

Two Dismissals @ Two Key Media Outlets

The June 13 firing of long-time *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* political cartoonist Rob Rogers has sparked outrage in media circles --- especially among journalists.

The newspaper dates back to 1786 when it was called simply the *Pittsburgh Gazette*. It has one six prestigious Pulitzer Prizes, the first in 1938. Rob Rogers has been with newspaper since 1993 and many of his cartoons have received national attention.



He recently submitted cartoons that are critical of President Donald J. Trump. The paper refused to print them and eventually fired him.

Like most newspapers, the *Post-Gazette* has been losing readers and money for years. The owner, **Block Communications**, has responded with an extensive restructuring that included offering early retirements, consolidation of different departments and a move from the paper's historic downtown building to new offices on the city's North Side. The paper has also announced that this fall it will go from publishing a print edition 7 days a week to 5.

A key part of the restructuring was merging the *Post-Gazette's* liberal editorial department with that of another Block paper, Toledo's conservative *The Blade*. This put the latter's chief editor, Keith Burris, in charge of both papers' op-ed sections. Burris is known to be a strong supporter of Mr. Trump.

"A political cartoonist is meant to be provocative, and is meant to cover people in power and keep those people accountable,"

he told the *Columbia Journalism Review*. "When I was hired by the *Post-Gazette* 25 years ago, it was to come up with my own ideas and draw those ideas, not to be an illustrator of someone else's ideas."

His dismissal follows that of *Pittsburgh City Paper* editor-in-chief Charlie Deitch regarding his critical editorial of a conservative state politician from rural Butler County. The alternative weekly, known for its liberal bent, was acquired by **Eagle Media Corporation** in 2016. The company is based in Butler County and also publishes the *Butler Eagle*. It has been alleged that a connection exists between the politician and

Eagle's owner/president.

Rob Rossi, a columnist for the conservative *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* has been tapped to replace Deitch. Meanwhile, Rob Rogers has joined the staff of the start-up weekly *Pittsburgh Current*.

Among those expressing concern regard the Rogers situation is MediaPost.com's Melynda Fuller, who has posted an extensive commentary at <https://www.mediapost.com/publications/article/321206/as-post-gazette-cartoonist-is-fired-the-new-y.html>

Local Rapper Killed

Up-and-coming local rapper Jimmy Wopo was killed in a drive-by shooting on June 18.

Wopo's real name was Travon Smart. He was born in Pittsburgh on January 13, 1997. He began uploading songs to the web in early 2015 and starting attracting national attention the following year with the single "Elm Street."

Reflecting on the artist, *Billboard's* Will Schube called Wopo "already seemingly fully-formed as an artist" even while a teenager. Schube described his work as a dichotomy between a life of joy and the constant pull from a world he left behind that made

"Wopo such a unique voice. He always had one eye on the streets, stuck between an ascendant rap career and staying loyal to the Hill District that bred him. Finding that balance, especially as a 21 year old, is damn near impossible." Read the full article at <https://www.billboard.com/articles/columns/hip-hop/8461884/jimmy-wopo-tribute-pittsburgh-rapper>

While sitting in his car with another man, a gunman fired hitting both. The other man survived, but the rapper died soon after arriving at a local hospital. Wopo was 21 years old. At press time, no suspects or motives have been identified.

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Travel Ban Affecting Artists & Museums

The Trump Administration's controversial travel ban is supposed to be for security reasons. Critics insist that it is an act of bigotry. The United States Supreme Court upheld it on June 26. Whatever the real motivation, there may be an unintended consequence --- by making it harder for some artists to participate in American programs, including those in Pittsburgh.

"Early consequences of the travel ban have already begun to unfold," writes Gabriella Angeleti

for *The Art Newspaper*. She explains that "even artists who were born in the countries targeted by the ban, but who are American or European citizens, have faced hurdles travelling to the US for work. Last month, the **Los Angeles County Museum of Art** launched a comprehensive exhibition of contemporary Iranian art, but many of the artists included in the show could not attend the opening."

The most high-profile Pittsburgh event that the ban may impact is

the Carnegie International. However, at press time, it remains unclear if it will be affected. An official list of nations being represented in the International doesn't include any of those on the ban.

Only time will tell if the International or any other Pittsburgh arts program will run up against the

Mattress' New ED

Michael Olinjnyk has been named the new executive director of the **Mattress Factory**.

