

FEBRUARY 17, 2026 • VOL XVII • ISSUE #2

GRAB

MAGAZINE

CHICAGO'S MONTHLY
LGBTQ+ PUBLICATION

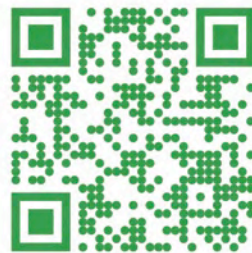


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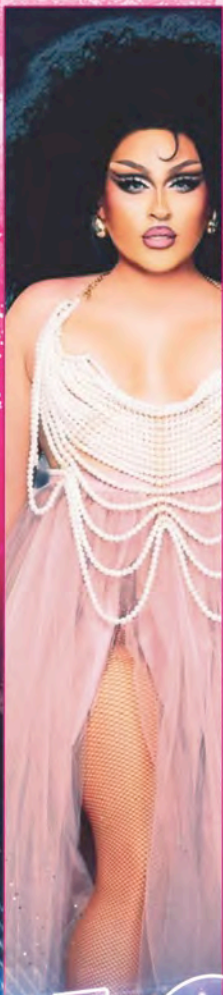
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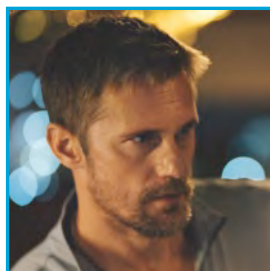
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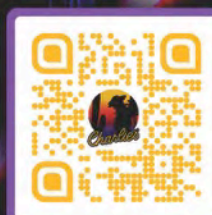
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GRAB SHAWN

Shawn shines: an interview with Grammy- winning singer/ songwriter Shawn Colvin

By Gregg Shapiro

Some of Shawn Colvin's queer fans may recall her appearance on RuPaul's pre-"Drag Race" talk show in the mid-1990s when she donned a tiara and was fawned over by the late Nell Carter. Colvin's Grammy Award-winning fourth studio album, "A Few Small Repairs" was released 30 years ago. To her credit, the songs still sound as fresh and irresistible as they did when they were new to us. The album even yielded a massive hit single, "Sunny Came Home." Of course, Colvin had already won her first Grammy three years earlier for her 1991 major-label debut "Steady On." Renowned for her concert performances (she's put out four live albums), Colvin has been touring consistently over the years, whether or not she has an album to promote. Her current tour brings her to SPACE in Evanston on March 10. Colvin generously made time for an interview in advance of her concert tour.

Gregg Shapiro: Shawn, the first time I saw you perform in concert was in 1989 at Orphan's in Chicago. I attended another seven of your Chicago concerts between 1993 and 2013 (when I relocated to Fort Lauderdale). Would it be fair to say that you have an affinity for your Chicago fanbase?

Shawn Colvin: Yes. Chicago was one of the first cities to champion me with fantastic radio stations like WXRT that played my stuff. Because of that support I was able to build a following in Chicago that has been very loyal to me over these many years. There were stations around

the country back then that focused on what they called "adult alternative" music, and call it what you will, but my career was fostered in a massive way by that format and those stations.

GS: Something I recall about your live shows is that you would often tell wonderful stories between songs. Was this something you picked up from other artists, or did you develop that kind of stage-patter on your own?

SC: There is a club in Cambridge, Massachusetts called Passim, a haven for songwriters. The patrons come to listen, not to socialize, and they expect to hear original songs. I began to get work there once I had a few songs under my belt that I had written, but I wasn't used to a rapt crowd, having played mostly bars and dance halls up till then. I had no idea how to talk to an audience. The first artist I opened for at Passim was Greg Brown from Iowa. His songs were incredible, and he thoroughly and easily engaged the crowd between tunes by telling stories. I learned from watching him.

GS: As a gay man, another thing I remember from your concerts, was the large percentage of queer folks in your audience. Was this something of which you were aware, and if so, what does that following mean to you?

SC: I'm one of those artists that doesn't pay a lot of attention to my "demographic," only because it feels as though I'm looking to cater to, or not cater to, select groups of folks. I am just grateful for all the fantastic fans out there who've supported me for over 25 years, no matter where they come from, what they look like, what they do, how they identify or who they love. Because of them I have my dream job to this day.

GS: Your fourth studio album, "A Few Small Repairs," was your second to win Grammy Awards, including for "Record of the Year"



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and “Song of the Year.” Did you have a sense, as you were making the album, that it would be as well-received as it was?

SC: (Musician/songwriter/producer) John Leventhal and I had developed a shorthand with each other after many years of collaborating, both as writing partners and making records. “A Few Small Repairs” came easily across the board. It was truly fun to write it, and produce it, and that was partly because we vowed to free ourselves from the pressure at the record company to produce a hit single. We just made the best record we knew how to make. We felt really great about it, and still do, but the last thing we expected was a hit song. It’s my firm belief that not caring about the charts made all the difference.

GS: You have included cover tunes on many of your albums, such as Warren Zevon’s “Tenderness on the Block,” on 1992’s “Fat City.” You also released a pair of covers albums (“Cover Girl” in 1994 and “Uncovered” in 2015). The aforementioned “Cover Girl” featured your rendition of Steve Earle’s “Someday.” Was your 2016 Earle collaboration album “Colvin & Earle” the result of that?

SC: No, not really. Steve and I did a short stint of duo shows in 2015, way after I covered “Someday”. I’d never even met him when I made “Cover Girl.” It was a good pairing. We clicked musically, and it was Steve’s idea for us to make a record together.

GS: You also regularly included interpretations of songs by others in your live shows (your Crowded

House covers were personal favorites). As a songwriter, please say something about the importance of performing songs by others.

SC: Performing covers is how I made my living from 1974, when I turned 18, to 1986, at which point I began to write songs with John Leventhal. It was essential and invaluable for me to be a student during all those years. I wasn’t ready to write for a long time, but I imitated the best. “Cover Girl” is a tribute to just a very few of the songs that I owe my career to.

GS: Finally, there’s a date gap on your tour schedule between late March and late September. Will you be adding more U.S. tour dates during that period?

SC: Yes, without a doubt.

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I want you to know there's more than this.
More than the pain that keeps you up at night.
More than the emptiness that follows you
through the day.

This isn't the end.
Not for me.
Not for you.

So live while you can.
Say yes, to the big scary stuff.
Love the people I can't love for myself anymore.

