contention that thwarted him and the utopia he foresaw. Hager tells of government officials and the public taking sides – and readers will, too, perhaps paralleling modern opinions on wealth and privilege. Hager writes tantalizingly of an early-twentieth-century President Ford, leaving us to imagine a big what-if, and he brings readers current.

So did Ford deserve to get his way? And was Edison, who seems to be a peripheral character in "Electric City," really as supportive as he appeared at first? Find out by reading this fascinating, widely-sweeping slice of Americana. If you love history, yeah, you want that.



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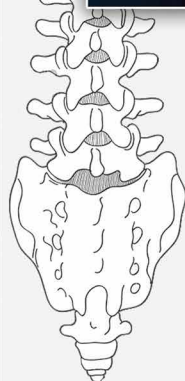
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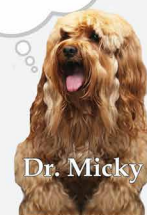
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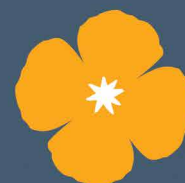
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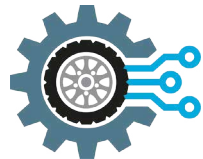
As our lives slowly return to normal, it's understandable to still feel stressed and anxious. While getting vaccinated and wearing a mask can protect our physical health, our emotional wellbeing is still vulnerable. Old worries and questions have simply turned into new ones. Is it safe to return to work? Can my kids go back to school now? Where do we go from here?

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MY RETRO RIDE

By Andy Harris

It was 1959, just two years after the launch of Sputnik 1 and the United States was not only in a space race with Russia, but in a competition to build the most outlandish and luxurious automobiles in the world.

The Chrysler Imperial name has its origins in 1926 when Chrysler wanted to sell a car with all the exclusivity of membership in a private country club. They were largely successful but began to lose momentum in the highly competitive car manufacturing climate of post World War II. By this time, the Imperial was not keeping up with the modern car designs of Ford and Chevrolet, and its cars were considered stodgy when compared to the competition from the two other primary manufacturers. To remain relevant and competitive in a heated market, Imperial broke away from Chrysler in 1955 and hired legendary car designer Virgil Exner to take them into the next decade with his distinctive “Forward Look”. During his tenure from 1955 through 1963, Imperial manufactured and sold some of the most avant-garde vehicles in the world. It was, in essence, a paradigm shift. The cars were relatively expensive and made in several different models, from two door, four door, convertibles, and variations on all three. However, production was limited, as one would expect from an independent car manufacturer, with output being about 6,000 units per year throughout most of the time they were manufactured over the next twenty years.

My grandmother’s 1959 Crown Sedan, one of 1,335 built, was originally sold by Vandenburg Motors on Alhambra Boulevard in Sacramento to a traveling salesman for approximately \$6,000. When my grandmother saw it on a used car lot in 1962, it only had 48,000 miles on it, and she snapped it up for a cool \$1,600. You see, this was the era where car styling was on the cutting edge, and affluent car buyers were typically seeking the newest and trendiest car they could find. Think “status symbol”!

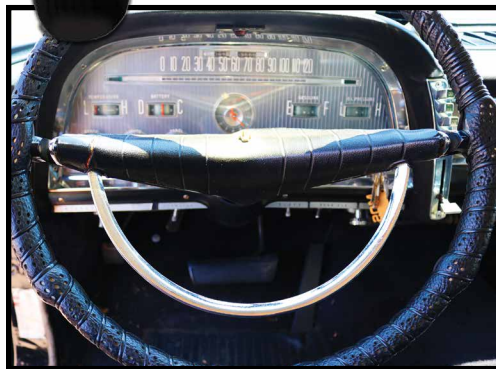
This car, coming off a used car lot, was not considered much of anything but a secondhand car in 1962. And during the late-1970s gas crisis, being over 5,000 lbs in weight with a 413 ci Wedge V8 sporting 10 mpg, it was considered completely outdated. But my grandmother refused to buy another car and managed to keep this one inexpensively cobbled together as her daily driver until she retired it to her garage in 1987, and then bought another nondescript, albeit more reliable and fuel-efficient car for daily use.

As a kid growing up in the 1960s and 70s, the car was already

eliciting lots of comments and suggestions. I think this was a point in time at which I became accustomed to talking to people about the car. Two episodes stand out in my mind. One was back around 1976 when someone offered to trade her straight across for an almost-new Cadillac Seville, a car that would be nearly worthless in 2021. The other incident was when I was in the front passenger seat while she was driving it west on J Street and we stopped at the light at 39th Street. A tow truck driver in the lane next to me motioned for me to roll down the window. Thinking it was an urgent matter, I rolled the window down, and then he looked my grandmother straight in the eyes and said, “Lady, don’t EVER sell that car”. We both smiled and nodded affirmatively!

Probably because I was the only person in the family who didn’t nag her to sell the car, even when she quit driving, she bequeathed the car to me upon her death in 1994. I drove it about 100 miles before the engine completely failed, so I had it towed home, where it sat for 10 years while I waited until I had enough money to have it mechanically restored. Physically, the car needed nothing. Other than the whitewall tires I recently purchased, the car is in the condition I found it in when I inherited it in 1994. On the other hand, the car has now been completely mechanically rebuilt to nearly exact factory specifications and is essentially a new car, even though the odometer currently reads 154,000 miles.

You cannot be an introvert and own a car like this. Everywhere you go, people will strike up conversations with you about the car. Some are experts on the car and remember when they were new in the dealership showrooms and others will be seeing it and asking questions about it for the first time. Still, others will politely ask if they can take photos of it. It’s all very time consuming, but I enjoy every minute of sharing my car and the backstory with strangers. I hope you enjoyed it, too.



Photos By Kristy Harris

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10 Things to Consider When Buying a Car

By Karl Figenshu

Buying a car is a long-term commitment. Therefore, there's no room to make mistakes lest you end up regretting a very expensive choice. Here are 10 things to consider when buying a car:

- 1) Check out your credit report:** Buying a car is a major expense, and for most of us, second only to buying a home. Knowing your credit score and what is on your credit report will ensure that you get the best possible interest rates when buying a car. I suggest checking out <https://www.annualcreditreport.com> to see what is on your credit report to avoid any surprises. The higher your score, the better your interest rate will be, along with a lower down payment.
- 2) Review your loan options:** Visit your bank or credit union website and see what they're offering for car loan rates. Take note that the longer the term, the higher the interest rate will be. If you have identified a brand, such as BMW <https://www.bmwusa.com/special-offers.html>, you can also visit the manufactures website to see current offers available in your market. This will help you to have an idea of what the interest rates are.
- 3) Discover your car's value:** Right now, is a great time sell your car as the used car market is very hot and we have seen values of used cars skyrocket in recent months. In some cases, clients have been able to trade in their car for what they paid for it six to twelve months ago! You can visit the Niello BMW website to start the ball rolling on your car's value <https://bmw.niello.com/kbb/instant-cash-offer.htm>
- 4) Determine your desired payment:** Have a budget determined when you start the car shopping process. Know what you can afford. Are you looking for a car payment similar to what you're paying now? If your car is paid off, maybe try setting aside some money each month (maybe \$500), in your savings account to see how that impacts your overall budget and if you can afford the car payment and still maintain a standard of living that you're happy with. Use payment calculators such as the one on BMW's website <https://www.bmwusa.com/financial-services/car-payment-estimator.html> to get an idea of how much your car payment might be.
- 5) To buy or lease:** Best way to understand the difference, buying is owning versus leasing is renting your new car. Ask yourself how long to like to own your car for? How many miles do you typically drive in a year? Do you keep the car in good shape, staying up with service? If you like to get a new car every 2-3 years, and you're not a high mileage driver, leasing might be a good way to go for you. If car is something you hold onto for many years, or you're a high mileage driver, then owning the car might be your best route.
- 6) New versus used:** New cars are very sexy! But you can often find the same car you're interested in on the pre-owned lot and save considerable money by selecting a gently pre-owned car. I love new cars, and the new car smell, but my wallet loves to buy pre-owned cars. Check out the certification process that car goes through. BMW has very tough criteria for their certification process, plus you get a longer warranty, which gives you peace of mind that the car you're buying is in great condition!
- 7) Analyze what your needs are: Is this car your daily commuter?** Maybe consider an all-electric car like the new BMW iX or i4, or even the plug-in hybrid models that BMW offers, such as the 330e, 530e, X3e and X5e. Is the car going your weekend car? Maybe something fun like a convertible? Or do you need the versatility of an SUV with all-wheel drive and three rows of seating?
- 8) Research dealership reputations:** I'm proud to say that I work for the Niellos! They're celebrating their 100th anniversary this year, something that is very hard to find in the automotive industry and they have survived by knowing that you, our customer, and your satisfaction is what keeps us in business! .
- 9) Dig into the car's history:** If you decide to buy a pre-owned car, know the kind of life it has lived. Check out the Carfax, something that we provide for free on all our pre-owned cars. Are the service records available for the car? Does the car come with all its original equipment? Another advantage to buying a Certified Pre-Owned BMW, is that you know it will come with both keys and all your floor mats.
- 10) Enjoy the process:** Buying a car should be fun and should not be stressful! Ever shopped at Nordstrom? What is it like walking into their store and working with their associates? You'll be in for the same type of experience when you visit any of the Niello dealerships in the Sacramento area.