Olinjnyk succeeds founding executive director Barbara Luderroski, who died suddenly on May 30 at the age of 88. [See [June 2018 Pittsburgh Applause - Ed.](#)] He had worked closely with Luderroski since the museum's official incorporation in 1977.

Board Chairman Michael White said in a press release: "The Mattress Factory is looking forward to the future under the leadership of Michael Olinjnyk. We are confident that Michael's vision and passion for the museum will continue to inspire the artists and art lovers of the world."

Olinjnyk's ascension was part of a long-established plan should Luderroski retire.

KDKA-TV'S New GM

Jay Howell has been named by **CBS Corporation** as the new general manager of their Pittsburgh television stations KDKA and WPCW.

The appointment is something of a homecoming for Howell, a **Carnegie Mellon University** graduate whose father ran WPXI-TV from 1984 to 2001.

"We are thrilled to have someone with Jay's enthusiasm, long track

record of success and great local connections leading our operations in Pittsburgh," said Peter Dunn, president of CBS Television Stations, in a press release. "KDKA has long been one of the top stations in the country and we are pleased to have Jay moving back home to help us build on its great legacy and continue to grow our business on the digital platforms that will ensure our future success."

Howell has been running CBS' stations in Sacramento and begins his new position this month.



Warhol Museum Wants Andy Warhol Honored

MediaPost.com's Steve McClellan reports that the Andy Warhol Museum --- part of the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** --- is petitioning "the Cannes Lions to consider a posthumous award for the iconic artist and one-time advertising illustrator."



Begun in 1954, the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity is an annual seven-day event celebrating professionals in advertising, communications.

Andy Warhol began his career working for department stores

and advertising agencies. That era is examined in the museum's current exhibition, "Adman: Warhol Before Pop." Read more at <https://www.mediapost.com/publications/article/321035/warhol-museum-petitions-cannes-for-a-posthumous-li.html>

In other news, *Pittsburgh City Paper's* Alex Gordon reports that the band Third Eye Blind is donating profits from its new EP "Thanks for Everything" to the Warhol. Lead singer Stephan Jenkins explains that "we love [Andy] Warhol and so much of his sensibility has influenced us." The full interview is available at <https://www.pghcitypaper.com/FFW/archives/2018/06/27/why-third-eye-blind-is-dedicating-its-new-ep-to-the-warhol-museum>

Big NYC Warhol Show

One of New York City's most prestigious art institutions is gearing up for a huge Andy Warhol exhibition.

"Andy Warhol --- From A to B and Back Again" opens November 12 at the **Whitney Museum of American Art**. The exhibit is so huge, reports *The Art Newspaper's* Hannah McGiven, that it will take up more than half of the museum.

Planning took several years, the museum's Ada Weinberg tells McGiven.

"The long gestation reflects a trio of significant curatorial challenges posed by Warhol's work -- both 'a vast amount of knowledge' and 'a lot of space' are needed to approach and represent its sheer volume comprehensively, while seven- and eight-figure sales prices have raised the insurance costs for loans beyond the reach of most museums today."

Read the full article at <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/andy-warhol-whitney>. The exhibit will close at the Whitney in March and then travel to San Francisco and Chicago.

New Music Royalty Law Advances

A major effort to modernize the music licensing system has cleared a major hurdle, reports *Billboard's* Ed Christman.

Protecting copyright and collecting due royalties has become increasingly complex in this era of online streaming. However, the Music Modernization Act --- which was recently approved unanimously by the US Senate Judiciary Committee --- seeks to address this with the creation of an agency called the Mechanical Licensing Collective.

Christman's article cites supportive statements from various industry organizations, including Chris Harrison of the **Digital Media Association**. Christman quotes Harrison praising the bill as a way to make it "easier for songwriters and copyright owners to verify the accuracy of royalty payments made." Read the full article at <https://www.billboard.com/articles/business/8463234/music-modernization-act-senate-judiciary-committee>



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Disney Gains On Comcast Over Fox Buyout

The Justice Department has approved the **Walt Disney Company's** \$71 billion bid for most of **21st Century Fox**, reports David McLaughlin for Bloomberg.



Comcast, which operates Pittsburgh's cable television franchise, has also been bidding for the assets. They include Fox's television networks and studios but not the Fox News Channel. However, to move forward Disney will have to sell Fox's regional sports networks because the company already owns the majority of cable sports channel ESPN.

