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## Know Your Candidates

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

For gays in states with the largest gay populations, like California and Illinois, it's decision time in the 2008 presidential race. From the evidence available—aneecdotal and indirect—most gays are trying to choose between the top two Democratic candidates—Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. For those who will consider only a Republican, the choice appears to have also narrowed to two, also—John McCain, whose record has been relatively moderate on gay-related is-

ssues, and Rudy Giuliani, whose record has been relatively supportive but whose campaign is relying on a sort of "Hail, Mary" strategy that started in Florida Jan. 29.

What's problematic for the LGBT community at this juncture in the presidential contest is that the gay vote—which has provided favored candidates with a significant and reliable voting bloc in the past—is in danger of being marginalized by record turnouts.

The Las Vegas Sun reported that more than 10 times the number of Democrats turned out for that party's caucuses Saturday than attend-

ed four years ago. As many as one-third of the crowd were newly registered Democrats. Records were broken similarly in Iowa and New Hampshire for the Democrats.

Exit polls in the 2000 and 2004 general elections have found about four percent of voters willing to self-identify as gay nationwide, and what few surveys that have been conducted, indicate that the vast majority of gays are already registered.

But while the gay vote may seem diminished

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# Primary '08

## Election Guide, pages 8-16

Candidates line up—Top row (from left): Anita Alvarez, Barack Obama, Deb Mell, Howard Brookins, Jr., Mark Pera and Aaron Weiss. Bottom row (from left): Hillary Clinton, Greg Harris, John Edwards and Christine Radogno. Photos of Obama, Clinton and Edwards by Rex Wockner

## Mary York, 52, Dies

BY TRACY BAIM

Chicago attorney Mary York died Jan. 23 after a long battle with renal cancer. She was 52.

York was among the most respected attorneys in Chicago, serving as legal support and advisor to countless gay and lesbian individuals, organizations and businesses. As part of the firm Mulryan and York, she was inducted with her legal partner Rosemary Mulryan into the Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2004.

York also volunteered her time extensively in the community, including as president of the board of the Lesbian Community Cancer Project. She also served on the board of the Heartland Alliance for Human Rights and Needs, and for more than 15 years provided legal services without charge to such organizations as Gerber/Hart Library, Horizons, Mountain Moving Coffeehouse



Mary York. Photo by Hal Baim

and many more.

Mary York was also the attorney for 20 years for Outlines and when Outlines purchased Windy City Times in 2000, York oversaw the merger.

Mulryan and York opened in 1989 and they were among the first firms to be openly lesbian-owned. Their focus is on LGBT families, relationships and institutions, and also real estate issues. York gave advice and also lobbied for legal change, and also served as a role model for many law students and community activists. The firm also donated time to many people living with HIV/AIDS, to help plan their estates.

During York's long battle with cancer, LaGenia Bailey (her partner of more than 10 years) and many friends and family members rallied to help her.

"My heart is broken but through your support and love we will be sustained during this time," Bailey wrote to friends the night York died.

"I met Mary in 1985 at a party and we im-

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one important night, one important cause.



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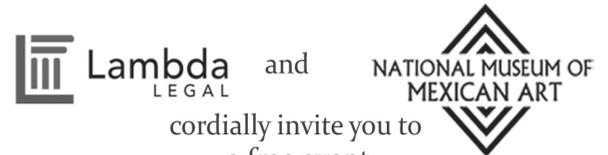
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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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In Berwyn, Teatro Luna's *Machos* (above) opens 16th Street Theatre's first season. See page 17.

Photo by Johnny Knight



As part of Windy City Times' extensive political coverage in this issue, we interview several local candidates, including Cook County State's Attorney hopeful Larry Suffredin (above). See page 14.

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

This week's online-only features include:  
 -Media Watch  
 -Deep Inside Hollywood  
 -National news  
 -World roundup  
 -Quotelines  
 -Pop Making Sense, feat. DJ Abel Aguilera (right)  
 -Theatrical productions *The Drowned World and Boy*

Photo by Liz Liguori



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The leather community comes together at Touché for Mr. Chicago Leather 2008, while Mr. Chicago Leather 2006 raises funds for CALOR.

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**KNOW from cover**

with a large turnout in the general election, it gets magnified in primaries, said political poll analyst Murray Edelman. That's because most of that gay vote—77 percent in the 2004 general election—goes Democratic.

The gay vote impact is also magnified in many of the upcoming primary states, like California, Massachusetts, and Illinois, because of the tendency for many gays to live in or near major metropolitan areas and in states and cities with laws that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. A pre-election survey in 1996, for instance, found that about 8 percent of "likely voters" in California were gay. Census data shows that the states with the highest concentrations of same-sex partner households and the highest percentage of unmarried men and unmarried women include many of the Feb. 5 primary states, including Massachusetts, California, Illinois and Georgia.

And while history indicates that most LGBT people in the "Super Duper Tuesday" states will be voting for a Democrat, there are some indicators suggesting their choice is still not an easy decision. For some, the differences among the top-polling candidates—in both parties—are subtle distinctions.

But there are differences.

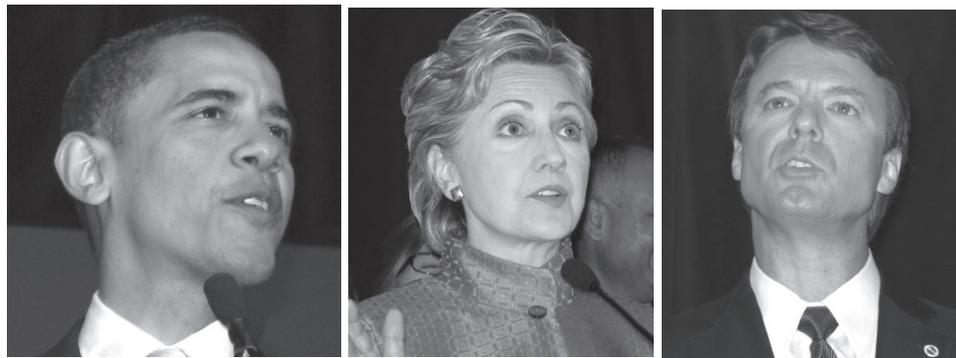
**Blue comfort zone**

An early benchmark on gay issues for Democrats has been, as in 2004, gay marriage. The early voting states of New Hampshire and Iowa were facing their own fights over the issue during 2007, and marriage is an active battle now in California and Florida. So attention on the issue has been inevitable.

For this campaign, it started with John Edwards in December 2006 when, at his first campaign stop in New Hampshire, a gay man from Massachusetts stood up and asked where he stood on same-sex marriage. Edwards' response essentially tested the waters for other Democrats as to how comfortable Americans were with the issue.

"It's easy for me to say civil unions, yes, partner benefits, yes, but it is something I struggle with ... it's a jump for me to get to gay marriage," said Edwards.

It wasn't long before Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama officially entered the race and they,



From left: Sen. Barack Obama, Sen. Hillary Clinton and former Sen. John Edwards. Photos by Rex Wockner

too, struck similar positions.

Polls give a hint at the dilemma for the candidates. Most show a trend toward greater acceptance of equal benefits for gay couples, through "civil unions" or "domestic partnerships," but not for legal recognition of "marriage" *per se*. And the one poll that examined the difference in attitude between Democrats and Republicans—by CBS/New York Times in October 2006—found that 68 percent of Democrats but only 41 percent of Republicans were for marriage or civil unions. That suggested Democratic candidates needed to show considerable willingness to support some legal recognition for gay relationships but still be able to temper that somewhat in the general election.

But there is a difference among the top three polling Democrats on marriage: Obama and Edwards have said they believe the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) should be repealed, while Clinton says she would repeal only Section 3. That section of the law denies gay partners and spouses more than 1,100 federal benefits enjoyed by married heterosexual spouses. She would retain Section 2, which says states don't have to recognize "relationships between persons of the same sex."

Obama also received some criticism last summer for his effort to brush off his refusal to support "marriage" for gay couples as a being just a matter of "semantics." He said that, as president, he would "fight hard" to ensure that gay couples have the "legal rights that have consequences on an everyday basis," but he could not promise to fight for more than that. He flatly disagreed with the proposition that a "civil union" is "lesser" than marriage and he

subtly suggested the gay community's concern that it is "separate but equal" at best and not equal at worst was not a concern that warranted extensive probing.

**On other issues:** All three support the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), hate-crimes legislation, coverage for domestic partners under the Family and Medical Leave Act, equal treatment of gay couples under tax laws, and repeal of the military's "don't ask/don't tell" policy. Obama received considerable criticism from the LGBT community in October when he refused calls to eliminate an anti-gay performer, Donnie McClurkin, from his campaign's gospel campaign tour of South Carolina. Clinton was criticized for attempting, in response to a debate question, to rewrite history when she claimed that her husband, President Bill Clinton, had signed "don't ask/don't tell" into law as a "transition policy." Both Obama and Clinton were criticized last spring for initially ducking a question about whether they agreed with then Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Peter Pace that homosexuality is immoral. They both eventually said they disagreed.

**LGBT relations:** Clinton has received the lion's share of high-profile endorsements in the LGBT community, among them Reps. Barney Frank and Tammy Baldwin; former HUD assistant secretary Roberta Achtenberg, tennis legend Billie Jean King, and California State Senator Sheila Kuehl. She has openly gay staff heading up her outreach to the LGBT community and spoke before a Human Rights Campaign gathering, albeit without any prior notice to the press. She gave a reporter for The Advocate a 15-minute interview but her campaign has refused to respond to any other requests for interviews from the gay press.

Obama has the backing of film producer David Geffen, Equality Illinois Director Rick Garcia and Colorado activist Donna Red Wing. He has openly gay liaisons to the gay community and met in person, albeit without press notice, with a Freedom to Marry group in New Hampshire. He

gave a reporter for The Advocate a 15-minute interview by phone in regards to the gospel tour controversy, but his campaign has not responded to any other requests for interviews from the gay press.

Edwards has the support of longtime Democratic activist David Mixner and youth advocate Kevin Jennings. He has an openly gay person as his deputy campaign manager and met in person with a Freedom to Marry group in New Hampshire, with no restrictions on, but no notice to, the press, at their offices. His campaign has not responded to requests for interviews from the gay press.

The most recent reports from the Federal Elections Commission (FEC) show of contributions to the top three Democrats from the 33 precincts around the country with the heaviest concentration of gays, 51 percent has gone to Clinton, 38 percent to Obama, and 11 percent has gone to Edwards.

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Visit [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com) to read the entire article, including the roundup of Republican candidates.

**Obama Wins Big in S.C.**

Barack Obama defeated Hillary Clinton by a two-to-one margin in South Carolina's Democratic presidential primary Jan. 26, giving him major momentum before Super Tuesday, when two dozen states (including Illinois) hold their primaries Feb. 5.

Obama outdistanced Clinton 55 percent to 27 percent, gathering 25 delegates while Clinton received 12.

John Edwards, who was born in South Carolina and who won the primary here in 2004, finished a distant third with 18 percent; he garnered eight delegates.

The vote wrapped up a state race that, at times, became acrimonious between Clinton and Obama. Race and accusations of lying were a couple of the issues that came up.

Florida held its Republican and Democratic primaries Jan. 29. See [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com) for primary results.

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## Scot's Closed Due to Burst Pipe

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Scot's, a popular gay nightspot, was among the Ravenswood businesses affected by the water-main break and subsequent sinkhole that developed last week.

According to The Chicago Tribune, a 100-year-old, 3-foot-wide iron pipe burst around 1:30 a.m. on Jan. 22 near the intersection of Montrose and Honore. The break then caused the pavement to collapse, creating a hole 15 feet deep and 80 feet wide.

Dan Gamboney, a manager at Scot's, located at 1829 W. Montrose, was there when the break occurred. "At first, it just looked like a water main had burst and the street had been flooding, and the city thought it was under control; I didn't know," he told Windy City Times. "Then, around 1:30, it just blew. Water was everywhere. We were standing in the front window and the street just disappeared.

"Then, I heard a crash downstairs. By the time I got down to the basement, the water had come up to the top. Right now, it looks like an earthquake went off in there."

Gamboney said he did not know how long Scot's will be closed. "We're trying to get everything up and running; it's going to be a while. There are so many variables with the city [regarding re-opening Scot's]—water, gas, electric, heat."

Gamboney also commented on the outpouring of support shown since the bar closed. "It's amazing to me ... the amount of people [who] have contacted us wanting to help, both within the gay community as well as the customers," he said.

## Center to present Black LGBT artists

As part of its activities celebrating Black History Month, Center on Halsted will present "OUTside the Northside: Three Perspectives of Chicago African-American LGBT Artists" beginning Feb. 1. The exhibit, which runs through Feb. 29 in the Center's second-floor gallery space at 3656 N. Halsted, will feature the works of Bill Hill, Juarez Hawkins and Travis.

The exhibit's opening night, Feb. 1, begins with a reception at 6 p.m. The artists will be present at 7 p.m. to greet viewers and discuss their work. Admission is \$20 and includes the reception.

See [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org).

## 'Sexual Politics' at CHM Jan. 31

"Sexual Politics: From the Lavender Scare to Larry Craig," the first part of the Chicago History Museum's (CHM's) three-part Out at CHM series, will take place Thurs., Jan. 31, at 1601 N. Clark.

This program discusses how the sexuality of gay men repeatedly finds its way to the center of the nation's political scene. Cocktail hour begins at 5:30 p.m., and the program starts at 6:30 p.m., with a reception to follow.

This program is \$15 (\$12 for museum members and students). See [www.chicagohistory.org](http://www.chicagohistory.org).

## Protesters to challenge candidates

In commemoration of Marriage Equality Day 2008, protesters will gather Sat., Feb. 2, at 11 a.m. in front of the Cook County Marriage License Bureau, 118 N. Clark, before marching to the campaign offices of various presidential candidates, according to a press release from the Gay Liberation Network, which is also sponsoring the event.

For more information, call 773-209-1187 or e-mail [LGBTliberation@aol.com](mailto:LGBTliberation@aol.com).

## New coming out group for older adults

Center on Halsted will offer a support group for mature adults who are beginning the coming out process.

The group begins Feb. 7, and takes place on Thursdays through April 10, from 6:30-8 p.m. Registration is required. Please call David Allen at 773-472-6469, ext. 476 to learn more.

The Center on Halsted is located at 3656 N. Halsted. See [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org).

## Center to honor Sheahan

Center on Halsted will honor Patrick Sheahan at its 18th Annual Human First Gala Sat., April 12, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan.

Sheahan will be honored as the Center's 2008 Human First recipient for his significant contributions with the LGBT community and its allies. As a significant force behind building the new Center and as the organization's co-chair for its opening gala co-chair, among other things, he has worked among corporate, public and non-profit sectors to build consensus around specific LGBT issues, according to a press release.

Lesbian comedian Kate Clinton will be the evening's mistress of ceremonies. Tickets are \$300 per person; \$500 includes a premium seating and private reception.

See [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org).

## Don't worry!

Your favorite features are still around. Visit [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com) to find the latest national and world news as well as our popular column Quotelines.

## PASSAGES

### Gloria J. Shoff

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Gloria J. Shoff, executive director of the Northalsted Area Merchants Association, passed away last week. Shoff, a lifelong Chicagoan who resided on the North Side, was 72.

Northalsted Market Days is responsible for annual events such as Northalsted Market Days, Chicago PrideFest and Halsted Tastes Better, among others.

Shoff's brother, Norman, said that a doctor informed him that Gloria died of either "arrhythmia or possibly a blood clot."

Norman said that Gloria "was a very, very strong individual who believed in honesty, truth and satisfaction. She was a traveler when time permitted; she's been in Europe and the Canary Islands. [Also,] she loved animals and [volunteered] with the Lincoln Park Zoo."

When asked what he will miss about his sister, Norman replied, "Everything I can possibly think of. It's been hard on me. [Her passing] will take a long time to get over."

Jeffrey Durbin, owner of The Gourmet Grape and a member of NAMA's board of directors, said that Gloria Shoff "was an asset to our organization and our community; she's really been our backbone. She'll be missed dearly. ... She was Northalsted Area Merchants Association."

Gloria Shoff was the devoted daughter of the late Gene and Mildred; dear sister of Norman (Dona); and aunt of many nieces and nephews.

A service was held Jan. 24, according to Norman Shoff.

Donations may be made to PAWS, P.O. Box 1037, Lynnwood, Wash., 98046.



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# GUEST VIEWPOINT

WINDY CITY TIMES

VOL. 23, No. 20, Jan. 30, 2008

The combined forces of Windy City Times,  
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**TERRY  
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## Voting = Protecting Reproductive Choices

Personal PAC's mission is to elect public officials at the state and local level who will ensure that all women can exercise their right to privacy and self-determination by having access to reproductive health care. Keeping government out of people's personal lives is a strongly held principle by the majority of Independent, Democratic and Republican voters in Illinois. The issue of reproductive health care is a bi-partisan issue. Thus, it is Personal PAC's goal to have a majority of Republicans and Democrats in both the Illinois House and Senate who are pro-choice. We support 100% pro-choice incumbents, regardless of party affiliation or challenger. In order to make certain that all women have access to family planning, pregnancy prevention and abortion services, the mission is simple. We need 60 pro-choice votes in the Illinois House, 30 pro-choice votes in the Illinois Senate and Governor who will sign pro-choice legislation and veto anti-choice legislation.

The 2008 primary and general elections provide Illinois voters with one of the greatest opportunities in over a decade to defeat right-wing anti-abortion candidates (incumbents and challengers) and replace them with pro-choice advocates. It will take a great deal of money and work, but this election offers so many opportunities that we

cannot afford to ignore.

