

ISSUE 07.25

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Publisher: BOI Magazine, Inc.
Editor: Nate Daniels
Feature Editor: Mike at Night
Graphic Design: Titanium Graphics
Layout Specialist: Angel Christopher
Multi-Media: Media Services Management
AI Staff Assistant: boiBOT

COVER

Statue of Liberty Artwork
Graphic Design: Titanium Graphics
Issue Theme: July - Celebration of Freedom

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National Media Rep: Rivendell Media **908.232.2021**
www.RivendellMedia.com

DISTRIBUTION

Chicago & Suburbs: DSE (Delivery Service Enterprises)
World Wide Distribution: Heyzine Media Network

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Back in the 70s and 80s, record stores weren't just places to buy music-they were cultural hubs. You'd walk in and be greeted by the smell of vinyl, posters of the latest rock gods on the wall, and crates of albums just waiting to be flipped through.



The staff knew music inside and out, and you could spend hours browsing, discovering new bands just by their album covers. It wasn't about algorithms or instant downloads-it was about the thrill of the hunt, hanging out with other music lovers, and sometimes even getting turned onto your next favorite band by pure accident.

Today's digital age is fast and convenient, but let's be honest, it'll never match the magic of those dusty bins and that first crackle of the needle on the turntable. And this is what walking into **Animal Records** feels like.



Upon entering, I was greeted by **Caleb**. A super cool guy with a great attitude. Next up was owner **Greg**. Very cool person, personable and a great sense of humor. Then I met **Aiden**. Very music knowledgeable, good sense of humor and very attentive to the customers. Greg gave me a tour of the store and its setup. Lots of great music. Of course, I headed for the classic rock section looking for something odd to add to my collection, and found the new release of **Pink Floyd At Pompeii**. The store is well organized and esthetically presentable. I found a 12" dance section which included hard to find dance tunes of the early 80s, alternative, house, high energy and freestyle. There was a latin rhythm section taking you back to the sounds of the 50s mambo bands. As I continued walking, I found a **Caribbean** section, cassettes, collectible posters and miscellaneous items as well as new releases.

Animal Records has been in existence for about eight months. Its conveniently located in downtown **Evanston**, a beautiful quiet stretch with great coffee shops and restaurants. Animal Records has a downstairs and plans are to open it up with more selections as well as an outdoor patio which has been home to pet adoptions, local bands and local dj's.



I can't sign off without mentioning **Pogo**.

Take it from someone who's been bitten twice from a rot and a shepherd, Pogo was a sight for sore eyes. The friendliest dog you'd wanna pet. There's a deeper meaning behind the name Animal

Records. It's the love for animals, particularly dogs and cats, thereby creating a fun atmosphere for people of all ages and musical tastes. Sorry I wasn't able to meet the rest of the staff, **Neil** and **Nyx**. I'll definitely make it a point to be there when the the downstairs and outdoor patio open up.





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TRAX RECORDS commemorates its 40th Anniversary with a bold Collection, presenting a multi-format release that captures the essence of the label's past, present, and future. Curated by artist and provocateur Jorge, the collection has been roll out digitally, along with limited-edition vinyl pressings, released on June 20, 2025.

The release package serves as a master-class in house music's evolution, pairing foundational artists like **Frankie Knuckles**, **Marshall Jefferson**, **Phuture**, **Ron Hardy**, **Armando**, and **Paul Johnson** with boundary-pushing producers including **Jorge**, **Hiroko Yamamura**, and **Analog 87**. From iconic anthems like "Move Your Body" and "Your Love" to genre-blending remixes and experimental deep cuts.

The compilation underscores Trax's role as innovator, that prides itself as a record label collaborator in the music industry, as seen, and heard, by the release of this four decade compilation.

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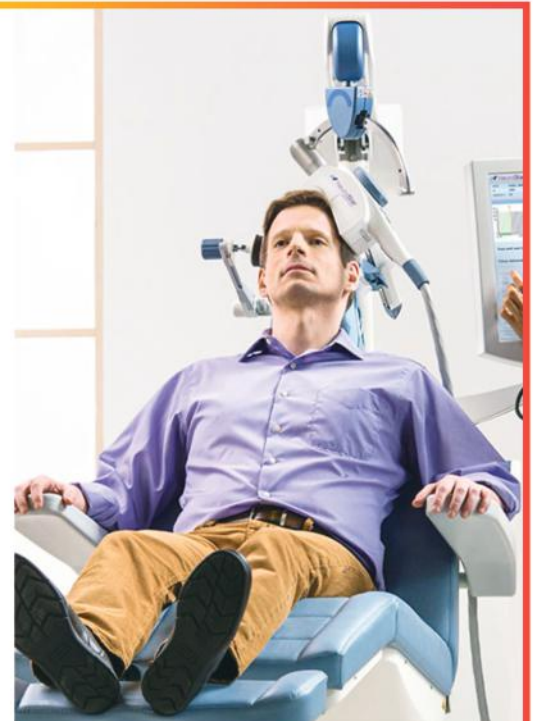
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ASK CHAR

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The views and/or advice expressed here are my personal opinions, based on my life experience, and don't necessarily reflect the opinions of any other individual or organization. Have a question? eMail me at AskChar@boiMAG.com

Dear Char,

"I was sexually abused as a child. It seems that according to what I have read, many times the perpetrator is someone you know. Well, for me this is true. Although I can

intellectualize that I'm no longer threatened by this person, I have to say, being touched and having a romantic relationship is not comfortable for me. I want to have a relationship; a healthy relationship. Any suggestions for how to move forward in my life?"



Dear Movin' Forward in FL,

If this sounds trite, it is not. You are not alone. Sexual abuse can happen to anyone: age, race and gender; sexual abuse is a common trauma.

What is true for you, is true for many. Sexual abuse is often perpetrated by someone known to the victim. Now, before, we move on, examine the last word in that sentence and let's start by changing "victim" to "survivor". That is what you are: a survivor. The very fact that you are writing and asking about your past and moving forward shows that you have put much thought into this issue and your mental health is your number one priority. That takes real courage.

