



Chicago House Brunch

page 18



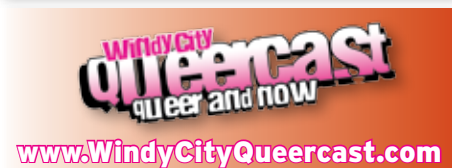
NGLTF in Chicago

page 6



Angela Bassett Receives Award

page 14



Justice Souter's role in LGBT history

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The U.S. Supreme Court is about to lose its only confirmed bachelor.

Justice David Souter, who apparently wants to celebrate his 70th birthday in September by not prepping for the start of the court's 2009-2010 session, confirmed Friday that he is retiring in July, at the end of the 2008-2009 term.

President Obama interrupted a routine White House press conference May 1 to make the announcement.

President George H.W. Bush appointed Souter in 1990, and the New Hampshire Republican quickly surprised liberals and conservatives alike by voting with the liberal side of the court on many cases, including gay ones.

National gay groups had opposed his confirmation, ACT UP protesters disrupted his confirmation hearing, and U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., voted against him, predicting he would "solidify a 5-4 anti-civil rights, anti-privacy majority."

And yet, within two years, he had emerged as a ray of hope for gay-rights advocates.

"Justice Souter emerged as a thoughtful and dependable vote for gay equality and inclusion," said Evan Wolfson, head of the national Freedom to Marry group and, for many years, a key attorney

Turn to page 4



pages 16-17

Javier Beltram (left) and Robert Pattinson play artists and lovers Federico Garcia Lorca and Salvador Dali, respectively, in the Little Ashes. Read an exclusive interview with Beltram and a review of the movie on pages 16-17.

Vernita Gray: Fighting for 40 years

BY PAUL MARINKOVICH

Vernita Gray has dedicated most of her life to the fight for LGBT equality. She is the director of community relations and special events at the Cook County State's Attorney's office—a post she achieved after 16 years of service.

But Gray has been working with the LGBT community even before pride parades existed. She came out in the fall of 1969 and immediately organized a gay and lesbian hotline, and hosted support groups from her Chicago apartment.

"Necessity is the mother of invention," Gray said of her motivation to create change. "When I came out there wasn't any place that gays and lesbians could go and be safe. That is really what prompted me to become the community activist that I am today."

At just 20 years old, Gray found that many of her friends became homeless when the families discovered their sexual orientation. Her apartment became the "crash pad" and quickly transformed into a safe haven for homeless youth when they had nowhere else to go. Shortly after, Gray became involved with Gay Horizons, an LGBT community center that offered services to the homeless as well as to victims of hate crimes and domestic violence.

In 1992, Gray was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame for her resilient efforts as an early leader in the gay-liberation movement.

"It is a real acknowledgement of love," she said of the award. "To be in a city where the mayor acknowledges that gay and lesbian people have talent and that we are your sisters and

your brothers and your doctors and your teachers. It also represents that we are a part of a larger community—that we are a part of the pie and the struggle. There are no ways around that. We are part of that pie here in Chicago and it is great that our mayor acknowledges that."

Now in her sixth decade, Gray not only works extensively with LGBT youth, but with the aging as well. She serves on the Task Force of the Aging, the LGBT advisory committee to the AARP and the National Gay and Lesbian Senior Task Force.

"I feel it is imperative to work with both populations because the services didn't exist 50 years ago," said Gray. "And really, when we talk about seniors, they still don't exist. I am a product of

Turn to page 6

Miller Lite SKYY VODKA PRESENT



CHICAGO'S BIGGEST GLBT CONTEST!
Produced by Windy City Media Group

Next round:
SOFO
THURSDAY, MAY 14

See page 24 for more details

Marking Tracy Baim's 25th anniversary in Chicago LGBT media

25for
charity
drive 25

"I wanted to mark this 25th anniversary by showing my appreciation for the wide range of non-profits serving our community, many of them for decades. Right now, our community non-profits and businesses are hurting. It's time for us to create an economic stimulus package for our own community."

-- Tracy Baim, publisher and co-founder of Windy City Times, started in LGBT media in 1984 with GayLife newspaper

An Economic Stimulus for the Chicago LGBT Community

People can write their check to any registered non-profit serving the Chicago-area LGBT or HIV/AIDS communities.

The suggested charity list is:

About Face Theatre
Affinity Community Services
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Amigas Latinas
Asians and Friends/Chicago
Association of Latin Men in Action
BEHIV: Better Existence with HIV
Center on Halsted
Chicago House
Equality Illinois
Howard Brown Health Center
Lambda Legal Defense
Lesbian Community Care Project
Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association
PFLAG: Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
Test Positive Aware Network
Vital Bridges

We're asking for you to donate some multiplier of 25 (\$2.50, \$25, \$250 ...) to your favorite charity or charities for our community. A few charities are suggested, but feel free to add another qualified non-profit in the Chicago area.

We could have done a pie toss, a roast, or any number of humiliating public displays of attention. But instead, we wanted to create an opportunity to support our community's LGBT and HIV groups in their time of need.



What to do: Write out a check to your favorite charity's name (Example: AIDS Foundation of Chicago), and send that check to:
Tracy Baim
1900 S. Prairie Avenue
Chicago, IL 60616

We will bundle the checks into "buckets" of bucks and present the charities their funds during Pride Month.

DEADLINE: June 5, 2009

The charity with the most donations will receive a

BONUS
\$250
DONATION
from an anonymous donor

Simply fill out this form and send along with your check.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

I am enclosing checks to the following charities in the following amounts:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please mail checks to: Tracy Baim, 1900 S. Prairie Avenue, Chicago, IL 60616. Only checks accepted. Please ensure that check is made out to the charity of your choice.



WINDY CITY TIMES

index

NEWS

House passes hate-crimes act	4
Justice Souter and LGBTs	4
N.H. approves gay marriage	5
White House gay controversy	5
LGBTs in May Day march	6
Task Force in Chicago	6
Murder trial goes to jury	6
HRC marks 100 days	8
Talking Lobby Day	8
WCMG's charity drive	9
Quotelines	9
Wayne Besen; letters	10

ENTERTAINMENT

Scottish Play Scott	11
Theater reviews	12
Bassett receives award	14
Pop Making Sense	15
Knight at the Movies	16
Kelly McGillis comes out	16
Talk with 'Ashes' actor	17
Chicago House brunch	18
Billy Masters	20
Gay Idol: Mary's Attic	21
Equality IL wine tasting	23

OUTLINES

Calendar	18
Real estate; classifieds	19
Danish mayor & Outgames	22



LGBTs made their presence known at the May Day immigration rally in Chicago. Find out more on page 6.

Photo by Yasmin Nair



Kylie Minogue (above) is one of the artists profiled in a very special edition of Pop Making Sense. Read more on page 15.



Kelly McGillis (above) has officially come out of the closet. Read more on page 16.

www.
Windy
City
Media
Group
.com

Features include:
-National and world news
-A review of Andrew Bird
-HRC talk in Andersonville (right)

Photo by Andrew Davis



Director of The Walls
MEGAN CARNEY
SHOW #WCQ301

WINDY CITY QUEERCASE
queer and now

www.WindyCityQueercast.com

nightspots

TROUBLEMAKERS
Celebrate lucky 13 years with the bad little boys and girls of Cocktail.

Photo by Ryan Kolodziej

Thank you for being a friend.

nightspots



DOWNLOAD THIS!

Go to www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com to download complete issues of Windy City Times and Nightspots.

Then click on any ad and be taken directly to the advertiser's Web site!



Midtown's patented Tennis in No Time® is designed to turn beginners into tennis players in just three weeks. You'll enjoy six lessons with our certified professionals, plus free use of the club throughout your session. A variety of convenient lesson times are available, and if you don't have a racquet we'll lend you one of ours. Best of all, the entire package is only \$115.

Become a player – learn Tennis in No Time!
Midtown membership not required.
To reserve your spot, call today.
Space is limited.

TENNIS IN NO TIME®

6 SESSIONS \$115 STARTS JUNE 6

MIDTOWN TENNIS CLUB®

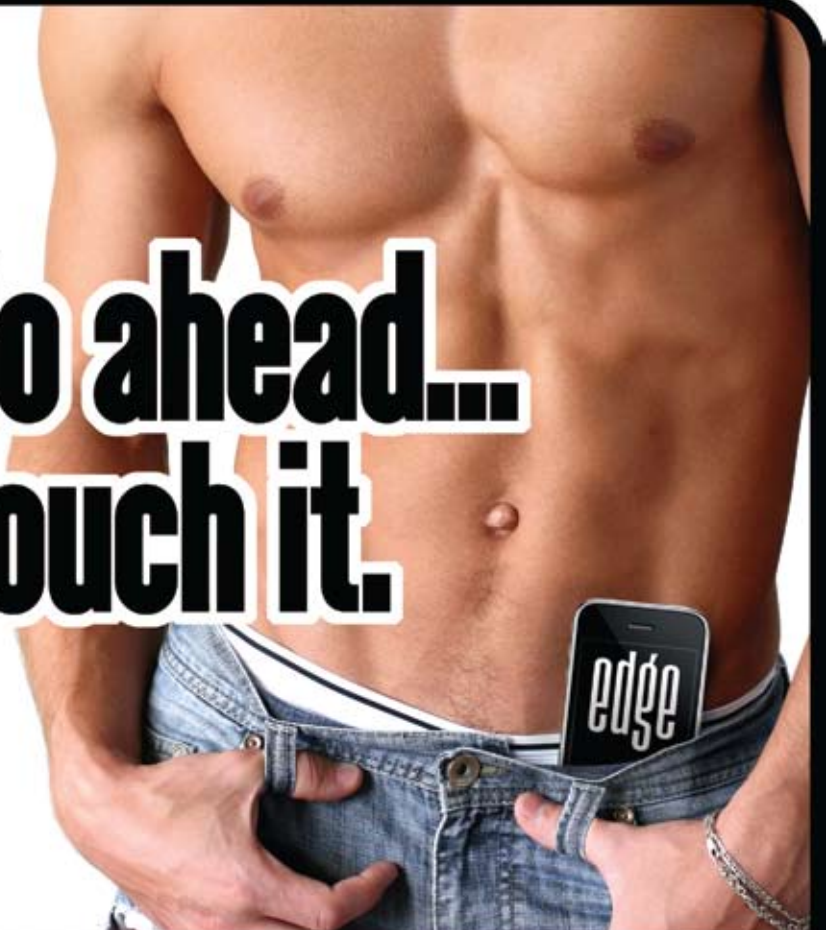
2020 West Fullerton Avenue
Chicago, IL 60647

773.235.2300

midtown.com/chicago



Go ahead...
touch it.



Introducing the world's first gay news app for iPhone & iPod Touch.
So you can stay in touch... no matter where you are.

edgeiPhone.com

Hate-crimes law passes House

BY BOB ROEHR

The United States House of Representatives passed hate-crimes legislation April 29. The tally of 249-175 was a modest increase over the 237-180 vote on the same legislation in May 2007.

Officially known as the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 (H.R. 1913), the legislation would add protection for actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability to existing protected categories such as religion, race and ethnicity. Most law enforcement and civil rights groups support it.

The bill gives the federal government authority to provide resources and training to state and local officials on these matters. It also lets them directly intervene in limited circumstances where those state and local officials are not adequately performing their jobs.

The day before the vote the White House issued a brief statement from President Barack Obama urging "members on both sides of the aisle to act on this important civil rights issue by passing this legislation to protect all of our citizens from violent acts of intolerance—legislation that will enhance civil rights protections, while also protecting our freedom of speech and association."

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese said, "Hate crimes are a scourge on our communities and it's time we give law enforcement the tools they need to combat this serious problem. All Americans are one step closer to protection from hate violence thanks to today's vote."

"No one should face violence simply because of who they are," said Judy Shepard, the mother of Matthew Shepard who was murdered 10 years ago, and executive director of the foundation bearing his name. "This bill is a critical step to erasing the hate that has devastated far too many families."

The measure now goes to the Senate, where a timeline for consideration is uncertain.

Analysis

While gay-rights advocates applauded the outcome, they also had cause for concern from analysis of the vote and their implications for the future.

One assumption has been that increasing Democratic margins in Congress would translate into stronger support for pro-gay legislation. While the total "yeas" did edge up from 237 to 249 over the two years between consideration, that did not match the net Democratic gain of 21 seats in the House in the 2008 election.

Republican opposition dropped from 166 to 158; at the same time their support dropped at an even greater rate, from 25 to 18. The later was due to retirement and defeat of moderates.

Democratic opposition to the legislation came almost exclusively from the South, which represented 14 of the 17 "nay" votes. Five of those were freshman representatives. It is difficult to find a white Democratic Representative from the South who voted for the bill. It appears that



Joe Solmonese. Photo by Andrew Davis

on gay issues, a combination of race and region trump party affiliation.

What is happening is that much of the Democrats gains are coming at the expense of moderate Republicans, with little net gain for the gay community.

That is likely to become even more apparent as Congress moves beyond "pro-gay" legislation such as hate crimes, which is a relatively easy vote, to increasingly controversial issues such as employment protection, the military, and ultimately marriage.

Schroer prevails vs. library

A federal judge ruled that trans veteran Diane Schroer is entitled to the maximum compensation for the discrimination she suffered after the Library of Congress denied her a job, according to an ACLU press release. The court awarded Schroer a total of \$491,190, including \$300,000 for emotional pain and suffering. "I served our country because I believed in an America that is committed to ensuring everyone has an equal opportunity to have a meaningful life. That belief was shaken when I was told I wasn't worthy to do what I trained my entire life to do because I happen to be transgender," said Schroer. "Today's decision restores my faith in our democracy."

Specter wants diversity

U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter—who made news last week when he switched from the Republican to the Democratic Party—expressed his desire on national television to have a minority or woman appointed to the Supreme Court seat being vacated by Justice David Souter, according to United Press International.

On CBS' Face the Nation, Specter said he wanted more diversity on the nation's highest court. Also, he talked about his political change, saying that he was "becoming much more comfortable" with being a Democrat.

Several pro-LGBT organizations welcomed Specter to the party, including the Stonewall Democrats, who added, "Stonewall Democrats across the country now have a role to help shape and hold accountable Senator Specter on pro-equality legislation before the U.S. Senate."

SOUTER from cover

for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Souter was the first justice to refer to LGBT people as "gay, lesbian and bisexual," instead of "homosexuals." He did so in writing the 1995 opinion in *Hurley v. GLIB*—a case in which a gay Irish group challenged the right of a St. Patrick's Day parade organizer in Boston to exclude it from participating as a contingent. Souter, for a unanimous court, said the parade organizers had a First Amendment right to exclude the gay contingent even though a Massachusetts public-accommodations law prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation. But gay legal activists were struck by the tone of respect Souter demonstrated for gays in the opinion. The opinion said that laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation are "well within" the state's power "to enact when a legislature has reason to believe that a given group is the target of discrimination...." The opinion also characterized as "fact" that "some Irish are gay, lesbian, or bisexual" and that openly gay marchers "suggest their view that people of their sexual orientation have as much claim to unqualified social acceptance as heterosexuals."

In *Hurley*, said Wolfson, Souter's "tone and even use of respectful vocabulary helped shift the court to a new path." In the oral arguments during consideration of *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale*, said Wolfson, Souter was "a serious and probing questioner that helped articulate the distinctions between *Hurley* and our case against the Boy Scouts discrimination." When the 5-4 majority ruled in favor of Boy Scouts excluding gays, noted Wolfson, Souter voted with the dissenters.

Souter also dissented against a majority opinion that the University of Virginia had to provide student fee funding to an anti-gay Christian newspaper on campus. In *Rosenberger v. University of Virginia*, he said the Establishment Clause of the constitution is meant to bar the use of public funds "for the direct subsidization of preaching" religious tenets.

He voted with the 6-3 majority in the pro-gay ruling—*Romer v. Evans*—that struck down one of many anti-gay initiatives that sought to block gays from seeking protection from discrimination under state law. And he was with the 6 to 3 majority striking down sodomy laws in 2003, with *Lawrence v. Texas*.

In 1994, he wrote the court's decision in *Farmer v. Brennan* in favor of a male-to-female transsexual prisoner who was incarcerated with male prisoners. The opinion said a prison warden may have violated the Eighth Amendment constitutional guarantee against cruel and unusual punishment if he deliberately assigned the prisoner to a male prison knowing that to do so would cause "substantial risk of serious harm" to the prisoner.

In 1998, he alone dissented from the court's opinion, in *National Endowment for the Arts v. Finley*, that Congress could prohibit the agency from using any of its funds to support art that "may be considered obscene," including art with "homoeroticism." Two of the four plain-

tiffs fighting the law were gay, and the impetus of the law had been the funding of an exhibit of the work of gay photographer Robert Mapplethorpe.

Nan Hunter, a longtime gay legal activist and now professor of law at Georgetown University Law School, said Souter was more a reliably progressive vote than a leader, but she acknowledged that his "respectful tone" in *Hurley* "signaled a dramatic shift from the casually contemptuous tone of the Court's opinion" in the 1986 *Bowers v. Hardwick* decision upholding sodomy laws.

Souter's successor

Speculation over who President Obama will nominate to fill Souter's seat began even before Souter officially announced his retirement.

Many political and court observers are saying it will almost certainly be a woman because currently only one of the court's nine members is a woman.

Neither the president nor White House spokespersons offered any hint of names, but White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs reiterated a commitment candidate Obama made in November 2007—that he would appoint a justice who believes the constitution provides for a right to privacy. That right, which many but not all judges and justices believe is implicit in the constitution, is implicated in a wide range of legal issues involving LGBT people. It was key to the overturning of laws prohibiting sodomy, and was the basis of a successful lawsuit against police officers in a small Pennsylvania town who were blamed for a teenager's suicide when the threatened to tell his family he was gay. (In that case, it was not known whether the teen was gay but the 3rd Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that the constitutional right to privacy "respects not only an individual's autonomy in intimate matters, but also an individual's interest in avoiding divulgence of highly personal information.")

In his remarks in the press room, Obama said he would seek someone who "honors our constitutional traditions, who respects the integrity of the judicial process and the appropriate limits of the judicial role. I will seek somebody who shares my respect for constitutional values on which this nation was founded and who brings a thoughtful understanding of how to apply them in our time."

Regardless of who Obama nominates, the Republicans in the Senate are expected to stage a big fight. And given that Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders recently filed a lawsuit challenging the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in federal court, Republicans are almost certainly going to quiz the nominee about his or her position concerning laws regarding same-sex marriage and relevant constitutional clauses.

©2009 Keen News Service

Read world and national news online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com. Among the topics:

- Burundi banning gay sex; and
- the new U.S. global AIDS ambassador.

SERVING THE NEEDS OF HIV+ INDIVIDUALS

- LOWEST PRICES
- FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
- COUNSELING
- CONFIDENTIALITY

WE ARE A DISTRIBUTOR OF

Dr. Siegal's COOKIE DIET

THORNDALE PHARMACY

1104 W THORNDALE, CHICAGO

(PH) 773-561-6660
(FX) 773-561-6685

FULL SERVICE

WE SHIP ANYWHERE

DR. JAY L. HAMMERMAN, R.PH.

nightspots

pick it up take it home

Joseph Rice Interiors, Inc.

Full Decorating Service

Specializing in Window Treatments

for Over 26 Years.

CHICAGO

(773) 271-2361

www.josephriceinteriors.com

N.H. Senate passes gay-marriage bill

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The New Hampshire Senate voted 13-11 April 29 to approve a bill providing for equal marriage rights for same-sex couples. The New Hampshire House approved a same-sex marriage bill March 26. The new version, passed by the Senate, must now go back to the House for concurrence. That vote will likely take place next week.

New Hampshire Democratic Gov. John Lynch has said he opposes same-sex marriage but has backed off such statements more recently. If the bill survives, New Hampshire will become the fifth state in the nation to offer marriage licenses to same-sex couples—and the fourth to do so in the past year.

Just as the New Hampshire Senate began debating the same-sex marriage bill, one key opponent—Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Deborah Reynolds—announced she would now be supporting the bill, dramatically increasing the possibility of Senate passage.

Reynolds said that concerns she had when she initially opposed the bill in committee last week had been addressed in a proposed compromise amendment. She asked the Senate to reject the judiciary's original recommendation against the bill and take up a newly rewritten proposal.

The Senate quickly did so on a 13-11 vote.

