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# Behind the wall: LGBT police



GOAL (Gay Officers Action League) takes part in the 2007 Chicago Gay Pride Parade. Photo by Tracy Baim

BY OWEN KEEHNEN

When officer Susan Sasso joined the Chicago Police Department (CPD) in 1990, the exam she was given to get her badge still posed questions about same-sex attraction on the psychology portion of the exam.

When Capt. Nancy Lipman, a 22-year veteran of the force, was a rookie she heard a lieutenant at roll call say we should go back to Germany and bring back the ovens to use on "faggots": "I wondered whether the officers sitting around me experienced even a fraction of the horror that statement evoked in me. Such a statement would never be tolerated today. Whatever their personal feelings, top administrators recognize the professional and political consequences of anti-gay discrimination."

A number of factors can be credited for the progress the CPD has made since then. Lipman said that "[t]he younger generation of officers come on the job with more open minds than those who joined years ago. Almost all have had contact with gay persons, be it family member, neighbor, fellow student or friend. They're able to put a face to the bigotry they might witness and find it harder to accept. We are no longer

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# 'Mayor of Broadway' dies

BY AMY WOOTEN

Ever since contracting polio when he was two years old, community activist and business owner Dewey Herrington learned how to be a fighter, and use his strength to inspire others.

Herrington, 62, known by many as the beloved "Mayor of Broadway," passed away Tuesday, Aug. 12, of complications from degenerative brain disease at Chicago Height's St. James Hospital. A successful businessman and well-known community activist, Herrington is most remembered as co-owner of the Broadway Street gift shop Pass the Salt and Pepper, and as a cheerful, proud Pride Parade monitor.

Herrington pushed for more unity in the LGBT community, and was especially proud of Chicago

gays and lesbians who reached out to people with AIDS in the '80s. "We need to stop the 'I'm this and I'm that,'" Herrington said in a 1987 interview with Outlines. "We're all human beings and we'll all make alike and we're all part of this world."

He was born in Kansas in 1946, the son of Beryl Dean and Helen Jane. Herrington moved to Chicago in 1972, where he met his loving life partner Walter Kogelis. Together, the couple, known as the "Dynamic Duo," owned and operated their gift shop at 3337 N. Broadway, which opened in 1979, for over 27 years.

Kogelis said that his partner of over 40 years was his source of strength. Herrington inspired

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Dewey Herrington. Photo courtesy of Gay Chicago Magazine

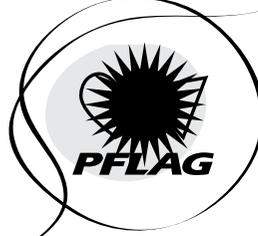
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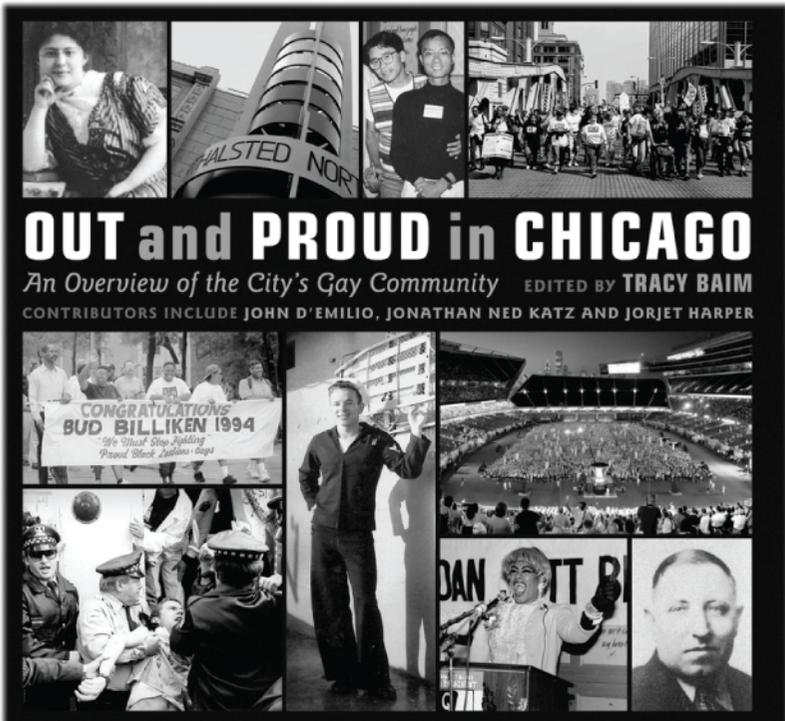
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## Out and Proud in Chicago Book Now Available

A new book edited by Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim is now available in stores.

**Out and Proud in Chicago: An Overview of the City's Gay Community** (Agate Surrey, 224 pages, hard cover, \$30) features dozens of writers, including Baim, Marie J. Kuda, Jorjet Harper, John D'Emilio, Jonathan Ned Katz, Chad Heap, John Poling, Ron Dorfman, Owen Keehnen, and more.

Lavishly illustrated with almost 400 historical color and black-and-white photographs, and drawing on the scholarly, historical, and journalistic contributions of a breadth of authorities on Chicago's LGBT culture and scene, this is a first-ever, one-of-a-kind overview of Chicago's LGBT community and its history.

Published as a companion to the WTTW public television documentary of the same name, and to the Web site [www.ChicagoGayHistory.org](http://www.ChicagoGayHistory.org), the book is organized into a few main chronological sections, from the 1800s through the 2000s.

*"A triumph! Out and Proud vividly brings to life the incredibly rich, exciting, moving, and ultimately inspiring story of Chicago's decades-long gay rights struggle. Best of all, we get to meet the remarkable and brave people who contributed in ways big and small to making their hometown, and the world, a better place for all of us."* — Eric Marcus, author of *Making Gay History* and *What If Someone I Know Is Gay?*

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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Patti LaBelle (above) is among the big names headed to the Chicago area. See the list of upcoming shows on page 16.

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Filmmaker Jorge Ameer talks about a few of his movies, including the provocative *Straight Men and the Men Who Love Them 2*. See page 11.

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This week's online-only features include:

- World roundup
- Jim Edminster's columns: Media Watch and
- Interviews with hip-hop artist Lupe Fiasco (right) and actor Steve Coogan



Photo by Jerry Nunn

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Photos by grayson



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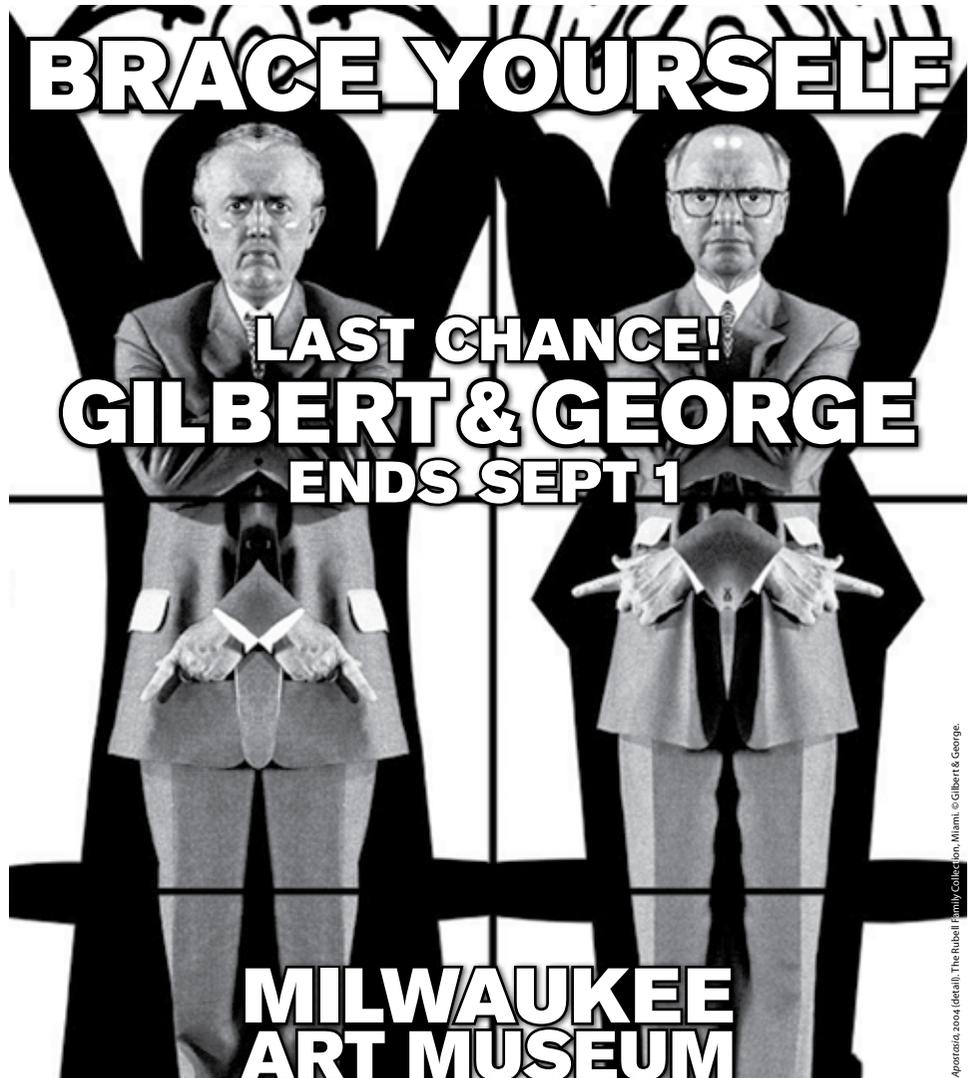
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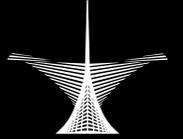
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Posterist, 2004 (detail). The Rubell Family Collection, Miami. © Gilbert & George.

# McCain, Obama and the evangelicals

BY LISA KEEN, KEEN NEWS SERVICE

No one can accuse either of the major party presidential candidates of pandering to gays—certainly not anyone watching them being interviewed Aug. 16 in a public and nationally televised forum with evangelical pastor Rick Warren (author of *The Purpose-Driven Life*). But there may be some parsing in order.

One of the first names out of the mouth of Democrat Barack Obama, when asked to identify the “three wisest people in your life,” was former Senator Sam Nunn, D-Ga., a politician reviled by the LGBT community for leading the charge against gays in the military. Republican John McCain included pro-gay civil rights leader John Lewis. When asked to “define marriage,” Obama parroted a favorite verse of the anti-gay set: “I believe marriage is the union between a man and a woman.” McCain used essentially the same words to describe his opposition to same-sex marriage, even after identifying his first marriage—which ended in divorce—as his greatest moral failure.

To parse, one must look more closely and keep in mind that the “studio” audience providing applause or silence was a 22,000-member Christian evangelical church of conservative Orange County, Calif.—Warren’s Saddleback Church.

## Key advisers

Obama’s answers were like a rollercoaster for LGBT listeners, especially since the studio audience made clear its approval of his stance against gay marriage and tolerance for hospital visitation.

When Warren beckoned him to name the “three wisest people in your life” and who he would rely on heavily as president, Obama first

named his wife Michelle, who has made clear that she is a strong supporter of gay civil rights. But soon thereafter he proffered Nunn as one of the people he’d want at his “table” of advisers. Although Nunn recently said he believes Congress should revisit the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy that he helped codify in 1993, many commentators have suggested the remark was probably just an effort to improve his chances as a vice presidential running mate. Nunn, said Obama, would be a foreign policy adviser. But then, Obama put at that same “table” Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., a staunch supporter of equal rights for gays, saying he would be key in considering domestic policies.

McCain named Gen. David Petraeus, civil-rights leader John Lewis and former eBay President Meg Whitman. While McCain cited Lewis for his courage and commitment in the Black civil-rights movement by leading the march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965, Lewis has, in recent years, shown considerable courage and commitment to equal rights for gays. He wrote a powerful editorial in support of gay marriage a month before the Massachusetts supreme court issued its landmark decision saying the state constitution required equal marriage rights. Whitman’s eBay includes sexual orientation in its corporate non-discrimination policy and offers health benefits to the domestic partners of employees.

## Same-sex marriage

When Warren asked McCain to “define marriage,” McCain seemed eager to parrot and go:

“Union—a union between man and woman—between one man and one woman. That’s my definition of marriage,” said McCain. “Are we going to get back to the importance of Supreme Court justices?”

Obama’s answer was much the same, only he did take time to explain his view as his personal religious belief and to encourage some understanding of why gay couples need some kind of legal protection for their relationships.

“I believe marriage is the union between a



Sen. Barack Obama.

man and a woman,” said Obama, eliciting prolonged applause from the audience. “For me, as a Christian, it’s also a sacred union—God’s in the mix. But, uh...”

Interestingly, though Warren had promised each candidate would be asked the same identical questions, they weren’t. In follow-up, he asked McCain whether the California Supreme Court was wrong for having “overturned this definition of marriage” and he asked Obama whether he’d support a federal constitutional amendment.

McCain said he believed the California court was wrong, but never explained why.

“I strongly support preserving the unique status of marriage between man and woman,” said McCain. “I’m a federalist. I believe that the state should make those decisions.”

“In my state,” he said, referring to Arizona, which has rejected one constitutional amendment and is considering another this November, “I hope we will make that decision.”

“That doesn’t mean people can’t enter into legal arrangements,” said McCain. “That doesn’t mean that they don’t have the rights of all citizens. I’m not saying that. I am saying that we should preserve the unique status of marriage between one man and one woman. And if a federal court decided that my state of Arizona had to observe what the state of Massachusetts decided, then I would favor a constitutional amendment. Until then, I believe the state should make the decisions within their own states.”

What Warren failed to ascertain was whether McCain would favor a federal constitutional amendment. He asked Obama about “a constitutional amendment” but didn’t specify federal or state. Obama clearly responded as if he was asked whether he would support a federal constitutional amendment.

“No, I would not,” said Obama, to a noticeably smaller, briefer round of applause, “because historically, we have not defined marriage in our constitution. It’s been a matter of state law—that has been our tradition.”

“Let’s break it down,” said Obama, elaborating. “The reason people think there needs to be a constitutional amendment is—some people believe—is because of the concern about same-sex marriage. I am not somebody who promotes same-sex marriage but I do believe in civil unions. I do believe ... that for gay partners to want to visit each other in the hospital, for state to say, ‘You know what, that’s alright,’ I don’t think in any way inhibits my core beliefs about what marriage [is]. I think my faith is strong enough and my marriage is strong enough that I can afford those civil rights to others even if I have a different perspective or different view.”

## Supreme Court justices

Asked which Supreme Court justice he would not have nominated, Obama chose Clarence Thomas, saying Thomas was not a “strong enough jurist or legal thinker at the time for that elevation, setting aside the fact that I profoundly disagree with his interpretations of the constitution.”

He continued, saying that while Justice Antonin Scalia has “intellectual brilliance” to serve on the Supreme Court, he wouldn’t have appointed him, either. Scalia has been the high court’s most strenuous opponent of equal rights for gays.

McCain rattled off the names of the court’s most gay-supportive justices: Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, David Souter and John Paul Stevens. When asked to explain why he chose those four, McCain cited not one reason, specifically. Instead, he talked about the importance of choosing the next nominees and his belief that they should have a “proven record of strictly adhering to the constitution of the United States of America and not legislating from the bench.”

Although he did not elaborate, the “legislating from the bench” critique has become a code term for decisions that have ruled that a constitution’s guarantee of equal protection for all citizens covers marriage licensing for gay couples.

McCain did not mention Anthony Kennedy, author of the two most important decisions to gay civil rights: *Romer v. Evans* and *Lawrence v. Texas*.

## Faith-based groups

One question tackled the issue of whether faith-based organizations should be denied federal grants if they don’t adhere to laws prohibiting discrimination, such as bias based on sexual orientation. Warren did not ask the question that way. He noted that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 allows religious institutions to consider beliefs in hiring preferences. And he asked whether faith-based organizations should have to give up that right in order to receive federal grants.

McCain said “absolutely not;” Obama suggested they would.

The Civil Rights Act prohibits any organization receiving federal funding from discriminating on the basis of race, color or national origin. Although sexual orientation is not included in these protections, discrimination against LGBT people has been a blemish on President Bush’s so-called “faith-based initiative.”

Obama said in July that he supports the use of faith-based organizations to tackle some of the nation’s social service needs. Obama told Warren that such organizations are free to hire whoever they want when it comes to their own religious mission and personnel.

“But ... when it comes to the programs that are federally funded,” said Obama, “we do have to be careful to make sure we are not creating a situation where people are being discriminated against using federal money.”

Just last month, some gay commentators raised concerns about a plan Obama unveiled his plan to establish a “Council for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships” to help religious organizations obtain grants. The Chicago Tribune reported that, when asked about such organizations discriminating based on sexual orientation, “Obama said he believes local laws in some states prohibiting discrimination against gays would apply to faith-based social programs funded with federal money in those states.”

Many political commentators opined the next day that McCain benefited more from the forum. Many reports also suggested that McCain probably benefited from Obama going first. Warren suggested McCain was sequestered somewhere where he could not hear the questions being posed to Obama first, yet McCain’s campaign could not seem to identify where that place was that was so shut off from all humanity.

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## Nat'l LGBT youth group comments on new HIV numbers

BY AMY WOOTEN

A national LGBT youth advocacy organization says that the Center for Disease Control's (CDC's) latest report on HIV infection rates, while cause for concern, highlights the need for updated social marketing methods in order to grab the attention of today's tech- and marketing-savvy youth.

Greg Varnum, the 25-year-old acting executive director of the National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC), said that he wasn't at all surprised to hear the latest CDC report, which indicates that there are 40 percent more people living with HIV in the U.S. than previously thought. The report also shows that new HIV infections are highest among those aged 29 and under, and although African Americans represent 13 percent of the population, they account for 45 percent of new HIV infections.

"I think a lot of folks have been saying it for some time," Varnum said. "We were all expecting it to happen. I think the numbers just confirmed what a lot of people thought."

He said the numbers regarding youth remained consistent from previous reports. Youth are one of the most at-risk populations.

"That's something I would have been perfectly happy to have been wrong about, but unfortunately it doesn't happen that way," he added.

Although the CDC report was a disappointment, Varnum hopes that organizations across the U.S. start working together as a result in order to find more effective ways of reaching out to youth. The report, he said, highlights how crucial it is to continue to talk about HIV/AIDS.

