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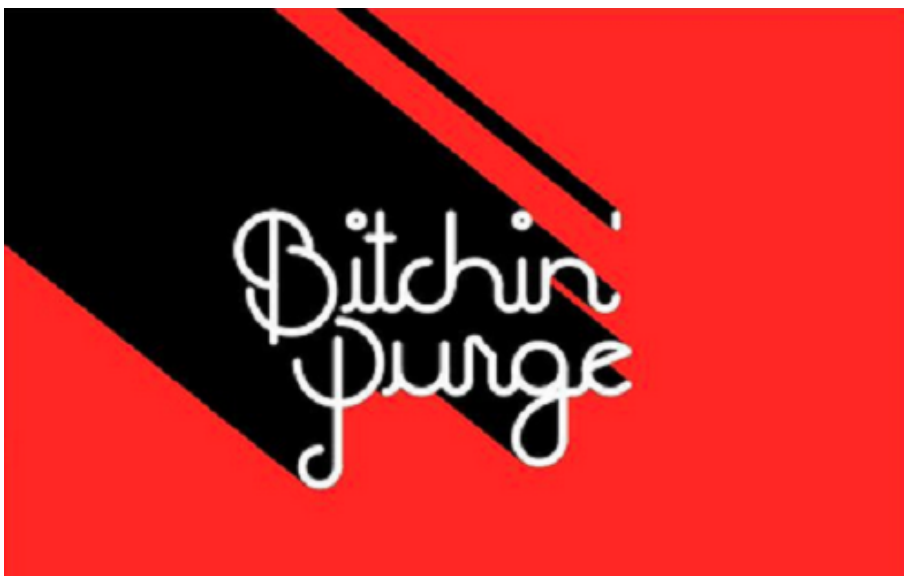
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Bitchin' Purge: A Night of Laughs for a Good Cause



03 Battle of the Sexes Tournament Edition

Bitchin' Purge: A Night of Laughs for a Good Cause

Steve Shields turned his idea for a documentary about people in the service industry getting stiffed of tips into a funny night of laughs that benefitted a local non-profit organization.

The Bitchin' Purge three Battle of the Sexes Tournament was held at 8 p.m. on May 26 at Jerry's Sandwiches Wicker Park at 1938 W. Division, Chicago, IL. Steve wanted to have a story slam of the service industry after he put a documentary he was making about servers on the back burner. "(My) co workers know I get weirdest customers in the world; figured I'd turn it into a live show," Steve said.



The show started out with stand-up comedy by Megan Gailey, co host of the podcast Naked Sports Live and star on the pilot "Sick Day" potentially for TBS. Megan said she has been in the comedy business for four years and that's when she moved to Chicago from Indianapolis. She said she knew Steve because he is the producer of "Sick Day."

After Megan's set, Steve and Emily Drews Westfall came to the stage to start off the night. They

talked in between storytellers to tell quick stories about their lives in the service industry. Emily discussed a time she was disturbed by her boss and Steve did a crowd-favored Bane impression.



An array of storytellers came up to the stage. It did not stick to the battle of the sexes theme, but there were seven people who told their disturbing yet hilarious stories. A lot of the storytellers could relate to the beneficiary of the event, Maebell Ward Foundation, because they had a family member or friend with Alzheimer's disease.

Terron Edmonds founded Maebell Ward two years ago in honor of his grandmother who died of Alzheimer's and Dementia when he was 11. Terron said the disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S. and that there is no cure. Terron said Maebell Ward has events throughout the year like mini golf, standard golf, stand-up and sketch comedy, their concert Jammin on Ashland and, most recently, a 5K on June 8 in Elk Grove Village.

The first two Bitchin' Purge shows raised \$1,150 with some of the proceeds from a percentage of the bar's drink tab. The rest of the night was filled with laughs such as from horror stories at Rainforest Cafe as well as a somber silence for the realities of Alzheimer's. "95 percent of customers are great; 5 percent are unbelievable," Steve said.

The next event is the Bitchin' Purge: Kitchen Purge on June 30 at Jerry's Sandwiches.

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Awesome write up!!! Thank you so much!

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You bet! Great event!

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