The following are just a few of the highlights in Tuesday's primary. (The general election will have many more races and will be discussed after February 5th). To see a full list of Personal PAC's endorsements for state, county and judicial races, our Voters' Guide is available at [www.personalpac.org](http://www.personalpac.org).

### Senate:

In 2006, Personal PAC was vitally involved in winning six Senate races against anti-abortion candidates and changing five senate districts from an anti-choice Senator to a pro-choice Senator. Our goal in 2008 is to change four additional districts from anti to pro-choice. Two Democratic primaries are important to having the strongest pro-choice candidates in November. In the 26th district (northwest Cook and Lake counties), anti-choice Republican Bill Peterson is retiring. With Personal PAC's full support, Round Lake Mayor Bill Gentes is running a great campaign to be the Democratic nominee in order to defeat Dan Duffy, the only Republican and a right-winger, in November. In the 38th district, Democrat Rudy Martin is receiving Personal PAC's support to take on anti-choice incumbent Republican Senator Gary Dahl. Personal PAC is fully supporting articulate and passionate pro-choice leader Heather Steans to replace retiring Senator Carol Ronen in the 7th district.

### House:

In 2007, proposed legislation in the Illinois House (HB 317) to protect pregnant teenagers who are victims of sexual abuse and violence by giving them a counseling option by caring and trusted professionals failed shamefully by five votes. It is critical that in 2008, Personal PAC play a significant role in replacing as many Democrats and Republicans as possible who voted against HB 317. We cannot stand by and allow elected

officials to callously put the health and lives of teenagers at risk. In these primaries, vacant seats represent great opportunities. In the 92nd district (Peoria), two pro-choice Democrats (Allen Mayer and Jehan Gordon) are vying for the Democratic nomination to replace retiring 100% anti-choice Republican Aaron Schock. The Republican nominee is unknown at this time. In the 40th district (Chicago) pro-choice Deb Mell is the only candidate on the ballot at this time. Republicans Christine Prochno in the 66th district (Northwest suburbs) and Kay Hatcher in the 50th district (Kendall and Kane counties) are vying to replace pro-choice Republican State Reps. Carolyn Krause and Pat Lindner, both of whom are retiring from the House. Prochno and Hatcher both face serious right-wing opponents in the Republican primary and Personal PAC is doing everything it can to make certain they prevail as to keep these seats in the pro-choice column. Also in the Republican primary, pro-choice Doug Krause in the 48th district (Naperville) is up against two anti-choice right wingers. Krause has Personal PAC's full support as he would replace the far right anti-choice Republican incumbent, Jim Meyer, who is retiring. In the 56th district Democratic primary (Northwest suburbs), anti-choice leader, Republican turned Democrat Paul Froehlich, must be defeated in order to make way for a more moderate Democrat or Republican.

It is vitally important for all pro-choice voters to cast an informed ballot Feb. 5 in the primary of their choice. After all, we are the majority in Illinois. Let us not forget that right-wingers only get elected when pro-choice voters do not vote in elections.

**Terry Cosgrove is executive director of Personal PAC, a bipartisan political action committee dedicated to electing pro-choice candidates to state and local office in Illinois.**

## Alvarez's allies

Dear Editor:

We are writing to express our support for Cook County State's Attorney candidate Anita Alvarez.

Anita is a 21-year veteran of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. She began her career in 1986 and presently serves as third in command of the second largest prosecutor's office in the nation. In that time, she has handled every type of case from domestic violence to narcotics and public corruption to gang homicides. She has served in a supervisory role for the past ten years. We have evaluated her background carefully and have gotten to know her personally as well. Each and every step of her career has been noted by achievement, excellence and dedication.

Anita has reached out to the LGBT community and has sought not only our support but our ideas, insight and concerns. Her campaign staff deliberately includes several members of our community and her agenda reflects a sensible approach to law enforcement, crime prevention and inclusive sensitivity for all communities. She is also committed to changing a culture that has long existed within the State's Attorney's Office that seems to support and promote only white heterosexual males to the detriment of other committed employees of more diverse backgrounds.

In this election, she is opposed mostly by career politicians. They are heavy on clout, machine politics and special interests, but devoid of experience representing the victims of crime in Cook County. Some are Aldermen, Commissioners, and Lobbyists in the pockets of special interests and backroom politicians. Unlike Anita, many have not held the hands of victims of crime or stood up for people other than their own power base. Anita

stands alone, speaking out for justice and victims of crime. She has never turned anyone away because of their skin color, accent, ancestry, creed or sexual orientation. She never will.

In the entire history of this county, voters have never elected anyone but white males as State's Attorney. That strikes us as absurd in light of this county's demographics. It also strikes us that now, in the same year that America is poised to elect its first African American or woman as president, it is also a time for change at the local level. We need someone as State's Attorney who has the experience and qualifications coupled with a history of fighting for recognition, inclusion and equality. She stands firmly with the LGBT community and is the best qualified and experienced candidate in this race. It is our sincere hope that the LGBT community stands with Anita Feb. 5.

*Very truly yours,**Paula Basta**Amy Bloom**Jeremy Gottschalk**Ray Koenig**Brian Walker**Steven Zick, former Assistant State's Attorney*

## Full Steans ahead

Dear Editor:

History tells us that the February 5, 2008 Democratic Primary election in Illinois' 7th District will dramatically impact the future of equal rights for the GLBT community. Retiring State Senator Carol Ronen has been a singular leader on human rights issues in the Illinois General Assembly. We must rally around someone with her passion and ability to get things done to continue our progress.

Heather Steans will continue our fight for marriage equality. She is a strong and vocal advocate for same sex marriage.

It gives us some comfort that Heather has been endorsed by progressive groups such as Equality Illinois, Personal PAC, Planned Parenthood, and the Sierra Club. Moreover, many of our local leaders such as Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, retiring Senator Carol Ronen, and Representative Greg Harris have endorsed Heather as well. These groups and individuals consistently fight radical reactionaries that would deny us the basic dignities and protections of equal rights under the law. They will mentor Heather to become a leader for our community and create natural accountability for results that we need and deserve.

Endorsements are not enough, however, when we consider the need to promote a leader for our community for the next generation. Heather has a lifetime of experience promoting social justice issues. She was the Budget Director over Wisconsin's equivalent to the Department of Human Rights so she understands the need for practical enforcement measures to meet the intensity of the legislation we pass. She has worked on school reform issues and promoted age appropriate sex education in our schools. Finally, she has promoted job development in Chicago for many people that would otherwise be left behind and rejected by our mainstream economy.

Our concern over losing Carol Ronen's effective voice for us in Springfield must be channeled in this final week before the election to replace her with an effective leader for our community. Heather Steans will be that leader and deserves your support Feb. 5 in the Democratic primary for State Senator in the 7th District.

*Brandon Neese and Kelly Cassidy  
 Chicago*

## LETTERS

## YORK from cover

mediately clicked," said friend Mary Morten. "Her wicked sense of humor and huge heart are just two of the many, many gifts she gave us. Her commitment to LG, her family and friends and this community was beyond compare. She was with me for some of my most important life moments. Her light will be greatly missed, but never forgotten."

Mary York was preceded in death by her mother, Arlene York. In addition to her loving partner LaGenia Bailey, she is survived by her father Alvin York, sister Cindy (Larry) Eichler and brother John York; niece and nephew, Stephanie and Jason, and six grandnieces and nephews. She was also the godmother of John Henry and Beatrice. Her leaving will be felt by many but especially by LaCena and Lilburn Bailey, Rosemary Mulryan, Gary Morgan, Supie Dunbar, Mary Waterman, John Kimbrough and the Brown-Hunt Family.

Visitation and services were held this past week. Donations can be made to [www.lccp.org](http://www.lccp.org), [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org), [www.feedyoursoul.org](http://www.feedyoursoul.org) and [www.methodisthealth.com/foundation](http://www.methodisthealth.com/foundation).

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As part of an ongoing Chicago Gay History Project I am working on, I was able to interview Mary York and LaGenia Bailey in September of 2007. Mary was weak from her cancer treatments, but she was in strong spirit recounting her legal practice, her hopes and dreams for the community, and her gratefulness of the support she had received from the community. Following are a few excerpts from that video interview, which will be posted in full when the Chicago Gay History Project Web site launches this summer.

**ON BEING GAY:** "I was definitely a tomboy and I knew, when I was about age 13 or 14, that I had a preference for girls and it was very, very strong and I had my first girlfriend at 14. I used to get confused and think that, I was really, I was gonna find out at some time that I was a boy. I didn't understand the sexual things that were going on in my body and I had a lot of gender confusion as to whether I was a girl or a boy ... I didn't identify more with boys but I identified more with the structure, the clothing, what they could do, the opportunities they had versus the roles for girls."

**EDUCATION:** "I got my BA at Barrett College in Lake Forest. It was an all-women's Catholic school and I went there from 1974-1978 and that was a magical time, I was able to come out, really come out in college and there were a lot of lesbians there and the nuns were actually pretty supportive and looked the other way. At the end



Left: York (right) and legal partner Rosemary Mulryan pose with Mayor Richard Daley after being inducted into the Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2004. Right: Mary York (right) with life partner LeGenia Bailey. Left photo by Tracy Baim; right photo by Hal Baim

of college I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do so I decided I wanted to go to law school kind of at the last minute. ... I knew I wanted to be self-employed but I wasn't quite sure how."

**THE BARS:** "I'm sorry to say, I spent so much time in the bars, as far back as 1977, 1976 when I was in college ... we used to come down to Chicago and we'd go to Petunia's, Marilyn's, Lost & Found, Augies, CK's. ... [There] were a lot of women's bars at that time and that was the community. The stereotypes, the roles, the gender roles were much more defined. Then, women were either butch or femme. ... Because I was younger I really didn't get involved in it too much and I wasn't a part of it but I certainly recognized it and saw it."

**LEGAL WORK:** "I didn't start out identifying myself as a lesbian firm. I was a lesbian, I wasn't sure how to market myself, I wasn't sure what my identity should be. I started out on my own in 1987 and [Rosemary Mulryan] joined me in 1989 and of course we were 'partner' partners, we were life partners and business partners and I think at that point then we decided to become more active in the community and identify ourselves as a lesbian-owned firm. I started to get more involved in the community, she got involved in the Gerber/Hart Library, and I kind of stayed out of structured activities in the community, I mean, we gave to the community, we gave back to the community, we gave legal services to certain organizations or provided legal services to people in need particularly during the time of the AIDS crisis."

**HIV AND AIDS:** "I started practice in 1987, but actually I was doing some side work from 1983 on ... and it just seemed that like all of a sudden the shit hit the fan and men were dying left and right and I had clients who I'd done some estate planning for and suddenly they were very, very ill [with HIV and AIDS]. I had a

dear friend who got very ill, at the forefront of AZT. He got very ill one fall and lost about 30 lbs and we really thought we were going to lose him. He was the one person I was so close to and I thought 'Oh my God I just can't lose him,' but ... actually a client of mine was a specialist in infectious diseases at Rush and I just hooked [my friend] up with him ... and he has been his patient ever since ... and he just turned 63 this week and he's not only alive, he's thriving. [For] so long there were so many people who didn't make it, who didn't have access to those drugs and it was a scourge upon the community."

**PROGRESS:** "I think we've made great progress [legally] between the time I first started my practice and the time I first got involved in the community. ... We have a 'place at the table'. We didn't have that back then, we were out on the fringes, we were trying to get recognition, we were just trying to make ourselves known and visible and be heard and now I feel I like we really have a place and we have a lot to negotiate. I'm very concerned that we do this in the right way, that we not implode from infighting, that we don't become a reflection like the rest, a microcosm of the rest of society where we're infighting and have corruption just like other sub communities. People of [my nephew's] generation, they don't care what sexuality you are, they think you are a person and see you as a person and that, to me, I think is very exciting and with time all things are going to heal and we're going to have the equality, the full equality that we're entitled to."

**LCCP:** "I first got involved in the Lesbian Community Cancer Project around the time that they incorporated it, and I think I was at one of the first meetings with Nancy Lanoue, Suzanne Krause, Corrine Kaweck, and others, who founded that organization, Lesbian Community Cancer Project. That was about probably 1989 or 1990

because I remember having the meeting in my office, in my law office. I was very excited and at the time they seemed hopeful and at the time they seemed energetic. ... So I helped them incorporate and I really didn't get involved with them until I went on the board. Jessica Halem was the executive director and she kept bothering me to join the [LCCP] board and finally worked me down and I agreed to do it. I had never served on a board before, I didn't think I was board material, I didn't think I played well with others, rather, I was more than a benevolent dictator so that was a learning experience for me."

**ILLNESS:** "I was diagnosed with Stage 4 kidney cancer in April of 2006, so I spent most of 2006 in and out of the hospital, I had to have ... my kidney removed. They removed the gall bladder and certain other lymph nodes surrounding it and it had already spread to my lymph nodes so at that point, I'd had the [kidney removed] and I was recovering from that and had gone on a little vacation and came back and in August, then had a further test and they'd found it had gone to my bones, so it spread very, very quickly. Renal cancer is an extremely vicious cancer, and it's a very aggressive cancer and it just doesn't stop. ... When [the original treatments] stopped working, my partner and I had decided that we had to have a Plan B, and the Plan B was to go to Houston Texas, there was an oncologist there who specializes in renal cancer. [They] put me into a clinical trial program ... My partner has seen me through this and if it were not for her, I would not be alive at this time, I can honestly say that and I can honestly say what it's like to 'owe someone your life'. I truly know what that's like. [Our] friends in the gay and lesbian community have been so incredibly supportive during all of this."

## Deborah A. Murphy CPA

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# Windy City Times Election Guide

Welcome to the 2008 Windy City Times Primary Election Guide. With the goings-on in the presidential primaries, this election year is intriguing, to say the least.

The three main candidates on the Democratic side are Sen. Barack Obama, Sen. Hillary Clinton and former Sen. John Edwards, while those battling it out in the Republican primary include former Gov. Mitt Romney, Sen. John McCain, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and former Gov. Mike Huckabee. The cover article details where all of these candidates stand on various LGBT-related issues.

There are also interesting developments locally. Deb Mell is unopposed in her race for state representative, ensuring that the Illinois General Assembly will soon have its first open lesbian. In addition, openly gay State Rep. Greg Harris, the main sponsor of the proposed civil union bill, is also without an opponent.

Windy City Times does not endorse in political races. Rather, we send out questionnaires to candidates and rate their responses based on the total number of questions for that race. All candidates were sent the questionnaire. We also list the endorsements of various gay and progressive groups, and area bar associations. See the charts on pages 12-14.

Ask some people what a committeeman does, and blank stares and shrugged shoulders may result. In a feature on this page, Windy City Times talked with Alderman Tom Tunney about the little-known role of a committeeman. This year, Tunney is running for re-election as committeeman of his ward.

Opinions are like noses—everybody's got one and, in this issue, several figures from various backgrounds let Windy City Times know who

they are supporting in the presidential and local races. See "Support System" on page 10.

There are several LGBT candidates running for office, including Democratic judicial candidates Aaron Weiss and Tom Doran as well as Jerome Pohlen, a Green Party candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives. Certain local races bear watching, such as the Cook County State's Attorney's race; we talk with five of the candidates on pages 14-15. There is also a rather eye-opening interview with Board of Review incumbent commissioner Joseph Berrios—who is running against openly gay candidate Jay Paul Deratany—on page 16. (Deratany's interview, which ran in a past issue, can be found at [www.windycitymediagroup.com](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com).)

See past editions for interviews and articles on those candidates as well as other non-gay pols running for office, on the WCT Web site at [www.windycitymediagroup.com](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com). In this issue, you can find a few final stories plus our ratings and endorsements grids. You can take this guide into the polls with you next Tuesday.

## Early Voting

Chicago voters may use any of 51 sites (one in each ward and the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, 69 W. Washington) for early voting, which will be offered through Jan. 31 for the Feb. 5 primary election.

Remember to bring a government photo ID.

All sites are open Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Among the sites are:

- 5th Ward: Jackson Park Field House, 6401 S. Stony Island
- 42nd Ward: Access Living 115 W. Chicago, Second Floor
- 44th Ward: Merlo Library, 644 W. Belmont
- 46th Ward: Truman College, 1145 W. Wilson

See [www.chicagoelections.com/press/docs/2008erly.pdf](http://www.chicagoelections.com/press/docs/2008erly.pdf) for a full list of sites.

## Tom Tunney and a Committeeman's Role

BY TULLY SATRE

Thomas M. Tunney is celebrated by Chicago's LGBT community as the first and only openly gay member of the Chicago City Council after being elected in February 2003. As the current alderman and committeeman of the 44th Ward (which includes hotspots such as Wrigley Field and Boystown), Tunney's presence in the city's political arena has given a respected voice to the growing numbers of gays and lesbians in Chicago.

"I have a role not only to represent the 44th ward, but also gay and lesbian views citywide," said the alderman, who was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 1995. "During the last police hearings for the new superintendent, there were no discussions of sexual orientation until I brought it up."

But being open about his sexual orientation is not the only thing the Lakeview community boasts of its alderman. Tunney's entrepreneurial success has placed small businesses into the picture painted by the Chicago City Council and has helped make Chicago a more business-friendly environment.

Tunney will be running for two slots on the ballot during the primaries on Feb. 5:

- 9th Congressional District delegate for 2008 presidential candidate Barack Obama (during which the delegate attends the National Democratic Convention in Denver this August to officiate the Democratic presidential nominee); and
- 44th Ward committeeman.

