

ISSUE 07.24

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PRIDE PARADE

SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024

STEP OFF

11am | Broadway at Sheridan

PARADE ROUTE

11am from Broadway and Sheridan proceeding south on Broadway; then south on Halsted; then east on Belmont; then south on Broadway; then east on Diversey to Cannon Drive

INFORMATION

PrideChicago.org

Check website for updates

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PRIDE

CHICAGO



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PARADE ROUTE MAP

IRVING PARK
SHERIDAN
GRACE
WAVELAND
ADDISON
CORNELIA
ROSCOE
BUCKINGHAM
ALDINE
BELMONT
BRIAR
WELINGTON
SURF
DIVERSEY

11:00AM
2:00PM

CHICAGO
PRIDE
PARADE

JUNE 30
2024

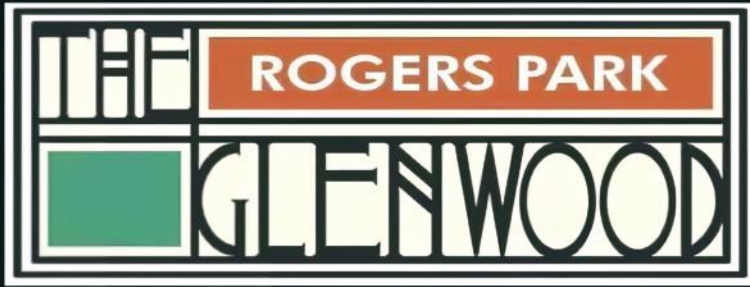
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SHERIDAN

CLARK
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SHEFFIELD
HALSTED
BROADWAY
WELLINGTON
SURF
DIVERSEY

CHICAGO PRIDE 2024 QR CODE

2024

Friday, June 28 | 3PM-10PM
Saturday, June 29 &
Sunday, June 30 | 12PM-10PM



PRIDE NORTH

THE NORTHSIDE'S LARGEST NEIGHBORHOOD PARTY

North Stage → Lunt Ave
South Stage → Morse Ave

Friday	6pm-10pm Jesse Mercado 10pm-2am DJ T-Kidd		
	Saturday North Stage	South Stage	12pm-2pm DJ Greg Haus
2pm-4pm DJ Laura B			2pm-4pm Nevin
4pm-6pm DJ Ron G			4pm-6pm DJ wOLFY
6pm-8pm DJ DigiMark			6pm-8pm Brady Prince
Sunday North Stage	South Stage	8pm-10pm Dustin Sheridan	8pm-10pm David BLK
		12pm-2pm Lori Branch	12pm-2pm Ale Maes
		2pm-4pm DJ Riley York	2pm-4pm Alex Q
		4pm-6pm DJ Harry T	4pm-6pm Milty Evans
		6pm-8pm DJ DigiMark	6pm-8pm Dustin Sheridan
		8pm-10pm David BLK	8pm-10pm Ryan Willing

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Living legend Cher Celebrates Pride Month with the release of “Living Proof” and “Closer To The Truth”

Cover Story, by Mike at Night

If you have lived under a rock during the last several decades and don't have a clue who she is, **Cher's** a multi-Grammy winning artist, an **Oscar, Emmy** and **Golden Globe** winner, **Kennedy Center** Honoree and will be inducted into **The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame** this year.

Warner Records announced that Cher fans will get to celebrate Pride Month in June with special vinyl editions, and expanded digital versions of her classic albums, “Living Proof” that'll include the track listing used for the U.S. version of the album, plus two bonus tracks (“The Look” and “You Take It All”) from the international edition, and “Closer to the Truth,” which will feature the digital debut of “Will You Wait For Me” (previously only available on the Target edition of the album.)

These two personal favorite albums of the one and only Cher, are scheduled for release on June 28th, 2024. “Living Proof” will be pressed on cola-bottle milky green vinyl, while “Closer to the Truth” vinyl will be in a rich creamy bone color. Each LP will retail for \$27.98, pre-order at:

bio.to/CTTTLP

boiMAGazine's "Pride" theme cover was inspired by **21st Century Tales Artist Shop**, where you can find Cher Pride Rainbow T-shirts, and Canvas wall Art, along with Madonna Pride Rainbow, and some *rainbow-less* Michael Jackson items as well.

You can buy these wearable art pieces for a semi-reasonable price of \$22.95, or you can get the more pricey wall art, ranging from \$69.95-\$119.95, depending on the canvas size.... and NO, I don't get a commission on it, although, after this glowing review, I should, right!? JK! Seriously, I just found this to be unique and trendy, and the Cher items really fits this moment in time. If interested in acquiring one for yourself, or perhaps a gift for a friend who's hard to shop for, and has everything, but not something like this, go to their website at:

21stcenturytales.threadless.com





The Pride Parade begins on Sunday June 30th, and steps off this year from West Sheridan and North Broadway at 11am, with 150 entries. Then from there, it will continue to Halsted Street, east along Belmont to Broadway, then south to Diversey, as usual.

BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE TO THE STORY!

PRIDE HE SAID-SHE SAID, QUIPS AND QUALMS

THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

According to an announcement from Chicago **Mayor Brandon Johnson's** office that was issued several weeks ago, the Pride parade this year, is capped off at 150 entries.

Johnson's office said the change was made after the city "engaged in a collaborative effort with the Mayor's Advisory Council on LGBTQ+ Affairs, Chicago Pride Parade organizers, the business community, residents, and multiple City agencies."

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

The plan to reduce the size of the parade came after the city's Department of

Transportation and Chicago Police raised safety and logistical concerns. Organizers said at that time that priority entries will be given to LGBTQ+ organizations, groups, businesses and those with LGBTQ Employee Resource Groups.