"This epidemic is not over," Varnum stressed. "One of the things we seem to be doing wrong is not really accepting that we are still dealing with an epidemic," Varnum said.

What the numbers imply is complex, Varnum said. While many working on the issue remember attending funerals of dozens of friends during the '80s and early '90s, the face of HIV/AIDS has changed drastically. Young folks simply don't recall what it was like, and have a very different outlook on the disease.

Another issue is that many of those trying to reach out to youth, whether that be about HIV/AIDS or another issue, have yet to modernize their approach.

"You really have to think outside the box," Varnum said.

Some of the reasons this isn't occurring across the board is a lack of young folks working in public health and other areas, a lack of resources and other factors.

NYAC has chosen to take their organization one step further by actually working with youth to help get the word out about HIV testing and more. They feel that the latest CDC report highlight that current messages just aren't cutting it and getting through to today's young people. NYAC hopes to take a lead role using today's technology to reach Generation Y.

"We've decided to work with them instead of working for them," Varnum said. "We've seen time and time again that if we take any method, regardless of what it is, and put it in front of a target audience group and allow them to create that message, we're going to have a much more positive response than if we just try to presume what's going to work for them and make it on their behalf. It never works."

Instead, the organization went to the youth, asking them what messages they want to hear and how they want to hear them. For example, with funding from the Centers for Disease Control, NYAC created a social marketing campaign called "You Know Different," which specifically targets young gay men of color and other youth of color populations. All the slogans, posters—everything—came straight from the youth themselves.

"I know it would have looked very, very different if we hadn't involved them," Varnum said.

Youth don't want outdated graphics and brochures that look like the pictures were taken circa 1995, and by getting them involved in the process, social marketing campaigns speak to today's youth in their language.

The organization has also utilized technology that youth use in their everyday lives, such as Myspace, Facebook, YouTube and text messaging, and integrated this into their social marketing efforts. Because today's teens are constantly bombarded by marketing efforts, Varnum said, they have become quite savvy consumers. It takes a lot more to catch their eye.

NYAC truly believes in reaching youth where they are, especially social networking Web sites. By getting youth empowered and involved, often times they will take messages to these sites on their own.

"It's funny, because a lot of these youth end up doing the work for us by telling their friends on these sites about the campaign, how to get tested," Varnum said.

That way, instead of just hearing HIV testing messages from parents and professionals who work with youth, these kids are also hearing

messages from their peers. "All of these factors combined are starting to produce some success," Varnum said. "But we really need a lot more."

NYAC is currently in Chicago training organizations who work with at-risk youth on social marketing strategies in order to increase messages to youth of color in Chicago. They are also trying to reach out to other types of organizations trying to reach out to youth and letting them know that such social marketing strategies are really universal.

To learn more, see NYACyouth.org.

## Local news

### Police: No leads in former Chicagoan's murder

Denver police say that so far, they don't have any leads into the shooting death of a former Chicago gay man.

Carl Frazier, Jr., 41, was found shot to death last month in Denver, where he moved less than a year ago from Chicago. Details point to a robbery and murder.

Frazier's body was found on July 12. There are no suspects.

He moved out of state in June of this year when he accepted a full-time position at Catholic Health Initiatives in Englewood, Colo. In May, he had received his second graduate degree from the University of Phoenix. He was planning to go for a third graduate degree.

While living in Chicago, Frazier helped co-found an HIV/AIDS support group, PozForceChicago.

A memorial was held in his hometown of Peoria, Ill., last month.

### Former Chicago artist hurt in N.Y. accident

An accomplished feminist video and performance artist, choreographer and dancer who recently moved from Chicago has been seriously injured in an automobile accident in Brooklyn.

Jillian Peña, 28, was hit by a car driven by a 54-year-old man without a license and 11 previous suspensions while crossing the street on foot the morning of Aug. 11. She is in critical condition at New York's Bellevue Hospital. According to blog

updates from her family and friends, she was still unconscious as of Friday, Aug. 15, but no longer sedated. She has had surgery to remove two hematomas—one on her brain and one near her left eye.

Peña recently moved to London with her partner, former Chicago drag king Christa Holka, to pursue a doctorate in performance studies. She is a National Merit Scholar who received her Master's from the Art Institute of Chicago. She is from New Mexico.

Friends of Peña created a blog in order to provide updates on her condition and recover. See [www.friendsofjillian.blogspot.com](http://www.friendsofjillian.blogspot.com).



Jillian Peña.





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**Wedded bliss**

Jay Juarez (left) of the custom framing ship iloilo, 1478 W. Berwyn, and Andy Burrows celebrated their 25th anniversary by going to San Francisco and getting married Aug. 2.



**In fashion**

Out Magazine hosted its OutLounge event (featuring Tommy Bahama cocktails) Aug. 13 at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted, to celebrate its annual fall fashion issue. Donations from the event benefitted HIV/AIDS agency Chicago House. Photos by Andrew Davis

**Gay man named Obama's Illinois communications director**

Presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama recently announced that openly gay Justin DeJong has been named his new director of communications for Illinois.

DeJong is a former Windy City Media Group 30 Under 30 honoree for his contributions to the local LGBT community.

He will take a leave of absence from his current position as the director of communications for the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce. Prior to that position, DeJong worked as a spokesperson for Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

**Send news of weddings, promotions and other achievements to Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com.**

**HBO Def poet holding travel fundraiser**

Nikki Patin—who, among other things, has been a HBO Def Jam poet, a Gay Games gold medalist and a Windy City Times 30 Under 30 honoree—will hold her “Leaving on a Jet Plane: Rock, Roast, Burlesque” fundraiser Thursday, Aug. 21, at Trace, 3714 N. Clark, at 9 p.m. to help finance her “Phat Grrrl Revolution Tour” stop in London, England, on Tuesday, Oct. 21.

The event will feature performances as well as silent-auction and sale items.

Patin is touring to support of the first volume

of The Phat Grrrl Diaries, a graphic poetic novel slated to be released in October. For more, see [www.nikpatin.com](http://www.nikpatin.com).

**Transitions closes**

Transitions Bookplace—the space at 1000 W. North that specialized in items connected with spirituality—closed Aug. 15 after being in business 19 years, according to The Chicago Tribune.

Recently, the bookstore and cafe hosted appearances by feminist icon Helen Reddy and spiritual medium James Van Praagh.

The store has also stopped all Web sales.

**DEWEY from cover**

Kogelis to put his talents to use and open up the shop.

“He really, truly brought out the best in people,” Kogelis said.

Herrington worked at Playboy Magazine in the early '70s. He was a top sales account executive with the Chicago Tribune until 1979. In addition, he worked for the City of Chicago, assisting the director of the Department of Revenue.

The growth of the 44th Ward commercial district is in large part because of hard work done by Herrington, working with local merchants and building a strong report with elected officials. He founded the North Broadway Merchants Association and merged with the Broadway Development Corporation (now the Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce). He also served as a Special Service Area Commissioner for Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce.

Maureen Martino, executive director of the Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce, called Herrington a “pioneer,” and a “strong voice in the gay community.” Martino said that Herrington was known for knowing everything that was going on in the neighborhood, as well.

“He was a stand up man with a good soul that always cared about the homeless, less fortunate and the elderly,” Martino said. “There was no more he could love than his lifetime partner Walt and his two cats, Lucy and Ricky.”

Herrington's contributions to the local LGBT community were also immense. For 25 years,

he proudly served as a Pride Parade monitor.

“That was the best day of his life every year,” Kogelis said.

Herrington was also involved in the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus; worked with the 23rd Police District Steering Committee to help keep the LGBT community's streets safer; and collaborated with HIV/AIDS agencies.

Herrington became more involved in HIV/AIDS activism after losing his twin brother, Melvin, to the disease. He ended up recruiting a lot of now prominent members of the community to work with social service agencies. He went from merchant to merchant to collect money to help those in need who were suffering from the disease.

Kogelis said that Herrington viewed the local LGBT community as his team, and worked seven days a week, attending countless community meetings and making countless local connections, in order to help make the community a better place.

“He was just tireless,” Kogelis said.

Despite the number of critical contributions Herrington made to the community, Kogelis said he remained quite modest.

“He was always in the background,” Kogelis said. “He didn't really want the credit or the glory. He did everything for the right reasons.”

Services were held on Aug. 16. Herrington was laid to rest next to his twin brother at Graceland Cemetery.

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Keith Milless.

## Market Days visitor missing

According to Chicagoan Ken Bellinder, Keith Milless from Columbus, Ohio, separated from friends at Northalsted Market Days around 3 p.m. on Aug. 10, and then failed to meet them at a booth near Halsted and Belmont. Bellinder says that Milless has not been seen since.

Bellinder describes Milless as approximately 5' 9", white and about 150-155 lbs., with brown medium-length hair and sunglasses. He was wearing flip-flops, brown cargo shorts and a maroon T-shirt with a design on the back and neck of the shirt.

Contact Bellinder at 224-321-3367 or kenbellinder@aol.com.

## Suicide prevention webinar planned for LGBTQ youth

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Greater Chicago/Illinois Chapter will present an interactive, live, Web-based seminar about suicide risk and prevention among LGBTQ youth.

The presentation by University of Illinois assistant professor Brian Mustanski will take place Thurs., Sept. 4, 7:30-8:45 p.m. The webinar will include research on suicide risk among LGBTQ youth, new findings and advice.

Participation is free, but there are a limited number of connection lines. Register by e-mailing [Illinois@afsp.org](mailto:Illinois@afsp.org).

## AFC receives \$1.4M housing grant

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced Aug. 13 at Interfaith House, 3456 W. Franklin, that the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) would receive a grant of almost \$1.4 million to provide permanent housing for low-income people with HIV/AIDS, Crain's Chicago Business reported.

AFC expects to help over 30 households each year. The grant is part of \$19 million HUD is awarding to 18 programs across the nation.

## International group to honor Illinois native

Illinois native Molly Melching, founder and executive director of Tostan (meaning "break-through" in Wolof, a Senegalese language) will be honored by International Women Associates Wed., Oct. 1, at the JP Morgan Chase auditorium, 10 S. Dearborn.

Tostan's mission is to empower African communities to bring about sustainable development and positive social transformation based on respect for human rights.

The welcome reception and registration are open to the public and will start at 5:30 p.m. The keynote speech and the award ceremony will follow. Admission is \$35; e-mail [iwa@iwachicago.org](mailto:iwa@iwachicago.org) or call 312-263-1421.

## Amigas Latinas' 13th anniversary dance Aug. 30

Amigas Latinas—a support, education and advocacy group for Latina LBTTQ women—will mark its 13th anniversary Saturday, Aug. 30, with a dance at La Cocina de Frida, 5403 N. Clark, 8 p.m.-12 a.m.

Admission is \$13 for members and \$15 for non-members. Call 773-661-0940 or e-mail [info@amigaslatinas.org](mailto:info@amigaslatinas.org).

## AIDS Run & Walk performers announced

Those who will welcome the participants to the upcoming 2008 AIDS Run & Walk Chicago have been announced.

Among those appearing are U.S. Rep. Danny Davis, cast members from "Wicked" and "Jersey Boys" and others, including performances by FootworKING, Chicago Dance Crash, DanceWorks Chicago, drag star Sherry Vine and more.

The AIDS Run & Walk will take place Sat., Sept. 20, in Grant Park. The run starts at 9:55 a.m.

For more information, see [www.aidsrunwalk.org](http://www.aidsrunwalk.org) or call 312-334-0946.

### PASSAGES

## Robert P. Garrett

Robert P. Garrett of Jefferson Park, a retired advertising manager at World Book Encyclopedia, passed away Aug. 11. He was 85.

Garrett was the beloved life partner of 40 years to Robert R. Redman.

A celebration of Garrett's life is being planned. In lieu of flowers, please plant a tree in his memory through the Arbor Day Foundation; call 888-448-7337 or visit [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).

## God is Gay

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## NATIONAL ROUNDUP

BY AMY WOOTEN

The bitter divorce battle between former New Jersey governor James McGreevey and his ex-wife, Dina Matos, has finally come to an end. The court decided that Matos would get one lump-sum payment of just over \$100,000. About four years ago, McGreevey came out of the closet and revealed he had an affair with a male staffer. Shortly afterwards, he resigned. Now that the divorce case is over, Matos will focus on her fraud claim against McGreevey. She claims that the ex-governor knew he was gay, and married her to advance his political career.

A measure that seeks to repeal a county ordinance that protects transgender people will head to Maryland's high court. On Sept. 8, the Maryland Court of Appeals will hear arguments in regards to an effort to repeal an ordinance banning transgender discrimination passed by the Montgomery County Council last year. An anti-LGBT group, Citizens for Responsible Government, collected signatures in hopes of placing the issue on the November ballot for voters to decide. A lower court recently ruled that the issue should appear on the ballot. Gay rights groups such as Lambda Legal and Equality Illinois are battling these efforts.

Openly gay millionaire Jared Polis is one step closer to becoming the third openly gay member of Congress. Polis, who is running for Colorado's 2nd Congressional District, recently defeated Joan Fitz-Gerald in the Colorado Democratic Primary. He will face a Republican challenger, Scott Starin, in November. So far, Polis' sexuality has created very little controversy.

Two University of Nebraska wrestlers were dropped from their team after it was discovered that nude pictures of them appeared on a gay porn Web site. The athletes were let go only three days after a blog featuring nude pictures of them was posted on Fratmentv.com. The team's coach, Mark Manning, said that the college athletes caused the school's athletic

department "embarrassment," and their behavior didn't reflect the school's standard of excellence.

A Wisconsin organization, Cream City Foundation, is plastering photographs of real Wisconsin gay families on billboards and bus shelters all over the Southeastern part of the state to help raise understanding and awareness. Cream City Foundation's "Gay Neighbor" billboard media campaign aims to drive people to the Web site [Gayneighbor.org](http://Gayneighbor.org) to answer questions about lesbian and gay families and challenge stereotypes. These photographs of local LGBT people appear on 30 billboards and bus shelters.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force announced supports current efforts to honor two civil rights heroes by creating federal and state holidays for Cesar Chavez and Harvey Milk. Chavez was a Mexican-American labor leader who supported LGBT issues. There is an effort to honor Chavez with a federal holiday. Milk became the first openly gay elected official of a large city. He was assassinated in 1978, along with then San Francisco Mayor George Moscone. A California legislator introduced a measure to create a state holiday in order to honor Milk.

Read the world roundup at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

## Ellen and Portia get married

Reports state that Ellen DeGeneres and longtime girlfriend Portia de Rossi married Aug. 16 in a ceremony in their home in Beverly Hills, Calif. according to the Associated Press.

Earlier this year, the California Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples could wed. Shortly after the ruling, DeGeneres said on her talk show that she and de Rossi would get married.

People magazine reported that the wedding was intimate, with 19 guests arriving at the couple's \$29 million home during the evening.

Singer/songwriter Joshua Radin—picked by DeGeneres as a surprise for her bride—said to People that he "can't imagine topping that experience."

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## DEM. NAT'L CONVENTION

# No more words: 'Gays' and 'lesbians' not on platform

BY LISA KEEN, KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Heading into the Democratic National Convention next week (Aug. 25-28), the LGBT is confronted with two stark ironies:

One: Under the presidential nominee who has uttered the words "gays and lesbians" in a supportive way more than any other candidate on the campaign trail, the Democratic Party has completely eliminated those words from its platform.

Two: A long line of LGBT leaders has only praise for the platform that dares not speak their name.

That's right. The 54-page Democratic platform for 2008 does not mention the words "gay," "lesbian," "bisexual" or "transgender" even once.

And yet, U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., a lesbian and a champion of inclusion, calls it "by far the most pro-equality platform in Democratic history" and one that "makes very clear our party rejects discrimination ... including, very explicitly, discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity."

True, the text three times mentions "sexual orientation"—twice regarding the military and once denouncing all forms of discrimination. It mentions "gender identity" once, in this latter context.

But the 2008 platform is the first time since 1992, when the party first included the word "gay," that it has omitted explicit mention of the words or any identifiable acronym for the LGBT community.

But Baldwin was not alone in her assessment. Her sentiments were echoed by Rea Carey, head of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; Aubrey Sarvis, head of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network; Mara Keisling, head of the National Center for Transgender Equality; Alabama lesbian State Rep. Patricia Todd; and Jon Hoadley, head of the National Stonewall Democrats, among others.

Baldwin, who was one of only 15 members of the final platform drafting committee, said that the document is "shoulders above where we were four years ago."

The key, she explained, was that while the 2004 platform mentioned gays explicitly, the 2008 platform does more.

The 2000 and 2004 platforms promised the party's support for full inclusion of "gay and lesbian families in the life of our nation," com-

pared to the 2008 platform, which supports "all families."

The 2004 platform repudiated President Bush's "divisive effort to politicize the Constitution by pursuing a 'Federal Marriage Amendment'" but did not repudiate that amendment itself. And the 2004 platform said nothing about the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), and said only that marriage should be "defined at the state level." The 2008 platform says nothing about the Federal Marriage Amendment but says Democrats "oppose the Defense of Marriage Act and all attempts to use this issue to divide us."

The 2004 platform said the party was "committed to equal treatment of all service members." The 2008 platform, in discussing the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, says, "it is wrong to deny our country the service of brave, qualified" service members and says Democrats "support the repeal" of that policy "and the implementation of policies to allow qualified men and women to serve openly regardless of sexual orientation."

The 2000 and 2004 platforms promised to enact legislation to bar "workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation." The 2008 platform promises to enact a "comprehensive bipartisan employment non-discrimination act."

And unlike the 2004 platform, the 2008 platform promises Democrats "will fight to end discrimination based on race ... sexual orientation, gender identity ... in every corner of our country, because that's the America we believe in."

But the 2008 platform also includes a new section, "Fatherhood," that is reads more like a platform statement from the Republican Party. The section claims that "Children who grow up without a father are five times more likely to live in poverty and are more likely to commit crime, drop out of school, abuse drugs and end up in prison." The sweeping nature of the statement, while perhaps true of families headed by heterosexual couples, is not supported by research that has examined the well-being of children in families headed by lesbian couples.

Openly gay Alabama State Rep. Patricia Todd, who serves on the 186-member platform committee, acknowledged that the "whole section on fathers bothered me."

"I'm uncomfortable with this being in the platform," she said during a telephone conference call with gay media reporters and gay leaders Aug. 11. But she said there was never any discussion about keeping that out of there.

As for the complete absence of the terms identifying the gay community explicitly, Baldwin said "there was no discussion about keeping any words out."

