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ONLINE INDEX

IN A CRISIS

In light of cuts that could cripple 12,000 agencies in Illinois, read a letter from AIDS Foundation of Chicago's Mark Ishaug (right).



BEBE LOVE



See photos of a musical collaboration between RuPaul Drag Race winner Bebe Zahara Benet (left) and DJ Mark Picchiotti.

Photo by DJ Res 5

BEAUTY STOP

Brendan O'Hara (right) almost took it all, becoming first runner-up in the America's Gay Bachelor contest. See what he has to say.



Photo courtesy of O'Hara

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President Barack Obama.

Obama signs memo for federal workers

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

President Barack Obama signed a memorandum June 17 that he said “paves the way for long overdue progress in our nation’s pursuit of equality” for LGBT civil-service employees.

The “Presidential Memorandum on Federal Benefits and Non-Discrimination” does not spell out any specific benefits to be granted to federal civil service employees. But the Obama administration’s top-ranking openly gay appointee, John Berry, said it would allow civil-service employees to receive long-term care insurance for their domestic partners and take sick leave to care for those partners, as well as any children they share with those partners.

The entire four-minute-long Oval Office ceremony can be viewed at www.WhiteHouse.gov. Surrounded by Vice President Joe Biden; U.S. Reps. Barney Frank and Tammy Baldwin; and about a dozen other activists and openly gay appointees, a somber-looking Obama called the signing an “historic step” that addresses “some of the wrongs” LGBT civil-service employees face.

But, he added, “under current law, we cannot provide same-sex couples with the full range of benefits enjoyed by heterosexual married couples.”

“I think we all have to acknowledge this is only one step,” said Obama. “Among the steps we have not yet taken is to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act. I believe it’s discriminatory, I think it interferes with states’ rights, and we will work with Congress to overturn it.”

He also expressed his “proud” support for a bill introduced by Rep. Baldwin—the Domestic Partners Benefits and Obligations Act—that seeks to provide to federal employees with “domestic partners” the same benefits made available to federal employees with married spouses.

Baldwin told MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow Wednesday night that she agrees Obama went “as far as he could go” without an act of Congress. And she said she thinks her bill to provide equal rights to LGBT federal employees “really got a boost by his strong endorsement today.”

Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Director Berry characterized the memorandum as an “important step” in a journey to eventually provide equal rights in a whole host of areas.

Family Equality Council Executive Director Jennifer Chrisler, who attended the ceremony, issued a statement saying, “President Obama’s actions will help thousands of committed, same-sex couples working for the federal government ensure their families’ security.”

“While today’s memorandum falls short, it does move us forward,” said Chrisler.

But many reacting to the memorandum were concerned with how “short” the memorandum falls.

Kevin Cathcart, head of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, said in a statement that “[t]he day is long past for incomplete, piecemeal fixes that leave hard-working families uninsured and struggling.”

“While ending any of the discrimination against gay and lesbian federal employees is a welcome step,” Cathcart said, the June 17 announcement “falls far short of our hopes and expectations.”

Lee Swislow, head of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, a leader in the court fights over marriage equality, said the memorandum was a “very limited step toward equal benefits for same-sex partners of federal employees.”

Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and a ceremony attendee as well, issued a statement saying the memorandum “inches our federal government closer to nondiscrimination both in word and policy, which is a good thing.” But she added that “much more remains to be done in order for the administration to live up to the promises of equality the president made as a candidate on the campaign trail.”

Frank Kameny, a gay activist who has been fighting longer than anyone for equal rights for gays in civil-service jobs, called Obama’s memorandum “a reasonable half-step, given DOMA [the Defense of Marriage Act] and all of that.”

Kameny, too, was an invited guest to the Oval Office. Also attending were Leonard Hirsch, president of the federal gay employees group GLOBE; Joe Solmonese, head of the Human Rights Campaign; Berry; U.S. Export-Import Bank Chair (and gay appointee) Fred Hochberg; U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman, a sponsor of the federal-employee benefits bill; and Lorilyn Holmes, a career federal employee.

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

77 reps ask Obama to suspend DADT

BY BOB ROEHR

Seventy-seven members of Congress have written President Barack Obama requesting that implementation of the antigay military policy known as “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) be suspended until Congress can repeal that law.

“We ask that you direct the Armed Services not to initiate any investigation of service personnel to determine their sexual orientation, and that you instruct them to disregard third party accusations that do not allege violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. That is, we request that you impose that no one is asked and that you ignore, as the law requires, third parties who tell.”

The letter said, “Our LGBT service members and our country’s national security will continue to suffer if initial action [on repeal] is delayed until 2010 or 2011.” It argued that those soldiers “offer invaluable skills that enhance our country’s military competence and readiness.”

It specifically mentioned Lt. Daniel Choi, a West Point grad, Arabic linguist, and Iraq War vet “who is under investigation for refusing to lie about his identity.” And also highly decorated Air Force pilot Lt. Colonel Victor Fehrenbach, who is two years away from retirement and “stands to lose \$46,000 a year in retirement and medical benefits for the rest of his life if discharged.”

The lead signatures on the letter were Alcee L. Hastings, D-Fla.; Barney Frank, D-Mass.; and John Conyers, Jr., D-Mich. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida was the only Republican among the primarily liberal Democrats who signed on.

Democrats whose signatures did not appear on the letter included Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland and Armed Services Committee chairman Ike Skelton of Missouri. It is not clear whether any of them refused to sign or were even asked to sign.

The legal basis for the Congressmen’s request to the President was outlined in a June 11 document prepared by the Palm Center at the University of California Santa Barbara.

Also on June 22, the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network wrote to its supporters estimating that 265 members of the military have been discharge under DADT since Obama took office. It plans to boycott a Democratic National Committee fundraiser on Thursday and march on the White House on Saturday, June 27.

Writing in a June 19 column in the Washington Post, retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General John. M. Shalikashvili said, “Research shows conclusively that openly gay service members would not undermine military readiness.”

He cited the experience of allies such as Israel, Britain and Canada where allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly has not led to problems, and that “enforcement of the ban was suspended

[by the US military] without problems during the Persian Gulf War.”

“Conversations I’ve held with service members make clear that, while the military remains a traditional culture, that tradition no longer requires banning open service by gays.” General Shalikashvili said, “It is evident to me that a policy change is inevitable.”

White House to hold LGBT reception

President Barack Obama has invited some of the leaders of the LGBT community to attend a reception June 29 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, according to a New York Times item.

Initially, several individuals have said that they have received telephone calls or have received written requests to attend. Later, the White House did confirm the event, with spokesman Shin Inouye saying, “Next Monday’s event is a chance for the White House to recognize the accomplishments of LGBT Americans. Invited guests include families, volunteers and activists, and community leaders. This event was long planned as a way to applaud these individuals during Pride month.”

The reception comes at a time when Obama has been the subject of increasing criticism from the LGBT community, with some saying that the president has been slow to act on behalf of the demographic.

NATIONAL ROUNDUP

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The ACLU is accusing the staff of a Fresno, Calif., hospital of preventing a lesbian from visiting her partner, according to KMPH.com. A lesbian couple—Kristin Orbin and Teresa Rowe—had been walking in a 14-mile march when Orbin suffered a seizure and was taken to Community Regional Medical Center. Rowe claimed she offered to have Orbin’s legal papers, which name her as her partner’s healthcare agent, faxed to the hospital, but was reportedly told by staff the paperwork did not matter.

In Baltimore, Md., **21-year-old Mark Floyd has been arrested in connection with the murder of lesbian couple Lydia Steed and Allisha Royster**, ABC2News.com reported. The couple, who had been stabbed several times, was discovered days after the killings. Floyd was dating a stripper who had moved in with the couple; however, Steed and Royster had kicked her out a few weeks ago.

Read more national news online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com, and find out about Schwarzenegger’s new gay connection and Barney’s move regarding DOMA.

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by Max Smith



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Congressman Mike Quigley.

Mike Quigley: Still in the fight

BY ANDREW DAVIS

"Change" has become quite the keyword over the last few months—and few people would know more about that than Mike Quigley. Since being elected a United States Congressman earlier this year (and leaving his post as Cook County commissioner), Quigley has become part of a whole new world of heavy hitters that includes current president (and fellow Illinoisan) Barack Obama.

However, Quigley has not changed in some ways: He is still a huge Chicago Cubs fan, he has not lost his laid-back demeanor—and he insists that he is still fighting for LGBT rights. (The day prior to our conversation, Quigley sent a letter to Obama that urged him to recognize same-sex married couples in the 2010 Census.

In an interview with Windy City Times at the restaurant Julius Meinl, 3601 N. Southport, Quigley talked about his home away from home, LGBT-related topics and Cook County Board President Todd Stroger.

Windy City Times: What's been the biggest change since moving to the U.S. House?

Mike Quigley: Personally and professionally, it's been two different things. Personally, they don't know how to make the food nearly as good in D.C. You can't get a decent pizza, you can't get a good Italian beef, Chinese food, Ann Sather's rolls. [Also,] being away from family and friends is an adjustment, personally.

Professionally, there are some similarities and some differences. On reform, if I do my job well here I can save millions; if I do my job well in Washington, I can save billions. And being on the Reform Committee, we're reviewing military procurement, [for example]. Here, it was waste, reform and corruption; in D.C., it's waste, reform and corruption—but the decimal point goes way over to the right. And there are more issues than there are here—there, you have two wars and a recession you're responsible for, as well as homeland security. I was a criminal defense attorney here, and there I'm on the Judiciary Committee, so we had to actually deal with the impeachment of a federal judge.

But there are parallels. I'm in D.C., talking about how there isn't enough funding for capital-murder cases literally the same day that the public defender was threatening to withdraw from murder cases in Cook County because there's no money.

WCT: The term of a U.S. representative is only two years long. Considering you spend half your time running for re-election, can you really get a lot accomplished?

MQ: Well, the short election cycle forces you to be responsible to your constituents; that's the positive part. The negative part is that almost all the members of Congress spend 3-4 hours a day trying to raise money. The folks in those swing districts and those new target frontline members... It'd be better if people could spend their time on what ails the nation. You're spending so much time campaigning, it does take time away from every legislator's service.

And some people are thinking short-term when our problems are long-term. The best example of

that is global warming. A lot of our environmental problems we just blew off and thought that would just affect our children or our children's children. I think you have a moral responsibility to them as well, but if you're inherently practical you just think about next week's vote and when you're re-elected the following spring, you can blow off future generations.

WCT: Could you talk a bit about your LGBT advisory council?

MQ: It's just in formation. We asked Brandon Neese to run it, and he started putting folks together. We're still in the initial process of asking people to participate; we only got sworn in weeks ago. In the meantime, I don't hesitate to ask folks their opinions.

WCT: Do you have any thoughts about Todd Stroger running again for Cook County board president?

MQ: I think it would be a mistake. When Todd got into office, I tried to help him—and here's why. I did not want to be the person trying to sabotage the guy, so I sent one of the best people I know, Jennifer Koehler, to try to help him run the administration. We helped him with a few issues, and he—quite frankly—isn't up to the job. He didn't surround himself with the right folks [and] he didn't understand what the job entailed. His father [John Stroger], even if you disagreed with him, understood government; people underestimated John Stroger at times. For a man who came from Arkansas with nothing, [John] really built something special, and he had a passion for government. For the life of me, I'm not sure what Todd's assets are. If [John] was in any other profession, I'm not sure what Todd would be doing right now.

Read much more of the interview with Congressman Quigley online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

Burris calls for repeal of DADT

BY JOHN FENOGLIO

At a press conference June 22, at the offices of Equality Illinois, 3318 N. Halsted, U.S. Roland Burris, D-Ill., said that he opposes the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy and that the federal law should be repealed by Congress.

With veterans and their supporters standing behind him, Senator Burris addressed a press pool of about 20 people. "My main focus today is equal rights in the military," he said. "Many of those in the upcoming parade will be veterans of various wars. They deserve the same honor as anyone who'd put their lives, their careers and their families on the line on our behalf. Many may wish to choose military service in the future. They deserve the opportunity to do so with the respect and generosity of spirit and all the support courted to anyone who makes that honorable decision to serve this country."

With U.S. troops embattled in two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the senator's statement comes at a critical time for America's armed forces. DADT is the only federal law that requires an organization, like the military, to fire openly gay and lesbian people. And, in the last five years the military has discharged almost 800 mission-critical troops and at least 59 Arabic and nine Farsi linguists under DADT.

"Under 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' at least one individual per day, on average, is fired because they are gay or lesbian," said Rick Garcia, director of public Policy for Equality Illinois. "Almost 13,000 service members have been discharged since 1994," he added.

Indeed, the cost of DADT is taxing. In addition to losing valuable military personnel, the implementation of the law—and the investigations, prosecutions and discharges (of soldiers for being gay or lesbian) associated with it—has cost taxpayers more than \$360 million by last count, according to a 2006 Blue Ribbon Commission Report.

"This is a priority that we must deal with

sooner than later," proclaimed Burris. He's not alone. According to Dr. Nathaniel Frank, author of 'Unfriendly Fire: How the Gay Ban Undermines the Military and Weakens America', President Obama can halt the firing of gay and lesbian soldiers by using the "stop-loss" authority already granted to him by Congress.

In an essay written by Dr. Frank on the Palm Center's Web site, where he is also a senior research fellow, he explains that the "stop-loss" strategy, "Would actually be the wisest way to lift the ban permanently, as part of a one-two punch: Obama could suspend discharges using stop-loss and then, six months down the line, point to the success of openly gay service and ask Congress to repeal the policy once and for all."

When asked by Windy City Times if he would personally urge Obama to use his "stop-loss" authority and issue an executive order, Burris replied, "My position is that we should use that authority. I've said it now publicly and hopefully he [the President] will follow it so we can stop the discharges of those persons. Let's hope that does take place."

For its part, The White House has been slow to proactively engage the DADT issue beyond voicing its support for repealing the law. Note: On May 13, Windy City Times reported that Obama sent a handwritten letter to a Chicago-area, lesbian soldier, saying that he was, "Committed to changing our current policy," on DADT.

On the issue of using "stop-loss" authority, however, the executive branch seems even less likely to engage, leaving some Obama supporters in the LGBT community wondering if he's actually going to be the "ferocious advocate" of gay rights he promised to be on the campaign trail.

Using the president's "stop-loss" authority to stop the discharge of gay and lesbian soldiers during wartime is, "not the way to seek any lasting or durable solution," to eventually repealing DADT, said White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs on May 15.

"It will take some time, but I'm encouraged by Sen. Burris' presence here today. He supports civil unions, he's a co-sponsor of the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Act and he's been our ally for a long time. He has the ability to reach across the isle on this issue," said Garcia.

Burris does have "the ability" to influence key Senate Committee members on repealing DADT. "I happen to sit on three committees relevant to the equal rights of all people, including gays and lesbians in the military. I sit on Armed Services, Homeland Security and Veterans' affairs. I'm opposed to any unequal treatment of this particular population. I believe it is wrong strategically and I believe it is wrong based on America's principles," Burris said.

Of course, the June 22 press conference was not without its theatrics. Much controversy still surrounds the junior senator's alleged involvement in the pay-to-play Illinois Senate scandal. Reporters wasted no time pressing the issue, which made Burris visibly upset.

"I will not take any questions except those on this issue," Burris instructed, pointing at the audience, which consisted mostly of reporters. "Before I take any questions at all, know that I will only take questions about this issue." And, as if the floodgates had just been opened, a torrent of questions ensued.

One reporter asked, "Since you have, in fact, been vindicated, or at least the Sangamon County prosecutor has indicated that he's not going to pursue perjury charges, why not speak about this episode that maybe has past in your life? Not for the benefit of the press but for the benefit of the people of Illinois whom you serve?"

"Aren't you an astute member of the media from Chicago Tonight, who I've known for many years... I told you I'm not going to talk about it," Burris said, clearly holding back his frustration. "Any other questions?"

There were. And before the senator could say any more, his aides whisked him toward the door to his awaiting town car. As he ducked into the front passenger seat he said, "God bless you and I'll see you at the [Pride] parade."

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ENTERTAINMENT

Stonewall standing

BY SAMANTHA FIELDS
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK—It was 40 years ago this month that the patrons of a gay bar in New York City fought back against police harassment. The bar was the Stonewall Inn, in New York's West Village, and it is still in operation today—both as a bar and as a beacon to gay people who know its historic past.

"It's like a wailing wall—you have to kiss it," said Andrew Wind, who first came to the Village at the age of 22, specifically to see the Stonewall.

People walking by on a recent day knew at least something about the significance of the bar with its distinctive half brick wall and arched black doorways.

"The only thing I know is there was some sort of rebellion in there—something about gay rights," said Bruce Bunner, who lives in the neighborhood. David Anthony, who also lives in the area and says he "kinda vaguely" knows the history of the place—that "a lot of gay-rights stuff happened here."

Many people refer to that "stuff" as the Stonewall Rebellion. And many say it was the beginning of the modern gay civil-rights movement. But that distinction relies heavily on overlooking organized pickets in front of the White House and a concerted effort by many in the gay community to work within the political and legal systems during the 1950s and 1960s. What really sets Stonewall apart is that it was one of the first times gay people physically resisted harassment.

In the '60s, most gay people were closeted, because to be openly gay often meant losing their jobs, their families and even their lives. In many states, it was illegal for two people of the same gender to have sex even in the pri-

vacancy of their own homes. And some states had laws prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages to "homosexuals" in bars and restaurants. That was the case in New York until 1967, when court rulings struck down such discriminatory regulations. But, as David Eisenbach wrote in *Gay Power: An American Revolution*, the New York State Liquor Authority could, in 1969, still revoke the liquor license of any bar in which there was "substantial evidence of indecent behavior." The language was vague enough to give the police the ability to selectively harass gay bars. And they did.

Many accounts say that the Stonewall Inn, in 1969, was run by members of the mafia who persuaded the police to look the other way while the bar sold alcohol and illegal drugs to its customers. There was little effort made to supervise any aspect of the Stonewall's business. In *Stonewall: The Riots that Sparked the Gay Revolution*, David Carter writes that there was no running water in the bar; bar staff filled two sinks with water at the start of the evening and simply dipped dirty glasses into increasingly murky water and re-used them. The toilets would frequently overflow onto the floors. The building had no fire safety equipment or exits. And there were reports that the staff collected information about patrons with which to blackmail them.

When police conducted their raids of the Stonewall and other gay bars, it was not so much to ensure that any laws were being obeyed as a routine collection of bribes to look the other way. But, according to some, police would occasionally demonstrate at least an appearance of law enforcement by rounding everybody up, checking for their identification and kicking them out of the bar.

Until June 28, 1969—when the patrons of the Stonewall Inn fought back.

That night, when the police began escorting patrons out of the bar, many lingered outside 53 Christopher Street and watched. Various eyewitness accounts of what happened next differ in some respects, but most accounts agree that

the melee began when police began handcuffing some of the patrons and pushing them into police wagons. One of the patrons—some say it was a woman, some say a man dressed like a woman—struggled against the police and called out to the crowd, "Why don't you do something?"

And the crowd responded.

People threw rocks, bricks, coins and anything else they could get their hands on. The police were outnumbered, and the raucous grew into what some news accounts referred to as a "riot." Though various reports suggest the "riot" continued for only 45 minutes that night, it started up again the next night and news of the resistance spread quickly nationwide, giving other communities the courage to fight back against harassment.

The gay-rights movement may not have begun in June 1969 at the Stonewall Inn, but it certainly burst into the public's awareness then and there.

Thirty years later, in 1999, the Stonewall was declared a national historic landmark. The reason for its nomination for landmark status read, in part, "Stonewall is regarded by many as the single most important event that led to the modern gay and lesbian liberation movement and to the struggle for civil rights for gay and lesbian Americans. The Stonewall uprising was, as historian Lillian Faderman has written, 'the shot heard round the world...crucial because it sounded the rally for the movement.'"

Bill Morgan, Tony DeCicco, and Kurt Kelly say the inn's role in gay history is what prompted them to buy the bar in late 2006, when the property came up for sale.

"We were concerned that it might end up becoming another Starbucks and we felt that would be a real shame," said Morgan. "I believe it's the only landmark gay establishment in the U.S. and we felt it was the right thing to do for the community, we felt it was the right thing to do for the neighborhood, and we felt that, historically, it was really important for us, if we were able to do it, to step up and do something about it. And we did."

They spent about six months doing renovations on the bar—which Morgan said had been neglected for years—and reopened it in March 2007.

"We decided to, as I was saying, dress the old girl up and have a nice coming out," he said.

"And that's kind of what we've done. We've been able to give it back to the community—and not just the men, but the women as well."

These days, the bar is two floors—there will often be different things going on upstairs than down. Sometimes, it's "women's night" on one floor and "men's night" on the other. Downstairs, a long bar runs the length of an exposed brick wall, and a pool table is situated in a back corner of the big room. Upstairs is another bar, a small stage, and a scattering of tables.

On a recent weeknight happy hour, nearly all the seats at the bar downstairs were occupied, primarily by men, and a few younger women were laughing over a game of pool.

Morgan, DeCicco and Kelly have made a concerted effort to remind patrons and passersby of the bar's history. Up behind the bar, hanging above the rows and rows of liquor bottles, are several t-shirts, available for purchase, that say "The Stonewall Inn." And in the front windows are several framed black and white photos. One shows the boarded up window of the Stonewall Inn with graffiti scrawled across the plywood saying "Gay Prohibition Corrupt\$ Cop\$ Feed\$ Mafia." That one was taken in June 1969.

Mary McClain, 52, said she knows what happened here in June 1969, although, at the time, she was just a kid.

"To stand up and fight back, to fight back and not take it anymore, to say no to the authorities—that's brave," said McClain.

Bar co-owner Morgan says most people who come to the bar know Stonewall's history. More recently, he said, he's noticed the younger crowd asking about it.

"I've sat and listened to them ask the bartenders, who obviously know the history, 'So this is a famous bar?' And they'll get a little bit of a history lesson," said Morgan. "The hope is perhaps they'll go on to go home and Google it and see where they've been."

Outside Stonewall on a recent day, Miguel Saona from Spain put down his bag and pulled out his camera. He asked someone to take a picture of him in front of the bar. Having read and seen so much about Stonewall and its history, he wanted to see the place. He had come by the day before, only to find the battery on his camera was dead, but it was important enough to him to come back the next day. For him, he said, "It's something like a pilgrimage."



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Ray J. Koenig III joins Clark Hill PLC

Ray is a member of Clark Hill's Litigation Practice Group, practicing in the areas of probate litigation, trust litigation, fiduciary litigation, elder law, guardianship litigation, estate planning, and estate administration. Ray is also an adjunct member of the Trust & Estates Group.

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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The Stonewall Inn. Photo by Samantha A. Fields, Keen News Service

Frank Kameny: A true pioneer

BY CHUCK COLBERT
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The Black civil-rights movement had Martin Luther King, Jr. Women had Susan B. Anthony. And the gay-rights movement had Frank Kameny.

Actually, the gay civil-rights movement still has Frank Kameny. The man who many consider a founder—if not the founding father—of the modern gay civil-rights movement recently turned 84.

It was Kameny who coined the phrase “gay is good” and pushed the movement to aim to establish homosexuality as fully equal to heterosexuality. He helped persuade the American Psychiatric Association to take homosexuality off its list of mental illnesses. He fought policies banning gays from civil service jobs and from having security clearances. He was the first openly gay candidate for Congress.

And yet, Kameny would be the first to say his strategies weren't always successful.

“Stonewall accomplished what we had tried to do without success,” he said recently about what is known by most in the gay civil-rights movement as the Stonewall Rebellion. It was a spontaneous uprising on June 28, 1969, at a New York City gay bar—a flare up between police and patrons that propelled the growth of the gay civil-rights movement.

This month marks the 40th anniversary of Stonewall, and Kameny credits the riots outside the bar that night with “creating a generalized grassroots movement that provided the basis from everything else that proceeded, including large numbers of people coming out of the closet and all the subsequent issues that came along.”

Kameny was already out of the closet in 1969. In fact, he had been out for more than a decade already.

Twelve years before Stonewall, Kameny, who holds a doctorate in astronomy from Harvard University, was a civil service worker with the then U.S. Map Service. The agency fired him for being gay. That was in 1957 and, at that time, the firing meant Kameny was barred forever from holding a job in the federal government.

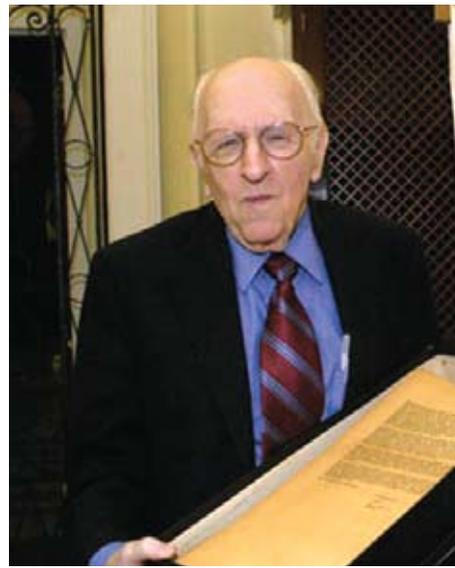
“The firing presented to me a very real, personal issue that needed to be resolved,” he said during a recent telephone interview from his home in Washington, D.C.

He resolved it by fighting back. He sued the government over the civil service ban on “homosexuals” but ultimately lost, in 1961, when the U.S. Supreme Court denied his petition to

appeal. The denial, he said, ended “my own personal case,” but launched his involvement in “gay activism and militancy.” The personal became political.

Kameny became a gay community organizer, founding a chapter of the new gay political group—the Mattachine Society—in Washington, D.C., and focusing its members on ending discrimination in civil service and the armed forces, repealing anti-sodomy laws, and winning the right to hold security clearances. In 1965, Mattachine members put on their business attire, hoisted placards, and staged the first gay demonstration on the sidewalk in front of the White House, protesting second-class citizenship and the anti-gay policies of the Civil Service Commission.

“It took eighteen years from my firing to get the civil service ban reversed, on July 3, 1975,” Kameny recollected. From razor-sharp memory, Kameny also recalled the 1993 sodomy law repeal in the District of Columbia. “It took 30 years, one month, four days, and 11 hours, to repeal it,” he said. “I wrote the repeal bill.” For a decade, too, Kameny aggressively pressed the American Psychiatric Association (APA) over its classification of homosexuality as sickness. “It took ten years to reverse the psychiatrists for the mass cure on Dec. 15, 1973” he said pin-



Frank Kameny in a recent photo. Image courtesy of Lisa Keen

pointing when the APA declassified homosexuality per se as mental illness.

One issue still remains for Kameny, however—the ban on gays in the military. The current policy was enacted by Congress and signed into federal law by President Bill Clinton in 1993. Known as “don't ask, don't tell,” the policy per-

mits lesbian and gay soldiers to serve in the military only if they stay in the closet.

“With the present Obama administration,” said Kameny, “we are hopefully in the process of change. But I get impatient.”

Again, the personal is political. Kameny is a veteran of the Army, having served in World War II.

“I've always resented, for 66 years, that I had to lie in order to serve in a war effort that I supported,” he said. “They asked and I didn't tell, although as a healthy, vigorous teenager there were things to tell.”

Over all his years, Kameny has been guided by a core philosophy.

“I have absolute faith in the validity of my own intellectual processes,” he said. “If the world and I disagree, I will give it a second chance to make their point. If we still disagree, then I am right and they are wrong. As long as they don't get in my way, fine. If they do, there will be a fight. And I tend not to lose my wars.”

“Therefore, over the years of issues that I've chosen to address, I have not chosen to adjust myself to society but with considerable success adjusted society to me,” said Kameny. “And society is better off for the adjustment that I have administered.”

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Frank Kameny in 1948. Photo courtesy of Lisa Keen



Jim Madigan.

Madigan to run for state senate seat

BY ANDREW DAVIS

In an exclusive talk with Windy City Times, Equality Illinois Interim Executive Director Jim Madigan said that he plans to run for the 7th District Illinois Senate seat next February against incumbent Heather Steans.

"I will be participating in the [Pride] Parade [June 28] as a candidate, although I won't have my official launch until after Pride," Madigan said, whose tenure at Equality Illinois ends this week. He added that an introductory Web page should be up at www.JimMadigan.com by the upcoming weekend.

When asked what spurred him to run, Madigan responded, "For me, it's the need to have legislators who will exercise independent judgment; who will challenge the party bosses and leaders in this state when it's appropriate; and who will side with the individual voters rather than paying special attention to campaign contributors. I think [Heather] is a decent person, but I think the reality is that if she had not given [former Gov.] Rod Blagojevich \$170,000, she would not have had that seat open up for her."

(Steans, when notified of Madigan's remark, responded, "Jim's statement is based on faulty facts. Last year I ran and won election in a competitive, open Democratic primary based on my experience and vision for leadership for 7th District residents. Since being elected, I have worked with every imaginable group in this District for progressive issues such as marriage equality, educational and ethics reforms, and better health care. Now more than ever, we need

leaders in Springfield who can deliver change by advancing substantive new ideas rather than running negative campaigns based on misrepresentations.")

If Madigan wins, he would be the first openly gay individual in the Illinois Senate.

The 7th District includes Chicago areas such as Uptown, Ravenswood, Lincoln Square and Rogers Park.

Charges dropped in Roscoe's case

BY SAM WORLEY

Charges were dropped recently against two women arrested in an April incident at the nightclub Roscoe's, 3356 N. Halsted.

Jessica Crosswhite, who allegedly assaulted a bouncer after being asked to leave the bar April 22, was charged with one count of battery; Elizabeth Richards, alleged to have attempted to block the police car carrying Crosswhite, was charged with one count of disorderly conduct. Their trial was slated to begin June 16.

According to spokesman Andy Conklin from the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, the charges were dropped when the complaining witness failed to show up for a May 13 court date.

LGBT recovery house may have to move

BY SAM WORLEY

Living with Pride, a house for LGBT people in substance-abuse recovery, will probably have to move from its current location on the 2500 block of West Cullom in Chicago's North Center neighborhood.

Following complaints from a neighbor—which were publicized in the Chicago Tribune's column "What's Your Problem?"—the city's Department of Zoning and Planning issued a decision stating that, as a space that houses residents for an undefined period of time, Living with Pride qualifies as a "transitional house" and needs a special permit. The house is currently zoned as a permanent residence.

Although Living with Pride's executive director, Dr. Claudia Mosier, plans to appeal the decision, the refusal of 47th Ward Alderman Gene Schulner to support the appeal makes it unlikely to succeed. Schulner said that he made his decision after a June 1 community forum in which community members expressed a number of



Claudia Mosier.

concerns about the house. Meeting attendees also voted pre-emptively to deny the necessary permit to Living with Pride—although at that point, no permit had been applied for.

Though Schulner said that he supports "the concept" of Living with Pride, he objected to the process by which the house ended up in his ward. "When you go into a community," he said, "you really need to do your homework." He said that Mosier should have built a relationship with his ward before signing a lease and opening the doors of Living with Pride.

Schulner said that he has offered to help Mosier in "finding a more suitable facility," either in the 47th Ward or someplace nearby.

After several years of planning, Living with Pride opened the doors of its North Center location March 1. In a May 7 e-mail to the Windy City Times, Mosier described herself as "disheartened" at the city's decision. She said that the idea of moving is difficult because of the facility's lease. She also expressed concern about running into the same problems in a new neighborhood.

GLSEN report: Many Illinois LGBT students harassed

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) has released a report that reveals that LGBT students in Illinois face high levels of harassment at school.

"Inside Illinois Schools: The Experiences of LGBT Students" surveyed 206 Illinois students in 2007 about the level of harassment they receive in school, as well as related questions.

The report showed that 89% of Illinois LGBT students experienced verbal harassment in the past year that involved sexual harassment, 43% said they had been physically harassed and 21% said they had been physically assaulted.

In other results, 97% of the respondents said that they had regularly heard "gay" spoken in a negative way, such as "That's so gay." Also, 36% of LGBT students had skipped school at least once in the previous month because of safety concerns.

GLSEN Executive Director Eliza Byard said in a statement that "[w]hile we applaud Illinois for being one of only 11 states to pass a law that explicitly protects students from bullying and harassment on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression, Inside Illinois Schools shows just how much work still needs to be done to make sure LGBT students in Illinois are safe in school."

Read the entire report at www.glsen.org/binary-data/GLSEN_ATTACHMENTS/file/000/001/1391-1.PDF.

WCMG top LGBT news site in Chicago ranking

Among hundreds of Chicago non-traditional news sites, Windy City Media Group (WCMG) was ranked second according to a Chicago Community Trust report issued in June. WCMG was the top-ranked LGBT news site, and the only one in the 60 top sites ranked. WCMG is publisher of Windy City Times and Nightspots, and also produces WindyCityQueercast.com and QueerTVNetwork.com

The report, commissioned by The Chicago Community Trust, surveyed media professionals and users across the Chicago area, and used a complex rating system based on several self-reported statistics, third-party rankings, and a qualitative assessment by Community Media Workshop (CMW).

Several mainstream media sites, for example the Tribune, Sun-Times and TV sites, were not included, but Web sites for NPR, the Chicago Reader and other independent and online-only media were included.

The following is how CMW ranked the top 20:

- 1: Chi-Town Daily News
- 2: Windy City Media Group
- 3: Gapers Block
- 4: Progress Illinois
- 5: Windy Citizen
- 6: WBEZ Chicago Public Radio
- 7: Chicago Parent
- 8: Catalyst Chicago
- 9: Chicagoist
- 10: Midwest Business
- 11: CTA Tattler
- 12: The Beachwood Reporter
- 13: Newcity
- 14: The Chicago Defender
- 15: District 299
- 16: The Chicago Reporter
- 17: The Urbanophile
- 18: Chicago Carless
- 19: 600 Words by Esther J. Cepeda
- 20: Marathon Pundit

This announcement comes just weeks after The Chicago Reader named Windy City Times the "Best LGBT news source in Chicago" and days after the completion of WCMG's 7th annual Windy City Gay Idol promotion with over 1,000 attending semifinals and finals competitions.

Windy City Times is online at www.windycitymediagroup.com. See www.communitymediaworkshop.org or www.newstips.org.

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Huberman attends forum on LGBTQ students

BY YASMIN NAIR

Gender JUST (Justice United for Societal Transformation) held its first Safe and Affirming Education Community Forum at Lozano Library, 1805 S. Loomis, June 15. The event highlighted the issues facing LGBTQ/GNC (lesbian, gay bisexual, transgender and queer/gender non-conforming) students in CPS. The group invited Ron Huberman, the openly gay chief executive officer of Chicago Public Schools (CPS), to attend.

Huberman addressed the packed room of students, educators, parents and activists at the beginning, saying how "excited" he was to be there because "many of these issues are ones I certainly care a great deal about. I'm gay. I came out in high school when I was 15 years old, and that was 20 years ago. We have a long way to go, but there's progress." He said that he was "looking forward to the proposals to improve the level of respect." Huberman also added that he could not "say yes or no to every proposal. This is an opening dialogue and the start of many meetings to see how we can make CPS work bet-

ter for every student at CPS."

The forum proceeded as a set of demands proposed by a panel of 14 students, parents and educators of Gender JUST and allied organizations. Huberman was accompanied by Renae Ogletree, director of student development at CPS.

Esmeralda Roman of Gender JUST explained that the group was motivated by a "need for safe and affirming education" within the context of the different forms of injustice faced by students, including economic and racial issues. [full disclosure: this reporter is a member of the group]. Over the course of the evening, panelists presented statistics about LGBTQ student issues into their presentations: 85% of LGBTQ students report that teachers never or rarely interfere when they see students being harassed, and 44% are physically assaulted.

Each panelist submitted a demand for reform addressed to Huberman; the demands had been collectively formulated at Gender JUST meetings prior to the forum. Roman described herself as a "lesbian mom to a teenage son [who was] bullied for years" and her frustration when the usual solutions, like speaking to the principal, proved fruitless. She asked for a district-wide accountability officer to whom students and educators could report their grievances, and who would enforce non-discrimination policies and provide training resources. Lucky Mosqueda spoke about

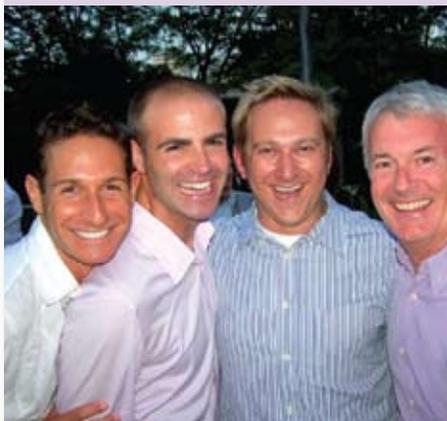
being marginalized at Roosevelt High School as a student with a disability and an androgynous lesbian. She said she struggled to find intellectual and social support but was marginalized both at home and school. She asked for the creation of a curriculum that was not heterosexist or enablist.

Students not feeling safe in schools was a recurring theme, as was the need to add gender identity and gender expression to CPS's non-discrimination policy. Ahkia Daniels described a police officer tell a fellow female student that "[i]f you want to dress like a man, I will treat you like a man." Richard Moore emphasized the need to go beyond "disciplining strategies that only deal with violence and harassment after the fact." He asked for "restorative justice strategies" to be put in place instead. Daniels and Moore asked Huberman to sign a directive encapsulating the principles of the forum. The room broke out into chants as attendees pressed him to sign.

Huberman responded that "any directive consists of lots of different pieces. I embrace the underlying nature of this directive [but] we have to use the protocol of CPS. The problems presented here are real and real solutions are needed."

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

Chicago House: How tweet



HIV/AIDS agency Chicago House hosted its 2009 Birdhouse Art Auction and Cocktail Party ("Home Tweet Home") June 17 at Galleria Marchetti, 825 W. Erie. It was the largest auction yet, with more than 50 pieces up for auction—and the event raised \$30,000. Photos by Steve Starr

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Peter LaBarbera. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald (www.MysticImagesPhotography.com)

Anti-gays hold press conference in Chicago

BY EMMANUEL GARCIA

The anti-gay group Americans For Truth About Homosexuality (AFAH) held a press conference June 17 in a vacant suite at 29 S. LaSalle. Peter LaBarbera, president of AFAH, introduced eight speakers to a small group of supporters and three media outlets, to draw attention to what they call President Barack Obama's "radical homosexual" appointments, specifically the appointments of Kevin Jennings (Deputy Assistant Secretary of Education for the Department of Safe and Drug-Free Schools) and Harry Knox (Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships). Both Jennings and Knox have been longtime advocates and leaders in the LGBT community. Jennings is the founder of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and Knox is the director for Human Rights Campaign's religion and faith program.

Coincidentally, this meeting took place on the same day Obama released a memo that would grant federal employees some domestic-partnership benefits, a move that was met with little excitement by some in the LGBT community.

The press conference appeared to be more of a sermon as supporters nodded their head in approval with several "amens" as each speaker commented on a specific issue they deemed

Matt Barber spoke about the U.S. military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, that prohibits anyone who is openly gay and, by his definition, anyone who is "open homosexual, open cross-dressers, people who are self identified as transgender, engage in homosexual behavior" to enlist in the armed services. According to Barber, if Obama keeps his campaign promise to repeal this policy when soldiers are sharing tight quarters and "open showering" facilities, this will disrupt unit cohesion and affects troop morale.

Barber, who is not a physician, described Jennings role to create safe schools as "a demonstrably dangerous" thing to do, and associated gays and lesbians to the "extreme rates of nearly every form of sexually transmitted disease, far above natural heterosexual behavior."

Hiram Crawford, a pro-life advocate, opened with the statement "Jesus loves you; we have thousands of people who have come out of the lifestyle of sodomy and are totally involved." Crawford, who is African-American, said that one of the main things he is fighting and is deeply concerned about is the "genocide" that is going on in the African-American community, associating high rates of abortion within the community to people who are trying to get "rid of the Blacks." He equated this to Hitler's slow process when he was trying to take over Germany.

Mary Anne Hackett, president of Catholic Citizens of Illinois, protested Harry Knox's appointment to the Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships because, in her words, "[He] is an anti-Catholic bigot; he's chosen to live a lifestyle described by our church as disordered and by the bible as an abomination." She called on Obama to remove Knox and asked,

"Would President Obama be comfortable with a racist, and anti-Semite, a member of the KKK on the council—or is anti-Catholicism the only form of bigotry that's acceptable?"

The denial of rights for LGBTs was a constant theme, but perhaps the most disturbing was the speech by Diane Gramley, who is the president of the American Family Association of Pennsylvania. She addressed the hate-crimes bill by stating that Matthew Shepard, who has a measure named after him, was not targeted for being gay but because he was an easy target. She blamed the media for distorting the story and believes that the bill will be used to prohibit the freedom of speech of "Sunday school teachers" and "pastors."

Near the end, after Fox News and NBC-5 had packed their cameras, LaBarbera made a comment about the lack of media willing to report or show their side of the story, saying, "the media has low tolerance for the truth." Speakers included Matter Barber, Oklahoma State Rep. Sally Kern, Pastor Larry Rogers, Itom Brejcha and Thomas More. To view clips from the press conference, visit www.QueerTVNetwork.com

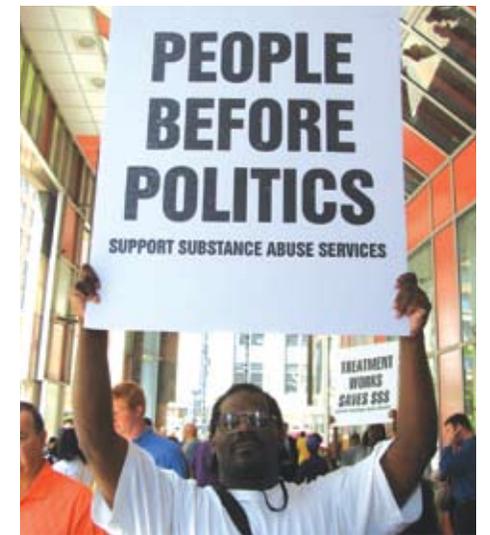
Thousands rally in Loop against cuts

BY ANDREW DAVIS

In light of a state budget crisis that has even led the Illinois Department of Human Services to advise funeral directors that the state can no longer afford funeral and burial payments, thousands of individuals protested possible budget cuts at the Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph, June 18. The budget for state-funded human-service programs will be cut by 50% or more beginning July 1 if legislators do not act immediately to increase revenue, according to a statement from Center on Halsted Executive Director Modesto Tico Valle.

