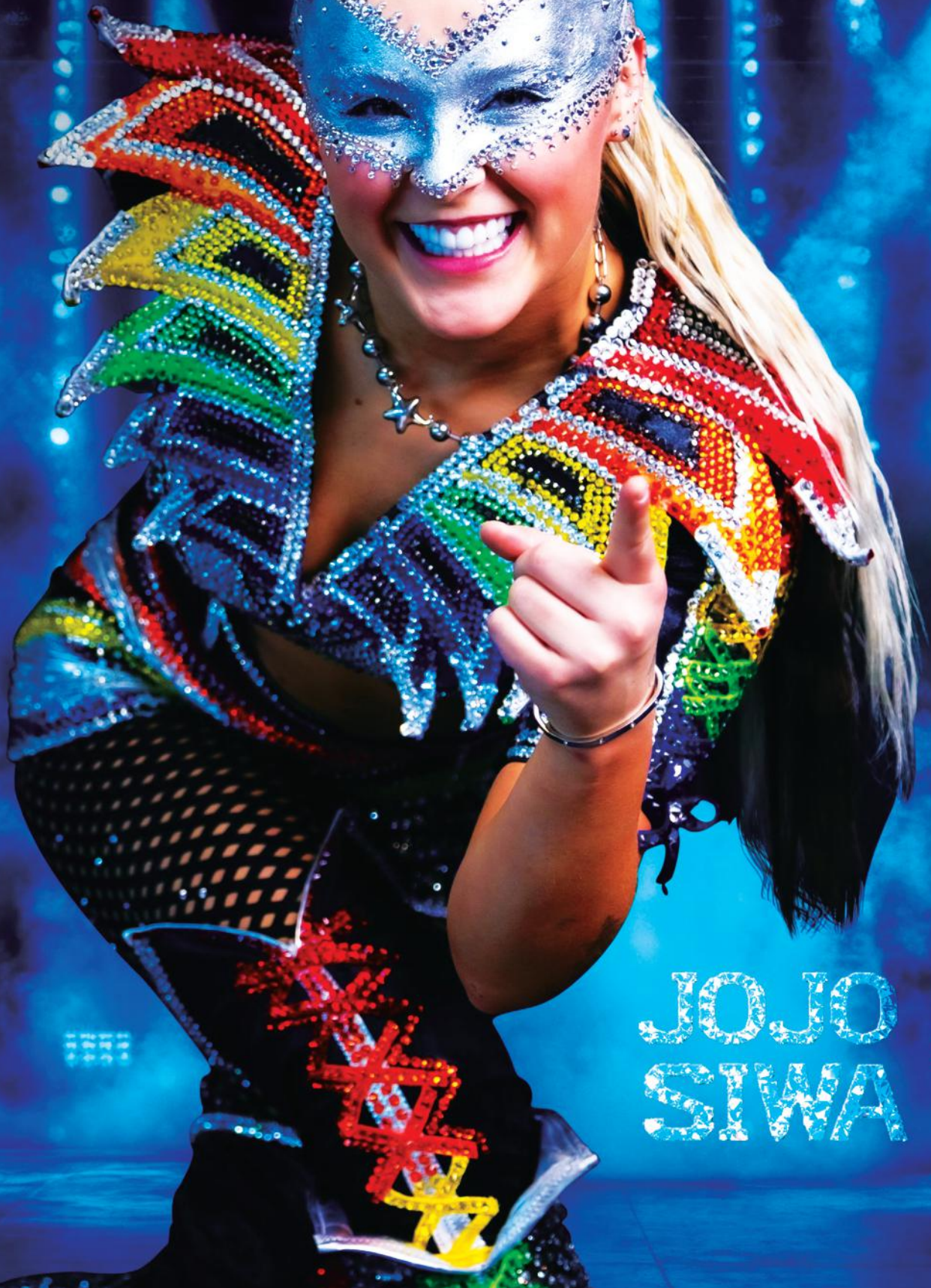


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Advertising: boiads@aol.com

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EDITORIAL, ARTICLES & COLUMNISTS

Feature Articles: Nate Daniels - Nate@boiMAG.com
Exclusive Interviews: Mike at Night - Mike@boiMAG.com
Concert Reviews: Jorge Suarez - InConcert@boiMAG.com
Health & Wellness: Charla Waxman - Charla@boiMAG.com
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Travel Pride Journey: Joey Amato - Travel@boiMAG.com
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Tech Trends: Jack Santos - Jack@boiMAG.com

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tibbits

Childhood star, JoJo Siwa, is our multi-talented featured cover model this issue, as we celebrate the month of June, with colorful diversity. She will be performing in Chicago as part of her 2025 tour. If you are a fan, or would like to see what all the excitement is about her coming to town, from those have followed her on "Dance Mom's" reality program, which she has risen to the top from from extensive training, to being entered in countless dance contests, and is not



one to be shy on the stage. JoJo has two shows scheduled for June 28th and 29th at the Cheetah Gym Parking Lot in Chicago.

The performances are part of her "JoJo Siwa Live" tour, which will also take her to other cities like London, Houston, and Toronto. The Chicago performances are during pride weekend, and her Saturday show is part of the Back Lot Bash parking lot festival on the north side

Depending when you're tuning in, it doesn't matter if this event has taken place already, or not. Regardless, it's always good to be "in-the-know" on the "first-of-its-kind", special events. Prior to going to press, there's much "a-buzzzz" going around about Malenesss! (*spelled with three s's*). A first, but certainly not going to be the last!

