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NORTHALSTED
PRESENTS

ON HALSTED FROM
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27TH ANNUAL

OCT 31 AT 7:30PM

HAUNTED HALSTED

HALLOWEEN
PARADE



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HALLOWEEN NIGHT

October 31st, 2024



The 27th annual, free-to-watch and free to participate, **Haunted Halsted Halloween Parade**, ranked one of the top ten in the US by Fodor's Travel, has a spectacular **Costume Contest** with hundreds of entrants that sign-up, featuring **\$4,000 in cash prizes**, that begins at Halsted and Belmont, and concludes with an awards presentation in the lot across the street from the new Howard Brown building on Halsted St., just north of Cornelia.

The 2024 Halloween Parade Grand Marshals are coming to haunt you straight from **The Boulet Brothers Dragula** featuring **SCYLLA, Auntie Heroine** and **Aurora Gozmic**.



The Parade also features the **Chicago Full Moon Jam** fire performers, **Windy City Jeep Club**, **Chicago Thriller**, **Lakeside Pride Marching Band**, **Chicago Spirit Brigade** pep squad.



The costume competition covers **5 Categories** judged by a pre-selected judging panel: 1) **Character**, 2) **Creative**, 3) **Scary**, 4) **Youth (<13)** and 5) **Group**.

Each category will have a \$500/\$200/\$100 prize winner. (for 1st place/2nd place/3rd place.)

All are welcome to be a part of the fun! If online registration is closed, register on site, starting 1hr before parade kick off.

Register at <https://northalsted.com> then go to Festivals & Parades menu, or before the parade on Oct. 31 at, Halsted & Belmont, 6:30pm-7:15pm.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR BIKTARVY®

This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY® and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

(bik-TAR-vee)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- ▶ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** Your healthcare provider will test you for HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months, and may give you HBV medicine.

ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults and children who weigh at least 55 pounds. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:

- ▶ dofetilide
- ▶ rifampin
- ▶ any other medicines to treat HIV-1

BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- ▶ Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- ▶ Have any other health problems.
- ▶ Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Talk to your healthcare provider about the risks of breastfeeding during treatment with BIKTARVY.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- ▶ Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- ▶ BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Ask your healthcare provider and pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all your other medicines.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- ▶ Those in the “Most Important Information About BIKTARVY” section.
- ▶ **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that may have been hidden in your body. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ▶ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ▶ **The most common side effects of BIKTARVY** in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (6%), and headache (5%).

These are not all the possible side effects of BIKTARVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking BIKTARVY.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with BIKTARVY.

HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- ▶ This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- ▶ Go to BIKTARVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5.
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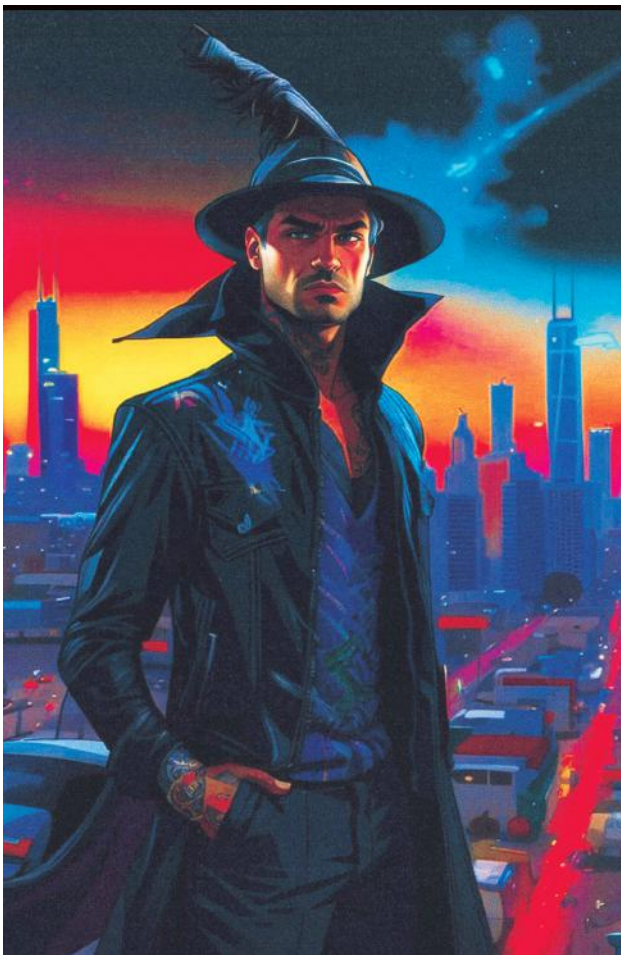
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Ask your healthcare provider if BIKTARVY is right for you.

