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weekly nightlife section in



the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR Nick's Pizza & Pub

BY ANDREW DAVIS

If you want to know how cozy the newest **Nick's Pizza & Pub** (2434 W. Montrose Ave.; NicksPizzaPub.com/chicago-pizza-pub/) is, look no further than the crunchy floors.

Yes, you read that correctly—and the floor's crunchiness is due to the hundreds of peanut shells that patrons are encouraged to toss on the floor while eating the bowls of the legumes that are on the tables. While some would be aghast at seeing this, some people (particularly kids) are all over this tradition.

However, this isn't the only tradition the place honors. As founder Nick Sarillo told another journalist and myself (and which the other writer already knew), there is a tradition of dipping



Photos from Nick's Pizza & Pub. Left: Founder Nick Sarillo. Right: The double-decker pizza. Photos by Andrew Davis

pizza in ranch dressing.

In all my years on this planet, this is something I had never done—and it's something I couldn't imagine doing. However, it wasn't exactly life-changing (although combining Nick's homemade ranch with the spot's onion rings is another matter).

And I don't think the lack of wonder had

anything to do with the dressing; it had to do with the quality of the pizza. As far as I'm concerned, if the pizza is already quite good (and I'm not knocking the onion rings), it doesn't need the enhancement—and the pies at Nick's are very delicious, indeed. One example is the Nick's Special, which is actually not that special, ingredient-wise (mozzarella,

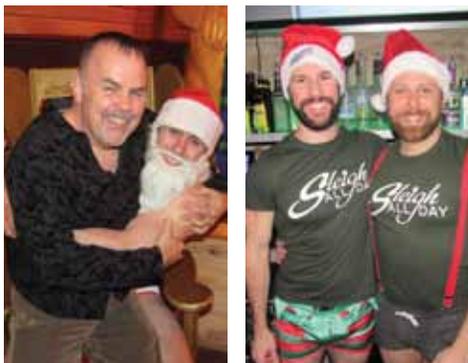
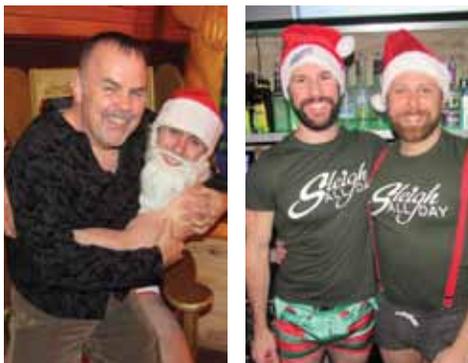
sausage, mushrooms, onions and green peppers). However, it's the little touches—like putting the vegetables on top of the cheese instead of the other way around—that sets the pizza apart.

There are plenty of other delectable items as well. The beer nuggets (meant to be paired with the drink) are deliciously doughy, and there are other appetizers/entrees like bacon cheddar fries, fried mushrooms, Italian beef sandwiches (really incredible), calzones, Nick's Eggcellent Burger and other tasty (if not necessarily healthy) offerings. And you should seriously consider the double-decker pizza (two layers of thin-crust pizza, meat and vegetables knotted together at the crust).

Sarillo (also the author of *A Slice of the Pie: How to Build a Big Little Business*) also talked about his employees and treating them like family. My favorite tenet that he mentioned was that employees should basically act and talk as if their grandmothers are present. (I commented that people should treat social media the same way.)

So, be prepared for Nick's Pizza. You will leave the Lincoln Square spot with a full stomach and a (more) educated mind—or at least the former if you're familiar with the restaurant's traditions.

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



CUSTOMER HOLIDAY PARTY @ SIDETRACK

Ho-ho-ho for this annual benefit for Vital Bridges.
Photos by Jerry Nunn

VOGUE FOR TOTS 11 @ BERLIN

Slaying (for) the children for over a decade! Thursday, December 14.
Photos by Kater Jayne Photography (<http://katerjayne.com>)



BILLY Masters

"We singles live empty lives of quiet desperation and will die alone. Now Rubio is demanding that we also fund happy families with children who fill their days with joy."—Ann Coulter attacks Marco Rubio for his proposed child tax-credit increase. Do we know if Ann Coulter is actually capable of having children? I mean, she does seem to have an Adam's apple.

"Thank you, Omarosa for your service! I wish you continued success." With words far more eloquent than "You're fired," Trump once again bid the Apprentice contestant farewell. But, oh, Omarosa did not go gentle into that good night. Nope, allegedly she attempted to storm the residential wing of the White House to confront Mr. T in person. Needless to say, she didn't reach her goal—something you'd think she'd be used to by now.