Said Diego Sanchez, a transgender activist from Boston serving as the first transgender per-

son on the platform committee: "Whatever the word is ... it's fully inclusive and delivers on that promise."

The Human Rights Campaign issued a statement saying: "The platform addresses many of our community's critical issues, however it does not explicitly use the words gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender. While this has prompted much discussion, it is our responsibility as a community in this election year to compare this document with the soon-to-be-adopted Republican platform and to judge which party would best advocate for us. Additionally, we challenge the Republican Party to, for the first time, adopt equally supportive language."

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## McCain donations launch Manhunt founder's ouster

Manhunt's chairman and co-founder Jonathan Crutchley stepped down from his position following uproar over his support for Republican presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain.

Earlier last week, news broke that Crutchley, one of the founders of the nation's largest gay sex site, contributed \$2,300 to McCain, the highest amount an individual can contribute. Several users of the gay hookup site cancelled their subscriptions out of anger, causing the company to take action.

News of Crutchley's political donations was first reported by Huffington Post a while back, but his political affiliation was recently pointed out in an OUT magazine article about Manhunt, which sparked further discussion on the topic. On Aug. 10, Crutchley defended his support of McCain in the comments section of an older online post about his donations, which appeared on the Huffington Post.

"I believe McCain will be a better commander-in-chief than Obama, who also opposes gay marriage," Crutchley wrote. "If we have an experienced, season person defending the country in this dangerous age, we will be able to argue about the gay agenda later."

Towleroad reported that soon after the news broke, Crutchley was pressured by Manhunt's board to step down from his post. Some Manhunt customers threatened to boycott the Web site or closed their accounts.

According to a statement sent to blogger Andy Towle (Towleroad.com) by co-founder Larry Basile, Crutchley's donation to McCain "left the entire board in disbelief." Basile said that he was saddened that Manhunt lost some customers, but understood why they left. Basile and the board were upset that Manhunt was being

depicted as Republican because of Crutchley's donation.

Basile later told the Boston Herald that Crutchley's donation was politically "off-base," and that he was "embarrassed" when he found out.

"Earlier today, at the request of the Board, Jonathan has stepped down as Chairman," Basile wrote in a statement to Towle.

According to the Boston Herald, Crutchley's donation raised some Republican eyebrows, as well, and supposedly his donation to McCain will be returned. Basile told the publication that Crutchley told the board he will now commit himself to the Obama campaign.

—Amy Wooten

## Calif. court rules for lesbians in medical case

BY LISA KEEN, KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The Supreme Court of California ruled unanimously Aug. 18 that a medical practice cannot use the religious beliefs of its doctors to deny certain medical services to a lesbian.

Guadalupe Benitez, with the help of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, filed the lawsuit in August 2001 against the North Coast Women's Care Medical Group after two doctors in the practice refused to provide insemination service to her because she is a lesbian.

"We're relieved and delighted," said Lambda Legal attorney Jenny Pizer. "It's a very important decision. I think it will mean better quality health care for lots of people—not just gay people. There are lots of discrimination against people based on religious beliefs and anyone could be vulnerable to being turned away."

The case has generated significant media attention because of the conflict it poses between religious liberty and LGBT equality. Pizer said she has heard the defendant may file an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court but she thinks it seems "extremely unlikely" the high court would grant review.

According to Pizer, Benitez lives with her registered domestic partner Joanne Clark in San Diego County. After failing to receive service at North Coast, which would have been covered by their health plan, they went to another doctor and paid out-of-pocket for the service. They have a son, 6, and twin daughters, 3.

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Read the entire article at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

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7:30 p.m.  
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Southern Women at the  
Seven Sister Colleges: Feminist  
Values and Social Activism,  
1975-1915

**Friday, August 29**  
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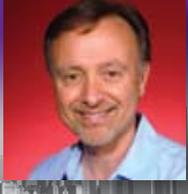
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## CHICAGO GAY HISTORY

BY JOHN D'EMILIO



### Bayard Rustin in Chicago

So what is "gay history" anyway? Or LGBT history? Or queer history?

Usually, the way it's written, it's about people in groups: how they live, how they're oppressed, how they've resisted. We have histories of lesbian bar life; of queer resorts like Fire Island; of the homophile movement; of transgender identity; of the persecutions during the McCarthy era. In other words, historians tend to write about topics that scream "queer" at us in bright flashing neon.

But what about all the folks who didn't lead queer-centered lives? I don't mean people in the closet. I mean those whose lives didn't revolve around their being gay or lesbian. Or those who crossed from one gender to another, but then just went about the business of living.

I wrote a biography of one such person. His name is Bayard Rustin. Rustin is one of those very-important-but-hardly-known individuals who don't get much space in history books. His biggest claim to fame is that he organized the massive 1963 March on Washington where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered the memorable "I Have a Dream" speech.

But Rustin did so much more. In the 1940s, before the civil rights movement captured front-page headlines, he was introducing Gandhi's philosophy of militant non-violence to the black freedom struggle. He rode buses, sat in at restaurants, and generally put himself in places where black men were not supposed to be. When the Reverend King was a young unknown minister leading a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, Rustin tutored King in nonviolence. Long before the world's nuclear powers banned atmospheric testing of atomic weapons (in the 1950s, the U.S. government was exploding bombs in Nevada!), Rustin led protests on three continents. He inspired many young men and women to take the plunge into a life of social justice activism.

Without question, Rustin was a gay man. He went cruising. He had sex with guys. He had boyfriends and long-term relationships. But Rustin didn't live in a gay world. He spent his time primarily among activists in the peace and racial justice and labor movements. In these environments, Rustin did not go around announcing his sexual identity in conversations.

Between the 1940s and 1960s, Rustin came to Chicago many times – for conferences, lectures, or meetings. Sometimes a quick trip might turn into something more. In 1942, he was here to confer with other pacifists who were developing Gandhian strategies to challenge segregation. Staying in Hyde Park, Rustin went to a local barber shop for a haircut but was denied service. He conducted a spontaneous sit-in that turned into a larger protest until, finally, the barber acceded and cut Rustin's hair.

In the summer of 1951, Rustin was in Chicago for several weeks. Harvey Clark, a World War II veteran and CTA bus driver, had rented an apartment in Cicero. The Clarks were the first black family in Cicero. Local whites were not pleased. The day the Clarks moved in, a crowd gathered and began smashing windows. The Clarks stayed away the next day, but that evening the crowd swelled to several thousand. White rioters shattered more windows in the building; tore doors off their hinges; heaved furniture through windows and set it afire; and ripped out the building's plumbing. By the next day, the rioters numbered 10,000, and the governor had to call in the National Guard.

The American Friends Service Committee brought Rustin to Chicago to help with the situation. For several weeks he attended community meetings on the South Side of Chicago to plan a response. He worked with parish priests to educate their white parishioners about racial injustice. He organized youth groups to channel their energy toward constructive responses. He met with newspaper editors in Chicago and the suburbs.

I imagine Rustin in these settings and I wonder: did the folks who worked with him realize that this impressive fighter for justice, whom they admired so much, was a gay man?

Rustin wasn't one to come out, at least not in the way gay men or lesbians do today. But Rustin was visible in the sense that he didn't pretend to be straight. He didn't make up an imaginary heterosexual life for himself. If he was going out with someone, he brought the guy with him to parties and public events. People wouldn't say anything, but they noticed.

Rustin was visible in yet another way. He didn't behave or look like a regular guy, black or white. His style of speech was clipped and cultured, in a way that sounded haughty and refined; his way of dressing was perhaps a little too careful and stylish; his mannerisms bordered sometimes on the precious and the fey. All these marked him as different. Again, no one in his political circles was likely to say anything, but it registered. As Rustin moved among activists and community leaders in Chicago, did they think to themselves "he's queer, isn't he?" What kind of impression did Rustin leave behind?

Less than 18 months later, Rustin's sexuality became news in Chicago. In January 1953, Rustin and two other men were arrested at night in a parked car on a deserted street in downtown Pasadena. Rustin served sixty days in jail on charges of lewd vagrancy. The Chicago Tribune ran a story on the second page with the headline "Morals Charge Jails Booster of World Peace." It mentioned that, in November, Rustin had spoken in Chicago before the "Young Men's Luncheon Group" of the Chicago Council of Foreign Relations. The detail preyed upon fears that homosexual corrupt youth. The Tribune ran another article the next day: "Negro Lecturer Sentenced on Morals Charge." A few days later, the Chicago Defender, an African American paper with a national circulation, carried a front-page headline: "Bayard Rustin Jailed on Morals Charge." The article included this statement: "Sexual deviates are often referred to as 'queers.'"

Miraculously, Rustin was able to salvage his career as a Gandhian activist. He continued his work and his travels, including repeated trips to Chicago. The lengthiest of these later trips came in 1966, when the civil rights leadership in Chicago invited Dr. King to help them organize demonstrations against segregated housing. The protests were met with lots of violence from whites, and the events were front-page news for weeks. Rustin was in Chicago often that year, working with King and with local leaders.

Unlike in 1951, when his sexuality remained a matter of silent speculation, now his gay identity was very public. In the years after the Pasadena arrest, as he traveled around the country on lecture tours, right-wing organizations trotted out his conviction on sex charges. In 1963, two weeks before the March on Washington, a segregationist Senator denounced him in Congress and put information about his arrest into the Congressional Record.

Rustin never let these attacks stop him. He kept marching, he kept organizing, he kept speaking out for peace, racial equality, and economic justice. His work kept winning the respect of the many activists who encountered him, even as the gay label trailed him.

In these decades, he never organized a gay demonstration or spoke at a gay event or lobbied for gay rights. Still, I can't help feeling that the combination of his integrity as a fighter for justice and his visibility as a gay man somehow contributed to the gay struggle for justice. In ways that historians can't measure, Rustin contributed to the new era that began to take shape after Stonewall.

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## QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

**"THE PULL OF PRECEDENT IS POWERFUL BUT** scarcely all-powerful when a shift of personnel or perspective breaks the spell, allowing the forces of change to exert their counterpull. The road from *Bowers v. Hardwick*, the 1986 decision that dismissed a claim of gay rights as 'at best, facetious,' to *Lawrence v. Texas*, which 17 years later located the privacy rights of gay men and lesbians at the heart of constitutional due process, was paved, I have no doubt, by the justices' experience of knowing gay men and women in their personal and professional lives." — *Retiring New York Times Supreme Court reporter Linda Greenhouse writing in the July 13 edition of the paper.*

**"THE TIPPING POINT HAS FINALLY BEEN REACHED,** and there's no going back. Gay marriage as an issue, as a hot button, as a nasty right-wing political weapon will soon vanish into the dustbin of history. ... While the brutal Bush regime tried to clamp down and convince everyone that clinging to homophobia and Biblical literalism was actually a nice way to live, all it did was create a nasty little speed bump." — *San Francisco Chronicle columnist Mark Morford, June 11.*

**"WE'VE RIDDED OUR STATE LAWS OF THE LAST VESTIGE OF** discrimination against same-sex couples, and we once again lead the way for equality for all people." — *MassEquality Executive Director Marc Solomon on July 29 after the Massachusetts Legislature overturned a 1913 law that prohibited people from other states from getting married there if the marriage wouldn't have been allowed where they live. The bill, signed into law by Gov. Deval Patrick on July 31, effectively lifted a ban on marriages by same-sex couples from most other states.*

**"I THINK (WHEN) 15 YEARS GO BY ON ANY PERSONNEL POLICY,** it's appropriate to take another look at it—see how it's working, ask the hard questions, hear from the military. Start with a Pentagon study. ... The policy was the right policy for the right time, and times change. It's appropriate to take another look." — *Former U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn speaking in Atlanta June 3 about the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy that bans gays from serving openly. Nunn was one of the lawmakers most responsible for the passage of the 1993 law.*

**"I HAD DESIGNERS THROWING CLOTHES AT ME AND** then you realize you have to go to the fashion shows. Which seems very fun and good, until you realize you're in this kind of prostituted exchange ... I woke up and thought, "This is ridiculous." — *Out singer k.d. lang to Britain's Guardian newspaper, July 16.*

**"I'M STRIVING TO BE AN EXAMPLE OF NORMALCY.** Because I'm noticed as an actor, people are aware of what's happening in my life. ... I'm a big proponent of monogamous relationships regardless of sexuality, and I'm proud of how the nation is steering toward that. Then you can look around and say, 'I really deeply feel like I'm in love with this person, there are people who feel the same thing, and those models are normal.' The 'normal' couples were sort of in the shadows for the past 15 or 20 years because you sort of needed other people to come forward and speak out." — *Gay ac-*

*tor Neil Patrick Harris from TV's How I Met Your Mother to Out magazine, September issue.*

**"MMMMMMMM. ANDERSON (COOPER).** He's dreamy. Just dreamy. I've been a fan of his since season 1 of *The Mole*. I just thought he was so cool when he talked in this cool, low, secret-agent voice—"If you can accomplish this task..." Listen, no one can tell anyone how big their steps should be or when they can take them. You can take issue with someone making overtly denying statements, and you can take issue with people straight-up presenting themselves as someone that they're not—because I think that's kind of shady and not very stand-up. But you can't fault someone for going through the process at their own time." — *Gay actor Neil Patrick Harris from TV's How I Met Your Mother to Out magazine, September issue.*



GLAAD photo

**I'm striving to be an example of normalcy.**

—Neil Patrick Harris

**"THE ONLY THING REPUBLICANS REALLY HAVE GOING FOR THEM THIS YEAR IS** fear—fear of terrorists coming over the ocean and fear of immigrants coming over the border and fear of homosexuals coming over your back." — *Bill Maher, host of HBO's Real Time with Bill Maher, to the Portland, Ore., gay newspaper Just Out, July 3.*

**"IS IT ... NOT FASCINATING IN THIS DAY AND AGE THAT OUR MOST POWERFUL CAPITALIST COMPANIES,** those most associated with mainstream, dumbed-down, unhealthy, rather uninformed Republican Americana, even these megacorps are now openly and rather shamelessly supporting gay rights and tolerance?" — *San Francisco Chronicle columnist Mark Morford, July 11.*

**"EVERYONE IS SO POST-GAY NOW,** it's probably not the done thing to shed a tear over the last night of G-A-Y at the Astoria in Central London this Saturday. With its simple delight in fluffy disco and boozy, cruisey merriment, G-A-Y seems a dinosaur in the modern landscape of gay indie clubs, mixed clubs and the pansexual, drag-tastic dives of Shoreditch, where the beestung-lipped boy in eyeshadow probably has a girlfriend who's cool with it all." — *Tim Teeman writing in The Times of London, July 23.*

**"I WOULD BE A FABULOUS GAY MAN BECAUSE** I'm funny. And I love to decorate." — *Comedian Joan Rivers to syndicated Canadian gay columnist Richard Burnett, July 10.*

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

## GUEST VIEWPOINT

WINDY CITY TIMES

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**TIM STEWART-WINTER**

## Gay marriage and the Black vote

*Conventional wisdom says African Americans will vote against it; recent history says don't be so sure.*

At a Democratic presidential forum on gay issues last year, the Washington Post's Jonathan Capehart prefaced a question to Sen. Barack Obama this way: "Now, you and I both know that there's a homophobia problem in the Black community." Capehart seemed to suggest that he was disclosing a shared secret, but the belief that African Americans are disproportionately hostile toward gays and lesbians is widespread.

That notion will be put to the test Nov. 4, when Black voters in California—expected to turn out in record numbers to support Obama—also will face a proposition to put a ban on same-sex marriage in the state constitution. The foregone conclusion, expressed by prominent gay journalist Andrew Sullivan and others, is that this means trouble for gay newlyweds.

Don't bet on it. Although ordinary polls report lower levels of support for same-sex marriage among Blacks than among whites, views on same-sex marriage are a rapidly moving target that's tough to pin down, even for experts.

And a funny thing happened on the way to the ballot box in the last presidential election. When constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage were on 11 state ballots in November 2004, Blacks in Arkansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio and Oklahoma were at least one percentage point less likely than whites to vote for them, according to CNN exit polls. Only in Georgia were blacks slightly more likely to vote for the amendment. (The remaining four states had too few Blacks to make a meaningful comparison.)

Blacks, like whites, are divided on the issue. In March 2000, when Californians voted on Proposition 22 (the statutory ban on gay marriage that the state Supreme Court struck down in

May), a Los Angeles Times exit poll showed that levels of support were very similar among the major ethnic groups, with Latinos slightly more opposed to allowing gays to marry, Asians and whites slightly less opposed, and Blacks right in the middle.

But even that is no predictor. Voter turnout probably will be very different this time from 2000, when the vote overlapped with the California presidential primary. That year, Al Gore was coasting to the nomination and evangelicals came out in record numbers to vote against John McCain.

To guess how someone will vote on gay marriage, find out their age, gender, party affiliation and how often they go to church. Compared with these factors, race has a much smaller, more complex effect. In the most comprehensive study to date of Black-white differences in attitudes toward homosexuality, Gregory B. Lewis of Georgia State University combined data from 31 national surveys conducted between 1973 and 2000. His study, published in Public Opinion Quarterly, concluded that "blacks appear to be more likely than whites both to see homosexuality as wrong and to favor gay-rights laws."

By invoking rights, the ballot's wording on Proposition 8—the title reads "Eliminates Right of Same-sex Couples to Marry"—could turn off black voters. Proposition supporters sought a different heading, "Limit on Marriage," but a judge dismissed their case last week.

Across the country, Black voters repeatedly reelect African-American politicians who support gay rights. The nation's two Black governors have forcefully backed gay marriage—and each has spoken movingly about accepting gay people in his own family. Californians have seen Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums preside over an extraordinary series of weddings this summer, including the union of one lesbian couple that incorporated the traditional African-American wedding practice of jumping over a broom.

Openly gay Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., has said African Americans in Congress are, "with no close second, the most supportive group for gays and lesbians"—more supportive even than the gays in Congress, he added dryly, if you count those who are in the closet.

Obama, for his part, hasn't backed marriage for gays, but he did call Proposition 8 "divisive and discriminatory," whereas John McCain supports it.

Nonetheless, we can expect leaders of the religious right such as James Dobson and Tony

Perkins to feature African-American ministers prominently in their campaign to end gay and lesbian weddings in California.