My name is Karl Figenshu, and I have the pleasure of serving you at Niello BMW on Fulton Avenue. I have been a BMW enthusiast for over 20 years, and some would say that I eat, sleep, breath BMWs! I'm passionate about client service and proud to work for two brands that I admire and respect, BMW and Niello. If you're interested in a valuation of your current car, or shopping for a new car, please let me know and come experience the Niello difference and see just how much fun work with me is! Call me at 916-971-2113 or email me at kfigenshu@niello.com

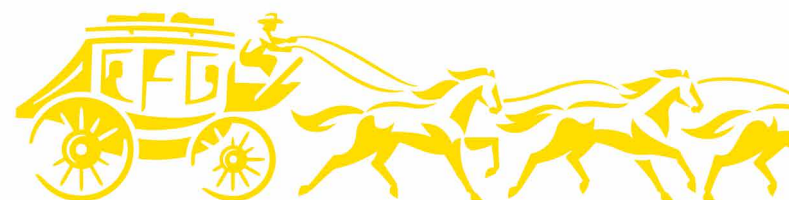
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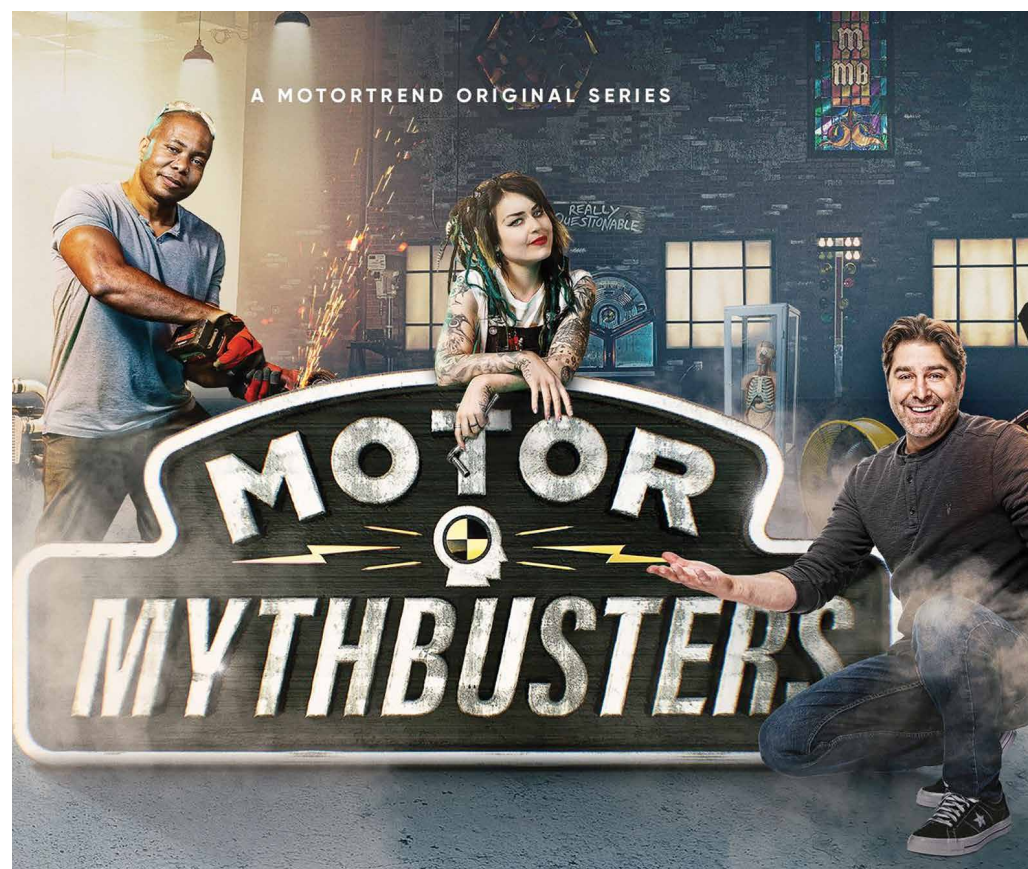
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Gear Up for the All-New, Curiosity-Driven Spinoff Series, Motor Mythbusters, Premiering August 4 on the Motortrend App

Do Hollywood's larger than life car chase scenes hold up in real life? Can electric vehicles be driven underwater then back onto land? Is The Flintstones car really driveable? What color car do birds poop on the most? To answer the burning questions under the hood of every car lover's mind, science is meeting the road in the new MotorTrend original series MOTOR MYTHBUSTERS premiering Wednesday, August 4 on the MotorTrend App.



Hosted by MYTHBUSTERS alumnus Tory Belleci, mechanic Faye Hadley from MotorTrend's All Girls Garage series, and engineer and professional race car driver Bisi Ezerioha, MOTOR MYTHBUSTERS searches for truth behind popular automotive myths through a mixture of scientific method, lively curiosity and plain old-fashioned ingenuity. Tory, Faye and Bisi create their own signature style of experimentation and the most in-depth process to myth busting yet. Automotive fans, science lovers and viewers everywhere are sure to enjoy this exciting, entertaining extension of the iconic MYTHBUSTERS franchise.

From Ferris Bueller dialing back the odometer and the aerodynamics of chopping off your car's top to increase its top speed to the effect UFOs have on vehicles in almost every alien movie, each episode of MOTOR MYTHBUSTERS tackles myths generated from the world of entertainment, viral videos, Reddit threads, urban legends or viewer submissions. In a future episode Tory, Faye and Bisi attempt to confirm or debunk a DIY modification involving a bottle of

nitrous, a soda can tab and some wire from the Fast and Furious 8. Can it really blast the car across the finish line or is it phony movie physics? MOTOR MYTHBUSTERS starts streaming Wednesday, August 4 on the MotorTrend App.

The MotorTrend App, the leading subscription streaming service dedicated entirely to the motoring world, offers more than 8,700 episodes of world-leading automotive series and specials including the all-new TOP GEAR AMERICA, the most complete collection of classic "TOP GEAR" (200+ episodes and specials spanning seasons one through 27), the hit docuseries NASCAR 2020: UNDER PRESSURE and the upcoming series KEVIN HART'S MUSCLE CAR CREW, plus every season of SPEED RACER, WHEELER DEALERS, ROADKILL, BITCHIN' RIDES, IRON RESURRECTION, TEXAS METAL and many more.

