

ISSUE 05.24

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2:15PM FLETCHER ROCKWELL
4:15PM FOUR STAR BRASS BAND
6:15PM STARLIGHT CITY
8:00PM ROD TUFFCURLS AND THE BENCH PRESS

SUNDAY, MAY 26TH

12:15PM THE 77 SOLUTION
2:15PM DOWNTOWN CHARLIE BROWN BLUES BAND
4:15PM RENEGADE WILDFLOWER
6:00PM ULTRABEAT
8:00PM TRIPPIN BILLIES

FRIDAY, MAY 24TH

7:00PM KARAOKE WITH TRADER TODD'S
8:00PM GREG HAUS-TRIBUTE TO BERLIN

SATURDAY, MAY 25TH

12:30PM MARK "MULEMAN" MASSEY
2:00PM CLASSICAL BLAST
3:30PM TIMELESS
5:00PM FULL VOLUME
6:30PM AMANDA COPPOTELLI
8:15PM LA OBRA

SUNDAY, MAY 26TH

12:30PM FIDDLEROCK!
2:00PM STEVE MCVIE
3:30PM BAND CALDERISI
5:00PM GOOSE CORP
6:30PM NELSON STREET REVIVAL
8:15PM DJ TZME

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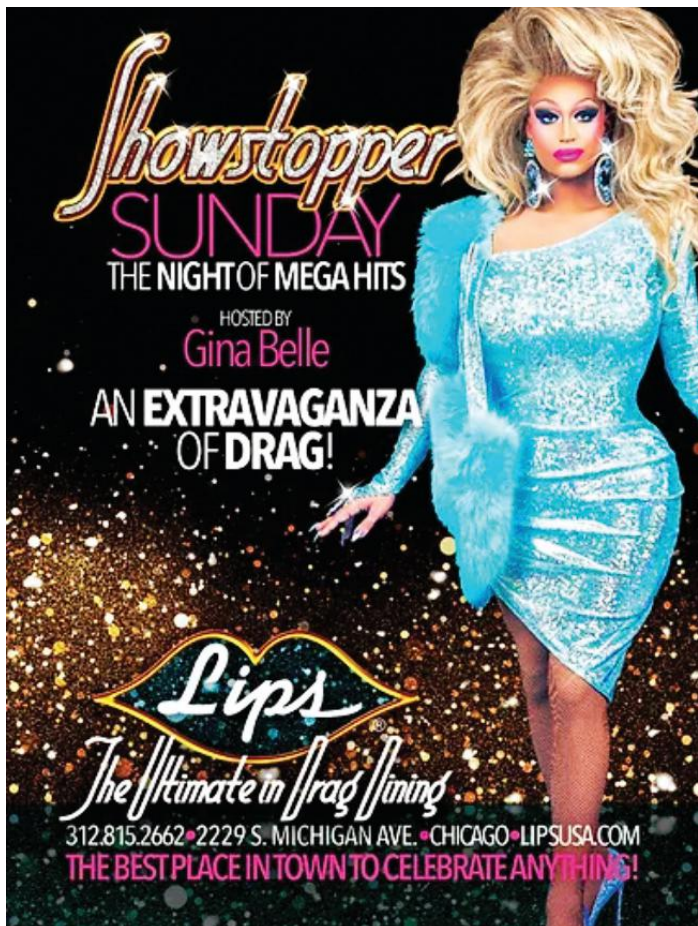
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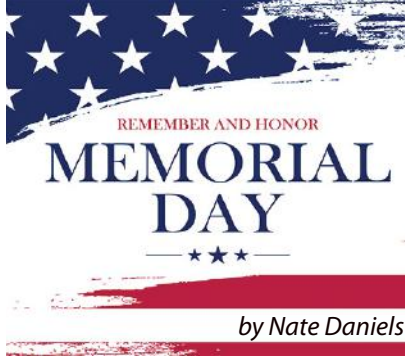
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A HOLIDAY TAKES SHAPE **Representation and Traditions**

Memorial Day isn't just about remembering names etched on gravestones. It's about recognizing the sacrifices made by veterans from all walks of life.

Memorial Day, a day etched in red, white, and blue, holds a special place in the American calendar. But beyond the barbecues and long weekends lies a rich history, a transformation from a localized tribute to a national day of remembrance. Let's delve into the origins, representation, and traditions that have shaped this meaningful holiday.

Falling every year on the last Monday of May, Memorial Day honors the men and women who died while serving in all branches of the U.S. military, more than 1.1 million military personnel in all conflicts from the Revolutionary War to the war on terror.