The possibilities are dire, indeed, for approximately 12,000 organizations throughout Illinois. According to Valle, "cuts mean fewer over all services and programs for Center on Halsted including its Anti-Violence and HIV programs resulting in fewer HIV tests, less prevention work and more new cases of HIV/AIDS." Sarah Frick of YWCA Metropolitan Chicago e-mailed Windy City Times that "[t]he state budget has us in

complete crisis mode. ... We are facing a 75% reduction in programs and staff." At the rally, many of the attendees chanted "No more cuts" and "People before politics." Photos by Andrew Davis and from Maude Carroll can be seen online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.



Rally participant. Photo by Andrew Davis

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CHICAGO GAY HISTORY

BY JOHN D'EMILIO



Alfred Kinsey: Sexual revolutionary

I don't often receive e-mails from editors at Playboy. But, last fall, one of them alerted me to a feature set to appear in January 2009. To celebrate fifty-five years of publishing, the magazine had prepared a list of "The 55 Most Important People in Sex" from the past 55 years. Some of the people on the list—like Howard Stern, Bo Derek, Farrah Fawcett and Frank Sinatra—probably would not have made my list of top history makers. But, as to Alfred Kinsey, the man Playboy put on top, I couldn't agree more.

Kinsey helped make a sexual revolution. It's fair to call his two books on human sexual behavior the most influential works on sex written by an American in the twentieth century. And, as his biographers have pointed out, Chicago played a key role in his groundbreaking research.

Kinsey hardly seemed destined to be a sexual revolutionary. Born in 1894 in Hoboken, New Jersey, and trained as a zoologist, he made his professional reputation through studying the gall wasp. As a taxonomist, a scientist whose work involves the patient accumulation and classification of lots of specimens, Kinsey reportedly collected over 150,000 wasps. I can't imagine anything more tedious.

In the late-1930s, Kinsey and some colleagues at Indiana University began teaching a course on marriage and the family. Undergraduates flocked to it, and they brought lots of questions and concerns about sex. Kinsey was shocked to encounter the fear and confusion that many felt about sexual matters. But he was even more upset to realize that science did not have the kind of rock-solid evidence he needed in order to answer their questions with confidence.

So Kinsey began doing what any self-respecting taxonomist would. In 1938, he started collecting specimens, though in this project his specimens were the sexual life histories of men and women. Over the next decade, Kinsey and a small team of researchers trained by him interviewed 18,000 subjects. No one had ever probed so deeply about such intimate topics with so many people. The interviews covered every aspect of an individual's sexual experiences. Based on this research, Kinsey published *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* in 1948. The companion volume, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*, appeared five years later.

This was long before the tell-all, show-all, reality television times that we live in. Kinsey knew that if work on so sensitive a topic was to have any influence, he had to adopt the neutral stance of the scientist rather than the passionate tone of the crusader. "I am a fact finder," he insisted to the press again and again. Kinsey claimed simply to be describing what was. He left the moralizing and the sensationalism to others.

Sure enough, these two massive books (the male study clocked in at 804 pages; the female at 842) are dry as a stale piece of bread. I'd wager that no one ever got aroused reading the Kinsey studies. For instance, pages 488 and 489 of the male study contain information about petting to climax, masturbation, intercourse with prostitutes, and extra-marital intercourse with companions. But it's all in the form of charts and graphs. There are no visuals and no thrilling descriptions.

One of the great jokes among used book dealers in the decades after Kinsey's studies were published is that there were more unread copies of it on their shelves than of any book other

than the Bible. The publisher originally commissioned a print run of only 5,000 copies for the male study. But advance publicity in the press was so great that, soon, lots more were rolling off the presses. Each study eventually sold a quarter million copies, and each spent several months on the New York Times best seller list. College professors generally only dream of such sales figures.

Perhaps it's true that few buyers ever slogged their way through all those pages. But the press seized upon Kinsey's findings, and Kinsey quickly became something of a celebrity. Time put him on its cover. Newsweek called the male study "the season's most sensational best seller." Harper's, a middle-brow monthly, described the findings as "explosive." Again and again, reviewers commented on how Kinsey had managed to shatter American society's certainties about sex. Long-held beliefs, said one, "are revealed as myths and delusions."

What did Kinsey find that warranted such descriptions? Remember that, in this period, public norms insisted that, while sexual expression was good and healthy, it belonged only in marriage. Sure, some young men and women on the road to marriage might get too eager, too soon, and go "all the way." But basically the consensus was that the proper place for sex was within the marital relationship. Notice that there was no room in this consensus for lesbians, gay men, or bisexuals.

Kinsey's findings exposed the huge gap between these norms and actual behavior. Based on his interviews, he discovered that the overwhelming majority of males had found a regular sexual outlet while they were still in their teens. Half of America's husbands had cheated on their wives; half of American wives weren't virgins when they got married. Kinsey claimed that 95% of American males had broken the law at least once on the way to an orgasm. Applying his findings just to the state where Kinsey lived, Newsweek estimated that the good people of Indiana broke its various sex laws 90 million times a year!

A few commentators looked at findings like these and expressed outrage. The president of Princeton compared Kinsey's work to that of "small boys writing dirty words on fences." The head of Union Theological Seminary in New York thought Kinsey's studies revealed a "degradation in American morality approximating the worst decadence of the Roman era."

But, for the most part, journalists, academics, scientists, and many others applauded what Kinsey's research uncovered. He wrote about sex, said *The Nation*, "freed from intolerance, superstition, frivolity, and morbidity." With the overwhelming majority of Americans living outside the nation's sex laws, it seemed obvious to many Kinsey readers that the laws needed changing. As the reviewer in *Science* declared, "abnormal and delinquent sexual behavior now seems ... rather normal." Kinsey was a voice—a powerful voice—for tolerance and acceptance of sexual diversity and difference.

Nowhere was this clearer than in his findings on homosexual behavior. At the time he wrote, the going assumption was that homosexuality was extremely rare. Depending on your outlook, it was either the act of a sinner or the unfortunate outcome of a dysfunctional family.

Kinsey's figures shattered the common wisdom. He claimed that 37% of American men had at least one overt homosexual experience to orgasm; that 4% were exclusively homosexual; and that one in ten was predominantly homosexual for at least a three-year period. While the comparable figures for women were lower, they were still much greater than the common wisdom allowed.

Kinsey himself, as he wrote, was "totally unprepared" for such high figures. But homosexual activity, he concluded, "is an expression of capacities that are basic in the human." Repeated analyses of the data showed that "homosexual histories are to be found in every age group, in every social level, in every conceivable occupation, in cities and on farms." One can almost hear in these findings the gay liberation slogan "we are everywhere."

Kinsey's "one-in-10" figure stuck. For decades, it was repeated endlessly by journalists and popular writers. It was also taken up by the first generation of gay and lesbian activists. It provided comfort to large numbers of men and women who had wondered if, perhaps, they were the only one who felt this way. It became one of the key weapons in the early arsenal of gay liberation. If gays, lesbians, and bisexuals were that large a group, then surely homophobic laws and public policies made no sense.

Kinsey's importance to the history of sexuality—and to gay, lesbian, and bisexual history in particular—can't be overstated. His studies mark the beginnings of a new era. And, unbeknown even to many of the people who are familiar with Kinsey, gay men in Chicago were critical to his research. His interviews here in 1939 and 1940 may very well have marked the tipping point in his project, the "eureka" moment when he knew he could do this research successfully. More on Kinsey in Chicago next time.

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TPAN receives \$331K grant

HIV/AIDS agency Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) has received a \$331,000 grant from the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services to enhance its existing mental-health and substance-abuse programs.

In March 2008, TPAN launched the POWER program (Positive Outcomes for Wellness, Education, and Recovery), designed to serve African-American men who have sex with men (MSM); are HIV positive or at-risk; and struggling with addiction issues. TPAN will extend POWER programming to all HIV-impacted populations with substance-abuse problems.

In addition, under the program, TPAN will implement a cutting-edge intervention specifically for individuals whose treatment and recovery efforts are complicated by histories of childhood sexual abuse.

BEHIV adds board members

Local AIDS service organization Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV) has recently added Jeff Willoughby and Adrian Williams to its board of directors.

During the past two years, Williams and Willoughby, leaders in Chicago's leather community, have been instrumental in promoting BEHIV's programs and raising money to support the agency's programs.

For more about the organization, see www.behiv.org.

Dallas bureau offering trip

This September, the Dallas LGBT community will celebrate 26 years of pride. To commemorate, the Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau (Dallas CVB) is inviting LGBT travelers to visit www.glbtdallas.com to enter for a chance to win a trip for two to Dallas during Pride weekend, Sept. 18-21.

The winner will receive two American Airlines tickets, and will spend three nights at the Joule Hotel, among other perks.

Entries will be accepted through July 31; entrants must be 21. See www.glbtdallas.com.

Contest recognizes LGBTQ nonprofits

In honor of Pride Month, the 2009 GreatNonprofits Pride Choice Awards will recognize the top-rated LGBTQ nonprofits.

The contest asks people to write reviews of LGBTQ nonprofit organizations they have had an experiences with. Nonprofits can also encourage their volunteers, clients, donors and board members to post reviews. All reviews will be automatically visible on GuideStar.org, a leading site for philanthropic research.

Winners will receive national media coverage as well as a promo on GuideStar.org. Submit reviews by June 30 at www.greatnonprofits.org/pride.

LGBTs among group's 35 Under 35

Community Renewal Society—a progressive, faith-based organization founded in 1882 that works to eliminate race and class barriers—has named its 2009 35 Under 35 honorees, which includes at least two members of the LGBT community.

Joe Hollendoner of Howard Brown Health Center's Broadway Youth Center (and a former Windy City Times 30 Under 30 recipient) and Sharmili Majmudar of Rape Victim Advocates were among the organization's honorees.

For more information about Community Renewal Society, visit www.communityrenewalsocty.org.

Local events:

Family matters: Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, will present an LGBT alternative family-planning seminar Wed., June 24, 7-9 p.m. Moderator Richard Vaughn (managing attorney at the National Fertility Law Center, and gay parent through surrogacy) will lead an interactive conversation with several subject-matter experts, including LGBT adoption attorney Rosemary Mulryan. Tickets are \$5 each; e-mail culture@centeronhalsted.org or call 773-661-0763.

The test defense: The HIV Testing & Prevention Program of Center on Halsted will present a National HIV Testing Day seminar Wed., June 24, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at the center, 3656 N. Halsted. This free presentation (which includes voluntary testing) includes a complimentary breakfast and lunch. RSVP at ggross@centeronhalsted.org or 773-472-6469, ext. 478.

RVA gala: Rape Victim Advocates will hold its 35th-anniversary gala Thursday, June 25, 6-10 p.m., at Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton. For more information, e-mail development@rapevictimadvocates.org or visit Facebook.com and look for "RVA's 35th Anniversary Gala."

Leave it to diva: The Center on Halsted's OUT Front and Center Music Series will present: "The Diva Suites" Thursday, June 25 at 7 p.m. at 3656 N. Halsted. "Diva" is Anita Davis Dance Theater's display of historical African-American icons such as Gladys Knight, Chaka Khan, Prince and Phyllis Hyman. (The program will also Thursday, July 2, at The Harold Washington Cultural Center, 4701 S. King.) Tickets are \$10-\$20 each; RSVP to culture@centeronhalsted.org or 773-472-6469, ext. 245. Also, see www.AnitaDavisDance.com.

Pride in the name of love: Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, will host "The Your Community, Your Center 2009 Pride Celebration" Friday, June 26, on the third-floor Richard M. Daley Rooftop Garden, 5:30-9 p.m. A ticket of \$15 includes three drink tickets; see www.CenterOnHalsted.org.

Shirts so good: Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and Kenneth Cole are jointly participating in an "AWEARNESS" marriage-equality campaign, and will sell limited-edition T-shirts (with 20 percent of the evening's proceeds going to HRC) Friday, June 26, 4-9 p.m., at the Kenneth Cole store at 540 N. Michigan. Call the store at 312-644-1163 or visit www.hrc.org.

Rainbow bright: Chicago Gay Men's Chorus will perform its concert, "Over the Rainbow," Friday, June 26, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, June 27, at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Lakeshore Theater, 3175 N. Broadway; and Thursday, July 2, at 7:30 p.m. at Mayslake Peabody Estate, 1717 W. 31st, Oak Brook. See www.cgmc.org.

Wed reckoning: The DuPage County Green Party Social Justice in DuPage Series forum, "Civil Unions, Equal Marriage and Straights," will take place Thursday, June 30, at 7 p.m. at Westmont Public Library, 428 N. Cass, Westmont. See www.dupagegreens.org or e-mail mayatoddbob@aim.com.

WORLD ROUNDUP

BY REX WOCKNER

Pride day bomb injures 21 in São Paulo

Twenty-one people were injured after São Paulo's 13th gay-pride parade June 13 when a bomb was detonated in a downtown square that is home to nightclubs frequented by gays and lesbians.

Five of the injured were taken to hospitals. It appeared the bomb, which scattered shrapnel, was tossed from a building.

About 3 million people turned out for the eight-hour pride extravaganza.

Australians support same-sex marriage

Sixty percent of Australians say gay couples should be able to get married, a Galaxy poll has found.

Thirty-six percent of those questioned oppose same-sex marriage and 4 percent lack an opinion on the issue.

The poll also found that 58 percent of respondents think foreign same-sex marriages should be recognized in Australia.

"Clearly, Australians believe marriage is first and foremost about love and commitment, not your partner's gender," said Peter Furness, national convener of the group Australian Marriage Equality.

"This poll scuttles the only rationale put forward by the (Prime Minister Kevin) Rudd government for opposing equality, namely that a majority of Australians believe marriage should

only be between a man and a woman. It surely increases the pressure on the Labor Party to endorse same-sex marriage at its upcoming national conference."

A 2004 amendment to Australia's Marriage Act bans marriage between same-sex couples as well as recognition of overseas same-sex marriages.

On Aug. 1, marriage-equality activists will stage a National Day of Action in several Australian cities.

Scottish gay activists arrested over 'sodomy' sign, T-shirt

Two activists from the group Queer Mutiny were arrested for breaching the peace May 23 in Edinburgh, Scotland, at a protest outside the Church of Scotland's General Assembly, London's Pink Paper reported June 11.

Police said Iona Murray, 21, breached the peace by carrying a sign that said: "Sinful Sodomite Seeks Similar For Sin + Sodomy. Westboro Baptists Need Not Apply." And a 27-year-old male activist was hit with the same charge merely for wearing a T-shirt that said, "I love sodomy."

Freedom-of-speech laws in the United Kingdom are different from those of the U.S., as are libel laws.

Clarification

This column recently reported that the Rev. Eva Brunne of the Stockholm diocese of the Church of Sweden is "believed to be the first openly lesbian bishop in the world." That is true, in the case of mainstream denominations, but there also are lesbian bishops in the GLBT-oriented Metropolitan Community Churches. Thanks to the Rev. Ray Neal of MCC Seattle for pointing this out.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

"THE GENERAL VIEW, WHICH I SHARED, WAS THAT NO ONE who wanted to get elected president (in 2008) could have been a supporter of same-sex marriage. On the other hand, things have moved very far since then, and I'm more optimistic about 2012." — *Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., to GQ, June 12.*

"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." — *Tami Farrell, the new Miss California USA, to Fox News on June 11. After prodding by Fox's Neil Cavuto, Farrell very reluctantly acknowledged*

that she, too, believes marriage is between a man and a woman. Anti-gay-marriage activist Carrie Prejean was fired as Miss California USA on June 10, allegedly for violating her contract, not for her anti-gay-marriage activism.

"WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU CROSSED THAT CREEPY 1960S horror classic 'The Village of the Damned' with the Broadway staple 'A Chorus Line'? You don't need to use your imagination. It's there waiting for you on YouTube under the title 'Gathering Storm': a 60-second ad presenting homosexuality as a national threat second only to terrorism. ... Far from terrifying anyone, 'Gathering Storm' has become, unsurprisingly, an Internet camp classic." — *New York Times columnist Frank Rich, April 18.*

"MOST OF OUR NATION WANTS OUR NATION TO SUCCEED. Most people are ready to move on to the future, not live in the past. Most of the old-school Republicans are scared shitless of that future." — *Meghan McCain, John McCain's daughter, addressing the gay Log Cabin Republicans' convention, April 18.*

"GAY MARRIAGE IS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION. It's a done deal. It's just a matter of time. For the next generation in particular, equal rights for gays is not even a question or a serious issue, much less a sinful hysterical conundrum that can only be answered by terrified Mormons and confused old people and inane referendums funded by same. It's just obvious, inevitable, a given." — *San Francisco Chronicle columnist Mark Morford, May 27.*

"WE (CALIFORNIA) MAY BE A DIE-HARD BLUE STATE OVERALL, full of revolutionary ideas and world-class academics, Nobel Laureates and wondrous alternative belief systems, but we are also messy and flat-footed and just too damn big for our own good, and our southern half is packed to the Orange County rafters with piles of aging social conservatives and religious zealots with far too little spiritual/sexual awareness and far too much money." — *San Francisco Chronicle columnist Mark Morford, May 27.*



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

—Adam Lambert



"I DON'T THINK IT SHOULD BE A SURPRISE FOR ANYONE TO HEAR that I'm gay. I've been living in Los Angeles for eight years as a gay man. I've been at clubs drunk making out with somebody in the corner. ... Right after the finale, I almost started talking about it to the reporters, but I thought, 'I'm going to wait for Rolling Stone, that will be cooler.' ... I didn't want the Clay Aiken thing and the celebrity-magazine bullshit. I need to be able to explain myself in context. ... I'm proud of my sexuality. I embrace it. It's just another part of me. ... I'm trying to be a singer, not a civil rights leader." — *American Idol runner-up Adam Lambert to Rolling Stone, June 9.*

"I'D BE HAPPY TO GO AND DENY IT, BECAUSE I'M NOT (GAY). But by denying it, I'm saying there is something shameful about it, and there isn't anything shameful. The questions about sexuality I find more here in America than anywhere else, because it's a big hang-up and defines what people think about themselves and others. It's not a big issue in Australia." — *Actor Hugh Jackman to Parade magazine, April 26.*

"THE GAYS AREN'T GOING TO BREAK MARRIAGE. Think about it: They're gay. They'll probably spruce it up and make it a little nicer." — *Eric McCormack, Will from Will & Grace, speaking from the stage at Meet in the Middle for Equality, May 30 in Fresno, Calif.*

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

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**KATE
CLINTON**

On an early morning flight from Orlando, after appearing at the 19th Annual Gay Days at Disneyworld, I was sirred twice by a cab driver and flight attendant. All before 7 a.m. I would have thought the brand new faux leopard Croc flats I was sporting would have thrown them off. Or that the Gay Day banners everywhere would have heightened their threat levels to rainbow.

Usually I find mistaken identification an embarrassment or irritant. In past years I would correct quickly with That's Ma'am not Sir, and then try to lessen their discomfort. But this 40th anniversary of Stonewall, I wear the gaffe as a badge of pride. I stare them down. Even if they seem remorseful, I don't help them through their moment. In solidarity with the unsung butch lesbians who were with the fags and drag queens at the Stonewall Riots in Greenwich Village in 1969, I have been doing my own version of butching it up.

It used to be hard to find a N.Y. gay person of a certain age who did not claim to have been at the Stonewall Riots. I am a New Yorker of that certain age, but I most certainly was not at the Stonewall Riots. In 1969 I had just graduated

from a small Jesuit college in upstate New York. Insert Class of 69 joke here.

I was a member of the Gay Resistance. I was trying not to come out. Because of that resistance, I could not and then would not hear the news of gay liberation spreading upstate from Greenwich Village. Though pre-internet, the Stonewall message quickly reached upstate gays in the anti-Vietnam war, women's liberation and civil rights movement. Before long even my little town in upstate New York had out gay activists organizing, educating and agitating.

And they had the best parties. At one I met a brilliant lesbian Political Science professor, fired from her tenured job because of her anti-war activism. Hesitantly, I invited her and her partner over for dinner in the apartment that by then I "shared with a teacher friend". On the apartment tour, before I could point out my bedroom, she gleefully yelled to her partner, Here's the fake bedroom! Perhaps it was my cinder block bed with the Indian bedspread that tipped her off.

With my "don't ask, don't tell" cover blown by my out and outrageous new lesbian friends, I slowly began to come out. First to my girlfriend at the time, to more friends and then to family. Finally, to make up for lost time, I just grabbed a microphone and have yapped about it for twenty-eight years.

Of course there had been gays and lesbian activists in the in the 1950s and early '60s: The Mattachine Society, The Daughters of Bilitis, The Society of Individual Rights, the North American Homophile Organization. I am in awe of their

courage. The rage and outrage of the Stonewall Inn fags, butch dykes and drag queens, who had finally had enough, kicked the courage of early gay activists to another level of visibility.

Back in the day, only 25% of my generation came out before the age of eighteen. It was 31% in the generation after me. Today 57% come out before the age of eighteen. Our challenge today is certainly to transform gay visibility into LGBT action. The reaction to Prop Hates promises a new generation of rage and outrage that will pass trans-inclusive ENDA, overturn DOMA, abolish Don't Ask Don't Tell, and enact federal marriage equality.

But just as Stonewall and the gay liberation movement came from anti-war, women's liberation and civil rights activism, we will only succeed if we reinsert ourselves into those activisms. To pass ENDA we must be part of the labor. To repeal DADT we must work for peace. To repeal DOMA and attain marriage equality we must work with women and people of color.

Think of it as Stonewall rebooted. It's a size fourteen and a half stiletto. Today in honor of my butch forebears, I'm wearing only two items of women's clothing.

Kate Clinton is a faith-based, tax-paying, America-loving political humorist and family entertainer who still believes that humor gets us through peacetime, wartime and scoundrel time. For the latest breaking Kate Clinton news and blog entries, please visit www.kateclinton.com.

Photo by David Rodgers

A Jan-do attitude

Dear Friend:

For decades we have worked for equality. We have worked to fulfill the promise that America is a place without discrimination, and in this new political environment we will continue that fight together.

As a vice chair of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Equality Caucus, I wanted to provide an assessment of where our human rights agenda stands as of today:

Partner benefits

(1) The president extended some benefits to same-sex federal employees' families. He is actually limited in what he can do without a change in law.

(2) Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin is sponsoring the Domestic Partner Benefit and Obligation Act, H.R. 2517 which has 79 co-sponsors including me. The bill would expand the benefit package, making it mirror exactly the benefits afforded to heterosexual married couples in Federal employment.

(3) The president gave Rep. Baldwin's bill his strong public endorsement last night.

Hate crimes

The Hate Crimes Act made crimes based on sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and disability illegal as hate crimes. The bill passed the House once again—on April 29—but is stuck in the Senate. The White House is pushing the Senate to pass it and is the President will sign it into law upon Senate passage. The Hate Crimes Act also expands the scope of the current law, making it possible to federally prosecute the shooter at the Holocaust Museum for a hate crime.

Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)

There is good and bad news but nothing that can't or won't be overcome in time.

The bad news: The Justice Department filed a brief supporting DOMA. I read it. First of all, it wasn't necessary to file a brief at all, especially one that asked for the entire lawsuit to be dismissed. Very disappointing. I was unaware that

it was coming, as were all of the House members.

The good news: The president, in unequivocal terms, has called for the repeal of DOMA. He said, "Among the steps we have not yet taken is to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act. I believe it's discriminatory, I think it interferes with states' rights, and we will work with Congress to overturn it." Rep. Jerry Nadler, who sits on the Judiciary Committee, is working on a DOMA repeal bill that he plans to introduce after the July 4th recess. I'll be on it.

Don't Ask, Don't Tell

Legislation has been introduced by Ellen Tauscher, the chief sponsor of the bill, HR 1283, to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell. I'm a co-sponsor. I have good reason to believe the President will support this legislation—but it's not clear when.

You can count on me to continue to work hard on the fight for equality.

*U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky
Illinois 9th Congressional District*

Justice for all?

*The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500*

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to express my profound disappointment at the tone and content of the motion filed by the Department of Justice in the matter of Smelt and Hammer versus the United States of America and the State of California. While I understand that the Department of Justice had an obligation to respond to the Court, the arguments they used in their response are profoundly disturbing to me and the people that I represent.

Our nation has become one of the greatest countries on the face of the earth because of our embrace of freedom, liberty and justice for all our citizens. Some of the proudest moments

in the history of America have been when we have overturned and put aside "centuries old," "historical" and "traditional" ways of our forebears, recognizing them as discriminatory, oppressive and contrary to the founding principles of our country. The abolition of slavery, women's suffrage, interracial marriage and integration of our public schools immediately leap to mind as "centuries old", "historical" and "traditional" ways of doing things that our people are glad to see the end of and, in fact, are proud to have done away with.

The arguments put forth in the motion regarding taxpayers subsidizing a form of marriage they don't recognize is also appalling to me. To imply that the United States has a federal duty to protect those who wish to discriminate against lesbian and gay citizens is a very dangerous precedent for our nation.

I could go on through the entire text of this motion, but I will not. Suffice it to say that when your administration had an opportunity to reach out and embrace "liberty and justice for all," they chose instead to give encouragement to those who wish to hold back the evolution of liberty and freedom in our nation.

*Gregory S. Harris
Representative, 13th District*

Remembering Rodger

Just wanted to take a moment to express my deepest appreciation to Bob Roehr for his moving and accurate description of Rodger McFarlane (much thanks, too, to Windy City editors). Rodger has essentially been, for the last 30 years, my big brother.

I'm especially grateful that you quote Larry vis-a-vis Rodger's importance to the gay world. Though I happen to be straight, I'm profoundly thankful that Rodger is getting the recognition so many of us understand he deserves. For what it's worth, I believe Rodger's importance transcends his crucial, critical work for PWAs and equality for LGBT people. I believe, in doing what he did, he made an enormous contribution to us all.

Brad Miskell

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GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



The Clik's are just one act covered in a special Pride edition of Pop Making Sense. See page 28.

MUSIC

Willing and Abels.
Page 20.

Photo courtesy of
Michael Abels



MOVIES

Grin and Barrett.
Page 22.



SPORTS

Life's a beach.
Page 62.

Photo by Ross Forman



Scottish Play Scott

Broadway Bound
BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Last week's theater column promised "Three to See in London's West End." Alas, one of those three shows was edited out due to space constraints.

So here's the lowdown on last week's missing West End show, *A Little Night Music*, plus some news about London's *La Cage aux Folles* thrown in for extra measure.

What ties these two musical revivals together is that they both originated at the popular "fringe venue" known as the Menier Chocolate Factory, an intimate 190-seat theater and restaurant on the south bank of the Thames River housed in (you guessed it) a former chocolate factory. But more importantly for theater fans on this side of the pond, both shows are slated to transfer to Broadway.

A Little Night Music is Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheeler's 1973 musical adaptation of the 1955 Ingmar Bergman film *Smiles of a Summer Night*. When delivered by British actors, it sounds positively even more sophisticated. (Personally, I've always had a preference for the show's London cast recording with Jean Simmons over the original Broadway one.)

This scaled-down production by director Trevor Nunn (*Cats*, *Les Miserables*) will probably disappoint those who have read descriptions of the scenic grandeur of director Harold Prince's original staging of *Night Music*. And in light of the full orchestras employed by the 2008 Broadway revivals of *South Pacific* and *Gypsy*, the reduced off-stage orchestral ensemble for this *Night Music* will seem tinny by comparison.

But the intimacy of Nunn's *Night Music* is most welcome and retained in the West End at the Garrick Theatre (typically a home for plays). Any chance to savor Sondheim's sophisticated score



A Little Night Music. Photo by Catherine Ashmore

is eminently worthwhile. Besides, enough opera companies (like Evanston's Light Opera Works) are regularly producing Sondheim so you can get your orchestral lushness that way.

What makes Nunn's *Night Music* stand out is his decision to break with tradition and cast some of the show's key characters a tad younger.

Theater chat boards have frequently lit up by posters arguing what is the right age for *Night Music*'s actress heroine, Desirée Armfeldt. Nunn and his *Desirée*, a beautifully vivacious Hannah Waddingham, make the case for the character to be in her 40s. Instead of having one last grasp of lifelong romance, *Desirée* is more of a woman who realizes in midlife about what she wants.

The younger casting extends to the acid-tongued Countess Charlotte Malcom, the thirtysomething wife to Alistair Robins' too-campy dragoon Carl-Magnus Malcolm (who is having an affair with *Desirée*). Kelly Price makes sense in the role, since her jealousy is better bourn by a younger woman still flush with love (despite her husband's repeated dalliances with other women).

Acclaimed British actress Maureen Lipman plays the elderly Madame Armfeldt like a seasoned pro, even though she is made up to look older than her actual age (One suspects that Lipman could easily play *Desirée*, if offered the chance).

A Little Night Music plays in London until Sept. 5. When it transfers to New York, this *Night Music* will be the first official Broadway revival since the original closed 35 years ago. Currently Nunn is recasting the show with an American cast, so hopefully he achieves the same winning formula as in London.

As for *La Cage aux Folles*, one of its most acclaimed actors is rumored to be making the journey to Broadway. Douglas Hodge's take on Albin/Zaza was both touching and hilarious (particularly when Hodge's Zaza imitates a score of gay icons while singing the title song). Hodge was duly rewarded with an Olivier Award for his performance (one of many Oliviers bestowed on *La Cage* this past spring).

I saw the revival while it was selling out the Menier in 2008, and *La Cage* should be loads of fun in one of Broadway's more intimate theaters. Yet many are questioning *La Cage*'s reappearance on the Great White Way so soon after its most recent revival closed at a loss in 2005 (and that's even after it won a Tony Award for Best Musical Revival).

La Cage, penned by playwright Harvey Fierstein and composer Jerry Herman, certainly speaks volumes for America today. While some critics back in 1983 pooh-poohed *La Cage* at its Broadway debut for its "family values" look at a long-time gay couple still romantically in love, it does make a strong case for gay tolerance nowadays, particularly with all the battles over gay marriage.

The last *La Cage* Broadway revival was rife with backstage drama. (Daniel Davis, as Georges, was fired in the middle of its run.) Hopefully, it will be smoother sailing for the Menier transfer.

If you can't make it to New York this season, at least catch Bohemian Theatre Ensemble's current production of *La Cage*. But if you do make it to Broadway, you should be in for a double treat of Menier Chocolate with both *A Little Night Music* and *La Cage aux Folles*.

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

THEATER REVIEW

A Song for Coretta

Playwright: Pearl Cleage

At: Eclipse Theatre Company at

Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln

Phone: 773-404-7336; \$20-\$25

Runs through: July 26

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

There's a lot to admire in Pearl Cleage's drama *A Song for Coretta*. It sets out to be an important examination of the state of African-American women following the 2006 passing of Coretta Scott King, wife of slain civil-rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

But the play also has a number of dramaturgical missteps. Eclipse Theatre Company's Chicago premiere of *A Song for Coretta* has a few solid performances under director Sarah Moeller's guidance, but the clumsy script undercuts Cleage's overall work.

Cleage's inspiration was the news coverage of people who lined up around Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church (often in the pouring rain) to see Ms. King lying in state. *A Song for Coretta* focuses on five demographically diverse African-American women, each with personal reasons why they're paying last respects to Ms. King.

Things start out happily as Spelman College journalism student Zora (Niccole Thurman, not quite overcoming her plot-device character) hits the interview jackpot with Helen Brown (TayLar, doing a fine job playing older). Helen met Ms. King as a child during the 1956 Montgomery Bus Boycott, and her tale is one of fortitude and pride at how peaceful protests helped dismantle



A Song for Coretta. Photo by Scott Cooper

segregation.

Then Cleage introduces two other characters to point out how succeeding generations missed out on the Civil Rights movement's overwhelming sense of drive and community. You know you're in for a few sparks as soon as we meet the down-on-her-luck New Orleans artist Mona Lisa (Kelly Owens, having fun being simultaneously wise, needy and spacey) and all-attitude teenager Keisha (a hilarious Kristy Johnson, who revels in her ghetto-fabulous stereotypes).

There's an instant clash with Helen as Keisha litters, mistreats her faux infant and reveals that she's soon to become an unwed mother again. More drama arrives with Gwen (an OK Ebony

Wimbs), a soldier on leave from the Iraq War.

Cleage's examination of generational and class differences is insightful, but clumsily delivered. Most egregious are the tales of woe delivered by Hurricane Katrina survivor Mona Lisa and emotionally battle-scarred Gwen.

Cleage has the characters spout their stories tag-team style. It could have been Cleage's attempt to show how African-American women are still ignored or used by an uncaring U.S. government, but the technique just comes off as contrived and melodramatic.

Also, Helen says some really hurtful words toward Keisha—the kind of thing that would forge a lifelong grudge. So to see all five of the women happily embrace as friends at the end feel disingenuous.

The issues Cleage brings up in *A Song for Coretta* are very worthy, but her delivery methods are sometimes slipshod. Eclipse's strong production can't overcome these writing flaws, but makes a strong go at it otherwise.

THEATER REVIEW

Fifth of July

Playwright: Lanford Wilson

At: Oak Park Festival Theatre

Tickets: 708-445-4440; www.oakparkfestival.com; \$27

Runs through: July 11

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Gay playwright Lanford Wilson places lovers Kenneth Talley and Jed Jenkins at the center of his 1978 play *Fifth of July*, but it's not a "gay play." The play presents Ken and Jed's relationship as an unremarkable circumstance. However, *Fifth of July* is about Ken and Jed as a couple, but it covers a lot more, too, revolving around three generations of the Talley family and the family homestead in Lebanon, Mo. There's Ken's Aunt Sally with her husband's ashes, and Ken's sister June and her precocious 14-year-old daughter by her old radical friend John, now a successful pop-music producer.

Rather than focusing on one or two characters, it's a play of personalities and mostly small actions that fluidly shifts between all eight of the play's people. However, Ken is the indirect center, partly because he inherited the homestead. Having lost his lower legs in Vietnam, Ken has retreated from social interaction and professional opportunities (he's a teacher) despite his family's unflagging support and Jed's devotion. Ken strikes a neutral attitude about even the smallest things, fleeing from responsibility or challenge, unwilling to face himself although not openly self-pitying. At the play's climax, Ken offers to sell the homestead to John, who wants it for a recording studio. Aunt Sally counters this family betrayal by bidding against John for the property. John's wife, Gwen, another of the old friends who survived radical times and lots of drugs, finally confronts Ken, one survivor to another: "You are on the edge of nowhere. You're

CRITICS' PICS

The Arabian Nights, Lookingglass Theatre, through July 12. Storytelling becomes a matter of life and death as the tales of Scheherazade postpone her execution. Intricate, intriguing and oh-so-easy on the eyes, the production provides a glimpse into a land that today is (sadly) known more as a war zone than a trove of mesmerizing lore. CS

Graceland, Profiles Theatre, through August 16. The death of a parent can be tough on the surviving children, but Ellen Fahey's mischievous look at cross-generational coping methods and the goofy kindness of strangers is efficient, compassionate and very, very funny. MSB

The History Boys, TimeLine Theatre, through Aug. 2. Two teachers duel over eight bright British boys bound for Oxford U. in this dazzling examination of education with a strong gay subplot. Now extended, maybe you can score some rare tickets. Do try! JA

A Minister's Wife, Writers' Theatre, through Aug. 2. This new musical adaptation of George Bernard Shaw's *Candida* has just extended. Go now to see a work that compellingly stretches the boundaries of both musical theater and chamber opera. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge, Morgan and Sullivan

gonna' lose it all," she warns him.

If this sounds like heavy slogging then you don't know Lanford Wilson. Like Chekhov—with whom he often is compared—Wilson views his characters through a comedic lens: they are victims of their own follies rather than sinners, and all possess some degree of charm or sweetness.

Under director Michael Weber, Oak Park Festival has mounted an earnest and lively production of *Fifth of July*, with a fine cast featuring Stef Tovar (Ken), Danny Bernardo (Jed), Kate Kisner (Aunt Sally) and Rebekah Ward-Hays (Gwen) among an ensemble of equals. Ricky Lurie's late-1970's costumes—especially for John and Gwen—also add visual fun. However, the production doesn't find all the textures of the work, which subtly shifts tone or color almost from moment to moment. Conversations and events—when events occur—all are given equal weight. As a result, Aunt Sally's unexpected resolve and bidding war against John doesn't have the impact it needs as the Talleys close ranks against an outside threat.

The always-delightful Austin Gardens lush outdoor setting is a perfect environment for a play set in the summertime, occasional passing planes notwithstanding, although the out-of-doors may be what swallows the production's subtleties.



Fifth of July.

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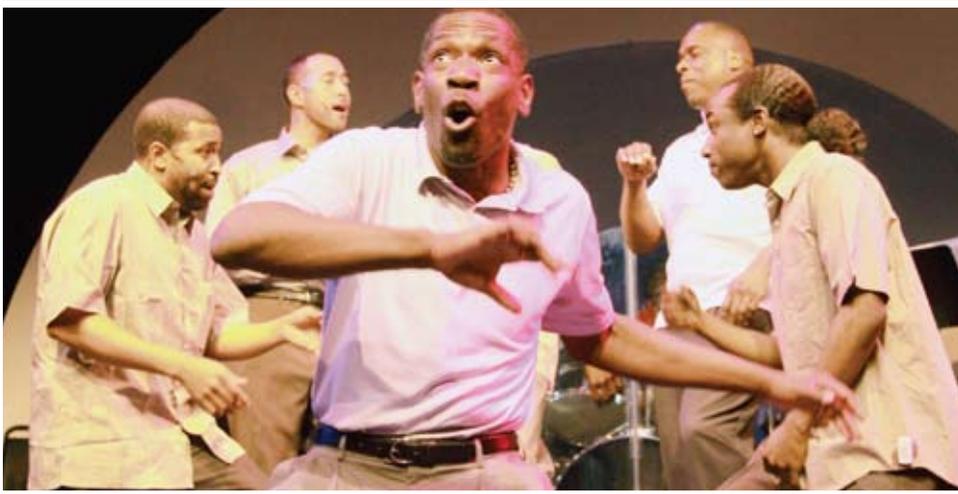
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A Tribute to Black Crooners. Photo courtesy of Farrah Malik

THEATER REVIEW

A Tribute to the Black Crooners

Playwright: Dawn Bless and Rueben Echoles
At: Black Ensemble Theater
 at the Beacon Street Hull House, 4520 N. Beacon
Phone: 773-769-4451; \$45
Runs through: Aug. 16

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Some of the plot elements in Black Ensemble's latest musical revue will be familiar: the let's-put-on-a-show framing device—in this case, a concert celebrating the 65th anniversary of a Chicago nightclub featuring the Stephens clan, owners since its opening in 1944. Conflicting opinions over the showcase genre's defining limits, with third-generation Mike and Sean Stephens differing on inclusion of recording artists such as Willie Nelson and K'Jon. And for suspense, the threat to the site of the venerable family trade generated by Eminent Domain pro-

ceedings—a prospect invoking mixed responses among the potential evictees.

All right, so it isn't Tom Stoppard. But within co-scripters Dawn Bless and Rueben Echoles' scenario can be found discussions of issues both timely and insightful. How often do we see a young son encourage his widowed father to begin dating again? Or a couple whose marital accord is unaffected by the wife's status as the club's high-powered suit-and-briefcase business manager? And what becomes of entertainers' children who opt for non-show biz careers—or whose enthusiasm exceeds their talent?

Anyhow, plot is not what Black Ensemble devotees come seeking. What BET's final "Season of Men" production does is to assemble six of their most charismatic male vocalists onstage to open up their mighty pipes on such classics as Nat "King" Cole's "Unforgettable" and "Route 66," Billy Eckstein's "Don't Get Around Much Anymore" and "Rhythm in the Riff," and Al Hibbler's "After the Lights Go Down Low." Trinity P. Murdock wraps his smooth vocals around an ebullient Louis Armstrong impression, while Michael T. Bartlett, Jr., does likewise with Johnny

Mathis on the shimmering "Twelfth of Never." And since, as Rashawn Thompson's mischievous Sean points out, "a love song don't have to be a ballad," Roy Hamilton is represented by an animated "Don't Let Go," in addition to a full-throated choral rendition of the Rodgers & Hammerstein anthem "You'll Never Walk Alone."

They share the stage with five utility speakers/singers/dancers and Jimmy Tillman's six-piece band, the latter incorporated this time into the dramatic action—well, this *is* a nightclub we're in, right? And as is customary in this venue, spectators are invited to clap hands, tap toes, chair-dance and, at one point, swing along with the high-stepping cast out on the floor. When was the last time you did *that* at a Stoppard play?

THEATER REVIEW

Little Brother

Playwright: adapted by William Massolia
from the novel by Cory Doctorow
At: Griffin Theatre Company
 at the Athenaeum, 2936 N. Southport
Phone: 800-982-2787; \$25
Runs through: July 19

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

It's common knowledge nowadays that teenagers are risk-takers, often engaging in reckless behavior with hardly a thought for the consequences. It's also alleged that they are technologically superior to their adult guardians, capable of manipulating microscopic gizmos in ways bedazzling even disciples of William Gibson (like me). So a youth movement claiming as its slogan "Don't trust anybody over 25" might, at first, seem a threat to society. But in Cory Doctorow's 2008 cyberpunk novel, the kids are out to *rescue* America, by daring to go where their cautious elders fear to tread.