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Please see Important Facts about BIKTARVY, including important warnings, on the previous page and at [BIKTARVY.com](https://www.biktarvy.com).



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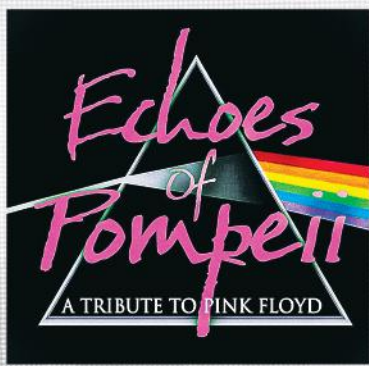


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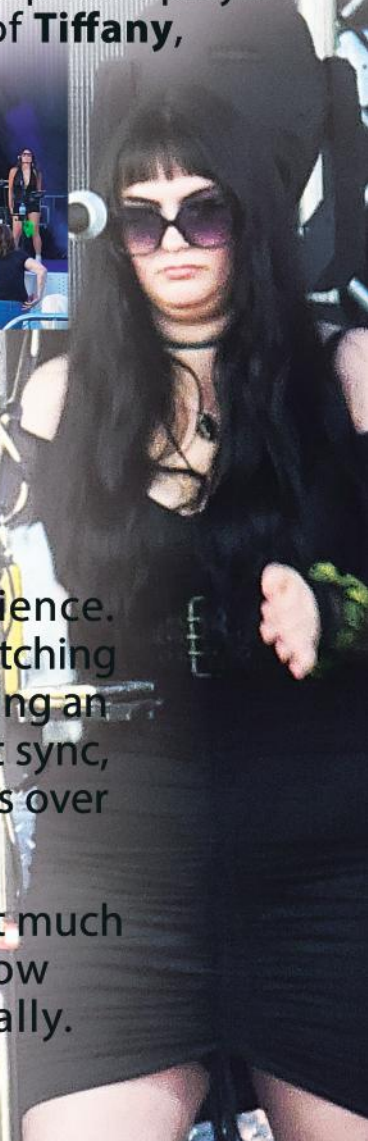


IN CONCERT

THE PINK FLOYD TRIBUTE BAND HAILING FROM GARY, INDIANA

by: Jorge Suarez

Echoes Of Pompeii took to the stage at SeptemberFest in Schaumburg, IL. The 11 piece band includes brothers **Jeremy** and **Jason Andrews** on lead vocals, bass guitar, and backing vocals. **Roye Robley** on drums, **Chris Wander** (keyboards), **Tom Vienna** (guitar), exceptional saxophone player **Bob Frankich**, the female trio singers consisting of **Tiffany**, **Madison** and **Stella** (*hope I got it right*).

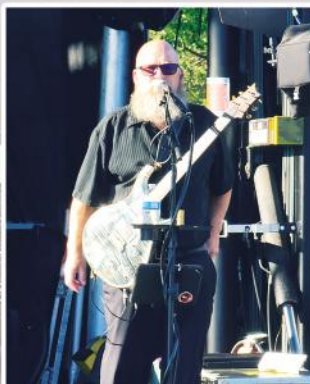


This is my second concert attending Echoes Of Pompeii, and they put on a great show. It was fun watching the band let loose on stage.

Always helps connecting with the audience. I caught Tom Vienna as what appears scratching his back with his red guitar, or was he having an acrobatic moment? This band is in perfect sync, yet they add a bit of humor which crosses over well with the fans.

I was thrilled to get upfront seats and get much better pics and vids. I'll definitely follow this band whenever they perform locally.

Thanks for the great memories!





ARC RECAP

As Arc Fest enters its fifth year, it has achieved what many once thought almost impossible for Chicago: 1) Creating a tangible meeting place for all those who have dedicated their careers to house music, and 2) Establishing a profitable celebration that successfully unites the diverse, often fragmented house music scenes not only within the city but around the globe.

In Chicago, particularly on the South Side, house music serves as the soundtrack to our daily lives. Yet, it's not often that we get the chance to experience the eclectic sounds of international artists like UK's Disclosure, Carl Cox, or NY's Armand Van Heiden. For three days, Auris Presents managed to curate what felt like Chicago's own house music conference, an unintentional gathering of artists and fans from all over the world, celebrating a genre that originated as a youth movement in the city during the 1980s.