It's a cynical strategy. Too often the media have played along. In 2004, for instance, we heard far more about the subset of Martin Luther King Jr.'s family opposed to gay marriage than about how the late Coretta Scott King denounced the "Federal Marriage Amendment" proposed by President Bush that year as "a form of gay-bashing." This year, the anti-gay gospel singer who appeared at a South Carolina concert for Obama got much more play than Obama's critique of Black homophobia in remarks he gave on Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

So if African Americans won't fill their media-designated role on gay marriage, what about Latinos? In California in 2000, Latinos voted to prohibit same-sex marriage at a slightly higher rate—3 percent—than the statewide average. But in Arizona in 2006, it was just 1 percent higher; and in Michigan and Ohio in 2004, it was at a lower rate than blacks or whites. But none of that stopped Mike Luery, the Sacramento bureau chief for the Bay Area's NBC affiliate, from reporting in early June that according to state capital "insiders" and "several analysts," California's Latinos might be so fired up to vote against same-sex marriage that their "traditionally culturally conservative" values could cost Obama the state in November. Irresponsible at the time, this prediction seems ludicrous today, with Obama leading within this group by 40 points or more.

It is possible that California's African Americans this year, like those in Georgia four years ago, will vote for Proposition 8 in larger numbers than whites. But there is also reason to think that, as in six other states four years ago, the opposite might occur in the Golden State.

Opposition to gay rights takes culturally specific forms, and Capehart was right, of course, that there is "a homophobia problem in the Black community." But it's no worse than the homophobia problem in America that belongs to all of us.

**Timothy Stewart-Winter is the James C. Hormel Fellow in Lesbian and Gay Studies at the University of Chicago, and the recipient of a Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Fellowship for 2008-2009.**

**This essay originally appeared in the Los Angeles Times and is reprinted with permission from the author.**



**YASMIN NAIR**

## James Dobson and the National Radio Hall of Fame

Gay groups are up in arms about the induction of James Dobson into the National Radio Hall of Fame (NRHOF) at the Museum of Broadcast Communications. Dobson heads the anti-gay and archconservative ministry known as Focus on the Family. Groups like Truth Wins Out (TWO) are calling for the induction to be rescinded.

I don't care for James Dobson but because I grew up, in a fashion, in Indiana, where his type abounds; I learned the useful trick of tuning out fundamentalists. So the recent fracas over Dob-

son's induction is a good reminder of the anti-gay poison he spreads. But I'm baffled about this call to rescind his induction.

Dobson isn't being honored for his anti-gay message. He's being honored for having "distinguished himself at the national level," according to Bruce DuMont's letter to Windy City Times. The vague wording indicates the nature of the institution. There's a reason why it's not called the Hall of Noteworthy Work and Clear and Discernible Influence. A "hall of fame," by its very nature, can do no more than reflect the politics and temperament of its nominating and voting body at a given period of time. A lot of amazing people get nominated to Halls of Fame, and just as many are questionable. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame began in 1986, but only got around to inducting the seminal Velvet Underground in 1996. The Velvet Underground, people. Don't even get me started on that one.

Even institutions that are ostensibly about judging quality come up with odd results. Take, for instance, the Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences, where nearly 6000 voting members decide on categories like Best Picture. The results are still inconsistent: crap like Titanic, a gem like No Country for Old Men. If you think

that my opinions are subjective, you're right. Why pretend that judgments about the value of someone's work are strictly apolitical and impartial?

Such institutions usually have complex sets of rules that we may or may not agree with, and which may still not give us the desired results. But consider the opposite scenario. An anti-war leftist broadcaster gets inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame. Right-wingers cry foul and that person's induction is rescinded.

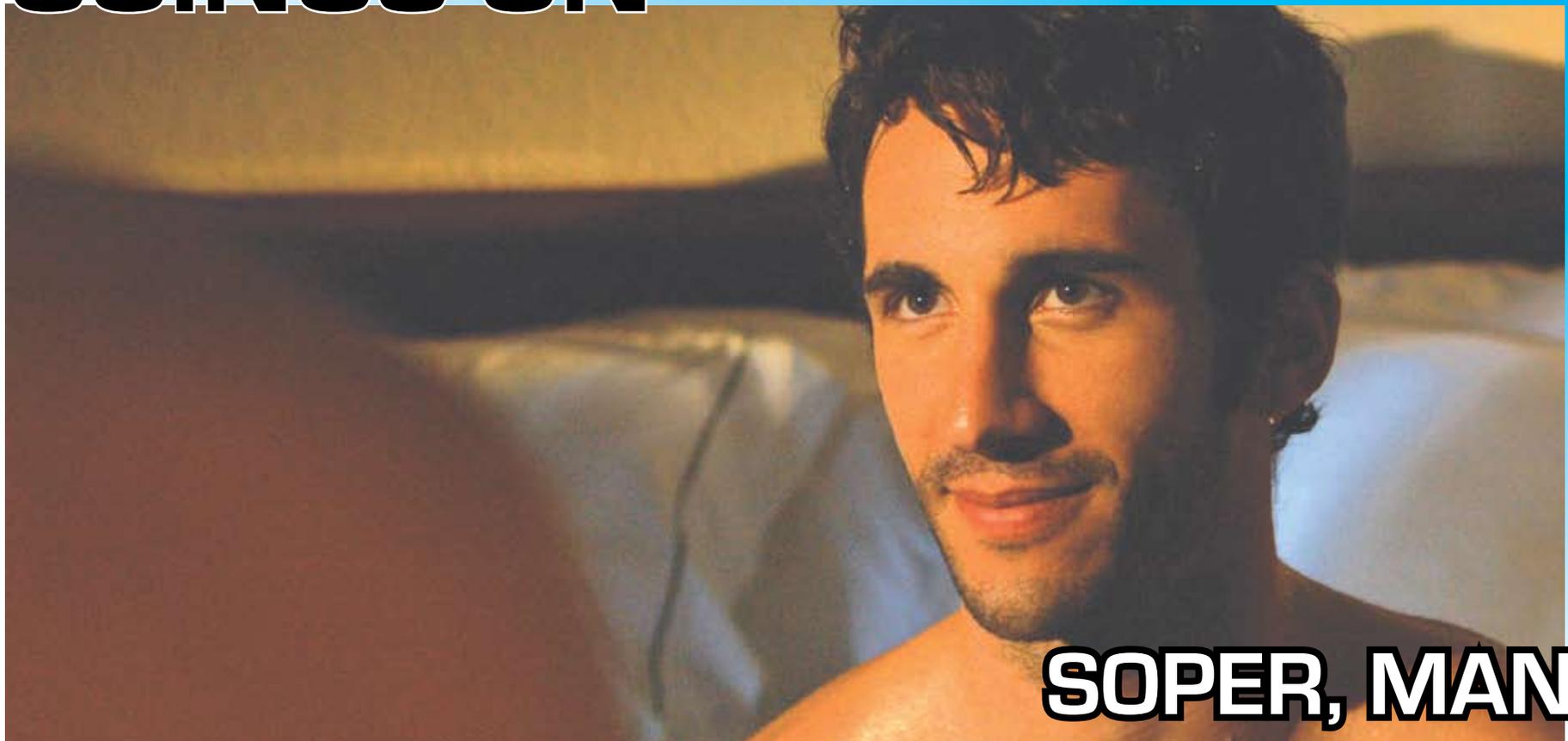
Why should we stoop to that level, especially when we have more significant work to do? Why not simply continue to focus our valuable time and resources on exposing Dobson's politics? If people have issues with the nomination and election process of NRHOF, make those points clearly but be prepared: there will always be nominees we don't like. Let's not go down the dangerously slippery slope of telling people that a collective vote should be cancelled. Or have we already forgotten what it's like to have the results of an election overturned?

**Yasmin Nair also blogs at bilerico.com. E-mail welshzen@yahoo.com and Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com.**

## VIEWPOINT

## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Nick Soper (above) is featured on the DVD *Straight Men* and the *Men Who Love Them 2*. Read an interview with director Jorge Ameer below.

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Sunday, Sunday.  
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Photo by Chris Cosentino



## MOVIES

Cruz control.  
page 15



## MUSIC

Free to be.  
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## MOVIES

## 'Straight' talk with Jorge Ameer

BY ANDREW DAVIS

You may not know who Jorge Ameer is right now, but with the slew of gay (and gay-friendly) movies his company, Hollywood Independents, is making, he won't be an unknown quantity for long. Ameer—a writer, director, producer and actor—has been behind such films as *Contadora Is For Lovers*, the *Straight Men* and the *Men Who Love Them* series (with the second collection of shorts now out on DVD) and *The House of Adam*, slated to run at Chicago's Landmark Century Theater soon. Windy City Times talked with Ameer about sexuality and his films.

[Note: For the squeamish, there is a section where gory activity is described.]

**Windy City Times: *Straight Men* and the *Men Who Love Them 2* is now out on video. Obviously, there had to be a [predecessor]. When did the first one come out?**

Jorge Ameer: The first one came out in 2005. The response for all of the movies [in the series] has been very positive, and I'll tell you why: There has not been a collection of shorts that deals with the fluidity of male sexuality. Sexuality can be gray, and I've made it a point to focus on that gray section. I don't actually like to label people's sexuality because people are more complex than that—I studied psychology in college, and I know that a straight guy can have sex with a guy and still be in love with a woman. There are two [divisions] in the brain: sexual and emotional. People can be fluid [regarding their sexuality].

**WCT: What are the shorts like in the second set?**

JA: The shorts reveal mostly the psyche of the



Jorge Ameer.

male, and how that applies to their lives. We're all sexual beings, and this collection surpasses the limits that society puts on sexuality. The collection addresses things that do happen. People don't talk about them, but they do happen.

**WCT: Without getting too explicit, how much of this collection is based on your life?**

JA: On my life? I live in Hollywood and these things happen every day. I have friends who are married who do things behind closed doors with other men, and there are gay men who have relationships with their [female] best friends; I've seen the gamut. That's why I was inspired to film something that deals with the complexities of sex. It's not just one thing or another. This type of stuff is predominant in the entertainment business and in life in general, whether here or in Miami or in New York.

**WCT: I was going to say that I don't know how reflective Hollywood is on general reality...**

JA: I don't think it's too reflective at all; Hollywood is a community of artists, and it fascinates me to dig into that community to get [its]

take on sexuality. A lot of the situations in these short films [involve] normal, everyday characters who get in these situations. However, I also integrate international shorts because I like to show how different cultures deal with the same topic.

**WCT: What's the most surprising thing you've discovered about sexuality?**

JA: It's that people are very open, deep and diverse about their sexual appetites—and that fascinates me [concerning] men and women. ... Males do need that male bonding—and, sometimes, that bonding crosses the line. That's what I love about these shorts: They set up their own guidelines.

**WCT: And there's a third set of shorts, correct?**

JA: Yes. The collection was at the Cannes Film Festival, and it contains some shocking shorts. There's one British short called "Early One Summer," about a relationship between an older married man and his pupil. They'd go camping on the weekends. Things progress from mild to wild, and the wife finds out about the escapades. Another short is a Spanish one about the transsexual prostitution ring there; a younger person finds out that the most "normal" people have the most extreme fetishes.

That's something that fascinates me. No one wants to be seen as a freak, but let me tell you: Everybody has a freaky side. Some guys are constantly looking: They have their cake and eat it, too, and then they want the other guy's cake.

**WCT: Talk about *The House of Adam*. It's based on a true story, but it's a supernatural thriller, right?**

JA: Yes. I read an article in *The Advocate* about this very sordid relationship that a college student had with a married [police] officer. The officer was very respected and represented the "norm," but it turned out that he had this other side.

My film also incorporates religious fanatics and talks about how people use religion to mask all their underlying issues that they project onto

others. The fanatics play a prank, but end up accidentally killing [the college student]. So now, they become criminals when they once thought the student was a criminal for committing homosexual acts. Then, they decide to butcher the body and bury it underneath a cabin.

The supernatural part occurs when a couple moves into the cabin, where the spirit of Adam [the college student] is. He's communicating with these people so they will search for his remains and give him a proper burial.

Then, there's *The Dark Side of Love*, which is probably my most disturbing film. It involves these two brothers—a straight drug addict and a gay [waiter], who took care of their mother.

My movies are not your popcorn movies. I want people to sit, think and talk with each other in order to create understanding. Ultimately, the movies are about the human condition.

**WCT: Let me conclude with a general question. If you could direct any actor in the world, who would it be?**

JA: Wow—that's a tough one. I love the work of Peter Sarsgaard. He had something at Sundance called *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh* that was really good. Peter has a nice edge to him. I also like Campbell Scott [who was in the gay-themed movie *The Dying Gaul* with Sarsgaard]. I'd also love to work with Tom Hanks; one of my favorite films ever is *Splash*.

**WCT: I was not expecting to hear that one. [Laughs]**

JA: [Laughs] I would watch his movies growing up; my parents would just drop me off at the cineplex and I'd just watch films. I liked Tom Hanks' movies.

Let me tell you: I grew up in Panama. I never thought in a million years that I'd end up here making movies, but I have such an appetite for movies. I watch everything. All movies have a message, and cinema is universal.

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

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Election Day. Photo by Joe C. Moreno

### THEATER REVIEW

## Election Day

**Playwright:** Josh Tobiesen  
**At:** Theatre Seven at Chicago Dramatists, 1105 W. Chicago  
**Phone:** 773/853-3158; \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door, \$12 students and seniors, \$10 industry  
**Runs through:** Aug. 30

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

Electioneering and politics are as hot with theaters these days as Santa and Scrooge at Christmastime. In the waning weeks of the presidential campaign, Timeline Theatre opens Gore Vidal's senator-with-a-secret comedy Weekend, Annoyance brings us its original comedy Raucous Caucus, Writers' Theater reprises its sublime Nixon's Nixon and Babes With Blades break into fisticuffs with Land of the Free. Meanwhile, Between Barack and a Hard Place is still packing 'em in at Second City.

So it's not surprising that less than two weeks after Skokie's primarily student-run Ensemble 113 closed their production of Josh Tobiesen's Election Day, Chicago's Theatre Seven opened theirs. (Ensemble 113 claimed that it was the Chicago-area premiere. Theatre Seven says that it has the "professional" premiere.)

Directed for Theatre Seven by Brant Russell, Election Day is loud, tiresome and poorly written. The best part of this show? It's not actually in the show. Check out the campaign video at [www.voteclark.org](http://www.voteclark.org)—it's a pitch-perfect, deadpan send-up of every blow-dried, oil-slick politico who ever glad-handed his way to power. (Watch for the cameo by playwright Marisa Wegryzn.)

Would that Election Day were as good. It's not. For farce or satire to work, it has to be grounded in characters and situations anchored in fundamental believability. Tobiesen doesn't write a shred of believability into Election Day.

Take Mayoral Candidate Jerry Clark: We're expected to buy him as a smooth political operator steeped in winning campaigns since childhood (his father is a sort big deal elected official). But he doesn't display even the most rudimentary knowledge of effective campaigning. Tobiesen writes a mentally challenged blockhead (and, no, that's not redundant in this case) willing to squander an entire election morning winning over just two voters. You can't wrest satire from somebody who is a stupid (non-)joke to begin with.

Then there's the romance—or lack thereof—between slovenly slacker Adam and his abrasively energetic girlfriend, Brenda. Adam is the kind of guy whose most significant relationship in life is with the TV remote. Brenda is a ruthlessly driven Alpha Woman who gives orders in a machine gun staccato and demands everybody in her orbit to keep up. Brenda might last an

hour on a date with Adam. Would she move in with him? Not if his package was the size of the Rose Garden flagpole.

And, oh please, can we retire the trope of having some hapless character run around in his underpants for most of the show? Maybe that was good for a giggle the first time a playwright trotted it out a googolplex ago. Now - unless perhaps you're a seventh grade boy - it's tedious and dumb.

Through all Tobiesen's ludicrous plotting, Russell keeps the action moving at an abrasively loud and artificially frantic clip. The result gave us a headache. Rather like much of real-life's election season.

### THEATER REVIEW

## Trust

**Playwright:** Steven Dietz  
**At:** Open Eye Productions at Raven Theatre, 6157 N. Clark  
**Phone:** 773-327-8970; \$20  
**Runs through:** Sept. 14

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Two people (or more) can have emotional intimacy without physical intimacy and *vice versa*, and when both intimacies are present it's a delicate balance, as emotional and physical intimacies are negotiated differently. Trust is a tale about the intersections of intimacies, written by prolific American playwright Steven Dietz (best known for Lonely Planet and Ten November). Written in 1992, Trust assuredly is more glib than profound, yet even then Dietz was a veteran playwright who made his work pithy, stylish and witty so that—like a spruced-up piece of real estate—it showed well. It still does, under Christopher Maher's simple and clean direction in which a believable cast eschews flashy acting—which is possible with this text—to deliver all the script has to offer.

Trust is a love triangle revolving around twentysomething rising rocker Cody Brown, who's engaged to Becca, a non-showbiz woman in the publishing trade. Even as they plan their wedding, Cody begins an affair with Leah, a thirtysomething female pop icon on the comeback trail. Becca herself has at least flirted with another man, and before the final curtain she's with Gretchen (Brigitte Ditmars). As side dressing and playwrighting padding (and entertainingly so), Dietz provides a secondary couple, Roy (Dan Granata) and Holly (Jill Schmits), to comment on the indecipherable codes of male/female dating (they're not even close to relationship).

It sounds complicated but it's not. Dietz is a sharp story teller who uses projected titles, astute irony and direct narrative to the audience to introduce scenes, move the play swiftly and up the comedy quotient. Think Brecht meets Story Theater with a one-line Chekhov homage thrown in. Trust also is a prequel for Sex in the City (remember, it was written in 1992), for it very much is a woman's play. Sexy rocker Cody (tall, good-looking Clayton Faits) is a passive male who prefers predatory women to light his fuse, and he has them in sardonic older woman Leah (earthy Anne Sheridan-Smith) and Becca (intelligent, flame-haired Kate Cares), who's not above playing her own games. Dietz is funny, too, with a crack about how New Age music "makes you wish you were in an elevator," or the question "If you had to choose between a man and really good ice cream, what would you do?" If the play has a shortcoming, it's that Dietz is carefully non-judgmental and never suggests what's needed to make a relationship thrive.

Staged in a black box theater, Trust uses whee- lie roadie boxes for furniture, two mini-light/speaker towers and a screen for limited but effective use of light and film projections. The production is remarkably well-suited to the intimacy of the script, which easily might be staged with more rock spectacle, but needn't be.