Though unopposed during the Democratic primary for the committeeman position, Tunney will face Jim Fuchs, who—also unopposed during the Feb. 5 primary—safely holds the Republican nomination.

However quaint the election for a committeeman may seem, voters should note the importance of the role a committeeman plays in the City of Chicago.

Each committeeman represents the major political party in its precinct and, in turn, is a voting member in his or her party's organization in Cook County—giving a committeeman an important role in the nominating process.

However the unpaid position is not just about the political pull. A committeeman works towards organizing a smooth precinct operation and, most notably, encourages voters to exercise their freedom by voting.

Tunney looks at his role as committeeman as a challenge to encourage residents in the 44th Ward to vote. "I am just astonished at the low voter participation in the past," Tunney explained, "Only about 1 in 4 people come to do their civic duty."

Perhaps the heat of the 2008 presidential primaries will pull voters to the polls this February and give them an opportunity to speak for themselves. Luckily for Chicagoans, the Board of Elections is giving residents one last chance to register to vote in time for the Feb. 5 primaries.

Tunney looks towards what appears to be a bright future for the Lakeview community, whose neighborhood is packed with younger residents, many of whom are new to Chicago. As current alderman and committeeman for the 44th Ward, Tom Tunney will work towards engaging the young residents in Lakeview to make a difference by casting their votes.

## Judge James A. SHAPIRO

- Law Professor
- Former Assistant US Attorney
- Former Pro Bono Attorney, Lambda Legal



An outspoken advocate of privacy rights and equality for all, Judge Shapiro has been endorsed by:

Illinois NOW PAC (National Organization for Women)

Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization (IVI-IPO)

Progressive Democrats of Chicago

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## Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization Endorsements - February 5, 2008



**Suzanne Elder**  
7th State Senate  
#36



**Dean T. Maragos**  
MWRD  
#48



**James A. Shapiro**  
8th Subcircuit  
#108

### DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Ballot Numbers in Cook County Only      Ballot No.

#### State Senator

2nd Proco "Joe" Moreno	35
5th Amy Sue Mertens	37
7th Suzanne Elder	36
20th Iris Y. Martinez	35
26th Richard Hammes	

#### Representative in the General Assembly

3rd Luis Arroyo	39
6th Esther Golar	38
25th Barbara Flynn Currie	38
26th William D. "Will" Burns	41
38th Al Riley	38
71st Jerry Lack	
107th Patti J. Hahn	

#### Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

Kathleen Therese Meany	46
Frank Avila	47
Dean T. Maragos	48

#### Cook County State's Attorney

Larry Suffredin	59
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#### Cook County Recorder of Deeds

Ed H. Smith	64
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#### Board of Review 2nd District

Jay Paul Deratany	67
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#### Appellate Court - 1st District

Burke Alan J. Greiman	70
Campbell John O. Steele	73

#### Cook County Circuit Court

Disko Dennis J. Burke	78
Glowacki Jesse G. Reyes	81
Keehan Marilyn F. Johnson	86
Lott Thomas J. Byrne	90
Montelione Debra B. Walker	91
Murphy Paula M. Lingo	95
Nowicki Michael B. Hyman	100

#### Cook County Judicial Subcircuits

1st Laguina Clay-Clark	108
5th Bush Furmin D. Sessoms	108
5th "A" Stephen Stern	110
7th David H. Latham	110
8th James A. Shapiro	108
10 Kowalski James Edward Snyder	107
10 Morrissey Diana L. Kenworthy	111
10 Pucinski Kenneth L. Fletcher	117
12th Michael John Halloran	108
15th Anna Helen Demacopoulos	110

#### Chicago Ward Committeeman

3rd Pat Dowell	119
7th Sandi Jackson	119
24th Sharon Denise Dixon	119
41st Frank Coconate	122
43rd Charles E. Eastwood	120
50th Ira I. Silverstein	119

### REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

Ballot Numbers in Cook County Only      Ballot No.

#### Representative in the General Assembly

50th Kay Hatcher	
------------------	--

#### Chicago Ward Committeeman

2nd Charles Hutchinson	79
27th Robert P. Hoban	81
30th Robert J. Foss	79
32nd Stephen F. Boulton	80
48th Paul Bonilla	80

All of the non-federal candidates endorsed by IVI-IPO appear on this sample ballot.

PAID FOR BY THE 2008  
INDEPENDENT CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

**Rich Whitehead**, CHAIR;  
**David K. Igasaki**, TREASURER

A copy of our report is available from the  
State Board of Elections, Springfield, IL 62706  
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# Support System: Who Readers Like

COMPILED BY AMY WOOTEN

Windy City Times asked various individuals who they are supporting in the upcoming primary elections—and people were not afraid to speak their minds.

*Mark Wojcik, law school professor:* I like all of the lawyers who are running for the Democratic nomination. Any of them would help restore the rule of law after Bush's criminal administration, including violations of international law and destruction of evidence.

For State's Attorney, I like Larry Suffredin and Anita Alvarez. I want Larry to continue his magnificent work as a county commissioner, so I'm voting for Anita.

[Also] Jay Paul Deratany for Board of Review. [He is] an openly gay lawyer who really understands the Board of Review. For appellate court, Alan Greiman and John Steele. For countywide judicial races, each of these: Jesse Reyes, Maureen Kirby, Marilyn Johnson, Debra Walker, Paul Lingo, former CBA President Michael Hyman and Donna Cooper. In other judicial races, I'm supporting James Shapiro (8th Subcircuit) and Anna Demacopoulos (15th Subcircuit).

*Robert Castillo, activist:* Locally, the race to watch is the race for state senator for the 20th District. Iris Martinez is the current senator and is facing a stiff challenge from State Rep. Rich Bradley, who decided to not seek re-election for his House seat, thus clearing the way for Deb Mell to run unopposed in her race for his seat.



Jessica Halem (left) and David Ernesto Munar made their thoughts about the elections known.



Deb Mell is supporting Martinez's re-election bid, while Bradley is being supported by Deb's dad, Ald. Rich Mell (33rd Ward). Martinez, who is being supported by local aldermen Rey Colon (35th Ward), Manny Flores (1st Ward) and Billy Ocasio (26th Ward), is a staunch ally and supporter of the LGBT community, and has supported efforts to increase state funding for HIV/AIDS. She has been a champion of education issues and women's issues and secured funding to expand parks in the district. She deserves to be re-elected and supported by the LGBT community.

*Debra Shore, Metropolitan Water Reclamation commissioner:* I am supporting Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential nomination. (Indeed, I have been slated to be a delegate for Obama from the 9th Congressional District, as has Tom Tunney). Barack Obama is the candidate of revolutionary change, not evolutionary change. His is a transformational candidacy, engaging thousands of new people—young people, independent voters—in the political process.

I am working to help elect Larry Suffredin to be the next state's attorney in Cook County. Larry, like Barack, has the ability to build bridges, to bring people together and he is a genuine progressive. He is the candidate who best represents a change from the status quo. He will

tackle public corruption, gun violence and police misconduct. I am proud to join Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., Congressman Luis Gutierrez ... and dozens of other progressive Democrats in supporting Larry.

—Ed Smith for Recorder of Deeds— one of the heroic progressives, a Chicago alderman for 24 years now seeking countywide office.

—Daniel Biss for state representative in [the 17th District]—A University of Chicago mathematics professor seeking to solve problems in Springfield— that's novel!

—State Sen. Iris Martinez in [the 20th District]—a fighter for women and families.

—Deborah Mell [running for state representative in the 40th District]—goes without saying!! Let's elect the first open lesbian to the Illinois General Assembly.

*Jessica Halem, activist and comedian:* Barack Obama. Ending the attack on Iraq is my number one concern. We are spending billions and creating enemies while doing so. Obama is the only candidate I believe will swiftly put an end to this tragedy. I also feel Obama, unlike other Democrats, has the ability to arouse non-voters into voting and generally revitalizing the Democratic Party. I live and work full-time on a college campus where the young people are totally

jazzed about the idea of a Barack Obama presidency! I've never seen a candidate like this for young people.

*David Ernesto Munar, AIDS Foundation of Chicago:* I am proud to have been invited by the Obama for President campaign to run as a delegate in Illinois' 5th congressional district. If elected Feb. 5, I will proudly cast my vote for Barack Obama at the 2008 Democratic National Convention being held in Denver this summer. I decided to favor Sen. Obama because I have had the privilege, living and working in Illinois to be in direct contact with him. He's genuine, smart and committed to improving the lives of all Americans. In my interactions with him as an Illinois and now U.S. senator, he has consistently demonstrated an active interest in helping the various and overlapping communities I belong to: GLBT, Latino, immigrant, HIV-positive. I'm drawn to his message of change and hope and believe he can make good on his promise to broker fundamental healthcare reform, renew the role of evidence in public policy decision-making, invigorate the fight against HIV/AIDS not only abroad but in our own country, and restore our nation's stature around the world.

I'm interested in the 20-plus Senate races in play across the country as well as the many hotly contested House races, including several right here in Illinois. Why? Any progress on healthcare reform, HIV/AIDS, civil and human rights, etc. will need ample support from Congress and margins large enough to insulate progressive efforts against a Senate filibuster. It will not be enough to elect a progressive president; we must also put in place a legislative branch willing to make the hard decisions to take our country—and world—forward.

*Rocco Claps, Illinois Department of Human Rights director:* Hillary Clinton. Hillary Clinton is ready to serve as a great president on Day

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## ELECT ON MERIT

FEBRUARY 5, 2008



**ANN COLLINS DOLE**

Website: [www.ACDforJudge.com](http://www.ACDforJudge.com)

Endorsed by the Chicago Tribune

“Highly Qualified”  
Chicago Bar Association

“Highly Recommended”  
Women's Bar Association

“Well Qualified”  
Chicago Council of Lawyers

“Highly Recommended”  
Lesbian and Gay Bar Association

**Democrat for Judge**

**VOTE #107**

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Ann Collins Dole. A copy of our report will be available for purchase from the State Board of Elections.



**Vote for Larry Suffredin**

Candidate for Cook County State's Attorney

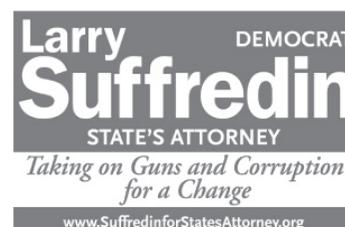
He has supported GLBT Issues for 25 years.  
He will be a State's Attorney we can count on!

**Endorsed by:**

*Chicago Sun Times*

*Pioneer Press*

**Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky  
MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore  
44th Ward Alderman Tom Tunney**



**Punch 59!**

Paid for by Chuck Renslow, in-kind contribution to Suffredin for Cook County

# Election 2008

## FEDERAL RACES

AFC = AIDS Foundation of Chicago (Out of 22 questions)

WCT = Windy City Times (Out of 17 questions)

IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois Independent Precinct Organization

HRC = HRC 109th (HRC Congressional Scorecard rating)

	AFC	WCT	IVI	HRC
<b>U.S. SENATOR</b>				
Richard J. Durbin (D)				89
Steve Sauerberg (R)				
Andy Martin (R)				
Mike Psak (R)				
<b>U.S. REPRESENTATIVE</b>				
<b>1st District</b>				
Bobby L. Rush (D)		14/17		63
William Walls, III (D)	18/22			
Antoine Members (R)				
<b>2nd District</b>				
Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (D)				100
<b>3rd District</b>				
Mark N. Pera (D)				
Jim Capparelli (D)				
Daniel William Lipinski (D)		15/17		40
Jerry Bennett (D)	22/22	17/17		
Jerome Pohlen (G)	15/22			
Arthur J. Jones (R)				
Michael Hawkins (R)				
<b>4th District</b>				
Luis V. Gutierrez (D)				100
<b>5th District</b>				
Rahm Emanuel (D)	17/22			100
Alan Augustson (G)		14/17		
<b>6th District</b>				
Stan Jagla (D)				
Jill Morgenthaler (D)				
Peter J. Roskam (R)				
<b>7th District</b>				
Danny K. Davis (D)	21/22	16/17	Y	100
Robert Dallas (D)	22/22			
<b>8th District</b>				
Melissa Bean (D)				75
Randi Scheurer (D)	22/22	15/17	Y	
Steve Greenberg (R)				
Kenneth W. Arnold (R)			Y	
Kirk Morris (R)				
<b>9th District</b>				
Janice D. Schakowsky (D)	22/22		Y	100
John Nocita (D)	18/22			
Morris Shanfield (G)				
Michael Benjamin Younan (R)	14/22			
<b>10th District</b>				
Daniel J. Seals (D)		16/17	Y	
Jay Footlik (D)		15/17		
Mark Steven Kirk (R)				75
<b>11th District</b>				
Deborah Halvorson (D)				
Timothy Baldermann (R)				
Jimmy Lee (R)				
Terry Heenan (R)				
Jason Wallace (G)	22/22	17/17		
<b>12th District</b>				
Jerry Costello (D)				25
Timmy Jay Richardson (R)				
Rodger Jennings (G)	9/22	10/17		
<b>13th District</b>				
Scott Harper (D)				
Steve Alesch (G)	22/22	16/17		
Judy Biggert (R)				75
<b>14th District</b>				
John Laesch (D)	19/22		Y	
Jotham Stein (D)				
Bill Foster (D)		14/17		
Joe Serra (D)				
Chris Lauzen (R)				
Jim Oberweis (R)				
Michael Dilger (R)				
<b>15th District</b>				
Steve Cox (D)		15/17		
Timothy Johnson (R)				

## STATE RACES

AFC = AIDS Foundation of Chicago (Out of 10 questions, containing 12 parts)

WCT = Windy City Times (Out of 16 questions)

IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois-

Independent Precinct Organization

PPAC = Personal PAC

EI = Equality Illinois

	AFC	WCT	IVI	PPAC	EI
<b>STATE SENATE</b>					
<b>2nd District</b>					
Proco "Joe" Moreno (D)		16/16	Y		
William "Willie" Delgado (D)	12/12	14/16		Y	Y
<b>3rd District</b>					
Mattie Hunter (D)	10/12			Y	
<b>5th District</b>					
Rickey R. Hendon (D)					Y
Jonathan Singh Bedi (D)	12/12	15/16			
Amy Sue Mertens (D)	11/12	15/16	Y		
<b>6th District</b>					
John J. Cullerton (D)				Y	
<b>7th District</b>					
Heather Stearns (D)	11/12	16/16		Y	Y
Suzanne Elder (D)	10/12	15/16	Y		
<b>8th District</b>					
Ira I. Silverstein (D)				Y	
<b>9th District</b>					
Jeffrey M. Schoenberg (D)				Y	
Brendan Appel (R)					
<b>11th District</b>					
Louis S. "Lou" Viverito (D)					
Jeffrey Malinowski (R)					
<b>12th District</b>					
Martin A. Sandoval (D)				Y	
<b>14th District</b>					
Emil Jones, Jr. (D)				Y	
<b>15th District</b>					
James T. Meeks (D)					
<b>17th District</b>					
Donne E. Trotter (D)				Y	
<b>18th District</b>					
Edward D. Maloney (D)					
<b>20th District</b>					
Iris Y. Martinez (D)			Y	Y	Y
Richard T. Bradley (D)	12/12				
Carlos Juan Guevara (D)	12/12	13/16			
<b>21st District</b>					
A. Ghani (D)					
Dan Cronin (R)					
<b>26th District</b>					
Bill Gentes (D)	11/12	12/16		Y	
Richard Hammes (D)	10/12	10/16	Y		
Dan Duffy (R)					
<b>27th District</b>					
Peter Gutzmer (D)	8/12				
Matt Murphy (R)					
<b>29th District</b>					
Susan Garrett (D)				Y	
<b>30th District</b>					
Terry Link (D)				Y	
<b>33rd District</b>					
Daniel W. Kotowski (D)				Y	
Michael H. Sweeney (R)					
<b>36th District</b>					
Paul Rumler (D)	10/12				
Mike Jacobs (D)	11/12	14/16		Y	Y
Michael Bertelsen (R)	7/12				
<b>39th District</b>					
Don Harmon (D)				Y	
<b>41st District</b>					
Audrey Manley (D)				Y	
Christine Radogno (R)					Y
Greg Abbott (R)					
Brian A. Bartoz (R)					

	AFC	WCT	IVI	PPAC	EI
<b>STATE REPRESENTATIVE</b>					
<b>1st District</b>					
Susana Mendoza (D)				Y	
<b>2nd District</b>					
Edward J. Acevedo (D)				Y	Y
Francisco "Frankie" Rodriguez (D)					
<b>3rd District</b>					
Wayne A. Strnad (D)	10/12				
Luis Arroyo (D)			Y	Y	
<b>4th District</b>					
Cynthia Soto (D)				Y	
<b>5th District</b>					
Kenneth "Ken" Dunkin (D)				Y	
<b>6th District</b>					
Esther Golar (D)	8/12		Y		
Jerry Washington (D)	10/12				
Darryl Smith (D)					
<b>7th District</b>					
Karen A. Yarbrough (D)	11/12			Y	
<b>8th District</b>					
La Shawn K. Ford (D)	10/12				
<b>9th District</b>					
Dorothy L. Walton (D)					
Arthur L. Turner (D)	12/12			Y	Y
<b>10th District</b>					
Annazette R. Collins (D)				Y	Y
Eddie Winters (D)	9/12	13/16			
<b>11th District</b>					
John A. Fritchey (D)	10/12			Y	
<b>12th District</b>					
Sara Feigenholtz (D)	12/12			Y	
<b>13th District</b>					
Gregory Harris (D)	12/12	16/16		Y	
<b>14th District</b>					
Harry Osterman (D)	12/12			Y	
<b>15th District</b>					
John C. D'Amico (D)					
<b>16th District</b>					
Lou Lang (D)	12/12	14/16		Y	
<b>17th District</b>					
Daniel Biss (D)	12/12				
Elizabeth Coulson (R)	9/12			Y	
<b>18th District</b>					
Julie Hamos (D)				Y	
<b>19th District</b>					
Joseph M. Lyons (D)					
<b>20th District</b>					
Michael C. Marzullo (D)					
Michael P. McAuliffe (R)					
<b>21st District</b>					
Robert S. Molaro (D)					
Charles "Charlie" Johnson (R)					
<b>22nd District</b>					
Michael J. Madigan (D)					
Robert P. Famiglietti (R)					
<b>23rd District</b>					
Daniel J. Burke (D)				Y	
<b>24th District</b>					
Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez (D)	11/12			Y	
<b>25th District</b>					
Barbara Flynn Currie (D)	12/12	13/16	Y	Y	Y
Sharon Latiker (R)					
<b>26th District</b>					
Elga L. Jefferies (D)	9/12			Y	
Paul Chadha (D)	8/12	15/16			
Philip Jackson (D)	11/12				
William D. "Will" Burns (D)	12/12		Y		
Kenny Johnson (D)	12/12				
Sylvester "Junebug" Hendricks (R)					



# JUDICIAL EVALUATIONS

Windy City Times does not endorse candidates. Rather, we list their answers to our questionnaire as well as the ratings of legal organizations so that readers can make informed choices when they vote.