As someone deeply immersed in the house scene, I can attest that it's rare for all of us to gather in one place at the same time. For this reason, Arc Fest is a tremendous gift to both the city and the culture. As a first-time attendee this year, I found myself engaged in meaningful conversations with fellow artists, forging relationships that will undoubtedly enhance my current projects. The festival showed genuine care for both the invitees and the performers.

I admit that I spent a good amount of time backstage, catching up with familiar faces and enjoying the local vendors that Arc had carefully selected. After a grueling year of work, it was refreshing to unwind in such a vibrant environment.

I kicked off my experience with a rejuvenating 15-minute massage from Amelia "Ami" Toma of Chicago Massage (@amitoma_chicagomassage // 312-208-2611). This treatment truly transformed my mood for the day; it had been over a year since I last had a massage, let alone a shoulder rub. The power of massage helped clarify my thoughts and calm my busy mind, resetting my overworked body.

Feeling a rush of optimism post-massage, I ventured out to connect with the artists. Thankfully, in between snapping pictures, I also had the chance to glam it up a bit. People noticed the eye-catching tooth gems installed by Elektrik Enigma Artistry (@ELECTRIKENIGMAA // 2342 W North Ave, Chicago). I had always toyed with the idea of getting grills but was thrilled to learn that I could have something that lasts 3-6 months! This revelation felt like a mental revolution. I do wish I had opted for something even more extravagant to showcase to my readers, but the subtlety of the gems is perfect in person. The process was quick, and the payoff was definitely worth it, enhancing all the photos I took that day.

However, as I continued to take pictures, I couldn't ignore how unruly my hair looked—it resembled hay that had been licked by a thirsty dog. Thankfully, I received a much-needed hair rescue from Steven Hotwagner at Funk's Barbershop (@steveblends_ // 429 S Dearborn Street, Chicago). Without Steven's skillful touch, I might not have had the energy boost I needed for the Glitterbox after-party featuring Marshall Jefferson. A huge thank you to Amanda at Defected for the invite, and to Steven for giving me the confidence to enjoy the party and the after-after party at The Baton Show Lounge (4713 N Broadway, Chicago). The staff there were incredible, and I owe a special thanks to Raven and @stylesbytchi for the impromptu photo shoot.

Lastly, a major shoutout to Mario from Chicago Midwest Made (1517 W 18th St, Chicago) for outfitting me in custom looks that truly made my entire experience unforgettable. Mario's talent and creativity were essential in bringing my vision to life, and I'm especially grateful to him for repping Trax Records throughout the weekend.

Arc Fest is more than just a music festival; it's a celebration of community, creativity, and the enduring legacy of house music in Chicago.



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HEALTH & WELLNESS

LIFE HAPPENS! DEALING WITH INEVITABLE CHANGE



by: Dr. Charla Waxman BS, MBA, EdD
Director of Business Development at Lake Behavioral Hospital

We've all heard it. We all know it. We all hate it. Change is inevitable! There are big changes, small changes, welcome changes, or changes that we never asked for, and changes that we dread.

We are all different and experience things differently. Some of us take it on the chin, and put one foot in front of the other and still others of us feel depressed and devastated by change. Anything from a new job, to a move, to a loss of a loved one can be considered a major life change. How you deal with it will depend on the timing of the event, your support system, your general outlook on life and ability to be prepared for the best, or worst.



Change can best be challenged by resilience. Resilience is that bounce-back-no-matter-what ability that some people seem to have. Fortunately, you can develop resilience, but it takes some work and some practice. Here are some ways to meet the challenges of change in a healthy, accepting way.

Meet change right where it is and recognize whether you can control it or not. Always ask yourself, "Whose problem is this? Do they need me to help?"

Give yourself time to experience the change. Feel the feelings. Talk with someone who knows you and cares about you. Congratulate yourself on every small step forward that you make.

This isn't the time to be negative, stay positive. Things have a way of turning around. Live in hope! Stay away from "what ifs" that may never happen.

If you learn and plan for coping with change, you will be ahead of the stress it creates. You will also lower the risk for anxiety, depression, and the fear that comes with change-encounters. Change is inevitable. It is going to happen, and that's it! It's your choice to make the best of it.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR DEALING WITH CHANGE:

Acknowledge the change: Instead of denying it, accept that things are changing and how it affects your life.

Find positives: Look for any positives in the situation, even if the change wasn't your choice.

Seek support: Talk to trusted people or organizations for help.

Be proactive: In the workplace, try to be proactive and prepare for changes as soon as possible.

