

nightspots

weekly nightlife section in



/nightspots



@nightspotschicago

DANCING ABOUT ARCHITECTURE

BY MARC 'MOOSE' MODER

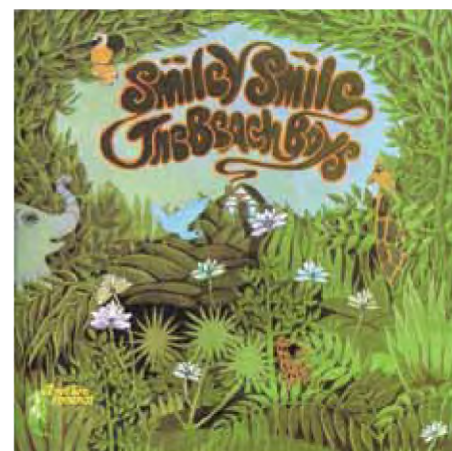


Rihanna and the lost album saga

Recently, our beloved Rihanna tried very hard to break out of her pop shell and go with an "edgier" sound, via Kanye West, and failed. All three singles off of the planned R8 album tanked, despite the help of a Beatle, an epic Tarantino-esque video for "Bitch Better Have My Money" and a warm reception for the po-

a mistake and replaced it with the bright and spiritual polar opposite, Lovesexy.

After the critical success and breakaway from formula with Pet Sounds and the biggest single of their career, "Good Vibrations," the world was waiting for another masterpiece by Brian Wilson and **The Beach Boys**. Unfortunately,



massive amounts of hashish, Quaaludes and depression, plus an odd collaboration with the heady lyricist Van Dyke Parks yielded The Smile Sessions, a group of recordings meant to be the follow up album, Smile. The Smile Sessions rambled on for a year and had no real catchy singles and was eventually abandoned by the band, then re-recorded poorly and on-the-fly as Smiley Smile, one of their worst and poorest selling albums, derailing their career permanently.

Dr. Dre is currently very high on his billion dollar headphones, hit movie (Straight Outta Compton), and now long-awaited (and critically acclaimed) LP, Compton. But it hasn't always been "Dre Day." Three of his projects have died on the vine. Helter Skelter, a dream album



litically relevant—but tepid—"American Oxygen." Seems like she wanted to walk the path of Beyoncé's self-titled triumph (artistic, yet accessible and well-thought-out), but fell into Bey's "4" (anti-pop to the point of bland and forgettable).

Ri's not the first artist to toss out a realized album and start over out of frustration. **Prince** famously recorded the dark and angry Black Album during a rough patch in his life (possibly



fueled by drug experimentation), and waited right up until the first run was pressed and ready to ship to stores before he realized it was

with Dre and Ice Cube with Snoop Dogg, was in the works but was murdered by a bad fallout with Death Row Records. Then, a similar NWA reunion met the same fate a few years after. The next decade it happened again with the follow up to The Chronic with fits and starts (supposedly called Detox), that took about 10 years, finally getting tossed aside in place of Compton.

Seems a shame that these, and hundreds other shelved concepts, might never see the light of day or only be released in cruddy, bootleg form, but if I've learned anything from years of research and illegal copies, some things are better left to your musical imagination and don't see the light of day for good reasons. Rihanna, we can "W8" for something better.

THE SOFO TAP
grrrrr
EVERY FRIDAY 9PM-2AM

\$6 **Blt MILLER LITES**
\$4 **FIREBALL SHOTS** SPECIALS AVAILABLE ALL DAY
\$2 **PBR CANS**

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD BAR SOUTH OF FOSTER
 4923 N CLARK STREET ★ THESOFOTAP.COM ★ 773-784-SOFO

ADVERTISE IN AMERICA'S PREMIER LGBT PUBLICATIONS TODAY!

STRONGER THAN EVER

Spending in America's LGBT media is at a record high of \$381.4 million, up 18.2% from 2012. Circulation and readership of LGBT media are also up a healthy 15.1%*

Now that's just SUPER!



Designed by Azer Creative: azercreative.com

*2013 Gay Press Report

National Gay Media Association

BAY AREA REPORTER | BAY WINDOWS | BETWEEN THE LINES | DALLAS VOICE | GA VOICE
 GAY CITY NEWS | SOUTH FLORIDA GAY NEWS | WASHINGTON BLADE | WINDY CITY TIMES

Advertise in America's premier LGBT publications today! Call 212-242-6863



"Black drag queen comes in and saves all the white folk ... that doesn't happen often!"—**Billy Porter** encapsulates the plot of *Kinky Boots* during his show at the Crown & Anchor in Provincetown.

Over this column's long history, the line between celebrity and porn has been blurred beyond recognition. While prostitution and porn are not necessarily the same thing, there is an indisputable connection. Last week, the offices of the largest gay escort website, **Rentboy.com**, were raided in New York City and seven employees were arrested.

