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weekly nightlife section in

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"I just love live theatre, *The Wiz* and Black people!"—**Marc Shaiman**, composer of *Hairspray* and so many other things, posts why he was looking forward to having people over to watch a musical on NBC. Facebook Post of the Year.

You gotta take the good with the bad. And this week, it was all bad for those of you who were waiting to find fault with *The Wiz: Live*. The Peacock Network finally got it right. There was really nothing to bitch about. I guess you'll have to wait until Fox's version of *Grease*. I can already read those reviews: "The cast members are older than most high school teachers", or "Derek Hough would have made a more feminine Sandy." Back to *The Wiz: Live*—this was the slickest of NBC's annual endeavors. And speaking of slick, how did I never realize that the Tin Man is singing about lube? It was like a three-minute commercial for *WET*: "Slide some oil to me, let it trickle down my spine. If you don't have STP, Crisco will do just fine." Crisco? Well, it was the '70s.



The 2016 Nashville Grizzlies rugby calendar is one of Billy's gift-giving suggestions.
Photo by Chris Malone

For the most part, the cast was superb. How great to see **Stephanie Mills** doing ... well, anything. And I really liked **Mary J. Blige**, although I think someone loaned her the dress Patti LaBelle wore as the Acid Queen in the 1989 version of *Tommy: Live* (look it up). But I know the question all of you have—what the hell happened to Toto? After Dorothy got to Oz, that damn dog disappeared! Since I have nothing but time (and oil) on my hands, I investigated. In the original Broadway production of *The Wiz*, they had trouble training the dog, so he was written out once Dorothy left Kansas. Other viewers were annoyed at the lack of rainbow casting in this show. Uh, you might not have noticed, but Toto was WHITE!

And now, a sad story. Were it not for the quick thinking of her fans, **Sinead O'Connor** would be dead right now. People saw her Facebook suicide note and alerted the authorities. So, next time someone says that social media can do some good, remember—without Facebook, we might live in a world without Sinead O'Connor. Damn.

Last week, **Holland Taylor** came out. Well, I can't say "came out" because I knew she was gay, all of her friends knew and anyone who ever met her knew. Now she said it publicly. Why? "I haven't come out because I am out. I live out," she said. She stopped short of naming her much-younger partner, but I can tell you that person is **Sarah Paulson**.

Every time the topic of *The Danish Girl* came up in conversation, I told people that the film was originally going to star **Nicole Kidman** instead of **Eddie Redmayne**. I told this story to oodles of people and, since I say most things with enormous authority and conviction, nobody ever questioned me. Then one person said, "That doesn't sound right. Are you sure?"

Hmm—could I be wrong? Had I been (inadvertently) disseminating incorrect information? Me? Who prides himself on accuracy as much as being multi-orgasmic? Once again, hands on keyboard. PHEW—I was right. When the project was announced in 2009, *Variety* said that **Gwyneth Paltrow** would play Greta and **Nicole Kidman** would play Einar. Once Gwyneth dropped out (some issue about location shooting), **Uma** briefly replaced her. But why did Nicole leave the project? Who knows—these things happen all the time. Sister Act was written for **Bette Midler** and ended up starring **Whoopi Goldberg**, and they are certainly not the same type. But, to be fair, I'd have bought Kidman as transgender in a hot minute!

And now, more of "Billy's Holiday Gift Giving Suggestions." When the **Nashville Grizzlies** asked me months ago to promote their calendar, I thought I'd wait and include it as one of my featured gifts. And I'm glad I did—just looking at them makes me ... well, a little turned on and a little scared. And that's just how I like my men—you're not sure if they're gonna fuck you or knock over a 7-11 ... or both! The group was founded in 2006 and are the only gay and inclusive rugby team in Nashville—because when I think of rugby, I think of Nashville! The calendar raises money to cover costs so that rugby is available to all. Grab a grizzly at GrizzliesRugby.org.

