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Q MAGAZINE

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featuring
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q comment:

Q Magazine
Launches

a new online site:

<http://www.qmagazine.online>



visit **gay**Australia 



The newly established QMagazine.Online website is an entertainment website dedicated to the Australian LGBTQ+ Community.

QMagazine.Online is the digital version of Q Magazine that has been operating across Australia since 2004.

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Publisher & Editor

Brett Hayhoe

+61 (0) 422 632 690

brett.hayhoe@qmagazine.com.au

Editorial / Sales & Marketing

editor@qmagazine.com.au

sales@qmagazine.com.au

Design

Uncle Brett Designs & Graphics

Contributing Writers

Barrie Mahoney, Brett Hayhoe

Cover picture

A beautiful family made possible through surrogacy. Find out how you are able to make your own loving family at the conference coming up in Melbourne - see Q Feature for more information.

Photographic Contributions

Jeffrey Feng (q music)

scenepics@qmagazine.com.au

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PO Box 7479, St. Kilda Road,
Melbourne Victoria 3004

www.qmagazine.com.au

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Brett Hayhoe t/a Q Magazine

ABN 21 631 209 230

q feature: **FAMILIES THROUGH SURROGACY**

What Happened to Gay Men Accepting They'd Never Have Children?

Sam Everingham looks at how gay families are forming and how this will be reflected in Australia's annual surrogacy conference coming up in Melbourne on 3-4 June.

Fourteen years ago it was a Melbourne couple who became the first gay Australians to father children via surrogacy. In the next four years, just a handful followed their lead in the USA. But in the last seven years the number of gay singles and couples embracing surrogacy has exploded, thanks to growing awareness, growing equality and more affordable programs in the US, Canada and developing nations.

However some gay dads take a long time to find community. I had a single dad from Perth call me a fortnight ago, raising twins via offshore surrogacy. In the four years since their birth, he'd never met another family who had required surrogacy, let alone a gay dad. He felt isolated.

Learning that there are Gay Dads social groups in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth, he was delighted. In NSW the last twelve months has even seen Rainbow Families, once a lesbian stronghold, embracing gay-parented families in everything from board membership to camping weekends; from play and social groups to Mardi Gras parade entries. (At the last Rainbow Families meet-up I attended, there were more gay than lesbian-led families)

The latest estimates put the number of Australian children created via surrogacy to gay men at well over a thousand. Many have fathered one child via India or Nepal and a second via Thailand or Cambodia. But with many developing nations now closed to surrogacy, there has been renewed interest in engaging in Australia and the US. The US remains superior in regard to good screening and surrogate management. But cost pressures have also led to USA hybrid programs, where US surrogates undertake IVF procedures in cheaper destinations such as Cyprus, Mexico and India. And anecdotal reports show Australian surrogates prefer carrying for gay rather than straight singles and couples.

Key lessons I learned early on about creating a family as a gay dad were doing your research, talking to other families and patience. IVF processes cannot guarantee pregnancy, though there are decisions around choice of egg donor and clinic can raise your success rates.

Nine gay dads from Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and abroad will share their own journeys to parenthood in Australia, US, Canada and Asia - at Families Through Surrogacy's annual conference on 3-4 June in Melbourne. Andy & Simon are one such couple who determinedly worked through a range of surrogacy arrangements – international, domestic, gestational and traditional, to arrive at parenthood. After a few unsuccessful attempts with Andy's sister-in-law as their surrogate, they took up their egg donor Carla Pincombe's offer to carry for them, using her own eggs – a method called traditional surrogacy. Their perseverance paid off when they became dads in late March 2017. Their surrogate will share her perspective, as well as expert doctors, lawyers, psychologists and agencies.

Amidst the talks, food and socialising, singles and couples will be making the most vital decisions of their lives – how to build a family. To find out more, go to familiesthrusurrogacy.com/australia Weekend passes start from \$120 per person, including lunches and evening drinks.



SYDNEY PRIDE FESTIVAL 2017

Together We Can!

SYDNEY PRIDE FESTIVAL 2017
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www.sydneypride.com



q travel: with BARRIE MAHONEY

'Tweeters from the Atlantic'

Barrie Mahoney was a head teacher and school inspector in the UK, as well as a reporter in Spain, before moving to the Canary Islands to launch and edit a new English language newspaper. He enjoys life in the sun as a columnist and author, and continues to write a series of popular novels and books for expats.



