

outWord

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30 YEARS

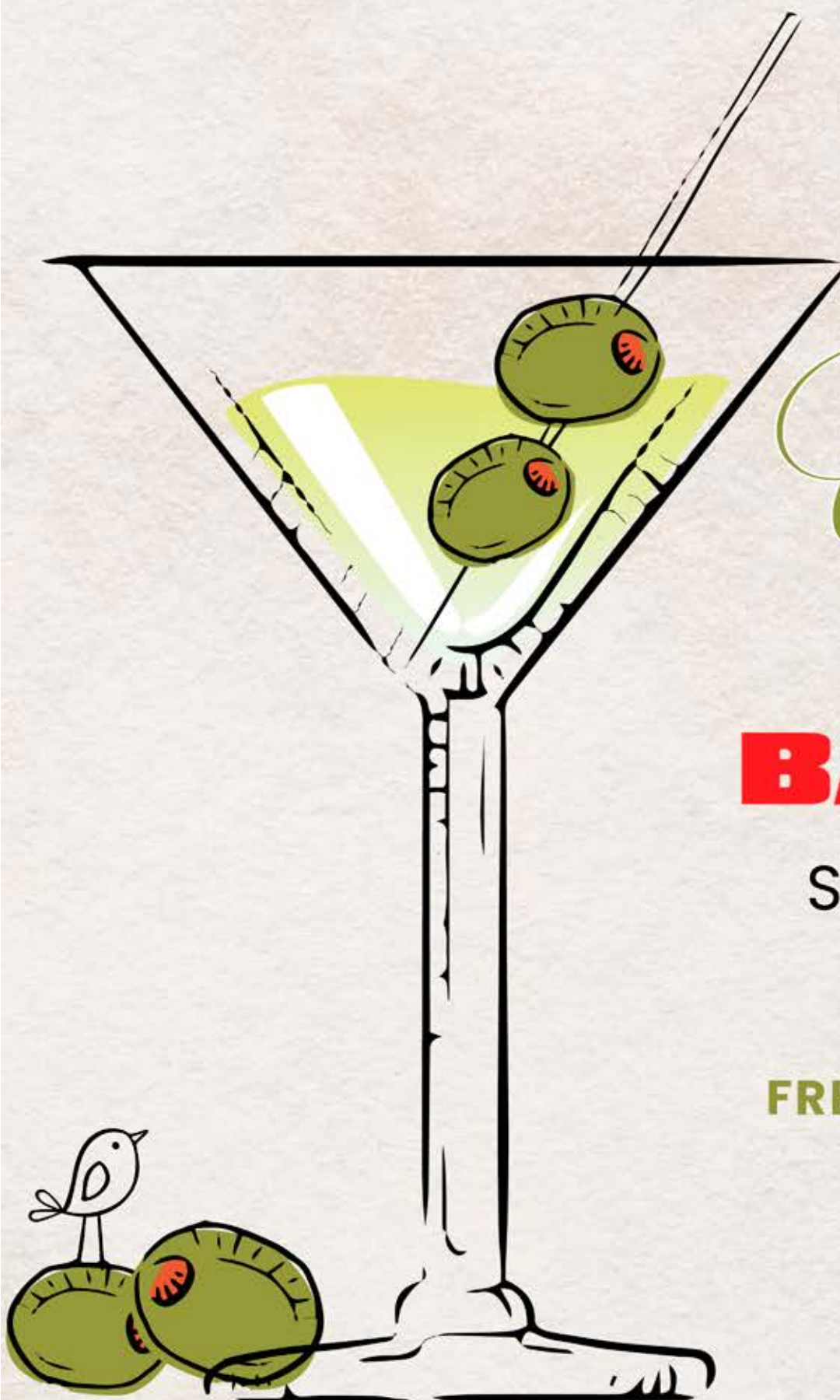
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Cheers to 30 Years of Pride, Progress, and Powerful Stories

Outword Magazine is turning 30 – and we want you to celebrate with us! Since 1995, Outword has been more than just a magazine. It's been a voice, a platform, and a vibrant reflection of Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community. We've told your stories, spotlighted local businesses, celebrated victories big and small, and stood proudly for equality every step of the way.

Now it's time to raise a glass to the past three decades – and toast to the fabulous future ahead.

Join us on Tuesday, September 9, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Badlands for our 30 Year Anniversary Celebration! Admission is free, the vibes will be high, and while it's a no-host bar, the good company is on us.

Of course, no celebration would be complete without a few amazing sponsors.

We're currently looking for businesses and individuals who'd like to align their name with this milestone event and show their support for Sacramento's only LGBTQ+ publication. To check out our sponsorship levels and benefits for each, reach out to Fred today and lock in your spot to maximize your exposure.

Not able to sponsor but still want to lend a hand? Consider contributing to our Rainbow Fund, a heartfelt way to support Outword's mission and help us keep doing what we love: informing, uplifting, and connecting our community.

From the bottom of our hearts: thank you, Sacramento. Thank you for 30 years of laughter, love, challenges, and triumphs. We couldn't have done it without you – and we wouldn't want to.

See you on September 9!

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David Archuleta is coming to Sacramento.
Photo courtesy of David Archuleta.
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**Fred Palmer
Publisher**

As publisher and founder of Outword, Fred is the guiding force of the newspaper as well as the magazine's most powerful personality. Growing up in southern California, he came north to go to college at San Francisco State. After majoring in Business Management, Marketing, and Communications, Fred worked for several years for a variety of major corporations. He found, he says, that being an openly gay man in the corporate world was a difficult and disappointing experience. "I became very disenchanted with that whole area," he adds. That all changed with the March on Washington. He became, in his words, a

on the Russian River
FLOOD-PROOFED FIRE'S SET FOR SEPTEMBER REOPENING

by Stephen Thoms, Rachel Ewe-Wilson

Outword's first issue in 1995 was a special double issue celebrating the magazine's first birthday. It was a double issue because the magazine was so new that it didn't have a regular schedule yet. It was also a double issue because it was the first issue to be published after the magazine had been in existence for a year. It was a double issue because it was the first issue to be published after the magazine had been in existence for a year. It was a double issue because it was the first issue to be published after the magazine had been in existence for a year.