In addition to the number of entries being reduced, the parade this year will be stepping off an hour earlier, at 11am, instead of noon. The parade route will also be shortened by at least six to seven blocks.

The parade is expected to attract more than a million people through Uptown, Lakeview and Lincoln Park neighborhoods, the same week as Fourth of July and the weekend before NASCAR's Chicago Street Race.

VEGAN OR NOT!

"Of course safety is the most important, but if they're still going to get a million people out here, that's still a million people.

It doesn't matter if it's an extra 45 minutes or not," said **Michael Hornick**, owner of The Chicago Diner near Roscoe and Halsted.

THE PARADE ORGANIZERS AGREE TO DISAGREE

Statement from PRIDEChicago, organizers of the parade said "We understand there will be some disappointed groups that will not march with us this year; we extend a heartfelt thank you for your support and understanding. The Pride Parade has always been about celebrating LGBTQ+ pride, unity, and solidarity, and this year will be no different. As we prepare for this milestone event, we remain committed to prioritizing LGBTQ+ organizations, LGBTQ+-owned businesses, and businesses with LGBTQ Employee Resource Groups."



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PRODUCERS OF CHICAGO'S PRIDE FEST

While some people are disappointed, others say they're ready for the celebration. Despite the changes, the executive director of the Northalsted Business Alliance Kevin Barbeau said "they're excited for the parade this summer."



THE ALDERMAN'S OFFICE

Alderman Bennett Lawson

(44th Ward) issued the following statement: We continue to have conversations with the Chicago Police Department, city partners, local organizations, and the parade organizers on this year's Pride Parade. We are all committed to ensuring a safe and successful event for the community in June, and look forward to sharing more updates soon."

EQUALITY ILLINOIS

The head of one of Chicago's largest LGBTQ+ groups, Equality Illinois, said that he found the city's decision to downsize the parade "deeply upsetting" during a time when many in the LGBTQ+ community feel under attack politically. "This is going to be the fewest number of floats that we know of in decades," said **Brian Johnson**, CEO of Equality Illinois. "At a time when our community and our allies have worked so hard to make Illinois the beacon of queer dignity in the Midwest, and maybe in the country, this is not the right time to cut back on such a signature event."

THE MAYOR'S LGBTQ+ ADVISORY COUNCIL

The head of the Mayor's Advisory Council on LGBTQ+

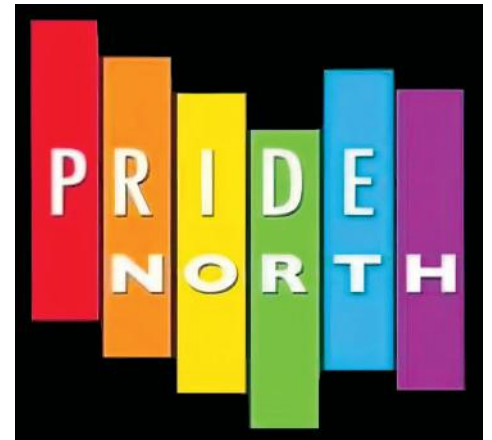
Affairs, **Jin-Soo Huh** said LGBTQ+ community members were left out of early discussions making changes to the summer event, which has been held in Chicago for over 50 years to commemorate the 1969 Stonewall uprising in New York City.

"Pride Parade organizers shouldn't have been put in this position to make these cuts, changes in the route, the city should have engaged the community in making this decision," Huh said. "The primary organizers agreed to these changes, noting that time became a factor because they have to make sure they give new entries ample notice for them to prepare." The advisory council and parade organizers agreed to the compromise of 150 entries, which is a nearly 25% decrease compared with last year, in part because there wasn't much time before the parade steps off.

BACK TO THE MIDDLE AND AROUND AGAIN

Organizers said they were less concerned with changes to the time and parade route and just wished they had been included in discussions before city officials began proposing those changes.

"That decision was made about our community without us at the table," Huh said. "Pride for us isn't just a parade for the LGBTQ+ community. It's a celebration of our community, standing up to suppression methods that told us that we do not belong in celebration of being free to live our truths and being visible. And so it's not just an event to manage."



DID SOMEONE SAY BLOCK PARTY?

On Saturday, June 29th and Sunday, June 30th 2024, there's Pride North's Chicago Block Party, Chicago's Largest North-side neighborhood annual Pride Dance Party. The city's Northside event in the Glenwood Arts District, runs from noon until 2am, and includes plenty of great entertainment, including an impressive lineup of Chicago DJs. See their ad in this issue, or at boiMAG.com for the full entertainment schedule.

PRIDE JOURNEY

Pensacola, Florida

By Joey Amato

Nestled along the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, Pensacola, Florida, offers a unique blend of history, culture, and coastal charm along with a vibrant LGBTQ community. From its lively markets to its delectable dining options and picturesque natural wonders, Pensacola has something to offer every visitor. Let's take a closer look at some of the must-visit attractions.

I began my journey through **Pensacola** at the **Palafox Market**, where the community comes alive every Saturday morning. Located in the heart of downtown Pensacola, this bustling market offers a diverse array of locally grown produce, artisanal crafts, and delicious treats. Stroll through the rows of vendors, chat with local artisans, and immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of this beloved community gathering.

After exploring the market, treat yourself to a memorable dining experience at **The Kennedy**. This quaint but well-appointed establishment is the perfect place to grab a craft cocktail and samples some local fare. I opted for an Old Fashioned, which happened to be a Happy Hour special, as well as an order of the Pork Gyoza and Pork Belly Deviled Eggs. The music-inspired restaurant was right up my alley, and the laid-back atmosphere was the perfect way to start the evening.

