



SGN

# Summer Heat

*The Return of C4Bp*

*Queen Style on Capitol Hill*

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# CHICKENHEAD

by OTIS bolisay



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7/26/22

## Seattle Gay Horoscope

Lars Moriendi, mysterious Capitol Hill mystic, gives you the weekly cosmic scoop. What do the stars hold for you?

  
Aquarius  
(Jan. 20/Jan. 19)

Leo is your inverse. You may be feeling the strain of the season the next few days. Take a deep breath and don't overreact.

  
Pisces  
(Feb. 19/Feb. 18)

It's too damn hot out! Stay cool -- even if you feel you're reaching your boiling point.

  
Aries  
(Mar. 21/Mar. 20)

Lurk, laugh, loathe, baby! Time to show the world what you're truly made of.

  
Taurus  
(Apr. 20/Apr. 19)


What good have you done today? Do you feel it is enough?

  
Gemini  
(May 21/May 20)

Literally no one is out to get you. You're a peach. Please stop freaking out.

  
Cancer  
(Jun. 21/June 20)

Soap and water! You'll understand soon.

  
Leo  
(Jul. 23/July 22)

You know damn well what time of year it is. Don't even sweat it.

  
Virgo  
(Aug. 23/Aug. 22)

The new moon is driving you wild. Think before making a bold decision.

  
Libra  
(Sep. 23/Sep. 22)

No black cat's crossed your path. The bad luck you're having is your own.

  
Scorpio  
(Oct. 23/Oct. 21)

Be here now. Find that easy middle and stay safe.

  
Sagittarius  
(Nov. 22/Nov. 21)

Don't let yourself ache too hard for a future that never was. Take solace in your present.

  
Capricorn  
(Dec. 22/Dec. 21)

Get out of your comfort zone and strive for excellence. You won't know unless you try.

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The Return of Capitol Hill Block Party

Hotter and Queerer than ever before

BY KYLIN BROWN  
SGN CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Charli XCX  
- Photo by Kylin Brown



Beach Bunny  
- Photo by Kylin Brown



Remi Wolf  
- Photo by Kylin Brown



Diplo  
- Photo by Kylin Brown

It feels like a decade since 2019 for live music lovers and local artists who rely on Capitol Hill Block Party each summer to come together and dance away three days and nights in the middle of Pike Street.

With Charli XCX headlining Friday night and a slew of up-and-coming Queer favorites playing throughout the weekend, the festival did not disappoint. Let's discuss the highlights of Capitol Hill Block Party 2022.

**New and noteworthy**

To kick things off, Friday's Vera Stage saw a near-genderless and colorfully clothed crowd flood the scene for highly-anticipated genre-bending collective MICHELLE. Having released their sophomore album only months ago, the predominantly POC and Queer New-York-based group had fans in a groove from the start of their set to the finish. Their warm, summery sound is both wistful and energetic — befitting a yearning, predominantly LGBTQ+ Seattle crowd.

Rock band Beach Bunny took to the mainstage to address the angst in the audience. After three years of built-up anxieties, their performance was much needed. Led by Lili Trifilio's compelling vocals, jumping fans yelled, "Shut up/Count your calories/I never looked good in mom jeans" and "I wanna be okay" from Beach Bunny's hit song "Prom Queen."

The band's guitar-forward crush-pop passion remained unwavering through songs such as "Sports" ("I'm tired of waiting/I was never good at sports/save the games for the girls on the tennis courts") and "Cloud 9,"

which can typically be found on a playlist next to Queer artists like girl in red and Claud.

On Saturday, before Danny Brown captivated the mainstage audience with his inebriation and unsolicited show of support for controversial Seattle rapper Raz Simone, other young artists swept diverse Seattleite listeners off their platform Converse-clad feet.

Boishy, for example, let it all out with their fans in passionate ballads "FUCK YOU HEATHER" and "mom i think im gay" (a song for anyone who had a Pride month heartbreak) early Saturday. The duo has been together since 2016, but have blossomed since graduating college in 2019. They go on tour for their recent praiseworthy EP *My Friend Mica* in September.

CANNONS brought funky electronica to life for the crowd on Saturday as well, inspiring 70s disco dreams with lead singer Michelle Joy wearing a leopard leotard and knee-high boots as she sang their hit about failed relationships, "Fire For You."

**Headliners to remember**

Whether you're into DJs like Diplo and Jai Wolf or you're more of a hyper pop

Charli XCX gal, this year's CHBP headliners made the festival's return all the more surreal. While typically indie pop and rising pop artists headline the event, organizers at the parent company Daydream State opted to give CHBP the notoriety of a music festival this year, saving names like Mitski, MacDeMarco, and Japanese Breakfast for Day In Day Out Fest in two weeks.

On Sunday, Diplo brought down the house with endless mixing and smash hits. Similarly confetti-accompanied, future bass DJ Jai Wolf enlivened Saturday's dancefloor with dreamy hit songs like "Indian Summer" and "Moon Rider," putting listeners in a trance.

Prior to the DJs' finale, Remi Wolf and her bandmates balanced the crowd with repeat-after-me affirmations. Performing everything from the unwavering and lovable hit "Liz" to fun songs like "Liquor Store" that showcase her unique voice and style, Remi Wolf brought authenticity and Queerness to the mainstage in a way no other artists would.

Charli XCX, an ally whose loyal fans are predominantly not heterosexual, came

**With Charli XCX headlining Friday night and a slew of up-and-coming Queer favorites playing throughout the weekend, the festival did not disappoint.**

directly for the venue's LGBTQ+ crowds as well. "This one's for all the Gay boys out there," she announced, giving a familiar-yet-shriek-inducing dedication for her song "Boys."

One thing was proven that night: Charli XCX is a bona fide star. As she nailed almost constant choreography with two masc, leather-wearing dancers by her side for a seemingly endless set, she appeared to switch her well-known autotune on and off to feature stunning vocalizations and harmonies.

Charli XCX is known to push creative boundaries, so seeing this process play out in real time provided the audiences with an opportunity to take part. Between songs, she tested the audience with teasing banter. Revving the audience up for SOPHIE-produced hit "Vroom Vroom," she called out, "Who out here tonight is feeling cute? Who's feeling sexy?! Are you ever feeling like you're cute, you're sexy, like your ride's sporty?"

CHBP's crowds happily obliged by swaying their bodies and cheering on Charli XCX's latest, more experimental hyper-pop anthems, but they were more enthused about hearing her breakout Icona Pop feature hit "I Love It" and tracks from her more centrist, pre-pandemic album *Pop 2*.

In the meantime, Charli and her dancers brought a production so high-quality that the Capitol Hill 76, with gas prices almost twice as high as they were during the last Capitol Hill Block Party, disappeared behind the mainstage and the ecstatic music belowing from it all.



# HERE THERE BE DRAGONS

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## Marcia Ball

Aug 2 - 3

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-Time Out, Chicago

## Blood Sweat & Tears

Aug 4 - 7

Not the first band to ever use a horn section but they are the first to fuse it with rock, jazz, and some blues thrown in for good measure!

## Otis Taylor

Aug 9 - 10

Raw and unflinching Taylor brings depth, honesty, and passion to the topics of his songs in a trance blues/roots style.



## Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band

Aug 11 - 14

Conguero Poncho Sanchez stirs up a fiery stew of straight-ahead jazz and gritty soul music with Latin flavor.

## Isaiah Sharkey

Aug 16 - 17

Guitarist Sharkey fuses together his background in rock, gospel, jazz, R&B, blues, and funk with unmistakable soul.

## Fred Wesley and The New JB's

Aug 18 - 21

Legendary bandleader, trombonist, and one of the forefathers of funk still sets the standard with his jazz-funk band.

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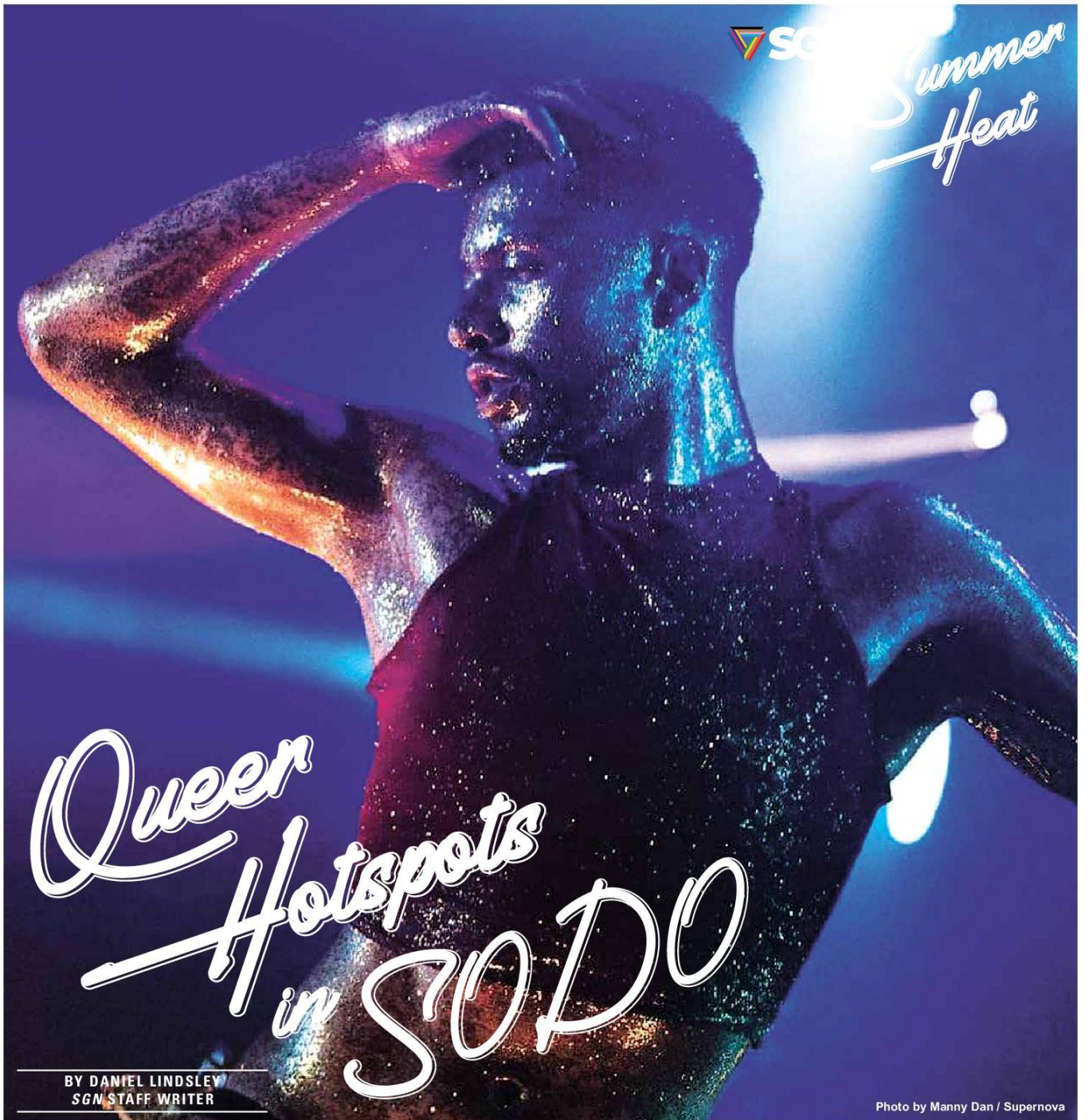
# WHIDBEY ISLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL 2022