Harmony France of *Tell Me on a Sunday*. Photo by Chris Cosentino

## THEATER REVIEW

### Tell Me on a Sunday

**Playwright:** music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, lyrics by Don Black and Richard Maltby, Jr.  
**At:** Bailiwick Repertory Theatre at the Bailiwick Arts Center, 1229 W. Belmont  
**Phone:** 773-883-1090; \$20-\$20  
**Runs through:** Sept. 7

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

His name is now synonymous with elephantine spectacles befitting—by Broadway standards, anyway—his classically-influenced compositions, so it's easy to forget that Andrew Lloyd Webber once wrote sweet-nothing ballads, too. And if his legacy had been restricted to the score of this one-woman musical, soliloquies like "Unexpected Song," "Nothing Like You've Ever Known" and the title song would assure his place on the cabaret circuit right next to Neil Diamond, Johnny Christopher and Amanda McBroom.

This song-cycle recounts the amorous adventures of a young London emigrée seeking her fortune in New York City's fashion industry. Premiering in 1979, it was expanded in 1985 into a full-cast feature-length musical titled *Song And Dance*—partly for the theme permeating Don Black and Richard Maltby's courting-rites lyrics, and partly for its structure of an all-singing first act followed by an all-dancing second. In 2003, the solo-vocal version reappeared, rewritten to recognize such innovations as "speed dating". Wisely, the incarnation chosen for this Bailiwick Repertory production is the original one.

## CRITICS' PICS

**The Birthday Party**, Signal Ensemble at Chopin, through Aug. 30. You can run, but you can't hide. But can a person be—literally—frightened to death by his past? This production extracts every last milligram of paranoia from Harold Pinter's cryptic morality fable. MSB

**Dancing at Lughnasa**, Oak Park Festival Theatre, through Aug. 23. Final days for this beautifully-wrought, bittersweet elegy to lives gone by and sisterly love in 1930's rural Ireland, by Ireland's finest living playwright, Brian Friel. Outdoors at Austin Gardens. JA

**Hay Fever**, Circle Theatre; through Aug. 24. This is your last chance to catch Circle Theatre's acclaimed and gorgeously designed take on Noel Coward's 1920s comic trifle of bad-mannered hosts and baffled weekend guests. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

But while our heroine's progress reflects the ambitions of a more innocent time, the romantic expat exhibits remarkable alacrity at landing on her feet: no fortune-hunter she, her plan is to forge a career as a milliner (luscious headgear supplied by Agnes Miles). She breaks up with her home-town boyfriend upon arriving in America, and while waiting for her Green Card (Anglo-Saxon immigrants need those, too, you know), she enjoys the company of a Hollywood producer, a Greenwich Village cowboy and a Westport married man whose exclusive devotion she rejects, coming as it does on the brink of her own success.

The studio at the Bailiwick Arts Center would seem the perfect setting for intimate confessions, especially as confided by Harmony France (recently seen in Bohemian Theatre's long-running *Songs For A New World*), her Portobello Road-gypsy wardrobe rendering her as lovable as her no-frills renditions of Webber's ingenuous pop melodies concealing operatic vocal ranges. And if, on opening night, this included reaching a bit for the high notes—well, who wouldn't be unnerved at the acoustical imbalance generated by accompanists wailing at full power beneath a flimsy platform at center stage? First-night audiences longed for somebody to either throw a tent over the instrumentalists, or to equip our solitary pilgrim with a bullhorn to level the playing field.

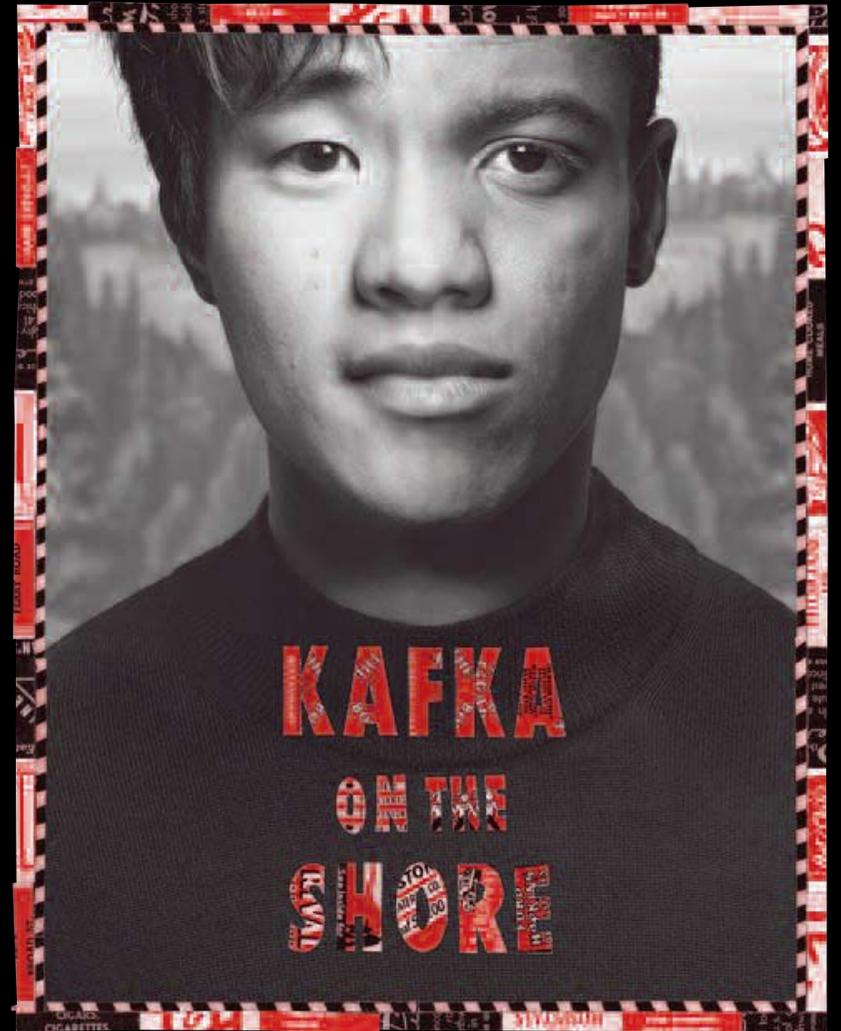
## SPOTLIGHT



The Goodman Theatre concludes its fourth **Latino Theatre Festival** this week with two highly-visual attractions: *De La Oreja Al Corazon* ("What enters by the ear and moves the heart"), a musical and personal journey told with live actors and puppetry; and *J'Arrive*, performed by Spain's Marta Carrasco and her company of performance artists/dancers. *J'Arrive*—described as an exhilarating piece about obsession and seduction—requires no language skills, while *De La Oreja Al Corazon*—suitable for family audiences—is performed in Spanish with English super titles. The two works play in repertory through this Sunday, Aug. 24; Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn; 312-443-3800; *Corazon*, \$5-\$15; *J'Arrive*, \$25. A live band and dancing (no extra charge) will follow the Friday night performance of *J'Arrive*.



A young boy's fateful journey crosses the boundaries between imagination and reality.



based on the work by **Haruki Murakami**  
 adapted for the stage and directed by  
 ensemble member **Frank Galati**

featuring ensemble members **Francis Guinan**  
 and **Jon Michael Hill**

A young boy's coming of age parallels an old man's search for destiny in a modern day Japan where the borders between everyday reality, dreams and imagination are constantly crossed. In this world premiere adaptation of the popular novel, encounter talking cats on the streets of Tokyo, World War II soldiers trapped in time, Colonel Sanders and Johnnie Walker. Experience the unexpected in this fantastical tale about waking up to your own life.

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## OPERA REVIEW

## Iolanthe

Libretto: William S. Gilbert;

Score: Arthur Sullivan

At: Light Opera Works at Cahn Auditorium,  
600 Emerson, Evanston

Phone: 847-869-6300; \$29-\$85

Through Aug. 24

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

You don't have to be a diehard Anglophile to love Gilbert and Sullivan's comic 1882 operetta *Iolanthe*, though being one certainly helps. And Light Opera Works provides plenty to love with a beautifully spry and silly take on *Iolanthe* (pronunciation: Eye-Oh-Lan-Thee).

*Iolanthe* isn't produced nearly as often as traditional Gilbert and Sullivan favorites like *The Mikado* or *The Pirates of Penzance*, probably because it's even more British in its tone and humor. Also *Iolanthe's* plot, about a pack of woodland fairies taking over the House of Lords, is downright strange.

But within this framework, Gilbert shows off some of his most pointed political humor by taking aim at the House of Lord's hereditary hierarchy and touching upon topical sex scandals (like name-dropping the adulterous fire brigade captain Eyre Massey Shaw in the lyrics).

Sullivan found his way to make subtle musical jabs at Wagner's Ring Cycle amid his trademarks of commenting choruses and bouncy patter songs.

For lovers of Gilbert and Sullivan (and of operetta, in general), Light Opera Works' *Iolanthe* is a pure delight. Director Kurt Johns and choreographer Rudy Hogenmiller keep things in constant



Iolanthe. Photo by Rich Foreman

comic motion, from the wiggly chorus of fairies "tripping hither, tripping thither" to the pomposity of the sneering Parliamentary Peers.

Conductor Roger L. Bingaman keeps the full orchestra of 26 players trotting along at a bright clip, while the whole cast does an expert job annunciating everything (though there are times they speed by so quickly that Gilbert's tricky wordplay goes missing). And though amplified, all the singers could easily show off their gorgeous voices without their microphones.

Jessye Wright plays the title role with lovely grace and vocal poise. Yet the true stars of *Iolanthe* are James Harms as the doddering Lord Chancellor and Alicia Berneche's ingénue Phyllis.

Harms handles his marathon patter songs (the longest in the G&S cannon) with panache, while Berneche has nailed the mock melodramatic comic style of the piece, not to mention sporting a serious set of pipes to make Phyllis sound heavenly as well.

Vying for Phyllis's hand in marriage is Colm Fitzmaurice's tall and dashing Strephon (quite an attractive Arcadian shepherd, who is half-fairy) and the two stuck-up peers, Tolloller (a wonderful tenor turn by Bill Chamberlain) and Mountarat (quite a booming bass from Alex Honzen).

Veronica McHale gets plenty of laughs as the haughty Queen of the Fairies, as does Frank Devincentis as the duty-bound soldier Private

Willis, who has a gorgeous bass voice.

Though some may write off Gilbert and Sullivan as twee and outdated, their tremendous craft and intelligence at operetta is unmatched. Light Opera Works' panache-filled *Iolanthe* shows that even more than a century later, their works are still quite a hoot.

## Lily Tomlin at Rosemont Theatre Nov. 1

One of America's queens of comedy, the legendary Lily Tomlin, will take the stage of the Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River, Sat., Nov. 1, at 8 p.m. for "An Evening of Classic Lily Tomlin." The one-night-only performance is a free-wheeling one-woman show featuring "guest appearances" by some of Tomlin's best-known characters.

Tomlin's first television appearance was on *The Gary Moore Show* (1966) and in 1969 she joined the sketch-comedy TV hit "Laugh In," where she became known characters such as the devilish six-year old Edith Ann and telephone operator Ernestine. Her film credits include *Nine to Five*, *I Heart Huckabees*, *Nashville* and *A Prairie Home Companion*.

Tickets are \$37.50-\$75. Call Ticketmaster at 312-559-1212; visit Ticketmaster outlets or the Rosemont Theatre box office; or visit [www.Ticketmaster.com](http://www.Ticketmaster.com).

## ART

## Matt Lew: 'Urban' and water

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Out Chicago-based photographer/painter Matt Lew has literally put a global spin on his works, thanks to everything from his three years living in Spain to the water (from such sources as the Caribbean and Hawaii's Kauai waterfalls) that he uses in his images. Now, CB2 (the Crate and Barrel offshoot) is bringing Lew's unique artistic insight to the world by recently launching an exclusive collection, *Everything Urban*, in stores and online ([www.CB2.com](http://www.CB2.com)). Lew talked with *Windy City Times* in his North Side home about his artistic roots and future.

**Windy City Times:** While reading about you, I noticed that you shortened your surname [from Lewandowski]. I'm just curious as to why you did that.

Matt Lew: It was just a little bit easier for me, with writing and spelling it out. Plus, it's always been shortened. When I was in kindergarten, there were five Matt L's, so I couldn't be "Matt," or "Matt L." So they just named me "Lew," and it just stuck.

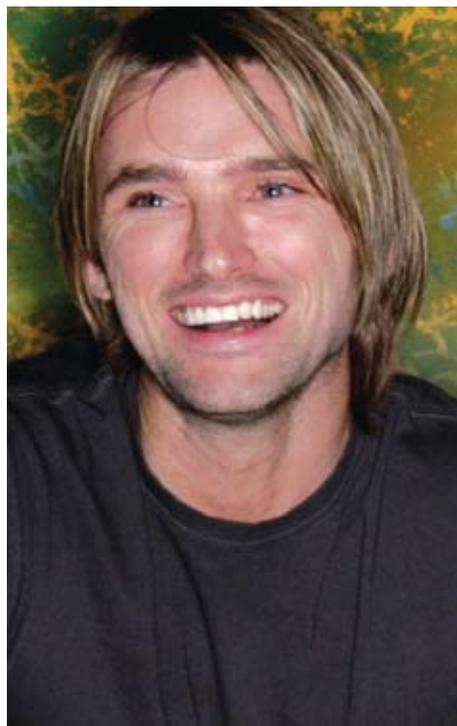
**WCT:** Your bio states that you've been doing art since you were 2. What do you think it is about art that drew you to it?

ML: That's a great question. It just came from me; I can't describe it. I remember my mom dropping me off at pre-school day care; I was about 3. She was a kindergarten teacher, so I had crayons and markers around me all the time.

One day, the day-care [manager] held out a drawing I did to my mother and said, "Look what your son did. He obviously had help drawing this." My mom thought that [the comment] was interesting and wrote in the baby book that she would see if I had some sort of affinity [for art] when I grew up.

**WCT:** Your mom wasn't offended?

ML: Oh, no. My mom knew I drew it.



Matt Lew. Photo by Bret Grafton

**WCT:** You're a photographer and a painter. Do you prefer one over the other?

ML: No, because I'm actually doing both together and doing mixed media.

**WCT:** So when did you discover your affinity for photography?

ML: That's a good question, too. Photography didn't come to me until a little bit later; I was living in Spain, I think. A lot of that photography is very European-based, black-and-white and simple. I was about 19 when I really started enjoying landscape and travel photography.

**WCT:** You've talked about the fact that a lot of your works center around water.

ML: When I first started experimenting with different media and styles, I did abstract. I studied photorealism in school; it was easy for me to look at a photo, blow it up very large and make it look just like a photo. I got tired of it,

and I decided to experiment with abstract and color. Then, I wanted to hide different elements in pieces and thought, "What if I put in different types of [material]?" I'd put in beach sand or various organic elements. Then, it evolved into something a lot bigger; I'd travel and take back water from places like Kauai. I just get a little bottle of water and check it in with my luggage.

But people also send me gifts [of water]. [*Takes a bottle out of a cabinet*] This is a gift from Turkey.

**WCT:** If only everyone could be that easy to shop for.

ML: I know. [*Points to other bottles*] This one is from San Francisco, and this one is from Chile. But the new work I'm doing has evolved from more abstract work into more urban photography and paint mixed together. I think that my surroundings—and being in Chicago the past three years—have definitely inspired my work. My work is a little bit more modern and urban, but it's still fun and colorful.

I'm also doing a literary series that's kind of fun. [*Brings one of his latest works*] Are you familiar with the book *The Devil in the White City*? [*Interviewer nods.*] I've taken pages from that book and incorporated them into a cityscape. I just did a fun piece for a friend of mine. She likes Bridget Jones so I took some pages from Bridget Jones' Diary with pages from the book and paint of top of that for a cool type of effect.

**WCT:** Now where do you get the idea for something like that?

ML: Sometimes it'll happen in a dream. I can start to see things before I go to bed or it can come in flashes. But sometimes it's as simple as walking down a street and seeing a weathered wall.

**WCT:** Let's talk about the CB2 development. What is it exactly and how did it come about?

ML: Well, it's my first collection in a store. It's basically a series of pieces; one is a four-foot-by-two-foot Chicago cityscape of the Sears Tower. It's got very vibrant reds, greens, yellows and purples with a lot of cool sketching things

I've done. It's called "Chicago Views."

The other piece is a natural scene of different trees along Lake Shore Drive. They're four squares that form one piece, and that's called "Through the Trees." So it's all Chicago.

Someone saw my work at an event, and sent a couple of images to CB2, saying, "You should check this artist out." Then, the buyer saw my work and wanted me to forward my portfolio. From there, this whole thing started. It started about a year and a half ago.

**WCT:** Your Web site actually has two addresses: [MatthewLew.com](http://MatthewLew.com) and [HealingByArt.com](http://HealingByArt.com).

ML: Yes. [HealingByArt.com](http://HealingByArt.com) used to be the domain name when I incorporated organic elements. Then, things evolved and people became confused by the name so I switched over to my name to make things easier.

**WCT:** Do you still operate according to the philosophy of Healing by Art?

ML: Oh, of course. Those elements are still present but the work has evolved.

The philosophy [involves] bringing natural organic elements in my work and [eventually] to the [buyers'] homes.

**WCT:** Who are your favorite contemporary artists?

ML: Chuck Close is probably my favorite American contemporary artist; he bases his stuff on a lot of photorealism, and it's just brilliant. Abstract-wise, I definitely love Mark Rothko; his work is very colorful and structured. They're very different but those are my top two.

**WCT:** Do you think you've influenced anyone?

ML: I don't know. I have a couple artist friends, and we all get together and talk. I think we inspire each other, but me specifically? I don't know—not that I'm aware of. [*Laughs*]

**WCT:** What does art mean to you?

ML: That's a great question. Art is vital for my existence. Being creative, being able to express yourself—whether it's painting, acting, dancing, singing or writing ... Art is who I am.

See [www.MatthewLew.com](http://www.MatthewLew.com) or [www.HealingByArt.com](http://www.HealingByArt.com) for more information.

# KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES



Catherine Keener and David Arquette in *Hamlet 2*.

## Elegy; Vicky Cristina Barcelona; Hamlet 2; Showgirls Gone Wild

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Two years after her stunning performance in *Volver*, Penelope Cruz is back with two movies, the romance drama *Elegy* and the relationship comedy *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*. Cruz shows remarkable range and fearlessness in both performances—no surprise to her longtime advocates. After a summer long on comic-book movies, both films are also welcome changes of pace.