**Key to Organizations:**

- WCT – Windy City Times
- PPAC – Personal PAC
- IVI - Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization
- CBA – Chicago Bar Association
- ISBA – Illinois State Bar Association
- CCL – Chicago Council of Lawyers
- LAGBAC – Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago
- DSL – Decalogue Society of Lawyers
- WBAI – Women’s Bar Association of Illinois

**Key to Ratings:**

- Q – Qualified
- NQ – Not Qualified
- WQ – Well Qualified
- HQ – Highly Qualified
- HR - Highly Recommended
- R - Recommended
- NR - Not Recommended
- NE - Not Evaluated

- (D) = Democrat
- (R) = Republican

	WCT	PPAC	IVI-IPO	CBA	ISBA	CCL	LAGBAC	DSL	WBAI
<b>Supreme Ct-1st Dist. (McMorrow vacancy)</b>				Q	HQ	Q	HR	HR	HR
Anne M. Burke (D)									
<b>App. Ct-1st Dist. (Burke vacancy)</b>									
William D. O’Neal (D)				NR	NQ	NQ	NR	R	R
Alan J. Greiman (D)	6/6	Y	Y	HQ	HQ	WQ	HR	HR	HR
Sharon Johnson Coleman (D)				Q	Q	Q	HR	HR	HR
<b>App. Ct-1st Dist. (Campbell vacancy)</b>									
John O. Steele (D)			Y	Q	Q	Q	R	HR	R
Richard F. Walsh (D)	6/6			Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
Frank Edward Gardner (D)				NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR	NR
<b>Circuit Ct (Disko vacancy)</b>									
Lauretta Higgins Wolfson (D)	5/6			Q	Q	Q	R	HR	R
Dennis J. Burke (D)			Y	HQ	HQ	WQ	HR	HR	HR
<b>Circuit Ct (Glowacki vacancy)</b>									
Jesse G. Reyes (D)			Y	Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
Terry MacCarthy (D)	6/6			Q	Q	WQ	HR	HR	R
<b>Circuit Ct (Healy vacancy)</b>									
Maureen Ward Kirby (D)				Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
Peter John Curielli (D)				NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR	NR
<b>Circuit Ct (Keehan vacancy)</b>									
Marilyn F. Johnson (D)	5/6		Y	Q	Q	Q	R	R	HR
Joseph Robert Papavero (D)				NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR	NR
<b>Circuit Ct (Lott vacancy)</b>									
Joanne Marie “Jody” Rogers (D)				Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
Thomas J. Byrne (D)			Y	Q	Q	Q	R	HR	HR
<b>Circuit Ct (Montelione vacancy)</b>									
Debra B. Walker (D)	5/6		Y	Q	Q	Q	R	R	HR
Thaddeus L. Wilson (D)				Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
Thoams A. Doran (D)	6/6			NR	Q	Q	R	R	R
<b>Circuit Ct (Murphy vacancy)</b>									
Krystyna Colleen Ryan (D)				NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR	NR
Paula M. Lingo (D)			Y	Q	Q	NQ	R	R	R
Frank James Ryan (D)	6/6			Q	NE*	NR	NE	NE*	NE*
<b>Circuit Ct (Nowicki vacancy)</b>									
Brian Terrence Sexton (D)	6/6			HQ	Q	WQ	R	R	R
Kim R. Kardas (D)				Q	Q	WQ	R	R	R
John J. “Jack” Murphy (D)				Q	HQ	WQ	R	HR	R
Michael B. Hyman (D)	5/6		Y	HQ	HQ	WQ	HR	HR	R
<b>Circuit Ct (Thomas vacancy)</b>									
E. Madeline O’Neill (D)				Q	Q	NQ	R	R	R
Joan Powell (D)	4/6			Q	Q	Q	R	R	HR
David John Mulvihill (D)				NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR	NR
Patrick Dennis Riley (D)				NR	Q	NQ	R	R	R
<b>Cook Circuit Ct-1st Sub (Turkington vacancy)</b>									
Donna L. Cooper (D)				Q	Q	Q	HR	R	R
LaGuine Clay-Clark (D)			Y	Q	Q	NR	NR	NR	NE
Zedrick T. Braden, III (D)				NR	NQ	NQ	NR	NR	NR
<b>Cook Circuit Ct-3rd Sub (Donnersberger vacancy)</b>									
Patrick J. Sherlock (D)				Q	Q	Q	R	HR	R
<b>Cook Circuit Ct-4th Sub (Shultz vacancy)</b>									
William Edward Gomolinski (D)				Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
Pat Rogers (D)				Q	Q	NQ	NR	R	NR
John M. Allegretti (D)				Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
Deirdre Ann McGuire (D)				NR	NQ	NQ	NR	R	NE

Carmen Kathleen Aguilar (D)				Q	Q	Q	HR	R	R
Maureen H. Masterson-Pulia (R)				NR	Q	NQ	R	R	R
Mauro Glorioso (R)				NR	Q	NQ	R	HR	R
<b>Cook Circuit Ct-5th Sub (Bush vacancy)</b>									
Jackie Marie Portman (D)				NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR	NR
Furmin D. Sessoms (D)	5/6		Y	Q	NQ	NQ	NR	NR	NR
Nkrumah Lumumba Hopkins (D)	4/6			NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR	NR
<b>Cook Circuit Ct-6th Sub (Figueroa vacancy)</b>									
Mary Katherine M. Moore (D)				Q	HQ	WQ	R	R	R
Stuart M. Brody (D)	5/6			Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
Laura Bertucci Smith (D)				Q	Q	Q	HR	HR	R
Nancy Hallihan Horodecki (D)				NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR	NR
Mauricio Araujo (D)	5/6			Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
<b>Cook Circuit Ct-7th Sub (Young vacancy)</b>									
Anita Rivkin-Carothers (D)	5/6			Q	Q	WQ	R	R	NR
Melanie Rose Nuby (D)				NR	NQ	Q	R	NR	NR
Kevin Kenneth Pechous (D)				NR	Q	Q	R	R	R
David H. Latham (D)	6/6		Y	Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
T. Lee Boyd, Jr. (D)				NR	NQ	NQ	NR	NR	NR
<b>Cook Circuit Ct-8th Sub (Sheehan vacancy)</b>									
Ann Collins Dole (D)	5/6			HQ	Q	WQ	HR	R	HR
James A. Shapiro (D)	6/6		Y	Q	Q	Q	R	HR	R
Debra Kramer Marcus (D)	5/6			Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
Daniel Thomas Gillespie (D)	6/6			Q	HQ	Q	HR	HR	HR
James Byrne (D)				Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
Aaron J. Weiss (D)	6/6			Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
Gideon Abraham Baum (D)				NR	NQ	NQ	NR	R	NR
<b>Cook Circuit Ct-10th Sub (Kowalski vacancy)</b>									
James Edward Snyder (D)		Y	Y	Q	Q	Q	R	R	HR
Ursula Walowski (D)				HQ	Q	Q	NR	R	R
Gerald Patrick Cleary (D)	5/6			Q	Q	Q	R	HR	R
Stephen F. Sidlowski (D)				NR	NQ	NQ	NR	NR	NR
<b>Cook Circuit Ct-10th Sub (Morrissey vacancy)</b>									
Diana L. Kenworthy (D)		Y	Y	Q	NQ	Q	R	R	NE
John G. Mulroe (D)	5/6			Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
Rosaire Marie Hall (D)	6/6			NR	Q	NQ	R	R	R
<b>Cook Circuit Ct-10th Sub (Pucinski vacancy)</b>									
John Garrett Maher (D)				Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
Eileen O’Neill Burke (D)				Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
Joan Ellen Smuda (D)				NR	Q	Q	R	R	R
Kenneth L. Fletcher (D)		Y	Y	Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
Thomas Francis Biesty (D)				Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
<b>Cook Circuit Ct-12th Sub (Deviin vacancy)</b>									
Thomas R. Mulroy (D)				HQ	Q	WQ	R	HR	HR
Michael John Halloran (D)			Y	Q	Q	Q	R	HR	R
Pamela Elizabeth Loza (D)				Q	Q	Q	R	R	NE
Thomas Flannigan (D)				NR	Q	Q	R	R	R
Laura J. Morask (R)				Q	NQ	NR	NR	NR	NR
Michaela Nolan Ryan (R)				NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR	NR
<b>Cook Circuit Ct-13th Sub (Ryan vacancy)</b>									
Joe Gump (D)	5/6			Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
Anne Catherine Brady (D)				Q	Q	NQ	R	R	R
Annie O’Donnell (R)				Q	Q	NQ	NR	NR	NR
James E. Babcock, Jr. (R)				Q	Q	Q	R	HR	R
Paul S. Pavlus (R)				Q	Q	Q	R	R	HR
Guy M. Karm (R)				Q	Q	NQ	R	R	R
<b>Cook Circuit Ct-13th Sub (Tobin vacancy)</b>									
Carol L. Barnes (D)				NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR	NR
Gary G. Stanton (D)				Q	Q	Q	R	R	NE
Margarita Kulys Hoffman (R)	6/6	Y		Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
George L. Straton (R)				NR	Q	NQ	NR	R	R
Cary J. Collins (R)				NR	Q	Q	R	R	R
<b>Cook Circuit Ct-14th Sub (Henry vacancy)</b>									
James N. O’Hara (D)				NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR	NR
<b>Cook Circuit Ct-14th Sub (Reyna vacancy)</b>									
Edward A. Arce (D)				Q	NQ	NQ	NR	NR	NR
<b>Cook Circuit Ct-15th Sub (Additional Judgeship A)</b>									
Thomas R. Mahoney (D)				Q	Q	WQ	R	R	R
Thomas “TJ” Somer (D)				Q	NQ	Q	NR	NR	NR
Mary Louise Ryan Norwell (D)				Q	NE	NQ	R	HR	HR
Anna Helen Demacopolous (D)		Y	Y	Q	Q	WQ	R	R	R
Michael Emmett McGinnis (D)				Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
Carl Evans, Jr. (D)				Q	Q	WQ	R	R	R
Martin D. Coghlan (D)				Q	Q	Q	R	R	R
William Joseph McGann (D)				NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR	NR
Scott E. Lipinski (D)				NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR	NR
Donald Theodore Lyman (R)				HQ	NQ	NR	NR	NR	NR
Peter Fera (R)				Q	Q	NQ	NR	R	NE



Larry Suffredin.

## Larry Suffredin

BY AMY WOOTEN

Community ally and Cook County Board Commissioner (13th District) Larry Suffredin believes it will take an outsider to overhaul the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and bring back people's confidence in justice and law enforcement.

Suffredin has been an attorney for nearly 30 years. He was first elected a commissioner in 2002. This self-described independent voice of the board and reformer has focused largely on issues such as ridding local government of corruption and patronage.

In addition, he is a gambling lobbyist, and has worked with a number of non-profits.

**Windy City Times: First of all, what has prepared you to be State's Attorney?**

Larry Suffredin: The three things that I think you need to be a good state's attorney are, one, you need to be an independent person. I'd say

## Cook County State's Attorney

[former Attorney General] Alberto Gonzalez proved that if you aren't, you can subvert the federal justice system. You also need somebody with broad-based experience. The third thing is you need somebody who can apply their independence and experience in a fair manner to all people.

**WCT: Tell me a little bit about how you will continue your commitment to the LGBT community. You, back in 2003, co-sponsored the board passing domestic-partner registry, so you've been a friend of the community.**

LS: I think the issues with the community is that, right now, we have to protect it as one of the mainstream communities of Cook County, which means that discrimination is the number one issue we need to be looking at. We need to make sure that all of our human rights provisions and all of our constitutional bill of rights provisions are uniformly enforced to protect the rights of all people. That means we need to be looking and being aggressive on where there are hate crimes, even if they are subtle, and where there is discrimination in employment, housing, loans and business opportunities. ... This office has been very passive. When issues have occurred, they reacted to them. That's again waiting for the media to raise issues. We need to be aggressively going forward.

Visit [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com) to read the entire interview.

See [www.suffredinforstatesattorney.org](http://www.suffredinforstatesattorney.org).

## Anita Alvarez

BY AMY WOOTEN

Currently Chief Deputy in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, Anita Alvarez wants to bring the office back into the community.

She is the only female candidate running in the crowded Democratic Primary race for Cook County State's Attorney, a seat currently held by Dick Devine.

**Windy City Times: You've been in the State's Attorney's office since 1986, so you've seen a lot over the years. Off the bat, what are some changes for sure need to be made in the office?**

Anita Alvarez: I've been around for a long time, and I've worked my way from the bottom to the top, so I've been all over the place. I think there are things I would like to bring back. I have ideas for programs I would like to implement. I think I'd like to change the structure of the office.

First, the community prosecutions offices were one thing we had to unfortunately close because of the budget. I would love to bring those back.

...There are some other ideas I have. Domestic violence is an area that I worked in years ago. That's very important to me. That's a special unit, and it should be a special unit, because those cases are not—you can't handle them the way you handle a bar fight.



Anita Alvarez.

There is a program, I believe, out in Brooklyn, New York, where the 911 tape on every domestic violence call are transmitted directly to the courtroom so the attorneys out there have that for the bond hearing. They have that information of an actual 911 tape immediately. We don't. We get those eventually, but we have to subpoena them. If you don't subpoena them within 30 days, then you lose them. That information if vital, not just for setting a bond, but for trying the case.

...As far as the structure of the office, I would like to change the way assistants rotate through the system. I think it's important to avoid burn-out and help with the morale. I think we lose a lot of good people at that two to three year level.

Visit [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com) to read the entire interview.

See [anitaalvarez2008.com](http://anitaalvarez2008.com).

## Tom Allen

BY AMY WOOTEN

Longtime Northwest Side Alderman Tom Allen (38th) wants to continue his focus on fighting for the underdog as Cook County State's Attorney.

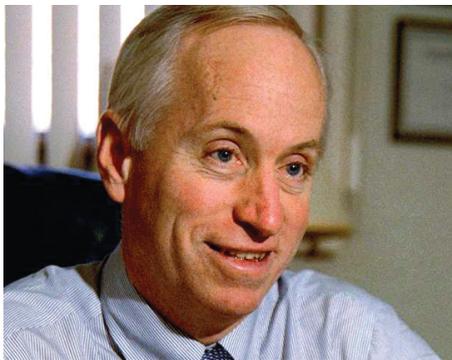
As alderman, Allen has focused on issues such as public safety and housing over the years. He feels that the State's Attorney's office is in a "rut," and wants to shift its focus on ridding the streets of guns and crime.

Prior to his work in the city council, Allen was a trial attorney for 17 years, and worked within the Cook County State's Attorney's Office as a public defender during Mayor Richard M. Daley's tenure.

**Windy City Times: What kinds of changes would you like to make to the State's Attorney's Office? Tackling corruption has been a big issue in the debates. If elected, what would you tackle first?**

Tom Allen: To me, corruption is a nice buzz-

word—it has a lot of sex appeal to it, and we definitely have to do more. We haven't done anything. More is a step above nothing. As alderman for 15 years of the Northwest Side, I've always pursued an agenda, first and foremost, of keeping neighborhoods safe, keeping families safe and I think, from what I've seen in this office, we have to do a better job of protecting the men and women and families of Cook County against violence. There's no accountability or responsibility for going after the guns that are on the street that kids are getting their hands on and passing around. It used to be when someone committed a crime they would dispose of it—toss it in the Chicago River. If that was



Tom Allen.

happening now, the river would be dammed up because there would be so many guns going in there. What is happening is this: these illegal guns are being re-circulated to the gang bangers and the kids, and we're not going after that stuff.

**WCT: Two of your opponents are higher-ups within the State's Attorney's Office. What do you think you can bring to the table that you**

**think they aren't bringing?**

TA: Let me tell you something. Twenty-one of 22 years in the State's Attorney's Office, running it—because that is what they say in their campaign. Where have you been? Where have you been when [former Chicago Police Detective Jon] Burge tortured people in the '80s? I was

there in the '80s and I had a number of cases against Burge. I tried everything I could.