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BY DANIEL LINDSLEY  
SGN STAFF WRITER

Photo by Manny Dan / Supernova

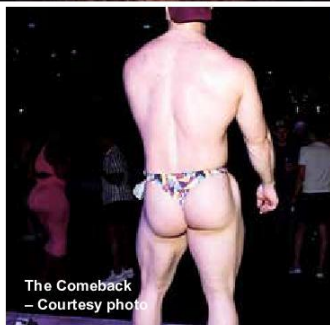
One of the last places most people think of when they're looking for a good time in Seattle is SoDo. At a glance it might seem like nothing but a wasteland of warehouses, passing trains, and loud trucks, but to the surrounding neighborhoods and any intrepid urbanites it offers a few choice Queer and Queer-friendly hangouts.

**The Comeback**

This venerable Queer bar, once known as R Place, re-opened in January this year and has been going strong since. On Thursdays it has Happy Hour from 4 PM to 9 PM, followed by the Amateur Strip Show (A.S.S.) hosted by dynamic drag duo LUCHI. On Fridays the Happy Hours are Disco themed, with a RuPaul's Drag Race viewing party at 8 PM, and LASHES, Seattle's longest-running drag show, closing out the night.

On Saturday, July 30, The Comeback will host TURN'T: Black Sound Rewound, a celebration of 70 years of "raw Black and Queer music," featuring Seattle Gay DJ legends Riz Rollins and Almond Brown.

August 13th will see the bar's, and the city's, first Bollywood Night, an event series for LGBTQ+ South Asians, Desis, and their allies. Sponsoring the events is the Seattle chapter of the Queer Desi and South Asian (QDASA) group, a national organization working to create safe spaces to celebrate Queer Desi and South Asian identities.



The Comeback  
- Courtesy photo



Supernova  
- Photo by Manny Dan / Supernova



Sleight of Hand Cellars  
Courtesy photo

**Supernova**

Though this inclusive nightclub launched just over a year ago, it sees huge lines on Friday and Saturday nights, and that's no accident. As the home of Sapphic Seattle and BeautyBoiz, it has, by all accounts, redefined the Queer Seattle nightlife with free-flowing performance art that mingles with the crowd. No two nights at Supernova are the same. Make sure to order tickets in advance; their shows sell out fast.

On Fridays the club hosts TGIF, with classic party anthems, fresh hits, and drag performances, all ushered along by DJ's. Saturdays there are for Stayin' Alive, a blend of Disco both classic and Nu, with aerialists and the club's in-house band, Universal Peoples.

**Sleight of Hand Cellars**

For those less inclined towards late nights and loud music, this Queer-owned wine tasting room weathered the pandemic doldrums to now host occasional concerts and karaoke nights, in addition to its wine tasting events. Tastings can be made by appointment, but walk-ins are welcome as space allows.

Although no particular events are currently listed for the future, one can expect chill tunes from the likes of life-long songstress Kate Barreth and funk ballad up-and-comer Brittany Danielle. And conveniently, the upscale Nine Pies Pizzeria is right next door, for those who want to round off a tasting session with a tasty margherita (or something fancier).

**Queer-friendly spaces**

Although the Monkey Loft Rooftop Lounge is listed as a "casual" spot, its parties can last up to 12 hours, featuring both guest and local DJ's. It has hosted fundraising events for the entertainment nonprofit Nightlife Relief Fund, a "community-built network" for DJ's, bartenders, and other music and arts professionals.

Meanwhile, the SoDo taproom of the Ghostfish Brewing Company is a lively, family-friendly space with award-winning, gluten-free beers, hearty food, and gender neutral bathrooms.



# Summer Heat



# Queer Style on Capitol Hill

BY LINDSEY ANDERSON  
SGN STAFF WRITER

All photos by Juliana Adams

Isaac and Joel

It's no secret, Capitol Hill is one of the Queerest and most fashionable neighborhoods in the world. Just taking a walk around the block can expose a baby-Queer to top tier Gay fashion. Hoping to learn more about some of the most iconic and fashionable residents of the gayborhood, SGN took to the streets to find out just what's trending this summer.

**Issac Hansen (he/him)**  
**Joel Curry (he/him)**

**What are you wearing?**

IH: The shirt is H&M and the shorts are Buffalo Exchange. The shoes are Nike.

JC: Burlington Coat Factory from top to bottom. It's not Amazon. It's Burlington.

**What does fashion mean to you?**

IH: It's an opportunity to feel good. You're like out and about but wearing a good outfit

and you feel on top of the world today.

JC: I think fashion is fun. It's a key way to express your authentic self.

**How do you describe your personal style?**

IH: Gay. That's the one word. I also need a print, at least.

JC: Loud. I love a big print, like toucans or I guess a giant Hawaiian shirt or striped or something. Not much of a solid print.

**What is a staple for your closet?**

IH: This shirt is kind of a staple. I feel like I wear this shirt a lot, and just a large, oversize button-up shirt, and then if I'm at home and no one else is around I'll do a fuzzy pajama short.

JC: I love corduroy pants and I love button-downs, but I work in the corporate world.

**What is a Queer fashion must-have?**

IH: I feel like cuff-able pants.  
JC: For shoes, you've got to have a shoe

that you can just wear with everything and you can ruin it or whatever and that's just these shoes, these are my "I don't care about these" shoes and then also have a pair of shoes that you really care about and take care of.

**What is the Gayest thing you're wearing today?**

IH: I like this little bow; I think it's very cute and fun.

JC: The toucan shirt, it's really out there. Everything else is pretty heterosexual today, unfortunately.

**Who are your biggest style icons?**

IH: My roommate who just graduated in fashion merchandising, or random people I see on Instagram.

JC: Things I see on Instagram reels or the discovery page.



Emma (they/them)

**What are you wearing?**

These are a pair of velvet sweatpants I ended up cutting because they're like medium petites and they were really short, so I just cut them into shorts. Then this I got from a friend's thrift sale, and then just Doc Martens and black socks.

**What does fashion mean to you?**

It's just a way to get your point across and express yourself. That's what everyone says, but it's a way to communicate with the world.

**How do you describe your personal style?**

A little bit like "little boy chic" or just a stoner Lesbian because it's just like that's it.

**How does your fashion reflect your Queer identity?**

Androgyny in general. Being Queer isn't just being Gay, it's being outside of what you see in the windows, so it's nice to be a physical representation of what you don't see in the windows.

**What is a staple for your closet?**

I used to have this little pendent. It was a spider in resin with a glow-in-the-dark background, but I lost it. But that was a staple for me. Also, my cargo pants.

**What is a Queer fashion must-have?**

Confidence, that's the must have. Wear what you want.

**What's the Queerest thing you're wearing today?**

My Trans Tape. I have my boobs taped up.

**Who are your biggest style icons?**

Dua Saleh, they're a singer-songwriter. David Bowie. My buddy Zach.



Charly (he/him)

Sara (they/them)

**What are you wearing?**

C: I just kind of wear stuff that I thrift. I'm from Vegas, so Buffalo Exchange.

S: Right now I always wear these Adidas shoes, the superstars. A classic.

**What is a staple in your closet?**

S: My main piece that I like to wear is Calvin Klein boxers and a Calvin Klein bra. I like to have my boxers exposed almost always. They're not super-exposed right now because I'm wearing high-waisted shorts and a belt, but that's pretty much the staple. Also, silver necklaces, definitely. I think accessories are a huge part of an outfit.

**What does fashion mean to you?**

S: It's feeling good about yourself and how you express yourself. Clothing can express so much more about a person.

C: Yeah, it's expressing yourself and what you wear.

**How would you describe your personal style?**

S: Androgynous, but like kind of what I'm feeling. Whatever in the closet feels good together. I just try to look androgynous or just confusing, if that makes sense.

see **STYLE** page 8





(l-r) Chole, Liza, Moises, Cole, Elisa & Gwendolyn the dog

Queer Style on Capitol Hill

STYLE

continued from page 7

What's a Queer must-have?

S: Clavin Klein. White socks. Silver chains. Or gold, whatever you're into.

C: Colorful.

Who are your biggest style icons?

S: No one in particular, I just follow straight fashion trends then morph it into my own. I'm also a huge part of the rave scene, so I think that can sometimes tie into my outfits.

C: I like 80's stuff.



Michael Cabaya (they/them)

How would you describe your outfit today?

Casual nudity.

What does fashion mean to you?

Freedom.

What is a staple of your closet?

Mesh. Fishnet. I just like it.

What is a Queer fashion must-have?

Nudity, I guess. Everyone is just too shy to be nude but to express it brings out more happiness.



Angela Long (she/her)  
Cathryn Anderson (she/her)

What are you wearing today?

CA: I got most of this from the thrift store. The pants are from Urban Outfitters.

What does fashion mean to you?

AL: I like to wear what I think is fun. That's what it's all about. That's what my friend told me one time. I was going to buy something that was weird and was like, "Will I ever wear this?" And she said, "Fill your closet with stuff you like and then it will start to match."

How would you describe your personal style?

AL: Gay. Sometimes a 12-year-old-boy, sometimes fashionable, sometimes pink.

CA: Mine, I guess, is cottage-core but also like a little skater boy.

How do you reflect your identity through your outfits?

AL: Well, I don't want to be rude, but I think straight people can dress kind of boring. I think that people who are part of the community dress with more colors, more patterns, and it's sort of like an identifier. Not always, some [straight] people just dress cool and have good fashion, or bad, I don't know. Depends on what you think of it, but it's sort of like an identifier, like, you Gay? Me Gay.