Marcus "W1N5t0N" Yallow and his chums are typical—if brainier than most—San Francisco

high school students. One afternoon, they are caught near an explosion demolishing the city's Bay Bridge, following which they are "detained" by the Department of Homeland Security as it existed just after the holocaust of 9/11. Incensed by what he sees as blatant disregard for civil liberties, Marcus vows to fight those who emulate the enemy they claim to deplore, using the weapons at his disposal—Xboxes, Alternate Reality Games, internal sabotage of everyday electronic devices and an army of likewise disgruntled adolescents.

Youngsters upsetting a status quo grown complacently despotic is a recurring theme in American literature—as a freethinking teacher notes before being replaced by a Sarah Palin-ringer, isn't our very nation, itself, founded on civil disobedience? And Griffin Theatre's ethos has long championed underpups taking on the Big Dogs. Referential nods to British author George Orwell's pessimistic prototype notwithstanding, the struggle of these dissenters is rendered all the more immediate by history having validated their warnings.

Recreating a sprawling west coast metropolis in the Athenaeum's tiny second-floor studio is no easy task, but Griffin Artistic Director William Massolia (whose swiftly moving adaptation could have left the tech-unsavvy in the pixeldust, but never does) has brought on board two experts at boat-in-bottle staging—production director Dorothy Milne and scenic designer Alan Donahue from Lifeline Theatre. Along with a technical team likewise adept at suggesting vast panoramas in closet-sized spaces (with special credit due Charlie Alves' videos), a protean ensemble, led by fresh-faced Mike Harvey as the courageous Marcus, invoke the diverse range of citizenry dwelling in the city symbolizing a cradle of our country's freedom since the 1960s, when another generation of unruly idealistic crusaders set out to defend democracy against creeping erosion.

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A Perfect Relationship.

THEATER REVIEW A Perfect Relationship

Playwright: Doric Wilson

At: Chicago's Leather Archive Museum,

6418 N. Greenview

Tickets: 773-761-9200;

\$10 (sold only at the door)

Runs through: July 10

BY JERRY NUNN

The People's Theater of Chicago/The Legacy Project is going retro this summer with *A Perfect Relationship*. Written in the late 1970s by Doric Wilson, this production contains many elements that audience members can relate with today.

Greg (Thad Anzur) and Ward (Andrew Kain Miller) are roommates in a 1980 New York two-bedroom apartment. Greg's affinity for disco and Ward's leather scene fetish makes them the gay Odd Couple. When a one-night stand enters the picture, the roommate's relationship is tested and three quickly becomes a crowd.

Thad and Andrew have great chemistry together. Andrew Kain Miller is the standout, bringing naturalness to Ward and his being a company member bodes well for the People's Theater's future. Their scenes were well choreographed by Director Tony Lewis.

Barry, (Alex Polcyn) as the trick, almost steals the show and Muriel, (Bonnie Varner) as the neighbor, could take a lesson from him. Her Mrs. Roper hairdo/costume is fitting but she needs those peaks and valleys to flesh out the character a little more. After a few scenes, I think we were all ready for her to knock on someone else's door.

The lighting pulsed throughout the show, including the house lights. Was this for disco-ball effect or maybe to express downtown New York nightlife outside?

Chicago's Leather Archive Museum adds greatly to the environment and atmosphere. The museum also gives early birds the chance to see more than the worm downstairs.

While not quite "perfect," seize the opportunity to visit the museum and brush up on gay history with a play this Fourth of July.

Michael Abels: A composer makes 'Waves'

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Michael Abels is someone who defies categorization for several reasons, including his music. Among his accomplishments are the striking piece "Global Warming" and "Aquadia," a co-commissioned work by the Chicago Sinfonietta and the Shedd Aquarium that was performed during the recent show "Sound Waves." (The Shedd Aquarium is scheduled to run the collaboration in conjunction with a marine-mammal show, "Fantasea," which will open to the public Thursday, July 2.) Abels, who is out, talked with *Windy City Times* about growing up in South Dakota, discovering identities and leaving a legacy.

Windy City Times: You were born in Phoenix, and you grew up in South Dakota...

Michael Abels: ...as a very small kid—up until the age of six. Then, when I was almost seven I moved back to Phoenix.

WCT: What was it like being biracial in those cities [in the '60s]?

MA: I tell people that my birth parents were both married, but not to each other. My father is Black or Latin, or just Black—I've never met him. Upon my birth, I was adopted by my mother's parents—the white side of my family. So I went to the farm in South Dakota.

I spent my preschool years there. I also had a lot of allergies—I was hospitalized with pneumonia twice before I was six. Back in those days, they sent people with allergies to the desert, where I was born. My aunt and uncle were living in Phoenix, and so I went there; they raised me until I went off to college [in Los Angeles].

WCT: So, South Dakota was almost hazardous to your health. [Abels laughs.] However, some good things came out of your time there, including the fact that you were introduced to the piano there.

MA: Yes. My grandparents were great, great people. First of all, they were fearless to adopt me in the '60s and take me to South Dakota, knowing I'd be the darkest person around. They told me that I was special and that they loved me very much. The simple wisdom that they used in raising me just struck me.

WCT: And you eventually went to L.A.

MA: Yes; I went to USC [the University of Southern California]. I knew at an early age that I wanted to live there. I remember going [to L.A.] at the age of nine and thinking, "This is where I should go." [Laughs] I went to USC because they had a great music school but I knew I didn't want to go to a music conservatory be-



Michael Abels. Photo by Andrew Davis

cause I felt, in high school, that I was all about music and that I wasn't a well-rounded person. I wanted to be around people who just weren't musicians.

Then, I just stayed. L.A. has a particular vibe. When other people find out I'm from there, they say, "Sooooo, you like L.A." [Laughs] I get it; it's not for everybody. I've lived there all my adult life, so I get the vibe. At the same time, my career actually flourishes elsewhere when it comes to my concert music. I could definitely live elsewhere, and Chicago is on the list of places—not just because of the arts community, but in general.

WCT: I wanted to ask you about the Rev. James Cleveland [the late minister who Abels arranged gospel music for]. Tell me what he was like and about meeting him.

MA: Boy, this takes me back. [Laughs] I met him through a mutual friend who had sung with him; [Cleveland] was starting a new choir, the Los Angeles Gospel Messengers.

Rev. James Cleveland understood that music in the Black church is [pretty] much showtime. In the white church, people want to do high-quality music, but it's really not about it being a show. He was a good showman, and gave me, surprisingly, a lot of free rein to do what I wanted to do. When it came to the choir, he was hands-on; when it came to me arranging music, he was hands-off.

WCT: How would describe the style of music you compose?

MA: Wow—that's a hard one. Mostly, I get commission to write orchestral music; that's really how I define it. I don't define it by another genre because, in the world of music, stereotypes still thrive. If you nothing else about someone except the kind of music [that person] listens to, you're already assessing something about that person—and we don't think about it as being wrong. And people use music, much like clothing, to make a statement about themselves.

In the world of classical/concert music, there's been a limiting stereotype that's developed. Those of us who are my age and younger who are involved in that kind of music are not isolated from the rest of the world; we listen to and enjoy every other kind of music. As a journalist, you probably don't read news all the time. [Interviewer nods.] If people really got that, they'd realize that concert music really isn't outside their realm of thinking. It's just another style of music, like country.

If I looked at myself as a classical musician, I'd write classical music. But when I write for orchestras, I look at myself as writing orchestral music. The orchestra, to me, is a band—a band that plays really well, and can play anything you write down. So I write the music that I feel. I let other people worry about what style it is.

I love world music. My best-known piece is "Global Warming," which I wrote in 1990. It's not about the climate phenomenon but how music of different cultures has things in common—it's about a warming of international relations that was happening at the time. The Berlin Wall had just come down, and everyone was getting along.

I see similarities between Black and Irish music, for example. My Web site has a prism on it, and that's because how I view myself. We are all unique prisms, and my job is to refract the light in the way that's unique to my prism. If there's a point of view that I can express, I use whatever style of music is necessary to illustrate my point.

WCT: Can you tell me about the "Sound Waves" performance?

MA: My interpretation of the program was that everything had some sort of wave theme to it—in my case, that being music that's aquatically, oceanically ... watery. [Laughs] So the Chicago Sinfonietta and the Shedd Aquarium agreed a couple of years ago to collaborate; Shedd was just embarking on a big remodeling of the facility, and they were looking for other things to bring people into their site—and they thought one thing would be to have chamber-music concerts.

At some point, they figured they'd have a show in the new Oceanarium. The sinfonietta had played works of mine over the years, and they [recommended] me. It turned out to be a really great collaboration.

WCT: Let's talk about sexuality. When did you know [your orientation]?

MA: Early—very early. You only discover what [being different] means as you mature. I didn't come out until very late, though. I came out when I was 28.

WCT: And how did your family react?

MA: With my friends, I came out gradually [in my late 20s]. Then, one day, I decided it was time to tell my family. I did it all in one day; I was on the phone for eight hours. [Laughs]

I debated telling my grandparents, but I wanted them to know who I was. But I first called my other aunt, who my grandmother was close to; this aunt was basically the caretaker of the family. I said to her, "Well, as you know, I'm gay." She said, "We thought that might be the case." And I said, "I wanted to let you know I'm going to call my grandparents and tell them." My aunt—who is the most loving person in the world—asked, "Do you really think that's necessary?" [Laughs loudly] I explained to her that I really wanted them to know who I am because, otherwise, I can't talk about my life with them, and that just seems unfair.

After I got her on board, I called them. People surprised me: The ones who I thought would have a problem with it were OK with it, and [vice versa].

WCT: My last question actually goes back to music: What type of musical legacy would you like to leave?

MA: Wow, what a great question. [What you want to leave] changes at different stages of your life. When you're younger, it starts with what you imagine it will be, what you want to happen. Now I'm in mid-life so some of my answers are based on what I've noticed about my music and looking back.

What I've noticed is that my music has a sense of joy, overall, although in 2011 I may embark on the darkest piece I've ever written. I just know that, at the end of it, we'll be uplifted. I want to be a joyful person. Also, a lot of concert music doesn't communicate fun that strongly; a sense of joy is really key for me.

I teach at a private high school in Santa Monica [Calif.] called New Roads. It feels like the less I resisted teaching, the more it came to me—and I finally got the message that I have a contribution to make through teaching. If you feel that you're called to do something, you have to embrace it. So I want to give as much as I can through my teaching until I'm told that I'm done.

See www.MichaelAbels.com. "Global Warming" is available on iTunes.com.

For more about "Fantasea," see www.sheddaqarium.org.

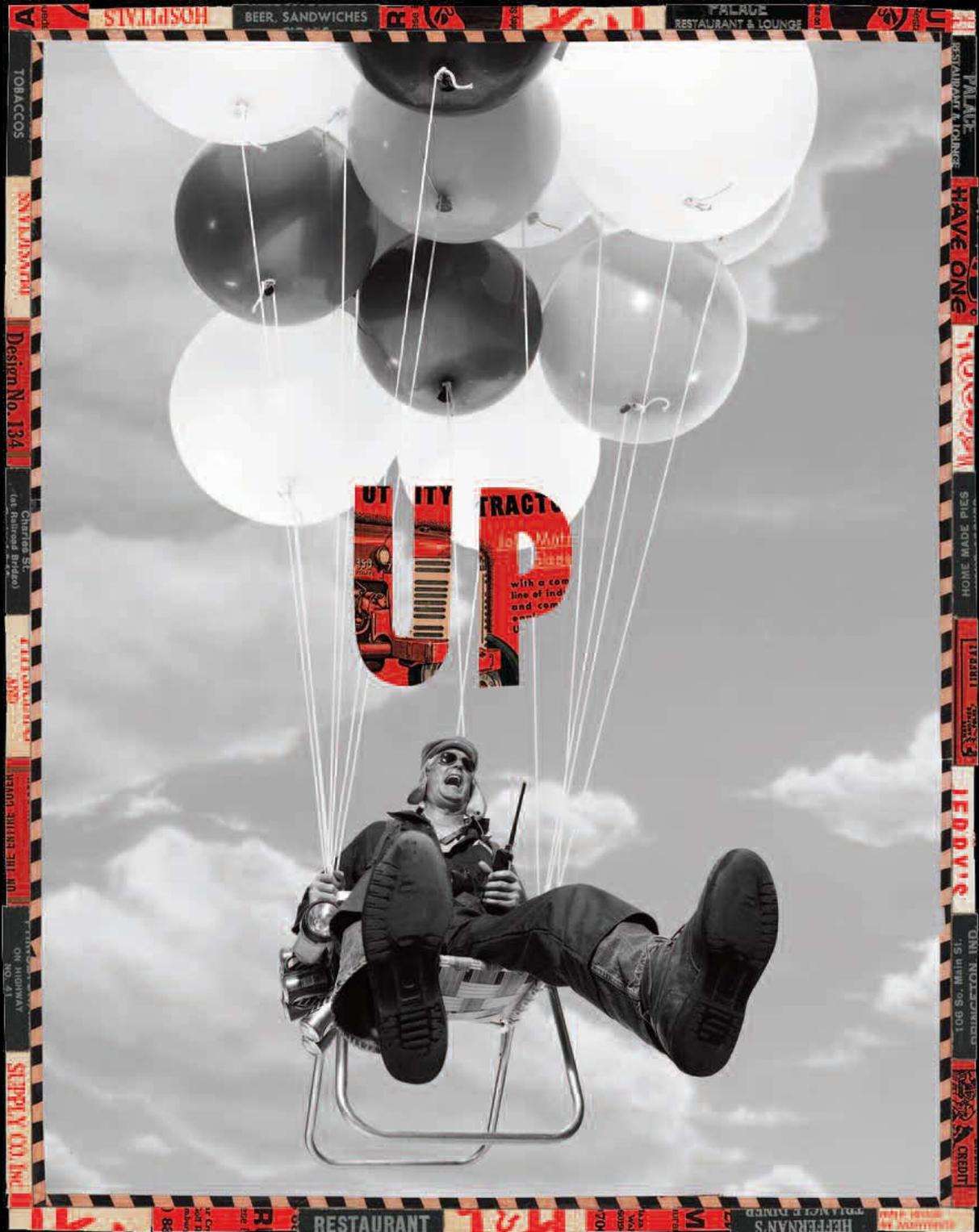
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SPOTLIGHT



They're Back! The Neo-Futurists' stage spoofs of terrible films returns in *It Came From the Neo-Futurarium VIII: Legend of the Neo-Futurarium*. This year's edition of one-night-only shows kicks off with two lavender-leaning works. Dina Connolly does drag king work as Vanilla Ice in 1991's *Cool as Ice* Thursday, June 25, while Mike Smith plays the straight cop revealing negative gay stereotypes in 1980's *Cruising* Thursday, July 2. *It Came From the Neo-Futurarium VIII* runs at 8 p.m. Thursdays June 25-July 30 at the Neo-Futurarium, 5153 N. Ashland. Tickets are \$10; \$8 for students and repeat customers. Call 773-275-5252 or visit www.neofuturists.org. Photo of Dina Connolly in "Cool as Ice" by Hope Rehak

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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

DVDs to celebrate Gay Pride

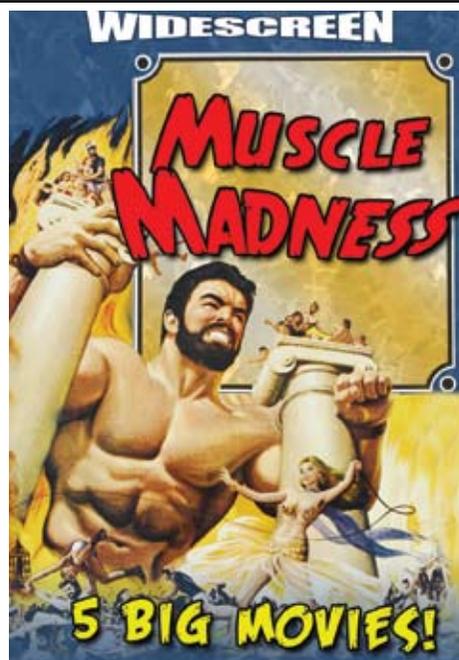
BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

It's the 40th annual celebration of gay pride and before, during and (most likely) after you've experienced one (or all!) of the many locals diversions being offered in the next week or so, there are a host of DVDs—old, new and forthcoming—that will help keep the anniversary and gay pride celebrations going.

First, a history lesson is in order, and what better way to find out about the Stonewall riots that kicked the gay revolution into high gear than with the appropriately named 1995 comedy/drama **Stonewall?** Set at the now historic bar in New York City, the low-budget but winning little indie features a trio of sassy drag queens whose stories blend with the real life events. I'm also a huge fan of 1994's **The Celluloid Closet**, the award-winning documentary look at gays and lesbians in the first 100 years of the movies. (It was my pick as the kick off film for the recent Queer Cinema 101 series at the Center on Halsted.) The film takes us from the silent era on up to the advent of the queer cinema genre in the early '90s. Fabulous! The Story of Queer Cinema from 2006 is a natural follow-up and is equally entertaining.

There are a host of insightful and fun documentaries that explore all aspects of queer culture. I have a particular fondness for drag-queen culture and 1991's **Paris is Burning**, which explores the world of drag balls; **Wigstock**, the 1995 film covering Lady Bunny's annual outdoor drag extravaganza; and 1994's dramedy **The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert** are three of my favorites. And until the DVD is released, the entire season of the hilarious reality bitchfest a.k.a. **RuPaul's Drag Race** is available for viewing at www.logoonline.com.

The 40th anniversary of Stonewall also means the 40th anniversary of the death of legendary Judy Garland, whose passing had a hand in kick-starting gay pride. There are arguably three Garland masterpieces—**The Wizard of Oz** (1939)



(1954)—among Judy's many motion pictures. In addition to those three, I'd recommend a host of other Garland films but for now will settle on suggesting the somewhat obscure **Presenting Lily Mars** from 1943, in which Garland gets to sing, dance and crack wise as a star-struck teenager; the charming **In the Good Old Summertime**, a turn-of-the-entury musical from 1949 (the film that features little Liza Minnelli's film debut); and Garland's last film, 1963's **I Could Go On Singing**, in which she plays a thinly disguised version of herself. Still belting it out and commanding the stage at 41, Judy also delivers a performance that is moving and camp at the same time. This is the Garland that was fully aware of her gay following—and played to it.

By the way, get ready to shell out moola for yet another edition of **The Wizard of Oz**—this one celebrating the film's 70th anniversary. I know, I know: There have already been three versions. However, Oz completists and Garland fans will want this new edition as well. This time, Warner Bros. is giving the beloved classic another touch-up and includes (get ready) 16 hours of bonus content, with four new hours just for this version. The limited-edition set—which will be available on DVD or Blu-Ray—will also include a glossy booklet by Garland expert John Fricke, and arrives at the end of September.

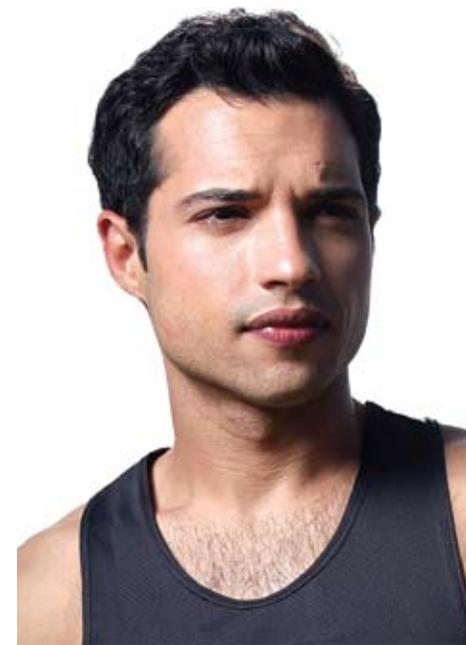
Some other DVDs to celebrate gay pride will include **Pedro**, the pretty good biopic of the late AIDS activist Pedro Zamora which originally aired on MTV (arriving June 30). The film was scripted by Milk's Oscar-winning scribe Dustin Lance Black (which gives me another excuse to nag readers to see Milk if you haven't and the equally moving documentary 1985 Oscar-winning **The Times of Harvey Milk**). **Were the World Mine**, the gay fantasia with music and one of my favorite gay indies from last year, is also out on DVD and is an essential for the home collection.

DVD). Who knew there was a queer hip-hop scene and that it was had such a large following? **Pick Up the Mic** is an eye-opening look at the burgeoning music culture—long overdue considering the homophobic history of rap culture. I'm also a big fan of the moody, beautifully shot **Solos** from Singapore in which a male teacher falls in love with his comely student. Artsy in the extreme (the film is told in non-linear style, includes a lot of static, beautifully composed still shots, and has no dialogue), **Solos** is the queer movie for those seeking something a bit more adventurous.

Five camp gladiator flicks from the '50s and '60s are included in the recently released, three-disc (aptly named) **Muscle Madness** set. Steve Reeves and several other examples of prime beefcake star in Goliath and the Sins of Babylon, Hercules Against the Moon Men, Colossus and the Amazon Queen, and two other alternately hilarious "epics"—each more entertaining and containing more male musculature than the previous. From 1957 comes the complete version of **The Strange One**, an oddly compelling curio in which Ben Gazzara and several other Actor's Studio performers made their screen debuts (including a hunky George Peppard). Gazzara stars as a sadistic but very sexy bully at a military academy who holds sway over his fellow cadets until he goes too far. The homoerotic subtext is very thick (starting with the Tom of Finland illustration that plays over the credits to Kenyon Hopkin's wonderful film score). Scenes detailing a subplot in which an obviously gay cadet tries to blackmail Gazzara's character into a sexual relationship considered too risqué and cut by censors, have been restored in the DVD.

Finally, two DVDs appearing in July—**The New Twenty** (which focuses on straight-gay friendships) and **She Likes Girls 4**—a lesbian-themed compilation sure to make the ladies happy—will help keep the spirit of gay pride going as we swing full tilt into summer.

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



Pedro.



Rona Barrett.

Rona Barrett: Old-school gossip girl

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

From the late 1960s through the 1980s Rona Barrett—queen of the gossip columnists—was practicing a form of respectful, empathetic celebrity journalism light years away from the "gotcha" tabloid approach that is the norm today. In 1986 she purchased a ranch in Santa Ynez, Calif., commuting to and from Los Angeles. By 1991 she retired to the ranch and devoted herself to various pet causes, including her own Rona Barrett Foundation for the Elderly Poor.

Now, a DVD compilation of many of her famous interviews, titled **Rona Barrett's Hollywood: Nothing but the Truth**, has been released, with \$1 from each DVD going to the foundation. Barrett, famous for compassionate interview technique, was warm and forthcoming in an exclusive interview with *Windy City Times*.

Windy City Times: When I watch these interviews again I'm struck by your gentle approach to these celebrities and your ability to get them to trust you. Is there a journalist working today who still practices that kind of journalism?

Rona Barrett: I want to say Robert Osbourne on TCM but only because he's given the time

on TCM to do more indepth pieces and I think that's the real issue and the real problem with all of these new programs that have come along. It's two minutes and out, a thirty second sound bite and very rarely do they allow more than a few minutes for anyone to say anything.

WCT: You work very hard to raise the profile of the plight of the homeless elderly—that's what led in part to this DVD collection—as a way to raise funds.

RB: I'm sorry if I ramble when I get on the subject but I'm very passionate about it.

WCT: No, no, I'm right there with you as an aging gay man. There's a whole other set of issues to talk about there. A lot of elderly gays and lesbians go back into the closet.

RB: Yes, they're fearful that they're going to be shunned. Proposition 8 here deals with people's freedom and you can't say everyone is basically free and has the right to do what they want to do when you suddenly put up a bar and say, "I'm sorry, gay people cannot get married if they want to." It's not about gay people—it could be about anybody. Who's next? What's next?

WCT: Your prime years as a gossip columnist coincided with the rise of Barbra Streisand and the death of Judy Garland, both major gay icons. Did you get a chance to interview either of them?

RB: One day after one of my newscasts I was in the newsroom around 11:30pm and someone said, "Hey, Rona there's a phone call for you" and I said, "Who is it?" and they said, "They say it's Judy Garland." Sure enough, it was Judy Garland and she was calling to tell me how much she appreciated my honesty on TV and that I was so refreshing and then we met and continued as friends and that's how I met Liza. I probably did one of the longest obits ever on television when Judy passed away. I think it ran about 13 minutes.

WCT: It was great to see this huge collection of celebrities together. Will there be another volume and who will be included?

RB: Let me put it to you this way: If this does well, we'll see! [Laughs]

Read the entire interview with Rona Barrett at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

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MOVIES

Daniel Barnz's world of wonder

BY LAWRENCE FERBER

In Phoebe in Wonderland, a strange little girl (played by Elle Fanning) in a school production of Alice in Wonderland finds herself spiraling down a different sort of rabbit hole and reality. It's an experience close to the heart and life of its writer/director, Daniel Barnz. Prior to Phoebe, he spent a surreal decade within the Hollywood studio system, screenwriting and developing big name projects that consistently fell through. And like his film's off-kilter pre-teen protagonists (including a little boy who cross-dresses to play the Queen of Hearts), the L.A.-based father of two adopted children, with husband Ben Barnz, always was a little different.

"I felt like a weird kid growing up," he admits. Raised in Philadelphia's Main Line suburbs, "they called me the Pillsbury Dough Boy, an oddball. I didn't know it then but that had to do in part with being gay. When I think back to my school experiences there were no gay people, nobody was out, you barely mentioned the word and I think that definitely influenced who I am in some positive ways. It does make you want to go out and tell stories."

Although Barnz, 38, earned a BA in English at Yale, theater direction was his foremost passion. He attended summer programs at the Hampton Playhouse, Boston University's Theater Institute and the Williamstown Theater Festival, and ultimately relocated to Los Angeles to work with Tim Robbins' The Actors' Gang. Spreading his wings creatively, he attended USC's film school, where he experienced an epiphany. "I discovered that all of the things I loved in theater directing I could do a hundred times more in film. Plus all these other things that were interesting to me—music, writing and so on. I got hooked."



Daniel Barnz.

And not just hooked on film. While making his thesis film he cast future husband Ben, then an actor. (They got legally wed during California's brief 2008 window.) After graduating from USC, screenwriting became his bread and butter, but working within Hollywood's studios proved Kafka-esque as his projects, each with major stars attached—Jodie Foster, Leo DiCaprio and Mel Gibson amongst them—kept getting shelved or scrapped.

"One for Mel Gibson was about the Mongols Biker Gangs, they're like the Hell's Angels," he recalls. "If you knew me you would understand how hilarious it was I was working on that. I had two films that were actually greenlit and then un-greenlit. With the biker gangs, we got the call from the studio—it's greenlit, here are the female stars we're looking at. And one week later: 'Mel's not going to do it.' It was very soul-sucking."

So soul-sucking that Barnz proposed moving to Africa and abandoning Hollywood entirely if he couldn't get a film made within two more years. Fortunately, neighbor Felicity Huffman entered the picture. Impressed by the script for Phoebe in Wonderland, which Barnz had written almost ten years earlier, Huffman attached herself just as Desperate Housewives turned her into a bankable star. Patricia Clarkson, Campbell Scott and Bill Pullman also joined the cast.

Making Phoebe (for which Barnz was honored as one of Variety's "10 Directors to Watch" at Sundance 2008) entailed a family affair. Zelda, 7, and Dashiell, 5 (both adopted at birth by the Barnzs), are close friends with Huffman and hubby Bill Macy's two children, while Ben acted as co-producer. And Barnz admits that the insular world of Hollywood is an ideal place to raise their kids. "They go to a school that has multiple same sex families per class," he says. "They see a lot of different kinds of families. I think so far they seem to feel really quite secure and confident and my aim is to keep that going as long as possible without letting them grow up in a bubble. The longer they can go feeling as much a part of the norm, the better."

Now the Barnz clan's focus is Wisecracker, a biopic about openly gay silent film legend William Haines and his partner, Jimmy Shields. "We're in the middle of raising the financing and casting it," he shares. "It's a love story [about] how Haines was forced to choose between being the number one box office draw on top of the world or the love of this one man."

But first, Barnz is set to direct Beastly, adapted from Alex Flinn's novel. It's been dubbed a modern teenage twist on "Beauty and the Beast." "There's a slight supernatural element," he admits. "It's also a film that has a message about being different."

As for how he feels about his own children being different, Barnz admits it's a gift that ultimately comes with a price. "You kind of want your kid to be different because you understand

how it can inform you as a person, give you character and creative direction," he says. "But it's also very painful when you see your child actually be different. My daughter is very introspective and has this phenomenal inner imaginary world, but that also means she's not the girl who makes a hundred zillion friends on the first day of school. Although neither of our children has a condition quite or even remotely like Phoebe's, I do feel there's an experience for each parent when your child is different than you expect them to be."

Would anything be too different? "If my child ends up Republican I don't know what I would do," he bristles. "Seriously. I feel like I can deal with anything but not that."

Phoebe in Wonderland is now out on DVD.

'Hannah Free' premiering in San Francisco

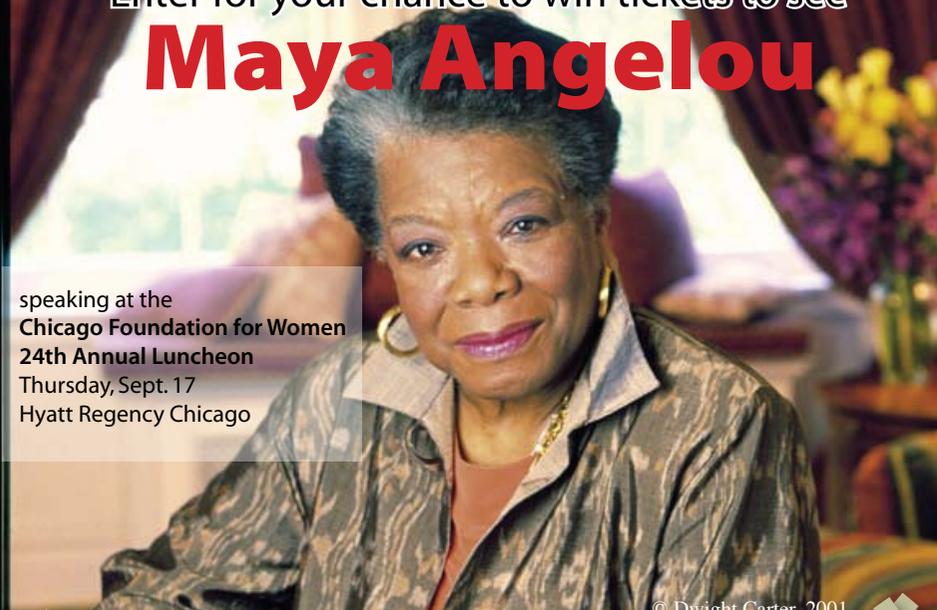
The world-premiere screening of Hannah Free—a lesbian-themed film starring Sharon Gless that was shot in Chicago—will take place June 28 at the Frameline Film Festival in San Francisco's Castro Theater. Rosie O'Donnell will introduce the movie.

The independent film shot in Chicago also stars Taylor Miller (All My Children), Maureen Gallagher, Ann Hagemann, Kelli Strickland and Jacqui Jackson. The film was written by Claudia Allen, based on her stage play of the same name, and directed by Wendy Jo Carlton. Allen and Windy City Media Group Publisher Tracy Baim executive-produced the movie along with Chicago-based film editor Sharon Zurek.

For more information see www.hannahfree.com, www.twitter.com/hannahfree or the Hannah Free page on Facebook.

Individual show tickets have sold out, but some show and party tickets may remain. Visit www.frameline.org.

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Alexandra Billings.

Alexandra Billings reigns on her parade

BY ROSS FORMAN

She's a worldwide pioneer in the LGBT community, not just a local celebrity with roots in Chicago's northwest suburbs.

Alexandra Scott Billings, 47, is the first transgender woman to have played a transgender character on television. She appeared in the 2003 made-for-TV movie *Romy and Michelle: A New Beginning* on ABC-TV and in an episode of the ABC show *Karen Sisco*. She also played transsexual characters in episodes of *ER* and *Grey's Anatomy*.

Not bad for the 1980 graduate of Schaumburg High School who admittedly is a Cubs fan, enjoys Murphy's Bleachers sports bar on the North Side and craves Giordano's stuffed pizza.

"Chicago's my home. It really is," said Billings, who now lives in Los Angeles. "The city is gorgeous; the people are open, funny, silly, great. There really is no place like Chicago anywhere in the world. And the summer in Chicago really is beautiful.

"There's no place like home."

Billings, who left Chicago for California in 2003, returns for the ultimate local LGBT honor. She is the grand marshal for the 40th annual Gay Pride Parade on Sunday, June 28.

"Are you kidding? I think it's incredible, bizarre," to be the grand marshal, said Billings, who last was in the Chicago parade on a float for the Baton Show Lounge, where she worked at the time.

"It's huge being the first transgender grand marshal; I really can't believe it."

In fact, Billings thought Chicago Pride officials had the wrong person when they contacted her for the gig. "I kept asking them, 'Are you sure you want me? Don't you want some famous person?' I even thought they somehow had me confused with Peter Billingsley. I just thought it was really bizarre that they wanted me [to be the grand marshal]," she said.

Ultimately, she agreed without hesitation.

But don't think for one minute she isn't nervous about the role due to the size of Chicago's annual afternoon gala, where about 500,000 fans are expected to watch.

"I have a terrible fear of crowds, and anything over 10 people is a crowd," she said. "It makes me very nervous knowing how many people will be in the crowd. I'm nervous, but still very excited. [Large crowds are] a real fear of mine that I'm going to have to deal with."

Billings admits she's even nervous in an elevator with more than six people and has intense stage fright, surprisingly. After all, just consider her resume:

—She was a female impersonator in the early 1980s under the stage name Chante, and won numerous beauty contests to claim such titles as Miss Wisconsin, Miss New York, Miss Chicago,

Miss Illinois and Miss Florida. Also, she judged the Miss Continental pageant in 2000 and 2001.

—Billings has extensive, award-winning experience at The Bailiwick Theater and the Steppenwolf Theatre.

—Her one-woman autobiographical show has toured Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles and off-Broadway.

—As a singer, she has performed in theaters and nightclubs throughout the United States. Her first CD, *Being Alive*, was up for Grammy consideration. She was a recipient of the New York MAC Hanson Award for Cabaret Artist of the Year in 2004.

"There were so many great things that have happened in my life; it truly has been a roller-coaster life," Billings said. "I had a great teacher who once told me that it's great to look back, just as long as you don't stand there and stare. So I look back with great fondness, but that's it.

"I've had a really big life, and a lot of extremes have happened, there's no question about that. But the more I interact with other people, the more I realize that my journey isn't really as bizarre or odd as anyone else's. I don't really look back at my life and say, 'Holy moly, look at all of that stuff.' I don't do that. I look back at my life and remember different times, events, periods ... and then I look to the future. I try to keep my sights on what's in front of me, as much as I possibly can.

"When I was young, I remember saying to myself, 'Gee, I wish something extraordinary would happen to me.'"

Well, Billings truly is extraordinary.

She's overcome AIDS, which doctors told her in the 1980s would claim her life very soon. She's now healthy and happy, living with her high school sweetheart, Chrisanne. Sure, she still smokes and deals with daily medication, but otherwise she's a picture of perfect health—and a pretty one at that.

"You don't have much time left, the doctors told me [years ago]," Billings said. "And every year thereafter, the doctor would say, 'I have absolutely no idea; you should be dead.'"

"I think about that all the damn time now."

More Alexandra Billings...

—She has taught at the Steppenwolf Summer School since 2002, as well as Louis University, The University of Chicago, Illinois University, for the Illinois Theatre Convention, at Act One Studios, and various Master classes and workshops around the Chicago area.

—Billings and Chrisanne were married in a commitment ceremony in Chicago Dec. 4, 1995.

—Quoting Billings: "I want to do everything [in life]. I want to travel more. I want to live happily for a really long time with my wife. I want to see equality happen for every single human being on the planet. I want to do everything that I haven't done. Climb trees, jump out of a plane, anything and everything."

—On Stonewall: "The further we get from that event the more holy it becomes. What I think we have to remember is, that particular situation was born out of chaos, and I think that's what's important. I believe that any great joy begets great pain, and I also believe the opposite works. Every great pain begets great joy. So, I think we not only have to remember to celebrate the joy of being free, but also the pain and chaos of what happened. We cannot forget that that was a situation that was highly emotionally and politically charged, and the people had just plain had enough. Especially now when we're fighting for equal rights."

—On Facebook: "I'm obsessed with that thing; I can't stay off it. I love it."

"Schoolboy to Showgirl: The Alexandra Billings Story," a part of the Out & Proud in Chicago series, concludes its run on WTTW Prime June 24. A 20-minute screening of the movie Stealth—which stars Billings and will benefit the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame—will take place Tuesday, June 30, at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, at 8 p.m.



Alexandra Billings (center) and Marlo Bernier (right) on the set of *Stealth*.

MOVIES

Marlo Bernier: 'Stealth' care

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

What would you do for a sister in trouble? Especially for a sister who used to be a brother? That's the tantalizing question lurking behind *Stealth*, a crime-thriller short that stars transgendered actress (and former Chicago resident) Alexandra Billings. The film revolves around the two Terranova sisters who must decide how much help to offer when Billings as their third sister, who has transitioned from male to female, comes to them in deep trouble.

The screening of the 20-minute short will take place Tuesday, June 30, at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, at 8 p.m. A portion of the \$20 tickets will benefit the Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame. Billings will be on hand for an audience Q&A, along with *Stealth* writer-director Marlo Bernier, who makes her directorial debut with the film and is in the process of transitioning. Jennifer Fontaine—who co-stars in the film and co-wrote the film with Bernier (and is her producing partner)—will also be in attendance. A lobby reception with light food and drink from Ann Sather will follow the screening. Bernier, who hopes to elicit enough enthusiasm to raise completion funds to finish *Stealth*, recently spoke with *Windy City Times*.

Windy City Times: Is this based on a true incident? It certainly felt that way.

Marlo Bernier: Well, that's the hope, isn't it? It's pretend but it looks and feels real.

WCT: Maybe because transgendered people experience such overwhelming prejudice—often of a violent nature.

MB: Sure. Unfortunately, there's nothing new under the sun when it comes to that and probably for a long time to come. We keep getting murdered for no reason ... as do other people—from Matthew Shepard to Angie Zapata.

WCT: So is it based on a true story? Where did it come from?

MB: It relates to me personally because I began the steps to transition approximately two years ago. A few months into it I called my two youngest siblings, who happen to be brothers, our parents have died, and I told them and to put it in an encapsulated version, it blew them away—to the point where we haven't spoken in over a year. Anyhow, Elizabeth Martin, the woman who plays Celia, the oldest of the Terranova sisters in the movie, as she heard my story said, "You really need to do something." I didn't want to do a biopic [laughs] and my main focus was on packaging another film called *Glass Houses* which is pretty huge in scope. So I kept pushing it off and she kept asking me about it and I started thinking, "What would drive family together regardless of how the family felt about an issue like transgenderism?" I saw the first frames of the film and that was the catalyst for the rest of the story which I wrote with Jennifer who plays Jeanine, one of the sisters. The transgender issue in the film is really a side issue for me. The primary issue is that somebody in the family is in deep, deep trouble and that trouble happens to be a homicide connected to some really bad guys. You'll see Celia, the older sister who has trouble with the transgender issue go

on an emotional journey in the full length version of *Stealth*.

WCT: It's obviously a real labor-of-love kind of piece.

MB: Right and people have been asking, "What happens?! What happens?!" and I keep saying [laughs], "We need the money and then we can tell you what happens." The primary goal is certainly to do the feature as a stand alone item but by the same token *Stealth* the short for my money as a director and a co-writer and a producer is also a stand alone item.

WCT: I would heartily agree. When the film ends you really don't know what Alexandra's character is going to say. You think you know in the moment but after giving it some thought...

MB: Thank you. That was our intention, certainly. I'm glad to hear you thought so.

WCT: Why did you decide to do the short first?

MB: While we were in the midst of trying to sell *Glass Houses* we had some down time and Jennifer Fontaine, who is my writing and producing partner, called me in the middle of the night and said, "We have to shoot something—I'm going crazy sitting around!" [laughs] So, I said, "How about shooting some scenes from *Stealth*?" and we decided to go ahead.

WCT: Working on a film like this while you are transitioning has got to be great therapy.

MB: It is; it certainly is. It's better than paying \$90 an hour—make a film and you don't need to go to therapy. [Laughs]

WCT: Even though you're working behind the camera, you're still in a profession that at times thrusts you into the limelight. You must have great empathy for someone like Chaz Bono, who is going through his transition publicly.

MB: Absolutely. As Alexandra has told me over and over again—and I'm going to start crying if I think about it too much—is that we are not the only people going through this. There are those around us who are transitioning also. I think it's commendable, admirable, etc. that people in my life are making the effort to use the name "Marlo" and not "Mark" and "her" and not "him" and "she" and not "he" and so on. It's still jarring for me to hear it a little bit, you know? The first couple of times I heard it I thought, "That's me?" and then I realize that beyond all this I'm a filmmaker and a filmmaker who just happens to be in the process of transitioning.

WCT: Marlo, will you send the film to your brothers?

MB: No. Can't do it.

WCT: Maybe down the road?

MB: Maybe down the road. My door is always open. It saddens me and I don't want to go into the details.

WCT: You don't need to do that. I'm just going to applaud your courage as a person and as a filmmaker and wish you luck with it.

MB: Thank you. In addition to working on this and other film projects, I've begun my little book called, "At Least I'll Own A Dress" which is a way for me to document this period of my life. I'm just starting it but I decided I needed to write this down. It can be found at www.MarloB59.wordpress.com.

MOVIE REVIEW

Sex Positive

BY STEVE WARREN

Gifted young (24 when he finished the film) producer-director-editor Daryl Wein paints a portrait of the world he was born into in Sex Positive, a documentary that's the East Coast equivalent of And the Band Played On, without the all-star cast.

