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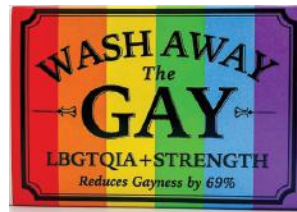
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SCAMS WARNING *Be Smart, Don't Fall For It!*

by Jack Santo

Are you planning on doing your Christmas shopping online this year? Perhaps on the website Amazon.com? Then you need to be aware of this scam going on this season.

You will get an email sent from the scammer that appears to be from Amazon, it will say that **an order made previously cannot be shipped**. The email states that there was an issue with the order and tells them that they can't access their account or order anything else with Amazon until they verify your personal information.

Inside of the email is a **"click here"** link that takes you to an authentic-looking Amazon web page to verify their name, address and credit card information for their account. Once the information has been entered and the customer hits the **"save and continue"** button, they will be rerouted to the actual Amazon website. Which then leads to the question, how do you know if an Amazon email is real or fake?

In the subject line of the scam email, it will say, **"Your Amazon.com order cannot be shipped."** The "from" line in the email will show an Internet Service Provider similar than the official address **@amazon.com**, then you will know it's NOT from Amazon.

You should never click on the link of an email like this from Amazon or any other online retailer.

If you recently ordered from Amazon and feel concerned about missing an authentic email from Amazon, you should log into your account on Amazon.com and check under "Your Orders" to see if the email's details match any of the order information. If the information doesn't match, then the email is definitely a scam.

Have you ever Googled a company looking for their phone number for tech support? You'd think just because the phone number is listed at the top of a Google search page that it's legit, well guess again! Google doesn't weed out, or have any convenient way for us to report the scam from a search on Google. So the scam continues and because everyone is clicking on it, algorithms list it at the top of the search! When calling, pay attention, if they sound like a foreign person trying to speak English, chances are they are NOT the correct help center for the company and they are running a scam. Hang up immediately if you feel that you are being bated for more information than is necessary.

Also, if you need to call customer support to any retailer or company, make sure it's the real phone number that's listed on your bill or account. Remember, if you Google search for a customer service phone number, chances are that they are numbers to fake call centers pretending to be the company, or retailer in hopes to get your information.

Note that scammers will try to access your computer, so never ever give a customer support person or a help center a remote access to your computer! This is a RED Flag!

Scammers ask for money. Do not go out and buy them a gift card. Do not give them your credit card information or password.

Go directly to the companies website and make sure that you type it in correctly. One wrong letter can land you on a copy-cat scammers website and you'll think it's legit, but it's not! If you put your information in on the site, like login and password, now they will have all your information!

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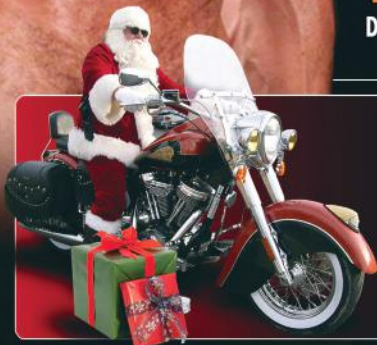
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PRIDE JOURNEY

Brookhaven, Georgia



By Joey Amato

A short 20-minute MARTA ride from downtown **Atlanta**, **Brookhaven** stands as a testament to the perfect blend of history, modernity, and community.

As a city that has grown from a small farming community to a thriving urban hub, Brookhaven offers its residents and visitors a unique experience with its tree-lined streets, diverse neighborhoods, and an array of cultural and recreational opportunities.

Founded in 1910, Brookhaven's origins can be traced back to a dairy farm owned by **Samuel Ernest Briarcliff**. The city was named after the Brookhaven Country Club, which itself took its name from a town in Mississippi. Initially, Brookhaven served as a summer retreat for Atlanta's elite, thanks to its lush landscapes and easy access to the city. Historic Brookhaven, the neighborhood, was established in 1910. The City of Brookhaven was then incorporated in 2012.