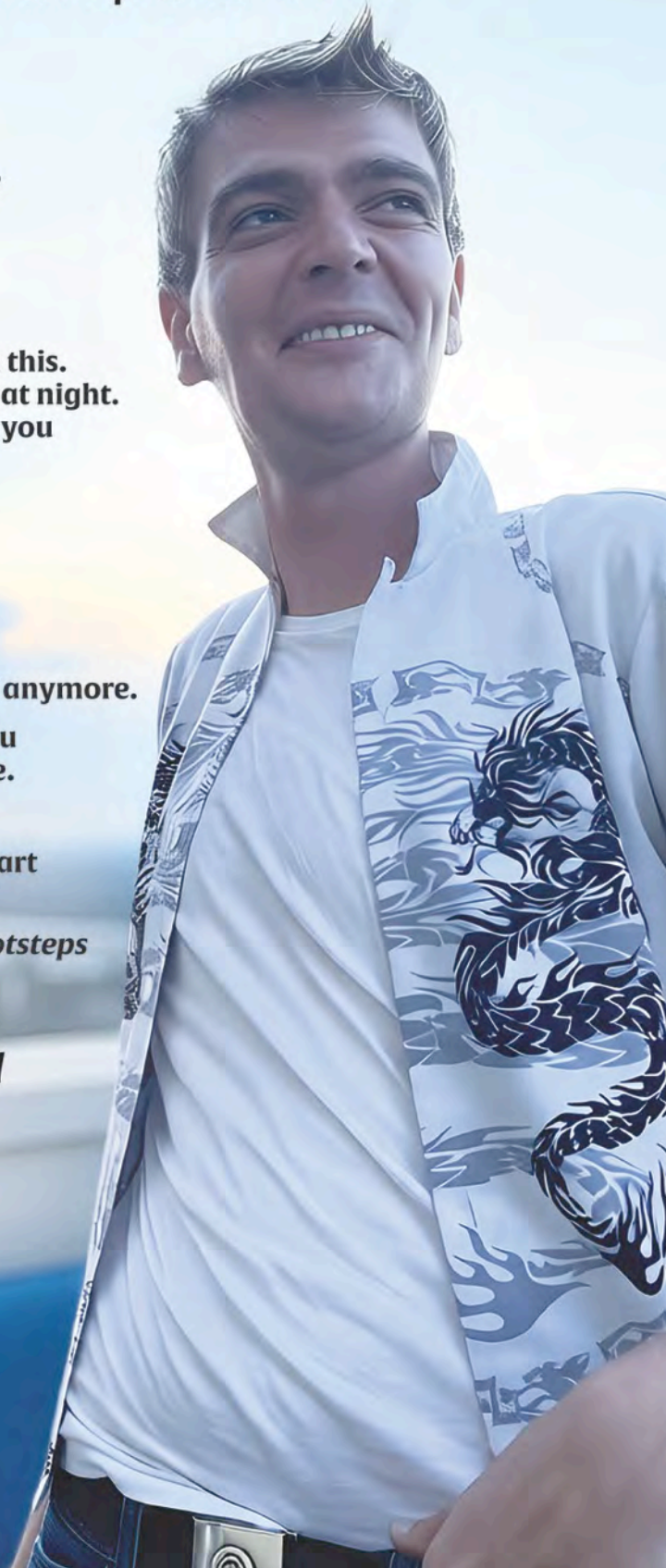
And when you've given everything you
have down there — you'll find me here.

In the place I saved.
And it will feel like you were never apart
from me at all.

Written by: Aimee Suyko - In Their Footsteps

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GRAB A CRUISE



Small Yacht Cruises: An Intimate Adriatic Experience That Truly Works for LGBTQ+ Travellers

LGBTQ+ travellers increasingly seek experiences that offer comfort, authenticity, and the freedom to simply be themselves. Small yacht cruises along the Croatian Adriatic deliver exactly that. With just 18 cabins and a maximum of 36 guests, these cruises offer a rare balance of privacy and connection, creating an atmosphere that feels welcoming, social, and refreshingly unforced.

Unlike large cruise ships or busy resort environments, small yacht cruising allows guests to move at a human pace. Conversations happen naturally, friendships form easily, and there is no pressure to perform or conform. The experience feels inclusive by nature, shaped by scale, setting, and shared discovery rather than labels or themed programming.

Amenities

Katarina Line's small yachts are designed for relaxed elegance. Each cabin is air-conditioned and features a private en-suite bathroom, daily housekeeping, and modern comforts. Onboard spaces include spacious sun decks with loungers, shaded outdoor seating, refined indoor lounges, and convenient

swim platforms for direct sea access. Dining onboard highlights fresh Mediterranean cuisine served in a convivial setting, supported by professional yet discreet service that enhances the overall sense of ease.

Activities

Days are structured but never rigid. Guests enjoy daily swim stops in quiet bays, leisurely mornings at sea, and guided or independent exploration of historic coastal towns and islands. Evenings are intentionally open, allowing time for dining ashore, sunset cocktails on deck, or relaxed socialising onboard. The small group size encourages organic interaction, making it easy to connect with fellow travellers while still enjoying personal space.

Cruise & Land Combinations

To enrich the experience further, small yacht cruises can be seamlessly combined with land programs lasting from 2 to 9 or more days. These extensions allow travellers to explore Croatia beyond the coastline, from historic cities and national parks to wine regions and cultural landmarks. Whether

before or after the cruise, land stays add depth, variety, and a sense of continuity, transforming a week at sea into a fully rounded Adriatic journey.

2026 Available Dates

Katarina Line small yacht cruises suitable for private LGBTQ+ charters or hosted departures are available throughout the 2026 season, from May through October. Peak summer sailings offer lively coastal energy and warm seas, while shoulder-season dates provide a calmer atmosphere, ideal for travellers who prefer a more relaxed rhythm. Specific itineraries and dates can be tailored to match the interests and expectations of LGBTQ+ groups, agencies, or tour operators.

Contact Information

For detailed itineraries, availability, and charter options for LGBTQ+ travellers and partners, please contact Katarina Line directly. Email: info@katarina-line.hr Website: www.katarina-line.com Telephone: 1800 485 3121 (USA TOLL FREE).

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GRAB A FILM



Screen Queen: Sub story

By Gregg Shapiro

These days it seems like everyone is still talking about the steamy gay sex scenes in Jacob Tierney's HBO Max series "Heated Rivalry." However, even Shane (Hudson Williams) and Ilya (Connor Storrie) would blush at the sight of sexual activities in "Pillion" (A24), the feature-length directorial debut from Harry Lighton.

Based on "Box Hill" by gay novelist Adam Mars-Jones, "Pillion" takes the queer dramedy down a fresh and erotic path. Colin (Harry Melling) first encounters Ray (Alexander Skarsgård) while collecting tips for the barbershop quartet in which he sings. At first, he's ignored by Ray, and then suddenly he's next to him, presenting Colin with a Christmas card in which he's written a location to meet the next day.