Pensacola boasts a thriving LGBTQ nightlife scene, with an array of bars, clubs, and restaurants that cater to the community. Check out **The Roundup** and **Cabaret**, two bars offering a variety of LGBTQ events and activities throughout the week.

Check in to the **Holiday Inn Express Pensacola Beach** for your stay. Located right on the beach, this is not your everyday Holiday Inn Express. The rooms are elegantly appointed, and every room comes complete with unobstructed views of the Gulf. Stroll along the beach to witness both the sunrise and sunset. This section of the beach is less crowded with tourists so at moments you'll feel as if you're the only one on the sand. I woke up early each day to watch the sunrise and it was magical.

History enthusiasts won't want to miss a visit to **Fort Pickens**, a historic military fort located on the western tip of **Santa Rosa Island**. Built in the early 19th century, Fort Pickens played a crucial role in defending the Gulf Coast during the Civil War and World War II. Today, visitors can explore the well-preserved fortifications, stroll along the scenic nature trails, and learn about the rich history of this fascinating landmark. Don't forget to bring your camera to capture breathtaking views of the Gulf and surrounding coastline.

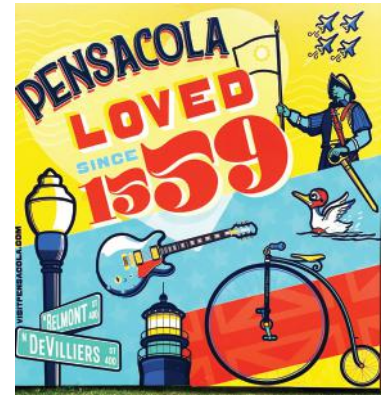
Conclude your journey with a visit to the **Gulf Islands National Seashore**, a pristine stretch of coastline renowned for its sugar-white sands and crystal-clear waters.

Continue your day with a visit to the **Pensacola Beach Pier**, where you can try your hand at fishing or simply admire the panoramic views of the Gulf and Pensacola Beach. The newly reopened pier is 1471 feet in length and is one of the most popular attractions along the beach. By the time you walk to the end of the pier, you'll be hovering almost dozens of feet over the Gulf of Mexico. It's the perfect place to watch the waves or catch the stunning sunset.

Pensacola is a vibrant hub of LGBTQ+ culture and community along the Florida panhandle. From colorful events and supportive organizations to inclusive spaces and advocacy efforts, Pensacola shines as a beacon of LGBTQ culture. Pensacola's LGBTQ+ community is as diverse as the city itself, encompassing people of all ages, backgrounds, and identities. PFLAG operates a chapter in Pensacola and the city is home to numerous events throughout the year including the **Pensacola Pride Festival**, held annually over Memorial Day weekend and is the perfect kickoff to Pride month. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the festival which will be highlighted with performances by DJ **Dan Slater**, DJ **Abel** and **Trixie Mattel** and is a highlight of the city's calendar, featuring a colorful parade, live music and drag performances. Pensacola Pride draws tens of thousands of visitors and is one of the largest and most unique pride experiences in the country.

Another not to be missed event in Pensacola is their annual LGBTQ+ film festival called **Stamped**. Stamped Film Festival was spearheaded in 2012 by **Sara Latschaw** to create a more accepting, safe, and educated community. The film festival board and organization has continued to grow over the years with increased attendance at the annual film festival and by hosting other outreach activities. Stamped showcases the artistic contribution of LGBTQ+ film and filmmakers from all over the world. In 2015, the festival re-branded itself from Pensacola LGBTQ+ Film Fest to 'Stamped Film Festival', a name paying homage to the days when Memorial Day Weekend LGBTQ tourists stamped their money to demonstrate their significant impact on the local economy.

For cat lovers, I highly recommend a visit to the Coastal Cat Café to play with and/or adopt one of their beautiful feline friends. The café is opened a few months ago, and reservations are recommended to visit. About 20 cats roam freely between two rooms where they interact with visitors who are encouraged to give them some of their favorite treats. Unfortunately, my hotel didn't allow animals otherwise I may have added a new member to my family. Almost 50 cats have been adopted by café visitors.



Foodies searching for authentic Gulf Coast flavors, should head to **Flounder's Chowder House**, a beloved local institution since 1979. Located on the scenic **Pensacola Beach Boardwalk**, this laid-back eatery specializes in fresh seafood dishes, including their famous chowder and signature crab cakes. Relax on the outdoor patio, feel the gentle sea breeze, and savor the flavors of the Gulf as you dine overlooking the pristine white sands and emerald waters of Pensacola Beach. I ordered the legendary Bushwacker, a milkshake-style cocktail created in Pensacola, to accompany my entrée which consisted of blackened red snapper with sauteed asparagus. The snapper was cooked to perfection and was accompanied by a delicious sauce.

End your visit to Pensacola with a sunset dolphin cruise with **Frisky Mermaid Boat Tours**. My particular excursion was led by an all-female crew and was wonderful despite only getting to see a few dorsal fins. The tour lasts for about two hours and the friendly crew try their best to seek out as many beautiful dolphins as possible, although sometimes they can be hard to find. Nature can be unpredictable.

Pensacola offers a wealth of experiences for visitors to discover. From vibrant markets and culinary delights to historic landmarks and natural wonders, this charming city has something for everyone. Whether you're exploring its rich cultural heritage or simply basking in the beauty of its coastal landscapes, Pensacola is sure to leave a lasting impression on all who visit.

Enjoy the Journey!