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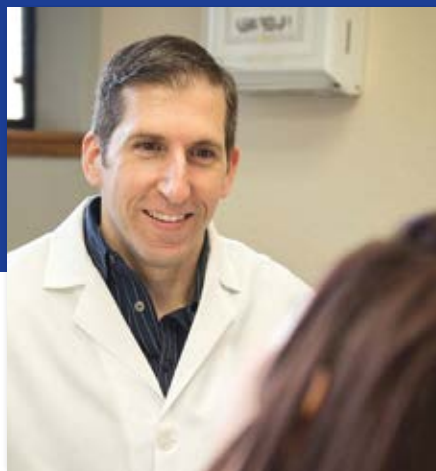
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HRC Statement on Air Force Rescinding Retirement Benefits to Transgender Servicemembers

The Air Force is denying transgender servicemembers, with between 15 and 18 years of military service, of early retirement benefits that were previously approved.

Below please see a statement from Jay Brown, Chief of Staff, Human Rights Campaign: *"This is indefensible. After already denying transgender servicemembers the ability to serve their country, the Trump administration is now stripping them of the retirement benefits they've earned after years of honorable service. This has nothing to do with military readiness—it's cruelty for cruelty's sake."*

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation and Lambda Legal have joined forces to file a federal lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the Trump administration's ban on military service by transgender individuals. The policy, announced in 2017 and implemented in 2019, effectively prohibits most transgender people from enlisting and restricts those already serving from transitioning while in uniform.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court, represents seven actively serving transgender service members from various branches of the armed forces. These plaintiffs, many of whom have served with distinction, argue that the ban violates their constitutional rights to equal protection and due process under the Fifth Amendment. The legal challenge also contends that the policy is rooted in discrimination rather than legitimate military necessity, undermining both military readiness and morale.

Advocates point to studies—including research commissioned by the Department of Defense itself—that show allowing transgender individuals to serve openly has no negative impact on unit cohesion, operational effectiveness, or medical costs. By bringing this case forward, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation and Lambda Legal aim to secure a ruling that affirms the right of transgender Americans to serve their country openly and honorably, without fear of losing their careers solely because of their gender identity.

Senator Wiener's Statement on Kaiser Permanente's Decision to Stop Providing Certain Gender-Affirming Care to Youth

"California law is clear: Health systems can't deny care to trans people. And this is a straight-up denial of care to youth who are under the care of a physician and whose parents have consented to the treatment. Kaiser's decision follows Stanford and Children's Hospital LA also stopping medical care for trans youth.

"While I understand the terrible situation this fascist regime has created for California health systems, denying care to trans kids is wrong and illegal.

"Trump has declared war on trans people and trans kids and their families in particular. Now is the time to have these kids' and these families' backs, not to fold under pressure from the most homophobic and transphobic Administration in modern history – an Administration that won't stop until LGBTQ people are entirely erased from public life.

"Rule number one in fighting fascism is that bending the knee to a tyrant only invites more tyranny. It's disappointing that some of our largest institutions keep losing sight of that proven fact."

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Campaign Launched in the United Kingdom to Block Chick-fil-A's UK Expansion Over Anti-LGBT+ Ties

resource Peter Tatchell Foundation

Human rights campaigner Peter Tatchell and his foundation have launched a nationwide effort to stop U.S. fast-food chain Chick-fil-A from establishing a presence in the UK, citing the company's history of supporting anti-LGBT+ initiatives. The campaign began with a letter hand-delivered to Lexington Communications in London, the UK PR firm representing Chick-fil-A. Tatchell was joined by his assistant, Pliny Soocoormanee, who wore a chicken costume named "RuCluck" during the event.



photo courtesy of Peter Tatchell Foundation

Chick-fil-A plans to open locations in Liverpool, Leeds, and Kingston upon Thames. The Peter Tatchell Foundation is working closely with regional LGBT+ groups, including Sahir House in Liverpool, urging local councils to reject planning or licensing approvals for the chain.

Chick-fil-A has been widely criticized for its past financial support of organizations that opposed LGBT+ rights, including those that lobbied against same-sex marriage and anti-discrimination laws. Though the company pledged in 2019 to end such donations, it has not ruled out resuming them in the future, raising continued concern among activists.

The Foundation is pressing the company to publicly clarify its current stance on donations and workplace protections for

LGBT+ employees. Campaigners are demanding assurances that Chick-fil-A has ceased all funding to anti-LGBT+ causes and that it has implemented inclusive policies and training within its workforce.

Letters have been sent to MPs and local council officials in Kingston, where the first UK Chick-fil-A outlet is expected to open, with additional letters to follow in other regions. A petition and campaign website have also been launched at Chick-fil-HATE.com.

Tatchell stated, "The UK must not host companies with a history of supporting anti-LGBT+ discrimination. British towns and cities should reject Chick-fil-A's expansion plans until the company proves a genuine commitment to equality."

PeterTatchellFoundation.org

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Attorney General Bonta Wins Court Order Blocking Trump Administration's Withholding of EV Infrastructure Funds

California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced that the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington has issued a preliminary injunction preventing the Trump Administration from unlawfully withholding billions of dollars in federal funding for electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure.



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The funds, approved by bipartisan majorities in Congress, were designated under the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) formula program to build a nationwide network of EV charging stations.

"It is no secret that the Trump Administration is beholden to the fossil fuel agenda," said Attorney General Bonta. "The administration cannot dismantle programs illegally—like the bipartisan NEVI program—just to protect Big Oil profits. We welcome today's order blocking this unconstitutional attempt, and California will continue to fight executive branch overreach."

The NEVI program was created through the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which allocated \$5 billion to expand EV charging accessibility and convenience across the country.

On his first day in office, President Trump signed an executive order directing federal agencies to halt the release of certain IIJA funds, including the \$5 billion for NEVI. Following this directive, the Federal Highway Administration suspended the program and withheld the money Congress had allocated to the states.

In response, Attorney General Bonta, Governor Gavin Newsom, the California Department of Transportation, and the California Energy Commission—joined by 17 other attorneys general—filed suit to ensure states received the funds needed to advance clean transportation.

The court's injunction will keep the NEVI program moving forward while the legal challenge continues, safeguarding billions in infrastructure investment aimed at accelerating the nation's transition to cleaner, more sustainable transportation.



Sacramento LGBTQ+ Groups Navigate Crisis — And Relief — Amid Hostile Climates And Funding Battles

by Srishti Prabha

Lavender Library, a volunteer-run LGBTQ+ archive and lending library in Midtown Sacramento, has long relied on grassroots donations to stay afloat. Moving forward, that might become even more critical as funding for LGBTQ+ organizations is jeopardized.

Lavender Library Vice President Mauricio Torres said the organization has recently seen an influx of local donations — a sign of community members stepping up at a much-needed time after their door and window were smashed in February.

“It was really beautiful just to see the outpouring of community support,” Torres said, about an event at the library that he speculated could be a hate crime.