Little does Colin realize that this is going to be the beginning of a life-changing experience. Still living at home with his parents, terminally ill Peggy (Lesley Sharp) and Pete (Douglas Hodge), Colin works as a meter man, writing parking tickets by day. Peggy and Pete are loving and supportive of Colin and want nothing more for him than to find a

boyfriend.

Colin and Ray's first sexual encounter, in an alley on Christmas night, sets the kinky tone for what follows. Initially, distant from Colin, Ray is suddenly a presence. He picks Colin up at Peggy and Pete's and then whisks him away on his motorcycle. At Ray's, Colin is surprised to discover a piano (he didn't think Colin was "that sort") and even more shocked when he's expected to make Ray dinner (Colin's a "lousy cook"). However, the biggest jolt occurs when Ray reveals Colin's sleeping options (the rug or the hallway).

Then there's the sex, which occurs following a wrestling bout in singlets. Ray provides Colin, who has an "aptitude for devotion," with a shopping list for his return that evening, including instructions to buy a butt plug, because he's "too tight."

Officially in a dom/sub relationship, Colin gets a short haircut, wears a lock and chain around his neck (to which Ray wears the key on a chain around his), and dresses in biker leathers. During a biker orgy in the countryside, Colin

meets Kevin (Jake Shears), who says that Ray is "impossibly handsome" and the less attractive Colin brings his "qualities into relief."

More hurt and drama lie ahead. There is a disastrous dinner at Peggy and Pete's with Ray and Colin. Peggy dies shortly after that. Aware that Ray doesn't share his feelings, Colin finds a way to make Ray show him a modicum of kindness. These scenes are some of the most emotionally wrenching, but also unexpectedly sweet, ultimately leading to greater sadness.

Among the noteworthy achievements in "Pillion," is the balance struck between comedy, drama, and explicit sexuality. Not necessarily a simple act given the subject matter, but the performances, especially Melling, Skarsgård, and Sharp, are magnificent. Lighton's direction, as well as his awe-inspiring screenplay, keeps us comfortable, as we take our place on the back of Ray's motorcycle, the pillion, if you will, and hang on for the ride.

Rating: A-



GRAB MUSIC



David Hernandez is BEAUTIFUL 2.0

By Tim Blankenship

Ten years after it first arrived as a quiet but powerful declaration of self-worth, David Hernandez's "Beautiful" is returning as a reflection of growth, resilience, and deeper self-acceptance.

"BEAUTIFUL 2.0," a reimagined version of his beloved 2016 anthem, accompanied by an official music video and featuring acclaimed transgender artist Mila Jam.

For many LGBTQ+ listeners, "Beautiful" became a lifeline: an empowerment song that didn't shout but instead affirmed. It offered permission to be vulnerable, to define beauty on one's own terms, and to exist authentically in a world that often resists those truths. A decade later, Hernandez says the message hasn't changed, but his relationship to it has matured.

"When I first released 'Beautiful,' it came from a very grounded and honest place. I knew who I was then, and I believed in the message I was putting out. What's changed now is the depth of that knowing. The message lands from an even steadier place; less about discovering your worth and more about fully standing in it."

That evolution is at the heart of "BEAUTIFUL 2.0." Rather than remixing the original, Hernandez chose to rebuild the song with

intention, allowing space for lived experience: his own and others'. "The world has shifted," he adds. "Visibility has expanded, but so has resistance, which makes this message feel even more necessary today."

Central to that expansion is Mila Jam, whose presence transforms the song into a shared statement rather than a solo reflection. A longtime friend of Hernandez — the two were roommates in New York City in 2015 — Jam brings an emotional truth rooted in lived trans experience. "Mila doesn't just sing the message, she embodies it," Hernandez says. "Her voice carries resilience, softness, and strength all at once."

Their collaboration feels deeply personal and politically resonant, particularly at a time when trans visibility is both celebrated and challenged. By preserving the emotional core of the original while opening it up to more stories, "BEAUTIFUL 2.0" reinforces the idea that community is where self-love thrives.

The song's updated production, handled entirely by Niko The Kid, reflects that clarity. Polished but restrained, the arrangement allows the lyrics to breathe without overwhelming them. "The song didn't need to be bigger, it needed to be clearer," Hernandez explains. "It feels current,

but timeless."

That same philosophy carries into the official music video, which reunites Hernandez with director Johny De following their collaboration on "feel it all." Where the original visual centered on quiet vulnerability, this new chapter embraces visibility and joy. Sequins, laser lights, and disco balls replace guarded restraint, creating a celebration of confidence and self-worth. "In 2016, I needed protection on camera," Hernandez reflects. "Now, I wanted to be seen fully. I'm confident, open, and grounded in who I am."

The choice to release "BEAUTIFUL 2.0" on Valentine's Day was no accident. For Hernandez, the holiday has become less about romance and more about honoring self-love and chosen family. "Self-love didn't come overnight," he says. "It was built slowly, imperfectly. Valentine's Day felt like the right moment to honor love in all its forms."

As queer and trans conversations continue to evolve, "BEAUTIFUL 2.0" stands as both a reminder and an invitation. "This isn't about telling people who to be," Hernandez says. "It's about reminding them they're allowed to exist fully, even on days when confidence feels out of reach."

