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weekly nightlife section in





BILLY Masters

"All men, if they are normal, go with women, women like that accost them on the street and then they go together. In Paris they have big houses for that. Papa has been there. Uncle Walter is not normal."—Anne Frank seems to out her maternal uncle Walter as gay, in previously suppressed pages from her diary. Interestingly enough, he's one of the few family members who survived and made it to the United States.

The wedding went off without a hitch—at least as far as the bride and groom, who actually got hitched. Since I know you're interested, we hear that **Prince Harry** lost about 10 pounds leading up to wedding. Apparently, **Meghan** eschews many of Harry's primary indulgences, including pizza, beer and BBQ. She wanted her hubby to look fit and trim on the day, which **David Muir** certainly noted. This begs the question: Is it possible that Mrs. Muir has never heard of Givenchy? And would it kill **Victoria Beckham** to crack a smile? Becks was posing with people walking into Windsor Palace, and Posh looked like she'd rather be getting an enema. Well, who wouldn't?

Most people appeared to be having a good time—even that crazy old woman in the green coat carrying her everyday black purse! And I like Meghan. She appears to be lovely and charming. But let's not get carried away. People are talking about how she's giving up this big, successful acting career. Get a grip. She's not Grace Kelly walking away from Hollywood with an Oscar; she's Meghan Markle, walking away from Suits on basic cable!

By the by, we hear that **Her Majesty** offered to babysit Meghan's rescue beagle, Guy, during all the hoopla in Windsor. Yes, QEII—dog sitter! Not only that, but Lizzie actually let the dog ride with her in the back of her chauffeur-driven car. It's been noted that Meghan hasn't even gotten to do that!

During my travels, gossip continued outside of the United Kingdom. I heard lots about **Pauley Perrette's** tearful farewell to NCIS. Days later came word that her departure had been precipitated by "multiple physical assaults." "I refuse to go low, that's why I've never told publicly what happened," she added, "Maybe I'm wrong for not 'spilling the beans'. Telling the story, THE TRUTH. I feel I have to protect my crew, jobs and so many people. But at what cost. I don't know. Just know, I'm trying to do the right thing, but maybe silence isn't the right thing about crime." On Twitter, she added, "There is a 'machine' keeping me silent, and feeding FALSE stories about me. A very rich, very powerful publicity 'machine'. No morals, no obligations to truth, and I'm just left here, reading the lies, trying to protect my crew. Trying to remain calm. He did it. I've been supporting anti-bullying programs forever. But now I KNOW because it was ME! If it's school or work, that you're required to go to? It's horrifying. I left. Multiple Physical Assaults. I REALLY get it now. Stay safe. Nothing is worth your safety. Tell someone."



Billy has the dish on Harry and Meghan.

We did a bit of digging and our sources say that the physical abuse happened at the hands of **Mark Harmon's** DOG! Allegedly, Harmon brought the dog to the set, a crew member was playing with him, got bit and required 15 stitches. After that, many people were unhappy that Harmon continued to bring the dog to the set, but since he's also a producer on the show, they didn't feel comfortable criticizing him. We hear that Pauley had no such trepidation, which led to a schism between the two. Ever since then, Harmon and Perrette have refused to work together, and any scenes including them both were the result of editing magic! Here's my two cents: I do know Pauley Perrette. Each of the seven years I hosted LA Pride, Pauley was a member of our team. She showed up, she did what she could, she was great. I know firsthand she's a terrific, genuine, real person with a heart of gold, and I'm inclined to believe everything she says—and doesn't say.

Bombshell allegations are coming out from the new documentary about **Whitney Houston**. Kevin Macdonald's flick premiered at the Cannes Film Festival and includes allegations from Gary Houston that both he and Nippy were sexually molested by Dee Dee Warwick—sister of **Dionne Warwick!** In case you don't know, Dee Dee and Dionne are Cissy Houston's nieces, so that makes them Whitney and Gary's first cousins. According to Gary, the sexual assault took place when he was between the ages of 7 and 9. Since he was 6 years older than Whitney, that would mean the assault on Whitney took place when she was a toddler up until she was 3 years old! The allegations are corroborated by Whitney's longtime assistant Mary Jones. "Mary, I was molested at a young age, too. But it wasn't by a man—it was by a woman," said Whitney. While this isn't a salient point, not only was the late Dee Dee Warwick one helluva singer, but she was also a lesbian! Whitney will be released in the States on July 6.

