

# Sports Reporters Needed

The Lamorinda Weekly is looking for additional sports reporters.

If you are interested in covering a variety of sports or just one or two sports, please email [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com) and include a writing sample. Our immediate need is for baseball, softball and lacrosse coverage.

## 'Young Goethe in Love' Premieres at Orinda Theatre

By Sophie Braccini



Is "Young Goethe in Love" historically accurate? No. "It is more a mixture of facts and fiction," answered Director Phillip Stölzl to German media when his movie about the most famous German poet and philosopher Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was released in 2010. The film will be shown for one week as part of the Orinda Theatre's International Film Showcase series beginning April 6.

The film stirred a bit of controversy when it was initially released in

Germany. No film had yet depicted the life of the almost universal genius who invented such things as roller skates and discovered the pharyngeal bone. Yet with such a rich history, the film depicts the man at the beginning of his adult life. The young man is shown as an insecure poet who has just failed his law exams, during a time of self-doubt and self-discovery — a defining moment in his life.

The story begins with the description of the life of a trifling, unsuccessful poet named Johann

Wolfgang Goethe. He is sent by his father to a little sleepy town where he falls in love with beautiful Charlotte Buff. The film gives a great depiction of their fresh young love. But things take a turn for the worst and Goethe ends up in prison.

Desperately, he starts writing, and from that source of inspiration comes "The Sorrows of Young Werther," the novel that made Goethe the first almost-overnight literary superstar in Europe.

The book started "Werther-fever" all over Europe, with young men dressing like young Werther. This may be why Stölzl directed the movie to appeal to a younger audience.

The dialogues are snappy with a mix of modern and old-fashioned language, the pop-music is good and definitely modern. Stölzl's Goethe is light years from the literary icon he became. Instead, he is shown with all the urging of a hot-blooded lover. He runs wild in the woods and under the rain with his beloved, he suffers, fights; he is made of real flesh, suffering in the throes of passion.

The film is directed with great mastery by Stölzl, the rhythm is fast, and the overall esthetic is quite enchanting. Alexander Fehling, who plays Goethe, is very believable when he falls for Miriam Stein, who plays Lotte Buff, a real natural beauty who can play with a very large emotional range.

While the movie might make some scholarly and literary purists turn up their noses, others can get to know Johann Wolfgang von Goethe as an entertaining movie hero.

## Beau/Derek on ★★★☆ Salmon Fishing in the Yemen

"Salmon Fishing in the Yemen" attempts to dilute, if not to eradicate, the Arab stereotypes created by the dichotomy between Eastern and Western civilizations through a dream that is incomprehensible.

Enter the bountiful wealth provided by an Arab sheik—portrayed by Amr Waked—whose mission in life is to improve the living conditions of his war-torn country, Yemen. The potentate's plan is to create a vestige of an implausibility and impossibility by turning the desert into a pond filled with premium Scottish salmon. It is through his passion for fishing that he conceals this noble idea with his esurient and unfathomable desire for economic progress.

The script is written by Simon Beaufoy, well-known for his work in the Oscar-winning film, "Slumdog Millionaire." Beaufoy is also famous for creating extraordinary and noble lives through unremarkable characters or "commoners" in movie scripts. This, once again, is evident in "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen."

Enter Fred, a fisheries expert played by Ewan McGregor, and Harriet, the sheik's representative from London. Off they go to Yemen, with the common purpose of exploring the sheik's dream. However, with the flagrant and war-stricken region at hand, their mission turns to a poignant humanitarian service. The ending is predictable and yet thoughtful.

Seemingly enough, as the movie aspires for the lowest common denominator between war and peace, moviegoers will be in the bifurcation of disparity — either you will like the film or you won't.

Come to Lamorinda Theatres and perhaps you can find the common ground between East and West in this wonderful Indie film!

(Derek Zemrak is a filmmaker and the president of the California Independent Film Festival Association (CAIFFA); Beau Behan is the CAIFFA program director and director of the Lamorinda Theatres.)



## Family Focus

### Parental Discretion Advised

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

One of the most common parenting problems I see, especially in our era of reality and talk television and constant electronic accessibility, is difficulty maintaining discretion with one's children. We already have the problem in our society of children becoming too aware of serious adult domestic and personal problems displayed on magazine covers, internet stories, blogs, video clips, and television shows. But, in addition, many parents unintentionally reveal too much about themselves or about others to their children and consequently cross boundaries that need to be in place between parent and child. We all know how important it is to limit exposure to certain media when children are young and impressionable. But what some parents fail to realize is that *they* are sometimes the source of unhealthy exposure for their children.

