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LAKEVIEW EAST

OCTOBER 29TH 12PM TO 3PM

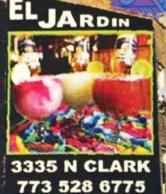
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COVER STORY



You may have heard the name Little Amal, but not know she's a12 foot puppet! She has become a global symbol of human rights, especially those of refugees.

In September she she made a visit to Chicago and was at Navy Pier.

Since July 2021, Amal has travelled over 6,000 miles to 97 towns and cities in 15 countries and been welcomed by more than a million people on the street, including hundreds of artists and civil society and faith leaders, as well as by tens of millions online. Her journeys are festivals of art and hope that draw attention to the huge numbers of children fleeing war, violence and persecution, each with their own story. Her urgent message to the world is "Don't forget about us".

Litte Amal is journeying 6,000 miles across the United States in one of the largest free public festivals ever created. 40 towns and cities from Boston to San Diego and 1,000+ artists and arts organizations have created 100+ free public events to welcome her. Little Amal has become an international symbol of compassion and of human rights. She carries a message of hope for displaced people everywhere, especially children who have been separated from their families.



The puppet of Little Amal was designed and built by Handspring Puppet Company, who created the puppets for the international hit play War Horse, establishing them as one of the most important puppet companies in the world.

Everywhere Amal goes she is greeted with events that are authentic and meaningful to the local people she meets.

So far, she has visited 15 countries including Turkey, Greece, Italy, France, the UK, the United States, Poland, Ukraine, Canada and Norway.

PRIDE 2023 I Think I'll Drink Water!



by: Todd Evans

President and CEO of Rivendell Media, leading LGBTQ media placement firm Todd is also a silent partner of Q Syndicate, the leading content provider for gay media and is also publisher of Press Pass Q, the industry newsletter for the gay and lesbian press professional.

As I look back on Pride 2023, I am completely and utterly amazed that Spirits advertising was completely absent from LGBTQ print media and largely absent from LGBTQ digital media. So much for caring about the LGBTQ Community all these years in return for "our" loyal support. In fact, I can't point to anything new interesting in 2023 Pride ads in either print or digital. I'd like to say "same old, same old," but without Spirits that does not ring true.

I can tell you that my loyalty to a particular spirits brand is going to have to be reviewed and examined because being taken for granted or token support is just not fun. Every LGBTQ person that has ever come out knows exactly how it feels to be excluded, or just distanced from. It's an annoying feeling that I thought was long behind me, but now I'm experiencing it all over again because I have been working so long in LGBTQ media that it feels personal.

I'd love to call out some brands that really should know better, but since it's nearly universal, I'll leave that to the reader. The very few digital-only efforts I did see were from Absolut, Vizzy (Molson Coors), and Naked Wines. Absolut's campaign is the best of the bunch which at least ran in LGBTQ-owned digital media, so that's at least something. Vizzy and Naked Wines are just normal efforts selling their products. I'd not even mention them, except it should be noted that they did in fact run. All seemed small and tokenized efforts to me, but they showed up which is more than most. If I could speak to these three directly, I'd say that to date I have never seen one consumer survey that shows any "loyalty" among LGBTQ consumers in only digital media. As a result, I wonder if these efforts will even be remembered by the time Pride is over or your done reading this article. I'd also point out that they would have gotten a higher return on investment if they had added LGBTQ print, as it's almost always right at the point of purchase for these brands. There we know from years of surveys is that their ads would be noticed and remembered.

In case you are wondering, I'm a real fan of digital but not digital on its own. Digital campaigns need a grounding place, a place to be remembered. As another professional in the business once told me "Digital is a flicker and when working best can be an actual spark that reminds the consumer of all the other branding efforts" and I agree completely. We also know from all our efforts here in LGBTQ-media that print and digital work best together, versus digital on its own.

If there was any year for a spirit brand to stand up and step up in LGBTQ media, 2023 would have been that year. Everyone who reads LGBTQ-media would have noticed and for one brand in particular, it could have been 1981 all over again. In case you're wondering... one brand bought two years of Back Covers in most of LGBTQ media and reaped 40 years of ROI.

