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LGBTs furious with Obama over DOMA



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Rolling Along



Lesbian Alice Gleason can be the picture of calm or can certainly stir things up as a member of the roller-derby league Windy City Rollers, which will hold its championship June 20 at the UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine. Read more about her on page 26.

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The honeymoon is over. The gloves are off. The anger is fierce.

In a somewhat obscure gay marriage case in California, the U.S. Department of Justice submitted a brief June 11 that many LGBT activists are decrying as a betrayal of President Barack Obama's promise to work to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

And yet a prominent, widely respected constitutional law professor urges caution, arguing that the particular lawsuit that triggered this latest controversy is "extremely vulnerable" on a number of legal grounds.

The case is *Smelt v. U.S.*, one that has been brewing since 2004 and which gay legal activists openly criticized as premature and ill-conceived at the time. That criticism has not changed with the lawsuit's new incarnation, filed last December.

What has changed is the president, his appointees to the Department of Justice, and the expectation on the part of many in the LGBT community that the Obama administration would mount only a perfunctory defense of DOMA, given that President Obama has vowed to work to repeal the statute.

But instead, the DOJ, under Obama appointee Tony West, an Assistant Attorney General, has filed a brief vigorously defending DOMA as a reasonable and necessary law.

"The brief is appalling," said lawyer Lorri Jean,

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Gay couple loves challenge of fatherhood

BY ROSS FORMAN

On a late April day in 2002, life partners Marv Pollack and Barry Taylor got a frantic phone call from Pam Benziger of California.

Benziger was the surrogate mother for their first child and, though she wasn't due until the third week in May, her water broke. So Pollack and Taylor bolted to the airport, bound for Los Angeles. They weren't able to get on the same flight, but both made it in time to be in the birthing room as Benziger gave birth to Molly, now 7.

Pollack and Taylor reconnected with Benziger a few years later for their son, Hudson, now 4.

Father's Day now truly is a blessing for the

Lincoln Park couple of 14 years.

"On Father's Day, we're grateful for having a family; it's a great day to celebrate," said Pollack, 56.

Taylor, 45, a civil-rights attorney and the legal director at Equip For Equality, added: "Father's Day is an official day to celebrate that we are a family, that we've been able to have a family. Growing up as a gay man, that wasn't something I was sure I could have. So sometimes I think becoming a parent is a miracle. It's a very special day to commemorate something very meaningful to us."

The road to parenthood for Pollack and Taylor started with Taylor. "I've always wanted to be a parent; I guess it's just part of my DNA," Taylor

said. "I've always envisioned being a parent, but wasn't sure how I was going to be able to work that out being gay."

They talked at length about becoming parents. They did hours of research on the topic, went to parenting meetings and talked with many people about the subject.

"We spent a lot of time talking about it because it is a big commitment and it's very important for both partners to be committed to being parents," Taylor said.

"I'm really, really glad that we came to the conclusion that parenting was for us; the kids have really added a marvelous dimension to our

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Ray is a widely published author and presenter, frequently writing on topics such as estate planning, guardianship, aging, and issues facing the LGBT community. He is a longtime member and advocate for the LGBT community, and is involved in several charitable groups, community associations, and professional organizations.

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Nettelhorst Elementary has put up a tribute to diversity (above) during Pride Month. Read more about this development on page 8.

Photo by Robin Schachtel

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War Horse (above) is one of three London productions analyzed in our Scottish Play Scott column. See page 13.

Photo by Simon Annand

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Cover photos and credits (from top): Windy City Gay Idol winner by Kirk Williamson; Queer Bronzeville photo of jazz musician Tony Johnson courtesy of Tristan Cabello; and Chaz Bono courtesy of Jesse Danzig

The HIV Testing & Prevention Program of Center on Halsted Presents:

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Complementary breakfast and lunch provided.

For additional information and to RSVP for this free presentation, contact Gregory Gross, AM, LSW Clinical Manager, HIV Testing & Prevention Program at ggross@centeronhalsted.org or call 773.472.6469 X 478.

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VITAL IDOL
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ONLINE INDEX

FIGURE '8'
In her Mombian column, Dana Rudolph (right) takes on the subject of LGBT parents and Proposition 8



POT LUCK



Jack Stehlin (left) plays Captain Roy Till on Showtime's Weeds—a character who's wrestling with a big secret. Read more online.

'WORLD' IN HIS EYES

Derek Chavez (right) is the gay roommate in the upcoming season of MTV's Real World. Get to know him online.



Photo by Rene Cervantes

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DOMA from cover

head of the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center. "If that is an example of Obama's "fierce advocacy" on our behalf, I'd rather he go advocate for someone else. This brief went far beyond anything that might have been 'required' of the Administration. I worry that this is a revealing glimpse into the true sentiments of this Administration. It feels like a betrayal of all he has promised our community."

All four national gay legal organizations, plus the Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, issued a joint statement Friday, criticizing the brief in uncharacteristically strong terms. The statement said the organizations are "extremely disturbed by a new and nonsensical argument the administration has advanced suggesting that the federal government needs to be 'neutral' with regard to its treatment of married same-sex couples in order to ensure that federal tax money collected from across the country not be used to assist same-sex couples duly married by their home states."

"When President Obama was courting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender voters," said the statement, "he said that he believed that DOMA should be repealed. We ask him to live up to his emphatic campaign promises, to stop making false and damaging legal arguments, and immediately to introduce a bill to repeal DOMA and ensure that every married couple in America has the same access to federal protections."

Kate Kendell, head of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, called the DOJ brief "shocking and unsettling." Geoff Kors, head of the Equality California group that fought Proposition 8, said his organization is "outraged." Former Clinton White House staffer Richard Socarides called the brief a "veritable kitchen sink of anti-gay legal theories, that it seemed expressly designed to inflict maximal damage to our rights."

Responding to the criticism, the White House issued a brief statement June 12, saying: "As it generally does with existing statutes, the Justice

Department is defending the law on the books in court. The President has said he wants to see a legislative repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act because it prevents LGBT couples from being granted equal rights and benefits. However, until Congress passes legislation repealing the law, the administration will continue to defend the statute when it is challenged in the justice system."

It also "authorized" Office of Personnel Management Director John Berry to tell The Advocate and attendees of an LGBT Pride celebration in Washington, D.C. on Sunday that the administration is still committed to repealing DOMA. Berry defended the DOJ brief, saying the president has to enforce all federal laws "that have been enacted appropriately and that he has inherited."

"It would be wrong for me or any of our community to advise him to lie or to shirk his responsibility," said Berry. "He's doing his job. He has made clear that he stands for the repeal of DOMA. It will be part of this administration's agenda to accomplish that act. We ought not waste energy and angst attacking him when we should be focusing the energy and effort on getting 218 votes in the House and 60 votes in the Senate, and that's where we ought to target the energy and the strength of this community and this president is with us, this is our agenda and it's his agenda."

LGBT legal activists say they understand the DOJ has a responsibility to defend federal laws, they just feel the department went far beyond what it needed to—from providing a basic defense to delivering a vigorous justification.

Jennifer Pizer, head of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund's Marriage Project, said her group was "very surprised and disappointed and distressed at the arguments in this brief."

"They go much farther than they need to," said Pizer, and offer arguments we would not expect from this administration."

Pizer said while legal activists have seen "clear, decisive changes in policy" regarding

reproductive rights, "we are not seeing similar decisive, appropriate changes on LGBT people's issues."

"This brief's an example of profoundly distressing doublespeak," said Pizer.

Well-known legal scholar and champion for equal rights, Lawrence Tribe said he believes the specific case is flawed.

"Although there certainly are instances in which the executive branch should throw in the towel even when that would result in dismantling a duly enacted congressional statute," said Tribe, "in my view, the Smelt case is not among them." Tribe acknowledged that he found much of the DOJ brief "quite baffling—gratuitously reaching for substantive arguments lacking in plausibility, simplistic to the point of being insulting, and insensitive to the force of the strongest arguments against DOMA's constitutionality as well as to the sensibilities of both gays and straights who find DOMA as abhorrent as I know President Obama does." But he said the Smelt lawsuit has too many flaws to warrant the administration's support. Instead, said Tribe, the administration would do better to side with LGBT plaintiffs in the "very powerful" lawsuit being mounted by Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders in Massachusetts.

What the DOJ says now

The case is *Smelt v. U.S.*, filed in the U.S. district court for Central California on behalf of Arthur Smelt and Christopher Hammer, who were married in California last year during the period the state was allowed to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The Smelt case and the GLAD case, *Gill v. Office of Personnel Management*, are two of at least four gay-related marriage challenges filed in federal courts this year.

The best-known case, *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*, was filed just last month by famed attorneys Ted Olson, a staunch conservative, and David Boies, a staunch liberal. A fourth suit, *Bonilla v. Levine*, asks a federal district court in New Orleans to

strike down a state DOMA amendment banning gay marriage.

In its brief on the Smelt case, the DOJ asks the federal district court to dismiss the Smelt lawsuit for a number of reasons—procedural and legal. In doing so, DOJ asserts that DOMA addresses a legitimate need for the federal government to adopt "a cautious policy of federal neutrality towards a new form of marriage." It also asks that the courts uphold DOMA in order to protect the federal government's "scarce resources" and its ability "to respond to new social phenomena one step at a time, and to adjust national policy incrementally."

"DOMA does not discriminate against homosexuals in the provision of federal benefits," argues the DOJ. "...DOMA does not distinguish among persons of different sexual orientations, but rather it limits federal benefits to those who have entered into the traditional form of marriage."

The brief claims that gay people who marry same-sex spouses "are denied no federal benefits to which they were entitled prior to their marriage."

One argument that prompted the particular ire of gay legal activists was a claim by the DOJ that the federal government, through DOMA, simply "declines to obligate federal taxpayers in [straight marriage only] States to subsidize a form of marriage their own States do not recognize."

"This policy of neutrality," said DOJ, "maximizes state autonomy and democratic self-governance in an area of traditional state concern, and preserves scarce government resources. It is thus entirely rational."

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

FABUL



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Calif. pols may slash HIV funding

BY REX WOCKNER

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed, and the California Legislature is considering, draconian cuts to all types of HIV-related funding in the near-bankrupt state.

In the worst-case scenario, which is still not off the table, slashes to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program could result in thousands of Californians who make less than \$41,600 per year losing access to the state-provided drugs that suppress HIV and keep them alive.

In the apparent best-case scenario, not all HIV drugs would be available via ADAP and patients would have to pay part of the cost of the ones they could get. That is problematic because some HIV-positive people have developed resistance to some HIV drugs, and need access to the full arsenal of therapies to stay alive.

Further, the current plan apparently completely eliminates state funding for the tests that determine if a patient is responding to treatment—such tests as CD4 counts, viral-load measurement and drug-resistance monitoring.

These tests are essentially mandatory in HIV treatment. Doctors use them so they can change a nonresponsive patient's drug combination to another combo that works in that patient—before the patient's immune system breaks down further and the patient develops a life-threatening opportunistic infection.

The current plan apparently also dramatically slashes funding for education, prevention, counseling and testing programs.

Some 35,000 working- and middle-class Californians who don't make enough money to pay for their own treatment could be adversely or dangerously affected by the possible cuts to

ADAP and elimination of monitoring testing.

Gay and HIV advocates have strongly denounced the budget proposals, and a large rally was held at the state Capitol in Sacramento on June 10.

Miss California fired

BY REX WOCKNER

Controversial Miss California USA and Miss USA first runner-up Carrie Prejean was stripped of her California crown June 10.

Pageant officials said she wasn't fulfilling her duties.

Prejean had become an unofficial spokesperson for the anti-gay-marriage movement after the brouhaha at the Miss USA pageant April 19, where she had said, in response to a question from gay judge Perez Hilton: "Um, we live in a land that you can choose same-sex marriage or opposite marriage and—you know what?—in my country and in my family, I think that I believe that a marriage should be between a man and a woman—no offense to anybody out there, but that's how I was raised and that's how I think that it should be: between a man and a woman."

Later that evening, Hilton posted a video on his popular blog in which he called Prejean "a dumb bitch" and said, "If that girl would have won Miss USA, I would have gone up onstage—I shit you not—I would have gone up onstage, snatched that tiara off her head and run out the door."

The blog video caused the story to mushroom, as did Prejean's comment to this news column a week later that people aren't born gay but rather "it's a behavior that develops over time."

Prejean later appeared at a press event and in a TV ad for the National Organization for Marriage, an activist group opposed to same-sex nuptials. Numerous national TV appearances

followed, along with a revelation that she'd recently had breast implants. And topless photos of her appeared on the Internet.

In firing Prejean, the Miss California USA organization said: "This was a decision based solely on contract violations including Ms. Prejean's unwillingness to make appearances on behalf of the Miss California USA organization. ... It has become abundantly clear that Carrie is unwilling to fulfill her obligations under our contract and work together."

Miss USA pageant owner Donald Trump said he supported her firing.

"I told Carrie she needed to get back to work and honor her contract with the Miss California USA organization and I gave her the opportunity to do so," Trump said. "Unfortunately it just doesn't look like it is going to happen and I offered (Miss California USA Executive Director) Keith (Lewis) my full support in making this decision. Carrie is a beautiful young woman and I wish her well as she pursues her other interests."

Prejean and her lawyer have publicly contested the charge that she violated her contract.

The new Miss California USA is Miss Malibu, Tami Farrell, who had been first runner-up in the state pageant.

In an interview with Fox News on June 11, Farrell, when prodded, very reluctantly said she also thinks marriage is between a man and a woman.

She also said: "You know, I think it's hilarious right now that the world is turning to beauty queens for the answers for this. I think it's an important issue and I think that it's one that I don't think I can win a battle. I don't want to be any more divisive than it's already become. ... I don't think that I have the right or anybody has a right to tell somebody who they can or can't love. And I think this is a civil-rights issue. And I think the right thing to do is let the voters decide."

NATIONAL ROUNDUP

BY ANDREW DAVIS

In South Carolina, lesbian politician Linda Ketner—who narrowly lost to incumbent State Rep. Henry Brown last November—has **outed three Republican lawmakers**, according to On Top Magazine. Speaking to Howie Klein at Fire Dog Lake, a progressive political blog, Ketner said, "We have more gay people serving in South Carolina than probably in any place in the United States"—and then named U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, State Sen. Glenn McConnell and Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer. However, after that remark was made public June 1, Q Notes reported two days later that Ketner backed off those assertions, saying she thought her remarks were off the record, according to EDGE Boston.

Thomas Beatie, who became nationally known last year as the "pregnant man," has given birth to a second child, NJ.com reported. Beatie, a transman formerly known as Tracy Langondino, gave birth to a son June 9; he and wife Nancy already have a daughter, Susan Juliette. Beatie has his gender altered legally and surgically, but opted to retain the female reproductive organs.

In California, Rob Williams and Arnie States—co-hosts of Sacramento's "Rob, Arnie & Dawn Show"—**have apologized on-air for making critical remarks about trans teenagers**, Advocate.com reported. After the May 28 broadcast—which included States saying he would probably hit his son with one of his shoes if the boy wore high heels—11 companies (including McDonald's, Verizon and Snapple) pulled their ads from the program. Incidentally, Dawn Rossi, the third co-host, defended the teens during the earlier program.

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Judge Tom Chiola.

Here come the judges: New group forms

BY SAM WORLEY

A June 24 reception will mark the inauguration of the Alliance of Illinois Judges (AIJ), an LGBT-oriented organization recently founded by a group of judges from the Cook County Circuit Court.

Judge Tom Chiola, who will preside over the new organization, says that AIJ is intended to act as a resource for LGBT people involved in the world of the courts; though comprised of judges, the group seeks as well to enhance the experience of lawyers and law students. Without taking an explicit politics—prohibited under judicial ethics rules—AIJ provides a forum for discussion of LGBT issues within the judicial system, including domestic partner coverage (which its members, as state employees, have access to) and pension benefits (which they don't).

"We are searching out ways to equalize the playing field for our members," said Chiola. He

pointed out that the benefits that judges and their partners receive from the state are taxed: "This is not something that would happen if we were married with a spouse."

"This is one of the things that we deal with," Chiola said. "We all need to consider whether that's equitable."

Chiola, the first openly gay judge to be elected to the Cook County Circuit Court, has been on the bench since 1994. Before his election, Chiola worked for the State Attorney General's Office and in the State Department of Professional Regulation. An active member of the LGBT community for a long time, he also served as the race director for Proud to Run. "One of the things my campaign was about," he said, "was to get somebody from the gay community elected in Illinois."

Being out and on the bench, he said, is "not something I would have even considered when I became a young lawyer."

His comments were echoed by Judge Sebastian Patti, also a founding member of AIJ. Patti, who was appointed to a vacant seat on the Circuit Court in 1995 and stood for election in 1996, said that the cultural change he's witnessed within and without the judiciary is "nothing short of remarkable."

"[Chiola's] election was huge," Patti said. "It really did pave the way for us after that."

(Chiola returned the compliment, calling it "nothing short of a coup" that the Democratic Party chose Patti as its candidate in 1996).

What would eventually become AIJ started as an informal group of judges who, said Tom Chiola, grew close by "trying to socialize and give each other support." Chiola said that group has been particularly instrumental in electing LGBT people as Associate Judges—positions whose occupants are chosen by already-seated members of the judiciary, the latter of whom are free to lobby colleagues on behalf of preferred candidates. Nancy Katz, the first out lesbian judge on the Circuit Court, was elected as an Associate Judge in 1999.

Ten years after Katz's election—and fifteen years after Chiola's—the Alliance of Illinois Judges is being founded with 16 charter members.

Chiola also proposed, in 2001, a rules change that would include sexual orientation in discrimination protections accorded to members of the Illinois bar. His proposal was accepted by the Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, who, Chiola said, "didn't consider it to be a big deal." Big deal or not, Chiola pointed to the event as an illustration of the importance of having "access from the inside"—and being able to use that access on behalf of LGBT people.

The group also grew to function as a support system. Because stringent ethics rules make it difficult to talk openly about certain LGBT issues that could be construed as political, Sebastian Patti said, "We have to rely on one another for an internal support system." The fact of being a minority within the judicial system, he said, "increases the burden on each of us to support our brother and sister judges."

See www.theaij.com.

Panelists discuss 'Stonewall and Beyond'

BY YASMIN NAIR

The 40th anniversary of Stonewall falls on June 28 this year, the same date of the original riot in 1969. Since Stonewall, the LGBTQ community has seen the formation of the Gay Liberation Front in the 1970s, the AIDS crisis in the 1980s and the rise of the same-sex-marriage movement in the late 1990s and beyond. To commemorate the event, the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, hosted an intergenerational roundtable discussion entitled "Stonewall and Beyond" June 11.

Participants were Lott Hill, director of the Center for Teaching Excellence at Columbia College Chicago; Patrick Sinozich, artistic director of Chicago Gay Men's Chorus; Monte Staton, a doctoral candidate at Loyola and a Gerber/Hart volunteer; Vernita Gray, a local LGBT activist who serves on Center on Halsted's SAGE Advisory Council; and June LaTrobe, the Center on Halsted's transgender community liaison. LaTrobe was also the moderator. The discussion was punctuated with performances by Chicago Gay Men's Chorus.