It seems every year I feature the **Orthodox Priests calendar**. I am annually titillated by

this calendar, which allegedly features incredibly hunky members of the clergy in various forms of undress. As a somewhat dormant member of the Eastern Orthodox Church, I must confess that I have never seen anyone who looks remotely like these guys within miles of a church or monastery. As it turns out, the calendar is meant to be somewhat satirical. The press representative says that it is not intended for religious purposes, but as an organized, artistic effort against homophobia in the Orthodox Church. I'll drink to that—or I intend to next time I take communion. Your prayers will be answered at Orthodox-Calendar.com.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Jared in San Francisco: "Everyone online is talking about Adele's hot bodyguard. Have you seen him? He's gotta be gay—or at least done gay porn!"

Prior to guarding Adele's body, **Peter van der Veen** did a similar job for Lady Gaga. And before that, Petey was a competitive bodybuilder. In fact, he was crowned Mr. Europe in 2005. How he went from posing in a puny pouch to carrying Adele's puppy is a question I cannot answer. I also cannot tell you if he's gay or not. But you can enjoy a plethora of sexy pics on BillyMasters.com—including one where he puts one of Gaga's fans in a chokehold!

When I'd like to be choking on Adele's bodyguard, it's definitely time to end yet another column. So much gossip, so little time. But you can get a supersized version of this column at www.BillyMasters.com, the site that has more fans than Sinead! If you have a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before Florence Henderson sings about Wessonality in an all-white version of *The Wiz*! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

CAN YOU FEEL THE EARTH MOVE?

A Broadway and Holiday benefit concert featuring the cast members from the National Tours of:

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SIDE TRACK

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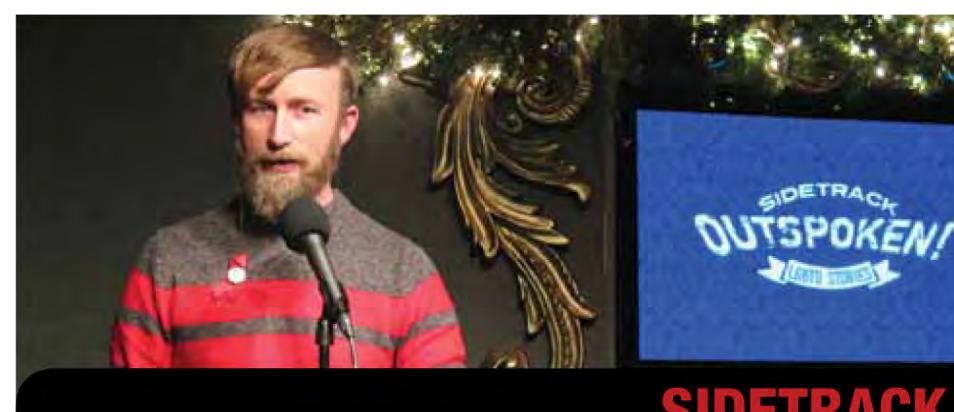
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17 6PM-2AM

GOOD FOOD From Yoshi's, Drew's on Halsted, Amazing Edibles and TonyCakePop

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GOOD DRINKS \$1.75 Domestic Beers \$2 Well Drinks and Specialty/Import Beers \$2.50 Frosneys and all other Cocktails

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SIDETRACK

Sharing stories at OUTspoken!, Tue., Dec. 1.
Photos by Kyle Henderson

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

Revival Social Club

BY KIRK WILLIAMSON

What revives you? Is it coffee? Is it cocktails and conversation or is it simply hearty food that nourishes both body and soul? This is the question that will be put to you as you dine at **Revival Social Club** (1133 W. Granville Avenue; www.revivalsocialclub.com), and the answers are all right there.

Owner Alan Stoll considered this question last year when he and his partner (in work and life) set out to add to the refurbishing of Granville Ave. in Edgewater, a neighborhood famously anchored in the local gay psyche by The Anvil, but which



Argentine skirt steak (above) and Autumnal Equinox cocktail (below) at Revival Social Club.
Photos by Kirk Williamson



has seen much flux over the past 10 years in dining choices. Revival's farm-fresh casualness and crafted seasonal cocktails signal an upswing in this era of growth on Granville. According to Stoll, Ald. Harry Osterman's eyes "lit up" at the prospect of this new dining option.

