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weekly nightlife section in



'Drag Ball' kickball game held in Gill Park

BY ED NEGRÒN

On the year's first 90-degree day in the city, members of Stonewall Kickball -Chicago league, a division of Stonewall Sports, held its annual "Drag Ball" charity kickball game on June 4 at Gill Park.

In this last game of the season, two members from each team formed two teams to represent each division to play the charity game while dress in drag. Progress Bar and minibar sponsored the event. The official charity of Stonewall Sports is Fred Says, a local non-profit, which provides support to teenagers living with HIV/AIDS in Chicago and across the country.

The final score was 14-8, in favor of minibar. The final total raised for Fred Says was slightly more than \$3,000.

Immediately following the game, both sponsoring bars held post-game drag shows featuring players from each team.

Stonewall Sports-Chicago play a variety of sports, including kickball, dodgeball and bocce. The kickball season is officially over but bocce sign-ups are still available. (Stonewall Sports' bocce season begins July 6.) For more info, visit StonewallChicago.leagueapps.com; to learn more about Fred Says, visit FredSays.org.

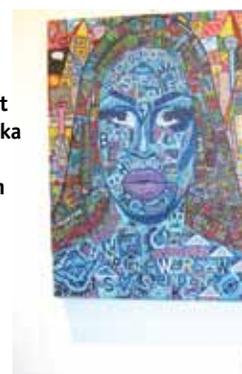


Photos by Ed Negron



From "Drag Landscapes," Tennessee Loveless' new exhibition at Center on Halsted. Portrayed are (left to right) The Vixen, Trannika Rex, Lucy Stoole, Soju and Shea Coulee (pictured with the artist). See the full story on page 38.

Photos by Andrew Davis



the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

The Atwood at The Alise; Davanti Enoteca

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The Burnham Hotel has undergone many changes recently—with the biggest being that it's not known by that name anymore, as it's now The Alise Chicago (a Staypineapple Hotel).

However, **The Atwood** (the restaurant within the hotel at 1 W. Washington St.; <https://atwoodrestaurant.com/>) has undergone its own significant alteration, thanks to the addition of Chef David Fingerman. Decor-wise, The Atwood has long gotten rid of the dark woods and colors in favor of a more contemporary, airy feel. And, regarding cuisine, Fingerman (who's worked with Graham Elliot) has done the hotel proud,



Pan-seared halibut at The Atwood.
Photo by Andrew Davis

although there are a couple kinks.

Starting with drinks, The Atwood continues its tradition of delightful drinks. (Also, the variety is impressive, as their are six signature cocktails as well as 25 classic ones—although one should be advised that they're \$14 each.) The pisco sour I had was quite good, as was my friend's Conference Call, which combines bourbon, cynar, housemade grenadine, lemon and cava.

As for appetizers, be sure to pick the burrata toast, which comes with fennel, orange and Fresno chiles—which all elevate it over similar dishes at other spots. The spoonbread was, surprisingly,

hit-and-miss; we both enjoyed the crispy top layer, but found the dish to be slightly dry. (Any restaurant that makes moist cornbread or items of its ilk will be instantly elevated to my personal hall of fame.)

However, the entrees were simply outstanding. The pan-seared halibut was tasty (as well as the accompanying gnocchi) while the braised pork belly was as good as any I've had. Dessert was the least impressive item: a baked Alaska that had a bit too much char for me—although my palate is probably more delicate than most.

Service was solid, overall, although it was initially lax. (It took about 10 minutes to get water and a menu.) I'm confident it'll catch up to the food.

Davanti Enoteca

Davanti Enoteca (various locations; DavantiEnoteca.com) is an Italian restaurant that offers some exemplary contemporary dishes.

Once again, a restaurant brings it with the appetizers—this time, it's Davanti's ricotta vasi, which combines Tuscan toast, ricotta and honeycomb. As for the entree, we both had the impressive Davanti burger, which comes with bacon jam, cheese curd, arugula and roasted garlic aioli. However, there are many pasta dishes and pizzas from which to choose—and I plan to try



Davanti Enoteca's Davanti burger.
PR photo

them shortly.

There was one problem with our location (River North)—neither I nor my dining companion could find it initially. It's at 30 E. Hubbard St., and Chicago's grid system should've made finding it a breeze; however, it's actually WEST of spots such as Shaw's Crab House (21 E. Hubbard St.), and is on the corner of Hubbard and State streets. Maybe indulging at the Glazed & Infused in the restaurant will help you feel better after the unintentional exercise.

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



BILLY Masters

"I find it funny when bullies play the victims. Oops. I spilled my tea."—**Demi Lovato's** Tweet after Kathy Griffin's mea culpa.