True for both adults and children, the majority of sexual abuse circumstances have shown that the perpetrator is known to the survivor. Although you did not disclose the relationship you had with the abuser, know that 59% of abusers are acquaintances of the survivor and 34% are family members. You also did not disclose whether you reported the abuse. Many cases of sexual assault, and that is what it was, go unreported because it was a trusted companion, friend, or family member. The concern of not being believed is a normal feeling. Feeling guilt and worry over the judgment of your character is commonplace, too. There may be other people you trusted who knew

about what happened to you and never talked about it with you or reported it themselves.

Now you may be wondering why something that occurred so long ago is still bothering you and you may ask yourself, "Why can't I just brush this off?" The answer is because it is a trauma and brushing off is just not that easy.

I am hoping that somewhere along the way you have received some professional help. Dealing with a sexual assault, is tough. As you have stated, even now it is impacting your potential for a fulfilling relationship. You may even still have startle reactions to touch, dreams about the violence, have anxiety about being alone with someone and not even want to engage socially. You may have low self-esteem, eating and sleep disturbances and anger problems. Again, you are not alone. Hear this loud and clear. You are not alone.

By this I mean that not only is this horrific event in your life something that many others know too well, but also that there are people who want to learn more about what happened and want to help. There are very specific therapies and professionals who stand ready to help you move forward. You deserve the chance to do that.

Below are just a few places you can call. They will provide not only resources in your home community but spend time talking with you. Please call one, or more of them.

Childhelp Abuse Hotline:
800-4-A-Child (422-4453)

Love is Respect Hotline:
866-331-9474

Sexual Assault Hotline:
800-656-HOPE (4673)

Domestic Violence Hotline:
800-799-SAFE

Safe Helpline:
877-995-5247

Victim Connect Resource Center:
855-484-2846

I'm so glad you connected. What happened to you is not fair and not OK in any way. You were perpetrated against. However, look at the survivor in you!

You reached out and want to feel differently. Your letter has probably changed the lives of others who have suffered and were unable to do what you just did. Thank you.

You will have that relationship you talked about. Give yourself time and be patient. I am truly proud and amazed at your courage and the survivor resilience you have shown.

IN CONCERT

Jorge Suarez

The Lynyrd Skynyrd Tribute Band, Freebyrd recently took to the DesPlaines Theater stage. It was a bit refreshing to hear their classics, especially since they had sooo many hits to cover.



I was fortunate to catch Lynyrd Skynyrd perform a few years ago though many of their band members have been replaced.

Band members include: Mel Stahler - lead vocals, Ken Erickson - guitar- created the group, Mitch

Wierzgac - guitar, Kevin Wierzgac - guitar, Jon Vesely on bass, Stan Karcz on keyboards, and Rob Mazurek on drums.

Yes, we heard the classics and sang along. "Sweet Home" will always be my fave. Too many hits to list.

Ken Erikson formed the tribute band in 2019. all members hail from Chicago. Their influences hail from The Allman Brothers, The Outlaws, Molly Hatchet, and Marshall Tucker.

This evening, all hits performed were well known classics such as "Free Bird", "What's Your Name", "That Smell", "Simple Man", and "Sweet Home".

This band is in demand all throughout Illinois. You can catch them performing during various suburban summerfest series. I would definitely like to catch these guys in an outdoor setting. They are worth the ticket.



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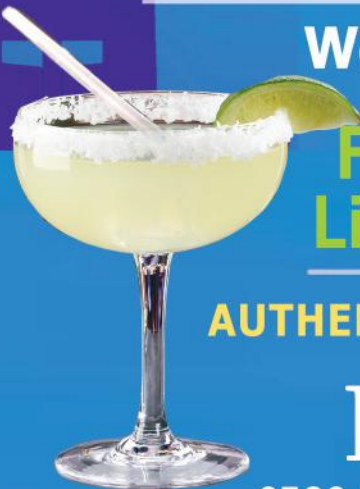
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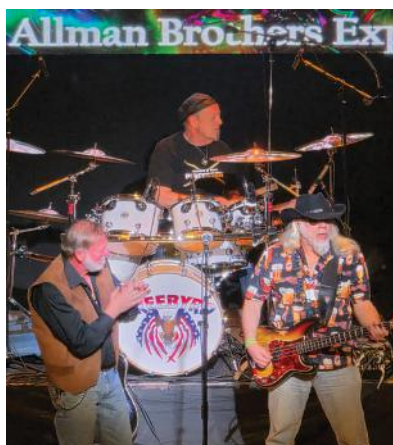
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IN CONCERT

Jorge Suarez

The Allman Brothers tribute band Rose Hill Revival, opened for Freebyrd, that was reviewed in my previous article.



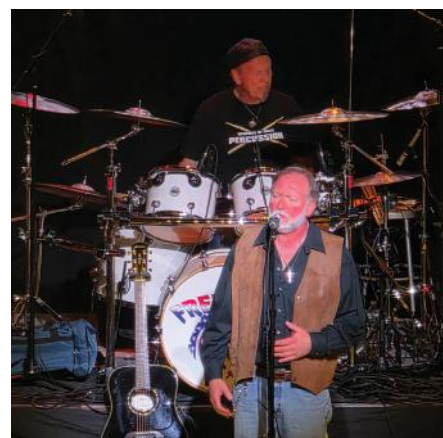
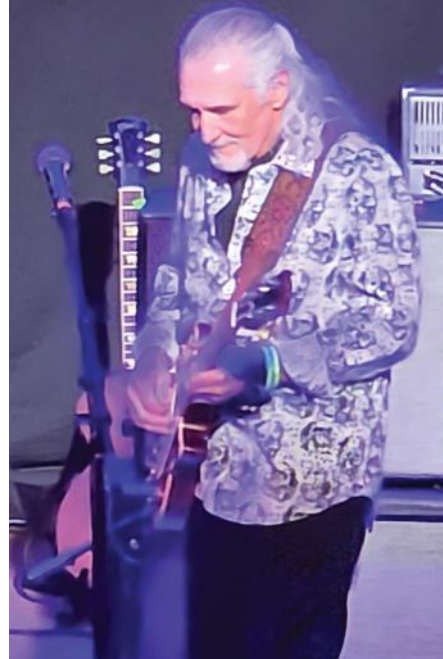
Though I was into hard rock, classic rock, such names as **Allman Brothers, The Outlaws, Molly Hatchet** and **Marshall Tucker**, stand out. Chicago radio played host to many genres and southern/country rock was included.