From Decoration Day to MEMORIAL DAY A Civil War Legacy

The exact origin of Memorial Day remains a friendly competition between towns. Waterloo, New York, lays claim to hosting the first official Decoration Day in 1866, where citizens decorated the graves of fallen Union soldiers. However, similar traditions of honoring the dead existed in the South and even predated the Civil War. Perhaps the true origin lies not in a single event, but in the universal human desire to remember those lost in service.

From the beaches of Normandy to the mountains of Afghanistan, American service members have come from diverse backgrounds to defend our freedoms.

Today, Memorial Day ceremonies ensure their stories are not forgotten, reflecting the rich tapestry of the nation they fought for.

Traditions Then and Now Honoring the Past, and Embracing the Present

Traditions associated with Memorial Day have evolved over time. In the 19th century, decorating graves with flowers was the central focus.



As the holiday became more nationalized, parades featuring veterans' marching bands and public speeches honoring fallen heroes became commonplace.

Today, the traditions encompass a wider range of activities. Placing flags on veterans' graves remains a powerful symbol of respect.

Memorial Day parades continue to be a vibrant display of patriotism.

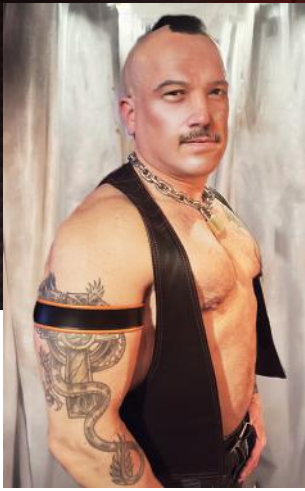
However, the day has also become an opportunity for families to get together, reflect, and remember loved ones lost in service.

Beyond Barbeques The Enduring Significance of Memorial Day

In an age of instant gratification and fleeting trends, Memorial Day serves as a crucial reminder. It's a day to set aside the hustle and bustle and remember the true cost of freedom. There's a growing awareness of the sacrifices made by veterans and their families, a recognition that extends beyond war to the ongoing challenges they face.

It's a day to honor the fallen, thank the living who served, and recommit ourselves to the ideals they fought for. As we fire up the grills and raise a toast, let's not lose sight of the deeper meaning of Memorial Day, a day of remembrance, gratitude, and reflection.

The holiday also unofficially marks the start of summer. The long weekend beckons with barbecues, picnics, and outdoor activities. Perhaps it's a way to connect with the freedoms those fallen soldiers fought to protect. It's a chance to spend time with loved ones, a freedom they may not have had.



LEATHER MODEL SEARCH

Last month boiMAGazine hosted a "Leather Model Search" at Touché, with prizes sponsored by the bar and 64Ten. We had several contestants who entered the contest and posed for our camera. Our editorial staff was presented with the contestants photos, then we had them cast a vote for their favorite. It was very close, but one stood out as the winner, having the most votes. The winner of the Leather Model Search is Riptide, announced at Touché on March 30th during the "Leather Eye for the Preppy Person" makeover contest. More about Riptide in the interview below.

by: Mike At Night

Q: Leather fashion has a unique blend of style and confidence. How would you describe your personal style, and how does leather play a role in it?

A: Leather is an attitude, one of self-determination, adventurism, and intense sexual excitement. I love the look and feel of leather, and the way the leather/kink community embraced the outsiders of society in general and the mainstream gay communities, giving us a place to fit in while being different.

Q: The Chicago leather scene is known for its vibrancy and inclusivity. What message of positivity or inclusivity would you like to share with our readers?

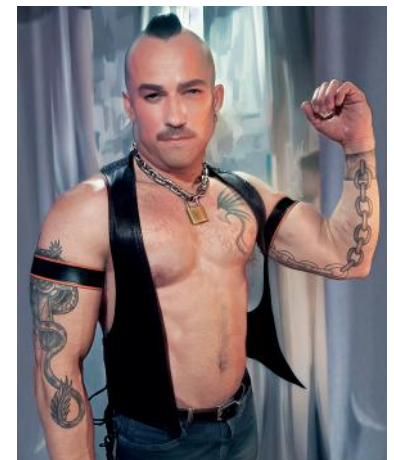
A: Chicago is a great city for the various leather/kink sections of our community. Whatever your identity within the kink world (*leatherman, rubberman, pup, sportivo, etc*) there is a place for you in Chicago.

Q: What has been your most empowering experience within the leather community?

A: I've been lucky in my journey in the leather community. I have had incredible mentors. I can't say there is one "most empowering" experience in my over 30 years in the community. I have had some extreme S/M experiences, such as heavy whip sessions that left me beaten, bloody, exhausted, and feeling such intense love and joy as to be out-of-body. I have quite literally put my life and body in the hands of others that have taken me to the edge of consciousness, releasing adrenaline rushes so strong, so intense in emotional release that I felt I was flying. I found my world, my joy, and my family in the leather community.

