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# TATTOO FESTIVAL

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# WALK, RUN, WATCH!

## The 2025 Chicago SHAMROCK SHUFFLE

For those choosing to cheer from the sidelines, the Shamrock Shuffle presents a perfect opportunity to experience Chicago's vibrant atmosphere. Prime viewing spots along the race route, particularly near the start/finish line in Grant Park and along Columbus Drive, will offer excellent vantage points.

*by Mike at Night*

**Chicago is gearing up for a vibrant burst of green as the 2025 Shamrock Shuffle approaches, promising a spectacle of athleticism and celebration that heralds the city's spring awakening.**

Anticipate the usual weekend before St. Patrick's Day in 2025, when a sea of participants and spectators will converge on Grant Park, transforming downtown into a lively festival. This isn't merely a race; it's a Chicago tradition, offering something for everyone, from the competitive 8K runners to families enjoying the leisurely 2-mile walk, and the high-energy mile.



Bring your signs, noisemakers, and enthusiasm to support the runners and soak in the contagious energy. While in Grant Park, take time to appreciate the stunning views of Lake Michigan and the city skyline.

The festive spirit will extend beyond the race itself, with local businesses joining in the celebration.

The Shamrock Shuffle serves as the kickoff to Chicago's spring season, a time when the city comes alive with outdoor activities. Just steps away from Grant Park, Millennium Park offers world-class public art, including the iconic "Cloud Gate." The scenic 18-mile Lakefront Trail beckons for biking, walking, or simply enjoying the lake views. Chicago's diverse neighborhoods will host a variety of festivals and events, and outdoor dining will flourish as restaurants and cafes open their patios and rooftops.



The post-race party, a legendary gathering with live music and festive fare, will extend the celebration, uniting runners and spectators alike.

>>> **MORE Shamrock Shuffle** >>>



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# >>>MORE>>> Shamrock Shuffle 🤪

With its excellent public transportation system, Chicago is easily navigable, allowing visitors to explore its many attractions. A wide range of accommodations and a diverse culinary scene ensure a comfortable and enjoyable stay. The 2025 Chicago Shamrock Shuffle is more than just a race; it's a celebration of community and the start of a season filled with outdoor adventures in a city that truly blooms in the spring.



## More Than Just a Race

The Shamrock Shuffle isn't just a race; it's a celebration. Whether you're a seasoned runner, a casual walker, or simply a spectator soaking in the energy, there's something for everyone. The event typically features:

**The 8K Run:** The classic distance, winding through iconic downtown streets.

**The 2-Mile Walk:** A more leisurely pace, perfect for families and those who prefer a stroll.

**The Mile:** A shorter, high-energy burst of speed.

**The Post-Race Party:** A legendary gathering with live music, food, and drinks, where runners and spectators celebrate together.

## Prime Viewing Spots:

The race route, usually weaving through downtown, offers numerous vantage points. Key areas often include the start/finish line in Grant Park, and along Columbus Drive. *Check the official 2025 route map (when released) for exact locations.*



## Cheer Loud and Proud:

Bring your signs, noisemakers, and enthusiasm! The runners appreciate the support, and the energy is contagious.

## Explore Grant Park:

While you're there, take in the beauty of Grant Park, with its stunning views of Lake Michigan and the city skyline. Many selfie opportunities, and Kodak moments!

## Festive Atmosphere:

The streets will be buzzing with excitement, and many local businesses will join in the celebration with special promotions and events.

## Post race festivities:

Stay after the race to enjoy the live music, and the celebrations.

## Check the official race website:

Before attending, it's a good idea to verify all race information on the official shamrock shuffle website:



# TATTOO FESTIVAL

**The buzz of tattoo machines and the vibrant display of artistry will fill the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, just west of Chicago, as the 2025 Villain Arts Chicago Tattoo Arts Festival rolls into town.**

This highly anticipated event, slated for March 28th through 30th, promises a captivating experience for tattoo enthusiasts, art lovers, and those simply curious about the world of body art.