For my stay, I chose the **Hyatt Regency Atlanta Perimeter**, which is centrally located to all of Brookhaven's restaurants and attractions. The beautiful property features a large outdoor swimming pool, walking trail, fitness center, and multiple dining options including their fine dining restaurant **Villa Christina** as well as The Barrel Room, which serves specialty cocktails. Villa Christina Market is a great choice for a quick breakfast or if you prefer, the hotel also

offers a metropolitan breakfast for those looking for a heartier meal.

One of Brookhaven's standout features is its cultural diversity. The city boasts a rich mix of ethnicities, making it a melting pot of cultures, traditions, and cuisines. The **Buford Highway** corridor is a testament to this diversity, hosting a wide array of international restaurants, markets, and shops. From Vietnamese pho to authentic Mexican tacos and everything in between, food enthusiasts are in for a treat in this gastronomic wonderland.

If you are looking for an LGBTQ-focused dining option, head to **Lips Dining Drag Lounge** for their fabulous drag dinner show. Guests enter an ornate room complete with disco balls, glitter, and lots of sparkle. The menu consists of everything from shrimp and grits or seared salmon to mouth-watering hamburgers. To be honest, I was a bit skeptical about the quality of food we would receive as many of these style shows are not known for their cuisine, but everything was absolutely delicious. My salmon was cooked to perfection and accompanied by a sweet mango salsa which complemented the fish perfectly.



The show consisted of about a dozen performances by the Atlanta area's best-known drag queens including **Brigitte Bidet**, **Taejah Thomas**, and **Gigi Diamond**.

Continued >>

PRIDE JOURNEY CONTINUED

Brookhaven, Georgia

The filled to capacity crowd at Lips celebrated as the queens worked their magic while serving double duty as hostesses and performers. If you are visiting Brookhaven during the week, swing by Lips on Wednesday evening for Bitchy Bingo.



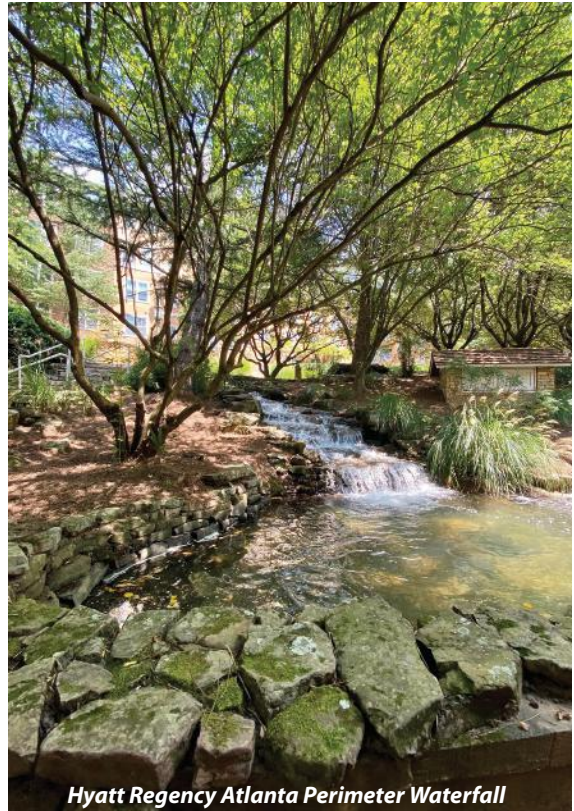
Brookhaven takes pride in its commitment to green spaces and recreational facilities. The city's parks offer a variety of amenities for residents to enjoy, from walking trails and playgrounds to sports fields and picnic areas. **Murphey Candler Park**, a 135-acre oasis surrounding a lake, is a favorite among families and outdoor enthusiasts.

For those seeking cultural experiences, Brookhaven delivers a range of artistic and entertainment options. **The Oglethorpe University Museum of Art**, located on the campus of Oglethorpe University, showcases a diverse collection of artworks from around the world. The curator of the museum gave us a wonderful tour of the space, which houses works ranging from contemporary masters to current artists including Yehimi Cambrón, whose exhibition "Documenting the Undocumented in the South" is now on display.

The artist explains the exhibition "expresses the nuances of family togetherness, the sense of home found in the arms of immigrant mothers, the heartbreak of anti-immigrant violence, the transformative fire of resistance against oppression, and the kindled warmth of communities who survive and thrive together, a swarm that knows its collective power."