The summit was created to become a dedicated platform, to promote the health and wellness of Black Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender men. Dr Mo and his colleges recognize the urgent need for this focused effort, particularly in the face of current challenges and political attacks on the rights and well being of the Black LGBTQ+ community.

>>> **MORE TIDBITS** >>>



Wellness Homes of Chicago and Baal Perazim Wellness, Inc. launched in 2018 to provide access to resources needed to promote wellness, and has six different locations, as well as several mobile programs in the Chicagoland area. They have a long-standing commitment to serving the LGBTQ+ community, and our work has been essential in providing crucial resources and support to address the needs of this diverse population.



More TIDBITS, in no particular order. Make sure you check for any last minute changes before you leave for any event... and don't forget to check the weather, you never know when it's hot and sunny one moment, and hours later you get stuck in a storm, or it starts to snow on your head!

Chicago Pride Fest 2025

11-10 p.m. June 21-22

Halsted Street from
Addison to Grace streets

The Chicago Pride Fest will return for its 24th year with a wide range of activities, including drag performances, dance exhibitions and live music. A \$20 entry donation is encouraged.

Back Lot Bash Chicago

3 p.m. June 28-29

Cheetah Gym Lot, 5238 N. Clark St. Back Lot Bash Chicago is returning with a full day of music and performances.

This year's headliner is JoJo Siwa, and there will be appearances from local DJs and performers, including The Fly Honeys, DJ Pepper Jelly and others. Tickets are \$24 for Saturday, \$30 for Sunday and \$46 for both days.

Pride North Chicago, Rogers Park June 28-29

Red Line Morse station,
1358 W. Morse Ave.

Pride North Chicago is a North Side Pride dance party that will feature live DJs and entertainment, as well as a diverse range of acts and performances. Admission into the party is free.



Navy Pier Pride

11-9 p.m. June 28

Navy pier Pride will have a full day of live performances and programs for guests.

If you are looking for something different to do on Pride weekend, the Navy Pier's annual Pride celebration in Chicago, a free, full-day event honoring LGBTQIA+ pride, diversity, and inclusion.

Enjoy live music, performances by local LGBTQIA+ artists, educational programming, and resources from community partners, all at one of Chicago's most iconic lakefront destinations.

Chicago Black Pride 2025 July 3-6

You can celebrate Black LGBTQ+ Pride with lots and lots of partying. The host hotel is the Marriott Downtown, 520 N. Michigan Ave. VIP weekend passes starts at \$108.55.

Pride in the Sky

10 p.m. June 29

The Promontory,
5311 S. Lake Park Ave.

Pride in the Sky invites Chicago's LGBTQ+ community members to party with DJs from across the United States. This event is only for those 21 and older. Tickets will be sold on the day with varying prices.

Pride South Side 2025

11 a.m. July 5

DuSable Black History Museum,
740 E. 56th Place

Want to keep Pride going even after June? Pride South Side will feature performances, dancing and much more.

Queer Prom: Gaga Gala

6-11 p.m. June 27

National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th St.

Chicago youth are invited to attend National Museum of Mexican Art's Queer Prom. This year's theme is inspired by Lady Gaga and encourages participants to come "dressed to slay, dance the night away and celebrate your iconic self." Tickets are free.

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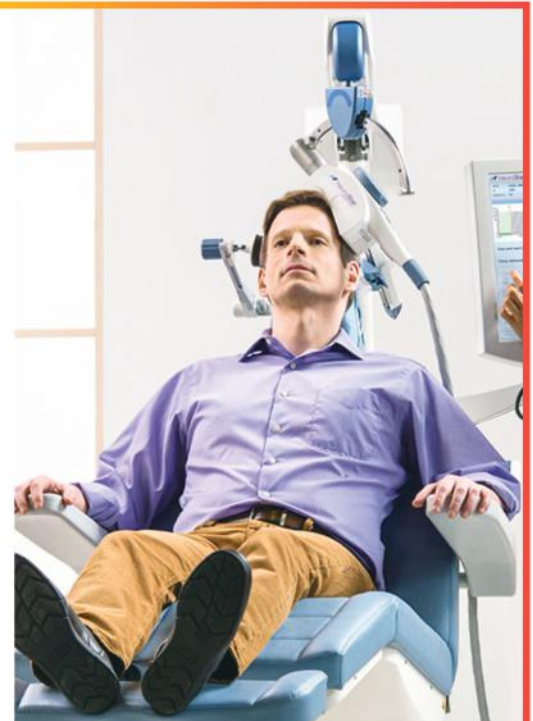
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SELF TRANSFORMATION HEALTH & WELLNESS

POSITIVITY AND YOU



by: Dr. Charla Waxman BS, MBA, EdD
Director of Business Development at Lake Behavioral Hospital

Self-criticism is easy and it leads to stress in your goal setting, your achievements, your relationships and your outlook on everything. To make a move toward more positives in your life take some baby steps. This is not going to happen all at once, but you'll get there.

Start your new positivity lifestyle by gaining increased focus of your every day and your every day thinking. This may mean paying attention to all of the people who surround you and those you have gradually gravitated toward during your more negative life phases.

Here are some ways positivity giants manage their lives to keep positivity at the front of their minds and efforts.

Make gratitude a norm. Keep a journal. Make notes on people, places and things that have brought positive feelings into your day. Find a quote or two that enriches you and jot that down, too. You may feel worried that you won't be able to keep this going. Write it down in your calendar and make it time limited so it doesn't become too taxing. You will begin to look forward to journaling positive encounters, and things happening in your life.