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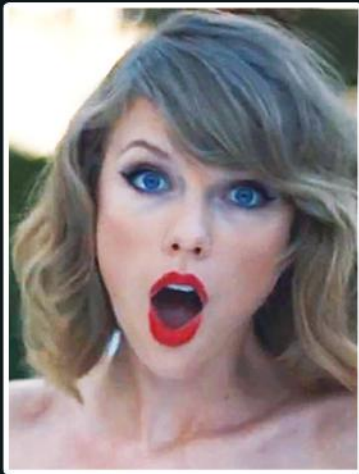
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by: Dr. Charla Waxman *BS, MBA, EdD*
Director of Business Development at Lake Behavioral Hospital

FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) is real. Everything from technology, to the news, to ways we relate to each other and, of course, FOMO, serve as distractions. Distractions reduce our ability to attend to what is important in our lives, how we do our jobs, and how we live day to day.

Regardless of how confident we are in our ability to manage distractions and multi-task, we are vulnerable to the pull of distracting possibilities and what we “should be doing and accomplishing” according to the media and others who have absorbed the pressure of our world of technological comparisons to each other. In some brief way, hopefully this article will mobilize you to manage some of the distractions; that is, filter them out and help you find you.

Is a productive day at work one where you served as a juggler? Juggling tasks and people without taking a breath may feel productive, but has any of this really helped you produce work that is higher level and done more expertly and in tune with your best skill set? Is the barrage of people and assignments distractions to what real productivity could look like? Would a few quiet moments just cause you to be mediocre at what you do? Distractions and disruptions can mean you have to do more in less time, experience more feelings of job insecurity and frustration and just more feelings of stress. If it seems like you are working harder to accomplish less, that might just be the case.

Have you ever started a work project or a paper for school and your phone dings to alert you to a text or some other notification and after you

pause to look at it and return to your project/paper somehow you don't feel like what you were working on is coming along as well or at the same pace? That is a perfect example of how a mindless distraction, something we do every day, collides with doing things well and doing things in a focused and manageable way. Perhaps you have used these distractions to avoid doing things and maybe the tasks at hand don't even get done as you watch your last Youtube video of people falling 3 hours.

Well, Now what? Here are a few tips for reducing distractions and feeling less disrupted.

Set a goal for what you want to get done each day. Personally or professionally, having a daily goal is one way to help focus you. With a goal in mind, distractions and disruptions will be less appealing and it may feel like it is more important to avoid them. You may have to silence your phone.

Close your office door or study away from home. You will see that, although this feels uncomfortable at first, you will begin to see that the change in your environment and extra quiet time makes you more efficient and may even improve your quality of work.

Pick a time to stop looking at social media and email when at home. Even gaining a half hour of time away from constantly looking at your email, texts and social media postings will give you downtime you didn't even know you had lost. You may have more time to relate to others, attend to pets, read a book, meditate, etc.

HALT+B means: Never let yourself get Hungry, Angry, Lonely, Tired or Bored. Each of these or any combination of these can cause feelings that make distractions and disruptions because you are struggling to focus.

In order to stay focused, you have to take a break that is scheduled and then get right back to the focus. It is almost like blinking your eyes when you need to rest them. A reasonably timed break, may be just enough to keep you in good focus over time.

These ideas are simple, and they won't be easy. We are so used to being distracted that we accept it as a way of life.

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FRIDAY 6.28

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SATURDAY 6.29

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SUNDAY 6.30

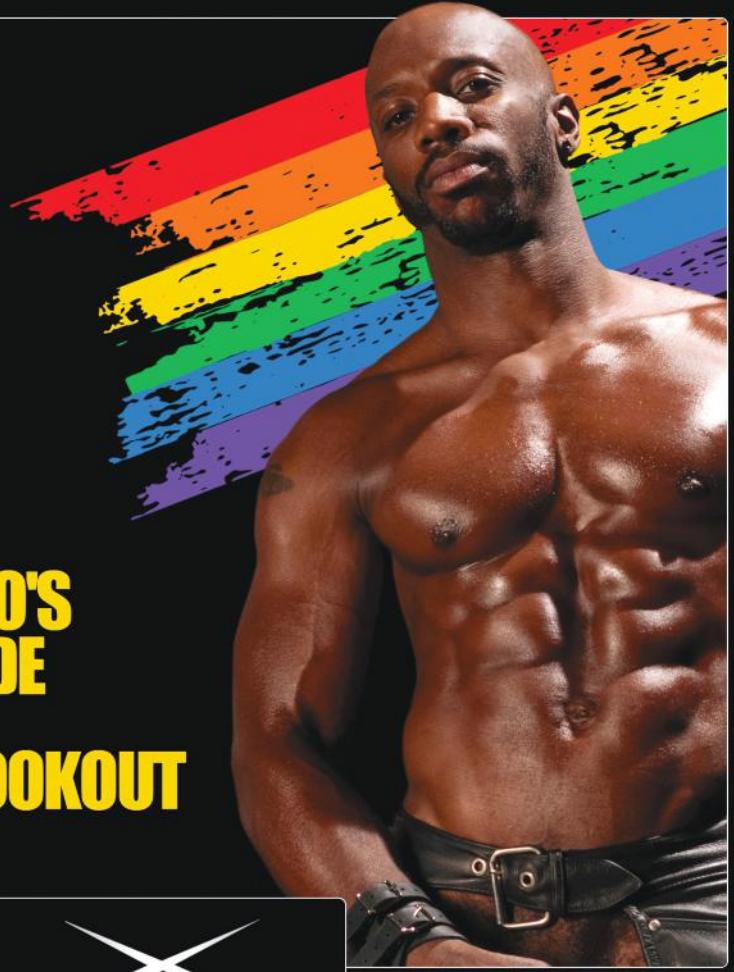
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THURSDAY 7.4

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FRIDAY 7.5

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IN CONCERT

EVIL WOMAN: THE AMERICAN ELO

I dropped into the Genesee Theatre in Waukegan to catch Evil Woman, the American ELO in-concert. This was a trip down memory lane as this group brought back high school memories. There're NO bad ELO songs, so this group performed hit after hit.