The legislative body then began debate on whether to substitute the new language for the original bill. State Sen. Margaret Hassan, D-Exeter, said the amended bill was a compromise that addressed many of the concerns constituents had about the original bill. She said many people have learned that the state's existing civil-union option "stigmatizes same-sex couples" and further discriminations. She said the bill, as reconstituted, "reaffirms the tradition and sanctity of religious marriage."

The Senate voted 13-11 to substitute the new language and then voted 13-11 to approve the measure.

The bill, as rewritten, says all citizens have a right to a civil marriage or religious marriage and that every religious denomination has right to decide whether to perform same-sex marriages. It says that each applicant for a marriage license can choose how to be designated on the marriage license—as either a bride, groom or spouse.

Other changes in the bill include a specification that a person must be at least 18 years old to enter into a same-sex marriage. And it provides that civil unions from other states will be recognized as marriages in New Hampshire; that civil unions under current New Hampshire law will automatically become marriages starting in 2011; and that no one can be married to more than one person at a time.

The bill provides for the law to take effect Jan. 1, 2010.

Prior to the vote in the Senate, the legislature's joint Judiciary Committee voted against the same-sex marriage bill 3-2, with Reynolds telling the Concord Monitor newspaper that the state is "just not there yet."

But that's not what a statewide survey showed. A poll of 491 voters released April 28 showed 55 percent support allowing gay couples to obtain marriage licenses, and 39 percent oppose. The poll was conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center between April 13 and 22 and was commissioned by the New Hampshire Freedom to Marry Coalition.

Showdown in Maine

More than 3,000 people showed up at a convention center in the capital of Maine April 22 to register their opinions for and against allowing same-sex couples obtain marriage licenses. And on Tuesday, the Joint Judiciary Committee voted 11-2-1 to approve the measure.

The hearing lasted 10 hours, taking brief statements from almost 200, according to the Portland Press Herald.

The legislature is expected to vote within days on whether to advance a bill seeking to establish equal marriage rights for gay couples. As in Vermont and New Hampshire, the closest vote is expected in the Senate in Maine.

Read the entire article online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

Bungled edit or 'change' in policy?

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

It's a little like President Obama's controversy last month over whether he bowed to a Saudi king or just "bent over" unusually far to shake this hand. But the latest controversy involves whether the White House intentionally removed pro-gay language from its Web site in order to re-couch the president's intentions on gays in the military.

The Obama White House included the president's commitment to repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" when it first booted up its own version of whitehouse.gov after the inauguration. Many gay activists were pleasantly surprised at that time, in January, to see such a prominent inclusion of LGBT issues.

But blogger Joe Jervis of JoeMyGod.com discovered last week that the LGBT information had been pared back significantly and spread the word. Soon thereafter, the website put back some of the information it had cut. But, more troubling, noticed blogger John Aravosis at AmericaBlog.com, was that the language on the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy had gone from stating President Obama's commitment to "repealing" the policy to saying the President "supports changing Don't Ask, Don't Tell in a sensible way that strengthens our armed forces and our national security."

For a president who clearly chooses his words very carefully, the edit job prompted red flags in many quarters.

Aravosis said many people he talked to saw that as a "backward step" on the president's promise. Kevin Nix, communications director for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), said that group was "confused" about the change.

"Words matter," wrote Nix on the group's blog, "and these two words ['repealing' and 'changing'] on this particular subject have dramatically different implications for gay and lesbian servicemembers."

Nix said SLDN Executive Director Aubrey Sarvis contacted the White House about the change but got the "standard e-mailed response about the site being revamped."

"If the White House is still in favor of 'repealing' Don't Ask Don't Tell, albeit in a 'sensible way'—and we're happy to take them at their word— then say just that," said Aravois. "Change 'change' to 'repeal' and be done with it."

White House spokesman Shin Inouye told this reporter that the administration was simply updating its Web site and that the president is still committed to repealing the policy. And, as of Monday, the website was back to saying "repeal," instead of change.

To be exact, it says the president "supports repealing Don't Ask Don't Tell in a sensible way."

Is it a coy way of taking a step back by saying "in a sensible way?"

"Like any Web site, there's periodic changes," said Inouye. The White House "did overhaul" its Web site—every page, not just the page on civil rights, he said.

"But the president hasn't changed his position at all" on Don't Ask, Don't Tell, said Inouye, "and any suggestions otherwise are just wrong."

©2009 Keen News Service

A RAPID FIRE COMEDY, CRACKLING WITH EXPLOSIVE VERBAL WIT.



by Yasmina Reza
translated by
Christopher Hampton
directed by ensemble member
Rick Snyder

featuring ensemble member Ian Barford
with Joe Dempsey and Randall Newsome

TREAT MOM TO A FANCY BRUNCH AND FANTASTIC THEATRE!

Join us on Mother's Day Sunday May 10 for a special Art matinee & VINCI brunch package for only \$40 a person.

Make reservations by calling Audience Services at 312-335-1650, please mention code 5432.

steppenwolf

buy online at www.steppenwolf.org
or call 312-335-1650.

Production Sponsor for Art:

National City
Now a part of

PNC



Tony Alvarado-Rivera at the May Day rally.
Photo by Yasmin Nair

LGBTQs part of May 1 immigration rally

BY YASMIN NAIR

This year's May Day celebration came at a time of both hope and uncertainty for both LGBTQ and straight attendees. With an Obama administration in the White House, there is hope for substantive changes in policy among labor organizers and immigration activists. But this year's rally came in the midst of an outbreak of "swine flu," later dubbed A(H1N1) by the World Health Organization. Since this particular strain is reported to have its origins in Mexico, and because Chicago's annual May Day march has effectively become an immigrant-rights march, concerns about contagion caused initial uncertainty about whether or not the event would even go on.

City officials initially tried to get organizers to cancel the march. Jorje Mujica, of the March 10 Movement—a group that was key in organizing the march—said, "The flu is being wrongly cast as a Mexican disease. The city wanted us to cancel the event, but we refused. They didn't issue those orders for the Bulls game. This is not about influenza, but about political influence."

Gina Parker, a member of the Dyke March committee, was among the LGBTQ people who made their presence known, along with members of Gay Liberation Network who stood near large rainbow flags at the southwest corner of Union Park. Parker said she was there to "show solidar-

ity with the immigrant community. Dyke March is going to be in Pilsen again this year, and it's important to show the dominant culture that there are queer people among and with immigrants." While there were many LGBTQ-identified participants in the march and several rainbow flags, there was no monolithic "queer agenda." Instead, individuals and groups participated with distinctive but connected issues in mind.

Kevin Brown of Gender JUST (Justice United for Societal Transformation) was among the group's members collecting signatures for a letter to Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) Commissioner Terry Mason to make the CDPH HIV funding process more transparent. He said that the group wants to highlight the need for more prevention strategies to be made accessible in more than a few organizations on the North Side: "Right now, LGBTQ youth on the south and southwest sides of the city have to commute to the North Side for resources, and they should be able to access them in their own neighborhoods."

The issue of immigration touched many people personally. A group of queer-identified Social Justice High School students walked around with flags. Among them, freshman Yahtzeni Gonzalez said they were marching "for all of us. A lot of our friends struggle as immigrants, and many have had their parents deported back to Mexico, which leaves our friends homeless and without the support of their families."

For many attendees, being at the march meant wearing multiple hats that reflected their lives at the intersection of LGBTQ and immigrant issues. Tania Unzueta was attending as a member of the Dyke March Committee, but she was also there as the director of Radio Arte's youth training program and producer of Homofrecuencia, a weekly student-produced radio show. As her students bustled about interviewing people and Tweeting updates about the march, Unzueta spoke about the tangible ways in which their lives are affected by immigration policies. One student, Rigo Padilla, who is taking a course at Radio Arte, was brought to the United States as a 6-year-old by his undocumented parents. He was recently picked up on a DUI charge and saw the charges escalate into a deportation case; he is scheduled for a deportation hearing and faces voluntary departure to Mexico even though he has lived in the United States all his life. Padilla was wearing a court-mandated ankle bracelet while reporting. Unzueta said that his case pointed to the unfairness of laws, and questioned whether Chicago could be considered a sanctuary city given his case, "If you are a citizen and stopped for a DUI, you don't face something like deportation. His DUI should have nothing to do with his immigration status." 17-year-old Hester Rivera, also an undocumented student at Homofrecuencia, said that he was there to "connect with students without papers. Getting a job is really hard with my status. I'm hoping to get legalization and become a dancer, and keep participating in this movement."

The issue of solidarity was a common theme for LGBTQ people. Tony Alvarado-Rivera of Howard Brown Health Center's Broadway Youth Center said, "I'm here as a Chicano/a and as a queer, because I recognize my privilege as a citizen. I feel we are multi-issue people—queers are immigrants and workers, too. Besides, it's fun to be sassy in a non-queer context." His handmade sign demonstrated his philosophy. In Span-

ish, the words were, "*Esta chueca demanda sus derechos.*" Loosely translated as "This crooked one demands its rights," it was also a play on words, with "*derechos*" meaning "go straight" as well as "rights."

Several members of Bash Back! were also present, and the queer anarchist group enlivened the march with its energetic dancing. Member Maggie Block said the group was there to focus attention on immigration in its larger economic context: "As anarchists, we're opposed to borders and states. But the mainstream has to think about how the United States created a situation—with NAFTA and free trade—where the agricultural industry would collapse without the use of exploited labor. Yet, we raid and deport the very people who make our cheap prices possible. We have to end these schizophrenic policies." Imi Rashid of Akabaka Bangali, a queer Muslim group, said that she felt the march was "a culmination of all disenfranchised folks; undocumented people need to be treated fairly." She said that most people aren't aware that immigration can be onerous even for documented people, "I've been through the process and it sucks. It took me seven years to get my green card, and I came up as a documented person."

The march, dotted with colorful signs and giant puppets, made its way from Union Park to Federal Plaza.

NGLTF members meet Chicagoans

BY SAMUEL WORLEY

Members of the Board of Directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), which held its rotating meeting in Chicago over the weekend, met with donors and activists at a private fundraiser and party in Lincoln Park May 2. Executive Director Rea Carey explained the group's work to the assembled crowd as "the grunt work of the movement."

"We train activists, we partner with them, we share expertise," Carey said, stressing the NGLTF's relationship with local organizations such as Equality Illinois, the Center on Halsted and Howard Brown Health Center, for which the NGLTF has worked to secure federal funding for services.

In addition to agitating for same-sex marriage in places like California and Maine, Carey said that the NGLTF is working to ensure the inclusion of a marriage option for same-sex couples in the 2010 census. Under the Bush administration, she said, all same-sex couples who reported themselves as "married" would be automatically "divorced" by the census bureau as it processed data. Similarly, any child of a same-sex couple would be re-classified as the child of a single parent.

"It's an insult to the child," Carey said. Though the NGLTF is hopeful about its chances with this and other issues under the Obama administration, she said, it will not happen immediately: "The spigot has been stopped for eight years, and it's time to turn it back on. And we're doing it."

Talking with Windy City Times, Carey reaffirmed the group's commitment to holding the new administration accountable to the LGBT community. "We are an organization that is not shy about calling out elected officials," she said.

Jury deliberating murder trial

BY LORI WEINER

The fate of accused killer Nicole Abusharif, 29, now rests in the hands of a Wheaton jury charged with determining whether she murdered her domestic partner.

On March 15, 2007, Becky Klein, 32, was found bound, gagged and smothered with a garbage bag in the trunk of the 1966 Mustang that prosecutors described as Abusharif's "pride and joy." Abusharif's DNA was found at the scene, and keys to the Mustang's trunk were found in her possession.

According to the prosecution, Abusharif murdered Klein to collect an estimated \$400,000 in combined cash and property that would have accrued to her in the event of Klein's death, and to be with her new girlfriend, Rose Sodaro. The defense acknowledges that Abusharif and Sodaro were romantically linked, but denies that this relationship provided motive to kill Klein. Specifically, the defense argued that Klein and Abusharif had a polyamorous relationship and that Klein knew her partner was dating Sodaro.

During closing arguments, defense attorneys decried the potential tragedy of convicting an innocent woman, while pointing to alleged police incompetence. The prosecution, meanwhile, reiterated evidence presented at trial showing Abusharif to be a chronic liar who deceived Klein about the nature of her relationship with Sodaro.

Abusharif has denied all charges. Jury deliberation began at 1:30 p.m. on May 4.

Be sure to check www.WindyCityMedia-Group.com for updates.

GRAY from cover

my time. When I was a youth, I had friends who were homeless. Now I have a friend who went into a senior residence and when I saw the way that she was being treated in there, I was appalled. We still have work ahead of us because we aren't all glamorous gays like you see on TV. Every gay man does not have a beautiful condo and track lights—let's face it. Some of us will age into senior residences because we don't always have someone to take care of us. So it is just a part of my life journey right now."

From opening up her home to homeless gay and lesbian youth to working with political and non-profit organizations, Gray says her work with the LGBT community is far from over.

"It is a lifelong commitment," she said. "It's an incredible family, it is an incredible love and it is definitely an incredible gift in my life that I could have never imagined."



Vernita Gray.

Deborah A. Murphy CPA

773-404-8401

**2155 W. Roscoe
1 South**

Accounting

Tax Services

Financial
Consulting

Business
Planning

An ATTORNEY who is TOUGH and will FIGHT to PROTECT your RIGHTS

Concentrating in the general practice of law for over 40 years.



Law Offices of
LOUIS R. FINE

**WILLS - PROBATE - DOMESTIC PARTNER AGREEMENTS
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE
PERSONAL INJURY - TRAFFIC-DUI
DIVORCE - CUSTODY - ADOPTION
BUSINESS & CORPORATE MATTERS - CHAPTER 13 & BANKRUPTCY
PROFESSIONAL LICENSING MATTERS**

Former Member of the ISBA Ethics Committee
Former Chief of Prosecutions for the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation

FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION • 312-236-2433

LRFLAW@yahoo.com • 105 W. Madison, Suite 1101, Chicago, IL 60602

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP

THE EXPERIENCE YOU TRUST

Here are just a FEW of our dozens of people who contribute to the editorial side of WCMG: **Windy City Times**, **Nighspots**, **Windy City Queercast** and **QueerTVNetwork.com**

Windy City Media Group was named Best Gay News Source by The Chicago Reader.



Yasmin Nair

has fulfilled multiple roles for Windy City Times—including book reviewer, news reporter, photographer and op-ed columnist—since 1995.



Rex Wockner

has reported news for the gay press since 1985. His work has appeared in more than 300 publications in 38 countries.



Kat Fitzgerald

is a photographer and self-described “energizer.” She has been in photography for the past 25 years.



Emmanuel Garcia

has been writing for Windy City Times since 2003. He is also an editor at Windy City Media Group's queertvnetwork.com.



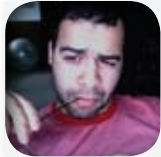
Tracy Baim

started work in Chicago LGBT journalism in 1984. She co-founded Windy City Times in 1985.



Andrew Davis

is the managing editor of Windy City Times and Identity and has written for Outlines and Windy City Times since 1995.



Kirk Williamson

started with Windy City eight years ago as a sales rep and is now also managing editor of Nighspots, art director and a popular nightlife photographer.



Bob Roehr

has more than two decades of news journalism experience and is a Washington, D.C.-based correspondent focusing on politics and health issues.



Scott C. Morgan

is a freelance theater editor and has been a writer and a theater critic since 1996.



Amy Matheny

has been speaking for Chicago's LGBT community since 1998 when she co-hosted the popular LesBiGay Radio. She founded Windy City Queercast.



Richard Knight, Jr.,

is the cinema writer for WCMG and knightatthemovies.com, and has more than two decades of experience as a cultural performer and writer.



Lisa Keen

has been covering the gay political beat for 30 years, delivering exclusives on individuals in all aspects of government, including President Barack Obama.



Mel Ferrand

has worked as a columnist and photo-journalist for Windy City Times for over a decade.



David Byrne

is the music columnist for Windy City Times: he has written the column Pop Making Sense and has interviewed various musicians for several years.



Tony Peregrin

has been a freelance entertainment/culture journalist and senior writer for Windy City Times since 1998.



Mary Shen Barnidge

has been a self-described “mercenary Chicago poet for 10 years, mercenary Chicago drama critic for 20.”



John Fenoglio

is Windy City Times' newest addition and is a writer, reporter, new-media enthusiast and photographer who has interned at NBC.



Jonathan Abarbanel

is a member of the American Theatre Critics Assn., has reviewed for Chicago Public Radio and is an adjunct professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago.



Jen Parelo

is a long-time columnist for Nighspots and a published author.



Ryan Kolodziej

has been a nightlife photographer for six years with a special affinity for drag photography.



Jerry Nunn

has become an exciting adult film reviewer with his Nighspots column From the Booth and does star interviews in his Nunn on One column in Windy City Times.



Steve Starr

has photographed numerous celebrities and events, and has been writing his Starrlight column for over a decade.



Colman Domingo

is a series regular on the LOGO series The Big Gay Sketch Show and lends his theatrical flair to Windy City Queercast.



Catey Sullivan

is an award-winning critic who has been writing about Chicago theater since the local premiere of Angels in America in 1993.



John D'Emilio

is a pioneering historian of sexuality and the author or editor of six books, including a prize-winning biography of civil-rights leader Bayard Rustin.



Lawrence Ferber

is an entertainment and travel scribe who has contributed to Entertainment Weekly, The Advocate, New York Magazine, OUT, The Village Voice, Time Out NY and more.



Owen Keehnen

is a Chicago-based fiction writer and journalist whose work has been published in numerous periodicals and collections worldwide.



Jim Edminster

is a long-time Chicago writer and has covered the media world for Windy City Times for more than a decade.



Ross Forman

has written about the local and national LGBT sports scene for more than five years and has also written for such publications as USA TODAY and the Chicago Tribune.



Zachary Whittenburg

is a dancer and choreographer who covers the Chicago dance scene from the inside and has written for numerous publications since 2006.



Alexandra Billings

is an actress, singer, teacher, writer, blogger, activist and former radio host whose extensive theatre work has taken her across Chicago and to Los Angeles.



Billy Masters

is a comedian, personality and award-winning gossip columnist who has been syndicating his weekly column worldwide for the past 13 years.



Marie J. Kuda

is a long-time community writer, historian and archivist. She has written articles and columns for Outlines and Windy City Times for more than 20 years.



Jean Albright

served in the U.S. Air Force for 20 years, including writing for Stars & Stripes. She has worked for nearly 15 years for WCMG as an editor and Web site manager.



grayson

has been an arbiter of snark for Nighspots magazine since 2001.



Stephen Rader

has received many awards for his work in Chicago theater. He is also exec. director of Season of Concern, writes a popular blog and co-hosts Windy City Queercast.

The above people, plus dozens more, give WCMG an unequalled combination of experience, connections and continuity.

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



Jason Held (left) and Bill Weeks. Photo by John Fenoglio

HRC marks '100 Days'

BY JOHN FENOGLIO

Members of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC)—the largest national LGBT civil-rights organization—held events across the nation called “First 100 Days” on April 30. In Chicago, HRC members and guests gathered at Pops for Champagne, 601 N. State. The event was part of a nationwide effort to provide HRC supporters with information on the next 100 days of the organization’s plans for intended work, and to assess President Barack Obama’s plans for promoting pro-LGBT initiatives.

The mood was positive. Bill Weeks, political co-chair for HRC’s national board of governors, gave Obama high marks for his work in addressing LGBT issues during his first 100 days in office: “After eight years of an anti-LGBT stranglehold on the White House, the election of President Obama has signaled hope and the possibility of real change our community has not known for nearly a decade. The change in leadership alone has had immediate and profound implications for LGBT equality. Simply put: the most important benefit of a fair-minded White House is what doesn’t happen. Instead of support for anti-LGBT policies, we have a White House that has taken action to repeal harmful Bush Administration policies.”