Each participant provided a different set of details about Stonewall, and the activism that came after. Gray said that she came out the same year, and that she and her then-girlfriend had gone to New York to attend Woodstock where they found a little tent with information about Stonewall. According to Gray, the two determined that they would be involved in gay politics upon their return to Chicago. Gray went on to describe what it was like to be out and gay in the period: "You couldn't touch in the bar, they'd shine a light on you and ask you to leave. It was a different world."

Sinozich discussed the physical geography surrounding the Inn as well as the political powers that dominated it. According to him, Stonewall was "owned and run by the mafia for several reasons" having to do with liquor laws and bootlegging. The police would occasionally raid and harass clientele, but mostly in order to demonstrate that they were doing their job when, in reality they were being paid by the mafia to only raid on occasion, when a lot of people were not around.

LaTrobe discussed the spectrum of sexual and gender identity of the patrons at Stonewall. She said that while most people think of drag queens at the forefront, many identified as such because the word "transgender" was not in common usage at the time. She also explained that, at the time, everyone had to be wearing at least three items of clothing "that corresponded to your birth sex." Terms like "fluffy sweater boys" and "flame queens" were ways to demarcate different forms of gender identity and expression.

Staton, addressing the issue of why Stonewall became a historic point of reference, said that "the night of the arrests was different because people stayed around to watch and, as people were put into the paddy wagon, people began picking fights." He also said that there were other similar events in Chicago, but the difference was that Stonewall gained a national reputation for its significance. Lott Hill added that "Stonewall was not the first protest but the one that generated a lot of press, a point where media started to pay attention" to LGBTQ issues. Hill also spoke about AIDS activism in the 1980s, and the kind of organizing against pharmaceutical companies that cohered after Stonewall.

Referring to the media spin, LaTrobe sought to correct a widespread myth about the event, that it came about as a memorial for Judy Garland who had just died. Sinozich affirmed that his historical understanding of the event proved otherwise. For one thing, according to him, clientele at Stonewall that night would have been younger than those who would have remembered Garland singing at Carnegie Hall. LaTrobe also referred to other events, like the Compton's Cafeteria riot in San Francisco three years before Stonewall, that went unnoticed by the media at the time.

In concluding remarks, participants spoke about the state of the current gay movement. Sinozich said that while Stonewall created a sense "that there be a response, I don't sense any urgency in the community as a whole." Gray, however, said she saw the opposite: "an incredible urgency" in relation to marriage "as a very important issue." Hill said that he was "very hopeful" and that, in his work with students, he felt that "Proposition 8 is one of those galvanizing moments." Staton added that he was "hopeful and optimistic." In the question-and-answer session, some of the nearly 30 attendees (plus the members of the chorus) indicated that the discussion had been thought-provoking.

Milk letters to be auctioned off

Leslie Hindman Auctioneers, 1338 W. Lake, has announced the sale of two intimate letters from Harvey Milk to his friend Patrick Mormon, whom he befriended while serving in the U.S. Navy. The letters will be a highlight in the Fine Books and Manuscript auction Tuesday, July 28. (They will be exhibited Sunday-Monday, July 26-27.)

The first of the two letters being offered at auction shed light on the history of Milk's discharge and the ethics of outing in the 1950s for young gay men in the Navy. In the second letter—postmarked "USS Kittiwake, New York, NY" with a specific date unknown—Milk revealed to friend and fellow servicemember Pat Mormon his intentions to be "married" to an unnamed lover and move to Dallas, Texas.

See www.lesliehindman.com for more information.

Candidate to run against Deb Mell

Joe Laiacona has declared his candidacy for Illinois state representative, according to a campaign press release. He will run in the 40th District, currently represented by out legislator Deb Mell.

Laiacona—who wrote the column "Leather Views" for Gay Chicago magazine for many years under the name Jack Rinella—is a past member of the board of directors of Test Positive Aware Network and a former member of the Lakeview Police GLBT liaison group. He is also on the board of directors of the Leather Leadership Conference, Inc. His Web site is www.Friendsfor-JoeLaiacona.org.

Among other things, Laiacona favors governmental transparency, disclosure of all politically-related financial transactions and limits on contributions to and among those involved in politics.

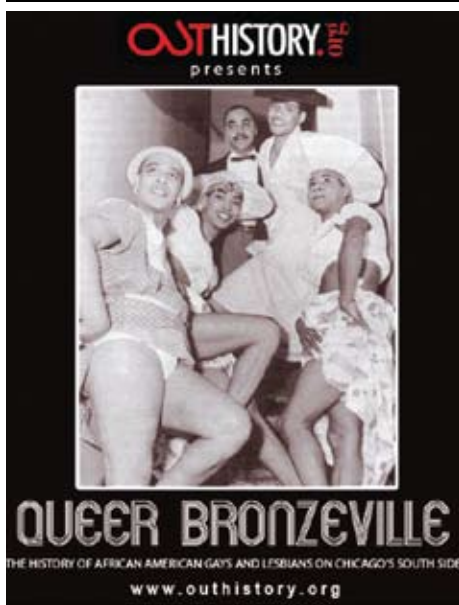
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'Queer Bronzeville': The South Side's LGBT history

BY WES LAWSON

In the 1920s, in an area of Chicago known as Bronzeville, a small but powerful queer subculture emerged. Located on the South Side from State Street to Cottage Grove Avenue, along 43rd and 47th streets, a group of African-American LGBT individuals began to carve out the neighborhood as their own in bars, restaurants and jazz clubs, where they were free to be amongst like minded individuals in a situation similar to that which was taking place in Harlem, New York City.

These stories of life on Chicago's South Side for LGBT individuals have been collected into an online exhibit called "Queer Bronzeville: The History of African American Gays and Lesbians on Chicago's South Side, 1900-1980." The site's content runs from the end of the Great Migration (when 1.3 million African Americans moved from the south to the north, Midwest, and west portions of the United States) to the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, and the exhibit comprises not only written history, but photographs, songs, videos, interviews and articles. The exhibit is on display at www.outhistory.org, and is similar in format to Wikipedia.

Tristan Cabello, a Ph.D. candidate and lecturer at Northwestern University, spearheaded the project, which has a focus on 20th-century American history. For him, the project began three years ago as part of his dissertation, and the way in which it became an OutHistory exhibit was through a contest.

"Outhistory.org has several exhibits, and my exhibit was chosen when they held a contest 6-7 months ago. They asked gay history scholars to create exhibits, and they chose mine," said Cabello.

"I came onto this almost by chance. It started when I took a class on gay history, where it was extremely obvious that most gay history only equates to white, male gay history," said Cabello. "There are not a lot of sources for the other aspects of [LGBT] history, so it's very hard to find people, articles, and other things from that period."

Cabello says one of the places he started was the African-American newspapers of the time, which included the Chicago Bee, Chicago Defender and Chicago Whip. He was surprised to discover what a dense history African Americans had in Chicago, especially among the LGBT community.

"If you look back, the first articles about [LGBT] African Americans appeared in the '40s in Ebony. The history that is documented in these papers is very dense," Cabello said.

Among his discoveries were people like Tony Jackson, a gay blues pianist from Chicago who migrated to Chicago after persecution in New Orleans; Nancy Kelly, a drag queen from what was called the South Side Drag Circuit; and Keith

Barrow, a singer and Chicago native who succumbed to AIDS early on in the epidemic. All of these artists are profiled in the project, and many others.

In doing this project, Cabello had a simple goal: to show people that there was gay history in their neighborhoods.

"I wanted to show that people back then were accepting. Homophobia in the Black community is *not* a historical thing," said Cabello. "Sexual identity didn't really matter. It was not part of the public discourse and people were accepted and integrated."

One of the crucial shifts in this mentality came when the Civil Rights movement began. Cabello spoke of how Martin Luther King's goal to gain full citizenship for African Americans often overshadowed other problems within the community.

"Oftentimes, Black people, in order to gain acceptance, had to play to white heteronormativity. Ebony published an article in the 1960s where MLK took questions from young people, and one person asked him about being gay. King suggested that he seek the help of a doctor. This is when the discourse begins to shift," said Cabello. "When people began to write black history, they tried to use the templates for white history, and that doesn't really work. Segregation is

still happening in the city today, and white and Black LGBT people typically are not integrated. With this exhibit, we can work toward changing that."

Cabello also mentioned that LGBT people, particularly African Americans, began to lose their sexual freedom when they began to work toward equality, because the civil rights movement mostly worked to uplift the race.

Ultimately, Cabello wants people to know that there is more to LGBT history than they are probably aware of.

"One of the other purposes of this exhibit is to let people know that not only was there [LGBT] history for African Americans before the civil-rights movement, but there was general [LGBT] history before gay liberation in the '70s," Cabello said. "If people get to know this, then my work here is done."

The ultimate goal of the exhibit will be for Cabello to turn it into a book, which he plans to publish within the next three years after completing more research. Until then, readers can see the exhibit at www.outhistory.org, in the "Exhibits" tab.

Note: The WCT cover photo for this article is of jazz musician Tony Jackson.

Dyke March again in Pilsen

Chicago Dyke March (CDM) organizers announced that the event will take place in Pilsen for a second time Saturday, June 27.

The rally will begin at 1 p.m. on 18th and Halsted. A bike contingent will begin from Trumbull Elementary (at Foster and Ashland) to the march, departing at 11 a.m. For more information, to volunteer, or to perform, please e-mail CDM at dykemarchchicago@gmail.com or visit www.myspace.com/dykemarchchicago.

BEHIV moves all services to Chicago

Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV) has shut down its Evanston office and moved all of its services to its Chicago location, 1244 W. Thornedale.

Some of the agency's services now have new times and locations. Among some of BEHIV's offerings are HIV/STI testing, a weekly substance-abuse support group, massage therapy of those who are HIV-infected and -affected, the Brothas Saving Brothas Group and art therapy. See www.behiv.org for more information.

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Nettelhorst pays tribute to diversity

BY WES LAWSON

Anyone who has passed by Nettlehorst Elementary, 3252 N. Broadway, is likely to notice the colorful rainbow fence surrounding the playground. And if you read the placard that is part of the display, you'll learn that the school is the first public school to be marching in Chicago's Pride Parade.

The children of Nettlehorst have tied thousands of multicolored cloths around the fence to display, in the words of the placard, "[a] tangible sign of his or her personal intention to create a better world ... Here, the rainbow colors of gay pride are a visible sign of our respect for the neighborhood of which we are a part, and the diversity of families that we serve."

Brad Rossi, a gay parent of a first-grade girl, and Marcia Festen, a lesbian parent of two daughters, one of whom is in kindergarten, were both crucial in bringing the idea to the school. The two worked together in the 1980s, and Rossi says that the idea came from California.

"My partner and I moved here from San Francisco last year with our daughter specifically for this school. We liked the school's focus on arts and the Boystown location," Rossi said. "We already knew Marcia, and we began looking around the school for other [LGBT] families, since we had come from a school with many [LGBT] families and we hoped that would be the case here."

Rossi said that in looking for other LGBT families in the community, the idea of marching in the parade, which he did at his daughter's previous school in San Francisco, came about.

"I started wondering if there was something we should be doing. This translated into improving the overall climate for the students at the

school. We also asked ourselves, what do we do to make our presence known?"

Festen said that the idea came largely from Rossi, and that the idea stemmed from a desire for a school that was both safe and affirming.

"In kindergarten, the kids say 'It's so cool that you have two moms!' to our daughter. Our daughter knows family is different. When she plays, she always uses a mom and a dad. [But] there was a kid that got teased for having two dads. Our kids will get teased. That's a fact of life. My job as a parent, and the reason why I got involved, was to help my kids be resilient to teasing by building a support system around them," said Festen.

The project began with the fence, which has been an ongoing art project for several years. This is the first year in which it was specifically LGBT themed, and Rossi said that he was nervous at the outset of the project.

"You never know if people will be silent, angry, or supportive. There are 450 kids that go to this school and I've only heard one negative comment, and that was just hearsay. For the LGBT families, this is cool because we didn't know what to expect. There's this idea that because we're in Boystown, we'll be light years ahead, but we're not. We're ripe to move forward and the pieces are in place."

Among the few dissenting voices in the community is Tom Mannis, a blogger for conservative blog RogersParkBench.blogspot.com.

"I was walking through the neighborhood, and I came across the school, and the display of very pretty multicolored cloths. I thought it would make a nice picture. When I read the placard [that explains the display], all kinds of thoughts went through my head," said Mannis. "I have nothing against gay people, I'm not a homophobe, and I have nothing against the parade. But I step back and say, 'What is the gay pride parade as it happens here?' Drunk men with their asses hanging out of tutus."

He added, "On the one hand, is it good for kids to be acceptant and nondiscriminatory?

Yes. Should they be taught to understand the world around them? Yes. Should they be allowed to participate in a parade that has become a sex parade? No."

Festen was in charge of getting the fabric for the mural and was astonished at the community outpouring.

"When we were thinking about this, we wanted to show our kids that we were part of the community," she said. "We took fabric donations and got an overwhelming amount. There was a guy named Adam at CB2 [at Clybourn and Halsted] who went out of his way to get us fabric. Within two weeks he had gathered us two bags. We got donations from the Steppenwolf Costume Department, the fashion department at the Art Institute—it's been amazing."

In spite of the blog comments, Festen says that the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

She said, "A conversation has been started among the parents on the playground. Most people probably knew I was a lesbian mom, but now people are having a dialogue. There's a supportive community ready to engage in these is-

sues, and we want people to say "Hey, this is a great school for my kid!"

Even Mannis wants to make it clear that he does not look disparagingly on Nettlehorst.

"It seems like a very good school," he said. "They're doing great things for the kids. Although I was picking on them for that one issue. I'm not attacking the school as a whole. I may have overstated my case."

Rossi said that in the end, he wants this to be a stepping-off point for further dialogue.

"There have been incidents at this school that made us say, 'we're going to either sit and wait around and react or we'll become proactive. The question of 'How do we make this school become a school we want to be a part of?' prompted us to say, 'We need to do this now, because we don't want our kids to face some of the things we faced as LGBT kids,'" Rossi said.

T-shirts for the parade and the school are available through the school, and Rossi mentions that they have already sold over a hundred.

FATHERS from cover

lives," Pollack added.

Their surrogacy was coordinated through Los Angeles-based Growing Generations, the first surrogacy agency dedicated to serving the gay and lesbian community.

"I think it's very important for partners to make sure that they are both committed. It's a huge responsibility, a long-term commitment," Taylor said.

Pollack added, "[Potential gay parents] should be mindful of the responsibility involved because it will re-focus your life. But I will say, don't hesitate to do it. It's a real blessing."

Pollack and Taylor have adopted a very simple, straight-forward approach—with the kids and truly anyone who asks. Their world is based on honesty, period.

Take, for instance, the time Taylor was pushing Molly in a stroller at a park. A lady said to Taylor, 'I guess it's mom's day off.'

Taylor replied, "No; our kid has two fathers."

"From the beginning, we have always been very specific and very factual about our family; we chose to not ignore those questions or not answer them. I think people appreciate our honesty," Taylor said.

Pollack said that people have been "amazingly accepting." In fact, they really have not had anyone question them. Rather, they get great support from everyone. That includes great support in the kids' schools, in their social network and even at airports. "We've never really had any negative response, which actually has been a little surprising. We were prepared for some [negative] questions and comments," Pollack said. "One of the factors that we really hadn't expected was ... having kids

is very mainstream, so a lot of our social life is with other parents of other kids, which has been a very broadening experience. And most of those parents are straight. And it's not what I was expecting."

The fathers said that, as far as they know, they are the only gay parents at Molly's school.

Molly is aware of Benziger.

"Molly understands that, in order to have a baby, there needs to be a woman involved, and Pam carried her in her tummy for us," Barry said. "She doesn't perceive Pam as a mom or anything like that."

"When the question of her mom comes up in school, she's just very factual about it, saying that she has two dads. I think we're in a new generation. Sure, gay families are not everywhere, but certainly more and more families are comprised of same-sex couples, so it's not as radical or as poorly received as it might have been even 10 years ago."

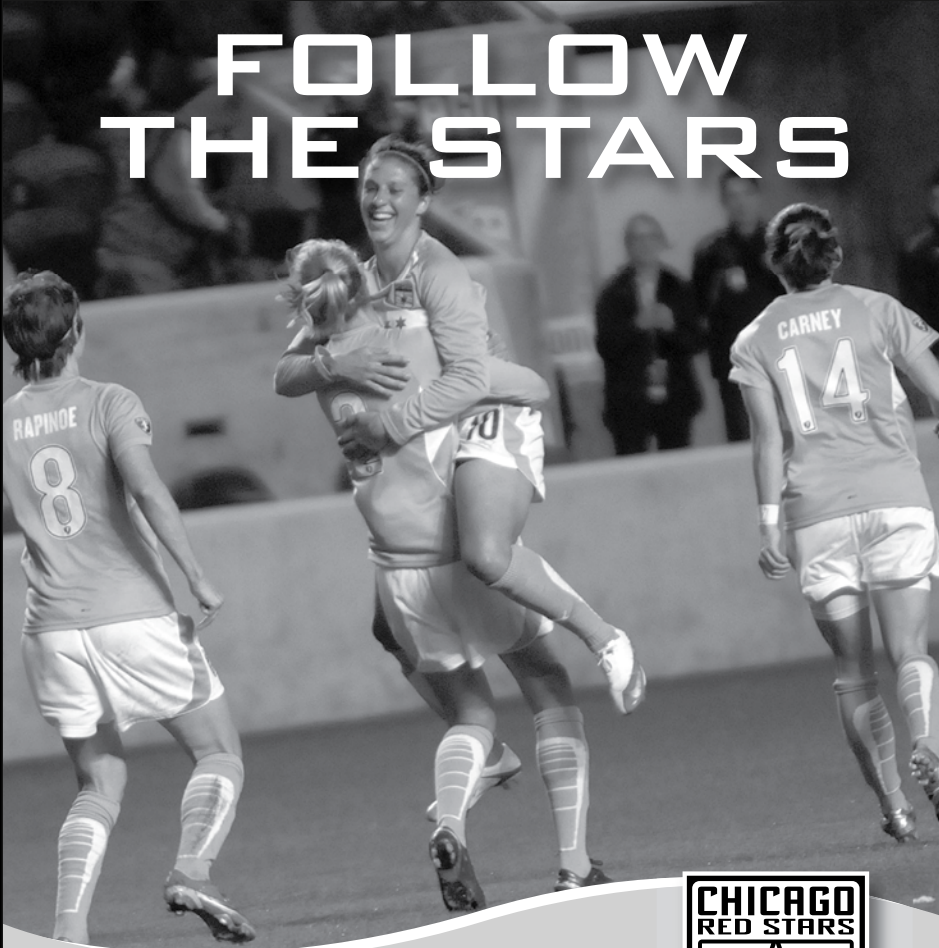
Molly and Hudson, who spend their Saturdays these days playing soccer along the lakefront, have "very different personalities," Taylor said, and Pollack agreed. "Molly is very deliberate; she is very analytical. Hudson is very funny, very active."


