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Check out these official International Mr. Leather 2017, International Mr. Bootblack 2017, Chicago Bearfest Midwest and other related events throughout Chicago over Memorial Day weekend!

Wednesday, May 24

IML Best of Chicago Welcome Party A big welcome from "the city of big shoulders." Come meet and greet the city with host Mr. Chicago Leather 2017 Daddy G. 9 pm, Touche, 6412 N. Clark St.

Thursday, May 25

IML Opening Ceremonies The official beginning of the contest to choose the 39th International Mr. Leather. Ticket packages available at Congress Plaza Hotel, 1st floor Ticket Sales Desk. Event includes the introduction of judges, contestants and number selection. Doors open at 8 p.m., show begins at 8:30 p.m. Congress Plaza Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave., www.imrl.com

Sidetrack: Leinie Lodge Deck Party Kick off the big weekend by kicking back on Sidetrack's famous rooftop deck. Sponsored by Leinenkugel. Stick around until 2 am for music, drinks and all the fun of Chicago's largest gay bar. 5 pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St., www.sidetrack-chicago.com

Chicago Bearfest Launch Party Kicking off a new bear tradition in Chicago for Memorial Day weekend. 9 pm, Touche, 6412 N. Clark St.

Download the official guide to IML 2017:
www.windycitymediagroup.com/pdf/IMLGUIDE_2017_web.pdf



IML Kickoff Party The night starts at 8 pm with complimentary cocktails, a live DJ and models. Meet the CEO and founder of Nasty Pig, David Lauterstein, and his team. We will be donating 10% of the evening's sales to The Anti-Cruelty Society and every purchase enters you in the raffle for prizes from our brands. 8-10 pm, Cram Fashion, 3331 N. Broadway

Trident Annual Cigar Smoker Join Trident International Windy City for their annual IML Cigar Smoker and meet-and-greet. Join us outside of Jackhammer Complex to enjoy a smoke and get your boots done to welcome in IML Weekend. 21+, no cover. 9:30 pm - midnight, Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark St.

Invasion: Rough Trade Live fisting demo at 11 pm with MAFIA Club and Cumunion. Steamwork, 3246 N. Halsted St.

Friday, May 26

IML: Chicago Rubbermen and Mister Intl. Rubber Meet & Greet The Chicago Rubbermen and Mr. International Rubber join forces to host their annual IML gathering. Start your weekend off by meeting fellow kinky rubberists from around the globe. In the Rendezvous Room, 2nd Floor. 8-11 pm, Congress Plaza Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave. www.imrl.com

IML: San Francisco Party/Leather Archives & Museum Silent Auction Folsom Street Events delivers the biggest warm-up party of IML weekend right inside the host hotel. So, leather up, gear up, hang out and cruise at this non-stop sleazefest, featuring the deep underground sounds of DJ Jack Chang (London). As always... it's free. In the Florentine Room, 3rd Floor. Leather Archives & Museum silent auction takes place right outside the room until midnight. 10 pm - 2 am, Congress Plaza Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave. www.imrl.com

TPAN's Ride For AIDS Happy Hour Fundraiser for TPAN's annual 200-mile bike trek to raise funds for all the work TPAN does all year in empowering everyone living with or at risk for HIV/AIDS to live open, healthy, and productive lives. 3:30-7 pm, The Sofo Tap, 4923 N. Clark St.

Chicago Bearfest Welcome Party Welcome the boys of the new Chicago Bearfest. 8 pm, Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St.

Friday at Sidetrack 4-7 pm: TGIF Show Tunes videos; 7 pm: The official VH1 RuPaul's Drag Race viewing party; 9 pm: GLOW Dance Party until 2. Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

Leather Pig Daddy Appearance by adult star Rocco Steele. Benefit for Leather Archive & Museum. \$10 donation at the door. 10 pm, Touche, 6412 N. Clark St.

Men's Room IML w/DJ Harvey Two floors of music and debauchery featuring DJ Harvey, Jeremiah Meece, Mister Wallace, Harry Cross, Jacob Meehan and aCeb00mbaP, plus BDSM performances all night long. \$20 pre-sale tickets/\$30 at the door. Pre-paid ticket holders enter the

party via the back alley behind Jackhammer. Access the alley from Devon Ave. Free clothes check. Men's Room welcomes all genders, races, fetishes and weirdnesses. 9 pm - 4 am, Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark St. Tickets: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1886221144970081/>

Manhole at Hydrate: DJ Deanne Kick off IML weekend with the sweaty sounds of DJ Deanne. Open until 4. 10 pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St.

