

DOWNTOWN MONITOR

*GREATER DETROIT'S ORIGINAL FREE PAPER
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15 — WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020*





Netflix has been hammered lately for releasing what many viewers have essentially deemed only slightly veiled kiddie porn, with their unwholesome French-made pre-teen twerking movie, *Cuties*.

Just last week, this movie, with its blatant sexualization of 11-year old girls has gotten Netflix indicted by a Texas Grand Jury for *Cuties*' 'lewd depiction of children.'

But, Netflix, now the planet's most omnipresent streaming service, in my opinion, has always been a mixed bag of offerings — ranging from Academy Award-winning feature films, to those movies and series that brush aside basic morality and skirt legality.

The beauty of Netflix, and really every other streamer, is that there's a tremendous amount of stuff from which to choose. In effect, something for everyone, saints to sinners.

My latest choice? Well, it's not little girls dancing in hot pants. That's not *'Bingeworthy,'* that's *'Cringeworthy,'* at best. In fact, if not for its many other offerings, Netflix might have landed on my *'used-to-have-it'* list. But, it didn't...not yet, anyways.

One show that caught my attention, kept me rapt as I watched 10 episodes straight through (!), and left me eager to see more of it, is *Emily in Paris*.

Starring the fetching Lily Collins (pictured), daughter of '80's rocker Phil Collins, if I had to choose just one show to watch on Netflix, this might be at the top of the list (especially since *Disney+* spirited away all of the *Marvel* shows...).

I would describe the series as a *Millennial Fairytale* and here's the deal:

Young Emily Cooper is a rising internet branding star at a boutique marketing firm with global reach. Her firm has just merged with a Paris-based agency that handles a small list of couture fashion and luxury lifestyle clients.

When Emily's boss, who is set to relocate to the Paris office to help the French agency's clients break into the American market suddenly has to cancel her plans, Emily gets tapped to take the assignment.

Emily has to quickly dismantle her life in Chicago, put her fiance' and busy social circle on hold, and prepare for her extended job in Paris.

It's everything Emily ever dreamed about — living abroad, using her Instagram skills to market life's wonderful luxuries, meeting interesting, successful great-looking people... what's not to like?

Except, Emily doesn't speak French. And, her new colleagues are not only ef-

fete snobs, pretentious and provincial, but, on top of that, they're clearly resentful of what they think is Emily's usurpation of their *'French Way'* of doing things.

Emily is an internet savant. Her co-workers have mindsets stuck in the past. Emily's American work ethic starts her day at 8 a.m., which leaves her waiting outside until the office doors open at 11.

But, her enthusiasm and natural likeability soon start winning over the ingrained arrogance of her French environs.

And, then there are the cafes, and the fashion, the historical beauty of her new city, and the *food* — the delicacies of everyday Parisian culture.

As it happens, a handsome chef who speaks fluent English, lives just below Emily in their ancient city apartment building (with 500 year-old plumbing). A recipe for romance? Maybe...

All the while, Emily Cooper is posting to her Instagram account, and as she makes her way through the obstacle course of a foreign language, developing new friends, and having little (and sometimes large) victories, her Instagram followers steadily grow in number.

Created by Darren Star (90210, *Sex and the City*, etc.), *Emily in Paris* is a stylish, whimsical, romantic and delicious adventure. It made me optimistic. ★★★★★



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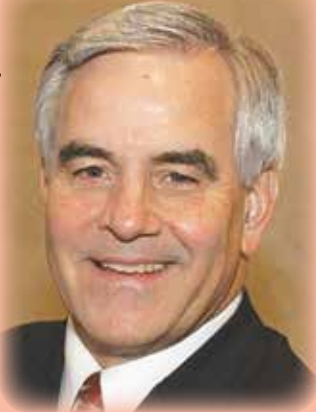


SYMPHONIC NEWS

Ruth's Music Notes

Ruth Crystal-Zaromp

Michigan Opera Theatre has added an Oct. 21 performance to its sold-out production of *Twilight: Gods* by Kenneth C. Fischer, (pictured) the President Emeritus of UMS. He served as President for 30 years and has only recently (2017) handed over these responsibilities to Matthew VanBesien. Fischer is currently a guest faculty member at the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre & Dance (SMTD).



I interviewed Mr. Fischer last week for this newspaper. He stated that it is imperative to seek out new directions in which musical arts are developing. It is through these new developments that our artistic and spiritual identities will grow. Fischer sees a special opportunity in virtual offerings where artists give audiences not only performances but also rehearsals and backstage interactions, providing an insiders' view of the creative process.