"They play very well together; they have a strong affection for each other."


Pollack and Taylor said they are done at two. "We're very pleased with where our family is right now," Taylor said. "Father's Day is a very meaningful day for both of us. While I was the catalyst for us becoming parents, Marv certainly has embraced parenthood."

Pollack added, "The kids are still a little young to understand Father's Day, but I'm sure as they get older, it will be a meaningful day for them too."

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From left: Marv Pollack, son Hudson, daughter Molly and Barry Taylor. Photo by Ross Forman



Hope Barrett (left) and Alejandro Garcia. Left photo by Andrew Davis; right photo courtesy of Garcia

LGBT issues discussed at AARP confab

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The AARP conference "Diversity and Aging in the 21st Century: The Power of Inclusion" took place June 8-10 at the Marriott Chicago Downtown Magnificent Mile, 540 N. Michigan. Reflecting the event's theme, there were several forums that revolved around LGBT-related issues.

Just one was the symposium "Multiple Jeopardy: To Be Old, Gay and a Person of Color," which examined the sometimes devastating effects of being in several demographic groups that are often ignored or viewed with disdain.

Speakers included Glen-Michael Francis, executive director of New York's Griot Circle, which is for those who are at least 50 years of age; Alejandro Garcia, a professor at Syracuse University and a member of AARP's National Policy Council; and Hope Barrett, director of community initiatives at Howard Brown Health Center. James Miner of the University of Chicago moderated.

Garcia remarked how those who are old, gay and people of color are the "ultimate invisible people" and added that they have the same fears everyone else has, including loneliness and isolation.

In including those who fit in multiple categories such as these, Garcia said that there are several factors to consider, including age, fear, the hesitancy to share needs/priorities with strangers and cultural differences, citing how minority communities are often homophobic.

Regarding research recommendations, Garcia suggested qualitative studies (how subjects survive), which would involve looking at their support systems, cultural traditions, experiences with healthcare providers, spirituality, nature of family and other aspects.

Francis showed a 15-minute video, "Griot Circle: A Gathering of Elders," in which various

griot members recalled their relationships, familial encounters and other life experiences. (A griot refers to a storyteller, poet or performer.) For example, Paul Darling talked about fighting in Korea, being addicted to heroin and hustling in drag before becoming a minister. Another, Lillie Wheatley, talked about supporting her lover, Ellen, for 47 years—but telling people that they were "cousins."

Francis then talked about how Griot Circle is facing a crisis trying to find a place in New York City with affordable rent—and that the organization has 1,200 members and a working space of 822 square feet. However, despite those obstacles, he still seemed optimistic about the group.

Barrett presented data from a needs assessment study that involved 328 respondents who ranged in age from 49 to 87. (In keeping with the symposium's theme, she presented results by race.) The survey looked at a wide range of healthcare-related topics, including insurance coverage and the subjects' own assessment of their health. However, one of the most interesting results involved the respondents' feelings of hopelessness: 38 percent of whites, 35 percent of Blacks and 36 percent of Latinos admitted feeling despair.

Regarding local resources, Barrett said that most of them are concentrated on the North Side of Chicago, but added that Howard Brown is "seeking to spread resources," saying that people "have to use [others] from the community to be messengers."

Working with community partners Rush University Medical Center, Heartland Alliance, Council for Jewish Elderly and Midwest Hospice and Palliative Care, Howard Brown is creating a first-of-its-kind comprehensive senior program for isolated, vulnerable and disadvantage seniors.

Among the other forums and mini-workshops at the conference were "Transgender Elders: What Providers Need (and Don't Need) to Know" and "Barriers to Service for LGBT Seniors: Is It on the Public Agenda?"

25 for 25 charity drive nets \$5,700

The Windy City Times 25 for 25 Charity Drive ended June 5, raising nearly \$6,000 for local LGBT and HIV non-profits. The month-long event marked the 25th anniversary of Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim's start in Chicago LGBT media. She started as an editorial assistant at Chuck Renslow's GayLife newspaper in 1984.

The drive was also a contest: About Face Theatre edged out the Oak Park Area Gay and Lesbian Association to receive a \$250 bonus donation.

The following amounts were raised in the mail-in campaign, for a total of \$5776.50:

About Face Theatre: \$1,650
AIDS Foundation of Chicago: \$150
Affinity: \$100
Amigas Latinas: \$100

Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV): \$275
Bonaventure House: \$25
Center on Halsted: \$75
Chicago House: \$100
Equality Illinois: \$50
Gerber/Hart: \$24
Howard Brown Health Center: \$125
Jo-Ray House: \$25
Lambda Legal: \$350
Lesbian Community Care Project: \$150
Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Assoc.: \$1,307.50
Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays: \$300
Servicemembers Legal Defense Network: \$25
Test Positive Aware Network: \$505
Vital Bridges/Open Hand: \$440

Checks were handed out during the finals of Windy City Gay Idol June 13 at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted, and will be sent to those agencies who did not attend.

Latino love

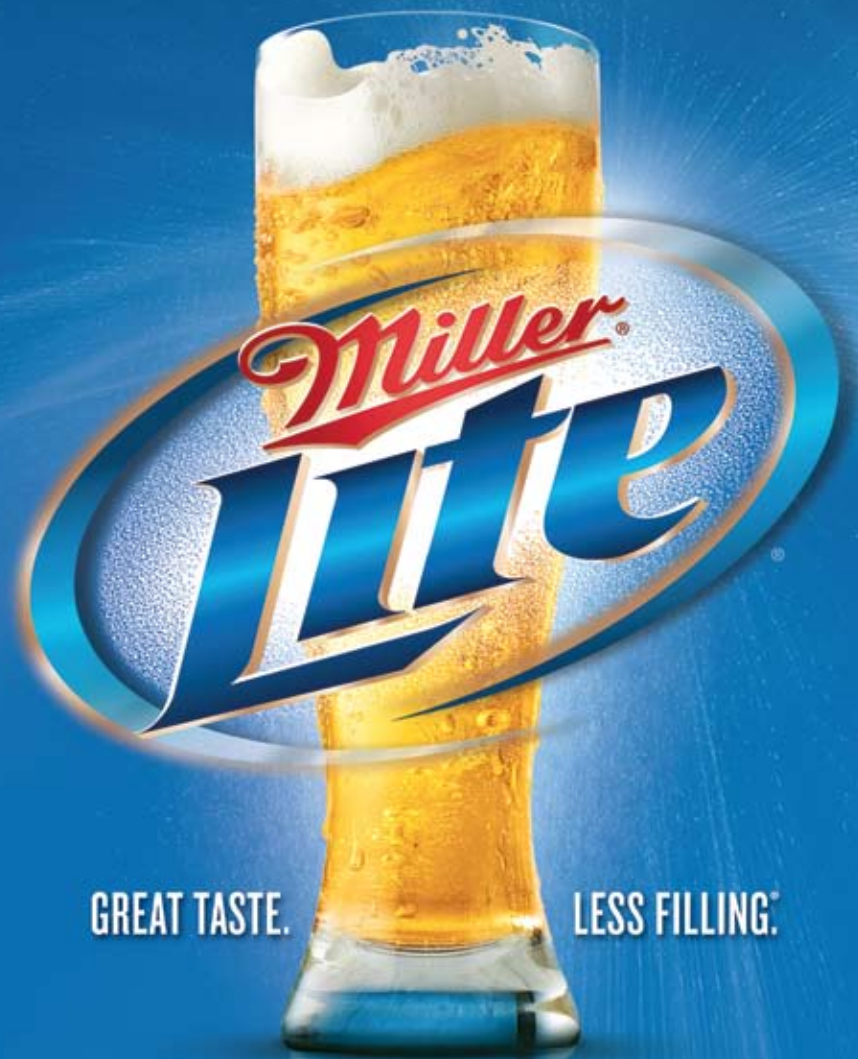


Two giant pride flags on the corner of Division and Humboldt marked the location of this year's Latino Pride Picnic, which took place June 13. Overnight rain showers didn't stop Orgullo en Acción organizers from hosting their fourth event in Humboldt Park. The early morning steady rain made the set-up difficult, but that didn't dampen the mood. While people grilled with friends and family, a variety of performers entertained the crowd. The event also featured DJ Corona playing music throughout the day and an appearance by Zobo the Clown, who face-painted children.

The Latino Pride Picnic was co-sponsored by Amigas Latinas, ALMA (Association of Latino Men for Action) and Circuit Nightclub. Photos and text by Emmanuel Garcia; video will be on QueerTVNetwork.com

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Marriage forum full of emotion

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Given the spate of recent same-sex marriage-related decisions (for and against), it was no surprise that there was a lot of emotion among the dozens of individuals who convened at a marriage-equality forum at the J. Merlo Branch Library, 644 W. Belmont, June 9.

Panelists at the event included Nik Maciejewski and Patrick (no surname available) of Join the Impact-Chicago; Marc Loveless, coordinator of the local organization Coalition of Justice and Respect (CJR); and writer/activist Sherry Wolf.

Maciejewski talked about the need for organization and called for a national movement, stressing for the dispensing of the "state-by-state battle crap" that has resulted in disparities between states. He said that "[i]t's time for things to be federally mandated" and urged President Barack Obama to take a stand.

Maciejewski also mentioned that he talked with State Rep. Greg Harris—who sponsored the civil-union bill in the Illinois House—about getting state lawmakers to vote for marriage equality. Again, a keyword arose: organization. "The coalition needs to be organized," Maciejewski said.

Patrick read a statement on behalf of Join the Impact-Chicago's Missy Lorenzen, who wrote about strategies she learned from attending the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's recent Creating Change conference. Among the strategies discussed were reaching the "moveable middle" (those with mostly moderate views), connecting with the media, targeting specific legislators and avoiding negative messages.

Loveless said that CJR got involved in the civil-union/marriage movement in 2008, when the organization saw it as a healthcare issue ("People in couples reduce the number of sex partners and STIs [sexually transmitted infections]"). He also cited *Loving v. Virginia*—which revolved around interracial marriage—as being pivotal for CJR, saying that the case's concepts of due process and equal protection also had bearing regarding marriage equality. Loveless added that CJR has an online petition (at www.cjrchicago.net) and will initiate a drive at various events this summer, including both Black Prides.

However, despite the passions that the previous speakers exhibited, it was Wolf who stirred the audience more than anyone else. Wolf—an associate editor at the International Socialist Review—warned against marriage-equality organizers getting complacent and thinking that

"equal marriage will somehow sweep the land." She quickly added that LGBT individuals are "legal strangers to the federal government, even in the six states where marriage is legal."

Wolf staunchly advocated organized activism, and garnered applause when she said, "We need to bring Stonewall back to the parade. It didn't start off being sponsored by Miller Beer."

She also said that she finds the state's civil-union bill's language "embarrassing." Referring to Section 15 of House Bill 2234—which states "Any religious body, Indian Nation or Tribe or Native Group is free to choose whether or not to solemnize or officiate a civil union"—Wolf said that "no one's ever been forced to officiate at an event he didn't want [to do so]" and added that the measure's "wording is a concession to right-wing bigots."

Lastly, like Maciejewski, Wolf called for "the need to mobilize and put [this subject] at the foot of Congress. ... Enough is enough. This is bullshit now."

Equality Illinois and Allied for Equality sponsored the forum.

UIC awards grants for LGBT research

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) has announced six new seed grant awards to campus researchers studying LGBT issues under a grant from the Los Angeles-based David Bohnett Foundation.

The awards are the second round of grants funded by the foundation, which last June awarded the UIC Chancellor's Committee on the Status of LGBT Issues \$20,000 to advance LGBT research at UIC. The first three seed grants were awarded last fall.

The interdisciplinary review committee funded two student and four faculty projects for a total of \$14,000. The recipients are:

—**Christine Holland**, doctoral candidate in psychology, who is investigating the effects of childhood sexual abuse and post-traumatic stress disorder on the functioning of adult males;

—**Mona Noriega**, doctoral candidate in public administration, who is examining LGBT aging issues;

—**Colleen Corte**, assistant professor of health systems science in the College of Nursing, for a pilot feasibility project to investigate self-identities and risk behaviors in LGBT adolescents;

—**Peter Ji**, research assistant professor of psychology, to investigate the appropriateness of using the LGBT Ally Identity Development Scale in diverse populations;

—**Brian Mustanski**, assistant professor of psychiatry and director of the IMPACT LGBT

Health and Development Program, to study the development of sexual orientation and the feasibility of retaining a study sample of LGBT youth into adulthood; and

—**James Swartz**, associate professor in the Jane Addams College of Social Work, to develop enhanced HIV-prevention services for gay men who abuse methamphetamines and other drugs.

Hundreds bid blues legend farewell

Approximately 1,000 individuals turned up at the Rainbow PUSH Coalition headquarters, 930 E. 50th, June 12 to bid farewell to the late blues legend Koko Taylor, according to the Chicago Tribune.

Taylor, known as the "Queen of the Blues," died at age 80 from complications resulting from gastrointestinal surgery.

Lori Cannon of Groceryland (an arm of the HIV/AIDS agency Vital Bridges), said, "AIDS benefits; the homeless, abused women; women at Cook County jail—anyone who reached out to her ... She always made time—despite suffering with poor health. She was a 'wang dang doodle' of a gal!"

Rev. Jesse Jackson presided over the event, which included a proclamation from Gov. Pat Quinn and condolences from personalities such as B.B. King. Taylor is survived by husband Hays Harris, daughter Joyce Threatt, son-in-law Lee Threatt, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

2009 HIV directory now available

Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN), the publisher of Positively Aware magazine, has announced that the 2009 edition of the Illinois HIV Services Directory is now available.

This updated resource lists a combined total of 722 agencies and professionals statewide that provide services to people living with and affected by HIV, with nearly 380 agencies and 170 professionals in the Chicago area alone. The Illinois Department of Public Health provided funding for the directory.

Call 773-989-9400 or visit www.tpan.com to order free copies of the directory, or e-mail directories@tpan.com.



Steven R. Allen.

PASSAGES

Steven R. Allen

Steven R. Allen passed away suddenly May 2 in Chicago of a massive heart attack. He was 54.

Allen was born Sept. 29, 1954 in Canton, Ohio. He was a graduate of Oakwood High School and Wittenberg University. He worked for newspapers in Bucyrus and Xenia, Ohio, before moving to Chicago, where he worked at the law firm of Berger, Newmark and Fenchel for the past 25 years. He had been a member of Chi-Town Squares Dance Club for 22 years.

Allen was preceded in death by his father, George Allen (2007) and sister, Patricia Epstein (2008). He is survived by his mother Betty Allen, sister Barbara Frank, brother and sister-in-law John and Elaine Allen, brother David Allen, two nieces, four nephews, one great niece and his extended family of friends in Chicago. A Chicago memorial service celebrating Allen's life will be held Saturday, June 20, at 5040-60 N. Marine. Longtime friend Rev. Jeffrey Phillips will be officiating.



Judge Sandra Otaka. Photo courtesy of Aurora Austriaco

PASSAGES

Judge Sandra Otaka

Judge Sandra Otaka—the first Asian American to be elected a Cook County judge—died on natural causes June 6, according to the Chicago Tribune. She was 57.

Born in California, Otaka was a third-generation Japanese-American. Her mother and grandparents were held in U.S. internment camps during the second World War.

She moved to Chicago and began her legal career with the law firm Sidley Austin. Appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2000, she became, in 2002, the second Asian-American to be elected a judge by Illinois voters.

Otaka was known as a fierce advocate for human rights, including for the LGBT community, having served on human-rights commissions in Chicago.

Out historian Bill Kelley said of Otaka, "Sandra and I served together on the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance drafting committee and later on the county Human Rights Commission, of which she was vice chairperson for several years while I was chairperson. She was always full of energy, ideas, and humor and had a keen appreciation of coalition-building. All of us are lucky she was always on the go, because she was able to accomplish a great deal for a number of constituencies, among them not only Asian Americans but also sexual minorities, before her life was cut short so soon."

Otaka raised her late brother's son, Jeffrey. She is also survived by a sister, Susan Smith.

Tuesday, June 23
7:00 p.m.
Annual Pride Open Mic

Thursday, June 25
7:00 p.m.
GLBTQ Literary Double Header
Larry La Fountain-Stokes
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WORLD ROUNDUP

BY REX WOCKNER

50,000 at EuroPride

Some 50,000 people turned out for the EuroPride parade, held in Zurich this year on June 6.

Openly lesbian Zurich Mayor Corine Mauch joined in.

Next year, the parade ventures behind the former Iron Curtain to Warsaw—a city that as recently as 2005 tried to ban pride, only to be later rebuffed by the European Court of Human Rights.

Meanwhile, Rome's gay pride parade drew more than 100,000 participants June 13, with a demand for legalization of same-sex marriage and equal rights for gay couples.

Some 1,500 people marched in Warsaw on June 13, also demanding legalization of same-sex partnerships. The parade, on central Marszalkowska Street, attracted fewer than 100 counterprotesters, who shouted anti-gay vitriol.

Five hundred people marched in Zagreb, Croatia, on June 13. Police kept about 50 snarling anti-gays from disrupting the parade.

About 3,500 people marched in Strasbourg, France, on June 13, and 2,000 marched in Athens.

Moscow gays want to picket Obama

Moscow Pride founder Nikolai Alekseev says members of his group will attempt to stage a picket in favor of same-sex marriage at the U.S. Embassy on July 7 during President Barack Obama's visit.

It is unlikely the activists will receive city permission to do so. Mayor Yuri Luzhkov has banned pride parades for the past four years and sent riot police to aggressively arrest those who ignored the bans.

Luzhkov has called gay parades "demonic," "satanic" and "weapons of mass destruction." He also has said the bans are for gays' own good so that "radical Christians" don't have a chance to "kill them."

Alekseev is hopeful that he'll be able to pull off the picket regardless because "the presidential media pack will be in town."

Australian prison OKs gay conjugal visits

The Alexander Maconochie prison in Australia's Capital Territory has decided to let gay inmates receive conjugal visits six times a year.

The policy applies to prisoners who are well-behaved and whose partner is not also incarcerated at the facility.

Reports said that the state of Victoria, where Melbourne is located, is the only other place in

Australia where gay inmates can have sex dates with their partners.

China sees its gay-pride week

China saw its first-ever gay pride week June 7-14 in Shanghai.

Events included movies, plays, art exhibits, panel discussions, swimming and badminton competitions, and a big party, though at least one play and one film were ordered canceled by authorities.

Some 500 people attended a barbecue/drag show/fashion show/hot-body contest on June 13.

Organizers decided against holding a parade, saying it just didn't seem to be legally possible, according to China Daily.

"Shanghai Pride is a community-building exercise," co-organizer Tiffany Lemay told the English-language paper. "We hope to raise awareness of issues surrounding homosexuality, raise the visibility of the gay community, help people within our community to come out, and build bridges between the gay and straight communities."