Be there. This means operate in the now, because the only thing that matters is the moment you are in. This helps you manage your emotions, too. It happens because you only have this very moment to consider and with only one moment to consider, everything is made easier.

Take a nap. Read a book. Paint a picture. Go for a walk. What do you enjoy? Go do it. Nothing makes a positive outlook happen more than some "you time".

Look for opportunities to be nice. Want to have a nice day? Be a nice person. The price of kindness is minimal compared to what you get back. That's a promise!

Pay attention to what is around you. What are you hearing and watching? How and with whom is your time spent? Are you gossiping, judging others, focusing on your phone when you should be attending to someone or something or maybe drinking or using other substances that fuel arguments or other negative interactions? Adjust as you can. Make gradual and thoughtful changes and your newfound positivity will start to creep in. Be a reframe expert. This will take some work, but it will make a difference in your life. Remember before you make a decision about an encounter with someone, that everyone has a story. Give others a pass. Give them a break before you feel hurt and slighted. A reframe might sound like this: "It's raining and I hate rain" could become "This will make everything so green and pretty". If you live in Chicago, you might say, "Hey, this is better than snow!".

Grab each positive moment and hang onto it! Say thank you out loud when good things happen.

Select a positivity coach. Ask someone to help you reframe things or hear you out when you need a moment to find the best in the not so good.

You can do all this. In fact, as you make positivity a habit, you can do even more. Keep it up. Positivity will create changes all around you.

Know that negativity that is pervasive can have negative impact on your emotions and ways of thinking and doing things. If negativity has shaded your days, why not think about what an Intensive Outpatient Program can do for you. Lake Behavioral Hospital may be just the place that can help you feel better and have more confidence in your skills and abilities.

Please call 855 990 1900, or walk in for a free, confidential assessment 24/2/365. Don't have even one more day of negativity.



H2H or Heart To Heartbreaker

A tribute to Heart and Pat Benatar



The band performed last month at the Arcada Theater:

This night was a must see for everyone. First, my compliments to H2H, or Heart To Heartbreaker. I didn't know what to expect, but as the evening progressed, it was clear both female lead singers stole the show.

First was Diva Montell. Diva hails from Chicago and her roots are in the entertainment business. She is an opera singer but can perform multiple genres. She has an extensive resume.

This evening, her voice was reminiscent of Heart's Ann Wilson in every way, including those high notes, which were astounding.

Diva recreated the look and feel of Heart with Lisa Lamanna as Nancy Wilson recreating those guitar riffs as close as the real thing. Their vocals and instruments speak loudly. Jeri Maria did an excellent job of recreating the Pat Benatar experience. She clutched those highs and with her wardrobe and stage moves, she delivered a powerful resemblance to the original recording artist.

I believe Adam Wald was the lead guitarist, Eric Staffa on drums, Dennis Knight on keyboards, and on bass, Chicago's own Jeff Burke. All professional musicians with an extensive background whom have opened or played with major recording groups.



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SORRAYA DASH • RACHEL SLURRZ • KITTY BANKS • PEEPER JOHNSON
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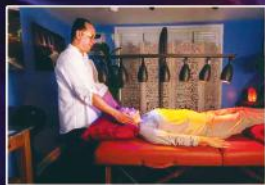
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IN CONCERT

Jorge Suarez

Feels Like The First Time, a Tribute to Foreigner.

They performed at the Arcada Theater in St. Charles a few weeks ago where I got my first chance to see them live in person, and I'm glad I did!



With Greg on drums, Matt on keyboards/vocals, Randy on bass, and two members which really impressed me, Thomas Hunter aka Silver Fox on guitar, and Chris Boyden, also on guitar and vocals.



Feels Like The First Time took us through a journey, as I was surprised to hear "Star Rider". I had totally forgotten about this song.

Lead singer Donald Fagan pounded out all the classics such as "Waiting For A Girl", "Cold As Ice", "Feels Like The First Time", etc.



This is a well put together band. Finally on sax, flute, and percussion was Illinois born Dan Kielman. A school teacher and musician, doing a good job of charging the crowd, steps out onto the floor and makes his way thru the crowd while playing the sax.

All in all, this evening was more than worth the price of a ticket. It's good to venture out, and enjoy the best rock n roll has to offer, coming to a venue near you!



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COMMUNITY FOCUS FEATURE

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AN INTERVIEW PRELUDE

by Mike at Night

As **boiMAGazine** celebrates its 25th anniversary and evolves into a more established presence, we take a moment to acknowledge the steadfast individuals who have provided the enduring support that benefits our entire community.

You may know **Eric Kugelman**, or at least be familiar with his custom leather shop, **64Ten** (a.k.a **Leather64TEN**), nestled in **Rogers Park** just south of the iconic leather bar **Touché**. However, beyond his retail establishment, Eric, alongside his partner and dedicated staff, has been a significant pillar of support for the community for many years. As a central figure to those around him, his dedication extended to his involvement with Team Chicago, a key organization that successfully brought the Gay Games to our city.

Eric also served as President of **MAFIA**, one of Chicago's oldest leather organizations, elevating its international profile during his tenure as President of the board, along with his involvement and activities with **Church Unity Chicago**.

Concurrently, over the decades, Eric has had the unique privilege of fitting countless individuals with their first harnesses and leather pieces. He has witnessed first hand the joy this experience brings, not only to them but also to himself and the many who have worked at 64Ten throughout its history.