The MotorTrend App is available on Prime Video Channels in the U.S., Amazon FireTV, Apple TV, Roku, Google Chromecast and on the web. The MotorTrend App is also available across iPhone, iPad and Android mobile devices.

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“F9” vs. “The Tomorrow War”

By Chris Narloch

Although it's not my favorite genre of film, I do enjoy an action flick every now and again, if the movie is well-directed and not just a bunch of stunts in search of a story. I couldn't bring myself to sit through “The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard” -- I just couldn't do it -- but here are reviews of two other new actions films I saw recently.



F9

Dame Helen Mirren is fast and furious? Who knew? The classically trained stage and screen actor returns in the ninth iteration of the popular “Fast and Furious” franchise, as a ‘hell on heels’ speed demon who takes Vin Diesel for a spin around London in a very fast car.

Mirren appeared in a couple previous “F & F” projects, but in “F9” she finally gets to drive a car, and the incongruity of that is one of the highlights of the new movie, which is a huge hit already -- at the box office but not with most critics.

I hate to say it, but I agree with the mixed reviews, which have criticized the film for being too long -- at almost two-and-a-half-hours -- and absurd in the extreme.

When “F9” launched Tyrese Gibson and Ludacris into space via a rocket-fueled Pontiac Fiero, I didn't know whether to laugh or cry, but I would say that the filmmakers have run out of good ideas.

The movie peaks early with a fabulous, intricate sequence that sends the cast careening through a jungle in every sort of crazy vehicle imaginable. That great action set piece alone makes a flawed “F9” worth the price of admission.



The Tomorrow War

I am sure that everyone involved worked very hard on this new sci-fi action movie, but I can't recommend it unless you are very, very bored and can't find anything else to watch, or you are a huge fan of Chris Pratt.

Pratt -- in muscled, hunky mode as opposed to his usual goofy mode -- stars as a time-traveling family man whose mission is to save Earth from annihilation by alien monsters.

Although there are elements of horror here, “The Tomorrow War” isn't scary or even very suspenseful, and I found the time-bending plot tedious. To make matters worse, in between the over-produced, CGI set pieces, the script attempts to jerk viewer's tears with a sappy storyline involving the wife and kids of Pratt's character.

What happened to lean, mean action films clocking in at under two hours? As with “F9,” I was ready to call it quits long before “The Tomorrow War” finally gave up the ghost. If you can make it through all two-hours-and-twenty-minutes of this movie, you deserve a medal.

“The Tomorrow War” is now available if you have Amazon Prime Video, and you'll know why the film bypassed theaters for streaming.

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Congratulations to these Small Businesses

Congratulations to all of the participants in the Kickstart Grant Program! Suncrest Bank is proud to have partnered with Sacramento Republic FC and the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce to assist with our mission of supporting Sacramento's economic recovery with over \$10,000 in grants for local, LGBTQ- owned small businesses.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Little Sparrow Childcare - \$5,000

Lavender Library - \$2,500

Plant Daddy Co. - \$1,000

Sugar Sweetery - \$1,000

Strapping - \$1,000

Even though the program is over, we encourage you to keep supporting local businesses such as those listed here. Only by continuing to support small, local business will we contribute to a strong and equitable recovery! Here, we recognize all the nominees from the program:

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Xavier Massage

Boone's Red Onions

Jeremiah Bakes

Steadfast Craft

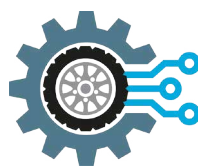
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Urban Yogi

Parties Galore

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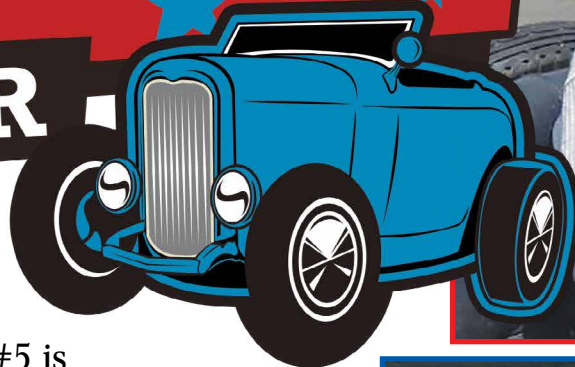
Épicée



WHAT BRINGS ME JOY:

THE #5
ROADSTER

By Anne Fenker



Number 5 is a looker. You can't miss her when she motors down the street. The #5 is a 1928 Ford Model A Roadster convertible. Although she was one of 5 million built, #5 is unique in her own way and lots of fun to drive. When I do, I am met with smiles, waves and thumbs up. In return, I hit the Spartan horn with a friendly greeting of a croaky Aaooghaa!

Can a car bring joy and connection to others? Absolutely! Since becoming the custodian of #5, I have enjoyed taking a 100-year-old to her birthday celebration, provide rides and driving experiences to friends, taken neighbor kids to Gunther's for a treat, run local errands, participated in spotlighting local candidates, and featured in parades.

When I take the #5 out, she makes me instantly happier. That joy comes from the pleasure of meeting people and giving them a boost, having the wind in my hair, and the challenge of shifting gears smoothly.

The #5 was part of Henry Ford's innovative assembly line concept and the car revolution that followed. Ford began the assembly line concept by using moving platforms of a conveyor system. In this system, the chassis of the vehicle was towed by a rope that moved it from station to station in order to allow workers to assemble each part. Using this new system, the Model T (older than the A) could be produced every ninety minutes. The Model T was retired in 1927 and the Model A introduced, and then the #5 was built. The first Model T cost \$850 but with efficiencies from the assembly line system, the Model A could be produced and sold for about \$500, quite a price even for that time period.

It's likely the #5 rolled off the assembly line around October 1928 as a Ford Model A Roadster. Roadsters were sporty, attractive, well-built, and smooth-running compared to the Model T. Still, from our modern-day perspective, she is remarkably simple, quaint and slow. #5 has a 10-gallon gas tank in the cowl. The fuel system is gravity fed and the gears have to spin at the same speed and synchronize in order to catch. The trick is to double clutch. She only goes 35-45 mph. She has mechanical breaks, so stopping is very different than modern ABS brakes. Her

engine, transmission, chassis, gas, electrical and braking systems are original. Most components were refurbished and or rebuilt in 2018.

Prior to living in Sacramento, the #5 lived in Mariposa. She was carefully stored and maintained by an expert in antique and vintage car restoration. I test drove her on a whim and fell in love with her instantly. The previous owner agreed that she would be much better suited for flat city driving rather than the rolling hills of the foothills, so I bought her. She was trailered to Sacramento and now lives in the Med Center neighborhood and is driven almost every day. She leaks a bit of oil, but most 1928 Model As do. It's been documented that Ford had oil plates under showroom cars so the leaking oil wouldn't mark the checkered floor. She's had a few issues, but with a couple of manuals, a Model A community and Ford store, she's running like a champ. I love being able to troubleshoot and fix my own car – something I can't easily do with my other vehicle. There is something about fixing your own car that brings immense pleasure.

I hope I can enjoy a similar life to the #5 and age as gracefully, with simplicity, lots of friends, a few minor breakdowns/repairs and many roads and adventures to come. Aaooghaa!



Low Tech Protection for Your Car's Seats - And Year-round Comfort

Words and Photo by Ron Tackitt

My dad was in the service, so we spent a lot of time when I was a kid in various European countries. This explains some of the weird things I enjoy, like a ketchup/mayo mix for my French fries, and it also helps explain why I am so stuck on sheepskin seat covers.

When it's cold and rainy out, it is never very inviting to get in a car that has cold, hard leather, or "pleather" seats. Especially back in the day when seat warmers were pure luxury and very few cars had them. So in those climates, sheepskin seat covers were quite popular.