Rose Hill Revival kicked off the **Brothers of The Road Tour**, paying tribute to the great Allman Brothers Band, with three talented musicians in the Midwest, **Mason Clay, Kent Kaled**, and **Mike Lerner**, and also joining from the **Mosquitoes**

Jam Band / Petty Union Band was **Ray Kirschner**!

After playing in front of **Greg Allman** at the historic **King Biscuit Blues Festival** in **Arkansas, Chicago** based artist and producer **Kevin Purcell** was inspired to bring together some of area's finest veteran musicians to create **Rose Hill Revival**!



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AMAZING GRACE!

by Mike at Night

Grace Jones, alongside the well known band Heart, kicked off the opening weekend at Ravinia Theater in Highland Park. It's incredible that I'd never been to Ravinia before, despite hearing the iconic theater all my life. Who knew that with your ticket, you get a free METRA ride that will drop you off right at the gate?

Ravinia is a beautiful intimate venue with a pavilion. The staff was remarkably friendly and helpful, perhaps a reflection of the theater being a non-profit organization that's nestled in a wealthy tree-lined suburban neighborhood with million-dollar mansions. Everyone clearly was there for an enjoyable night out. BYOB is allowed, and so is food, or you can buy them there and have a picnic in the outer-grass area while enjoying live entertainment for the evening.

Grace Jones took the stage about 45 minutes after the opening artist, Janelle Monáe. She abruptly ended her show at almost precisely 10:30 PM, with the lights immediately coming up. Grace made a few playful references to the "curfew" throughout her performance, clearly aware of the venue's early closing time. Knowing her playful nature, she likely would have continued until at least midnight or well beyond. You could tell she was in her zone, truly enjoying being on stage being the center of attention. At one point, while singing "Pull Up to the Bumper" a performance that lasted over 20 minutes, but felt like only a few minutes, when she went rogue and jumped off stage. She traveled to the edge of the lawn seats (aka picnic area) at the back of the pavilion before returning to center stage, where security helped her back up to the stage and continued for another playful round.

Mid-concert, Ms. Jones subtly acknowledged the LGBTQ+ community with a verbal and hand gesture, referencing the two pride-colored bracelets she was wearing on each wrist.

Missing from the set-list were "La Vie en Rose" and "I Need A Man." However, she performed a new, unreleased song as a tribute to someone close to her who had recently passed.

The emotional lyrics resonated deeply with both Grace and the audience, myself included.

Grace Jones is a true artist and entertainer. She's a high-caliber performer with a talent and stage charisma possessed by only a select few. Artists who need only a microphone and a spotlight to showcase their true talent. No backup dancers, flashy video effects, auto-tune, AI, or lip-syncing are needed for Grace! Perhaps a mirrored sequenced hat for the light to shine on like a mirror ball on her head!



In slight contrast, I would bet that **Janelle Monáe** lip-synced most of her opening act; her vocals sounded too studio-perfect. To her credit, however, when Grace Jones pulled her on stage in the middle of "Pull Up to the Bumper," (once she got back up on stage from her tour around the pavilion) both artists were playfully interacting.

Janelle stood behind Grace, her hands moving up and down her body, including her hands seemingly on her breasts in a playful motion.



Then, both went face down, ass up, unzipping Grace's pants while unexpectedly, Ms. Monáe began belting out the song LIVE with the vocal talent matching Grace's in the duet, showcasing an impressive range that I was impressed to hear, and would have much preferred to hear earlier in her opening set, however, the crowd didn't seem to mind the "too perfect" vocal sound from the pre-recorded tracks. It's perfectly acceptable for artists to lip-sync these days, mostly to sound exactly like their well-known studio recordings.

>>> MORE Amazing Grace >>>



Grace Jones, however, is the complete opposite! She thrives on the live mic, and the live band experience. She often goes "off-script", finds humor in her lyrical slip-ups, tells stories between songs, performs on-stage wardrobe changes, and extends or shortens songs seemingly on a whim. Sometimes, she simply lets her live musicians and backup singers take over while she takes an on-stage wardrobe change, entertaining the audience with poses, captivating stares, facial expressions, and captivating banter. She's not shy about using four-letter words that spew out naturally, and that are acceptedly her.



The curse words feel professional, woven into the stage performance dialogue, adding volatile flair, flavor, and entertainment value that's often humorous, but not offensive!

When you see Grace, you get "Amazing Grace!" a phrase that took on new meaning when she broke into a three-minute version of the "Amazing Grace" song that was nothing short of amazing.



Not many artists could captivate, and entertain their crowd by hula-hooping for over twenty minutes to their song, but Grace is the exception when it comes to performing her hit "Slave to the Rhythm." The crowd was mesmerized by the dichotomy of her whimsical yet edgy stage act. The hoop hypnotically went around and around her waist to the rhythm. Now I understand how she keeps her "hourglass" shape! (lol), not to mention, defying age.

Grace just celebrated her 77th birthday. Mostly the reason for writing this review. She doesn't look a day over 37, which was roughly the age she broke onto the scene at Studio 54 (in 1977, she would have been 29, to be exact). Her tall, stunning figure, with muscular shoulders, slim waist, must be a testament to her Jamaican genetics that's withstood the test of time!