Denmark is not gay nirvana

Denmark, the first nation in the world to legalize gay partnerships, in 1989, still has a problem with homophobia.

Eighteen percent of GLBT people in Copenhagen and 8 percent in other parts of the country say they've been discriminated against based on their sexual orientation in the past year, according to a report from the Center for Alternative Social Analysis.

GLBT people between ages 16 and 29 reported more problems than older people.

A total of 3,400 homophobic incidents were reported to police in 2008, the study said.

A report in the Politiken newspaper said gay businesses also have been targeted.

Copenhagen's oldest gay bar, Centralhjørnet, had rocks thrown through its windows six times in 2008. Patrons also have been bombed with eggs through the bar's open door.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

South African AIDS activist dies

South African AIDS activist Thembi Ngubane, who gained fame around the globe for her radio diaries about her struggles with the virus, died of tuberculosis June 9, according to Independent Online. Ngubane was 24.

Ngubane was 19 when she received a recorder to make an audio diary about living with HIV. She then recorded pivotal moments in her life. U.S. National Public Radio aired the tapes April 2006, on Ngubane's 21st birthday.

Ngubane is survived by a four-year-old daughter.

—Andrew Davis

QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

"I LIVED THROUGH EIGHT YEARS OF THE CLINTONS AND THEN EIGHT YEARS OF BUSH.

Through it all, gay people were treated at the federal level like embarrassments or impediments. With Clinton, we were the means to raise money. With Bush, we were the means to leverage votes by exploiting bigotry. Obama seemed in the campaign to promise something else. ... But I have a sickeningly familiar feeling in my stomach, and the feeling deepens with every interaction with the Obama team on these issues. They want them to go away. They want us to go away. Here we are, in the summer of 2009, with gay servicemembers still being fired for the fact of their orientation. Here we are, with marriage rights spreading through the country and world and a president who cannot bring himself even to acknowledge these breakthroughs in civil rights, and having no plan in any distant future to do anything about it at a federal level. Here I am, facing a looming deadline to be forced to leave my American husband for good, and relocate abroad because the HIV travel and immigration ban remains in force and I have slowly run out of options." — Gay writer Andrew Sullivan on his blog, May 13.



My (gay) story is relative to the times.

—Lily Tomlin



"LET'S STOP HURLING DISMAY AT BEAUTY PAGEANT LOSERS FOR A SECOND,

considering the fact that our own President seems to have left the gays out to float on a block of ice too. As we know, Obama used to be in favor of same-sex marriages, but then he changed that to a far more politically expedient middle-of-the-road stance, shifting his true feelings on the road to ambition. Meanwhile, he can't exactly denounce the California Supreme Court's decision to uphold Proposition 8, seeing as he's now conveniently anti gay marriage himself, so he's staying mum about it. And he doesn't seem all that willing to reconsider the absurd 'Don't ask, don't tell' premise that still haunts gays in the military, despite gay activists begging him to abolish it now." — Village Voice columnist Michael Musto on his blog, May 28.

"I WISH TO SPEND MY LIFE'S TWILIGHT BEING JUST WHO I AM.

I could claim noble reasons as coming out in order to move gay rights forward, but I must admit it is for far more selfish reasons. Now is the time I wish to find someone and I do not desire to force any potential partner to live a life of extreme discretion with me." — Actor David Ogden Stiers, who played Maj. Charles Emerson Winchester III

"IT WAS THE GAYEST SEASON EVER OF THE AMAZING RACE,

and also one of the best ever. Coincidence? I don't think so. There was father and son Mel and Mike White, who are both gay; sisters Kisha and Jen (Kisha is a lesbian); one person who apparently isn't out of the closet; and, finally, Luke Adams and his mom Margie." — AfterElton.com, May 11.

"MY (GAY) STORY IS RELATIVE TO THE TIMES.

Jane (Wagner) and I were out, but we never called a press conference. In those days the press also didn't write about (our personal lives). And truthfully from my heart, I didn't encourage them. It was the '70s. But I don't know what would have come of it if I had. It could have been great. I mean, Time magazine offered me the cover in 1975 if I came out and Ellen (DeGeneres) came out on the cover 20 years later. She was the right person at the right time." — Lily Tomlin to Montreal's Hour magazine, May 28.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

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SEAN STRUB

To march or not to march

Recently, Cleve Jones was honored by the American Foundation for AIDS Research at a lively event in New York. David Mixner gave a stirring introduction—it was classic David, at his finest—and then Cleve gave a rousing speech, calling for a march on Washington in October. Lady Bunny gave quite a speech as well, but I'll share those details off-list with anyone interested.

The crowd responded wildly to Cleve's call for a march, clapping and standing, with some stomping their feet or pounding the tables. They were mostly gay white men, to be sure (and donors, as it was a fundraiser). But their heartfelt and hopeful response made an impression on me.

I went to bed reflecting, with admiration, on how often Cleve has been in the vanguard, feeling the pulse of the community's "new" roots: the young, the newly-out and the newly-committed as well as the previously-dispossessed just gaining a grip on their personal power to affect change.

Cleve is, at his core, a street activist, with a particular talent for organizing those who had previously not been involved, whether it was for Harvey's campaigns, organizing labor, immigrants or street kids, the earliest responses to the epidemic, or inspiring people to stitch panels for the quilt. Yet he also is able to inspire an authentic and incredibly enthusiastic response

from affluent and somewhat jaded gay white men in New York.

I had been ambivalent about a march this fall, for many of the reasons that have been eloquently expressed by others on this list over the past couple of weeks. The debate and discussion was important, as it forced us to confront and consider with a clear eye the challenging realities of trying to organize such a large-scale event in a short period of time.

But I contrasted those legitimate concerns and reasons with what I heard from LGBT folks with whom I discussed this in rural northeast PA, what I read on non-leadership listserves or comments on blog posts (overwhelmingly in favor), what I witnessed when Cleve spoke last night and what has stirred in my own heart, which is an exciting and even a bit frightening sense that this may be a moment unlike any other, a moment that will be gone a year or two from now when reelection politics will dictate the administration's every move.

I am now convinced that the time to debate whether to march or not is over. If I had any residual doubt, today's news about the Justice Department's approach to DOMA erased them. The march this fall is not going to be a small affair. It is going to happen and it is going to be significant.

Cleve has always had an extraordinary talent to rally the grassroots. With the release of the movie Milk, his already-significant credibility with the media and major funders, as well as his celebrity stature, has increased dramatically.

I understand that permitting for an Oct. 11 LGBT Equality March on the Capitol's west lawn has been assured. Robin Tyler, David Mixner, Torie Osborn and others calling for this march are amongst our community's most accomplished and respected leaders; their political judgment and informed perspectives earned from decades of activism are not to be dismissed easily.

I appreciate the voices of those who have

passionately argued against the march. Some of them are individuals or from organizations who have, in the past, carried a disproportionate burden for coping with what a march means for the community in the Washington area. Their concerns mustn't be ignored.

But let's recognize that decentralized organizing for this march is underway and the march is going to happen, albeit in a much different way than marches in the past. It will probably have more of a grassroots feeling of the 1979 march than the increasingly-corporatized "movement as a market" events we've seen in more recent years. That's a good thing, in my view.

I hope those who have opposed the march can find their way to embrace these realities and try, in whatever ways they can, to help make the march as successful as possible.

We are a movement of free will; no one has to support or participate in any given endeavor. And there will surely be further debate over the merit to an October march and its potential for success or failure, which is as it should be. We should celebrate the many ways in which technology has enabled our community's conversation to be broadened to allow more voices to participate.

But I hope that discussion can take place within a constructive context, one that does not sabotage the genuine and heartfelt need to take our issues to Washington and demand equality. One can oppose the march without seeking to impair its possibility for success. One can support it without vilifying or thinking less of those who oppose it.

The march will raise our expectations, broaden our vision and inspire hope. That's what every one of the national marches has achieved in the past. But let's also make this march demonstrate our community's shared struggle with those combating racism and poverty and sexism and

Turn to page 22

Obama and DOMA

Now that the dust has begun to settle on President Obama's latest broken promise to the LGBT community—his egregious brief for the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), comparing equal marriage rights to incest and pederasty—it's time to examine how we got to this sorry state of affairs.

To put it simply, candidate Obama, like most Democratic candidates before him, got a blank check from almost all progressive leaders (LGBT and otherwise), and it was a straight line from that to the DOMA debacle, continued expansion in war funding and wars, continuation of the Bushite civil liberties violations through extraordinary renditions and detentions without trial, etc.

As one who has never trusted a politician's promise—especially a Chicago politician's promise—Obama's actions were predictably "been there, done that." To borrow a line from a Christmas song, "It's beginning to look a lot like Clinton, everywhere you go..."

It's the same trajectory we saw in the early years of the Clinton Presidency, which also started out with both houses of Congress controlled by the Democrats ... proceeded through a trail of broken Democratic promises, and ended with the "Republican Revolution" and all that we hated about U.S. government around the turn of the century.

The howls of protest about Obama's DOMAgate from gay organizations—HRC, NGLTF, Equality California, etc.—are, frankly, getting to become a bit tiresome. Every time there's a stab in the back, over the Rick Warren invocation for example, they're in the words of the Vichy police official in the movie Casablanca, "shocked, shocked

that there's gambling going on in this establishment."

But Rick Warren was presaged by Donnie McClurkin in the South Carolina primary. DOMAgate 2009 was presaged by his announcement days before his US Senate election that his "Christian beliefs" forced him to oppose equal marriage rights, etc., etc.

And yet our community leaders, almost to a one, said muffle your protests during these pre-election debacles—which just reinforced the notion that the Democrats had us in their back pocket and encouraged Obama's slide to the right.

But we *have* to support someone in the elections, they say! What civil rights activist worthy of the name wouldn't support someone in a major election, right?!!

Well, according to this standard, then, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., wasn't much of a civil-rights activist. Dr. King never publicly endorsed a candidate in his life. He always played it coy, playing the parties off against one another, even courting then-Vice President Nixon at one point when the Democratic candidates were deferring to their Dixiecrat wing.

The secret to the success of King, such as the 1963 March on Washington—with the wave of civil rights legislation which followed it—was not King's soaring "I have a dream" rhetoric. The secret was that King and his co-organizers put the interests of their community first, above political parties. Democratic President John F. Kennedy tried repeatedly to get King to call off the march. He had his brother Attorney General spy on King. He sat on his hands during most of the violence against Civil Rights marchers.

But King refused to call off the march. It was clear that if Kennedy didn't move on civil rights legislation, the '63 march would become an anti-

Kennedy administration march. And guess what? In this domestic "Cuban missile crisis," it was President Kennedy who blinked, the first modern wave of Civil Rights legislation was passed, and it was the beginning of the end of apartheid in the American South.

There is now another D.C. march in the works for Sunday, Oct. 11, this time for LGBT rights. I support this march, but will be very disappointed if it repeats the mistakes of so many of our previous marches instead of doing our best to emulate what made the 1963 march such a success.

The Obama administration has taken the LGBT community for granted. The previous Democratic administration gave us the mess of DOMA and DADT. We must demand that Obama keep his promises to clean up the mess that Clinton created, and fulfill the other LGBT promises he's been retreating from—removing the HIV+ travel ban and instituting safe and legal needle exchanges.

Moreover, we must demand that he drop the continuation of the utterly reactionary, Bushite "faith-based" funding of sectarian agencies that refuse to hire openly LGBT people. And as most politicians rightly refuse to associate with open racists and anti-Semites, thus de-legitimizing them, so must Obama cease his dalliances with bigots of the Keith Warren and Donny McClurkin variety. And finally, as the offspring of a bi-racial couple and a man who was a former professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Chicago, he must drop his cowardly support of "separate but equal" civil unions and publicly endorse full equal marriage rights for same-sex couples.

Andy Thayer
Chicago

LETTER

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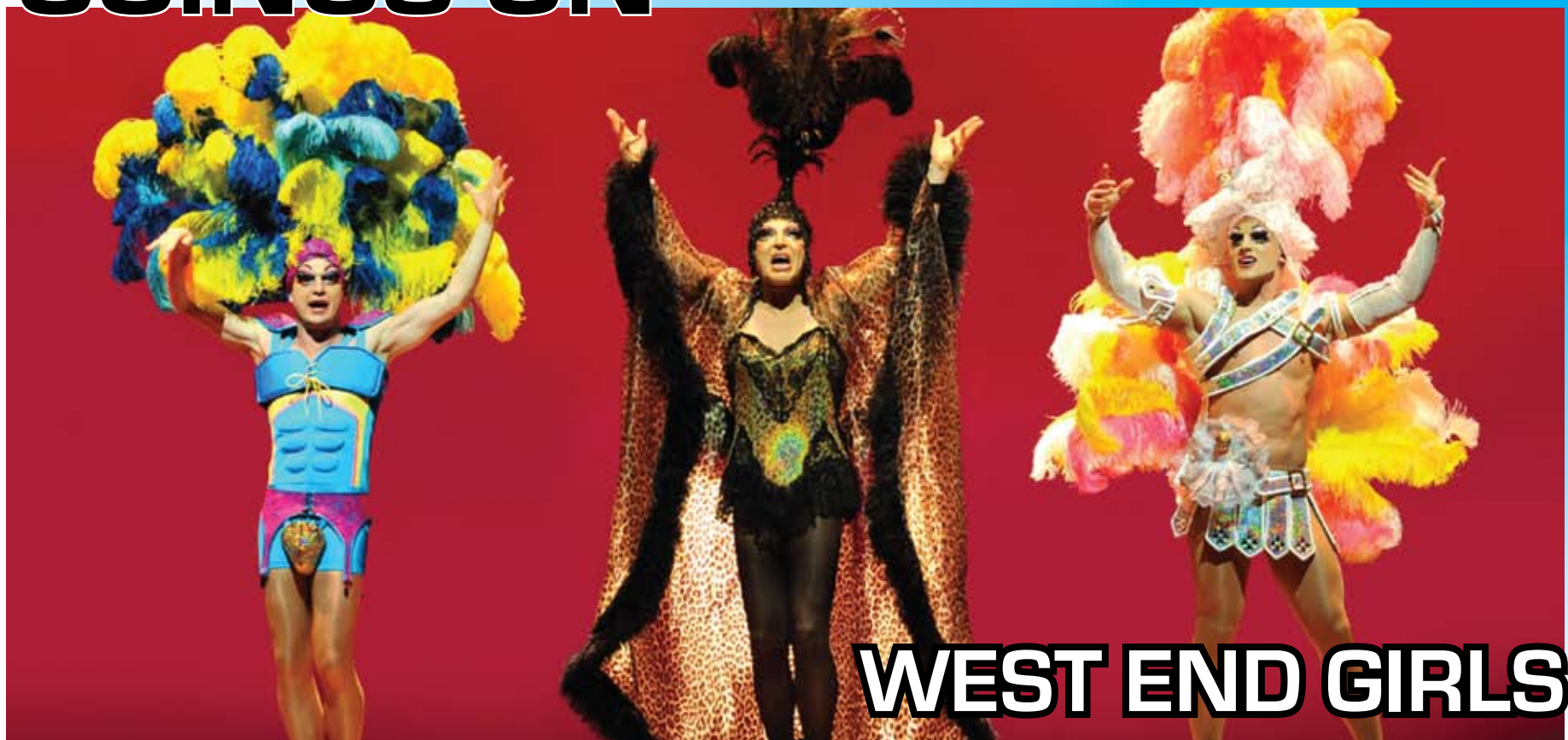


Photo
by
Tristram
Kenton

WEST END GIRLS

The stage adaptation of *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* is one of three London productions reviewed by Scott C. Morgan. See below.

MOVIES

Reynolds wrap.
Page 16.



MUSIC

Gwen in Doubt.
Page 18.



SPORTS

Kick or treat.
Page 20.

Photo courtesy of
the Chicago Red Stars



Scottish Play Scott

Three to see in
London's West End
BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Fans of the 1994 Australian flick *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* can rejoice. A 2006 Australian stage adaptation, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert—The Musical*, is now a big, sold-out London hit at the Palace Theatre.

Yet for die-hard musical theater fans (you know, uppity ones who hold Stephen Sondheim sacred), the arrival of *Priscilla* prompts this response: "No more f*@king jukebox musicals!"

Sorry to rain on *Priscilla's* big gay parade, but I'm one of those curmudgeons in the latter category. Much like the stage adaptation of *Dirty Dancing* (another Australian jukebox musical export), too much effort has gone into slavishly duplicating key movie moments and recycling disco hits instead of making *Priscilla* its own original stage creature. This approach satisfies die-hard fans who quote regularly from the film, but it doesn't make a cohesive stage show.

Priscilla is in a tight bind, since all of the film's iconic drag costumes by the Academy Award-winning team of Tim Chappel and Lizzy Gardiner are expected to be seen (I particularly awaited the appearance of the Sydney Opera House skirt combo). Chappel and Gardiner have magnificently re-imagined and expanded their designs for the musical, but the outlandish costume parade seems to take more precedence than the storytelling (Allan Scott and original screenwriter/director Stephan Elliott are responsible for *Priscilla's* glib and flimsy book).

Take, for instance, the bit when the Guy Pearce character of Adam/Felicia operatically rides the *Priscilla* tour bus atop a giant high-heeled shoe. It's a stunning film visual, but on stage it adds nothing dramatically and halts the plot.

There are changes from the film (Kylie Minogue



War Horse. Photo by Simon Annand

songs replace ABBA numbers, probably due to *Mamma Mia* rights issues), but the additions don't always help the plot. The "Macarthur Park" green cupcake costumes are extremely clever, but that number proves pointless in the overall scheme of things.

At least *Priscilla* doesn't resort entirely to pre-recorded song tracks, since a trio of floating pop divas (Zoë Birkett, Kate Gillespie and Emma Lindars in flying harnesses) appear out of the ether to sing the songs that the drag queens lip-sync to (an exception is Wesley Sebastian, who amazingly sings his own Tina Turner as *Miss Understanding*).

And there's no faulting *Priscilla* jaw-dropping stagecraft and the top-notch performers assembled by director Simon Phillips. Set-designer Brian Thomson's rotating realization of the bus,

Priscilla, is a technical marvel, especially when it turns pink and other animated colors.

London's *Priscilla* also has a casting coup with Jason Donovan as Tick/Mitzi (Kylie fanatics know Donovan as her one-time soap opera co-star and former boyfriend). Other strong work comes from Tony Sheldon as the mourning transgender artist Bernadette, Clive Carter as Bob, Bernadette's outback love interest and Oliver Thornton as the insolently young and beautiful Adam/Felicia.

On stage, *Priscilla* is a visually fun gay feast. But when compared to a far more original screen-to-stage show like *Hairspray* (still playing in the West End), *Priscilla* pales with its cut-and-paste script and shoehorned pop hits.

There's no word yet if *Priscilla* is planning a North American transfer yet, so the place to catch the show is in London at the moment. The

same goes for the amazing 2007 children's play *War Horse*, which unfortunately appears like it won't be transferring stateside anytime soon.