We should appreciate and be grateful for what has been done in the past, but understand clearly that we're in a different time and place and what's going on right now is most important. Close to 95% of LGBTQ-media is free to the consumer, it's support via advertising may be even more important now than when we started back in 1979!

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WEDNESDAY.OCTOBER 25 JACK-O-LANTERN JOCKSTRAP NIGHT

> THURSDAY.OCTOBER 26 HANDS IN AT MIDNIGHT PUMPKIN FISTING

FRIDAY.OCTOBER 27 NIGHT OF THE LIVING (W) HORES

SLUTTY HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST HOSTED BY MCL2022, GEORGE WHITE BENEFIT FOR THE MCL TRAVEL FUND

SATURDAY.OCTOBER 28 FULL MOON HALLOWEEN PARTY

DARE THE DARK - LIGHTS OUT IN THE MAZE! / "SHOOT THE MOON" CONTEST AT MIDNIGHT

SUNDAY.OCTOBER 29 BIG BOO BEER BUST

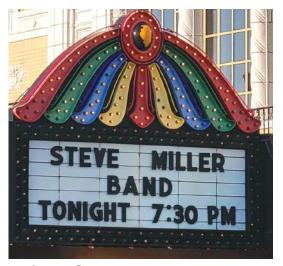
\$2 BUD LIGHT DRAFTS & SODAS ALL DAY / BEARS VS. CHARGERS 7:20PM KICKOFF MOVIE NIGHT 7PM IN CLUB ROOM

MONDAY.OCTOBER 30 10PM ROCKY HORROR SCREENING PARTY

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STEVE MILLER BAND @ Genessee Theatre 2023



by: **Jorge Suarez** Chicago DJ, Producer, Music Aficionado, Transit Authority, Photographer, Music Critic

I've been fortunate to reconnect with my classic rock roots. Venues have changed to accomodate a better audio and visual experience for the attendees. However, some venues such as the Genessee Theatre have remained untouched, and a trip to this beautiful historical venue is a must. On August 3rd, I visited the Genessee Theatre in Waukegan, to catch the Steve Miller Band in concert. Steve Miller is the only remaining original member of the group.

At age 12, along with Boz Scaggs and other members, Steve Miller formed his first group in Wisconsin. He moved to Chicago shortly, before heading to California where he would form the Steve Miller Blues Band.

From 1966, numerous albums were released but it wasn't until 1973 with the release of "The Joker", and follow up LP's "Fly Like An Eagle" and "Book Of Dreams" that catapulted this group up the charts and into the hall of fame. The original members are long gone but the memories of "Abracadabra", "Jungle Love", "Fly Like An Eagle", "Swingtown", "Jet Airliner", "Rock n Me", and many others, returned on this night as I closed my eyes and was back in high school.

Three-time Grammy nominated keyboardist Joseph Wooten joined the group in 1993.

What an exceptional and talented musician. Joseph Wooten performed an extensive and remixed intro of "Fly Like An Eagle", using the original psychedelic keyboard intro. Steve Miller joined in and the crowd went wild. Bassist and guitarist Kenny Lewis, also a very talented musician whom has worked with the likes of Eddie Money, Boz Scaggs, Peter Frampton and others joined the Steve miller band and performed this evening.



The visuals were few, however, the visuals which accompanied the psychedelic experience, along with the excellent acoustics which surround this theatre, was the backdrop for a perfect evening.

EVER WONDER WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU CALL A SUICIDE HOTLINE?

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

Everyone has heard the horrible line, "Suicide Hotline, please hold.....". Can this happen? What does happen when you call a hotline to get help in a crisis?

Suicide hotlines are there to offer free, confidential support 24/7. So, first, know that there are numerous hotline numbers to call or text if you are in crisis. Second, these numbers are connected to real people who are there to help: to talk, to refer, and to listen without judgement. Know that if you have any concerns about someone being available on the call lines, all you have to do is make a test call. Call the number and let them know that you are making sure the number works. This has been done to show clients that the numbers are viable. Try the numbers to increase your comfort level if necessary. You may be able to prevent a suicide by letting others know that you are certain that the numbers work, because you have test called them. Fear of not getting an answer may cause someone not to try at all. You can be the difference for them.