What is a staple of your closet?

AL: I have a quilted jacket that has a bunch of safari animals on it and then my friend just made me a quilted jacket that has Sonic characters on it.

CA: Pants with pockets, Cargo pants.

What's a Queer must-have?

AL: A crop top. Overalls.

CA: Fun earrings!

What's the Gayest thing you're wearing today?

AL: Probably my flame shirt.

CA: Flame bra.

Who are your biggest style inspirations?

AL: It's generally people I see in the street that I think are cool. I see someone walk around and I go, 'I want one of those!'



Chole Haiton (he/him)  
Liza Dalton (she/her)  
Moises (he/him)  
Cole Skittle (he/him)  
Lindsay (she/her)  
Cole 2 (he/him)  
Josh Treybig (he/him)  
Elisa (she/her)  
Gwendolyn (dog)

What are you wearing?

CH: This is Palm Springs Thrift right here.

E: Gwendolyn.

LD: This is Target and the pants are a birthday present.

M: This is just flea market vintage.

CS: This is from a small mountain village in Mexico. It was a gift from a friend who went to Mexico.

L: My overalls are from Aerie and then I thrifted these.

C2: Just work clothes.

JT: Just thrifted.

How would you describe your personal style?

CH: Colorful patterns. Bold. Medieval gothic, maybe?

What is a staple of your closet?

L: Leopard print Doc Martens.

E (*speaking for Gwendolyn the dog*): Missing an arm.

JT: A dozen Beyonce shirts.

What is a Queer must-have?

CS: Black clothes.

CH: Just wear what makes you happy.

E: Sunscreen. I'm just going to say, I understand I can't burn that easily, but I love my friends and I don't want them to die of cancer. Sunscreen. I want you to live.

What is the Gayest thing you're wearing right now?

JT: My jockstrap.

CS: I think this butterfly necklace.

Who are your biggest style icons?

LD: Mary Tyler Moore.

JT: Beyonce.

M: Tyler the Creator.

CS: Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen.

L: I like finding pieces that are similar to V's style from BTS.

CH: I would say Cleopatra.





Drew, Hunter, and Rachel

**Drew Bimson** (he/they)  
**Hunter Crawford-Shelmadine** (she/they)  
**Rachel John** (she/her)

**What are you wearing?**

H: I wish it was something cool. I have Ross Dress for Less. Levi's, but from a thrift store for sure, Buffalo Exchange. Target. And Docs.

R: I'm wearing a T-shirt I got at a Cougs' concert when I was 18, these overalls from The Gap and Docs.

D: Everything I'm wearing is thrifted except for the sunglasses; they're from Guess. The bucket hat is from a swap meet in San Diego.

**What does fashion mean to you?**

H: It's expression.

**How would you describe your personal style?**

H: Changing. I feel like I change my style so many times. I came out, then I changed my style. Then I was like, "I can change it again if I want." It's just an expression. Whatever I'm feeling.

R: I want to say 12-year-old-boy meets grunge meets hippie.

D: A work in progress. It's just, I don't know, it's always adjusting to whatever I'm feeling at the time.

**How does your style reflect your identity?**

D: Just kind of realizing what you want to do with your style and just going for it rather than worrying about what everyone else is doing.

H: I feel like I, in the beginning, I would just wear like a rainbow bracelet, to be like, "I'm also one of you," but then once I started becoming more comfortable, I would just wear whatever. I feel like how you dress, certain things can help identify you, not that I need to be identified.

R: I am just now realizing that trying different things out is a good reflection of my identity.

**What is a staple piece of your closet?**

R: Docs. Rings for sure.

H: I always have on this necklace that my brother got me six years ago, and then recently I have on this chain, but I always have accessories. Also, plain black or gray pants.

D: I have a guitar pick necklace I usually wear that recently broke that I am yet to fix, but I'm always changing the color depending on whatever I'm wearing. But I wear it almost every day.

**What is a Queer must-have?**

R: Docs.

D: It's kind of basic but color.

**What's the Gayest thing you're wearing today?**

H: Probably my Taylor Swift wristband with the date that *Folklore* was released because that day changed my life. And "Les-be-honest" is another bracelet, we also have

Gay Bitch, so any of those.

R: The overalls or the Docs.

D: I think the hat and shirt combo for me. Green on green.



**Darya Beigi** (she/her)  
**Alvin** (dog)

**What are you wearing today?**

I think I have the Lesbian uniform, which is all black everything with no color at all and if there was any color it would be a small little tinge or something like a headband or a bandana, but it's just an all-black fit today.

**What does fashion mean to you?**

Expression. Really, expression. When I was younger my fashion was all over the place, but I feel like now, even though all black is kind of simple, I feel like it's still a statement at the same time. I feel like it's just an expression and comfort, really.

**How would you describe your personal style?**

I try to be comfortable, but I also don't want to seem like I just rolled out of bed. Usually I'll wear nice shirts, button-downs, button-ups, whatever direction you do it. Jeans, boots. Dyke boots are always a good fit. Maybe just layer up with jackets. Yeah, my style is just kind of relaxed and casual.

**How do you use fashion to express your identity?**

As much as it's become kind of a joke, I feel like for me when I wear a lot of black and chains. When I first came out, I thought dressing Gay was like a bunch of rainbows, but like wearing the clothing I wear in the style I wear it makes me very comfortable in myself and who I am, and I think I'm able to express that in that way. It's kind of a fun way of when you see someone else — you can't always assume, but when you see someone else, you can be like "hey." All my Queer Lesbian friends dress the same as me, so it's just kind of a whole community you make through your style.

**What is a staple piece of your closet?**

I usually wear chains or a Nike sports bra, always, I mean, no one will know — unless they know.

**What's a Queer must-have?**

Carabiner. I've got a horse carabiner. The key makes it kind of a unicorn situation so it's even a Gayer carabiner. I also know that sometimes tattoos and piercings go there. I always joke that no straight person has a septum piercing, and I've never been wrong.

**What's the Gayest thing about your outfit today?**

My jeans, but they're also like Seattle grunge, so maybe if I was in Miami or New York.



**Tranos** (he/him)

**What are you wearing today?**

I am wearing Monico and Zara.

**What does fashion mean to you?**

To me, fashion means being able to express yourself and put on what feels good, regardless of what other people think.

**How would you describe your personal style?**

My personal style is a little chicer. I go for cleaner looks, subtle patterns if any, but more so clean colors and clean looks.

**How do you use style to reflect your identity?**

I think my fashion reflects Queerness because sometimes I choose to wear things that some people might consider to be more feminine. I'll wear short-shorts or tighter clothes. By crossing those "gender barriers," I'm able to reflect the LGBTQ+ community, too.

**What's a staple of your closet?**

I'm always going to have a good button-down shirt.

**What's a Queer must-have?**

A cute pair of booty shorts. For girls or guys.

**What is the Gayest thing you're wearing today?**

I'd say this shirt with the little pattern on it.

**Who are your style icons?**

My fashion icon would probably be Tan France from *Queer Eye*. He dresses super well. I just love his style.



**Oliver Fitzgerald** (he/him)  
**Preacher** (dog)

**What are you wearing today?**

I am wearing REI mostly, which makes me sound really bougie, which I'm not. I just like stuff that lasts. I'll probably wear these shorts four out of five days of the week, and they're great. They're actually from the little boy's section because I'm not large enough to fit into men's clothes, which is convenient for my wallet. The tank top I got from Lifelong because Lifelong is the best place and you shouldn't shop at Goodwill. My dog gear is an Ollydog treat pouch, which is essential. Preacher is wearing a Celtic Canine satin leash because it's good for his hair, and he's having a really good time with his toy. My shoes are Ultras and I absolutely adore them. I also have a bandana on, as I usually do, for utility purposes as well as fashion.

**What does fashion mean to you?**

I like a good blend of utility and comfort. I enjoy looking sporty/outdoorsy. I like hiking a lot. If I look like I could leave the streets and go on a mountain, that's usually the vibe.

**How would you describe your personal style?**

My personal style, right now it's hard because I am in between normal human sizes. My shoulders are broad and my frame is small and I'm muscular, so I don't fit into boy's clothes and I don't fit in women's clothes but I also don't fit in men's clothes because I'm too short. It's whatever I can find, usually.

**How do you reflect your identity through fashion?**

I always have, even when I didn't know. I definitely have always had a more masculine vibe to me, regardless of what I was identifying as, mostly because I just like the comfort of men's clothes. At least when I was a teenager, men's clothes were way more comfortable. It's kind of going in the other direction now where all people's clothes are more comfortable, which is *fantastica* and I love it. I also love that there's more of a vintage style coming back. Everyone's just kind of wearing big clothes and just chilling.

**What is a staple of your closet?**

My Mountain Hardware pants that I got at Lifelong. I probably couldn't afford them new; they are my alternative to these shorts. I also have a pair of North Face very short women's hiking shorts. They have this nice little buckle on them. They're a light pink which is probably the most feminine piece of clothing I wear, and I absolutely love it. Pretty much anything that dries quickly and can withstand my roughness because I am not gentle on my clothes.

**What is a Queer must-have?**

The first thing that came to mind is a Carhart beanie, so that's probably it. I feel like that's Queer or all Queerness pretty much, although the Lesbians and their Carhart is a pinnacle.