Cruz doesn't enter until the midway point in *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*, but when she does her entrance turns up the wattage in a delightful though somewhat predictable Woody Allen farce. The plot centers on the uptight brunette Vicky (Rebecca Hall) and her luscious blonde best friend Christina (Scarlet Johansson), who are vacationing in Barcelona. Both fall for the devilishly handsome artist Juan Antonio (Javier Bardem), though it's Christina who ends up moving in with him. Juan, however, is still heavily influenced by his ex-wife, the fiery Maria Elena (Cruz), who moves in with the couple after making a suicide attempt. After a brief period of fireworks, things heat up between the three and a happy *ménage à trois* is set in motion.

At one point, Christina even reveals to Vicky that she and Maria Elena have made love. (The two are shown kissing in Christina's dark room.) But contentment isn't the same as love, and there are several more twists before Allen's zesty little movie, enlivened by its beautiful Barcelona locations and the performances of Cruz and Bardem (who brings heart to the stereotypical Latin lover character), comes to an end.

Cruz has a much larger role in *Elegy*, which tracks the course of a May-December romance. David (Ben Kingsley)—a respected college pro-

fessor, author and aging *roué*—unexpectedly falls in love with one of his students, Consuela (played by Cruz), who is 30 years his junior. The bewitching Consuela doesn't make demands or seem to want much of anything from David other than physical intimacy. On that score she's similar to Carolyn (played by the sensational Patricia Clarkson), the woman who David has been sleeping with for close to 20 years. But David becomes convinced that the age difference between him and Consuela will become a problem and, in spite of himself, he steers the love affair into rocky shoals.

This is awfully familiar stuff (it's easy to imagine this being enacted by a gay troll and young trick, for example), so you either go with the scenario (including the maudlin last quarter) all the way or not at all. What helps the film stand out is the exceedingly polite, less-than-melodramatic approach of director Isabel Coixet (the initial seduction is scored to Erik Satie) and the emotional, complex leading performances of Kingsley and Cruz and the supporting ones from Clarkson and legendary actor Dennis Hopper. (Deborah Harry has a nice cameo as well.)

Romance junkies of every stripe are sure to get their fix with screenings of both *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* and *Elegy*, and Penelope Cruz fanatics might just have to race home and take a cold shower.

British comedian Steve Coogan stars as Dana Marschz, a not-so-lovable loser in *Hamlet 2*, a black comedy strongly reminiscent of *Waiting for Guffman* and *Drop Dead Gorgeous*. Dana's a failed actor with a large ego who has ended up teaching drama at a high school in Tucson, Ariz. Even there, he's only got two disciples: Ephiaphany (Phoebe Strole), a racist airhead and Rand (Skyler Astin), a closeted gay drama queen who has a crush on him. Everyone else in his

class, which is filled with Mexican Americans, hates him. Saddled with a bitchy wife (Catherine Keener, who is as cynical and nasty as she was in *Being John Malkovich*) and the loss of his funding, Dana is determined to put on one last show that will put him on the map.

Dana hits on the idea of staging a sequel to *Hamlet* and, though his students don't know Shakespeare from Shakey's Pizza, they like the idea of staging the hideous play, which is riddled with pop-culture references and special effects. Getting wind of this, the administration tries to shut the play down but the demented show—which we see in bits and pieces in a montage as a gay chorus sings Elton John's "Someone Saved My Life Tonight"—goes on. The over-the-top show, obviously designed to shock, even includes a musical number, "Rock Me Sexy Jesus," with Coogan dressed as Christ in jeans shaking his ass.

Coogan relishes his nebbish character and the chance to redeem him, and he gets good comedic support from the young actors playing his students, Keener, Elizabeth Shue (playing herself) and Amy Poehler as a tough-as-nails lawyer. *Hamlet 2* is silly, inconsequential fun with enough laughs to make it worth a trip to the megaplex.

From the moment *Showgirls* debuted in 1995 it was an unintentional instant camp classic. The outraged furor that greeted this rank turkey is hard to fathom. Who could take this piece of sublime junk seriously? This kill-or-be-killed look at the "glittery" world of Vegas showgirls

introduced the stunningly incompetent Elizabeth Berkley to the screen, and the deep, dishy pleasures afforded while watching a cinematic car crash like this are not to be lightly dismissed.

The only thing more delightful than watching the campacular *Showgirls* at home is seeing it in a theater with a packed audience of fellow enthusiasts. Hence, there is *Showgirls Gone Wild*, a special presentation (complete with a pre-show featuring contests and interactive screening) of the Camp Midnight series hosted by Dick O'Day (the alter ego of yours truly) that features members of the Hell in a Handbag theater troupe. Grab your fake fingernails and puppy chow, and prepare to do a pole dance this Saturday, Aug. 23, at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport. Pre-show begins at 10:30 p.m. [www.musicboxtheatre.com](http://www.musicboxtheatre.com)

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 book of collected film reviews, *Knight at the Movies 2004-2006*.



Read an  
interview with  
Steve Coogan  
(above) of  
*Hamlet 2*  
at  
[www.WindyCity  
MediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)



Javier Bardem and Scarlett Johansson in *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*.

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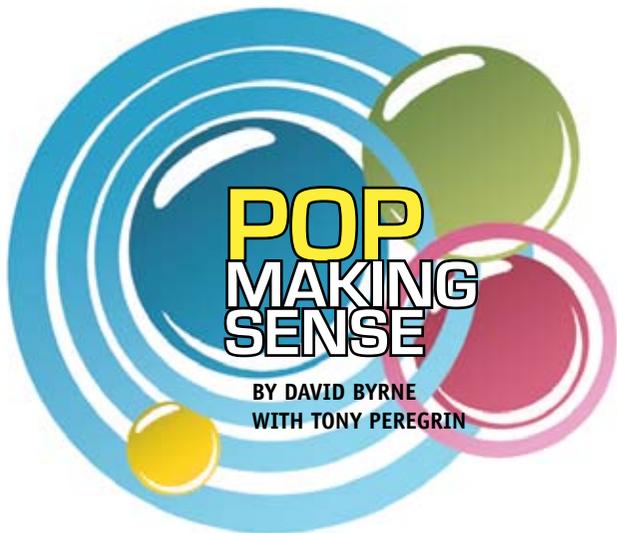
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## POP MAKING SENSE

BY DAVID BYRNE  
WITH TONY PEREGRIN

singer will be back in the Windy City Friday, Aug. 22, for a concert with MC Hammer at Macy's Glamorama at The Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State. With a return to fine form, her recent opus, *Bring Ya to the Brink*, is a stellar dance and electronic collection, showing off Lauper's songwriting skills. On "Set Your Heart" and "Grab a Hold," she voices her ongoing supporting for the LGBT community. Lauper's latest single, "Into the Nightlife," is blazing up Billboard's Club Airplay and Dance Radio charts.

This summer,

**Danny Tenaglia** is jet-setting between his home in New York to Ibiza to spin at the hotspot Space. After a hiatus of new material, his double-disc *Futurism* is mostly instrumental, and the fresh mix reminds listeners of his stature. Tenaglia's pulsating current single, "Space Dance," ranks up there with his previous works, "Bottom Heavy" and "Elements." When not behind the

turntables, Tenaglia has put his touches on several anthems, including Madonna's "Human Nature," Bette Midler's "I'm Beautiful" and Cher's "All or Nothing." But it is his pairings with fellow New Yorker Vanessa Daou on such songs as "Sunday Afternoons" and "Give Myself to You" that are legendary masterpieces. *Futurism* is out now via Tommy Boy, and a stateside DJ tour is in the works.

On Saturday, Aug. 30, disco icon **Donna Summer** will take to the stage at Ravinia. Sounding spry, upbeat and full of life, Summer's comeback set, *Crayons*, has material covering multiple genres. On the dance tracks "I'm a Fire" and "Fame (The Game)" she shines brightest, but give the midtempo gem "Sand on My Feet" a chance. It has been 17 years since Summer had a proper full-length album of new material. During this period she kept fans sated with standout cuts like "Love Is a Healer," "I Got Your Love" and a cover of Luther Vandross' "Power of Love."

As part of the Live from Home Series at New York City's Housing Works Bookstore Café, non-commercial radio station WFUV will broadcast an exclusive benefit concert from **Amy Ray** Friday, Aug. 22, on The Whole Wide World. This is hot on the heels of this Indigo Girls' acclaimed second solo outing, *Didn't It Feel Any Kinder*. Accompanying Ray during the performance are Brandi Carlile and the Brooklyn band Arizona, and both appear on Ray's recent Daemon Records release. Proceeds from the show will go to Housing Works, which assists homeless living with HIV/AIDS in New York. Please visit [wfuv.org](http://wfuv.org) for more information.

As Chicago's godfather to the queer folk scene, **Scott Free** acts as a parade marshal in his video "Free." Here, footage is drawn from the 2007 Dyke March and Chicago Pride. The clip has Free joined by fellow Chicago queer artists, including Carrie Lydon, violinist Kate Rickenbacker and drummer Jenny Urban. Also in on the fun are marchers bearing signs with messages like "Closets are for Clothes," "Stop Anti-Gay Violence" and "Focus on Your Own Damn Family." Drawn from his collection *The Pink Album (A Pop Opera)*, "Free" has this singer-songwriter questioning, "When will this be apart of history? When we will be free?" People can vote for "Free" on the LGBT cable channel Logo's program *The Click List* at [www.logoonline.com](http://www.logoonline.com).

Chicago's rock outfit **The Joans** are holding a fundraiser at Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark, Saturday, Aug. 30, presented by The Flesh Hungry Dog Show. These Joan Crawford-loving rock stars are



Donna Summer.

raising money to cover costs so they can travel to San Francisco to play at the 25th anniversary of the Folsom Street Fair Saturday, Sept. 27. For \$20, concert attendees will be treated to an open bar. Deals, ranging based on the amount contributed, will score donors a Joans' T-shirt, an advance on the band's forthcoming album and a copy of *Mommie Dearest* on DVD. For more details and tickets, please visit [www.fleshhungrydog.com](http://www.fleshhungrydog.com).

A few weeks ago during a Goodfoot concert, I recognized the folk trio's percussionist/backup vocalist. While the musical style was different from what I have seen her do before, it surely was Michelle Hallman of the **Ladies of the Canyon Presents** series. I have heard her blues-soaked voice belt the hell out of "Would I Lie to You?" by the Eurythmics three times, including at Northalsted Market Days a couple of summers ago. Hallman assured me that the Ladies of the Canyon Presents is still going strong, although onetime key member Shana Spiegel moved to the West Coast. The showcase has moved to a new residency at Fitzgerald's, 6615 Roosevelt Road, Berwyn, and a tribute to Sheryl Crow is lined up for Wednesday, Aug. 27. During these performances, these madly talented Chicago female singer-songwriters salute the great, influential women of rock 'n roll, keeping the arrangements true. More on the Ladies of the Canyon Presents can be found at [myspace.com/lotcchicago](http://myspace.com/lotcchicago).

**Cyndi Lauper** is at it again. One of her most popular hits is "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun," but lately, this gal just wants to make a difference. Alongside Rufus Wainwright and Melissa Etheridge, Lauper will unite for LGBT equality at Rock to Win during the Democratic National Campaign in Denver Tuesday, Aug. 26. This event, like The True Colors Tour, is sponsored by The Human Rights Campaign. The "Time After Time"



Cyndi Lauper.

## Upcoming concerts

Listed below are upcoming local concerts that, for various reasons, may be of special interest to the LGBT community. Venues are in Chicago unless otherwise indicated:

- Aug. 21-22:** Kate Voegelé, Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont, 6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 21-22:** Eddie Vedder, Auditorium Theatre, 228 S. Wabash, 7:30 p.m.
- Aug. 22:** Seduction: Exotic Men of Magic, Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee, 10 p.m.
- Aug. 22:** Maroon 5 and Counting Crows, First Midwest Bank Amphitheatre, 9100 S. Ridgeland, Tinley Park, 7 p.m.
- Aug. 23:** The Patti Elvis Band, Davenport's, 1383 N. Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
- Aug. 24:** Backstreet Boys, Ravinia, 200 Ravinia Park, Highland Park, 7 p.m.
- Aug. 25:** Patricia Barber Quartet, Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway, 9 p.m.
- Aug. 29:** Billy Bob Thornton, Joe's Sports Bar, 940 W. Weed, 9 p.m.
- Aug. 29:** DeBarge featuring El DeBarge, The S.O.S. Band and Switch, Country Club Hills Theater, 4116 W. 183rd, Country Club Hills, 7 p.m.
- Aug. 30:** Patti LaBelle, Country Club Hills Theater, 4116 W. 183rd, Country Club Hills, 7 p.m.
- Aug. 30:** Donna Summer, Ravinia, 200 Ravinia Park, Highland Park, 7:30 p.m.



k.d. lang.

- Aug. 30:** The Joans, Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark, 10 p.m.
- Aug. 30:** Jagged Edge, Donnell Jones and Carl Thomas, Arie Crown Theater, 2301 S. Lake Shore, 7:30 p.m.
- Aug. 30:** Hot Mix 5 feat. Farley "Jackmaster" Funk and special guests, House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn, 9 p.m.
- Aug. 30:** Liza Minnelli, The Venue at Horseshoe Hammond, 777 Casino Center, Hammond, Ind., 8 p.m.
- Sept. 5:** Chris Botti, The Venue at Horseshoe Hammond, 777 Casino Center, Hammond, Ind., 8 p.m.
- Sept. 6:** Jeannie Tanner, Heartland Cafe,

7000 N. Glenwood, 8 p.m.

- Sept. 6-7:** Sam Phillips, Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln, 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 8:** Tricky, House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn, 9 p.m.
- Sept. 12:** Holy Fuck, Subterranean, 2011 W. North, 10 p.m.
- Sept. 12:** Journey with Heart and Cheap Trick, First Midwest Bank Amphitheatre, 9100 S. Ridgeland, Tinley Park, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 12:** "Legends of Jazz" show with The Ramsey Lewis Trio, Kurt Elling and Ernie Watts with the Laurence Hobgood Trio, Ravinia, 200 Ravinia Park, Highland Park, 8 p.m.
- Sept. 13:** Alicia Keys, The Venue at Horseshoe Hammond, 777 Casino Center, Hammond, Ind., 9 p.m.
- Sept. 20:** Joy Behar, Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena, Aurora, 8 p.m.
- Sept. 24:** The Eagles, United Center, 1901 W. Madison, 8 p.m.
- Sept. 24:** Sigur Rós, Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State, 8 p.m.
- Sept. 25:** Janet Jackson, Allstate Arena, 6920 Mannheim, Rosemont, 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 26:** Cassandra Wilson, Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan, 8 p.m.
- Sept. 27:** Enrique Iglesias, Allstate Arena, 6920 Mannheim, Rosemont, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 2:** Alanis Morissette, Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State, 8 p.m.

—**Oct. 4:** My Life with the Thrill Kill Kult, Metro, 3730 N. Clark, 8:30 p.m.

- Oct. 4:** Catie Curtis, Metro, Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln, 7 and 10 p.m.
- Oct. 4:** New Kids on the Block, Allstate Arena, 6920 Mannheim, Rosemont, 8 p.m.
- Oct. 6:** Ani DiFranco, Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State, 8 p.m.
- Oct. 6:** Tina Turner, Allstate Arena, 6920 Mannheim, Rosemont, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 14-16:** Kathy Griffin, Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State, 8 p.m.
- Oct. 17:** So You Think You Can Dance Live Tour 2008, United Center, 1901 W. Madison, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 17:** k.d. lang, Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State, 8 p.m.
- Oct. 17:** Rufus Wainwright, The Venue at Horseshoe Hammond, 777 Casino Center, Hammond, Ind., 8 p.m.
- Oct. 21:** Joan Osborne, Park West, 322 W. Armitage, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 24:** BETTY, Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln, 8 p.m.
- Oct. 26-27:** Madonna, United Center, 1901 W. Madison, 8 p.m.
- Nov. 1:** Mavis Staples and Booker T. & The MG's (benefit for the Old Town School of Folk Music), Harris Theater for Music and Dance at Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph, 7:30 p.m.

—Andrew Davis



Joel Evan. Above photo by Crista Alderidge; right photo by Mimi Ahmed

## MUSIC

## Joel Evan: A changed man

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Openly gay singer Joel Evan is literally a changed man—up until recently, he was Jet Kanashi, with “Jet” representing the initials of his real name and “Kanashi” being the Japanese word for sorrow. Evan adopted the name because of depression that resulted from his childhood but, after having a sunnier perspective, the Chicago native took back his real name, and is taking back his life.

**Windy City Times: You’re literally a new person. How were you before and what led you to change your way of thinking as well as your name?**

Joel Evan: I was just going through the motions of life. I wasn’t happy at all; I was down-trodden. And the change came when I decided to pick up books and just start reading about how people change their lives. You don’t always

have to feel bad. You have the power to change things [about yourself]. I don’t have to [necessarily] feel bad because I’m in a crappy situation.

**WCT: Now, were these self-help books and items like *The Secret*?**

JE: It was mostly books like *The Secret*. I read *The Law of Attraction*, and I’ve really come to enjoy books by [writers] such as Deepak Chopra. [Editor’s note: Chopra is thanked in the liner notes of Evan’s newest CD, *Embracing the Light ... and then some*.]

**WCT: You grew up in Illinois, correct?**

JE: Yes. I grew up in Lake Forest.

**WCT: Did you say before that your father was responsible for a lot of the sadness you were feeling?**

JE: “Responsible” is a little strong. I just don’t think he was a happy person, and his stress and anxiety was brought onto our family, and we reacted accordingly.

**WCT: Have you reached out to him since your change?**

JE: I actually reached out to him about a year ago, and things [have improved]. He tells me every so often that he’s happy that I’m here. I’m not blocking him off as much. [Laughs]

**WCT: When you were in your period of melancholy, you recorded a CD, *Enjoy the Sadness*. Now, you have a new, more positive CD out.**

JE: Yes. It’s called *Embracing the Light ... and then some*, and I got the idea for the name from a Japanese pop song. The songs themselves span the spectrum, from a little melancholy to a reflective point to being blissful.

**WCT: What did your friends think of the changes you’ve gone through?**

JE: So far, I think that they’ve been OK with it. They think that [the most recent change] is a great idea.

**WCT: When you perform, do you still sing songs from the previous CD, or is there such a sad connection that you don’t touch them at all?**

and also a little nervous.”

They will have a ceremony in Bora Bora, arranged by VIP Escapes, Anderson said.