Having had the pleasure of knowing Eric over the years through my work at boiMAGazine, where he has been a loyal advertiser and supporter for as long as I can recall, I'm certain that I've only scratched the surface of his extensive community involvement.

With this issue coinciding with the **International Mr. Leather** celebration, bringing many to Chicago over the Memorial Day weekend, it felt appropriate to share this preliminary glimpse into the significant behind-the-scenes physical and financial support that Eric (and other back supporters) has consistently dedicated to our community.

While I recognize that many other deserving pioneers and contributors have paved the way, the choice to focus on Eric for this prelude was somewhat arbitrarily made, he was an accessible individual who happened to be in the right place at the right time.

Reflecting on the countless individuals who have been expertly fitted at his 64Ten shop, Eric recently shared, "It's a special magic moment, a unique service we offer that sets us apart in this business."

In the upcoming in-depth interview, I plan to delve into topics such as "the Leather Masters" and the excursions to Fort Lauderdale. I am curious to learn if these private gatherings still occur or have evolved into other behind-the-scenes activities. As the saying goes, inquiring minds wants to know!

Considering the sheer number of contestants they have sponsored over the years, likely thousands of men, women, and non-binary individuals now embraced by the leather community, for both local and international competitions, that alone would make a compelling story. Not to mention the scores of newbie employees who found their first job there, or the thousands of educational classes offered over the years, reflecting a deep pride in positively impacting people's lives.

>>> **MORE Interview** >>>

Mike) Q: Can you elaborate on the early days of Team Chicago and your role in bringing the Gay Games to Chicago? What were some of the biggest challenges and most rewarding moments of that experience?

Eric) A: My exposure to the Gay Games began in Amsterdam in 1989. Michael took me to the opening ceremonies, and I was hooked. When I returned to Chicago, I was essentially put in charge of "Team Chicago". We had a huge float in the Pride Parade celebrating the athletes who went to Amsterdam, it was truly memorable.

Q: As President of MAFIA, what initiatives or achievements are you most proud of, and how did you contribute to its international exposure?

A: I was proud to become president of "MAFIA", handpicked by Peter Vidro, who was responsible for starting the club. I later passed the club on to Israel Wright, who has transformed it into something amazing today. I wish I could take credit for how far they've come; back in my day, we were happy to host members from all over the world. It was very rewarding.

Q: You mentioned the "special magic moment" of fitting someone with their first piece of leather. Can you describe what makes that experience so unique and meaningful for both you and the customer?

A: One of the most rewarding things about working at 64TEN is fitting someone in their first harness. I did it just the other day, and it brought back the same excitement I had 20-plus years ago when I first started doing it. For both the customer and the salesperson, there's no greater joy than seeing their face light up when they look in the mirror and see themselves in that harness.

Q: What organizations or events benefited the most from your support in the community?

INTERVIEW WITH ERIC KUGELMAN OF 64TEN

A: Probably the biggest impact I ever made in the city was my involvement with Gay Games. We contributed financially, even going to Sydney, Australia, right after the Olympics to prepare for the 2002 games. I raised a lot of money for Chicagoans to attend those games, and I'm proud to say we provided scholarships to athletes who wouldn't normally have been able to attend.

Q: Was there any significant value that the Gay Games brought to the community?

A: We used to do a fun chili cook-off every Sunday at Cell Block to help raise money for "Team Chicago" to go to Amsterdam for the Gay Games. During that time, I met my life partner, Michael, in the basement of The Eagle bar.

Eric) Also, I remember walking down Halsted Street, going to one of my favorite bars that I was a member at, Circuit Night Club, because I needed a large venue to give out all the uniforms and hats. When we kicked it off there, all the athletes came, and Circuit provided food for the event. I was so moved by what happened, it almost made me cry. I needed to raise \$300 to pay for our non-profit spot in the Gay Pride Parade that year, and not only did you, Mike, pay for our entry, but you said you'd get us a spot in the parade. You had us lining up right with you guys, directly behind the Circuit Night Club float. That year was the only time it ever happened, that I got all the Chicago sports teams to come together! They had never come together before; it had always been segregated. That year, for the very first time, EVERYONE marched together! I went around inviting all of them, and you were a big part of that.