And, let me just start by saying, "Yes, it is true what they say about them. They are cool in the summer and nice and cozy in the winter." When we think of wearing a wool sweater, most people think of something itchy and way too warm. But with sheepskin covers you actually sit on the pelt, not wrap yourself in the pelt. Therefore air can still flow between you and the seat. For me, that means less sweating.

I recently purchased a car with "Leatherette" covered seats, which to me just means vinyl, but the manufactures have gotten the texture down and they actually feel like real leather. And, both real leather and leatherette make me sweat after an extended time in the driver's seat. Yuck.

So, regardless of having paid extra for the leatherette seats, over the cloth ones in the base model, I still wanted to cover them with,

you guessed it, sheepskin seat covers. For me, this does two things, it keeps me more comfortable, but it also protects the seats from day to day activities and the dogs - which are in the car daily. Anyone that knows me, knows that when I get ready to sell my car to get something new, the old one, including the interior, looks like new. I like that.

I should definitely note that good sheepskins are not cheap. I could only afford to buy one new one, so far, and it was just over \$200. However, if you look at the picture accompanying this article you will see that the passenger seat has a cover on it as well. Look closely at the loft and texture of the driver's cover versus the passenger's cover. The passenger's cover was a one size fits all Costco cover, and while it has served me well, there is no denying that the semi-custom new, driver's cover has a much finer pelt and is noticeably better made.

Having said all that, I have to admit that the new cover did not come 100% ready to go. The headrest hole they were supposed to cut for me wasn't, and there was a strap that was not sewn to the front of the cover. So, it



needed to be sent back to the manufacture and they did make it right. Also, remember that almost all cars these days have air bags. Some come out from the sides of the car's seats. Please be sure to take this into account when you put a seat cover on the seats. It will need to have a "breakaway" spot for the air bag!

For now I will have to deal with the two

different seat covers in my new car. Mostly because I can't afford the second one just yet, and also I don't want the dog's claws to scratch the leatherette. It's a small price to pay, huh?

If you would like to get some covers for your car seats, whether it's new or old, go to Sheepskin USA's web site and take a look at their selection.

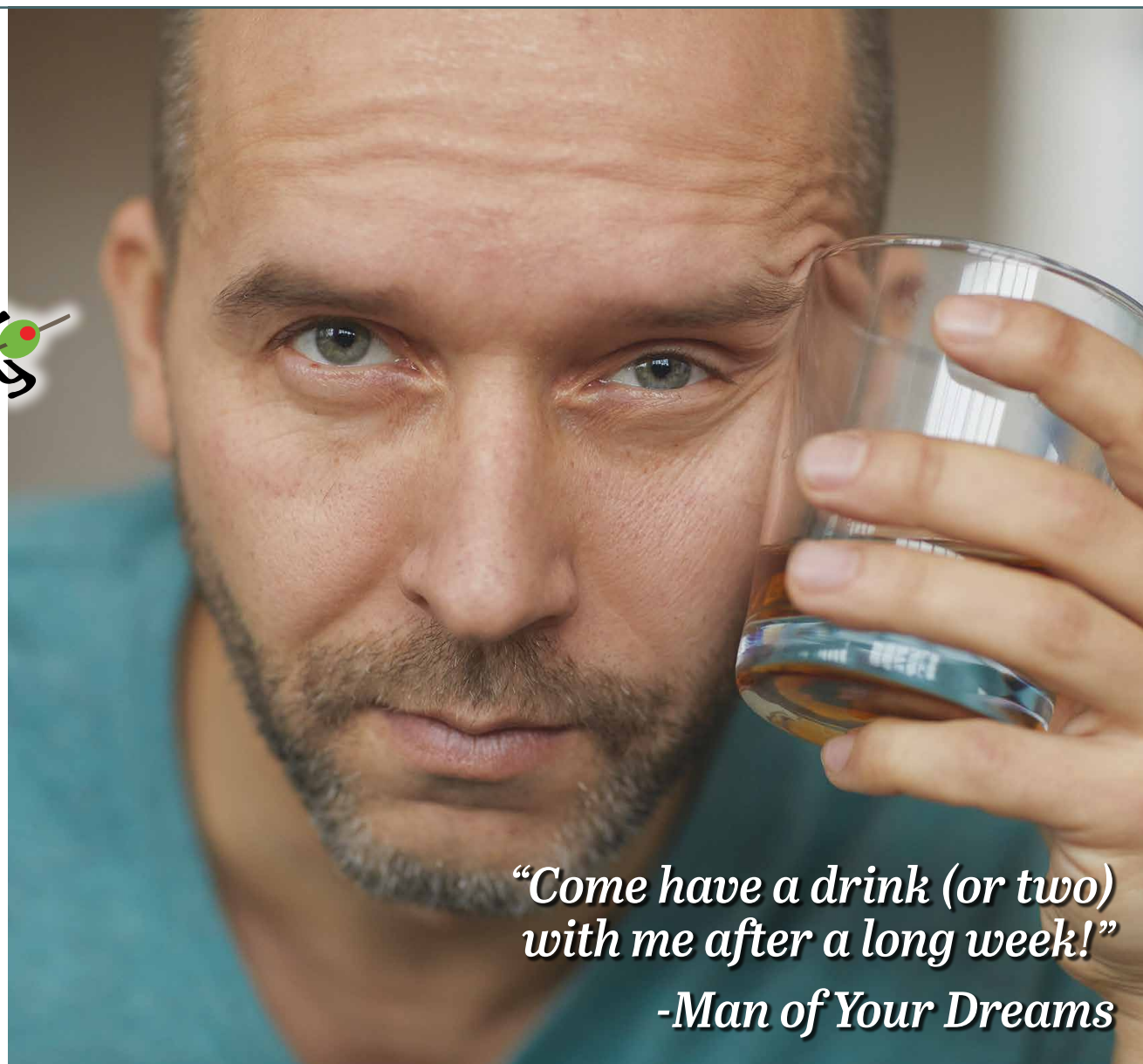
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-Man of Your Dreams

VW's ID.4 Takes Aim at Tesla and Ford

By Graham Enos

Once upon a time, affordable electric compact SUVs were very hard to come by. There were plenty of cheap electric hatchbacks and a whole mess of luxury sedans and SUVs, but you'd have to cough up \$50,000 or more if you wanted one. Then came the Tesla Model Y followed by the Ford Mustang Mach-E, and now our cup runneth over with reasonably priced battery-powered crossovers.



a 10" screen while the Pro and First Editions get a 12". All trims also come equipped with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto as well as wireless phone charging in the center console. The onboard navigation can even point its driver to a network of free charging stations provided through VW's partnership with subsidiary Electrify America. While driving to one of the 500-plus charging stations on the network the driver can take advantage of VW's IQ Drive semi-autonomous suite of driver assistance and safety technology.

The ID.4 has only been around for a short time, but one part of the VW family that's been around for as long as many folks can remember is Lasher's Elk Grove VW. Located in the Elk Grove Automall off highway-99, Elk Grove VW has been part of the community for over 60 years and their name—no hyperbole here!—really does mean a great deal. If you're interested in finding out more about the ID.4 or any of VW's other great vehicles there is no better place to visit.

Enter Volkswagen's first foray into the global EV market with the new 2021 ID.4. This isn't the first EV that VW has produced—if you live in California you may have seen the VW e-Golf tooling around, but it was only released in the golden state (and only from 2013-2020). The ID.4 on the other hand is VW's first global EV, which as far as corpo-rate hype goes makes this crossover "one of the most significant VW product launches since the Beetle." Hyperbole! It's fun!

Marketing speak aside, the ID.4 really is something of a sea change from the German automaker. It's the first product to market designed to help VW hit their—make a note here: self-imposed and self-stated—goal of being carbon neutral worldwide by 2050. Whether the goalposts get moved is a matter for another day and another column but looking at the ID.4 it's safe to say VW is off to a strong start.