By the 2nd set, most of the audience were on their feet. A few years ago, I caught "The Orchestra," ELO cover band which includes two original ELO members, also performing at The Genesee Theater, and while both groups have much talent in my opinion, The American ELO hits closer to home for me.



First off, Kevin Fafard is on lead vocals and guitars, it definitely adds to the aura to have a Jeff Lynne look-a-like, or was it by coincidence? Then there was Rebecca Catalano on vocals, with an impressive resume as she sings, acts, and dances. Rebecca hails from North Carolina and has a smile that lights up the stage. Very talented and energetic. Nigel Holland was the musical director, keyboard, vocals. Nigel was the voice of the band. Great sense of humor and talented musician. keyboard, vocals. Nigel was the voice of the band.

Great sense of humor and talented musician. Members also include Robert Smith who played keyboards and does vocals, Jimmy Agrios on bass, Ron Halsey playing guitars and on vocals), Michael Mosgrove, also playing guitar and does vocals, Stephen O'Leary, on string arrangements, Nancy Crockford, was the orchestra leader and violinist, Edwin Camacho was on cello, and was the keyboards alternate.

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COMMENTARY UNCENSORED



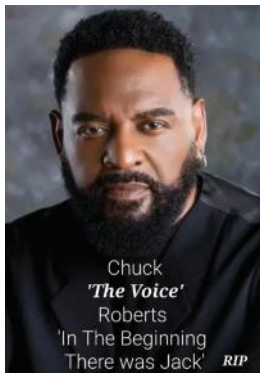
by: Screamin' Rachael
Recording Artist, Entrepreneur, Publisher, Music Mogul, House Music Icon,
sometimes Controversial, with a dash of Opinionism for good measure.

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We're celebrating House Music's 40th year in Chicago, with many events around the city. You can find out whats happening at HouseMusic40.com. There are a lot of activities to attend. In the spirit of House, I want to remind everyone of some of Chuck Roberts "MY HOUSE" lyrics: "Jack is the one that can bring nations and nations of all Jackers together under one house! You may be black, you may be white, you may be Jew or Gentile, it don't make a difference in our house.. and this is fresh!" Some of you may recognize the speech from the TRAX Classic "Can You Feel It", or perhaps you heard part of it, if you attended Beyonce's concert. House Music is supposed to be about love and unity. The funny thing is that, some of the pioneers of House, tragically it seems to invoke the opposite!

It's hard to imagine that such a small group of dysfunctional people could create a style of music that would have such a positive effect on people around the world! Yes some of these folks have an unfounded beef with me, but I'm not the only one, they also have a beef with each other. If I had some "TINKER-BELLE" Fairy Dust, I would make it all go away, and have us go back to our young naive years, of believing in each other, and living a life that reflects Chucks words.

Unfortunately, since the world has brought notoriety and fame to what once was a small movement, some artists are acting like crabs in a barrel! There was a lot of issues among the House Music community about the main event lineup, that was on June 2nd, in **Millennium Park**. Again, Trax Records wasn't invited, but we decided to do our own event, which was featured on the city's event site, "TRAX FEST" in Pilsen. I respect **Farley Jackmaster Funk**, who was not included, but went straight to the Mayor. So not only did he get added, but there was a giant photo of him added to the event! There's no doubt who took charge, and was going to be the star!



If you read my last column, about the infringement of the Trax Records trademark at **Navy Pier's** "History of House Music" display, I am happy to say that's being cleared up. **Kevin McFall** one of the curators, got in touch with me. He invited me to The Open House at **Chicago Cultural Center**. It was FABULOUS! There was really amazing talent. I particularly loved the LAB where we could paint our own records and sleeves! It was hosted by Artist and Rapper extraordinaire **@PUGSATOMZ**

I was hanging out with **Virgo X**, who's a new artist in development. My outfit was by **Michael Wesley White**. He's designed for **Chaka Khan, Dianna Ross, Bob Marley**, and now TRAX! Everyone LOVED MY OUTFIT! They took photos of me all night long!!

WTTW sponsored a new documentary in the making, "House Music A Cultural Revolution," we got to see part of it in the **Claudia Cassidy Theater**. My partner in crime **Jorge Cruz** joined us later, and we went live on the @traxrecords Instagram. You could see the gorgeous building with the Tiffany ceiling, the breakdancers and Jackers, and of course, us being mischievous. We had a great time Joking with **David Chavez**. I finally met him in person and found that there's supposedly no a problem between us. I think that next year he'll remember myself and TRAX, at least I hope so. No matter what, I can't understand the fact that no one in Chicago called us about the label, meanwhile people around the world fly in to interview me. It's true that the best gigs I've had are in another city, other than **Chicago**, or country!



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>> **UNCENSORED** *Continued*

When it became time to meet up with **Mike Macherello aka Mike at Night**, and head to the "press-conference" event at **Arbella**, I felt very satisfied, at first... Then, perhaps I was wrong! Only to find out about me being purposely **blacklisted**, along with my entourage I brought with me from the earlier event!

We got dropped off at the club door, Jorge and I entered, while Mike and Virgo X went to find parking. I was immediately recognized by the young lady managing the guest list. She told me how much she appreciated my music, and all I had done for House Music. I gave her Mike at Night's card, and a couple of the latest issues of **boiMAGazine**, I told her Mike was parking, and is coming in after, and to be sure that Vince got these.

Wow, it seemed like the perfect love fest, until she got to the part when she said that "we could NOT ENTER the party!" Apparently **Vince Lawrence**, whom I talked about in the last issue, left those strict instructions with her. It was shocking, but civilized, no screaming, and we remained very polite and calm. The next thing you know, security was summoned to REMOVE us from the premises! At least, during the initial "love-fest," we got our cheap goody swag-bags first. When we got rejected at the door and then ejected outside by security, House legends surrounded us.