Create a schedule: Keeping a regular schedule can help you feel like you have some control and remind you that things are still the same.

Exercise: Exercise can help improve your mood and energy levels, reduce anxiety, and create positive feelings.

Take care of yourself: It's okay to take a day off or do something nice for yourself.

Eat healthy: Being aware of what you eat can help you make healthier choices.

Give yourself time: Allow yourself time to adjust to the new situation.

SELF PROCLAIMED

THE SLUTS

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY JORGE

THE ROYAL COURT OF SLUTS

In a city renowned for its vibrant nightlife and eclectic social tapestry, a new phenomenon has emerged that is captivating the hearts and minds of Chicagoans. This group of friends, affectionately dubbed "sluts," is challenging conventional norms and redefining what it means to celebrate intimacy, beauty, and community. With an intoxicating blend of love, intelligence, beauty, and kindness, they have created a space that is as inclusive as it is exhilarating.

Founded by Jon Mccray Jones, Natalie Moe, Lola Brooks, and Bri Eslary (pictured right).





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LIVE
Q&A



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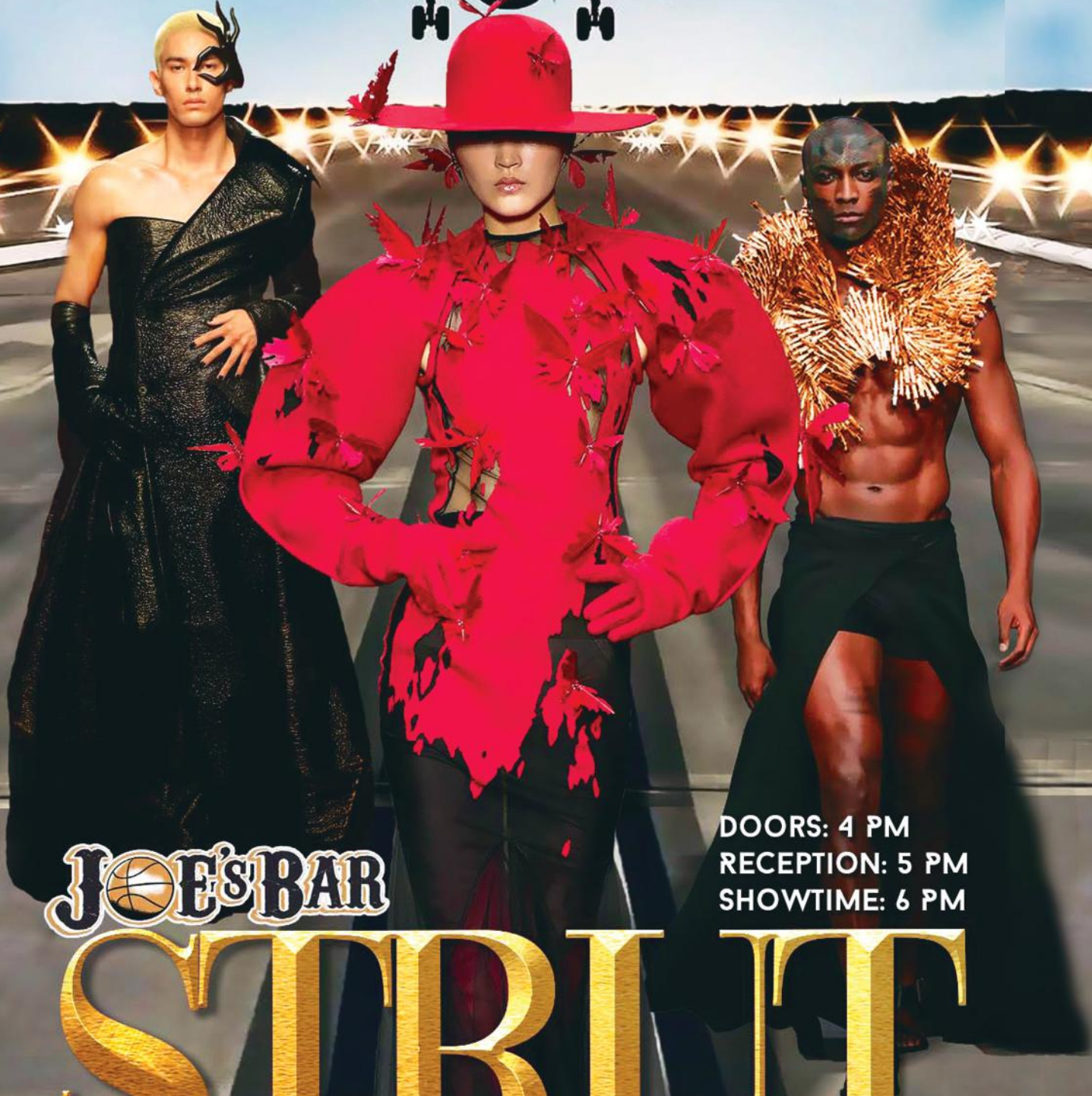
*Free Toy Box when you test at the event! Also available for those watching online when you take a free at home HIV test via our Test4Toys QR code shown live on stream. At Home Testing is as follows: Fill out Survey > Receive Test > Take Test > Report Results to Sinai Chicago > Get your toy box in the mail! Note: At home tests expire! If you do not report results within 3 weeks you will not receive a toy box.