Fischer teaches a one-credit *Arts Leadership* course at SMTD where he draws on his personal experiences. The course includes such subjects as networking, entrepreneurship, leadership, functioning within an ensemble, speaking effectively, and marketing. Beginning in January 2021, it will be offered virtually at U of M for music, theatre, and dance students who will require these skills after graduating.

Before he came to UMS, Fischer's personal career took him to higher education, to management consulting for businesses and nonprofit organizations, and to concert presentation at the Kennedy Center. Fischer's mentor, who gave him the courage to ascend to the UMS, was Washington, D.C. impresario Patrick Hayes. A champion of civil rights, Hayes became the first to present Marian Anderson in Constitution Hall in 1953. When he founded the Washington Performing Arts Society in 1966, he arranged for his board chair to be Todd Duncan, the first *Porgy* in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* and a distinguished professor of voice at Howard University. It is at that time that he created the inclusion policy, *Everybody In, Nobody Out*, which is the title of Fischer's book.

Fischer also serves on the board of two Detroit-based music organizations – the Sphinx Organization, founded in 1996 by Aaron Dworkin, which is committed to transforming lives through the power of diversity in the arts, and the Concert of Colors, founded in 2002 by Ismael Ahmed, which is Detroit's diversity music festival.



THE SPORTING LIFE

Lions Upside Down with Ford's Ownership

George B. Eichorn

Misery loves company in Detroit when it comes to its professional football team. Long-suffering fans of the Detroit Lions have waited in vain for a Super Bowl appearance. Don't hold your breath this will happen in the 2020 season.

Despite the hiring of new front office personnel, new coaches and new players, there's one thing that has remained consistent – a Ford family member as owner of this troubled franchise. Sheila Ford Hamp is the current franchise heir yet even she faces the prospect of another losing season.

The Lions have won one playoff game since their last of four NFL championships in 1957. A January 5, 1992 38-6 win over the Dallas Cowboys is Detroit's only post-season win in 63 years. Talk about futility! Yet fans still love their Lions football, selling out Ford Field game after game (in pre-pandemic days) and donning football jersey and gear featuring the famous Honolulu blue and silver.

Perhaps the 1958 trade of star quarterback Bobby Layne is to blame. According to legend, when Layne was dealt to the Pittsburgh Steelers for Earl Morrall and two draft picks, Layne stated that the Lions would not win another championship for 50 years. "The Curse of Bobby Layne" has far exceeded the dashing player's prediction.

The Ford family has never put together the winning combinations which has set apart division rivals Chicago, Green Bay and Minnesota, and hailed ownership groups in Pittsburgh, Seattle, Dallas, New England, Kansas City, Miami and elsewhere. The Lions are woefully behind their NFL rivals.



The latest hiring's from the Robert Kraft-led Patriots has failed to turn the losing in the Motor City. General manager Bob Quinn and head coach Matt Patricia were supposed to bring the New England swagger and winning attitude to Detroit. They have been a collective failure thus far.

Quarterback Matthew Stafford is all-pro material, no question, yet his supporting cast of offense has failed to carry the team. On the defensive side, the Lions rank among the league's worst even though Patricia was the brains behind the Patriots' tough defense for many years.

The Lions are now on their third Ford family member as ownership. The late William Clay Ford Sr. purchased the club on November 22, 1963 (a terribly tragic date in world history, being the same day as the Kennedy assassination) for \$4.5 million.

He was succeeded by his wife, Martha Firestone Ford, and this season, by daughter Sheila Ford Hamp.

Bill Ford Jr. was vice chairman of the club during his father's ownership and

helped hire Matt Millen who turned out to be one of the worst GM's in football history, going 31-84, in his tenure.

Despite great players like Dick "Night Train" Lane, Alex Karras, Lem Barney, Charlie Sanders, Barry Sanders, Herman Moore, Calvin Johnson and Stafford, the Lions haven't won consistently under the Fords. Their 1-3 start in 2020 has fans again on edge and sports talk radio clamoring for heads to roll.

With zero Super Bowl appearances the Lions are in rare company. Only the Cleveland Browns and expansion-era franchises Houston Texans and Jacksonville Jaguars are on that infamous list. It's the worst list of all in professional sports.

It's high time the Ford family sold their Lions to the highest bidder. The city, the fans and the football world deserve better. In 2015, Forbes said the franchise was valued at \$960 million so it will take deep pockets to make a successful bid to purchase.

Hopefully, that will happen soon.

Food

The Kitchen Diva!

by Angela Shelf Medearis



Long before Brussels sprouts became a trendy vegetable, my family, especially, my daughter, Deanna, were huge fans. My mother was raised on a farm and loved to grow all types of green vegetables. She was especially skilled with properly preparing Brussels sprouts and other typically stinky and slimy vegetables -- I'm talking about you, cabbage and okra!