It's also a sequel to Gay Sex in the '70s, from which it borrows some footage. That film covered the good times, when unabashed hedonism was a result, if not the intent, of the gay movement. For more than a decade we demanded our rights and took our pleasure, apparently without consequence.

Then a mysterious illness reared its head. A 1983 report says 800 had died, 70 percent of them gay men. (And yet Rev. Jeremiah Wright claims it was deliberately spread among African Americans. If it was a plot the real target seems clear.)

With the religious right calling AIDS "God's punishment" on homosexuals, it was politically incorrect to suggest we had brought the disease on ourselves; and yet, as the initial hysteria started to fade and some rationality was brought into play, it became obvious that some lifestyle factors entered into the equation.

Sex Positive focuses on three men who became pariahs in the gay community for trying to sound the alarm. S/M hustler Richard Berkowitz, who came from a "liberal Jewish working-class family," met virologist Dr. Joseph Sonnabend when he went to a clinic for treatment of an old-school STD. They stayed in touch and a couple of years into the epidemic agreed a warning needed to be issued, however unpopular it made them. Berkowitz, with a journalism degree from Rutgers, offered to write it. Sonnabend hooked him up with singer-songwriter Michael Callen, who already had AIDS.



Richard Berkowitz (left) and Michael Lucas, two of the figures in Sex Positive.

The article was published in the New York Native. Not unexpectedly it drew a strong negative response, but the paper wouldn't allow the writers to answer their critics. Old clips show them making frequent TV appearances, usually having to debate writer-activist Larry Kramer, who represented the majority fear that they wouldn't be able to persuade the government to fund AIDS research if it looked like we were "getting what we deserved." The controversial Kramer's approach was to found Gay Men's Health Crisis to offer practical assistance and later ACT-UP to fight for help from the government and drug companies.

While the scientific world debated whether AIDS was caused by a "single exposure to a new biological agent" (virus) or multiple factors, including a promiscuous lifestyle that offered "accumulation of risk" through "continued re-exposure," Sonnabend/Berkowitz/Callen were dismissed as "sex negative" by gay men who would sooner give up breathing than fucking.



While Callen is still remembered for his music ("Love Don't Need a Reason" and his recordings with the Flirtations) and a Manhattan clinic is named for him and Audre Lorde, Berkowitz, living on welfare, is largely forgotten. This film, in which he's honest about his flaws as well as his accomplishments, should help change that.

Movie news

Sacha Baron Cohen reportedly suffered an allergic reaction while bleaching his body hair for the movie Bruno, in which the title character is a gay fashion journalist. IMDB.com reported that Cohen decided to lighten his body hair instead of waxing—and that a burning rash broke out all over his body in reaction to the bleach. Supposedly, Cohen could not sit for three days.

Gay-porn mogul Michael Lucas is defending Oscar-winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black in the wake of pictures of barebacking images of Black that recently surfaced on the Internet, Queerty.com reported. "He is not a safe-sex advocate; but even if he was, it doesn't matter what he is doing in the privacy of his bedroom," Lucas said. "My understanding obviously is that he had sex with his boyfriend. So what the fuck is all this noise about? Why does he have to answer for the intimacy of his relationship? He also did not post those pictures—it was some vengeful queen who did."

Twilight actor Robert Pattinson has "confessed" that he's gay—but one of his best friends insists that it was a joke, according to TransWorldNews.com. Foster said to the National Enquirer, "His gay confession—it's a silly joke! Rob did it just for fun. He told the interviewer, 'And I am just gay!'" ... I know Rob very well, and the girls have nothing to worry about. He's not gay."

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JAM PRODUCTION

Shamim Sarif: 'World' view

BY BRENDA KINOSHITA

Writer/director Shamim Sarif seems to do it all, and brilliantly. She is an equally successful author (the Pendleton May First Novel Award, Betty Trask Award), screenwriter and film director (World Cinema Best Director at Phoenix Film Festival, and Best Director at Clip (Tampa) Intl. Film Festival). She has written several published short stories and notable music lyrics, has script-edited a children's TV series and directed music videos. Sarif received an Afterellen.com 2008 Visibility Award for "International Lesbian/Bi Woman of the Year."

Having seen her first novel, *The World Unseen*, published to critical acclaim, Sarif subsequently adapted the screenplay for the feature film of *The World Unseen*, which she also directed, just after making her directorial debut with *I Can't Think Straight*, another of her novels which she adapted for the screen. *The World Unseen* was given the Audience Award at the Miami Gay & Lesbian film festival in 2008, and *I Can't Think Straight* won the same award at that film festival just last month.

The World Unseen is a love story about two Indian women in 1950s South Africa; the other film, *I Can't Think Straight*, is a contemporary love story involving a Palestinian Christian and an Indian Muslim. Both star one-time Bollywood actor Lisa Ray alongside American-born Sheetal Sheth.

Partly inspired by Sarif's grandmother and the lack of choices she had as an Indian woman in apartheid South Africa, *The World Unseen* tells the story of free-spirited lesbian café owner Amina and dutiful and introverted wife Miriam; what happens with their unexpected attraction pushes them to question the rules that bind them.

I Can't Think Straight is an exuberant, touching romantic comedy about the clashing of two worlds and cultures. Tala, a London-based Palestinian, is preparing for her elaborate wedding in Jordan when she meets Leyla, a young British Indian woman who turns her world upside down. The movie is heavily autobiographical and follows the relationship between the two women as they come to terms with their desire for each other.

Sarif spoke with *Windy City Times* about her movies, and her next project.

Windy City Times: You are a novelist, a screenwriter, lyricist, director, a parent, a wife. You and Hanan [Kattan] are partnered in so many ways: you share your lives, you have children and you are business partners. How do you maintain your individuality when there is so much togetherness? Do you have firm boundaries between work and your per-



Shamim Sarif (left) and business/life partner Hanan Kattan.

sonal life, or does one feather into the other?

Sarif: It's a constant process of adjustment between the juggling of all these elements. Just when one plate is spinning well, another one starts to fall! But I love them all and feel privileged to be able to do everything I do, so it's worth the effort. As for boundaries and individuality—Hanan and I are very different people but everything between us is symbiotic. There would be no films or production company without her, and also no family. It is stressful at times, because we are both passionate about our work and bring it home with us. But it is also wonderful to have that intensity with your partner. It would feel odd to me to have a completely separate working life that she could never understand or relate to.

WCT: What can you tell us about your next project, *The Dreaming Spires*? Is it true that you'd like Sienna Miller to star in it?

SS: *The Dreaming Spires* is a story of unrequited love between a blind female English professor and her American student set in Oxford just after the War. It's delicate and poetic, I think and, like *The World Unseen* and *I Can't Think Straight*, touches on themes of integrity. But the love story is really about how one person can help another see things differently.

I did mention Sienna Miller to [one] journalist, along with several other very fine British actresses that I thought would be wonderful for the role. But she fixed on that name, perhaps because it sells newspapers! It's a very character-driven piece.

WCT: Will *The Dreaming Spires* be your first film which isn't lesbian-centered? How do you feel your lesbian fans will accept this?

SS: *The Dreaming Spires* is not a lesbian story, and part of me felt strangely apologetic for that, especially since so many fans are lesbians and have done so much to support Hanan and myself along the way. But it is based on the first short story I ever published and was [in very different form from] the first screenplay I ever wrote. So this story is important to me, and is authentically something that grew within me. Not an attempt to be "mainstream" for the sake of it. I look at *The World Unseen* and *I Can't Think Straight* as mainstream movies anyway!

WCT: Novelist Sarah Waters' recent book is

not a lesbian story, unlike her previous works. Have you read any of her books?

SS: I am ashamed to say that I have not, though I own most of them! I will be reading them, perhaps this summer. When I appeared at a lesbian book festival here in the UK a few years ago, I was scheduled at exactly the same time as Sarah Waters [who was reading in another room]. I was terrified that no one would show up to see me, but they did. ... She had a rather long line of fans waiting for signings at the end though!

WCT: Which lesbian writers and characters inspire you? What are you reading right now?

SS: Though I definitely went through a phase where I sought out books with lesbian characters, almost as a way to justify that what I was feeling was acceptable, I don't tend to choose books on that basis any more. Great writing, characters you care about and ideally a strong female character or two attract me. I've always been a fan of Jeanette Winterson—she uses language with a sort of languid precision that is a pleasure to read and absorb. *The Passion* is one of my favorite books of hers. The Venice setting doesn't hurt. Hanan took me there for the first time for my birthday last year and I fell in love with the city. I am reading another Venetian-set book now, *Death at La Fenice* by Donna Leon, which reveals one of my not-so-guilty pleasures—crime novels.

WCT: You've just received the Audience Award at the Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival for *I Can't Think Straight*, and you received the same award last year for *The World Unseen*. What does it mean to receive awards like these?

SS: We were in Miami last year, and *The World Unseen* was so oversold they had to split the signal and show it in two cinemas simultaneously. The reaction was amazing and we were honoured to win the award then. To win it again was a dream and I was thrilled, particularly because they are Audience Awards. That means a lot.

Both the book and DVD versions of *I Can't Think Straight* and *The World Unseen* are available at Enlightenment Productions www.enlightenment-productions.com. The books are also available at Amazon.com.

Helen Mirren to star in 'Phédre'

Steppenwolf Theatre will present the exclusive Chicago screening of the National Theatre of London's performance of *Phédre* starring Helen Mirren, Dominic Cooper and Margaret Tyack Monday, July 13, at 7:30 p.m. in Steppenwolf's Downstairs Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted. The filmed version of this classic play will also include a behind-the-scenes feature at the National Theatre.

Tickets cost \$20 and are available by calling Audience Services at 312-335-1650, in person at the box office, or online at www.steppenwolf.org.

Mamma Mia! outdoors June 27

Chicago Filmmakers, presenter of Reeling: The Chicago Lesbian & Gay International Film Festival, is holding an outdoor movie screening of the sing-along version of the 2008 hit film *Mamma Mia!* The free event will be held Saturday, June 27, at dusk at Osterman Beach, 5800 N. Lake Shore. See www.chicagofilmmakers.org for info.

Kushner play at Minneapolis' Guthrie

For those who want to travel, *The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures*—a new play by Tony Kushner (*Angels in America*)—runs through June 28 on the McGuire Proscenium Stage at the Guthrie Theater, 818 South 2nd, Minneapolis.

The play looks at the life of a 20th-century thinker, retired longshoreman Gus Marcantonio, who's feeling confused and defeated by the 21st century.

Tickets are \$24-\$60 each; call 612-377-2224 or 877-44-STAGE, or visit www.guthrietheater.org.

'Beyond Hatred' on PBS June 30

"Beyond Hatred"—the story of a family's journey from anger to forgiveness in a tragic situation involving the brutal murder of a gay man—will air as part of PBS's P.O.V. series Tuesday, June 30, at 9 p.m. (The program runs 90 minutes.)

In September 2002, three skinheads were roaming a park in Rheims, France, looking to "do an Arab," when they settled for a gay man instead. Twenty-nine-year-old François Chenu fought back fiercely, but he was beaten unconscious and thrown into a river, where he drowned. "Beyond Hatred" examines the reactions of everyone on Chenu's family to the father of one of the assailants.

See www.pbs.org/pov/beyondhatred.

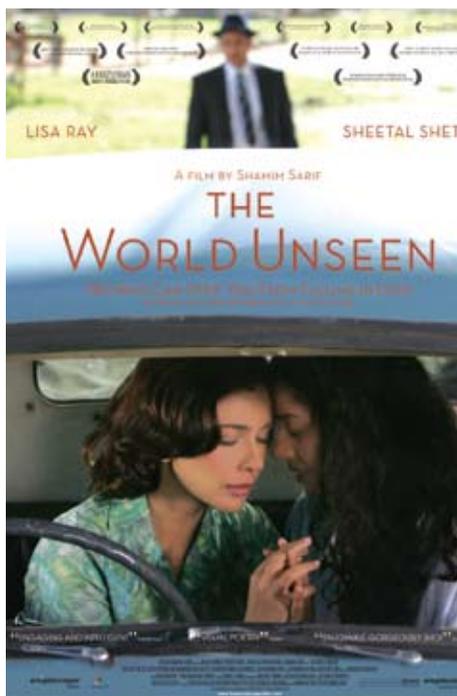
'In the Life' running Stonewall special

In the Life—the only national public television program documenting the people and issues shaping the gay experience—kicks off a season of pride with "Summer of Stonewall," a three-part miniseries celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

The program runs on WTTW-11 Monday, June 29, at 12 a.m.

This special hour-long episode features reflections and firsthand accounts from longtime activists such as Cleve Jones, Lady Bunny, Larry Kramer, Phyllis Lyon and Torie Osborn.

See www.inthelifetv.org.



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| July 29, 7 p.m. | vs. Los Angeles Sparks |
| August 1, 7 p.m. | vs. Connecticut Sun |
| August 15, 7 p.m. | vs. Minnesota Lynx |
| August 18, 7 p.m. | vs. Phoenix Mercury |
| August 22, 7 p.m. | vs. Detroit Shock |
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| September 4, 7:30 p.m. | vs. Washington Mystics |
| September 10, 7 p.m. | vs. Indiana Fever |
| September 12, 7 p.m. | vs. Detroit Shock |

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Pride edition

BY DAVID BYRNE WITH TONY PEREGRIN

The **Cliks** follow up the breakout album Snakehouse with Dirty King. Recruiting producer Sylvia Masy (Red Hot Chili Peppers, Tool), the Canadians add more melody to their brand of rock n roll. Don't worry, the grit is still ever present as heard on the title track, "Love Gun" and "We Are the Wolverines." It is "Not Your Boy" and "Animal Farm" that reveal a softer side underneath frontman Lucas Silveira's tattooed growl. Even "Red and Blue" seamlessly incorporates a string arrangement. This queer rock band is now a trio with the departure of guitarist Nina Martinez. Worthy of a crown, Dirty King is out now on Tommy Boy's LGBT imprint Silver Label. It does not hurt either that bassist Jen Benton is one of the sexiest women in music.

San Antonio threesome **Girl in a Coma** successfully dodges the cursed sophomore slump with the impressive Trio B.C. Signed to Joan Jett's Blackheart Records, this album rocks on "Static Mind" and "In the Day," as well as on the single-worthy "Joannie in the City." "bb" brilliantly starts off with a nod to am radio before kicking into full gear with an irresistible hook.



Namoli Brennet.

The ghost of Morrissey is found on "Empty Promise," whereas "El Monte" is a Patsy Cline-inspired lullaby. **Girl in a Coma** is currently on a national tour with a stop at The National Museum of Mexican Arts, 1852 W. 19th, on Friday, June 26, at 8 p.m.

Looking like Celine Dion's tomboy kid sister and sounding like Melissa Etheridge jamming with ZZ Top, **Michelle Malone** makes a splash with her latest, *Debris*. This out veteran rocker is at the top of her game on "Feather in a Hurricane," "Undertow" and "Restraining Order Blues."

Expect fireworks, as Malone performs on the 4th of July at Fitzgerald's, 6615 Roosevelt, Berwyn, at 5:15 p.m. as part of Fitzgerald's 29th Annual American Music Festival. Also on the line up for the night's festivities are singer-songwriter Michelle Rodriguez and Chicago's very own cover band Tributosaurus, as the group salutes Elvis Presley.

San Francisco's **Sean Chapin** released the album *More Equal Union* to benefit Lambda Legal. Here, Chapin captures today's LGBT headlines with the woes encountered by the fictitious same sex couple Ethan and Jacob. Chapin fits dialogue into songs like "Your Time Has Come" and "Promise." This set would be ideal for a stage production, spanning genres and developing the characters. On his YouTube channel, SeanChapin1, the Californian has documented the turmoil the LGBT community has weathered in the Golden State. *More Equal Union* is available on iTunes. For additional information, please visit moreequalunion.com.

On June 16, **Namoli Brennet** treated the audience to an intimate concert at the LGBT showcase Homolatte at Tweet, 5024 N. Sheridan. The Tucson singer-songwriter freely admitted that her songs have darker tendencies. Her bleak, head-above-the-water take on folk presides over her recent outing *Until from This (Dream) I Awake*. During her set, the trans artist opened up about her music's inspirations and joked with the crowd, reminiscent of Parker Posey's quirky sense of humor, softening her work's sting. She readily confessed to reading John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* for pleasure last summer, which spawned opening track on her latest. Accompanied just by a guitar and sometimes a tambourine, Brennet's set closed with her anthem "We Belong." Remarkable material from her new set was also performed, including "Beneath the Bones," "Cut My Tongue" and "Let Love In." *Until from This (Dream) I Awake* will be out shortly on iTunes.

Chicago's PrideFest has a tremendous array of musicians. Kicking things off on Friday, June



The Cliks.

26, at 4 p.m. is the lesbian-fronted blues-rock outfit The Kimi Hayes Band. Chicago's next "it" band, The Joans, takes to the stage on Saturday, June 27, at 3:30 p.m. Possessing on of the finest voices in music, Martha Wash will have the crowd "keep on jumping" June 26 at 8 p.m. Also performing at PrideFest on June 27 are pop singer/Broadway veteran Deborah Gibson and dance divas Thelma Houston, Crystal Waters, Inaya Day and Ultra Nate. For a complete schedule, visit www.chicagoevents.com.

Taking the Monday after Pride off of work? **Black Moth Super Rainbow** is playing a free show at Millennium Park on Monday, June 29, at 12 p.m. Combining distorted vocals, elec-

tronics and rock 'n' roll as if on an acid trip, Black Moth Super Rainbow recalls the underappreciated Death in Vegas or Holy Fuck from last year's Lollapalooza. The act's recent offering *Eating Us* features the genius "Born on a Day the Sun Didn't Rise" and the outstanding "Iron Lemonade." French duo Daft Punk should take note. The Pittsburgh-based band was in Chicago in May, sharing the bill with School of 7 Bells. If Madonna, Kylie Minogue and Annie Lennox want to remain relevant, they should tap Black Moth Super Rainbow for a collaboration, taking these icons to a new level that megaproducers like Mirwais couldn't do.



Colton Ford. Photo by Joe Oppedisano

gala to take place on June 27, 5:30-11 p.m., at 632 W. Deming.

Grammy Award-winning musicians Indigo Girls will entertain with a private 45-minute performance, and award-winning comic (and former Chicagoan) Jessica Halem will host.

Limited seating is available and tickets are currently on sale at www.belowthebeltgala.org.

Melody Gardot still a 'Thrill'

With her debut CD *Worrisome Heart*, Melody Gardot put her distinctive imprint on jazz and blues songs—and she takes a giant creative leap forward with the follow-up, *My One And Only Thrill*.

Mixing Latin rhythms, finger-snapping blues and torch songs, *Thrill* has boosted the career of Gardot. The CD itself is helmed by producer Larry Klein, fresh from his Grammy-winning work with Herbie Hancock on *River: The Joni Letters*. Recorded in Los Angeles at Capitol Records, *Thrill* also features Vince Mendoza's orchestral arrangements and 11 songs (including a cover of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow").

Colton Ford's 'Covers' out Aug. 4

Singer/actor Colton Ford will release his second full-length solo CD, *Under the Covers*, Aug. 4, according to a press release.

The CD's title is a wink to Ford's porn-star past but also alludes to the fact that he does songs made famous by others. The first single is "Losing My Religion," originally done by the group R.E.M. Ford also takes on Fleetwood Mac's "Dreams," Hall and Oates' "Out of Touch," Alicia Keys' "No One" and Britney Spears' "Trouble," among other songs.

Indigo Girls, Halem at June 27 gala

Women's Health Foundation (WHF) has announced the second annual "Below the Belt"

Bublé's 'Garden' out

A talented, Grammy-winning singer is the subject of DVD/CD "Michael Bublé Meets Madison Square Garden," to be released June 16. The DVD/CD documentary will include a Bublé performance as well as the drama leading up to the event.

The package also shows footage of Bublé's visit to the famed Blue Note Club, where he first performed in New York City over six years ago. In addition, fans get to observe Bublé in action backstage at the Garden with his band along with moments with his family.

Performance highlights include Leonard Cohen's "I'm Your Man," the classic romance song "Me and Mrs. Jones," the swinging "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" and the Bublé hit "Home."

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NUNN ON 'NUNN'

Terri Nunn: 'Words' play

BY JERRY NUNN

Terri Nunn joined the band Berlin in 1979 and garnered hits from "Take My Breath Away" to "No More Words." She continues playing to crowds with the Regeneration Tour this summer. It was meant to be that she talked Nunn to Nunn eventually.

Windy City Times: So this is ironic—my name is Jerry Nunn! I am from the Oklahoma Nunn. Are we related?

Terri Nunn: Well, my ancestry is from my Dad's side. We are Irish. He said, "If you are half Irish, then you are full Irish because it kicks everyone else out!"

WCT: I found out from my Mom that our family is Irish, also. Must be a Nunn thing! Where did you grow up?

TN: I grew up in southern California. We bounced around a lot.

WCT: I just heard "Take My Breath Away" on a Gain detergent commercial this week. People cannot get enough of this song.

TN: The only thing I don't allow it is on tobacco and alcohol products.

WCT: The movie Top Gun brought attention to that track. Did you know that Kelly McGillis came out as a lesbian?

TN: She finally came out? That's good. People knew that a long time ago. That must be so shitty to have to lie or not be forthcoming about who you are. We are who we are. I like dick. So what if I could not say that? What if I could not be out front with it? That's the way it is, it's not changing anytime in this lifetime. That would just suck!

WCT: Well, it did for me, honey, back when I was in the closet. It's Pride Month, so hope-



Terri Nunn.

fully more people will come out.

TN: It's slowly changing in this country, and I am pushing for it to change more.

WCT: You have done some acting and even auditioned for the part of Princess Leia in Star Wars.

TN: In fact, George Lucas put the screen test on the 25th anniversary DVD. I didn't see it myself but I did catch it on youtube.com. I think he wanted to embarrass all of his friends that have made it doing other things. So he stuck all of us on this DVD to torture us forever.

WCT: Hilarious. What made you want to go on the Regeneration tour?

TN: ABC, for one. I heard they are amazing. I have always liked their music but never seen them live. Also, the tour is going to a lot of cities that we haven't been to in a couple of years. I am really excited to see some people in different parts of the country.

WCT: I am interviewing the singer from ABC in the morning. What music influences you as an artist?

TN: I am influenced by bands that have taken our sound and morphed it into whole new areas,

like Shiny Toy Guns and Goldfrapp. I am a long time fan of Nine Inch Nails. I have an ongoing war with my band that he's still cute with short hair.

WCT: So you have a new live DVD/CD coming out?

TN: It is coming out mid June and I am so excited about it. It's really the best live DVD that I have ever done. It's a chronicle of the show that we are doing this year. It's called, "Terri Nunn & Berlin: All the Way In."

WCT: The cover is hot!

TN: Well, thanks. That outfit was so scary for me. It takes a lot of balls to wear an outfit like that. [Laughs]

NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

ABC's Martin Fry: Letter-perfect

BY JERRY NUNN

ABC is headlining the Regeneration Tour in the U.S. and will be in Chicago June 26 with Wang Chung, Berlin and Missing Persons. Having a string of hits from "The Look of Love" to "Be Near Me," lead singer Martin Fry taught Windy City the 1-2-3's about ABC.

Windy City Times: Hi, Martin. We are excited about seeing you in Chicago. What made you want to go on this tour?

Martin Fry: I toured last year with The Human League and Belinda Carlisle on the Regeneration Tour. It worked out great. It was exciting traveling all around America. I realized there is an audience out there for what we do. I got the invitation to play along Wang Chung and Cutting Crew so I wanted to do it.

WCT: So what kind of music do you listen to?

MF: Tons of stuff; it's the iPod generation, isn't it? I never listen to ABC. I only hear it

WCT: You wore it well. You should drop by the nightclub Neo here in Chicago while you are in town. They wear out your song "The Metro."

TN: We are playing in your area twice. [First is] June 26, which is my birthday, it is a big deal for me. Then we are playing again at Halsted Market Days on Aug. 2.

WCT: I am so there. We have to meet face to face, Nunn to Nunn.

Come see your favorite retro band live and in concert, from Wang Chung to the Cutting Crew, at the Rosemont Theatre Friday, June 26, at 8 p.m.. For tickets and information, visit www.regenerationtour.com or www.Tick-etmaster.com.



Martin Fry.

on advertisements in the U.K. I like The Killers and Goldfrapp. Lady Gaga is massive in the U.K. I really admire her. I am a completely different generation but she's working it.

WCT: You actually had a B-side called "Chicago."

MF: It was the B-side of "When Smokey Sings." We were very influenced by the house-music scene. I went to Chicago and did some recording. That song is our homage to Chicago.

Read the entire interview with Martin Fry at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

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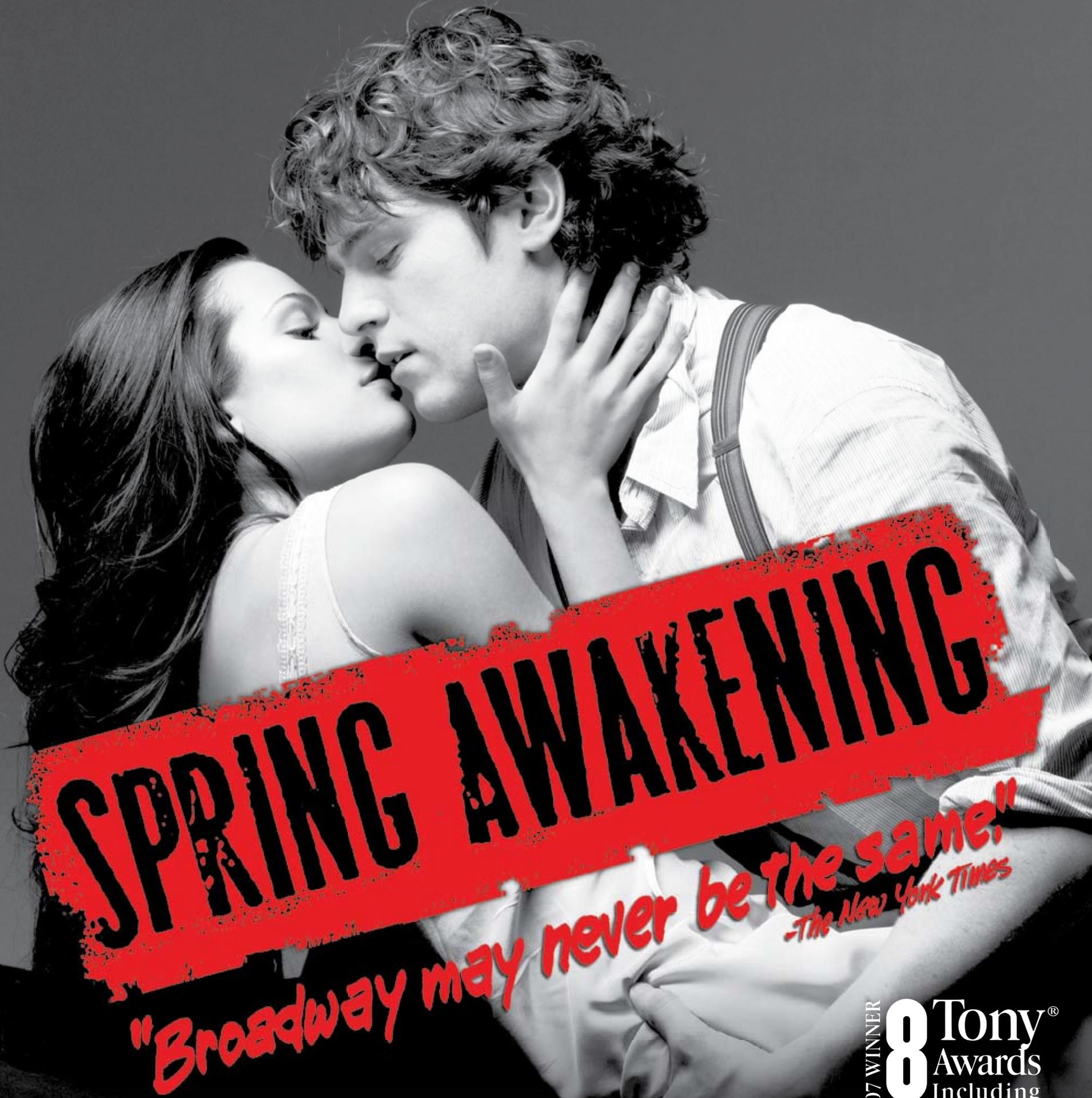
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Photo by Timothy White

STONEWALL 40: Looking Out

Windy City Times' Sixth Annual Pride Literary Supplement

First Place Poetry Winner:

HOMEBOIS/BUTCHES DON'T WRITE ENOUGH

by k. ulanday barrett

homebois, we don't write enough love poems.
we re-name ourselves izzie from Isabella,
casey from Cassandra, kay from Kathleen.

we run out of ink for our stories cuz we've been
running through doors of male and female, never satisfied.

we stunnin' baggy jeans and bright colors over the sirens,
we stop cars and walk with stride that makes the concrete
self-conscious about it's own stability.

hitting pavement at the tip-toes of summer,
there you go talkin' about how you
need a woman barefoot and pregnant.

as I shudder wondering,
are you gonna find a stiletto ready to stab you
if the night sticks don't come get you first?

asking- are you gonna be that bullet that is a mouth?
asking- are you gonna be that missile that blasts your lover
until s/he/ze misses you, even when you will both be in the same
bed?

if we make ourselves harder than bone,
make us a legacy that is beyond all this.

cuz I've been running through doors of male and female,
never satisfied.

that makes you nervous doesn't it?
are you worried, your palms sweaty

because I am NOT that kind of a man--

AG
stud
butch
boi
warrior

and that might make you obsolete, that means this whole sys-
tem
needs a revision. that means, we have to ask ourselves daily

are you doing your homework?

homebois, we don't write enough love poems to
ourselves. spell out our soft syllables unapologetically
letting the ferocity in us extend us a strength beyond
stiff jaw and cold silence, the stuff of abandoned buildings.

let us unfold the photos with us dipped in lace and dresses and
laugh.
let the most tender cipher surround us not be our mother's tears
for
the loss of a daughter.

let us hold our breaths for the sakia gunns and the fong lee's,
as it could easily be our sweat on this sidewalk.
let us adore the swiftness of kisses in moonlight rather than the
pummeling cusses of strangers scared of difference.
let the tensile ace bandage be a testament across this chest,
waving like prophets of a gender war.

let every poor black brown and yellow butch see her way into
a paintbrush, a camera, an uprook, a computer, and not into the
hips of
hand grenades chucked on someone else's homeland.

to every person who squirms in the bathrooms, classrooms,
and on stages next to me, let them know that this moment
is a clue of your queerness.

let them know my titas are at casinos burning this
American dream away too

let them know my kuyas christen their kid's foreheads and
give me daps with the same hands.

let people understand that stowed in the arched brows and
infallible heart is a crease tucking a lullaby for our children,
a psalm for those who share our breath.

let them know that each time they make fun of us,
they could be in a feather boa, singing prince, showing their
wives
some force that will drive them toward and not away.

let their children run up and down the city as the confident
queer kids who get scholarships to college for a GSA
they promoted. you, cursed to being the backward parent
they divulge to teachers they are
ashamed of.

let me not reveal my monster each time I hear
"I'll fuck you straight." let my fingers not be readied trigger,
grabbing sharp objects for stabbing back, to turn them into
the bloodiest meat they make of me with their pyramid of pow-
er.

let me walk away without harm, disbanding my razor-edge
that could cut their lifelines, slice steel song into their temples,
shear off their pride as soon as they start to unzip their pants.

let us know we can do this and make it clear: we choose not to.
let us know we can do this and make it clear: we choose not to.

if we make ourselves harder than bone,
make us a legacy that is beyond all this.

tita- tagalog for Aunt
*kuya- tagalog for older brother/cousin/friend

k. ulanday barrett is a performer, poet, educator and martial artist who connects life as a pin@y-amerikan queer navigating struggle, resistance, and laughter in the U.S. for booking and to see more of k's work. See www.kaybarrett.net.

EDITED BY KATHIE BERGQUIST AND OWEN KEEHNEN

Editing this year's Windy City Times Pride Literary Supplement was a tough but rewarding task. Once more we were fortunate enough to have received quality entries from LGBTQ folks world-wide. Our final selection was based on the combined considerations of merit as well as thematic relevance.

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of Stonewall we chose "Looking Out" as this year's theme. We specifically chose something that leant itself to broad interpretation. It was a theme that prompted perspective. Many interpreted it as taking a stand and looking out to see what has happened since that hot June night outside New York's Stonewall Inn when harassment and bigotry proved no longer tolerable and overnight the outcasts became the heroes. Others explored the idea of looking out in terms of not passing, as in physically representing your queer self to the public at large.

In the span of four decades we've made incredible strides as a community. We have struggled to be seen, to keep our jobs, and to be parents. We have struggled to declare our love, to display our lust, and to do so many things which most members of our society take for granted. In those forty years many survived a pandemic and many did not. Many were asked not to tell. Many mustered every ounce of courage to open the closet door, to push gender boundaries, and to cross gender lines. Many suffered violence and many did not survive it. Many suffered ridicule and harassment for choosing not to pass, for being queer and for "looking out." Our journey has been rife with struggle but it hasn't been in vain. We've become a part of the political dialogue, we've become media savvy, and we've made many friends in the straight world. We've made amazing progress and although full acceptance is nearer, it is by no means here.

Looking Out is not only about where we've been and how far we've come, it's also about where we're going. It looks to the future and asks where we need to be. It's clear we're still struggling with social and legislative inequality in this country and around the world, not to mention racial and gender bigotry within our own LGBTQ communities. If our struggles have taught us anything it is that a community at odds cannot stand together and that a community apart stands for nothing. Therefore, as we celebrate what unites us, we also strive to honor the diversity of the myriad communities that gather under the rainbow umbrella.

On the anniversary of that original uprising it's important to acknowledge progress as well as to realize that the journey continues. Rather than let this dampen our spirit we need to be proud of our determination to go even further. What better way to honor the past and the fallen than by asking more of ourselves as well as for ourselves.

It is with great love, great pride, and in this spirit of unity and continued progress that we present the 2009 Windy City Times Literary Supplement, "Stonewall 40: Looking Out."

Kathie Bergquist is co-author (with Robert McDonald) of the book, A Field Guide to Gay and Lesbian Chicago. She is adjunct faculty in the fiction department of Columbia College Chicago, and curates Women & Children First's monthly Sappho's Salon.

Owen Keehnen's fiction, reviews, erotica, essays and poetry have appeared in hundreds of periodicals and anthologies worldwide including Out and Proud in Chicago. He has had two pieces adapted for the stage and is the author of four books of interviews with gay porn stars—Starz, More Star, Ultimate Starz, and the upcoming Rising Starz. Keehnen also recently completed work on a humorous fictional memoir entitled I May Not Be Much But I'm All I Think About, a horror fantasy novel Doorway Unto Darkness, and is currently co-editing a book of Jon-Henri Damski's work entitled Men & Boys. He lives in Roger's Park with his partner, Carl, and dogs Flannery and Fitzgerald.

ROUGE PARROTS

By Ellen Orleans

Six rouge parrots live in her attic. Through a missing pane in a loose window, they fly in and out. At night, they whisper.

Her favorite spot for rumination is the edge of a cliff. She loves to follow the course of a pebble as it falls.

Once, she hunted elk.

Each Sunday night, she bathes by candlelight, pouring in salts from the Black Sea. It is her only extravagance.

She has traveled to all the states but one. South Dakota surprised her the most. She

will never return to Maine.

Many years ago, she was engaged to a girl whose name she does not remember. The girl was eight; she was ten.

She's had nine lovers since.

She looks forward to cleaning the gutters each fall. Gathering downed branches each spring. She has retiled the bathroom twice, once after a flood caused by carelessness.

Her favorite juice is blackberry. Her favorite jam, the same.

Each morning she eats a thick slice of sourdough bread, tossing crusts toward the green feathers, falling.

Once a social satirist (last century, her parody The Butches of Madison County won a Lammy), Ellen Orleans now writes fiction, non-fiction and half-fiction, including "Outreach," winner of the 2007 Gertrude Press Fiction Chapbook Competition.

First Place Prose Winner:

BLOWN AT THE PRIDE PARADE (BITSY CLUB VERSION)

By Deb R. Lewis

The leather-corseted, fierce-eyed Vivian and I snaked through swollen crowds and beer-soaked sidewalks. We'd escape when peltings of MGD Light coasters, Mardi Gras beads with obscure campaign slogans, and mint rubbers wore thin. I wore Doc Martens and leather vest. I was packing.

Vivian delights in the interchangeability of my "Snap-on Tool"; she'd opted to make an immense, red-gelled, monster-veined statement in honor of what the Pride Parade commemorates, namely:

June 28, 1969. Cops raid the Stonewall Inn. Raiding queer bars ain't new, but a stonebutch, billyclubbed for complaining the handcuffs're too tight as a cop shoves her into a paddywagon, asks bystanding queers, "Why don't you guys do something?" One tranny after another refuses to go quietly. Crowds of drag-queens and queer malcontents start throwing pennies, bottles, rocks. They slash tires, try overturning the paddywagon. Cops barricade themselves inside the Stonewall Inn for safety, so drag-queens set it ablaze! Of all the riots of the 60s, the Stonewall Riots, in that first forty-five-minute explosion, marked the first in history to make NYC cops retreat.

So what's a busted zipper in the larger scheme of sexual liberation?

Viv's knee-high boots—objects of my lust—halted. I anticipated the first parade banners and convertible politicians waving as if they were our best friends. When Vivian shoved me back against a maple at Broadway and Buckingham—across from a red brick church, not ten steps off the thoroughfare—sank to her knees, and

unzipped my fly, I nearly lost my legs. "Ma'am? Uh, we're on a busy public sidewalk!"

She excavated Moby Red and kissed the head. May not've had nerve endings, but I felt it.

"Any skin showing?" Rhetorical steam rose from her. "Those faggots ten feet down wish they could be you right now."

A leatherman in chaps, just a red hanky flap covering his furry butt, eyed us with amused envy. Past his elbow, a fey darling in purple spandex sneered: "Find a hotel!"

I ceased caring once Vivian tugged my tool and hips into a pornthrust rhythm. She deepened her hold, lips tight with suction.

Science says Moby Red, having no nerve endings, cannot transmit sensation to its wearer. Any butch who's packed, however, can report a ghostly extension of self that plugs in when they strap one on. The ghost-cock awakens. Truth told, there doesn't have to be a dildo; once pleasure's spent and the harness comes off, the ghost-cock remains—like a wristwatch once you lay it on the nightstand—you still feel it. After first visitation, it comes and goes under its own power.

So when Vivian sucked hard, I felt her throat open, swallowing against my head, and let the tree hold me up. My groin tightened like a jackknife hinge, harness warming against my clit until my body gushed like hot milk, shuddering against the tree on buckling legs.

Vivian's arms slid around my neck. "Feel any less tense?" What could I do, but feel

her warmth and the light of the sun? I gathered her hips, come-stoned and loving, smooching, tonguing—

"Sister, there oughta be a law."

We broke. The spandex fairy stood near, hands on hips like a moral superhero.

Vivian turned her corsetry to menace him with cleavage and bare shoulders. "What law, pray tell, do you propose? No queers kissing on street-corners? No handjob at the Manhole?" —He covered his mouth. Viv suppressed a gotcha grin—"What law, sweetheart?"

He fidgeted with his fanny pack. "What about simple taste and decency?"

Feeling like a junkyard dog, I sidled next to Viv, growling: "Oh, the Stonewall Riots—"

He drew a blank and I wanted to slap him, slap someone. I spat, "Google it, asshole—"

Stonewall sure was all about conforming to prevailing standards of taste and decency. So, how about a law like, 'No drag queens in the parade?' Or since you don't know shit about what it commemorates, how about 'No fuckin' Pride Parade at all?'"

I gave his shoulder a shove. "Why don't you go home to your little closet, you sad little jackass, and fuck yourself?"

A yank round my neck jolted me out of spiraling rage—Viv's finger in the leash ring of my collar, her tongue sharp. "Heel!"

And my anger just glazed away...

Deb R. Lewis is a company member of Serendipity Theatre Collective and a storyteller in their 2nd Story performance series (Storiesandwine.com), for which she originally wrote "Blown at the Pride Parade." Her novel, Hades' Son, was a top-three finalist in the most recent Project Queer Lit competition. For more info, see www.DebRLewis.com.

STONEWALL MOMENTS

By Emma Vosicky

Christ,
It's cold in here!

Outside:
Perfect Spring Day;
Early May;
Uncertain sun
Playing hide & seek;
With unpatterned clouds.
Cold air thawing into heat.

Inside:
Heat reverts
To frigid air;
Gates snapping shut
Behind my back
As I advance
Into my mother's house.

They know;
They've all known.
But now, they see
Me
In the way I'm
"Not supposed to be":
A woman;
Reddish hair;
Makeup, breasts.

They could not care less
That I've summoned
Every reserve of my courage -
Scrounging it from hidden, unkempt corners -
To reveal myself to them.

The room closes in
Left & right;
Dead-fish stares
While my brother glowers and glares.

They need to break me,
Shatter my soul,
Shame me into a gutter,
Preserve the status quo.

Sorry, you lose!
I will stand tall -
A little taller in heels -
Look you straight in the eye,
Display the dignity
Already mine,
For which I've strived
So very long and hard.

Yes, each slight,
Each cruelty,
Stings, cuts, burns,
But know
That my soul
You will never own.
I depart your cooler,
Battered but intact.

Stonewall is not an event.
It is a moment,
Personal to each life,
And returning
Time and
Time and
Time again;
A choice
Repeated without end
To rise up
Proud
Distinct from the crowd
Demanding respect
For who we are.

Emma Vosicky is a transgender author/spouse/parent/attorney who has completed her first book, Between the Gender Lines, a compilation of short stories exploring the gender experience. She would love to hear from you (and that includes potential publishers) at emmavwrites@comcast.net.