No Smiling Please, We're British!

I'm sure that we have all heard of the British 'Stiff Upper Lip', but until recent experiences when attempting to renew my passport I was always unclear as to what this expression really meant. Have you tried practicing one in front of the mirror recently? It really is very difficult.

Over the years, I have received emails from expats telling me of some of their experiences and problems when renewing British passports. It all used to be relatively easy for expats. Usually, popping into the local Consulate office, handing over the usual batch of forms, a couple of photos and the fee, and the passports were either processed internally, sent to the British Embassy or to the UK for processing. It usually didn't take too long and there was often very little fuss and bother. The system worked, although it sometimes creaked a little during seasonal peaks of heavy demand.

Then there was terrorism, requirements for additional security, biometric passports...and then there was Belfast. Now, don't get me wrong, I am sure that the staff in the Belfast passport office are a splendid bunch of people, and I am sure that they don't mind a spot of good natured criticism from time to time. Frankly, it seems there are a few staff tucked away in the bowels of the Belfast office who could be best described as 'Jobsworths'. According to several of my correspondents, passport applications and renewals have been delayed, returned or refused simply because "your photo did not meet requirements".

We all know that getting a passport photo can be a life or death situation - we just have to get it right, don't we? What do I wear? Is the hair ok? What about the smile? Am I slouching on the kiosk stool? Which is my best side? After all, the passport photo will live with us for around ten years and will determine whether or not we will be treated decently as one of Her Majesty's esteemed subjects or thrown into a grubby jail in a foreign country. The passport and accompanying photo are essential and valuable, and make us real people if we wish to travel.

Last week, it was my turn. Instead of popping my passport renewal application into the local Consulate office for it to be processed and returned from Madrid, I am now told that in the interests of customer service and increased security it will now be quicker and simpler for me to apply online, and then send the application to Belfast for it to be returned by courier four weeks later, if I am fortunate. All this for the princely sum of £102 with an incredible range of valuable consular services thrown in as well. What's not to like? Bargain at half the price.

Several correspondents have told me that passport applicants should be very careful not to use the passport photo kiosks that are readily available in most of Spain, because they do not provide photos of the size specified by the UK's passport office. It was with this warning in mind that I called into a photographic shop to ask if they could provide me with a set of passport photos. The very helpful lady in the shop immediately asked if it was for a British passport. If so, I would have to be very careful as smiling is strictly forbidden. Apparently, applicants from France, Spain, Germany and Ireland are free to smile like Cheshire cats if they wish, but British applicants must look stony-faced into the camera.

It took the photographer four attempts before she was satisfied that my photo would be acceptable. Apparently, I looked far too cheerful, and so for the final attempt I used my best 'cross face', which I usually reserved for naughty children behaving badly in the playground. Eventually, the photographer was content that my photos would pass the UK test and I was sent on my way.

I have now completed my application form and it is ready to post. Whether or not the Passport Office in Belfast will let me have a new passport after reading this article remains to be seen. I also have a hideous passport photo that will only ever be shown to the poor souls checking me in at airport security. My best advice for fellow passport applicants? Just aim for the British 'Stiff Upper Lip', and you will be fine.

If you enjoyed this article, take a look at Barrie's websites: <http://barriemahoney.com> and <http://thecanaryislander.com> or read his latest book, 'Footprints in the Sand' (ISBN: 9780995602717). Available in paperback, as well as Kindle editions.



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Royal Australian Navy Veteran

q circus: WESTSIDE CIRCUS

Education Week 2017 Healthy Mind, Healthy Body
Westside Circus is helping to make Victorian kids happier and healthier as part of Education Week 2017
This year's Education Week will be celebrated from 21 to 27 May



During the week, organisations will hold activities that relate to the Healthy Mind, Healthy Body theme.

Education Week will showcase activities going on at schools related to the Healthy Mind, Healthy Body theme, from sport, dance, mentoring, yoga, meditation, reading, and art, to camps, excursions, breakfast clubs, healthy canteen menus, stress management and resilience; and more.