Anderson confirmed that Dickinson has been invited, “but we don’t know if she’ll be there,” he said.

McCarron and Anderson are now planning for an awards show in December to celebrate all of the fair-minded, positive LGBT organizations and groups in Orlando, Anderson said.

“We’re staying busy these days; that’s for sure,” Anderson said.

And, yes, there are several TV projects for them in the works, he confirmed, without offering details.

**Shaun & Paul will be the grand marshals for Orlando’s Gay Pride Parade Oct. 12.**



Shaun McCarron (right) and Paul Anderson.

JE: I still do it, and probably will do so for the next few months, only because [fans] are familiar with those songs. However, I’d like to terminate [all ties to the past] soon; the old Web site will be cut off in October.

**WCT: It’s great that you have this brighter perspective. Would a relationship have anything to do with this?**

JE: I wish I could say “yes,” but that’s not the case. [Laughs] I’m still by myself, but some of the songs do explore the possibility of wanting a relationship. I do want to be in love—maybe that’s wishful thinking. [Laughs]

**Read more about Joel Evan at [www.JoelEvanMusic.com](http://www.JoelEvanMusic.com). Evan will perform at Swing State, 19041 W. Grand, Lake Villa, Thursday-Friday, Aug. 21-22 (Aug. 21 at 7 p.m.; Aug. 22 at 11 p.m.). Call 847-219-3150.**



## Entertainment news

Actress Anne Hathaway (*The Devil Wears Prada*) jumped on the bandwagon and announced in a recent interview who she would “go gay” for. **Hathaway, who recently split from her Italian businessman boyfriend said, “If I was going to go gay for another actress it would have to be Cate Blanchett.** We could talk about theater and she has played a guy really well, so if I got bored that’d be nice.”

“America’s Next Top Model” is keeping things fresh and progressive for their upcoming season by featuring a **trans contestant**. One of the 14 girls competing in the new season, which begins Sept. 3, is a 22-year-old transgender woman from Maryland named Isis. In an interview with *US Weekly*, the young contestant said, “My cards were dealt differently.” She added that although she wouldn’t mind being a role model, she is really on the show to follow her dreams.

According to *The Sun*, pop icon Madonna and her husband, Guy Ritchie, will be heading back to Malawi for a new addition to their family. The couple supposedly plans to adopt another child from Malawi. According to reports, the couple will soon bring home a daughter named Mercy. Madonna also has a son, David Banda, from Malawi. However, **Madge’s rep has denied this rumor, and says that the pop star is focused on her upcoming tour, not adoption.**

Katy Perry’s chart-topping streak has come to an end. **Rihanna’s new single, “Disturbia,” knocked Perry’s smash summer hit, “I Kissed a Girl,” out of the No. 1 spot,** where it has dominated the past seven weeks. Perry’s run was still quite impressive. She became the first female artist to hold the No. 1 spot for that long.

## TV

## Shaun and Paul to get married

BY ROSS FORMAN

California, here they come. And then it’s off to Bora Bora.

The whirlwind, fast-paced lives of Shaun McCarron and Paul Anderson—known as Shaun & Paul from their run on *The Janice Dickinson Modeling Agency* (Oxygen Network) and their work within the Orlando LGBT community and beyond—is about to take another major ride. And not just the long-haul, first-class airplane trips they have upcoming.

Shaun & Paul are going to California in mid-November to get married in what will be, no doubt, one of the most high-profile, celebrity-filled gay weddings in the state. The two then will journey to Tahiti for their honeymoon. (Anderson said the exact date had not been finalized as of press time, though they were leaning toward Nov. 15.)

“We’ve been talking about this for a while,” Anderson said. “We’re going to take advantage to the fullest and go to California and legally get married. We want to get that stamp of approval from the U.S. Government, not just from our family and friends.”

The two have been dating for almost four years.

“We just thought it was something we couldn’t pass up; we had to take advantage of it,” Anderson said.

Their honeymoon in Bora Bora is arranged through Orlando-based VIP Escapes, which coordinates honeymoon packages geared to the LGBT community.

“I’m nervous and excited,” Anderson said. “We’re really, really excited; extremely grateful,

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To sign up/find out more: **Debbie Barrett, LCSW, CADC at (630) 217-7754 or [debbiebar3@aol.com](mailto:debbiebar3@aol.com).** All information is confidential. This is a research study for a Doctoral Dissertation.

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## POLICE from cover

the invisible minority we once were."

The journey towards acceptance for Chicago's GLBT officers has not been easy. The effort has required a lot of sacrifice, education, perseverance and hard work. A major part of this march towards acceptance has been the emergence of GLBT activism within the department.

Susan Sasso has been with her partner, Karen Calahan, for 22 years, and has been partnered with Calahan on the police force for 17 of those years. When Sue joined the CPD 18 years ago she soon became one of the founding members of the groundbreaking group The LGPA (Lesbian & Gay Police Association). "When my partner Karen joined the CPD in 1986 she noticed that there wasn't an organization for LGBT officers," Sasso said. "In 1991, a year after I joined the force, Karen and I, along with Dorothy Knudson and Mary Boyle decided to create an organization for LGBT officers. We called it The Lesbian and Gay Police Association because lesbians we were always either omitted from the name or listed second in an organization title.

"Dorothy Knudson and Mary Boyle took care of most of the original paperwork, both had previous experience from non-police organizations. The four of us set up the mission statement, by-laws and constitution. The charter was granted in 1992 and the department was notified of our existence. The CPD requires all police organizations wishing to be recognized to submit the name, address, phone number and list of executive officers. There wasn't a problem with the Department or the Fraternal Order of Police recognizing the LGPA, the problem was with them treating us like other organizations."

Progress came slowly, but things started to change. "Part of the reason for our success was that we never gave up," Sasso said. "When we were put off by the superintendent's office after requesting a meeting, we kept calling. We were finally granted a meeting. They realized we were

not going away. We had a similar problem with the CPD Training Academy; we felt lesbian and gay officers should speak to the recruits about LGBT sensitivity, it took several years and numerous request letters, but we were finally allowed to be part of the training, on our own time of course."

Sasso continued, "One of the things I told the recruits during training was that a person's sexual orientation has nothing to do with the job they do. What a person does in the privacy of their own home does not effect you, you must be professional and treat everyone with the respect you would want for yourself and your family."

In addition to education, the LGPA made strides on other fronts and was instrumental in getting Domestic Partnership for City Employees, Bereavement Leave for partners of LGBT officers, as well as adding sexual orientation in Section 10-2 of The Fraternal Order of Police Contract regarding non-discrimination. The organization was active in recruiting officers for the force from the GLBT community and succeeded in getting the first LGBT liaison officer into the heavily gay/lesbian 23rd District.

Another important accomplishment was the LGPA's fight to receive funding from the The Fraternal Order of Police for a float in the gay-pride parade. The request had been repeatedly denied because the organization was not an ethnic group. Sasso explained, "For the first few parades we marched and/or drove personal vehicles that displayed the LGPA banner. After pointing out that the FOP gave support to other 'non-ethnic groups,' they helped fund our parade entry. Although most have retired at this time, many high-ranking CPD members felt we were a disgrace to the uniform. In order to wear our official police uniforms in the Pride Parade, we were told to write a request and send it through channels. ... The 23rd District Commander signed our request, then it went to the Area 3 deputy chief, who denied it. When the superintendent found out it was denied he sent



Officer Marty Ridge. Photo by Andrew Davis

it back to the Area 3 deputy chief for approval. Eventually, we got it. We have been allowed to wear our uniforms in the pride parade ever since. Jamie [Richardson] has the original copy of the request where you can see the denial whited out and approval written over it."

A 13-year veteran of the force, Jamie Richardson wanted to be a cop since she was a teenager—specifically she wanted to be Starsky of TV's "Starsky and Hutch." For Richardson, the presence of LGPA in the parade was crucial in her decision to be an out officer. "I was at the parade in 1995," she said. "I'd gone every year but this was the first year I'd gone as a police officer even though I was off duty. It was definitely a different feel. I was on the sidelines and looking around and thinking, please don't anyone recognize me. There were cops everywhere. Suddenly I looked up and saw this float going by and I thought, 'Oh my God, who are all those hot cops?' It was LGPA. I had to be one of them. That was when I decided that I was never again going to stand on the sidelines and I would never again going to go to work closeted."

Sasso recalled those times: "Our first couple Pride Parades a large part of the LGBT community didn't know what to make of us—some cheered, some booed. Now as our float goes down the street we hear nothing but applause, it makes me feel good to know that I was a part of the changes that have occurred over the past 17 years. We still don't have equal rights, but LGBT officers don't have to keep secrets any longer."

Perhaps the most important accomplishment of the LGPA was that it provided a crucial support and networking tool for GLBT members within the department as well as law enforcement officers from various Midwest municipalities. The LGPA supported HIV-positive officers and some who transitioned from female to male while in the police force. In short, the group created and organized a community.

However, many early members were not out in their departments. Sasso explained: "Most LGPA meetings were held in member's homes. Many were scared away when we had meetings at Ann Sathers. Our early members included many who only felt safe being themselves when they were with other GLBT members. Now we have out CPD commanders who would not have had such an easy time without LGPA breaking the ice."

After 14 years of progress and formidable advances by the organization, the four founding women of LGPA split over the future and the vision of the group—specifically over whether to bring LGPA into the national organization GOAL (Gay Officers Action League).

The Gay Officers Action League (GOAL) was incorporated by two New York Police Department veterans in 1982, becoming the first official police fraternal society in the world to represent gay and lesbian people within the criminal justice system. Since then it has evolved into an activist organization with chapters worldwide.

Three years ago the four founding women of LGPA stepped down and, in June 2005, passed

the reins of the organization on to current president Richardson (as well as to James LoBianco, who has since left the department to work for the mayor). During her first months as president, Richardson vowed to enhance and rebuild the organization. She sought to reestablish strength, stability and unity. "To help solve the dilemmas and prevent any interdepartmental problems we decided to combine the two," Richardson said. "As not to offend the original forebears we still have LGPA, but we are a GOAL chapter as well. That's how we became LGPA-GOAL."

Patrolman Martin Ridge clarified: "Jaime had heard about GOAL and all the wonderful things that it was doing for its members. We started reaching out and found that there were numerous other Departments and LGBT officers nationwide that were working on the same things we were—education and training, Department recognition, community outreach, etc. Joining a nationwide organization and working with other GLBT officers together on issues that we were all experiencing was a no-brainer. GOAL is a great tool—a great wat to connect our department to other Departments and share information."

LGPA-GOAL Board Member Captain Lipman added, "LGPA-GOAL does great work for the community as a whole, representing concerns of the city's gay citizens in terms of police service and organizing, and participating in, several fundraising activities that benefit the gay community. Additionally, LGPA is a great resource for family and friends of gay and lesbian officers."

LGPA-GOAL President Jamie Richardson continued to keep the organization moving forward. "We did a lot with The Gay Games, which helped bring unity within the community as well as within the police department," she said. "That was inspiring. And membership in the organization has tripled." Combining with GOAL also opened up the membership of the organization to other public safety officers such as paramedics, firemen, security guards, state troopers and 911 dispatchers.

Despite these accomplishments, Richardson quickly noted that "[t]raining is probably the most important issue. I'm a big advocate for training within the department when it comes to the LGBT community. We've done three streaming videos. We did an informational video on our transgender community here in Chicago; another ... on alternative lifestyles that focused on the LGB community that had information on the [then-] upcoming [2006] Gay Games that were being held here in Chicago; and ... one on transgendered traffic stops so officers can be better educated."

Ridge said, "The transgendered traffic stop video came about after realizing that there were a lot of unanswered questions regarding proper search procedures when dealing with members of our transgendered community. We were looking at possible lawsuits by not having proper procedures and training. The department heads said, 'Hey, you're right'. Before we knew it, we had a transgendered traffic stop video." However, Ridge also noted that some things have become more difficult in terms of education. "We used to have free reign to go into the academy for an hour or two and say, 'Hey—welcome to the CPD. We are gay and lesbian officers and we're here to give you a heads up on one of the communities you might meet out there who you might not be familiar with.' Going into the academy like that is no longer a given, but we're working on bringing that back."

Lipman agreed: "Training is a key issue. The police department needs to protect itself from complaints and lawsuits and the officers from individual liability. Training in a multitude of areas is a priority for the Department. By providing training, we ensure the most professional treatment of the LGBT community."

Read the conclusion of this article in two weeks in the Sept. 3 edition of Windy City Times.

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# WHAT TO DO?

## Wednesday, Aug. 20

**Chicago Prime Timers/Center on Halsted** Book Group. Confessions of a Mask by Yukio Mishima. 7:30-9 p.m., John Baran Senior Center, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

**Windy City Gay Naturists** Club night at Touche's Torn or Ripped Underwear Party. 7:30 p.m., \$12 cash bar, \$20 with two drink tickets, RSVP 312-494-2654

## Thursday, Aug. 21

**Lakeshore Theater** Amy & Freddy perform. 8 p.m., \$20, tickets at www.lakeshoretheater.com

**Lifelink** Adoption orientation meeting with info on application to finalization. 7 p.m., St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 2335 N. Orchard St., www.lifelink.org

**Men Nurturing Men** Start of a new eight-week peer-led support group. 7-9 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., small fee, men over 21 welcome, e-mail wcn60660@aol.com if interested

**New Town Writers** Monthly meeting. 7:30 p.m., Gerber Hart, 1127 W. Granville Ave.

**Trace** Nikki Patin hosts a going away fundraiser, "Leaving on a Jet Plane: Rock, Roast, Burlesque" before starting her "Phat Grrrl Revolution Tour." 9 p.m., 3714 N. Clark St.

**Women and Children First Bookstore** Domnica Radulescu: Train to Trieste. 7:30 p.m., 5233 N. Clark St., 773-769-9299, www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

## Friday, Aug. 22

**AIDS Run & Walk Chicago** "Bar Challenge," a new fundraising event. 10 p.m., Crew, 4804 N. Broadway, www.aidsrunwalk.org, 312-334-0946

**Lakeshore Theater** Susan Alexander hosts 5 Funny Females and 5 Funny Fags comedy show. And Aug. 23, 10 p.m., \$30 at www.lakeshoretheater.com or 773-472-3492, 3175 N. Broadway, www.5funnyfemales.com, www.5funnyfags.com

**Macy's Glamorama 2008**, Pop Candy Arcade, headlined by Cyndi Lauper and MC Hammer. \$50-\$1000, Art Institute

of Chicago, tickets at ticketmaster.com or Chicago Theatre box office

**Or Chadash Shabbat Services.** Every Friday. This week a 7 p.m. cocktail reception for potential members, 8 p.m. services, Emanuel Congregation building, 5959 N. Sheridan Rd., 773-271-2148, office@orchadash.org, www.orchadash.org

**Poetry Foundation** 4th Annual Printers' Ball. Over 100 arts and literary organizations gather under one roof to showcase numerous print publications. Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave., free admission

**West Suburban Gay Association** Dinner at Elk Grove Village's Sweet Baby Ray's BBQ. 8 p.m., 800 E. Higgins Rd., bring cash

**Windy City Rodeo** The 12th annual rodeo kicks off with pre-rodeo events. Runs through Aug. 24 in Crete, Ill. See www.ilgra.com for a complete listing of events and information

## Saturday, Aug. 23

**Affinity** Annual Picnic. Rainbow Beach, 773-324-0377, www.affinity95.org

**Dance for Life** An evening of dance to benefit local HIV/AIDS organizations. Harris Theatre for Music and Dance, Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph Dr., www.danceforlifechicago.com

**Glenview Avenue Arts Fest** 7th annual Rogers Park arts festival with art, theater, music, food and drink. Includes local LGBT acts. On Glenwood Avenue between Farwell and Lunt to Morse Avenue. And Aug. 24. Free, www.rogerspark.com

**Human Rights Campaign Families** Ice Cream Social & Play Date. 1-3 p.m., Linz & Vail Gelateria & Care, 922 Noyes St. in Evanston, 847-987-5740

**Human Rights Campaign Federal Club** Social event. 6:30-8:30 p.m., \$10/person, Velvet Rope, 728 Lake, Oak Park

**Lakeshore Theater** Susan Alexander hosts 5 Funny Females and 5 Funny Fags comedy show. 10 p.m., \$30 at www.lakeshoretheater.com or 773-472-3492, 3175 N. Broadway, www.5funnyfemales.com, www.5funnyfags.com

**Lesbian Brunch Group** Busee Woods

hike and picnic in Elk Grove Village. 11 a.m., bring your own food, \$1 donation to cover grove cost, Busse Woods South Forest Grove 23. E-mail pphd1226@yahoo.com or see gaypros.meetup.com/283

## Sunday, Aug. 24

**Glenview Avenue Arts Fest** 7th annual Rogers Park arts festival with art, theater, music, food and drink. Includes local LGBT acts. On Glenwood Avenue between Farwell and Lunt to Morse Avenue. Free, www.rogerspark.com

**Lesbian Brunch Group** Ice Cream Social. 1 p.m., Sweet Occasions, 5306 N. Clark St., e-mail pphd1226@yahoo.com for info or see gaypros.meetup.com/283

## Monday, Aug. 25

**About Fave Youth Theatre** Flip Flop 2, a benefit for About Face Youth Theatre. A gender-bent night of movie music. 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. start, \$40 must buy online, Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted, www.aboutfaceyouththeatre.com

**Hamburger Mary's** hambINGO, with hostess Regina UPright, a weekly charity event. Every Monday. 8-10 p.m., 5400 N. Clark St.

**Windy City Gay Chorus and Aria: Windy City Women's Ensemble** Auditions. 6-10 p.m., Hoover-Leppen Theatre, 3656 N. Halsted St., to schedule email join@windycitysings.org or call 773-404-9242

## Tuesday, Aug. 26

**Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders** Coffee and Conversation. 12-3 p.m., John Baran Senior Center, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

**Urban Care** The Chicago OUTmusic Queer Open Mic. 7:30-9:30 p.m., 1467 W. Irving Park Rd., www.urbancafechicago.com

## Wednesday, Aug. 27

**Lakeshore Theater** "Office" script readings by Chicago comedy writers/performers Todd Edwards and Dan Telfer. 7 p.m., free and open to public, www.lakeshoretheater.com

## Friday, Aug. 22



## GLAM BAM

Cyndi Lauper (above) will make girls and boys wanna have fun at **Macy's Glamorama 2008** at The Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State.