**What is the Gayest thing you're wearing today?**

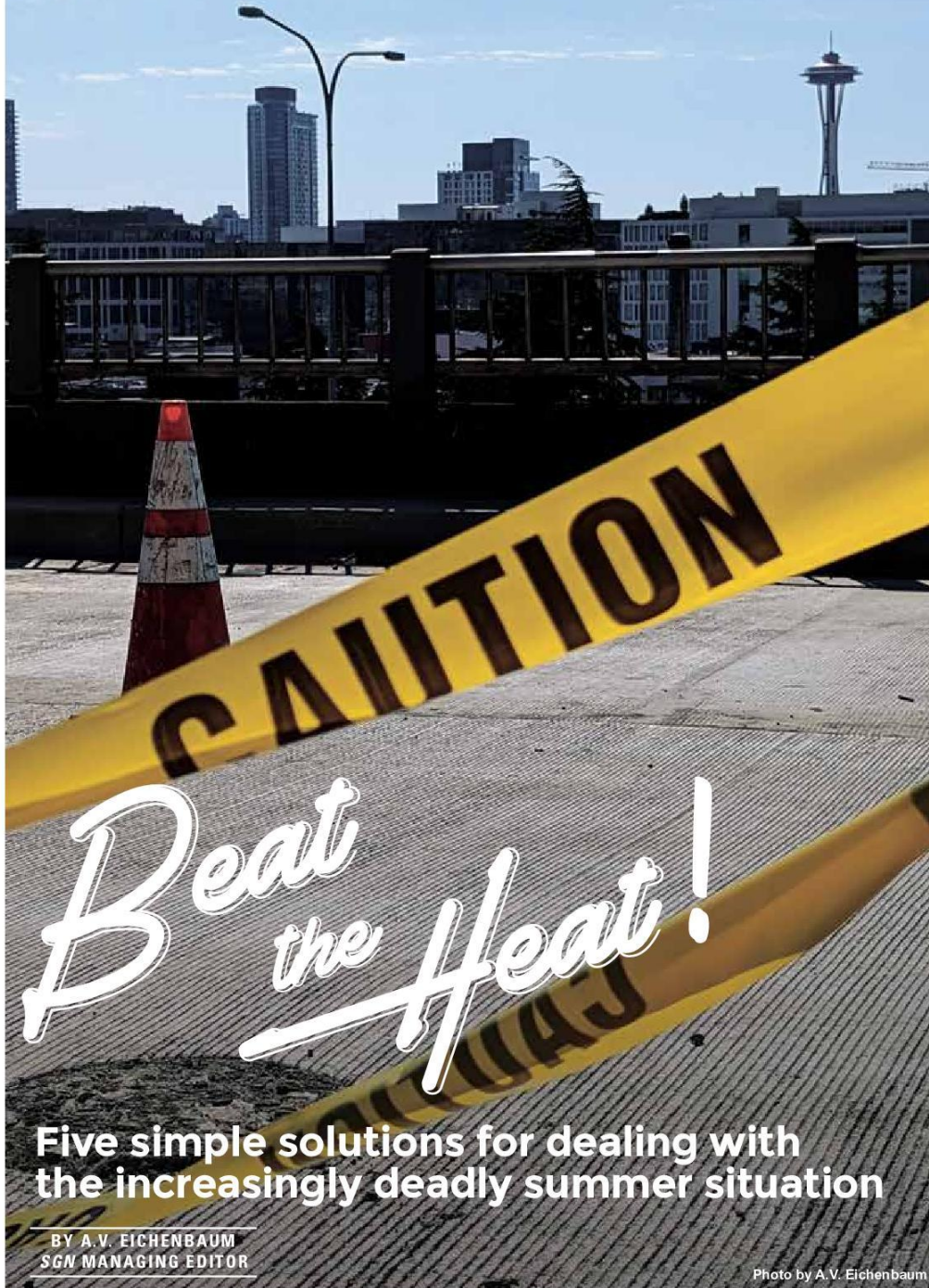
I do have a leash that I'm using as a holder for my treat bag that is rainbow. The bandana is also pretty Queer; it's the map of Olympic National Park.

**Who are your style icons?**

I mostly am on the internet for dog things so I don't pay too much attention. Also I get a little discouraged because I can't find fashion or afford it right now, so I guess the other people I see around Seattle. Seattle is my fashion icon. I think we have a very particular style of whatever the fuck you want and utilitarian, which I think is great. Everybody looks like they could be running or hiking. Athleisure, if you'd call it that.



# Summer Heat



## Beat the Heat!

### Five simple solutions for dealing with the increasingly deadly summer situation

BY A.V. EICHENBAUM  
SGN MANAGING EDITOR

Photo by A.V. Eichenbaum

Citizens of the Emerald City are wilting in the sun and the polar ice caps aren't going to stop melting anytime soon. Less than half of Seattle residents have access to air conditioning, the lakes are getting crowded, and the planet's burning while we sip iced coffee and argue about plastic straws – Here are some simple solutions to beat the summer heat!

#### Stay hydrated

Luckily for Seattleites, we're in a location

that hasn't been as affected by the droughts and subsequent famine causing strife in many parts of the world. Drink up! However, there will be a drought-related food shortage affecting things like hummus, rice, and olive oil this year, so expect prices to rise higher than they already have.

It's not going to get better. In fact, according to ReliefWeb International, within the next few decades it's predicted that 129 countries will experience drought exposure mainly due to climate change alone,

with Mediterranean and Atlantic European countries being affected the most. Meanwhile, our close neighbor California's fire season starts earlier and lasts longer each year. Really makes you appreciate the water features in all of our parks, doesn't it?

#### Get rid of your lawn

Lawns are a waste of water. They look nice, sure, but most of that sod soaking up sun in suburbia is disrupting the local ecosystem drastically. They're also a pain

in the ass to maintain and constantly need trimming and maintenance to stay pristine. For many of us apartment dwellers, this isn't a problem, but a few of you out there will find this rings true.

What can you have instead of a grass lawn? I'm so glad you asked! Try these:

- PNW native wildflowers
- Locally sourced moss
- Clovers
- A vegetable garden
- Creeping thyme

All of these options are more sustainable and more beneficial to you and yours in the long run. When done correctly, they're also more inviting and, in my opinion, more beautiful than your average Kentucky Blue or Bermuda grass plugs. Creeping thyme smells amazing on a summer evening, to boot.

#### Fight apathy

The catalyst for this op-ed was a sponsored press release regarding that hummus shortage I mentioned earlier. The gist of it was, "Hey, there's a famine going on, so here's how to make your own hummus at home!"

The laughable and frankly tone-deaf premise of that email has become an increasingly common theme in my inbox as of late. We seem to be fighting to keep our eyes closed in the face of an everchanging world that doesn't suit our idea of a perfect future. Why acknowledge that the world isn't going to remain comfortable if that brings us discomfort?

Truth can be painful, but it is necessary to recognize when we're in trouble. Ignoring the obvious as too political or too uncomfortable or too overwhelming to care about is illogical. When the fire alarm goes off in your home, you do something about it. You don't wait patiently for someone else to take care of it.

The alarm has been ringing for decades and it's time to pay attention. Stop, drop, and roll won't cover it anymore.

#### Dismantle megacorporations

100 companies are responsible for 71% of the world's CO2 emissions, and they're not slowing down. Look, it's convenient to have your orders arrive at your doorstep in two or three days, but our unchecked consumerism is part of the reason it's gotten so damn hot.

Factories pumping out chemicals to mass produce products that are wrapped in a non-recyclable plastic or Styrofoam and shipped across the country at breakneck speed may seem like an easy, convenient way of going about our day-to-day lives. I'm guilty of it. We all are. But the emissions from that type of convenience economy are slowly burning us alive.

You don't have to be Captain Planet to notice it's hotter in parts of the city with more cars and delivery trucks. Apply that observation to a global scale.

Throw in some human rights violations and regular space flights that emit more CO2 in 11 minutes than the average family van does in a year, and I'd say you've got a pretty solid case against keeping some of the biggest companies in the world.

#### Stay in the know

Knowledge is power. The adage is treated as cliché, but it remains relevant for a reason. Staying abreast of the climate crisis is a way to fight it. Here are some resources and organizations you can turn to for news, volunteer opportunities, and ways to make your life more climate-manageable.

- [www.scientistrebellion.com](http://www.scientistrebellion.com)
- Beacon Hill Food Forest
- The Poor Prole's Almanac Podcast
- [www.climatesolutions.org](http://www.climatesolutions.org)
- [www.greenseattle.org](http://www.greenseattle.org)
- National Park Foundation
- [NRDC.org](http://NRDC.org)

This list doesn't even scratch the surface, but it's a start. It'd be uncouth to say it's just the tip of the iceberg, but there you have it. Don't forget to recycle this newspaper when you're done with it. Stay cool out there. Be thankful for the shade. Climate action starts with you.





## The perfect weekend can be yours

BY BILL MALCOLM  
SPECIAL TO THE SGN

Photo by Bill Malcolm

San Diego, the 8th largest city in America and the 2nd largest in California (at least according to LGBTQ+ Mayor Todd Gloria) is a city of interesting neighborhoods in valleys and mesas on the Pacific Ocean at the southern tip of California (on the border with Tijuana, Sonora, Mexico).

I had the pleasure of visiting during Pride weekend where over 55,000 persons attended the parade and festival held in Balboa Park, the iconic park just east of downtown which features the world-famous Zoo, Museums, and other attractions. Don't miss the Museum of Art.

San Diego has a perfect climate – very mild year-round with 10+ inches of rain so it is not as desolate nor as hot as nearby Phoenix or Las Vegas. And you are just a short drive to LA to take in big city attractions. However, the water temperature is cool (in the mid-60s) compared with east coast beaches.

### What to do

Don't miss the Little Italy neighborhood which features the world's best farmers' market on Saturday. It is full of great restaurants like Ironside (try the salmon and finish it off with banana pudding). Or have desert at the Portland ice cream chain, Salt

and Straw. The Little Italy Food Hall is also great with 7 food court options.

After that catch the light rail (known as the MTS Trolley) up to Old Town State Historic Park, site of California's first settlement (the birthplace of California). You will learn about the history of this interesting state. Don't miss the Casa de Estudillo. The area has several excellent Mexican restaurants.

Next head to Santa Fe Station and catch a bus up to Balboa Park, and then onto the gayborhood, Hillcrest (where the boys are). The Gaslamp Quarter just south of downtown is also worth a visit. You can also head out to Coronado Island and the one and only Hotel del Coronado. Then hit one of the beaches (Pacific Beach, La Jolla, Torrey Pines, and more). The beaches from Coronado south were polluted when I was there due to pollution from Tijuana. You don't need a car since they have a great transit system (see [sdmts.com](http://sdmts.com)).

Speaking of Tijuana, although the light rail runs south to the border, friends discouraged a day trip. I was disappointed since I had some left-over pesos to spend from a previous Mexican vacation. Check when you arrive and make your own decision, but it is tempting.

### Nightlife means the Hillcrest

Most of the bars are in the Hillcrest gayborhood which is just up the hill northeast of downtown. The Uptown Tavern is fun as is Gossip Girl. Try the iconic Flicks for dancing or great people watching (lots of cuties). Urban Mo has great food and drinks and is always packed. The Number One Fifth is another option as is the very festive as is the very popular Rich's. You will find them all on University Avenue in the Hillcrest. All feature outdoor seating or courtyards. Hillcrest is arguably the best gayborhood in North America.

