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weekly nightlife section in





ST. PAT'S WEEKEND @ SIDETRACK

Getting lucky at Sidetrack, Sat., March 11.

Photos by Jed Dulanias

AIDS/LifeCycle Team CÜR St. Patty's Day fundraiser

It's your lucky day: Guys in Spandex for St. Patty's Day!

Team CÜR (Chicago Urban Riders) are riding 545 miles down the coast of California in June to fight HIV and AIDS with AIDS/LifeCycle. Join them in the fight on **Thursday, March 16**, at their our annual Bear Den fundraiser at **Big Chicks**, 5024 N. Sheridan Rd. The events starts at 9 p.m.

\$10 suggested donation at the door gets you a house shot at the bar. There will be raffle drawings throughout the night with many great prizes.

So come out and support these awesome guys making a difference in our community. If you can't make the event, go to the Team CÜR page, pick your favorite rider and make a donation: <http://www.tofighthiv.org/goto/teamcur2017>



Amanda Lepore shows off her 'Lucky Charms'



There's gold at the end of this rainbow and her name is **Amanda Lepore**. The legendary trans icon is back for Lucky Charms 2, **Thursday, March 16**, at 10 p.m. at **Berlin**, 954 W. Belmont Ave.

DJs Spice Boy (Teen Witch Fan Club) and LA Spacer (TRQPITECA) keep the beat going in the booth. The event is hosted by Bon Bon, Virtual Brat, Imp Queen, Not Twins (Abhijeet & J4Pay), and more.

Buy advanced tickets at <http://1833.fm/?add-to-cart=19723>

Photos by Amanda Lepore (right, pictured with DJ Greg Haus at Berlin) by Kirk Williamson

Illinois Leather contests at Leather Archives

The Illinois Leather Alliance takes over Chicago this weekend for a host of leather contests, bringing in kinksters from all over the Midwest and beyond. These contests include the Illinois Leather Sir/Leather boy contest, the Illinois Ms. Leather Pride contest, the Illinois Puppy/Trainer contest, the Illinois Bootblack contest and the Illinois Master/slave contest.

The weekend kicks off with a meet-and-greet, **Friday, March 17**, at **Touche**, 6412 N. Clark St. On **Saturday, March 18**, come back to Touche from noon until 3 for contestant interviews. Catch the contests themselves at **Leather Archives & Museum**, 6418 N. Greenview Ave., 7-9:30 p.m., and then it's back to Touche for the Victory Party until 1 a.m.

All events are free to attend.

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR Kal'ish Vegan

BY ANDREW DAVIS

I remember going to a vegan restaurant (that shall remain unnamed) a few years ago—and it seemed that I had cardboard for an appetizer, entree and dessert.

How times have changed.

Uptown's **Kal'ish Vegan** (1313 W. Wilson Ave.; KalishVegan.com), a fast-casual establishment, has shown the strides made regarding the cui-



The K burger (left) and avocado mash-up (right) at Kal'ish Vegan.

Photo by Brandon Pettitt

sine. I wasn't sure what to expect upon entering Kal'ish—but was more than satisfied when I left.

As anyone who's tried vegan fare knows, finding the right taste and even textures can be tricky endeavors. However, co-owners Andy and Gina Kalish (the names being a nice coincidence with "kale-ish") have done a nice job finding the right meat-like protein substitutes for popular



dishes. (Unfortunately, I went there before the Mexican dishes were unveiled—but I can't wait to return to try the "fish tacos" that actually employ hearts of palm.)

The K and G burgers are the basics here (with the latter being a gluten- and nut-free garden patty), but there are additional items like the Bad Adz Burger (K Burger and bacon, cheese,

beet-root mayo, etc.) and the Woodland Burger (K or G Burger with griddle mushroom, onion and provolone, sounding like the earthiest sandwich ever).

My dining companion and I certainly liked the K Burger—but the sandwich known as the Avocado Mash-Up was my absolute favorite item there. It's a delightful mix of avocado mash, leafy greens, radish, red onion, peppadew relish and house ricotta. The clucker crisps (vegan takes on chicken nuggets and sandwiches) were also pretty tasty, even if my palate pushed me to the plain ones instead of the buffalo-style items.

Kal'ish also offers dessert items (such as a memorable apple pop tart) as well as all-day breakfast items. The spot also has Sunday brunch, with offerings such as chorizo quesadillas and French toast.

It's almost enough to make me consider relinquishing meat—almost.

Note: Restaurant profiles/events are based on invitations arranged from restaurants and/or firms.



BILLY Masters

I thought awards season was over. And yet, there are still a couple ceremonies to talk about—like the iHeartRadio Awards. I can hear you rolling your eyes, but suspend your disbelief until I share this almost touching story. When **Justin Timberlake** received an award for “Can’t Stop the Feeling”, he said, “If you are Black or you are brown or you are gay or you are a lesbian or you are trans or maybe you’re just a sissy singing boy from Tennessee. Anyone who has treated you unkindly, it’s only because they are afraid or they have been taught to be afraid of how important you are. Because being different means you make a difference. So, fuck ‘em.” I’m not sure about all that Kumbaya crap, but I have no problem getting behind Justin—especially when he’s saying “Fuck ‘em!”