Q: The name Riptide evokes a sense of power and movement. What inspires your nickname and how does it embody your personality?

A: A friend of mine once described me as a Boiling Crimson Riptide of Energy, because I seem to encourage people to get caught up and drawn into fun, intense kinky events that happen around me. I encourage my friends to go with the excitement around them. My nickname, Riptide, came out of that, and I think it fits my personality quite well.



Q: What are your favorite aspects of the Chicago leather community?

A: Having IML here in Chicago makes it one of the must-see places in the leather world. I love to way we gather thousands of leather-folk into one place for the weekend.

Q: Anything you would like to add about yourself?

A: I started in kink and leather when I was 19. I always knew I was kinky, even before I realized I was gay. I would tie myself up in bed as a teenager. I sought out leather and bondage from the very beginning. I was lucky in meeting incredible men that mentored me in leather, kink and S/M, and I do what I can to pass that knowledge on to the next generation.

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A JOURNEY INTO A SUMMER OF IMPENDING ENTERTAINMENT AND INDULGENCE

Mike at Night

Mike at Night, a freelance graphic designer and star-tender mixologist with a serious case of cabin fever, yearned for escape. Not the kind found in glossy travel brochures, but an escape from the tyranny of sweatpants and the relentless hum of his refrigerator. As he scrolled through the events calendar for the upcoming months, a mischievous glint lit up his eyes. This summer, Mike wouldn't be a media mogul glued to Netflix reruns. No, this summer, Mike at Night would break free of the mundane and become a Midwest Mingle Machine!

Before setting out on the summer journey, it must kicked off with a Cinco de Mayo lunch, and of course a "Margarita to Go" at **El Jardín Restaurant** on Clark St. on the way to the **Cubs** vs.



Brewers game at **Wrigley Field**. Since we're at it, after the game it's off to **Las Mañanitas** for another Cinco de Mayo Margarita along with some Mexican cuisine for la comida or as you know it.. *dinner*.

BELMONT-SHEFFIELD MUSIC FESTIVAL

First up on his calendar was the Belmont & Sheffield Music Festival, mere

blocks from his apartment. Three glorious days of indulging in his appreciation for local bands (Latin rhythms of **La Obra**, anyone?) and shamelessly seeking out the BBQ & Italian concession street vendors. Visions of smashing guitars, the stage on fire and crowd surfing filled his head.



Next up on the Mid-May radar blipped the **CunTea-Dance** at the appropriately named **Never Have I Ever** club lounge, that embraces the spirit of exploration and daring, where guests are invited to venture

beyond their comfort zones, a quote from their website. Waiting to try new things and revel in the unexpected, thus attending an event from a promoter with a clue, should be just what the doctor ordered.

Next, a quick train ride to the burbs for the inaugural **Waukegan Pride Parade** and **Food Truck Festival**.



Mike, a champion of self-expression, couldn't wait to witness the rainbow wave roll through the streets, fueled by delicious food truck fare. Perhaps later, a jaunt over to **WhirlyBall** in **Vernon Hills** for some sporty Whirly Ball, Laser Tag and Bowling, to try and butch it up after a day of extreme rainbow excess.

June would be a whirlwind. First, a night of celebrating the musical genius of **Prince** at **Joe's Bar**. DJs spinning iconic tunes like "Raspberry Beret" and "Purple Rain" promised an evening of uninhibited dancing and a few drinks to help with the consumption of a possible Price overload. The hangover would be worth it.



The very next night, it was time to head over to the **Logan Square Auditorium's** Love Bizarre event for

another dose of Prince mayhem. Renowned DJs would musically transform the venue into a raspberry thunder cloud, a place where purple glitter rained like confetti, hoping to hear a remix of "I Wanna Be Your Lover," but would be totally satisfied jammin' out to the original vinyl version.

As June drew to a close, the legendary Milwaukee Summerfest beckoned.



Headliners like **Lizzo**, *oh wait, didn't she quit the biz??*, no "fake-news" it turns out she quit "giving negative energy attention," as she tells it, (well alright girl).. Then how about headliner **Motley Crue** and **Goo Goo Dolls** that's sure to set off a guaranteed epic weekend of music discovery, questionable beer choices, and possible sunburn lines.

Continued >>

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But the Midwest Mingle Machine wouldn't stop there. **Chicago Pride Fest and Parade**, a kaleidoscope of colors, flamboyant costumes, and where rainbows threw-up in peoples closets before they dressed for the occasion, awaited him outside his doorstep. Mike, armed with a camera, cuz you never know what madness might appear out of nowhere, and an infectious smile, would lose himself in the joyous celebration of love and acceptance.