Based upon Michael Morpugro's children's novel, Nick Stafford's adaptation of *War Horse* tells the story of a boy named Albert who raises a magnificent horse, Joey. When World War I arrives, Joey gets sold into service, prompting Albert to join up so he can find his beloved horse.

War Horse's plot may sound corny, but the magnificent stage craft of directors Marianne Elliott and Tom Morris, especially in collaboration with South Africa's Handspring Puppet Company and production designer Rae Smith, reduced quite a few audience members to tears (myself included).

While the acting company is near-perfection, it's the horses that stick in the memory. Manipulated by team of three puppeteers, the horses were amazingly lifelike and stunningly realized (so much so that actors could even ride atop them).

You couldn't ask for a better show than *War Horse* to introduce children to the power of live theater. It also reignites the childhood imaginations of grown adults.

Despite *War Horse's* two sold-out holiday runs at the Royal National Theatre and its hit open-run transfer to the West End's New London Theatre, it probably won't see Broadway. The cast is so large and the theater requirements are so specific that it would be unlikely for a team of commercial producers to bring *War Horse* to the States (unless the non-profit Lincoln Center Theatre took the risk).

So if you do cross the pond anytime soon, make it point to see *War Horse* while it's still alive and kicking in London. *Priscilla* might need some more cosmetic surgery before it crosses the Atlantic, but the odds are that this big drag show will eventually make it in.

Please send theater news and other tidbits to scottishplayscott@yahoo.com.



Clitoris Stories.

THEATER REVIEW

Clitoris Stories

Playwright: Tina Haglund

At: A Reasonable Facsimile Theatre Co.

at Conservatory, 4210 N. Lincoln

Info: 773-418-4475; \$13-\$15

Runs through: July 12

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

"Why do you have see that!?" and "Couldn't they have assigned a woman?"

Some of my gay male friends asked these questions as I tried to drum up a theater companion (in vain) to accompany me to A Reasonable Facsimile Theatre Co.'s world premiere of Tina Haglund's Clitoris Stories.

Yes, I'm probably not the intended audience demographic for this play, nor can I apply its lessons to my everyday life. But, hey, it did

broaden my horizons.

After a brief prologue where the women (identified in the program as numbered Clitorises) chime in on the play's title, playwright Haglund provides a monologue explaining why she felt it was vital to write Clitoris Stories.

Haglund openly acknowledges the influence of Eve Ensler's groundbreaking The Vagina Monologues. Yet Haglund felt that the pleasure-producing clitoris (which she pronounces to rhyme with Delores) was neglected and deserved its own exploratory play.

Alas, what Clitoris Stories only reinforces is how the one-act Vagina Monologues is a better piece of theater. Clitoris Stories frequently feels repetitious and lasts almost two hours and 30 minutes.

While Clitoris Stories does contain a few comedy gems and serious pieces that prove entertaining and enlightening, some pieces drone on too long. Haglund also draws too often from the

theme of "Stupid men! The clitoris is located here!"

Director Michael Buino should have tightened up the long scene changes or simplified the staging. The idea of having all the women sitting in to listen shows solidarity, but the unused actresses could really be offstage readying the next scene.

Haglund's approach to some of the topics is also questionable, particularly genital mutilation in Africa. Haglund confounds expectations by showing four white colonialists in 1920s garb singing a silly ditty questioning what is to be done about those natives' strange practices. It's far too glib for such a serious topic.

And with such a strong emphasis on taking the penis out of the equation, Clitoris Stories slights lesbians and their experiences with only cursory shout-outs.

The 11-member cast is good with a few stand-outs. Allison Paige is very funny as the celebrity Clitoris on a chat show, while Jenn-Anne is hilarious as an outraged woman who finds cheesy late-night TV to be so educational about the clitoris.

The "Clitoris Supporters" of Tim Ballard and Steve Truncala also brighten up every scene they appear in, even though they're not well-integrated well into the show's staging concept.

Unless Haglund can reduce the cast size or trim at least 30 minutes from the show, Clitoris Stories probably won't have much of an afterlife. That would be a shame, since its educational pro-sex information would be a great help to many women and their lovers.

THEATER REVIEW

Third

Playwright: Wendy Wasserstein

At: Apple Tree Theatre,

1840 Green Bay, Highland Park

Phone: 847-432-4335; \$38-\$48

Runs through: June 28

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

It's hardly a secret that many of the rebellious youths who vowed to change their society for the better grew up to become the same kind of stodgy, pompous, parochial windbags they condemned, but Wendy Wasserstein was the first playwright to say so. Dying untimely in 2006 at the age of 55, her legacy to her feminist peers was to caution them against the smug complacency that knows no boundaries.

To be sure, her protagonist has reason for straying from her ideals: Laurie Jameson—10 years earlier, the first woman to be granted tenure at the Ivy League university where she now teaches—has a father suffering from geriatric dementia, a best friend struggling with cancer, and a child scornful of Mom's hard-won privileges, which currently include the unsettling symptoms of menopause. Small wonder that the having-it-all professor clings to her former principles for stability in an increasingly volatile universe, fighting the good fight against the old enemies—racism, sexism, homophobia, imperialism, capitalism. And when a student in one of her classes displays an intellectual independence inconsistent with his alleged demographic, she promptly makes him the target of her neo-doctrinaire prejudices.

Sarah Gabel, director of this Apple Tree Theatre production and Performing Arts department chair at Loyola University, has had ample opportunity to observe the phenomenon afflicting Dr. Jameson. Not for nothing has academe been dubbed an "ivory tower," aloof from messy everyday matters—but the human propensity for blaming our misfortunes on an exotic "other" can be evidenced in all segments of society. And long before the advent of on-line plagiarism, too-clever undergraduates often found themselves accused of theft by skeptical instructors. The solution, maintains Wasserstein, is to acknowledge one's error and atone, insofar as atonement can be affected, for the damage inflicted by misguided suspicions.

As played at full throttle by Robin Lewis-Bedz, Professor Jameson at the height of her fury risks coming off as too batcrackers to be taken seriously. Ironically, however, her anguish serves to render her redemption the more sympathetic (the higher the horse, the harder the climb after falling). And the fellow travelers bearing witness to a fine mind gone temporarily sclerotic—Jim Farrell as the befuddled dad, Kristen Pickering as the restless daughter, Susan Felder as the candid colleague—reject the temptation to propagandistic saintliness, while Michael Goring, in the pivotal role of Woodson Bull III, aka "Third," conveys perfectly the guileless poise of an alien species lost in an artificial wilderness.

About Face announces summer series

About Face Theatre has announced a summer cabaret series featuring Broadway stars and local legends.

"The Homo Show"—curated by Paula Gilovich and Jane Beachy—will take place Monday, July 27, at Subterranean, 2011 W. North, at 8 p.m.; tickets are \$10-\$15 each. (See www.aboutfacetheatre.com.) "FLIP FLOP Pop: The '70s" will take place Monday, Aug. 24, at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted; see www.sidetrack.com.

BCEFA/Chicago House benefit June 21

On June 21 at 7 p.m., the cast of the national tour of Fiddler on the Roof will present "Fiddlin' Around," a cabaret benefit for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (BCEFA) and local HIV/AIDS agency Chicago House.

The one-night-only benefit will take place at The Spot, 4437 N. Broadway. Admission is a \$10 donation at the door and includes a drink ticket good for domestic beer or the house wine.

Call 773-728-8934 or visit www.spotchicago.com.

CRITICS' PICS

Busman's Holiday, Lifeline Theatre, through July 26. It may have been extended, but lazy Dorothy Sayers fans are warned that this is the final installment in Lifeline's trilogy of whodunits starring Richard Greenberg and Jennifer Tyler as the romantic detectives. MSB

The History Boys, TimeLine Theatre, through Aug. 2. Director Nick Bowling has conceived a cracking good staging of Alan Bennett's 1980s coming-of-age tale that examines approaches to education and how history should be taught. SCM

Pump Boys and Dinettes, Drury Lane Oak Brook, through Aug. 2. A quartet of singing nozzle jockeys joins the winsome two-some slinging hash at the diner next door in a shamelessly plot-free, infectiously foot-stomping rockabilly ode to the simple southern joys of beer tips, catfish and beer. CS

Uncle Vanya, TUTA at Chopin Theatre, through June 28. Chekhov's ironic comedy of self-absorption and complacent Russian provincial life is given a fresh and unstilted translation in this well-acted staging that's equal parts sunlight, shadow and self-pity. JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge, Morgan and Sullivan

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THEATER REVIEW

Mud People

Playwright: Keith Huff
 At: Mary-Arrchie Theatre at
 Angel Island, 735 W. Sheridan
 Phone: 773-871-0442; \$18-\$22
 Runs through: July 12

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Pump Boys and Dinettes, this isn't. The rural citizenry whom we meet at Zesto's diner on the outskirts of Claybourne Rising—a town so wretched that the local schoolteacher cheerfully informs its children that they are living in hell—have grown foul-mouthed and foul-tempered with the reflexive hostility of trapped animals despairing of deliverance from their squalid environment, never mind passage to a better one. But don't you just *know* that one stormy night, a stranger will invade their community—a feral waif who just might be a jen-yoo-wine heavenly messenger—and with agonizing slowness, the unhappy derelicts, one by one, will find themselves turning toward the good.

Keith Huff has a play going to Broadway this fall, so it's instructive to recall that in 1989, this prolific Chicago playwright composed an old-fashioned morality fable steeped in the bucolic fairy-tale lore so beloved of urban authors. But while the number of modern American dramas set in short-order eateries are surpassed only by those located in likewise remote hotels, bus stations and taverns (the better to keep the dramatic microcosm at once varied and stationary), this is a genre rapidly approaching its expiration

date as anything but a rite-of-passage exercise for writing workshops. Add in the propensity of young authors to overstate their case, and what we're left with in 2009 is a scenario as anonymously shopworn as the mid-'50s pop tunes on Zesto's jukebox.

The world of sunbleached awnings, grease-clotted grills and diesel fumes has been home to Mary-Arrchie Theatre Company's gritty underdog cosmology from its debut production in 1986 (Sam Shepard, naturally). Tim Mann's decor captures in vivid detail the ambience of wayside cafés far from the tourist trade, right down to the mud tracked in by the hapless pedestrians giving the play its title (as in "stuck in it and can't get out"). Under the direction of Carlo Lorenzo Garcia, an ensemble of storefront veterans embrace their stereotypical personae with an empathy devoid of mockery, deftly camouflaging Huff's more expedient-driven incredulities to invoke an appropriately solemn tone throughout. Mary Jo Bolduc and Michele Gorman deliver noteworthy performances as the piteous captives in this prison with ketchup bottles, but Richard Cotovsky, after a long career of playing heartless bullies, also deserves commendations for his spillover-free portrayal of the patriarchal tyrant who would shackle even the angels to his own petty schemes.



fracture/mechanics.

THEATER REVIEW
fracture/
mechanics

Playwright: Mallery Avidon
 At: Pavement Group at St. Peter's
 Episcopal Church, 621 W. Belmont
 Info: 312-733-9283; \$15
 Runs through: June 27

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

A woman's active sexual history is the subject matter of Mallery Avidon's very artsy-titled fracture/mechanics, now having its world premiere courtesy of Pavement Group.

Avidon provides a program note saying "fracture mechanics is the study of how things break."

The "fracture" of the play's title certainly describes its fractured structure, which is a series of abrupt scenes focusing on an unnamed woman (Cyd Blakewell) and her many male companions in the moments before they have sex (very likely the "mechanics" of the title's equation).

Avidon leaves the audience guessing or making assumptions of the time between each of the woman's pairings, which play out on a rotating bed center stage. The chronology of the sexual

encounters could be linear or mixed up, so we're never sure if the woman is cheating or revisiting past flames in the flesh or flashback form.

So we get to see the woman have sex out of spite, sex out of boredom, sex out of familiarity, sex out of drunkenness, sex out of a need for companionship and on and on. It all varies upon the guys she is with, which range from a stubbly alcoholic (Keith Neagle), a younger college guy (Christopher Acevedo), a bearded bisexual guy (Ben Carr), a childhood friend (Colin Raymond) and a departing boyfriend (Chip Davis), among others.

Avidon pieces all these scenes together so the woman herself tries to make sense of why she can't seem to commit fully to a stable relationship. But as the end approaches, Avidon throws in a factoid (from way out of left field) about the woman's past familial history to explain why her relationships never work. It's a lame plot device that feels too easy, too pat and too simplistic to tidily wrap up everything that has gone on before it. (What is it you may ask? Consider the demographics of the publication you're reading right now.)

With such fragmentary characters and situations, Avidon doesn't give much for audiences to take an active interest in the characters. The actors work with what they're given, frequently eliciting laughs in the process, but it all feels more like a series of acting exercises rather than anything truly deep or meaningful.

Director David Perez does what he can to make the show interesting, which includes Jeff Kelley playing guitar in-between scenes and a series of changing bedspreeds and costumes atop the rotating bed (all coordinated by Lara Dossett).

Undoubtedly Avidon is trying to explore something vital about sex and relationship breakdowns in fracture/mechanics. But ultimately it feels little more than an artsy opportunity to cop a look at the parade of shirtless guys and the leading lady in her panties.

SPOTLIGHT



The anonymously authored medieval morality play *Everyman* gets a hard rock jolt of Led Zepelin music in Innervation Dance Cooperative's ballet version of the tale. See how *Everyman* faces up to death in this rocking dance revival. *Everyman* plays 8 p.m. June 18-20 and 2 p.m. June 21 at the Vittum Theatre, 1012 N. Noble. Tickets are \$15-\$18, and there's a \$60 benefit performance on June 19. Call 773-342-4141 or visit www.innervationdance.org. Photo by Derek Feichtinger

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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES



The Proposal; Capers

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

In the almost 15 years since Sandra Bullock's movie stardom was solidified in the 1995 romantic comedy *While You Were Sleeping*, she has made almost two dozen movies, the bulk of them romantic comedies that have the qualities that first endeared her to audiences. She is innately intelligent—plucky, hard-working, klutzy, sweet-natured and warm, and given to kvetching, self-deprecation or brooding (depending on whether the movie is a bright rom-com or a bittersweet dramedy). She can be testy, bossy and downright mean, but can't fool the audience for long that the nastiness is anything other than a cover-up. She is our pretty girl next door with the long, dark hair. Bullock, a latter-day June Allyson or Doris Day, above all radiates a quality that movie audiences treasure almost more than anything else in their movie stars: niceness.

All of these qualities are on display in the role of Margaret Tate, the starring part that executive producer Bullock has picked out for herself

in *The Proposal*, her first movie in two years. The movie, dully enjoyable, joins a long list of Bullock's previous audience pleasing romance-centric films. There is nothing remotely fresh or original in the material; in Bullock's performance or that of her dreamboat but innocuous leading man Ryan Reynolds; or her expert supporting cast. But I suspect that audiences who adored Bullock in *Two Weeks Notice*, the *Miss Congeniality* pictures, *The Lake House*, *et al.* will fall hard for her once again and the movie, too.

Margaret is a Manhattan-based book editor who—in the words of her gay in all but sexual orientation assistant, Andrew Paxton (Reynolds)—is “allergic to pine nuts and a whole range of human emotions.” This corporate Cruella De Vil has the same effect on her staff that Streep's Miranda Priestly had on hers in *The Devil Wears Prada*. But with Bullock we know it's a sham. Here, almost from the moment the plot is revealed Margaret's frost begins to thaw. Told by her bosses that she is about to be deported to her native Canada, losing her powerful job and status in the process, quick thinking Margaret announces that she and Andrew are engaged. After visiting an inquisitive, doubting Department of Immigration officer (played by out actor Denis O'Hare), Andrew agrees to the sham marriage because he wants to be a book editor and get his book published and with the deal in place, the couple head to his home in tiny Sitka, Alaska, for his grandmother Annie's (Betty White) 90th-birthday celebration to announce their engagement.

Andrew, we learn, comes from money and his parents (Craig T. Nelson and Mary Steenburgen) fit the classic stereotype of many a gay man: stern, distant, disapproving father and doting mom. Grandma Annie is embarrassingly and “hilariously” frank. (White's character is as tart as the one played by the late Estelle Getty, her former *Golden Girls* co-star.) Many zingers and familiar-though-audience pleasing sequences later (including a long one in which we get to



The Proposal.

see both stars nearly naked—hubba hubba), the plot puts Bullock right where the viewers want her: in the arms of her hunky, now lovestruck co-star.

Though my moviegoing companion pointed out that there is a 12-year age difference between Bullock and Reynolds (who is likeable and good-looking but not particularly memorable—except for that unbelievable body of his), *The Proposal* doesn't come off as a trendy “cougar” comedy, mainly because Bullock's age hasn't any impact on her “nice” movie-star identity. Unlike, say the luckless Meg Ryan and Melanie Griffith—both stuck forever with confining “ditz blonde” identities that have grown shrill with age and repetition and have forced them to seek out the surgeon's knife to stay as young as viewers want them—Bullock's defining girl-next-door quality has a proven long shelf life. It's something that will help keep the march of time from fizzling out Bullock's star for many years to come. When it comes to movie stars, nice girls do finish last.

Capers, which is the debut of writer-director Julian M. Kheel, is another comedy filled with stereotypical but welcome characters. Though it's about as far from the big-budget, high-star

wattage of *The Proposal* as it's probably possible to get, this scruffy little comedy has its share of familiar laughs and some genuinely funny, eccentric moments.

Three divergent bands of petty Brooklyn neighborhood criminals—described by the racist, Mob-connected pawn broker (played by Phyllis Somerville, who played Jackie Earle Haley's mother in *Little Children*) as the Moolies (a gangsta, his moll and accountant), the Sputniks (a Russian actress and her brother) and the Amateurs (two guys who seem inspired by characters from *Dog Day Afternoon* and *Mean Streets* and their accomplices which include a gay ninja and a tall, menacing guy)—plan to break into the pawn shop and steal the harridan's safe.

Each of the gangs is filmed in styles reminiscent of the movies from which they've sprung: the Moolies in hot, bright colors *a la* Spike Lee and rap videos; the Sputniks in bleak black and white “neo-realist” fashion; and the Amateurs ala vintage '70s “grindhouse” pictures (complete with scratchy negative). The alternate styles, along with some cute animation sequences that spell out the plot and a score with '60s spy-music flair by David Poe, invigorate what might otherwise have been a very long haul, as does an enthusiastic cast. Many of the faces are familiar but lack name recognition, and Kheel manages to give each of the actors a memorable moment or line.

Heist comedies always lend themselves to a raft of wacky characters and fun, offbeat plot machinations (*Welcome to Collinwood*, *Who's Minding the Mint?*, *Small Time Crooks*, *Gambit*, *Topkapi*, *et al.*), which just about always endears them to me; on that score, *Capers* can honorably take its place alongside its more high profile brethren. The film screens Saturday, June 20, at 6 p.m. at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State, as part of the weeklong TBS “Just For Laughs” comedy festival. Kheel will participate in an audience discussion after the screening; visit www.siskelfilmcenter.com.