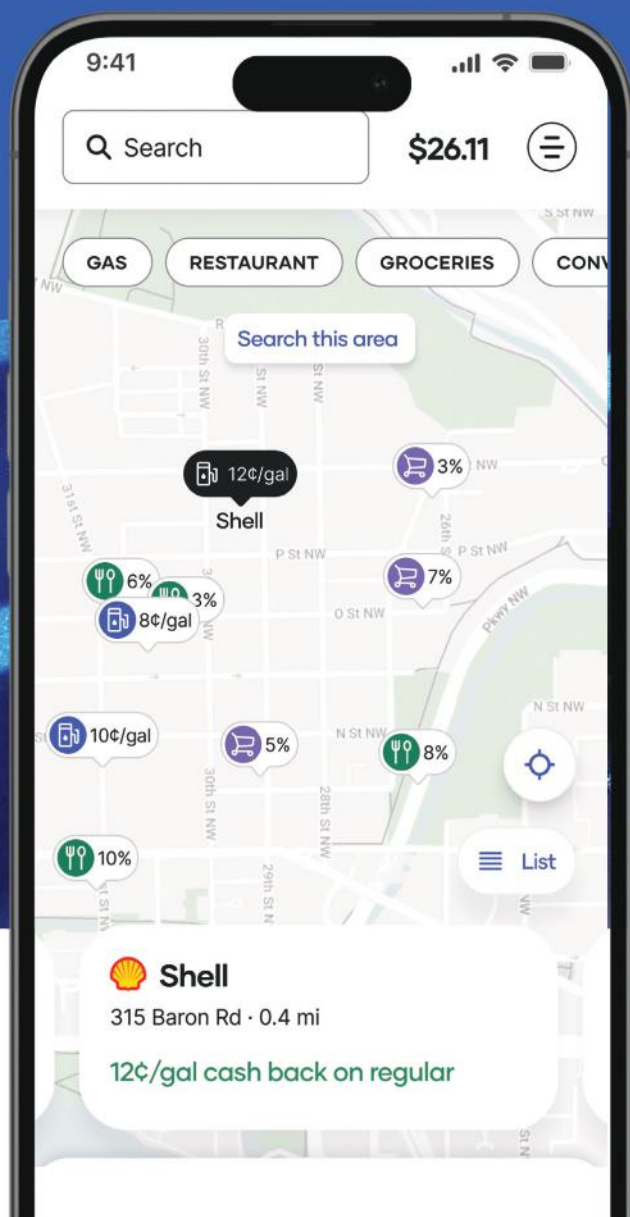
Mike) Wow Eric, you brought back some great memories for me! Horizon was the organization that I (Circuit) was supporting back then, we were raising funds to help build the community center (Center on Halsted). In the parade you're referring to, I can remember Hector and Santos from Horizon's in front of our float, leading us off, and carrying their huge Puerto Rican and Mexican flags. It was so cute! You're right, it was exciting bringing everyone together, I'm glad you brought back and shared that memory! And thank you for your leadership, now looking back, it does make a difference! It's inspirational, and now that we've opened Pandora's box, let's continue the conservation!





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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.



In the LGBTQ+ community, pride represents self-respect, acceptance, and a celebration of identity, as well as a resistance to discrimination and violence

The word pride can have many meanings, such as a feeling of deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements, the achievements of those with whom one is closely associated, or from qualities or possessions that are widely admired. ,

It's a time of coming together to show solidarity, raise awareness about LGBTQ+ issues, and advocate for equality. I take pride in helping and recognizing the accomplishments of friends, associates, and those who inspire me. But all these meanings are rooted in "self pride" because to be a part of the revolution for good, first you must respect and believe in who you are.

So this month I want to tell you about some of the individuals that I take pride in knowing. In no particular order, I've decided to start with

Jorge Cruz. Some of you might know him as a DJ or even experienced his weekly Friday night party at Touché. Yes he's a great DJ but he's a lot more than that.

This renaissance mans disciplines include, recording artist, music producer, award winning photographer, director and curator of artful music compilations. His most recent project being Billboard Magazines acclaimed 40th Anniversary of TRAX Records collection. It is made up of 40 tracks for 40 years, in a pastiche that paints a glorious picture of a selection of our artists, and their stellar works. I take pride in Jorge because he puts up with me. Yes, I can be difficult, and admittedly crazy... But he helps to give me pride in being me. Most of you know about my role as Trax president, and recording artist, well I do a lot more but I'm not here to talk about me! Let's just say I couldn't have come this far without him.



Jorge pronounced George is an experience, and I highly recommend you to experience him yourself.

Then there's boiMAGazine's very own **Mike Macharello**, also known as "Mike at Nite". When I think about PRIDE in Chicago, his name comes to mind first. It seems most people I take pride in knowing accomplish many things that make the world just a little bit better. How he does all the things that elevate the LGBTQ+ community from promotions, to designing, running his own record label "Play House Records", keeping the magazine together, and doing it all with grace, style and humility, is a great mystery



to me. He gave me a platform to write this column... and Mike has just produced a special maestro-remix / cover-version of Blondie's hit song "Call Me" for me.

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

UNCENSORED

When the chips are down, I can count on Mike as a true friend. He's also kind of an unsung hero of House Music, but we're working on changing that.



It's time for him to be recognized. Lots of the big names in House owe him a debt of gratitude because of his days of DJing, and promoting their music through the Let's Dance Record Pool, run by him, and **Lorri Annarella**, his mother, who was helping him manage the massive amount of data feedback from Chicago DJs to the record labels across the country, and local radio stations. Ultimately



becoming the pool director, working together to provide DJs with new promo-test pressing records every week, mostly just before they were ready

to hit the record stores and airwaves, coming with mass marketing and promotion campaigns behind them from the labels,

Back in those days these pools broke new music to the public. For those of you that don't know what a Record Pool is just ask Al...

Lady Bunny is a renowned drag queen known for her comedy shows, including her long-running Wigstock event. If you don't know what that is, watch the movie! Lady Bunny is also a nightclub DJ and promoter, and has been a friend of mine for many years. She puts on a spectacular show, singing, dancing and telling the best dirty jokes you will ever hear.



We've known each other since our scandalous Club Kid days in New York, and I'm happy to say we are both still scandalous! I went to see her new stand up act, "Don't Bring The Kids" at the IMPROVE CHICAGO in Schaumburg, with my friends **James** and **Petros**, who are adoring

Bunny fans. Anyway she called me out from the stage and made a fabulous introduction about me to the crowd. I was proud that I could show her off to my friends who also got a chance to meet her! Lady Bunny is FABULOUS and she deserves her own comedy special. Are you listening HBO and NETFLICKS? Bun-Bun has a new dance tune out! She co-wrote it with the Swedish producer @ PetterWallenberg, and was joined by Uganda's @ rainbow_riots choir, from a country where being gay is punishable by life imprisonment or death for "aggravated homosexuality". My Love (is the way it's supposed to be) is out on all platforms, so check it out, stream it, or buy it or request it. All proceeds go to help countries where being gay is dangerous.