*Tattoo Artists like Freddie Albrighton*

This festival is more than just a gathering of tattoo artists; it's a celebration of the craft, showcasing the incredible talent and diversity within the tattoo community. Attendees can expect to witness live tattooing by world-renowned artists, offering a unique opportunity to observe the creative process firsthand. Whether you're looking to get a new tattoo, seeking inspiration, or simply appreciating the artistry, the festival provides an immersive experience.

Tattoo Artists like Freddie Albrighton, is scheduled to be at the Chicago Tattoo Arts Festival. Known for his expertise in color tattoos, gained significant recognition from his appearance on season 15 of the television show "Ink Master." His talent and unique style were showcased on the show, increasing his popularity within the tattoo community. Since he's a special guest at the 2025 Villain Arts Chicago Tattoo Arts Festival, attendees will have the opportunity to potentially get tattooed by him, observe his tattooing techniques, and meet and interact with him.

The presence tattoo artists add to the excitement of the festival, offering attendees a chance to see a well known tattoo artists at work.



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# IN CONCERT

## HOWARD JONES, MARTIN FRY, RICHARD BLAKE

During the course of the evening, Howard Jones performed "Things Can Only Get Better." Such a great song!

"All I Want", delivered two instant hits with "What Is Love," and he along with special guest bass player Nick Beggs, of Kajagoogoo sang "Too Shy." Howard made several announcements, celebrating 40 years in the business, and thanked everyone in the theater for the continued support. I was mesmerized by his keyboard wizardry. These musicians traveling with Howard Jones, and Martin Fry are extremely talented. A well coordinated event and definitely worth the ticket.



Both groups kicked butt on this night, Martin Fry gave an outstanding performance of ABC's most memorable songs, and biggest hits, like "Poison Arrow", "When Smoky Sings," and "The Night You Murdered Love".

ABC made such an impact and contribution to the dance scene worldwide. Obviously, I credit "The Look Of Love" as being their first dance single as heard on Chicago radio mix-shows and played throughout night clubs. Martin Fry has done an excellent job of retaining that signature voice. Even the "yippee-ay-yays" were in tune!

Shortly after Martin Fry leaves the stage, Richard Blake comes on and took us down 80s memory lane with a countdown of the top new wave acts at the time, like the B-52's, Devo, The Go-Go's, Depeche Mode and New Order.







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FatherSonsClothing.com

Since Father Sons is exclusive brand that manufactures a small quantity of each of their styles, and maintains a distinctive collection, there are many things to consider before ordering from them online. First check the many pro & con reviews, especially when it comes to returns. Check the reviews on sizes, and customer satisfaction.



When purchasing clothing online from this fashion designer's website or any other fashion site, you must do your homework, and even then, there's a chance that your expectations will fall short when it finally comes delivered to you in the mail.

What you see is not always what you get. This is not necessarily deceptive advertising, but there's a big difference from a model wearing a shirt from a fashion photo shoot, to you trying it on and looking at yourself in the mirror with it on. The experience of go to a mall, retail outlet, or designers brick & mortar store, to physically see, touch and try clothing on, to see how it fits, is quickly becoming a thing of the past. Being replaced by shopping online, that doesn't offer the old-fashion "try before you buy" experience. Instead, there's returns when buying online, but returns can be a headache, due to return shipping costs, it may take weeks to receive it back, and the size you re-ordered, still doesn't fit.

Much like ordering clothing from China, or other countries, you need to be aware that the size you order online, may just very well come in the mail much smaller than you've anticipated. US clothing sizes have changed over the years, for many reasons (*that's a different story*), and is not consistent with the many fashion size charts around the world. Keep in mind that some brands may commission their designs to be manufactured in China, cutting costs, and sometimes cutting the quality of the product.