Westside Circus is thrilled to be holding an activity during Education Week with support from the Victorian Department of Education and Training.

This year, Westside Circus is offering two programs: Acrobatics and Aerials with Westside Circus and Percussive Juggling with Westside Circus. Percussive Juggling introduces the fun that can be had challenging your own hand/eye coordination and learning some smart and catchy rhythms. Acrobatics and Aerials is just that, basic acrobatics (tumbling and handstands etc) and aerials (trapeze and tissu etc). Learn how to roll like a rock or fly like a bird!

This will help kids to engage in physical activity that also develops their confidence, persistence, team work skills and resilience (the basis of all activities in social circus), an experience that embodies the underlying concepts of the Education State target.

"... Education Week gives an opportunity for schools to access our workshops who may not have had the opportunity to do so otherwise; this is important as it means we can provide a fun and positive experience for many more children..." said Jafar Abdus-Samad, Operations Coordinator at Westside Circus.

The overall goal of Education Week is to positively highlight the strengths and achievements of Victoria's government education sector. The Healthy Mind, Healthy Body theme aligns to the Education State target of Happy, Healthy and Resilient Kids, which recognises that the healthy development of our students helps to drive the future prosperity of Victoria.

Westside Circus is one of 17 activity providers hosting engaging and informative sessions across Victoria as part of Education Week.

Details of how schools can book for this, and other activities, are on the Education Week website <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/educationweek>



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q music: **ROCCO BENE**

ROCCO BENE

Releases killer remix package
'THE DAY YOU WENT AWAY'

In 2016, the talented singer, songwriter & producer Rocco Bene got the dancefloors pumping with his ripping house singles 'Nobody But U' and Madonna cover 'Lucky Star', and is now unleashing his remake of 'THE DAY YOU WENT AWAY'.

Rocco Bene has given this classic song a whole new contemporary spin, while ensuring it compliments and pays homage to the original. Bene's vocal delivery captures the devastating moments when life tragically imitates art.

'The Day You Went Away' is supported by remixes from Ultra Records & Ministry Of Sound artist Sunset Child who has a whopping 4 million clicks on Spotify, as well as Southern Fried Records DJ/producer Marcus Knight and EDM showman Nic Noble, Sydney DJ/Producer Beth Yen, Melbourne house DJ Jorj Pats, DJ and radio host of the top Australian dance radio shows Ed Colman and Melbourne DJ Nick Van Wilder.

Listen here: <https://soundcloud.com/roccobene/sets/rocce-bene-the-day-you-went/s-y6Cxa>

"Recording a remake can be daunting, especially with such an emotional and vocally enthralling song as Wendy Matthews' original, so I was keen to pay attention to ensure this remake provided the proper respect the track deserved." – ROCCO BENE



"10/10" – RADIO FUSION

"Classy release, floor filler" – DJ DANNY FURLONG USA

"Love the track" – DJ FRESH USA

<http://www.roccobene.com/> | www.facebook.com/roccobenemusic <https://www.youtube.com/user/roccobenemusic> | www.instagram.com/roccobenemusic



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FOR
MY MATES

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be able to get married
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q play: **TIM WINTON'S SHRINE**

The Kin Collective and fortyfivedownstairs present the Melbourne premiere of
Shrine
by **Tim Winton**

SHRINE is set above the rocky headlands of the South Coast of Western Australia, between a forest and the sea. It's wine country, and a privileged young man, Jack, has been killed driving friends back to Perth from his parents' beach house. Jack leaves in his wake a wreck of a father, a shadow of a mother, and the promise of a love affair that never quite happened. A year later, Jack's father Adam meets the small town girl, June, who shared a strange and life changing night with Jack hours before he died. Domestic heartbreak transcends into mythology in a landscape inhabited by ghosts.

After *Rising Water* and *Signs of Life*, SHRINE is the third play by Tim Winton about the iconic Western Australian landscape and its inhabitants.

Tim Winton's awards are too numerous to list. He is the only author to have won the Miles Franklin Award four times and was shortlisted twice for the Man Booker Prize.