Brookhaven is home to a variety of public and private educational institutions, serving students from preschool to higher education.

Oglethorpe University, a liberal arts college, has a rich history and plays a significant role in the local educational landscape.



Hyatt Regency Atlanta Perimeter Waterfall



The Oglethorpe University Museum of Art

Founded in 1835, the university has continually evolved while maintaining a steadfast commitment to providing students with a transformative education. The picturesque campus, which is reminiscent of an Ivy League university, boasts a harmonious blend of traditional architecture and modern facilities, creating an inspiring environment for learning and growth. Oglethorpe's faculty, comprised of distinguished scholars and dedicated mentors, fosters a dynamic and engaging learning atmosphere that empowers students to question, innovate, and excel. Beyond academics, the university encourages holistic development, offering a myriad of extracurricular activities, cultural events, and service opportunities that shape well-rounded individuals poised to make meaningful contributions to society.

After touring the property, head to **Haven Restaurant and Bar** for a delicious brunch. Try the Jumbo Lump Crab Cake "Benny" which is prepared with baby kale salad, cherry tomatoes, radish, soft poached eggs, and sauce bearnaise or if you want something on the lighter side, order the Dresden Cobb, a salad made with mixed lettuces, cherry tomatoes, haricots verts, smoked bacon, farm egg, avocado, feta, and served with a red wine vinaigrette. If you are really hungry, I recommend

The Big Nasty, a buttermilk fried chicken sandwich, scrambled egg, tillamook cheddar, and smoked bacon served on a soft bun with a smattering of Haven's secret sauce.

Perhaps one of Brookhaven's most cherished attributes is its strong sense of community. The city encourages civic engagement through various programs and initiatives, fostering connections among residents. **The Brookhaven Farmers Market**, for instance, brings together local producers and consumers, promoting sustainable practices and a stronger bond among neighbors. The city hosts various cultural events throughout the year, including festivals, concerts, and art exhibitions, fostering a sense of community engagement and creativity.

Brookhaven encapsulates the essence of a vibrant and evolving urban community. From its humble beginnings as a farming area to its status as a modern city with a diverse population, Brookhaven's charm lies in its ability to seamlessly blend history, culture, and progress. With its thriving cultural scene, green spaces, educational institutions, and strong community bonds, Brookhaven stands as a testament to the potential for growth while maintaining a unique sense of identity.

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by: **Jorge Suarez**

Chicago DJ, Producer, Music Aficionado,
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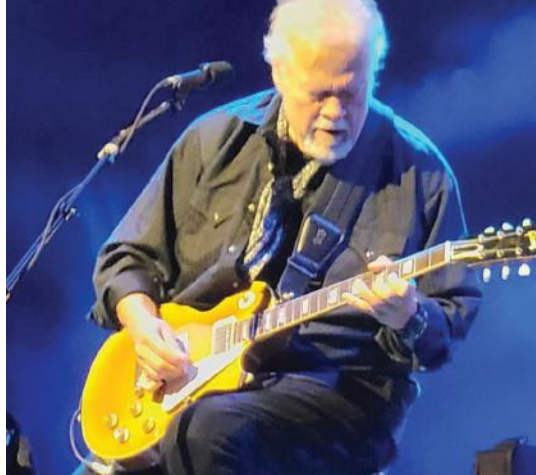
The Canadian rock group **BTO** with the “**Back in Overdrive Tour**”, performed at the **Genesee Theatre**, Oct 20th. What an energetic band! From the moment these guys took to the stage, it was hit after hit. To my surprise, lead singer **Randy Bachman** was guitarist for **The Guess Who**. Not only did we get a taste of BTO, but many Guess Who classics were played.



The band kicked off with the classic “*Roll On Down The Highway*” and shortly followed with Guess Who classics “*These Eyes*” and “*No Time*”. The band was on a roll with “*Four Wheel Drive*”, “*Let it Ride*” and “*Not Fragile*”.

Again, they kicked it into gear with Guess Who “*American Woman*”, then back into “*You Ain’t Seen Nothing Yet*”.

Randy Bachman’s son, **Tal Bachman** accompanied the band. Tal released “*She’s So High*” a 1999 hit on Columbia Records. Tal is touring and performing with BTO.