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# Out 'n' About

by Jorge Suarez

## Chicago

**As history goes, Larry Mason was the original owner of Buffalo Records in Rockford, IL. Larry met Bev, whom owned Toad Hall Bookstore in the vicinity. They married and merged their business respectively in 1980 at the corner of 2106 Broadway, Rockford, IL.**



The location was originally Rockview Pharmacy, and they renamed it Toad Hall Books & Records. The store had closed its doors temporarily, when in 2005, the Naruz family headed by Nick Naruz, made an offer and won the bid. Firstly, this is vinyl paradise. This store, thru decades of accumulated music, can boast a staggering array of records across every genre imaginable.



In my opinion, this is definitely a haven for audiophiles and music enthusiasts, featuring an eclectic collection that spans decades and styles. Dare I say it again! This store with shelves upon shelves of vinyl, is a must-

visit destination for anyone seeking rare or hard to find gems or just bin digging. For those that collect or continue to collect and want to pass it down to their kids, Toad Hall invites you to explore and discover new music.



Their expert staff is friendly, responsive, and always available whether you visit in person, or on-line. For those reading this column, visit my Out 'n' About Facebook group to get a better understanding. For the record, Toad Hall estimates about a half million pieces of vinyl, including 7 inch, 12", LP's, etc., five thousand magazines, several thousand 8-tracks, also an equal

cassette collection, and pushing about 100,000 comic books. Toad Hall sells magazines, games, movies and posters as well as buys records, books, and comics.

Missing the old school record store appearance? Get both old and new at Toad Hall. There are various levels on the first floor. You want new inventory, it's here!

By the way, Nick is an authorized Pro-Ject One dealer. Check out the limited edition Pro-Ject One Pink Floyd turntable, commemorating the Dark Side Of The Moon. Call Nick for more info. An impressive autographed guitar from Cheap Trick hangs on the wall. Sorry, not for sale. However, Nick has an autographed cymbal from Cheap Trick for sale.





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TRAINING

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DANCE ..... 6PM-7PM

### THURSDAY

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YOGA ..... 6PM-7PM

HIIT ..... 7PM-8PM

### FRIDAY

ZUMBA ..... 9AM-10AM

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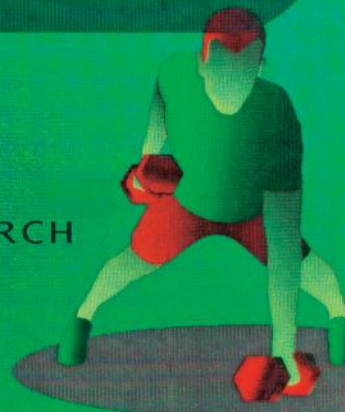
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# ASK CHAR

The views and/or advice expressed here are my personal opinions, based on my life experience, and don't necessarily reflect the opinions of any other individual or organization. Have a question? eMail me at [AskChar@boiMAG.com](mailto:AskChar@boiMAG.com)

*Dear Char,*

**"I'm drowning in debt. What are some practical steps I can take to get back on track financially?"**

*Dear Single in the Suburbs,*

**Well, I am not sure how old you are, my drowning friend, but know that you are not alone. It is written that nearly half of 18-35 years olds feel bogged down by debt, and are anxious about this part of their life.**

Any kind of debt can be anxiety-producing. Unpaid student loans are at the top of the list for all age brackets and may very well be what has begun your journey into debt. If you are between the ages of 18 and 35 you probably have a vehicle that is not paid off, and you may be living in an apartment or a rental as well. These are high interest, high priced items, causing concerns.

Many financialists and money managers know that it is better to take action against debt than to do nothing, and they also know that when people spend, they may be spending based on how they feel more than what they know.

Believe it or not, debt begins with emotions. From being jealous of friends' financial achievements, or what they have, and feeling like a comfort-spending purchase will make you feel better,

Behavior and emotions drive a thinking process. That's where it all goes wrong!

Let's potentially add credit card debt to your expense pyramid. A credit card is the great deceiver. It makes you feel as if you have money you don't. Spending is easy and carefree until a bill, loaded with extras like surcharges, interest and late fees arrives and you notice the bill is actually more than you spent. Paying the minimum only prolongs the pain and you never quite meet the cost of the interest rate.