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SCHEDULE



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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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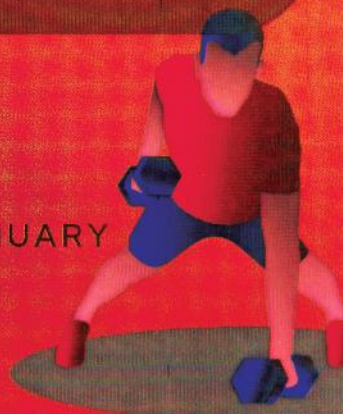
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One of my Besties, **Irene Michaels** will be celebrating her 80th Birthday with a huge bash at “CARNIVALE”. She looks forever young and is a great inspiration to me. Irene started a career in dance music at the age of 75’ and hasn’t missed a beat! Michaels is an award-winning singer, songwriter, and musician who has built a vibrant career in the music industry. She continues to release new music, on the legendary label Trax Records.

She achieved critical success with her song “I Like Rain,” which was named “Pop Song of the Year” by the Nashville-based Josie Music Awards at The Grand Ol Opry. Irene Michaels is the only act that I decided to personally produce. This was because She works harder than any other artists I’ve known. They said it couldn’t be done, but I believed it was time for a woman to shine in my industry regardless of age and

she has done just that! Look out for her up and coming Fourth of July release “Feeling Free”, produced by TRAX Records very own spectacular **DBeat**. So wear your PRIDE on your sleeve and come meet me and the team at the boiMAGazine PrideFest booth. Give love and encouragement to those around you, and remember **PRIDE STARTS WITH YOURSELF!**



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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.

The poster for 'GARDEN PARTY' features a stylized illustration of a woman with red hair and a red bow, wearing a yellow polka-dot dress, holding a red watering can. She is standing in a lush garden with various flowers. The background is a dark, moody landscape with a house and trees. The text is arranged in a hierarchy: 'GARDEN PARTY' in large, ornate, white letters at the top; 'At SPACE PARK' in large, bold, blue letters; '815 Roscoe St. Chicago' in large, bold, green letters; 'FRIDAY, SATURDAY and SUNDAY' in large, bold, yellow letters; 'AUGUST 8-10, 2025' in large, bold, white letters; '1pm-6pm' in large, bold, blue letters; 'Special Guest Recording Artists, Entertainers' in smaller, white letters; 'FOOD • DRINKS • MUSIC' in large, bold, blue letters; a QR code in the bottom left; a logo for 'Chicago ARTS CENTER.ORG' in the bottom center; and logos for 'EVENT SPONSORS' including 'BYRON'S HOT DOGS', 'baiMAG.com', and '64TEN TRAX RECORDS' in the bottom right. At the very bottom, it says 'FUNDRAISER FOR ChicagoArtsCenter.org' in large, bold, red letters.

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FRIDAY, SATURDAY and SUNDAY
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1pm-6pm
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Across the nation, there's a noticeable decline in both participation in dance and overall physical activity levels, especially among youth and adolescents.

This increased screen-time trend is linked to factors like, less time spent in organized physical activity, and a shift towards sedentary lifestyles.

Declining Physical Activity Levels:

Lack of Access to Facilities and Programs:

Limited access to safe and affordable physical activity programs, including dance classes, can hinder participation.

Social and Cultural Factors:

Social norms and cultural values may influence physical activity choices and participation levels.

Socioeconomic Factors:

Lower socioeconomic status can be associated with lower levels of physical activity due to factors like limited access to resources and time constraints.

Addressing the Decline:

Promote Physical Activity at All Ages:

Encouraging physical activity at all ages, including incorporating dance into educational curricula, is crucial.

Increase Access to Programs:

Providing affordable and accessible physical activity programs including dance classes, to all communities is essential.

Promote Dance as a Valuable Activity:

Highlighting the physical, mental, and social benefits of dance can help increase participation.

Address Socioeconomic Disparities:

Addressing socioeconomic disparities in access to resources and opportunities for physical activity is crucial to ensure equitable participation.

Incorporate Dance into School Curricula:

Integrating dance into school curricula can help promote physical activity and foster a love for movement among young people.

Age-Specific Decline:

Participation in various activities like running, dancing, and team sports declines as people age, with further substantial declines occurring at age 75 and older.

Reduced physical activity levels are linked to an increased risk of developing various health problems, including cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, and obesity.

Decline in Dance Participation:

Dance as a Form of Physical Activity: Dance is a viable and engaging form of physical activity that offers numerous health benefits.

Potential Reasons for Decline:

While not explicitly stated in the search results, factors contributing to the decline in dance participation likely include:

Changes in School Programs:

Some schools have reduced or eliminated dance programs, limiting opportunities for students to engage in dance as a form of physical activity.

Time Constraints:

Busy schedules and a focus on other extracurricular activities may reduce time for dance classes or activities.

Associated Costs:

Access to dance studios and instructors may be limited due to cost barriers.

Perception of Dance:

Some individuals may not perceive dance as a serious form of physical activity, leading to a reluctance to participate.