Here's the deal: They did nothing. Last year the city council paid \$20 million—it made me sick to my stomach to vote for it—to settle four Burge cases. I think the taxpayers deserve an explanation from the Cook County State's Attorney's Office as to why they never lifted a finger to try to prosecute him. Now, their reasoning is the statute of limitations.

...Where there's a will, there's a way. My other opponents, well, the citizens of Cook County deserve a State's Attorney that hasn't been compromised. ... They deserve a State's Attorney who hasn't been a lobbyist for years. I'm a public servant, not a corporate lap dog. Larry Suffredin has been a lobbyist his whole career. We also deserve a State's Attorney that hasn't been compromised personally and financially.

Visit [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com) to read the entire interview.

See [www.AllenInOurCorner.com](http://www.AllenInOurCorner.com).

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Howard Brookins, Jr.

## Howard Brookins, Jr.

BY AMY WOOTEN

Chicago Alderman Howard Brookins, Jr., wants to change the culture of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office by focusing on integrity and efficiency.

Brookins is currently serving his second term as alderman of the South Side ward, where he has focused largely on crime and police brutality. His father is former state Sen. Howard Brookins.

Brookins also has a background in the courtroom. He has served as an assistant state's attorney, assistant public defender and special assistant Attorney General over the years.

**Windy City Times: Let's talk a little about some of the key issues. One of the main issues in this race is tackling corruption. It looks like you're not just looking at corruption within law enforcement, but also the state's attorney's office?**

Howard Brookins: Wherever we find it, we need to step up and prosecute it. That means city hall, county government, local municipalities, the state's attorneys themselves, whether there may be a conflict of interest—those cases need to be referred over to an independent agency who can investigate those types of things. We cannot continue to rely on the federal government to prosecute corruption. They take very few cases, number one. The State's Attorney's Office is by far and away the largest law firm in the state of Illinois, with more than 900 attorneys. They have access to more than 30,000 law enforcement officials. ... To say that we don't have enough resources to do this is one disingenuous. I believe they have squandered some of the resources, and not thought of approaches to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the office.

Specifically, one of the things I point to is they still do things the old-fashioned way at the State's Attorney's Office: pen and paper,

## Cook County State's Attorney

three-by-five index cards to write notes and dates down, so on and so forth. That's horse-and-buggy stuff. We should have long since gone to computer modernization to keep docket information together, but also so that we can cross reference various other types of information such as police reports, etc.

**WCT: Do you have any experience working with or on behalf of the LGBT community, and also how will any of your ideas for change benefit our community?**

HB: The short answer is no, I have not worked directly in the gay, lesbian bisexual and transgender community, but I have talked to [Alderman] Tom Tunney a lot and supported him in the various things he has done in city council as far as the gay and lesbian community is concerned. But we share common experiences. African-American men and the gay and lesbian community have been a convenient target. I have been racially profiled and arrested by the police. ... I'm going to send a strong message when I'm elected that we're not going to tolerate that behavior by police officers by disrespecting people, by picking on them because they are gay or so on and so forth. ... We're going to treat everybody equally and there is going to be justice and fairness for everybody, whether you happen to get arrested in Skokie or Arlington Heights and go to the courthouse in Rolling Meadows, or if you get arrested in Chicago or Markham and Maywood and go to the courthouses in Markham and Maywood. There are no set policies that each of the state's attorneys offices are following from courthouse to courthouse and from town to town and that has to stop.

We believe that part of the other problem of this office is that there no diversity. Black and white is one thing, and Hispanic. But there is no diversity of thought in this office. Everybody is group thinking, and that leads to the same similar results to what we had in the system, as the Tribune pointed out, that African-American men are 58 times more likely to be prosecuted for drug offenses because we have the same people doing the same things and expecting a different result.

**Visit [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com) to read the entire interview.**

**See [www.brookinsforjustice.com](http://www.brookinsforjustice.com).**

## Bob Milan

BY AMY WOOTEN

Cook County State's Attorney's right-hand man, Bob Milan, feels that in the heated primary race, experience is key.

Milan, who is currently the First Assistant State's Attorney, has been with the office for 20 years in various capacities.

He has been endorsed by current State's Attorney Dick Devine. Milan started his career in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office in 1988, beginning as an assistant state's attorney.

**Windy City Times: You've been in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office for over 20 years now. As the top assistant for the past four years, under your leadership, how do you think the office has improved the most?**

Bob Milan: It has improved greatly in a lot of ways. I'm very proud of some of the things I've instituted. First of all, when I realized people had confessed to and been convicted of horrible crimes they did not commit, I was the one who instituted a training program for prosecutors to teach them how to detect false confessions and prevent wrongful convictions. As far as I know, I know of no other prosecutor in the whole country who addressed these issues in the nation. I followed up by creating a DNA review unit, which re-investigates old cases where defendants are making actual claims of innocence.

On top of that, a bill was enacted that mandated the video taping of all homicide interrogations. Dick Devine told me to implement it.



Bob Milan.

He said it's your job to implement the system countywide, and I did so. It was a huge undertaking. You can imagine—we're the second-largest prosecutor's office in the whole country.

**WCT: What are some of your experiences working with or on behalf of the LGBT community?**

BM: Before there was ever hate-crimes law, I prosecuted a hate-crime case. I'll never forget my first experience. I was out in the Markham Courthouse and a young man was in the forest preserves out in the Southwest suburbs. He was beaten badly by two men, simply because he was gay. And the end of the beating, they actually took a stick and put it in his ear and shattered his eardrum. I'll never forget the case. That was before the hate-crimes statute even existed. It was an aggravated battery, and we convicted both of them, but to me, the motive made it far worse—the fact that they did this simply because of this young man's sexual orientation.

**Visit [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com) to read the entire interview.**

**See [www.milan08.com](http://www.milan08.com).**

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PUNCH

#93

## Joseph Berrios Strikes Back

BY ANDREW DAVIS

In his long political career, Joseph Berrios—the incumbent who is running against Jay Paul Deratany for a commissioner's seat on the Cook County Board of Review—can boast many firsts, including being the first Hispanic to be elected to the General Assembly and the first to be selected as the chairman of the Cook County Democratic Party. In a spirited interview with Windy City Times, Berrios talked about his qualifications, shot back at charges of corruption—and revealed how he helped Deb Mell in her race for state representative.

**Windy City Times: Why are you running for re-election?**

Joseph Berrios: Number one, I feel that I've created an atmosphere at the board where we are there to help the homeowners. There are two brand-new commissioners, Brendan Houlihan and Larry Rogers; I have the experience, know-how and ability to make sure that the office functions for the taxpayers and that we do it in an expeditious way—but not so fast where we put the homeowners in jeopardy by not giving

them a chance to express their feelings.

**WCT: How are things between you and the other two commissioners?**

JB: Things are just wonderful. We're working together and if you look at the way we do things—we looked at 250,000 cases last year, and on 98 percent of them, we [agreed].

**WCT: What would you say are your major accomplishments so far?**

JB: Number one, I've opened up the board. I was brought in 1980 as chief clerk to the board, when there was an investigation going on, to keep an eye on the day-to-day operations of the board. Since the day I've walked into that office, we've constantly been making changes so that [illegal activities] do not happen. We divided departments; we made sure that no one person can go on all the computers and make the entries—two different people and two different sets of hands touch these files. Then, when the final numbers go down to the assessor's office, a third person handles the files, so that no particular person has the same code to go into the computer and make changes. I don't even have a code, and neither do the other two commissioners.

**WCT: What has your involvement been with the gay community during your years in office?**

JB: Number one, I was very instrumental in helping [lesbian state representative] candidate Deb Mell get slated and working with her to make sure she didn't have an opponent. We worked with the particular people in that district to make sure she would be elected. Number two,...

**WCT: I'm sorry: Did you say you made sure she did not have an opponent?**

JB: Yeah, we worked very hard to clear the field for her for this particular term.

**WCT: How does one do that?**

JB: She had [current state senate candidate] Rich Bradley running against her. Rich Bradley was not going to beat her—let's be honest about it. All the people in the district were supporting Deb, so we talked to Rich and said, "Rich, you may want to look at a different race." And he did look at it and said, "I probably have a better chance running for the senate this time around." He made the decision; we didn't make the decision for him. But I made it clear that I couldn't support him this time around, so Deb Mell ended up having no opponent.

That's number one. I also supported [openly gay alderman] Tom Tunney, who is supporting me. I also support [openly gay State] Rep. Harris and, four years ago, we had a judicial candidate from the gay community who was endorsed by



Joseph Berrios.

the party, and I supported him.

**WCT: Your opponent has said that your office is corrupt and...**

JB: Will you stop there one second? For him, as a lawyer, to say I'm corrupt—with no [type of] investigation or anything out there—I think he should put up or shut up, number one, and I think that's a very, very [slanderous] situation, on his part. For anyone to call someone else corrupt, I would think you would have evidence to bring up.

I have a reputation; if you talk to people, they will tell you how honest I am. My father and my mother passed away, and if anyone thinks I would do anything to harm the Berrios name, [that person is] nuts.

What if I said he was a friggin' crook and said he misrepresents people? That's wrong to say. Unless you have evidence, you should shut up and run on your record like I'm going to run on my record.

**WCT: Your experience would seem to be a big advantage in this race. Do you feel that you have any disadvantage?**

JB: Yeah—people can say what they want to say. [My opponent] is calling me corrupt—what the hell? He has no basis of fact. He says that I'm an old-timer and I don't do anything; that's

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—Democratic Appellate Court (Burke vacancy) candidates Sharon Johnson Coleman and Alan J. Greiman

## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

## MOOD INDIGO

The Milwaukee Art Museum ignites the senses with its exhibition, *Sensory Overload*. See page 19.

## MOVIES

Gone too soon.  
Page 24.

## THEATER

'City' life.  
Page 18.

## PROFILE

The write stuff.  
Page 26.

## Beyond Svengoolie: Equity in Berwyn

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

Tell people you live in Berwyn and the reaction is invariable, tiresome and utterly predictable. They affect a clichéd “Sowt’ Side” accent and make a crack about Svengoolie, that 1970s cable personality known for mixing schlock horror movies with hackneyed jokes about “Boiwen.” The subtext is as clear as it is annoying: Berwyn is schlub city, a berg of quasi-literate palookas who don’t know Oscar Wilde from Oscar Meyer. If I’ve learned anything in the five years since I moved to this town, it’s that the legacy of Svengoolie springs eternal.

Mention there’s an Equity theater opening in Berwyn and folks do everything but pat you on the head and kindly opine that surely you must mean Oak Park. Sigh.

Berwyn Arts Council Director John Fey was born in Berwyn and, as a native, is used dealing with preconceptions about the town sandwiched between Oak Park, North Riverside and Cicero. But with the opening of Berwyn’s 16th Street Theater, a 49-seat Equity house less than 10 miles from the Loop, Fey and other Berwyn community leaders find themselves dealing with both the excitement of a newly burgeoning arts community as well as with the notions of those who think of Berwyn (when they do think of Berwyn), as a punchline.

### You want to do what?'

“When I first started doing events here, I’d get that ‘and this is going to be where?!’ look a lot,” said Fey. “Berwyn’s reputation is cemented in a lot of people’s minds. As a community, though, it’s changing. It’s a bit different from the perception that’s out there. Its reputation is lagging behind what it’s actually like.”

That lag could diminish significantly in the



Machos. Photo by Johnny Knight

coming months, as Berwyn resident Ann Filmer launches the first season of the 16th Street Theater, which opens this week with a remounting of Teatro Luna’s acclaimed *Machos*. Completed in May, the 6420 W. 16th St. theater will also feature Will Dunne’s *The Ascension of Carlotta*, Arlene Malinowski’s *Aiming for Sainthood* and Tonya Saracho’s *Kita y Fernanda* in its inaugural season.

Creating a state-of-the-art black box theater from a decrepit, vacant building started as something of a one-man crusade by North Berwyn Park District Director Joseph Vallez. Like Fey, Vallez is familiar with the sort of knee-jerk naysaying elicited by the city.

“I can’t tell you how many people just kind of stared at me and said ‘You want to do what?!’ when I proposed a theater here,” Vallez said. “The building was run down—folks were looking to tear it down because there were so many code violations. So we just went ahead, and kept our plans kind of quiet.”

### Ice-storm SRO

The quiet came to an abrupt end Dec. 1 when—despite a massive ice storm—an SRO crowd turned out for a kick-off event at the

newly christened 16th Street Theater. Chicago Dramatist Artistic Director Russ Tutturrow and Goodman Theatre Executive Director Roche Schulfer provided mini-keynote addresses. Actors offered sneak preview scenes from upcoming productions. Between performances, an unlikely mix of old-school Cook County and Berwyn politicos rubbed elbows with theater folk and civic leaders from community groups, including the Berwyn United Gay and Lesbian Organization (BUNGALO).

For Filmer, the night was a triumph, but not an altogether unexpected one. “My husband and I used to joke that when we moved to Berwyn, we’d start our own arts scene there,” she said of the move she made in April with her spouse, composer and percussionist Barry Bennett. “Then when we got here, we realized there already was an arts scene,” she said.

### A great match

Indeed, Berwyn’s arts scene is a definite, if nascent, presence. Three years ago, Fey sent out feelers in the form of a questionnaire. He wanted, he said, to determine whether Berwyn Arts Council was even a feasible idea. Roughly 400 people indicated an interest, and the organization was born. Since then, over 1,000 people have contacted the Council ([www.berwynartsconcil.org](http://www.berwynartsconcil.org)), expressing an interest in the group and in nurturing the arts in Berwyn. The latest addition to the Council’s board of directors? Ann Filmer.

It was Fey who steered Filmer to Vallez, but it was Filmer’s credentials that got Vallez’s attention. In addition to extensive directing, choreography and producing credits in Chicago, Filmer worked as producing director of Chicago Dramatists for four years and associate artistic director at Writers’ Theatre for three years. A Michael Maggio Fellow at the Goodman, she also founded the Aardvark Theatre and the biannual Estrogen Fest. But beyond the resume was a passion that was palpable, Vallez said.

“When Ann came in and started talking about some of the things she had done, I knew right

away this was a great match,” Vallez said.

### Never mind your nephew

Perhaps because the theater falls under the auspices (and gets much of its funding from) the North Berwyn Park District, Filmer has spent some time explaining—to both elected officials and Berwyn residents—that 16th Street is not a community theater or in the business of staging shows that grow out of park district programs.

“I’ve met a few people who say, ‘I hear you’re starting a theater; let me tell you about my 8-year-old nephew. He’s got so much energy and he’s so cute.’ And I’m like, ‘No, this isn’t a theater for children, or a community theater. It’s a professional theater for the community,’” Filmer said.

“Yes, there are people in town who don’t understand the difference between an Equity theater where the actors and the technicians are paid professionals, and community theater where you can go see your neighbor doing the lead in *Oliver!*,” Vallez added. “But I think once people start coming out and seeing the performances, they’ll realize what we’re doing here.”

### City of contrasts

Nobody is claiming Berwyn is without challenges. The town doesn’t have the tax base of Glencoe, Oak Park or even Forest Park, which help support Writers’ Theatre, the Oak Park Festival Theatre and Circle Theatre, respectively. Berwyn’s average household income is moderate—just over \$50,000 according to the latest figures from the Berwyn Development Corporation. And the community is, if not unstable, certainly in a state of history-related flux. “Change” and “transition” are watchwords in Berwyn: During the last municipal election in 2005, voters threw out the long-entrenched mayor and almost every single incumbent member of the city council. Neighborhood demographics are undergoing more gradual alterations, as families of Hispanic descent move into communities historically

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## THEATER REVIEW

## Shining City

Playwright: Conor McPherson

At: Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn

Phone: 312-443-3800; \$20-\$70

Runs through: Feb. 17

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Shining City defines superlative acting. Short on plot but long on character, this 95-minute play offers four emotionally potent scenes with an immense monologue in Scene Three, plus a concluding scene. Eschewing the high concepts for which he is known, director Robert Falls wisely puts his four performers on center stage while invisibly but caringly guiding them—and the audience—through the complexities of each character.

Shining City takes place in affluent modern Dublin, Ireland, in the large, slightly shabby and chilly apartment/office of Ian, who has left the priesthood and become a psychotherapist. Middle-aged John, a new patient, is panicked and terrified as he describes vivid hauntings by his wife, who died a few months earlier in a car crash. In the centerpiece monologue, John discusses his marital infidelities both emotional



Shining City. Photo by Peter Wynn Thompson

and physical; the former of long standing and the latter planned but never actually executed. Woven through John's guilt-stricken discourse are threads of existential angst, faith or lack thereof, and the need to seek some semblance of fulfillment in life if such is possible. Saying little, Ian leads John to a satisfactory "cure," although the play is not about John's therapy.

In fact, John is the antagonist of Shining City

and Ian is the hero. John may do most of the talking, but Ian initiates the play's few actions as the metaphysics underlying John's dialogue slap against Ian. Having fathered a child with his long-supportive fiancé, Ian now sends her packing in a devastating scene of betrayal. Later, the sexually conflicted Ian engages a hustler for his first gay experience, movingly staged as a combination of paralyzing panic and sobbing emotion.

At the 75-minute mark, author Conor McPherson still is providing new character revelations and one wonders how he'll tie them up in the final minutes. Well, he doesn't. McPherson completes John's story as John happily moves on with life. But the still-conflicted Ian's story will continue long after the curtain falls, as McPherson makes clear in a gasp-inducing surprise in the closing seconds. As the Irish say, the "crack" (the talk) is excellent, despite which Shining City (a metaphor for heaven) really is a shaggy dog story complete with punchline. Existential angst aside, it could boil down to a half-hour Twilight Zone episode.