There's some things you can do to take some forward steps, that will give you hope for positive movement away from perpetual owing.

If you have any savings at all, take out half, and apply that to your credit card. This is a step to reduce the interest rate by paying more than the minimum and in a larger sum than you normally would.

If you have more than one credit card, pick one, and cut the rest up. Then when you pay them off, the debt is gone because you did not charge on them. The most financially savvy people have one department store card and one general/bank credit card.

People who really want to stave off debt simply have a debit card, and that causes them to stop spending when their bank account funds fade. Watching your bank account will always pay off. If many of us had paid close attention to our bank account in the first place, we'd not be in debt.

Call your credit card bank, and ask for help. You might get a load taken off by paying off a card in full, but if you can't, then ask if there's any program or offer to help your situation

You can apply for an interest free credit card. These have lower monthly payments and no interest and you can transfer the debt of several credit cards into one new card. You must be ready to pay off the debt before the introductory period ends because after that the interest rates are sometimes higher. This action is an action of commitment. It means no spending and all paying.

Getting out of debt is not always easy, You do have to be committed. That can mean reducing spending and making some sacrifices in how you think about spending. You may also have to ask for support of family or friends. You can get creative, and find other ways to make money, and pay off your debt..



# COMMENTARY UNCENSORED



by: Screamin' Rachael

*Recording Artist, Entrepreneur, Publisher, Music Mogul, House Music Icon, sometimes Controversial, with a dash of Opinionism for good*

The opinions offered in this column are "uncensored" and are intended for "open dialog" and "entertainment purposes" only. Use of this column not intended to replace or be a substitute for any professional, financial, legal, advice or any other professional service. The opinions or views expressed in this column are those of the columnist, and not necessarily those of anyone else.

## Move Ya Body

**Man, I was living the dream, all my life I imagined the Cinderella story. I would go to Sundance and have a movie that I was in premiere!**

**I walked into the theater and cameras were flashing everywhere. I felt amazing. Little did I know that not only would I be in the film, but I'd be starring in it as the villain!**

The whole first part of the movie was about Disco Demolition. Director **Elegance Bratton** set out to rewrite history by turning it into a racial event. I was a disco sucks person myself. I sang with a rock band and our agent wanted me to change my look, and go disco. This was something I violently opposed, so I turned into a punk rocker, wrote and played only songs I liked with my band Remote, and wore thrift store clothes that were mostly black. There were loads of white kids, like my brother who loved to spend Friday and Saturday nights with a beer in their hand, listening to live music... well that was primarily shut down and replaced with DJs spinning disco.

YUCK! No matter what else was in the movie, I have decided to give white rockers a voice! I'm sorry but I am sick of everything being turned into RACISM.

OK, I should be clear, and say there are certain disco records that I liked, but generally speaking I didn't want to change my way of life, and that was the threat that disco posed for me. In the case of tons of others kids out there, though mostly Caucasian, other races too, this was stopping us from our favorite music enjoyment.

At the time everything was DISCO!

Even if I wasn't in the movie, I would want to speak up for rockers and punkers, and people who had a different life style, we proudly yelled "disco sucks"! Funny thing is how one event, "The Disco Demolition" shut down a genre, but that's what think happened, and boy were we glad!



When I was interviewed by **Elegance Bratton** and **Chester**, I felt right at home especially because Elegance loved the **Limelight Club** in **New York** and Club Kids, which of course became my next stop in life.

If you want to learn about what I did during that crazy anything goes part of my life, just ask "AI" you can learn all about it. In fact I was recently featured in an episode of "New York Homicide, remembering the life and unfortunate death, of my friend **Angel Melendez**.