For more Visit www.OfficialDavidHernandez.com

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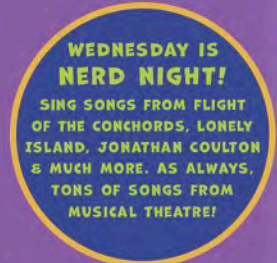
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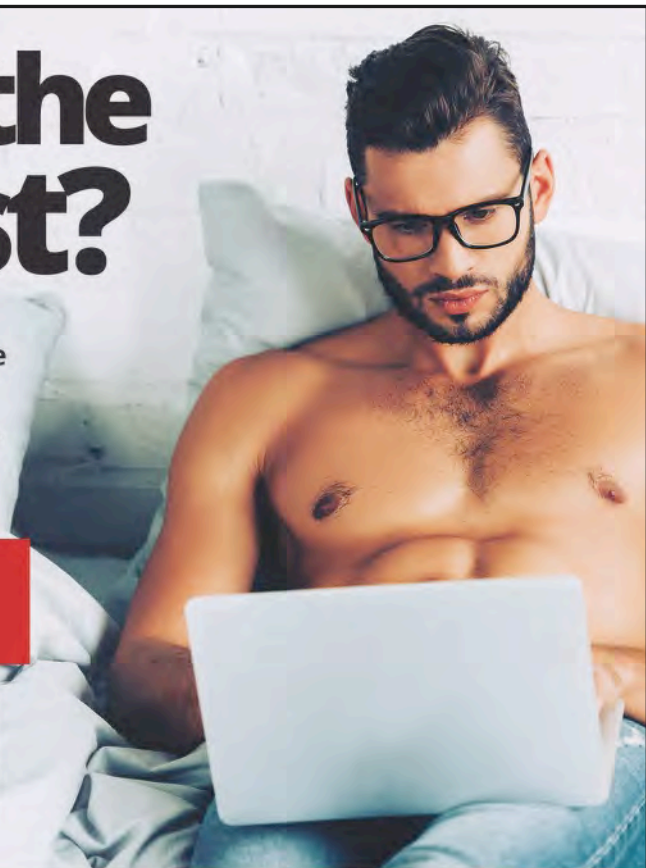
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| MONDAY | <p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Stoli Cocktails (Any Flavors), EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm. Cell Block: Open 1pm-2am. Charlies: Half off Hennessy and Patron 7pm - 11pm ABC Bingo, 11pm Charlie's Live. Hydrate: Lips and Mascara Doors at 8pm Show at 10pm. North End: Open at 11am, \$5 Well Drinks. Shakers on Clark: Comedy Night \$1 off Well Drinks and Well Shots. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, Musical Monday Show Tunes 8pm-2am. Steamworks: Every 3rd Monday TM4M (Trans Men For Men) 8pm-2am. The Sofo Tap: \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes & Bourbons, \$5 Tecate Tallboys, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. Touche: Open 5pm-4am. Horny Bastards A Night for those who just didn't get enough over the weekend.</p> |
| TUESDAY | <p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$3 House Shots, \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Game Night with Tony. Cell Block: Open 1pm-2am. Charlie's: \$4 You Call It's 5pm - 9pm, 7pm - 11pm BS Karaoke, 11pm Baddies Block Party. Hydrate: Tat Tuesday XXL Doors open at 8pm. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 4-6pm \$8 WINE, \$9 APPS, \$10 Martinis. Live Instrumentalists. Lucky Horseshoe: Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. Open auditions for male dancers 7pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$3 House Shots, \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. North End: Open at 11am, \$5 Canned Beers, Seltzers & Ciders. Shakers on Clark: \$3 Domestic Beers. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, Trivia Tuesday 8-10pm, TRL Tuesday: Totally Rad Line-up of 90's-to-Now Music Videos 10pm-2am, OUTspoken LGBTQ+ Storytelling 1st Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm. Steamworks: Every Tuesday 4 pm - 4 am Guys Under 25 Get In Free* (*Free 30 day membership and free locker). The Sofo Tap: \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. Touche: Open 5pm - 4am. Hardcore Cruisin' No Cell Phones/Wifi, 6-9pm \$3 Well Drinks \$1 Off call-imports, \$3 PBR/Rolling Rock. 2/17 Mardi Gras Weekend Kick Off Party!</p> |
| WEDNESDAY | <p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. Cell Block: Open 1pm-2am. Charlie's: \$4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 7pm - 11pm SCCDA Country Dancing, 11pm Boys and Booze. Jackhammer: \$4 Premium Well Cocktails, \$3 House Shots, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 4-6pm \$8 WINE, \$9 APPS, \$10 Martinis. Live Broadway Vocalists. Lucky Horseshoe: Open at 6pm Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$4 Miller Lite Drafts, \$5 Stoli Cocktails (All Flavors), EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. North End: Open at 11am \$5 Lagunitas Draft & Cans. Shakers on Clark: Karaoke Night \$1 Off Long Islands. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, All Things Taylor 1st Wed of month, All Things Beyoncé 2nd Wed of month, All Things Gaga 3rd Wed of month, All Things Dua & Ariana last Wed of month: all 9pm-2am. Steamworks: Bear Hump Every second Wednesday 6-9pm A monthly mid-week gathering of Furry Men. The Sofo Tap: \$3 House Shots, \$5 Stoli Cocktails (All Flavors), \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. Touche: Open 5pm-4am Jockstrap Night Free Clothing Check, 2/18 Full Moon Jockstrap Night.</p> |
| THURSDAY | <p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, RuPaul Drag Race All Stars 6 Viewing Party - 7pm. Cell Block: Open 1pm-2am. Charlie's: 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month: \$4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 8pm - 10pm Mother Rebirth, 10pm - Power up Reloaded. 2nd Thursday of the Month: \$4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 8pm - 10pm the Pop Ball, 10pm Scissor Sisters. 4th Thursday of the Month: \$4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 8pm - 10pm the Pop Ball, 10pm Vinyl. Jackhammer: \$3 House Shots, \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, \$5 Miller Lite Tallboys, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 4-6pm \$8 WINE, \$9 APPS, \$10 Martinis. Live Ballet. Lucky Horseshoe: Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$4 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. North End: Open at 11am, \$5 Deep Eddy Cocktails. Shakers on Clark: \$1 off All Call Liquor Mixed Drinks, Karaoke 10pm-1am. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, "Let's Go! Thursday" Pop Music Videos in Glass/Side Bars 9pm-2am. In Main Bar: Pink Pony Club 1st Thur of month, other Thursdays are "Let's Go! Latin" or "All Things K-Pop. Steamworks: Lights Out Thursdays, The Club goes Dark Every Thursday 4pm-4am. The Sofo Tap: \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, \$5 Stoli Mules (All Flavors), EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. Touche: Open 5pm - 4am. Throwback Thursdays 70's & 80's Music & Porn By Bijou Video.</p> |

FRIDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: HAPPY HOUR (3-7 PM): \$4 New Amsterdam Cocktails, \$5 Chicago Handshakes, ALL DAY SPECIALS: \$3 House Shots, \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Dancers 10pm-1am. **Baton Show Lounge:** Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. **Cell Block:** Open 1pm-2am. **Charlie's:** 1st Friday of the Month 8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars, 11pm Charlie's Presents. 2nd Friday: 8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars, 11pm Glow Up. 3rd Friday 8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars, 11pm Thirst Trap. 4th Friday 8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars 11pm Haus of Charlie's. **Jackhammer:** \$8 New Amsterdam & Red Bulls, \$8 WYNK THC, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. **Kit Kat Lounge:** All Day Brunch All Drag, Brunch Seating Times 11am and 1:30PM. **Sidetrack:** Open at 3pm, TGIF Show Tunes 4-9pm, Friday Night Dance Party 9pm-2am. **Meeting House Tavern:** HAPPY HOUR (5-8 PM): \$5 Chicago Handshakes, ALL DAY SPECIALS: \$6 Tito's Cocktails, \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. **The Sofo Tap:** HAPPY HOUR (3-6 PM): \$4 Signature Margaritas, ALL DAY SPECIALS: \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. **Touche:** Open 5pm - 4am. 1/30 MCL 2026 Weekend Welcome Party. 2/20 Cowboy Round Up with ILGRA. 3/6 Man'Nipple'ate Nipple Fetish play night.

SATURDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: HAPPY HOUR (3-7 PM): 1/2 Off All Draft Beers, ALL DAY SPECIALS: \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 3pm-5pm, Dancers 10pm -1am. **Baton Show Lounge:** Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. **Cell Block:** Open 12pm-3am. **Charlie's:** 7pm - 11pm SCCDA Country Dancing, 11pm Under the boots tonight. **Jackhammer:** \$3 House Shots, \$8 New Amsterdam & Red Bulls, \$8 WYNK THC, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. **Kit Kat Lounge:** All Day Brunch All Drag, Brunch Seating Times 11am and 1:30PM. **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** HAPPY HOUR (2-5 PM): \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, ALL DAY SPECIALS: \$5 Lost Coast Tangerine Wheat Drafts, \$5 Signature Margaritas, \$8 WYNK THC, \$3 House Shots, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 11am-2pm. **Sidetrack:** Open at 1pm, Post-Brunch SaturGay Fun 1pm-6pm, Saturday Night Dance Party 9pm-3am, Dog Day 1st Saturday of the month 1-5pm. **The Sofo Tap:** HAPPY HOUR: (12-3 PM): 1/2 Off All Draft Beers, ALL DAY SPECIALS: \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, \$5 Signature Margaritas, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. **Touche:** Open 2pm - 5am. 2/21 Gear Night with BLUF Chicago Dress Code in Club Room BNC 6pm. 2/28 RIPE PARTY Dim Lights, Deep Beats Go-Go Dudes DJ Harry T. 3/7 BEAR NIGHT Bears, Cubs, otters & more! 3/14 Dungeon Master Night Demo @Midnight CWB 5-9.

SUNDAY FUNDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, \$6 Chicago Handshakes, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$6 Jack Products, \$4 Domestic Draft, House Shots \$2. **Baton Show Lounge:** Doors Open at 11am, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. **Cell Block:** Open 12pm-2am. **Charlie's:** 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month 5pm - 7pm Queeriod, 7pm - 11pm Starlight Karaoke, 11pm Estrellas, Ritmo, y Perreo. 2nd Sunday 5pm - 7pm Queeriod Presents Drag U 7pm - 11pm Starlight Karaoke, 11pm Estrellas, Ritmo y Perreo. 4th Sunday 5pm - 7pm Queeriod Presents Boyfriend Material, 7pm - 11pm Starlight Karaoke, 11pm Estrellas, Ritmo y Perreo. **Hydrate:** Doors open at 2pm Northalsted's Official after Brunch party. **Jackhammer:** HAPPY HOUR (3-7 PM): \$3 House Shots, \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, \$7 Jackhammered Long Islands, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. **Kit Kat Lounge:** All Day Brunch All Drag, Brunch Seating Times 11am and 1:30PM. Sunday Tea Dance DJ Janky and Friends 4pm-10pm \$9 Martinis. **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, \$12 Mimosa Carafes, \$3 House Shots, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 7-10pm. **Shakers on Clark:** \$1 off Bloody Mary's, \$1 off Tito's Mules, and \$1 off all Revolution beers. **Sidetrack:** Open at Noon, Sunday Funday Show Tunes 4-9pm, Sunday Funday After Dark Dance Party 9pm-2am. **The Sofo Tap:** HAPPY HOUR (1-3 PM): \$3 House Shots, FREE Hotdogs (while supplies last) ALL DAY SPECIALS: \$6 New Amsterdam Cocktails, \$5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: \$4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. **Touche:** Open 2pm - 4am. Beer Bust \$2 Draughts & Sodas Clubroom opens 6pm Movie Night 7pm.

**The Next Issue of GRAB hits the streets and online
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GRAB A HIT

Top 30 Dance Chart For the First week of February 2026



Visit nexusradio.fm

| | Artist | Title |
|----|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1 | ManyFew | Living Up My Mind |
| 2 | Anabel Englund X Kamino | Belong To Me |
| 3 | Jared Lee x Disco Fries | Collide |
| 4 | Yves V x Dimitri Vangelis & Wyman | You & I Ft. Nova Tropics (Radio Edit) |
| 5 | Jus Jack | If I Go |
| 6 | Gil Glaze & Afrojack | Hold On Ft. Evie |
| 7 | Kaleena Zanders & Shift K3y | The Light |
| 8 | Elephante & X.O.Anne | Dreaming Season |
| 9 | Jonas Blue & Malive | Edge Of Desire (Radio Mix) |
| 10 | Taylor Swift | The Fate Of Ophelia (Loud Luxury Remix) |
| 11 | Arco x Sistek | Sound Of The Sunrise |
| 12 | Lemas | Forever A Life |
| 13 | Manyfew | The One For Me |
| 14 | RscL | Lighter (Radio Edit) |
| 15 | Oskar Med K & Haley Joelle | I Think I'm Addicted |
| 16 | Two Friends ft. Natalie Jane | Waiting 4 U |
| 17 | Anna Sofia | B2B |
| 18 | ILLENium | Forever ft. Tom Grennan & Alna |
| 19 | Swanky Tunes X Shapov | Favela |
| 20 | Sonny Fodera x D.O.D. & Poppy Baskcomb | Think About Us |
| 21 | Open Till L8 | Sweat |
| 22 | Gil Glaze | Human |
| 23 | Juste X Jaxstyle X Jon | Turn The Lights Off |
| 24 | Dvbbs x Badger | Promises |
| 25 | Kaskade | Dncr |
| 26 | Sidepiece Cry For You | Radio |
| 27 | Loud Luxury X Emily Roberts | Love You For Life |
| 28 | TELYKAST & Oaks | Super Powers |
| 29 | Afrojack X Amel | Rivers Ft. Alida |
| 30 | Jes | Forever Young |

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JUDGING AT MIDNIGHT / \$100 CASH PRIZE
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SAT 3.14
GEAR NIGHT WITH
BLUF CHICAGO

DRESS CODE IN CLUB ROOM
BARBER & BOOTBLACK ON DUTY

SUN 3.15
ALL DAY BEER BUST
\$2.50 DRAUGHTS
FREE IRISH BUFFET 5PM

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GRAB ROGER

Buried in Debt with Social Security Benefits – Part II

By Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss, Esq.

The last article concerned the individual who was unable to pay his credit card bills and was using his social security to pay bills and groceries since, he had not been able to find a job.

Many individuals who worry about debts are, in fact, judgment-proof. If someone is unemployed and owns only personal property such as household furnishings, a car with a low market value and a small amount of money in the bank they are probably judgment-proof. Same applies if they are receiving social security and social security disability benefits.

There are certain kinds of benefit payments which are exempt from garnishment (judgment-proof) under state and federal law. State of Illinois law exempts Social Security benefits, unemployment compensation, public assistance benefits, veterans benefits, disability benefits, illness benefits,

unemployment benefits, and certain alimony, support or separate maintenance. Federal law exempts Social Security payments along with Railroad Retirement Act and Veteran's benefits.