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THE SLUTS

At the heart of their charm lies a series of legendary events, hosted at a nightclub lounge in the heart of Lincoln Park, Chicago. The buzz surrounding these gatherings is palpable, with pre-sale tickets selling out weeks in advance. Attendees are drawn not only by the promise of a thrilling evening but also by the warmth and connection fostered within this unique community. It's a space where curiosity and kink collide, inviting all who dare to explore their desires in a safe and affirming environment.

The allure of the sluts extends beyond just the parties themselves. Their play events are meticulously curated, featuring seminars and pre-screenings that echo the enigmatic allure of "Eyes Wide Shut." Participants are not mere spectators; they are active contributors to an experience that celebrates sensuality and self-expression. Here, the distinction between performer and audience blurs, inviting each individual to step into the spotlight and embrace their own narrative.



This group of young, beautiful individuals embodies the spirit of Chicago, a city that thrives on creativity, diversity, and resilience. They serve as a reminder that one can be pretty, smart, confident, and unapologetically slutty while also embodying genuine kindness. In a world where superficial connections often reign, the royal court of sluts prioritizes authenticity and compassion, ensuring that everyone feels seen, valued, and celebrated.

Gone are the days of parties where attendees feel lucky to be acknowledged; at these events, every participant is the star of the show. The energy is electric, and the atmosphere is charged with positivity, fostering connections that can blossom into lasting friendships. It's a celebration of life, love, and the beautiful complexity of human relationships, one that invites all to join in the revelry.



As Chicago continues to evolve, the sluts stand as a beacon of hope and inclusivity, proving that celebration and connection can exist hand-in-hand. They remind us that the essence of community lies not just in the parties we throw, but in the love and kindness we extend to one another. In a time when many seek genuine connection, this group is leading the charge, inviting everyone to embrace their true selves and celebrate the beauty of being alive.

COMMENTARY UNCENSORED



by: Screamin' Rachael
Recording Artist, Entrepreneur, Publisher, Music Mogul, House Music Icon, sometimes Controversial, with a dash of Opinionism for good measure.

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.

Lights Cameras Action! Experience the excitement of fashion week in NYC! One thing we need in Chicago, is more exciting events... Is it me or have things changed a lot? Like the great parties we used to have at Circuit Night Club, Underground warehouse parties and lots of hot events, with GREAT MUSIC that would get you dying to be out and about!??

We need more wild and exciting things to do. Personally I think it's also about time for all ages shows. Back in the 80's when the Harrington brothers and myself did those kind of shows at Space Place, we were hometown hero's with positive press in the Tribune, Suntimes and just about everywhere. Young people had things to do, they look forward to, and people appreciated that!

I had a great time getting back to my second home, NYC. Who better to be my guide to all of the very best events and the latest in fashion than New York's iconic **SoHo Johnny!** There's one word to describe him, FABULOUS!!! He is so hooked up that we entered fashion shows backstage before taking our front row seat position! We started the evening at **CosMODA** and everywhere Johnny goes there are photographers, videographers, and amazing action. Did I mention Johnny is a well known philanthropist, and the owner of **Tribeca Records?** Most importantly hanging with him is a blast!

Imagine if Fashion Week had a love child with Comic Con. A Runway Show that Combines the Comic Book Genre with High-End Fashion. CosMODA: Cosplay Runway, returned for its third year during New York Fashion Week.

It was a weekend affair this time, scheduled for September 7th and 8th, 2024 at **30 Wall Street** in New York City's Financial District. Held at an unconventional location, it reflected the new direction that has a fresh and eclectic crossover feel. The 30 Wall Street location symbolically represents CosMODA's desire to carve out a hybrid production that combines design, art, fashion, music, and dance on a divergent platform.