I'm sure you can find that episode on the Oxygen Network. It's cool because there is actual footage of Outlaw Party's. If you dig in more you will find out about me bringing vinyl house music records from Trax Records in Chicago to New York DJ's, including **Little Louie Vega**, **Jellybean Benitez**, and lots of others. I'm very unusual, in the fact, I became a house head. Sorry, I do not feel house is disco, at least not the overproduced junk, that dominated the radio and clubs.

We met at **Theaster Gates**, "**Art Bank**", and I thought that Elegance and his producer, **Chester Algernal**, were awesome people. I couldn't have been happier to make their acquaintance. When they told me their movie was going to be about Disco Demolition, I warned them that the topic had been done to death. Little did I know they just intended on rewriting history and turning it into a racist event! BOO!! There might've been some racist people involved, but for the most part, we were just rockers that were protecting the music we loved from the massive disco takeover.

Their project sounded interesting especially since **Hillary Clinton** was a major investor in the film. As a matter of fact, I thought that it was bullshit, but it was true. They didn't speak about the connection of the **Soros** family, they keep that fact on the down-low.

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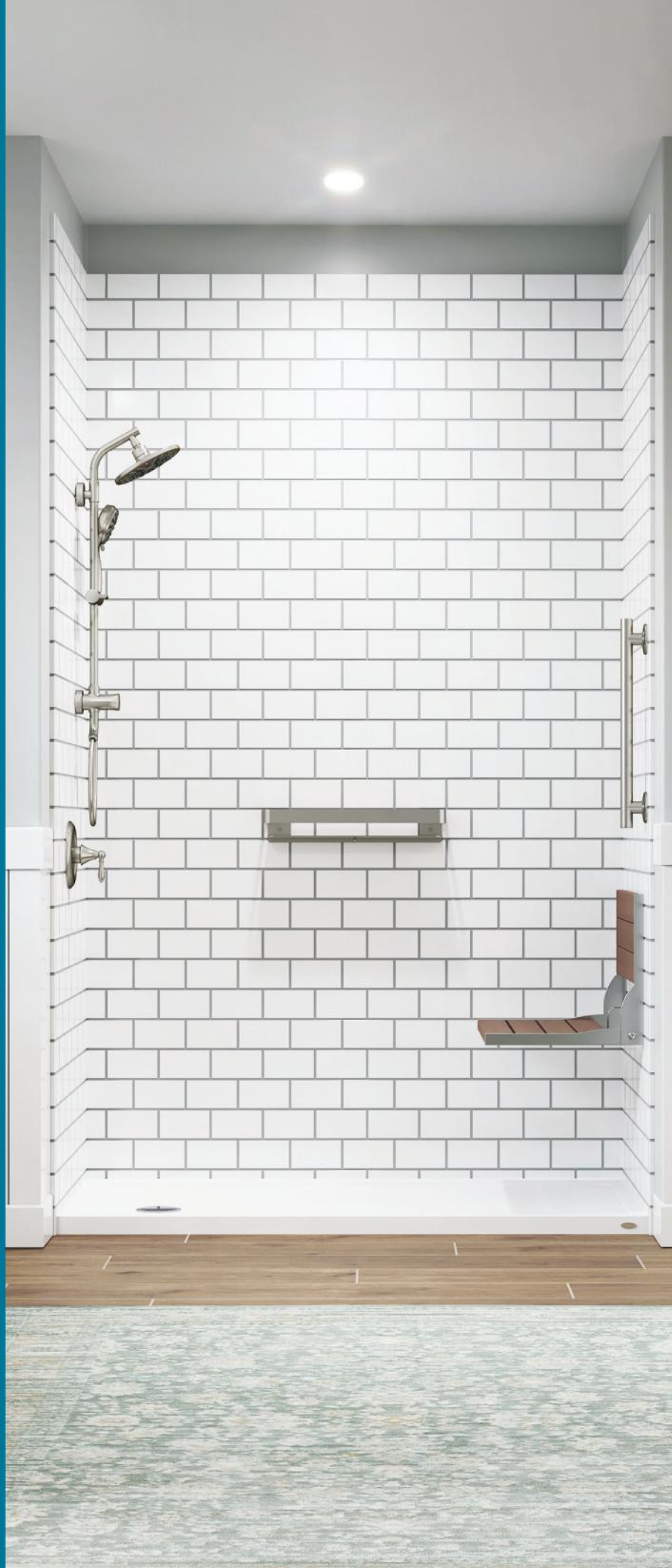
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**I was told the film would be about the roots of house music. I had no idea that the whole thing was a vanity piece about Vince Lawrence. If I had known that, I would have refused to participate.**