What if the benefit payments are deposited in a bank account, are they still exempt? The law says that public benefit payments remain exempt from garnishment procedures even after they are deposited in a bank account.

A federal court has previously ruled that veteran's benefits and social security payments deposited into a savings account retain their exempt status so long as the funds remained subject to the demand of the recipient to be used for his needs and were not converted to a "permanent investment." Needless to say, if you do deposit such benefits into a bank account maintain good records to be able to show a judge that the bank account was established with public benefits.

While the "do nothing" approach may be appropriate for judgment proof individuals it will not get rid of the underlying debts and could lead to severe credit problems. Furthermore, there might be implications in not paying certain creditors. For example, you might consider paying those creditors who are medical care providers in order to not prejudice future access to medical care.

Be aware of the defense of the statute of limitations on your debts prior to any judgment against you by your creditors. The statute of limitations begins to run from the day the debt-or payment of an open-end account – credit cards – was due. You can double check when your statute of



limitations on your credit card debts start ticking by using your credit report as a reference. Your credit report will tell you the date of the last activity for your account. You will have your credit report with the date of the last activity as proof and a defense.

In Illinois, the statute of limitations is five years on open-end accounts which are revolving lines of credit with varying balances. The best example is a credit card account. That time period begins with the last activity such as a charge or payment on the account.

Five years after the last payment or charge, the statute of limitations begins to be an absolute defense. If the creditor files a suit, the consumer has an absolute defense. It is important that you keep track of the last payment on the account so that you can prove there has been no activity for the five years covered by the statute of limitations.

Unknown consumers will make payments on their credit card accounts even when they are not on their credit report. You make a payment and the credit collector gets another five years. Finally, the statute of limitations does not cause your debt to go away after it expires even though there has been no judgment against you.

Roger McCaffrey-Boss is a graduate of Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota, and is a member of the Chicago Bar Association. You can email him at RVMLawyer@aol.com. He suggests that you consult your own lawyer for any specific questions regarding the issues raised in this column.

SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS FOR YOUTH

You Are Not Alone

It's time to take action if you notice these signs in family or friends:

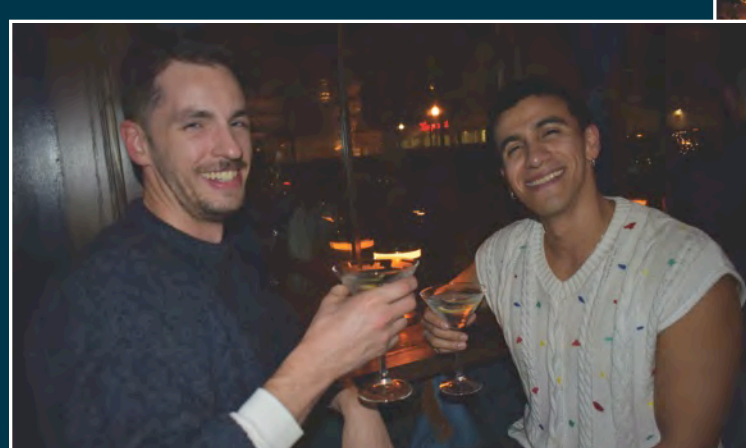
1. Talking about or making plans for suicide.
2. Expressing hopelessness about the future.
3. Displaying severe/overwhelming emotional pain or distress.
4. Showing worrisome changes in behavior, particularly in combination with the warning signs above, including significant:
 - Withdrawal from or changing social connections/situations.
 - Changes in sleep (increased or decreased).
 - Anger or hostility that seems out of character or out of context.
 - Recent increased agitation or irritability.

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available.

Text or call 988 or chat 988lifeline.org, or reach out to a mental health professional.

988
SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

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Photos By Anthony Meade



GRAB HOLLY

When Carbon Fights Back

By Holly Maholm

Penelope had asked me to attend that session of the Court of All Animals where one of the foxes – acting as spokes-animal for the Hawks, Owls, Eagles, Crows and Ravens – had petitioned Our Queen to save them from a Reign of Terror being inflicted upon them by what I knew to be three windmills erected on top of our nearby Mt. Whiskey. But soon, I realized that although the unicorns had gotten used to my presence, the other species – avian and fox – were not comfortable having a member of the Species Human present.

Accordingly, I went home for the night, then got up early to visit Donut Time, where I hoped to have an interview with the Unrivaled and Undisputed Seer and Wise-Woman of our little village – Cindy. Now, Cindy had earned her reputation based on her willingness to listen sympathetically and non-judgmentally to anyone of any age, race or sex. But more importantly, Cindy could be relied upon to be ready to share the latest and juiciest gossip.

Nevertheless, I had to remember that Cindy suffers from one... I will say "vulnerability." You see, Cindy's weakness is that she is a "believer" in conspiracies. Not always at the same time; sometimes in "serial fashion."

For example, once, she declared that no U.S. astronauts had ever walked on the moon; that the moon landing was faked by Stanley Kubrick on a soundstage. Then later, she revealed to us that those astronauts did walk on the moon, but actually, they were not humans at all, but instead were Alien, Shape-Shifting Reptilians. Most recently, she shared with us her discovery that the actual moon was constructed by the aforesaid Shape-Shifting Reptilians in another part of the galaxy, then brought here to serve as a secret base from which the Reptilians can keep watch over Earth, pending the day when they will become our Alien Overlords. (When she explained this to me, I was about to ask if there were – in that secret moon base – any Shape-Shifting, Transgender Reptilians, but I decided the answer to that question might be something I was unprepared to hear.)

I found Cindy in a booth at Donut Time, where – well-fortified with coffee and crullers – I brought my problem to the Oracle of Wellington. I started in. "So, are there windmills in Wellington now? How did I miss that?" Cindy looked pityingly at me, giving me a look that said, "You're hopelessly out-of-touch, but what else can I expect, you're a Boomer." She spoke. "Yes, Holly, if you hadn't been spending so much time out at the Horse Rescue you would know what happened. For

months we have had huge construction vehicles, earth-movers and cement trucks driving through town. They have been working at Mt. Whiskey, where – if you look – you can see three enormous windmills in operation."

"Okay," I responded, "I assume these are the usual boondoggles they build to reduce the amount of carbon we use, maybe even claim to make our town 'carbon neutral.'" Cindy once more turned her "Look of Pity" upon me, and I braced myself for her reply.