STONEWALL 40

By Sergio Ortiz

In sixty-eight you blacklisted me,
wiretapped my phone, and read

my correspondence. There were line-ups,
searches, and beatings outside bars.

If arrested, I was sure to be the news.
At the beach, you followed me into the restroom.

I knew it was a trap. I ran, my wounded face
stared in all directions. In sixty-nine

I threw pennies at your mafia blueboys and cheered:
We wear our dungarees, above our nelly knees!

But you were still a voyeur in my bedroom.
In eighty-four I learned to quilt.

You buried your mask, and black became
my favorite color. In ninety-five I started to resist

and question why your doll houses had concentric
picket fences. In two thousand-nine I took

my father's sculpture and hammered on its face
until its eyebrows were as thin as mine

and I began to look a little like the rest.
It's time for me to join and follow the parade.

Sergio Ortiz grew up in Chicago, studied English Literature at Inter-American University. His work has been published or is forthcoming in Yellow Medicine, The Battered Suitcase, Salt River Review, and dozens of other journals.

GOAL WEIGHT

By Michael Montlack

chunky Tamika. Mocha of the light dark skin darker
than the neighbors' suburban Gerber kids
—white-listed black, she fired back
punk, ramming spikey head, thick wrist-
banded with the army brats and alternative closet queers
head-setting in the halls songs shouts screams, snarly Mocha
of the dirty sneakers, meaty thighs detention again
fussing so femme (as if) with her pink Mohawk
Mocha went, left
flew

now see her be so CBGB
weeknight headliner
torn fishnet, sloppy eyeliner—all girl (not girlie) band-
ed with the freaky, hippie, crusty
she finally screams aloud, douching front rows
plastic wand, plastic skirt
sprinkling this downtown lawn, un-landscaped
blades of tattooed arms hailing, flailing
drinking her water, holy or not
they thirst, they grow cleansed
green in the white stage lights
of shining black
Mocha

Haight Street shoe-shoppers don't see her
—no showstopper—in the harsh glare
where on the corner clutching purse: vintage lunchbox (Darth Vader)
she bums cigarettes, quarters
kissing passing friends—with cheek (cold sore)
Mocha so thin, so light, but leaving next Thursday night
rehab, government sponsored don't tell my parents
the friends passing promise
stunned by her pressing bones, loose plastic skirt
that beat-up metal lunchbox
collecting strangers' coins
for nothing at all to swallow

Michael Montlack is the editor of the essay anthology My Diva: 65 Gay Men on the Women Who Inspire Them (University of Wisconsin Press, 2009) and the author of three poetry chapbooks: Cover Charge (Winner of the 2007 Gertrude Prize); Girls, Girls, Girls (Pudding House, 2008); and The Slip (Poets Wear Prada, 2009).

BEGGAR OF LOVE (EXCERPT)

By Lee Lynch

Excerpt adapted from the novel Beggar of Love by Lee Lynch
Available from Bold Strokes Books in fall 2009

Jefferson pulled Angela to her and kissed her, hot but fast, eyeing the curtain. Angela pressed against her, took the stolen kiss, then moved away, fast.

"I want to run to my mother and father and spill my happiness all over them. I'd shout, 'Jefferson and I are in love! We're going to move in together after graduation.' I'd fling my arms around these two people who made me the woman who loves you. Why shouldn't they be excited too?"

Jefferson could only agree. They'd made Angela bright and attractive, taught her to laugh. Why should she hide the rest of who she was? Why shouldn't they share her happiness?

Angela gave her a look that made her heart race. "It's all I can do not to run and tell them right now."

"They'd keep me away," Jefferson predicted, part of her hoping that wasn't true, although she knew it was. "I'd never get to see you again."

"They couldn't," Angela countered. "What would they do, tie you up?"

Jefferson scowled. "My parents would send me away," she told Angela. "Bury me in some prep school where chapel is a requirement and the girls talk about boys from morning till night."

"I'd come to you. Live in the nearest town. I could get work as a waitress. We'd do it on the chapel floor at midnight. I'd steal you away on weekends, and we could be naked together in my little room at the top of some old lady's big house."

"We'd get away with it for about two weeks. We'd get caught. You'd be sent

home. I'd be locked in my room except for classes. The other girls would hound me for being ... strange. You're such a kid about these things, Angie. If we don't do everything the way the adults want, they have more ways to punish us than God could even imagine. Your parents would be the same."

"So we're going to sneak around forever?"

"Yes."

Angela got angry then and lashed out at Jefferson. "I think you like all this hiding and conspiracy, Amelia Jefferson. I think you get a charge out of being scared all the time, that's what I think. It dresses up your little-rich-girl country life, like playing cowboys and Indians when you were a kid. In the Bronx, we played Nazis and Jews on our front stoops, while you were rolling down your green hills."

Jefferson stood up to go. "I'm not a rich kid," she protested, although, compared to Angela, she must seem so. "Maybe you're right. Maybe I do make a game of it in a way. Maybe I've always felt safer than you because my family's been in this county since the dinosaurs. Maybe we're too different to be together."

Outside, she was Gary Cooper in High Noon. She could feel the holstered pistols on her hips and scowled at passersby. That did nothing to chase off the black-cloud monster of fear. She swung a leg over her bike and rushed toward the hill.

Lee Lynch (leelynch6.tripod.com) has written Sweet Creek and The Swashbuckler. Her column, "The Amazon Trail," has appeared in this paper. Beggar of Love will be available this fall: (www.boldstrokesbooks.com/Bios/LeeLBio.html).

GHOSTS

By Dale Heath

Ghosts

When I apply my make-up in the morning solitary

I see them behind me in the mirror,
While I consult with the busy mom about her son's homework in the afternoon
They stand back nodding,

As I speak haltingly on the phone to my father late into the evening

They poke and prod me,
And when I curl up fitfully next to the one who loves me most in the middle of the night

They sigh contentedly.

These ghosts are always present behind,
in front, and beside me,

Wise spirits walking with me as
I navigate my contradictory streets and alleys,

Witnessing silently as I receive smiles
from those who should hate me,
Watching over me as I survive another day,
prospering against the odds,
Giving strength when hope inevitably deserts me.

I'm surrounded by ghosts,
Colorful spirits and apparitions,
Brave queers and militant queens,
Tough dykes and shy trannies,

Flamboyant and loud,
Tender and protective,
All shadows of past struggles and future fights

Sweeping across the country Like a slow moving wave
Changing everything in time

And giving me,
A solitary child
Standing alone amidst the corn rows,
That sliver of hope,
That kernel of knowledge,
That some day I may

Break off on my own path,
Proclaim my own truth,
Learn my own mind and
Make peace with my body,

To one day link hands with strangers
Both ghostly and alive,
Setting off on a wide path
Where we live vocally
In numbers too large to ignore, Finding ourselves together at last,
Standing under a ripe, open sun,
Marveling at how far we've come
And how far we've yet to travel.

Dale Heath is a transgender poet and librarian. She lives in Forest Park.

AMERICA'S FIRST COMING OUT

By Raymond Luczak

"Everybody here is so like everybody else and I am Walt Whitman!" — Walt Whitman

Once I pass'd through a populous city...

with its shows, architecture, customs, and traditions.

You roamed the lower Broadway in the 1840s, didn't you,
looking for the errant eye of a handsome young rogue
in need of a drink and a bedding-down.

No one needed to know. Marriage was for nannies.

We two boys together clinging, One the other never leaving.

You allowed yourself to be sunburnt and freckled.

You were already gray by the time you turned thirty.

You were already a daddy in training.

Then in 1848, you went down to New Orleans.

I remember only the man who wandered with me,

there, for love of me. Your senses

must've exploded in such sensuous love

of his tongue on yours, how sweet the soil

upon which he stood before you. Revelation

of sight, smell, taste, sound, and touch

couldn't be hidden inside your breast pocket.

You have given me love! therefore I to you give love!

O unspeakable passionate love!

You had to sing like Marietta Alboni, damn them all!

Life, the greatest opera on earth, unleashed

in you lines, garrulous and rambling,

one after another, celebrating not just him

whose name we shall never know

but all whom you'd loved down on the docks,

the upper echelons of Astor Place Opera House,

and lower Broadway. Again he holds me by the hand—I must not go!

Everywhere was a possibility of conjugation

between men, women, and all capable of living.

How could anyone not see such music? I hear America singing.

Raymond Luczak (raymondluczak.com) is the author and editor of eight books, including Assembly Required: Notes from a Deaf Gay Life and Eyes of Desire 2: A Deaf GLBT Reader.

LET'S MARAE!

By Mary Merriam

My nearest, my queerest,
my conjugal dearest,
my closest, my mostest,
what shall I call you?

My lavender gayspeak,
queerspeak and queenspeak,
lost lambda pipsqueak,
your name preference, please?

My love, my dove,
my heaven above,
my who I want more of,
what, what, what?

Mon amour, mi amigo,
spouse in my house,
muse who I choose,
q'est-ce que c'est le bon mot?

My Rae of hope,
my missing mishpochah,
my saving grace,
a bissel hint-hint?

Significant other,
this one, not another,
my own homo lover,
onomastically who?

Woman plus woman,
man plus man,
an accepted plan,
I pronounce you, nu?

Will you marae me?
Darling, what did you say?
The word is marae.
Will you be my rae?

rae [RAY]

-noun—the affectionate, legal, and religious term for the spouse or partner of a gay or lesbian person.

marae [ma-RAY]

-verb—to join as spouses or to take as a spouse, in the marriage of a gay or lesbian person.

The neologisms rae and marae are derived from "My Rae," the name Lillian Faderman gave to her courageous and devoted aunt. As a new term for gay and lesbian partners, "my rae" honors Lillian Faderman's tremendous courage and devotion to gays and lesbians. "Marae" means "sacred place" in Polynesia. At the marae, culture is celebrated, customs are explored and debated, and weddings and birthdays are held.

Mary Merriam's chapbook, The Countess of Flatbroke (afterword by Lillian Faderman), was published in 2006 by Modern Metrics. Her poems and essays have appeared in Literary Imagination, The Gay & Lesbian Review, Rattle, A Prairie Home Companion, and Light Quarterly, among others.

STONEWALL 40-YEAR PRIDE CELEBRATION

By Dale Boyer

Some trees need a fire
to start their seedlings; redwoods

germinate this way. Centuries from now,
they'll tower proudly here.

May those who find them bring a flame.

Dale W. Boyer received his MFA in Writing from Vermont College. His writing has appeared in numerous publications, including AWP, The Evergreen Chronicles, and many others. He lives and works in Chicago with his partner, Scot O'Hara.

More selections online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

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Do not take REYATAZ if you are taking the following medicines: rifampin, Camptosar® (irinotecan), Versed® (midazolam) when taken by mouth, Halcion® (triazolam), ergot medicines, Propulsid® (cisapride), St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), Mevacor® (lovastatin), Zocor® (simvastatin), Orap® (pimozide), Crixivan® (indinavir), or Viramune® (nevirapine).

Speak with your healthcare provider before taking the following medicines if you are taking REYATAZ: hormonal contraceptives such as birth control pills or contraceptive patch, Viagra® (sildenafil), Levitra® (vardenafil), Cialis® (tadalafil), Vfend® (voriconazole), AcipHex® (rabeprazole), Nexium® (esomeprazole), Prevacid® (lansoprazole), Prilosec® (omeprazole), Protonix® (pantoprazole), Axid® (nizatidine), Pepcid AC® (famotidine), Tagamet® (cimetidine), or Zantac® (ranitidine), Advair® (fluticasone propionate and salmeterol inhalation powder), Flonase® or Flovent® (fluticasone propionate), or Sustiva® (efavirenz).

The above lists of medicines are not complete. Discuss all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements, or other health preparations you are taking or plan to take with your healthcare provider.

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects, symptoms, or conditions, including the following:

- **Mild rash** (redness and itching) without other symptoms sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started, and usually goes away within two weeks with no change in treatment.
- **Severe rash** has occurred in a small number of patients taking REYATAZ. This type of rash is associated with other symptoms which could be serious and potentially cause death. **If you develop a rash with any of the following symptoms, stop using REYATAZ and call your healthcare provider right away:**
 - Shortness of breath
 - General ill-feeling or “flu-like” symptoms
 - Fever
 - Muscle or joint aches
 - Conjunctivitis (red or inflamed eyes, like “pink-eye”)
 - Blisters
 - Mouth sores
 - Swelling of your face
- **Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes** may occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).
- **A change in the way your heart beats** may occur and could be a symptom of a heart problem.
- **Diabetes and high blood sugar** may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ.
- **If you have liver disease**, including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.
- **Kidney stones** have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ. Signs or symptoms of kidney stones include pain in your side, blood in your urine, and pain when you urinate.
- **End stage kidney disease** managed with hemodialysis.
- **Some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ.
- **Changes in body fat** have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

Other side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: nausea, headache, stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, depression, fever, dizziness, trouble sleeping, numbness, and tingling or burning of hands or feet.

You should take REYATAZ once daily with food (a meal or snack). You should take REYATAZ and your other anti-HIV medicines exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

On REYATAZ,




REYATAZ®
 (atazanavir sulfate) 200 mg/300 mg capsules
Fight HIV your way.

Please see Important Patient Information about REYATAZ on adjacent pages.

how you spend your time is up to you.



Individual results may vary.

Once-daily REYATAZ can fit into your schedule and help fight your HIV.

REYATAZ, a protease inhibitor (PI), in HIV combination therapy:

- ◆ Can help lower your viral load and raise your T-cell (CD4+ cell) count
- ◆ Has a low chance of diarrhea (shown in clinical trials)*
- ◆ Is taken once a day with a snack or meal

* REYATAZ in combination therapy had a 1%-3% rate of moderate-to-severe diarrhea.

REYATAZ is one of several treatment options your doctor may consider.

Ask your healthcare team about REYATAZ. www.REYATAZ.com

REYATAZ does not cure HIV, a serious disease, and has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others.

 Bristol-Myers Squibb

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687US09AB10208 04/09

If you or someone you know needs help paying for medicine,
call 1-888-4PPA-NOW (1-888-477-2669). Or go to www.pparx.org



Partnership for
Prescription Assistance

**FDA-Approved Patient Labeling
Patient Information**
Rx ONLY

REYATAZ® (RAY-ah-taz)
(generic name = **atazanavir sulfate**)
Capsules

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with REYATAZ. Read the section “What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?”

Read the Patient Information that comes with REYATAZ before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet provides a summary about REYATAZ and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is REYATAZ?

REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). REYATAZ is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV infection destroys CD4+ (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of (T) cells are destroyed, AIDS develops. REYATAZ helps to block HIV protease, an enzyme that is needed for the HIV virus to multiply. REYATAZ may lower the amount of HIV in your blood, help your body keep its supply of CD4+ (T) cells, and reduce the risk of death and illness associated with HIV.

Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?

REYATAZ does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. At present there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections. **It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking REYATAZ.**

REYATAZ does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take REYATAZ?
Do not take REYATAZ if you:

- **are taking certain medicines.** (See “What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?”) Serious life-threatening side effects or death may happen. Before you take REYATAZ, tell your healthcare provider about all medicines you are taking or planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- **are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients.** The active ingredient is atazanavir sulfate. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in REYATAZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you think you have had an allergic reaction to any of these ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ?
Tell your healthcare provider:

- **If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.** It is not known if REYATAZ can harm your unborn baby. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if REYATAZ is right for you. If you use REYATAZ while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- **If you are breast-feeding.** You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if REYATAZ can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- **If you have liver problems or are infected with the hepatitis B or C virus.** See “What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?”
- **If you have end stage kidney disease** managed with hemodialysis.
- **If you have diabetes.** See “What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?”
- **If you have hemophilia.** See “What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?”
- **About all the medicines you take** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your healthcare provider. For more information, see “What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?” and “Who should not take REYATAZ?” Some medicines can cause serious side effects if taken with REYATAZ.

REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)
How should I take REYATAZ?

- **Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATAZ that is right for you.
 - For adults who have never taken anti-HIV medicines before, the dose is 300 mg once daily with 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken with food. For adults who are unable to tolerate ritonavir, 400 mg (two 200-mg capsules) once daily (without NORVIR®) taken with food is recommended.
 - For adults who have taken anti-HIV medicines in the past, the usual dose is 300 mg plus 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken with food.
- Your dose will depend on your liver function and on the other anti-HIV medicines that you are taking. REYATAZ is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you are taking REYATAZ with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) or with VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), you should also be taking NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- **Always take REYATAZ with food** (a meal or snack) to help it work better. Swallow the capsules whole. **Do not open the capsules.** Take REYATAZ at the same time each day.
- **If you are taking antacids or didanosine (VIDEX® or VIDEX® EC),** take REYATAZ 2 hours before or 1 hour after these medicines.
- **If you are taking medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPCID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), ZANTAC® (ranitidine), AcipHex® (rabeprazole), NEXIUM® (esomeprazole), PREVACID® (lansoprazole), PRILOSEC® (omeprazole), or PROTONIX® (pantoprazole),** talk to your healthcare provider.
- **Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider.** It is important to stay under a healthcare provider's care while taking REYATAZ.
- **When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low,** get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- **If you miss a dose of REYATAZ,** take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. **It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines.**
- **If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ,** call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

Can children take REYATAZ?

Dosing recommendations are available for children 6 years of age and older for REYATAZ Capsules. Dosing recommendations are not available for children from 3 months to less than 6 years of age. REYATAZ should not be used in babies under the age of 3 months.

What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?

The following list of side effects is **not** complete. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

The following side effects have been reported with REYATAZ:

- **mild rash** (redness and itching) without other symptoms sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started. Rashes usually go away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment. Tell your healthcare provider if rash occurs.
 - **severe rash:** In a small number of patients, a rash can develop that is associated with other symptoms which could be serious and potentially cause death.
- If you develop a rash with any of the following symptoms stop using REYATAZ and call your healthcare provider right away:**
- shortness of breath
 - general ill feeling or “flu-like” symptoms
 - fever
 - muscle or joint aches
 - conjunctivitis (red or inflamed eyes, like “pink eye”)
 - blisters
 - mouth sores
 - swelling of your face
- **yellowing of the skin or eyes.** These effects may be due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver). Call your healthcare provider if your skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow. Although these effects may not be damaging to your liver, skin, or eyes, it is important to tell your healthcare provider promptly if they occur.

REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)

- **a change in the way your heart beats (heart rhythm change).** Call your healthcare provider right away if you get dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- **diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia)** sometimes happen in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- **if you have liver disease** including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.
- **kidney stones** have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ. If you develop signs or symptoms of kidney stones (pain in your side, blood in your urine, pain when you urinate) tell your healthcare provider promptly.
- **some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.
- **changes in body fat.** These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

Gallbladder disorders (which may include gallstones and gallbladder inflammation) have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ.

What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?

Do not take REYATAZ if you take the following medicines (not all brands may be listed; tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take). REYATAZ may cause serious, life-threatening side effects or death when used with these medicines.

- Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylegonovine such as CAFERGOT®, MIGRANAL®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, METHERGINE®, and others (used for migraine headaches).
- ORAP® (pimozide, used for Tourette's disorder).
- PROPULSID® (cisapride, used for certain stomach problems).
- Triazolam, also known as HALCION® (used for insomnia).
- Midazolam, also known as VERSED® (used for sedation), when taken by mouth.

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because of possible serious side effects:

- CAMPTOSAR® (irinotecan, used for cancer).
- CRIXIVAN® (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and CRIXIVAN sometimes cause increased levels of bilirubin in the blood.
- Cholesterol-lowering medicines MEVACOR® (lovastatin) or ZOCOR® (simvastatin).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood. This may lead to an increased HIV viral load. Resistance to REYATAZ or cross-resistance to other HIV medicines may develop:

- Rifampin (also known as RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®, RIFATER®, or RIFAMATE®, used for tuberculosis).
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort.
- VIRAMUNE® (nevirapine, used for HIV infection).

Do not take the following medicine if you are taking REYATAZ and NORVIR® together:

- VFEND® (voriconazole).

The following medicines may require your healthcare provider to monitor your therapy more closely:

- CIALIS® (tadalafil), LEVITRA® (vardenafil), or VIAGRA® (sildenafil). REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- LIPITOR® (atorvastatin) or CRESTOR® (rosuvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.
- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN®, QUINIDEX®, and others).
- VASCOR® (bepridil, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN® (warfarin).

REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)

- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL® (amitriptyline), NORPRAMIN® (desipramine), SINEQUAN® (doxepin), SURMONTIL® (trimipramine), TOFRANIL® (imipramine), or VIVACTIL® (protriptyline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE® or NEORAL® (cyclosporin), RAPAMUNE® (sirolimus), or PROGRAF® (tacrolimus).
- The antidepressant trazodone (DESYREL® and others).
- Fluticasone propionate (ADVAIR®, FLONASE®, FLOVENT®), given by nose or inhaled to treat allergic symptoms or asthma. Your doctor may choose not to keep you on fluticasone, especially if you are also taking NORVIR®.

The following medicines may require a change in the dose or dose schedule of either REYATAZ or the other medicine:

- INVIRASE® (saquinavir).
- NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- SUSTIVA® (efavirenz).
- Antacids or buffered medicines.
- VIDEX® (didanosine).
- VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin).
- Calcium channel blockers such as CARDIZEM® or TIAZAC® (diltiazem), COVERA-HS® or ISOPTIN SR® (verapamil) and others.
- BIAXIN® (clarithromycin).
- Medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPCID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), or ZANTAC® (ranitidine).

Talk to your healthcare provider about choosing an effective method of contraception. REYATAZ may affect the safety and effectiveness of hormonal contraceptives such as birth control pills or the contraceptive patch. Hormonal contraceptives do not prevent the spread of HIV to others.

Remember:

1. **Know all the medicines you take.**
2. **Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take.**
3. **Do not start a new medicine without talking to your healthcare provider.**

How should I store REYATAZ?

- Store REYATAZ Capsules at room temperature, 59° to 86° F (15° to 30° C). Do **not** store this medicine in a damp place such as a bathroom medicine cabinet or near the kitchen sink.
- Keep your medicine in a tightly closed container.
- Keep all medicines out of the reach of children and pets at all times. Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Dispose of unused medicines through community take-back disposal programs when available or place REYATAZ in an unrecognizable, closed container in the household trash.

General information about REYATAZ

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use REYATAZ for another condition. Do not give REYATAZ to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. **Keep REYATAZ and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.**

This summary does not include everything there is to know about REYATAZ. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Remember no written summary can replace careful discussion with your healthcare provider. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or you can call 1-800-321-1335.

What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?

Active Ingredient: atazanavir sulfate

Inactive Ingredients: Crospovidone, lactose monohydrate (milk sugar), magnesium stearate, gelatin, FD&C Blue #2, and titanium dioxide.

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US Patent Nos: 5,849,911 and 6,087,383

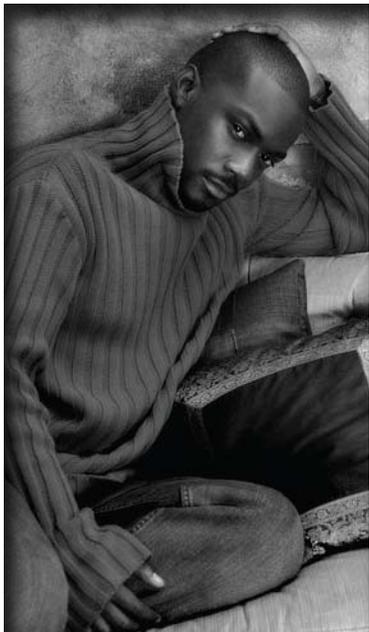


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Princeton, NJ 08543 USA

30 TENTH ANNUAL WINDY CITY TIMES UNDER THIRTY HONORS



DAVID DODD



David, 27, currently serves as communications manager for Windy City Black Pride (WCBP), a volunteer-based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that provides resources, conducts outreach and hosts the largest event in the Midwest for the African-American LGBT community. He is responsible for developing and implementing the organization's local and national advertising, marketing, and public relations strategies. In addition, he assists in the organization's philanthropic initiatives.

Born and raised in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, David moved to Chicago at 17, three weeks after graduating from high school to become a fashion designer. He soon learned that sewing was not for him and changed paths to work in another creative world—the advertising industry.

David holds a degree in marketing from Chicago State University and will pursue an MBA in the fall at Roosevelt University.

Did you know? David is a champion bowler with a 195 average.

CAMERON ESPOSITO



Cameron, 27, is an up-and-coming stand-up comic based in Chicago. She is a cast member at the Lincoln Lodge and Chicago Underground Comedy; produces her own show at the Town Hall Pub; and has performed as far from home as London, England, and Cape Town, South Africa. She is a regular guest on the podcast *Feast of Fun*, and teaches stand-up classes for women. Cameron also has her own Web series on *AfterEllen.com* called "Cameron Esposito: Homo Genius."

Did you know? Cameron will be acting as ringmaster during on a monthlong tour with *El Circo Cheapo*, a local circus and aerial performance troupe this fall—making all of her dreams come true.

RILEY JOHNSON



Riley—an educator, scholar and leatherman—serves as coordinator of the Great Lakes Bootblack contest, a title he himself won in 2007. A history geek at heart, Riley, 30 (but 29 when he was nominated), also serves as a coordinator of the Leather Archives and Museum Roadshow, the traveling team which presents the LA&M's exhibits of leather and fetish history around the world.

Riley is also a co-founder of Trans Gynecology Access Program (TGAP; qphc.org), which provides transmen, butches and genderqueers with the option of having a transman health educator in with them for any part of their exams to help them feel more at ease and to share expertise. As a part of this program, Riley is writing a comprehensive safer-sex guide that includes self-defense techniques and tips on disclosure, harm reduction and negotiation.

Did you know? When not working or volunteering, Riley enjoys manhandling, whip-throwing and a well-stocked humidor.

JADE (DAVID) SOTOMAYOR



Jade, 25, is a professional female impersonator who has performed in many clubs throughout Chicago and Detroit—and current is featured at the local restaurant Sangria. Jade has been thrust into the national spotlight thanks to her appearance on the LOGO reality-TV show *RuPaul's Drag Race*, which premiered in February.

Jade was recently honored as outstanding Aspirante at the 40th anniversary of the ASPIRA Association, which promotes the empowerment of the Puerto Rican and Latino communities by developing and nurturing the potential of its youth. Also, in

2007, she was selected as the first female impersonator to represent the Puerto Rican community under the Paseo Boricua Pageantry system; her mission included visiting different groups and doing outreach/education.

Jade is currently on tour throughout the United States. She is also working on her music and just filmed her debut in the film *My Guaranteed Student Loan*.

Did you know? To be a part of *RuPaul's Drag Show*, Jade was one of nine contestants whittled down from more than 3,000 applicants.

JACQUI JACKSON



Jacqui, 23, recently finished the B.F.A. Acting program at The Theatre School at DePaul University. After leaving DePaul last June, she worked as an actress in many productions and films shot or produced in the Chicago area. Most notably, she played Greta in the lesbian feature film *Hannah Free*, which was written by Claudia Allen, directed by Wendy Jo Carlton and starred Sharon Gless.

Jacqui started her acting career at age 3, and has per-

formed in more than 50 productions in the last 20 years. In an effort to use art to promote social dialogue, last summer Jacqui participated in "Embrace the Gayness," a play performed guerrilla-style in a popular Chicago park. In its climactic final scene, two women kiss in the park, creating a public affirmation of safety and acceptance for the lesbian community.

Did you know? Jacqui's first crush was on Debbie Harry, the lead singer of *Blondie*.



WINDY CITY TIMES

theatre series

2009-2010

50%
SOLD

BOOM CHICAGO PREMIERE

BY PETER SINN NACHTRIEB | DIRECTED BY JASON SOUTHERLAND

NEXT THEATRE | THURS SEPT 17 7:30PM

As a comet hurtles towards earth, gay grad student Jules tries to preserve the human race through a personal ad promising "intensely significant coupling."

"Sex! Planet-ruining cataclysms! Loads of booze! We're ready for whatever strange places BOOM wants to take us." – Variety

THE ADDAMS FAMILY

WORLD PREMIERE PRE-BROADWAY MUSICAL

BY MARSHALL BRICKMAN, RICK ELICE & ANDREW LIPPA
DIRECTED BY PHELM MC DERMOTT & JULIAN CROUCH

**FORD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
ORIENTAL THEATRE**

WED NOV 18TH 7:30PM

STARRING NATHAN LANE AND BEBE NEUWIRTH

Sit Dress Circle for this "not to be missed" musical in a limited run before Broadway.

SOUVENIR CHICAGO PREMIERE

WRITTEN BY STEPHEN TEMPERLEY | DIRECTED BY STEVE SCOTT

NORTHLIGHT THEATRE | THURS DEC 10 7:30PM

The comedic and musical true story of Florence Foster-Jenkins: a New York socialite whose ambition, deep love of music and complete lack of talent landed her at Carnegie Hall and brought a very unique joy to thousands.

OH COWARD! - A MUSICAL COMEDY REVUE

WORDS AND MUSIC BY NOËL COWARD | DIRECTED BY JIM CORTI

WRITERS' THEATRE

TICKET VOUCHER TO THE SHOW

You're invited to a marvelous party of songs celebrating one of the theater's greatest entertainers. Effervescent music and charming Coward quips combine for an unforgettable evening.

"After many years in New York, actor-director Jim Corti returned to become one of the most exciting figures in the Chicago musical community." – Chicago Tribune

THE BROTHER/SISTER PLAYS

CHICAGO PREMIERE

BY TARELL ALVIN MCCRANEY | DIRECTED BY TINA LANDAU

STEPPEWOLF THEATRE | SUNDAY FEB 21

3:00 PM SHOW 1 | 5-6:30 RECEPTION | 7:30PM SHOW 2

* **TWO PLAYS PLUS A RECEPTION OF HEAVY APPETIZERS & LIBATIONS***

Steamy bayou Louisiana springs to life with stories of love, sexuality and coming-of-age, where the struggle for self identity is at odds with community values. From the Gay playwright who created the hit play *Wig Out!* And one of the most exciting directors of our time.

LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES

BY CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON | DIRECTED BY DAVID DARLOW

**REMY BUMPPO THEATRE AT THE GREENHOUSE THEATRE
THURS APRIL 1 7:30**

Sexual intrigue and ruthless manipulation in the salons and boudoirs of pre-Revolutionary France. Annabel Armour, Nick Sandys and Linda Gillum star as aristocrats testing their skills of manipulating love, sex and power. A modern day classic.

GIRLS VS BOYS WORLD PREMIERE

WRITTEN BY NATHAN ALLEN, JAKE MINTON & CHRIS MATHEWS

MUSIC BY KEVIN O'DONNELL | DIRECTED BY NATHAN ALLEN

THE HOUSE THEATRE OF CHICAGO AT CHOPIN THEATRE

THURS MAY 6 8PM

An original coming-of-age pop opera where brother and sister find themselves trapped in a deadly battle of the sexes – they don't know the rules, but they have to play anyway.

TOTAL SUBSCRIPTION: **\$280**

Please call **773.871.7610 x301** to subscribe
or email amy@windycitymediagroup.com to request an order form

CHRIS COHEN



Chris, 22, never guessed—growing up in the Windy City—that one day he would be able to make an impact on the community and become an inspiration to others through his accomplishments. At 18, Chris began pursuing a degree in fashion design that led him to Los Angeles, Calif.

The major turning point in Chris' modeling career is in 2008, when he found himself as a contestant on Bravo's *Make Me a Supermodel*. He became the next pivotal openly gay contestant after Ronnie Kroell (who was a 30 Under 30 honoree last year). Chris aims to push the boundaries of everything he does in order to make others question: What is identity? What is gender? What is reality? He believes when you stop accepting the norm and start questioning your very being, only then can you see things in a different light and discover more about who you really are.

Did you know? For inspiration, Chris refers to a quote by Anthony Robbins: "We can change our lives. We can do, have and be exactly what we wish."

KATIE O'MALLEY



Katie, 26, is a product of the Midwest—living in Illinois, Missouri, Ohio and Minnesota before moving to New York City at the age of 22. As a 2004 graduate from Miami University of Ohio, Katie began her multifaceted career as a field director for The Young Voter Project in Minnesota—and spearheaded the program in central Minnesota, changing the color of 19 precincts from red to blue and helping Minnesota send its electoral Votes to John Kerry in 2004.

In 2007, Katie moved back to Chicago after accepting her current position as a development associate with the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC). Throughout the year, Katie works on multiple fundraising events to support the AFC's grantmaking initiatives in the community—specifically, AIDS Run & Walk Chicago, World of Chocolate, Make a Statement: Design for the Cure and Dance for Life. In her past two years at AFC, Katie is most proud of her work with the Community-Direct program of AIDS Run & Walk Chicago that allows HIV/AIDS service providers to form teams and receive back 100% of the money that they raise for the event.

Did you know? Katie has attended one Dave Matthews Band concert every year since 1998.

SHREYA SHAH



Shreya, 26, is an organizer and artist currently based at the Broadway Youth Center (BYC), where she has spent the last three years. She works as a sexual health educator, co-facilitator of the peer advocate program and youth worker (who gets to hang out on the regular with amazing young folks in BYC's drop-in space). She looks forward to graduating from the Institute of HIV Prevention Leadership, becoming a certified Sister-Song doula and starting a masters in sexual health within the next year.

Shreya's dream is to spend her days organizing with queer communities of color through storytelling. She hopes to use sound and film to address things like sexual health, healing, queerness and collective struggles against all forms of violence. Shreya is currently working on two sound projects: Q & (s)A (an oral-history project about queer and South Asian folks) and Everyday Healers.

Did you know? In the last few years, Shreya has taken classes in both singing and clowning, although her sister still cringes whenever she attempts either.

GABRIEL ERVIN



Gabriel, 26, is a self-described "hot mess in the struggle" while working as a resource advocate in the drop-in program (a program for LGBTQ youth, street-based youth and young people experiencing homelessness) at the Broadway Youth Center. Gabriel identifies as trans, and as such, "their gender is somewhere between glittery red and purple—and sometimes has pink dots." Gabriel is driven by a fierce passion for harm reduction, transformative justice, young people, voguing and celebration. In the past, Gabriel was organizer for Camp Trans, an annual gathering of transgender people and their allies in Michigan.

Did you know? Gabriel can remember the lyrics to the intro of almost every sitcom and cartoon from the '80s.

JORDAN HEINZ



Jordan, 29, graduated from Northwestern University in 2002 and from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 2005. Jordan now practices at Kirkland & Ellis LLP in the intellectual property department, focusing on trademark and false advertising litigation.

Jordan started in 2005 as the firm's first openly gay attorney. Since then, Jordan has led the development of the Kirkland & Ellis' LGBT community, which is now one of the largest and most active in the Chicago legal market. Aside from his primary practice, Jordan spends his time as the associate *pro bono* coordinator, a position that allows him to increase the firm's *pro bono* practice through placing those cases with attorneys. In his own *pro bono* work, Jordan focuses on matters related to LGBT rights.

Jordan also serves on the board of directors of the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago and on the Junior Board of Chicago Volunteer Legal Services.

Did you know? Despite having webbed feet, Jordan is an absolutely terrible swimmer.

AMY STAUFFER



Amy, 27, a native Chicagoan, has been working on HIV prevention research projects since 2004. A "jill-of-all-trades," she has worked on over 10 different HIV prevention projects in various capacities from facilitating prevention groups to testing the effectiveness of comprehensive sexual health curriculum. Additionally, Amy has been an active member of the HIV Prevention Planning Group of Chicago since 2006.

Did you know? Amy has recently started taking trapeze lessons and enjoys swinging around upside down.

KELLY COOK-GINN



Since moving to Chicago several years ago, Kelly, 29, has focused on bringing attention to the rights of individuals of all identities who receive social services. After receiving her masters degree in London with a concentration in youth rights, she joined AmeriCorps and was placed at Horizons, where she facilitated the youth leadership program. In addition, Kelly worked at Teen Living Programs, where she established a youth council.

Currently at Howard Brown Health Center, Kelly has directed her attention to individuals living with HIV, and continues to initiate programs that encourage individuals to actively engage with the services they receive. Kelly feels grateful for the teachers and colleagues she has had along her journey.

Did you know? Kelly has been an avid potter for over 10 years.

STEPHANIE
GENTRY-
FERNANDEZ

Stephanie, 27, is a mixed Mexican genderqueer poet and performer from Chicago's South side. She is thrilled to work at Broadway Youth Center as a resource advocate and co-facilitator of the peer advocate program, a program serving to link violence prevention to HIV prevention. Stephanie is an artistic associate of Teatro Luna, and you may recognize her from "Machos" and "S-e-x-oh!" Stephanie is also a proud member of the Left Turn Collective, a grassroots publication of notes from the global intifada.

Did you know? If Stephanie had a superpower, it would be the ability to spontaneously burst into choreographed musical triangle dances with everyone around her.

SEAN CASEY



Sean, 27, serves as the coordinator of the Global Equality Network at Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights, supporting the development of grassroots LGBT civil society organizations in countries that are particularly dangerous or oppressive for LGBT populations. Sean is currently working with LGBT activists and organizations in such places as Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Burundi and Lebanon.

Originally from King of Prussia, Pa., Sean studied international journalism at the American University of Paris and received a master's in HIV/AIDS and Society from the University of Cape Town in South Africa. In addition to France and South Africa, Sean has lived and worked in Rwanda and Haiti.

Did you know? Sean is a fluent French speaker, muddles through Haiti Creole and is constantly trying to improve his Spanish.

SHAE HEALEY



Shae, 22, moved to Chicago from Portland, Ore., last year. Since coming out at 19, Shae has made LGBTQ activism a priority on both academic and professional levels.

Growing up in suburbia, attending college in rural America and living in Chicago, Shae has experienced varying perspectives and experiences surrounding homophobia and acceptance. Her undergraduate thesis focused on the atmosphere surrounding LGBTQ youth in Walla Walla, Wash., and

inspired several front-page stories and community conversations concerning her involvement in pioneering the small town's first LGBTQ youth program. While studying abroad in Botswana—a country where same-sex conduct is illegal—Shae worked closely with LeGa-BiBo, the nation's only LGBTQ organization. Shae currently works for the Center on Halsted Youth Program as a career employment specialist.

Did you know? Shae is sensitive to caffeine, interested in women's studies and humbled by this award.

EDWIN ERVIN



Edwin, 28, have been working in the field of HIV education/prevention since November 2002. In 2005, he was on CAN-TV monthly, presenting ways people could protect themselves from contracting HIV. Currently, Edwin is the Brothas Saving Brothas Coordinator at BEHIV (Better Existence with HIV).

Edwin is also a member of the Northside HIV Health Coalition. He has a passion for helping people in the LGBTQA community; being a Black gay man and seeing recent numbers, Edwin feels its part of his duty to help reduce those numbers.

Did you know? On Saturday mornings, Edwin still gets up with a bowl of cereal and watches cartoons, leading his partner to think that he is a 9 year-old trapped in a man's body.

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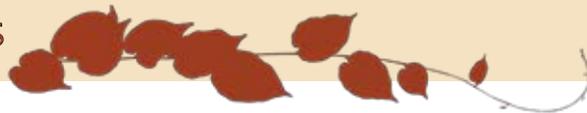
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KRISTIN KEGLOVITZ BAKER



Kristin, 28, has been working at Howard Brown as a physician's assistant for the past four years, and am committed to working for and with the LGBT community. Kristin is also involved in Camp Dreamcatcher—a camp in Pennsylvania for children affected/infected with HIV/AIDS—and is a mentor for Mercy Home through the Evans Scholar Foundation.

To Kristin, her dedication to medicine and providing quality healthcare to the Chicago LGBT community is one of the most important

parts of her life. She started out as a medical assistant in the small town of Visalia, Calif., and couldn't be happier to be in Chicago. She would like to eventually see a decline in HIV/AIDS infection; more of our community accessing quality healthcare; and LGBT folks raising healthy, happy, well-adjusted children.

Did you know? In the past year, Kristin has broken her leg once and her nose twice. Also, Kristin and her wife, Bridget Baker, are expecting twins any day now.

MARK PINEDA



Mark, 24, is a disease intervention specialist for Howard Brown Health Center. As a specialist, Mark has worked proudly to help educate, motivate and help all in the LGBTIQI community who may be affected by STD/HIV in an effort to eradicate disease in our communities being that we are most disproportionately disadvantaged and affected.

Mark came to Howard Brown in 2007 with hopes of providing health care to those most in need, helping our community help itself and create awareness around the importance of great healthcare made accessible to everyone. Mark is so proud to be a part of the Latin@ Committee for Howard Brown, co-facilitating the first-ever Latino Support Group, *Empoderando Comunidades/Empowering Communities*. Mark is presently pursuing his degree in sociology with a focus on psychology and LGBTIQI health. He has learned the value of hard work, the importance of standing up for what you believe and the passion for social advocacy and welfare—because of great role models and heroes.

Did you know? Mark loves Latin music and will go out dancing with his friends—and will even sing a little karaoke from time to time, if they let him.

KEVIN FERENCHAK



Kevin is a 21-year-old undergrad at Loyola University Chicago. Recognizing that the campus is undergoing major growth, he spends part of his time ensuring that LGBTQ equality and concerns are part of the emerging culture of the Catholic university. He has served on the planning committees for Loyola's GLBTQ Week, Hate Crime Awareness Month and the university's Day of Silence.

Off-campus, Kevin has been trained as an HIV/STD test counselor at the Howard Brown

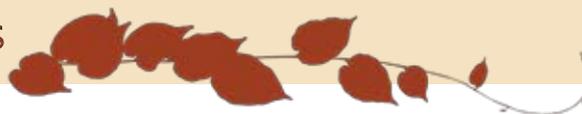
Broadway Youth Center. He also cofounded a free ACT prep course for an inner city high school. Most recently, he is a published author for his genetics and virology research at The Salk Institute in La Jolla, California.