Live Show at Steamworks Featuring adult stars Dolf Dietrich, Hugh Hunter and Rikk York. 11 pm, Steamworks, 3246 N. Halsted St., www.steamworksbaths.com

Saturday, May 27

IML: Pecs and Personality Contest Night one of the official contest to choose the new International Mr. Leather. Ticket packages available at Congress Plaza Hotel 1st floor Ticket Sales Desk. IML contestants are judged on their appearance and stage presence. Doors open at 7 p.m., contest begins at 8 p.m. Proudly sponsored by sportlube. Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress Pkwy., www.imrl.com

IML: Gear Blast Hot guys in sports, racing, rubber, leather, lycra and other perv gear keep things hot, sweaty and kinky! Everyone is invited to get yer gear on and come party hard and sweaty. After all, it's always better IN gear! In the Rendezvous Room, 2nd Floor. 10 pm - 2 am, Congress Plaza Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave., www.imrl.com

IMBB: Spitshine: The Bootblack Party Join the contestants for this year's International Mr. Bootblack Competition and meet bootblacks from across the nation. Jump in to the auction bidding to help raise travel funds for this year's winner. Featuring the roast of outgoing International Mr. Bootblack 2016, Erick Joseph. IMBB is proudly sponsored by Stompers Boots of Fort Lauderdale, FL. In the Buckingham Room, 1st Floor. 10 pm - 2 am, Congress Plaza Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave. www.imrl.com

Furball Chicago Joe Fiore returns to Chicago for yet another IML, throwing Saturday night's hottest party. Music from DJs Ralphie Rosario and Ted Eiel. Hosted by Daddy Ersin. 11:30 pm - 4:30 am, Metro Chicago, 3730 N. Clark St., Tickets: www.metrochicago.com

ONYX: Old School IML Dance Party The men of ONYX bring you this annual IML dance party with music by DJ Ron C. Project VIDA will be on hand testing: First 25 people tested get free admission; anyone tested after that gets \$5 off admission. \$20. Free shuttle from Congress Hotel starting at 10:30; doors open at 11. Cobra Lounge Chicago, 235 N. Ashland Ave., www.onyxmidwest.com

Chicago Bearfest Showtunes & Cocktails 4-9 pm, The Call, 1547 W. Bryn Mawr St.

Wet n' Wild Bear Party Get wet with the boys of Bear Pride. 11 am - 6 pm, Steamworks, 3246 N. Halsted St.

Stoli Big Deck Party Like big decks? Sidetrack's got ya covered! Sip some Stoli on the sunny rooftop deck all day. Then stick around until 3 am. 1 pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

Chicago Bearfest: Mr. Chicago Bear Contest

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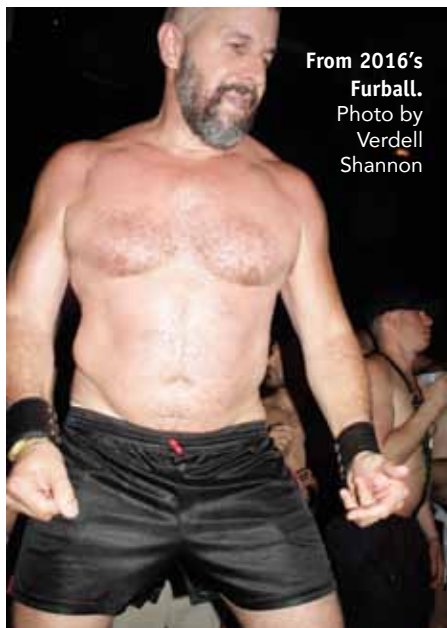
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See who'll be named the first Mr. Chicago Bear. Will it be you? This "bears & boxers" party will answer all your questions. 10 pm, Touche, 6412 N. Clark St.

DILF: IML Edition The monthly party for hot men over 35 and the men who want them. Music from DJ Moose. 9 pm, The Sofo Tap, 4923 N. Clark St.

Manhole at Hydrate: DJ Shane Stiel Shane Stiel returns to Chicago for this second night of Manhole parties at Hydrate for IML weekend. Open until 5. 10 pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St.