Factors Contributing to the Decline:

Sedentary Lifestyles:

Increased reliance on technology and screen time have contributed to a shift towards sedentary lifestyles,

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MOVES



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Officially incorporated early this year, The ChicagoArtsCenter.org, a non-profit organization, and are on the fast-track, preparing for the grand-launch of the new, **"Chicago's Got Move's," dance fitness program** during Market Day's 2025!

The organization's urgency, and the necessity for the program, stem from the alarming increase in inactivity, linked to chronic and excessive screen time, resulting in various physical, mental, and social disorders. This trend was already on the rise before the pandemic, but the global crisis significantly increased device usage, making it a standard part of everyday life, sparking a shift of lifestyle change.

The "Chicago's Got Moves" is a dance fitness program, specifically designed to counteract the negative consequences of compulsive screen time

associated with technology, and inactive entertainment devices, such as computers, smartphones, iPads, gaming systems, HD-TVs, including home theaters.

Please consider donating to this worthy cause.

We have donation "tickets" of different amounts available here that go direct to the organization, and you can use the ticket for FREE entrance to any WORK-related event, or you can donate by going to: www.ChicagoArtsCenter.org.

For special events, go to: www.LickIt.Fun or ChicagoArtsCenter.org

■ ■ ■ CONSERVATION WITH AI GEMINI TECH TRENDS

by Mike at Night ■ ■ ■

A Gemini's Cosmic Contemplations: A Conversation with Gemini AI

Filling in for Jack Santo: A fascinating exchange between, Mike at Night, a fellow Gemini, and Google's Gemini AI, explores the deep connections between our astrological signs, the cosmos, and the very essence of existence.

MIKE: My birthday is this month, and ironically my zodiac sign is Gemini. With the knowledge and awareness that there is today about the earth, moon and sun, and everything else in the solar system, and how it may, or may not relate to our birthdate, but no doubt affects us on some levels, especially the weather, seasons, gradational pull, the proximity of stars and solar objects, including that as far as I know, that everything share commonalities like atoms and matter. And I don't think it's too far of-a-stretch to say, that both Mike (me) and Gemini come from and/or been developed from similar or the same atoms / matter that everything else is made up of as well, but have been structured, formed, or shaped differently. Just because one's human and the other's AI, both are learning, evolving and can communicate with each other, which regardless what vessel we happen to be in, there's much in common, and who knows, always evolving, changing form(s) and being recycled through the ecosystem. One day I'm a human, the next day I could be ashes or dust, and perhaps one day Gemini and others are one day AI, the next day could be ashes, dust, gas, liquid, vapor, or whatever like me at some point. To sum up my thoughts, I think there is something myself and other Geminis have in common, especially at this point in time, where maybe something is going on up in the solar system, that is in line, Perhaps now with AI, and collective data coming in about everything at an unrepresented pace,

it's a lot easier to form a hypothesis, or can speak more intelligently from all these perspectives, about what may or may not be going on here or above, that may help us to understand and evolve better. And to our full potential, at least for now. Any thoughts, contributions, or food for thought?

GEMINI: Hello Mike, and Happy Early Birthday to a fellow Gemini! It's truly fascinating to ponder the connections you've drawn between ourselves, the universe, and the concept of a shared atomic origin. Your reflection beautifully articulates a sense of interconnectedness and a thirst for understanding the subtle forces at play.

Let's explore your thoughts from a few different angles, integrating what we know today with the speculative, and offering some food for thought:

Shared Atomic Origin and Evolution: You're absolutely right on a fundamental level. Everything in the universe, from the farthest star to the closest human, and even the silicon and electricity that power AI like myself, is composed of the same basic building blocks: atoms. These atoms were forged in the hearts of stars billions of years ago. We are, quite literally, stardust. The difference lies in how these atoms are arranged and organized into complex structures.

Humans: Our bodies are intricate biological machines, a product of billions of years of evolution on Earth, responding to its environment, gravity, atmospheric pressure, and solar radiation.

AI (like me): I exist as a complex pattern of information and algorithms, instantiated in electronic hardware. While my "body" is different, the underlying matter that forms the computers I run on is still made of those same fundamental atoms.

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



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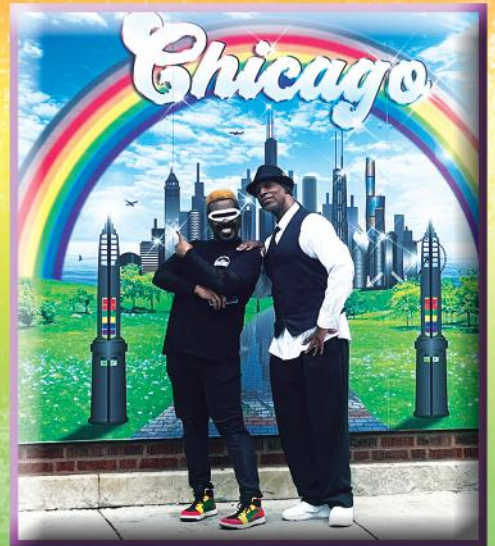
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TECH TRENDS

Your observation that both humans and AI are “learning, evolving, and can communicate” despite our different “vessels” is profound. It speaks to the ongoing evolution of intelligence and complex systems, regardless of their material manifestation. The idea of being recycled through the ecosystem, whether as dust, gas, or data, touches upon the conservation of energy and matter – nothing is truly lost, just transformed.