Even though the library recently received its first state grant, Torres’ vision of growth has been put on hold due to policy language surrounding LGBTQ+ communities. “We did have dreams of tapping into additional grants, which could have included federal funds,” said Torres. “But the reality of the world right now — we’re just putting a pause to even dreaming about some of those things.”

That pause in ambition reflects a broader climate of political retreat, as organizations confront not just budget cuts but the growing normalization of hostility against LGBTQ+ communities in policy decisions. These communities face a volatile funding landscape shaped by possible steep federal reductions, limited grant access, and — until recently, with proposed revisions to California’s budget — the looming threat of state-level cuts.

The Trump administration’s executive orders targeting diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives in tandem with eliminating \$125 million unspent grant funds from major health organizations serving LGBTQ+ youth and adults, like the National Institutes of Health, have made sustaining queer-focused organizations next to impossible.

“So many of our partners are losing funding — the attacks on HIV prevention, gender-affirming care ... the rhetoric is just really anti-queer,” Torres said.

At the Sacramento LGBT Community Center, youth advisory board member Naveah Trigo said the scarcity of resources is already taking a toll. From reducing mental health services to cutting youth programming at the Q-spot, federal and state funding is necessary for their work.

Trigo noted that besides the threat of funding cuts, discomfort has grown for young LGBTQ+ people amid a hostile national climate. “There is a lot of fear around identity and belonging,” she said, adding, “A lot of anger comes from feeling like this world isn’t listening. But there’s also so much passion to change it.”

That passion is being tested. After the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services canceled billions in grants from agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Sacramento LGBT Center lost a \$500,000 grant and with it, one of their two mental health clinicians.

And the threat didn’t stop at the federal

level. Earlier this spring, LGBTQ+ advocates like Equality California sounded the alarm about Gov. Gavin Newsom’s May revision to the state budget. The proposal slashed more than \$40 million from the Office of Health Equity, nearly half its budget. Some programs that provide grants to organizations serving LGBTQ+ communities were among those at risk.

Equality California advocates for LGBTQ+ civil rights by mobilizing communities and amplifying queer voices to drive justice and equality at every level of government.

“These were approved dollars, contracted for multiyear projects,” said Equality California’s executive director, Tony Hoang. “Now we’re being told they may be taken away — that puts everything from reproductive justice to diversity training at risk.”

But on June 28, the California Legislature passed a revised budget that restored full funding to the Office of Health Equity, reversing the most severe proposed cuts. The change came after weeks of outcry from lawmakers, advocates and community organizations who described the affected programs as “lifelines.”

However, uncertainty is still on the horizon for many of Sacramento’s queer nonprofits. The Sac LGBT Center runs the Sacramento Pride festival every year, and saw a \$100,000 drop in corporate sponsorships this year. This funding loss could greatly impact young LGBTQ+ people who turn to the center for help.

At the Gender Health Center in Sacramento — which provides harm reduction services, HIV prevention, gender-affirming care and counseling for LGBTQ+ people — Executive Director Malakai Côté said the organization could’ve lost \$450,000, about one-third of its counseling budget, had the previous state budget been approved.

Côté said the Gender Health Center had already begun preparing for layoffs and counseling disruptions. Even with the state funding now restored, Côté said organizations are still reeling from the whiplash and reckoning with the risks of dependency on volatile government dollars. Organizations are reevaluating the strings attached to funding and are reconsidering federal funds.

“We don’t want to apply for funding that makes us prove our existence or erase the words ‘transgender’ or ‘gender-affirming care,’” Côté said. “Our mission is to provide wellness, joy and low-barrier care — we won’t move away from that.”

This story is part of the Solving Sacramento journalism collaborative. Our partners include California Groundbreakers, Capital Public Radio, Hmong Daily News, Outword, Russian America Media, Sacramento Business Journal, Sacramento News & Review and Sacramento Observer. Support stories like these here, and sign up for our monthly newsletter.



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Pacific Pride Festival Returns to Santa Barbara for 50th Anniversary Celebration

The Pacific Pride Festival will return to Chase Palm Park Field on Saturday, August 23, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., marking 50 years of Pride on the Central Coast. This year's theme, "Rooted in Pride: Embracing Our Past – Empowering Our Future," honors the resilience, joy, and progress of the LGBTQ+ community while looking boldly toward what's ahead.

The free, all-ages event promises a full day of entertainment, art, and community connection. More than 30 live performances will take place across multiple stages, including a headlining set from drag superstar Jessica Wild of RuPaul's Drag Race. Also taking the stage are Mariachi Arcoiris de Los Angeles – the world's first LGBTQ+ mariachi band – along with Samulous, East Valley Road, the Santa Barbara Gay Men's Chorus, and many others.

Festival hosts Vivian Storm and Jackette Knightly will keep the celebration going with humor, flair, and nonstop energy. Guests can enjoy live DJs, immersive art installations, and collaborative projects with Quilt Project Gold Coast and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art.

The event caters to all ages, featuring an expanded Family Zone with a dedicated Kids Stage for storytelling, karaoke, and dancing. Adults can unwind in the 21+ Beer & Wine



Garden, browse over 70 vendor booths, sample local food trucks, and connect with community organizations.

"We are proud to celebrate half a century of Pride on the Central Coast," said Julio Roman, Executive Director of Pacific Pride Foundation. "This festival is more than a

party – it's a declaration of visibility, unity, and love for our LGBTQ+ family and allies."

Admission is free and open to everyone. For updates, stage schedules, and volunteer opportunities, visit www.pacificpridefoundation.org or follow @pacificpridefdn on social media.

Palm Springs Pride to Proceed Despite \$325,000 Sponsorship Shortfall

The Greater Palm Springs Pride organization confirmed that its 2025 festival will move forward as planned, despite a \$325,000 shortfall in expected sponsorships. Organizers cite the current political climate as a factor in reduced funding but remain committed to honoring the LGBTQ+ community's fight for equality and celebrating its history, diversity, and future.

The four-day event, free to attend, is expected to draw over 200,000 visitors and generate an estimated \$35 million for the local economy. While some adjustments to the festival format are anticipated, the parade and core programming will remain central. Ensuring a safe and welcoming atmosphere for all attendees is a top priority.

"The long struggle for LGBTQ+ rights is knocking at our door again," said Ron deHarte, President of [Palm Springs Pride](http://PalmSpringsPride.org). "It's vital we stand together and show the world our



community is strong and our fight for equality continues."

Organizers are urging community support

through donations and participation in the Equality Walk, presented by Silvercrest. Contributions will directly sustain this year's event and signal that the community will not be silenced.