From 2016's
Furball.
Photo by
Verdell
Shannon

Fetish Hell The ultimate fetish party featuring surprise guests and performances. Fetish scenes encouraged. Tickets available next door at Leather 64TEN, 6410 N. Clark St. 10 pm - 5 am, Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark St Chicago, www.leather64ten.com

Brüt Chicago IML Weekend BRÜT blows into Chicago just in time for IML. With so much testosterone in town that weekend, we couldn't resist the chance to bring it home! DJs and BRÜT creators Dan Darlington & Peter Napoli will both be in town to spin. Official Sponsor: IML. Please go to www.imrl.com for the entire schedule of events and times of the contest. Early Bird tickets are \$30 now at www.brutparty.com. To receive BRÜT updates, scroll down at brutparty landing page and become a BRÜT BUDDY. #WeAreBRÜT. 11 pm - 4:30 am, Concord Music Hall, 2047 N. Milwaukee Ave., www.brutparty.com

Skin XXIII Featuring a live show at 1 am with adult stars Bruce Beckham and Alex Mecum. 11 pm - 5 am, Steamworks, 3246 N. Halsted St., www.steamworksbaths.com

WOOF Returns Presented by SKIN Productions. Internationally renowned DJ/producer Alain Jackinsky (Montreal). Start polishing your leather outfits because it is going to be a hot, raunchy and sexy party. We will donate our profits to TPAN (Test Positive Aware Network). \$20. Doors open at 11:30 pm. Fantasy Nightclub, 3641 N. Halsted St.

Sunday, May 28

IML: International Mr. Leather Contest The

big show! Come see who will be chosen as the new International Mr. Leather. Ticket Packages available at Congress Plaza Hotel, 1st floor Ticket Sales Desk. Doors open at 5 p.m., contest begins at 6 p.m. Proudly sponsored by Miller Lite. 6-9 pm Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress Pkwy., www.imrl.com

IML: Victory Party Fete the new International Mr. Leather and all the contestants at the official IML victory dance party. DJ/producer Eddie Martinez. After the big Sunday contest. Tickets at www.imrl.com or at the House of Blues box office. 9 pm - 4 am House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St., www.imrl.com

Growlr BBQ Annual Bear Pride BBQ, sponsored by Growlr. 12:30-3:30 pm, The Sofo Tap, 4923 N. Clark St., www.thesofotap.com

Sunday Funday at Sidetrack Open at 1 pm for all your Sunday Funday needs. Super-sized Showtunes Sunday 4-10 pm, Sunday Funday (after dark) 9 pm until close. Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

Super Ripe Party Cut loose after the big contest. Dim lights and hot go-go dudes. 9 pm, Touche, 6412 N. Clark St.

Leather Queen! A special IML edition of Chicago's "It" Sunday-night DJ party. Featuring DJs Michael Serafini, Garrett David, Harry Cross and Jacob Meehan. Hosted by Lucy Stooile, JoJo Baby, Nico, James, Majesty, Kurrious, Mr. Twin Cities, Leather Ryan Coit and Ryan Willing. 10 pm - 4 am, Smart Bar, 3730 N. Clark St., www.metrochicago.com

Manhole at Hydrate: Nuts to Butts Celebrate Bear Pride with this annual dance party, grinding to the beats of DJ Jesse Mercado. Open until 4. 10 pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St.

Live Show at Steamworks Live show at 11 pm featuring adult stars Jackson Grant and Jack Vidra. Steamworks, 3246 N. Halsted St., www.steamworksbaths.com

Monday, May 29

IML: Black & Blue Ball The official wrap-up party of IML weekend. Keep the party going with the return of DJ/producer Tom Stephan (London/Superchumbo) and DJ Karsten Sollors (Toolroom/Farris Wheel Recordings). Doors open at 9. Tickets available at www.imrl.com and at the door (if available). Presented by IML and Matthew Harvat. 9 pm - 4 am, Sound-Bar 226 W. Ontario St., www.imrl.com

All-day Beer Bust/Cookout/Survivor Party Wind up your IML/Bearfest weekend with \$1 drafts all day, a cookout 3-7 pm and the Survivor Party, starting at 9. Touche, 6412 N. Clark St.

Chicago Bearfest Farewell Brunch Celebrate the first Chicago Bearfest weekend with the girls of Mary's. 11 am, Hamburger Mary's, 5400 N. Clark St.