Many classic rock groups these days, take time to bond with their fans. In the photo above, Randy takes us back to the beginnings of BTO. Also, his contributions with **The Guess Who**. The evening was entertaining and inspiring. It was a BTO reunion not to be missed.



Mick Dalla-Vee is the bass player/vocalist currently touring with BTO. A very multi talented musician who also contributed on vocals for **Motley Crue**.

Shortly before the end of the show, the group performed a near ten minute medley of hits which include music from **AC/DC**, **The Beatles**, **Steve Miller Band**, **The Rolling Stones**, **The Troggs**, and **Free**.

At 80 years of age, on vocals, bass and guitar is **Fred Turner**, an original member. Also in the background is drummer, **Marc LaFrance**. Mark has been with such groups as **Loverboy**, **Alice Cooper**, **Motley Crue**, **Bon Jovi**, **David Lee Roth**, and **Scorpions**.



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CAN MENTAL HEALTH REALLY BE THAT IMPORTANT?

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

It sure can! Mental health covers a wide range of our well-being. It can include our emotions, our way of thinking, and how we interact with others. From childhood through our adult lives, how we think, feel and act are affected by what is going on in our heads. When our work or home lives are stressful, many of our choices will reflect how mentally healthy we really are. According to the National Council for Mental Well-Being, mental health will have an impact on three areas of our lives: work or school, activities of daily living, and our relationships. That pretty much covers it all! As if that were not enough, mental health affects how we cope with things that come across our path, what we can accomplish with our skills, how well we learn and work, and whether or not we contribute to our communities.

Mental health is important, but it is probably one of the least talked-about topics in relationships, in our workplaces, and in our schools. NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, has called mental illness the only disease that is still whispered about. Per NAMI, we talk about cancer, we talk about AIDS, but we still whisper about mental illness.

Only by talking about mental illness can those who live with it begin to accept their conditions,



find positive ways of coping and be willing to join recovery communities. Talking about mental illness can help us learn to be honest about our own concerns and fears about mental health. When people are willing to talk about mental illness, it becomes less stigmatizing and the isolation, guilt and embarrassment that go along with stigma is reduced.

Staying mentally healthy can start with ways that we treat ourselves: practicing good eating and sleeping habits, exercising, focusing on the positives and being grateful. In addition, cultivating friendships, finding relationships at work or school that help us learn and grow and setting goals for ourselves that push us, but are achievable, are good ways to stay healthy. Looking for ways to be out in the community and volunteering are important, too. Finding leisure time activities for fun and learning can elevate our sense of self. Don't forget that yoga, meditation and focused journaling can make a difference too.

UNCENSORED



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

Sometimes no matter how hard you try, certain groups will try to dismiss you and ignore your

true abilities. You can be marginalized or in other words kept out of the club, out of the job, etc. You're just considered outside of the margins of their page. Just remember it is their page, not yours. Some of us are striving to bring down the walls of sexism, racism, religion, class and many boundaries that certain members of society try to set for us. My advice is believe in yourself and love yourself and whoever you wish to love in whatever way that pleases both of you. Hold your head up high and seek other like minded people. Support their business, cause, and lives. Try to understand those outside of your realm who might not yet understand you. Lead by setting a positive example and reach out to dispel ignorance and fear. I believe ignorance and fear are the main propellants of the isolation that keeps us divided and apart.

A lot of people have tried to change me, and sometimes they felt what they were doing was for my own good. In their eyes they wished to protect me by putting me inside the margins of their own page. Some think of me as being radical. They don't understand my views, my friends, my beliefs and more. Perhaps I would be more successful if I lived within their margins, however, I am proud of being who I am. How do you measure success? Is it money, fame, power, or a certain standard of beauty? The important thing is for you to decide for yourself! I don't know where I first heard the phrase that "life is not a dress rehearsal," but, think about it. You only go around once and none of us really knows what happens beyond that. I've interviewed a woman that I feel is contributing to the world, while breaking down expected boundaries.

So I would like to dedicate this article to **Sara Triple P.** who's tacked one of the most difficult paths in the entertainment field, artist management. It's kind of a thankless behind the scenes job, so today let's take a front and center look at her and some artists she represents in the interview below.