But this raid wasn't solely carried out by the NYPD. The website was being investigated by the Department of Homeland Security. Huh? Is ISIS trying to infiltrate the US through hot male hookers? Was Bin Laden the Al-Qaeda equivalent of Heidi Fleiss? Maybe they're housing a sleeper cell! The official complaint was filed by special agent Susan Ruiz, and she spends an inordinate amount of time defining terms such as twink, scat, fisting, and out rate. Here's an example: "I have learned that a sling, also known as a 'sex sling', is a device that allows two people to have sex while one is suspended." If nothing else, we've surely enriched Ruiz's education.

There's all sorts of drama happening at the **O'Donnell** home. From what we can piece together, it all started in 1997. That was when Deanna Micolety put her 2-month-old daughter Kayla up for adoption. According to Deanna, she signed the consent documents while high on drugs and under pressure of her then-husband. She also alleges that the adoptive mother knew the condition she was in. That adoptive mother was Rosie O'Donnell, and Kayla soon became Chelsea O'Donnell. In the intervening years, Chelsea has been trying to find her biological parents. Somehow she got in touch with Deanna's father last November. Since then, Deanna and Chelsea/Kayla have been in contact via text and Facebook messages. Allegedly, O'Donnell tried to stop this communication and had some heated exchanges with Deanna. One text from Rosie says, "Get any lawyers u want. It was all legal. Like it or not. Now stop." When Deanna went public with the story, Rosie's publicist said that Rosie "encouraged and supported Chelsea's desire to communicate with her birth mother."

Fast forward to last month when Rosie revealed that Chelsea had been missing for a week with her service dog. On Aug. 18, Chelsea was found with 25-year-old Steven Sheerer, a man she allegedly met on Tinder and who has a record for heroin possession. According to reports, Sheerer sent Chelsea a nude photo of himself, and since she was only 17 at the time, he was charged with third-degree distribution of obscenity to a minor and third-degree endangering the welfare of a child. Six days after the police brought her home, Chelsea turned 18 and became a legal adult. Rosie's publicist made another statement: "Chelsea made a decision when she turned 18 that she wanted to go to her birth mother. That was her choice." But it wasn't quite so placid. We hear that Rosie refused to give Chelsea her birth certificate or Social Security card and threatened to cut her off financially if she left. And yet, off she went. Deanna drove from Wisconsin to pick up Chelsea/Kayla and told reporters, "Leave my daughter out of Rosie's stuff." To be continued...

Season 18 will likely go down in history as the least successful season of *The View*. All three of the newly-hired co-hosts vanished. For a while, it looked like **Whoopi** was going to be on the show all by herself. Then **Raven-Symone** was hired. Then **Michelle Collins** was hired. Then **Candace Cameron Bure** was hired. Then **Paula Faris** was hired. For those of you keeping count, that's five co-hosts—the most the show has ever had.



Rosie O'Donnell has her own edition of *Family Matters* happening.

But Candace will also be filming the *Full House* reboot, and Paula hosts *Good Morning America* on the weekends. So they needed some fill-ins. Enter **Stacy London**, **Ana Navarro**, **Molly Sims** and **Sherri Shepherd**. Yes, Sherri Shepherd—one of the few co-hosts in the history of *The View* to actually leave of her own accord.

Then ABC announced that **Joy Behar** is back. Not only is she back—she's back as a permanent host. How did this happen? When planning for this revamped panel, the network asked both Sherri and Joy to return. Both entered into negotiations. The idea of this rotating slot appealed to Sherri, who still acts and does stand-up around the country. She was in. Joy was less than thrilled.

"They've come to me, and we couldn't make a deal," she said. "They wouldn't really negotiate well enough for me. And so I said, 'No, I'm not coming back.' I mean, if they were giving me a bigger role on the show, and giving me some power to actually make some changes and let them benefit from my expertise after being there for 16 years—but they're not going to do that, so why would I want to bang my head against the wall?" A big issue was the money—we hear Joy wanted \$3 million for the part-time gig. The network balked, and Joy walked. Then Barbara Walters went to bat for Behar. Babs was disgusted with how the show has been run since her retirement, and insisted that Joy be rehired. But wait: There's more. Because the show will now be live on Fridays, Whoopi will take that day off—and guess who will be the moderator? Joy, that's who.

I'm already looking forward to *Dancing with the Stars*—or, as I like to call it, *Dancing with a Bunch of Nobodies*. So far, we have **Chaka Khan** huffing and puffing and sweating like a pig. **Paula Deen** might be a hoot. Then there's **Nick Carter**. If nothing else, he'll get back in shape—and there are few things in this world better than Nick Carter in shape. As to **Bindi Irwin**, really? She's a celebrity? Let's just hope her partner has a pet stingray.

When our tax dollars are being used to teach the feds about slings, it's definitely time to end yet another column. We had a little bit of everything to kick off our second decade—music, dance, murder, arrests, porn and escorts. And we LOLed the whole time. You can get even more kicks at www.BillyMasters.com, the site that will make you do more than laugh out loud. If you have a question for me, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before Chaka asks Paula Deen to try her chocolate pie. Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

CELEBRATE SUMMER LABOR DAY WEEKEND

SIDETRACK

WORK HARD. PLAY HARD. WITH TEAM SIDETRACK

NO COVER... IT'S SIDETRACK!