In 2008 he was awarded the Point Foundation Scholarship. Looking forward, Kevin hopes to attend medical school and one day become a father.

Did you know? Kevin once potty-trained a two-year-old in two days because he was sick of dirty diapers.

FABUL





CLAY REHRIG



Clay, 24, is a rising third-year student at Loyola University Chicago School of Law where he is a 2009/2010 ABA Moot Court Team oralist, and is pursuing a certificate

in international law. As the 2008/2009 co-president of OUTLAW, Loyola's LGBT organization, Clay has been an integral part of leading this group of students and allies in advocating for the recognition and support of LGBT students within the legal community. Last summer, Clay worked with Equality Illinois compiling, comparing and summarizing all state statutes discussing marriage in order to assist EI's mission to secure equal marriage rights for same-sex couples. This summer, Clay is working for Ed Fox & Associates, where he helps research and draft legal memos and motions and while pursuing civil-rights lawsuits.

Did you know? Originally from Texas, Clay enjoys cooking, swimming and speaking German. Recently, he won third place in Loyola's annual "No Talent Show" for his performance of the Backstreet Boys' "I Want It That Way."

KRISTEN KAZA



Since moving to Chicago from Vermont in 2003, Kristen, 24, has worked in events planning and publicity for several Chicago publications, companies and causes, most recently with Chicago film company Yellow Wing Productions. In 2007, Kaza joined the team to spearhead publicity, which developed into a co-producer role for the feature film *Fish out of Water*, a documentary that explores the impassioned relationship between homosexuality and the Bible.

Kristen focuses on the fundraising and outreach aspects of production by developing partnerships with various community and organizations, coordinating fundraising events, working with both the local and national media, and developing grant proposals. (She also contracted Golden Globe-nominated queer musician Kaki King to score the movie.) The film will officially premiere at Outfest 2009 in Los Angeles July 18.

Did you know? Kristen is a seventh-generation Vermonter who puts maple syrup on everything, even her morning grapefruit.

JEREMY CARTER



Jeremy, 25—who works as the prevention coordinator for the Center on Halsted's Youth Program—is a native of St. Louis, Mo. He is currently a student at Northeastern Illinois University, where he is pursuing his BSW (Bachelor's in Social Work), after which he will begin his strive to receive his masters in the same field. Jeremy plans to eventually become involved in policy writing and implementation.

Jeremy is also involved with two committees (Connect2Protect and The National Youth Advocacy Coalition's "You Know Different" Campaign"). Since 2006, Jeremy has given presentations on sexually transmitted infections to high schools, agencies and colleges, reaching nearly 900 young people. Jeremy plans to continue in the field of social services as he enjoys helping others to realize and achieve their full potential.

Did you know? Sherri Sheppard from ABC's *The View* recently told Jeremy that he was an inspiration.

DARIUS MAYFIELD



Darius, 25, has been active in STD prevention in the community ever since he was 14 years old. Ninth-grade sexual-education class

inspired him to help educate about preventing the spread of STDs, HIV, and AIDS in the community. At the age of 21, Darius joined a group in Los Angeles called Positively Speaking; with this group he traveled to different schools facilitating about HIV/AIDS.

Two years later he moved to Chicago, where he started volunteering at different community events like Love Fest. Volunteering led him to becoming an outreach specialist at Taskforce Prevention and Community Services, and he went on to become a prevention counselor and a certified HIV tester. Soon after, he was hired by the Public Health Institute in June 2008 as the project manager of the Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus. Darius is still with the caucus, and plans to continue to do what he can to make a difference in the community.

Did you know? Although Darius is a pretty small guy, he is known for eating like a man with two stomachs—so his friends call him "Fatty."



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DENISE NUNES



Denise, 26, is from Evanston, Ill. She graduated from Williams College in 2005 and worked “like 9,000 jobs” until she found herself employed at the Broadway Youth Center. She considers working there one of the best things that has ever happened to her—second only to the time she spent promoting community health and sanitation in the Dominican Republic, and Nicaragua with *Amigos de las Americas*.

Adolescent health is Denise’s passion. She has been working with the Broadway Youth Center since December 2007. She hits up local high schools and community groups, providing them with a real and honest approach to sexual health. Denise is currently preparing herself to apply to masters nursing programs, and is suffering through the summer session of anatomy and physiology.

Still, she thinks it is all worth it. Denise feels the community has a need for culturally competent medical providers—and she can’t wait to write her first prescription.

Did you know? Denise does not like breakfast foods.

JOHN RICHARDS



John, 27, is an attorney who practices in the Labor & Employment group of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP with a particular emphasis on class action and multiparty litigation arising under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act.

With respect to the LGBT community, John represents *pro bono* LGBT clients seeking asylum on behalf of the National Immigration Justice Center. He is the chair of the Chicago Bar Association’s Committee on LGBT Rights; a board member of the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago;

has served on the Illinois Bar Association Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Committee on Diversity; and has been on the Howard Brown Leadership Council. John is actively involved in Lambda Legal, and have spoken as a panelist and published numerous articles on a variety LGBT issues.

Prior to moving to Chicago, John worked with Equality Advocates Pennsylvania, where he represented clients involving name changes for transgender individuals, custody modifications and employment discrimination involving LGBT individuals. Recently, John was recognized as a “rising star” in the 2009 edition of Illinois Super Lawyers. John is a *summa cum laude* graduate of Vanderbilt University and a *cum laude* graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Did you know? John has never had a cup of coffee or a candy bar.

LAWRENCE PEREA



Lawrence, 29, moved to Chicago seven years ago from the Southwest, and since then has developed a passion for LGBT advocacy. From performing with the Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus to serving as council member on the City of Chicago’s Commission on Human Relations, Lawrence has seen the glory and the struggle of the LGBT-rights movement in Chicago.

He served as a leading committee member on the marketing and development teams for the 2006 Gay Games, and has volunteered for community groups such as Equality Illinois and TPAN (Test Positive Aware Network), among others. Lawrence holds a particular concern for youth and transgender issues, and most recently has become co-founder of LGBTChange.org, a grassroots LGBT outreach group. He gives his thanks to his family and dear friends for all their love and support as he continues to fight for the LGBT community in understanding and resolving the struggles and inequalities for LGBT persons.

Did you know? Among other things, Lawrence hates onions; plays the alto saxophone; loves to do yoga and Pilates; and was a drum major in high school.

JOHN LITCHFIELD



John, 27—who is a Chicago-area native—recently graduated from Loyola University Chicago School of Law, where he founded the law school’s LGBT student organization, OUTLAW. He currently serves as a board member of the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago, and was integral in developing its lawyer-student mentorship program. While at Loyola, John helped bring LGBT issues to the forefront of the school’s concept of diversity by increasing LGBT visibility and activity.

Since OUTLAW’s founding in 2007, its membership has grown from fewer than 10 concerned students to over 40 gay, lesbian and allied students, faculty and staff members. OUTLAW has hosted forums on same-sex marriage, HIV/AIDS and related topics.

In 2008, John served on Obama for America’s LGBT task force, and was a member of the campaign’s legal team observing polling places in South Bend, Ind., on Election Day.

Did you know? John is an avid scotch whiskey consumer, and maintains his membership with the Edinburgh Scotch Whiskey Appreciation Society.

RYAN KAMINSKI



—**Ryan Kaminski:** Ryan, 23, was born in Palos Heights, Ill., and grew up in the nearby suburb of Orland Park. At the age of 10, Ryan’s parents knew he was interested in politics when they obsessively collected all the country flags from Walt Disney World’s Epcot World Showcase attraction. Attending the University of Chicago, he concentrated in international studies and political science

while promoting LGBTQ interests on the UChicago College Council.

Interning at Amnesty International’s Chicago office, Ryan worked on a campaign to raise awareness about Chicago Police-LGBTQ relations and increasing accountability within the Chicago Police Department. During this time, Ryan also volunteered for the United Nations Association’s Global Classrooms program by co-facilitating Model UN conferences in Chicago, Los Angeles and New York for underserved youth. Following his graduation in June 2008, Ryan traveled to Hong Kong as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant. In April 2009, Ryan received the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Graduate Fellowship, which he plans to use to study international security at Columbia University.

Did you know? Ryan is a vegan and a running enthusiast.

MARCO HIDALGO



Marco, 29, moved to Chicago in 2004 and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in clinical-community psychology at DePaul University. Marco has worked in the field of HIV prevention since 1998, in the United States and in Kenya. Currently, he works at Howard Brown Health Center, where he directs an HIV prevention research project for GBQ young men called My-Peeps.org.

In 2005, Marco began addressing an epidemic whose presence within LGBTQ communities is relatively ignored: intimate partner violence. As a volunteer psychotherapist with Howard Brown’s Violence Recovery Project, Marco developed a psycho-educational support group for people who have experienced same-gender IPV. Marco’s dissertation research will result in the creation of a same-gender IPV assessment tool intended for use among health- and service-providers.

Did you know? A California native, Marco tries not to “H8” too much on his home state. However, he dreams the Land of Lincoln will beat a certain “Golden State” to the altar.

MATTHEW LEW



Matthew, 29, is a nationally recognized artist who has turned his art into advocacy for LGBT organizations. Matthew’s work can be found in national retailer CB2 (by Crate & Barrel), and has been featured on Extreme Makeover: Home Edition, HGTV’s Divine Design with Candice Olson and CBS’ The Early Show.

Matthew has donated more than \$100,000 worth of original artwork, and has painted live at LGBT events to raise funds for organizations including the Human Rights Campaign, Test Positive Aware Network, Chicago House, Center on Halsted and Equality Illinois. He soon took his passion for equality and talents outside of Chicago by traveling to fundraisers across the country, such as Telluride Aids Benefit, GLAAD and the HRC in New York, Boston and Denver.

Matthew’s mixed-media work fuses paint and photography, creating a diverse range of pieces for everyone from the first-time buyer to the seasoned collector. He recently earned recognition as one of the The Advocate magazine’s “Forty Under Forty” and “Best Emerging Artist 2009” by the Chicago Reader.

Did you know? Matthew lived in Spain for three years, and hiked 500 miles along the Camino de Santiago in Spain with his mother.

30 UNDER THIRTY SPECIAL TEEN AWARDS

MATT SCHLAGEL

Matt, 18, was born in Chicago and attended Bateman Elementary school, Thurgood Marshall Middle School and Lake View High School. After coming out to his parents, Matt pushed to form the Lake View Gay-Straight Alliance during his sophomore year, creating a safe environment for other LGBT students in Lake View. Three years ago, Matt attended his first Illinois Safe Schools Alliance meeting; since then, he has learned to reform ideas and organize them, which he puts forth to educate surrounding youth in the Chicagoland area. Matt plans to go to Northeastern Illinois University to further his education in psychology and social work, and to further help LGBT youths.

Did you know? While horseplaying with his friend Jordan, her chair accidentally went through a wall—but Matt stayed with her so that they both faced the music from her father.



TEA SEFER



Tea has lived in the United States for 10 years and just turned 17. She's been working with About Face Theatre since the beginning of 2008 and performed in their main stage production of Fast Forward during the summer of 2008. Tea has also been working with the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance for the past school year. This fall, she will be starting her senior year at Lincoln Park High School and aspires to continue her social justice activism for the rest of her life.

Did you know? Tea loves to play and listen to music and has attempted to learn the piano, drums, guitar, and violin.

SCOTT JABUREK

Scott, 16, grew up on the South Side of Chicago in the Beverly neighborhood, where he started his political activism by volunteering for Barack Obama's 2004 Senate campaign at the age of 13. When he entered high school at Walter Payton College Prep, Scott became an active member of his school's queer-straight alliance. Under his unofficial presidency the Alliance has hosted two now-annual coming out days, as well as organizing 20% of his school to participate in the 2009 Day of Silence.

During his sophomore year in high school, Scott found About Face Theater—and his calling. As a member of the youth theater, Scott has appeared in Fast Forward and Stupid Kids, and participated in a special 10-year anniversary reading of The Laramie Project. Scott is also a member of the youth committee for the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, and recently worked with Equality Illinois in attempting to pass the Illinois Civil Union and Religious Freedom Act.

Did you know? Scott played a magical forest nymph in a school production of the Frog Prince.



XAVIER RAMIREZ

Xavier, 17, is about to enter his senior year at Prosser Career Academy in the International Baccalaureate program. He has been in about 15 clubs at his school. Xavier has been with the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance for two years and plans to help out even after he is in college (even holding his own in a meeting between the alliance and Chicago Public Schools attorneys), and credits Alliance President David Fisher for bringing out his inner activist. Xavier was one of the student contributors for The Mash, a student-led newspaper put out by The Chicago Tribune. He hopes that one day his writing and activism for equal rights will help change the world.

Did you know? Xavier can play three instruments, loves to play volleyball and considers himself to be a pretty decent writer.

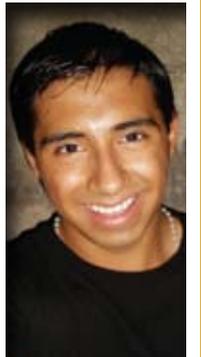


JOSE "CHE-CHE" TURRUBIARTEZ

Jose, a 16-year-old Latino who is openly gay, currently attends Lincoln Park High School. He is a dancer, as well as an actor with About Face Youth Theater. He grew up in Wicker Park, and still lives there. Ever since he can remember, his mother would take him to rallies to protest and march, so that illegal immigrants could obtain their citizenship. Since then, he has been an activist for illegal immigrants.

As Jose turned older, he realized he was gay and that the LGBTQ community goes through so much discrimination and hate. He decided to also be an activist for LGBTQ rights and to get involve as much as I possibly can. Jose works with the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, Gender JUST and Unidad Calor.

Did you know? Jose—who's currently in the Joffrey Ballet's intensive summer program—loves crab rangoon, sings in Spanish and does not drink soda.



30 UNDER THIRTY JOINT HONORARY AWARD

The three individuals who organized the massive anti-Proposition 8 rally and march that took place last November are receiving a joint honorary award. They are:



MISSY LORENZEN

Missy, 23, is a web designer/slacker-turned-activist by the unhappy outcome of Prop 8 on Nov. 4. Originally from Kansas City, Kansas, she knows all too well the issues facing the LGBTQ community outside of the liberal bubble of Chicago. She currently serves as the media director for Join the Impact Chicago, as well as wo-manning the Web site.

Did you know? Missy can fall asleep anywhere, anytime. Also, she can make her ears fart—a talent which, until recently, she had no idea others could hear.



NIK MACIEJEWSKI

Nik, 22, is a native of Chicagoland. In 2004, he moved to the city and spent four years trying to figure out what he wanted to make of himself. After the passing of Proposition 8 in California, he caught the activism bug and has been helping run the local grassroots LGBTQ group Join the Impact Chicago.

Did you know? Aside from his activism, he will be working to get a bachelors degree in American Sign Language from Columbia College Chicago so he can finally pay his bills.



CORINNE MINA



Corinne, 23, a Columbia College graduate, became an activist on Nov. 4, 2008. Since then, she has been organizing protests and fighting for equal-marriage rights with her friends, Nik and Missy, who co-founded Join the Impact Chicago.

Did you know? Corinne is a freelance classical-music composer and air-guitar rock star.



AUTOS

Road trip in a 2009 VW Touareg V6 TDI

BY JOE LAMURAGLIA

I just spent a week at the helm of the 2009 VW Touareg V6 TDI. Our contributing editor Colin Mathews wrote a full review last month but there is nothing like putting in some serious seat time and lots of miles to really get to know a vehicle.

The week involved a trip from my home in Northern New Jersey to Atlanta, Ga. via Greensboro, N.C. The stop in N.C. was to pick up three nephews that helped work on my home in Hotlanta for a few days. When the Touareg was scheduled, I had no idea that I'd be putting so many miles on it. Lucky for me, it coincided with a free week in my schedule and I couldn't have been happier with its combination of luxurious comfort, room and excellent highway fuel economy. And according to three 16-year-old boys', the Touareg kicks as*. Their words, not mine.

Our trip was a quick one. I left New Jersey on Sunday and returned on the following Thursday. Needless to say there was a lot of seat time and our Touareg was equipped with driver and passenger 12-way power adjustable seats that allowed both front occupants to find the perfect position to spend the hours. The rear seats got no complaints and all three nephews, ranging

from 5'8" to 6'2" found them to be enormously comfortable. At least that is how I interpreted their ability to fall asleep within minutes of getting underway.

The biggest "ahh hah" was the consistent 26 mpg that the Touareg TDI delivered on the highway. That beats the EPA's estimated mileage of 25 mpg and it was with a full vehicle going speeds just a "bit" higher than the legal limit. At one point we were in slow moving traffic for a long stretch and the trip computer indicated 27 mpg. Very impressive considering the Touareg is AWD and can tow up to 7,700 lbs. Combine the highway mpg with a 26-gallon fuel tank and you have a cruising range that would make some ICBMs jealous.

Critics of clean diesel technology have pointed to the new clean diesel fuel's inexplicable price premium over regular gasoline. For the first time in at least four years, I paid less for clean diesel on this trip. And if my observations over the journey from the Northeast to the deep South and back, clean diesel fuel seems to have a price parity with regular unleaded here on the East coast. If that is the case, there is one less argument against clean diesel fuel and the vehicles that use it.

Our test car was equipped with VW's upgraded Navigation system and it simply leapfrogs the system it replaces. I especially appreciated the ability to enter destinations as the vehicle is underway. They must have known that I get seriously cranky when I can't find a Starbucks nearby.

The stereo system won rave reviews by the nephews. There was enough base to make my



2009 VW Touareg V6 TDI.

leg hair move and it wasn't even the top-of-the-line Dynaudio system available with Technology Plus package.

The Touareg TDI was also a blast to drive. The 407 pound-feet of torque made acceleration "launch like" and the steering and handling are seemingly out of a smaller and lighter vehicle. VW says their Tiguan is the "GTI of SUVs" but my vote goes for the Touareg V6 TDI.

All this excellence comes at a price. The cost of entry to a Touareg TDI is \$42,800 but don't expect to find many of those on dealer lots. Adding goodies cranks the price up quickly and it is possible to get one close to \$60,000. Our test vehicle came in at \$50,490 according to VW's online configurator.

There are some serious luxury competitors in that price range but few can offer the combination of luxurious accommodations, excellent fuel economy, goat like off-road prowess and the fun-to-drive factor.

See www.gaywheels.com.

GM to dump Saab

General Motors plans to get rid of Swedish automaker Saab, a brand it bought in 2000, according to ScrippsNews.com.

A consortium led by Koenigsegg Automotive AB plans to take on Saab, thanks to \$600 million from the European Investment Bank guaranteed by the Swedish government.

In May, sales of Saabs fell 64 percent in the U.S. to 783. Saab sales in Europe dropped 66 percent to 2,191.

However, these seemingly dismal numbers have not stopped the automaker from cranking out new models. At the Geneva Auto Show last March, Saab introduced the 9-3X, an all-wheel-drive wagon powered by a 2-liter turbocharged, 210-horsepower, 4-cylinder gasoline engine. And a larger sport utility vehicle, the 9-4X, will arrive soon.

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2009 Chevrolet Silverado Hybrid.

VEHICLE REVIEW

2009 Chevrolet Silverado Hybrid

Smooth operator

BY JOE LAMURAGLIA, GAYWHEELS.COM

When GM told me that they were going to schedule me for a week with a 2009 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 4WD Crew Cab Hybrid, I immediately thought of all the "pick-up" things I could do with it. I was eager to test the 6,100-lbs towing capacity but my friend had already put his boat in the water. Strike one. I was confident that my brother-in-law would have something to haul to the dump but no, he had already taken care of his Spring yard duties. Strike two. I live 6 miles from New York City in northern New Jersey so going off-roading isn't an option. Strike three.

So what did I do to test the capabilities of their only hybrid half-ton pickup on the market? I drove it from New Jersey to New York City and back multiple times acting as a tour guide for my niece and her boyfriend—which, I realized later, is how most people that would purchase this truck will use it. It performed flawlessly in

its duty gaining potential pickup truck converts from family and friends alike. The question that remains; is this smooth operator worth the price premium over a similarly equipped gasoline-only Silverado?

The 2009 Silverado Hybrid is difficult to discern from its more mundane siblings in the Silverado lineup. Outside the large Hybrid badges on either side of the truck, a non-enthusiast would have a very difficult time telling it apart from a non-Hybrid truck. It has special low-resistance tires and the front end has been modified to maximize airflow and minimize drag but other than those differences, living with the hybrid Silverado has been designed to be a no-compromise experience.

Driving the Silverado Hybrid is akin to that of a gasoline engine—with a few notable differences. Like all other hybrids, it is possible to drive the Silverado Hybrid up to 30 mph on battery power alone (I like to call it "sneak out mode"). Once that speed is achieved, the 6.0 liter V-8 comes to life and begins to propel the vehicle. Once moving and depending on speed, battery charge and throttle input, the Silverado Hybrid will propel itself via engine power or a combination of engine and electric motor. All of this happens seamlessly with nothing additional

required from the driver and the end result is a overall 25% improvement in fuel economy over a gasoline-only Silverado with the biggest improvement (40%) coming in city driving.

The truck I drove averaged 20 mpg during the week I drove it which matches its EPA rating. At one point, on a drive to CT, the computer indicated 22 mpg. All that sounds fantastic but when you consider a Chevrolet Silverado XFE gets 21 mpg on the highway, you have to wonder if this technology makes sense, especially since it costs considerably more than a non-hybrid Silverado.

Where all the electronic wizardry comes into play is in stop-and-go traffic. The gasoline engine spends a lot of time in "Auto-Stop" mode and the truck can creep forward using the battery power alone. The system allows the Silverado Hybrid to be rated at 20 mpg in the city. Compared to 14 mpg for a gasoline-only Silverado, you can see where the bulk of the fuel savings are achieved.

I was impressed with how GM has been able to integrate a technology so associated with small economy cars into a large, very capable vehicle. Then again, I shouldn't be surprised. They have been developing a similar system for mass-transit buses around the U.S. and in Europe. I was also impressed with how easy the Silverado Hybrid was to pilot through the streets of Manhattan during our many trips to and fro. The suspension came in handy on the notorious-

ly atrocious streets of Gotham and the visibility made planning my attack on the swarming yellow taxis much easier. The commodious interior hauled five of us in comfort and the rear seat passengers complimented the room afforded them multiple times. But what, other than a few more mpg in the city, did the very expensive hybrid system do compared to a "regular" Silverado? The answer is: not much.

The fact that it is a hybrid may make owners feel better about driving such a large truck but if the bottom line is important to you, and these days it is to just about everyone, the hybrid technology simply doesn't pencil out.

GM should be commended for two things; first, making such an advanced dual-mode hybrid system available to customers who want it and second, making their non-hybrid trucks so good that it doesn't make economic sense to pay the premium for the hybrid technology.

Likes:

- Very quiet and smooth
- Not over-badged like other GM hybrids
- Very roomy

Dislikes:

- Expensive! As tested, \$49,275
- Slightly reduced room when rear seats raised—battery pack resides there.
- Disappointing stereo quality

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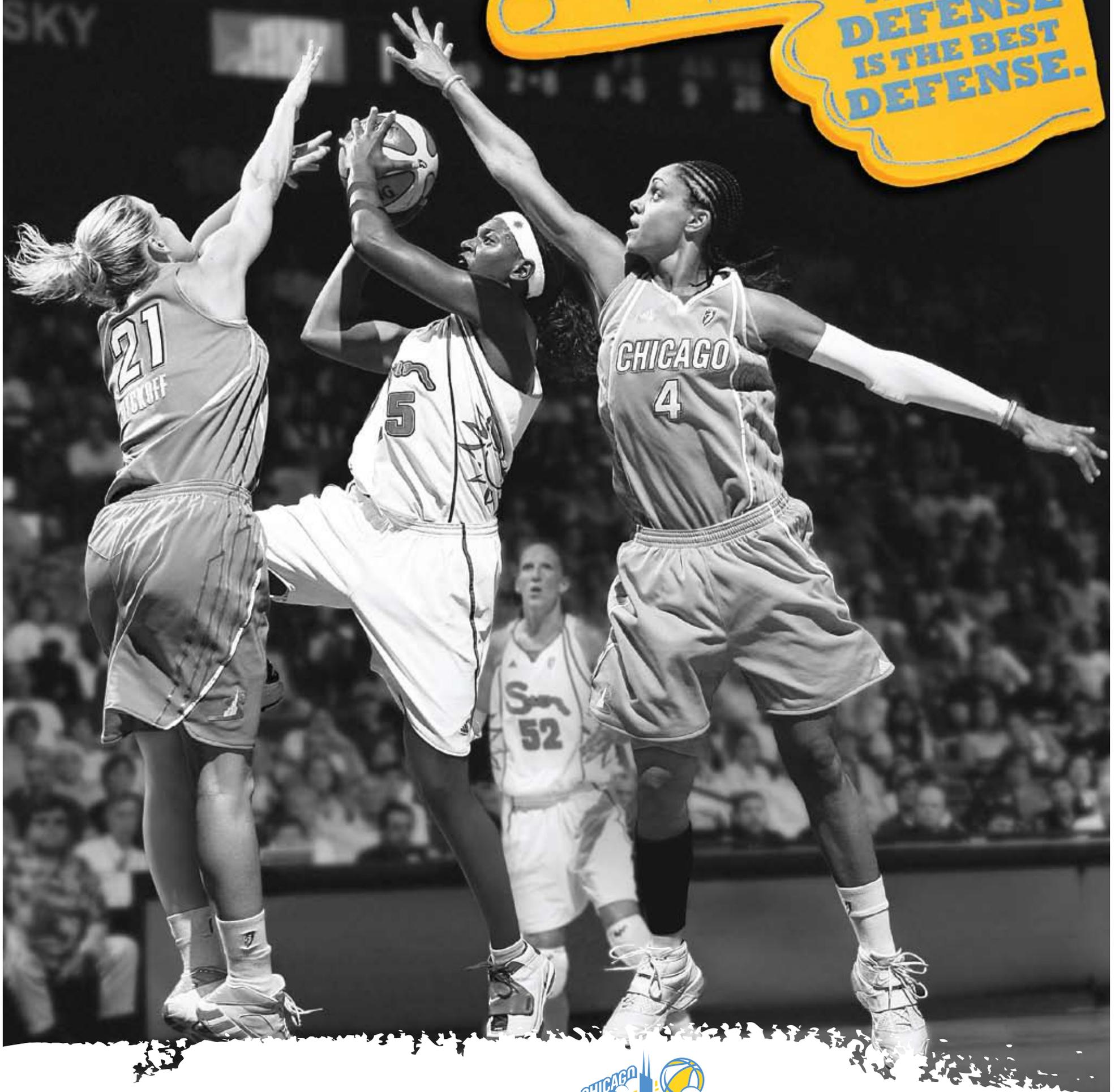
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Pride Parade has marshal, changes

PRIDEChicago, the committee behind the Chicago Annual Pride Parade—scheduled for Sunday, June 28, at 12 p.m., and starting at the corner of Halsted and Belmont—has announced that trans actress/teacher/activist Alexandra Billings will be the grand marshal of the event.

Billings has dozens of stage, television and film roles to her credit. In the last few years she has had guest-starring roles on hit TV shows such as E.R. and Grey's Anatomy (which won a GLAAD Award for Outstanding episode). The California resident frequently returns to Chicago, where she is a (summer) teacher at Steppenwolf Theater; she is also an artistic associate at the Bailiwick Theatre and is an About Face company member.

Billings and her wife, Chrisanne Blankenship, married in Chicago in the mid-1990s and were recently remarried in California, their present home.

In addition, there will be changes related to crowd control. Effective this year, the plan is to line the entire parade route with barricades on both sides of the street from the starting point all the way to Diversey, to keep the crowds at bay. Spectators, including those who arrive late on parade day, will be required to stand behind the barricades, not in the street.

PRIDEChicago has updated and upgraded the June Pride Month and Parade Web site; see www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org.

Glamorama will be Aug. 21

The annual fashion extravaganza known as Macy's Glamorama will be held Friday, Aug. 21, at The Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State, at 8 p.m.

Topping the list of designers this year are Marc Jacobs, Sonia Rykiel, Jean Paul Gaultier, Just Cavalli, MaxMara and CNC Costume National.

Popular musical artist Ne-Yo, who is known for such hits as So Sick, Closer, Because of You and Miss Independent, will headline Macy's Glamorama.

Tickets are \$75-\$500 each. Call Ticketmaster at 800-982-2787, visit www.ticketmaster.com or stop by the Chicago Theatre box office.

C.C. Carter named to Lit 50 list

C.C. Carter, an out lesbian, has been named to New City's Lit 50 list, which recognizes the top local forces in the world of literature.

Carter oversees Young Chicago Authors, which provides student-centered, artist-led workshops free to youth ages 13-19 in schools and communities, and employs various innovative programs such as Girl Speak, SAY WHAT Magazine and Louder Than a Bomb Poetry Slam. See www.youngchicagoauthors.org.

Carter—a 2002 inductee into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame—is known for her skills as a writer, poet, performance artist and teacher.



Poppy Champlin.

Michigan Womyn's Music Festival Aug. 4-9

The 34th annual Michigan Womyn's Music Festival is scheduled to take place Aug. 4-9.

Among the highlights are entertainment, workshops and networking opportunities (provided within the Community Center complex). Slated to entertain are Melissa Ferrick, Emma's Revolution, Poppy Champlin, Leslie and the Ly's, C.C. Carter and God-des and She.

See www.michfest.com or www.myspace.com/michfest.



BY TERRI KLINSKY

Weekend before last was Andersonville's Midsummerfest. In our house that only means one thing: the annual Pet Parade. Readers of this column know that our dachshunds, Topo and Bowie, have owned the costume contest for years, and Topo is a two-time winner on her own in the "Cutest Dog in Andersonville" category. We take pride in thinking up themes and designing homemade costumes. No store bought costumes for these dogs. OK, I will admit that the first year we entered Topo in the contest she did wear a lame, store-bought hot-dog suit. I know, I know, a dachshund in a hot-dog suit? We didn't know any better at that time and we are all still working through the embarrassment of it all. Moving forward, they have won as Sonny & Cher and as Bonnie & Clyde. This year our costume choice was Hugh Hefner and a playboy bunny. We have no shame here.

The day started out rainy and cold. Danica was smart to bring a towel to the event to dry the dogs off before dressing them, but it was still a challenge getting them stage ready. Despite the weather, a good crowd showed up, but there were only two entries in the costume category. Not knowing that the fix was in, we thought the win was in the bag! The "competition" was a small dog in a groom outfit (looked store-bought to me) and the owner was carrying a bride doll. I am all for props but that did not look like a winner to me! The contest started. The groom came on first and received a smattering of applause. Our two came on next and even though our friend Debby had Bowie looking like a mess, when the announcer *finally* said the words, "Hugh Hefner and a playboy bunny," the crowd went wild. Since the crowd picks the winner, again I thought it was in the bag. Typically, there are at least two times that they call for applause for each contestant. This time there was only one and, clearly, our dogs received the loudest crowd reaction. (I wish I could play the

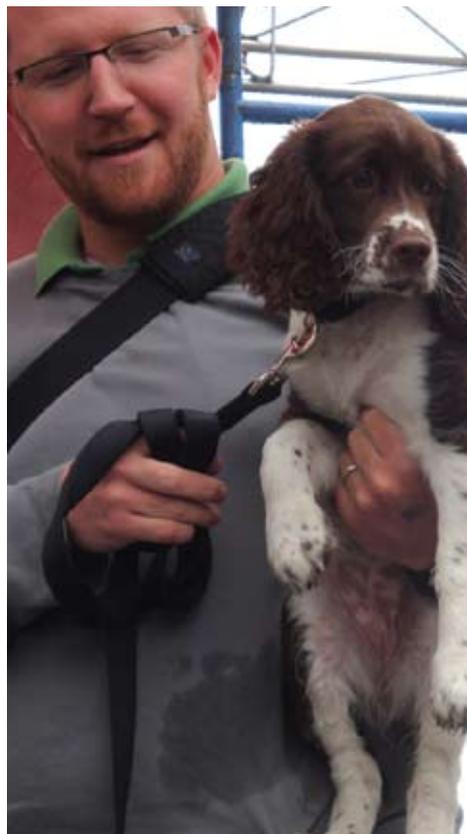
film I took so you could hear it.) Two seconds later, they called the groom dog the winner! The crowd was stunned! I was stunned! Topo needs therapy and I can really see why stage moms lose it. Yes, I am bitter.

The "fix" didn't end there. There seemed to be foul play in two other categories as well. Scout—an adorable, smiling, white ball of fur—won the smallest, cutest dog category, *but* another dog was declared the winner. By now murmurs were heard in the crowd. What is going on? Can't the judges on stage hear the crowd? It gets worse. The largest, cutest dog category had a puppy in it! A puppy in the large dog category? Oh no, that can't be right. (The organizers instructed the owner to be in that category.) Of course that dog (Bailey) won, thus pissing off the large-dog people. Honestly, that dog was adorable and clearly a winner (and also our neighbor), but she should have been in the small-dog category.

So another year is over and our winning streak is ruined, but what we have planned for next year will blow them all away. No way will there be any question as to who wins. In the words of my favorite Chicago sports team: Wait until next year!

Note: In case anyone thinks I am being biased, here is an article I ran across on the Web: www.lakeeffectnews.com/2009/06/14/the-fix-was-in.

Contact me at WCTPets@aol.com.



From left: Bailey with owner, and Scout with owner. Photos courtesy of Terri Klinsky

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PERFORMANCE

La Dulce Palabra brings the word

BY MEL FERRAND

As you enter the storefront at 4111 W. Armitage, you see what appears to be a seemingly standard dance studio—a balance bar is anchored to one wall, while the opposite one is covered with a mirror from ceiling to floor. However, as you begin to take in the details, you realize this is not simply a dance space. The wall with the balance bar is bright cherry red and is adorned with a large Cuca original demanding that you give it some of your attention, and unlike most dance studios, you don't stop there, this room leads to another.

Once you've passed the threshold into the next space, you have been transported into a tiny theatre complete with stage, lights and audience seats. This is where I was introduced one by one to the women of the La Dulce Palabra Spoken Word Ensemble (La Dulce). Almost as if on cue, they entered from different doors, each bringing with her, her own unique flourish of energy as she/they settled in for the following interview.

Initially, I asked about the history and for some basic background on La Dulce. Maritza Nazario and Milka Ramirez, two of the founders of the seven women collective, explained that La Dulce is merely two and a half years old and evolved out of a collaboration between En Las Tablas Performing Arts and Amigas Latinas.



La Dulce Palabra. Photo by Mel Ferrand

Originally designed to offer open mic/spoken word opportunities, when 40 women arrived for workshops on writing and acting, it soon became apparent that much more was needed.

As time went on, seven women took it one step further and La Dulce Palabra (the sweet word) Spoken Word Ensemble was formed. Alicia Tellez, Vega, Evon Flores Barrera, Maria Calderon, Marixa Rojas, and Martha Cartagena joined Maritza and Milka in their quest to do more performances and the collective has been continuing to take things further ever since.

The success of this self-described collective of queer and allied Latina performers seems to be the universality of their experiences in the stories they tell. Additionally, they inspire others. For example, Linda Garcia Merchant was so moved by their show that she produced a documentary of La Dulce and has won critical acclaim for it. Further, the Smithsonian has approached them and asked that they participate in a nationwide project as part of a traveling exhibit to archive Latino/a(s) in the United States. Consequently, La Dulce will be part of the Chicago contingent

in the category of Latina Lesbian Voices in the Arts.

To see them here at home, check out their upcoming show entitled, "*Siempre Viva! Silent No More*" As a kick-off to Pride weekend, La Dulce will have two shows at the Chicago Center for the Performing Arts, 777 N. Green. These performances will be firsts for both the collective and the Chicago Center. For La Dulce, it's the first professional theatre they will have performed in, and for the Performing Arts Center, this will be the inaugural show to feature openly queer performers performing a queer themed show.

"*Siempre Viva!*" is a tribute to the 40th anniversary of Stonewall and the participation of queer people of color in the LGBTQ rights movement. Ramirez said, "It's a tribute to our roots: African, Indigenous, Taino and Aztec." When asked to give somewhat of a trailer, Nazario said, "The spoken word, multimedia show will be begin with a poem titled, "*¿Adonde es mi ayer?* (Where Did My Yesterday Go?) She further explained, "The show begins as a woman tries to capture a lost past [or more accurately, a past she was robbed of] and then evolves into the future we want to create. We want people to take the journey (to the future) with us, but know each journey is different."

La Dulce Palabra Spoken Word Ensemble will perform "*Siempre Viva! Silent No More!*" on Friday-Saturday, June 26-27 at the Chicago Center for Performing Arts, 777 N. Green, at 8 p.m. For tickets go to www.theaterland.com.

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MUSIC

Tori Amos: Sinfully rich

BY LAWRENCE FERBER

For her tenth studio album, Tori Amos pulled out all the stops and genres. Recorded in Cornwall, England, the sumptuously produced *Abnormally Attracted to Sin* (Universal Republic) entails a generous 17 tracks running the gamut from catchy synth-soaked pop ("Curtain Call") to trip-hopish torch song ("Strong Black Vine"), to guitar-soaked folk-rock ("Starling"), and vocally acrobatic ballad ("Police Me"), while Amos' voice and arrangements (yes, including her Bösendorfer piano) are truly in top form. A bonus DVD of footage recorded during 2007's "American Doll Posse" tour accompanies the deluxe CD release, which Amos is currently supporting with an international tour.

A Methodist minister's daughter, Amos, who recorded the album with longtime collaborator and husband Mark Hawley, expressed frustration over California voters' passing of Proposition 8 in a May 2009 interview with the UK's *Attitude Magazine*. Here she follows-up on that thought while also pondering which woman she would marry in an alternate reality, as well as the story behind the album and its songs.

Windy City Times: Hey Tori, amazing album. So what makes AATS different or unique compared to the rest of your catalog?

TA: Well, this is the 10th album and I think that's always kind of exciting. I've never had one before. The idea of it always made me think, "Wow, I wonder if that's achievable," especially maybe in 1997. With the industry the way it is right now where labels and the public and the media don't necessarily stay with an artist after the third album, they just want the next new thing, to be able to have a 10th al-

bum. ... I thought to myself, when I was creating the whole thing, that it was important the arrangements and musical styles covered and expanded. It wasn't just, OK, I'm doing an organic sort of record with everything tracked as live—a Birkenstock record. No. We're bringing out high heels from the last 20 years. So it was really exploring me as a composer and all kinds of different architectural arrangements I've been a part of the past 20s years and some things I haven't put together [before]."

WCT: Is there a theme running through this album?

TA: I think power is sort of a key here. Are you drawn to people who have power over you, are you attracted to that? You might be and don't even realize at first that you're drawn to people who want you to lose. Or for them to feel powerful you have to feel un-powerful. You can be involved in a collaboration or relationship and all of a sudden you have somebody who's really not supportive in your life.

WCT: What's the story behind "Maybe California?"

TA: That is about a woman who questions if jumping off a cliff isn't the only answer at that point in her life. While traveling around I was noticing what certain mothers were hiding, keeping to themselves—grief. When people say there's an economic crisis I feel that's just the tip of the iceberg because people's lives have been torn apart. I found there were quite a few mothers that couldn't fix, couldn't give the job back to the husband or get the kids through school. Couldn't make the dream come true. And were pushed to that point so maybe "California" came from that place.

WCT: The song "Welcome to England" sounds like arena rock gone bhangra. A touch of Eastern sound there.

TA: [Laughs] Yeah, that's good. That's very Eastern anyway. Believe me, it's a good madras.

WCT: What's the chance we'll get a Kate



Tori Amos.

Bush/Tori Amos duet in the future? The song "Police Me" is so there.

TA: I don't know that's going to happen. We've never met. I thought one day about doing a duets record and that down the line that could be something... I don't know.

WCT: Would you be up for meeting Kate?

TA: No. That would be frustrating! [Laughs] No, that would be fun. I must tell you, doing songs like "Police Me," that was big fun.

WCT: Your statements about gay marriage and Proposition 8 received a fair bit of coverage on the Internet...

TA: Did they? Because I don't read the Internet.

WCT: Yes, you said you were disappointed by the passing of Prop 8 on the same day that Obama became president and you don't understand how Christians have an issue with gay rights. Here's a quote: 'In a perfect world you keep the Democrats out of your bank account and the Republicans out of your bedroom.'

TA: Now we're having to keep the Democrats out of our bedrooms, too. That's my comment on Prop 8!

WCT: Yet all these other U.S. states are making same-sex marriage legal now.

TA: That's right, and that's because people are talking about it. I think a lot of people are not OK with this segregation. If you say to yourself, 'I'm a Christian,' then you have to have the compassion that another person has the right to choose. A consenting adult. If the US constitu-

tion is supposed to protect everybody it should protect gay people, too, or it isn't for all men and all women. All men are created equal except... but it didn't say except. I'm sorry, but that's why the Obama thing was this victory and yet within the victory there had to be another group of people subjugated. That made me think, why did there have to be a win-lose? Why does somebody else have to be made powerless while another group is made powerful? And that goes back to the key of the record—about power.

WCT: Here's a hypothetical question for you. Who would be your ideal female soulmate and partner in a same-sex marriage?

TA: Hmm. God. It would be a combination probably. Could I think about that for a minute? I need to put that in my brain.

WCT: OK. Meanwhile, what cover versions are you performing live these days?

TA: Well, that could all be changing because the '80s bug is getting me. I've just gotten interested in the '80s. We played 'Flashdance' last night. We had an '80s dress up party. Because I'm in the middle of a European UK promotion on the way to the U.S., and I had a stop in Cornwall for three days [with my 8-year-old daughter Natasha], doing interviews while she's in school, but at night we have these little moments and last night was our Flashdance party and we had the best time. So I'm going to work up some songs from the last 30 songs to be in the lizard's lounge which will be a moment in the show. You never know—I might have to do something from Flashdance! "Maniac" or something!