"What's the T?" Throwback T-Dance All the jams you remember for Memorial Day. Party on the rooftop deck 1-5 pm. Showtunes 8 pm until close. Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

Sweet & Savory BBQ Ride 4 AIDS Fundraiser Shots, drink specials and raffles! Purchases of select beverages, raffle tickets, etc. or direct donations all help support the Ride for AIDS Chicago/TPAN. Direct donations can also be made at the following link: <http://bit.ly/teamtouche>. 2-6 pm, Touche, 6412 N. Clark St. www.facebook.com/pg/TeamToucheFans/events

Live Show at Steamworks Live show at 9 featuring adult stars JJ Knight and Brent Corrigan. 9 pm - 1 am, Steamworks, 3246 N. Halsted St.

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IML 2017

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IML

The ties that bind: '15 IML Patrick Smith explores with a new kink encyclopedia

BY TONY PEREGRIN

Leatherpedia—an online bible of BDSM—was launched earlier this year by Patrick Smith, International Mr. Leather 2015, after an experience he had with curious kinksters in Trinidad and Tobago.

“One of the things I tried to do in my title year was to go around to places where it is still scary to be gay and learn about it, and then do some fundraising and raise awareness—and I went to Trinidad and Tobago for that reason,” said Smith during a recent phone interview with the Windy City Times. “I scheduled meetings with all the big gay rights groups and I thought we would be talking about what life was like there for a gay person and how it is difficult to come out and be visible—so that is what I was ready to talk about. But what they came to talk about was very different—they wanted to talk about Japanese rope bondage also known as Shibari,” explained Smith with a hardy laugh.

Smith, a Canadian-American LGBT activist, said the experience caught him off guard, but that it was also a pleasant surprise because he realized LGBT life on the Caribbean islands was not only about survival and concealment.

“There was that light bulb moment where I went, okay, there are pockets of kinksters all over the world...and there should be that resource there for them to learn about the community.”

Similar to Wikipedia, Leatherpedia.org relies

on collaborative knowledge gathering supplied by registered users of the site. Content is organized into categories—people, city, knowledge, business, and titles.

“These are just the main broad buckets of where we thought the initial interest would lie,” explained Smith. “For example, the city index is really powerful because if you are traveling somewhere, you are going to want to know who the key players are, what bars you should go to, and info about any businesses that are there. The beauty of the site is that this is how it exists right now, but that’s not to say that we can’t adapt to meet future demands. For example, I’ve thought of throwing up an event index, a calendar for the entire community.”

As of mid-May, Leatherpedia had 570 registered users and more than 150 entries. The site receives a full audit every 24 hours by a small group of volunteer site monitors, all of whom Smith described as “good writers who are passionate about this project, have some background in leather history, and who are connected within the community.”

Even with a core group of knowledgeable volunteers, verifying new content without censoring contributors can be challenging.

“It’s a tough balancing act because we don’t want to censor anybody especially in this beginning phase when we are really looking for content. We want to err more on the side of inclusion. Having said that, things need to be written



IML 2015 Patrick Smith.

Photo from Smith

well and they need to be formatted properly and they need to be accurate. We can’t 100 percent stand by the accuracy of everything on Leatherpedia, just the same way as the people who run Wikipedia can’t stand behind that. At the end of the day, this is a resource by the community and for the community.”

Prior to launching Leatherpedia, Smith solicited feedback from stakeholders throughout the leather community.

“Before launching the site, I went on a big tour to reach out to all the notable people I know

in the leather community. Getting their honest opinions and getting all of the criticism of this idea upfront was important and allowed us to properly handle some of the tougher issues that popped up. One example I will give you is that there are some people in the leather community who are very visible but they might not want their employers to know they are involved with the leather community, and as a result, might not want to be included in an entry on Leatherpedia. So, we built-in an opt-out mechanism where if an entry is written about someone and they don’t like it, we can add them to our blacklist so that any references to them on the site go dark and the system prevents anyone writing about them going forward.”

Publically documenting leather and kink people, traditions, and techniques may be viewed differently by members of the “old guard” versus “new guard,” but Smith refuses to be bound and gagged by members of the kink community who oppose his leather lexicon.

“Leatherpedia is about honoring the traditions of the so-called old guard and documenting and chronicling them, but it’s also about showing new traditions and where we are going,” explained Smith. “In terms of some of the guard perhaps not being ready to have this information so easily accessible, I guess I would say, to be blunt—it’s 2017, it’s time to come out of the shadows. Let’s face it, when a movie with BDSM content, 50 Shades of Gray, can become a major blockbuster, I really don’t see the reason to hide anymore. Although, admittedly, it does require bravery and courage to say, ‘This is what I like sexually.’ I mean, I had to do it on stage at IML with my mom in the audience!”