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

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'Plaid' to the bone: Group marks 20 years

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

The Forever Plaid guys, those cutie pies in their matching '50s tuxes and bow ties are back. Twenty years after first taking Off Broadway by storm (and some years before that local Chicago theatre enthusiasts), the adorable quartet of '50s crooners, trapped in a time warp after an untimely accident has left them in limbo singing doo-wop and early rock 'n' roll classics in close harmony for all time, are making the leap from the stage to the silver screen. On Thursday, July 9 (for one night only) at 7 p.m., moviegoers and theatre patrons can experience the Plaids together in the Forever Plaid 20th Anniversary Special, a filmed version of the show that will be show at area movie theatres.

Daniel Reichard, David Engel, Larry Raben and Stan Chandler—the original cast of the off-Broadway edition of the popular musical revue—have reunited to film the complete show. Out actor David Hyde-Pierce appears in the filmed revue as the narrator. The movie also features the film's musical director, David Snyder, on the piano. As a special bonus, the cast will introduce the screening live from the red carpet at Los Angeles' Club Nokia, perform a batch of new musical numbers after the screening and lead a coast-to-coast theatre sing-along.

A longtime favorite with the gay community (both onstage and backstage—the show has

been cast with dozens of openly gay performers and utilized an equal number of talented musical directors and pianists), Forever Plaid was a staple of the Chicago theatre scene for years and an instant hit when it first debuted here. Tickets are \$15-18. Chicago movie theatres participating in the screening event include the Kerasotes Showplace Theatres (City North and Webster Place) and a host of suburban locations.

Tickets for the July 9 event are available at participating theatre box offices and online at www.fathomevents.net. A trailer and a making-of featurette are available at www.foreverplaid-themovie.com.

'Milk' screenwriter sorry for sex pics

Oscar-winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black has issued a statement saying he felt “embarrassed” after photos were posted online that apparently show him engaging in risky sex with another man in late 2006, NBCBayArea.com reported.

Black, who won an Academy Award for writing the film *Milk*, said, “More important than the embarrassment of this incident is the misleading message these images send. I apologize and cannot emphasize enough the importance of responsible sexual practices.” However, he did add that “[i]t is unfortunate that individuals and other outside parties are trying to profit from material which is clearly private.”



Gretchen Phillips.

MUSIC

Gretchen Phillips: A DIY performer

BY SARAH TEREZ ROSENBLUM

Out lesbian performer Gretchen Phillips knows how to relax, although the amount she has accomplished over her decades spanning career would seem to indicate otherwise. Boasting a resume fairly bursting with genre-busting endeavors, Phillips has done everything from forming and dissolving iconic bands Two Nice Girls and Girls in the Nose to writing and performing a one-woman show to designing her own cover art.

Set to perform at Sappho's Salon's one-year anniversary bash at Women and Children First, 5233 N. Clark, Saturday, June 20, as well as a Green Note Productions house party Sunday, June 21, Phillips chatted with Windy City Times about her writing process, Katy Perry's man-centric pseudo-lesbianism and her own well-earned downtime.

Windy City Times: You'll be playing a house concert in Chicago. You have such a DIY ethos I'm guessing you'll be right in your element.

Gretchen Phillips: Well, I'm comfortable in lots of different elements. My first house concerts were punk parties in the early eighties when, in lieu of being able to find a venue, you'd get people together and just play a kick-ass show. What I'm doing now feels like going back to the basics of childhood, where you put on a show in the living room for anyone you can rope into watching. That's the spirit of a house party.

WCT: You do some spoken word when you perform. What intrigues you about that format?

GP: Oh, just that I don't have to write a song; it's just easier. It's not even spoken word. I think of spoken word as like, you have up-talk? At the end? Of every line? It's just me reading prose. I can write something that day and read it at a show that night. Writing songs can take a while, so that allows me to cut to the chase.

WCT: What's your writing process like?

GP: I do morning pages, which I've been doing for years: three pages first thing. I write long-hand and go back and reference my journaling. I was always a good but somewhat reluctant student when told that we would have homework. If there had been a way that the teacher would have said, don't you dare open your books when you get home, the rebel in me would have done my fucking homework. When I know I have a deadline, you will find me doing anything but that task. I've always been a person who needs for the lightning bolt to strike me in my brain and then I can furiously work but, otherwise, I'm a big fat procrastinator.

WCT: How has the music scene changed over the course of your career? Is it easier now to be an out lesbian?

GP: It's changed enormously and I think it's way easier. With Katy Perry's version of I Kissed a Girl on the radio, you have a younger generation for whom homosexuality has been way more normalized. And then you have everything that's been so helpful about Girls Gone Wild. [Laughs] I'm kidding.

WCT: What are your thoughts on Katy Perry's song?

GP: I hate the ahistorical notion that you can just transfer another hit song by the exact same title. Maybe you don't know that [Jill Sobule's original song I Kissed a Girl] existed, but there is another song. It's also interesting that in order to have a hit song about lesbianism, there's gotta be a guy involved. Even my song, I Spent my Last Ten Dollars on Beer and Birth Control, it's all about a guy. The hits have a man, if not at the center, at the margins. A song that's girl on girl, there's no dude involved, its not even a coming out story, its just about how much I love you—it just hasn't happened yet.

WCT: What about being a woman in the music industry, has that gotten easier?

GP: So much easier. One of the most challenging things back in the day, was just not to be treated like shit by guys at music stores who had this incredibly condescending attitude about my choice of pics and strings. There was a lot of discouragement when I started to play, and that's not the case now. People are getting more used to seeing women rock. That's thrilling.

WCT: Speaking of rocking, you're cross-disciplinarily creative: one person shows, songs, album art. When an idea comes to you, how do you know which direction to take it?

GP: That's a very interesting question; I've never been asked that. The ideas are pretty specific. I generally know where they're gonna go. I like to do so many kinds of things. I can't just do one thing, and I always have new creative interests, I'm always trying to be more proficient.

WCT: What does relaxation look like to you?

GP: Oh honey, that's what I was doing before you called. I was reading a book and lying down. I spend a tremendous amount of time lying on my back... reading. And I totally enjoy television.

WCT: What do you watch?

GP: I love your traditional lesbian fare—Buffy, Xena. I like The Sopranos. And Lifetime? I love Lifetime movies so much. I have such a dream of being able to act in some of those, and maybe me and Kate Jackson are neighbors and of course her daughter marries the wrong guy and he turns out to be a killer, and maybe I come in at the last minute and either get mercilessly hacked to pieces or perhaps save the day. Lifetime is such a great channel: one cautionary tale about how women should never interact with men after another.

WCT: Back to your work, you say your latest album [I was Just Comforting Her] is meant to be listened to as a whole, in this day of i-tunes, a less achievable goal than it may once have been. As an artist, what's it like to know that while you may have a particular vision for your work, your audience's buying habits or even individual quirks may undermine that vision?

GP: I think ultimately everything we try to control gets out of our control. All I can do is put that idea out there, say, this is my plan, or just say that I personally listen to stuff as an album, because I still actually buy albums. But I can't control shit.

WCT: It sounds like you're able to disengage from how your work is perceived.

GP: So much of the joy for me is in the creating. I just feel great that after this amount of time there are still people who are interested in what I'm up to.

Choruses: 'Hand' stand



The Windy City Performing Arts (WCPA) delivered two uplifting performances June 13 at the Hoover-Leppen Theatre at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted. The "Walking Hand in Hand" concert featured Aria (Windy City Women's Ensemble), the Windy City Gay Chorus (WCGC) and a reunion chorus of members from WCGC's 30 years.

"They were great performances, especially having the alumni chorus," said Ray Lesniewski, who serves as WCPA's board chair. "I was a freshman in high school in 1979, when this group was founded. It's amazing to think how much this group has done, how much it has grown and developed." The highlight of this year's Pride concert was, perhaps, the Windy City Slickers' tribute, "Drama Queen," which featured Curt Eakle, William Howes, Gerry Johnson, Bobby Owens, Trung Tieu and Lesniewski. Text and photos by Ross Forman

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Video-bar favorites

BY DAVID BYRNE AND TONY PEREGRIN

Somebody recently asked me why I don't mention gay favorites like Beyonce and Kelly Clarkson more in my column. The answer is simple: I am not fond of most of their music. Lady Gaga and Jennifer Hudson are two of the few popular singers who rule the airwaves and video bars that I like.

This summer, **Gwen Stefani** is reuniting with No Doubt for a grand tour. No Doubt returns to the early '80s with a one-off cover of "Stand and Deliver" by Adam and the Ants, as heard on Gossip Girl. This should be no surprise, as the Californian quartet scored a hit with a cheap karaoke version of Talk Talk's classic "It's My Life" for a 2003 greatest-hits package. This is a far cry from No Doubt's honest "Simple Kind of Life" and party anthem "Hella Good." Stefani's solo efforts have become an embarrassment. Just try sitting through "Rich Girl." At least courtesy of "Hollaback Girl," I can be assured that the word bananas will not be misspelled. Not all of Stefani's work is deplorable. Her collaborations

with Moby on "Southside" and Eve on "Let Me Blow Your Mind" are genius, having her explore other genres. I am quite forgiving, though, especially since No Doubt drummer Adrian Young is comfortable parading around *au naturale*. No Doubt will be stopping in Chicagoland for a concert at First Midwest Bank Amphitheatre, 19100 South Ridgeland, Tinley Park, on Saturday, July 11, with Paramore opening. On some tour dates, No Doubt has the bi-fronted The Sounds on the bill.

Surely Stefani will run into **Fergie** at the spelling bee. Having started out as the big vocalist in the girl group Wild Orchid, Fergie launched into superstardom as the singer on Black Eyed Peas' hits "My Humps" and "Don't Phunk with My Heart." Fergie's inevitable solo bow, *The Dutchess*, is chock full of hits, but the only noteworthy material here is "Big Girls Don't Cry" and the could-have-been-better "Clumsy." The latter cleverly samples Little Richard's classic "The Girl Can't Help It." Recently, the now-married Fergie discussed her bisexuality with *The Sun*. The Black Eyed Peas are regrouping for the album *The E.N.D.*, now out via Interscope. The *E.N.D.* features the chart-topper "Boom Boom Pow."

It may seem premature, but I want to crown "Jai Ho! (You Are My Destiny)" by **The Pussycat Dolls** and A.R. Rahman as the worst collaboration of 2009. This reworking of the track from *Slumdog Millionaire* has enough computerized vocals to last Cher's next farewell tour. Now, front woman Nicole Scherzinger is being listed separately from the group on videos and singles. Weren't her solo singles "Whatever U Like" and



Gwen Stefani of No Doubt.

"Baby Love" a big enough serving of humble pie? The Dolls' second album, *Doll Domination*, is a gimmick gone too far. Surprisingly, the dancing ensemble's recording career got off to a good start with the fantastic jazzy number "Sway" for the film *Shall We Dance?* Here, the gals smartly played up their saucy burlesque image. Also, the members lack individuality that predecessors The Go-Go's and, dare I say it, The Spice Girls possess. Earlier this year, the Pussycat Dolls toured with Britney Spears. Thankfully, there was not a power outage, where the performers would have to rely on singing in an unplugged fashion without depending on backing tracks.

Britney Spears is still riding the wave of her comeback with her latest, *Circus*. I believe Spears' 2007 meltdown stemmed from the fact that she realized she made it this far with minimal talent and little input in her career, on top of the demands of being a mother. My sympathy for her is dulled by the fact that she remains in L.A. and plays the love/hate games with paparazzi. If Spears is sincere about a complete recovery, she would retire from the industry and live off of her royalties elsewhere. A handful of songs like "Everytime," "Slave 4 U" and "Stronger" are highlights in her career, but her weak, nasally voice is too much. Spears is the poor man's Janet Jackson.

At every concert, interview, red-carpet appear-

ance and award show, **Beyonce** should be thanking Diana Ross and Tina Turner as she coasts down the roads they paved. Sure, she looks hot in uniform in the video to "If I Were a Boy" and in the stylish video to "Beautiful Liar." This duet with Shakira is co-written by Boy George's protégé Amanda Ghost, who also penned James Blunt's "Beautiful" and Jordin Sparks' "Tattoo." Dance floors ignite once "Single Ladies" comes on, with many aping the superstar's choreography. Beyonce's *I Am... Tour* heats things up at the United Center, 1901 W. Madison, Friday July 17. One thousand tickets to Beyonce's Chicago concert will be discounted to \$20.

Does **Kelly Clarkson**'s number-one hit "My Life Would Suck without You" sound familiar? It comes across as the unofficial sequel to her anthem "Since U Been Gone." In the interim, Clarkson released the very personal *My December*, clashing with studio heads in the process. Rightfully so, the American Idol winner insisted, as being the singer-songwriter of the set, she should have say over the corporate honchos. Rumor has it that Clarkson agreed to return to her pop roots if *My December* would see the light of day in the fashion she intended. Clarkson's earlier work includes the impressive "The Trouble with Love Is" and "Breakaway." At the MTV Video Music Awards in 2005, Clarkson closed the show with a celebratory performance of "Since U Been Gone." Unfortunately, her voice sounded damaged, which leaves me wondering about the longevity of her career.

Reigning as the industry's golden child, **Justin Timberlake** seemingly can do no wrong. Nowadays, he almost can dodge any mention of his former boy band NSync or his ties to Nippledgate. But is it wrong for me to like his music when it is done by somebody else or when he only has lesser role in the song? Such is the case with the Cliks' remake of J.T.'s "Cry Me a River" or his appearance on Ciara's latest "Love Sex Magic." Otherwise, Timberlake acts like Ashton Kutcher trying to relive Michael Jackson's heyday. Although his movie career has stalled, Timberlake has his hands in MTV's new Punk'd-like program *The Phone*.

With pop music, remove the pretty peel and find some substance with underrated LGBT artists like Joshua Klipp, Kirsten Price, *The Gossip*, *Girl in a Coma*, *Cazwell* and *The Cliks*, all of whom I mention regularly in my column.

The Chicago Cubs are offering for sale a limited number of top seats to the Elton John/Billy Joel summer concerts to Windy City Media Group readers.

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Cher's kid to change gender

Chaz Bono—the child of entertainer/LGBT icon Cher and the late singer/politician Sonny Bono—has announced plans to undergo gender-reassignment surgery and become a man, according to ABCNews.com.

Chaz Bono's publicist, Howard Bragman, confirmed the news, saying, "Yes, it's true—Chaz, after many years of consideration, has made the courageous decision to honor his true identity. He is proud of his decision and grateful for the support and respect that has already been shown by his loved ones. It is Chaz's hope that his choice to transition will open the hearts and minds of the public regarding this issue, just as his 'coming out' did nearly 20 years ago."

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese issued a statement, saying, "This announcement by Chaz is nothing short of courageous. His decision to be public about his transition speaks to the courage he has in living his life openly and honestly, and will also undoubtedly help foster much-needed dialogue about the lives of transgender Americans and the need for full equality."

Neil G. Giuliano, president of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, said in a separate statement that "Chaz Bono's decision to live his life authentically represents an important step forward, both for him person-



Chaz Bono. Photo courtesy of Jesse Danzig

ally and for all who are committed to advancing discussions about fairness and equality for transgender people."

Casey Schwartz, a trans youth specialist at Howard Brown Health Center, e-mailed, "I've always been a believer that increasing trans visibility is a very positive thing. I think it's brave for any individual to come out as trans publicly, and to see such a high-profile person, such as Chaz, the son of Cher, come out is definitely notable. It has created much discussion inside and outside of the trans community. I wish the best for Chaz and his loved ones."

Milwaukee brewing



Milwaukee was the place to be as its annual PrideFest—which celebrates the diversity of the LGBT culture and community—took place this past weekend. There were over 120 acts and activities, including food, games and, of course, the music. Among the event's headliners were Cyndi Lauper, Brandy, the legendary Etta James, Deborah Cox and September. Photos by Mel Ferrand and Daniel Bissing; see more at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

How Swede it is



Andersonville celebrated its Swedish heritage (and its gay and lesbian newcomers) with its 44th annual Midsommarfest June 13-14. Thousands of people visited the event—which spanned Clark Street from Foster to Catalpa—for music, dancing, kids' entertainment, vendors' wares and delicious food. Photos by Mel Ferrand and Jerry Nunn

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SPORTS/RECREATION

Megan Rapinoe: Star power

BY ROSS FORMAN

Don't fret over the miserable May endured by the Chicago Red Stars. The team is still a true contender in the new Women's Professional Soccer (WPS) League, said forward Megan Rapinoe.

The team lost all three games it played in May, and was shut out in each, too.

"I think it was unfortunate," Rapinoe said. "I don't think we played terrible; it's not like we were getting run over by teams. Some of the games could have gone the other way.

"I think it's still pretty early in the season to dwell on [an 0-3 record in May]."

All three May games were home matches, played at Toyota Park in Bridgeview. Five of the team's six games in June are on the road. The Red Stars play host to the Boston Breakers on Sunday, June 21.

Rapinoe (pronounced rah-PEE-no), has one of the team's seven goals as of this article's writing, and is second on the team with 16 shots.

"I've been playing well this season," she said. "It's an adjustment playing for a new coach, with new teammates. But I'm feeling more comfortable and more confident.

"I feel good about the team going forward. I think we realize that we've been in games; it's not like we're getting blown out. I think we've been unlucky to not have scored in some games, but I still think we're very confident. I still think we have one of the best teams in the league, at least on paper. It's taken a little longer than we had hoped for our on-field chemistry to gel. I think we have an unbelievable group."

Rapinoe, 23, was selected by the Red Stars in the first round of the WPS general draft (second overall). She has been a member of the U.S. Women's National Team since 2006. She scored



Megan Rapinoe. Photo courtesy of the Chicago Red Stars

game-winning goal in 2009 Algarve Cup semifinal win over Norway and had the assist on the lone U.S. goal in the final.

"I play hard; I think I'm exciting to watch; I play with a lot of passion; I put it all out there," she said. "I like to play as hard, and as beautifully, as possible. Hopefully I can score a few [more] goals and get the fans excited.

"I think one of my biggest attributes is something I enjoy doing: going at players. I like to get the ball at my feet, dribble at players. I know I then can pass or go around a defender. And I think that one-on-one battle is exciting for the fans to watch.

A native of Redding, Calif., Rapinoe played at the University of Portland, where she was named West Coast Conference Player of the Year as a senior in 2008. She started all 22 games her senior year, scoring five goals and adding 13 assists.

"I didn't have too many expectations going into the season because I had no idea what the team or the league was going to be like, but it's

really been good," she said. "Even though we haven't had the start that we want to, but being a pro, in that environment, is so much fun; it's been great. Chicago is an absolutely wonderful city."

So what do you like about Chicago?

Everything, she said without hesitation. The food, the people, the night life, the positive energy, shopping, parks, the music scene, museums, etc.

But Rapinoe is not a fan of the wind off Lake Michigan.

Away from soccer, Rapinoe enjoys playing the guitar and recently purchased a keyboard, although she doesn't know how to play it. She enjoys eople-watching and relaxing with the girls as well.

Rapinoe is among the most popular Red Stars among the lesbian community, and she's happy about that.