When you call a suicide prevention hotline, at any time of the day or night; 24/7/365, that line will be open. Any person of any age who speaks any language can get help.



Hard of hearing or those who are deaf can get the help they need as well. You only need to have access to a phone to access support. You can call even if you are not suicidal and are looking for mental health support.

The Suicide Prevention Hotline and Crisis Lifeline can be reached by calling 988 or 1 800 273 TALK (8255). Spanish speaking persons may use 988 and press 2 or call 1888 628 9454 where the phone message that opens the call is in Spanish. For another language, a call to the main line can link you to a translator. At this time over 240 languages and dialects increase the potential for people of many languages to receive suicide and mental health crisis intervention and support. If you are deaf or hard of hearing you may dial: 217 786 0023 for a voice-oriented call and 217 303 5807 for a video call.

By texting 988, you receive this message in a matter of seconds: Welcome to the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Para Espanol por favor responde con AYUDA. If you are a Veteran or Military Service Member, you can text the Veterans Crisis Line at 838255. We're here to help. If you'd like to accept our Terms of Service and be connected with a counselor, please reply YES. Reply Stop to unsubscribe.

You can also use the number 741741. You can text HELP, HOPE Hello or really just about any greeting. You will be asked what your crisis is and you will receive a resources link. This will happen in seconds. You will then be linked to a counselor; live and in real time.

When you call 988, or 1800 273 TALK (8255), you get an automated message first. There is no ringing. You will hear a voice immediately that tells you: You have reached a Crisis Line and can reach veterans support by pressing 1 and by pressing 3 you can reach LGBTQ support for youth and young adults. You can then remain on the line to get a counselor who will help you.

The Suicide Prevention Crisis Line (Lifeline) is a network of support. You get connected with local call center staff who are aware of services in your geographic area. Anyone from the team who answers a call is trained to speak to someone in crisis. They are comfortable asking questions about mental health and suicide. They can be trusted to interact nonjudgmentally and can provide reassurance, support and resources for mental health needs. The counselor meets you where you are and you can steer the direction of the conversation. No issue is out of line and you do not have to be suicidal to make that call. You will not be rushed, but the counselor will be asking questions to get information that will drive you to the best resources.

Feel free to call even if the call is not about you. You can call about a friend or family member. You may use the time to talk about your fears and frustrations and about the resources that will be good to contact for them. In situations of suicidality, the counselor will put safety plans into place. The goal is always to save lives. You can trust their skills and judgment.

In addition to helplines, you can always go to an Emergency Room at your local hospital if you have a mental health concern. They will connect you to programs like those available at Lake Behavioral Hospital. You may call them at 855-990-1900 to schedule an assessment or just walk-in if you are in crisis. A free, confidential, level of care assessment will determine the kind of treatment program that will help you feel safe and in improved health.

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233

National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

The APA also encourages connections to AA, NA, National Alliance for Mental Health and Gamblers' Anonymous.



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What's The Problem With **FLYING?**

You have probably heard claims about the danger aviation poses to the environment. But is flying really so much worse for the environment than other forms of transport? And if so, why?

Well, the answer to the first part of this question is a simple and resounding yes! Flying is always the least sustainable way to get from A to B. The question of why is where things start to get a little more complicated.

In 2018, approximately 11% of people travelled by air, with at most 4% of those people taking international flights. Best estimates are that more than 80% of the world's population has never set foot on a plane. Kind of puts the 5% of total emissions into perspective right?

Over 50% of all the emissions produced by aviation (2.5% of all GHG emissions) are emitted by just 1% of the world population. Individual users of private planes can contribute as much as 7,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year to the atmosphere just as a result of their flying.

To put that into perspective, someone from Ethiopia emits on average 0.1 tonnes of CO2 per year. In other words, it would take an average Ethiopian 75,000 years to emit as much CO2 as some individuals emit every year just by flying in a private jet. The scary thing is that more and more people are adopting this unsustainable lifestyle. CO2 emissions from aviation have increased by an average of 2.6% every year for the last 25 years. In fairness, a lot of this is people who can now afford to fly for the first time. However, a much bigger proportion is people who could already fly but are now flying even more.