Leatherpedia is a non-profit entity with any leftover ad revenue benefiting the Leather Archives & Museum in Chicago. Smith will be attending International Mr. Leather 2017 and is hoping to partner with the Archives to promote the site at the leather market.

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR Italian Village

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Ninety years...

That’s how long Italian Village (71 W. Monroe St.; <https://italianvillage-chicago.com/>) has been in the Loop, serving traditional and well-done Italian dishes.

However, the 90-year tag only applies to The Village, which is on the second floor of the venue. The thing is that Italian Village is actually three restaurants in one: La Cantina (the lower-level spot that serves traditional Italian dishes, but is also more of a steakhouse) opened in

Atlantic salmon at Italian Village.
PR photo

1955, while contemporary restaurant Vivere (on the first floor) originally opened as The Florentine Room several years later.

In addition to the cuisine, each restaurant has its own distinctive decor. The Village takes guests on visual and culinary tours of Italy—and the



From the Chuck Hyde memorial at Center on Halsted, Sunday, May 21. Pictured (left to right) are Amy Matheny, Art Johnston, Dalila Fridi, Kim Hunt, Mona Noriega and Hyde’s widower Randy D’Agostino.

Photo by Vern Hester

former may be the more impressive, although the burrata (complete with the all-too-rare beefsteak tomato) is certainly worth savoring. Also, check out happy hour, which involves free pizza with the purchase of a drink on weekdays at 5-7 p.m.

La Cantina—which is the only one of the three that’s only open for dinner (with the other two open for lunch and dinner)—has the standards

like fettuccine Alfredo and mostaccioli; however, there are also various steak, veal and pork cuts available. That chicken parmigiana, though, is second to none.

Lastly, Vivere (the one that was the most comfortable for me) offers contemporary designs and dishes. Among the tasty offerings there are ag-

Turn to page 37



BILLY Masters

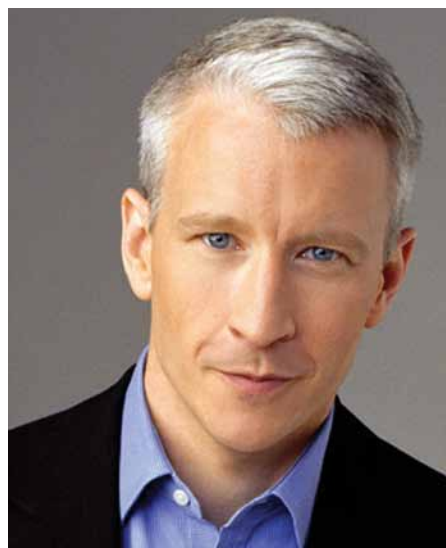
"If he took a dump on his desk, you would defend it."—**Anderson Cooper** chastises Jeffrey Lord after the political commentator once again defended Donald Trump—this time, in light of the Russian inquiry. Coop later apologized for the statement: *"I regret the crude sentence I spoke earlier tonight and followed it up by apologizing on air. It was unprofessional. I am genuinely sorry."* Still, it was great TV—and, of course, we'll run it on our website.

Let's call this a tale of two shows: The Bodyguard and Jersey Boys. Last week, I saw touring companies of both shows during their stay in Los Angeles. The Bodyguard is, of course, based on the Whitney Houston film of 1992. Alas, the stage adaptation is short on dialogue—or plot. The script seems structured to link together the 20 songs almost solely sung by the phenomenal **Deborah Cox**. (Two of the songs are sung by others.)

Given the fact that she is virtually carrying the entire musical and doing six shows a week (no matinee for Cox), it's almost understandable that she holds back somewhat. However, I wouldn't be overstating things to say that her performance had all the energy of a latter-day Sunny von Bulow. Even with her abilities in check, one cannot deny that voice. And certainly she dances better than Whitney. But her comatose performance in a show with major structural deficiencies made for a wholly unsatisfying evening. While the major culprits are the writer and director, I was taken aback watching the musical director, Matthew Smedal, who looked bored stiff. As they say, the fish stinks from the head. But I should add two important points. First, Cox and company let loose for the post-show mini-concert, which was almost worth the price of admission. Second, practically every performance on the tour has been sold out, and audiences respond enthusiastically.