During the event HRC announced its “Blueprint for Positive Change,” a list of initiatives that they want Mr. Obama to fully support within the next 100 days. It’s an ambitious agenda. Some of their initiatives include but are not limited to the following: (1) passing fully inclusive hate crimes legislation; (2) assuring a national, comprehensive approach to HIV/AIDS & LGBT health disparities; (3) expanding healthcare benefits to cover gender identity; (4) assuring

tax and Social Security equity; (5) protecting and expanding marriage equality and relationship recognition at all levels of government; (6) protecting and expanding adoption and foster care; (7) passing a trans-inclusive Employment Non-discrimination Act (ENDA); and (8) repealing “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”

While Obama cannot personally take credit for the states of Vermont and Iowa legalizing same-sex marriage during his first 100 days in office, he can take credit for the number of openly gay presidential appointees in his administration. While there are not any openly gay appointees at the Cabinet-level, there are over 30 openly gay appointees in the Obama White House, according to the Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute’s website. The highest ranking openly gay official is John Barry, director of the Office of Personal Management. He is responsible for ensuring that federal employment policies are applied fairly. Other LGBT leaders in the executive branch include David Median, Michelle Obama’s deputy chief of staff, and Peter Burleigh, interim ambassador to India.

Outside the restaurant, as the event was ending, one of the HRC student volunteers said, “That Matthew Shepard hate-crimes bill passed in the House of Representatives yesterday. If Obama signed it into law, we’d know he’s legit, like he’d be our ‘real deal.’”

Visit www.HRC.org, www.FightHateNow.org and www.EndTheLies.org for more info.

Lobbying for civil unions

BY ANDREW DAVIS

On April 29, busloads of individuals went to Springfield, Ill., to participate on Lobby Day, where people directly communicate with politicians about issues of importance. Windy City Times talked with State Rep. Greg Harris about Civil Union Lobby Day, which revolves around the passage of HB 2234, the Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act.

Windy City Times: For those who don’t know, what is Lobby Day?

Greg Harris: Lobby Day is a chance for people all around the state to make a concerted effort to come to the capitol and talk with legislators about their issues. [In the process] they raise the level of awareness about civil unions, breast cancer, immigration or whatever your issue is.

WCT: And how do you think Civil Union Lobby Day went?

GH: I think it went very, very well. This year, we had much more diverse representation of

the state. It’s very easy, on a subject like gay rights, for everyone to be from my district, or Harry Osterman’s or Sara Feigenholtz’s district. But it was really great to see people from the Peoria area, the Edwardsville area, Bolingbrook and Naperville—a cross-section of Illinois.

WCT: How confident are you that [HB 2234] is going to pass?

GH: I’m very hopeful. Until all the votes are signed and sealed, I can’t say for sure that it’ll pass. But there are also these last couple of votes where people are swinging between “yes” and “no”—those are the hardest votes to get. Clearly, they are getting pounded from both sides—the pro and the con—and they’re trying to figure out the right thing to do for their district.

WCT: Do you have any sense of how things are shaping up in the Senate?

GH: Oh, yeah. I think the Senate is in good shape. The Senate didn’t have nearly as much turnover as the House did [because of last November’s election]. The House had 16 new members, so they have to learn how to be a rep but they have to deal with new issues; for a lot of people, marriage equality is not at the forefront of their personal experience. They need to learn all the facts and arguments, and then have to figure out where their districts stand on [the issue].

WCT: And speaking of marriage equality, that is your ultimate goal, correct?

GH: I believe that all in our community believe that’s where we should get to. I think that’s just the ongoing part of the struggle. I believe that we should be treated fairly.

WCT: Let’s say the bill passes through the General Assembly and becomes law. How would that change tax forms, for example? Would there be a new category to check off?

GH: That would all be developed by the department; the bill is silent on what forms each department has. But, keep in mind that, for most people, their tax status comes from their federal returns, which is unchanged from anything any state does.

WCT: So if a couple got married in Iowa and moved to Illinois, how would they be recognized?

GH: What the law says that any marriage, civil union, domestic partnership or a similar legal arrangement would be recognized as a civil union here—and because there isn’t a lot of uniformity between what’s going on [geographically], we use “substantially similar arrangement.” Until we get full marriage equality, we’re trying to recognize all statuses.

WCT: And do you think what’s happening in

the other states, such as Iowa, Maine and New Hampshire, will have a snowball effect here?

GH: I think it really helps set the table for the discussion, but if I’m a rep from a southern Illinois district, I’m going to care about what my neighbors and voters say than what happens in another state. But I think it shows the direction the country is moving.

WCT: What can the general public do to help [HB 2234] pass?

GH: I think the important thing is to reach out to everyone you know—family, friends, co-workers, fellow parishioners—who does not live along the Chicago lakefront and say, “It’s time to call your representative and your senator, and [tell them] to support House Bill 2234.”

Middle Eastern/North African LGBTQ group forms

On Friday, May 8, the launch party and fundraiser for the newly created Taqaseem Chicago association will take place at Touché, 6412 N. Clark, starting at 9 p.m. Syrian-born Mr. Chicago Leather 2009 Ammar Husamo will host.

Taqaseem (Taka’sseem) is a group dedicated to bringing together the Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) LGBTQ communities of the greater Chicagoland area. The group was founded by Dalila Fridi (Algeria), Ahmad Refky (Egypt), Robert Czar (U.S.) and Husamo.

Beyond the launch at Touché, Taqaseem intends to partner with several local LGBTQ organizations in providing counseling, social, medical and legal aid as well as advice to group members. The goal is to create a safe space to share our fears, joys, successes and struggles in society.

Taqaseem Chicago can be found on Facebook and will soon launch a Web site.

Puerto Rican LGBTQ group’s fundraiser

Boricua PRIDE—a group dedicated to promote and bring awareness of Puerto Rican LGBTQ contributions to the community—is holding a fundraiser to support the Institute of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture Thursday, May 7, 5:30-8:30 p.m., at Tumbao Bar & Grill, 3243 W. Armitage.

There will be live music, performances, door prizes and Puerto Rican food.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door; they are available at Café Colao, 2638 W. Division. E-mail boricupridechicago@hotmail.com for more information.

**Friday, May 15
7:30 p.m.
Colleen McKee, editor,
and contributors
Are We Feeling Better Yet?:
Women Speak About
Health Care in America**

**Sunday, May 17
Andersonville Wine Walk**



5233 N. Clark
(773) 769-9299

WOMEN & CHILDREN FIRST
FEMINIST BOOKS • CHICAGO

wcfbooks@aol.com
www.womenandchildrenfirst.com
Parking Available
Wheelchair Accessible



**Have your
premiums
increased
recently?**

See me:
**Charles T. Rhodes,
Agent**
2472 N. Clark
773.281.0890

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
(not in NJ)
State Farm Indemnity Company (NJ)
Home Offices: Bloomington, Illinois

Russell Leander

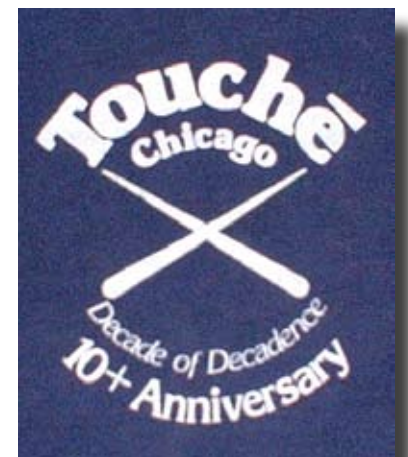
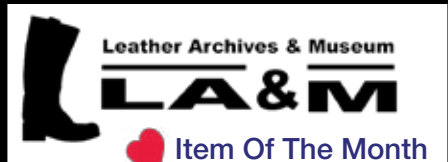
ATR, LCPC
Counseling & Psychotherapy



Andersonville office
Weekend and evening hours
Insurance compatible

773-807-7734

Supporting Chicago’s LGBT
mental health for twenty years.



To see more and
for more information, go to
www.LeatherArchives.org

WCMG launches LGBT, AIDS charity drive

Windy City Media Group is hosting a "25 for 25" charity drive during May to recognize the 25th anniversary of its publisher, Tracy Baim, in the Chicago LGBT media.

The charity drive will encourage people to donate in multiples of 25 to LGBT or HIV/AIDS charities of their choice, and the agency with the most donations will receive a \$250 additional donation.

In May 1984, Tracy Baim, at age 21, started as a part-time reporter with Chuck Renslow's GayLife newspaper. She graduated that month from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, with a news-editorial journalism degree. She soon moved up the ranks to become managing editor of GayLife by 1985. In the fall of 1985 she co-founded Windy City Times with three gay men: Jeff McCourt, Bob Bearden and Drew Badanish. From 1987-2000, Baim ran her own newspapers (Outlines and related publications), before purchasing back Windy City Times from her co-founder, McCourt, in the fall of 2000.

"I wanted to mark this 25th anniversary by showing my appreciation for the wide range of non-profits serving our community, many of them for decades," Baim said. "Right now, our community non-profits and businesses are hurting. It's time for us to create an economic stimulus package for our own community."

Individuals and businesses are encouraged to send checks written out to the charity of their choice to: Windy City Times, c/o Tracy Baim, 1900 S. Prairie Avenue, Chicago, IL 60616. Those checks will be bundled together in "buckets" for charities, and the charity receiv-

ing the most donations by June 5 will receive a \$250 bonus.

"No black-tie galas, no new outfits, no parking, no pie toss, no muss, no fuss," said Assistant Publisher Terri Klinsky. "We wanted a simple way for our community to recognize Baim's 25-year milestone, by giving back to the charities who need support."

People can write their check to any registered non-profit serving the Chicago-area LGBT or HIV/AIDS communities. The suggested charity list is:

- About Face Theatre
- Affinity Community Services
- AIDS Foundation of Chicago
- Amigas Latinas
- Asians and Friends/Chicago
- Association of Latin Men in Action
- BEHIV: Better Existence with HIV
- Center on Halsted
- Chicago House
- Equality Illinois
- Howard Brown Health Center
- Lambda Legal Defense
- Lesbian Community Care Project
- Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association
- Test Positive Aware Network
- Vital Bridges

For more information e-mail editor@windy-citymediagroup.com.

Windy City Media Group produces Windy City Times, Nightspots, OUT! Resource Guide, Identity online, WindyCityQueercast.com and QueerTVNetwork.com. Windy City Media Group is also the producer of these annual events: Windy City Gay Idol, 30 Under 30 and the Windy City Times Theater Series. To download all of the products visit www.windycitymediagroup.com. Send questions to publisher@windycitymediagroup.com or call 773-871-7610.

—From a press release

Out and Proud signing at DePaul May 7

Barnes & Noble DePaul Center, 1 E. Jackson, will host a discussion and signing of Out and Proud in Chicago: An Overview of the City's Gay Community on Thursday, May 7, at 6 p.m.

Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim—who edited and co-wrote the book—and several of the contributors, including Marie J. Kuda, Ron Dorfman, Jonathan Abarbanel, Owen Keehnen, senior editor Jorjet Harper, Jeff Berry and senior editor William Kelley, will discuss the long and rich history of the city's LGBTQ community in Chicago. The book is lavishly illustrated with color and black-and-white photographs, and it draws on a wealth of scholarly, historical and journalistic sources.

For more information on this event, call 312-362-8792 or visit depaul-loop.bncollege.com.

Brown Elephant leather sale starts May 18

Howard Brown Health Center's Brown Elephant Resale Shop, 3651 N. Halsted, will hold its annual leather sale May 18-31, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

All leather merchandise is on sale in addition to the Brown Elephant's stock of porn, including VHS tapes, DVDs, books, magazines and more.

For more info, see www.howardbrown.org.

Health forum at Jeffery Pub

Brothers Health Collective will present a health forum, "Are Black LGBTs In Health Crisis Mode? Get the facts..." Wed., May 6, at Jeffery Pub, 7041 S. Jeffery, 6-9 p.m.

Chicago Department of Public Health Commissioner Dr. Terry Mason and Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Damon Arnold will receive awards. For more info, call 312-388-0431.

QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

"PROP 8'S PASSAGE ... REVEALED THAT OUR ESTABLISHED ORGANIZATIONS had lost touch with the grassroots. They had become too focused on institution-building and forgotten about movement-building. Prop 8 revealed that our major organizations had become disconnected from the rising tide of poverty and despair that engulfed our natural allies in communities of color. Prop 8 revealed the



We continue to be a passive population.

—Larry Kramer



"WE CONTINUE TO BE A PASSIVE POPULATION. It drives me nuts. It has always driven me nuts. I do not think the gay population has been all that rabid for gay marriage. Note that I do not use the words 'gay community.' Expunge that expression from your vocabulary. We are not a community. There are too many of us to qualify for that word, which connotes something much smaller and more intimate than the huge multipeopled grab bag of our rainbow coalition." — *Activist, author and playwright Larry Kramer to The Daily Beast, April 10.*

"THE HIPPIE IN ME (MY FAMILY LEGACY, MY PARENTS WERE HIPPIES) bemoans the fact that we defeated the Iraqi military only to help them build an even stronger one that might one day be used against children and innocents, as often is the case. When will all the killing end? Where have all the flowers gone? And they shall beat their swords into plowshares and they shall study war no more. Alas, the Iraqis are studying war under our all-too-capable tutelage." — *Gay U.S. Rep. Jared Polis, D-Colo., in an April 8 posting on his house.gov Web site.*

"NEARLY EVERYONE WHO'S EVER PLAYED A REASONABLY SIGNIFICANT ROLE in my life, both past and present, has since found and reconnected with me, initially via email through the digital reach of this very column over the

years, but now far more actively and vividly through my Facebook profile (or, to a lesser extent, my Twitter feed). It's sort of stunning, really. Old girlfriends, lost loves, long-forgotten friends, high school sweethearts, band mates, roommates, old nemeses, lots of former cheerleaders turned born-again Christian megamoms, and everything in between. All those old connections, those lives and chapters and

periods of my life I thought I'd left behind so cleanly, so decisively, way back when? Here they all are again, like a living scrapbook, constantly renewing and updating itself. What a thing." — *San Francisco Chronicle columnist Mark Morford, April 29.*

"THE VIDEO MOCKERIES PRODUCED IN RESPONSE TO (the National Organization for Marriage's) hysterical, zombie propaganda poo have made this past week one of the most fabulous ever on the vast internets. Thank you, Maggie Gallagher and Brian Brown for awakening and entertaining the movement for marriage equality (with your 'Gathering Storm' anti-same-sex marriage ad). Because of your Night of the Living Storm Troopers silliness, the whole world is not only watching, it's having a good laugh at your expense." — *Blogger Mike Tidmus, April 12.*

"I'M NOT SURE WHAT the motivation would be (for choosing to be gay, given that gay people face discrimination)." — *Carrie Pre-jean, Miss California USA, to this column April 26 after she failed to win the Miss USA pageant because (as she sees it) she told the judges, when asked, that "marriage should be between a man and a woman."*

"NO ONE WANTS ME TO BOTTOM. When they see my dick, they want to suck it." — *Gay porn star and mogul Michael Lucas to the Village Voice's Michael Musto, April 21.*

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

**8 S Elm St
Three Oaks MI., 49128
269-756-2400
www.baileysthreeoaks.com**



**Bailey's
Cafe**

Hours:
Mon-Tues 8:00am to 2:00pm
Wed Closed
Thur-Fri 8:00am to 2:00pm
Sat-Sun 8:00am to 3:00pm

Serving Breakfast and Lunch	Carry Out & A Small Deli	Fresh baked pastries and breads	Coffees, Cappuccinos & Lattes	Italian & French Sodas	Over 32 types of hot and iced teas
-----------------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	------------------------------	--

JOIN US FOR Thursday Nightclub

**Music videos from the '60s thru today
No cover**

Acorn Theater
107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks MI 49128, 269-756-3879

*Celebrate Mother's Day
with Friends and Relatives at*

**Mediterranean
Brunch Buffet**



**Andies
Restaurant**

10:30A.M- 3:00 P.M (Both Locations)
Now Accepting Reservations

Andersonville
5253 N. Clark St.
773-784-8616

Lakeview
1467 W. Montrose Ave.
773-348-0654

www.andiesres.com



VIEWPOINTS



WAYNE BESEN

Beauty queen vs. bitchy queen

The Miss USA contest began as a beauty contest and ended up as a mud bath. The theatrics started when celebrity blogger Perez Hilton, who was a pageant judge, asked Miss California, Carrie Prejean, if she supported marriage equality.

"I think it's great that Americans are able to choose one or the other...choose same-sex marriage or opposite marriage ... (but) I think that I believe that a marriage should be between a man and a woman," Prejean replied. She then added that she did not wish to offend anyone.

As a result, she may have lost the beauty contest. Hilton inflamed the issue by calling her a "dumb bitch" on his video blog. The catfight quickly spiraled into a cultural sensation nearly on par with Janet Jackson's Super Bowl "wardrobe malfunction."

What could be juicier for the television talk shows than a jilted beauty queen vs. a bitchy queen spewing venom about the hottest of hot button issues? For two dueling airheads, this story has certainly had no shortage of oxygen.

At first blush, the preening Prejean seemed to give a dumb answer as Hilton suggested. He also rightfully pointed out that Miss USA is not supposed to be a divisive figure and is expected to represent all Americans—not just religious conservatives.

But, I think that Prejean was more a victim of bad timing. The mindless, "marriage should be between a man and a woman", has become a standard reply to this question. She had probably heard it from politicians—including Democrats—for years and must have presumed that this answer was suitable.

This time, however, something had changed. Gay people were finally sick and tired of hearing that they should accept inferior status. When Prejean stated that she hoped not to offend anyone, the truth was she had. For the first time, it was no longer acceptable to repeat this mantra in polite company.

Anti-gay commentators were quick to point out the hypocrisy of gay activists. They wondered why Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama were allowed to say the exact same thing as Prejean while gay activists kissed their rings. The short answer is that Sam Brownback, Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee weren't in the beauty contest. If they had been, Ms. Prejean may have seemed like a pleasant alternative.

But, anti-gay activists do raise a good point. In future presidential elections, how can we hold Democrats to a lower standard than Miss California? Has the time come when the GLBT community will not support presidential candidates that fail to endorse full marriage equality?

This brouhaha also creates a conundrum for mainstream Americans who consider themselves pro-gay, but are unwilling to support marriage equality. The Miss USA debate effectively eliminates this comfort zone and pushes people to make a decision. It says: "you've had a decade to consider the issue—so make up your mind and get off the safety of the fence."

After I appeared on the O'Reilly Factor on this issue, I received an avalanche of e-mail—many from people who did not consider themselves bigots, but nonetheless wanted to ban

GLBT people from an institution they consider essential to their own lives. If marriage is indispensable for heterosexuals, how could they not think it so for homosexuals? There is a real disconnect where people want to believe they are tolerant—yet demand GLBT Americans stay in their place.

Unfortunately, Prejean dug a deeper hole by saying that it was more important for her to be "biblically correct" than politically correct. In doing so, she followed in the dubious footsteps of another beauty queen turned anti-gay activist—Anita Bryant.

After appearing on major talk shows, Prejean returned to California and immediately hit the church circuit. On the pulpit, she said that producers of the state pageant demanded that she apologize to the gay community and refrain from mentioning religion when she appeared on television.

But Roger Neal, a San Diego public-relations representative who advised Prejean, said she was untruthful. "She chose to stand up in church and in front of the media and say something that was a lie," Neal said. "No one ever said, 'You must apologize to the gay community,' and no one ever said, 'Don't talk about your faith or your religion.' Those two things never came out of anybody's mouth."

As anyone in showbiz knows, getting typecast can be career suicide. As the new Bryant—Prejean will get her 15 minutes of fame and then be reduced, in a few years, to singing the national anthem at anti-gay rallies.

The real winner, of course, was Perez Hilton, who is now as much a household name as Paris Hilton. While he raised an important question, the broader implications of this skirmish have yet to be fully answered.

Copyright 2009 WayneBesen.com; see www.WayneBesen.com.



LETTERS

Bar and away

Regarding "Bar none: Gay clubs reject bachelorette parties" (WCT, 4/29/09), I have several issues with the news analysis by Yasmin Nair. Right from the beginning, what is this "stir" she refers to as a result of the Tribune article she quotes? I am out and about often and have not heard any "stirring" in the gay community regarding this policy of a couple of bars. Granted I don't move among the lesbian community but the gays are not "stirred."

Nair's assertion that this decision by a couple of bars calls into question "the relationship of gay bars to their neighborhood" is totally incomprehensible. If Nair was ever out on Halsted Street when these bachelorette parties are on the prowl, she would be aware that probably 99% are from outside the neighborhood with a great many of them coming in from the suburbs. If she had ever observed some of these groups she would also realize that they come into the gay community not out of respect but out of curiosity and amusement. I guess it's cheaper to go to gay bars than pay the admission to a Chippendale performance.