"I think that's a good thing," she said. "I think we need to bring people of all different walks of life into the game. I definitely think there's a place within the Red Stars organization for everyone.

"I want to make people feel like, when they go watch [the] team, that there is someone that there's someone like them on the team, and that we're not all the same on the team, that there is diversity. I think that's a good thing for the sport and our team in general."

Rapinoe is convinced the Red Stars and the league as a whole are open to diversity.

"Undeniably, there are lesbians in the league, with all of the different clubs, though I have not seen a lot [of them]; gays and lesbians are everywhere in our society," Rapinoe said. "I know that our team has reached out to the gay and lesbian community, and I think that's important. I think there's a pretty good potential for a good fan base within that community."

Windy City Times is one of the sponsors of the Red Stars, and Rapinoe said the cross-promotion "is a great thing." Throughout the season, Windy City Media Group is doing promotions for

the games and will be doing a special benefit for Lesbian Community Care Project at one home game.

The Red Stars play their final regular-season home game against Los Angeles Aug. 2. The WPS finals will be played Aug. 22. And then Rapinoe will return to Portland, Ore., she said.

"It's just a bit too cold to be in Chicago in the winter; you can't train in that weather," Rapinoe said, laughing.

Force crush Demolition, gain playoffs

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Chicago Force's playoff future was on the line June 13 when the team played host to archrival the Detroit Demolition at the Holmgren Athletic Complex on the campus of North Park University. More importantly, the Force left no doubt whatsoever that they want a shot at returning to the Independent Women's Football League (IWFL) Championship.

The Force crushed the Demolition 26-6 in a game they never trailed, and clearly dominated and controlled.

"It was awesome," said Jamie Menzyk, who scored two touchdowns and was named the Spin Nightclub Offensive Player Of The Game for her efforts. "I had great blocking from the offensive line and the receivers."

Menzyk scored her first touchdown seven minutes into the game, and her second with 13:44 left in the fourth quarter.

Chicago's Sami Grisafe also scored a pair of touchdowns, rushing in from five yards out in the third quarter and with a 37-yard run with 7:48 remaining in the game.

The Force will play its first-round playoff game against Seattle June 27 in Washington state.

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A big thank-you

Thanks to everyone who turned out to Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted, Sat., June 13, for the Windy City Gay Idol finals. Amy Kelly (upper center photo) edged out second-place winner Marla Depew (upper left) and third-place Brad Fellows (upper right) to claim the crown—and won more than \$5,000 in cash and prizes. More photos online at www.windycitymediagroup.com

Photos by Kat Fitzgerald, MysticImagesPhotography.com



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WHAT TO DO?

Wednesday, June 17

4 Women Only hosted by Kat Fitzgerald. 9 p.m. Uncommon Ground, 1401 W. Devon Ave. 773-465-9801 www.uncommonground.com

Advisory Council on LGBT Issues meets at 6:30 p.m. Members of the LGBT communities, in particular, from the West Side or elsewhere in the city are encouraged to attend, participate, and share ideas. Members of the LGBT communities, in particular from the West Side encouraged to attend. Galewood Community Church United, Church of Christ, 1776 N. Narragansett Ave.

Mingle & Meet the Marketing Experts, 6 - 8 p.m. WCPT Chicago's Progressive Talk, Newcity, ChiTown Daily News, Orbit Media, and Barkada Creative. Free. Fine Spirits Lounge, 5420 N. Clark St. RSVP to info@localfirstchicago.org

Mekole Wells AIDS Marathon After Work Awareness Fundraiser Concert, 7:30 - 9 p.m. Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St. Tix: Mekole 773-931-8583 or 773-942-6801

M2M Club Night The naturists welcome summer. 7:30 p.m. BYOTowel \$12/20. RSVP 312-494-2654 Touche, 6412 N. Clark St

Transparent, a documentary about female-to-male transsexuals who have given birth and raised their biological children by acclaimed trans filmmaker Jules Rosskam. Discussion before, Q&A after. 6 p.m. Harold Washington Library Center, Video Theater, 400 South State St. www.transparentthemovie.com

Windy City Gay Naturists Club Night @ Touché 7:30 PM. BYOT, \$12/20. RSVP 312-494-2654

Thursday, June 18

BEHIV & Vital Bridges Mojito Mayhem Pride Party 6 - 8 p.m. \$12adv/\$15door. Halsted's, 3441 N. Halsted

In the life "Summer of Stonewall," a summer-long three-part mini-series celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. WTTW at 10 p.m. www.wttw.com

Stardust hosts fundraiser for film Fish out of Water with Lady Bunny, as well as DJ Stinky Pinky (Think Pink Radio) and DJ Reagonomix (FKA). 10 p.m.-4 a.m. Berlin, 954 W Belmont Ave www.berlinchicago.com

Friday, June 19

Of Time and the City, British filmmaker Terence Davies' look at the Liverpool where he grew up "gay, poor, Catholic and movie-mad" through June 25. Gene Siskel Film Center www.SiskelFilmCenter.org.

Crosstown Culinary Classic dinner and silent auction benefits Common Threads (children's nutrition education), 6 p.m. \$200 for 4-course dinner before June 1st, \$250 if purchased after. Seasons restaurant. Reservations at 312-329-2501, ext. 204, or www.commonthreads.org

Michelle Shocked folk rock presented by WXRT 8 p.m. \$26 adv, EvanstonSpace, 1245 Chicago Ave Evanston www.ticketweb.com

Rachel Simon (Theory of Orange) queer feminist poet and Chicago native celebrates the publication of her second book Marginal Road. 7:30 p.m. Women & Children First Bookstore, 5233 N. Clark St., Chicago 773-769-9299 www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Thank GLAAD It's Friday! Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation national networking event for young LGBT professionals 6 - 9 p.m. \$35. Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted. tgif@glaad.org

Saturday, June 20

Artemis Singers, Girl Meets Girl Musical. 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$15 COS Episcopal Church, 530 W. Fullerton Parkway info@artemissingers.org www.artemissingers.org

M2M Non-naked Dinner 8 p.m. Nookie's Tree 3334 N. Halsted followed by naked event at Steam Works 10 p.m. RSVP 312-494-2654

Pansy Division, openly gay punk rock band first national headline tour since 2003. Supporting first CD of new material since 1998 (That's So Gay on Alternative Tentacles) \$12, 9 p.m. doors Subterranean, 2011 W North Ave 773-278-6600 www.subt.net

Sappho's Salon A Provocative Night of Lesbian Diversions First Anniversary Bash featuring Gretchen Phillips \$10 donation includes food and wine. 7:30 p.m. Women & Children First Bookstore, 5233 N. Clark St., Chicago 773-769-9299 www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Sexuality and Spirituality by aChurch4Me? 10 a.m. - noon. Free. MCC at the Center on Halsted, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 3656 N. Halsted. www.achurch4me.org info@achurch4me.org 773-661-0936

Windy City Rollers women's flat-track roller derby fifth season championship game for the Ivy King Cup Doors 5 p.m./Game 6 p.m. UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine Ave. www.windycityrollers.com

Sunday, June 21

2nd Story: Pride performance: queer readers will be reading with our special guest, Stephen Rader, Executive Director of Season for Concern. 6 - 9 p.m. @mosphere

Fiddler on the Roof cast presents Fiddlin' Around, a cabaret benefit for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and Chicago House. \$10, 7 - 9 p.m. includes drink ticket The Spot, 4437 N. Broadway Ave. www.spotchicago.com

Monday, June 22

Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame fund-raiser Pride and Joy Reception 6 p.m.- 10 p.m. \$10 Circuit Night Club, 3641N. Halsted St.

deafOUT, Windy City Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf art gallery opening featuring all deaf artists exploring pride, oppression, diversity and celebration within the Deaf LGBT community. Through July 6. Third floor of the Center on Halsted.

Homosexuality and the Bible discussion by aChurch4Me? (Last of a 4 part discussion.) 7:30 to 9 p.m. Free and open to all. Drop ins welcome; RSVP preferred. MCC at the Center on Halsted, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 3656 N. Halsted. www.achurch4me.org info@achurch4me.org 773-661-0936

Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation 18th Annual Play for the Cure Golf Outing. 11 a.m., followed by lunch on the patio, evening cocktail reception and seated dinner. \$900 per person. Reservations: 312-926-7133. North Shore Country Club, Glenview. www.lynnstage.org

Post-Prop 8: Next Steps for the LGBT Movement? Panel discussion 7 p.m. Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted. www.centeronhalsted.org

Solo Homo 7: solo performance series by the NewTown Writers, 7:30. \$12 (two for \$20) Tues-Wed; \$6 (two for \$10) for Monday's preview. Strawdog Theatre Company's Huguenot Hall, 3829 N. Broadway, www.strawdogtheatre.com

Tuesday, June 23

More Than a Uniform: Nonconforming Gender Expression from the Civil War to the Present: A Panel Discussion. Many women dressed as men and enlisted in both armies. Chicago historians Dan Andries, Alex Silets, Anne Parsons and members of the Transgender for discussion moderated by June LaTrobe. Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, John Baran Senior Center. culture@centeronhalsted.org, 773-661-0763

On The Downlow (2007) film portrait of Cleveland's underground black gay scene Part of Sex +++ Film Series 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Free. RSVP for seats. Seats unsaved at 7 p.m. Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, 800 S. Halsted 312-413-5353

Pride Open Mic. New, emerging, and established GLBTQ writers, poets.

Hosted by Greg Shapiro. 7 p.m. Spots available at 773-769-9299. Women & Children First Bookstore, 5233 N. Clark St., Chicago 773-769-9299 www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Students, half-hour program by the Illinois State Bar Association, Chicago Access Network Television, Ch. 21, 10 p.m.

OUTMusic Open Mic, the last Tuesday of every month 7:30 p.m. No cover Urban Cafe, 1467 W Irving Park Rd urbancafechicago.com

Windy City Times 30 Under 30 recognizes the very best LGBT activism, culture, sports, business. 5:30 - 8 p.m. Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted. 773-472-6469 www.centeronhalsted.org

Youth Pride Center Youth Pride Series. Each week different YPC teams, groups, fraternities, choirs, etc. take part in an exciting production to showcase the well known talent of YPC youth. Free. 7 p.m. Pie Hole Pizza Joint, 737 W Roscoe @ Halsted youthpridecenter@gmail.com or 773-690-6790

Wednesday, June 24

4 Women Only hosted by Kat Fitzgerald 9 p.m. Uncommon Ground, 1401 W. Devon Ave. www.uncommonground.com

Alliance of Illinois Judges, Lesbian and Gay Judges of Circuit Court of Cook County, inaugural reception, 5-6:30 p.m. Chicago Bar Association, 321 S. Plymouth Ct, Chicago. Reservation: print the invitation at www.TheAIJ.com

Episcopal Church GBT Pride Month Celebration 7:30 p.m. St. Joseph/ St. Aidan's Episcopal Church 2453 Oak Street, Blue Island. www.chicagowelcomingchurches.org

HIV Testing seminar designed for both interested members of the community and for HIV/AIDS service providers. Complementary breakfast, lunch. Free, anonymous, rapid HIV Testing. Center on Halsted offers HIV Testing with results in 20 minutes daily from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. by appointment or walk in as available. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free. Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted. info or RSVP Gregory Gross ggross@centeronhalsted.org or 773-472-6469 X 478

LGBT Alternative Family Planning seminar on options on LGBT surrogacy/egg donation/sperm donation, and adoption. \$5. 7 - 9 p.m. Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted. culture@centeronhalsted.org 773-661-0763, www.centeronhalsted.org

Thursday, June 25

Diva Suites, dance display of African American icons Gladys Knight, Chaka Khan, Prince, Phyllis Hyman. 7 p.m. \$20/\$15/\$10. Part of The Center's OUT Front and Center Music Series. Reservations recommended: Tom Ballentine culture@centeronhalsted.org or 773-472-6469 X 245 Center on Halsted 3536 N. Halsted. www.centeronhalsted.org.

Fundraiser for Rape Victim Advocates, 35th Anniversary Gala 6 p.m. Newberry Library 312-443-9603 www.rapevictimadvocates.org

It Came From The Neo-Futurarium VIII: Legend Of The Neo-Futurarium. One-night-only performances of the worst films of all time. Thursdays 8 p.m through July 3. \$10/\$8. The Neo-Futurarium, 5153 N. Ashland. Tix www.neofuturists.org or 773-275-5255

GLBTQ Literary Double Header: Larry La Fountain-Stokes, Unas pintadas de azul / Blue Fingernails and E. Patrick Johnson, Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South 7 p.m. Women & Children First Bookstore, 5233 N. Clark St., Chicago 773-769-9299 www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Lambda Legal Ladies on the Lake, 6 - 9:30 p.m. open bar, hors d'oeuvres, on sunset cruise aboard Chicago's Fair Lady, Michigan Ave. Bridge at the Chicago River. Jeff Souva, 312-663-4413, ext. 335 or www.lambdalegal.org

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

Qweirdo: 1, 2, 3, Fag! (Improv), Pinque Pony (Improv), Cameron Esposito (Stand-up), Matty Burton (Songs) www.chicago.ioimprov.com

Taste of Chicago www.chicago.com/attractions/Taste_of_Chicago/id12/

Revolving Doors full-length concert by Matter Dance Company through Jun 28. Th-Sat 8p.m.; Sun 3p.m. \$20/\$15 Vittum Theate, 1012 N Noble; www.MatterDance.com

Friday, June 26

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus Over the Rainbow in tribute to the legendary Judy Garland and the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Inn riots, through June 27. 7 p.m. \$25. Lakeshore Theater, 3175 N Broadway www.cgmcc.org, www.lakeshoretheater.com

Center on Halsted 2009 Pride Celebration, a special evening in the Rooftop Garden celebrating Pride while supporting the Center programs. 21+ \$15; includes 3 drink tix,, beer, wine and soft drinks. Cash bar available. Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St. Tix www.centeronhalsted.org/pridecelebration.html

Indigo Girls with Brandi Carlile 8 p.m. Ravinia, 200 Ravinia, Highland Park

Saturday, June 27

Chicago Filmmakers and Reeling Film Festival present free outdoor movie screening Mamma Mia!, sing-along version in celebration of national Gay Pride Month. As the sun goes down at Osterman Beach, approximately 5800 N. Lake Shore Dr. 773-293-1447 reeling@chicagofilmmakers.org

Dyke March bike contingent will begin from Trumbull Elementary (Foster and Ashland) to the march, departing at 11 a.m. Rally begins 1 p.m. 18th and Halsted. Info at dykemarchchicago@gmail.com

Proud To Run sponsored by the Chicago chapter of Frontrunners/Frontwalkers. Lincoln Park at Montrose Ave, east of Lake Shore Dr., north of Montrose Harbor. 10k \$30, 5k \$30, Fitness Walk \$25. 7:40 a.m. aerobic warm-up, 8:04 a.m. start, 10 a.m. awards ceremony and raffle. Register: www.firfwchicago.org/ptr2009

Out of the Darkness Overnight Walk in Chicago. Walk to prevent suicide including those of GLBT persons. American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Register or donate at www.TheOvernight.Org or 888-TheOvernight

Sunday, June 28

Hannah Free, a new Chicago-made film about a lifelong love affair between an independent spirit and the woman she calls home, starring Sharon Gless, (Burn Notice, Queen as Folk, Cagney & Lacey), Taylor Miller (All My Children), Maureen Gallagher, Ann Hagemann, Kelli Strickland and Jacqui Jackson, World Premiere at San Francisco Frameline Film Festival as the Gala Closing Night Film, Castro Theater. Tix www.frameline.org

40th Annual Pride Parade "Stonewall: 40 Years After" www.chicagopridecalendar.org

Tuesday, June 30

"Beyond Hatred," PBS's P.O.V. Series: Gay man's brutal murder begins a family's journey from anger to forgiveness 10 p.m.

Wednesday, July 1

Windy City Black Pride VIP Reception PrideIndex.com Esteem Awards Ceremony will honor some of the best and brightest LGBT citizens, organizations and supporters from across the country. 6-10 p.m. Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St. 773-477-9189 lsmith@windycity-blackpride.org www.sidetrackchicago.com, www.prideindex.com

Wed., June 17



WELLS-DESERVED

Mekole Wells will host an AIDS Marathon fundraiser at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark.

Saturday, June 20



STRONG DIVISION

Jon Ginoli and the rest of the legendary group Pansy Division will perform at Subterranean, 2011 W. North. Photo by Jerry Nunn

Sunday, June 28



I LOVE A PARADE

The 40th Annual Pride Parade will kick off at noon at the corner of Belmont and Halsted.

Photo from the 2008 parade by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

MARCH from page 12

transphobia and HIV and all those fighting for social justice. Let's let this march teach us all more about the moral authority and political power we gain when coalition-building is our priority rather than our problem.

Let's focus not on the quantity of people in attendance, but the quality of our message. We can show that, to us, "special rights" means that every person is special, that our movement is special because we so broadly embrace the struggles of all who are oppressed and that we are special because without us, the broader society would be bereft of something they so desperately need.

See you in Washington.

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)

B&B FOR SALE: W/8 acres \$440,000, 4 acres \$360,000. Terms. On Golf Course. 5 guest suites & owners unit. Est. 1989. www.kablehouse.com Griffin Agency Broker 815-734-4888. (06/10/09-4)

UNIQUE VICTORIAN. MAGNIFICENT TORCH LAKE. NW MICHIGAN: 4 Bedroom 3 bath former Bed & Breakfast. 1st floor master, library, custom throughout. Seller financing available for highly qualified buyer. \$430,000. Call 231-331-6424. (07/08/09-4)

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)

CONDO

STUDIO CONDO FOR SALE AT 4880 N. MARINE DR.: Living space, open kitchen, bathroom and walk in closet. Building security system, laundry facility and roof deck patio. Excellent public transportation for city life. Price \$119,000. Seller motivated. Contact, Mark Nash, Realtor 847-425-3823. (05/20/09-2)

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)

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STUDIO

1525 W. ESTES AVE. - ROGERS PARK STUDIO: Spacious studio apartment with heat included. Laundry in building. Close to lake, transportation & shopping. Credit/background check are required. \$565/mo w/ no dep. Call 773-392-4550. www.landstarrealty.com. (06/10/09-2)

TWO BEDROOM

EAST ROGERS PARK: Large 2 br, 2 bath, dining room, eat-in kitchen w/dishwasher, private deck, central heat & air, at lake front, excellent transportation, parking available. Wpier@aol.com (06/10/09-2)

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 per month. Please call 312.666.6886 or 312.907.6539, lakesidec@gmail.com. (07/01/09-4)

THREE + BEDROOMS

IN THE HEART OF BOYS TOWN: Three bedroom -spacious apartment, hardwood floors, updated kitchen, dishwasher, microwave. Great deck overlooking private yard. Great location!. \$1,800/ mo (includes heat) Laundry in building. Available 7/1/09. Call 847-749-5031. (06/24/09-4)

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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.