Some examples, all taken from my therapy practice but with identifying information changed, are as follows:

- Karyn brings in her 11-year-old daughter, Cassidy, for treatment for anxiety. Cassidy is increasingly unable to spend time at friends' houses or even at school without developing severe stomach pain. She does not want to be separated from her mother. Cassidy's mother, Karyn, has been struggling in her marriage and frequently cries when she is alone in her bedroom or bathroom. She talks to her sister and one of her close friends about her problems, either in person or on the phone. Karyn has always been a doting mom, but she doesn't realize that Cassidy is well-aware of her state of mind and frequently eavesdrops on her conversations and her meltdowns. Cassidy is a sensitive child who worries about her mom, herself, and the other members of her

family. Children usually feel helpless in being able to effect change and can only worry and despair when they see signs of serious family problems.

- Terry and Anita call to have me see their daughter, Bryn, a high school sophomore, because she has become increasingly defiant with them, and her grades have dropped from a B+ average to low C's. Bryn is a sweet, sensitive teen who confides to me that she actually feels guilty about her behavior and her poor performance in school. But she is also very angry at her father. He is a successful attorney and she has always looked up to him. But recently she has discovered that he smokes pot on a daily basis and looks at inappropriate websites on the computer. These behaviors are very distressing to Bryn, but she feels too uncomfortable to address them with her father. From my perspective, Bryn's father, Terry, is an adult and he can make his own choices. But he didn't protect his daughter well enough from the effects of his choices, and she has suffered as a result.

- Laurie is 44 and the married mother of three children, ages 10-17. She has been having an affair with a married man from another state whom she met online. They meet every two months or so, and they talk and text constantly. Laurie's husband works long hours as a business executive, and she is certain that he doesn't suspect anything. Laurie comes in to see me because she is confused and scared. But as we proceed to discuss her situation, she acknowledges that she has been so distracted that she didn't realize her children knew about her extramarital relationship. Understandably, she now adds extreme guilt to the mix since she never wanted them to know. But the damage has been done be-

cause Laurie did not effectively shield her children from the details of her messy life.

Unfortunately, there are too many examples to cite them all here. In my next column I will address situations where parents cross boundaries and become enmeshed with their children; the parents who say their teen children are their best friends. In all of these instances, children lose their sense of security and safety when they are exposed to more than they are emotionally or intellectually equipped to handle. They suffer and can become depressed, anxious, angry, and/or rebellious. They can turn to drugs, alcohol, eating-disordered behavior, cutting, and other means of escaping from their feelings and from their out-of-control lives. Parents did not intend harm in any of these cases. It is up to all of us to be mindful and cautious in limiting our children's exposure to adult issues.



**Margie Ryerson, MFT**, is a marriage and family therapist in Orinda and Walnut Creek. Contact her at 925-376-9323 or [margierj@yahoo.com](mailto:margierj@yahoo.com). She is the author of *Treat Your Partner Like a Dog: How to Breed a Better Relationship and Appetite for Life: Inspiring Stories of Recovery from Anorexia, Bulimia, and Compulsive Overeating.*

## Springhill Students Send Message About Education Funding Cuts:

"Don't Blow It!"

By Cathy Tyson



Springhill students and parents blow bubbles at recent "Don't Blow It" rally  
Photo courtesy Jennifer Paul

Despite gray skies and drizzle, a group of Springhill Elementary school students came out to blow bubbles before class March 15 as part of the "This Budget Blows" campaign to encourage parent support for adequate and timely funding for Lafayette's schools. The date was chosen specifically because it was pink slip day — a day when thousands of teachers throughout the state received preliminary lay-off notices. The main message of the morning rally, sponsored by parent-led, grassroots organization, Educate Our State was "Don't blow it! Pass a budget that funds education now."

Funding for the next school year is uncertain — it will depend on the outcome of the state legislature budget negotiations this summer and the passing of a proposed tax measure on the November ballot. At stake is a statewide \$4.8 billion trigger cut in the governor's budget. Proponents argue

that it's impossible for schools to plan for teachers and programs with money that may or may not arrive, months after school officially starts.

"Parents want to bring attention to the crisis facing our schools," said Jenifer Paul, co-founder of Lafayette for Education, a group that is locally trying to raise awareness about the state of education in California. "Because the proposed budget is dependent upon an initiative passing long after school begins, districts are looking at cutting 20,000 teachers statewide, and shortening the school year. Enough is enough. Education must be a priority in California. We must adequately fund all of our schools and do so consistently."

The Lafayette rally was one of many throughout the state from Burlingame to Sherman Oaks. Organizers encouraged parents to send letters to state legislators to voice their concerns by signing on to [ThisBudgetBlows.org](http://ThisBudgetBlows.org).