A crossover, the ID.4 has a starting MSRP of \$39,995 for the Pro trim, before any state or federal rebates and incentives are calculated. The Pro is the middle trim of three, with the Base model as the entry level and the First Edition at the top of the range. Currently only the Pro and First Edition trims are available, with the Base expected to reach dealer inventories late 2021 and with a starting MSRP around \$32,995 before any applicable state or federal incentives or rebates.

All three trims come equipped with a 77 kWh battery mated to a single-motor RWD

system. An AWD powertrain is slated to debut later this year. All models of the ID.4 have a factory-stated 250 miles of EV range and can be charged using standard 110v or 240v charging solutions as well as the newer generation DC fast charging systems. The ID.4 has an EPA-estimated 104 MPGe on the highway/89 MPGe city.

The ID.4 is comparable in size to the VW Tiguan, but with more interior room for passengers and cargo. This additional space owes to the all-electric drivetrain that allows for the wheelbase to be lengthened while reducing the overhangs between the wheels and bumpers. Add to that the fact there's no internal combustion engine and that adds up to a cabin with seating for 5 and top-of-class interior cargo space of 62.4 cubic feet.

VW departed from competitors like Ford and Tesla in designing the ID.4 first and foremost as a capable family hauler, not necessarily as an agile, sporty vision of the future. Not to say that it isn't styled like something from Will Smith's "I, Robot" because folks, it is. But don't expect it to turn the road "plaid" like one might expect a Tesla to do. Instead, VW made a comfortable, quiet, minimalist interior that is comfortable to take on a road trip, do the daily commute, or just run errands around town. The marketing department calls it "uncluttered and playful," which, hyperbole aside, the ID.4 very much is.

Playful doesn't mean it isn't capable. All trims come standard with touchscreen info-tainment and navigation. The Base gets



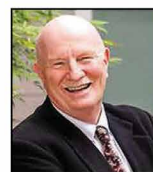
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A Quartet Of Queer Movie Reviews

By Chris Narloch

Pride Month brought a flurry of queer content to viewers, and I am still trying to sort it all out and see everything. Read on for my reviews of four fascinating films aimed at LGBTQ+ audiences, including two titles coming to Sacramento's Tower Theatre this month and a pair of movies now available for home viewing.

I Carry You With Me

This superb new movie set and shot in Mexico and the U.S. is a co-production between the two countries, and I consider it a new queer classic about two gay Mexican men who meet in their country and then travel to the United States, where their love faces further challenges. Armando Espitia and Christian Vasquez, the two actors who play the younger versions of the couple, are especially good, and the film is about the stress that can result from being gay and an immigrant, and the pain of missing your former country while trying to make it in a new one. Director Heidi Ewing gives the movie a dreamlike yet realistic look that is hypnotic, and the film's subject matter is incredibly relevant and timely, given the number of people trying to cross the Mexican border into the U.S. these days. Incredibly moving and never preachy, "I Carry You With Me" opens at the Tower Theatre this July 9th. For more information, go to www.angelikafilmcenter.com/tower



John Benjamin Hickey and Niv Nissim star in "Sublet"

talented queer writer/director Francois Ozon is not as strong as his direction. The adult characters, including the boys' parents, are underwritten, and a scene in a morgue goes horribly wrong -- for the hero and for the audience. Still, the two leads are very pretty to

look at -- as is the Normandy seaside setting -- and diehard fans of Ozon will want to see his latest tale of "amour fou." "Summer of '85" opens at the Tower on July 16th. Visit www.angelikafilmcenter.com/tower

Sublet

I found this charming little film on the Tower's streaming website, and it's a sweetly entertaining portrait of two gay men who form a bond despite being from different countries and different age groups. Handsome Niv Nissim plays Tomer, an Israeli film student who wants to make artsy horror movies and sublets his apartment to Michael, a visiting New York Times writer (played by an excellent John Benjamin Hickey). As twenty-something Tomer shows middle-aged Michael around Tel Aviv, the two men at first skirt their attraction to each other. I thoroughly enjoyed "Sublet," which is part sexy slice of life drama and part realistic rom-com. You can rent it at www.angelikaanywhere.com

Pariah

This great lesbian drama put writer/director Dee Rees on the map in 2011, and now, ten years later, "Pariah" is receiving the ultimate stamp of approval from the folks at the Criterion Collection, who recently rereleased this cornerstone of new queer cinema. Rees joins an elite group within the film industry, and the remastered Criterion DVD release is acknowledgment that her \$500,000 indie movie about a Black teenage lesbian belongs alongside films by Martin Scorsese, Alfred Hitchcock, and Akira Kurosawa. If you haven't already seen "Pariah," you need to rectify that situation, and then you'll understand why Rees is the first African-American woman and the first queer woman of color to receive a Criterion release. Visit www.criterion.com/films/31582-pariah

Adepero Oduye stars in "Pariah"

Summer of '85

Nobody does obsessive love stories quite like the French, and this story of a summer affair between two young men that ends in tragedy is a real doozy. Two attractive actors (Benjamin Voisin and Felix Lefebvre) bring conviction to their roles, but the script by the

The lead actors in "Summer of '85"



Build Your Bar Cart Sans Alcohol with Cannabis Cocktails

We love a good cocktail as much as the next person, but there are times when one should step away from alcohol. During the COVID lockdown, alcohol consumption went up across the board, with the LGBTQA+ community being hit especially hard. But with summer here, and the good times about to roll in, we all just want some positive vibes, so why not give your drink cart an upgrade with cannabis? A good buzz can still be obtained with the right tools and attitude. All you need now is your friends in tow and the following items.

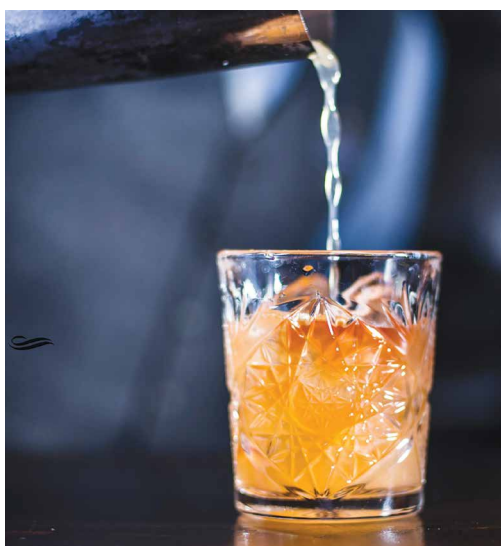
But with summer here, and the good times about to roll in, we all just want some positive vibes, so why not give your drink cart an upgrade with cannabis? A good buzz can still be obtained with the right tools and attitude. All you need now is your friends in tow and the following items.

Good Stuff Beverages, Drinkable Cannabis: Dispensary List (\$22 per bottle)

Mocktails have finally been leveled up thanks to Good Stuff Beverages. These cannabis beverages come in three flavors: Chill! (Natural Health Lemonade), Let's Go! (Raspberry Iced Tea), and Relax! (Strawberry Hibiscus Lemonade). Each bottle is made with all natural ingredients, has real pureed fruit, and 100 mg of THC to ensure that the good times take center stage without the guest stars of hangovers, liver damage, or an unwanted beer gut. Recipes are below to make these mocktails sing!