WCT: Time's up. Have you figured out which woman you want to marry?

TA: Well, who do you think I should marry?

WCT: You could marry your alter-ego Pip—there would only be one of you so it would be economical. Stevie Nicks? If you want to change someone you could always marry, say, Margaret Thatcher.

TA: No. I'm not marrying her. I don't know. Georgia O'Keefe. I like her work a lot. I always have. The woman out of the rock thing. To me she was part earth and as she got older she took on this presence to me of the desert so I feel like if you marry O'Keefe you're marrying the desert. It's very poetic. It's more than the person herself.

WCT: Have you been to a gay marriage?

TA: Never—nobody's invited me.

WCT: We've got to get you to one soon.

TA: Play something from Flashdance.

WCT: And let's finish with the question du jour. Are you Facebooking or Twittering?

TA: Everybody knows I'm Twittering, but I hope you know the difference between when I'm [the one] Twittering because Chelsea and I Twitter together so she gives you all the information about the Tori world, which most people know before I do. But when you're hearing about food in Berlin, that's me.

See www.toriamos.com for tour dates and more information.

Happy Pride Month From Alderman Gene Schulter — 47th Ward

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Happy 40th Pride!



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State Senator
20th District

BOOKS

**James Hannaham:
'No' and tell**

BY SARAH TEREZ ROSENBLUM

Writer James Hannaham's buzz-generating novel *God Says No* tells the story of Gary, a young, God-fearing Floridian who finds himself George Michael-ing it up in a rest stop just before his wedding. What follows is a funny, heartbreaking quest for redemption, as Gary struggles to alter rather than accept himself.

Hannaham—set to read at Quimby's, 1854 W. North, Saturday, June 27, at 7 p.m.—spoke recently with *Windy City Times* about everything from possible future projects to why Barack Obama would make a bad fictional character.

Windy City Times: *God Says No* was published by McSweeney's, a small press. Is that something you'd recommend to other writers?

James Hannaham: I wouldn't recommend it to someone trying to write the next *Da Vinci Code*, you know, who wants to see their book advertised in the subway. You have to find the right person at the right house, that's really the trick. The book kind of suited a smaller press mentality; it just worked a lot better than looking for agents. That's sort of my motto: Whatever works.

WCT: What does your writing process look like?

JH: It's mostly procrastination—I mean it looks like procrastination, anyway. I think writers don't give themselves credit for the part of writing that is thinking. I used to think that playing Tetris was actually procrastinating because I wasn't generating pages, but I've realized that sometimes paying a videogame sort of changes my consciousness. It changes your level of concentration, although I shouldn't speak for everyone. You play for a little bit and hopefully,



James Hannaham.

if you're not just a complete addict, you stop at a certain point because you're totally sick of yourself, and at that point you'll be in a different frame of mind, a more concentrated state of consciousness. I feel like I'm beginning to sound like some sort of guru.

WCT: A videogame guru?

JH: Yes, in order to write you must play video games. I find that a good game of Scrabble, as long as I can limit it to one, is also a good way of focusing my concentration, because I'm thinking about words already, and I can think about what I'm about to do before I actually get to the part where I write.

WCT: It seems as if all of the reviews of your book have been positive. Have you dealt with any negative ones?

JH: Actually, I thought the *Austin American Statesman* was a kind of mixed review; I'm glad you didn't find it. It accused me of moralizing, which I sort of went out of my way not to do.

I think what the reviewer was really responding to, and perhaps legitimately, was that there were not so many positive role models for young gay men in the book. I think that's probably because I find positive role models a little dull, and they don't make good fictional characters because of that—unless they're people who are about to fall from their lofty perches. The idea of the fictional character as a positive role model is sort of empty for me. Although I love positive role models in real life. Love Barack Obama, but he'd make the worst fictional character ever. Hey, what's gonna happen to this guy? Oh, he's just gonna keep doing great things and oh look, he became president. His life is gorgeous. Nobody wants to read that book.

WCT: Speaking of role modeling, as a gay writer—if indeed that's how you identify—do feel any sort of responsibility to represent in a certain way?

JH: Well, I mean, take your pick. I could be representing as a Black writer too, couldn't I? I could be representing as a left-handed writer. It could be anything. It doesn't particularly matter to me. It's really for other people to worry about. And they do. I think all of those categories and definitions are being blurred by lots of different talented people and that just opens doors for everyone to do what they want and that's what artists should be able to do, whatever they want—within reason, obviously.

WCT: In terms of salability, do you worry about getting pigeonholed as a gay or a Black writer?

JH: That's such a marketing question. I'm trying not to worry about that. I have at least the advantage of being sort of dually pigeonholeable and that confuses things a little bit. Black? Gay? What the heck is this? If it turns people off, that's a shame. But if it actually gets people to read who wouldn't necessarily have read, I'm happy with that.

WCT: Promoting your book has probably swallowed your life for the moment, but do

you have any new ideas germinating?

JH: I have a couple of things that I'm working on. One of them may actually end up being a thing that I want other people to see. I'm being very secretive. Apparently I'm keeping it a secret from myself, too.

OutHistory.org seeking online exhibits

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, OutHistory.org will award five prizes for the best online exhibits on the local LGBTQ histories of villages, towns, counties and cities in the United States since June 1969. Prizes are \$1,000-\$5,000.

First drafts of exhibits must be posted on OutHistory by the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall riots on Sunday, June 28. Exhibit creators will then be able to revise and develop their exhibits until March 31, 2010; OutHistory.org will announce the top five exhibits on June 28, 2010.

For more information, e-mail outhistory@gc.cuny.edu.

Local model/singer fundraising for HRC

Ronnie Kroell—a local model/singer, reality-TV veteran (*Make Me a Supermodel*) and former *Windy City Times* 30 Under 30 honoree—is trying to raise at least \$7,500 for the Human Rights Campaign.

Kroell is holding a contest through his Web site, www.RonnieKroell.com, in which prizes include a trip to New York City (and a dinner date with him) as well as pants signed by Kroell and singer Lady Gaga.

Chicago Takes Pride in it's Diversity

Congratulations to the GLBT community on the 40th annual Pride Parade



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www.ChicagoCityTreasurer.com

Pride & Justice For All



Alderman Helen Shiller
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BOOKS

David Carter: Recounting Stonewall

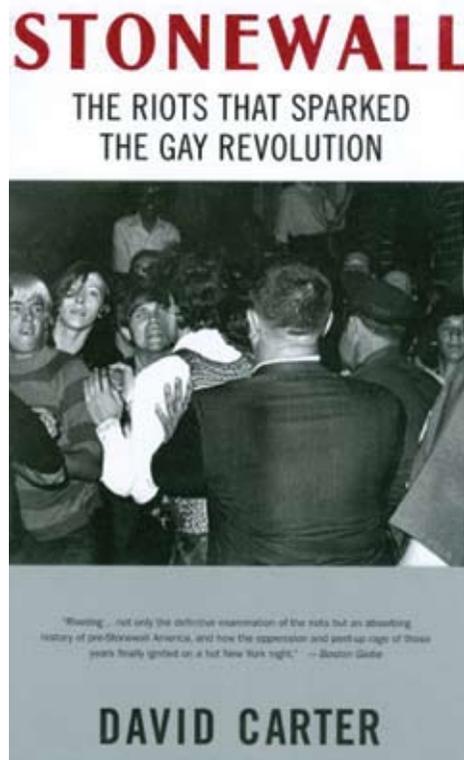
BY AMY MATHENY

June 28 will be the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, which has been noted, almost mythologically, as the beginning of the gay-rights movement. Now, it marks the time of the year when cities around the world celebrate gay pride with parades just because of the significance of that one event. David Carter is the author of *Stonewall: The Riots That Sparked the Gay Revolution*, and after years of exhaustive research, he is here to give us a very intimate snapshot of this profound moment in LGBT history.

Windy City Times: Now I'm talking to you from Andersonville, Chicago, which is kind of like the gayborhood north. I'm assuming you're at home so you're talking to me about a block and a half from the Stonewall Inn location.

David Carter: That's right. I live in Greenwich Village, and I live just outside the border of the Stonewall historic district, which was the first time the federal government recognized a historic site based on gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender history. Stonewall is on the national registry of historic places and it was also declared a national historic landmark, which puts it in the same category as the Statue of Liberty, Valley Forge [Penn.] and Mount Vernon [Va.].

WCT: Wow! I did not know that. It all starts at Stonewall, doesn't it? I worry that the younger generation doesn't know what Stonewall was, and so it's a moment in this media revolution to remind people what happened 40 years ago and where we were as a community 40 years ago.



Take us back, David, on what you discovered. What is the bedrock of the Stonewall Riots? How was homosexuality viewed in the U.S. in 1969? What were the laws? What was the temperature ... in 1969?

DC: Well, it was radically different. At that time, homosexuality was illegal in every state except Illinois; you all have the honor of being the first state to legalize homosexual sex.

WCT: There was a lot happening here—that's why; they just had to. [Laughs] A lot of drinking, a lot of mafia and a lot of homos in Chicago.

DC: [Laughs] Well, there's a whole interesting backstory that William Eskridge tells in the book *Dishonorable Passion*. ... Illinois chose the way, but it would be about another 8-10 years before

another state followed in Illinois' pioneering footsteps. In 1969, there were no laws protecting gay people against discrimination. Gay bars were *de facto* illegal as well. It was a time when the police actively entrapped men here in New York City; in the mid-'60s there were 100 arrests a week in New York City alone. And you have to remember: There were no openly gay politicians, lawyers, doctors, policemen, Hollywood stars. From a political point of view, it was pretty much a wasteland compared to the way the world is now in terms of gay civil rights.

Angelou coming to Chicago, speaks up for gay marriage

Legendary writer and activist Maya Angelou will be the featured speaker at the Chicago Foundation for Women's 24th annual luncheon Thursday, Sept. 17 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

The event "celebrates the achievements of women and girls by bringing together a diverse audience of more than 2,000 guests who represent business, philanthropy, government, nonprofit, media and other Foundation supporters," the organization stated.

Only tables and sponsorships are available, and individual tickets will only go on sale if tables do not sell out. E-mail or call Mariah Pearl Cunnick at mcunnick@cfw.org or 312-577-2827.

Meanwhile, The New York Times reports that Angelou has been lobbying for same-sex marriage in New York state, calling three state senators to ask them to change their mind on gay marriage.

"I would ask every man and every woman who's had the blessing of having children,

Hear the entire interview with Amy Matheny on Windy City Queercast at www.WindyCityQueercast.com.

Stonewall: The Riots That Sparked the Gay Revolution is available at Amazon.com. Carter's Web site is www.DavidCarterAuthor.com.

Carter will be the speaker at Gerber/Hart's annual fundraiser Oct. 3. See www.gerberhart.org for more information.

"Would you deny your son or your daughter the ecstasy of finding someone to love?" she told The Times. "To love someone takes a lot of courage. So how much more is one challenged when the love is of the same sex and the laws say, 'I forbid you from loving this person?'" Angelou told the Times she believed society made gay relationships hard enough, without the additional problem of not allowing them to be legal.

Empire State Pride Agenda helped arrange for Angelou's participation, along with lesbian actor Cynthia Nixon (*Sex and the City*) and former pro football commissioner Paul Tagliabue, who has a gay son.

See www.cfw.org.

WIN TICKETS! Windy City Media Group is running a contest thru July 15, 2009, with two ways to win a pair of tickets to see Maya Angelou in Chicago. One pair will be drawn from our weekly Windy City Media Group email subscriber list, enter the free list by emailing: Click2Win@windycitymediagroup.com. Or, join our WCMG Facebook fan page by July 15, and we will draw a winner from that list of names: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Windy-City-Media-Group/40409828544>

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BOOK REVIEW

Unfriendly Fire: How the Gay Ban Undermines the Military and Weakens America

Written by Nathaniel Frank
\$25.95; Thomas Dunne Books;
342 pages

REVIEW BY TERRI SCHLICHMEYER

Sometimes, it occurs to you that purchasing stock in yellow ribbons might've been a smart move.

Drive down any street in America, and you'll notice ribbons on fences, trees, and doors. There are yellow-ribbon magnets on cars, buttons with the loop-de-loop yellow icons and T-shirts with yellow emblems, all in support of our troops.

But for many of the troops—those who were honest and “told” in the “Don't Ask, Don't Tell” military—there won't be any medals or commendations, and no ribbons. In the new book “Unfriendly Fire: How the Gay Ban Undermines the Military and Weakens America” by Nathaniel Frank, you'll see how detrimental this policy is and how it's affected our national security.

On March 1, 1994, despite protests against it, the U.S. military's “Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue” policy went into effect. The policy sounded like it a way for the military to look the other way when it came to lesbians and gays in uniform, a sort of “we just won't discuss it” edict. Instead, it meant that superiors weren't

allowed—by law—to ask about a soldier's sexual orientation, and soldiers weren't supposed to admit their gayness under penalty of being discharged.

The former wasn't enforced. The latter happened all too frequently.

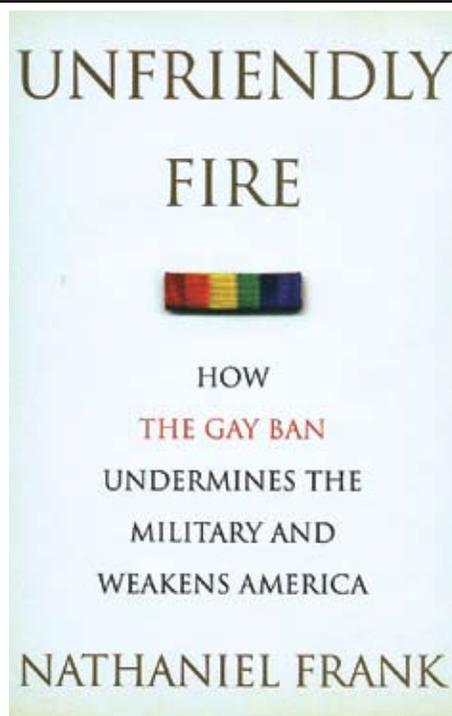
But, as Frank points out, gays and lesbians have a long history in the military, both historically and now. He says that “An estimated sixty-five thousand gay and lesbian Americans currently serve in uniform...” and without them, the military would be woefully inadequate in effectiveness.

Frank describes many cases of uniformed soldiers who have risen through the ranks, gotten high marks from their superiors, and become important assets to their departments, but were unceremoniously dumped from their positions when their homosexuality came to light. Unsurprisingly, because of “Don't Ask, Don't Tell,” he reports of dozens of gay men and lesbian women who were harassed, victimized, and who hastily left the military for their own safety. Top brass claimed it was banning gay behavior and not gays specifically, which Frank points out is double-talk. By banning gay behavior, they were explicitly, inherently banning gays.

But Frank also reports some emerging good news: openly gay military personnel increasingly report rules that are relaxing or being ignored altogether.

If nothing else, Unfriendly Fire is highly researched; a good 30 pages of this book is devoted to notes on the text, and author Nathaniel Frank is extremely explicit in his definition of terms.

But therein lies the problem: it's too thorough. Much of this book consists of history,



political minutiae, and decade-and-a-half-old Washington and Pentagon wrangling. That will tell you how this policy came to be and why it's monumental, but it doesn't give much information on how it affects troops now. Since I was more interested in what the sub-title promised, I was disappointed in most of this book.

If you're a military historian or have had experience with the “gay ban,” you might like Unfriendly Fire. For casual and mildly curious readers, though, don't burn up your time with it.

Want more? Check out Major Conflict: One Gay Man's Life in the Don't-Ask-Don't-Tell Military by Major Jeffrey McGowan, and Conduct Unbecoming: Gays and Lesbians in the U.S. Military by Randy Shilts.

BOOK REVIEW

At Least in the City Someone Would Hear Me Scream

Written by Wade Rouse
\$23.95; Harmony; 272 pages
REVIEW BY TERRI SCHLICHMEYER

Someone is sleeping in your bed.

Okay, so it's not really your bed any more. In fact, it's not even your home these days but visiting the place where you grew up makes you remember your childhood. Everything is different through adult eyes—the rooms look so tiny!—even though it seems like nothing's changed.

But you did, the second you moved out.

You can click your heels together all you want, but can you ever really go home again? Read the new book At Least in the City Someone Would Hear Me Scream by Wade Rouse, and you'll see...

When he was a little boy growing up in the Ozarks, Wade Rouse spent many happy hours sitting on a glider on a hill with his grandmother. There, she shared her wisdom, quoting a much-loved, bedraggled (and pilfered) copy of Walden by Thoreau.

Rouse says he couldn't get away from the country fast enough.

As soon as he could, he moved to the city, where Ikea and Starbucks were a quick drive away. He and his partner, Gary, practically lived at the gym and the tanning booth. Keeping up with fashion and celebrities and shopping were high priorities.

But something was missing.

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

'Fire' power



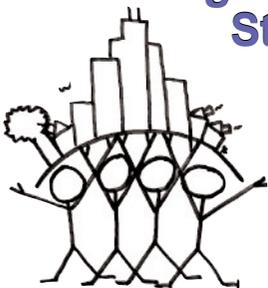
Dr. Nathaniel Frank (center) of New York University, signs a copy of his book *Unfriendly Fire: How the Gay Ban Undermines the Military and Weakens America*, for Marquell Smith. Smith is a former service member who was discharged from the military under the “Don't Ask, Don't Tell” policy. Frank was one of the speakers at a June 17 forum sponsored by the McCormick Freedom Museum, held at the Pritzker Military Library, 610 N. Fairbanks. Photo by Ted Regencia

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Pre-Gay L.A.: Battle scars

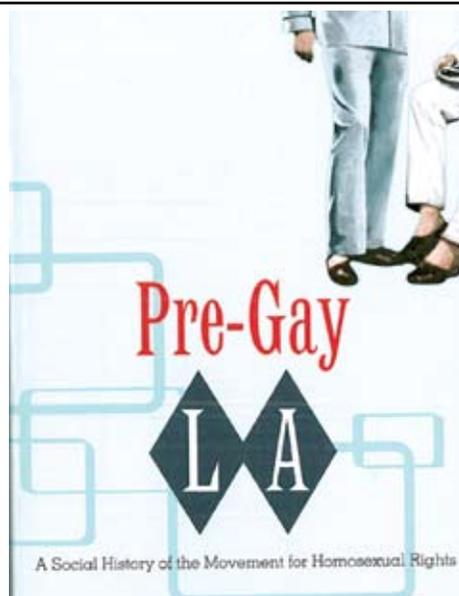
BOOK REVIEW BY TRACY BAIM

If there seems to be one constant in the movement for LGBT rights, it is that we tend to suffer growing pains at regular intervals, evidenced by fights within organizations and between leaders. This has happened throughout Chicago's movement, and also nationally. Even within the modern movement for same-sex marriage rights, there are battles over strategy, money and power.

But if you were a part of the early days of the U.S. movement for homosexual rights, you probably didn't understand how natural these acts of cannibalism are to many groups as they crawl from the primordial soup and begin to walk proud and upright. That probably made those struggles even more emotionally difficult to survive.

The early days of the Los Angeles homosexual movement were no different. Those activists witnessed some of the most brutal battles from within, and at the same time they were facing some of our most difficult enemies from the outside. C. Todd White, in his new book **Pre-Gay L.A.: A Social History of the Movement for Homosexual Rights** (University of Illinois, 280 pages, paper, \$25, cloth \$75) uses a finely tuned microscope to focus in depth on the early years of Los Angeles activism, well before the 1969 Stonewall Riots in New York, and before "gay" became the moniker of choice.

There are many ways to document a community's history. One is to take a broad stroke look back, as I did with the book I edited and co-wrote last year, *Out and Proud in Chicago: An Overview of Chicago's Gay Movement*. In that book, we took a written and visual snapshot of hundreds of events and people who shaped the Chicago movement. Almost any one of the ar-



ticles in that book could have been expanded into its own book, looking intensely at how that topic shaped the community.

Another other way to look at history is to take one group and navigate all of its blemishes and successes from as many angles as the documents and survivors allow for. This is the role of *Pre-Gay L.A.*, an exhaustively researched book about the sometimes-painful fits and starts of L.A.'s homosexual/homophile movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

White ably takes us from the founding of Mattachine, the first long-lasting U.S. homosexual rights group (as opposed to the short-lived one founded in Illinois by Henry Gerber in the 1920s), through the launch of *ONE* magazine, the ONE Institute, the Homosexual Information Center, Tangents, the Institute for the Study of Human Resources, and the convoluted (and hard to keep track of) distortions, divisions and mergers behind these L.A. groups, some which survive to this day.

The saying that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it is quite useful

in reading this book. Anyone part of a current LGBT group would do well to read *Pre-Gay L.A.* for valuable lessons learned. While it will not prevent schisms in our movement, it does put them in perspective. The key players fought each other both in the court of public opinion and actual courts for decades, potentially damaging themselves and the movement. It's unclear what lasting damage the battles may have done, and White sees many successes despite the rivalries, but likely many people left the movement in the 1960s because they could not stand the constant fighting. That certainly happens to this day in Chicago: only the strong can survive the pettiness and vindictiveness readily apparent today.

What White gives us is a very valuable lesson indeed. For even after many of these early pioneers battled, they eventually came to some kind of reconciliation. If not fully satisfied, they at least managed some compromise. But many also sacrificed greatly for the movement (emotionally, physically and financially), in some cases for more than 40 years, and are now almost unacknowledged in the 2000s. That is perhaps the most important service White provides with his book: making sure the legacies of these early leaders are not forgotten, for all their strengths and weaknesses.

Even a book as detailed and comprehensive as *Pre-Gay L.A.* also opens the door to more questions. I would have loved to have photos to accompany the names and groups, because it was difficult to keep track of everything in such detail, and also because many of them used pseudonyms (and sometimes more than one). Thankfully, there are handy mini-bios of key players

and a chart of pseudonyms in the back. Similar to how my book has www.ChicagoGayHistory.org to help complement the limits of any history book, White said many images will be posted on a companion Web site, [/www.outhistory.org/wiki/The_Pre-Gay_Era_in_the_USA](http://www.outhistory.org/wiki/The_Pre-Gay_Era_in_the_USA).

I also hope researchers are inspired to do in-depth stories about some of the interesting characters White writes about, including female-to-male transsexual Reed Erickson, who helped fund the 1960s movement but who later participated in a lawsuit against the group he funded. Some of the people in the book have been written about in other books, both biographical and autobiographical, but there are probably even more stories to tell. It was a fortunate stroke of timing that White started his connection to this project before some of the primary people died; several did while he was doing his research.

White, an assistant professor of anthropology at James Madison University, has taken a very important closer look at the origins of our U.S. movement. As he describes it, it is part ethnography and part social history, but it is also very accessible to non-academic readers who want to learn more about their own history, one that is mostly still overlooked in our educational system.

My reviewer's copy of *Pre-Gay L.A.* has practically every page turned over with an interesting fact or sage advice from our elders. One quote from Joseph Hanson is especially eloquent: "There have been many, many, many events that have taken us to where we are today. I think pebbles more than boulders have built this mountain, on top of which we stand."

Entertainment news

Legendary rapper LL Cool J was recently approached by a TMZ.com photographer who asked him, "What if you go to a bar and get hit on by a gay guy? Does that change your nickname [Ladies Love Cool James]?" According to Towleroad.com, the hip-hop artist simply responded, "Nah. I guess it just expands your options, huh?"

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

Entertainer Barbra Streisand will showcase her homes and talk about architecture in a new book entitled *A Passion for Design*, IMDB.com reported. Streisand will even revisit the Brooklyn, N.Y., apartment she grew up in. According to a press release, the book—which is slated to be out next year—will be "the culmination and reflection of Barbra's love of American architecture."

Whitney Houston's newest album is set to be released Sept. 1, according to an EOnline.com item. Her official Web site reads, "The wait is over," as it counts down to the release date. The album, which is still untitled, has the song "I Didn't Know My Own Strength" pegged as the first single.

Beth Ditto, lead singer of the Gossip, has started a feud with "I Kissed a Girl" singer Katy Perry, according to SFGate.com. Ditto said that she is tired of Perry making *faux* lesbianism trendy, saying, "She's just riding on the backs of our culture without having to pay any of the dues and not being actually lesbian or anything at all." However, Perry has fired back, saying Ditto's comment was "tacky," Digital Spy reported.

Comedian Sacha Baron Cohen has followed his headline-grabbing stunt with rapper Eminem at

the MTV Awards by **dressing up as a bull for the Madrid, Spain, premiere of his new film, *Bruno***, according to IMDB.com. Cohen—who appeared in character as gay Austrian fashion journalist Bruno—was accompanied by a group of hunky models dressed as matadors.

Actor Neil Patrick Harris has denied rumors that he plans to start a family with his boyfriend, David Burtka, IMDB.com reported. Harris, who stars as womanizer Barney on TV's *How I Met Your Mother*, and Burtka were the subjects of a *Star* magazine article that reported the pair planned to have a child via a surrogate mother. Harris has not ruled out having children in the future, however.

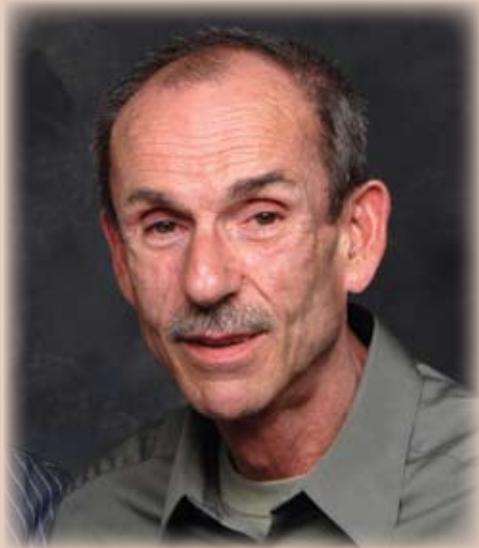
American Idol alumna Sanjaya Malakar said that he is not gay, according to a TV Guide item. On the reality show *I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here!*, Malakar said, "Like, yeah, a lot of people want me to be their gay best friend, and I make a really good gay best friend. But I don't like guys, so it confuses people." He added, "I do hair, and I'll sit in the corner and knit. So it confuses people."

Another person putting down gay rumors is actress Jada Pinkett Smith. According to MSN.com, she and husband of 11 years Will Smith laugh at rumors they are gay. "I've heard all the things—their marriage is not real, he's gay, she's gay, they swing," she told the Bert Radio Show on Atlanta's Q100. "But at the end of the day, people have to believe what they have to believe."

Canadian police have charged Black Eyed Peas manager Liborio Molina, 36, with assault **after a fight with out blogger Perez Hilton at a Toronto awards ceremony** that resulted in Hilton receiving a black eye, EW.com reported. Molina has been ordered to appear Aug. 5 to answer the charge. However, during a confrontation with the band, Hilton told member will.i.am, "I don't need to respect you and you're a fag. You're gay and stop being such a faggot"—a statement GLAAD has condemned. In a statement, Rashad Robinson, senior director of media programs at GLAAD, said, "These are vulgar anti-gay slurs that feed a climate of hatred and intolerance toward our community."

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November 28, 1943 - June 29, 2008



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DICK UYVARI



Robert Verdi.

NUNN ON ONE: TV

Robert Verdi: He's got the 'Look'

BY JERRY NUNN

She's got the Look returns for a second season on TV Land. Here comes the judge, Robert Verdi—out, loud and proud!

Windy City Times: Hi, Robert. So you got your start designing jewelry?

Robert Verdi: Yes, strange as that might sound. It started with sweet 16 favors for my sister's sweet 16, and then I realized I could make a nickel. The rest is television history.

WCT: What did you make the jewelry out of?

RV: I was in a ceramics class in high school, so I was cutting out teddy bears, pigs and ducks. Afterwards, I glued them on Lucite containers and filling them with candy. So after my sisters sweet sixteen then her friends asked me to make more for them and I had a run of success. From there, I glued the same teddy bears onto the backs of earrings and I learned to change to keep the customer interested. I didn't have experience with metals so I used materials around the house. All our game pieces were missing because I melted them and turned them into jewelry. I actually—shockingly—came across some of these pieces this past weekend.

WCT: What do you mean by your quote, "Jewelry is more dependable than a man?"

RV: As every joke is, there is an underlying statement. Jewelry is always there for you. Men can walk out on you but the necklace can't leave. If you ever in a bind, you can hock a good piece of jewelry and get some cash to carry you through and you don't have to put out! [*Both laugh.*]

WCT: So you played yourself opposite Meryl Streep in *The Devil Wears Prada*. How was that experience?

RV: Not a bad first acting role, eh? I was only in the film a few seconds but I had to shoot eight hours. It was great for me because every star from the movie was in that scene: Anne Hathaway, Stanley Tucci and Meryl [Streep]. I couldn't have asked for a better day.

It was different from filming on television. I am much more outrageous, my voice is very loud and inflection very purposeful. They sounded like they were muttering. I was like, "What?!? What did Meryl say to me? I can't act like this!"

WCT: Very different than a reality show.

RV: Completely different.

WCT: What's your favorite part about being a judge for the show *She's Got the Look*?

RV: I love that we laugh. It is really true that casting a team for their energy is important. Kim Alexis is absolutely fabulous and a living legend, as is Beverly Johnson. Sean Patterson is one of the most highly respected modeling agents in the world. I think that I bring a unique perspective on style and fashion. I am there to help the women realize the importance of appearance and personal style. It's the best show that I have ever done.

WCT: What do you look for in a candidate in the competition?

RV: There is that raw visual image when someone comes around the corner when we are doing the open call. There's an "uh, oh" or "wow." It has to be gut instincts. When it's an "uh, oh," like onions, we peel away and we find something interesting. Someone who is three-dimensional is hopefully the one that ends up in the competition. Season one was great. Season two is fabulous.

WCT: I am excited about seeing it.

RV: I am, too. I am planning a party at my place every week to watch it. Come watch me!

WCT: What's in the future for Mr. Verdi?

RV: World domination. [*Laughs*] Oh, yeah—and a spin-off of my new reality show. I am designing bags on QVC and working with my own products.

WCT: You are filming a reality show? What's it called—*Life on the V-List*?

RV: No. It's the Robert Verdi Show starring Robert Verdi, and it will be on Logo.

Well, the future's so bright, you better wear shades. The new season is currently running; check local listings or www.tvland.com.

DVD REVIEW

On the Other Hand, Death

REVIEW BY STEVE WARREN

I like dick as much as the next guy, but I don't like Chad Allen as private dick Don Strachey in the here! network occasional series that tries to do for gays what *Murder She Wrote* did for seniors.

Except for having a gay actor playing a gay leading character, this is an old-school TV crime show, but with each episode long enough to fill a 90-minute programming slot and later be marketed as a DVD feature.

On the Other Hand *Death: A Donald Strachey Mystery* is the third in the series. On the plus side is the cinematography by C. Kim Miles, which is so good it emphasizes the weakness of the other technical contributions. On the other hand...

The screenplay by Gillian Horvath and Ron McGee, based on a novel by Richard Stevenson, picks up some steam in the second act, between a meandering first act and a dénouement so confusing you can probably watch it several times without knowing who did what and why.

The main attraction, and not a total disappointment, is the appearance of Margot Kidder, who looks like she's ready to do *Hush Hush*, *Baby Jane*, or some such. She plays Dorothy, the dominant half of a longtime lesbian couple, who lives in a remote upstate New York farmhouse with Edith (Gabrielle Rose).

A guidance counselor at the local high school, Dorothy has been controversial since coming out last year. Now someone is vandalizing their house, throwing bricks through the window and writing "DYKES GO HOME!" on the living room wall.

Strachey (Allen) is introduced being arrested for interfering with an undercover police investigation by following Gina Santer (Lori Ann Triolo). He said he was hired by a mysterious client who claimed to be her husband.

The plot that develops involves buying up land for redevelopment, a plan stymied by Dorothy's refusal to sell their home; so it's possible that community antagonism against her isn't strictly due to lesbophobia.

Even before the plots connect up Don is introduced to the women's situation by Andrew McWhirter (Damon Runyan), the ex of his partner, Tim Callahan (Sebastian Spence). The potential for Don to be jealous gets flipped when Andrew makes a pass at him while skinny-dipping at night in the New York winter. Where do you begin to deconstruct the absurdities in this scene?

Because details are so important in a mystery,

small inconsistencies loom larger here. Don calls Tim in the morning after being interrogated by the police for six hours. Tim doesn't ask why he wasn't home all night, just reminds him they're supposed to go to a school board meeting later that day. Edith is a secret smoker who ditches a cigarette when Dorothy comes along ("She thinks I quit"), and Dorothy gets close without smelling it on her breath. Don't try that in my home!

Performances are generally in the mediocre range. It's hard to believe Allen is the same actor who was much more effective in *Save Me*. Nelson Wong stands out as Don's intern, Kenny, mainly because he gets tighter closeups than anyone else, perhaps because the cinematogra-

pher is a fellow Asian. (I'm not complaining. He looks good in the close-ups.)

Ron Oliver has directed all four Donald Strachey mysteries to date and seems to have learned from a 20-year career in television on how to get by with the least amount of creativity.

On the Other Hand, *Death* is an example of the attitude that we're so starved for queer content we'll devour anything gay. That may have been true once but hopefully it's no longer the case, or if it is, it's a case Donald Strachey should investigate.

'Art-felt'



Eric Jorgenson with his hand-crafted table, surrounded by art (pictured, from left, art by Jorjet Harper, Lisa Howe-Ebright photos, Erik Sosa and Carmen Noriega's stained glass) at the Prairie Avenue Gallery Pride Show opening. The show is up through July and is open weekends, noon-3 p.m. and by appointment, 1900 S. Prairie; 312-907-7909. See the Facebook page for Prairie Avenue Gallery. Photo by Hal Baim

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BUSINESS

Christy Webber's golden garden

BY OWEN KEEHNEN

Friends and family call Christy Webber "the golden goose" because it seems everything the Montrose, Mich., native touches becomes successful. However, Webber's Midas touch is less a matter of alchemy than the simple fact of a savvy businesswoman with a phenomenal work ethic. Her landscaping business, Christy Webber Landscapes, began in 1988 with two employees and a lawnmower and has grown into a multi-million dollar corporation whose roster of clients includes The United Center, both Midway and O'Hare Airports, McCormick Place, Navy Pier, the Museum of Science and Industry, and Webber's crowning glory Millennium Park.

This level of success would be enough for most people, but Christy Webber isn't most people. She's always up for a challenge. In addition to being a parent to one year old Oliver with partner Jennifer Rule, Christy has another new baby—of the entrepreneurial kind. Last November Webber assumed ownership of Grand Street Gardens, 2200 W. Grand. Webber explains, "Grand Street Gardens was just a great opportunity. It

was close to our business. It was local and a part of my neighborhood. When I saw it was for sale I had an idea. I was curious what I was spending at gardening centers around town with the landscaping business. We did the research and realized that Christy Webber Landscapes was a built-in \$50,000 customer. I thought to myself, "Why am I giving all that business away?" I want to go to my own store, buy it in house, take what I need for the landscaping jobs, and what we don't use we can sell at the store."

Webber decided to keep the Grand Street Gardens name, feeling the gardening center needed its own identity and a separation from Christy Webber Landscapes. "People already knew it like that," she said. "Why change it?"

The name remained, but the shop has undergone plenty of other changes. The gardening center, which boasts a 10,000-square-foot yard and a 3,000-square-foot retail store, has been totally renovated since Webber took the reins late last year. "It was a cute little neighborhood garden center in need of a facelift," said Webber. "It had been forgotten. In the yard the weeds were taller than the perennials. The place needed to be revitalized. It needed a paint job and some redecorating as well as a good cleaning."

That "facelift" proved to be just the start. Next Christy had a huge yard sale to sell off a lot of the peripheral stock. "The goal of the previous



Grand Street Gardens.

owners was to be a little bit Pottery Barn, a little bit Restoration Hardware, a little bit garden center; they wanted it to be a little bit of everything to everybody," Webber said. "We knew that would never work. By doing that you have to compete with those larger companies and our buying power is nowhere near that. I worried that if a customer saw something in our store that they also saw and Crate and Barrel and

we were charging five dollars more, they would question all our prices. As a destination store we really tried to stick with what we knew."

Grand Street Gardens general manager Erin Smith feels that the transformation of the store went deeper than merely cosmetic or a stock overhaul. "It is a different store with a different vibe and a more cohesive feel," said Webber. "There are plants out front lining Grand. People drive by and see we're here." A lot of customers comment to Erin about the change in the energy of the place.

Webber added, "People seem thrilled that someone bought it who had the resources to keep it alive."

There's great music playing, a shopper friendly layout with green canvas banners denoting the different sections such as shade annuals, tropicals, succulents, and ground cover, as well as ample street parking, and even carts to help transport purchases to your car. However, a large part of that great energy is the staff. Webber retained several of the previous employees and added some new workers as well. Currently, Grand Street Gardens employs 6-8 full-time and 8-10 part-timers. It's extremely important to Webber is that her employees be both friendly and knowledgeable. Chances are if you have a gardening question one of the folks in the lime green Grand Street Gardens T-shirt will have the answer whether it's needing pointers about a porch garden, selecting the proper ground cover, or wondering which perennials will work best on the somewhat shaded north side of a building.

The staff will also give pointers on how to start your own organic garden. Webber said with a laugh, "You know, that is the hottest damn thing—vegetables and edibles. It really is. People want to grow their own stuff. It's fun. I even bought a bunch of seeds and started one at home so Oliver could know what it's like to have a garden."

When asked about the goal of Grand Street Gardens, general manager Smith explained, "We're geared towards the urban gardener. We really want Grand Street Gardens to be a place where people living in the city can come to find everything they need to create an outdoor space with what they have whether that's a balcony or a postage stamp sized backyard. We want to provide the customer with all the tools, materials, and information they need to do that. We want them to be able to come here and with one stop see all the options they have for their outdoor living area whether they want to grow vegetables in containers or create wonderful balcony planters."

Webber nodded and succinctly added, "If you need it for your house in the city of Chicago, we've got it."

Seeing the bustle and energy beneath the green canvas banners of Grand Street Gardens on an overcast Wednesday afternoon, I am willing to bet that Webber has laid yet another golden egg.

See www.grandstreetgardens.com.

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MeKole Wells.

SPORTS/RECREATION

Wells-done: Singer runs for others

BY ROSS FORMAN

MeKole Wells was just at the "thinking about running a marathon" stage in April when she told a close friend about her plans, which included joining the National AIDS Marathon Training Program (NAMTP).

The friend, an African-American woman like Wells, looked at her and quietly said, "You should because it's something that I've experienced."

Moments later, Wells learned that her friend had just been diagnosed with HIV.

And shortly thereafter, Wells learned about another close friend, also an African-American female, who had contracted HIV.

Wells promptly signed the contract and joined the NAMTP, which raises funds for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC). She's now training for the Rock 'n' Roll Chicago Half Marathon in August and the Bank of America Chicago Marathon in October.

Wells is determined to raise \$2,600 this summer.

"The marathon is my opportunity to do something for someone else," said Wells, 45, who lives in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood and is a high school teacher in Chicago for at-risk students. An accomplished jazz singer originally from Bakersfield, Calif., Wells has a partner of almost four years: Charon Crosby.

Wells has plenty of motivation for the runs, including her two Chicago friends who were recently diagnosed with HIV and one who recently died. Of course, her students—who range in age from 15 to 22—provide motivation as well.

"I know that I have to be an example for my students. I want them to see how perseverance can change you," Wells said. "A lot of the students say, 'I can't believe you're running the marathon. Are you crazy?'"

"They think I'm as nutty as a fruitcake, but they love me because, as they say, 'We trust Miss Wells because she keeps it real.' They think it's 'pretty cool' that I'm running the marathon, and I think it gives them incentive to do something with their lives." She added that she is "very rewarded" by running the marathon.

Wells runs several times during the week by herself, and then joins other NAMTP runners on Saturday or Sunday along the lakefront.

"As I always tell my students: 'No matter what your circumstance is, you rise above the occasion. That's life; you've got to be better. Because life is going to label you according to what your production is,'" Wells said.

"I'm running for a lot of other people, and I know it will be very emotional at the start line.

"People of all races are dying of AIDS, of all ages," she added. "But that drives me, and the training has been very, very good so far. The National AIDS Marathon Training Program offers a camaraderie that you've never experienced before. Everyone is so loving, so kind; it's a great group."

So what's the biggest surprise so far during marathon training?

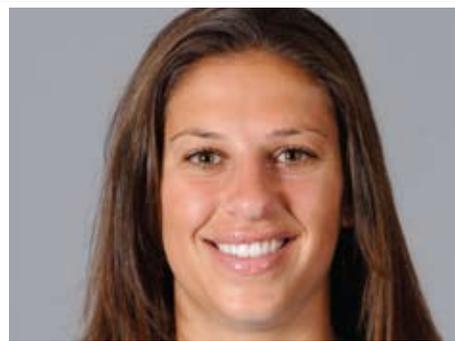
"I'm just shocked that I'm running three miles three times a week at 5:30 a.m.," she said, laughing.

Proud to Run June 27

The 28th annual Proud To Run is Saturday, June 27, and includes both a 5K and 10K race as well as a 2-mile fitness walk. It starts at Montrose in Lincoln Park between Cricket Hill and Montrose Harbor. The event, in addition to celebrating fitness, also celebrates the eclectic gay and lesbian community.

Registration and packet pick-up is at Universal Sole, 3052 N. Lincoln, through Friday, June 26, during store hours (10 a.m.-8 p.m.). Online registration closes at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 25.

Sign up for the 2009 Proud To Run at www.registerPTR.com.



Carli Lloyd of the Chicago Red Stars.

Red Stars to face Ireland

The Chicago Red Stars will face the Republic of Ireland Women's National Team in an exhibition soccer match on Sunday, July 5, at 3 p.m. at the Village of Lisle-Benedictine University Sports Complex Stadium, Lisle.

The match will mark the first time Chicago's Women's Professional Soccer league side has faced a national team opponent.