You'd think we were having a meet-and-greet right there on the street! **Robert Bond** a good friend and well known DJ International recording artist gave me a big hug and asked "what's up?" He couldn't believe what just happened! Robert said "That ain't right! House Music is supposed to be about love! Screamin' Rachael is a legend and doesn't deserve this!" **Jerry McAllister, Dajae** and others were all stunned when they saw that I wasn't going in. Even **Curtis McClain**, who I've had disagreements with, told **Virgo** that it wasn't right! Well **Jorge** was laughing his ass off, and surprisingly we got most of the action on video! He said "We couldn't have gotten a better reaction!" My worst nightmare came true, and it really wasn't that bad. How did I and Vince Lawrence, who made the first House recording "Fantasy" which was also by the way, the first House vocal record, with myself and **Jesse Saunders**, ever get to this point? Well my assumption was true after all! **BAD Rachael, Jorge and TRAX! YOU are BANNED!** I only wish I could have been around to see Vince's reaction if he read last month's column, So, shade doesn't get better than this! **PRICELESS!** We left there and had a great time at **Buzzed by Zea**, where the owner **Lee** served us some "special of the house" lavender martini's that were shaken and delicious!

The Big Bash at Millennium Park on June 2nd was fun, but mostly because of the audience. It was great to see thousands of people who truly loved house music. The DJ's were OK but some of them weren't even from Chicago.

The high point of the party was when **New York DJ Tony Touch**, played the ORIGINAL Version of "Move Your Body." I don't think it mattered who played it. I enjoyed the dancers on stage with Tony. My friend **BRAVEMONK**, who is from **Chicago** and a legendary Hip Hop and House dancer brought on his dance troop. After Tony Touch, **Farley Jackmaster Funk** came out and stole the show.

He brought on stage some children saying they are the future, and having them sway, and do their own form of Jacking. What surprised me about Farley was the fact that when he played "Love Can't Turn Around" he sang part of it, and it sounded very good. The legendary vocalist **Darryl Pandy**, had passed away years back, so it was appropriate, though it would have been nice if he was mentioned. Farley brought on **Rhyme Fest** who was the only live vocalist to perform at the concert, with his hype man.



The Jack Master ended his set with a surprise visit from **Mayor Brandon Johnson**. I do have one good thing to say about our Mayor, Johnson supports HOUSE MUSIC! Now if we could only "Jack" away the city-wide problem of CRIME!

Out "n' About

by Jorge Suarez

Chicago

One would assume with digital media having replaced, or attempted to replace vinyl, record stores would be scarce. On the contrary, not only have many record stores survived the digital and Covid era, a new generation of record stores and other sales outlets such as Discogs, eBay and social media platforms, have emerged and have contributed to the resurgence of vinyl. I've created a list based on internet searches and social media platforms, record stores and music outlets, as well as online sellers in Chicago and suburbs. I'll be visiting and reviewing these vinyl enthusiasts for boiMAGazine.

Recently, I ventured out to Gilberts, IL to meet with owner, **Clark** at **Old Lady Records**. Clark, a former firefighter and paramedic for 15 years was hurt on the job and unable to perform work related protocol, and has developed a passion for vinyl, specializing in hard to find classics of all formats. Clark has three locations and stores over thirty thousand pieces of vinyl and other musical collectibles such as 8-tracks, VHS, cassettes, and memorabilia.



There are many great finds. I've noticed on Facebook Marketplace, sellers have taken to 'bundling' to maximize sales. For example, purchase 50 records at a cost of 50.00. The bundle will always include well known artists such as **Zeppelin**, **Floyd**, **Styx**, **Supertramp**, etc in where these records will be in very good condition.

Obviously this entices anyone, including myself. The remainder of the 'bundling' package' includes other well known titles from **Steely Dan**, **America**, **Doobie Brothers**, **Linda Ronstadt** etc, also referred to as **Yacht Rock**. Bundling has proven to be a good marketable-concept. Additionally, buyers have dropped in on Clark from other states to stock up on vinyl, to be resold at their stores. There are \$1 bins and up. Be prepared to spend time diggin' for vinyl.

Pink Floyd released the "Ummagumma" LP in 1969 (UK). The original UK pressing, includes a record cover of **GiGi**, a sexual slang during the 60's in England. The term "Ummagumma" was also considered a sexual slang during the 60's, though Pink Floyd denied it.

For this reason, the original "Ummagumma" record with **GiGi** on the cover, did not make it into the United States, making this a collectible. While I've read this LP sells in the thousands, it can be bought in the U.S. on eBay or Discogs, for less, or buy it from Clark for \$100.00. You can find **Old Lady Records** on Facebook, with Disney's cartoon **Mabel** profile photo.

You can contact Clark at: OldLadyRecords@gmail.com



In 2023, owner Clark purchased the **WRXT** archives which included vinyl, reel to reel interviews with such recording artists as John

Lennon, Frank Zappa, Pete Townsend, Billy Corgan, and the list goes on.

The collection also includes a large amount of broadcast carts which include vocal drops from every known band/musician, to grace **WXRT** studios. I took time to sort through bins and baskets filled with classics. Clark carries a wide assortment of vinyl at 180 grams, UK first pressings, International releases not distributed in the U.S., **Beatles** and **Monkees** memorabilia, and many sealed/mint copies of hard to find classics.



Join me for another trip down memory lane in the next exciting issue of boiMAGazine,

If there's a store near you in Chicago, or suburbs that you'd like reviewed, email me at: Jorge@boiMag.com

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ASK CHAR

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Dear Char,

"I constantly compare myself to others and feel inadequate.