Elyx Deluxe Martini Kit: Williams and Sonoma (\$299)

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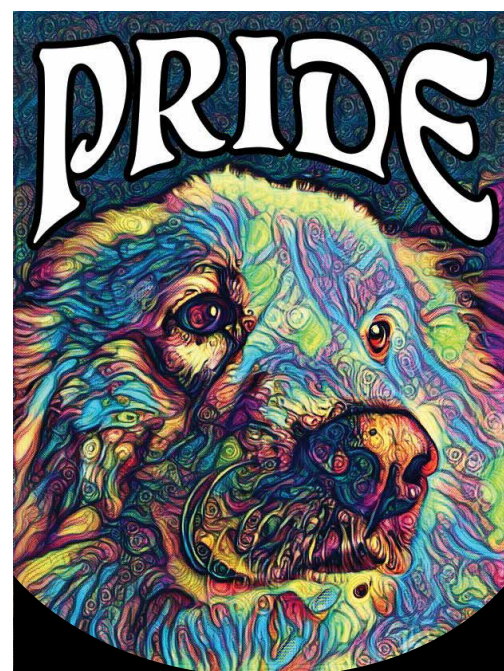
actual martini in hand when you serve up a top notch cocktail from this kit that includes: two stunning copper coupes, a 2 piece Boston Shaker, jigger, bar spoon, ornate glass beaker, and the most chic of gift boxes. With this kit, milkshakes will no longer bring boys to the yard, it's the mocktail's turn.

Window Garden Self Watering Herb Starter Kit: Etsy (\$32)

It's physically impossible to make the best mocktails, food or anything of note without having the best ingredients. This starter kit will have you growing your own herbs and serving up a bevvy of delight in no time. The rosemary simple syrup? You didn't just make it, you grew it. So go ahead and slay the social events of summer.

Oscarine Lucite Bar Cart: Anthropologie (\$698)

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How To MAKE

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USE A STRAINER TO POUR OVER ICE AND GARNISH (EXTRA COOL POINTS = DOUBLE STRAIN)

USE A 6 - 8 OZ GLASS WITH ICE, THIS DRINK IS MEANT TO SIP AND BE ENJOYED

ROSEMARY SPRIG OR LEMON SLICE TO GARNISH

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Head OUT on the Highway: Expert Tips for the Perfect Solo Road Trip

By Mikey Rox

Sixteen months ago, I sold almost everything I owned, hopped in a van outfitted for living, and hit the road. I had done a few short solo road trips in the past, but this was different. This was permanent. I didn't have a place to call home anymore. Out there was where I lived now. Nearly a year and a half later, I've learned a lot about nomad life and solo road tripping specifically, especially under the limiting parameters of a pandemic. Since sharing is caring, here are my expert tips on how to plan the best road trip in the year 2021 AC (After Covid).

Prepare your vehicle

Before embarking on any road trip that will take you more than a few hours from home, make sure your vehicle is prepared. Change your oil, top off your fluids, check your wipers, and rotate or upgrade your tires; the last thing you want on this mobile vacation is frustrating and expensive car trouble. If you're not a card-carrying AAA member, consider becoming one. (Road trips notwithstanding, it's great coverage to have in an emergency.) Because I'm on the road full time now, often in remote areas, I have the premier membership plan that provides me with full benefits, including up to 200 miles of towing, an important perk if the nearest service center is a long distance



away. There are lower, less costly levels of coverage that you can purchase to fit your individual needs.

Make sure you know where all your vehicle's tools – including spare tire and its change kit – are located too. I was once driving on New York's back roads late at night with no cell service when I blew a tire



that required me to change it. I spent an hour frightened in the middle of nowhere frantically searching my Volkswagen for the tire-changing tools before locating it in a hidden compartment that I failed to familiarize myself with before I desperately needed it. It's also critical that you learn how to change a flat yourself if you don't already know how. Don't be embarrassed to ask a friend or family member to show you. If you want to DIY it, YouTube has plenty of videos, some specific to your vehicle's make and model. Or, if you prefer a little eye candy with your manual labor tutorials, let one of the hot bois of TikTok educate you.

Flares are also important to have on hand for two reasons: So other vehicles can see your vehicle in the dark and avoid crashing into it by accident and to alert emergency services that you may need assistance. A police officer will stop to help if they see flares marking your vehicle's location. You'll welcome that help if you're stranded at night with no way to contact anyone else.

Rest Up and Start Early

I hate being rushed and I hate driving long distances, but I often can't help the latter if I have to be from A to B in a short period of time. To allow myself ample breaks on the road, I leave as early as I can with sufficient rest from the night before. I don't drive more than two hours straight without taking a reprieve, and I try to find interesting stop-offs along my route that will allow me to stretch my legs and take my mind off driving for a bit.

Your start time plays an important role in how efficiently you'll get to where you're going. If I'm departing from a metro area, I always leave after morning rush hour to avoid beginning-of-day traffic that will automatically stress me out. Your road trip should be fun; don't put yourself in a position to get flustered as soon as you leave your driveway.

Have a Destination in Mind

Some road trippers love the element of surprise on their adventures by ending up where they end up. Not me. I like to have a plan with a destination in mind. Specifically, it's wise to know where you'll end up so you know where you're staying the night. You don't want to travel all day just to pull into a city or town that has no vacancy at its lodging choices. You'll be forced to get back on the road and drive further, and probably out of your way in the dark, to find a safe place to sleep. That's not ideal on any trip, and certainly not while traveling queer and solo.

Add Fun Stops Along The Way

To break up the monotony of driving (it'll

get tiresome if you're traveling mundane highways with equally unremarkable scenery), I choose a few attractions to stop at along my route.

I love taking an hour or two to explore a small town's shops and cafes, peruse an antique mall (great for picking up meaningful mementos of your travels), or visit historic sites, national monuments and parks. I have an annual

National Parks pass, available for \$80 at USParkPass.com, which grants access to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites that fall under the jurisdictions of the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation. Some of these sites require entry fees of \$30 or more, which allows the annual pass to pay for itself in a few visits.

When setting your GPS, type in national monuments to see what's available along the way. I recently traveled to Birmingham and Montgomery, Ala., and discovered the Freedom Riders National Monument, one of the National Park Service's newest installations. I would have driven right past it if I hadn't done the advance research. Plus, I got a little civil-rights history lesson during my stop – something we can all use in this day and age.



Make It a Little Gay

With gay bars dwindling in number across the country it can be difficult to find one in less populated areas, and it's not the best decision to get tipsy in an unfamiliar area when you have to hit the road the next day. In lieu of those options, I look for bathhouses, clothing-optional hot springs (I love a good naked time), and LGBTQ campgrounds for an opportunity to unwind with likeminded folx. You'll be surprised at how many of these exist when you start searching for them. I can almost guarantee you'll find at least one of these destinations within four hours of your home.

These places are often much less expensive than mainstream destinations as well. For instance, I stayed in my van at the Oz Campground in Unadilla, Ga., for three nights this spring for around \$170 total, and I popped into the El Dorado Hot Springs outside of Phoenix, Ariz., during my travels late last year for \$30 a night. Day passes are even more affordable if you don't plan to overnight. Pop in for a little R&R and be on your merry gay way.

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. Connect with Mikey on Instagram @mikeyroxtravels

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PRIDE Month State Capitol Lighting Ceremony

To celebrate PRIDE month, the California State Capitol was illuminated in rainbow colors on Monday, June 21.