SHRINE director Marcel Dorney stated: *"It's a story about ordinary people enduring something which is intensely private and incredibly hard to speak of, and SHRINE asks that the people who stage it, enact this, examine this, in public. And I think that's really close to one of the oldest functions of drama."*

The cast for the Melbourne premiere season of this production are Chris Bunworth (Adam Mansfield), Alexandra Fowler (Mary Mansfield), Christian Taylor (Jack Mansfield), Tienielle Thompson (June Fenton), Keith Brockett (Ben), Nick Clark (Will). Direction by Marcel Dorney, set design by Leon Salom and lighting design by Kris Chainey.



fortyfivedownstairs - May 24-June 18, 2017 (previews May 24 & 25; opening night May 26) | Tue-Sat 8pm, Sun 5pm | Bookings: 03 9662 9966 or online | Ticket price: \$30 – \$45



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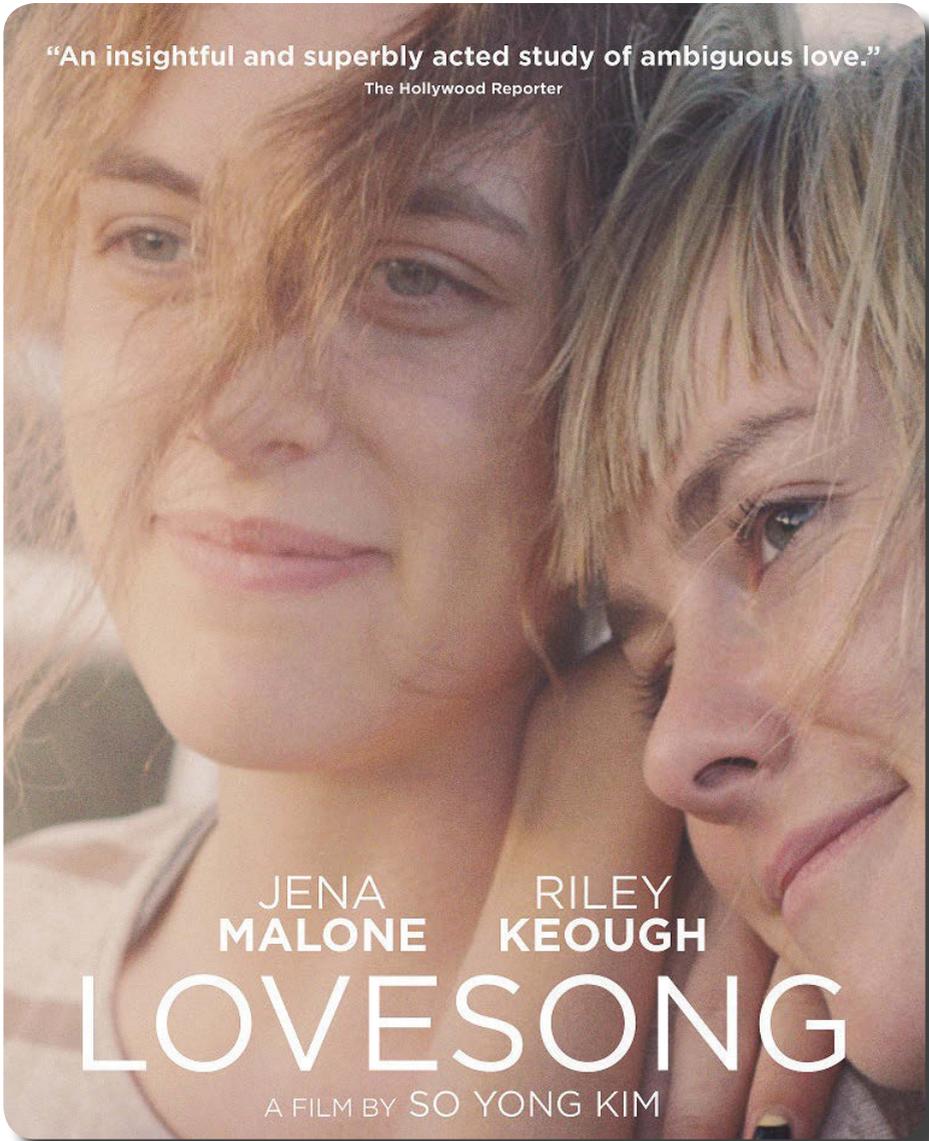
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CITY OF SPAIN

q movie: **LOVESONG**

Directed by So Yong Kim
Written by So Yong Kim & Bradley Rust Gray

"An insightful and superbly acted study of ambiguous love."