First a little background, at the helm is Sara, a compassionate woman with a great story to tell herself! Besides running a business, Sara is an animal lover who devotes much of her time to rescue abused and abandoned cats and dogs. She is well versed in training and re-socializing the animals. These success stories of bringing love both to the pet and love to its adoptive family are the only thanks she needs. There isn't a non-profit backing her up and all of her own time and money go into the philanthropic work that she has been doing on her own for years. It takes a lot of patience and support and a loving heart for this type of dedication. she currently works with veterans to supply emotional support and or, service animals for those with PTSD and other disabilities. There are also families and many individuals she has helped, in fact, she now has dedicated veterans that joined with her mission. It's a win-win for everyone, resulting in amazing life changing love.



INTERVIEW Q&A:

Q: Why did you get into management?

A: I got into management because I love helping people fulfill their dreams! I wanted to let my artists be "an artist" and let me be "the manager" that takes care of everything else on the business side. I believe that when promoters know the artist has management, they show the artist more respect. I believe in contracts and staying on top of the business transactions. I am big on communication with who my artist is dealing with for their shows, interviews and events. They call me a "red nose Pitt Bull in heels!" A red nose Pitt Bull is the most aggressive of the breed. That's a name one of my artists Bossalena gave me.

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Q: Is there something special that you look for before taking an artist on?

A: I look to see if the artist is serious about what they are doing. It's important that they have a budget and understand the contracts too. Once an artist is signed, then they have to make sure they follow the contract.

Q: Do you feel that being a woman has been a bit of a problem, trying to follow the path of management?

A: I stay professional with whom ever I'm speaking with male or female when making a business transaction for my artists. I do think it's how you conduct yourself and communicate with a person. Treating people with respect will get you respect. Yes, I know not everyone is nice or "professional," but business is business, and if you are representing a client you have to remain professional. There is a way of handling business and getting your point across and still being professional, and that is what I do. I just always remember when dealing with difficult people on the phone that I am representing my artist, and a reflection of me is a reflection of my business and my artist, so I'll be professional no matter what the situation is.

Q: Would you advise any other women to go the distance that you've gone and what advice would you give them?

A: Yes of course I would! I would tell them that they should fulfill their dreams and do not let anything or anyone stop them! It is very important to conduct yourself in a professional manner some people in the world are looking for women to fail because they say they can't do "a man's" job, and in reality women are very strong and powerful people! We need to learn to stick together and help one another! We need to learn to fix that Crown on each other! Working together is a great-power, So yes, every woman out there I believe should fulfill their dreams!



Now let's take a look at some amazing artists under Triple P Management. **Bossalena**, who's a female rapper born and raised in Compton, CA, and now lives in San Antonio, Texas, and Lil

Nan X, an American rapper, singer, and known for boldly queer visuals and social media presence, has broke the glass ceiling by becoming the first famous openly gay rapper with his smash hit "Old Town Road" and now this lesbian is out and proud, poised to make a big name for herself. Bossalena joined the team over 12 years ago.

Besides being a gay female rap artist, she's also a business woman with her own Soda Pop "Bossalena's Bossed Up Peach Drank" which is available on her website. BossakebaStore.com Bossalena has a huge following in the gay community. She speaks at different events for LGBTQ+ rights and lets women and men know that nothing should stop their dreams and vision! Her song "Can't Stop My Wave" is a huge #1 hit! She wrote the song because "Nothing can stop her wave or should stop anyone's wave". In other words, no one can marginalize you if you take control.

Another artist, **Sarah Lee** aka **Andrickus Hunt**, is a multitiered American entrepreneur, cosmetologist, singer, dance coach, and social media influencer. He's a God-fearing man with contagious energy and a historical journey demonstrating community impact. He continues to live by his motto "Let 'em [God] use you." Musically inclined, he's the recipient of Elberton, Georgia's 2012 County Fair singing Idol. He is the former CEO and Director of **Miracle Girls**, a liturgical dance team in **Elberton, Georgia**. From 2015 to 2016, he was a leader in the **Paine College Concert Choir** leading to his selection as **Mr. Paine College Concert Choir**. Andrickus' goal is to promote love by uplifting others by utilizing his God-given talents.