Nair's choice of quoting University of Illinois at Chicago Assistant Professor Brier for the article is also interesting. She uses a feminist source to talk about the gay bar lifestyle—what no gay academics available during her "research" for the article? Straight, feminists issues should not be put at the doorstep of the gay community. And what is the link between past racial discrimination and the issue being written about? Brier's total lack of comprehension of the angst felt by some in gay community over being denied the right to marry shows what a poor choice Brier was in being used by Nair for this article.

I personally have had two bad experiences being present when a "bachelorette party" was at the same venue. The first was at the Baton. Those

in the bachelorette party ruined the experience of watching the show for the audience around them with their boorish and obnoxious behavior. They were more interested in being the center of attention than watching the performance. I am sure if a single person acted as they did, that person would have been requested to leave, but since it was a group of eight or ten they were allowed to remain without restraint. The second bad experience was at the former Bailiwick Theatre. I was attending a performance of a play about the telephonic relationship between two gay men, one with AIDS. There was nudity in the play. Throughout the play the women in the bachelorette party made insensitive remarks and laughed inappropriately. I felt badly for the actors, who must have heard the inappropriate remarks and laughter. After the performance I registered my outrage at the inappropriate behavior. The response was that it was necessary to sell tickets in order to stay in business and they would continue to sell tickets to bachelorette parties. That was the last time I attended a performance at the venue.

Yes, probably because of my personal experience with bachelorette parties, I am more sympathetic with the policy of Cocktail and Side-track and more questioning of Nair's journalism but Nair's article, in my opinion, belongs more in a feminist newspaper than a gay newspaper. Maybe Nair needs to figure out who her audience is. As a gay man, I am tired of being expected to accommodate everyone and to appreciate being in the presence of straights who find us amusing.

Name withheld by request

Abstinent-minded

Dear Editor:

During these tight fiscal times of the recession, Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn has proposed in his budget a funding increase of \$1 million in new funding for abstinence-only sex-education programs. Aside from being fiscally irresponsible in these lean times, all evidence shows that these programs are a failure. Illinois currently faces an \$11.5 billion deficit and wasting \$1 million on abstinence programs is foolish and lacks careful thought.

Every academic study has concluded that preaching abstinence does not produce it. In April 2007, the Bush administration's own study, mandated by Congress, affirmed this conclusion. On the other hand, numerous studies show that contraceptive access cuts teen pregnancy rates and condom education dramatically reduces HIV transmission.

Abstinence-mongers speak eloquently to the folly of basing public-health decisions on religious injunctions and fantasies of social control. Even Sarah Palin's family cannot be the poster family for abstinence, as the new teen mother Bristol Palin was quoted as saying that abstinence is "not realistic at all." It's time for Quinn and others to stop this dangerous crusade in Illinois.

If anything, Quinn needs to allocate this funding to comprehensive, age-appropriate, medically accurate sex-education programs, which have been shown effective in persuading young people to delay initial sexual activity and use protections once they become sexually active.

Sincerely,
Scott G. Burgh
Chicago

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER Terri Klinsky
MANAGING EDITOR Andrew Davis
BUSINESS MANAGER Cynthia Holmes
DIRECTOR OF NEW MEDIA Jean Albright
ART DIRECTOR Kirk Williamson
ACCOUNT MANAGERS: Amy Matheny, Kirk Williamson, Cynthia Holmes
PROMOTIONS DIRECTOR Cynthia Holmes
NIGHTSPOTS MANAGING EDITOR Kirk Williamson
NATIONAL SALES Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863
SENIOR WRITERS Bob Roehr, Rex Wockner, Marie J. Kuda, David Byrne, Tony Peregrin, Lisa Keen, Yasmin Nair, Emmanuel Garcia
THEATER EDITOR Scott C. Morgan
CINEMA WRITER Richard Knight, Jr.
BOOKS WRITER Yasmin Nair
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WRITERS
Mary Shen Barnidge, Jim Edminster, Steve Warren, Lawrence Ferber, Mel Ferrand, Catey Sullivan, Zachary Whittenburg, Jonathan Abarbanel
COLUMNISTS/WRITERS: Yvonne Zipter, Susie Day, Jorjet Harper, Lee Lynch, Steve Starr, Joe Rice, Dan Woog, Marie-Jo Proulx, Lisa Keen, Chris Crain, Charles Dewey, Michael Knipp, Mark Corece, Sabine Neidhardt, Sam Worley, Billy Masters, John Fenoglio
PHOTOGRAPHERS Kat Fitzgerald, Mel Ferrand, Steve Becker, Steve Starr, Emmanuel Garcia
ARTISTS/CARTOONISTS Alison Bechdel, Mikeoart

CIRCULATION

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Jean Albright
DISTRIBUTION: Ashina, Allan, Dan, John, Renee, Sue and Victor



Copyright 2009 Lambda Publications Inc./Windy City Media Group; All rights reserved. Reprint by permission only. Back issues available for \$3 per issue (postage included). Return postage must accompany all manuscripts, drawings, and photographs submitted if they are to be returned, and no responsibility may be assumed for unsolicited materials. All rights to letters, art and photographs sent to *Windy City Times* will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication purposes and as such, subject to editing and comment. The opinions expressed by the columnists, cartoonists, letter writers, and commentators are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of *Windy City Times*. Publication of the name, photograph, or likeness of a person or organization in articles or advertising in *Windy City Times* is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. While we encourage readers to support the advertisers who make this newspaper possible, *Windy City Times* cannot accept responsibility for advertising claims.

(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609
e-mail: editor@windycitymediagroup.com

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com
radio: WindyCityQueercast.com
video: QueerTVNetwork.com

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP,
5315 N. Clark St. #192, Chicago, IL 60640 USA
(MAILING ADDRESS ONLY)

Windy City Times Deadline every Wednesday.
Nightslots Deadline Wednesday prior to street date.
Identity (BLACKLINES and En La Vida): Now online only
Deadline The 10th of month prior.
OUT! Resource Guide ONLINE
www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com
www.WindyCityQueercast.com
www.QueerTVNetwork.com



"Windy City Media Group generated enormous interest among their readers in this year's LGBT Consumer Index Survey. Out of approximately 100 print and online media partners who participated in the survey, Windy City was the best performing regional media in the U.S. Only survey partners with a nationwide footprint were able to generate a greater number of responses." —David Marshall, Research Director, Community Marketing, Inc.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Photo
by
Lara
Goetsch

CLASS ACTION

The acclaimed play *The History Boys* makes its way to Chicago. Read the review on page 12.

THEATER

X actor.
Page 14.Photo by Kat Fitzgerald
(MysticImagesPhotography.com)

MOVIES

Hauling 'Ash.'
Page 16.

SPORTS

Dane event.
Page 22.

Photo by Ross Forman

Scottish
Play Scott

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

For a good cause, call...

I've been warned about including too many fundraisers in this space. One theater columnist told me that once you start, soon every cash-strapped company will pull out their begging bowls and demand a mention.

But this week, I'll risk the repercussions and note some people and public institutions that could really use your philanthropy.

Wonka, Wonka

After a few months of dire news stories about About Face Theatre's struggle to remain afloat, the company is still only about halfway in its "Face the Future" fundraising campaign to raise \$300,000. To lose this dynamic theater company would be a black eye on Chicago's arts scene—and to its LGBT community since it has become world famous for championing works dealing with gender and sexuality.

So I'm sure hopes are high with About Face's Wonka Ball 2009 to help put them onto a stronger path to solvency. It kicks off at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 7, with a VIP dinner reception at \$250 per person, right before the main party that runs 7-11 p.m. (Tickets to this portion are \$125 per person.) It all shakes down at Salvage One, 1840 W. Hubbard.

On tap are an open bar (very important), a silent auction (always lots of fun) and loads of entertainment. Guests include the duo of Gay Agenda, drag performer Dida Ritz and the cast of American Theater Company's Hedwig and the Angry Inch. Call 773-784-8565, ext. 109, or visit www.aboutface theatre.com for tickets.

For whose benefit?

About Face's 2009 Wonka Ball is also significant for its presentation of the 9th Annual Lep-

Will
Schutz.

pen Leadership Award. This year it goes to Tracy Baim, publisher and executive editor of Windy City Media Group (which publishes Windy City Times, among other items).

The award marks Baim's 25th anniversary year in Chicago LGBT journalism. But more importantly, Baim has opted to eschew doing her own anniversary party by launching a "25 for 25" fundraising drive for local LGBT organizations and HIV/AIDS charities. (See the official news item on page 9 for more details.)

Of course, this makes fiscal sense for Baim to piggyback her own anniversary celebration onto About Face's dressy fundraising do which is already honoring her. And in these tough fiscal times, I'm sure non-profit charities could use any extra cash brought in by Baim's "25 for 25" drive.

Baim didn't put out a limit of specific LGBT organization you can contribute to, but there were some suggestions. Among them: Equality Illinois, BEHIV: Better Existence with HIV and (how reflexive is this?) About Face Theatre.

Help!

This month, two theater companies have benefit performances for Will Schutz, a Chicago actor who is battling pancreatic cancer without insurance.

On Saturday, May 9, all house proceeds of Signal Ensemble Theatre's production of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* go to benefit Schutz, while on Friday, May 29, half the house tallies of *Babes With Blades' Macbeth* will be donated.

People can also make donations online by going to willschutzpancan.chipin.com.

Tag, you're it!

Producing theater on a shoestring is hard enough, but opera is a whole other matter!

Nonetheless, Chicago Opera Vanguard (COV) has forged ahead by producing chamber works in unconventional theater spaces. COV recently produced the Chicago premiere of *Orpheus and Eurydice* by out composer Ricky Ian Gordon (which famously featured costumes by Project Runway contestant Steven Rosengard).

Up next in June is the Chicago premiere of Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Greek*, a 1980s updating of the Oedipus myth with lots of swearing, racial violence and mass unemployment to criticize the former Thatcher government.

To help raise funds, COV is offering contributors the chance to do a graffiti tag on an online wall at their Web site. (The digital images will then be incorporated into the production.)

COV is also up for a \$12,000 grant, but it must be matched by the company. In these tough economic times, COV artistic director Eric Reda figures it wouldn't be too extravagant to ask for donations of just \$12, albeit from 1,000 people.

Can they do it? Do the folks at COV have enough "six degrees of separation" contacts to collect the cash? Find out by visiting www.chicagovanguard.org.

Chi to NY and NY to Chi

By now the 2009 Tony Award nominations will be out. It will be interesting to see if the Goodman Theatre's controversial staging of Eugene O'Neill's *Desire Under the Elms* was loved by nominators on Broadway, or if *Shrek The Musical* is in among the four Best Musical nominees.

I mention *Shrek* because this first theatrical venture by Dreamworks recently picked Chicago to launch its upcoming national tour (expect it in June 2010).

And in another case of a show testing itself on Chicagoans before braving New York, Cirque

du Soleil is teaming with Madison Square Garden Entertainment on the spectacular Vaudeville. It's playing the Chicago Theatre this holiday season before aiming for an extended run at New York's Beacon Theatre.

E-mail scottishplayscott@yahoo.com.

CRITICS' PICS

Diversey Harbor, Theatre Seven at Greenhouse Theater, through May 10. They're young, they're new to the big city and these young adults roam the Lakeview shore with no comfort but each other in Marisa Wegrzyn's exquisite 60-minute serenade to urban romance. MSB

Red Noses, Strawdog Theatre, through May 23. Peter Barnes' extravagant comedy about a touring Medieval clown troupe actually will make you laugh. And maybe you'll think about the nature of joy, faith, politics, fear, life and death, too. The cast is vast and capable. JA

Rock 'n' Roll, Goodman Theatre, through June 7. Though the Goodman's production is still in previews, Tom Stoppard's drama of a rock 'n' roll-loving Czech man behind the Iron Curtain has already won widespread acclaim in London, New York and San Francisco. So why wait for the reviews before seeing it? SCM

The Tempest, Steppenwolf Theatre, through May 31. "The isle is full of noises/Sounds and sweet airs that give delight," says Caliban of *The Tempest's* enchanted island. He's right. Jon Michael Hill's havoc-inducing Ariel, Frank Galati's mighty Prospero and, especially, K. Todd Freeman's Caliban create something wonderful, rich and strange. CS

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge,
Morgan and Sullivan



The History Boys. Photo by Lara Goetsch

THEATER REVIEW

The History Boys

Playwright: Alan Bennett

At: TimeLine Theatre, 615 W. Wellington

Phone: 773-281-8463; \$25-\$35

Runs through: June 21

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Flamboyantly theatrical, complex and intellectually rich, *The History Boys* is by the author of *The Madness of King George* and—decades back—*Beyond the Fringe*. Set in a 1980s Northern England boys school, it covers sexuality, spirituality, class warfare (ethnic and economic) and more. It does so with lightening speed and myriad cultural and historic references that will leave you eating dust if you pause to place them.

But at its heart, *The History Boys* frames a subject debated since Socrates drank hemlock for corrupting youth, and still unsettled today: Do we educate our children to succeed or do we educate them to think? They aren't the same thing even when they are found together. Put another way, do we school our children to pass tests and achieve grades? Or do we school our children to develop independent critical faculties? Do we teach them facts merely as an end? Or do we teach them facts as part of a more comprehensive method?

Nearing retirement, Douglas Hector is a popular teacher who sharpens the critical faculties of his eight senior students approaching their university entrance exams. Hector encourages extravagant intellectual expression and em-

phasizes the interrelationships of cultural and historical threads. He is pitted against the much-younger Mr. Irwin, whose task is to land the boys at prestigious Oxford University. Hector and Irwin fight for the souls of the bright and outgoing lads, but both have an Achilles' heel: they are closeted men deeply attracted to the boys, especially to handsome, self-aware and sexually precocious Dakin. Careless Hector falls while careful Irwin doesn't, but the details of Hector's fall have less to do with the theme than with playwright Alan Bennett's cleverness.

Veteran workhorse actor Donald Brearley—in a rare plumb leading role—is pitch-perfect as the dedicated but world-weary Hector, a role that demands great size but also great control and focus. He is supported by a wonderful ensemble, among them Andrew Carter as the emotionally smaller and cagier Irwin. Both are buoyed by the young actors who form the brilliant, multi-hued octopus of students. Diverse in ethnicity, proportions and personality (among them a gay boy in love with Dakin), they respond as a unit to the play's fast-moving physical and emotional demands, quite wonderfully staged by Nick Bowling on Brian Sidney Bembridge's fluid and environmental old school scenic design.

The play is much longer (nearly three hours) than it need be to tell its story as Bennett stops repeatedly for sketch-like pieces displaying the boys' (and Bennett's) precocity. Their singing and reciting is unnecessary material, but it's bloody wonderful and well-done. That's why Bennett is a star writer, and why *The History Boys* has been so highly anticipated. It doesn't disappoint.

THEATER REVIEW

Old Times

Playwright: Harold Pinter

At: Remy Bumppo Theatre at the Greenhouse, 1229 N. Lincoln

Phone: 773-404-7336; \$35-\$45

Runs through: May 31

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Audiences still pondering the multiple subtexts in the non-Equity production of this play being presented at City Lit for one more week can expand their cogitations with Remy Bumppo's freshly-mounted interpretation. Not that further examination will resolve the questions asked in this three-hander puzzle—this is Pinter, after all, as frustratingly enigmatic in death as he was in life.

The dramatic action encompasses a reunion at the remote seaside home of Deeley and Kate, married for 20 years. The guest is Anna, now living a glamorous life in Italy, but who once shared a London flat with Kate during the housing shortage following World War II. As the women reminisce nostalgically on their romantic bachelorette days, Deeley becomes increasingly resentful of the sororal bond they still share. Soon he and Anna are engaged in a grimly tenacious conversational duel for the affections of the bemused Kate.

Does incorporating oneself into someone else's

memory (as in "Oh, I was there, too!") constitute an assertion of power? Why do husbands often grow uneasy upon discovering that their wives had lives before their weddings? (As Oscar Wilde observed, "Men always want to be a woman's first love, but women want to be a man's last.") Are the characters actually as we see them, or is one—maybe more—of them a fantasy, invoked for the amusement or torment of the fantasizer? Do ghosts dwell only in the minds of their surviving comrades, and do these spirits then visit the living in order to ensure that they are not forgotten? And how much, really, do *you* know about your sig other, anyway?

Individual playgoers will decide the answer according to their own satisfaction, but as soon as the curtain rises on the reliable tag team of Nick Sandys and Linda Gillum—Chicago Theatre's William Powell and Myrna Loy—we know to expect razor-edged repartee swapped with a tension, precision and erotically-charged chemistry so palpable as to throw off sparks. Sandys and Gillum fulfill their promise (the latter with a delightful hint of a plebeian accent, courtesy of dialect consultant Eve Breneman), but at no time does director James Bohnen allow Deeley and Anna's rapier-like wordplay to reduce Jenny McKnight's Kate to a mere McGuffin, nor the stage picture to talking-heads stasis. Add a dribble or two of Victoria DeIorio's Hitchcockian incidental music, and the results make for a riveting 75 minutes (that's *with* an intermission) of tantalizing, deceptively commonplace, mystery.



Old Times. Photo by Johnny Knight

THEATER REVIEW

The Grapes of Wrath

Playwright: adapted by Frank Galati

from the novel by John Steinbeck

At: Infamous Commonwealth Theatre

at the Raven Complex, 6157 N. Clark

Phone: 312-458-9780; \$20

Runs through: May 24

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Nearly two decades after its premiere, the internationally acclaimed play that established the Steppenwolf ensemble as more than a band of rough-housing kids still leaves big footprints to fill. This is not to dismiss less operatic-scaled productions of John Steinbeck's American classic altogether. Nor is it any disgrace for young artists to bite off more than they can chew, as Infamous Commonwealth Theatre—a troupe renowned for its ambitious projects—appears to have done.

The chief pitfall lies with the play's staging in the smaller of the spaces at the Raven Theatre duplex. Frank Galati's adaptation mandates a story-theater scenic design dominated by a weather-beaten automobile/truck into which thirteen people and their worldly possessions must be laden. Furthermore, this vehicle is to be maneuvered into a variety of positions to indicate passage of time and mileage. But while the vessel designed by Alan Donahue—a member of

Lifeline Theatre and thus, no stranger to boat-in-bottle theatrical technology—is a miracle of modular construction, the restrictive dimensions of the playing area impede its mobility, while the bare-floor panorama, with its distressed-burlap walls and flattened light, make it impossible for us to imagine ourselves anywhere but in a—well, off-loop storefront studio.

This classroom ambience could have been mitigated by performances immersing us in our milieu, but Genevieve Thompson's uncharacteristically careless direction not only ignores such useful belief-suspending tools as regional dialects, but elementary details like destitute migrants sporting manicured hands and freshly washed hair. Most debilitating on the night that I attended, however, was the disregard for the music of Steinbeck's language, speech after speech steeped in insightful eloquence glibly recited with a haste and animation ill-suited to what we are to believe are itinerant outcasts enervated by a plethora of forced contemplation.

Even in 2009, Americans still carry in their minds shadows of the Great Depression of the 1930s. (A rash of advertisements late last year, offering bargains on newly foreclosed homes, was quickly aborted under protest from citizens uneasy at the prospect of exploiting the misfortunes of displaced neighbors.) A less indifferently mounted rendering of *The Grapes Of Wrath* could have been Infamous Commonwealth's up-to-the-minute caveat on our current economic troubles instead of a faded reproduction of images still vivid in our memories.

SPOTLIGHT



Evan Guilford-Blake's world-premiere drama **Caliban, Dancing** tackles the big issues: right-to-die arguments, same-sex marriage and culpability when it comes to a child's tragic death. n.u.f.a.n. ensemble promises a multimedia staging of *Caliban, Dancing* at Chicago Actor's Studio, 2040 N. Elston. Performances are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays until May 24. Tickets are \$15; call 773-282-0344 or visit www.nufanensemble.com. Photo of Camille Kuthrell and Mary Czerwinski in *Caliban, Dancing* courtesy of n.u.f.a.n. ensemble.

THEATER REVIEW

The Flu Season

Playwright: Will Eno

At: Black Sheep Productions at the Athenaeum, 2936 N. Southport

Phone: 773-935-6860; \$20

Runs through: May 31

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

We are told in the course of the evening that our play was called The Snow Romance before the author changed the title to The Flu Season. In fact, we are told a lot of things about the story set in a—yawn!—mental hospital where the staff members chatter on about themselves and allow the patients to roam the grounds unsupervised, where one of the latter engages in sex, gets pregnant, has an abortion and commits suicide. Theatergoers should not feel cheated, however, since the progress of the sweethearts (identified only as “Man” and “Woman”) is of no more consequence than the sample sentences provided in Grammar And Composition schoolbooks.