Last week, RuPaul's Drag Race alum Aja and his boyfriend were thrown out of a Lyft after the driver saw them kissing—and this was in New York City! The couple complained to Lyft, and the driver was fired. The company stated, "We have zero tolerance for any type of discrimination on our platform, and are committed to maintaining an inclusive and welcoming community. ... The driver has been deactivated from the Lyft platform."

For those of you who continue to think coming out of the closet is career suicide, let us consider the fortunes of young Charlie Carver, formerly of Desperate Housewives and Teen Wolf. He has starred in a handful of high-profile projects, and has just been cast in the upcoming Broadway production of The Boys in the Band. He'll be playing Cowboy, the birthday present for Zachary Quinto. (The two previously cavorted together in I Am Michael.) What I find interesting is that Charlie has an equally luscious twin brother, Max, who is certainly talented. And yet, nobody hears about him getting any work.

I am thrilled to report that The Go-Go's will be represented on The Great White Way when the musical Head Over Heels hits Broadway. Based on Sir Philip Sidney's Arcadia, the show was a hit when it played the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in 2015. Announcement of the Broadway run was accompanied by a video featuring four of the five classic Go-Go's. You'd expect that would include the four current members and exclude ousted bassist, Kathy Valentine, but you'd be wrong. Valentine (who co-wrote the song "Head Over Heels") is prominently featured in the video, while the backbone of the band, drummer Gina Schock, is curiously absent.

A male model is accusing photographer Bruce Weber of sexual assault. I wasn't completely surprised because I always assumed something



Russia has banned the Warwick Rowers calendar, Billy says—but it's part of his gift guide.

Image from the Warwick Rowers website

shady was happening behind the scenes. After all, it ain't easy to convince some of the most gorgeous guys in the world to pose naked on livestock—I learned that the hard way!

The model in question, Jason Boyce, claims that during a 2014 photo shoot, he was "subjected to a series of practices by Mr. Weber that were unlike any he had experienced previously." It is alleged that Weber removed Boyce's underwear and forced Boyce to touch his own genitals.

The lawsuit states that "Mr. Weber put his fingers in Mr. Boyce's mouth. Shocked, Mr. Boyce opened his eyes. Mr. Weber told him to keep his eyes closed, and kept his fingers in Mr. Boyce's mouth. 'If you just had confidence, you'd go really far,' Mr. Weber whispered. 'How far do you want to make it? How ambitious are you?' Mr. Boyce did not respond."

Speaking of foreign objects in one's mouth, the internet is all abuzz with a video showing a "four-way Brazilian gay kiss." During Carnatal in Natal in Rio Grande do Norte in Brazil, a group of four male revelers found themselves in a group kiss. Actually, it's three guys and one straggler. But then they splintered off into more traditional pairings. So? Am I the only one who has participated in group sex with several South Americans?

This leads perfectly into "Billy's Holiday Gift-Giving Suggestions." One of my dear friends is Dan Guerrero, who has toured the country with his solo Gaytino, where he reconciled his roots and gay life. He is the son of legendary singer Lalo Guerrero, known "the Father of Chicano Music." In 1956, Lalo recorded "Pancho Claus," a song about Santa Claus' cousin south of the border. Dan has turned the song into a children's book, with illustrations by our very own Bob Mackie! It's a terrific book, and a great addition to your multicultural celebrations.

Someone else who has been known to enjoy a foreign tongue is Jason Gould. Barbra's little boy has just released a full-length album that will surely make you tingle all over. While I wouldn't consider Gould a "Dangerous Man," that is indeed the name of the title track. Check it out.

One of our previous Gift-Giving Suggestions has

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led to an international incident. The Warwick Rowers have been banned by Russia since the government has found their calendar to be "gay propaganda."

Lastly, a little extra stocking stuffer: Sexy Pietro Boselli (known as the world's hottest math teacher) recently released some sensational scantily clad seasonal shots, which you can check out on BillyMasters.com.

When we've once again ventured into "gay propaganda" territory, it's definitely time to end yet another column. And since this is coming out in mid-Hanukkah, pre-Kwanzaa and the eve of Christmas, I want to send you my best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season. If your festivities are in need of a little bit of Billy, head over to www.BillyMasters.com, the site that'll stuff more than just your stocking. If you're in need of a bit more personal attention, dash off an email to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Weber convinces Pietro to mount a llama. (Yes, I said llama.) So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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