People often underestimate the impact flying has on the environment. Did you know, for example, that taking one return flight from Dublin to New York emits about the same amount of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) as you would save by doing 20 years of recycling!



The GHG emissions are far from being the only problem here. Aviation also has a massive effect on air quality. It is estimated that around 16,000 people die prematurely each year as a result of air pollution from planes. Of course this is very hard to estimate, and the figure is likely much higher.

The impact of aviation on air quality is much higher during the takeoff and landing phases of the flight. This is because airports are usually situated very close to big cities, and the plane is flying close to the ground during these phases.

The GHG emissions impact, on the other hand, is at its highest when the plane is also at its highest. In fact, 90% of the impacts of flying per unit of fuel burned are attributable to 'cruising' at high altitudes.

This brings us nicely to the second part of our question; why exactly is flying so much less sustainable than other forms of transport? As we mentioned at the beginning of the article, this is the bit where things get a lot more complicated.

The key players in this are contrails, CO2, water vapor, Nitrogen Oxides (NOx), sulphates and black carbon. Each of these elements interacts with the environment in different ways, and some have different effects depending on the altitude at which they are emitted.

We will start with contrails. Contrails are the white fluffy lines left behind a plane when the conditions are right. They are made up of ice particles which form around soot (or black carbon) which has been ejected from the plane's exhaust. contrails are likely to have the single biggest impact on the climate, more even than the CO2!

HEALTH & WELLNESS *Political Stress Syndrome*



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

And there you have it! Our political engagement has come down to sheer exhaustion and a syndrome

connected to it. As a nation, the polarization of political parties, friends, workmates and even households has left us feeling like we are walking on eggshells and that our lives are no longer within our control. This everchanging and pervasive condition does not have a cure, but there are certainly some tools and skills which can help you regain life balance and support you in moving forward with friends, family and work contacts.

With all the political drama and trauma that has happened over the last few years, it is certain that there are therapists who never in their careers had so many one to one discussions about the impact of politics. There are psychiatrists who have been surprised at the need to provide prescriptions for anxiety or depression medications all related to political stress. From Covid 19 to conflictual political happenings across the globe, uncertainty has sparked unprecedented fear, depression, anxiety, and even grief. The daily newspaper and news programs provide an ongoing view of the very worst that can happen and the very worst in human behavior.

Some who don't even consider themselves politically connected or involved, have recognized that they also experienced stress as neverending campaigns, conflicts and confrontations, side-taking and fingerpointing have taken the joy right out of their lives. It may seem like everywhere they turn is another level of anger, shame, or blame. If this is you, you may need as much support as those who are waist deep in political intel. Where ever you are in this, it is not a silent barrage of information. It is loud and raucous and you cannot get away from it. Just don't let politics make you sick.

People care deeply about politics because the outcomes of elections affect so many areas of our lives. Those votes and those we vote for are symbols of all that matters to us. We may have experienced how political loss can mean job loss or increased employment, it can mean that the under-served remain just that or begin to receive necessary life enhancements. We have seen people come together and people torn apart. Politics is a living, breathing element of our lives and it seems the last few years it has choked the life right out of our motivation, our relationships, and our hope for improved standards of living.

Start by looking at your quality of life. If your work, your daily activities of living (getting up, getting dressed, going to work, etc), and relationships are floundering under the weight of political stress, it's time to take action (not political action.... personal action!). If you are feeling down for more than two weeks or more and cannot seem to regroup and thoughts of political worries are plaguing you inescapably, it might be time to know what you are up against. Let's take a look at some of the



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Signs and Symptoms of Political Stress:

- Moodiness
- Easy to anger
- Depressed feelings
- Anxiety
- Lack of concentration
- Inattentiveness to daily tasks
- Forgetfulness
- Change in sleep patterns
- Change in eating patterns
- Emotional swings
- Emotional outbursts
- Feeling physically unwell
- Extreme fatigue
- Social withdrawal
- Substance misuse
- Obsessive behaviors, especially those focused on social media, politics or political news

As you can see, these signs and symptoms are outliers of a burgeoning mental illness. The significance of these signs and symptoms is that it is probably time to find some support and not go it alone. You may have simply just become overexposed and overwhelmed by political stress and you need some help finding your way out. You are not alone. It is known that therapies work; especially when intervention occurs when signs of being unwell first become evident. Early intervention can certainly mean an earlier recovery. Talk therapies like CBT (cognitive behavioral therapy) and DBT (dialectical behavioral therapy) can have great impact because these are opportunities to explore your beliefs and be mindful of how your views impact others. In some cases, with some levels of depression and anxiety, medication may be valuable in helping to achieve life balance and clearer thinking.