Continued >>

Lastly, just a little more on Sara (Triple P)... She is a Staten Island, NY girl born and raised. These days she lives between New York and Chicago. She started Triple P Management to promote artists and their music and the positive lifestyles of women and men throughout the USA and overseas. Triple P is here to support and promote artists, businesses, media, and all positive people trying to gain exposure and worldwide recognition.

Triple P is management (and Public Relations (PR) / A&R Representative) for Legit Ballin Records, one of the most legendary independent record labels in the Midwest.



Sara's **White Boy James'** (CEO of Legit Ballin Records) manager. When it comes to hip hop in Chicago you would be hard pressed to find a person that doesn't recognize him. This was the man who discovered **Twista**, and turned him into one of the biggest names in the genre.

These days James is busy being himself and making his own incredible trailblazing music. He is also a board member of www.YouthCommunicationChicago.org, and believes in mentoring young people by letting them know there are people who care about them, and that there's success beyond gangs and drugs. Besides being a manager and an animal lover Sara Triple P is a Journalist, author, director, producer, and host of Live, Fast & Direct with White Boy James.

It's time for "Thanksgiving" and that doesn't mean you have to eat turkey. I'm a vegetarian, mostly vegan, so I don't. No matter how difficult things may seem there is always something to be grateful for. So, Happy Thanksgiving find something to be grateful for, GIVE THANKS and more good will come your way.

**For all bookings/ media / interviews for her artists, you can email Sara at triplepmgmt6@gmail.com*

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It happens in every generation. Parents hear what the kids are listening to and scream to shut that crap off. It happened with jazz music. Rock and roll. Disco. Rap, and of course, it happened with Techno. But something else happened, too. Jazz music, as well as rock, was considered “black music,” and at the time many racist people shunned these aural art forms.

Jazz was called the devil’s music, and Rock music was said to foster a sense of lawlessness and lascivious behavior. Kids shaking their hips and going wild. Looking back, most of us would find it ludicrous to consider an art form so benign as Rock & Roll as encouraging deviance, undeniably a good part of this bias was about race. After all Rock had its roots in Rhythm & Blues, once called “race music,” as well as Country Music, Jazz, Blues, Gospel, and Folk.

EVEN SO, THESE THEN CONTROVERSIAL FORMS OF MUSICAL EXPRESSION WERE NOT SNUFFED OUT BY CENSORSHIP, THERE WERE NEVER FINES FOR PLAYING JAZZ OR ROCK, BUT THEN CAME TECHNO.

The electronic dance music genre that came to be known as techno had its roots in Disco, but there were also other influences, such as House Music, Rap, Rock groups with a heavy synth sound like Pink Floyd, Kraftwerk, as well as the Grateful Dead’s live second set known as “space.” And lots more.

Like most new genres, its roots are difficult to pinpoint precisely, and it grew out of the varied sounds of the day.

By 1993 techno seemed to be everywhere.

Staten Islanders started hearing cars passing by with booming sound systems blaring out speedy bass droning thump-thump-thump. What was this? Were the kids going crazy? To the older generation, it sounded like a washing machine or some industrial equipment. Of course, that’s to be expected. Many suggested that this was certainly not music. But then, that tired old line had been heard over and over again, as each new form of sound became popular. They said it about Rock and Roll. They said it about Disco. They said it about House.

Techno music, and raves, grew in popularity. The styles looked different. Kids wore platform shoes, sported colorful hair, and the androgynous, baggy clothes of both guys and girls perplexed club-goers of previous generations. There were “club kids.” It was a whole new style, an entirely new electronic sound. Many “outlaw parties” were held in illegal spots, like an empty warehouse or even way out in a secluded wooded area.

One thing struck people as strange was, these were mostly no-alcohol gatherings. The drink of choice was water, and the drug of the day was ecstasy. Today it has morphed into a more dangerous drug called Molly, because it’s generally laced with other drugs.

Then, Ecstasy, better known as E or X, was an amphetamine analog that created a sense of empathy, love and wakefulness in its users. There’s presently research into whether ecstasy, or MDMA (3, 4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine) as it’s scientifically called, can help with post-traumatic stress syndrome, or PTSD.