Rumors about another deceased star have surfaced. Gay-porn actor **Rafael Alencar** has quite a tale to tell—even if it is being told in broken English. In an interview with director Marc MacNamara, Rafael said he had sex with lots of ce-

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lebrities: "I can tell dead ones. They cannot sue me. I did 'Mommy Hilfinger'. I did 'Malvin Klein'. I did a lot of celebrities. Dead ones like 'Matrick Swayze'. 'Matrick' was very nice. All the famous people that you know they are gay they have called me because they cannot be seen in public, they cannot go to clubs, bars, restaurants, they cannot have hookup apps. So they call 1-800-Me. Help me. Stop there." Gladly.

When the queen has a new granddaughter-in-law (and her little dog, too), it's time for me to end yet another column. There's nothing like time abroad to make you appreciate home. Make no mistake—the United States is a mess. But I'll take the mess I know, thank you very much. Even abroad, there were never any delays updating BillyMasters.com—the site that's always au courant. Now that I'm heading home, I'll be ready to answer all of your questions. So if you have something on your mind, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before I pet anything belonging to Mark Harmon! Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

The Florentine; Cafe Robey

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Sure, it's good to sometimes shake up things—but consistency can be a good thing as well.

Example one is **The Florentine** (in the J.W. Marriott Hotel, 151 W. Adams St.; <https://theflorentine.net/>). It's still warm and welcoming—and the quality of the dishes is still quite high.

Chef Zachary Walrath recently unveiled the menu for spring/midsummer (three menu alterations annually instead of four), with many dishes changed to reflect fruits and vegetables that are currently in season.

Regarding antipasti, it's hard to go wrong with the burrata di campana, which features cream-filled mozzarella, peperonata, olives, capers, basil and polenta bread (the latter courtesy of a new bakery); and polpo (octopus with saffron aioli, butter beans, snow peas, nduja and salsa verde).

An enticing insalata di carciofi incorporates



The crostini at The Florentine.

Photo by Andrew Davis

baby artichokes, golden raisins, currants, marcona almonds, lemon and parmesan. A favorite dish, bucatini carbonara, has the requisite ingredients (pancetta, sweet peas, pecorino, egg yolk and black pepper) done in a most pristine manner. Lastly, lamb chops (or agnello) are sizeable and tasty, accompanied with charred eggplant, ceci beans, peperonata and mint.

And, if you have the room, don't miss out on dessert. The crostata (warm apple pie with bourbon gelato) is divine, but there are other options, including bomboloni (warm

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ricotta doughnuts with Nutella and cinnamon), strawberry mousse and panna cotta.

Also, The Florentine still has an exhaustive drink menu that could be a nightmare for indecisive people. Specialty cocktails (\$16 each) include items such as The Wayfarer and The Turn of the Tide. (As last look, these items were not in the online drink menu, which would present a problem for those who like to plan ahead.)

There is one major difference now, though: Sommelier Alexandria Sarovich is no longer there, having moved half a world away to Australia. Fidelma Cunniffe (who's here by way of Dublin, Ireland) is the new beverage director.

Cafe Robey

The second example of desired consistency (incidentally, connected to a hotel as well) involves the quality of the dishes at **Cafe Robey** (in The Robey hotel, at 1616 N. Milwaukee Ave.; <https://www.therobey.com/>), which, too, has an updated seasonal menu.

The spot's offerings (some which are "deconstructed") can best be described as contemporary American, with a global twist. One of the "small" dishes (the category printed on the menu) is simply called "Grains," and it sports a Middle Eastern flair; it consists of the ancient grain bulgur as well as cucumber, roasted peppers and onions, watermelon radish and avocado mousse, and it's accompanied with sesame lavash and sumac vinaigrette.

The Japanese-inspired egg dish simply called "Egg" (one of my faves) has a five-minute egg as well as blackened asparagus, basil custard, miso butter, chicken battarga and bonito flakes. The

WINDY CITY TIMES

pork-belly appetizer has a Mexican influence, as the braised meat has elements such as mole and charred pineapple gel and corn fritters, along with spiced cabbage and pickled radishes.

The main dishes are just as complex—and, thankfully, tasty. The pan-roasted lamb chops come with snap pea-and-mint puree, roasted carrots, black rice and aleppo vinaigrette. Pork loin is coffee-crust, and comes with lentils, pork-and-lentil empanadas, chimichurri, kale salad and fresh radish. (Other entrees cover a wide variety of proteins, such as chicken, duck, cod, beef and salmon, although the browned potato gnocchi is one of the best pasta dishes I've had in a while.)

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



Lamb chops and black rice at Cafe Robey.

Photo by Andrew Davis

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