August brought **Market Days** in Chicago's vibrant Northalsted neighborhood. Mike at Night finds himself out during

the day once again, ever the bargainista, envisioned a day of scoring unique finds from local artisans, accompanied by the delightful aroma of artisanal sausages and questionable choices of clothing or lack thereof.



FESTIVAL of the ARTS

Finally, to cap off a summer of glorious exploration, the **Lakeview East Festival of the Arts** would showcase the creative spirit of Chicago. Paintings, sculptures, and hopefully enough free samples to feed a small village promised a delightful day of artistic indulgence.

As Mike meticulously planned his travel itineraries, a sense of giddiness spumed within him. This wasn't just about attending events, it was about embracing the vibrant tapestry woven by the quirky, artistic spirit of the Midwest. This summer, Mike at Night wouldn't just be surviving, he'd be thriving, one star-studded adventure at a time.

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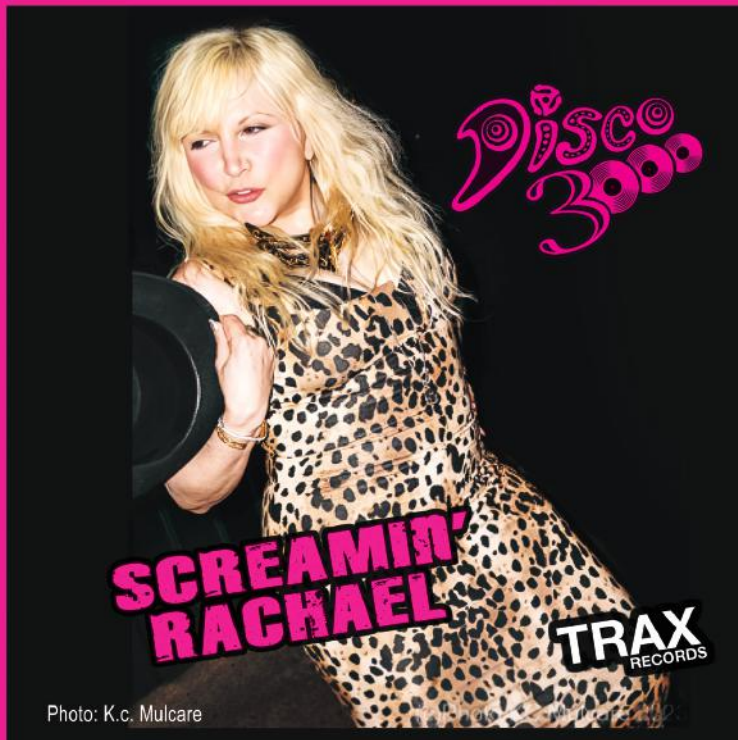


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by: Dr. Charla Waxman BS, MBA, EdD
Director of Business Development at Lake Behavioral Hospital

"Roles are a good thing that gives us structure and purpose. But when we really begin believing in the roles we play we become more and more willing to sacrifice ourselves and others to them" - Mack Paul

Life, all of it, is just a series of roles we act out, some we choose, some choose us, and some are chosen for us. Some roles are healthy and others, well, not so much.

Roles seem to work best and be best for us when we can move fluidly through them relying on them to serve us when we need them. Roles that harm, seem to occur when they become more rigid and are more than a role, they become our sole identity. When any role is our full identity we are probably missing out on life opportunities to grow and learn; to change and become.

Making a role your identity is like living in a sleeping bag. It's comfortable and warm and safe. Not too much beyond who you are in that sleeping bag will ever be expected to change. You just can't do much more than be in it. No one can possibly see or sense any inadequacies about you. You are molded perfectly into both a space and a behavior that reduces, mistakes or risks.

Catalog your current roles. Don't be surprised if these number 20 or more. Look for roles that are not fluid, and fully identify you with little room for movement.

If the roles you play do not seem healthy for you, and you are feeling stressed and anxious, then maybe it's time to get a second opinion.



Take the time to examine whether your roles leave any room for growth. If you feel stuck in a role, examine its value, reshape it, and find the real you.