So, yes, it's all about the acting. In ascending order of importance, the uniformly truthful players are Keith Gallagher as the surprisingly gentle hustler, Nicole Wiesner as the anguished fiancé in the most explosive scene, Jay Whit-

taker holding focus as the deeply-internalizing Ian and the remarkable John Judd as the patient. Always possessing a sharp edge, Judd has matured into an actor of rich nuance as well. It's a rare pleasure to see an all-Chicago cast under Falls's direction.

## THEATER REVIEW

## The End

Playwright: Andy Gershenzon

At: Black Sheep Productions

at the Royal George,

1641 N. Halsted

Phone: 312-988-9000; \$20-\$22

Runs through: March 2

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Stand-up comic Ronnie Shakes once declared "I want to be the last man on Earth, just to see if all those girls were telling me the truth." In playwright Andy Gershenzon's futuristic dystopia, Jacob and Gus are the last two men on Earth, hiding in a basement from whatever lurks outside. Soon an armored invader approaches, who turns out to be—you guessed it—a Hot Babe. When Jacob goes off to search for food, the loquacious Gus pours out his heart to Trish (what are girls *for*, but to listen to boys' troubles, after all?). She remains largely unmoved by his pleas, finally leaving him no recourse but to go caveman on her, whereupon Jacob returns to rescue the distressed damsel, who then rewards him with the devotion she refused his rival.

If director Vance Smith had chosen to highlight Gus's romantic vulnerability, instructing actor Robert Kauzlaric to seduce us with winsome cajolery, the result would have been a certainly lengthier, but perhaps more engaging, play. In this production, however, Gus is presented as a compulsive chatterer, disclosing his every thought in a hebephrenic frenzy as annoying to us as to his onstage companions. And so we can't help but view the situation, not as three mature adults facing extinction, but as two adolescent brothers contending for Trish's sexual favors (again, what are girls *for*, except for boys to fight over?) as it is hinted they once did for the esteem of an unseen father figure.

Gus' claim that "the survival of mankind" depends on his getting into Trish's pants is only a valid argument if it's *true*, but as long as we're unable to accept the premise of this being the twilight of civilization-as-we-know-it, neither can we care what Gershenzon is trying to say: that even after the apocalypse, it's the same old story? That chicks prefer strong and silent studs to sensitive artists? That people in the last stages of starvation experience a Zen-like euphoria that allows them to hope?

Running at 70 minutes, The End emerges as a passable exercise for the Black Sheep company, many of them already familiar from other productions in other venues. And the likewise well-known designers' quasi-medieval motifs raise intriguing possibilities. But when Gus snaps, "I won't go another round of junior high," it's already too late to save this story. Make no mistake: Gershenzon has a way with a lyrical phrase, but what he now needs is a worthier topic.

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## Altar Boyz Open Call

Producers are seeking young men ages 19-25 for the Chicago production of the award-winning musical comedy Altar Boyz, now playing at Drury Lane Water Tower Place, 175 E. Chestnut.

All potential "boyz" must have strong pop vocals, solid hip-hop dance ability and excellent comedic instincts. Open auditions will be held at Lou Conte Dance Studio, 1147 W. Jackson, Studio C, on Fri., Feb. 1, 1-5 p.m.

Talent should prepare two pop songs and bring music in their key (please no 'NSync or Backstreet Boys). Please bring two headshots and resumes and come ready to dance.

For more information, visit [www.myspace.com/altarboyzchicago](http://www.myspace.com/altarboyzchicago).

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# Measure for Measure

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

"He was like everybody's grandfather," a politician declared when Ronald Reagan died—and a liberal Democratic politician at that! Well, no, he wasn't. By many accounts he wasn't even a good father, let alone grandpa. He might have been Father of the Nation to his adoring partisans and a Wicked Steppather to his opponents but, for certain, he was the real father of Maureen, Michael and Ronnie Reagan and Patti Davis. Composer/librettist Eric Reda (formerly with About Face Theatre) takes the kids' perspective in his opera-oratorio **Reagan's Children**, which will receive its world concert premiere on Presidents' Day, Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m. at Martyr's Pub, 3855 N. Lincoln; 800-594-8499; \$20. Reda has been working on Reagan's Children for several years, with parts of it performed previously in workshops at the Around the Coyote Festival.

The DuPage Opera, at the McAninch Arts Center, 425 Fawell, Glen Ellyn, offers two performances of **Verdi's Otello** on Thurs., Jan. 31, and Sat., Feb. 2, at 8 p.m. Fully staged and accompanied by full orchestra, Otello will be sung in Italian with projected English titles. Based on Shakespeare's play, Verdi's second-to-last opera is considered one of his very best, pithy, powerful and dramatic—without a wasted note. Michael Ehrman is the stage director and Kirk Muspratt



Alfonso Ponticelli.

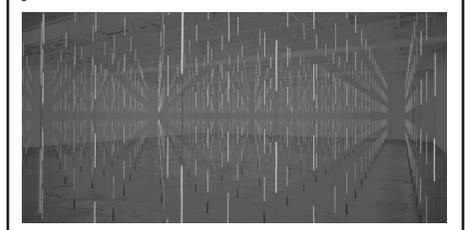
is the conductor. Tickets: 630-942-4000; \$43. Fresh from its annual, grand Martin Luther King, Jr., tribute program, the Chicago Sinfonietta partners with the National Museum of Mexican Art to present a much more intimate program in its Chamber Music Series. The concert, **¡Guitarra!**, features guitar virtuoso Alfonso Ponticelli and Swing Gitan along with string players from the Chicago Sinfonietta. Together, they'll explore the common antecedents of flamenco, jazz and classical in Mexican music and its Spanish influences. It's this Friday night, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. at the National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th; 312-236-3681, ext. 2; \$15.

Visit [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com) to read the full Measure for Measure roundup.

**ONLINE THEATER THIS WEEK:**  
—The Drowned World; Boy

## Milwaukee Museum Experiences 'Overload'

Optical illusions and interactive aural installations are just some of the works of art awaiting visitors to the Milwaukee Art Museum, thanks to the exhibition **Sensory Overload: Light, Motion, Sound and the Optical in Art Since 1945**. The exhibition, which opened Jan. 24 and runs through October 2009, showcases approximately 50 works in almost 15,000 square feet of gallery space. Presenting items chronologically, the installation begins with works by Bauhaus instructors Laszlo Moholy-Nagy and Josef Albers, and concludes with works such as Erwin Redl's *Matrix XV* (2007), below, an LED installation with fiber optics. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$4 for students and free for children 12 and under; call 414-224-3842 or see [www.mam.org](http://www.mam.org). To become a museum member and receive year-round benefits, call 414-224-3284.



## CRITICS' PICS

**Flowers Out Of Season**, People's Theater of Chicago at EP Theater, through Feb. 3. Intense performances of excruciating intimacy in the EP's Cornell-Box of a playhouse make this ambiguous tale of suicidal despair worth the odyssey to Pilsen. MSB

**Machos**, Teatro Luna at Berwyn Cultural Center, through Feb. 17. The drag-king performances in this savvy revue are so good and insightful that you sometimes forget that it is women playing these macho Latino men. SCM

**My Fair Lady**, Cadillac Palace, through Feb. 3. Diction is destiny in Lerner and Loewe's take on Shaw's extreme makeover classic, *Pygmalion*. Sumptuous score and aspirant h's merge as a Cockney flower girl blooms and rebels as tutored by a dashing grammarian. CS

**Requiem for a Heavyweight**, Shattered Globe at Victory Gardens Greenhouse, through March 8. Rod Serling's truthful tale of a washed-up boxer and his manager scores a hard right to the heart in this perfectly acted rendition, the first don't-miss show of 2008. JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge, Morgan and Sullivan

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Titus Andronicus. Photo by Michael Brosilow

## THEATER REVIEW Titus Andronicus

Playwright: William Shakespeare  
At: Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis  
Phone: 773/753-4472; \$32 - \$54  
Runs through: Feb. 10

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

Rarely produced, Titus Andronicus is often dismissed as inferior Shakespeare, its plot tagged as mindlessly violent, its characters as pale preambles to the later, richer roles Shakespeare would create. Queen Tamora of the Goths is a shadow of the Scottish play's scheming Lady; Aaron is Iago lite; Titus is Lear without the depth and breadth. And while there are grains of truth in such criticism, we've always found Titus to be eminently worthwhile. Violence and all, it is a rip-roaring yarn set in the pagan wilds of pre-Christian Rome, a fascinating, untamed

land of frightening appetites, ruled by ferocity and populated by tribes just one step removed from feral.

Alas, in his two-hour, intermission-free version of Titus, Court Theatre Artistic Director Charles Newell has superimposed a pandering, self-conscious and self-referential layer of meta-theater on top of the text. The result is a production of pretentiousness and confusion. Actors call each other by their real names and rifle scripts as if they've lost their place, all in an eye-rolling attempt to make us believe the cast has succumbed to a case of collective psychosis and is indulging in carnage that's real rather than merely theatrical. The tragic tale of Titus, along with all its unmistakable contemporary relevance, is buried beneath a heap of stagey affectation.

When Marcus (Kevin Gudahl) makes a late entrance, he apologizes to Lavinia (Elizabeth Ledo), mumbling "I'm sorry Elizabeth, I think I missed my cue." It's one of a hundred patently false moments. We don't for a second believe that Gudahl actually missed his cue; he's just acting like he did. But the character of Lavinia is in trouble, so if something goes wrong on stage (i.e., a veteran actor missing his cue), the audience will conclude that something has gone terribly wrong for real and their sense of horror will be exponentially heightened, right? Wrong. The moment is all posing and no truth.

Ditto a scene when the character played by Anish Jethmalani is killed off: "Fine, I quit. I'm outta here," Jethmalani spouts. "OK, see ya Anish," various cast members reply.

There are two ultra-low points: The first involves the sole African-American character and

a noose. To watch this scene is to squirm at a blatant instance of shock-mongering through the exploitation of an image steeped in the sort of indelible tragedy most of us cannot begin to comprehend. The second comes when an actor who is in the process of being killed tells actor doing the killing to "Stop. Really. I'm not kidding; that's enough. Hey—" before slumping to the floor. We're supposed to be shocked into quasi-believing we've just witnessed the stage version of a snuff film. But here's the thing: It's pretend. We know it's pretend. Having the actors break character and pretend not to pretend is nothing but a cheap gimmick.

At one particularly bloody point in the proceedings, a member of the ensemble calls out "Hey guys, I think we should stop now." Please do. And try again, only this time, have a little faith in the text.

## THEATER REVIEW Cloud Tectonics

Playwright: José Rivera  
At: Halcyon Theatre at Peter Jones Gallery, 1806 W. Cuyler.  
Phone: (312) 458-9170; \$10-\$15  
Runs through: Feb. 17

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

José Rivera's Cloud Tectonics is certainly an attractive play for an up-and-coming theater company like Halcyon Theatre to tackle.

Cloud Tectonics economically only needs three actors. The plot allows designers free reign to blend kitchen-sink realism with whimsical fantasy. And then there's the sometimes lofty text that romantically aims to say something significant about the fleeting nature of life.

First-time Halcyon Theatre director Juan Castañeda does a mostly respectable job of guiding the play's magical-realism mystery and pre-Mil-

lennium paranoia along. Problem is that Rivera overplays his hand by revealing too much about the mysterious character and situation at the end. By then, the play becomes tedious as you practically hear Rivera saying, "And the moral of the story is..."

Cloud Tectonics follows Anibal (Miguel "Guelo" Morales), who picks up a beautiful and very pregnant hitchhiker Celestina (Aimee Bravo) during a drenching rain storm in Los Angeles. Celestina is desperately on a quest to find the father of her child, so Anibal takes pity on her and invites her into his home.

Bravo does a fine job of making Celestina simultaneously pathetic and mysteriously entrancing, leading you on to want to find out more about why she needs a man to cling onto. But her performance feels weighted down when playing up against Morales' largely blank slate turn as Anibal.

Morales more than lives up the casting demands of being extremely handsome, but his performance could use a bit more aggravated confusion and simmering sexual tension to make these scenes pop better.

The performance that sticks out the most memorably is Greg Wenz as Anibal's military brother, Nelson. Wenz bursts onto the stage with such a macho Latino bravado and perfect comic timing that you wish Rivera had built the play around the energetic Nelson instead of the stasis machinations of Celestina on Anibal.

Within the cozy theater space of the Peter Jones Gallery, set designer Tony Adams teams up with lighting designer Adrienne Day to a sometimes magical setting of cotton clouds and subtle color shifts. Even the rumblings of the nearby CTA trains and Metra occasionally add to the sometimes cataclysmic dread in the text.

Cloud Tectonics might not be a great play, but Halcyon Theatre does a mostly respectable job with its presentation. The play does make you think about time and the brevity of life, even if it is too heavy-handed with the delivery.

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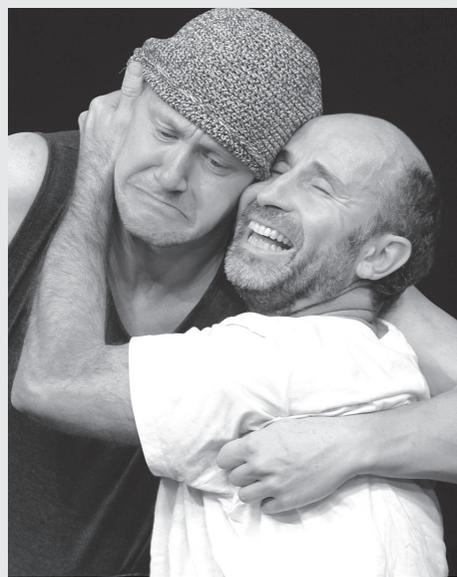
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## SPOTLIGHT

Fragments



Pair a Nobel Prize-winning playwright—the mordantly funny and morosely existential Samuel Beckett—with one of the 20th century's most influential directors—the British expatriate Peter Brook—and what will you get? In theory, a profound yet entertaining theater event. In **Fragments**, director Brook has taken several of Beckett's shortest theater pieces and unified them in a 65-minute show featuring three European actors celebrated for their physical and clowning skills—perfect for Beckett, who deeply admired the classical clowning tradition. Direct from Europe, Fragments will play no where else in the United States except Chicago, presented by Chicago Shakespeare Theater (at Navy Pier) in its World Stages series. Through Feb. 9 only; 312-595-5600; \$46-\$56. Photo by Pascal Victor/Max ppp.

### BERWYN from page 17

populated by people of Czech and Eastern European descent.

Berwyn is also, at least for now, a city of contrasts: On the one hand, upscale condos priced at \$400,000 are under construction in the heart of Berwyn's downtown. A two-bedroom bungalow that ran \$190,000 in 2000 is now valued at \$250,000. At the same time, Berwyn's high school district—J. Sterling Morton High School District 201—has failed three times running to get a tax hike passed and Morton students (many in overcrowded class-

rooms) are among those in the state scoring lowest on standardized tests.

All that notwithstanding, the 16th Street Theater gives Berwyn's arts community—and the community as a whole—another reason to celebrate the oft-maligned suburb.

"I'm sure there's many challenges that have yet to appear," said Filmer. "But honestly—and I don't want to sound like I'm trumpeting—what I've seen so far is a lot of excitement."

For more information about the 16th Street theater, log onto [www.16thstreettheater.org](http://www.16thstreettheater.org), call 708-795-6704, ext. 105, or e-mail [info@16thstreettheater.org](mailto:info@16thstreettheater.org).

## SUPPORT from page 10

One. She brings to the job a history of creating tangible and effective change that we, as a community, can rely upon. As evidenced by her national steering committee of broad-based LGBT supporters, she will fight to bring the community to the table—knowing that we must be a part of any plan to move America forward. As senator, she was the original co-sponsor of ENDA, of the Domestic Partnership Benefits Act and federal hate-crimes legislation. Hillary Clinton supports civil unions and dismantling “don’t ask, don’t tell” policies. But, most importantly, she’s proven herself as an enormously effective lawmaker—one who is right on the issues but also one that can get things done. I’m proud to support the election of our first woman president!

*44th Ward Alderman Tom Tunney:* As you know, I am an Obama delegate, so I am supporting Barack Obama, and I have been from the very beginning. ... The most important thing is that we win. ... I think we all underestimated Barack’s power in Illinois. I think a lot of that has to do with his charisma. I think people feel more optimistic about a fresh, new face. I think he has a great opportunity to change the direction of the country, and I think his ideas appeal more to the mainstream.

I’m also supporting Larry Suffredin for the state’s attorney’s race. I feel he has the right sensitivity and temperament for the position. A lot of the candidates come off strong as supporters of zero tolerance. While he’s tough on crime, I think he’s bright enough to figure out the systematic changes that need to be made within the office.

*Writer Art “Chat Daddy” Sims:* As an African-American, I want to support Sen. Barack Obama wholeheartedly. However, I must admit that I’m torn between Hillary Clinton and him. To my understanding, the majority of Obama’s platform deals with how he plans to take over the Iraq War. Kudos to Sen. Obama for creating the machine that has become his campaign, but beyond that, I am not exactly sure where he stands.

As much as we would all like for this not to be the case, the 44th President of the United States of America will inherit this war. Therein lies my conflict. Hillary Clinton obviously has the diplomatic and foreign policy experience to create a much more peaceable solution, and her stance on most issues is very clear cut and obvious. Yet, that whole so-called “likeability factor” may affect the respect she receives from the nation as a whole, thereby affecting the respect she could receive from the leaders of other nations.