The Hollywood Reporter



JENA
MALONE

RILEY
KEOUGH

LOVESONG

A FILM BY SO YONG KIM

Neglected by her husband, Sarah (Riley Keough) embarks on an impromptu road trip with her young daughter and her best friend, Mindy (Jena Malone). Along the way, the dynamic between the two friends intensifies before circumstances force them apart. Years later, Sarah attempts to rebuild their intimate connection in the days before Mindy's wedding.

The trailer for this wonderful independent film can be watched here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UqUcDru8pLY>

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q opera: OPERA AUSTRALIA IS BACK

John Bell's highly acclaimed production of Bizet's Carmen has had its Melbourne premiere this May. The passion, heat and danger of Carmen is brought to dazzling heights in John Bell's acclaimed production that tackles Bizet's gritty tale of power, corruption and destruction head on.



Set against crumbling, monumental colonial architecture, this vibrant and colourful production will bring obsessions and love to the stage through traditional Spanish dance and a touch of contemporary breakdancing.

"I've always been intrigued by the psychology of that choice," contemplates John Bell, who this year follows up his critically acclaimed Tosca with Bizet's Carmen. *"What leads you to love the one person who is going to destroy you?"*

"Carmen is colourful, physical and entertaining, but it shouldn't get too pretty", he adds. *"To succeed, it must have punch. Sex and sexual politics. Physicality and power."*

Conducted by Guillaume Tourniaire, Bizet buffs and first-time opera-goers alike will be captivated by Carmen's extraordinary score.

"Carmen is a must see opera, even if you've never set foot in an opera house," said Opera Australia's Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini. *"If you're new to opera, this production of Carmen is the perfect first show – the work itself is, of course is brilliant, the production values are second-to-none and with the stellar Australian and international cast we have assembled, it's an opera that can't help but impress."*

Carmen brings with it some of opera's biggest names – Israeli born mezzo-soprano Rinat Shamam (Carmen) and Ukrainian tenor Dmytro Popov (Don José) both return to the Opera Australia stage after starring in Carmen in Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour.

The sets have been designed by Michael Scott-Mitchell, the brains behind the incredible sets of Tosca and The Elixir of Love. Carmen will take the audience to a once grand but now crumbling world featuring Havana-inspired bright colours, fluorescent piñata horses, cobblestone grounds and for a complete contrast, a red combi van.

Performance information

Evenings at 7.30pm

May 4, 6, 11, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26

Saturday matinée at 1pm May 13

Running time Three hours including one interval.

Performed in French with English surtitles.

Bookings

Adult tickets from \$72 (fees may apply)

Group and concession prices available for most performances.

Student Rush available for most performances: \$50 (fees may apply)

Opera Australia Box Office (03) 9685 3700 www.opera.org.au
State Theatre, Arts Centre Melbourne

Opera Australia is giving audiences a rare opportunity to experience a classic operatic double-bill when they present celebrated director Damiano Michieletto's new Olivier Award-winning production of Cavalleria Rusticana and Pagliacci at the Arts Centre Melbourne this autumn.

This co-production with the Royal Opera House is a classic of the 'verismo movement' and presents a slice of life from the small villages of Southern Italy, laying bare the raw heart of each story – ordinary people, driven by betrayal, passion, jealousy and revenge, emotions stretched to the limits.



Opera Australia Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini has wanted to do Cavalleria Rusticana / Pagliacci for some time: *"I think audiences are going to love this new production. These two operas are tremendously powerful and the cast is simply brilliant. In particular, it is a treat to see Diego Torre perform the two challenging roles on the one night and we're thrilled that Dragana Radakovic has returned to Australia after her fantastic performance in Handa Opera on the Harbour - Turandot. She's the perfect choice for the intensity of Santuzza. I saw Russian singer Anna Princeva perform Così fan tutte in Switzerland and knew she'd be fabulous as Nedda in Pagliacci,"* he said.