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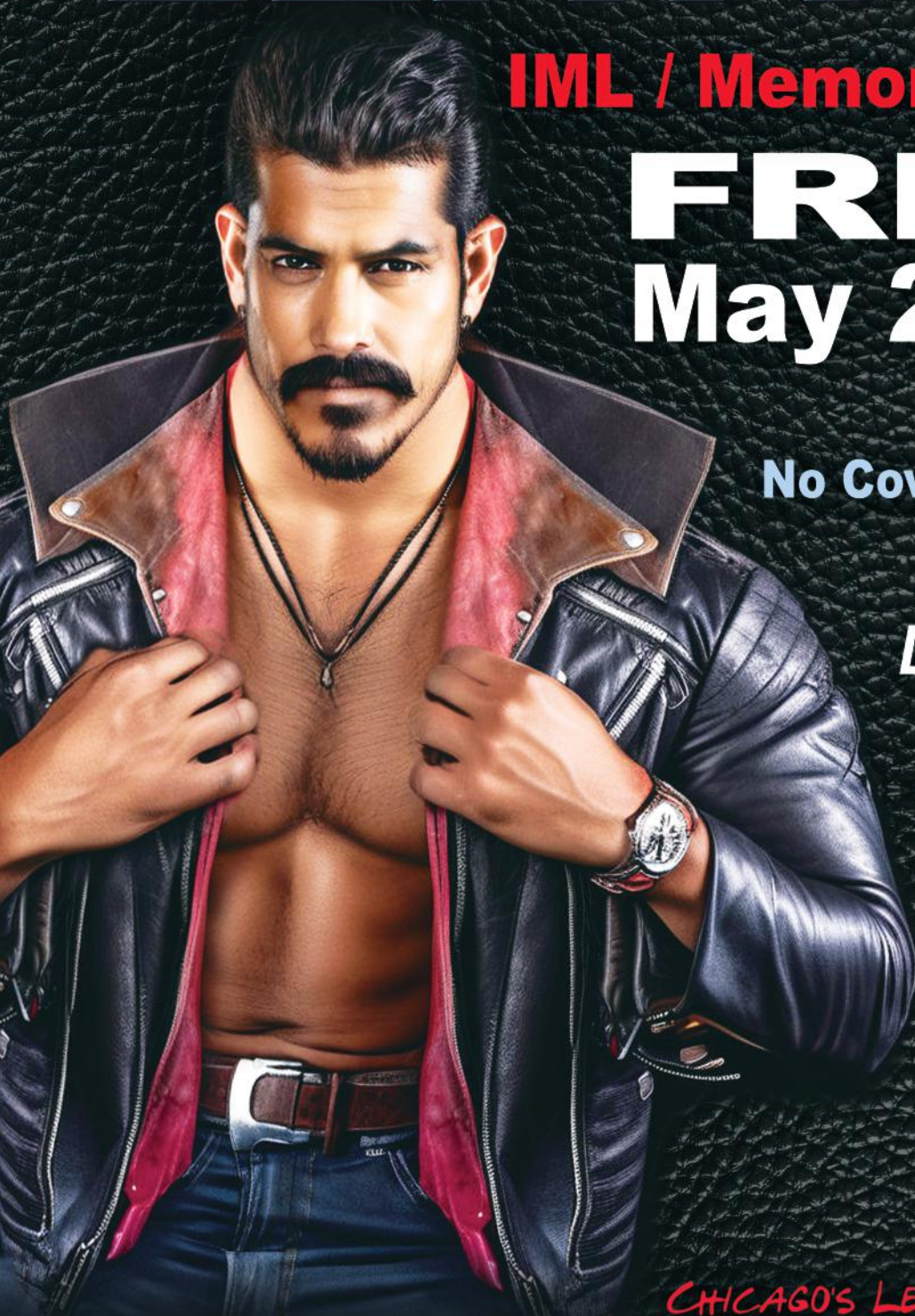
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TIME TRAVLERS - MOODY BLUES TRIBUTE BAND

by: **Jorge Suarez**
Chicago Producer, Music Aficionado

On a Saturday night several weeks ago, I popped into the **Arcada Theatre** in **St. Charles** to catch the **Moody Blues** tribute band, **Time Traveller**.



Time Traveller is based out of NE **Ohio** (Cleveland/Akron) and was formed in 2004. Sadly, I never had the pleasure of catching the original Moody Blues in concert, though I own their entire vinyl collection.



There is limited info about the group Time Traveler on their website but I was able to grab this quote: "Time Traveller highlights over three decades of material from the legendary group The Moody Blues, performing a full rock concert with lighting and video in addition to a complete Rock/Orchestra show."

The first half of the evening concentrates on the Moddy Blues early years with hits "The Voice", "I'm Just A Singer," "I Know You're Out There Somewhere," "Lovely To See You", amongst others.



The second half of the evening was my favorite, as their sets included selections from Days Of

Future Passed, "In Search Of The Lost Chord," "On The Threshold Of A Dream," "Tuesday Afternoon," and "Every Good Boy Deserves Favour".

Lead singer/guitarist Jeff Johnson @ lead vocals & acoustic guitar nailed it on "Nights In White Satin" with hats off to Julie Firestone @ flute & backing vocals, for a great job/solo on electric flute. Kudos to Jim Golen on electric & 12-string acoustic guitars who performed a great guitar solo, as did Marty Zlocki's solo on drums/percussion.