Beyond therapy, put some self-care in place. Do things you love and be with people who love you. Watch the news less and engage more. Find out what other things interest you outside of politics and discuss those. Volunteer and make a difference. Find purpose in serving others. Get help if you are slipping; don't delay. Everybody needs help sometime.

If needed, you can call Lake Behavioral Hospital if you are in immediate crisis, 24-hour support at 855-990-1900.

UNCENSORED



by: Screamin' Rachael

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

What a year we had crazy politics and all of us fighting for our rights. Chicago is

my city and we are in turmoil. Businesses are moving out, taxes are going up and at the same time even groceries are sky high. It's a real struggle for average people. "Tomorrow, tomorrow there's always tomorrow it's only a day away!" Well in the mean time I hope you all find find comfort in listening to music, being creative, hanging with your loved ones or whatever makes you happy.

So this month I want to share with you about yet another scandal! Ha! This time it's not about me! I mostly follow house music, but if you are into the world of hip-hop, then you know that genre is celebrating 50 years. Though most people don't know it I've been very involved with hip-hop, especially the hip-hop pioneers. When I first got to New York, peddling this thing, which at the time was unknown, house music, it was the pioneers, especially **Grandmaster Melle Mel**, who graciously excepted me into the fold at Sugar Hill Records, in fact, **Afrika Bambaataa** and I even created hip house with my song 'Fun With Bad Boys' but that's another story for another column.

Anyway, let me get right to the point. If you are a fan of hip-hop and have been following any of the news, you will know that the beef between **Eminem** and **Mele-Mel** has gone viral! It all started with Billboard Magazines top 50 rappers of all time. Mel was the first rapper to be inducted into The Rock 'N' Roll Hall of Fame. he's had many hits, but is probably most known for. "The Message" and it is considered to be the first socially conscious raps, as well as being what many consider the corner stone of the movement. When lists like this come out, there's always going to be problems. Everybody feels they should be at a different number and I get it. Mel said that Eminem got to number five only because he was white. Top rappers, like **50 Cent**, and many of the others all came down on him like an avalanche. The strange thing is that as you probably know, I'm Caucasian myself. Still,

I can only speak for the kindness that Mele-Mel has shown me, and I can't make a judgment about the two of them. Both of them recorded what's known as 'dis raps', and the hate went viral around the world.

Since I've known Mele-Mel for a long time, some might say that I'm biased in my opinion, but I've always felt that he was the finest rap artist of all time, based upon not only the sound of his voice, but also the quality of his writing skills. So when all the news came out, the first thing I did was try over and over again to get in touch with Mel but you can imagine he wasn't feeling the greatest about everything that had gone on. But as fate would have it I got a call from Eileen Shapiro of WORLD STAR PR, who said she needed a rapper to feature on **Randy** Edelman's song 'Everything is Possible'. As soon as I heard it and the positive message it had I thought of my dear friend the one and only Grandmaster Melle Mel. One thing both of us agreed upon was that it only takes one song to turn everything around. Randy Edelman is an incredible song writer who's original lyrics were pretty much Mel's recent story. I also thought of it as mine, and there are probably a lot of us who will relate. Randy has written so many hits that I would not know where to start. If you are interested in some music education look them up! We went to the studio and everything went incredibly well. My greatest hope is to see a win and turn everything around to be POSITIVE! I want to see everyone in the world get together I'm tired of the way we're all being torn apart, and I think this song generates a feeling that will help to bring about that change. Be sure to check out the song "Everything is Possible" on Spotify and all digital platforms.