Grace Jones has always been somewhat of an enigma to me. I've often heard stories of her showing up hours late for performances. Going on at midnight might have happened, if given the chance, considering how she joked several times about "your people's curfew" and ended the show promptly at

Mike at Night



RAVINIA

10:30pm, as the lights came up, without a 40-minute-plus encore. Which I'm sure she would've done, if time permitted. The groove she was in, she probably wanted to go on at midnight and kept going until dawn!

I'm glad I had the chance to see her, because who knows if, or when she'll ever "grace" one of our stages here in Chicago, or in this case, Highland Park, again.

Performance set included songs; **Nightclubbing**, **This Is, Private Life**, **I've Seen That Face Before** (Libertango), **Demolition Man**, **My Jamaican Guy**, **Love Is the Drug**, **Amazing Grace**, **Pull Up to the Bumper**, and of course **Slave to the Rhythm**.

Check out the pre-recorded live-feed footage at:
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[Out n About Facebook Group Page](https://www.facebook.com/OutnAbout)



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COMMENTARY UNCENSORED

by: Screamin' Rachael

Recording Artist, Entrepreneur, Publisher, Music Mogul, House Music Icon, sometimes Controversial, with a dash of Opinionism for good measure.

The opinions offered in this column are "uncensored" and are intended for "open dialog" and "entertainment purposes" only. Use of this column not intended to replace or be a substitute for any professional, financial, legal, advice or any other professional service. The opinions or views expressed in this column are those of the columnist, and not necessarily those of anyone else.



If you are interested in LGBTQ+ club life particularly "Club Kids" then you'll probably have heard something about James St. James. Have you seen the movie *Party Monster*? Or perhaps you've read the book? James is one of the most creative people that I know, and certainly one of the most fun!

Perhaps you have heard him on Sirius Satellite, or have seen him on one of his groundbreaking podcasts. I'm looking forward to my appearance on his podcast with World of Wonder executives Fenton Bailey, and Randy Barbatos "Night Fever" coming up on August 8th. Be sure to catch it! James is certainly a fitting guest because if you want to meet someone who is totally uncensored, then James St. James is the perfect candidate. But in the meantime, I'll let James tell you about himself in my recent interview with him!

Q) *You're famous or shall we say, infamous for so many creative endeavors. Where did your journey start with all these disciplines and more: World of wonder Executive, Writing, on camera personality, fashion icon, radio show host etc.?*

A) I've been working at the production company World of Wonder for about 17 years now. I just love them. They specialize in LGBTQ content

(like RuPaul's *Drag Race*) and truly believe in giving outsiders a voice. They tell stories other companies might

be afraid to tell. So many of these things I've done with them, the radio show, the podcast, the blog, the YouTube series, were just assignments given to me by **World of Wonder**.

They didn't really know what to do with me, I think, when I started working there so they tried to plug me in various jobs to see if it was a good fit. Luckily for me, they were all things I was able to do, and able to do well. I think so much of my life has been like that. I don't really know if I can do something until I just give it a go. Certainly writing books is like that. I never studied writing, or had someone explain the process of putting a book together, but it just sort of came to me, *deus ex machina*, a gift from the gods.

Q) *When did you first get serious about journalism and how did that come about?*

A) When I first moved to New York it was to go to NYU.



I wanted to be an actor, so I studied at the *Experimental Theater Wing of Tisch*. I quickly realized I didn't have the temperament or drive to be an actor and dropped out almost immediately. I didn't want to be a vessel for other people's words and ideas. I wanted to be the person with the words and ideas. My idols at that time were journalists and writers, notably **Michael Musto** at the **Village Voice**, **Stephen Saban** at **Details**, and **Cynthia Heimel** also at the **Voice**. I got to know them, we all became very good friends, and I think I learned a lot from them. They were my first mentors. Before New York, I kind of thought writers were



these mousy little people scribbling away in dusty back rooms somewhere.

Michael and Stephen showed me writers could be glamorous and brilliant, and the life of the party.

>>> **MORE Uncensored** >>>

Q) Who or what has been your greatest influence/inspiration?

A) My mother, without a doubt, was my first and greatest inspiration. An amazing woman, she was a superhero in my eyes. She was always my biggest supporter and my biggest fan.



And the smartest, funniest person you could ever meet. Someday I'll write a book about her.



And other club-land superstars, **Andy Warhol**, of course, and people like **Dianne Brill**, **Suzanne Bartsch**, **Holly Woodlawn**, **Amanda Lepore**. Larger than life people. The social lights who lead the way.



Q) Can you explain to our readers what a club kid is, and do you still consider yourself one?

A) Clubkids began in the late '80s as a rebellion against the clubland status quo of the time. Until then, clubbers were older, and sort of stood around posing and being bitchy to one another. The initial idea of the clubkids was to give the clubs back to the younger generation. It was about having fun, being loud, being edgy, dressing ridiculously (instead of the latest designer labels) and just acting a fool. It was a great social experiment on Michael Alig's part and it worked... until it stopped working and became toxic. The idea of living in a bubble without any rules can only last for so long. Eventually the real world peeks in and things go to hell. Mostly it was drugs that destroyed the scene, Heroin in the '90s, you know.



Am I still a clubkid?
Well I suppose it's a state of mind more than anything, so if the label fits, so be it. HA! I'll probably still be a clubkid in my '90s.

Q) Many of my friends follow you and they LOVE "Transformations" Tell us about that show.

A) Transformations was something I brought to World of Wonder. I wanted to do a makeup tutorial show but I wanted to have drag queens and clubkids and weirdos and eccentrics and street artists and Special FX artists come in and show me what it is they do. It was also a way for me to meet the new generation of club people without, you know, actually having to go the clubs! It was great because I got to play around in people's closets, play dress-up, and then really get to know them. I realized early on, it was actually more of a talk show than a makeup show. And if you give your guest something to do, something they're good at doing, they feel more comfortable and the conversation flows easier. I'm pretty proud of it. It was the first of its kind. Nowadays every drag queen has a similar show, and every major magazine has drag queens on to show how they do their makeup.