Writing plays is so much fun, you see, that sooner or later, every scribbler who has read Pirandello (or Cliff’s Notes thereof) decides to *share* the experience with his/her audience. Will Eno accomplishes this goal through the introduction of two chorus boys (the tragic Greek, not the musical-comedy, kind) dubbed “Prologue” and “Epilogue,” who interrupt the action of the

show—formerly-known-as Snow Romance with redundant stage directions, location images, and the playwright’s commentary. Since Prologue is nurturing, while Epilogue is candid, a *dialectic*—ooooh!—is set up between the gently optimistic and coldly rational narrative modes. Isn’t this *thrilling*?

Eno’s simultaneous semantic analyses will likely draw guffaws from attendant wordsmiths (like me), but what will keep everybody else in their seats for the two hours that it takes him to exhaust his topic is the dream-team cast assembled by director Jeremy Wechsler. Not only are the six players uniformly well-versed in maintaining straight faces while uttering premium-grade drivel, but they attack their patently artificial text with a gleeful relish so infectious that we come to enjoy the sheer artistry of their industry, just as we are convinced *they* do.

Leading the revels are Cory Krebsbach and John Henry Roberts as Prologue and Epilogue, respectively, whose command of their dryly literary domain never flags, even when it mandates scaling a Fourth Wall barricading, on the night I attended, only a bare handful of fellow travelers. William J. Watt and Darrelyn Marx’s Doctor and Nurse likewise acquit themselves with affable aplomb, as do Alice Wedoff and Matt Holzfeind as the lovers forced to speak in a rambling, vaguely John Ashbery, poetic idiom. Together, they make this stroll through the inside of Eno’s skull sufficiently entertaining to wish Black Sheep Productions better material for its next project.



Alice in the House of Carroll.

THEATER REVIEW

Alice in the House of Carroll

Playwright: Keely Haddad-Null and Laurence Bryan

At: Clock Productions with National Pastime Theatre, 4139 N. Broadway

Phone: 773-327-7077; \$10-\$25

Runs through: May 30

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Lewis Carroll’s novels *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) and *Through the Lookingglass* (1871) were initially passed off as kid stuff. But adults would later mine darker undercurrents out of Carroll’s weird characters and trippy situations. (Just listen to Jefferson Airplane’s “White Rabbit.”)

One of the latest appropriations of Carroll’s creations can be seen in *Alice in the House of Carroll*, a world-premiere collaboration between National Pastime Theater and Clock Productions. They’re advertising this Alice take-off as definitely not for kids (which is true) and it, too, has its share of bizarre imagery (particularly Da-

vid Denman’s self-destructing set).

But this Alice will probably disappoint Carroll fans since the Wonderland connections are far too oblique. For non-Carroll fans, this show with fitful bursts of violence will be a head-scratcher.

Playwrights Keely Haddad-Null and Laurence Bryan (who also directs) both seem hellbent on upending expectations, both with muddling up the source material and the staging. (No curtain call on opening night left some audience members wondering if they would have to endure a third act.)

Here, Alice (Claire Kander) becomes a scrappy street urchin in 1871 Chicago, as reexamined by her respectably severe older self, named Carroll (Therin Miller). It seems Alice’s older sister, Grace (Jennifer La Turner), wanted them both to become high-class ladies, even though she also worked as a prostitute.

Sometimes the character transformations are obvious. The White Rabbit becomes a tardy charity nun (Noimi Finkelstein), while the Mad Hatter (Shawn Goudie as Madison) and his entourage of the March Hare (Phil Canzano as Harrison) and the Dormouse (Arch Harmon as Dom) become schizophrenic tramps.

Other connections are anyone’s guess. The reminiscing mental case Toval (Christopher K. McMorris) could be the Mock Turtle, while Gretta (Dawn Perry) could be the Gryphon or the Duchess’ cook. As to which Carroll character the butch fireman Francis is supposed to be is unclear, even though Mark Habert gives the funniest performance of the evening.

The clear-cut villain is the heiress Mary Heart (Allison Black), who holds sway over Jospeh Adamczak, as the suave drug dealer Chesire (although it was the Duchess who owned the cat in the Carroll original).

All the actors throw themselves into their roles both physically and emotionally. The fight moves by R&D Choreography do look painful, while the stage makeup of bruises and lacerations is impressive. (Of note is the jugular stream of blood at the end of Act I.)

But *Alice in the House of Carroll* ultimately fails because Haddad-Null and Bryan’s script is too ponderously artsy and deviant from the original novels. Carroll’s fantastical characters just don’t fit too comfortably into a 19th-century muckraking drama.

“Breathtakingly imagined...
a wholly wondrous achievement!”

—Chicago Sun-Times

“You won’t have seen a “Tempest” like this one. Guaranteed.
So roll in and see what all the fuss is about!” —Chicago Tribune

“Dazzles with its theatricality
and welcome irreverence.” —Daily Herald



The Tempest

by William Shakespeare

directed by ensemble member Tina Landau

NOW PLAYING!

steppenwolf

buy online at www.steppenwolf.org
or call 312-335-1650.

Production Sponsor of *The Tempest*

J.P.Morgan

2008-2009 Lighting Sponsor

ComEd

Additional support provided by

WeSeed.com

Bassett ground



Actress Angela Bassett (*What's Love Got to Do with It*, *Malcolm X*, *Notorious*) was honored at The Theatre School at DePaul University's 21st Annual Awards for Excellence in the Arts on April 28 at the Four Seasons Hotel, 120 E. Delaware.

The Oscar-nominated Bassett accepted the 2009 Award for Excellence in the Arts. Director/actor Dennis Dugan (*I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry*, *Big Daddy*) received the 2009 Alumni Award for Excellence in the Arts. Academy Award-nominated actor Michael Shannon (*Revolutionary Road*) dedicated his award to his late father, Donald S. Shannon, who was an accounting professor at DePaul University, according to BroadwayWorld.com. At the night's end, the gala raised over \$375,000 for the theatre school's scholarship fund. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

'Milkweed' at Links Hall and NU

Milkweed—a solo play fusing poetry and theatre that examines three African-American female survivors of gender-based violence—will run May 8-9 at Links Hall, 3435 N. Sheffield; and May 28-29 at Northwestern University, Annie Mae Swift Hall, 1920 Campus, Evanston.

Tickets are \$7 (students)-\$15 for the Links Hall performances; the Northwestern run is free, but reservations are required. Call 773-281-0824 for Links Hall and 847-491-3171 for Northwestern.

Holly Hughes leading workshops

Two-time Obie Award-winning performance artist/playwright Holly Hughes will lead a short dialogue and workshop in "Holly Hughes—Introduction to Come as You Are: Performing identities, real, imagined and surreal" Monday, May 25, at Links Hall, 3145 N. Sheffield, 7-9 p.m.

Hughes is best known for work that explores sexuality, gender and other questions of identity. She will lead a more intense workshop Wednesday-Saturday, June 10-13.

The May 25 workshop is free; the June workshop registration fee is \$175. Register for either at www.brownpapertickets.com. For more information, e-mail Erica Mott at emott@linkshall.org or call her at 773-281-0824.

LeapFest 6 to kick off at T's

Stage Left Theatre will present LeapFest 6, its annual new-play festival, May 12-30 at 3408 N. Sheffield.

LeapFest is an annual event featuring five new

plays with socio-political themes, presented as workshop productions in rotating repertory. Stage Left will kick off LeapFest 6 with its First Night celebration Tuesday, May 12, 7 p.m., at T's Bar, 5025 N. Clark.

Single tickets for LeapFest performances are \$12 each. Individual patrons can save by purchasing a LeapPASS for all five plays for \$25. Call the Stage Left box office at 773-883-8830 or visit www.stagelefttheatre.com.

'Catechism' sisters reunite May 30

Six of the actresses who have played "Sister" in the long-running Late Night Catechism—currently celebrating its 17th anniversary in a new venue, the Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted—will reunite for a special performance Saturday, May 30, at 8 p.m.

Lisa Buscani, Mary Zentmyer, Rosie Newton, Liz Cloud, Lisa Braatz and Margaret Kustermann will all play "Sister"—three in Act One and three in Act Two.

Tickets are \$30 each; call 312-988-9000.

Dunn replaced in 'Dueling Divas'

Hell in a Handbag Productions will present a benefit staged reading of "Dueling Divas featuring Gloria Swanson" Friday, May 15, at Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, at 8 p.m.

Due to unforeseeable circumstances, Nora Dunn will not be appearing. However, Scott Bradley of Scooty and Jojo (Carpenter's Halloween and Diva Brunch) will be appearing as Swanson's Norma Desmond.

Tickets are \$25 each; call 800-838-3006, or visit www.brownpapertickets.com/event/60117.

CULTURE CLUB

"A play of depth as well as dazzle, intensely moving as well as thought-provoking and funny."
—Daily Telegraph

WINNER OF 6 TONY AWARDS INCLUDING BEST PLAY!

THE HISTORY BOYS

CHICAGO PREMIERE | BY ALAN BENNETT

Timeline
Theatre Company

773.281.8463
timelinetheatre.com

All-female Shakespeare returns to Chicago
- don't miss it!

At La Costa Theatre
3931 N. Elston
2nd Floor

April 27 - May 30
Thurs - Sat 8 PM
Sun 3PM
773-880-0016
www.BABESWITHBLADES.ORG

MACBETH

OLD TIMES

BY HAROLD PINTER

REMY BUMPPPO
think theatre

Now thru May 31
Greenhouse Theater
2257 N. Lincoln Ave.

"Dazzlingly taut and electrifying."
—Chicago Sun-Times

www.remybumpo.org / 773.404.7336

hedwig and the angry inch Through May 31

AMERICAN THEATER CO
EST. 1985 CHICAGO

tickets: 773.409.4125 or atcweb.org

Entertainment news

Talking about his film *Little Ashes*—in which Javier Beltran and *Twilight*'s Robert Pattinson play artists/lovers Federico Garcia Lorca and Salvador Dali, respectively—director Paul Morrison told the *Los Angeles Times* that the actors' sex scenes "were difficult, but I think all sex scenes are difficult." Morrison added, "I think Rob probably found it harder than Javier, to draw the line between performance and, ah, but that was also in the nature of the part, that Dali's sexuality was so complicated, complex and mysterious..."

Actor Hugh Jackman has said that he stopped dancing when he was younger so others would not think he was gay, according to Bild.de. Jackman, 40, said: "In another world, another life, probably growing up in another country, I might have been more of a dancer. ... I was encouraged to do that, and I remember my brother saying, 'Ah, you poof,' so I gave it up. ... I didn't have the guts of Billy Elliot at the time!"

Movie director Brett Ratner is reportedly in talks to helm a movie based on the story of the ill-fated musical duo Milli Vanilli, according to a *SlashFilm.com* item. Rush Hour screenwriter Jeff Nathanson has written the screenplay about "one producer and two lip-synching male models who sold millions of records and won a Grammy before their scam was revealed."

Lifestyle maven Martha Stewart has settled a lawsuit with hand model/magician Patrick Albanese, who filed a complaint over an accident with a faulty patio chair from her furniture line, according to IMDB.com. Albanese alleged the top of his index finger was chopped off after he caught it in the frame of the chair. He claimed he lost earnings because of the accident.



BY DAVID BYRNE AND TONY PEREGRIN

This Mother's Day, let's salute some of great women of music who had breast cancer.

Melissa Etheridge made quite a splash at the 2005 Grammys—her first public appearance after her battle against breast cancer. With a bald head and heavy eyeliner, the out rocker joined Joss Stone for a tribute to Janis Joplin with the medley of "Cry Baby" and "Piece of My Heart." Etheridge stole the show and added new meaning to the lines, "but I'm gonna show you, baby, a woman can be tough" and "each time I tell myself that I, well I can't stand the pain, but when you hold me in your arms, I'll sing it once again." A studio version of "Piece of My Heart" appears on Etheridge's retrospective *Greatest Hits: The Road Less Traveled*. Etheridge's *Live and Alone 2009 Tour* comes to Chicagoland on Thursday, June 18, at The Venue, 777 Casino Center, Hammond, Ind.

Her career spans five decades. Her memoirs spill over into two books. **Marianne Faithfull** details her medical woes with breast cancer and hepatitis C in *Memories, Dreams and Reflections*. In her previous book, *Faithfull*, the husky-voiced songbird recounts her life, including experimenting with bisexuality and heroin addiction. Faithfull follows up the album *Before the Poison*, a collaboration with Nick Cave and PJ Harvey, with the new recording *Easy Come, Easy Go*. Here, she interprets a handpicked selection including Dolly Parton's "Down from Dover" and Morrissey's "Dear God, Please Help Me." An assortment of guests makes cameos, including queer crooners Rufus Wainwright on "Children of Stone" and Antony Hegarty on "Ooh Baby Baby." She has a knack



Kylie Minogue.

for covers; her version of "Gloomy Sunday" is one of the best versions out there. Even Faithfull's catalog has been remade. The British dance act *Sunscreem* did a take of her 1979 comeback single "Broken English."

In 2003, **Anastacia** came out with having been diagnosed with breast cancer. The "I'm Outta Love" singer put her tribulations into the hits "Left Outside Alone" and "Sick and Tired" on her next effort. The self-titled set's fourth single, "Heavy on My Heart," benefited the newly established *Anastacia Fund*, which raises awareness

of breast cancer to women under 35. In 2007, she joined an army of divas for Annie Lennox's "Sing," which helps raise funds for the African AIDS epidemic. I remember first hearing the Chicago-born *Anastacia* on David Morales and the Badyard Club's house classic house album *The Program*, singing on "Forever Luv."

Amid her *Showgirl: Greatest Hits Tour*, **Kylie Minogue** found out she had breast cancer. The Australian pop princess reemerged after chemotherapy with short hair and more curves. Instead of returning to the darker place she found herself while recording the underrated masterpiece *Impossible Princess*, Minogue released the ultimate feel-good electro album, *X*. Only closing track "Cosmic" hints to her recent struggles. The remix collection, *Boombox*, followed earlier this year. Minogue has already been to the studio to begin recording a successor to *X*.

To those who do not think they are in need of a history lesson, some of music's finest voices have been silenced because of breast cancer. And these women's contributions are still relevant into today's pop culture.

Chicago-born **Minnie Riperton** and her five-and-a-half octave range were gone too soon, once she succumbed to cancer in 1979. Best known for her 1975 chart topper "Lovin' You," Riperton's gifts have carried on to the sounds of the next generation, as heard on Mariah Carey's early material. "Lovin' You" still surfaces in commercials, TV shows like *South Park* and in movies like *Disturbia*. Riperton's daughter is Maya Rudolph, a Saturday Night Live alumna who appeared in *Prop 8: The Musical*.

In the '60s, nobody did blue-eyed soul quite like **Dusty Springfield**. The lesbian icon returned to the limelight pairing with the Pet Shop Boys on the 1987 hit "What Have I Done to Deserve This." Then her gem "Son of a Preacher Man" was featured in *Pulp Fiction*. Last year Shelby Lynne paid Springfield the ultimate homage with *Just a Little Lovin'*. Here, Lynne strips down Springfield's classics like "Breakfast in Bed" and "The Look of Love" by adding her own twist on these beloved favorites. Two films on Springfield are rumored to be in development.

When George Michael remakes three of your signature tunes, then you know you have reached a certain godlike status. Such is the case with the late **Nina Simone**. On "Wild Is the Wind" and "Feeling Good," Michael eases up on the big finish Simone is known for. The music legacy left behind by the High Priestess of Soul is magnificent. The activist's style can be heard in Antony Hegarty's vocal delivery. Her work has been licensed to commercials, become the focal point for sampling and been remixed multiple times. Even *American Idol* contestants like Adam Lambert have reached into Simone's songbook. In 2008 her daughter did the tribute album *Simone* on Simone, which shines brightest during the big-band numbers "Gal from Joe's" and "Love Me or Leave Me." The box set *To Be Free* is out now. Mary J. Blige is slated to portray Simone in a forthcoming biopic.

Alt Q Festival May 9

On Saturday, May 9, Scott Free assembles queer music greats for the Alt Q Festival at the Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln. This annual event features only out LGBT artists, but is the right key combination of music and storytelling for all.

The rainbow of a line-up includes college radio darling Jeff Heiskell of The Judybeats, founder of Tomboy Girl Records Tret Fure, "Hollywood Ending" songstress Edie Carey, folk-meets-pop duo Sweet Hello, Chicago's very own Gregg Shapiro and left-of-center acoustic outfit Stella and the Heatbirds.

The host of the showcase, Free, chronicles various episodes of gay history on his latest *The Pink Album (A Pop Opera)*. Free is regarded as the godfather of the Chicago queer music scene.

Proceeds from the show will benefit the Chicago-based Gay Liberation Network. Tickets are available at oldtownschool.tix.com and more info can be found at www.altqfestival.com.

—David Byrne

Samantha Ronson in town May 8

DJ Samantha Ronson—who has made headlines because of her relationship with actress Lindsay Lohan—will spin at *Crimson Lounge*, 333 N. Dearborn, on Friday, May 8, at 9 p.m.

For more info, see www.crimsonchicago.com; RSVP at tables@crimsonchicago.com.

Lauper and Brandy at Milwaukee PrideFest

On June 12, Milwaukee PrideFest will be the place to be, as Cyndi Lauper takes to the Miller Main Stage. The following day, Grammy Award-winning singer/actress Brandy will headline.



Cyndi Lauper.

With hits such as "Time after Time," "True Colors" and "Girls just Want to Have Fun," Lauper cemented her position as one of the all-time greats. She also has spearheaded the "True Colors" tour, which benefited the Human Rights Campaign.

Ever since her 1994 four-time self-titled platinum debut, Brandy has been a force to be reckoned with. Late last year, Brandy released her fifth full-length studio album, *Human*.

Special VIP reserved seating is available; see www.pridefest.com.

Submissions wanted for WCT supplement

Poetry and prose items are being accepted for Windy City Times' sixth annual literary supplement, which will run in the Pride Issue, out June 24. This year's theme is "Stonewall 40: Looking Out."

Submissions should be no more than 300 words long. A prize of \$25 will be awarded to the best prose item and poem. A person may submit up to three items; those not adhering to the requirements will be discarded.

E-mail submissions (in Microsoft Word format) to WCTPride@gmail.com. The deadline is Wed., June 10.

WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL

A MINISTER'S WIFE

BASED ON *CANDIDA* BY GEORGE BERNARD SHAW
MUSIC BY JOSH SCHMIDT LYRICS BY JAN TRANEN ADAPTED BY AUSTIN PENDLETON
MUSICAL DIRECTION BY RICHARD CARSEY CONCEIVED AND DIRECTED BY MICHAEL HALBERSTAM

May 19 - July 19, 2009 | Performed at 325 Tudor Court, Glencoe

From an award-winning creative team, *A Minister's Wife* explores the fires burning beneath the surface of an ordinary marriage and discovers a secret in the heart.

TICKETS ARE SELLING QUICKLY.
ORDER TODAY!

WRITERSTHEATRE.ORG | 847-242-6000

2008/09 Season Sponsor:
Mary Winton Green

Production Sponsors:
Avy & Marcie Stein
Mary Pat Studdert

Production Corporate Sponsor:
MAGNETAR CAPITAL

Media Sponsor:
Pioneer Press

WT
WRITERS'
THEATRE



Little Ashes; X-Men Origins: Wolverine; film notes

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

The folks at tiny Regent Releasing must be beside themselves with excitement. With **Little Ashes**, a period drama set in Spain, they suddenly find themselves with a movie starring Robert Pattinson, the overnight sensation from *Twilight*. I'm not sure how the teenage girls squealing over Pattinson will feel about his first film since he set millions of hearts aflame, but the actor's gay fans are in for a big treat. Director Paul Morrison's movie is a pleasurable, old-fashioned romance—a gay one—with a good measure of art and politics tossed in between the passion.

The film begins in Madrid in 1922 when Pattinson, as surrealist painter Salvador Dali, first walks through the doors of Madrid's School of Fine Arts. At 18, with his pageboy haircut, thigh-high boots and lacy pirate shirts, he's already an individual among individuals and the other students give him a wide berth. However, soon Dali and poet/playwright Federico Garcia



X-Men Origins: Wolverine.