"It's not about the carbon!" she exclaimed. "Do you think that big corporation that got the contract to build those eyesores cares about carbon? It's all about the money! In Washington, there's politicians who are giving out billions of dollars to 'eliminate carbon,'



which entitles them to award fat contracts to big companies, and those companies know they're expected to make big political donations (kick-backs) to the political party that awarded them the contracts. She gave me a withering look, then summed up: 'Don't be a child, Holly. It's not about the carbon, it's about the contracts.' Six weeks later, I was waiting tables at Donut Time when a Power Company van pulled up in front, parked, and three men still wearing their orange safety vests got out, came in and claimed a booth. I went over to get their order, but one man (evidently the boss), who was visibly agitated, spoke out: "Damn! I've never seen anything like it! We just came back from Mt. Whiskey, and three brand-new windmills are out-of-service... destroyed!" He went on.

"At Unit No. 1, squirrels got into the generator and made their nests using sticks and branches, so the gears froze-up and the generator caught fire and burned out! Next, at Unit 2, groundhogs and rabbits burrowed into the soil under the concrete and steel foundation, so last night, when it got windy, the whole damn thing blew down to the ground! Finally, it looks like beavers dug down and chewed on the big electrical cables that collect the power being generated, so the electronics for all three units shorted-out and melted down!"

"Can you fix them?" I asked. "Hell no!" he replied. "We haven't got any budget to fix anything. They're someone else's problem now."

(To be continued)

Holly Maholm is a transgender woman living in Cleveland, Ohio. Look for Holly's book Offered Magic: My Life Among the Unicorns (now available on Amazon) which collects the first 126 episodes of Holly's adventures involving both magical unicorns and her LGBTQ friends. Send a message to Holly at www.hollymaholm.com.

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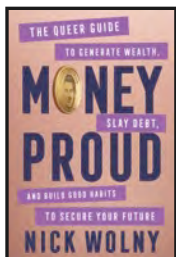
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GRAB A BOOK

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

***"Money Proud: The Queer Guide to Generate Wealth, Slay Debt, and Build Good Habits to Secure Your Future"* by Nick Wolny**
c.2025, Wm. Morrow
\$24.00 320 pages



Before you came out, you didn't talk about it.

Everything was hush-hush, zipped mouth, change the subject. But then you started to share, a little here, a little there with people you trusted. Before that, though, no discussions. Same thing with your finances: you didn't talk about them, either, and so you didn't learn – but the new book "Money Proud" by Nick Wolny fixes all that.

Once upon a time, Wolny says, he avoided thinking about his money. He was "living what felt like a great queer life," but he often noticed that there was never enough cash in his pocket and thoughts of security nagged him. What if there was ever an emergency, and he needed serious funds, fast?

Like so many gay people, he says, understanding his sexuality, coming out or staying in, was the focus of "every waking second of my adolescence..." and that took precedence over money manners. Because of it, he never really learned how to be money savvy.

And "yes, being queer affects your money."

Being financially illiterate, Wolny says, is an LGBT issue because of the heavy mental toll that debt and lack of knowledge can have. Also, he points out, "queer people have a long history of enduring economic discrimination," plus, "politics are downright diabolical these days..."

To begin seizing your best financial life, there are seven "Homophobic Thought Patterns to Unlearn," including avoidance as normal, and "comparison culture."

Learn how to map your expenses, so you know where you sit. Understand why you're in debt and remember that not all debt is bad, then learn the "snowball method" of eliminating what you owe. See how easy it is to build wealth without feeling sad or restricted. Learn how to avoid "traps" in spending and in making

more money – and on that note, find tips on ways to raise your income. And finally, learn what you need to know about investing, because you might not need an expert to do it.

Does all this sound like common sense? It is – until author Nick Wolny explains it from the POV of a gay man. That's when "Money Proud" becomes sharply relevant to millions of LGBTQ people who need this info.

Using this book is like taking a class on money management. Wolny starts out easy, with the very basics that are more psychological than they are financial. He moves through each category of wealth management and debt elimination, slowly but with an appropriate amount of gentle scolding so that readers understand the importance of what they'll read, without getting mired down or lost. Plain-talk sidebars of "Tea" (drag slang for "truth") will help you decipher financial terms and acronyms, and easy-to-use charts and prompts serve as guides to make you confident and smart about the moola you make.

And if your wallet's a bit thin, well, open it up and invest in "Money Proud." You've spent all this time silent about your finances. Now's the time to read up and talk about them.

***"The Queer Thing About Sin: Why the West Came to Hate Queer Love"* by Harry Tanner** c.2025, Bloomsbury
\$28.00 259 pages



Nobody likes you very much.

That's how it seems sometimes, doesn't it? Nobody wants to see you around, they don't want to hear your voice, they can't stand the thought of your existence and they'd really rather you just go away. It's infuriating, and in the new book "The Queer Thing About Sin" by Harry Tanner, you'll see how we got to this point.

When he was a teenager, Harry Tanner says that he thought he "was going to hell."

For years, he'd been attracted to men and he prayed that it would stop. He asked for help from a lay minister who offered Tanner websites meant to repress his urges, but they weren't the panacea Tanner hoped for. It wasn't until he went to college that he found

the answers he needed and "stopped fearing God's retribution."

Being gay wasn't a sin. Not ever, but he "still wanted to know why Western Culture believed it was for so long."

Historically, many believe that older men were sexual "mentors" for teenage boys, but Tanner says that in ancient Greece and Rome, same-sex relationships were common between male partners of equal age and between differently-aged pairs, both. Clarity comes by understanding relationships between husbands and wives then, and careful translation of the word "boy," to show that age wasn't a factor, but superiority and inferiority were.

In ancient Athens, queer love was considered to be "noble" but after the Persians sacked Athens, sex between men instead became an acceptable act of aggression aimed at conquered enemies. Confoundingly, raping a male prisoner was encouraged but "Gay men became symbols of a depraved lack of self-control and abstinence."

Later Greeks believed that men could turn into women "if they weren't sufficiently virile." Biblical interpretations point to more conflict; Leviticus specifically bans queer sex but "the Sumerians actively encouraged it." The Egyptians hated it, but "there are sporadic clues that same-sex partners lived together in ancient Egypt."

Says Tanner, "all is not what it seems."

So you say you're not really into ancient history. If it's not your thing, then "The Queer Thing About Sin" won't be, either.

Just know that if you skip this book, you're missing out on the kind of excitement you get from reading mythology, but what's here is true, and a much wider view than mere folklore. Author Harry Tanner invites readers to go deep inside philosophy, religion, and ancient culture, but the information he brings is not dry. No, there are major battles brought to life here, vanquished enemies and death – but also love, acceptance, even encouragement that the citizens of yore in many societies embraced and enjoyed. Tanner explains carefully how religious credo tied in with homosexuality (or didn't) and he brings readers up to speed through recent times.

While this is not a breezy vacation read or a curl-up-with-a-blanket kind of book, "The Queer Thing About Sin" is absolutely worth spending time with. If you're a thinking person and can give yourself a chance to ponder, you'll like it very much.