I didn't know it would highlight racism, and the idea that white people, specifically me and **Larry Sherman** took over HOUSE. Gee, what about other white people that made house music like **Mickey Oliver, White Knight** and Play House Records own **Mike Macherello**? I guess we should be erased! What about the famous words of **Chuck Roberts** on Can You Feel it? "You may be black, you may be white; you may be Jew or Gentile It don't make difference in our House, And this is fresh!" I'm SORRY, I refuse to be shamed, or give up my entire history in house music because of the color of my skin! And once again, I am going to speak up for other Caucasians, and races who were also there in the beginning of House Music!

I said something to the effect that, when I first sang the song, I didn't understand or like it. After all, it was a major departure from the punk music I was doing at the time. Then however, I went on to say that I came to love the song, and came to realize the importance of it. Well, all the audience heard was I didn't like or understand it! Then Vince Lawrence went on to say something like after its release, I made monetary gain, and took credit for the whole thing!

THE TRUTH IS, I never received one dime from that recording! One of the major publications wrote that **Bratton** got me to make a confession on camera! *Yeah, right! What a hack job!*



Surprisingly enough, people treated me well at the party. They said I was great in the movie! They even referred to me with the moniker, Queen of House. Then an award winning producer that Lawrence and I both knew, from back in the day, **Charles Little**, came over to congratulate me! I was shocked, and pleasantly surprised.



Well, I always was warned about how peoples words can get twisted in an interview edit, and turned into something that had nothing to do with their complete statement. I've been in a number of documentaries, and never had that happen before. But that's exactly what happened, I was turned into the movie "Move ya Body's" villain.

I was asked about the house classic "Fantasy" that I sang, and Rolling Stone Magazine noted it to be the first vocal house record.

As I watched the movie, I went into shock and slumped down into my seat! When the film ended, I still was planning on going to the VIP after party, rather than hang my head in shame. After all, my opinion is the film is racist and one sided.

Elegance and Chester tried to make me feel happy about my portrayal as the villain. They said they loved my new single "BITCH", and asked if I could delay it's release until they sold their movie.

Bratton and Algernall suggested that I make my own movie, and thanks to all the attention I received, we raised money for the sizzle reel.

So when **Marshall Jefferson**, who made the anthem "Move Your Body" that the film was basically named after, walked into the after party I told him to be sure to thank **Vince Lawrence** for starring me in his movie. So, like **Kendrick Lamar** and **Drake**, da DISS GOES ON...

- **Rachael Cain**



# TECH TRENDS

by Jack Santo

**The internet offers incredible benefits, from instant information access to easy communication, entertainment, and education.**

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While the internet's advantages are undeniable, its anonymity presents potential dangers, especially for young users. Therefore, responsible internet use is crucial to avoid negative impacts on personal lives and well-being.

Recognizing these challenges, mental health professionals and other specialists are working to address internet-related problems. Global and national initiatives, involving both public and private organizations, are underway. These efforts include public awareness campaigns, school discussions, media advertising, and educational sessions for parents and teachers on internet safety. Additionally, 24/7 help-lines and counseling services are available to prevent online scams, gambling addiction, cyber-bullying, and other online harms.



The internet's benefits are vast, contributing to human progress. However, its accessibility and abundance can be problematic if used irresponsibly. Critical thinking and balanced usage are key to maximizing the internet's benefits while minimizing risks. By being mindful of our online habits, we can ensure that the internet enhances, rather than endangers, our well-being.



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