Lorca (played by Javier Beltran in his film debut) become fast friends, with each desiring more. Morrison cannily prolongs the skittish, lovesick courtship of these two budding artistic geniuses until the duo shares a midnight swim underneath a thick, liquid moon—culminating in a sensual kiss.

The physical act of love-making, however, is too painful, both physically and emotionally, for Dali. So, even though he has constantly repeated his mantra, "No limit," to Lorca, that's exactly what he places on himself and he takes off for Paris, itching for notoriety. The film, based on Phillippa Goslett's book, suggests that Dali lacked the courage of his vision—he meant "no limit" alright—but externally, not internally.

We then move forward eight years (in Madrid, once again), when Lorca has become a celebrity playwright/poet, and has a new lover. The Dali that returns to him is the poseur with the icy Gala (Arly Jover), his wife, in tow, and Lorca rejects their none-too subtle attempt at a *ménage à trois*. It's Dali or the highway, apparently. Not long after, ignoring the political unrest that would soon erupt into a war, Lorca—who has

become an emblem of democracy in Spain—is taken prisoner and executed by a band of terrorists. The film suggests that part of the reason for his execution had to do with his sexuality, so here we have another gay martyr for the history books.

Pattinson catches Dali's strange mix of insecurity and giant egotism with finesse while Beltran, as Lorca, has the fire and passion of a young Antonio Banderas, Javier Bardem or Andy Garcia (the latter who actually played the part in an earlier film version). Marina Gatell, as the duo's wealthy best gal pal, is fun, especially when she gets drunk and morose; Jover also registers as the creepy yet fascinating Gala.

Little Ashes follows in the path of other tragic gay period romance films. With its sumptuous cinematography (in HD no less), gorgeous locations, moody story line and nicely shaded performances, fans of Maurice and the little-seen Proteus will find plenty to satisfy their tastes. Whether or not that includes squealing teenage girls remains to be seen.

Unlike the overly complicated *Watchmen*, the last comic book blockbuster to hit theatres, **X-Men Origins: Wolverine** is such a blandly predictable sci-fi blockbuster that one can focus on different parts of star Hugh Jackman's extraordinary physique—his spectacular abs, enormous biceps, perfectly proportioned ass and even his perfectly trimmed sideburns—and those of his counterparts (especially Ryan Reynolds) without fear of losing out on a single plot point.

The movie is mildly entertaining, pours on the special effects and tries hard—and fails—to keep the audience involved in the familiar and dumb-dumb plot that pits brother against brother and tosses Danny Huston as an evil, mad

leader into the mix.

The real problem is that there is not a single flesh-and-blood character in the overproduced movie and the enormously talented Jackman, who has had to defend playing late gay icon Peter Allen on Broadway in *The Boy From Oz* in just about every interview he's done for the movie (a role for which he won the Tony), is especially ill-served. If this is an example of the kind of run-of-the-mill schlock that Hollywood is offering Jackman, I suggest he immediately head back to Broadway for more challenging fare. Or perhaps he could produce a screen version of *The Boy From Oz* himself. Now that would be something to anticipate.

Film notes:

—**Camp Midnight**, the quarterly film series devoted to "the best of the worst" in cinema, returns Sunday, May 10, with the second annual Mother's Day screening of 1981's *Mommie Dearest*—the Mount Everest of Mother's Day movies. Dick O'Day (the alter ego of yours truly) hosts the 1:30 p.m. pre-show—which includes a contest, festive prizes and a performance by The Joans, David Cerda's Joan Crawford rock band—followed by the 2:30 p.m. "interactive" screening. Early arrivals will also get a chance to pose for photos with Joan and Christina dolled up in their matching pinafores; renowned photographer Rick Aguilar will take the photos and proceeds will benefit Handbag's upcoming production of *Poseidon!* A few V.I.M. (Very Important Mother) \$20 tickets (brunch at Blue Bayou and preferred seating at the screening) are still available. Advance tickets and further information on all three events are at www.musicboxtheatre.com.


—**Queer Cinema 101**, the five week LGBT film series hosted by local gay film critics, concludes Monday, May 11, with the beloved 1982 gender-bending musical classic *Victor/Victoria* starring Julie Andrews and Robert Preston. The screening, hosted by Gay Chicago editor/film critic Jonathan Lewis, will be followed by a roundtable Q&A with all the gay film critics participating in the series. The series is being partly sponsored by Sidetrack and www.HannahFree.com; the trailer for the forthcoming lesbian-themed film *Hannah Free*, starring Sharon Gless, will be shown. The screening is at 7 p.m. at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, in the Hoover-Leppen Theatre. A \$5 suggested donation is requested; visit www.centeronhalsted.org or 773-472-6469 ext. 245.

Check out my archived reviews at www.windycitytimes.com or www.knightatthemovies.com. Readers can leave feedback at the latter Web site.

GIVE MOM A MILLION DOLLAR TREAT!

"A HIT! ...CAPTURES THE THRILLS OF ELVIS PRESLEY, JOHNNY CASH, JERRY LEE LEWIS & CARL PERKINS."

CHRIS JONES, CHICAGO TRIBUNE



MILLION
DOLLAR
QUARTET

★ THE NIGHT ROCK 'N' ROLL CAME ALIVE ★

"THIS QUARTET CAN ROCK! ...ALTOGETHER ROLICKING 90-MINUTE FANTASIA."

HEDY WEISS, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

APOLLO THEATER

2540 N LINCOLN AVE
(773)935-6100
TICKETMASTER.COM
GROUPS (312)977-1710

MILLIONDOLLARQUARTETLIVE.COM

★ ★ TICKETS AS LOW AS \$25 ★ ★



Kelly McGillis steps out of the closet

Actress Kelly McGillis (*Top Gun*, *The Accused*, TV's *The L Word*) has come out as a lesbian.

Talking with *SheWired's* Girl Rock, McGillis said, "definitely [looking for] a woman...I'm done with the man thing. I did that. I need to move on in life. That's another part of being true to yourself," according to *Towleroad.com*. Speaking about coming out, the actress said, "It's been a challenge for me personally. ... Life is a freaking journey, and it's about growing and changing, and coming to terms with who and what you are, and loving who and what you are." The photo above is of McGillis at her annual flag-football tournament this year in Key West, Fla.



Robert Beltran as Federico Garcia Lorca in *Little Ashes*.

'Ashes' to ashes: Talking with Javier Beltran

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

In the indie film *Little Ashes*, an intense romantic period drama, actor Javier Beltran makes his feature debut as revered gay Spanish poet, playwright and slain political activist Federico Garcia Lorca. Beltran's startling debut, however, has been slightly overshadowed by his suddenly world-famous co-star Robert Pattinson, the teenage heartthrob familiar to millions as vampire Edward Cullen in *Twilight*. Pattinson plays surrealist painter Salvador Dali, who meets Lorca at art school at the beginning of his career during the 1920s. The two become close friends and lovers before a host of complications intervenes, including Dali's intense preoccupation with fame and outrageous behavior. This time out it's Beltran, with his dreamy good looks, who gets to play the moody, sensual hero filled with passionate, unspoken desires. It's a performance that finds critics comparing Beltran to another Javier—Bardem.

Beltran is busy working on an array of projects—a wildly popular Spanish soap opera called *Zoo* and the Spanish premiere of the play *The History Boys*, but during a break in rehearsals from his home in Barcelona he managed to give *Windy City Times* his only Chicago-area interview. Beltran speaks beautiful English in *Little Ashes* but is more comfortable in his first language so the interview was conducted with the help of a translator.

Windy City Times: You were cast out of college in *Little Ashes*—were your college years in any way comparable to those experienced by Lorca, Dali and their artistic group?

Javier Beltran: More or less, yes. I'm 25 and Lorca was 27 so it was about the same, yes. [Laughs]

WCT: Lorca is highly revered, obviously, for his writing but do you think are people aware of his gay sexuality?

JB: Yes; the whole world knew. I don't think it was any secret. Everyone in Spain knew that he was gay. It was another thing about whether people talked about it or not. His secret was out there but what people cared more was his poetry [and still do]—not necessarily if he was gay or if he wasn't.

WCT: Do you think if the climate for gays in the 20s and 30s when Lorca and Dali were intimate friends had been more accepting, they would have been able to maintain their relationship?

JB: That is very hard to say—I wouldn't like to

guess.

WCT: How does it feel to be the envy of millions of teenage girls and gay boys, sharing love scenes with Robert Pattinson?

JB: I don't know. [Laughs] I'm just very happy to have worked with Robert—to have shared this project with him—and I'm very happy for him for his success.

WCT: Can you talk about filming the love scenes with him? Both of you have said they were painful physically to film—really?

JB: The scenes were very intense. It was very difficult to express since they were very intense emotions in these scenes with what was happening with the two individuals. But I was very comfortable doing the scenes because the crew and Robert were very supportive. I was happy how they came out in the movie.

WCT: In your research did you find a poem of Lorca's that helped you find the key to his character or his relationship with Dali?

JB: Many, many—all of them, actually. A Poet In New York is my favorite Lorca book. I loved the whole book. It's very difficult for me to choose only one.

WCT: You're being compared to Antonio Banderas and Javier Bardem partly because this is your breakout role and, like them, you're portraying a gay character. How does that feel?

JB: Me being compared to Antonio Banderas is a pleasure. I love his career; he's a marvelous actor, he's stupendous [and] he's a perfect example for young actors to follow, as is Javier Bardem. I get excited over this idea [laughs] I have to admit. I'm proud to be compared to these two. They're great actors both in Spain and abroad; they have great careers.

WCT: Any chance we'll see you in an Almodovar film?

JB: Hopefully! [Laughs] I'd love it, absolutely. Not at this moment, though.

WCT: Now that you've played Lorca, any chance you'll appear in one of his plays?

JB: No, I'm not doing any Lorca plays. I would like to, though.

WCT: How do you feel about your success with this movie?

JB: I'm not aware of fame or anything like that. I'm just a 25-year-old run-of-the-mill actor, no more, no less. It makes me very happy knowing that people are watching the movie—the more, the better. I haven't changed anything in my life. I will keep working and that's all.

WCT: Does all this fuss over same-sex marriage in America seem rather odd to someone from Spain, where it's legal?

JB: I don't live in the United States, but I would hope there wouldn't be any controversy and everyone should just live and let live.

Windy City Gay Idol adds venues, prizes

Windy City Gay Idol has started its seventh annual count-down, with great competitions at Star Gaze and Jackhammer bars. A new venue has been added to the preliminary rounds: Sofo bar, which will be the site of Gay Idol Thursday, May 14. Windy City Gay Idol features the best amateur gay and lesbian singers in the Chicago area.

What started as a fun promotion with Windy City Media Group has become the largest and most highly anticipated annual competition in Chicago's LGBT community. And you don't have to sing to be a part of it. Just come and vote!

Windy City Gay Idol 2009 includes preliminary competitions one night only at different bars where as many as 20 participants sing at each venue. All contestants compete for the chance to advance to the Semi-finals Saturday, May 30 at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted. Results from every preliminary, semifinal and Final event come from audience votes. Votes from friends, family and audience members hopefully land them on the stage at the finals Saturday, June 13 at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted.

Premium sponsors this year are Miller Lite and Skyy Vodka. Other co-sponsors include: American Airlines, Broadway in Chicago, Creaoke, Ravinia, and WCPT AM & FM: Chicago's Progressive Talk and Windy City Media Group.

Each winner collecting the most votes at a preliminary bar will win \$100. Two winners from each bar will advance to the Semi-finals. Audience members at each bar also have the chance to win great prizes, such as Miller ad Skyy merchandise, Broadway in Chicago and Ravinia tickets and much more.

The Finals event includes big prizes for audience members as well as the top three contestants, including weekend stays at downtown

hotels, travel packages and theater tickets to top Chicago theaters and concert venues.

The winner of the entire event at Sidetrack will win \$1,000 in cash, a pair of American Airlines, a Miller Lite iPod Touch, Skyy Vodka basket featuring Skyy Pineapple Infusion, Broadway in Chicago tickets, and more, not to mention the coveted title of Windy City Gay Idol 2009. The event is open to all amateur singers age 21 and above, regardless of sexual orientation. There is a \$10 signup fee for singers, and a \$5 fee for audience members at all preliminary events. There is a \$10 cover at the semifinals and finals at Sidetrack.

The remaining 2009 schedule:

—Thursday, May 14: Sofo bar, 4923 N. Clark, 7 p.m. sign up, 8 p.m. start.

—Wed., May 20: @mosphere, 5355 N. Clark, 8 p.m. sign up, 9 p.m. start.

—Thursday, May 28: WILD CARD, Roscoe's, 3356 N. Halsted, 9 p.m. door opens, 10 p.m. start. Invited guests plus open slots for new singers.

—Sat., May 30: SEMI-FINALS, Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted, 2 p.m. door opens, 4 p.m. start.

—Sat., June 13: FINALS, Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted, 2 p.m. door, 4 p.m. start.

For more information or photos, contact Cynthia Holmes at 773-871-7610, ext. 301 or cynthia@windycitymediagroup.com. Complete rules and regulations are at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

—From a press release



"IMPRESSIVE, SEDUCTIVE AND EVOCATIVE."
- Stephen Rebello, PLAYBOY

"MIND BLOWINGLY BEAUTIFUL."
- Gabe Doppelt, W MAGAZINE

Javier BELTRÁN
as Federico Garcia Lorca

Robert PATTINSON
as Salvador Dali

Matthew McNULTY
as Luis Beñuel

Marina GATELL
as Magdalena

A Paul Morrison Film

LITTLE ASHES

Three rebels willing to take on the world. Two lovers risking it all.
One story, untold until now.

A REGENT RELEASE OF A FACTOTUM BARCELONA, ARIA FILMS AND MET FILM PRESENTATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH APT FILMS REGENT ENTERTAINMENT AND KATAPULT FILM SALES "LITTLE ASHES"

JAVIER BELTRAN ROBERT PATTINSON MATTHEW McNULTY MARINA GATELL ESTHER NUBIOLA BRUNO ORO WITH SIMON ANDREU VICKY PEÑA AND ARLY JOVER AS "GAY"

LINE PRODUCER FERNANDO BOFILL SOUND RECORDIST JAUME MELENDEZ CASTING BY MERCE ESPELLETA MAKE UP & HAIR DESIGN PATRICIA REYES COSTUME DESIGNER ANTONIO BELART PRODUCTION DESIGNER PERE FRANCESCH

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY MIGUEL MERA EDITOR RACHEL TUNNARD DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ADAM SUSCHITZKY EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STEPHEN P. JARCHOW PAUL COLICHMAN DEBRA STASSON LUKE MONTAGU

CO-PRODUCERS PHILIPPA GOSLETT STEWART LE MARECHAL PRODUCERS CARLO DUSI JONNY PERSEY JAUME VILALTA WRITTEN BY PHILIPPA GOSLETT A FILM BY PAUL MORRISON

©2009 FACTOTUM BARCELONA, ARIA FILMS AND MET FILMS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

RESTRICTED
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN
UNDER 17 REQUIRES ACCOMPANYING PARENT OR ADULT GUARDIAN

www.littleashes-themovie.com

OPENS FRIDAY, MAY 8TH! LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA
2828 N. CLARK ST @ DIVERSEY • (773) 509-4949

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS ONLINE NOW AT WWW.LITTLEASHES-THEMOVIE.COM

WHAT TO DO?

Wednesday, May 6

4 Women Only hosted by Kat Fitzgerald and dedicated to new women artists. 9 p.m. Uncommon Ground Devon 1401 W. Devon Ave 773-465-9801 www.uncommonground.com

Mommy Dearest: A Comedy Tribute to Mom to those who raised us, and those who think they did. 8 p.m. \$10 ComedySportz Theatre, 929 W. Belmont Ave. 773-549-8080 or ComedySportzChicago.com

Thursday, May 7

AVR (GLBT Veterans) 7 p.m. Center on Halsted 3656 N. Halsted www.centeronhalsted.org

Out at CHM: Closets are for Clothes. The long and storied history of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender. Surviving Reagan: From AIDS to Bowers v. Hardwick, the 1980s were one of the harshest decades in history for the gay community. Cocktails 5:30/Program 6:15 p.m. \$12/\$10. Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St. www.chicagohistory.org

Diana Block author Arm the Spirit: A Woman's Journey Underground and Back 7:30 p.m. Women and Children First 5233 N. Clark, www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Eva Hoffman, author of Appassionata, explores the way the search for transcendence can end in violence or sublimity. 7:30 p.m. Women and Children First 5233 N. Clark, www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Hotel Amerika reading by Author Wayne Koestenbaum A Celebration of the TransGenre Issue 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free. Columbia College Chicago, Hokin Hall, 623 S. Wabash Ave. 312-369-8101

milkweed, intimate look in poetry/theatre at three African-American female survivors of gender-based violence. Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media Columbia College Chicago 7 p.m. \$15 / \$ 7 Links Hall 3435 N. Sheffield

Out and Proud in Chicago: An Overview of the City's Gay Community discussion and signing 6 p.m. with editor Tracy Baim and contributors, Marie J. Kuda, Ron Dorfman, Jonathan Abarbanel, Owen Keehnen, senior editor Jorjet

Harper, Jeff Berry and senior editor William Kelley will discuss the long and rich history of the city's LGBTQA community. Barnes and Noble DePaul Center, State and Jackson. 312-362-8792 or www.depaul-loop.bncollege.com

Wonka Ball 2009, About Face Theatre's annual fundraiser. 6-7:30 p.m.: VIP recep 7-11 p.m. main event. Salvage One, 1840 W. Hubbard St. RSVP by April 30. www.aboutfacetheatre.com/events.html

Friday, May 8

Caliban, Dancing questions of responsibility and consequence mingle with sexuality and the right to die. 8 p.m., \$15. Through May 24. Chicago Actors Studio 2040 N. Elston Ave. 773-282-0344 or www.nufanensemble.com

Chicago Chamber Musicians: Strange News and Black Angels multimedia, theatrically staged concert, ceremonies of song and dance used to reintegrate brutalized children into Uganda and the Congo society. 7:30 p.m. \$25 www.mcchicago.org

Jeannie Tanner Quartet 8 p.m. Pete Miller's, 1385 N. Meacham Rd. Schaumburg

Mediation Training: LGBTQ Couple Disputes. For professionals working with LGBTQ couples. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Center on Halsted, 3656 North Halsted Register www.centeronhalsted.org/lcd_form.html

Queering the Night monthly LGBTQI open mic features Rachel Goldberg. 7-9 pm at the Center for New Possibilities, 1505 W. Morse

Samantha Ronson spins, doors 4 p.m./show 9 p.m. Crimson Lounge, 333 N. Dearborn St. RSVP 312-371-6923 or tables@crimsonchicago.com

Saturday, May 9

Girlie-Q Productions, produced and directed by Ms. Bea Haven. Queer campy sensibility titillates and makes you think. Uncommon Ground Devon 1401 W. Devon Ave 773-465-9801 www.uncommonground.com www.msbeahaven.com/classesworkshops.html

HRC Chicago's Families with Children Group at the Museum of Contemporary

Art, Chicago's Target Family Day. Group will meet at 10 a.m. in the MCA's Kanter Meeting Center. Jan Greenberg, author of Chuck Close: Up Close, Frank Gehry: Outside In, and Action Jackson, speaks and signs new book, Side by Side: New Poetry Inspired by Art from Around the World. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Museum of Contemporary Art 220 E. Chicago Ave. RSVP at www.hrcactioncenter.org

Scott Free's ALT-Q Festival featuring Jeff Heiskell of the Judybats, Tret Fure, Edie Carey, Stella and the Heat Birds, Sweet Hello and Gregg Shapiro \$20/\$18/\$16 Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. Tix at 773-728-6000 or www.oldtownschool.tix.com

Sunday, May 10

Rachael Sage, pianist, poet, folk-pop-rock, socially aware and eclectic 7 p.m. show 8 p.m. 21+; \$10 Uncommon Ground 1401 W. Devon; 773-465-9801

Monday, May 11

May Meeting, Stonewall Democrats of Chicago, Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act Q&A with Representative Greg Harris 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. John Merlo (Lakeview) Chicago Public Library 644 W. Belmont

Town Hall Meeting State Rep. Sandy Pihos (R-Glen Ellyn) and State Rep. Patti Bellock (R-Westmont) discuss the budget and other issues that are being considered in Springfield. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Downers Grove Park District Recreation Center 4500 Belmont Rd. Downers Grove. 630-858-8855.