While Brussels sprouts have only recently become popular in America, sprouts have been a culinary mainstay in the southern Netherlands and Northern Europe since the 1600s. They may have been grown in Belgium as early as 1200, and are named for Brussels, its capital.

These tiny members of the cabbage and mustard family also have cancer-fighting phytochemicals, are high in vitamin C and are a reliable source of folate, vitamin A and potassium. Since Brussels sprouts are so good for you, why do so many people despise them?

In a web poll taken several years ago, more than 78,000 adults weighed in on the foods they hate. Brussels sprouts finished No. 8 on the list of most hated foods. The comments section overflowed with horror stories about being forced to eat the vegetable as a child.

One thing I noticed about the readers' comments was that the Brussels sprouts they were served were muddy colored, over-

Brussels Sprouts Shed Their Bad Reputation



cooked and smelled bad. When Brussels sprouts are carefully selected, stored and cooked properly, they have a bright color, a crisp texture and a delicious flavor. When selecting the vegetable, look for small, young, vibrant green, tightly compacted sprouts.

Brussels sprouts are delicious boiled or steamed until tender, but still slightly crisp or roasted to bring out their natural sugars. Use sprouts that are all about the same size to ensure they will cook quickly and evenly. As a rule, Brussels sprouts cook in about 6 to 7 minutes. Be careful not to overcook Brussels sprouts because they will release sinigrin, a natural gas with a sulfur-like smell.

This recipe for Hashed Brussels Sprouts is flavorful and delicious. The quick cooking time and the addition of the garlic, onion and mustard complement the sprouts and showcase its flavors in a unique way. Try it, and you're sure to become a Brussels sprouts lover, too!

Hashed Brussels Sprouts

1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice, plus
1 tablespoon grated lemon zest

1 pound Brussels sprouts
1 tablespoon olive oil
2 tablespoons butter
1/2 medium purple onion, minced

1 garlic clove, minced
1 tablespoon Italian seasoning

1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon pepper
2 tablespoons vegetable broth or low-sodium chicken broth

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1/2 teaspoon honey or sugar

1. Using a large bowl, pour in the lemon juice. Cut bottoms off the sprouts, and discard. Halve sprouts lengthwise. Thinly slice sprouts, cutting around and discarding the firm core. Immediately toss sprout slices with lemon juice to separate leaves and retain color.

2. Heat oil and butter over high heat in a skillet large enough to hold all the sprouts. When oil mixture is hot, but not smoking, add the sprouts, onion, garlic, Italian seasoning, and salt and pepper. Cook until sprouts begin to wilt, but leaves are still green and crisp, about 3 to 4 minutes. Some of the leaves might brown slightly.

3. Move the sprouts to one side of the pan and mix broth, mustard and honey or sugar together in the pan. Combine mixture with the sprouts and cook, stirring, 2 minutes more. Turn off heat, and stir in lemon zest, reserving a little to sprinkle on top of the dish. Transfer to serving bowl, sprinkle with remaining zest and serve. Serves 4.



The *Downtown Monitor*, now in its 58th year of continuous publication, is circulated free to all points of Greater Detroit and the City Proper.

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Angela Shelf Medearis is an award-winning children's author, culinary historian, and the author of seven cookbooks. Please join The Kitchen Diva in supporting Mattress Firms' efforts to assist foster children through the Ticket to Dream Foundation to make a positive impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands of foster children in need. They believe not everyone can be a foster parent, but anyone can help a foster child. (www.tickettodream.org)

Crossword Answers, 10-15-20



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AROUND THE CITY

Senate's Grand Re-Opening

The historic Senate Theater will reopen with a showing of the creepy cult classic *Carnival of Souls* (pictured) on Saturday, October 17 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5.

Safety requirements are going to be implemented to provide some confidence in once again attending a movie in-person, and are as follows:

- Capacity has been reduced to 20%, which means only 150 out of our 800 seats will be available.
 - Masks are to be worn throughout the theater, but they can be removed when seated and when enjoying popcorn and other items from the concession counter. Masks must be worn properly, covering the nose and mouth.
 - Every other row has been taped off.
 - Attendees must sit at least 3 seats away (6 feet) from parties that aren't their own.
 - All patrons must complete a brief health screener upon entrance; names and phone numbers will also be recorded (per direction from the state mandate).
 - Temperatures will be taken of all patrons who enter the theater.
 - Any patron experiencing COVID-related symptoms or has been in contact with someone who has tested positive should refrain from visiting the theater.
 - All volunteers will be wearing masks and would have filled out the same health screener required of patrons as well as a temperature check.
- But, even with all of that, the Senate is still a cool place to see a classic movie, and in the weeks to come, Silent films with accompaniment from the Senate's fabulous Wurlitzer Organ, are planned. For more information, see senatetheater.com, or call (313) 894-0850. The Senate Theater is located at 6424 Michigan Ave., in Detroit.