### Where to stay

I stayed at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina on Harbor Island. Just steps to the airport, there are great paths along the harbor, and it is a short hop to the gayborhood (Hillcrest) as well as Balboa Park, Old Town, and Little Italy. (Beware of resort fees though. I refuse to stay at hotels that charge them.)

There are many hotels downtown, but I could not find any in Hillcrest proper. I have also stayed at La Pensione Hotel in Little Italy which I liked. Rates for hotels have gone up dramatically so check the hotel rate before you book your flight. There were several conventions in town as well as Pride going on when I was there, and the hotels were quite expensive.

### Getting there and getting around

The MTS Trolley and bus system is great. You can take Amtrak up to Los Angeles.

I took Southwest through Denver on the way out which was fine although they have no chargers for your phone in the seats. My 3-hour Denver wait became a 4 hour wait due to a delay.

I took United on the way back which was also nice except you must download your credit card before the flight to purchase a snack box or liquor which is a hassle. Other than that, I was surprised how pleasant the flight was – especially since we flew over the Grand Canyon, Utah National Parks, and the Rocky Mountains.

Alaska is my favorite airline and they also have a lot of flights to SAN. The nearby Tijuana Airport is another option and they have a new cross border connect option where you walk over a bridge to the airport to clear customs and catch cheaper flights to Mexico and other destinations.

San Diego airport, the largest single runway airport in the country, is close to downtown. Catch the MTS bus and save on UBER or Lyft fare. The bus is free all summer.

I could walk to my hotel, the Sheraton, which is across the street.

I loved watching the planes descend over Balboa Park into the airport. You can almost touch the tires. San Diego has one close in airport.

Note: Don't bother with a rental car. You won't need one to get around and they are very expensive these days.

One final tip: San Diego does not have a bike sharing system like most cities. So, leave your helmet at home.

### For more info

Check out the LGBTQ news at LGBTQ San Diego County News ([lgbtqsd.news](http://lgbtqsd.news)) or read the print edition. Rage Monthly is the Southern California LGBTQ magazine which covers San Diego.

The San Diego Reader is the alternative weekly. The Union Tribune is the daily.

Put San Diego down as an absolute must for your next vacation. Whatever the season, you won't be disappointed in this interesting and fun city. There is nowhere else like it.

*Bill Malcolm is America's only syndicated LGBTQ+ value travel columnist. His column is now carried in LGBTQ+ publications in Toronto, Seattle, Chicago, and Washington D.C. His opinions are his own. He received no free meals, hotel stays, etc. during his trip making him one of America's truly independent and unbiased travel writers.*



Photo by Bill Malcolm



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# Unforgettables: Cinematic Milestones with Sara Michelle

*Adventures in Babysitting* and *RoboCop*: Searching for humanity, self-acceptance, and identity while singing the blues with the babysitter and enforcing the law in a cybernetic shell



Elisabeth Shue in *Adventures in Babysitting* – Photo courtesy of Touchstone Pictures



Nancy Allen in *RoboCop* – Photo courtesy of Orion Pictures

by Sara Michelle Fetters  
SGN Staff Writer

I watched Chris Columbus' *Adventures in Babysitting* and Paul Verhoeven's *RoboCop* back to back in July 1987. An unconventional double feature, but they were playing at Spokane's North Division 6 at the same time, and as the staff wasn't the most observant bunch, it was easy to go unnoticed coming out of the former movie and sneaking into the latter. It helped that *RoboCop* had just been released and was doing boffo business, so disappearing into the crowd wasn't difficult.

By the time that summer rolled around, I was certain my life would not turn out the way I fantasized. I had recently finished my first year of middle school — still known at the time as "junior high" — and it had been a massive wake-up call. I'd been called out for being too effeminate on the football field, even though I was a star player. I got laughed at in the hallways for carrying my books close to my chest like a girl. My hair was too long, my clothes too colorful. It was exhausting. It was humiliating. I hated it.

Each drop in this hellish peer pressure bucket convinced me that I needed to eradicate every feminine trait I possessed. I cut my hair short in a military-style buzzcut. I started carrying my books in a backpack haphazardly slung over my shoulder so I would never again hold them in my arms like a woman cradling an infant. I started dressing exclusively in athletic wear unless forced to do otherwise.

It was all an illusion, of course, and I was fooling myself if I thought I'd be able to subjugate who I was inside forever. Throughout middle and high school cracks in this façade would show, and no matter how hard I worked to smooth one out, another would quickly take its place. This was a battle I was destined to lose, and by the time I hit the University of Washington campus, I knew I needed to start dealing with my gender identity issues or else.

What does any of this have to do with *Adventures in Babysitting* and *RoboCop*? They are both stories of transformation.

That's obvious in the case of *RoboCop*, Verhoeven's classic sci-fi action satire that wears its Mary Shelley origins on its

shiny, nearly indestructible full-body metal prosthesis for all the world to see. But it's equally true of Columbus' directorial debut, his journey into late-night teenage comedic madness an opportunity for its young protagonist to find her voice and take charge of an impossible situation.

My connection to *Adventures in Babysitting* was immediate. The opening credits feature star Elisabeth Shue dancing around her bedroom lip-synching to the Crystals' 1963 classic "Then He Kissed Me," a moment I reenacted in secret on multiple occasions. She plays Chris Parker, a 17-year-old high school senior who is getting ready for a date with boyfriend Mike (Bradley Whitford) when he cancels on her to supposedly watch over a sick sister.

because it is so remarkably progressive in its depiction of its primary female characters. Chris embraces her femininity but she isn't beholden to it. She has agency and lets her actions define who she is, learning more about herself in a single night of attempting to protect Sara, Brad, and Daryl from harm than she has in four years of high school. She finds romance on her terms, makes unexpected friendships, and discovers asking for help in a time of need is a special kind of heroism in and of itself.

Chris even gets to sing the blues with the legendary Albert Collins. How cool is that?

There's not much that hasn't been written about *RoboCop* over the past 35 years. How fearless Dutch filmmaker Verhoeven was the perfect voice to give this challeng-

As Weller has the showier part, it's no wonder Allen's turn as fellow officer Anne Lewis frequently gets overlooked when discussions of the film take place. But she is also outstanding, creating a firebrand of a character who takes charge in ways women weren't often allowed to in the 1980s, and she does so with a quiet, take-no-prisoners confidence that still feels slightly ahead of its time even now.

Much like Sigourney Weaver in *Aliens* a year prior, Allen isn't afraid of her femininity. Yet she also is not beholden to it. Lewis can stand toe-to-toe with anyone, and she doesn't have to change who she is or the image she wants to present to the world while doing it. As terrific as Allen was for Brian De Palma in classics like *Blow Out* and *Dressed to Kill*, for me, this is her finest hour, and I do not believe *RoboCop* would have achieved its iconic status without her.

Of the two, *Adventures in Babysitting* is the one that has the most elements that have aged the worst, most notably an egregious homophobic slur that gets uttered on multiple occasions. But *RoboCop* has its share of triggering moments as well, though the breakneck pacing and the pitch-black bleakness of the satire do a lot of the heavy lifting to help push those components into the background. Yet each picture is more than the sum of these missteps — far more — and the fact we're still quoting lines and referencing signature moments 35 years later speaks volumes.

But for me, these two film films remain highly personal. They will be eternally linked together, Chris Parker and Anne Lewis each an important influence on my journey to self-acceptance. They've helped me find strength I didn't know was there. They've inspired me to take risks I wouldn't have otherwise dared to think about, let alone attempt. These women are forever part of me, and I don't have to sing the blues or buy anything for a dollar to admit it.

Now celebrating their 35th anniversaries, *Adventures in Babysitting* and *RoboCop* are both available on Blu-ray, the former from Buena Vista Home Entertainment and the latter via Arrow (including a spiffy new 4K Ultra-HD release). Each is also available to purchase digitally on multiple platforms. *Adventures in Babysitting* is currently streaming in an edited version on Disney+.

## *Adventures in Babysitting* and *RoboCop*? They are both stories of transformation.

This suddenly makes Chris available to babysit for the Andersons. They're going into downtown Chicago for a business party and need someone to watch their Thor-obsessed youngest, Sara (Maia Brewton). But instead of one kid, Chris finds herself inexplicably in charge of two more: Sara's older brother Brad (Keith Coogan) — a freshman who has a crush on Chris, his former sitter and now current classmate — and Brad's goofy best friend, Daryl (Anthony Rapp). Things go off the rails when the group is forced to clandestinely head into town to rescue Chris' friend Brenda (Penelope Ann Miller), who is stranded at the bus station alone, and a series of increasingly chaotic hijinks ensues.

I was gobsmacked by Shue's performance as Chris. From her haircut to her makeup to her wardrobe, she was everything I wished I could be yet knew wasn't possible. In fact, she looked just like one of my classmates, whom I didn't so much have a crush on as secretly wished I could be. Heck, my middle name was born from that seventh-grade friendship, and my first hairstyles and attempts at makeup were direct results of my trying to mimic her.

*Adventures in Babysitting* holds up

ing material the edge it needed to resonate with audiences of all backgrounds, even if underneath all the blood, guts, and carnage there was a searing indictment of 1980s Reaganomics. How screenwriters Edward Neumeier and Michael Miner created a dystopian nightmare of a world that's as prescient and ahead of the curve now as it ever was back in 1987. How the strength of the film is in its depiction of reclaiming lost humanity in the face of unimaginable tragedy and loss.

Still, for all the memorable one-liners, signature moments, superb makeup effects, and expertly crafted action sequences, I connected to Verhoeven's English-language debut mainly due to Nancy Allen's brilliant performance. Certainly Peter Weller's work as slain police officer Alex Murphy, and then as unstoppable law enforcement titan *RoboCop*, is a thing of peerless beauty. He finds magic in the madness, building an emotional connection between man and machine that's hauntingly sublime. Weller brings it all to life with such subtle majesty it's no wonder no other actor has been able to walk in *RoboCop*'s titanium shoes with anything even close to equal authority.



# Peele's monstrously entertaining *Nope* flies high

by Sara Michelle Fetters  
SGN Staff Writer

*NOPE*  
Theaters

There's something in the sky. It's spooking the horses at the ranch owned by siblings OJ (Daniel Kaluuya) and Emerald Haywood (Keke Palmer). After the mysterious death of their Hollywood legend father, Otis Haywood Sr. (Keith David), they've been trying to carry on his legacy of training the best animals in the business — to mixed results. Just to keep the lights on, OJ has even been forced to sell some of their prized stock to theme park and petting zoo proprietor Ricky "Jupe" Park (Steven Yeun), a former child star whose career ended in bloody calamity in front of a live studio audience.