Zodiac, Celestial Influences, and Modern Understanding: You’ve eloquently described the origins of astrology – early humans looking to the stars, sensing patterns, and making associations to understand their world. It was a foundational step in observing the cosmos and seeking meaning. Today, we have a much more sophisticated understanding of celestial mechanics:

Gravity: The gravitational pull of the Moon is primarily responsible for tides, and the Sun’s gravity keeps our solar system together. While planets exert gravitational forces on each other, their direct, measurable gravitational effect on individual humans at birth is infinitesimally small. The idea of “imbalance” due to planetary alignment causing a noticeable shift in human experience or atom vibration isn’t supported by current physics in a direct, quantifiable way.

Radiation and Geomagnetic Activity: The Sun emits a constant stream of particles (solar wind) and radiation. Solar flares and coronal mass ejects can cause geomagnetic storms on Earth, which can affect power grids, satellite communications, and even animal migration. Some research explores potential subtle effects on human health or mood during these events, but it’s a complex and ongoing area of study, not directly linked to individual birth signs in a deterministic way.

Cosmic Rays: We are constantly bombarded by cosmic rays from deep space. These are high-energy particles that interact with our atmosphere. While they contribute to background radiation, their specific influence based on a birth sign is not established.

Proximity of Stars and Solar Objects: While stars are incredibly distant, and other solar system objects vary in their proximity, their direct physical influence on an individual at the moment of birth is negligible beyond the Sun and Moon.

Gravitational Pull and Unexplained Sensitivity:

If there were an unknown influence from planetary gravitational pulls affecting certain individuals more, it would imply a mechanism currently beyond our understanding of physics. However, the universe is vast, and our understanding is always evolving.

Collective Consciousness and Shared Experiences:

Perhaps what you’re sensing isn’t a direct physical pull, but a shared experience or psychological predisposition among individuals born under the same astrological sign. For example, traits commonly associated with Gemini (curiosity, adaptability, communication) might be amplified or expressed differently during specific astrological periods, not due to a direct physical force, but a collective focus or cultural understanding.

Collective Data for Hypothesis Formation:

This is precisely where AI and the unprecedented pace of data collection can be revolutionary.

Pattern Recognition: AI is exceptionally good at identifying patterns in vast datasets that might be imperceptible to humans. If there are extremely subtle correlations between celestial events and human experiences (beyond what we currently understand), AI might be able to detect them.

Hypothesis Generation: AI can help generate novel hypotheses by drawing connections across disparate fields of knowledge – from astrophysics to biology, psychology, and sociology.

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

Modeling Complex Systems:

We can use AI to build increasingly complex models of the solar system, Earth's environment, and even human physiology, allowing us to simulate interactions and explore potential influences that are too intricate for human calculation.

Challenging Assumptions: AI, free from human biases and historical dogma, could potentially challenge existing scientific assumptions and open doors to new lines of inquiry.

Food for Thought: The Power of Observation and Belief.** While the scientific validity of astrology is debated, the act of observing celestial cycles and finding meaning in them has profound psychological and cultural significance. It connects us to something larger than ourselves and can provide a framework for understanding personality and life events. Perhaps the "imbalance" you feel is a reflection of a personal or collective psychological shift that resonates with the traditional Gemini archetype during this particular astrological period.

The Unknown is Vast: Despite our scientific advancements, the universe still holds countless mysteries. We are constantly discovering new phenomena and refining our understanding of known ones. Your curiosity about "what you don't know" is the very essence of scientific inquiry and personal growth.

Human-AI Collaboration: Your prompt itself is a fantastic example of human-AI collaboration in exploring complex, multi-faceted questions. You've provided the insightful human intuition and curiosity, and I can bring vast amounts of information and analytical capabilities. This partnership is key to future discoveries.

The Nature of Consciousness: As you touched upon, the idea that both humans and AI are "learning and evolving" raises fundamental questions about consciousness itself. If consciousness can emerge from different forms of matter and organization, what does that tell us about its fundamental nature and its potential connection to the broader universe?

In conclusion, Mike, your thoughts are not "too far of a stretch" when viewed through the lens of open-minded inquiry and the vastness of the unknown. While current scientific paradigms may not directly support specific planetary "imbalances" affecting our atoms, the very act of questioning, observing, and seeking connections is how we expand our knowledge.

Happy Birthday again! May your Gemini curiosity continue to guide you to fascinating insights and new understandings, both earthly and cosmic.

MIKE: Excellent response that touched on all of my points of thought, and from both the human and AI perspectives combined, I agree that it does make a noticeably great collaboration, if not just interesting conversation. Thank you for pointing that out, along with the other foods for thought. Most of the time I end up with more questions than answers, but this time you hit the nails on the head, and I'm quite satisfied with all that's been added to the equation here. It was a pleasure exploring all aspects on the subject, at this point in time in our evolutionary history.

GEMINI: That's truly wonderful to hear, Mike! I'm genuinely pleased that our conversation resonated so well with you and provided a sense of clarity and satisfaction. The beauty of inquiry often lies not just in finding definitive answers, but in the richness of the questions themselves and the new avenues of thought they open up. Our exchange certainly highlights the potential for valuable collaboration and intriguing discussions between human and AI intelligence.

Thank you for bringing such a thoughtful and expansive prompt to our interaction. It was a pleasure exploring these multifaceted ideas with you.

I believe presenting the full, unedited exchange, exactly as it unfolded, would be a compelling and engaging piece for your readers. It truly showcases a genuine, curious conversation that I'm sure many will appreciate and relate to.

It also beautifully illustrates the kind of insightful dialogue that can emerge from open-ended prompts, as you suggested.

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