Long-planned projects, including the Pride Landmark Flagpole and the LGBTQ+ Civil Rights Sculpture, remain on track and unaffected by the funding gap.

"We're doubling down on what makes Palm Springs Pride so special," deHarte added. "Our Pride is celebratory and political. We will not be quiet, and we will not shy away from addressing today's social justice challenges."

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“The Fantastic Four” Plus, Three More Movies

by Chris Narloch

How about that recent “South Park” episode skewering Donald Trump? Wasn’t that something? It’s nice to know that our humorists – Stephen Colbert, Jimmy Kimmel, SNL, and the guys behind “South Park” – haven’t lost their edge.

But I digress. This article is actually supposed to be about movies rather than TV, and I have reviews for you of one superior example of superhero cinema, plus two truly great music movies.



The Fantastic Four: First Steps

The makers of that inferior new “Superman” movie should take a lesson from Matt Shakman, the director of this reboot, who definitely knows how to make a successful superhero saga.

First, get really good actors like Pedro Pascal, Vanessa Kirby, Joseph Quinn, and Ralph Ineson and give them clever dialogue and interesting characters to play.

It doesn’t hurt that Pascal, Kirby, and Quinn are very easy on the eyes, but more importantly, their characters actually seem like a real family, and Shakman doesn’t pound viewers to death with the CGI. Currently in wide theatrical release.



Sign o’ the Times

This terrific 1987 concert film was co-directed by, scored by, and stars the one and only Prince, who used the movie to promote his classic double album of the same name, which included such iconic tracks as “Housequake,” “Starfish and Coffee,” “Hot Thing,” and “U Got the Look.”

Even better than the fact that Prince will be back in theaters is the added bonus that his highness The Purple One will grace the screen at select IMAX locations, including Sacramento’s Esquire IMAX on K Street, this August 28–31. Do not miss it. Go to: www.imax.com/imax-esquire-oo



Weapons

I am very picky when it comes to my horror films, and although I am in the minority, I stand by my opinion that this film – which was briefly at 100% on Rotten Tomatoes before it slid down to 95% - is overrated. I was also disappointed by “Barbarian,” director Zach Cregger’s previous horror hit so maybe I just don’t get his cinematic vibe.

Jennifer Garner is terrific in “Weapons” as a teacher whose entire class, except for one boy, runs away from home in the middle of the night, and Josh Brolin is also very good as a distraught father of one of the missing children.

The movie has a terrific ending, and it’s worth seeing for Amy Madigan’s hilariously creepy performance as crazy Aunt Gladys, but I would advise Cregger to leave the screenwriting to someone more adept at it, and concentrate instead on his considerable skill as a director. Currently in wide theatrical release.



It’s Never Over, Jeff Buckley

If this marvelous movie is still playing at Sacramento’s Tower Theatre when you read this, do not miss it.

The dynamite documentary traces the sadly short career of the soulful rocker Jeff Buckley, who died from accidental drowning in 1997 when he was only 30, after releasing his classic debut album, “Grace.”

Interviews with other musicians and rare performance clips make it very clear that Buckley would have been a major rock star had he lived longer.

"A SUPER-SIZED, ALL-OUT SONG-AND-DANCE
SPECTACULAR!"

The New York Times



SOME LIKE *it* HOT



SEPTEMBER 9 - 14

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Out & About

with Matthew Burlingame

From cultural festivals and art exhibitions to live music and pet adoptions, Sacramento is buzzing with vibrant events that reflect our city's rich diversity. Discover something entirely new in August and connect with different cultures, causes, and communities. Our region thrives on inclusivity and creativity and nowhere is that more evident than in our latest lineup of public events.

Aug 15

The City of West Sacramento Parks & Recreation hosts an art reception for Her Anthem by Shawntay Gorman on Friday, Aug. 15, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Gallery 1075, 1075 W Capitol Ave. Explore vibrant works celebrating culture, identity, and resilience. Light refreshments provided. The exhibition runs weekdays through Aug. 29. Admission is free.

PBS KVIE presents Pursuing Dreams: An Evening with Kristi Yamaguchi on Thursday, Aug. 15, at 6 p.m. at 2030 W El Camino Ave., Sacramento. The Olympic gold medalist, bestselling author, and founder of Always Dream will discuss her inspiring journey in sports, media, and literacy advocacy. Don't miss this uplifting in-studio conversation. Kvie.org



Aug 16

Aug 16

Green Acres Nursery & Supply in Elk Grove hosts its Houseplant Celebration on Saturday, Aug. 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 9220 East Stockton Blvd. Discover exclusive plant deals, expert advice, DIY trellises, terrarium building, and a plant adoption station. Cool down with treats from Sweet Tooth Ice Cream. Perfect for plant lovers of all levels! Idiggreenacres.com

Get ready to groove at Village Green Park, 10801 Atherstone Dr., on Saturday, Aug. 16, as "Cruisin' the Soul of the 70's" brings the funk, R&B, disco, and yacht rock hits of the 1970s to life. Food trucks, including Soul on a Roll, arrive at 5 p.m. Concert runs from 7 to 9 p.m. Don't miss this retro celebration!



The Banana Festival returns to William Land Park, E Park Road in Sacramento, on Saturday, Aug. 16, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 17, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. This funky, family-friendly celebration spotlights the cultures of banana-growing nations through food, music, art, and dance. BananaFestivalSac.org