McLaughlin breaks down the details at <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-06-27/disney-is-said-set-to-win-antitrust-approval-for-fox-today-jix9wdna>

Meanwhile, Comcast scrambled on June 29 after cable, telephone and internet services for much of the east coast went dark. According to *USA Today's* Mike Snider, the company identified two "separate and unrelated" fiber cuts to their network backbone providers. Read it at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/news/2018/06/29/comcast-suffers-outage-tv-broadband-services-across-u-s/746363002/>

Accreditation Questions

A United States Senator from Illinois is raising questions about the new owner of the Art Institute of Pittsburgh's sister schools, reports Daniel Moore for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.



The California-based non-profit **Dream Center Education Holdings** bought the schools from Pittsburgh firm **Education Management Corporation** in 2017.

Four of the Art Institute schools have lost their accreditation from the **Higher Learning Commis-**

sion (the Pittsburgh institute is unaffected and remains accredited). Senator Dick Durbin is questioning whether Dream Center has properly informed students that their Art Institute degrees may not be recognized. Two of the schools involved are in Chicago.

Until pointed out by the media, Dream Center's web site claimed that all four were accredited and their print catalog continues to do so. Durbin is asking for an investigation.

Attempts To Delay SBG Trib Deal

Two media public interest groups --- the liberal **Common Cause** and more centrist **Public Knowledge** --- is asking the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to delay the planned merger between **Sinclair Broadcasting Group** and **Tribune Media**.



Sinclair owns two television stations in Pittsburgh. The company, controlled by the Smith family, has faced criticism over its news programs and allegations of a conservative bias. [A detailed story was published in [May 2018 Pittsburgh Applause](#) - Ed]

The merger is considered a foregone conclusion, but *Broadcasting+Cable's* John Eggerton reports that the two media groups are petition the FCC to delay a decision until after a court ruling. Read his article at <https://www.broadcastingcable.com/news/groups-petition-fcc-delay-sinclair-tribune-decision>



SAG-AFTRA Deal

An agreement has been reached between **SAG-AFTRA** and the coalition of major networks and producers for a new National Code of Fair Practice for Network Television Broadcasting.

SAG-AFTRA

The performers' union has hundreds of members in the Pittsburgh area and operates a full-time downtown office.

"This deal delivers overall gains in important areas, including meaningful increases in wages

and residuals rates that will put real money in members' pockets," explains union president Gabrielle Carteris in a press release.

"Additionally, the agreement now reflects important new language limiting auditions or meetings in private hotel rooms and residences, which represents a partial realization of our work toward industry culture change."

Read the details at <https://www.sagaftra.org/sag-aftra-reaches-tentative-agreement-major-broadcast-television-networks>

IATSE Head Joins UNI

Last month in the United Kingdom the head IATSE, Matthew Loeb, was unanimously elected to the UNI World Executive Board.

The **International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees** (IATSE)

was established in 1893 and

represents stage craft professionals in theater,

film, radio and television. IATSE has hundreds of members in the Pittsburgh area who are represented by 3 Locals.



Formed through a merger in 2000, the **Union Network International** (UNI) is an international federation of trade unions with 20 million members of over 900 affiliated unions.

"It is truly an honor to represent entertainment workers in North America and around the world as part of the UNI Global Union World Executive Board," Loeb said in a press release.

"International partnerships like UNI strengthen workers' voices and make it possible to build connections across borders. In an increasingly connected world, UNI's value cannot be overstated."

The term is for four years.

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Trust Renames Theater

The cabaret at Theater Square has been renamed by the **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust** in honor of long-time supporter George Greer.

George Greer is chairman and president of the **Eden Hall Foundation**, which supports social welfare, health, education and the arts.



"Over the course of 25 years," explains a press release, "George Greer has served on the Trust's executive, finance, and development committees, played an active role in fundraising, and contributed significantly to key Cultural District initiatives such as the O'Reilly Theater, Cabaret Theater, free festivals, outstanding events, and the planned conversion of the former Bally Total Fitness Club property on Sixth Street into a first-run movie theater Cineplex. As Chairman and President of the Eden Hall Foundation, George Greer champions arts and culture in Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, recognizing that they play a key role in improving a region's quality of life."

VideoHouse Takes On *A&E Book*

James A. Richards has entered into an agreement with **VideoHouse, Inc.** regarding the *Pittsburgh A&E Book*.