Victor/Victoria, last night of Cinema 101, tonight hosted by Jonathan Lewis, Gay Chicago. Partially sponsored by www.HannahFree.com, the forthcoming lesbian-themed film shot in Chicago and starring Sharon Gless (trailer shown before screenings). Roundtable with critics follows. Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted. 773-472-6469 www.centeronhalsted.org

Tuesday, May 12

Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, Marketing that Works for Your Business. 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. \$10/\$20 Ann Sather's, 909 W. Belmont. Pre-register www.glchamber.org

Come Out For Change: A Gay-la For Charity V. 2.0 hosted by The Puterbaugh Sisters, Chicago's wacky sister-act. Proceeds to Allied for Equality, as well as PFLAG. Lineup: Carmen Esposito headlining; Recapitulation, musical improv; and Dan Telfe, token straight comic. 8 p.m. \$20 Center on Halsted. www.brownpapertickets.com/event/58552

Legally Blonde Ford Oriental Theatre, May 12 through June 7. www.broadwayinchicago.com

Small business resources open house 10 a.m. to noon. Business Department, Harold Washington Library 400 S. State St. Info at 312-745-3798 or tking@chipublib.org

Wednesday, May 13

4 Women Only offers the only show in Chicago dedicated to new women artists. Uncommon Ground 1401 Devon Ave. 773-465-9801

Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, Annual Meeting Mix Mingle 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. \$10 for non-members. Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted www.glchamber.org

Dr. Carl Safina, renowned ecologist, on how ocean changes change the world. With newsman Bill Kurtis. 6 p.m. Free. Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State St.

Jerry Pritikin's Streets of San Francisco in the 1970s opening for exhibit of iconic photos of San Francisco during the 70s, from Harvey Milk's legacy to the first gay sports leagues. 6-9 p.m. Show through June. Scot's Bar 1829 W. Montrose, 773-528-3253

Thursday, May 14

Windy City Gay Idol 7 p.m. sign-in/8 p.m. start, Sofo 4923 N. Clark, cynthia@windycitymediagroup.com or www.windycitymediagroup.com/Idol2009.html

NewTown Writers Fortnightly Writing Workshop 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Gerber-Hart Library 1127 W. Granville Ave. <http://www.newtownwriters.org/>

Friday, May 8



SPIN AND OUT

DJ Samantha Ronson will spin at Crimson Lounge, 333 N. Dearborn.

Photo by Jeff Schear

Wed., May 13



SAN FRANCISCO TREATS

Photos of **Harvey Milk** (above) will be among the images shown at Jerry Pritikin's Streets of San Francisco in the 1970s exhibit at Scot's, 1829 W. Montrose.

Copyright Jerry Pritikin

Feeling hot, hot, hot



It was warm outside this past weekend but it was even hotter inside the Winter Garden Room of the Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State, as Chicago House held its Families for Families event Saturday and its 21st Annual Spring Brunch & Fashion Show Sunday—complete with a “Fanta-Sea Island Fashion Splash” theme. Among the sights and activities on hand were a silent auction; a band that played island music; sizzling-hot models; and even a group of people (including Miss Foozie) who were made up like the cast of TV's Gilligan Island. During Sunday's event, Chicago House CEO The Rev. Stan Sloan spoke to the audience about Tom Douthett, who came to the agency 21 years ago and volunteered at every brunch until he passed away earlier this year. This year's awardees included Janet Hasz of the Supportive Housing Provider's Association (Spirit Award), Daniel M. Stober (Development Volunteer of the Year) and Leonard Baker (Program Volunteer of the Year)—and the weekend grossed approximately \$130,000. Text by Andrew Davis and photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com); see many more photos online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE

OUT OF TOWN

DO YOU DREAM OF BEING AN INNKEEPER?: 4 Unit Elegant B&B in Gay friendly Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Turnkey view at www.iknoweureka.com
 Brokered by Charles Edwards Coldwell Banker K-C REALTY (07/15/09-13)

HOUSES

HISTORIC HOMES FOR SALE: Historic homes in Elgin starting under \$100,000. Enjoy great restaurants, rec center, cultural events, symphony, Fox River, bike trails, Metra access. **Contact Tom at Vintage Home Realty at 847-622-8665 or www.TomsVintageHomes.com.** (05/06/09-4)

LOW TAXES SECOND HOME: Completely remodeled historic Waverly Crest nestled in the woods of Porter, hosts 8 working fireplaces, 5-6 bedrooms, 5 full baths for information. **Contact Carlos Lemus at 574-370-3316 or visit my web-site www.carloslemus.com.** (04/29/09-1)

PRIVACY ACRES LOW TAXES: Extraordinary value for this exquisitely, maintained home sits on 4.59 acres superbly energy efficient geothermal, 3 bedrooms 3.5 bathrooms. Great for entertaining while enjoying beautifully landscaped grounds. **Please contact Carlos Lemus at 574-370-3316 or visit www.carloslemus.com.** (04/29/09-1)

TOWNHOMES

WEST LOOP ROWHOUSE \$674,900: Rarely Available West Loop Rowhouse in Gated Community - 3 of the 4 bedrooms are one level, 3.1bath. Very open & wide floor plan. Kitchen, which overlooks family room, has 42" cabinets, granite ctops, stainless steel appliances + balcony for grilling. Large rooftop deck & front porch overlooks quiet park like setting. Private entrance, 2 car over-sized attached garage. Lots of space & storage - very organized. **Call/email Laurie 708-203-3614 ls Shapiro@prupremier.com Prudential Premier Realty** (03/18/09-3)

CONDO

EVANSTON 2BR CONDO: Lovely 8rm, 2ba vintage 2nd flr condo near beach & shopping. Old world elegance with 9' ceilings, original wood floors, fireplace, formal dining room, butler's pantry and updated kitchen. **\$445,000. Koenig & Strey. 847-964-1554 or www.917forest2.com.** (03/18/09-4)

MINT CONDITION CONDO: 2 Bed/2 Bath www.545wAldine6b.com for photos! Stunning, boutique building. Highly upgraded. **\$599,000 attached garage \$35,000 Koenig & Strey 312-804-4114.** (04/29/09-2)

FOR RENT

STUDIOS

1332 W. HOOD AVE. - EDGEWATER STUDIO: Sunny Studio w/ ALL utilities included. Laundry in building. Close to lake, transportation & shopping. Credit check required. **\$595/mo w/ no dep. Avail. June. Call 773-392-4550. www.landstarrealty.com** (05/20/09-4)
1525 W. ESTES AVE. - ROGERS PARK STUDIO: Loft-like studio w/ exposed brick walls & heat included. Laundry in building. Close to lake, transportation & shopping. Credit/background check required. **Avail. June. \$550/mo w/ no dep. Call 773-392-4550. www.landstarrealty.com** (05/27/09-4)

ONE BEDROOM

EDGEWATER COMMUTER ADVANTAGE: Close to lake, bus, train & shops. Joyously sunny living & dining rooms. Big kitchen & bedroom w/ super closet. Walk in storage, heat & laundry. **\$840/mo. Call 773-706-6065.** (05/13/09-4)

GREAT VIEW GREAT POOL: 3930 N Pine Grove 1 Bed 1Ba. Updated, stainless. View of downtown. Pool, fitness room. 24 hr doorman. Steps to lake and redline. **\$1,225/ mo. Call 773-562-4921** (05/13/09-2)

TWO BEDROOM

HISTORIC BUILDING WEST UIC AREA: Hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, spacious rooms, private porch, walk-in closet, coin laundry in basement. **Call 815-744-2743** (05/13/09-3)
EDGEWATER: Beautiful, completely rehabbed 2 bdrm on Ridge & Ardmore. Central air/heat, new cabinetry, granite countertop, hardwood flooring. Pet friendly. Laundry in the building. **\$1,000-1,100/ mo. Please call 312-666-6886 or 312-907-6539, lakesidec@gmail.com** (05/27/09-4)

CLASSIFIEDS

CLEANING SERVICES

CHESTNUT CLEANING SERVICES: We're a house cleaning service for homes, small businesses and small buildings. We also have fabulous organizational skills (a separate function at a separate cost that utilizes your assistance) for what hasn't been cleaned in many months or years due to long-term illness, depression, physical/mental challenges, for the elderly, if you have downsized and more. Depressed about going home to chaos? We can organize your chaos, straighten out your chaos, help you make sense of your chaos and finally clean what is no longer chaos. **Can we help you? Bonded and insured. Chestnut Cleaning Service: 312-332-5575** (5/24/09-tk)

FROGS ON STARS: Residential/Commercial Cleaning Service, Professionally Trained Staff, All Supplies & Equipment Provided, New Recession Rates. **Call The Frogs 773-271-3764 or email fosservices@sbcglobal.net.** (7/01/09-14)

CONTRACTORS

SHANNON CONTRACTORS: We specialize in all your residential and commercial building requirements. From new construction, rehabs, all carpentry, porches, decks, patios, electrical, drywall and painting. Licensed, insured and bonded. **Call Brendan Coyle 312-307-6515, coylies@yahoo.com** (6/10/09-6)

COUNSELING

LICENSED PSYCHOTHERAPY: 20 years experience providing counseling and clinical hypnotherapy. I specialize in relationship issues, childhood trauma, and recurrent patterns that inhibit potential. Individuals and couples. **Starla Sholl, LCSW, PC, 773.878.5809, info@starlasholl.com www.starlasholl.com.**

NEED A LITTLE HELP WITH THAT NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?: Supportive, affirming, psychotherapy for LGBTQ individuals, couples, families, and children dealing with any of life's challenges. **Please call Jackie at 773-275-7710 or www.jacquelynsinger.com** (5/20/09-26)

EXPERIENCED THERAPIST OFFERING SAFE, SUPPORTIVE, COMPASSIONATE COUNSELING: Helping individuals and couples make more satisfying choices, overcome obstacles, battle feelings of inadequacy and indecision. Specialties in coming out, coming out of marriage, gender/trans issues, anxiety, depression, trauma, substance abuse. Northwest Suburbs & Chicago. **847-824-9590 or www.LindaSLevi.com** (5/20/09-26)

DECKS

Deck Cleaning & Sealing



- Powerwash
- Premium Sealers
- Brush Applied
- Treated Lumber
- Cedar & Redwood
- Residential, Condominiums, Commercial

Chicagoland Deck Cleaning & Sealing

Since 1995...over 4000 satisfied customers

A- Rated Award Winning Company

(773) 348-4516

www.deck-sealing.com

HELP WANTED

WEDNESDAY MORNING NEWSPAPER DELIVERY: Four hours, \$56. Must have car and insurance. **Please call Jean at 773-871-7610.**

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP IS LOOKING FOR SALES REPRESENTATIVES: We are looking for self-starters with a strong desire to succeed. Ideal candidates should have experience in the sales industry, and a demonstrated ability to succeed on their own. Candidates should have the ability to create and sell multimedia packages including one or more of the following: print, web, email blast, podcast and sponsorships. Leads will be furnished but cold calling is a must. This is an independent contractor position; all sales representatives work from their home offices. Join the voice of Chicago's GLBT community since 1985. **Please email resume to: Terri@WindyCityMediaGroup.com.**

INTERPRETER

FOR YOUR AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE/ENGLISH INTERPRETING NEEDS: To consult with you or your company with your ADA needs. **Diana Thorpe CI/CT/NIC Master, Nationally Certified Interpreter, 773-401-1339, or e-mail thorpe2001@aol.com** [P-TB]

MASSAGE THERAPY

POWER MASSAGE: Deep, strong, and rejuvenating with lean muscular athlete. In calls and house calls with table. Late hours ok. Convenient location. Relocated practice from NYC. Treat yourself. **www.PowerMassageChicago.com. Marc, 312-440-1972.** (PP4/15/09PP)

CHICAGO MALE MASSAGE REVIEWS: Find over 50 male massage therapists in Chicago on MessageM4M.com - Hundreds of reviews of each gay friendly male massage therapists. **www.massagem4m.com/chicago** (6/03/09-4)

PAINTERS

CHICAGOLAND GAY PAINTERS



INTERIOR
EXTERIOR
RESIDENTIAL
COMMERCIAL
FAUX

CALL US TODAY FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE

773-269-1953
chgogaypainters@aol.com

Present our Display Ad at time of Estimate for 10%discount on Labor!

PHOTOGRAPHY

PORTRAITS MAKE GREAT GIFTS: Portraits. Figurative. Headshots. Color. B&W. 25 years experience. "I'll work with you to get the shots that are just right." **Info: 312-260-7935. Website: www.morrowphoto.com.** (7/29/09-26)

REMODELING

PERSONALIZED QUALITY REMODELING SERVICE VORMITTAG REMODELING: Rough/Finished Carpentry, Kitchens, Baths, Basements, Tile, Plumbing, Electric. **Contact Erik Vormittag at 847-830-7595 Fax: 847-813-5736 e-mail: erkvor@yahoo.com** (5/20/09-4)

REHAB & REMODELING KITCHENS & BATHROOMS: Over 25 years of experience serving Chicago and surrounding suburbs. Emergency plumbing services available. Fully licensed and insured. **Free estimates. Contact Steve 847-791-2216 or s_shoptz@yahoo.com** (12/16/09-52)

TRAVEL

DEERPATH LODGE, SAUGATUCK: Women! Handsome private suites with view of river, nature preserve; heated pool, hot tub, kayaks. Near beaches, golf, galleries, gay bars, wineries, microbreweries. **www.wherethedeerplay.com 888-DEERPATH, 269-857-DEER.** (4/29/09-6)

WEDDING/ COMMITMENT SERVICES

WEDDING/ COMMITMENT CEREMONY OFFICIANT: Minister or officiant services available for weddings or commitment ceremonies. Willing to travel to Iowa. **Contact 815-338-6352 or bj6352@stans.net** (7/01/09-12)

WINDOW TREATMENTS

WONDERING WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE WINDOWS?: Call me! I take care of it all from design through installation, customizing to your needs. **JOSEPH RICE Interiors, Inc. Full Decorating Services with a specialty in window treatments for over 24 years. 773-271-2361.** (10/21/09-52)



ANDERSONVILLE

- 1 **@mosphere**
5355 N. Clark St.
atmospherebar.com
- 2 **The Anvil**
1137 W. Granville Ave.
- 3 **Big Chicks**
5024 N. Sheridan Rd.
BigChicks.com
- 4 **Crew**
4804 N. Broadway Ave.
WorldsGreatestBar.com
- 5 **Eagle**
5001 N. Clark St.
ChicagoEagle.com
- 6 **El Gato Negro**
1461 Irving Park Rd.
ElGatoNegroBar.com
- 7 **The Glenwood**
6962 N. Glenwood St.
TheGlenwoodbar.com
- 8 **Hamburger Mary's/Mary's Attic**
5400 N. Clark St.
HamburgerMarysChicago.com
- 9 **Jackhammer**
6406 N. Clark St.
JackhammerChicago.com
- 10 **Joie De Vine**
1744 W. Balmoral Ave.
- 11 **Man's Country**
5017 N. Clark St. (bath)
MansCountryChicago.com
- 12 **Scot's**
1829 W. Montrose Ave.
ChicagoScotsBar.com
- 13 **SoFo**
4923 N. Clark St.
SofoBar.com
- 14 **Spyners**
4623 N. Western Ave.
Spyners.com
- 15 **Star Gaze**
5419 N. Clark St.
StarGazeChicago.com
- 16 **T's**
5025 N. Clark St.
TsBarChicago.com

BOYSTOWN

- 17 **Touché**
6412 N. Clark St.
ToucheChicago.com
- 18 **Wild Pug**
4810 N. Broadway Ave.
WorldsGreatestBar.com
- 19 **3160**
3160 N. Clark St.
Chicago3160.com
- 20 **Berlin**
954 W. Belmont Ave.
BerlinChicago.com
- 21 **Bobby Love's**
3729 N. Halsted St.
BobbyLoves.com
- 22 **Bucks Saloon**
3439 N. Halsted St.
BucksSaloonChicago.com
- 23 **Cell Block**
3702 N. Halsted St.
www.CellBlock-Chicago.com
- 24 **Charlie's**
3726 N. Broadway Ave.
CharliesChicago.com
- 25 **Circuit**
3641 N. Halsted St.
CircuitClub.com
- 26 **The Closet**
3325 N. Broadway Ave.
- 27 **Cocktail**
3359 N. Halsted St.
CocktailBarChicago.com
- 28 **FireFly**
3335 N. Halsted St.
FireflyOnHalsted.com
- 29 **Halsted's Bar & Grill**
3441 N. Halsted St.
HalstedsChicago.com
- 30 **Hydrate**
3458 N. Halsted St.
HydrateChicago.com
- 31 **Kit Kat**
3700 N. Halsted St.
KitKatChicago.com

THE SOUTHSIDE

- 32 **Little Jim's**
3501 N. Halsted St.
LittleJimsChicago.com
- 33 **Lucky Horseshoe**
3169 N. Halsted St.
- 34 **Manhandler**
1948 N. Halsted St.
- 35 **minibar/winebar**
3341 N. Halsted St.
minibarchicago.com
- 36 **North End**
3733 N. Halsted St.
NorthEndChicago.com
- 37 **Pie Hole**
737 W. Roscoe St.
PieHolePizzaJoint.com
- 38 **Roscoe's**
3356 N. Halsted St.
Roscoes.com
- 39 **Scarlet**
3320 N. Halsted St.
ScarletBarChicago.com
- 40 **Sidetrack**
3349 N. Halsted St.
SidetrackChicago.com
- 41 **Spin**
800 W. Belmont Ave.
Spin-Nightclub.com
- 42 **Steamworks**
3246 N. Halsted St. (bath)
SteamworksOnline.com
- 43 **The Baton**
436 N. Clark St.
TheBatonShowLounge.com
- 44 **Second Story Bar**
157 E. Ohio St.

NEAR NORTH

- 45 **Club 2506**
2506 N. Clybourn Ave.
- 46 **Crobar**
1543 N. Kingsbury St.
- 47 **The Prop House**
1675 N. Elston Ave.

THE SOUTHSIDE

- 48 **Club Escape**
1530 E. 75th St.
ClubEscapeChicago.com
- 49 **Escapades**
6301 S. Harlem Ave.
- 50 **InnExile**
5758 W. 65th St.
InnExileChicago.com
- 51 **Jeffrey Pub**
7041 S. Jeffery Blvd.
- 52 **Club Krave**
13126 S. Western Ave.
Blue Island, IL
ClubKrave.com
- 53 **Hideaway**
7301 W. Roosevelt Rd.
Forest Park, IL
- 54 **Hunters**
1932 E. Higgins Rd.
Elk Grove Village, IL
HuntersNightclubs.com
- 55 **John's Place**
335 154th Pl.
Calumet City, IL
- 56 **Maneuvers**
118 E. Jefferson St.
Joliet, IL
JolietManeuvers.com
- 57 **Rumors**
2433 Desplaines Ave.
North Riverside, IL
RumorsPubOnline.com
- 58 **Velvet Rope**
728 W. Lake St.
Oak Park, IL
VelvetRopeOakPark.com

INDIANA

- 59 **Dick's R U Craze?**
1221 E. 150th St.
Hammond, IN
DicksRUCraze.com
- 60 **Encompass**
2415 Rush St.
Lake Station, IN
EncompassNightclub.com

BILLY MASTERS

"The best cure for a hangover is something one straight man can't do for another straight man."—Ben Affleck shares one of our little secrets. How does he know it works so well? Only Matt Damon knows for sure...

This week, we must start by acknowledging the passing of Bea Arthur. I don't think my readers need me to recount her resume—her work speaks for itself. I was fortunate to spend several memorable evenings with Bea. The first time, she told a group of us about doing the pre-Broadway workshop of the musical "Thoroughly Modern Millie". I interjected that friends of mine said she stopped the show. I was then on the receiving end of one of those legendary Bea Arthur double-takes. After a glare that seemed to go on for an eternity, she said one word—"Twice!"

Another time, she told me that she never considered herself a star. When she did "Mame" on Broadway, she'd come out for the second-to-last bow wearing a black dress. Then Angela Lansbury came out for the final bow—in a white dress. "I decided then and there that I'd only do Broadway again if I got the final bow—and I'd wear a white dress. Then I'd know I was a star". Some time later, I saw her do her one-woman show in NYC—and she was wearing black! When I saw her afterwards, I couldn't help but mention this. "That's true," she said before giving me another one of those long, lingering stares. "But I did get the final bow, didn't I?" She certainly did!