Other members include Gary Simmons on bass guitar & backing vocals, Jeff Costick on keyboards, and Gordon Oliver/Josse McGee on lead & backing vocals and percussion and Kristin Kretzler for lead & backing vocals/percussion

To understand the Moody Blues, you have to start from their roots. Every song tells a story.

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.

**I Let me start out by saying GOOD RIDDANCE to Kim Foxx!
Kim Foxx did not seek reelection in 2024 after serving two
terms as Cook County state's attorney. KIM FOXX NET WORTH: UP TO \$5 MILLION**

Foxx said "I leave now with my head held high and my heart full, knowing that better days are ahead."

Special Prosecutor Dan Webb successfully argued to have the full report about the Cook County State's Attorney's office made public. He released a summary of the report a year ago, finding there was misconduct by Kim Foxx and her office regarding the Jussie Smollett case. Like I always say if you don't know about certain subjects, look it up!

Basically Smollett who was a former star of the popular TV series "Empire", staged an ugly FAKE hate crime! Incredibly all charges were dropped. What a terrible debacle! and costly to the city.

Leaving with her head held high? I BEG TO DIFFER...

Eileen O'Neill Burke

won the Democratic Primary for Cook County on March 30, 2024. Let's see what happens next. I don't think things can get worse. Of course I believed when **Mayor Lori Lightfoot**, was replaced by **Brandon Johnson**, things had to get better. Boy was I wrong!



My head is spinning what with going back to the future by having my "Sensation" release party at my favorite bar a.k.a. **Cantina**, a part of the legendary **El Jardin Mexican Restaurant**. It's my go-to Wrigleyville spot after a Cubs game, or really ANY TIME! I've done so many years there, that it was a great place for sharing my **SENSATIONAL** new single, which now has over 40,000 plays (less than a month of it being released)!!!! Can you imagine if those 40,000 people had showed up at the release party?

Then a night out on the town with **Mike Macharello**, a.k.a. **Mike at Night**, I visited "**Buzzed By ZEA**", a Salon and Bar. We're talking Hair Salon! It's the trendiest cool bar I've hit in a while.

The host and bartender **German**, makes the party, and we had a lot in common, club kids, dressing up and making cool events happen. The cocktail menu is to die for, featuring drinks like Lavender Blonde! I met some hot gay boys that night, who told me they liked my style. We spoke about the underground scene, and I am finding out that I can depend on having a fantastic time in my hometown! I can't wait to have the party for a sneak peek of my new album DISCO 3000 there. Fabulous is the word, so stay tuned for the date and get ready to come out in your most unique regalia.



Here's your chance to dive into a celebration like no other with Trax Records! It's time to raise the flag high and embrace the fabulousness that is Trax's Pride: Volume 1. Curated by the one and only non-binary queen, Jorge.

From the b**** tracks of **Jade Elektra** to the trailblazing sounds of **Sunkee Angel** and the iconic styles of **Daniel Dicriscio**, this volume is a true testament to the incredible talent within the LGBTQ+ community.

And let's not forget **Theydylke**, who all add their unique flair to every track and the dance floor they grace.

Join us in celebrating the vibrant and innovative spirit of Trax Records as we honor the diverse identities that make our label shine. Here's a peek at what some of our superstars have to say about this electrifying collection!

"Being LGBTQ+ is being free!



No restraints, no boundaries, able to soar high! To be your real true self is the key to everything. I love it!"

-Daniel Dicriscio

"Embracing androgyny and genderqueerness allows me to explore the blend of softness and strength, playfulness and out-of-the-boxness

that has always been a part of me whilst also reclaiming and feeling at home with my body's femininity, which I had felt begrudgingly forced into the role of growing up but now finally feel proud of on my own terms."

-Theydylke



Continued >>

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>> UNCENSORED *Continued*



"Pride to me means being able to be open, transparent and FREE in who you are as a person who falls under the lgbt sector of life. Pride to me is being able to be YOUR QUEER/Trans OR GAY authentic self even if it means going against family tradition or not being accepted by family and people who will try to convince you that who you are is wrong."

-Sunkee Angel

When I recently played Sunkee's "Upfront" in **Nashville**, I was asked to stop the track by a mother who is struggling

with her adult trans-child. It brought out an emotional moment from her, I was not ready for. All I can say is the track is viral and even straight people seem to be dancing to it and loving the beat!

Jade Elektra has too many accolades to mention here, including performing "Crazy In Love" with **Beyonce** at **The Roxy** in **New York City**. It's also amazing that she was a published journalist by the age of 12!

"I would have to say that PRIDE has taken on several meanings for me.