Individual tickets start at \$20; call 866-WPS-2009 or visit www.chicagoredstars.com.

Smash N Tickle coming July 11

The badminton tournament Smash N Tickle 2009 will be at the Broadway Armory, 5917 N. Broadway, Saturday, July 11, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

The tourney will feature drop flight singles and doubles (Mixed doubles are not offered, but that should not stop participants from choosing a partner of the opposite sex.) Both events will divide into four divisions, so all players are welcome.

The cost is \$35 for one event, and \$50 for both singles and doubles. See www.ChicagoMSA.org or e-mail badminton@chicagomsa.org.

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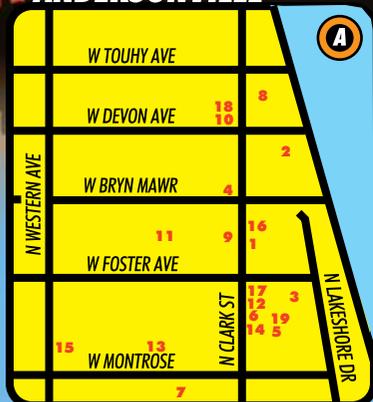
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BILLY MASTERS

"Like, yeah, a lot of people want me to be their gay best friend, I make a really good gay best friend. But I don't like guys, so it confuses people. I do hair, and I'll sit in the corner and knit. So it confuses people."—Sanjaya proclaims his heterosexuality. I'm not confused. And I'm not convinced.

When, oh when, will people learn? Let's say, for example, photos of you having unprotected sex surfaced. Maybe you were embarrassed—especially since you're touted as some sort of role model. You might issue a statement and hope that the whole thing blows over. What's the absolute worst thing you could do? Threaten Web sites (including, for instance, BillyMasters.com) with a lawsuit if said photos aren't removed. Your grounds would be an infringement on intellectual property, although clearly your ass doesn't have the IQ necessary to require a condom for entrance. Everyone else might have buckled, but what you'd really do is push Billy Masters to reveal that your sexual partner in said photos was no long-term companion. He's actually a companion for hire who does web porn out of his college dorm. The gay-for-pay topper Twittered the following fetching prose: "I'm doing a Live Cam show tomorrow evening for tuition money." Charming.

So, let's recap—you, the "role model," were in an unsafe sexual relationship with a non-monogamous partner who peddles his wares on the Internet. I just wanna get it straight. Not that I'm mentioning any names, or even initials like Dude Loves Barebacking. If the photos can't be shown (and that's debatable), we have the next best thing. We asked a talented artist to provide us with renderings of the copulation in question—in keeping with the grand tradition of courtroom sketches. Clearly we legally run these works of art. Right?

In case anyone is feeling that people are attacking poor DLB, that he is a role model and a good person and this story should not be reported...you're wrong. Don't shoot the messenger. Our job is to report gossip about famous and marginally-famous people—and in this case, it's not even gossip; it's fact. He's in the public eye and he did this tape, presumably of his own free will. No one put a gun to his head and forced him to take that large unsheathed appendage up his derriere. In fact, the Dude looks mighty happy in the pics. As Nana Masters used to say, "Better safe than sorry"—of course, she said it in Albanian. Our auteur wasn't safe—and, boy, is he sorry!

After being injured at the Tonys, Bret Michaels has announced that he isn't suing. "There's no lawsuit. I'm not doing any of that. I'm taking the high road." Didya hear that, Dude? The high road...and not as in, "I was SO high last night—was there a camcorder running?"

I once again hosted L.A. Pride's mainstage, and it was a cavalcade of stars. The highlight for me was Deborah Cox (we'll share a video on our Web site). Every time we work together, I'm so overwhelmed by Deborah's immense talent, to say nothing of her beauty and generosity of spirit. If it's spirit people wanted, Fantasia brought the crowd to church with a fabulous, high-stakes performance that never let up (and she even dragged me up to dance with her). Diva Debby Holiday, Blake Lewis, Exposé, Terri Nunn and Berlin all contributed to the best gay pride festival I've ever hosted—and that's going back to Stonewall 25 in New York! Happy Pride.

Everyone seems to be overcome with the gay pride spirit. Even Ricky Martin! On the cover of "TV Aquí" magazine (you know you've got a subscription), there is a tantalizing headline: "Ricky Martin accepts the possibility that his heart could belong to a man or a woman." Of

course, they ran it in Spanish, but I'm known for my foreign tongue. What we don't know is the context. After all, even Miss Elton once married a woman!

Sources from the set of Grey's Anatomy are confirming what we told you months ago—TR Knight will not be returning to the ensemble show. Reportedly, he's disenchanted with fame and fortune and wants to go back to the theatre. I remember seeing him on Broadway in "Noises Off" opposite La LuPone. He recently took part in a reading of "Lend Me a Tenor" with Stanley Tucci, Alfredo Molina and Tony Shalhoub. I'd actually go to that.



Bret Michaels' pretty face before getting messed up at The Tonys, a venue long-known for its testosterone-fueled roughhousing.

This week's "Ask Billy" question comes from Larry in Pittsburg: "What ever happened to those college wrestlers who did gay porn? Are they gonna do more?"

After extensively researching this story, I came to two conclusions—these boys are both incredibly hot and they're also morons. Paul Dohanoe appears to be completely clueless and never thought anyone would find out because they posed for a gay site. Kenny Jordan was more eloquent—"We didn't kill anybody, you know? We didn't put anybody in the hospital, you know? We're not selling drugs, you know? We're not bad kids. We did some porn, you know? Get over it. We work hard, you know? We work hard on our bodies, so why be ashamed of it, you know what I mean? I didn't threaten anyone's life. If anything, I'm putting smiles on people's faces. People who were, you know, wanted to see me naked." Yes, darling, we know. I found the argument that he didn't put anyone in the hospital fascinating. So I did some digging—prior to getting busted for porn, Kenny was found guilty five different times for a number things, including assault. When asked about this, he said, "I've only been in jail like three times. For fighting, missing court, stupid stuff." I smell a future politician.

By the way, both boys have declined offers to do more nude modeling, but that won't stop us from posting their existing work on BillyMasters.com. We'll even post an extensive interview with the pair. You know...

When I don't have room for a snappy send-off, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Be sure to check out www.BillyMasters.com for things other sites are afraid to show and tell. If you've got a question—legal or otherwise—email me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I share a cell with Paul and Kenny (I should be so lucky)! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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| 7 El Gato Negro 1461 Irving Park Rd. ElGatoNegroBar.com | 23 Bucks Saloon 3439 N. Halsted St. BucksSaloonChicago.com | 41 Sidetrack 3349 N. Halsted St. SidetrackChicago.com | 57 Maneuvers 118 E. Jefferson St. Joliet,IL.com JolietManeuvers.com |
| 8 The Glenwood 6962 N. Glenwood St. TheGlenwoodBar.com | 24 Cell Block 3702 N. Halsted St. www.CellBlock-Chicago.com | 42 Spin 800 W. Belmont Ave. Spin-Nightclub.com | 58 Moda VIP 2409 N. Mannheim Rd. FranklinPark,IL.com myspace.com/modavip |
| 9 Hamburger Mary's/Mary's Attic 5400 N. Clark St. HamburgerMarysChicago.com | 25 Charlie's 3726 N. Broadway Ave. CharliesChicago.com | 43 Steamworks 3246 N. Halsted St. (bath) SteamworksOnline.com | 59 Rumors 2433 Desplaines Ave. NorthRiverside,IL.com RumorsPubOnline.com |
| 10 Jackhammer 6406 N. Clark St. JackhammerChicago.com | 26 Circuit 3641 N. Halsted St. CircuitClub.com | 44 The Baton 436 N. Clark St. TheBatonShowLounge.com | 60 Velvet Rope 728 W. Lake St. OakPark,IL.com VelvetRopeOakPark.com |
| 11 Joie De Vine 1744 W. Balmoral Ave. | 27 The Closet 3325 N. Broadway Ave. | 45 Second Story Bar 157 E. Ohio St. | INDIANA |
| 12 Man's Country 5017 N. Clark St. (bath) MansCountryChicago.com | 28 Cocktail 3359 N. Halsted St. CocktailBarChicago.com | NEAR NORTH | 61 Dick's R U Craze? 1221 E. 150th St. Hammond,IN.com DicksRUCraze.com |
| 13 Scot's 1829 W. Montrose Ave. ChicagoScotsBar.com | 29 FireFly 3335 N. Halsted St. FireflyOnHalsted.com | 46 Club 2506 2506 N. Clybourn Ave. | 62 Encompass 2415 Rush St. LakeStation,IN.com EncompassNightclub.com |
| 14 SoFo 4923 N. Clark St. SofaBar.com | 30 Halsted's Bar & Grill 3441 N. Halsted St. HalstedsChicago.com | 47 Crobar 1543 N. Kingsbury St. | |
| 15 Spyners 4623 N. Western Ave. Spyners.com | 31 Hydrate 3458 N. Halsted St. HydrateChicago.com | 48 The Prop House 1675 N. Elston Ave. | |
| 16 Star Gaze 5419 N. Clark St. StarGazeChicago.com | 32 Kit Kat 3700 N. Halsted St. KitKatChicago.com | THE SOUTHSIDE | |
| 17 T's 5025 N. Clark St. TsBarChicago.com | 33 Little Jim's 3501 N. Halsted St. LittleJimsChicago.com | 49 Club Escape 1530 E. 75th St. ClubEscapeChicago.com | |
| | 34 Lucky Horseshoe 3169 N. Halsted St. | 50 Escapades 6301 S. Harlem Ave. | |
| | | 51 InnExile 5758 W. 65th St. InnExileChicago.com | |

Come out, get comfortable and watch the parade on our screens.

Open at 11am for the Pride Parade Sunday, June 28

Taking Our Pride to New Heights

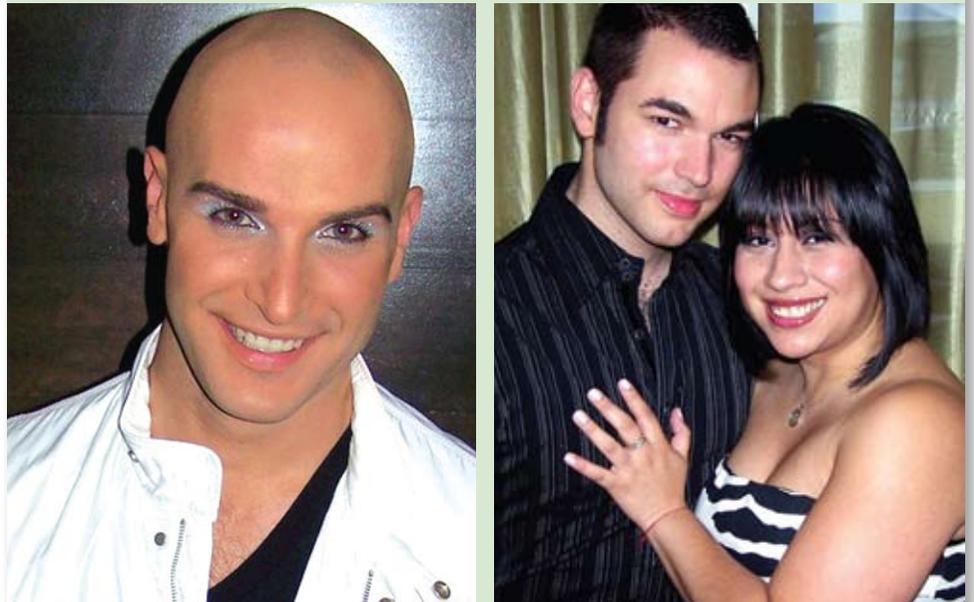
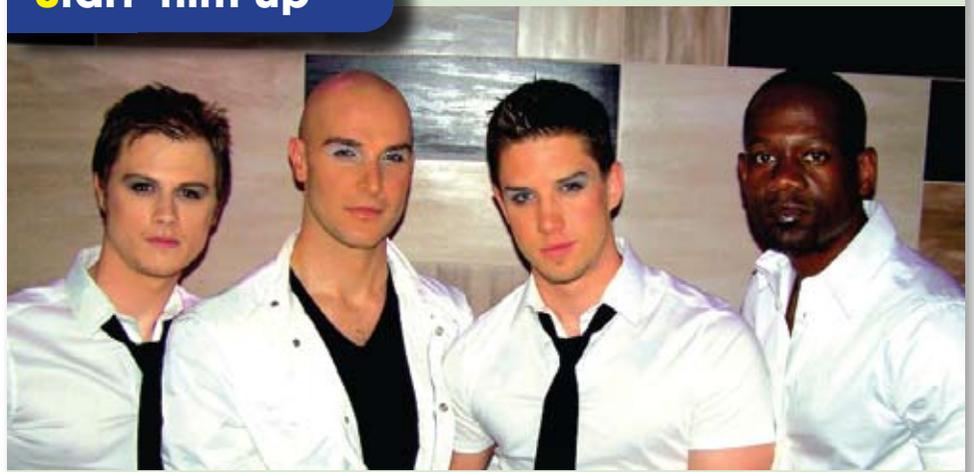


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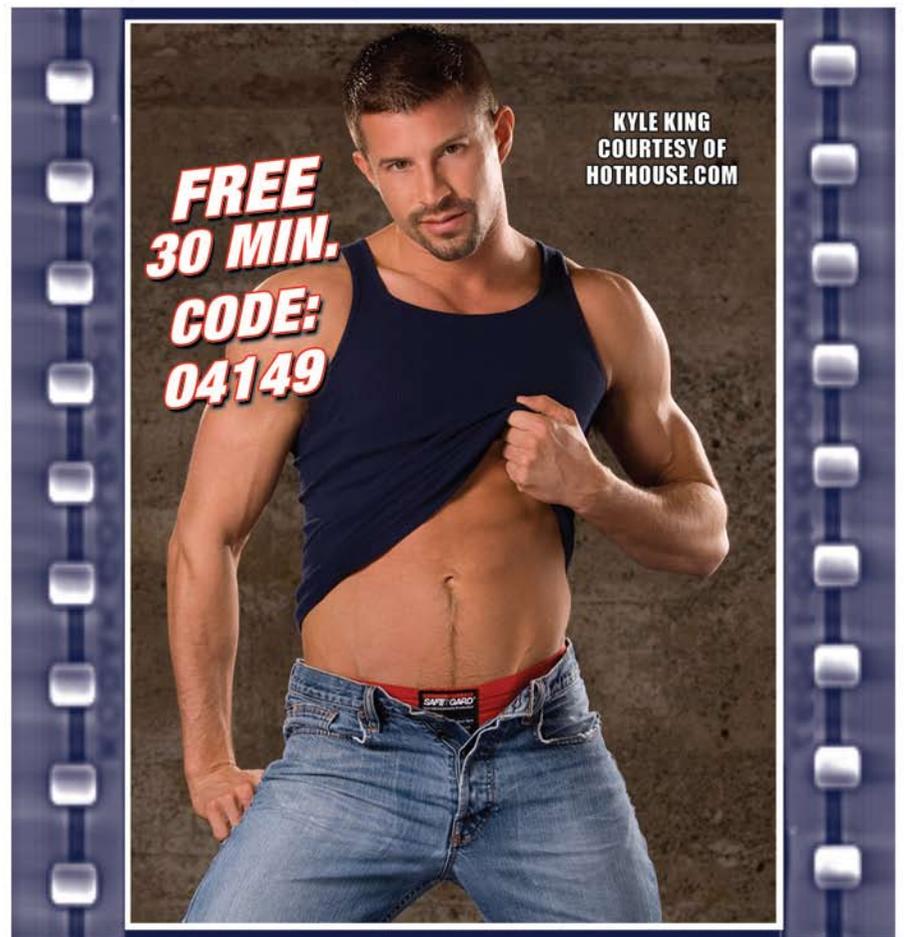


'Start' him up



Openly gay singer Jason Antone—who has released the CD Start to Move—held a CD-release party June 14 at Minibar, 3341 N. Halsted. Antone performed for the appreciative crowd. Photos by Steve Starr

THE HOTTEST TICKET ON THE WEB



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SPORTS/RECREATION

'Queen' coming to Montrose

BY ROSS FORMAN

The annual Queen of the Beach volleyball tournament will be Saturday, June 27, at Montrose Beach with 35 two-person and 15 four-person teams scheduled to play.

The finals are scheduled to start at about 2 p.m.

"The tournament has always been a great way to celebrate Pride," said Anton Mulvaney, who is the commissioner for the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association's (CMSA's) Friday night beach volleyball league and one of three chairman for Queen of the Beach (with Kevin Hansen and Bill Helton).

"Traditionally, the tournament has had a lot of guys dress up [in drag while playing]; there really has been a fun element to the event," Mulvaney said. "Now, there's not as many people dressing up, but there's still a lot of fun and there's much more competitive play."

The event has been a predominantly male event, but Mulvaney noted that there are several all-female teams in the four-person division



Queen of the Beach 2008. Photos by Ross Forman

this year.

"I think the event will be very well attended," he said.

Players will range in age from their 20s to 40s, or maybe even a drop older, Mulvaney said.

And to top it all off, local superstar Tony Akers will also be there.

"When I think of beach volleyball in Chicago, I think of Tony. He just plays a lot of beach volleyball," Mulvaney said.

The CMSA's Friday night beach volleyball league



(open division) has ballooned to 162 teams, up from 111 and 140 the last two years. However, the female division is down three teams, to 18.

This year, there also is a new two-person division, with seven teams, on Fridays.

"With six divisions [in Friday's open division], we have everything from ultra recreational players to others who are extremely competitive," Mulvaney said.

Are you ready for some (flag) football?

BY ROSS FORMAN

Pride Bowl II, the national LGBT flag-football tournament hosted by the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) over Pride weekend, has nearly doubled in size in only its second run.

There will be 20 teams playing, up from 12 in its inaugural year last summer.

Eight teams are Chicago-based, including the Jackhammer Bears and the (Mary's) Attic Attack.

"[With] Pride Bowl, I got universal praise; everyone was impressed with the job Chicago did hosting the tournament. That's why we increased the number of [participating] teams," said CMSA Vice President and flag-football commissioner Shawn Albritton. "Despite [being in] a recession, and with other gay tournaments having their number of participating teams drop, we dramatically increased the number of teams; I think that really says something about this event."

Games will be played Friday and Saturday on the soccer fields at Montrose Beach.

The San Diego Bolts were the 2008 champions—and they will be back to defend.

"What we saw last year was, the level of play at the Pride Bowl was on par with the Gay Super Bowl," Albritton said.

Ah, yes, the Gay Super Bowl—considered the pinnacle of gay flag football. The event will be held in Washington, D.C., this year, in Phoenix in 2010, and CMSA has officially bid—and is the only one to do so, so far—to host the 2011 event, Albritton confirmed.

The host city for the 2011 event will be announced next February by the National Gay Flag Football League.

Force in playoffs

Pride Bowl II isn't the only football this weekend involving Chicagoans. The Chicago Force face the Seattle Majestics on the road Saturday, June 27, in its first playoff game of the Independent Women's Football League (IWFL).

The Force was the league's runner-up in 2008, and is coming off a 26-6 win over its archrival, the Detroit Demolition. Darcy Leslie ran 17 times for 152 yards against Detroit, while Jamie Menzyk and Sami Grisafe each scored two touchdowns. Kim Marks had three tackles, deflected a pass and an interception against the Demolition.

Australia gets trans footballer

Australian competitive football will get its first trans player in the coming season, the Advocate reported. A 25-year-old transman, only known as "Will," approached league officials to see if he could participate; however, chief executive Glenn Scott said that he'd have to legally alter the gender on his birth certificate to male.

Dykes Pedaling Bikes get-togethers

Dykes Pedaling Bikes is getting together once a month on Saturdays (July 11, Aug. 1, Sept. 5 and Oct. 3) for lakefront rides.

The group meets at 9 a.m. at the totem pole at Addison and Lake Shore Drive in Lakeview, and then rides to Grant Park. They then ride north and have brunch at Tweet, 5020 N. Sheridan, at 10:30 a.m. Helmets are required.

Dykes Pedaling Bikes is sponsored by the Windy City Cycling Club, the Lesbian Community Care Project and dykediva.com. For more info, e-mail rbezale@gmail.com or visit www.windy-citycyclingclub.com.

The Chicago Red Stars

invite you to meet

Abby Wambach

of the Washington Freedom

and Caroline Jönsson**and Megan Rapinoe**

of the Red Stars

in a post-game benefit for
the Lesbian Community**Care Project****Sunday, July 26, 3 p.m. game****Reception with athletes follows***Toyota Park,**Bridgeview, Illinois*Abby Wambach.
Photo by Robert MoraCaroline Jönsson.
Photo by Bill Barrett

Megan Rapinoe

**\$35 ticket includes Premier Level seats to the game plus
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*Season ticket holders call Alyse or Greg at 1-866-WPS-2009
to find out how to attend the benefit.*



chicagoredstars.com

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Windy City Media Group

WHAT TO DO?

Wed., 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. 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. 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

Un-twisting Our Panties: LBTQQ Responses to Health Issues in Our Communities, by Howard Brown Health Center and Lambda Legal 6 p.m. Harold Washington Library

Thursday, June 25

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

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

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, sunset cruise 6 - 9:30 p.m. \$50. 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

Rape Victim Advocates' 35th Anniversary Gala. Keynote: Angela Rose of PAVE: Promoting Awareness, Victim Empowerment. Emcee: Cheryl Corley of National Public Radio from 6 p.m. 9:30 p.m. Silent auction & drawing, including 2 roundtrip tickets on Southwest Airlines and many more fantastic packages! Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St. www.rapevictimadvocates.org. Tix: <http://rva35gala.eventbrite.com> or 312-443-9603

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.cgmc.org, www.lakeshoretheater.com

Chicago Pride Fest through June 27. 4 p.m. Kimi Hayes Band, 6 p.m. Rock Candy, 6 p.m. Jeanie "Cha Cha Heels" Tracy, 8 p.m. Martha Wash, 8 p.m. Dot Dot Dot www.chicagoevents.com 773-868-3010

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

Gerber Hart Cinema Lesbiana, women's film screening group, 7:30 pm. Gerber/Hart Library 1127 W. Granville Ave. www.gerberhart.org/news.html

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

Kenneth Cole's Awareness and Human Rights Campaign present a limited edition T-Shirt 4-9 p.m. Kenneth Cole New York Store, 540 North Michigan Ave. Chicago

LGTTA Youth Performance and Dance Party sponsored by Howard Brown Health Center 6:30 p.m. at Alternatives. www.howardbrown.org or 773935-3151

Potluck BBQ, Pride Shabbat Services, Congregation Or Chadash, Stonewall Chapel in Emanuel Congregation, 5959 N. Sheridan Rd. 773-271-2148 www.OrChadash.org

Saturday, June 27

BackLot Bash, popular lesbian outdoor Pride dance party. 4 p.m. Martha Berner, 6 p.m. Halycon, 8 p.m. Too White Crew, hosted by Nikki Lindgren, DJ Dave. 3 - 10 p.m. \$10 before 5 p.m./\$15 after 5 p.m. Sunday June 28. behind Cheeta's Gym, 5238 N. Clark www.backlotbash-chicago.com

On Stage with Joan Curto, featuring Beckie Menzie on piano in "Shaking the Blues Away" Saturday, 8 p.m. Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Parkway, 312-922-2110 ext. 300; or ticketmaster.com. www.auditoriumtheatre.org

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. Youth Contingent Broadway Youth Center, noon, 3179 N. Broadway at Belmont will head to Pilsen together... or meet in Pilsen. For more info email: dykemarchsolidarity@gmail.com. Rally begins 1 p.m. 18th and Halsted. Info at dykemarchchicago@gmail.com

Indigo Girls, Grammy-Award winning musicians and activists, with the Women's Health Foundation for Below the Belt: Fighting for Women's Pelvic Health. 632 W. Deming Place. www.totalcontrolprogram.com/belowthebelt

Pride Fest, a two-day event. 12:30 p.m. Pet Parade with Miss Fozzie, 2:30 p.m. Deborah Gibson, 3:30 p.m. The Joans, 4:30 p.m. Thelma Houston, 6 p.m. 7-DEEZ, 6:30 p.m. Crystal Waters, 7:30 p.m. Inaya Day, 8:00 p.m. 16 Candles, 8:30 p.m. Ultra Nate

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.frwchicago.org/ptr2009

Out of the Darkness Overnight Walk in Chicago. Walk to prevent suicide including those of GLBT persons. Ameri-

can Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Register or donate at www.TheOvernight.Org or 888-TheOvernight

Sunday, June 28

40th Annual Pride Parade "Stonewall: 40 Years After" with Grand Marshal actor, teacher and activist, Alexandra Billings. Noon. Step off from Belmont and Halsted; www.chicagopridecalendar.org

Amigas Latinas Post Parade Celebration, "Celebrate Your Pride Amigas Style" 3 p.m. - 2 a.m. Wicker Well, 1637 W. North Ave.

BackLot Bash, popular lesbian outdoor Pride dance party. 3 p.m. The Betty Fords, 5 p.m. Sean Wiggins, 7 p.m. Dot Dot Dot. Hosted by Abbey and Celeste. DJ Dave. 2 - 10 p.m. \$10. Behind Cheeta's Gym, 5238 N. Clark www.backlotbashchicago.com

Girl Blast, post-Chicago Gay Pride Parade event for women, 11th annual celebration. Hamburgers, hot dogs and cocktails, plus Martinis \$6 and half off deserts. Host, Lynn Malec, owner of Andersonville's bistro and bar La Tache. \$12, 1 to 10 p.m. Ann Sather parking lot, 929 W. Belmont

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, Queer as Folk, Cagney & Lacey), Taylor Miller (All My Children), Maureen Gallagher, Ann Hagemann, Kelli Strickland and Jacqui Jackson, World Premiere at San Francisco Frame-line Film Festival as the Gala Closing Night Film, Castro Theater. Tix www.frameline.org

Stonewalled, 40 years of Pride and Prejudice by aChurch4Me? 9 a.m. with an 8:15 a.m. breakfast. MCC at Center on Halsted, Hoover-Leppen Theater, 3656 N. Halsted. www.achurch4me.org info@achurch4me.org 773-661-0936

Monday, June 29

Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/ LBTQ Teen Health: Amigas Latinas will host a program for LBTQ youth and lead an informal discussion on LBTQ teen health issues. 4 p.m. Chicago Public Library Humboldt Park Branch, 1605 N. Troy St., 312-744-2244

Tuesday, June 30

Stealth 20-minute film screening, starring Chicago's own Alexandra Billings. followed by Q&A. Billings, Ralph Lampkin, and the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame. Benefits Hall of Fame 8 p.m. Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St. Tix www.lampkinmusic.com by paypal.com

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. PBS

Open Mic hosted by Kat Fitzgerald and sponsored by SHURE. 9 p.m. \$10. Uncommon Ground 1401 W. Devon Ave. www.uncommonground.com

Civil Unions, Equal Marriage and Straights. How marriage equality in Illinois benefits everyone. 7 p.m. Westmont Public Library, 428 N Cass, Westmont www.dupagegreens.org or Bob Mueller at mayatoddbob@aim.com

OUTmusic Queer Open Mic, free. Mostly Acoustic original queer music. 7:30 p.m. Hosted by Lars von Keitz. Urban Café, 1467 W Irving Park 773-327-942 www.urbancafechicago.com

YPC's 2nd Annual Block Party on Halsted St hosted by CODE RED (the youth group formed to build better relationships between youth and those who work/live in the Lakeview area) games, performances, HIV/STD testing, raffles and special surprise guests! 5:30 p.m. Free to attend, \$1 food tix. Halsted and Roscoe across from 7-11

Wed., July 1

4 Women Only, dedicated to new women artists and hosted by Kat Fitzgerald. 9 p.m. Uncommon Ground, 1401 W. De-

von Ave. 773-465-9801 www.uncommonground.com

Cathy Richardson's San Fran Band and Anne. Part of 29th Annual American Music Festival. FitzGerald's, 6615 Roosevelt Rd, Berwyn. 708-788-2118 www.fitzgeraldsnightclub.com or www.CRBand.com

Community reception honoring Center on Halsted staff 6 - 9 p.m. \$5 donation in support of cultural programming at COH. Silent auction, youth programming and book signing. Center on Halsted's 3rd floor Gallery

Gay Liberation Network 7 p.m. Gerber/Hart Library 1127 W. Granville Ave.

Windy City Black Pride VIP Reception PrideIndex.com Esteem Awards Ceremony. 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St. 773-477-9189 lsmith@windycityblackpride.org. www.sidetrackchicago.com, www.prideindex.com

Thursday, July 2

Black Pride: 'How Do I Look' film screening, Followup to 'Paris Is Burning' / 7:30 p.m. Free. Director Wolfgang Busch will be available for a Q & A The Center on Halsted 3656 N. Halsted

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus Over the Rainbow tribute to the legendary Judy Garland and commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Inn riots. Encore performance, Mayslake Peabody Estate, 1717 W. 31st St., Oak Brook \$25/\$18/\$15 www.cgmc.org 630-206-9566.

Windy City Black Pride Information Central, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Chicago South Loop Hotel, State St. #2600 S. State St. 312-225-7000 Info lsmith@windycityblackpride.org

Windy City Black Pride Opening Reception 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Chicago South Loop Hotel State St. #2600 S. State St. 312-225-7000 Info: lsmith@windycityblackpride.org

Windy City Black Pride Diva Suites Presented by The Anita Davis Dance Theater 8 p.m. - 10 p.m., Doors 7:30 p.m. \$ 20 Harold Washington Cultural Center 4701 S Dr. Martin L King Jr., Dr. 773-924-5156 info@anitadavidance.com, www.anitadavidance.com

Windy City Black Pride Opening Celebration Le'Chocolat Part 3: "The Menage' et Trois" Presented and Sponsored by Luxe Entertainment 11 p.m. - 4 a.m. \$15/\$25 VIP Express Entry The Menage' @ Morretti's, 1645 W Jackson Blvd 312-850-0208 www.myspace.com/lximanagement

Friday, July 3

Black Pride Comedy Night featuring Mz Ruff N Stuff & Friends, 7:30 p.m. \$8 Circuit Niteclub, 3641 N. Halsted

Black Pride Late night dance party for men & women, 10 p.m. - 4 a.m. \$10 Circuit Niteclub 3641 N. Halsted

Queer Queens of Comedy 7:30 p.m. with a special 10 p.m. game show performance. Both shows will be filmed live and are expected to air on national television later this year. Lake Shore Theater \$25 advance/\$30door/\$35 VIP; 773-472-3492 or www.lakeshoretheater.com

Windy City Black Pride Poetry Slam 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. \$ TBD. Bronzeville Community Clubhouse. 3847 S Giles Ave. 773-548-7555 www.bcchouse.com

Windy City Black Pride Celebration and Life, performance by: Lil' Mo. R&B singer and songwriter, (known for collaborating with Ja Rule, Missy Elliot, Ol' Dirty Bastard, Fabolous, hit single, Superwoman Pt. II and new album, (Tattoos & Roses). Opening Act: Bad Newzz, 25 year-old Bronx native (Rosemary's Baby) gay rapper. 10 p.m. - 3 a.m. Performances 12:30 a.m., Congress Theater, 2135 N. Milwaukee Ave. Tix info to come at www.windycityblackpride.org

Thursday, June 25



TEA, MYSELF AND I

E. Patrick Johnson will read from Sweet Tea at Women and Children First, 5233 N. Clark.

Photo by Yasmin Nair

Friday-Saturday, June 26-27



MOOD INDIGO

Indigo Girls will perform at Ravinia in Highland Park and at a Women's Health Foundation event, 632 W. Deming.

Tuesday, June 30



MENTAL STEALTH

A screening of **Stealth** will take place at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted.

Wed., July 1



BRIDGING OVER

Cathy Richardson's San Fran Band will play at Fitzgerald's, 6615 Roosevelt, Berwyn.

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

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP IS LOOKING FOR SALES REPRESENTATIVES: We are looking for self-starters with a strong desire to succeed. Ideal candidates should have

experience in the sales industry, and a demonstrated ability to succeed on their own. Candidates should have the ability to create and sell multimedia packages including one or more of the following: print, web, email blast, podcast and sponsorships. Leads will be furnished but cold calling is a must. This is an independent contractor position; all sales representatives work from their home offices. Join the voice of Chicago's GLBT community since 1985. **Please email resume to: Terri@WindyCityMediaGroup.com.**

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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FOR SALE

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SPORTS/RECREATION

For the love of Greg

BY ROSS FORMAN

Greg Walsh, a popular player in Chicago's gay sports leagues for most of the past 10 years, particularly basketball, died unexpectedly May 20. He was 41.

A Chicago-area native, Walsh was involved with running the basketball action at the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago, and though he did not play in the Games, he played annually in the wintertime Windy City Athletic Association's basketball league and the annual Cody Roundball Classic tournament.

Walsh grew up in suburban Glen Ellyn and was a junior high basketball coach for two seasons at St. Petronille Church. He graduated from Glenbard West High School in 1986, and then college in downtown Chicago.

Walsh was a marketing specialist/meeting planner who most recently worked in the marketing department for Evanston-based Mather Lifeways.

Walsh lived in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood, and called Chicago home for most of his life. He was recruited, though, to a job in the San Francisco area in the 1990s to help Gap Inc., start the chain that would become Old Navy. "Before too long, Greg's love for family and for his native city brought him back to Chicago," his brother Mark Walsh said at the eulogy.

Walsh was active in sports, as a player and a referee of basketball, softball, and flag football. Greg helped organize recreational leagues on the North Side, and coaxed many friends and newcomers to the city to participate in basketball.

"Greg had an uncanny way of bringing people together, arranging the infrastructure for us to enjoy our community without thrusting himself into the limelight," said Chicago resident

Michael McRaith. "He did this with basketball, reaching out to players from around the community, or new to the community, helping them find a place in our league. Only Greg knew the hours and time he spent attending to the detail that helped our basketball league move to a three-level sport with a spot for everyone, regardless of skill or talent.

"On a personal level, Greg was genuinely compassionate and present, supportive but never intrusive. I can hear his laugh now. Greg was one of the great, quiet leaders who deserve credit for helping make our north side Chicago world a tremendous place to live."

Added Chicago resident Shawn Albritton: "I was very new to basketball, and yet Greg always encouraged and coached me, even when I was playing against his team. Greg always wanted guys to learn game, get better and, more important, enjoy it."

At Glenbard West, Walsh was the sophomore class president, and he helped plan proms and other dances for several years. He played on the school's golf team.

"Greg is deserving of being remembered by more than just friends and family for his contributions to our community," said Chicago resident Mark Febonio. "Greg was as instrumental and important to the basketball league as anyone for most of the past decade. I don't know how he got on the [WCAA] basketball board, but once he was there, he helped keep the league running and moving in the right direction. He was the recreation division manager for most of those years.

"Greg was at his best when in a situation that required someone to take control. He wasn't afraid to step up and assert himself when needed and this trait served him well when running the basketball league. He was a fair and honest leader who kept the big picture in focus even during a game in which he was a participant. When the referees or players needed to be reminded of their role within the league structure, Greg would speak up, and people listened.



Greg Walsh at his 40th-birthday party. Photo courtesy of Steve Waldron

"Greg helped create the recreation division, and ran it for the first few years. He saw the need for a third division when the league had grown to the point of having enough players to allow it. He helped form the first teams in the recreational division and while running it placed many players on teams to help achieve balance within the division. And as a teammate of his, I can attest to instances when he put good or strong players on other teams in the division when he could have added them to our roster which would have made our team much stronger. He was fair and honest putting the league ahead of his own competitive nature."

Walsh also started the Monday night pick up games, "to give those of us learning the game and striving to improve an opportunity to get our hands on the ball outside the league while doing it in a comfortable and not intimidating arena," Febonio said. "He recognized the need and the desire for such an opportunity and knowing that it would also benefit the league, he made it happen."

Added Chicago resident Young Park: "The thing that I remember and miss the most about Greg is his passion for the game of basketball. It was fun to watch him going through many different stages of emotion in each and every game we played together.

Thanks to his passion for the sport and dedication to the league, the WCAA basketball league was able to grow its recreational division to where it is now, and the league will never be the same without his leadership and execution."

Walsh also is well remembered by many for his quick wit and a great sense of humor, not to mention his baking. He could take a joke or a comment that poked fun at him as well as give the same.

He enjoyed movies, going out to dinner or just hanging out with friends.

Walsh had a beloved dog, named Spike, who he insisted was named after the golf term. Walsh was an active participant in the dog community on the North Side, including the Puptown dog park in Uptown. "My brother loved cracking up our aunt just by reeling off the many puns used in Chicago's dog parks and businesses, such as Wiggly Field, Grant Bark, and Groomingdale's," Mark Walsh said.

"Greg is missed and will be for a long time to come," said Febonio, who first met Walsh in 2001. "Greg always loved being around the games. He was most comfortable when on, or at, a field or court.

"Greg was a wonderful human being who gave to the community what he could, and when he did, he gave his all."

Andrew Burke was admittedly "lonely" in the fall of 2005 as 25-year-old living in north suburban Waukegan.

"I wasn't very interested in going to gay bars—and I really didn't know how else gay men could find each other and connect on a friendship level," Burke said. "Meeting Greg changed all that for me. Greg introduced me to the WCAA basketball league in Chicago, and my life changed dramatically for the better after that.

"Greg had a very natural talent meeting new people and immediately connecting to them.

He's one of very few people I know who could walk into a room not knowing a single person, and within an hour he would have made several friends. More than that, he was an exceptional organizer. He was always the guy who took the lead in planning an evening out, or organizing a party. In doing so, he brought a lot of people together. I've made more friends than I can count through some event that Greg had organized or planned. He always seemed to provide the right environment for people who've never met before, [so they can] feel comfortable."

Burke added: "People respected Greg, not only because of his personality, but because they all knew the time and effort he put into the [basketball] league. Greg was very often the first one at the gym setting up chairs and scoring tables. Greg was there throughout the whole day making sure each game had someone to man the scorebook and game clock. Quite simply, Greg did all the dirty work, and not because he expected anything in return. I think, rather, that Greg cared about the league because he cared so much about the players. There are plenty of us who feel, at times, that we don't quite 'fit in' with the other situations in our lives. The league provided a place where we could forget about that for an hour or two. I think Greg was very aware of this fact, and did everything he could to make sure that the league would continue to be a place where people felt welcome."

Walsh also played CMSA flag football.

"He wasn't the biggest or fastest guy [in football], but he had good hands and could catch anything in his area," Burke said. "One of my fondest memories of Greg will always be of him playing football. Not because of anything he did on the field, but because of his dog. Greg would bring his beloved Spike to the fields and leash him on the sidelines. Anytime Greg would get the ball, Spike would go nuts on the sideline—whining and barking non-stop. He thought Greg was being attacked by the guys trying to de-flag him. Imagine a 15 pound, curly-haired, lap dog trying to run onto a football field to protect his owner—priceless.

"There are very few people I can think of who have impacted my life as much as he has. His passing is a great loss for me personally, and for our community as well. His absence will be sorely felt for a long time to come."

Softball classic in Chicago July 4-5

The Chi-Town Softball Classic Tournament returns to the Windy City on July 4-5. The tournament was suspended the past few years. The tournament was suspended the past few years because of the Gay Games and field-scheduling issues.

The tournament expects to host nearly 40 men's teams from Chicago and other cities across the country in the "C" and "D" divisions.

Online registration is now available at wildc3design.net/ChiTownSoftballClassic/CTSCWelcome.html.

The team fee is \$400 before May 29 and \$450 May 30-June 12. The tournament schedule, host hotel, event schedule, etc. can also be found on the Web site. For more info, e-mail ChiTownSoftballClassic@gmail.com.

Free workouts in Millennium Park

Millennium Park and McDonald's are hosting workouts on the Great Lawn of the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park. Workouts are open to people with all levels of experience, are 45 minutes long and will be held 7-11 a.m. every Saturday through Sept. 19.

Visit www.millenniumpark.org or call 312-742-1168.

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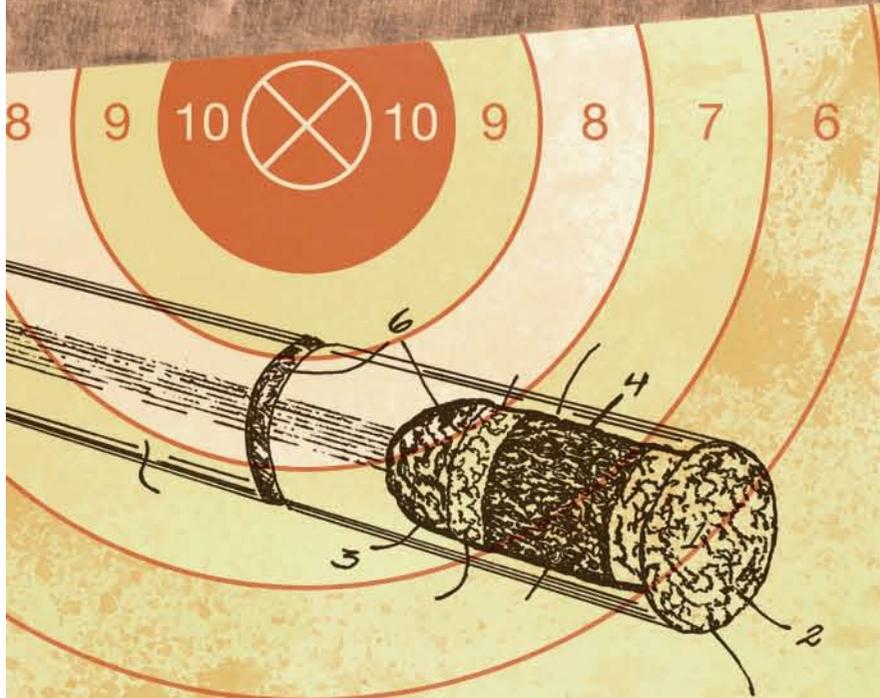
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