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MUSEUMS

Museum Toasts Detroit's Brewing Heritage

Joseph Parent, Detroit's first recognized brewer, arrived in 1706 – just five years after the new French trading post was established.

Generations of English, Irish, Belgian, Polish, German and Detroit-born brewers followed, shaping a local scene that thrives to this day. Learn more about the city's beer barons, neighborhood breweries and Detroiters' beer-drinking customs throughout the decades in *Detroit's Brewing Heritage*, a new exhibition opening on Saturday, October 17 at the Detroit Historical Museum.

In addition to local brewing legends like Stroh's, Altes and Goebel, the exhibit explores the smaller breweries that served as neighborhood gathering places and the brewers who played an outsized part in the city's cultural and political scene.

With a wealth of vintage artifacts and photos, it recalls the dozens of brands that became local favorites and those that weathered Prohibition, including the most famous, Stroh Brewery Company, which was once the nation's third largest brewer.

The exhibition also details the current craft brewing boom and highlights some of the 80+ breweries and brew pubs that call Greater Detroit home today.



Detroit's Brewing Heritage is included with general admission and will be open through Fall 2021. To complement the exhibition, the Detroit Historical Society will launch a six-episode weekly podcast on the city's brewing past and present later this month. See detroithistorical.org or search *Detroit Stories* on any podcast platform.

Celebrate the exhibit on Saturday, October 17 either in-person or virtually from home, and taste some of the best offerings from Detroit's craft brewers:

- *In-person:* The Detroit Beer Trail at the Detroit Historical Museum from 1 – 5 p.m. (\$20 Detroit Historical Society members, \$30 non-members). Get your passport stamped at six beer tasting stations hosted by the Museum's brewery partners before getting an exclusive first look at the new exhibition. Advanced timed ticket purchase is required at: detroithistorical.org/detroit-historical-museum/events-calendar/events-listing/detroit-beer-trail.

- *From home:* The Virtual Detroit Beer Trail from 4 – 5 p.m. (\$20 per computer/household). Online attendees will pick-up a custom six-pack of local brews from the Detroit Historical Museum and attend a virtual beer tasting via Zoom.

Register at: detroithistorical.org/things-do/events-calendar/events-listing/virtual-event-detroit-beer-trail.

For information on the Detroit Historical Society, visit detroithistorical.org.

The Detroit Historical Museum is located at 5401 Woodward Ave. (NW corner of Kirby) in Midtown Detroit.

The Detroit Historical Museum is currently open to the public with abbreviated hours (Thursday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.), with enhanced health and safety measures.

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by SAM MAZZOTTA

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DEAR KARL: I can totally relate! Years ago, I moved across the country with a very nervous cat in a carrier next to me on the bench seat of my pickup truck. Even though I made sure he had water, food and anxiety meds prescribed by the veterinarian, it was a stressful trip for him, and he did not eat or even poop for the whole two-day trip. Once I reached our new home, he returned to his usual snuggly self.

Traveling with all three cats is possible with planning and may be the least stressful option for them. If you have an extended-cab pickup, make room in the back seat for three cat carriers. Put a litter pan on the floor and cover with plastic wrap while traveling; at rest stops, open one carrier at a time and let one cat out to use the litter pan and to snuggle with you (don't open the vehicle doors while you do this). Look for pet-friendly hotels that will let you keep the cats in the room.

Airline cargo transport can quickly transport pets across long distances. But there is a risk of death for pets traveling in airline cargo. Another option is private pet transport. If you choose this service, make sure they are insured and bonded, and that they will stay in contact with you throughout the trip.

Do you have a safe travel tip for carrying pets across country? Send it to ask@pawscorner.com.