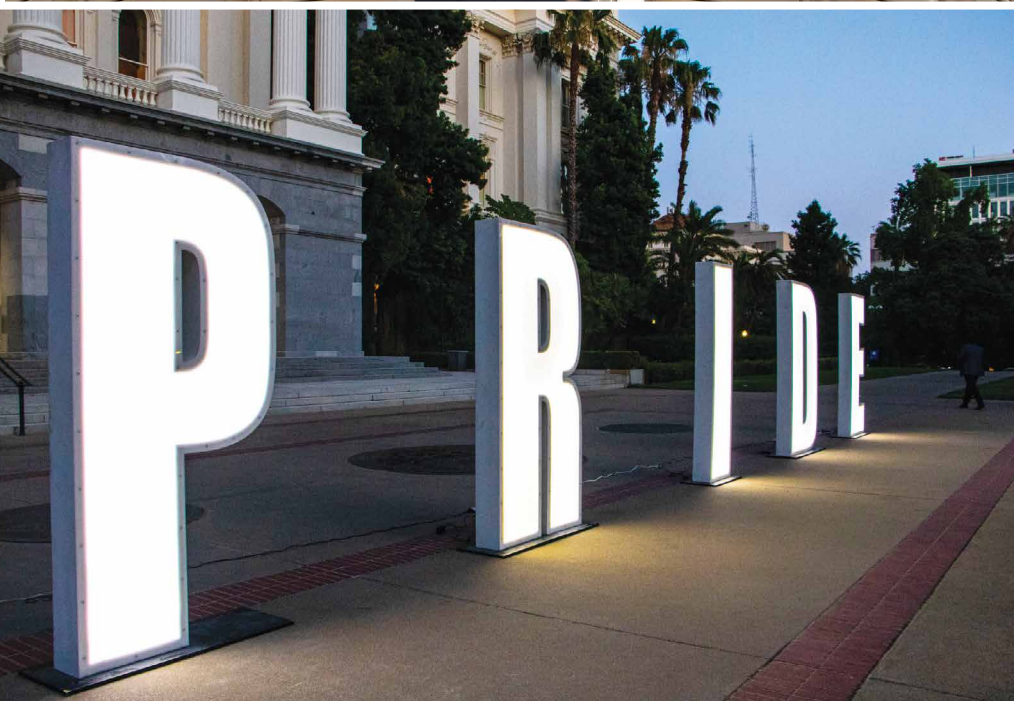
Hundreds of people attended the Pride Month ceremony at the Capitol, as the California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus and partner organizations held a press event to illuminate the Capitol Dome in rainbow colors to kick off a weeklong recognition of Pride.

The building will remain illuminated for the entire week, marking just the second time in California's history that Pride colors have donned the dome. The first lighting occurred after the U.S. Supreme Court legalized marriage equality in 2015.

The dome lighting is part of a citywide initiative to put light installations at additional Sacramento landmarks, including City Hall, Sutter's Fort, and the Museum of Science and Curiosity. The lighting initiative is the brainchild of the Sacramento LGBT Community Center and the first of its kind for the region.

HUGE thank you to Capitol LGBTQ Association, Equality California and elected officials Evan Low, Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman, Toni G. Atkins, Senator John Laird, Assemblymember Chris Ward, and Assemblymember Alex Lee for your steadfast support! Thank you Co-Emcee Patrick Harbison, PH Public Relations.

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IGLTA's 2021 LGBTQ+ Post COVID-19 Travel Survey Results

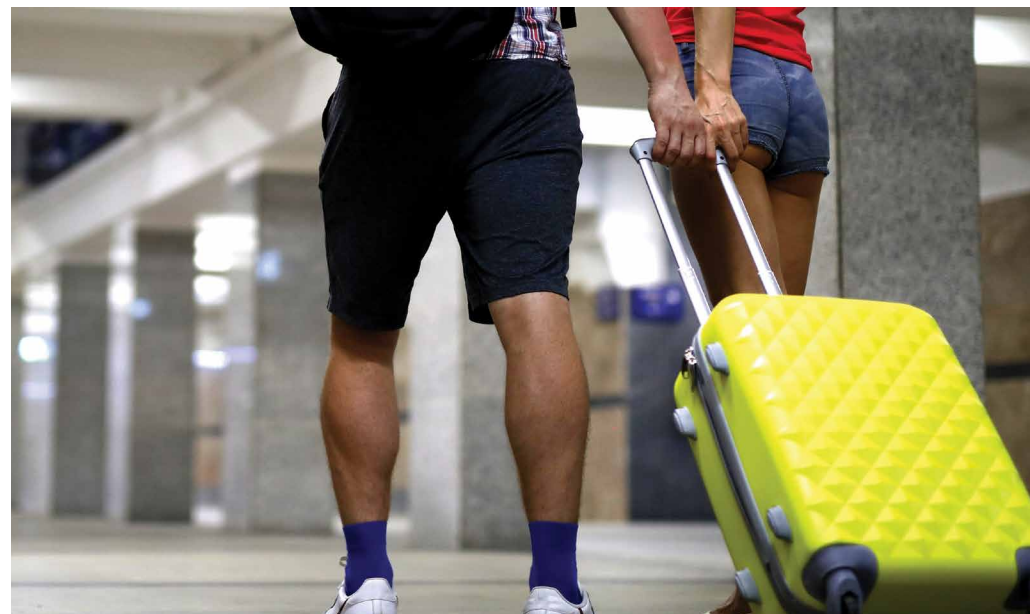
The International LGBTQ+ Travel Association, with support from the IGLTA Foundation, recently released the first findings from its 2021 LGBTQ+ Post COVID-19 Travel Survey. Responses came from approximately 6,300 LGBTQ+ travelers around the world, with the largest representation from the United States, Brazil, Mexico, India and the EU.

Over one year into the pandemic, the desire to return to travel is stronger than ever. Nearly three-fourths (73%) of global respondents said they plan to take their next major vacation before the end of 2021.

Nearly one quarter (23%) of the respondents had made travel reservations in the past week, at the time of taking the survey.

"When we did our first LGBTQ+ post COVID-19 travel sentiment study last year, the pandemic was in its infancy and everything was uncertain. Still, the results were undeniable: LGBTQ+ travelers were anxious to return to travel as soon as it was safely possible," said John Tanzella, IGLTA President/CEO. "We wanted to revisit this project a year into this challenging time to reinforce the resilience of LGBTQ+ travelers, and to champion the importance of equity, diversity and inclusion in destination outreach."

The survey also focused on the likelihood of LGBTQ+ individuals choosing a variety of travel-related activities in the next six months, again showcasing strong willingness to travel and the diversity of the LGBTQ+ travel market.



- 58% are likely/very likely to stay in a hotel or resort
- 68% are likely/very likely to take a domestic leisure trip
- 45% are likely/very likely to stay in a vacation home, condo or rental apartment
- 31% are likely/very likely to take an international leisure trip
- 19% are likely/very likely to visit an amusement park
- 25% are likely/very likely to take a group trip
- 13% are likely/very likely to take a cruise
- 50% are likely/very likely to take a short-haul flight (3 hours or less)
- 36% are likely/very likely to take a medium-haul flight (3-6 hours)
- 26% are likely/very likely to take a long-haul flight (6 hours or more)
- 43% are likely/very likely to attend an LGBTQ+ Pride Event

The IGLTA Post COVID-19 LGBTQ+ Travel Survey was conducted between 26 March and 9 April 2021 through the association's global network, including members and media partners. The responses came from 6,324 individuals around the world who identify as LGBTQ+. An emphasis was placed on obtaining greater gender parity in this survey.

- 57% of respondents identified as gay; 19% lesbian; 17% bisexual
- 70% of respondents are between the ages of 25 and 64
- 63% of respondents are men; 31% are women, 1% are transgender, 4% identify as non-binary or preferred to self-describe

The global survey results are available to download from the IGLTA website, as well as breakout reports on the United States, Brazil, Mexico, and the EU. For more information, please visit www.iglta.org/2021-Survey



Do Not Miss Questlove's New Documentary Concert Film "Summer of Soul"

By Chris Narloch

Watching the late, great B.B. King make love to his guitar and the rare sight of Stevie Wonder playing drums are just two of the delights to be savored in the amazing new documentary concert film "Summer of Soul," which features found footage of a legendary music festival that became known as "Black Woodstock."

The unbelievable lineup of the 1969 concert in Harlem also included Nine Simone, Gladys Knight & the Pips, Sly & the Family Stone, Mahalia Jackson, The Staples Singers, The 5th Dimension, David Ruffin, Hugh Masekela, the Edwin Hawkins Singers, and more. This not-to-be-missed movie opened on July 2 at Sacramento's Tower Theatre and is also playing now on Hulu.



B.B. King performing at the Harlem Cultural Festival in 1969, featured in the documentary "Summer of Soul!"