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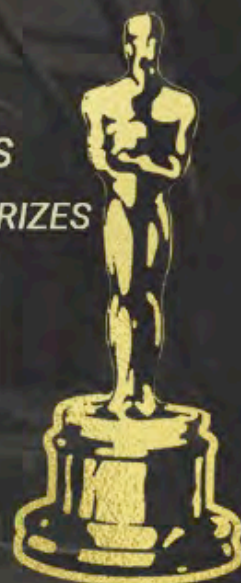
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CHICAGO TRAVEL & ADVENTURE SHOW FEBRUARY 21-22

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE SHOW

America's Favorite Travel Show Series—returns to Chicago February 21-22 for another year of travel tips, deals and experiences! Featuring show-exclusive offers, more than 60 travel seminars and hundreds of vacation options to explore, the annual event is back and better than ever. With more than 450 destinations, tour companies, cruise lines and travel providers slated to be in attendance, the Travel & Adventure Show has provided unbeatable vacation inspiration to the Chicago area for over 20 years.

With 30 speaker sessions across three stages, attendees can learn the best travel tips and tricks in the Savvy Traveler Theater, discover must-visit destinations across the globe in the Destination Theater and hear keynote sessions from their favorite experts in the Traveler Theater. Some of the weekend's top speaker sessions include:

- Emmy Award-winning host Samantha Brown, sharing her top advice from more than 25 years of experience as a TV host
- Peter Greenberg, CBS News Travel Editor and world adventurer, offering insights on how to travel in 2026 amid political, economic, and AI disruptions

• Pauline Frommer, Editorial Director of Frommer's Guides and publisher of Frommers.com, sharing tips on how to save on travel in 2026 while planning unforgettable bucket-list trips

• Angel Castellanos, YouTube, TV host, and packing expert, presenting his ultimate guide to travel—from booking flights to packing lighter

While on the show floor, attendees can discover more than 450 destinations, tour operators, cruise lines and travel providers, offering unbeatable travel inspiration and exclusive prices throughout the event. Attendees can also expect some amazing show-floor giveaways, including a two-person Bike & Boat Tour in Croatia provided by Pedal & Sea Adventure and a ticket to attend the International Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque with Wanderful.

With two major international airports, Chicago travelers have the world at their fingertips and 2026 is shaping up to be a banner year for getting away. United Airlines alone is launching nonstop service to ten new U.S. destinations, from the charm of Paducah, Kentucky, to the red-rock beauty of St. George, Utah, and the creative buzz of Eugene, Oregon. Travelers can learn more about these destinations by visiting booths across the show floor, including the AAA pavilion where the group's dedicated travel experts will be on hand to provide insights and even assist with bookings for 2026 travel.

Closer to home, domestic travel will be especially popular in 2026 as the country celebrates America's 250th anniversary. From coast to

coast, destinations are planning once-in-a-generation celebrations—and the Travel & Adventure Show is the perfect place to discover where and how to join the festivities.

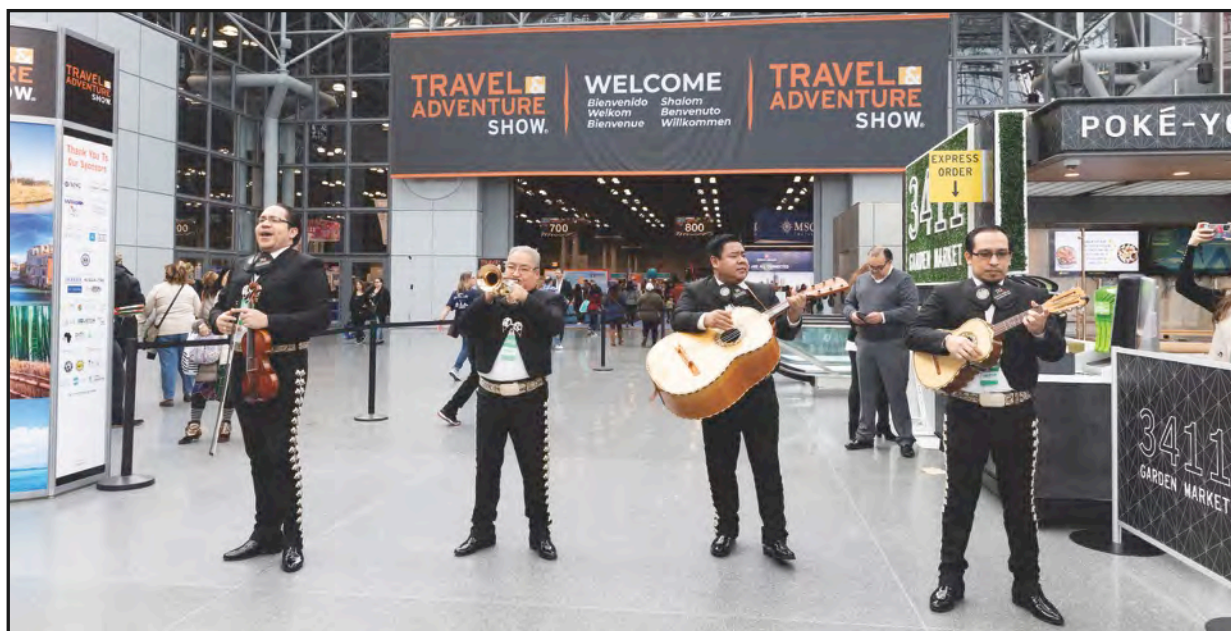
Craving sunshine? The Show brings the tropics to Chicago with a lineup of Caribbean favorites. Dive enthusiasts can learn more about Roatan, while trendsetters will want to explore Barbados—one of the hottest destinations for 2026.

Cruise lovers won't want to miss the latest updates from Celebrity Cruises, including itineraries aboard the brand-new Celebrity Xcel, sailing the Caribbean all winter long and even offering two transatlantic voyages. Also making waves is Viking Cruises which is gearing up for a big year with the launch of the world's first hydrogen-powered cruise ship, Viking Libra.

Beyond destinations and expert speakers, the Show is packed with hands-on fun. Attendees can test their skills on an inflatable obstacle course, take a spin on a Segway or Trikke, or dive into adventure at the Dive & Water Sports Pavilion. Whether you're dreaming of your next SCUBA dive, paddleboarding escape, or snorkeling adventure, you'll find inspiration—and the experts to help plan it—right on the show floor.

The Chicago Show is sponsored by AAA, Cathay Pacific, Choctaw Nation, Mexican Caribbean, Branson Missouri, Celebrity Cruises, Go Touch Down Travel & Tours, Taiwan Tourism, and Caribbean Tourism Organization.

For more information on the Chicago Travel & Adventure Show or to purchase tickets please visit <https://travelshows.com/shows/chicago/>.





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