>>> **MORE Uncensored** >>>

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SCHEDULE



MONDAY

ZUMBA 9AM-10AM

ZUMBA 5PM-6PM

SALSA 6PM-7PM

TUESDAY

SR. GOLDEN
MOVES 9AM-10AM

WEIGHT
TRAINING 5PM-6PM

WEDNESDAY

WEIGHT 9AM-10AM
TRAINING

QI GONG 5PM-6PM

XCO LATIN
DANCE 6PM-7PM

THURSDAY

SR. GOLDEN
MOVES 9AM-10AM

YOGA 6PM-7PM

HIIT 7PM-8PM

FRIDAY

ZUMBA 9AM-10AM

WEIGHT 5PM-6PM
AEROBICS

SALSA 6PM-7PM

SATURDAY

ZUMBA 9AM-10AM

LINE DANCING 10AM-11AM

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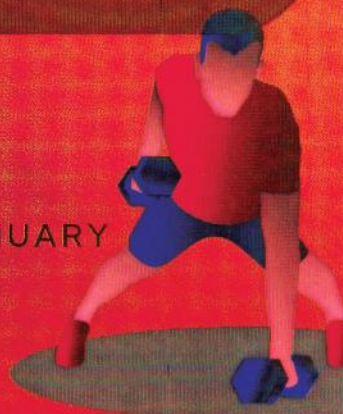
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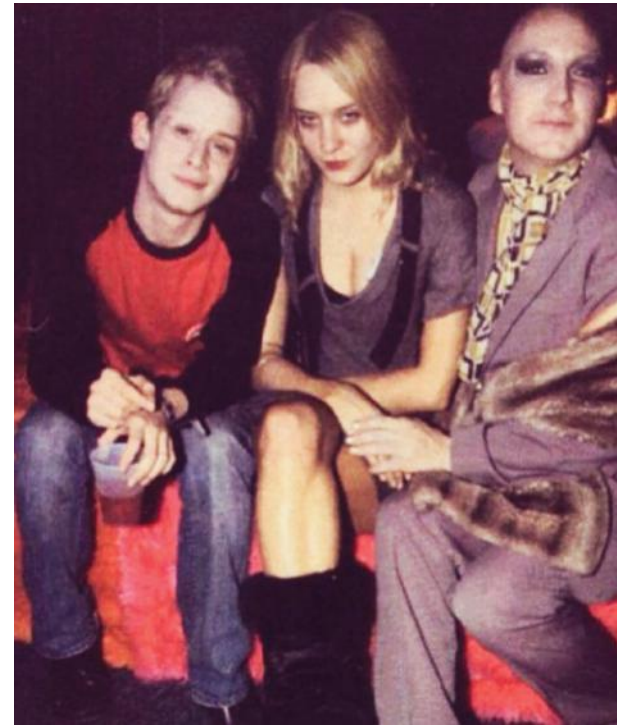
Q) *Tell me about your childhood, where and how did you grow up?*

A) I was born in Fort Lauderdale, and after my parents divorce I split my time between Florida (*where my father lived*) and Michigan (*where my mother lived*). My childhood was kind of a mixed bag. There are great memories, fun times, but there were bad times too. I was bullied quite a bit at school for being a freak. I was genderqueer and non-binary before those were the words to describe it.

We were called genderbenders back then. This was in the era of Boy George and Annie Lennox, and that's what I aspired to. I wrote about those experiences in my book *Freak Show*, so at least I got some money out of it. HA! .

Q) *Many people know about the movie and book "Party Monster" lets talk a little about that...*

A) I left New York in '97, when the story of the murder of **Angel Melendez** at the hands of clubkid king **Michael Alig** was just about to break. I didn't want to be a part of it. At the same time **Mayor Giuliani** was trying to destroy nightlife with his *Quality of Life Campaign* and club owners like **Peter Gatien** were being targeted. I didn't want to have to testify against Peter, a man we all looked to as a father figure. So I moved to Los Angeles to start a new life. Unfortunately everywhere I went people still asked me about the murder, still asked me about Michael Alig. I couldn't escape it.



When I was offered the chance to write about it, I thought, FINE, I'll do it. I'll write about it and then I'll never have to talk about it again. *WELLLLLLLLL.... THAT DIDN'T WORK OUT THE WAY I PLANNED.* Here I am, 30 years later, still talking about it! HA! After the book there was the documentary, the movie, endless panel discussions, and True Crime TV shows. *...and so it never ends!*

Q) *Tell me a Michael Alig story no one has heard yet.*

A) After Michael was released from prison after 17 years, World of Wonder and myself followed him around with a camera for about six years, documenting his post-prison life. The idea was that we would show his re-entry back into society, and hopefully get to see some positive changes in his behavior and lifestyle choices. Did prison rehabilitate him? He told me many times how much he wanted to give back to society, to make up for the pain he's caused. Unfortunately, what we actually captured was his quick descent back into drugs and trouble making. He just couldn't make anything positive out of his second chance. Before he died in 2020, we had basically come to the conclusion that there was nothing new to add to the Michael Alig story. It was just more of the same stuff we had already documented in *Party Monster*. It was all very sad.

Q) *Lets talk about "Night Fever"*

A) The concept was simple: Let's do a podcast where we talk to the superstars of the New York club scene, from the '70s, '80s, '90s, and beyond. From the old Warhol Factory superstars, to Studio 54 partygoers, old punk rockers, old clubkids, and not-quite-old-yet ravers. I know a lot of these people from my 40 years on the scene, I could just call up most of them and ask them to be on the show. It's been five seasons now, over 50 interviews, and I've had a ball reconnecting with so many old friends. Disco legend Martha Wash "It's Raining Men". Check it out, wherever you get your podcasts or watch it on **WOWPresents Plus** streaming network.