## Sat., Aug. 23



## LEI IT DOWN

Renowned choreographer Randy Duncan (above) is a major part of 2008's **Dance for Life** at Harris Theatre for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph.

Photo from the 2007 event by Andrew Davis

## BOOK REVIEW

### Life with My

### Sister Madonna

Written by Christopher Ciccone

(with Wendy Leigh)

\$26; Simon & Schuster;

343 pages

REVIEW BY TERRI SCHLICHMEYER

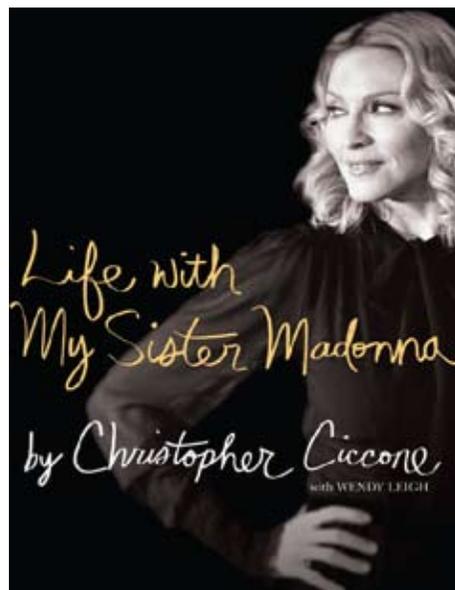
Did you ever wonder what it would've been like to grow up with a different family?

If you were an Only, you might have dreamed about the fun you'd have with a houseful of kids to play with. Maybe you even gravitated toward friends with siblings, a little covetous of their raucous households.

If you had siblings, you might've wistfully thought about never having to share toys, the bathroom or Mom. Though you loved them, there were times, perhaps, when you would have happily shipped your brother or sister to another planet, no questions asked.

Undoubtedly, Christopher Ciccone felt like that, especially when his sister was hot-and-cold with him over the years. In the new book, *Life with My Sister Madonna* (written with Wendy Leigh), you'll read about a star's peccadillos, her rise to fame, her demands and the brother who loves her, always.

Born two years after his big sister, Ciccone says that he and Madonna weren't close as chil-



dren. Motherless at three, he says he has few memories of his early childhood. He does recall, though, that Madonna was their father's favorite; even after their Dad remarried and there were more additions to the family, Madonna was singled out and treated specially.

Mythology says that Madonna went to New York for the first time with \$35 in her pocket. True or not, it didn't take her long to hone in on what she wanted, or to get it. Ciccone says she invited him along for the fame-ride, repeatedly

yanking away the invitation and then extending it again. Still, he went running when Madonna called, partly because he was awed by her but mostly because he loved her.

Just before her first tour, she asked him to be her dresser. Later, he decorated her homes, her sets and her clothes, and he protected her, both physically and mentally.

In this book, which takes readers from the beginning through to Madonna's latest tour, Ciccone has everything to say about his famous sister: her loves (thumbs down to Penn, thumbs up to Beatty, thumbs down to Ritchie) and her friends, both male and female; her passions, ego, tantrums and embarrassments; the things she really did, that which she only pretended to do and the truth behind the rumors and their spat.

I was a bit taken aback by this book. I was expecting another blah-blah-blah praise-filled star bio. Instead, what's inside *Life with My Sister Madonna* is a thoughtful, warts-and-everything, not-quite-tell-all from a brother who alternates between adoration, gleeful tattling, outraged pain, snarkiness and pouting. While this is definitely a book about Madonna, artist/designer and author Christopher Ciccone also seamlessly includes his own story of life as a gay man living in the shadow of the famous, beloved sister who sometimes infuriates him.

If you have a sibling, you may occasionally find yourself in this book (minus the billion\$,

of course), but even if you don't, you'll enjoy this gossipy, star-studded, behind-and-in-the-scenes book. While not for the whole family, *Life with My Sister Madonna* is still high-living fun to read.

Want to know more about the Material Girl? Check out *Madonna: Like an Icon* by Lucy O'Brien; or try to snag a copy of *Sex*, by Madonna herself.

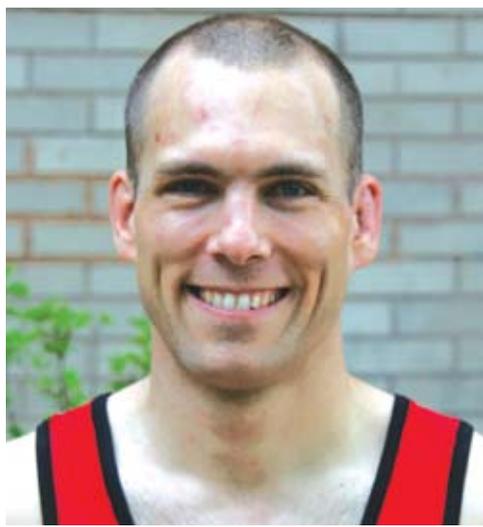
## Gay children's book authors to celebrate Banned Book Week

Numerous authors of commonly banned books, including Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell of a children's book about two gay penguins, *And Tango Makes Three*—the most challenged book last year—will celebrate Banned Book Week in the Windy City.

The Chicago-based American Library Association is kicking off Banned Book Week in Chicago and throughout the U.S. with a free "Read Out" event Saturday, Sept. 27, at 4 p.m., in Chicago's Pioneer Court, 401 N. Michigan. Banned Book Week runs through Oct. 4.

Among those participating in the "Read Out" are authors Judy Blume, Lois Lowry, Richardson and Parnell and others.

See [www.ala.org/bbooks](http://www.ala.org/bbooks) for a complete listing of events and information.



Ross Capdeville (left) and Gene Dermody.



## SPORTS

## Gay wrestler part of tourney

BY ROSS FORMAN

When Ross Capdeville started wrestling in 2005, it wasn't to emulate Hulk Hogan, The Rock, Kevin Nash, Kurt Angle or any other pro wrestling superhero. And it definitely was not for the homoerotic element of two men rolling around on a mat.

It was, in reality, because so many of his soccer games were getting rained out in the winter.

Capdeville has since been a Gay Games bronze medal winner and one of the best competitors on the Golden Gate Wrestling Club. He is, in fact, one of the most talented grapplers in Wrestling WithOut Borders (WWB), which is composed of organizations and individuals dedicated to the promotion of safe and challenging freestyle wrestling, primarily for the LGBT community. In addition to Capdeville's San Francisco-based club, Wrestling Without Borders features seven other worldwide clubs, such as the Chicago Cyclones, Philadelphia Spartans, San Diego Bulldogs and Harbour City Wrestling Club in Sydney.

"I have a background in karate and kickboxing. That was always a good workout, and I just thought wrestling would be similar, another good workout," said Capdeville, a systems engineer for a marketing company in San Francisco.

"I really had no competitive goals when I started; I just entered local tournaments about six months after starting, and got hooked."

Capdeville claimed bronze at the Chicago Gay Games in 2006 at 149 pounds, which truly is amazing given the fact he weighed 170 pounds before first hitting the mat. "I lost 20-plus pounds by eating properly and I stopped drinking [alcohol]. It changed my life a lot. Outside of work, this is now the biggest thing in my life."

Capdeville, who is gay and single, trains two or three times (for a total of up to 12 hours) a week in the South Bay.

"The way that I feel after a wrestling practice ... nothing has come close to that [feeling]," Capdeville said. "Physically and emotionally, it's just such a high. I've done a lot of sports in my life, but I haven't gotten that high in any other sport, including boxing."

Capdeville said he likely will return to the Gay Games in 2010, hopefully for golden memories.

"When people say that wrestling is homoerotic, I compare that to running up a 45-degree hill as fast as you can. Are you going to get [aroused] doing that? I don't think so. And that's the same experience you have when you're wrestling a match. Physically, wrestling is so demanding, so [getting aroused] just doesn't happen."

Capdeville was one of about 40 wrestlers in Chicago last May for the annual 2008 Don Jung/WWB Championship, marking the first predominant gay wrestling tournament host by the Chicago Cyclones. The event has been held in San Francisco for about 23 years, formally known as the Golden Gate Wrestling Memorial Day Tournament.

Jung was instrumental in gay wrestling dating back to the inaugural Gay Games in 1980. He was openly-gay, well-respected within the high school wrestling community in California.

"Wrestling is a minority sport in a minority community," said Gene Dermody, 60, a longtime gay wrestler, official, coach and organizer from San Francisco. "So many gay people did not go through [competing in] sports as a youngster, so they miss a piece of their psychology that might make them fit in better."

Dermody met his partner (Bryan Northan, 49) at the Gay Games in New York City. And yes, Dermody has been a Gay Games medal-winner.

"There's no way in your mind that you can have both a competitive drive and also view [a match] in a homoerotic manner," Dermody said. "Newcomers who think it's homoerotic, well, they're gone after the first day [of training]. They quickly realize that they have to work, they

have learn, they have to defend themselves."

Dermody, a key cog in the San Francisco-based WWB, said his crew of about 200 worldwide wrestlers definitely would be competing in 2009 at the OutGames in Copenhagen, then in 2010 in Cologne, Germany, for the Gay Games.

WWB has about 200 active members, mostly males from 20 to 60. The group has men, women, gays and straights. And competitors range from 20 to 60.

At the 2008 Don Jung/Wrestling Without Borders Championship in Chicago, the second class of honorees to the Don Jung Hall of Merit was named. They are:

- Barry Webb (Sydney, Australia)
- Russ Connelly (San Diego)
- Rick Van Tassel (Philadelphia)
- Jek Fong (London)
- Ed Lindsay (New York City)
- Bob Sayers (Scranton, Penn.)
- Ron Ward (Los Angeles)
- Johnny Almony (San Francisco)
- Kathy McAdams (Boston)
- Les Morgan (San Francisco)
- Alex Ostrovskiy (San Francisco)
- Kevin Martin (Philadelphia)
- Roger Brigham (San Francisco)

Find out more about Wrestling WithOut Borders at [www.wrestlerswob.com](http://www.wrestlerswob.com).

## Ross' countdown to Amsterdam

BY ROSS FORMAN

PHILADELPHIA—As usual, the first 20 minutes of my run was the most difficult of the whole thing.

Let's see: The iPod started with Viva La Vida from Coldplay, followed by 4 Minutes from Madonna featuring Justin Timberlake and Timbaland. That was a dynamic duo of songs to kick off my 18-mile run; I couldn't have been more pumped as I started running at 6 a.m. by myself along this city's newest riverfront destination, Schuylkill Banks.

But then the iPod's battery went out—ugh, to put it mildly.

About 10 minutes into the three-hour run—while already a wee bit ticked at the iPod, which I was certain I had charged—I came across some sprinklers: not just one or two sprinklers, but about seven or eight, and there really was no way to run around them. So, of course, I ran through them. (On the way back, that was actually fun running through the water, but I didn't really want to do it at the start. Oh, well.)

Next on the hit list was the old Timex Ironman watch. As I tried to change my interval settings for this longer run, I tried to program it for four minutes—but accidentally did it for four hours. And it took me multiple attempts to figure it out, amazingly. That college degree from Indiana University didn't seem to do much for me in my battle against the watch. But eventually I fixed it, thankfully.

The three-hour-plus run was scenic, but rather boring. There weren't too many runners or cyclists out—thus, not much eye candy to enjoy along the route. Hey, without music, ya gotta entertain yourself somehow.

I ran the entire 18 miles and only talked to one runner—a girl from Iran who told me I could get some water at the Philadelphia Canoe Club. And I did just that. Thanks!

Otherwise, it was just me; my bottle filled with an energy drink mix from Infinit Nutrition; a package of Gu (strawberry-banana flavor); and some small bags of pretzels, courtesy of the United Airlines' Red Carpet Club in Chicago.

This was, in the end, my best long run. In fact, it was better than my 14-miler and certainly better than my 16-miler two weeks ago, when my calves tightened up at about the 12-mile mark, giving me intense pain as I even tried to run.

The Amsterdam Marathon is Oct. 19 and I couldn't be happier. I had a great training run today, as Coach Katie predicted, and now truly am excited—not nervous—for the last two long

training runs (20 and 23 miles).

All of the running and the countless hours training are done to raise funds for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. I'm very grateful to all who have—or will—sponsor me and, in the process, help the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. Donations can be made at [www.firstgiving.com/rossruns](http://www.firstgiving.com/rossruns).

## 30th year of nine to twelve bowling to start

The Nine to Twelve Bowling League will begin its 30th year of continuous league play in September at River Rand Bowl, 191 S. River, Des Plaines.

The success of the longest-running LGBT league in the suburbs has spawned a second league called Nine to Twelve No Tap.

The Nine to Twelve League will begin regular league action Sat., Sept. 20 and will bowl every third Saturday of the month through May. The Nine to Twelve No Tap League will commence Saturday, Oct. 4, with bowling on the first Saturday of the month. Both leagues begin at 9:00 p.m.; substitute bowlers are welcome and encouraged to come out.

For more information, contact Rob, the league secretary, at [retroactive1@comcast.net](mailto:retroactive1@comcast.net).

## Amaechi blogging from Beijing

John Amaechi, the former National Basketball Association player who came out after retiring, is blogging about his experiences at the 2008 Beijing Olympics at [www.BeijingLegacyBlog.com](http://www.BeijingLegacyBlog.com).

Amaechi is in Beijing for the BBC (British Broadcasting Company). The Olympics end Aug. 24.

## Athlete says steroids changed his gender

Andreas Krieger—who was Heidi Krieger before a 1997 sexual-reassignment surgery—has said that steroids are responsible for kick-starting changes in his gender, according to CNN.com.

As Heidi, Krieger won many medals in the 1980s as a shot-put champion for what was then East Germany. Krieger contended that the coaches gave him so many steroids that emotional and physical problems began. Krieger added, "I felt much more attracted to women and just felt like a man. But I knew I was not lesbian."

Andreas Krieger is currently married and owns a business.

## Drag queen v-ball Sept. 6

"Spiked: The Drag Queen Beach Volley Ball Charity Spectacle" will take place Sat. Sept. 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at 1200 W. Sherwin.

The first-ever event will be a double-elimination beach volleyball tournament that will benefit Chicago House. Awards will be given to the winning volleyball tournament team and for best-dressed team.

Call 773-248-5200 x303 or see [www.chicagohouse.org/spiked08.html](http://www.chicagohouse.org/spiked08.html) for more information.

## Gymnastics stars at Rosemont Oct. 15

The 2008 World Tour of Gymnastics Superstars—featuring Olympic medalists Shawn Johnson and Nastia Liukin, plus the men and women of Team USA's gymnastics team—will be at the Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim, Rosemont, on Wed., Oct. 15, at 7:30 p.m.

Ticket prices are \$29.50-\$79.50. Call Ticketmaster at 312-559-1212 or visit [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

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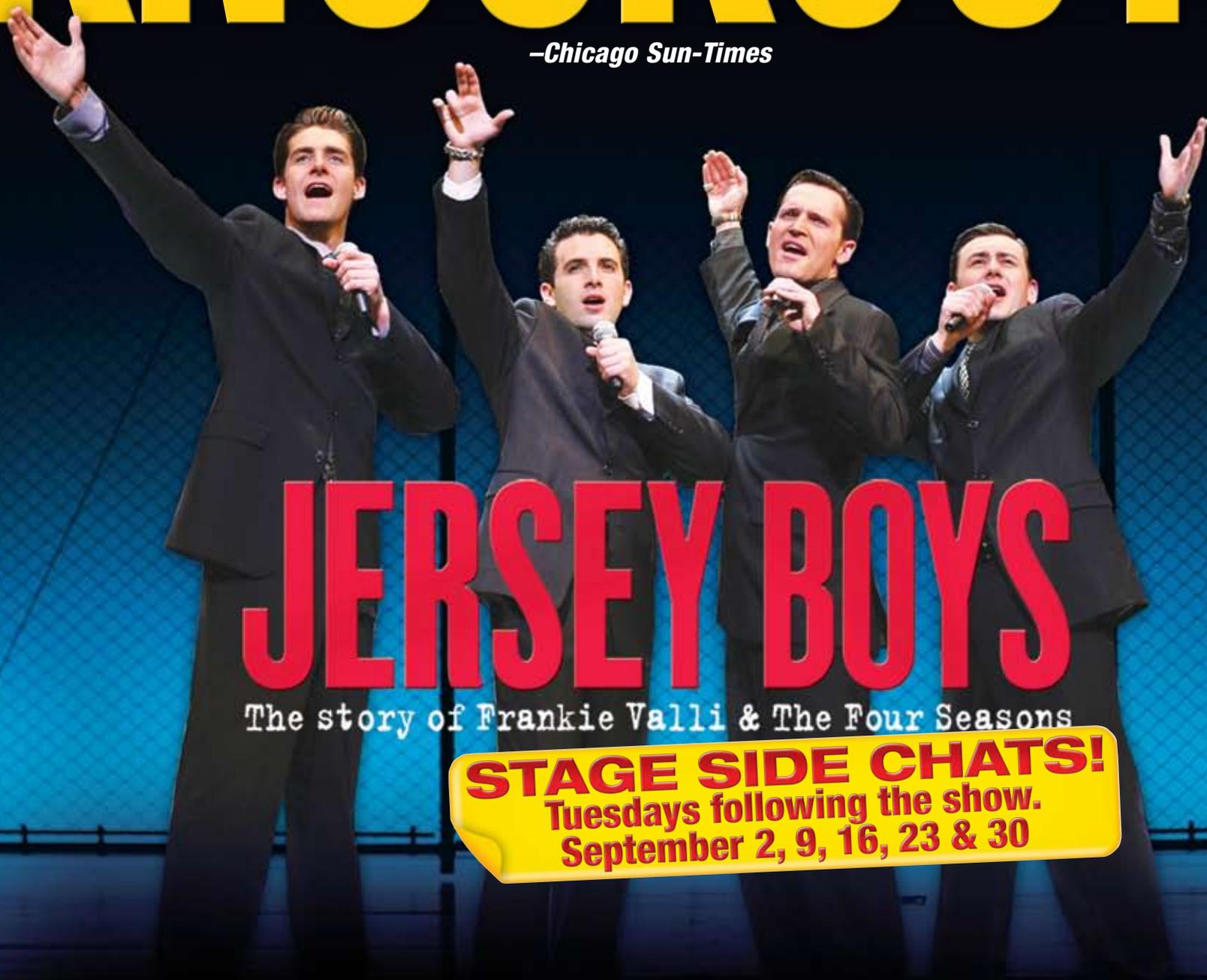
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