FRIDAY SEPT 4
\$4 FROZEN COCKTAIL HAPPY HOUR
 6-9PM DURING SHOW TUNES

WORK HARD, PLAY HARD
POWERED BY
 9PM-2AM / LIGHTS GO DOWN AND SCRUFFY BOYS COME OUT TO PLAY

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY CAZWELL
 LIVE AT 11PM FOLLOWED BY MEET & GREET

SATURDAY SEPT 5
STOLI BIG DECK PARTY
 GAMES AND FUN ALL DAY LONG!
CELEBRATE SUMMER DANCE PARTY 9PM-3AM

SUNDAY SEPT 6
SUNDAY FUNDAY SUPER-SIZED
SHOW TUNES 4-10PM
RETRO BLAST TIL 2AM

MONDAY SEPT 7
MUSICAL MONDAY
DAY-OFF OLD SKOOL
90'S/00'S PARTY 3-8PM
SHOWTUNES 8PM-2AM

3349 N HALSTED SIDETRACKCHICAGO.COM
 @SIDETRACKBAR

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Seven Lions

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Honestly, I wasn't quite sure what to expect from **Seven Lions** (130 S. Michigan Ave.; SevenLionsChicago.com).

Before visiting restaurants, I try to conduct research—after all, it wouldn't be right to be unprepared, I feel. However, during the course of researching, I made the mistake of stumbling across reviews on certain websites—and they were among the most widely divisive I'd seen.

Say what you will, but the bustling restaurant (renowned sommelier and former Check, Please! host Alpana Singh's second venture, after Boarding House) offers many reasons to warrant a return visit.

I started my meal with the cleverly named Grow Another Pair cocktail. The pear liqueur was certainly noticeable but wasn't overpowering. My dining companions tried the Hell or High Watermelon, a wheat beer that they genuinely liked.

The food is solidly recommended, overall. (The lunch menu isn't the most adventurous, I'll admit, with items such as tuna nicoise and Cobb salad—but what it does, it does quite well.) I fell in love with the Brussels sprout and burrata toast as well as something you don't find in a lot of restaurants: fried chicken skins (along with fried pickles). The sriracha honey mustard, thankfully, only enhances the skins without setting one's mouth on fire.

However, the magnum opus of this meal, for me, was the simplest of items: the 7L Cheeseburger. (Singh actually stopped by our table and recommended this item, adding that even putting lettuce and tomatoes on it would detract from the burger's



Fried chicken skins (above left), cheeseburger (above right) and s'mores bread pudding (below) at Seven Lions



juiciness.) It's a simple concoction—adorned with only American cheese and red onion—but the thought of sharing the burger with my cohorts only filled me with dread after I had the first bite.

The pastry/dessert menu is a bit more adventurous. The S'mores bread pudding is beyond tasty (and a close second to the cheeseburger as my favorite item). However, there are also items such as the breakfast "cereal" bowl (toffee corn puffs and vanilla-bean yogurt panna cotta), bourbon banana split and PB&C (malted milk and peanut-butter mousse, peanut butter-chocolate crunch and a malted milkshake).

In addition to the food and libations/wine, there's also the view, if you sit outside. It's situated near the Art Institute of Chicago and, because "outside" means sitting in the sidewalk area, there will be various businessmen, students and tourists to observe—and who will observe you.

I entered Seven Lions with uncertainty, but left pretty sure that I'll return soon.

[Note: Here's some trivia, in case you were wondering about the restaurant's name. The name Seven Lions factors in several components, including the more than 50 lion ornaments affixed to the façade of the building, and the fact that the restaurant is located directly across the street from Art Institute, with its two iconic lion statutes.

However, the name is largely a tribute to Singh's late grandmother. "Singh" is derived from the Sanskrit word for "lion," and her grandmother referred to her seven children as her lions.]

nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR



**LQKS: Wigshock
w/Lady Bunny**

Thursday, Sept. 3, 10 pm

Berlin, 954 W. Belmont Ave.

Chicago's homage to the legendary festival and movie, Wigstock. Featuring hair-raising LQKS and performances from Lady Bunny (pictured), Saya Naomi, Rosemary Maybe, Betti Kyle and more. \$2 PBR, \$3 Berlin Bombs. Photo by Kirk Williamson



**DILF:
Silver Fox w/Joey Chiappetta**

Sat., Sept. 5, 10 pm

The Sofo Tap, 4923 N. Clark St.

Celebrating daddies with a little (or a lot) of snow on the roof and those men who have a weakness for them. Host Joey Chiappetta (pictured) will be doling out Silver Fox shots and Steamworks passes to all his favorites. Facebook photo



Miss Continental 2015

Semis: Sunday, Sept. 6, 6 pm

Finals: Monday, Sept. 7, 7 pm

The Vic, Belmont and Sheffield

The highest in female impersonation decides the new titleholder at this annual Labor Day weekend pageant. Photo of Miss Continental 2014 by Hal Baim



SIDETRACK

'Sync It!: 2.0, Wed., Aug. 26.
Photos by Jed Dulanias