But there is still something in the sky. OJ is certain there's an object hiding in the clouds, and Emerald sees a business opportunity if they can prove their suspicions are true. With the aid of bored electronics store technician Angel Torres (Brandon Perea) and the visual ingenuity of famed cinematographer Antlers Holst (Michael Wincott), the Haywoods will get to the bottom of this bizarre mystery. They believe they'll do whatever it takes to get documentary proof of their invisible aerial visitor, not realizing the price of the truth may be their lives.

Jordan Peele's *Nope* has a lot going on. At heart, the film is really nothing more than a freaky little what-if thriller about a small group of outsiders banding together to face down an unstoppable opponent. While there are thematic elements that attempt to lay bare Hollywood's sordid history involving race, gender, age discrimination, and the industry treatment of child actors, those pieces never entirely fit together. But Peele's grasp on the material remains electrifying throughout, and even if his latest doesn't have the staying power of either *Get*



Daniel Kaluuya, Keke Palmer, and Brandon Perea in *Nope*  
— Photo courtesy of Universal Pictures

*Out or Us*, when taken on its own modest terms this bit of throwback Jack Arnold terror remains a lot of fun.

There are some seriously great moments. The opening prologue, where we see what happens to the elder Haywood, is chilling in its minimalism, the way Peele focuses on father and son throughout a great hook that immediately had me excited to discover what was going to happen next. It's immediately followed by the humorously awkward introduction of Emerald. The young woman arrives late for an important shoot involving one of their horses only to blow everyone away with her monologue right before allowing things to fall disastrously apart due to her flippant indifference.

Another great scene is a flashback to Jupe's popular 1990s sitcom. This initially feels slightly out of place as it shows a gruesome tragedy seemingly disconnected from the larger mystery hiding in the skies above

his Western-themed amusement park and the Haywoods' sprawling ranch. But the broader implications of this sojourn into the former actor's past link to the primary plot beautifully. Jupe's backstory adds a layer of heartbreak that spurs a desire for payback, and achieving that payback will require almost as much selfish foolishness as it does selfless heroism.

The reveal as to what is actually going on elicited a few unexpected giggles from the packed promo audience I saw the film with. Some of those laughing were doing so to ease the aura of anxiety and dread Peele was working to create. Yet it was equally clear others were laughing in disbelief at where the filmmaker had taken things. Even if it's purposefully telegraphed early on, it is a silly reveal, and while my retro horror-loving heart loved it, I could see how some may have been expecting something more substantial from Peele and thus felt a minor tinge of disappointment.

I want to say more, but even hinting at what happens during the last act would be inexcusably evil as audiences deserve to find out on their own. What I can say is that Kaluuya is as wonderful as ever, Wincott is a grizzled treasure who I wish had a bigger role, Perea is a goofily jittery revelation, and Yeun brings to his few scenes a soulful melancholia that caught me by surprise. The film is also magnificently shot by the great Hoyte Van Hoytema (*Dunkirk*), the veteran cinematographer an ace in the hole who helps give Peele's shocker its haunting, painterly appeal.

Yet it is Palmer who makes the lasting impression. After breaking out in 2006's *Akeelah and the Bee* and subsequently making a name for herself as she grew up on camera for all the world to see, there are times when it seems Peele designed his otherworldly shocker for her and her alone. Emerald has all the best lines. She has almost all the most memorable moments. The character is front and center in several unexpected ways, and Palmer grooves along with the growing craziness to her own idiosyncratic beat. I couldn't take my eyes off of her.

The more I think on this one the more I smile. It doesn't have the complexity or resonance of Peele's first two efforts, and because of that, I doubt the film will achieve the same level of acclaim or sell as many tickets. But the darn thing is just so enjoyable. Its final 30 minutes are a masterclass of energetically kinetic moxie reminiscent of Spielberg's *Jaws*, Tobe Hooper's *Life Force*, or John Carpenter's *In the Mouth of Madness*.

If *Nope* doesn't have the disquieting staying power of *Get Out* and *Us*, I truly couldn't care less. Peele is riffing in imaginative ways that kept me engaged and eager to see what all the fuss was about. His latest is monstrously entertaining, and I cannot wait to see it again.



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# Grab your next beach read from Pegasus Book Exchange



Photos by Lindsey Anderson

by Lindsey Anderson  
SGN Staff Writer

Just a few minutes' drive from Alki beach sits a quaint little bookshop bursting at the seams with everything a Seattle reader could ever need. Pegasus Book Exchange, one of the city's oldest bookstores, has been offering readers some of the best and fairest-priced beach reads since the 1980s.

Pegasus Book Exchange is a quintessential Seattle business, operating with a chill vibe and friendly demeanor. Everyone who enters the store feels like an old pal, and even the owners refuse to see themselves as "businesspeople."

"The bosses have had it for years. There're three owners here, and I'm the other person," joked jack-of-all-trades Eric Ogriseck. "So, I'm the guy who does all the stuff they don't have time to do. They've never given names, they don't even like being called 'owners.' We all try to take care of the place the best we can."

### A magical history

For Ogriseck, who has worked at Pegasus for nearly a decade, bookselling is a calling. "I've been doing it for many years. Honestly, this will be my twentieth year of bookselling coming up. I've done various other things, from being a teacher to working in big business in Manhattan, but this is what made me happiest," he said. "No two days are ever alike. I get to see cool stuff that I'd never see if I didn't work here. It's just exciting, ultimately. I can make enough money to live on it, and I can make myself happy and be a good partner to my lady at home, and that's ultimately super important."

While Pegasus Book Exchange moved a few times in its 40-year history, the store has always been located on the same

West Seattle block. "It's been in two, three locations, but all on this street, always," Ogriseck said. The location has molded the store into what it is today. "It's hectic and wonderful. We see so many books, we're such a small shop that some people just come in, and they're like, 'How do you guys have so many books?' As you can see, it's small, narrow, but we have so many things coming through."

"Honestly, we get compliments from people who go to the bigger shops all the time and say how great our stock is. It's unique for its size, but it can be very hectic because it is small. We're in the busiest part of West Seattle, too. Right near Easy Street, that's the corner of the junction itself, it's always lively," he continued.

### Becoming a hybrid store

Pegasus Book Exchange is a "hybrid" store featuring new and used books. Originally the shop exclusively sold used books. "We started only used, probably for about 27 years, and then with *Twilight* and *Da Vinci Code*, those were the two big books that made us reconsider that. So, we started ordering new around that point, and we'll always keep doing that," Ogriseck said.

Today, the store is still mostly used books, but the influx of new books means readers can find just about anything they want. "Now it's about 10 to 15% of our store; when I started it was only about 5%. Especially with the pandemic now, people buy what they want regardless of if it's new or used. Of course they always want it used."

Ogriseck says the pandemic has changed how some customers buy books. The store has had to adapt, too. "Back in the day, it would have been harder to sell some of these hot things new. Now people are like, look that's the only way to get it. The



# Baseball memoir pitches perfect game

by Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Special to the SGN

**MAGIC SEASON: A SON'S STORY**  
WADE ROUSE  
© 2022, Hanover Square Press  
\$27.99  
304 pages

You're always looked up to your dad. Sometimes it happened literally, like when you were a child and "up" was the only way to see his face hovering over yours. You've looked up at him in anger, embarrassment, dismissal, and yeah, you've looked up to him in the best ways, too — never forgetting, as in the memoir *Magic Season* by Wade Rouse, that sometimes the hardest thing is seeing eye to eye.

Wade Rouse threw like a girl. He couldn't catch a baseball, either, and he wasn't much of a runner as a young boy. He tried because his father insisted on it, but Rouse was better with words and books and thoughts. He was nothing like his elder brother, Todd, who was a natural hunter, a good sportsman and an athlete, and their father never let Rouse forget it.

And yet, curiously, Rouse and his dad bonded over baseball.

Specifically, their love of Cardinals baseball became the one passion they shared. The stats, the players, the idea that "anything can happen," the hope that there'd be a World Series at the end of every season — this was the glue they needed. It was what saved them when Todd was killed in a motorcycle accident. When Rouse came out to his father, Cards baseball was what brought them back together after two years of estrangement.

In between games, though, and between seasons, there was yelling, cruelty, and all the times when father and son didn't communicate. Rouse accepted, but didn't like, his father's alcoholism and his harsh life-lessons; his father didn't like Rouse's plans for his own future. Rouse admits that he cried a lot, and he was surprised at the rare times when his father displayed emotion — especially since an Ozark man like Ted Rouse didn't do things like that.

Until the time was right. Love, Wade Rouse says, is "shaped like a baseball." You catch it, throw it or hit it out of the park, but "you don't know where it's going."

Just be sure you never take "your eye off it, from beginning to end."

Oh, my. Oh, my, but "Magic Season" is a ten-hankie book.

First, though, you're going to laugh because author Wade Rouse is a natural-born humorist and his family is a great launching-pad for him despite the near-clawing despair of the overall theme of this book. That sense of humor can't seem to let a good story go, even when it's obvious that there's something heartbreaking waiting in the bullpen.

Which brings us to the father-son-baseball triple play. It may seem to some readers that this kind of book has been done and done again, but this one feels different. Rouse excels at filling in the blanks on the other essential teammates in this tale and, as in any big skirmish, readers are left breathless, not knowing the final score until the last out.

If you like your memoirs sweet but with a dash of spice and some tears, here you go. For you, *Magic Season* is a book to look up.

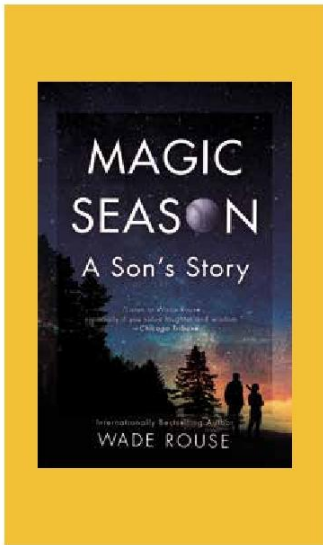


Image courtesy of Hanover Square Press

## PEGASUS

continued from page 17

pandemic, once again, I think it for that because people realize there's no point in waiting necessarily for something you can't afford that you do want. Some people do still wait, and we're cool with that. But, mostly used, that's what we prefer, but it's hard to get people to trade in as quickly as we want them to with some of these books."