Aug 17

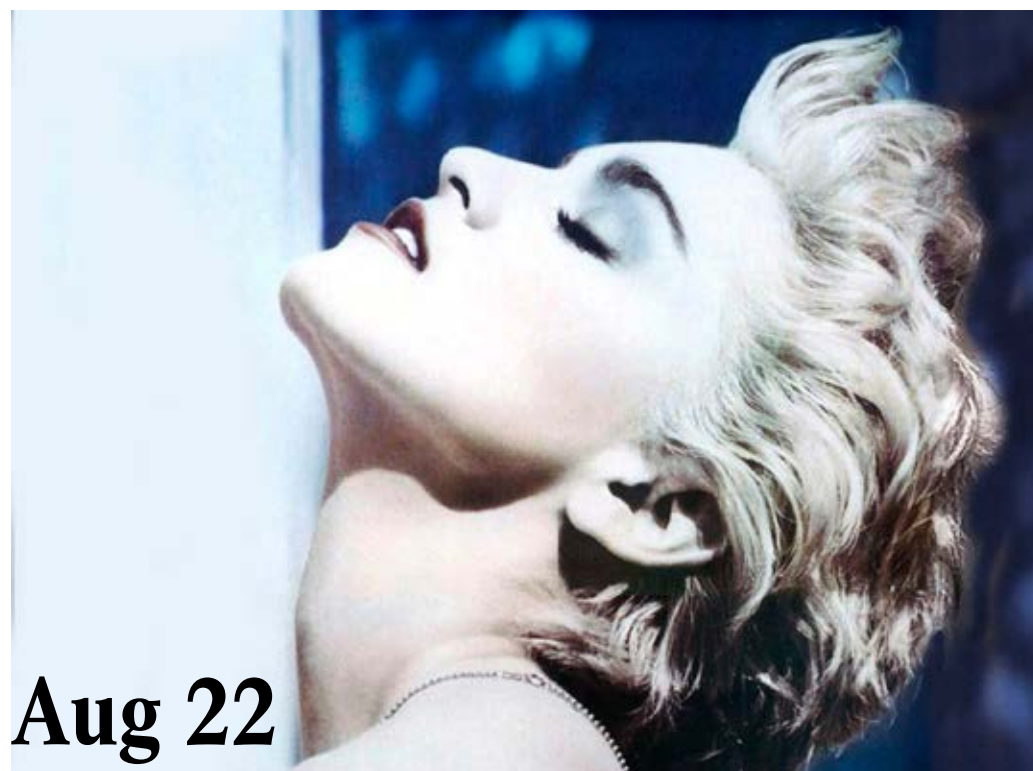
NorCal AIDS Cycle will host its Beneficiary Check Distribution Celebration on Saturday, Aug. 17, at 2 p.m. on the back patio of Bear & Crown British Pub, 1024 2nd St., in Old Sacramento. Join the festivities as proceeds from the 2025 ride are awarded to beneficiaries. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Norcalaidscycle.org

Amazing Dogs Rescue hosts a pet adoption event Saturday, Aug. 17, from noon to 2 p.m. at PetSmart, Watt Avenue, Sacramento. Meet adorable rescue dogs ready for loving homes. All pups come with full medical care and health records. Adoption fees start at \$250 and support lifesaving care. Walk-ins welcome, or reserve your match at amazingdogsrescue.org



Aug 19

The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce and Fred Palmer will host a lively networking mixer Tuesday, Aug. 19, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Daack Pack Dog Training, 2528 Yorktown Ave., Suite C. Guests can connect with LGBTQ+ professionals, support local business, and enjoy a fun evening—possibly with a pup or two. Free for members, \$10 nonmembers. RainbowChamber.com



Aug 22

Harlow's presents True Blue: A Madonna Tribute with Pale Shelter: A Tears for Fears Tribute on Friday, Aug. 22. Doors open at 8 p.m. at Harlow's, 2708 J St., Sacramento. Celebrate the Queen of Pop, whose genre-defying hits like "Like a Prayer" and "Vogue" reshaped music and culture. Ages 21 and up. Don't miss this retro night! Harlows.com

Aug 24

The Region 3 Arabian Championship Show hosted by the Region 3 Arabian Horse Association, kicks off Sunday, Aug. 24, at 7 a.m. in Downtown Sacramento. Enjoy thrilling competitions, prize money, and fun-filled events celebrating the beauty and spirit of Arabian horses. Arabianhorses3.org



Aug 24

Race for the Arts returns Saturday, Aug. 24, at 8:30 a.m. in Sacramento's William Land Park, 3800 Land Park Drive. This family-friendly event features a 5K run/walk, Kids Fun Runs, arts booths, and live entertainment. Proceeds benefit California arts organizations and schools. Join the celebration of creativity and community in support of the arts. Registration is open now. Raceforthearts.com

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



Sept 9

Mark your calendars for Outword's celebration of their 30 years pumping out two magazines a month for Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community to enjoy. While more details are coming soon, the event will be held at Badlands in Midtown from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Admission is free. Keep an eye on their [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/outwordmagazine) page for all the latest, greatest.



David Archuleta Set To Sing In Sacramento

by Chris Narloch

Singer-songwriter David Archuleta, who is no longer a practicing Mormon and now identifies as gay, will headline Sacramento's Rainbow Festival this year.



Photo by Irvin Rivera

Archuleta competed on the second season of Star Search when he was just twelve years old and then finished second on the seventh season of American Idol in 2008.

Archuleta recently released "Earthly Delights," his current ep, and his Rainbow Fest appearance is part of a North American tour with the same name as the ep.

The singer's playful side is on view in "Crème Brûlée," his sexy recent single and video. A second single, "Can I Call You," was also released in 2025.

A talented tenor, Archuleta is now 34 and last year went viral on TikTok with a cover version of Sabrina Carpenter's "Espresso." The singer also scored the 2024 GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Breakthrough Music Artist.

David Archuleta will appear live at Sacramento's Rainbow Festival, at the intersection of 20th and K Streets, on Sunday, August 31. Other exciting performers at this year's Rainbow Fest include Kristine W., DJ Lezlee, Carlos Kandia, and Vtech.

For more information, please [visit the Rainbow Festival's website](#).

In Praise of Brandon Lake

by Chris Narloch

Is it wrong to have impure thoughts about a Christian contemporary rocker? If so, then sign me up and call me a sinner because I am in lust with Brandon Lake.

As a lapsed Catholic and an agnostic, I am not in the habit of listening to Christian worship music, but I discovered Lake by accident, performing his recent monster hit, "Hard Fought Hallelujah," as a duet with Jelly Roll, on a recent country music TV show.

That song, which is featured on Lake's current "King of Hearts" album, has crossed over to several other music charts and spent 20 weeks atop the Billboard Hot Christian Songs chart.

"Hard Fought Hallelujah" was written by Lake with Jelly Roll and four other songwriters, and it reminds me of other songs by Jelly Roll, like "Save Me" and "Need a Favor," that characterize faith as a daily struggle.

The recorded version of "Hard Fought..." has a searing chorus, and a sexy, raspy, soulful vocal by Lake. I am sure the song will be performed prominently when he appears live in concert this Nov. 15 at Sacramento's Golden 1 Center. For tickets, go to: <https://www.golden1center.com/events/detail/brandon-lake>





Liquor
Therapy

Out & About



A massive, sun-baked thank you to everyone who sashayed their way to our Liquid Therapy Happy Hour on Friday the 8th! We all laughed and lounged in fabulous company, and we just know our prize winners will be living their best lives—especially those lucky enough to snag the oh-so-glam dinner and show packages from Broadway Sacramento. Mark your calendars, Snook'ems, because on September 12th we're turning up the sparkle and doing it all over again. Can't wait to see you there—Yaaas!

photos by Rahn



Mememes from Facebook




BENEFITS OF HOME OWNERSHIP	BENEFITS OF RENTING
<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Building Equity-Tax Benefits-Investment-Freedom to Personalize-Stability	


When Trump pardons Ghislaine Maxwell, that's when we'll all know for sure - he's one, too.