Kitchen Tech - Update on My Air Fryer

By Ron Tackitt

During COVID a friend of mine brought over an air fryer and showed me how to make homemade sweet potato fries. They came out great, and after that I looked up other foods that lended themselves to being cooked in an air fryer. After some research and even more YouTube videos, I bought one. Instead of the plastic football looking kind, I bought one that looks like a small oven. It's, officially, an air fryer/toaster oven.

I tried a couple of things in it right away and wrote about them. (The salmon steaks were wonderful and easy!) However, in the six or so months that I have owned this air fryer, I have to say I have not put it to much use.

That's not to say I don't use it, but I am hardly creating huge gourmet meals in it, like they do in the infomercials. I use it a lot for toast. Overall, it does toast really well, as long as you remember that the automatic setting for toast (450 degrees for 6 minutes) will pretty much kill the bread you are toasting. So, I take it out around 4 minutes into the process. I have found that fries that have been in the fridge overnight do really well on this "toast" setting. It does a good job of reanimating them.

I'm not saying I have given up on the air fryer, but it's just not as fast and convenient as I thought it would be. Luckily, the one I bought doesn't take up much counter space, especially since I don't need a toaster there any longer.

I will keep playing with it, and keep you updated with what I find that I love using it for. Stay tuned, and until then, keep trying to eat healthy - it makes a difference.



Tip: If you are going to get one, buy a higher end model with a heating element on both the top and the bottom of the oven. Mine only has one on top and even toast needs to be turned to get a similar cooking on both sides.



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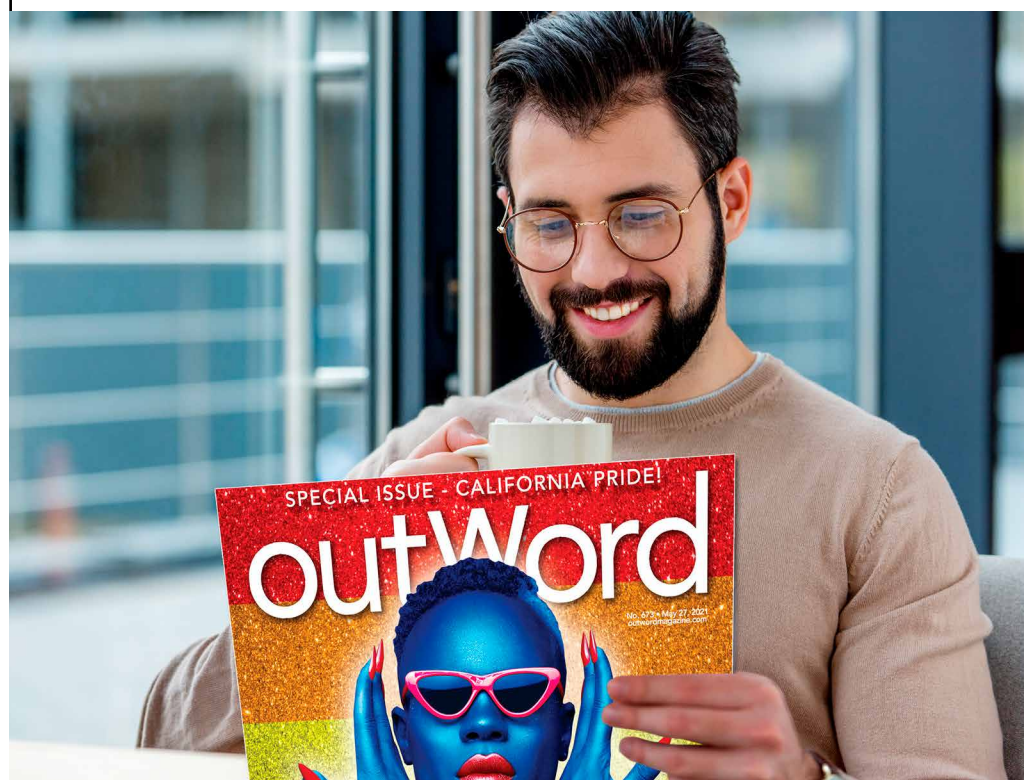
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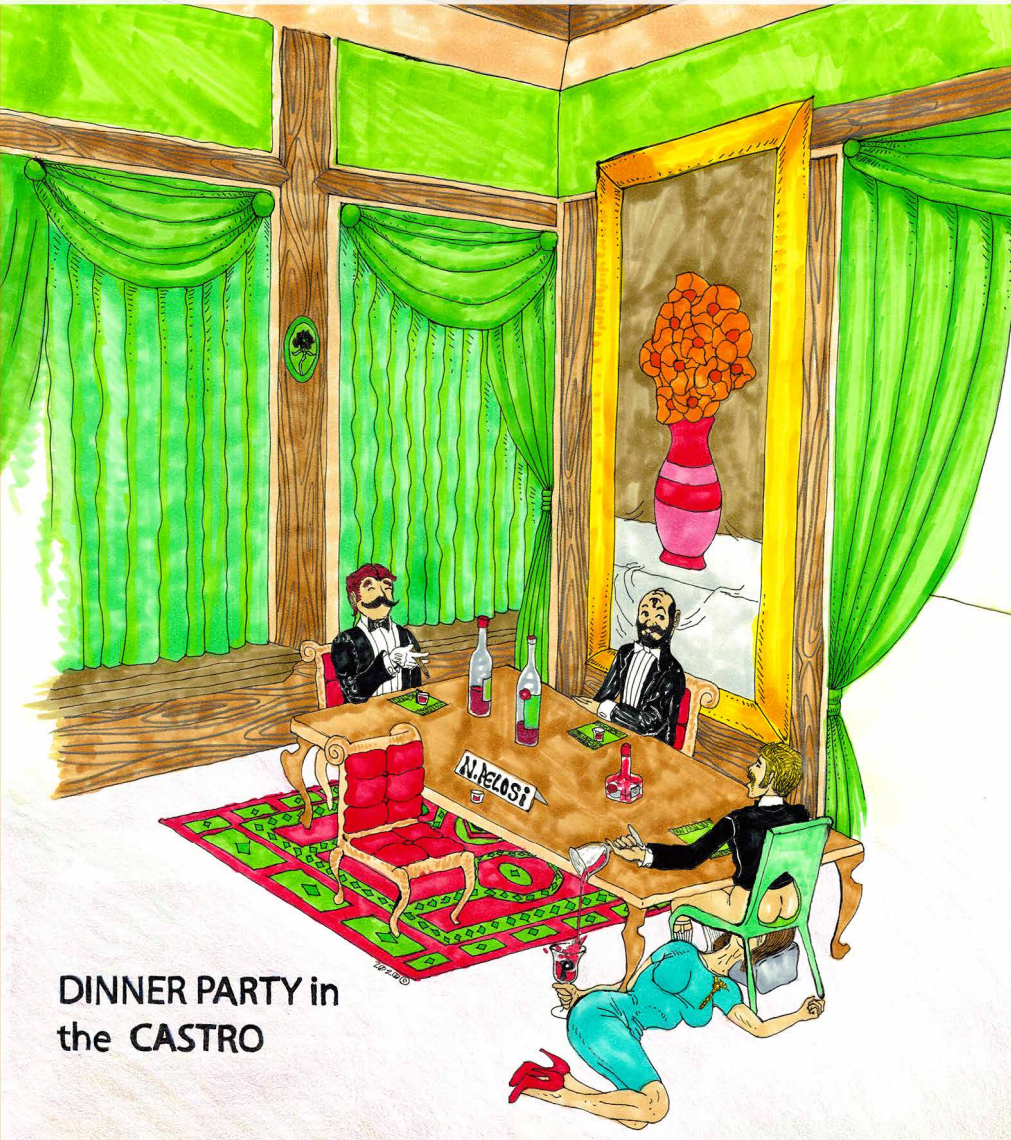


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