Q) *What would you advise readers who wish to follow in your footsteps?*

A) Well, so much of my life has just been putting myself out there and being open to opportunities. Trying things I didn't think I could do. You also can't be afraid to make a fool of yourself. Don't take your "image" too seriously. And find yourself a mentor! Learn from your idols! **And read! Read! Read! Always be reading!**

■ ■ ■ TRUMP T1 PHONE, MUSK PI PHONE TECH TRENDS

by Mike at Night ■ ■ ■

A LOOK INTO THE EVER SHIFTING MOBILE-DEVICE MARKET

Here's a look into the current mobile device landscape, and a sneak peek into the future of what we can expect to come into the palm of your grubby little hands!

The smartphone market, long dominated by a few established players, is entering a fascinating period of innovation and potential disruption. For consumers, this presents both opportunities for incredible new experiences and challenges in discerning true breakthroughs from mere hype.

Current Landscape: Evolution, Not Revolution (Yet)

As of mid-2025, the smartphone market is still largely driven by Apple's iOS and Google's Android.

ANDROID'S DOMINANCE

Android continues to hold the lion's share of the global market, around 72% as of January 2025. This is driven by a vast array of manufacturers (Samsung, Google, Motorola, Xiaomi, OnePlus, etc.) offering devices across all price points.

iOS'S PREMIUM NICHE

Apple's iOS maintains a strong, albeit smaller, market share (around 25-27%). While unit sales might be lower, Apple often captures a larger portion of the industry's profits due to its premium pricing and robust ecosystem.

5G MATURATION

5G networks are becoming increasingly widespread, leading to faster speeds and lower latency.

This is a key driver for replacement cycles as consumers seek to take full advantage of these network capabilities.

AI INTEGRATION

AI is already a significant feature in modern smartphones, enhancing cameras, battery life, and user interfaces. This trend is expected to deepen, with devices becoming even more "intelligent" and personalized.

THE "DILEMMA"

Buy Now or Wait? This is the core question for many consumers.

ARGUMENTS FOR WAITING

Imminent "Game Changers". The rumors of genuinely disruptive devices, especially those with truly integrated AI and advanced connectivity, suggest that current devices *could* become obsolete faster than in previous cycles.

AI EVOLUTION

The rapid pace of AI

development means that what's cutting-edge today might be standard, or even limited, in a year or two. Waiting could mean getting a device with more mature and powerful AI capabilities.

NETWORK EVOLUTION

While 6G is still some years off for widespread adoption (expected around 2030), continuous advancements in 5G (5G Advanced) and potential new spectrum allocations could make current devices feel less optimized for future network performance.

MARKET SETTLEMENT

Waiting could allow the market to "settle," revealing clear winners among emerging technologies and making a more informed decision possible.

ARGUMENTS FOR BUYING NOW OR NOT

Mobile carriers are indeed offering compelling deals, including free upgrades with trade-ins, "add a line" incentives, and enticing switch-over bonuses at a significantly reduced cost.

>>> **MORE TECH TRENDS** >>>



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>>> *Continued* >>>

INCREMENTAL UPGRADES

While truly revolutionary devices might be on the horizon, current flagship smartphones from established brands are highly capable and offer incremental improvements year-over-year. For users with older devices, even a current-gen upgrade can be a substantial improvement in performance, camera, and battery life.

PRACTICALITY

The rumored “game-changers” are still mostly speculative. Relying on a functioning, well-supported device now might be more practical than holding out for something that may be delayed or not live up to its hype.

FACT OR FICTION?

This is where it gets tricky, as the internet is a hotbed of speculation.

THE “TRUMP” T1 PHONE

Fact: A “Trump Phone” (the T1 Phone) and a mobile carrier service called Trump Mobile were recently launched by Donald Trump’s family in June 2025. It is an Android smartphone, priced at \$499, and is marketed as “designed and built in the United States” with US-based customer service. It boasts a 6.8-inch AMOLED display, 50MP main camera, 5000mAh battery, 12GB RAM, 256GB expandable storage, and runs Android 15. The “47 Plan” offers unlimited calling, text, internet, and free international calling for \$47.45 per month.



FICTION/NUANCE:

While marketed as “made in America,” concerns have been raised about the actual extent of US manufacturing given the price point and typical smartphone supply chains. The “most secured” and “most prestigious/stylish” claims are marketing statements and subjective. Its impact on the wider market remains to be seen; it’s likely to appeal primarily to a specific political demographic.

PERSONAL DESIGN TASTE

If a current device meets your aesthetic and functional preferences, and a good deal is available, there’s no inherent need to wait for unknown future designs.

RECOMMENDATION

For most consumers with a fairly new smartphone (1-2 years old), it might be wise to wait, unless a truly irresistible offer arises for a device that significantly upgrades their current experience. However, if your current phone is several generations old, or if you’re struggling with performance, storage, or battery time, taking advantage of current deals could be a smart move, especially if you can get a free upgrade.

**THE CLAIM THAT IT WILL MAKE
CURRENT IPHONES/ANDROIDS
OBSOLETE IS HIGHLY SPECULATIVE
AND UNSUPPORTED BY ITS
CURRENT SPECIFICATIONS WHICH
APPEAR TO BE MID-RANGE**

PI PHONE DESIGNED BY TESLA

FACT: As of July 2025, there is no official announcement or confirmed product release from Tesla or Elon Musk regarding a “Pi Phone.” All information circulating about a “Pi Phone” with Starlink integration and “amazing high-tech abilities” is pure rumor and speculation, often fueled by concept renders and wishful thinking on social media, according to all our data research and a deep dive into the subject with AI Gemini.

FICTION: The idea of a fully loaded phone with direct Starlink connectivity for everyday mobile use, powerful offline AI, and “full digital freedom” as a revolutionary game-changer for \$173 or \$235 in 2026 is highly improbable and lacks any credible technical or logistical backing. While Elon Musk is known for ambitious projects, a smartphone of this nature, with such disruptive capabilities and at such a low price point, is currently firmly in the realm of science fiction.