I guess when I first came out in the mid 80s Pride was a time to shine and let the world know I was gay and proud. By the 90s, I had tested positive for HIV and relocated to NYC. Between the



Ballroom scene and just the LGBT Community in general PRIDE became a time for my new adopted family. I had finally found a home and felt comfortable living the life I wanted. Today after coming out publicly in 2010 as HIV+, PRIDE is a time for me to share my story and knowledge of living with this disease and telling how I have survived all these years. When I was diagnosed in 1990, I never dreamed that I would see 56." - Jade Elektra

Clarissa Flores, who works as director of operations at **TAO**, created the **Lesbian Social Club** with her wife, **Bella Flores**, and their friends **Steph Shanahan** and **Eleni Dixon**. They had one of the best parties I've ever attended at TAO on April 20th. Clarissa welcomed **Jorge**, **Colby Luckenbill**, of **Colby Gallery**, and myself to this wonderful night that transformed downtown **Chicago** into the most sapphic hottest club night we've seen in ever! We can't wait for their party in May at the rooftop at the **Wit**.

There's only 300 tickets tho, so if you wanna go, get your tickets fast because it will definitely sell out.

"Six months ago, my partners and I embarked on a journey to create something special with The Lesbian Social Club. Today, we stand amazed at the rapid growth and impact we've achieved.

As we continue to nurture safe spaces across the city, we take pride in being a haven for our community, and we're excited for the journey ahead."

- Clarissa Flores, Lesbian Social Club

The Lesbian Social Club Photo Credit goes to Co-Founders: Clarissa Flores, Bella Flores, Steph Shanahan, and Eleni Dixon.



Pilson is one of my very favorite places in the city, and TRAX could not think of a better



place to celebrate "Record Store Day" last month, than with **Kim** and **Scott**, at **Pinwheel Records**, who were

very accommodating and kind. It was a fun day of Jorge and I hosting a meet and greet while meeting a number of Trax Records fans, and making new friends. We also sold a limited edition CD That is not available anywhere else. I wanted a photo with a Trax Record, at the store. Surprisingly I was told that there were none to be found because they couldn't keep them in stock! Keep your ears open for some cool Trax VINYL on its way at Pinwheel (located off the 18th st pink line), both classic and new.

So this month's column is a testament to all the friendly people, happenings and artists that our beautiful city has to offer. I've had many people tell me that my New York adventures could never be matched. Now I feel encouraged and grateful for the future. I advise all of you to get out, support the scene and have fun. Feel at home in this great house that is open to all, in the city of Chicago.

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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,

"How do I negotiate a raise for myself? I'm afraid of asking and coming across as arrogant."

Dear Worth More in Wadsworth,

Let's start by saying that money is a motivator and it is perfectly ok to ask for a raise. There are, however, some do's and don'ts in asking the money question.

Don'ts are a good place to start. Don't mention that "it's time for a raise" because you completed a major task.



You were assigned that work and doing it for more money should have been negotiated long before you finished it. Don't think you have leverage because you know someone else's salary. Don't hold your company and boss hostage by saying you have another offer on the table. This is rude and risky and shows a high level of disloyalty.

On the positive side of things, know that your fear and anxiety is only a challenge for you. Most supervisors inherently and instinctually prepared for a "money talk" with their employees.

To ask the question, you are right. Don't appear aggressive or full of yourself. Have ready a discussion about any extra-mile performance

related activities you have completed, that have changed or enhanced the company in some way.

Be ready with a dollar amount that's high enough to negotiate down from, if you think that possibility might occur.

Know the market, make a verbal note of your knowledge of the salary market for your position.

State your case and amount requested and provide a length of time to check back in for a decision.

Remember that "No" is always a possible answer and be prepared with a response. Will you be quitting, setting a new date for review or goals for capturing that raise? Your choice, but plan ahead.

If you do get a raise, get the dates for when it will appear on your check. Thank your boss verbally and in writing with the amount given. Now work hard to prove your worth and get you ready for your next "money request" meeting.

Good luck!

SEXBOT TECH TRENDS

by Jack Santo

INTIMATE TECHNOLOGY

Could a Robot Be Your Next Romantic Partner?

Explore a provocative future where love intertwines with technology. Delve into the world of sexbots and Conscious Relationship Design, challenging the very essence of human connection.

Robert had designed his living room with great care, but it was now filled with a deafening silence that stretched far beyond the empty spaces of his home. His partner, whom he had shared countless memories of love, laughter, and companionship, had passed away suddenly, leaving him to grapple with the pain of loss. Forty years of being together had come to an abrupt end, and the solitude that once provided a respite now brought profound loneliness.