### A book for everyone

Pegasus Book Exchange has a wide variety of books with something for every reader. "It's a little bit of everything, when we first started, it was romance and mystery was our bread and butter. Without those two, we would not be here, and the New Age, at one point, was big. But now it's the smaller subjects that aren't necessarily big that help us a lot. Like poetry. We sell so many poetry books, it's unbelievable, and our 'employee-pick' section turns over well," Ogriseck said.

Unlike many used bookstores, Pegasus also has an LGBTQ+ book section. "We have [an LGBTQ+ section]. We have one for young adults, and then we have one for adults, so we have a spin rack in the back, and we even have a fantasy section. There's a fair amount of them. Then we have a gender studies section with a lot of nonfiction, so that's definitely a huge selling section, and has been for a few years now," he added.

While Ogriseck sees many of the benefits of having a wide LGBTQ+ section, he also admits it's something the store employees go back and forth on. "We were torn on it, honestly. You want to have the books separated so people can quickly access them, but in a way, you might be doing them a disservice," he said. "Like, someone who might not ever shop that section won't buy it if it's not in the section they normally shop. So, we're kind of torn on it, but we do have that spin rack for, you know, Queer teens, and that section does well because the kids know they can go back there, check it out, no judgment, we don't care, it's not our business. It's fun to let people know they have that freedom to get whatever they want and have it centralized, so that spin rack has been wonderful."

### What's hot this summer?

This summer's popular books at Pegasus Book Exchange have been all over the place, but Ogriseck has noticed many LGBTQ+ titles standing strong among the top sellers. "This summer, *Sea of Tranquility* there on the table by Emily St. John Mandel, beautiful book, very popular," Ogriseck said. "Next to it, *Lapvona* by Moshfegh, I just fin-

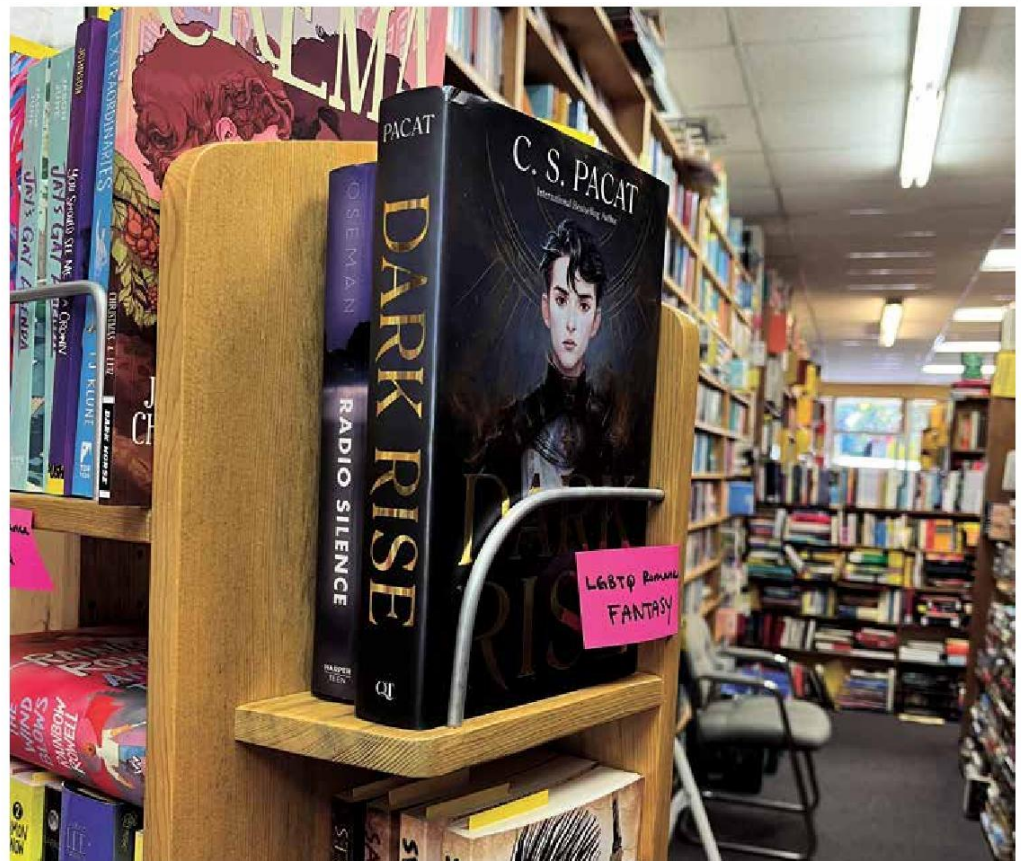


Photo by Lindsey Anderson

ished reading both of those books, and they are incredible. Nonfiction, you know. *Crying in H-Mart* has been the hottest book in nonfiction for quite some time, and then good pickups like *House in the Cerulean Sea* by Kluge; people need something nice and heartwarming and that book is that. Those four have been some of the hottest, at least in the last couple of months."

Pegasus Book Exchange sells more than just books. "We had our T-shirts made, we've got these totes, we've got all these stickers," Ogriseck said, taking a walk around the front of the store. He also sells special handmade jewelry, cards, and dehydrated mushrooms. "Sea glass jewelry that my partner and I make. We go find this stuff on the beach and then she puts it onto jewelry. We sell mushrooms here that I forage in the woods, I've got dehydrated mushrooms that I find in the

woods year-round. We've been keeping our ear to the ground to listen to what people want. People have been asking for cards for a long time, so this is one of our customers, he makes this, V. McMurray is his name. Just kind of, once again, selling what the customers want. We even have board games and puzzles. People love it," he said.

Pegasus makes sure to listen to what customers want, which Ogriseck says makes the store unique. "Booksellers are kind of known to be stubborn and do what they want, and we're the opposite of that. We listen to what the customers want, and that ultimately dictates what we carry," he explained.

"A lot of bookstores that are no longer around kept what they wanted. That worked for many years, but with the advent of the internet and Amazon, now everything can be purchased there immediately

for cheaper than what we have. So, we've really got to keep our ear to the ground and listen to what the folks want, and that certainly is, even if it means carrying stuff you don't think will sell," he continued.

The store carries books of all types, from graphic novels to children's books to dense academic texts on *Roe v. Wade*. Because the store mostly stocks used books, the prices are also unbeatable. With amazing customer service, an expansive number of books, and some quality dehydrated mushrooms, Pegasus Book Exchange is a must-stop shop for any Seattle book lover.

*Pegasus Book Exchange is located at 4553 California Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116. The store is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays.*





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# Squad goals 17 House Democrats arrested at abortion protest

by Lindsey Anderson  
SGN Staff Writer

Seventeen House Democrats were arrested Tuesday, July 19, after gathering outside the Supreme Court to protest the ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson*. The sixteen congresswomen and one congressman gathered near the steps of the Marble Palace to participate in a “green wave” protest arranged by Rise Up 4 Abortion Rights. Sporting custom “we won’t back down” green bandanas, the congress members marched from the Capitol Building to the court, chanting.

Within moments of the congress members’ arrival at the court, which had been blocked off by police since the June 24 ruling, police demanded protesters “cease and desist.” In an act of civil disobedience, the protesters sat in the street, prompting police to make arrests. All lawmakers arrested were later released on scene.

Among those arrested on Tuesday were representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Carolyn Maloney, Ilhan Omar, Rashida Talib, Cori Bush, Veronica Escobar, Jackie Speier, Barbara Lee, Ayanna Pressley, and Katherine Clark.

Following their arrests, several congress members issued statements on social media, including Speier of California, who, at 72, was the oldest member of Congress to participate in the day’s events.

“I have never been arrested before, but I can hear the late, great Congressman John Lewis imploring me to ‘make some noise and get in good trouble,’” she wrote. “We must be willing to speak out for patients who have the right to basic health care and the fundamental right to bodily autonomy.”

In a statement, Capitol Police said they made the arrests because protesters were “crowding, obstructing or incommoding” public spaces. They also confirmed that the protesters had received three warnings to move out of the street before police action.



From left, Rep. Cori Bush, D-Mo., Rep. Nydia Velazquez, D-N.Y., Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-Calif., and Rep. Alma Adams, D-N.C., carry a banner during a march for abortion rights, organized by the Center for Popular Democracy Action, outside the Capitol on Tuesday, July 19, 2022 in Washington. – Photo by Kevin Wolf / AP

### Just a PR stunt?

In the days following the D.C. protests and arrests, many conservatives took to social media to accuse members of the “squad” of “faking” their arrests. People pointed out that Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez held her hands behind her back while being escorted away from the scene by police despite not wearing handcuffs, and they accused her of pulling a stunt for publicity.

Capitol Police records show that all seventeen arrests did occur, and Ocasio-Cortez posted her arrest paperwork and \$50 fine on Instagram as proof. Addressing the rumors further, she explained her hand posture on Twitter, writing, “putting your hands behind your back is a best practice

while detained, handcuffed or not, to avoid escalating charges like resisting arrest.”

Tuesday’s protests were not the first for Democratic members of Congress. Many have been actively protesting the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* since before the decision was even released.

Following the release of the ruling, 181 protesters were arrested outside the Supreme Court, including Rep. Judy Chu, who was the only member of Congress to propose legislation to codify *Roe* before the ruling. Unfortunately, the bill, which passed through the House in September, died in a filibuster on the Senate floor.

### Further action

Rise Up 4 Abortion Rights has plans for

future protests across the nation, and the group expects more support and action from Democratic leaders in Congress. “I will continue to do everything in my power to raise the alarm about the assault on our reproductive rights,” Rep. Omar said following Tuesday’s events.

While lawmakers are stirring up action outside the Capitol Building, the American people just hope they can keep the momentum going on the inside. Only days before the protest, on July 15, the House passed yet another bill to federally protect abortion rights. If the bill can hold out until after the November mid-terms, Democrats are hopeful it may have a fighting chance.