CosMODA is well on their way to being the cure for the common catwalk. Disruption not only guided the location choice, but presented its unique "*Cosplay Couture*" with many de rigeur cosplayers on the runway in self made costumes followed by a new segment, entitled "*Alliance*," featuring Fantasy, Avant Garde as well as non-character driven designs by emerging designers and established ones, too, who want to find a way to express their talents in a novel, unpredictable and highly inventive format.

The runway production included a masterful mix of superhero soundtracks engineered by music producer and sound guru **DJ Chip Chop Steve Gonzalez.** Backdrops of stills and video were created under the expertise of **Darlene "Dee" Gibbs** who acted as visual coordinator. The brother/sister team were a valuable asset to ensuring the quality of the production was on point. Social media blasts were mini-movies edited using vibrant and heroic images with music blending into an alluring array that was captivating and informative.

The message conveyed at this multimedia extravaganza was borne of decades of the collaborators' experience in the ballroom, voguing, hip hop and disco scene teamed with modeling, fashion, pop culture and the club culture of a bygone era in New York's influential history.



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THURS 10/31

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THURS 10/24

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IN CLUB ROOM / OH, THOSE THINGS THAT
GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT!

FRI 10/25

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>> **UNCENSORED** *Continued*

Known for pushing the boundaries of traditional fashion shows, CosMODA has carved a niche by merging all these aforementioned disciplines with high-end fashion. The event offers an array of costumes inspired by comic books, anime, video games, and fantasy, encouraging audience participation and interactive exhibits, where attendees can also dress up and take part in runway struts and elaborate photo shoots. It is truly inclusive and the people's runway has been created. As comics made mythology accessible, founded by plus size fashion icon and Runway the Real Way creator, **Catherine Schuller-Gruenwald**, widow and legacy advocate of Marvel legend.

Mark Gruenwald (the "Gru") has joined forces with international arts events producer and a "true Gru fan" **Daniel Hort**. The two have forged a partnership based on their mutual love of what Mark Gruenwald's legendary status contributed to the comics industry. And I can't say enough about DJ Chip Chop of The House of Ninja! I will forever miss my dear friend Willie Ninja, the true Godfather of voguing! The legend and the house live on with the dancers and his excellent music.

To top off that amazing evening, in walked **Grandmaster Melle Mel**! He is the living legend who's the voice on "The Message", "White Lines, Chaka Khan's "I Feel For You" and way too many hits to mention! The Grand Master is also an inductee in The Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame! Mel has been a great friend of mine ever since we met at **Sugarhill Records!** He's working with Trax on some Hip House and I can see him lighting up festivals around the world. From there the team went on to more amazing shows! I saw gorgeous fashions and met some very coolest of people.

I was very impressed with **Franck Mille**, a veteran in the fashion industry, brings a wealth of experience and a unique creative vision to **BVFW**. As Creative Director, Mille is not only a leader in the boardroom but also a hands-on force behind the scenes, meticulously curating each aspect of the BVFW experience. His commitment to diversity and individual expression permeates every decision, from selecting emerging designers to crafting a runway that transcends traditional boundaries.

I also loved meeting **Diann Margott Santiago**, at the Asian fashion event. She's an Instagram influencer who's handle is @pinkfluffglitterati She has even been featured in Vogue Magazine! It was her lovely pink dress and beautiful smile that attracted me to her.

I also got to go to the studio with **Melle Mel** because **Paul Bragiel** was working on a project to celebrate new mixes of his original Game Boy Audio. Mel came up with an Amazing rap and I came up with a totally fresh hook! After that Melle Mel even cut a song that will be featured in **Eric Rivas** new movie!" **Brooklyn Premiere!** OMG, as if all that wasn't enough Eric, Mel, Paul Bragiel and myself then went to cut a video at **The Nighthawk Cinema. Clash T Vincent** who is a very talented artist/designer/actor, was on the set and you must look him up! WOW he makes the freshest gear and his personal look is somewhere between hip hop warrior and punk rock. Clash is a total ORIGINAL I will be rocking the Trax hat he made me in **Amsterdam** on October 20th, at my showcase at **ADE**.