Stoll takes comforting influences from his childhood in southern Illinois and brings them to this sleek, modern spot. These influences carry through from the decor (including his grandfather's old lantern and a few of his mom's blue-green canning jars) to the ultimate iron skillet monkey bread dessert currently on the menu. But we'll discuss more about that sweet treat after the meal.

For starters, dive head first into the coconut shrimp. These succulent sautéed morsels sparkle with a coconut glaze, while the pineapple pepper relish provides just enough of a kick before the sweetness of the pineapple brings you back down to Earth.

The roasted Brussels sprouts—a dish which is highly on-trend and, consequently, subject to much scrutiny—passes all the tests and shoots for extra credit. They come prepared with dates, bacon, kale and blue cheese, which is ambitious in its combination. This gambit pays off big. Let the flavors dance around a while and you'll forget you've only made it to the appetizers.

The Argentine skirt steak entree was a juicy surprise. True skill is required to handle this cut, and the father-and-son team of chefs, Nazareth and Luis Garcia, exhibit fantastic flair. The steak is marinated with chimichurri salsa and paired with roasted potatoes, onion, corn and asparagus. It's the stick-to-your-ribs, meat-and-potatoes dish you'll be seeking as winter starts to creep in. This dish is one of Stoll's own favorites.

The duck pasilla—a blackened, boneless duck breast with mashed potatoes and a pasilla-chile portabella sauce—achieves earthiness without gaminess. Another of Stoll favorites is the adobo pork tenderloin, in adobo and coffee-rubbed marinade and served with apple and sweet potato hash.

I believe there was talk of cocktails? The Autumnal Equinox evokes a mildly fizzy cool breeze, powered by Ketel One vodka and spiced pear liqueur. The Three-Mile Limit—whose name refers to the legality of drinking liquor three miles off shore during Prohibition—celebrates the roaring '20s with Guyanese rum, cognac, lemon, pomegranate and rhubarb bitters. The North Meets South is a proper cocktail with mezcal, Wooden Shoes coffee liqueur, China-China French Amer, egg white and Creole bitters.

And since you've waited patiently, it's time for dessert. The iron skillet monkey bread is Revival's signature dessert and features cinnamon and sugar dough served in a cast-iron skillet with caramel drizzle and vanilla ice cream. It is truly the most comfortable of all comfort foods. You'll want to lay your head on its sticky, pillow softness and begin your hibernation. It will sustain you all winter.

Revival Social Club is open for dinner every day from 5-10 pm (11 pm on Friday and Saturday). Brunch is served weekends 8 am until 3 pm; 11 am lunch weekdays; and Happy Hour takes place Monday through Friday, 4-6 pm.



All Things Beyoncé

Wed., Dec. 9, 9 pm

Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

Bring your friends and dance to Beyoncé videos, concert footage, comedy and show tune clips plus Dreamgirl-worthy drag performances during the night from DiDa Ritz, Kayla Polanco and The Vixen.



FiFi Depraved's The 12 Gifts of Christmas

Thu., Dec. 10, 9 pm

Charlie's, 3726 N. Broadway St.

A benefit show for the Treasure Chest Foundation. Bring new, unused toys all month long through December 24. All of the proceeds from this night go to getting toys for children battling cancer in the hospital during the holidays. \$5 Suggested donation.



Stock the Shelter 2015

Fri., Dec. 11, 7 pm

R Public House,
1508 W. Jarvis Ave.

Holiday supply drive to benefit Chicagoland dog and cat rescues. Donate a cozy blanket, a tasty treat, or many more items, such as dog toys, Kong, dog treats, rawhide and more.



SANTA SPEEDO RUN

Just a quick jaunt to raise over \$40,000 for Chicago House and Center on Halsted.

Photos by Kirk Williamson