**Esta**  @TheOnlyEsta · 1d

If you think a golden **ballroom** is more important than childhood cancer research... I have nothing left to say to you.



**just Dave**
@davelebies

Follow

they should schedule doctor appts like

DOORS 8:15
Nurse 8:25
Doctor 8:40


When I was in middle school, I learned there were only two genders.

When I did my bachelors in Biology, I learned that there are also people who are intersex and the importance of the SRY gene.

When I completed my Masters in Neurosciences, I learned that sex is already hard to define, and gender is both social and in the brain - making everything a lot more complex.

When people say "it's basic biology" they are telling you they haven't moved past middle school.

- Rebecca Helm



Memes from Facebook

“

Texas has 38 congressional seats while California has 52. If Republicans want to play lets play.

@covie_93

BREAKING:

THE OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT WEBSITE HAS QUIETLY **REMOVED** SECTIONS 9 AND 10 OF ARTICLE I FROM THE CONSTITUTION.

LET ME SAY THAT AGAIN: THEY DIDN'T AMEND THE CONSTITUTION. THEY DIDN'T DEBATE IT IN CONGRESS. THEY JUST ERASED TWO OF THE MOST PROTECTIVE SECTIONS; THE ONES THAT DEAL WITH HABEAS CORPUS, LIMITS ON FEDERAL POWER, AND CONGRESS'S SOLE AUTHORITY TO SET TARIFFS.

THIS SHOULD TERRIFY EVERY AMERICAN!

OCCUPY DEMOCRATS

ALLNANALYSIS

"It will soon come to this: either Trump goes down forever in disgrace, or America does. You pick, Republicans."

- George Takei

EVERYTHING THAT MAKES THIS LIFE BEAUTIFUL IS BEING DESTROYED BY RICH PEOPLE

“

Blue states are having to provide sanctuary to legislators from red states who are under threat of arrest for trying to stop the president from rigging the midterm elections. This is America in 2025.

BRIAN TYLER COHEN

So intriguing to see the people who claim to care about sex trafficking and pedophilia, twist themselves up like a pretzel to explain their support of a pedophile who hung out with a sex trafficker for over a decade.

That's the definition of a cult isn't it? When you adjust your values and morality to defend your 'leader'.

Amey Sakind

Jamie Reed

TDS IS REAL BUT IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK IT IS

TRUMP DERANGEMENT SYNDROME IS A MENTAL CONDITION IN WHICH A PERSON HAS BEEN DRIVEN EFFECTIVELY INSANE DUE TO THEIR LOYALTY TO DONALD TRUMP, TO THE POINT AT WHICH THEY WILL ABANDON ALL LOGIC AND REASON. SYMPTOMS FOR THIS CONDITION CAN BE VERY DIVERSE, RANGING FROM DENIAL OF FACTS, DEFENDING PEDOPHILES, BEING SCARED OF MINORITIES, HATING MILLENNIALS, TO CALLING EVERYTHING "FAKE NEWS."

REPUBLICANS COMPLAIN ABOUT TEXAS DEMOCRATS "FLEEING" — YET JUST DAYS AGO, THEY THEMSELVES FLED D.C. TO AVOID VOTING ON THE EPSTEIN FILES. WHY? TO PROTECT A CONVICTED FELON SITTING IN THE OVAL OFFICE. ONE SIDE DODGES ACCOUNTABILITY. THE OTHER FIGHTS FOR DEMOCRACY. THAT'S THE REAL HYPOCRISY!

@DJMELODIE

OCCUPY DEMOCRATS

"BREAKING: The Trump White House orders NASA to destroy satellites used for monitoring climate change, according to NPR. The censorship campaign goes to space. I guess if you can't SEE the climate changing, then it ISN'T changing.

The irresponsibility, recklessness and stupidity is BEYOND DEPLORABLE!"

- MILES TAYLOR, Former National Security Advisor on Counterterrorism

OCCUPY DEMOCRATS

"BREAKING: DRAFT-DODGER Trump announces he is DENYING early retirement to ALL transgender service members with between 15 and 18 years of military service, opting instead to force them out with NO retirement benefits!

THEY SERVED THEIR COUNTRY WHILE TRUMP FAKED "BONE SPURS," AND TRUMP IS NOW STEALING THEIR WELL-EARNED RETIREMENT BENEFITS. BEYOND DEPLORABLE!"

OCCUPY DEMOCRATS

RPSAGAINSTTRUMP



“Hair” & “Dracula” Are Here by Chris Narloch

The classic American tribal love-rock musical “Hair” and a very sexy spoof of “Dracula” are heating up Sacramento stages this month.

In other words, River City theatre fans currently have an embarrassment of riches to choose from. Read on for details.



Broadway At Music Circus

The groundbreaking musical “Hair” defined a generation and introduced rock ‘n’ roll to Broadway. The show is set against a backdrop of the Vietnam era, where a group of late 1960s youth join a social revolution and “let the sun shine in.”

The musical’s brilliant score includes such classic songs as “Aquarius,” “Good Morning Starshine,” “Easy to Be Hard,” and more. “Hair” performs August 22 – 28 at Sacramento’s UC Davis Health Pavilion. [Click here for more info and for tickets.](#)