How can I learn to embrace my own unique strengths and value myself?"

Dear Constantly Comparing in Chicago,

It is truly difficult to see others happy on social media, like friends and family, and not make comparisons to their lives, how they dress, the places they get to go, and the people they meet and enjoy. So, instead of thinking about all the great things about you, your life, and the love that you have, you begin to feel that others have it better off.

That doesn't deter you from perusing the internet, but you look even more at what others have to offer, and you begin to spiral into a vortex of feeling not good enough, inadequate, and having self-contempt.

Here are some ways to know when the comparisons your making are having a negative impact on you:

You buy things you don't need, because these things seem to make other people happy.

You spend time on social media when you know you should be doing other things.

You scroll social media at work.

You read your friends social media and if they seem particularly happy or have had an incredible experience doing something, you avoid them. You just don't want to hear about it.

You start to feel really envious of those on social media.

You have to check social media right away in the morning and at night, making sure you didn't miss anything.

Even when you have caught yourself making comparisons and vow to stop, you just keep getting drawn in, and the negative comparison cycle continues. When we make these comparisons, they do not bring us into a sense of self, instead, it creates an imbalance that puts a lot on the line: like our emotions, contentment, a willingness to learn new skills, and it effects our mental health.

Comparisons to others and mental health are closely linked. It is well known that people feel depressed when they don't measure up, and when that measuring goes on over extended periods of time, you can add anxiety to the list as well.

So how do break away from these comparisons, and begin to appreciate you? Try some of these ideas:

Always be grateful. No need for comparisons here. Look around you at what surrounds you. I guarantee there is joy in there somewhere. Find it, and embrace it.

Be satisfied. At the end of each day find what seemed to work out in your favor. Don't look for stars and rockets, look for the little things. I found a quarter in a parking lot. I used that quarter when the bill came to \$10.25, and I didn't have to break a \$20 bill. Nothing big, but it helped!

Stay focused. Focus on you, and definitely not others. Don't let the internet trap you into believing that you don't measure up. List your strengths. If you really want to go out on a limb, ask someone else what they believe you have to offer the world.

Mind your mother. Remember when your mom made you shake hands with someone when they beat you at the spelling bee, or in a sport or when they got an A on a project? Remember how she told you that jealousy, and envy were not going to pay off in life? Well, doggone it, your mom was right! When you see something that makes you feel "not so valuable," take a moment, and if it makes sense, congratulate that person on their accomplishment. This takes practice, but like **Maya Angelou** said, "people never forget how you made them feel." This may create some relationships that you didn't expect to achieve or have.

Don't let a picture of someone else's life dictate yours. Think about it? If social media is making you feel unhappy why continue to torture yourself?

I can't tell you to just stop making comparisons, because it's not that easy. What I will tell you is that your worth is more than you know. Be you. Just be you.



There's something to be said about drive, determination, and the willingness to not let obstacles, or the opposition stand in your way.

My favorite quote takin' from a social media meme is: *"When Hate is Loud, Love Must be Louder!"* by: Mike at Night

If you've read **Screamin' Rachael's** "Uncensored" article in our last issue, she shared a story when she was went to attend a media event at the **Arbella** lounge downtown, only to find that House DJ/Producer **Vince Lawrence** left instructions at the door, to deny Rachael, of Trax Records admission into the event. I know that she wasn't allowed in, since I dropped her off at the door, and was parking, getting ready to go in myself, when I received a message to come back and get her, and the rest of the entourage, because they couldn't get in.

So, one minute Screamin' Rachael's being ejected by security from a club, the next minute she's rubbing elbows with **Mayor Brandon Johnson**, at another Chicago's 40 years of House event. Then two weeks later, I was invited to attend "Trax Fest" in **Pilsen**, with a roster of DJs and music artists, who will be performing at this event, that was announced just days before.

Invited or not, if **Vince Lawrence** came to Trax Fest, he certainly wouldn't be turned away, in fact, I'm sure he would be welcomed, despite any hard feelings... and that's the way it should be. Like I always say "lead by example."

The Trax Fest event kicked off at the **Colby Gallery** that featured a Trax Atelier Exhibition, by designer **Michael White Wesley**. Following, the Trax Fest main event was steps away on 18th Street, near the **Chicago Midwest Made** fashion retail shop, which carries a line of cool Trax logo merchandise, like leather jackets, commorative T-Shirts and accessories, by **Mario Maldonado**.



<< Photo to the left is DJ Fade on the Turntables.

I saw TV Personality, Celebrity Hair Stylist, Actor and Musician, **Daniel DiCriscio** perform. Earlier prior to the performance, I had a chance to talk with him about his fascinating career, not realizing that he flew in from LA for the day, just to be at this event, and was flying back to LA right after.

Below, pic of Daniel DiCriscio with Screamin' Rachael.



It was a beautiful day, and it was nice to see everyone that came out to support the event., including many industry influencers, designers, artists DJs, and even Pilsen's **Alderman Byron Sigcho-Lopez** got on the microphone and thanked everyone for being there, celebrating 40 years of House Music.

See photo on next page. >>

Continued on a Following Page >>



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TRAX FEST



The event wasn't without excitement, one thrilling moment was when beauty-product entrepreneur, and headliner artist **Irene Michaels** went off script, with mic in-hand, and proceeded to perform in the middle of 18th St, almost getting hit by a US Postal Truck, and ran over by a Mac Trailer-Truck.



I saw a drag queen once on Halsted Street who ran out into the street, stopped traffic, continued her show on the hood of a car that was stopped at the stop sign.

If you don't believe that this show-stopper, took place on 18th St, take a closer look at the photos above that I took. Of course the street went up with cheers from onlookers, passer byers, hoots and hollers from the Tarx Fest Crowd.