Performance information

Evenings at 7.30pm May 10, 13, 15, 17, 20 - Running time Three hours including one interval.
Performed in Italian with English surtitles.

Bookings

Adult tickets from \$79 (fees may apply)
Group and concession prices available for most performances.
Student Rush available for most performances: \$50 (fees may apply)
Opera Australia Box Office (03) 9685 3700 www.opera.org.au
State Theatre, Arts Centre Melbourne

A new, highly acclaimed production of Szymanowski's King Roger will have its Melbourne premiere this autumn, offering audiences a rare opportunity to experience an extraordinary piece of work that is being performed for the first time in Australia in 2017. It is also the first time a Polish opera is being staged by Opera Australia.

Szymanowski's intoxicating, iridescent music is rarely heard on the opera stage so this is a highly anticipated staging of a 20th-century Polish masterpiece. A co-production with the Royal Opera House and Dallas Opera, it was first staged in Covent Garden where critics described director Kasper Holten's arresting staging as a "major artistic triumph" (The Telegraph, UK).



The opera traces the enlightenment of the Christian King Roger II by a young shepherd who represents pagan principles. The shepherd's voice is seen as lyrical and exotic, his message is dangerously seductive. One by one the people abandon themselves to the worship of desire, pure in its profanity while King Roger struggles with his own passions: choosing between the sacred love he knows and the sensuous, glittering realm of hedonism preached by the shepherd.

Performance information

Evenings at 7.30pm May 19, 23, 25, 27, 28, 31 - Running time Two hours including one interval
Performed in Polish with English surtitles

Bookings

Adult tickets from \$72 (fees may apply)
Group and concession prices available for most performances.
\$50 Student Rush available for most performances (fees may apply)
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State Theatre, Arts Centre Melbourne

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L I N 8



* All prizes are open to everyone, except those which specifically state you must be over 18 to enter. Entries close on the final day of each calendar month with the prize draw taking place at 5pm the following day at Apt. 1, 13 Rae Street, Chadstone VIC 3184. Names and addresses of people winning prizes valued at or over \$250 ONLY will be published in the following issue of QMagazine. All monthly winners are notified by email.

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in your own skin,
and let animals
keep theirs.

q product: OVER-EAR HEADPHONES

Stay in Transit with 14 Hour Wireless Playback JAM Transit City ANC Over-Ear Headphones

There has been some significant steps forward in the audio technology sector. As we inch closer to a life without wires, so to do we reach for ultimate convenience - however, regardless of how far we've come, the humble battery still holds all the cards. International audio brand, JAM, have worked hard to bring you the Bluetooth® Transit City ANC Noise-Cancelling Headphones featuring a mammoth (up to) 14 hour Bluetooth® playback.

Boasting one of the best battery charge times on the market (up to 14h), the JAM Transit City Headphones will keep the music playing throughout a jam packed day. Presenting 'oversized' and feature comfort-padded ear cups, designed to mitigate discomfort even during long listening sessions, as well as seal sound as it plays.

Keeping bass contained is paramount, as much sound depth is lost in either escaped sound or exterior interference. Luckily, Active Noise-Cancelling accommodates the best sound landscape possible, ensuring deep bass and clear treble - simply push the button to enjoy your music in the best possible setting.

The sound control section of the JAM Transit City Headphones is built into the Ear Cup Controls - simply reach for the conveniently raised and intuitively placed controls to adjust volume, switch tracks and answer/hang up calls. The JAM Transit City Headphones can even place your calls on speakerphone for conference calls and the like.

To top it all off, you can connect wirelessly with any Bluetooth® device within a 30-foot range for increased mobility and convenience in the home or at work.

When you consider their 'Fold 'em up and take 'em' collapsable design, optional aux-in port and cord, and staggering 14h playback time, the Bluetooth® compatible Transit City ANC Noise-Cancelling Headphones are the convenience-packed, stunning audio companion you've been waiting for - all for an extremely competitive price. Available now at JB HI-FI.