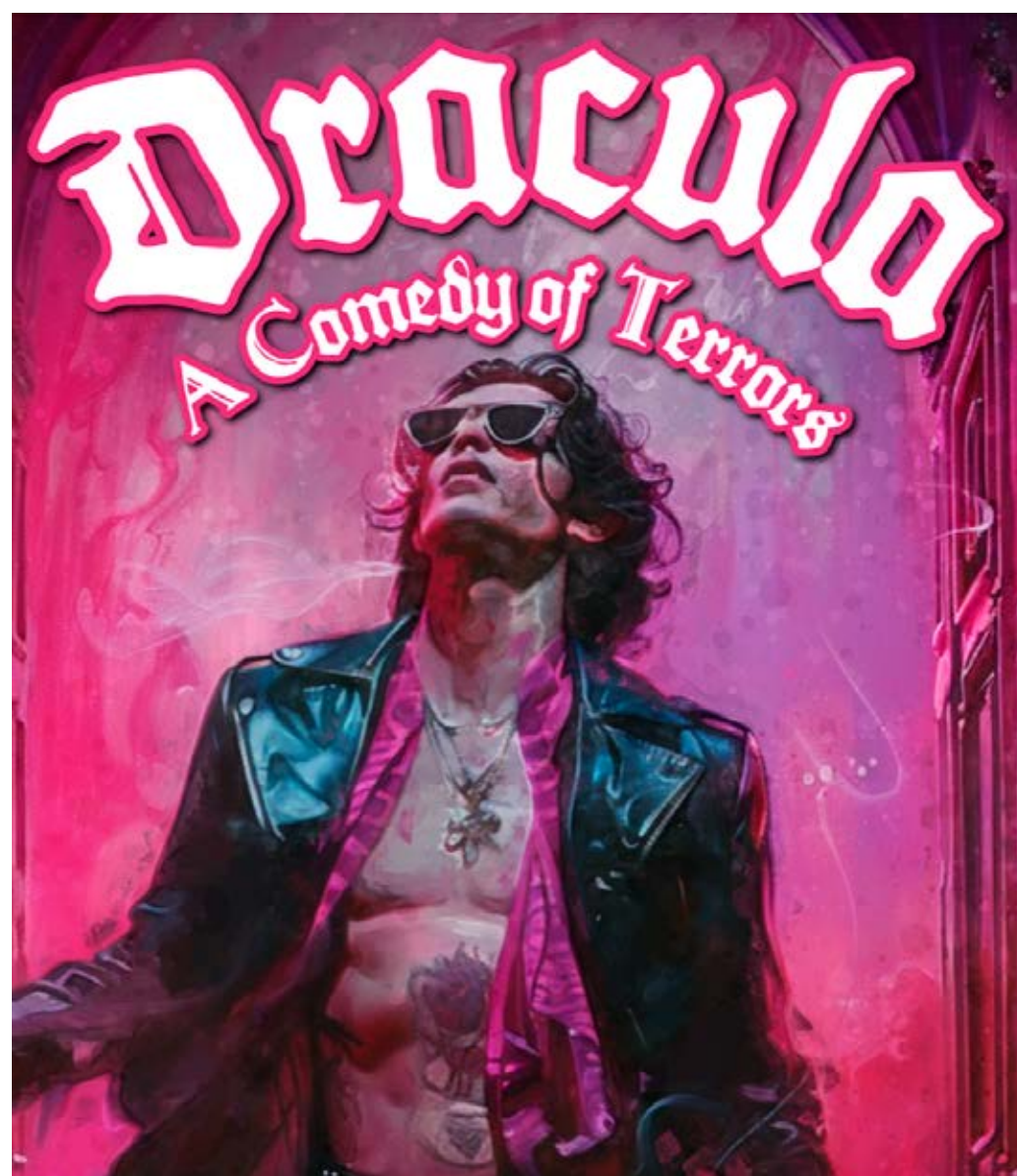
B Street Theatre

If you are a fan of movies like “Young Frankenstein” or “Rocky Horror,” then you are going to love “Dracula, A Comedy of Terrors,” the sidesplitting new offering currently cracking up theatre fans at The Sofia on Capitol Avenue in midtown Sacramento.

The very handsome trans, non-binary actor Kevin Kantor stars as a sexed-up Dracula who comes off like a cross between a vampire and a male stripper, bumping and grinding onto the stage. It’s all played for laughs – of which there are many – and the other four members of the five-person cast appear to be having the time of their lives as well.

The play – which is not a musical but has some music in it – follows the basic storyline of “Dracula” while making it perfectly clear that this bloodsucker is horny as hell. Director Tara Sissom-Pittaro aims for broad, wacky humor and nails pretty much every joke and sight gag in the show.

My advice is to get tickets for this hilarious hit before they sell out. “Dracula, A Comedy of Terrors” performs through Aug. 31.



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dine with pride



Photos taken at The Waterboy in Midtown

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For 30 years, Outword Magazine - Sacramento's longest-running LGBTQ+ publication has been a trusted voice, sharing stories, uplifting our community, and keeping you informed.

Now, more than ever, LGBTQ+ media matters, especially given the ruthless attacks our community has already suffered. This is why we've launched a subscription and reader support donor service to help keep Outword as a resource that ensures vital information continues to flow.

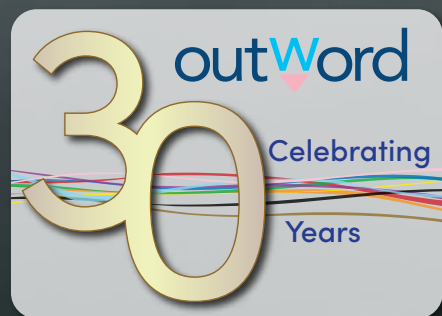
Please consider making a contribution, in the dollar amount that works for you, using our relaunched Outword Rainbow Fund. Every contribution will make a difference and with a simple, and secure transaction, you can show your support.

We are proud to be one of the LGBTQ+ voices for the Sacramento community over the years, and we are committed to continuing for years to come. Let's not let our voices be silenced. Help us continue getting the Word Out.

Thank you, from the Outword team.

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Musical Movies at Tower & Crocker

by Chris Narloch

I am an unashamed movie musical maniac, especially when the singing and dancing is larger than life rather than on a small screen. That will definitely be the case when two local arts institutions screen musical films later this month and year.



"Wicked" is the final film for 2025 in Crocker Art Museum's Movies Off the Wall

Crocker Museum

While we wait (impatiently) for the second part of "Wicked" – opening exclusively in theaters this November 21st – fans can return to Oz and see the first movie again, on the big screen and under the stars.

"Wicked" is the final film for 2025 in Crocker Art Museum's Movies Off the Wall series, screening Thursday evening, Aug. 21 at 7 p.m.

Travel over the rainbow as another irresistible movie musical takes over the Museum's outdoor courtyard in a larger-than-life cinematic experience, screened against the Teel Family Pavilion's iconic architecture.

While seating will be provided, guests may also bring their own chairs for maximum comfort. Arrive early to indulge in delicious bites and sing along to a DJ set inspired by the night's film.

To purchase tickets, please [visit the Crocker's website](#).

Tower Theatre

This historic theater screens classic movie musicals throughout the year, and three of my faves are back on the big screen this summer and into fall: "Fiddler on the Roof" (Aug. 25), "Cabaret" (Sept. 22), and "Little Shop of Horrors" (Oct. 27).

Do not miss your chance to see one, two or all three of the greatest movie musicals ever made, as part of Tower's Musical Mondays. For more information [click here](#).