I ask your indulgence in this next story because, to be honest, I have no idea what I’m talking about. I had abandoned American Idol long before it limped to its final days on the tube. But I vaguely remember **La’Porsha**. What can I say? I have a penchant for big Black women with apostrophes in their names.

I went back in the archives of BillyMasters.com, and read some quotes she made when the so-called “bathroom bill” passed in her native Mississippi. On the topic of homosexuality, she said, “I am one of the people who doesn’t really agree with that lifestyle. I wasn’t brought up that way, it wasn’t how I was raised. But I do have a lot of friends and a lot of people that I love dearly who are gay and homosexual and they’re such sweet, nice people.” So I find it all the more mind-boggling that now, a scant year later, she’s made what I find a startling statement: “I chose to be heterosexual after being homosexual for 2 years.” Huh? Turns out this revelation is in support of another one of her beliefs: “You’re wrong to think it’s not a choice for some ... because it was for me.” She has also said, “I chose a belief system that felt TRUE to my spirit.” She calls it a choice. Others might call it denial.

Something that is definitely a choice is whether or not to be a whore. I don’t say that in a disparaging way. After all, everybody loves a whore. If they didn’t, it would be hard to earn the title. This story is an update on the whore of 2016 (and several previous decades): Logo’s Prince Charming, **Robert Sepulveda Jr.** Brace yourself—he’s single. I know—who couldn’t see that coming? “Eric is a super, super sweet guy, but we’re not together and I’m completely, completely single,” he said. Sounds like an escort ad to me. But, wait—he’s not done, saying, “I have lots of production companies that are interested in doing shows with me, so I’m going to focus on that and my pocketbook.” What a shocking shift in priorities—holding out for cash. But, riddle me this: Who are these numerous production companies looking to hire an aging gay hooker? ‘Cause I’m willing to put out ... for a price.

I love **Seth Rudetsky** and his partner, **James Wesley**. They’re the guys behind the charity sin-



Finding Prince Charming’s Robert Sepulveda Jr. is single—although Billy isn’t surprised.
Photo from Logo

gle “What The World Needs Now” to benefit the victims of the Pulse Nightclub shooting. And they produced the benefit Concert for America: Stand Up, Sing Out, which was counter-programming for the inauguration. The first concert was such a success, they’re taking their show on the road. On March 20, the Concert for America will take place at Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University in Chicago and will star such luminaries as **Chita Rivera, Melissa Manchester** and **Ana Gasteyer** (who I saw in Stephen Sondheim’s *Passion* at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater). Proceeds from the concert will benefit the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Sierra Club, NAACP, Southern Poverty Law Center and the National Immigration Law Center. As with the first concert, you can watch it online for free. More details and tickets can be found at ConcertsForAmerica.com.

John Barrowman was brought up in Chicago, and last week he reached a landmark—he turned 50. And he celebrated the event in several ways. First, he chopped off all his hair and revealed his natural silver coloring—which I must say suits him. Then he launched a T-shirt campaign to support transgender rights and posted a photo wearing the shirt (taken pre-coif). “Most of us have the luxury of being who we are and living our truth. We must stand in solidarity with those who are not as lucky. Grab one of these T-shirts and wear it with pride. Let’s show our support for our transgender family,” he said. Proceeds from the campaign will go to the Trans Youth Equality Foundation. As Johnny suggests, you can grab one at Represent.com/barrowman.

As noble and fulfilling as that endeavor is, what he’ll likely remember from turning 50 is the sight of his Arrow co-star, **Stephen Amell**, bringing out his birthday cake wearing only a pair of snug camouflage undies! Since John has frequently expressed his fondness for Amell’s physique, this

was certainly the gift that kept on giving. You can see Barrowman blowing out his candles on BillyMasters.com.

Someone noticeably absent from Barrowman’s birthday bash was **Colton Haynes**. But he had a good reason—he got engaged. Engaged? Didn’t he just meet this guy? Actually, he just went public about his beau—they’ve been together for weeks ... er, months. Colton’s florist/boyfriend got Cher to make a video singing their favorite song, “I’ve Got You Babe,” and then he popped the question complete with fireworks. What could possibly go wrong?

When “straight as an arrow” takes on new meaning, it’s definitely time to end yet another column. You know what I got out of this column? That Eric from Finding Prince Charming is available. So, while I schedule a blow-out, you can check out www.BillyMasters.com—the site that only takes a little off the top. If you have a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Eric asks if I brought my own shampoo bottle. So, until next time, remember: One man’s filth is another man’s bible.