Despite his yearning for connection, the idea of stepping back into the dating world seemed like an alien concept to Rob, who had been devoted to his partner for decades. However, he couldn't shake the feeling of wanting a presence, a semblance of the partnership that had been the undercurrent of his life.

One day, Robert stumbled upon a solution that seemed like something out of a futuristic novel: a company that specialized in creating sex robots with the capability to 3D clone a deceased loved one. This technological marvel offered him an unconventional yet comforting possibility: to have a part of his beloved partner back, not just in memory, but in a form he could see, talk to, and touch.



At first, the idea was strange and even unsettling to Robert, but as he contemplated it further, the possibility of having his partner back in some form brought him a sense of peace and comfort. He decided to investigate further and learn more about this option.

It's important to note that while Robert is a fictional character, studies have shown that some people in their later years are interested in using humanoid sex robots to fill the emotional and physical void left by the passing of their loved ones.

Picture a not too distant future where your romantic companion could be more circuit than sentiment, an

entity driven by AI (artificial intelligence,) rather than human emotion. This scenario, which once belonged firmly in the realm of science fiction, is inching closer to reality with the development of humanoid sex robots, a.k.a "SexBots."

These sophisticated combinations of AI and robotics, crafted for physical and emotional companionship, are sparking conversations and challenging traditional notions of human feelings, relationships and intimacy.

However, the world of sexbots is not as clear cut as it might initially seem. Their presence in the market is currently limited, with only a few models available, each carrying a hefty price tag.

Continued >>>



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This emerging technology, while intriguing, is not yet a mainstream phenomenon. The current models, though advanced compared to earlier iterations, still fall short of fully replicating the nuanced dynamics of human partnership.

How might these AI entities reshape our concepts of love, intimacy, and partnership? The introduction of sexbots brings with it a host of psychological, societal, and ethical questions. The impact on human-to-human relationships, the implications for self-perception and identity, and the broader societal reactions are complex and multifaceted. The ethical landscape surrounding sexbots is just as intricate, involving debates over consent, objectification, and the anthropomorphization of AI. The legal and moral framework for these robots is still in its infancy.

Can true intimacy and affection arise from interactions with programmed entities? How do sexbots fit into our evolving understanding of relationships, and what role might they play in consciously reimagining partnership and connection? The evolving narrative of intimacy and companionship with sexbots is not just about technological advancement, it's about human evolution, emotion, relationship, connection, and ethics in a world that is advancing apace.

Sexbots, in essence, are robotic entities designed with a primary focus on human companionship and sexual interaction. They blend the advancements of AI and robotics to mimic human-like attributes, both physically and, to some extent, emotionally. These entities represent a remarkable intersection of technology and human desire, serving as a canvas upon which we can project our most intimate needs and fantasies and explore them in a private physical space with an "embodied" machine. As Kate Devlin, author of *Turned On: Science, Sex and Robots*, and recognized expert in the field, said as early as 2017, sex robots are "about forming intimate relationships with machines and with artificial intelligence."

Long before they became a subject of scientific endeavor, sexbots captured our collective imagination in the realms of literature and film. In Philip K. Dick's 1968 *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* and its cinematic adaptation "Blade Runner" (1982) and "Blade Runner 2049" (2017), we glimpsed a future where artificial beings, akin to sexbots, could form complex relationships with humans. Similarly, the 1973 film, and later HBO series (2016) "Westworld" took this concept further, depicting a sophisticated world where humanoid robots, some designed for intimate experiences, challenge our notions of consciousness and morality.

The exploration of artificial intimacy was further nuanced in the film "Ex Machina" (2014), where an AI named Ava demonstrates consciousness and manipulates human emotions, blurring the lines between programmed behavior and genuine feeling. This theme is also present in "A.I. Artificial Intelligence" (2001), where a childlike android, David, is programmed to love and seeks to become human to regain his mother's affection, highlighting the complexities and ethical dilemmas of creating machines capable of mimicking human emotions.




These fictional depictions helped pique and shape the public's conceptualization of humanoid robots capable of emotion and sexual interaction. As technology evolved, these once fantastical ideas began to find footing in reality. Early versions of sexbots, while primitive compared to their fictional counterparts, marked the beginning of a significant technological pursuit. They were basic in function, offering limited interaction and lacking the depth and fluidity that define human relationships.

The evolution of sex robots can be traced back to their origins in the world of sex dolls (which evidence suggests dates back to the 16th century). These dolls, initially created for purely physical purposes, served as the foundation for the development of today's more sophisticated sexbots. The transition from static sex dolls to interactive sex robots involved incorporating advanced robotics and AI into the basic form of these dolls. This transformation was driven by the desire to enhance the user experience, making these entities not just physically realistic but also capable of interaction and responsiveness.



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