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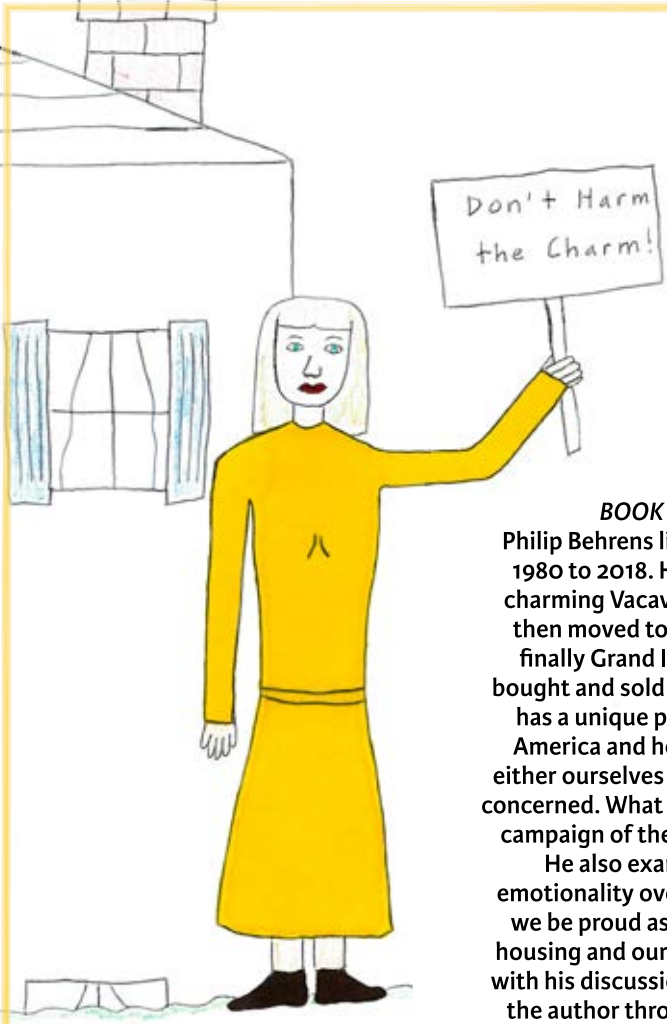
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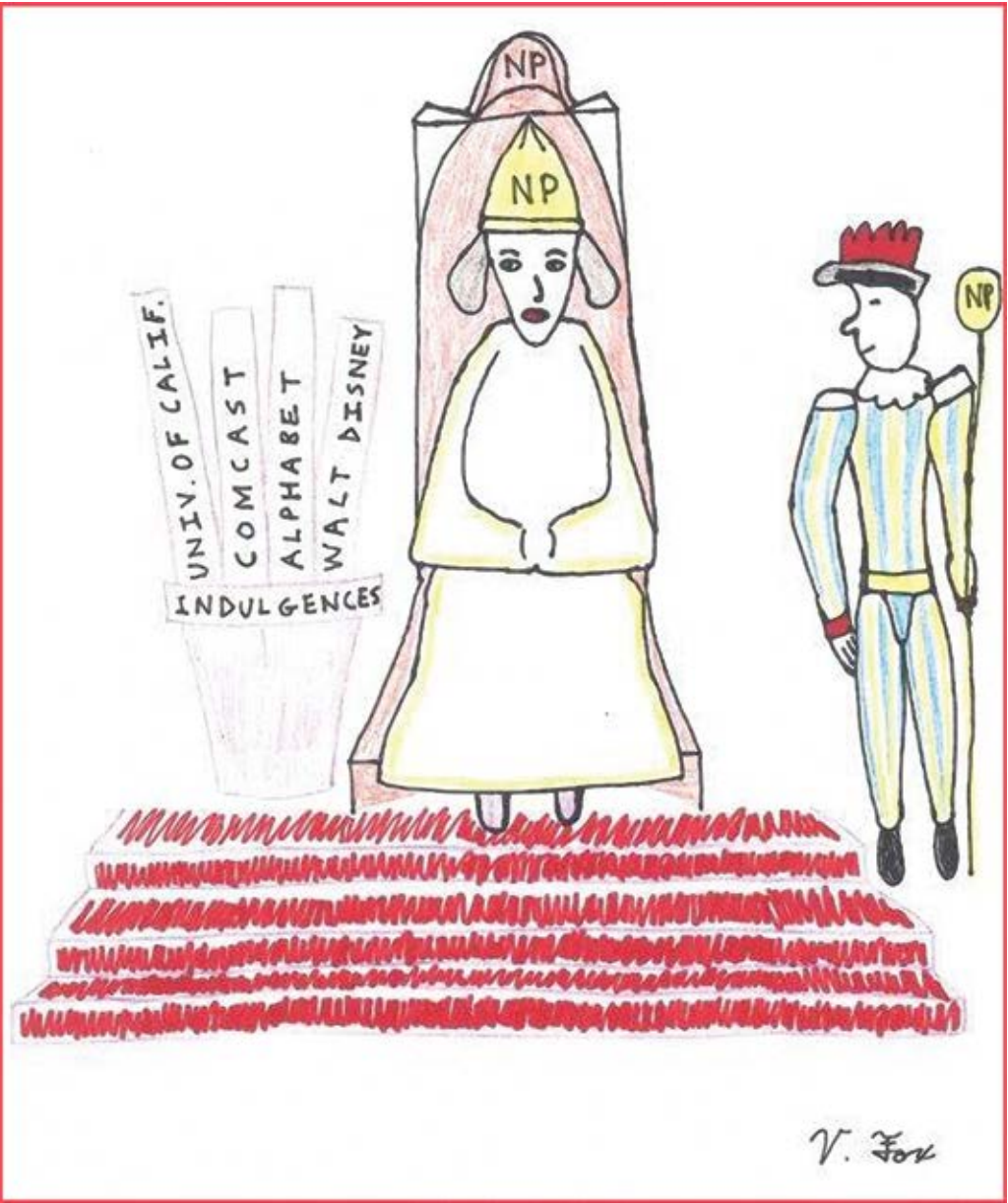
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BOOK INTRODUCTION

Philip Behrens lived in San Francisco from 1980 to 2018. He took a 10 year break in charming Vacaville from 2001 to 2011. He then moved to Vermont, Cape Cod, and finally Grand Island, New York. Having bought and sold 5 homes over the years, he has a unique perspective on housing in America and how we are not truthful to either ourselves or others where housing is concerned. What is really behind the "charm" campaign of the Cape Cod city of Dennis? He also examines the roots of the emotionality over our abortion policy. Can we be proud as a nation of our policy on housing and our policy on abortion? Along with his discussion of these weighty issues, the author throws in interesting facts on some of the cities he has lived in. To find out which American city has an ACE Hardware with 6 different types of silver polish, "Don't Harm the Charm" is required reading. Available on AMAZON.



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