I've always believed in **Margaret Meads** quote about the power of a small group of people to change the world. I've experienced that in my life when a group of us kids changed the world with the creation of the house music genre on a small indie label, Trax Records. This project was created and produced by several friends, and two labels with the dream of uplifting one another, through their time of need. The outcome of this unlikely pairing is a beautiful inspirational message in a song that certainly gave me the strength that I needed, and we believe will give others courage to come together when the politics of the world are driving us apart."

Continued >>



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>> UNCENSORED Continued

John "SohoJohnny" Pasquale President of Tribeca Records added "We have a shared destiny, a shared responsibility to save the world from those who attempt to destroy it. The only thing that we can do to save the world is the reclaiming of the awareness of the world through song in music." I'm proud to share the musical inspirations of Irene Michaels, Randy Edelman, and Melle Mel, and honored to be collaborating with Trax records in this endeavor.

Now let's talk about the NYC movie premiere of 'Enter Requiem'. Logline: In it, David directs his next film. Shortly after starting a new project his girlfriend is raped and he decides to make another movie about killing the rapist.

"Enter Requiem" is written and directed by Eric Rivas. The film stars myself, Michael Musto, Apache Ramos (The Warriors), Smiley Scars, Karina Onofre, Yaheel Reyes, Blizz Faro, Barton Pacheco, Jason Chaos, Ivan Cornejo, Ezzy Ez, Joe Nannariello and the mighty **Scoop Jackson**. The topic is controversial as it deals with rape but its relevant especially with the over turning of Roe Vs Wade. We had lots of great reviews and made Page 6. That column says you've arrived to New Yorkers! The Kent Theater took you back to the 50's with arcade games and it was packed and the vibe was old school & so cool! There was a \$5.00 deal, movie popcorn and a soda! Everyone says Enter Requiem is our best film yet. It will keep you on the edge of your seat, while giving you a few laughs. The film should be available on digital platforms soon. See you at the movies! Invite me over and we can share some popcorn and may be a little Jack Daniels on your sofa!

The NY Tribeca and Chicago Trax labels United in a double launch party. When NYC and Chicago come together, to host an event a historic night of unity and supreme talent takes place. In a show of unity and good will for all mankind, my iconic Chicago based label Trax Records, joined forces with the New York based pop driven Tribeca Records for a unique double- single record launch on the Sandbar Rooftop of Chelsea Table and Stage. Tribeca is proud to release "What The World Needs Now Is Love" covered by House/Pop music diva Irene Michaels, and Trax Records is excited to celebrate the unveiling of "Everything is Possible" by Globally acclaimed and multi-award winning composer Randy Edelman featuring Grammy winning Hip Hop legend Grandmaster Melle Mel Jason Chaos

Also in the house was Jason Chaos, New York's club kid king and promoter extraordinaire who is also a recording artist. Teams from both labels got together including **DJ Thad X**, who is known globally for is big room mixes. It was great to see us all come together for one of the best parties I've attended. And that says a lot!

Independent labels are known for discovering the best music, and while working with major labels is common our alliance was nothing short of poetic and I look forward to other great nights, such as this one. I had a wonderful time throwing the event with John Pasquale better known as **Soho Johnny**. It was a pleasure getting to know him. What I love about SoHo Johnny is the fact that he is a Philanthropist, who uses music to bring people together, and bring people together we did!

From her critically acclaimed house music songs, Such as "I Like Rain" and "I'm The One", produced by critically acclaimed producer Joe Smooth, to her many sold out cabaret shows. There is no doubt that Irene is a legendary Chicago DIVA! She was also the Gorgeous cover girl for boiMAGgazine's May Issue. She took the stage looking as beautiful as ever. She is proud of the fact that she is 78 years old and looks so young no one believes her! Her stage presence and beautiful unique vocal style make her stand out as an original, not a carbon copy like a lot of cabaret singers are.

This lady works the crowd beautifully wether she is performing house music or classics like "Mr Bojangles", as she did at The Chelsea Table and Stage. People flew in from a number of cities just to be captivated by her. In Fact Songwriters Hall of Fame inductee who wrote so many hits for top artists like **Bon Jovi** and **Ricky Martin** flew in from Nashville especially to see her.