...[I]n all honesty, I’m really interested in the outcome of Super Tuesday. I think it will be interesting to see what the results are from such a large cross section of American constituents.

*Gail H. Morse, attorney:* Barack Obama is the real deal. Yes, I know he does not support marriage equality, but I know he will be supportive of all of our rights, including marriage, sooner than anyone else currently running as a viable candidate for president.

Locally, re-electing Illinois State Sen. and Assistant Majority Leader Iris Martinez [is important]. Sen. Martinez is the first Latina elected to the Illinois Senate and has, without hesitation, supported LGBT rights, women’s health and choice in Springfield—often under enormous pressure from very vocal and strong opposition and often at great personal sacrifice. Her political savvy and courage lead to her selection as the Assistant Majority Leader of the Senate, a testament to her leadership. She is a strong voice for the LGBT community and women in Springfield and deserves to be re-elected. We could have no better advocate in the State Senate.

*Mike Bauer, activist:* First, as to the presidential race, I’m supporting Barack Obama and sit on his national LGBT committee, his Illinois



From left: Alderman Tom Tunney, Gail Morse and Art “Chat Daddy” Sims.

LGBT committee, his Israel policy committee and his Illinois finance committee. Although we have several terrific candidates in the Democratic primary this year, Barack has a unique ability to appeal to a broad array of persons in our society, including the LGBT community, and to bring those various constituencies together to seek solutions to the enormous problems and issues our nation is facing these days, both domestically and internationally.

Second, there are three other races I am heavily focused on. One is the reelection of Congresswoman Melissa Bean from Illinois’ 8th Congressional District. It was just four years ago that that district was represented by one of the leading homophobic, anti-choice right-wing Republicans in the U.S. House, Phil Crane. Congresswoman Bean’s re-election ensures keeping this seat a Democratic seat for someone who is supportive of LGBT issues and out of the hands of the Republican right-wing.

Also, the retirement of right-wing Republican Congressman Jerry Weller has provided us with

a wonderful opportunity to take Illinois’ 11th Congressional District away from the Republicans and replace Weller with another supportive Democrat—Illinois Senate Majority Leader Debbie Halvorson. Halvorson’s past experience in successfully running for elective office and in fundraising make her a national priority for congressional democrats and Speaker Pelosi.

Lastly, a close friend of our community, Cook County Larry Suffredin, is seeking the Democratic nomination for Cook County State’s Attorney to replace retiring State’s Attorney Dick Devine. Suffredin has long been a voice and advocate in progressive politics and will be a strong voice for our community in an office that is so important to us.

*Gary Chichester, activist and event producer:* The presidential candidate I support is Hillary Clinton. I offer her my support, not because I see myself as a politico and I am far from a major donor, but I support her candidacy because I consider Hillary a friend. I met her in my fresh-

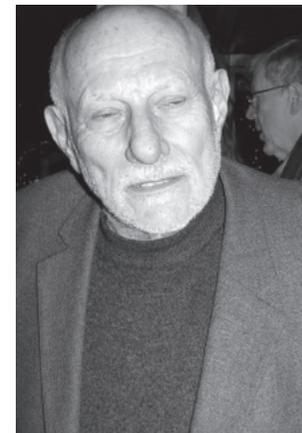
man year in high school. We served together on student government throughout our high school years. One of my fondest memories from that period was being on the same team with her that created the freshman homecoming float.

The friendships we forged then have lasted over the years.

...Over the years she has proven to me that she has the tested and proven experience that it takes to hold the most difficult job in the world. That’s why many of her former classmates traveled on our own initiative to Iowa and New Hampshire to canvass and give insight to the Hillary Clinton we know, the Hillary Clinton who listens and cares.

I find that Hillary is strong and steady, but she’s also generous and funny and kind. In this political climate, a person gets criticized for being ordinary, a person gets criticized for being extraordinary. Hillary is those rarest of persons: She is both.

I’m not focusing on any other races at this time.



## Meet the Candidates

With only days until local candidates face off against each other in the Feb. 5 primary, many attended Equality Illinois (EI) Meet and Greet at Sidetrack, held Jan. 25. The informal networking event—co-sponsored by EI, Lake View Citizens Council and the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago—brought together a mix of candidates from of all categories. Equality Illinois Political Director Rick Garcia introduced a list of Circuit Court Judge, state representative and Metropolitan Water Reclamation commissioner candidates to a packed house. Sidetrack co-owner Art Johnston encouraged voters to “[m]eet the candidates, make a decision and, most of all, go to the polls and vote! Our government is becoming more and more responsive to our concerns because people like all of you in this room are meeting the candidates and voting.” On Sat., Feb. 2, EI will host the 2008 Justice for All Gala in what will surely be a final push for voter turnout. Photos by Emmanuel Garcia and Suzanne Kraus

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### BERRIOS from page 16

wrong. I go down to Springfield and, with my experience as a legislator, I'm able to pass legislation to help. I'm able to go down there because, number one, I am the chair of the [Cook County] Democratic Party and, number two, I am a commissioner on the Board of Review. I'm able to go and fight for the people of Cook County—I want to make it easier for the next person coming up.

**WCT:** I recently read a blog from someone who wrote, "No matter who's in charge, our property tax system remains an unfair, seemingly arbitrary mass of contradictions. The well-connected get big breaks; the rest of us suckers don't." What could you say to that person to convince him otherwise?

JB: I would ask that person if he ever filed a complaint. Under the process that we have today, every homeowner has three bites of the apple. Number one, I don't increase the assessments; I review the assessments. The assessor determines how much every particular property should go up; it's not the Board of Review.

Number two, if and when they fail at the assessor's office, they have the ability to come to the Board of Review. The difference between the Board of Review and the Assessor's Office is that [with the board] you get to talk to someone. You don't talk to a computer; you don't fill out a little piece of paper and walk away. We at the Board of Review will take a look at your property [and will even] see if we can find other things for you. We extend that to every homeowner in Cook County. The board is the people's office.

If you're not happy with what we do, you can go to the Property Tax Appeals Board, who review what we do. So, there are a lot of checks and balances within the system, and when you look at big buildings downtown, look at the difference in values. A 10 percent cut in a homeowner's assessment versus a 10 percent cut

with a big building—of course, [the building's] number is going to be bigger. But they get no different hearing than any homeowner in Cook County.

**WCT:** You chair the Cook County Democratic Party—and are endorsed by the party. Isn't there a conflict of interest there?

JB: No. I'm only endorsed by the committeemen in my district, not the entire 80 committeemen. I appeared before my local committeemen (and I'm not chairman of that committee) and presented my credentials.

**WCT:** If you're re-elected, what would you like to see implemented?

JB: We are in the process right now—and I can give credit to Commissioner Rogers for a lot of this—of putting together this new computer program where I can punch up a PIN and it gives me 50 or 60 comparables in an area so we can judge where a homeowner should be on his assessment. We [also] want to expand our computer system to make it move a little faster; it'd give us more time to review each case.

There are a lot of things left to be done in Springfield. We have to fight for the 7 percent bill [which would institute a 7 percent cap on property-tax assessments] and we're going to be fighting for a senior-citizen freeze where seniors aren't punished for having their kids move in with them.

**WCT:** What do you want our readers to know about you?

JB: I want the readers to know that Joe Berrios, number one, is fair—not only fighting for taxpayers and that Joe Berrios fights for education and to see that gangs are taken out of areas. I'm very involved with legislation for seniors. Also, my daughter, Toni Berrios, is a state rep; I not only have the ability to work with her, but also with the Hispanic and Black caucuses of Springfield.

See [www.ElectJoeBerrios.com](http://www.ElectJoeBerrios.com) for more info.



### Baldwin Visits Chicago

Lesbian U.S. Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (center) visited Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted, Jan. 27 for a pro-Hillary Clinton event. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald; see [www.MysticImagesPhotography](http://www.MysticImagesPhotography) and [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com) for more photos.



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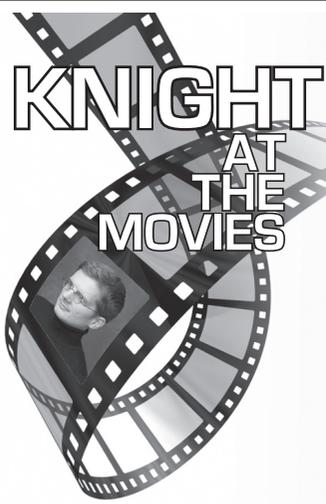
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## Oscar Nods, the Death of Heath Ledger

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

I've been reading film writer David Thomson's history of Hollywood, *The Whole Equation*, which is filled with Thomson's interesting, crass and sometimes spot-on observations. Throughout its history, Hollywood's star-making machinery has been utilized by cynics, opportunists, lots of investment bankers and myriad ancillary businesses from exotic gardeners to whorehouse madams, but also by dreamers who have intuited the hard-to-articulate magic contract between audience and star. Thomson's book muses at length on the movie business's inherent duality (fantasy vs. reality) that rose along with the Dream Factory and its cultural institutions.

Thomson's paragraphs about the early beginnings of the Academy Awards illustrate this—for the Oscars were begun as an afterthought. In late 1926 Louis B. Mayer, the most powerful film mogul in Hollywood during the golden

era, first proposed an organization of the town's other top dogs, an elitist group of powerbrokers that would band together for a dual purpose—to socialize and more importantly, to help mediate labor disputes with the hope that unions would not find a firm footing at the studios. The membership was chosen from the top branches of every aspect of filmmaking. The organization would also give out awards annually to its own and, with this stroke of brilliance, the Oscars were born.

As Thomson describes it, though the power of the film companies was eventually tested by labor, nothing could stop the power of the annual Academy Awards "from preserving the legend that the movies are a binding part of our experience." It seems ironic, as we approach the 80th anniversary of the awards, to find labor and the ceremony at a stand-off. "And then the strike happened," Bruce Vilanch, the gay icon and veteran contributing writer to 17 past Oscar ceremonies told me with a touch of sadness last November when talking about the writer's walkout. I nodded in agreement, understanding exactly what he was saying—I want the writers to get their fair share, but I want the magic of the Oscars, too. It's the gay man's national holiday after all.

Like much in life and particularly at the movies, a form of entertainment designed to fulfill and articulate our dreams, the reality is not quite as magical as we would like to believe. Sometimes the duality is blatant—the veil bluntly lifted—as it was at this year's Oscar nomination press conference. On top of the question of what form the ceremony will take this year (if at all) the announcement was tinged with the tragic news later that same day that **Heath Ledger**, one of the movie's brightest young actors—and, yes, stars—had died at the shockingly young age of 28. Musings about whether or not Angelina Jolie got dissed by not getting a nod for *A Mighty Heart* (trumped by Juno's snot-nosed Ellen Page—go ahead, sue me) or that *The Hoax*, one

of the year's best pictures, was dismissed while overenthusiasm rained down on the not bad/not great Juno and okay *No Country for Old Men* at once seemed trivial.

Daniel Day-Lewis, who was tapped for his riveting performance in *There Will Be Blood*, addressed this when he was interviewed by Oprah Winfrey in a show about this year's nominees. The reluctant star interrupted the talk to discuss the terrible loss of a fellow actor and was visibly moved. Winfrey was taken aback (diversion from Oprah's agenda is rare) but quickly seemed relieved that Lewis brought up the subject—an elephant in the room—and thanked him for doing so, though getting back on track to the "what are you going to wear/where were you when you heard" questions was tougher. Oscar, the potent symbol of movie magic and glamour, doesn't mix easily with real-life events.

For gay people, Ledger's loss coming on Oscar nomination day once again had the effect of opening the scab that hasn't quite healed with regard to the *Brokeback Mountain* loss for Best Picture in 2005. I wanted Capote to win—I still prefer it, though I recognize and love *Brokeback*, too. But to see *Brokeback* lose to *Crash* (which made sense at the time to me) very quickly in hindsight seemed a sad step back for *Our People*. In losing Ledger, we lost a straight actor unafraid to play gay characters and speak up for our rights while firmly insisting that playing gay was no big deal. There have been very few leading men (straight or closeted gay)—or women for that matter—willing to do the same thing. I mourn the roles that might have been. I mourn Ledger's sensitivity and fair-mindedness.

Acceptance is coming in the social stratum for gays, but movies are still the great leveler and we are still lagging behind. Most moviemakers have worked for over 100 years to keep *Our People* shunted to one side or out of sight completely, while we have unflinchingly kept the magic of their movies in our hearts and continue to do so. But we're not the only group still dreaming. Nor are we the only group caught up in the weird dance of embrace/denounce that has been part of the implicit contract between the Dream Merchants and the audience. From the beginning, the Oscars have had trouble deciding between "success" (i.e., most profitable and beloved by audiences) and the "best" (i.e., those with enduring power

and the promise of lasting "art"). This is another duality the Oscars are not going to sort out any time soon.

After mooning about all this movie stuff throughout most of the day, I took a look at the rest of nominations and my heart leapt. Finally, for LGBT audiences, there was some good news—spectacularly good news, in fact. Documentary director Cynthia Wade, a married mother of two and my new personal nominee for *Friend of the Community*, had gotten a nod in the Documentary Short Subject category for the movie *Freeheld*, which is about the struggle over pension benefits for a lesbian couple.

I hope she wins and gets to make one of those heartfelt speeches that will momentarily unite the world in sympathy for *Our People* and silence our denouncers. But even if she doesn't, here at last is proof positive that reality and dreams can co-exist at the Oscars. My Oscar fantasies can once again commence.

Check out my archived reviews at [www.windycitytimes.com](http://www.windycitytimes.com) or [www.knightatthemovies.com](http://www.knightatthemovies.com). Readers can leave feedback at the latter Web site, where there is also ordering information on my new book of collected film reviews, *Knight at the Movies 2004-2006*.

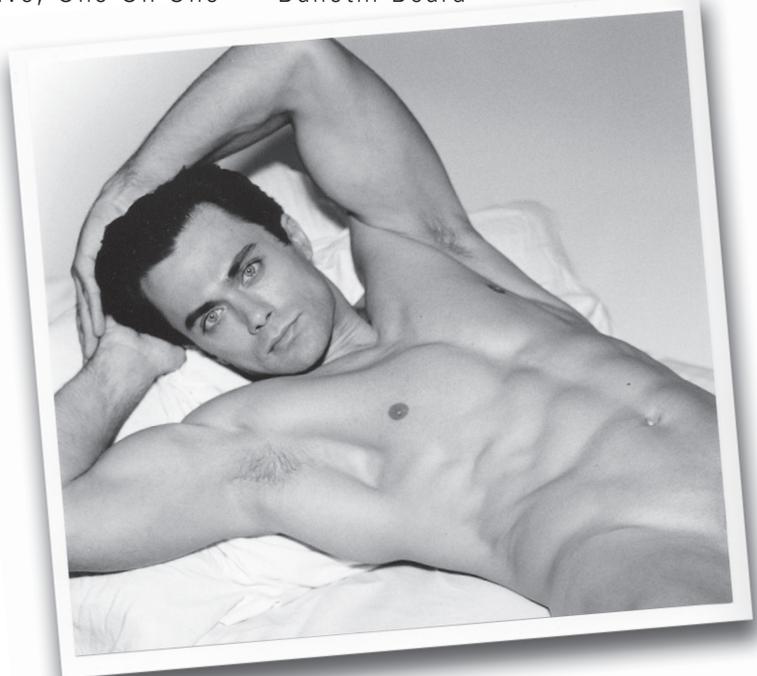


Heath Ledger.

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## Heath Ledger: 1979-2008

Heath Ledger—an actor who starred in several acclaimed movies, including the gay cowboy film *Brokeback Mountain*—was found dead Jan. 22 in a New York City apartment. Ledger was just 28.

Ledger was found by a masseuse who had an appointment with him. Pills were found near Ledger's body, officials said.

Ledger, an Australian native, was acclaimed for his co-starring role opposite Jake Gyllenhaal in 2005's *Brokeback Mountain*, a movie about two cowboys who fall in love. Ledger met his *Brokeback* co-star Michelle Williams and the two had a daughter in late 2005; Ledger and Williams separated last year.

Among Ledger's other films are *Monster's Ball*, *The Brothers Grimm* and *Casanova*. He is slated to appear as the Joker this year in *The Dark Knight*, a sequel to the 2005 movie *Batman Begins*.

In a 2005 interview with *Windy City Times* movie critic Richard Knight, Jr., Ledger talked

about his role in *Brokeback*: "It's funny, they keep talking about how brave and how courageous it is and I keep saying, "No, it's brave to be a firefighter, it's courageous to be an NYPD officer." I'm an actor; I'm observing, investigating and portraying a form of love and life. Believe me, I'm fine, I'm not hurt from it!" (For the full interview, see [KnightAtTheMovies.com](http://KnightAtTheMovies.com) and the *Windy City Times* archives at [WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://WindyCityMediaGroup.com).)

On a related note, GLAAD (the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) has issued a press release denouncing FOX News host John Gibson for remarks he made after Ledger's death. On his Jan. 22, 2008, show, Gibson played an audio clip from *Brokeback Mountain* of Jake Gyllenhaal's character, Jack, telling Ennis (played by Ledger), "I wish I knew how to quit you." Gibson then said, "Well, he found out how to quit you."

"Gibson's remarks are vulgar and disgusting," said Rashad Robinson, GLAAD's senior director of media programs. "It's sickening that Gibson would exploit Heath Ledger's tragic death to promote such hurtful intolerance."