BTW: You might remember that Irene Michaels was our cover model, and featured in the May 2023 issue of boiMAGazine.

Speaking of feature articles, **Xochi** also performed at Trax Fest. She was recently interviewed and featured in the boiMAGazine's Music Issue in April, earlier this year. She also performed the day before during the **Rib Fest** street event at Irving Park Rd. & Lincoln, belting out an array of cover songs that entertained and delighted the huge north-side crowd.



The Trax Fest event wouldn't have been possible without everyone involved, especially Jorge Cruze from Trax Records. Besides coordinating everything and everyone, he also was DJ for the first set, prior to the performances.

It looks like this is just the beginning, and I look forward to next year and watching this grow into a one-of-a-kind Chicago House Community event.



SEXBOT TECH TRENDS

by Jack Santo

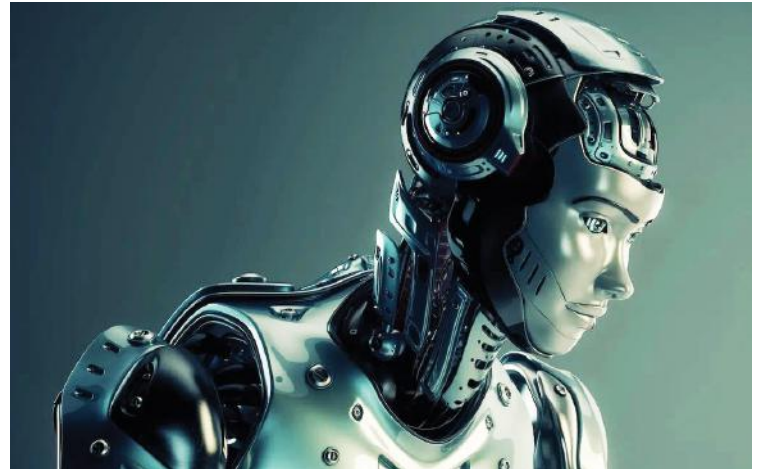
INTIMATE TECHNOLOGY

Looking ahead, the ongoing advancements in AI technology suggest that sex robots may become more sophisticated.

The integration of more sensitive AI could lead to robots that better understand and respond to human emotions and preferences.

However, achieving the level of complexity required for genuine human-like interactions is a considerable challenge that remains to be overcome.

The evolution of sexbot technology reflects a blend of significant advancements and ongoing challenges. As AI continues to advance, we may see further improvements in the realism and capabilities of these robots, but the vision of fully autonomous, emotionally intelligent sexbots akin to those in science fiction remains in the realm of future possibilities. Combined with the currently high cost of owning sexbots and the potential legislative actions preventing sexbot brothels, the widespread presence of sexbots in every home or on every corner should be not an immediate concern for anti-robot campaigners. This suggests that, in the immediate future, sexbots may remain a niche market rather than a ubiquitous aspect of everyday life.



With this context in mind, let's now explore the demographics of current and prospective sexbot users, delving into the psychological and social implications that accompany the use of robots for physical and emotional intimacy.

The landscape of sexbot usage and interest is complex and varied, encompassing a range of demographics, motivations, and societal perceptions. Drawing along with data from a 2013 YouGov poll.

Let's take a look at the multifaceted nature of sexbot interaction.

Some self-identified men, particularly younger ones, show a more pronounced interest in sexbots. Though the demographics show primarily CIS men, there is some interest among the LGBTQI+ community as well. Heterosexual self-identified women, while currently a minority in this domain, are also showing growing interest. This trend indicates a gender and sexual identity divergence in the appeal of sexbots.

Continued >>



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Older individuals, particularly those who have lost a partner; are older and disabled live with an older disabled partner; or are reluctant to re-enter the dating scene, are increasingly considering sex robots as an option.



According to representative surveys, such as those conducted by YouGov, public interest in sex robots has increased over time. Starting from 2013, when about 9% of the population indicated a willingness to have sex with a robot, the percentage rose to about 20–30% in 2020. In surveys conducted by Simon Dubé's team, which might have self-

selection biases, they found approximately 50% of male and 30–40% of self-identified female respondents would be interested in or willing to try a sex robot.

Contrary to popular belief that loneliness is the main driver, the interest in sexbots appears more aligned with sexual exploration, diversity, and the desire to enact fantasies or spice up relationships. In Dubé's research, a smaller group indicated interest due to difficulty in accessing partners. Other motivations include older adults seeking companionship after losing a partner and individuals preferring non-human intimacy.

Interest in sexbots is more correlated with individuals' attitudes towards sexuality (erotophilia, erotophobia) rather than their attitudes towards technology. More liberal individuals, especially women, might be more open to the idea of sexbots compared to more conservative counterparts.

Media representations often focus on a stereotypical portrayal of femininity in sexbots, which may not accurately reflect the diversity of consumer interests. The actual requests received by manufacturers from customers, including men, and women, are highly diverse and often seek representations of alternative human eroticism.

The high customization level of sex robots, suggesting their potential to cater to a wide range of preferences and needs. The interest in sexbots spans genders, ages, and personal circumstances, driven by diverse factors such as exploration, companionship, and education.

These insights reflect an evolving landscape of human interest and engagement with sexbots, challenging traditional notions of intimacy and pushing the boundaries of technological interaction in human sexuality.

Sexbots represent a paradigm shift in how we perceive intimacy and companionship. While they offer an avenue for sexual exploration and the fulfillment of desires that might be unmet in human relationships (stop; think about that; let's say that again: sexbots offer an avenue for sexual exploration and the fulfillment of desires that might be unmet in human relationships), they also raise profound questions about the nature of the human connection.

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