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q scene: **OUT & ABOUT**

The commitment ceremony of
Madelyn and Daniel
on the rooftop penthouse at the Cullen



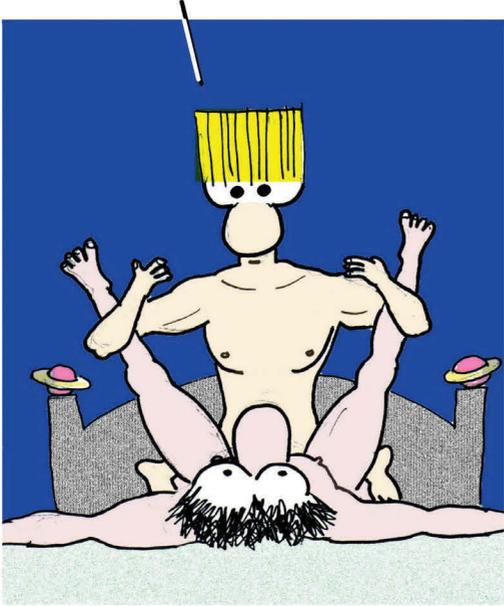
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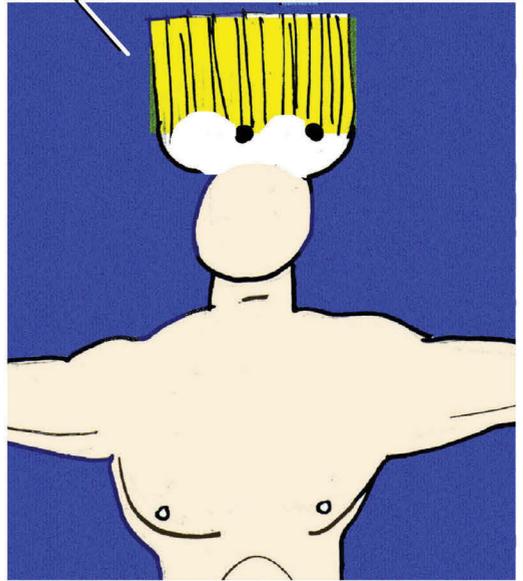


Gaylord Blade by KICHI

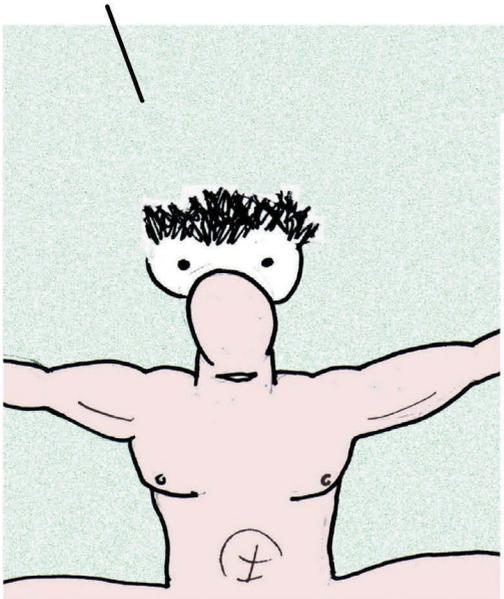
Uh oh .. an involuntary flash of self-awareness is upon me ..



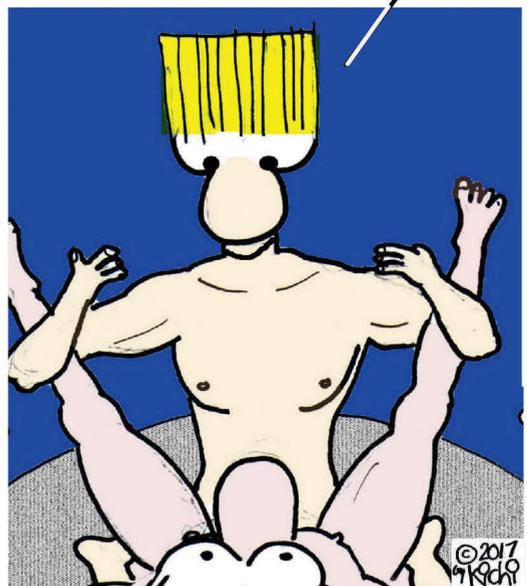
.... suddenly, I feel like I'm just an astronaut along for a ride on a rocket that is my ever-hard penis



And that bothers you, Gaylord?



No. It just seemed an odd musing to have on the way to URANUS





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