Speaking of one-woman shows, Carrie Fisher is bringing hers to Broadway. "Wishful Drinking" has been hobbling across the country and starting Sept. 22, it will land at famed Studio 54 in New York. I believe Carrie spent several memorable evenings in that venue during her "wishful" days.

As we went to press, I was grabbed by a provocative headline: "Top Gun Star Comes Out As Gay". It's about time! And then I read further and found out this story was about Kelly McGillis. YAWN! Despite persistent rumors of her sexuality (she admits to having had same-sex feelings from the time she was 12), she makes it clear that this shift is something new. "I'm done with the man thing. I did that. I need to move on in life."

All sorts of news from the Sex and the City folks. First, let's send congrats out to Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick, who are expecting twin girls via surrogate. I suppose this squelches rumors of a schism between the couple—or does it?

On the professional side, the Sex and the City sequel is still scheduled to shoot this summer (that's a lot of S's for one sentence). Although we know all of the ladies are on board, the men have been playing a bit of hardball. After some tense negotiations, the producers have come to

terms with Chris Noth. Less difficult were landing Evan Handler and David Eigenberg. What of Gilles Marini? Although the sexy Frenchman is letting anyone who'll listen know he's available, I'm told there are no plans for him to have a part—large or small. But that all could change if someone wins a mirror ball trophy.

We all remember Simon Rex making quite a splash with that jerk-off video (breaking that story landed me in the tabloids for the first time). Now, the unemployed actor is teaming up with Lance Bass. For what? That's the question everyone's asking. All we know is the duo filmed something in West Hollywood, where they were photographed participating in a bit of "rough play." Those snaps will show up on BillyMasters.com.



Well-hungover: Ben (of "Bennifer" fame) shares his no-fail tips for curing those morning-after blues.

Even more questionable is a photo currently making the rounds of an allegedly nude Cheyenne Jackson. Unlike that recent Barrowman shot, this one actually has a head, body, and penis (thick with a decidedly upward curve). But is it real? Only a small portion of his face is shown (looking directly into the camera), the torso looks kinda short, the penis appears out of nowhere in the bottom of the screen (he's holding it and it is erect), and said penis is an odd color with a definitely "glow". Even more suspicious is the questionable upholstery on the sofa and the tawdry pile of unfolded laundry. All those reasons make me question its veracity. Here's a bigger question—why would he have this photo at all? If he were single, maybe. But happily coupled, a nude shot, erect, with his face? I'm skeptical. But I'm also Billy Masters, so I'm posting it on my website. After all, it's still hot.

One picture I can absolutely confirm is real is that of Ricky Martin posing ala "A Streetcar Named Desire." I know what you're thinking—he oozes all the masculinity of a young Vivien Leigh. But he's playing against type and dressed as Marlon Brando. Shocking! This was for the "50 Most Beautiful Men" spread in "People en Español". For those of you who don't have a subscription to the mag, we'll post the photo on BillyMasters.com.

This week's "Ask Billy" question comes from Marc in D.C.: "I was watching Party Down on Starz and the cater waiter was working an after-party for a porn awards show and was discovered to have a huge cock. Either actor Ken Marino is super hung or that was a pretty realistic-looking prosthetic."



SKYY
VODKAMiller
Lite

present

Windy City Gay Idol - Mary's Attic



It was ladies' night as Dina (top, left), Nicole (top, right) and Kate (below, right) took the prize as Windy City Gay Idol finalists at Mary's Attic on Wednesday, April 29. Catch the next preliminary round Thursday, May 14 at Sofo, 4923 N. Clark St. Photos by Kirk Williamson, Kat Fitzgerald

BILLY from page 20

I found the episode in question and it sure does look like a real penis—although who knows. The only thing to do is to post it and let the folks visiting BillyMasters.com decide for themselves.

Incidentally, another reader (who wrote me via my Facebook page) is also watching Party Down, but his question was about the first episode of the season when Enrico Colantoni ran buck naked through a reception into a pool. This reader writes, "He seems to show a rather impressive appendage. Might be something good to show in your column." Ask and you shall receive ... at BillyMasters.com.

When anyone is watching the Starz network, it's definitely time to end yet another column. I admit it—I've been pressured into Tweeting! My buddy Sherri Shepherd has shamed me into joining Twitter, and now my goal is to have more followers than any of The View gals. So while you're getting the latest dish from www.BillyMasters.com, head to Twitter ("BillyMasters") to keep up with my shenanigans. For your questions, don't write me there—instead, send an e-mail to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Ricky Martin dresses up as Scarlett O'Hara! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

LCCP's 'Garden of Eve' on May 16

Lesbian Community Care Project at Howard Brown Health Center will hold its "Garden of Eve" gala Saturday, May 16, 6-11 p.m., at the Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park.

Organizers describe the event as combining "the elegance and dancing from the Coming Out Against Cancer Ball and the food and wine tasting extravaganza from A Taste for Every Palate." There will be an open bar, two dance floors and a silent auction.

General admission is \$100 and VIP tickets are available for \$200. (VIP tickets include the reception and admission to the after-party at The Velvet Rope in nearby Oak Park.) See www.lccp.org.

CGMC's 'Big Package' at Sidetrack May 16

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus will hold its upcoming fundraiser, "The Big Package Auction," Saturday, May 16, at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted, 5-8 p.m.

This event will be highlighted with a live auction of a wide array of exciting, fun-filled prize packages presented by some of CGMC's and Boystown's cutest, most eligible guys, according to a press release.

Tickets are \$25 pre-event and \$30 at the door. Visit www.cgmc.org or phone 773-296-0541.

SUNDAYS:
GLASSBAR & SIDEBAR
OPEN AT 1PM.

SHOW TUNES:
4-9PM

Join us
Sunday,
May 10th as
we celebrate
Mother's Day
with PFLAG
Moms!

START YOUR
SUNDAY IN STYLE
WITH A ST. GERMAIN
CHAMPAGNE COCKTAIL.

LIQUEUR ARTISANALE
ST-GERMAIN
-DELICE DE SUREAU-

SIDETRACK

3349 North Halsted
Valet Parking Available
Sign up for our email list at www.SidetrackChicago.com

THE HOTTEST TICKET ON THE WEB

KYLE KING
COURTESY OF
HOTHOUSE.COM

FREE
30 MIN.
CODE:
04149

GayMovies.com

Only 10¢ Per Minute • 650 Gay Studios • Over 12,000 Movies
No Memberships • No Monthly Fees

SPORTS/RECREATION

Danish mayor behind Outgames

BY ROSS FORMAN

Pia Allerslev has already cancelled her family's summer vacation, so she can stay in Copenhagen when the 2009 World Outgames are held there July 25-Aug. 2. She's not sure what she's going to participate in, especially after a friend told her that, well, she wasn't talented enough for his handball team.

"Now I'm trying to find another sport," she said, laughing. "I'm planning on participating in badminton; I was a local champion many years ago, but that was years ago."

And maybe the Mermaid Swim Team. Or a running event.

Ultimately, Allerslev will register and participate, thus becoming one of Denmark's highest-ranking participants in the Outgames. She is, after all, the Mayor for Culture and Leisure for the City of Copenhagen, one of six Mayors under the highest-ranking Lord Mayor.

"I expect a week of happy people," in Copenhagen during the Outgames, said Allerslev. "I think all of the participants will be very good ambassadors for the World Outgames and also for Copenhagen. The city of Copenhagen is very interested in hosting this, and to send a clear signal that we will not tolerate discrimination because of sexual orientation. We will not tolerate hate crimes."

"We want the people of Copenhagen to know that this is a great event taking place. We want the people of Copenhagen to take part in the Outgames, as participants or spectators. We want to send a very strong signal to the world that it's very important to fight for the rights of the LGBT community. I think the City of Copenhagen, and Denmark as a country, are very good in that voice, that matter."



Pia Allerslev. Photo by Ross Forman

Allerslev is straight, happily married to Christian Simonsen with two children: daughter Freja, 4; and son Valdemar, 3. Still, she is one of Denmark's biggest supporters of the Outgames. However, two of the six mayors in Copenhagen are openly gay: Klaus Bondam and Jacob Hougaard.

And yes, the city of Copenhagen truly is a strong supporter of the 2009 World Outgames, which will be showcased by 38 sports disciplines and a three-day human rights conference.

The city has spent more money on this event, such as improving venues for the event, than any other single event. The city is spending about \$4.5 million USD on the Outgames.

"The amount of money we've spent on the World Outgames just shows that, yes, the city really wanted to host this event," Allerslev said. "It was a lot of money and something we had never done before."

So why do it?

"Because we think it's important; we think it's a great event; we think it's great for the city, for

the tourism, to put Copenhagen on the map and show that we don't accept the fact that people are different just because they're homosexual; we want to show that everyone in the LGBT community is as equal as anyone in the world."

City officials rank the World Outgames as the third-biggest event in Copenhagen in 2009, only behind the October meeting of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the United Nations Climate Change Conference in December.

"No matter where you walk or drive in Copenhagen during the Outgames, it will be impossible to not see that the games are happening," Allerslev said. "I really want to have the Olympics held in Copenhagen one day, though a lot of people laugh when I say that. It's a great goal to aim for, and the World Outgames is one step in that direction—to show that we can host a large sporting event."

Is Copenhagen doing anything particular to ensure safety at the Outgames, especially near the Tel Aviv square in the OutCities, where you will find Jews and gays, thus there certainly is the potential for protests by certain religious, political and anti-gay groups?

"The organizers for the World Outgames are working very close with the police, and we're doing everything possible to prevent any possible hate-crimes. I don't want it to get to the point where you cannot go to the Tel Aviv square without seeing 200 policemen standing in line, just to protect the area. But of course we have to send some signals that it's safe to come here, thus there will be police around and I know they will take extra care of those areas where political-, religious- and sexual-orientation could be a problem."

Were there any politicians in Copenhagen who were against hosting the Games?

"No. None at all. Every single politician in the City of Copenhagen has supported this event. Even though there may be some politicians who personally are against homosexuality, none has expressed [their views publicly,] nor voted against the event."

Gays and lesbians can get married in Denmark, which has been the case since 1989. However, the verbiage recited during a gay wedding is different from that in a traditional man-woman wedding.

"Why is [the verbiage] different? That's so stupid. When I see a gay couple get married, they are as in love as my husband and I were when we got married. So why is the ritual different, just because they are homosexual? So, we're now trying to change the law."

"We were, are still are, so proud that the first gay marriage in the world took place in Copenhagen in 1989. I think the people of Denmark are pioneers in accepting homosexuals. That said, I think we still have a lot of fights that we still need to fight regarding homosexual rights."

What is your impression of America, especially after the passing of Proposition 8 in California and that there now are only a few states that allow civil unions?

"I was very disappointed when I saw that California had passed Proposition 8; I think it was a setback for the state of California. In some ways, I think America is far ahead of us, whereas other ways, we're far ahead of America. I think it's great that you have a city like San Francisco, with all of the things they have, do and offer for homosexuals. I've never been to Chicago, so I cannot comment about [LGBT life] there."

AIDS Walk/Run registration starts

Online registration for AIDS Run & Walk Chicago 2009 is now open at www.aidsrunwalk.org.

To participate alongside thousands of supporters Saturday, Oct. 3, in Grant Park, visit www.aidsrunwalk.org and click "Register Now." E-mail runwalk@aidschicago.org if there are any questions.

AIDS Run & Walk Chicago 2008 raised more than \$500,000. To further support these local organizations, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago

(AFC) will give 100 percent of all money raised by CommunityDirect teams back to the participating HIV/AIDS service organizations.

Ride for AIDS registration open

Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) has announced open registration for its sixth annual Ride for AIDS Chicago (RFAC), slated for Saturday-Sunday, June 6-7.

The two-day, 190-mile biking fundraiser will lead riders on a round-trip journey from Evanston's Northwestern University to south-central Wisconsin. Riders must raise at least \$1,000 each to support HIV/AIDS prevention and care services in the Chicago area. Registration for RFAC is \$85, which includes gear transport, route support, meals and overnight accommodations. Windy City Media Group is among the event's sponsors.

Visit www.rideforaids.org.

Red Stars to broadcast games

The Chicago Red Stars have announced the addition of three games to the team's 2009 broadcasting schedule.

Two Red Stars games will be televised regionally on Comcast SportsNet and one will be shown through the team's Web site, www.chicagoredstars.com. Comcast SportsNet will televise two of the Red Stars' meetings with FC Gold Pride this season: Sunday, June 7, at Santa Clara, Calif., and Sunday, July 12, at the team's home in Bridgeview. A webcast will be available for Chicago's home game against the Washington Freedom Sunday, July 26.

For tickets, call 866-WPS-2009 or log on to www.chicagoredstars.com.

Climate Cycle Ride in Grant Park May 9

Climate Cycle, a non-profit organization dedicated to installing solar systems in Chicago-area public schools, will hold its inaugural benefit lakefront bike ride on the Great Lawn, 1410 S. Museum Campus, on Saturday May 9, at 9 a.m.

A 12-mile and 25-mile course will be available for all cyclists. Riders are asked to raise a minimum of \$200. To learn more and register, visit www.climatecycle.org.

ESPN.com wins GLAAD award

ESPN.com writer LZ Granderson won the award for Outstanding Digital Journalism Article at the 20th Annual GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) Media Awards in New York. The event took place March 28.

Granderson won for his article, "Gay Athletes Are Making Their Mark."

Vanessa Williams, Stockard Channing, Cherry Jones, T.R. Knight, Keith Olbermann, Judith Light, Clay Aiken and S. Epatha Merkerson were among the celebrities at the event. Tyra Banks, Suze Orman and Phil Donahue were among the other honorees.

Center running kids' sports program

Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted—in collaboration with We Got Game—is offering a comprehensive youth sports program for children ages 2-9 through June 12. Class registration is now being accepted.

For a complete listing of classes, to download the registration form or to register online, visit www.wegotgamechicago.com. For more information, contact Coach Brian Ploof at 773-562-6003 or CoachBrian@WeGotGame.com; also, contact Tom Ballentine, the center's director of community and cultural programs, at tballentine@centeronhalsted.org or 773-472-6469, ext. 245.

FORWARD ELLA MASAR

FOLLOW THE STARS

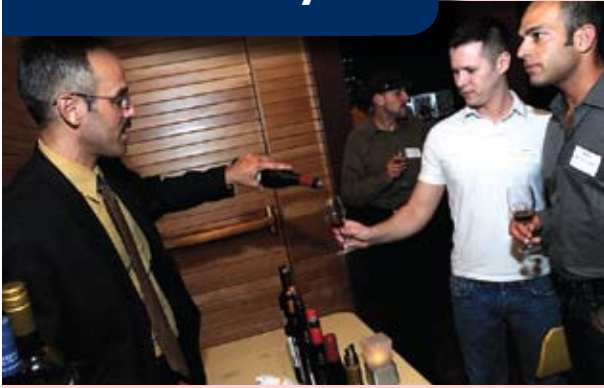
CHICAGO'S WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL SOCCER TEAM KICKS OFF APRIL 19TH AT TOYOTA PARK.

SEASON TICKETS AS LOW AS \$10 PER GAME!

CHICAGOREDSTARS.COM ★ **866-WPS-2009**

CHICAGO RED STARS

One wine day



A lot of fun was had for a serious cause as LGBT-rights organization Equality Illinois held its spring wine-tasting at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted, April 29. Attendees had the opportunity to sample up to 75 different wines from around the world. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

CONNEXIONS

MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS



Susan O'Dell, PhD

Down to earth, change oriented therapy

I see individuals, couples, children & families for crisis and ongoing work.

I also offer wellness support for persons living with chronic illness, including cancer and HIV-AIDS, their partners and families.



773.262.7010

1422 W. THOME AVENUE, CHICAGO IL 60660

iloilo

**25% OFF
Custom Framing**

CUSTOM FRAMING

Framing Chicago's art since 1991
All work done on premise.

1478 W. Berwyn - 773.784.3962

**Mulryan
& York**

Attorneys At Law

4001 N. Wolcott
Chicago, IL 60613
(773) 248-8887

The Law Offices of
Alexander Weaver
312-588-5005

email: violaw@rcn.com

**A Full Service
Law Firm
for the Community
since 1988**

410 S. Michigan Ave.,
Suite 628, Chicago

*When experience counts...
In service to the community for 30 years.*

The Law Offices of
**Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss
& Associates**



- Bankruptcy
- Wills, Trusts & Probate
- Real Estate
- Litigation
- Powers of Attorney
- Business Law

19 S. LaSalle, Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60603
312-263-8800, email RVMLAWYER@AOL.COM
We are a debt relief agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the bankruptcy code.



A and N mortgage
services inc.

**Making A
Difference in Our
Community**

**Kiki Calumet
Senior Consultant
773.305.7010
312.909.9372**



kcalumet@aandnmortgage.com
www.aandnmortgage.com

**WINDY CITY
MEDIA
GROUP**

Windy City Media Group would like to thank the following supportive businesses advertising this week in Windy City Times, Nightspots, Windy City Queercast and www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

A and N Mortgage Services, Inc.
Alexander Weaver & Associates
Allied Advertising
American Theater Company
Andie's Restaurant
Apartment People, Ltd.
Babes with Blades Theatre
Bailey's Café
Berlin
Broadway In Chicago
Cattle Call
Center On Halsted
Charles Rhodes, State Farm Insurance

Chicago Eagle
Chicago Red Stars Women's Pro Soccer Team
Chicagoland Deck Cleaning
Cocktail
Community Chiropractic, Inc.
Creaoke
Cupid's Treasures
Flat Iron Artist Association
gayinsurance.com
Gutrich Chiropractic
Hamburger Mary's
Hydrate
Iloilo Custom Framing, Inc.

Jan Dee Jewelers
Joffrey Ballet
LA Tan
Leather Archives & Museum
Leather Sport
Louis R. Fine, Law Offices
Man's Country
Midtown Tennis
Miller Lite
Milwaukee PrideFest
Movie: Little Ashes
Of Sound Mind, Inc
Peck, Bloom & Koenig, LLC
Queer Cinema

Remy Bumpo Theatre Company
Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss & Associates
Russell Leander, ATR, LCPC
Sidetrack
Skyy Spirits
SoFo
Spin
Starla Sholl, LCSW
Stella Productions
Steppenwolf Theatre Company
Susan O'Dell, PhD
The Men's Room
The Spot

TimeLine Theatre Company
TPAN / Test Positive Aware Network
Victory Gardens Theater
Writers Theatre
Your LifeSmiles

Download each issue of Windy City Times and Nightspots at **www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com**

PRESENT


SKYY
VODKA®


Produced by Windy City Media Group *

SOFO

4923 N. Clark

\$100 TO WINNER WITH MOST VOTES

THURSDAY, MAY 14

8:00 PM

\$5 cover, Singers sign up at 7pm/\$10 fee

Enjoy \$7 Double-pint Miller Lites

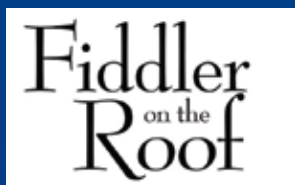
and \$6 Skyy drinks

Plus, at Sofo you can win:

Tickets to

FIDDLER ON

THE ROOF



RHODA:

SEASON ONE

on DVD



@MOSPHERE 5355 N. Clark

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 • 8pm sign up/9pm start

ROSCOE'S 3356 N. Halsted WILD CARD NIGHT

THURSDAY, MAY 28 • 9pm sign up/10pm start

SIDETRACK 3349 N. Halsted SEMI-FINALS

SATURDAY, MAY 30 • 2pm door/4pm start

SIDETRACK 3349 N. Halsted FINALS

SATURDAY, JUNE 13 • 1pm door/4pm start

GRAND PRIZE AT FINALS:

Over \$5000 in cash and prizes!

\$1000 in cash, American Airlines tickets,

Broadway in Chicago tickets, and more

For more, visit windycitymediagroup.com or email cynthia@windycitymediagroup.com

SPONSORED BY:

BROADWAY
IN CHICAGO

AA.com/rainbow™

CREAKY

CHICAGO'S
PROGRESSIVE
TALK
WCPT 820 AM

RAVINIA

WINDY CITY
MEDIA
GROUP

* Windy City Media Group includes Windy City Times, Nightspots and WindyCityQueercast.com