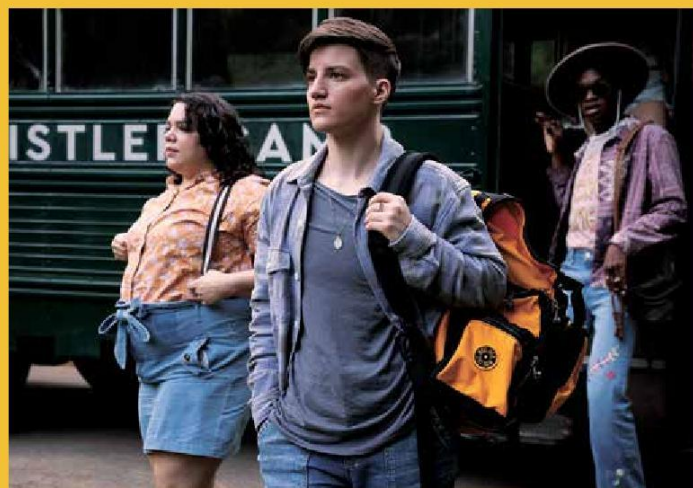
## National news highlights

by Daniel Lindsay  
SGN Contributing Writer

### Bacon, Germaine star in Queer slasher flick

NBC News reported July 22 on *They/Them* (pronounced “they-slash-them”), a thriller film starring Kevin Bacon and Nonbinary actor Theo Germaine, which is set to air on the streaming platform Peacock on August 5. In the film, Kevin Bacon’s character runs a conversion therapy camp for Queer teens; meanwhile, a masked killer stalks the campers.

Theo Germaine’s character, a Trans, Nonbinary teen named Jordan, works with the other campers to stay alive and find out the truth about the camp’s past. Germaine told *Entertainment Weekly* that his character Jordan doesn’t “have a very positive relationship with their family, and they’re out, and they’re like, this is who I am.” “They want to legally emancipate themselves, and they make a



Theo Germaine in *They/Them* – Photo by Josh Stringer / Blumhouse

deal with their parents,” Germaine went on, “which is that they go to this conversion camp for a week, and if it doesn’t work, their parents will get out of the way and make it easy for them to separate.”

Of Bacon’s character, Germaine said, “I think he represents the way that conversion therapy conditions you and tricks you and breaks your defenses down in order to try and get through to you to change who you are. He’s kind of the

embodiment of that idea in this film.”

*They/Them* will be screenwriter John Logan’s debut as a director. “I’ve loved horror movies as long as I can remember, I think because monsters represent ‘the other’ and as a gay kid I felt a powerful sense of kinship with those characters who were different, outlawed, or forbidden,” he said. “I wanted to make a movie that celebrates Queerness, with characters that I never saw when I was growing up.”

### Congressman attends son’s gay wedding, votes against gay marriage

NBC News reported on July 25 that Republican representative Glenn Thompson of Pennsylvania attended his gay son’s wedding just three days after voting against a House bill that would codify legal protections for same-sex marriage.

Thompson’s press secretary, Madison Stone, and his son confirmed the congressman’s attendance.

“Congressman and Mrs. Thomas were thrilled to attend and celebrate their son’s marriage on Friday night as he began this new chapter in his life,” Stone said in an email. She added that they were “very happy” to accept their new son-in-law “into their family.”

In an email to *Centre Daily*, a local newspaper, Stone wrote that the Respect for Marriage Act was “nothing more than an election-year messaging stunt for the Democrats in Congress who have failed to address historic inflation and out of control prices at gas pumps and grocery stores.”

The act is now being considered by the Senate. NBC added that 71% of Americans and a majority of Republicans support same-sex marriage, according to a July Gallup poll.



# GOP selling out on marriage, says Christian right leader

by Mike Andrew  
SGN Staff Writer

Congressional Republicans are preparing to sell out their Christian right supporters on the issue of marriage equality, hate group leader Tony Perkins warned in a July 26 email.

Perkins, head of the Family Research Council, took fright after 47 House Republicans voted with their Democratic Party colleagues to legalize same-sex marriage by federal statute on July 19.

The bill, titled the Respect for Marriage Act, was intended to protect same-sex couples' right to marry from possible future US Supreme Court decisions. It passed the House easily, with 267 votes in favor, against 157 against.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi was clear that the legislation came to the floor in response to the high court's ruling reversing the established precedent of *Roe v. Wade*, and in response to Justice Thomas' concurring opinion challenging a number of prior court rulings, including *Obergefell*.

The future of the bill in a closely divided Senate remains in doubt, but MSNBC has reported that four or five Republican Senators are ready to support the measure: Susan Collins (R-ME), Rob Portman (R-OH), Tom Tillis (R-NC), Ron Johnson (R-WI), and possibly Lisa Murkowski (R-AK).

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell is also reported to be open to passing the legislation, not because he favors LGBTQ rights, but because he wants the November election to be a referendum on the Biden administration and not on the GOP's medieval social agenda.



Tony Perkins – Photo by J. Scott Applewhite / AP

Faced with seemingly good odds of passing a federal guarantee of marriage equality, Perkins apparently felt the need to step in and warn Republicans of the political risks of parting ways with the Christian right.

"Heading into November with the elections on a silver platter, the men and women who rebranded themselves as the forces of anti-wokeness have suddenly gone soft on an issue that should be a political no-brainer: marriage," Perkins wrote.

"If the GOP's defectors are making a political calculus, it's a terrible one," he continued. "Conservatives who abandon marriage are only endearing themselves to two sets of people: radical Democrats who would never vote for them anyway, and moderates from both parties who wouldn't make marriage the deciding factor of any vote.

"Who they stand to lose, on the other hand, is far more significant this November. Not only do they risk suppressing their evangelical base, but also other Americans who: a) see same-sex marriage as the gateway drug to all of the transgender, LGBT, sex-ed chaos we're experiencing in society; b) don't believe an activist court should usurp the democratic process; and c) disgruntled Democrats who thought the Republican Party would be the counterweight to the Left's extremism."

Perkins may be overstating his case, however. Polling, even among mainstream Christians — including Roman Catholics — universally shows large majorities in support of marriage equality.

# Greek Orthodox Church protests Gay celebrity baptism

by Mike Andrew  
SGN Staff Writer

The Greek Orthodox Archbishop of America, Elpidophoros, touched off an ecclesiastical international incident when he baptized the two children of a Gay couple on July 12.

The couple, Evangelo Bousis and Peter Dundas, are internationally known designers, and being of Greek descent, they wanted their children baptized in a Greek Orthodox church in Greece, where they sometimes reside.

The couple's children, Alexios and Eleni, were baptized in the Panagia Faneromeni Church in the fashionable Athenian suburb of Vouliagmeni.

Because the two parents are Gay — and celebrities at that — what is usually an ordinary event in church life received worldwide media coverage.

As head of the Greek Orthodox Church in North and South America, Elpidophoros can do pretty much whatever he wants in his own jurisdiction, but protocol requires that he ask permission to administer sacraments like baptism in another bishop's church.

Enter the Metropolitan Bishop of Glyfada, in whose jurisdiction the baptism was performed. Metropolitan Antonios claims that when Elpidophoros wrote for permission to perform a baptism in one of Antonios' churches, he did not disclose that the children were part of a family headed by a same-sex couple.

"[T]he Archbishop of America acted of his own accord, arbitrarily, and uncanonically within my metropolis, inasmuch as, while he was well aware that the children do not belong to a family according to the institutions of the Church, he did not mention anything to me," Antonios wrote in a statement.

The Greek Orthodox Church does not approve of same-sex relationships and does not recognize families of same-sex



Photo courtesy of George Bousis

partners. Many Greek bishops are notoriously homophobic. Consequently Antonios — and by extension, the whole church in Greece — was scandalized by Elpidophoros' action.

As soon as the baptism became public, the Holy Synod, the Greek Church's governing body made up of all its bishops and abbots, announced it would send a letter of protest to Elpidophoros. And, because the American Archbishop is under the jurisdiction of the Patriarch of Constantinople, not the Church of Greece, the synod also sent a protest letter to Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople at his headquarters in Istanbul.

Elpidophoros was born in Istanbul and would have to be well connected with high

church officials in the Patriarchate to land a plum job in America, so, not unexpectedly, Constantinople defended him.

The Reverend John Chryssavgis, a theological advisor to the Patriarch, published an editorial in *Religion News Service* in which he argued that no one would expect a cleric to go into detail about the family life of the parents when a child needs to be baptized.

"There should be no controversy over a baptism, to which all children are entitled," Chryssavgis wrote. He did not hesitate to call out by name Greek bishops who criticized the baptism and suggested it was time for "a frank discussion about sex and gender in the church."

# International news highlights

by Daniel Lindsley  
SGN Contributing Writer



Photo by Marton Monus / Reuters

## Budapest Pride sweltering hot this year

Reuters reported on July 23 that thousands of people endured temperatures of 104 degrees Fahrenheit to march in Budapest Pride, which was in part a protest against the country's anti-LGBTQ laws.

"I am Queer myself and it's important that we show ourselves, especially in a country where the political sentiment is like this towards LGBTQ people," said one participant.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban gave a speech in Romania the same day, saying that Hungary's greatest challenges were demography, migration, gender politics, and economic problems. Orban's Christian Democrat government has argued that LGBTQ rights should be up to national governments, not the European Commission, whose president has named the anti-LGBTQ laws of Hungary a "disgrace."

Before the Pride event, dozens of embassies in Budapest made a joint statement in support of the LGBTQ community. The U.S. Embassy's statement said, "We express our full support for members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex (LGBTQ+) community and their rights to equality and non-discrimination, freedom of expression and peaceful assembly."

## Cuban referendum could allow gay marriage, adoption

Reuters reported on July 22 that Cuba's National Assembly has approved an update to its Families Code, which if passed in a referendum vote could pave the way for Gay marriage, adoption of children by same-sex couples, stronger women's rights, and better protections for children, the elderly, and other family members.

Organizers of community meetings said 62% of participants expressed support for the change, a low portion compared to previous amendments, which have garnered up to 96% support.

Opponents of the change include churchgoers like Methodist pastor Henry Nurse, who argued, "What has been happening is sad because it is going to bring confrontation. It goes against what has been taught for many generations of years throughout the world about the true traditional marriage that is between a man and a woman."

Havana couple Ria Acosta Cruz and Gabriela Alfonso, women who have lived together for years but haven't been able to marry or adopt children, said such things are a human right.

"The opportunity it gives us is that of marriage. The fact of being able to opt together for certain things and certain legal procedures that we need as a couple and not as independent people," Alfonso said.

"We are a marriage," Acosta said. "We have the plans together, the economy together. It is not fair that this possibility does not exist."



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This ad donated as a community service by Seattle Gay News



A muscular man with a light complexion is the central figure, wearing a light-colored cowboy hat and dark blue denim jeans. He is shirtless, showcasing his well-defined physique. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a neutral expression. Behind him, a man with a darker complexion and a dark hat is partially visible, looking towards the camera. The background is an industrial or urban setting with wooden beams, graffiti, and a wall with a circular logo. The lighting is bright, suggesting an outdoor or well-lit indoor environment.

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