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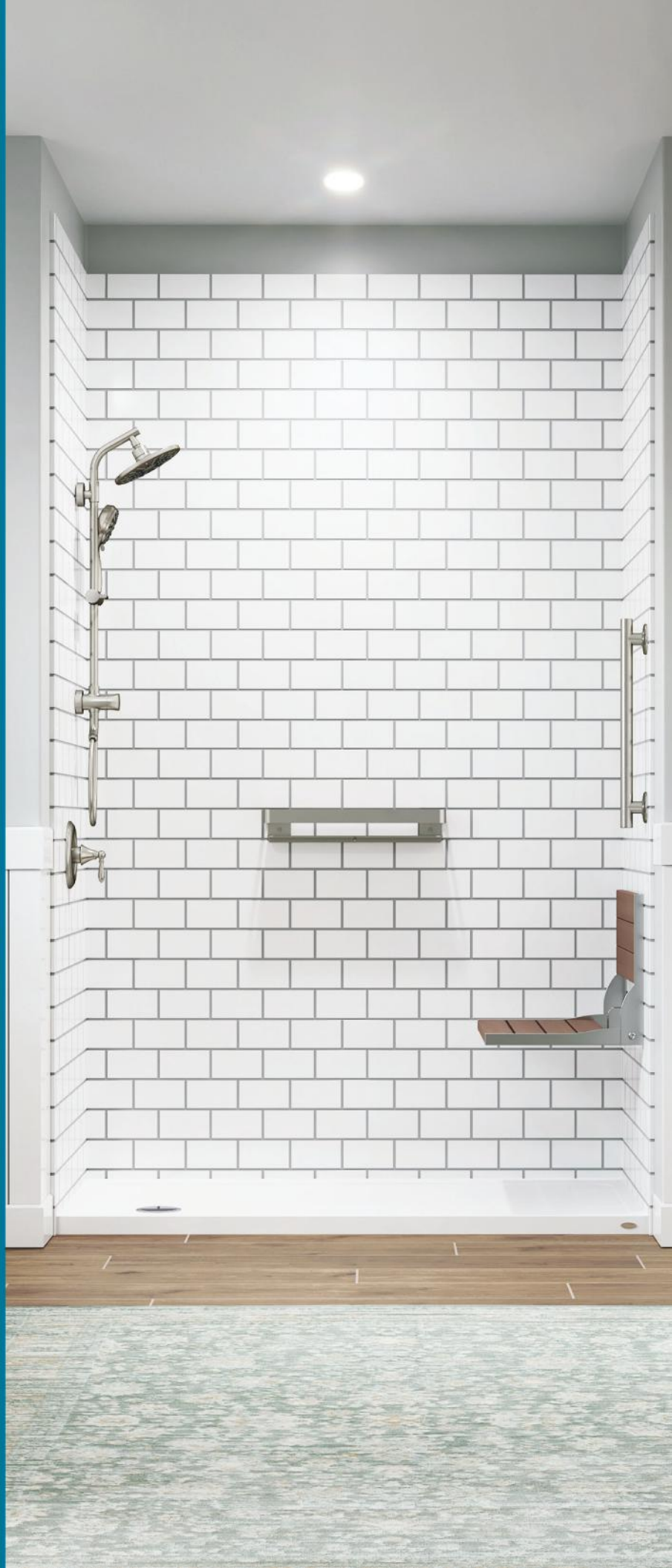
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Direct satellite-to-phone connectivity is being explored by companies like Apple and T-Mobile (*with Starlink in some cases*) but it's typically for emergency messaging, not full-blown internet Browse. In other words, no, it doesn't exist. Not Yet!

OTHER POTENTIAL GAME CHANGERS

FOLDABLE PHONES

Devices like Samsung's Galaxy Z Fold and Z Flip series, and Motorola's Razr line, are steadily improving and gaining traction. While still premium, they represent a significant shift in form factor and user experience.

ADVANCED ON-DEVICE AI

Future phones will likely feature even more powerful neural processing units (NPUs) that enable complex AI tasks directly on the device, reducing reliance on cloud computing. This could lead to genuinely transformative personal assistant capabilities, advanced computational photography, and more.

AUGMENTED REALITY (AR) INTEGRATION

While not solely phone-based, the integration of AR capabilities in smartphones continues to grow.

The eventual widespread adoption of AR glasses could fundamentally change how we interact with digital information, potentially shifting the central role of the smartphone.

NEW FORM FACTORS

Beyond foldables, expect continued experimentation with novel designs that move beyond the traditional slab.

THE POSSIBILITY THAT DOMINANT PLAYERS LIKE APPLE, ANDROID AND MOTOROLA CAN FALL IF THEY FAIL TO ADAPT

APPLE'S PERCEIVED LAGGING AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

While Apple still commands fierce loyalty and innovative product design, there's a perception among some users that they've become less customer-centric and more focused on subscription services. The quality of customer service can vary, and outsourcing is a common practice across many tech companies. However, Apple generally invests heavily in its retail stores (Apple Stores) for in-person support. Claims of "pathetic customer service" are subjective but reflect real user frustrations when issues arise.

Apple's strength lies in its integrated ecosystem. If this ecosystem becomes too restrictive, too expensive with subscriptions, or if truly superior alternatives emerge that offer a more open or user-friendly experience, then their position could be challenged.

ANDROID'S CHALLENGES

While Android's open nature is a strength, it also leads to fragmentation in terms of updates, security patches, and user experience across different manufacturers. This can lead to a less consistent and sometimes less secure experience compared to iOS.

DISPOSABLE PERCEPTION

With a wide range of devices at varying price points, some Android phones, particularly at the lower end, might reinforce a "disposable" perception if they lack long-term software support or build quality.

MOTOROLA'S NICHE

Motorola has found success in the mid-range and budget segments, and has made a notable comeback with its foldable Razr line. However, it doesn't hold the same market dominance as Apple or Samsung in the premium segment.