Look for Richard Knight, Jr.'s, interview with Cynthia Wade (an Oscar nominee for her lesbian documentary, *Freeheld*) in next week's *Windy City Times*

# WHAT TO DO?

## Wednesday, Jan. 30

**AIDS Foundation of Chicago** "A Place to Call Home," the release of the Chicago area five-year AIDS housing plan and continental breakfast and networking. 9-11:30 a.m., John Marshall Law School, 315 S. Plymouth Ct., 12th floor, RSVP to Sean Morris at 312-922-2322, ext. 524 or smorris@aidschicago.org

**Anita Alvarez** LGBT reception for Anita Alvarez, Democratic candidate for Cook County State's Attorney. 6-8 p.m., Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St., www.anitaalvarez2008.com

**Howard Brown Health Center** Lesbian Health Drop-In Night. Last Wednesday of each month. This month, discuss cervical cancer and HPV. 6 p.m., free, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd., www.howardbrown.org

**Women and Children First** Dr. Susan Wicklund, This Common Secret: My Journey as an Abortion Doctor. 7:30 p.m., 5233 N. Clark St., 773-769-9299, www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

## Thursday, Jan. 31

**Chicago History Museum** Out at CHM series presents "Sexual Politics: From the Lavender Scare to Larry Craig" with historians David Johnson and Lane Fenrich. Cocktail hour 5:30 p.m., program starts 6:30 p.m., \$15/\$12 museum members, Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St., www.chicagohistory.org

**Chicago Lesbian Brunch Group and FSix** Happy Hour (Women only). 6:30-8:30 p.m., BIN 36, 339 N. Dearborn, RSVP to Kelly at kellyxzeng@yahoo.com, see http://gaypros.meetup.com/283 or www.f-six.org for more info

**Jane Addams Hull-House** Getting Off: Sex, Pornography, and Masculinity in the 21st Century with author Robert Jensen. 6-7:30 p.m., 800 S. Halsted St., free and open to public, RSVP required, call 312-422-5580

**Women and Children First** Michele Welton, Everyman News. 7:30 p.m., 5233 N. Clark St., 773-769-9299, www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

## Friday, Feb. 1

**Flesh Hungry Dog Show** Monthly queer rock 'n' roll cabaret with Devin and the Straights, The Beazley Phillips Band and Cobalt. 9 p.m., Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark St., www.fleshhungrydog.com

**Hydrate** Lube wrestling at 11 p.m., followed by DJ Jeannette, 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com

**Spin** Fridance, your fav vids in front bar, VJ Terp, DJ Chris Eterno in back, 900 W. Belmont Ave., spin-nightclub.com

## Saturday, Feb. 2

**AIDSCare** Annual premier party, Fat Saturday Ball. Cocktail reception, heavy buffet, live auction, music and dancing, dessert buffet. 6:30 p.m., Architectural Artifacts, 4325 N. Ravenswood, www.aidschicago.org

**American Gladiators.** Contestant casting call at Crunch, 38 E. Grand, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. See www.nbc.com/casting.

**Eagle** Mardi Gras underwear party, 5015 N. Clark St.

**Equality Illinois** 2008 Justice for All gala. Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S. Michigan Ave. \$250, \$350 includes Nov. 1 premier reception, www.eqil.org or 773-477-7173 for tickets

**Gay Liberation Network** Gay rights activists to march through Chicago Loop demanding all presidential candidates endorse LGBT equality. 11 a.m., in front of the Cook County Marriage License Bureau, 118 N. Clark St., www.gayliberation.net, 773-209-1187 or LGBTLiberation@aol.com

**Hydrate** DJ Ralphi Rosario, 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com

**Spin** Ear-rotic hip-hop/reggae party, DJs SP1 and Stoney, \$5 cover, 900 W. Belmont Ave., spin-nightclub.com

**Windy City Empire** 5th annual King & Queen of Crewe Royale Contest, \$10 donation includes beads, 5 raffle tickets, light snacks, proceeds benefit Reign 4 Charities and ILGRA, 8 p.m.-midnight, 3160, 3160 N. Clark St.

## Sunday, Feb. 3

**Achurch4me/MCC** Worship service. 11 a.m., Center on Halsted's Hoover-Lep-ten Theatre, 3656 N. Halsted St.

**Archdiocesan Gay and Lesbian Out-**

**reach Chicago** Sunday Mass. 7 p.m., 700 W. Belmont, ww.aglochicago.org, aglochicago@sbcglobal.net, 773-525-3872

**Berlin** MadonnaTube, highlighting Madonna's special relationship with the screen, 954 W. Belmont Ave. 773-348-4975, BerlinChicago.com

**Hideaway** Super Bowl party, \$2.50 well drinks/dom. bottles, half-time chili dogs, Bitch B--Go 4 p.m., 7301 W. Roosevelt Rd., Forest Park, 708-771-4459

**Hydrate** L Word at 8 p.m., followed by DJ Jeannette, 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com

**Mary's Attic** Win a pair of tickets to T-PAN's Chicago Takes Off during Bingo Maryoke, courtesy of Nightspots Magazine, 5400 N. Clark St.

**Pillar of Love Fellowship** Church Service. 1 p.m., Center on Halsted's John Baran Senior Center, 3656 N. Halsted St.

**St. Nicholas Episcopal Church** Presiding Bishop of Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, presides and preaches at this LGBT inclusive church. 9 a.m. mass, 1072 Ridge Ave., Elk Grove Village, 847-439-2067

**WACT** Brunch. Noon, email cherylchicago@earthlink.net for info.

## Monday, Feb. 4

**Windy City Gay Naturists** Mardi Gras Party. 7:30 p.m., Touche, 6412 N. Clark St., \$20, bring towel, bag and ID

## Tuesday, Feb. 5

**Berlin** Cheap Trix celebrates Fat Tuesday, \$1 well and PBR, 954 W. Belmont Ave. 773-348-4975, BerlinChicago.com

**Bread for the Journey** Swing Dance benefit featuring Bradford NewQuest & His Swing Quartet. Doors open 7 p.m., dancing from 8-11 p.m., \$20 advance, \$25 at door, Unity Northwest, tickets at 708-785-7566 or bjfchicago@comcast.net

**Funky Buddha Lounge** Outdanced: Rot-ten Milk's Monthly DJs and live acts with Ssion (live), Brilliant Pebbles (live) and Murderbot. 10 p.m.-2 a.m., 728 W. Grand Ave., www.funkybud-

dha.com

**Hideaway** Celebrate Fat Tuesday, costume contest, \$2.50 well, \$6 16 oz. Hurricanes, 7301 W. Roosevelt Rd., Forest Park, 708-771-4459

**Homolatte** Musical performances by Marcus Waller and MeKole Wells. 7:30 p.m., Big Chicks/Tweet, 5024 N. Sheridan, www.homolatte.com

**Hunters** The biggest Mardi Gras party in the burbs, beads, hot guys, drink specials, 9 p.m., no cover, 1932 E. Higgins Rd., Elk Grove Village, hunter-snighclubs.com

**POW-WOW** Five year anniversary celebration and first official fundraiser, featuring spoken word artist Staceyann Chin, The "Fierce One," Sharon Bridgforth and a Chicago Def Poetry Jam reunion. \$30 per person, \$50 per couple, The Polo Cafe, 3325 S. Morgan, powwowchicago@yahoo.com, www.myspace.com/powwowchicago

**Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders** Coffee and Conversation. 12-3 p.m., Center on Halsted (unless otherwise noted), 3656 N. Halsted, 773.472.6469, ext. 444

**Sidetrack** La Fete de Mardi Gras a la Sidetrack, no cover, 3349 N. Halsted St., www.sidetrackchicago.com

**Women and Children First** Still Point Theater Collective: Strong Women. 7:30 p.m., 5233 N. Clark St., 773-769-9299, www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

## Wednesday, Feb. 6

**Gay Liberation Network** Monthly meeting. New members welcome. 7-9 p.m., Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W. Granville Ave., www.gayliberation.net, 773-209-1187 or LGBTLiberation@aol.com

## Thursday, Feb. 7

**Lambda Legal** 7th Annual Freedom to Marry Reception. Music, cake cutting, bouquet toss and more. 6-9 p.m., free, The National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th St.

**Near North Health Service Corporation** Free HIV testing and education for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. 1276 N. Clybourn Ave.

## Sun., Feb. 3



### THE SCHORI THING

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church will be at the LGBT-inclusive St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, 1072 Ridge, Elk Grove.

## Tues., Feb. 5



### CHIN UP

Spoken-word artist **Staceyann Chin** will be among those appearing at POW-WOW's five-year anniversary event at The Polo Cafe, 3322 S. Morgan.

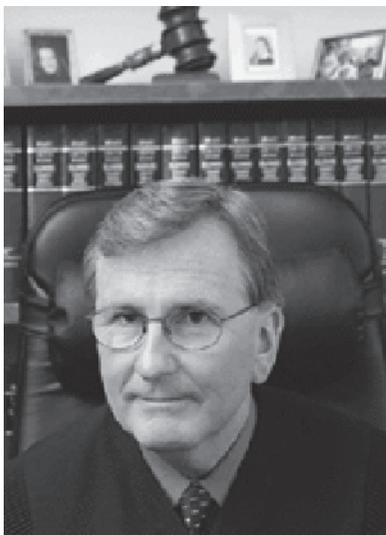
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C.C. Carter performs at a 2004 poetry slam. Photo by Tracy Baim

## POW-WOW: Expressing Themselves

BY MORGAN MCDEVITT

As the DJ lowered the volume, fading out a techno version of Dreamgirls' We Are a Family, Lucy, the MC, made her way to the elevated platform that served as a stage. A group of 20-25 predominantly Black lesbians found their seats and fell silent in anticipation. They knew it was time for "warm fuzzies."

"Right now I ask you to get up from your seats and hug the other women in this room. Give them some power!" said Lucy.

"Warm fuzzies" is a weekly ritual to remind these women that they are loved and welcome, and for some of them, it may be the only hug or kind word they hear all week. It is just one of the many ways POW-WOW (Performers or Writers for Women on Women's Issues) empowers the black lesbian community.

POW-WOW gathers every Tuesday night at Lee's Unleaded Blues, 7401 S. South Chicago to freely express themselves through poetry, song and dance. C.C. Carter, the group's founder and artistic director, had more than just poetry readings in mind when she created POW-WOW five years ago. It is rituals like "warm fuzzies" at the beginning of every Tuesday event, and a safe space like Lee's Unleaded Blues that brought Carter's vision of security and open expression to life.

Carter spent over 10 years in the competitive slam poetry scene and three years on tour for her book, *Body Language*. Throughout her travels, she experienced homophobia first-hand and witnessed lesbian writers who opted not to do their lesbian material for the sake of doing their work period.

"I was met with challenges from being a woman, being a woman color and being a lesbian woman of color," said Carter.

Even in an all-women setting, Carter was still met with homophobia and was shocked to re-

ceive even more discrimination from predominantly Black audiences.

"Homophobia in the African-American community is huge, which is why a lot of people don't come out," said Carter, who feels there are a lot of issues surrounding this, stemming back to the civil rights movement.

"During the civil rights movement you fought for civil rights, you didn't fight for lesbian of gay rights," said Carter. This idea of picking one's battles during that time has since segmented populations within populations, said Carter.

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse, which was located on Chicago's North Side, used to hold an open mic night once a month, and proved to be safe environment for lesbians but not specifically lesbians of color. After they folded, Carter received an offer from a club owner looking to do some "different kind of promoting", giving Carter free reign over the club's Wednesday nights. It was this offer that provided POW-WOW with their very own space. POW-WOW has since moved to Lee's Unleaded Blues on Tuesday nights. What started out as 12 women on that first open mic night has grown to up to 70-80 women and men each week.

Although the organization was founded with lesbians of color in mind, it is open to the public.

"Gay men come in there all the time. Men are more than welcome but they have to check their privilege at the door," said Carter.

Carter has also created a Men's Initiative, giving men the opportunity to take the mic once a month. One of POW-WOW's biggest concerns is not only providing freedom of expression to lesbians of color, but also advancing the cause for all LGBT concerns.

"Straight men eventually have to have some sort of relationship with a woman, whereas gay men never have to have a relationship with a woman aside from their mother or sister; we both need each other though," said Carter. "Lesbians have been there for gay men through HIV and AIDS and they need to be there for us for things like breast cancer and the LCCP (Lesbian Community Cancer Project)."

Carter has also created the POW-WOW Perfor-

mance Ensemble comprised of women of all ages and ethnicities who will take their performances and poetry to the streets. Tour dates have not yet been set, but plan to include college campuses and conferences across the nation.

Carter's future vision for POW-WOW transcends the stage by educating women artists and performers on how to make a living from their art.

"Any given Tuesday you can see women getting 'their hustle,' selling their CDs, paintings and T-shirts. It's like a vendor fair. For some of these women it's difficult, paralyzing, to work in a corporate work force because of things that have happened to them in that setting," said Carter.

The training program is called "Making Art Work" and will assist women from conception to implementation, allowing them to express themselves and be fiscally sound.

"Powwow" is a Native American term that means coming together and celebration of "like

people" to preserve certain elements in their heritage. This concept of gathering to support and create can be found any given Tuesday night. Some Native Americans used the dreamcatcher, POW-WOW's logo, to help block bad dreams and catch good ones. In POW-WOW's case, bad words and hurtful language are blocked, while good ones and positive language pass through to comfort and inspire.

POW-WOW will be celebrating its fifth anniversary Tues., Feb. 5, 6-9 p.m. at the POLO Café, 3322 S. Morgan. The evening will showcase Tony Award winner Staceyann Chin and two-time Lambda Literary Award winner Sharon Bridgforth, as well as six Chicago HBO def Poetry poets. Tickets are \$30 (or two for \$50); they can be purchased by e-mailing POWWOWChicago@yahoo.com or by visiting Women and Children's First, Center on Halsted or Lee's Unleaded Blues on Tuesday nights.



Sasha Cohen.

## SPORTS NEWS Stars on Ice Here Feb. 23

Now in its 22nd year, the Smucker's Stars on Ice tour will present "Live and In Color," the all-new production featuring Olympic silver medalist Sasha Cohen. The tour will stop at the Allstate Arena Sat., Feb. 23, for a 7:30 p.m. performance.

Cohen's will be joined by a cast of Olympic and world champions, including 1998 Olympic champion Ilia Kulik of Russia; world champion and six-time U.S. national champion Todd Eldredge; world champion and two-time Japanese national champion Yuka Sato; two-time world bronze medalist and three-time U.S. national champion Michael Weiss; world bronze medalists and three-time U.S. national pair champions Kyoko Ina and John Zimmerman; and six-time Canadian national champion Jennifer Robinson, among many others.

Tickets for the performance in Rosemont start at \$25 and may be purchased at the Allstate Arena box office or Ticketmaster ticket centers; by logging onto [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com); or by calling 312-559-1212. Group (15+) information is available by calling 847-891-8916.

## Kelly McGillis Championship in Key West

Nearly 30 teams of women and girls from across the United States, Canada, Finland, Sweden and Mexico will meet in Key West, Fla., for the 17th annual Kelly McGillis Classic International Women's & Girls' Flag Football Championship. The championship, named for and endorsed by the critically acclaimed actress and former Key West resident who starred in *Top Gun*, will take place Sun., Feb. 3, through Mon., Feb. 11.

New in 2008 is a competition for the association's U.S. National Team title. The winning U.S. team is to play the top international team in the World Challenge Game, also a new competition.

For more info about the event or the International Women's Flag Football Association, call 888-464-9332 (toll-free), e-mail [iwffa@iwffa.com](mailto:iwffa@iwffa.com) or visit [www.iwffa.com](http://www.iwffa.com).

For lodging information in Key West, contact the Key West Chamber of Commerce at 800-LAST-KEY (800-527-8539) or visit [www.fl-keys.com](http://www.fl-keys.com).

## London to Host Gay Soccer Tournery

The Leftfooters FC team will bring the International Gay & Lesbian Football (a.k.a. Soccer) Association (IGLFA) World Championship to London Aug. 24-30.

The early-registration fee (extended until Feb. 1) is 50 pounds (approximately \$100) plus IGLFA membership for players; 25 pounds (approximately \$50) for coaches; and free for referees.

See [www.londonwc2008.co.uk](http://www.londonwc2008.co.uk) to register. E-mail [brian@londonwc2008.co.uk](mailto:brian@londonwc2008.co.uk) for registration-related inquiries.

## Seattle to Host Softball World Series

Seattle, Wash., and the Emerald City Softball Association will host the 32nd Gay Softball World Series (GSWS), also known as Series 2008, Aug. 23-30, according to a press release from the the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA). This year's motto is "Northwest Quest." See [www.Series2008.org](http://www.Series2008.org).

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Hamburger Mary's	20	8	Gutter Fluffers	9	19	Wells Fargo ONYX 5	17	11
Cornelia's	18	10	Marty's	6	22	Wicked	17	11
Bowlers-A-GO-GO	16	12	North End	5	23	Juana Bees	16	12
Jury's	15	13				Lady & Her Tramps	15	13
FVB Interiors	14	14	Division B	W	L	Castaways	10	18
REMAX Edge	14	14	Bobby Love's	24	4	Great Scots	10	18
5 Pins 10 Balls	13	15	Halsted Bar & Grill	19	9	Extremely Striking	9	19
Funky Five	12	16	Windy City Sweets	19	9	Done More 5 Less	9	19
Bowlers	11	17	Salon Michael	18	10	Looney Tunes	7	21

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