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BRAIN FUN

King Crossword

Puzzle Answers on Page 4

ACROSS

- 1 Former freshmen
- 6 Squid squirt
- 9 Doctrine
- 12 Construction piece
- 13 Cattle call
- 14 IRS employee
- 15 1492 ship
- 16 SAT takers' equipment
- 18 Pet rodent, often
- 20 Warmth
- 21 Second person
- 23 More, to Manuel
- 24 Portion of a repair bill
- 25 Great Lake
- 27 Amulet
- 29 "Where the Wild Things Are" author
- 31 "Nighthawks" painter
- 35 Edition
- 37 Genesis maker
- 38 Sings like Ella
- 41 Apprehend
- 43 Promptly
- 44 Sea eagle
- 45 Downy ducks
- 47 Necklace ornament
- 49 "Psycho" star

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- 52 Commotion
- 53 Tall tale
- 54 Rod of tennis lore
- 55 Actress Myrna
- 56 Toss in
- 57 Tools for duels
- 6 Mischievous
- 7 Yule refrain
- 8 "— -Tiki"
- 9 Less friendly
- 10 Pie-in-the-face sound
- 11 Sail supports
- 17 Winners
- 19 Supports
- 21 "Certainly"
- 22 Mined find
- 24 Expert
- 26 Rewrote, maybe
- 28 Winning
- 30 Fool
- 32 Musingly
- 33 Swelled head
- 34 Uncooked
- 36 One
- 38 Calyx component
- 39 Guiding principle
- 40 Bother
- 42 Ball VIP
- 45 Oklahoma city
- 46 Harvest
- 48 Carte lead-in
- 50 "Golly!"
- 51 Storefront sign abbr.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* Some adult details made it into the final cut of the PG-rated film "The Santa Clause." In one scene, Tim Allen's character jokes that his wife's number is "1-800-SPANK ME." It turned out, however, that was a real line that you could call and hear some naughty stuff -- as many overly curious children found out. The line was removed from future releases of the film.

* According to Hasbro, the tallest Jenga tower ever was 40 levels, plus two additional blocks on top.

* There have been more than 300 different Kit Kat flavors in Japan, including soy sauce, "European cheese" and wasabi. Some of them are limited or regional editions. Because the candy bar's name coincidentally sounds like the Japanese expression "Kitto Katsu," which translates to "You will surely win," it is a popular good-luck gift for students ahead of their university exams.

* Astronauts cannot cry in space, as the tears need gravity to flow. They also lose their sense of smell in space.

* The fingerprints of a koala bear are so indistinguishable from those of humans that they have on occasion been confused at a crime scene.

* Winston Churchill had a doctor's note permitting him to drink "unlimited" amounts of alcohol while visiting the U.S.

* Speaking of beverages, in 16th-century Turkey, a woman could initiate a divorce if her husband didn't pour coffee for her.

* Because they both lost so many players to World War II military service, the Pittsburgh Steelers and Philadelphia Eagles combined to become the "Steagles" during the 1943 season.

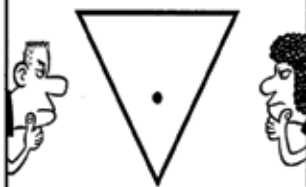
* The Anglo-Zanzibar War (August 1896), between the United Kingdom and the Zanzibar Sultanate, is the shortest war in recorded history, clocking in at a mere 38 minutes.

Thought for the Day:
"Every strike brings me closer to the next home run."

-- Babe Ruth

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OPTICALS



IN THE TRIANGLE ABOVE, is the dot closer to the top line, the bottom point, or the middle?

Answer: The dot is in the middle, halfway between the top line and the bottom point of the triangle.

FARMER BROWN'S BARN! Farmer Brown paid 20 workmen \$2,000 to put up a new addition to his barn. Each Master Carpenter made \$300, each Apprentice Carpenter made \$150, and each helper made \$50. How many of each were included in the team of 20 workmen?

Answer: 2 Master Carpenters, 5 Apprentice Carpenters and 13 helpers. (Total salaries come to: \$600 + \$750 + \$650 = \$2,000.)

THE FIVE-LETTER WORD POWER GRID! Each of the five words needed to fill in our "word power grid" contain the same five letters. We give you one of these letters and plenty of hints below.

1	R			
2		R		
3			R	
4				R
5				R

Answer: 1. Rains, 2. Share, 3. Spare, 4. Tars, 5. Aisle.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A PERCEPTION TEST

First, try solving the problem presented on the right. After solving it (?), cut out the paragraph and paste it on a piece of cardboard. On the back of the cardboard, paste the answer given below the paragraph.



AN ODD PARAGRAPH

What is particularly unusual about this paragraph? You won't find many paragraphs similar to it. In all probability you will not find out what is so unusual about it right away, but if you look at it and study it for long, it may dawn on you. If you should find out what is odd or unusual, don't say what it is until I ask you; if you can't find out, look on the back of this paragraph. Don't look at my solution until you fail to find out what is odd about it. I could throw you a hint, but I won't!

Answer: You won't find an "r" in the entire paragraph.

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