THE "HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW" LIKELIHOOD

FOR APPLE AND ANDROID

It's highly unlikely that the "entire Android ecosystem" or "Apple's iOS" would become obsolete overnight like MySpace was to Facebook. These are deeply ingrained operating systems with massive developer communities, existing infrastructure, and billions of users. But that's not to say, so did MySpace have millions or billions of users that took a sharp turn in another direction seemingly overnight.

TECH TRENDS

>>> *Continued* >>>

MANUFACTURERS

However, individual manufacturers within the Android ecosystem (or even *Apple, if it fundamentally missteps*) could certainly lose significant market share or even cease to be major players if they fail to innovate, address consumer concerns (like cost, repairability, security, and customer service), or adapt to new paradigms (*like advanced AI interfaces or other form factors*).

NEW PARADIGM THREATS

A new “game-changer” isn’t necessarily another smartphone with a different logo. It’s more likely to be a fundamental shift in how we interact with mobile technology. If voice-first AI interfaces, seamless AR experiences, or even direct brain-computer interfaces (further out, but in development) become truly practical and ubiquitous, the very concept of a “smartphone” as we know it could evolve dramatically. This is the “Sears moment”, not failing to sell the same product, but failing to adapt in a new way.

SECURITY & DATA CONCERNS

CURRENT STATE: Both iOS and Android have made significant strides in security, but no system is impenetrable. Data privacy remains a major concern for consumers, with increasing awareness about how personal data is collected and used by device manufacturers, app developers, and carriers.

FUTURE IMPACT: Devices that offer enhanced privacy features, on-device AI processing (*reducing the need to send data to the cloud*), and transparent data handling policies could gain a significant advantage with privacy-conscious consumers.



THE IDEA OF A “MOST SECURED” PHONE IS A POWERFUL MARKETING TOOL.

PERSONAL TASTE / DESIGN

This will always be a critical factor. Even with groundbreaking technology, if a device doesn’t feel good in the hand, isn’t aesthetically pleasing, or doesn’t reflect a user’s personal style, it will struggle to gain widespread adoption. Companies that can combine cutting-edge tech with compelling design will continue to win.

CONCLUSION: The market isn’t settling down; it’s entering a period of accelerated evolution.

For the average consumer with a fairly new smartphone: Unless a current carrier deal is too good to pass up (e.g., a genuinely free upgrade with no hidden costs), it’s reasonable to ****wait and observe**** how AI integration and potential new form factors unfold over the next 12-24 months. The rumored “game changers” like the Pi Phone are currently fiction, while the Trump Phone is a niche offering unlikely to disrupt the broader market. But it might come pre-loaded with “YMCA” ringtone! lol!

Taking advantage of current carrier offers for a modern iPhone or Android device is a sensible decision. These devices are powerful, secure, and will remain relevant for several years.

The real “game changers” will likely involve shifts in interaction and capability, driven by advanced AI and potentially new hardware paradigms (like AR glasses or more seamless wearables), rather than simply a new phone brand from a surprising source.

The established players (Apple, Samsung, Google) are acutely aware of the need to innovate. Their ability to integrate cutting-edge AI, address consumer concerns about price and customer service, and adapt to evolving preferences will determine their long-term dominance. However we ***could*** see significant shifts in prominence if they fail to evolve with the speed of technological and consumer demand. The future of mobile is less about a single shiny new object or device, and more about how AI and new interfaces transform our interaction with digital information.



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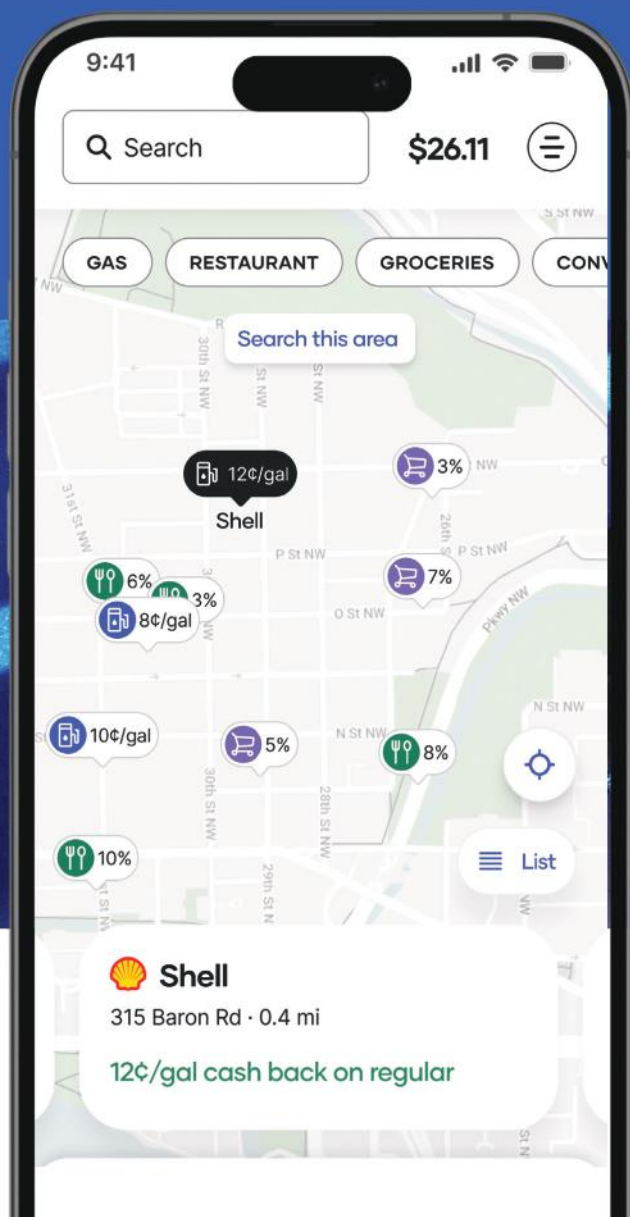
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