Then we have Jersey Boys, led by **Mark Ballas** from Dancing with the Stars. Unlike The Bodyguard, Jersey Boys is a well-structured, well-written and well-directed show. Like The Bodyguard, the brunt of the vocal burden falls on the star—although he has able assistance by the rest of the Four Seasons. To say Ballas is not much of a singer or actor would be an understatement. His strain in trying to approximate Frankie Valli's unique sound is evident from the first note. One wondered how he would get through the second act—let alone five shows a week. (Like Cox, Ballas doesn't do matinees. He also has something else to do Saturday nights.) Predictably, Ballas ran into trouble as the show went on—the second act was particularly grating. Unlike Miss Cox, Ballas works hard—very hard. He pushes what limited resources he has to extraordinary lengths. While he is often painful to listen to, one can't deny that he wants this—and wants it badly. And, like The Bodyguard, the show is a crowd-pleaser. And, on opening night, the real Frankie Valli came onstage to congratulate Ballas and company.

So it comes down to this—do you take the exceptionally talented person sleepwalking through an abysmal show? Or do you opt for the lackluster but likable person who is killing himself to get through a better show? In this case, I will give



Anderson Cooper got really feisty recently, Billy says.

Photo from CNN

it to Jersey Boys, by a hair. But if someone gives Deborah Cox a Red Bull, I'd go back in a second.

I also attended the Southland Theatre Artists Goodwill Event—otherwise known as STAGE. This fundraiser—the world's longest-running annual HIV/AIDS benefit—took its final bow with a cavalcade of stars from stage, screen and TV. The ageless **Carole Cook** was at the very first STAGE concert. She's been in 31 of the 33, but she had a good excuse for the two she missed—she was on Broadway! It was fitting for her to close the show, easily sounding and appearing a generation or two younger than her 93 years. She embodied everything that has been right with this event, which has raised tens of millions of dollars over these many years. Bravo!

We hear that **Sara Gilbert** was the driving force behind the Roseanne reboot—which explains why she's not only starring in it but also an executive producer. So far, it is only slated for a limited eight-episode season. Another high-profile reboot, Will & Grace, is set for 12 episodes. And we may have told you about the Dynasty reboot last week, but now we've seen the trailer. And, well, you can judge it for yourself on BillyMasters.com.

Most shows spend the summer campaigning for an Emmy Award. However, the cast and crew of the sitcom Mom are going in a different direction. Instead of spending money on a media blitz, they donated the cash to Planned Parenthood. As far as I'm concerned, they're already winners.

Our "Ask Billy" question is from Josh in Denver. "I read that American Gods had the most explicit gay sex scene ever. But I don't watch it. Can you show me what the fuss was all about?"

The sex scene in American Gods has been touted by critics as "the hottest and most pornographic gay sex scene ever on mainstream TV." Riddle me this—since when is Starz mainstream TV? I'm not sure I even get Starz. Once I have to enter four digits on my remote, I give up. The scene in question is between **Omid Abtahi** and **Mousa Kraish**—not really names that roll off the tongue ... unless it's prayer time and you're facing east. But it is hot. Producer **Bryan Fuller** said, "It was no small feat for two gay Muslim characters to have a beautiful, sophisticated, sexual experience." While I'm not exactly sure what "sophisticated" means, I can cer-

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GLOW DANCE PARTY 9PM

SAT MAY 27 / OPEN 1PM
SOL BIG DECK PARTY

SUN MAY 28 / OPEN 1PM
SUPER SIZED SHOW TUNES 4-10PM
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SHOW TUNES 8PM-2AM

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tainly confirm that there were no small feet! See it for yourself on BillyMasters.com.

Could it be that Billy ran into a legend last week? Yes, at one of the events mentioned in this very column, he found himself next to one of the world's most recognizable men—and almost didn't recognize him! On initial viewing, the guy's face kinda looked like a deflated beach ball. While I suspect there are no undies that could lift that droopy derrière, I find it questionable when someone of advanced age wears skinny jeans with no socks! What is the male version of cankles? In this case, I'm going with "cadaver-kles." Photos to follow on BillyMasters.com.

When nothing comes between me and a blind item, it's definitely time to end yet another column. I should add that the notable name was attended to by a coterie of hot young underwear model types. Kinda like the guys you see on www.BillyMasters.com—the site doesn't charge by the hour. If you have a question for me, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Mark Ballas takes over the lead in The Bodyguard! So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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