Sometimes there is so much happening all at once that we get overwhelmed! Lately life's been really exciting my new album **DISCO 3000**, came out on October 11th, and I've been traveling, performing, modeling our new Trax fashions, and all of this after having a devastating accident, that left me severe pain and could barely move. Thanks to Mike (at Night), I was introduced to Reiki! You will be

amazed at just how helpful and healing it was, and I was back on my feet by the time I left the session. If there's anything bothering or ailing you, you don't need to wait to feel better! It's a good experience, and well worth it to feel good, instead of feeling helpless and suffering! Check out the ad in this issue for **Lakeview Healing Oasis**. To get a session with **Reiki Master Billy**, just schedule an appointment on the website www.LakeviewHealingOasis.com. Believe me, this stuff is miraculous! I left the session feeling like a whole new woman.

Earlier this week I was feeling overwhelmed again, time for my next Reiki session! In the meantime a good friend of mine **Adam Rebellious**, came to visit. We have shared many adventures together. He was reading my previous boiMAGazine column, and pointed out my statement, I was aggravated by some article that I felt at least deserved a comment from TRAX Records, and a few idiots that I thought about for a hot minute. I wrote "BITCH" a song on my new album, because I'm the real OG Boss Bitch; I chew up haters and spit them out!

Don't hate me because I'm FABULOUS!!! The funny thing is anybody can be fabulous... just step out of the bullshit, and don't be afraid to be yourself.

I hope this gives you something to think about, and maybe it's time for me to follow my own advice. Keep calm and carry on.

Out "n' About

by Jorge Suarez

Chicago

Last week I stepped into nostalgia 101. The art of understanding and recognizing time-honored, rare, or just plain vintage items, which can be better understood by walking thru the aisles at LaGrange Park Antique Mall.



One begins to appreciate the care provided to each item, carefully placed so it compliments the next item. This is years of expertise from professionals whom keep vintage alive.

These dealers are experts in historic knowledge, and their appreciation for older-rare items is their life's passion.



Nancy Lisowski takes great pleasure and knowledge in her business (since 2003).

This is a house of antiques and Nancy, her staff, and 30 antique dealers are here to help educate and answer questions. They also accept consignment and are now offering shopping online with in-store payment and local pickup.



You can find anything from vintage furniture, sports memorabilia, music, musical instruments, dolls, coins, pottery, clothing, cameras, military, and the list goes on. I was in awe at the sight of items carefully displayed in such a manner as if it was calling me to make a purchase. And it did!

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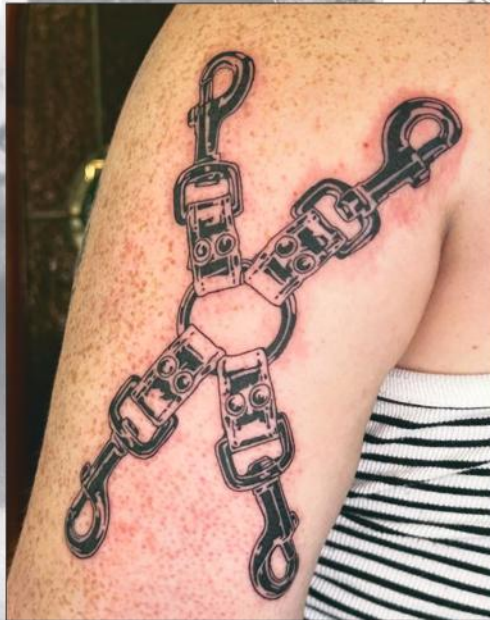
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ASK CHAR

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

Dear Char,

"I am constantly arguing with my best friend and I'm not sure what to do, is it time to let go, or is there hope for salvaging our relationship?"

Dear Arguing in Aurora,

What creates a friendship? It usually is built around common interests. You might begin by spending time together doing things that you each enjoy or by exploring new places or things that you can teach each other about. The friendship builds with a good blend of the new and old in activities and in interest.

In almost all relationships, we do begin to see things that we don't necessarily find appealing. With friendship, sometimes the loyalty and emotions connected to the relationship can cause us to overlook those things.

Over time and with the familiarity of the relationship, the things that bother us about our friend put pressure on the relationship. The feelings of comfort in your relationship may cause the differences between you to rise to the surface and uncomfortable conversations begin to occur.

I am sure that sometimes you think, "Maybe I should just let this argument go and just start over". You may feel selfish or self-centered for thinking mean thoughts or placing all the blame for the disagreement on your friend. Other arguments have you feeling, "This is enough! I am not going through this again, it is over!" If the friendship has value, then anxiety hits as you realize that memories of fun times may be all you will have and future fun times are at risk.

What to do? First look at what causes the "fights" and how do they end?

Is it just normal relationship friction or are there big issues, like character or ethics concerns that have been discovered?

Second, look at what a toxic friendship looks like. If you are answering yes to these questions, maybe this relationship has run its course:

Are you feeling like you are putting more into the relationship than he/she is?