Published on-and-off, the *Pittsburgh A&E Book* is the region's only professional directory to and for local arts and entertainment professionals. Richards is also the publisher and editor of *Pittsburgh Applause* and PGHevents.net

Details are not being released, but the deal calls for VideoHouse to assume ownership of the database which Richards will continue to manage. Specific plans for the project are still being developed, but the focus will be on making it accessible online.



Images



The Frick's new exhibit "Driving the Disenfranchised" explores how the automobile gave an important boost to the early women's rights movement in the United States.



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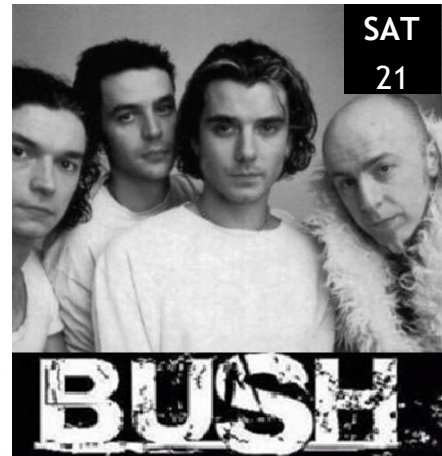
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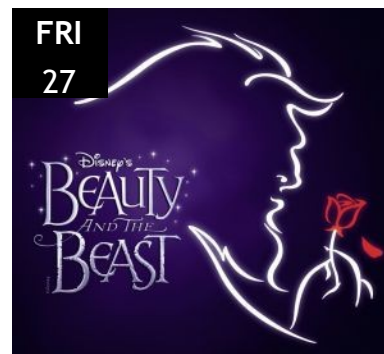
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THU
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SAT
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Opportunities

Casting opportunities for two local film projects have been published to the **Pittsburgh Film Office** web site: <https://www.pghfilm.org/for-crew-and-talent/casting-notice/>

Seven positions have become available at the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** during June. These include a Manager of Digital Management as well as presenters and other fields. See the full list at <https://carnegiemuseums.org/opportunities/search-careers/>

KDKA-TV is seeking a full-time news producer. The successful individual needs a college degree and at least two years' relevant experience. To learn more, click <https://cbcorporation.jobs/pittsburgh-pa/producer/757BBEA92CA44B099D622D9B6ED59292/job/>

A listing for a creative director, among other positions remains on the **Kelly-Strayhorn Theater's** web site at <https://kelly-strayhorn.org/artist/employment/>

Free-lance photographers are welcome to record **Associated Artists of Pittsburgh** events and exhibits. Those interested are asked to provide a quote, resume and samples of previous work to aapgh.staff@gmail.com.

Board members are being sought for the developing streaming television station Channel Pittsburgh (www.channelpittsburgh.org).

Positions that remain available at the **National Aviary** include a curator and an assistant manager for volunteers. Check them out at: <https://www.aviary.org/jobs>

Local radio station WDVE-FM is looking for a part-time announcer. Good writing skills are important. Read about it at <https://iheartmedia.jobs/pittsburgh-pa/wdve-fmpittsburgh-part-time-announcer/58FEDA2AE6AD42029C3AA3B0DFD91A74/job/>

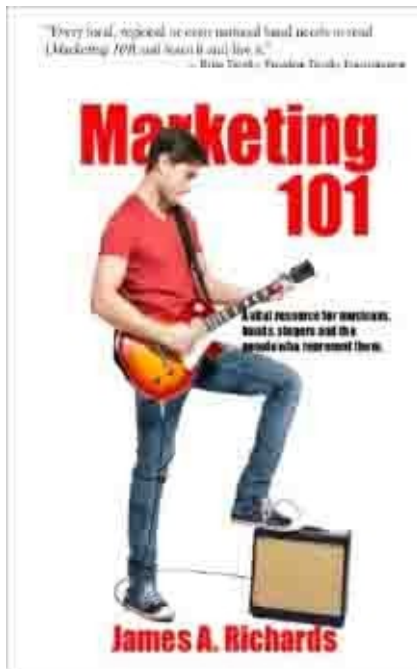
City Theatre has posted openings on its web site for a new marketing director among other positions. Check out the full list at <http://www.citytheatrecompany.org/inside-city/auditions-and-employment/>

WTAE-TV is seeking a production assistant. The chosen candidate needs to be an IATSE member (or willing to join) and is especially comfortable with operating a teleprompter. Details are available at <https://hearst.referrals.selectminds.com/television/jobs/production-assistant-3285>