So, the kids were staying up all night on some weird kind of souped-up speed and dancing like crazy to some kind of music that was bass-heavy and relentless. Older folks just couldn’t relate. They would go out to discos and clubs, wearing their best clothes, hair neatly blow-dried into a perfect Saturday Night Fever pompadour, gold chains dangling. The ladies looked their finest, dressed to kill. But these new kids just wore baggy clothes, colorful plastic jewelry, and often carried glowsticks. *What the..??*

Clubs would pick and choose who would be admitted. At Rave parties, it was come-as-you-are, and everyone was welcome, all races, classes, ages, and styles. Want to wear jeans and a T-shirt? Go for it! Want to dress up like it's Saturday night at the Palladium? Enjoy. Want to wear a costume and be a



super-freak? No one's stopping you. Is hip-hop more your style? Welcome! Or, are you into the goth style? Greetings, friends. No one was turned away, unless you came with a bad attitude!

PLUR, a term created by DJ Frankie Bones, a legend in the rave scene, stood for **Peace, Love, Unity, and Respect**. Raves were inscrutable to outsiders. Was the idea of kindness and non-judgement just too much to bear. Was this a new religion, or a cult?

Frankie Bones imported the nascent rave scene from London to NYC, but with a Brooklyn touch. The records spun at raves were "four-to-the-floor," European techno records with were steady kicking bass, just as Disco was a decade before, but usually way faster. These were different from the usual records that you'd hear played at the clubs. The rave parties were deliberately everything that a club wasn't.

Other notable differences were the ways in which the new generation was seeking altered states of consciousness. Alcohol, long associated with nightlife and dancing, was usually nowhere to be found.

It's no secret that clubs, the long standing spot for dance events prior to the advent of warehouse parties and raves, were a far cry from Boy Scouts meetings. There were drugs aplenty at the old-school dance nightclubs, from cocaine to speed, barbiturates known as "yellow jackets," opiates, benzodiazepines, and of course the faithful stand-in, good old alcohol, in its myriad forms. And of course, the newest drug added to the mix of available inebriants was also present like MDA, way before MDMA aka ecstasy.

While it is true that a few deaths occurred from MDMA, largely due to kids dancing too vigorously without breaks and dehydrating themselves and subsequently raising their body temperatures through the roof, as well as from ingesting fake drugs that were not E, but rather poison, for the most part, users lived through the experience, unscathed.

There were casualties at raves, to be sure, but then alcohol sent dozens of young club goers to the emergency room every weekend to have their stomachs pumped, in the decades preceding, in, and even after, the nineties. In actual fact, deaths from MDMA were, indeed by comparison, rare.

Electronic dance music, or EDM, and raves, quickly grew in popularity and became mainstream. Like all forms of new music that had come before, techno, and its many offshoots, was becoming socially accepted. But then came Joe Biden. A bill sponsored by then-Senator Joseph Biden, the man who is currently President of the United States, introduced the RAVE Act. It stood for Reducing Americans' Vulnerability to Ecstasy Act, and was passed on April 30, 2003.

The act was the death for electronic music and rave parties. With a stated purpose of being "**A bill to prohibit an individual from knowingly opening, maintaining, managing, controlling, renting, leasing, making available for use, or profiting from any place for the purpose of manufacturing, distributing, or using any controlled substance, and for other purpose,**" the new Act made venue operators discriminate to anyone wanting to renting space for a rave party. Carrying a civil penalty of \$250,000, venue operators would be held responsible if anyone on the premises were found to be dealing drugs.

Police were able to arrest and charge music event promoters under this new law if glow sticks and bottled water were present. **What about our guaranteed right of Freedom of Assembly? Freedom of Expression?** It's considered by some a total disregard for our Bill of Rights. **So, is anyone having fun yet??**

TECH TRENDS

by Jack Santo

The Rise Of The Robo-Waiter

Intrepid and numb to fatigue, robots have come for human jobs before. Just ask fighter pilots, autoworkers and check out clerks.

Robots are encroaching on yet another occupation: waiting tables.



The trend is official. In the last three years alone, robot food servers have mostly appeared in **Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong** and mainland **China**. One restaurant to employ robo-waiters, a Japanese-themed sushi-and-barbecue eatery in **Bangkok**, has even fitted its bots with samurai plating and prop swords.