I would like to think I don't have to explain the kerfuffle **Kathy Griffin** caused last week. But, following in the footsteps of Barbara Walters, I feel compelled to recap quickly for the two readers out of the loop. Griffin had a photo shoot with **Tyler Shields**. Shields is known for edgy, gritty photos. Kathy's a kooky comic. Put them together, and you're bound to stir up controversy. A few years back, he famously shot Griffin with a pair of scissors poised to cut off her tongue—in other words, trying to censor her (as if). For this shoot, the duo decided to target Trump. Kathy says an assistant went out and bought a Trump mask, she tousled a wig and someone else mixed fake blood in the kitchen. Bing, bang, boom—she's holding what appears to be a bloody Trump head. She says this was a visual metaphor of Donald's famous 2015 comments about Megyn Kelly: "You could see there was blood coming out of her eyes. Blood coming out of her wherever." Perhaps a more recent reference would have made this clear. Within moments of the photo being leaked, Kathy was attacked from all sides. Many people saw the photo as a call for physical violence on Trump. Personally, I thought Kathy was auditioning to play Salome.

However, the pressure was on for Griffin to apologize. She released a heartfelt video—you could tell she was sincere since she wasn't wearing any makeup! But it was too late. Trump, his family and supporters were on the attack, and social media was in an uproar—something I know a thing or two about. Within a few hours, Kathy had been flushed from Squatty Potty. I mean, how tragic to be dumped as spokesperson for a device that helps you poop. Shortly thereafter, six venues cancelled upcoming shows (she has a light schedule this summer, due to a heavy winter). A few promoters pointed out that they weren't canceling her because of the photo, per se—but because they couldn't afford the extra security.

And then CNN announced it would not re-engage her for its New Year's Eve telecast. The reaction was a study in contrasts. Former CNN star **Larry King** said, "I wouldn't have fired her. Ted Turner wouldn't have fired her. They're jumping all over her now. I would've kept her." Current CNN star **Anderson Cooper** said, "For the record, I am appalled by the photo shoot Kathy Griffin took part in. It is clearly disgusting and completely inappropriate." Then **Piers Morgan** jumped into the fray. After condemning Kathy's press conference, he added, "Trust me, Mr. Cooper chucks everyone under a bus to save his career. Spineless little man." Note that one of these three men still has a career. Showbiz ain't always pretty. Kathy then hired famed attorney **Lisa Bloom**. My reaction? I'd spend a few extra bucks and get Lisa's mom, **Gloria Allred**. At the press conference, the only times Kathy broke down were when asked for



Colton Haynes gets engaged—again, Billy says.

Photo from Facebook

a reaction to Anderson's tweet. It gets murkier. Rumor has it that Anderson is pushing for best buddy **Andy Cohen** to co-host with him on New Year's Eve. Stay tuned.

Moving on, there is some light at the end of the tunnel. Within hours of Trump pulling the United States out of the Paris Climate Agreement, former New York City mayor (and billionaire) **Michael Bloomberg** announced that he will pay our country's share of \$15 million to the United Nations. Someone's laying groundwork.

It's Gay Pride Month. And in a bit of good news, ABC will broadcast NYC's Pride March live for the first time ever. I believe this is actually solely the local ABC station (ABC7NY.com), but it's a start.

We're pleased to report that **Colton Haynes** just got engaged to Jeff Leatham. Now, I may be somewhere on the Alzheimer's continuum, but didn't I already report this story? Yes. Jeff proposed to Colton back in March—complete with fireworks and an assist by **Cher**. (Go back and read the story on BillyMasters.com.) So Colton decided it was time for him to play catch-up. He planted an engagement ring at the bottom of Jeff's glass of vintage Dom and got on his knees, poolside. Once he finished doing whatever it is young men in love do on their knees, he proposed. Oh, those wacky queens!

My beloved **Lindsay Wagner** just announced that she is in the midst of filming a new family movie with someone from her past—**Lee Majors**! It sounds like it might be one of those Hallmark Channel movies, but I'll let you know as soon as we have more details.

Our real "Ask Billy" question comes from Jack in Chicago: "I know you must have seen that photo of **Darren Criss** holding his Speedo. SO HOT! Is there one without the Speedo?"

Once again, I have to explain to everyone what we're talking about. He's prepping to play Andrew Cunanan in **Ryan Murphy's** series about the **Gianni Versace** murder. Part of that rigorous preparation process includes working out and tanning—my God, we have the same life, me and Darren Criss! As often happens, he laid out a tad too long and got what we in Boston would call a

wicked sunburn! To show the degree of the burn, he stood naked and held the Speedo in front of his naughty bits, so we could see the contrast. Risqué as that photo was, my fans want more. Alas, one will have to make do with the variety of photos from the set you can find on BillyMasters.com.

When Criss is sizzling hot, it's definitely time to end yet another column. All this talk about Kathy's photo reminded me of another Shields shoot—when he snapped **Matt Dallas** being buried alive. Why? Who knows. But I'll unearth it on BillyMasters.com—the site where we uncover all sorts of things. If you have a question, send it to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before another celebrity is buried alive. So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.



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