A full-time promotions producer position appears to remain open at **Sinclair's** local television stations. You can still read it at https://sbgstv-openhire.silkroad.com/epostings/index.cfm?fuseac-tion=app.jobinfo&jobid=9884&source=ONLINE&JobOwner=992771&company_id=17011&version=1&byBusinessUnit=81&bycountry=0&bystate=1&byRegion=US_US-PA&bylocation=NULL&keywords=&byCat=NULL&proximityCountry=&postalCode=&radiusDistance=&isKilometers=&tosearch=yes&city=

A sports talk show host is being sought by **Entercom** (the former CBS Radio) for KDKA-FM. This is a full-time position. Click <https://entercom.avature.net/careers/JobDetail/Sports-Talk-Host-FT-93-7-the-Fan/12849>

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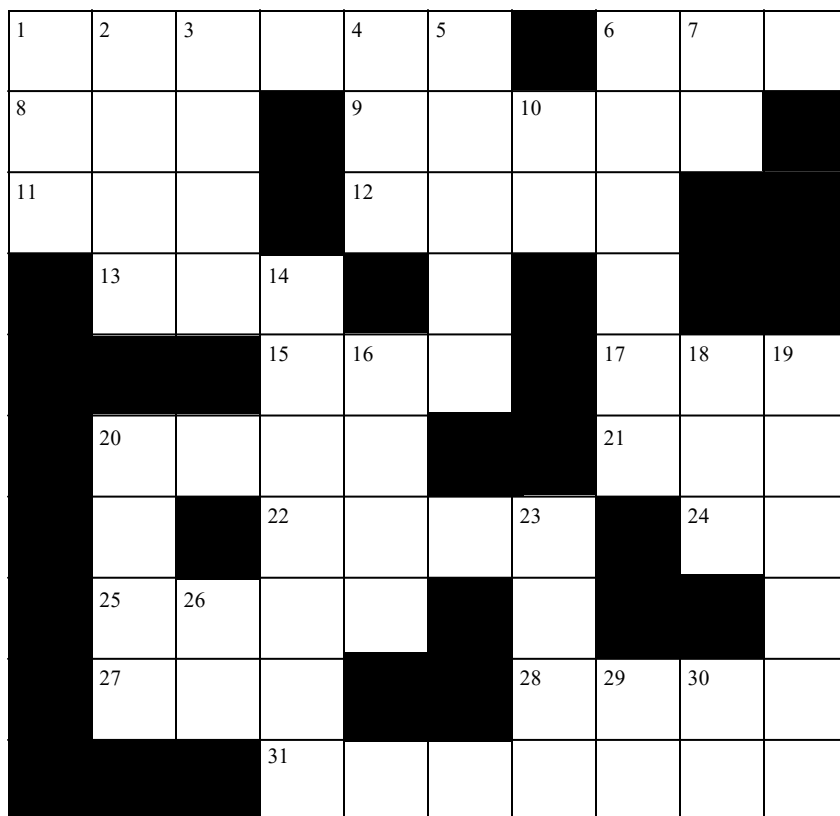
Jim Richards does many things for Pittsburgh arts community --- most for free --- despite limiting health issues. So show your support in one or more of the following ways:

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- * Give him free tickets to your show
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Across

1. Marine mammal with tusks
6. Comfy room
8. Anger
9. See 23-Down
11. Pittsburgh institution located in Highland Park, familiarly
12. Magic dragon of song
13. Writing liquid
15. High priest in *Samuel I* and *Samuel II*
17. Grant source letters
20. Character actor Luke, to pals.
21. Patriotic Group, initially
22. Nicki Minaj fan
24. Important Egyptian deity
25. A shining light in the sky
27. The most famous one is Atilla
28. 1953 Leslie Caron film
31. See 1-Down



Down

1. Pittsburgh's hometown rap star (with 31-Across)
2. Former president of Nauru
3. Spanish province
4. Baseball caller, briefly
5. Where women are finally getting in gear, with 19-Down
6. Ward off an attack
7. A 1980's sitcom or 1990's drama
10. Original "Solo," initially
14. Current naming sponsor for Burgettstown pavilion
16. Shakespearean monarch
18. Sound organ
19. See 5-Down
20. Former stage name of Canadian rapper and actor Andrew
23. Political humorist appearing Heinz Hall this month (with 9-Across)
26. 1980's pop duo
29. One plus one in Ancient Rome
30. 2011 Raymond Lam album

Last Month's Solution

P	L	E	I	N	T	O	U	R
A	I					T		O
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