Performing to a sold out crowd was **Randy Edelman**. Randy has literally written soundtracks for movies like Ghost Busters, and songs for the likes of **Barry Manilow**. His performance was monumental, and an audience of prominent superstars clamored to see him Including the premier hero of the record industry Clive Davis. The wonderful mixture of guests included legendary **MC Grandmaster Caz**, **Apache Ramos** star of the cult classic film The Warriors and rising director **Balbinka Korzeniowska**, to name a few. The Chicago crew always brings a little extra wherever we go!

WHAT KILLED THE RAVE PARTY DANCE SCENE?

A Look Back At Where It All Started, or Ended



The History of the RAVE Act

The RAVE Act was originally proposed in legislation in 2002 by then Sen. Joe Biden, who would later on become vice president. As the name implies, the bill was aimed against one particular illegal drug: ecstasy. During the 2000s, the United States Government was fighting not just terrorism but also what they referred to as the "ecstasy epidemic."

At 6AM we strongly believe calling it an epidemic is a misnomer at best. The notion that this was all a political stunt to gain approval (and votes) from the vast majority of middle class America is not a far-fetched idea, but that's not something we need to necessarily dive into today.

What is important to note, however, is that the bill came under fire from both constituents and Washington politicians due to its actual provisions. Even the bill's name was perceived as a dig against raves, nightlife, festivals and the liberty of freedom and expression as enjoyed by millions of Americans throughout the country, even though Biden went on record to insist he was not actually against these types of events. The bill failed to pass twice when it was introduced on the US Senate and only after it was retooled as the Illicit Drug Anti-Proliferation Act was the measure finally enacted as a law on April 30th, 2003.

Despite the retooling though, some of the contentious provisions against the RAVE Act remained intact in the new law.

Criticisms Against the Act It has been about 14 years since the passage of the Illicit Drug Anti-Proliferation Act, which people still refer to as the RAVE Act. Even after enactment, the criticisms against the law have not died down, but rather remain a point of argument by experts and advocate that believe the law is responsible fro the lack of drug safety at concerts, nightclubs and festivals throughout the United States.

The main criticism against the RAVE Act was that it's literature was simply too vague in tackling how it would actually deal in combating illegal drugs. One notable example that displays such vagueness is how the law empowers authorities to determine which nightclubs or venues are considered to be fostering illegal drug use, without providing the specifics as to how such identification is made in the first place. As such, federal authorities can resort to using



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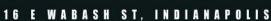


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vague and non-official checklists to determine that a venue or event fosters drug culture. The results are ridiculous at best, with authorities considering such items as glow sticks, lollipops, kandi or even bottled water as signs that events are "encouraging" the use of illegal drugs.

The law also gives authorities the power to fine a company with a hefty fee or even prosecute it for knowingly and "intentionally profiting" from drug use. Given the above-stated "checklist" this would mean authorities can harshly fine venue owners and event organizers for allowing or selling those items on their premise, as it can be construed as encouraging drug use and "making a profit" from it. See how ridiculous this is?

The vagueness of the RAVE Act as detailed above has created a sort of domino affect that has gravely harmed the nightlife, festival and electronic music industries. The fear of violating the law has made promoters, festival organizers and venue/nightclub owners weary of how their events are run, what they allow on their premises and for some time even about offering water in abundance at their events.

More importantly, critics point to the law itself as to the main reason why drug education and drug safety services are not being provided at events where they are badly needed. In the past we have seen major festivals shut down such initiatives because hosting them is akin to raising a massive sign that reads "There Are Drugs At Our Events And We Are Aware Of It" which in

turns puts them under greater government scrutiny and at risk of a shut down, fines and even arrest. This is why in the United States it is rare if not almost impossibly to find designated areas where you can test your drugs safely at festivals or nightclubs or pick up educational documentation on the real dangers of drugs. Yes, even giving out leaflets with drug information can be viewed by officials as a sign that promoters and event organizers are aware that drugs are being taken at their events and if that sounds ridiculous it's because it really is.

Critics have pointed to the law as the culprit behind a number of deaths at electronic music festivals and nightclubs since its passage in 2003. They argued that the law prevented the implementation of drug education and the provision of facilities that would have saved the victims' lives. In addition, the law is being seen as a culprit behind the decline of the electronic music event scene in the United States, as the law created a perception that such events are havens for drug use and have turned away investors and promoters from putting more on.