HELP WANTED: Starpoint Trading Company is looking for a Clerk and Payment Representative. If you are interested and need more information, please send e-mail to starpoint.artgallery01@gmail.com. Contact name: Mr Brian Bates. (6/24/09-3)

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CHICAGO MALE MASSAGE REVIEWS: Find over 50 male massage therapists in Chicago on MassageM4M.com - Hundreds of reviews of each gay friendly male massage therapists. www.massagem4m.com/chicago (7/01/09-4)

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GWM SEEKS ROOMMATE: To look for apartment in Lakeview/Boystown area. Up to \$750 rent+utilities. May get a dog, not a must. Barry: 773-557-9765 haharishi2003@yahoo.com. (6/17/09-4)

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SPIRITUALITY

Potluck BBQ & Pride Shabbat Services



Friday,
June 26,
7:00pm

**Bring a vegetarian dish to share at the BBQ, 7pm
Stay for the Shabbat services at 8pm**

Congregation Or Chadash
("Stonewall Chapel" in Emanuel
Congregation)
5959 N. Sheridan Rd.,
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(773)271-2148



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atmspherebar.com</p> <p>2 The Anvil
1137 W. Granville Ave.</p> <p>3 Big Chicks
5024 N. Sheridan Rd.
BigChicks.com</p> <p>4 Cattle Call
1547 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.
CattleCallChicago.com</p> <p>5 Crew
4804 N. Broadway Ave.
WorldsGreatestBar.com</p> <p>6 Eagle
5001 N. Clark St.
ChicagoEagle.com</p> <p>7 El Gato Negro
1461 Irving Park Rd.
ElGatoNegroBar.com</p> <p>8 The Glenwood
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TheGlenwoodbar.com</p> <p>9 Hamburger Mary's/Mary's Attic
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Jackhammer-Chicago.com</p> <p>11 Joie De Vine
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TsBarChicago.com</p> | <p>18 Touché
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SidetrackChicago.com</p> <p>42 Spin
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Hammond, IN
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2415 Rush St.
Lake Station, IN
EncompassNightclub.com</p> |
|---|--|---|--|

BILLY MASTERS

"I loved it this season when girls went crazy for me. As far as I'm concerned, it's all hot. Just because I'm not sticking it in there doesn't mean that I don't find it beautiful."—Just a bit of Adam Lambert's eloquent prose from the "Rolling Stone" interview. Next thing he'll tell us he's a devotee of Georgia O'Keefe!

We interrupt this regularly scheduled column to announce that the artist formerly known as Chastity Bono, daughter of Sonny and Cher, will now go by Chaz Bono, son of Sonny and Cher! Yes, that strapping gal is undergoing gender reassignment and transitioning into a man—which may surprise those of you who thought she already was a man! It reminds me of a story someone told me at GLAAD. After Chastity resigned, they found a huge dildo in the back of one of her desk drawers. Now they'll find an itty-bitty one in her drawers!

In one last late breaking story, how'd ya like to see hunky Dustin Lance Black naked? Sure, you weren't excited over Chastity's penis, but this one got your attention! Stills from a sex tape featuring Mr. Black have surfaced that not only show every inch of the Oscar winner (I'd say about 6.5"), but also show him performing oral sex on his well-hung partner and bottoming! Am I mistaken or is the activist being entered without a condom? Yes, indeed. Bad, bad Black. Until the video surfaces, you can take in every inch of him at BillyMasters.com.

The Tony Awards are typically one of the lowest-rated award shows on television. However, this year's ratings were up 19% over last year...which may not seem like much, but a bump's a bump. Some of the credit must go to Neil Patrick Harris, who hosted with grace and humor (and sported a snappy shiny suit).

Coming up this fall is the Broadway revival of "Bye Bye Birdie", starring John Stamos and Gina Gershon, as Birdie's manager and secretary respectively. What will be more interesting to my readers is the one person not getting any press—"Birdie", himself. That role will be played by hunky Nolan Gerard Funk. Does that name ring a bell? He's was the lead in Nickelodeon's "High School Musical" rip-off, "Spectacular". At the time, I told you that he had a past stripping in gay bars here in LA. Small world, isn't it?

The least gossipy news of the week is the "bombshell" that Adam Lambert is gay. YAWN. In the "Rolling Stone" cover story, he says that he felt coming out during "American Idol" would have overshadowed his singing, which is probably true. But he was totally out to everyone at Idol—including his roommate, Kris Allen. In fact, the big revelation in the article was that Adam had a crush on Kris! "They put me with the cute guy. Distracting! He's the one guy I found attractive in the whole group on the show: nice, nonchalant, pretty and totally my type—except that he has a wife. I mean he's open-minded and liberal, but he's definitely 100% straight." There's the problem.

"One Life To Live" is adding a gay couple to their show, and it's two awfully hot guys. Brett Claywell and Scott Evans—who is the virtual look-alike brother of film hunk Chris Evans. Scott is gay in real life, and he's playing a cop—yum! According to the storyline, the two characters had a fling in college, which they attempt to rekindle in present day. Problems arise when another gay character comes into town. It's like "One Gay at a Time"!

It seems the gay couples are more stable than the straight ones. Remember when Melissa Gilbert was engaged to Rob Lowe? People always wondered why they broke up. Now Half Pint is telling all in an autobiography called "Prairie Tales"—get it? Aside from all that boring crap, she reveals that she got pregnant with Lowe's child. When she told him, he said, "I can't be a

father. I can't be a husband. I'm so sorry." And that was that. Soon after that, she suffered a miscarriage. "I had lost my baby and my relationship with Rob...and it hurt like hell."

Perpetual virgin Brooke Shields feels she waited too long to give it away. But she feels emotionally she was unable to connect with someone else because she hadn't learned to love herself. "I would have lost my virginity earlier than I did, at 22, because I would have been much more in touch with myself." Another problem might have been that until she was 22, she'd only dated gay guys!

This week's "Ask Billy" question is from Kale in Chicago: "Did you see the picture of Barbara Bush with some hot guy in a Speedo (with a huge bulge) at her birthday party? Who was he?"

In news stories regarding Mrs. Bush's 84th birthday pool party, most articles said that some cast members from a "local production of 'A Chorus Line' were in attendance." Let me be the first to explain to you this wasn't like the Kennebunk Port High School production. It's the Ogunquit Playhouse production starring Lorenzo Lamas—which I told you about months ago. Real Broadway-caliber folks perform there...in addition to Lamas. The hot guy in question is 24 year-old hottie Justin Clynes, and he's most definitely a Broadway babe. He was in the recent revival of "The Ritz" where he played a towel-wearing, bathhouse-cruising type. He's also a model, and we've unearthed quite a few photos showing off his fabulous flesh and a penchant for publicizing his pubes. Oh, did I mention he's done underwear modeling? You're right—he does have a huge bulge. And, in case any of you are wondering (and I know you are), he's circumcised. If I know my fans, they'll all be headed to BillyMasters.com.

When I'm talking about hot guys' packages and Barbara's Bush, it's definitely time to end yet another column. By the time this runs, LA Pride will be a thing of a past. And that can only mean two things—I've proven once again that I'm multi-orgasmic and I'll have no voice (strangely, those two truisms will be revealed at the same time). I'll probably tell you about the festivities next week. Until then, check out www.BillyMasters.com for the dishiest dish around.



Adam Lambert.

Adam Lambert officially comes out

BY ANDREW DAVIS

In a development that a lot of people anticipated but that still borders on the historic, American Idol runner-up Adam Lambert officially came out in an interview printed in the most recent issue of Rolling Stone magazine.

"I don't think it should be a surprise for anyone to hear that I'm gay," Lambert said.

The interview is chock full of revelations, including Lambert's crush on Idol winner Kris Allen: "I was like, 'Oh, sh--,' they put me with the cute guy. Distracting! He's the one guy I found

attractive in the whole group on the show: nice, nonchalant, pretty and totally my type—except that he has a wife. I mean, he's open-minded and liberal, but he's definitely 100 percent straight."

GLAAD President Neil G. Giuliano said, "American Idol has become iconic in our culture, and as Adam continues to share his story during his post-Idol career, we hope his decision to live openly and honestly inspires gay people and opens the hearts and minds of his fans and others he will continue to entertain."

Rich Overton of RJO Artist Relations & Management, LLC, e-mailed Windy City Times that "[a]s someone who does not shy away from working with out artists [such as Jason Antone], I am hopeful and confident that Adam's decision to come out will further the movement that people are people, feelings are feelings and that we can all relate to one another no matter our sexuality."

He added, "People connect with truth. The core of music brings out our own individual truth. With that said, I believe Lambert's career will soar not only because of the connection to his truth, but also his talent. Let's not forget the amazing talent of Mr. Adam Lambert. I hope other people in this country can move past their own lingering fears and judgments. In an ideal world, this wouldn't matter in the least. The music is what connects us all anyhow, doesn't it? There is no greater success than being who you are so Adam cannot lose. ... It's all gravy from here."

BILLY from page 24

For your questions, drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Chastity shows off her bulge! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

These columns sometimes have a way of developing themes. This week's "Ask Billy" query comes from Will in Las Vegas: "I keep seeing Russell Brand here in town, and he's really hot in a kinda dirty/nasty way. Has he ever shown his dick in a film? He looks like the type that wouldn't be shy."

And he's not. That's the Brits for you—they get their naughty bits right out there. At one point in "RE:Brand" (a UK reality show he did back in 2002), he takes in a homeless guy and gives him a bath. He gets in the tub with the guy, during which Brand quite matter-of-factly

lets his own genitals dangle about (short and stubby are the words that spring to mind). We are happy to run stills and footage on BillyMasters.com.

When I have more penii than you can shake a stick at, we've definitely come to the end of yet another column. On my flight back to LA, I found myself hob-nobbing with Justin Guarini. And soon I'll be with more "Idol" alums while hosting the mainstage of LA Pride over the weekend of June 13-14. If you're not around, I'm only a click of a mouse away. Just cruise on over to www.BillyMasters.com for the best dish around. For your personal needs, drop a note to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Brand foists his genitals on anyone else (if only he needed to hoist 'em!). So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

BEHIV's drive



Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV) launched its 60-day fundraising drive with a reception at Salute Wine Bar, 46 E. Superior, on June 11. The drive is a grassroots effort to obtain much-needed funding of the agency's programs and services; several other events will take place through early August, including house parties and a drag show. Among those present were Executive Director Eric Nelson, board members and NBC-5's LeeAnn Trotter; singer "Peaches" Faison provided the entertainment. See www.behiv.org for more info. Photos by Andrew Davis

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SPORTS/RECREATION

Alice Gleason rolls on

BY ROSS FORMAN

Alice Gleason was at an art show in 2005 when she picked up a flyer for the Windy City Rollers, a new local roller-derby group.

She went to her first bout that October and was immediately hooked. She went again in November after buying 20 tickets online for her friends to join her.

"My jaw basically hit the ground when I saw these women skating around, being physical and working together. I immediately wanted to be a part of it," said Gleason, a former three-time All-State soccer player from the Chicago area who then played four years of Division I soccer. "I wanted to be a part of the league the second I walked in the door," that October evening.

Gleason joined the league in 2006, morphing into her alter ego, Malice With Chains, to help fill the void in her life for a physical sport. Plus, she had just moved back to Chicago at the time, "so it seemed like a great way to immerse myself into a new community, a sub-culture."

The Windy City Rollers are the brainchild of Elizabeth "Juanna Rumbel" Gomez and Kelly "Sister Sledgehammer" Simmons. In September 2004, the two formed Chicago's premier all-female flat track derby league, the Windy City Rollers.

Their rookie season was held at the historic Congress Theater, and then moved to The Stadium in Cicero for its second season.

The Windy City Rollers now skate at the University of Illinois-Chicago Pavilion and are members of the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA).

"I kind of got burned out on soccer and was just looking for something new," said Gleason, who graduated from Maine South High School in



Alice Gleason.

1998 and works locally in customer service for a steel service center. "I'm more of a team-sport player; I don't get as much enjoyment out of running by myself or swimming.

"The league is loaded with women who you wouldn't consider or call a stereotypical athlete. There are tall, short, fat, skinny—a little of everything ... and there's something for everyone to do out there. The biggest thing about roller derby is: it's not what you are, but how you use it.

"In many other sports, if you're too short or you carry a few extra pounds, your value is limited. But in roller derby, there's something for everyone to do, and you can use your body to your advantage. It's the kind of [sport] that you get out of it what you put into it, and I knew I'd go at it 100 percent. Physically, I guess it's what I expected because it's allowed me to push

myself as hard as I wanted to or could."

Gleason was a soccer goalie who has developed into an All-Star on the track.

WCR features four teams: the Double Crossers, Hell's Belles, Manic Attackers and The Fury. Each has about 20 players, with such traditional derby names as Georgia On Yer Behind, Norma Lee Wright, Athena DeCrime, Ivanna Riot and Red Zeppelin. Gleason's alter ego is the captain of the Manic Attackers, the squad that features Celia Coffin, Ruth Enasia and Blazing Inferno.

The WCR All-Stars, which Malice With Chains is one of two captains, include Hoosier Mama and Yvette YourMaker.

"Derby is ... very physical, very fast, very strategic, and a lot of fun to watch," Gleason said.

And dangerous, too. Broken bones and bruises are commonplace on the track.

When asked which is more difficult—college soccer or roller derby—Gleason said roller derby "because it is a sport that we're still defining every day whereas soccer has been around for hundreds of years."

Gleason is one of several lesbians in the league. She is currently dating Brittany Brumbaugh, who does not skate, and Gleason's former partner is a current teammate on the WCR All-Stars.

"Being a lesbian [in the WCR] is not an issue, not at all," Gleason said. "We're very well accepted within our own teams, within the whole league. There's someone on the team who's a Republican. She gets more [grief] for that than I do for being a lesbian, [even though that joking] is all done in good fun."

Gleason speculated that 10-20 percent of the WCR competitors are lesbian. She regularly posts flyers and posters about the league in Lakeview and Andersonville.

"The Chicago Force [football team] markets itself much better than we do in the LGBT community. I definitely think we can increase our efforts on that front," Gleason said.

So what about your ex who is also is a teammate?

"We were together before either started skat-

ing," Gleason said. "We knew that, when we joined, we were part of something bigger than us and we were able to keep derby and our personal lives separate for the two and a half years that we skated and dated. Since we broke up, we've remained good friends."

The WCR's 2009 Ivy King Cup Championship will be decided Saturday, June 20, at the UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine. Action starts at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$20-\$40; visit www.windy-cityrollers.com, Ticketmaster or the UIC box office.

Outgames cultural program launches

BY ROSS FORMAN

As the clock ticks closer to the Opening Ceremony of the 2009 World Outgames in Copenhagen on Saturday, July 25, the first opening of the World Outgames' cultural program kicked off in the Denmark city on Friday, May 29.

'Lost and Found: Queering the Archive' presents a series of thought-provoking works that generate new narratives based on private memories and experiences beyond gender and sexuality norms.

Using the potent and emotionally laden detritus of society, like found silent-movie footage, garments from the family past, and desecrated and fictionalized photo albums, the works in Lost and Found recreate, deconstruct and reconstruct the past.

The exhibition is accompanied by an illustrated catalogue with contributions by Jane Rowley, Louise Wolthers, Mathias Danbolt, Anne Cveticovich and Heather Love.

It runs through Aug. 2.

For more information, go to www.kunsthallen-nikolaj.dk.

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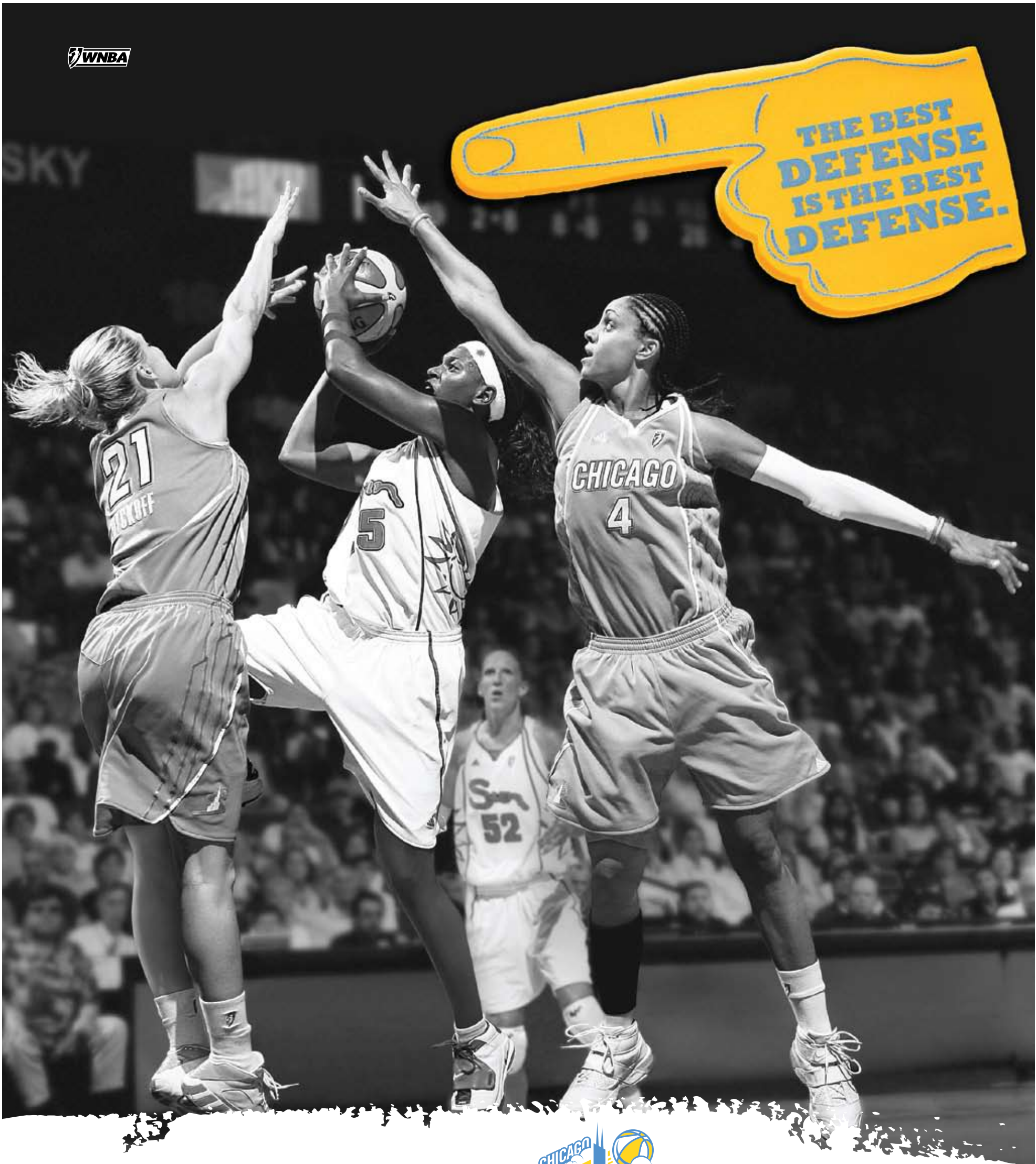
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