Is there a change in loyalty?

When he/she asks to go out, do you feel a sense of dread?

Are you making excuses to leave early or to not spend time with them even when you aren't arguing?

Do you just generally hate how you feel when you are with him/her?

Does this person make you feel bad about being you?

Does each disagreement contain foul language, accusations, gossiping behind your back or even threats?

Real friends have real conflicts. It is inevitable. But what the conflicts look like, how long they last and what the next meet-up looks like and feels like should be taken into consideration. If you answered yes to the toxic relationship questions, you are at risk and an ending may be in order. If bickering is about opinions and current events and is aggravating, but stimulating conversation, maybe there are some actual life lessons being learned and new ways of hearing each other may be all that is needed.

SEXBOT TECH TRENDS

by Jack Santo & Mike at Night

FUTURE OF LOVE: ENVISIONING ROMANTIC TRAJECTORIES WITH SEXBOTS DIGGING DEEPER INTO THE ISSUES

Sexbots can offer a controlled environment for experimentation, potentially allowing individuals to explore aspects of their sexuality they might find challenging or impractical to navigate with human partners.

There's a parallel risk of fostering unrealistic expectations or perceptions about sexual interactions and relationships, potentially distorting our self-image and understanding of genuine human intimacy.

The interplay between technology and sexual identity could be particularly significant for individuals exploring or affirming their gender identity and sexual orientation. The customizable nature of sexbots offers an opportunity for exploration without judgment or societal pressures, which could be empowering. However, it's critical to approach this with an awareness of the potential for over-reliance on artificial interactions at the expense of human connection and the complex realities of human sexuality.

Societal attitudes towards sexbots vary widely, reflecting diverse cultural, ethical, and religious perspectives. While some view these technologies as progressive tools for exploring human desires and relationships, others, especially in conservative cultures,



Why wouldn't some cultures see them as a threat to their traditional values?

Religious perspectives play a pivotal role in shaping these attitudes. Especially with monotheistic traditions, particularly within Judeo-Christian contexts, often link sex to procreation and marriage. The concept of sexbots challenges these traditional views, as they can neither procreate nor fulfill the relational and spiritual aspects of human partnerships emphasized in these religions.

In more permissive religious or secular cultures, sexbots may be seen as a means of exploring sexuality without moral judgment.

However, even in these contexts, there's an ongoing debate about the ethical implications of such interactions, particularly regarding objectification and the nature of consent with non-sentient beings.

There's a potential dichotomy in the desire for both control over robots and authentic relationships.

Continued >>

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The symbolic-consequences argument in the sex robot debate, emphasizing the broader societal implications on gender, sexuality, and human worth, remains a significant point of contention.



As technology continues to evolve, so too will the discourse around sexbots, requiring ongoing examination and thoughtful consideration of its multifaceted impacts.

The integration of sexbots into society poses moral and ethical questions, particularly around the themes of consent, objectification, and the humanization of AI. These issues are at the core of a moral landscape that is still being mapped.

A central ethical challenge is the issue of consent with machines incapable of exercising autonomy. A robot, programmed to comply, cannot truly consent in the human sense. This raises concerns about the normalization of harmful behaviors and attitudes in human interactions (as previously mentioned). If interactions with

sex robots bypass the need for mutual consent, what implications might this have for human-to-human relationships? Could this lead to societal desensitization to the importance of consent, potentially altering how we view autonomy and freedom in our relationships? Or, as mentioned above, and as we are seeing in newer sexbots that have consent programmed into them (they shut down when consent is not respected), can sexbots be used, on the other hand, to teach and develop "consent" muscles in humans?

Sex robots, created specifically for human emotional and sexual fulfillment, spotlight the ethical dilemma of objectification. They exist at the intersection of technology and companionship, where emotional needs are met by programmed machines. This purpose-driven creation leads to questions about the ethics of manufacturing entities that mimic human partners. Are we merely using technology to fulfill personal desires, or are we reducing complex emotional interactions to transactions with artificial entities? The ethical implications of creating beings solely for our use and pleasure challenge our understanding of objectification and the value we place on reciprocal relationships.

The presence of sexbots could catalyze shifts in societal norms and perceptions of relationships (again, as mentioned above). While they might promote a greater acceptance of diverse sexual preferences and needs, they could also perpetuate harmful stereotypes and set unrealistic expectations about human relationships. The ethical quandary lies in balancing the potential benefits of these technologies against the risk of reinforcing negative societal patterns.



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