Should the developed world brace for a coming wave of robo-waiters? Probably, according to robotics experts. But waiter bots, they say, will remain less competent than humans for some time to come.

You might have already seen them in restaurants, waist-high machines that can greet guests, lead them to their tables, deliver food and drinks and ferry dirty dishes to the kitchen. Some have cat-like faces and even purr when you scratch their heads.

But are robot waiters the future? It's a question the restaurant industry is increasingly trying to answer. Some say robot waiters aren't much more than a gimmick. They can't yet take orders, and many restaurants have steps, outdoor patios and other physical challenges they can't adapt to.

"Restaurants are pretty chaotic places, so it's very hard to insert automation in a way that is really productive," said **Craig Le Clair**, a vice president with the consulting company Forrester who studies automation.

Many think robot waiters are the solution to the industry's labor shortages. Sales of them have been growing rapidly in recent years, with robots now gliding through dining rooms worldwide.

Tens of thousands deployed worldwide. Still, the robots are proliferating. **Redwood City, California** based Bear Robotics introduced its Servi robot in 2021 and expects to have 10,000 deployed by the end of this year in 44 US states and overseas. Shenzhen, China-based Pudu Robotics, which was founded in 2016, has delivered more than 56K robots worldwide.

"There's no doubt in my mind that this is where the world is going," says **Dennis Reynolds**, dean of the **Hilton College of Global Hospitality Leadership** at the **University of Houston**. The school's restaurant began using a robot in December, and Reynolds says it has eased the workload for human staff and made service more efficient.

"Every restaurant chain is looking toward as much automation as possible," said **Phil Zheng** of Richtech Robotics, an Austin-based maker of robot servers. *"People are going to see these everywhere in the next year or two."*

Li Zhai was having trouble finding staff for Noodle Topia, his **Madison Heights, Michigan**, restaurant, in the summer of 2021, so he bought a BellaBot from Pudu Robotics. The robot was so successful he added two more.



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TECH TRENDS

>> *Continued*

Now, one robot leads diners to their seats while another delivers bowls of steaming noodles to tables. Employees pile dirty dishes onto a third robot to shuttle back to the kitchen.

The robots also save him money. Zhai now only needs three people to do the same volume of business that five or six people used to handle. While a robot costs around \$15,000, he said, a person costs \$5,000 to \$6,000 per month.

Zhai said the robots give human servers more time to mingle with customers, which increases tips. And customers often post videos of the robots on social media that entice others to visit.

“Besides saving labor, the robots generate business,” he said.

Interactions with human servers can vary. **Betsy Giron Reynosa**, who works with a BellaBot at **The Sushi Factory** in **West Melbourne, Florida**, said the robot can be a pain.

“You can’t really tell it to move or anything,” she said. She has also had customers who don’t want to interact with it.

But overall the robot is a plus, she said. It saves her trips back and forth to the kitchen and gives her more time with customers.

Labor shortages accelerated the adoption of robots globally, Le Clair said. In the U.S., the restaurant industry employed 15 million people at the end of last year, but that was still 400,000 fewer than before the pandemic, according to the National Restaurant Association.

In a recent survey, 62% of restaurant operators told the association they don’t have enough employees to meet customer demand.



They say that once an operator begins to understand and work with one technology, other technologies become less daunting and will be much more readily accepted as things move forward,.

Namasivayam notes that public acceptance of robot servers is already high in **Asia**. **Pizza Hut** has robot servers in 1,000 restaurants in **China**, for example.

The U.S. is somewhat slower to adopt robots, but some chains are now testing them. **Chick-fil-A** is trying them at multiple U.S. locations, and says it’s found that the robots give human employees more time to refresh drinks, clear tables and greet guests.

A customer was surprised to see a robot server at a Chick-fil-A in **Atlanta** recently. The robot didn’t seem to be replacing staff, he said; he counted 13 employees in the store, and workers told him the robot helps service move a little faster. He was delighted that the robot told him to have a great day, and expects he’ll see more robots when he goes out to eat.

Technology is part of our normal everyday now. Everybody has a cellphone, everybody uses some form of computer, to some, it’s a natural progression.”

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