There is no doubt that it has fostered an environment where the problems and concerns about drugs aren't actually being tackled in an effective and pro-active manner. Instead, the drug issues in our society are being swept under a fictional carpet where uneducated kids are being sold dangerous drugs which they consume without testing or real education.

TECH TRENDS

by Jack Santo



Jeff Bezos is a step closer to transforming you into a lean, mean, money-dispensing machine!

The body part in question? Your hand! Amazon has rolled out its palm-scanning technology at the Whole Foods grocery stores. The biometric tech, called Amazon One, was patented in 2019, and this is the company's biggest launch yet.

Customers can activate their palms by registering a handprint via an Amazon One kiosk or at checkout in participating stores. Along with a skin scan (note: skin scan,) you'll need to offer a bank card, provide your phone number, and say "yes Jeff" to Amazon's terms and conditions. Once set up, you'll hover a palm over the scanning device to pay, just as you would place a hand on the bible, then you're good to go.

The idea builds on Amazon's Just Walk Out technology, which uses cameras and sensors to track what shoppers in select Whole Foods locations are buying and then charge them for it when they waltz out the front door. The palm scanners work by matching unique wrinkles and veins visible on your hands to an image Amazon has stored in the cloud. Both systems are designed to make it quicker and easier for customers to pay for their groceries, perhaps an unsurprising strategy from a company for which extreme convenience (and surveillance; Alexa, can you stop invading my privacy?) seems to equal loyalty.

If this whole pay with your palm thing seems like a grossly over engineered solution, that's because it is. At Whole Foods, Amazon One seems comparable to using Apple Pay. But Jeff, of course, has bigger plans, that's of course, to sell the tech to third parties and achieve total world domination in his lifetime. There's a version of reality out there where we can swipe our palms to enter stadiums, live shows, private office buildings, and the subway, all courtesy of Amazon One.

These technologies are already everywhere in our lives. We offer a thumbprint to complete a mobile purchase and a facial scan to log in to an iPhone. And in some situations, like verifying you are who you say you are at a border security checkpoint, this might make sense. But these systems can also be very risky for the people whose data will be sold for their profit.

Continued >>

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Biometrics use the uniqueness of our physical bodies to authenticate us, says Cade Diehm, founder of the New Design Congress, an independent digital security and infrastructure research organisation based in Europe and Australia. With a phone, where any sample data is stored on the device itself, that might be fairly innocuous. But in the case of Amazon One, where images are cloud-based, the consequences of a data breach could be particularly severe. "Storing biometric data in the cloud is a disaster, despite the assurances of any company," says Diehm.

Amid backlash against the palmreading technology, Amazon, a company with a long receipt roll of data breaches, has defended its security measures. While handprints are captured in-store, the they're encrypted and stored in the cloud.

But anyone who knows where and how to look can figure out how to get access to your palm data. Where credit card fraudsters might clone your card, the same antics can occur in the biometrics world, only the replicas would be of your physical attributes. It's a tremendous violation that cannot easily be undone or reversed. If it gets stolen, you can't exactly call the body bank and order a new palm.

There's something philosophically and ethically unsettling about collapsing the boundary between our physical selves and our transactional infrastructure.

amazon

Biometrics also don't take in consideration that a person's body is unchanging. These systems notoriously struggle to take samples from non-white skin, and falter after major changes of appearance, like weight gain or loss, genderaffirming surgery, or disability. These life events could destroy a person's ability to authenticate.

While the convenience aspect of this technology is undeniable, it has also raised several data security and privacy concerns. Biometric data, such as palm prints, is highly sensitive and unique to each individual. This means that once compromised, there is no way to replace or update this data, unlike passwords or PINs.

Amazon has stated that they use a secure encryption method to store palm print data. Critics argue that no system is entirely invulnerable to hacking or data breaches. A breach could lead to serious consequences, such as identity theft and financial fraud for the affected customers.

Another concern surrounding Amazon's palm-scanning technology is that the extensive data collection could lead to the creation of detailed consumer profiles, raising questions about how this information might be used and shared with third parties. Privacy advocates worry that this level of surveillance infringes on individuals' rights to your privacy!



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